

“FILES AND PROFILES” FROM THE DISTRICT

“The Dixie District: District 17 March 2006 Issue

FOUR POINTS SHERATON HOTEL 1000 GLENN HEARN BLVD. HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

17-19 March 2006 will see the beginning of the new year for the 2006-2007 Watch for our District. The festivities will begin in Commander Marshall Herron’s Hospital Suite soon after your arrival (beginning around 1600 and ending at dinner).



The Huntsville Squadron will welcome you to their fair city by hosting a “St. Paddy’s Night” with *Wearin’ O’ the Green*. Remember, Friday night is traditionally our night of fun, so dress casually, wear green and come prepared with your original limerick and have a night of glee.



HAPPY ST. PATRICK’S DAY

Wear your green and join us here in Huntsville, the “Rocket City” on Friday evening, 17 March as we meet and greet and take time to enjoy a bit of fun in celebrating Saint Patrick’s Day. Meanwhile, here are a few facts for you. . .

“Happy St. Patrick’s Day”, in Irish, translates into: “beannachtai na féile pádraig”. Phonetically, it sounds like: “Bannochtee nah faylah pawdrig”.

Did you know - **St. Patrick’s Day** is also a public holiday on the Caribbean island of Montserrat? The origins of the island’s celebration of the day date back to the 17th century when Oliver Cromwell was instrumental in forcing quite a number of Irish immigrants to move there. Names like Murphy, Kirwan and O’Malley are still common on the island.

See ya soon in Huntsville! **P/C Tom Hamilton, AP**

* * *



After an entertaining night, crash in a sleeping room that has recently been redecorated with peaceful colors of bedding and linens. Sleep well on a new Serta mattress; the mattress that puts all those poor sheep out of work because the guest falls asleep before the sheep can be counted!

When making reservations, contact the hotel at (256) 772-9661 and be sure to tell the reservation clerk that you are a member of the “**District 17, United States Power Squadrons**”. This will ensure that the special rate will be given you. Also, the hotel will make a special effort to book our rooms as much as possible on the same floor. When one floor is filled, the guest floor just beneath the filled one will begin to be booked. That is just one more reason to get your reservations in early! “First come, first served!”

CHANGE OF WATCH



Saturday night will see **D/Lt/C Tom Carey, SN** sworn in as our District Commander for the new year. Everyone in our district knows Tom and his dedication to the USPS.

A member of the Vulcan Squadron, he served his squadron as commander 1998-1999. When that Watch was completed, he immediately came onto the district bridge and served as District Education Officer. As soon as his three-year term was completed, he became the district treasurer and began moving up through the bridge offices serving as Administrative Officer and Executive Officer.

Tom and June Carey live in Birmingham and have three married sons with families. Come to our Change of Watch and help us welcome Tom and his bridge as your new officers for 2006-2007.



IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT PARKING

The parking fees have been waived when using the hotel's parking lot. The registration desk will validate your parking ticket, even if you live nearby and do not stay overnight at the hotel.) (NOTE: Do not park in the airport's parking deck. The hotel and the airport are two separate entities. If you park in the airport's deck, a rather steep daily rate is charged. The hotel's parking lot (open) and the airport's (covered) deck are adjacent to each other.

On every page of our contract with Four Points, in bold type is printed: **"To Get Parking Tickets Validated You Must Park in Hotel Parking."** The two properties are well marked "Airport Parking" and "Hotel Parking". Just please be alert when you are driving into the property.

Grand Salon, Level 2



The Saturday night dinner of filet mignon and chicken breast will be served in this room. Later in the evening, the Change of Watch will be held in this same area.

The Huntsville Squadron is playing a major role in making this conference a success. Their plans involve many of their members with Jim Chatfield chairing their Meetings Committee. Let them know you appreciate their efforts when you see them!

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NOW HEAR THIS!

It is not too late to call the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Huntsville and make your reservation to join us for the Spring Conference beginning 17 March. The hotel has been quite lenient with extending the deadline for getting the reservations in. We still are a few rooms shy of our goal, so please consider attending to have fun, enjoy good food and camaraderie, learn more about our organization and attend some interesting breakout sessions. Let us see you there!

Kristi and Spencer Anderson

Will be our guests from National. Both Kristi and Spencer will be busy with us during the entire weekend, especially during the breakout sessions.

Having just finished three years serving as our National Education Officer, Spencer will host a Town Meeting with "The Future of USPS Education". He will also teach a Leadership Development seminar Saturday afternoon and again on Sunday morning.

Kristi, our DB2000 guru will teach "Basic DB2000" followed by "Boating Class Assistant" seminars Saturday afternoon and again on Sunday.

