



United States Power Squadrons®

Come for the Boating Education... Stay for the FriendsSM

DISTRICT 23 GALAXY NEWSLETTER



August 2019

District 23 Fall Conference

Join us in Gainesville, Florida for the District 23 Fall Conference

Saturday, October 19, 2019

The Conference will be held at the
Wyndham Garden Gainesville
(Gainesville's only Lakefront hotel and
Conference Center)

- Saturday morning tours include:
Sweetwater Wetlands Park or
La Chua Trail at Payne's Prairie
State Park.
- Luncheon includes St. Johns N Club
Guest Speaker (Everyone invited to
attend.)
- District 23 Business Meeting

Agenda and reservation information is
included in this newsletter.

Welcome to Our New D23 Newsletter

Welcome to our new newsletter
format. I wish to thank all who
helped make this improvement
possible, especially our wonderful
District Secretary and Newsletter
Editor: Jan Spencer and her staff.



I also wish to thank our other district bridge officers for their efforts in carrying out the missions and responsibilities we have as district leaders. As I think most of you know, our great organization, the United States Power Squadrons, is facing fundamental and revolutionary changes and *not in name only!* This is the time for each member to get involved and let your voice be heard. I have often said in the past that if you want to get the most out of your membership: get involved and participate. Now more than ever is this true. Our district and squadron leaders have been made aware of the issues involved and, I hope, have shared some of the proposed changes with you. Our National Board of Directors have endorsed widespread and fundamental changes which will deeply affect each of us. LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! Discuss the issues in your homes and squadron meetings and come to our District 23 Fall Conference Business Meeting on Saturday, October 19, 2019, for further action. Save this date. Our conference committee has also planned some fun events. LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

D/C Kurt W. Mikat, SN

District 23 Fall Conference

October 19, 2019



Wyndham Garden of Gainesville
2900 SW 13th Street
Gainesville, FL 32608
Gainesville's only Lakefront Hotel & Conference Center. Call them directly to reserve your room, tell them you are with the Gainesville Sail and Power Squadron.
352-240-0162

AGENDA

8:30—11:00 am

Tour of Sweetwater Wetlands Park

325 SW Williston Road Gainesville, FL 32608.

Tour will be led by a GSPS member. This is a great opportunity for photographers and nature lovers.

12Noon—1:30 pm

St. John's N Club Lunch with Guest Speaker

Lunch will be at the Wyndham. Make your reservation by using the PayPal link on the website listed below. *Must make your lunch reservation no later than September 25th.* While you eat, enjoy a program hosted by the "N" Club.

2:00—4:00 pm

District 23 Business Meeting Wyndham Conference Room

All members of all District Squadrons are invited to attend to take part in discussions, express opinions and raise questions. According to our district bylaws, only named delegates will be able to vote. Delegates are named by their squadron commanders in advance of the meeting.

2:30-4:30 pm

Optional Tour of Paynes Prairie La Chua Trail

This is an optional tour for those not attending the business meeting.

For complete details and to make reservations go to the Gainesville website at:

<https://gainesvilleboatingclub.org/fall-district-conference>

Deadline for lunch reservations is September 25th.

Note to All Squadron Commanders

In accordance with the District bylaws, I will email each Squadron Commander a request for the names of the delegates from your squadron for the conference.

Each Squadron Commander is a delegate, as are the District Bridge, Chairs of the Nominating, Rules and Audit Committees, and Past District Commanders in attendance. In addition, squadron Commanders can name additional delegates to represent their squadron based on their total membership as of March 1st. These delegates are voting members for the conference.

The number of delegates for each squadron are listed below:

- Banana River—Commander plus 3 delegates
- Central Florida—Commander plus 3 delegates
- Cocoa Beach—Commander plus 7 delegates
- Daytona Beach—Commander plus 3 delegates
- Gainesville—Commander plus 3 delegates
- Harris Chain—Commander plus 2 delegates
- Jacksonville—Commander plus 5 delegates

I will ask that Commanders return their list of delegates to me by October 12th (one week prior to the conference).

While all members attending the conference are encouraged to ask questions, raise concerns and take part in discussions during the Business Meeting, only named delegates will be able to vote. At the beginning of the Business Meeting at 2:00 pm, I will take a roll call of all named delegates to determine the number of voting members in attendance.

If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to contact me at vtspencers1@gmail.com

Jan Spencer, Secretary

Meet the District 23 Bridge Officers



D/C KURT MIKAT, SN

COMMANDER

Ever since I was a child I loved the water. I have always enjoyed swimming and boating, in fact, one of my earliest memories as a toddler is that of just looking around while my face was under water, being held securely by my father. When I was growing up, my family spent summers at our cottage on an inland lake in Michigan. Lots of turtles, frogs and fish. I was even allowed to operate our Johnson 5 Hp. outboard on our rowboat under the watchful eye of my father.

One of my dreams was to acquire a large liveaboard sailboat to sail the Great Lakes. Of course, I knew enough that I would want to get a sound boating education to ensure my family's safety. That's where the United States Power Squadrons entered my life. At that time, I took all the Advanced and Elective courses that were available. My favorite course was Senior Navigation, not because celestial navigation was an easy, practical way of navigating the high seas (LORAN was then in vogue and GPS was just beginning to become available). I loved the Senior Navigation course because it opened up so much understanding of how the solar system and our galaxy worked, the various concepts of time and longitude and how they can be measured, how measurements of some angles in the sky could reveal positions on the earth's surface, and so much more. Understanding things has always been my passion.

Now there is a great challenge before us as many wish to fundamentally change our great organization for better or worse. We need each member to participate to ensure that our traditional values of service, fellowship and boating education are not only saved but enhanced. May our great organization and our mission survive any storm.



Kurt being sworn in as District Commander by P/C/C Louis Ojeda at the Spring Conference.



P/D/C Jim Suber presents Kurt with the flag of office.

Meet the District 23 Bridge Officers



D/Lt/C Ron Poland, SN-IN

Executive Officer

A transplanted Floridian, I am presently the Executive Officer of District 23 of the United States Power Squadrons. Although a boater for many years, I joined the US Power Squadrons in 2013 when I was seeking to broaden my boating knowledge. Within months of joining the Jacksonville Sail & Power Squadron I was elected the squadron's Administrative Officer.

USPS continues to provide me with the nautical knowledge and on-the-water experience that first attracted me to the organization. Advancing through all the available courses, I am currently a Senior Navigator with an Inland Navigation certification. I have not only taken classes but have been an instructor in a number of classes as well. I enjoy helping people become better and safer boaters both by teaching and providing Vessel Safety inspections.

Over succeeding years, I have advanced through each of the Squadron bridge offices of Administrative, Executive and ultimately Squadron Commander in 2016. I served a second time as Squadron Commander in 2018. In 2017 I joined the District 23 Bridge as District Secretary, followed by District Administrative Officer in 2018.

My wife, Jeanette, and I are avid "water" people enjoying time spent on, in or under the water. We participate in both power boating and sailing, while I also enjoy scuba diving whenever the opportunity avails itself.

I am most appreciative of USPS for the fantastic nautical education I have gained, the outstanding personal relationships I have made through the organization, and the opportunities to serve my community.



D/23 Spring Conference in St. Augustine. Friday night dinner. Ron and Jeanette Poland, Pete and Jen Foster, Mark and Diane Adams.

Meet the District 23 Bridge Officers



D/Lt/C Ronald Radford, AP

Administrative Officer

My DNA began over 70 years as a result of trips taken with my grandparents to City Island, New York to the yard belonging to Minneford Yacht Club. Nestled among the people there were sailors from the American Cup and World Cup who made this their home. Because my grandfather knew the owners we could walk freely in the yard. I was always receiving invitations to come aboard these magnificent ships anchored there. Mr. Henry Devereux was the Naval architect at that yard. Years later he would design and I

would build a 12 foot racing runabout that he had designed for me.

