

**Minutes – Fall Conference Meeting  
29 September 2006  
Phoenix Hilton Airport - Phoenix, AZ**

1400 Meeting called to order by D/C Bill Johnson, AP

D/C Johnson acknowledged members of the District Bridge: DXO Charles Peterson, SN, DEO Joseph Komlance, SN, DAO Katharine Law, SN, DSecy Wanderley “Van” Diehl, SN, and D/Asst. Treasurer Connie Johnson, AP.

The District Commander thanked his staff: P/D/C Frank Fitzgerald, AP, Stf/C Robert Schloeman, JN, D/Lt Mark Keltner, AP, P/C Brockway Clark, SN, P/D/C Leland Whitehead, SN, and Lt/C Terry Gray, S.

He then recognized the past district commanders who were present, including P/D/C's Adriaan Veldhuisen, SN, Frank Fitzgerald, AP, William Bridge, SN, Robert Newsom, P, Joseph Komlance, SN, Elaine Keller, AP, Kenneth Smith, AP, Robert Schloeman, JN, Leland Whitehead, SN, Brian Smith, SN, Paul Schoonover, SN, Louis Loth, AP, David Uggen, P, Chester White, JN, and Duane Leathers, AP.

D/C Johnson announced the district members serving on National Committees:

P/D/Lt/C Louis Cook, SN	Inland & Coastal Navigation
D/Lt/C Van Diehl	Offshore Navigation
Cdr Tom Fota, P	Information Technology
Lt/C Maria “Cida” Diehl	Membership/Member Involvement
D/C Bill Johnson, AP	Basic Public Education
D/Lt/C Katie Law, SN	Historian, Governing Board
P/D/C Elaine Keller, AP	Leadership Development
P/D/C Lou Loth	Marketing
P/R/C Ed Mraz, SN	Nominations
D/Lt/C Chuck Peterson, SN	Electro Mechanical Systems
Stf/C Robert Schloeman, JN	Squadron Activities, Rules Committee
P/D/C Ken Smith, AP	Ad-Hoc Grant Writing
P/D/C Dave Uggen, P	Government & Partner Relations
Stf/C Chester White Jr, JN	Planned Giving, Aide to Chief Cdr

D/C Bill Johnson then announced the unanimous consent motion that, without objection, he would vary the order of business to expedite the proceedings, which was adopted. He reminded people to pick up items from their mailbox slots and asked that people having motions for consideration should submit them in writing. He further announced that no breakout rooms had been assigned due to the constraints imposed by the tri-district conference program.

D/Lt/C Diehl announced that a quorum was present and reviewed the criteria for voting at the meeting, identifying the Conference voting members.

D/C Johnson noted that the minutes of the 2006 Spring Conference and Summer Council had been distributed and published on the D/28 website. He asked if there were any corrections. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as published.

D/C Johnson announced that the Chief Commander’s message would be given the next day, at 0900, at the Hilton Hotel. He also announced that the Coop Charting event would take place the following day at 0600. It would be led by Rose Werner. He also mentioned that the

minutes of the Tri-District Conference to be held tomorrow, will be submitted to the D/28 Secretary to be included with the D/28 2006 Fall Conference minutes.

## **REPORTS OF BRIDGE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

**Treasurer:** D/C Johnson announced that, in the absence of Wes Heusser, the Treasurer's Report would be included with the minutes of the 2006 Fall Conference.

**Secretary:** D/Lt/C Van Diehl, SN

**“The Lead Line”:** Van thanked Lee Whitehead for the excellent job done with the current issue of the newsletter. He was seconded by all present.

**Information Technology:** Stf/C Schloeman reported on the new server for the USPS website. Membership in the D/28 mailing list stands at 319 subscribers. He noted that new members are added as they join the squadrons and deleted after they are changed to inactive status. DB2000: All squadrons are currently using DB2000. The current version is 6.0.0 released 31<sup>st</sup> August. There are still some bugs with the new version. Stf/C Schloeman recommended that squadrons wait until the bugs are ironed out before using the new version. The new version will have a way to enter the Merit Mark reports. The feature will be available to all squadrons in 2007. A full report has been placed in the mailbox.

