



Dixie District News

Summer 2003 Newsletter

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

Lt/C David R. Heinzen, S

In This Issue....

Party on Lake Martin	Page 1
District Education Officer's Report	Page 2
District Treasurer's Report	Page 2
District Commander's Report	Page 3
Vessel Safety Program	Page 4
Reginald Tolbert Memorial	Page 4
District Executive Officer Report	Page 5
District Secretary Report	Page 5
Atlanta Conference Review	Page 7
Montgomery Conference	
Agenda	Page 8
Mail-in Reservation Form	Page 9

Party on Lake Martin!

The Montgomery Power Squadron invites you to join us on Saturday afternoon, 2 August, for 4 hours of on-the-water activities at pristine Lake Martin. After the Summer Council meeting adjourns at mid-morning you can choose to take in the many attractions that the city of Montgomery, Alabama has to offer or you can join our Squadron members and our co-hosts, the StillWaters Yacht Club, for fun at the lake.

Bring your own boat if you want to or hop aboard one of ours. Our fleet includes power boats up to 38' and sailboats. The plan is to leave the Stillwaters Marina at high noon. After cruising on the lake (not all 750 miles of shoreline) we'll raft-up in a small slough for swimming or just plain bobbing & burping fellowship. Ask Ben or Janis if they've had any of that kind of fun with us. Or ask "No suit-No problem" Tom Carey!

The air temperature will likely be in the high eighties with water temperatures in the mid-eighties. Remember to bring your swimsuits, sunscreen, and sunglasses. You'll also need to bring your own refreshments and snacks. The water events are free but it's always proper to share drinks and snacks with your boat captain and first mate!

District 17 Bridge

Commander:

Gary S. Meinken, JN

Executive Officer:

Glenn W. Cowham, SN

Education Officer:

Philip C. MacArthur, SN

Administrative Officer:

Marshall Herron, SN

Secretary:

Janis H. Owen, JN

Treasurer:

Thomas H. Carey, SN

Newsletter Editors:

John T. Hering, P

Cheryl L. Hering, P



I have been elected for another term as your DEO. I had the job from 1997 to 1999 and then Tom Carey took over in 2000 to 2002. Tom did a great job as a good communicator and as DEO. This year my assistant is Edie Oathout from Music City. Edie has just completed commander of that squadron and is a very active and enthusiastic person..

I have just returned from the New Orleans Governing Board. There used to be a closed meeting for the DEO's to discuss the problems they were having. This year it is was changed to Instructor Certification Policy by the Instructor Development Committee.

Instructor Certification Policy

The educational department Instruction Certification Policy has been endorsed by OCom. The policy can be viewed on the IDCom web page. <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/>

Many SEO's have already submitted current instructors for initial four-year certification under the grandfathering clauses and the instructors have receives their wallet sized certification card.

Instructor Certification Seminar

The completion of the Instructor Certification Seminar Program will help our Instructors become the best they can be. This will help all active instructors, providing more ideas to add interest and excitement to their classroom and to improve the learning experience.

At the Fall conference we will schedule an Instructor Certification seminar. All Instructors are to be certified by 2006.

Chapman Award

Please encourage your squadrons to recognize their outstanding instructors. As we continue to provide ways to improve the skills and effectiveness of our instructors, it becomes even more important to reward them for a "job well done".

District Treasurer's Report

D/Lt/C Thomas H. Carey, SN



The main issue of our upcoming Council Meeting 01-02 August 2003 in Montgomery, Alabama is to discuss and develop a District budget. This budget will take effect 1 April 2004 and will run through 30 March 2005, and is to be presented to the Fall Council and Conference 10-12 October 2003 in Tunica, Mississippi.

Our District Commander has assigned to me the task of assembling a preliminary budget. I am pleased to do so along with other members of our Budget Committee, Glenn Cowham, Janis Owen, Marshall Herron, and Gary Meinken. The usual budget items will be included, but we have one exciting item to plan for in 2004. On 8 November 2004, District 17 will be FIFTY YEARS old. We will want to include the celebration as an extra item in our budget.

I am asking for any and all input, suggestions, comments, etc. from all D17 members on any budget items, but especially our 50th anniversary celebration. Is there anything we should eliminate, add in, or change? Any ideas on how we should celebrate? I promise you that all comments and suggestions will be gladly received and considered by the Council.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Montgomery.

