

Volume 46 #1

47th year "America's Boating Club"©

May 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 24-26 2009

D/27 & D/5

Rendezvous

Cape Charles, VA

September 9-13 2009

USPS GB

Kansas City

September 18-20 2009

Fall C/C New Bern

January 15-16 2010

Winter training

Durham

February 2-7 2010

USPS

Orlando, FLA

March 19-20 2010

Annual meeting COW

Wilmington

D/C Message Jerry Hall, AP

It appears that the squadrons in the district are off to an excellent year. Judging by the squadron newsletters, most of you have education, social, and cruising activities underway or planned. All of these are fun learning experiences and are signs of a healthy, active squadron. Also, as the public sees you having fun your squadron activities become recruiting tools. So have fun and recruit more members.



The next District function will be the rendezvous in Cape Charles Virginia. This will be our first, at least in my memory, joint rendezvous. We will be meeting with District 5 located north of our District and based on my experiences with them planning this event; I know they will be a fun group to share some time with. Elsewhere in the Bitts there is more detailed information on the Rendezvous. I do want to recognize and thank P/D/Cs Don Dunlap and Ben Reed along with P/C Jet Powers for the outstanding work they have done in working with the D5 folks in planning this Rendezvous; they have put together a diverse program that has something for everyone. I challenge all of you to blow the spiders and dust out of your conch shells, loosen up those bean-bag baseball arms, and sharpen up your potato cannon aiming and distance techniques and come on up to Cape Charles prepared to have a great time.

Looking ahead at our other District meetings during the rest of the year, you will see more emphasis on education, and where we can, somewhat less emphasis on formality. Expect to have at our Council and Council/Conference meetings an active educational program on-going at each. The specifics of these will be publicized well in advance of each meeting. The Fall Council Meeting will be in New Bern this year with Cape Lookout hosting and the Spring Council/Conference and COW will be in Wrightsville Beach with Cape Fear hosting. Both these locations are among our favorites and both host squadrons really know how to have a good time, so be on the lookout for more information on these meetings as the time draws nearer. There will be a big change in the Winter Training Meeting this year. There will be no Council meeting, only a one-day session to primarily train squadron officers. The meeting is designed for your convenience; it will be held in Raleigh beginning probably at 10 and should conclude by 2, so you can drive in for the day.

D/C Report continued on Page 2

D/C report continued from page 1.

This will save both you and the District money since we will not have hotels or accommodations involved. I do expect to have every squadron in the District represented at this session. It is important that people in officer's positions understand what is expected of them and the reporting/legal requirements they have. So mark your calendars now. The meeting will be January 16, 2010.

I am looking forward to working with each of you this year and hopefully, the year will be fun and rewarding.



THE LADIES WERE THERE



AND THE MEN??



XXX RATED!!!

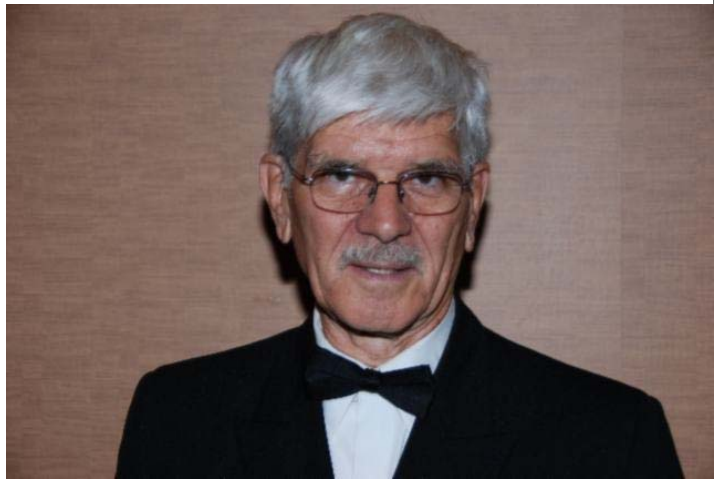


VSC AWARDS

District Educational Officer D/Lt/C George Malindzak, SN

New ABC-3 course may require changes in your default computer settings:

Recent security enhancements by Adobe and Microsoft require that the default computer settings be changed to permit the ABC3 Courseware CD to run. If you experience difficulties, you should download [this file](#) and follow it carefully. IBM PC computers must use Windows Internet Explorer and change the default values as outlined in the download. Macintosh computer users must run in "IBM PC Compatibility" mode and also use Internet Explorer with its default values changed.



