Captain Butch Rachal having fun aboard the Aisling during the Great Loop tour with Miss Lynne Rachal

Members & Guest Meeting Information

Date: Tuesday, 20 September 2016       Date: Fri-Sun, 7-9 October 2016
Time: 1830-2030                      Time: Event Times Vary
Where: T’ Restaurant - Augusta      Where: Partridge Inn, Augusta
Program: Dinner Meeting             Program: District26 Fall Conference
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2016 Bridge
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
steve34lp@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, GA 30909
706-799-2043
n.dumais@comcast.net

Treasurer
Lt/C Nettie Dumais, AP
2248 Woodbluff Way
Augusta, GA 30909
706-799-2043
n.dumais@comcast.net

Editor
Michael Rosenberg
1720 Oak Drive
Augusta, GA 30904
803-559-4488
Michael@realisticinvestments.com

Message from the Commander

Please, please register for the District 26 conference/Change of Watch here in Augusta. Go to the 26 website to do so. Oct. 7, 8, and 9 are the dates. We need your help. Please call me: at 706-829-3909 and let me know when you will be there to help.

Please plan to attend the September meeting at T’s restaurant and learn more about what will take place here in October with the District conference. Email me any questions: pharris1@augusta.edu

Ed is doing well and will be at the D26 conference; plan to join Ed and others in October at the Partridge Inn!

Sincerely,

Cdr Paulette Harris-Holmes, SN
Savannah River S&PS Commander
706-829-3909
pharris1@gru.edu

Articles, opinions, and advertisements contained here-in do not necessarily reflect USPS policy or endorsement unless so designated.

EDITORIAL DEADLINE

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

As we head into the fall, I am referencing an article from last year regarding boating during this time of year. Because of our area’s climate, water activities can continue year round. The Savannah River Sail and Power Squadron will also continue to promote safe boating with the America’s Boating Course and free vessel safety checks.

To transition into fall boating, here is a reprint of five tips from the BoatUS Foundation:

1. Dress for the water, not the weather: The sun may be shining, but water temperatures are cooler. Always bring extra layers and rain gear this time of year. Fast moving storms can bring sudden temperature drops, and water temperatures are now getting closer to the zone where a simple fall overboard could be a big problem.

2. Tell a friend: A float plan could be as simple as letting a family member know where you are going and what time you expect to return, or a more detailed written plan for longer trips, easily left on a windshield, or given to a friend. (Also, take the USPS Cruise Planning Course)

3. Always check the weather: With today’s technology, it’s easy to keep an eye on it. (USPS has a great weather course)

4. Always check the boat: Do a once-over inspection of the engine, communications and safety gear to ensure all are in good shape and ready to go. (Get a free USPS vessel check!)

5. Leave the drinks for home: Beer, wine or distilled spirits all do the same thing – they quickly drain your body of heat bringing on hypothermia’s deadly effects much sooner when compared to warmer months. Help yourself by avoiding alcohol while you’re out on the water.

Have fun boating this fall.

“Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends”

P/C DeMetrice Allen, AP
Educational Officer

I would like to encourage our members to attend the education seminars offered at our Fall Conference at the Partridge Inn. There is an especially good seminar on VHF radio operation and a description of what happens when you push the DCS red button on your radio. That button can be a lifesaver in an emergency and everyone on board should know where it is and how it works. This seminar will give you all the details and what you need to tell your crew members and guests on board. The seminar starts at 10:00 am.

We don’t have any courses scheduled in the near future but if you have an interest in any of the USPS courses let me know so that one can be scheduled.

The District 26 Assistant District Education Officer, Jan Wright, just completed a Go To Meeting session to update our Instructor Development Certification. The session was very well done and spent significant time on the newest electronic technology for teaching including Go To Meeting. Jan’s preparation for the session was obvious and was quite helpful to me even after many years of teaching USPS courses.

Note from the Editor

Wow, the weather of late here in the CSRA has been perfect for boating. It is days like these that make me wish for a boat of my own, and start thinking of the possibility in acquiring one. Surely I cannot be the only person in a community of boating enthusiasts who has such thoughts. To that end, this month’s article from the USPS Marketing and PR Committee is, “The Agony Of Buying A Boat”. Next issue will feature an article on winter boating.

If you can, come on down to the Partridge Inn for the District 26 Fall Conference this October 7-9! Be sure to take pictures of the Great time you’ll have and forward them to me for publication in the next issue! You may send them to Michael@realisticinvestments.com

Don’t forget to include the website address, 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.
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National
September News From National

USPS Governing Board Meeting 2016

The 2016 Governing Board Meeting, held in Pittsburgh, concluded on Saturday 27 August. By all accounts it was a successful meeting. Besides the department and committee meetings available on Thursday, there were a number of seminars offered on Friday. These included but were not limited to: Squadron Growth – Finding What Works, Instructor Development, and SERAT Does It All on the Water. The official meeting attendance on Saturday was 405. Many of these members and their guests enjoyed the abundant sightseeing opportunities around Pittsburgh, including cruises on the 3 rivers, rides on the famous Incline Cable Cars, and for some a Pirates baseball game. The hotel was conveniently located with a variety of restaurants within a few blocks.

