



DISTRICT 8

THE 13 SQUADRONS OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA, THE BOATING MECCA OF THE WORLD



PIECES OF EIGHT

WINTER 2018

VOLUME 41 NUMBER 4



DISTRICT COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

D/C Joyce A Newman, AP

Dear District 8 squadron members.

It has been a rewarding year, with continued success of our district and a great experience for me. The many successes we had during my command were directly attributable to the involvement of our members and the extraordinary leadership of our District and Squadron bridge officers, department heads, committees, Parliamentarian, Rules, Finance, Law Officer, Chaplain, D8 Merit Mark chair, my Flag Lieutenant Mary Dodd, Hospitality committee, Photographer Art Dodd and our Editor of Pieces of Eight, Jan Furtado! *Oh, I didn't forget!* My aide and "Go-to-Meeting" guy Jim DeArmond.



I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all District members who participated, contributed and provided unselfish support and guidance in our organization.

Membership in our organization has been in a slow decline. One of the goals of our District has been to offer programs to increase membership involvement and retention and to get new members involved in volunteer work and to join our squadrons. During the year between conferences, we used the technology of "Go-To-Meeting" to digitally connect and discuss the challenges we face to grow our membership.

At the core of our squadrons' existence stands our mission to provide boating education. We will continue to find new and creative ways of improving our membership and course offerings and to extend our on-the-water training modules to as many courses as possible.

We are saddened by the loss of some of our members who have passed over the horizon this year: *"Sunset and evening star and one clear call for me! And may there be no moaning of the bar' When I put out to sea ... "by Alfred Lord Tennyson" published in THE ENSIGN "Last Horizon".*

We will continue the mission of the United States Power Squadrons® "to be recognized as the National leader for improving safety through outstanding educational programs". I like to think that those that have sadly left us would be proud of our continuing efforts.

Now, it's time to turn the helm over to a new Commander and Bridge. We welcome our soon to be District Commander Janet Leh, P and look forward to her leadership. Janet, you may count on the members of our District to support and advance the goals of USPS, America's Boating Club.

I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve you this past year. The friendships and fun time will remain a part of my fondest memories.

Hope to see you at our District 8 Spring Conference/Change of Watch!

Joyce



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DISTRICT 8 BRIDGE OFFICERS

COMMANDER

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dc@uspsd8.org

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

D/Lt/C Janet L. Leh, P

dxo@uspsd8.org

EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

D/Lt/C Richard C. Pfenniger, SN

deo@uspsd8.org

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

D/Lt/C Edwin A Hoover, AP

dao@uspsd8.org

SECRETARY

D/Lt/C John E. Goebel, SN

dsec@uspsd8.org

TREASURER

D/Lt/C William R. Gillette, AP

dtreas@uspsd8.org

PIECES OF EIGHT

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DISTRICT 8 WEB SITE

www.uspsd8.org

CALL TO THE SPRING 2018 COUNCIL

Per District 8 Bylaws Article 5, Section 5.2 and 5.3, District Commander Joyce A Newman, AP has called the **Spring Council meeting for 1400 on Friday, 27 April 2018 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 4350 PGA Blvd, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410.**

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 the Squadron Commanders
- Reports of district department chairs
- Reports of General Committees
- Reports of Standing Committees
- Announcements

Photos in this issue

by

D/Lt Art Dodd, SN

Palm Beach Sail & Power Squadron

(Except where otherwise noted)

CALL TO THE SPRING 2018 CONFERENCE

In accordance with the provisions of Article 5 of District 8 Bylaws, District Commander Joyce A. Newman, AP issues the Call to the **Spring Conference to be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 4350 PGA Blvd, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410, Saturday, 28 April 2018 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.
4. To elect and install new bridge officers.

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.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

D/Lt/C Janet L. Leh, P

We just returned from a very successful 2018 Annual Meeting of the USPS in Orlando, FL. We were well represented by our D/C Joyce Newman, AP. She did a great job Gripping and Grinning to let all know D8 was present.

The seminars were many and very informative. As with D8 Conferences, it was very hard to choose which of these to attend. But we all did our best to gather information that will be beneficial to not only conduct informative seminars at our Conferences, but help you understand how and why we are members of America's Boating Club. See pictures on pages 15 and 16.

We are proud to inform you that D8 won 2nd place in the Youth Poster Contest. Jose Salas attends the Fellsmere Elementary School and was representing the 6 to 8 year olds. We would like to thank P/C Daniel Thomas, SN of the Vero Beach Power Squadron who does a great job organizing this project. The joy on the children's faces says it all. We are Vero Beach Proud!

I'm sure it was not easy for our now Past Chief Commander Louie Ojeda, SN and his lovely wife Dot to say farewell. They did a great job the last 2 years. After all, every member of this wonderful organization is out there Gripping and Grinning! But we do welcome the new C/C Gary Cheney, SN, his daughter and P/R/C Ann Bailey, AP.

Early news for the summer. The plans have been made for our Summer Rendezvous.

Date: July 13-15, 2018

Where : Bahia Mar Marina, 801 Seabreeze Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL

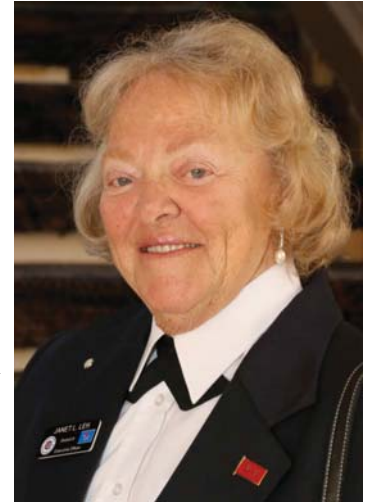
Plans to be sent out shortly. Dancing and pizza on the docks!

