



WATERLOG



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A Tribute To Our Military

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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 provided to all members and advertisers, and is available to the public.

All members in good standing and approved non-members 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.



Waterlog Editor-in-Chief D/FI/Lt Tim Tyson, P, and Proof Editor Lt/C Margaret Sherrod, SN

Commander's Corner

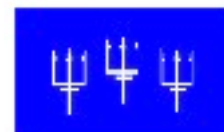
For this edition of *Waterlog*, I'd like to talk a bit about the North Carolina "Pre-Revolutionary" Cruise that five boatfuls of ASPS'ers just concluded, as an enticement for others to participate in upcoming trips our Squadron has planned. A full report on the NC Cruise by our youngest cruiser, Wesley Randall (congrats upon your and your brother's college graduations), is not to be missed. We had cruisers ranging in age from twenty-something to eighty-something, and how happy we are to have the perspective of one of our younger boaters. I personally can't wait to read his perceptions of the trip.



Cdr Elwood "Woody" Williams, JN

Just to hit a few high spots: on Sunday we cruised from New Bern down the Neuse River during one of its calmer moments to have a tasty lunch in Oriental, NC's "Sailing Capital"; we then faced directly into a brisk SE wind for the twenty miles down the ICW to Beaufort. The next day we ferried to Ocracoke Island and returned early to Beaufort on Tuesday. Lovely weather graced the Ocracoke adventure and the waters of Pamlico Sound appeared placid enough. (Why did we ferry on this leg rather than take our own boats on this 40 mile trip each way, some must have wondered.) You can guess what's coming. Wednesday brought clear weather after early morning thunder storms, but a cold front included some brisk afternoon winds. All was just comfy on the trip back to Oriental UNTIL we had to cross the Neuse River, which had benefitted from the long fetch and prevailing wind. Lake Lanier on a late Spring day it was not. Nevertheless, everyone safely crossed the 4.5 mile width of the river and gained a clear understanding of its nickname – the Nasty Neuse. Thursday, it was back on the Neuse for the again windy trip upstream to New Bern. But, fortunately the wind was mostly on the quarter and the trip was considerably drier. All this talk about weather, wind and water conditions is mentioned simply to explain that our boaters benefitted greatly from many years of boat handling experience and the lessons learned in our classes.

Don't forget two upcoming educational opportunities, Partner in Command in June and Practical On-the-Water Training (POTW) in July, both of which contain on-the-water instruction. Partner in Command is geared toward people who want to know how to perform basic boating skills



(continued on page 6)

FOREThoughts

Meet...Purple Heart and Medal of Honor Recipients

It was at the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, watching the Memorial Day ceremony and listening to Brigadier General Denis Shortal deliver a stirring speech that an idea began to swirl around in your editor's mind. And when BG Shortal had the cousin of a Medal of Honor recipient (always a "recipient", never "winner") the decision was made to write this article.

And so, dear readers, let us delve into two high military awards, the Purple Heart and the Medal of Honor.



The Purple Heart originated as the Badge of Military Merit established by then-commander-in-chief of the Continental Army George Washington, in 1782. The original award took the form of a heart made from purple cloth and was awarded to only three Revolutionary War soldiers. And although the award was never abolished it was not awarded again until after World War I, making it the oldest of all U.S. military awards.

In October, 1927, Army Chief of Staff Charles Summerall ordered a draft bill be sent to congress "to revive the Badge of Military Merit". No action was taken but all pertinent material was filed for future use. In January, 1931, General Douglas MacArthur, Summerall's successor, "confidentially reopened work on a new design, involving the Washington Commission of Fine Arts."

Elizabeth Will, an Army heraldic specialist with the Office of the Quartermaster General, redesigned the revived award, now called the Purple Heart. The medal, exhibiting a bust of George Washington inside a heart of purple with a gold border, was issued on February 22, 1932, the 200th anniversary of Washington's birth.

The criteria authorized the Purple Heart be awarded "to soldiers, upon their request, who had been

awarded the Meritorious Service Citation Certificate, Army Wound Ribbon, or were authorized to wear Wound Chevrons subsequent to April 5, 1917, the day before the United States entered World War I."

