



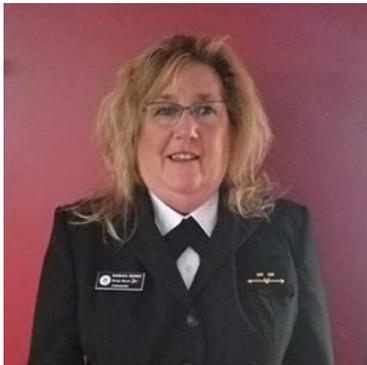
United States Power Squadrons®

Come for the boating education...Stay for the FriendsSM

ROCKY MOUNT POWER SQUADRON

THE COASTAL PLAINS SIGNAL

MAY 2017



Commander Barbara Ann Bruner, S

Happy Spring or should I say happy summer? This is the season that we all dreamed about all winter. A new boating season is underway with many shake down cruises going on. It also is a season that we pack so much activity in, it almost becomes like work. With the onset of warm weather some of you are boating, while the rest of us are still checking out our boats. I hope that no one has any problems! Also vessel safety inspection. Make use of the pre-inspection form by having things in order prior to calling the examiner.

I would also like to thank all of you that took time out of their busy schedule to attend Judge McCullough's (retired) talk on the Sea Of Greed at our family night April 24th. What a great story of what went on with the drug bust. I hope all of you bought his book and enjoy every bit of it. What a great job he did. Hope everyone enjoyed it.

I would also like to thank Lorraine for organizing the USCG tour on May 3rd. From what I understand it started out with a very bad storm! So they cancelled the tour. As the day went on, Loraine talked to the Coast Guard and everyone who was there received a mini tour. (Unfortunately Robert and I were unable to attend.) Two of our associate members from RSPS, Cdr Connie Shay, S and D/Lt/C Greg Shay, JN, did attend. From what I heard everyone who went enjoyed themselves, in spite of the bad weather.

Our last and very special event was held on May 20th the Down East Youth and Adult fishing tournament. What a great time everyone had, especially the kids. Since it was Ready, Set, Wear It! Life jacket World Record Day. We had the boaters and the kids and Bug, Robert and I all lined up for a group picture. We had 32 people, a great back drop, the reservoir, and in the front of everyone the wear it campaign banner. That was our contribution to setting the world record. Great job Bug, Robert, and myself.

Just a reminder membership dues are due. If you haven't renewed yet please do at your earliest convenience. To remain a viable organization it is a crucial financial obligation, and as members we must maintain it.

Don't forget about the District Rendezvous, Aug 25th to 27th in Wilmington. They will be updating the district calendar soon with the hotel name, and other specifics.

Another event in District is the Fall Council/Conference at the Doubletree Suites in Durham. Oct 20-22. Do not miss these fun-filled weekends. Hope to see you all there! Sounds like a great time.

Boating is fun on and off the water. Being together with people that have a common interest, sharing stories and learning from their experiences.

Cdr. Barbara A. Bruner

“AMERICAS BOATING CLUB”



United States Power Squadrons®

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RMPS Calendar 2017

1800 Monday 12 June	RMPS Bridge Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Rocky Mount, NC	10-17 Sept.	National Governing Board Hilton Dallas Lincoln Center Dallas, TX
1800 Monday 10 July	RMPS Bridge Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Rocky Mount, NC	1800 Monday 25 September	RMPS Family Night Ribeyes Steakhouse, Nashville, NC
1800 Monday 14 August	RMPS Bridge Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Rocky Mount, NC	1800 Monday 09 October	RMPS Bridge Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Rocky Mount, NC
25-26 August	D/27 Rendezvous Wilmington, NC	20-23 Oct.	D/27 Fall Council/Conference Double Tree Suites by Hilton Durham, NC
1800 Monday 11 September	RMPS Bridge Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Rocky Mount, NC	1800 Monday 13 November	RMPS Bridge Meeting Texas Steakhouse, Rocky Mount, 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 by clicking on "Virtual Vessel Safety Check".

Thanks Chris

Contact me at 252 641-1233 or cepsmpcs@aol.com if you would like to

become a Vessel Examiner.

Vessel Examiner Checks

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Primary Area of Safety

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

Education Report

Congratulations to all five of our instructors who are now recertified for four more years expiration dates April 18, 2021. They are as follows Lt/C H. Clay Helm, JN, D/Lt Christopher E. Payne, AP, Stf/C Phillip A. Benson, JN, Lt/C Lorraine B. Ryan, P, D/1Lt Robert H. Bruner, AP.

As instructors these guys are eager to share their knowledge and years of boating experience with new student's young and older generations as well.

Thinking outside of the box I remember back when I was promoted to Locomotive Engineer on the Seaboard Coast Line Rail Road (back in the days the old heads mind set was they were the only ones who could run a train, a phrase I recall very well). The first day you set down in the right seat you will find out how much you do not know about the dynamics of running a train.

How much you do not know: by taking and completing the United States Power Squadron's America's Boating Course you will have the knowledge of boating skills, boat handling, safety, knots, rules, regulations, federal, state, and local just to name a few. Boating is dangerous but it is also fun when done correctly.

Be careful with all of the recent rain, high water and winds; all kinds of nasty objects are floating in the water, whether you are the look out or the skipper, unseen dangers are water logged and floating beneath the surface. Keep a safe speed ahead.

How much you do not know: When the clouds gather in the west do not wait for the wind to hit you in the face. Summer time weather forecasts often expect afternoon thunder storms.

As I begin thinking about promoting our fall boating course and thinking outside of the box, my tag line will be "How much you do not know". I am looking for ideas and input from instructors and our members if you have any positive ideas at all submit them to me. We are in this together as a team.

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.

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 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 American 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.

Judge McCullough and his wife visited RMPS on April 24th at Ribeyes Steakhouse in Nashville to present this story. He is an interesting individual with details of the happenings in 1982 that most of us were not aware of. Of course he was also promoting his book and several copies were purchased by members. If you did not get one at the meeting, you can purchase the book on Amazon or through their web site: <http://www.seaofgreedbook.com/> .



Judge Douglas McCullough



Sally Benson awaiting her autographed copy.

US Coast Guard Air Station – Elizabeth City

By Lt/C Lorraine B. Ryan, P

Neither snow, nor rain nor heat or gloom of night. Wait, that's the United States Postal Service Creed. Anyway, there was a horrendous weather front in North Carolina on Friday, May 5th which affected our morning tour of the US Coast Guard Air Station in Elizabeth City. When the squadron members who signed up for the event arrived at the main gate, we were told that the tour had been cancelled due to the weather. Eight of us who arrived at almost the same time (9:30) had braved the wind and rain and were really looking forward to the tour.

I called my contact, Lt. Ryan Harrigan and he explained that the base was on a Category 1 which meant that nothing was allowed on the tarmac which included helicopters, planes and employees. Unless the weather changed, we would not be able to have our tour.

U. S. Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City was commissioned on August 15, 1940 with four officers, 52 enlisted men and ten aircraft. The old Holowell Plantation near Elizabeth City was selected by the Coast Guard in 1938 for its potential strategic value as a seaplane base. During World War II, the Air Station was under U. S. Navy control conducting Search and Rescue (SAR), anti-submarine and training missions. Since then the Air Station's missions and assigned aircraft have shifted and grown with changing national priorities and technologies. In 1966 Air Station Elizabeth City expanded after absorbing the Air Stations in Bermuda and Argentina. In addition to the Air Station, Elizabeth City's Coast Guard complex includes the Aircraft Repair and Supply Center (AR&SC), Aviation Technical Training Center (ATTC), Support Center, and Boat Station Elizabeth City.

So we went our separate ways: to the Museum of the Albemarle, Lowe's Home Improvement, the Elizabeth City Mall or the Arts of the Albemarle. Six of us met for lunch and while we were finishing up, I called Lt. Harrigan back and asked if the weather threat had cleared enough to conduct a tour. He said that it had but he was on duty now and could not conduct our tour but would try to obtain a replacement. He called back shortly and we were on our way. At least eight of us were.

Sally and Phil Benson, Cathy and Chris Payne, Connie and Greg Shay, Bug Joyner and Lorraine Ryan were the lucky ones that got a personalized tour by Lt. Commander Jason Gale. We began our tour in a map room

Next, we went into one of the hangers where a yellow Sikorsky Jayhawk helicopter was being worked on. The yellow paint was a paint scheme used in the late 40's and early 50's and used for the 100th anniversary of Coast Guard Aviation in 2016. It was missing its blades and doors but would soon be out in the air again. A working helicopter (the orange and white Sikorsky Jayhawk) was sitting inside because of the morning weather conditions, and when Jason asked if anyone wanted to sit inside, my hand gripped the door and I got in. I could not fathom how a pilot could even fly this machine. There were more dials, controls, levers and buttons but I could not find the START button! This helicopter is mainly used for search & rescue missions with a range of 700 nautical miles.

Our group then walked across the tarmac to the next hanger where they were working on the mainstay of the Air Station, the C-130 Hercules airplane. Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City is one of the busiest Air Stations in the Coast Guard. On any single day, aircrews may be as far away as Greenland, the Azores or the Caribbean. Spread across the Atlantic and Caribbean, the aircrews are constantly putting their training and knowledge to the test in missions ranging from maritime law enforcement, to environmental response, search and rescue, national security and even international ice patrol. In fact, the international ice patrol was formed in 1913 after the Titanic disaster. The C-130 has a 5,000 mile range and can fly up to Newfoundland to patrol during the ice season which runs from February 1st through July 31. The U.S. Coast Guard International Ice Patrol actively patrols the area of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland for the extent of iceberg danger and during the off season this responsibility is transferred to the Canadian Ice Service.

Jason was going to allow us into the C-130 but unfortunately the workers inside had wires and cables spread throughout the plane and we were not allowed onboard. Perhaps next time...

The following pictures were provided by Linda Joyner and Phil Benson.



Lt. Ryan Harrigan and guide Lt. Commander Jason Gale.



Sikorsky Jayhawk undergoing maintenance.



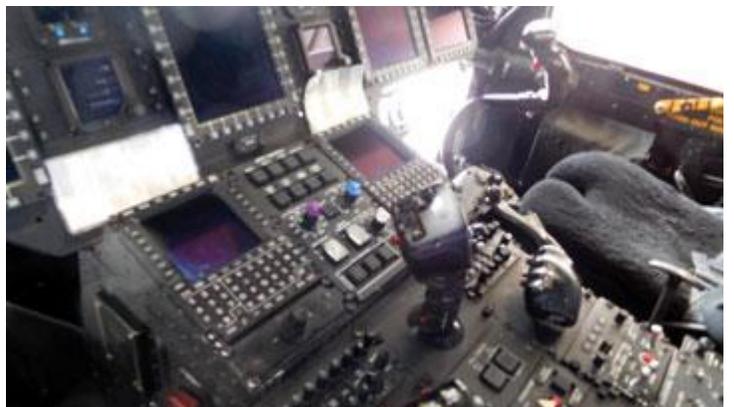
This helicopter is ready for deployment.



Lorraine in the pilot's seat.



Front view of the helicopter above.



The controls inside the Skyhawk,



Lt. Commander Jason Gale describing the operation of the C-130



Two C-130's on the Tarmac ready to roll.



Spare C-130 prop.



Bugs Bunny ?



The tour group in front of a C-130.

Left to Right: Lt. Commander Jason Gale, Linda(Bug) Joyner, Cathy Payne, Lorraine Ryan, Sally Benson, Chris Payne, Phil Benson, Connie Shay, Greg Shay

On May the 20th Down East Adult and Youth Fishing Tournament took place at the Tar River Reservoir just south of Rocky Mount. RMPS along with several sponsors assisted in making this tournament a success. The following pictures were provided by Barb Bruner and Linda Joyner.



An early morning picture of the participants and support personnel with their life jackets.



Robert Bruner making a safety presentation to the group at the banquet the night before.



The boats in the water just prior to the start.



Robert and Barb relaxing and waiting for participants to return. RMPS display is in the background.



The trophies to be presented.



All the winners.

Test Your Mustang Life Jacket

Stf/C Allan. B. Furtado, SN - National Safety Committee

We are always told as a Vessel Examiner to wear our life jackets to project the idea of safety to the boating public. I am sure that most VEs have done so over the past 8 years that we have had them.

Now as we head into the boating season and all of the associated activities, I would suggest that the first thing a VE should do is examine and test his/her Mustang Inflatable life jacket. It is suggested that this operation be performed every 2 to 3 months. I bet you have not even done it once in the 8 years you have had the jackets. I am suggesting this exercise because we have found a few jackets that won't hold air. If one of these is found I suggest that it be destroyed and disposed of because the total life expectancy is only 10 years.

So how do we test our jacket? Open it up along the Velcro seams as shown in Figure 1 until it looks like figure 2. Then remove the cap on the oral inflation tube (shown in figure 2) and inflate the Life Jacket orally.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Then keep the jacket inflated over night. If it fails to hold air all night it is defective. If it holds air ok, then reverse the oral inflation cap and compress the jacket to remove all of the air. Once deflated, replace the cap to its original position and fold the sides back and press the Velcro seams to hold the jacket together.

Now if you happen to really need the jacket while doing a VSC (Heaven forbid you fall into the water) the life jacket would be known to be useable.

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The United States Power Squadrons®

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1972-2017