



PIECES OF EIGHT

Official Publication of District 8, United States Power Squadrons

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

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NIAGARA

The ship is the reconstructed U.S. Brig *Niagara* (designed and built by Melbourne Smith between 1988 and 1990). It was docked in Detroit as part of the War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebration during the weekend of the Governing Board. The original ship served as Oliver Hazard Perry's relief flagship when he won the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813.

The *Erie Maritime Museum* is *Niagara's* homeport and the *Niagara* spends the summer months sailing the Great Lakes as a Sailing School Vessel.

Photos in this issue by D/Lt Art Dodd, SN (Palm Beach Sail & Power Squadron)

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USPS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



D/C John Doyle, SN

The **Flag and Etiquette Committee** has approved a special ensign to be used for the 100th anniversary. It may only be flown from 2013-2014, and then it will be retired. As part of a 100 year old organization, we hope you will fly your ensign proudly and as often as possible. Commemorative Ensigns are available at the USPS Ship's Store on-line.



The 2013 Annual Meeting in Jacksonville will mark the beginning of a yearlong celebration of the USPS 100th Anniversary. All districts will receive a commemorative 100th anniversary ensign at the 2013 Annual Meeting in Jacksonville to use throughout the year. Each squadron in the District can design and purchase a special ribbon which will be attached to the District's 100th Anniversary Ensign. All ribbons and ensigns will be part of a special flag ceremony during the opening ceremonies of the Governing Board Meeting on Saturday morning at the 2014 USPS annual meeting in Jacksonville.

Every squadron and district in USPS is urged to plan events or activities to promote the celebration of our 100th Anniversary during 2013 to share their pride and commitment to boating safely, education and community service. We would like all squadrons to share their activities with fellow members by having their community successes featured on the USPS 100th Anniversary website www.usps.org/100, which will serve as the primary resource for description of Anniversary activities and as a source for tools to help squadrons with their own celebrations. District 8 would like all squadrons to also share the activities planned to celebrate the 100th Anniversary with the Pieces of Eight Editor, P/D/C Marlene Herbig, SN for inclusion in the Newsletter.

USPS has submitted an application to the US Postal Service for the issuance for a commemorative stamp recognizing the 100th Anniversary of USPS.

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Cdr Robert Scully, N as chair of the District 8 Ad Hoc 100th Anniversary Celebration Committee to promote and coordinate both the District and squadron celebrations.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR DISTRICT COMMANDER

D/C JOHN T. DOYLE, SN

If you missed the Governing Board Meeting in Detroit or the D8 Fall Conference at the Marriott at Boca Center, you missed two outstanding events. I would like to thank our new D8 Conference Chair, P/D/C Gary Ferguson, JN and his team for organizing and coordinating his inaugural D8 conference. They did a great job and we look forward to some of Gary's new ideas for future conferences.

Merit Mark Season

Recognizing the efforts of our members' hard work during the year is an important leadership responsibility. There may be a misunderstanding regarding merit mark recommendations. Each squadron merit mark chair should be submitting the merit mark recommendations for the members in their squadron directly to national as per directions in DB2000 not to the District 8 Merit Mark Chair.

P/N/F/Lt Frank Dougherty AP is responsible for only those members recommended by District committee chairs and by the District Commander. The District 8 Commander is responsible for submitting to Frank the recommendations for D8 bridge officers, squadron commanders, and D8 general and standing committee chairs.

USPS Partners:

USPS has expanded its partnership with Brunswick Corporation and will be working closely with the Boat Dealership group introducing more classes and seminars to be available to Brunswick Dealers.

USPS is developing a partnership with Marriott Hotel to provide more preferential rates, support and services for USPS events and activities.

USPS WEB SITE SECURITY

- USPS security was based on Certificate Number and Zip Code.
- This is not real security, it only inconveniences hackers.
- The world is not a nice place when it comes to security.
- This is why we never allowed online updates.
- **Certificate Number/Zip Code logons will be discontinued starting 1 November 2012; therefore update your PIN and security question to be able to have access to all data in the system.**

District 8 Photographer

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our District Photographer, D/Lt Art Dodd, SN for all his work, time and efforts to cover the District events in a most professional manner and post his art on the District 8 web site for all to share and enjoy.

Educational Fund

Kudos to all D8 squadron commanders for your contributions to the USPS Educational Fund and a very special thanks to P/D/C Lee Devane, AP for chairing this committee and achieving 100% participation for the past decade.

Membership

We continue to hold our own with membership numbers. We are down 22 members for about 1.3% from the beginning of my watch. My goal is to exceed the National goal of 1% growth. Kudos to Miami squadron for recruiting 39 new members since April for a 42% increase and Key West with a growth of ten new members for a 5% increase. Membership involvement and retention is the key to growth. Keep your eyes out for future executive committee members and committee chairs. This is the path for future bridge officers and the continued health of your squadrons. Let's make membership job #1!

EDUCATION NEWS

Stf/C Al Bruhin, SN

BRUNSWICK

We continue to hold ABC classes and seminars at Brunswick dealers. At the National meeting the thrust to increase the Brunswick activity was re-emphasized. Any squadrons that have a dealer nearby should contact them and try to establish a working relationship for our mutual benefit. Brunswick Corporate HQ has put together a program to encourage dealers that have resisted in the past, to reconsider sponsoring the classes/seminars. Several squadrons have an ongoing relationship with dealers and are presenting courses and seminars with mixed results. The Brunswick Corporate thrust may help improve these results.

ON-LINE COURSES

In the past, we have discussed the on line courses that are put together by University of West Florida. These courses do not benefit the squadrons in any way. USPS now plans to continue to develop on-line courses but will be using the Boat US systems to do the development. These courses will be the property of USPS and will result in financial benefit to the squadrons using a formula that is presently under development. The first courses should be available by the end of the year. Extensive advertizing is planned to introduce the courses.

REGISTERING YOUR COURSES ON HQ800

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 easily be accomplished by going to the Educational Department home page. Click on the "Manage Public Programs" drop down menu and then on "Register Courses." If you need help doing this check with your SEO or with me. On the Educational Department home page there is a link that will let you download a tutorial that is helpful in using HQ800.

At the district ED meeting there was considerable discussion regarding the "User Friendliness" of HQ800. V/C Jean Hamilton, SN will be bringing our comments and concerns to the attention of the Information Technology Systems team in an effort to make the program easier to use.

MSRP

In order to help the squadrons in pricing the courses and seminars, HQ is developing a suggested Price List. This is in the final stages of development and will be available soon. This was discussed at the ED meeting at the district conference. If you have any questions at this point, check with your SEO or with me.

COURSE MATERIAL

I have been repeatedly asked for the status of the Marine Electronics course. The best data I have at this time is that it has been drafted and is in internal audit. When that is done, it will be turned over to the Publishing Committee for editing and printing. I do not have any other information as to the timing.

TRAWLER FEST / TRAWLERPORT

USPS is continuing the efforts from past seasons to present classes and seminars at Trawler Fest. Trawler Fest events are scheduled after the new year in Ft Lauderdale, FL. We need skilled instructors, presenters and proctors to support these courses. Contacts made during these events provide potential future squadron students and members. Your help is important in spreading the information to our members and cruising companions/organizations that will make this event more successful for both organizations. Mike Knapp is leading this program for the district. Please contact Mike and let him know if you can support the program.

Mike can be reached at 772-283-4816 or warmrainfl@aol.com

The schedule for these events is:

TrawlerFest - Ft Lauderdale 29 Jan - 2 Feb 2013

TrawlerPort - Miami 14 - 15 Feb 2013

TrawlerPort - Palm Beach 21 - 24 Mar 2013

We desperately need your support.

FALL CONFERENCE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS PRESENTATIONS



Excellence in Recreational Boating Education
Biscayne Bay - Port St. Lucie - Hollywood



Saul Sabad Award
 (Overall Educational Achievement)
1st Place - Sebastian Inlet
 2nd Place - Homestead
 3rd Place - Port St. Lucie



Harry J. Mehrer Award
 (S, AP and CP)
1st Place - Homestead
 2nd Place - Pompano Beach
 3rd Place - Sebastian Inlet



Robert W. Rolands Award
 (S, P, AP, IQ and SA)
1st Place - Homestead
 2nd Place - Sebastian Inlet
 3rd Place - Pompano Beach



'N' Club of South Florida Award
1st Place - Sebastian Inlet
 2nd Place - Homestead
 3rd Place - Vero Beach



Prince Henry Award
 (JN and N)
1st Place - Sebastian Inlet
 2nd Place - Vero Beach

FALL CONFERENCE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS PRESENTATIONS



Educational Proficiency

Successful completion of S, P, AP and three elective courses
 (L to R) **Stephen Baker, N**, Palm Beach (Cdr Joyce Newman, S, accepting); P/C **Henry Resch Jr, AP**, Palm Beach; **Robert Kane, N**; Vero Beach (Cdr Robert Scully, JN, accepting); D/Lt **Michael Jackson, AP**, Sebastian Inlet.

Educational Achievement

Successful completion of all Advanced Grade and Elective Courses
W. Terry Patrick, SN, Vero Beach
 (Cdr Robert Scully, JN accepting)



Chapman Excellence in Teaching Squadron Nominees

(L to R)

Brian Coleman, P, Homestead
 (Cdr Robert Roslund, AP accepting)
Vincent Melendy, AP, Key West
Philip Bouckaert, AP, Palm Beach
 (Lt/C Rose Moskowitz, JN accepting)
Marjorie Baraff, AP, Biscayne Bay
George Hehner, JN, Port St. Lucie
 (Lt /C Dan Buck, P accepting)
Thomas Nolan, N, Pompano Beach
 (Stf/C Anita Walker, JN accepting)

Chapman Excellence in Teaching Award
 District 8 Winner and Nominee for National
Thomas R. Nolan, N
 (Stf/C Anita Walker, JN accepting)



ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

D/Lt/C Mary Dodd, SN

I hope everyone had a good summer. A lot has been happening since my last article. I attended the Governing Board Meeting in Detroit 6-9 September 2012. During the Administrative Department Meeting, the National Member Involvement chair held a Webinar and discussed the 100th Anniversary Celebration that will be starting January 2013 and ending at the Annual Meeting in January 2014.



The District 8 Fall Conference 21-23 September 2012 was fun and informative. We had a great time at the Star Struck Theme Party. People came dressed as their favorite star or animal. We had some kitty cats and even a monkey as animals and some of the stars were Lady Gaga and Elvis. P/D/C Gary Ferguson, JN did a great job as emcee for both evenings.

We also had a great silent auction which started Friday night and ended Saturday night. I would like to thank the following squadrons and individuals who donated to the Silent Auction. Ft Lauderdale Power Squadron, Palm Beach Sail and Power Squadron, Port St Lucie Power Squadron, St Lucie River Power Squadron, Vero Beach Power Squadron and D/Lt Arthur Dodd, SN.

Our Conference Chair P/D/C Gary Ferguson, JN was hard at work before and during the conference to ensure all District 8 needs were met and he did a great job.

The Administrative Department had some great presentations at the Saturday morning workshops/seminars:

D/Lt Diane Di Maio, P, Operations Training chair did a great job on "Why don't People do What I Want?".

D/Lt Katherine Thomas, P, Membership Recruiting chair and Cdr Maurisia Jeffers, Member Involvement chair had a very interesting workshop, "A Sharing of Ideas".

Stf/C Kristi Anderson, P talked about how to use member benefits to help with member recruiting and retention. USPS has many member benefits and if you don't know what they are, check the Member Benefits page on the National website.

D/Lt Denise Porter, AP, Youth Activities chair gave a talk on how to get your squadron started in the Youth Poster Contest.

I would 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 (MIRA) application*. You are all doing a great job. This is a great tool for squadrons to let National, district and squadrons know what your squadron is doing. It is also a way for squadrons to know what works for other squadrons. At the conference, these squadrons received Certificates of Participation from the National Membership Committee.



Photo on right.



Biscayne Bay won the *Robert C. Wornick Membership Award* for having the highest percentage of growth between 31 May 2011 and 31 May 2012, **Miami** - 2nd place and **Homestead** - 3rd place. Nine squadrons in our district had positive growth.

Photo on left.

P/D/C Gary Ferguson, JN advised the membership of some of the new venues for the upcoming year, which will be shown later in this issue of *Pieces of 8*.

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!

The following new members have joined squadrons in our district since July 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.

Ft. Lauderdale

Destiny Arlotta
Stephen Dehnert
Kathy Edelman
Jude Gaston
Jacquelyn Hargett
Judith Jones
Todd Kazdan
Dale Kern

Key West Sail &

George A. Bender
Norma L. Bender
Shirley Gun
Thomas J. Kelly
Joseph A. Putney, Jr.
Terrie Salvatore
Lamont Seals
Pamela A. Seals

Marathon

Thomas D. Conley
Cathy Henninger

Miami

Lynn Adams
Ralph Chad Adrian
Casey Allen
Andres Bazo
Omar Blanco
Carlo Brin
Robert Brown
Thomacina Brown
Mario Buisan
Francisco Colon
Ken Damas
Gabriela Dela Vega
Antoine Faugeres
Michael J. Fournier
Jose M. Garcia
Fred Gilliam
Angela Guertin
Mark R. Humbles
Matthew Jorgensen
Charles Leyva
Juan Lopetequi
Maria Lopetequi
Mario Lopez

Miami (Cont)

Karen Martinez
Sergio Martins
Andrew Matovich
William Butch Medlin
Arnold Oper
Victor Ortiz
Jose Padilla
Jovan Parra
Charles Parsons
Vanessa Rodriguez
William Sager
Stewart Siegert
Maria Sisson
Richard G. Sisson
Larry Spring
Daniel Totani
Victor Villegas

Palm Beach Sail &

Endre Banfi
Ivan R. Be Rossy
Bryn Benjamin
George Brener
Linita Butler
Edward J. Cicco
Meredith K. Clark
Sarah H. Cox
Noel C. Crawshaw
Joseph L. Espinosa
Cindy R. Kennedy
Randall W. Kreuzer
Zoltan Kurucz
Liz Loeffler
Brysen L. Lowry
Valerie Moss
David H. Ricketts
Samuel F. Rowen
Lisa Marin Rowland
Linda L. St. John
Dee Anne M. Vera
Henry Vera
Greg Windsor

Pompano Beach

Marie Alcazar
Jose A. Alvarez Gunther
Angela M. Bowen

Pompano Beach (cont.)

Scott Joseph Bowen
Maria Isabel Clemente-Alvarez
Darin W. Elkins
William Hollinger
Richard Hustins
Margart E. Kepler
Agnes V. Kurland
Jillian Y Kurland
Nathan Kurland
Joseph Luery
Richard Luery
E. James McEntee
Patricia K. Nolan
William T. Nolan
Gaynor S. Shields
John Strzalka
Beatriz L. Vicente

Sebastian Inlet Sail &

Neil J. McCurry
Rebecca S. Osmianski
Debra K. Potzer
Thomas A. Potzer, Jr.
Thomas A. Potzer, Sr.

St. Lucie River

John J. Murphy
Peter A. Rankin

Vero Beach

Sheri L. Anderson
Elaine G. Bresnee
Catherine A. Ceglady
Anne B. Devore
John M. Flavin
Maxine M. Gallagher
Paul J. Gallagher
Ginger Gambell
Robert Gambell
Calvin J. Livingston
Nancy V. Livingston
Harley P. Richardson
Susan V. Richardson
Adam J. Searle
Bonnie J. Vauter
Richard P. Vauter

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By D/Lt Kathie Thomas, P

Thanks to everyone who attended the D8 Membership Workshop at the Fall Conference. We had the opportunity to share some of the activities that the different squadrons are doing to attract and keep members.

Some of the suggestions presented to improve recruitment are:

Reach out to the public by giving the ABC Boating Course and offer the six month free membership.

Have a booth at the local boat show or other community functions.

Have an active friendly squadron and your members will want to bring in their friends to join in the fun activities.

Keeping new members interested in the squadron is the next big challenge:

Ask them to do an easy task that will introduce them to other members.

Team them up with an older member to help with a social, etc.

Try boating activities that all members can join such as raft-ups, lunch cruises, etc. Make sure there is a method of getting everyone on boats, as needed.

Find an outreach project involving the community. Vero Beach Power Squadron takes kids from the Boys & Girls Club out on boats for a morning of fishing. This involves a lot of volunteers, both on and off the water. The kids get a mini boating course and then go fishing. The Captains reinforce the teaching while on board. They come back for lunch, have a quick oral quiz and then prizes are awarded.

Try forming a Paddle/Kayak group or a Bowling Group. Both of these have been very successful in our squadron. This is a great way to attract and keep more active members.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please email me at: dankathievero@yahoo.com.

"A SHARING OF IDEAS"

Membership Workshop

led by

D/Lt Kathie Thomas, P and Cdr Maurisia Jeffers



DISTRICT 8 CIVIC SERVICE AWARD

SUBMISSIONS DUE BY 1 DECEMBER

by Stf/C Kristi Anderson, P

The District 8 Civic Service Award deadline is coming soon! Every squadron qualifies if any functions have occurred with the public this year, in the name of your squadron or in the name of USPS. This includes teaching a class, working a Boat Show, and anything where the public is in attendance.

By making a submission to the national award, your squadron is automatically entered into the district award. You may find the award submission forms, and examples of previous submissions on the National Civic Service Award Web site: http://www.usps.org/national/membership/distinguished_civic_service_awar.htm

The deadline to submit to national is 1 December 2012, but the qualifying time frame is 1 November 2011 to 31 October 2012. A very handsome award will be given out at the Spring Conference. **Why not get credit for what your squadron already does?**

“DOING IT RIGHT” AWARD

SUBMISSIONS DUE BY 15 DECEMBER

submitted by D/Lt/C Mary Dodd, SN

“The [Doing It Right Award](#) is presented to squadrons who are **“Doing It Right”**. Over the years, the National Membership Committee has developed a list of what healthy squadrons do to ensure their growth from year to year. This list was used by the National Membership Committee (MEMCOM) as the basis for developing the questionnaire for the **Doing It Right Award**. MEMCOM also recognizes that sometimes a squadron can do many things right and still struggle with declining membership and public boating course attendance. These questions are designed to give a squadron a **New Course to Chart**, new ideas to try and recognize the squadrons that are trying to **“Do It Right”**. Submissions must be received by the designated person by **15 December 2012**.

Consider this questionnaire a list of what a squadron can do to improve its tone and performance. If a squadron can answer yes to 15 of the 25 questions in 2010, 16 in 2011 and 18 in 2012 and 20 in 2013 then a symbol (yet to be designed) can be placed on their newsletter and website to announce to all squadrons that they are **“DOING IT RIGHT”**. All Districts in which every squadron fills out the questionnaire, will be allowed to also place the **“Doing It Right” Award** on their website and newsletter.” [reprinted from USPS Website, Membership Committee, *AWARDS/CONTESTS OVERVIEW* page.]

More information can be found on the National website under Membership including a fillable worksheet application to eMail in the [*“Applications and Instructions for the Awards”*](#) section or you can print and mail the form on the next page.

DOING IT RIGHT 2012 AWARD WORKSHEET

Squadron _____

District _____

	Task	YES	NO
1	Did your squadron have a recruiting program?		
2	Did your squadron recruit 10% of its new members from your ABC3 Class(es)?		
3	Did your squadron develop a renewal program?		
4	Did your squadron have a new member orientation program?		
5	Did your squadron employ a phone committee or email list to contact members about events?		
6	Did your squadron employ a public class team concept, that included PR, Education, & Membership in the planning?		
7	Did your squadron publicize your class in print or by personal appearances?		
8	Did your squadron teach at least two ABC3 Classes?		
9	Did your squadron teach a at least four seminars?		
10	Did your squadron teach at least one ABC3 Class w/table proctors?		
11	Did your squadron teach a least four courses for your squadron members?		
12	Did your squadron average 10 VSCs per Vessel Examiner?		
13	Did your squadron have a program for National Safe Boating Week or its equivalent?		
14	Did your squadron have an active Cooperative Charting program?		
15	Did your squadron man a boat show booth or give seminars at a boat show?		
16	Did your squadron hold at least two on-the-water activities?		
17	Did your squadron hold informal social events (picnics, dinners, etc.)?		
18	Did your squadron hold General meetings regularly?		
19	Did your squadron frequently have guest speakers at General meetings?		
20	Did your squadron have an up-to-date website?		
21	Did your squadron publish a newsletter regularly?		
22	Did your squadron have at least three members of your bridge attend a leadership or Operations Training workshop?		
23	Did your squadron attend your District Spring Conference w 80% of your delegates?		
24	Did your squadron attend your District Fall Conference w/80% of your delegates?		
25	Did your squadron submit a MIRA or Civic Service Entry? (Give 1 pt for each)		

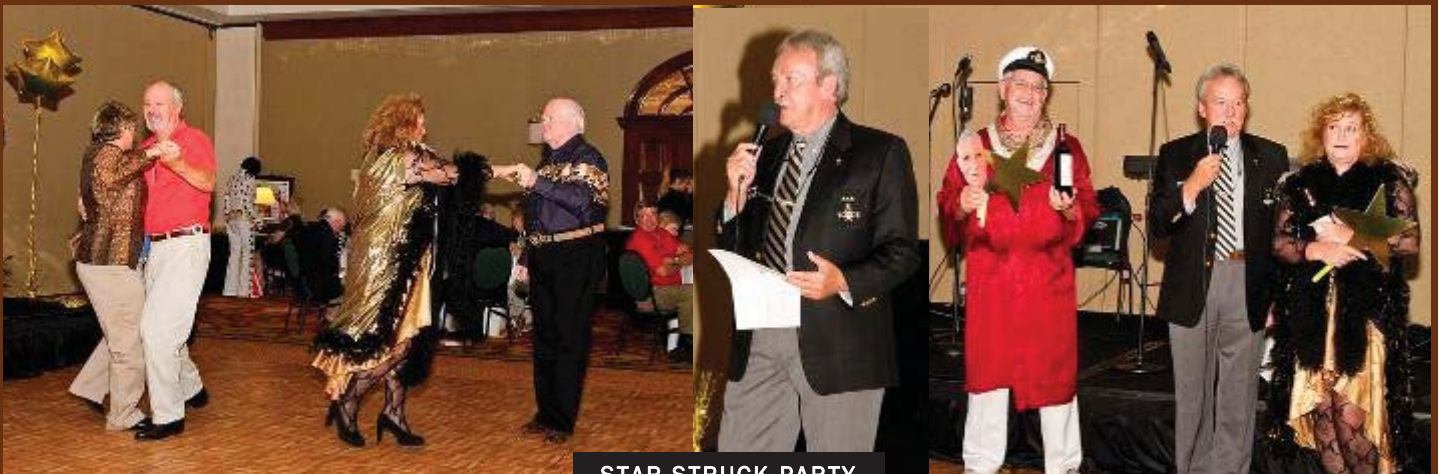
Email or mail this award to Stf/C Sandra Krupa by 15 December 2012. Email - kruof2@tampabay.rr.com, Mail - 8950 Park Blvd #305, Seminole, FL 33777.

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE FALL CONFERENCE

DXO's HOSPITALITY



KEY WEST HOSPITALITY



STAR STRUCK PARTY



FALL CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS



MEMBER BENEFITS



OPERATIONS TRAINING



INSTRUCTOR RECERTIFICATION



RULES OF THE ROAD



SAFETY



COOPERATIVE CHARTING



PUBLIC RELATIONS



YOUTH POSTER CONTEST

SATURDAY AT THE FALL CONFERENCE

1st TIMERS
MEET & GREET



PALM BEACH CAFE



V/C Jean Hamilton, SN
delivers the
Chief's Message.



50 Years Membership
plaque presented to
Edward Voit, Jr., AP
(Cdr Joyce Newman, S accepting)



Robert D. Messingschlager
Cooperative Charting Award
1st Place - Key West
2nd Place - Palm Beach



Cdr Doris Pfenniger, P
receives her
P/D/Lt/C flag.



D/C's HOSPITALITY AT THE FALL CONFERENCE



BANQUET AT THE FALL CONFERENCE



FROM THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



Your conference committee has been hard at work and is happy to report that our first fall “rotation” conference will be at the Marriott Hutchinson Island in 2013.

This resort will offer us many “firsts”, starting with the first annual “Nine and Dine” golf outing at the resort on Friday morning and finishing in plenty of time to get to the Council meeting. Scramble format should provide a few laughs and prizes will be awarded at the conference.



We are working on a special outdoor hospitality for Friday night, but still need to pull together the local venue to host the event. I am looking for those members in the area to assist with the planning and implementation, so if you are interested contact me at gl.ferguson@comcast.net.



The nearby Harbor Bay Plaza, a unique variety of boutique shops, has offered to provide special discount coupons for squadron members. The Maritime & Classic Boat Museum has Evinrude engine history on display as well as Chris Craft wooden motor boat display. You want to see this, details at www.mcbmfl.org. The non-profit Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center is a half mile away and they say they want to inspire environmental stewardship. Check it out at www.FloridaOcean.org. The last remaining “House of Refuge” is just a few blocks away at Gilberts Bar, built in 1876 to help stranded sailors, www.houseofrefugefl.org .



The full service marina located at the Marriott has discount pricing for those members wishing to come by boat. The marina also has a fleet of boats, flat boats, pontoon and wave runners for rent.

Oh...we will have a Council meeting on Friday, a Conference on Saturday and the Sunday meetings. Stay tuned...

P/D/C Gary Ferguson, JN
Conference Chair



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT D/Lt/C Diana Jackson, JN

First, I would like to thank all my fellow district members for helping me with a successful hospitality suite at the Fall Conference. With all the generosity of members bringing bottles, mixers, food, helping decorate and set up/clean up, it was a pleasure hosting this event and getting to meet and see all of you!

The Executive department committee was very busy at the Fall Conference hosting three Saturday morning meetings. D/Lt Bill Heimbaugh, S had one of his biggest turnouts for Cooperative Charting, D/Lt Bill Husted, SN for Public Relations and D/Lt Thomas Nolan, SN for bringing in a guest speaker for Safety. In addition, our Exec committee Homeland Security chair D/Lt Philip Bouckaert, AP gave the Instructor Development Recertification class on Saturday. He presented "Preparing for the Unexpected" at my Commander and Officers meeting Sunday morning. I also had Awards Chairman, D/Lt Dick Pfenniger, SN speak on the Brunswick Advantage Program and Stf/C Kristi Anderson, P answered many IT (DB2000 and Sail Angle) questions on Sunday. I want to thank everyone for his or her support at the conference!

We are getting closer to the **53rd Annual Ft. Lauderdale International Boat Show, 25-29 October 2012** and we still have some positions available. There will be no cost to attend the show (a \$34 savings), but you will need to pay for parking. Available times can be found at www.USPSD8.org look for the Ft Lauderdale boat show. Please let Stf/C Kristi Anderson know if you are able to work any of the open shifts. I would like to thank all those participating in the show.

BOAT SHOW SCHEDULE

25-29 October 2012

Prime Time Preview:

Thurs. 25 Oct. 1000 - 1900

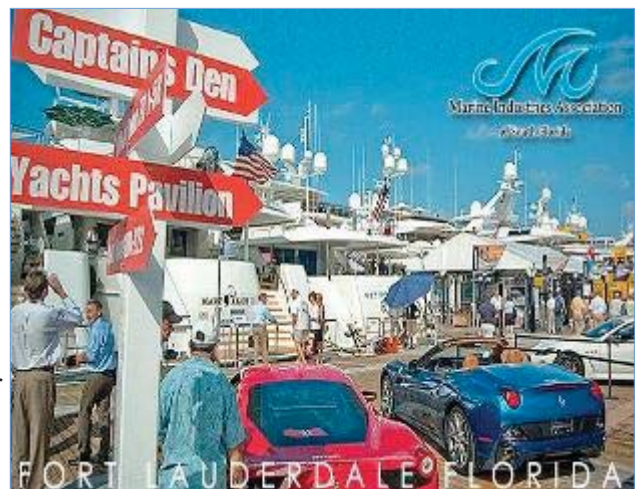
General Admission:

Fri. 26 Oct – Sun. 28 Oct, 1000 - 1900

Mon. 29 Oct, 1000 - 1700

Other Boat Shows coming up next year for D8 are Trawler Fest and Miami International.

Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.



The 2013 National Scout Jamboree scheduled for 15 - 24 July 2013 is a 10-day event that gives the Boy and Sea Scouts exhibits, shows and opportunities to work on their merit badges. USPS National maintains a booth and it takes many volunteers and funding to maintain this booth. Donation requests will be coming next year. Here is the link:

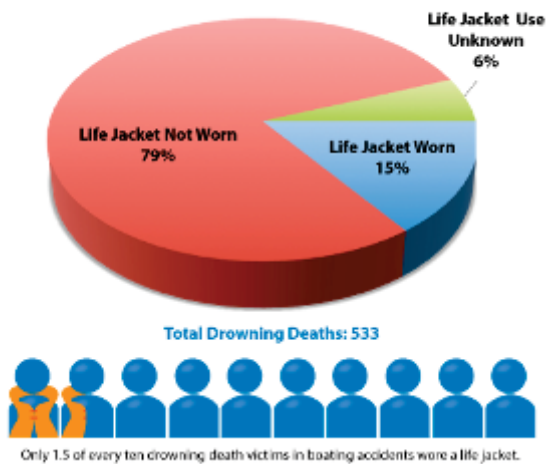
<https://summit.scouting.org/en/Jamboree2013/Pages/default.aspx>

Until next time, have a great fall and see you at the National meeting or the D8 Spring Conference!

SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT

By D/Lt Tom Nolan, SN

2011 Recreational Boating Drownings



The USCG Boating Safety Resource Center website contains a wealth of information concerning recreational boating safety.

Each year hundreds of lives are lost... thousands are injured... and millions of dollars of property damage occur because of preventable recreational boating accidents on U.S. waterways.

Too often pleasure outings turn tragic. You — as a boat operator, passenger, or concerned individual — can make a difference.

Please take a few minutes to visit the USCG Boating Safety Resource Center website.

I think you will find it a good source for safety information that you can discuss and use with your squadron.

<http://www.uscgboating.org/safety/default.aspx>

Boating should be fun *and* safe.

VESSEL SAFETY CHECK CORNER

By D/Lt Allan B. Furtado, SN

The summer has steadily passed by with lots of sweltering heat that drove you to splash off in the water. It really has been a weird summer. I noticed this by the lack of boaters at the dock each weekend. I assume that it is because of the high cost of fuel this year. I have had a hard time trying to get my Vessel Safety Checks performed this summer because I cannot make contact with the boaters.

However when I do, the normal things are missing or need attention as usual. This year it seems that Visual Distress Signals (Flares) were the item that was out of date or simply missing from the boat altogether. I cannot understand why old flares were not on the boat but, sure enough, many had none at all.

While talking to several boaters about the use of flares, it became obvious that most boaters have never had a chance to strike one off and light it. So let me take a moment to describe how to do that.

First you should notice that there are two colors on the tube of the flare. The white part is where it is safe to hold the flare when it is being used. The fire will never reach this point. The second part is red, and this is where the flares will burn. And I really mean BURN! But I will get back to that later.

When you have a need to strike a flare, hold it firmly by the end of the white part, and lift off the little black cap covering the striking igniter. Discard the cap; then twist the striking igniter and remove it from the end of the flare. You should notice that it revealed another similar striking igniter at the end of the flare. You should hold the flare down wind, over the side of the vessel and place the two igniter parts together. While pressing the two parts together, hold the cap still and strike them with a sweeping motion away from yourself. This should ignite the flare. If not, repeat the above. NOTE: When the flare is ignited and burning be careful of the slag that drips from the end. It is really hot and will burn you. That is why you hold it over the side of the vessel. At this point, NOTHING will put that flare out, not water nor sand. You must hold it safely until it is exhausted. The flare should last about 5 to 8 minutes.

Now when an examiner performs a VSC they check to see if the flares are within the 3.5 year window between manufacture and expiration date. Every flare has these two dates printed on it along with a USCG approval number.

Have you checked the expiration date of your flares lately? Have you had a VSC on your vessel this year? If not, why not?

COME TO THE USPS ANNUAL MEETING!

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront

16-20 January 2013

Before making your travel plans, there are some changes in the format for the Annual Meeting you may want to consider.

Wednesday and Thursday will be for business meetings, department lunches, and/or classes of the departments.

Thursday Night. The awards ceremony will be held at the **Thursday Night Reception and Dinner.** **New life members** will be recognized at the Thursday night reception.

EXPO will be held all day, 0800 to 1700, on **Friday** instead of Thursday. It will be in the foyer outside of the Main Ballroom.

No other meetings will be held on Friday except the D/C DXO Meeting and EXPO will be the highlight of the day. An area for food - bar/snacks/light lunch will be placed near EXPO.

Friday morning. We will now, also, have outside seminars (guest presenters), located near the EXPO.

Saturday's format will remain the same.

For reservations and more information go to www.usps.org/php/reservations.

Fort Lauderdale Boat Show

We have a few spots left!!!

Workers are needed to help out with the

Ft. Lauderdale Boat Show

on **25-30 October 2012.**

An up-to-date schedule and details are on the new D8 website at www.uspsD8.org, under Events.

WE can use your help and
YOU can have some fun drooling!



Contact Stf/C Kristi Anderson, P at kayakladyfl@att.net

DETROIT GOVERNING BOARD



District 8 Hospitality



Banquet



BOOSTERS

P/C Darryl and Joan Aubrey

Shirley Becker

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

Lt/C Eunice Polloway & P/C Dean Jackson

P/D/C Gloria and 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

2013

13 - 20 Jan	USPS Annual Meeting Jacksonville, FL
26 - 28 Apr	D8 Spring Council & Conference Marriott, Boca Raton, FL
18 - 24 May	National Safe Boating Week
12-14 Jul	D8 Summer Rendezvous Hyatt Pier 66, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
3 - 8 Sep	USPS Governing Board San Antonio, TX

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

27 Jan Submissions for *Pieces of Eight*

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Enclosed is my tax deductible check in the amount of \$30.00 payable to D/8 USPS.

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SQUADRON: _____