The D/Secretary thanked Bob for the multiple activities in which he is involved and for the quality of the district website.

**Administrative Officer:** D/Lt/C Katie Law, SN

D/Lt/C Katie Law started by saying that, although it should have been her job to organize the Fall Conference, Phoenix Squadron's Connie Johnson and D/13's P/C Joan Faircloth had done all the work. She thanked them and their staffs for their wonderful job done.

**Membership/Membership Involvement:** Lt/C Cida Diehl, AP reported on the number of members that have paid their dues and number of non-renewals. She asked the squadrons to contact the non-renewals, reminding them, and for the ones not renewing, finding out the reasons. She reported that P/D/C Bob Schloeman did a nice job researching the membership numbers and non-renewals data. Squadrons need to achieve an 85% or higher retention rate to qualify for Star Award points. Balboa and Lake Mohave are doing a superb job of retention, with 92.4% and 95.1% respectively. The figures are in Lt/C Cida Diehl report in the mailbox.

**MIRA Award.** Lt/C Cida Diehl stated that the D/28 received the MIRA Award for being third highest among all districts, in retention score. Cida suggested that D/28 would aim for the 1st place next year. The District also received the Bowsprit Award 2005/2006 at the Fall Governing Board in New York. There were only six districts winning this award. Cida thanked all squadron commanders and membership chairpersons, who sent her their renewal and retention plans.

She finished her report by mentioning the Distinguished Civic Service Award, a joint USPS and Boat/US award. There is an Award for the districts and one for the squadrons for accomplishments in public boating classes, GPS seminars, VSCs, PR, and other areas. The deadline for application is October 15<sup>th</sup>. The applications should be sent to D/C Bill Johnson. The full report is in the mailbox.

Boating Activities: D/Lt Marie Baer was absent. D/C Law gave the report, mentioning that Marie's report can be seen in the current Leadline or in the district website. The San Diego Rendezvous was very successful with the participation of several boats. She was not able to take part because of family business.

Leadership Development/Operations Training: P/D/C Elaine Keller, AP. Her full report is in the mailbox. She started her presentation by saying that there has been very little squadron activity in presenting the Operations Training and Leadership Program. Only two squadrons have presented OT since June and no LDP presentations. There are several squadron bridge members that have not completed OT. P/D/C Elaine Keller also reported that the USPS Operating Committee is emphasizing the need for leadership development at all levels. National Administrative Officer V/C Frank Dvorak will be presenting a Leadership Development Seminar at the Conference. All of the Lake Mohave's Bridge needs OT. Elaine is in frequent communication with Mohave's Commander and Admin Officer. They have ordered the manual and PowerPoint presentation, and plan to run a shortened version of OT at one of their general membership meetings. Dave Uggen asked if there was money in the budget to have someone teach OT for the Mohave Squadron. D/Lt/C Law responded that there were already at least three volunteers that would teach the course for free.

Education Fund: P/C Sheryl Uggen, P. She reported that only San Luis Rey had made their contribution, as of 31 July. She thanked the squadrons that may have already made contributions and encouraged the ones that have not done yet, not to miss the opportunity.

2007 Spring Conference: The conference co-chairs are P/D/C Bill Bridge and Stf/C Chet White. P/D/C Bill Bridge reported that the budget for the conference is going to be discussed and approved at the Winter Council. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn – Bay Side, a different site from the previous SD conference. The rooms are going to be \$105. The banquet will have a variety of meat and non-meat dishes. There will be dancing with live music by the Chicago 3 Band, with music of the '50s to the '80s. A raffle will be held with nice prizes – vacation in Maine, Bay cruise, etc. The Friday Night Social will be at the home of P/D/C Chester White. P/C Mark Keltner asked if the reservation problems from the previous SD conference had been resolved. P/D/C Bill Bridge answered in the affirmative. Reservations for the hotel at the \$105 rate will be available only until 3<sup>rd</sup> February. He recommended that reservations should be done early. The rooms, at the discounted price, are being held in the name of the San Diego Sail and Power Squadron.

