

THE PALMETTO LOG

Charleston Power Squadron

Sail and Power Boating

A Unit of District 26

United States Power Squadrons



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**Safe Boating Through
Education**

**From The Commander
Cdr Dick Howells, JN**



Ok, this is the first ‘Log’ with having everything go to the Commander first. So if anything is amiss, it is my fault. Please let me know. Also we are doing a combined June and July edition if for no other reason than to give Steve Brostoff, our editor and publisher, a summer break.

Watch out! We now have hot water in the kitchen. Samuel Steinberg provided the tankless heater, Harl Porter and Steve Ireland rewired the entire kitchen to code and Dave Walsh did the plumbing. I do not know how long we have been without hot water in the kitchen, but I know BJ Smith and I started trying to do this when I was Admin.

A lot of things are coming up, so keep a close eye on the Web site and watch for Google Group notices. If you do not have internet access, call me and we will put you on a call list for updates. Administrative Officer Larry Dorminy has an extensive list of upcoming events elsewhere. I suggest you save this. One thing to pay attention to is the combining of the Annual October Meeting with our Oyster Roast Fund Raiser. This was Larry’s suggestion because we are hosting the District 26 Change of Watch, and that is going to take a lot of Squadron effort. Too much to run two other events during October.

Please keep track of the volunteer hours you put in for the Squadron. Merit Marks are awarded each year (only one per year) for the help members give to the Squadron. The various department heads are responsible for reporting your efforts to me but it helps if they can call on you for details. (That was a subtle hint to all department heads to check their records.)

I had a great time doing the ‘on the water training’ for our America’s Boating Course. PC Dave Walsh did a great job setting up the program, and everyone seemed to enjoy the experience. It was also a great opportunity to recruit new members.

Have fun on the water but remember to think safety and talk safety to every boater you know.

Dick



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Executive Officer
Lt/C Angie Ireland, S



Many of you may have been wondering where your XO has been lately. As some of you may already know, the company I work for is shutting its doors in South Carolina and moving to Arkansas. Due to the closure, I have been asked to help the Arkansas facility with this transition. And what does this mean for you and me...

Well, in order to continue to be employed a little longer in the current failing economy and high unemployment rates in our beautiful state, for the last couple of months, I have had the misfortune to fall into the same scenario as our recently resigned XO BJ Smith. I have been living and working in Arkansas three weeks out of each month. This situation will remain in effect for several more months. With this in mind, I will endeavor to continue to serve you as best I can.

Harl Porter is doing an excellent job with VSCs. We have had two Vessel Examiners to be re-qualified on 14 March. To date, this makes a total of 11 qualified Vessel Examiners for 2009. Due to the successful VSC picnic and the diligence of our Vessel Examiners, we now have close to thirty Vessel Safety Checks complete to date.

With the warm weather picking up and the boating season kicking in gear, let us all give our First Aid kits the once over. Your kits don't have to be store bought fancy ones with too many unnecessary items. Keep it simple! Just accumulate the items to stop the bleeding such as bandages, disinfectants, etc. Remember to get something for headache, seasickness, and sunburn. A basic First Aid manual might come in handy as well. One last word about those kits. Where did you put it? And does everyone on board know where it is?

Gary Whitley is outdoing himself this year with PR! We have had fantastic turnouts for our new "America's Boating Course" based on his expert Public Relation skills. Great

job, Gary! The reviews were so good on the course that we were approached to teach it to the School of Maritime Technologies at West Ashley High School. Isn't this, Boating Safety, what we are all about! Our thanks go to all of the instructors and the PR team! There has also been so much interest in the course that Gary has recruited Kathy Rogers to join the team to assist with communications for new students and potential new members. Gary is ramping up to start TV and radio contacts for additional PR. Jay Newberry has also joined the team and will be contacting all the radio and TV stations to promote Squadron Activities. Welcome to the PR team Kathy and Jay!

Don't forget about the Charleston Harbor Fest coming up in June. This is always a good chance for our Squadron as a group to obtain some positive visibility in a couple of different ways. One is to sign up to be a volunteer to help out with Harbor Fest. Another way is to help man the CSPS booth that Daisy Proctor is working so very diligently to have set up during Harbor Fest. For only a few hours out of your day, what a great way to have fun, help the Maritime community and the Charleston Sail & Power Squadron!