Now just a few hints if you plan to attend the Annual meeting next year: Please, do not let Stf/C Al Furtado, SN pack your car! He's at that age of being forgetful. But if you do, never fear, his wonderful wife Jan will drive home and retrieve the ever important luggage.

Please, never ask our District Commander Joyce Newman, AP to order the ice for any party you may want to have. You may end up with enough ice for the entire hotel!

Please, if you see our D/Lt/C Richard Pfenniger SN putt putting around the hotel halls and lobby on his scooter, just run! I now call him "Fast Eddie", well actually "Fast Richie".

Finally, thank you P/R/C Bill Husted and Lynne for making our night at the Dinner Dance such an enjoyable evening!



DISTRICT 8 SPRING CONFERENCE 2018

**Embassy Suites by Hilton
Palm Beach Gardens
4350 PGA Boulevard**

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410

TEL: 1-561-622-1000 – FAX: 1-561-626-4860

Spring Conference 27-29 April 2018

Room Rate: \$138 King; \$143 - 2 Doubles

Special Rate Code: DUP

Deadline for Rate 10 April 2018



ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT D/Lt/C Ed Hoover, AP

The 2018 Spring Conference and Change of Watch is going to be very special. We have listened to lots of good feedback from all of you, incorporated the best from past conferences and laid plans for an array of substantive seminars and special events. Your registration form can be found on Page 8 in this issue so you can sign up early!

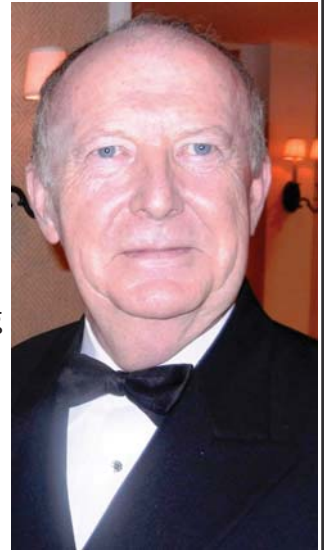
Just to whet your appetite here are a few things we have planned. Friday evening begins festivities with a Kentucky Derby Party so wear your Derby finest, watch the ponies run, and enjoy an array of great food, cash bar and loads of fun for a very special evening. Talk about seminars! We got em'! A two hour workshop on leadership skills titled "Why Don't They Do What I Want?", "Handling Medical Emergencies: Are You Prepared?" presented by a paramedic instructor at Palm Beach State College, and exploring paddle sports for yourself and your squadron. Alongside these will be a Vessel Examiner certification program that will result in full certification for new Examiners.

A very special keynote presentation on Saturday morning featuring Dr. Lee E. Branscome and Maria E. Jacobson of Climatological Consulting Corporation, will discuss tropical cyclones, thunderstorms and waterspouts as among the many weather hazards to boating in Southeast Florida. Recent advances in monitoring and forecasting such hazards will enhance the preparedness and safety of boaters and their vessels. This presentation will provide an update on the current state of weather observation and prediction as it relates to boating safety and discuss how the changing climate might affect boating safety in the years ahead.

The Conference meeting itself will help you feel very much a part of the important activities of our District, recognize award recipients and participate in the swearing in of 2018-2019 District Officers. Always a highlight is the Saturday evening Conference Banquet with terrific fellowship, reception of our new District Commander and music for dancing.

The Squadron Officers meeting on Sunday morning will focus on providing important information on squadron officer job duties and responsibilities. All squadron Commanders, Executive Officers, Administrative Officers, Secretaries and Treasurers are encouraged to attend and discuss job duties and how the different offices interact with each other. Alongside is the Squadron Educational Officers meeting in which Educational Officers will learn about the most recent changes to the USPS educational programs announced at the Annual Meeting in Orlando.

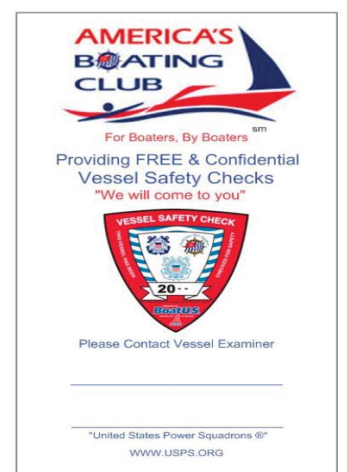
All-in-all a weekend away packed with fun, learning, fellowship and new ideas at the beautiful Embassy Suites in Palm Beach Gardens. More details are forthcoming. Watch your email and see you at the Spring Conference!



NATIONAL SAFETY COMMITTEE Stf/C Bob Bales, AP

National Safety Committee is promoting "America's Boating Club"

The Decal Awareness Program received a grant from the "United States Power Squadrons" Board of Governors to purchase 35,000 Vessel Examiner (VE) business cards and ship them to all VE's. This card serves as a segue for promoting "America's Boating Club" which also benefits the Vessel Safety Check program. Please expect your cards to arrive later this month, and thank you for your support.



EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

D/Lt/C Richard C. Pfenniger, SN

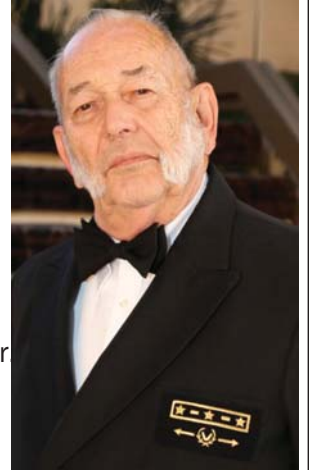
There is a lot of new exciting thing happening in the Educational Department. I will list a couple of highlights for the full details and how they can help your Squadron. You will need to come to the D/8 Spring Conference to find out more.

