

Lead Line

Official publication of District 28, United States Power Squadrons®

Fall 2008

District 28 Fall Tri-Conference filled with a fun agenda

It's off the "Biggest Little City in the World" — Reno, NV. District 28 will be joining Districts 13 and 25 for a Tri-Conference for the fall.

This issue is full of information about the conference, which begins on Thursday, 16 Oct. Featured is a welcome dinner and tour of the National Auto museum, displaying over 200 exceptional, and sometimes historic, vehicles. As the official announcement says, "Transport yourself back to the sights and sounds of the past, remembering the joys of high school romance and owning your first car.

Friday is highlighted by a Sightseeing and

includes Virginia City and Carson City, Nevada's capital. There's a hosted buffet for those attending. The member luncheon at the hotel will feature great food in the midst of the business meeting taking place. Saturday night's conference dinner includes a choice of stuffed chicken breast, baked filet of salmon or roast prime rib of beef.

There's more than sightseeing and eating, however. A series of seminars will be presented, including boat trailering with Ken Griffing, Paddlesmart with Bob Sweet, Marketing/PRO with Darrell Allison, Global Warming with Jean Ham-



lunch cruise on nearby Lake Tahoe, where a guide will fill members on the history and characters of the area. The MS Dixie II paddle wheeler is the mode of transportation which include a cruise to Emerald Bay, one of the most photographed sites in the West.

Saturday will be highlighted by a tour that

ilton, Radar with Bob Sweet, and Boat Operator Certification with Darrell Sausser.

The call to meeting is on page five, an overview of the conference on page six, and your registration form on page eight.

Enjoy.

District Commander's Report

By D/C Katharine Law, SN,
District 28



If anyone had asked me last February what the most rewarding part of being District Commander would be, I would have said getting to know the Squadron members better. And indeed that has turned out to be true. But I have been truly overwhelmed by the hospitality extended to me

over the past five months.

Beginning with the Spring Conference in Phoenix, I have been received and entertained like royalty by all squadrons wherever my travels have taken me. The Phoenix Squadron's Spring Conference Committee and their fellow squadron members showed me (and the rest of the District) that it is possible to host a District Conference with grace, style and warm hospitality in a beautiful setting with apparent ease. My thanks and appreciation go out to Cdr Bill Johnson, Conference Chair Connie Johnson and her hard-working crew for all their efforts!

The Inland Rendezvous at Lake Mohave in April not only enabled me to get better acquainted with the Lake Mohave Power Squadron members but also taught me that my every whim would be satisfied! I asked Administrative Officer, Lt/C Brenda Jameson to arrange for me to see a roadrunner while at Katherine Landing. I not only *saw* one but *received a roadrunner souvenir* (thanks to L/C Linda Pensavalle's husband Andy) to make that event a lasting memory, along with the poker run and the scrumptious barbecue on Saturday night. Thank you to Cdr Pat Bramble and all the LMPS members who entertained the rest of the District—with *all* squadrons being represented, including South Bay Provisional (for which I serve as Acting Secretary)—for their warm hospitality.

Speaking of South Bay, Cdr Miguel Ramirez-Williams and his wife Barbara celebrated National Safe Boating Week in May by hosting a dock party at the Chula Vista Marina, which attracted not only most of his founding members but also other boaters interested in joining the

provisional squadron. Ed Brunjes of the San Diego Squadron, who has been serving as Ed Officer for South Bay Provisional, taught a Seamanship class starting in May, which attracted several new members. And South Bay members were hosts to the June Summer Council meeting at which Lt/C Susan Johnson, their Administrative Officer, and her crew presided effortlessly (with *a lot of hard work* behind the scenes). District members attending this event were unanimous in their appreciation of the event and have asked to return next summer, to which South Bay has graciously agreed. Thanks to all!

It has been my pleasure to attend two other squadron general members' meetings--the San Luis Rey Squadron's May meeting and Balboa's June meeting. What a joy it is to see old friends and to meet new members with whom I had not previously been acquainted! Thanks to Commanders Larry Nelson and Wes Heusser and their fellow members for their hospitality in inviting me to these events.

And thanks also to SLRSPS for inviting me to their July Saturday barbecue/picnic in Buddy Todd Park. I was joined in attending that event by Cdr Bill Johnson and D/Lt/Connie Johnson, who drove over from Phoenix to Oceanside to help celebrate summer with our San Luis Rey friends. Lynne and D/Lt Mark Keltner drove down from Balboa to be with us all so—again—we had every squadron in the District represented. This time, the SLRSPS members really outdid themselves with P/C Mike McKenna cooking up chicken, steak and hotdogs to go with all the other yummy side dishes and desserts provided by his fellow members. (I'm not sure whether or not the fix was in, but I won a great pair of binoculars in the raffle.) In any event, I was more than welcomed by my SLRSPS friends and will be their guest at the August GMM again. Thanks, folks.

What comes after the San Luis Rey barbecue? Why, of course, my very own San Diego Squadron's Sunday picnic at the US Coast Guard Station at Breezy Point, San Diego. Again, the Johnsons from Phoenix were among the guests, who gobbled up burgers and hotdogs grilled by D/Lt/C Bill Bridge. Bill miraculously arose from a hospital bed to do the duty with the spatula. (Even the insertion of a pacemaker cannot keep *that man* down!) This year's picnic was the largest one ever and, while I love all my squad

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ron's GMMs, my favorite just may be the July picnic. They say a prophet gets no respect in his own country, but I can attest that Cdr Ed Mraz always recognizes me as D/C at squadron meetings. Of course, to the rest of the squadron I am simply "P/C Katie."

So, now my travels take me to Detroit for the USPS Governing Board Meeting in September and I'm looking forward to being rewarded for the trip by receiving our fourth consecutive *Bowsprit Award*, presented to districts by National for performance in USPS activities and growth/retention in membership. I shall receive the award, which runs basically from August of one year through July of the following year, while being acutely aware of the efforts of all of you but including more particularly P/D/C Chuck Peterson and his 2007-2008 bridge members, along with Cdr Wes Heusser of Balboa Squadron, who is the all-time VSC champion, and the San Diego Squadron (up over 8%) and San Luis Rey Squadron (up a whopping 38.8%!) for topping last year's membership numbers. Lt/C Loie Powell and the rest of the SLR Squadron deserve special recognition for outstanding performance in the membership area. You've made D/Lt Cida Diehl, our membership/involvement chairman, proud.

All of you deserve my special thanks for making District 28 of "America's Boating Club" the wonderful group of people we are. We hope to see you at the October Tri-District Fall Conference in Reno, where I can thank you personally. You make my job easy and enormously rewarding!

Yours for safe boating.

Executive Officer's Report

By D/Lt/C Van Diehl, SN

It has always been a great honor to be able to serve the District and being able to contribute to its success. Now even more, because of the exciting new USPS directions and all the positive trends in our district, including being a **District Growth Award winner, with 6% growth, and the third year winner of the Bowsprit Award.** We are living a very significant turning point in the life of USPS. We are not just continuing doing the same old things, but instead embarking



in new directions that should bring more vitality to the organization. The USPS new strategic directions - **USPS University** and **Boat Operator Certification** initiatives - have, in my view, the potential of attracting and retaining a larger number of members, making the USPS a more widely

known organization, with greater number of members.

The District Executive Department has the responsibility of the liaison and assistance to Squadron Commanders in setting their goals. We are happy to inform that all squadrons have included in their goals the support of the **USPS University**; the USPS University Initiative can only fly if the squadrons have goals to implement it at the Squadron level, where the USPS University Campus resides. The **Seminar Series** are now being presented across the District and Boat Operator Certifiers have been trained.

The District Executive Department has also the responsibility of the so-called external functions, the USPS civic activities. Some of the significant committee activities and events in this area are given below:

Vessel Safety Check (P/C Ron Werner, AP). The Vessel Safety Check process is one of prevention. It helps to achieve voluntary compliance with federal and state recreational boating safety laws, particularly with regard to the carriage of safety equipment while raising boater awareness about safety and environmental issues. A very successful program in most squadrons of D/28. Sixteen (16) Vessel Examiners performed a total of **370** VSC's year-to-date. Cdr Wes Heuser, AP, Balboa, continues to be the champion with a total of 192. **Well Done Wes!** Wes will be in the Century Club for the 3rd year in 2008. The challenge in this area is to have all squadrons of the district participating. Unhappily, not all squadrons have the VSC program in place. An item that National is requesting our help is to verify, when doing VSC in boats that have VHF with DSC capability, if the VHF has the MMSI (Marine Mobile Service Identifiers) programmed

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in, and if they have their GPS connected to the radio. Apparently only **10% of all the 250,000 VHF/DSC radios sold** have requested MMSI! An amazing statistic we can help to change. You find more details at the USPS website: <http://www.usps.org/national/vsc/dsc.html>

Boating Safety (P/C John Lusson, SN). The goal of the Recreational Boating Safety Committee is to enhance the boating experience by providing the boater with the latest safety tools and information. John coordinated this year's e National Safe Boating Campaign, 17-23 May 2008, with the participation of most squadrons. All Squadrons have now Safety officers in place.

Public Relations (D/Lt Bob Gibbs, AP). Very good work has been done in this area by many of the squadrons producing fliers, posters, etc. and promotion activities associated with the National Safe Boating Week. More work is required to promote the USPS University.

Coop Charting (P/C Steve Bakalis, SN). Since the land based Geodetic Marks program was discontinued, there has been a marked decrease in Coop Charting field activities in the squadrons, with notable exception of the Balboa Squadron, under the leadership of P/C Wolfgang Kutter, SN.

I believe there is a need to incentive the program by holding seminars to explain the wide range of possible field activities of NOAA support. I, for one, was not aware of all these opportunities:

Nautical Chart Corrections: Observing and reporting differences between charted information and that which is currently observable.

Small Craft Facilities: Observing and reporting the characteristics of marinas, boat yards, and other marine facilities that service small nautical craft.

Coast Pilot Revisions: Examining those sections of the Coast Pilot covering your area and determine where changes should be made to reflect current reality.

Range Line Surveys: Similar to Depth Survey except measurements are position readings taken along tracks identified by Range Markers.

Depth Surveys: Measuring position, depth, at various positions in the areas of interest.

Tidal Current Surveys: USPS members conduct tidal current measurements in NOS designated areas, using NOS supplied equipment un-

der NOS supervision.

Aids to Navigation Inspections: This involves cruising around your favorite areas and observing the buoys and other markers. Items to check are: proper functioning of light and sound characteristics, legibility of identifying marks and that the ATONs are in proper position.

Properly trained, all our member boaters could, when on the water, make observations. I am happy to report that P/C Steven Bakalis, S/N conducted, August 2nd, a District Coop Charting outing in the San Diego Bay.

Legislative/CA - (D/Lt Dick Barck, AP and Legislative/AZ - R/C Bob

Schloeman, JN). They are our watchdogs of impending boating legislation, monitoring RBOC, BoatUS, etc and the legislatures.

The most significant event in this area was the passage of the "Clean Boating Act of 2008". Both the Senate and House of Representatives approved S. 2766 on July 22, 2008. On July 29, 2008, President Bush signed the bill into law, restoring the exemption of recreational boats from EPA regulations regarding the discharge of pollutants such as engine cooling water, deck runoff, bilge water and gray water. Thanks to all of you that sent messages to Sen. Boxer and Feinstein and your House representatives.

Congratulations to D/28 for winning the 2007-2008 National Membership Growth Award by 6%. Congratulations goes also to San Luis Rey Sail and Power Squadron for winning the growth award by 38.8% and San Diego Sail and Power Squadron for winning by 8.3% growth. You can see the report at membership page on 2007/2008 Membership Growth Award. Congratulations for all squadrons that worked hard. Please, keep up the excellent job!

District 28 Calendar

17-19 October Tri-District (D13, D25 and D28) joint conference, Silver Legacy Casino, Reno, NV. Hosted by D25
6 December D/28 Winter Council, Laughlin, NV, hosted by Lake Mohave Power Squadron

2009

17-22 February USPS Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency Orange County, Anaheim, CA

6-7 March D/28 Spring Conference hosted by Balboa Power Squadron



DISTRICTS 13, 25 & 28

(Districts 16 & 32 invited to join)