See you on the water soon!

Angie

America's Great Loop Cruisers' Association
Cruising the Eastern Half of North America



500 Oakbrook Lane
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1-877-478-5667 ext. 7104
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Website: www.GreatLoop.org

**Administrative Officer
Larry Dorminy**



9 May 09: Nine Cape Fear Power Squadron members from Wilmington, NC spent three nights docked at the City Marina and were greeted by several of our Squadron at 1800. Our members were treated to delicious hors d'oeuvres by the Cape Fear crew, and Cdr. Dick Howells contributed a cooler of wine and beer.

14 May 09: Thirty-five members dined at the new Buccaneer Restaurant in the downtown French Quarter, enjoying a fine happy/social hour, a varied menu and scrumptious desserts. A program on weather predictions and trends for the Charleston boating season was presented by Ron Morales of the National Weather Service.

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

2009 will probably be remembered as the Squadron's "Year of the Volunteer!" We need volunteers to staff the following:

Squadron Booth at Harbor Fest, 26-28 June

District Change of Watch, 2-4 October

Oyster Roast, 24 October, Coordinator needed to assist the Administrative Officer. This will also be our Annual Meeting for the election of officers and our Fundraiser..

Squadron Change of Watch, 21 November

Parade of Boats, 5 December

The Squadron needs YOU! Please mark these events on your calendar and step forward to help us fulfill these obligations. Please contact any officer or ExCom member to request an assignment. Make your commitment TODAY!

Larry

**Educational Officer
Lt/C Chester B Rogers, P**



It is time to start thinking about fall classes. I have listed below the classes that I would like to have offered, although some details still have to be worked out. If you are considering taking one of these classes, or if you have questions about any of them, please let me know. To some extent, our ability to offer the classes will depend on the amount of interest that is shown in taking them.

Piloting: This is the first and most basic navigation course, covering chart reading, course plotting, and basic coastal or inland navigation, including basic GPS usage. This course goes into more detail than the charting information covered in the public courses.

Engine Maintenance: This course covers the operating principles, basic care, and maintenance of outboard and inboard engines, including diesels.

Cruise Planning: This covers topics of interest for someone planning a cruise – whether for just a weekend or for a year – including preparation and planning, anchoring, security, chartering, and cruising outside the US.

Weather: This covers weather forecasting and reading weather patterns on-board. It has been several years since it has been offered, but I am hopeful that we will have someone to teach it this fall.

Marine Communication Systems: This is the second of a new three course package that has been designed to replace the old Marine Electronics. Harl Porter offered the first one this past winter and will be offering the beta version of this one in the fall.

We have now offered two classes of the new public boating class, America's Boating Class (ABC), which includes an on the water component. It has been very successful. We have had over 50 students complete the class. After some initial difficulties with the development of the on the water component, it is now working successfully, thanks to some outstanding work by David Walsh and the help and cooperation of a number of our members who offered their boats and themselves to instruct the students on the water.

Chet

Boating Safety

The phrase "recreational boating safety" means different things to different people. Everyone's well intended efforts to "promote and improve" can be enhanced significantly if everyone understands what it is and works toward a common goal. The Four Principles of Boating Safety are:

- **Life jackets save lives - always wear a life jacket.**
- **Educated boaters save lives - take a boating safety course.**
- **Safe boats save lives - get a vessel safety check.**
- **Sober boaters save lives - don't operate under the influence.**

Let's look at US Coast Guard accident statistics to determine the most effective utilization of our limited resources to get the "biggest bang for the buck." In 2007, there were 688 recreational boating fatalities and 476 of those were the result of drowning. Ninety percent (427) of those who drowned were not wearing a life jacket. Yes, ninety percent!

This high percentage has remained around the same mark since 2001. A recent life jacket wear rate survey concluded that the wear rate has also hovered around only 8.5 percent of boaters (excluding PWC operators) for this same period, which explains the consistent drowning rate. By promoting wearing a life jacket and the Safe Boating Campaign's "Wear It" initiative we will realize the quickest return on our investment of time and effort.

Other accident statistics show that 75 percent of boat operators involved in an accident had no boating education, and the number increases to 90 percent if only formal boater education is counted.

There were also 33 fatalities involving row boats and 30 of those drowned. Also, 77 percent of the fatalities occurred on inland waterways, on nice days in good weather and involved experienced male operators between 18 and 55+ years old. How do we promote recreational boating safety to the target market? We can start by having effective exhibits at boat shows.

Wearing a new style inflatable life jacket while promoting recreational boating safety to the public, conducting a VSC, teaching a class, walking the floor of a boat show, or staffing an exhibit helps promote lifejacket wear and mitigates boater risk. Being able to answer questions about how lifejackets work, re-arming, and preventative maintenance needs is paramount to the public understanding.

John Sikes, AP
Safety Officer

Upcoming Events:

11 June 09: Dinner Meeting at 1376 Orange Grove Road, 1800 for Social Hour and 1900 for dinner. The menu will be Summer Salads. The guest speaker will be Capt. Andy Fitch of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol.

12-14 June 09: District 26 Cruise and Rendezvous hosted by Tybee Light Squadron, Cdr. Dick Howells, Cruise Captain

26-28 June 09: Charleston Harbor Fest, Maritime Center and Patriots Point. Volunteers needed for the Charleston Sail and Power Squadron booth. Contact Daisy Proctor at 843- 873-3309 to staff our booth. The festival goes on for three days, and we will need to have our booth staffed for all hours of operation: Friday 1000 to 1800, Saturday 1000 to 2000 and Sunday 1000 to 1800. That is 26 hours or 13 shifts of 2 hours each.

10 July 09: Dinner Meeting at 1376 Orange Grove Road, 1800 for Social Hour and 1900 for dinner. Menu will be an Old "Timey" Cookout. The guest speaker will be Chet Klutts of Waterland Canvas.

25 July: Cruise TBA. The date is tentative because we want to do big raft up.

13 August 09: Dinner Meeting at 1376 Orange Grove Road, 1800 for Social Hour and 1900 for dinner. Guest Speaker will be Steve Little of Tow Boat US.

22 August: Cruise TBA.

10 September 09: Dinner Meeting at 1376 Orange Grove Road, 1800 for Social Hour and 1900 for dinner. The guest speaker will be Elizabeth Joyce of Harbor Specialties.

18-20 September 09: Georgetown Landing Cruise

2-4 October 09: District 26 Change of Watch. Watch for further details and full schedule.

9 October 09: No meeting. See 24 October below.

17 October 09: Wooden Boat Show, 1100-1800, Georgetown, SC

24 October 09: Toad Hall Oyster Roast and Annual Meeting at 125 Riverland Drive, 1500

21 November 09: Squadron Change of Watch, USS Yorktown. Details to follow.

5 December 09: Parade of Boats



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Educational Courses

Congratulations to everybody who completed our educational courses for Fall 2008 and Spring 2009.



June Birthday Celebrations

02 June June C. McRoy
03 June P/C Harry K. Gindhart Jr., SN
11 June Adam G. Barwick
11 June Martin G. Gipe, SN
11 June Vincent Piazzola, S
12 June Kate Mclaughlin, S
14 June Marion B. Barnett
14 June Susan Bowers
14 June P/C David E. O'Hanian, SN
14 June Tristan E. Robinson
14 June Bill Roettger, P
25 June Renee Wright

July Birthday Celebrations

03 July Cdr Richard E. Howells, JN
06 July Bill Hayes, P
08 July Amanda Ford
15 July Patricia A. Brown,
16 July William L. McRoy, S
21 July Anne L. Howells
22 July P/C Richard R. Clarke, P
28 July Michael S. Hamme, N

Piloting Fall 2008

Dona Jean Dorminy
Larry Dorminy
Eric Namowicz
Charles Rogers
Kathy Rogers

Engine Maintenance Fall 2008

James K. Bass
Rick Cone
Bart Franey
Terry L. Melloy
Charles F. Rogers
Kathy C. Rogers

