

Official newsletter of the
Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron

www.usps-atlanta.org



WATERLOG

United States Power Squadrons
Sail and Power Boating - America's Boating Club®

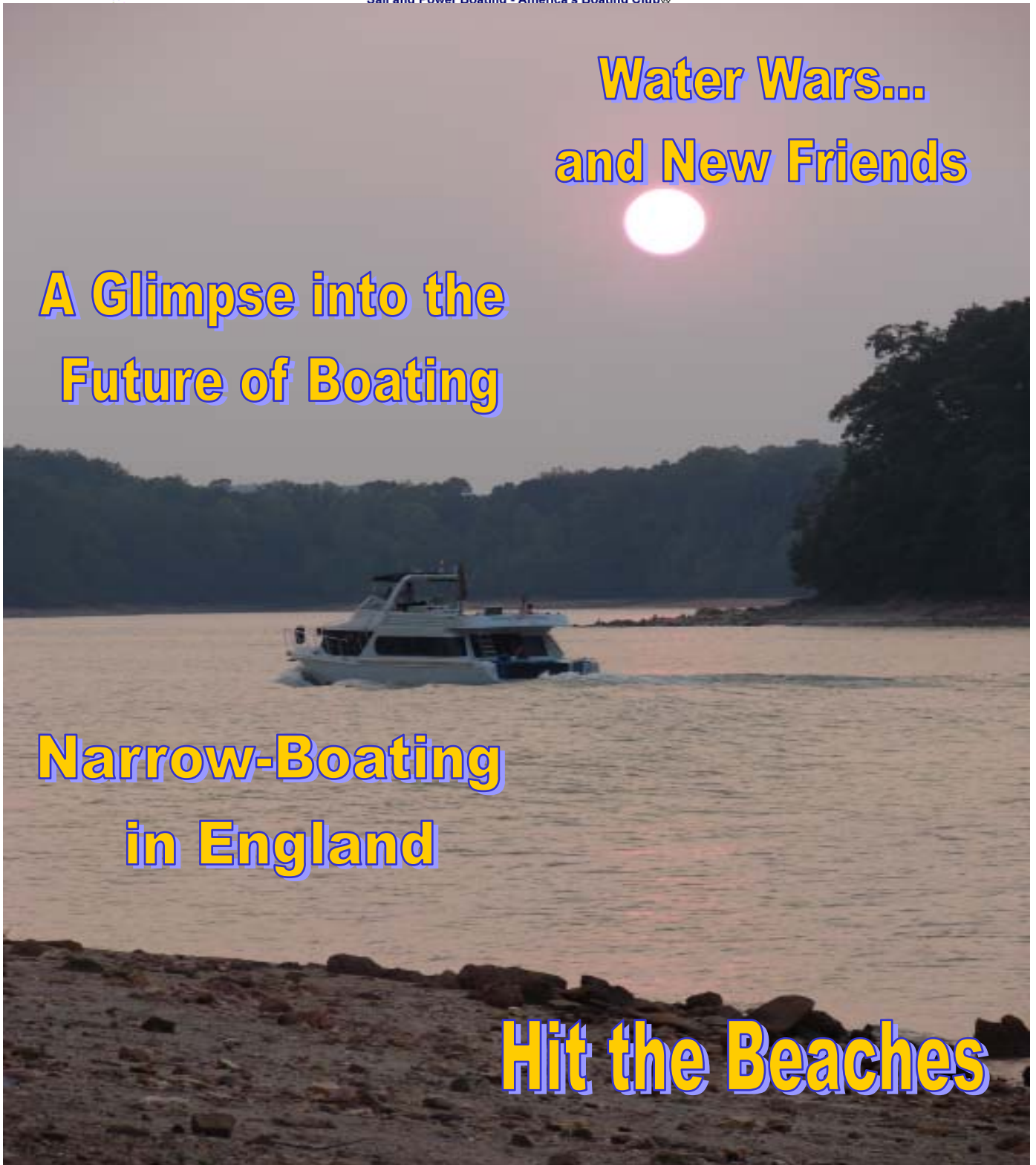


Water Wars... and New Friends

A Glimpse into the Future of Boating

Narrow-Boating in England

Hit the Beaches



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The Waterlog

The Waterlog is published at least 6 times per year along with an abbreviated companion the Watertwig.