Douglas MacArthur was the first recipient of the new award.

During the early part of World War II the Purple Heart was awarded both for wounds received in action and for meritorious service but, when the Legion of Merit was established, the Purple Heart, which all services are authorized to award, went to military members who sustained wounds.

Since then it has undergone several modifications: in 1962, Executive Order 11016 authorized a provision to receive it posthumously; its placement on the uniform went from being just beside the Good Conduct Medal to immediately above Meritorious Service Medals; it can now be awarded as a result of terrorist attacks, or while serving as part of a peacekeeping force, subsequent to March 28, 1973, or from friendly fire.

In contrast to all other medals individuals are not recommended for the Purple Heart; he or she is entitled to it.



Often incorrectly called "the Congressional Medal of Honor," the Medal of Honor is our nation's highest military award. It was created in 1861 recognizing those men "who distinguished themselves 'conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity' in combat with an enemy of the United States."

The most common protocol for awarding the Medal of Honor is through the service member's military chain of command. However there is a provision for nomination by a member of Congress, usually at the behest of a constituent. In either case the Medal of Honor is presented by the President of the United States, "on behalf of, and in the name of, the Congress.

(continued on page 5)



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T.J. CONVERY

Squadron News

U.S. Army Ranger 2015 Lake Lanier Water Jump



Through the efforts of P/C Douglas Townes and Flotilla Cdr Joe Edwards of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, your editor was treated to a front row seat at the Army Ranger water jump at Lake Sidney Lanier. Two Sikorsky UH-60 "Blackhawk" helicopters took load after load of Rangers 1500 feet over the surface of the water for the annual water jump they need to remain Airborne qualified.

It was a very cool morning (one major was overheard saying, "That water's gonna be pretty darned cold!") for the 130 Rangers, most of who were instructors out of Camp Merrill in Dahlonega. Six Rangers on each Blackhawk - three on the port side, three on starboard - sat in the Blackhawks, feet dangling out the side, and treated us to a display that would make your heart practically burst out of your chest with pride. But they were in their element. "This is one of the fun events," Captain Brian Herbert told the *Waterlog*. And, as Brigadier General Jim Rainey told us, he never tires of jumping. "In fact I'm going over there to watch them jump."

All in all it was another great day to be an American.

Squadron News

(the Purple Heart and Medal of Honor, continued)

In the early years of the 20th century the Medal of Honor was known as the "Tiffany Cross" or the "Tiffany Cross Medal of Honor", after the jewelry company that designed the medal. Currently there are three different "versions" of the Medal of Honor: one for the Army, one for the Navy, and one for the Air Force. Coast Guard and Marine members receive the Navy's medal.

In 1963 a loophole that enabled Navy personnel not engaged in combat to receive the award was removed. The act that pulled this provision also clarified that the act of valor must occur either: while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States; While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Medal of Honor recipients have special privileges conferred upon them, including:

- ✿ Each recipient has his or her name entered on the Medal of Honor Roll, entitling them to pensions and benefits beyond those to which they would otherwise be entitled.
- ✿ Eligibility for interment at Arlington National Cemetery, if not otherwise eligible.
- ✿ Recipients receive a 10 percent increase in retired pay.
- ✿ Recipients receive an invitation to all future presidential inaugurations and inaugural balls.
- ✿ Although not required by law or military regulation, members of the uniformed services are encouraged to render salutes to recipients of the Medal of Honor as a matter of respect and courtesy **regardless of rank or status** and, if the recipients are wearing the medal, **whether or not they are in uniform**. This is one of the few instances where a living member of the military will receive salutes from members of a higher rank.

In other words, a General or Admiral will salute a Medal of Honor recipient and the recipient will return the salute.

The most recent statistics available indicate that:

- ✿ 3468 Medals of Honor have been awarded since the Civil War.
- ✿ 621 have been awarded posthumously.
- ✿ Nineteen men received a second award.
- ✿ Fourteen of these men received two separate Medals for two separate actions.
- ✿ Five received both the Navy and the Army Medals of Honor for the same action.

