



INTERLAKER®

The District 9 Newsletter

A Division of United States Power Squadrons® Sail and Power Boating

SPRING 2010



1973



1973



1965



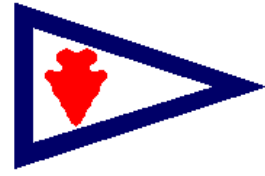
1963



1954



1916



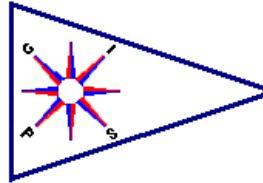
1957



1940



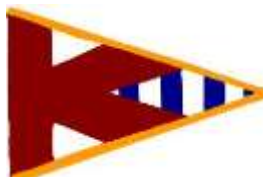
1947



1940



1939



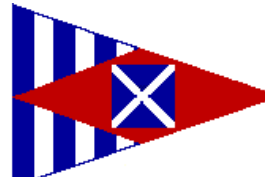
1948



1957



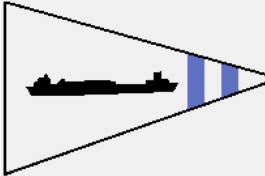
1951



1959



1944



2002



2002



1939



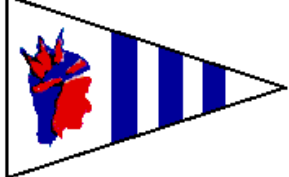
1959



2002



2002



1955

In All Our Finery!
District 9's 23 Squadrons
How many can you name?

Commander
D/C Bryan L. Bartlett, SN
50755 Montana Avenue
Novi, MI 48374
(248) 514-8235
E-mail:
blbartlett54@hotmail.com

United State Power Squadrons® District 9 Bridge

Executive Officer
D/Lt/C James L. Draper, JN
2279 Melody Lane
Burton, MI 48509
(810) 744-1252
E-mail:
paradyne4@comcast.net

Educational Officer
D/Lt/C Donald C. Fiander, SN
581 Kingsley Trail
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
(248) 642-2789
E-mail:
dcfiander@aol.com

Administrative Officer
D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, JN
5465 Jessalee Circle
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 349-4935
E-mail:
jensene@msu.edu

Secretary
D/Lt/C Robyn D. M. Levene, AP
5093 Swallow Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(269) 372-1782
E-mail:
rbynlevene@aol.com

Treasurer
D/Lt/C William A. Stano, JN
20040 Ghesquiere Court
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
(313) 343-5602
E-mail:
wstano@comcast.net



CPR/AED **Learn How to Save a Life!**

See page 13 for details

Right here, at the conference!
Check out the
location in the
seminar schedule.



Photo by LeRoy Strey

Interlaker® Spring 2010 **Conference Information Locator**

National Representative's Biography.....	10
Host Commander's Message	11
Conference Registration Form	12
Hotel Information	12
Nomination Report and Résumés	14-18
NEW! Squadron Articles.....	21-22
Seminar Schedule	23

Editor, D/Lt Vera A. Blake, AP
vera@veeay.net

Need a newer (free) copy of *Adobe Acrobat Reader*?



Click the button just as described above.
(You will be redirected to <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>)

REMEMBER, if you need a printed copy mailed to you, please contact your **Squadron Secretary** or **Commander** (Assuming you are reading this thanks to a Good Samaritan techie somewhere, of course!)

Call to Conference

The **2010 District 9 Spring Conference** will convene at **1315, 20 March 2010** at the **Marriott, Southfield, Michigan**. The meeting follows a program of morning seminars for the purpose of acting upon matters as set forth below.

1. To receive and act upon reports of committees and officers.
2. To consider and act upon any other business that may come before this meeting.

Seminars and the conference are open to all members of District 9.

No member is required to pay a fee to attend.

Uniform of the Day: Uniform F , USPS® blazer or appropriate attire.

Message From the Helm
District Commander
Bryan L. Bartlett, SN

As we progress from the first decade of the 21st century into the second, United States Power Squadrons[®] faces numerous challenges. Issues from membership recruitment and retention to structural changes within USPS[®] itself are being examined, with solutions to potential problems being proposed and implemented. We came into the 1st decade of this century with a Governing Board making National decisions, and left it with a Board of Directors. The Co-Op Advertising reimbursement available from USPS[®] to a squadron in a given year will now be based on the amount of Educational Department materials purchased by that squadron from USPS[®] in the previous year. Although it is usually described as a conversion from a member driven organization into a marketing driven one, most of the changes are structured to make USPS[®] function like a business rather than a club.

What this business plan means for the average squadron is that it will need to function more as a franchise of USPS[®] than as a local boating club. Most squadrons are already 501(c)(3) corporations, and the very nature of a squadron's organization, while setup like a ship, has the structure of a business. As a member based organization, the form in which USPS[®] has been historically structured, the members of a squadron, who are in effect the squadron's employees, would carry out the stated mission of USPS[®], conducting basic boating classes for the public and encouraging membership in USPS[®]. In exchange, USPS[®] would provide advanced education and other benefits to the squadron's members. With the redesign of USPS[®] as a marketing based organization, which intends a major source of income to be the sale of educational materials, both by direct sale, and through squadrons via its members, a primary mission of a squadron becomes the sale of all levels of educational material, from seminars to navigation, to the public. This is why the new Co-Op Advertising program is designed the way it is. The question is whether the average squadron has the talent pool and number of members to be able to accomplish this effectively.

For many, the solution will be to join forces with neighboring squadrons to spread the effort among a greater number of members than belong to the average squadron. It is hard for one squadron to possess the number of members, and degree of expertise needed, to effectively conduct all the subjects in the current USPS[®] educational program. Multiple squadrons however, working together and spreading the subjects between them, with each squadron providing the expertise and instructors in specific areas, have a far better chance of accomplishing a goal which will benefit both themselves and USPS[®] as a whole. With some exceptions, however, this is not something the squadrons of USPS[®], the vast majority of which display long histories of individuality and pride, have traditionally done.

USPS[®] has always been an organization with a deep regard for tradition. It has been supported in the decades since World War II by dedicated individuals, many of whom have donated what amounts to a lifetime of service. What must be remembered, however, is that the individuals who consider joining now and in the future will often have interests and needs which differ substantially from those of the individuals who originally set up the squadrons to which we belong. To encourage these individuals to join our squadrons, and to maintain USPS[®] as a whole, we need to develop goals and methods which are based on what we need to do in the future, rather than what we have traditionally done in the past, for it is an organization's tradition of survival, by adapting to the needs of the future, which is the most important tradition of all.

D/C Bryan L. Bartlett, SN



Photo by LeRoy Strey



Photo by LeRoy Strey

Executive Officer
D/Lt/C James L. Draper, JN

As I write this there are only two more Changes of Watch currently scheduled out of 23 squadrons in District 9. It's been a busy season with various members of the District 9 Bridge traveling all over the state of Michigan and even dipping into Indiana to swear in the new squadron officers in South Bend.

As the District Executive Officer, a.k.a. DXO, one of my duties this year has been to coordinate the squadron Changes of Watch (COWs) and Commanders' Balls to insure that a District Representative from the Bridge was present. Sounds easy but the devil as usual is in the details. When I was commander of the Flint squadron in 1999 I was essentially clueless as to how this process worked. Why we would get the District Commander at one function, the District Education Officer at the next, and the District Executive Officer another was beyond me? It seemed to smack of favoritism or something. It is nothing of the sort. It's actually logistics.



