

‘FILES AND PROFILES’ FROM THE DISTRICT

“The Dixie District”

District 17

2005 November



(l-r: D/C Marshall and Brenda Herron, V/C Ernie and Dianne Marshburn and D/Lt/C Tom Carey.)

“HEY, IT’S FRIDAY NIGHT IN MARGARITAVILLE!”

October 14-16 welcomed members of District 17 to the Fall Conference in Marietta, Georgia. The event was off to a fun start when Friday night celebrated a South Seas musical program with Lisa and David Herndon providing entertainment, including Jimmy Buffet selections and sing-alongs.

Our district was delighted to welcome back Dianne and V/C Ernie Marshburn. V/C Marshburn is the USPS National Executive Officer. According to responses from our critique sheet distributed during the weekend, Ernie’s “Town Talk” was one of the most popular segments presented. Many responses said how nice it was to be able to address concerns to a national representative who listened and shared his views and possible solutions to those concerns. Other comments from our members were that V/C Marshburn was very approachable in discussing various topics and listening to questions.

So, thank you Dianne and Ernie Marshburn for visiting with us. You are always welcome to visit the “Dixie District”!

This was the first district meeting hosted by the District 17 Meetings Committee. The Committee hopes the weekend was a fun one. . . and a learning

one. If it was a success, it is because so many members volunteered to help make it that way. Our thanks go especially to many members of the Atlanta squadron who spent hours decorating for the Friday night festivities and to Lisa and David Herndon who entertained us with their superb music.



(Lisa and David Herndon from the Atlanta Squadron led musical entertainment with songs of the South Seas, especially selections of Jimmy Buffett.)

Thanks also go to our members who gave excellent presentations Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Jim Nye, Jeff Wise, Frank Taylor, Marshall Herron, Jack Cook and Mike Schneider. These presentations ranged from traveling the Great Loop to Electronic Navigation to Compass Adjusting to exploring Lake Powell or the Panama Canal.

Thank you to everyone who helped with registration, door prizes, table settings and decorations, and much, much more.

If you were unable to attend the conference, you certainly missed out on so many facets of the organization that we are proud to be a part. However, you will have the chance to be a part of another event like this in. . . (Mark that calendar!).

HUNTSVILLE

17-19 March 2006

Four Points Sheraton Hotel
1000 Glenn Hearn Blvd.

That’s all the information you need right now; mark those calendars! Next month, we hope to have more specifics for you.

If someone would enjoy doing a presentation at one of our breakout sessions or if anyone knows an interesting trip made by boat recently, please let us know. This is your conference and in order to meet your needs and wishes, we need input and feedback

from you!

Ben

Janis and

THE COMMANDER FROM ATLANTA

It is my pleasure to introduce Jeff Wise, Commander of our Atlanta Squadron. The photo below was taken of Jeff and Pat at our recent district conference. It is quite difficult to obtain a photo of Jeff because he is usually the photographer. Once in a while we get lucky and snap a candid shot, but not often! The setting was a Friday night with the District 17 enjoying a toga party in Rome, Georgia.



The following article is one of his messages to the Atlanta Squadron. Once in a while, reading squadron newsletters an article will hit home, a light flashes and the reader knows right away this information should be shared. Read on.

“WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE A USPS SQUADRON SUCCESSFUL?”

We have 451 squadrons across the country, Puerto Rico and Japan; and the Canadians have a bunch more. We continue to hear that, nationally, our membership is declining, squadrons are closing, and people are taking fewer classes. Our national leadership is working diligently to reverse the trend with programs like The Power of One, and opening some of our classes to attendance by the public. Even our own squadron membership took a dip in recent years and is dramatically down from where it was 25 years ago. The good news is that our squadron is healthy and growing; financially we're solid, and our membership is at its highest in at least six years. New squadrons are being formed and provisional squadrons are receiving their full charters.

At the Change of Watch, you heard me say it; I've preached it at District Conferences; and I've

talked about it in these pages before. In my mind there are only three things that a squadron (or the national organization, for that matter) has to do to stay healthy, vibrant, and growing:

Education - - Offer high quality, frequent courses, with active, relevant, experienced instructors.

