



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 BETTY WALTON, AP



The fantastic level of enthusiasm among the D/26 squadron bridge officers and the D/26 bridge is becoming quite evident. It appears that all thirteen squadron commanders are striving to share information, get their reports submitted to district and national in a timely manner, and get winter and spring education classes “off to a good start”.

Since we must continue to look for other revenue sources, our education materials and class offerings can help us meet our budgets for the fiscal year.

Let us continue to put our focus on membership, member retention and education. These are our common goals. Then there is fun and fellowship – the two ingredients that will make the first three happen.

On Friday 15 Jan 2010 the D/26 Bridge met at Flotilla Island, Lake Murray, in Columbia, SC for the first Planning Meeting of 2010. It was a most productive meeting. All bridge members present. CDR Andy Hyman, SN, from Lake Murray Sail and Power Squadron also attended the meeting as our guest. During the lunch break CDR Hyman treated us to “chicken bog” with a marinated slaw. Even though the agenda included over 20 items for review, discussion, and/or resolution, we were able to finish by 2:30 PM. You can learn more about this meeting by reading the minutes.

I hope that everyone is looking forward to the Spring Conference in Greenville, SC in March. The host squadron is Lake Hartwell Sail and Power Squadron. I hear that they are going to the “nth” degree to make this a memorable experience. Remember, everyone is invited to participate.

Last but not least, I will have surgery on Tuesday, 26 Jan 2010 to remove a benign tumor from my brain. This came as a shock to me, as it has to everyone else – family, friends, and doctors. But, God willing, I will back “in the loop” very soon. In the interim, all correspondence for me should also be sent to D/Lt/C Eric Pearson, SN, the District Executive Officer.



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



The big news from the Executive Department comes on the Public Relations front in the form of changes to the Cooperative (Co-op) Advertising Program. According to the program guidelines, **"The Cooperative Advertising Program** is established to help support the advertising and public relations activities of squadrons as they advertising and promote the Educational Department's courses, seminars and guides and the image of local squadrons and USPS. While Public Relations Officers should continue efforts to obtain public service advertising and low-cost promotional material, this program provides partial reimbursement of expenses incurred for squadron advertising and promotion projects."

The changes this year should benefit our squadrons in two ways. First, most squadrons are eligible to receive more money by participating in the program. Under the former guidelines squadrons were allocated \$1.00 per active member, which adversely impacted smaller squadrons. This year squadrons are eligible to be reimbursed based on a percentage of educational sales from the previous year. The reimbursement rate for 2010 is 10% of sales. For example, if a squadron sold \$3,000 worth of United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) educational materials, it would be eligible to receive \$300 in reimbursements for advertising expenses incurred to promote educational programs. Educational materials include books and tools used in USPS courses and seminars.

Second, reimbursements will go directly to the squadrons. In the past Co-op advertising funds passed through the district. Squadrons will still have to submit requests for Co-op advertising funds just as they have done in the past. Squadron Public Relations Officers may read and/or print a copy of the guidelines at www.usps.org/national/pr on the USPS Webpage.

In other areas under the Executive Department, all squadrons should be gearing up for spring with active Vessel Safety Check (VSC) and Co-Op Charting programs. The VSC program is an excellent way to get our members involved and to talk one-on-one to boaters in your squadron's area. Last year, D/26 had 143 examiners who conducted 1,387 VSCs. So let's get our examiners trained and ready for another big year.

Co-Op Charting is another way to get more of our members involved. Each squadron should develop a plan and have it ready to implement when the weather warms up and the boats hits the water. D/26 has an outstanding record in Co-Op Charting. The D/26 Co-Op Charting Chair received the Golden Eagle Award, the highest USPS award for this activity. Also, D/26 finished second in USPS by earning 28,771 credits from 124 members participating. We need to keep up the good work.

Finally, I would like to welcome P/C Audie Holmes, JN, of Golden Isles to the Executive Department. Audie has agreed to serve as New Squadron Development Chair for 2010.

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Administrative Department
D/Lt/C Bob Boal, SN



Six D/26 squadrons did not file an annual Boating Activities Report for 2009. I don't know if it's because the new commanders weren't aware of the report (it's listed as an Award) or if some or all the squadrons didn't submit a report since one particular squadron always seems to win. I mean, why bother? Actually, the fact is that the rules have changed for 2009. Squadrons now compete with other squadrons which are similar in size so that the little guys aren't trying to keep up with the big guys. Go to the D/26 website and learn about the revised rules. It's under **Member Info and Forms**.

