



Harris Chain Sail & Power Squadron

The Anchor Chain Newsletter

DECEMBER 2011 *Volume 13 Issue 12*



A Unit of the United States Power Squadron – District 23



Lake County Florida – There is a monster in our lakes.

No, not Loch Ness or anything that will bite you.

It will bite your outdrive or your intake if you have a jet drive. Efforts are taking place to control it. It is a nasty visitor from India, Korea or Asia. It is called Hydrilla. It is a plant that is causing great problems in the lakes. In the last 5 years over 174 million dollars has been spent just in Florida to slow this uninvited guest.

It is wondered that since our water quality is improving if this plant can be benefiting from our collective efforts? Scientists say not. You can be the judge.

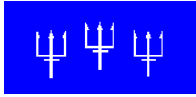
Hydrilla is a plant that was introduced to the North American continent back in the 1960's. As with so many invasive items, this plant is causing great concern to those whom oversee our watersheds. It is recognized by the government as a Federal Noxious Weed. (Who would have guessed that Washington would have such a classification?)

Hydrilla, is a plant that can choke a lake and cause great problems. It only takes a few leaves to be brought aboard a transient boat or trailer to infect a lake. The plant stock grows feverishly and multiplies most often by being cut into pieces that continue to grow. The underwater canopy will grow a mat so fast that it will shade the regular vegetation, until it dies. This upsets the natural ecosystem. It also cause wild swings in the natural oxygen generation of the lake itself. Other experiences are that temperatures higher than normal for the areas and the plant can plug water intakes and passageways.

Control of Hydrilla - Some fish species do consume hydrilla. In some cases sterile grass carp will eat some of the plants. Most often they cannot eat the plants as fast as they grow. Also grass carp lend to their on complications. Cutting it with underwater mowers only cause it to grow faster. Chemical herbicides are the most effective means of control.

What does this mean to you? It means that the hydrilla is growing very strong. It can get in the water cooling ways of your boat causing overheating situations. It can fowl your prop. (have a boat hook handy. Some actually put a piece of coat hanger on the boat hook to help untangle the mess)

Being forewarned, is the best preparation, for this beast.



Commander's Message

Cdr Cathy Henke, P

This is the time of year that really makes me proud to direct the Harris Chain Sail & Power Squadron. All of us are extremely fortunate to have a comfortable lifestyle. I am asking that everyone to dig into their pockets and help those that are not as fortunate, as all, of us. It is very obvious that unemployment reached 20 percent in Lake County this year. That is not a statement on underemployment or those that have no available benefits to request. We all can find it in ourselves to help our fellow Americans.

As a group, at the October meeting, we have selected 3 diverse avenues of contribution, that we will directly donate towards.

Charitable donations are as follows: Santa for Seniors, Abused, Neglected and Abandoned Children and the second food drive of 2011. With the times being so tight, any, and all help that we provide, will be ever so helpful, for those in need during this holiday season.

Our Christmas Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 11, at Crazy Gator in Eustis. Please set aside December 11th from 5:30pm – until ? for this event. There will be a buffet for everyone to enjoy, cost will be \$20.00 per person. Please make checks payable to Harris Chain. There will be a 50-50 that evening and door prizes.

RSVP by Wednesday, December 7th if you plan to attend.

Please arrange to bring your donations for the charities that evening.

Change of Watch (COW) is scheduled for Sunday, January 15th at Vic Embers Supper Club 2:00pm-5:00pm. Vic's will provide their legendary Sunday Buffet with all foods freshly prepared for our occasion. Last year's event was rated by most members as their best Harris Chain event, that they had participated in. Invitations will be in the mail before the end of the month.

The 2013 spring conference committee next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 6th, my residence. This meeting will following the bridge/exec meeting. Harris' Chain turn to host the District 23 conference, is slated for the Spring of 2013. Preparations are needed 18 months out and we are on schedule for success in this event. This 3 day event, is part of the responsibility as being part of our District 23. Success of this event depends on the efforts of each member. During the preparation for this important event, members will be requested to help in all sorts of behind the scenes activities. During the conference manpower will be needed for all sorts of jobs. The efforts of all, will result in the success for all.

