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Lt/C Edwin G. Kridler, SN
762-3986

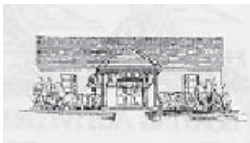
Lt/C Janice Kromer, P
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Squadron Headquarters Bldg.
1376 Orange Grove Road
Charleston, SC 29407

MEETINGS

Executive Committee - 1st Thursday @ 1900

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NOTICE

**Executive Committee Meetings
First Thursday of every month**

New Start Time 1900

**SAFE BOATING THROUGH
EDUCATION**

**From the Commander
Lt/C Edwin G. Kridler, SN**



Wow!!! What a 24-hour time period!!! At our January meeting, one of our members (who asked to remain anonymous) offered to contribute \$1000 toward the purchase of a Power Point system for our Educational Department if our squadron would match his donation. By the end of the meeting, we received donations and pledges matching that amount. By the end of the following morning, we received additional donations and pledges that doubled the amount received at the meeting. It now looks like we will be able to purchase two systems for our Educational Department.

These systems are very important to our squadron. All of our USPS courses (both public and member courses) are being developed around Power Point. Overhead transparencies are becoming a thing of the past. Each course will include a Power Point presentation for each class session. These presentations will be a part of the course Instructor Manual, and they can be modified as needed or desired by our instructors to meet local conditions and each instructor's teaching style. With the procurement of this equipment and software, our instructors can take advantage of the tools that have been and are being developed, by our USPS course committees. Many, many thanks to all who donated. I know that our Educational Officer, Lt/C Steve Kromer, AP will repeat my thank you to all.

This helps meet one of our squadron's needs. We still have other considerations on which we need to focus. One of the more pressing issues is to enhance our building fund. We are facing several expenditures for our headquarters building. One of the most urgent is a new roof for the building. There are also several additional repair and modification projects that are needed for maintaining and improving the building. How can you help? How about having fun and food on 5 March? Plan to attend our Fund Raiser Oyster Roast discussed elsewhere in this issue of The Palmetto Log. This event promises a

good time, good food, and good company and companionship. I'll be there. Will you?

Before our January meeting, I had planned to write about the USPS Annual Meeting that took place earlier in January. However, even though the meeting was long, there was nothing discussed that was controversial, although several of the bridge and committee reports were interesting. Local events, however, seemed more important to discuss.

I'll conclude by asking each member to become more involved in squadron activities. Please take time to attend our various activities. Join us for a cruise and/or meeting. Sign up for a class. Help with a committee. Most of all have fun doing these things.

Ed

Christmas Decoration Winner



At the annual Cooper River Marina Holiday Boat Decorating Contest "Morningstar II", a Charleston Power Squadron vessel, wins Grand Prize. The Charleston county park district on 22 December 2004 awarded the honor. Proud owners, Bob and Mary Gulbrandsen, went with a southwestern theme named "Santa-Fe Santa". Santa is at the helm wearing a sombrero and lizard and cactus adorn the decks. Congratulations Mary and Bob!

Executive Officer
Lt/C Janice Kromer, P



Now that we've had a successful showing at the Charleston Convention Center Boat Show during the last weekend of January, we will start preparing for the next round of upcoming events. It's important that our squadron remain as visible as possible to the Charleston boating world so that we can increase participation in our Boat Smart classes, and ultimately, our membership.

Upcoming Events

It's going to be a very busy spring for the squadron and its members. Please mark your calendars for the following events:

Charleston In Water Boat Show – 31 March through 3 April 2005

Blessing of the Fleet – 24 April 2005

National Safe Boating Week – 21 May through 27 May 2005

Charleston Maritime Festival – 16 June through 19 June 2005

The Executive Department will be planning the squadron's participation in these events. As these plans progress, we'll keep the membership updated. But remember, please, that nothing happens without volunteers. I know you're tired of being asked to help, but please don't leave the representation of the squadron to the 10% of members that do 90% of the work. Come on out and participate. You'll meet new people, have fun, do a community service, and feel good about yourself!

Vessel Safety Check Update

Congratulations to Stephen Kromer, who is now an official, certified, Vessel Safety Examiner. Tony Ward walked Steve through his required five safety checks on Saturday, January 8, 2005. Steve is now authorized to perform VSC's on his own, so if anyone needs their boat examined, please contact Steve at 768-4740 or skromer@telecomdb.com.

The national goal for number of Vessel Safety Checks was 32,000. National closed the year with a grand total of 32,928! But we're still low on number of examiners. To date, there are 2,589 (make that 2,590 counting Steve!) and the goal is 2,8000. Don't forget how easy it is now to become an examiner. All you have to do is print the manual from the web, pass the open book test, and perform five checks with a certified examiner. And now there is a new VSE flag for you to fly in lieu of an Officers Flag when someone on the boat is available to perform a Vessel Safety Check. Fly it while you are in your Marina, while you are at a rendezvous, while you are sitting at a launch ramp – but not while underway.

Please tell everyone you know that BoatUS and West Marine have extended their 10% discount for boaters who have had a VSC in 2003 or 2004. And this year, BoatUS and West Marine will extend the discount even if the boat fails the inspection! The discount is to encourage boaters to get a VSC even if they may not be in compliance with all boat requirements. The discount is limited to safety equipment.

It's so easy to become certified as an inspector, so, please, if you're interested, call either Tony Rahaim, our VSC Chair or me.

Janice



**Administrative Officer
Lt/C David E. Walsh, P**



resource management. You will have a chance to meet some of the scientists who are working to restore our marine habitat. Our visit to the Hollings Marine Laboratory will be on 10 May 2005. Look for more details on this event in the upcoming issue of the Palmetto Log.

We're looking for help. If you know of an event or a topic of interest for one of our monthly meetings, please contact me at 556-3258 or e-mail: wals6563@bellsouth.net

David Walsh

We are pleased to report an excellent program schedule for the coming months. Our February Membership Meeting features a presentation by Tommy Graham, "Cape Romaine Lighthouse Today and the Future." Tommy is working to preserve the lighthouse. His presentation will include photos of the Cape Romaine Lighthouse and surrounding wildlife area. The meeting is at Squadron Headquarters on Orange Grove Road on Thursday 10 February 2005. Social hour starts at 1830 with a potluck dinner and featured speaker at 1930. This presentation is particularly timely, since the Squadron's Cruise to the Cape Romaine Lighthouse is the following Saturday 12 February 2005.

In March we have a speaker from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This presentation will give us an update on USACE's work in the Charleston area and the Intracoastal Waterway. The meeting includes a catered dinner at Squadron Headquarters on Thursday, 10 March 2005. Social hour starts at 1830. There is a nominal cost for the catered dinner.

Our April meeting will be at the Charleston Yacht Club on Lockwood Drive. Claiborne Young, author of "Cruising Guides to Coastal Carolinas, Georgia and Florida," will speak. This is an opportunity to meet the author of the Southeast's definitive cruising guides and learn about his latest books. The meeting is in the Charleston Yacht Club's Flag Room on Monday, 12 April 2005 and starts at 1830. Come early for a social beverage and meet some new friends at the Charleston Yacht Club. Dinner will be at a local restaurant (to be announced) following Mr. Young's presentation.

In May, we are visiting the Hollings Marine Laboratory at Fort Johnson. This laboratory is a premier marine research center specializing in fisheries and marine

CPS Members Begin Le Gran Cruise

CPS members Bobbi Jo and Arnold O'Neal are off on an adventure of a lifetime. For approximately the next year, they will be living on their boat, *Imagine*, a 36' Gulfstar Trawler. They're headed first for the Florida Keys, then to the Bahamas, and then Chesapeake Bay. If all goes well, they may do the Great Loop. Their contact info is as follows: PO Box 111, Mount Pleasant, SC 29465; (843) 729-7175; bobbijooneal@hotmail.com and <http://oneals.blogspot.com>.



