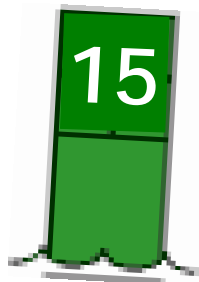


C A N



Official Publication
of District 15

A Unit of United States
Power Squadrons®

Sail and Power Boating

***Dedicated to Promoting
the Conference
and District/Squadron
Events***

Fall 2006

What Does USPS Mean to You?

D/C Cheryl Jarrell, AP

Why did you join USPS? (Did you even know you joined USPS?)

Do you teach safe boating; are you involved in cooperative charting; are you a vessel examiner?

Do you attend squadron meetings and rendezvous; do you participate in on-the-water activities? Do you attend district functions? (Do you know you are part of a USPS district?)

Do you believe being a member of USPS is prestigious, and wearing a uniform is cool? (I had to say that!) Did you just sign up to get the boat insurance? (Well that won't keep you in nowadays!)

Why do you take courses? Or, do you take courses? Do you use all of your USPS educational knowledge while boating, or did you take some of those classes just for the challenge?

Why do you continue to renew your membership? When you have had all of the courses you want, will you remain a member? When you no longer boat, will you remain a member?

Every member of your squadron and District 15 will likely answer those questions differently. And that's the great thing about 'power squadron'; it is many different things to many different people. And that's the worst thing also, because there's not just one thing that every member can agree is the most important part. USPS offers a great combination of civic, social and educational activities.

With everything available to us in USPS, you would think we should have an active, energetic membership. Instead, attendance at our boating courses is at an all time low, and membership in our squadrons is declining.

Teaching safe boating to the public is a requirement for every one of our squadrons; it is in our charters; it is the basis of our not-for-profit status.

Unfortunately, these days, interest isn't in a detailed course that provides an excellent foundation in safe boating; interest is in something short and sweet that satisfies licensing requirements. Currently, there are more than 250 NASBLA approved courses, many of them free, and some of them available on the internet. Our national educational department feels that the educational future of USPS lies not just in strengthening the basic boating programs, but also in developing new seminars aimed at the more experienced boater. (*See Page 6.*)

But is our educational program the only thing that makes USPS a great organization? This is a test, go back to those questions up top. What happens when a member has taken all of the courses they want? What happens when their boat is destroyed in a hurricane? Do they walk away from their squadron? Membership losses would indicate that the answer is a resounding YES. And maybe that is where we are failing as squadrons, as district and as USPS. We not only need informative educational programs to bring in new members, we need to be interesting, we need to be friendly, and we need to be fun if we want to keep those members.

And maybe those of us who remain members of USPS find that what we joined for in the first place is not why we stay. Maybe we joined because we wanted to know more about boating, but maybe we stay because of the friendships we have developed.

***C/C Ernie Marshburn, SN
to attend the
D/15 Fall Conference***

See page 2 for complete story.

CAN 15

Fall 2006 Issue (number 06-2)
MASTHEAD

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
 OF DISTRICT 15



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C/C Ernie Marshburn, SN to attend the District 15 Fall Conference

D/15 is honored to have C/C Ernie Marshburn, SN, attend our Fall Conference, 20-22 October, in Mobile, AL, hosted by the Fairhope Sail and Power Squadron.

C/C Marshburn of Greenville, NC, joined the Tar River Squadron in 1983. He worked his way through squadron and district offices and was elected D/27 commander in 1994. He has remained active in his squadron, teaching the Boating course as well as participating in cooperative charting and vessel safety check activities.

His national work began with planning committee projects and service as a member of the Governing Board. He was then elected to the position of assistant national secretary in 1996. He served as an aide to two chief commanders before being elected as national secretary in 1999. He was elected Chief Commander in January 2006.

Many of you may remember Ernie and Dianne as they have visited District 15 several times, most recently in Spring of 2004.

Pre-Conference Plans:

The Marshburns will be arriving on Thursday morning prior to the conference. Dot and Stan Warner will pick them up at the Mobile airport and take them on a tour of the Gulf Coast.

Ernie would also like to meet and talk to as many squadron people as he can. Since Singing River's squadron meeting falls on Thursday night (19 Oct), Ernie has been invited to speak and all district members are welcome to attend. Golfers coming in early for the Friday Golf Tournament, may want to consider going to Singing River for the meeting - Pascagoula is only 45 minutes away from Mobile.

Join in the Fall conference activities and help welcome C/C Marshburn and his wife Dianne back

to District 15.

The Singing River Sail and Power Squadron's October meeting will be at the LaFont, 2703 Denny Av, US 90 East, in Pascagoula.

Happy hour will start at 1800 (6 PM) with dinner - order from the menu - at 1900 (7 PM.)

Everyone is invited. This will be a good time to meet the USPS Chief Commander Ernie Marshburn and his wife Dianne. Ernie will be the guest speaker, hosting a "town hall" meeting.

Telephone Fred Pardoe
 228-875-3986 for
 reservations.



News from around USPS and District 15

Maurie Schmoll, SN resigned his position as DEO of District 15 in late July. He will be moving to Dayton, Tennessee. Thanks to Maurie for his work for Perdido Bay squadron and District 15 over the last few years.

Assistant DEO, Dick Gercak, AP agreed to accept the DEO position. V/C Dick Kyle, SN, NEO, approved the change. An electronic vote by the D/15 council members was held in early August, under the guidance of V/C Robert Baldrige, SN, who also happens to be the chairman of the District 15 rules committee. Thanks to Dick for representing the district at the educational meetings at the GB in New York.

The 25th Anniversary of women in USPS is approaching. Fourteen women members will be earning Life Membership this year.

Beginning in the June 2007 dues year there will be some changes in national dues. At the recent Governing Board in New York, a new family unit dues schedule was approved. Under this new arrangement, the first active member pays the current national dues of \$33.60; all other members in the same family unit can become members (either active or family) for one additional 50% payment of \$16.80. The intent of this is to encourage more members to join USPS. This change only affects national dues, though districts and squadrons are encouraged to consider the same plan. National Secretary, V/C Robert Baldrige, SN will have a detailed explanation of this new payment schedule available within the next few months.

The current initiation fee of \$10 for a new active member has been

increased to one \$25 fee for the new family unit. This may seem like a big increase if only one member joins, but processing costs for a new member is in the range of \$17-\$20.

The vote on the educational exam waiver, details of which were included in the seat packet of the New York GB and sent to all squadron commanders, was postponed until the Annual Meeting in Jacksonville in February. It was clear that there was a high degree of confusion regarding the waiver, and it was decided that additional time was needed to properly explain the proposed changes to squadron officers. (See page 6 for additional information on the exam waiver and the new seminar series.)

More than 20% of the HQ employees have been laid off as a cost saving measure. That means inquires or orders in education and membership may take a little longer. Be patient.

Also as a cost savings, *The Ensign* will be reduced to 6 issues plus an electronic supplement, beginning in 2007.

The BoatU.S. Foundation for **Boating Safety and Clean Water grants** up to \$4,000 each are available to local community organizations and nonprofit groups for helping to make waterways safer for recreational boaters. The deadline to apply is November 1, and grants will be awarded in late January 2007. Download an application at

<http://www.BoatUS.com/foundation>

Boat/US **Distinguished Civic Service Award** is given to a squadron and a district in USPS. This award

includes boating classes, VSCs, public seminars and workshops, scholarships, media interviews, children's safety programs. Entries must be submitted to national before November 15.

That means you needed to submit your squadron's report to Dot Warner several weeks ago. Did you? If not make sure you participate next year.

We have a new staff commander in D/15. Larry Rathburn, AP of Mobile Sail and Power Squadron will be working with R/C Wil Hugli, JN on the new seminars coming from the Boat Handling committee.

