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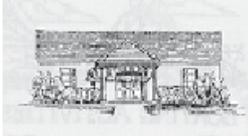
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MEETINGS

Executive Committee -1st Thursday @ 1830

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**SAFE BOATING THROUGH
EDUCATION**

From the Commander Cdr David Walsh, AP



The United States Power Squadron's Annual Meeting is 24 February 2007 in Jacksonville, FL. This year marks the 93rd Anniversary of the founding of the USPS. Over the years, USPS has changed to meet challenges of technology and of the times. Back 93 years ago, pleasure boats were mostly wind and steam powered and the USPS was an "all boys" club. A "high powered" outboard motor generated, perhaps, 10 horse power, if you could get it started. Well, recreational boating and USPS have come a long way. Today we have outboards topping 300 horse power, steam powered recreational boats are considered museum-pieces and 2007 marks the 25th Anniversary of elective membership of women in the USPS. To celebrate, USPS will be issuing a commemorative plaque acknowledging 25 years of full membership for women. Considering their achievements and contribution to the organization, it is hard to think of the Power Squadron existing without women in its leadership. So let's celebrate USPS's 93rd Anniversary and most importantly, the last 25 years.

New initiatives are presented each year at the USPS Annual Meeting. This year the new USPS Boat Operator Certification Program will make its debut. The program has four levels of certification: Inland Pilot, Coastal Pilot, Advanced Coastal Pilot and Off-shore Navigator. Each level of certification requires applicants to pass certain USPS courses and demonstrate proficiency. Chet Rogers, Charleston's Educational Officer, will be reporting on this important new certification program in the coming months.

A major USPS initiative is Cooperative Charting's Adopt-A-Chart program. For those who are new to the squadron, Adopt-a-Chart is an organized comprehensive effort to update specific charts and to keep them up-to-date on an ongoing basis. The National Ocean Service (NOS) is a Federal agency re-

sponsible for keeping Nautical Charts up-to-date. USPS assists NOS by submitting Nautical Chart Corrections. Several years ago, the Charleston Power Squadron "adopted" Charts 11518 and 11522. Charleston Power Squadron's Cooperative Charting chairman Steve Kromer will be coordinating the squadron's charting activities with the USPS national program.

Another USPS initiative is National Safe Boating Week, 19-26 May 2007. Squadron Public Relations Officer, Gary Whitley, will be placing ads and promoting safe boating during this week. Included are professionally prepared USPS radio and TV messages about safe boating and newspaper announcements of the Charleston Squadron's BoatSmart course schedule.

Two Charleston Squadron boats will be making the trip to the 2007 USPS Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FL. Art and Merle Clark will be taking their boat "Sunday Drive." Wendy Walsh and I in our boat "Reely Fun" will convoy with the Clarks. We expect to leave on Tuesday 20 February and arrive on time to participate in the USPS Annual Meeting on Saturday 24 February. Art and I are squadron engine maintenance instructors. So, you can bet our boats are expertly prepared for the Florida run. However, as boaters know, anything can and usually happens. So wish us fair winds and luck on our voyage to the National Meeting in Jacksonville.

David Walsh
Commander

BOATSMART SCHEDULE

For Updated Information See
<http://www.usps.org/localusps/cps/>

Date	Subject	Instructor
23-Jan-2007	Getting Started	David Walsh
30-Jan-2007	Reading Charts	Steve Kromer
06-Feb-2007	What's Required	David Walsh
13-Feb-2007	Rules Of The Road	Steve Kromer
20-Feb-2007	Getting Started	David Walsh
28-Feb-2007	Reading Charts	Steve Kromer

**Executive Officer
Lt/C Art Clark, P**



Well, here we are at the beginning of another banner year. As we get started, I would like to thank our committee chairs for stepping up to the challenge of keeping our programs exciting and relevant. They are: Jim Easley (boat shows), Steve Kromer (cooperative charting), Scott Bluestein (Legislative), Dick Brannan (liaison), John Sikes (radio/safety), BJ Smith (travel), Harl Porter (vessel safety checks), Gary Whitley (public relations), and yours truly (visitation program). I would also like to thank all our committee members. They are: David Heuske, Johan Prins, Maria Sindram, Daisy Proctor, Steve Poe, Steve Kromer, Tony Ward and Scotty Jeter.

Probably the biggest change you will see this year is are bigger and well organized Vessel Safety Check and Cooperative Charting Programs. You will see more on this as we develop our programs over the next month or so.

At the moment, we need more vessel examiners. If you are interested, please call me (849-9467) or Harl Porter (843-832-9423). We would also like to have a volunteer or two to help Gary Whitley with our PR efforts where we are beginning our build-up for National Safe Boating Week in May. Although these are some specific needs, we welcome all volunteers for ant committee.

Art Clark
Executive Officer

**Educational Officer
Lt/C Chet Rogers, P**

This is a revision of the schedule of winter classes. Classes will begin the week of February 19, instead of the week of January 22. "Meet the Instructors," night, an opportunity for students to pick up course materials, meet instructors, and generally get all of the paper work out of the way, will be held on Monday, February 12.

"Meet the Instructors" and all classes will meet at Headquarters at 1830. The schedule of classes, the names of the lead instructors, and the price of the class materials (class fee) are listed below. In order to take a class, you must sign up with me (Chet Rogers) and pay the class fee either by check made out to the Charleston Power Squadron and sent to me or by credit card with Wendy Walsh (556-3258). Please sign up and pay the class fee as soon as possible because I cannot order the class materials until I have your payment in hand. Members signing up after January 29, 2007 may not receive their class materials until after their class begins. *Power Squadron members who are taking their first course will have their fee reduced by \$25.*

Schedule of Classes, Winter, 2007

<i>Class</i>	<i>Lead Instructor(s)</i>
<i>Beginning Date</i>	<i>Class Fee</i>
Advanced Piloting	Jim Hackett
Wednesday, Feb 21	\$70
Cruise Planning	Fred Wichmann
Wednesday, Feb 21	\$60
Marine Electronics	Harl Porter
Tuesday, Feb 20	\$65
Seamanship	Nelson Hicks & Mike Page
Monday, Feb 19	\$55

If you have any questions, please contact me directly either by phone or by email.

Chester B. (Chet) Rogers
843-577-3022
843-324-5066 cell
rogerscb@cofc.edu



Safety Officer
P/C John Sikes, AP

Designated Driver Not Enough, Study Warns

Well-intentioned programs that encourage the use of a designated operator aren't going to make much of a dent in the numbers of alcohol-related boating deaths, a research team has warned. The reason: A passenger who consumes alcohol on board is just as likely to die as an operator who is drinking, say researchers at the University of North Carolina and Johns Hopkins University.

Their conclusion, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, is based on a study of 221 boating deaths in North Carolina and Maryland between 1990 and 1998. People who are drinking often fall overboard and drown, the study found. And that can happen even if the boat is stationary, the researchers say, pointing to the death of Hollywood star Natalie Wood 25 years ago.

"People often assume that alcohol-related boating accidents involve a collision," said Dr. Robert D. Foss, research scientist at the UNC Highway Safety Research Center. "That happens, of course, but most deaths result from drowning – often when boats aren't moving at all."

The team said about 80 percent of fatalities result from drowning.

The image of the crazed drunken boater ramming into a dock or another boat is "a pretty rare phenomenon," Foss said. "If you've got a stone-cold sober boat operator and an impaired passenger, that passenger is still at high risk."

The research teams studied boating fatality records from medical examiners, and spent three summers interviewing and obtaining breath alcohol measurements from boaters in both states.

Alarmingly, the study finds it doesn't take much alcohol to bring about impairment. Even with a blood alcohol content of only .01 percent, the risk to operators and passengers increased 30 percent, Foss said. The risk of death was more than 52 times greater when victims showed a blood alcohol content of .25 milligrams per deciliter, he said.

