



# The Piedmont Binnacle

Savannah River Sail and Power Squadron

A Unit of District 26

Official Publication

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Serving The Central Savannah River Area

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JULY—AUGUST 2016 Vol. LX, No. 4  
Published Bi-Monthly beginning January  
Website: [usps.org/savannahriver](http://usps.org/savannahriver)

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Commander Paulette Harris –Holmes enjoying a day out on the water with Friends

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## Members & Guest Meeting Information

**Date:** Tuesday, 19 July 2016

**Time:** 1830-2030

**Where:** To be announced

**Program:** Dinner Meeting

**Date:**

**Time:**

**Where:**

**Program:**




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**Commander**

**Paulette Harris-Holmes, SN**  
3033 Park Avenue  
Augusta, GA 30909  
706-737-8113  
pharris1@gru.edu

**Assistant Commander**

**P/C DeMetrice Allen, AP**  
1816 Empress Court  
Augusta, GA 30906  
706-796-8532  
wada@bellsouth.net

**Educational Officer**

**Stephen Phillips, SN**  
803 - 522 - 0066  
steve341p@bellsouth.net

**Administrative Officer**

**P/C DeMetrice Allen, AP**  
1816 Empress Court  
Augusta, GA 30906  
706-796-8532  
wada@bellsouth.net

**Secretary**

**Lt/C Nettie Dumais, AP**  
2248 Woodbluff Way  
Augusta, GA30909  
706-799-2043  
n.dumais@comcast.net

**Treasurer**

**Lt/C Nettie Dumais, AP**  
2248 Woodbluff Way  
Augusta, GA30909  
706-799-2043  
n.dumais@comcast.net

**Editor**

**Michael Rosenberg**  
1720 Oak Drive  
Augusta, GA30904  
803-443-2598  
lgmichaelr7@gmail.com

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endorsement unless so designated.*



**Message from the Commander**

Ahoy SRSPS members and friends!

How are you? We miss you. Do join us at our July dinner meeting!

Please put Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 9 on your calendars. We'll be hosting District 26 at the Partridge Inn, We have the penthouse for our hospitality suite and we need your help! Please plan to come.

Thanks to Steve Phillips and Butch Rachal for teaching 5 students in the ABC3 course. All did well!

Again, please place events mentioned in the Binnacle on your calendars,

Sincerely

***Cdr Paulette Harris-Holmes, SN***

Savannah River S&PS Commander  
706-829-3909

[pharris1@gru.edu](mailto:pharris1@gru.edu)

**EDITORIAL DEADLINE**

Deadline for articles, photos, and reports for the  
September-October 2016 edition of *The Piedmont  
Binnacle*: **Saturday, 13 August, 2016.**

If any member has photographs or SRS&PS stories he or  
she would like to submit, please send them in **DIGITAL  
FORMAT** to the editor for consideration.

### Assistant Commander

When boating season is underway, I like to remind SRSPS members to inform those that express an interest in boating to make sure they are in compliance with local regulations. For information about Georgia's boating laws, they can go to: <http://www.georgiawildlife.com/boating>. To review South Carolina's boating regulations, go to: <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/regs/boating.html>.

Squadron members should also continue to promote the America's Boating Course and free vessel safety checks. Classes and vessel safety checks can be scheduled at their convenience.

Have fun and be safe on the water this summer.

"Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends"

*P/C DeMetrice Allen, AP*

## Educational Officer

Thanks to Butch Rachal and Barry Sroka, we completed ABC3 for a Georgia family of five. Two family members were not permitted to operate a boat in Georgia because they were born after January 1, 1998 and had not completed a DNR approved boating course. Now the whole family can enjoy their jet ski.

Go To Meeting continues to be a very useful piece of software technology that allows groups to meet online. The SEOs (Squadron Education Officers) meet monthly with the District SEO and District Assistant SEO using this simple to use meeting software. The meeting leader controls the meeting, and can present Power Point slides or other material while having a conversation with the on-line members. Each group member can at any time break into the presentation for questions and comments. The person making the comment is identified at the bottom of the screen. Several courses have been offered district wide with this software.

The District ASEO recently completed a Go To Meeting session on the use of HQ800, a squadron national database that allows squadrons to make their course offering available as well as record course completions including printing certificates and ID cards. This was a big help to those of us new to the job.

I am on a mission to round up squadron owned sextants. I have two in my possession, but I would like to gather this valuable resource in one place. Among the missing is the Chapman award sextant won by the squadron in 2004. Call me at the number listed below.

We have very capable instructors for all squadron offered courses. Please give me a call at 803-522-0066 if you have an interest in any course.

*Steve Phillips, N*

Published by the Marketing/ PR Committee  
United States Power Squadrons®  
Contact: Greg Scotten [gscotten@comcast.net](mailto:gscotten@comcast.net)



## FIGHTING A BOAT FIRE!

A few months ago, there was a widely reported incident in which a boat burned to the waterline. Follow-up stories noted that the boat eventually sank and presented a hazard to navigation. It was later salvaged and towed to a nearby marina.

There are a few lessons we can learn from this incident. Obviously one is to take all of the steps necessary to prevent fire. But, when a boat burns to the waterline and sinks, we can see just how horrific and all consuming a boat fire can be. Fortunately, this vessel was near land and those aboard were quickly rescued. Had the fire occurred off shore, the results might have been tragic.

The second lesson is that the Captain's first thought was to put life jackets on all crew and the third was to order them overboard. In spite of the romantic notions that a Captain must go down with his ship and/or that he must stay aboard and never give up the battle to save it; this captain did exactly the right thing by abandoning ship. It is always a tough decision to quit fighting a fire and to watch your beloved boat burn to the waterline, but, once there is any doubt about putting the fire out, cease all attempts, and get everyone overboard and as far away as possible. Do this before the fire finds any fuel aboard and explodes.

Never overestimate your ability to fight a fire on a boat. At the first sign of fire have all persons don their life jackets and have someone immediately place a distress call on VHF channel 16. At the same time, display all of your visual distress signals. Even if the fire is simply a curtain or hot pad smoldering in the galley, It is always better to err on the safe side and apologize for your actions afterwards.

A boat fire can quickly grow out of control and access to life jackets may be blocked. All hands may be too busy or panicked to stop and to call for help. Wiring may burn through, rendering all of your electronics unusable. When all hands have their life jackets on, move them to the farthest area, away from the fire. Then turn the boat in a direction that keeps the flames blowing away from those areas that are still fire free.

### Note from the Editor

It seems that we've started this Summer out not in the frying pan, but in the fire itself! Therefore, this issue's article from the National Marketing/PR committee is: "***Fighting A Boat Fire!***". I had intended that this issue's article be "***Co-Op Charting - National!***", but then my research turned up the fact that the former Editor, Sean Rachal, had just run that same article in the last September/October issue. I believe that this month's article is more appropriate anyway.

Don't forget to include the website address, [usps.org/localusps/savannahriver/](http://usps.org/localusps/savannahriver/) on your flyers and brochures. It can be a powerful recruiting tool. As always, I am on the lookout for any and all interesting and relevant articles from our members.

I am STILL out of boating safety articles to adapt from past issues. I would be interested in obtaining more. Please feel free to send me any other ideas that you have.

If you are a safe Captain, you will know that the proper type of fire extinguisher to use for gasoline and alcohol is a Class B), and for electrical fires it is a Class C. You will also know the proper way to discharge the extinguisher and to aim it at the fire base with sweeping short bursts. Standing on a burning deck is not the time to learn that some extinguishers require shaking or inverting before they will function.

Fire prevention and fire emergency training is just a small portion of the lessons taught in the safe boating classes. Hone up on your boating skills with the boating skills experts: the United States Power Squadrons. Contact your local unit or find them on the website at

[www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org). As they tell us:

“Boating is fun...We’ll show you how.”

XXXXXX

Lt. Bill Hempel  
Senior Feature Writer  
Marketing/Public relations Committee  
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To learn confident and safe boating contact your local unit of the United States Power Squadrons or the national website at [www.USPS.org](http://www.USPS.org).

Its members always send the invitation: **“Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends.”**

Leigh Ann Long  
Mark Long  
Staff Writers  
Public Relations Committee  
United States Power Squadrons

SAVANNAH RIVER SAIL & POWER SQUADRON  
Michael Rosenberg, EDITOR  
3104 SANTEE AVENUE  
AIKEN, SC 29801

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## *COMING EVENTS ~ DON'T MISS 'EM*

### WHEN

### WHAT

### WHERE

#### July 2016

TUE 19 1830-2030

Dinner Meeting

To Be Announced

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