Some of the actions at the meeting included:

The Finance Committee proposed a motion to increase dues $2.00, effective date 1 December 2016. This would set the dues rate for a regular active member at $53.00, family units headed by a regular active at $79.50, and family units headed by a life member or a sustaining member at $26.50. This motion passed.

Announcement by the Member Benefits Committee of 2 new benefits:
- VSP – Individual Vision Care. This is a national not-for-profit vision care company
- Wyndham Hotel Group – 20% savings on their variety of hotel chains

For further information on these programs and a complete list of Member Benefits, go to the Member Home Page on the National Website, click on the Site Index, then Member Benefits.

DECAL AWARENESS PROGRAM

There is a new replacement tool in the Vessel Safety Check (VSC) tool box called "DAP" acronym for "Decal Awareness Program". The flyers and posters were designed to display the three primary aspects of the United States Power Squadrons: EDUCATION, SAFETY, and CAMARADERIE. Using the Vessel Safety Check decal at its nucleus is beneficial, as it's a recognizable symbol. Another benefit of the flyer is Squadrons and VEs can add their contact information electronically from their computer. Also displayed on the flyer is the Quick Response (QR) code for the USPS web site, plus a QR code for the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary VSC locater web site. This is a new National project that adheres to the USPS branding manual policy.

"Save a Life" boater safety signs were designed to be placed at recreational merchant locations & boat ramps. By including the form 7012, boaters will know in advance what is expected in order to pass a VSC. One of the signs is designed to have a Squadron address box and the other is a Universal sign that combines the USPS & USCGAUX.

With your leadership and support the Decal Awareness Program can increase the annual Vessel Safety Checks.

DAP Announcement quoted from Safety Committee Webpage
Member Site of the United States Power Squadrons® National Website

reported by R/C Kathleen Lambert, AP
USPS – DISTRICT 26 - FALL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 7-9 2016

PARTRIDGE INN

WHERE: Augusta, Georgia – Historic Partridge Inn

WHEN: October 7-9, 2016

PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

Friday Afternoon – Meetings will be held at the Partridge Inn
Friday Evening - Savannah River Dinner Tour Aboard Small Ship, “Patriot”
Saturday – Meetings and Dinner will be held at the Partridge Inn
Saturday Spousal Treat – Trolley Tour of Historic Augusta. Pick-up at the Inn, Tour, Lunch and Tour at the boyhood home of Woodrow Wilson, Return by Trolley to the Inn.
THE AGONY OF BUYING A BOAT

I had a dear friend who lived on his boat all year round. It was his home, but when something went wrong, he complained in salty language, “The ‘bitch’ (referring to his boat) wants more money!” Yet, when asked if he would sell her, his answer was a resounding, “She’s not for sale!” He loved his boat. Even with all of her faults and foibles.

My wife, Beth, and I had wanted another boat to love, as we’d been without one for quite some time. We really missed being on the water. So, we embarked on the adventure of looking for another boat. We treated this as a major project; reviewing the good and bad points of the various boats we’ve owned, and spending several hours with a broker who helped us “define” what we should look for and what we could afford. In creating a “requirements document” for our “ideal boat”, we discussed several options: sail or power (Beth quickly shot down the thought of a sail boat), new or pre-owned, bridge or express-style, boat size, type of power (outboard, inboard or I/O), amenities, and price range. As we couldn’t afford the boat that matched these dreams, we had to compromise in certain areas and focused on pre-owned vessels.

We thought finding a boat would be a lot of fun. It was… and it wasn’t! We reached out to several brokers in late winter, but only one followed through and kept in contact with us. We decided that we liked a boat he was offering, made an offer, and ultimately reached an agreement.

We put down a deposit, and- remembering caveat emptor (let the buyer beware) - made the completion of our purchase contingent upon a satisfactory survey. As a boat is a significant investment, we hired a marine surveyor to make a comprehensive evaluation of our chosen vessel. It can be a pricey expenditure and takes the better part of the day. It involves an assessment of all of the boat’s equipment, a sea trial, and an out-of-water examination (yes, you may have to pay for a short haul).

How you handle any negative survey results are your business. You can revisit the purchase price; or insist, as we did, that any issues be remedied before you take ownership when those problems would become yours. When we first visited with the boat broker, I told him that for us, this was not about buying/selling a boat – it was about a relationship! That proved true, as the broker went out of his way to ensure our satisfaction.

To learn more about boats, before you make that first purchase, learn more about boats with the friendly instructors in the United States Power Squadrons®. Look in your local telephone book and newspaper, or contact your area’s Power Squadron or find them at the national website, www.USPS.org.

As its members remind us: “Boating is fun…We’ll show you how!”

XXXXX

P/D/C Pete TenBrink
Feature Writer
Marketing/Public relations Committee
United States Power Squadrons®
COMING EVENTS ~ DON’T MISS ’EM

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