

HISTORY OF THE DOVES

1974 - 1983

In April 1974 a letter was received from the Chairman of the Western Florida Power Squadron Auxiliaries stating that the Peace River Power Squadron was one of six Squadrons in District 22 without a Ladies Auxiliary. Wives of Squadron members were asked if they would be interested in forming an Auxiliary and if so, were invited to come to a meeting in May to elect a slate of Officers who would direct them until such time as an Auxiliary was accepted. Angela Hoffman was elected President.

During the next few months the name of "DOVES" was chosen and By-Laws were drawn up and adopted. This group of ladies continued holding monthly meetings and social events until 1 April 1975 when the "DOVES" was established as an Auxiliary of the Peace River Power Squadron. At that time there were 34 Charter Members, 11 of the original members are still active in the "DOVES" today. Much of the ground work was done by hard working Barbara Banks, wife of the Squadron Commander, Basil Banks AP. P/D/C Harold Walker N was the liaison Officer between the Auxiliary and the Peace River Power Squadron and gave many hours of his time and much effort to see that this became a reality.

During the years that have followed, many ladies have been responsible for the successful and active Auxiliary we have today. Our "Thank You" to the Past Presidents who gave so willingly of their time. Each one has made their special contribution. For your interest, cooperation and leadership you have our appreciation:

Angela Hoffman	1974-1977	Clovis Smith	1980
Madeline Roeber	1978	Hermine Jacobs	1981
Helen Harrell	1979		

In the early years, the "DOVES" held their meetings in many different places; First Federal Savings and Loan Bank, Punta Gorda; Marie Manor "Party Room", Charlotte Harbor; Punta Gorda Boat Club; Bay Front Recreation Center, Punta Gorda; Freedom Federal Bank, Port Charlotte; Isles Yacht Club, Punta Gorda and in November 1979 moved to the Italian/American Club along with the Squadron.

The "DOVES" used to have their own programs after the business meeting. Today we join the Squadron after our business meeting and theirs, and enjoy the program provided by the Squadron.

It has been acknowledged that participation of the women in Squadron social affairs has led to a more abundant life for navigation lovers. There could be some truth in that statement for in 1981 we witnessed the inauguration of a first for both the Squadron and the "DOVES"; the first joint installation of officers for the "DOVES" and the Change of Watch for the Squadron. It was an experiment that turned out to be a smashing success and is to be an annual affair in the future.

Over the years the "DOVES" have worked hard to provide services and make money for the Squadron. We decorate for both the Christmas dinner dance and the Change of Watch as well as hold auctions, bake sales and bazaars to make money.

Many of the "DOVES" members are Certificate Holders and some continue taking Advanced Grade and Elective Courses. In 1981 approximately 25 members took the Skipper Saver Course.

Each year, the "DOVES" try to provide varied projects to interest its members. Participation and working together keeps an organization alive and active.

Attending and participation in the Spring and Fall Conferences gives a member a fuller meaning of what an Auxiliary does and can add further enjoyment in the local Auxiliary.

In 1982 it was the first time many "DOVES" stood with their husbands at a booth during Safe Boating Week.

In 1982 a fabric painting course was successfully launched with members painting "Made to Order" tote bags and other gifts for the Ways and Means project.

In 1982, the "DOVES" saw the very successful publication of their first cook book, the "GALLEY CUISINE", with recipes contributed by members and other "VIPs".

In 1982 the "DOVES", for the first time, held two very successful "Get Acquainted" luncheons.

In 1982 the "DQVES" inaugurated an initiation ceremony which was given to every new member.

In 1982 the "DOVES" gave the Squadron a telephone answering machine, which is to be passed on to each new Commander. This was given in honor of their 10th Anniversary.

In 1982 the "DOVES" presented the Squadron with a \$.500.00 check at their Change of Watch.

This brings the History of the "DOVES" up to the present time, March 1983, and with the continued enthusiasm and active participation we feel we can remain being an Auxiliary that the Peace River Power Squadron will be proud of.

Jean P. Johnson, AP
President, the "DOVES" 1982