



The Palmetto Log

Charleston Sail and Power Squadron
A Unit of United States Power Squadrons®
and District 26

Volume 65 Issue 5

November/December 2012

Coming Events

December

- 1—Parade of Boats - Charleston Harbor - 1730
- 6—EXCOM meeting - 1830
- 8—St. Johns Yacht Harbor Cruise and lunch
- 13—Holiday Party - 1800

January

- 3—EXCOM Meeting - 1830
- 10—Membership Dinner Meeting - 1800
- 12—Operations Training - 0900
- 15—D/26 Spring Conference Planning Meeting - 1800
- 16-20—National Conference, Jacksonville FL
- 25-26—Charleston Annual Boat Show

February

- 7—EXCOM Meeting - 1830
- 9—ABC class - 0800
- 14—Membership Dinner Meeting - 1800
- 22-24—District 26 Spring Conference—Holiday Inn, North
Charleston

*All Events at Headquarters - 1376 Orange Grove Road - unless otherwise noted.
Also see the 2013 Cruise Schedule, prepared by Elizabeth Wenner, on page 7.*

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*Next issue of Palmetto Log will be 15 January 2013.
Send contributions to the Editor by 31 December.*

Message from the Commander



Fellow boaters,

That busy time of year is upon us when the holidays send us in all directions, some to shop, some to visit families far away, and some to the couch to watch the game. In the midst of all that, I hope you will take time to enjoy some of the upcoming CSPA events. On 17 November our cruise took us up the Cooper River to Gilligan's at the Dock in Moncks Corner for lunch. The Dock has been serving up some of the best seafood in the Lowcountry for more than half a century and is especially known for its catfish. On 08 December our cruise will take us out to lunch again, this time to St. John's Yacht Harbor on the Stono River. You will certainly not want to miss our annual Holiday Party at our headquarters 13 December. This year it's a fun poker-themed event (no gambling, of course) that promises lots of laughs in the spirit of the season. Look for flyers about these events and more in your email inbox.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the District 26 Spring Conference to be held in Charleston 22-24 February. Check out the Palmetto Log and the District 26 website for registration information. The Friday night Pirate Party is an informal event with heavy hors d'oeuvres and light-hearted fun. Plan to wear your best pirate costume or walk the plank! If dressy casual is more to your liking, join us on Saturday evening for a sit-down dinner. Either event offers an opportunity to get to know your district officers and fellowship with members of other squadrons. On Sunday morning, CSPA will host brunch at headquarters for conferencers as they head for home. Our own Chet Rogers will be on hand cooking made-to-order omelets, and squadron members are asked to bring in breakfast foods to fill out the menu. Sign-up sheets will circulate at the holiday party and the January membership meeting. Better yet, attend the conference-planning meeting 15 January, 1800 at headquarters, and help us continue the plans for all these events.

Looking for ways you can help us build a stronger squadron in the coming year? I have several suggestions. We have an opening for a bartender. It's a great job for a

seasoned member or a new member since the bar is a great place to get to know people. If you like to repair things, clean, or do yard work, watch for the annual clean-up day, coordinated by the housing committee. If you like to write, we could use folks to write articles about our events to send to the district newsletter and to publish on our blog. If you are a shutterbug, we could use a photographer at any of our events. I can even lend you the camera if you will do the snapping! Let me know if any of this interests you. Another way you can help is by captaining a cruise. Elizabeth Wenner is our new boating activities chairperson. She has some big shoes to fill after the great year Chet just led us through. I know she can do it, but she will certainly be looking for some assistance.

Let me put in a plug for the Operations Training coming up 12 January. It is a one-day class instructed by our own Ed Kridler. Operations Training is not just for officers, but for all members. The class is free and participants learn all about how the squadron functions, the various responsibilities of officers and committee members, and how our squadron fits into the overall mission of the United States Power Squadrons®. The class is great for new members who want to learn about the squadron or seasoned members who need a refresher.

