



WATERLOG



SAFE! SMART! FUN!



This poster, drawn by Megan Bridges and entered in the 2014 USPS Boarman Poster Contest, won second place in the age 9-11 division. Submitted by the New River Sail and Power Squadron, Jacksonville, North Carolina.

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The Waterlog

The *Waterlog* is published at least eight times each year. It is published for the Squadron members by the staff of the Squadron Secretary and is mailed to the listed address of all current members and advertisers.



*Waterlog Editor
Lt Tim Tyson, P*

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.

On the Cover

This month's cover photo was taken at the USPS Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FL. The poster contest, always a wonderful exhibit, was especially good this year. Megan's poster just had a pizzaz that your editor found irresistible. See story on page 9. Congratulations, Megan. You have a future in art!!!

Commander's Corner

We had a great turn out for our annual meeting on January 15. We had a slide show with all of our accomplishments, of which we can be very proud. A big "thank you" goes out to our hardy volunteers who staffed the Boat Show Booth, especially during the annual meeting. The simulator was a big "crowd draw" and gave us a chance to tell people about our safety courses and the "fun" boating club we all love.



Cdr Douglas Townes, JN

We had a great showing of members at the USPS National meeting. Eleven Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron members were present with four of our members receiving special recognition during the General meeting. Dave Fuller was recognized as the District Seven Coast Guard Auxiliary representative and his wife, Nan Ellen, was given an honorary membership as the Coast Guard Auxiliary's official national liaison between the USPS and the CGA. Mary Larsen was recognized for her work with the Nation's Waterway Watch Program and Lisa Herndon got special recognition for her work with the Simulator. We got a treat at the closing party on Saturday night when Lisa got up on stage and sang some Patsy Cline songs. As I said, our ASPS members did not just "attend" they worked hard and were duly recognized for their efforts.

Prior to writing my last "Commanders Corner", I looked back in the February Waterlog on my first "Commander's Corner". In that February issue I thanked for your "trust". Now I am thanking you again for not only your trust, but your hard work in making this a great year. I adopted the "nailed it" theme and monthly award to be sure special events and people were thanked, along with 40 other members who received a merit mark for stepping up and saying, "I will volunteer to do that." Just think about the hundreds of hours these volunteers unselfishly spent making sure they brought their nail so the horse could get shod, so our Bridge Officers could carry out their tasks, so the battle could be won and so the Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron could continue to be the greatest boat club ever.

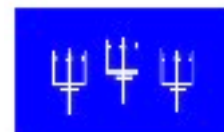
It is now time to pass the torch to a new and capable leader, Woody Williams. It is time for us to once again raise our hands and say "I will volunteer to do that".

As I prepare my application and resume for that elite group known as "Past Commanders", I have many role models who not only have "PC" after their name, but who continue to be great examples of "I will volunteer to do that".

Thank you again fellow Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron members for your trust!

We nailed it in 2014!

Douglas Townes, SN



FOREThoughts

Meet...Roy and Mary Stegall

Mary Davis was born in Rochester, New York, one of five children in her family. Upon graduation from Greece (New York) High School, Mary earned her LPN - Licensed Practical Nurse - degree. Eager to leave the Rochester area and see the world, Mary joined the Army where, because she was an LPN, she was allowed to enlist as a PFC.

Stationed at Ft. Ord, California, the Army soon promoted her to Specialist 4th Class (SP4 or "Spec-4" as it is called). It also afforded her the opportunity to work on her Registered Nursing (RN) degree. Ft. Ord sent her to Ft. Hunter-Liggett in southern Monterey County, about 250 miles north of Los Angeles and 150 miles south of San Francisco.

Once discharged from the Army, Mary decided to finish earning her RN degree. Having an aunt and uncle who she felt very close to living in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Mary decided that was where she wanted to pursue her education.

She fell in love with Tulsa and would soon fall in love with another part of Tulsa's charm.

Roy Stegall was born in Norman, Oklahoma (you see where this is going). His parents, both teachers, owned a 1,000 acre ranch where he earned his allowance "driving a tractor, breaking horses, and herding cattle (they had 30 horses and 40-50 head of Herefords). I still consider that 'hard money'."

As Roy was finishing high school, his father passed away. Roy moved to Tulsa where he lived with his brother while earning a degree in math at the University of Tulsa. He was hired out of college by IBM, the company where he would work for the next 32 years.



While in Tulsa, he and Mary met at a singles class given by a local Methodist Church. "Boating gets introduced here," said Roy, reading the interviewer's mind. "The singles class had periodic social events, including picnics at the lake. The centers of attention were the two boys who owned boats. They were the ones who met the girls." "It's a chick-magnet thing," added Mary. Roy decided to make it three boys who had boats and bought an 18-foot runabout. He had his eyes set on Mary.

"I asked her out, she turned me down. I asked her out again, she turned me down again."

"I had a 3-11 shift at the hospital - a real date killer," Mary says. Afraid that after trying twice to go out with her Roy might not call again, she called him. They began dating and soon fell in love. How did Roy propose? "I gave her a 'pet rock' - a diamond." Roy wanted Mary to select a setting that she liked and voila, they were engaged.

Back in those days IBM was said to mean "I've **B**een **M**oved". Transferred three times in five years (all five in their family, Mary, Roy, and their three kids, now grown, were born in different states). They first transferred to St. Louis, where they spent two years and had a daughter, Theresa. Then it was 2 years in Wichita, where they had son Luke. The rest of the IBM career was spent in Marietta, where John was

born.

