

Volume 44 #5

45th year "America's Boating Club"©

January 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 4-5 2008

Winter Council

Durham, NC

February 19-24 2008

USPS annual meeting

Dallas, Texas

March 14-16 2008

D/27 Annual meeting

Change of Watch

Greensboro, NC

June 20-22 2008

D/27 Rendezvous

Ramada Hotel

Lake Wylie, SC

September 3-8 2008

USPS Gov. BD.

Detroit, Michigan

October 31-Nov 2

D/27 Fall C/C

Atlantic Beach

Sheraton Hotel

January 16-18 2009

D/27 Winter Council

Ral-Dur Airport Hotel

March 27-29 2009

D/27 Annual meeting

No. Raleigh Hilton

D/C Message Mack Gordy, AP

District 27 Officers will not start winding down until the Change of Watch in Greensboro. They have a full plate until then. The grass has not grown between their toes as they have been on the go all year. They have attended squadron meetings and events, gone to blessing of the fleets, filled up at pig pickings and shrimp-a-roos, gone on squadron cruises and attended squadron changes of watch. Doing all of this while taking care of the many other activities in their lives. You wonder how they manage it all. They took their responsibilities seriously and that is what made this a good year for District 27. The squadrons of D/27 have also made this a good year by offering more courses and promoting the Squadron Boating Course.



During the year the Bridge held three planning/retreat weekends where they worked to make this a better District – (they also partied a little)! Currently, membership is on the rise. Although some squadrons lost members, others have picked up the slack and we are moving forward. I see new members getting involved in the squadrons and squadron members are working to hold their interests while including them in activities and responsibilities.

Squadron newsletters remind us that this is a boating organization based on the number of cruises that took place this year. Congratulations to Fort Macon for making the 100-member mark.

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The new member/squadron commander receptions have been a big success this year. The upcoming Annual Meeting will be your next chance to bring your new members to another reception. March 14 – 16, 2008 is our Annual Meeting and District Change of Watch in Greensboro. Highlights for the weekend are a Friday tour and lunch at the Childress Winery and Saturday there is a trip to the Seagrove potteries with lunch. Please make your hotel and event reservations early. The weekend will kick off Friday evening with a Pirate Party in the Squadron Hospitality Suites. We look forward to seeing everyone in their best pirate attire, enjoying good food and drink while “pillaging” through the various suites!

Saturday we will continue breakout sessions on DB2000 with wireless connection so bring your laptop. We are having a special breakout session on How to host a D/27 Rendezvous or Meeting along with breakout sessions on Safe Boating Week, VSC, Education and Co-op Charting. Saturday, D/27 will present four programs to the membership at this meeting. P/R/C Ed Summers, JN of the Goldsboro Squadron will present a program on NASA with unbelievable pictures. P/C Ray Fedele, SN from D/26 will make a presentation on the Boater Certification Program. The Chief Commander will hold a Town Hall Meeting. P/R/C Glenn Daughtridge, AP will present another of his famous programs to the District. Since the C/C will be discussing what went on at the Dallas meeting the D/27 Bridge Officers will not be giving reports during the meeting.

It has been fun visiting in the District this year. Vinnie and I look forward to seeing you again as we attend the squadron changes of watch in 2008. See you in Greensboro!



WILL YOU GET A GOLD WATCH AT THE ANNUAL MEETING?

DID YOU MAKE ANY MISTAKES?



A GREAT YEAR MACK!

District Educational Officer D/Lt/C Ray Travis, SN

Just a few notes:

I'm learning to type left handed due to right shoulder surgery.

Hope everyone has a Happy Holiday.

The Durham winter training meeting to be held the weekend of January 5, 2008 should be very interesting to every SEO, and I hope you all try to attend. I have asked Captain Chris Huebner of NASBLA to speak about NASBLA's roll in establishing the NC state questions used in our public boating course. He will be able to answer all of your questions.

At the D27 annual meeting to be held the weekend of March 15, 2008 there will be a great program for the general membership on the BOC (Boat Operator Certification). This program continues to be developed and you will hear the latest on that issue. The Education breakout session will bring you up to date on all the news concerning education in USPS.

All SEO's should keep in mind the USPS Seminars that are open to the public and continue to offer them. USPS has two new seminars that you need to check out; "Boat Handling under Power" and "Sail Trim and Rig Tuning". It is always helpful to keep a check on the USPS Educational Department Home Page for the latest developments. The materials catalog gets updated every few months by national, so don't forget to download it periodically.