Photo by LeRoy Strey

It is required that a new squadron commander be sworn in by an officer of District or National rank. In an ideal world the District Commander (D/C) as the senior district officer would perform that function. That said as a matter of practicality and logistics it is not possible. Most of the Changes of Watch take place in a four month window from November through February with 74% of them occurring in December and January. In 2009 for example there were nine COWs in December and eight in January. In some cases there were two events scheduled for the same evening. All six district bridge officers were kept busy as the district representative at squadron COWs or combined COW/ball events. Here's why.

The normal starting position for a prospective district bridge officer is assistant secretary position. It is an elected position with the rank of D/1st/Lt. The assistant district education officer also holds the same rank. They along with the six members of the district bridge are collectively referred to as the extended bridge. If there are no gaps in the usual bridge order of progression it takes an officer starting at this point six years from start to finish to go through all of the chairs including D/C. The goal is that each officer will have been able to serve as a district rep at one COW and Ball (or combined event) during that time. Protocol dictates that the District Commander is always permitted first choice whether he or she wishes to be the district rep at a COW or squadron ball even if it is a repeat. After that the next bridge officer in line to be selected is the one with the least amount of time remaining on the district bridge who has not yet attended that particular event and whose schedule is open at that time. My job is to track all of that information (thank goodness for spreadsheets) and coordinate these assignments without dropping any balls (commander or otherwise) to make things as seamless as possible. It may not be a perfect system, but it is as fair a system as we have yet devised.

What is required at the squadron level is to submit a form called the District Representative Advanced Information Form (DRAIF). The squadron simply fills it out whether it be for a COW, ball, or other event and submits it to the D/C and DXO. We have recently taken steps to make communication between the squadrons and district even easier. A new form based upon the old DRAIF has been designed. It is in PDF format with PC fillable information blocks. It was created by D/1st/Lt Jay Stevens, District Assistant Secretary. This was sent out via e-mail to all current commanders at the end of January. The contact information is already filled out for the D/C and DXO areas where the form is to be returned. As this information changes, new forms will be sent out. The easiest way to process the completed DRAIF is to save it as a new PDF file and then return it to the D/C and DXO via e-mail as an attachment or you may print it and send it via regular mail but save the stamp if you can.

D/Lt/C James L. Draper, JN

**“So! You lookin’ at me?
You lookin’ at ME????”
Jim records the look on Jerry LaLonde’s face.**



Courtesy Dearborn Sail & Power Squadron

10 Reasons to Join a USPS® Local Power Squadron

1. **GET SMARTER**

As a USPS® member, you and your family can enroll in a variety of elective courses and earn advanced grades.

2. **NO ASPIRIN NEEDED**

When your teenager and their friends complete the USPS® Safe Boating course, your headaches disappear when they beg “Can I have the boat keys, PLEASE?”

3. **MEET NEW FRIENDS**

As a member of a local squadron (1 of over 450 squadrons in the USA), you will join other boaters in your area who know the local waters, the best launch sites and anchorages, the marinas and boat repair shops.

4. **ALL DRESSED DOWN WITH SOMEPLACE TO GO**

You will be invited to join in the squadron and district cruises, rendezvous, predicted log contests, and other on-water activities. District 9 and its local power squadrons have a full calendar of events for both on- and off-season fun. Come and join us!

5. **\$\$ SAVE MONEY \$\$**

Most marine insurance companies offer a minimum of 5-10% discounts for just completing the Safe Boating course. Higher discounts are given for completion of advanced courses. Ask your insurance carrier! Example, BOAT US Inc offers a 50% discount on membership and 10% discount for towing to USPS® members.



6. **FREE DIRECTIONS – IT’S OK TO ASK!**

Thinking of boating in a river, lake or ocean far from your home? USPS® has a Port Captain program which will provide call-ahead contact info for local USPS® members who know the territory. Attention New Boat Owners: District 9’s local power squadrons have lots of friendly people who have “been there and done that”. If you’re a new skipper, we can help you avoid the common pitfalls of boat ownership. Attending just ONE boating safety course puts you way ahead on the learning curve.

7. **UP-TO-DATE INFO ON ALL MATTERS NAUTICAL**

The official USPS® magazine, THE ENSIGN, has articles about safety, maintenance and repair tips, nautical adventure stories, international waters security and customs rules, etc. That dream trip to Canada and the North Channel just got easier.

8. **YOUR TAX DOLLARS ARE AT WORK**

Take advantage of the many joint programs USPS® has with the United States Coast Guard, the CG Auxiliary, and the National Ocean Services division of NOAA. Note that the USPS® is a private, totally self-supporting organization and is not affiliated with the US Government.

9. **LOTS OF FUN AT A VERY LOW PRICE**

Family memberships are very affordable!

10. **SAILING...TAKES ME AWAY TO WHERE I’M GOING...**

USPS® membership is not limited to power boaters - more than 40% of our members are sailors. The term "Power Squadrons" in our name dates to our founding in 1914 by the power boat division of the Boston Yacht Club. Following the first World War, our ranks broadened to include all types of boats. Sailors have been a major part of USPS® ever since.

Submitted by *Bilge Chatter* Editor Lt Chuck Samu, P (Birmingham Power Squadron)



Educational Officer
D/Lt/C Donald C. Fiander, SN

It has been an interesting year as DEO with continuing changes to the face of our educational offerings. Preparations are still currently underway for the USPS® Annual meeting in Orlando, FL now less than one week away and we must also prepare for the D/9 Spring Conference in Southfield.

We cannot be certain of the outcome at the time of this writing, but discussions at the Annual meeting will touch upon various topics of interest to all members ranging from new and anticipated course revisions to the expansion of the Boat Operator Certification program. These discussions will impact how we function and deliver our educational products.



Courtesy Dearborn Sail & Power Squadron

Extension of the exam waiver for membership will also be discussed. The waiver has afforded membership opportunities to experienced boaters who have not yet completed an approved NASBLA boating course. The responsibility remains ours to educate all our members. Because of the erosion of membership on a national basis, and following a positive outcome from our colleagues in Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons (CPS), the idea of opening our courses to non-members will also be on the agenda.

Educational order processing times have been reduced significantly over the past year. The online ordering process for materials and now examinations as well has been very well received. This is an example of thoughtful response to solve problems with the previous cumbersome and lumbering distribution system. Headquarters staff should be commended for their efforts.

By the time you read these pages our experiment offering seminars to public attendees at the Cobo boat show will be underway. I hope that this public forum will permit us to showcase our wares to a new population of boaters who will then become interested in attending additional sessions and courses. The sessions will be conducted during both weekends of the Boat Show and were arranged after extensive discussions between P/D/Lt/C Bill Stewart and Michigan Boating Industries President Van Snider.

Boat Operator Certification (BOC) formally launched in D/9 with the first Advanced Certifier training session last October. I expect that new information will be available for the conference covering revised requirements for COASTAL and OFFSHORE BOC levels. Organization of local sessions to train additional certifiers and advanced certifiers will be scheduled for the spring when our water has become liquid again. Members interested in obtaining their INLAND certification should contact their squadron SEO to obtain a Passport and kit prior to scheduling an on the water skills demonstration.

