

Volume 49#1

50th year "America's Boating Club"©

April 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21-27 2011

Safe Boating week

June 17-19 2011

D/27 Rendezvous

Grace Harbour

River Dunes

Oriental

September 12-17

National USPS

Four Seasons

Greensboro, NC

Sept 30-Oct 2 2011

D/27 Fall C/C

Marriott Hotel

Winston-Salem, NC



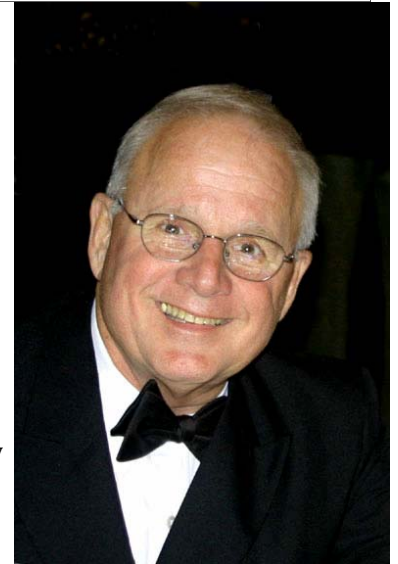
D/C Message Michael D. McCulley, JN

"Communication"

Several things I have either heard, read or observed over the past few weeks have motivated me to write this article. What really has impressed me is how I've not been able to let go of the idea in lieu of a simpler, and possibly less controversial, topic. These thoughts have been stirring in my head for a while. But, it's only recently that I have had more than a passing interest in expressing them.

I doubt that there is a US Power Squadrons member that hasn't given some thought to what the future has in store for us. Over the past decade, we've experienced dramatic reductions in membership levels across the country, and our National leaders are spending much energy and resources to correct this. There have been some signs recently that their efforts are paying off and the trend is beginning to be reversed. But, for many there still is an underlying sense that all is not totally well. One problem we are experiencing causes concern. There seems to be a lethargic attitude by some toward one's responsibility as a member. Many people simply don't participate in squadron functions any more. I wonder why they remain members, but at the same time am thankful that they do. In some squadrons, there's an alarming decrease in the number of members interested in serving as leaders. To me, that is a symptom that the squadron is headed for trouble and something has to be done about it. There might be a tendency to ignore the fact that such a situation exists. But, it is an organizational condition that, if not corrected, will cause even more serious problems and could very well result in the squadron's eventual demise. What do we do about this?

First, I believe that we need to establish an atmosphere of open discussion about the expectations of today's members. Many changes occurring in our country have caused people to think differently about what they want from an organization than they did two decades ago. Efforts to determine what people want must be ongoing. A good example of that is a very candid newsletter article written recently by one of our squadron commanders describing a situation when only three members showed up for a squadron dinner with a guest speaker. Rather than just complain about it, that commander has organized ways to get feedback from fellow members on the type of functions they are interested in attending. *Continued on Page 2*



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Secondly, members who have been habitually absent from squadron functions need to get reinvigorated and make an effort to become more involved in squadron activities. I recently heard a much respected long time USPS member bemoaning the fact that his squadron had so few people attend a monthly dinner meeting. I really couldn't disagree with his sentiment. However, I believe his comments may have had a better impact had he said what he, and we, could do to help the situation. So, I'm asking all of you, what can we on the District Bridge do for you?

The Squadron Officer Training Meeting was instituted several years ago and has been very helpful in preparing new officers for the tasks ahead. But, we need to keep the lines of communication open throughout the year at all levels. At the D27 Bridge Planning Meeting two weeks ago, I told the district officers that I would be contacting the squadron commanders via phone or e-mail at least monthly to find out how things are going and report on any recent developments, and I requested that they do the same with their squadron counterparts. We are willing and eager to provide advice or assistance at any time. Moreover, I will be relying on all of you, our members, to exchange opinions and ideas not only with each other, but also with your Bridge officers.

In spite of a few potentially troublesome situations among our 20 squadrons, we have a very healthy and vibrant district. Let's work together to keep it that way by "nipping problems in the bud" when, or even before, they occur. I am proud to be your Commander and am confident that next March we will look back and agree that this was a successful and enjoyable year in USPS District 27.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the District Rendezvous in June.

MEET OUR NEWLY ELECTED ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

D/LT/C Robert F. Howd, JN

I have been in the Fort Macon Sail & Power Squadron since 2004. I was commander in 2006 and 2007. I have completed all of the courses except N.

