



Upcoming Events

June 20 - 22, 2014
D27 Rendezvous
Pecan Grove Marina
Oriental

September 7-14, 2014
USPS Governing Board
Arlington, VA

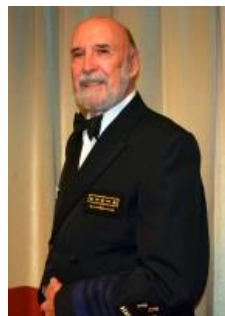
October 17 - 19, 2014
D27 Fall Council/
Conference
Mooreville

January 10, 2015
D27 Training
NC State University
Club, Raleigh

March 20-22, 2015
District 27 Spring
Council/Conference
Raleigh

D/C Message Burt Pearson, SN-ACN

This year has been exciting and eventful. Actually, my year has two starting points: the change of date on the calendar is necessary for all of us; the second year started because of the support of all the Squadrons and Members of District 27. I thank you for electing me as Commander of District 27, and I am honored to be able to serve. Thank you.



I thought that the weather had been eventful since the start of 2014, but the weather since the Change of Watch has been extremely eventful with late spring freezes, high winds, and flooding well before the hurricane season even starts. I hope that none of our members had damage either from the cold, wind or the flooding. And surely, it will warm up enough to give us time to enjoy the water a lot this year.

EVENTS

The next activity for D27 is the upcoming District Rendezvous, June 20-22, at Pecan Grove Marina in Oriental. There is an article along with Registration Forms and other information elsewhere in this issue. The main thing that I want to do is to provide an invitation to come and join the fun. Bring your boat or travel by motor vehicle, but come, see your friends, and have fun. Of course we will be eating and having some refreshments together. If rooms are needed, please make your reservation as soon as possible as the limited accommodations fill early due to parents delivering children to the local camps. The Oriental Inn, 252-249-1818, is offering either a 10% or 20% discount based on the number of persons reserving their rooms as D27 members. The River Neuse Suites, 252-249-1404, is offering a 10% discount based on the number of persons reserving their rooms as D27 members. Please distribute this information to all of your members and make sure that they mention they are with D27 when making reservations.

The USPS Governing Board Meeting will take place from September 10-14, in Arlington, VA. Governing Board Meetings are always interesting, especially if you attend the Departmental Committee meetings. In the early part of the week, all the sub-committees are meeting to discuss their particular concerns. On Thursday, some of the Departments have Open Meetings that anyone can attend, but some are closed. On Friday, the morning will start with breakfast and a Keynote speaker, which is a good way to start the day as the past speakers have been quite interesting. There are seminars throughout the day. At 1400, there is a District/Squadron Officers and General Members meeting sponsored by the National Administrative Department. This is generally a very informative meeting as all the new topics discussed earlier in the week are announced to the attendees. So, be the first in your Squadron to hear all the news. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

The D27 Fall Council/Conference will be held on October 17-19, in Mooresville. There will be more information coming on this later. There will be some things new and different at this meeting. The main difference will be that the break-out sessions will be held before lunch and the Council/Conference meetings will be after lunch and will not be interrupted by breakout sessions. One thing new will be a meeting on Friday afternoon for Squadron Commanders only, and the Chief's Rep if available. This will be an opportunity for the Squadron Commanders to discuss any topic that they choose, especially what the District may or may not be doing to help the Squadrons, without "interference" from the District Officers. I have asked Charlotte Squadron Commander Pat Hakanson, SN, to moderate this session to get it started. So be sure to reserve this weekend. It should be pretty around Lake Norman and the central part of North Carolina at this time of year.

PARTICIPATION

The previous D27 year illustrated the significant involvement by Squadron Members, not only directly related to meetings and courses, but also the Civic activities, including Vessel Safety exams, the children's activities on the lake or fishing trips, etc.