The course names of the Advanced Grades have been changed, Seamanship is now called Boat Handling, Piloting is now Marine Navigation, Advanced Piloting is now Advanced Marine Navigation, Junior Navigation is now Off Shore Navigation and Navigation is now Celestial Navigation. When passing these Courses, the grades will remain the same as now. In addition to the name change Boat Handling, Marine Navigation and Advanced Marine Navigation will be adopting the seminar series format.

USPS e-books are now here. The student manual for Seamanship 16 is ready for Downloads. All Course material needs to be ordered thru a Squadron by a authorized officer. You can visit the USPS Educational Department site for details. Future book offering will be coming soon.

SEO & DEO Nominations Approval Form (ED-80) are now on line. All approvals need to be submitted on line. A few clicks and you are done. It will be much quicker and easier. Remember every year each SEO & ASEO need to be approved. It is still not too late if your Squadron has not done it yet. Links to the forms and reports may be found in the HQ800 tools menu which is accessed via the HQ800 home page or through the information center at www.usps.org/info.

Everybody in the Educational Department should read the EDN notices. ED 92 deals with no more Seminar Waivers and ED93 Teaching Squadron Material. Please read them and comply.



D22 2019 CARIBBEAN CRUISE

7 days: Sun, 24 February – Sun, 3 March 2019

7 days roundtrip from **Port Canaveral** on Royal Caribbean's OASIS OF THE SEAS

Itinerary: Nassau, Bahamas; Charlotte Amalie, St Thomas; Philipsburg, St Maarten

GROUP PRICING FROM \$729pp

Inside stateroom from \$729pp

Outside stateroom from \$849pp

Balcony from \$999pp

Price does not include \$114 pp taxes & port fees. Travel protection & transfers are additional.



Are you ready for a whole NEW ADVENTURE? If you've ever wanted to try one of those unbelievable mega ships-NOW is the time!

The ship is a complete destination in and of itself so even if you've been to these ports before, you will still have PLENTY to see and do. The best part is you will be able to share the fun with fellow members, friends and family if you join us!

One of the other benefits is the ship embarks from Port Canaveral so transportation is much easier for both those who drive in and those who are flying into Orlando-now they can fly round trip (*charter bus service will be available*)

THIS CRUISE WILL BE DEPARTING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING SO BE SURE TO SIGN UP NOW FOR BEST AVAILABILITY AND PRICING

PLEASE NOTE: IN ORDER TO RECEIVE GROUP BENEFITS & PARTICIPATE IN GROUP EVENTS, EVERYONE MUST BOOK THROUGH DAWN ECKHART

Please email Dawn Eckhart at dawnstraveldeals@gmail.com or call

(727) 403-0406 to join our group on this fun-filled cruise!

SECRETARY DEPARTMENT D/Lt/C John Goebel, SN

DISTINCTIVE COMMUNICATOR AWARDS FOR 2017

PUBLICATIONS

District 8—Pieces of 8
Key West—Conch Skipper
Palm Beach—Afterdeck News
Pompano Beach—Mariner
Sebastian Inlet—The Sebastian Inlet
St. Lucie River—Crossroad
Vero Beach—Nautical News

WEB SITES

Ft Lauderdale
St. Lucie River
Vero Beach



OD2 FORM and Delegate Forms Reminder

As many of our squadrons are bringing in their new commanders and bridge officers, it is time to submit your OD2 forms to HQ. This can easily be done on-line by visiting the following website: <http://www.usps.org/php/hqforms/>.

Just follow the instructions by adding the certificate number for each elected or appointed officer. Submit your form prior to the COW and when you input the COW date, the new officers will automatically be incorporated as of that date. If you have any questions, I am always just a phone call away (772-781-1098).

We will also be publishing a 2018-19 District 8 directory, so it is important to make sure information in DB2000 is correct for the many members that serve our 13 squadrons and are part of District and National committees. Also, as we get closer to the D8 Spring Conference, you will receive delegate forms. As always, I need these signed forms before your squadron can vote on important issues at the 28 April Conference meeting.

ST. LUCIE RIVER NEWS D/Lt/C John Goebel, SN



Above—10 students and Cdr. Goebel from the ABC class dated 21 January 2018

Below (L-R) New Bridge installed 18 January 2018
Secretary Lt/C Richard Pontynen, AP;
Treasurer Lt/C William Gelpke, AP; Cdr John Goebel, SN;
Administrative Officer, Lt/C Sheri Muller, S;
Educational Officer Lt/C Paul Vallier, SN



NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2018-2019 DISTRICT 8 BRIDGE AND COMMITTEES

United States Power Squadrons®
is America's Boating Club

District 8 Nominating Committee Report for Watch Year 2018-2019

In accordance with the Bylaws of District 8, Article 2, Section 2.9.1; Article 5, Section 5.5 and Article 6, Section 6.5; the USPS District 8 Nominating Committee submits the following proposed slate for election under Article 4, Section 4.3.1 at the 2018 District Spring Conference.

