



CAN 15

Official Publication of District 15

Fall 2022

Ahoy!

I'm writing to you on the tail end of the Raleigh Governing Board meeting. It was a fun and interesting week. Everything got started with Casino night on Wednesday, followed by a great District Commander and District Executive Officer meeting, 3 great comedians, a few more great meetings, and the all-important Beach Boys dinner dance. I cannot wait for Karen and I to give our reports on the comings and goings at our Fall Conference.



D/C Taylor Baldrige, P

those who want to stop by before heading out.

I'm looking forward to a great conference and most importantly, getting to see all of you!



C/C Craig Fraser, SN-IN at the Raleigh GB

photo by Liana Mihalca

Speaking of the D/15 conference, we have a good slate of activities scheduled, but remember casual is the word of the weekend.

We are going to start Friday night off with Baton Rouge's Live After 5 concert series. It is free to get in, but you may want to bring your own chair. Dinner will be on your own, I provided a list of restaurants downtown for your convivence, in order of closest to the hotel. We really like the Little Village, but if you want a great view of the river Tsunami is going to be one of the best views in the city.

Saturday we will be conducting the meeting at the hotel. We will need to approve the budget and also discuss the bylaw changes made at the Governing Board.

That afternoon we will be off to the *USS Kidd* for a tour for those who are up for it. It is about a 15-minute walk, but there is also on street parking for those who would prefer to drive.

For dinner we will be keeping it casual again, pizza at the Pastime Lounge. The Pastime is an age-old favorite of the residents of Baton Rouge. They have great pizzas and really is a staple of downtown Baton Rouge. *(Can we assume that LSU-Auburn football will be on TV there?)*

On Sunday we will be having our Sunday send off for

District 15 Fall Conference
30 September – 2 October 2022
Hosted by
Baton Rouge Sail & Power Squadron

Hampton Inn and Suites - Downtown
462 Lafayette St.
Baton Rouge, La 70801

See pages 3-4 for details!

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MASTHEAD
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OF DISTRICT 15



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D/15 Web Page

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ByLaws for District Reorganization

Article 6: District Organization

Section 6.1 Each district shall be composed of the squadron(s) assigned it by the Governing Board. It shall be governed by a district conference functioning as the governing body and may have a district council functioning as an executive committee of the district conference. Where the USPS Bylaws describe an action by a district council, the district bylaws may assign those duties to the District Bridge. If not assigned in the district bylaws to the District Council or the District Bridge, they are deemed to have been reserved to the District Conference.

Section 6.2 Each district shall be presided over by a district commander who shall, as a minimum, be assisted by a district educational officer, a district secretary and a district treasurer who supervise their respective departments. The district bylaws shall provide for filling mid-term vacancies in these offices.

6.2.1 The district commander may be assigned National duties and responsibilities in addition to those assigned by the district bylaws.

6.2.2 The offices of district secretary and district treasurer may be held by the same person.

6.2.3 District bylaws may provide for additional elected officers to supervise other departments such as an executive department and an administrative department. The district bylaws may allow election of one individual to fulfill these assignments, and may allow the conference to leave the office(s) vacant.

6.2.4 The district educational officer, district secretary, district treasurer, district administrative officer (if any) and district executive officer (if any) shall each serve with the rank of district lieutenant commander.

6.2.5 The district commander, and the district lieutenant commanders shall constitute the District Bridge.

Section 6.3 When provided for in their bylaws, each district may elect assistants for the district lieutenant commanders, each of whom shall serve with the rank of district first lieutenant. If the district bylaws provide for an intentional vacancy by declining to elect, the corresponding assistant shall remain vacant. These assistant officers shall assist their principals as required and, in the principals' absence, act in their stead.

Section 6.4 Each district commander shall be, ex officio, a member of all appointed committees of the district, but is not a member of committees elected by the District Conference.

Section 6.5 If so, provided in the district bylaws, the district commander may appoint committees, committee chairs, and aides, and may assign duties to such appointees as deemed necessary. The chairs of appointed and elected committees shall serve with the rank of district lieutenant.

Section 6.6 No district rank shall be authorized or conferred except as provided for in this article.

Section 6.7 Each district officer and member of an elected committee shall be an active member in good standing in a squadron of the district and shall be elected as prescribed in the district bylaws.

Downtown Baton Rouge Restaurant List

In Order of Vicinity to the Hotel:

1) Little Village - Italian

447 Third St., Baton Rouge, LA

https://www.littlevillagebr.com/little_village_menus

2) Azteca - Tex Mex

453 Lafayette St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

<https://aztecasbr.com/baton-rouge-aztecas-mexican-cuisine-food-menu>

3) Cecilia's Creole Bistro

421 N 3rd St Suite B, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

<https://www.ceceliabr.com/>

4) Schlitz and Giggles - Pizza

301 3rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70801

<https://schlitz.com/baton-rouge-schlitz-and-giggles-food-menu>

5) The Gregory - Restaurant in the Watermark hotel

150 3rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70801

<https://www.thegregorybr.com/>

6) Tsunami Sushi Baton Rouge - Sushi

100 Lafayette St, Baton Rouge, LA 70801

<https://batonrouge.servingsushi.com/#>

7) Stroubes Seafood and Steaks

107 3rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70801

<https://stroubes.com/dinnerlists/>

8) Jolie Pearl Oyster Bar

315 North Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

<http://joliepearloysterbar.com/>

Saturday Night Dinner - The Pastime Restaurant - Pizza

252 South Blvd., Baton Rouge, La 70802

<https://www.pastimerestaurant.com/>

**From D/15 Educational Officer
D/Lt/C Ron Swope, SN-IN**

Teaching Aids Competition Suspended at Annual Meeting

For many years the teaching aids competition enjoyed considerable success at the annual USPS meeting. One entry from each district was eligible to compete. Several years ago participation began to fall off significantly. Then came the pandemic. Participation at this year's annual meeting was not enough to warrant continuing the cost is space and man hours to host the event at the 2023 Annual Meeting. The national information technology committee issued a statement that due to lack of participation, the teaching aid competition at the annual meeting is suspended until further notice.

Instead there will be a virtual competition of those entries that are added to the library during 2022. People will be able to log in and view the entries and then vote. The winners will be announced at the meeting. To access the library, go to the Educational Department Home Page. On the left put your cursor on "Ed Dept Information", then on "For Instructors" and then click on "Teaching Library". Ignore the information about submitting your entry to district competition. At the bottom of the page are 2 links. One is entering a teaching aid and the other is to search for and retrieve aid from the library.

Miss E

"I was pretty sure the floor was rotten when it felt spongy under my feet. My suspicion was confirmed when my foot went through the wood", laughed

Pensacola's Past Commander Bob Burton, as we discussed the years long boat project that became "Miss E". It started out as a 1979 20' Privateer Open Motor Boat work boat with a 175 HP Evinrude outboard. His son Tom ran it for years as a pleasure boat, but now it was ready for the graveyard. "Just about everything in it was rotten except the hull and transom", Bob explained. The hull was entirely fiberglass. All wood in the transom was completely covered in fiberglass. So that was also used in constructing the new boat

Bob and his son worked on the boat off and on



over a period of about 6 years. All wood parts are sealed in fiberglass including the stringers. The original ones were not. At one point during construction, the boat slid off the supports and that led to some setbacks in the process. Length is still 20' with a beam of 8' since he used the original hull. There is a lot of open space in the boat with just a single, movable seat behind the console. The console hides an 18-gallon, custom made fuel tank for the 115 HP Yamaha 4 stroke motor. He has



one starting battery and two auxiliary batteries to run the trolling motor. "I could put a bigger motor on it, but I can get 45 mph out of this one", he claims. He adds that this is definitely an inshore boat. He estimates total project cost including the tandem axil trailer, electronics and auxiliary motor, but not including the 115 Yamaha, at \$10,000.

His first boat was in 1965. He got it for \$500 and a lot of labor cleaning



out a barn. It was an 18' Century with a 65 HP OB. Over the years he's owned about 10 boats including a 52' Hatteras sportfishing boat he named Cane Pole. His vessel inventory was down at his Orange Beach home on the Intracoastal waterway to just the Miss E as repairs were finished on his dock and lift required by storm damage. He had to wait for the repairs before he brought home his recent purchase of a 25' Regulator center console with twin 200 HP 4 stroke Yamaha engines. It is certainly Gulf worthy.

Oh yeah, the Miss E? She's named for his 14-year-old granddaughter, Elizabeth.



CALL TO CONFERENCE

In accordance with District 15 bylaws, Article 5, Section 5.5, this constitutes official notice to the membership of District 15 of call to meeting, containing the agenda and other pertinent details for the 2022 Fall Conference.



All members of D/15 are encouraged to attend the Conference and may request the privilege of the floor, in accordance with bylaws Article 5, Sec 5.8.

Each squadron commander is entitled to vote. Delegates shall be selected by each squadron on the basis of one delegate for each 25 active members in good standing, or major fraction thereof, as of the preceding 1 March, with a minimum of two delegates per squadron.

Voting members of the Conference are: District Commander, District Lieutenant Commanders, Chairmen of the General Committees, Squadron Commanders, Past District Commanders who are active members of District 15 squadrons, and the delegates.

**National Communications Committee
and 2022 Distinctive Communicator Award Info**

The National CommCom is in need of volunteers to review websites and newsletters. No experience necessary! The evaluation forms list specific requirements for compliance. If you are interested, contact:

- R/C Barbara Pearson bpearson1024@att.net
- Stf/C John Goebel johngoebel@cs.com (webs)
- Stf/C Catherine Anderson ca81920a@aol.com (pubs)

The requirements for earning a DCA for 2022 are similar to those for 2021. If you would like to review the details of the evaluation forms for websites and newsletters, go to

<https://www.usps.org/departments/15000/15800> and use the pulldowns on the left.

If you have any questions, contact your adviser:

- Webs** - P/R/C Kathleen Lambert, AP
kglambert@comcast.net
- Newsletters** - Stf/C Catherine Anderson, AP
ca81920a@aol.com



Left, Catherine Anderson, the newsletter adviser for D/15 squadrons, made a short presentation at the recent Raleigh Governing Board.

Odds and Ends - News From USPS

Upcoming National Meetings

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Rosen Plaza at 9700 International Dr, Orlando, FL 32819 on February 19-26, 2023, room rate \$169.

The Fall GB is scheduled for Kansas City, MO, August 27-September 4, 2023, no further details available.

The Ensign Needs Your Photos

Snapped a picture of a lighthouse, drawbridge, or other waterscape? The Ensign is always accepting new photos for its regular Where Away? feature where readers try to guess the location depicted to win a prize. Send your photos to Amy Townsend for possible inclusion in an upcoming issue! Email: Amy Townsend at ensign@hq.usps.org

Educational Fund Trustee Activity Report

Trustees have been busy making grant system adjustments and reviewing income investments. We want to thank members for their continued donations to the fund. The deadline for Honor Roll status is Nov. 30, 2022. Squadrons and districts with future grants should keep current economic changes in mind. Investment income has recently decreased, and the cost of materials has increased, so it would be good to review your past planned grant data and ensure grant requests are upgraded to reflect current changes. If you have any suggestions or questions about the Educational Fund, email: Les Johnson uspsles@aol.com

MuVIT at the Governing Board

The newest generation of MuVIT™, the Multi Vessel Interactive Trainer, was on display during the Governing Board in Raleigh.

Now some background on Boat Simulation Training from the Fall GB issue of *Currents* from the USPS Educational Department.

In 2013, USPS was awarded a US Coast Guard (USCG) grant to build a boating simulator for teaching boating skills to its members and the general public. With nine consecutive grants, the USCG has invested over \$1.2M in the development of the Boating Skills Virtual Trainer (BSVT).

BSVT was conceived originally by Bob Palmer when he observed his grandchildren playing with a racecar simulator at a Chuck E. Cheese and thought, "why can't we do this for boaters?" Bob directed the program for many years with Lisa Herndon Wilson as project manager, working with our partner, Virtual Driver Interactive (VDI), to hone the exercises.

George Hallenbeck took over the reins as project

manager in 2017 and over the course of the program, well over 17,000 students have been documented as users, with hundreds of others observing and participating.

George recently retired from this role; Lisa continues to work with the 23 full sized BSVT units. VDI was acquired by Centrex, Inc. So, what is next on the horizon for training boating skills through simulation?

Concurrently over the years, Scott Morris worked with the Tampa Squadron to internally develop a laptop version called MuVIT™, the Multi-Vessel Interactive Trainer, and using off-the-shelf software. MuVIT is now in its 4th generation and provides an economical trainer which is easily transportable and very versatile.

The platform has numerous advanced features to assist the boating educator and provide a visual draw at public events such as boat shows. The MuVIT™ software supports single or dual throttle operation, multiple types of vessels, including power, sail and PWC, with highly sophisticated features and functions suitable for a wide range of boating experience from beginner to advanced. Read more: <https://muvit-boating.com/>

Contact Lt/C Scott Morris, P for MuVIT™ information. smorris@bangheadhere.org
For BSVT information, contact R/C Lisa Wilson, SN-IN lisa@herndon.net

Is Your Squadron Burgee or District Flag Correct?