It is published by and for the squadron members by the staff of the Squadron Secretary and is mailed to the listed address of all current members and advertisers.

All members in good standing, and approved non-member advertisers may submit articles and items for publication. They receive no gratuity.

The editor reserves the right to revise, change or reject any materials submitted to the Waterlog, consistent with standards of accuracy, fairness, good taste and available space, subject to the approval of the Squadron Commander.

Special thanks to Waterlog staff Mike and Beth Guler who produced this month's Life on the Water section

Please send comments and suggestions to:-

Lt. Lisa Herndon, AP
Lt./C David Herndon, AP



Cover photo by Kevin Schoonover. "Driving Miss Donna" motors into the sunset after the luau and raft-up

Commander's Corner



Cdr. Frank Taylor, P

Consider attending a District or National Conference.

Have you ever wondered how the USPS operates at the district or national level? Of course, most of us are familiar with the structure of the organization and the positions involved at the district and national levels, but have you ever wanted to see just how decisions are made and who makes them? Better yet, have you ever wanted to be involved

with the decision making process itself?

If so, you should consider attending a USPS district or national conference. All squadron members are always welcome to attend any of these events. I have attended a few district conferences in the past and just this past week, I had the opportunity to attend the National Governing Board in Norfolk. One thing that is common to all conferences is the fact that you get to meet and hobnob with members of other squadrons as well as the national bridge. It is an excellent way to share ideas, make friends and really get an idea of how much USPS has to offer to its members. After a time or two, you start to feel like an old pro as you look forward to meeting up with your friends at the next meeting in a different town.

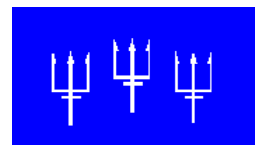
What is truly impressive is to sit in a room at a national conference with 600 USPS members from all over the country (there were even a few members from the Tokyo Squadron) discussing the direction of the organization. This really gives you a sense of what it is to be a part of this organization and a chance to make your voice heard.

The next district conference is coming up on October 5 – 7 in Jackson, TN. It would be a great place to start seeing what goes on outside of the Atlanta Squadron. If you plan to attend, let me know by sending an e-mail to me at commander@usps-atlanta.org. We may need you to represent ASPS as a delegate. For more information on the event, you can check out the district web page at <http://www.usps-d17.org/>.

Oh, by the way. Every now and then we are treated to a nice surprise at such events. Attendees of this past Governing Board meeting all had the opportunity to take the helm of a 35' Tiara powered by Volvo's new IPS system. It definitely was worth the trip, but that is a different article all together...see your AFTerthoughts in this edition of the Waterlog!

Happy boating!!

Frank



Squadron Happenings

BEACHIN' IT HAWAIIAN STYLE

By Beth Guler

Lower waters mean more beaches. Chef Charlie Cox created fabulous grilled salmon and pork loin and adding in everyone's favorite side dish or dessert, the squadron once again had one of its famous mouth watering ASPS potluck meals.

With sixteen boats in three mini raft-ups, the group shared the cove with other boaters. With the continued Atlanta drought, the lake level gets lower and coves get smaller. The water was warm and the weather even warmer with no clouds in the sky, but the heat did not stop everyone from having a great time. There was a limbo contest, ladder ball and lots of swimming and eating. Joining the raft-up for the first time was Nan Putnam's dog, Judge. This made a total of five dogs enjoying the water with their masters.



Everyone cooled off in the water and enjoyed the beach in the 16 boat raft-up



Meg Haas knows how to cool off on a hot day.



Chef Charlie and the salmon; below, a fierce competition between Elizabeth and Beth for the limbo



Barbara Tyson has the Hawaiian spirit at this luau



AUGUST GENERAL MEETING FEATURES

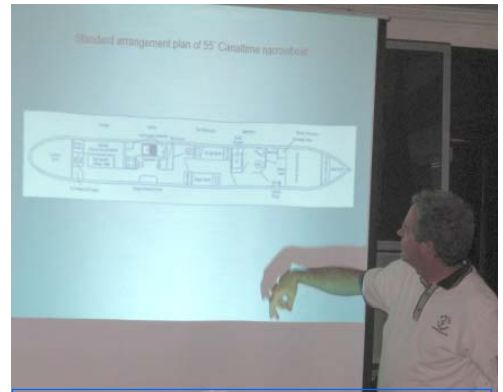
NARROWBOATING IN ENGLAND

Tom Hudson, from the Music City Power Squadron in Nashville, Tennessee, was the speaker for the August general membership meeting. Tom and his family used their RCI timeshare to spend a week on a narrowboat in England. When he says "narrow boat" he really means it—55 feet long and 6' 10" wide with a 35 hp engine going about 4 mph.