The O'Neal's 36' Gulfstar Trawler *Imagine*

Secretary
Lt/C Robert A. Gulbrandsen, S



Hello everyone and I hope you are all looking forward to the 2005 Cruising and Boating season. We have things off and rolling in the Secretaries Department. Both the 2003 and the 2004 Historians Reports have been filed and accepted by National and District Historians. We are well on the way to completion of your 2005 Members Directory. In fact by the time this Palmetto Log makes it's way to you, the Directories should be in the mail or at least close to it. I hope everyone will enjoy some of the new sections and is able to use the Directory as a reference tool. If you have any ideas on how to improve or make your Directory more user friendly, please let me know.

A number of our members still have not let us in on their email address. You will note that, if you have no email address shown in the 2005 Directory, then we don't have one on file for you. This is a great way of being reminded of what is coming up on the event calendar. If we have your email address we will send you reminders of the latest meetings, dinners or class availabilities. If you need to update or give me a new address, please send them to me at Morningstar804@msn.com.

Please note the following address change for your Charleston Power Squadron; we are now accepting mail at 1376 Orange Grove Road, Charleston SC, 29407. This is a change from our Post Office box that is no longer in service.

Bob



Oyster Roast Fund Raiser

WHEN SATURDAY, 5 March 2005
1600

WHERE Fred Wichmann's Home
"Toad Hall"

125 Riverland Drive
Charleston, SC 29412

PRICE \$20 PER PERSON - ALL
YOU CAN EAT OYSTERS

CASH BAR

MENU OYSTERS, HOTDOGS,
CHILI, SALAD

ICE TEA, SNACKS AND DESSERT

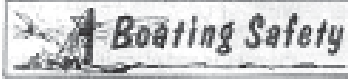
RSVP Joyce Wichmann E-mail:
jwich@knology.net

or call her at 795-9172

All proceeds from the Oyster Roast will go into the Charleston Power Squadron's Reserve Fund. We need to build our reserve to take care of anticipated building maintenance and pay for other future expenses. The Wichmanns have generously offered to host this event at their home. Squadron volunteers will be helping prepare the food and tend the bar. This event will be held outside so dress warm; it may get cool at sun set.

**COME OUT AND ENJOY THE
FUN!!!**

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND
HELP OUT THE SQUADRON.**



Safety Officer

Lt Art D Clark, P

Choosing Lines for Your Boat

Three factors should be considered when choosing lines for your boat: the type (twisted or braided), the material, and the load the line will bear. Twisted line is typically three strands twisted together. Disadvantages include that it can be acidic if not properly handled, it can be hard on the hands and it has a tendency to stretch without recovery under hard loads. Braided line is woven into a smooth finish that is easier on the hands and much less prone to kinking. It has fewer tendencies to stretch than comparably sized twisted line. It is available in many decorative colors, which make them nice for dock lines, however it is considerably more expensive.

Most boaters use line made of synthetic material. These are not prone to rot and tend to retain strength with years of alternating sun and moisture. Nylon is preferred for most uses including dock lines and anchor lines. It has a degree of stretch that can act as a shock absorber when used as anchor line or in towing another boat. Polypropylene is much less strong, frays easily and deteriorates quickly in sun. Because it floats, it is typically used as a ski-tow rope. It is sold as inexpensive anchor line, but is not suitable for anchoring or tying up any but the smallest of boats. Polyester lines are strong flexible and resist abrasion; however, they are expensive. Dacron is also strong and easy to handle but is also very expensive and is typically used in sailboat rigging.

The size of the line chosen should match the weight of the load it will bear. There are many charts available from the manufacturers of line. Boat U.S. suggests the following for dock lines

:

Boat Size	Line Size
20-30 feet:	3/8 inch
30-40 feet:	5/8 inch
over 40 feet:	3/4 inch.

For anchor lines, they suggest:

Boat Size	Line Size
up to 25 feet:	3/8 inch
25-35 feet:	1/2 inch
35-50 feet:	5/8 inch
over 50 feet:	3/4 inch

Line Care

A few simple tips will ensure your line will last many years:

Do not overload line. A safe working load is about 20% of the breaking strength. Avoid kinks and sharp bends that weaken fibers.