When you receive this newsletter you will, no doubt, have started your boating season and have renewed your membership because you believe in what USPS is doing. As your representative, I attended the National Governing Board this past May in New Orleans. Much was accomplished and even more issues were brought up. Some of the items discussed at New Orleans are:

A National Cookbook will be published in July 2004 and will be called "By Land/By Sea Cookbook" and will sell for about \$20. Please, lets send in at least one recipe from each of our squadrons. Please send them in to D/Lt/C Marshall Herron. His email address is marshallherron@attglobal.net.

A newly-created "Power of One" committee will begin presenting awards in 2005 to members who bring in new members.

In 2006, we will start having only two Governing Board meetings instead of the present three meetings.

National will hold a "Job Fair" at the Expo at the Annual Meeting to recruit members for positions on the national committees.

Our Boat Smart instructors will be required to have Instructor Certification by January 2006, as required by NASBLA. Instructors will need to be re-certified every four years. You will hear more on this topic from our DEO Phil MacArthur.

There are several items affecting District 17 directly. Our District received 200% more VSC decals than last year, and each squadron got 125% more than last year. Our District's resolution on Default Proxy Voting was defeated. The National resolution, "Headquarter Collection and Anniversary Billing", has been raised once again. A motion was passed to hold a beta-test with 2 to 4 districts to test if this will work. The by-laws were changed to accommodate this beta-test. District 17 will not be involved in the test.

In an upcoming issue of *The Ensign* magazine, there will be a pull-out spread on Reno to encourage attendance at this year's Fall Governing Board meeting. Past District Commanders and Past District Education Officers can now wear name tags indicating their status as past district officers. The resolution to charge a registration fee at District conferences to pay for meeting room and other hotel charges has been deferred to the Reno Governing Board meeting. Merit Mark submissions will continue to be due on 15 November. The resolution to change this date to 15 March was defeated.

So, all in all, a lot is happening in USPS. And this is only the tip of the iceberg! I hope all of you will be coming to Montgomery, Alabama this 1-2 August for the Summer Council and Rendezvous. This will be a fun time, including some time on the water. Please mark your calendars now and make your reservations to attend TODAY!

Have a safe and fun-filled summer. I look forward to seeing you when we convene in Montgomery.

See ya there!



Dear VSC Program Leaders,

Hopefully I have contacted you all as the new VSC District 17 Chairman. I am very excited about this program, and what fun and opportunities it has provided for my Rome squadron!

The VSC exam is the best service we can provide to our fellow boaters! It's free, it's informative, it's fun, and we can prevent many future boating accidents. Many boaters who want to know more enroll in the "Safe Boating Course" and become members of the USPS through our squadrons. What better way is there to meet new friends and open up our doors to "Education, Participation, and Fun Family Recreation"!



Fun and self-gratification are the two most important experiences we get as VSC Examiners. Now let's get moving! Here are some helpful hints:

1. Get your members involved. While the VSC text may appear overwhelming at first, it really is not. It's mostly common sense. Give the test, and if at first it is not passed, the member can retake it and learn from their mistakes. Remember: if an examiner can't seem to recall a ruling, there are always "cheat sheets" on the back of the exam form or they can refer to the manual. The more exams performed, the more confident the examiner. Remember, this is a fun experience in which the boater is not fined nor reprimanded! In fact, BoatUS and West Marine stores will give a 15% discount for those items a boater needs to purchase to make them safety compliant.
2. Go ahead and contact your local marinas. Set up a date for your VSC exams. My marina loves to see us come! They will include you in their statement mailings or newsletters. A great place to set up a base of operations is the gas dock, but clear this with the marina as you do not want to tie up this area. If it gets hot, covered docks are a great place to carry out your exams.
3. Contact Bass or other fishing clubs. Give them a little talk of what our VSC program is all about and arrange an exam. Remember, a bass tournament is not a good place to contact them!
4. Contact off-water sites such as Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Kroger, etc. and have them advertise you as an off-water exam. We haven't tried this yet, but it may work very well. You could very well enroll new members this way through the "Boat Smart" course.