The older locks on the canals are only 7 feet wide, so it's a tight squeeze and there's no turning around for quite awhile. Some tunnels are over 3 miles long, 15 ft wide and 12 ft high, so this adventure is not for the claustrophobic. Single locks are unmanned and "do-it-yourself."

An added bonus, during the Q&A session, Tom pulled out his slides from a charter trip down the Erie Canal and treated the audience to another quick adventure.

The September meeting will feature Cdr. Frank Taylor talking about what it takes to get your captain's license and, more importantly, the fun things you can do with one! The October meeting is a return engagement of Claiborne Young, who has just released a new edition of his cruising guide to South Carolina and Georgia. Make your reservations now!



Tom Hudson discusses the layout of the 6.5 foot wide chartered narrow-boat that his family used to tour the English canals and locks

Squadron Happenings

THE LADIES WHO LAUNCH VISIT THE TN RIVER

By Carol Jordan

On Wed., Aug. 1, a group of nine Ladies Who Launch recently took a road trip to Chattanooga. We were the invited guests of skipper Bob Ginsberg and spent the day on his beautiful boat *My Fault*. Bob and his one man crew (Norm Oien) did a fabulous job entertaining the ladies. We cruised up river to a quiet little cove to anchor for lunch. We also enjoyed watching a video taken of the Cardboard Boat Race where the Ladies' entry, "Pretty In Pink", placed second. Our luncheon was properly started with the traditional Ladies Who Launch champagne toast. Lunch and dessert were followed by a swim in Tennessee River, where we learned the importance of a tether in



Bob Ginsberg gets a water ballet show from all the Ladies Who Launch



Bob Ginsberg and the Ladies relax inside his yacht "My Fault"

river currents (hold on, Ladies!). After a leisurely day on the river with good food and great friends, we said our goodbyes and hope Capt. Bob and his crew will extend us an invitation again next year.

ATLANTA

WELCOMES

THE LAKE MURRAY SQUADRON

What is the added benefit of being a part of a national organization? The opportunity for new friends who share a common passion! Atlanta hosted a burgers-n-brats cookout and Power Squadron from



A lively water war complete with balloons, power sling shots and engine driven hoses helped cool the heat

beach party for the visiting Lake Murray SC on August 11. Lake Murray brought 6 boats filled with enthusiastic boaters and lots of water weapons and a water war soon ensued. Sixteen boats made up the raft-up, with some anchored for the night. Members of the two squadrons enjoyed telling boat stories and formed bonds for planning future trips and events together.



Ed Troncalli and Mike Litke manned the grills while all the cooks from ASPS brought their favorite salads for the feast



RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW FOR THE TN RIVER CRUISE

Don't miss the fall cruise down the Tennessee River October 19-21. The squadron will launch in Guntersville, AL at 10:00 on October 19 for destination downstream to Joe Wheeler State Park. Joe Wheeler State Park offers many amenities including golf, swimming, hiking and the trip should be extra special because of the overlap of calendars with the Great Loop association's fall gathering. This should insure great boats and great stories!

Please let Patti and Doug Watson know if you are planning on coming along, 404-372-1884 or 770-458-1649 ASAP
A DR will follow with more information.



Joe Wheeler State Park

Squadron Happenings

HELP CLEAN UP LAKE LANIER

Please join the Lake Lanier Association's 19th annual Shore Sweep on September 29. Simply report to one of the marinas identified on the website below and pick up your trash bag. When you return the bag full of trash, you will receive a 2007 Lake Lanier Association T-shirt or 2007 Shore Sweep patches for our scouting volunteers.

