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Mark 4

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Holiday Greetings from D-4 Commander, Jim Ulrich, S.N., and the D-4 Bridge.

Best wishes to all. May 2014 be a happy and healthy year for all members and their families. May your boating meet all your expectations with your vessel needing no extra care and with safe passage to all destination. Lower fuel costs (and good winds for sailors) would help as well.

2013 Governing Board Meeting – San Antonio

15 District 4 members attended the Governing Board Meeting in San Antonio, Texas September 4 thru September 7. During the day, there were seminars and meetings as a prelude to the Governing Board Meeting on Saturday, September 7, 2013. There were closed meetings which were strictly for committees involved as well as open meetings that allowed everyone the opportunity to hear what was being planned for future business within USPS. Every Department was included as

well as committees. In addition to Department meetings, there were seminars offered that included the Rescue 21 program, planning and presenting the Electronic meeting, Bareboat cruising, On Line Course Demonstrations , making the Benefits work for your squadron and working with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, just to name a few. Saturday was an all day affair where the Governing Board Meeting was convened and the business was conducted.

It wasn't all work and no play for all those attending. There were tours and extra activities available for those who were not required to attend a meeting. There was a city tour that included a tour of the Alamo, the missions of San Antonio, the Chinese Tea Garden as well as a tour around the area. Thursday evening there was a Fiesta that included a barbeque dinner and dancing. In the evening there was plenty of time to walk along the beautiful "Riverwalk" area and sample the food of the many restaurants that surrounded the Hyatt Hotel.

If you didn't attend this Governing Board meeting, you missed out on a great trip. Give some thought to

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attending the next Governing Board in Virginia.

By Commander Ted Wallace ,



A party, what else?



Ted Wallace, He survived the Alamo.

ON THE LIGHT SIDE

An old farmer had owned a large farm for many years. He had a huge man-made pond out back with a beautiful picnic area. For years it was the perfect place to unwind or hold a family get together. As the farmer grew older, his "Oasis" was used less and less. It eventually became the local swimming hole and while his neighbors occasionally took advantage of the pond, he rarely made an appearance.

One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond. He hadn't been there in a while and felt the urge to pay a visit to check on things. As he neared the pond, he heard loud playful voices giggling and laughing. As he came closer he was astonished to see that a bunch of young women had decided to skinny dip in his pond.

He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end of the pond. One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave!"

The old man replied, "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim or make you get out of the pond naked. I'm here to feed the alligator."

(For the holidays, here is another one)

Groups of Americans were traveling by tour bus through Switzerland. As they stopped at a cheese farm, a young guide led them through the process of cheese making, explaining that goat's milk was

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BE READY

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used. She showed the group a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing.

'These,' she explained, 'are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce.' She then asked, 'What do you do in America with your old goats?'

A spry old gentleman answered, 'They send us on bus tours!'

DID YOU KNOW ? BOATER'S SOURCES

1) Can you use a source for tide information readily and instantly available for your overnight stay at a marina? Sea Tow has an app available for phones. Its great and it is free. It provides a compass, speed, and immediate latitude and longitude information as well as tide data for the day at any location. It also serves as means of contacting Sea Tow in an emergency by phone. Go to "seatow.com" for further information on the app.

2) Are you working hard in your JN and N course and need some reinforcement and support? There are applications available for your phone and tablet that are beautifully done. One of them, Theodolite, provides a view of the sky, identifies planets and stars, and gives details such as azimuth and bearings.

Hurricanes are unpredictable. While the 2013 season for hurricanes is over, it pays to think ahead to next year . The season usually runs from June through November . Pay attention to the weather, forecasts and official warnings, buy a battery-operated radio. This is your best source of information in an emergency. Be prepared, purchase a portable generator and make sure you know how to work it and what it is capable to run (please read the instructions)

Here is something I didn't know, to prevent wind from entering your garage, park the car against the door. Keep the gas tank full and a disaster kit in the trunk. Keep your patio doors wedged shut, in high winds this can be done on your boat and home. Take your pets with you if you must evacuate and bring enough food and water for them.

Something Different.

Did you know that you can use toothpaste to relieve irritation from bug bites, blisters and sores, apply a drop of toothpaste to the bite or sting to stop the itching and decrease any swelling. When applied to blisters or sores it dries them up thus allowing the wound to heal faster. You can also use plain COLD yogurt. Place a small amount on the surrounding area and allow the skin to absorb it. Then you can wash it off. You can also use vinegar because it's a natural astringent.