"Before we did the study, we had a fairly good idea about the risk curve for drinking drivers on the road, but we had no idea about the risk for boaters who had been drinking," Foss said. "This study gives us the first look at the shape of the risk curve for boaters."

The study was supported by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

While this is not specifically related to Squadron business, I thought it worth sharing. It is not a recommendation or endorsement, but strictly forwarded for your information.

In the current issue of the Military Officer magazine there is an article on the number of families (military and civilian) that discovered post Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that they had no detailed information on their house and contents necessary to validate insurance claims. Quoting from the article "The Insurance Information Institute, which has been recognized by the media, government, regulatory organizations, universities and public as a primary source of information for more than 40 years, offers a free, downloadable inventory program. The program is easy to navigate, accepts digital photographs, lists dates and prices for items purchased and can be updated easily. Copied to a CD and stored outside the home this inventory will be extremely helpful in the event of a disaster. For more information and to download the program visit www.knowyourstuff.org.

John

Vessel Examiners Wanted

Vessel Examiners get to board and look closely at many vessels. They are involved in the Civic Service side of the USPS triangle and are entitled to wear the Red USPS Vessel Examiner shirt. For more information on Vessel Examiners and the Vessel Safety Check program visit these web sites: SafetySeal.net and USPS.org/national/vsc/. If interested in becoming a VE (Vessel Examiner) see Harl Porter, e-mail 107Harl@sc.rr.com; he will train and qualify you as a Charleston Power Squadron Vessel Examiner.

Vessel Safety Check

Need a Vessel Safety Check? Contact any of the Charleston Power Squadron qualified Vessel Examiners for a personalized VSC at your boat. They are:

Bob Gulbrandsen
Munford Jetter
Steve Kromer
Harl Porter
Tony Ward.

What is a Vessel Safety Check? On the web go to SafetySeal.net and then click on "Virtual VSC"; this site goes into detail on the 15 items that must be passed to earn the VSC Decal for 2007. The items covered by the VSC include:

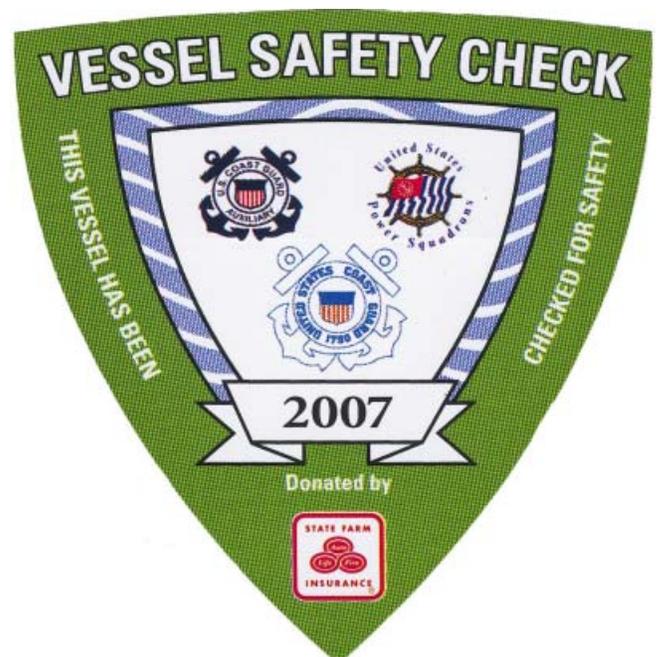
- Display of Numbers (If registered need a space between letters and numbers)
- Registration / Documentation (Papers must be on boat)
- Personal Flotation Device (Need one serviceable PFD for each person on board)
- Visual Distress Signals (Must be current, not expired)
- Fire Extinguishers (Must be serviceable and appropriate number based on length)
- Ventilation (Boats with inboard gas engines require operating blower)
- Backfire Flame Control (Boats with gas engines require clean device)
- Sound Producing Device (Must work, can be an air horn)

- Navigation Lights (All must work to include anchor light)
 - Pollution Placard (Required if over 26 feet, VE can normally provide)
 - MARPOL Trash Placard (Required if over 26 feet, VE can normally provide)
 - Marine Sanitation Device aka Head (Overboard discharge must be controlled)
 - Navigation Rules (Required if over 39.4 feet)
 - State and Local Requirements (Must have Factory Installed Muffler)
- SC requirements at: boater101.com/Course/documents/SC/SCstatelaws.pdf

Overall Vessel Condition

- Deck free of hazards and clean bilge
- Safe Electrical and Fuel Systems (Batteries must be secured)
- Safe Galley and Heating Systems (No flammable material next to stove).

