



Dixie District News

Spring 2008 Newsletter

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

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Friday Evening
At Big Al's



A Personal & Confidential Invitation

"Big Al" extends a personal invitation for you to join him Friday Night (March 7, 2008) at his private Italian Dinner Club.

His club is tucked away discreetly in the Comfort Inn Conference Center, 6710 Ringgold Road in Chattanooga, Tennessee where he will host the Power Squadron District Bash at seven o'clock.

Your name has been approved by a friend of the family but you must use a password to gain admittance. Be sure to have a nautical term or phrase ready to identify yourself and your party as "legit"

If you feel the need for "medicinal spirits" you may brown bag it, but keep a sharp eye out for those incorruptible US Prohibition Agents !

You are welcome to come dressed to the nine's in your favorite 20's gangster and his doll attire. A prize will be awarded for the best costume.

We'll see you there.

Don't disappoint Big Al because
you realize that *this is an offer
you cannot refuse !*

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





My term as your Commander is just about over. My fifteen minutes in the limelight are almost up. When I was approached to be on the bridge, I felt it was quite an honor and little did I know how fast the time would go before I would be writing this farewell message. This does not mean I will not be around anymore. Over the years as a member of our organization, I have made some very close friends. I intend to continue being very active in our activities.

I face the end of my Watch with mixed emotions. Anyone on the District Bridge works hard; perhaps harder than most realize. We strive to make a difference in the lives of the squadrons we have been asked to shepherd. We hope we make a difference.

For my part, know I am pleased and proud to be a part of this particular bridge, especially in my role as commander. I thank those who agreed to be a part of it and who have worked hard this past year making their contribution. They are truly a great group of men and women; I salute them, I thank them. This could not have been a better quality bridge. We talked often and always worked in harmony. Their hard work has made my job certainly more successful and in an enjoyable way.

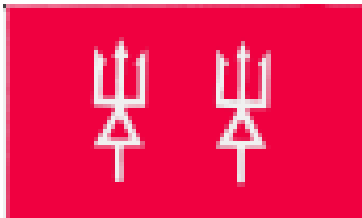
From the earliest days of our organization, we continue to gather as people who find solace in being on the water. We study to be better educated so we may return safely from our journeys. We gather and share meals. We gather as like-minded individuals who profess a love of the water. Given time, we grow to love and respect one another.

Our organization is now in a time of change as it has never been before. Our steady loss in membership has caused us to take a serious look at ourselves. Major changes have taken place within the Educational Department; courses have been rewritten and updated. The Administrative sector has trimmed expenditures drastically, and fat has been trimmed from the budget. The steady loss of membership has not stopped, but is steadily declining.

We, as a working group, are making things better for not only ourselves, but for those who follow in our steps. . . .in our direction.

"I find the great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving: To reach the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it – but we must sail, and not drift, nor lie at anchor." – Oliver Wendell Holmes.



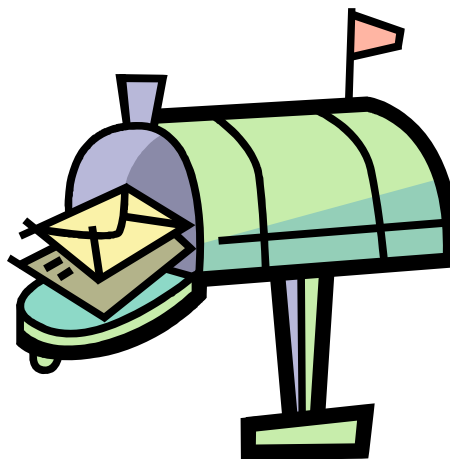


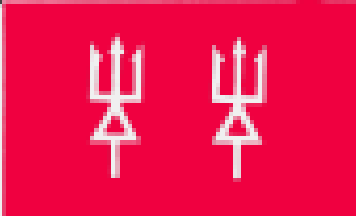
Welcome to a new year. The days on the water are few and far between right now. But we know those days are just around the corner. In the mean time, there is much going on within the USPS. A large group of us will be in attendance at the USPS Annual meeting in February. All of our squadrons are going through that rite of passing the leadership mantel 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 use 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.