Chafing is another problem. Abrasions and rubbing of a line as it goes over a corner or sharp edge can cause lines to deteriorate quickly. Chafing gear can be purchased at marine stores, or you can fashion your own with hose or tubing.

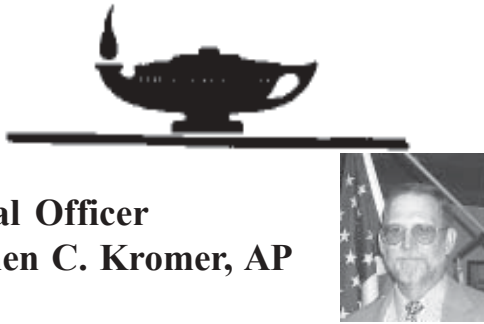
Caring for nylon is easy. It will last longer if you wash out salt and sand after each trip. Dry in the sun to avoid mildew.

Keeping lines coiled and stowed ensures it is easier to get to them quickly when needed in a hurry. Loose lines not only look sloppy but also can be a trip hazard. When coiling twisted line a trick to keeping it flat is to give the line a little half-twist clockwise each time you go over the hand holding the coil. Braided line resists kinks and there is no need to do this.

So remember, choose the proper lines and care for them. This will ensure your boat will look sharp and that the lines will function properly for years to come.

Article by Chris McNeal





Educational Officer
Lt/C Stephen C. Kromer, AP

Last month I told you that we were waiting for results from the fall courses. Well, we have most of them.

Completing Advanced Piloting were: Jack Meyer, Le Anne Meyer, Janice Kromer.

These folks got the best-combined scores for a class since I've been Educational Officer. Jack Meyer scored 100% on the open book portion of the exam. I believe that is the first time I have seen that. It may also have been the first time that Glenn Workman, the instructor had seen a 100%! Congratulations, Jack. Janice and LeAnne both also worked extremely hard and the scores show it. Scores like these really motivate the instructors. So the next time you see any of these folks, give them a big thumbs up.

Completing Weather 102 were: Mike Harler and Nelson Hicks.

Mike and Nelson completed weather 101 last year and so both now have completed the entire course. Many thanks to Paul Yura, of the National Weather Service, who did his usual fine job teaching this course.

Completing Engine Maintenance were: Art Clark, Jerry Kemerer, Stephanie Kemerer, Chris McNeal, Kara Grasso and Joe Kovacs.

I think all of the students had fun with this course. The class even made a field trip to Duncan's Boat Harbor. The mechanics at Duncan's used a stripped down engine to show the class how different repairs are made. Duncan's put two members' boats in the water, Regal

Chicks and Sunday Drive, and the class then went through the maintenance check lists and location of different engine components on each of the boats. Dave Walsh, Ken Beeber & Art Clark instructed this course. Based on the comments from the folks that took the course, they did a bang up job.



Engine Maintenance Class Inspects Boat Engine during field trip to Duncan's. Left to right, Joe Kovacks, Kara Grasso, David Walsh, Chris McNeal and Art Clark.

I was hoping to have the results of the Piloting exams for this edition of the Log, but no such luck. Since this was the first time we used the new format for Piloting, both John VanWay and I are curious to see how things turn out. Oh well, I'm sure we will have them for next month.

By the time you get this Log, spring classes will have started. We are teaching Seamanship, Cruise Planning, Marine Electronics and Junior Navigation. If you would like to join us, please call me at 768-4740 or send me an email at skromer@telecomdb.com. There is still time to get started.

That's all for this month.

Steve



Squadron Christmas Party Report

Power of The Squadron

“POWER”ful Support for Our Educational Program

During the 24 hours from 13 Jan 2005 at 1900 to 14 Jan 2005 at 1859 amazing things happened.

At the general membership meeting on 13 Jan 2005 one of our members pledged \$1,000 towards the purchase of computer equipment needed by the educational department and challenged the other members at the meeting to pledge another \$1,000. Within 30 minutes the folks at the meeting met the challenge.

On the morning of 14 January 2005 two more members pledged \$1,000 each.

These pledges provide the money for the educational department to purchase two complete Power Point computer systems. This in turn allows The Charleston Power Squadron to continue to update our courses and give our students a better experience in the classes. We hope the equipment will be available for the start of the spring classes in February.

These pledges provide more than 25% of the estimated required money to fund the financial recovery from our recent problems. We can now focus on rebuilding the financial reserves of the squadron and repairing the headquarters building.

We cannot find the words to thank properly all the members who contributed during the 24 hour amazing hours. The best we can do is: *thank you, thank you and thank you* again. We hope the rest of the membership will be as generous and caring when we ask for help with the additional funds needed.

Executive Committee

“Twas 9 December before Christmas and all through HQ not a creature was stirring not even a mouse. Starting at 1830 friends arrived bearing gifts and good food for a great party that brought down the house.” Well enough bad poetry, here are some photos of the Christmas festivities at Charleston Power Squadron’s Headquarters.



Cara Grasso and Faith Wendling enjoy the food.



Janice Kromer wins a headlamp during the Chinese gift exchange



Ed Kridler holding the bowl, Carol Davis sitting and Jim Davis Drawing a number during the Chinese gift exchange

February and March Cruises

Cape Romain Lighthouse Cruise 12 February 2005

Come join us for a cruise to the Cape Romain Lighthouse on 12 February. At 0900 on Saturday 12 February 2005, boats will depart from Leland Marine Services in McClellenville, SC for the trip to Lighthouse Island. If coming by car, park at Leland Marine Services and go to the dock by 0830 Saturday morning to board a Squadron boat for the trip to Lighthouse Island. We recommend that you bring rubber boots or shoes that you don't mind getting wet. The short walk to the lighthouse is muddy but well worth the hike. After spending about 2 hours exploring the island and visiting the lighthouse, we will return to McClellenville around 1500.

Saturday evening, dinner/oyster roast is planned at McClellenville's famous Crab Pot Restaurant on Hwy 17. Those coming by car are asked to transport boaters from the Leland Marine Services to the Crab Pot Restaurant. Make your reservations for the Crab Pot by contacting Cruise Co-Chairmen Jack and Le Anne Meyer at: 865-7356 Or E-mail: jfmeyer@comcast.net

You won't want to miss this unique chance to visit Cape Romain's historic lighthouse. Our Cruise Captain, Fred Wichmann, was born at the Cape Romain Lighthouse and February is Fred's birthday. Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge is a 64,000-acre Class I Wilderness and accessible only by boat. It is the largest nesting site for loggerhead sea turtles outside of Florida, averaging 1,000 nests per year. It is also home to many other endangered species, among them the American kestrel, bald eagle, glossy ibis, least tern, osprey, peregrine falcon, and wood stork.

Annual Hornick Cruise 27 March 2004

The annual Hornick Cruise will take place at Buzzards Roost Marina, 2408 Maybank Highway on Johns Island on Saturday, 26 March 2005. .

This cruise is named after John N. Hornick, a one-time active and enthusiastic member who upon his death in 1960 bequeathed the Squadron one thousand dollars. Half of which was for the purchase of training aids and educational materials and the rest was for the purchase of beer to be served at squadron social functions. Although the beer money was used long ago, we dedicate this cruise in his memory.

US Power Squadron Certified Boat Inspectors and members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will perform vessel Safety Checks. Bring your boat for a free safety check beginning at 1000.

We are planning a cookout in the marina's picnic area at about 1200. Bring a side dish, dessert or snack to share with friends. Burgers, hot dogs and beer will be furnished at a cost of \$5 per person.



*For more information on our cruises, contact Cruise Co-Chairmen Jack and Le Anne Meyer at:
865-7356 Or E-mail: jfmeyer@comcast.net*

Letter from Tony Rahaim, Chairman Vessel Safety Check Committee

December 28, 2004

Greetings Ladies and Gentlemen,

First off, thanks for allowing me to join the Charleston Power Squadron this past summer, and for all the support and advice as I have transitioned from being a boating enthusiast over the last 25 years, to a full time owner and live aboard.

Second, this is what I hope to be the first of several articles over the next year covering the vessel safety check program, and the interrelated areas of safety and security on, near and around the water.

Vessel Safety Checks or VSC's

To begin with, and quoted directly from our squadron's web page on the subject: *"A Vessel Safety Check is a courtesy examination of your boat (Vessel) to verify the presence and condition of certain Safety Equipment required by State and the Federal regulations. The Vessel Examiner is a trained specialist and is a member of the United States Power Squadrons or the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. They will also make certain recommendations and discuss certain safety issues that will make you a safer boater. This is not boarding or a law enforcement issue. No citations will be given as a result of this encounter. We will supply you with a copy of our evaluation so that you may follow some of the suggestions given. Vessels that pass will be able to display our distinctive VSC decal. This does not exempt you from law enforcement boarding, but you can be prepared to make this a positive encounter."*

The squadron is in need of as many vessel examiners as we can get. Anyone over the age of 18 and a squadron member can be one. Please contact me using the information below, Janice Kromer at 768-1861, or Tony Ward at 830-3027. The training can now all be done using the Internet, or if you prefer, Tony Ward will schedule an actual training class in late Jan or Feb 2004.

Having stated all that; due to my position as a career law enforcement officer, I am unable to actually conduct the VSC's myself. It would be a conflict of interest for me to board as a vessel examiner, only to inadvertently witness a violation of a local, state or federal law. So as committee chair, I am responsible for coordinating the program for the squadron. Now, let us take a look at some basic vessel security.

Vessel Security

Vessel security, in my opinion, goes hand in hand with safety, and not just in the marina or in your storage area. Some things you might want to consider are:

If you do not recognize someone on your dock, politely ask if you can be of assistance. Most people are either boat shopping or just casually admiring what is either your weekend play toy, or in my case, my home. But by asking, it lets the less than honest person know that we, the boating community, are looking out for each other.

Lock your boat if you are leaving the immediate area. Check dock lines, as well as electrical and communication connections before you leave.

Limit the access to your boat, providing spare keys and or combinations only to personnel that must have it in case of an emergency. If providing spare keys to the marina manager, ask who has access to them and under what conditions.

Tell your marina manager who has access to your boat when you are not around and under what circumstances. Give your marina neighbors this information as well – we all know how to look out for each other.

If you do not visit your boat frequently, make sure someone at the marina has 24-hour phone contact information and alternates, to reach you in the event of an emergency.

When out on the water, ensure you have an alternate means of communication besides a single marine radio on channel 16, to notify the authorities in the event you see something suspicious or witness an event. Most cellular telephones will work if you are within sight of the mainland. Call 911 and ask for the Coast Guard, DNR

Law Enforcement Division, U.S. Customs & Border Protection, or the Sheriff's department of the county you are closest to. Do not forget spare batteries.

Stay away at least 100 yards (300 ft) from cargo ships, military vessels, restricted areas on charts, cruise ships and the state Port Authority terminals unless you have permission to be near them and or photograph them. And if you are given permission to approach or photograph, verify it over channel 16 or 13 beforehand so there will not be any confusion if a law enforcement agency decides to board you.

File a float plan, even if it is just a phone call to a friend or relative letting them know where you are going, who is with you, and how long you will be out. In terms of the float plans, let me explain it another way.

There is an old saying, actually more of a running argument, between dispatchers and law enforcement officers/firefighters and EMS personnel that goes something like this: *"you may know where you are, and God may know where you are; but if dispatch does not know where you are - you and God had better be on good terms."*

In closing, my contact information as well as some of the web sites related to items mentioned in this article are below. I want to thank all of you again for welcoming me into the squadron and I look forward to working with all of you over the next year or so.

Tony Rahaim, *Chairman, Vessel Safety Check Committee (843) 200-2134 or nipentuck@yahoo.com*

National Vessel Safety Check Program – NEW INFORMATION FOR ALL BOATERS!
<http://www.usps.org/national/vsc/>

Vessel Safety Check Form and Guidelines
<http://www.uscgaux.org/~forms/archive/a7012.pdf>

South Carolina's DNR Boating site – NEW INFORMATION FOR ALL BOATERS!
<http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/etc/boating.html>

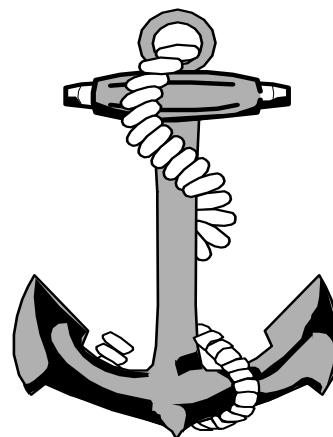
United States Coast Guard Boating Safety site
<http://www.uscgboating.org/>

United States Coast Guard Port Security site
http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mp/port_security_offices.shtml

U.S. Customs & Border Protection
<http://www.cbp.gov/>

"Weather Channel" Beach & Boat Forecast for the Charleston metro area
<http://www.weather.com/outlook/recreation/boatandbeach/weather/tenday/29401>

Boater's Pre-Departure Checklist
http://www.uscgboating.org/safety/fed_reqs/pre-depchecklist.pdf



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Executive Committee Meeting Monday, 10 January 2005

Cdr. Ed Kridler called the meeting to order at 1900 at the Headquarters Building. Those in attendance were: Lt/C Bob Gulbrandsen, Lt Nelson Hicks, John VanWay, P/C Boo Ward, Lt/C Janice Kromer, Lt/C Stephen Kromer, Lt Chuck Altschul, Kirk Williams, P/C Tony Ward, P/Lt/C Cindy Kridler, P/C John Sikes, Gene Gilfillin, P/C Victor Schwartz, P/D/C Norman Brooks, P/D/C Bob Gissell, Jim Davis, P/D/C Ken Beeber, Wendy Walsh, Lt/C David Walsh. A quorum was established; the minutes for the month of December were published in the Palmetto Log and accepted by the Executive Committee.

Executive: Per Lt/C Janice Kromer: The Boat Show will be 28 to 30 January and everything is organized and ready to man our booth for that function. The In Water Boat Show is coming up the end of March to beginning of April; we are starting to organize it. The Squadron would like to make a showing at the Blessing of the Fleet coming up soon. National Safe Boating week will be 21 to 27 May. We also would like to be involved in the Maritime Festival on 16 June.

Educational: Per Lt/C Stephen Kromer: The last Advanced Pilot course was given using the old format. A number of members have successfully passed recent classes. The remainder of details will be published in the Palmetto Log.

Administrative: Per Lt/C David Walsh: Programs information: the membership meeting on the 13th will be the Year 2004 in Review presented by David Walsh. The 10 February meeting we will see Tom Graham from the Cape Romain Light House maintenance project as a guest speaker. 10 March we hope to have a member from the Army Corp. of Engineers on the state of the ICW project. On 11 April we will be meeting at the Charleston Yacht Club to hear Clayborne Young speak. This will be on a Monday night instead of the regular Thursday. We also hope to be meeting at the Fort Johnson complex for another meeting in June. Lt/C David Walsh motioned to move the April members meeting from Thursday, 14 April to Monday, 11 April to coincide with the Charleston Yacht

Club event. Lt/C Stephen Kromer seconded the motion and the Executive Committee approved it. Lt/C David Walsh noted that we are having an attendance problem at both our meeting and cruises; he proposed a calling tree system to get folks out to events. John VanWay also suggested that we look for interesting topics and speakers to assist in this problem.

Treasurer: Per Lt Charles Altschul: On the 30th of December Chuck had successfully programmed the Treasurer's records into Quick Books on the computer. He has assigned a budget line for all items in the 2005 Budget. Lt. Altschul presented the Executive committee with a financial report based on present information and an audit of the books is in the process of being done at this time.

