

“FILES AND PROFILES” FROM THE DISTRICT

“The Dixie District: District 17 July 2006 Issue

**MEET OUR DISTRICT
FLAG LIEUTENANT**

D/Flg/Lt Lee Harrison, S



Lee and Karen Harrison – Vulcan Squadron

Our Flag Lieutenant is originally from Owensboro, Kentucky, located on the Ohio River. Lee attended the University of Kentucky for three years, then came to Samford University in Birmingham where in 1975 he graduated with a degree in Pharmacy. He practiced pharmacy in a teaching position with Baptist Medical Centers in Birmingham for thirteen years. Then during the eighties he was employed by Baxter HealthCare, Southern Health Systems, and McGaw CAPS.

He joined a small start-up company in 1993, later to become NaphCare. In 1997 he was named president and is still serving in that role. NaphCare is a provider of healthcare to the correctional market place and currently has 450 employees providing services in 23 states. They provide services to numerous county jails and detention centers, several State Departments of Corrections, as well as the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Lee began his boating fun early. Back in 1954 his father purchased a new ChrisCraft “Sportsman”. Lee and with mom and dad cruised the Ohio River out from the Owensboro Marina. Vacations were taken around Kentucky Lake and Dale Hollow where they carried their boat in by trailer.

As the years have gone by, Lee has owned several different boats at various times. In 2004 while attending the Atlanta Boat Show he and Karen saw and fell in love with a boat on display. They immediately traded in their 340 Sundancer and purchased “Miss Karen”, a Carver 444 Cockpit Motor Yacht.

Lee and Karen spend as much time as possible on their boat at Lake Guntersville, cruising the Tennessee River. Together, they have three children and two grandchildren.

Lee has been a member of the Vulcan Power Squadron since 1997 and serves his squadron this year on the bridge as Executive Officer.



“Miss Karen”

(Editor’s Note: A gracious and generous couple, Lee and Karen use *Miss Karen* frequently in teaching new members how to “lock through”, raft-up, and other activities to increase participation and camaraderie within the squadron.)

The Vulcan Squadron will be involved in the planning and hosting the District Fall Conference in November in Birmingham. Lee, Joy Godsey (Vulcan’s Administrative Officer), and Jim Nye (Vulcan’s Commander) are the team chairing the squadron’s involvement in that meeting. They have some refreshing and different ideas to implement for the weekend. When you see them in November, let them know how much you appreciate their efforts.

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“Talent is always conscious of
its own abundance and
does not object to sharing.”

- - -Alexander Solzhenitsyn



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



A thank you note has been received from Rita Caballero daughter of D/C Tony Mirando, San Juan, PR District 33, who passed away recently. District 17 sent a remembrance and a note of condolence.

I feel the need to remind you of an upcoming issue that needs all of our attention. We as members, are at a point in the life of our USPS that some very important issues must be voted on at the upcoming Governing Board Meeting in New York, NY, 15-20 August. Among others, the District Bridge and each squadron commander are members of the National Governing Board and as such must vote your desires, if made known. Each Governing Board Member (including our Squadron Commanders) will receive a packet of information from the National Secretary

V/C Robert A. 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 some very important issues. Most of these will be brought up to vote. But here some of the more important ones, coming out of the Operating Committee, that we need feedback ASAP:

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.

I am excited about the District 17 Fall Council & Conference being held 3-5 November this time in Birmingham, Alabama. Preliminary plans have been completed by some very energetic and articulate members. The Saturday afternoon sessions are filled with technically educational and just for fun areas of interest. If for no other reason, come for the food! After sampling the food produced by "The Culinary Institute of Virginia College", I can witness that we are in for an exquisite dining experience.



Thanks; see you in Birmingham!

Tom Carey, Commander



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 . All rooms have great views of the city. 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 is 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. It is not too early to begin your plans to attend by reserving your room.

The meals will be catered by the Culinard School of Catering. This is one of the better food services in the city; both *The Restaurant at Culinard* and *The Bakery at Culinard* have reputations of excellent food and service. The Meetings Committee had lunch at

The Bakery at Culinard recently and the food was excellent.

The break-out sessions for Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning are coming along nicely. All sessions for Saturday afternoon have been filled and four fifty minute sessions are still to be scheduled for Sunday morning. If you would like to host one of these time sessions, please contact Ben Owen at N7LBW@juno.com or (205) 338-7870. We hope to be able to publish the entire program for you in next month's issue.

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**FEDERAL COURT ACTION
INVOLVING CHATTAHOOCHEE BASIN**

An Alabama federal judge has ordered the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to immediately send more Chattahoochee River water down to Florida - - a move Georgia officials say will drain Lake Lanier faster than predicted.

The Corps, which operates Lanier and four other federal lakes on the Chattahoochee, began complying with the order at 6 p.m. Thursday, (June 22) releasing what amounts to an additional 2 billion gallons of water a day from lakes Lanier, West Point, Walter F. George and Seminole.

That's 40 percent more water than the Corps had been releasing into Florida and it is five times the amount metro Atlanta uses each day.

The water release is necessary to save two types of freshwater mussels, Judge Karon Bowdre of the U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama said in a two-page order. Carol Couch, Georgia's top environmental official, said her staff has not calculated the effect releasing that much more water will have on metro Atlanta's supply. Lanier is the water source for more than 3 million metro Atlantans.

The order comes on top of the state announcing Wednesday (June 21) that it is in a drought and with the busy July Fourth weekend ahead.

"Clearly the amount of water that will have to be released under this order would be significantly more than we have previously predicted," said Couch, director of the state Environmental Protection Division. "The lake will drop at even more dramatic and quicker rates." Bowdre's order requires the Corps to release the water for ten days. A hearing is

scheduled at 10:00 a.m. June 23 in her courtroom in Birmingham to determine whether a more permanent is warranted.

The Corps already had been releasing Georgia water since April to preserve the endangered and threatened creatures in Florida.

Georgia asked a federal judge this week to slow the release of water heading to Florida, saying there was a “substantial risk that the Chattahoochee reservoir system will run completely dry of water.” That Atlanta-based judge has not ruled.

But Florida countered with its own legal action filed in Birmingham, asking for the Corps to release even more water than before. Florida said the river was too low to protect its Gulf Sturgeon and the two species of mussels, which were dying.

The Alabama judge sided with Florida, which asked for the order as part of the “water wars” lawsuit. The 16-year tug-of-war between Georgia, Florida and Alabama is over how to share water from Lanier and the Chattahoochee River.

Gov. Sonny Perdue said through a spokeswoman Thursday night, “I would just ask the judge to listen to the facts of the case as they’ll be presented and not make a determination until those facts are heard.”

The Corps ran numbers Thursday to determine the effect on Lanier and the other lakes upstream from Florida on the Chattahoochee River. The Corps’ analysis diverges from Georgia’s.

E. Patrick Robbins, spokesman for the corps’ Mobile district, said the extra water going to Florida will not affect Georgia’s water quality or water supply.

He said Lanier would drop 2.3 feet by July 21, and another 3.8 feet – to 1,059 feet - - by September 5. Lanier is full at 1,071 feet and currently stands at 1,065 feet. At a depth of 1,063 feet, recreation activities on the lake are curtailed.

According to the Corps’ calculations, if the releases continue, Lanier would drop to nearly 12 feet below full by Labor Day weekend - - all but unusable for boaters and swimmers. Docks and boat ramps would be high and dry, the water level would make boating dangerous, and swimming holes would be muddy beaches.

Howard Marshall, a retired federal scientist who represented the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency in tri-state water talks, said there’s no precedent for the amount of water the Corps has been ordered to release during a drought. “You might run Atlanta dry, for damn sure.”

Even the state’s worst-case scenario - - showing metro Atlanta’s water supply threatened by late September - - did not anticipate so much water leaving the river system, with so little coming in and not enough rain in sight to make up the difference.

Robbins stressed that the additional water going to Florida will be spread among all the federal lakes on the Chattahoochee, and will not all come from Lanier.

More immediate effects could be felt by hydropower customers, Robbins said. Even before Bowdre’s order, Georgia officials were so alarmed about the string of rainless days and the sinding levels of Lanier and nearby Lake Allatoona, a secondary water source for north Georgia, that Couch declared a drought Wednesday.

That triggered new and stricter statewide restrictions banning lawn sprinkling and other outdoor water use between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The conditions were compounded when the Corps discovered it had mistakenly let billions of gallons extra out of Buford Dam and into the Chattahoochee since April because of a faulty gauge.

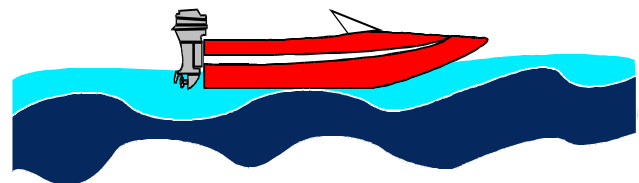
- by Stacy Shelton
-*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*
Published 23 June 2006
And submitted by
P/D/C Glenn Cowham, SN

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Legislative Note

New Tennessee Law Affecting Boaters

Tennessee Legislature just voted if you blow above a 0.08 blood alcohol level, you are boating “under the influence”. This replaces previous 0.10. This law went into effect 01 July 2006.



THE RAINBOW THAT “SET THE SKY ON FIRE”



Time:1058

08 June 2006

In a breathtaking blaze of glory, Nature puts on one of its most spectacular sky shows. Reds, oranges, blues and green create a flaming rainbow that stretches above the clouds.

But this **circumhorizon arc**, as it is known, owes more to ice than fire. It occurs when sunlight passes through ice crystals in high cirrus clouds. It is one of 15 types of ice halos formed only when the most specific of factors dovetail precisely together.

This blanket of fire, covering hundreds of square miles, is the rarest phenomenon of them all. It was spotted in the United States on the Washington-Idaho border around midday.

Dr. Jonathan Fox, of the United States Weather Service in Spokane, Washington said, “It was even more spectacular than the Northern Lights. I feel lucky to have seen it because it only forms in very rare situations. This is the first one I have ever seen. It was a breathtaking sight and it hung around for about an hour.”

To create a “rainbow of fire”, clouds must be at least 20,000 feet high and the ice crystals within them align horizontally, instead of their usual vertical position. The sun also needs to be at least 58 degrees above the horizon.

Then the magic can begin!

Reprinted from Barry Wigmore, *Daily Mail*
Submitted by Harry Lagerstedt

(Editor’s Note: The above article is published as a special thanks to our Weather Course Instructors. You have taken a difficult course and broken it into language your students are able to comprehend. And we thank you for that!)

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.

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Publicity Funds Still Available!

Our District 17, according to the National USPS Office, was allotted \$950.00 this year for the purpose of publicity projects. Music City and Atlanta have both been able to cash in on this benefit, and Memphis has a check pending approval.

But we still have monies available; we are still left with \$649.28 that we will lose if no one mails in any more requests for reimbursement. The requests for reimbursement must be received by the USPS national office by October 1st for us to be able to file claims on the remaining monies mentioned above.

Please feel free to contact me at (706) 561-4943 or e-mail me at alvanoboat@mchsi.com. Any request for reimbursement must go through me to be presented to the National Office. I will be happy to work with any of you in getting funds for your squadrons. Just contact me for all the details before you get started on filing for reimbursement and we will get to work!

Virginia Basler, AP, Chair
District Public Relations
and Marketing