

“FILES AND PROFILES” FROM THE DISTRICT

“The Dixie District: District 17 June 2006 Issue

**MEET OUR NEW
DISTRICT TREASURER**

D/Lt/C Mike Scher, AP



Our newest member of the District Bridge is Knoxville’s Past Commander Michael Scher. Mike is a St. Louis native and graduated from the University of Miami in 1967 with a degree in Business Administration and a commission in the US Air Force. After 18 months of training, Mike was flying a B-52 aircraft with the Strategic Air Command (SAC) as a Navigator and Electronic Warfare Officer. He had six tours in Vietnam with 196 combat missions earning the Distinguished Flying Cross and eleven Air Medals. Mike spent the next four years as an instructor and as the Training and Operations Officer for Electronic Warfare Officers at Headquarters SAC. Mike left active duty with the AF after 12 years and finished his career in the active reserves. He spent the next 14 years as a Staff Intelligence Officer and retired as a Lt Col after four years at the National Security Agency.

After active duty, Mike joined Hughes Aircraft (later bought by Raytheon Defense Systems) in marketing for training and simulators. He retired from Hughes after twenty years as a Senior Corporate Marketing Manager

responsible for an array of major defense systems.

Mike’s boating started with a 14 foot runabout when he graduated college. Later he upgraded to an 18 foot I/O, but sold that boat when he moved to Omaha and decided there was a definite lack of lakes in which to boat. The next twenty years Mike saw little boating; he decided to buy his next boat his last year before retiring. He purchased a 36 foot Maxum cruiser and brought it to Knoxville from Cincinnati by river in June 2000. In August 2005 Mike decided to sell his waterfront home and move to a new boat, hence his current 70 foot Monticello River Yacht named Sea-duction.



Mike has been very active over the past five years. He has been the Flotilla Commander of the Tellico Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Training Officer and Board Member for T-BART (Tellico Boaters Assistance Response Team). In T-BART he also started and served as the first Commander of their Night Situation Support team that works with TWRA and the local fire, police, and dive team for major problems on Tellico Lake.

“I hope that my experiences with the Knoxville Power Squadron and other boating groups will prove to be of some benefit to the other squadrons within the district, but that remains to be seen. I would like to promote more inter-squadron events such as we have with the Euchee Invitational, now the Watts Bar Invitational.”

(Eds. Note: Mike’s telephone number has been changed to 865-405-5512.) Welcome aboard, Mike! We’re glad you’re here! *

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Memorial Day Weekend is when all of our brains officially turn on to the summer and to on-the-water activities. Rendezvous with raft ups, cookouts, swimming and other delights fill our heads. We who love the water have a terrific time during the warm months! Our squadrons come alive with splashing and eating and "river running."

Thank you all for your calls, cards and prayers during my recent surgery. 10May2006 at 2200, I had an emergency radical appendectomy. Now I am home recuperating and should be released by the surgeon within the next few days.

Is this a great country, or what? As you know, the United States has a Democratic-Republic form of government to establish our laws. Our own United States Power Squadrons organization is also governed as a form of Democratic-Republic. Certainly we have democratically elected National, District and Squadron leaders who are charged with day to day operation. But when it is necessary to establish new procedures, rules or regulations, each individual member has the opportunity and right to instruct our delegates attending meetings how we wish them to vote and carry out our instructions.

As your District Commander, I need to disseminate information of some very important issues that will be voted on at the upcoming Governing board Meeting to be held in New York City 15-20Aug2006. But before I relate the issues, let me explain how we vote:

Your District Bridge and each squadron commander (among some others) are members of the USPS National Governing Board and as such must vote your desires, if those desires are made known. Each Governing Board Member (including the Squadron Commanders) will

receive a packet of information from the National Secretary, V/C Robert Baldrige, SN prior to the meeting, along with the Squadron Commanders' voting credentials and proxy vote card. We need you. . .each member. . .to provide your thoughts, desires and directions on very important issues. Many issues will be presented in New York for a vote, but I have listed below some of the more important ones, coming out of the Operating Committee:

1) **Experienced Boaters Program**. If passed, this will allow "experienced boaters" to pay only dues and bypass an exam in order to become active members.

2) **Waiver the Exam Requirement for Membership** for a three year period. Then determine if the waiver helped or did not help enrollment.

3) **Create One Class of Membership**. Simple membership by having one Active Class, with all else in the same household being *Additional Active* with Boating Course, otherwise, the membership will be listed as *Family Member*.

4) **A One Time Initiation Fee**. Create a one time \$25.00 individual or family initiation membership fee.

5) Beginning next year, **The Ensign will be decreased in publications to six issues annually**.

6) **Reimbursement to Chief's Representatives to District Changes of Watch will be eliminated**. (Our District 17 has agreed to this action and is already scheduling our local P/V/Cs, P/R/Cs and others as representatives.)

7) **Area Monitors, for Merit Marks, have agreed to forgo reimbursement for travel expenses for rest of this year and all of 2007**.

8) **"Print-on-Demand"** by Astoria Graphics of New York will be presenting a program whereby the storing of warehouse inventory will be eliminated. This is another effort to reduce the budget expense by not having stock on the shelves for an indefinite period of time, many times the inventory will outdate before it can be used for Educational Classes.

Forward your thoughts and responses to your Squadron Commander or directly to me at THCarey@juno.com. Your feedback is needed ASAP. Tom Carey, Commander

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SQUADRONS OBSERVE SAFE BOATING WEEK



Alabama Governor Bob Riley Declares Safe Boating Week May 20-26 Montgomery Squadron

(l-r) Administrative Officer Bill Johnson,
Commander Willis Michaels, Governor Riley,
P/C Tommy Shaw, Education Officer Bill Branch.

News Release, Office of the Governor

MONTGOMERY -- Many boaters are getting ready to head to the water for Memorial Day weekend, and Gov. Bob Riley is proclaiming May 20-26 as Safe Boating Week to urge them to practice water safety.

Riley declared the week because of the hundreds of people who die in boating accidents each year. Statistics show the majority of boating accidents result from human error and poor judgment rather than equipment or environmental factors. Many boaters have drowned because they were not wearing life jackets.

“Boating can be a fun and rewarding activity, but it can turn deadly with poor judgment,” Riley said. “I strongly urge boaters to wear life jackets and practice safe boating habits.”

The week has also been designated Safe boating Week by the United States Power Squadron, a national boating safety organization. During the week, all squadrons are urged to place special emphasis on safer boating through education, and the Montgomery Power Squadron is participating by offering a demonstration and lecture involving flares, pyrotechnics and fire extinguishers at 5:30 p.m. on Friday at the Montgomery Marina.

Each year hundreds of thousands of new boaters enter the water, and statistics show that solid safety education will make them more confident and competent in their boats, USPS officials said. The

organization’s Boat Smart course is designed to give boaters the safety knowledge they need. Boat Smart classes in Montgomery are scheduled for this Saturday and again on May 27. For more information about these classes and others, call Bill Branch at (334) 365-5215.

The United States Power Squadrons has been providing boating education since 1914. For more information, call (888) FOR-USPS or visit www.usps.org.

(The proclamation was sent to every news media in the State of Alabama. The Montgomery Advertiser newspaper published photos of the program Montgomery held demonstrating the use of flares and fire extinguishers.)

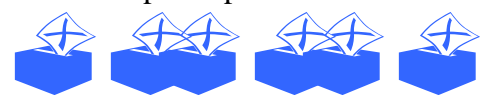
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During Safe Boating Week, the Muscogee Squadron taught two Safe Boating Courses. In the photo below, P/D/C Glenn Cowham, SN is seen teaching the course at Lake West Point at the Corps of Engineers office. Another class was taught in Columbus, GA.



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A Safe Boating Week Proclamation ceremony was held at Ditto Landing in Huntsville. It was attended not only by the Huntsville Squadron but eight other boating organizations also. Mayor Spencer gave her congratulations on the participation.



REMEMBER

15-20 August 2006
USPS Governing Board
Grand Hyatt Hotel
Park Avenue at Grand Central Station
New York, New York 10017

DISTRICT 17 FALL CONFERENCE

03-05 November 2006

Alta Vista Hotel and Conference Center
260 Goodwin Crest Drive
Birmingham, AL 35209
(205) 290-8000



The Alta Vista Hotel is located atop Red Mountain overlooking the city of Birmingham



Yes, it's that time again! Time to begin planning to attend our Fall Conference. We are pleased to introduce you to the Alta Vista Hotel that has 181 rooms, including 15 suites. All rooms include great views of the city, coffee maker, data ports, desk, iron with board and hair dryer. They also offer free parking, local and 1-800 calls. We have negotiated Executive King or Double/Double room accommodations for \$62.50 plus tax. Make reservations directly to the hotel (205) 290-8000. Our group of blocked rooms are being held for **District 17 Fall Conference**. Please inform the registration desk when you call that you are with this group to get the special room rate.

More great news is coming your way in next month's issue. Until then, **mark those calendars!**

FANTASTIC SQUADRON SUMMER ACTIVITES

"Watts Bar Invitational"

hosted by the Knoxville Squadron

Commander Bob and Janene Allen along with the squadron will host the Invitational 21-23 July at Terrace View Marina located at MM 545 on the RDB. Already squadrons Johnson City, Chattanooga and Atlanta are making plans to attend. Bob has reserved all eight of the one bedroom accommodations in the motel and cottage. Terrace View has assured Bob they can accommodate all boats. Terrace View in an old Watts Bar Marina that is being renovated. They have a nice restaurant (good food), a bar, karaoke, and a big swimming pool. What more could we ask for? If there are any questions, email Bob at rsallen88@earthlink.net or call him on his cell at (865)643-7099. This event is open to all squadrons in our district and it promises to be a perfect time to have fun on the water with great food and wonderful camaraderie.

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The Asheville Squadron will be having a dinner cruise on Lake Lure in September.

The Memphis Squadron will host their annual overnight trip to Florence in September.

The Atlanta Squadron says one very special on-the-water event on their calendar will be the Commander's Lakeside outing and Cardboard Boat Race on Saturday, June 24. Ed and Genie Troncilli have graciously agreed to host this event at their lakeside home. All D17 members are invited to come and compete so it should be a really exciting event. Mark your calendars now to plan to attend. Cardboard is available if you need some in your boat construction.

There are many activities scheduled during the summer months by our squadrons. Why not be in contact with each other during the season and share in the fun? Invite other members to rendezvous, raft-ups and to picnics.

If you would like any information published in the "Files and Profiles", simply send an e-mail and the information will be published in the following month's issue.

Till next month, Happy and Safe Boating!

Janis Owen