My final year in high school provided me the opportunity to use and apply the skills of a boat builder. Upon completion and racing this craft my love and devotion to boating had its fruition. After moving from Upstate New York to Long Island I became a member of one of the Rotary clubs. One of its members one day approached me with the question do I like boating? He informed me that he had a 24 foot Chris-Craft boat that was sitting idle. His invitation to give me this craft surprised me. He went on to inform me that the bottom had just been fiberglassed. After I had taken possession and had the boat in my yard, I began to remove the paint above the waterline. Seeing that beautiful mahogany wood grain and paying careful attention to the seams, my work began. My appetite and labor soon came into conflict with the amount of attention that perhaps something newer made of fiberglass would require less of my time.

One day while visiting Frost boatyard I saw this new boat with a for sale sign. The owners owned a local newspaper and decided on a lark to buy this boat. To their chagrin, they found that there was more to owning and were convinced to part ways with this new craft. The asking price was way below its value since they were seeking to put some distance from ownership. The boat was a Ken craft equipped with a large Ford engine with a shaft protection and rudder. The boat was a little loud but fast. Its flat bottom provided a bumpy ride at high speed. Seeing an advertisement in the local paper for a safe boating course gleaned my attention.

My participation in subsequent courses enabled me to advance and hone my skills in piloting; membership and participation in the USPS also afforded contact in an association with men and women of like mind. The next five years I was changing boats as my knowledge and experience dictated. The final 42 foot twin diesel satisfied and challenged my boating skills. Again I am thankful for the camaraderie and fellowship from the men and women who make up the USPS.



D/23 Spring Conference in St. Augustine. Good times at Change of Watch farewells.

Meet the District 23 Bridge Officers



D/Lt/C Tom Anderson, SN-CN

Educational Officer

I am one of the few who can claim to be a Native of Florida and Jacksonville. Growing up on the Ortega River, I have seen a lot in the BOATING WORLD. My USPS career, along with my wife Vicky or "The Admiral", started in May 2007. We met a couple of JSPS members at a Boat Show Booth and found out we were actually neighbors. We were invited to a meeting and the rest is history.

At the end of our first year we got "The Call" from the nominating committee! Vicky took a position on the Nominating Committee and I became a Member at Large. Our AO had to step down due to personal reasons and I became the AO. Not really sure how it happened - went to our annual Fish Fry and came out as a Flag Officer. After a year and a half of AO, I followed the progression and became XO for a year then Commander for a year.

Then it happened again. For some reason I went from Commander to XO. I know some of you all remember P/D/C Abe Cahill, SN. I think he had something to do with it; he was a pretty sly fellow. Then, once again, I went from XO back to Commander. But I fooled the nominating committee and took on Commander for the 3rd year. Somehow in the middle of all this I became a Senior Navigator.

Throughout all these years I kept my eye on Education. I took on the SEO job 4 years ago and have enjoyed every minute of it. I like Education so much I became the D23 Educational Officer two years ago. Being an instructor and BOC certifier, is very rewarding assisting fellow boaters. There so many changes going on in education it keeps you on your toes.

Vicky and I sold our house 8 years ago and bought a Hatteras and are now live-a-boards. We have enjoyed our short time as USPS members and hope for many more years to follow.

Live You're Dreams

Tom



Friday night dinner at the Spring Conference—Tom and Vikki Anderson and Jon and Mary Vanatta



Tom presents the Prince Henry the Navigator award to Jon Vanatta of Jacksonville Squadron along with D/C Jim Suber and P/C/C Louis Ojeda.

Meet the District 23 Bridge Officers



D/Lt/ C John Mulkey, AP-IN

District 23 Treasurer

My wife Merri and I came to Florida in 1998 from Indiana. We had a 22' Baha Cruiser and used it in the Indian and Banana Rivers. I was told about Cocoa Beach Power Squadron and the safe boating course they taught while at the Dentist office! I took the class and joined the Squadron and a few months later I was helping to teach the course. With the exception of JN and N, I believe I have taken all the courses we offer. I still help teach the ABC course and currently have 18 merit marks.

I have been the District Treasurer for the past seven years and have seen our membership drop every year. At Cocoa Beach the biggest problem is not signing up new members - it is keeping members. We must all do our part to make people feel welcome.

There are thousands of boaters out there that have never heard of USPS or America's Boating Club. Another job of ours is to let them know about us. The next person you talk to could become our newest member.



Serving cheer at the District 23 Hospitality Suite—
Spring Conference in St. Augustine.



D23 Spring Conference Change of Watch

Meet the District 23 Bridge Officers



D/Lt/C Jannette Spencer, JN

District Secretary

I joined USPS in 1982 as a member of the Susquenango Power Squadron in Upstate New York where I was Commander in 1994-95. This was a very active squadron with almost 300 members. My husband and I completed most of our squadron's educational courses and loved competing in on-the-water contests in the Finger Lakes of New York, the St. Lawrence River and on Lake Ontario. This gave us an opportunity to practice the skills we were learning in the classroom and to compete with other squadrons across our district. We brought many trophies back to our squadron from these district-sponsored events and had an amazing time doing it!

When Jim's job moved him to Vermont we transferred our membership to the Winooski Valley Squadron. There I served as Secretary and Newsletter Editor for several years. I then became the Assistant Secretary and then Secretary for several years for District 19 which includes the squadrons from Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire. During those years, I was also the Editor of the District's newsletter. Because our District covered such a large area, and several of our squadrons were in Maine, many of our council meetings and conferences were held in Maine. The Vermonters called themselves the "4-2-4 Club." We would travel 4 hours to a 2 hour meeting and then 4 hours back home! Jim and I were both on the district bridge simultaneously for several years and when he was District Commander, we had the pleasure of travelling to Changes of Watch all over New England.

In 2013 we moved to St. Augustine, Florida and became members of the wonderful Jacksonville Sail and Power Squadron. There I have been the Secretary, and currently serve as Assistant Secretary, and Editor of The Skipper, I have also served as the Secretary for the St. John's N Club for the past two years.

We truly enjoy our involvement in squadron, district and national events and have made lifelong friends across the nation through our participation at all levels of USPS. Life is about building memories and many of our most special memories include our squadron friends.



Change of Watch - Jan receiving her flag of office from D/C Mikat. Also shown: Ron Radford, John Mulkey, and Tom Anderson who had also been sworn in to the District Bridge.



How District Officers Can Support Squadrons

D/Lt/C Ron Poland, SN-IN

Have you wondered how the members of District 23's Bridge may be of assistance to your squadron? I'd like to take a few paragraphs to offer some perspectives of District support. First of all the district organization is the nucleus for the group action of squadrons assigned by the Governing Board. This means the District acts as an intermediate enabler of the national organization

and for the squadrons. It oversees administration of programs to educate and train members and the public and it provides opportunities for social interaction among members and families of assigned squadrons. The district organization is in close contact with all national departments and committees. It is a channel for communication between national departments and squadrons, insuring uniformity of action by squadrons.

So how is the District supposed to accomplish these tasks? Let's take a look at the various responsibilities and opportunities of the District Bridge officers:

At the head of the District is the District Commander (D/C) who is responsible for fostering close bonds among the squadrons of the district. He does this by working closely with each squadron in his district. It is incumbent on the D/C to attend as many squadron functions as possible, visiting each squadron in his district at least once each year. In addition, it is his responsibility to conduct the installation of squadron commanders and, on request, squadron officers. In as much as it is rarely possible for the D/C to attend every squadron's change of watch, he assigns one of his bridge officers to represent him on some occasions. The D/C also serves as liaison with squadron commanders on district and national affairs. He keeps squadron commanders informed by means of conference and council meetings, a district publication, correspondence, electronic mail where practical or telephone, of all district and national matters that concern their squadrons. In turn, Squadrons can utilize the D/C in communicating issues that may need help from National for resolution. This is consistent with his role as the liaison with the Governing Board and National Officers, particularly the National Executive Officer. The D/C is also the first resource for Squadrons in difficulty, those having problems maintaining their viability. In such cases, the D/C discusses the matter with the squadron to attempt to remedy the situation. If these shortcomings cannot be corrected by communicating with the squadron commander, it may be necessary for the squadron commander to call a special meeting of the squadron executive committee for the D/C to discuss the situation and outline a program to revitalize the squadron.



The District Executive Officer (DXO) is responsible for general supervision and coordination of squadron activities within the district. Since the squadron commanders report directly to the DXO, squadron commanders should consult him on all important operational problems, particularly those which involve relations with other squadrons or with outside agencies. The DXO will help with issues related to any of the following activities: Boat shows, Cooperative charting, Legislative issues, Liaison issues, Homeland Security, Public relations, Safety, Vessel safety checks, and Environmental issues.

The District Educational Officer (DEO) is the primary resource for squadron educational officers (SEOs). The DEO provides a medium for the exchange of educational related ideas among district squadrons, for dissemination of information from National, serving as their representative to national educational committees. As such, if a squadron has a problem related to courses or other educational issues, the DEO is available to work it. Since the DEO has responsibility of supervising all educational affairs at the district level, he can help counsel squadron nominating committees on recommendations for SEOs and ASEOs and may approve their nomination when delegated to do so by the NEO.

The District Administrative Officer (DAO) is a source of leadership for squadrons in the following areas: Membership, Member involvement, Boating activities, Operations training, and Conference planning. Since membership is a primary responsibility, the DAO is available to assist with membership issues. He is also available to assist and encourage participation in the Youth Poster Contest

The District Treasurer can assist squadrons with issues related to sales tax requirements, budget creation and state corporation requirements.

The District Secretary has responsibility for maintaining correspondence, minutes, newsletters and rosters of the District. Squadron secretaries can utilize their District Secretary to assist in resolving problems with any issues related to these areas.

In closing, I would like to encourage Squadron personnel to make use of their District Officers as a resource to help in the areas noted above. We are here for you!



P/D/C Jim Suber, AP

As your “JR” Past Commander I have been asked to write a little about the value and need for membership involvement. Our District is in a change pattern as is the entire United States Power Squadron. The Name is changing as well as the way members look and act as America’s Boating Club. We have several “new ways” being given to us to digest and some I understand fully deserve questioning and some of the new ways are very positive. Therefore, we need to get engaged or for some of you stay engaged.

We all know the District Bridge and what we call the “council” have specific duties and responsibilities. The Commander leads, the Executive Officer assists the Commander with our programs that effect outside the organization, the Administrative Officer assists the Commander with the internal events, The Treasurer keeps tabs on our funds and the Secretary keeps our records and insures we get the correct information as well as insures the National Office has the correct information. With all this fully understood no one works and performs on an island. All of these positions have working committees. When we have the committee positions filled the organization works like a well-oiled machine! Now you know who your bridge officers are, but do you know who is working your committees? Well, here you go.

COMMANDERS DEPT.

Public Visitation Chairman
Boating Activities
Chaplain
Sea Scout Coordinator

EXECUTIVE DEPT

Homeland Security Officer Liaison Committee
Public Relations Committee
Radio Technical Committee
USCG Liaison
Vessel Safety Check Committee
Environmental Committee
Cooperative Charting Committee
Boating Safety Committee
USCG Aux. Liaison Committee
Legislative Committee

EDUCATIONAL DEPT.

Assistant Educational Officer
BOCC— Boat Operator Certification
Seminar Courses
USPS Guides

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPT.

Boating Activities Committee
District 23 Picnic
Ladies Auxiliary Liaison
Member Benefits Committee
Member Involvement Committee
Membership Committee
Operations Training

(continued on next page)



SECRETARY'S DEPT.

D23 Directory
DB 2000 & Go To Meeting Consultant
District Publications Editor
District Webmaster
Galaxy D23 Newsletter
Historian
Information Technology Committee
Public Contact
Publications Committee
Ship Store Committee
THE ENSIGN Correspondent

EXECUTIVE & GENERAL COMMITTEES

Auditing Committee
Awards Committee
Finance Committee
Law Committee/Law Officer
Nominating Committee (past 3 commanders)
Planning Committee
Rules Committee

Now as you can see it is not a one-person job. The Audit, Finance and Rules committee members are elected by the members and the others are appointed by the Bridge members of the appropriate departments. The Nomination Committee is the past 3 Commanders.

By now you are wondering where is he going with this?

Well, I'll tell you! Your District and Squadron needs you to engage! Most of these positions do not require an excessive amount of time by themselves. But if only a few are doing all of the tasks, it can be overwhelming or create "Burn-out! So, I am asking for you to PLEASE consider doing a small bit. Get engaged and make your time and money of membership count. Reach out to the nomination committee, P/D/C Mark Adams, P/D/C Ron Gagen, or me, P/D/C Jim Suber and tell us where you feel you can make a difference.

We will be in need of at least one Bridge member because that is what is supposed to happen and if you have leadership skills we want YOU!

If you are the person that is not interested in taking on a position or task that is OK. Just stay engaged as a member and be heard!



Sign Up

Receive Updates

Submit Media

<https://americasboatingchannel.com/>

Greetings From Your D23 Educational World,

I would like to again say what an honor it is to serve as your District 23 Educational Officer. Education is constantly changing to keep up with the new ELECTRONIC WORLD that we are now a part of. The committees are working harder than ever trying to keep up. If you are interested in assisting or have any ideas I am sure there is a committee waiting on your input.

The America's Boating Channel is growing weekly with new videos. There are a number of ways to access the content - Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest and LinkedIn. Please share the site with your friends and fellow boaters. Remember the videos are made by volunteers from USPS. Again if you have any ideas or topics let the ABC Committee know. The website is listed above.

A great use of the Americas Boating Channel is the new "Jump Start" program. This is a really great program, not only assisting new boaters but also providing the possibility for new members. Everyone I have talked to about the program has been impressed. We have some very different water ways in our district. The program works from the inland lakes to the mouth of the St. Johns River. The best part is it is a FREE service that we provide. All the information can be found on the National Educational Web Site.

If there is anything I can assist with please feel free to contact me.

Live your Dreams

Tom



D/Lt/C Tom Anderson, SN-CN

United States Power Squadrons

District 23

District Educational Officer-DEO

ander1@bellsouth.net

904-704-2746 Cell/Text

Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the FriendsSM



UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS

- **Saturday, October 19**
District Conference—Gainesville
- **Saturday, January 11, 2020**
Winter Council Meeting
- **Saturday, March 21-22, 2020**
District Spring Conference— Daytona Beach
- **Saturday, April 18, 2020**
District Picnic— Bing's Landing, Palm Coast

From the Editor

My special thanks to the District Bridge members, Kurt Mikat, Ron Poland, Ron Radford, John Mulkey and Tom Anderson, as well as Jim Suber who contributed materials for this newsletter.

Also to Teresa Davidson and the members of the Gainesville Squadron for their work in hosting the Fall Conference, and to Bud Newton our Assistant DEO who also does a wonderful job as our District photographer!

It is my plan to produce another newsletter prior to our Spring Conference that will include details for the conference, as well as the District Picnic in April. If you have comments about this newsletter, or would like to submit materials to be used in the next issue, please send them to me at vtspencers1@gmail.com

I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Conference in Gainesville.

Jan Spencer

D23 Secretary and Editor, D23 Newsletter, The Galaxy