Please consider attending the **CPR/AED** session planned for the Spring Conference. Registration information can be found in this issue of the *Interlaker*. CPR is one of the requirements for Advanced Certifiers and those interested in attaining the higher levels in the BOC program. This life skill is a valuable asset for everyone as the prompt and appropriate use of resuscitative techniques can help to reduce mortality in cases of sudden cardiac arrest. To ensure sufficient materials are available pre-registration will be required.

The storefront concept has been tested as a means of delivering seminars and exposing USPS® educational materials to the public. There has been a positive response from the marine dealers involved in pilot projects conducted to date. Additional support from headquarters will facilitate our efforts in this regard. Coordination between squadrons is needed with both courses and seminars. Sharing instructors and organizing joint courses and seminars will permit us to be more efficient and maximize the use of our resources. As our courses, seminars, and other offerings expand this has become more apparent each month. Our instructors are often stretched very thin with the present list of 13 courses, 17+ seminars, ABC3 and our BOC sessions! We will have much to discuss in Southfield.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers in the educational department for their tireless efforts to fulfill our objectives throughout the past year. I would especially like to thank ADEO Duane Carlson for all his input and work this past year.

D/Lt/C Donald C. Fiander, SN

Administrative Officer
D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, JN



Photo by LeRoy Strey

“Boating is fun...let us show you how” has been the USPS® byword for the past two years. However, the economic conditions of the country have presented challenges no one may have foreseen. The Administrative Department is trying to provide innovations in the ways we recruit new members and retain current members.

The response to National’s program to sign up members via the internet has been very positive. Individuals and families using the internet to join USPS® are placed in a “Cyber Squadron” for unattached members. When a new member joins, an email is sent to the public contact listed on the closest four squadrons’ OD-2 forms. The information provided to the squadrons includes the new member’s name, email, phone number, best contact time, and city, state and zip code. Each new Cyber Squadron member presents an opportunity for a squadron to add a member to its roster. **As I write this, there are 17 unattached members in the D/9 area.** Additional information and suggested contact procedures can be found at:

http://www.usps.org/national/membership/pdf_files/Recruiting_Cyber_Squadron_Members.pdf

(You can either cut and paste this URL or click on this link right here while viewing on your computer.)

Marilynn and Bill Bezdek will present a program on the Tigre River Delta at the Spring Conference. The Tigre River Delta is located in South America near Buenos Aires, Argentina. Transportation in this area is solely by water; there are no roads. Attend this seminar to learn more!

Plans for the DeTour - Drummond Island Weekend Rendezvous have been finalized. Attend the Boating Activities seminar at the Spring Conference to hear more about this rendezvous and other activities, such as the Predicted Log, planned for this summer.

I had the privilege of representing District Commander Bartlett at the Change of Watch for the Sable Point Sail and Power Squadron hosted by the Van Rhee’s in November. It was enjoyable greeting many friends and swearing in the new bridge.

I want to thank all the people in the Administrative Department. These members contribute greatly to D/9, work hard and deserve much credit. They have made my job much easier. They are preparing a fine Spring Conference for you. I’m looking forward to seeing you there!

D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, JN



Al Habbal and another helper make sure we know where Dearborn can be found.

Conference can mean lots of work but Squadron members pull together to make it all happen!



Paul and Betsy Look are ready at the scoops!

Marilyn Book digs in to her work!



Courtesy Dearborn Sail & Power Squadron

Secretary
D/Lt/C Robyn D. M. Levene, AP



Photo by LeRoy Strey

“SHARE INFORMATION, DELIVER SERVICES, SOLVE PROBLEMS.”
This phrase describes what a USPS® secretary strives to accomplish during her term as Secretary.

Obviously, secretaries will use the avenues passed on to them from their predecessors. Typically, electronic mail, websites, newsletters, phone trees, general meetings, and mentoring have historically worked. How effective are they? In combinations; they can be very effective. One alone does not work.

January 2009, United States Power Squadrons® joined forces with an organization that can and does provide several of these avenues. The organization – **SailAngle.com**, provides a feature that all three tiers (local, district, and national) of USPS® can use as a communication tool. Together, USPS® and SailAngle.com have created an internet website that provides private communities for Squadron members that enhance and improve internal communications.

Just after one year, members have discovered that SailAngle.com offers a boating oriented social network and a communication and information platform. Categories featured at SailAngle.com include:

“Ask a Pro” where members are able to ask seasoned professional mariners about boating concerns and other questions, getting answers free of charge

“Gourmet Galley” where members can submit their most prize winning recipes for other boaters to try

“Destinations” which promotes and recommends cruising vacations expressing the pros and cons; and News which posts boating articles of interest, an example of which is recent news on the America's Cup race in Spain

Through all this, squadron communications are improved. Most importantly, SailAngle.com allows any one level of USPS® to communicate with the entire membership of each tier with a single click.

If you are not yet experiencing the benefits of SailAngle.com, go to USPS.org, click on the "**Access SailAngle.com**" button near the top. Follow the instructions after that. It takes only a minute of your time; a minute that will open endless doors for you as a squadron officer, as a member of USPS® and as a boater.

Just prior to their one year anniversary with the Squadron, SailAngle.com introduced a new feature called "Webinar Webcast" to assist members and their understanding of SailAngle.com. Webinar Webcast seminars provide members with tips on how to use SailAngle.com in the comfort and convenience of their home. How to stay logged on and send RSVP Calendar Events are a couple of tips offered. Four webinars have been held since November. They were: "Tips and Tricks – An Introduction" (17 November 2009), "Questions and Answers – Clarification of SailAngle.com" (8 December 2009), "Advanced Messaging" (5 January 2010), and "Basic Website Navigation" (12 January 2010). All but the first webinar were recorded and can be viewed or downloaded to your computer. Go to the USPS.org website and click the "**Access SailAngle.com**" button. After logging in, click on **HELP** then click on **SailAngle.com Webinar** to access the webinars. Scroll down the page to the webinar you would like to view or download and click on its link.

SailAngle.com webinars are here to help you! Coming soon will be the first Boating Education webinar, “Maneuvering in Tight Quarters” to be presented on SailAngle.com by Robert "Bob" Sweet, the USPS® National Education Officer.

As we go forward, remember it is important and vital to our organization to stay in tune with the up and coming innovations that are offered: to provide customer service, create simplicity, enhance communications, enhance member satisfaction, and encourage team work; to share information, deliver services, and solve problems. Together, this will be the survival of USPS® and your squadrons!

D/Lt/C Robyn D. M. Levene, AP

Treasurer
D/Lt/C William A. Stano, JN

It is the end of January and for me that means two things. First, my birthday is the 29th of January and every year I celebrate by visiting my boat. It is in heated storage so I uncover it, climb into the cockpit and pretend the weather is warm, having Lake St. Clair to myself and dreaming of cruising the day away. Secondly, I look forward to teaching Grosse Pointe's winter public boating class and taking a class before the weather changes. These are great ways to promote your squadron and develop those great squadron relationships which are central to USPS[®].

As the District's 2009 budget comes to an end, our expenditures for each department remain within budget. The District's checking and money market accounts have positive balances and our balance sheet looks good. All bills have been paid and we have no outstanding requests for reimbursement.