1430 **District Executive Officer:** D/Lt/C Chuck Peterson, SN

DXO Peterson started by calling the Squadron Commanders for their reports:

Lake Mohave: Cdr Edd Maxwell was absent. Lt Dick Tripp gave a short verbal report. He apologized for not attending many District meetings. The Lake Mohave Squadron is growing rapidly. The growth seems to be coming from the students of their Boating classes. They just completed one, 30 days ago, with six students committed to joining the squadron. He did not have the current number of members; he believes the number was between 36 and 50.

Phoenix: Lt/C Art Ashton, P, Phoenix Squadron Admin Officer gave the report. He noted that Cdr Doug Frazier's full report is in the mailbox. Highlights: During the summer several on the water activities – the rendezvous at Lake Powell, raft up at Lake Pleasant, and a barbeque at Lynx Lake. Several members attended the Governing Board meeting in NYC.

On behalf of Cdr Frazier, he thanked all those attending this first Tri-District Fall conference. He asked for a round of applause for P/C Connie Johnson, the Conference Chairperson, and her collaborators for their hard work bringing the huge event together. Upcoming events: Everyone was invited to the rendezvous at Lake Powell, following this Fall Conference; Halloween Party will be held 28 October at the Lake Pleasant; and, the now famous Cholla Bay Fish Fry, 10 to 12 November, at Puerto Penasco (Rocky Point); the Turkey Cruise, 18 November, at Bartlett Lake; and the Xmas Party, 9 December. The education department just finished a Boating Class, has an AP class underway with 10 students. A JN class is planned for the spring.

San Diego: Cdr Tom Fota, P gave the report. The full report is in the mailbox. Highlights were: Membership 142; 30 new members signed up this year. They have been offering 20% discount for the dues if the students signed up on the last day of the class. This has proven to be quite successful. Education: Four courses have been held since the Summer Council: Weather (8 students), Boating (20), Piloting (11), and Boat Smart (6). A Boating and an AP courses are scheduled for later this year. Squadron activities: Three cruiser navigation contests, and four Sail Fleet Races. Both these activities are scheduled monthly to the end of the year. The D/28 Coastal Rendezvous was held in August at La Playa Cove. "The Ship's Mail" continues to be published every two months; 68 members attended the Squadron BBQ. A GMM was held earlier this month, with a presentation by Ed and Claudia Bowler on their recent Caribbean bareboat charter. The annual Sunroad Marina Vessel Safety Check Day performed 17 VSCs in five hours. With the addition of two new examiners the squadron has now a total of seven VSEs, who have performed 72 VSCs as of 9/22, with 55 boats getting the VSC decal.

San Luis Rey: In the absence of Cdr Mike McKenna, the SLRSPS report was delivered by the SEO, Lt/C Cida Diehl, AP. Education: The following courses were held or are in progress – Marine Electronics (8 students), Boat Smart(8), Chart Smart (4), Seamanship (7), Engine Maintenance (6). For the remainder of the year a Boat Smart, an AP class, and a GPS Seminar are scheduled. Squadron activities: The Squadron ran monthly membership meetings at the Oceanside Yacht Club, and one at The Spaghetti House, in San Marcos, with 28 members attending; it published "The Mariner's Needle" newsletter every month. SLR's traditional July BBQ, a D/28 event, was a great success with the participation of members of several squadrons. Another yearly event, the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of September, was the Oceanside Harbor Days. Many visitors visited SLR tent at the Oceanside Harbor. Fliers on boating safety and on upcoming Boating and GPS classes were distributed. SLR boats participated at the D/28 raftup at La Playa Cove.

Balboa: Cdr Wesley Heusser was absent and a report was given by P/D/C Lou Loth, AP. He started by mentioning that he did not have a written commander's report. The squadron continues to have monthly meetings but the attendance has been below is expectations. Maybe the locale is not adequate. The squadron was active at the local Boat Show. Several cruises, public boating classes, and VSC safety program were held in the last three months. Cdr Wes Heusser received an award for his activity with the Sea Scouts in July.

