



# United States Power Squadrons®

*Come for the boating education...Stay for the Friends<sup>SM</sup>*

**ROCKY MOUNT POWER SQUADRON**

**THE COASTAL PLAINS SIGNAL**

**APRIL 2017**



## **Commander Barbara Ann Bruner, S**

It is a great pleasure to welcome our two new members: Roy Wethington, P and his wife Kay

To our squadron. We are looking forward to you both becoming an asset to our boating community. We also acquired two associate members as well: D/Lt/C Greg Shay, JN and his wife Cdr. Connie Shay, S. Greg and Connie are members of the Raleigh Sail & Power Squadron. "Welcome to the neighborhood."

We recently had our first annual Chili-Cook-Off. What a great time everyone had. The recipient of the best chili goes to Robert! But they all were good. We had six crock pots full of chili, with all different condiments and sides. We also had homemade strawberry crepes for dessert. We had the privilege of having some of our neighboring squadrons participate in this fun event: P/D/C Dave Parsons, JN and his wife Linda Parsons, S, Lt/C Mark Fairman, AP and his wife Liz. From the Goldsboro Sail & Power Squadron. Also participating from the Raleigh Sail & Power Squadron was D/Lt/C Greg Shay, JN and his wife Cdr. Connie Shay, S. I would like to thank all the participants that made chili, and those that brought all kinds of condiments and goodies with them. Everyone is looking forward to the next one! We thoroughly enjoyed have our neighboring squadrons participating with us, and look forward to seeing their attendance at the Elizabeth City Coast Guard Tour, as well as many other events.

I would also like to remind everyone that for our family night on April 24, 2017. Judge Douglas McCullough will be our speaker on his book "The Sea of Greed" at Ribeyes in Nashville at 6:00 p.m... This is one event that you don't want to miss. Come and enjoy a piece of North Carolina history!

What a beautiful time of the year! Spring brings a renewal of our love for safe boating. Our new bridge is all in place. We accept your trust that you have placed in us. As I accepted being your commander, I stated that the Rocky Mount Power Squadron is family. I request that you the members keep us on the right track. Getting back to basics. You joined our squadron for a reason and whatever the reason let's get back to that fun!! Get reconnected get involved.

Cdr. Barbara A. Bruner

"SMALL CHANGES CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE"



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## RMPS Calendar 2017

1800 Monday 10 April	<b>RMPS Bridge Meeting</b> Ribeyes Steakhouse, Nashville, NC	08 May	<b>Down East Fishing Tournament</b> Tar River Reservoir
1800 Monday 24 April	<b>RMPS Family Night</b> Ribeyes Steakhouse, Nashville, NC	25-26 August	<b>D/27 Rendezvous</b> Wilmington, NC
05 May	<b>USCG Air Station</b> Elizabeth City, NC	10-17 Sept.	<b>National Governing Board</b> Hilton Dallas Lincoln Center Dallas, TX
1800 Monday 08 May	<b>RMPS Bridge Meeting</b> Ribeyes Steakhouse, Nashville, NC	20-23 Oct.	<b>D/27 Fall Council/Conference</b> Double Tree Suites by Hilton Durham, NC

## VESSEL SAFETY CHECK

*P/C Christopher E. Payne, AP*

*Chair VSC Committee*

Call any of our Vessel Examiners to get your Free Vessel Safety Check today. We have plenty of VSC decals on hand. You can even prepare ahead of time by performing your own pre-VSC online at [www.safetyseal.net](http://www.safetyseal.net) by clicking on "Virtual Vessel Safety Check".

*Thanks Chris*

Contact me at 252 641-1233 or [cepsmpcs@aol.com](mailto:cepsmpcs@aol.com) if you would like to become a

**Vessel Examiner.**



### Vessel Examiner Checks

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 P/C Christopher E. Payne, AP 252 641-1233  
 P/C Robert H. Bruner 252 908-2494

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[r.h.bruner@gmail.com](mailto:r.h.bruner@gmail.com)

### Primary Area of Safety

Rocky Mount, Beaufort  
 Tarboro, Hertford, Edenton  
 Nashville, Rocky Mount

On 17-19 March several members of Rocky Mount Power Squadron attended the District 27 Spring Council/Conference at the Double Tree by Hilton in New Bern. The following pictures were provided by Cdr Barbara Ann Bruner, S and D1Lt Robert H. Bruner, AP.