Changing the Shape of USPS

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.

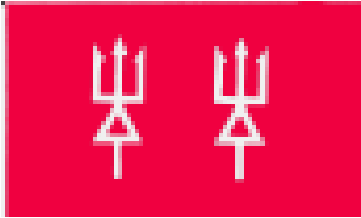
Perhaps your squadron has a dinner meeting at the same place each month and has been doing that for several years. Maybe you suggested changing that procedure and going to a local restaurant every third month, to see if the monthly meeting attendance improves. Did it? Maybe your membership likes the 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.

Each new year is a new start and a new chance to make improvements through new ideas and exciting leadership. I look forward to working with each of you in the next year. Please call on your Bridge Officers whenever you have a question, a need for assistance, or want to talk over a new idea.

Together, let's make this new year even better than the last.



D/C Janis H. Owen, JN has called a District 17 Conference to be held during the period 7-9 March 2008 beginning with registration at 1300 to 1800 at the Comfort Inns Conference Center, 6710 Ringgold Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37412. The Hotel's reservations telephone number is 1 (423) 893-7979

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 cox101@comcast.net or mail to 920 Rose Marie Court, Soddy Daisy, TN 37379.

Biography of Chief Commander's Representative**R/C Jean Hamilton , SN**

When District 17 convenes in Chattanooga for its Spring Conference, Jean Hamilton, National Assistant Secretary will represent C/C Ernie Marshburn, SN, bringing his message to the members of our District.

At the tender age of seven, she attended her first rendezvous and since then, she has pretty much run the gamut in holding offices and actively participating in USPS functions.

Since her life commenced as an independent adult, she has bareboat chartered most of the Caribbean (Windward Islands – Granada, the Grenadines, St. Lucia, S. Vincent; Bahamas – Nassau, Chub Cay, Cat Cay, Andros and Long Island area), Mexico – Cabo San Lucas area, also Tonga and Tahiti and the west coast US out of Long Beach and Catalina.

She says her entire adult life (and many USPS events) has been financed by the Marathon Oil Company where she has worked in various geoscience positions since finishing graduate school. Jean started and is once again working the Gulf of Mexico exploration area. In earlier years, she had many exciting adventures involving rigs offshore. These days, she just sends the geoscientists out that she hires and stays in her office to monitor the wells on her computer!

Recent national positions in which she has served are R/C Weather Committee, R/C Marine Environment Committee and R/C Environmental Committee. In Dallas, at the Annual Meeting, she will become the National Assistant Secretary.

**UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS DISTRICT 17
 SPRING COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE 2008
 ACTIVITY SCHEDULE AND AGENDA
 CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE
 7-9 MARCH 2008**

Friday, 07 March

Uniform: Casual dress or Roaring 20s Costume. No regulation uniforms necessary.

1300-1800 Registration (1st Floor, Adjacent to Conference Rooms)
 1600-1830 Hospitality Room Open (Conference Room A located on 1st Floor)
 1900-2030 Dinner *Italian Buffet* (Conference Rooms A B and C)

Dress for dinner will be Casual. Be prepared for authentic Italian food, music from the 20s and a contest for the best costume.

2030-21 30 **District Conference** Same area as for dinner
 Call to Order D/C Janis Owen, JN
 Welcome and Announcements D/Lt/C Danny Tompkins, JN
 Executive Officer
 Recess Conference until Sat am D/C Janis Owen, JN
 2045-'till Theme: **The Roaring Twenties**
 Entertainment: **"Big Al's Party"**
 Hosted by the Chattanooga Power Squadron

Saturday, 08 March

0600-0930 Breakfast - complimentary

Uniform G for the District Bridge (white open-neck short-sleeve shirt, no tie and long dark slacks.)

All Others Members: Uniform G optional; comfortable casual clothing.