Welcome to District 17! We look forward to learning much from you.



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Budget Still Shallow for ICW

Congress agreed to minimal funding for 2006 to keep the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway operational but the \$10 million appropriated for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is another "band-aid" in the emergency first-aid kit, not a cure, according to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association.

"The good news is that we got money for waterway dredging in four of the five Corps districts, despite the horrendous budget demands from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma," reports Rosemary Lynch, AIWA's executive director. "Ten million dollars is far short of what's needed to keep up with maintenance, let alone the backlogged projects, but given the current budget climate, I think the ICW fared well. Part of the reason we were successful is that recreational boaters who use the ICW made an extraordinary effort to contact members of Congress last year."

The Corps district in Georgia received just \$258,000, one of it for dredging. The \$10 million is contained in a \$5.8 billion appropriation to the Civil Works program budget of the Corps of Engineers.

--Reprinted by permission from BoatUS. Jan 2006

District 17 2006 Spring Conference
United States Power Squadrons
Hosted by the District Meetings Committee
And the Huntsville Squadron
The Four Points Sheraton Hotel
1000 Glenn Hearn Blvd.
Huntsville, AL 35824
Meals Reservation Form

Name (Print) _____

Spouse/Guest (Print) _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Friday Night, 17 March 2006

Dinner Buffet - Mixed Green Salad with Dressings
Pasta Bar with Sauces
Garlic Bread
Coffee, Iced tea
_____ Tickets @ \$12.00 per person \$ _____

Saturday Morning, 18 March 2006

Light breakfast will be set up (for members attending early meetings) in the Decatur Room, adjacent to the meetings rooms.

_____ Tickets @ \$5.00 per person \$ _____

Regular breakfast or buffet may be purchased in the Bayou Grille.

Saturday Noon, 18 March 2006

Lunch Served in the Bayou Grille -
"Croissant Special"
Cold Cuts of Ham and Turkey
With Cheeses
Fresh Fruit Cup
Coffee, Iced tea
_____ Tickets @ \$9.50 per person \$ _____

Saturday Night, 18 March 2006

"Sit-down" Plated Dinner -
Green Salad with Dressings
Filet Mignon and Chicken Breast
with Wild Rice Pilaf
Prince William Blend of Vegetables
Rolls, Butter
Assorted Desserts
Coffee, Iced Tea
_____ Tickets @ \$17.00 per person \$ _____

TOTAL SUBMITTED \$ _____

NOTE: All meals are inclusive of tax and gratuity.

Meal reservations must be received no later than 05 March 2006.

Make checks payable to: District 17 Meetings Committee

Mail check and this completed form to: Ben Owen

P. O. Box 454

Ben's e-mail address: N7LBW@juno.com Pell City, AL 35125

**UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS
DISTRICT 17 SPRING COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE 2006
ACTIVITY SCHEDULE AND AGENDA
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA
THE FOUR POINTS SHERATON HOTEL**

Friday, 17 March

1400-1800	Registration	<i>Lobby, Level 2</i>
1600-1830	Hospitality Suite Open	<i>Room 625</i>
1830-1930	Dinner Buffet (present ticket at door)	<i>Grand Salon, Level 2</i>
1945-2030	District Conference	<i>Grand Salon, Level 2</i>
	---Call to Order	D/C Marshall Herron, SN
	---Commanders' Reports	D/Lt/C Tom Carey, SN
	---Recess Conference until Saturday a.m.	D/C Marshall Herron, SN
2045-'till	Theme: "St. Paddy's Day and Wearin' O' the Green"	
	Wear <u>green and bring your own limerick for the limerick contest.</u>	

Saturday, 18 March

0730

Special light breakfast arranged and served a la carte for members attending early sessions. Price: \$5.00 to be paid with ticket at the door. OR a full breakfast is served in the restaurant.

Saturday, 18 March

Uniform G for the District Bridge (white open-neck, short-sleeved shirt, no tie, long navy or black slacks.) All Other Members: Uniform G optional; comfortable casual clothing.

