



Dixie District News

Spring 2007 Newsletter

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

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"Hills and Hollows Mountain Music and Storytelling"

Actually Mike and Kathy Gwinn started the "Hills and Hollers Mountain Music and Storytelling". No one living in these beautiful mountains would say "hollows"; only "flat landers" would say "that" word!

Kathy, a former schoolteacher, tells mountain stories garbed in a mountain dress. Mike, in bib overalls, sings and plays autoharp, bass, guitar and dulcimer. Bluegrass and ballads are his fortes.

District 17 Bridge

Commander:

Thomas H. Carey, SN

Executive Officer:

Janis H. Owen, SN

Education Officer:

John P. Cook, SN

Administrative Officer:

Daniel R. Tompkins, JN

Secretary:

Dale Hamilton, AP

Treasurer:

Michael P. Scher, P

Newsletter Staff:

Editor: Richard J. Raymont, JN



They may tell tales of the Walker sisters, six self-sufficient siblings who used to say their mountain land produced everything they needed except soda, sugar, salt and coffee. Their small quiet cabin in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park remains as a testament to their heritage.

(Continued on Page 3)





Boating season is over for power boats, sailors can stretch it out a little longer. Football season is over. Hunting season is just about over. It's cold outside, or will be soon. What can we do now until the Spring thaw? Now is the best time to take one or more of our USPS Elective or Ad-

vanced Grade Classes. Call your SEO and sign up for a class. I guarantee you will be glad you did.

Many of our members, who don't attend national meetings with national ship's stores or district conferences with district ship's stores, miss out on the opportunity to buy quality USPS merchandise. Our members are proud of USPS and are eager to wear our logo, but may not be aware that they can purchase fine USPS products on the web. Now, districts and squadrons can encourage their members to enjoy the quality merchandise available from Ship's Store, spread the USPS name and image, and raise funds as well. The Ship's Store Committee is kicking off its new website, www.shopusps.org. In celebra-

tion, starting 1January2007, when a member orders on-line or by telephone (888-FOR-USPS) and enters or gives their certificate number, 5% of the purchase price will be split between the member's squadron and district. Promotional advertising will be available in THE ENSIGN and on the Ship's Store Committee web site.

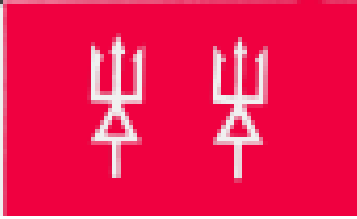
We have just completed one of the most successful Fall Council and Conference Meetings that District 17 has ever had. We had so many people working and completing their assignments with such enthusiasm, it was amazing. You could feel the excitement in the air throughout the building. I have never been so proud of my friends in District 17. It started Friday night with a Western theme party that was fantastic. We even had some people packing iron. Boots, scarves, hats, jeans, a saddle, we had it all. Our silent auction started Friday night and lasted until dinner Saturday night. Some of the donated items from artists in D17 were of a caliber to draw bids in the three figure range. The view from atop Red Mountain at 0800 was spectacular. The afternoon seminars were very well attended and enjoyed by all. For those who did not get to attend seminars Saturday afternoon, most of the sessions were repeated Sunday morning. Saturday night found us celebrating P/V/C Frank Wedge's anniversary of 50 years of membership. D17's own P/V/C Herb Rossmeisl represented our Chief Commander and presented the awards to Frank. Frank and Anita Wedge are such a beautiful couple and their smiles radiated throughout the room. It was a beautiful evening that will be remembered by all who attended.

How could we improve on such a Fall Council and Conference as we just completed? By having an even better Spring Council and Conference! It's time to make reservations to attend the District 17 Spring Council and Conference, 19-21January2007, in Pigeon Forge (Gatlinburg), Tennessee. Come early and enjoy the Great Smoky Mountains. We may even get snowed in! Our seminars are filling up fast and promise to be as good as or better than ever before. Friday will be pure country! Saturday night join us as we have our Change of Watch. We have a hard working Bridge now and we will be installing an even better one. A Commander and Bridge that will carry District 17 on to greater glory.

In 2007 we will be celebrating Rome Power Squadron's 50th Anniversary. Plans are being made to involve as many members of D17 as possible. Watch for information early next spring and join us as we add another jewel in 50-Year Crown of District 17.



Tom Carey



The months since our last district Change of Watch have gone by rapidly. The time has been filled when many activities, both on the water and in meeting rooms.

