

Full Deck

The Combined Publication for:
The Valley Provisional Sail and Power Squadron
San Fernando Valley Power Squadron
Valley Ho Power Squadron
Units of the United States Power Squadrons, District 13

VOLUME 1 No 6

2007 AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

Where are we?

Where are we in the process of combining? Well, so far we have gotten our Provisional Squadron Status, our corporate Incorporation paperwork and are now working on our Tax Exempt Status.

We are meeting monthly at Galpin Ford, located on Roscoe Blvd. and the 405 Freeway in Van Nuys, but the attendance is very low.

Combining two squadrons is a lot of work, and it all seems to be devolving very quickly onto just a few shoulders. We have noticed the old bugaboo of “us vs them”, pick who is us and who is them.

We are trying to combine traditions from each of the two combining Squadrons, but attendance seems to be unbalanced. The old San Fernando Valley activities are attended primarily by old San Fernando Valley people, while the old Valley Ho activities are attended primarily by Valley Ho people. In each case, we need to make the effort to get together and to get to know each other, else this whole thing will fail and we do not want to have that happen. Our thanks to each who have attended, don't get us wrong, we appreciate the fine fellowship and the opportunity to get to know our fellow USPS members.

Coming up the last weekend in October is the Halloween dinner and party at Millie Hess's house, you all have received a flyer for that event, so here is another chance to get together as a whole group. This is the weekend after the

Fall Conference in Ventura so everybody should be available. Contact Millie Hess at (818) 340-8596 for information.

It is time to begin thinking about the Next Watch and who will serve in what positions. Currently, there are only two By-Laws required offices, Commander and Secretary / Treasurer; however, we have elected an Education Officer as well. These positions need to be filled for the next watch, and even though our Change of Watch is not until next March, we do need to get the District Educational Officers approval for our Education Officer, and we will need to submit the necessary forms so that our officers can be published in the National Roster.

It is unfortunate, but necessary, that this same process is required for the two old Squadrons as well, even though we are trying to combine them into the new Squadron. Nominating Committees, how about it?

On the fun side, included in this edition is an excellent article from our own R/C Al Lakin, N, regarding his trip to the Governing Board Meeting.

While this publication is designed and specifically published for The Valley Provisional Sail and Power Squadron, we do from time to time publish specific old Squadron information, and this is one of those times.

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Moving? Please notify P/Cdr Harold W. Hoadley, AP, 933 East Olive Ave., Burbank, CA 91501-1427, (818) 843-4930 for mail continuity. The Post Office will not notify us that you moved.

Deadline: All items for publication are due at the combined Bridge and Membership meeting the first Thursday of the month prior to the month of publication.

Submittals are always welcome. These may be made as hand written notes, via FAX, Diskette, or even E-mail. Heck, you can even stand on a corner and Yell, on second thought, don't do that, one of the other editors may run the article first!

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We now have full color scanning and FAX capability, so don't hesitate to keep those stories coming!

Where are we? (Continued from front page)

Call to Meeting

It is that time of year again. In accordance with the San Fernando Valley Power Squadron By-laws, notice is hereby given of the San Fernando Valley Power Squadron's Annual Meeting and Election of Officers to be held at Galpin Ford on January 3rd, 2008. The meeting will be held at the conclusion of the The Valley meeting which convenes at 1930.

We will be glad to publish the Call to Meeting for Valley Ho as soon as we receive the information.

Fall Conference

We will be hosting a Host Room at the Fall Conference in Ventura as The Valley. This Friday night event is a lot of fun. Unfortunately, due to work schedules, your Commander will not be able to attend the parties but wishes everybody a GREAT time.

Which brings us to the Spring 2008 conference that we are hosting. The Conference Committee is working to get all of the planning done, but help will be needed at the event itself. We will need people willing to give just a couple of hours to man the Registration Table, to help decorate the luncheon tables and the dinner tables. These are not difficult jobs, but if a single person has to do it all themselves, it will be overwhelming. Come on out and lend a hand for a short time. For example, we will need three or four people to handle the registration table for a couple of hours Friday evening, with time off for the Host Room parties. Same thing for Saturday Morning, sitting all by yourself is rather boring, so one or more additional helpers will make life a lot more pleasant. Contact Marv Nelson at (818) 886-8725 to indicate your availability.

Why so late?