My goal is to have every squadron active in the VSC program. It is a fun program and has been proven to increase squadron membership. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your individual needs at 706-235-6947 or by fax at 706-232-8658.

The Memphis Sail and Power Squadron was saddened recently by the death of past member Reginald Tolbert, husband of Charlese. Reg had been in an assisted living facility for the past several months, suffering from Alzheimer's. Charlese cared for him at home prior to this until it became beyond her capability to do so. Reg was a sailboater and very active in the Memphis unit for many years. After his retirement they traded "sailing" for a cabin cruiser. The cruiser became too much to keep up with so they got out of boating. He was a Past Commander of the Memphis squadron. He had retired as finance officer of Dover Elevator. We know his many friends in the District will miss him.

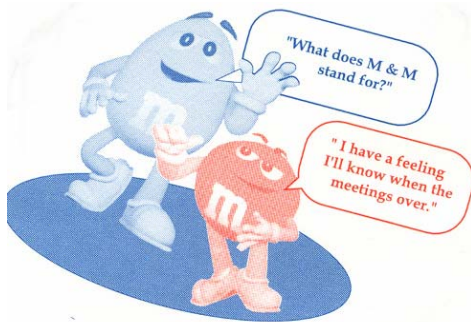
Chuck Stone, P

Several District 17 members have just returned from the Governing Board in New Orleans. I had a great time and I learn something every time I am in attendance at a National USPS meeting. I will not give an account of the meeting; that will be supplied elsewhere in the newsletter for you. But renewing acquaintances and discussing activities within other districts is always interesting. It seems some situations within Districts is pretty much universal. At one of the sessions, round table discussions were presented and it was interesting to observe and evaluate the different angles the participants at our table projected in problem solving.

It is also fun to be with the group from D17 and I must admit I did not see anyone trying to embarrass themselves. However, we do not know what goes on "behind closed doors" and New Orleans is a big ole place! I may also add "New Orleans is also an expensive place".

Big question: Have you found your compass yet? And if so, do you have it in front of you to ascertain the direction of your travel? **You need that compass to verify you are heading in the direction you wish to go.** Are you working with your squadron to support the mission statement of USPS? Now that would be a great direction to work toward. You ask, "What mission statement?" I will re-state it for us, "To promote recreational boating safety through education and civic activities while providing fellowship for our members." We need to keep this in sight; it encompasses the three sides of our triangle: self education, civic service and fraternal boating within our organization. If help is needed in any of these areas call on someone to help you. One of the main reasons we have a District bridge is to assist with information collected from other squadrons, locally and in different districts, profit from it and return it back to the squadrons. Use our committee chairmen; let us work for you; that's what we're here for!

Have you seen this yet and do you know what it means? Be on the look out for it.



I look forward to seeing you in Montgomery .

New Orleans is a city filled with history, excitement, and color. It is a city filled with visitors and great food and lots of water for our boats. It is a great city to visit; but it is not a great city to visit during the summer months. During the USPS meeting held there last month, the weather was extremely hot and humid for early May. Walk one block in any direction and suddenly a visitor to the city is drenched in sweat and depleted of energy. But the folks who live in New Orleans were just super hosts and did every nice gesture to make our stay memorable. And besides, a vast amount of various liquids are available in New Orleans to quench that thirst!

Although many committee meetings were held Wednesday and Thursday, Friday began the departmental meetings that were open to the general membership. These meetings began as early as 0800 and ran steadily until 1745; the amount of information made available to us was enormous. Six hundred members were registered when the Governing Board assembled at 0930 on Saturday, 10 May. Everyone who was

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

eligible to vote had the voting card ready and business began.

I will only touch upon the specifics of issues brought before the Governing Board for voting or other important facts.

1. Governing Board Meetings – A national meetings task force was appointed by the Chief several months ago to study the issue of how many times per year the Governing Board should meet. This committee recommended changing from three to two meetings per year. This was voted on, passed, and the National Bylaws will now read as follows:

Section 9.4.1: “Regular meetings of the Governing Board shall be held immediately prior to and immediately following the annual meeting and **until 2005** on two other occasions each year, neither of which shall occur within 75 days of any other regular meeting. **Beginning in 2006 a Governing Board meeting shall be held on one other occasion not within 120 days of an annual meeting.** Meetings shall be held at such time and place as the Governing Board shall elect.”