I recently married Sandra Williams of Durham. So now I have two stepchildren and three step grandchildren ages 19, 15, and 10 in addition to my own two married children and three grandchildren, ages 11, 7 and 5.

In one of my previous lives I lived in Russia, Yemen and Jordan as a state department spouse. I worked at the Dept of Justice in Washington DC. I also was a realtor and worked for the VA state police in Northern Virginia.

Another of my previous lives was in the navy. I retired from the navy in 1988. While in the navy I spent one tour aboard a destroyer escort ship in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. I then received a college scholarship to Miami University. After college I spent one tour flying the EKA-3B aircraft aboard the USS Oriskany and USS Constellation. I also spent two tours flying the S-3A aircraft aboard the USS Independence and the USS John F. Kennedy. Two of my shore tours were in recruiting duty, one in Indianapolis as an aviation officer recruiter and one in Washington as the enlisted advertising officer. I also spent one tour aboard the USS Forrestal and my last tour was working on flight manuals in Washington DC.

I originally hailed from central Iowa. Left the farm 51 years ago.

I am very involved in the Core Creek Methodist Church and am a member of the VFW in Beaufort.

In addition to boating, I enjoy photography, traveling, and woodworking.

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

BOC Update

Formerly (prior to the past few months), there were three levels of BOC certifiers: Certifiers, Advanced Certifiers and Master Certifiers.

Certifiers: Where individuals who completed the BOC Seminar (like the one held in Raleigh in 2009). They were authorized to assist the Advanced Certifiers in the preparation of IN application materials. They were not authorized to approve OTW training.

Advanced Certifiers: Once an individual became IN-certified (Inland Navigator), he/she could approve OTW training and 'clone' themselves. Although there was only one level of BOC certification operational (IN), they could not approve CN OTW training

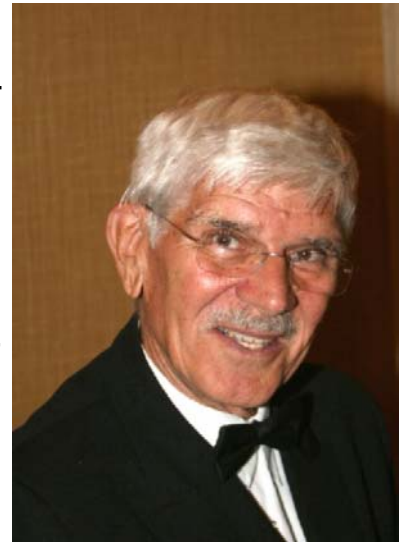
Master Certifiers: Could train those who were IN-certified to become Advanced Certifiers, and could do the OTW Training. Originally, Master Certifiers were trained at the US Sailing School

Currently, the classifications and BOC designations have changed; there are those who are certified (like IN-Certified, CN-Certified, ACN-Certified, and ON-Certified), IN/CN/ACN/and OCN Certifiers, and IN/CN/ACN/OCN Certifier Trainers

IN/CN/CAN/ON-Certified individuals are those individuals who have taken the basic BOC Seminar, and satisfactorily completed the qualifications for IN/CN/ACN/OCN, i.e., acquired and purchased the appropriate kit from USPS Headquarters, completed all the requirements and submitted their application for approval.

IN/CN/ACN/OCN Certifiers are those who have completed the above step and elect to be trained to train others to be IN/CN/ACN/OCN Certifiers. This process is optional. Once completed, these certifiers will be expected to travel (usually at their own expense) to train others wishing to have the respective training. These individuals were the Advanced Certifiers prior to the past few month; they (the former Advanced Certifiers) can still conduct and approve OTW training but they cannot 'clone' themselves; in order to do so, they require additional training from a Certifier Trainer.

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IN/CN/ACN/OCN Trainers are those individuals who have gone to a special training school for additional training in IN/CN/ACN/OCN (These were classified as Master Certifiers in the past). Candidates for Certified Trainers are invited to participate in a special school and training program for that purpose. There are three IN/CN Certified Trainers in D27, Clay Helm, Tom Penders and George Malindzak.

From now on, all IN and CN Certifiers are required to be trained by a Certifier Trainer (IN or CN). Eventually, there will be ACN and ON Certifier Trainers, but there are none now.

In summary, one can become IN or CN certified without any obligation to travel and provide training for others, i.e., become certifiers, or, they can become Certifiers (IN/CN/ACN/ON) after some additional training from a Certifier Trainer, and/or they can become a Certifier Trainer after being invited to do so by representatives from the BOC Committee.

