

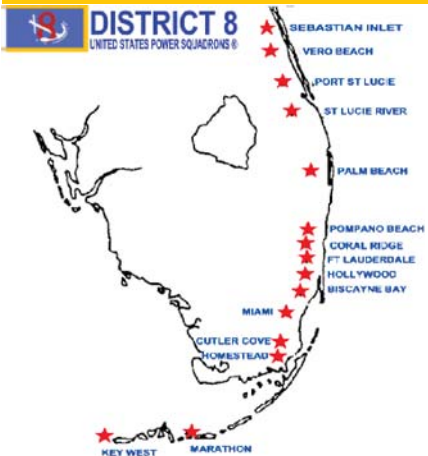


# PIECES OF EIGHT

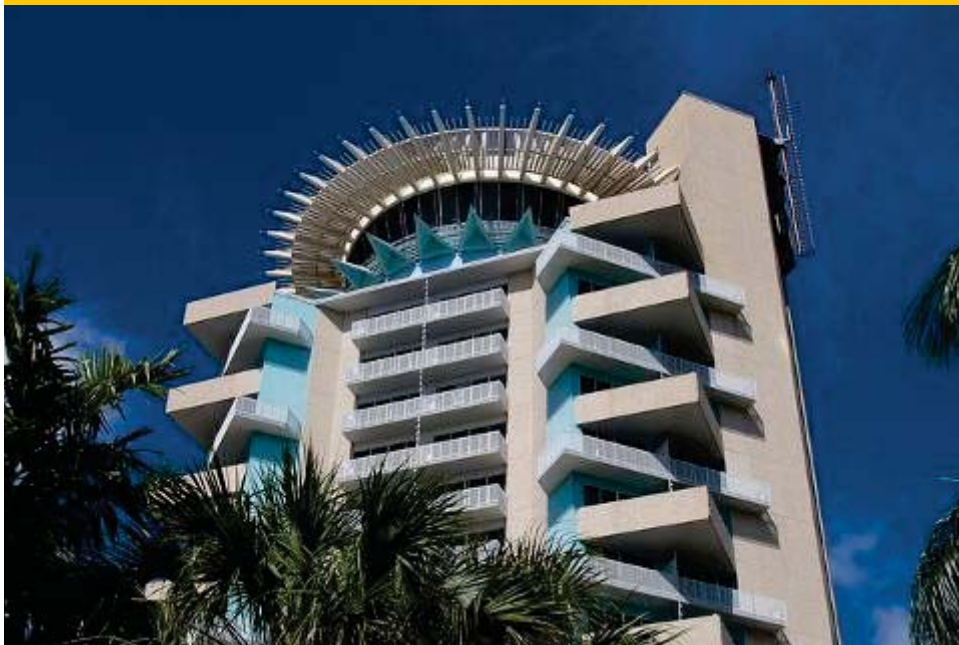
Official Publication of District 8, United States Power Squadrons

A Unit of United States Power Squadrons® America's Boating Club®

## SUMMER 2012



## DISTRICT 8 SUMMER RENDEZVOUS HYATT REGENCY PIER 66 RESORT & MARINA



### IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Call to Fall Council
- 2 Call to Fall Conference
- 3 Message from your District Commander
- 4 Education News
- 5 Administrative Department
- 6 Welcome Aboard New Members
- 6 Request for Photos
- 7 D8 Summer Rendezvous  
We Showed Them How to Have Fun!
- 7-12 D8 Summer Rendezvous Photos
- 13 Executive Department
- 14-15 Vessel Safety Check Corner
- 15 When to Replace a Fire Extinguisher
- 16-17 Boaters Pre-departure Checklist
- 18 Conference Reservation Form
- 19 Chief Commander's Representative
- 20 Boosters & Calendar of Events

### ADDITIONAL PHOTOS FROM THE SUMMER RENDEZVOUS on pages 7-12

All photos are available for viewing or downloading from the following website:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/artdodd52/sets/72157630595423584/>



**Marriott**  
at the Renaissance Center  
Detroit, MI

### COME TO THE GOVERNING BOARD!

5 - 9 September 2012

See the *Ensign* Summer 2012 issue for details.

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## PIECES OF EIGHT

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## CALL TO THE FALL COUNCIL

Per District 8 Bylaws Article 5, Section 5.2 and 5.3, District Commander John T. Doyle, SN has called the Fall Council meeting for 1500 on Friday, 21 September 2012 at the Marriott at Boca Center, 5150 Town Center Circle, Boca Raton, FL 33483.

Per District 8 Bylaws Article 3, Section 3.1, voting members of the Council include the district bridge, immediate past district commander, chairmen of General Committees (Nominating, Auditing and Rules) and squadron commanders.