(Editor's note: I hope that this article has been as interesting to read as it was to research and write. We used information gleaned from Wikipedia and the Medal of Honor Society.)

Did You Know...



There have only been two six-star generals...well sort of.

In the United States Army military hierarchy, General of the **Armies** is traditionally considered a rank superior to a five-star general, also known as "General of the **Army**" (note the difference between the two ranks). It is sometimes considered a six-star rank. The full title of the military rank is "General of the Armies of the United States", although the rank is commonly referred to simply as "General of the Armies". The only people in history to hold the title General of the Armies were John J. Pershing and George Washington.

And, although George Washington left the Army a three-star general, Congress voted in 1976 (our bicentennial year) to award him a sixth star. And although General Pershing was also a General of the Armies, he wore just five stars.

Thus, George Washington was our country's only six-star general.

Gordon Biersch

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Squadron News

(Commander's Corner, continued)

when, due to some circumstance, the captain can't. POTW is an all day class in boat operation – not as advanced as Boat Operator Certification training, but certainly headed in that direction. These are both very good classes that have appeared infrequently in the past. So, grab these opportunities. There is always room to brush up your skills and to learn new ones. Hopefully, calmer waters will prevail on the upcoming Tennessee River July 4th trip, the Salt Water Fishing Trip, Scalloping in Florida and the Lake Jocassee trip.

Since the NC Cruise ended on Memorial Day Weekend, we took notice of the military presence in North Carolina. We encountered quite a traffic jam in Goldsboro, NC due to an air show at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base. We cruised by Cherry Point Naval Air Station on the Neuse. The Coast Guard was in evidence in Beaufort and Ocracoke. Douglas Townes jetted by Camp Lejeune except when in proximity of those vessels with the 50 calibre machine guns on them. And, Jade and I drove by the battleship, USS North Carolina, in Wilmington. One cannot help but reflect on the heroism, duty and sacrifice that all our members of the armed forces so loyally performed and continue to perform to protect our homeland. We salute and thank you for your service.

Straight ahead and strive for boating enjoyment with your ASPS colleagues.

Woody

Gov. Deals Signs Safe Boating Week Proclamation



Having signed Georgia's Safe Boating Week proclamation, Governor Nathan Deal met with representa-

tives of Flotilla 29 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, members of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron's Executive Officer John Holland and Commander Woody Williams on May 12th in the governor's office.

A Star Is Born



Dateline: Milton, GA: The whole world was watching on May 14th at 5:40-ish (1740-ish) when our illustrious SEO, one Lt/C Eric Ringwall, AP-CN, was interviewed by Fox 5 television about boating safety and boating education.

In all seriousness, watching Lt/C Ringwall represent ASPS and discuss this very important subject made us all feel proud to be members of such a fine organization.



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Squadron News

Operation On-board Observer (OOO) and Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Workshop

Date: Sunday May 31, 2015 from 2:00PM-3:30PM ET
 Location: US Coast Guard Auxiliary Bunzl Operations Center, Lake Lanier - 6595 Lights Ferry Rd, Flowery Branch, GA (Just before Aqualand Marina)

Operation On-board Observer (OOO) Program is a collaborative effort between the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons (USPS). It was initially launched in the summer of



2014 in the First District Southern Region of the Auxiliary and District 3 of the Power Squadrons. The Auxiliary approved the expansion of the OOO Program to the Seventh District and selected Division 2 to pilot the Program. Division 2 consists of 6 Flotillas in Inland Georgia and Western South Carolina. The Atlanta Sail & Power Squadron (ASPS) has been invited to participate in the OOO Program and help shape the Program expansion to other Squadrons across the US.

After attending a 60 - 90 minute Workshop on Operation On-Board Observer (OOO) and Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) given by the Auxiliary, Power Squadron members may volunteer to go out with the USCG Auxiliary on patrol as observers. Workshop attendees are paired up with neighboring USCG Auxiliary Flotillas.

While on the Auxiliary's patrols, the Power Squadron member's role is as an extra set of eyes to assist the patrol's crew. Specifically, we're helping them watch for:

- Suspicious activities - Folks doing potentially bad things
- Issues affecting Recreational Boating Safety
- Environmental issues
- Etc.

