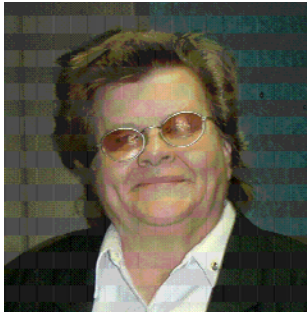


August 2008

RESACA ECHO

**The Lower Rio Grande Valley Power Squadron
Sail and Power Boating News
Volume 35 Number 2
A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®
District 21**



A View from the Bridge
By Cdr Barbara Ketchum, S

Hello to All,

This has been a very busy summer, and it has gone by way to fast for me. Here we are almost into fall, and so many more activities planned.

We have rescheduled the D21 Coop Charting event for Nov 8th. We hope the weather holds out. As many of you know we were hit by Hurricane Dolly just before we were to have our Coop Charting Event, but that's the way things go sometimes, thank goodness we had a back-up plan. More information about this event is coming.

September 25th is our first Dinner Meeting for the year at Lone Star Restaurant in Harlingen, TX (Social: 1800, Dinner: 1900). Peter Pranis Jr has made the arrangements for the Speaker. If you can come join us we would love to see new faces. Then on September 27th is our Man-Over- Board Drill, which always is exciting and also some camaraderie among our squadron friends.

More exciting news later.

Have fun, Be safe God Bless.

Barb Ketchum, S
Commander



Resaca Echo
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Any article appearing in this publication is to be assumed as representing the opinions of the author and is not to be considered as reflecting the policy of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Power Squadron or USPS® unless so designated. Contributors are welcome to mail their copy to the address above or send it via e-mail to the above e-mail address. The editor prefers copy be submitted in MSWord, but will accept any text article. Pictures are welcome, either by e-mail or regular mail. This is your newsletter. Please feel free to contribute.

Bridge 2008 -2009

Commander Barbara Ketchum, S
 Executive Officer Sid Rouch, S
 Educational Officer Peter P. Pranis, Jr., AP
 Administrative Officer Kenneth "Larry" Lewis, S
 Secretary Kathryn E. Polt, AP
 Treasurer John B. Carey, Jr., JN
 Asst SEO Gerardo Carrillo, P

Members at Large

Joyce N. Armstrong, S
 Bruce Bauer
 Daniel Bauer
 Santos Ponce
 William A. Rutledge, AP
 Stuart D. Simpson, Jr., AP
 Keith Shantz, AP

Auditing Committee

Jacqueline M. Judah, P (Chair)
 James B. Palmquist, P

Nominating Committee

Kathryn E. Polt, AP (Chair)
 Christine G. Rakestraw, AP
 Martha (Boo Boo) Lewis, P

Happy Birthday

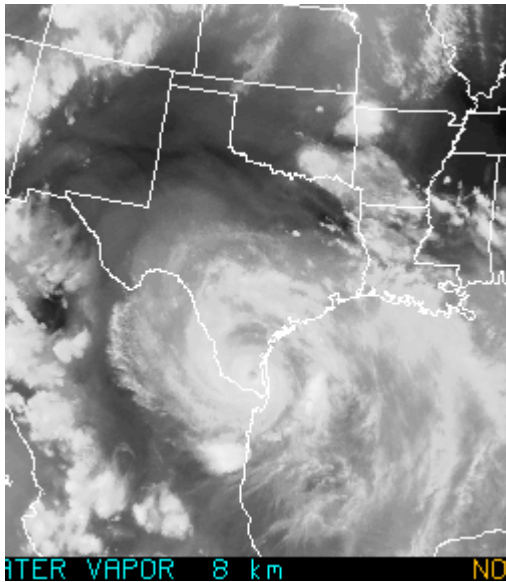
August and September



M. E. Dodson	Aug 07
Kasey Lewis	Aug 15
David Joseph Ivory	Aug 26
Kyle Wagener	Aug 28
George Rivas	Sept 01
Barbara J. Ketchum	Sept 06
Gary Stephen Sollner	Sept 08
John Pinkerman	Sept 13

Editor's NoteP/C Paul E. Thompson, Jr., AP*Ahoy mates,*

This issue is devoted for the most part to reports and articles submitted by members concerning the experience with Hurricane Dolly. Information concerning their preparations, activities during hurricane Dolly and how they fared after Dolly passed through. I hope have fun reading this issue and gain helpful knowledge from these first hand experiences of your fellow members. Many members have put time and energy into writing the material that they submitted for this issue and I appreciate and thank each one for their efforts.