BRIDGE OFFICERS

District Commander	D/Lt/C Janet Leh , P (Vero Beach)
District Executive Officer	D/Lt/C Edwin A. Hoover , AP (Palm Beach)
District Educational Officer	D/Lt/C Richard C. Pfenniger , SN (Hollywood)
District Administrative Officer	1 st /Lt Michael N. Jackson , SN (Sebastian)
District Secretary	Lt Kathryn Babin (Pompano Beach)
District Treasurer	D/Lt/C William R. Gillette , AP (Key West)

ASSISTANT BRIDGE OFFICERS

Asst District Educational Officer	Cdr Richard Schewe , SN (Key West)
Asst Administrative Officer	Vacant
Asst Secretary	D/Lt/C John E. Goebel , SN (St Lucie River)
Asst Treasurer	P/R/C Nigel E. Hargreaves , SN (Sebastian Inlet)

GENERAL COMMITTEES

RULES COMMITTEE

- 1 year - Cdr **Ronald M. Ray**, JN (Sebastian)*
- 2 year - **Sandra Landsman** (Palm Beach)*
- 3 year - P/V/C **Peter Mitchelson**, SN (Sebastian)

AUDITING COMMITTEE

- 1 year - **Kathryn M. Pringle**, P (Pompano Beach)*
- 2 year - P/R/C **William E. Husted**, SN (St Lucie River)*
- 3 year - P/N/F/Lt **Frank Dougherty, Jr**, AP (Sebastian)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- 1 year - P/R/C **Marjorie Baraff**, AP (Pompano Beach)*
- 1 year - **Harold Leh**, AP (Vero Beach)*
- 2 year - Stf/C **Alan Furtado**, SN (Pompano Beach)*
- 2 year - P/D/Lt/C **Evelyn Northrup**, AP (Coral Ridge)*
- 3 year - D/C **Joyce Newman**, AP (Palm Beach)
- 3 year - P/C **Richard Wood**, JN (Palm Beach)

All nominees have indicated that they are willing and able to serve in the positions noted, if elected.

The nominees for District Educational Officer and Assistant District Educational Officer have been approved by the National Educational Officer V/C Craig Fraser, SN.

*In accordance with D8 Bylaws articles 2.9.1; 2.9.2; and 2.9.3 only new members to a General Committee need to be elected. Members listed above noted with an asterisk have previously been elected and are currently serving in a 3 year term.

Submitted by D8 Nominating Committee

P/R/C Marjorie Baraff, AP (Chair)	Harold Leh, Jr, AP
Stf/C Mary Dodd, SN	P/D/Lt/C Evelyn Northrup, AP
Cdr Doris Pfenniger, P	Stf/C Allan Furtado, SN

DISTRICT 8 SPRING CONFERENCE 2018



DISTRICT 8

SPRING CONFERENCE AND
CHANGE OF WATCH
27-29 APRIL 2018

Embassy Suites by Hilton

4350 PGA Boulevard Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

Rates (incl. breakfast): \$138-King/\$143-2 Doubles

Deadline for rates: 13 APRIL, Group Code D58

561-622-1000/palmbeachgardens.embsuites.com

Reg. Guests enjoy Breakfast and Happy Hour in the Atrium

***NOTE:** Make your room reservation with the hotel, indicate your confirmation number on your registration form and include payment with registration

FRIDAY EVENING AT THE DERBY \$15.00

Wear your Derby finest, watch the ponies run, and enjoy an array of great food, cash bar and loads of fun for a very special evening in the full spirit of the Kentucky Derby.

Don't miss this! Advance Reservation Required.

SATURDAY LUNCH BUFFET \$17.00

Assorted Field Greens with Two Dressings or Soup
Sliced Roast Beef, Turkey Breast, Honey Baked Ham
Lettuce, Tomato, Onion and Pickle Spears
Assorted Cheeses, Breads, Chips Cookies, Beverage

SATURDAY BANQUET \$52.50

- Deluxe Salad

Choice of one: Seared Grouper or Sliced Tenderloin,

- Orzo Pasta with Brunoise Vegetables
- Grilled Asparagus with Garlic Butter
- White Chocolate & Milk Chocolate Mousse
- Beverage Station Serving Coffee, & Hot Tea
- Cash Bar

(Please let us know if you have a food allergy)

FRIDAY 27 APRIL

Registration: 2nd Floor Lobby.....1330-1600

Fall Council: Ballroom.....1400

Seminar: Ballroom.....1600-1700

"America's Boating Club® - What You Need to Know"

Evening at the Derby: Verdera Room

Advance Reservation Required.....1830-2030

SATURDAY 28 APRIL

First Timers, 2nd Floor Balcony.....0800

Seminars and Workshops:

VSC Certification, Mozart..... 0800-1200

Principles of Leadership, Bach.....0830-1045

Common Medical Emergencies: Are you Prepared?,

Beethoven.....0830-0930

Paddle Sports: Is It For You? Beethoven.....0945-1045

Keynote Presentation: Ballroom..... 1100-1200

"Weather, Climate Change and Boating in South Florida"

Dr. Lee Branscome, President & Maria Jacobson, B.S.,
Climatological Consulting Corporation

Lunch: Advance Reservation Required, Atrium..1200-1300

Conference: Ballroom.....1330-1600

Commander's Reception: 4th Floor.....1730-1830

Cash Bar: Outside Ballroom.....1830-1900

Banquet: Advance Reservation Required, Ballroom...1900
Live Entertainment and Dancing

SUNDAY 29 APRIL

Squadron Officers: Chopin.....0830-1130

Squadron Educational Officers: Mozart.....0830-1130

UNIFORM OF THE DAY

Friday Day.....USPS Casual or Suitable Attire

Saturday Day.....Uniform G or Suitable Attire

Evening.....Uniform A (bow tie) or Suitable Attire

Sunday Day.....USPS Casual or Suitable Attire

Complete and mail reservation form and check to D/Lt/C William Gillette, AP, 1415 Truman Ave., Key West, FL 33040

CERT. NO	RANK	NAME	GRADE	Derby \$15.00	Lunch \$17.00	Beef \$52.50	Grouper \$52.50	TOTAL
ACCOMODATION NIGHTS # _____ NIGHTS @ \$138/\$143 (*See note above)								
I confirm I have made a reservation with the hotel and my confirmation number is _____								
I enclose a check (made payable to "District 8" for								
Is this your first time to attend a District 8 Conference Yes ___ No ___								

SQUADRON EMAIL

This is our annual Change of Watch. Come support our incoming District Commander, Janet Leh, P and show your appreciation for the outgoing D/C Joyce Newman, AP.