And don't forget to keep your membership apprised that there are numerous USPS Learning Guides that can be ordered. They can go to the Order Course Material section of the Educational Department Home Page to download the catalog and see what is available.

Last but not least, get those new members in a class. That's where they learn the wealth of knowledge that USPS has to offer. You will be surprised how many of your older members need and want to continue their education as well.



District Executive Officer D/Lt/C Ann Bailey, AP

The Executive Department Chairmen have worked very hard this year. We started out the year with Coop Charting Chairman David Blankenbeckler holding three Outreach Coop Charting Workshops. They were well attended and I have heard from several of you that you learned a lot and enjoyed! At this writing we still need seven Squadrons to enter data to make the honor roll. I have heard from some of you and I have high hopes that we will make it. Four Squadrons have data to enter and three additional have plans to hold an event. That leaves five Squadrons that I have not heard from. Please consider making this a part of your early 2008 plans. Remember we have facilities reports that do not include being on the water. We have until 31 March 2008 to get this data entered on the website and your District Chairman is standing by ready to help you should you need it!!!

Pro&Marketing Chairman, Lt/C Tom Meyers has sent in reports requesting Coop Advertising Reimbursement that covers all of the \$1,738. allotted to our District. The Squadrons participating were

Cape Fear 412.68

Pamlico 130.45

Albemarle 58.34

Shalotte 240.37

Winston 415.00

Ft. Macon 80.00

Catawba 355.08

Rocky Mount 46.08

This is the best participation we have ever had in our District. We have learned that our allotment for next

year is \$1,727.00. 2008 reports can be submitted 15th of month. Keep up the good work!!!

P/C Devohn Rhame has kept us very informed on the happens in the Legislative this year. As well as about the hoax distress calls to the Coast Guard taking their time to investigate rather than helping those that need help! Gosh, I hope that stops!!

Liaison Officer Stewart Colson has gotten up early the morning of all of our meeting and made sure all of our flags, nameplates are in the correct position and tables are correct. Plus made sure they were at all of our meetings and storing in between. Just one of those behind the scene jobs that just happens because of members like Stewart!

Safety Officer Jack Cummins started last March telling you the importance of Safety and that he would like a Safety Report from all Squadrons. We are almost there and hope that we have them all by now.

Under the guidance of P/C Bill Halovitch we have the following VSC report:

District 27 Examiners 132 Number inspection 1673 Passed 1405.

This is a public service that gave those 268 boat owners that failed a chance to make corrections before they got in trouble on the water plus making their boats safe!

Would like to give all of our Chairman a huge THANK YOU and GREAT JOB DONE!!!! You are the clog in the wheel that keeps this organization rolling!!!

Would like to remind all Executive Officers/incoming Squadron Com-



manders that I have been working on getting a lot of material together to pass along to you at the Council/ Training Meeting 4/5 January and truly hope all of you are planning to attend. Want to make your year as easy and stress free as I possible can by covering what is expected of you as Commander.

If you miss the District 27 COW/ Council/Conference in Greensboro 14/16 March you are going to miss a huge good time plus some great information. D/C Mack Gordy has had a great year as District Commander, he's brought us good programs, represented us on the National level as a great spokesman, visited with all of the Squadrons if not twice at least once, plus brought us fun at all of the meetings. Let's all support him by coming to Greensboro and letting him know just how much we appreciate the great job he has done as District Commander!!!!

I have enjoyed being your Executive Officer this year and appreciate the hard work of all District 27 members especially Committee Chairmen this past year. It is a privilege to belong to a great organization as USPS, America's Boating Club, especially District 27 and work with such fine people!!

District Administrative Officer D/Lt/C Jerry Hall, AP

The major news from the Administrative Department continues to be membership growth. As many of you already know, the District and ten of our twenty squadrons grew over this past year and were recognized with national membership growth awards at the Governing Board Meeting in Norfolk. I am happy to report that this growth trend is continuing. At the end of September 2006 the District had 1637 active members and at the same time this year we had 1698 active members, some 61 additional members. This is great news and we urge you to keep up the good work. In other membership news from the Governing Board, the Membership Involvement Chairperson for the Cape Fear Squadron, P/C Juanita Neumeister, AP* won first place for the Selden Member Involvement Retention Award. In the Youth Poster Contest, judged at the Governing Board the District had winners in each of the three categories. Posters sponsored by the New River Squadron won first place in

the 6 – 8 age categories, and third place in the 9 – 11 and 12 – 14 age categories. We offer our congratulations to all the winners, both in the Administrative Department and in the other departments as well. We appreciate all your work and commitment.