Social - - Offer a fun, active, varied, program of speakers, dinners, on-the-water events, parties, and formal affairs- - something for everyone, regardless of age, size of your boat, or interests.

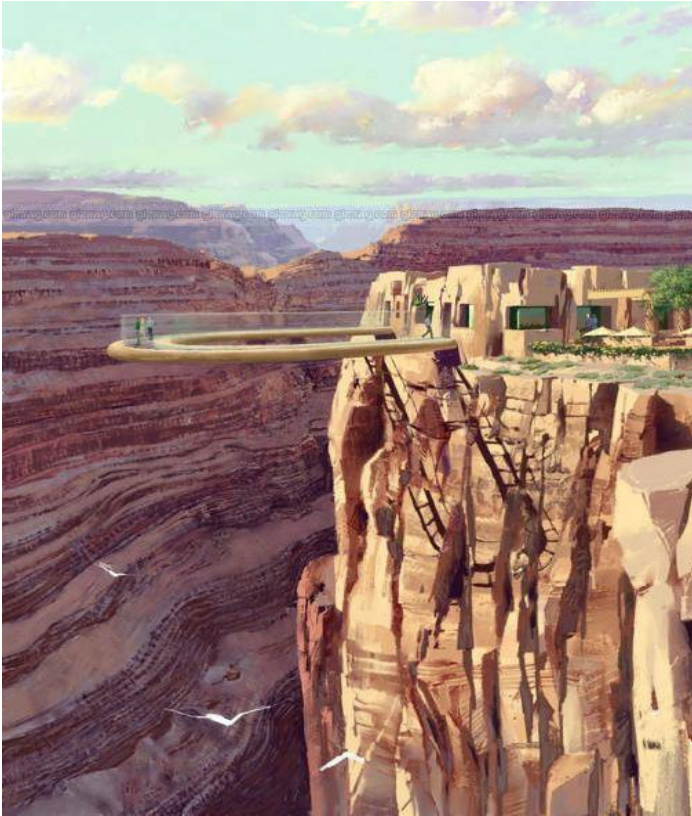
Marketing - - There's a saying that if you have a better mousetrap (in our case education and social programs), the world will beat a path to your door. A management professor I once had started his lecture with, "If the world doesn't know about the mousetrap, grass is going to grow on your path."

As I look around USPS, I'm convinced that not every squadron has this vision. A young man once told me that USPS was a club of old men, for old men. Well, first I don't consider myself old; and second, one of our very senior members once told me that "old age is a state of mind, and I'll be damned if I'm going to be old." Life is meant to be fun and rewarding. USPS and the Atlanta Squadron are both! That's why many of us stay, and that's why many of us volunteer our time and talents to help make the squadron go and grow. And who said that old men and women don't like to have fun—you're only as old as you think you are.

Now for the appeal! ASPS has a long record of talented people teaching, leading, organizing, and working—**WE NEED YOUR HELP**. This is the time of the year when we recruit people to work on the myriad of committees for next year. We can use your help, regardless of your previous experience, available time, talents, and interests. Like to entertain? We have lots of room for people to help organize parties, raft-ups, and get-togethers. Want to learn something about Cruise Planning? Give us a hand planning an ICW or TN River trip. Want to stomp around on other people's boats? Become a Vessel Examiner. Want to really help and have the most rewarding job of all? Start as Secretary and work your way up the bridge, learning as you go! None of these jobs is hard, none of them is overly time-consuming, and anyone reading this letter has the talent to be Commander! New people bring new ideas and new ideas are what make us grow and flourish. Please consider volunteering your time and talents. * * *

It is an honor to announce that Jeff Wise received the highest score in the U. S. on this year's Navigator certification exams. Congratulations Jeff!

GRAND CANYON SKYWALK



Scheduled to open Jan. 1, 2006 Hualapai Indian Reservation

- *Juts about 70 feet into the canyon, 4000 feet above the Colorado River
 - * Will accommodate 120 people comfortably (Ha-Ha!!! I can see myself crawling on my hands and knees to look over the edge?)
 - * Built with more than a million pounds of steel beams, and includes dampeners that minimize the structure's vibration.
 - *Designed to hold 72 million pounds, withstand an 8.0 magnitude earthquake 50 miles away, and withstand winds in excess of 100 mph
- The walkway has a glass bottom and sides...four inches thick

(And rumor has it that "Depends" will be available in the concession area).