New D/C Paula F. Stewart, AP



The new D27 Bridge



Distinctive Communicator Award Winners



P/C Chris E. Payne and D/C Paula F. Stewart presenting a VSC award to the New River Squadron.



D1Lt Robert H. Bruner, AP received a Certificate of Appreciation



A dinner/dance followed the Saturday proceedings.

## Education Report

I always look forward to spring, a new season of boating is about to begin. Educational Classes are behind us and we as boaters begin to prepare our own boats for the new season. Although Barb and I no longer own a boat I am mindful, of the preparation I did in the fall to jump start the season come spring. Such as trailer maintenance, wheel bearings checked and or replaced, the hubs pumped up with grease, tires checked and balanced, check cold air tire pressure. What about the conditions of brake pads? Have you ever thought about all of those nuts and bolts? Unbalanced tires will shake a trailer to death not only fasteners coming loose trailer lights are compromised. On old style bulbs the filament is broken, the new LED lights solved a lot of problems. Even the best wire splice, although you use liquid tape, heat shrink tape when in brackish and salt water corrosion will eventually invade the splice. When this happens in all likely hood a new wire harness is in the future. Something to think about when it comes time to rewire the trailer instead of the wire harness being grounded to the trailer frame. Run an extra wire to ground the lighting system through the trailer plug, into the tow vehicle plug, eliminating the ground problem.

The Boat! I hope you charged all of the batteries to full charge before layup. First thing I check is the charge, the next thing I check is the wet cell water level. Always use distill water to fill cells. Clean and dress battery post. Any corrosion you will need to treat with baking soda and water, then wipe dry. Try to avoid getting this mixture in the cells or your batteries will become history.

The big start up! Depending on your application inboard or outboard check drain plugs. You will also need to check the belts and hoses. Before your initial start check your battery voltage at the battery post. Start your engine. Warm up to operating temp. Check alternator output at the battery post, do we have an increase in voltage? Yes we do, looks good, we are on our way. Not so fast! One item of neglect is the radio antenna. Always check the R F output to determine whether or not your antenna needs replacing. One last check! Do not forget the condition or age of the impellers in the lower unit water pump and raw water pump.

Just wanted to mention a few things! Preventive maintenance is cheap!! It is all up to you to have a good day on the water or a bad day on the water. Thanks to the United States Power Squadrons Educational Courses, I soon learned how much I did not know about boating. The National Educational Dept. is always updating courses and developing new seminars to enhance our boating knowledge. Why not take a course!

SEO Rocky Mount Power Squadron  
D/1Lt Robert H Bruner AP

### **USPS PLEDGE**

*"I do solemnly pledge to:*

*Abide by the bylaws of the United States*

*Power Squadrons;*

*Promote high standards of navigation and  
seamanship;*

*Maintain my boat and operate it legally;*

*Render assistance whenever possible;*

*And conduct myself in a manner that will  
add prestige, honor, and respect to the  
United States Power Squadrons.*

**This spindle was found on a friend's trailer. This type of damage can occur quickly and is not visible without removing the wheel from the trailer. Routine inspection of wheels and bearings should be a routine preventive measure. In addition a lookout should be employed not only when on your boat, but when pulling it on a trailer.**



**WHEEL BEARINGS POTENTIAL CATASTROPHIC FAILURE  
AN ACCIDENT LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO HAPPEN**

**SKIPPER ASSIGNS A LOOK OUT ON VESSEL  
DRIVER OF TOW VEHICLE ASSIGNS RIGHT FRONT PASSENGER**

**D/1Lt Robert H Bruner AP**



# Cooperative Charting

*Cooperative Charting Committee Chair Stf/C Phillip A. Benson, JN*

The new nautical program is now available to all USPS members. The details can be accessed from the Cooperative Charting web site. The button labeled Nautical Reporting will take you to the page shown below. The system currently uses a JotForm page similar to that used for geodetics. One requirement is that all reports have a form that must be uploaded with the report. Links to the required forms are provided on this page as well.

Member Home
Public Home
Site Index
How Do I
Resources ▾
Departments ▾
Committees ▾
Job Tools
Logoff



Executive Department

Cooperative Charting Committee

## Nautical Reporting



CoCh Home Page

How to get involved

Nautical Field Activities

Nautical Activities

Nautical Reporting

Geodetic Program

Credits and Awards

National Committee

NOS Marine Chart Division

### Nautical Reporting

Now that you have completed your field activity, it is time to report your findings.

Check on the link below and fill out the **Nautical Reporting Form** and hit submit. It's that easy!

This button will take you to the page where you submit your report

Reporting - Nautical Reporting Form

Click on this link to see the complete nautical procedure.

Nautical Standard Operating Procedures



Need help labeling your Report?

Check out - [Document and Support Labels \(/images/Exec/CoopCh\)](#) for details.

Helpful Supporting Documents that you will need to make a Coop Charting Report:

1. Coop Charting Coast Pilot Form
2. Coop Charting Nautical Features Form
3. USPS Form 7054 - Aids to Navigation Form - under construction
4. USPS Form 7055 - Bridge Report Form - under construction

Any item to be reported will use one of these forms which is to be uploaded with your report.



## No April Fool – 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Chili Cook Off a Delicious Success!

*By Lt/C Lorraine B. Ryan, P*

*Pictures by Barb and Robert Bruner*

Thirteen Rocky Mount Squadron members, associate members and guests attended the First Annual Chili Cook Off at Commander Barbara and Robert Bruner's home in Nashville on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Although it was a sunny, warm day, everyone wanted to be in the kitchen since that's where

the action was taking place.

Six crock pots of chili were strategically placed on the counters of the Bruner's home so that everyone could smell the aroma of the cooking chili. Robert, Chef of the Day, started everyone with crepe appetizer roll-ups and a cheese ball while elbows were bent for the liquid portion of the day which everyone brought. Corn bread, shredded cheese sour cream, corn chips (both blue and regular), jalapenos and chopped onion were all available to accompany the chili dishes. There was Bison chili (according to Robert, a much healthier choice because of its high protein and vitamins), a chicken chili, chili made with spices such as allspice and cinnamon and even a chili with mushrooms in it. Chili with beans and chili without beans. No one could deny that the assortment was perfect.

After much tasting and comments, votes were tallied and Robert's chili won first place, Greg Shay's (Raleigh Squadron member and associate member of RMPS) won second place and third place went to Lorraine. While everyone was digesting their delicious chili, Robert set about making homemade strawberry crepes for everyone. An absolutely wonderful time was had by all. Great food, good friends and much liquid refreshment. See you for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chili Cook Off next year!





## Sea of Greed

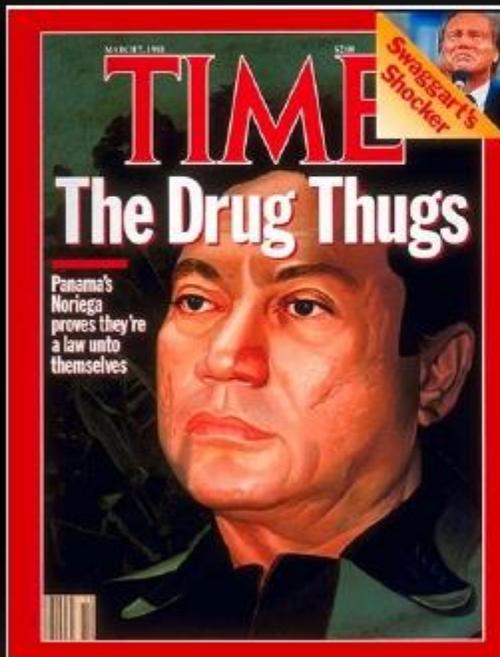
By Lt/C Lorraine B. Ryan, P

When the US Coast Guard hailed a Gulf Coast shrimp trawler near Cape Lookout on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend in 1982, the routine stop set into motion a chain of events that ended with the US invasion of Panama, the overthrow of dictator, Manuel Noriega and the biggest drug bust in America history. Now, more than 30 years later, the full story is told in a gripping, true life account by the man who brought the drug lord to justice, J. Douglas McCullough, the US attorney who unraveled the Cayman Island Cartel. He reveals never before known facts of the case that began on the docks in the historic fishing village of Beaufort, NC, when authorities found a shrimp boat full of marijuana.

