

“FILES AND PROFILES” FROM THE DISTRICT

“The Dixie District” District 17

June 2007 Issue

KOMMANDER’S KORNER

Hello everyone!

Usually one of the district bridge members is selected to dress up the front page with a photo and a profile so we can get to know that person on a more individual level. However this month we have some articles of information sent from National that needs distribution to you and to everyone in your squadron.

First of all, R/C of the Rules Committee sent an interim report today stating that National wishes to change the bylaws at the Norfolk Governing Board this fall. National is calling this the **Governance Proposal** and would add the squadron delegates to the Governing Board and combine all of the winter sessions into a single meeting. This would leave the national organization free to change voting structures from two groups voting at each annual meeting to accomplish all the votes at one group meeting so that all of the national officers would be elected during the Annual Meeting, which is usually held in January. This simplifies the voting procedures and allows the squadron commanders and their delegates to vote for the national bridge, rear commanders and staff commanders which has not been the case before. If you are interested in all the specifics involved in the upcoming possible by-laws changes, I have a 26 page attachment for you. Please let me know if you wish me to e-mail a copy of these to you.

The next article is from Sam Insalaco, a member of the Government Relations Committee and his message needs action from us as private individuals right away. Read on. . . All,

I apologize in advance for not updating the officers in this distribution list but at the American Boating Congress this week, EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson felt the District Court ruling regarding EPA's enforcement of discharge permits (Clean Water Act) for recreational vessels would become a reality

<http://www.ibinews.com/ibinews/newsdesk/20070408155501ibinews.html>.

Unless we lobby our Congress and Senate to exempt recreational vessels from the

current law, all owners will be required to obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for their vessel. This will not only be a costly effort to obtain the permit, but also will require ongoing monitoring and reporting to ensure compliance.

Currently, the Recreational Boating Act of 2007 is in review in the House (<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-8738.pdf>). Please urge all USPS members to write our elected representatives and request they add this additional legislation to the act to exempt recreational vehicles from this requirement. A form letter is attached below. If you want more information regarding this initiative, please visit www.boatblue.org or <http://www.boatblue.org/news.aspx?id=14539>.

Please call or email if you have any questions...

Thanks,

Sam Insalaco

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ACTION REQUEST FROM THE NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION RE: BOAT BLUE: COALITION ON BALLAST WATER DISCHARGE

Last fall a U.S. District Court ruling nullified EPA Regulation 40 under the Clean Water Act exempting effluent discharge incidental to the normal operation of vessels. The ruling is the result of a lawsuit to halt the introduction of invasive species from ballast water from commercial ships. Unfortunately the ruling did not differentiate between vessels and includes gray water and bilge water discharge from recreational boats as well.(Black water was not mentioned.)

Under the court order, the EPA must establish new regulations and a permit process to enable the normal discharge from recreational boats by September 2008. The permit process and enforcement would be worked out between the EPA and the states.

To fight this ruling and its results, NBF was asked by the NMMA to join the Boat Blue Coalition. The Coalition has informed Congress of the problem and the harm it would do to the marine industry and the boating public. Further, we have cited the need for legislation that would codify the exemption for recreational boats that has existed under the Clean Water Act for many years. This is a

significant problem for both manufacturers and the boating public. There are 13 million registered boats in the US and 74 million boaters, contributing to a \$37 billion a year industry. For more information, log on to www.boatblue.org.



Please write your U.S. Senators and U.S. Congress Representative to ask them to pass a law preserving the exemption for recreational boaters from the Clean Water Act NPDES permit rules. (NPDES stands for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.)

(Note: Sample letter to fax or e-mail is printed below).

Dear (Senator or Representative):

As a recreational boater, I wish to bring to your attention a matter of serious concern. A recent court decision has made it very likely that every recreational boat owner in the nation will be required to obtain a permit in order to operate their boat. There are nearly 18 million recreational boats in operation and about 72 million boaters nationwide.

Not only do boaters support a \$37 billion a year boating industry, they contribute significantly to other outdoor recreational opportunities such as angling and hunting, both of which are multi-billion dollar industries that are of considerable cultural significance in America.

Recently, a federal judge invalidated a long-standing regulation exempting the normal discharges of recreational boats from the Clean Water Act. Although unintended, the consequence of the decision is that every registered recreational boat owner in the country could be subjected to sweeping new regulations and permit requirements outdoor recreation, reduce tax revenues for environmental conservation for normal discharges, which includes bilge water, deck runoff, engine cooling water, and others.