Cooperative Charting: P/D/C E. Brian Smith, SN. The full report is in the mailbox. He reported that there has been a slow down of reporting undoubtedly due to the change of reporting procedures. Phoenix is still leading in Coop Charting reports with 7 members participating. He reported also that we are going to do chart work for the US Army Corps of Engineers. No details are yet available.

Safety: P/C John Lusson, SN. His report is in the mailbox. He reported that all five squadrons participated in the Safety program. Reports were received from the five squadrons and were forwarded to the District Recreational Boating Safety Committee representative, Michael Mann, AP and then to National. This ensures that our district will be on the Honor Roll.

Legislative/CA: D/Lt Jerry Olson, P. He was absent due to an illness. D/Lt/C Chuck Peterson wrote and presented the report, extracted from material provided by Jerry; a copy is available in the mailbox. Highlights: Transfer of more than \$26M in boater fuel taxes to the Parks Department is being proposed. Recreational Boaters of California, Inc., is opposing this measure, detrimental to the funding of small craft harbor projects. RBOC is continuing its lobbying against the phasing out of copper anti-fouling paints, based on inadequate studies to justify the ban. Meetings were held in July and August by the CA Dept. of Boating and Waterways to get public input regarding mandatory boating safety education. Stf/C Schloeman indicated there is nothing new in the Legislative/AZ.

Vessel Safety Check: P/C Ron Werner, P. The full report is in the mailbox. He reported that the District 28 examiners have collectively inspected 244 vessels. Ron congratulated Cdr Heusser for making the District shine, having reached more than 100 VSCs year-to-date. He joins the small group of Century Inspectors. JOB WELL DONE!  
The Squadron results were: Balboa 112, Lake Mohave 0, Phoenix 62, San Diego 70, and San Luis Rey 0.

At this point D/C Johnson invited Dick Tripp to bring forward the new Lake Mohave burgee and get it up on the District Banner. The new burgee received applause from the attendees. Dick Tripp explained the meaning of the colors and symbols of the burgee – the Colorado River, the Bullhead, the name of a rock in the Colorado River that could be seen prior to Davis Dam being built. Now the rock is under 80 to 100 ft of water.

**Commander: D/C Bill Johnson, AP**

D/C Johnson called for reports of his staff and the General Committees.

Nominating Committee: P/D/C Elaine Keller, AP chair of the Committee gave the report. The committee met and made progress towards their goal. She reported that now she has an almost complete slate. The Secretary's position needs to be filled. She will welcome recommendations for the position.

Merit Marks Committee: P/C Mark Keltner, AP. He indicated that he is doing the merit Marks for the District, Balboa, and, this year, also for Lake Mohave. He is still waiting for all but one of the District Officers, exception of DEO Joe Komlance, SN. He needs all inputs, including those of committee members, by 15 November.

Planning Committee: P/D/C Adriaan Veldhuisen, SN. The Planning Committee report is going to be submitted with the minutes of the meeting.

**District Education Officer: D/Lt/C Joseph Komlance, SN**

The full report and the issue of CURRENTS, distributed at the Governing Board, are in the mailbox. Joe encouraged the attendees to read the CURRENTS newsletter because it

contains important developments in the USPS regarding the “USPS UNIVERSITY”, and the new public seminars that will be available shortly.

He shared with the audience the national ranking of D/28: JN 9<sup>th</sup>, N 8<sup>th</sup>, CP 9<sup>th</sup>, EM 7<sup>th</sup>, IQ 7<sup>th</sup>, Sail 3<sup>rd</sup>, Weather 10<sup>th</sup>, ID 10<sup>th</sup>, total Elective Courses 6<sup>th</sup>. Other noteworthy statistics: Educational Proficiency Award 8<sup>th</sup>, Educational Achievement Award (Full Certificate) 9<sup>th</sup>. These rankings are down from last year because of the addition of Lake Mohave membership, which increased the member base numbers, but whose members have not yet had the opportunity to take the courses.

