

“FILES AND PROFILES” FROM THE DISTRICT

“The Dixie District: District 17
October 2006 Issue



**USPS Honors P/V/C Frank Wedge, SN
for 50 Years of Meritorious Service**

When District 17 convenes for its Fall Conference 3-5 November 2006, it will honor and dedicate the event to one of its very own members,

P/V/C Frank Wedge, SN.

Just about everyone who is a member of the United States Powers Squadrons knows Frank Wedge. During his many years of outstanding membership, he has seen USPS at its worst and at its best. Every year with him has been a Mark of Merit!

Frank joined the Menominee-Marquette Power Squadron in District 10 on 19 February 1958. He served as Squadron Education Officer and Commander, and then served on the District Bridge as Administrative Officer, Education Officer and Commander. In those days, district officers were elected for two year terms. During the first term as Commander, his company transferred him to Houston, Texas for two years. While in Texas, he taught Junior Navigation in the Houston Power Squadron. Upon return to Menominee Marquette he was asked to resume his position as D/C since he had only served one year before moving.

After completing his term as D/C, his company moved him to Memphis, TN. No squadron had a presence in Memphis; in fact there was no squadron closer than 200 miles. He started a Piloting class, drawing from a Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla members. With 27 members-at-large, Frank requested

National to form the Memphis Power Squadron. It was chartered in 1970 and he served a two year term as Commander.

USPS considered Memphis as part of D/50, along with Pine Bluff, AR; Little Rock, AR; Oklahoma City, OK and Tulsa, OK, Denver (Mile High), Canal Zone and Tokyo, Japan.

USPS formed District 31 to include the squadrons of Oklahoma and Arkansas and Memphis. As Commander of Memphis, Frank played an active role in the establishment of D/31 and served as the 2nd Commander of the new district.

At end of his term as District Commander, he was invited by the Committee on Nominations to join that committee. He served three years and during his last year was Chair. He then joined the Finance Committee in 1980 and served as chair from 1982 until 1984. He was elected to serve as National Treasurer from 1985-1987.

While serving as Treasurer in 1987, he was appointed as Chair of an Ad Hoc Committee for boat insurance. McGriff, Seibels & Williams was the agent and underwritten by The St. Paul Insurance Co. USPS Boat Insurance became a reality with the first policy written on 1 April 1988. Frank has policy #1.

In 1990 Frank started writing about Amateur Radio on board USPS Members' Boats. The book is now known as “Marine Amateur Radio”, published by McGraw Hill.

In 1989 thru 1991, he served on the National Rules Committee and monitored By Laws of Squadrons in D/6 thru D/10.

In 1990 he moved from Memphis to Knoxville, TN where he has taught Seamanship for about 10 years, as well as Instructor Development. During his time in Knoxville, he served as District Parliamentarian and Special Aide to the D/C.

In 1992 thru 1995, he served on the National Planning Committee. He introduced a boat inspection program which became the Vessel Safety Check program in coordination with the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Frank Wedge has given much over the years; he has filled so many capacities and taught us many things. He has mastered more knowledge than many of us will ever hope for; yet he is down-to-earth and unassuming. Always gracious and patient, he and Anita are valued friends.

Thank you for all you have done for us.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



As we finalize details for the District 17 Fall Council and Conference, it is becoming obvious that we need to change the theme of our meeting.

Our Fall Council and Conference scheduled for 03-05 November 2006 at the Alta Vista Hotel and Conference Center in Birmingham should change from a drab business meeting of reports, reports and more reports to a "**CELEBRATION**". Yes, a celebration. Every week that goes by, I receive another award, plaque or commendation for our district, our squadrons or one of our members to be presented at our Fall Meeting. District 17 and our Squadrons are becoming well known for our members' extra work above and beyond the call of duty. Along with our large list of educational, membership retention and social activities awards we will be celebrating one of our own members who has been faithfully active and a friend to us all.

P/V/C Frank W. Wedge, SN of the Knoxville Squadron has fifty years of active membership in USPS. The National USPS and District 17 are pulling out all stops to celebrate this milestone in the life of Frank Wedge. C/C Ernie Marshburn has sent his representative, P/V/C Herb Rossmesl, SN to add his congratulations to the many others that will be conveyed. We are anticipating that all Past District Commanders, who are able, will be in attendance.