During the summer months I have seen more rendezvous and cruises with squadrons coming together to share the weekend. The Watts Bar weekend, hosted by the Knoxville Squadron continues to grow with more squadrons participating each year. The Rabbit Branch annual picnic hosted by the Vulcan Squadron has extended its invitation to others and this year Montgomery shared in the day. Atlanta's Color Cruise had an increased number of boats and ended up in Knoxville with additional members meeting for dinner. At least two poker runs were a success this year and the list continues to grow.

These are activities that pull us together and result in great camaraderie; this is what our organization is all about. Combined with our great educational department, District 17 is growing and becoming stronger.

As your district Executive Officer, this will be my last article before the district Change of Watch in January. I have focused primarily on two goals during the past year: that of personally working with the squadron commanders and as a member of the Meetings Committee, striving to deliver higher quality content to the district conferences.

Both goals need more work. During 2007, my goal is to visit each squadron at least once during the year and communicate on a regular basis with each squadron commander. Communication is vital to our growth and success. Sharing of ideas between squadrons results in enthusiasm and then growth of our members.

It is my wish for us to be The Best. We are already well into succeeding. Our goal is to be the most willing, the most caring, the most mentoring.

The Best

Janis

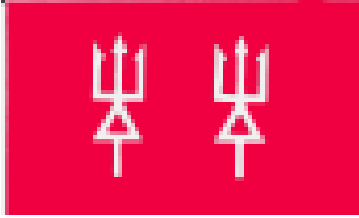
Entertainment (continued from page 1)

Kathy and Mike also may entertain with stories and songs related to the Little River logging camp.

A tour guide in the Smokies with a penchant for research, Kathy says the loggers called themselves "wood hicks", and deemed their cooks "gut robbers." She might also spins yarns about the Cherokees, Mount LeConte and the coming of the national park. Perhaps she'll throw in a moonshine story.

Resident of Sevier County on the other side of the Smokies, the Gwinns often invoke native daughter Dolly Parton in their act. "If I tell the story of her coat of many colors, then Mike sings that song," says Kathy.

"It's like inviting you to our front porch. We want to give you an experience that is truly unique. That is the oral tradition of the stories and the music of the people here that was unique, that you won't find in other places."



D/C Thomas H. Carey, SN, has called a District 17 Conference to be held during the period 19-21 January 2007 beginning with registration at 1300 to 1800 at the MainStay Suites, 410 Pine Mountain Road, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The hotel's reservations telephone number is 1-888-428-8350.

Article 4, Section 4.1 of the District 17 bylaws states: "The Conference shall be composed of the Council, the past district commanders of this 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 5, 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, Dale Hamilton, as soon as they are selected. E-mail address is dale.hamilton@med.va.gov or mail to 160 Compton Road, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130.

Biography of Chief Commander's Representative

R/C Luis Ojeda, SN



R/C Luis Ojeda, SN, joined USPS in 1988 in Puerto Rico. As a member of the Ponce Squadron he has served in most squadron and district offices, including district commander.

At the national level he has served on the Planning, Membership and Vessel Safety Check Committees. Currently he is the Chairman of Member Benefits and an aide to the Chief Commander.

A mechanical engineer by profession, he and his wife Dot (Dot is a former member of the Vulcan Squadron and a Past Commander of Vulcan.) share a love for sailing, fishing and diving in the Caribbean and the United States. They own a sailboat in Ponce and a bass boat in Georgia. When you can't find them in Puerto Rico, you can probably find them fishing in Georgia.

**USPS DISTRICT 17
SPRING CONFERENCE 2007
ACTIVITY SCHEDULE AND AGENDA**

Friday, 19 January

Uniform: Casual Dress (No regulation uniforms necessary)

1300-1800	Registration	Main Area, First Floor
1600-1830	Hospitality Room Open	Pines Room, Second Floor
1900-2000	Dinner Country Buffet (Please present ticket at door) Uniform: Mountain Dress: overalls, plaid shirts, old felt hats, corncob pipes, plain long skirts/blouses and aprons and bonnets. Any apparel that you feel is authentic "Mountain". (Award given to best authentic mountain dress.)	Conference Room, First Floor
1945-2030	District Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Call to Order: D/C Tom Carey, SN ◇ Commander's Reports: D/Lt/C Janis Owen, JN ◇ Recess Conference 'til Saturday A.M.: D/C Tom Carey, SN 	Conference Area, First Floor
2045-'till	Theme: She'll Be Comin Round the Mountain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Entertainment: <i>Hill and Hollows Mountain Music and Storytelling</i> Celebrating the Life and Heritage of the Smoky Mountains with Mike and Kathy Gwinn as our entertainers. 	