Sail Fall 2008

Adam Barwick
Denise Byrnes
Joseph W. Schady
David Walsh
Wendy Walsh

Seamanship Spring 2009

Basil Acock
Mary C. Acock
Nona Bonheimer
Rick Cone
Leland Landesberg
Kate Mclaughlin
Wayne A. Patterson
Mark C. Robinson
Angela F. Ireland

Marine Electrical Systems Spring 2009

James Bonheimer
Larry Dorminy
Bill Roettger
Charles Rogers
Kathy Rogers

Cruise to Palmetto Bay Marina Hilton Head, SC

Three squadron boats cruised to Hilton Head, SC over the weekend of 1-3 May 2009. Two boats, Clark's *Sunday Drive* and Walsh's *Reely Fun* left Charleston on Friday 1 May 2009. Betsy and Harl Porter, aboard *Palmetto Elephant*, started Thursday and stayed overnight at Beaufort on Friday. Our cooperative charting team checked the aids to navigation on Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) from Charleston to Beaufort.

At the Beaufort Downtown Marina we were joined by Betsy and Harl Porter. Palmetto Bay Marina on Hilton Head was a good choice for our weekend stay. The marina had excellent dock facilities, three excellent restaurants (The Black Marlin, Captain Woody's and the Sunrise Grill) and a variety of retail shops. During our stay, the restaurants and shops celebrated the 135th Running of The Kentucky Derby with specials, decorations and Derby style costumes. In all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend. (We had never heard of a "Mint Julep" as the official Derby drink.)

We departed at 0900 on Sunday 3 May 2009 as a "flotilla" of three boats for a smooth passage home. Here are some photos of our Cruise to Hilton Head.



Harl Porter and Art Clark checking the menu outside of the Sunset Grill Restaurant.



Harl Porter repairing the wiring on Walsh's boat *Reely Fun*.



Relaxing at Palmetto Bay Marina on *Sunday Drive*. Right to left Art Clark, Merle Clark, Harl Porter, Wendy Walsh and Betsy Porter.



Wendy and David Walsh with their boat *Reely Fun* at Palmetto Bay Marina.

Letter from our Cape Fear Colleagues

Hello again Dick -

I wish I could do more than just say thanks for the gracious welcome you and your Squadron mates gave us on our arrival at the City Marina on May 9th.

Despite the confusion and delay in our initial gathering, you folks did a great job of prepping us for the remainder of our visit, making us feel secure in the knowledge that we had some local contacts if needed and giving us timely tips about restaurants and activities. It was nice to know from the outset that we weren't total strangers in town.

Ted Poucher and I took mental notes from David Walsh about the on-the-water phase of your ABC course and I have the hard copy of his check list and routes. It's an impressive service you provide to your students and one I'd like to emulate when we shift public education leadership around in our squadron later this fall.

David's explanation of his role in your Co-op Charting program also reminded me of how critical the personal leadership element is in keeping this program alive. I hope some of his inspiration rubs off on us as we work to overcome the data entry issues that discourage many participants..

I appreciated a follow-up contact with Larry Dorminy — he took pains to make sure we were staying out of trouble and knew about the marina's dog-walking customs and his favorite restaurants. On arrival back home I discovered that he'd also called here to give us a Charleston weather advisory. That really was thoughtful.

We picked up three more boats before returning. Our Caribbean sailors joined us the day after our meeting with you at the end of six months in the Caribbean and a non-stop run of 400 miles to the Charleston sea buoy. Two others rendezvoused with us for the scenic run up the Upper Waccamaw to Conway.

Conway is a special trip and if any of your members are interested, I'd be glad to forward my personal navigational charts and contact information.

In the end, we all returned safely with new memories of the Carolina coast and Charleston. It's still a prize destination for us and we'll be back from time to time.

Hope you'll let us welcome you to the Cape Fear area at some time. Please pass on our regards to the Irelands and Dorminys.

Alan Smith and Cape Fear Colleagues

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Squadron Members Attend Commissioning of the USS Truxtun DDG-103

Charleston Sail and Power Squadron members Glenn and Mary Workman and David and Wendy Walsh attended the commissioning of the Navy's newest Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, USS Truxtun (DDG 103), on Saturday, 25 April. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead gave the principal address. The Truxtun was built by Northrop Grumman Ship Systems at Pascagoula, Mississippi. The band played, flags flew, dignitaries spoke, cannons fired and the crew boarded with orders to "bring this ship to life." Here are some photos of the Truxtun's commissioning ceremony.