For many years, USPS[®] Finance Committee pooled district and squadron funds and invested them into high-yield jumbo certificates of deposit. Because of our county's economic situation, squadrons and districts can obtain higher rates and yields on these funds than what National is able to purchase through Jumbo CD's. The National Operating Committee voted to suspend the USPS[®] policy on squadron and district monies that are managed by the National Finance Committee. The termination of this program and the management of the present funds ended 1 January 2010. If your squadron has not yet received correspondence from National, please contact Linda Fuller in the Accounting Department. Her phone number/extension can be found on the National Web site. On 7 January 2010 I sent USPS[®] a letter, signed by the District Commander and myself, to close District 9's account and forward the balance of the funds to the District Treasurer.

In keeping with USPS[®] Bylaws Section 5.8.2b, which requires that annual dues increases be presented at the Governing Board, USPS[®] has set the new dues rate for a regular active member to \$39.00, the dues rate for family units headed by a regular active member to \$58.50, and the dues rate for family units headed by a life member to \$19.50. Our Districts dues assessment remains at \$5.00.

Chase Bank opted not to extend the USPS[®] Affinity credit card contract, which expires in January 2010. The program is no longer feasible for either party due to waning squadron and member interest during the past few years; decreased financial benefits to USPS[®], districts and squadrons; and administrative costs.

Starting in 2010, the allocation of Cooperative Advertising funds will be designated by squadron and the District will not be allocated any funds for their use. The allocation is going to be 10% of the Educational Materials purchased from national from 1 December 2008 to 30 November 2009, National's fiscal year. The rules for what is advertising isn't going to change for 2010, just the allocation means and now the squadron's will send the NPR102 forms directly to P/C Denise Samu AP, Cooperative Advertising Coordinator.

At the 2010 Spring Conference, the Treasurer Seminar will be from 1020 until 1105. The session is always informative. I invite all squadron treasurers to attend.

D/Lt/C William A. Stano, JN



Photo by LeRoy Strey



**Friends just enjoy hanging
out together!
That's part of what Confer-
ence is about.**



Courtesy Dearborn Sail & Power Squadron

National Representative
R/C Robert Sweet, SN

R/C Bob Sweet, SN has served in a number of positions in Buzzards Bay Sail and Power Squadron (Massachusetts) and National. In 1998, he joined BBPS, quickly becoming SEO while retaking some courses and completing all of the requirements for SN. Afterward, he moved up to Squadron Executive Officer and Commander. Concurrently, Bob joined the Basic Public Education Committee and shortly thereafter was elected Assistant Chairman and Staff Commander.



While a member of the Basic Public Education Committee, Bob led the effort to create the GPS Seminar. He was able to draw upon his professional background leading the business unit of a company developing the original GPS system. He subsequently was tasked with coordinating the development of the new Piloting and Advanced Piloting courses, establishing the Paddle Smart™ web site, and leading the effort to incorporate digital charts in USPS® courses. Bob also was instrumental in developing USPS® partnerships with Maptech, McGraw-Hill, and C-Map leading to discounts for members and significant technical support for our educational programs.

In January 2006, Bob was elected to the position of Assistant National Educational Officer and Rear Commander. He has spent much of the past few years helping then NEO Spencer Anderson, and ANEO Dick Kyle, with a variety of initiatives leading to cooperative programs with the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons, restructuring of courses, strategic planning for the department, and plans for seminars and Boat Operator Certifi-

cation (BOC).

Bob originally completed “Boating, Seamanship, & Piloting” in 1971 and briefly joined Minuteman Squadron before job responsibilities led him to extensive domestic and international business and away from frequent boating. After relocating to Cape Cod in 1997, he and Judy decided to get back into active boating. Having earlier been avid sailors, they opted for a powerboat. They currently own a 29-foot cruiser.

Bob’s professional background began as system engineering manager developing radar and naval communications systems. He was promoted to business area management at GTE Sylvania, now General Dynamics Systems, and Harris Corporation. Bob was Director, responsible for programs which included GPS, shipboard communications, and a number of satellite control systems. He then became President of General Defense Systems and was responsible for shipboard tracking and radar products, training systems, and commercial manufacturing. Bob subsequently became President and CEO of Elbit Systems and Inframetrics. Inframetrics, now Flir Systems. These companies produce infrared night vision equipment such as those used on police helicopters. Bob then founded a consulting business leading the restructuring, acquisition, and alliance efforts for a number of high technology clients.

Bob recently has hung up his consulting role, to write. He currently has two published books and six guides to his credit with more on the way. His first books and guides are on related marine topics. He is now working on business topics of strategic planning and staffing.

Bob and his wife July, live in Falmouth on Cape Cod near Judy’s 94-year old mother, and their son who is a computer graphic designer. Their other son is married and lives in Atlanta with their two teenage grandchildren. Bob and Judy enjoy the waters around Cape Cod and local squadron activities.



**Even the National Rep
pitches in for the job!**

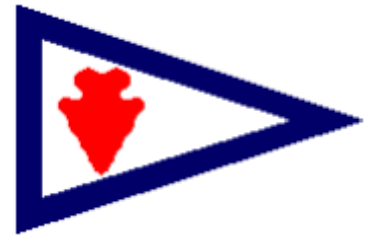
Photos by LeRoy Strey

P/C/C Dick Miner with
P/R/C Gene Van Rhee and
D/C Bryan Bartlett.

D/Lt Chet Dunbar with
P/R/C Gene Van Rhee and
D/C Bryan Bartlett.



Host Commander's Greetings!



Welcome to the 2010 District 9 Spring Conference. We hope you are looking forward to the conference as much as Flint is in hosting. The theme this spring is "Seven Seas Adventure." Each squadron will choose a different countries theme, thus allowing the squadron to express themselves through food & decor of its chosen country in their hospitality room.

The Friday night hospitality rooms will kick off the weekend followed by Saturday morning seminars of intriguing subjects with the official business meeting in the afternoon. The Business meeting will also include a Change of Watch, as the D/9 Bridge will change its leadership at the helm. Our very own D/Lt/C James D. Draper, JN from Flint is listed on the slate for District Commander. When not in a meeting, come check out our Ships Store where you can buy USPS® shirts, jackets, etc. normally only available on-line or at the National Meetings. Also enjoy the other vendors we have provided for your pleasure.