Here's something to consider for 2010. The Boating Activities Report is in MS Excel format. Fill it out immediately after each boating activity is completed. That way you won't have to rush in the last minute to put together a report. Be sure to keep a backup copy. Actually, since most of the squadron boating activities are over by the Christmas holidays, you could even submit the report early. Now there's a thought.

I often overhear members talking about district-level positions. Turns out I have three committee positions that are still waiting for an enthusiastic person to volunteer to fill. They are: **Membership**, **Member Benefits**, and **Membership Involvement & Youth Activities**. I find it difficult to believe that in D/26 there aren't at least three people who want to be part of the greatest district in USPS. Think you might be interested? Want more information? Send me an email at nssps@atmc.net and I'll get back to you pronto!

There are three D/26 events scheduled for 2010. First on the calendar is the **Spring Conference**, which will be hosted by Lake Hartwell Sail and Power Squadron. When? The conference is scheduled for 5-7 March at the Westin Poinsett in Greenville, SC. See page seven of this newsletter for more details and the link for the registration form. Unfortunately, Elke and I won't be able to join you. We'll be in Germany for a huge family event that could not be rescheduled or missed.

The **District 26 Cruise and Rendezvous** will be hosted by Long Bay Power Squadron. It is scheduled for 14-16 May at Georgetown Landing Marina and Hampton Inn in Georgetown, SC. Look for details soon.

This year the district **Fall Conference and Change of Watch** will be hosted by Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron on 15-16 October at The Jekyll Oceanfront Resort, Jekyll Island, GA. Watch for details later in the year. Be sure to take a minute right now and mark all of these events on your calendar!

Membership is the name of the game. It is one thing to recruit new members, but it's even more challenging to hold on to the ones we have. One thing that I have observed over the years is that members who are involved in squadron activities tend to remain members. Think about ways to get your membership involved in squadron activities. Everybody has ideas, experiences and skills. It's up to us to convince them to take the time to share what they can do with others. Now is also the time to get those boats ready for the 2010 season. Hope to see you soon!



Educational Department

D/Lt/C Joe Warren, SN



It has been cold down here on Tybee Island and it just is no fun to get out of the house. But of course this is the best time to teach our fellow squadron members a little more about safe and smart boating. There are so many courses and seminars available that there is almost no excuse that each squadron member does not take at least one course this year.

The best part about any course is using what you have learned on your own boat. With the new insurance program from national, each course can end with ON THE WATER TRAINING. That should be incentive enough to get the couch potatoes into a class room to further their knowledge.

If you have questions about a course or want a point clarified we have a district staff in the educational department that is available to assist you. For advance grades contact Lowell Ward (lqwardhhi@roadrunner.com), for elective courses contact Bill O'Neill (oneillwilly@wctel.net), for the ABC course contact Huub Bakx (huub33@bellsouth.net) and if you need a teaching aide for a particular item contact Charles Wilsdorf (chaswi@aol.com). Of course if you have a question on any subject or on policy you can contact the ADEO Tim Tate (islandboy1220@bellsouth.net) or me (lukngd@aol.com).

At the Spring Conference we will honor the 2009 SEO of the year with the Carol A. McVey Award for Educational Leadership as well as the squadrons which have had success in getting members to take and pass courses. The criteria for the SEO award includes: writing articles for the squadron newsletter that congratulate members who completed courses and to the instructors, nomination for the Chapman Award, attending district meetings and submitting teaching aides for the district competition.

The Prince Henry the Navigator Award will be awarded to the squadron demonstrating the greatest improvement in advance grades (AP, JN, and N) versus the potential for improvement that year.

The Wolf-Ewing Educational Achievement Award will be presented to the squadron having the greatest educational achievement in all grades and courses. It is measured as the sum of the course graduates plus the members achieving Educational Proficiency in that year, plus all members holding Educational Achievement (SN) compared to the pool of active members.