Hurricane "Dolly" 2008

Members' Stories

Pete Pranis' Hurricane Preparations

by Lt/C Peter Pranis Jr., AP

My place is pretty secure with only one wall exposed to wide open spaces, hence flying debris. Otherwise I have a garage on the North side and other condo units attached to my East and West. So, I figured I wouldn't board up, just move papers away from exposed windows.

To prepare I got some canned goods and bread. I keep four gallons of water/iced tea in the ice box as a matter of course. I just topped them off and got some extra fruit juice.

I also got a gallon of bleach just in case the tap water got polluted. One or two table spoons of bleach in a gallon of water that is stirred up and let sit for thirty minutes to an hour will purify the water. This works. I did this in Panama where we had to pull raw water out of the Canal and make it fit to drink.

As for flushing water, I figured the common swimming pools had plenty of water for this. All I needed was a bucket to haul the water.

Continued on page 4.

Continued from page 3.

Fortunately, all went well, Dolly's eye passed about 20 miles North of me. The Southern edge of the eye wall ten or twelve miles to the North; Wind was up from about 1700 Wednesday to 0700 Thursday. Power was out from 2230 Wednesday to 0830 Thursday. A few trees down in the immediate area, but all fell in open areas,

We were really lucky. Thanks be to God!

A Note from Pete Pranis regarding Stu and Jacqui Simpson

Stu hasn't been active in the Squadron since being hit with a long term medical problem. But he and Jacqui have been in our prayers and thoughts.

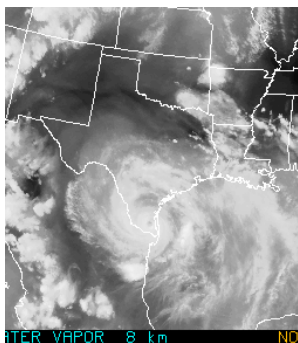
Dolly hit the Simpsons pretty hard in Port Isabel. They faced hundred mile per hour winds for six or seven hours along with lots of rain. The wind took off their tile roof. The wind/rain combination came through the upstairs sliding door to floor the second floor. This water caused the first floor ceiling to drop.

The Simpsons are hanging on! It was tough to keep Stu in oxygen, but so far O.K. Stu and Jacqui live at 1418 Harbour Drive in the fingers at Port Isabel. Phones: Land line: 956-943-6863, cell: 309-368-7539. If you get to Port Isabel give them a ring. Perhaps you could drop by and pay them a visit. They are kind of isolated from things so they could use so cheering up.

Joyce Armstrong supplied the picture below and reported.

“Jim Guffey's house at Arroyo City lost 2nd roof on his trailer and had quite a mess in yard--notice electric lines down... “

Hurricane Dolly



Kay's Dolly STORIES

By P/C Kathryn E. Polt, AP

After work on Monday July 21, Rolando Lozano, Chris Rakestraw, and I moved our two RV trailers from Arroyo City to a storage barn west of Harlingen. We also moved our boat from outside to inside storage. It was a LONG night. On Tuesday after work I drove around the neighborhood hoping to find someone to help install my pre-cut plywood window covers. I got lucky with the 2nd group of guys I came upon. Three men and two hours later, I was boarded up. On Wednesday, I got up early to check everything out after it started blowing. One of the covers had come loose (we hadn't used enough clips) and was laying on the ground. I managed to get it re-installed and braced. Then I took some 4x4 fence posts and positioned them behind the truck and car in the garage, then backed the vehicles up snug to brace the inside of the garage door so the wind wouldn't buckle it. Soaked to the bone, I went inside and found two phone messages. It was Chris. "Come get me!" Her plan to sit out the storm in her 5th wheel at the RV park lasted about an hour into the winds. I un-braced the garage doors, hopped in the truck and went to fetch her. At 8:30am it was already starting to flood on some of the low-lying roads. Chris had her truck locked onto her 5th wheel for stability. But the winds were nerve wracking and her friends told her to get someplace safe so they didn't have to worry about her. We re-installed the 4x4 braces on the garage doors when we got back to the house. It was easier with help.

