



# Dixie District News

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

Spring 2005 Newsletter

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## District 17 Bridge

### Commander:

Glenn W. Cowham, SN

### Executive Officer:

Marshall T. Herron, SN

### Education Officer:

John P. Cook, SN

### Administrative Officer:

Thomas H. Carey, SN

### Secretary:

Fred N. Thompson, AP

### Treasurer:

Janis H. Owen, JN

### Newsletter Editors:

John T. Hering, P

Cheryl L. Hering, P



## When in Rome....

Come one, come all!! Rome is planning another event. Let me personally invite all of our wonderful friends from D/17 to join us as Marshall Herron is installed as D/C. This will be the last district meeting for at least 3 years hosted solely by a local Squadron. On Friday night we will start off with one of our world famous **Toga Parties!!** On your arrival you will each be issued one regulation Roman Toga, you know, just in case someone's toga is tied up at the cleaners. Jim Booker will be back entertaining us for the evening. I hear that some even remember his earlier performances for us.

We will be serving a real **Roman Feast** Friday night, consisting of mixed green or Caesar salad, fresh garlic bread, chicken and broccoli tortellini, baked lasagna, and dessert with your choice of beverage. After dinner and taking care of some business, the orgy will start....ok folks, you must keep your togas on! An orgy is defined as : excessive indulgence in any activity. Some of you might even remember the "Sumo Team Chorus Line" from the last one!

Saturday night we will go formal again with a plated dinner of your choice of succulent **roast prime rib** of beef and baked potato, OR flavorful and healthy **grilled lemon pepper salmon**. Both dinner choices include mixed grilled veggies and the salmon will also be served with another side of the Chef's choice. Of course bread, dessert and beverage will be included. Then we get to the real reason for the conference, the Change of Watch. A cash bar will be available both nights.

(Continued on page 2)

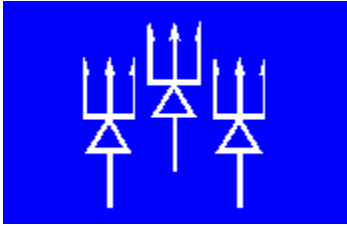
(Continued from page 1)

**Once again we will be at the Holiday Inn Skytop. We will have a discounted room rate of \$63 per night and that includes a complimentary breakfast buffet each morning. For reservations contact the hotel at: (706) 295-1100 or toll free at Holiday Inn Central Reservations at 1-800-HOLIDAY. Be sure to mention that you are with District 17 for our group rate. Reservations should be made by 18 March.**

A map is included below, and if you have any questions feel free to contact me at: [dcbgeorge@aol.com](mailto:dcbgeorge@aol.com) or by phone at (706) 777-3436. I look forward to seeing you in Rome.

Bobby George





My term as Commander of our District 17 is coming to a close. My fifteen minutes in the sun are almost over and I face my retirement with mixed emotions. Any member working the chairs onto the bridge works hard; many times harder than most realize. We strive to make a difference in the lives of the squadrons and we hope we do make a difference. Please know I am proud to be a part of this particular bridge, especially in the role as their commander. I thank those who agreed to be a part of it and who have worked hard this past year making their contribution.

How are you and your squadron faring in working on the Power of One? When was the last time you invited someone to join us in USPS? Nothing works as well as personal contact; each of us probably remembers the first meeting we attended as a new member. That first meeting can be intimidating and it depends upon the welcome whether or not many new members stay in the squadron. Think about it.

On the national level of USPS, the discussed steep increase in initiation fees received so much criticism from the squadrons and districts that the topic was not even mentioned. You might say it was "Dead on Arrival" at the Orlando meeting!

Conversation still exists from the national office, however, about increasing the dues. The increase of dues is being considered to being tied to the Cost of Living. The dues increase will hold an option to increase not more than once every two years, and each increase will be that of one to three percent each time.

The nicest part of the meeting was that District 17 added number of new Life Members to our growing list. These include:

*P/D/C John P. Cook, SN*

*Lt/C Jerry E. Fossum, SN*

*P/C Herman Green, AP*

*P/V/C Herbert J. Rossmeis, Jr., SN*

*P/C John C. Farmer, SN*

*P/D/C Tommy Gray, SN*

*P/C Ed Lopez III, SN*

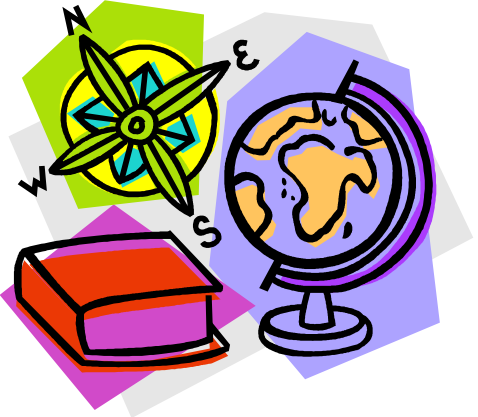
*P/C William C. Swann, P*

What a wealth of knowledge and experience lies within that list. Congratulations to you and thank you for all you do for us.

In discussion with several squadron commanders, the one single item they are continually working on is putting FUN back into meetings and into rendezvous. We saw a great start with this year's District 17 Golden Anniversary; now we just need to keep up the great effort.

Rome will host the Spring District Conference. A report including the agenda and reservation information is included elsewhere in this issue. Please note breakout sessions will again be included. These sessions were so well received in Music City! Thank you, Rome for carrying on with this exciting addition to our meetings.

The National Education Department is in the process of updating the USPS courses – incorporating the electronic navigation methods currently being used by recreational boaters. Last September, HQ stocked the shelves with 3000 copies of the new Piloting course materials. That is more than they had normally sold of the Piloting '94 student manuals in a full year. But they had sold over 2700 copies before Christmas. So a second printing has been ordered. If you have copies of the original printing, there is a download on [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org) for Piloting errata. The second printing has a small 2005 somewhere on the cover.



Meanwhile, the new Advanced Piloting course is available from HQ. It starts where Piloting leaves off, and gets into the use of Radar and digital depth-sounders in locating your position on the water. It also treats tide and current predictions in a sufficiently accurate, yet less rigorous fashion than in the past and methods of correcting for current effects in determining the course to steer and speed of advance.

Over 400 Power Point slides are available on a CD that is provided with the Piloting and Advanced Piloting Instructors Manuals. These can be standardized and modified to meet local squadron needs. "Tech Soup" (on the internet) has the required software at discount prices. Information for contacting "Tech Soup" is available on the USPS web site.

Other boating education Power Point presentations are available on the web – search Google.com using keywords "boating education".

Another recent change in USPS educational policy – examinations may now be administered by the course instructors. No longer is it necessary for a squadron officer to administer the exams. However, the exam orders must still be placed by the SEO, ASEO or Squadron Commander. And, when the exam is completed, only the answer sheets should be returned to HQ. The exams may be retained by the students for reference when the exam results and critiques are returned.

Come to Rome for the Spring Conference and share the new enthusiasm for the revamped USPS education courses. I hope to see you there.

### Your Help is Needed!

D/Lt/C Marshall Herron, SN

Our organization, USPS, is facing major problems that threaten our existence. The symptoms that we have had for several years are declining membership, increasing costs, and declining revenues. All of these symptoms are most likely interrelated ... the causes are unknown and the solutions are only speculations based on the symptoms.

The above statement is dismal, but the positive situation that underlies the statement is that our national leaders are sorely aware of the situation and are not making rash decisions. Our national committees are feverishly working to find solutions through improving our administrative processes and our value added products and services. Our leaders are resisting the normal panic approaches of slashing operational costs and increasing costs to the member.

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## Executive Team Happenings

**D**istrict 17 is doing a lot of things right based on the performance measures of activities within the realm of the Executive Team! We are promoting our organization (money paid out for public relations work), we are actively promoting safety through safety promotions utilizing free materials provided through USPS by the Coast Guard (squadron safety reports), and we are actively promoting boating safety through vessel safety checks (VSC numbers). All of D/17 is working to make USPS stronger and to assure that our great organization prospers.

### We Have Been Heard!

A most rewarding event this year was the participation and the free flowing of great ideas from D/17 squadron officers during the Music City Conference. The suggestions and comments from the executive meeting have been shared with all D/17 squadrons and with our USPS Executive Officer and his team.

Our concepts and suggestions are very much aligned with other USPS districts. A few of the more notable points that our squadron leaders made, which were also made by squadron leaders of other districts include: 1. A major desire for **national public relations work**. Our organization is not well known ... the belief is that it will take national advertising campaigns to help get USPS recognized. 2. Squadrons as well as district leaders desire to have more **direct communications** among all levels of our organization. Direct communications with all levels are considered very easily done with the electronic means that are available and emerging. The good part is that district leaders did not feel that they would lose any importance by having national officers communicating directly with squadron officers ... a great step forward in improving the efficiency of our organization. 3. Easier and quicker processes for **accepting new members**. Major work is underway to improve and simplify the membership processes starting with the "Power of One" program and continuing with efforts to simplify the membership process. There is nothing preventing any member of USPS from bringing a friend into our membership with minimal elapsed time (one to two weeks at most). And 4. **Fun is the key** word that provides the energy to make all of our visions come true! The most positive sign is that our **National Executive Officer, Ernie Marshburn, is listening** and taking action!



