



GALAXY D23 NEWSLETTER



D/C Roy K. Merritt, SN-IN

Greetings everyone. We have just held our 2015 Spring Conference hosted by Central Florida Sail & Power Squadron. What an excellent weekend we had. I am sure no one that went on the boat trip on Friday night will ever forget that experience, especially the Jello shots. My heartfelt thanks to Team Gibbs for putting together a fun and unforgettable weekend.

We held our Change of Watch and I feel honored and humbled by the trust which you have placed in me to lead our District over the coming year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank P/C William 'Bill' Fehr, N for handing over a District with Squadrons that are healthy and becoming more creative in their approach to recruitment and member retention. I am hopeful this upward trend will continue and spread to all our Squadrons.

My goals for the coming year are simple, help where we can to add value to what the Squadrons are already doing both to promote themselves and to make United States Power Squadrons become a more visible and relevant organization for boating education in their respective communities.

National have developed a toolkit to help us with our advertising and branding, but certainly I think no one would disagree that one of the best ways we can accomplish more visibility and relevancy for our Squadrons is through, as Cdr Bob Ray put it "walking the talk." Practicing what we teach (and preach), having more on-the-water activities and proudly flying our colors. Be the leaders and set an example of how to have fun on the water in a safe and responsible way. I know that there are many competing specialist clubs, but I believe we are still second to none in our boating education programs. Let's demonstrate that on the water.

To assist the Squadrons in their education efforts, we have discussed, at Bridge level, bringing back the annual Education seminar. I have asked Bud Newton, our DEO, to organize such a seminar, so watch this space for updates.

Many members have also expressed an interest in having a more detailed look at the work that the Central Florida Squadron team undertook to increase their membership. They have become a more vibrant and relevant boating organization in the face of stiff competition, in the Central Florida area. I will be working with our District Bridge team and Cdr Bob Ray to coordinate a seminar which Cdr Ray has kindly offered to facilitate.

I am looking forward to our journey over the next year in which we can grow as an organization, become more visible and relevant in our communities and have a great time doing it.

Yours in Safe Boating

D/C Roy Merritt, SN-IN