



United States Power Squadrons®

Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the FriendsSM

Pamlico Sail and Power Squadron, District 27



SOUND OF THE PAMLICO

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October 2016

Volume 16, No. 5

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Rod Gurganus, Agricultural Agent and Director at Beaufort County NC Cooperative Extension

The Pamlico Sail and Power Squadron held its General Membership Meeting on 15 September at the Washington Yacht and Country Club. Our featured speaker was Rod Gurganus, Director of the Beaufort County Extension Office. Along with administrative oversight of the county extension program, Mr. Gurganus works with farmers to provide unbiased, research-based information to enhance yields and grow the county's \$120 million agricultural industry.

Mr. Gurganus gave an overview of the status of agriculture here as compared to other counties in NC. Beaufort County's production of soy beans, seed corn and cotton ranks consistently in the top 5% of all Carolina counties. He spoke of how the intermittently dry and then incredibly wet weather farmers have experienced in the last several years has affected area farmers. Disease, insects, fungi attacks, wind and heavy rain damage, standing water, and lack of adequate soil moisture have consistently limited production.

There are presently no limits applied to crop production. Crops are planted to realize maximum return given prices paid for production. The small family farm is being phased out and large corporate operations are replacing them, farming thousands of acres.

The soil in eastern NC is some of the richest in America. It is full of peat, allowing for good drainage, which is an imperative to manage the health of crops.



The cost of farm equipment continues to escalate. The huge combines and tractors are up in the half million dollar range. The use of GPS technology will soon take the farmer out of the machinery and the machine will function by direction electronically through satellites. Technology is increasingly important because the land must continue to produce for the rising world population.

Genetically modified food is going to be increasingly important. The foods we now consume have often been modified. Corn, soybeans, various vegetables, literally all crops have been systematically improved by technology over the past 20 or 30 years. Media attention has brought it to the forefront.

You can find the NC Cooperative Extension website [here](#).

Thanks to Kay Graham for this article.





Commander's Corner

Cdr Tom Graham, SN

USPS Governing Board Meeting



Having attended the USPS National Governing Board meeting on 27-28 August in Pittsburgh, PA, I would like to provide an update on what is going on in our national organization. If there is any area of interest one has in the operations of USPS, there is a committee for it that meets at these

events. The meeting is not all work for there were numerous social events and activities unique to Pittsburg such as the Three River Dinner Cruise, rides on the famous Incline Cable Cars, and a Pirates baseball game.

One of the more exciting developments at our national organization is a new effort to better market what USPS has to offer the boating public. Earlier this year, R&M Marketing of Cary, NC was contracted to develop a three phase program to determine where we are as an organization, and how to chart a course to where we want to be. Phase three should be completed in a few months and next year we should see new tools to help us better reach out to the boating community.

The Finance Committee proposed a motion to increase dues \$2.00, effective 1 December 2016. This would set the dues rate for a regular active member at \$53, family units headed by a regular active at \$79.50, and family units headed by a life member or a sustaining member at \$26.50. This motion passed.

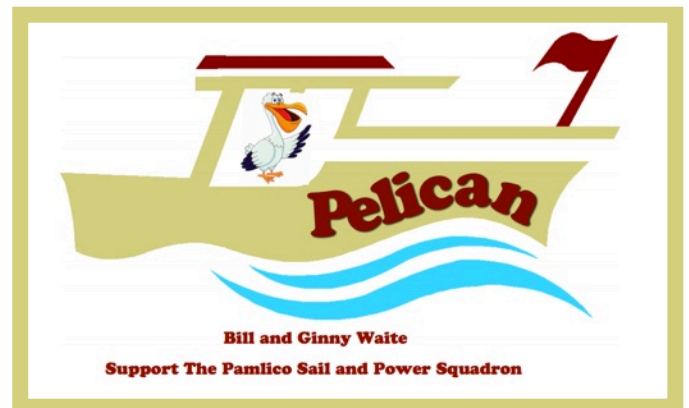
At the District/Squadron Commanders' meeting I learned that National is looking at restructuring the Districts to gain better efficiencies. Over the years, as membership nationally decreased, the number of districts has remained almost the same. There are perhaps two fewer districts than 20 years ago when

national membership was twice what it is today. Nothing has been decided, but National is looking at ways to decrease the overhead expenses that are borne by fewer members. Today there is a total of 374 squadrons in 31 districts. National's income is derived 60% from membership dues, 30% from educational fees, and 10% from grants.

