



Dixie District News

Fall 2007 Newsletter

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

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Friday Evening Entertainment— Scott Myatt



Scott Myatt

Featuring the mellow music of James Taylor, Eric Clapton, John Denver, etc. The list ranges from ballads to folk and blues.

Scott Myatt will be the entertainment scheduled for Friday night at the Old English Inn. Being an art teacher, artist and musician in the Jackson area, he also regularly performs in venues which feature "mellow" music. His focus is the music of artists like James Taylor, Dan Fogelberg, Eric Clapton and a host of other icons of the "singer-songwriter movement" who had their heyday in the seventies. His set list ranges from ballads to folk and blues.

He will be performing some of his selections from a CD he has published. Members will be able to purchase the CD Friday night during a break in his performance. For a song clip of his offerings, go to his web site at <http://www.scottmyatt.com/playlist.html>. The clip opens with classical guitar. Check out his "Song List" (for requests) while you are there!

District 17 Bridge

Commander:

Janis H. Owen, JN

Executive Officer:

Daniel R. Tompkins, JN

Education Officer:

Herman Green, AP

Administrative Officer:

Michael P. Scher, AP

Secretary:

Molly Cox, AP

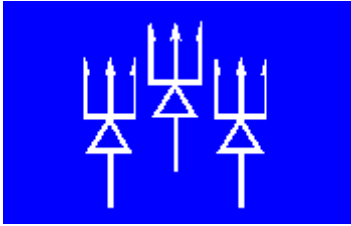
Treasurer:

Jeff Wise, N

Newsletter Staff:

Editor: Richard J. Raymont, JN





The squadrons of this district are our most important resource. Without squadrons, there would simply be no districts. Consequently it is imperative to remember that "the district bridge and its appointed chairs function at the pleasure of our squadrons." You elected us to represent you and to serve you and that is our plan of action; to do as well as we can what you have elected us to do. It is so important that squadrons work together in promoting good will and service as well as boating education and safety. That is our mission for being.

National has told us that we are nearing the lowest ebb ever in membership: The tally was slightly less than 38,000 last month. Hopefully, our organization has bottomed out, or reached its nadir, and is on its way back to a healthy resurgence. How do we do that? How do we regroup and become motivated again?

The answer is simple: GET INVOLVED. We all joined the Power Squadron for some reason. Chances are your reasons may not be the same as mine. That doesn't really matter, though. What matters is whether your reasons for joining are being satisfied. If they are, you're probably going to stick around for a long time and that's good. But if they aren't, you may be wondering why you feel "left out" or not included in the internal workings of our group.

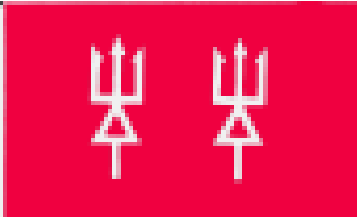
Why are some of us satisfied and some of us not? It is a matter of involvement. Some members have been around for many, many years and others come in just for a year or two. In almost every case, the members who have remained with us are the one who became involved early on and have remained involved.

Care. Care enough to be involved. You'll be glad you did. And we all will benefit from it!

As I write these thoughts, I think of the many activities our district has already been involved in this year. A National Conference will already have been held in Norfolk by the time you read this article. Our District 17 Fall Conference to be held in Jackson will be held shortly. What a priceless opportunity for established members to mentor and welcome newer members into the World of Involvement!

Janis Owen, Commander





Membership is always the hot topic these days whether you're talking about District or National. But at the Squadron level, although membership is high on the list, activities are usually the priority. This is good, because diversity of activities is what will get you new members.

This year I have been stressing the diversity of activities that includes speakers at dinner meetings, public educational courses, member courses, and on-water events. Many of our squadrons have increased activities in one or more of those categories. However, I am most pleased to see the increasing number of multi-squadron events being hosted and the increased participation of our members in this area. These events usually take a couple years to catch on but pay high dividends, not in new memberships but in retention of current members.

Many times the yearly schedule for our individual squadrons will look much like the previous years. Other than the dates, few activities are changed from one year to the next. Why? Because when an event is well attended and liked by the members, we hold on to that event for several years expecting it to be appreciated from one year to the next. And, the incoming Bridge looks at the event and assumes if the same people are running it, there is little new that needs to be done to recreate the success of the past. However, I would suggest that each year the Bridge looks closely at the events for the coming year with an eye toward the participation over the years. Is that participation really increasing or staying the same or has it diminished over the years? Also, look at the new members your squadron has accumulated recently. Will they appreciate this list of events as much as the past members have? The current makeup of your membership roster is most important when deciding the events you want to plan for the coming year.

