

026° TRUE

District 26

A UNIT OF UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

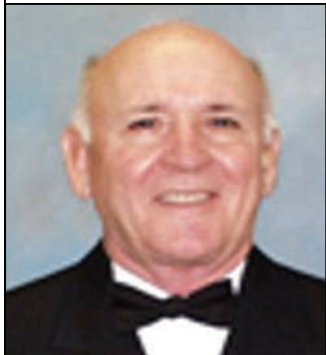
SAIL AND POWER BOATING

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 49, NO. 1

February 2011



A MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT COMMANDER ERIC PEARSON, SN



This winter weather is really making me look forward to the Spring Conference, with special interest in "spring" and the promise of more moderate temperatures. When we gather in Hilton Head we will hear from the Planning Committee on one of the most difficult issues facing District 26: what should we do with our dues structure? Our present dues schedule is pretty simple: active and additional active members pay \$7.50 a year while family members pay nothing. This has worked well for at least as long as I have been a member, but this will change in 2012.

Some observers may say the dues landscape was altered when the Governing Board approved changes to the United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) Bylaws in September in Seattle. This action was just the final step in a process that began several years ago. The first step was taken when USPS instituted Headquarters Annual Billing (HQAB). The thrust of this change was that members pay all of their dues -- national, district and squadron -- to USPS headquarters instead of their squadron treasurers. USPS in turn deposits squadron and district dues into each unit's bank account. This is a very good system with many good features such as credit card payments and online renewals. HQAB also relieves squadron and district treasurers of a lot of bookkeeping. HQAB began as a voluntary program and its advantages soon won almost universal acceptance. A key element in HQAB is the information treasurers provide to headquarters each year. Treasurers fill out a form directing headquarters to bill each active member so much, each additional active member so much and each family member so much for billing purpose. Each membership category has its own unique code in the national billing system.

The next step in the changing dues landscape came a few years ago when USPS introduced the family unit dues structure. Previously, USPS billed national dues based on membership category. Under the family unit structure, an individual active member pays a fixed amount in national dues. If an active member has other members in his/her household, the dues are one and a half the normal dues and include everybody in that household, whether it is one, two or eight. Additional active and family members, however, could still be billed at rates set by each squadron and district. This changed in September when the Governing Board essentially eliminated the family member category. As a result, on that day, every one in USPS became an active member. This changed nothing in national dues billing since individual members still pay their rate and households with more than one member still pay one-and-a-half the individual rate. So what happens to district and squadron dues in District 26? Nothing in the coming year but things will be different after May 2012. After that the billing systems at National Headquarters will only recognize individual memberships and family unit memberships for dues purposes. Thus squadrons and districts will be unable to bill active, additional active and family members at different rates. For example, the D/26 Treasurer will be unable to bill a household with an active and an additional active member \$7.50 each. A household with one active and a family member will no longer be billed \$7.50. And it only gets more complicated in squadrons that now bill family members at a lower rate than active members. So what should we do? We must change, and whatever changes we come up with will unlikely satisfy everyone. Our D/26 Planning Committee is studying the issue and will have a report at the spring conference so we can begin making this transition. We must decide what course to take at the Fall Conference.

I look forward to seeing and talking with your squadron's delegates in Hilton Head.



Executive Department D/Lt/C Bob Boal, SN



The 2011 boating season is about to start. Have you thought about a Vessel Safety Check (VSC) this year for your boat? It doesn't cost a thing except a few minutes of your time and it's in the best interest of your passengers, your first mate and you. Get in touch with your VSC Chairman now to schedule your checkup.

There were a lot of boating accidents in South Carolina last year. Our fatality rate was more than double the number we experienced in 2009. Nearly 70% of the fatalities were due to drowning. The simple fact is that people drown because their face is under water too long and life jackets or PFDs can help prevent that. Do you wear one while on the water? Several folks have told me they don't need one because they know how to swim. When's the last time you tried to swim after falling off a boat into the water? The bad thing about not wearing a PFD is that it's usually hard to find when you really need it and it's even harder to get on if you happen to be in a hurry.

