



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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A MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT COMMANDER RONALD OSBURN, SN



Thank you, Lake Murray Sail and Power Squadron, for a wonderful Fall Conference and Change of Watch on the beautiful USC campus. I really appreciate your stepping up to the plate when it was not your turn. Barb and I have many good memories of my Change of Watch because of your efforts.

My theme this year is to take District 26 into the electronic age. However, after reviewing the district schedule, I find many other things that also need the attention of the bridge. We need to update our by-laws and bring them in line with the USPS model by-laws. The district's five year plan has expired and I have asked the planning committee to revise and update it. The bridge will develop a to-do list to help incoming squadron commanders. I've asked the District Secretary to develop a schedule and a plan for implementing the change from printed copies to distributing the **026° True** newsletter electronically. I requested that the District Treasurer review our dues structure to see if we are in line with other districts and to consider the possibility of a small dues increase to keep us financially sound. We have a lot of work ahead. With help from both my excellent bridge and you, our district members, we will complete our tasks.

I would like thank the individuals listed below for agreeing to serve in the Command Department.

Flag Lieutenant:	D/F/Lt Barbara Pearson, AP	barbarampearson@sc.rr.com
Chaplain:	P/R/C Jack P. Wilson, AP	johnpwilson@bellsouth.net
D/26 Homeland Security:	D/Lt Mark McCain	svescape@aol.com
Captain, Order of Mariners:	P/D/C Robert G. Larsen, SN	rqlarsen2@juno.com
D/26 Webmaster:	Lt/C Kathy Redford, AP	dkredford@bellsouth.net

I hope that you will make plans to attend the 20-21 March 2009 Spring Conference in Florence, SC, which will be hosted by Swamp Fox Squadron. The Bridge has planned some interesting seminars. When work ends, Swamp Fox has planned lots of enjoyable activities and dinners. You will also have the opportunity to see old friends and make new ones. Watch for registration forms in the February **026° True**.

D/C Ron Osburn, SN
ozbrn@bellsouth.net



Executive Department D/Lt/C Betty Walton, AP



We, your bridge, are looking at the year ahead with great anticipation. One of my goals will be to get more members involved in squadron, district, and national activities. The following members have agreed to serve in the Executive Department:

Cooperative Charting Chairman	D/Lt Donald Funderburk, SN	Tybee Light
Assistant Chairman	P/C Ron Lynch, JN	Tybee Light
Legislative, GA & SC	D/Lt Verna Clayton, P	TLS&PS
New Squadron Development	P/C Frank Clayton, SN	TLS&PS
Photographer	P/C Horst Boettge, SN	GCLS&PS
Assistant Photographer	P/R/C Lowell Ward, SN	HHS&PS
Public Relations Officer (PRO)	D/Lt Joan F. Miller	SFS&PS
Safety	P/C Tom O'Neill, AP	TLS&PS
Computer Systems	P/D/C William Mullin, AP	LBS&PS
Vessel Safety Check	D/LT Pete Stevenson, AP	LHS&PS

Your District Public Relations Chairman wants all squadron PROs to help make this a banner year. DPRO Joan Miller will be working with each of you to get your Advertising Reimbursement Forms in to her regularly. Each year national earmarks money for advertising costs for each district — we just need to claim it in a timely manner. If you new commanders need more information about claiming these funds, contact Joan or myself.

Take a closer look at the names of the committee chairmen listed above. Note their qualifications and past experience. I am sure that you agree with me that this is a great group. They will assist your squadron in whatever way they are needed.

Let me end this by repeating to you, the members of District 26, the theme from National....
"BOATING IS FUN...WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW".



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



Our Fall District Conference went very well and was a lot of fun. Thank you, members of the Lake Murray squadron, for your time and effort in hosting a great conference.

One of the highlights of the conference was a seminar on DB2000, which was prepared and presented by P/C Stephen Pietrowicz, SN. The seminar was a hands-on, how-to-do-it demonstration of many of the features of the DB2000 program. Steve did an excellent job preparing and presenting the material in an easily understood, well organized fashion. Thank you, Steve.

This issue of **026° True** is our first effort in producing an electronic issue of our newsletter. The prime reason for publishing electronically is economic. The cost of printing and mailing a hard copy issue of the newsletter has risen drastically. To save money we have gone to an electronic format for two of the four issues of the newsletter per year. We hope that this works well for the members of the district. Many thanks go to our newsletter editor, P/C Paula LeMond, P.

