

# THE HELM



## Ventura Power Squadron

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®

Sail and Power Boating – District 13

*Dedicated to **SAFE BOATING THROUGH EDUCATION***

March 2011

*Boating is Fun...Let Us Show You How!*

Volume 54 No.3



### Commander's Comments

*Cdr Don Roy, AP*

#### Commander's Report: 2011 Fleet Review and Commander's Cup Competition

We have scheduled the Ventura Power Squadron Fleet Review and Commander's Cup Competition for Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Channel Islands East Bay Day Dock next to the public boat ramps off Victoria Ave. in Channel Islands Harbor. It's a great day including a BBQ lunch, the traditional Blessing of the Fleet and the all-important Commander's Cup Competition.

Let me make myself clear. The Commander's Cup is not a "pretty boat" competition. The Commander's Cup represents one of the great traditions of the Ventura Power Squadron. Our squadron prides itself in having properly outfitted and clean vessels with an emphasis on safety. And there would be nothing better than to have a good number of vessels at the East Day Dock to take part in the Commander's Cup Competition. Here's a link to the Ventura Power Squadron website to look over the Commander's Cup judging rules –

[http://www.usps.org/ventura/USPS\\_Images/CCC\\_Rules.pdf](http://www.usps.org/ventura/USPS_Images/CCC_Rules.pdf). Note that a current Vessel Safety

Check sticker is mandatory, but you can get an inspection at the dock on April 9<sup>th</sup>. And to add some incentive, we will bestow brand new 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary VPS burgees to the first, second and third place winners. Remember, the winner will get to display the Commander's Cup Trophy for a year, and receive a nice Commander's Cup placard to display on board your winning vessel. By the way, if anyone knows the location of the original Commander's Cup trophy, please send me an email.

I was lucky enough to be awarded the Commander's Cup in 2010 for Windrose, a 1996 Beneteau 440 Oceanis. The short story is that I had just purchased the boat in late November 2009, and hadn't had the time or the good weather to go through the boat from bow to stern. My wife, Meloney, and I were taking **Lt. Pat Metheny's** Cruise Planning course and learning quite a bit about proper outfitting and cruise preparation, and I knew we had to take what we were learning and apply it to our boat. In addition, Pat's husband and my mentor **P/Lt/C Rick Metheny** encouraged me to enter Windrose in the Commander's Cup as well as the Bristol Boat competition at the Ventura Yacht Club.

Well, I took the challenge and began to look over the entire boat. I found some systems in good shape, but also found a few in need of immediate repair. The windlass for retrieving the anchor had a fine glossy white paint job, but upon closer inspection, it was mechanically weak and

failed all together when I tried to just lift the anchor off the bottom at my dock. The anchor rode needed length markers; the head plumbing needed proper labeling and maintenance. I found a water leak in the galley; I added fire extinguishers and a Carbon Monoxide/smoke alarm; PFDs were inspected and tossed if worn; the engine needed its yearly checkup and new fuel and oil filters. One item after another was prodded checked, tested and I even replaced all the navigation lights with the latest LED bulbs to reduce the overall draw on the batteries. (I kept the old bulbs as spares.)

Finally, I gave Windrose a good scrubbing and waxing, and got my VSC inspection from **P/C David Williams**. She passed, got her 2010 sticker and was entered into the competitions. Windrose took "Best Overall" Bristol Boat at the Ventura Yacht Club and then won the Commanders Cup competition at last year's Fleet Review. What an honor it was to receive these accolades, but my real satisfaction was the peace of mind that came with bringing the boat up to Commander Cup level of system and safety readiness. I knew that Windrose was in ship-shape.

So do yourself and your boat a favor and begin the inspection and preparation to ready your vessel for a wonderful safe season of boating. Plan on bringing your craft over to the April 9<sup>th</sup> Fleet Review and Commander's Cup Competition and maybe win a new burgee! Then enjoy a BBQ and good cheer with the Squadron members.