4 – 8 JANUARY 2006

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

ANNUAL MEETING AT THE

ROSEN CENTER, ORLANDO

Phone: (800) 204.7234

Hotel: (407) 996.9840

Fax: (407) 996.3169



Remember, this will be the final Annual Meeting to be held in Orlando. If you have been considering attending a national meeting, this is the time to get serious about it.

Some of the committee meetings and breakout sessions are excellent. One of the activities will be a lifesaving course. In conjunction with an American Heart Association-authorized provider, the USPS First Aid Support Team will offer an adult CPR and automated external defibrillator training during the meeting. The course is four-and-a-half-hours long and costs \$37.00. Instruction includes text, video, lecture and hands-on mannequin practice in clearing obstructed airways, rescue breathing, adult CPR and AED use. Pre-registration is required, so don't put off making the decision whether or not you need this information.

No department or office of the squadrons or districts is overlooked during this national meeting. Plenty of commander's aides will be available to direct you to the correct meeting sites.

A new national commander will be sworn in: Ernie Marshburn, who visited our district in Marietta and held a Town Hall Meeting with us will be our new commander! That in itself is just cause to attend

this meeting. Another new bridge member will be Joe Mesenburg who will be sworn in as our new treasurer. Karen and Joe Mesenburg will be attending our next district meeting (in the spring) that will be held in Huntsville. We are lucky to have them. * *

“LIFE JACKETS AND LUCK

SEND DEATH BACK TO THE DEPTHS”

(or **“THE POWER OF THE MIGHTY PFD”**)

By Kathleen Merryman, writer for the *News Tribune*
Tacoma, WA. Published: October 12th, 2005 - - - -

Normally, we don't write about guys like Jeremy Stutesman and Tim Chuscavage until search crews are diving for their bodies. They were drinking. They were boating. They were floating in 200 feet of water, and for four dark hours, no one knew they were lost. But, early in the morning of Sept. 18, at Lake Quinault, the long-time friends from Hoquiam did one thing right. That one thing kept them alive until luck had time to arrange a rescue.

Both men are 27. Jeremy sides houses for a living and built a half-pipe in a friend's barn so he can skateboard in the rain. Tim returned to Hoquiam this summer after eight years in Houston, where he managed a restaurant. They ran into each other Sept. 17 at the wedding of Eric Nebel and Laura Budryte. The happy couple had the ceremony at Camp Kiwanis on the north shore of Lake Quinault – and wisely rented cabins where guests who chose to dance and talk and drink could stay overnight.

Around 9:30 p.m., Jeremy, on his own, rowed a canoe across the lake and back. Eight hours later, canoeing still seemed like a fine idea.

“Jeremy and I hadn't been on the best of terms and decided to talk,” Tim said. “Jeremy wanted to canoe and talk.”

They left around 5:15 a.m. It was 6 a.m. when they reached the middle of the lake. The talking was going well. So was the paddling.

“We were picking up the pace, cruising along, when Tim dipped to the right,” Jeremy said. “He dug down and bent over at the same time. It scooped us under. I just felt us roll over.”

They disagree about the orange life jackets. Tim says they had them on over their coats all the time. Jeremy remembers putting them on in the water. Either way, the jackets are the reason they're alive.

“We were in a bad spot,” Jeremy said. “We were in the middle of the lake. It's super deep, over 200 feet. There's no coming up after you go down, unless you start bloating.”

They righted the canoe, but it was full of water and impossible to paddle. They tried turning it upside down, and, though it floated, they could not paddle it.

“I tried to make it to shore while Tim stayed with the boat,” Jeremy said. “I was freezing. I could see the silhouette of a tree. I kicked until I was 20 or 30 feet away from the boat and swam back. I tried for shore once again. I don't remember a whole lot after that.”

Tim stuck with the boat and somehow avoided the hypothermia that had hit Jeremy.

“We got in the canoe and tried to make headway, but never got far that way,” Tim said. “I tried swimming and pulling the canoe with Jeremy in it. That seemed to get us farther.”