BOC Workshop: A workshop was held for those interested in becoming a Certifier in the USPS Boat Operator Certification (BOC) Program during the D27 COW on March 27, 2009 at the American Red Cross Building in Raleigh, NC. Approximately thirty-five registrants attended this 4-hour workshop conducted by Asst. Regional Certifier, Lt. Ray Fedele, SN. This is the first step in the process of getting individuals qualified to certify individuals for various levels of boating proficiency.

There are different levels of Certifiers: Certifiers (those who have completed the recent BOC Workshop), will function locally as promoters of the BOC program and help assure the applicants have completed the required courses, seminars, and on *land skills* for the various levels of boating proficiency Certification; Advanced (Skill) Certifiers, in addition to the qualifications of a Certifier, are those who can assure that the applicants have completed the required *on the water skills (OTW)* for the various levels of boating proficiency Certification; Regional (Coordinators of) Certifiers, function to keep track of the administrative process (paperwork) of the applicants and scheduling of the Certifiers and Advanced Certifiers in their region; Assistant Regional (Coordinators of) Certifiers assist the Regional Certifiers in performing their duties over the geographical expanse of the several regions, if necessary.

The current training required includes: the Certifier's Seminar (all levels of certifiers must complete); and the Advanced Certifier Training which is still in a draft form and is required for Advanced Certifiers. As a Certifier, one is qualified to certify any on land portions of the requirements for any level of certification; Advanced Certifiers are qualified to certify all of the requirements (including OTW skills) for any level of certification.

This support staff structure has been established to provide for a national program to certify recreational boaters for four levels of boating proficiency: Inland Navigator, Coastal Navigator, Advanced Coastal Navigator and Offshore Navigator. Further details are available on the USPS website under the 'Boat Operator Certification' section, or from your SEO.

Advanced BOC Certification: D27 has taken steps to setup a workshop for those who are interested in qualifying for the Advanced Certifier level, i.e., to certify on-the-water (OTW) skills for applicants for all levels of boating proficiency certification. The Cape Fear Power Squadron is planning on-the-water practice and training sessions for those interested. Following these sessions, National will dispatch an Advanced BOC representative to this area and conduct OTW certification exercises. I have been informed that it is anticipated that it will take one representative about four hours to certify one person on a single boat. Details will be sent to the SEOs as they become available.

District Executive Officer D/Lt/C Jamie McCurry, AP

A new Boating Season is well underway with many shake down cruises and squadron meetings. Your District Bridge is well underway with a great year planned for District 27. The Rendezvous should be a fun event for all and a little different. I hope to see you when we join D/5 in Cape Charles. I know they are familiar with crabs, but I think we can teach them a thing or two about a conch.



When on the water this summer keep USPS in your fun. Remember that safe boating is fun just ask Louise Manke your District Safety Officer. She has many ideas she is willing to share. While thinking safety make sure that your boat has been inspected by one of your Vessel Safety Examiners. If you have any question on VSE, please contact Bill Halkovitch your D/27 Vessel Safety Check Chairperson. Also make sure that your friends have their boat inspected. While your friend is having their boat inspected talk to them about the fun we have in USPS, they just might want to join us as members. On those many cruises that you take might I suggest that you take a few corrections for Co-Op Charting to keep our charts up to date. It is a great service to NOAA and to you the boater in making our waters safer. Speaking about Co-Op Charting, please welcome Phil Benson as the new District 27 Co-Op Charting Chairman. Phil takes over from David Blankenbeckler who has served us well in Co-Op Charting for the last several years. I know that Phil needs your help in putting D/27 at the top of Co-Op Charting in USPS.

The other members of your Executive Department; Devohn Rhame (Legislative Officer), Bob Howd (Liaison Officer), and JB Bagby (PRO and Homeland Security Officer) stand ready to assist you the member and your Squadron to insure that you have a safe and successful year. Just ask - we will show you how.

Many thanks to those that have served us well. Many thanks for those serving us now, and many thanks for those willing to serve us in the future. The future of safe boating is in you hands; volunteer to help. See you in Cape Charles.