Water-related recreational activities have always maintained a large place in the Stegall's lives. In Wichita they had a jet boat with a 455 hp Oldsmobile engine. When they moved to Marietta they bought an A-frame cabin on Bald Ridge Creek.

But they always had boats.

(Continued on page 4)



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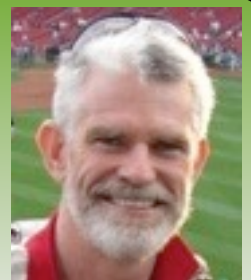
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T.J. CONVERY

Squadron News

(Meet the Stegalls, continued)

The jet boat, sold when they left Wichita, was replaced once they moved to Georgia with a 16-foot runabout with an 80 hp Mercury engine that Roy bought at a garage sale. Shortly thereafter, the three Stegall males attended a Boat Smart (now ABC) class taught by Ryan Troncalli (with James Dennison, Danny Tompkins, and Ed Troncalli sitting in). "It's because of Boat Smart that we are here," Mary told me. After joining the Squadron, the 16-foot runabout was replaced by a 20-foot cuddy cabin which was later replaced by a 24-foot Bayliner...*Gideon*. The name comes from a group Roy has belonged to since 1989 - the Christian Businessman's Association, a group we know as "The Gideons". So passionate is Roy about this that, in 2012 when they were cruising the Bahamas, Roy and Mary distributed some 200 bibles to pastors throughout the smaller islands to give to the children living there. But we are getting ahead of ourselves.

All three of the Stegall's kids developed a deep appreciation for, and love of, the water. Luke became a scuba instructor, John is a dive master, and Theresa is an advanced open water diver. All five of the Stegalls are certified scuba divers.

And all three of the boats the Stegall family owned in Georgia were trailered long distances (at least 1,000 mile trips) for vacation fun. They went to the Florida Keys, Canada, the Chesapeake...all over the place.

In 2006, they decided it was time to follow their dream. Roy, a USPS Senior Member and Senior Navigator (and now a 100-Ton Master licensed by the Coast Guard) took an early retirement from IBM. Mary, with her nursing degrees, said good-bye to her place of employment. They sold their 2 cars. They sold their house. They sold *Gideon* (to yours truly). They bought a 38-foot Island Packet which they renamed...*Gideon*. "We planned to cruise for five years and we were on the boat for six," says Mary.

Where did their travels take them? Well, among other places, the east coast of the United States, the Bahamas (where they gave out the aforementioned bibles), the Florida Keys, the Chesapeake, "It just depended on the season," recalls Roy. "We lived aboard long enough and accumulated enough miles that we qualified as Commodores with the Seven Seas Cruising Association," said Roy, proudly. "That's a fairly significant achievement."

What was the best part? "The Bahamas," answered Mary. "That's what everyone dreams about."

The worst part? Getting groceries to the boat when the boat was moored out in the rain.

Back on terra firma, they now have a house in Woodstock and three grandchildren. Theresa and John

live in the Atlanta. Luke lives in Wales where Roy and Mary visited last year for six-months, traveling to England, Scotland and spending some quality time with new granddaughter Lily. "Roy always wanted to cross the Atlantic on a boat and we did. But instead of our sailboat it was the Queen Mary," said the other Mary (Stegall, that is).

Reunited with their "Squadron family" they look forward to having some more fun times with us. And this year Roy will be a member of our Executive Committee.

"And I'm sure we'll have another boat sometime," Mary told me. I'm sure you will.

D/Lt/C Barbara Tyson Hits the Road

When the Chattanooga Sail and Power Squadron held their Change of Watch, they wanted a high-powered celebrity type to swear in the new bridge. District Secretary Barbara Tyson stepped (gingerly) up to the plate and conducted the ceremony.

A good time was had by all.



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Squadron News

January Meeting - New Officers, Same Great Time

The January Annual Meeting was held at the 57th Fighter Group Restaurant to an overflow crowd. The new Bridge was elected, and Cdr Townes recognized members in his usual, wonderful style. Of note, Tom Gastio and Donna Odum were each presented with special "I Nailed It" awards. Tom's nail "spelled out" the number 212 and Donna's the number 50. These were the numbers of Vessel Safety Inspections done by Tom and his Examiners *par excellence*, and the new members recruited by Donna, respectively. Instructors were recognized, as were members who took courses in 2014.

Mike Guler and Cdr Townes were awarded their Certificate of Educational Achievement plaques, and Richard Morrison and Gary Meinken received their Life Membership Plaques. Jonathan Blackwood was given his Senior Member plaque, and Certificates of Appreciation were given to our invaluable instructors.

All-in-all, it was pretty much the same...a wonderful meeting recognizing wonderful members for a wonderful year. Life is good.



Scenes From a Meeting (clockwise from top left):

The group meets for our social hour; Donna Odum's special "I Nailed It" award; thanks Tom and Donna. You were fabulous!; Jonathan Blackwood, our newest Senior Member; a Celebration of Appreciation



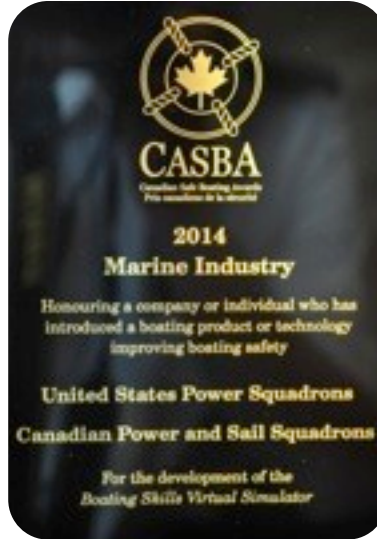

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Squadron News



Capt F. Thomas Boross, Chief Auxiliary and Boating Safety, tests his skills on the simulator.