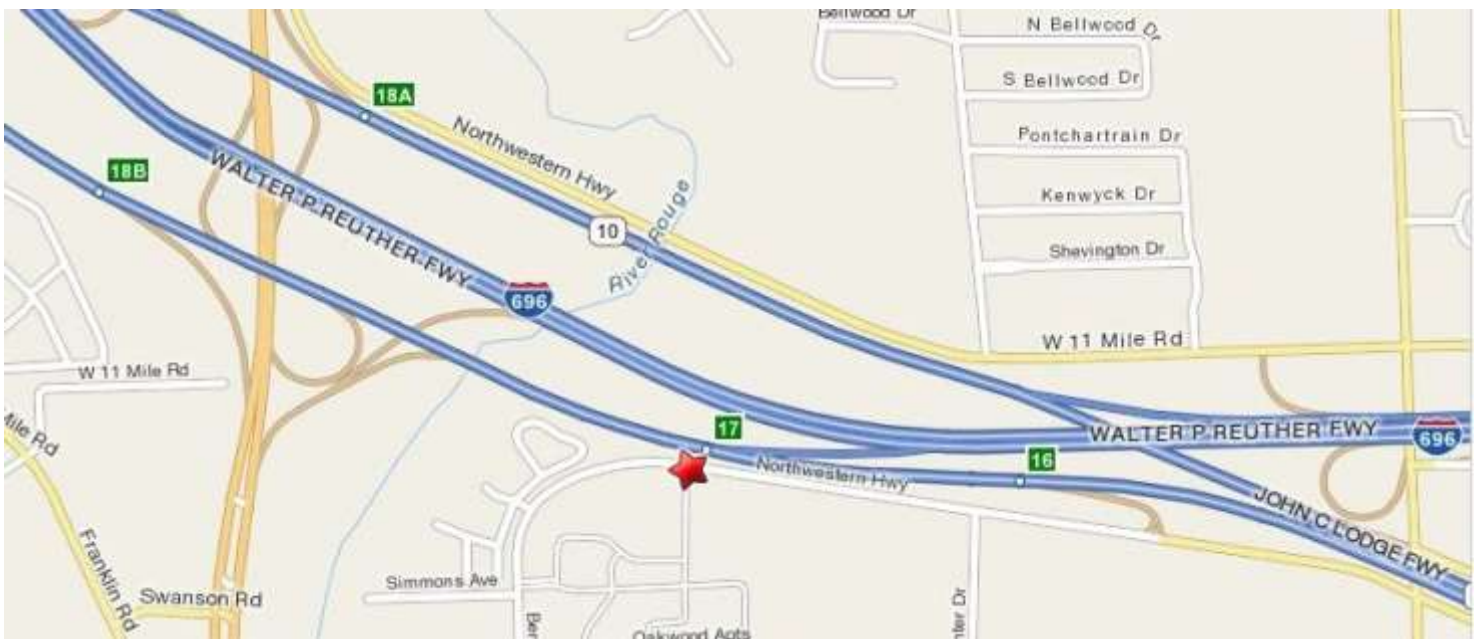
Saturday night, the theme is "The Captain's Dinner," as if you are on a Seven Seas world cruise. We will have a wonderful meal followed by the awarding of two Treasure Chests filled with gifts for the squadrons with the most original, lavish decor and for their food offering. The evening will end with dancing by the celebrated six piece band – Higher Ground.

We are anxious for the weekend and hope that you will join us March 19-21 at the Marriott Detroit Southfield - 27033 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, MI 48033.

Respectfully Submitted, Cdr Nancy E. Burkhardt, S

Where ARE we going???

The Marriott in Southfield at 27033 Northwestern Highway, of course!



Brought to you by Mapquest! <http://tinyurl.com/ydyvyca>
(web address reduced at tinyurl.com for publishing convenience)

2010 D/9 SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

JOIN THE SEVEN SEAS ADVENTURE



19 – 21 March 2010

Attention: All registration requests must be received, on this form, by 26 February 2010.

Registration requests received after 26 February will be accepted on a space available basis.

Uniforms: Seminars & Business Lunch: Uniform F (or USPS Blazer or Appropriate Attire)

Dinner: Uniform A with Bow Tie (or Semi Formal)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Certificate #</u>	<u>Squadron</u>	<u>First Time Attendee?</u> <u>Yes No</u>
(1) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
(2) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phones: (H) _____ (W) _____ E-Mail: _____

MEALS - NOTE: A surcharge of \$5.00 will apply for meal reservations after 26 February 2010.

Lunch _____ @ \$19.00 = \$ _____
Choice: Chicken Salad Croissant _____ or Salmon Caesar Salad _____

Dinner _____ @ \$30.00 = \$ _____
Choice: NY Strip _____ or Tilapia (fish) _____

Special Meal/Dietary Requests: _____ Vegetarian Meal: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____ Check # _____

Make checks payable to: **Flint Power Squadron**

Mail checks and this form to:

P/C Mike Burkhardt, AP
1108 Lafayette St.
Flint, MI 48503

(Hospitality) Room Reservation
ONLY Call **Jamie Parker: 248-455-2022**
jparker@marriottsouthfield.com

For Sleeping Room Reservation: 888-519-6568
Marriott Detroit SOUTHFIELD 248-356-7400
27033 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, MI 48033

Read below: \$85.00 per room/per night

*You need to ask for the "US Power Squadron Group Rate" when calling in your reservation. \$85.00 per room

*The online group code is "UNIUNIA" and needs to be entered in the GROUP code box at www.marriottsouthfield.co



CPR /AED Course

Sudden death from cardiac arrest is unfortunately an all too common occurrence in North America. Survival following sudden collapse from ischemic heart disease is influenced by how rapidly appropriate resuscitative efforts are initiated. This impact of this fact has direct relevance to all of us and our families. Patient survival can be improved if CPR can be started immediately while waiting for the arrival of an EMT team with advanced life support capabilities. The first few minutes are crucial as the likelihood of survival decreases rapidly every minute that passes before CPR is commenced.

One of the requirements for the Boat Operator Certification program for Advanced Certifiers and also those seeking to attain the Advanced Coastal and Offshore levels is certification in basic CPR. The District will be hosting a basic CPR/AED course at the Spring Conference in Southfield. This is a valuable life saving skill for everyone.

Because of space, time, and instructor limitations, pre-registration is encouraged. Although it may be possible to register at the conference there will be a **limit of 16 participants**. Once that number has been reached **NO** additional registrations will be possible. The course will include both didactic instruction and technique practice with CPR mannequins. The cost for the materials and certification will be \$ 35.00 payable to USPS D9. Certifications are valid for 2 years.

Please complete the registration form below and return with payment to :

D/Lt/C DC Fiander, SN
581 Kingsley Trail
Bloomfield Hills MI 48304-2317

CPR/AED Course Registration



Rank	Last Name	First Name	Grade	Certificate #	Squadron
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Address	_____		City	_____	State _____ ZIP _____
Phone	_____		Email	_____	

NOTE: Please make checks in the amount of \$ 35.00 payable to **USPS D9**



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
SAIL AND POWER BOATING



DISTRICT 9

P/D/C DENISE M. BROOKS, AP
2946 Shorewood Blvd.
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059
(810) 385-4951 home

(810) 987-6400 ext. 111 work (810) 987-7251 fax
E-Mail d2brooks@comcast.net

To: D/9 Council
From: D/9 Nominating Committee
Date: 11 January 2010
Subject: Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee submits the following report, which documents its selection of the 2010 slate of candidates for positions in USPS® District 9. The members of the 2009 Nominating Committee are: P/D/C Denise Brooks, AP – Chairman; P/C Joe Brooks, JN; P/D/C Richard Gallop, SN; D/Lt Georgia McFarland, JN; P/C Dave Rayburn, JN; and P/D/C Denise Samu, AP.

Recommendations regarding potential nominees were sought at the Fall Council meeting, Fall Conference, from the nominating committee and were solicited during the interview process. In addition, conversation during the interview process focused on the top issues facing the district. It became clear during the process that there were two issues that were top of mind in the District – membership and planning.

The committee met for interview and selection of its slate of candidates in person during the Fall Conference and via email and phone conferencing. Throughout the interview and selection process, the committee maintained the confidential nature of its discussions and communications.

In developing the final slate of proposed candidates, the committee was guided by the District’s by-laws and SOP 31, along with the input from current office holders regarding the priorities facing District 9.

The slate that the committee offers is consistent with the bylaws, SOP and addresses the top issues facing the district. The committee has nominated individuals whose background and demonstrated expertise are felt will best support the future development of the district.