Information and the flyer are on the web site at

http://www.lakelanier.org/ev_ss_lla_shore_sweep.php

Trash pick up will be from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The volunteer appreciation party is the same day at Lanier Park on Buford Dam Rd from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM. Volunteers will enjoy picnic food, a DJ, entertainment and drawings for some great prizes. There is still a need for volunteers to work at the Shore Sweep sites and especially for a Spanish-speaking volunteer to help our outreach about Shore Sweep to the Hispanic community. For more information, please call the office at 770-503-7757.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Beverly Hanson
Gerald and Joan Ball
Elita Lerner
Dennis and Pam Ard
Chad Kuhlman
Ken and Chris Smith
Barbara Tyson
Scott and Cary Wise
Julia and Zachary Haas
Bill McGee
Carol Arenas
Sandra Wilson and Taylor-Rae Loatman
Kenn Knerr—42' Rhodes "The Sparrow" in St. Mary's GA
Stuart Farwell – Canadian Power Squadron and Ontario Government

New Associate member: P/C R.Herman Green AP, Chattanooga

36' sloop; Past Commander, SEO of Chattanooga

Currently: DEO District 17

We encourage our new members to try everything: classes, membership meetings, raft-ups. Members will welcome you and encourage you to get involved!



USS Wisconsin, the last battleship commissioned in the U. S. Navy, at her mooring in Norfolk. Although tours of the exterior are permitted, the Wisconsin is in a semi-battle-ready state so visitors are not permitted inside the ship.

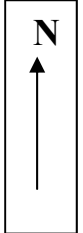
???JULY PUZZLER ANSWERS ???

What do each of these wind symbols stand for on a weather map? (Hint: wind direction and speed)

A)  answer: NE 25 mph

B)  answer: SW 15 mph

C)  answer: W 5 mph



long" tails = 10 mph; "short" tails = 5 mph and position of the flags indicate where the wind is originating

???SEPTEMBER PUZZLER ???

Boating Courtesy

- When overtaking a slower boat in a narrow channel, you should
 - Swing wide and pass the other boat as rapidly as possible
 - Slow down to the other boat's speed and wait for him to turn away
 - Slow to a speed sufficient to pass, but to minimize your boat's ambient wake. Hail the other vessel, indicate which side you'd like to pass and ask permission to pass
- While cruising down the lake, you encounter several sailboats all headed in the same direction, indicating a regatta in progress. You should:
 - Stay well clear to ensure your wake and "wind shadow" do not affect the race.
 - Maneuver your way carefully through the fleet, observing proper rules of the road.
 - Because the lake is a public asset, there is no special consideration given to private regattas.
- When approaching another boat, or group of boats, to raft-up
 - Hail the other boat(s), tell them where you plan to tie up and wait for them to deploy fenders and lines.
 - Always tie up to your port side.
 - Hail the other boat(s) to determine where to tie up, and rig fenders, and bow, stern and spring lines on the appropriate side of your boat.
- When cruising in a group
 - Ensure that the group maintains the highest possible cruising speed
 - Be aware of the cumulative wake of your fleet and its potential effect on other vessels and floating docks
 - Always put the smallest boat in the lead.

From the Bridge



THE 2007 BRIDGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2007

SQUADRON OFFICERS

Commander	Frank Taylor, Jr.	commander@usps-atlanta.org
Executive Officer	David Herndon	xo@usps-atlanta.org
Administrative Officer	Carol Jordan	admin@usps-atlanta.org
Secretary	Jeff Batson	secretary@usps-atlanta.org
Education Officer	Patti Price	edu@usps-atlanta.org
Treasurer	Sheryl LaBoda	treasurer@usps-atlanta.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Cdr Frank Taylor, Jr., Chairman
Lt/C David Herndon, Vice Chairman

Jeff Batson	Charlie Cox	Carol Jordan
Sheryl LaBoda	Bob Leathers	Hans Meier
Patti Price	Kevin Schoonover	Margaret Sherrod
Tim Tyson	Patti Watson	Jeff Wise
Matt Wise		



Cdr. Frank Taylor



Lt/C David Herndon
Executive Officer



Lt/C Carol Jordan
Administrative Officer



Lt/C Patti Price
Education Officer



Lt/C Sheryl LaBoda
Treasurer



Lt/C Jeff Batson
Secretary

ATLANTA AND D17 PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL FALL GOVERNING BOARD

The Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron and District 17 were well represented at the National Fall Governing Board meeting in Norfolk, Virginia. Cdr. Frank Taylor, Lt/C David Herndon and Lt Lisa Herndon, Lt/C Carol Jordan, P/C Margaret Sherrod, P/C Jeff Wise and Pat Wise, D/Lt/C Danny Tompkins and Margie Tompkins, D/Cdr

Janice Owens and P/D/C Ben Owens and Sea Scout John Washburn attended meetings with USPS leaders from all over the U.S. Frank Taylor, Jeff Wise and John Washburn participated in presentations and every-



Atlanta members joined others from D17 for dinner at the Freemason Abbey, a restaurant restored from a church



Dave Herndon, Margaret Sherrod, Jeff Wise and John Washburn enjoy the break-out sessions at the national conference

one enjoyed breakout sessions and previews of the USPS University 2 hour courses. A highlight of the sessions was an on-the-water opportunity to use the joystick in steering the new Volvo IPS propulsion system (see the Commander's Column and AFTerthoughts for more details). Social activities included a reception in the Nauticus maritime museum and tour of the battleship USS Wisconsin.

Approximately 600 members participated in the business meeting with over 800 attending the conference. The board passed a proposal to form a Board of Directors functioning in a role similar to the squadron Executive Committee; that is, oversight and management of day-to-day operations. Membership will be the National Bridge Officers and other members that the Governing Board may select. A motion proposing that all courses' plotting and labeling be done in true degrees instead of magnetic was defeated.



Atlanta Squadron receives membership growth award. L to r: V/C Frank Dvorak, C/C Ernie Marshburn, P/C Margaret Sherrod, D/C Janis Owen, Lt/C Carol Jordan, Cdr John DiPrima (Chattanooga), and V/C Creighton Maynard

The Bulletin Board

Boater's World Customer Appreciation Day Seminars

Smyrna - Oct 13th
 8:30 AM-9:30 AM - Basic Boating Safety & Equipment
 9:30 AM-3:00 PM - Vessel Safety Checks

Check out the latest District 17 Newsletter at <http://www.usps-d17.org>

Atlanta is one of 4 D17 squadrons to win the 1%+

2007 Parade of Lights
 Dec 1, 2007

Decorate your boat and be part of the parade, or assist with parade management.

Contact Dave Herndon

Holiday party date change!!

December 22 at Kurt's!

More details to follow....

CHANGES IN MEETING LOCATION

General Membership Meeting at Jock's and Jill's Restaurant at 7160 Jimmy Carter Blvd. in Norcross, GA

ExComm Meetings at ALDO's on Roswell Road at Hammond Drive

A return engagement of Claiborne Young
 Oct 25 membership meeting! - Note changed date. Please RSVP!

Waterlog Thanks!
 Thanks to this month's contributors!

Mike & Beth Guler
 Kevin Schoonover
 Sheryl Laboda
 Carol Jordan
 Roy Stegall

USPS EVENTS: SEPT 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Fall Governing Board	5 Fall Governing Board	6 Fall Governing Board	7 Fall Governing	8 Fall Governing Board
9 Fall Governing Board	10 Fall Classes Begin	11	12	13 Ex-Comm Mtg	14	15 Raft-up
16	17	18	19	20 General Member-	21	22
23 New Members Orientation/ Instructor	24	25	26	27	28	29 Lake Lanier Shore Sweep
30 GICW & Bon Voyage for the Stegall's						

USPS EVENTS: OCTOBER 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 D17 Fall Conference	6 D17 Fall Conference
7 D17 Fall Conference	8	9	10	11 ExComm Mtg	12	13 Oktoberfest Raft-up and Boaters World Customer Apprec Day
14	15	16	17	18 General Membership mtg- CLAI-BORNE YOUNG	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

LOCATION CHANGE: General Membership Meeting at Jock's and Jill's Restaurant at 7160 Jimmy Carter Blvd. in Norcross, GA

LOCATION CHANGE: ExComm Meetings at ALDO's on Roswell Road at Hammond Drive



Life on the Water

WHERE'S RAPID ROY???

By Roy Stegall

Friday August 3rd. Mary and I are anchored by Mondongo Island. 26 degrees 40.8 minutes N, 82 degrees, 13.2 minutes W. That's on the Gulf ICW, near Cabbage Key. We're spending the night on the hook as our own small adventure. Last week we finished several days of instruction with a live aboard captain arranged through Windsong Sailing Academy, and now we're out sailing on our own.

It's a big step to sell everything and move aboard. It's more change than most people would be comfortable with. Maybe it's more change than we're comfortable with? Mary and I are still getting used to our new "home". It's a big adjustment! I worry about Mary getting used to it; and then sometimes I worry about it myself.