Most problems are found with: Dated Flares, Inoperative Fire Extinguishers and Inoperative Navigation Lights. The above items in parenthesis are only some of the items check under each of the 15 major topics; visit the "Virtual VSC" for a complete list of items check during the VSC.



Squadron Holiday Party

We had a party! The annual Squadron Holiday party was a smashing success. Organized by Commander David Walsh as his first major task as our new Commander it was everything anyone could ask. Wendy Walsh selected, obtained and prepared the food for the groaning tables. No one ever goes hungry at our Squadron. Who knew that so much food could go on the tables of the buffet line and disappear so quickly?

The Head Quarters was beautifully decorated through the efforts of Merle Clark and volunteers. Executive Officer Art Clark lent his expertise in the preparation of the Eggnog. If you need to know the amount of rum to add just ask him. He dutifully checked the mix after each addition of rum and finally pronounced it just right. Diane Williams was fantastic as our MC for the Chinese Gift exchange. She kept everything moving right along and under control. Word of warning for next year...if you get something you want to keep, hide it! Especially if it is something for a boat or a good bottle of wine. We may be a fraternal organization but fraternity only goes so far when there are goodies to be had.

A Great Big Thank You to all who helped...especially with the clean up afterwards. With everyone pitching in we had the Head Quarters back to normal in less than ½ hour and we were all on our way.



Diane Williams looking at Dick Howells' gift – a Santa stocking holder.



New transfer member Marista Pastis' gets a Dave Barry book to read over the holidays.



New member Steve Brostoff gets a box of used wine corks. There was also a bottle of wine buried in the corks.



Squadron group enjoying the gift exchange. L to R, front: Jim and Peggy Bass, Virginia and Wendell Ford, Jim Easley. Back row, Tony and Boo Ward, Harl Porter, Karen Whitman, Steve Poe and Merle Clark.

New Member Ted McCormack

Please say hello to one of our newest members, Ted McCormack. Ted is a recent USPS transfer from Knoxville, TN. Ted has always been interested in history and was a frequent visitor to the Charleston area. When it was time to retire from his teaching career, the move to Charleston seemed obvious. Ted and his friend, Denise, moved to James Island. The owner of two small boats (a skiff and a Cdory), Ted finds the change from placid lake water to Charleston's winds and current quite a challenge. He is also volunteering his time in the archeology department at Charlestowne Landing and we hope he will be very active in the Charleston squadron.

New Shipmates

My wife and I are Shipmates for new members Steve Brostoff and Melissa White. I have included a picture of them taken in their boat on Dec 30th, an 18 foot Sea Hunt Escape, on their dock on Bohicket Creek. They do not have a name for their boat.

Steve Poe and Marge Bannon



January Cruise

Our luncheon cruise to the Water's Edge restaurant on Shem Creek was great this year again.

We had thirty one people in attendance.

The weather cooperated except a little cool. But that did not keep some of our members from enjoying cruising in their boats. Four boats braved the cool weather. They were Knotless II, Sunday Drive, Reely Fun and Sweetgrass.

Everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship with friends.

Ray



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Cape Romain Lighthouse Cruise

A quick look at the ol' calendar confirms that Fred has yet another birthday coming up--thank goodness! What better way to celebrate than yet another journey back in time to his ancestral roots and place of his birth, Cape Romain Lighthouse. Yes, another cruise, another party, and who knows what adventures await this time. If you're new to the squadron, perhaps you've heard the stories--some true, some stretched a bit, and some, well, you just had to be there. This cruise has become an annual event, a tradition that's in its tenth year at least, having survived bone-chilling weather, drizzle, muggy, no-see-um and mosquito weather, groundings (oops, we don't talk about those), even a wedding. Not for the faint of heart, but hey, that's what makes an adventure and something to talk about back home. Actually, there's pretty much something for everyone and it's not really that rigorous, but loads of fun. Here's the plan this year:

Friday, 23 February

Slow boats make your way to Leland Marine in Jeremy Creek for overnight. Distant Isle should be approaching the Wappoo Bridge at 1000, if anyone wants to follow along.

1800 Pot luck dinner on the dock or aboard Distant Isle for those spending the night

Saturday, 24 February 1030

Caravan through the creeks to Cape Romain to arrive one hour before high tide. Waters around the Cape are very shallow, so larger boats will anchor as waters become thin. Shallow-draft boats will ferry passengers to shore. Caution: There is no dock. Bring high boots to wade ashore. We have about one hour to explore, then return to our boats before the falling tide catches us. We usually lunch on the way back.

1800 Dinner at the Crab Pot on Highway 17. Members driving up, please check to make sure us boat people have a ride to the restaurant. Also, please contact Joyce Wichmann (795-9172--cell 843-296-9129

or joyce.wichmann@gmail.com) to confirm your dinner reservation before 21 February, 2007.

Sunday, 25 February

Return home at your leisure.

More info: 795-9172 or joyce.wichmann@gmail.com



Upcoming Meetings

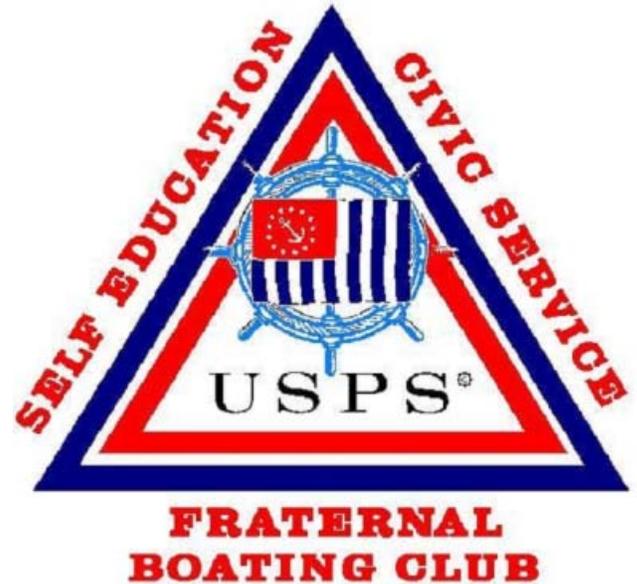
These are the CPS monthly meetings coming up for 8 March & 12 April.

8 March

CAPT Camereon, Sector Commander, USCG, will be speaking about the SEA HAWK SECURITY SYSTEM affecting Charleston Harbor. This meeting will be held at Gilligan's Steamer & Raw Bar, 1475 Long Grove Drive, Mt. Pleasant.

12 April

CHARLESTON COOKS: Onboard cooking demonstration at their facility, followed by dinner. Specific details regarding this meeting will be forthcoming.



In Memory

Charleston Power Squadron member Michael “Mike” S. King passed away 11 January 2007 at the age of 71. Mike joined the Charleston Power Squadron in 1992 and was currently a member of the CPS Executive Committee. He was an instructor in BoatSmart, seamanship and other courses. Mike retired from the US Navy having served 33 years. During that time he was a crew member on both diesel and nuclear submarines and received many service commendations. Mike had a remarkable knowledge of recreational boating that he willingly shared with others. Our deepest sympathy goes to Joan King for the loss of her husband.