Secretary: Per Lt/C Bob Gulbrandsen: The 2005 Members Directories are being printed at this time and should be going into the mail this week. I have completed the Historians Report for 2004 and it has been accepted by both National and District Historians as of the National Winter conference. The 2003 Historians report has also been completed and submitted to District and National to replace the missing report from last year. Cdr Ed Kridler announced that the District Historian Bob Peters was so impressed with Charleston 2004 Historians report that he was suggesting it be made an example for the National records.

Commander: Per Cdr. Ed Kridler: We have sent correspondence to National Headquarters as to the fidelity of the squadron on the recent financial situation. The proper folks have been advised and we wait to see what there response will be. A letter to the membership as to our financial problem with the past treasurer was mailed out to all members from the commander. Lt/C Janice Kromer voiced objections that the Bridge and the Executive Committee did not have the opportunity to approve or discuss the letter that was sent out. Lt/C David Walsh objected to the Commander's handling of this sensitive situation about the letter sent to the membership.

National Report Cdr. Ed Kridler attended the Winter Conference and found that Charleston had not filed an

SUIF form with National; he was in the process of correcting this problem. The US Coast Guard Aux. has signed an agreement with USPS on boating Safety issues. The USPS is looking into raising the National dues in 2006 to offset the loss of membership it is suffering. The Law committee had a report "On the Water Teaching" in the USPS. Suggestions made as to owners insurance coverage, liability releases and Executive Committee approval need to be considered.

New Business: Per Cdr. Ed Kridler: Lt/C Corrin Marinko has tendered her resignation from the position of Treasurer. Lt/C Janice Kromer motioned that Lt Chuck Altschul be appointed as Treasurer. Lt/C Stephen Kromer seconded the motion and the Executive Committee voted to accept the motion. Lt/C Bob Gulbrandsen suggested that we begin looking for a replacement for Asst. Treasurer, but take the time to find someone with some background in this department and a desire to do this kind of work. Lt/C David Walsh presented a report on the Planning Committee's findings, and how they would like to proceed. The Executive Committee discussed the findings of the Planning Committee, but decided to table this matter for more discussion at the February Executive Meeting. P/C Tony Ward announced that Lt/C Stephen Kromer has passed and been certified as our latest Vessel Safety Inspector.

The meeting adjourned at 2030.

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Thanks Power Squadron for your work and dedication in Boating Education and Public Safety. *Barney M. Metts*

Cooperative Charting Report

The Charleston Power Squadron's Adopt-A-Chart assignment this year is ICW Nautical Chart 11518. This navigation chart begins near McClellanville and covers the 90-mile route to the Beaufort River. Recently, we had exceptionally good boating weather and we were on the water making more progress with our cooperative charting assignment. Reports were received from Captains, Steve Whitlock, Art Clark, Wendy Walsh, Steve Kromer and Ken Beeber.

Art Clark completed a charting report for Section 5 of Chart 11518. This section covers the Stono River from Elliott's Cut to the North Edisto River. Wendy Walsh, Steve Kromer, David Walsh and Ken Beeber completed depth surveys of the shoaling area at ICW Marker G-110 near White point on the North Edisto River. Ken Beeber and David Walsh reported helping a grounded sailboat get free of this shoal during their depth survey.

We still need boats and crewmembers to help with the Cooperative Charting. Those interested in helping contact Steve Kromer at skromer@telecomdb.com or phone him at 768-4740 for a charting assignment.



Art Clark prepares to take his boat "Sunday Drive" for a day of cooperative charting on the Stono River.

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Upcoming Events For February/March

3 February-Executive Board Meeting-1900 Headquarters

10 February-Membership Meeting-Headquarters-1830-Cape Romaine Presentation

12 February-Cape Romaine Lighthouse Cruise-McClellanville

3 March-Executive Board Meeting-1900 Headquarters

5 March-Fund Raising Oyster Roast-Toad Hall-1600

10 March-Membership Meeting-Headquarters-1830-Corps Of Engineers

27 March-Annual Hornick Cruise-Buzzards Roost Marina

SAFE BOATING THROUGH EDUCATION