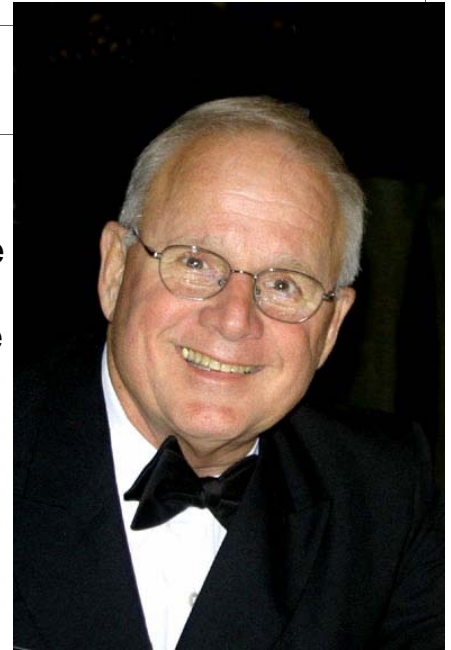


THE POWER BEHIND THE THRONE



OUR NEW COMMANDER

District Administrative Officer D/Lt/C Mike McCulley, JN



This is my first Bitts article since being installed as District 27 Administrative Officer in late March. I want to begin by thanking the District Nominating Committee for selecting me as the DAO nominee and the Council & Conference delegates for electing me to this position. I will do my best to live up to the trust they have put in me. The topics I want to briefly discuss in this article are Membership Recruiting and Retention, the joint District 5 and District 27 Rendezvous in Cape Charles, Virginia and the Youth Poster Contest.

Membership.

All of you know that there is a troubling downward trend in USPS membership numbers throughout the country. Advertising will certainly increase awareness of USPS member benefits and help to recruit new members into the organization. But, the most effective way to convey those benefits to potential members is on a personal, one-on-one basis. Squadrons can be more visible and promote USPS through participation in boat shows, community festivals, vessel safety checks and public education. Our experience in Cape Lookout Sail & Power Squadron has been that the America's Boating Course is a great resource for recruiting new members. You can use the ABC classroom setting to promote USPS by explaining the benefits, describing the advanced courses, introducing squadron leaders, demonstrating the camaraderie shared by USPS members, etc. Another important effort in reversing the trend toward decreased membership is to work harder on keeping the members we have. Only six districts in USPS showed a net gain in members between 2007 and 2008. In spite of an encouraging influx of new members last year, District 27 still had a net loss of 48, or approximately 3%, due to non-renewals. We all enjoy the relationships with men and women who are habitually active in squadron functions. But, we also need to reach out and involve members whom we don't see very often. They are the ones who are most likely to lose interest and not renew. One very effective involvement "tool" is to assign mentors to new members to help them meet other members, to encourage them to take advantage of USPS educational opportunities and to participate in district and squadron activities. Let's all strive to turn the membership situation around, to regain an upward trend and to win the National Membership Committee's Growth Award at this year's Fall Conference. *ADMIN REPORT CONTINUED ON PAGE 6*

ADNIN REPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

District 5/District 27 Rendezvous.

This paragraph is simply to encourage all of you to consider taking part in the upcoming joint rendezvous with District 5 from July 23-25. This will be a great opportunity not only to get out on the water or camp out for several days but also to participate in an enjoyable event with our fellow members in the Chesapeake Bay area. P/C Ralph Daniels has organized a cruise to the rendezvous up the ICW to Cape Charles leaving Beaufort, NC on July 19th. Members can join the flotilla at any point. Carolyn and I will be cruising on our Senator 35, "Dalliance". Whether you would be coming by boat or driving up, please come. It will be fun!

Youth Poster Contest.

If you haven't already started the 12th Annual Boarman Youth Poster Contest in your squadron, it's time to do so. It is open to all children ages 6 to 14 in 3 age groups. This year's theme is "BOATING IS FUN!". The students' poster entries are judged first at their school and then by the squadron prior to the D27/D5 Summer Rendezvous where the District judging will be done. First-place winners in each age group will be entered into the National contest. The Grand National winner in each group will be awarded a \$150 prize at the Fall Governing Board. First and second runners-up winners are awarded \$100 and \$75 respectively. The entry form and rules are located at:

<http://www.usps.org/national/membership/youth/pictures/12thYPContest.pdf> Or look for the Poster Contest link on the Youth Activities page under the Administrative De-

WHO IS D/LT/C MIKE McCULLY?