For the convenience of the District, arrangements are being made to facilitate the transition from the former BOC system to the new one at the June 2011 D27 Rendezvous. Former Advanced Certifiers (at the IN level because those are the only ones relevant to D27) can become the 'new' IN Certifier which authorizes them to approve OTW skill demonstrations and to 'clone' themselves directing or instructing an IN candidate through the skills demonstration course while being observed by a Certifier Trainer. With the right set of boats and certifier trainers, this could be arranged for those interested at the June 2011 D27 Rendezvous. For example, we could designate one boat (preferably the first boat out in the morning) with 2 IN candidates, one former AC, and a certifier trainer (probably Tom Penders) go through the IN course. After that is finished, the second former AC and the certifier trainer and the IN Candidate can go out and do the course. This can be done for each of the 5 former AC-ers we have in the District.

At the same time, those who want to be CN Certified will be going out on two other boats with two other certified trainers (Clay Helm and George Malindzak).

There will not be enough time for any one person to do both exercises, hence the choice is yours.

You don't have to be IN Certified to be CN certified, but you have to have completed all the IN passport requirements before you can become CN certified. You can participate in the CN OTW/Nav skills demonstration at any time.

Contact me if you have any questions. George Malindzak, SN

District Executive Officer D/Lt/C Harold W. O'Briant, JN

What a way to begin the year with such an incredible Change of Watch at Carolina Beach as hosted by Shallotte River , lead by Cdr Hugh F. Hayes, AP. Not only was an outstanding Bridge retired but an equally outstanding Bridge installed. I am extremely proud to serve as Executive Officer and to have such an outstanding and veteran team to help me.

The executive department is charged with the external operations of the District consisting of Vessel Safety Examinations, Co-Operative Charting, Legislative Affairs, Public Relations and Homeland Security and as otherwise deemed appropriate.

Our District Vessel Safety Examination/Safety program is again under the capable direction of D/Lt William S. Halkovitch, AP of Shallotte River Sail and Power Squadron. Bill has kept District 27 most active in VSE's and the training of new examiners. Bill can be contacted at halko@atmc.net with any questions from the squadron vessel safety chairpersons.



D/Lt Phillip A. Benson, JN of Rocky Mount Sail & Power Squadron is equally adept as the chairperson of Co-Operative Charting for the District. Phil can be contacted at philbenson.phil@gmail.com by the squadron co-operative charting chairpersons for any ideas, suggestions or assistance as is needed.

D/Lt Tom Taylor, AP of Raleigh Sail & Power Squadron is new as the District Legislative Liaison Officer . However, he is a veteran of legislative affairs as he is employed by the North Carolina General Assembly. District 27 should be well informed of any pending legislation regarding boating in North Carolina. Welcome aboard Tom. Tom can be reached at tomtaylor3@yahoo.com .

Finally we have D/Lt John E. "JB" Bagby, JN of Fort Macon Sail & Power Squadron serving as Liaison Officer, Public Relations Officer and Homeland Security Officer for the District. JB is a veteran of all of these positions and has already been very active this year in continuing to maintain and develop areas of mutual concern and co-operation with Homeland Security/ U.S. Coast Guard efforts relating to waterway security in our District.

As you can read, we have a lot going on this year.

Another function of the Executive Department is to work with Squadron commanders in any way we can to offer assistance as they require. The District Bridge has already begun visiting various squadrons throughout the District to become acquainted with you and to let you know that we stand ready to assist in any way we can. After all, you are the District. We are here to serve you to help you succeed.

Please plan to attend the upcoming District Rendezvous at River Dunes in June. Rendezvous are designed for education, fun and fellowship. There will be no shortage of any of these.

Also, mark your calendars for the Governing Board in Greensboro in September. All of USPS will be our guests. This Governing Board will be remembered largely by how well we as a District are represented.

District Administrative Officer

D/LT/C Robert F. Howd, JN

The new district year has started with new district officers in most of the positions and the squadrons have all had a Change of Watch. The District Administrative Department has contacted each of the Squadron Administrative Officers with their job responsibilities and the offices within their department.

Our membership problems still exist. We have lost another 100 people from D27 in the last year. But we have a great membership team this year to assist you in building and keeping your members. Look for their quick tips at the end of this article. We do have some new initiatives to help us out—converting cyber squadron members to regular members is a good place to look for members and we have courses for non-members who can be converted if you mention the difference in price (of course you then have to keep their interest).

For our current members, we have a lot going on this summer to get and keep their interests.