Our own Lisa Herndon, basking in the glow of a job well done. Our hats all go off to you, you hard workin' devil you.

National Meeting - Jacksonville - Interesting - Fun...Lot's of Fun!!!

The annual National Meeting was, once again, held in the beautiful enclaves of Jacksonville, Florida. Nan Ellen Fuller was recognized by the Chief Commander as the USPS-CoastGuard Auxiliary liaison, and P/C Lisa Herndon, along with P/R/C Bob Palmer, Chief Commander Joe Gatfield, Canadian Power Squadron, and V/C Bob Brandenstein accepted the Canadian Safe Boating Award for a boating product or technology that improves boating safety.

The 100th Anniversary USPS Ensign was retired, replaced by the standard ensign, in a rather moving ceremony.



Dual citizen Nan Ellen Fuller is awarded Honorary Membership from C/C Robert Baldrige. She is now an honorary member, as well as a full member. Ergo, dual citizenship. Get it?



Mega-thanks go to Nan Ellen Fuller and Lisa Herndon for the photos.

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Squadron News

And then There Was the Pub Hospitality Room Crawl

Yes, you read correctly. At our National Meeting lists were passed out guiding us to each USPS District Hospitality Room. In the interest of journalism, your editor endeavored to visit each and every one, spreading good will and peace among members.

Or something like that. It was a tough job but somebody had to do it. In any event, it crowned the Annual Meeting. You should try it.



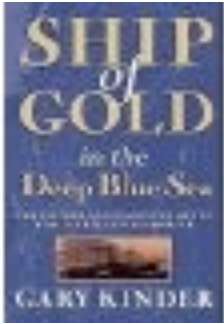
It's like they say: "Come for the boating education, stay for the friends."

Squadron News

A Book Review Update... VERRRRY Interesting

Before beginning this update, let us preface the story by stating that everything here is ALLEGED. This will save us from repeating that word which I so detest.

Attentive readers may recall that, in the January, 2012 issue of your *Waterlog*, the book *Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea* by Gary Kinder was reviewed. The book told the story of the SS *Central America*, a ship that went down off the coast of South Carolina during a hurricane in the 1800's. The *Central America* was carrying passengers, many of whom had struck it rich during the California gold rush, and who had traveled from San Francisco with their treasure chests of gold.



Then, in 1989, Tommy Thompson, a brilliant engineer from **THE** Ohio State University developed deep sea technology and a machine capable of finding and recovering lost treasures. He lined up 161 investors - Columbus, Ohio's Who's-Who - and, thanks to their \$12.7 million, found and recovered thousands of gold bars and coins.

After selling much of it for \$50,000,000, he sort of, well, took off. The investors never saw a return on their investments. Calling him "one of the most intelligent fugitives ever sought," the U.S. Marshall's Service tracked him down and arrested him at a Boca Raton Hotel. Thompson had lived in a rented mansion in Vero Beach for six years (always paying his rent in cash with bills that "smelled musty," according to the landlord. Six years later - and after a warrant for his arrest was issued - he disappeared. The caretakers of the mansion found disposable cell phones, \$10,000 in cash, and a bank statement in his name showing a balance of \$1 million. They also found a book with the title, "How To Live Invisible."

Not to be glib, but, hey, if he was that intelligent, wouldn't he take that \$50 million and go to a place where they didn't extradite? But I digress.

And don't forget...we said alleged.

Auld Lang Syne - Now You Know

As the clock struck 12:00:01 and *Auld Lang Syne* was being sung, a thought occurred: what the heck does it mean? I can't be the only one who wonders that, can I? Well, it's a song about friends who have parted, meet again, and share a drink to their memories of friendship long ago.

Translated by www.newyearfavours.com, on behalf of everyone connected with your *Waterlog*, we wish you a safe, prosperous, and very happy 2015.

Auld Lang Syne, by Robert Burns

Should old acquaintances be forgotten,
And never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintances be forgotten,
And days of long ago !

Chorus:

For old long ago, my dear
For old long ago,
We will take a cup of kindness yet
For old long ago.

We two have run about the hillsides
And pulled the daisies fine,
But we have wandered many a weary foot
For old long ago.

We two have paddled (waded) in the stream
From noon until dinner time,
But seas between us broad have roared
Since old long ago.

And there is a hand, my trusty friend,
And give us a hand of yours,
And we will take a goodwill draught (of ale)
For old long ago!

And surely you will pay for your pint,
And surely I will pay for mine!
And we will take a cup of kindness yet
For old long ago!



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Squadron News

The Lowdown On The USPS Annual Poster Contest

Those of us who have attended USPS National Conventions have been treated to a wide array of interesting things to see and do, from lectures to exhibits to informational classes, one of the nicest of which is the Youth Poster Contest.

As you can see from the cover of this month's *Waterlog* with the poster by Megan Bridges, these kids put an enormous amount of effort into their drawings and display an incredible level of talent and ingenuity.

Some Squadrons recruit talent from their children and grandchildren. The New River Sail and Power

Squadron "in hopes that the contest will further youth appreciation of the water and how safe boating is fun boating." Each year the contest follows a theme - in 2014 it was "The W's of Wearing a Life Jackets...Where, When...Who?"