In other news from the Governing Board:

The Member Benefits Committee has developed a program in conjunction with the Secretary's Department to provide a 20% discount coupon for the Ship's Store to those non-renewals that come back as members. The committee has also concluded an agreement with Kittery Trading Post, a sportsman's outfitter to provide discounts to members and with Soundings Magazine for a discounted rate.

A "Wall of Honor" is being developed for the Membership Committee web site to display success stories from squadrons and districts that are successful in both recruiting and retention. Everyone and especially Squadron and District Commanders as well as Membership and Member



Involvement Committee chairs are encouraged to review these success stories for ideas that might work for them.

The **D27 Winter Council** will be held at the Hilton Raleigh-Durham Airport on 4 to 6 January 2008. The primary focus of this meeting will be for training incoming squadron officers. All members are encouraged to attend, especially those who have been nominated or elected to a position on an Executive Committee. Our goal is to have those attending leave with not only an understanding of what their job entails, but also with some ideas on how to better interact with, communicate with and motivate people in a volunteer organization. Please plan to join us and take advantage of the experience gained by those who have filled these positions previously.

District Secretary

D/Lt/C Mary Lou Corbett, AP

The District Annual Meeting is a meeting always full of activities and good fellowship and is the culmination, too, of another active, successful year in the squadrons and the district. This year will continue in that tradition. I also believe that it will be one that will stand out in our memory, even as we set our goals for a great year in 2008.

At the Annual Meeting in Greensboro there will be a number of excellent Breakout Sessions with two of them featuring DB2000. The DB2000 Breakout Session in Hickory was well done and useful with Lt/C Ed Cathey, AP presenting and P/R/C Bill Reasons, SN assisting. Ed will be presenting in two Breakout Sessions in Greensboro. Bring your computer, (if you wish, it is not required) and enjoy and absorb in two sessions. You will not be disappointed.

Computer Systems (DB2000) and the District website, the newsletter "Carolina BITTS", the Ensign & Squadron Newsletter Correspondent, and the Historian all come under the District Secretary's Department. I want to recognize the members holding these positions in District 27: P/R/C Bill Reasons, SN; P/D/C George Ellis, AP; P/C June Reasons, AP; and Cdr Francine Hall, AP. All have served the District diligently and effectively during my almost three years as Secretary and I am grateful for their work and support for the District.

Squadron historians and commanders are urged to get their historian reports to the District Historian, Cdr Francine Hall, AP, as soon as possible after the squadron's change of watch. Squadron commanders are also requested to get squadron information to P/R/C Bill Reasons, SN for the District Roster as soon as possible. Bill must have the officer and committee information so the Roster can be completed and available online prior to the Annual Meeting.

The District 27 meetings and breakout sessions provide training for our officers and members that can help strengthen our squadrons. Therefore, I invite all members to attend the District Annual Meeting and Change of Watch and to use the opportunities to participate and



enjoy, and to appreciate our fellow members. The District Annual Meeting and Change of Watch will be a great event and a great send off for 2008-2009. I hope you will attend. My New Year's wish for each of you is that you have a wonderful year of squadron work and fellowship and that you enjoy much time boating! See you in Greensboro!



**THANKS FOR A GREAT
THREE YEARS MARY LOU!**

District Treasurer

D/Lt/C Lloyd Moore, JN

As of this writing I am awaiting the sales tax refund for the first half of 2007 from the NC Department of Revenue. The refund, in the amount of \$3800.00 will be distributed to the nine squadrons which submitted their purchase/sales tax information to me. Squadrons are entitled to get back money paid as sales taxes on purchases, and we encourage them to do so. Requests for sales tax refunds for the second half of 2007 (1 July – 31 December) must be in the hands of the District Treasurer by March 3, 2008. The Treasurer must file for the refunds by April 15th.