Upcoming June 17-19 is the rendezvous At River Dunes near Oriental with education and fun all thrown in together. There will be on-the-water training for boating certifications, canoe/kayak races and the ever popular bean-bag baseball. The current champion is the district bridge. We are taking on all comers.

We have the Governing Board coming to Greensboro September 14-17. The Administrative and Executive Officer training is going to be presented there. It is a great opportunity to get some training and attend a national meeting without a lot of travel.

Shortly after the Governing Board is the D27 Fall Council/Conference in Winston-Salem starting Sept 30. In addition to the business conducted, there are seminars presented that attendees will get credit for. There are also other classes for general training.

Folks—we have opportunities for all. Paraphrasing an old saying “you can have all the opportunities for training and fun, but you can’t make a power squadron member participate”. It is the job of the leadership to get the members to participate. We are all here to help you. My goal (and I hope one of your goals) is to turn around the membership losses and get every squadron on a positive curve. To make up the 100 we lost last year we need to recruit 5 + per squadron. We only had six squadrons with a positive number in 2010 and most did not make the 5. So it is a serious deal to get turned around. It won’t happen by itself.

Another event is the Boarrman Youth Poster Contest. We will judge the entries at the January training meeting. Let’s get some groups to turn in several entries. Last year we had only three squadrons participate, but we did take home a couple of national winners.

Some notes from the Administrative committee chairs:

June Reasons (OT chair): As this is the beginning of a new squadron year and new officers are coming on board, have an OT program for them! It is a good thing for new members also. Squadron participation in OT programs in the past year has been slight. Let's get busy! Keep me informed who takes the training so they can get credit. 2reasons@suddenlink.net

Sarah McCurry (meetings): District 27 has major responsibilities as host district for the Governing Board. We may need to have some help in a few areas. smccurry@atmc.net

Sandie Williams Howd (member benefits): Did you know that USPS Member Benefits include Travel Services? An example: you can fly from RDU to Barbados, stay 7 nights in the Cocount Court Beach Hotel using the USPS promotion code for a total package of \$1535 per person. Check out the USPS web site under Member Benefits for more great deals. Sandra.williams@juno.com.

Nita Neumeister (member involvement): Here are some ideas for involving your members. You don’t need to use them all but find one or two that work for your squadron—Fine Dining, Wine tasting, cruises, book clubs, pot luck club, bowling league. nautinita@bellsouth.net

Jonnie’ Chardonn (membership): We all need to look over our websites and ask ourselves if someone would seek further information or seek membership after looking at it. Contact information needs to be there, it needs to be user-friendly, everything needs to be correct and current, etc. Here is another idea—an acquaintance newsletter for people who have crossed paths with us (VSC recipients, students in our classes who did not join, etc). jchardonn@yahoo.com

Your administrative team is here to help make sure that you have a successful year. Don’t hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.



District Secretary

D/Lt/C David J. Simons, AP

In the middle of 2010, I had no idea or plan to be the D27 Secretary. But I was contacted by the D27 Nominating Committee in the fall and was told that D27 needed qualified candidates for D27 offices and that I just might be considered to be qualified. So here I am. But I am happy to be in the position because I believe strongly in what USPS and D27 do, as well as my own Raleigh Squadron, and want very much to see the organizations grow and prosper and succeed.

The first thing I want to talk about is our new D27 website. First of all I want to introduce our new Webmaster, Luis Lopez of the Raleigh Squadron. His Assistant Webmaster is Stefan Ufer, also of the Raleigh Squadron. We have moved the D27 website to a new provider. The "official" website is now www.uspsd27.org. This is basically transparent to you because you will automatically be redirected to the new website if you try to access the old one. This gives us greatly expanded storage for whatever we want to put there. The new provider also gives us some other new and very useful capabilities. For one thing, we now have two simplified general-purpose mailing lists. The first is bridge@uspsd27.org. The other is squadroncommanders@uspsd27.org. These are "moderated" lists, which simply means that any e-mail sent to them

must be electronically approved by a moderator before it is actually sent. The only moderators identified so far are the Webmaster and the Assistant Webmaster. We have also defined aliases for the D27 officers. They are very simple to use because you do not have to know what the individual e-mail addresses are. If an e-mail address is changed, we simply update the D27 website and no one is impacted. The format is simply OFFICER@uspsd27.org; e.g., commander@uspsd27.org or administrativeofficer@uspsd27.org. All of these addresses are shown on the website along with the new photographs of the officers. We also have aliases for the Bitts editor (editor@uspsd27.org) and the Webmaster. The aliases are not moderated. The very explicit purpose of the moderated mailing list is to prevent spam or other trash from being sent to those recipients.