BECOME A VESSEL EXAMINER AT CONFERENCE

P/R/C Marjorie Baraff, AP

Our new VEs need boats to inspect on Saturday morning at our Spring Conference

Please bring your trailerable boat and safety equipment, even if it is already inspected, to help certify more D8 Vessel Examiners

Help support our D8 VSC Training Program and get

FREE

Weekend boat and trailer dry storage

27, 28, 29 April 2018

at the Embassy Suites on PGA

We're counting on you.

To reserve parking space for your boat & trailer

Contact Margie Baraff

Email - baraffkatz@bellsouth.net

Call - 954-436-2009

Call or text 772-538-1405

SEBASTIAN INLET NEWS

P/R/C Nigel Hargreaves, SN

On Sunday 11 March 2018, Sebastian Inlet Sail and Power Squadron held its 15th annual Change of Watch. The organizer for the evening was P/C Marnie Sullivan, AP who approached me a couple of months ago to ask who, besides our own squadron should we invite. Well, not one to be backward in coming forward, I invited the entire District Bridge and anyone who holds a national office within our District, as well as our neighboring squadron commander to our north in D/23. The result was that we had seven squadrons represented and two Districts! I would like to feel that it wasn't the invitation that urged them to attend but more to the fact that after so many years in the organization and our District, but only a couple of years with Sebastian Inlet, we can now say Commander Ron Ray, JN. Our thanks go to our "outgoing" outgoing Commander, Charmaine Brayton, S and the squadron looks forward to setting new goals in the year ahead.



Above L-R: Installing Officer Stf/C Allan Furtado, SN; Cdr Ron Ray, JN; Lt/C Michael Jackson, SN; Lt/C Terry Green, AP; Lt/C Marcey Kregen, S; Lt/C Margaret Sabol, AP; 1st Lt David Mangold, SN; Right: Cdr Ron Ray, JN is congratulated on his new position by installing officer Stf/C Allan Furtado, SN



VESSEL SAFETY CHECK **P/R/C Marjorie Baraff, AP**

Vessel Safety Check **at our D8 Spring Conference and COW**



Our D8 Spring Conference will have a lot of VSC going on. I am personally inviting all 39 of our Vessel Examiners and every D8 member to be there to help us celebrate on Saturday 28 April 2018 at the Embassy Suites on PGA.

All of our certified VEs are encouraged to please come and volunteer to help mentor a VE student during our onsite boat inspections from 1000-1200, help with the paperwork and cheer us on.

And, we still need more trailerable boats to be at the Embassy Suites for us to inspect. So please volunteer to bring your boat, bring your neighbor and their boat, bring your brother or sister and their boat, or PWC, kayak, or dinghy.

And after lunch, at our Conference and COW, our 2017 VSC awards will be presented and our new Vessel Examiners from the morning course will be introduced – all with a bit of fanfare and clapping. This is the time to go right ahead and unleash your inner hoots and hollers!!

I'm not going to divulge the names of the winners here, gotta be there to hear it in real time. Maybe you'll be receiving an award. If so, don't make your Commander "schlep" your award home – be there in person so we can all congratulate you.

I will, however, tell you now that there are:

2 D8 VEs who will be receiving USPS VSC awards,

9 D8 VEs will be receiving District 8 VSC awards,

and, our top 3 D8 squadrons from 2017 will be recognized for going above and beyond in their support of our VSC Program.

So, please come, fill the conference room with your smiles and energy and support D8 and what we all do to promote safe boating, fraternity and civic service.

Thanks and C U THERE 28 April 2018

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE **R/C Kathleen Lambert, AP**

There has been a change in the United States Power Squadrons public site URL from usps.org to AmericasBoatingClub.org. This is an exciting new site with great graphics, videos, and easy to access information.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATORS (NASBLA)

Spring Aboard—Take a Boating Education Course—18-24 March 2018



**Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission**



Classroom Courses

Company	Area	Contact Information
Best Boat Club (US Powerboating & US Sailing)	Broward County	info@bestboatclub.com 954-784-7868
USCG AUX (United States Coast Guard Auxiliary)	Statewide	800-336-2628 or http://wow.uscgaux.info/peclass.php?unit=070
USPS (United States Power Squadron)	Statewide	888-367-8777 or www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/cfind.cgi

Online

Company	Contact Information	Price
Aceboater	https://aceboater.com/usa/en/florida	\$24.95
American Boat Operator	boatcourse.com	\$14.95
American Safety Council	floridaboatingcourse.com	\$15.00
Boat-Ed Online	Boat-ed.com/florida	\$29.50
Boater Exam.com	boaterexam.com/usa/florida/	\$29.95
BOATSmart	boatsmartexam.com/us/florida/	\$29.95
Boat Tests 101	boattests101.com/united-states/florida	\$29.99
Boat US	boatus.org	Free
Nautical Know How	boatsafe.com	\$24.95
PWC Safety School	pwcsafetyschool.com	\$15.00
Safe Boating Card	safeboatingcard.com/?ref=myfwc	\$14.95
US Power Squadrons	Americasboatingcourse.com	\$29.95

MERIT MARKS

P/R/C Ellis Simon, SN

DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER.....

Around Valentine's Day the above phrase is heard over and over. Well, diamonds are forever, and so are USPS Merit Marks. A merit mark is a symbol that you put in at least 10 hours in a calendar year volunteering toward USPS goals. That's less than one hour a month!

While 10 hours is the absolute minimum qualification, the scrutiny by National goes down as the hours climb above 10. And there is a pecking order to the scrutiny. Education activities are top priority. Next to that is civic activity. Lowest is social volunteering. We urge you to volunteer a lot more than 10 hours to assure that you get that merit mark.