Through the day, I went out 2 or 3 times to inspect the window covers, and had to fix a couple of them. We watched Channel 4 weather all day, read some books, played on the internet, and listened to the wind. Later in the storm, as the wind had moved about 90 degrees from the morning, I gave up and took down a couple of boards from windows that were reasonably protected from flying debris. That helped get some light into the house because about 5pm, the lights went out. So we dug out the batteries and turned on KURV AM710 talk radio. Lots of good information on the radio. We should have turned that on earlier.

It was fun playing in the wind. The rain was blowing so hard it was like arrows pricking at you. I couldn't put my face into the wind, it hurt too much. I had on foul weather gear and I could feel the pricks through several layers. But it was fun leaning into the wind and playing "airplane".

About 8:30pm, it had calmed down enough to venture out. We climbed into my truck and went to go see how Chris's RV had fared. Lots of blown over trees and fences in my neighborhood, and some missing shingles and tiles. Ed Carey was flooded, the crest of the road was not under water so we drove in the turning lane. The fields and subdivisions on both sides of the road were flooded, there was water everywhere. As we turned onto the access road to get over to Paso Real, the water got deep, up to my doors. So we hopped up on the expressway. Then had to come back down and found it wasn't any better a mile down the road. "Sorry Chris, but I can't get to your place...." So we turned around in the deep water and slowly made it back to the neighborhood. We went to check out the resaca, and it was up about 1 or 2 feet over normal, but it was not out of the banks.

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Continued from page 5.

I got a call from a co-worker who said the factory would be closed on Thursday as well, so I didn't have to worry about getting to work on flooded streets the next day.

We spent the evening reading mystery stories by flashlight, and finally went to bed.

I woke up early the next day, and looked out the one window without the board covering it. "HOLY CRAP" or something loud like that came out of my mouth. Loud enough to wake up Chris on the other side of the house. All I could see was water. I was afraid to open the front door and look out. I checked for water coming under the door but there didn't appear to be any. So I bravely opened it and looked out the front door. The house was on an island. I was completely surrounded by water. There was about 18 inches in the street in front of my house. The whole street and neighborhood was flooded. There was a frog swimming down the sidewalk, and a big carp swimming along the driveway. All that water from the fields and access roads must have drained into the resaca over night.

We did some water aerobics and walked around the neighborhood talking to those who had ventured out into their flooded yards. None of the houses in my neighborhood had water inside. I was about 6 inches above the high water line before it would come into my house. Some neighbors were about 2 inches on the safe side. Wow, what luck.

After Pete Pranis helped us out with some trouble shooting to get a gas leak fixed, Chris and I finally got the generator going mid-afternoon and plugged in the refrigerator and laptops.

I couldn't get out with the vehicles on Thursday, but as the day progressed the water started to recede. It went down about 3 inches through the day. The lights came back on about 4pm, and we were amazed. All that water, and we had lights. I called a friend who came and picked us up on the other side of the flood that evening and took us over to Chris's for a look-see. Her place was fine, no damage to anything. There was a vent that came open but as luck would have it, it was in the bathroom and there was a garbage can directly underneath it. So no water damage in there at all.

The most miraculous part of this was that there wasn't one drop of rain on Thursday. If there had been, my neighborhood would have been going en-mas to the flood insurance relief centers.

The next morning, Friday, the waters had receded enough to get out, so I went to work. 48 hrs later, Saturday morning, the streets were dry. All that water just drained away to somewhere.

No damage whatsoever to my house. Not a shingle out of place. The top of one tree broke off, but I managed to salvage the tree with a couple of well-placed saw blades. (OK, Rolando sawed and trimmed it for me, but I showed him where to cut.)

I'm pretty darn happy with my builder. I had neighbors walking by asking what damage or leaks I had. When I said "none", they were jealous. Lots of them had leaks, especially in the roofs. Ridge vents are nice in the sunshine, but they don't work for hurricanes and horizontal rain. Lots of wet attics and ceilings.

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Continued from page 6.

The next weekend we went to check out Arroyo City. On the way we saw lots of damage. Lots of flooded homes, blown off roofs, collapsed buildings. At the RV park where we had our trailers, the metal roof (rafters and all) blew off the community center. And flew right through the space we opened up when we moved the trailers. Had we left them there, we would have gotten smashed.

I have some nice dramatic pictures of my island paradise, and that is all. Somebody up above was watching out for me, and I am eternally grateful.

PC Kay Polt



Above PC Kay Polt, AP checking her mail after hurricane “Dolly” visited.

After Dolly
Lt/C John B. Carey, Jr., JN

“We are all doing fine. We didn't have much damage at all. Our Sat. Dish blew down, lost some siding from the house, a lot of landscaping, no electrical for 6 days and a lot of cleanup. But we are doing great.”

Editor’s Note: This was reported Sunday, 3 August 2008.

More Photos from PC Polt, AP of her home and neighborhood following “Dolly’s” visit.



Fourth Photo from PC Polt, AP of her home and neighborhood following “Dolly’s” visit.



Paul, Gary and Josh Dance With Dolly

by PC Paul E. Thompson, Jr., AP

Since I live about sixty miles from the coast and about seven miles North of the Rio Grande River and have been through several Hurricanes in the last 60 years including “Beulah” in 1967 my preparations were guided by those experience. I use a respirator, which requires electricity, when I sleep so that had to be taken into consideration. I also live alone. One of my good friends and a fellow elder where I worship insisted that I stay with him. Gary lives about 2 miles from me in a two story house that was rebuilt following hurricane Beulah.

My first preparation was to make a list of things to do and precede to go about doing them. I went to the ATM and withdrew cash. These things do not work without power. I made arrangement to get some trees removed that could cause damage to my house. I was especially concerned about those growing near the overhead power line to the house. Had the house and grounds secured

I packed up my ventilator, medicines, clothes, some valuable documents and laptop computer, which connects to the internet through either a cell phone broadband card or telephone dial up service. I purchased a weeks supply of non perishable food that did not require cooking or heating, also bottled water, toilet paper, paper towels, hand sanitizer, gojo hand cleaner, dry cell

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alkaline batteries (D cells were hard to find) to fit the flashlights, weather radio, etc. I checked all the fluids, tire air pressure, and filled my van with fuel before going to Gary's house. Gary's son Josh helped me unload and settle in to my bedroom. Then I did what I could to help them finish their preparations.

When we had finished we received a call from a friend whose father was in the Heart Hospital in McAllen asking us to check on their house. We went down the road and after looking around determined that everything was secure there. We invited our friend to stay with us. She decided to stay with her father in the hospital.

When the winds and rain passed through we were watching TV. About 2200 the power went off so we lit our candles and went to bed. I spent most of the night sitting up after the battery backup to the ventilator gave out. I can manage breathing this way. It just tires me out. We got power back at 0900. We were only without power for 11 hours. We had some shingles blow off, a small shed blown down and moved to a new location, one two foot diameter hackberry tree blew over away from the house.

At my house in town some shingles blew off, and one dead palm broke in half where there was a woodpecker made hole that some parrots nested in and fell into the top of a mesquite tree, another broke in half and just fell. There were some branches broken in my mesquite forest and some twenty foot high cactus blew over or tops broke off. My 8 foot windmill blew over but is fine.

We faired well and are grateful to God for his protection. We had electricity longer and it was back on sooner than many others in town. We had no other disruption of services.

PC Paul E. Thompson, Jr., AP

When, Where, and Who are These people?



A Long Over Do Personal Note

from PC Paul E. Thompson, Jr., AP

My family and I can not thank the members of this Squadron and USPS members for the many kindnesses that we have been given because of the passing of our parents. First was our father PC Paul E. Thompson, Sr., P, on 11 May 2000 and then our mother Lydia Margaret Thompson, P, on 01 May 2008. On both these occasions we received such great caring and support that says "USPS people are the finest kind."

Thank You again and God Bless you all.

Margaret Lydia,
George Edward (deceased 31 July 2000),
Pauline Kay, and
Paul E. Thompson, Jr.



Latest USA Today/Gallup poll results indicate
D/21 Fall 2008 Conference Apathy!

District 21 D/C states media emphasizing international
Beijing 2008 Olympics over issues in District 21!

- ☆ *Ensure your voice is heard!*
- ☆ *Discuss the issues!*
- ☆ *Make plans now to attend!*

District 21 fall 2008 Conference
2-5 October 2008
Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake

Make your reservations now – cutoff for room block is 19 September.



\$89/ Night – all rooms feature panoramic views of Clear Lake
281-333-9300

“Power Squadron D/21” – ask for Nazie Greenwell

Registration information coming soon!

- Thursday:..... Sunset Dinner Cruise in the planning stages...
Friday:..... Anchoring, Sail, & GPS Seminars
 Instructor Recertification if you tell Alice you want it...
 ~ 1200 District Bridge & Squadron Officers Working Lunch
 ~ 1600 – District 21 Council Meeting
 ~ 1800 – ‘til: Squadron Campaign Conventions!
Saturday..... 0800: Cooperative Charting
 1000 & 1345: District 21 Conference
 1200: Members’ Luncheon – Honoring SEO’s
 1200: Social Luncheon “George Washington & Presidential Style”
 1700: District Commander’s Reception
 1900 – ‘til: Campaign Election Night Celebration

Teaching Aid Display & Competition – Ship’s Store – Award Presentations – Exhibits
Great Food – Champagne, etc. – Raffle Prizes

National C/C’s representative: V/C John T. Alter, SN



The Road to Clear Lake...

WE REPORT – YOU DECIDE



CAMPAIGN BLOG

District 21 Fall 2008 Conference
2-5 October 2008
Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake
 \$89/ Night –
 all rooms feature panoramic views of Clear Lake
 281-333-9300
 "Power Squadron D/21" – ask for Nazie Greenwell
Cutoff for room block 19 SEPTEMBER



POLLS IN PROGRESS

Instructor Recertification will be offered if requested. Email or call D21 DEO if you have an interest: D/Lt/C Alice M. Pippin, JN
 337-625-9239 a.pippin@att.net



BREAKING NEWS

Hilton now accepts pets up to 75lbs with a \$75 deposit (don't ask for refund).



ON THE RECORD

Thursday..... Casual
 Friday.....USPS Casual
 (polo/button-down/slacks)
 Friday Night..... Casual
 Saturday.....USPS Blazer
 (tie optional)
 Saturday PM.....Campaign Party Attire



FEATURED CELEBRITY



V/C John T. Alter, SN
National Administrative Officer
 representing the Chief Commander.



CAMPAIGN EVENTS

Thursday Sunset Dinner Cruise aboard the Star Fleet *Star Cruiser* – embark & end at the Hilton!

Menu: "Champagne Chicken"
 Baby Field Greens Salad with
 Balsamic Vinaigrette, Feta Cheese & Toasted Walnuts
 Potatoes Au Gratin & French Green Beans
 Fresh Baked Breads & Herb Butter
 Juice & Soda
 New York Style Cheesecake
 Cash Bar (with Champagne!)



(\$48! - usual price to the public: \$65!)

Friday

Seminars

GPS, Sail Trim & Anchoring

Teaching Aids Display & Competition

Ship's Store

District & Squadron Officers Working Lunch

MENU: Seafood Buffet

(all officers, committee chairs & members welcome)

District 21 Council

District 21 Squadron Campaign Conventions

Saturday

Cooperative Charting Meeting

Teaching Aids Display & Competition

Ship's Store

District 21 Conference

Member's Lunch Honoring SEO's

MENU: Chicken Marsala

Social Luncheon

"George Washington & Presidential Style"

MENU: Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad

Award Presentations

District Commander's Reception (with Champagne!)

Campaign Night Celebration

MENU: Ribeye with Shrimp



Squadron Education Officer Report

Lt/C Peter Pranis Jr. AP, Educational Officer

It has been a very quiet summer, excluding Dolly. Still need to finish the Seamanship Course with the exam. This will happen after Labor Day.

The Weather Course still hasn't been put in final form. The committee is doing their BETA edition testing. I suspect the problem is how to square the circle of taking a "popular/watered down" course that is still technically thorough. Welcome to the "electronic/Power Point" world!! If this drags on past November we might check out the idea of getting a BETA version ourselves so we can get our Weather Course underway.

The new Squadron Boating Course is set, but has yet to be sent to the printers! I assume this is a case of not spending money until you have to. This means not until the old course stockpile of texts runs out. Raleigh says the new course will be ready some time in October/November. Until the course is printed, its price to the Squadrons won't be known.

In the meantime the squadron will have to sit and wait. However, we do have a couple of old course "desk copies" a few students could use in a pinch. These are not enough for a class. Hopefully Headquarters won't take this down to the wire as the Squadron Boating Course season approaches.