One thing noted about South Carolina that differs from our neighbors to the north: North Carolina requires all boat operators under the age of 26 to have taken a boating safety course. Just because South Carolina doesn't require a boating safety course is no reason why we can't keep beating the drums. Our ABC3 course is not only a source of new members, it also helps make our waterways a safer and more enjoyable environment.

With the boating season just around the corner, it's time to be thinking about getting back into the groove with CoOp Charting. Accurate charts are our lifeline to a safe journey. Why not start planning some CoOp Charting adventures for 2011?

Finally, the United States Power Squadron's Annual Meeting in Orlando is just around the corner and our very own District 26 Spring Conference at Hilton Head is coming up in March. Check out the information on our website and download a Hilton Head registration form for your convenience. Hope to see you there!



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



I'm not sure where 2010 went, but here we are, well into 2011 and looking forward to the Spring Conference on Hilton Head Island. Attendees will have the opportunity to see old friends and make new ones from around the district. I encourage you to attend this enjoyable and informative weekend.

Thanks to District Historian Robert Gulbrandsen our District Historian's Report has been filed with national. An additional thank you goes to all squadron historians who completed your squadron report. However, please remember to start the data gathering now, as the year progresses. It will make next year's report much easier.

I am asking every squadron secretary (or whomever else is responsible) to PLEASE keep your squadron's DB2000 database accurate. The data from DB2000 is used by many of your district officers and form the basis for the district newsletter mailing list.

The District Directory has been posted on the district website. This directory is available for use by all members of the district. Your squadron commander has the password needed to access the directory. I won't list all the information contained in the directory, but it includes the names of all the district officers and committee members, and the name of every officer from every squadron. It is a good source of information.

Hope to see you on Hilton Head Island.



**Administrative Department
D/Lt/C Edwin Kridler, SN**



Many thanks are due to D/Lt/C Paula LeMond, P and D/Lt Joe Scirica, S for posting the new district directory on our website. The directory contains a considerable amount of information on who is doing what in District 26.

I have two additions to the directory under the Administration Department:

Assistant Chair, Boating Activities: P/C Richard Howells, JN Charleston

Assistant Chair, Leadership Development: D/F/Lt Andy Hyman, SN Lake Murray

We need more of our members to complete the Leadership Development Course. There is a great deal of information in this course that would help our present and future squadron leaders. We will travel to your squadron and conduct the training course. There is no charge for the course, and there is no homework and no examination. The only requirement is a few hours of your time. Please contact either Andy Hyman or me if you are interested.

Another course that should be taken by all squadron officers and which is very helpful to all of our members is the Operations Training Course. This course teaches you about the organizational structure of the national, district and squadrons in USPS. There are many other subjects included in the course as well. I would encourage you to attend this course when it is offered by your squadron. Also, you can contact your squadron's Administrative Officer to find out when your squadron plans to offer the course.

The USPS Annual Meeting is coming up in Orlando, FL, 1 – 6 February. There are many events taking place during this time that would be of interest to our members and squadron officers. I hope to see many of you there.

The D/26 Spring Conference is scheduled for 11 – 13 March in Hilton Head. There will be many interesting and educational events that will be of interest to our members. I look forward to seeing many of you there. I also hope to see all of our squadron officers attending.

