

# THE TRIDENT

*Voice of the Balboa Sail and Power Squadron, District 28*

*A Unit of United States Power Squadrons®*

*Sail and Power Boating*

October 2009

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## Past Commander's Corner

*P/C Wes Heusser, JN*

In last month's issue we showed a picture of a former-BPS member, David Lester; I'm pleased to say he has now rejoined the Squadron. Welcome back, Dave.

My letter to our District Commander (D/28), shown in the October issue of *The Trident*, prompted a response from Reg Thatcher, a former long-time member of the Squadron who has moved to Alabama. Reg wrote:

*Dear Wes,*

*I just read your Past Commander's Corner in the August Trident and applaud you for your continued excellent work. It was a scientific survey.*

*Determining the source of a problem through actual data acquisition is the scientific method and best way to solve a problem. As you discovered with your survey, our name recognition is much lower than some of the competing organizations. In my opinion this is due to a number of causes: our national organization's philosophy to stay small and not offer many of the services that would make the Squadron a profit-making entity; the fact that we have not had a name that would attract the younger boaters who own PWCs, paddle boards, sail boards, kayaks, seaplanes, air boats, and the like; and the fact that clubs in general are not as popular as they once were.*

*As you know, some things we can change, and some things are out of our control: some things we could have changed, but didn't. Is there anything can we do now, or are we just fighting the times? If we decide to alter course it will require a great deal of effort at this point. Good luck and thank you for your love and faith in the organization.*

*Sincerely,*

*(Signed) Reg Thatcher, SN*

*Perdido Bay Power Squadron, Alabama*

*Associate of Balboa Sail and Power Squadron*

Also appearing in this issue are two articles from the Sea Scouts. It's good to have young people of this caliber associated with the Squadron. Perhaps this is one way in which we can revitalize the organization and correct the impression that USPS is something whose membership consists entirely of old fogies. It is appropriate at this time to welcome a new member from the Sea Scouts, Jacob Steiner; he is the third Sea Scout Steiner in BPS.



P/C Wes Heusser, JN

*Vessel Safety Checks* are still going strong. Encouraged by Reg Thatcher's approval of my methodology, I compiled some additional statistics regarding participants in the 349

VSCs I have carried out so far this year [now 357 Ed.]:

- 106 attended USPS classes
- 49 attended CGAux classes
- 24 attended both USPS and CGAux classes
- 6 had Coast Guard training
- 1 had U.S. Navy training
- 12 had some form of State training
- 151 attended no classes at all

What conclusion can you draw from this? At least it shows that USPS had the preponderance of class attendees!

In other news, the Boat Show is over and I'd like to thank all those who participated. I handed out class material to seventeen people so we'll have to wait and see how many actually sign up.

The D/28 Conference is also behind us: Bill Bardens received a 50-year pin and we are trying to contact him so we can award it. This award brings us back up to eight 50-year members after the loss of Ken Logan last month. Bob Olson received an Education Proficiency Award and now we have 19 holders of this award in the Squadron.

# Secrets of Your Cell Phone

John Meiling, AP

Your cell phone has a number of features that you probably never knew about. These may actually be life savers and could provide an emergency tool for survival.

## Emergency Calling

The worldwide emergency mobile number is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an emergency, dial 112 to search any existing network and establish the emergency number for you; interestingly, this number can be dialed even if the keypad is locked.

## Unlocking your car

Does your car have remote keyless entry? If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, call some one at home on their cell phone from your cell phone. Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button on their remote, holding it near the mobile phone on their end. Your car will unlock. Saves someone from having to drive your keys to you. Distance is no object: you could be hundreds of miles away, and if you can reach someone who has the other remote for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the trunk).

[Editor's Note: We tried it out and were able to unlock our car using this method!]

## Hidden Battery Power

If your cell battery is very low, press \*3370#. Your cell phone will restart with this reserve and will show a 50% increase in battery power. This reserve will be replenished the next time you charge your cell phone!

## Disabling a Stolen or Lost Phone

To check your cell phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: \*#06#. A 15-digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. If your phone is lost or stolen, you can contact your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be unusable. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use or sell it either. If everybody did this, there would be no point in people's stealing cell phones.

## Free Directory Service

Cell phone companies charge \$1.00 to \$1.75 or more for 411 information calls. Most of us do not carry a telephone directory around, which makes this situation even more of a problem. When you need to use the 411 ⇨

# Sea Scout News

Denise Erwin, Committee Chairman, Sea Scout Ship 1767

Last month Julian Rhoades, a Sea Scout with Ship 711 and a 2009 SEAL graduate, wrote a great article about his experience at SEAL training on Chesapeake Bay this past June. But did you know that our own Newport Sea Base was also host to a BSA national SEAL training?

SEAL, Sea Explorer Advanced Leadership, was hosted on *Windward Spirit*, the 41-foot Formost ketch of *Triton*, Sea Scout Ship 1767, in June 2009. Phillip McNamee, skipper of *Triton*, is a SEAL course director and led a nine-day training session at sea for five Sea Scouts from all over the USA; two from Virginia, one from Texas, one from Northern California and one from Long Beach.

The Newport Sea Base has hosted SEAL in past summers but this is the first time the entire SEAL staff came from the Orange County Council. The instructors, besides Phillip McNamee, are: Daniel Stoica from *Del Mar*; Richard Cuciti, OCC Squadron Commodore; Donna Stoica from the *Del Mar*; and Denise Erwin from *Triton*, all Balboa Power and Sail Squadron members. Daniel Stoica was the first SEAL graduate in the country to serve as XO of a SEAL training session. Phillip McNamee and Daniel Stoica worked for many, many hours planning this training and set new standards by holding the entire exercise at sea. All five of the SEAL candidates passed the many tests with record high scores and became SEAL graduates able to wear the double dolphin pin on their dress white uniforms.

