



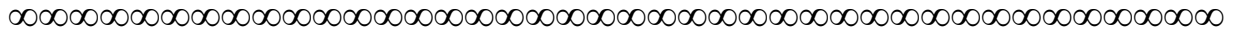
Harris Chain Sail & Power Squadron

The Anchor Chain Newsletter

MARCH 2010 *Volume 12 Issue 3*



A Unit of the United States Power Squadron – District 23



Tavares, Florida – It was as if a week of meetings had build up a reserve of energy. Some of the members from around the county had a chance to use some of that energy with us. The Harris Chain Sail & Power Squadron hosted a first ever, National level, Boater Operation Certification (BOC) on February 7th 2010. Through the efforts of many of the National, District and Harris Chain members, 26 students descended on our chain of lakes, for 2 segments of the certification process.

Members of the National organization from California, Iowa, New York and even Connecticut enjoyed a wee bit of Lake County hospitality. A couple of guys from Banana River even made the trek! We were fortunate enough to obtain spots for P/Lt/C Ralph Shrivalle, AP, Lt/C Al Gansz, AP, P/C Joe Rzewuski, AP, P/Lt/C Cathy Henke, P & Cdr Tim Henke, AP. New affiliate member P/C Robert McDonnell, AP, also attended the training.

The first, and primary segment was the on the water training testing of proficiency. All students took the helm of various member's boats, including the Harris Chain Boat. Students were required to perform numerous maneuvers while captaining the vessels. A show of seamanship skills were evaluated during each of the drills. A few folks needed a couple of tries but everyone was successful in the end.

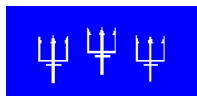
The BOC is a certification that parallels United Nations Resolution 40. This is the only recreational boating certification that actually tests on the water proficiency. To achieve this rating there are numerous courses required. Instead of chasing all of these, members that have Advanced Piloting, VHF radio And Weather seminars, with elective classes of Marine Electronics and Engine Maintenance qualify for the educational aspect. One other module that is needed is on Fire Extinguishers. Seeing that many of the students needed this module Tim provided a didactic and hands on, live fire, practical session. It was surprising how many people have never operated a fire extinguisher until that day!

A special thanks to P/Lt/C Ralph Shrivalle, AP & Cdr Tim Henke, AP for making their boats available, to everyone, for this training session.

P/C Betty Binder's, P wish to have the donated boat came true as the new squadron boat preformed flawlessly. Several other squadrons were more than a bit jealous that we had a fully functional, Vessel Safety Check boat in our Squadron.

What a Plus ! Once again, Thanks to Betty.

Commander's Message



Cdr Timothy Henke, AP

The Month of February was one to remember. Being a voting member of the National meeting was a great experience. All the Commanders of District 23 lined up with District Commander Bob Becker, SN in our assigned area. Seeing the balance of the districts, in their assigned area was great. Behind the District sections with their Commanders was an area, for other voting members and general audience. Adorning the front of the room was the biggest Ensign that I could ever conceive. What a feeling of “oneness”.

A generous amount of procedural pomp was employed, following power squadron traditions. This brought me back to a more formal aspect of previous years in the squadron.

The biggest event of the meetings, for our daily operations, was that we now may offer all classes to non-members. The hook was that we sell our classes to the general public at a premium. This premium is the cost of at least a 1 year membership. Changes to the Education Department were made. The BOC has been recognized and assigned national officers. There were some subtle changes and modifications to the operations manual will result from these changes.

A new level of membership is available. It is called a cyber member. A cyber member is a person that signs up, with national, online. They then take classes online. Then the cyber member needs to come to us for grade or elective testing. This is where we need to convert them to be a “regular” member. So, be aware of our newest class of membership and if you run across one, invite them to join the Harris Chain.

The long of the short of the meetings is that are membership is falling. There is an assigned critical mass of 30,000 members. This minimum will be needed to maintain operations at national, in its current capacity. You may remember that, I was a factor in passing a resolution, (at a District level, taken to national) to have the national meetings reduced to a single meeting per year. Like everyone else District 23 told national to reduce its expenses. Perhaps the resolution will fall on someone that listens.

At our last bridge Meeting I assigned Lt/C Arthur Grae, S to head a new adhoc committee. This committee will be known as the Ways and Means committee. Seeing a potential shortfall in our funding, I did not want to raise dues. Therefore, Arthur will be presenting ideas on generating cash. The first idea was to sell advertising in our newsletter. More information, to follow, as available.

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

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

The Squadron needs your help. On Saturday, March 13th and Sunday March 14th, we are manning a booth at the Information Fair that will be held this year at The Villages. Our display will include brochures about The Power Squadron as well as the many projects in which we are involved. We need three people to work each shift.