With the end of the year rapidly approaching, we look forward to the holiday season. Cindy and I wish you all a very happy and blessed holiday season.



Administrative Department D/Lt/C Eric Pearson, SN



First, I would like to thank the members of District 26 for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Administrative Officer for the 2008-2009 Watch Year.

We are fortunate to have an outstanding group of members who have volunteered to chair the Administrative Department's Committees:

Auxiliary Advisor:	Rosemary Stevenson, AP Rosey4545@aol.com	Lake Hartwell 864 855-0504
Boating Activities:	P/C Kay Summers, AP dlsommers@earthlink.net	Beaufort 843-838-6547
Conference/Council Meeting Assistance:	P/D/C Dick Erler, AP RErler@hargray.com P/C Nettie Dumais, AP ndumais@bellsouth.net	Hilton Head 843-689-5148 Savannah River 706-863-2043
Leadership Development:	D/Lt/C Ed Kridler, SN ekridler@bellsouth.net	Charleston 843-762-3986
Membership:	D/Lt Cindy Kridler, AP ekridler@bellsouth.net	Charleston 843-762-3986
Membership Benefits:	P/C J. B. Thornton, JN jbanddale@comcast.net	Tybee Light 912-898-9460
Membership/Involvement & Youth Activities:	P/C Robert Candiano, P hrcane@scoast.net	North Strand 843 399-9792
National Meetings Coordinator:	D/F/Lt Barbara Pearson, AP barbarampearson@sc.rr.com	Lake Murray 803 256-0490
Operations Training:	P/R/C Lowell Ward, SN lgwardhi@roadrunner.com	Hilton Head 843-681-8407

If you would like to help out or need advice in any of these areas, please contact these chairs. Also, if you have had good results in your squadron in these areas, let the district chairs know so we can share your success. Our greatest resource is the good work that goes on in our squadrons and we need your help to make the most of it. So tell us what is working for your squadron.

Next up on the D/26 calendar is the Spring Conference in Florence and I hope that you plan to join in the fun 20-21 March 2009. Swamp Fox is the host squadron and they are hard at work planning another great conference. We will also have another full slate of extremely interesting seminars and presentations. Look for the conference schedule on the District 26 Webpage.

Many thanks to Steven Zahn from Golden Corner Lakes Sail & Power Squadron for providing all the pictures in this issue.

There are additional pictures on the district website.



Educational Department D/Lt/C Joe Warren, JN



First, thank you, the members of District 26, for electing me as your Educational Officer for the coming year. I promise that I will try to live up to the high quality of the job done by Eric for the past two years. My Assistant Educational Officer is D/1st/Lt Tim Tate, AP, from the Savannah River Sail and Power Squadron, whom I will rely on quite a lot in the coming year.

The Fall Conference in Columbia was a great success. Lake Murray did an outstanding job of hosting the event and our education department seminars were a high point for those who were interested. The Friday afternoon session conducted by Eric gave all of us many great ideas on how to improve educational programs in our squadrons. Saturday morning the seminar on the new Basic Boating Course that will be available next year, which was conducted by P/C David Price, AP, was a hit with all of those who attended. The seminar on Rescue 21, the Coast Guard's new search and rescue tool, was most informative. It was conducted by Stf/C Harl Porter, SN. The symposium on the new JN course was helpful to present and future instructors.

The real benefit to the education department was the availability of R/C Robert Sweet, SN, Assistant National Educational Officer. He was available to everyone at the conference to answer questions. His attendance really enhanced the weekend for those of us concerned with education.

Congratulation to all the Chapman Award Nominees: P/C Larry Byrd, SN, Long Bay; P/C Michael Kirk, AP, Lake Murray; Lt/C William O'Neill, SN, Thurmond Lake; P/C Will Ross, SN, Tybee Light; P/C John Sikes, AP, Charleston; P/C Tim Tate, AP, Savannah River; and Cdr Charles Wilsdorf, SN, Golden Isles. Choosing a winner from such a distinguished list of educators was very difficult. We thank all of you for the fantastic job you are doing for your squadrons and USPS.

If you need to contact me, my e-mail is lukngd@aol.com and my home phone number is 912-786-9605. If you don't reach me, contact Tim Tate via e-mail at islandboy1220@bellsouth.net or phone 803-643-1853.

Have a joyful and safe Holiday Season. We look forward to seeing you at the Spring Conference in Florence, SC in March 2009.

All of the hard work by members of Host Squadron Lake Murray Sail and Power Squadron kept the Fall Conference and Change of Watch well organized and running smoothly!





