

026° TRUE

District 26

A UNIT OF UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

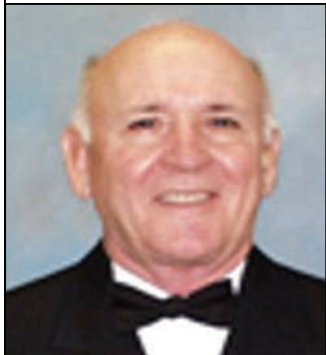
SAIL AND POWER BOATING

**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/>

VOLUME 48, NO. 4

November 2010



A MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT COMMANDER ERIC PEARSON, SN



It is indeed an honor to be elected District Commander for the 2010-2011 Watch Year. I especially appreciate the huge crowd that came to Jekyll Island to kick things off at the D/26 Fall Conference and COW. Cdr Larry Jefferis and every one at Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron put on a heck of a party.

Now it is time to go about our business. In District 26 we will likely find many challenges in the coming year as we try to sustain membership and embrace the many changes within the United States Power Squadrons. But we should go forward with confidence.

My wish is for all members in all squadrons in District 26 to do well. This can happen if we consider attempting three things:

- First, we must be inclusive and stay connected with all of our members. We can accomplish this in many ways and the leadership in each squadron must be committed to finding the means that works in their squadron. We must create an environment that makes each member feel that they are a part of the United States Power Squadrons and that they can contribute for the well being of all, in their own way.
- Second, one way for us to reach out is to utilize on-the-water training. This is a relatively new endeavor for the Power Squadrons, but all of the pieces are now in place for us to move ahead. Some squadrons are already doing on-the-water training and we are learning from their efforts. We need to build on what these squadrons are doing and get all of our squadrons involved.
- Third, we must expand our education programs to the public. Again this is new to us, but we need to press ahead. This is one of the greatest opportunities we have to attract new members and promote safe boating to a much larger audience than we ever have in the past. If we want to be considered number one in boating education, we must serve a broader audience.

To help the squadrons accomplish these three goals, your district leadership will also do three things:

- First, we will improve the way we do conferences. District Conferences are the opportunity for squadron members to gather and share. We will plan conferences that offer more opportunities to share our successes, plans and opportunities. That means more seminars and roundtable discussions and much shorter business sessions. We want to structure our conferences so every member in attendance can find something of value to take back to their squadron.
- Second, we will offer the D/26 Leadership Course. This course will supplement the leadership courses being developed and fielded by our national leadership. As we see more and more of our newest members taking on leadership responsibilities in our squadrons, we feel the need to offer these newest leaders the opportunity to learn about the organization they are to lead.
- Third, we will improve the D/26 Webpage by insuring that it is timely and up-to-date. The Webpage of any organization is a window to the world for its members. All of the information a member may need should never be more than a mouse click or two away. With your help we will provide the best source of information for our members in USPS.

I look forward to visiting each squadron in the coming year as we strive to make boating safer and fun.



Executive Department D/Lt/C Bob Boal, SN



Any district event is a challenge to undertake and I'd like to thank the Golden Isles membership for their hospitality and all of their hard work to make it happen. It was a great conference! Elke and I enjoyed seeing old friends and making new ones. Many thanks again Golden Isles for a job well done! Below is a list of DXO committees and those who have volunteered their time to make it all happen:

Coop Charting	R/C Horst Boettge, SN	Golden Corner Lakes
Legislative	D/Lt Verna Clayton, P	Thurmond Lake
New Sqdn Development	P/C Audie Holmes, JN	Golden Isles
Photographer	P/C Debra Allen, AP	Lake Murray
Asst Photographer	OPEN	
Public Relations	D/Lt Joan McVey, S	North Strand
Safety	OPEN	
Computer Systems	P/D/C Bill Mullin, AP	Long Bay
Vessel Safety Check	P/C Pete Stevenson, AP	Lake Hartwell

Be sure to give these people your support. There are still a couple of positions available. If you think you might be interested, drop me a line. As your new Executive Officer, I'm looking forward to working with you and making 2011 fun and productive.

Boat Operator Certification

Anyone interested in becoming a Certified Boat Operator mark your calendars for **2-3 April 2011**.

We will meet at the Flotilla Island on Lake Murray in Columbia, SC for the on-the-water Boat Certification portion of the Boat Operator Certification Program. We will devote a portion of the morning going over the Start Powerboating Right manual.

We will then venture out on the water where you will be able to demonstrate your boating skills. Some of the maneuvers will be demonstrated before you are asked to do them. You are welcome to bring your own boat. Alternatively, we plan to have some boats available that you can use. You will also be asked to demonstrate putting out a fire with a fire extinguisher.

Please contact your SEO so that he can order the manual and passport for you.