Saturday, 20 January

[Uniform: F for the District Bridge (white long-sleeve, with black tie and black slacks.). All other members: F optional; comfortable casual clothing.]

0630-0900	Breakfast (Complimentary)	Main Lobby Area, First Floor
0800-1000	Registration <i>Complementary coffee available for meetings</i>	Main Area, First Floor Breakfast Area, First Floor
0800-0850	Breakout Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Commanders, Executive Officers, Administrative Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaired by D/Lt/C Janis Owen, JN ◇ Secretaries and Treasurers, Co-Chaired by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Secretary Dale Hamilton, AP, and • District Treasurer Mike Scher, AP ◇ Educational Officers: Chaired by P/D/C John Cook, SN 	Conference Room #1, First Floor Conference Room #2, First Floor Pines Room, Second Floor
0900-0950	District Council Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Call to Order D/C Tom Carey, SN ◇ Roll Call D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP ◇ Approval of Minutes D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP ◇ Old Business D/C Tom Carey, SN ◇ New Business D/C Tom Carey, SN ◇ Announcements From the Council ◇ Adjournment D/C Tom Carey, SN 	Main Conference Room, First Floor

 **Five Minute Break** 

0955-1200	District Conference Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Call to Order D/C Tom Carey, SN ◇ Pledge of Allegiance P/D/C Ben Owen, SN ◇ USPS Pledge P/D/C Ben Owen, SN ◇ Opening and Introductions D/C Tom Carey, SN ◇ Welcome to Birmingham Cdr Bob Allen, AP, Knoxville Squadron ◇ Roll Call of Squadrons D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP ◇ Minutes of Previous Meeting D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP 	Main Conference Room, First Floor
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District Conference Meeting Con't.

- ◇ Chief Commander's Representative R/C Luis Ojeda, SN
- ◇ Treasurer's Report D/Lt/C Mike Scher, AP
- ◇ Secretary's Report D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP
- ◇ Administrative Officer's Report D/Lt/C Danny Tompkins, JN
- ◇ Educational Officer's Report P/D/C John Cook, SN
- ◇ Executive Officer's Report D/Lt/C Janis Owen, JN
- ◇ District Commander's Report D/C Tom Carey, SN
- ◇ Unfinished Business D/C Tom Carey, SN
- ◇ New Business D/C Tom Carey, SN
- ◇ Announcements D/C Tom Carey, SN
- ◇ Adjournment D/C Tom Carey, SN

1200-1250 "Town Meeting with Luis" R/C Luis Ojeda, SN

1230-1345 **Lunch** (Present Ticket at door) **Conference Room, First Floor**
Lunch Bar will be outside meeting room for a casual, relaxed setting to enhance mingling, networking and sharing of information.

1400-1650 **Saturday Afternoon Seminars—see page 7 for schedule**

[Uniform for Saturday Evening: A for the District Bridge with bow tie. All other members: A optional; Blazer with tie or other appropriate attire.]

1650-1900 **Hospitality Room Suite** **Pines Room, Second Floor**

CHANGE OF WATCH

1900-2130 **Dinner** (Please present ticket at door) **Conference Room, First Floor**

- ◇ Chief Commander's Message R/C Luis Ojeda, SN
- ◇ Retiring District Commander's Message D/C Tom Carey, SN
- ◇ **Change of Watch Ceremony** **R/C Luis Ojeda, SN**
- ◇ Incoming District Commander's Message D/C Janis Owen, JN
- ◇ Awards District Bridge
- ◇ Door Prizes District Bridge
- ◇ Adjourn D/C Janis Owen, JN

Sunday, 21 January **[Uniform: None. Dress Casual]**

0900-1150 **Sunday Morning Seminars—see page 7 for schedule**

District 5 invites you to visit
Norfolk, VA for the
Governing Board meeting
5-9 September 2007



- **Meet** old friends and make new ones!
- **See Jamestown** during its 400th anniversary celebration!
- **Visit Nauticus** and the battleship Wisconsin!
- **Enjoy** a variety of tours around the area!

See [The Ensign](#) for upcoming information!
*This will be the last Governing Board meeting on the east coast for several years.
Don't miss this opportunity!*

WE HAVE BREAKOUT SESSIONS!

One of the more favorite parts (and growing in its popularity) of a District 17 Conference is that of attending breakout sessions on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. At each Conference a critique sheet is provided to each member in attendance. At the close of each Conference these sheets are collected, each is thoughtfully reviewed and new ideas are born. As much as possible, your suggestions of topics have been scheduled.

Saturday Afternoon

Instead of the usual nine seminars, we will have seven.

1. At 1400, we will host a large general session dealing with the possibility of having a district conference aboard a ship. Many members have brought this idea to the Meetings Committee and we feel this warrants further serious discussion before a decision can be made. Brian Forrester, Vice-President of Sales from Cruise Holidays, will discuss the various ways in which a conference can be held aboard a cruise ship.
2. Janene and Bob Allen - Back by popular demand! The Allen's are from Knoxville where their squadron experienced a 26% increase in membership last year. Bob and Janene tell us how it is done in their area. Come prepared to be inspired!
3. One of Dale Hamilton's stories was published in the *Ensign's* last issue. You may remember Dale hosted a session at our last conference relating to Building a Wooden Boat. At this conference, we will hear about one of his and Gwendolyn's exciting trips.
4. Tim Osborne – NOAA Representative – Topic TBA.
5. Remember the Frank Taylor who presented last year about the Panama Canal? Frank will again entertain us! Topic has not been decided yet but those of us who have heard Frank speak, know that he has an excellent delivery and his delivery will be an enthusiastic one.
6. Dr. Mike Schneider will be back, presenting Part 2 of his adventures in traveling over 3000 miles in his 23' Stingray. He will finish telling his adventures on this trip in "*Bellingham, WA to Glacier Bay*".
7. Herman Green, Chattanooga's SEO, will introduce us to the "USPS University", a relatively new program of USPS. You will remember Herman from the Birmingham Conference when he presented "Teaching Teens" and "Ham Radio's Role with USPS". Many of our members have asked for this presentation.

Sunday Morning

Again, we will host seven sessions, not the usual nine, during the morning.

1. At our first session, beginning at 0900, Eva and Ron Stob, authors of "*Honey, Let's Get a Boat*" and founders of the Great Loop Association will present. They will discuss their book, and the Great Loop Association. They have consented to bring some copies of the book with them so afterwards we can have a book signing session. Eva and Ron are members of the Knoxville Squadron and it is an honor to host a book signing session with them.

SEMINARS (Cont.)

2. John Farmer is back by popular demand. He will present *"Anatomy of a Riverboat, Past and Present"*. You may remember that Captain John is captain of the *Star of Knoxville* riverboat. When he spoke in Birmingham at our last meeting, it was obvious he loves the river and he loves his job.
3. Herman Green – This morning, as he speaks, he will be speaking as District 17 Education Officer. His topic – "Gaining Members Through Education". It will be obvious that Herman loves to teach as much as John Farmer loves his riverboat!
4. Atlanta's Squadron will host a session detailing the activities of their squadron. They have several events that have gained popularity and they wish to share those experiences by inviting other squadrons within our district to join them.
5. "N" Club Business Meeting and Program.
6. The other two are not confirmed at this time.

Hotel Information District 17 Spring Conference

Dates: 19-21 January 2007

Location: MainStay Suites
410 Pine Mountain Road
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863

Phone: (888) 428-8350

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

Room Rates: Queen w/Double Beds 69.00
(Room rate does not include tax)

If you book Wednesday and/or Thursday prior to the meeting, the rate for any extra nights is \$59.00 plus tax.

Amenities: Free local calls
Guest laundry facilities
All rooms include coffee makers, data ports, hi speed internet, newspaper, microwave, iron and ironing board, full size refrigerator with freezer, electric range top, and toaster
Exercise Rooms
Complimentary parking
Public whirlpool/hot-tub



The MainStay Suites



Welcome to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee! Nestled on a 25-acre farm just two blocks off the Parkway in Pigeon Forge, the MainStay Suites was built to accommodate a particular kind of guest to the Smokies. . . a guest who enjoys quietness and privacy, but one who prefers to be within walking distance to all the shopping and conveniences that this mountain city offers.

This facility has everything and more that one looks for when going to the Mountains (Smokey Mountains, that is)! The sales manager has extended the special rates two days prior to the meeting and two days after the meeting to ensure plenty of extra time

to visit special sites, shop (some great bargains can be found), and explore Old Smokey to your heart's content.

The main street running through the city (Parkway) is 0.46 miles away from the hotel. On the parkway can be found independent shops, several shows, restaurants and shopping malls. There are a variety of restaurants and cocktails lounges located nearby. The hotel is within five miles of attractions like Dollywood, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Dolly Parton's "Dixie Stampede Dinner Show" and Splash Country.