**CALL FOR DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCE
12 March 2011**

To: All members of USPS District 26

From: D/Lt/C Paula LeMond, P, District Secretary

Subject: 2011 Spring Conference

When: Saturday, 12 March 2011

Where: Holiday Inn, 1 S. Forest Beach Rd., Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Time: 0800-0930 Registration
1035 Call to Order

Agenda: To be announced

Uniform:

Conference: Blazer with polo shirt or open neck dress shirt
Banquet: Uniform A with bow tie or other appropriate attire



Educational Department D/Lt/C Joe Warren, SN



Let me encourage all SEOs and ASEO's to attend the Spring Conference in Hilton Head. We are going to have a two hour seminar on the Boat Operators Certification (BOC) program, an update regarding events at the National Annual Meeting and a "Q and A" session for all those interested in education. THIS TWO HOUR SESSION WILL BE HELD AT 0830 ON SATURDAY MORNING. This is before the beginning of the Conference, which begins at 1035. I WILL SEND INFORMATION TO ALL SEOs BEFORE THE MEETING, INCLUDING OUR AGENDA.

To give you an update on the Boat Operators Certification program, here is some information from ADEO Tim Tate. The Boat Operators Certification is gaining momentum. Over 500 participants have started Inland Navigator (IN), the first of the two released levels of the four level program. The Golden Corner Lakes Sail and Power Squadron has been very active getting IN Certifiers and IN Navigators certified. The second level, Coastal Navigator (CN) was released at the 2010 Fall Governing Board and already scores of members have signed up to take the new CN certification. The new CN Candidate Kit will be available from USPS headquarters through your SEO. Included in the new CN Kit is a hand bearing compass along with the CN Guide Book and the CN Passport. Several D/26 members helped review the new CN training material as well as the revised IN material and Certifiers Manual. Our thanks to the following for their input:

- Lt/C Larry Byrd, SN (Long Bay)
- 1st/Lt Dave Ecklund, SN (Savannah River)
- P/C Ray Fedele, SN (Lake Hartwell)
- Cdr John Kern, AP (Hilton Head)
- LT/C Chris Rose, SN (Lake Hartwell)
- P/C Paul Soucy, AP (Long Bay)
- P/C Barry Sroka, SN (Savannah River)
- P/C Pete Stevenson, AP (Lake Hartwell)
- P/C Charles Wilsdorf, SN (Golden Isles)

The Southeast Regional Director has appointed P/D/C Ron Osburn, SN as her Assistant Regional Director for D/26. Ron will help her handle the anticipated increase in BOC activity. P/Lt/C Don Funderburk, SN (Tybee Light) has joined the National BOC Committee and has done a yeoman's job getting the program revised and helping with numerous related tasks.

The new training program for IN and CN Certifier Trainers (formerly Master Certifiers) will go through its final beta test in the Pacific Northwest. It then will be rolled out in the Southeast region, including D/26, in early March.

Following the Southeast regional training course, D/26 will have several IN and CN Certifier Trainers available to train other Certifiers. The district plans to train IN and CN Certifiers as we go through 2011 so each participating squadron will have Certifiers to take candidates out on the water for certification. The first of such training is scheduled for Lake Murray on the first weekend in April. Contact Ron Osburn or Don Funderburk for more information.

Finally, changes are taking place in the BOC-On The Water Training Committee leadership, including the addition of a second staff commander. The new officer is our own ADEO Tim Tate, AP and he will be responsible for the committee logistics and the updating of the BOC manuals. The next two BOC levels (Advanced Coastal and Offshore) are now beginning development, although no introduction date has been announced.

So, if you have no certification, now is the time to sign up for the IN Certification. If you have your IN Certification, sign up for Coastal Navigator. If you are interested in being a Certifier, have your SEO recommend you for the position and notify Ron Osburn. Ron can provide the details and the form!

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**Official Publication of District 26
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®**

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Email: baschjm@yahoo.com

Editorial Deadline: 15th of the month prior to publication



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



THE BOTTOM LINE: During the Fall Conference the Audit Committee reviewed the Treasurer's books for fiscal year 2010. They later reported that 'all was in good order'. The Committee did suggest that if the two open BB&T accounts were not required by the bank (one to provide overdraft protection), it would be more efficient to have only one account. Bank personnel said that the second account was not required. Therefore the funds from the second account were rolled into the checking account. Later a check was written to SCBT to bring that account to \$3000 per the approved 2011 budget. This will cover conference contingencies that may arise.