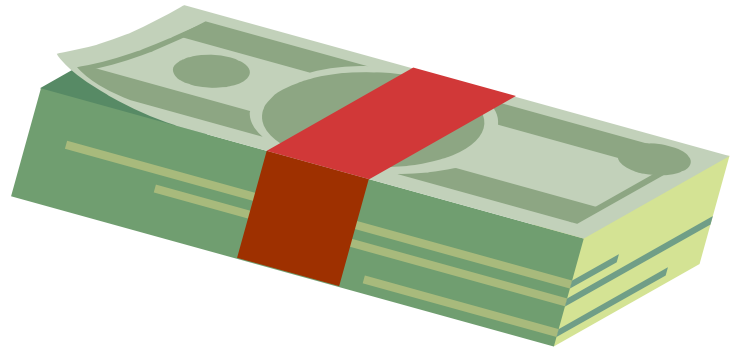
Overall, the District finances continue to run close to the budgeted amounts. The District collects dues only on active and additional active members and as of the end of November the District had 50 more active members than the same time last year. Other income is close to the amounts budgeted. Expenses continue to run at expected levels, however there will be more expenses as the fiscal year draws to a close.

Eight squadrons participated in the Cooperative Advertising Program during 2007, and received a total of \$1738.00 in matching funds. Since the D/27 allotment was \$1738.00, we took advantage of this program to the fullest. This program has been continued for 2008 and the D/27 allotment is \$1727. Squadron Executive Committees and Public Relations Officers should keep this program in mind when planning activities that need to be advertised to the public. The allotment is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't put it off. The District Public Relations Officer can answer questions



and help in the applications.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the District Meeting and Change of Watch in Greensboro.



District 27 Winter Council & Squadron Officer Training

January 4 – 6, 2008 Hilton Raleigh-Durham-RTP 4810 Old Page Road Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Friday, 4 January – Uniform – Casual – Squadron Shirts

1500-1730 MEMBER AND VOTER REGISTRATION TBA
 1700-1745 NEW MEMBER & SQUADRON COMMANDER RECEPTION D/C Suite
 1800-2030 CASH BAR – TUSCAN BISTRO BUFFETT TBA

(Must be prepaid) – CASUAL DRESS

Saturday, 5 January – Uniform – Squadron Shirt – Blazer Optional

0800-0830 MEMBER AND VOTER REGISTRATION TBA
 0830-1030 LADIES COFFEE & MIMOSAS Fayetteville & P/C Vinnie Gordy, P

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
0830-0930	<u>COUNCIL MEETING CONVENES</u>	TBA	
	Pledge of Allegiance		Cdr John Bunce, AP
	Invocation		D/Lt Alec Wrenn, N
	Introduction of Guests		P/D/C Stephen Puckett, JN
	Introduction of Guest Speaker		John W. Hall, PhD
0940-1040	<u>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</u>		
	Outgoing Commanders or Soon to be P/Cs	TBA	D/C Mack Gordy, AP
	Incoming Squadron Commanders	TBA	D/Lt/C Ann Bailey, AP
	Incoming Executive Officers	TBA	D/Lt/C Jerry Hall, AP
	Incoming Administrative Officers	TBA	N/F/Lt James McCurry, AP
	Incoming or Current Educational Officers	TBA	D/Lt/C Ray Travis, SN
			D/1/Lt Bill Davis, N
	Nominating Committee (Closed)	TBA	
1050-1150	<u>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</u>		
	VSC Training & Re-certification	TBA	P/C Bill Halkovitch, AP
			P/D/C Ben Reed, JN
	Squadron Nominating Committee	TBA	P/C Bill Payne, AP
	Membership Involvement	TBA	P/C Nita Neumiester, AP
	Public Relations Officer	TBA	P/C Leon Corbett, SN
1200-1305	<u>MEMBERS' LUNCHEON (Must be prepaid)</u>		
1315-1415	<u>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</u>		
	Incoming Squadron Commanders	TBA	D/Lt/C Ann Bailey, AP
	Incoming Executive Officers	TBA	D/Lt/C Jerry Hall, AP
	Incoming or Current Secretaries	TBA	D/Lt/C Mary Lou Corbett, AP
			D/1/Lt Dave Osmolski, AP
	Incoming or Current Treasurers	TBA	D/Lt/C Lloyd Moore, JN
			D/1/Lt Tom Taylor, AP
	Incoming or Current Educational Officers	TBA	D/Lt/C Ray Travis, SN
			D/1/Lt Bill Davis, N
	Committee (Closed)	TBA	
			Planning
1425-1525	<u>SPECIAL PROGRAM</u>	TBA	P/R/C Glenn Daughtridge, AP
1525-1600	<u>COUNCIL MEETING RECONVENES</u>	TBA	
1600	<u>ADJOURN MEETING</u>		
1610	<u>N CLUB</u>		