How long has it been since you've thought about your burgee or flag? Graphics of all recognized squadron burgees and district flags are maintained within national databases. Is your squadron or district correctly displayed? The Flag & Etiquette team of the Heritage and Documents Committee and the Information Technology Committee have resolved communication glitches, and you can now easily update your graphics. Why not review your heraldry while you are at it? This could be a fun exercise at your next meeting.

Email: Anna Morris amorris@bangheadhere.org
<https://www.usps.org/flag-etiquette/burgees-and-heraldry>

Congratulations to DEO Ron Swope, SN-IN and lucky for us! Ron's article explaining the new fire extinguisher regulations was included in the Sept 2022 issue of *Currents*, USPS Educational Department. It appeared initially in the Summer issue of CAN 15 so D/15 members were able to read it several months ago.

Odds from page 7

America's Boating Channel Up to the Next Level

USPS' boating safety and education video service, America's Boating Channel, now in its sixth year of operation, received awards for being the Top Marine Media Outlet in 2021 and for producing the best PSA (Public Service Announcement) Video Series in 2022. However, its most meaningful award came in the form of a major increase in support from the U.S. Coast Guard.

In June, the USCG awarded USPS a grant covering July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2025 to expand America's Boating Channel into a mainstream media offering. The service, will focus on four growth areas.

Three More Seasons

First, 12 new titles will be developed, produced, and distributed for the 7th through 9th seasons of boating safety and education videos. For the 2023 series, topics under consideration are border crossing; preventing slips, trips, falls; partnering in command; disembarking hazards; boating with small children; engine failure causes and cures; towed sports safety; tying dock lines; introduction to AIS (Automatic Identification System); marine radio etiquette; navigating locks; why wearing a life jacket is cool.

Viewership Promotion

Second, America's Boating Channel will stimulate viewership with a year-round campaign, including daily posts across social networks and media outlets to alert boaters to the risks associated with boating. The goals are to persuade recreational boaters to adopt safe boating behaviors. Also, our exploratory presence on social media platforms with youthful demographics in 2022 will be expanded.

Smart TV

Third, ABChannel's new smart TV initiative will include the development, launch, and operation of a new free-to-the-user smart TV boating app with safe boating videos on demand in a format like Hulu™ Netflix®, and Amazon Prime. A no-cost smart TV linear video programming channel, which will play boating safety and education content on a continuous schedule, will supplement its on-demand title-by-title app for a more traditional television viewing experience.

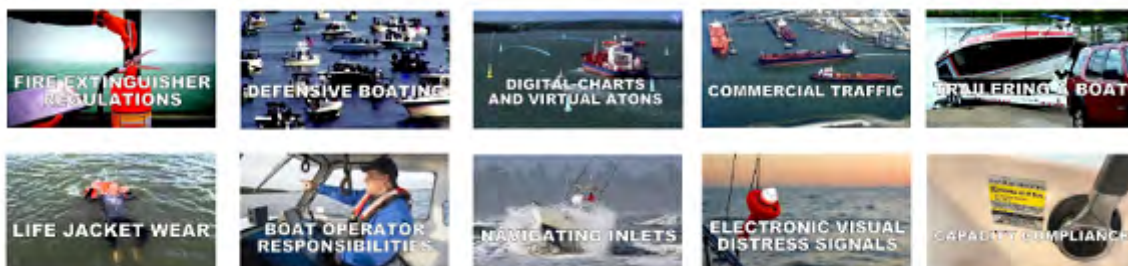
Inlet Drone Videos

Fourth, ABChannel will launch a new video service offering based on the concept tested during 2022 that will feature low-altitude drone videos of leaving from and returning to major US waterways with narratives to prepare boaters for their first sorties into these ports, harbors, rivers, and other high traffic entrances. The rollout will include a training system with technical details for creating videos for participants nationwide to accelerate coverage of more locations, as well as a business model that will generate supplemental program income to support this offering.