Jeremy has little memory of the last three hours in the water. He does not recall taking off his life jacket while Tim was trying to pull the canoe. Tim looked back, saw Jeremy going under, got his own life jacket off, dived 10 feet, snagged Jeremy by his coat collar and pulled him to the surface.

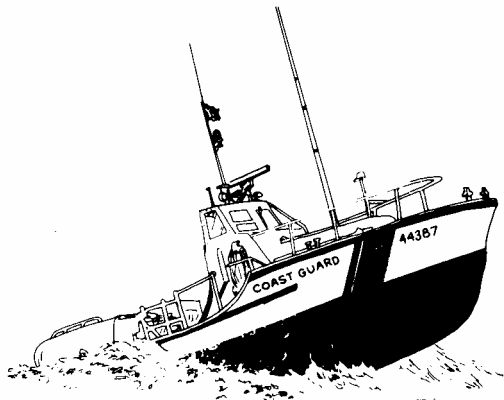
“He took his life jacket and wrapped it around my arms so my head was floating,” Jeremy said. “The last thing he remembers me saying was ‘I'm dying. I'm dying.’”

He was.

At 10 a.m. one of two young people fishing in a small boat with Tom Sager of Gig Harbor saw Tim waving a paddle. They pulled Jeremy out first, then Tim, who was fine. Jeremy was convulsing. A medic at Lake Quinault Lodge worked on Jeremy for 20 minutes until an aid crew arrived. She thought he was going to die. His heartbeat was uneven. His core body temperature was 82 degrees. It took 11 hours to warm him at Grays Harbor Hospital.

Tim and Jeremy cannot thank the medics, Tom Sager and those two kids enough. They retrieved an oar, signed it and hung it in Tim's apartment. It may be picturesque, but it did not save their lives. That honor goes to the humble orange life jackets they had the good sense to put in the canoe.

---Submitted by P/C Janna Webster
Poverty Bay Squadron, District 16



“ PASS IT ON”



“Haul the sheets in as we ride on the wind that our forefathers harnessed before us...”

“The sea’s in my veins, my tradition remains...”

These lines from Jimmy Buffett’s *Son of a Son of a Sailor* are as familiar as the rumble of the engine or the rustle of sails to most boaters. The song is a classic that can be heard on beach bar juke boxes and performed by beach bands the world over. No doubt, most CD collections aboard our boats include it as well.

Lisa and I knew it had to be part of the “Back to Margaritaville” program we did recently at the District 17 Fall Conference opening dinner. As we rehearsed this song, we came to realize the truth of those words, and how that truth has impacted the Power Squadron. The boating tradition in Lisa’s family is the primary reason we are in the squadron, and her mother is an active member of the Lake Murray Squadron. The Troncalli family has three generations of Squadron members. Frank Taylor has shared several stories of how his father kindled his love for boating, and now Frank is a certified captain.

Mike Schneider returned from Guntersville with his son and grandson aboard.

These are but a few examples of what I am sure is a long list of folks whose “tradition remains” closely associated with boating because their parents or grandparents taught them to love and respect the water.

The song goes on: *“Where it all ends I can’t fathom, my friends...”*. In his “Commander’s Corner” article, Jeff points out that our membership is at a high point for recent history. To ensure that our “tradition remains” as a squadron, we have to pass on our love of boating to our friends and family, and we have to ensure that the squadron remains relevant to the needs of the boating public.

As I sit here on the stern watching another sunset over the water, I have to think we are in pretty good shape on both counts.

Happy boating!

(An editorial by Lt/C David Herndon,
Atlanta Squadron, District 17)

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“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”

* * *

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Successful completion of Advanced Grades of Seamanship, Piloting and Advanced Piloting will earn a 2.5% USPS Boat Insurance Program premium discount for each, for a total discount of 7.5%

Successful completion of any three of the following four Elective Courses: Weather, Sail, Marine Electronics or Engine Maintenance will earn a 2.5% premium discount each, for an additional 7.5% discount. Senior Navigator gets an additional 5% discount. Therefore, Educational Discounts can possibly total 20%. An additional 3% is available for a current VSC (copy of inspection is required).

* * *



Till next month, stay well and happy and enjoy the holidays with those you love.

- - - Janis Owen