

Volume 49#4

50th year "America's Boating Club"©

February 2012

March 23-25 2012D/27 Spring C/C
COW

New Bern Hilton

May 4-5th 2012D/27 Rendezvous
Holiday Inn Express
Little River, SC**September 2-9 2012**

USPS Detroit, MI

October 12th-14th 2012

D/27 Fall C/C TBD

January 5th 2013D/27 Training
NC State University Club**January 16-20 2013**USPS National Meeting
Jacksonville, FL
Hyatt Regency**March 22nd-24th 2013**D/27 50th Anniversary
D/27 Spring C/C
Change of Watch
Raleigh, NC

D/C Message

Michael D. McCulley, JN

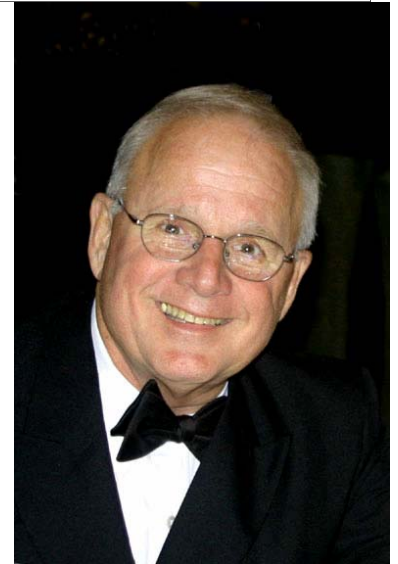
This report is primarily a review of events during the past 11 months in District 27, with special emphasis on the tremendous support we have received from many dedicated individuals.

Our year began with a very enjoyable District Rendezvous held in June at Grace Harbor, River Dunes near Oriental. There was a good turnout of boats and everybody enjoyed the fellowship and amenities of the harbor. Cdr.

Bruce Brill and his host committee from Fort Macon Sail and Power Squadron did an outstanding job organizing the meals and activities. The Flag Ceremony organized by P/C/C Ernie Marshburn was a highlight. One concern for each rendezvous has been the need for a way to hoist the US and USPS flags, as well as the 20 squadron burgees. This problem was solved by Cdr. Brill's construction of a combination flag pole and yardarm made of PVC pipe, which can be disassembled and used at future events. Being in the tranquil harbor and relatively calm waters of nearby Lower Broad Creek presented a great opportunity for D/Lt/C George Malindzak to conduct on-the-water training, and the River Dunes swimming pool was very useful for inflatable PFD demonstrations.

Carolyn and I enjoyed visiting several squadron events during the summer, and the Charlotte Power Squadron's 50th anniversary picnic was especially memorable. We have been very impressed with the friendliness and enthusiasm of our members and have thoroughly enjoyed all our travels. Without exception, we are blessed with very dedicated squadron officers throughout our district.

September was filled with many events, beginning on September 10th with the 40th Anniversary of the Naming of Power Squadron Spit at



Continued from page 1

Cape Lookout. Everyone attending arrived by boat and, after the ceremony, we were invited to climb the lighthouse - the view was amazing.

Next, the National Governing Board met in Greensboro from September 14-17, which was the first National meeting held in North Carolina in about 15 years. District 27 took advantage of the close proximity, and we were happy to have a larger than usual number of members attending.

From September 30-October 2, we held a very successful Fall District Conference in Winston-Salem. The success was due in large part to the efforts of Cdr. Debbie Mayfield, Lt/C Dawn Gaskill and the rest of the Winston-Salem Sail & Power Squadron committee, did a wonderful job organizing the conference, registering attendees and manning the various information tables. Our Meetings Chair, D/Lt. Sarah McCurry, did her usual outstanding job of arranging for meeting rooms and meals, as well as publishing the registration form and meeting agenda.

For several years, the District has conducted a Training Meeting for new officers in January at the N.C. State University Club in Raleigh. Although attendance the first couple of years was less than desired, the word is now out about how much these training workshops help incoming officers prepare for their respective new duties. Over 90 members attended this year and their comments have been very supportive of this training being continued. In addition to the normal duties of each officer, much emphasis has been given to training everyone in the use of DB2000 and setting up squadron web sites.

Recently, Carolyn and I attended the National Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida, at which our own John Alter was installed as Chief Commander. We had a strong contingent there to help him and Judy celebrate on Saturday evening and then held a "send-off gathering" for the Alters on Sunday morning with all the District 27 attendees.

The squadron Change of Watch "season" is nearing an end. Attending these events has been a wonderful experience for Carolyn and me and has illustrated the diversity of our district. It was not possible for me to attend all of them due to several squadrons holding their banquets and ceremonies on the same night. However, this gave the other primary officers of the District Bridge the opportunity to conduct one or more of them, which I believe is very important for continuity.

The District Spring Council/Conference and Change of Watch will be held from March 23-25 at the New Bern Riverfront Hilton. The command of the district will then be put in the very capable hands of D/Lt/C Harold O'Briant and many of the same Bridge officers who worked so hard this year. As I look back, I am grateful for the awesome support from the outstanding Bridge officers, Committee Chairpersons, Commander's Aides, and many others who are too numerous to name. They made my job easy and worked together to make District 27 one of the premier districts in the U.S. Power Squadrons. Thanks to all of you for your support and for making this year a memorable experience.

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

ABC-3 Gets a New Look

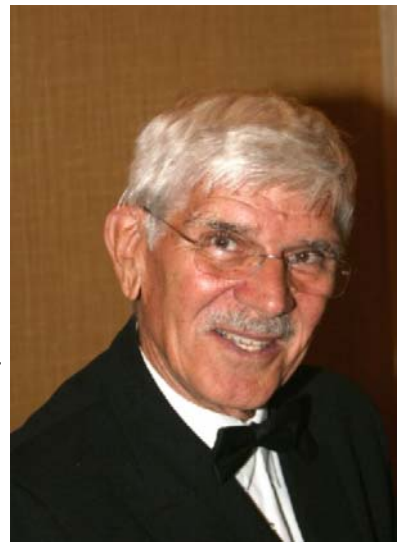
The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) regularly upgrades its standards for basic boating courses. For the past year, the USPS Basic Public Education Committee has been updating our America's Boating Course 3rd Edition (ABC3) to meet the latest standards. As a consequence, NASBLA has certified our revised ABC3 student and instructor materials as meeting their new 2012 standards. The new 2012 ABC3 material was printed in December and January and will be available to ship shortly. New items include the 2012 ABC3 Instructor Manual containing embedded copies of the new examinations with answer keys.

There are two new examinations for use when presenting Chapters 1 – 4, the familiar 8-hour version of ABC3. An optional examination is provided for use when the 8-hour course is extended to 12 hours by teaching Chapter 5. The current examination answer key

Remains valid for 2012 examinations (i.e., if you have a key for the past ABC3 exam, it is identical to the new one). The Student Kit will continue to include the bonus

Courseware CD for student self-study and the Rose Point Coastal Explorer™ navigational DVD.

The changes included in new ABC3 2012 reprinting increase the emphasis on boating safety, reflecting the boating industry's goal to reduce accidents and fatalities. Expanded treatment is provided for compliance with the Rules of the Road, wearing life jackets, proper use of vessel lighting and sound signals, and an added section on improved situational awareness and better decision making. Squadrons should plan to use the ABC3 2010 Student manuals until supplies are consumed. However, classes are to be conducted using the 2012 Instructor materials (Instructor Manual, CD with PPT presentations and 2012 examination series) as soon as they are available. This material will have a new catalog number.



New Cruise Planning Course

The new course will contain many of the same topics that were previously covered but will focus on cruises of up to one month in duration along inland and coastal waterways. This is a change reflects the type of cruising undertaken by many of our members

and the public. The new student manual will include descriptions and tips about actual a cruise routes in the United States. Sample cruises have been created for the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Inland Rivers, and the Pacific Northwest. A Great Lakes cruise is also being drafted which will give our members four unique options to consider in their cruise planning. International cruise requirements have been retained, particularly when travelling to and from our immediate neighbors of Canada, Mexico and the Bahamas. The final part of the manual will present the students with a cruise planning exercise using an outline of planning factors and an opportunity to select their geographic area. Printing is tentatively scheduled for late 2012

On-line Exams for ABC

The new 2012 ABC3 student kit includes a bonus CD referred to as the ABC Courseware. The classroom bonus CD is the same as USPS has been shipping for the past 3 years. The bonus CD works with Windows and Macintosh computers and all browsers. For the students taking the Internet version of ABC3, an alternative version of the courseware is provided. This Courseware will now support on-line examinations for States that accept the NASBLA standards for on-line assessments (exams). This new version of the on-line Courseware is a "managed" course as required by NASBLA. That is, the student must play every slide in each of the six modules and listen to all of the associated narration. The student's progress through the set of Flash slides is controlled so that a "skip-to-the-end" approach is not possible. For each of the six modules, there is a mandatory quiz that the student must pass. If a passing score is not achieved on any quiz, the student is directed to repeat the entire module and try the quiz again.

After passing the six quizzes, the student may attempt the new on-line final examination. When available, state-specific questions will also be included in the final assessment. The final assessment is driven by a new "exam engine" that

draws the required number of exam questions in a random fashion from a huge database of questions. No two on-line exams will likely be the same. Additional on-line study aides for the student will include a "practice test" and links to a State-specific study guide and State-controlled boating websites. All state items are based upon the student's State of residence. Development and testing of this new online courseware has been ongoing through most of 2011. It will be demonstrated to several States early in 2012. Upon NASBLA approval, the new on-line courseware will go 'live' by the end of June 2012.

New Plotting and Labeling Standards Guide

The USPS Plotting and Labeling Standards have been revised and reviewed thoroughly both within USPS and by authorities within the US Coast Guard. The goal was to have consistent plotting and labeling standards in all USPS courses and to have those

standards aligned with generally accepted practices. The new standards recognize that GPS now is the primary positioning method taught in USPS navigation courses. Waypoint navigation is addressed, as is planning prior to underway navigation. A known position is no longer used in USPS courses; no symbol is provided. This updated booklet has been printed in color. It can be ordered from on-line catalog.

Piloting and Advanced Piloting updates

Both of the USPS Inland/Coastal Navigation classes are popular courses that provide

a unique, up-to-date integrated approach to using GPS, backed up by traditional plotting methods.

Piloting Course

The Piloting Student Manual has been updated and contains only a few changes from the previous printing. The Instructor Manual and the Power Point presentations have not been revised. The updated Piloting Student Manual is included with both the instructor and student kits. In addition, the USPS Plotting and Labeling Standards booklet and the Rose Point Coastal Explorer disk are included in all Piloting instructor and student kits.

There are a few differences between the Piloting Manual and the Plotting and Labeling Standards booklet. Piloting exams should be completed in accordance with instructions in the Piloting Manual and Piloting exam.