Finally, let me thank you for a great year and for all the support you have given me as Administrative Officer. Many thanks to all who have prepared meals, contacted speakers, decorated tables, captained cruises, cleaned up a mess, or just listened to me rant. I thank you, too, for the confidence you have shown in me in asking me to serve as commander for the coming year. I look forward to your continued support as we move into another awesome year of CSPA.

Commander Donna Lynes, N

*“You will
certainly not
want to miss our
annual Holiday
Party at our
headquarters 13
December.”*

Message from the Executive Officer



It's been a brief time since I took on the job of being the XO for the squadron. I was watching my friend, David, carve by hand the HMS Unicorn, 46 gun, 5th Rate Frigate out of wood and it occurred to me that the vessel designed in the early 1800's and my job have something in common. They had complete building design documents for the ship just as we have by-laws. I know that it takes a large complement of 300 to run the ship. It takes all hands on deck to make our squadron a fun and fraternal organization dedicated to making boating safer through education and activities. It takes 23-1/2 miles of rope to rig the Frigate to sail, and it takes many people banded together to make the squadron tight enough to get all tasks completed.

I see my job so far to be like the rigging. I function as the person who checks between all committees and groups to see that we have what we need to accomplish what we set out to do under the guidance of our commander (Captain on the Frigate). When the lines are tight and well maintained, the ship and squadron both sail on course. Let me know if you need anything this year to keep us moving forward on the course we plotted! I will be there with welcome arms to help and highlight our successes for the coming year. Thanks for selecting me for this honor.

Just like the builders of the HMS Unicorn had to reach out to other mariners and tradesmen, my job is to reach out to other organizations relating to boat safety, education, and recreation.

I will leave this issue with an interesting fact. Among the 300 men on the ship there are listed 3 Widows Men. They were not on the ship and in fact didn't exist. But this was a way to provide a pension for the widows of men who had sailed on the ship. This is an interesting fact that I never heard of before.

Let's all strive to be active crewmembers with no Widows men on our roster.

Karl Naugle, S
Executive Officer

“. . . it takes many people banded together to make the squadron tight enough to get all tasks completed.”

Change of Watch

Below is a brief photo essay on the CSPS Change of Watch, held Friday, 09 November, at the South Carolina Aquarium. Our most important ceremonial event of the year, the COW features the installation of new officers and distribution of squadron awards.



At left, District Executive Officer Paula LeMond administers the oath of office to new Commander, Donna Lynes.

Below, P/C Charles Rhea, JN, receives a certificate recognizing 50 years of USPS membership!



Other award recipients include Nelson Hicks (Fred Taylor award for excellence in teaching), Donna Lynes (Spark Plug for outstanding activity by a newcomer), Billy Lynes (Bronze Propeller, for the member who made property or equipment a part of squadron activities), David Leaphart (Fredrick C. Wichmann award for of the Year), and Lynn member who has made support of the Karl Naugle received Memorial for for the biggest goof-up.



story teller), Tim Taylor (Student Lewis (Commander's Award, for outstanding contributions in squadron. New Executive Officer two awards, the Wallace C. Till outstanding service and the Boner

David Walsh, SN, and Judy Fauss, both AP, all received National awards for their work with the Cooperative Charting Program. P/C John Meyenberg, AP, and David Morris, AP, were recognized for 50 year membership in USPS. Barb Smith received a Special Commander's Recognition for assistance to the commander during the year, including help with arrangements and making the beautiful table decorations for the COW.

Mike and



How Do I Earn A Merit Mark?

By Commander Donna Lynes

A merit mark is USPS’s way of recognizing members who make significant efforts to promote the national organization, the district, or the squadron. It is the only official recognition the member receives and a member can receive only one per year. Simply attending meetings is not enough for credit—members must perform substantial service. Examples of service might include, but are not limited to, serving on committees, captaining cruises, planning and executing squadron or district activities, participating in service projects, teaching classes, and participating in district meetings. Recipients of merit marks are issued a certificate and may wear special insignia on USPS uniforms. Members who have earned five or more merit marks attain the status of Senior Member; those with twenty-five or more earn the status of Life Member. Life members do not pay national membership dues. The merit mark year starts in the New Year, so let’s volunteer and get our credit started!