Rules for the contest can be easily found on the USPS website. However, here is how the contest begins:

Chain of Submission:

☀ Posters may come from several activity levels, i.e. schools, camps, scouts (cub, brownie, boy, girl, etc.), as well as non-group entries (children and grandchildren of members, for example). These entries will be judged at the Squadron level and prizes can be given by the Squadron.

☀ There are three age groups: 6-8, 9-11, and 12-14. The first, second, and third place winners from each age group will be submitted for judging on the district level.

☀ First place winners there will advance to the National level.

National Submission Deadline:

☀ Districts will notify National at youth@usps.org of the names of their submissions by January 1 in order to allow for preparation of certificates and display arrangements.

☀ Posters must be physically submitted to the Contest Chair by noon Thursday of the Annual Meeting for display.

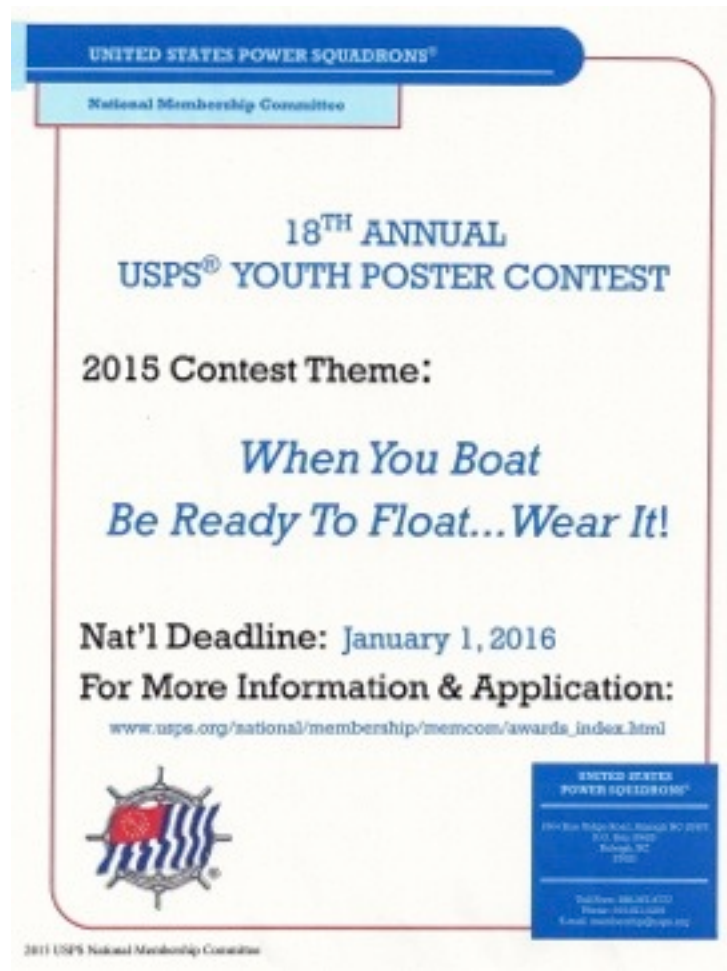
☀ All entries become the property of the United States Power Squadrons®, which reserves the right to display or otherwise use the submission for further reproduction.

Judging:

☀ The Membership Department will conduct judging by the public on Friday of the Annual Meeting.

Awards:

☀ A first place prize of \$150, second place of \$100, and third place \$75 will be given to the winners of each of the three age groups. All awards will be forwarded to the Squadron Commander for presentation to the winners.



Squadron went to the local elementary and middle schools in Jacksonville, North Carolina. In talking with John Wooley, New River's Commander, I thought it might be a good idea to discuss the contest with you, my dear readership. So here goes:

The contest was created by the late P/C Robert "Woody" Boarman of the Vero Beach Sail and Power

As we are running out of precious column space, we at your *Waterlog* hope this has piqued your interest. We do have information on submission forms, restrictions that apply to the posters...any and all information that applies. Sounds like a good idea to us!!!

Member's Quarters

Two Pages of New Members? Hot Diggety Dog!!!!

By Donna Odum

DARRELL AND GINA MITCHELL have lived in Cherokee County for 35 years and have 2 children and 1 grandchild. Gina is a retired elementary school teacher from the Cherokee County School System where she taught for 33 years. Darrell retired from the Gwinnett County Fire Department where he worked for 21 years, retiring in 2000 as Special Operations officer. After retirement, he took a full time position with Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services (CCFES) where he had previously worked part-time and as a volunteer. He is currently the Chief of Special Operations for CCFES. He also volunteers as Fire Chief at a local Community Fire Department. He has worked in the Fire and Emergency field for 37 years. His job places him on Lake Lanier, Lake Allatoona as well as rivers on a regular basis. They enjoy the outdoors and love to travel, hike, camp, fish, swim and boat. They own a 26' Sea Ray Sundeck runabout which they trailer to Lake Lanier and Lake Allatoona. In Darrell's own words: "I am looking forward to fun, friendships and service with the club if you so choose to allow us aboard".



DARRELL RICHARDSON AND TRICIA BRAMBLETT joined ASPS last September. They live on Lake Lanier near Flat Creek in Oakwood. Darrell has been boating since he was 7 years old. At 14 years old, he helped his brother remove and replace the complete interior of the family boat including floor, carpet and seats. At 23, he bought his first boat and completed a boating safety course the same year. Since then, Darrell has owned and operated numerous other boats. He has not only operated and maintained his own boat, but has helped other boaters when assistance was needed. Trisha en-

joys riding jet skis. Darrell attended Tucker High School. He graduated from the Southern College of Technology. He works in the civil engineering field. He is employed with the Georgia Department of Transportation since 1986 in the Roadway Design Office. He is retiring in February 2015.

JIMMY WILSON is the fiancé of Lisa Herndon. They got engaged during an ASPS weekend trip to Lake Jocassee. Jimmy has been boating on Lake Murray and the South Carolina coast for 30+ years. He built a 20' sailboat and learned how to use a sextant with his scout troop. He built an 18' catamaran later on his own. His family had a 32' Trojan cruiser and a lake house on Lake Murray and then Jimmy lived in Charleston SC for a number of years, going up the creeks with his two children in a dory, the original Quintessence. He currently has a 20' Wellcraft cuddy cabin power boat named the Sarah Bethay (after his daughter). He has two children, Daniel and Sarah, both married.

MATT, SUSAN AND SARAH TYSER joined last October after Matt had completed his year as the Commodore of the University Yacht Club. Matt graduated from Ohio State University (BSBA), Xavier University (MBA) and State of Ohio (CPA). He is currently a Finance Executive. He has been boating for 20 years on inland lakes with power boats, jet skis and houseboats. Susan graduated from Ohio State University (BS Fine Arts) and acts as Matt's First Mate on all of their boats. She sang with Lisa Herndon and others at the USPS District Conference when former Commander Jim Jordan was 'Honey Bun' in the South Pacific musical. Their daughter, Sarah, has taken and passed a PWC course and attends Georgia Southern University.

JOHN AND DEANNA GRECO have recently moved here from Arizona and live at the south end of Lake Lanier. John grew up fishing and boating on small watercraft in Long Island Sound, New York. He has experience in boat repair, rigging sailboats, dock repair, winterizing boats and dry storage at Point Bay and Mallets Bay Marinas on Lake Champlain, Vermont. He spent 36 years as a Union Carpenter and General Foreman in California, Oregon and Colorado before retiring in July 2010. He spent the last two winters working a retirement job making snow at Snowbowl Resort. His volunteer experience includes participation in trail construction for mountain bike advocacy groups in California and Oregon, collected historical data and did photography projects at Denali National Park as well as did cave, vegetation, fisheries and geology projects at the Grand Canyon National Park. Deanna started boating and skiing at the age of 5 on lakes in Texas and Arkansas. She trained and was employed as a Boat Patrol Ranger for the Corps of En-



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Member's Quarters

gineers in Arkansas and California. She is a flat and whitewater kayaker and rafter. Deanna spent 16 years working as a Geologist for the Corps of Engineers in California, the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon and the National Park Service in numerous Colorado parks. She spent four years as the Physical Science Program Manager for Grand Canyon National Park. She currently serves as the Chief of Planning and Resource Management at the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. Both John and Deanna are avid outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy spending time hiking, mountain biking and rock climbing. They are members of the Lake Lanier Community Garden. They have been cyclist for almost 30 years and have completed the Leadville Trail 100 and countless endurance cycling events. They enjoy snow skiing of all types at resorts and backcountry.

DONNA NORTINGTON grew up in New York boating with her family out of Freeport, Long Island and Montauk Point. She moved to Atlanta in 1998 and bought her first boat, a Chaparral 246 SSI which she kept at Lan Mar (now Port Royale) Marina on Lake Lanier. During the drought, she moved her boat to Lake Allatoona and kept it at Park Marina for two years. She is back on Lake Lanier now, in a new Cobalt 220 which she docks at her lake cottage near Gainesville Marina. Donna is currently Senior Vice President of Strategic Planning at Turner Broadcasting and received her MBA in Finance from Columbia University in NYC. She serves on several boards including MOCA GA the Museum of Contemporary Art Georgia. She is an experienced skier, having lived in Colorado, and an amateur artist, creating mixed media abstract landscapes. She has three independent children in their 20s; one in college at UC-Berkeley in CA, one at Colorado University in Boulder, CO and one who has graduated from Boston College and is working in the newsroom at CNN in Atlanta.

CHARLIE, SHARON, STEPHEN AND LISA TRONCALLI joined ASPS at the end of last year. Charlie reinstated his membership. He has been boating regularly all of his life. Most of those years were on Lake Lanier, but later on the Florida East Coast and Gulf Coast. His past experience has been on powerboats but recently he took sailboat lessons at the Lanier Sailing Academy. Sharon has been involved in boating since she and Charlie first met in 1971. Charlie has taken one US Power Squadron class in which his nephew, Ryan Troncalli, was the instructor. Most of his boating instruction came informally from his dad, Sam Troncalli, who was an ASPS member for many years. Charlie and Sharon look forward to sharing time here boating with family and friends. Their children are Stephen and Lisa.



ARCHIE AND CHARLENE McCAIN just recently joined. Archie has have been active with boating for his entire life, almost entirely in small power boats. "As a child, my extended family would spend weekends at the lake, camping, water skiing, and fishing were the primary activities. I learned to ski behind a john boat with a 10 hp engine at the age of six. Safety was always an important part of our lake activities, with strict PFD rules enforced for everyone – no exceptions. As a young adult, I continued boating in the Myrtle Beach area with almost every weekend either being on the Atlantic ICW or close off-shore," he remembers.

Currently they own a small open boat and enjoy day trips on the area lakes, generally Lake Lanier, but they have trailered their boat to Lake Hartwell, Lake Allatoona, and Watts Bar on the Tennessee River system. They enjoy day rides on the lakes a great deal, enjoying the beauty of the lakes and just being on the water. They are seriously considering moving up to a cruiser so that we can spend some overnights and weekends on the water. Archie's professional background is technical. He is a Director at AT&T, leading a team of software developers who develop tools for wireline operations. Almost his entire career has involved technical operations for communications, with work assignments developing digital switching, technical support for technicians, network operations, international operations, federal regulatory, process standards (ISO 9000/ TL 9000), and quality systems including Lean and Six Sigma. Archie and Charlene have been married for 35 years. They have two grown children and just welcomed their first grandchild in September of 2014.