In the area of education there are a number of changes coming. Course manuals will be converted to an E-Book format with Seamanship being the first. Plans are to have Seamanship converted to an E-Book format by the end of this year. The conversion will facilitate course material updates and greatly reduce cost.

Another change will be the use of OpenCPN, a new, open source, electronic navigation program in courses dealing with navigation. The software is a free download available in both Windows and Max OS formats. The application uses charts that can be downloaded from NOAA's website for free. The presentation I attended on the software was made using an excellent webinar that has been developed explaining how to install and use the program. I expect this webinar will be available on National's website sometime in the future.

All too soon the boating season will be drawing to a close; however opportunities to participate in educational and social activities will be offered to fill out this great PSPS year. Hope to see you. ⚓





Executive Officer's Report

Lt/C Bill Templeton, P

Strange Vessel Seeks Shelter from Storm



On the Friday evening before Labor Day, Tropical Storm Hermine (formerly Hurricane Hermine) visited Eastern North Carolina with 40+ mile per hour winds and 5-8 inches of rain.

Chocowinity Bay surged around four feet. In visiting Cypress Landing Marina in the calm and sunny Saturday morning after the storm, to everyone's surprise a wooden deck platform with an attached picnic table complete with umbrella was neatly parked in a slip as though it had driven there.

Speculation by the dock master on duty and other boaters was that the 'vessel' may have been blown across the Bay from Twin Lakes RV and Camping Resort about a mile away. Some marina members (note Skip Vail in the photo) began to make plans on where we could deploy such a nice picnic table. However, later that day Marina Manager Leo Zimmermann made a trip to Food Lion in Chocowinity. There he ran across a couple of apparent campers in the parking lot who were filling their coolers with ice. Thinking they might be familiar with Twin Lakes, Leo asked where were they staying. They indicated that they had come from Twin Lakes. Leo then asked if they might know someone who'd lost a picnic table to which one of the guys said "Does it have a blue umbrella?" Turns out, it was his!



Where are the burgers and fries?



It's fortunate the picnic table stayed put on its deck, even though it wasn't attached.



The happy end to the wayward vessel story with a slow tow back home!

(Photos by John Holloway)



Administrative Officer's Report

Lt/C Kay Graham



September's General Membership Meeting was a successful evening. Chef Colin Miller offered customarily sumptuous fare. Either selection, crab-cakes or chicken

marsala, added culinary color to our autumn palettes. Speaker Rod Gurganus can boast of a long and interesting career in Beaufort County Agriculture. He gave us an expansive understanding of just how important agriculture is in eastern Carolina. A jocular raconteur, Rod had lots of farming information interspersed with numerous colorful tales of the 'dirty' business Beaufort County's economy depends upon. Thirty-seven people enjoyed the festivities. Everyone dutifully advised me of their intention to attend within the allotted time and made my job much easier and not fraught with handwringing stress. Thanks, you guys!!

The site of the **17 October dinner** is **Frank's Pizza and Italian Restaurant**. A longtime, well known victualer in Washington, Frank's has promised to work hard to sate everyone's Italian cravings. Action starts at 1730. Please remember to call me at 946-7632 or [email me](#) to ensure an accurate head count. We want there to be ample wait staff to manage our dinner selections quickly. On a positive note, Frank's offers beer and wine for those who seek spirits to accompany their repasts.

Next month's program at WYCC is expected to be provided by Bill Doar, world traveler, and promises to be an interesting evening. More info to come.

The **District 27 Fall Conference** is fast approaching and will be held in Greensboro on 14-16 October. **This is one you do not want to miss!** The District is making great strides in changing the culture of their meetings. Varied and interesting activities and a scintillating presentation on World War II ships off the coast are expected to enliven the weekend.