Just after midnight. I awaken and go up to check the anchor. All is well. I look up and see a bright shooting star streak across the sky. You don't see that in the suburbs. Is it a sign? Are we doing the right thing?

The night is hot and muggy. It's August in southwest Florida. We don't have a generator, so no air conditioning while anchored. In most climates and latitudes where we'll be sailing, we won't need it, but it's missed tonight. Mary and I both toss and turn in the heat. There's a wind shift that awakens me. Something is different. I guess I always sleep lightly when we're at anchor. It's a legacy from when the anchor dragged and our boat ended up on the beach one time. I go up on deck.

It takes a moment to get oriented. Ah, there's the anchor light of the other sailboat that was nearby, now on the opposite side. And there's the house on the island. Everything on the horizon is in a different place. Vega is overhead; there's Altair and Cygnus. Ursa Major is too low to be fully defined, but Cepheus and Cassiopeia bracket Polaris. The wind has shifted 90 degrees and the boat has swung. Allowing for the rotation in perspective, it's all still the same. All is well.

But... what's that? There's something bizarre glowing in the sky. It's 5:30 a.m. Pre-dawn. No hint of morning twilight; it's dark. Yet, there's a glowing cloud. It can't possibly be aurora borealis at this latitude! And, it's in the east, not the north. East... that's the clue. It's a high altitude cirrus cloud, illuminated by the sun that's still several degrees below the horizon. It's totally dark, with a single cloud in the sky that's glowing bright with colors like a neon sign. It's a once-in-a-lifetime sight. Another sign?

Mark Twain said "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

INCREASED INSURANCE LIMITS ON ALL POLICIES

Republished from a message sent out by V/C Creighton Maynard, SN, National Executive Officer, USPS

USPS Boat Insurance is pleased to announce increased coverage limits for all existing and future policyholders. Effective immediately all USPS Boat Insurance policyholders receive increased limits for Personal Effects, Towing Coverage and Medical Payments at *no additional charge*. In many cases, this represents more than a 200% increase over previous limits.

All policyholders with boats valued \$250,000 or less now have a minimum of:

- \$1,000 in towing coverage
- \$5,000 in Personal Effects coverage
- \$10,000 in Medical Payments coverage (unchanged from previous limit)

All policyholders with boats valued more than \$250,000 now have a minimum of:

- \$2,500 in Towing coverage
- \$10,000 in Personal Effects coverage
- \$10,000 in Medical Payments coverage (unchanged from previous limit)

All policyholders with boats valued more than \$250,000 now have a minimum of:

- \$2,500 in towing coverage
- \$10,000 in Personal Effects coverage
- \$25,000 in Medical Payments coverage

Any existing policy with higher limits than the above will remain unchanged.

USPS Boat Insurance and Travelers Insurance are excited about rewarding USPS Members for their dedication to boating and boat safety. Please contact 1.800.763.USPS (8777) for a quote with the above-mentioned coverage

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD BOATING STATISTICS

Between 1991 – 2005, recreational boater fatalities have dropped 8.3 to 5.4 per 100,000 registered boaters.

Only 65 (13%) of the 491 people who drowned in 2005 were wearing life jackets.

People with no boating safety education have a higher fatality rate – 9.9 per 100,000 vessels than boaters with education and USPS boaters had a lower fatality rate than other educational providers at 3.2 per 100,000 vessels.



District Happenings

SIGN UP FOR THE D17 MEETING IN JACKSON TENNESSEE AT THE OLD ENGLISH INN 05-07 OCTOBER 2007

For members desire to arrive a day or so early or delay leaving a day or so, the same rates will apply to that request. Several places of interest are found nearby, including Casey Jones Village and Old Country Store (2 miles), Cypress Grove Nature Park (4 miles), Pinson Mounds (10 miles), Shiloh National Military Park (60 miles), Reelfoot Lake (50 miles), Birdsong Pearl Farm (more about the pearl farm later) and the Rockabilly Hall of Fame. Jackson is a well hidden secret; we had no idea so many interesting sites were nearby! The Old English Inn is owned locally and boasts that it provides one of the best restaurants in Jackson thanks to the talents of award-winning chef Darrell Hicks. Darrell and Ann Hicks own and operate *The World Champion Cajun Cookers*. Darrell Hicks grew up in Louisiana and was taught cooking by his mother. Breakout sessions include:

- *Red Right Returning* Book Review and Discussion
- Anatomy of a Riverboat -Past and Present
- Overview of Boat Insurance
- Winterizing Your Boat
- Boat Operators' Certification
- New AP and JN Courses Discussion
- USPS University Class— VHF Communications
- Writing an Exciting Article and Putting Zip in Your Squadron Newsletter
- Birdsong Resort Freshwater Pearl Farm
- Cooking Aboard: What Life is REALLY Like!