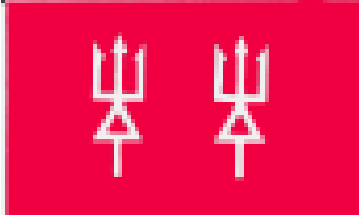
New members require new events. Staying with the old events will cause groups of our older members to cluster together and leave the newer members without the true camaraderie that we are looking for. Without the camaraderie, the new members will drift and not renew the next year and even worse, word of mouth that can produce new membership will accomplish the opposite.

It is essential that your squadron offer something to both your current members and to any prospective new member. If you can't offer something special that he/she can't get somewhere else, something they want, then why should they donate both their time and money to join your organization? That is why the diversity is so important. Everyone is not interested in the same thing. Some may want the education we offer, others might want the water events, and others may want the camaraderie that we can offer.

Check your schedule for the coming year, is your squadron offering the diversity to gain new members? Are you looking at the needs of your newer members? Think about it. Sometimes only small changes are needed in your schedule. Sometimes a water event can become more interesting to your members just by a change of location.

To sum up, I think when looking at membership statistics, the District as a whole is doing a fairly good job when compared to the other Districts. However, we can still do much better. With a little more effort, we might be able to get all our squadrons into the plus column on membership.

See you at the conference



D/C Janis H. Owen, JN has called a District 17 Conference to be held during the period 5-7 October 2007 beginning with registration at 1300 to 1800 at the Old English Inn, 2267 North Highland Avenue, Jackson, Tennessee. The Hotel's reservations telephone number is 1-731-668-1571

Article 4, Section 4.1 of the District 17 bylaws states: "The Conference shall be composed of the Council, the past district commanders of the district who are active members of district squadrons, and the delegates, which persons shall be voting members of the Conference."

Article 4, Section 4.2 further states: "Delegates shall be selected by each squadron on the basis of one delegate for each 50 active members in good standing, or major fraction thereof, as of the preceding March, with a minimum of two delegates per squadron."

Article 4, Section 4.2.3 states: "Prior to each meeting of the Conference, each squadron commander shall submit in writing to the district secretary a list of the squadron's delegates entitled to vote at such meeting."

Article 4, Section 5.6 states: "At any meeting of the conference, 25% of the members of the Conference shall constitute a quorum."

Please send the names of the squadron voters to the District Secretary, Molly Cox, as soon as they are selected. E-mail address is lcox101@comcast.net or mail to 920 Rose Marie Court, Soddy Daisy, TN 37379.

Biography of Chief Commander's Representative**V/C Robert Baldrige , SN**

Robert Baldrige of Baton Rouge, LA joined the Baton Rouge Squadron in 1976 as a college sophomore so his father would let him take the boat out by himself. His first job was on the squadron phone committee. He went on to serve on the Executive Committee, and as Seamanship Instructor, Chairman of Local Boards, Administrative Officer, Executive Officer, and Commander. He continues to serve as Newsletter Editor, Instructor Development Chairman, and Operations Training Chairman.

In District 15, he has served as Computer Systems Committee Chairman, Administrative Officer, Executive Officer, and Commander. His first national job was as a member of the national Computer Systems Committee in the mid 80's. He went on to chair that committee and serve on the Marketing and Planning Committees. He was an aide to Chief Commanders Gordon, Kennedy, and Jensen and has served as the Assistant National Secretary and, now, Secretary. He is a senior member with 22 merit marks.

Married in 1983, Robert and Nancy Baldrige have two boys, Taylor and Noah. The entire family enjoys boating aboard their SeaRay, MUCH ADO, mostly in the rivers and lakes of Louisiana and along the Gulf Coast. Baldrige's eldest son, Taylor, a college freshman, has joined the Baton Rouge Squadron so his father would let him take the boat out by himself.

**UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS DISTRICT 17
FALL COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE 2007
AGENDA FOR JACKSON, TENNESSEE**

Friday, 05 October

Uniform: Casual Dress. No regulation uniforms necessary.

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|-----------|---|---|
| 1300-1800 | Registration | <i>1st floor, Main Area (Follow Lobby Signs)</i> |
| 1600-1830 | Hospitality Room Open | <i>Room 119 in Lodge</i> |
| 1830-1930 | Dinner (Present ticket at door). <i>Served in Courtyard, unless inclement weather. Plan B: Dine in the Byron/Nelson Room.</i> | |
| 1945-2030 | District Conference | <i>Byron/Nelson Room</i> |
| | Commanders' Reports | |
| | Recess Conference till Saturday AM. | |
| 2045-'til | Entertainment: Mellow Folk Music, Scott Myatt, musician
Presenting music of John Denver, James Taylor, Jim Croce, etc. | |

Saturday, 06 October

Uniform G for District Bridge (white open-neck short-sleeve shirt, no tie and long dark slacks.) All Other Members: Uniform G optional: casual clothing.