D/Lt Bernice Fiorentini, AP

Safety Report for 2014

ON THE EDUCATION FRONT

Additional USPS Course Opportunities

As some of you may be aware, Northern New Jersey is fortunate to have its own headquarters and classroom space located in Little Falls which is near a number of major highway arteries. At various times each year, the squadron conducts a variety of USPS courses for its members in order to increase their knowledge and boating skills in this fine facility.

In addition to sharing our course offerings with other squadrons in the surrounding area, and in the spirit of encouraging the greater development of instructional programs for the benefit of members, we would like to remind our fellow district members that in the event your squadron is not holding a particular class that you would be interested in attending, that you consider contacting us to see what courses we may have scheduled. This also applies to anyone who wants to instruct a particular course but has no students in his or her squadron interested in taking the course

Not unlike most other squadrons in District 4, we are not able to offer each and every seminar, advanced and elective class each semester (for want of students or instructors), but given our location, facility and excellent instructors, we would like you to keep in mind that we are here to do what we can, in order for you to further your boating safety education. Also, keep in mind that it is in the classroom, where friendships are made, leadership skills are enhanced and it is where those of us who have a common interest and appreciation of boating have the opportunity to study together for the betterment of not only ourselves, but of

others who require the knowledge and services that only USPS can offer.

If Northern New Jersey's location is convenient and you have an interest in a particular course, please consider contacting either myself at rosselot17@aol.com or ASEO, Bill Cinque, SN at billcinque@hotmail.com for further information.

P/C Bob Rosselot, SN
Squadron Education Officer
Northern New Jersey Sail & Power Squadron

Congratulations to Raritan Bay Power Squadron on planning and posting 10 courses in the coming year. All USPS courses are included. For further information and details, go to the RBPS web site, www.RBPS.com and their Member Education Area. Tell them Mark 4 sent you.

ON THE SOCIAL FRONT

Lackawana Sail and Power Squadron held its annual clambake. A Grand time was had by all.





Look at those lobsters and happy faces. (and the weather committee certainly did its job).

Lackawana was also active with its education department. Nothing like braving the cold weather to take sights for the JN and N students.



Flowers for the hostess, P/C Carolyne Markham, AP, presented by Cdr Ellaine Pfaff.

(49 members attended including members of other squadrons)



(photo by Carl Smith, instructor)

Mark 4 is the official publication of District 4, USPS. Published 4 times a year. P/D/C David J. Meshulam, AP, Editor, Gail Merson, Assistant Editor, with the help of many loyal members. Articles and announcements from squadron officers and members are welcome by email at DJMGEM@AOL.COM

Your cooperation in providing squadron and district information is vital. Consider Mark 4 as your publication.

Happy New Year wishes from the Past District Commanders of D-4 to all our members.

D-4 Fall Conference, a First

Squadron membership in our district has steadily declined and accordingly D-4 now has less than 1400 members, a reduction of 900 members since 2004 when I was district commander. With this decline, and absent a viable fund raising program that would not compete with squadron fund raising efforts, district income went down by 40%. The district budget must reflect these facts.

The District spring and fall conferences have traditionally been held at a hotel which, based on the number of attendees would provide breakout rooms for meetings and seminars at no cost as long as a number of rooms would be guaranteed and the dinners on Friday and Saturday were well attended. With less members, costs rising, our economy

falling, membership attendance at the hotels has gone down and the District had to budget additional funds to subsidize the conferences. This was no longer possible and other options had to be considered.

Thanks to the efforts of meetings chairperson, P/R/C Vincene Aquilato, S, and her committee, the 2013 Fall Conference found a new venue, San Carlos Catering Hall in Lyndhurst, NJ. San Carlos is much more accessible to more District members. With the conference thus located, the cost to members to attend was reduced since overnight hotel costs were no longer needed.

The conference was a success and the venue worked.

While my wife Gail and I greatly enjoyed our many stays at the Marriot and other hotels in the past, the change in venue is a good idea. Hopefully the format will encourage greater attendance by Squadron members with the reduction of out of pocket expenses. Squadrons should encourage attendance by their members.

I urge squadrons to plan ahead and plan to have their membership attend the Spring conference on 3 March, 2013.

P/D/C David J. Meshulam, AP
Editor, Mark 4

P.S. The Past District Commanders did miss the soft chairs and valet parking previously promised by the Meetings Committee.