A 1963 graduate of NC State University, D/Lt/C Michael "Mike" McCulley, JN served 21 years as an Air Defense Control Officer in the US Marine Corps. During his military service, he earned a Masters degree in Public Administration from Western New England College. After retirement from the Marine Corps as a Major in 1984, he worked as a bank loan officer and branch manager for nine years with First Citizens Bank. Following that, he taught Total Quality Management courses to Marines at MCAS, Cherry Point, NC through Craven Community College for several years, and ended his working career as a part-time classical music announcer for Public Radio East. He and his wife, Carolyn, joined Cape Lookout Sail & Power Squadron in October 2005 and he was elected Treasurer in 2006. He served as the squadron's Executive Officer in 2007 and Commander in 2008. The McCulleys owned sailboats for 30 of their 45 years of marriage and have been members of Hancock Yacht Club at MCAS Cherry Point since

1974. Mike earned a 25 Ton, Inland US Coast Guard Merchant Marine Officer License in 1996, and they cruised on their 37' sailboat to Florida and the Bahamas for six months in 2000. They made the transition to power in 2004 with the purchase of a 35' Senator cruising trawler. Mike and Carolyn have a son, Michael, Jr., who is an environmental attorney in Wilmington, NC. Besides boating, Mike's hobbies include landscape and wildlife photography, choral singing, and wooden ship modeling, which he demonstrates as a volunteer at the NC Maritime Museum's Watercraft Center in Beaufort.

District Secretary

D/Lt/C David Osmolski, AP

This is the season we dream about all winter. It is the season into which we pack so much activity it becomes almost like work! While we are fortunate here in the Carolinas to have a moderately warm climate and can run our boats almost every month of the year, there are folks to the north of us who can drive their automobiles on the water almost as many months of the year as they can drive their boats!

My point is that now that we have chased the wintering mice and spiders out of the boats it is time to check our boating safety gear. How about those PFD's? I mean Life Jackets. Now that we've become comfortable with the acronym PFD we are told that Life Jacket was a pretty good term, and maybe we ought to start using it again. As a Vessel Examiner, I always try to make a point of having good, serviceable life jackets. The good old orange type II jackets are the most commonly found life jackets. They are NOT most commonly found ON a person. Usually an ample supply will be found in a locker or an overhead storage bag. Some boaters actually confess to not knowing how to swim. Their life jacket is securely stored with the rest.

Bass fishermen are noted for their low, fast boats. These babies can run up to seventy knots and more! Nearly every bass fisherman wears a life jacket while underway. These jackets are usually a type III which is designed to stay on in impact situations. Interestingly, nearly every bass fisherman shucks off that life jacket the minute his engine is turned off, and he goes prancing up on the deck.

These situations, non-swimmers not wearing flotation, bass fishermen walking around on the deck without wearing flotation are often invitations to disaster. The situation with the non-swimmer is self evident. Unless someone is present when he goes in, and has the presence of mind to toss him a type IV, the consequences are nearly always fatal. With the bass fisherman, it is not quite so obvious. There are a couple of things happening here. Let's say our fisherman is a strong swimmer. If he falls overboard, first, is he a strong enough swimmer to catch his boat if his trolling motor doesn't shut down? Let's say his trolling motor does shut down and he catches his boat. Is he strong enough to pull himself back into the boat? Swimming and treading water use energy. That energy will not be available when you need to get into the boat. Bass boats are low to the water and much easier to get into than many other hull designs. Still, I have heard and read of men who were too exhausted to climb out of that cold water and into the safety of their boat.

There are two things that can save a person too exhausted to climb into his boat. The first is your outboard engine. Most outboard engines have a tilt feature that helps to trim the engine for optimum efficiency. This can be used as an electric elevator to get back into your boat! Usually there is a tilt button on the side of the engine. Simply stand on the cavitation plate and tilt yourself back into your boat.

The other is to equip your boat with an accessible swim ladder. Many of the newer boats have a swim ladder that is stored inside the boat and can be pulled out and deployed from outside the boat. It could save your life.