That is about it have a good summer, or what's left of it.

P.S. Welcome back PC Paul E. Thompson, Jr., AP as our new "Echo" editor. The "Echo" really is the glue that holds the squadron together.

Environment

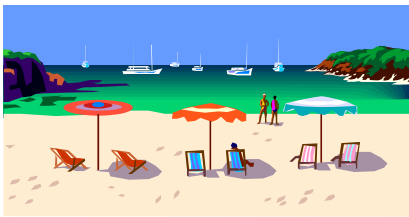
Lt/C Peter Pranis Jr. AP, Educational Officer

PC Rod Summy, AP; Bill Stocker, S; Lt/C Pete Pranis, AP will work with a potential Eagle Scout 09 August 2008 to explore another round of spoil bank revegetation. This Eagle Scout candidate lives in Laguna Vista. This could make it easier to grow seedlings and organize the work etc. Will know more after the meeting.

Continued on page 14.

Continued from page 13.

Note: The Laguna Vista ‘yacht harbor’ is a mess. It can not be used for much of anything. Lt/C Chris Rakestraw, AP, Marty Glore, S, and Lt/C Pete Pranis, Jr., AP, checked it out as part of last winter’s coop charting work. Maybe describing it as a mess isn’t strong enough. Figure one or two feet of water in the basin with lots of weeds.



A Prayer

Almighty Heavenly Father,

We give You Praise. You have once again watched over us in our time in peril from the wreath of hurricane Dolly. You answered our prayers and none of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Power Squadron members were injured. Members suffered damages to their property but our members survived. Guide us through our time of recovery. We thank You Lord and ask Your continued blessings on our members during the remainder of this hurricane season.

In His Holy name Amen.

by PC Paul E. Thompson, Jr., AP

Mark Your Calendar

23 Aug: Anchoring Class—
Cancel due to storm recovery

11 Sept: Exec Com Meeting-1830
Carey Sheet Metal

25 Sept: Dinner Meeting
Social: 1800; Dinner: 1900
Speaker – TBA

27 Sept: Man-Over-Board Drill 0900
Larry Lewis’s dock. With 12 noon rendezvous
at Marchans Rest. by boat or land.

02-05 Oct: D21 Spring Conference
Hilton Houston NASA Clearlake
Registration Form page 15

09 Oct: Exec Com Meeting-1830
Carey Sheet Metal

23 Oct: Dinner Meeting –Place: TBA

30-31 Jan: 2009 Incoming Officers Meeting,
Plano, TX

2-5 April: 2009 Spring Conference Dallas





**District 21 2008 Fall Conference - Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake
2-5 October 2008**

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK BY 22 SEPTEMBER 2008.

Conference Registration (by 22 September).....\$89 x _____ = \$ _____

Late Registration (after 22 September).....\$103 x _____ = \$ _____

Optional Thursday Evening Dinner Cruise\$48 x _____ = \$ _____
(usual price to the public \$65, includes pickup & return at Hilton!)

Friday Working Lunch (Seafood Buffet)
(D21 Bridge, D21 Committee Chairs & members,
Squadron Officers & Committee Chairs & members)...\$25 x _____ = \$ _____

Extra or Individual Ticket Prices:

Saturday Member Lunch\$35 x _____ = \$ _____

Saturday Social Lunch.....\$35 x _____ = \$ _____

Saturday Election Party\$55 x _____ = \$ _____

Squadron: _____

Rank _____ Name (First/MI/Last) _____ Grade _____ Name on Badge _____

Rank _____ Name (First/MI/Last) _____ Grade _____ Name on Badge _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number attending Saturday Member Lunch: _____ Number attending Saturday Social Lunch: _____

First time conference attendee? Yes/No (circle one)

Special considerations: _____

Name(s) of pets attending: _____

Make check payable to: D21 Fall Conference

Mail to: P/D/C Charles T. Ashford, SN
614 North Flamingo
Seabrook, TX 77586-1810
281-474-7260 or chas614chi@aol.com for more information or questions





LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY POWER SQUADRON

A UNIT OF UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

SAIL AND POWER BOATING

Resaca Echo
P/C Paul E. Thompson, Jr., AP
P.O. Box 606
Donna, TX. 78537-0606