Sue Duclos has assumed the Squadron Membership duties managed so masterfully by the now departed Ed Latta. We all will miss Ed and Della. They were constant supporters and stalwart participants of many of our organization's endeavors. Delaware is lucky to have them!

Bill Ramsden and Mia are off to southern climes for the winter season aboard their impressive Shannon motor vessel. Bill has been the Squadron's Administrative Assistant-Boating Activities since January 2013. His tireless efforts and attention to detail made for incredibly memorable cruising, raft-ups, and weekends on the water. We so appreciate your hard work and unfailing excellence, Bill. Enjoy the Florida winter sun, you two!

Rob Dare is already assuming duties as Admin Assistant-Boating Activities, and will continue to do so in 2017. He has planned a **Fall Cruise to Belhaven** on 10-13 November. It's a busy time of year for them, so get your reservations in ASAP by calling Rob Dare at 402-7704 or [email him](#). There will be a dinner on Friday at The Tavern at Jack's Neck, with cocktails first at the marina.

I want to express my admiration and boundless appreciation to Chris Young for her matchless skill at producing innovative renderings of planned dining announcements. Their colorful completeness are remarkable. Chris's selfless efforts and myriad contributions make this organization the stellar performer it consistently is. Thank you, Chris.

The much vaunted Cruise to River Dunes which might prove to be Bill Ramsden's boating season swan song was so much fun. Bill outdid himself in developing a remarkable boating weekend. The berthing was primo and the meals were excellent. This was the kind of activity that compels us to remain and recruit into the Power Squadron.

Don't forget to start your no-more-hurricane dances this week. The local meteorologists need all the help they can get!





Communication Chair



So, how do you all feel about Social Media? If you are like me, my grandchildren have pulled me into Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, etc just to keep up with them,

their activities and interests.

The information available on these and other Social Media sites can be of interest to you as well. USPS has embraced Facebook and [here is a link](#) that will take you to their site regardless whether you have a Facebook account or not. Be sure to check it out.

Lt/C Chris Young, S

Now, if you want to know how to do anything at all, YouTube is the place to go. There are many, many YouTube videos on topics of boating education, safety, provisioning, boat cleaning, boat repair, etc. The list goes on and on. USPS has integrated excellent videos in their website. [Here is a link](#) that I think you will find very interesting. Your Web Committee plans to include this link in our PSPS Web Site for your ease of access.

In the past, PSPS has explored the possibility of setting up a Facebook account. The question has been raised again. Please take a moment and let me know your thoughts. Do you think it would be worthwhile? Would you like to be part of the effort to maintain a Facebook account for PSPS? ↕

WELCOME

Miles & Susan Whitson,
& Allison & Sarah Whitson
Boat: 24' power



William & Marti Davis
Boat: 21' power



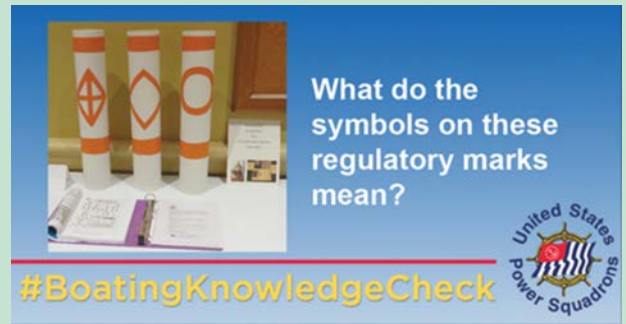
Tom & Trish Vitaz
Boat: 35' Endeavor sailboat
Boat Name: Fragile Magic
Boat: 24' Chaparral Signature power
Boat Name: Lucky Duck
Dock: Pamlico Plantation



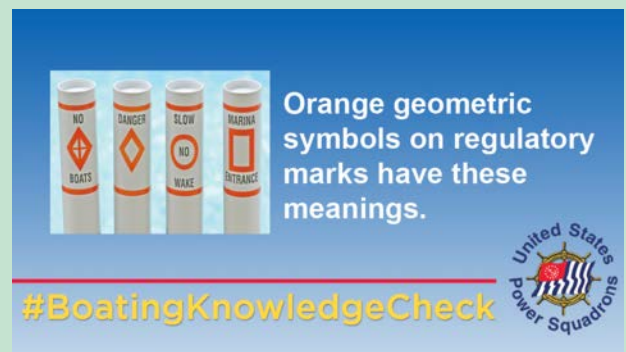
Jon & Tracy Rose
Boat: 38' power
Boat Name: Bimini Blue

BoatingKnowledgeCheck

USPS's Facebook page includes a boating knowledge test every Wednesday. For example, here's one of the questions.



