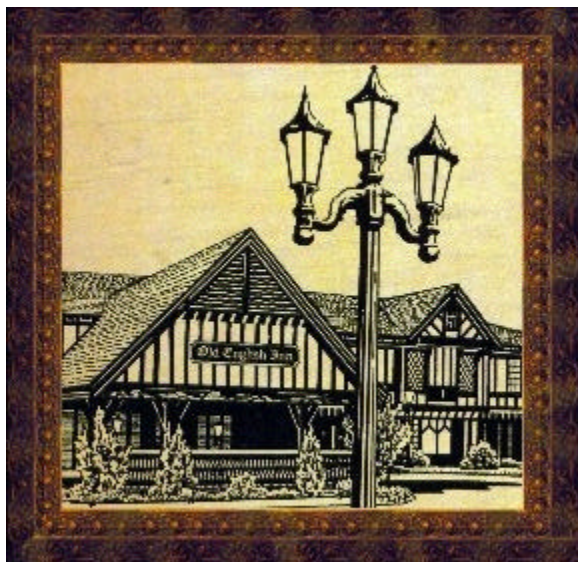


# “FILES & PROFILES” FROM THE DISTRICT

“The Dixie District” District 17  
September 2007 Issue

GET READY TO MEET AT  
**THE OLD ENGLISH INN**  
05-07 OCTOBER 2007



The first weekend in October, members of District 17 will convene at the Old English Inn located in Jackson, Tennessee. There they will delight in seeing each other again, eating, drinking, learning and being busy during the Fall Conference.

Before a contract is signed relating to your district conferences, the Meetings Committee goes to the prospective site and tours the property. While they are “on site”, at least one meal will be eaten and at least one night will be spent in a “sleeping room”. Every effort is made to find an area that will be pleasing to all our member at a reasonable price.

Suggestions for different areas to hold these semi-annual conferences are encouraged. This is your district and it is our focus to deliver the quality level of meeting space that you enjoy.

The hotel is not part of a chain, but is owned locally. It is managed by the Coughlins’ who have furnished the facility with antiques and other interesting touches. It is a quaint and elegant, rather small hotel (when compared to American standards). You will find great hospitality and nothing but the best in food, also.

Remember the following amenities are available: All rooms are equipped with the following amenities: free wireless high speed internet, desk, coffee maker, iron and ironing board, voicemail, television and cable, complimentary local telephone calls and complimentary long distance access, valet service and daily newspapers.

We found the management and staff eager to be of service and were easy to work with in putting together a workable and customized contract for our group. The



management, which includes **General Manager Chip Coughlin**, Sales Manager Dana Griffin and Assistant Manager Wendi Johnson, made every effort to meet our needs. It is understandable the hotel has been recognized for their commitment to excellence in customer service several times.

**Rooms** with double beds and rooms with king sized beds have been contracted at a rate of \$62.50 plus tax for each night. A parlor suite is another option to consider when calling for reservations. Parlor suites include the same amenities as the rooms listed above plus the room is oversized with king bed, parlor area with sofa, refrigerator and microwave. The rate for this accommodation is \$72.50 + tax.

If members desire to arrive a day or so early or delay leaving a day or so, the same rates will apply to that request. Several places of interest are found nearby, including Casey Jones Village and Old Country Store (2 miles), Cypress Grove Nature Park (4 miles), Pinson Mounds (10 miles), Shiloh National Military Park (60 miles), Reelfoot Lake (50 miles), Birdsong Pearl Farm (more about the pearl farm later) and the Rockabilly Hall of Fame. Jackson is a well hidden secret; we had no idea so many interesting sites were nearby!

**Meals** – The Old English Inn boasts that it provides one of the best restaurants in Jackson, thanks to the talents of award-winning chef Darrell Hicks. Darrell and Ann Hicks own and operate *The World Champion Cajun Cookers*.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Re: Increased insurance limits  
on all policies**

USPS Boat Insurance is pleased to announce increased coverage limits for all existing and future policyholders. Effective immediately all USPS Boat Insurance policyholders receive increased limits for Personal Effects, Towing Coverage and Medical Payments at *no additional charge*. In many cases, this represents more than a 200% increase over previous limits.