Any member of District 8 will have the privilege of the floor upon recognition by the Chair. All members of the District are encouraged to attend this meeting and commanders should urge bridge officers to be present.

An absent squadron commander may be represented by another bridge officer of the squadron and in the absence of an officer for whom there is an elected assistant, the assistant may act for the principal.

The agenda for this meeting includes:

- Reports of squadron commanders. (Please be prepared to stand and give a verbal report even if your report is already on file).
- Reports of district department chairmen.
- Reports of General Committees.
- Reports of Standing Committees.
- Announcements.
- Other business that may properly come before the Council.

All Photos By

**D/Lt Arthur Dodd, SN**

(Palm Beach)

## CALL TO THE FALL CONFERENCE

In accordance with the provisions of Article 5 of District 8 Bylaws, District Commander John T. Doyle, SN issues the Call to the Fall Conference. It is to be held at the Marriott at Boca Center, 5150 Town Center Circle, Boca Raton, FL 33483, Saturday, 22 September 2012 at 1330.

The purpose of the meeting is to act on matters set forth below.

1. To hear and act upon reports of officers.
2. To consider and act upon any other business that may properly come before the Conference.
3. To consider and act upon reports, resolutions and recommendations from the Council, officers and committees.

District 8 Bylaws Article 4 and 5 describe the Conference and its functions extensively and are recommended reading for all members.

**Section 4.1:** The Conference shall be composed of the Council, the past district commanders of this district who are active members of district squadrons, and the delegates which persons shall be the voting members of the Conference.

**Section 4.2.1:** Delegates shall be selected by each squadron on the basis of one delegate for each twenty five (25) active members in good standing or major fraction thereof as of the preceding 1 March, with a minimum of two (2) delegates per squadron.

**Section 4.2.3:** Prior to each meeting of the Conference each squadron commander shall submit in writing to the district secretary, a list of the squadron's delegates entitled to vote at the Conference. **PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT DELEGATES MAY VOTE ONLY IF NAMES HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO SECRETARY PRIOR TO MEETING.**

**Section 4.2.4:** If a delegate is disqualified or unable to attend, the squadron commander may appoint a substitute and notify the secretary prior to the convening of the meeting.

# MESSAGE FROM YOUR DISTRICT COMMANDER

## D/C JOHN T. DOYLE, SN

Dear Fellow District 8 Members,

By the time you read this message, another very successful District 8 Summer Rendezvous will have been held at Pier 66 Resort and Marina in Ft. Lauderdale (13-15 July). Kudos to D/Lt Kathie Thomas, P and 1st/Lt Dan Thomas, SN for the tremendous effort in putting together another memorable District Rendezvous. Thanks also to the volunteers who assisted with the Friday social and Saturday Commander's cocktail party and the members who brought appetizers to share at the social. Special thanks to D/Lt Mike Jackson, AP and P/D/Lt/C Ron Ray, JN for serving the Saturday morning pancake breakfast. We have the Palm Beach Sail & Power Squadron and P/D/C Gary Ferguson, JN to thank for hosting the pancake breakfast again this year.

Some arrived by car, others by boat. Some came for the day while others stayed to have a delightful weekend, and all enjoyed a fun time at this annual event. It was a great opportunity to rekindle old friendships and forge new ones. Hope to see more members at next year's Summer Rendezvous.

The next event on our schedule is the USPS Governing Board meeting in Detroit. Mark your calendars, 5-9 September is coming soon, and I hope to see you there. This meeting will be informative, fun, and exciting.

Here is a link to a video message from the Chief: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39V2CL26tVw>

All squadron commanders are members of the Governing Board and as such need to attend this important meeting and should invite all squadron officers and the general squadron membership to attend, too. Remember, meetings aren't just for officers. You will be receiving meeting newsletters, calls, and special emails about the Governing Board meeting. It's important to get the word out, so let's work to get everyone there.

Here's the link to the reservations page: [http://www.usps.org/php/reservations/meetings.php?mtg\\_id=12](http://www.usps.org/php/reservations/meetings.php?mtg_id=12).

The Governing Boards and Annual Meetings (13-20 January 2013 in Jacksonville) are also meetings for **ALL members** to attend. We need all hands on deck as we seek to fulfill our mission of civic service, education, and fellowship. There's work to do, things to learn, and fun to be had.



Pier 66

The Fall District 8 Council Meeting and Conference will be held on Friday, 21 September to Sunday, 23 September at the Boca Raton Marriott. The reservation form for this Conference is in this issue on page 18. Our new Conference Chair, P/D/C Gary Ferguson, JN and his team are putting together a very informative and fun conference. All D8 members are encouraged to attend, meet new friends and have fun.

