

VOLUME XLV No. 1  
JANUARY 2012



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# Scuttlebutt

THE HUNTSVILLE SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

“SAFE BOATING THROUGH EDUCATION”

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT : <http://www.usps.org/hunts/>

**Remember:** The latest Scuttlebutt can ALWAYS be found on our Squadron Website for your information.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 22 JAN Election of Officers/Change of Watch - TBD
- 30 JAN EXCOM Meeting - TBD
- 17-19 FEB Huntsville Boat Show - Von Braun Center

## THE BRIDGE

COMMANDER	Cdr John D. Miller, AP Res: (256) 998-0316
EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Lt/C Richard J. Raymont, SN Res: (256) 882-9515
EDUCATION OFFICER	Lt/C Chris M. Whitacre, AP Res: (256) 882-6909
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### What is USPS ?



Organized in 1914, USPS is a non profit, educational organization dedicated to making boating safer and more enjoyable by teaching classes in seamanship, navigation and related subjects. Our members are boating families who contribute to their communities by promoting safe boating through education.

FIND OUT MORE AT: <http://www.usps.org/>

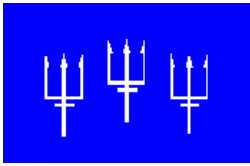
District 17 serves the inland areas of Tennessee, North Carolina, Alabama, and Georgia. Thirteen squadrons comprise District 17 with a wide variety of boating and sailing adventures, ranging from the massive and beautiful rivers and reservoirs of the Tennessee Valley and Tombigbee to peaceful mountain lakes, and white-water rapids to the mighty Mississippi.



FIND OUT MORE AT : <http://www.usps-d17.org>

**A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons**  
Sail and Power Boating  
Huntsville, Alabama

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**COMMANDER'S LOG**  
**Lt/C John Miller, AP**  
[johndmiller@hughes.net](mailto:johndmiller@hughes.net)

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday and wish each of you a very Happy New Year! As my second year as the squadron commander comes to a close, I am very thankful for the opportunity to have served as your commander. To those who have served as members of the bridge and EXCOM, thank you for your outstanding support and dedication to our squadron.

2011 had been a great year, filled with activities both on and off the water. I hope that we can continue to support our effort to hold an annual activity promoting boater safety during National Safe Boating Week. With the support of the management at Ditto Landing, Huntsville Fire and Rescue, and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, this event will continue to attract public awareness and community participation.

Please plan to attend our annual Change of Watch on 22 January 2012, as our new commander and bridge assume leadership positions for the upcoming year. I look forward to the new ideas and events that the new bridge will generate, and will assist them where possible. (See the Administrative Officer's article for details).

There are two additional events in the near future that I would like to make you aware of and request your assistance. First, the annual "Boat Show" to be held at the VBCC on 17-19 February 2012. The squadron will need assistance from all its members to man the booth during the event. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Change of Watch for times that need coverage. Secondly, our squadron will be hosting the District 17 Spring Conference and Change of Watch at the Four Points Sheraton on 16-18 March. Volunteer opportunities will be distributed, and I encourage as many as possible to lend a helping hand. Details of the conference will appear in the next issue of the squadron newsletter. The hotel has offered a free round of golf for those registered at the hotel for the conference. The date reserved for that event is Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> at the Airport Golf course.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the change of watch later this month.



**EDUCATION OFFICER**  
**Lt/C Chris Whitacre, AP**  
[hrsar2@att.net](mailto:hrsar2@att.net)

It's that time of year again to let the education department know what you would like us to present over the next twelve months. We would like to continue our presentation of seminars and just need to know which night of the week is best so we can start lining up our instructors. If you have other interest, please let us know so we can see about making presentations on topics that are of interest to the membership.

Its almost time to starting boating again so we should each check on our boats and see how they have fared through this part of the winter season and begin to make our list of things to be done when spring get here. The usual maintenance items like checking the oil, charging the batteries, checking the drive lube (for those with lower units) and of course cleaning the glass so we can see where we are going. If we all get started now, when that first warm day comes, we will all be ready to go!



**Report from Rod Triplett on  
the Great Loop**

Vern Gehm, AP

An update on Rod Triplett's Great Loop Adventure as he told it to Vern Gehm via telephone on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Rod left Aqua Marine in luka, MS on 28 December after getting a number of electronic upgrade performed on his boat. He met a lot of tow traffic on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, especially below Demopolis, AL. The new equipment, especially the Automatic Information System (AIS) allowed him to coordinate passage information with tows that were around bends. He is currently in a marina on the Dog River off Mobile Bay waiting parts for a rear thruster that stopped working on the trip. He hoped for shear pin replacement, but the gears were damaged. He said he is having a great time and has a boating friend traveling with him. He said his friend is a good mechanic and has been a great help. He hopes to be underway around January 12<sup>th</sup>.