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CHARLESTON POWER SQUADRON

Executive Committee Meeting - Thursday, 07 December 2006

The meeting was called to order By Cdr David Walsh at 1830 at the Headquarters Building. Those in attendance were Cdr David Walsh, Lt/C Jim Bass, Lt/C Art Clark, Lt/C Chuck Altschul, Lt/C Dick Howells, Lt/C Chet Rogers, P/D/Lt/C Mike Page, Lt Wendy Walsh, Lt John VanWay, Lt Mike King, Gary Whitley, B. J. Smith, Stan Whitman, Steve Poe, and Jim Davis. A quorum was established.

Cdr David Walsh requested a motion for the approval of the September, October, November, Executive Committee meeting minutes as published in an Excom Google Group email message. A motion was made by Lt/C Art Clark and seconded by Lt Mike King to accept the minutes the Executive Committee meeting for September, 2006. The vote was unanimous and the minutes were accepted. A motion was made by Lt/C Art Clark and seconded by Lt Mike King to accept the minutes the Executive Committee meeting for October, 2006. The vote was unanimous and the minutes were accepted. A motion was made by Lt/C Art Clark and seconded by Lt Mike King to accept the minutes the Executive Committee meeting for November, 2006. The vote was unanimous and the minutes were accepted.

Officers' Reports:

Executive: Per Lt/C Art Clark planning for the Boat Show at the Coliseum is under way. Gary Whitley reported that gotten articles in the Post & Courier promoting the Power Squadron and promoting the Boat Smart Classes.

Educational: Per Lt/C Chet Rogers Planning for 2007 Classes is underway. We are offering Seamanship, Advanced Piloting, and Cruise Planning

Administrative: Lt/C Dick Howells and B. J. Smith presented the proposal for the 2007 Cruise Scheduled. B. J. Smith passed copies of the Cruise Schedule. Two scheduling conflicts were noted for the 23-25 February Cruise to Cape Romain Lighthouse (conflicts with the USPS Annual Meeting 20-25 February) and the 10 March, Cooper River Marina & VSC Cruise (conflicts with the D/26 Spring Conference 9-11 March). B. J. Smith said that they were looking into having some cruises during the week for those that may be available and are interested. Stan Whitman reported on the programs lined up for the first for months of next year. Cdr David Walsh reported that the Parade of Boats was a huge success. There we 27 boats in the parade of which 9 were USPS boats.

Secretary: Per Lt/C Jim Bass the Form OD-2 is nearing completion. Chairman of the Ships store and Chairman of member benefits are currently open. Google Groups are currently up to date and functioning correctly. New members Steve Brostoff, Melissa White, James Williams, and Ted McCormack were approved for membership by email vote of the Executive Committee. Steve Poe our WEB Site manager, requests inputs or comments about our web site. Lt Wendy Walsh reported Palmetto Log deadline 8 December and should be out in a couple of weeks. The directory of members is nearing completion and should be ready for January mailing.

Treasurer: Per Lt/C Chuck Altschul: We have \$15,114.01 in our bank accounts of which \$9084.52 is in Money Market accounts and \$6029.49 is in Checking. The profit and loss report shows a net income of \$1810.56 for 2006 which is an improvement over last year.

Commander: Cdr David Walsh reported we had received the officers calendar and passed out copies to the Bridge Officers.

Committee Reports:

Housing: Gary Whitley reported he would schedule a cleanup day for the building and grounds sometime after the Christmas and New Years Holidays. He is

also investigating the costs associated with a termite inspection and requirements for obtaining a termite bond.

Audit, Nominating, Rules and Planning Committees:
No reports

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

The meeting adjourned at 1942.

Submitted by,

Lt/C Jim Bass
Secretary



Who's Boat?

Send a picture of your boat along with any other information you would like to share for publication in The Palmetto Log. Email to JKemerer@comcast.net.



The Palmetto Log
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17 March 2007**

**Ray Harp
Cruising Activities
Phone: 843-881-2284**

Upcoming Events For February and March

19 February - Winter Classes Start
24 February - Cape Romain Lighthouse Cruise
8 March - Member Meeting, Gilligans Mt P - 1830

SAFE BOATING THROUGH EDUCATION