## COMING EVENTS

### March 2011

<b>4-5</b>	<b>Fri/Sat</b>	<b>District Spring Conference</b>
		<i>Ventura- Four Points Sheridan</i>
<b>4</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Host Room 1900</b>
		<i>Ventura- Four Points Sheridan</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Executive Committee Meeting @ 1930</b>
		<i>Coast Guard Recruiting Station, Oxnard</i>

### April 2011

<b>4</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Executive Committee Meeting @ 1930</b>
		<i>Coast Guard Recruiting Station, Oxnard</i>
<b>9</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Commander's Cup &amp; BBQ</b>
		<i>Channel Islands Boat Launch- Oxnard</i>

More information on each event can be found at [www.usps.org/ventura](http://www.usps.org/ventura) and in **The HELM 2** months prior to the event.

**QUOTE : New Feature Coming Soon!**  
The Editor

### Contacts for Local Mariners

#### 24-Hour Emergency Telephone Numbers

U.S. Coast Guard Search & Rescue..... (805)985-9822  
 Channel Islands Harbor Patrol..... (805)382-3000  
 Ventura Harbor Patrol..... (805)642-8618  
 Port Hueneme..... (805)982-4571  
 Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol..... (805)564-5530

#### Harbormasters – Administrative

Channel Islands.....(805)382-6864  
 Channel Islands Harbor Patrol..... (805)382-3007  
 Ventura Port District..... (805)642-8538  
 Port Hueneme Public Affairs..... (805)982-4493  
 Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol..... (805)564-5520

#### National Weather Service

Oxnard..... (805)988-6610  
 Web site: <http://www.nwsla.noaa.gov>

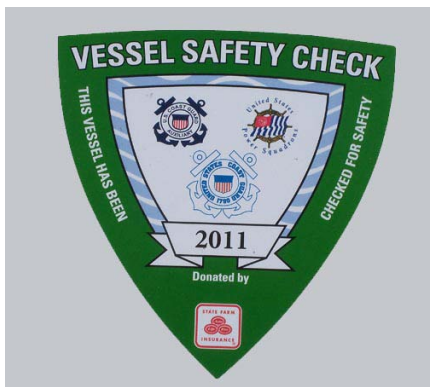
## 2011 Vessel Safety Check

The long winter's nap for your boat is nearly over. With Spring fast approaching, now is the time for all Squadron members to start peeking under the hatches, inspect the engine compartment and other hard-to-reach nooks and crannies to prepare your boat for another season of cruising, fishing and general running about. We need to start checking all the mechanical, electrical and cooling systems on our crafts simply because it's easier and cheaper to do it now, rather than after you've broken down half way out to Anacapa Island. But also as important, we need to check our safety systems and make certain they are in proper order and up-to-date.

The easiest way to begin this process is to get a Vessel Safety Check (VSC). And the best way to pass a VSC is to read the "ABC's of California Boating Law" booklet, (download here at [www.dbw.ca.gov/Pubs/Abc/ABCFull.pdf](http://www.dbw.ca.gov/Pubs/Abc/ABCFull.pdf)) and look at the Required Equipment section that starts on page 33. Then you can download a Vessel Safety Check form at [www.vesselsafetycheck.org](http://www.vesselsafetycheck.org) and go over it item by item to see how your boat shapes up.

It's easy to inspect your fire extinguishers and the expiration dates on your visual distress signals, then check that you meet CA State display of numbers and regulations, and have proper registration/documentation on board. But did you know these items above are the top reasons for failing a Vessel Safety Check? But you never really fail the Vessel Safety Check since the inspector will hand you a form that lists the items that need attention so you can receive your 2011 Vessel Safety Check sticker. This sticker tells the Harbor Patrol and U.S. Coast Guard that you are in compliance with all required safety and environmental regulations and it also says that you care about safety.

To schedule your Vessel Safety Check, contact P/C David Williams at [dawiandann@verizon.net](mailto:dawiandann@verizon.net) or call him at 805-482-0429.



## Education Station

*Lt/C Gary Hubler, AP*

The Ventura Power Squadron educational year is now in full swing! The annual spring America's Boating Course started on February 15<sup>th</sup> and is progressing well under the guidance of **Assistant SEO Fred DeLamarter, P**. I would like to thank all of the instructors and proctors who stepped up to contribute to this important course.