The reasoning the task force used in their recommendation was that the organization would be saving \$75,000 annually. The plan will be to maintain the same number of meeting hours per year by increasing each meeting by at least one day. That would also allow more time for specific committees to meet.

The following schedule of National Meetings had already been put into place prior to the above vote:

2003	3-7 September	Fall Governing Board	Reno, NV
2004	14-18 January	Annual Meeting	Orlando, FL
	19-23 May	Spring Governing Board	Pittsburgh, PA
	8-12 September	Fall Governing Board	Jacksonville, FL
2005	5-9 January	Annual Meeting	Orlando, FL
	1-5 June	Spring Governing Board	Charlotte, NC
	6-11 September	Fall Governing Board	Portland, OR
2006	4-8 January	Annual Meeting	Orlando, FL

**** The meeting held AFTER the 2006 Annual Meeting will begin the two meetings annually. The location will be New York City, but I do not have the month it is to be held yet.

2. Resolution from District 13 – “It is therefore the resolution of D/13 that the requirement of the Operations Manual be changed to **allow a past district commander or past education officer to wear a name tag indicating their status as past district officers.**” This vote **passed**.

3. Resolution for District 17 - “That the national Bylaws should be amended to include a default section for the voting process at national Governing Board and Annual Meetings **for those squadrons who do not respond to requests for proxies and do not designate an alternate voter for the squadron commander. That if no proxy is submitted by a squadron for the national meeting the district commander, by default, will receive a voting card for each of those squadrons.**” This vote was **defeated**.

4. Resolution for District 22 – “That merit marks will be submitted once a year **And the date of submittal will be no later than 15 March. The merit mark year will remain the calendar year. There will be no need for supplemental merit mark reports.** “ This vote was **defeated**.

5. **Resolution for District 31** – “That Section 20.25 of the Operations Manual dated 9/02/2002 be elimi

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

nated. **This resolution would allow districts to charge a registration fee at district conferences to pay for the charges for meeting rooms and other hotel items**". This vote was defeated.

The knowledge I gain by networking with members all across the country makes the trip worthwhile. I bring back home with me new ideas and plans and motivation to do a better job. I listen to stories of failures, of poor member retention and difficulty in recruiting members. Then we discuss success stories, someone thought of an idea that really worked and shared it. This is what our organization is all about; to promote safe boating and think of new and imaginative ways to do it.

Looking forward to seeing you in Montgomery! And to the newsletter editors: "Let me know if you would enjoy scanning some of the newsletters published across the country. I have several on file I will be happy to share with you."

Atlanta Conference Review

D/Lt Cheryl L. Hering, P

The Spring Council for District 17 was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Atlanta, GA. If you have never attended a district meeting you need to try and go sometime. It's a great opportunity to meet people from throughout the District.

On Friday, 28 March we enjoyed a lovely Italian buffet and then after dinner we heard reports from each of the 13 squadrons, that make up District 17. Ben Owen, SN then introduced the representative from National, R/C Joe Mesenburg, SN.

On Saturday, 29 March the conference began in the morning. R/C Joe Mesenburg, SN, Chair of the National Finance Committee was present representing the Chief Commander, Ted Smith, SN. Joe Mesenburg delivered the Chief's message to District 17. The Chief's message focused on the Strategic Planning Process and told the group that this upcoming year will be the "M & M" year, focusing on Marketing and Membership. Another, interesting tidbit is that a USPS Cookbook is being worked on entitled, "Now You're Cooking!".

After R/C Mesenburg's presentation, we heard reports from all the District 17 Bridge Members, reviewing their position for the past year, and then it was on to the new business. A movement was made to, "increase the District dues to ten dollars for active members and six dollars for additional active. These dues increases to be activated during the next year, 2004." The motion was made by P/D/C Bob Leathers, AP. Second to the motion was made by P/C Jesse Reed, AP. The motion was discussed and a vote was placed with 25 ayes, and 14 nays. The motion carried and will be put into effect next year, 2004 with the proposed budget.