I also want to discuss the subject of communications. In an organization as widely dispersed as is USPS and its various components, keeping everyone informed is a monumental task. Nothing is worse than being asked why you were not somewhere you were expected to be or wanted to be and having to reply that you did not know about it. What hurts even more is when someone who is not a member wants to know more about your organization and is not able to find out anything when they search the internet. The internet is a huge advantage for those organizations which use it and use it well. But it can also backfire. If someone goes to your website and determines that the information posted there is not correct, that reflects very poorly on the organization. If you are resource-constrained and feel it is necessary to apply the KISS Theory (KISS = Keep It Simple, Stupid), that is certainly understandable. A website which is rudimentary and simple, but accurate, is far better than one which contains bad information. The Secretary's Department will be having at least one training session during a D27 meeting at some point during this D27 year. The details of who and where and when are currently under discussion. The most valuable thing we can do is explain the updated requirements and evaluation criteria to the webmasters (and anyone else who wants to hear) and then demonstrate the website impacts.

Let's talk briefly about DB2000. I have occasionally seen requests for the D27 Secretary to make changes on DB2000 for an individual squadron member. DB2000 will not allow that and for good and valid reasons. The only person who can update DB2000 for an individual is the commander of the squadron of which the individual is a member or someone in that squadron who has been authorized by the squadron commander to deal with such personal information.

I look forward to seeing many of the smiling faces in D27 during the Rendezvous at River Dunes!



District Treasurer

D/Lt/C David E. Parsons, AP

What a great time was had by everyone at our Spring Council/Conference/COW at Carolina Beach this past March. That was my first time to visit Carolina Beach and hopefully, Linda and I will be able to get back there in the very near future.

The new Bridge is in place and I am grateful for the opportunity to once again this year to serve as your District Treasurer. Last year, being my first, was truly a learning opportunity for me, so this year I am hopeful to put into action what I have learned and be open to continuing my education as District Treasurer. The best part of being on the Bridge for me and for my wife is getting to meet you and other members of our District, as well as, other USPS members when we attend National Meetings.



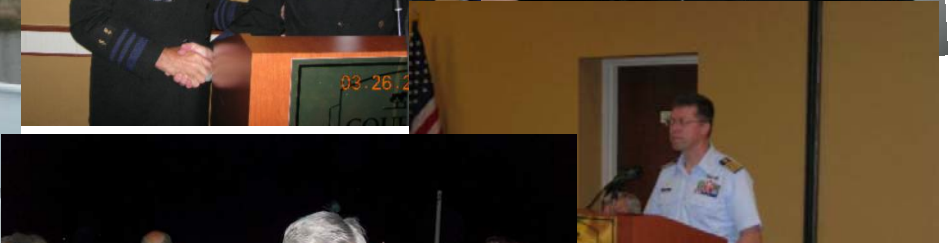
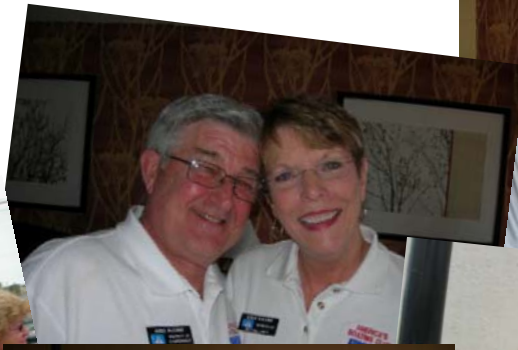
I know that this has been said in the other Bridge members articles, but its worth repeating again. Please make plans to attend the National Fall Conference Meeting in September in Greensboro. Here is a close opportunity to take advantage of one of the benefits of being a USPS member. Although the meeting in Orlando was great, I am looking forward to a lot less driving to get there.

One item that I need to keep before you, especially the Commanders and Treasurer's is that if your squadron is not filing the Sales Tax Refund, you should take a closer look at doing so. In this economic state that we find ourselves, not filing is leaving money on the table that could go to better use, say providing additional materials to a boating class or paying for awards that your members earn during the year. As District Treasurer, I have seen the number of squadrons that take advantage of filing it with the District report, dwindle. I am hopeful that those who participated in the past are still doing it on their own. If you send me your report to file with the District, you get 75% of the total of your squadron's expenses and the District keeps 25%. It helps your squadron and also supports many things the District does. A recent comment was made that the District should require all squadrons to file the report with the District. We are a volunteer organization and can not force anyone to do anything, but I would encourage you to do something, on your own or with my help. Membership is another huge area of concern for USPS and for D27.