### District Public Relations

Becky has been busy helping the squadrons with their requests for funding support through our district 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary program and through our national cooperative advertising program. Those squadrons that have received funding have been working hard to promote our organization. Hopefully, the support funding has helped improve the intensity and quality of the public relations activities.

The national cooperative advertising program runs on an annual year while our districts and squadrons run on a fiscal year basis (April through March). The good news is that we are now eligible for the 2005 funding. Get your requests to Becky quickly.

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(Continued from page 5) Executive Officer Report

The District 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary funding program will end April 1. There is still time to make requests and receive funding support ... we still have allocated funds to distribute!

### Safety Promotion

This year special promotional materials were made available through the Operations Boat Smart Program at essentially no cost to the squadrons. The materials were provided through the US Coast Guard and distributed through USPS and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The only role the district played was to provide information about the availability of the materials. The squadrons had to place their orders.

Based on the safety reports from each squadron, safety was well promoted by the D17 squadrons. Safety promotional activities covered all aspects from posters, VSCs, public courses, boat shows, advertisements, etc.

District 17 was among the districts that had 100% submittal of safety reports!

### Vessel Safety Checks

Ken Farst, D/17 Vessel Safety Check Officer, told me that I was a little high when I suggested a goal of 1,000 VSCs for our district ... he was right! We did not reach the 1,000 goal, but we did surpass (by a tiny margin) our last year's performance with 477 VSCs. Our performance is not in the upper half of the districts, but it is honorable. There are still a few USPS members doing more than 1000 VSC's on their own!



Ken is to be commended for leading our district by performing 57 VSCs. Hopefully we can take Ken's lead and achieve the 1000 mark this year.

A few of our vessel examiners did not complete the required five VSCs to maintain their qualifications. This is not a problem, these individuals can simply start the new year by requalifying. Remember that completion of 10 VSCs provides qualification for a merit mark ... an easy effort for a merit mark!

The VSC program for 2005 is underway (I have already started). If you need materials, contact Ken. Ken will have VSC supplies for our district until the new VSC officer takes office in April.

Please review the new rules from the US Coast Guard with respect to the display of registration and documentation information on vessels.

**Your district Executive Team has been very productive this year. My thanks and gratitude to:**

**Becky Austin – Public Relations and Marketing**  
**Ed Lockett – Legislative**  
**Gene Williams – Cooperative Charting**  
**Ken Farst – Vessel Safety Checks**  
**Frank Wedge – Liaison Officer**  
**Brenda Herron – Operation Boat Smart Project**  
**Mike Webster – Safety Officer**

The National Administrative Department Report to USPS Governing Board, January, 2005 in Orlando, FL included several interesting items. The cookbook, to which many of you supplied recipes, is now available for order and shipment from the Admin. Dept. website. The copy I viewed has beautiful graphics and text. Everyone should be proud to have one in their collection. Membership, as of 12/15/04 was 54,051, consisting of 46,692 regular, 6,295 family, 978 women and 86 apprentices. The Member Benefits Committee has finally concluded a MOU with John Hancock Insurance for a long term insurance policy that is suitable for all members across the country and a 5% discount on the bottom line. Watch for forms to be available soon. The Power of One Program has concluded it's first successful year of a two year schedule. There is a good possibility it will be extended for a third year.

Our Spring Council and Conference being held in Rome, Georgia this year will be the last District 17 meeting sponsored by one of our squadrons for approximately three years. We do not have a Summer Council meeting scheduled this year or for 2006 or 2007. Our Conference Planning Committee, chaired by P/D/C Ben Owen has worked diligently and contracted several "five star" locations for us, room rates will be in the \$65-\$75 range. Meals will also be in this very affordable range. Although the District ConfPlanComm will be officially sponsoring each conference, they will obviously need some local help. As a reminder, to let you mark your calendars, here is the latest District and National Meeting Schedule:

1-3 April 2005	D/17 Spring Conference	Rome, GA
1-5 June 2005	USPS Spring Governing Board	Charlotte, NC
6-11 September 2005	USPS Fall Governing Board	Portland, OR
14-16 October 2005	D/17 Fall Conference	Marietta, GA
4-8 January 2006	USPS Annual Meeting	Orlando, FL
17-19 March 2006	D/17 Spring Conference	Huntsville, AL
15-20 August 2006	USPS Fall Governing Board	New York, NY
1-3 September 2006	D/17 Fall Conference	Atlanta, GA
5-9 January 2007	USPS Annual Meeting	Jacksonville, FL

## Vessel Markings

D/Lt/C Marshall Herron, SN

### DISPLAY OF VESSEL REGISTRATION NUMBERS AND DOCUMENTED VESSEL NAME AND HAILING PORT

#### EITHER STATE REGISTRATION OR FEDERAL DOCUMENTATION

Vessels may ONLY be identified as either a State Registered Vessel or a Federally Documented Vessel - BUT NOT BOTH. When a vessel becomes Federally Documented, the State Registration Numbers and Letters must be removed. However the State Validation Sticker showing proof of paying sales tax may still be displayed on the vessel in accordance with the individual state's regulations.

#### STATE REGISTERED VESSELS

The Requirements Are:

- Use of Block Style letters and numbers only;
  - Letters & numbers must be at least Three (3) inches in height;
- Letters & numbers must be of Contrasting Color (not outlined, shadowed or rounded); if the background is multicolored or patterned, a block out area of a single color may be required to facilitate readability.

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We have competition in essentially all benefits that make membership in our organization attractive. We are competing with other social, fraternal, private enterprise, and government organizations. We have made major changes in benefits for our members such as the major overhaul of our education courses. Yet we continue to hear our members complain about the increase in costs of the new course materials ... a possible influence in the decline in revenue from course offerings.

Luis Ojeda has taken the helm of our National Member Benefits Team. Luis is bringing energy and fresh ideas to ways of providing value to our members. The outcome of Luis's efforts will surely be an improvement in membership growth.

Our National Leaders have taken drastic but successful steps to reduce costs. However, the methods used are very traditional and run the risk of deterioration in programs and services. The fear is that if we take the traditional approach of increasing revenue through increased costs to our members that the membership numbers will fall even further. We are in a dilemma!

We can no longer continue doing the same things better. We must find innovative ways of conducting our business. Hopefully we can find solutions that will not impose increased costs on our members and will not reduce the quality of member benefits.

The solutions certainly exist within our vast membership of very capable people. We must find a way to gather the ideas of our membership and get them into actions. All of us must help by freely sharing our thoughts. Please let your national, district, and squadron offices have the benefit of your thoughts and solutions! Our problems are too large to expect our organizational leaders to solve without our help.

Remember – the only bad suggestion is the one that is not made at all.

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- The Letters and numbers must be separated by the width of one letter or number - not including the number one (1) or the capital letter (I). Use either a blank space or a hyphen and they must be read from left to right. The validation sticker must be visible and placed within six inches of the registration numbers. Placement either in front of or behind the numbers is determined by state regulation.

### **FEDERALLY DOCUMENTED VESSELS**

The Name of Vessel and Hailing Port, to include City and State, must be located TOGETHER on some clearly visible exterior part of the hull. The letters and numbers can be made by the use of any means and materials which result in durable markings. They must be made in clearly legible letters of the Latin alphabet or Arabic or Roman numbers, all of which are NOT LESS THAN FOUR (4) INCHES IN HEIGHT (all characters). This can be either on the Transom or on either side of the vessel. There is no requirement for Block letters or any other restrictions to type or font; or color on Documented Vessels. Abbreviations of both the place (city) and state are acceptable as long as they are recognized by the U.S. Post Office (i.e. NY, NY -- Phila., PA -- Wilm., DE -- Pgh., PA -- Balt., MD -- Jax. Bch.,FL). This is a Federal issue and is not open to enforcement or interpretation by the state. When dinghys are stored on the swim platform or transom causing the Vessel's name and hailing port to be obscured from view, there is no Federal requirement to place the name and hailing port elsewhere. That is a Law Enforcement issue only. However, the requirement to be CLEARLY VISIBLE may necessitate duplicating the name and hailing port on either side of the hull. Stenciling on the bottom of the dinghy is not considered a permanent marking.