We participate in the pre-underway checks and briefings, risk analysis, and debriefing at the conclusion of the mission. We do not participate in line handling or operation of the boat.

Since the patrols have other missions set for them such as towing exercises, Man Overboard (MOB drills), search and rescue drills, etc. our members have the opportunity to learn what happens during these drills and expand on our ability to become safer boaters.

This as an exciting opportunity for ASPS members to expand our horizons and become an even larger part of Recreational Boating Safety. If you are interested in "getting underway" with the OOO Program, plan to attend the workshop on Sunday, May 31st. To reserve your spot or for more information, contact Nan Ellen Fuller at nesfcgaux@comcast.net or cell phone 404-316-8474.

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Squadron News

The 2015 ICW Cruise - A Huge Success

By On-Site Reporter Wesley Randall

This past week (May 16-22) a formidable group of ASPSers took a week-long transit of the North Carolina Outer Banks region. Sixteen of us were divided onto five vessels: *Arrimage* with Glenn and Sheryl LaBoda, Margaret Sherrod and Margaret Hutchison, *Thunderbolt II* with the Randalls - Scot, Meredith, and myself, *Stingray* with the Three Amigos of Mike Schneider, TJ Convery, and Norm Oien, *Sea Trek* with Ed and Genie Troncalli, and Doug and Patti Watson, and *Lu l'Belle* with Woody and Jade Williams.

To introduce myself, I am Wesley Randall, the son of Scot and Meredith Randall and a recent college graduate. I have been boating all my life on Lake Lanier and have gained an appreciation for the pastime. Moreover, I know how important it is to my parents and I eagerly accepted the invitation to accompany them.

Thanks to the strategic planning and coordination of Cdr Woody Williams the NC trip was a grand success. Starting from New Bern, to Oriental, to Beaufort, to Ocracoke Island and back following the same route. From my perspective I was merely along for the ride while my father took the helm and mother charted our course.

Being only 22, while the rest of the other boaters were... let's say slightly older than I, an interesting dynamic emerged. After the first few days nearly everyone had bestowed upon me a prescient life lesson or maxim they saw fit for a recent grad entering the real world. The time spent on the water was as stimulating as you would expect a tour through the beautiful North Carolina coast would be. Ocean spray? Check. Laughing gulls? Check. Quaint coastal villages? Check. An inordinate amount of shrimp? Check. Shrimp was unavoidable. The first unavoidable encounter was lunch at M&M Café, a coastal eatery in an old converted home. For brevity, I'll just say that all the food everywhere we went was delectable - to the point where I would classify the trip as both a boating and a culinary adventure.



The ebb and flow of the trip, that is the flotilla proceeding from New Bern to Ocracoke and back to New Bern, typically consisted of traveling during the morning to midday leaving afternoons to explore whatever port we found ourselves in that day. Some of my most notable shore excursions

were stepping in the Atlantic Ocean on Ocracoke Island, meandering through the North Carolina Maritime Museum, and popping in and out of the myriad craft shops. There was even a

chance for a surprise birthday party for Margaret Sherrod replete with champagne and key lime pie! Another nice thing that happened was the LaBoda's son Justin met up with our group for a fun day on Ocracoke.

On the last day of the cruise we met up with Douglas Townes on his PWC (called *ET5*) after he had completed a solo leg of the ICW from Charleston to New Bern.

After the flotilla had completed our primary journey and returned to

New Bern, there was one more memorable excursion to be had. As well as being the birthplace of Pepsi Cola, New Bern is home to the prestigious Hatteras Yacht Company. Cdr Williams arranged for a tour



of the manufacturing facility where we saw up close the incredible process required to build a Hatteras. I don't know much about yachts, but I could tell by TJ's mouth agape that these were pretty special. I highly doubt that I will have another chance to get that close to a 10 million dollar yacht in the rest of my life.

(Continued on page 9)

Squadron News

(2015 ICW Cruise, continued)

All in all I had a great time! Interestingly enough, the one thing from the trip that struck me the most is irrespective of the trip. As a relative outsider without much to say compared to the rest of the ASPS, I could step back and see everyone's interactions and what I saw made me so very happy. Everyone got along so well, were jovial, cooperative, and responsible. It was not only a reprieve from my usual college social setting, but a paragon for mature fulfilling relationships.