New members are assessed District dues and recently I discovered a problem with the reporting of new members by Squadron on the National Treasurer's website and have called this to the attention of the USPS office. Under normal circumstances when a new member joins a squadron the assessment is \$10 for the District, but, if a new member joins a squadron through a transfer from the Cyber Squadron, other words joined online and not directly with a local squadron the assessment charged the Cyber member as a single member is \$5 and if they are a Family Unit, its \$7.50. The problem lies in the website not showing a designation of the new member as coming from the Cyber Squadron, therefore the most recent assessment sent to the D27 squadrons with new members was not reflective of the Cyber transfers. I am hopeful that by the end of the next quarter, National has addressed this area and assessments will be as they should be. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to ask questions if the information you get does not look quite right.

See you at the D27 rendezvous at River Dunes – Oriental, NC in June. Safe and Fun Boating!

Change of Watch 2011



June 17-19, 2011
United States Power Squadrons
2011 District 27 Rendezvous
River Dunes Harbor Club and Marina
2512 Orchard Creek Road
Oriental, NC 28571

The 2011 District 27 Rendezvous will be at the River Dunes Harbor Club and Marina at 2512 Orchard Creek Road, Oriental, NC (www.riverdunes.com) (1-800-975-9565) from June 17th to 19th. Please review their website for detailed instructions on how to get to their location either by boat or vehicle.

All the rendezvous activities will be at the River Dunes Harbor Club and Marina. The attached "Schedule of Events" provides a complete list of the activities for the weekend. Also attached is a Registration Form. Please complete this form so we know who is coming and how many want to participate in each event. Other than the meals, the only event that requires a cost is the Inland Navigation Training and the Coastal Navigation Training. If you are interested in taking this training you should pre-register, order the appropriate IN or CN kit from USPS Hq, to get your passport, booklet, and instructions, AND inform the DEO. The spot for the CN training will be limited at this Rendezvous so the first registrations received will have priority. Please include your phone number on the registration form so that we can contact you as soon as the limit is reached. This training will be taught by D/Lt/C George Malindzak Jr. SN, D-27 Education Officer, P/C Clay Helm, SN (Rocky Mount), and ADEO Tom Penders, SN (Pamlico); the DEO can be contacted at polaris6@nc.rr.com if you have questions.

The River Dunes Harbor Club:

The Harbor House (to include the bar at the swimming pool) does not have a liquor license. It can sell beer and wine. If you want to have a drink consisting of liquor you must bring your own liquor in its bottle with your name on the bottle and the bottle must be in a paper bag with your name on the bag. You must give the bag to the bartender who will keep it at the bar for your use. Each time you want a drink of liquor in the Harbor house or the Swimming Pool area; there will be a \$2.00 charge for the mix and service. This policy does not include activities in the tent, cottages, houses, or on the boats. The only meals this pertains to is the Friday night Happy Hour at the Swimming Pool and the Saturday night dinner in the Harbor House.

There is a dress code for the River Dunes Harbor House. They do not allow any jeans or collarless shirts in the Harbor House.

The meals being offered by the River Dunes Harbor Club and Marina are as follows:

Friday 1700-2000: This is a combination of a cash bar Happy Hour with snack items at the swimming pool bar and simultaneously an informal dinner in the tent consisting of:

- Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chicken Breast, Baked Beans,
- Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Pasta Salad, Watermelon, Cookies and Lemon Bars Water and Tea. These two opportunities will be available for the full three hours so you can attend both at your convenience.

Saturday 0700-0830: This is a Traditional Breakfast Buffet consisting of:

- Fluffy Scrambled Eggs,
- Shredded Hash Browns,
- Crispy Smoked Bacon,
- Buttery Grits or Hot Oatmeal,
- French Toast,
- Fresh Sliced Fruit with Berries,
- Croissant and Muffins, Whipped Butter, and Preserves
- Fruit Juices, Coffee and Hot Tazo Teas.

Saturday 1200-1300: This is a buffet Sandwich Bar and Salad Bar. The Salad Bar consists of

- Turkey, Ham, Roasted Beef,
- Choice of Cheese, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Pickles, Onions,
- Rye, Wheat, and White Bread.