"Motorboats to the Rescue-1912", do you have a copy of the USPS commemorative print? If not make a \$5.00 donation to the Fairhope Sail and Power Squadron and your name goes into the hopper for a drawing to be held at the upcoming Fall Conference. Contact P/C Paul Perfect for details.



At least they aren't sleeping! - P/D/C Robbie Jarrell, AP, DEO Dick Gercak, AP, and Stf/C E.J. Sacks, SN

What's on your Boat?

In early June, my boat was burglarized. Fortunately, no damage was done, and only a few things were taken – life jackets, binoculars, handheld VHF radio, tool boxes, Q-beam spotlight, etc. The point is that I am now having trouble with my insurance company because I do not have “proper” documentation. They want to know when the items were purchased, where the items were purchased, how much was paid for each item, and how each item was paid for. The police want serial numbers from each item that has one.

The moral of the story is that either receipts or an equipment log should be kept for all items that are valuable enough to report stolen if that should happen. It will make your life much easier.

P/C Lawrence A. Rathbun, Jr., AP
D/15 Safety Officer

2006-2007 Change of Watch Dates

Singing River	3 November 2006
Perdido Bay	4 November 2006
Gulf Breeze	4 November 2006
Pensacola	18 November 2006
Ft. Walton	6 January 2007
New Orleans	13 January 2007
Lake Pontchartrain	20 January 2007
Mobile	26 January 2007
Fairhope	27 January 2007
Baton Rouge	3 February 2007
St. Andrew Bay	10 February 2007
Jackson	16 or 17 February 2007

CALL TO CONFERENCE



In accordance with District 15 bylaws, Article 5, Section 5.5, this constitutes official notice to the membership of District 15 of call to meeting, containing the agenda and other pertinent details for the 2006 Fall Conference.

The meeting will convene at 0900 on 21 October 2006 at the Radisson-Admiral Semmes Hotel located in Mobile, Alabama.

All members of D/15 are encouraged to attend the Conference and may request the privilege of the floor, in accordance with bylaws Article 5, Section 5.8.

Each squadron commander is entitled to vote. Delegates shall be selected by each squadron on the basis of one delegate for each 25 active members in good standing, or major fraction thereof, as of the preceding 1 March, with a minimum of two delegates per squadron.

Voting members of the Conference are: District Commander, District Lieutenant Commanders, Chairmen of the General Committees, Squadron Commanders, Past District Commanders who are active members of District 15 squadrons, and the delegates.

Uniform at the Conference meeting for the District Bridge will be USPS uniform G. The uniform for other members and guests will be uniform G or appropriate attire.



Members of D/15 Partying before the New York GB

Fall Conference Agenda 21 October 2006

Uniform 'G' (Black trousers and short sleeve shirt)

0800 Closed Meetings

Commanders and Executive Officers D/Lt/C Ron Everett, AP
Squadron Educational Officers and Assistants D/Lt/C Dick Gercak, AP

0900 Conference Meeting

Coffee and Lunch Break at suitable times

Call to Order D/C Cheryl Jarrell, AP
Presentation of Colors Stf/C Stan Warner, SN
Pledge of Allegiance D/Lt/C Ron Everett, AP
USPS Pledge D/Lt/C Glenn Roy, AP
Invocation and Necrology Stf/C E. J. Sacks, SN
Roll Call and Introductions P/D/C Clifford Jackson, AP
Establishment of a Quorum D/Lt//C Pat Brewer, P
Change Order of Business D/C Cheryl Jarrell, AP
Clarification of Voting Delegates P/D/C Robert G. Fries, JN
2006 Spring Conference Minutes Approval D/Lt/C Pat Brewer, P
Host Squadron's Welcome Cdr Walter Howard, AP