Educational courses are on the decline and we need to encourage all our members to continue their boating education and to improve their boating skills. If you want to keep the new members that joined after taking the ABC course, call them and encourage them to take Seamanship, then Piloting, then . . . Most likely they will not be a drop out after one year!



Carol A. McVey
Award for
Educational
Leadership



Prince Henry
the Navigator
Award



The Wolf-Ewing
Educational
Achievement
Award



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



BOTTOM LINE: The November and December '09 Bank Statements Balanced with D/26 QuickBooks Data!

Wow! How time flies. It was October 2009 and the District Change of Watch in Charleston, SC one minute, then all of a sudden it was Christmas 2009. Santa came and went, and then New Year 2010 was here with all its festivities. Hope you had a joyous and safe holiday season. The USPS Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL will take place in early February followed shortly thereafter by the D/26 Spring Conference in Greenville, SC in March. Hope I'll see you at these gatherings.

Yes time flies and venues change, but one thing is constant each and every year at this time, and it is taxes! I know, why did I have to mention them? Well, since we all (I presume) have to account for them in one way or another, I thought I might remind you about itemizing deductions related to USPS volunteer work, and perhaps introduce other members to some facts about how one might reduce their income tax burden.

Since our district and all the squadrons therein come under the national organization's 501(c)(3) (not-for-profit) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), we have the privilege of deducting certain expenses associated to our efforts on behalf of USPS.

Certainly I will not attempt to explain all the allowed tax deduction benefits to you here. However, I will refer you to the USPS Treasurer's Manual which can be found on the USPS website. Go to <http://www.usps.org/national/treasurer/> and click on Treasurer's Manual, found on the left side of the page. The manual covers many subjects in detail. Refer to Section T.22.7, Tax Deductions for Officers and Members, found on page T-23. It also refers readers to IRS publications dealing with the itemization of donations associated with 'non-profit' organizations.

If you donate to charities, don't forget that anyone can donate funds to a USPS squadron or district. If you find that you can and would like to make a 'tax-deductible' donation to your organization, you will receive a great 'thank-you' certificate from the district and a form to submit to the IRS verifying your contribution to our "non-profit, community educational, civic service" organization.

I know I don't need to preach to the choir. All of you know the good work that the members do to teach about safety within the boating world, performing clean-up of marine facilities within the marine environment, checking ATONS in Cooperative Charting, organizing boat parades on both land and water for enjoyment within towns and even conducting boat handling and safety courses for our US Marines' military training requirements.

So if you are able, have the desire and want more information about how you can make a tax-deductible gift to your district or squadron (perhaps anonymously), please contact me and I will transmit information to you, or I will place you in touch with the right person within the USPS organization. Email me at olddrifter@msn.com.

Next time, I'll talk about building a ship (boat) a plank at a time! . . . Remember to be 'penny wise!'



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



Things are going relatively smoothly in this department. We have a roster of the members of our district on our district website and should have our directory posted by the time this article reaches you.

The one area in which we have some problems is the submittal of squadron histories for 2009 (Historian's Report). These should have been submitted by the end of 2009. As of 22 January 2010, the 2009 squadron historian report for Beaufort, Charleston, Lake Murray, Long Bay, North Strand, and Swamp Fox have not been submitted. The responsibility of compiling these histories resides with the squadron secretaries.

The Historian's Report is not difficult to complete. It can be finished in an hour or two. If you need help, you can contact our District Historian, P/Lt/C Robert Gulbrandsen, S, via email at morningstart804@aol.com. The squadrons listed above need to complete their historian's report as soon as possible.

CALL FOR DISTRICT 26 SPRING CONFERENCE

6 March 2010

To: All Members of USPS District 26

From: D/Lt/C Ed Kridler, SN, District Secretary

Subject: 2010 Spring Conference

When: Saturday, 6 March 2010

Where: Westin Poinsett, Greenville, SC

Time: 0830-0900 Registration
0900 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

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TRAINING

The Leadership Development Committee of USPS has developed a training course for Administrative Officers. Your D/26 Leadership Development Committee will hold a training session at the 2010 Spring Conference. This session will be held on Friday, 5 March at 1300. The meeting will be held at the Westin Poinsett Hotel in Greenville, the same hotel as the conference. If necessary, we will continue the training session during the conference breakout on Saturday, 6 March.