This combined edition is very late; this has been a tough last couple of months for your Commander and Editor. CDR Kristi started a new full time job, her boy friend is now working nights, and dear old Dad has been tag teaming with the two of them to care for Winifred Hoadley, who will be 92 on 11 December. She has now been moved to a retirement home in Northridge, add to that some health problems for your old Editor, and a bad bearing in the printer used for printing the Full Deck, and things just plain got late.

The above article was written by your Editor at the request of your Commander, with inputs from her.

ADDRESS CHANGES

I hate to emphasize this, but **NOBODY** bothers to send a Change of Address to your editor when they move. Everybody seems to assume that somehow by magic we will find out about it. The truth is we don't. Several long time members have been dropped from our mailing list because we don't have a valid address for them.

Here is the truth. When you put a forwarding order into the Post Office, they change the address and forward your mail to you at your new address. You will find a yellow sticker placed along the bottom of your mail with your new address and Zip Code. **If you get the Full Deck with one of those stickers on it, YOU DID NOT GIVE US YOUR NEW ADDRESS.** We find out about your move when we get the Full Deck back with a sticker on it that says: "Return to Sender Attempted – Not Known Unable to Forward", or "Return to Sender – Forwarding Order has Expired". In either case, we mark our database as invalid for that address and stop sending the Full Deck. We **COULD** ask the post office to give us your new address, but that costs us a service charge from the Post Office in addition to the First Class Postage.

For you old timers who recall when we used the Bulk Permit method, we put on the front of the letter "Return Service Requested", to get the changes of addresses. Funny, but we often spent more in postage to get the new addresses than we spent for mailing. What a pain! With the cost of postage up at \$0.41 and rising, paying the cost of getting your new address could require a dues increase. With National raising the dues every year, there comes a point where this gets to be ridiculous. Part of the reason they have to raise the dues constantly is that they pay to get your new address.

Bottom line; **PLEASE** contact the Editor when you move so that we can update our records and not have to pass the cost on to you in the local dues also. We put a reminder of that in every issue, but **NOBODY** is paying attention.

Did we Shoot Ourselves in the foot?

An Editorial from your Editor

We received a report at our August Bridge meeting from the Coordinator of D13 for the ABC boating course. This led to a good discussion regarding pros and cons of this program. I have rounded off the numbers, so no nit pickers please. The key thing to this writer was that we had approximately 700 people take the course this last year.

What a GREAT program, or was it? D13 as a whole lost membership this year, I don't have the number but I suspect they were down an average of 18%, which is what happened two years ago and is the historical average over the past 5 years or so. Now, had those 700 students taken the course from a Squadron, and half of the students then joined, we would have had a GROWTH of 40%.

So, if we provide an On Line course that does not expose a student to a recruiting program (and we are prohibited from doing that under the terms of the ABC course program), are we leading to our own demise?

Stated another way, had those 700 students taken the course from the Squadrons in D13 and had they all joined, statistically, we would have nearly doubled our membership in one year! Of course, some Squadrons may have done better, some worse. But wouldn't it have been great to teach two public courses in one year with an average attendance of 20 Students? Reminds us of the stories of days gone by when classes had waiting lists!

We wonder how that course is impacting USPS on a nationwide basis. Is it just a coincidence that USPS membership began its decline with the release of this program? Sometimes the best of intentions.....

We recognize that we now have 700 more people who have a clue of what to do on the water, but what of our Membership???

Education Corner

The Public Boating Class was held, with 5 students attending the first section. We fell off to just 2 students for the last session, but all of the other students are planning to complete the course individually.

We have put together a Piloting class, meeting at one of our new members home with three students. We also need to start Seamanship. The date and night will be determined by the host. Please contact Steve Wolf, our SEO, if you can either host or teach this class. If you volunteer your home, you won't have to drive to get to class! For all you Senior Navigators out there who want a review, the new Piloting Course includes over \$400.00 worth of navigation software. From the Catalog:

“Piloting is the first of the navigational classes focusing on techniques for piloting a boat in costal and inland conditions. The course emphasizes planning and checking along with the use of GPS for determining position, and introduces digital charting along with traditional charting, compass and dead reckoning skills. Plotting, labeling, use of the compass, aids to navigation and a host of related topics are included in this all-new approach to coastal and inland piloting.”

If you took Piloting before the GPS days, this is a Great course package to pick this skill up. The good news is that you don't need to take the test!