Four D27 squadrons were recognized as being in the top ten of the BoatUS Civic Service Award: Cape Fear, Fort Macon, Lake Norman and Raleigh, with Fort Macon the overall winner. And D27 was the top District winner. All 20 Squadrons made the Honor Roll in Cooperative Charting, and P/C Milton B. Whann, AP, 9th year, and Lt Bryon L. Swayer, AP, 4th year, both of Shallotte River Sail & Power Squadron



were recognized for conducting over 100 Vessel Safety Exams per year, with the total number of years as noted. All of the Squadrons sent in their Doing it Right forms and US Coast Guard Loaner PFD reports on time. We had a fair number of Youth Posters to judge, and more things that escape me right now. You have demonstrated that "I can do that; We can do that; and We can have fun doing that." You have set the standards high, so keep having fun and continue to accomplish great things. Thank you, and a special thank you to those who have stepped up and accepted leadership roles in the Squadrons, District and National organizations.

OTHER THINGS

I have had the opportunity to visit with New River and Fayetteville Squadrons and the hospitality has been wonderful. I look forward to visiting with other Squadrons during the year to renew old friendships and meet new friends.

As noted in the Executive Officers article, USPS has a new theme or tag line. "***Come for the boating education...stay for the friends.***" This really expresses the essence of USPS, so spread the word, use the tag line and take your friends along on the water or wherever you go. The fraternal side of USPS happens away from the water also, and at times, may be more relaxing.

So, remember "I can do that, We can do that, and We can have fun doing that", and we will be doing it safely.

District Executive Officer—D/Lt/C David E. Parsons, JN

What a great turnout for our Spring Conference/COW held in New Bern. I appreciate the vote of confidence given to me by the membership to serve this year as the D27 Executive Officer. I will do my utmost best to carry out the duties of this office. We in D27 have a lot to be proud



of and that was displayed time after time by the recognition given to our District and to the individual squadrons and members in our District at the National Conference in Jacksonville Florida. If you have never attended a National meeting, I encourage you to consider attending the Governing

Board meeting in Arlington, VA in September. Details can be found on the USPS website and it looks to be another outstanding meeting. I am also very appreciative of the willingness of our members to step up and accept the Call to Service to the District. Ken Link, Fort Macon, will be chairing the Liaison Committee/Homeland Security; Chris Payne, Rocky Mount, will continue as chair of the Vessel Safety Program; Greg Shay, Raleigh will be chairing the Public Relations activities; Tom Taylor, Raleigh, will continue to chair the Legislative Committee; and Bo Ibach, Charlotte, will continue to chair the Co-Op program. In addition to these capable leaders, Kevin Lyon, Raleigh, will be providing the District with his leadership in the new USCG Visitation Program, which you will be hearing more about in this newsletter and those to come.

VESSEL SAFETY PROGRAM

Under the leadership of Chris Payne, I know that our District will once again be in the front of the pack, leading boaters to operate their boats under safe conditions. We are adding to the number of Inspectors but can always use more. There have been a number of confusing articles concerning the life expectancy of Fire Extinguishers. The newer extinguishers on the market have a date code stamped on the bottom of the extinguisher. In the

manufacturing arena, 5-7 years has been the norm to keep an extinguisher in operation, but the Coast Guard looks at it from a different perspective. They indicate that as long as the extinguisher shows a charge, is not rusty or damaged in any way, it is considered good. That is the official ruling we Inspectors are to go by, but the call is still left up to you on a case-by-case basis. It is also noted that shaking the extinguisher will increase the possibility of clogging the nozzle, so use the gauge to determine if it is usable. Chris also reminds everyone, especially the Squadron VSE Chairs, that inspections should be logged in as soon after the inspection as possible. This year no VSE decals will be given out if at least 80% of the initial supply has not been accounted for. The database will be used to verify how many decals your squadron inspectors have used. If you need more decals and have met the target, the Squadron VSE Chair is the only one who can request more decals through the VSE website.



PUBLIC RELATIONS

The USPS Marketing Committee has announced a new tag line which should be used on all correspondence, websites and PowerPoints, as well as any other opportunity that present itself. The new tag line is ***“Come for the Boating Education....Stay for the Friends.”*** We should no longer use any of the other tag lines that have been used in the past. Greg Shay, PRO for D27 has been busy getting up to speed on his new assignment. He is getting information out to media sources and getting familiar with PRO-LOG. He is planning on getting word out about our upcoming D27 rendezvous in Oriental, continued celebrations of our 100th anniversary of USPS and National Safe Boating Week. Internal communications are being developed about squadron activities to include noteworthy D27 squadron newsletter articles and a calendar for communications to all squadrons in the District so that those who

Continued on Page 4

would like to join in on an activity will be aware of what's happening throughout the District. As you can see, Greg has hit the ground at a running pace and you can look forward to hearing more from him in the days and months ahead.

CO-OPERATIVE CHARTING

As we continue to celebrate the 100th anniversary of USPS, let us also remember that Co-Op Charting is celebrating its 51st year. Under the great leadership of Bo Ibach, D27 performed exceptionally last year and I know that under his continued leadership, we will have a repeat this year. On April 13, 2014, the federal government stopped printing NOAA's nautical charts. This was the end of 105 years of the traditional printing process. However, Coast Survey will continue to update POD (print on demand) nautical charts weekly through a non-government

printer. They will also provide almost all of NOAA's thousand nautical charts in a free PDF download format. Welcome to the "new age" of sailing. Bo says to begin planning your squadron Co-Op event now and not wait until the last minute. If you need assistance in how many participants and points your squadron needs to get to Honor Roll, contact Bo. He will be glad to give you that information. The challenge this year is to repeat our success of last year but also to have every D27 participant receive a certificate from NOAA. There will be updates to come on our participation in the realignment of the Magenta Line. NOAA should be giving us directions on what we need to do. This will give us plenty of reports to submit.

Hope to see you at the rendezvous in Oriental and in Arlington, VA for the National meeting.

Boarman Youth Poster Contest—Donna Dunlap, P

Summer and Kids Go Together

So do the opportunities to teach children about the skills that will help them be safe on the water. It is a perfect opportunity to spend time with your grandkids, and children attending camps and summer groups while teaching them about safe boating.

If you take time to check out the activities in your community, as a family or members of a squadron, you can see lots of ways to teach safe boating. We have many neighborhood activities, summer school opportunities, as well as camps and group gatherings that are wonderful teaching opportunities to introduce basic safety skills to children. When doing so, please consider getting them involved with the Boarman Youth Poster Contest. This is a great chance to invite them to create a poster for submission to your squadron that could win and move on to be judged at the D/27 Poster Contest.

The basic information for the contest is available on the USPS website at:

<http://www.usps.org/membership/memcom/awards/index.html>.

The theme this year is "W's of Wear It!" (Who, When, Where or Why?), something that is easy to include in the safe boating information you share with the youth in your area.

The D/27 poster contest judging will take place at the Fall C/C, and your squadron can select the first place winners for each age category before this event. The winners of the district contest will be joining those of other district winners at the National Meeting in January. Wouldn't it be great to have a winner going to National? You can, if you take a little time to teach some safe boating skills this summer.

District Educational Officer—D/Lt/C Clay Helm, JN-CN

EDUCATIONAL OFFICER TRAVELS

Wilma and I attended the District Change of Watch in New Bern. The morning Educational breakout session was “How do I ...?”



This covered topics and practical exercises on how to start, enroll students, and close courses. It also covered how to find information on members in your squadron and how they can update their personal information using the Information Center. This session was well attended.

The afternoon breakout session was the “Trailing Your Boat” Seminar given by D/1st/Lt David Osmolski, SN. This seminar was also well attended.

CHAPMAN AWARD

The Charles F. Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes outstanding USPS instructors. Once a year, each squadron may nominate one outstanding instructor to the District. The District Educational Officer forms a committee to select one nominee within the district to submit for national judging. In the final judging, the Chapman Award Selection Group of the Instructor Development Committee recognizes the five winners nationally who represent the organization's most effective volunteer instructors.

Commanders and SEO's need to submit their squadron nominee to me (clay.helm@cummins.com) by June 30, 2014. Every squadron should nominate their best instructor each year. It doesn't matter if he or she was nominated last year; update the information and resubmit the nomination form. The District Committee will select one instructor to be the District nominee to National. Information on how to nominate your favorite instructor can be found at: <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/id/awards.htm>. The forms are can also be found at that site.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

I see that most of the squadrons have been active this winter and spring in planning and conducting classes. As of the last report, several squadrons have not given an ABC-3 Public Boating Class. Each squadron is required by their bylaws to conduct a minimum of one Public Boating class each educational year. The Educational year runs from July 1st to June 30th. If your squadron has not conducted a class since July 1, 2013, the SEO needs to schedule a class. Be sure to set-up all classes in HQ-800. Keep up the good work!

DISTRICT RENDEZVOUS

The District Rendezvous will be held at Pecan Grove Marina in Oriental, NC. The dates are June 20 – 22, 2014. We are planning to hold a BOC CN class on Sunday. We will have two boats available. There will be only a limited number of students that can be trained. If you are interested, please email Burt Pearson, Kevin Lyons, or myself for further information.

Plan to attend and have a good time. I hope to see you there.



District Administrative Officer—D/Lt/C Gene R. Alligood, AP

Dave Parsons left me with lots of ammunition when he vacated the District Administrative Officer's slot. I will not attempt to duplicate his efforts; but here goes my first try to let you know what's going on in the Administrative Department.



BOARMAN YOUTH POSTER CONTEST

Donna Dunlap, P, from the Pamlico Squadron has agreed to chair the District 27 program for the 2014 year. An article by Donna regarding the poster contest is located elsewhere in this issue of The BITTS. Donna will be assisted by Sharon Alligood, S, (also of the Pamlico Squadron) who will chair the Pamlico program. I have asked each D/27 Squadron Administrative Officer to appoint a chairperson to head his/her squadron's program. I would like to see D/27 be the most prominent district in participation of the USPS National Poster contest at the National Meeting in Jacksonville next January. Donna and I will be contacting each squadron regarding suggestions for a successful solicitation of youth posters to be presented at the D/27 Fall Conference where we will judge submittals to be sent on to National. Now is the time to get the ball rolling for the "**W's of Wear It**" theme – (Who, When, Where or Why?).

DISTRICT WEBSITE INFORMATION INTERCHANGE

We are in the throes of establishing an "Idea Exchange" whereby D/27 Squadrons can share experiences relative to recruiting, membership retention, on water boating experiences, etc. Lt/C Bill Beers, P, Catawba Squadron, is now in the process of setting up the program on the website. More later.

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

P/C David Stewart, AP, of the Charlotte Squadron was elected to serve as D/27 Assistant Administrative Officer. Cdr. John Phillips, AP, Tar River Squadron has agreed to chair the Member Involvement Committee and Lt/C Bob Bruner, AP, Rocky Mount Squadron will chair the Membership Committee.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS TRAINING

There are several squadrons within D/27 that have conducted no "Operations Training" classes in several years. We will be making efforts this year to schedule classes at the district level. We are currently considering a course at the upcoming Fall Conference/Council meeting in Mooresville. This training is fundamental to recruiting and grooming potential officers for D/27 Squadrons. D/Lt June Reasons, P, Cape Lookout Squadron, will serve as District 27 Operations Training Officer. Let June know (2reasons@suddenlink.net) if she can be of assistance to your squadron for a training class.

I hope to see you all in Oriental at the Rendezvous.



**National Safe
Boating
Week**

**May 17-23,
2014**

District Secretary—D/Lt/C John E. Bagby, JN

My predecessor David Simons did an outstanding job of providing me with training in this position at Greenville and at New Bern. He has documented many functions previously just handed down by word of mouth. I will do my best to follow his roadmap and successes he had while serving three years as Secretary. Thank you, Dave.



REPORTING TO THE SECRETARY

Reporting to the Secretary are Assistant Secretary Dawn A Gaskill, Newsletter Editor Paula Schubert, Historian Francine Hall, and Web Master Stefan Ufer.

New this year as Assistant Secretary is P/C Dawn Gaskill of Winston Salem, who is also their Secretary. She has been a member for 22 years, and I am excited to have this experience to help me. She is on the USPS Communications Committee as Newsletter/Publications Advisor for D/20 & D/28.

Our able newsletter editor, P/C Paula Schubert of Durham who published this edition of The Carolina BITTS, agreed to continue in this position for 2014. I am proud to see the USPS Communications Committee's Distinctive Communicator Award (Publications) for her efforts in 2013 displayed in our newsletter.

Our public face to the world is managed by Webmaster D/Lt Stefan Ufer of Raleigh who has updated the website with this year's officers and committees. The home page shows a new look with the USPS 100th anniversary yachting ensign, and gold trim added to the District flag for 50 years. His work was recognized with the DCA (Websites) for 2013.

The District 27 website home page now features the USPS Distinctive Civic Service Award sponsored by the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water awarded to District 27 for having Fort Macon, Cape Fear, Raleigh, and Lake Norman as finalists in 2013. D/C Pearson has urged us all to apply for this award in again 2014.

As a USPS Communications Committee Publications Advisor and Website Advisor, I know how hard it is to earn that DCA. Our newsletter and website will have to change and display some new items to show more closely our association with the United States Power Squadrons. One approved change on which we are waiting for implementation guidance is to display the phrase, **“Come for the Boating Education . . . Stay for the Friendship”** which is mentioned in other sections of this newsletter.

MINUTES AND RECORDS

As keeper of the minutes and most of the official records of the District, I will mention in my column here important decisions of the Bridge. Of course, you can read the minutes posted on the Website, but good communications use different media to keep you informed.



District Treasurer—D/Lt/C Paula F. Stewart, AP

Thank you again for allowing me to serve a second year as your Treasurer. District 27 remains in sound financial condition and I do not foresee any problems forthcoming for this year. A special thank you to P/C Nita Neumeister, AP, for agreeing to serve as the Supply Officer/Ship's Store for this year!



IRS FORM 990

As a reminder to the Squadron Treasurers, the IRS form 990 is due by the "5th month, 15th day after the close of your year." For example, if your year ended December 31, 2013, your form is due by May 15; if your year ended January 31, your form is due by June 15; and so on. Please make sure your squadron completes this very important form as soon as possible. Let me know if you have any questions regarding the process. It is really very simple and takes only a few minutes to complete and submit online. Failure to submit this form could result in the loss of your non-profit status. Also, National wants to know that this report has been filed by submitting

USPS form TR1. This form can be found on the USPS website.

SALES TAX

For the squadrons who filed their sales tax refunds with the District, I still have not heard from the State regarding the refunds for the first six months of 2013. I plan to follow up with the State and will be in touch with you via email. Separate email will be sent regarding the filing for the last six months of 2013.

D/27 RENDEZVOUS

Hopefully you have made your reservation for the D27 Rendezvous in Oriental, NC coming up in June. This should be a wonderful time so please plan to join in the fun!

And finally, as we kick off this year's boating season, please make sure to have your annual vessel safety inspection. Enjoy your summer and be safe!!

District 27 Rendezvous Accommodations

For those of you that do not have boats or otherwise need a place to stay in the Oriental area for the D27 rendezvous, D/C Burt Pearson has contacted both the Oriental Inn and the River Neuse Suites about room rate discounts for the weekend of June 20-21, 2014.

Oriental Inn (252-249-1818)

If D27 rents 20 room nights, 2 nights per room, we will receive a 10% discount. If we have 50 room nights, we will receive a 20% discount. Tell them that you are with D27 USPS so that they can keep track of USPS members for the discount.

River Neuse Suites (252-249-1404)

River Neuse will provide a 10% discount if at least 5 rooms/suites are rented for 2 nights. Tell them you are with D27 USPS so they can keep count of USPS members.

You need to make your reservations early to assure that you have a room. Everything fills up quickly during the summer.

A fillable Registration Form, Agenda, and slip information can be found on the D27 website calendar at <http://uspsd27.org/>.



District 27
Representing North Carolina's Local Squadrons.



Attention

All members, families and friends of D/27

It's time for this year's Rendezvous

Hosts: Rocky Mount & Cape Lookout Power Squadrons

Dates: June 20-22, 2014

Place: Pecan Grove Marina - Oriental, NC

This year's events:

Friday June 20th

All day - Vessels and vehicles arriving

1730-1830 Meet & Greet Reception

1830-1930 Pig Pickin' provided by the Oriental Rotary

Saturday June 21st

0830-0900 Flag Raising Ceremony

(D/27 Bridge Officers Dress; white polo shirt, white D/27 cap, khaki pants, deck shoes. Squadron Commander or their representatives Squadron polo shirt & cap, khaki pants, and deck shoes D/27 Shirt and cap can be worn if you have it.)

0900-0930 Special Guest Speakers

(Oriental Mayor Bill Sage, Pamlico State Representative Michael Speciale, Bill Hines from the Neuse River Foundation)

1000-1130 Kayak tour or Games (Corn Hole & Bean Bag Baseball)

1200-1400 Tours of the Pamlico County 6,000 square foot museum located in Grantsboro NC, and Neuse River Winery in Oriental NC.

(Note: lunch and transportation to events are not provided but maybe arranged)

1430-1530 Conch Blowing contest

1545-1700 Finals for Corn Hole & Bean Bag Baseball (if needed)

1715-1800 Meet and Greet reception

1800-1930 Shrimp Boil by the Rotary

1930-2000 Closing comments from our D/27 Commander and Awards presentation for Conch Blowing Competition, Bean Bag Baseball and Corn Hole games



District 27
Representing North Carolina's Local Squadrons.



Registration Form for D/27 Rendezvous June 20th-22nd 2014

Friday June 20th

For those of us that are planning to attend by boat we have made arrangements with Pecan Grove Marine for dockage. There will be 44 slips available at a rate of \$1.25 ft. per night which includes electricity. Many of the slips have 50 amp receptacles so bring an adapter. In the event we fill all of the available slips we have made arrangements with a nearby marina at the same rate. On the D27 Website (www.uspsd27.org) you will find a 3 page lease agreement for PGM which must be complete prior to arrival. Return a copy of each document along with the required proof of insurance and slip payment with this form.

Slip fee: Length _____ X \$1.25ft X number of days _____ = _____

1730-1830 Meet and Greet which includes 2 drink tickets for Beer, Wine or Soda (no charge)

1830-1930 *Pig-Picking with fixings and tea by the Oriental Rotary \$18.00 X _____ = _____

Saturday June 21st

1000-1130 Kayak Tour—Bill Hines from the Neuse River Foundation will provide kayaks on a first come basis. There is no charge for the use of the kayaks or the tour. It is recommended that a small honorarium be given. If you plan on participating, please indicate if you need a kayak or you will be bringing your own.

Will be taking the tour and need a kayak # _____

Will be taking the tour and will be bringing my own kayak # _____

Will not be taking the kayak tour # _____

1200-1400 Tour of Museum & Winery—Special arrangements have been made for D/27 members and guests who visit the museum and winery. Both are free to attend however, a donation to the museum is recommended. The winery will be offering free wine samples and have a gift area where they will be offering discounts to D27 members and guests.

During this time D/27 will not be providing lunch. There are several local fast food restaurants near both attractions. In addition, transportation to and from the attractions are not provided however, we are looking for volunteers to car pool with those that have come by boat.

Will be attending the attractions # _____

Will need a ride # _____

I will be driving and able to help with the car pool and have room for # _____

1430-1530 Each year the best of the best from D/27 challenge each other individually or as a group to become the King of the Conch. If you plan on participating let us know if you or your group will attend:

Participate as an individual _____

Participate as a group _____

1715-1800 Meet and Greet which includes 2 drink tickets for Beer, Wine or Soda (no charge)

1800-1930 *Shrimp Boil with fixings and tea by the Oriental Rotary \$21.00 X _____ = _____

We want to make this a family event so Children under (10) can attend free \$N/C X _____ = _____

Facility fee \$5.00 X _____ = _____

Total Amount Included: _____

Name /Grade / Rank of member: _____ email: _____ Phone: _____

Name /Grade / Rank of member: _____ email: _____ Phone: _____

Name of Guest(s): _____

Names of Children under 10: _____

***Note:** If you have an issue with pork or an allergy to seafood let us know we can have hamburgers or hot dogs available as a meat substitute. I would like to substitute pork _____ seafood _____

Make checks payable to: **D/27 Rendezvous**

Send payment and required forms by **June 1, 2014** to:

Lt/C Cathy Payne, S

400 Speight Ave

Tarboro NC 27886

In order to save postage you can scan and email the forms back to yesdear516@aol.com or fax to 252-641-1233. This is a phone and fax line so please call first to allow the fax to be set-up

If you have any question about something not covered, please contact Cdr. Chris Payne AP at 252-813-1188 or email cepsmpcs@aol.com or Cdr. Lloyd Moore AP 252-571-2391 or email Lloyd.Moore@suddenlink.com

DISTRICT 27 CAROLINA BITTS

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FIRST CLASS

<http://www.uspsd27.org/>



June 20-22, 2014

D/27 Rendezvous, Pecan Grove Marina, Oriental

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