Click on the picture in Facebook, and you find the answer!





Education Report

1st/Lt Manuel Núñez, S Assistant Educational Officer



The Squadron conducted two seminars in cooperation with Cypress Landing Yacht Club: **Basic Weather and Forecasting** (25 August) and **Anchoring** (22 September). Bill Sholl taught both seminars, which were well-attended with an audience of almost 30 people each. Our appreciation goes to Bill for a great job.

The **Seamanship** course started on 7 September and will run through 26 October. This is a

comprehensive course covering all aspects regarding construction, functioning and maneuvering of a boat, skipper's responsibilities, rules of the road, anchoring, emergencies, and basic knots. Joe Sevick is presenting the course. Thank you, Joe.

Before the end of the year we plan to conduct the seminar on **Knots, Bends and Hitches**. This could be a fun and hands-on event geared to a wide range of audiences.

We are preparing the program for next year. Expect to hear some news about it in the next edition of the *Sound of the Pamlico*. ⚓



Anchor Seminar



Weather Seminar

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PAMLICO SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON





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Pamlico Sail and Power Squadron

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Nominating Committee

This is the time of year when the Squadron's Nominating Committee kicks into high gear and contacts members for their interest in Squadron positions and their willingness to take on responsibilities on behalf of the Squadron. Is 2017 the year you have time to invest in your Squadron?

The Nominating Committee develops a slate of candidates to hold Bridge Officer positions such as Commander, Executive Officer, Administrative Officer, Treasurer, Education Officer and Secretary. In this Squadron, we also seek members to serve as Assistants to these offices and we believe this is an excellent method of spreading out the effort as well as prepare effective leadership for our future.

Most Bridge positions are one-year terms. You will note that in some cases we have been fortunate to have individuals willing to volunteer for consecutive years.

If this isn't the year to volunteer as a Bridge Officer, consider serving as a Chairperson in various areas. We rely upon the commitment of volunteers to become course instructors, membership committee, cruise captains, event planners, members of the communication committee, ship store, vessel safety inspectors and coop-charting participants just to

name a few. Click [here](#) to view the 2016 Squadron Organizational Chart.

If you are interested in any of the above areas or just want to learn more about a specific role, please contact the 2016 Nominating Committee.

Gene Alligood galligood@aol.com 252-946- 5720
Edie Miller eycmiller@gmail.com 252-975- 6479

The Nominating Committee may have already contacted you to ask you to step forward and get involved in Squadron planning and implementation. We challenge you to become an active contributor to your Squadron. Being asked to serve is an honor and a testament to the respect members have for you. Volunteering simply feels good and continues to be the heart of our Squadron.



Educational Fund



You may be aware that USPS has an Educational Fund to which squadrons and individual members are encouraged to donate annually. The purpose of the Educational Fund is to promote the development and the furtherance of educational programs and

Lt/C Bob Young, AP, Treasurer

techniques. PSPS has again made a donation to this fund for 2016. The donation is based upon our current membership count each September times \$1, an amount suggested by USPS. This year the amount sent to USPS for the Educational Fund was \$131 on your and the Squadron's behalf.

The annual dues invoice you receive has a space for donation to the Educational Fund should you choose to donate additional dollars.





Anchor Spring Line

First, I must apologize to our loyal readers for the lack of any communication during the past few weeks. It's been so hot here in the Chesapeake Bay that I was concerned that perspiration dripping off my nose would damage my laptop computer. The water in the bay is so warm that shallow water crabs come up nearly table ready. Our cold drink consumption is nearly the same as our diesel fuel usage as we try to avoid dehydration. Presently, we are anchored in the Magothy River north of the Annapolis Bay Bridge waiting for a front to pass through. The morning rain has only raised the humidity level to aggravating.