On Saturday, the shifts will be 9 -12 and 12 – 3 ,
and on
Sunday, the shifts will be 10 -12 and 12 – 3.

The 2010 Roster and Call Sheets are now available. If you have not received yours, please let me know so that I can make arrangements for you to get one. Please take the time to check you information. If there are any errors, deletions, or additions that need be made, call me at 352-742-2526.

On Sunday, March 21st, The Blessing of the Fleet will take place at JJ Fins. Please arrive before 1:30 pm. Vessel Safety Checks will be preformed starting at noon.

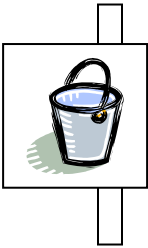
THIS IS AN ON THE WATER - BOATING EVENT!

Bring your boat and join us for this event.
See the attached flyer later in the newsletter.

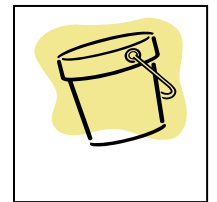
Harris Chain Sail & Power Squadron 2010 Bridge

Cdr Timothy Henke, AP Commander
Lt/C Don Stewart, S Executive Officer SXO
Lt/C Al Gansz, AP Administrative Officer SAO
Vacant Education Officer SEO
Lt/C Arthur Grae, S Secretary
Lt/C Walter Gordon, AP Treasurer

Monthly Trivia:



When considering wiring a bilge pump, which two factors should be considered to activate the pump.
When sizing a pump, what size is the best?



When wiring in a bilge pump it should be able to be activated in 2 ways. Manually with a switch and also to be able to be activated using a “float switch” located in a low spot of the bilge. This switch needs to be in place to cause the pump to come on if there is an accumulation of water. It is also a great idea to have a 2nd pump that functions independently of the first. The second float switch would be a bit higher than the first and possibly having an audible alarm wired into the circuit. Use the old adage of 1 is good, 2 is better !



Lt/C Al Gansz, AP
Squadron Administration Officer (SAO)

February was another active month for our Squadron. There was a National USPS meeting in Orlando. I hope that some of you were able to attend. As mentioned in the last *Anchor Chain*, I attended a one-day class. Hopefully, I learned something that will help me do a better job. We'll see.....

Our Squadron hosted the Boat Operator's Certification (BOC) class on 2/7. The class trained new trainers. Some of the on-the-water skills included docking, anchoring, high-speed turning, stopping, and more. Cdr. Henke presented a class in the use of fire extinguishers as part of the requirements for BOC Certification. Those certified were Cdr. Tim Henke, P/C Joe Rzewuski, P/Lt/C Ralph Shrivalle, P/Lt/C Cathy Henke, and myself.

The Homosassa Springs trip scheduled for 2/27 had to be postponed because of bad weather. With so many activities planned for March, as of now, Saturday, April 24, 2010 is the new date for the Homosassa Springs Trip. All other plans for the outing stay the same. Homosassa Springs is a fabulous place and with better weather expected in April, we hope that many of our members will attend.

The Engine Maintenance class started on 2/15 with 15 students. Instructor Bill Meyers is moving along at flank speed. Thank you Bill.

Mr. Hank Bolduc from Sumter Electric Coop. was the speaker at our February general meeting. He shared with us ways to reduce our power consumption (WHICH SAVES US MONEY). He gave us an "Energy Scoreboard". With this information you may find ways to reduce your electric bill. A second handout, "Home Energy Management" gives specific suggestion on ways to save energy. Go to (www.secoenergy.com) for copies.

We have planned many great activities for March, please consult the calendar for details.

March 5, 2010: First Friday in Eustis. If you'd like to participate give Don Stewart a call at (352) 742-2526. A step up crew is needed, with a relief crew coming in around 7pm.

For our General Meeting, March 16, we will have a speaker from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Ms Ulgonda Kirkpatrick. Her presentation will center on the bald eagle-monitoring, biology, and regulation. My spies tell me it is a very interesting program.

General meeting doors open at 6:30pm (1830). If you can, bring a snack to share.

Thank you.

Education Notes:

For those folks without a “letter” behind your name, a Seamanship class will be held at the conclusion of the Engine Maintenance class. This is the first in a series of classes that will allow the member to “climb the Power Squadron Educational ladder”.

The Engine Maintenance class is well into the series of classes. It is interesting to find out what you knew or did not know!

The Newest rewrite of the marine electronics course is out. It includes numerous updates on DSC, AIS, MMSI, FCC and SAT phones. Sound like alphabet soup? Take the class and make sense of it all !

Public Education class held in the “Villages” has been changed to April 10th --- NOT April 17th

April 17th Instructor Seminar held in Satellite Beach. District 23 education department will hold a briefing for all instructors. This class will also certify or recertify folks that want to continue on as instructors in USPS classes. This is open to all members. Be a part of the educational effort. Give it a try, it really is fun, once you get a couple of classes under your belt. We shall carpool down to Satellite Beach to cut costs. Contact Tim for information.