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|-----------|--|----------------------|
| 0600-0930 | Complimentary Belgian Waffle breakfast | <i>Huntsman Room</i> |
| 0800-1000 | Registration | |
| 0800-0850 | Departmental Breakout Sessions- | |

Complimentary coffee will be available for all meetings during the Conference

****Coffee bar is located on first floor, near front registration area of hotel***

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|-----------|---|--------------------------------|
| 0900-0950 | District Council Meeting | <i>Byron/Nelson Room</i> |
| 0955-1130 | District Conference Reconvenes | <i>Byron/Nelson Room</i> |
| 1130-1230 | "Sitting Down with Robert" | <i>V/C Robert Baldrige, SN</i> |
| 1230-1345 | Lunch – same room as morning business session. (Present ticket) | |
| 1400-1650 | Breakout Seminars | |

Uniform for Saturday Evening: District Bridge: Uniform F (White long-sleeved shirt, tie and long dark slacks). All Other Members: Uniform F optional: blazer with tie or other appropriate attire.

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|-----------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1650-1900 | Hospitality Suite Open | <i>Room 119 in Lodge</i> |
| | (This is "free time" until 1900) | |
| 1900-'til | Dinner | <i>Byron/Nelson Room</i> |
| | Chief Commander's Message | <i>V/C Robert Baldrige, SN
National Secretary</i> |
| | Education Awards | <i>D/Lt/C Herman Green, AP
District Education Officer</i> |
| | District Commander's Message | <i>D/C Janis Owen, JN</i> |
| | Door Prizes | <i>Memphis Squadron</i> |

Sunday, 07 October

Uniform: Casual Dress

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|-----------|-------------------------|
| 0900-1150 | Breakfast Complimentary |
| | Breakout Seminars |

NOTE: Please refer to the next issue of *Files and Profiles* for obtaining a detailed agenda of the Conference. In addition, a detailed agenda will be available at the Conference.

SEMINARS

Good food, good company, comfortable sleeping facilities and great learning sessions! Nine presentations will be available to you in fifty-minute grids .

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SEMINARS

Times	<i>Sir William Room</i>	<i>Sir Winston Room</i>
1400-1450	<p>“Red Right Returning” (Part 1 of 2) Book Review and Discussion by the Author: JOAN CADHAM and Publisher: JUDY ISHERWOOD</p>	<p>“Anatomy of a Riverboat Past and Present” P/C JOHN FARMER, SN Captain of <i>The Star of Knoxville Riverboat</i></p>
1450-1500	Break	
1500-1550	<p>Book Signing (Part 2 of 2) Question and Answer Session Author: JOAN CADHAM And Publisher: JUDY ISHERWOOD</p>	<p>“Overview of Boat Insurance” JAKE HILL, Representative Marine Insurance McGriff, Seibels, Williams Insurance Company</p>
1550-1600	Break	
1600-1650	<p>“Winterizing Your Boat” BEN BIRDWELL</p>	<p>“Boat Operators’ Certification (BOC)” P/D/C GLENN COWHAM, SN Southeast Regional Certifier & D/Lt/C HERMAN GREEN, AP Advanced Certifier</p>

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SEMINARS

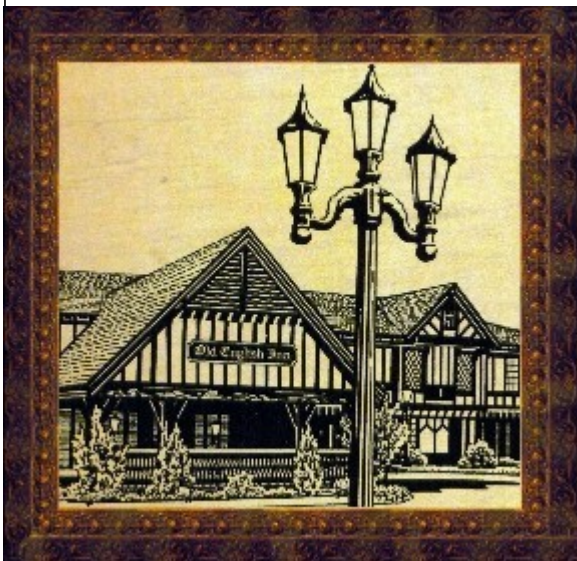
Times	<i>Sir William Room</i>	<i>Sir Winston Room</i>
0900-0950	<p>USPS University Class VHF Communications (Part 1 of 2) D/Lt/C HERMAN GREEN, AP District Education Officer</p>	<p>“Writing an Exciting Article and Putting Zip in Your Squadron Newsletter” Publisher JUDY ISHERWOOD</p>
0950-1000	Break	
1000-1050	<p>“Birdsong Resort” Freshwater Pearl Farm presented by Owners JANIS and BOB KEAST with Discussion Open Session to Inspect Pearl Jewelry.</p>	
1050-1100	Break	
1100-1150	<p>USPS University Class VHF Communications (Part 2 of 2) D/Lt/C HERMAN GREEN, AP District Education Officer</p>	<p>“Cooking Aboard: What Life is REALLY Like!” JOAN CADHAM First Mate and Author</p>