Last week, anchored in Rock Creek outside of Baltimore we found we had a light breeze which did us no favors in the late afternoon. The problem was that the breeze, while welcome, was from the south resulting in the sun beating directly into the cockpit under the bimini from the west. I remembered an article I read in one of the heavy duty cruising magazines describing how to orient an anchored boat at an angle to the wind, normally to avoid excess rocking in a ground swell. It Works!

1. Anchor the boat with a conservative length of rode;
2. Get a long spring line out of storage – one that is as long as the boat if possible.
3. Pull a length of the rode back onto the foredeck and tie one end of the spring line to it with a

Scott Mackenzie, AP

rolling hitch, (look it up in a knots book or on the internet).

4. Lead the line down the side of the boat opposite to the direction you will want the boat to point, and tie it off to the stern quarter cleat.
5. Let out the anchor rode while taking up on the spring line, (maybe the Admiral or one of the grandchildren can help here) until the boat is pointing in the direction you wish.

You will then see that the boat is lying on a Vee bridle with part of the anchor rode running from the bow to the rolling hitch and the remainder running from the rolling hitch to the anchor, and low and behold, you now have shade in the cockpit. One Atta-Boy for the Skipper! I don't recommend using this arrangement if the wind direction is shifty or the wind speed is over 10 knots as it puts a greater load on the anchor. In such a situation, go below and turn on the air conditioner. ⚓

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River Dunes Cruise

The mid-August Cruise to River Dunes was a huge success and the largest PPS cruising group in some time, with 15 boats. Thanks to Bill Ramsden's planning, the entire weekend was enjoyable and entertaining. The cruise to River Dunes was a perfect day to be on the water. The pool was a big draw for cooling off after the cruise. We had a terrific group dinner at the Harbor Club Restaurant Friday evening to kick off the weekend.

The weekend included the Oriental Dragon Boat Festival all day Saturday and was very entertaining. With 16 teams, and several heats, we simply relaxed to enjoy the event.

Dragon Boats are the world's largest flat water racing canoes, propelled by a crew of 20 plus a drummer and steersperson. Teamwork is everything. Dragon Boat paddlers move in unison, combining strength with synchronized teamwork in a boat whose elaborate design originates in ancient China.

Saturday was a very hot, humid day, but Bill worked his magic and he got access to the Harbor Club main floor for our Saturday evening cocktail party. A number of car riders down for the Dragon Boat races joined us and it was a cool, enjoyable time. Sunday, those boats who stayed another day gathered at the Harbor Club Restaurant for Brunch. Beautiful cruise home - a bit warm, but enjoyable nonetheless! ⚓





Coast Guard Warns Of Potentially Dangerous Distress Signal



The U.S. Coast Guard has withdrawn the Certificate of Approval for NAMMO LIAB AB Orange Hand Smoke Distress Signal. The chemical makeup of the signal was changed in October 2013 without Coast Guard approval, and the signals are now at risk of spontaneous combustion when dropped.

labeled and marketed as "Polar MK 4" by NAMMO LIAB AB or as "IKAROS" by Hansson Pyrotech. "IKAROS" Hansson Pyrotech is the more current manufacturing name.

Approximately 2,790 smoke signals have the potential defect in the US market. They may be

Any signal manufactured after October 2013 must be properly disposed of and replaced with a product that satisfies the vessel's carriage requirements.

- U.S. Coast Guard



Member Benefits

Find other member benefits [here](#).



