

Volume 50-4

50th year "America's Boating Club"©

February 2013

**March 22nd-24th
2013**

D/27 50th Anniversary

D/27 Spring C/C
Change of Watch
Raleigh, NC

August 8-11 2013

D/27 D/5 Joint
Rendezvous
Cape Charles, VA

October 11-12 2013

Fall Conference/
Council
Greenville, NC

January 4, 2014

Training day
Raleigh, NC

September 2-8 2014

USPS Governing
Board
San Antonio, TX

D/C Message Harold W. O'Briant JN

The 20 squadrons of The District 27 are well into their Changes of Watch and soon will all have new leaders serving on their bridges. For some squadrons this may only mean one or two new bridge members while others might be under the leadership of an entirely new group of bridge officers. Regardless, this is an important time to be a member of United States Power Squadrons and District 27.

We have recently begun to celebrate the 100th anniversary of USPS at the recent annual meeting in Jacksonville, Fl. More than 40 District 27 members were in attendance at the meeting which was one of the best national meetings I've attended. The personnel at the Hyatt Regency Hotel were really on the ball this year and the food and service were much improved. Rumor has it that preparations are already underway to plan an even better meeting next year when we complete the 100 celebration. A week-long cruise sponsored by USPS and Holland America for all members is already in the works for the week following the annual meeting next year. Start making your plans for 26 January - 2 February 2014 and the week thereafter. It should really be special.

This year is a special year for The District 27. We will celebrate our 50th anniversary in March at our Spring Conference and Change of Watch. A special anniversary recognition for the Past District Commanders is planned for Friday, March 22, 2013 at the Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown located at 3415 Wake Forest Road in Raleigh. This event precedes the annual District Spring Council and Change of Watch on Saturday, March 23. The registration form, hotel reservation information, and agenda are included in this Bitts and are also located on the District 27 website, www.uspsd27.org under the calendar tab.

As with previous meetings there will be a silent auction of donated items. If you would like to donate an item for the auction please contact Cdr Jonnie Chardonn, P, of Cape Fear Sail & Power Squadron at commander@capefearsailandpowersquadron.org

A special event for the spouses is planned for Saturday morning and early afternoon at the North Carolina Museum of Art.. Don't miss the information on this event which has proven very popular in the past. *Continued on page 2*



Continued from page 1 The past year has been very busy for members of The District 27. Virtually every facet of United States Power Squadrons programs were embraced by our members. You were active in co-operative charting, vessel safety exams, education and of course social activities involving not only our members but the boating public. New River Sail & Power Squadron submitted the two national USPS third place winners in the Boarman Youth Poster contest. They will be on display at the District meeting in Raleigh. Distinctive Communicator Awards were given to many squadrons as were the Doing It Right distinction. These awards will be passed out to the squadron commanders in Raleigh.

While some squadrons continue to wrestle with the challenge of membership growth, retention and leadership, other squadrons are successfully meeting the challenge. More and more District 27 squadron members are attending the Leadership Development Seminars offered by USPS. These seminars deal directly with the challenges of membership, effective committee meetings and operations training. The three revised seminars are scheduled for District 27 on June 20 – 22, 2013 in Raleigh again this year. This is the District's commitment to you to offer all three seminars to you here within the District so you do not have to travel to a national meeting or other location to take advantage of these. Your squadron bridge members will benefit greatly from these and as they do, so also will the squadron. More information will be coming soon about these. Don't miss out on this opportunity.

One of the major challenges for USPS and The District 27 continues to be membership. One thing for sure is that there is no one solution for everyone. However, there is a solution for everyone's membership challenge. There must be a defined, well thought out membership program for each squadron. There is no alternative. It is a fact that new members must be brought into the squadrons and existing members retained. Look at the Doing It Right Form your squadron submitted last fall. This will certainly give you some indication of some areas of concern for a squadron. It will also show you where your strengths are.

A squadron must bring in a minimum of five new members each year and retain them. Why five? That is a new bridge each year, or as some will say, a bridge in training. Unfortunately, when squadrons begin recycling commanders and other bridge members year after year, the squadron will start on a downward cycle. A squadron can have a wonderful educational department reaching hundreds of prospective members, but it is a wasted effort for recruiting purposes if no new members result from these efforts.

During my travel throughout the District this year I have not seen a single squadron locale where new members cannot be recruited. Some squadrons have wonderful membership efforts while others can't be bothered. I actually heard one squadron commander comment at his change of watch last year that he was not concerned about new members. "If one floats by, we'll take him," he said.

Prospective members must WANT to join us. We must offer them something they desire and see value in. If it cost them nothing, that is the value they will place on our efforts. We must ASK them to join, not expect them to do so. The current six-month free membership initiative should be an absolute gold mine for us. If we have a member for four months before he receives an invoice, they should be enthusiastic about paying that invoice. We have to court these new members once we recruit them and continue to court them so we do not lose them. This cannot be done by email alone. There must be personal contact. Membership development and recruitment is a continuing effort and is not something which is only considered during boating season. It must be a year round effort.

