

“FILES AND PROFILES” FROM THE DISTRICT

“The Dixie District: District 17
February 2008 Issue

**DISTRICT 17 SPRING CONFERENCE 2008
COMFORT INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE**



At our district spring conference, the election of officers and Change of Watch will be the main focus. The proposed slate of 2008-2009 officers will be introduced and voted on during the General Session Saturday followed by the Change of Watch Saturday night.

Plans for the weekend also include the breakout sessions for Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. We are honored to have R/C Jean Hamilton, SN as the Chief's Representative. In addition to bringing the Chief's message, she will be one of the presenters during the breakout sessions. The schedule of the sessions along with a synopsis can be found in this month's issue of the "The Dixie News".

The Chattanooga Squadron will be hosting most of the activities. The District Meetings Committee is working with Chattanooga on the event, which will have a theme Friday night of "The Roaring Twenties".

How many of us have the guts to get all "dolled up" in a 20's outfit and attempt to do the Charleston? This sounds like a lot of fun, so polish up your dancing shoes and bring your cameras! Caterers for the Friday night are Anna and Guiseppe, an authentic Italian couple who own "The Italian Gourmet".

Our Saturday noon buffet will be sponsored by the Chattanooga Squadron, led by their very own Chef Norm Oien.

Saturday night's feast will be catered by "The Food Works", owned by Scott Adams. Scott himself will be on hand Saturday night to ensure we get the very best service and food from his establishment.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS INFORMATION

Conference Date: 07-09 March 2008
Comfort Inn Conference Center
6710 Ringgold Road
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37412
Phone: (423) 893-7979

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

Room Rate: **King Studio \$69.99 + tax**
King Suite \$79.99 + tax
Double Suite \$79.99 + tax
Double Stds. \$79.99 + tax

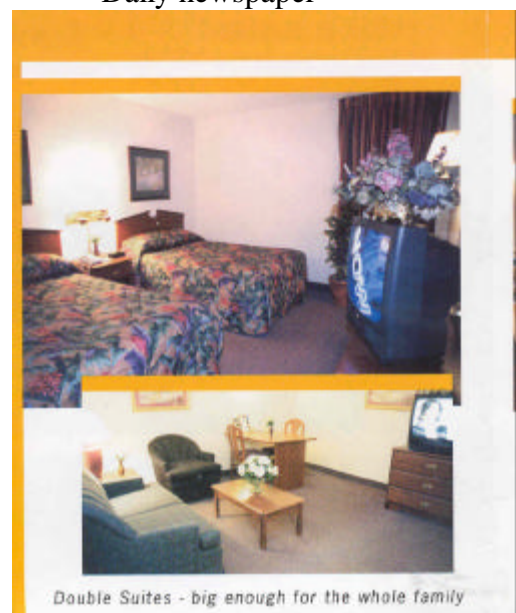
Deadline for making reservations :

15 February 2008

Amenities: Complimentary hot breakfast
Free parking
In room coffee maker, hair dryer, iron
and ironing board, microwave,
refrigerator, clock radio, cable TV

Free local calls

2 line phone voice mail and data port
Free High Speed Internet Access
Fitness center with dry sauna
Daily newspaper



Double Suites - big enough for the whole family

ROCK CITY



Why not consider arriving a day early or staying a day extra after the Conference? It would be difficult to do the City of Chattanooga justice in attempting to see its best sights in two days. Some of the nearby attractions include

- Hamilton Place Mall – 5 miles away,
- Chattanooga Choo-Choo - 6 miles
- Southern Bell Riverboat – 7 miles
- Tennessee Aquarium – 7 miles
- Rock City, Ruby Falls,

Lookout Mountain, the Incline Railway, IMAX Theater, Creative Discovery Museum

And the Civil War National Military Park are other nearby sights that you might be interested in seeing while visiting with your USPS in Chattanooga!

INCOMING SQUADRON 2008 COMMANDERS

<u>Squadron</u>	<u>Incoming Commander</u>
Asheville	David Huntley
Atlanta	Dave Herndon
Chattanooga	Joe Blass
Huntsville	Barbara Lamb
Johnson City	Jackie Garland
Knoxville	Hank Davis
Memphis	John Haluska
Montgomery	John Kropa
Muscogee	Glenn Cowham
Music City	Bruce MacDonald
Oak Ridge	Norm Brandon
Vulcan	Lee Harrison

SQUADRON CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2008

February –

Atlanta – 17th – 55th Change of Watch at the Ashford Club.

Huntsville – 9th Change of Watch

Johnson City – 9th Change of Watch at the Johnson City Country Club

Memphis – 7th Change of Watch

Music City – 16th: Change of Watch

Oak Ridge – 23rd Change of Watch

Vulcan – 28th Change of Watch

March –

April –

Chattanooga – 12th: Fox Cay

Knoxville – 26th: Cherokee Sailing

May –

Chattanooga – 10th: Island Cove

Knoxville – 17th: Lock-Through and BBQ at Lenoir City Park

June –

Chattanooga – 7th: Fish Fry at Vincent’s Place

Chattanooga – 13th-15th: Terrace View

Knoxville: 13th-15th: Watts Bar Invitational at Terrace View Marina

July –

Knoxville -19th: Ice Cream Social and Raft Off

Aug –

Chattanooga – 9th: Island Cove

Sept –

Chattanooga – 13th: Island Cove

Knoxville – 21st: Salmon Roast

Oct –

Knoxville – 10th-12th Fall Color Cruise

Nov –

Chattanooga – 8th: Privateer Yacht Club: Chili

December -

Chattanooga - 14th: Christmas with the Cox’s

Knoxville – 11th Holiday Gala

(Editor’s Note: The schedule above is only a partial list of exciting plans our squadrons have for the coming year. Squadron Activities Chairs (usually assigned to Administrative Officers) please send your calendar events to the District Administrative Officer, Mike Scher as soon as possible. Thank you.)

A Message from the Incoming District Commander



Welcome to a new year. The days on the water are few and far between right now. But we know those days are just around the corner. In the meantime, there is much going on within the USPS. A large group of us will be in attendance at the USPS Annual meeting in February. All of our squadrons are going through that rite of passing the leadership mantle to our next generation of leaders. At District, we are excited about new ideas and approaches to increasing the **VALUE** of the district to the squadrons and their members.

OK, look back at that last line. That is the first time I have used that word in this capacity. But, get used to it. You will hear me come back to it over and over. To me, within any organization, every action contemplated should be first measured as to whether it produces value. If it does, proceed. If it does not, why waste time and resources to do it?

I really want everyone to focus on that proposition. Your District will be dedicated to this proposition. And we want you to measure your District activities by that standard. And let us know when we don't measure up.

Our job is to make the District valuable to the Squadrons and its members. But, we need your help. We need to know how we can create that value for you. The best way to start that process is for everyone to gather in Chattanooga on March 7. We will be introducing the "Commander's Round Table". There will be more to come about the Commander's Round Table. But briefly, we would like this to be a major focal point of communication at our district meetings as well as between meetings. It is important for you to be at the Table. See you in Chattanooga.

---Danny Tompkins

A Message from The Incoming Executive Officer

It has always been my belief that changes made, whether small or significant, provide the energy to keep organizations vibrant and exciting. My association with the Power Squadron at both the Squadron and District level has done nothing to change this opinion. With that in mind, I'd like to suggest something to each of you.

This is the traditional end of the term for those of us in one of the Bridge positions in either the Squadron or District. It is appropriate then that we each assess the impact we have had. Ask yourself, "What change have I proposed or helped to achieve over the past year within our organization and how has it worked out?" As the elected leaders in our groups it is our responsibility not to just serve in the position elected and do the expected. We were elected because our comrades felt we had something to offer. We were expected to do more than just "serve". We were to add our ideas in "leading" our organization to better serve our members.



Don't make it a big project. Just reflect back and come up with what you think you did or proposed that changed the organization. Maybe you suggested or helped manage a new event or provided an idea for a dinner speaker. Maybe as Administrative Officer, you found a new dining place for a monthly meeting or a new cove for a raft-up. This change, though small to you, may have a far reaching impact on attendance at dinner meetings or future events.

If each of us make one small change each year, the sum total of changes for the year by all the officers will have been significant. And some of those changes may wind up being the most significant contributors to growing our organization or providing a safer or more pleasurable experience for our members.

Perhaps your squadron has a dinner meeting at the same place each month and has been doing that for several years. Maybe you

A Message from the District Education Officer



If you have students who are studying the old 2002 Engine Maintenance Course (ME 101 and ME102), they will need to have taken the exams for both of these modules before the end of February 2008 (29 February 2008) in order to obtain credit for this course. After that date these exams will no longer be accepted at HQ USPS. After 29 February 2008 the only Engine Maintenance exam that will be graded for credit is the exam for the new single module Engine Maintenance 2007 course.

Look for a New Marine Electronics Course this spring with three modules, any two of which will qualify for the Marine Electronics elective. The new weather course is in beta testing and I'll have a release date for you at the Spring Conference. The new N course will be in beta testing the first of April and will be available to all students who took JN successfully. A review of GPS and radar techniques will be required if the student took the old JN course.

After the Dallas meeting, a "kick-off" of the new BOC Inland Navigator Certification Program will be done. See me at the Spring Conference and District Change of Watch in Chattanooga about this exciting new program!

For those Squadrons planning their Education Programs, please send me a copy of your schedule so we can better coordinate available courses to all squadrons. I may have other students for you to join your classes.



suggested changing that procedure and going to a local restaurant every third month, to see if the monthly meeting attendance improves. Did it? Maybe your membership likes the change and it should be made permanent. If not, nothing lost, go back to the way it was before. But give the new idea a chance to work.

Is the attendance dropping at one of your yearly water events? Maybe it is time to change that event. Add something to spice it up or change where it is held or how it is managed. We all have a natural tendency to "go with the flow" or "don't upset the applecart". Unfortunately, that policy does not lend itself to keeping our organization vibrant and moving forward.



For the new year I ask each of you to instill in your new Bridge Officers the need to make changes, small in most cases, to move the organization forward. Try this approach and see what the results are. Let's not fix something that's not broken, just improve something that's starting to slide.

- - - Mike

Scher



Come to Big Al's Party



This is an invitation you cannot afford to turn down! Al's favorite "Speak Easy" is being readied for your entertainment.

Leave Elliott Ness at home and come in your best duds to dance the Charleston. Check your latest issue of the

-Adjournment

* * Five Minute Break * *

0955-1200

District Conference Meeting Convenes

- Call to Order D/C Janis Owen, JN
- Pledge of Allegiance D/Flg/Lt Edie Oathout, JN
- USPS Pledge D/Flg/Lt Edie Oathout, JN
- Moment of Silence and Invocation P/D/C Norm Oien, AP
District Chaplain
- Opening, Introductions D/Flg/Lt Edie Oathout, JN
- Welcome to Chattanooga
- Roll Call of Squadrons D/Lt/C Molly Cox, AP
- Minutes of Previous Meeting D/Lt/C Molly Cox, AP
- Chief Commander’s Representative R/C Jean Hamilton, SN
- Treasurer’s Report D/Lt/C Jeff Wise, SN
- Secretary’s Report D/Lt/C Molly Cox, AP
- Administrative Officer’s Report D/Lt/C Mike Scher, AP
- Executive Officer’s Report D/Lt/C Danny Tompkins, JN
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Announcements
- Recess Conference until Dinner Hour

1200-1230

“Sitting Down with Jean” R/C Jean Hamilton, SN
National Assistant Secretary

1230-1345

Lunch in the same room as morning business session.
(Will be in the lobby at the breakfast location)

1400-1650

Breakout Sessions- See schedule of afternoon seminars in the “Dixie News”.
Bob McMahan –Wooden Boat Restoration
John Hearn – Fiberglass Repair
Don Grotjan – Cooperative Charting
Jeff Wise – DB2000
Mike Scher – Membership Retention Strategies

Uniform for Saturday Evening - -

Blazer with tie or other appropriate attire.

1650-1830

Hospitality Suite Open *(Conference Room A)*
(This is “free time” until 1900)

1900-‘till

Conference Reconvened
Dinner Served *(Conference Rooms A B C)*
District Commander’s Message D/C Janis Owen, JN
Chief Commander’s Message R/C Jean Hamilton, SN
National Assistant Secretary
Awards D/C Janis Owen, JN
Education Awards D/Lt/C Herman Green, AP
District Education Officer
Door Prizes Chattanooga Squadron
Adjourn Conference D/C Janis Owen, JN

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Sunday, 09 March – Breakfast - complimentary

0900-1150

Sunday Morning Breakout Sessions – Uniform: Casual, comfortable attire
See schedule of morning seminars in the “Dixie News”.
Jean Hamilton – “The Day After Tomorrow”

Mike Scher and Lloyd Cox - "Skipper Saver"
Herman Green & Glenn Cowham - Boater Operator Certification