The Salad Bar consists of:

- Lettuce, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Carrots, Onions, Peppers, and t
- Three types of Dressing.
- Water and Tea

Saturday 1900-2100: This is a buffet dinner consisting of:

- Tossed Greens with bowls of Tomato, Cucumbers, Red Onions, Sliced Mushrooms, Shredded Cheese, Croutons, Ranch Dressing, Balsamic Vinaigrette, and Honey Mustard), or
- A Marinated Vegetable Salad consisting of Cole Slaw, Potato Salad , or
- A Chefs Choice of One Seasonal Salad.
- A Platter of fresh seasoned Fruit and Berries.
- A Vegetable Platter with Garden Dip.
- Fresh Assorted Dinner Rolls and Butter.
- Herb Roasted Chicken with Oven Roasted Red Skin Potatoes
- Grilled Atlantic Salmon, Lemon Herb Butter and Rice Pilaf
- Chef's Seasonal Fresh Vegetable Medley
- Water or Tea

The Services Offered by the Marina are:

- The marina has 400 slips with 50-60 slips available for this rendezvous.
- The marina can handle transient vessels up to 150 feet. The cost is \$1.50 per foot per day.
- There are thirty amp hookups for \$5.00 per day and fifty amp hookups for \$10.per day.
- There is a 500 foot fuel dock with high-speed diesel.
- There is pump-out service available.

Please contact J.C. Cappelmann, Director of Marine Operations at 1-252-249-4908, ext 2, or by cell phone at 252-670-5987, or by e-mail at jc@riverdunes.com to reserve a slip.

The Amenities offered by the River Dunes Harbor Club are:

- swimming pool,
- spas,
- cabanas,
- steam showers,
- laundry facilities,
- exercise room and
- bicycles available.

The River Dunes Harbor Club and Marina is quite isolated. If you intend to sleep on your boat, it is recommended you get a slip at River Dunes Harbor Club and Marina. However, there is no non-boat housing at the River Dunes Harbor Club and Marina available for this weekend. If you need off-boat accommodations it is recommended you make hotel reservations in Oriental soonest. The following is offered for your convenience.

- Oriental Marina Motel (www.orientalmarina.com)
- The Cartwright House (www.theCartwighthouse.com)
- The Captains Quarters (www.thecaptainsquarters.us)
- The Inn at Oriental (www.innatoriental.com)
- The River Neuse Suites (www.riverneuserentals.com)
- The Lazy River Cottages (252-249-2261)

. Anyone arriving by boat and staying in Oriental should make arrangements with someone with a vehicle to get back and forth between Oriental and the River Dunes Harbor Club and Marina. To assist in this matter, it is requested that anyone driving between Oriental and River Dunes Harbor Club and Marina check at Hodges Street by the Bridge in Oriental to see if anyone needs a ride to the River Dunes Harbor Club and Marina. Also, it would be appreciated if anyone travelling from the River Dunes to Oriental would check at the Tent to see if anyone needs a ride to Oriental.

The Fort Macon Sail and Power Squadron, your host for this rendezvous, will gladly answer any questions you may have about the Registration Form, the Schedule of Events, or the facilities at the River Dunes Harbor Club and Marina. You may reach the Chairman of the Host Committee, CDR Bruce R. Brill, AP at 252 726-3119 or at bbrill@ec.rr.com.

With seven separate activities, a flag ceremony, Inland and Coastal Navigation Training being offered, four meals, a Happy Hour, and the District Commander 's Reception; it appears to be a very exciting weekend. We hope we have a big turnout for this fun weekend with fellow boaters and squadron mates

MEET OUR NEWLY ELECTED SECRETARY

D/LT/C DAVID J. SIMONS, AP

Dave is a native of Albany, New York. He graduated from the State University of New York at Albany in 1965 and then moved to Raleigh, NC in 1966 working for IBM. He has lived in Raleigh ever since with the exception of a 2-year assignment in LaGaude, France near Nice. He retired from IBM after 42 years of service. He is married to Carolyn and has 2 children, 2 step-children, 6 grandchildren and 1 dog.

He has had 8 boats in his boating career ranging from 15' to his current 32' Carver double-cabin (vintage 1988) which is an on-going project. This boat is docked in Washington, NC where he is also the Commodore of the Washington Yacht Club.

He has been a member of USPS since 1990 and currently has 17 Merit Marks. In his USPS career he has held the following offices/positions: Member-at-Large, Treasurer (3 years), Membership Growth Chairman (3 years), Administrative Officer, Executive Officer, Squadron Commander, Aide to Squadron Commander, Flag Lieutenant and Aide to District Commander (2 years). District Secretary is his first elected District office.