Pursuant to Article II, Section 2.9.1 and Article VI of the Current District 9 Bylaws, the Nominating Committee submits the following nominees for the District Bridge, Auditing Committee, Nominating Committee and Rules Committee to serve during the 2010-11 operational year and urge its election by the Council/Conference of District 9. All persons are members of USPS® in good standing and have stated that they would serve if nominated and elected.

District Bridge Officers:

District Commander	D/Lt/C James Draper, JN	Flint
District Executive Officer	D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, JN	Lansing
District Educational Officer	D/Lt/C Donald C. Fiander, SN	Birmingham
District Administrative Officer	Stf/C Linda LaLonde, P	Dearborn
District Secretary	D/1 st /Lt Jay Stevens, JN	South Bend
District Treasurer	D/Lt/C Bill Stano, JN	Grosse Pointe
Assistant Educational Officer	D/1 st /Lt Duane Carlson, SN	Mt. Clemens
Assistant Secretary	P/C Dawn Flynn, AP	Lansing

Audit Committee:

Three Years	P/C Mike Zaborowski, JN	Wyandotte
Two Years *	P/C David Brinks, AP	Grand Rapids
One Year *	D/Lt John Strauss, P	Grand Rapids

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Nominating Committee:

Three Years	D/C Bryan Bartlett, SN	Detroit
Three Years	P/C Kim Matthews, AP	Wyandotte
Two Years *	P/D/C Denise Brooks, AP	Port Huron
Two Years *	P/C David Rayburn, JN	Dearborn
One Year *	P/D/C Rich Gallop, SN	Mt. Clemens
One Year *	P/C Joe Brooks, JN	Detroit

Rules Committee:

Three Years	D/Lt Laddie Hudson, SN	Mt. Clemens
Two Years *	P/C Joel Lockwood, AP	Grand Traverse
One Year *	P/C Kathleen Penzien, AP	Anchor Bay

* Previously elected to office; term continues.

Respectfully Submitted,
P/D/C Denise Brooks, AP – Chairman
P/C Joe Brooks, JN
P/D/C Richard Gallop, SN
D/Lt Georgia McFarland, JN
P/C Dave Rayburn, JN
P/D/C Denise Samu, AP

Résumé

James D. Draper - District Commander

Member: Vermilion (Ohio) Power Squadron 1969-1970
Member: Detroit Power Squadron 1988-1990
Member: Flint Power Squadron 1990-present
Merit Marks: 16
Grade: Junior Navigator
Current Rank: District Lieutenant Commander

Squadron Offices

Executive Committee: 1993-1996; 2001-2003
Administrative Officer: 1997
Executive Officer: 1998
Commander: 1999
Member-at-Large: 2000

Squadron Assignments

Supply Officer: 1995-1998
Budget Committee: 1999-2008
Nominating Committee: 2000-2003
Rules Committee: 2000-2004
Audit Committee: 2005
Operations Training Chairman: 2001-present
Host Spring Conference Registration Co-Chairman: 2004

District Offices

Executive Officer: (currently)
Assistant Secretary: 2005
Secretary: 2006-2007
Administrative Officer: 2008

District Assignments

Planning Committee: 2000-2002
Operations Training Chairman: 2001-2004
Planning Committee Chairman: 2002-2006
District Administrative Officer's Aide: 2003-2004
District Executive Officer's Aide: 2004-2005
District Commander's Aide: 2005-2006

National Involvement

Governing Board member: 2007-2009

Résumé

Mary Ann Jensen - District Executive Officer

Member: Lansing Power Squadron 1991-present
Family Member: 1991-2000
Active Member: 2001-present
Merit Marks: 10
Grade: Junior Navigator
Current Rank: District Lieutenant Commander

Squadron Offices

Administrative Officer: 2002
Executive Officer: 2003
Commander: 2004

Squadron Assignments

Nominating Committee member: 2005-present
Nominating Committee Chairman: 2007
Merit Mark Chairman: 2007-present
Executive Board member: 2005-present
Operations Training Instructor: 2009

District Offices

Administrative Officer: (currently)
Assistant Secretary: 2006
Treasurer: 2007-2008

District Assignments

Kids' Crew Coordinator: 2001, 2002
Membership Acquisition: 2005

National Assignments

Chief Commander's Aide: 2002-2004
Government and Partners Relations Committee Secretary:
2004-present
Governing Board member: 2001-present



Résumé

Donald C Fiander - District Education Officer

Member: Birmingham Power Squadron 2002-present
Member: Detroit Power Squadron 1993-2002
Merit Marks: 7
Grade: Senior Navigator
Current Rank: District Lieutenant Commander

Squadron Offices

Assistant Education Officer
Education Officer
Executive Officer
Commander
Executive Committee member
Nominating Committee member and Chairman

Squadron Assignments

Vessel Examiner
Seminar Chair
Instructor: Advanced Piloting, Boat-Pro, ABC3, Operations Training, and Leadership Development
Boat Operator Certification Program (BOC) Advanced Certifier

District Offices

District Educational Officer: (currently)
Assistant District Educational Officer (three years)

District Assignments

District ABC Coordinator
CPS-ECP Boat Pro program coordinator

National Assignments

Offshore Navigation Committee Assistant Chairman
Inland and Coastal Navigation Committee member: 2007-present

Addendum:

CPS-ECP Member: Lake St Louis Squadron 1988-present,
Merit Marks: 5
Squadron Offices: Junior Navigation Chairman and Instructor (three years)



Peggy Schwaller, Phyllis Bowlin, and Del Miller at one meeting...

... and Joan and John Broadwell at another.
Will it never end???



Photos by LeRoy Strey

Résumé

Linda J. LaLonde - District Administrative Officer

Member: Dearborn Sail and Power Squadron 1984-present
Merit Marks: 25
Grade: Pilot
Current Rank: Staff Commander

Squadron Offices

Commander
Executive Officer
Administrative Officer
Treasurer
Executive Committee member
Nominating Committee member and Chairman

Squadron Assignments

Member Benefits Chairman: (currently)
Conference Planning Committee member

District Offices

Nominating Committee (three years)

District Assignments

Membership Task Force Chairman: (currently)
Membership Task Force member
Detroit Governing Board Committee member: 2008
Henry Ford Tour Chairman

National Assignments

Staff Commander: National Membership Committee: (currently)
Governing Board member: (currently)

Résumé

H. Jay Stevens - District Secretary

Member: South Bend Sail and Power Squadron 2004-present
Merit Marks: 5
Grade: Junior Navigator (with Educational Proficiency, having also completed all elective courses)
Current Rank: District First Lieutenant

Squadron Offices

Treasurer: (currently)
Administrative Officer
Executive Officer
Commander
Executive Committee member
Nominating Committee member

Squadron Assignments and Involvement

Public Relations Officer
Webmaster
Cooperative Charting Chairman
Vessel Examiner
Safety Officer
USPS® Certified Instructor
Instructor: Public Boating classes, VHF Radio Seminar, and Piloting

District Offices

District Assistant Secretary: (currently)



Résumé
William A. Stano - District Treasurer

Member: Grosse Pointe Power Squadron 2000-present
Merit Marks: 9
Grade: Junior Navigator
Current Rank: District Lieutenant Commander

Squadron Offices

Assistant Secretary
Secretary
Administrative Officer
Executive Officer
Commander: 2008
Executive Committee member
Nominating Committee member

Squadron Assignments and Involvement

Webmaster: (currently)
Local Board of Boating Chairman: 2009
Boating Course Chairman (Spring Class)
Public Boating Course Instructor
Public Boating Course Proctor
Achieved Educational Proficiency in 2002
USPS® Certified Instructor
Vessel Examiner
DNR Marine Safety Instructor
Boat Show Volunteer

District Offices

Treasurer: 2009-present

National Involvement

Basic Public Education Committee

Folks just having fun!