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Schedule of Planned Cruises for 2013

At left is Cruise Director Elizabeth Wenner, with friend, aboard Sojourner. Elizabeth notes that a cruise schedule is always subject to change, so be sure to check the website and watch for announcements.

DATE	EVENT	CRUISE LEADER
January 13	Shem Creek with lunch at Vickery’s	Donna Lynes
February 17	Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina	Elizabeth Wenner
March 23-24	Capers Island	Carl Huff
April 27-28	Edisto Marina	Joe Ewalt
May 3-5	Hilton Head (District Cruise and Rendezvous)	
May 11-12	Short Stay	Billy Lynes
June 22-23	Bass Creek	David Walsh
July 20	Cummings Point/Fort Sumter	Karl Naugle
August 18	Sea Island Yacht Club/Bohicket Creek	Elizabeth Wenner
September 27-28	Georgetown	Chet Rogers
October 26	Wideawake Plantation on the Stono River	Wendy Walsh
November 17	Bohicket Marina	Chet Rogers
December 14	Charleston Yacht Club/City Marina	Tony Ward

Boating Safety Column

By P/C Harl Porter, SN

Vigor's Black Box Theory

John Vigor in his book *Practical Mariner's Book of Knowledge* puts forth an interesting theory about seamanship, which he calls Vigor's Black Box Theory. His theory is that there is no such thing as luck at sea. "Luck" is earned by "diligent and constant acts of seamanship." Every time safety is discussed, safety equipment inspected, ground tackle inspected, engine(s) and/or sails inspected, through-hulls inspected, etc. - every time routes are carefully planned, the charts double-checked, the tide/current tables and light list consulted, etc. - the captain earns a "chit" that goes into an invisible black box, which is aboard every boat.

When things go wrong - when all of that captain's skills and preparations have been taxed completely - chits are withdrawn from the box. The skipper has no control over their withdrawal; they withdraw themselves, as they see fit. Only captains with a good supply of chits have the 'luck' to survive, because they have the chits to spend. But they should start to replenish their supply of chits immediately, because they could be needed at any time, and the sea does not extend credit.

Here is what I have learned in over 30-years of boating.

- Safe boating is really planning ahead, anticipating problems, knowing corrective action, training crew and being prepared. Then if an incident happens, you and your crew will know what to do.
- Most boating incidents are the result of lack of good judgment by the Captain. Captain was in a hurry so he/she did not ... and as a result bad things happened.
- We are recreational boaters and should not be out on the water in marginal conditions. Take a weather delay or remain in port, rather than tempting fate by going out when you should not be on the water. Know your own, crew and boat limits.
- Lastly the boaters really at risk are the users of open boats under 20-feet. They are not really boaters; they are hunters and fishers who use boats. These are the "boaters" that we need to educate on safe boating.

Editor's Note: Be sure to visit the squadron Blog at [Charleston Sail and Power Squadron](#) where you will find another excellent article on boating safety by Elizabeth Wenner.

Morris Island: The Best Kept Secret is the Back Side of the Island

Report by X/O Karl Naugle

A day on the water is better than any day in the office. Just ask the members of the Charleston Sail and Power Squadron. On 22 September 2012 at 1130 the boats of the squadron gathered at marker G '25' near the base of Fort Sumter. What a great place to start a day of cruising and fellowship. Nine boats with 26 people showed up hailing Captain Mike Fauss using "Hey Jude" on VHS radio channel 16. We then changed VHS to channel 10. It was a great way to hone and use all our boating skills. We had plenty of instruction in advance from the cruise director including checking our radios using the Sea Tow Automated Radio Check on channel #27. The channel plays back your transmission to indicate your radio power. Captain Mike had provided everyone with a check list of things to prepare before our trip and a chart of the trip including possible changes based on the whims of the "Mermaids of the Ocean."

