

The EnLIGHTener

Ponce de Leon Inlet Sail & Power Squadron

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons ® D/23

Vol. 37 No. 2 *Sail & Power Boating* October 2010



Cdr Lawrence J. Willwerth, AP



Since our fiscal year is now January first, it is time to really focus on it. We do have a proposed slate that lacks only an administrative officer. We plan to fill that vacancy with a committee. We now need our nominees to name and verify their staff for the 2011 roster. Please have this prepared by the October meeting.

Many thanks to Norn Slifkin for volunteering to be assistant secretary for 2011. It has been, but not should have been, difficult, for you people to take part in our administration. The Change of Watch, the election, and the Christmas Party will take place at our annual meeting in December at the Smyrna Yacht Club.

Now, I have a word about our oyster roast/meeting in November. I have already purchased the shrimp at a very good price but due to the oil spill the price of oysters has increased considerably. Should the price not drop by November, I plan to organize an oyster flotilla on Friday, 12 November, to gather our own. Lastly, its time to send in your merit mark reports to our merit mark chairperson-- P/C Elaine Reichert, AP at smilie13@cfl.rr.com.

Please consider attending the District Fall Conference 1-3 October .Since registration has closed, you can still join us for the meeting on Saturday where our Squadron is set to accept a special award.

The EnLIGHTener is published nine months each year by the Ponce de Leon Inlet Sail & Power Squadron, District 23, United States Power Squadrons. Deadline for submission of materials is the **Sunday after the Exec. Meeting**, (except May, June, & July). Direct submissions to the Editor:

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The EnLIGHTener

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Education Officer	Lt/C William C. Benny, SN 426 - 8426
Administrative Officer	P/C Elaine H. Reichert, AP 424 - 0378
Secretary	Lt/C Myrna M. Courage, S 428 - 4537
Treasurer	P/C Linda C. Allen, SN 423 - 1945

Executive Officer
P/C Paul E. Reichert, AP

When the teacher in an English class said "Write a one page essay on any subject," I found I spent more time thinking about what subject than it took to do the essay. The same works for this article.

Sitting, looking west across the river as the dark rain clouds build up and able to hear thunder, four kayakers paddle by. Not one of them had a PFD and they had a dog riding on the back. Granted, the water is not deep by my dock, but the law states that you must have a PFD (and whistle) with you. The depth of the water is not relevant. Most of the kayaks are brightly colored, which is a help, but they are small, low in the water and many are being paddled by first timers. The wake from your boat can do wonders, be careful as you pass them by. You are responsible for your wake.

Our boating friends up north are getting ready to put their boats into storage for the winter. When they pull their boat, they check it over and do some maintenance/repairs, and then give the boat and motor a complete check before launching to enjoy the new boating season. This is at least twice their boat gets checked over. In Florida, we leave our boats in the water all year so don't forget to do a complete check of your boat. This could save you some embarrassment as you win the bent prop award.

With colder weather approaching the water will cool off - yes, one can suffer from hypothermia in Florida waters.

As the full moon rises and lights up the water, it looks like a good night for the brave to go water skiing. It is a dumb idea and illegal. Also, even if your personal watercraft has lights, it cannot be operated at night. When on a PWC, be sure that your PFD is certified for wearing on a PWC - read the print.

Remember, that anyone born on or after January 1, 1988 needs to pass a state approved boating education course to pilot a vessel with a 10 HP or greater engine. Exception - if he/she just purchased the boat, they have 90 days to pass the test.

To all boat operators - carry a photo ID with you while boating. If stopped, it will probably be the first thing you are asked for. Wear the correct PFD. One that you have to inflate will not help you if you fall into the water unconscious.



Squadron Education Officer:

Lt/C Will Benny, SN



I would like to revisit the topic of seminars as I've received some questions about them. About 4 years ago USPS came up with the idea of seminars as the answer to people who have busy schedules. Busy people tend to look for information that is focused, concise, and condensed. They tend to avoid the time commitment required by multi-session courses. The short, focused seminars provide them with specific information to meet their needs. For example, the new GPS buyer can learn how to use the new unit and the new ski boat owner can learn about the boat.

Experienced boaters who may not feel the need to take a boating course will attend seminars having specific information on topics of interest to them. Once in a seminar, there is an opportunity to whet their appetites for more information. In addition, after taking some seminars, members may choose to go on to achieve a level of certification under the USPS University Boat Operator Certification program. This means they will be taking additional courses and seminars, keeping them interested and actively engaged in USPS.

Seminars give specific information but they do not and cannot cover the breadth of a full course. A seminar gives complementary content, often in greater depth, but in narrower focus than what is covered in a full course. USPS seminars typically run for 2 hours. Thus, a seminar can augment a course.

The USPS Seminar series is part of our USPS University education program. The entire program includes comprehensive education for both the public and squadron members. Along with the new seminars, many rewritten and new member courses have and will continue to be developed, along with the on-the-water Boat Operator Certification program. The list of current seminars is as follows:

As soon as the classroom is secured for either 13 OCT 2010 or 20 OCT 2010, Lt Paul Yeaton, P, will be

Paddle Smart The Mariner's Compass How to Use Marine Anchoring Marine Radar Boat Handling Under Power How to Use a Chart	Using GPS Using VHF/DSC Marine Radio Hurricanes and Boats Knots, Bends, and Hitches for Mariners Onboard Weather Forecasting	Trailer Your Boat Advanced Powerboat Handling Partner in Command Mastering the Rules of the Road Boating on Rivers, Lakes, and Locks Basic Coastal Navigation
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presenting *Anchoring* as an introduction to seminars for squadron members. There will be no charge for this one and I will give credit for completion through Headquarters.

ABC3: The public boating course is scheduled for 23 OCT 2010 and 30 OCT 2010. The first day will be the 8 hour version of ABC3 followed the next Saturday by the question/answer portion along with the exam. If you would like to be a proctor for this class please contact P/C Bill Myers, SN, at wrmyers3@yahoo.com . We will need extra Squadron members to correct exams and help with the testing.

SEAMANSHIP: Seamanship is now underway.



Administrative Officer
P/C Elaine Reichert, AP



October General Meeting and Dinner

The next general meeting and dinner will be at Blackbeard's Restaurant (same place as last month) on 28 Oct.- We will again order off of the menu, arriving at 1745 at the latest to get the early bird special.

The program will feature a very interesting talk by Karl Loeper; "Hurricane Chaser and Weather Forecaster." He will be coming all of the way from the Vilages so we hope all will turn out for the meeting. **Uniform: G or appropriate attire**

Karl Loeper retired from the National Weather Service in 2004 after 44 years in meteorology. His house in Bradenton was, until recently, the only one on the block with a 5-foot weather vane on the roof.



Come and join the breakfast bunch 0830 at the following dates and places

- 6 October: Manny's**
- 3 November: Holiday Inn**
- 1 December: Golden Biscuit**
- 5 January: Country Kitchen**
- 2 February: Lighthouse Café**
- 2 March: Mom's Home Cooking**

Please see the upcoming events on the back cover

Our October breakfast meeting will be 6 October at Manny's Beachside, at the usual 0830. No reservations required. Come and get your picture taken for the November EnLIGHTener.

The October Boating activity –will be a sunset cruise on 17 Oct. Please see the announcement on Page 7.



**September Breakfast
Golden Biscuit**



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Advertiser support is critical to the EnLIGHTener. The recent economic conditions have taken a toll on our advertisers.

All members should stay in touch with their contacts in the business community



We welcome your comments on this edition of the EnLIGHTener and your contributions to the November edition. The deadline for all material is Sunday, 17 October.

Merit Mark Time

USPS is an organization founded on the principle of service to the boating community. To this end, service was once a requirement of membership.

In these busy times, it is realized that individuals may be unable to contribute at one time, but will as time allows. While service is no longer a strict requirement of membership, those individuals who can make a contribution of their time and talents are greatly appreciated and their service is recognized with a Merit Mark. While there is no specific number of hours to be worked, it is generally accepted that 12-14 hours of work in 2 different activities shows an on-going contribution to the work of the squadron. Only ONE Merit Mark is earned each year regardless of the number of hours volunteered.

Merit Marks are submitted by the Chair of each Department to the respective Officers who then submit them to the Commander. The Squadron then reviews them and then submits them to USPS National by November 15th. Supplemental recommendations may also be submitted for work done from by members in November and December should that be needed. Merit Mark Certificates are mailed to members about February in recognition of the previous years effort. Those members who have earned 5 merit marks are recognized as "Senior Members".

Your Merit Mark chair is P/C Elaine Reichert, AP, (smilie13@cfl.rr.com) and she can **ONLY** pass in what is given to her by Squadron members and their families who often help out. **IT IS EXTREMELY** helpful to have your lists sent to her via email in columns and spaced between activities. This needs to be done before the end of October. Your Squadron thanks you for doing this task.



Boating Activity for October - Lt Paul Yeaton, P, Chairman

Our October boating event will feature a repeat of last year's very successful Eco Tour with the Marine Discovery Center (MDC) to be held on Sunday, 17 October, 1630 to 1830. We will all meet at the MDC dock next to the where the Water Taxi ties up. Participants can bring snacks, drinks or whatever to the tour. There will be no food or drinks provided.

The cost is \$20. per person. If we can get 24 people to attend this event the price drops to \$16.00 each.



Space will be limited this year. If you are interested, please call Paul Yeaton at 409 - 9339 to make a reservation as the MDC requires a deposit for all charters. **Please get your check** to Linda Allen, 438 Bouchelle # 301, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169 - as soon as possible.



There will be an on-board lecture from a master naturalist who is very familiar with the river creatures.

River creatures will be available for inspection



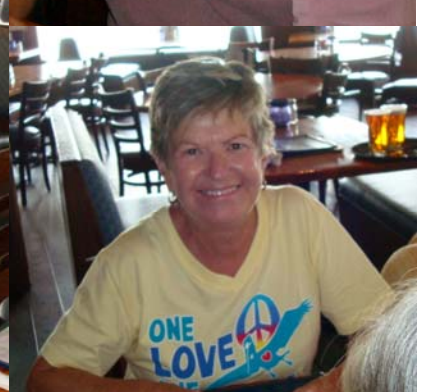
The "Family Affair" Joins Two Families:

What does a Squadron member do on a Saturday evening when there's no boating event?

On a recent Saturday with no Squadron boating event, P/C Bob Johnson, AP, decided to help his friend, Tommy, and created his own boating event. Tommy was being married at 1800 in the park at the corner of Washington and Riverside in New Smyrna Beach. Tommy wanted something special. So, with the entire party and the photographer along for pictures, the *Family Affair* left the Municipal Marina and took a slow cruise around Chicken Island to the reception at the Brannon Center among cheers from passing boaters. Abundant wildlife, including pelicans and dolphins, joined in the salute. Our best wishes to the happy couple.

September Boating Activity - Down the Hatch

Our 11 September boating event was held at Down the Hatch Restaurant, near Ponce Inlet. Sixteen people attended, with half of the group arriving in 4 boats. Due to the heat and lack of a breeze, we decided to sit inside. Good conversation and good food lead to an enjoyable visit to the restaurant.



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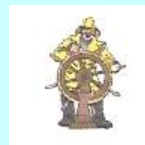


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Squadron Birthdays in October

Larry Willwerth	10/3
Roger Hawk	10/9

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE FOR 2010-2011

Executive Committee

Commander - Lt/C William C. Benny, SN
 Executive Officer - P/C Paul E. Reichert, AP
 Education Officer - P/C Robert D. Johnson, AP
 Administrative Officer - _____
 Secretary - Lt/C Myrna M. Courage, S
 Treasurer - Denise Benny

Members at Large Cdr Lawrence J. Willwerth, AP
 Lt Lora E Moses
 P/C Don R. Woods, AP
 P/C Bruce T. Jennings, SN
 1/Lt Joan T. Jennings

Elected Assistants

Assistant Education Officer	Lt Paul J. Yeaton, P
Assistant Secretary	1/Lt Norman Slifkin
Assistant Treasurer	P/C Linda C. Allen, SN

Elected Committees

Nominating Committee

Chairman - one year term	Lt Thomas J. Brownson, P
Two year term	Lt Lora Moses
Three year term	Paul A Eberle

Rules Committee

Chairman - one year term	Lt Martha A. Woods
Two year term	P/C Don R. Woods, AP
Three year term -	Lt Hugh Avant

Auditing Committee

Chairman - one year term	Lt Charlotte Behr, P
Two year term	Lt Michael W. Stubbs
Three year term	Lt Roger E Bushnell

The new Squadron bylaws are posted on



the USPS National web site

[http://www.usps.org/national/rules/
squadron_bylaws_storage/
squadron_bylaws_storage_d23.html](http://www.usps.org/national/rules/squadron_bylaws_storage/squadron_bylaws_storage_d23.html)

Sign on to the above link and select *Ponce de Leon Sail and Power Squadron* from the list of D23 squadrons.

The document is stored in a zip-compressed format and must be unzipped before you can work with it. It is best to save the file to your computer first and then unzip it.

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We thank you for your contributions

Linda and Chuck Allen

Will and Denise Benny

Myrna and Ken Courage

Bruce and Joan Jennings

Charles and Judith Kossuth

Lora Moses

Elaine and Paul Reichert

Norm and Sue Slifkin



GALAXY 23
From the District Bridge
D/Lt/C Ernst G Homann, JN
Secretary

Communication is a key ingredient for the success of any organization regardless whether it is a business, club or a non-profit association. How well we communicate with our associates depends on the message and on the tool or method that we use. Here we will address only the main tool that we have at our disposal.

With DB2000, USPS handed us several years ago a comprehensive and powerful piece of software that allows us to access the details of our membership. Besides giving us the basic name-address-certificate number it also gives us rank, grade, what courses were taken and when. It gets better, allowing us to query the software for planning purposes such as getting the answer as to who has not taken, say, AP but completed the prerequisite S and P.

Want to plan an outing? It is easy to find out who has sail and powerboats and sort them by length. Want to find out what pennant or flag you are entitled to fly or who has a birthday next month? Easy.

However, there is a rub: The information has to be provided by the members and entered by one squadron individual, usually the secretary. This important step gives us the ability to communicate with the membership – well, it turns out most of them. Let's look at some figures to get a handle on the probability of getting the intended messages delivered promptly:

- As of mid-July D23 had 967 members.
- Of these 667 (69.0%) have an e-mail address.
- Most – 914 (94.5%) have a phone (home or business assumed to be a landline).
- A few – 90 (9.3%) have cell phones listed.

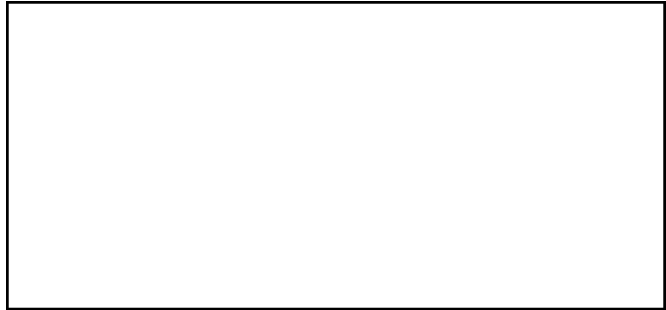
Surprisingly, 19 households list no phone of any type and no e-mail, just a street address.

All this points out the importance of our members furnishing us accurate and complete information about themselves. But it also suggests that secretaries should identify the gaps and missing items in our database and make an effort to keep it clean and current.

The EnLIGHTener

Ponce de Leon Inlet Sail & Power Squadron

A Unit of United States
Power Squadrons®
891 Snook Ave.
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169



Upcoming Events

- Breakfast meeting, 6 October, Manny's Beachside, 0830
- Executive Committee Meeting: 14 October, Library, 1600
- Marine Discovery Center sunset cruise on 17 Oct. Please see the announcement on Page 7
- *General Meeting/Dinner*: 28 October at 1730 (order off menu before 1800 for early bird - individuals pay their own) - Blackbeard's Restaurant North Dixie Highway; Program - Speaker: Karl Loeper; "Hurricane Chaser and Weather Forecaster."
- *Fall Conference Reminder*: Banana River Squadron Hosting, 1 - 3 October. Join members for the Saturday meeting.