**Pat and Dick
Jarmon**



**Jane and Doug
Rocho**



**Natalie and Chet
Dunbar**

Photos by LeRoy Strey

Résumé
Duane Carlson - District Assistant Education Officer

Member: Mount Clemens Power Squadron 1991-present
Merit Marks: 18
Grade: Senior Navigator
Current Rank:

Squadron Offices

Treasurer
Secretary
Educational Officer (5 years)
Commander
Member at Large
Auditing Committee

Squadron Assignments and Involvement

Membership Committee
Sail Club
Boating Activities
Budget and Finance Committee
Planning Committee
Learning Guides
Instructor: Engine Maintenance, Squadron Boating Course, Piloting, Advanced Piloting, USPS® University Seminar Series
Vessel Examiner
USPS® Certified Instructor
Michigan DNR: Marine Safety Instructor
Boat Operator Certification - Advanced Certifier
Certified - Inland Navigator w/ Sail endorsement

District Offices

Assistant District Educational Officer

District Assignments

Conference Coordinator
Advanced Piloting Chairman

Résumé

Dawn L. Flynn - District Assistant Secretary

Member: Lansing Sail & Power Squadron 1999-present
Merit Marks: 8
Grade: Advanced Pilot (with Education Proficiency)
Current Rank:

Squadron Offices

Secretary
Administrative Officer
Executive Officer
Commander: 2007, 2010

Squadron Assignments

Executive Committee member
Nominating Committee member and Chairman
USPS® Certified Instructor
Public Relations Officer
Host Conference Coordinator
Editor, *Crow's Nest*
Vessel Examiner

District Assignments

Public Relations Officer: (past 2 years)
Detroit Governing Board Committee member

National Involvement

Administrative Team of the Government/Partner Relations Committee: (currently)

Résumé

Henry (Mike) Zaborowski, Sr. - District Audit Committee (3-year watch)

Member: Wyandotte Power Squadron 2001-present
Merit Marks: 9
Grade: Junior Navigator
Current Rank:

Squadron Offices

Treasurer: (four years)
Executive Officer: (one year)
Commander: (two years)
Executive Committee member: (currently)
Nominating Committee
Rules Committee
Planning Committee

Squadron Assignments

Basic Boating Class Chairman: (four years)
USPS® Certified Instructor
DNR Instructor
Vessel Examiner: (currently)

District Assignments

Planning Committee: (currently)
Membership Committee: (currently)

Résumé

Bryan L. Bartlett - District Nominating Committee (3-year watch)

Member: Detroit Power Squadron 1990-present
Merit Marks: 18
Grade: Senior Navigator
Current Rank: District Commander

Squadron Offices

Treasurer
Assistant Education Officer
Administrative Officer
Executive Officer
Commander
Executive Committee

Squadron Assignments

Audit Committee
Budget and Finance Committee Chairman
Rules Committee
Instructor: Public Boating Course (also Proctor), Piloting,
and ID
Liaison Officer to Detroit Yacht Club

District Offices

Assistant Secretary: 2004-2005
Treasurer: 2005-2007
Administrative Officer: 2007-2008
Executive Officer: 2008-2009
Commander: 2009-present

District Assignments

Boating Course Seminar Chairman: 1998 - 2004
Fall Council and Cruise Co-Chairman: 2000

National Assignments

Governing Board member: 2005-2010

Résumé

Kim Matthews - District Nominating Committee (3-year watch)

Member: Wyandotte Power Squadron 1998-present
Merit Marks: 11
Grade: Advanced Pilot
Current Rank: Past Commander

Squadron Offices

Secretary
Administrative Officer
Executive Officer
Commander
Executive Committee member
Nominating Committee member and Chairman

Squadron Assignments

Membership Committee
Merit Mark Committee
Lectures for Public Boat Class
Vessel Examiner.

District Assignments and Involvement

Membership Committee: (two years)
Council Meeting organizer
Detroit Governing Board volunteer

National Involvement

Membership volunteer
Printing volunteer

Résumé

Laddie L. Hudson - District Rules Committee (3-year watch)

Member: Mount Clemens Power Squadron 1969-present
Merit Marks: 41
Grade: Senior Navigator
Current Rank: District Lieutenant

Squadron Offices

Treasurer: (currently)
Secretary
Administrative Officer
Educational Officer
Executive Officer
Commander
Executive Committee member
Nominating Committee member and Chairman

Squadron Assignments

Conference Coordinator
Advanced Grades Chairman
Elective Courses Chairman
Chairman and Primary Instructor: Advanced Piloting, Junior
Navigation, Navigation, Operations Training, and Instructor
Qualification
Instructor: All other Advanced Grade, Basic Boating, and
Boat Smart classes
Vessel Examiner: (currently)

District Offices

Auditing Committee member and Chairman: (three years)

District Assignments

Elective Courses Chairman: (three years)
Treasurer's Seminar Chairman and/or Assistant: (four years)
Parliamentarian: (nine years)
Budget and Finance Committee Chairman: (five years)



Color Guard from Mt. Clemens Power Squadron (l to r) : Ron LaPlante, US Flag; Dennis Pomeroy, Canadian Flag; Mike Fonk, USPS® Ensign; Duane Carlson, CPS-ECP Ensign; Laddie Hudson, USCGA Ensign.

We present well...

Photos by LeRoy Strey



Char Pearson with Bryan Bartlett and Don Fiander.



And continue good work in the Cooperative Charting department, too: Del Miller, Cindy Marcouk (represented), Gene and Shirley Van Rhee, Roger Thompson, and Hazel Stevens (represented), with Brian Bartlett.



Steve Nichols with Bryan Bartlett and Don Fiander, and *Prince Henry!*



Roger Thompson and Bryan Bartlett look on as Gene Van Rhee assists Chester Landis with the award that will be!



Pat and Dick Jarmon recognized for their years of dedication to boating education and promoting Boat Operator Certification.

... Most of the time!



Bryan and Doug join the Chief and another guest.



Larry and Joan ("Sharky") Hicks, CPS members who are also USPS members!



Dennis Blaga has the hobo down pat!



Courtesy Dearborn Sail & Power Squadron

Don't forget to always wear your life jacket while on the water... or you might end up like this guy!

Photos by LeRoy Strey unless indicated otherwise.

The rest of the time, we have fun!



Joyce Strey with family members.



Richard Gallop, John Broadwell, Don Howitt and his wife enjoy time together.



House Call! Fred and Celeste Hoytash come to Al Habbal's aid.



Joe Gatfield of CPS visits with Joyce Strey.



Doug Mitchell and Lavonia Criner dish up one more order of ice cream for a guest.



LeRoy Strey and Natalie Dunbar cut a mean rug during entertainment at the dinner.

Returning
Feature!