And Anita; we will certainly celebrate Anita Wedge's 25 years of membership in the USPS. These two remarkable individuals have provided our organization with wise leadership, generous

amounts of time, and intelligent guidance for a combination of 75 years.

This is a weekend that we will celebrate the combination of **GOLD** and **SILVER**!

It is also my extreme pleasure to introduce to you our Chief Commander's Representative in Birmingham. Vulcan's very own Herb Rossmesl is a Past Vice Commander and is most respected and cherished not only within our squadron, but also our district and national levels.

Herb will be very busy during the conference, delivering the Chief's message, teaching a Saturday afternoon breakout session on Operations Training, and chairing a noon session Saturday of **Town Meeting with Herb**.

Come meet Diane and Herb Rossmesl; ask questions. . . get answers. And give them a USPS thank you for their many contributions to our great organization.

CHIEF'S REPRESENTATIVE



P/V/C Herb Rossmesl, SN

Fall is beautiful in Birmingham and the view of Jones Valley from the Alta Vista atop Red Mountain is breath-taking at night. When the exquisite meals are added in, this meeting promises to be one of our more delightful ones in recent memory. Our thanks go out to the District Conference Planning Committee and the Vulcan Commander and his bridge for the thought and effort put into this conference.

You don't want to miss this one.

Thanks; see you in Birmingham!

Tom Carey, Commander

**AMERICA'S GREAT LOOP
CRUISERS' ASSOCIATION (AGLCA)
FALL RENDEZVOUS ANNOUNCED
FOR WHEELER STATE PARK**

The 2006 AGLCA Fall Rendezvous will be held October 16 - 19 at Joe Wheeler State Park near Rogersville, Alabama, one of the most scenic settings in the Southeast. The same location as the last two years, the park is located on First Creek at [TN River] mile 277 on the Tennessee River. It is two miles above Wheeler Dam and 62 miles beyond the junction of the Tennessee and the Tenn-Tom Waterway ([TN River] mi. 215)...The seminars will again feature generally "the road ahead" with speakers **Fred Myers** (*Tennessee River, Cumberland River and the Tenn-Tom Nitty-Gritty Cruise Guides*), **Claiborne Young** (several *Cruising Guides* on the Northern Gulf Coast, Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas), **Skipper Bob** (many books of various aspects of cruising), **Tom Conrad** and others."

From 1500 - 1700 on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (17 - 19 Oct), there will be a "Looper Crawl", where certain of the Looper boats will host an "open house", inviting people on board for tours of their respective vessels. Even though it is too late to sign up to participate in the AGLCA Fall Rendezvous conferences and activities (there is a 250-person limit in the Wheeler conference room), this would be a great opportunity for those interested, to "walk the docks" and see the variety of Looper vessels, and For those who may be interested in cruising the Loop some day (or even shorter long-distance cruising), I highly recommend membership in the AGLCA, which includes among other things, a talk with their captains. Note that Wheeler has 65 transient slips; all 65 will be filled by attending Looper boats. Even if one is not interested in traversing America's Great Loop, this is a nice opportunity to view a variety of vessels, and to gain insights on long-distance cruising.

- - - - quoted from *The Great Loop Link*
newsletter (July/August 2006 issue):
and submitted by Commander Jim Nye, P
Vulcan Squadron

DISTRICT 17 FALL CONFERENCE

03-05 November 2006

Alta Vista Hotel and Conference Center
260 Goodwin Crest Drive
Birmingham, AL 35209

Over the past several months, we have talked a lot about our upcoming Fall Conference. Many plans and much effort from many members have been put into action. Now is the time to give careful consideration in supporting your squadron by attending the conference. There you are promised good food (Meals will be catered by the Culinary School of Cooking and breakfast is free each morning) and a great view of the city while meals are being served, a presidential suite for the hospitality area, a choice of fifteen different breakout sessions (where else can you possibly learn so much in two days?), and wonderful camaraderie (After all, we only see each other twice a year (Have a lot of catching up during every meeting!))



It appears that this meeting has the possibility of being one of our best because:

1. Our own **Herb Rossmeisl** will represent the Chief Commander, delivering the Chief's message, teaching a three hour OT session and facilitating the Town Meeting on Saturday.
2. Then our **Frank Wedge** will be honored (all weekend) for his fifty years of service to the USPS
3. You will be able to attend a maximum of six breakout sessions, choosing from a total of fifteen different topics hosted by some of the best qualified and interesting people.
4. Entertainment? The *Showstoppers* is a troupe of high stepping ladies who have a fast paced act to perform for you.

Make every effort to be with us! Any questions? I'm always at N7LBW@juno.com or (205) 338-7870. See you in Birmingham!

Thanks, Ben Owen

District 17 2006 Fall Conference
United States Power Squadrons
Hosted by the District Meetings Committee
The Alta Vista Conference Center, Birmingham
Meals Reservation Form

Name (Print) _____

Other in Party (Print) _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Friday Night, 03 November 2006

Dinner - **South-West Chicken Piccata**
House Salad with dressing
Grilled Boneless Breast of Chicken with
Lemon-Caper Sauce
Wild Rice Medley
Vegetable of the Day
Bread and Butter
Dessert – Chef Selection _____ tickets @ \$25.00 per person \$ _____

Saturday Noon, 04 November 2006

Lunch **Delicatessen Buffet**
Roasted Red Potato Salad
Pasta Salad
Cole Slaw
Sliced Smoked Turkey, Ham, Toast Beef,
Swiss and Cheddar Cheeses
Fresh Breads,
Tomatoes, Lettuce and Pickles
Dessert—Cookies and Brownies _____ tickets @ \$16.00 per person \$ _____

Saturday Night, 04 November 2006

Dinner House Salad with dressing
Petite Filet of Beef and Grilled Shrimp
with Bordelaise Tomato Concasse
Twice Baked Potato
Vegetable Medley
Bread and Butter
Dessert—Cheesecake _____ tickets @ \$30.00 per person \$ _____

TOTAL SUBMITTED \$ _____

NOTE: All meals include freshly brewed iced tea and fresh regular and decaffeinated coffee.
All meals are inclusive of tax and gratuity.

Dinner reservations must be received no later than 20 October 2006

Make checks payable to: District 17 Meetings Committee

Mail check and this completed form to:

Ben Owen, SN
P. O. Box 454
Pell City, AL 35125

**HOTEL INFORMATION
DISTRICT 17 FALL CONFERENCE 2006**

Conference Date: 03-05 November 2006

Location: Alta Vista Hotel and Conference Center
260 Goodwin Crest Drive
Birmingham, AL 35209

Phone: (205) 290-8000

**You must call the hotel to make your room reservations.
Advise the hotel when booking your room that you are with the
USPS District 17 to get discounted room rates.**

Room Rates: Executive King or
Double/Double \$62.50 + tax

**Room rates are subject to a 17% tax
Room rates include a full American breakfast for each guest
(with Southern gravy and biscuits in the buffet)**

Amenities: All local calls are free
All rooms interior corridor
All rooms include view of the city, coffee makers, data ports,
a desk, iron with board and hair dryer.
Guests laundry facilities
Exercise rooms
Parking is complimentary



DISTRICT 17 FALL COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE 2006
ACTIVITY SCHEDULE AND AGENDA
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
ALTA VISTA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Friday, 03 November **Uniform: Country-Western attire (jeans, casual shirts, square-dancing outfits, boots. Anything Western is appropriate.)**

1300-1800	Registration (on first floor. Follow posted signs.)	
1600-1800	Hospitality Room Suite	Room 722, Presidential Suite
1900-2000	Dinner (please present ticket at door)	Garden Terrace, First Floor
2000-2045	District Conference	Garden Terrace, First Floor
	--Call to Order	D/C Tom Carey, SN
	--Commanders' Reports	D/Lt/C Janis Owen, JN
	--Recess Conference 'til Saturday a.m.	D/C Tom Carey, SN
2045-until	"The Showstoppers" Dance Troupe	
	- - Country-Western Dancing Sets	

Saturday, 04 November **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.

0630-0900	Breakfast (Complimentary for Overnight Guests) Present Tickets at Door	Dining Room, First Floor
0800-1000	Registration (on first floor. Follow posted signs.)	
0800-0900	Breakout Sessions:	
	Commanders, Executive Officers, Administrative Officers	
	Chaired by D/Lt/C Janis Owen, JN	
	Vulcan Room	
	Secretaries and Treasurers	
	Co-Chaired by	
	District Secretary Dale Hamilton, AP	
	District Treasurer Mike Scher, AP	
	Oxmoor Room	
	Educational Officers	
	Chaired by P/D/C John Cook, SN	
	Homewood Room	

** Complimentary Coffee will be available for all meetings during Conference **

0910-0935	District Council Meeting	Garden Terrace, First Floor
	- Call to Order	D/C Tom Carey, SN
	- Roll Call	D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP
	- Approval of Minutes	D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP
	- Old Business	D/C Tom Carey, SN
	- New Business	D/C Tom Carey, SN
	- Announcements	from the Council
	- Adjournment	D/C Tom Carey, SN

 **Ten Minute Break** 

- 0945- 1130 **District Conference Convenes** *Garden Terrace, First Floor* 
- Call to Order D/C Tom Carey, SN
 - Pledge of Allegiance P/D/C Ben Owen, SN; USArmy,Ret.
- USPS Pledge D/Flg/Lt Lee Harrison, S
- Invocation – District Chaplain P/D/C Norm Oien, AP
 - Opening and Introductions D/C Tom Carey, SN
 - Welcome to Birmingham Commander Jim Nye, P
Vulcan Squadron
 - Roll Call of Squadrons D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP
 - Minutes of Previous Meeting D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP
 - Chief Commander’s Representative P/V/C Herb Rossmeisl, SN
 - Treasurer’s Report D/Lt/C Mike Scher, AP
 - Secretary’s Report D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP
 - Administrative Officer’s Report D/Lt/C Danny Tompkins, JN
 - Educational Officer’s Report P/D/C John Cook, SN
 - Executive Officer’s Report D/Lt/C Janis Owen, JN
 - District Commander’s Report D/C Tom Carey, SN
- Unfinished Business
New Business
Announcements - -

**District 17 Spring Conference, Pigeon Forge, TN
19-21 January 2007**

Adjournment

- 1130-1215 Plenary Session with P/V/C Herb Rossmeisl, SN
“Town Meeting with Herb” Garden Terrace, First Floor
- 1230-1345 Lunch: *Dining Room, First Floor* (Will need to present ticket to waitress)
- 1400-1650 **Saturday Afternoon Seminars (See Attached Schedule)**

Uniform for Saturday Evening - -

**District Bridge - - Uniform “A”
Members – Uniform “A” Optional
Blazer with tie or other appropriate Attire**

- 1700-till dinner Hospitality Room *Room 722, Presidential Suite*
- 1900-2130 Dinner (Please present dinner ticket at door) *Garden Terrace, First Floor*
- Introductions - - District Bridge
- Chief Commander’s Message - - P/V/C Herb Rossmeisl, SN
- Celebration to Honor Frank Wedge:
“50 Years of Membership and Merit”
- Awards - - District Bridge
- Door Prizes
- Adjourn

Sunday, 05 September

- 0900-1150 **Sunday Morning Seminars (See Attached Schedule)**
Dress - Casual

**THANK YOU FOR COMING!
SEE YOU IN PIGEON FORGE IN JANUARY!**

**DISTRICT 17 FALL 2006 CONFERENCE
BREAKOUT SESSIONS SCHEDULE**

Saturday Afternoon Seminars

<i>Times</i>	<i>Homewood Room</i>	<i>Oxmoor Room</i>	<i>Vulcan Room</i>
1400-1450	Cooperative Charting Chaired by: P/Stf/C Don Grotjan, SN Guest Facilitator: Mr. Duane Morrison, Corps of Engineers	Marine Electronics Highlights Guest Facilitators: Coosa Valley Amateur Radio Members: Mr. Ed Tyler KI4GKS Mr. Joe Minor K4JOE	Operations Training Chaired by: P/V/C Herb Rossmeisl, SN
Electronic Navigation Chart Data Team			
1450-1500	Break	Break	Break
1500-1550	Vessel Safety Checks D/1stLt Jeff Wise, N	Wooden Boat Building D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP	Operations Training (con't) P/VC Herb Rossmeisl, SN
1550-1600	Break	Break	Break
1600-1650	Member Recruitment/ Retention in Knoxville D/Lt Janene Allen, AP Commander Bob Allen, AP	Basics of Amateur Radio and Its Many Variations Guest Facilitators: Coosa Valley Amateur Radio Association Members: Mr. Joe Minor K4JOE Mr. Ed Tyler KI4GKS	Operations Training (con't) P/V/C Herb Rossmeisl, SN