Chief Commander's Message C/C Ernie Marshburn, SN

Treasurer's Report D/Lt/C Carl Hutto, AP
Secretary's Report D/Lt//C Pat Brewer, P
Administrative Officer's Report D/Lt/C Glenn Roy, AP
Educational Officer's Report D/Lt/C Dick Gercak, AP
Executive Officer's Report D/Lt/C Ron Everett, AP
Commander's Report D/C Cheryl Jarrell, AP

GENERAL COMMITTEES

Planning Committee Report P/C Dean Hoffman, P
Nominating Committee Report P/D/C Harry Hebb, SN
Budget and Finance Report P/R/C Al Warnock, JN
Educational Fund Report P/D/C Luther O'Brien, SN
Conference Planning Committee D/Lt Dorothy Warner, P

Unfinished Business Presentation of Awards
New Business

1400 Seminars/Discussions

Squadron Newsletters - Electronic or Paper?
Increasing and Maintaining Membership
CoCh, CCWEB

Benediction Stf/C E. J. Sacks, SN
Retire the Colors Stf/C Stan Warner, SN

Conference is Adjourned

What's Happening with Education?

NEO Dick Kyle, SN has these comments on membership in USPS and the exam waiver:

USPS membership has been in decline for a number of years. Enrollment in our public boating classes has also declined. The consequences are evident: fewer and smaller boating classes provide less opportunity for squadrons to recruit new members.

Our material is truly better and we still attract serious boaters, but not in the same numbers as in the past.

Rather than going head-to-head on basic boating safety courses, we are striking out in new directions with fresh material that boaters want. Short, topical seminars for time-conscious audiences will give them essential information and showcase what they gain by becoming USPS members. These programs will appeal to experienced boaters who are unlikely to come to a basic boating program.

The Educational Department (and Operating Committee) is recommending a temporary three-year suspension of the educational requirement for membership.

Membership remains in the hands of squadrons. They still determine what shows that a prospective member has the time, energy and skills to contribute to the objectives of USPS.

USPS University Seminar Series

USPS University is here with new programs targeted to a range of boaters and types of boating. The hallmark of this concept is the Seminar Series. These short seminars are targeted to specific topics and needs with a two-hour format, and valuable take-away guides. Each seminar provides credits toward the soon to be released Boat Operator Certification program, and credit toward elective courses.

The first four of these seminars are now available. Squadrons can purchase the seminar kits from

headquarters. Each student kit includes a high quality guide covering the seminar topic, student notes including copies of the presentation, and a certificate. The instructor's kit includes the seminar series CD with Power-Point® presentation material, instructor's notes, and a guide for presenting a seminar.

The seminars currently available: VHF & VHF/DSC Radio, GPS, How to Read a Chart, and On Board Weather Forecasting. Several more seminars are nearing completion and will be available this fall: Knots for Mariners, Boat Handling under Power, Sail Trim, On Board Emergencies, Using Digital Charts, and Heavy Weather Sailing.

New Seamanship and JN

A new Seamanship course and a new seminar Boat Handling under Power are both currently in beta trials and will be in full publication in January 2007.

The new Junior Navigation course teaches electronic navigation in the offshore environment, as well as how to navigate when electronics fail. This is a course for the recreational offshore mariner, and those who want to understand the lore of the ancient art of celestial navigation.

The above information and more can be found in the August 2006 issue of Currents, the Educational Department Newsletter that is issued at each Governing Board meeting. <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/misc/currents.htm>

Newsletters on the Web

Many squadrons and districts throughout USPS are moving toward electronic newsletters. Some are doing only electronic, others are using a combination of electronic and paper to accommodate their members who do not have internet access. Still others have returned to paper after finding that electronic only wasn't really reaching their members.

The move to electronic in most cases is because of finances - a newsletter is one of the most expensive items in a squadron budget.

Several squadrons in D/15 have their newsletters on the web. That makes it easy for members around the district to log on and find out what's happening with their fellow USPS members, but is that working for their members?