District Treasurer

D/Lt/C Lloyd Moore, JN

As the boating season in NC swings into high gear, we're looking forward to the spring cruises, and of course, the D/5 – D/27 Rendezvous in July. It's going to be a very different and exciting rendezvous, and I hope to see many D/27 members there.

IRS Rules:

Squadron treasurers: IRS doesn't require non-profit organizations whose gross income is less than \$25,000 to file an income tax return, but starting last year, we are required to file form 990-N (e-postcard) with the IRS.

"The e-Postcard is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your tax year. For example, if your tax year ended on December 31, 2008, the e-Postcard is due May 15, 2008. You cannot file the e-Postcard until after your tax year ends."

The form can only be filed online from the IRS web site. Go to www.irs.gov/eo for a description of your requirements, and a link to the e-postcard, under the heading: **Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for Small Exempt Organizations — Form 990-N (e-Postcard)**

NC Sales Tax Refunds:

Not-for-profit organizations in North Carolina are eligible to receive a refund for state sales tax paid each year. All D/27 Squadrons qualify, and can either submit the forms themselves or send the information to the District Treasurer to be included on a group submission. The NC sales tax refund for the 2nd half of 2008 has been received from the NC Dept of Revenue, and checks totaling \$875.80 have been distributed to the participating squadrons.

If you don't apply for the refunds, you're losing out on money your squadron is entitled to.

If your squadron wants to be included on the group submission, you'll need to keep track of the purchases made and sales tax paid. A spreadsheet is available on the District 27 web site to help with this record keeping. The record of purchases made and tax paid, along with a copy of the invoices/receipts should be submitted to the District Treasurer by 1 September for the first half of 2009.

I hope to see you all in Cape Charles.



Crossing Paths at the Combined D27 & D5 2009 District Rendezvous

As we announced before, you have an opportunity to participate in a Power Squadron first! A joint District Rendezvous with D5 and D27 has been planned in Cape Charles, Va., just about 12 miles from the north entrance to the Chesapeake Bridge/Tunnel complex. As of May 3rd, 30 slips had already been reserved at the award winning Bay Creek Marina so it is time for you to start your planning, if you haven't already, whether you are coming by boat, car, or RV.

The combined Rendezvous committee has been working hard to bring fun and interesting activities to this event both on-site with the Rendezvous (examples include bean bag baseball, water poker run, navigation contest, potato cannon contest, and conch blowing contest) and off-site around the area (examples include winery tour and tasting with transportation, antique train ride through the Eastern Shore, and strolling main street Cape Charles). The town is really looking forward to the Power Squadron coming and the firemen are preparing for their famous Seafood Fest just for us. This is a great opportunity for District 27 members to enjoy a new area, Cape Charles, and meet other Power Squadron members from both District 27 and District 5 to share boating experiences.

P/C Ralph Daniels, D27 Cruise Chairman, is actively planning and coordinating cruise plans so please contact him at (919) 795-9374 or ralph.rsps@earthlink.net if you have questions, are planning a cruise, or want to join other boaters cruising to Cape Charles.

There is a web site dedicated to this rendezvous that has all you ever wanted to know about the event including marina, accommodations, and area information. Please check out the site at http://members.cox.net/summer_rendezvous_2009/index.htm or by going to the District 27 web site and clicking on 2009 Rendezvous.

This Rendezvous is what USPS is all about ... "FUN BOATING". Hope you can join us.

If you have questions, please contact one of the District Committee representatives:

P/D/C Ben Reed
(252-975-8110)

P/D/C Don Dunlap
(252-974-7791)

P/C John (Jet) Powers Lodging Coordinator (252-426-5382)



D/27 2009-2010 BRIDGE

REGISTER TODAY!

PLEASE SUPPORT THE RENDEZVOUS

CROSSING PATHS
 USPS Districts 5 and 27 - 2009 Summer Rendezvous
 Bay Creek Marina and Resort, Cape Charles, Virginia
 23-26 July 2009

MEMBER: Rank _____ Name: _____ Grade: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

SQUADRON: _____ DISTRICT: _____

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

SPOUSE/OTHER ATTENDEES:

Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____

Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____

Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____

Children Attending # _____ Ages _____ (for children activities)

ACTIVITIES SELECTIONS

Activity Fee (Per Adult) – Defrays cost of tent, tables and chairs # _____ @ \$12.00 _____