Public Relations Help Needed

We will have an exhibition at the outdoor expo in the world famous “The Villages” on March 13th and 14th. We are requesting 3 people to work the booth during those days. Please contact Lt/C Don Stewart with the hours that you will be available.

MEETING NOTICE

Harris Chain Sail & Power Squadron

MARCH 16th , 2010

Triangle Boat Club

Doors open 1830 hrs

Guest Speaker 1900 hrs

Ms Ulgonda Kirkpatrick of FWC

Regarding Bald Eagles

Squadron Monthly Meeting 1930hrs



Lt/C Walter Gordon, AP

Squadron Treasurer

The Harris Chain Power Squadron applied for their own Tax Exempt number in December of last year. The new Certificate of Exemption was received on February 19th. This will allow us to have our own Tax ID for making purchases associated with the power squadron and not have to use the Districts exemption certificate.

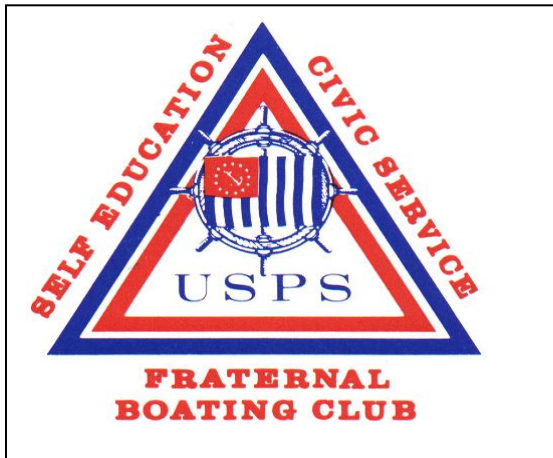
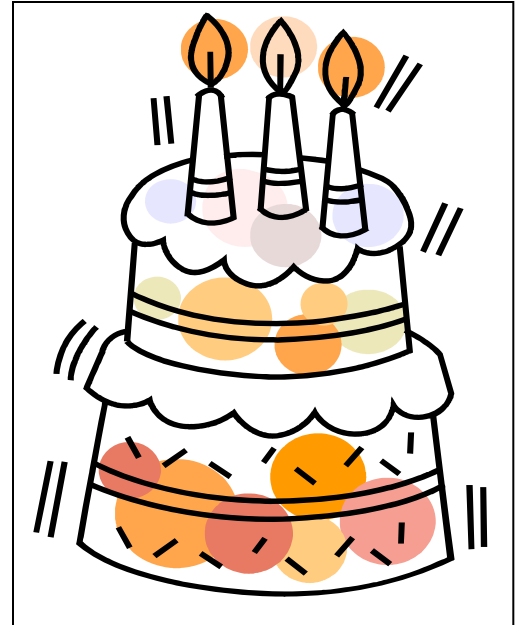
During the past few months we have had many conversations regarding where to invest approximately \$2000 of the squadron's money due to National not offering the Mega Bond Purchase Program anymore. As you know we had \$1500 invested in this program for the last two years and the money was returned to us, with interest, in January. We will be making a decision to invest approximately \$2000.00 in a Certificate of Deposit at a local financial institution within the next couple of weeks. Interest rates are not the greatest right now but our investment will be insured by the FDIC and some interest is better than no interest.

I have also contacted the Audit Committee and we will be meeting in the near future to certify the books for 2009.

If anyone has any questions regarding our finances or would like to learn the responsibilities of the treasurer and be my backup, please let me know.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO THE “FEBRUARY BABIES”

3rd Ray Ellison, AP
13th Twilla Nahama, AP
20th Tim Spratt
25th Linda Bertone
30th P/Lt/C Wendy Gordon, S



Are you involved each side
of the USPS Triangle ?

If not.

Get Involved TODAY !

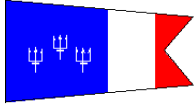
Pull the Covers of the boats
Check the Gear
Get a Vessel Safety Check
Shine Those Boats
Take a test ride

Get it all together

Blessing of the Fleet
Followed By A
Commanders Cruise

March 21st 2pm

See Flyer in this newsletter for details



P/C Joe Murray, AP
Vessel Safety Check



Jim Franco of The Del Webb Community and I want to thank the enthusiastic members who performed VSC's and those who assisted on February 20th. We finally had a reasonably warm, sunny day to enjoy, and it was good to see so many there and talk about boats.

A busy March is planned, and it should place us well along on the way to a record year for VSC's. On Sunday, March 14, inspectors not at the Villages Exposition will be at two Lake County boat launch sites. We expect the Coast Guard Auxiliary to be at one of three Leesburg launch sites on each of the Sundays in March, so we'll remain flexible for location. That's the second Sunday in March, and we'll return to the third Sunday beginning in April to get back to our long time monthly schedule.