Sunday Morning Seminars

<i>Times</i>	<i>Homewood Room</i>	<i>Oxmoor Room</i>	<i>Vulcan Room</i>
0900-0950	What It's Like to be a River Boat Captain P/C John Farmer, SN	Amateur Radio An Alternative to VHF Herman Green KI4GCJ	"Hubble Telescope Sequels" "N" Club Program D/1stLt. Jeff Wise, N
0950-1000	Break	Break	Break
1000-1050	Creating a Web Site D/1stLt Jeff Wise, N	Member Benefits and USPS Protocol R/C Louis Ojeda, SN P/C Dot Ojeda, P	"N" Club Business Session
1050-1100	Break	Break	Break
1100-1150	Creating a Web Site D/1stLt Jeff Wise, N (con't)	"Teaching Teens Safe Boating P/C Herman Green, AP	"Bellingham, Washington to Glacier Bay (3363 miles) in a 23' Stingray Dr. Mike Schneider

“Vessel Safety Checks” Presented by D/1stLt. Jeff Wise, N Time: 1500-1550
Location: *Homewood Room*

Many of you will remember Jeff facilitating a work shop on VSCs during the Huntsville Conference. He promised the attendees he would create a training manual for the members wishing to teach VSCs. And true to his word, the manual is ready and will be distributed during the scheduled session to those wishing to enhance their teaching skills in this very important aspect for our USPS organization.

Come and participate in the discussion led by our District Vessel Safety Check chair. Jeff is a member of the Atlanta Squadron and currently serves on the district bridge as assistant treasurer.

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**Wooden Boat Building-
One Man’s Experience”** Presented by D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP Time: 1500-1550
Location: *Oxmoor Room*

Modern boat building has all sorts of advantages and innovations that our antecedents had to do without. In this lecture Dale recounts his own experience acquiring the basic skills and mastering some of these new innovations. Examples used are a 22’ Flying Bridge cruiser and a 1930’s – style mahogany runabout – both built from scratch. Hopefully those who only dream of building their own boat will find the motivation to enter the satisfying realm of boat building.

He is a member of the Music City Squadron, serving as their Executive Officer this year and as the District Secretary.

* * * *

**“Member Recruitment/
Retention in Knoxville”** Presented by D/Lt. Janene Allen, AP
and Commander Bob Allen, AP Time: 1600-1650
Location: *Homewood Room*

Membership (or the declining of) is certainly one of the most concerned topics within our organization. Squadrons try many different approaches to solving the issues of recruitment of members and the involvement of members within the squadron activities.

Commander Bob Allen and Membership Chair Janene Allen have led their Knoxville Squadron to an increase of 26.3% in membership this year. Come hear positive and exciting ways of increasing membership within your own squadron.

* * * *

**“Basics of Amateur Radio
and Its Many Variations”** Presented by Time: 1600-1650
Coosa Valley Amateur
Radio Association Members
Joe Minor K4KOE and Ed Tyler KI4GKS Location: *Oxmoor Room*

This is an effort to show the cruising mariner that amateur radio is of tremendous value to a cruiser and can make cruising much safer and more interesting. It offers some knowledge of speed learning if the member decides to get a license. Presenters are experienced amateur radio instructors who will be able to familiarize non-licensed members with the material and jargon.

Sunday

“A Day in the Life of a River Boat Captain”

Presented by P/C Captain John Farmer, SN Time: 0900-0950
Location: **Homewood Room**

Captain John Farmer is captain of the *Star of Knoxville* riverboat. Before moving to Knoxville, he was captain of the *Tunica Queen* in Mississippi. He has had many interesting experiences during his career.