Poker Run – Friday – Per Boat - Defrays cost of awards # _____ @ \$10.00 _____

Navigation Contest – Saturday – Per Boat – Defrays cost of awards # _____ @ \$20.00 _____

Chatham Winery Tour and Tasting with lunch at East Ville Inn

Crab Cake Sandwich with dessert # _____ @ \$32.00 _____

Chicken Salad Sandwich with dessert # _____ @ \$32.00 _____

Friday Night Seafood Fest - Adults # _____ @ \$35.00 _____

- Children 12 yrs and younger # _____ @ \$12.00 _____

Steamed Crabs, Crab Cakes, Shrimp, Clams, Fried Fish,
 Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Salads, Soda, Tea – (Bottomless Beer Mug \$5.00 sold at door)

Saturday Night Award Dinner – Southern Style Pig Pick'n

- Adults # _____ @ \$28.00 _____

- Children 12 yrs and younger # _____ @ \$14.00 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Make Checks Payable to: 2009 USPS Summer Rendezvous

SEND TO: P/D/C Arlene M. Anderson, AP

11258 Magnolia Place

Smithfield, Virginia 23430

Arlene.anderson47@yahoo.com 757-357-6319 (home) or 757-685.6319 (cell)

Crossing Paths At the 2009 Combined D27 / D5 Summer Rendezvous Cruise,

by P/C Ralph Daniels

Attention D27 coastal boaters, please block off the week before the D27/D5 Summer Rendezvous, which is July 24-26, 2009. We are planning a cruise to Cape Charles, VA the sight of the 2009 summer rendezvous. We will have boaters from the Albemarle Sound, Pamlico River, Neuse River, Beaufort, Topsail, and Southport all heading north for the spacious Bay Creek Marina (757-331-8640) at Cape Charles on the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. Plans are still soft on the intermediate stops but we all want to be at Cape Charles on Friday July 24.

Intermediate Stops could include: Beaufort City Docks, Oriental Harbor, Dowry Creek, Alligator River, Ocracoke, Manteo, Coinjock, and Tidewater Marina Norfolk.

We need boats for crew and crew for boats. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about cruising – we will have plenty of experienced cruisers and routes – preprogrammed for most GPS'.

This cruise is for all - power boaters, slow boaters, and Sail Boaters! **JOIN ANY LOCATION ANY TIME!** Food, Drink and fun at each location! For details please see web:

www.usps.org/localusps/d27. And Please Call P/C Ralph Daniels @ (919) 795-9374 or Email at ralph.rsps@earthlink.net

More on 2009 District Rendezvous

It is not too early to start planning this summer's boating activities. The Rendezvous this year will be combined with District 5. District 5 is located adjacent to our northern border and encompasses the Chesapeake Bay. The event will be a fun filled time for all; sail boaters, power boaters, boaters that love boating with dinghy, canoes, kayaks, or even land yachts and members that just love being around good friends on the water.

The combined committee is working hard to bring many interesting and fun events for the weekend in Cape Charles, VA. Cape Charles is located about 10 miles north of the northern end of the Chesapeake Bridge Tunnel Complex right on the bay. There will be a Navigation Contest, a Poker Run (for the smaller boats), tours, games, USPS fellowship, and we wouldn't be USPS members if we didn't throw in a little food. We will, of course, be introducing our friends in District 5 to the fun things that have become a part of our rendezvous' – such as conch blowing and bean bag baseball.

Start early to encourage the membership and your friends to plan on attending this new venture. It is a first time that we have combined districts for a summer rendezvous. The committee is working hard to make this a wonderful summer activity. There is a web site dedicated to this rendezvous that shows the location, marina, lodging; lists points of contact and really has an abundance of information. Please check out the web site: http://members.cox.net/summer_rendezvous_2009/index.htm . This rendezvous is what USPS is all about – "FUN – Boating".

If you have questions, please contact one of the District representatives:

P/D/C Ben Reed P/D/C Don Dunlap
(252-975-8110) (252-974-7791)

P/C John (Jet) Powers Lodging Coordinator (252-426-5382)

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FIRST CLASS



WWW.USPS.ORG/LOCALUSPS/D27

D/27 ANNUAL RENDEZVOUS JOINT WITH D/5

CAPE CHARLES, VIRGINIA JULY 24-26

DISTRICT BRIDGE 2007-2008

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