Thanks for your hard work and I look forward to seeing you all again soon!

Regards,

D/C Jack Doyle, SN



'Stormy Weather'

# EDUCATION NEWS

Stf/C Al Bruhin, SN

## REGISTER YOUR COURSES

In order to maximize the visibility of your squadron courses and to insure that you get credit for holding the class, it is essential that you register your classes. This can be easily accomplished by going to the Educational Department home page, click on the "Manage Public Programs" drop down menu and then click on "Register Courses." If you need help doing this, check with your SEO or with me.

## CHAPMAN AWARD

A reminder that we are accepting nominations for the Chapman award. Please note the critical dates. In 2011 only a few of the fifteen D8 squadrons submitted candidates for the award. I would like to see many more submittals for 2012. Just because someone did not win in the past does not mean they cannot be submitted again. The quality of the write-up is important, so take some time to make sure it is well done. Submittals must be to me by 31 July 2012 in order to be considered. All the forms are available on the USPS website. Just search for Chapman and it will bring you to the correct location.

## ABC "ON THE WATER OPTIONS"

The **ABC3 On-The-Water Teaching Aid Guide** is now available for downloading and use from the Downloads section of the ABC3 page. The Guide takes the classroom knowledge to actual on-water experience, covering the material in the ABC3 2012 reprinting, 8 and 12 hour versions are available.

An abstract from the guide shows that this is an optional part of the America's Boating Course and participation will not affect the credit given for the course. It does not provide any certification or credentials to the student. It is a teaching aid to reinforce classroom education and includes material for Part 1 (8-hour / Chapters 1-4) and Part 2 (12-hour / adding Chapter 5). This time together with the students on the vessel provides a good environment for sharing the "Boating is FUN...We will show YOU how" part of squadron activities and answers questions about the value of membership in USPS and the squadron. Additional USPS courses and seminars should be encouraged as a way to show how the student can gain additional boating knowledge, skill and confidence, even if they do not become a member. Most will want to continue on to the next USPS course, SEAMANSHIP, and proceed toward attaining the first level of BOC, Inland Navigator Certification.

Feedback comments should be directed to the Basic Public Education Committee Chair to assist in making this Teaching Aid Guide the best possible.

***On the water guides are also available for Sail, Advanced Piloting and Junior Navigator.***

## ON LINE COURSES

As we have been talking about over the last few years, there is a continuing growth of on line courses and seminars. The courses are provided by UWF and can be taken by anyone just by signing up and paying the cost of the course. The link can be reached by going to the USPS Educational Department Home page and clicking on Seamanship in the left hand column or using the following URL, ([http://uwf.augusoft.net/index.cfm?method=ClassListing.ClassListingDisplay&int\\_category\\_id=4&int\\_sub\\_category\\_id=170](http://uwf.augusoft.net/index.cfm?method=ClassListing.ClassListingDisplay&int_category_id=4&int_sub_category_id=170))

At the present time no financial benefit is accrued to the squadron.

### The classes listed to date are:

Advanced Boat Handling Seminar (Summer Semester)

840004 Tuition: \$120.00

Anchoring Seminar (Summer Semester)

840005 Tuition: \$40.00

Boat Handling Seminar (Summer Semester)

840006 Tuition: \$40.00

Boat Security Seminar (Summer Semester)

840018 Tuition: \$25.00

Crew Overboard Seminar (Summer Semester)

840019 Tuition: \$60.00

Heavy Weather Sailing Seminar (Summer Semester)

840021 Tuition: \$40.00

How to Read a Chart Seminar (Summer Semester)

840007 Tuition: \$40.00

Hurricanes and Boats Seminar (Summer Semester)

840008 Tuition: \$30.00

Knots, Bends, and Hitches Seminar (Summer)

840009 Tuition: \$40

Navigation Rules of the Road Seminar (Summer)

840010 Tuition: \$60.00

Onboard Weather Forecasting Seminar

840017 Tuition: \$40.00

Partner in Command Seminar (Summer Semester)

840011 Tuition: \$50.00

Sail Course (Summer Semester)

840016 Tuition: \$70.00

Sail Trim Seminar (Summer Semester)

840012 Tuition: \$40.00

Seamanship Course (Summer Semester)

840013 Tuition: \$70.00

Trailer Your Boat Seminar (Summer Semester)

840014 Tuition: \$40.00

Using GPS Seminar (Summer Semester)

840015 Tuition: \$40.00

# ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

## D/Lt/C Mary Dodd, SN

I hope everyone is having a good summer. I'd like to thank Homestead Power Squadron, Palm Beach Sail and Power Squadron, Pompano Beach Power Squadron and Vero Beach Power Squadron for completing and submitting the Membership Involvement Retention Award application (MIRA Award). You all are doing a great job. This is a great tool for squadrons to learn what other squadrons are doing and a way for National and district to give ideas to other squadrons. I would love to see 100% participation next year for the MIRA Award.



This summer the Administrative Department has been hard at work on the fall conference agenda. We have a great line up for the Saturday morning workshops. The theme for these workshops is Membership is Everyone's Job. The Administrative Department will have the following topics and speakers: D/Lt Diane Di Maio, P will answer the ever present question 'Why Won't They Do What I Want'. Stf/C Kristi Anderson, P will tell us about the latest membership benefits in "Tools for Attracting and Keeping Members". D/Lt Denise Porter, JN will talk about the Poster Contest and answer questions like, when should I start contacting schools, who in the schools should I speak to. Recruiting Chair D/Lt Katherine Thomas, P and hopefully a Member Involvement chair (more about that later) will have a "Sharing of Ideas". Bring your ideas and concerns to this workshop. Get some great ideas from National, district and other squadrons and give us ideas that work in your squadron.

See the Conference Registration Sheet for Executive Officers' and Educational Officers' workshops elsewhere in this issue.

We are working on the First Timer's Meet and Greet which will be Saturday morning. More details will follow as time gets closer.

## HELP NEEDED

### Member Involvement Chair

Are you interested in helping squadrons in District 8 retain and involve members? Then I have a position that would be perfect for you. I am looking for a new Member Involvement Chair. This position will be very interesting this year as National has decided that after years of looking at recruiting members, they now have to work on ways to involve and retain the members we have, both old and new.

**If you are interested in being the  
District 8 Member Involvement Chair,  
PLEASE CONTACT D/LT/C MARY DODD, SN.**

## WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!

The following new members have joined squadrons in our district since May 2012. Please encourage each one of them to participate in activities - educational, civic service and fraternal that USPS, District 8 and your squadron offer. We look forward to seeing all of you at our district functions.

**Biscayne Bay**  
Robert Baraff

**Key West Sail &**  
Christy Baron  
Virginia B. Butler  
Andrew Chermak  
James M. Emerson  
Jennifer L. Emerson  
Aura Mantilla  
Richard A. Nailey  
Anderson J. Plyler  
Kristen Plyler  
Carol Schreck

**Palm Beach Sail &**  
Christopher J. Ackerman  
Linda C. Callaway  
Piya B. Charanjiva  
Christian Cropp  
Michael A. Davanzo

**Palm Beach Sail & (cont)**

Adam S. Doner  
Brandon W. Doner  
Angelo A. Gasparri  
Nicholas A. Gasparri  
Vincent A. Gasparri  
Neil C. Macphail  
Megan S. Randall  
Gary W. Rogers  
Kathleen S. Rogers  
Georga A. Somerville  
James M. Townsend

**Pompano Beach**

Ian M. Berkowitz  
Jeffrey Bovarnick  
Paul A. Cosentino  
David H. Fahrenbach  
Heidi A. Spiegel  
Joni Villeneuve  
Earnest Cal Waters

**Sebastian Inlet Sail &**

Kay H. Gurecki  
Neil McCurry  
Rebecca Osmianski  
Thomas A Potzer Sr  
Debra K Potzer  
Thomas Potzer Jr

**St. Lucie River**

Mellisa Barnes  
Stuart A. Klearman  
Louis Page  
Wayne H. Schrader  
Linda E. Webb-Hutchison

**Vero Beach**

Elaine Florence Geyer  
Barbara Malina  
Jeffrey M. Mc Gann  
Sarah C. Mc Gann



## REQUEST FOR PHOTOS

As Membership is the focus at the Fall Conference, D/Lt Arthur Dodd, SN has volunteered to put together one of his famous slide show presentations which will be shown during the weekend of the Fall Conference. This one will feature your squadron's activities for *Membership Involvement* and *Recruiting*.

**Please email pictures of your squadron activities by 15 August 2012 to:**

**[artdodd52@att.net](mailto:artdodd52@att.net)**



## DISTRICT 8 SUMMER RENDEZVOUS

### We Showed Them How To Have Fun!

D/C Jack Doyle SN

We held the annual District 8 Summer Rendezvous at Pier 66 in Ft. Lauderdale 13-15 July. This was another tremendously successful event with about ten boats that made the journey from as far north as Vero Beach. Some members stayed in the hotel. Including the day trippers, over 125 members and guests participated in the Friday night social and the Commander's Cocktail Party Saturday evening.

The Commanders' meeting was well attended by many of the D8 Squadron Commanders, Bridge Officers and members.

There was plenty to do over the weekend both on and off the beautiful Pier 66 property. The newly renovated pool was a gathering place during the warm days and late summer evenings for many attendees. Several members enjoyed a ride on the Water Taxi, various shopping and sightseeing adventures and over 40 members joined us for the Rendezvous dinner party at Bravos Restaurant Saturday night. If you didn't participate, you missed a great event. Start making plans to join us at next year's D8 Summer Rendezvous.

A successful rendezvous is the results of many people pitching in to help. 1st/Lt Dan Thomas, SN and D/Lt Kathie Thomas, P organized great room and dock rates as well as the hospitality suite and meeting rooms. R/C Bill Gillette, AP saved us all some money on hotel taxes. Special thanks to D/F/Lt Ron Friedman, AP; D/Lt Art Dodd, SN; D/Lt/C Mary Dodd, SN; D/Lt/C Diana Jackson, JN; D/Lt Mike Jackson, AP; P/D/Lt/C Ron Ray JN; Lt/C Dave Nace, S; Lt Dave Bruce, P; Cdr Joyce Newman, S; P/D/C Gary Ferguson, JN; 1st/Lt Ronnie Babin, S and Lt Kathy Babin; Lt/C Jay Repo, S; Karen Campagna; Cdr Bob Scully, JN; Lt/C Nora Lichty, P; Judy Doyle and Kevin Doyle for all they did to make the 2012 D8 Summer Rendezvous a huge success. Thanks to all the members who brought appetizers/desserts to share, helped set up the hospitality suite, flipped pancakes, staffed the bar and cleaned up.



SOME OF THE BOATS AT THE RENDEZVOUS



# SUMMER RENDEZVOUS FRIDAY COCKTAIL PARTY





# SUMMER RENDEZVOUS SATURDAY BREAKFAST

SPONSORED BY PALM BEACH SAIL & POWER SQUADRON



## COMMANDERS' MEETING



# PRESENTATIONS AT THE COMMANDERS' MEETING



P/D/C Gary Ferguson, JN presented officer's flags to  
D/Lt/C Mary Dodd, SN and D/Lt/C Evelyn Northrup, AP



Certificate of Appreciation for Service to District 8  
Chairman D8 Rules Committee  
Lt/C Tom Nolan, P accepting for P/D/Lt/C Ron Ray, JN



Certificate of Appreciation for Service to District 8  
Chairman D8 Planning Committee  
D/Lt/C Mary Dodd, SN



Certificate of Appreciation for Service to District 8  
D8 Finance Committee  
D/Lt/C Diana Jackson, JN accepting for P/D/C Gloria Schulke, JN



Certificate of Appreciation for Service to District 8  
D8 Planning Committee  
Cdr Michael Turner, JN



Certificate of Appreciation for Service to District 8  
D8 Membership Committee  
D/Lt/C Mary Dodd, SN

**SUMMER RENDEZVOUS SATURDAY DOCK PARTY  
SPONSORED BY VERO BEACH POWER SQUADRON  
HOSTED BY CAPTAIN CHRIS CALDWELL**



# SUMMER RENDEZVOUS SATURDAY COCKTAILS



## DINNER AT BRAVOS



# EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## D/Lt/C Diana Jackson, JN

The Commanders along with their bridge have participated this past month in the Brunswick survey. For those of you not familiar with Brunswick Boat group, the USPS is in Partnership to train boaters so they may be safer, enjoy their boats and recognize the service provided by the dealerships. These selected dealers with cooperation from our local USPS squadrons offer the ABC course, seminars and hands-on training at their facilities. Though this partnership is in the pilot stage, many squadrons are developing a successful relationship.

We have been tasked as a district to support the 2013 National Scout Jamboree, 15 - 24 July 2013 at 37° 53' N, 81° 06' W. The Jamboree is an adventure for over 50,000 scouts, held every four years, and is a chance for the Boy and Sea scouts to camp out with friends, meet new ones, try high-adventure activities and learn new skills in the great outdoors. This ten day event has exhibits, shows and opportunities to work on merit badges. USPS National maintains a booth and it takes many volunteers and funding to maintain this booth. I will be sending out an email to all the commanders asking for a donation for this worthwhile cause. Here is the link: <https://summit.scouting.org/en/Jamboree2013/Pages/default.aspx>

National will be providing a booth at the **53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ft Lauderdale International Boat Show 25 - 29 October**. We will need to man the booth and will need the support from the district. There will be no cost to attend the show (a \$34 savings), but you will need to pay for parking. A sign-up sheet will be provided to a few squadrons close to the show, and if any others would like to work for three hours and attend the show, please let me know. I will be the official keeper of the schedule, so you can call or contact me. For best selection of times, sign up early. Here is the link: <http://www.showmanagement.com/event/>

### FT. LAUDERDALE INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW SCHEDULE

**Prime Time Preview: Thursday, 25 Oct, 1000 - 1900**

**General Admission: Friday, 26 Oct – Sunday, 28 Oct, 1000 - 1900 Monday, 29 Oct, 1000 - 1700**

At the Rendezvous in Ft Lauderdale we had the pleasure to have Captains Chris and Alyse Caldwell of Vero Beach PS enlighten us on having a free booth at Trawlerfest in Ft Lauderdale (31 Jan 31 – 2 Feb) to promote USPS membership. For those not at the Rendezvous, please check out [Trawlerfest.com](http://Trawlerfest.com) or [Marinesource.com](http://Marinesource.com) for particulars about their group. We will be looking for volunteers for this, look for the sign-up sheet at the Fall Conference.



This past conference we celebrated a distinguished milestone with our very own D-8 Vessel Safety examiner Cdr Marjorie Baraff, AP from Biscayne Bay Power Squadron. Marjorie accomplished only what a few examiners ever accomplish by recording her remarkable 1000 Vessel Safety Check (1<sup>st</sup> woman in our district, and 2<sup>nd</sup> overall to Joe Leitz) and is over 100 already this year. To honor this accomplishment our district chair, D/Lt Al Furtado, SN created a special plaque (see right) for Marjorie that was presented at the conference. Vessel Safety Checks are time consuming



when you are doing over 100 each year. Marjorie has certified many examiners including Mike & I.

For the upcoming Fall Conference, the Sunday morning CDR's and Officer's meeting, we will have our own Executive Dept Homeland Security chairman D/Lt Phil Bouckaert, AP speak on "Preparedness". His speech covers being prepared for multiple types of disasters. As September is National Preparedness month, hurricanes are not the only disasters we must be prepared to handle. So come to our 0830 Sunday morning meeting (all are welcome) and get Prepared!

Until next time, have a great summer and see you at the Fall Conference!

## VESSEL SAFETY CHECK CORNER

By D/Lt Allan B. Furtado, SN

Just in case you wonder what your VSC Chair does during the summer, the photo below tells quite a tale. On 29 June District 4 held a VSC day with several squadrons participating. The event took place in Toms River, NJ at the Light House Marina. Although it was scorching hot, they completed around 20 VSCs that day.

Those participating (photo below, right to left) are: P/C Richard Pfaff, JN & Cdr Elaine Pfaff, AP both from Lackawanna Sail and Power Squadron, D/Lt Allan B. Furtado, SN of Pompano Beach Sail and Power Squadron (D8), P/C Rich Woznicki, SN of Raritan Bay Power Squadron, P/C Jim Ulrich, SN of Staten Island Power Squadron, David Samu, Grace Samu, (Ted Wallace's grandchildren), Cdr Ted Wallace, AP of Watchung Sail & Power Squadron, and Holi Eng, S of Raritan Bay Power Squadron.

Why, you might ask, am I showing an event with another district? The answer should be obvious, squadron activities can be fun and you can meet new people.

As some of you may know, I used to be a member of the Shrewsbury Squadron in D4. Well, I am still on their email list for activities and when a notice came out for the above mentioned VSC day, I volunteered. As always, it was lots of fun and after, Rich provided hot dogs and all the fixings for a late lunch. I was very pleased to be able to participate. I highly suggest if you are invited to some other squadron's function, by all means take advantage of it.

Now as I always say,

**“Have you had your free Vessel Safety Check yet? If not why not?”**



Photo by  
Lt/C Jimmy Eng, N

# VESSEL SAFETY CHECK CORNER

By D/Lt Allan B. Furtado, SN

One of the items on the Vessel Safety Check form is a discussion issue, "Boating Check List". This will mean different things to different people. To me, it is a list of things that should be looked into prior to each and every time you intend to take your boat for an outing. Let me explain a little further.

We all would immediately think of food, cold drinks, ice, etc. But I think, how many persons will be on this trip? How many Life Jackets will I need to have handy? Have my visitors been on my boat before? Even if so, I must tell them some basic safety instructions - such as where are the Life Jackets and Fire Extinguishers. Also, how to use the Marine Head and where to sit as we leave the dock and return.

On my boat during docking and undocking maneuvers, I want everyone to find a seat, and **STAY THERE!** People moving around on the deck will affect the way the boat maneuvers. Everyone wants to "help" but Jan and I have been doing these procedures for so long, we can anticipate what the other wants/needs. In other words, we really don't want any extra help unless we ask someone specifically.

I also go below and check the belts on the engines to see if there is some slack, you don't want the belts too tight. Then the water pumps are inspected to make sure they are not leaking and finally the shaft logs. They should be dripping some but not a lot. The shaft log is where the shaft from the transmission goes through the hull to the outside of the boat into the water. There is packing around the shaft and in my case it should drip a slight amount to keep the packing and shaft cool.

I also look for any oil on the outside of the engines or on the deck under them. I check the fuel lines to make sure there is no fuel leaking from any fittings. I check the engines and generator at the same time.

I was surprised to also find that Jan had created her own check list. This consists of making sure that the Ice Maker is closed tight and locked. This is to prevent the door from opening when the boat rocks going over someone's wake. She also puts the TVs on the floor, ours are not permanently affixed to anything, and makes sure all dishes and glassware stowed. If we have our computers on board, they too must be stowed.

Last but not least, I tell someone on the dock when I expect to be back. If I don't return, there would be someone missing us.

So now you know what a Boating Check List is. You can make up anything you wish either mentally or on paper for all to read or use the [BOATER'S PRE-DEPARTURE CHECK LIST](#) on the next two pages. When you have your VSC you can tell your examiner "Yes, I do have a boating check list". You will have a VSC examiner come to your boat this season and have your free Vessel Safety Check, won't you? If not, why not?

## When to Replace a Fire Extinguisher

Even if there's no expiration date, it won't last forever.

Manufacturers say most extinguishers should work for 5 to 15 years, but you might not know if you got yours three years ago or 13. So how can you be sure it will fire away? Atlanta fire chief Dennis L. Rubin recommends checking the pressure gauge monthly. "If the needle is in the green area, it's functional," he says. If it falls anywhere else, the extinguisher is unreliable and should be serviced or replaced. For an older model without a gauge, have it checked by a pro. Rubin recommends annual servicing for all models. To find companies that refill and service extinguishers, check the Yellow Pages under "fire extinguishers."

Replace or service an extinguisher right away if it's been used or if you notice any of the following:

- The hose or nozzle is cracked, ripped, or blocked with debris.
- The locking pin on the handle is missing or unsealed.
- The handle is wobbly or broken.
- The inspection sticker or hang tag, with a record of checkups and maintenance, is missing.



Reprinted from the USPS National Safety Committee web page VSC Headline News

# BOATER'S PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

**From the USPS Website with Credit to Key West Sail & Power Squadron**

Know your vessel. Before departure, always be sure your vessel is in good working condition and properly equipped for emergencies. Avoid inconvenience and potential danger by taking a few minutes to check the following:

Minimum Federal Required Equipment	Yes	No
State Registration Documentation		
State Numbering Displayed		
Certificate of Documentation		
Lifejackets (PFDs) - one for each person		
Throwable Type IV Cushion		
Visual Distress Signals		
Fire Extinguishers (fully charged)		
Proper Ventilation		
Backfire Flame Arrestor		
Sound Producing Device(s)		
Navigation lights		
Oil Pollution Placard (Vessels over 26 Ft)		
Garbage Placard (Vessels over 26 Ft)		
Marine Sanitation Device (Vessels under 26ft – Type I, II or III MSD)		
Navigation rules (Vessels 39.4 and above – Full Copy Required)		
Any Additional State Requirements		

Besides meeting the federal requirements, prudent boaters carry additional safety equipment. The following additional items are suggested depending on the size, location and use of your boat:

Recommended Equipment	Yes	No	N/A
VHF Marine Radio (Hand-held or Base Mounted)			
Anchor and Tackle			
Chart(s) of Area & Navigation Tools			
Magnetic Compass			
Fenders and Boat Hook			
Mooring Lines and Heaving line			
Manual Bilge Pump or Bailing Device			
Tool Kit			
Spare Parts (fuses, spark plugs, belts, etc)			
Spare Battery (fully charged)			



## BOATER'S PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST (CONT'D)

Spare Propeller			
Extra Fuel & Oil			
Alternate Propulsion (paddles/oar)			
Flashlight & Batteries			
Search Light			
First Aid Kit			
Sunscreen (SPF 30+)			
Mirror (Computer CD or DVD is excellent)			
Food and Water			
Extra Clothing			
AM - FM Radio			
Cellular Phone			
Binoculars			