Let me stop right here and say that we appreciate all our members, whether you volunteer or not. We know that many of you are unable to volunteer. Your continued membership is crucial support for the fine activities we do. We cannot do it without you! Please stay with us and help us by retaining your membership.

Collect five merit marks and you get a nice plaque declaring you a senior member. Collect 25 merit marks and you become a life member. National dues are waived for the rest of your life. Collect 50 merit marks and you become an emeritus member and a USPS Governing Board Member Emeritus.

"Fat chance!" You say. "I won't live long enough." Well, maybe. But we never know what kind of deal USPS might get us. Maybe next year, McDonalds will give all Senior Members a month's supply of Big Macs. Or maybe Coors will give us a case of Coors Light. Maybe the year after there will be a medical breakthrough and we'll all live to be 150. None of this has happened yet, but you never know.

The point is, you should grab up and treasure every merit mark that you've earned. A merit mark in hand is forever. A merit mark you should've gotten is almost impossible to come by. For any given calendar year, a recommendation for a merit mark can only be made by a Squadron or District commander. He or she may delegate the collection and reporting of data, but only the commander can submit it. The recommendation is reviewed by an area monitor and then submitted to the Chief Commander. Only the Chief Commander can award a merit mark. If you miss a merit mark, in following years, a retroactive merit mark can be awarded, but only on the personal recommendation of the commander who was in power the year the merit mark was earned. Past commanders become unavailable for many reasons. And no other person can authorize that merit mark for you. So it behooves each of us to keep track of our own time and make sure that we are credited with any merit mark we have earned in the year we earned it.

While squadron and/or district officers and chairmen do try to keep track of members' volunteer time, this tracking can be very difficult. With lots of members and dozens, maybe hundreds of events in a year, keeping track of members' volunteer time can be nearly impossible. You are advised to assume the responsibility to track and document your own hours. You may choose to record your time in any manner that works for you, such as by smart phone, tablet, computer, or just pencil & paper. Each volunteer activity you do should be recorded, including Date/Brief Description of the Work Performed/Hours & Minutes. At Halloween, you should submit your logbook to the person designated to collect the hours. Each member's merit mark recommendation will be reviewed carefully by the his/her Commander, the Executive Officer, and the Administrative Officer before being submitted to National. And rest assured, National critically reviews each and every one.

We thank you for your understanding and attention to this important issue. It takes a huge burden off our event leaders and our bridge.

SQUADRON DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

P/R/C William E. Husted, SN

“Operation O”

Submitted 1/28/18 to Squadron Development and
Membership Committees for Review and Possible Adoption

Background

How to attract new members to our member-driven organization? -- a continuing question for USPS and its members. In the midst of many ideas, particularly the new branding initiative, one comes as an extension of a squadron-directed cruise for its members. St. Lucie River Power Squadron in southeast Florida is coordinating a caravan of squadron boats for an escorted, round trip, 1-day cruise involving navigating locks and crossing Lake Okeechobee. Leave in the a.m., traverse Lake O, have lunch and return by late afternoon. Nothing truly unusual, except perhaps for the locks and traversing an open body of water 26 miles wide. Many squadrons have arranged similar squadron cruises in the past.

It was further suggested the event be promoted in traditional and social media outlets to see if any non-member boaters, perhaps new boat owners or those simply rusty in their skills, would be interested in joining the trip. Presented to the squadron's executive committee as a potential member recruitment incentive, the idea, while intriguing, might involve liability issues. Unless something is being overlooked, the overall concept is so simple it's perplexing why it has not been more aggressively promoted by National as an official recommendation even though similar ideas have certainly been proposed and related activities conducted in the past.

Purpose of Operation O

- > A squadron-sanctioned cruise for USPS members and also non-members seeking to build their on-water skills and confidence, as well as ascertain their interest in USPS and all the organization has to offer.
- > The cruise would involve non-members traveling in their own boats with their own individual liability insurance policies.
- >>> It would couple perhaps the best member recruitment concept of direct VSC/VE contact with a pleasurable on-water experience which is what USPS is all about for the most interaction possible.

Planning/Prerequisites

- Discuss and approve at Executive Committee meeting with published minutes.
- Publish Member Event open to the public in squadron newsletter, as well as in traditional and social media.
- Establish minimal acceptable standards (e.g., boats more than 20 feet in length).
- Ensure to spell out this is a squadron-sanctioned, not squadron-sponsored event.
- Invite ABC students from former classes who didn't previously join USPS.
- Include a stopover meal, paid for by individual boat owners, at a marina or restaurant where members should individually engage non-members.
- Consider Risk Mitigation implications (e.g. standing by in event of breakdown, running out of fuel, etc.)
- Charge no fees of any kind to participants.
- Furnish no alcohol before, during or after the event.

(Cont'd on next page)

SQUADRON DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Cont'd)

P/R/C William E. Husted, SN

Mandatory Captains (Skippers) Meeting beforehand

- Outline the proposed route and provide a description of channel markers and various points of interest, as well as any other safeguards and need-to-know information.
- Designate VHF channel other than 16 for boat-to-boat communications.
- Sign by all participants, members and non-members alike, a "hold harmless" agreement, subject to individual state regulations or requirements, which would include need for towing and boat insurance coverage.
- Require highly recommended Vessel Safety Check for members and non-members.
- Offer optional educational seminar, free if possible as incentive, after meeting.

Post Cruise Call for Action

- Be sure to schedule a post-event follow up with non-members for cruise evaluation and invite to attend ABC course or direct USPS membership.

Benefits Provided by USPS

- + Exhibit enhanced boating skills perhaps not previously known to non-members
- + Clarify valuable educational tips and safer boat pointers with Vessel Safety Check
- + Furnish important public service to boating community at large
- + Engage non-members with USPS camaraderie and fellowship
- + Expose non-members to educational value of USPS membership

P/R/C William E. Husted, SN
Squadron Development and
Public Affairs Committees
uspsprc@att.net, (954) 980-8300

Legal Guidance

Be sure to clear planned event with Squadron or District Law Officer regarding any individual state regulations or requirements that might impact your event.

First contact your Squadron or District Law Officer

[USPS Law Officer, Mike Friedman, mikef@shibolet.com, (212) 244-4111 ext. 202]

Insurance Counsel

An event as described should not present any liability insurance issues, but if you have questions or concerns, please contact the Gowrie Group which represents USPS:

First contact Mary Diaz, maryd@gowrie.com, (860) 399-3643 or (800) 262-8911

[Steve Prime, VP, Gowrie Group, stevep@gowrie.com, (401) 846-5130]

VERO BEACH NEWS

D/Lt Robert G. Scully, SN

Vero Beach Power Squadron 2018 Bridge



America's Boating Club has a New Bridge in Vero - Richard L. Myers, JN of Vero Beach was installed as the new commander of the Vero Beach Power Squadron on Jan. 14, 2018 at the Vero Beach Yacht Club. Commander Myers and his wife Lt Bonnie Myers, AP own and operate a 28 foot Bayliner (Dolphin Run) and cruise the waters in Indian River County. Commander Myers has been boating for many years and has taught numerous classes at the Vero Beach Power Squadron.

The 2018 bridge consists of Commander R. Myers, JN; Executive Officer Lt/C Larry Epstein P; Education Officer Lt/C Richard Sheehan, AP; Treasurer Lt/C Patrick Sullivan, S; and Secretary Lt/C Joanne Michini.

The 62nd Annual Change of Watch ceremony included dinner, dancing and awards presentations. It took a lot of planning and involved many individuals to orchestrate and facilitate the activity which was coordinated by D/Lt Mary Wolstein, S.

The meeting was called to order by the Master of Ceremonies followed by the presentation of the colors by P/C Jim Ward, JN and D/Lt Robert Scully, SN.

Various Vero Beach Power Squadron officers and spouses were introduced as they entered and walked to their respective tables. The commander elect led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by an introduction of past commanders and distinguished guests.

Cdr Tamara Smith, S gave her retirement statement and dismissed her 2017 bridge followed by a passing of the commanders' flag and the installation of the new commander and his bridge.

D/Lt/C Janet Leh P, installation officer, orchestrated the event. For the closing remarks Janet asked all in attendance to stand and raise their right hand. She then explained to Dick that all those standing volunteered to support him during his term of office.

Website www.verobeachpowersquadron.com, Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Vero-Beach-Power-Squadron-1255766854467333/> & Twitter - <https://twitter.com/vbpro>.

Acknowledgements

VBPS Bridge Officers

*D Lt/C Janet Leh, P
(Installation Officer)*

*Lt George Thurman, AP
(Master of Ceremonies)*

*Lt Katherine Thomas, P
(Roster Information)*

*Tom Barrett, S
(Entertainment)*

*Lt Frank "Tom" Jones, S
(Chaplin)*

*P/C James Ward, JN
(American Flag Bearer)*

*P/C Robert Scully, SN
(USPS Flag Bearer)*

*Barbara Epstein
(Commodore - Vero Beach Yacht Club)*

*Mary Susan Wolstein, GM, VBIC
WE ARE--VERO BEACH PROUD!
Vero Beach Yacht Club Staff*

Vero Beach Power Squadron

62nd ANNUAL

Change of Watch
14 January 2018



Held At
The Vero Beach Yacht Club

Vero Beach Power Squadron

2018 Bridge Officers

Commander.....Cdr Richard Myers, JN
Executive Officer.....Lt/C Lawrence Epstein, P
Educational Officer.....Lt/C Richard Sheehan, AP
Administration Officer.....
Secretary.....Lt/C Joanne Michini
Treasurer.....Lt/C Patrick Sullivan, S

Assistants

Asst. Ed. Officer.....1st Lt (P/C) Jeremiah Casey, AP
Asst. Admin. Officer...1st Lt Tilghman Fenstermaker, P
Asst. Secretary.....1st Lt Judy Ward
Asst. Treasurer.....1st Lt Susan Fenstermaker

Executive Committee

Bridge Plus
Immediate Past Commander
Lt (P/C) Tamara Smith, S

Members at Large

P/C Mary Wohlstein, S Sue Hamel-Miller, P
Penny Martin Carol Pastirchak, P
David Hornchek, P John Luca, S

2017 Change of Watch Program Call To Order by Master of Ceremonies

Lt. George Thurman, AP
Presentation of the Colors
American Flag - P/C James Ward, JN
USPS Ensign - P/C Robert Scully, SN
Introduction of Bridge Officers
Lt. George Thurman, AP
Pledge of Allegiance
Cdr Elect Richard Myers, JN
Introduction of Honor of Guests
Cdr Elect Richard Myers, JN
Introduction of the Installation Officer
D/Lt/C Janet Leh, P
Commander Smith's Retiring Statement
Cdr Tamara Smith, S
Dismissal of 2017 Bridge
Cdr Tamara Smith, S
Presentation of Past Commander Flag
D/Lt/C Janet Leh, P
Installation of New Commander Smith
D/Lt/C Janet Leh, P
Presentation of Commanders' Flag
D/Lt/C Janet Leh, P
Installation of 2018 Bridge Officers
D/Lt/C Janet Leh, P
Acceptance Statement
Cdr Richard Myers, JN
Invocation
Chaplin Lt Frank "Tom" Jones, S
DINNER
Presentation of Awards
Cdr Richard Myers, JN
P/C Tamara Smith, S
Closing Remarks
D/Lt/C Janet Leh

USPS NATIONAL MEETING 18-25 FEBRUARY 2018



D8 members get together for a photo.