Educational Fund: It's once again time for squadron treasurers to submit their squadron's Dues Assessment Form to HQ for the 2012 Membership Year. I trust that all squadrons will agree to donate \$1.00 or more per member to the National Educational Trust Fund. The easiest and surest way to accomplish this is to add the donation to the bottom of the Dues Assessment Form. This way each member will have their donation added to the HQAB invoice they receive for their annual dues. The Educational Trust Fund does many good things related to the USPS goal of boating safety through education. You may check it out further on the website at www.usps.org by selecting Site Index and then the Educational Fund. Let's be sure that all squadrons and the district are 100% fund donors.

US Taxes, tax deductions and non-profit organizations: It's 'T' time again. No not a 'Tee' time like in golf; or a 'Tea' time like in the afternoon with the neighbors; nor a 'Tea' Party event. It is 'T' for Tax time. I'm sure most of you realize that the USPS is a 'not for profit' tax exempt organization under the Federal Tax Code Section 501(c) (3). This allows you to deduct (if you itemize deductions) many contributions made to all levels of the organization (National, District, and Squadron). Since this includes many things, the following is excerpted from the USPS Treasurer's Manual, which is available for you to view on the USPS Website under Treasurer's Department.

T.22.7 Tax Deductions for Officers and Members - A person who performs services or incurs expenses on behalf of an organization that is tax-exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code may deduct certain expenses as a charitable contribution on his Federal Income Tax return. One must itemize deductions to take advantage of these contributions.

The value of personal services is not deductible, but unreimbursed expenses incurred in performing the services may be deducted. Acting in an official capacity for a 501(c) (3) organization qualifies as rendering services to the organization. Serving as an officer or delegate, an instructor or proctor in an educational course, or participating in public service activities such as cooperative charting are examples of service to the organization. Officers and delegates may deduct transportation expenses to meetings and other activities. Personal auto use may be deducted. Be sure to check current IRS instructions for Form 1040, Schedule A for the latest rate. Items such as depreciation or insurance cannot be deducted. Members participating in cooperative charting cruises may deduct boat operating expenses. Officers and delegates may deduct travel expenses such as lodging and half of meal costs, when a member is away from home overnight on behalf of the organization. The cost of uniforms is deductible. Dues paid to USPS are deductible, less the \$10 value of *The Ensign*.

In addition to the above, members may deduct the expenses of operating a boat on a cruise or predicted log race for instructional purposes, as well as the expenses of operating a boat (no allowance for depreciation or repairs) in connection with a class or course, such as when demonstrating buoys, anchoring techniques, laying out and following courses, cooperative charting and safety instructions. Your USPS expenses are deductible as charitable contributions and should be shown as part of your charitable deductions on IRS 1040. You should keep good documentation, as you would for any other charitable contribution. IRS Publication 526 is a valuable asset relating to Charitable Contribution.

In summary, officers, delegates, instructors, and members may deduct the cost of attending a meeting at which they perform official duties. Members who are not officers may deduct only the expenses for public services, such as teaching our public courses. You should always consult a tax advisor to determine how these laws affect your personal situation.

I hope this excerpt gives you some ideas about how you may be able to reduce your itemized Federal 2010 Taxes. Have a Prosperous 2011 year ... Remember, it's ... "Penny wise, not pound foolish!"

2011 District 26 Spring Cruise and Rendezvous

The Spring Cruise and Rendezvous will be hosted by Thurmond Lake Sail and Power Squadron (TLS&PS) on 13-15 May 2011. The boating activities will take place on beautiful Thurmond Lake, the largest U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' lake east of the Mississippi. Each year millions of people utilize the many public parks, marinas, and campgrounds conveniently located around the lake to pursue a variety of outdoor recreational experiences. The lake is created by Thurmond Dam, which is located on the Savannah River 22 miles above Augusta, GA. The lake extends 39.4 miles up the Savannah River. At normal pool elevation, Thurmond Lake comprises nearly 71,100 acres of water with a shoreline of 1200 miles. You can read more about the lake and dam at <http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/thurmond/index.htm>.

A block of rooms have been set aside at Hickory Knob State Park Resort at a cost of \$73.00 plus tax. Reservations can be made by calling the resort at 864-391-2450. Additional lodging will be available on a first come basis at the homes of TLS&PS members. Please contact P/C Mickey Basch at 864-391-8026 or e-mail baschjm@yahoo.com for availability.

The Friday night dinner will be served at the Savannah Lakes Village (SLV) Activity Center. Boneless Short Ribs or Crab Stuffed Grouper will be served. A cash bar will be available. Piano music will be provided during dinner. After dinner we will relax and have some fun singing and dancing to karaoke and music.

On **Saturday morning breakfast** can be obtained at Hickory Knob Resort State Park or at one of the two Savannah Lakes Village Golf Club Restaurants.

After breakfast there are **several tours** to choose from: a tour of the **Thurmond Dam**, the **Wild Turkey Federation Museum**, or the **McCormick Gold Mine**. After your tour of one of the facilities, lunch will be on your own. For those seeking a quieter morning there will be a **bocce ball** tournament at the SLV Activity Center.

On Saturday afternoon, we will embark on a **17 mile cruise from SLV up the Savannah River to Thurmond Dam**, and then continue up the GA Little River to the Pointes West Recreation Area for a catered picnic dinner. Finally, there will be a sunset cruise home. This event is also a squadron outing. Every attendee who does not trailer their own boat will be a guest on TLS&PS squadron member's boat. Be sure to bring your swim suit, comfortable clothes and sunscreen!

A **complementary brunch** will be served on Sunday morning at the home of P/C Paula LeMond. We have already received several requests for the opportunity to play a round of golf on Sunday. If you wish to play, please write a note to that effect on your registration form and we will contact you with times, fees and local course options.

Planning on trailoring your boat to the event? There is a place for you to indicate you are bringing your boat on the registration form. Please check all that apply and return the form as soon as possible. The marina at the Savannah Lakes Resort is privately owned. It has very few slips with both electricity and water available at this time. We will fill them on a first come basis. In addition to these slips Thurmond Lake squadron members will provide docking free at their private docks, most of which are on the either the Savannah or the SC Little River. These private slips have electrical power but no water hook-up. We will work to accommodate everyone who wishes to trailer a boat to this event. Let us know your specific needs and we will work with you. Boat launch locations, slip locations and other necessary information will be sent to you well in advance.

The Squadron can provide **GPS overlays** of Thurmond Lake for Garmin, Lowrance, and Magellan units for those bringing boats. These overlays provide information on the U.S. Army Corps Buoy and danger markers on the lake. Contact P/C Carl A Dearmin, JN, our Port Captain, at 864 391-4300.

Questions? Call or email either Gary Venz at 864-391-3591, bvenz@wctel.net, Mickey Basch at 864-391-8026, baschjm@yahoo.com or Paula LeMond at 864-391-3051, courneya@wctel.net. We look forward to seeing you in May!

Executive Officer, Lt/C Gary Venz, S
Thurmond Lake Sail and Power Squadron



DISTRICT 26 CRUISE and RENDEZVOUS
13-15 May 2011



Host: Thurmond Lake Sail and Power Squadron, McCormick, SC

Member Last Name First Name Rank Grade Squadron

Last Name (2nd Member or Guest) First Name Rank Grade Squadron

Address City State Zip Telephone

Email Address(es) — Required if bringing your own boat.

