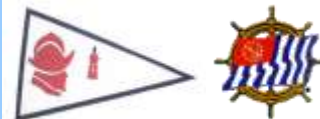


Ponce de Leon Inlet Sail and Power Squadron

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons® District 23



Commander's Report

There are lots of activities in the days ahead. I will be attending the National Governing Board Meeting in Greensboro, NC this week for the BOC Meetings. We will have our first General Meeting since the summer break on 22 September. There will be a BOC Seminar in Clearwater on 24 September. Finally, we are hosting the D23 Fall Conference at the Clarion in DeLand 30 September—2 October. Whew, busy, busy, busy.

Last month I requested that members nominate themselves for Merit Marks and some nominations have trickled in. I will need to begin the Merit Mark inputs early in October so please get these in soon.

On a more somber note, I have been told by the Nominating Committee Chairman that little headway is being made putting

Executive Officer's Report

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION This is what you hear from real estate agents all the time.

Recently I found out this also applies when a hurricane is about to hit your area. While living in Florida, I kept my boat on a sling lift. (Had a roof) When a hurricane was approaching, I would raise the boat as high as possible, tie the boat to the slings in case the water rose too high and then tie the boat to the support posts so it would not swing back and forth. Generally there was some chop on the water, but it rose slowly and there was not much of a tide flow.

Elaine and I arrived in New Hampshire just ahead of Irene and waited for her to arrive over the weekend. No boat to fasten this time. The rain came but no wind and she

together a Squadron Bridge for 2012. I do not believe that you, the members of Ponce deLeon Inlet Sail & Power Squadron, understand the gravity of this dilemma. Unless a viable Bridge can be assembled, we will be forced to petition Headquarters to dissolve this Squadron.

Leadership is an integral part of the success of any squadron. You may feel unqualified or even intimidated to take a Bridge Member position, but there are many experienced members within the squadron who would be more than happy to assist or even mentor you. It is now up to the membership to either get involved or the ship will sink. **Please do not let this happen!**

Yours in safe boating,
Cdr. Will

passed us by, hitting our neighbor, Vermont hard, with over 15" in most areas. Not flat as in Florida, the rain on the mountains and hills flowed down into the rivers with a rise of 5 to 10 feet and an incredibly strong flow taking everything in its path.

Having a boat on a lift might not work as the river flow and junk coming with it might take your pilings, dock and boat. If you were lucky enough to survive the storm, it would definitely be time to check your boat. Roads, bridges, swamped houses all were victims of Irene. Friends in Florida said your area only saw some rain as Irene skipped you also.

So again, LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION when a hurricane takes its path.



Cdr William C. Benny, SN



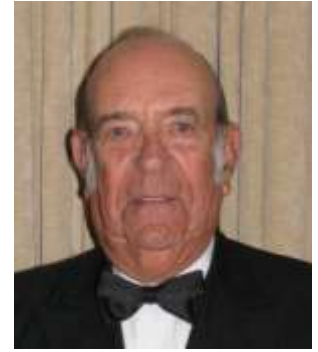
P/C Paul E. Reichert, AP



Education Officer's Report

Unfortunately the response for the Trailing Seminar fell below expectations and the class was cancelled. We will try again later in the year. After the Fall Conference I'll poll our membership and see if we can put together a seamanship class. Also on the drawing board is a possible piloting class.

If you are interested in either advanced grade please give me a call at (386) 756-1094. I know our Chairman of the Nominating Committee is working very hard to fill the bridge for the upcoming year. If you are called, please seriously consider taking a job. If you're not called please call Don Woods and toss your name in the ring. This is your squadron.



P/C Robert D. Johnson, AP



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We thank you for your contributions

Will and Denise Benny

Judith Kossuth

Myrna and Ken Courage

Bruce and Joan Jennings

This list is based on the records from the last Executive Committee meeting. Notice that there is a lot of empty space. Please help us to fill the space by getting your check to Lt/C Denise Benny.



The EnLIGHTener

is published nine months each year by the Ponce de Leon Inlet Sail & Power Squadron, District 23, United States Power Squadrons.

Editors:

Lt Ken Courage, S
P/C Elaine Reichert, AP

Distribution:

P/Cs Chuck and Linda Allen, SNs

Photographers:

Lt Ken Courage, S
P/C Bruce Jennings, SN

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P/C Bruce Jennings, SN
Lt Joan Jennings

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K & S Printing,
(See ad on Page 9)

Deadline for submission of material is the Sunday after the Executive Committee meeting, (except May, June, & July). Direct submissions to Ken Courage, 1600 N Atlantic Av, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169
kcourage@ufl.edu
(386) 428-4537

Administrative Officer's Report

We expect the Fall Conference to be a huge success due to all the effort put in by Squadron members!

I thank all the Chairpersons and so many others who put in time working on the raffle baskets, our special jars as part of our room gifts, supplying food for the hospitality room and manning the necessary tables and the functions that had to be carried out during the conference weekend as well as those who stayed in the hotel.

I thank the chairman who did the planning and formed the structure within the rest of the Squadron. Denise Benny for stepping up to do the decorating and the room gifts as well as her duties as our treasurer, Pat

Stubbs taking the helm in the hospitality suite, Bob Johnson controlling our beverage intake and supply, Sandy and Roger Bushnell for taking over the basket preparation and the raffle, Bruce and Joan Jennings for printing our tickets and registration, and a special thank you to Linda Allen who stepped in to perform the chairman duties as well as taking all of the reservations and communication with the hotel. This is a job that Linda did not anticipate and she did this out of her love for the Squadron and her desire to see it succeed in their duty to put on a conference at the high level that Ponce is known to produce.

Paul and I are extremely thankful to be able to attend and to take part in the festivities.



P/C Elaine Reichert, AP



Fall Conference Preparations

Submitted by P/C Linda Allen, SN

In a few days, we will be hosting the District 23 Fall Conference. Even if you only want to come on Friday to help the Stubbs and Johnsons with the hospitality room or help the Bennys with the decorations or work with the Bushnells and Stevens on the raffle, the Friday evening dinner and entertainment will be great.

The Chief Commander and the National Treasurer will be in attendance. We really need to show them a good time and represent our Squadron well to the rest of the District.

The map shows the directions to the Clarion Hotel (350 East International Speedway Blvd, Deland) from Interstate 4 and SR-44. You can avoid downtown Deland by turning right from SR-44 at Kepler Road. There is a BP station at this intersection as shown in the photo. Turn left onto International Speedway Blvd when you reach it.



Bridge Officers

- Commander
William C. Benny, SN
(386) 426-8426
- Executive Officer
P/C Paul E. Reichert, AP
(603)-363-4919
- Education Officer
P/C Robert D. Johnson, AP
(386) 756-1094
- Administrative Officer
P/C Elaine H. Reichert, AP
(603)-363-4919
- Secretary
Lt/C Myrna M. Courage, S
(386) 428-4537
- Treasurer
Lt/C E. Denise Benny
(386) 426-8426

**Breakfast at
Manny's
3318 S. Atlantic
Ave., NSB
5 October at 0830.**



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

2 Nov: Holiday Inn, 1401 S. Atlantic
Ave., NSB

7 Dec: Golden Biscuit, 223 Canal St.,
NSB

Note: The dates are firm and the time is always 0830. The locations are subject to change due to conditions beyond our control. Please check future editions of The EnLIGHTener for revisions. Also, email reminders will go out before each breakfast.

**Boating Event:
DeLeon Springs
River Cruise
8 October at 1100**



We will enjoy a 50-minute eco/history boat tour of the Spring Garden Run. We expect to see alligators, otters, bald eagles and many species of wading birds and learn about the area's rich history. The park is about 7 miles north of Deland.

Cost: \$12-15 per person (depending on the group size) plus \$6.00 per car park entry fee. Lunch is not included. There are ample picnic facilities and a restaurant that is famous for its "make your own pancakes" service. There are hiking trails and an old sugar mill. Canoes are available to rent. There is excellent swimming in the 72 degree spring.

Call Paul Yeaton at (386) 409-9339 Paul needs an early head count to set this up.

**Executive
Committee Meeting**

13 October at 1900
NSB Boat & Ski Club, All mem-
bers are welcome.



October Events

General Meeting

When: 27 October 2011

Where: Blackbeard's - US-1 - NSB

Time: 1700 social, 1745 dinner

We will order off of the menu at Blackbeard's no later than 1745 to enjoy the benefits of their early bird specials.

Reservations: Calling Committee - Linda Allen Chair, (386) 423-1945

Uniform: G or appropriate attire

Program: Officer Audrey Zahn from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Division of Law Enforcement will share some of her experiences patrolling our waters and will answer any questions pertaining to regulations for boaters and fishermen. Among other things, Officer Zahn has been credited this year with a number of arrests involving improper harvesting and selling of our seagoing critters. She also helped to recover a stolen safe from the bottom of Spruce Creek.

The mission of the Division of Law Enforcement to protect Florida's natural resources and people through proactive and responsive law enforcement services.





September Breakfast



at Ruthy's on
West Canal St.





September Boating Event

Down the Hatch
Restaurant, Ponce
Inlet



U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



News Release

U.S. Power Squadrons, Coast Guard Auxiliary to boost boating safety efforts

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The U.S. Power Squadrons (USPS) and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will increase their coordinated safety efforts among America's recreational boating community under a new agreement that broadens cooperative efforts in vessel examinations, public affairs and education. The agreement was signed at the Auxiliary's national conference – NACON 2011 – in Charlotte.

Recreational boating is one of the most popular outdoor activities in the United States. In 2010 there were nearly 12.5 million registered boats, with many millions more that are not required to be registered by states or the U.S. Coast Guard. That same year, the Coast Guard recorded more than 4,600 accidents involving 672 deaths, 3,153 injuries and approximately \$35.5 million in property damage. The majority of these accidents happened on boats operated by individuals who had received no boating education.

The U.S. Power Squadrons and the Coast Guard Auxiliary are committed to changing this reality through increased boater education, vessel examinations and public boater safety awareness events.

“With this cooperative effort we will reach out to the growing population of recreational boaters providing needed training and vessel exams to keep them safe on the water,” said Jim Vass, Auxiliary National Commodore.

“The USPS is proud to continue our partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary as we continually strive to improve the boating experience for recreational boaters,” noted Frank Dvorak, USPS Chief Commander.

Help Us Prevent Boat Groundings

As a founding member of the Alliance for Safe Navigation, USPS is asking all members to take a short online survey; your responses will help us formulate the best ways to help boaters navigate using the proper tools and latest navigation information.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RDWCTZR>

An Important Member Benefits Reminder

Some members still have questions about how to opt out of member benefit mailings. We have been asked to include this information in The EnLIGHTener.

Opt-out instructions

1. Go to *usps.org*.
2. Go the *Member Stuff* box and click *Benefit Announcement Options*.
3. The *Manage Your Member Benefits Announcement Options* page comes up.
4. Reset Your Member Benefits Announcement Option to “No.”
5. Click *Update*.

That's all it takes.

<http://www.usps.org/cgi-bin/nat/tools/myoptout.cgi>

We welcome your comments on this edition of The EnLIGHTener and your contributions for the November edition. The deadline for all material is Sunday 16 October.





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times a year!!

The United States Power Squadrons is the nation's largest nonprofit recreational boating organization with a presence in all 50 states plus the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands as well as Japan. There are more than 40,000 members in 400 squadrons and 33 districts worldwide. For more information about the U.S. Power Squadrons visit <http://www.usps.org>

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District 23 GALAXY

Lt/C Joseph F. Sackett, SN, District 23 Administrative Officer

Editor's note: This article was received during the summer months when The EnLIGHTener was not published. It has been abridged to remove outdated content.

The spring council meeting and picnic was another great success. Breakfast at La Cita Country Club was well attended (more arrived than signed up). We must improve our signing up skills as a courtesy to the hosts. The club adapted quite well and there was food for all – thanks to Lucy's ability to coordinate the unregistered arrivals.

Cdr William Fehr presented the topic of the unilateral decision of Headquarters to sell the USPS course textbooks directly to members and possibly to non-members. This decision to bypass the squadrons will have an impact on member recruitment and retention. It is likely that the squadrons will be asked to fill the gap in answering questions and maybe administering examinations.

These issues are not clear at this time. The financial side will vary with each squadron. Some squadrons use their course fees (JN and N) to underwrite the costs of maintaining their sextants.

The general view following discussion was that squadrons and districts should have Headquarters rescind their decision to bypass DEO, SEO, and squadrons. This policy undercuts our Squadron's major teaching program with a negative financial result for most squadrons.

D/C James DePalma, SN, plans to survey all districts. He also has asked all of the squadrons in District 23 to present the issue to their Executive Committees and general membership. It is hoped that squadrons will resolve to oppose the new policy and give our District Commander the support to resist the policy at the Fall Governing Board meeting.

On a happy note, the picnic, music, boat race, and weather were all a great success. P/C H. Greig Lindner, P, must be congratulated on another well coordinated picnic and raffle.

District 23 CALENDAR OF EVENTS for 2012

January	Winter Council Meeting Daytona Beach
January 25-29	USPS Annual Meeting Hyatt Regency, Jacksonville
March	Spring Council and Conference Hosted by Gainesville & Ocala
May	Summer Council and Picnic Titusville
September 4-7	Governing Board Meeting Marriott Renaissance Center, Detroit
October	Fall Council and Conference

DISTRICT 23 BRIDGE OFFICERS 2011-2012

District Commander D/C James J. DePalma, SN
Executive Officer D/Lt/C Lucy A. Hixenbaugh, P
Educational Officer D/Lt/C Richard Conrad, SN
Administrative Officer D/Lt/C Joseph Sackett, SN
Secretary D/Lt/C Ernst G. Hofmann, JN
Treasurer D/Lt/C J. David Hixenbaugh, SN

Time to Decide

Submitted by P/C Don Woods, AP
Nominating Committee Chairman

Times have changed since many of us joined USPS, some of us many years ago. It was a time that the national economy was, for the most part, chugging or sometimes steaming along, gas prices were relatively CHEAP, and before many got into the “social networking” thing. A time when our culture socialized face-to-face, joined and participated in clubs and other social organizations, went boating, and otherwise was INVOLVED! Today, we do our socializing via Facebook, maybe can't afford to eat out, buy gas for a boat, and are “too busy” watching TV, doing “stuff” on the computer, smart phone, or iPad.

Where does this leave the Squadron today? We do have many members who enjoy attending the meetings, monthly functions, eating, on water events, and other squadron activities. We even have those who take some or all of our education courses and/or even teach some of them. We currently have a great group of volunteers working on our forthcoming fall conference. We have many members who are willing, when asked, to pitch-in and help our leadership.

What does the Squadron seem to lack? A group that is willing to do more than just partake of the squadron benefits or pitch-in when needed; a core group of you that is willing to come forth, to do more, that is willing to take some responsibility, that is willing to commit some time and energy to lead the squadron, that is willing to promote development of future leadership. I truly believe that many of our members are willing to get more involved, do more than just show up, to reap the extreme satisfaction of seeing our squadron succeed in these difficult times.

Cdr Will Benny asked me a while back to fill-in as the Nominating Committee Chairman, to replace a resignation. The Nominating Committee has been an ever-increasingly difficult task for several years now. We have come to depend on “re-cycling” those that have previously “been there - done that.” In the past several years, Paul & Elaine Reichert have graciously and repetitively stepped up to the plate; although trying to become less involved in preparation of moving on. Paul & Elaine have, in fact, moved on and no longer live in Florida. We have further depleted the available “re-treads” willing to serve over-and-over again!

I accepted Cdr Will's request fully aware that the job was not going to be easy and certainly not my idea of FUN! But, it was likely that if I didn't take a crack at it, no one else was going to. I don't like to fail and I certainly don't want to see the squadron fail. However, we are making little headway in putting together a Squadron Bridge for 2012.

Cdr Will is willing to do another round as Commander, if and only if, we can nominate a “strong and supportive” bridge. Lt/C Denise is willing to serve another term as Treasurer; Lt/C Myrna is willing to continue as Secretary. We must have candidates for the other critical positions of Executive Officer, Administrative Officer, Education Officer, and Assist Education officer.

I have had several newer members express a concern regarding having to purchase/wear uniforms for the bridge; I have heard from them “uniforms - NO WAY.” We hear you.

Please don't let this be an issue to your considering being a bridge candidate. I was Commander of the Orlando Squadron in 1978 and the closest I got to a uniform was the Uniform D and/or C, white shirt (with the “stuff” on it) and white pants and shoes; even went to a USPS annual meeting with no more. Come wearing a squadron “golf shirt”; just come and get in the game! For dress-up affairs, the proverbial blue blazer with “pocket patch” insignia works nicely.

Where do we go from here? The path has three branches: 1) we nominate and elect a bridge and move forward with renewed life and vigor, 2) We merge with the Daytona Squadron, 3) our Commander petitions Headquarters to dissolve this Squadron and we all go off and find somewhere different to express our interest and time.

Leadership is an integral part of the success of any squadron. You may feel unqualified or even intimidated to take a Bridge Member position, but there are many experienced members within the squadron who would be more than happy to assist or even mentor you. It is now up to the membership to either get involved or the ship will sink.

Please do not let this happen. Don't let not owning a boat get in your way! We have a place and something to do for everyone! Please let me know where you stand by signing onto a special page on our website for this purpose:

http://ponceinletsquadron.org/Time_to_Decide.htm

You will find the following choices on that page:

- I will seriously consider a Bridge position
- I will seriously consider a Committee Chair position
- I will seriously consider an elected department support position,.
- I will be glad to serve on a committee
- I will be glad to serve in some form.
- I don't wish to get involved at this time.
- I agree that we should make the effort to merge with Daytona Squadron.
- I agree that our Squadron has run its course and it's time to hang-it-up.

Just click the link or links that express your choices. If you prefer, you can email your choices to CaptDon@cfl.rr.com

If you don't have access to the internet or email, please call me at **386-478-9202**

I need to hear from everybody in the Squadron.

Thanks

Don Woods

The EnLIGHTener

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Please help to make our Fall Conference a success by attending and participating in the events.



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Our Webmaster is P/C Don Woods, AP.