**Above reviewed by the United States Coast Guard office of Boating Safety on: 12/16/04**

**District 17 Spring Council and Conference 2005**  
**Activity Schedule and Agenda**  
**Rome, Georgia**  
**Holiday Inn Hotel**

**Friday, 01 April**      ***Uniform: Blazer, tie optional (or toga)***

1400-1800	<b>Registration</b>	Hotel Lobby	
1730-1830	<b>Social Hour</b>	Hotel Lobby	
1830-2000	<b>Dinner</b>		
2000	<b>District Conference</b>		
	-Call to Order		D/C Glenn Cowham, SN
	-Welcome		Cdr Bobby George, AP
	-Commanders' Reports		D/Lt/C Marshall Herron, SN
	-Recess Conference		D/C Glenn Cowham, SN

**Saturday, 02 April**      ***Uniform F***

0800-1000	<b>Registration</b>	Hotel Lobby	
0800-0900	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>		
	- Commanders, Executive Officers		
	- Administrative Officers		
	- Secretaries, Treasurers		
	- SEO's		
0915-0945	<b>District Council Meeting</b>		
	- Call to Order		D/C Glenn Cowham, SN
	- Roll Call		D/Lt/C Fred Thompson, AP
	- Approval of Minutes		D/Lt/C Fred Thompson, AP
	- Old Business		D/C Glenn Cowham, SN
	- New Business		D/C Glenn Cowham, SN
	- Announcements		From the Council
	- Adjournment		D/C Glenn Cowham, SN
0950	<b>District Conference Reconvenes</b>		
	- Call to Order		D/C Glenn Cowham, SN
	- Presentation of Colors		Rome Squadron
	- Pledge of Allegiance		Rome Squadron
	- USPS Pledge		Rome Squadron
	- Invocation		P/D/C Norm Oien, AP
	- Opening Remarks and Introductions		D/C Glenn Cowham, SN
	- Roll Call		D/Lt/C Fred Thompson, AP
	- Approval of Minutes		D/Lt/C Fred Thompson, AP
	- Chief Commander's Message		R/C Darrell Allison, AP
	- Treasurer's Report		D/Lt/C Janis Owen, JN
	- Secretary's Report		D/Lt/C Fred Thompson, AP

(Continued on page 10)

**District 17 Spring Council and Conference 2005**  
**Activity Schedule and Agenda**  
**Rome, Georgia**  
**Holiday Inn Hotel**

**District Conference (continued)**

- |                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| - Admin's Report      | D/Lt/C Tom Carey, SN       |
| - DEO's Report        | P/D/C Jack Cook, SN        |
| - XO's Report         | D/Lt/C Marshall Herron, SN |
| - D/C's Report        | D/C Glenn Cowham, SN       |
| - Committee Reports   | Planning                   |
|                       | Audit                      |
|                       | Nominations                |
|                       |                            |
| - Unfinished Business |                            |
| - New Business        |                            |
| - Announcements       |                            |
| - Retire Colors       |                            |
| - Adjournment         |                            |

1300-1600    **See schedule of afternoon Seminars  
(available at the conference)**

1730-1830    **Social Hour    Uniform A**

1830-2030    **Dinner**

**Sunday, 03 April**

0900            **N Club Meeting  
District Bridge Meeting**



**REGISTRATION FORM**

D/17 Spring Conference  
Holiday Inn Skytop  
Rome, GA  
1-3 April 2005

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Squadron:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday Night: Toga Party!! With entertainment!!!**

Lasagna Buffet \$30/person. \_\_\_\_\_ Number \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Night:**

Prime Rib \$32/person \_\_\_\_\_ Number \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grilled Salmon \$32/person \_\_\_\_\_ Number \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_ Number \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: Rome Power Squadron, Inc.

Send this form and check to:

Bobby George  
P. O. Box 74  
Cave Spring, GA 30124

**Please register by 18 March 2005**

*USPS District 17*  
**A Unit of United States Power Squadrons**  
**Sail and Power Boating**  
 John & Cheryl Hering  
 718 Poet's Corner Way  
 Knoxville, TN 37919



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.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2005

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 4-8 January    | USPS Annual Meeting<br>Orlando, Florida      |
| 1-3 April      | District 17 Spring Conference<br>Rome, GA    |
| 1-5 June       | USPS Spring Governing Board<br>Charlotte, NC |
| 6-11 September | USPS Fall Governing Board<br>Portland, OR    |
| 14-16 October  | District 17 Fall Conference<br>Marietta, GA  |

### 2006

- |             |                                    |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 4-8 January | USPS Annual Meeting<br>Orlando, FL |
|-------------|------------------------------------|