Please notice that the 2012 Spring conference will be held in Ocala. It will be a easy way to learn firsthand how a conference "happens"

Don't forget that the National meetings are in Jacksonville in January.

Please plan to involve yourself in all the activities. After all it is your club!



Lt/C Don Stewart, S **Squadron Executive Officer (SXO)**

We are looking for help in the booth for First Friday, January 6th. Please let me know what month you can help in the booth either 1st shift 5:00pm-7:00pm or 2nd shift 7:00pm-9:30pm.

Members that have personal information changes such as new phone numbers, new e-mail addresses and other personal data changes need to log on to the national site. Log on to USPS.org and log in using each members number and password. The password is on your dues renewal on the same line as each ones name. On the lower left side column there is an option titled "Manage your own profile". Please update your information and then hit the update button at the bottom of the page.

If you need rosters they are available at all General Membership meetings.

If you may have questions, please contact me.

Educational News

Seamanship is slated to begin Wednesday, January 11, 2012. This class will be held in Lake Square Mall community room. Members who are currently attending the Piloting class, you must take the Seamanship class to receive your "P" when you pass that test. Weather class will be beginning in late March 2012.

Piloting Class is in its final weeks and the tests have been ordered. There are 15 students in this class.

The next ABC course will be Saturday, January 21, 2012.

New location: Lake Sumter Community College, Liberal Arts Bldg, Room 1.

A few members who expressed interest in completing the IQ course (to become an Instructor) please email Phil Ponticello (pponticello@harrischain.org) to setup testing.

We have 4 members in the Self Study Junior Navigation class and we are proud to report they are almost through the course.

Respectfully submitted, Cdr Cathy Henke, P



Lt/C Jerie Tallman, P Squadron Secretary

Holiday gifts for Harris Chain Sail & Power Squadron members can be purchased at the Ship's Store. The following items are currently in stock:

Golf-style shirts, made of 100% polyester, feature a 'moisture management wicking' fabric. The full-color HCS&PS logo is embroidered on the left front. Wear this up-dated stunning Tomato Puree color shirt and show your dedication to boating education and safety. Cost of each shirt is 32.07 Size Large, X-Large and XX-Large are available.

Short-sleeve, 'natural' color T-shirts made of 100% cotton are also available in size Large only. The full-color logo is screen printed on the left front of the shirt. A limited number of T-shirts are available at \$7.00 each.

A pennant-style, double-stitched, quality nylon burgee in full HCS&PS logo colors is meant to fly proudly from your boat. It is colorful, visible from a distance and keeps the boat looking its best when attending squadron outings. Burgees are \$38.70 each.

Attach a squadron decal to your car window or the hull of your boat to show your membership colors. Displaying the decal will also help to promote the squadron and inform the public of the excellent boating educational classes that are available to everyone. Full color decals are \$3.00 each.

CHECK OUT

HARRIS CHAIN Sail & Power Squadron ON FACEBOOK

Search: Harris Chain Click on LIKE
And write on the wall.

www.facebook.com



The Anchor Chain - A multi-format, monthly publication of the Harris Chain Sail and Power Squadron. A Unit of the United States Power Squadron.

Editor - Submit an article at HarrisEditor@aol.com

The Anchor Chain is in search of a new editor. If you may be interested in undertaking this important role, Please contact Cdr Cathy Henke, P

Squadron Points of Contact www.HarrisChain.org

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Lt Phil Ponticello, S	PPonticello@harrischain.org	(352)288-2079
Lt/C Roger Wilson, S	RWilson@harrischain.org	(352)314-0881
Lt Fred Mottle	FMottle@harrischain.org	(352)508-0588

Harris Chain Sail & Power Squadron 2011 Bridge

Cdr Cathy Henke, P	Commander
Lt/C Don Stewart, S	Executive Officer SXO
Vacant	_Administrative Officer SAO
Lt/C Ralph Shrivalle, AP	Education Officer SEO
Lt/C Jerie Tallman, P	Secretary
Lt/C Roger Wilson,	Treasurer