BOB WIRTZ is the husband of ASPS member, Fran Walker. Robert "Bob" Wirtz currently serves as Chief of the Entomology Branch, Division of Parasitic Diseases, at the Centers for Disease Control. He recently gave an interesting talk at a monthly ASPS General Membership Meeting entitled "The World's Most Dangerous Animals." Bob and Fran are quite accomplished sailors. Last July they bought an Island Packet 380 sailboat, Southern Cross. They both reside in Atlanta and are members of the Lanier Sailing Academy. Bob has taken courses/training in Yanmar Mack Boring hands-on diesel workshop, Celestial Navigation, Coastal Navigation, Basic Coastal Cruising and Basic Keelboat. He has sailed in the British Virgin Islands, Pensacola Area, St. Martin to Antigua, Bermuda to Newport, Roadtown in the BVIs, Dubrovnik Croatia, Vounaki Greece, Clearwater and Tampa Florida, Rock Hall and Annapolis Maryland, St. Vincent and Grenadines as well as the Florida Keys.

Editor's Note: Keep it up, Donna, and we'll have to go to 20 pages.....Gladly!!!

ASPS Cares



(Editor's Note: This letter arrived in my mailbox on New Year's Eve and, as the last seconds of the year counted down I made a conscientious effort to think of its message.

*I wanted to remember 2014 in the nicest way possible. I have edited out all of the flattering comments P/R/C Ellis paid to the **Waterlog** as that would seem self-serving and would miss the point. However, they are - and will always be - etched in a very special place in my heart reserved for those undeserved, yet always welcome, compliments.)*

12/27/2014

Dear Tim,

I received the Waterlog today and want to make a few observations and comments.

Your ASPS Cares column concerning Ben and Pat Estes grabbed my heart and squeezed.

Ben and Pat were very instrumental in Dot and me joining USPS from the very beginning of years in the Squadron.

As brand new members, Dot and I were invited by Ben to travel to Chattanooga, where he was to represent the Chief Commander at the D/17 Change of Watch. We had at least 20 members from Atlanta for the event, and I have never forgotten how powerful his presence was. Ben had a very powerful and robust laugh that could be heard across the expanse of the room. You always knew where Ben was.

Ben became my Role Model and an influence on me for my USPS ambitions.

After they moved to Ft. Myers, Florida they invited Dot and me to visit them. I thought then that having his trawler berthed behind his house would be the ultimate situation for a boater. I still do.

On another note, I read with interest that you had prostate cancer. FYI, I had prostate cancer in 2003 while I was Commodore of the Vero Beach Yacht Club. I was the first man in Vero Beach - maybe in Florida - to undergo a robotic prostatectomy (spelling?). At that time only Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville and Ford Hospital in Detroit had the experience and money (\$1 million plus) for the machine.

Lymphoma cancer in my cheek was removed in 2009. Neither of these cancers have recurred.

Last year I had cancer in the esophagus removed at the Mayo Clinic. I go back in February for a follow-up to check the site.

I am telling you of my experiences with cancer to state the value and importance of the Annual Physical and of awareness of your body. Modern medicine keeps us Old Guys with hope and prayer.

I read the Waterlog cover to cover and think of my friends in Atlanta.

Tommy (P/R/C Tommy Ellis)

Editorial follow-up: I spoke with P/R/C Ellis to thank him for his letter and found out that his latest cancer was discovered when he was having a routine teeth cleaning at his dentist's office. His dentist asked him how long he had had the bump growing in his mouth. "I didn't even know I had one," he told me. "I told my dentist that I brushed my teeth regularly but didn't examine the inside of my mouth. I mean, who does? Anyway, he referred me to the oncologist and that's how they found it."

This, my dear friends, encapsulates my passion and current crusade for health awareness. Thanks, Tommy, and our prayers are with you and Dot.

Recycling Update

Well, folks, I know you are all extremely curious as to just where our Squadron stands with respect to our recycling project. Just to recap: we began by collecting pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House, who collects and recycles them. Then James Dennison asked about scrap aluminum, and we expanded our horizons. We will now collect all things recyclable (that we can turn in for money) and give that money to the Ronald McDonald House.

Then Scot Randall donated some hunks of aluminum, Ron Ringwall gave us some aluminum wheels, and many of you have continued to collect pop tops.

And believe me, that ain't easy!