I hear tell there was a time when the individual squadrons shared some of their editorial handiwork with the *Interlaker*[®]. So, I thought it might be worth a try bringing it back, seeing as how many of us are now receiving this newsletter online - no more need to worry about printing or postal expenses.

EDITORS: Please plan to submit articles for publication. Let's emphasize ways your squadron is fulfilling the tri-fold mission of education, fraternity, and civic service.

ALL: Remember, if you do print this out, you don't have to print every page! You too may have something to share - please submit an article for consideration. Have fun, this is *your* publication, after all!

Ed.

The Accident that Didn't Happen

Bay Views Editor Lt Craig B. Murchison, AP

Saginaw Bay Power Squadron

As a member of the Saginaw Bay Power Squadron (SBPS) and a boating safety course instructor I am somewhat embarrassed to tell this story but the mistakes made here are common in pleasure boating.

This past spring my wife and I, along with another experienced boating couple (Steve and Diane) rented a 35' power catamaran in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) for a week. On the day we got the boat our "Captain's Meeting" leader gave the week's weather report of 6-9' waves and 15-20 kt winds. I thought, "Oh Great!" But I did remember that 6-9' footers on the ocean are not nearly as bad as that on the lakes due to the longer wave length. Nevertheless when we got out of the harbor on that first day the wind was blowing and the water rough! The boat was equipped with the standard type II orange PFDs (personal flotation devices) but conditions did not seem that bad as to motivate us to put on those awkward devices (*first mistake*).

The helm station on this boat was on the upper deck which covered the entire length of the boat like that of the *Mainship* trawlers you might have seen in our area. The dinghy, with motor, was carried on a typical horizontal davit lift system. With this system the dinghy will swing freely unless it is further tied down. When in port we had tied it down before starting.

When we got out in the Sir Francis Drake Channel, for those of you who have been there, things were quite rough. Waves were all at least 4' and above. I found the boat somewhat difficult to control but didn't feel comfortable enough under these conditions to experiment with the auto pilot (probably *mistake 2*). Soon we heard a banging from the back of the boat. The dinghy wasn't as well tied down as one would hope and was swinging about. At that point with me at the helm, Steve rushed down to deal with retying the dinghy without putting on a PFD (*mistake 3*). None of us could see Steve from the upper deck of the boat. Almost immediately it became apparent that Steve was in a dangerous position and we became very worried. If he had fallen off the back of the boat we would have no way of knowing and might not hear his calls over the wind and engine roar. Unfortunately the waves were such that I didn't dare leave the helm and the boat was moving around so much it would have been dangerous for either of our wives to try to negotiate the stairs to the lower deck to bring a PFD to Steve. It was a very worrisome time.

We were all relieved when Steve made it back to the top deck safely. By this time we all got religion and agreed not to repeat this episode without wearing the PFDs. We finally made it to our protected anchorage, had a great night and a great week with nary a high wind or rough sea.

In contrast to the above episode, my wife and I cruised for six weeks this summer on lakes Erie and Ontario. For three of those weeks we had guests aboard. Each day I had the requisite number of *inflatable* type V PFD available to put on before starting out. I found out that everyone was happy to put them on and felt quite comfortable wearing them. I demonstrated their use one day while having a swim at anchor.

What these two stories say to me is that inflatable's are essential for every boat because they are what people will wear consistently with little hesitation. Furthermore, I feel very comfortable asking them to wear them when underway. Accidents happen fast, safety devices like PFDs need to be distributed before the fact.



A Stern Warning

Bilge Chatter Editor Lt Chuck Samu, P
Birmingham Power Squadron

A recent accident garnered local interest because it involved a former Detroit Lion football player. A fishing boat carrying two NFL players and two former college teammates capsized in March 2009 because it was improperly anchored. According to a report from The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the men were unable to pull up the fouled anchor of their boat to head back to port. The skipper tried to rev the boat forward to free the anchor, but the 21-foot single engine craft then capsized. The report said that the "improper anchoring" to a stern portside bracket, the attempt to throttle the boat forward to release the anchor, and the "failure to leave enough slack anchor line to compensate for top-water Gulf conditions" caused the accident.



Early in the morning, the men went more than 50 miles offshore in a 21-foot vessel. It was loaded with two large coolers filled with ice, drinks, food and beer. All of the friends were dressed in warm clothes, sweat suits and jackets. Around 5:30 p.m., as storms approached, they went to pull up the anchor and head back to port, but the anchor was stuck. One of the men suggested they tie the anchor line to the transom and use the boat's 200 HP motor to pull it loose. When the skipper tried to thrust the boat forward, the vessel became submerged, tilted and capsized, tossing the men overboard.

The men appear to have tried everything in their power to rescue themselves. They tried up-righting the boat by standing on one side of the overturned vessel. That did not work. They retrieved life jackets, a cooler, a flotation cushion, flares, and cell phones from the capsized vessel. Having only retrieved three PFDs, a fourth one was fashioned out of the cooler and flotation cushion. The flares were too wet to function and the cell phones had no signals. There was no radio on board. The survivor had a watch with a back light, so he could track the elapsed time.

They fought 7-14 foot seas, clinging to the boat all through the night. Around 5:30 a.m. the next day, the skipper became unresponsive and two of the men tried to revive him without success. The skipper's flotation device was removed and the man without one put it on. The skipper then became separated from the boat. About an hour later, another man started to show "possible extreme symptoms of hypothermia," the survivor said. The man removed his own flotation device and also became separated from the boat. The two former college football teammates were the only ones left. They hung on together for another 24 hours, until one of the men grew weak and removed his life vest as well. The survivor said his friend appeared to die as he was holding onto him. He let his friend go and he drifted away. They had been best friends since the sixth grade.

The lone survivor was found clinging to the boat by the Coast Guard after 42 hours in the water.

The boat's owner and skipper at the time, had more than 100 hours of boating experience but no formal boating education and had been drinking, according to the report.



The anchor line was found tied to the port stern tow eye.

The agency investigator said moving the anchor line to the stern (or back of the boat) contributed to the vessel's instability and flooding when they tried to free it. He described it as a *mistake* that probably happens every day on the water, but one a more experienced boater would be aware of and could handle.

Remember, boats with low transoms should never set a stern anchor. USCG tests have shown that the freeboard at the transom can be decreased considerably when anchored from the stern. Tying an anchor line to the stern at any time creates the same conditions. The downward pull substantially offsets the natural buoyancy.

The report recommended cutting the line if boaters are not able to easily free their anchor. The agency advises boaters to take a boating safety course and leave a detailed float plan with friends or family.

(This article appeared in the June 2009 issue of the *Bilge Chatter*. Edited for the *Interlaker*®)

Please
Apply
Correct
Amount of
Postage

Time Dated Material

Don't Forget!
The *Interlaker*[®]
 can be found at the
 D/9 Website: d9-usps.org
 Under
 "Member Access"



D/9 Spring Conference 2010 - Seminar Schedule - Saturday 20 March 2010

0830-0915	0925-1010		1020-1105	1115-1200
CPR/AED				
ABC 3RD Addition	BCA/DB2000	--- BREAK ---	Treasurer	Operations Training
Piloting/Advanced Piloting	BOC - Inland & Coastal		PRO/Boat Show/ Environmental	
Seminars	Marine Electronics		Vessel Safety Check	Co-Op Charting
Secretary/Historian	Administrative Officers		Membership	
Executive Officers	Commanders		Tigre River Delta	Boating Activities