DECEMBER'S MEETING PLACE

No General Membership meeting in December

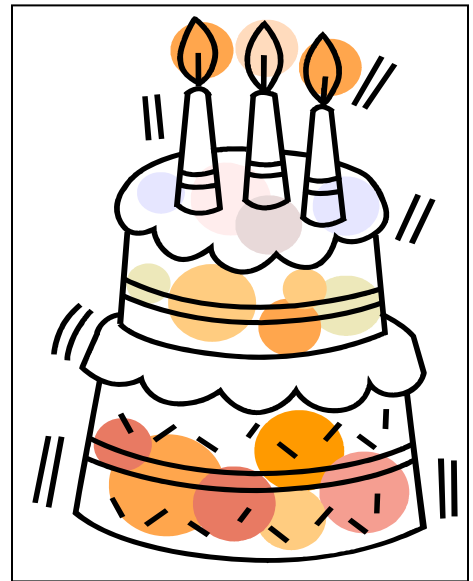
The Christmas Party – Charity collection
Replaces this monthly meeting

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THIS FRATERNAL EVENT

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE AND WISH TO CONTRIBUTE,
PLEASE CONTACT LT/C JERIE TALLMAN**

BIRTHDAY WISHES
TO OUR
“DECEMBER BABY”

12th Beverly Green



Vessel Safety Check Information

P/C Sid Pitcher, S

We have completed 99 Vessel Safety Examinations with 87 boats awarded decals for 2011. Vessel Safety Examinations on November 20th. Joe Rzewuski, Leroy Myers and myself were at Venetian Cove, Harold Booher at Buzzards Beach. We will start again, once the new Vessel Safety Decals arrive from national. Anyone that would like to become a vessel examiner please contact me.

Editors Note The 2012 stickers are designed but not produced. Here is a sneak peak of the new decal





Galaxy 23

News from the Bridge of District 23

Your link to District and National

D/C Robert E. Becker, Jr. SN

D 23 Commander

The end of the year is just about here and the D 23 Nominating Committee is wrapping up their nominee selections for the district bridge. If anyone of our D23 squadron members has a desire to serve in a district bridge position, let the Nominating Committee know ASAP. The Nominating Committee must publish the names of the nominees in January.

And speaking of January, D23 has two big events in this month.

First is our winter council meeting to be held on Saturday, 14 January in the ARC facilities in Daytona Beach. As in the past, the Daytona Beach Squadron's Women Auxiliary will have their wonderful breakfast ready for us just prior to the start of our meeting. This council meeting is dedicated to training the newly or about to be elected Squadron Commanders as to what their counterparts in the district do. So now is the time to mark your calendars for Saturday 14 January and start thinking about sharing of rides with your fellow squadron members. D/Lt/C Ernst Hofmann, JN the D 23 Secretary will have the info as to the best driving way to the ARC facility at a later date.

Second item of importance in January is the USPS Annual Meeting to be held this year at the Hyatt in Jacksonville. The official dates for the meeting are 22-30 January 2012. Of course most of the action for squadron members takes place on Wed-Sat of that week. And most important, once again D23 is the host district so we MUST turn out in great numbers to let the other districts and the national bridge see that we are alive! Our own R/C Don Clark, N from our Ocala Squadron is the chairman of the NMC (National Meetings Committee) and Don and his wonderful committee are responsible for putting together the agenda for the meeting. Depending on your interest there is something for each of us. For example if you are interested in Amateur Radio, attend the Amateur Radio meeting; or is you have an interest in Co-Op Charting they too have a meeting. Yes, there is something for everyone. So do plan on attending and remember the actual USPS meeting, voting etc day is Saturday. And yes, I am sure Don will be looking for assistance to man the registration desk. So if you have time, give Don a call or email him. He will be forever grateful!

As the holidays approach, please be careful both on the road and waterways. And have a joyful and blessed Christmas and Hanukkah with your family and love ones. This is a time to reflect on the many blessings we received during 2011.

Hope to see you at the D23 council meeting in January.

The Gainesville Sail and Power Squadron
and the Ocala Power Squadron
Invites District 23 to



The Balmy Bahamas Cruise Murder Mystery Dinner March 23, 2012

You are cordially invited by Megastar Singer *Tilly Song* to join her on a luxury-plus cruiser that she has hired to see the Bahamas and have a holiday. There will be a variety of famous people to rub elbows with.

Dress for a Bahamas Cruise, there will be dancing and a Luau Buffet featuring Teriyaki Beef, Hawaiian Chicken, Baby Ribs Bora Bora and Sweet 'n Sour Shrimp. But watch over your shoulder, there is a possibility a murder might occur and your help will be needed to determine the suspect.