At the national meeting, the educational department was excited about the increasing number of "on-line" courses. While this might be good for the educational department, I think it remains to be seen how effective this will be regarding membership. Membership is a very personal thing to most people, especially when it involves money and a commitment of time.

During the past several years, it has been my pleasure to visit with all of you at some point. I would like to thank you all for your enthusiastic reception shown to me and to my wife, Bobbie. You all do a very special job. It is not always easy and I know sometimes, thankless. But I assure you, we at The District 27 and USPS are aware of your efforts. **Thank you for your hard work during this past year.**

GUESS WHO IS COMING TO THE COW MEETING!

Chief Commander John T Alter, SN

Chief Commander for 2012, John and his wife Judy live in Whispering Pines, NC and are members of the Raleigh Sail and Power Squadron in District 27. Both are natives of Toledo, OH. He joined the Toledo Power Squadron (D/29) in 1970 and in 1977 he was transferred to Cleveland, OH where he became a member of the Rocky River Power Squadron (D/7). He served on the squadron bridge, and was Commander in 1985 and again in 1987. In 1990 he was transferred back to Toledo and served on the D/29 Bridge, including District Commander in 1996. Throughout his squadron career, he has taught the Public Boating, Seamanship, and Piloting courses. At the national level, he has been an Aide to two Chief Commanders and has served on the Governing Board and the



Strategic Planning Task Force. He has served as a member of the Budget Committee, as National Treasurer from 2003 to 2006, as National Administrative Officer, and recently as National Executive Officer. He was a member of the Committee on Nominations and the Restructuring Committee, was an Aide to the National Treasurer and squadron Radio Technical Officer. He is a Life Member with 31 Merit Marks.

John is a graduate of Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH. He has both Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Business Administration. He spent 27 years with the Ohio Bell Telephone Co. holding various marketing, human resources, and customer service positions in Toledo, Columbus, and Cleveland. Judy is a graduate of the St. Vincent School of Nursing in Toledo and a Registered Nurse. She is a member of the National First Aide Support Team (FAST) team and has 17 Merit Marks.

John and Judy have four adult children and eleven grandchildren. He has “been messing around with boats” since the age of six when his parents purchased a summer home on the shores of Lake Erie. The shallow water and treacherous storms, for which Lake Erie is known, taught him the values of safe boating and seamanship at an early age. Most of his experience has been with powerboats, although they did have a sailboat when living in Columbus. Their children also shared the love of boating and summer weekends on the water were family affairs. Their current boat is a 20-foot pontoon boat they use on Thaggard Lake.

The registration, agenda and hotel reservations for our annual meeting and change of watch are found in this issue of the North Carolina Bitts and on line at D/27 website

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

USPS MEMBERSHIP SURVEY... The United States Power Squadrons completed a membership survey this fall in which 7826 members, over 30% of the membership, expressed their thoughts. Please take time to read through the results, cast a look about and visualize where your squadron may fit in the results, and take the lead to help USPS survive. In many ways, our second 100 years may only be possible by embracing and implementing the findings from the survey. Short on time; go directly to the "conclusions." The website for the survey is:

<http://35.8.125.11/USPowerSquadrons/report/index.html>

The password is: grandhaven.

GOOD NEWS...BOATING DECISION MAKING (BDM) is making more and more sense! For instance, what is your procedure for dealing with a person overboard? We have cookie-cutter turns and speed procedures, Destroyer or Anderson or Williamson turns, working our way back to the person with an approach into the wind. But how about an option for the child who falls overboard, who typically is not thrashing about, and slips away in under two minutes? Our POWT (Practical On The Water) seminar and BOC Inland Navigator skills include the "quick stop," a superb skill for the decision maker's options. Yes, the procedure remains to secure the engines when in the vicinity of any person in the water and engage the shift lever to prevent accidental restarting and free-wheeling of the prop.

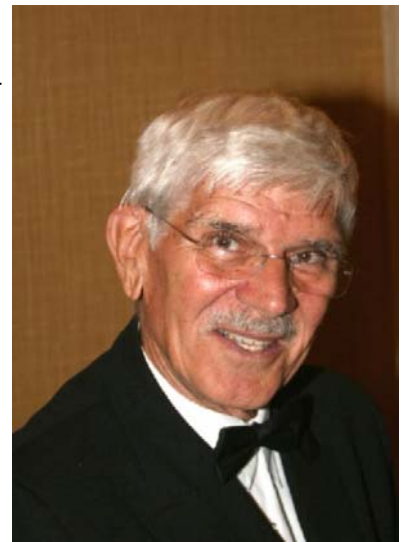
Starting with the America's Boating Course 3rd Edition (ABC3), focus is brought to all boaters on the consequences of their actions in all aspects of recreational boating. An off-handed comment diminishing the need to wear life jackets quickly permeates the passengers and a disaster is in the making. Or, failure to brief all hands on-board prior to beginning the voyage soon culminates in loss of life. Education and training to make sound decisions is our first priority.

BAD NEWS... Hoax MAYDAY calls continue to take a toll. While the Coast Guard knows to the penny the hourly price tag to fly a Jayhawk helicopter or push a 45-foot motor lifeboat across the water on an SAR mission, hoax distress calls have costs less easy to calculate. In addition to the expense of diverting personnel from normal duties, when SAR crews are occupied chasing down phantom maydays, they're not on call for real emergencies.

On average, according to records kept over the past decade, the Coast Guard handles 20,000 calls for assistance annually and logs them in four categories: Actual Alerts, False Alerts, Suspected Hoax, and Confirmed Hoax. Although records show an encouraging downward trend in overall calls, suspected and confirmed hoaxes have trended more or less upward, increasing from 76 in 2006 to 161 in 2011.

PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF TORSO REFLEX

Torso Reflex, also known as Gasp Reflex, Inhalation Response, or Cold Water Shock, is caused by sudden immersion into water colder than 70 degrees F. Sudden immersion into cold water triggers an involuntary reflexive torso gasp that can cause the person to aspirate water into his airway and lungs, which can lead to laryngospasm, disorientation, panic, and the loss of any physical ability to swim or remain afloat. *cont pg 4*



Continued from page 3 This automatic physiological reaction causing involuntarily gasps is a reflexive sucking in of air in an attempt to rapidly increase oxygen intake into the lungs. This increases the body's metabolic rate, building internal warmth in response to the cold. When jumping into cold water with the face unprotected, the sudden urge to breathe deeply in response to the torso reflex may cause the person to inhale with the mouth underwater. The person then inhales (aspirates) water, rather than air, into his lungs.

This rapid and uncontrollable gasping can last from 1 – 3 minutes. And, if you gasp while your mouth is underwater, as cold water is drawn into the windpipe and lungs, the laryngospasm then occurs. Even if you manage to get your mouth above water, you may still not be able to clear the water from your mouth and airway to get enough oxygen.

During spring and early summer, there are numerous fatal and non-fatal submersion incidents that occur when people jump into the water from a dock, pier, or boat in order to cool off. Even though the air might be in the 80's or 90's, the water might still be in the 50's or 60's. And, this occurs frequently during the winter when an individual is suddenly immersed into cold water as a result of falling through the ice into cold water.

The sudden entry into cold water will make an individual involuntarily gasp. And, unless his airway is protected by covering the mouth and nose with one or both hands, the person will involuntarily gasp when the cold water hits his chest and face, then causing the person to aspirate water into his airway and lungs. This will then cause the larynx to spasm, preventing the person from breathing. Unless the person's lungs are filled with residual air, the victim may not surface and will continue to submerge as he deteriorates into a deeper state of hypoxia and unconsciousness. After the onset of respiratory arrest and unconsciousness, the heart may continue beating for up to several minutes before the onset of cardiac arrest.

The initial immersion in cold water also causes a sudden constriction of surface blood vessels that then causes an immediate jump in blood pressure and heart rate. If the heart cannot handle this jump, sudden cardiac arrest can occur. This seldom happens in healthy and fit people, but the danger is still there.

To prevent Torso Reflex, fully cover your mouth and nose with your hand(s) prior to entering the water. And, don't release the cover until you have re-surfaced and your mouth is clear of the water surface. Also, when entering, lean backward, which will reduce facial contact during sudden immersion into the water. The procedure of covering the mouth and nose with the hands should be taught to all swimmers, recreational boaters, and rescue personnel subject to entering cold water. This procedure should become instinctive and should be maintained until the rescuer regains a horizontal position on the surface with his face out of the water.

And, always wear a lifejacket, especially when boating on or entering cold water. Keeping the cold water off your face and head may lessen the gasp reflex. Wearing a lifejacket, before entering the water, will help keep your face and mouth out of the water. And, even if you experience torso reflex, the lifejacket will keep you at the surface for immediate rescue by others.

What kind of lifejacket is best? The one you wear!

New Cruising and Cruise Planning Course

The current Cruise Planning (CP) course was last updated in 2003. The Marine Environment

(MEnv) Committee has nearly completed a new version of that course. The new course has a new name to better reflect the content and emphasis of the material: **Cruising and Cruise Planning**. The new course will contain many of the same topics that were previously covered, but with an increased emphasis on cruising. Additionally, we limit the discussion in most instances to cruises of up to one month along inland and coastal waterways. This is a departure from the previous version's offshore cruising emphasis. *Continued page 5*

Continued from page 4 The MEnv Committee believes this better reflects the type of boating undertaken by most of our members and the public. The old CP course had substantial overlap in certain chapters with material from the USPS courses, especially Seamanship, Weather and Communications Systems. Much of this overlap has been eliminated. The new student manual will include descriptions and tips about actual cruise routes in the United States. At present, we have created simulated cruises on the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, the Inland Rivers, the Great Lakes, and the Pacific Northwest. Despite the emphasis on US cruising, we have retained international requirements for travelling between our immediate neighbors, i.e., 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 in the geographic area they select. This follows the actual practice of many instructors using the old course material. The course delivery is consistent with other USPS courses. The course material will include a new student manual, an instructor manual on a CD which includes a slide presentation with notes, homework questions and answers. Chapter topics and cruise descriptions have been contributed by many USPS members with knowledge of the subjects and areas. Cooperation has been excellent from our district leadership and members. Printing of the new material is tentatively scheduled for 1Q 2013. HQ will ship the new material later this year when the inventory of the current CP course is exhausted.

Advanced Coastal Navigator Certification Now Available

While it is true that most power boaters travel at higher speeds and usually make it to their port or anchorage before nightfall, there are times when this will not or cannot happen. Situations such as mechanical breakdown, weather, illness, accidents, stopping to help others or changing travel plans may get in the way. It is not wise to enter an unfamiliar port at night. It is best to heave-to off shore and approach during daylight. However, experienced skippers do often enter a familiar port after dark. Sailors cruising longer distances often return after dark or make passages during darkness. Also, some boaters enjoy an evening cruise in familiar waters. A key part of the Advanced Coastal Navigator certification is a nighttime navigation skill demonstration. This skill demonstration is to leave from a port during daylight hours and return to the same port at least an hour after nightfall so you see and navigate through the same area under daylight and nighttime conditions. ACN, the Advanced Coastal Navigator certification level, is the third level of the Boat Operator Certification program (BOC). It follows the second level, Coastal Navigator. ACN has now been approved and the CAN handbook is available for downloading on the BOC Webpage: http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/boc/files/boc_material/acn_guide.pdf ACN Passports will be available for purchase for \$40 from the course catalog by the end of January 2013. This level includes demonstrating some additional piloting skills, including some night piloting. For more information about BOC, stop by the BOC booth at EXPO or see the BOC web page: <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/boc/main.htm>.

BOATING EDUCATION IS A BASIS FOR YOUR PHYSICAL, LEGAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

District Executive Officer

D/Lt/C Robert Howd, JN



D27 has completed the officer training day and the USPS national meeting has been held. The 100th anniversary celebration has started. A 100th anniversary flag was presented to each district. During the year each squadron will place a squadron banner on the district flag. They will all be returned to the national meeting in January 2014.

The Public Relations Officer has been getting articles published in three magazines (Carolina Salt, All At Sea Southeast, and Southwinds). Get any articles you want published to PRO JB Bagby jbagby124@embarqmail.com. To announce an event, it takes some planning. The deadlines are quite a long time before an event. This is a great opportunity to get your squadron into print.

At the national meeting the co-op charting agreement between NOAA and USPS was renewed. We've been doing this for 50 years and now we can continue for hopefully another 50. The D27 co-op charting program for this year is moving along smartly. Updating the last BITTS article statistics for co-op charting, we now have nine squadrons (Albemarle, Cape Fear, Cape Lookout, Charlotte, Fort Macon, Greensboro, Lake Norman, New River, and Rocky Mount) on the honor roll for this year. Seven more (Durham, Fayetteville, Goldsboro, Shallotte River, Southport, and Winston Salem) are participating. D27 has now qualified for the honor roll since we have 16 squadrons participating. Only three districts are on the honor roll. We are currently ranked #2. There are now 33 individuals representing ten squadrons on the individual honor roll. Nationally there are 138 individuals on the honor roll so D27 has about 1/4th of the total. At the national meeting Lake Norman Sail & Power Squadron and Charlotte's Bo Ibach received awards for multiple years of being on the honor rolls. The co-op charting year ends March 31 so we still have some time to get the last four squadrons involved. If you need some help, our point of contact is Phil Benson bensonphil028@gmail.com.

Looks like there may be some renewed interest in Adopt A Chart from the national leadership. Locally Fort Macon has adopted part of the Beaufort/Morehead City area chart. It requires some extra commitment but if you regularly boat in the water anyway it is a good way to get more credit for what you are doing. USPS is the primary input to updates for all the small craft charts as NOAA's funding/resources are devoted first to commercial traffic and safety. This is good publicity for USPS and the squadron. See chapter 2 of the coop-charting manual for details of this program or <http://www.usps.org/national/coch/CoChPage40.htm>. If you need some help setting up this program contact Phil Benson bensonphil028@gmail.com.

Corrections to the Coast Pilot are no longer included in the Local Notice to Mariners, published by the Coast Guard. They are listed on NOAA's web site weekly.

VSCs are coming along well too. We have seven squadrons with more than 100 so far (Cape Fear, Cape Lookout, Fort Macon, Lake Norman, New River, Pamlico and Shallotte River). We have about 1800 exams completed in the district. An area we need improvement on is that we should have nearly 180 examiners but we only have 120. At the national meeting Shallotte River's Milton Whann and Bryan Swayer received certificates for having more than 100 in 2012. The VE exam is available on the USPS website. If you need some help with Vessel Safety Checks contact Bill Halkovitch halko@atmc.net.

The annual inventory of the red PFDs was completed by the November 15 deadline.

USPS is recommending that we include the USPS logo on our newsletters, websites, letterhead, etc to show the corporate branding. The artwork for this can be found at USPS.org/100/downloads/100thanniversary logo. There is regular national logo in addition to the 100th anniversary logos.

District Administrative Officer

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

We are fast approaching the end of another District 27 year. Sometime it seems like yesterday that things got underway for this year, and sometimes it seems so far back, it is hard to remember when it started. Overall, it has been a good year.

We have talked about several things this year, among them are: Cyber Members, Doing it Right Forms, and the Children's Poster Contest.

A quick comment about Cyber Members, those persons that join via the internet: they are dues paying members and USPS Headquarters is holding the Cyber Member's Squadron dues until that member actually transfers to a Squadron. Give the Cyber Member a telephone call or talk in person to let them know about your Squadron. Often they do not realize that they are not a member of the local Squadron. You can access a list of Cyber members in your area via this link: <http://www.usps.org/php/DHinders/unattached/makeMatchx.php>. It is available to Squadron Officers and requires a log in with Certificate number and personal password.



The Doing it Right form is a checklist of things that Squadrons should be doing, and provides a self-evaluation. However, every Squadron cannot do everything on the list, and the Doing it Right program provides goals to reach by adding one or more each year. Increasing levels of performing activities on the list have been set for several years with an end goal to receive recognition with a special emblem that your Squadron "Does it Right". A special thanks to all the Squadron Administrative Officers as all 20 Squadrons submitted forms by the deadline. For more information see http://www.usps.org/national/membership/memcom/awards_index.html.

As with the past several years, District 27 took the winning poster from the 3 age groups to the USPS Annual meeting. The three winners were listed in the November 2012 issue of BITTS: <http://www.uspsd27.org/newsletters/2012BITTS11.pdf>. We congratulate Ashley Maloney who won the 3rd Place Prize in the 6-8 years old age group, and Grayson Elliott who won the 3rd Place Prize in the 9-11 years old age group. Both of these young artists are from Sneads Ferry and were sponsored by New River Sail and Power Squadron. We congratulate them. They will be recognized at the upcoming Council/Conference and Change of Watch.

The Youth Poster theme for 2013 is "100 Years of Wearing It!" Here are several ideas to get the young artists thinking:

What have the life preservers looked like?

What did the boats look like?

What the people looked like wearing life preservers over the years?

Remember the "Titanic"? Now is the time to pull out the old pictures and spend some time with young artists educating them about wearing life preservers and teaching some history also. The posters will be received at the Fall Council/Conference for District judging. The names of the local winners have to be submitted by January 1, 2014. Additional Youth Poster Contest information will be available soon at http://www.usps.org/national/membership/memcom/awards_index.html. This webpage has not yet been updated for the 2013 poster contest, but keep checking.

Remember, a well-used boat does not deteriorate as fast as an idle boat.

District Secretary

D/Lt/C David J. Simons, AP

I am sure everyone has heard the phrase “things go faster when you are having fun”. I don’t know if “fun” is the right word; but I will say that the end of my second year as D27 Secretary is already here and it has been quite an experience. I will also acknowledge that the end of the second year arrived a bit sooner than I expected. I have seen the improvements in operations that we have implemented; perhaps “simplification” is a better word. Throughout this past year we have been working on this.

But before I delve into those changes, I want to throw out some kudos (I think “shout-out” is the new word) to some people who have been very key in making this year successful for the Secretary’s Department. This applies to the D27 Secretary’s Dept as well as the Secretary Depts of the squadrons in D27. There are 20 squadrons in D27. 14 out of that 20 received the Distinctive Communicator Award for newsletters for the year 2012. That is a great batting average! As for the website awards, we did even better! 15 out of 20 squadrons received the Distinctive Communicator Award. As for our own District 27, we received the Distinctive Communicator Award for both the website and the newsletter. A big applause to D27 BITTS Editor George Ellis and D27 Webmaster Luis Lopez for a job well done. There is one other member of the Secretary’s Dept whom I want to recognize. Francine Hall is our D27 Historian who is something of an unsung hero. People sometimes ask what is the purpose in having a Historian. The best way to describe her role is that the statistical information which she subsequently submits to USPS helps USPS in defining areas where we are doing fine as well as areas where we have work to do. But she cannot do her job without receiving the input from the squadrons. We certainly have some very talented people in what Harold O’Briant calls “the District 27”. I believe that all of us should recognize that D27 is a great district in which to be a member and also recognize that we just happen to be very lucky to be a part of it since we live here! And now we are coming up to the 50th Anniversary of D27. WOW!!! Celebrate! I am just glad to be here to be part of it!



This January 2013 I was in Jacksonville, FL; I was there when our own D27 guy, John Alter, was installed for the second year of his term as Chief Commander. I don’t believe that many D27 members realize the significance of this event. Actually, the really significant event was one year ago in Jacksonville when John was first sworn in as Chief Commander. John is the 4th Chief Commander of USPS to come from D27. No other district has that distinction; several districts have been the home district of 3 Chief Commanders, but D27 is the first to have 4 Chiefs come from their ranks. Congratulations go to our guy, Chief Commander John Alter.

The Secretary’s Dept is continuing on our campaign to improve and simplify the D27 website. Our goal is to make it a handy source of everything you need to know or have at your fingertips. We have also been working on improving the forms and reports which the squadrons are expected to submit. One, in particular, is the Squadron Commander’s Report. We have tweaked it just a bit to eliminate a few hiccups. We hope you enjoy it! It is significant to note that the Squadron Commander’s Reports have all been received in advance of the meeting to which they pertain before the meeting actually occurs for the past 2 meetings! That is a major improvement and I want to thank the squadron commanders for doing their part. The actual requirement is to have them submitted 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

We discovered recently that there was an error in job titles within D27. The leader of the Education Dept, in both districts and squadrons and national, in USPS is the Educational Officer. A few squadrons (as well as D27, I must admit) have been using the title Education Officer rather than Educational Officer. This will be remedied as of the D27 Annual Meeting in March.

Lastly, I want to announce the latest improvements in the D27 website. We have added a FORMS tab. This tab provides you with the D27-unique forms such as the Squadron Commander’s Report and the Resume’. The tab has been reorganized so that the D27 forms appear at the very beginning. These are the actual forms. Following that are the links (not the actual forms) to the commonly used USPS forms. We took this approach so that we don’t run the risk of duplicating USPS forms on our website and then discovering that we have the old version.

We also plan to implement the DOCUMENTS tab on the D27 website in the very near future. We had hoped to have that ready by now, but we don’t want to rush to get it out there and then have it wrong. When I was actually working at a job, one of our favorite statements was that “there is never enough time to do a job right, but always enough time to do it twice”. When we are convinced we have it right, we will announce it to the world and we will get it right the first time.

District Treasurer

D/Lt/C David E. Parsons, AP

Where has this Bridge year gone? In fact, where has the past three years serving the District as your Treasurer gone? I have enjoyed learning a great deal about USPS and the function of the District during my tenure as Treasurer, getting to see first hand the difficulties that squadrons face and hopefully have been able to provide assistance, when called upon, that made a difference to the well-being of each squadron and our District. I look forward to a new adventure with the District and to lending any assistance to Paula as she takes over the duties of District Treasurer.



At the time of this writing, we have had Revenue of \$14,642 and Expenditures of \$17,268. Even though our expenditures are more than income, I expect that by the end of our current year, we will have balanced our funds within the Budget. One area that has kept us from balancing our Budget is that we have yet to hear from the State concerning our request for the Sales Tax Refund for the first six months of the year, so if your squadron joined with the District in filing the report, distribution has not been forthcoming due to the delay from the State. It is now time to submit for the second six month period and I am planning to do so by mid-March, so again if you will send me copies of your receipts, I will be glad to submit the report along with the District report.

Many incoming squadron treasurers attended the Officer Training Session in Raleigh in January and I am pleased to see such a great group taking on the responsibilities for their respective squadron. We had a great discussion, question and answer period where a number of participants shared their experience. It is great to see this training opportunity growing over the past few years. Speaking of training opportunities, our District will be providing the Leadership Development Seminars again this summer. If you have any desire to become a stronger leader for your squadron, I assure you that these sessions will provide you the tools to be just that.

I appreciated the opportunity to visit with the Pamlico Sail and Power and the Albemarle Sail and Power Squadrons and to conduct their COW. Their hospitality shown to me and Linda was greatly appreciated. I can see why D27 is such a revered District in USPS, when you see the caliber of members we have and their commitment to their squadron and Safe Boating.

Attending the National Conference in Jacksonville in January was a highlight of the Year. Our District Bridge was involved in many activities and I cannot wait to return next January as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of USPS and see the Ensigns returned with all the battle ribbons attached for each squadron throughout our organization.

But first, I am looking forward to the 50th birthday celebration and COW in Raleigh for our District. I hope you are planning to be there for this once in a lifetime experience.

Safe Boating!





District 27

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®

Cordially invites you to the

50th Anniversary Celebration
Friday, March 22, 2013

The North Raleigh Hilton
3415 Wake Forest Road
Raleigh, NC

Reception Begins at 1730
50th Anniversary Dinner Banquet Begins at 1830

Optional Spouse Tour Package

North Carolina Museum of Art

Saturday, March 23, 2013

\$19.00

Enjoy an afternoon at the North Carolina Museum of Art. Join us for a lively tour to delight all the senses. Take in the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells that have inspired artists across centuries and cultures.

Begin with lunch at 11:30 am of freshly poached chicken salad of the day, crackerbread, mixed field greens, fresh fruit and vegetables, and herb shallot vinaigrette catered by Iris, the Museum's elegant café. Your meal includes the entrée, dessert, and beverage. If you need a vegetarian option, please indicate so on the registration form.

Following lunch, at 1:00 pm you will enjoy the popular highlights of the Museum's exceptional permanent collection through a one-hour docent-guided tour in the galleries. Top off your experience with a visit to the Museum Shop to find the perfect souvenir of your visit.

Space is limited to 30 and reservations must be in hand no later than Wednesday, March 13, 2013. Travel arrangements will be made prior to this outing.

For further information, contact Paula Schubert via email at paula.schubert@earthlink.net.

ANNOUNCING THE

**District 27 Spring Council/Conference
Change of Watch
50th Anniversary**

March 22-24, 2013

**Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown
3415 Wake Forest Road
Raleigh, NC 27609
919-872-2323**

**Room rate: \$95 plus tax per night
Ask for USPS District 27 group rate
Cut-off Date: February 27, 2013**

Hosted by Durham Sail Power Squadron

Cdr Fred Cooke, S

Honorary Host – Cape Fear Sail & Power Squadron

Cdr Jonnie' Chardonn, P

D/27 2013 Spring Council/Conference/COW
March 22-24, 2013
The Hilton North Raleigh/MidtownHotel - Raleigh, NC

Rank	First	Last	Grade	Cert. #
Rank	First	Last	Grade	Cert. #
Address		City	State	ZIP
Phone		email address		Squadron
Facility Fee for EACH attendee			\$ 5.00 x _____	= \$ _____

Friday 22 March

Reception for ALL members --**NO CHARGE** --Number attending _____

D/27 50th Anniversary Celebration (cash bar)

Dinner Choices

London Broil marinated and thinly sliced w/mushroom
 compote and roasted garlic mashed potatoes \$ 35.00 x _____ = \$ _____

OR

Salmon \$ 35.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Saturday 23 October:

Spouse's Coffee NO CHARGE -- Number attending _____

NC Museum of Art Luncheon and escorted tour for spouses \$ 19.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Members Awards Luncheon - Turkey Club Wrap \$ 18.00 x _____ = \$ _____

COW Banquet (cash bar)

Dinner Choices

Sliced herb crusted pork tenderloin w/Dijon demi and
 Roasted garlic mashed potatoes \$ 35.00 x _____ = \$ _____

OR

Chicken with mushroom supreme sauce and herbed rice pilaf \$ 35.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

New member since October 2012 _____ 1st time at District meeting _____

Make checks payable to: **District 27**

Send completed form and payment no later than **11 March 2013** to:

P/C Paula Schubert, AP 3101 Doubleday Place Durham, NC 27703

Agenda
District 27 Annual Meeting & Change of Watch
22-24 March, 2013
Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown - Raleigh, NC

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
FRIDAY - 22 MARCH	Day Uniform - USPS casual	Evening Uniform - "A" w/bow tie or appropriate civilian attire	
1400 - 1700	<u>MEMBER & VOTER REGISTRATION</u>	Outside Grand Ballroom	Durham Squadron
1400 - 1500	<u>D/27 BRIDGE MEETING</u>	D/C's Suite	D/C Harold O'Briant, JN
1500 - 1530	<u>D/27 BRIDGE/Aides Meeting</u>	D/C's Suite	D/C Harold O'Briant, JN
1600 - 1615	Nominating Committee (Closed)	D/C's Suite -	P/D/C Mike McCulley, JN
1615 - 1645	Planning Committee (Closed)	D/C's Suite -	P/D/C Jamie McCurry, AP
1700 - 1730	<u>P/D/C RECEPTION/Host Squadron</u>	D/C's Suite -	Durham Squadron
1730 - 1815	<u>RECEPTION FOR ALL MEMBERS</u>	D/C's Suite -	D/C Harold O'Briant, JN
1830 - Until	<u>50th Anniversary Dinner Banquet</u>	Grand Ballroom 5	
	<u>Reception - Cash Bar</u>	Outside Grand Ballroom 5	
SATURDAY - 24 MARCH	UNIFORM F		
0730 - 0930	<u>MEMBER & VOTER REGISTRATION</u>	Outside Grand Ballroom	Durham Squadron
0900 - 1030	<u>Spouses Coffee</u>	D/C's Suite	Durham Squadron
1100 - 1500	NC Museum of Art Luncheon and tour	Lobby	Durham Squadron
0830 - 0915	<u>MEETING CONVENES</u>	Grand Ballroom 4	D/C Harold O'Briant, JN
	<u>Council Meeting</u>		
	Invocation		D/Lt Alec Wrenn, SN
	Pledge of Allegiance		Cdr Fred Cooke, S
	National Anthem		Lt Dolly Whitt, P
	Introduction of Guests		D/F/Lt Ann Bailey, AP
	Reports - Standing Committees		
0915 - 1000	<u>CONFERENCE CONVENES</u>	Grand Ballroom 4	D/C Harold O'Briant, JN
	Chief Commander's Town Meeting		C/C John Alter, SN
1000 - 1115	<u>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</u>		
	Commanders/Executive Officers	Grand Ballroom 4	D/Charold O'Briant, JN D/Lt/C Robert F. Howd, JN D/Lt/C Burt Pearson, III, SN
	Treasurers	Grand Ballroom 3	D/Lt/C Dave Parsons, AP D/1Lt Paula Stewart, P
	Educational Officers	Grand Ballroom 2	D/1Lt W. Clay Helm, JN
	Secretaries	Grand Ballroom	D/Lt/C Dave Simons, AP
1125 - 1205	Conference Reports General Committees Standing Committees	Grand Ballroom 4	D/C Harold O'Briant, JN.
1230 - 1345	<u>MEMBERS LUNCHEON & AWARDS PROGRAM</u>		Durham Squadron
	Recess Conference	Grand Ballroom 5	
1350 - 1600	<u>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</u>		
	Educational Officers	Grand Ballroom 2	D/1Lt W. Clay Helm, JN
	DB 2000	Grand Ballroom 3	Lt/C Frank V. Schubert AP,
	CoOperative Charting	Grand Ballroom 4	D/Lt Philip A. Benson, JN
	Administrative Officers	Grand Ballroom 1	D/Lt/C Burt H. Pearson, III, SN D/Lt/C Dave Parsons, AP
1600-1700	N Club	Grand Ballroom 1	P/D/C Jerry Hall, SN
1745-1830	<u>CHANGE OF WATCH</u>	Evening Uniform "A" w/ bow tie or appropriate civilian attire	
	Reception - Cash Bar	Outside Grand Ballroom 5	
1830-2200	<u>BANQUET</u>	Grand Ballroom 5	
	Dinner and Awards, etc., Announcements		D/C Harold O'Briant, JN
	Adjourn Conference and/or Council		D/C Robert F. Howd, JN

Report of District 27 Nominating Committee

P/D/C Mike McCulley, JN - Chairman

October 13, 2012

Nominees for 2013-2014

District Commander:	Robert F. Howd, JN
Executive Officer:	Burt H. Pearson, III, SN
Educational Officer:	H. Clay Helm, JN
Administrative Officer:	David E. Parsons, AP
Treasurer:	Paula F. Stewart, P
Secretary:	David J. Simons, AP
Asst. Educational Officer:	George Malindzak, Jr., SN
Asst. Secretary:	Lorraine B. Ryan, P
Nominating Committee Chair:	Harold W. O'Briant, JN
Audit Committee - 3 years	Ann T. Bailey, AP
Audit Committee - 2 years	Jeffrey A. Moore, AP
Rules Committee - 3 years	Hugh F. Hayes, JN
Rules Committee - 2 years	William E. Reasons, SN

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.

The squadrons' representatives for the D/27 nominating committee available @ meeting



**Districts 5 and 27
Crossing Paths Reunion Rendezvous
8-11 August 2013
Bay Creek Marina and Resort, Cape Charles, Virginia**

Accommodations

Bay Creek Marina – 1-757-331-8640

Slip rental \$2.50 per ft per day, 30 amp - \$8.00 pd, 50 amp - \$12.00 pd
Individual must call to make slip arrangements

Hotel Cape Charles – 235 Mason Ave, Cape Charles, Va 1-757-695-3854

Beautiful ultra-modern rooms, \$3.5 million renovation completed last year. Only 16 rooms available, includes complimentary light breakfast and Wi-Fi.

Bay Creek Resort – www.baycreekresort.com or 1-757-331-8750 or 1-757-331-8756 (Skya Church). Various size homes within walking distance to the marina. Web site has information and pictures of the homes. Groups can pair up to rent these lovely homes. There may be a discount option if USPS rent enough of these homes through the Bay Creek Resort Rental Property.

Shore Stay Suites – www.shorestaysuites.com or 1-757-331-4090

This all suite hotel is located on Highway 13 only 3 miles from Cape Charles business area. Each suite has a full kitchen with full size appliances.

Bed and Breakfast

Bay Haven Inn at Cape Charles – 403 Tazewell Ave, Cape Charles 1-757-331-2838

www.bayhaveninnbnb.com

The Baywood B&B – 31400 Latimers Bluff Rd, Cape Charles 1-209-4406

www.thebaywood.com

Cape Charles House B&B – 645 Tazewell Ave, Cape Charles 1-757-331-4920

www.capecharleshouse.com

Chesapeake Bay View B&B – 212 Bay Ave, Cape Charles 1-757-331-2087

www.chesapeakebayview.com

Fig Street Inn – 711 Tazewell Ave, Cape Charles 1-757-331-3133

www.figstreetinn.com

Sea Gate B&B – 9 Tazewell Ave, Cape Charles 1-757-331-2206

www.seagatebb.com

Campgrounds

Cherrystone Family Camping Resort – 1511 Townfield Dr, Cape Charles 1-757-331-3063

www.cherrystoneva.com This camping resort offers tent sites, RV sites, cottages, cabins and on-site trailers to rent.

Kiptopeke State Park – 3540 Kiptopeke Dr, Cape Charles 1-800-933-PARK or 1-757-331-2267

www.dcr.virginia.gov/parks/kiptopeke.htm

This camping park is located about 10 miles from Bay Creek Marina.

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

March 22nd-24th 2013

D/27 50th Anniversary D/27 Spring C/C Change of Watch Raleigh, NC

DISTRICT BRIDGE 2012-2013

Commander: Harold W. O'Briant, JN

(H) 252.241.4328

Hobriant@juno.com

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rhowd1@ec.rr.com

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opportunity@embarqumail.com

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Secretary: David J. Simons, AP

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brassring@nc.rr.com

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