We checked our safety equipment, anchor lines, chart plotters, VHS radios, Personal Flotation Devices (PFD/life jackets) and coolers of goodies. We also had a chance to give our engines the monthly once over to make sure there was enough fuel (1/3 there, 1/3 back and 1/3 in case of emergencies), oil and transmission levels as well as all the safety equipment, then we were good to go.



It was a sunny and warm day with few clouds and a minimum of humidity. We had a high tide to help us navigate the waters around the backside of Morris Island using Schooner Creek through Clarks Sound then on to Cross Over Creek and finally Lighthouse Creek until we reached the SW end of Morris Island.

We rafted up and spent the afternoon walking on the beach, looking at the light house and enjoying some snacks and beverages. We even had some people check the beach for trash since this was also the week of the “River Clean Up” Campaign.

When the tide started to drop at 1400, we had to say goodbye to one of the most beautiful areas in Charleston. We once again lined up and followed Captain Mike and his crew back safely through the waters to our starting point marker G ‘25.’

It was good to have a captain with local knowledge leading the group of mixed size boats. All of us agreed that we had a wonderful day and all the boats functioned beautifully. What a wonderful way to spend a Saturday in September.

Come join us on our next cruise. Check our cruise schedule on the web page <http://www.usps.org/localusps/cps/>

COME JOIN THE FUN! WE WILL SHOW YOU HOW!

Boats and crews included:

<u>BoatName</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Crew</u>
Hey Jude	Mike Fauss	Judy Fauss, Frank and Kathy Rogers
For The Birds	Chet Rogers	Elise Jorgens, Ken and Lynn Lewis
Latitude Adjustment	Carl Huff	Jackie Huffman and two friends as passengers
Neverland	Karl Naugle	Joan Naugle
Marsh Mellow	George Aaron	Don Todd, Carol and Ross Burgess
Jet Boat	Billy Lynes	Donna Lynes
Reely Fun	David Walsh	Wendy Walsh
Shady Lady	Joe Shady	Claire Shady, Beth and Michael Grosso



A Close Encounter with a Submarine

by P/C Harl Porter, SN

How do you identify a submarine running on the surface on a dark night?

Answer – By its running lights.

What light is unique to a submarine running on the surface at night?

Answer – In addition to the Nav Rule 23 lights of a power driven vessel underway, they also display an all round flashing amber (yellow) light flashing Morse Code “S” (short, short, short). This unique light for US Submarines is per Title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 707.7 as permitted by Nav Rule 1(e).

How do you identify a submarine (post 9-11) running on the surface in US waters during the day?

Answer – The naval warship is preceded by a small (25-foot) red inflatable hull USCG boat and trailed by a large (87-foot) white steel hull USCG Coastal Patrol Boat. And when hailed on the radio will NOT identify itself as a Submarine (only as a Naval War Ship).

On 31 August 2012 *Wind Elephant* (Harl Porter’s sail boat) was proceeding south from Annapolis back to the Solomons; crew consisted of Jim Hackett and Karl Naugle. At approx 1409, while off Chesapeake Beach, the helmsman, Karl N, reported that he sees an approaching submarine approximately a mile ahead. I told him it could not be a submarine as the Chesapeake Bay is too shallow for a submarine. At 1414 I looked forward and also saw the submarine. I immediately took over the helm and turned *Wind Elephant* toward the shore (hard 90-degree turn to starboard) as there is a 500 yard security zone around Navy Warships.

After I turned *Wind Elephant* toward shore, the small USCG boat turned on its blue flashing light, increased its speed and came along side *Wind Elephant*. I contacted the USCG small boat on VHF 13 and asked what he wanted me to do? Got two conflicting answers: 1) the Coxswain, on the radio, told me to continue on my course of 300 toward shore and 2) the deck hand, forward with the gun, yelled to me to steer a different course pointing toward a course of 345.