MULTI -DISTRICT CONFERENCE

ADVANTAGES

NATIONAL OPERATING COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE

ONE-ON-ONE CONVERSATIONS WITH NATIONAL OFFICERS

SEMINARS BY NATIONAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

SHARING IDEAS AND DISCUSSING PROBLEMS WITH

PEOPLE FROM OTHER AREAS

MEETING AND MAKING FRIENDS WITH PEOPLE FROM OTHER AREAS

TIME TO EXPLORE AND ENJOY BEAUTIFUL RENO, NEVADA

—“THE BIGGEST LITTLE CITY IN AMERICA”

THIS IS LIKE A MINI GOVERNING BOARD

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR

GOOD FUN AND GOOD FRIENDS

SILVER LEGACY HOTEL - RENO, NEVADA

OCTOBER 16 THROUGH 19, 2008

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On line at WWW.SILVERLEGACY.COM

ROOM RATES

Room type	Sunday-Thursday	Friday & Saturday
Standard room	\$89.99 per night	\$129.99 per night
Superior Spa Suite	\$125.00 per night	\$175.00 per night

**Rates quoted are for single or double occupancy,
plus tax and resort fee - Rates are subject to change.**

PLEASE USE OUR GROUP CODE - **USPOWER -TO RECEIVE OUR SPECIAL RATE**

CHECK-IN TIME IS 3:00 PM AND CHECK-OUT IS 11:00 AM

RESERVATIONS AFTER SEPT 16th ARE ON SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS

ASK ABOUT COMPLIMENTARY SHUTTLE TO HOTEL

Thursday – October 16th.**Welcome Dinner & Tour @ National Auto Museum**

Guided tours through historical timeline galleries displaying over 200 exceptional vehicles, including the 1908 Thomas Flyer Around The World Race winner and the original Bat Mobile.

Stroll along period street settings, view vintage clothing and jewelry displays, drop by curbside candy and ice cream parlors. Transport yourself back into the sights and sounds of the past – remembering the joys of a high school romance and owning your 1st car, etc. After your stroll down Memory Lane, a hosted buffet dinner will be served in “The Wall of Fame Room” - Price includes transportation to and from hotel to Museum.

PRICE: \$62.00 per person

Friday – October 17th.**MS Dixie II Sightseeing and Lunch Cruise on Lake Tahoe**

Local step-on guide will accompany you and fill you in on history and characters of the area. Board the MS Dixie II Paddle Wheeler and embark on an afternoon sightseeing and luncheon cruise to beautiful Emerald Bay – one of the most photographed sites in the western United States. Upon completion of the cruise, you will re-board your motor coach and return to Reno via Carson City, Nevada’s State Capital. Here you’ll enjoy a driving tour of the historic home district - including the Governor’s Mansion and the Nevada State Museum (former U.S. Mint) - Price includes transportation, guide, luncheon, cruise & tips.

PRICE: \$72.00 per person.

Saturday – October 18th.**Historic Virginia City - Carson City Tours**

Depart your hotel in the morning and travel by deluxe motor coach to historic Virginia City. Professional step-on guide will tell you about the history, geology and characters of this area as you ride along. Upon arrival, enjoy a brief drive through tour followed by 2 1/2 hours of free time in this former gold and silver rush town to explore and sightsee. Walk along wooden sidewalks of yesteryear as you browse through saloons, museums, casinos and gift shops. A hosted buffet will be set up and served in a private room at the famous Delta Saloon for your enjoyment. After lunch, you’ll motor over to the state capital for a tour of the Nevada State Railroad Museum, the historic Stewart Indian School, and other points of interest not included in the Friday tour. You will also have time to get off the motor coach to enjoy the exhibits, the western town and mine re-creations and other displays, giving you an overview of Nevada’s history. Price includes motor coach transportation, guide, lunch, tips and entry fees.

PRICE: \$61.00 per person.

Saturday – October 18th**Member Luncheon**

Baby Spinach Salad with Bacon Bits, Mushrooms and Honey Mustard Dressing. High Limit, Sandwich (Turkey, Ham or Roast Beef) with Monterey Jack Cheese, on a French Roll with Lettuce, Tomato and Pickle Spear, Pasta Salad, Fresh Fruit Garnish, Italian Rum Cake, Coffee, or Iced Tea.

PRICE: \$20.00 per person.

Conference Dinner

Choice of Stuffed Chicken Breast with Spinach & Feta Cheese, in Champagne Sauce - Baked Filet of Salmon with Parsley and Tarragon Crust & Lime Butter Sauce - Roast Prime Rib of Beef with Rosemary Juices and Creamed Horseradish Sauce. All dinner selections include the following: Salad, Fresh Vegetables, Potatoes or Rice, Freshly Baked Rolls & Butter, Dessert, Coffee, assorted Teas and Iced Tea

Seminar Schedule

Friday October 17th 1400-1630

Boat Trailing- *Ken Griffing* -Silver Baron Room A Trailing over view including matching tow vehicle and load, Hitches, Equipment, launching and retrieving, Sailboat trailers, Maintenance.

Paddlesmart- *Bob Sweet* - Silver Baron Room E
Fastest growing Boating Sport in America. Topics include terminology, equipment, using paddle craft, kayaks and canoes, Safety practices, day-tripping and statistics.

Marketing/PRO- *Darrell Allison* - Silver Baron Room D
For all Marketing and PRO wannabees. A give and take, hands-on workshop on how to attract the public to our USPS products.

Saturday October 18th 1400-1630

Global Warming- *Jean Hamilton* - Silver Baron Room A
A spirited discussion on junk science, models and climate change from a geoscience perspective.

Radar- *Bob Sweet* - Silver Baron Room E
How radar functions, radar selections, operation of radar, setting controls display, interpretation, navigation and collision avoidance.

Boat Operator Certification- *Darrell Sausser* - Silver Baron Room D
Make your squadron aware of the certification program and its benefits to members. Encourage all members to obtain the appropriate certifications for their type of boating. Become thoroughly familiar with all aspects of certification and serve as a resource person to anyone having questions on the subject. Become a Boat Operator Certifier. Pre-registration is required and the cost is \$25. for materials. For pre-registration, please notify Darrell Sausser at sailords@earthlink.net or call 951-780-2694 before October 6.

USPS Graphical History District/Squadron Membership

USPS National decline since the year 2000 is smooth, steady and mathematical so precise that it will be hard to find any correlation on a National level. All the normal indicators like politics, economics; aging and marketing initiatives do not seem to affect the decline. The only correlation that can be matched is rate of people over 60 that are ill or deceased. Hmmm. Some District averaging over 10 years may provide a slight variation, but certainly not enough to explain the predictability of the trend.

Looking at the effect of your role in District 28 as Membership Chair provides more interesting observations. The slide on "**USPS Growth by District 2007-2008**" shows that District 28 has abnormal growth. And this is not the first time

that the curve went up. I predict that many people at USPS National want to ask you some questions, as this is not a one-year phenomenon either. The District 28 Summary slide shows a "turn-around" in 2005, continued for three years. Peeling the onion a little shows that different Squadrons in turn have contributed more in one year than in others.

Of course, I have inside information and I'm glad to share this with others. At the Squadron level you have been the engine that drives recruitment through education as SEO, with a very dynamic SAO side-by-side. Result: 38% growth! At the District level you always claim your time on the floor to convey new and fresh information. Common sense says that there must be some correlation here.

P/D/C Adriaan Veldhuisen, SN

Strange doings on the river

By Cdr Pat Bramble,
Lake Mohave Power Squadron

It is with great pride that I announce the fact that the Lake Mohave Power Squadron's entry, *The Black Rose*, took first prize in our division. We will be presented with a trophy and a \$250.00 cash prize.

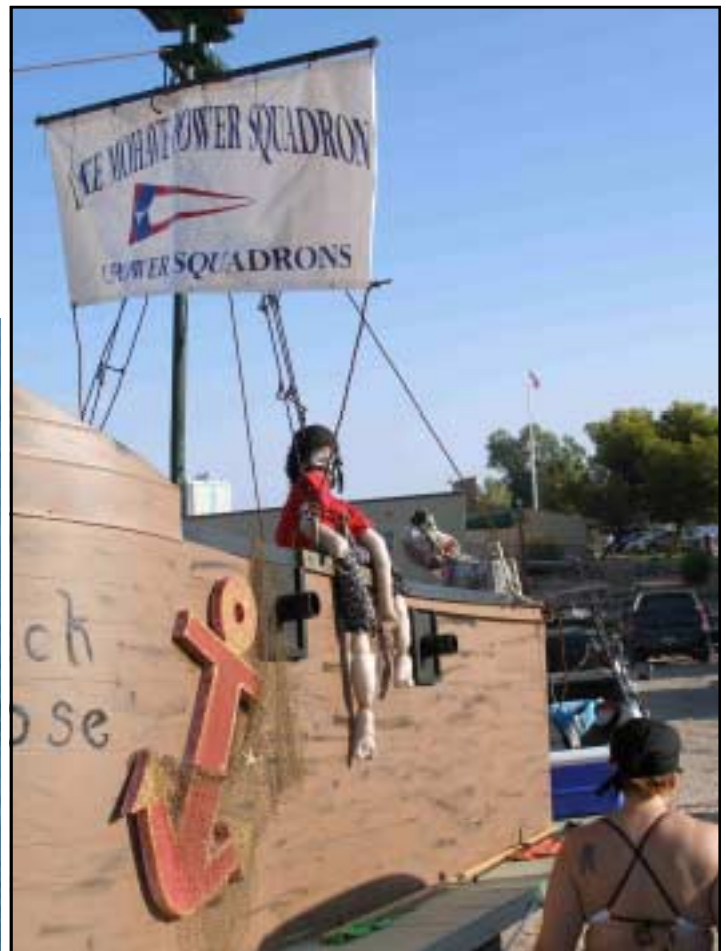
There is no way that I can adequately thank all the members who worked so hard during the construction, launching, the actual sailing and the retrieval at the end of our 11 mile float trip. I would be remiss however if I did not immediately point out certain individuals for their help. First of all to Jo Anne Waller who chaired our participation in the event. She devoted many hours of her time during the weeks leading up to the event. It could not have taken place without her dedication.

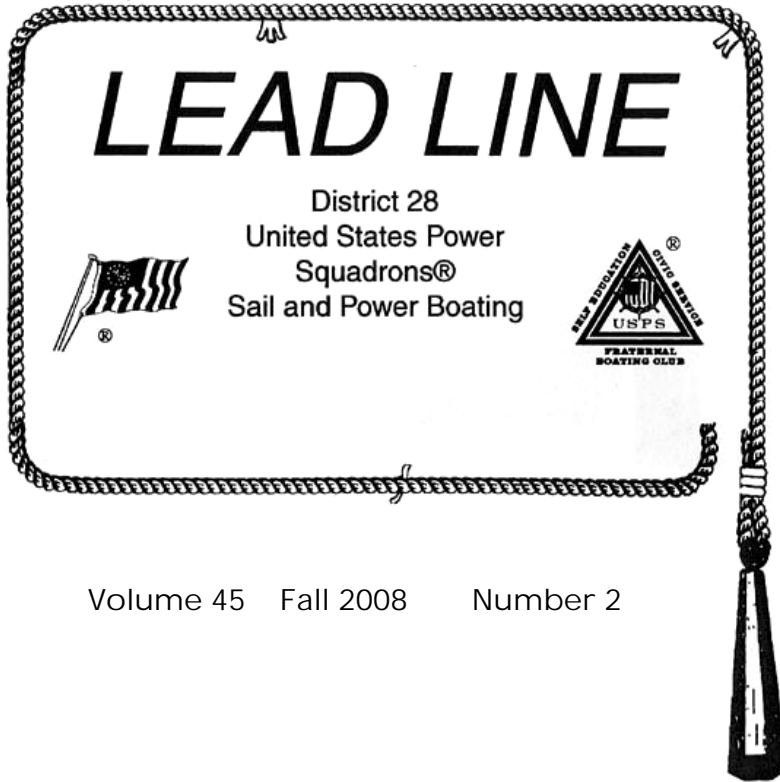
Without the help of all those involved in the construction and decorating there would not have been a *Black Rose*. Some of you devoted many day after days of hard work in our hot sun to build her.

A special thank you to Brian Zebrowski and Don Jameson without whose efforts to keep us off the bank during the trip down the river the *Black Rose* might not have made it to the finish line. Another special thank you to Jo Anne Waller's niece Arlene Brannon who joined us on the float and did a lot of paddling along with the actual members who were on board.

Again, thank you all for your tireless efforts. I

am sure that Andy Pensavalle will include much more information and pictures about the float trip in the next issue of the *No Wake Zone*.





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