Hotel Information, District 17 Fall Conference

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, eats at least one meal and spends one night in a "sleeping room". Every effort is made to find an area that will be pleasing to all our member at a reasonable price.

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 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*. Darrell Hicks grew up in Louisiana and was taught cooking by his mother. This man knows Cajun Cookin'! He has one of the most hospitable and outgoing personalities imaginable and once you have tasted the baby back ribs he grills you'll follow him anywhere!

Not only will he be grilling both Friday and Saturday nights for us, he has promised to have some **zidico** going on. (For those of us who don't understand Darrell's lingo, I think that word means Cajun stompin'). The Meetings Committee ate a sample of everything you will find on that menu and we all absolutely agree that you will enjoy eating with *The World Champion Cajun Cookers!*

And as an aside, just in case someone is interested, their potato chips are home made, right in the *Cajun Cookers* kitchen.



Chef Darrell Hicks



BREAKFAST, YOU SAY? Betty Shoemaker invites you to join her each morning for a complimentary Belgian Waffle Breakfast in the Hunter's Room dining area. Every morning she arrives very early and mixes the batter from scratch. She did not volunteer the recipe, but we know for a fact that one dozen eggs and one pound of "real" butter goes into each batch of batter. Other than that little bit of information, your guess is as good as mine.

She works six waffle irons simultaneously and can turn out one waffle about every two minutes. Then there are the toppings and whipped cream. Juice and coffee are available as well as fresh fruit and yogurt, cereal and milk, and other items.

If the weather is nice, those of us who wish can dine outside around the pool. The hours are quite flexible during the weekends for breakfast, so those that wish to sleep in a bit will not miss breakfast.

Are you aware that Jackson has a pearl farm?

Are you aware that Jackson has a pearl farm? This is the largest pearl farm in North America! The owners Bob and Janis Keast will be present to talk about their marina, and pearl farm. Remember, everyone, we are talking about October and October is time to be thinking about the holidays. Christmas shopping, yuletide cheer! The Keasts have been invited to bring along a supply of their pearl jewelry, so ladies. .start making a list!

**District 17 Fall Conference, the United States Power Squadrons
Hosted by the Memphis Squadron and the Meetings Committee
The Old English Inn, Jackson, Tennessee
Caterer: *World Champion Cajun Cookers*
Meal Reservation Form**

Name (Print) _____
Other in Party (Print) _____
City, State, Zip _____
Telephone _____
Email _____

Friday Night, 05 October 2007

Dinner - Gumbo
BBQ Shrimp
Sausage with Red Beans and Rice
Steamed Vegetables
Corn on the Cob
Rolls
Dessert—Bread Pudding with Rum Sauce
_____ tickets @ \$22.00 per person = \$ _____

Saturday Noon, 06 October 2007

Lunch - Pulled Pork
Hamburgers
Baked Beans
Potato Salad
Slaw
Dessert—Assorted Cookies
_____ tickets @ \$18.00 per person = \$ _____

Saturday Night, 06 October 2007

Dinner - **Fish Fry**
Caesar Salad
Fried Catfish
Baby Back Ribs
Corn Soufflé
Green Beans
Sweet Potato Casserole
Rolls
Dessert—Assorted Cheesecakes
_____ tickets @ \$24.00 per person = \$ _____

TOTAL SUBMITTED \$ _____

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

Dinner reservations must be received no later than 25 September 2007.
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

USPS District 17
A Unit of United States Power Squadrons
Sail and Power Boating
Dick Raymond
1912 Colice Road, SE
Huntsville, AL 35801



Calendar of Events

2007

4-9 September USPS Fall Governing Board
Marriott Waterside
235 East Main Street
Norfolk Virginia

5-7 October District 17 Fall Conference
Old English Inn
2267 North Highland Avenue
Jackson, TN

2008

7-9 March District 17 Spring Conference
Comfort Inn Suites and Conference Center
6710 Ringgold Road
Chattanooga, TN 37412

19-24 February USPS Annual Meeting
Hyatt Regency
Dallas, Texas

The Dixie District News is the official newsletter of District 17 of the United States Power Squadrons.
Dixie District News is published two times per year.