The Engine Maintenance course also started in February, and instructor **Alan Gosselin, AP** has one of his largest classes ever. I'm pleased that we have been able to offer this course at the Santa Barbara Business College in Ventura. Their classrooms are large and well-equipped, contributing to an excellent educational experience.

### Seamanship Course—Sign Up Now!

The next advanced grade course on our schedule this year is Seamanship, and it will be taught by **P/C Jan Lawson, S**. This course is scheduled so that students who completed the public boating course last fall or who will complete it this spring will have this course available to continue their boating education. After America's Boating Course, Seamanship is the next step in the sequence of advanced grade courses. We will generally offer this course only once each year, so now is the time for all public boating course graduates to sign up. Please call NOW!

Location: 3639 East Harbor Blvd., #109

Ventura, CA

Dates/Time: April 18<sup>th</sup> thru June 20<sup>th</sup>

6:30 p.m.

Register: 805-443-8404

[jlawsonlawyer@gmail.com](mailto:jlawsonlawyer@gmail.com)

Sail Course—Is It On Your Radar?

We are offering the Sail Course this spring or summer with instructor **Ron Dolbier, AP**. The new 10-week sail course was created to serve the needs of novice and experienced sailors, as well as non-sailors who may be thinking about learning to sail. The course starts with basic sailboat designs and nomenclature, rigging, safety, and sail processes. It also tackles the physical aspects of sailing forces and techniques, marlinespike, helmsmanship, handling of more difficult sailing conditions, navigation rules, and includes an introduction to heavy weather sailing.

I'm asking that anyone interested or potentially interested in this course please contact **Fred DeLamarter (661-301-8762)** or **Gary Hubler (805-306-9027)** as soon as possible so we can determine the best schedule and venue for the course. Once we know how many people are interested and the best times, we will finalize the details and publish them in the Helm and on the Ventura Power Squadron website. Call now for information!

**Additional 2011 Courses**

As I mentioned in last month's column, the Executive Committee has approved a full-slate of advanced grade and elective courses for this year. Fred DeLamarter and I are working on finalizing the details for all of these courses over the next few weeks, and complete information will be published in the April Helm and posted on the Ventura Power Squadron website.

**Attention All Advanced Pilots**

In our fall program this year we intend to offer the advanced grade course, Piloting. As everyone who has taken this course knows, it is THE course that takes your navigation skills to a totally new level and is, I think, the key navigation course offered by the United States Power Squadron. This course has been ably taught for the Ventura Power Squadron by many excellent instructors over the years. If you are an Advanced Pilot and have an interest in teaching, we have an instructor opening for the fall Piloting course. Give me a call NOW (805-306-9027) and let's discuss the teaching role for this course.

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 www.venturaembroidery.com

**March Birthdays**

3	Janeen Gaul
6	William Young
12	Mary Baldwin
16	Cathleen Dulmage
19	Sarah Williamson
21	Jeffery Gaul
23	Dave Williams
26	Susan Bozarth

The best birthday wishes to everyone this month!

If your birthday has come and gone and was not mentioned in the Helm, please email me at [floating-helm@aol.com](mailto:floating-helm@aol.com) and let me know the date!

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**"Do It Yourselfers Welcome"**

Current Ventura Power Squadron Members:  
 This coupon is good for 20% OFF a "Haul & Launch".  
 One coupon per customer. Expires 12/31/2011  
 Must provide membership verification at time of haul out.

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**(805) 654-1433** [www.vhby.com](http://www.vhby.com) Find us on



**Christie's  
Corner**  
*Lt/C Christie Yeager, S*

I am looking forward to serving as Administration Officer on our bridge this year and would like to thank **P/Lt/C Jennifer Sweet** for her help in the transition and her offer of continued support. This year seems to be shaping up to be an entertaining one beginning with the island themed District 13 Spring Conference March 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. While there, I plan on attending in the Admin workshops to gain a better understanding of the office to which I've been appointed.

Plans have begun and reservations have been made for the Annual Fleet Review, April 9th at Peninsula Park, Channel Islands at the East Bank Guest Dock area. As at most of the VSP's events, well behaved dogs are welcome to attend this fun day in the park, so if my semi-well behaved Bella sneaks a few nibbles from you, I'll pretend not to notice since I profess that she doesn't beg (much.)