7th ANNUAL WATTS BAR INVITATIONAL A GREAT SUCCESS

The Knoxville Squadron hosted its 7th Annual Watts Bar Invitational 27-29 July. With an attendance of sixty folks and six squadrons represented, the event was bigger and better than ever before! Seventeen USPS boats were placed into slips and all the marina rooms were booked. ASPS members Margaret Sherrod, Carol Jordan and Janice Owens enjoyed the events of the weekend, which included a sunset cruise aboard houseboat *Sea-Duction* and an intense competition water race blowing rubber ducks across the swimming pool.

Meal Reservation Form

Name (Print) _____
Other in Party (Print) _____
City, State, Zip _____
Telephone _____
Email _____

Friday Night, 05 October 2007

Dinner - Gumbo

BBQ Shrimp, Sausage with Red Beans and Rice
Steamed Vegetables, Corn on the Cob
Rolls, Dessert - Bread Pudding with Rum Sauce

_____ tickets @ \$22.00 per person = \$ _____

Saturday Noon, 06 October 2007

Lunch - Pulled Pork

Hamburgers
Baked Beans
Potato Salad, Slaw
Dessert - Assorted Cookies

_____ tickets @ \$18.00 per person = \$ _____

Saturday Night, 06 October 2007

Dinner - **Fish Fry**

Caesar Salad
Fried Catfish, Baby Back Ribs
Corn Soufflé, Green Beans
Sweet Potato Casserole
Rolls, Dessert - Assorted Cheesecakes

_____ tickets @ \$24.00 per person = \$ _____

TOTAL SUBMITTED \$ _____

NOTE: All meals include iced tea and regular and decaffeinated coffee.

All meals are inclusive of tax and gratuity.

Dinner reservations must be received no later than 25 September 2007.

Make checks payable to: District 17 Meetings Committee

Mail check and this completed from to:

Ben Owen, SN
P. O. Box 454
Pell City, AL 35125



AFTerthoughts

THE FUTURE IS A POD

By David Herndon

I have seen the future and it's a pod. Actually, it's a pair of pods. The real name is the Inboard Performance System (IPS), Volvo Penta's new propulsion system for boats in the 31-75 ft. range. IPS evolved from a couple of Volvo engineers brainstorming about how to make the notoriously inefficient inboard propulsion systems using shafts and propellers more efficient. Their solution is a truly remarkable and revolutionary way to move a boat through the water.

The IPS system consists of a pair of drive units mounted below the engines slightly forward of where props are normally mounted. Each drive unit consists of a pair of counter-rotating propellers that face forward. The units, or pods, rotate 27° right and left of center for steerage. Because the pods operate under computer control in undisturbed water and because the thrust they generate is perfectly horizontal, they provide a far more efficient drive system. Here's what the pods deliver when compared to an identical vessel with a traditional propulsion system:

- 15% greater acceleration
- 20% greater top speed
- 30% better fuel economy
- 50% reduction in cockpit noise levels

OK, that's all well and good, but you haven't heard the best part. As you come off the open water and head into the marina where boat captains are judged by their ability to maneuver effectively in tight spaces, often with a little wind and current thrown in for an extra challenge, the pods really start to deliver. By placing the transmissions in neutral, and pressing a button on a helm-mounted joystick, you control all movement of the vessel with that joystick. The boat can rotate 360° inside its own length, can move sideways in either direction, and can combine sideways with forward or backward movement. A small child can easily dock a 35-ft boat in a tight spot. Get more details at www.volvopenta.com/us.

Cummins has introduced a similar system, the primary difference being that the props face rearward rather than forward. While I've not had real-life experience with the Cummins system, a recent review in a boating magazine indicates very similar performance and operational results.

If you're in the market for a cruiser in the 35-ft and up range, you definitely should give strong consideration to a pod propulsion system.

Happy boating!

David and Lisa Herndon
1332 Cambridge Ct. NE
Atlanta, GA 30319



STAMP