Safety Checks and Tests	Yes	No	N/A
Test Marine Radio (voice call)			
Test Navigation and Anchor Lights			
Test Steering (free movement)			
Test Tilt / Trim			
Test Bilge Pump			
Check for any excessive water in bilges			
Check Fuel System for any leaks			
Check Engine Fluids			
Ensure Boat Plug is properly installed			
Check Electrical System			
Check Galley / Heating Systems			
Check Gauges (i.e. batteries)			
Check Fuel Amount			
Ensure Anchor is ready for use			
Check load of vessel and secure gear from shifting			
Ensure passengers know Emergency Procedures and Equipment Location			
Everyone put on a Lifejacket to check for proper fitting.			
Check the Weather Forecast			
File a Float Plan with family or friend			
Compliments of your USPS Boating Friends			



## CHIEF COMMANDER'S REPRESENTATIVE

Vice Commander Jean L. Hamilton, SN



Jean joined Houston Sail & Power Squadron in 1984. However, her first rendezvous was around the age of 7 in the Jacksonville SPS. The family continued squadron involvement in the Chicago and Shrewsbury squadrons. Highlights in the Houston squadron include serving as Cooperative Charting chair, teaching Weather, teaching in the boating courses, other electives and advanced grades, and serving as SEO.

Nationally, she chaired the Weather Committee, then added Cruise Planning when the committees merged in 2000. At the request of the Chief Commander, she created and chaired the ad hoc Environmental Committee, taking it to formal committee status in the Executive Department one year later. She next was elected to Assistant National Secretary, and now serves as National Secretary. Simultaneously, she was elected to the District 21 bridge, serving as Administrative Officer, Executive Officer and Commander. She is a certified instructor and an advanced BOC certifier.

Jean started on-the-water training at the Florida Yacht Club in Jacksonville racing her Optimist pram The Blue Dolphin. Simultaneously, the family participated in many FYC & JSPS cruises aboard the Miss Ill Guided & the Blue Darter. Moving to Chicago she decided the water was too cold and tasted funny. Fortunately that was only a two-year interval until moving to Rumson, NJ and living on the Shrewsbury River...still cold, but better tasting. It was a perfect one day trip to leave the dock, round Sandy Hook, cross Raritan & Lower Bays, cruise under the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, proceed up the East River, across the Harlem River through Hell's Gate, then cruise back down the Hudson River and home - the Hamilton "Circle Line" tour on board the Panacea. Since you couldn't drive up there until you were really old...the kids all had Boston Whalers, Jean's was the Buzzie. As a graduate student at Duke, the Buzzie became the Research Vessel Buzzie, & the primary means of transport to her thesis area on Shackleford Banks. As a "grownup" she bareboat chartered most of the Caribbean, Mexican Riviera, Tonga, Tahiti, out of Long Beach, and cruised again with her parents on board Altair. She recently sold her 27' Catalina Witch of Endor, and is "between boats."

Jean has a bachelors degree in geology from Vanderbilt University, and a master's in geology from Duke. Her entire career has been at Marathon Oil Company, working in various geo-science positions.

Jean is single, no kids, but most people would be happy to come back in a second life as one of her dogs. Marie Galante & Justinian have made many rendezvous and conferences, as did their predecessors Sutherland, Lydia, and Hotspur.

V/C Jean Hamilton, SN; Justinian (left) and Marie Galante (right)



## BOOSTERS

P/C Darryl and Joan Aubrey  
Shirley Becker

**Stf/C John Belkengren & R/C William Gillette**

Stf/C Al and Pat Bruhin

Coral Ridge Sail and Power Squadron

D/Lt Art and D/Lt/C Mary Dodd

P/N/F/Lt Frank and Kathy Dougherty

D/C Jack and Judy Doyle

P/D/C Gary Ferguson

Ft. Lauderdale Power Squadron

P/D/C Marlene and P/C Michael Herbig

P/R/C William and Lynne Husted

**National Chaplain Rodney & Lt Sandy Landsman**

D/Lt/C Evelyn and Lt John Northrup

OceanGrafix

Palm Beach Sail and Power Squadron

**P/R/C Richard & Cdr Doris Pfenninger**

Lt/C Eunice Polloway & P/C Dean Jackson

**P/D/C Gloria & P/C William Schulke**

Sebastian Inlet Sail & Power Squadron

St. Lucie River Power Squadron

**If your name is in RED, it is renewal time!**

**Thank You All!**

*D/Lt Shirley Haines, S, Booster Chairwoman*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

5 - 9 Sep

USPS Governing Board  
Detroit, MI

21 - 23 Sep

D8 Fall Council & Conference  
Marriott, Boca Raton, FL

2013

16- 20 Jan

USPS Annual Meeting  
Jacksonville, FL

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

7 Sep

Room reservations for Fall Conference

14 Sep

Meal reservations for Fall Conference

10 Oct

Submissions for *Pieces of Eight*

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