FOR THE CRUISE:

- Please arrange for me (us) to be a guest on a Thurmond Lake member's boat # _____
- I will bring my own boat
- I will need a slip with electricity
- I will need a slip with water and electricity

Friday 13 May 11

1500 – 1830	Registration, Savannah Lakes Village Activity Center	Number @ Price	Total
1700 – 1830	Cash Bar at Savannah Lakes Village Activity Center		
1830 – 2000	Dinner, Savannah Lakes Village Activity Center (Cash Bar)	_____ @ \$32	_____
2000 – 2200	Karaoke Entertainment (Included with Dinner)		

Saturday 14 May 11

0800 – 0900	Breakfast on your own		
0800 – 0900	Registration, Savannah Lakes Village Activity Center		
0900 – 1200	Tours or Bocce Tournament		
1230 – 1330	Lunch on your own		
1400 – 1600	Cruise		
1800 – 1930	Picnic Dinner	_____ @ \$15	_____
1930 – 2100	Cruise Home		

Sunday 15 June 11

0900 – 1100	Brunch	_____ Complimentary
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Activities Total: _____

**Mail this Registration Form and a (non-refundable) check payable to
 Thurmond Lake Sail and Power Squadron**

To: Lt/C Gary Venz 111 Stonebridge Loop McCormick SC 29835
Questions? Phone Gary at 864-391-3591 or email to bvenz@wctel.net
DEADLINE: 1 MAY 2011 FOR HOTEL and ACTIVITIES

Please indicate which Saturday morning tour or activity you will attend and number of guests:

Thurmond Dam Tour _____ McCormick Gold Mine Tour _____ (Cost \$3.00 pp)

Wild Turkey Federation Tour _____ Bocce Ball Tournament _____ (Cost \$3.50 pp)

USPS DISTRICT 26 Cruise & Rendezvous
HOTEL RESERVATION/LODGING INFORMATION
Hickory Knob State Park Resort \$73.00+Tax
Lodge Phone 864-391-2450

**Regarding Lodging at TLS&PS members' homes contact
 Mickey Basch 864-391-8026 or baschjm@yahoo.com**

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***Coming Events
2011***

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
14-18 Sept	National Governing Board Greensboro, NC
7-9 Oct	Fall Conference and Change of Watch North Strand Sail & Power Squadron

District Bridge

Commander D/C Eric Pearson, SN Email: ericwp321@att.net	Lake Murray Phone: 803-256-0490
Executive Officer D/Lt/C Bob Boal, SN Email: nssps@atmc.net	North Strand Phone: 910-575-6958
Educational Officer D/Lt/C Joe Warren, SN Email: lukngd@aol.com	Tybee Light Phone: 912-786-9605
Administrative Officer D/Lt/C Edwin Kridler, SN Email: ekridler@bellsouth.net	Charleston Phone: 843-762-3986
Secretary D/Lt/C Paula LeMond Email: courneya@wctel.net	Thurmond Lake Phone: 864-391-3051
Treasurer D/Lt/C William Woodward, SN Email: olddrifter@msn.com	Beaufort Phone: 843-838-7501
Assistant Educational Officer D/1 st /Lt Tim Tate, AP Email: islandboy1220@bellsouth.net	Savannah River Phone: 803-643-1853

Squadron	Commander	Educational Officer
Beaufort	Kent Easty, AP	John L. Churnetski, N
Charleston	Joseph W. Schady, AP	John Meyenberg, AP
Golden Corner	John Ozols, AP	Ed Lashley, SN
Golden Isles	Larry Jefferis, AP	Charles Wilsdorf, SN
Hilton Head	John Kern, AP	Leslie P. H. Gilroy, P
Lake Hartwell	Jim Wilkins, S	Chris Rose, SN
Lake Murray	Lee Ayers, SN	Stan Godfrey, S
Long Bay	Rich Gienopie, P	Marc Shoobe, AP
North Strand	Ken Delson, AP	George Boyette, AP
Savannah River	Moses A. McIntosh, Jr., P	Paulette P. Harris-Holmes, JN
Swamp Fox	Robert M. Henegar, N	William Wilkes, SN
Thurmond Lake	Gene Graziano, S	Tony Abar, P
Tybee Light	Jan Wright, AP	Charlie Ross, AP