Judge Douglas McCullough is currently a NC Court of Appeals Judge. Prior to this, he spent 30+ years in law, serving on both sides of the bench. During the 1980's, McCullough was a Federal Prosecutor in Raleigh, NC, back when drug smuggling off the NC coast was at its height. The book *Sea of Greed*, is the account of the drug seizures that eventually led to the takedown of Panama's notorious dictator, Manuel Noriega.



## The Story Begins ...



- "Sea of Greed" is the true story of the largest drug bust in the history of the United States.
- Our story follows drug traffickers whose activities affected the fate of two nations (Panama & US), led to the indictments of over 125 individuals, and ultimately became the catalyst for what has now become known as the "War on Drugs."
- As we will learn, this war is not merely fought against the drug traffickers – it is fought amongst every level of government and law enforcement.



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**Rocky Mount Power Squadron**



# SEA OF GREED



**Presentation by Judge Douglas McCullough**

**Monday, April 24th at 6:00 pm**

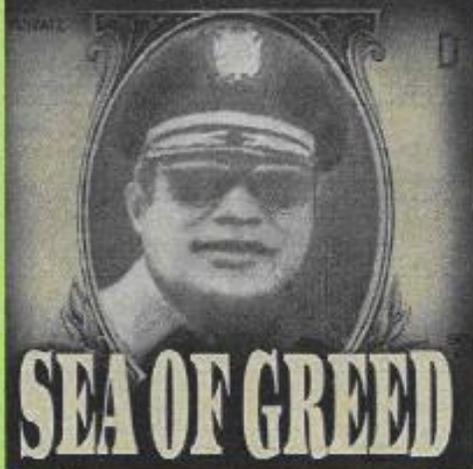
**Ribeyes Steakhouse**

**104 Nashville Drive, Nashville, NC—Exit 459 on Route 64**

Salads or entrees available at cost—Limited Seating—For additional information

Please Call Commander Barbara Bruner at 252-908-2493

J. Douglas McCullough  
&  
Les Pendleton



When the Coast Guard hailed a Gulf Coast shrimp trawler on the 4th of July weekend in 1982, the routine stop set into motion a chain of events that ended with the US invasion of Panama, the overthrow of dictator, Manuel Noriega, and the biggest drug bust in America's history. The man who brought the drug lord to justice, Douglas McCullough is currently a NC Court of Appeals Judge whose book details the events of the drug seizures that began in Beaufort, NC when authorities found a shrimp boat full of marijuana.



## "Lady Mauricette"



- **July 7th 1982**, Beaufort Inlet, Beaufort, North Carolina 10:30PM
- On a routine tour, a US Coast Guard patrol boat stumbles upon a shrimp boat, the "**Lady Mauricette**," (*masquerading as "Bobby M."*) in the small port of Morehead City, NC. Although the boat was abandoned when the Coast Guard boarded, this accidental seizure revealed **29,000 lbs of marijuana**.
- An inspection also revealed that the "Lady Mauricette" was no ordinary shrimp boat. The hold was refrigerated, and contained sophisticated detection devices.

*Little did authorities know at that time that the trail left behind from the "Lady Mauricette" would lead to the dismantling of the largest drug operation in United States history.*



## Noriega Gets Involved



- Needing to move the money to a safe haven, Kalish found a Miami contact who introduced him to General Manuel Noriega of Panama.
- In his first meeting with Noriega, Kalish presented the General with a good faith gesture – a suitcase containing **\$300,000 in U.S. currency**.

# THE COASTAL PLAINS SIGNAL

Published by the

## ROCKY MOUNT POWER SQUADRON

A Unit of District 27

The United States Power Squadrons®

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