Saturday evening was the Change of Watch. The evening started out with a wonderful meal, followed by the Change of Watch ceremony, conducted by R/C Joe Mesenburg, SN. To top off a wonderful evening the new D/C Gary Meinken, JN hosted a farewell roast to outgoing D/C Ben Owen, SN. I know that everyone that was present at the Atlanta Spring Conference has "Ben Rememberin" what "Ben Be Doin?" Great job, Gary on a wonderful ending to a fantastic weekend!



**UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRON
DISTRICT 17 SUMMER CONFERENCE
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
1-2 AUGUST 2003
ACTIVITIES**

Dress code for the Weekend:

Friday night
Blazer or Mufti

Saturday
Casual

Saturday night
Casual

Friday, 1 August 2003

1500-1800 Registration
1700-1900 Hospitality Suite (set-ups only)

1900-2100 Dinner Buffet

Main Lobby
Suite 102

Salon A, B, C

Saturday, 2 August 2003

0600-0800 Breakfast Bar & Registration

0800-1045 District Conference
-Call to order
-Roll Call
-Welcome to Montgomery
-Approval of Minutes
-Fall Conference Information
-Spring Conference Information
-Committee Reports

-Membership Report
-Budget Proposal 2004-2005
-Old Business

-New Business
-General Announcements
-Adjournment

1045-1200 Lunch on your own and travel time to Lake Martin

Main Lobby

Salon A, B, C
D/C Gary Meinken, JN
D/Lt/C Janis Owen, JN
Cdr. Tommy Shaw, S
D/Lt/C Janis Owen, JN
Memphis Squadron
Muscogee Squadron
Rules, Audit, Planning &
Nominating
D/Lt/C Marshall Herron, SN
D/Lt/C Thomas Carey, SN
USC, Nat'l Safe Boating Week,
National Roster
District 50th Anniversary

D/C Gary Meinken, JN

Activities of Choice:

1200-1600 -Cruising & Raft-up
Passenger space or your boat
OR
-Visiting Historic Montgomery

StillWaters Resort Marina
Lake Martin, Dadeville, AL

Montgomery, AL

1600-1700 -Return to Montgomery
1700-1830 -Hospitality Suite
1900-2100 -Dinner on your own

(set-ups only) Suite 102
Copeland's Restaurant

2100 -Adjourn

D/C Gary Meinken, JN

**DISTRICT 17, 2003 SUMMER COUNCIL
RESERVATION and REGISTRATION**

**UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS
DISTRICT 17 SUMMER COUNCIL
SPONSORED BY THE MONTGOMERY POWER SQUADRON
RAMADA INN – MONTGOMERY EAST
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
1-2 AUGUST 2003**

DINNER RESERVATION FORM

Name _____ Spouse _____

Street Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Office Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Dinner buffet includes Roast Beef, Catfish Filet, and Roast Breast of Turkey. Also includes garden salad, fruit salad, green beans, black-eyed peas, glazed carrots, oven-roasted new potatoes, rolls, iced tea, coffee and apple cobbler.

Price \$27.00 includes tax and gratuity.

TOTAL SUBMITTED \$ _____

Dinner reservations must be received not later than----28 July, 2003
Make checks payable to the Montgomery Power Squadron.

Mail dinner reservations and checks to

Lt/C Jerry Fossum
3515 Edgefield Road
Montgomery, AL 36111-2214
(334) 288-3816
e-mail: pjpossum@worldnet.att.net

If staying at the Ramada Inn-Montgomery East, please check here _____

Room reservations at the special rate of \$57 per night plus tax must be made with the Ramada Inn at 1355 East Boulevard (Eastern By-pass), Montgomery, Alabama, 36117 not later than July 10th to qualify for that reduced rate. Phone (334) 277-2200 or 1-800-240-2200 (Reservations-Hotel Direct).

You must mention the Power Squadron to get the special rate at the time of booking.



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 three times per year.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2003	
28-30 March	D/17 Spring Conference Atlanta, Georgia
07-11 May	USPS Spring Governing Board New Orleans, Louisiana
01-02 August	D/17 Summer Council Montgomery, Alabama
03-07 September	USPS Fall Governing Board Reno, Nevada
10-12 October	D/17 Fall Conference Tunica, Mississippi Hosted by the Memphis Squadron
2004	
14-18 January	USPS Annual Meeting Orlando, Florida