Other activities in which he is involved are as a volunteer at Saint Saviour's Center (2 days per week), Habitat for Humanity and various projects at Christ Church.

June 17-19, 2011 District 27 Rendezvous River Dunes Harbor Club and Marina 2512 Orchard Creek Road

Oriental, NC 28571 1-800-975-9565 www.riverdunes.com

Registration Form

Rank	First Name	Last Name	Grade	Squadron	Mailing Address

Activities

For planning purposes please indicate how many will be participating in each event.

Events	Number Participat-	Events	Number Participat-
Vintage Costume Jewelry Show		Bean Bag Baseball	
Bag Lady Show		Canoe Racing	
Life Ring Throw		Kayak Racing	
Life jacket Fashion Show		Commander's Reception	
Inland Navigation Training (INT) Certificate Num-ber _____ _____ Register Through your Squadron to Get your Passport		Coastal Navigation Training (CNT) Certificate Num-ber _____ _____ Register Through your Squadron to Get your Passport	

Expenses

Friday	Saturday	Saturday	Saturday	Activity Fee	Total Expense
Happy Hour Snacks and Dinner \$29.00 per person	Breakfast \$11.00 per person	Lunch \$15.00 per person	Dinner \$38.00 per person	Per Person \$4.00	XXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXX X
Number eating this meal X \$29.00 \$	Number eating this meal X \$11.00 \$	Number eating this meal X \$15.00 \$	Number eating this meal X \$38.00 \$	Number registered above X \$4.00 \$	Total Due

Please Mail this form with payment to:

Lt/C Suzanne R. LaPalme, 107 China Lane, Havelock NC 28532

NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2011

State of North Carolina



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

SAFE BOATING WEEK

2011

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina is home to more than 5,000 square miles of navigable streams, rivers, lakes and coastal waterways, which are enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of resident boaters and visitors from across our State and nation annually; and

WHEREAS, boaters are drawn to North Carolina waters to fish, swim, water ski, exercise, appreciate nature, enjoy quiet solitude, or relax with family and friends; the State of North Carolina provides free boating access areas to many of these waters, from the Murphy to Manteo; and

WHEREAS, citizens and visitors are encouraged to follow water safety regulations and the recommendations of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the United States Coast Guard, whose officers enforce boating laws on public waters in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, wearing a proper life vest, filing a float plan before departure and remaining watchful and aware at all times while on the water helps ensure a safe boating experience; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 addition to the North Carolina Boating & Water Safety Statute 75A requires that all boat operators under the age of 26 take an approved boating education course and carry a boating education identification card while operating a vessel; and

WHEREAS, approximately 700 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the United States and approximately 20 people die each year in North Carolina; nearly 70% of these fatalities are caused by drowning; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina joins the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the United States Coast Guard and other interested agencies and organizations in encouraging citizens to practice safe boating habits, including never operating boats while impaired by drugs or alcohol, and in promoting the *On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive* campaign during Safe Boating Week and throughout the year;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 21-27, 2011, as "SAFE BOATING WEEK" in North Carolina, and urge citizens to be responsible boaters.



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this fourth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.



USPS Class Change 2012 - Family members become Active

Membership Category	District Assessment		USPS
	2011	2012	
Active	\$12	\$12	\$9.00
Immediate Family	\$15	\$15	\$0.00
Membership	\$12	\$12	\$8.00
Membership (Family)	\$12	\$12	\$0.00
Membership (Family)	\$12	\$12	\$0.00
Family of Family	\$12	\$12	\$0.00
Life & Sustaining (Life Term)	\$12	\$12	\$0.00
Life & Sustaining (Family)	\$12	\$12	\$0.00
Life Family of Family	\$12	\$12	\$0.00
Life Family of Family	\$12	\$12	\$0.00
Life	\$12	\$12	\$0.00
Total Income	\$18,132	\$18,132	\$12.00

HAD A GREAT TIME AT THE ANNUAL MEETING-WISH YOU WERE THERE

DISTRICT 27 BITTS

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The Bitts is published several times a year by district 27, a unit of The United States Power Squadrons®. Articles in the Bitts reflect the opinion of the author. The USPS® and district 27 are not responsible for editorial comment.

FIRST CLASS



WWW.USPS.ORG/LOCALUSPS/D27

June 17-19 2011

D/27 Rendezvous @ Grace Harbour

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