Treasurer's Department D/Lt/C Bob Boal, AP



Many of you were at the Fall Conference and I really enjoyed the time I was able to spend with some of you. Unfortunately, it seems I wasn't able to spend time with others but I assure you it was unintentional. I know that some of you are moving on to new positions this coming Watch Year and I'd like to wish you the very best and thank you for all that you have done; not only for your squadrons but also for the District. For those who will be new treasurers this year; welcome aboard! For those who are once again serving as treasurer, as I am, welcome back!

It seems to me the keys to being successful in this business are keeping accurate books and trying to be timely. A big backlog can sometimes result in errors. Besides the invoices that I send to you from time to time regarding new squadron members, the only other thing I get excited about is the filing of tax returns, which is no longer optional for squadrons. The IRS guidelines state we have up to five months after our respective tax years are complete to file. We can either use the e-postcard or Form 990N for revenue less than \$25k or an EZ Form for more than \$25k. I'll provide more guidance as filing time nears.

The holidays are upon us, so I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a great year and a wonderful holiday season!



*Fall Conference Attendees -- Some Worked
Some Played
Some Ate*





District 26 2008-09 Bridge



D/C Ron Osburn, SN & R/C Robert Sweet, SN,
Assistant National Education Officer



District 26 Officers display their new flags



D/C John Powers steps down



P/D/C John Powers, SN &
D/C Ron Osburn, SN
Display their new flags



Who's Happy Now?!



Bowsprit Award **WE DID IT!**

Congratulations District 26

What is the Bowsprit Award? Bowsprit is a "Goals" based program. Each district only competes with itself, measuring performance from one program year to the next.

The Bowsprit Award addresses the primary aims of USPS as they relate to performance, and then recognizes those districts who achieve their goals as outlined in the program rules. The areas which are tracked and measured are:

Total Active Membership	Active Member Retention
Educational Program Graduates	Vessel Safety Checks
Boating and BoatSmart® Registrations	Cooperative Charting Credits

Last fall, when we outlined our district goal of winning the Bowsprit Award and each squadron accepted the challenge goals we put forward, we knew it would be tough to achieve. It was.

I am proud for each of you, and you should be proud of yourself for achieving the goals. All squadrons worked hard toward a common goal, and each contributed to our success. We scored points in four of the six categories. This was a remarkable achievement — we were one of only six districts to achieve the award. Nationally there were 33 districts attempting to do what we did. Well done District 26, and THANK YOU.

P/D/C John Powers, SN



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Coming Events
2008-2009

2008

- 7 Nov Change Of Watch: Golden Corner Lakes
- 7 Nov Change Of Watch: Lake Murray
- 7 Nov Change Of Watch: North Strand
- 8 Nov Change Of Watch: Charleston
- 8 Nov Change Of Watch: Long Bay
- 14 Nov Change Of Watch: Savannah River
- 15 Nov Change Of Watch: Thurmond Lake
- 15 Nov Change Of Watch: Hilton Head
- 21 Nov Change Of Watch: Lake Hartwell
- 22 Nov Change Of Watch: Beaufort
- 28 Nov Change Of Watch: Tybee Light
- 29 Nov Change Of Watch: Golden Isles

2009

- 10 Jan Change Of Watch: Swamp Fox
- 17-22 Feb USPS Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA
- 20-21 Mar D/26 Spring Conference
Host: Swamp Fox
- 8-13 Sep USPS Fall Governing Board,
Kansas City, MO

District Bridge

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Savannah River
Phone: 803-643-1853

Squadron	Commander	Educational Officer
Beaufort	Kay Summers, AP	John Satterfield, AP
Charleston	Arthur Clark, P	Chet Rogers, P
Golden Corner	A.G. Caldwell, P	Marlyn Stroven, AP
Golden Isles	Charles Wilsdorf, SN	Audie Holmes, JN
Hilton Head	Atlee (Sonny) Compher, P	Helen Kola, P
Lake Hartwell	Ken Kuszmaul, P	Chris Rose, SN
Lake Murray	Elaine Price, AP	Andy Hyman, AP
Long Bay	Robert Roseman, S	Paul Soucy, AP
North Strand	Bob Candiano, P	Charlie Schuler, SN
Savannah River	DeMetrice Allen, P	Paulette Harris-Holmes, JN
Swamp Fox	Bobby Heneger, JN	Gordon Cole, S
Thurmond Lake	Dick Pugh, AP	Bill O'Neill, SN
Tybee Light	Lee Wilber, S	Ken Scherz, JN