On Saturday, March 20 inspections are scheduled for The Lake Harris Wharf (on Rt 19, Tavares), and at The Hawthorne Community Boat Club on Rt 27 south of Leesburg. Two to four inspectors at each site should be enough, and we'll begin at 9:30. More later on specifics as to entry, etc.

On Sunday, March 21, we'll be inspecting our squadron boats at the Blessing of the Fleet, Arrive prior to noon and inspections will take place until 1:30 (see the flyer in this Anchor Chain issue). Bring your pfd as these inspections will all be on the water, your own boat if desired, stay for the blessing, and go on the cruise!

Have a great March.



Lt/C Arthur H. Grae, S
Squadron Secretary / Chaplin

The Peace of Wild Things
By Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
And I wake in the night at the least sound
In fear of what my life and children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
Who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world and I am free.



Galaxy 23

From The District Bridge

D/C Robert E. Becker, Jr, SN

February means that spring is right around the corner and that our D 23 commander's year is just about over. March brings us spring and our D 23 Spring Conference on 26-28 March.

It has been a good year, not great, but good. Our nation's economy tanked and along with it many who would have bought boats had reasons to put their money elsewhere. Thus potential members were hard to find. We lost a few members from each of the squadrons dropping our D 23 membership below 1,000 members. But things are improving somewhat and hopefully the economy will turn and the new boaters will appear once more.

I have just spent the day attending the Membership Committee meeting at the USPS Annual Meeting and the Board of Directors has asked all of us to bring 6,000 new members into the USPS ranks for the balance of the year. If accomplished we will end the year with a little over 40,000 members. Can it be done? Impossible? Some say so but if each of us in D 23 brought in just one new member we alone would end the year with over 1,800 members. So let's get out there and start RECRUITING. Last September the Governing Board extended for another 3 year period the relaxation of the rule that a new member had to take the Squadron Boating Course. Now it is possible to ask any boating friend of yours to join with us. One of the best ways to get new members is during our vessel inspections. While each of our Vessel Inspectors carries the form outlining the USCG required equipment to be inspected, why not have each inspector also carry a new member application form? The new member application form is available from your squadron Membership Chairperson. We should not pass up this golden opportunity to recruit new members. Belong to a yacht club or cruising club? Another great opportunity to invite the members to join with us. Remember, each one of us is a salesperson for USPS. Let's show headquarters that we in D 23 not only are up to the challenge, let's prove we can do it!

In talking with members of our Jacksonville Squadron, they assure me the spring D 23 conference will be one of the best yet. Special rates at the Hyatt right on the St. Johns River waterfront, a Friday night patriotic theme, great food, good guest speakers on Saturday and a chance to meet many of our USPS friends. I would like to see many of our newer members attend and let them see what the district does. Promote the conference to each and all within your squadron. You and your members will not be disappointed!

It has been an honor to have served as your D/C this past year and with your support next year will be a GREAT year!

Red, White & Blue



Honor Our Country Past to Present

It's time to get out your finest patriotic costume, wave the flag and Honor our Country and celebrate with our incoming D23 Bridge at the



**USPS D23 Spring Conference
and Change of Watch
March 26 - 28, 2010**



At:

Door Prizes

Hyatt Regency in Downtown
Jacksonville

Hosted by:

The Jacksonville Sail & Power
Squadron

**Costume
Prizes**

Music



**All Reservations Must be Made
by February 26, 2010**



March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 E M CLASS	2 Bridge Meeting	3	4	5 First Friday Eustis Volunteers needed	6
7	8 E M Class	9	10	11	12	13 Villages Expo Lake Miona Recreation Center Volunteers needed For booth
14 Villages Expo Lake Miona Recreation Center Volunteers needed For booth	15 EM Class	16 Monthly Meeting @ TBC Doors Open 6:30 Speaker 7 pm Meeting ~ 7:30	17	18	19	20 Lake Harris Resort & Hawthorne Safety Day VSC's / Booth
21 Blessing of the Fleet 2 pm Commander Cruise Blessing/VSC/Booth	22 E M Class	23	24	25	26 District 23 Meetings ALL Encouraged	27 In Jacksonville to attend
28 JAX Meeting	29 EM Class	30	31	1 APRIL FOOLS DAY Don't be a fool -- Take a class	2 First Friday Eustis Volunteers needed for Booth	3

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 APRIL FOOLS DAY Don't be a fool --- Take a class	2 First Friday Eustis Volunteers needed for Booth Good Friday	3
4 EASTER	5 E M Class	6 Bridge Meeting	7	8	9	10 Village Public Education Class
11	12 E M Class	13	14	15	16	17 District Education Seminar Satellite Beach
18	19 E M Class	20 General Meeting	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	