Again, if I don't see you at the conference, I do hope you'll attend the Fleet Review where a blessing of the fleet will take place and fun will be had.

Our 2010-2011 Bridge

<u>Commander</u> <b>Lt/C, Don Roy AP</b>	<b>(818) 439-3211</b> donroy@gmail.com
<u>Executive Officer</u> <b>Lt/C, Ev Ashworth AP</b>	<b>(805) 643-7446</b> eashworth@algcorp.com
<u>Administrative Officer</u> <b>Lt/C Christy Yeager, S</b>	<b>(661) 623-0800</b> Sailgirl854@gmail.com
<u>SEO</u> <b>Lt/C Gary Hubler, AP</b>	<b>(805) 306-9027</b> glhubler@sbcglobal.net
<u>Treasurer</u> <b>Lt/C Sue Matthews, P</b>	<b>(805) 707-2804</b> matsu3619@sbcglobal.net
<u>Secretary</u> <b>Lt/C Tracey Yeager, S</b>	<b>(661) 623-0800</b> Sailboy854@gmail.com
<u>The Helm Editor</u> <b>Lt Debbie Braun-Lawson, P</b>	<b>(805) 407-4777</b> FloatingHelm@aol.com

VPS Website  
<http://www.usps.org/ventura>

**Annual Meeting Winning Recipes**

**Greg Shank**-Prosciutto-Wrapped Dates with Gorgonzola Filling, My apologies to Greg Shank as I inadvertently presented his recipe as coming from Gary Shank. Sorry, The Editor

**Survivability in Water**

**LtCdr Doug Robertson, AP**  
**Radio-Technical Officer**

Every time we are aboard our boats in the harbor or on the Pacific Ocean, we face the possibility of survival in water. Not too many years ago a fellow left Ventura Marina alone in his in-board power boat for a mid-day trip to the Channel Islands. The boat was set on course and the autopilot was engaged. It was a warm, sunny day. After some time, he needed to respond to a call of nature (which happens to all of us at some point in the day). Not using his head (pun intended) he went to the transom and bracing his legs against it, did the necessary. Despite the fairly benign conditions, the boat took a lurch from a wave and he was pitched overboard. (A standing person's weight is mainly above his/her thighs-call us top-heavy) Fortunately, he could swim, but had worn no personal flotation device. His boat clipped along on course and there was no possibility of catching up to it. Also fortunately, after some time he was able to raise an arm and attract a passing boat that changed course and brought him aboard. The US Coast Guard was called, but his boat stayed its course and grounded on one of the islands, doing considerable damage to the boat. He was very fortunate to survive.

When I worked at Point Mugu early on in the Crew Systems Branch of Flight Test Division, I learned that an aviator in the ocean in the Sea Test Range (that begins at the Naval Base's coastline) without a life-raft, but wearing his Nomex flight suit, flight boots, Nomex and thin leather-palm gloves, G-suit, helmet and Mae West flotation could not aid in his own rescue after as little

as 15 minutes in the water. His hands could not firmly grasp a line nor could he unaided climb into a raft because of hypothermia.

My boat SEEKER has a depth sounder triducer that also measures seawater temperature about 30 inches below the surface. At no time in the past 22 years have I ever seen a reading as high as 70 degrees F. in any month of the year.

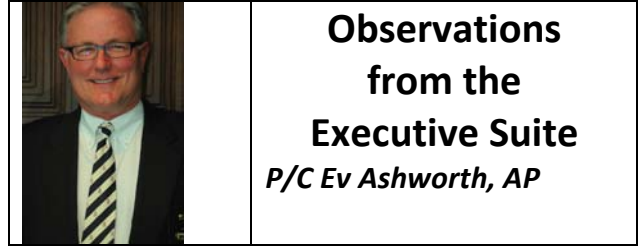
The following Table (courtesy my alma mater) should be of interest to all VPS members. The table expresses the amount of time that the average person can survive in the water, which varies based on body weight, fat content and other factors (and excludes the wearing of a full-body marine survival suit). For our coastal cruising waters-please focus on the mid areas of the Table. I don't think anyone needs a definition of what Survival Time means.

Water Temp. (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Time to Exhaustion/Unconsciousness	Survival Time
32°	<15 minutes	45 minutes
32°-40°	15-30 minutes	30-90 minutes
40°-50°	30-60 minutes	1-3 hours
50°-60°	1-2 hours	1-6 hours
60°-70°	2-7 hours	2-40 hours
70°-80°	3-12 hours	3 hours to Indef.
>80°	Indefinite	Indefinite

Source: University of Minnesota Sea Grant program.

### By the way...

The test results of the last Piloting class have arrived. The Ventura Power Squadron has 11 members who have passed the exam and have added to their boating educational experience! Congratulations to the following members: **Jim Bates, Bill Giltner, Richard Jeffery, Jan Lawson, Kerry Leiman, Ken Partney, Aixa Renta-Deluca, David Salazar, Shane Savage, Marvin Stevens, and Gary Wolfe.** Instructor **Rick Metheny** extends a personal congratulations to each of the members of the class. When you see any of these individuals please congratulate them on their achievements!



**Observations  
from the  
Executive Suite**  
*P/C Ev Ashworth, AP*

The regular reader of the HELM will observe my new banner, which I thought appropriate given my return to the Executive Department. Rarified space, which will afford me the opportunity to keep everyone posted on the outreach and civic events that the Squadron is pursuing-and pursuing with vigor. Last weekend, our Bridge mustered at **Don Roy's Manse and Fuel Dock**, where we all benefitted from Don and Meloney's largesse (they set a fine table of nibbles), were introduced to Tony and Moose (cute pooches, those), saw a picture of Don in his youth protesting the installation of one stupid power plant in New Hampshire (I know it was stupid, as I attended similar protests as well), and spent some four hours going through Operations Training (or as it is often referred to: Ops Training – best read if you are in the process of hick-upping, inhale on “Ops” part). Briefly, Ops Training is a class that focuses on the goals of the USPS, the organization, departments, committees, traditions, our Squadron's history, by-laws, and the mechanics of running our organization. We were fortunate to have **Janet and P/D/C Don Shultz** serve as proctors for the class, as they represent some four score and more years of membership with the USPS. They made the class better as a result, for which we all were grateful.

As part of our class, the Bridge also focused on three things we do well and three things that we can improve upon. First - there was agreement among all of us that we offer the best public boating education program available – anywhere at any price. Second –our membership. We count among our members some of the nicest, most capable, competent, and fun people you'll have the privilege to meet. Put a little differently, our members will be the first to offer a hand, will likely have wrestled with the same problem, and at

the end of the day, will be a pleasure to spend an evening with. Third: We excel in helping spread the ethic of safe boating – our members' hard work on the NOAA/Channel Island Marine Protection Area chart is a fine example of this strength. So too is our abiding commitment to the Safe Boating Expo. After some discussion, we agreed that the following three strategic objectives will guide the 2010 Bridge:

- 1) *Provide better outreach to our membership, especially some of our newer and younger members. The Bridge is concerned that members may be hesitant to participate in our on-water activities, or to take another class. Cdr Don Roy, Lt. Cdr Christie Yeager, our Membership Committee and Member Involvement Committee are working on specific initiatives to address this concern.*
- 2) *Provide stronger outreach to our boating community. As noted above, our Squadron has an abiding commitment to the Safe Boating Expo and In-Water Boat Shows. We also have committed members that perform scores of Vessel Safety Inspections. Recently, Past Commanders and others have reached out to yacht clubs in our area to quality seminars that USPS is known for. **Cdr. Don Roy**, the Bridge, and Executive Committee will use these efforts as a pivot to further expand our Squadron's public outreach. We all agree that our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is the perfect spring board for this initiative.*
- 3) *Improve our communication among our membership. Since I've been involved with the Squadron, the HELM and our website ([www.usps.org/ventura](http://www.usps.org/ventura)) have been recognized on the national level as among the best. **Cdr. Don Roy, Lt. Cdr. Tracey Yeager, P/C Don Shultz, Lt. Debbie Braun Lawson** and our Bridge will leverage these successes and improve upon our ability to keep everyone connected, informed, and involved in our Squadron. An example is Don's new gmail account and gmail phone system ([venturapowersquadron@gmail.com](mailto:venturapowersquadron@gmail.com)) – a very clever system that will allow for clear communication, and provide an archive for our digital documents...*



#### Heartfelt Thanks

After two years serving as your commander, and much planning for our 2011 Change of Watch, I was treated to surprises, amazing gifts, and one heck of a good time. We were again fortunate to have **Lt. Pat Metheny, AP** coordinate the Change of Watch with the Ventura Yacht Club, and have the help of **Lt. Harriette Young, AP, Lt. Cdr. Christie Yeager, and Lt. Cdr. Tracey Yeager, P**, who together put on one of the more tasty and entertaining formal dinners in recent memory. A savory repast indeed. Zounds consort: a critical mass of beef on the bone at the carving table and trays-full of succulent salmon filets! **Cdr. Don Roy** was thoughtful to bring our Squadron's tome (a scholarly work indeed, sporting the dimensions of 2 feet by 3 ½ feet), which is chock-full of photos and chronicles our Squadron's history. Thoughtfulness was the theme, as **P/R/C Darrell Allison, AP** and his wife Patricia drove up from Los Angeles to represent the District. He spent many hours researching and interviewing other District members to provide many historical vignettes over the past 50 years. In keeping with the larger theme over the weekend, Darrell tossed both Don and me our very own footballs, and properly presided over the 2011 Bridge Installation. Our new **Commander Don Roy** laid out solid objectives for 2011, which will use our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a pivot to expand our presence, reward our members, and make being a member in the Ventura Power Squadron something special, and to be proud of. The Squadron properly recognized **Lt. Gary Wolfe**, as New Member of the Year for his accomplishments in education, his participation as a proctor in our Boating Course, help with the Parade of Lights, and willingness to serve as Assistant Treasurer on the 2011 Bridge. **P/Lt/Cdr. Rick Metheny** was

recognized as the Squadron's nominee for the Chapman Award, a distinction given to our best instructors. Simply put: Rick is our best instructor, for his excellence in teaching, scholarship, solid seamanship, and his dedication to his students. When Rick and Pat get back from their cruise to the Pacific Northwest later this year, I highly recommend that you take whatever Rick has agreed to teach this year – you'll be rewarded with an excellent class put on by an excellent instructor. We also recognized **P/Lt Charlie Stander, AP, P/Lt Harriette Young, AP, and Lt Sue Mathews, AP**, who have achieved Educational Proficiency, having completed three elective courses and achieved the rank of Advanced Piloting. Finally, we recognized **P/C Jim and Mary Baldwin** for their 15<sup>th</sup> Merit Mark, a testament to their commitment to the Squadron and doing the necessary to support our activities on and off the water.

While everyone who attended had a good time, I think I was the luckiest. Unbeknownst to me, COW-organizers had secretly arranged Henry, Emma, Mom and Joan (read: my family) to join Brooke and me for the evening. That surprise warmed my heart. I was doubly warmed when presented with a soft, handsome, blue Patagonia jacket (sporting an embroidered 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary burgee) and nifty new cap (also with our new burgee and with properly colored scrambled eggs). My sartorial presence in our Squadron will be assured for years to come. However, I was speechless when presented with a wonderful book that **Lt. Debbie Braun Lawson** put together. This custom, first edition, limited edition book chronicles my love of boating and the Squadron. Debbie worked with my family to find photos of me with my dad and brothers- all of whom have crossed the bar - messing about in boats. How cool is that? She also included photos taken at Squadron events over the past five years that distill what is so wonderful about our Squadron: our members make boating more fun. Taken together, the wonderful dinner, the chance to visit with many of you, a book that I will truly treasure, your generosity, your thoughtfulness, and love warmed me. To all: my heartfelt thanks and appreciation.



**Sue Mathews, AP, Charlie Stender, AP, Ev and Harriette Young, AP,**



**Lt. Pat Metheny and P/Lt/C Rick Metheny**



**New Member Eva-Maria Harre and her husband**



**Meloney and Cmd. Don Roy**

## **Ventura Power Squadron**

**Lt. Debbie Braun-Lawson, Editor**

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

*March 2011*