0800-1000 Registration
 0800-0850 Commanders' Round Table -
 Commanders, Executive Officers, and Administrative Officers
 Co-Chaired by **D/Lt/C Danny Tompkins, JN**, District Executive Officer and
D/Lt/C Mike Scher, AP, District Administrative Officer

Education Officers Chaired by **D/Lt/C Herman Green, AP**, District Education Officer

Secretary and Secretaries and Treasurers Co-Chaired by **D/Lt/C Molly Cox, AP**, District Secretary and
D/Lt/C Jeff Wise, N, District Treasurer

0900-0950 **District Council Meeting** *Rooms A B and C*
 Call to Order D/C Janis Owen, JN
 Roll Call D/Lt/C Molly Cox, AP
 Approval of Minutes D/Lt/C Molly Cox, AP
 Old Business D/C Janis Owen, JN
 New Business D/C Janis Owen, JN
 General Announcements from the Council
 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

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE AND AGENDA CONTINUED

♦	Moment of Silence and Invocation Opening, Introductions Welcome to Chattanooga Roll Call of Squadrons Minutes of Previous Meeting Chief Commander's Representative Treasurer's Report Secretary's Report Administrative Officer's Report Executive Officer's Report Unfinished Business New Business Announcements Recess Conference until Dinner Hour	P/D/C Norm Oien, AP, District Chaplain D/Flg/Lt Edie Oathout, JN D/Lt/C Molly Cox, AP D/Lt/C Molly Cox, AP R/C Jean Hamilton, SN D/Lt/C Jeff Wise, SN D/Lt/C Molly Cox, AP D/Lt/C Mike Scher, AP D/Lt/C Danny Tompkins, JN
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. <i>(Will be in the lobby at the breakfast location)</i>	
1400-1650	Breakout Sessions - See following schedule of afternoon seminars.	
	Uniform for Saturday Evening: Blazer with tie or other appropriate attire.	
1650-1830	Hospitality Suite Open (This is "free time" until 1900)	<i>(Conference Room A)</i>
1900-'till	Conference Reconvened Dinner Served District Commander's Message Chief Commander's Message	<i>(Conference Rooms A B C)</i> D/C Janis Owen, JN R/C Jean Hamilton, SN. National Assistant
Secretary		Awards D/C Janis Owen, JN
Officer	Education Awards	D/Lt/C Herman Green, AP, District Education
		Door Prizes Chattanooga Squadron Adjourn Conference D/C Janis Owen, JN

Sunday, 09 March

0900-1150 Breakfast - complimentary
Breakout Sessions – Uniform: Casual, comfortable attire

A few copies of the schedule and synopsis may still be found at the registration desk.

SEMINARS

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

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SEMINARS

Times	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>
1400-1455	Wooden Boat Restoration Presented by : BOB MCMAHAN	Cooperative Charting Presented by: DON GROTTAN
1455-1500	Break	
1500-1555	Fiberglass Repair Presented by : JOHN HEARN	DB2000 (part 1) Presented by : JEFF WISE
1555-1600	Break	
1600-1655	Membership Retention Strategies Presented by: MIKE SCHER	DB2000 (part 2) Presented by : JEFF WISE

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SEMINARS

Times	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>
0900-0955	TBA Presented by : JEAN HAMILTON	BOC & Seminar (part 1) Presented by : HERMAN GREEN & GLENN COWHAM
0955-1000	Break	
1000-1055	Skipper Saver (part 1) Presented by : MIKE SCHER & LLOYD COX	BOC & Seminar (part 2) Presented by : HERMAN GREEN & GLENN COWHAM
1055-1100	Break	
1100-1155	Skipper Saver (part 2) Presented by : MIKE SCHER & LLOYD COX	BOC & Seminar (part 3) Presented by : HERMAN GREEN & GLENN COWHAM

District 17 Spring Conference

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS< DISTRICT 17
2008 Spring Conference and Change of Watch

Comfort Inns Conference Center
6710 Ringgold Road
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37412



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 issue of the "Files and Profiles".