He says in getting licensed and passing those exams, “The most demanding tests cover rules of the road. Do you know all the lights that should be displayed on a working dredge on the left descending bank of the river with his boom out to the port side? And are you completely comfortable with the 1210 chart, the Light List, and Coast Pilot? I know you have GPS and probably a chart plotter, but that won’t help in the exam room!”

Come hear this interesting River Boat Captain talk about the love of his job and how much safety factors into his success.

* * * *

“Amateur Radio (HAM) An Alternative to VHF”

Time: 0900-0950
Presented by P/C Herman Green, AP KI4GCJ
P/D/C Ben Owen, SN N7LBW
Location: **Oxmoor Room**

Come and Learn about what amateur radio is about. For those who want to cruise or those who just want to have fun, learn what it’s all about and how to get your license and join the many USPS “nets” being formed.

This session covers the broad spectrum of amateur radio from W.A.S. through PSK31, D-Star, and emergency communication when all other forms fail. The session is also meant to aid a member to become familiar with various facets about ham radio in addition to just “talking on a radio!”

* * * *

“N’ Club Program” “Hubble Telescope Sequels”

Presented by “N” Club Time: 0900-0950
D/1st Lt. Jeff Wise, N Presenter
Location: **Vulcan Room**

An investigation of the several telescopes that are companions to the Hubble Telescope and their specialty and reason for being.

* * *

“Creating a Web Site

D/1st Lt. Presented by Jeff Wise, N Time: 1000-1150
Location: **Homewood Room**

Open roundtable discussion of the district and squadron website, the possibility of sharing servers and server space to reduce costs, what the District web site should be providing, and what we collectively can do to help squadrons without a web site to become web-enabled.

This session is open to everyone remotely interested in learning more about websites. More organizations than ever are moving in this direction for communications.

* * * *

“Member Benefits and USPS Protocol”

Presented by R/C Luis Ojeda, SN Time: 1000-1050
P/C Dot Ojeda, P Location: *Oxmoor Room*

In addition to practicing safe boating and teaching others safe boating, what are the benefits of belonging to our organization?

Ever wonder what the correct protocol might be in a given situation?

R/C Ojeda is chair of USPS Member Benefits with P/C Dot Ojeda serving on the team with him. Enthusiastic and positive speakers, come to the session and learn of any new benefits, as well as taking advantage of some of the benefits that have been in action of several years.

Many of our District 17 members will be excited about welcoming P/C Dot (Park) Ojeda back “home” to Vulcan where she served her squadron as commander a few years ago. Please give Dot and Luis a great welcome back “home”.

* * * *

“N’ Club Business Session”

“N” Club Members Time: 1000-1050
Location: *Vulcan Room*

* * * *

“Teaching Teens Safe Boating”

Presented by P/C Herman Green, AP Time: 1100-1150
Location: *Oxmoor Room*

Teaching young people, especially teens, can be different from our regular adult students. Come and see what one squadron has learned in teaching young people the art of safe boating for obtaining their state licensing and how it relates to USPS role in promoting safe boating and obtaining possible future members.

Herman Green is a Past Commander of the Chattanooga Squadron and currently is serving as his squadron’s SEO. This year, he was a recipient of the coveted Chapman Award, bestowed by National for outstanding teaching. He will speak to you about teaching sixty teenagers in a safe boating course this boating season and the outcome of that course.

* * * *

“Bellingham, WA to Glacier Bay Cruise”

Presented by Dr. Mike Schneider Time: 1100-1150
Location: *Vulcan Room*

After boating over 3000 miles along the Pacific coastline into Alaska, Edinboro University geoscience professor Dr. Mike Schneider will share his adventures with us. He will describe the two-year preparation of his 23-foot boat and the natural phenomena encountered along his six-week journey into the remote waters of the northern Pacific Coast. During that summer’s 3,361-mile trip, he visited remote glacial areas, temperate rain forests, and native villages. Along the trip he encountered whales, seals, and bears among the extensive wildlife common to the area.

Although thorough planning reduced many of the risks involved, dangers such as weather conditions and difficult navigation were still major concerns. Because of the isolated locations, communication with the outside was almost impossible and the only way to reach safety was by plane or boat. Despite the risks, successfully exploring the remote areas of British Columbia and the Alaskan Alexander Archipelago islands was worth the years of extensive planning for Mike.

He is a member of the Atlanta Power and Sail Squadron.