Clockwise from Center: D/Lt/C Richard C. Pfenniger, SN, receives his 50th merit mark; District 8 Life members include P/V/C Peter W. Mitchelson, SN, P/C Barbara Roemmele, JN, Louis Hirschberg, AP, and P/R/C Nigel E. Hargreaves, SN.



USPS NATIONAL MEETING 18-25 FEBRUARY 2018



Clockwise from Left: P/R/C William R. Gillette, AP is honored for his work with Ship's Store; D8 knows how to be hospitable—Welcome Flag with D/C Joyce Newman, AP and D/Lt Jim DeArmand, AP; members at the ready to grip and grin; D8 takes 2nd place in the 6-8 year old's poster contest with submission by Jose Salas from Vero Beach.



See these and lots of other great pictures courtesy of D/Lt Arthur R Dodd, SN, on his web site at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/artdodd52/sets/72157692420312801>



WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!

The following new members have joined squadrons in our District from 26 November 2017 to 4 March 2018. Encourage each one to participate in activities – educational, civic service and fraternal – that United States Power Squadrons®, District 8 and your squadron offer. We look forward to seeing all of you at our District functions.

Key West

Harriet L. Gulley
William G. Gulley
Gerrald L. Harris
Laura A. Harris

Palm Beach

Vanessa Acosta
Farah Arefi
John Banister
Martha H. Bedford
Pete Cartier
Tay Gaines
Masoud Milani
Stephen O'brien
Debbe Robinson

Pompano Beach

George Borg
Paul L. Connell, Jr.
Angela Falletta
Louis Falletta
Mark K. Joslin
Steve C. Koval
Chun S. Lee
Dane C. Mathews

Pompano Beach (cont'd)

Beata Neter
Witold Neter
Henry R. Somers
Leanne S. Sullivan
Vincent W. Sullivan
Elisabeth Szaruga
Virgil Szaruga

Sebastian Inlet

Blaine Laskowski
Peter Laskowski
Wendy J. Oliver
Domenick L. Raschella

St. Lucie River

Adrianna L. Morris
James A. O'Hare
Terry K. O'Hare
Anna L. Tharpe
Paul A. Tharpe

Vero Beach

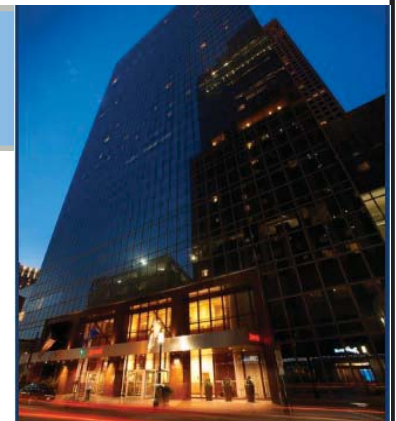
Linda M. Anselmini
Trey Barlow

Vero Beach (cont'd)

Beverly D. Boone
David Dan'l Boone
Bruce A. Campbell
Ruth A. Campbell
Anthony F. Faresich
Christopher A. Guerrieri
Cynthia W. Guerrieri
Charlene G. Icart
Peter M. Icart
Kevin M. Janssen
Susan Janssen
Susan T. Kramer
John Kramer, Jr.
Arthur E. Leblanc
Roger E. Nutt
James H. Powers
Patricia Powers
Barbara J. Rose
Maureen E. Tate
Thomas M. Tate
Warren B. Von Schuch
Wendy W. Von Schuch
Regina M. Zack
Bob Zeliadt
Sandra M. Zeliadt

2018 FALL GOVERNING BOARD Minneapolis, MN

Come join us 12-19 August 2018 in beautiful Minneapolis.
More info to follow soon or go to
[https://www.usps.org/php/reservations_new/meetings.php?
mtg_id=34](https://www.usps.org/php/reservations_new/meetings.php?mtg_id=34)
For the latest and greatest information!



BOOSTERS

D/Lt Ronnie and Lt Kathy Babin 6-18

Stf/C Allan and Stf/C Jan Furtado 2-20

D/Lt/C Janet and Harold Leh 2-19

Cdr Richard A. and Lt Phyllis Schewe 5-18

Sebastian Inlet Sail & Power Squadron 12-17

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

Thank You All!

D/Lt John W. Northrup, AP, Booster Chairman

CALENDAR OF EVENTS


2018

27-29 April	District 8 Spring Conference Embassy Suites, Palm Beach Gardens
13-15 July	Distict 8 Rendezvous, Bahia Mar Marina, Fort Lauderdale
12-19 August	2018 Governing Board, Minneapolis, MN
26-28 October	District 8 Fall Conference Embassy Suites, Palm Beach Gardens

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

2018

6 June	Pieces of 8 articles due for Summer issue
10 April	Embassy Suites, PGA, Spring Conference Room Rate



BE A BOOSTER !

D/8 "PIECES OF EIGHT" BOOSTER

Enclosed is my tax deductible check in the amount of \$30.00 payable to D/8 USPS.
Return to: **D/Lt/C William Gillette, 1415 Truman Ave, Key West, FL 33040-**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

SQUADRON: _____

SHIP'S STORE

New Dual-Branded Items. Go to <http://store.shopusps.org/Catalog/See-Whats-New/> to see more!



USPS America's
Boating Club Navy Cap

Item Code: 0555925
Price: \$15.00



USPS America's
Boating Club Khaki Cap

Item Code: 0555924
Price: \$15.00



10% off dual-branded pullovers! Use promo code **10OFF**