Waterlog wishes to thank Wesley for his article on this year's ICW cruise. His perspective on the cruise lent an interesting dimension to the story. And Wesley, on behalf of our Squadron, good luck in your future endeavors. We know you will be a success at whatever you do in life.

We also thank Patti Watson and P/D/C Norm Oien for sharing their photographs.



Photographs:

Page 9: The cruisers gather for a photo-op; Cdr and First Lady Williams arrive; a beautiful day about to begin.

This page (from the top): Mike and Doug demonstrate the value of good sun protection; Stormin' Norman demonstrates, well, something; seen on the ICW; the ferry to Ocracoke Island; did I mention the paddy wagon?



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Know Your Boat

The following was given to your editor by the late P/C Dave Herndon. I have no idea as to its origin, so if any readers can help me, I would love to give credit to the author. In any event, I thought it to be an interesting and useful article.

Battle of the Bilge

Rubbish talk among sailors was referred to as bilge. Legend has it that some unknown sailor was sent to inspect the deepest, darkest part of the ship where water and residue collect. After a brief time in this black hole the sailor was convinced that this area was also rubbish. From that day on, the area where water collects in a boat has been referred to as the bilge.

Cleaning:

The most important reasons to keep your bilge clean are:

- ☼ to prevent the growth of bacteria
- ☼ to eliminate foul odors
- ☼ to prevent rust and corrosion of equipment that lies in the bilge

You can get bilge cleaner in most hardware stores, however it can be expensive. Liquid Tide is less expensive and does as good a job. Containing no phosphorous, being biodegradable, cutting grease and dirt and having a clean smell make it a good choice. However, if you are going to be using a large amount of cleanser, or if you will be discharging the cleanser into the water, choose an alternative from a list of natural product alternatives.

Some boats take in more water than others. It is normal for water to be in the bilge since it can leak in at the stuffing box(es) and rudder post(s). However, if you find an unusual amount of water, make sure that you don't have a leaking through-hull fitting or pipe. If your boat usually has some water in the bilge just add the Liquid Tide to the bilge and let the rocking of the boat do the cleaning for you. Most grease and dirt can be removed with Tide and perhaps a little elbow grease. However, steam cleaning can be an alternative. Steam cleaning is a harsh method that can cause paint to peel, especially on a wooden boat. As they say on the stunt shows, don't try this at home. Seek out a professional and check their references.

Limber Holes:

Limber holes are found in the ribs or partitions in

the bilge which allow water to pass through them and flow to the lowest bilge points, usually where the bilge pump is located. This allows the water to be pumped out either automatically or manually. You should keep these holes clear of residue to prevent blocking of the water flow. Most boats will have a light chain running through the limber holes which allows you to pull it back and forth to dislodge any foreign matter.

Engine Oil:

Most newer model boats have drip pans installed under the engines to prevent oil from dripping directly into the bilge. Whether you have drip pans or not it is a good idea to put absorbent pads under the engines. They not only absorb the oil that could drip but provide a quick way to find leaks. Each time you do an engine check, which should be each time prior to starting, check the pad to see if any new oil spots have appeared. If so, try to track down the source immediately.

What to look for:

You should inspect the bilge and its surroundings with a flashlight at least once a month. Look for the following:

- ☼ Lift the float switch on the bilge pump to make sure it turns on automatically.
- ☼ Track down unusual amounts of water.
- ☼ Check all through-hull openings and fittings.
- ☼ Make sure all fittings below the water line have double hose clamps.
- ☼ Check the seacocks and make sure you can turn them off. You could sink your boat if a hose comes loose from a seacock and you can't stop the flow of water because the valve is corroded.
- ☼ Look for corrosion and rust.
- ☼ Check for unusual growth or mildew.
- ☼ Check all pipes, hoses, and clamps.
- ☼ Check limber holes.

Don't Pollute:

Remember that it is illegal to pump oily discharge overboard. If you find oil in your bilge water turn off the bilge pump and find an alternative way of disposing of the oily water. Don't just think that just because there is only a little bit of oil it's ok. The test for illegal pollution is simple a "visible sheen" on the water.



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Member's Quarters

Let's Hear It For Pomp and Circumstance!!!

Waterlog is both happy and proud to announce the graduation from college of several of our members.

Ron Ringwall...Ensign Ron Ringwall that is...graduated from Auburn University May 9th. But three hours before that he was commissioned into the United States Navy with twelve other young women and men, two of whom elected to serve in the Marine Corps (see AFTerthoughts, page 16).

After taking his oath at the commissioning ceremony, ENS Ringwall's shoulder boards were placed on his uniform by his grandmother and his mother Cindy - and a prouder mother there never was. He then proceeded to a table and put on his cover (Navy hat) and returned to the front of the auditorium to receive his first salute and give his first order. And a prouder friend could not have been in the room.

You see, he chose your editor to be his first salute.



Colin and Wesley Randall graduated from Georgia College and, rather than your editor writing about the event, who better to describe it that proud mother and ASPS Assistant Education Officer 1st Lt Meredith Randall: Attached below is a graduation photo of our twin sons. Wesley on the left. Colin on the right.

Colin and Wesley both attended Georgia College (aka Georgia College and State University) in Milledgeville, GA. They both majored in Environmental Science with a minor in geology. Georgia College encourages students to be involved in community activities. They did several clean-up the creek days, an improvement project at the Oconee River Greenway and worked at a local organic farm. Wesley served as the student co-chair of the Green Fee Committee. Colin was active with Green Fee as well. The Green Fee Committee administers a sizable budget for sustainability and some of their projects included campus community vegetable gardens, converting to LED lights, recycling and general efficiency retrofitting.

They both were highly active members in the Environmental Science Club with Colin being elected the

Chief of Action making him in charge of coordinating all club events. They also made time to play every season of intramural outdoor and indoor soccer. Their team went out on top as the champions. Wesley is actively looking for a job in his field. Colin works for Skolex Biotechnologies, a small organic worm composting business in Alpharetta, GA. He does everything from building enclosures for worm composting to R&D to improve productivity.



Edit however you want.

(Meredith, I really don't think it needs any editing.)

And we would certainly be remiss is we didn't give a huge shout out to one Cal Shirey, who graduated this past December with a degree in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Tech. The Shirey's sent in two wonderful photos of Cal's big day and we couldn't decide which one to use so we used them



both.

It took Cal about 20 minutes to land a job, but that's no surprise if you know him.

Please note: It is always a pleasure to recognize the outstanding achievements of our members. But we can't publish them if we don't know about them. My name and phone numbers are in the roster so..just give me a call (or email if you must) and we will happily put the announcement in.



Memorial Day

"They gave up all of their tomorrows so that we can have our todays."



The Memorial Day Ceremony at the Georgia National Cemetery is something that, we as Americans, we as Georgians, owe it to ourselves to attend. A beautiful hallowed ground, it was given to the United States by the late real estate magnate/philanthropist Scott Hudgens, who landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day and fought many of the major battles of World War II.

When Todd Copley, chair of the Georgia National Cemetery Advisory Council, addressed the crowd he said, "This is not about beaches, races, or picnics. It's about those who left behind sons and daughters and families who will live the rest of their lives without them."

BG Denis Shortal, upon finishing a stirring speech, added, "Now that you have been here, go out and enjoy your day. Enjoy the races and the picnics. Because that is what these people we honor today would want you to do."



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Lighten Your Day

Our Buddy Tom Hudson From Music City Sent This In.



"The Fool hauling this houseboat was no joke for commuters on April 1st!

"This houseboat is obviously more house than boat, bigger by far than the house my momma brought me home to from the hospital in May of '51.

"So who's the Fool here? The truck driver, his escort vehicle driver, the houseboat manufacturer's shipping guy, or the buyer of this puppy who was too impatient to have it delivered by river, and insisted on overland transport?"

Useless Trivia (continued)

Did you know "listen" and "silent" use the same letters? And that "eat" is a word that, if you take the first letter and move it to the last, spells its past tense "ate"?

Doctor's Friends, Take It Lightly No Offense....Please

(A) The number of physicians in the U.S. is 700,000.

(B) Accidental deaths caused by Physicians per year are 120,000.

(C) So accidental deaths per physician is 0.171 (Statistics courtesy of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.)

Now think about this:

(A) The number of gun owners in the U.S. is 80,000,000. (Yes, that's 80 million)

(B) The number of accidental gun deaths per year, all age groups, is 1500.

(C) The number of accidental deaths per gun owner is 0.000188 (Statistics courtesy of FBI)

So, statistically, doctors are approximately 9000 times more dangerous than gun owners.

Remember, 'Guns don't kill people, doctors do.'

FACT:

Not everyone has a gun but almost everyone has at least one doctor.

This means you are over 900 times more likely to be killed by a doctor than by a gun owner!!!

Please alert your friends to this alarming threat. Ban doctors before this gets completely out of hand.....

Out of concern for the public at large, I withheld the statistics on Lawyers, fearing that the shock may cause people to panic and seek medical attention... & then

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*Day is done, gone the sun
From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky
All is well, safely rest
God is nigh.*

*Fading light dims the sight
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright
From afar, drawing near
Falls the night.*

*Thanks and praise for our days
Neath the sun, neath the stars, neath the sky
As we go, this we know
God is nigh.*

*... "Taps"
Lyrics by Horace Lorenzo Trim*

From the Bridge



Cdr Elwood "Woody" Williams,
Commander



Lt/C John Holland,
Executive Officer



Lt/C Eric Ringwall,
Education Officer



Lt/C Mary Larsen,
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

May 30th: ABC at Army Corps of Engineers Mgmt. Office, Lake Allatoona.

May 31st: Operation Onboard Observer and Maritime Domain Awareness workshops. USCG Auxiliary Operations Center, Lake Lanier.

June 11th: ExComm meeting, Aldo's, Sandy Springs.

June 13th: National Marina Day, Lazy Daze Marina. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** See Tom Gastio.

June 18th: General Membership Meeting, 57th Fighter Group restaurant.

June 19th: Annual ASPS Fishing trip. Contact Kevin Schoonover.

June 20th: Partner in Command workshop, UYC.

June 20th: Free Concert, UYC, 7:00 (1900 hours).

June 27th: Raft-up/New Member Orientation (see DRs).

July 2-5: Fireworks Raft-up, Lake Chickamauga, Chattanooga. Contact James Dennisson.

Afterthoughts

Well it was certainly a "military month" in Tysontown. It began with P/C Douglas Townes asking me if I'd like to hook up with the Coast Guard Auxiliary at Lake Lanier for the Army Ranger water jump. It took me about a nanosecond to say yes. And am I ever glad I did. Just being around all those young men brought back memories of everything I loved about the Army. The excitement of two Blackhawk helicopters taking off and landing about 50 yards away, dropping the soldiers 1500 feet into the lake, hearing the familiar military banter...it was something that reinforced all of the pride I have for this country. See page 4 for more on this wonderful day.

Over the Memorial Day weekend Barb and I did something she has wanted to do for years: we attended the ceremony at the Georgia National Cemetery, our future resting place. Some of the highlights are mentioned on page 12, and the photo on page 14 was taken there on that day. It was a stirring and memorable event.

But undoubtedly the high point of the month was the commissioning ceremony at Auburn University when Ron Ringwall became Ensign Ron Ringwall, USN (see page 10). He asked me last summer if my Army uniform fit (being retired from the Army I can wear my uniform except for one tiny detail. I've grown in girth since I was on active duty.) because he wanted me to be his "First Salute". I managed to put a uniform together and Barb and I went to Auburn for the ceremony and graduation.

The 13 young men and women in his ROTC class fortified my belief that, despite all we hear on the news, our country is going to be just fine. Everything was "yes sir", "no sir", thank you sir"...their manners and the way they comported themselves can be attributed to, well, mostly to their parents and the way in which they were raised. Not only was it the high point of my month, it was one of the high points of my life.



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