You Can Participate

As a USPS member, America's Boating Channel is your video service. You can take advantage of its growing popularity and expansion in a number of ways. There are opportunities to use it for education and membership recruitment, development, and retention. And there are new ways to participate in producing its new programs. Contact Grant Project Manager P/D/C Marty Lafferty AP at

marty.lafferty@americasboatingchannel.com



<https://www.youtube.com/c/AmericasBoatingChannel>

Above info also from Currents, GB 2022 issue

Watch Your Wake

from July 2022 issue of COMPASS

Every craft moving over water leaves a wake. It has two distinct sets of waves: one following the vessel and another spreading outward from its track. The mixture of these two forms your boat's wake pattern, which varies with vessel length, speed, and water depth.

Factors affecting your wake

Vessel size and hull form influence wave height. But large does not necessarily mean high, at least not in deep water. Because it travels faster, a long, low wave can carry much more energy than a short, high one.

A typical powerboat can generate four or five basic wave patterns; understanding when your boat produces these different patterns is key to controlling their impact.

Displacement hulls generate bigger wakes as speed increases. They are efficient up to a point (sometimes known as hull speed or displacement speed), beyond which an increasing proportion of additional propulsive power is spent making waves for little increases in speed.

The high power-to-size ratio of high-speed and planing vessels means they can power through the hull speed barrier into transition mode. Here the stern digs in as it falls into the trough of the bow wave. The largest possible waves are generated as speed increases; the wave pattern changes because the waves following the boat have trouble keeping pace and begin to die away.

When a boat rises onto plane, less hull remains in the water to make waves. The wake's total energy is less than in transition mode but still greater than in displacement mode.

Wake speed limits

As a boater, you are responsible for your boat's wake, which shouldn't be excessive or hazardous to other vessels. Any vessel operating in an idle-speed, no-wake zone must operate at the minimum speed that allows the vessel to maintain headway and steerage.

In general, if your craft creates a wake that breaks or generates white water (water with bubbles or visible waves of any size), you are traveling above no-wake speed. If you put your engine in gear and add no additional engine speed once the propeller engages (idle speed), your boat shouldn't generate a wake.

Any vessel operating in a slow-down, minimum-wake speed zone must operate fully off plane and completely settled in the water. Remember, you are responsible for any property damage or bodily harm your boat causes. So slow down, and enjoy your boating experience. —Norm Meshaw



Navigate Bridges Safely

from August 2022 issue of COMPASS

To navigate bridges safely, particularly on the Intracoastal Waterway, boaters should be aware of a few safety and protocol basics.

Do you know the vertical clearance your boat needs to pass safely under a bridge? If not, find out before you go.

Know the clearance. When approaching each bridge, you'll need to check your charts and cruising guides to find the minimal vertical clearance at mean high water. Don't forget to check the clearance boards posted on the bridges. They show the vertical clearance as you approach. You may need to take down your VHF antenna and outriggers to clear a bridge. According to U.S. Coast Guard regulations, boats that don't lower these items could face a penalty for unnecessary bridge openings.

Check the channel. Check your cruising guide to find out which VHF channel the bridge tender monitors. Also, as you approach a drawbridge, look for a blue sign with a telephone receiver and a lightning bolt through it; this shows you what channel to call on. If you think you'll need an opening, you'd be wise to find out the bridge's opening schedule and whether it opens on demand ahead of time. A little homework and planning will make your travels more enjoyable.

Remain alert. Having to wait for an opening can be nerve-racking. While waiting and doing the circling dance, you'll need to be aware of your position and the wind and current to make sure your boat isn't being carried close to the bridge or shallows.

Follow protocol. When passing through after the bridge opens, the boats on the side with the current usually proceed first, as the boats on the other side have better steerage and control heading into the current. Proceed at a slow speed and look for posted speed limit signs.

Once through, thank the bridge tender and resume normal speed. —Beth Schwab



D/15 Socializing at the Raleigh GB



Apparently Amelia attended all of the social activities at the Governing Board! Other D/15 members showing up in the surrounding pictures: P/C/C Robert Baldrige, Nancy Baldrige, D/C Taylor Baldrige, Skylar Baldrige, P/D/C Karen Gercak, P/D/C Dick Gercak. (Luckily, I also have Dianne Marshburn and Mary Lou Johnson to prove we don't really just stick with our own!)



photo by Liana Mihalca

Meetings to Attend, Things to Learn Raleigh GB



Left, Using Standard Squadron (Web) Sites;
above, More Reorg Discussion;
below, New Options in Information Center.



photo by Liana Mihalca



photo by Liana Mihalca



Quite a few photos in this issue were taken by Liana Mihalca, shown above with C/C Craig Fraser.

Thanks to Liana for posting them on Facebook and allowing me to use them in CAN 15.