A blue flashing light, Nav Rule 88.11, identifies a Law Enforcement Vessel when engaged in direct law enforcement activities.



What would you do? I, using the radio, told the USCG Coxswain that I would continue on his directed course of 300 (toward shore) and asked him to tell his deck hand, with the gun, to be quiet and not give me conflicting guidance.

Afterwards Karl N, whom I had relieved as helmsman, told me I should have listened to the person with the gun; Jim H told me to take a picture.

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Join the celebration as United States Power Squadrons® marks 100 years of service to the nation's boating community!



2013 DISTRICT 26 SPRING CONFERENCE

District 26 of the USPS, as you know, is composed of 13 squadrons covering most of South Carolina and coastal Georgia. Our district, as does each district in USPS, holds two conferences each year, one in the spring and the other in the fall. Our district also holds a cruise and rendezvous each year. Each of these events is hosted by one of the squadrons in the district. On the average, each squadron will host one of these events about every four years.

The Charleston Sail and Power Squadron will be hosting the 2013 D/26 Spring Conference the weekend of 22 - 24 February. Cdr Donna Lynes, N and P/C Elise Jorgens, P have been leading a planning committee for this event. This group has been working for several months and has developed the program and arranged the venue for the conference. The planning phase of the project is well in place.

Now is the time for the membership of our squadron to step in and support the efforts of the planning committee. There are numerous tasks that have to be completed to make the weekend a success. If you receive a call or see an e-mail asking for your help, please accept a task and help make the weekend a success. Better still, why don't you contact Donna or Elise and ask what you can do to help.

Members of the squadrons in the district will be coming to Charleston for the conference. At least one national officer will be here representing the USPS Chief Commander. The representative might be the Chief himself; we won't know until the schedule has been published by USPS. The chief, or his representative, will talk about programs and events planned and ongoing by USPS, and will be available to answer questions you may have. This is an opportunity for us to show off our squadron by making this conference the best yet.

Please plan to attend the events. We will be holding meetings and seminars, but we will also be having some fun events. This is also an opportunity to meet and interact with members from other squadrons in the district. The Friday night affair will be a theme party, and will be a good chance to meet other members in an informal atmosphere. Saturday night will be an awards banquet where district and some national awards will be presented to squadrons and individuals for our district. Let's show District 26 that the Charleston Sail and Power Squadron is one of the best in the district. Let's show off our hospitality and dedication. Please support our squadron's efforts in making this weekend a memorable event.

D/C Edwin G. Kridler, SN

Meet the Bridge

Editor's Note: This is a new feature in the Palmetto Log. Commander Donna Lynes has agreed to be the first of our officers to contribute a biographical sketch. Watch for others in forthcoming issues!

Donna and her husband Billy live on ten acres of used-to-be farmland in rural Berkeley County near the shores of Lake Moultrie on property that has been in her family for generations. Donna's claim to fame is that she has never had a job more than eight minutes from home and never had to go through a stoplight to get to work.

Her first real job was as a shipping clerk with Georgia Pacific, which at the time boasted being the world's largest producer of forest products. After seventeen years of scheduling shipments and filling out bills of lading, the job became burdensomely boring and she decided to go back to school to pursue a teaching career. She has been a public high school teacher for twenty years now, currently teaching British literature to seniors at Timberland High School. Donna loves the high school setting, finds the young people refreshing, and hopes to continue teaching for years to come.

Donna divides her time and effort among her job, her CSPS responsibilities, and her other passion, the Boy Scouts of America. She has experience in just about every aspect of Scouting, but is most proud of the eight young men who attained the rank of Eagle Scout during the nine years she served as Scoutmaster of Troop 722 in St. Stephen. She is currently working with Cub Scouts in Moncks Corner.

Aside from the tour boat to Fort Sumter, Donna had never been on a boat until she married Billy, who has been an avid Charleston boater all of his life. In the thirty-two years since, she has become quite comfortable on the water and now looks forward to cruises. Although Billy had been a member for many years, