

# 026° TRUE

*District 26*

A UNIT OF UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

SAIL AND POWER BOATING

Beaufort • Charleston • Golden Corner Lakes • Golden Isles • Hilton Head • Lake Hartwell • Lake Murray  
Long Bay • North Strand • Savannah River • Swamp Fox • Thurmond Lake • Tybee Light

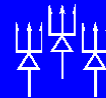
<http://www.usps.org/localusps/d26/>

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May 2010



## A MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT COMMANDER BETTY WALTON, AP



Here it is the latter part of April 2010, which is a "tell-tell" sign that my tenure of office as your Commander is more than half way over. I am happy to report that all squadrons are reporting progress with respect to attaining new members, retaining members this current year and regaining some members who are choosing to reinstate their membership after an absence for varying reasons.

The Spring Conference hosted by Lake Hartwell Sail and Power Squadron in March was one of the best. The fun and fellowship was at an "all time high" and that is the way we want it.

We are all looking forward to the Cruise and Rendezvous in May, which will be hosted by Long Bay Power Squadron. It appears that a fun-packed weekend is planned for us – just fun, no meetings. Hope to see you all there.

In addition to the above activities, also on the calendar is the National Governing Board meeting in late August in Bellevue, WA. Our District Change of Watch in October will be held at Jekyll Island. Do check out the district calendar! I will pass on information as I receive it from squadrons and national and keep the calendar up-to-date.

I feel that I am back in the "loop" now, so address all correspondence for my observation and/or signature to me but continue to copy the District Executive Officer, D/Lt/C Eric Pearson, SN. He and I are still working together to help me catch-up from where I left off in January due to my illness, surgery and recuperation. Thanks again to all the district bridge members for filling in where necessary, and continuing to work towards meeting our goals and objectives. It is such a pleasure working with all of you.

One last "thank you" that I'd like to include in this edition of the *026° True* goes to the Squadron Commanders. All 13 were in attendance at the Spring Conference at Greenville. They had a meeting on Friday preceding the start of the conference. Some of the items that were of great concern to them were presented during the Saturday Council Meeting by their chosen spokesman, CDR Andy Hyman, SN from Lake Murray Sail and Power Squadron. These items will be discussed and acted upon accordingly.



## Executive Department D/Lt/C Eric Pearson, SN



Now that those cold, rainy days of winter are behind us, it is time to get back to boating activities and boating safety. A place for each squadron to start is Co-Op Charting and Vessel Safety Checks. These are two of our most successful member participation programs and both make important contributions to boating safety.

Member participation in Co-Op Charting has made District 26 a leader in USPS. D/26 is ranked number two nationally and in the squadron rankings, Golden Corner Lakes is number two and Lake Murray is number 10. Every squadron can do well in Co-Op Charting, regardless of size. The challenge this year is to get every D/26 squadron on the national Honor Roll. Our Co-Op Charting Chair P/C Ron Lynch, JN, is ready help achieve that goal.

Some of the members who helped make D/26 a leader include Horst Boettge and Ed Zeaser, and last year's chair Lt/C Don Funderburk, SN. Don's outstanding leadership was so good, in fact, that he was presented the Gold Eagle Award at the USPS Annual Meeting. The Golden Eagle is presented to the district Co-Op Charting Chair who has best prepared his/her district during the year for current and future excellence in Cooperative Charting.

Member participation in the Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program has also been very commendable. The VSC program gives us the opportunity to meet and talk one-on-one with the boating public. In 2009, D/26 had 143 Vessel Examiners. They completed 1,384 inspections. That was an average 9.7 per examiner. The USPS average was 14.6 inspections per examiner. The challenge for this year -- let's get up to the USPS average this year. The weather is perfect, so let's get out on our waterways and start inspecting the public's boats.

National Photographer Photo  
From L-R: R/C Horst Boettge, SN,  
PDCC Chair Don Funderburk, SN  
C/C Creighton C. Maynard, SN

Don Funderburk receiving the Golden Eagle Award on 6 February 2010 at the National Awards Ceremony in Orlando.

Annually, the National Cooperative Charting Committee presents the national GOLDEN EAGLE award to the district Cooperative Charting chairman who has best prepared his district during the year for current and future excellence in Cooperative Charting.

***"This is a team effort. I really want to thank everyone that helped make this happen, so please pass the word to all members of every squadron Co-Op Charting team."*** **Don Funderburk**





**Administrative Department**  
**D/Lt/C Bob Boal, SN**



I wasn't able to attend our Spring Conference but from all the stories I hear, it was a great conference. Thanks from me to Jim Wilkins and everyone else from Lake Hartwell who worked hard to make sure that the conference was a success!

Elke and I will be attending the district **Cruise and Rendezvous** at Georgetown, SC. We hope to see you there. The Long Bay Power Squadron membership is putting a super party together. No meetings. Only fun! For more information, go to <http://www.longbayps.org/>.

The district **Fall Conference and Change of Watch** will take place at Jekyll Island, GA. The members of the Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron are already working hard to make sure it is a fun and memorable time for all who attend.

To update you on the district membership, total membership has declined nearly 9% since 2006, and we're down nearly 4% from last year. Our greatest challenge seems to be holding on to members who have been around a couple of years or more. There are facts of life that affect everything we do. Some folks decide they've had enough fun in boating and it's time to move on to something else. Some folks actually move. Of course, this past year was also an economically challenging one for all of us. What to do? Take a moment and look at the USPS Membership page at <http://www.usps.org/national/membership/>. There you'll find a message from V/C Robert Baldridge, SN, our National Administrative Officer plus a host of other material including references regarding recruiting and retention. I don't have many answers but one thing I have noticed is that those who become involved with squadron activities tend to remain on board. Think about it. Are you actively involving your members, especially new members, in squadron activities? We can use all the help we can get, but some of us are having problems getting people to stepping up to the plate and volunteer. I'm not sure what the issue is but, we need to press on.

Recently former USPS members wanted to rejoin and get back into the action. They had been out of USPS for some time. The Operations Manual para 5.25 describes the reinstatement process. **HQ Form 103, Application for Reinstatement**, can be found at <http://www.usps.org/national/hq/forms/HQ103.pdf>. These are the tools you'll need to reinstate former members.

Boating season is here. When you have a squadron boating activity, make record of it as soon as the event is over; don't wait until the end of the year to recall what was or wasn't. I'd like to see all 13 squadrons submit a boating activity report this year. You can find the form on the D/26 website under **Member Info/Forms**. There are new rules so be sure and check them out. Deadline for submission is December 31.

No one needs to work in a vacuum. Have a success story to share? Drop me a line. Who knows, what works for you might also work for others. Let's make 2010 the year D/26 membership improves.

I remember what an "old timer" once told me... "When you find yourself in a hole, stop digging." So let's stop digging and start climbing!



**Educational Department  
D/Lt/C Joe Warren, SN**



By all accounts the Spring Conference was a success. The education seminar for new and existing SEOs was great, thanks to Tim Tate ADEO from Savannah River, Helen Kola, SEO from Hilton Head and P/C Charlie Schuler from North Strand.

During the conference Charlie Shuler, SN was honored as SEO of the year 2009 and awarded the Carol A. McVey Award for Educational Leadership. Charlie did much to get his squadron members to take additional courses and to make available the Public Boating Course for Myrtle Beach residents.

The Prince Henry Award goes to the squadron having the highest percentage of its members passing Advanced Grade Courses in 2009. This year the winner was the Savannah River Squadron. The Wolf – Ewing Award goes to the squadron with the highest percentage of its members passing courses in all areas. The recipient this year was the Golden Isles Squadron. Congratulations to both of these squadrons for a job well done.

Now is the time for the SEOs and Commanders to begin thinking about who they will nominate for the Chapman Award. The names of the nominees must be submitted by 15 June.

This year we are doing something new. Every squadron has at least one instructor that is worthy of being recognized for doing an outstanding job, but not every squadron wants to fill out all the paperwork that is necessary for the instructor to be nominated for the National Award. So, to have your outstanding instructor recognized on the district level, all you have to do is send me an e-mail with the name of the instructor and a short paragraph telling why you feel he or she should be recognized. If you want your instructor to be considered by the review committee for recognition at the national level, you will have to complete all the paperwork, just as you did in the past.

That is all the news for this session. We look forward to seeing you at the Cruise and Rendezvous in Georgetown. Have a good and safe summer on the water. Mark your calendars now for Friday afternoon 15 October so that you can attend the Education Seminar at the District Change of Watch.

**Take a Course – Improve Yourself**



Left: Cdr Barry Sroka, N receives the Prince Henry the Navigator Award on behalf of the Savannah River Squadron from USPS National Representative, V/C Robert Baldrige, SN.



Photo courtesy of R/C Horst Boettge, SN.

Photo courtesy of Lt/C Silvia Tate, P.

Right: Cdr Larry Jefferis, AP accepts the Wolf-Ewing Award on behalf of the Golden Isles Squadron from USPS National Representative, V/C Robert Baldrige, SN. This is the second year in a row for Golden Isles!



**Treasurer's Department**  
**D/Lt/C Bill Woodward, SN**



**THE BOTTOM LINE:** The January, February and March 2010 District 26 Bank Statements balanced with QuickBooks records and the '09 Federal Tax Form has been sent electronically and accepted by the IRS. I trust you got yours in on time also!

Now for this month's revenue thoughts: the last Treasurer's Report ended with "Next time, I'll talk about building a ship (boat) a plank at a time!" OK, so let's talk about it ...

That statement, of course, related to building your squadron's membership (the boat), a plank at a time (with each new member added). I wanted to relate this idea from a structural view point, the concept being that the larger the boat (membership), the more cargo it can easily carry (involvement in community activities, etc.).

I believe you can see the analogy, but why does the Treasurer get involved in membership? 'I thought that came under the Administrative Officer' you may be thinking. If you thought that, you would be correct, but only partially correct! You see, in reality membership comes under ALL of us! And since the boat can't get very far without fuel (funding), the 'Bean Counter' gets involved too. The 'ship' has to be in top running condition (organizational maintenance) and outfitted (funded) for the cruise (the tasks) to be safely completed.

So how **DO** we build the boat/membership? There are many ways and some of our D/26 squadrons have found their keys and their boats are well underway. Some are still looking for their keys. Obviously, asking friends, neighbors and family to a squadron dinner meeting; recruiting them to take the ABC3 safe boating course; asking them to help with a civic endeavor in which the squadron is involved; advertising (but word of mouth works better); and I believe, being seen through squadron participation in community development events is best set of keys!

But these are all well known methods, so why tell us all this again? The reminder comes because it's boating season once again and our 'boat' needs outfitting? Yes, it means we need some fresh fuel/ members! But, there are other ways to build the boat/membership!

I suggest that all squadrons follow the lead of some D/26 squadrons by starting a 'chumming' project! Yes, 'chumming', which can be interpreted as starting recruitment efforts with the minnows at the grade school level. Best yet, you may be able to get funding help for your elementary school or higher level school projects thru the USPS Educational Fund. The URL is: <http://www.usps.org/national/edfund/main.htm>. Read the main page, and then go to the FAQs. Here is one sample question with its answer. However, there are many more ideas on the site.

**9. QUESTION:** Are squadrons and districts eligible for USPS Educational Fund grants?

**ANSWER:** Yes. For example, one grant was awarded to a specific squadron for boat ramp signs promoting safe boating education. Another squadron received a grant to support development of a boating safety education program in cooperation with the public schools in the area.

Other good sources you might want to explore for grants for squadrons and districts are the [BoatUS Foundation](#) and the [National Safe Boating Council](#).

I hope these ideas help with **your** 'fueling' and funding. 'Til next time; remember to be 'penny wise.'



**Secretary's Department  
D/Lt/C Edwin Kridler, SN**



The primary item to report is that P/C Stephen Pietrowicz, SN has volunteered to be a mentor to all D/26 squadrons regarding DB2000. Steve is very knowledgeable about the system and has been doing a large amount of work with DB2000 for Golden Corner Lakes. He will answer most questions the squadrons may have about DB2000. (I'd like to say all questions, but there are probably one or two things he can't answer off the top of his head.) You can contact Steve at 864-972-2701 or [s\\_pietrowiz@bellsouth.net](mailto:s_pietrowiz@bellsouth.net). Steve has also offered to visit squadrons and conduct seminars on DB2000. Thanks, Steve.

Steve and I are trying to keep both the online district directory and the district roster up to date. Be sure and take advantage of these tools when the need arises.

Cindy and I would like to thank the Lake Hartwell squadron for doing a magnificent job hosting the Spring Conference. We are hoping to see many of you at the D/26 Cruise and Rendezvous at Georgetown.



Congratulations to new Life Members Cynthia L. Kridler, AP and Edwin G. Kridler, SN (top), Morgan A. Barnhill, AP (below right) and Stephen Phillips, SN (below left). Also pictured is USPS National Representative, V/C Robert Baldrige, SN, who presented the certificates at the Spring Conference.