Join us at the Fall conference for what should be an interesting discussion on what individual squadrons are doing, why they are doing it, and the results they are seeing.

If your squadron newsletter is not online, but would like to be, contact P/D/C Robbie Jarrell, AP at rcjarrell@cox.net and he will be happy to help.

At last check these D/15 newsletters could be accessed on the internet:

<http://www.fwsps.com/Porpoise> (Fort Walton Beach)
<http://home.mchsi.com/~gbsps/> (Gulf Breeze)
<http://www.lpsps.org/newsletter.htm> (LakePontchartrain)
http://www.usps.org/localusps/mobile/MOBILE_NEWSLWTTTER.htm
http://www.usps.org/localusps/neworleans/topside_newsletter.htm
http://www.usps.org/localusps/pensacola/cgi-bin/lazy_log.htm
<http://www.usps.org/localusps/perdidobay/newsletter.htm>
<http://www.usps.org/localusps/d15/Newsletters.htm> (CAN15)



DISTRICT 15 FALL CONFERENCE
20-22 OCTOBER 2006
RADISSON ADMIRAL SEMMES HOTEL
MOBILE, ALABAMA
 HOSTED BY THE FAIRHOPE SAIL & POWER SQUADRON



Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____

Spouse/Guest _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Squadron _____ Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Event	Approximate Time	Early Fee By 10/01/06	Late Fee After 10/01/06	Number of Attendees	Total
Friday Golf	0900-1400	\$55.00 *	<i>Do not include golf fee in check to FS&PS</i>		
Friday Hospitality	1700-2100	No Charge Cash Bar	\$5.00 Cash Bar		
Saturday Luncheon (Members, Guests & Spouses)	1230-1400	\$22.00	\$27.00		
Saturday Dinner Dance	1820-2230	\$43.00	\$48.00		
Gulf Coast Exploreum & IMAX Theater		\$12.00			
Battleship Memorial Park		\$10.00			
			Total		

Halloween Costumes encouraged for Saturday Dinner Dance—Prize for Best Costume

For Room Reservations, Contact:
 The Radisson Admiral Semmes Hotel
 251 Government Street
 Mobile, Alabama 36602
 (800) 333-3333 or (251) 432-8000
 FAX (251) 405-5941
www.radisson.com/mobileal



Request Power Squadron Rates
Room Rate: \$89.00

Make Check Payable to:
Fairhope Sail & Power Squadron (FS&PS)

Mail To:
P/C Paul Perfect
P. O. Box 295
Fairhope, AL 36533

* Golfers Mail Checks to:
Dick Reddy—(251) 961-3386
1164 Santa Anna Lane
Lillian, AL 36549

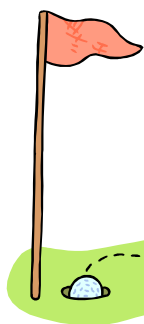
District 15 Conference Hotel Rates are GUARANTEED through September 20, 2006
 DEPOSIT CHARGED WHEN RESERVING ROOM. ALL ROOMS PLUS LOCAL & STATE TAXES.
 HOTEL PARKING FEE \$5.00 PER DAY

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Golfers of D/15 (Or those who would like to be):



Arrangements have been made for our Fall 2006 D/15 Golf Classic. We will play at Quail Creek Golf Club in Fairhope, Alabama, on Friday, 20 October 2006. Entry Fee is \$55.00 and tee times begin at 0932.

The course is on SR 181 approximately 25 miles from the hotel. Looking forward to seeing all you spirited members at this time. Again we will be forced to play without Robert Baldrige in attendance. Rumor has it that as a member of the national bridge, he is called to

duty as the Chief's rep, however word around D/15 is that he is afraid to play with golfers of our caliber.

Please make your check out to District 15 and send to:

Dick Reddy
 1164 Santa Anna Lane
 Lillian, AL 36549

Name and Address	Skill Level Handicap, Avg Score, Beginner, etc	Count		Total
			x \$55	