

Volume 50-1

50th year "America's Boating Club"©

May 2012

September 2-9 2012

USPS Detroit, MI

**October 12th-14th
2012**

D/27 Fall C/C

Wrightsville Beach,
NC**January 5th 2013**

D/27 Training

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

D/C Message Harold W. O'Briant JN

Time has literally been flying by, here in The District 27. It seems like just yesterday when approximately 90 of us were in Raleigh in January at the NCSU Faculty Club for the annual District 27 Squadron Officer Training Day. Not only did we have the training day in January, but some 40 of us attended the national meeting of USPS in Jacksonville, FL and watched our own John Alter, of Raleigh Sail & Power Squadron, installed as Chief Commander of USPS.

We also observed two of our members receive national awards. Lt/C Dan Bartell, SN of Shallotte River received the coveted Chapman Award and P/C Phil Benson, JN of Rocky Mount received the prestigious Golden Eagle Award for co-operative charting.

During this same time period we also managed to successfully conduct 20 changes of watch of the various squadrons within the District. Additionally, we completed a very successful and well-attended District Change of Watch and Spring Conference in New Bern. Most recently we held our annual District Rendezvous in Little River, SC.

All of these successful activities were taking place while the squadrons within the District were incredibly busy with their own schedules. These activities have succeeded in the successful recruitment of approximately 65 new members during the first quarter of 2012. Everyone should be congratulated for this effort. Now, we must make sure we retain these new members and involve them in our activities.

As I mentioned, The District 27 successfully completed 20 squadron changes of watch this year. My wife, Bobbie, and I attended 13 of them, if I remember correctly. Our reception at the squadrons we visited could not have been warmer or more enthusiastic. Without exception, the food was simply delicious. We unexpectedly sang the "Twelve Days of Christmas" with ALL the restaurant patrons in Southport during Julie Reuter's installation. In New River we survived a falling table (some say from the weight of Bobbie's pocketbook). I think I finally know which squadrons are power squadrons and which are sail and power squadrons and hopefully have the correct names of their newsletters.

Bobbie and I would like to thank P/D/C Jamie McCurry and Sarah, D/Lt Paula Schubert and Frank, P/D/Lt/C Dave Osmolski and Susan, and D/Lt Alex Wrenn and Kathy for their wonderful hospitality while we stayed with them during our change of watch journey around the District.

The District Change of Watch in New Bern, I must say, was spectacular. There were over 150 members in attendance. Among those were members of my family and members of the McCulley family. Additionally, R/C Bob Palmer and his wife, Mary, were in attendance as were D/C Robert Boals and his wife, Elke, from District 26; CAPT Anthony Popiel, USCG Sector North Carolina Commander; and CAPT Jeff Stewart, USCGAux Sector North Carolina Commander and his wife, Sandra. P/C June Reasons, P/C Diana Thompson and their crew did a wonderful job of organizing for such a large crowd. Much appreciation is extended to all of those in Cape Lookout for a wonderful weekend. *Continued on page 2*



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Thanks must also be extended to all of those who participated in the seminars on Saturday. They include Walter Schmid from Fort Macon, D/Lt Jonnie' Chardonn and Cdr Ron Tilmon of Cape Fear, P/R/C Bill Reasons of Cape Lookout, P/C Phil Benson of Rocky Mount, the N Club and NOAA Meteorologist Lara Pagano.

P/C Bob Thompson of Cape Lookout started off the change of watch festivities as he baggiped in the official party to their table. It was most impressive. P/R/C Sarah McCurry received the much deserved H. Pou Bailey Award as District 27 Member of the Year and P/C Bruce Brill and Cdr Dick McKeon received the Squadron of the Year Award for Fort Macon. P/D/C Jamie McCurry also did an exemplary job as the Officer of the Deck.. P/D/C Mike McCulley was duly relieved of command and appropriately roasted by other Past District Commanders. Mike survived.

I was comfortably sitting at the head table one minute and the next I was in the middle of being sworn in as District Commander by R/C Robert Palmer, SN, National Assistant Educational Officer. My email "in box" instantly went from an average of 25-30 daily to a minimum of 100 a day, and sometimes more.

I must tell you, it is a most humbling experience. I do not take it lightly and every day become more and more aware of the responsibility which goes with the position. I also become more and more respectful of those who have gone before me in this position. You cannot prepare for some of the decisions which must be made. There truly are no-win situations, especially when you are dealing with people. I will say I do try to consider all options and ultimately try to do what, in my estimation, is in the best interest of The District.

In mid-April, the District bridge held its planning session. As the year progresses, you will see more and more programs which had been plans, become reality. We continue to explore the USCG-USCGAUX-USPS-D27 relationship. If it progresses, it will be here in District 27. We have incredible resources in all four organizations here. The recently announced Sailing for Kids program is progressing and soon should become more visible.

The District is hosting Leadership Development seminars in Raleigh and underwriting these seminars so they may be more easily attended by our members. To be the most effective and most successful squadron bridge officer or other squadron leader, completion of these seminars is a must. We continue to see our BOC (Boat Operator Certification) program expand and we are even assisting neighboring Districts with this effort. Members of The District 27 continue to serve in many positions at the national level which is an indication of the respect, with which our members are held.

Most recently, we celebrated, as only we in The District 27 can, our Rendezvous in Little River, SC (Myrtle Beach to me). Hosted by Cape Fear and under the direction of Lt/C Jonnie' Chardonn, executive officer, a good time was had by all.

More than 150 members arrived by boat and car at the North Myrtle Beach Yacht Club, Coquina Yacht Harbor and Little River Holiday Inn Express Hotel for the weekend of May 4-5. It was decided to schedule the event earlier this year because the temperatures during recent rendezvous planned in June were excessive. While not excessive, the weekend was warm with temperatures hovering around 90 degrees. Thankfully we had a breeze, a tent and cold beverages and two swimming pools.

Friday evening, 125 members attended a reception around the pool at the North Myrtle Beach Yacht Club, sponsored by The District, followed by a buffet at the Officers' Club there. D/Lt/C Bob Howd and I easily dispelled rumors that we could "walk on water", when we entered the pool to get everyone's attention prior to dinner. Actually, there was no space left on dry land. We both survived.

Competition was held in bean bag baseball and conch blowing on Saturday. Under the directorship of Lt/C Ben Van Etten of Cape Fear, 10 teams participated in baseball. These included two teams from Cape Fear, two from Greensboro, Raleigh, "Team at Large", New River, Rocky Mount, Da Bridge, and Charlotte. Da Bridge was holding its own, until New River displayed some rather unsportsmanlike conduct including heckling to emerge victorious. When all the dust, actually sand, settled, Rocky Mount was the overall winner with New River, runner-up.

Lt/C Alex Wrenn and P/Stf/C Paul Long of Greensboro, did a most credible job of overseeing the conch blowing contest in the absence of P/D/C Mack Gordy and P/C Vinnie Gordy, Greensboro, co-chairs. It seems Vinnie was so excited about the event she was conching around in her back yard and broke her arm. Needless to say, we missed them both and hope for a speedy recovery. It is important to practice safe conching.

It was rumored that at least one member of Cape Fear was reportedly "tonguing his conch" the night before the contest so loudly that the occupants in the room above were banging on the floor. Lt Rick Neumeister could not understand why anyone would be upset with practicing in the hotel at 2200. We need to get him out more.

Ultimately, Larry Freeze of Greensboro received the "Most Melodic" and "Most Innovative Long Blow" awards. Lt/C Ted Poucher of Cape Fear won the "Longest Blow" award and Cape Fear won the "Group Blow" award.

Greensboro won the "Most Nostalgic" award and "The Bra Boys" of Greensboro, Cdr Ron Pittman and P/C Tom Statham, took the "Most Enthusiastic" award. The "Best New Group" was the Conchangos from Greensboro and the "Duet Needing Most Improvement" award went to me and D/Lt/C Bob Howd.

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Rumors about bribery of the judges abounded through Friday evening and Saturday morning. At least one New River member was reportedly observed in the hotel halls in her pajamas and a past commander from Cape Fear was unaccounted for, for a while. Stay tuned.

There were serious moments during the Rendezvous. On Saturday, the N Club sponsored the Partners in Command seminar, led by D/Lt/C George Malindzak, and Lt/C Dan Bartell of Shallotte River. Lt/C Peter Dahl of Cape Fear demonstrated the anchoring display on loan from USPS headquarters which displayed various anchors, their use and characteristics.

Saturday afternoon, the District sponsored another reception during which the results of the silent auction featuring nautical artwork provided by Lt/C Jonnie' Chardonn of Cape Fear, were announced.

The District 27 was honored by the presence of C/C John Alter and his wife Judy, and D/C Bob Boals and his wife, Elke, from District 26. The Chief reportedly remarked that District 27 "is not wound quite as tight as other Districts". Hmmm!

In addition to Jonnie Chardonn, thanks should be extended to other members of the Cape Fear Sail & Power Squadron and especially Julie and Tim Jenkins, Ben Van Etten, Ted Poucher and Genie Lancaster for the many hours of planning and execution of the event.

I would like to thank my chief aide, P/C Sandie Howd, who despite suffering severe pain in her shoulder, successfully oversaw the two District receptions at the Rendezvous. She is recuperating from successful rotator cuff surgery at this time. As the DXO is her nurse, the time line on her recuperation is unsure.

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended. Your continued support of our efforts is most appreciated.

With National Safe Boating Week on the horizon, it is important for squadrons to put their best public foots forward. This is the one time of year when everyone's attention is turned to boating. Squadrons need to take advantage of this.

Looking toward the future, after a busy summer of squadron events, we will have the USPS Governing Board in Detroit, followed by our District Fall Conference in Wrightsville Beach in October hosted by Goldsboro. Don't forget our 50th anniversary planned for next March in Raleigh. Stay tuned for information on these and other events on the District website calendar and future Bitts articles.

Safe boating.



Please consider having your family and Friends and neighbors take a boating course. Better safe than sorry.

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

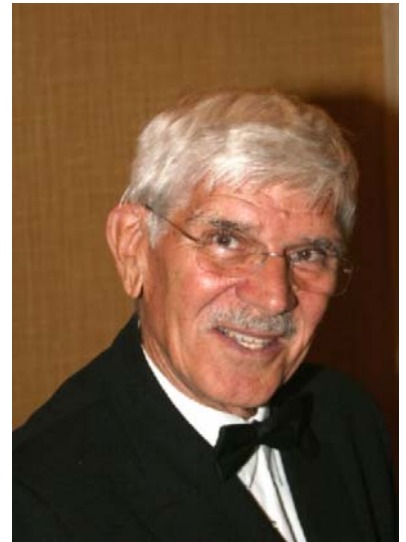
ABC-3 Gets a New Look

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.

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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 Robert Howd, JN

The Change of Watch is over and we are off on another year in which to excel. We have a hard charging commander who will continue to improve the excellent record of D27. The rendezvous was very successful thanks to the work the Cape Fear squadron in general and Jonnie' Chardonn in particular.

The cooperative charting year just began with the new CCWEB up and working as of 15 April. Anyone needing help should contact Phil Benson at benson-phil028@gmail.com or 252-903-7365. We are anxiously awaiting the first reports to be submitted using the new tools. Charles "Bo" Ibach has agreed to be assistant Coop Charting Chair and he should be a great help in both helping with training and assisting in the review and submission of reports. Bo has many years of experience in coop charting, including experience with all the different types of reports.

Last year's final co-op charting results are posted and Charlotte has again led District 27. Shallotte River, Rocky Mount, Fort Macon, Goldsboro, Durham, New River, Albemarle, Tar River and Cape Fear all made the honor roll. D27 had ten of the 51 squadrons on the honor roll and finished third in the nation. D27 was one of three districts that made the district honor roll. This requires more than 75% squadron participation. This is a direct reflection of D27 having the winner of the Golden Eagle co-op charting award as its chairman. We should expect nothing but greatness here. Those squadrons that are doing well need to invite a member of a squadron that is not doing well along on a co-op charting event. The guest squadron can then get credit for participating. It also gives that squadron some insight in how co-op charting is done if that is the problem.

District 5 again opened their 04-06 May training session to members of District 27. This training takes place at NOAA's Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk and the training is done by experienced members of USPS in District 5. Scott Brown from Fort Macon attended this year.

Vessel Safety Checks have some squadrons doing a lot and some not doing much. To get your squadron or D27 on the VSC honor roll we need 10% of our membership to be examiners and to examine a number equal to our membership. D27 in total needs a lot more inspectors. D27 needs about 180. We currently have about 120. D27 is slightly over the number of exams needed. We tend to have a high average because we have a few that are doing a lot. Last year only three squadrons were on the honor roll, Cape Fear, Fort Macon and Shallotte River. Shallotte River ran away with the honors. Looking at what is happening this year the standings are about the same. Bill Halkovich, halko@atmc.net, is our district VSC coordinator. He is the contact to help out with any VSC problems and is the contact for obtaining your current year stickers. The reporting requirements have changed some this year—more info is reported. Also be aware of the requirement to inventory the red PFDs each fall. There is info on the national web site about that. They are still assigned to whoever received them in 2008. There is also some info on getting new cartridges.

Nationally we have been asked to have more interaction with the CG and CG Aux. The official program has been somewhat put on hold but D27 has been making contacts. CDR O'Briant, P/R/C Ken Link, and P/C JB Bagby recently attended a CG Change of Command in Virginia. We have also had CAPT Jeff Stewart USCG Aux as our guest speaker at the D27 COW. Since Fort Macon has a local CG base they been having a lot of direct contact with the CG also. Our public affairs officer P/C JB Bagby, JN reported these activities to the Government/Partner Relations Committee and has received a BZ from the Chairman, R/C Richard Gercak, AP about this D/27 report of shared activities between the U.S. Coast Guard and Auxiliary and D/27.

Governor Purdue has proclaimed May 19-25 Safe Boating Week in NC. Unfortunately USPS did not get specifically mentioned in the proclamation. This does not keep you from using this proclamation in some of your own events.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in having a great year. Now let's have another one!!!



District Administrative Officer

D/LT/C Burt H. Pearson, III, SN

As other articles in this Newsletter state, we have had two wonderful events recently; the District 27 Change of Watch and the D27 Rendezvous. Thanks again to Cape Lookout and Cape Fear for planning so well that both events had no visible shortcomings. The Change of Watch was especially meaningful to me as I was elected and installed as D27 Administrative Officer. Thank you all for your vote of confidence.

We also want to thank Cdr. Julie Reuter, Southport Sail and Power Squadron, for arranging a "Dock Party" for those fortunate enough to travel by boat and stay in Southport Marina on the way to the D27 Rendezvous, and those that joined us via the land route. Southport S&PS provided enjoyable treats and Chamber of Commerce weather. It does not take much of an event for a Squadron to plan a party, so keep Squadrons along your travel routes advised and invite them to join in, whether dockside or a little further from the water.

For the first quarter of 2012, District 27 had a 3.78 % growth in membership with a net increase of 65 members. This is a great example of what commitment and dedication, leadership and enthusiasm can accomplish. Thank you for your efforts and let's keep up the outstanding work.



So far this year, the Administrative Department has made efforts to help the Squadron Administrative Officers with the Cyber Members in their area. For those who may wonder about Cyber Members, they are members that join USPS via the internet. They are full members but are not attached to a Squadron. They have paid Squadron dues as part of joining, but the local Squadron does not collect the dues until the member is transferred from the Cyber Squadron to the local Squadron. Sometimes, all it takes is a telephone call as some of the Cyber Members think that they are already a member of the local Squadron. The Squadron Administrative Officers have been sent the hyperlink for direct access to the Cyber Member list for their area.

The Administrative Department has also provided information about member retention, including the Membership Involvement Retention Award (MIRA) plans that are due by the end of May. There is not much time left to submit a plan, and be recognized for having a successful plan at the USPS Annual Meeting next year.

We also want to remind the Squadrons of the 15th Annual Boarman Youth Poster Contest. This year's theme is "Let's boat safe and clean". It is not too early to be working on this as the deadline to have the posters available for judging by the District is the Fall Council & Conference on October 12. Go to <http://www.usps.org/national/membership/youth/poster.htm> for rules, applications, and tips. You will be hearing more about this from D27 Assistant Administrative Officer Paula Schubert.

Last, but certainly not the least, is the upcoming Leadership 101 and 102 Training sessions scheduled for June 22 and 23 in Cary, NC. The cost at only \$30 per session is a real bargain, thanks to D27, and lunch is included in the registration fee. You will learn a lot about your Squadron from these sessions as you work with other Squadron members from across the state and beyond, to solve the in-class problems, and general discussions with like-minded people. You will enjoy the instructor, Anita Walker. The Certificate of Completion will look impressive on your wall!

Membership in USPS is job ONE, because getting a new member starts the process of retention by finding ways to create interest through education, taking or teaching; through on the water activities or through some non-boating activities; and from the civic side as a Vessel Safety Examiner, or working a booth at any type of exhibition. Let's spread the word so that we are not the best kept secret any more.

BURTS BIOGRAPHY NEXT PAGE:

Biography of Burt Pearson SN Administrative Officer

I joined Raleigh Sail and Power Squadron in May, 2003, with the hope to learn how to cruise, primarily on the ICW. In June, 2003, my wife Margaret and I were off to cruising the ICW to Georgetown, SC, on P/C Devohn Rhame's boat. That cruise really got the fire burning. In August 2003, I was appointed to the Assistant Treasurer's position serving until I was elected Treasurer in 2005. After serving two years as Treasurer, I moved to Administrative Officer, Executive Officer and served as Commander in 2009-10. I have completed all of the USPS courses attaining SN just prior to being installed as Commander of Raleigh Sail & Power Squadron. I am a Vessel Safety Examiner, a BOC IN Certifier, and teach parts of ABC, and Marine Electrical and Marine Communications Systems. I also teach On the Water sessions for BOC IN, ABC, and Seamanship.

I served as D27 Assistant Treasurer for 2 years before being elected to serve as D27 Administrative Officer.

I was born and raised in Florence, SC, graduating from high school there, moving on to Clemson University, earning a BS in EE. I spent several years working on Polaris ballistic submarines before moving into consulting engineering, mostly with paper mills, and later electrical generating plants, with several years of paper mill equipment sales mixed in. I lived in New York, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Wisconsin, and Oregon before settling in North Carolina. I was a Registered Professional Engineer in SC, NC, GA, CN, MN, and OR. The last 15 ½ years of compensated employment, I was Manager of Engineering at a Rural Electric Cooperative.

Working around the submarines created an interest in boating and I worked near the water in most of the places that I lived. However, I did not own a boat until after I retired, really after I became an uncompensated employee. RSPS, and now D27, keep me active. I have been active in several Masonic organizations, some for over 35 years. I have served in several leadership roles at Louisburg United Methodist Church, and remain active in church committees.

I enjoy cruising with RSPS and working on my boat, a 26' Chris Craft, learning about and changing the electrical and electronics on board, which helps in teaching and keeps the mind from growing stale.

D/27 Public Affairs

In keeping with the spirit of cooperation between USPS and the U.S. Coast Guard and Auxiliary, District 27 Commander Harold O'Briant, P/D/C Ken Link, and D/27 Homeland Security and Liaison Officer "JB" Bagby attended the Change of Command of the U.S. Coast Guard Fifth District at Portsmouth, Virginia. Rear Admiral Wm "Dean" Lee, USCG was relieved by Rear Admiral Stephen H Ratti, USCG, as Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Fifth District on April 25th.

Radm Lee has a connection with the Fort Macon squadron, D/27, and USPS. In the summer of 2002, then CDR Dean Lee, commanding officer of the U.S. Coast Guard Group at Fort Macon let USPS Past Rear Commander Ken Link know he was removing the power squadron spit plaque from the Cape Lookout lighthouse, as the Coast Guard was turning it over to the park service.



The District and several squadrons observed the 40th anniversary of the naming of Power Squadron Spit last summer at the plaque's new home in the Lightkeeper's Quarters at Cape Lookout National Seashore.

Also attending the Change of Command was CAPT Anthony Popiel, USCG, Sector North Carolina Commander, who has attended several events with Fort Macon and Cape Fear squadrons as well as District 27's Change of Watch.

District Secretary

D/Lt/C David J. Simons, AP

I am now well into my second year as the D27 Secretary. I guess one could conclude that I am either being re-cycled or I am repeating the grade because I didn't do it right the first time. The real truth is that I enjoyed being the D27 Secretary last year. A major part of it is the fact that I have now seen a number of things that can be improved and/or streamlined in D27. Some of them have been accomplished, but there is still more to do.

But before I get into that discussion, I first want to thank the Cape Fear Sail & Power Squadron, and especially Jonnie' Chardonn, for the great job in hosting the 2012 D27 Rendezvous. The organization went very smoothly, there were numerous examples of creativity (think of those nametags as an example), and the location was one of the best simply because it had so much to offer (marinas, hotel, food choices, etc). My thanks to all involved. I also want to thank the Cape Look-out Sail & Power Squadron for hosting the March 2012 Change-of-Watch and Council/Conference, especially the lady-in-charge June Reasons. This event also was executed perfectly. Experience clearly shows through.



Many of you are probably not aware that all approved squadron and district bylaws are posted on the USPS website by the USPS Rules Committee. I must count myself among those who were ignorant. I point that out because some squadrons post their bylaws under lock-and-key; i.e., in a members-only area which requires a password. So posting on a squadron website is redundant and also introduces the possibility of having multiple versions floating around.

One operational change we made at the Change-of-Watch in New Bern, which was experienced by many of you, was to move the D27 Assistant Secretary into the meeting room before and during the Council/Conference. This made it easier for voting delegates to get their voting cards and to return those cards, as well as allowing the Assistant Secretary to attend the meeting also. This also gave the D27 Commander the opportunity to ask delegates without their voting cards to go get them right then and there. The D27 Bridge saw this as a definite improvement and we will continue this process in the future.

This next point is for the squadron commanders and those aspiring to be one. We simplified the Squadron Commander's Report Form for the March Council/Conference. We also got it to the commanders well in advance so they had time to get it done and submitted. For the first time in my memory, all of the reports were submitted before the meeting actually occurred. This is a great improvement, but not the final step! So my congratulations go to all of those commanders who did the right thing. However, the defined requirement is for the reports to be submitted 2 weeks prior to the meeting. But we are definitely getting better. You will be happy to know that further improvements are planned, although they will be minor. And in an effort to make life easier for everyone, the form will be posted on the D27 website well in advance of the Fall Council/Conference so commanders will not have to look for it in their e-mail in-box. It will be posted as a document on the Calendar page just as we post reservations forms. But it has to contain accurate membership numbers because those numbers are the basis for the number of authorized delegates, so it cannot be posted prematurely.

There is one last point I want to bring to your attention. Many of our D27 squadrons have websites and many of those websites are relatively new. Website names are registered, which is a requirement for a website. But many people do not know that a website registration is not permanent; i.e., it can expire. It is imperative that each squadron ensure that they renew their website registration before it expires. If it is not renewed, someone can grab that website name and use it for ulterior motives. I don't want to go into details, but you can accept my word that it can get ugly. That has happened to one squadron already and they are still working to get it resolved.

District Treasurer

D/Lt/C David E. Parsons, AP

I understand that D27 held a great rendezvous at Little River, SC and I send my apologies to everyone for my lack of attendance. Linda and I were sailing the open waters of the Pacific on the Sapphire Princess along with some 3000 of our dear friends. Our trip started out in Los Angeles, sailing to Santa Barbara, San Francisco, San Diego, Ensenada Mexico and back to Los Angeles for a total of 1317 nautical miles or the equivalent of 1515 land miles. I am very happy that I live on the East Coast and the great boating and beaches that we have. If you so desire you can check out my Facebook page for pictures posted there.



I am once again humbled at the opportunity to serve D27 as your Treasurer. We ended the past year in very good financial condition and are off to a great start this year. For the first quarter, National has advised us that D27 has gained 65 new members which translated into 43 assessments made to 12 squadrons. I am still waiting on a few of the squadrons to remit their assessments as of this report. With this great start and I am looking forward to seeing every squadron grow this year.

Once again, I want to remind everyone of the importance of submitting your 990 report to the IRS. I have heard that there has been some difficulty for one of our squadrons who has failed to make this report in the past and is now having to go through a lot of procedures to retain or re-qualify for their non-profit status. It is a simple process on-line and takes only a few moments to complete the report and submit. National also wants to know that the report has been filed by submitting the TR1 report. This report has to be mailed in and can not be submitted online. To date only 7 of our 20 squadrons have let me know they have made their report, If your squadron Treasurer has not please get this completed as soon as possible.

Have you signed up for the SAO/DAO and/or the SXO/DXO training to be held in Cary, NC 22 June and 23 June. This is a great opportunity to increase your knowledge about the functions of the Squadron/District positions that will assist in making each squadron stronger now and in the future. If you have ever considered being in a leadership role with your squadron, this is a must do opportunity and the price is right, half off the normal fee for these courses.

As the boating season ramps up, I encourage everyone to have your Vessel Safety Check done and have a great and SAFE time on the water.

& PAY YOUR DUES!!!



D/27 ANNUAL COUNCIL/CONFERENCE COW



He is back!



Winston gals



PAST COMMANDER



CAN THEY HANDLE IT?



11 Our Leader for 2012-2013



Squadron of the year



USCG Auxiliary report



DO NOT LOSE THE D/C FLAG!



Millenium Award Bill Halkovitch
1,000 Vessel Safety Checks

D/27 RENDEZVOUS 2012



DISTRICT 27 BITTS

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FIRST CLASS



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October 12-14 2012

D/27 Fall C/C Wrightsville Beach, NC

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