Photos courtesy of R/C Horst Boettge, SN.

**026° True**

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Editor: P/C Paula LeMond, P, 205 Rosewood Lane, McCormick, SC 29835

Email: [courneya@wctel.net](mailto:courneya@wctel.net)

**Editorial Deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication**

**AWARDS**  
Presented during the  
Spring Conference, Greenville, SC



Crd Charles Wilsdorf, SN, Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron, accepts the 2009 Commander of the Year Award from USPS National Representative, V/C Robert Baldrige, SN.

Photo courtesy of R/C Horst Boettge, SN.



Crd Charlie Shuler, SN, North Strand Sail and Power Squadron, accepts the 2009 Carol McVey Award for Educational Leadership Award from USPS National Representative, V/C Robert Baldrige, SN.

Photo courtesy of R/C Horst Boettge, SN.

Congratulations  
All 13 District 26 Squadron Newsletters  
and  
The District Newsletter  
Recipients of the  
Distinction in Journalism Award

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Beaufort            | The Beaufort Log      |
| Charleston          | The Palmetto Log      |
| Golden Corner Lakes | Golden Anchor         |
| Hilton Head         | The Ocean Breeze      |
| Golden Isles        | The Port Hole         |
| Lake Hartwell       | The Poinsett Pilot    |
| Lake Murray         | The Log Jam           |
| Long Bay            | Fore 'N' Aft          |
| North Strand        | Scuttlebutt           |
| Savannah River      | The Piedmont Binnacle |
| Swamp Fox           | Fox Tales             |
| Thurmond Lake       | LAKER                 |
| Tybee Light         | The Beacon            |
| District 26         | 026° True             |



Although it was a little long in the delivery, now P/C Audie Holmes, JN, Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron, finally received the 2007 Commander of the Year Award from P/D/C Archie Trawick, SN.

Photo courtesy of Lt/C Silvia Tate, P.

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Email: courneya@wctel.net**



***Coming Events  
2009-2010***

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 14 - 16 May       | District 26 Cruise and Rendezvous<br>Host: Long Bay Power Squadron                            |
| 30 Aug -<br>4 Sep | 2010 National Governing Board<br>Bellevue/Seattle, WA   |
| 15 - 17 Oct       | District 26 Fall Conference and Change of Watch<br>Host: Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron |

**District Bridge**

<b>Commander</b> D/C Betty Walton, AP Email: bettywalton31@gmail.com	Hilton Head Phone: 843-686-6794
<b>Executive Officer</b> D/Lt/C Eric Pearson, SN Email: ericwpearson@sc.rr.com	Lake Murray Phone: 803-256-0490
<b>Educational Officer</b> D/Lt/C Joe Warren, SN Email: lukngd@aol.com	Tybee Light Phone: 912-786-9605
<b>Administrative Officer</b> D/Lt/C Bob Boal, SN Email: nssps@atmc.net	North Strand Phone: 910-575-6958
<b>Secretary</b> D/Lt/C Edwin Kridler, SN Email: ekridler@bellsouth.net	Charleston Phone: 843-762-3986
<b>Treasurer</b> D/Lt/C William Woodward, SN Email: olddrifter@msn.com	Beaufort Phone: 843-838-7501
<b>Assistant Educational Officer</b> D/1 <sup>st</sup> /Lt Tim Tate, AP Email: islandboy1220@bellsouth.net	Savannah River Phone: 803-643-1853

<b>Squadron</b>	<b>Commander</b>	<b>Educational Officer</b>
Beaufort	Ken Wright, AP	John Churnetski, JN
Charleston	Harl Porter, SN	John Meyenburg, AP
Golden Corner	Ben Bee, AP	Ed Lashley, JN
Golden Isles	Larry Jefferis, AP	Audie Holmes, JN
Hilton Head	John Kern, AP	Helen Kola, P
Lake Hartwell	Bert Baxter, AP	Chris Rose, SN
Lake Murray	Andy Hyman, SN	Vicki McGahee, AP
Long Bay	Marcus Shoobe, AP	Bob Wright, JN
North Strand	Jim Tucker, AP	Frank Wiedman, SN
Savannah River	Barry Sroka, N	Paulette Harris-Holmes, JN
Swamp Fox	William Wilkes, SN	Stephen Snipes, S
Thurmond Lake	Dan Higgins, S	Tony Abar, P
Tybee Light	Kevin Quinn, AP	Don Funderburk, SN