We encourage all squadron Administrative Officers to attend. In addition, we would ask that the Squadron Nominating Committees identify those members who are under consideration for this position next year and encourage them to attend. The session will help these officers and potential officers perform the duties required of this office. There is no charge for participating in the session.

We plan to have an interactive session. We're not just going to stand in front of the group and lecture. We will encourage all attendees to actively participate. Bring a list of questions that you may have. Also bring a list of methods and solutions that have worked for you in different situations.

We look forward to seeing you there.

D/Lt/C Edwin G. Kridler, SN

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Leadership Development will come to your squadron. That's right; we will travel to your squadron to teach leadership development to your members. You name the place, work with us on a date and we will be there. There is no cost to your squadron. All you have to do is sign up members to attend the session. Let us know if we can help.

If possible, to minimize our travel, we ask that you contact other squadrons in your area to schedule a joint training session. Since Leadership Development falls under the Administrative Officer's responsibilities, we ask that the squadron Administrative Officers, working with the squadron Commanders, take the lead in planning the course logistics. We ask that a Power Point projector be available; we will have the computer ready to connect to your projector.

Who will the session benefit? The course will provide insight for the leaders and potential leaders of your squadron. This group includes your officers, your committee chairs, and members who show an inclination to assume leadership positions. Your nominating committee can help identify members which they are considering for leadership positions in your squadron.

Please contact me at 843-762-3986 or email ekridler@bellsouth.net for coordination and scheduling.

D/Lt/C Edwin G. Kridler, SN

Lake Hartwell Sail & Power Squadron is proud to host the **D/26 Spring Conference** **Greenville, SC on 5 & 6 March 2010**

Those of you who haven't been in downtown Greenville lately will be pleasantly surprised at how it's changed. The American Planning Association's recent designation of downtown Greenville as one of 10 best downtowns in the U.S. suggests that holding the Conference downtown was a wise decision.

The Westin Poinsett Hotel has been selected as the base of operations. It is an elegant hotel dating back to the 1920s, but with renovated amenities. The conference registration, hospitality room, silent auction, spouses/guests High Tea and Saturday banquet will take place at the hotel. Conference registration, the hospitality room, and the silent auction will be open and waiting for you starting Friday afternoon 5.

We selected the Westin Poinsett due to its central location in scenic downtown Greenville. Participants will be able to enjoy the many sights, shops and restaurants within easy walking distance. To allow Spouses/Guests to enjoy the downtown Greenville area, no lunch has been scheduled. We felt it more appropriate to allow them to select their own location and cuisine. We encourage them to look for the Mice on Main. Additional information about the mice can be found at: <http://www.miceonmain.com/>. At the Spouses/Guests afternoon High Tea, scheduled for 1400 in the dining room at the Westin Poinsett, a prize will be awarded to whomever found the most mice, as well as other door prizes.

A "Chinese New Year in March" is the theme for the social gathering on Friday evening, held at the East China Buffet. While we socialize and enjoy excellent Chinese food, scenes from China's Yangtze River, Three Gorges Dam and locks and other bodies of water will be displayed on flat screen TVs on the walls. After dinner we enjoy some traditional Chinese dances.

Saturday's business meeting will be held at the Lazy Goat Restaurant in the upstairs meeting area with its excellent view of the Reedy River. A buffet lunch will be offered there. It's interesting that this restaurant's chef was recently named one of the nation's top four chefs in a November article in *Esquire* magazine.

We're excited to be hosting this event and are anxious for you to enjoy the many amenities of the downtown Greenville area. If you haven't done so already, complete your registration and make your hotel reservation now!. For more detailed information about Greenville and to make reservations, go to our website www.lake-hartwell.org and click on the appropriate link. We are looking forward to seeing you.

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**Coming Events
2009-2010**

1 - 6 Feb	2010 National Annual Meeting Orlando, FL
5 - 7 Mar	District 26 Spring Conference Host: Lake Hartwell Sail & Power Squadron
14 - 16 May	District 26 Cruise and Rendezvous Host: Long Bay Power Squadron
30 Aug - 4 Sep	2010 National Governing Board Bellvue/Seattle, WA
15 - 17 Oct	District 26 Fall Conference and Change of Watch Host: Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron

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Squadron

Commander

Educational Officer

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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	Fred Williston, 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