Cruise Departs at
1900 from the
Ramada Inn
Conference
Center, Ocala, FL
Boarding Cruise Photos
begin 1830

3820 Bonnie Heath Blvd.
T-75 Exit 354



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRON DISTRICT 23
 2012 SPRING CONFERENCE and CHANGE OF WATCH
 23 March thru 25 March 2012



Ramada Inn - 3810 NW BLITCHTON RD (I-75 & US-27) Ocala, Florida 34475

Room Reservations must be received no later than Thursday, **8 March 2012** to guarantee rate through hotel
 Late reservations on a space available basis

LAST NAME _____ FIRST _____ RANK _____ GRADE _____
 LAST NAME _____ FIRST _____ RANK _____ GRADE _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 HOME PHONE () _____ E-MAIL _____ SQUADRON _____
 DATE OF ARRIVAL _____ DATE OF DEPARTURE _____ # Of Persons _____

*The USPS rate for the event is \$69.00 + 8.5% TAX per room per night.
 If paid directly by check to GSPS by 3/8/2012 tax exempt status will be in force
 Check in time is 1500; checkout is 1200.*

For individual reservations call the Ramada at 352-732-3131 Mon-Fri, 0900-1700 and ask for USPS Rate :
 For tax exemption, mail with meal reservations and make checks payable to: Gainesville S & P Squadron
 P/C Mike McKinney, SN
 15314 SW. Williston Rd. Micanopy, FL. 32667
 Telephone: 352-495-2454 email: mhmckinney@bellsouth.net

MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Meal reservations must be received no later than **14 March 2012**

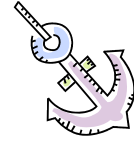
LAST NAME _____ FIRST _____ RANK _____ GRADE _____
 LAST NAME _____ FIRST _____ RANK _____ GRADE _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 HOME PHONE () _____ E-MAIL _____ SQUADRON _____

If a special diet is required for health reasons, please let us know

	Number attending	Cost
Friday Evening Buffet - Hawaiian Luau: Teriyaki Beef, Hawaiian Chicken, Ribs, Shrimp, Rice, Egg Rolls, Sweet Potato w/Coconut, Salad, Dessert	\$32.00 _____	\$ _____
Saturday Breakfast - Hotel Deluxe Continental		FREE
Saturday Lunch - Chicken Breast Teriyaki, Southern Green Beans, Whipped Sweet Yams, Salad, Rolls	\$15.00 _____	\$ _____
Saturday Night Plated Dinner		
Choice #1 Prime Rib _____ Choice#2 Glazed Alaskan Salmon _____	\$31.00 _____	\$ _____
"N" Club Sunday Breakfast - Country Buffet --- followed by guest speaker	\$14.00 _____	\$ _____
	Total for meals	\$ _____
	Total # _____ of rooms (through GSPS) x \$69	\$ _____
	Total amount of check	\$ _____



Ship's Store



The ship store has what you need to be in Harris Chain Style.

Lt/C Roger Wilson has "The Store" and will have all items at the next meeting

All member shirts
are the same

Member Shirts
\$ 33.08



For those that have
a past rank, the
rank is added to
left sleeve.
with rank
\$ 36.35



Burgees are HERE! Fly your Burgee when you are
out on the water. \$ 38.70 each



Decals \$3.00 each

DECEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 First Friday Eustis 5-9 pm Volunteers Needed	3
4	5	6 Bridge Meeting Commanders Home 7pm Conference 2013	7	8	9	10
11 Xmas Party Crazy Gator 5:30pm	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31

JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Happy New Year	2	3 Bridge Meeting Commanders Home 7pm Conference 2013	4 Piloting Class 7pm	5	6 First Friday Eustis 5-9 pm Volunteers Needed	7
8	9	10	11 Seamanship Class 7pm	12	13	14 District 23 Winter Conference Daytona Beach
15 Change of Watch 2:00pm Vic Embers	16	17	18 Seamanship Class 7pm	19	20	21 ABC Class Lake Sumter CC
22	23	24	25 Seamanship Class 7pm	26	27	28
29	30	31				