Joe concluded by saying that the Squadrons are teaching more Elective than Advance Grades courses. He encouraged the Squadrons to schedule more of the Advance Grades courses; P, AP, and JN are brand new courses giving emphasis to electronic navigation. This Conference, the Fall conference is the one where the Education Dept. Awards are being given out.

The first trophy is the Engine Maintenance Trophy was given to the SDSPS; the next Award for Elective Grade, Schockley Award, was given to San Diego. The last Award was the Prince Henry Award, the most prestigious Award because it rates the squadrons that have given the most advanced grade courses relative to their size. Its complex weighted average formula gives a larger weight for the JN and N courses. The award was won by the third time by San Luis Rey. D/Lt/C Diehl is planning to teach an AP and a JN class in the upcoming months to be able to keep the beautiful trophy in his living room.

The last award, for Education Proficiency, was awarded to Mary Ann Renzi, of San Diego.

D/C Johnson apologized for having to give the Education Awards at the business meeting instead of at the Tri-District Conference tomorrow, because of the tight schedule. He was in no way belittling the Education Department Awards, or setting a precedent, education being the most important focus of USPS.

Membership Growth Awards. D/C Johnson announced the two Squadron and one District awards received. Squadron awards were given to San Luis Rey, with 1.49% growth and to San Diego with 4.29% growth. The next award was for District Membership Growth, given to D/28 for its 5.44%, thanks to Lake Mohave joining in, and bringing 42 new members. The award was given to the District membership chairperson Lt/C Cida Diehl, AP. Cdr Johnson asked Dick Tripp to come to the lectern too, representing Lake Mohave.

Next D/C Johnson read the list of Coop Charting Awards, a long list reflecting the hard work of many individuals:

Name	Ranking	Years on Honor Roll
Rose Werner (PSPS)	101	3
Ron Werner, (PSPS)	172	3
Marge Hill (PSPS)	214	10
John Lusson (PSPS)	214	4
Doug Frazier (PSPS)	321	1
Connie Johnson (PSPS)	321	3
James Hill (PSPS)	336	9
Terry Gray (PSPS)	474	1
Jean Gray (PSPS)	532	1
Brian Smith (SLR)	327	14
Wolfgang Kutter (BPS)	416	5
Bill Johnson (PSPS)	147	3
Chuck Peterson (PSPS)	38	3
Jane Peterson (PSPS)	36	3

The San Luis Rey and Phoenix received Squadron Honor Roll awards. D/C Johnson thanked P/D/C Brian Smith, SN for leading the District Coop Charting activity.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** There was none.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

D/C Johnson announced that the Hospitality Rooms will be opened at 1700. He asked for everybody to empty their mailboxes.

D/C Johnson announced that the Raffle tickets were still available for sale.

This evening the poolside Western Buffet will have the participation of all the three districts, D/13, D/25, and D/28..

Tri-District Conference will be held tomorrow, starting at 0900. The joint conference will provide a forum for the sharing of ideas, and the learning from the experiences of a much larger spectrum of districts.

D/C Johnson thanked again the Conference Chairman for a successful D/28 Fall Conference.

**1700** D/C Bill Johnson recessed the Fall Conference to the following day.

**Wanderley Diehl**

D/Lt/C Wanderley "Van" Diehl, SN  
District 28 Secretary

12/12/2006

Date Adopted

## D/28 Fall Conference Attendance September 2006

1	P/D/C	Elaine	Keller, AP	Balboa
2	P/C	Connie	Johnson, AP	Phoenix
3	Cdr	Doug	Frazier, P	Phoenix
4	P/C	John	Lusson, SN	Phoenix
5	P/D/C	Chester	White, JN	San Diego
6	P/D/C	Paul	Schoonover, SN	Phoenix
7	P/D/C	Dave	Uggen, P	Balboa
8	P/C	Sheryl	Uggen, P	Balboa
9	P/C	Ron	Werner, AP	Phoenix
10	Lt	Rose	Werner, P	Phoenix
11	P/D/C	Frank	Fitzgerald, AP	Phoenix
12	Lt/C	Art	Ashton, P	Phoenix
13	P/C	Ron	Weiner, P	San Diego
14	D/Lt/C	Joseph	Komlance, SN	Balboa
15	D/C	Bill	Johnson, AP	Phoenix
16	Lt	Lori	Greenstein, S	Phoenix
17	D/Lt/C	Katharine	Law, SN	San Diego
18	Stf/C	Bob	Schloeman, JN	Phoenix
19	P/R/C	Edwin	Mraz, SN	San Diego
20	P/C	Mark	Keltner, AP	Balboa
21	Lt	Pauline	Mraz, P	San Diego
22	P/D/C	Lou	Loth, AP	Balboa
23	P/D/C	E. Brian	Smith, SN	San Luis Rey
24	Lt/C	Patricia	Diehl	Balboa
25	P/C	Tim	Harrington	Phoenix
26	Cdr	Tom	Fota, P	San Diego
27	P/D/C	Kenneth	Smith	Balboa
28	Lt/C	Maria "Cida"	Diehl, AP	San Luis Rey
29	D/Lt/C	Van	Diehl, SN	San Luis Rey
30	Lt	Dick	Tripp	Lake Mojave
31	P/D/C	Robert	Newsom, P	San Luis Rey
32	P/D/C	Adriaan	Veldhuisen, SN	San Luis Rey
33	P/D/C	Duane	Leathers, AP	San Diego
34	P/D/C	William D.	Bridge, SN	San Diego
35	P/D/C	Leland	Whitehead, SN	Phoenix
36	Lt/C	Edward	Bowler, AP	San Diego
37	Lt/c	Claudia	Bowler, AP	San Diego
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Fall Conference D28 Planning Committee meeting, held in Phoenix on September 30, 2006:

P/D/C Adriaan Veldhuisen, SN  
P/R/C Edwin Mraz, SN  
P/D/C Frank Fitzgerald, AP  
Richard Tripp

P/D/C Duane Leathers, AP  
P/C Wayne Best, P - excused  
P/D/C Malcolm Coston, SN - excused

There were four issues on the table:

1. It has been brought to my attention by members of the Nominating Committee that there are perceived barriers to nominees that are available for District Positions. It was specifically mentioned that there is an enforced gap between being member of the Nominating Committee and being available for a District Bridge position. We discussed this, and although there is such a policy at the USPS National level, we could not find evidence at our Policies and Procedures or our Bylaws. I will follow up with the Nominating Committee (Keller, Newsom, Weiner, Frazier) and ask for clarification. As a matter of principle we understand the challenges of their task and want to look at this in an expedient way.

2. We discussed the possibilities of merging the new Lake Mohave Power Squadron into the rotation for Council and Conference hosting. We agreed that there is no sense in considering Lake Mohave hosting a District Council Meeting but that we should offer them the opportunity to host either Spring 2008 or Spring or Fall 2009 as the earliest opportunities. I will formulate this offer for Dick Tripp to take to the Lake Mohave Power Squadron leadership.

3. We agreed to propose to the District to strike the last sentence in Item 6 of Section 3 - Meetings where it says "The D/28 Conference chair will provide a preliminary budget to the Winter Council preceding the Joint Fall Conference".

4. Adapt table B. Mileage Factor for calculating the District Attendance Trophy in Item 7 to reflect Lake Mohave. Proposed Amendment:

#### Mileage Factor Amended Oct. 2006

	BAL	LM	PHX	SD	SLR
BAL	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.1
LM	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.4
PHX	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.4	1.4
SD	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.1
SLR	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.0

Lou Loth proposes for PlanCom to discuss striking the calculations and instead insert a factor of 6.0 for any new Squadron that travels more than 250 miles from their location, for the first 2 years from charter date. This needs to be handled at the Winter Council '06.