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## SAFETY ARTICLE

Contributed by:  
P/C Charles Hughes, SN

### Aids to Navigation - Road Signs of the Waterway

Aids to Navigation are placed along coasts and navigable waters as guides to mark safe water and to assist mariners in determining their position in relation to land and hidden dangers. Each is used to provide specific information. Several aids to navigation are usually used together to form a local system that helps the mariner follow natural and improved channels. They also provide a continuous system of charted marks for coastal piloting.

Lateral Marks are buoys or beacons that indicate sides of a route to be followed. They follow the traditional 3R rule of "red, right, returning" when returning from seaward and proceeding toward the head of navigation. Along the coast this is generally considered moving southerly along the Atlantic, westerly along the Gulf and northerly along the Pacific. In the Great Lakes it is westerly and northerly, except on Lake Michigan where southerly movement is toward head of navigation system.



The Intracoastal Waterway employs special markings that consist of a yellow square or triangle. When following the conventional direction of buoyage:



YELLOW SQUARE - is kept on LEFT SIDE



YELLOW TRIANGLE - is kept on RIGHT SIDE

The Western River System varies from the standard system in that aids are not numbered. It contains crossing daymarks that indicate where the river channel crosses from one bank to the other. Lights on green aids may be green or white and those on red aids may be red or white.

The U.S. Aids to Navigation System is intended for use with nautical charts. The meaning of a particular aid may not be clear unless the appropriate chart is consulted. Publications such as Light Lists and Coast Pilots contain additional, important information. Each Coast Guard District also publishes a Local Notice to Mariners reporting changes to and deficiencies in aids to navigation and other marine information.



**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**  
 Lt/C Nancy L. Hamilton, S  
[ham\\_nl@yahoo.com](mailto:ham_nl@yahoo.com)

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season enjoying friends and family. Tom and I enjoyed spending time with all of our family this year. As this is my last article as your Administrative Officer I would like to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to all that have helped and attended our HSPS Squadron functions for 2011. As I pass the gauntlet on to your new Admin Officer I am very excited about the coming year. The incoming bridge will be ushered in on Sunday, January 22, 2012 in a combined Election of Officers and Change of Watch brunch to be held at the Greenbrier Restaurant off of I-565 at 1:00PM CST. We hope that all members will attend to welcome the new bridge for 2012.

Additionally, Dick Raymont will have more information for you regarding the Huntsville Boat Show that will be held this year in February.

- February 17-19, 2012 – Friday thru Sunday – The Huntsville Boat Show – VBC South Hall

It has been my pleasure to have been your Admin Office the past two years. I am leaving this post in very capable hands.

Stay safe in boating and see you at the Change of Watch!

**HSPS CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

22	January	Election of Officers/Change of Watch Brunch	Greenbrier Restaurant, Huntsville AL
23	January	EXCOM Meeting	Selex – Huntsville, AL
17-19	February	Huntsville Boat Show	Von Braun Center
27	February	EXCOM Meeting	Selex – Huntsville, AL

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**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
 Lt/C Richard J. Raymont, SN  
[raymontr@bellsouth.net](mailto:raymontr@bellsouth.net)

## HUNTSVILLE BOAT SHOW

17-19 February  
 Von Braun Civic Center, South Hall


Please volunteer to assist in our booth at the Annual Huntsville Boat Show. This is where we identify many new members and get our name and mission before the boating community. If you have not already signed-up at the Christmas brunch, please see me at the Change of Watch.

Following is current list of volunteers:

Day / Hours	Volunteers
Friday: Set-up and 1600-1800	Joel Weinbaum
1800-2000	
2000-Close	
Saturday: 0900-1100	
1100-1300	Jack and Jane Conway
1300-1500	David and Sandy Fuller
1500-1700	Tom and Nancy Hamilton
1700-1900	
1900-Close	
Sunday: 100-1200	
1200-1400	Daryl and Barbara Carpenter
1400-1600	
Tear Down	

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**CLASSIFIEDS:**

**Lynn**   
**Layton**

2416 Highway 31 South at Hwy 67) Decatur, AL 35602

Decatur Phone: 353-5531      Huntsville Phone: 533-1576  
Birmingham Phone: 252-6410 Toll Free: 888-999-0702

TRM 334

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