Congratulations to Phil and his staff for a job well done. Plans are already underway for the 2010 SEAL, BSA's 100th birthday year. Lastly, congratulations should go to the Newport Sea Scouts who attended SEAL trainings across the country: Julian Rhoades from *Del Mar* in Chesapeake Bay, Gabrielle Arnold from *Triton* and Nathan Guiles from *Renegades* in Long Island, New York and Andrew Zimmerman from *Renegades* in Galveston Bay, Texas.

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[www.balboapowersquadron.org](http://www.balboapowersquadron.org)

information option, simply dial: (800) FREE-411 (or 800-373-3411) without incurring a charge. Program this into your cell phone now. This is the kind of information people don't mind receiving, so pass it on to your family and friends.

## Balboa Sail & Power Squadron

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### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kathrin Bayer, Kevin Jones, Joseph Komlance, Julie Morgan, Robert Ramsay, Julian Rhoades

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## U.K. Sea Scout Centenary

*Denise Erwin, Committee Chairman, Sea Scout Ship 1767*

A group of 21 Sea Scout youths and adults from Orange County Council traveled across the globe in August to be part of the United Kingdom's Jamboree celebrating the 100th birthday of Sea Scouting. Sea Scout groups from all over England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland were joined by international Sea Scouts from Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Finland, Georgia and, of course, the USA. A week of camping with about 2,000 Sea Scouts at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham, England included full use of all program areas at the Centre. Our scouts participated in white water rafting and kayaking, small boat sailing, power boating, wake boarding, raft building and dragon boat racing (a combined USA-New Zealand boat beat the Australians!) There was also a water slide, a carnival with various activities including bungee jumping, zorbing, and an assortment of arts and crafts and every evening ended with a disco style dance in a huge tent complete with strobe lights and a mirrored disco ball! Our scouts met hundreds and hundreds of sea scouts exchanging patches and neckerchiefs. Rain fell almost every day but it didn't dampen anyone's spirits. Our scouts were hosted by the 1st Standlake and Cokethorpe Sea Scouts from Oxford, England who provided all camping and cooking equipment, planned and prepared all of our meals and took such good care of us we felt like visiting royalty.

We took one day off from the Jamboree to visit the city of Nottingham - yes, the same Nottingham made famous by Robin Hood. With all of the British scouts and our scouts we made a group of just over 50 wandering the streets of Nottingham, visiting Nottingham Castle, the museum of Justice "Crime and Punishment" exhibit and the secret Caves of Nottingham used from Roman times until World War II for bomb shelters. A fabulous day was had by all and it didn't rain a drop while we were there! After leaving the Jamboree, we traveled to Chester for a full day tour of this beautiful Roman city, walking through buildings and churches built in the Middle Ages and seeing ruins of Roman structures and a glimpse of life nearly 1,500 years ago!

Next on the Centenary agenda, 11 of the 21 scouts headed north to Inverness, Scotland. Our little group was met at the bus station by scouts we had met at the Jamboree and they took us on a walking tour of the beautiful little town of Inverness and to a quaint little cafe for a typical Scottish breakfast including black pudding. Later in the day they invited us to join them on their 38-foot ⇨

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**DATED MATERIAL**

power boat for a ride up the River Ness and into Loch Ness. We didn't find Nessie but we did get to watch the sun set over Loch Ness and see a storm roll in and begin pounding us with rain. We stopped to have our picture taken next to a statue of Nessie and have dinner in a restaurant overlooking the stormy Loch. It was an awesome day.

In the morning we boarded a 60-foot cutter called the *Thermopylae Clipper* and began a six-day sailing trip leaving from Inverness and traveling along the Scottish coast into Edinburgh. Sailing in the North Sea was cold, rainy and exciting. We were not just passengers but crew for the 60-foot boat and everyone, from the most experienced quartermaster to the lowly pogy, took part in the ship's operations. We saw sunny skies, rain, wind, lovely clouds, dolphins and hundreds of jellyfish. At one point we were traveling at nine knots and heeling at about fifteen degrees! It was thrilling! When we reached our final destination of Edinburgh we attended the Edinburgh Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle. So many bagpipes and colorful tartans! The evening ended with a lone bagpiper playing *Amazing Grace* from the top of the Castle. Breathtaking. After a day tour of Edinburgh the next day visiting many famous sites, we headed south again for our long plane ride home. We are so fortunate to be part of such a great group called *Sea Scouts*, *BSA*, and we thank you for your support and encouragement in our endeavors.

### **OCTOBER & NOVEMBER GMMs**

The October dinner and GMM will be held at the Newport Beach Tennis Club on 15 October at the usual times.

The November meeting will be held at the Newport Rib Company on 2196 Harbor Blvd in Costa Mesa on 19 November. It will be at the usual time and will include a buffet with ribs, chicken, beans, coleslaw, etc., and there will be a raffle.

Call Helen Thomas (949) 715-2050 or email: [davethomasaacap@aol.com](mailto:davethomasaacap@aol.com) to make a reservation.



### **NO NOVEMBER TRIDENT**

Our Circulation Staff will be on vacation at the end of October so there will be no November issue. Don't let that stop you from submitting articles for inclusion in the December publication!