We urge Congress to enact a legislative remedy that will codify the legal exemption for recreational boats that has existed in law for 34 years.

Otherwise, boaters could face new yearly fees and bureaucratic red tape associated with getting a permit, both of which will drive down participation in boating and initiatives nationwide, and cause considerable economic harm to the local communities that rely on boating and outdoor recreation. Federal and state governments would be required to develop new programs to implement these regulations, which would be very costly to taxpayers and deplete scarce agency resources.

The exemption for recreational boats was enacted 34 years ago for good reason—these regulations in the Clean Water Act are meant for supertankers and cruise ships—not your weekend boater on our country’s waterways. We urge Congress to act quickly by simply making the exemption for recreational boats in the Clean Water Act permanent.

Sincerely,

(John Q. Boater)

(Address)

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ATLANTA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON GICW CRUISE

For the fifth consecutive year, an assemblage of capable and adventurous souls from the fabulous Atlanta Squadron has planned a group cruise along some portion of the Atlantic Intercoastal Waterway. This year I was extremely fortunate to be a part of this impressive and fun loving group whose voyage was from Sarasota, FL to Ft Myers and back, a total of 198 joyful miles.

The six trailerboat fleet ranged in length from 21' to 27' and put in at Sarasota. A 35' Bayliner, chartered in Sarasota, and hereafter referred to as "The Mothership", brought the vessel count to seven, with a total crew count of 26.



The fleet departed Sarasota at 0900 Sunday 29 April, making landfall at Cabbage Key

the same day. Docking conditions were horrible, with a 15 mph crosswind adding to the challenge of stern-to docking, but each captain came through with flying colors and the language remained family-friendly. A salute to their seamanship skills!

Monday the fleet eventually arrived at Legacy Harbor in Ft Myers despite some skippers discovering an uncharted bridge and passing under same. Activities included a tour of Thomas Edison's home and museum on the Caloosahatchee River.

Tuesday and Wednesday were spent on Captiva Island, a paradise of bicycle tours, manatee, pelican and heron watching, and relaxing in the finest style. The tidal range and stern-to docking sharpened many skipper's leaping/climbing skill when leaving the vessel. Of course, the evenings were filled with wonderful food, music and dancing.

Thursday's highlight was a stopover at Boca Grande for a fabulous lunch and golf cart tour of the island while taking in history and shopping possibilities. The day ended at Palm Island Resort with a wonderful pool party to while away the evening hours.

Friday's journey brought us to the Crow's Nest Restaurant in beautiful Venice and then back to Marina Jack's in Sarasota for a final dock party.



(L-r: Tanya Hamilton, Genie Troncalli, Lisa Herndon and Margaret Sherrod)

I gained a new 25 member family out of this adventure. People were always there to provide shuttle service, help with room reservations, boat accommodations, food and daily skipper's meetings. The trip was a wonderful experience and I am so grateful to each member who made me feel so welcome. Thank you, Atlanta!

- - - P/D/C Norm Oien, AP

“MOVE-OVER” LAW NOW EXTENDS TO BOATING

RALEIGH – A new move-over law is now in effect for boaters in North Carolina. Boaters approaching within 100 feet of a law enforcement vessel displaying flashing blue lights must slow to a no-wake speed and use caution in passing. In narrow channels, the distance becomes within fifty feet. Violators are subject to fines up to \$250 and court costs.

“The immediate area where blue lights are displayed becomes a No-Wake zone during that time,” said Capt. Chris Huebner, boating safety coordinator for N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, which enforces laws and regulations for inland waterways.

“All approaching vessels are required to reduce to idle speed so there is no appreciable wake and it's advisable to maneuver away from or avoid the area, if possible,” he said.

The law is designed to protect the safety of boaters, law enforcement officers and emergency responders, he said. The safety measure for waterways is much like the state's move-over law for highways, which requires motorists to move into a lane away from a law enforcement or emergency vehicle with flashing lights, if possible, and to reduce speed.

by [Lindsay Nash](#)

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---submitted by P/C Bill Swann, P
Asheville Squadron

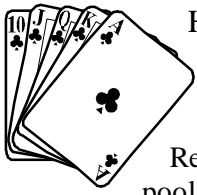
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DISCOVERY CHANNEL TO AIR SEGMENT DURING SAFE BOATING WEEK

The **Discovery Channel** will air a segment containing life jacket information included in the “**SURVIVE THIS!**” program. The program may be viewed **Friday May 18 (next Friday the day before the start of safe boating week)**. The title of the episode is called “**IRENE’S SINKING**”. The segment should **air @ 8:30pm eastern/pacific**. check your local listing.

The message the Discovery Channel science editors want to get across was why things float and sink. It is a boating accident (sinking) of a chartered fishing vessel in Alaska. The USCG makes a helicopter rescue to save the day. Some USPS members were involved in putting the segment together, so tune in and see safe boating at its best being taught via television.

PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2007 VULCAN-UNTSVILLE POKER RUN 22-24 June 2007



Headquartered at the Holiday Inn, Guntersville. Renovated in the fall of 2003, most of the rooms are lakeside. The Holiday Inn offers Neena's Restaurant, poolside lounge, swimming pool and playground for smaller children.

The information below should get you motivated to get in touch with either

Cliff Sullivan bamacliffandbarb@aol.com

Phone: (205) 664-8767 OR

Karen Harrison sweeper352@bellsouth.net

Phone: (205) 943-9315

if you need directions or any further instructions:

- ? Room rates will be \$85.00 per night for the Poker Run
- ? All rooms have a microwave and refrigerator
- ? Breakfast is served daily in restaurant (Dutch)
- ? Pets are allowed (\$15.00 fee, non-refundable)
- ? Docking space available for smaller craft
- ? Evening meal will be catered by Neena's in the "Sun Room" of the Holiday Inn
- ? Alred Marina should have transient space for the larger vessels (4 miles from the Holiday Inn)

This is a great opportunity to trailer your boat. There is plenty of room in other boats, so no one will be left out!

Then after a day on the water, we will take the smaller boats to Neena's Restaurant for lunch. They have plenty of room to secure our boats, while we enjoy the view of the lake during our meal. If time allows, we will return to the water for some more fun until early evening.

Later that evening we will return to Neena's for dinner and find out who the lucky winners are from the Poker Run! This is a great event, lots of fun and great company.



---D/Lt/C Karen Harrison,
Secretary, Vulcan Squadron

* * * *

Last year, the Poker Run was very successful and had a large attendance. Everyone had a lot of fun, and today, Karen Harrison announced even

more reason to come to the event. It seems that after the Poker Run is finished, karaoke will be the entertainment of the evening. Go Karen!! (Are we gonna have prizes for the best *American Idol* performance? Oh, yeah!)

-----Editor's Note

SQUADRON ACTIVITIES

The Watts Bar Invitational is coming up in July. Several squadrons are already committed to participate in this annual event. Every year the attendance increases, so get out that boat, stock up some munchies and come prepared to spend the weekend with your boating buddies. Not coming by boat, or need a room? At this time, we have six squadrons planning to attend. Why not represent your squadron there? These folks have fun!

As your commander, I am so pleased to see squadrons joining together in the boating activities, sharing great camaraderie and safety on the water.

Please contact either Commander Sharon Birdwell or Janene and Bob Allen if you have further questions. I will also ask them to publish more information regarding this in next month's issue of your "Files and Profiles".

June-

Asheville--dateTBA BlackMountain Regatta/Picnic
Atlanta - 23rd - Raft up and Cardboard Boat Race
Chattanooga - 9th - Fish Fry on the Hiawassee
Johnson City - 2nd - 9th - Potomac River -

Washington, DC - Cruise

Knoxville - 15-17th - Power Line Cove

Ice Cream Social

Music City - 2nd - Picnic at Kentucky Lake

Oak Ridge - 9th - Lake Rendezvous

15th - 16th "Secret City" Festival

Vulcan and Huntsville - 22 - 24th - Poker Run at
Guntersville State Park.

Vulcan- 9th -Rabbit Branch Marina Family Picnic

July -

Atlanta - 14th - Raft-up

Chattanooga 14th -On the Water at Bal Harbour

Chattanooga - 20th- 22nd - Join Squadrons at

Terrace View Marina for Watts Bar Invitational

Johnson City - 7th - Boone Lake Rendezvous
and Luau

Knoxville - 20th - 22nd Watts Bar Invitational,
Terrace View Marina

Oak Ridge - 20th - 22nd - Join Squadrons at

Terrace View Marina for Watts Bar Invitational

August -

Asheville - 11th - Lake Julian Regatta and Picnic

Chattanooga - 4th - Island Cove Boat Club Docks

Johnson City - 11th - South Holston Lake Cleanup

Knoxville - 17th-19th- Raft-off and Treasure Hunt

Oak Ridge - 11th - Chattanooga Boat Excursion

Happy and Safe Boating this Summer!

Janis