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 Guisepe, an authentic Italian couple who own "The Italian Gourmet".

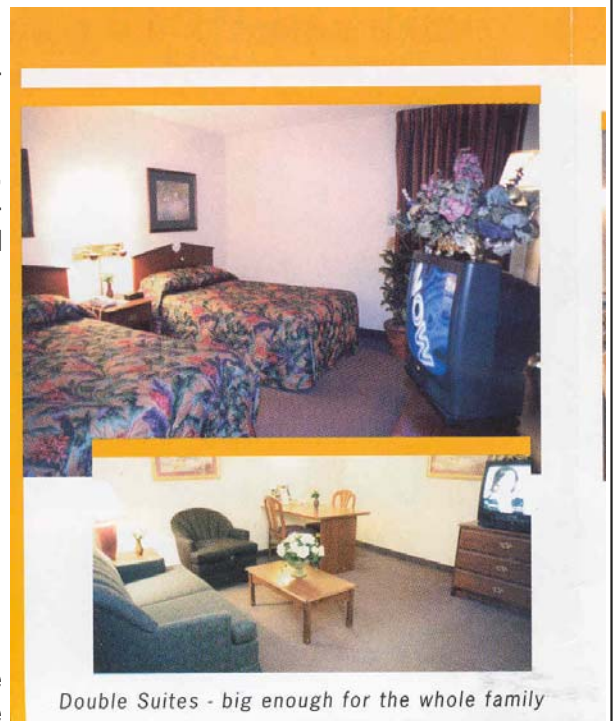
Our Saturday noon buffet will be sponsored by the Chattanooga Squadron, led by their very own Chef Norm Oien.

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 **District 17 Spring Conference** **and Change of Watch** **07-09 March 2008**

Comfort Inns 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.



<u>Room Rate:</u>	King Studio	\$69.99 + tax
	King Suite	\$79.99 + tax
	Double Suite	\$79.99 + tax
	Double Standard	\$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 phones, voice mail and data port
 - Free High Speed Internet Access
 - Fitness center with dry sauna
 - Daily newspaper

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.



Rock City

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!

The United States Power Squadrons, District 17, 2008 Spring Conference and Change of Watch
Hosted by the Chattanooga Squadron and the District Meetings Committee
Comfort Inn Conference Center, Chattanooga, Tennessee

Meal Reservation Form

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

Friday Night, 7 March 2008

Dinner Italian Buffet
Choice of Three Entrees:
Lasagna, or
Pasta with chicken, or
Pasta with roasted Vegetables
Caesar Salad & House Salads
Rolls
Dessert – assorted cakes
Coffee and tea
_____ tickets @ \$22.00 per person = \$ _____

Saturday Noon, 8 March 2008

Lunch - Sub Sandwiches & chips
Salad & Fruit
Dessert - Assorted Cookies
_____ tickets @ \$10.00 per person = \$ _____

Saturday Night, 8 March 2008

Dinner- Buffet:
Carving Station – Smoked Prime Rib & Pork Loin, or
Chicken Chevre
Roasted Vegetables & Twice bakes mashed potatoes
Caesar Salad
Rolls
Dessert - Assorted Cheesecakes & Bread Pudding
_____ tickets @ \$29.00 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 27 February 2008.

Make checks payable to: District 17 Meetings Committee

Mail check and this completed from to:

Lloyd Cox, AP
920 Rose Marie Court
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379



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

2008

7-9 March

District 17 Spring Conference and Change of Watch
 Comfort Inn Suites and Conference Center
 6710 Ringgold Road
 Chattanooga, TN 37412

19-24 February

USPS Annual Meeting
 Hyatt Regency
 Dallas, Texas

2-7 September

Fall Governing Board
 Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center
 Detroit, Michigan

October

District 17 Fall Conference
 Comfort Inn Suites and Conference Center
 6710 Ringgold Road
 Chattanooga, TN 37412

2009

17-22 February

USPS Annual Meeting
 Hyatt Regency Orange County
 Anaheim, California