All policyholders with boats valued \$250,000 or less now have a minimum of:  
\$1,000 in towing coverage  
\$5,000 in Personal Effects coverage  
\$ 10,000 in Medical Payments coverage  
(unchanged from previous limit)

All policyholders with boats valued more than \$250,000 now have a minimum of:  
\$2,500 in Towing coverage  
\$10,000 in Personal Effects coverage  
\$10,000 in Medical Payments coverage  
(unchanged from previous limit)

All policyholders with boats valued more than \$250,000 now have a minimum of:  
\$2,500 in towing coverage  
\$10,000 in Personal Effects coverage  
\$25,000 in Medical Payments coverage



Any existing policy with higher limits than the above will remain unchanged.

USPS Boat Insurance and Travelers Insurance are excited about rewarding USPS Members for their dedication to boating and boat safety. Please contact 1.800.763.USPS (8777) for a quote with the above-mentioned coverage. -----

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message sent out by  
V/C Creighton Maynard, SN  
National Executive Officer, USPS

The meal reservation form can be located in the following sites: Last month's *Files and Profiles*, on our district web site, and it will be published in the district newsletter which is to be mailed to you either by e-mail or the postal service in adequate time for you to send your reservation to Ben Owen, Meetings Committee Chairman. Every squadron Commander, newsletter editor and squadron bridge member receives a copy of the *Files and Profiles* each month and should have marketed the event to you by this time. Come join us in Jackson!

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**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Good food, good company, comfortable sleeping facilities and great learning sessions! It seems that our breakout sessions get more popular with each district conference. We make every effort to bring to conferences the topics our members have asked to be covered.

To assist you in deciding which sessions you most wish to attend, a synopsis of each session can be found beginning on the following page. However, because the information is quite lengthy, it will not be published in the district newsletter. It might be a good idea to bring a copy with you to the conference as a tool to remind you of the scheduling of specific topics.

The sessions will be scheduled Saturday afternoon 1400-1650 and Sunday morning 0900-1150. Nine presentations will be available to you in fifty-minute grids, with the exception of the book signing and the USPS University course. A ten minute break will be given between each session.



United States Coast  
Guard Boating Statistics

Between 1991 – 2005, recreational boater fatalities have dropped 8.3 to 5.4 per 1000,000 registered boaters.

Only 65 (13%) of the 491 people who drowned in 2005 were wearing life jackets.

People with no boating safety education have a higher fatality rate – 9.9 per 100,000 vessels than boaters with education and USPS boaters had a lower fatality rate than other educational providers at 3.2 per 100,000 vessels.

**MORE ON THE CLEAN WATER ACT**

**From BoatUS Public Affairs**

23 July 2007

Dear BoatUS Member,

For 34 years the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has exempted discharges from recreational boats from the Clean Water Act permit system. Regretfully, a recent court ruling cancelled this permit exemption. EPA is required by the court decision to develop and implement by September 30, 2008 a national permit system for ALL vessels in the United States for a variety of normal operational discharges.

We have been working behind the scenes with other boating organizations to get the exemption reinstated for recreational boats. Fortunately, the Recreational Boating Act of 2007 (H. R. 2550) has been introduced by Representatives Gene Taylor (D-MISS) and Candice Miller (R-MICH) which would protect recreational boats from being swept into this unnecessary and expensive permitting system.

It is critically important that H. R. 2550 be passed and your support is essential. Please contact your Congressman and Senators today and ask that they co-sponsor or support H. R. 2550.

If the permit system becomes a reality, you will be required to pay for a state permit for each of your boats. EPA will be monitoring your deck runoff, grey water, bilge water, engine cooling water, and the use of copper bottom paints.

The original lawsuit that led to this court decision sought to address ballast water discharges from large ocean-going ships, which can introduce damaging aquatic invasive species into U. S. waters. Keeping our waterways clean and preventing the spread of invasive species is of utmost importance to the future of boating. But taking a complex permitting system designed for industrial dischargers and applying it to recreational boats will not yield significant environmental benefits and it will come at a very high cost. Requiring recreational boaters to purchase a permit would not prevent the spread of invasive species.

BoatUS has been a leader in educating boaters about Clean Boating practices for more than a decade. Our nonprofit Foundation has funded local education projects on invasive species prevention, helped develop voluntary Clean Marina programs, and authored much of the country's Clean Boating outreach. These positive education efforts are making a difference.

Please ask your elected federal representatives to support H. R. 2550. It is common-sense legislation. As you send your emails to your Members of Congress, please copy BoatUS at [GovtAffairs@BoatUS.com](mailto:GovtAffairs@BoatUS.com). We'd also like to ask you to send a copy of your correspondence to the EPA, so they can see how this will affect citizens. However, please know that if you choose to send it to EPA, it will become a part of the public record. EPA's email is [ow-docket@epa.gov](mailto:ow-docket@epa.gov), and your email needs to have a subject line with Docket ID No. OW-2007-0483.

Thank you for your help.  
Sincerely, Margaret Podlich  
BoatUS Government Affairs  
880 South Pickett Street  
Alexandria, VA 22304

703-461-2864 or 703-461-2878 Ext. 8363

NOTE TO OUR USPS Members- -

In responding to the above request, remember we cannot, as a USPS member represent ourselves as speaking for our organization, but responding and speaking as a concerned boater or private citizen.

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**A NOTE ABOUT CO-OP CHARTING**

Consider attending the Co-op Charting meetings in Norfolk this year. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will eventually have river charts available electronically. The Corps tells us the best way for our qualified members to aid the effort is to give precise latitude and longitude positions of the current buoys (both red and green) of our river system. This needs to be done in a certain format and can be accomplished on an excel worksheet.

Come listen to the exciting future in Co-operative Charting; then take the exciting plans home to your squadron!

--P/Stf/C Don Grotjan, SN

## KNOXVILLE RAMBLINGS “Watts Bar 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Invitational”



**The Birdwells –  
Ben and Knoxville’s Commander Sharon**

The Knoxville Squadron hosted its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Watts Bar Invitational 27-29 July. With an attendance of sixty folks and six squadrons represented, the event was bigger and better than ever before! Seventeen USPS boats were placed into slips and all the marina rooms were booked.

To start the weekend’s activities, Friday night Mike Scher invited everyone on board his boat *Sea-Duction*. (We refer to her as the “Mother Ship”) We had a grand time cruising to dinner at one of the local marinas and enjoying each other’s company.

Watching the sun set on the way to dinner and then gazing at the moon’s reflection on the water on the way back on our marina made us happy to be aboard!

Thanks, Mike, for your generosity and hospitality aboard the *Sea-Duction*.



***The Sea-Duction***

Saturday morning began bright and early with the Commander’s Appreciation Breakfast. It had rained during the night but the next morning the sun was out, drying everything off for a busy day ahead.

For the “early birds”, coffee and juice were ready by 0700. For the rest of our gang, standard breakfast began at 0800 with the option of getting to breakfast by 1000 (or when all the food disappeared, whichever came first!)

The “Breakfast Crew” was busy early setting up the coffee pot (Elizabeth and Harold DeHart), chilling fresh fruit (Margaret Sherrod), slicing salmon and bagels, setting up cream cheese and toast (Carol Jordan) and popping breakfast casseroles into the ovens (Molly Cox, Sharon Birdwell and Janis Owen)



**The Breakfast Crew**

What a neat crew to work together! The kitchen chores were actually fun with everyone pitching in and delivering excellent service to our breakfast customers!

And clean-up? Harold DeHart shined as our Pots-and-Pans-Scrub-Specialist! Now he’s what one might call a Working Commander! Ben Birdwell is also a super-duper scrubber in the kitchen. (I tell you readers this for future reference.)