Advanced Piloting Course

The Advanced Piloting Manual has been updated and will be available soon. There is no significant change in content. Updated manuals will be included in kits when the present inventory is exhausted. The Advanced Piloting Instructor Manuals and Power Point presentations have been updated. The graphics in the Advanced Piloting PowerPoint presentations, the Advanced Piloting Instructor Manual and the updated Advanced Piloting Student Manual are consistent with the new Plotting and Labeling Standards booklet. Kits which include the Weekend Navigator also include the Rose Point Coastal Explorer disk. The Plotting and Labeling Standards booklet and Rose Point Coastal Explorer disk may be ordered separately, if needed..

OTW Training

The current BOC/OTW program is reminiscent of the events that occurred at the Boston Yacht Club, nearly 100 years ago, when crews were doing docking exercises, some were practicing high-speed maneuvers; some were solving basic navigation problems, before the creation of the Power Squadron. Currently, we are reliving this scenario in USPS with the continuing additions to BOC, the recent addition of the Practical On The Water Training program, along with the release of several classroom on-the-water course supplements. This is where we think the USPS belongs; this is where we as members belong. *Practical On-The-Water Training* (the seminar) is the new on-the-water program for the general public. The water routines are based on BOC Inland Navigator program, but that is where the similarity ends. This one-day program adds 4 hours of classroom instruction on the nature of boats and boating (2 hours of classroom instruction, followed by 4 hours of OTW instruction, followed by 2 more hours of classroom instruction). The classroom presentation is designed to complement, but not replace ABC3. This year on-the-water (OTW) supplements were approved for Seamanship, Sail, and Advanced Piloting classes. Each of these programs is designed to extend classroom instruction out onto the water. Squadrons across USPS are developing plans for a very full summer of OTW events. There are even training events being planned for Hawaii later this fall. The USPS training boat, appropriately named, *Water Trainer*, was commissioned this past August. This 20-foot Boston Whaler (a 200 Dauntless model), has been **used in training the public and USPS instructors**. It was beta tested by the Raleigh Sail and Power Squadron employed starting in Maryland and worked its way down the Atlantic coast as the weather cooled. *OTW Water Trainer* was in use at the Fall Governing Board Meeting in Greensboro, NC and the 2012 Annual Meeting in Jacksonville Florida. Later the boat will move down the coast of Florida, and then back along the Florida Panhandle, reaching Texas in late March. In early April, the boat will head north, making training stops on its way to Chicago and Detroit. Then it is on to the Northeast through September, ending the year with a cross country jaunt to California. As the weather clears in 2013, the boat will head north into the Pacific Northwest. Just as it was one hundred years ago, on-the-water is again becoming the leading edge of USPS. These on the water programs will lead our way into the next one hundred years.

'Bits and Pieces'

HQ800 System

Dan Bartell and I have worked on some features that should make using the HQ800 system easier to use. We have created a 'dummy' squadron with a dummy account number that will allow this uninitiated to enter the system, register courses, enroll students, 'report' the final result for the boating course and seminars. This can all be done without anything being reported to HQ. Responses will be reported back to the user as if they came from HQ. This system will allow the user to 'practice' with the system without the risk of reporting erroneous student enrollment data. This system has been beta tested and presented to the National Education Committee and has received enthusiastic support. The script for the practice exercises will be posted on the Education Department website within the next week or so.

As a supplement to this 'practice' resource, I have worked with Rick Vandermark (the Education Officer from Findlay, Ohio) to revise a PowerPoint tutorial that should make this process self-guided and easier. This should also be available on the Education Department Website. Also available on the Education Department website in a week or so.

Certificate of Completion of Courses for Non-Members

I have received a number of requests for some sort of recognition for those non-members taking members courses. Working with National, we have come up with a 'fillable' pdf form that can be used for that purpose. It, too, is available on the Education Department website (Edu Home Page>>Edu Dept Tools>>Edu Dept Forms>>Other Useful Forms>>"USPS University Completion Certificate").

District Executive Officer

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

It's hard to believe, but another power squadron year is fast coming to an end within District 27. Bobbie and I have attended 13 changes of watch this winter and have been treated royally everywhere we have been. Thank you so much to all the squadrons which treat the District Bridge so warmly and enthusiastically when we visit for these important events. Thanks to all the members who opened your homes to us as we traveled the thousands of miles to visit throughout the year.

I can report to you that Hollywood can't come close to producing some of the "roasts" put on by our squadrons for the ex-wannabe-past commanders during these changes of watch. Oh, the things we have seen and the tales we have heard! The best news to report is we have seen no snowflakes this year as we traveled which is quite contrary to last year.

The executive department has been very busy this past year. We have actively participated in co-operative charting and vessel safety examinations. We have maintained active watches on information regarding Homeland Security/U.S. Coast Guard activities and legislative matters of interest to us.

Our department chairpersons; D/Lt Phillip Benson, JN of co-operative charting; D/Lt John E. "JB" Bagby, JN, district liaison, public affairs and homeland security; D/Lt Tom Taylor, JN, legislative affairs liaison; and D/Lt William "Bill" Halkovitch, AP, for vessel safety examinations, have all done a much-appreciated job for the District.

District 27 attained the National Co-Operative Charting Honor Roll status for 2011. We had reports from 16 of 20 squadrons. These squadrons include New River, Charlotte, Fayetteville, Fort Macon, Durham, Albemarle, Fayetteville, Rocky Mount, Goldsboro, Lake Norman, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Cape Fear, Shallotte River, Cape Lookout and Southport. Hopefully, the rest of the squadrons can contribute before the end of March. It is not difficult.

Phil Benson was presented with the Golden Eagle Award during the USPS Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FL., recently. This award is presented by the National Ocean Service which oversees the efforts of NOAA and our co-operative charting efforts, for his continued efforts in support of co-operative charting and our squadrons within District 27.

The efforts of the 124 vessel safety examiners within District 27 resulted in 1892 vessel examinations during 2011. According to the results posted on the USPS VSC final reports for 2011, this put our District in fourth place in USPS. Four examiners in Shallotte River lead the District with 556 examinations or almost one-third of the entire District. Attaboys go to Bryon Sway, AP, 103; Sonny Blanchard, 118; P/C Bill Halkovitch, AP, 124, and P/C Milton Whann, AP, with 211. Outstanding job!

District 27 was one of the first Districts in 2011 to have 100 percent of the squadrons complete the life jacket inventory as required by the U.S. Coast Guard for the inflatable life jackets provided to USPS squadrons for the vessel safety examiners to wear when conducting vessel safety exams. Thank you for that.

During 2012 there will be two major new programs involving the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the other the revision of the VSC electronic reporting procedure. You will be hearing more about these.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has helped me this year. Whether it be obtaining information or reports from you or answering questions posed by you, I could not have done it without you. I am truly amazed and so wonderfully appreciative of all the talent we have in District 27. Thank you.



District Administrative Officer D/LT/C Robert F. Howd, JN

Membership has still been a problem, but the severe slide of a few years ago has been cut in half to about 50 for 2011. There were eight squadrons (Cape Fear, Catawba, Charlotte, Fort Macon, Goldsboro, Lake Norman, Pamlico, and Tar River) that had a positive growth and ten (Albemarle, Charlotte, Fort Macon, Goldsboro, Greensboro, Lake Norman, Pamlico, Raleigh, Rocky Mount, and Tar River) that had retention of 90% or better. Current D27 membership as of February 1 is at 1734. New members ranged from 0-33 per squadron. Some of us can recruit but retention is still a real problem. Lake Norman led the membership increase with 28.8% and Tar River led the retention with 100% retention.

Lake Norman was the only squadron that submitted a Membership Involvement Retention Award (MIRA) report. I'm sure there are other retention ideas floating around out there in D27. There is a May deadline on this award so it is something to be thinking about now.



We continue to have about 35 people on the cyber squadron list. There does not seem to be much transfer to the active squadrons. The list has ranged from 30-40 people. I have forwarded their names to the squadrons three times during 2011 and gave them to the admin officers at the January training day. My suggestion to squadrons is to make them associate members of your squadron and send them your newsletter, notices and invitations to events. Let them tell you they don't want to hear from you rather than assuming they don't. They are all members of USPS but have no squadron home.

We had a good turnout for the Boarman Poster Contest. Five squadrons (Cape Lookout, Fort Macon, Kingston, New River, and Shallotte River) were represented with 40 entries submitted at the district-level competition. The top three winners in each of the categories received certificates and ribbons from the District. The first-place winner from each category was submitted to National for consideration. The competition was stiff and unfortunately none of our entries placed at the National competition. However, we had a significant increase in participation this year and we hope that this continues on an upward trend next year.

Admin provided training at all of the meetings we have had. The turnout at the admin training at the fall conference was dismal but there were 13 squadrons represented at the January training day. Incoming administrative officer Burt Pearson also participated. Membership Chair Jonnie' Chardonn conducted website improvement presentations at the training day and the spring conference.

D27 has 100% completion for The Doing It Right program and we were the first district to get the reports turned in. This is a program of self evaluation. If you consider this a chore inflicted upon you by district then you will receive very little good from it. If you consider it an honest introspective look at your squadron and note the areas where you can improve, we should see improvements as we go along. Unfortunately, this great participation had to be somewhat forced. This program does not yet have a momentum of its own.

Operations training reporting has been sort of lackluster. We only had 4 squadrons (Cape Lookout, Fort Macon, Raleigh and Shallotte River) send in written reports. However on the Doing It Right evaluation 15 squadrons reported they had OT sessions (this included the 4 written reports). Squadron commanders need to have their OT chairperson file the OT-2 report with National AND District OT chairperson. It doesn't count on your member's training record unless it is reported.

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Membership benefits have been highlighted at each of our training sessions. There is a good flyer available that highlights all the various advantages to being a member of USPS.

Our hard working meetings chair, Sarah McCurry, has contracted with hotels, food service and tour groups to make our three D27 meetings, the rendezvous, and the Governing Board run smoothly. She has also provided setup expertise to three squadrons: Fort Macon for the rendezvous, Winston Salem for the fall conference and Cape Lookout for the spring conference/COW. Sarah was involved in the district events at the national meeting in Jacksonville in January. She is also in contact with D5 for the 2013 joint rendezvous in Cape Charles VA.

Sandie and I attended seven changes of watch and I was the district rep at three more. I attended the XO and Commander Leadership development classes at the governing board and the national meeting. Paula Schubert also attended all the leadership development classes. The more I attend these meetings the more I marvel at the amount of training and value presented there.

This has been a good year for admin although I am disappointed that we did not bottom out the membership loss curve. I thank the support I have had from Paula Schubert, Jonnie' Chardonn, Sandie Howd, Nita Neumeister and Sarah McCurry.

2011 MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

The Membership Growth and Membership Retention awards time frames for 2011 have been changed and approved at the Fall Conference last year. Unfortunately the change is not yet reflected in the Awards Manual.

This year these awards will be presented at the March 2012 Change of Watch rather than the 2011 Fall Conference and cover the calendar year of 2011 rather half of 2010 and half of 2011.

The reason for the change is the change in the membership year to an anniversary date rather than 1 June. The retention award was figured as the ratio between the April and the July membership numbers after deducting new members during that time frame. Since we all had a 1 June renewal date, it made sense. Now that more and more people do not have the 1 June date, the validity of the retention score keeps getting worse and worse. We are now going to use the calendar year as the basis instead of the months around June. New members for the entire year will be deducted rather than for the April-July time frame and then the ratio will be determined between 1 Jan and Dec 31.

The Membership Growth award will also be calculated on the calendar year basis. It is being changed to coincide with the Membership retention award. There will be no difference in the calculations. It is just the difference between one year and the next year.

District Secretary

D/Lt/C David J. Simons, AP

My first year as D27 Secretary has been a very eventful year!

We started the year by establishing a new website with a new webmaster, Luis Lopez, running the show. He jumped in with both feet and made things happen. The new website gives us so much more space to post photos and earlier editions of the BITTS and whatever else we want. It is not unlimited, but seems that way to all intents and purposes. I hope to increase its library facilities in the coming year by adding such things as photos of all of the Past District Commanders and as many old editions of the BITTS as we can find. We also need to add photos of our D27 adventures for all of the world to see!

It is also necessary that the members of D27 understand that all of this new-found capability is not free. Our contract for the website is with a commercial provider and will cost D27 a whopping \$6 per month. It also gave us the ability to have "mailing lists" and aliases. So now we can be lazy and just send our great ideas to commander@uspsd27.org without having to concern ourselves as to what his/her e-mail address is or even who it is. Each D27 Bridge officer has such an alias; as do the assistant officers and the webmaster. That is the "alias" capability. We also have the capability of up to 5 e-mail "mailing lists", although we have only created 2 so far. One such list is bridge@uspsd27.org and the other is squadroncommanders@uspsd27.org. We have not yet decided what other such lists to create; we still have 3 left to use. But we also need to remember that whenever such a list is created, someone has the job of keeping up with it and ensuring it is always correct.

Because the D27 Secretary is responsible for such things as the Call-to-Meeting and the Squadron Commander's Report Form, I have spent considerable time this year looking at how we do things in relation to what the Bylaws and Standing Rules say we are supposed to do. This has led to some changes in the Squadron Commander's Report Form, in particular. That form was also affected by the USPS changes in membership definition. For example, the Bylaws state that the minimum number of delegates per squadron is two. But a (very) few squadrons were only allowed one in the past. That has been fixed. There has also been some confusion as to what constitutes the Conference and what constitutes the Council. One of the problems we encountered was that a few Past District Commanders were having their names submitted as delegates to the Conference. But the Bylaws state that all PDCs are automatically members of the Conference, so having them as delegates has the net effect of double counting. That has been fixed.

While I am on the subject of delegates, I believe it is very important that every squadron be certain that it has all of the delegates to which it is entitled named and present at the Fall and Spring meetings. Those delegates are the voice of the squadron. We have several decisions to be made at this Spring Council/Conference which also incorporates the D27 Change-of-Watch. The decisions deal with such things as Bylaws updates and Standing Rule updates. We will also deal with budgets and electing the new D27 Bridge officers. If a squadron does not have its delegates present and voting, then that squadron will not have any voice in the decisions that are made. But in order for that to happen, those delegates need to get registered when they arrive and get their voting cards. If you don't get a voting card, YOU DON'T GET TO VOTE!!!!!!

As I have said before in the BITTS, I believe a squadron's website is its "front door". Nothing is more important or valuable to attract new members than an attractive and informative website. We have put emphasis on improving them this year and will continue to do so. We have had breakout sessions twice this past year and will do so again during the weekend of our D27 Change-of-Watch. The biggest challenge we face is how to help those squadrons which do not have anybody in the squadron with the expertise and/or knowledge to manage a website. We don't have an answer yet, but I want everyone to know that we are working on that problem.

Lastly, I want to address the up-coming D27 Year. I am the D27 candidate for the coming year to repeat as the D27 Secretary. I am also very happy to report that the current members of the D27 Secretary's Department have all agreed to continue for another year. They are: George Ellis – BITTS Editor, Luis Lopez – Webmaster, Paula Stewart – Assistant Secretary, Francine Hall – Historian. My thanks to these great troopers for a job well-done and I look forward to working with them for another year.



District Treasurer**D/Lt/C David E. Parsons, AP**

This is Winter?? Really, I was looking forward to going to Jacksonville, FL for the USPS Annual Meeting/Change of Watch, in order to get out of the cold weather. Well North Carolina is suffering from that Climate Warming that we have been warned about over and over and it has felt like Florida right here at home. But, even with such great weather throughout the country, over 700 fellow members attended the meeting in Jacksonville and approximately 70 were from District 27. That is a great showing for our District. Please join me in congratulations to our own D27 member, John Alter in being elected to the office of Chief Commander and also to Gary Cheney, our new National Treasurer, who although he has his membership up in “Yankee Land”, we still claim him as part of D27, since he resides most of the time in Atlantic Beach. I for one am looking forward to having our National Treasurer close by.



As for the status of District 27 finances, we are in good shape. The numerous CD's that had different renewal dates have all been consolidated into one CD with a higher interest rate and its renewal is not due until 2015. We have continued to keep our Income steady through the year and will come close to the projected Budget for the year. We have also maintained low spending therefore I am certain we will end the 2011-12 year in the BLACK once again.

With all the Change of Watch for squadrons taking place, I can not stress enough the importance of filing the 990 form with the IRS. It was noted at the National Meeting that there are a few squadrons that have failed to do so and now find themselves going through the “hoops” with the IRS to get their non-profit status back. I would hate to see this happen for any of our D27 squadrons. Please remember that the 990 form has to be submitted by the 15th day of the 5th month following the end of the squadron fiscal year. Also, TR-1 form should be filed with National, once you have received the acceptance notice from the IRS.

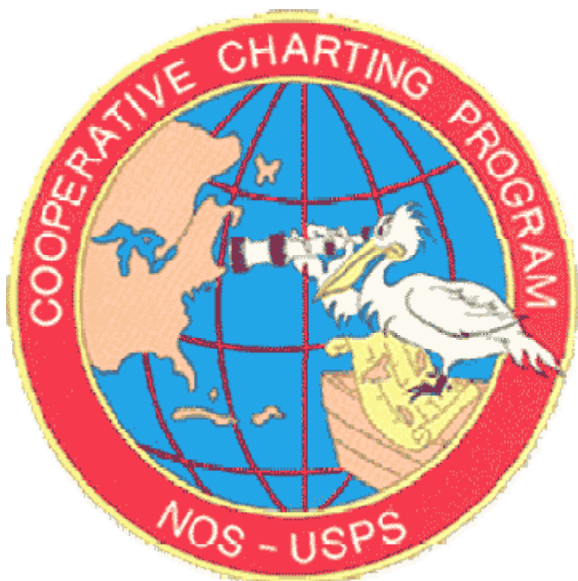
As noted at the National Meeting, membership has improved for USPS and the downward trend is slowly making a turn for the positive. Are you making the most out of your recruiting opportunities for those in the Cyber Squadron? Or offering the trial membership for those taking your ABC course? New income for your squadron and for the District is out there, but we need to improve our recruitment.

Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting/Change of Watch in New Bern.

Until then.....Safe Boating!!!!!!

Cooperative Charting

Cooperative Charting Committee Chair P/C Phillip A. Benson, JN



On 28 January I had the honor of being presented the Golden Eagle Award from Chief Commander Frank A. Dvorak, SN. I had never seen the award until Saturday and need to share this with everyone in District 27 that has supported the Cooperative Charting effort. No matter how much work I put into it, if we don't get results it is for naught. Many individuals contributed to seeing this award come to District 27 by actually getting out and participating and submitting reports. A special thanks to those who supported my nomination and I will do my best to not disappoint you in the future.

New stuff is coming. While in Jacksonville for the Annual Meeting, I also attended a Cooperative Charting workshop led by the Cooperative Charting Chair R/C James H. Strothers, SN. Among the topics discussed was a presentation by P/R/C Edwin Summers Jr., JN on the new CCWEB, which will be implemented for D27 this coming April. I would urge anyone that has logged in to CCWEB in the past to attend the cooperative charting outbreak sessions at the D27 Spring Council/Conference meetings this coming March as I will be showing the changes that have been made. Most of the changes have made it more user friendly, but like anything new, I'm sure there will be questions.

District 27 Change of Watch, New Bern, NC March 23/25, 2012. Hilton Hotel

Welcome back to New Bern! We are so glad you will be able to join us for a fun filled weekend. We have asked for warm weather and are expecting to get it. March 23 is a great time of the year to enjoy our coastal beauty right here on our Twin Rivers. Come and enjoy our historic little town.

On Friday night, there will be a “Meet & Greet” reception at the Hilton. Revive the friendships you have made over the years in a relaxed manner with a little something to drink and nibble. When checking in, you will be given the opportunity to help out the District by participating in a raffle. We will be raffling off a framed photo of one of our Coastal Lighthouses taken by D/C Michael McCulley. On Saturday, while the members are in session hearing all about the new National Bridge that has just been installed and all the good & new things coming down the pike, we have a great morning and afternoon planned for the ladies who won't be attending the members meetings. Beginning with coffee and goodies at the hotel, then a delicious lunch at Lawson's Landing in the new Tryon Palace History Center. And after that, if you choose, take a walking tour of the Center and Palace gardens. If you haven't been to the History Center, it's a great place to learn about our coastal history (in 3D). Lawson's Landing looks right over the beautiful Trent River and has great food to boot. After you finish lunch and the tour, downtown New Bern awaits you. With its many little boutiques, historic churches, houses, the Birthplace of Pepsi Cola, the Fireman's Museum, and of course the Tryon Palace, I am sure you can find many interesting things to do at your leisure. Back at the Hilton, get ready for Change of Watch. We will be ushering in Fort Macon's Harold O'Briant and retiring Michael McCulley of Cape Lookout. Maybe a few surprises will be in store. Door prizes and just a plain good time await you.

Sound like a great fun filled weekend? So, OK, go ahead and make those reservations! Get them in early to reserve your spot. The ladies Luncheon is limited to 40. First come, first serve! Registration forms will be in the “Carolina Bitts”. Don't wait, get your kicks on route (OK, not 66) whatever route it takes to get to New Bern! We're looking forward to seeing “all y'all”! COME ON DOWN!!!!!!

Ladies—here's what's in store at Lawson's Landing:

Your choice of an apple, cranberry, walnut & greens salad with a side of creamy honey dressing, or Chicken Salad on a pretzel roll, or a Crab Cake wrap. Included with be a hummus & chip appetizer and a cookie for dessert. All this, along with a beverage, tax & tip for \$15.00. If you choose to take advantage (& I recommend that you do), the History Center tour will be \$10.00. Not guaranteed, but it IS spring time & the bulbs just might be in bloom in the Palace Gardens.

Agenda District 27 Annual Meeting & Change of Watch 23-25

March, 2012

Hilton New Bern/Riverfront Hotel New Bern, NC

Host Squadron: Cape Lookout Sail and Power Squadron

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
FRIDAY – 23 MARCH		UNIFORM CASUAL, SQUADRON SHIRT	
1400 – 1730	<u>MEMBER & VOTER REGISTRATION</u>	Lobby	Cape Lookout Squadron
1400 -- 1430	<u>D/27 BRIDGE MEETING</u>	Exec. Conf. Room	D/C Mike McCulley, JN
1430 – 1600	<u>D/27 BRIDGE/Aides Meeting</u>	Exec. Conf. Room	D/C Mike McCulley, JN
1600 – 1645	<u>COMMANDER'S RECEPTION</u>		
	<u>NEW MEMBER & 1st TIMER</u>	Exec. Conf. Room	D/C Mike McCulley, JN
1600 – 1615	Nominating Committee (Closed)	D/C Suite	P/D/C Jamie McCurry, AP
1615 - 1645	Planning Committee (Closed)	D/C Suite	P/D/C Jamie McCurry, AP
1645 - 1730	<u>P/D/C RECEPTION/Host Squadron</u>	Exec. Conf. Room	D/C Mike McCulley, JN
1730 - 1830	<u>RECEPTION FOR ALL MEMBERS</u>	Exec. Conf. Room	Cape Lookout Squadron
1830 -	On Your Own for Dinner		
SATURDAY – 24 MARCH		UNIFORM CASUAL, SQUADRON SHIRT	
0730 – 0930	<u>MEMBER & VOTER REGISTRATION</u>	Lobby	Cape Lookout Squadron
0830 – 1000	<u>Spouse Coffee</u>	Exec. Conf. Room	Cape Lookout Squadron
0800 – 0900	<u>MEETING CONVENES</u>	Neuse/Pamlico	D/C Mike McCulley, JN
	<u>Council Meeting</u>		
	Invocation		D/Lt Alec Wrenn, SN
	Pledge of Allegiance		Cdr Jim Starr, JN
	Introduction of Guests		D/F/Lt Bill Reasons, SN
	Reports – Nominations, Budget		
0900 – 0930	<u>CONFERENCE CONVENES</u>		
	Introduction of Guest Speaker, Capt Jeffery Stewart , USCG Aux	Neuse/Pamlico	D/Lt/C Harold O'Briant, JN
0930 – 1015	Chief Commander's Rep. Town Hall Meeting	Neuse/Pamlico	D/C Mike McCulley, JN R/C Bob Palmer, SN
1030 - 1115	<u>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</u>		
	Commanders/Executive Officers	Neuse/Pamlico	D/C Mike McCulley, JN D/Lt/C Harold O'Briant, JN
	BOC Weather Module	Gaston	Walter Schmid, AP
	DB 2000 Website and Newsletter Improvement	Hawks Palmer	Ed Cathey, Jr, AP Lt/C Jonnie Chardonn , P

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1125 – 1205	Conference Reports Budget Nominations – election of 2012-2013 Bridge	Neuse/Pamlico	D/C Mike McCulley, JN
1230 – 1345	<u>MEMBERS LUNCHEON & AWARD PROGRAM</u> Recess Conference	Bradham	Cape Lookout Squadron
1350 - 1600	<u>OPEN SESSIONS</u> BOC Weather Module DB 2000 Website and Newsletter Improvement CoOperative Charting	Gaston Hawks Palmer Neuse/Pamlico	Walter Schmid, AP Ed Cathey, Jr, AP Lt/C Jonnie Chardonn, P P/C Philip A. Benson, JN
1600-1700	N Club	Gaston	P/D/Lt Larry Colwell, SN

1700 – 1800

CHANGE OF WATCH

UNIFORM A WITH BOW TIE OR APPROPRIATE EVENING ATTIRE

Reception - Cash Bar

Outside Ballroom

1800 – 2200	<u>BANQUET</u> Dinner and Awards, etc Announcements Adjourn Conference and/or Council	Ballroom	D/C Mike McCulley, JN D/C Harold O'Briant, JN
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23-25 March 2012
D/27 Annual Meeting & Change of Watch
Hilton New Bern/Riverfront Hotel
New Bern, NC

Room Rate: \$119.00 plus taxes Reservations: 252-638-3585
 Ask for "USPS" room block CUTOFF DATE: 23 Feb. 2012
MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Rank	First	Last	Grade	Cert. No.
Address		City	State	ZIP
Home phone		email address	Squadron	

Facility Fee for each attendee \$ 4.00 x ___ = ___

Friday 23 March:
 Reception for all members – NO CHARGE – Number attending ___

Saturday 24 March:
 Spouse's Coffee NO CHARGE – Number attending ___

Member Lunch
 Marina Club sandwich, desert, tea & coffee \$18.00 x ___ = ___

Ladies Lunch at Lawson's Landing (circle one choice)
 Salad w/fruit & nuts, Chicken salad on roll, or Crab Cake wrap \$15.00 x ___ = ___
 History Center Tour \$10.00 x ___ = ___

Banquet and cash bar
 Pan-Seared Chicken breast w/ Sage Veloute' \$35.00 x ___ = ___
 Grilled Salmon w/Lemon Cream \$35.00 x ___ = ___
 Desert, coffee & tea

New Member since January 2011 ___ 1st time at District Meeting ___

Make checks payable to: District 27
 Send completed form and checks by 16 March 2012 to:

P/C June Reasons, P
 2131 Neuse Cliffs Circle
 New Bern, NC 28560

Marina reservations should be made directly with the Dock Master. Hilton Marina. 252-658-0155.

Make plans for a great members luncheon



And a gourmet change of watch dinner with super professional Entertainment?

Report of District 27 Nominating Committee
P/D/C James R. McCurry, AP, Chairman
October 1, 2011

2012/13

District Commander:	Harold W. O'Briant, JN
Executive Officer:	Robert Howd, JN
Educational Officer:	George Malindzak, Jr., SN
Administrative Officer:	Burt H. Pearson, III, SN
Treasurer:	David E. Parsons, AP
Secretary:	David J. Simons, AP
ADEO	H. Clay Helms, JN
Assist. Admin. Officer	Paula Shubert, AP
Assist. Secretary:	Paula F. Stewart, P
Nominating Com. Chair	Michael D. McCulley, JN
Audit Committee 3 years	David M. Stewart, AP
Rules Committee 3 years	Bruce R. Brill, AP

Continuing Committee Members (do not need re-nomination)

Rules Committee:

1 year remaining	Leon Corbett Jr., SN	Winston Salem
2 years remaining	James Burns, AP	Albemarle

Audit Committee:

1 year remaining	Francine Hall	Cape Fear
2 years remaining	Roger Simmons, SN	Cape Fear

Article 6 of the District Bylaws: Nominations and elections.

Section 6.1 Candidates for elective offices to be voted on at the Spring Conference shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee or by written petition signed by at least 10 active members in good standing from each of at least three squadrons. Such petition shall be sent by first class mail or delivered to the Secretary at least 15 days before the date of the election. At least 10 days before the date of the election, the secretary shall forward the names of those nominated by petition to each member of the Council and to each of the Past District Commanders of the district. Squadron Commanders shall notify the delegates representing their squadrons.

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2012-2013 Squadron Members on the District 27 Nominating Committee

Albemarle	Primary:	P/C John J. Powers, AP
	Alternate:	Lt/C Allen B. Miles, JN
Cape Fear	Primary:	P/C Roger Simmons, SN
	Alternate:	P/C Joan Payne, S
Cape Lookout	Primary:	P/C June Reasons, P
	Alternate:	P/r/C William Reasons, SN
Catawba	Primary:	P/C Eugene Stutz, SN
	Alternate:	Lt. Thurston D. Carroll
Charlotte	Primary:	P/C David M. Stewart, AP
	Alternate:	P/C C. Douglas Drum, Sr., P
Durham	Primary:	P/C Sandra D. Williams, AP
	Alternate:	P/C Beverly Hudgins, JN
Fayetteville	Primary:	P/C Joanne Seymour, P
	Alternate:	P/C William Seymour, P
Fort Macon	Primary:	P/C Thomas D. Meyers, JN
	Alternate:	P/R/C Kenneth D. Link, SN
Goldsboro	Primary:	P/C Roger P. Casey, Jr., AP
	Alternate:	P/C Wilson Mewborn, JN
*Greensboro	Primary:	P/D/C Mack L. Gordy, Jr., AP
	Alternate:	P/D/C Stephen Puckett, SN
Kinston	Primary:	P/C Charles N. (Chip) Athey, Jr., AP
	Alternate:	P/C David L. Miller, AP
*Lake Norman	Primary:	P/D/C Al Parker, SN
	Alternate:	P/R/C Carolyn W. Parker, SN
New River	Primary:	P/C Carl Gable, N
	Alternate:	P/C Dale Harper, S
Pamlico	Primary:	P/D/Lt Larry Colwell, SN
	Alternate:	P/C Joyce Colwell, AP
*Raleigh	Primary:	P/D/C Ann T. Bailey, AP
	Alternate:	P/C Ralph A. Daniels, Jr., AP
*Rocky Mount	Primary:	P/C Christopher E. Payne, AP
	Alternate:	P/C Robert Bruner, AP

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***Shalotte River** Primary: P/C Hugh Hayes, JN

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Alternate: P/C William N. Cox, AP

Southport Primary: P/D/C Douglas L. Jones, JN

Alternate: Lt/C Larry H. Welch, AP

Tar River Primary: P/C/C Ernest Marshburn, SN

Alternate: P/C Dianne Marshburn, AP

***Winston Salem** Primary: P/D/C George J. Ellis, Jr., AP

Alternate: P/C Dawn Gaskill, AP

Article 2 of the District Bylaws, General Committees

Section 2.9.1 The Nominating Committee shall consist of a chairman and one member from each squadron of the district who shall be elected annually the Conference. In addition one alternate from each squadron shall be elected to serve in the event that the primary member is unable to serve. Each squadron shall submit the names of its primary and alternate Nominating Committee members to the District Secretary prior to the fall conference. The Secretary shall provide the names of the squadrons' primary and alternate Nominating Committee members of the District Nominating Committee to be included as candidates for election at the spring conference pursuant to Article 6 hereof. Should for any reason a squadron's primary or alternate District Nominating Committee member be unable or unwilling to serve as such, the vacancy shall be filled as provided under paragraph 2.1.7 above as the first order of business at the Council meeting next following the occurrence of such vacancy; provided, however, that a vacancy with respect to any squadron shall be filled only by a member in good standing of such squadron. No member may serve on the District Nominating Committee for more than three consecutive years as a primary member and shall be ineligible to serve again for a one-year period following three consecutive years of service.

This committee shall, by majority vote, annually nominate a candidate for each elective district office, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, and candidates for each general committee. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be given verbally to the fall conference, and mailed first class or hand delivered or sent by email to the District Secretary with a copy to the District Commander not



DISTRICT 27 BITTS

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FIRST CLASS



WWW.USPS.ORG/LOCALUSPS/D27

March 23-25 2012

D/27 Annual C/C & Change of Watch— New Bern, NC

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