The acreage is complimented by a stream running in front of the property plus an amazing view of the Great Smokies. When we were doing a site check of the property this summer, several ducks claimed this area as home and didn't appreciate our disturbing their nice and tranquil life!



The accommodation for the District conference has double queen beds, as seen in the photograph below. Each room is a suite, featuring fully furnished kitchens with full-size refrigerators, ice makers, coffee makers, microwaves, two-burner ovens, dishwashers and garbage disposals. All local calls are free. Data ports and hi-speed internet are also part of the conveniences. And for those who wish to stay in touch with the outside world, a complimentary newspaper is for your use each morning.

Breakfast? Good news. Breakfast is served in an area just adjacent to the main lobby on first floor.

Every morning guests are served a complimentary breakfast of eggs, biscuits, sausage, assortment of breads and pastries, cereals, juices, milk, coffee, or tea. The hotel names this as a "continental" breakfast. We're happy to report to you that the Continent is located within our country and is pretty much re-

lated to a country breakfast.

Winter in the Smokies is certainly unpredictable. We have asked for sunny weather; chilly and brisk, but plenty of sun. But just in case that does not happen, we have Plan B all lined up for our conference!



A bird's eye view of the premises show the spaciousness of the area. The outdoor pools are a thing of beauty during the warmer months. However, we have the cooler weather covered too. An indoor heated pool, and an outdoor heated pool and hot tub are located on the premises. This should be enough to make you start looking at your calendars, marking out those important dates , and start packing swim suits and beach towels.



Now, let's talk about **food**, always one of the more important things we usually focus on. We have two plans for Friday night; either we dine inside at the main building or if the weather permits, we go to Plan B.

Since Friday night will be an **Original Country Buffet** with all the country trimmings, everyone knows that food tastes better if eaten outside. Plan B is to use the MainStay's 1600 sq. ft. Creekside Pavilion that can be enclosed and used year round. It will seat 250 folks and comes with a kitchen and restrooms. It is located just a few feet from the main building, but delivers privacy and the feeling of outdoors. This is one of the newer additions to the property and will be nice to have our Hill Country Friday Night festivities here.



Driving Directions: Travel I-40. Exit 407 to Highway 66 to Highway 441 to traffic light #6 in Pigeon Forge. Turn right at traffic light #6 onto Pine Mountain Road. Hotel is located 0.46 mile on the right.



**District 17, 2007 Spring Conference and Change of Watch
United States Power Squadrons
Hosted by the Knoxville Squadron and the District Meetings Committee
The MainStay Suites, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee**

Name (Print) _____
 Significant Other (Print) _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Friday Night, 19 January 2007 Dinner:

Original Country Buffet

- Pit Cooked Pulled Pork
- Charbroiled Chicken Breast
- Fried Farm-Raised Catfish
- Potato Salad
- Baked Beans
- Corn-on-the-Cob
- Cole Slaw
- Condiment Tray and Extra Sauces.
- Hushpuppies and Rolls
- Blackberry Cobbler with Ice Cream

_____ Tickets @ \$24.00 per person \$ _____

Saturday Noon, 20 January 2007 Lunch:

Beef Taco Bar

- All the Fixin's to Create Your Own Beef Tacos or Taco Salad
- Served with Tortilla Chips and Salsa
- Chili
- Assorted Cookies

_____ Tickets @ \$13.00 per person \$ _____

Saturday Night, 20 January 2007 Dinner:

Prime Rib of Beef with Oven Roasted Potatoes

- Tossed Salad with Dressings
- Asparagus
- Horseradish Sauce

_____ Tickets @ \$25.00 per person \$ _____

OR

Boneless Char-Grilled Chicken Breast with

- Your Choice of BBQ, Pacific Coast or Herbed Seasoning
- Served on a Bed of Rice Pilaf
- Broccoli Casserole

_____ Tickets @ \$23.00 per person \$ _____

Desserts – Carrot Cake or Banana Pudding (Both will be available from dessert table)

TOTAL SUBMITTED \$ _____

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

**Meal reservations must be received no later than 12 January 2007.
Make checks payable to: District 17 Meetings Committee**

Mail check and this completed form to:

Ben Owen
 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



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

2007

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 19-21 January | District 17 Spring Conference
MainStay Suites
410 Pine Mountain Road
Pigeon Forge, TN |
| 20-25 February | USPS Annual Meeting
Hyatt Regency Riverfront
225 Coast Line Drive East
Jacksonville, FL |
| 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 |