P/D/C Ron Osburn, SN

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Official Publication of District 26

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

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Administrative Department D/Lt/C Edwin Kridler, SN



To the members of the Golden Isles Squadron, thank you for a wonderful weekend at Jekyll Island at the Fall Conference. The vast majority of the squadron members worked together to plan an enjoyable and memorable weekend. The execution of this event shows how a group, working together as a team, can accomplish almost anything. A few years ago one of our Chief Commanders had as a theme "TEAM" - Together Everyone Accomplishes More. This was very evident over the conference weekend. Thank you again.

Also, I'd like to thank the members of D/26 for electing me as your Administrative Officer for the coming year. This year there are several things this department will be stressing. This is not to say that all of the department activities are not important, they all are. But we will be emphasizing membership, leadership, and many of the benefits available to our members. We have a very good team working in this department this year, and I'd like to thank everyone who has volunteered to work in this area. We can always use more help, so if you would like something to do to occupy your time, please let me know and we'll put you to work.

We are continuing a program we started this past year, taking leadership development to the squadrons. We have had some success with this and would like to invite more squadrons to offer this program to their members. The program is not intended to teach anyone to be a leader. Rather, its intent is to provide a few ideas and concepts to enhance the leadership qualities your squadron leaders now possess. Please note that this program is different than the D/26 Leadership Academy being planned by our commander, D/C Eric Pearson, SN. You will be hearing more about this program from Eric. Please take advantage of both of these programs.

We are looking forward to the D/26 Spring Conference which is being hosted by Hilton Head. The squadron members are well underway with the planning for this event. It promises to be a fun and educational weekend. See you there.



Photos from the
**District 26
Change of Watch**
Courtesy of
P/C Debra Allen, AP
and
Lt/C Linda Mahoney, S





Educational Department D/Lt/C Joe Warren, SN



We had a great time in Jekyll and gave out a bunch of Education Awards which was fun and satisfying for me. We had 12 of the 13 squadrons nominate one of their instructors for the Chapman Award:

Charleston - David Walsh, SN
 Golden Corners - Steve Pietrowicz, SN
 Golden Isles - Larry Jefferies, AP
 Hilton Head - Dick Earler, AP
 Lake Hartwell - Ray Fedele, SN
 Lake Murray - Jim Rakes, SN
 Long Bay - Larry Byrd, SN
 North Strand - Rodger Lesnewski, SN
 Savannah River - Ed Leibfarth, SN
 Swamp Fox - Bill Wilkes, N
 Thurmond Lake - Bill O'Neill, SN
 Tybee Light - Dave Sapp, AP

Congratulations to each of you for being outstanding instructors in your squadrons.

We also gave out Education Achievement Awards to:

Barry Sroka, SN - Savannah River
 Rodger Lesnewski, SN - North Strand
 Thomas Hurley, SN - Beaufort
 Bill Wilkes, SN - Swamp Fox
 Nelson Hicks, SN - Charleston
 Elaine Price, SN, - Lake Murray
 David Price, SN, - Lake Murray
 Lee Ayers, SN, - Lake Murray
 Tony Dodson, SN, - Lake Murray
 Michael Verdone, SN - Lake Murray

From the Governing Board meeting in September we have the following information:

- Any person taking the ABC course starting 1 Dec 2010 will automatically get a six month membership in USPS.
- USPS is starting a pilot program with 60 Brunswick Boat Dealers across the USA . They will become members of USPS and we will educate their customers with the hope of getting many new members and teaching many courses.
- We are now using ROSE POINT Navigation in place of MAPQUEST.
- ABC was recently updated with only a very few changes. AP is being updated. M.E. is two thirds finished with Electrical Navigation is still under development.
- All members teaching the ABC course to the public must be certified. If the certificate is expired, the instructor certification must be renewed.

Now is the time, with the boating season coming to a close, to emphasis offering courses to our members. I hope you all have a full schedule of courses for the coming months and encourage your members to take at least one course.

Wishing you all the best for the holidays.



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



THE BOTTOM LINE: The combined HQAB and New Active Member income for FY '10 was \$9,565.00. Since this year's Renewal income was down **(-\$522.50)**, but New Member income was up **\$442.50**, the net income loss from Active memberships was just **(-\$80.00)**.

This equates to a loss of **11** dues paying members for the fiscal year. Thus, the total D/26 income from paying Active Members equates to 1275.

Budget: At the Fall Council/Conference meeting on Jekyll Island, GA, a new Budget for FY 2011 was presented for consideration and passed. In keeping with the economic times, a leaner budget was adopted with the total being reduced by 5.7% to an even \$10,000.00 for this coming fiscal year (1 Nov – 31 Oct).

Education Fund: Three Education Fund '100% Participation' Certificates for the year 2009 were presented at the Fall Conference. Due to some confusion these certificates were a bit late being received, but better late than never. So congratulations to the Charleston and Long Bay Squadrons for 100% of their memberships contributing to the National Education Fund. (Check details regarding this very worthwhile USPS education supporting fund on the USPS Website). What about the 3rd certificate presented you say? Well, because these two squadrons moved into the 100% contributing column, all 13 squadrons became 100% contributors so D/26 also received a District 100% Certificate, thus a third 100% Certificate was presented!

USPS Boating Activities Liability Insurance: On Friday the 15th at the Jekyll Island meeting, a round table discussion of the USPS Liability Insurance coverage was held. Its purpose was to relate current information regarding all coverage but in particular, the Liability Coverage of all national, district, and squadron instructors and inspectors when teaching USPS course materials either in the classroom or on-the-water, or when conducting Vessel Safety Checks or performing Co-op Charting activities.

After due diligence, including many conversations with National Treasurer V/C Richard Peoples, SN; the D/26 Law Officer Stf/Cdr David Allen, SN, (who is himself a member of the National Law Committee); plus talks with D/Lt Don Funderburk, SN, who chairs the District's Boat Operator Certification Team; and talks with Mary Diaz our contact at the Gowrie Insurance Co., it is clear that individuals (public or USPS members), officially enrolled in a class or participating in a scheduled USPS, district or squadron event; and all instructors teaching USPS course materials and those persons conducting other duties such as VSCs or Co-op Charting projects, no matter their location, **are covered** by USPS Liability Insurance **IF** all of the following prerequisite requirements are met:

1. The course/seminar/event is officially sanctioned and scheduled by the squadron or district and approved by the EXCOM.
2. The material used in the course/seminar/event is current and is official USPS originated information.
3. The lead instructor is currently certified. (ID course classroom; BOC certified for on-the-water).
4. The boat (if used) has been Coast Guard (VSC) safety checked and it displays a current Vessel Safety Checked Inspection decal.
5. All boat owners participating in an event must have insurance in-force and provide their insurance information to the squadron.
6. Anyone not a member of the USPS must be a registered 'official' participant in the scheduled course/seminar/event.
7. Any boat of a non-member that is to be used must meet all of the same member safety inspection and insurance in-force requirements, and that information must have been provided to the squadron (district) prior to its use.

The complete USPS Liability Insurance program package through the *CHUBB Insurance Group* can be read on the USPS Website by going to: www.usps.org. Click "Site Index" then, at bottom of left column, click "Insurance Information". Finally, select "[Insurance Summary \(pdf\)](#)" for policy information. It's suggested that the other three items listed also be read as well. You may check further with Mary Diaz, our insurance program coordinator at **Gowrie, Barden & Brett** (800) 262-8911.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New 2011. Remember, it's ... "Penny wise, not pound foolish!"
Thanks from your 2010 returning for one more year Treasurer.



Secretary's Department D/Lt/C Paula LeMond, P



First, I'd like to thank the members of District 26 for electing me as your District Secretary. I will try to maintain the high standards of those who served before me. The Fall Council, Conference and Change of Watch went very well. Many thanks to the members of Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron for all the time and effort they contributed to make the event the success that it was.

This issue of the **026° TRUE** is the first produced by our new editor, P/C Mickey Basch, S. During the upcoming year if your squadron has some event that you'd like to tell the other squadrons about in the next district newsletter, please send the information and pictures to Mickey. (Contact information is on the back page.) She'll do her best to include it.

Squadron Newsletter Editors, the awards program for publications and websites has changed.



There is one award for both categories. It recognizes the publications and websites that meet or exceed the defined award criteria. Please go to the Publications Committee page on the national website and review the requirements for the "Distinctive Communicator Award." You also have an additional source for information. Lt/C Barbara Pearson, AP is the Publications Chair for the District. She also serves on the national Publication's Committee as a Publication Advisor for squadrons in District 9. Barbara is extremely qualified and will be happy to provide

advice and assistance. You can email Barbara at barbarampearson@sc.rr.com. Thank you, Barbara, for helping us out this year.

Please remember that Squadron Historian Reports are due by the end of the year. If you have questions or need help, please contact our District Historian, Lt/C Bob Gulbrandsen. He can be reached at morningstar804@msn.com. I also wish to thank Bob for agreeing to serve the district in this capacity again this watch year. He brings a lot of knowledge and experience to the position.

The holidays will be here soon. I'd like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe season.



Photos from the
**District 26
Change of Watch**
Courtesy of
P/C Debra Allen, AP
and
Lt/C Linda Mahoney, S



New Friends with Shared Interests

The Thurmond Lake squadron invited the Golden Corner Lakes squadron to their annual on the water scavenger hunt. The hunt had several pages of items required to be found around the lake and, once found, the seeking boat had to take a digital photo of the object. The hints were in some cases obvious. In some cases one needed to use imagination and, for a few, local Thurmond Lake knowledge was required. The hunt was a timed event requiring a boat to leave from a starting line and return to a picnic pavilion and sandy beach for a catered lunch.