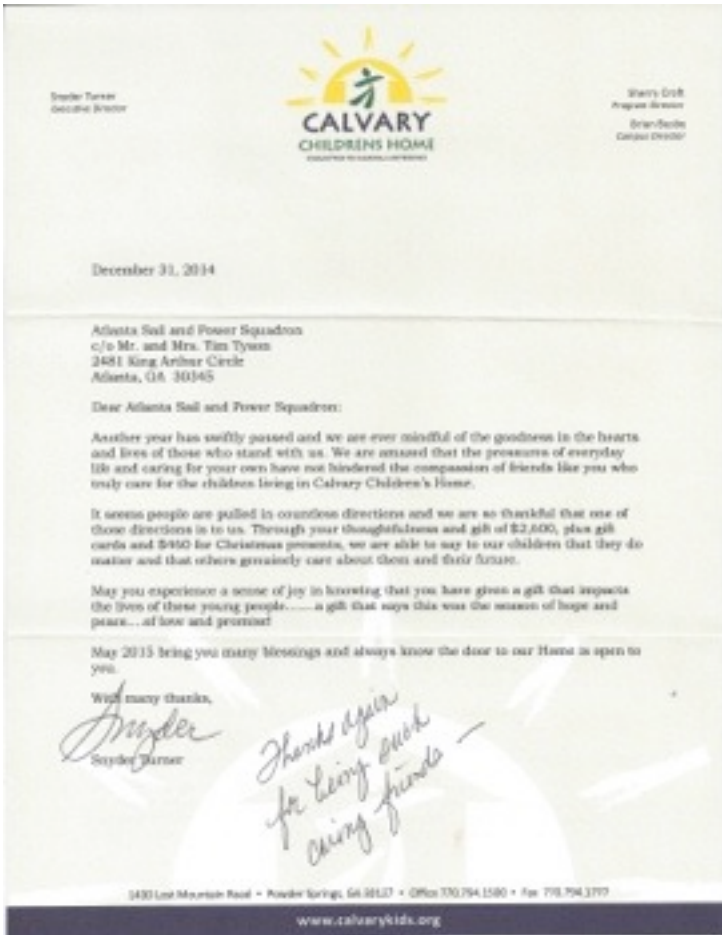
If you will refer to last month's *Waterlog* (or just contact Tim Tyson), you can find out the type of materials we can collect and he will arrange to get it from you.

So without further delay, as we go to press we have collected \$120.83. Let's keep it coming. \$200.00 is just around the corner!

ASPS Cares

From Our Friends At Calvary

Well, fellow members, you've done it again. Not only did you warm the hearts of these children at Christmastime, you warmed the heart of Snyder Turner with your generous donations of money for presents and for the Calvary General fund. Give yourselves a pat on the back!



Friends of the **Waterlog**

- Tim and Barbara Tyson
- P/D/C Bob, Nancy, and Robert Leathers
- Anonymous Donor
- Elwood "Woody" and Jade Williams
- P/D/C Norm Oien
- P/C Dave Herndon, N, F.o.W. Emeritus
- P/C Don and Judy Williams
- Sam Troncalli, AP, F.o.W. Emeritus
- P/Lt/C Sheryl and Lt/C Glenn LaBoda
- The Troncalli Family
- Consolidated Contracting Services (T.J. Convery)
- Gordon Biersch - Buckhead
- Martha Fowler
- Greene Classic Limousines (Bill Conn)
- Carefree Boat Club
- P/R/C Louis Hohenstein
- P/D/C Bob Ginsberg
- P/C Lisa Herndon
- Randy and Barbara Tahsler
- Fred and Sara Morris

To learn more about becoming a "Friend of the **Waterlog**", please contact your editor, Tim Tyson. We are grateful for your support.



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The Bulletin Board



District 17 Spring Conference

The "Dixie" District will hold its Spring Conference 10-12 April, 2015 at Joe Wheeler State Park on the Tennessee River, Tennessee. Come help the Huntsville Sail and Power Squadron celebrate their 50th Anniversary! Come meet a very special Chief's Rep - Chief Commander Robert Baldrige, SN!

Details as to lodging, meals, programs, etc. will follow in the March issue and in upcoming DR's. Also, feel free to contact D/Lt/C Barbara Tyson..



Errors and Amplifications

Well, it appears that your editor has messed up again. It seems that we reported Susan Shirey as winning first place in the Chili Cook-Off this past November when, in fact, the grand prize winner was Robin Tanis.

With all of the intense pressures this job places on its staff, we hope you can overlook this embarrassing faux pas.

For what it's worth, just because we have winners does not mean we have losers. Every chili was worth a blue ribbon, according to my taste palate.

A Young Man With a Future In Politics

Submitted by Al Desrosiers

A man in a Florida supermarket tries to buy half a head of lettuce. The very young produce assistant tells him that they sell only whole heads of lettuce. The man persists and asks to see the manager. The boy says he'll ask his manager about it.

Walking into the back room, the boy said to his manager, "Some nimrod wants to buy half a head of lettuce." As he finished his sentence, he turned to find the man standing right behind him, so he added, "And this gentleman has kindly offered to buy the other half." The manager approved the deal, and the man went on his way.

Later the manager said to the boy, "I was impressed with the way you got yourself out of that situation earlier. We like people who think on their feet here. Where are you from, son?" "North Dakota, sir," the boy replied. "Well, why did you leave North Dakota?" the manager asked. The boy said, "Sir, there's nothing but sleazy women and hockey players up there." "Really?" said the manager. My wife is from North Dakota."

"No kidding?" replied the boy. "Who'd she play for?"