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Greg Jordan



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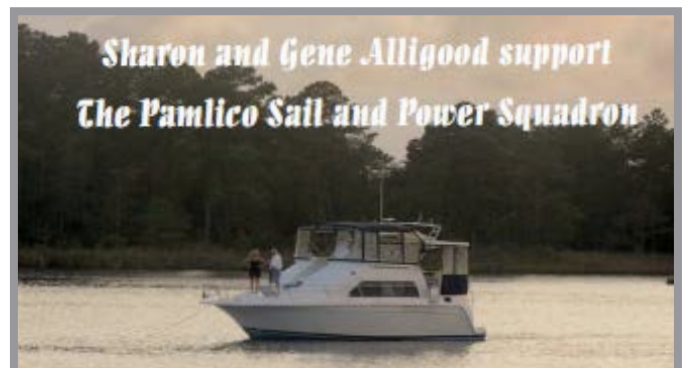
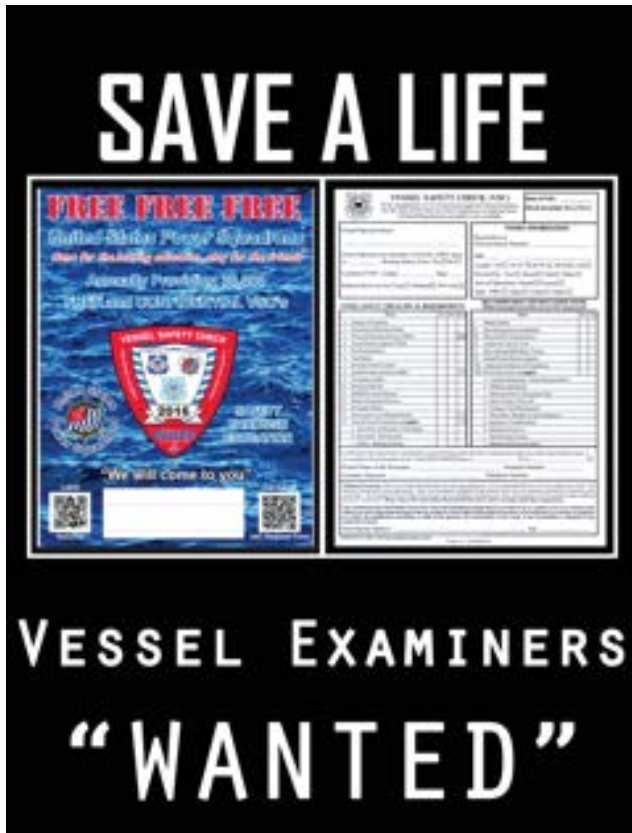
Decal Awareness Program (DAP)

There is a new replacement tool in the Vessel Safety Check (VSC) tool box called “DAP,” acronym for “Decal Awareness Program.” The flyers and posters were designed to display the three primary aspects of the United States Power Squadrons: EDUCATION, SAFETY, and CAMARADERIE. Using the Vessel Safety Check decal at its nucleus is beneficial, as it’s a recognizable symbol. Another benefit of the flyer is Squadrons and VEs can add their contact information electronically from their computer. Also displayed on the flyer is the Quick Response (QR) code for the USPS web site, plus a QR code for the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary VSC locator web site. This is a new National project that adheres to the USPS branding manual policy. “Save a Life” boater safety signs were designed to be placed at recreational merchant locations & boat ramps. By including the form 7012, boaters will know in advance what is expected in order to pass a VSC. One of the signs is designed to have a

Squadron address box and the other is a Universal sign that combines the USPS & USCGAUX.

With your leadership and support the Decal Awareness Program can increase the number of annual Vessel Safety Checks. Flyers are available on the website. The Safety Committee page can be found by going to usps.org, Member site, Site index, Safety Committee. Click on any of the images there to get a printable version of the item. Don't forget to use your USPS Office Max discount to have copies made. ⚓

DAP Announcement quoted from Safety Committee Webpage, Member Site of the United States Power Squadrons® National Website





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Pamlico Sail and Power Squadron

Image © 2012 TerraMetrics, Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO




District 27 Fall Conference

The District 27 Fall Conference is fast approaching. It is being held at the Airport Embassy Suites in Greensboro on 14-16 October. The Greensboro Squadron is working hard to make sure we have an enjoyable and informative weekend. On Friday and Saturday, no cost tours and shopping trips have been organized - so be sure to select what interests you and sign up now. On Saturday, there will be an exciting and interesting presentation by Keven Duffus on WWII Warships Off the East Coast. Kevin is an award winning filmmaker, researcher, author and investigative journalist of historical events. Everyone will want to see the Conch Blowing Demo by Greensboro Squadron members on Saturday night! Additionally, these conferences are great opportunities to learn more about our organization, socialize with old friends and make new ones.