Lake Thurmond squadron members were gracious hosts. They provided the seventeen Golden Corner members with pontoon boats manned by local members. Eight boats took to the water with plenty of chatter as everyone made new acquaintances. The weather was very overcast and the forecasts called for rain in the morning and early afternoon. Judging from the clamor of the start no one really was overly anxious about the weather and the majority were honing their competitive spirits.

The predicted weather delivered as promised. Most boats continued on task even though most participants were getting soaked and arrived at lunch with not a bit of dry clothing on their backs. The catered meal was excellent and everyone had their fill. The pavilion was overcrowded and several brave souls sat outside after the weather had a clear spot. The noise from the pavilion was deafening with excited tales of discovery, misery and a sense of adventure. You could hear many a participant exclaiming that the weather had contributed to a lifelong memory of an event shared by two squadrons of District 26.

The hunt had a maximum of 500 points to be accumulated by the winning team. During lunch most participants compared notes of what was found and how some of the required objects were photographed. One boat crew was quite imaginative by going ashore finding a dog and putting a life vest on it before taking the photo. You do what you have to do. The requirement was a photo of a non-human with a life vest. Another team discussed how to get 100 points for a picture of a manatee next to the boat. The solution was quite unique. Since a manatee in the water next to the boat would look like the back of a human with the human floating while holding his knees. (Is this a survival float position?) This idea, though worthy of consideration, was quickly rejected. Manatee are only found in salt waters off the coast of Florida. The winning boat accumulated 320 points. Second place was shared by two boats. What a wonderful event and what memories.

The Golden Corner Lakes Commander, Ben Bee, invited the Thurmond Lake squadron to Lake Hartwell for the fall colors cruise and a resounding acceptance was heard from the Thurmond Lake members.

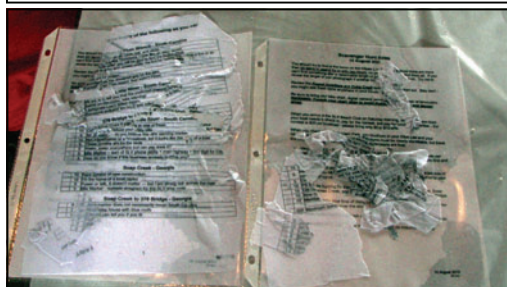
Lt/C John Ozols, AP, Golden Corner Lakes

Thurmond Lake and Golden Corner Lakes Participate in a Joint Fall Color Cruise

Twelve brave Thurmond Lake squadron members ignored the cold and joined about 20 Golden Corner Lakes squadron members on their boats for a two hour cruise. As I recall there were about six boats in all. Some were fully canvassed cruisers while others were totally open. It was a beautiful day but the temperature was in the low 40s at the start. The fall foliage was perfect.

Excellent hot chocolate was served to all from Cdr Ben Bee's boat. Some of the beverage was spiked with whiskey and the drink was named Hartwell Hot Chocolate. The air temperature seemed warmer. After the cruise we all went to the Spotted Pig for lunch, nearly filling the place. The food was great and new friends were made by everyone. As with the rain at our Scavenger Hunt, the chill on Hartwell was all but forgotten. In a word or two, it was a SUPER OUTING.

Cdr Dan Higgins, S, Thurmond Lake



Above:
So much reading for the clues!
Photo courtesy of Lt Carole LaPonte, P,
Thurmond Lake

Below:
Oh, my! What a lot of wind and rain.
Photo courtesy of Lt Carole LaPonte, P,
Thurmond Lake



Above:
Nourishment, fellowship and
lots of smiles.
Photo courtesy of Lt Carole LaPonte, P,
Thurmond Lake

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**Coming Events
2010 – 2011**

18 Nov	Change of Watch Golden Corner Lakes Sail & Power Squadron
19 Nov	Change of Watch Savannah River Sail & Power Squadron Lake Hartwell Sail & Power Squadron
20 Nov	Change of Watch Golden Isles Sail & Power Squadron
17 Dec	Change of Watch Tybee Light Power Squadron
31 Dec	Boating Activities Report Due 2011
8 Jan	Change of Watch Swamp Fox Sail & Power Squadron
31 Jan - 5 Feb	USPS Annual Meeting, Disney Coronado Springs Resort, Lake Buena Vista, FL
11-12 Mar	D/26 Spring Conference, Hilton Head, SC, Host: Hilton Head Sail & Power Squadron
13-15 May	D/26 Cruise & Rendezvous, Host: Thurmond Lake Sail & Power Squadron
21-27 May	National Safe Boating Week

District Bridge

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

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