2008 Spring Conference

Your 2008 Spring Conference Committee met on 13 August 2007 at the home of P/C Marv & Barbara Nelson. The sample artwork for the Donation Tickets was discussed and essentially approved..

Just in! The D13 Council approved the contract with the hotel and formally assigned the Spring 2008 Conference to “The Valley Provisional Sail & Power Squadron”, and an advance check was provided as seed money. **The date has been changed to a week earlier than we had planned.**

Calendar

OK, here is a list of the upcoming stuff that the Editor is aware of that affects the general membership of our Squadron. D13 Officer specific events are not included.

Date	Event
4 October 2007	Combined Bridge and Membership Meeting.
Week of 8 October 2007	Seamanship and / or Piloting Classes Start
19 – 21 October 2007	Fall Conference, Ventura
1 November 2007	Combined Bridge and Membership Meeting.
8 November 2007	Informal Dinner Get Together, location TBD
1 December 2007	Holiday Party, location TBD
6 December 2007	Informal Dinner Get Together, location TBD
3 January 2007	Combined Bridge and Membership Meeting, also San Fernando Valley Annual Meeting and Election to be briefly held after the The Valley Meeting.
19 – 24 February 2008	Annual Meeting, Dallas Hyatt, Dallas TX
7 – 8 March 2008	Spring Conference, Ventura

What to Do at a Governing Board Meeting When You're Not Sitting in a Meeting

By R/C Al Lakin, SN

Let's face it. Governing Board Meetings are well..... a lot like a squadron annual meeting or a business session of a district conference. The past chief commanders are introduced. A few dignitaries from outside USPS say nice things about our support to recreational boating safety. The Bridge officers and committee chairs give reports. Awards are presented. We vote on a few things. Every once in while, there's a subject that stirs up some interest.

Is that all there is? Why would John and Mary Member want to go?

I attended the Fall Governing Board Meeting in Norfolk, VA, and I found a lot to do.

First, let's look at all the USPS activities before the Governing Board. The best of these is the annual Expo. The Expo is normally held on Friday morning during the Annual Meeting, but this year's Annual Meeting was held in a hotel that was a little too small and the Expo was deferred to the mid-year meeting.

The Expo concept is simple. National committees set up booths to talk about what they have been doing. Sometimes the committee mascot talks as well.



Youth Activities mascot SeaVester greeting members

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Stf/C Boettige demonstrates tools used in Cooperative Charting

If you want to know:

- how to do cooperative charting,
- why the public boating course teaches THIS concept,
- when will the Committee on Rules approve the squadron bylaws,
- who is the Ensign contact for your squadron, or
- what does the Law Committee recommends when conducting a cash bar,

this is the place. No question is too easy, or too hard. The committee members can't run and hide, and you can keep asking questions until you are satisfied.

Yes, there are seminars, but they are like district conference seminars that have been working out at the gym for years. Presenters really know their subjects, often because they wrote the books. New programs are often rolled out at Governing Board Meetings, and members can get their first look. Many of the new educational short courses were presented twice at Norfolk.

If you want a break from the working end of USPS, you have several alternatives.

- There are daytime tours every day.
- There is at least one evening social event, usually on the water or at an interesting waterside venue. At Norfolk, the evening event was held at the National Maritime Museum.
- Many districts have host rooms on Friday evening.
- You can wander around on your own.

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I chose the last alternative this time. I'm a history buff, and southern Virginia is loaded with historical sites. Early in the week, I took a 75 mile side trip to Richmond and visited several Civil War sites. While I had done a lot of reading, I had never grasped just how small an area was involved in some of the fiercest fighting.



**Union lines at the Cold Harbor Battlefield.
The Confederate lines were at the opposite end of the clearing.**

Mid-week found me in Yorktown, visiting the site of the final campaign of the Revolution.

British forces were trapped with deep water at their back and a French naval blockade that kept the Royal Navy from evacuating the army.

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The York River cuts off a British retreat

Late in the week, I paid a visit to USS Wisconsin (BB64), the last *Iowa* class battleship to enter service in WW II. “Wiskey” also saw service in Korea, Vietnam, and the first Gulf War. I hadn’t known that all four of the *Iowa* battleships are being held in reserve and can be returned to service if the need arises. On the lighter side, I discovered that the ship’s launch is bigger (estimated 70 ft. LOA) than any boat I’m likely to own!



USS Wisconsin waits for the call