From the Bridge



Cdr Douglas Townes



Lt/C Woody Williams,
Executive Officer



Lt/C Eric Ringwall,
Education Officer



Lt/C John Holland,
Administrative Officer



Lt/C Margaret
Sherrod,
Treasurer



Lt/C Beth Guler,
Secretary



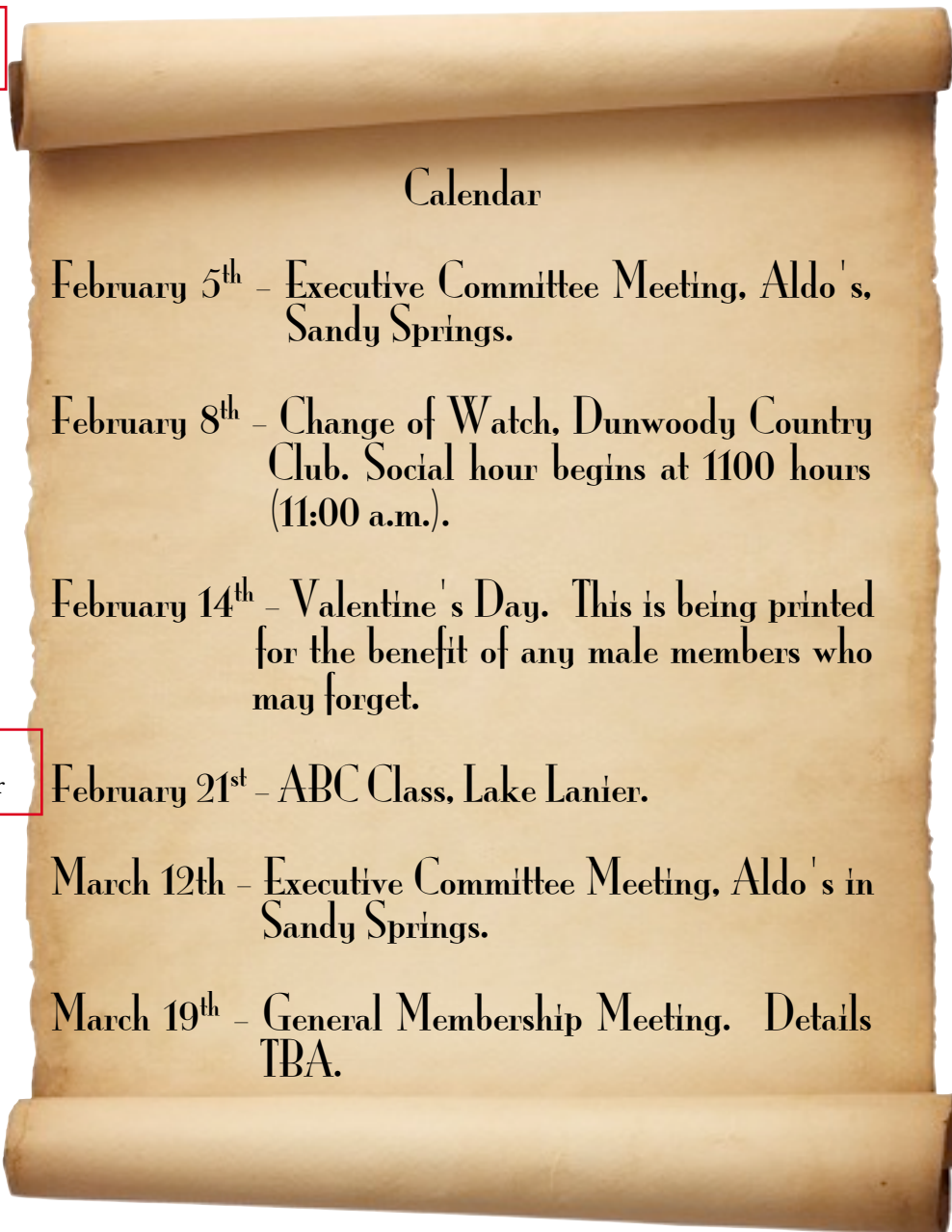
1st/Lt Meredith
Randall,
Assistant
Education Officer



1st/Lt Scot Randall,
Assistant Administrative
Officer



1st/Lt Dennis
Abell, Assistant
Secretary



Calendar

February 5th - Executive Committee Meeting, Aldo 's, Sandy Springs.

February 8th - Change of Watch, Dunwoody Country Club. Social hour begins at 1100 hours (11:00 a.m.).

February 14th - Valentine 's Day. This is being printed for the benefit of any male members who may forget.

February 21st - ABC Class, Lake Lanier.

March 12th - Executive Committee Meeting, Aldo 's in Sandy Springs.

March 19th - General Membership Meeting. Details TBA.

Afterthoughts

So here I am, at the Hyatt Regency in Jacksonville. This is the second National meeting I have attended and believe me, they are fun and interesting. As there are no meetings for me to attend and no places I have to be, I sit at the desk in my room, overlooking the St. Johns River (with the sliding doors open, listening to the seagulls. Ah, life is good), working on your *Waterlog*. What should I write here, I ask myself. Ah the challenges an journalist faces. Last night ten of us got together for an evening of laughs over dinner, and this started me thinking (watch out whenever that happens). I truly do not know in what direction this column is going, but I'll do my best to make some sense out of it.

In proofreading the three pages I have completed, I re-read the letter from P/R/C Tommy Ellis. Then I re-read the translation of the song Auld Lang Syne. I thought about last night's dinner. I have so much to be grateful for that it seems, well, not right, to think of the things from 2014 that I will miss. But there are some.

One of the biggest things can be summed up in three words: Commander Douglas Townes.

I will miss the way he always asked my opinion about something, even when he knew he wouldn't agree with me. I will miss the look in his eyes when he talked about the "I Nailed It Award". I will miss how he was always so concerned about doing the right thing in the right way at the right time for individual members. I will most definitely miss the way he tortured the English language, spelling, grammar...and our names! It has made me think, we're a volunteer group with a pretty darned good lineup of volunteers. Douglas, it's been a great year. Thanks for being you. And Woody, I sure do look forward to our upcoming year. Yessir, we have a pretty good lineup. In fact, if I may say so, a damn fine lineup.

Please tell me that this made some sense. Thanks.



Tim Tyson
2481 King Arthur Circle
Atlanta, GA 30345