0800-1000	Registration	<i>Lobby, Grand Salon</i>
	<u>Breakout Sessions</u>	
0800-0850	Commanders, Executive Officers, Administrative Officers	
	Chaired by D/Lt/C Tom Carey, SN	<i>Marshall Room, Level 1</i>
0800-0850	Secretaries and Treasurer	Co-chaired by
	District Secretary Becky Austin, P	
	District Treasurer Danny Tompkins, JN	<i>Redstone Room, Level 1</i>
0800-0850	Educational Officers	
	Chaired by P/D/C John Cook, SN	<i>Athens Room, Level 1</i>

**** Complimentary coffee will be available for all meetings during Conference ****
**** Meeting Rooms Marshall, Redstone and Athens available for various committee meetings whenever Breakout Meetings are not in session.**

0900-0950

	District Council Meeting	<i>Grand Salon, Level 2</i>
	---Call to Order	D/C Marshall Herron, SN
	---Roll Call	D/Lt/C Becky Austin, P
	---Approval of Minutes	D/Lt/C Becky Austin, P
	---Old Business	D/C Marshall Herron, SN
	---New Business	D/C Marshall Herron, SN
	---Announcements	from the Council
	---Adjournment	D/C Marshall Herron, SN

* * * * Five Minute Break * * * * *

0955-1200	District Conference Convenes	Grand Salon, Level 2
	---Call to Order	D/C Marshall Herron, SN
	---Presentation of Colors	Huntsville Squadron
	---Pledge of Allegiance	Huntsville Squadron
	---USPS Pledge	Huntsville Squadron
	---Invocation, District Chaplain	P/D/C Norm Oien, AP
	---Opening Remarks and Introductions	D/C Marshall Herron, SN Jim Chatfield, P/D/C Ben Owen, SN Meetings Committee Chair
	---Roll Call of Squadrons	D/Lt/C Becky Austin P
	---Minutes of Previous Meeting	D/Lt/C Becky Austin, P
	---Chief Commander's Message	V/C Spencer Anderson, AN
	---Treasurer's Report	D/Lt/C Danny Tompkins, JN
	---Secretary's Report	D/Lt/C Becky Austin, P
	---Administrative Officer's Report	D/Lt/C Janis Owen, JN
	---Executive Officer's Report	D/Lt/C Tom Carey, SN
	---District Commander's Report	D/C Marshall Herron, SN
	---Unfinished Business	
	---New Business	
	---Announcements	
	---Adjournment	
	---Retiring the Colors	
1200-1250	Plenary Session with V/C Spencer Anderson, SN	
	"Town Meeting with Spencer: The Future of USPS Education"	
1250-1345	Lunch in the <i>Bayou Grille</i> (present ticket at door)	

Saturday Afternoon Seminars

Times	Marshall Room	Redstone Room	Athens Room
1400-1450	"Basic DB2000" Kristi Anderson	"Leadership Development" Spencer Anderson	"The Panama Canal" Frank Taylor
1450-1500	Break	Break	Break
1500-1550	"Boating Class Assistant" (BCA) Kristi Anderson	"Recertified Instructors and Teaching Methods" Herman Green	"Weekend Navigator Excerpts" Jack Cook
1550-1600	Break	Break	Break
1600-1650	"Vessel Safety Checks" Jeff Wise	"Cruising Half the Loop" Jim Nye	

Dress for Change of Watch: Uniform A for District Bridge.
 All Other Members: Uniform A Optional; Dress Casual with Blazer and Tie.

1650-'til Dinner Hospitality Suite Open **Room 625**
 1900- Dinner (present ticket at door) **Grand Salon, Level 2**

Post Dinner:	Message from Outgoing District Commander	D/C Marshall Herron, SN
	Presentation of Awards	
	Fifty-Year Awards	D/C Marshall Herron, SN
	New Life Memberships	D/C Marshall Herron, SN
	Web Site Awards	D/C Marshall Herron, SN
	Publication Awards	D/Lt/C Becky Austin, P
	Power-of-One Awards	D/Lt/C Janis Owen, JN
	Educational Awards	P/D/C Jack Cook, SN
	Introduction of National Representative	D/C Marshall Herron, SN
	C/C's Message and Remarks	V/C Spencer Anderson, SN

CHANGE OF WATCH CEREMONY

Installation of 2006-2007 District Bridge	V/C Spencer Anderson, SN
Newly Installed D/C's Message	D/C Tom Carey, SN
Drawing for Door Prizes	Huntsville Squadron

Sunday, 19 March

Breakfast: On Your Own

Sunday Morning Seminars

Times	Marshall Room	Redstone Room	Athens Room
0900-0950	“Basic DB2000” Kristi Anderson	Program by the “N” Club	“The Panama Canal” Frank Taylor
0950-1000	Break	Break	Break
1000-1050	“Boating Class Assistant” (BCA) Kristi Anderson	Business Session of the “N” Club	“Leadership Development” Spencer Anderson
1050-1100	Break	Break	Break
1100-1150	“Setting Up a Squadron Website” Jeff Wise	“Recertified Instructors and Teaching Methods” Herman Green	“Cruising Half the Loop” Jim Nye

Have a Safe Trip Home. Thanks for Attending!

Stay warm, healthy and happy 'til we meet again next month.

J anis Owen