

District 23 Spring Picnic in Titusville, 11 May 2013

Submitted by D/Lt/C Roy Merritt, N, D23 Administrative Officer

Membership is Job One! New member drives and member retention is everybody's business and is a team effort that starts at the top and encompasses everyone all the way to the individual member. Members are the strength of any organization and our activities, whether a boating event, social get-together or education class; these are the things that hold us together. They are what sets us apart from any other organization. We have a long and proud history. We can and have made a difference to the boating community at large. Having said that, let's not lose focus on the fun we have.

Speaking of having fun! This year our Annual Picnic was held at Fox Lake Park in Titusville, instead of the usual venue at Sand Point Park. The change was necessitated by some renovation work at Sand Point pavilion. There were pluses and minuses about this temporary relocation: On the plus side, the woodland lakeside setting was attractive and the building considerably larger, offering more shade and room to spread out. The biggest minus was having to cancel the cardboard boat race due to the number of alligators in the lake. This was probably a major contributor to the slightly lower attendance at the event (just over 100).

There was another major change in the food and drink department. In previous years members provided most of their own food, to be grilled by Chef Elmer of Titusville, while District supplied corn, beer, wine and non-alcoholic drinks. On this occasion we provided food and soft drinks (if members wanted beer or wine they had to bring their own). There were burgers, chicken breasts, smoked pulled pork, rolls, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, corn, some other side dishes and plenty of desserts. The side dishes and desserts were made and do-

nated by members. The food was served buffet style and everyone had plenty to eat. More importantly, the comments were extremely favorable. The pulled pork was a particular favorite with some folks coming back for seconds and even thirds! I think we should bring this back next year.

After lunch there was a group photograph of everyone wearing a life jacket (See the photo below), then D/C Tim Henke, JN-CN, convened a brief meeting to vote on the change of Squadron that would be hosting the Spring Conference next year. This was followed by the raffle (42 beautiful baskets) and auction then shortly after 3:00 the Picnic broke up. Predicted rain and thunderstorms held off for another hour. All-in-all, a very good day.

Cocoa Beach is pulling out all the stops for the Fall Conference to be held at the beautiful beach side Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront. Mark your calendars for the weekend of 4 through 6 October. You should all have your flier and registration form by now, but if not, please log onto the Cocoa Beach Sail and Power Squadron website and download your own copy. Please don't delay in sending in your registration as it really does help the sponsoring Squadron by having as much lead time as possible for event planning. The theme this year will be Surfing Festival / Luau party. So fish out your best surfing attire / Hawaiian shirt and come join the fun. We also have the USPS Governing Board meeting coming up at the Grand Hyatt hotel in San Antonio, TX from 1 to 8 September. For more information on this event please log onto the USPS website and follow the "more information" link at the bottom of the page. Everyone is encouraged highly to attend.