1815 – Durham's COW & Dinner Dance

Hilton Hotel on Hillsborough Road SEE PAGE # 11

Agenda District 27 Annual Meeting & Change of Watch March 14 – 16, 2008

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
FRIDAY - 14 MARCH			
1500 – 1800	<u>MEMBER & VOTER REGISTRATION</u>	Registration Desk 1 at Entry "F"	D/1/Lt Dave Osmolski, AP & Greensboro Squadron
1500 – 1600	<u>D/27 BRIDGE MEETING</u>	D/C Suite	
1600 – 1630	<u>PLANNING COMMITTEE (CLOSED)</u>	D/C Suite	P/D/C Ben Reed, JN
1715 – 1815	<u>NEW MEMBER & SQUADRON COMMANDER RECEPTION</u>	D/C Suite	
1830	<u>FRIDAY EVENING SQUADRON HOSPITALITY SUITES – PIRATE PARTY</u>	SEE ROOM LIST	
SATURDAY – 15 MARCH			
0730 – 0830	<u>MEMBER & VOTER REGISTRATION</u>	Outside Grandover	D/1/Lt Dave Osmolski, AP
0830 – 1000	<u>LADIES COFFEE & MIMOSAS</u>	D/C Suite	Greensboro Squadron
0830 – 0920	<u>MEETING CONVENES</u>	<u>UNIFORM G</u> Grandover	
	Invocation		D/Lt Alec Wren, N
	Pledge of Allegiance		Cdr Mike Hackett, P
	Introduction of Guests		P/D/C Stephen Puckett, JN
0850 – 0920	<u>NASA PROGRAM</u>		P/R/C Ed Summers, JN
0930 – 1020	<u>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</u>		
	Squadron Cdr & XO	Grandover	D/Lt/C Ann Bailey, AP D/Lt/C Jerry Hall, AP
	Administrative Officer	Augusta B	N/F/Lt James McCurry, AP
	DB2000	Tidewater B	Lt/C Ed Cathy, AP
	Nominating Committee (CLOSED)	Augusta A	P/D/C Tom Helms, SN
1030 – 1120	<u>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</u>		
	Hosting a D/27 Rendezvous or Meeting	Grandover	P/D/Lt/C Richard Howle, JN
	Safe Boating Week/VSC	Augusta B Tidewater B	P/C Bill Halkovitch, AP Lt/C Ed Cathy
			P/R/C Bill Reasons, SN
	Educational Breakout Session	Augusta A	D/Lt/C Lord Nelson, SN D/1/Lt Bill Davis, N
1130 – 1200	<u>BOAT OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM</u>	Grandover	P/C Ray Fedele, SN – D/26
1210 – 1320	<u>MEMBERS LUNCHEON & AWARD PROGRAM</u>	Victoria A	Tickets will be collected at door
1330 – 1420	<u>TOWN HALL MEETING with CHIEF COMMANDER</u>	Grandover	C/C Creighton Maynard, SN
1430 – 1520	<u>SPECIAL PROGRAM</u>	Grandover	P/R/C Glenn Daughtridge, AP
1530 – 1600	<u>MEETING RECONVENES</u>		
	Reports: General Committees	Grandover	
	Standing Committees		
1600	<u>MEETING RECESSES</u>		
1600 – 1700	<u>N CLUB</u>	Augusta B	P/D/C D. Blankenbeckler, SN
1800 – 1900	<u>CASH BAR RECEPTION</u>	Pre- Function Area - Victoria A	
1900 – 2200	<u>CHANGE OF WATCH BANQUET ADJOURN MEETING</u>	Victoria A	
SUNDAY – 16 MARCH			
0900 – 1000	<u>COOPERATIVE CHARTING</u>	Pinehurst	P/D/C D. Blankenbeckler, SN

District 27 ANNUAL MEETING/COW

March 14-16, 2008

Sheraton Four Seasons – Greensboro, NC

Room Rate: \$120.00 plus taxes

Reservations: Call 336-292-9161

Ask for “United States Power Squadrons District 27” room block

Cutoff date is February 14, 2008

FRIDAY 14 March:

1100 Childress Winery – Lunch, Tour & Wine Tasting

1500 – 1600 D/27 BRIDGE MEETING – D/C Suite

1500 – 1800 Member and Voter Registration

1715 – 1815 NEW MEMBER & SQUADRON COMMANDER RECEPTION – D/C SUITE

1830 Pirate Party Hospitality Rooms – See Room Sheet

SATURDAY 15 March: Uniform of the Day: Uniform G

0730 – 0830 Member and Voter Registration

0830 – 1000 Ladies Coffee Hosted by Greensboro

0930 – 1700 Seagrove Pottery – Lunch & Shopping

0830 Council Meeting Convenes

0850 **NASA Program** by P/R/C Ed Summers, JN

1130 – 1200 **Boat Operator Certification Program** by Ray Fedele with D/26

1210 – 1320 Members’ Luncheon (advance registration required)

1330 – 1420 **Town Hall Meeting** with Chief Commander

1430 – 1520 **Special Program** by P/R/C Glenn Daughtridge, AP

1800 – 1900 Cash Bar

1900 District 27 Change of Watch Banquet - **Uniform A or Suitable attire**

SUNDAY 16 MARCH:

0900 – 1000 Cooperative Charting

REGISTRATION FORM NEXT PAGE

Nominations of 2008/2009 D/27 Officers	2008-2009	Squadron
District Commander	"Ann Bailey, AP"	Raleigh
Executive Officer	"Jerry Hall, AP"	Cape Fear
Education Officer	"Ray Travis, SN"	Winston-Salem
Administrative Officer	"Jamie McCurry, AP"	Shallotte River
Treasurer	"Lloyd Moore, JN"	Cape Lookout
Secretary	"David Osmolski, AP"	Charlotte
Asst. Treasurer	"Tom Taylor, AP"	Raleigh
Asst. Secretary	"Harold O'Briant, AP"	Durham
Asst. Education Officer	"Bill Davis, JN"	Greensboro
Nominating Comm Chair	"Mack Gordy, AP"	Greensboro
Audit Comm 3 year term	"Joe Murphy, AP"	Ft. Macon
Rules Comm 3 year term	"Ben Reed, JN"	Tar River

Existing Committee Members (do not need re-nomination)

Rules Committee:

1 Year	"Paul Strandridge, P	Charlotte"
2 year	"Carolyn Parker, SN	Lake Norman"
3 Year	"Chris Payne, AP	Rocky Mount"

Audit Committee:

1 Year	"Nita Neumeister, AP	Cape Fear"
2 year	"Barbara Murphy, AP	Catawba"
3 Year	"Richard Barnett, AP	Cape Fear"

Respectively submitted: P/D/C Tom Helms, SN Chairman of the nominating committee

United States Power Squadrons – District 27

46th Annual Rendezvous 2008

ON LAKE WYLIE

We look forward to seeing you at the Rendezvous in Charlotte on 20-22 June, 2008.

The Ramada Airport South & Conference Center will be our headquarters for registration, Friday evening reception and Saturday evening dinner. Mark your calendars and make your reservations.

We have a lot of activities planned.

Friday night reception at the Ramada

Saturday's activities will be at the Red Fez Club on beautiful Lake Wylie and will include:

Conch blowing contest

Poker run on boats

Canoe races

Bar-B-Que lunch

Saturday night dinner at the Ramada

For hotel reservations, call the Ramada. A block of rooms has been reserved by D/27 for Friday and Saturday nights (20-22 June). The special D/27 rate is \$59 plus tax per night. A breakfast buffet can be added for \$5.00 per person per day.

The cutoff date for this special rate is 12 June, 2008. Call the hotel directly and ask for the power squadron block to obtain this rate.

Ramada Airport South & Conference Center

212 Woodlawn Road

Charlotte, NC 28217

704-525-7732 or 1-800-VIP-STAY (1-800-847-7829)

Mark your calendars and make your reservations early.

Complete Rendezvous details and registration forms will be available at the District COW.

We will also mail information to newsletter editors.

DISTRICT 27 BITTS

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FIRST CLASS



WWW.USPS.ORG/LOCALUSPS/D27

D/27 Annual meeting and COW

March 14-16, 2008 Greensboro, NC

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