You can access the hotel information, registration form and agenda by going to the District 27 [calendar](#). 

Why The Pamlico River Turned Green

Ever wonder why the Pamlico River turned green this summer? Find an interesting explanation in [this article](#) on Sound Rivers' website. Sound Rivers is a nonprofit organization that guards the health of the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico River Basins. 

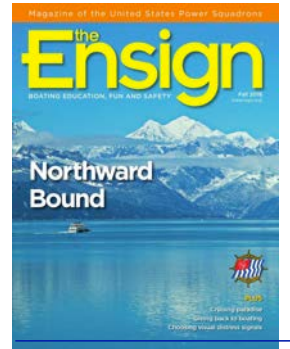


USPS Pledge

**“I do solemnly pledge to:
Abide by the bylaws of the United States Power Squadrons;
Promote high standards of navigation and seamanship;
Maintain my boat and operate it legally;
Render assistance whenever possible;
And conduct myself in a manner that will add prestige, honor and respect to the United States Power Squadrons”**

Shipmates' Roster

Gene & Sharon Alligood
Tom & Edie Miller
Bill & Ginny Waite
Bob & Chris Young



National Awards Received in 2015



**Distinctive Communicator Award
PSPS Website**



**Distinctive Communicator Award
Sound of the Pamlico
Newsletter**

**MIRA
AWARD**

**Membership Involvement Retention
Award**



**Co-Op Charting
Honor Roll**



United States Power Squadrons®

Pamlico Sail and Power Squadron

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[Lt/C Kay Graham](#)

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Treasurer

[Lt/C Bob Young, AP](#)

946-7853

Secretary

[Lt/C Janet Neckyfarow, JN](#)

Executive Committee

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833-4497

[P/C Edie Miller, S](#)

975-6479

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[Lt Linda Erickson, S](#)

964-3009

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[Lt/C Chris Young, S](#)

946-7853

Vessel Safety Chair

[Fred Schroeder](#)

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[Lt Steve Neckyfarow, JN](#)

Newsletter Editor

[Lt Lisa Fiore, S](#)

Asst Ed Officer

[1st Lt Manuel Núñez, S](#)

Assistant Secretary

[Lt Mary Paulson](#)

Assistant Treasurer

[Lt Carl Erickson, S](#)

Asst Admin Officer

[1st Lt Rob Dare, P](#)

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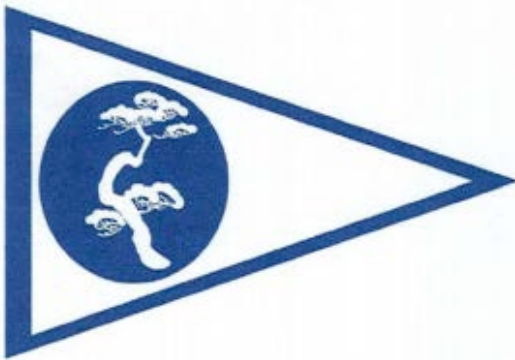


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Thank you, PSPS, for your continued promotion of boating safety and education!



The Cypress Landing Yacht Club

Sound of the Pamlico is published six times a year by the Pamlico Sail and Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®. We encourage all squadron members to submit stories and articles. The editor reserves the right to modify materials submitted for publication. Any questions, comments or articles should be directed to [Lisa Fiore, Editor](#).

Calendar

For more information, go [here](#):

October

- 10** **1600** Executive Committee Meeting, Chamber of Commerce
- 14-16** **D27 Fall Council/Conference**, Airport Embassy Suites, Greensboro, NC
- 17** **1730 Dinner Out**, Frank's Pizza & Italian Restaurant, Washington
- 21** Music in the Streets, Washington

November

- 10-13** **Belhaven Cruise**, Belhaven
- 14** **1600** Executive Committee Meeting, Chamber of Commerce
- 17** **1800** General Membership Meeting, Toys for Tots Washington Yacht & Country Club
- TBD** Knots Seminar

Ship's Store

Visit the USPS Ship's Store [here](#). Find clearance items [here](#).

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One size 12" x 18" - Cost: \$25



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