Squadron members Glenn and Mary Workman and David and Wendy Walsh standing by the gangplank of the Truxtun



Wendy Walsh with James Houston, Past Commander of the Cleveland, Ohio Power Squadron, attending a reception that followed the Truxtun's commissioning ceremony.



David Walsh standing near the bow of the Truxtun.

Cdr Alan Smith from Cape Fear with Cdr Dick Howells (top) and Squadron members having a few Dock Tails on the MegaDock (middle and bottom)



Remember to get a Vessel Safety Check
Call Harl Porter at 843-832-9423



Free Vessel Safety Check

Charleston Power and Sail Squadron Vessel Examiners will perform a FREE Vessel Safety Check of your boat if requested. The following members are qualified Vessel Examiners for calendar year 2009.

- Dick Howells
- Steve Kromer
- Terry Melloy
- Harl Porter
- George Viering
- David Walsh
- Tony Ward
- Stan Whitman
- P/C Harl Porter, SN**
Chair, Vessel Safety Check Committee
Charleston Power and Sail Squadron

America's Boating Course On-the-Water Instruction

The Charleston Sail and Power Squadron completed its first offerings to the public of the new USPS® America's Boating Course (ABC) with our optional on-the-water instruction. Lt. Gary Whitley, our Public Relations Chair, worked with the newspapers in our area to promote our **On-the-Water Public Boating Safety Course**. This publicity resulted in 25 people enrolling in the February class and 16 people enrolling in the March class. With family members we graduated approximately 52 students. In addition, we taught a class of ROTC students at West Ashley High School who were studying Maritime Technologies. This added nine more students and their instructor to our course total in April. If you add them all up, that is a total of 62 people.

We decided to use a marina for the on-the water portion of the course, and Dolphin Cove Marina was the most suitable. They are very safety conscious and welcomed our giving boating safety lessons there. We called for our members to captain their boats and members to act as crew/instructors.

We got an impressive array of boats: Harl Porter's *Palmetto Elephant*, Stan Whitman's *Panacea*, Jim Hackett's *S.S. Minnow*, Art Clark's *Sunday Drive*, David Walsh's *Reely Fun*, and Dick Howell's *Katie-Ell*. They are pictured clockwise from lower left in the photo docked at Dolphin Cove Marina.

Volunteers for safety officer/crew were Nelson Hicks, John Meyenberg, Bill Hayes, Ken Beeber, Bart Franey, Rick Cone, and Commander Rob Turner from West Ashley High School. Dick Howells and Jim Hackett were instructors the first week and brought their boats the next.

On 09 May we used 4 boats and instructed eight students. On 16 May we used 6 boats for 12 students (17 had signed up, but five cancelled after we had lined up the boats). It worked out anyway because we still had two students per boat which worked out very well; each got individual attention.

Previously Mike Fauss and David Walsh had instructed six students using a student's sail boat. All in all, of the 51 students, 26 participated in the on-the water instruction, or about half of those who enrolled in the course.

The weather cooperated, and on both days we had beautiful boating conditions.

This was our squadron's first attempt to offer on-the-water training, and I think our students and our squadron members had a good learning experience and a good time. In fact, they had fun!

Wendy Walsh
On-the-Water Coordinator
ABC Course.



On the Water Course Training Pictures



**Bart Franey with Reggie,
Barbara and Charles Smith, Captain Jim Hackett**



**Commander Turner, Wendy Walsh,
West Ashley Students**



**Squadron boats assembled for on-the-water
training**



**Captain Stan Whitman and Bill Hayes
on *Panacea***

THE PALMETTO LOG
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Upcoming Events

- 11 June - Member Dinner Meeting at Headquarters 1800
- 12 -14 June - District 26 Cruise and Rendezvous
- 26-28 June - Charleston Harbor Fest
- 10 July - Member Dinner Meeting at Headquarters 1800

BOATING IS FUN...WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW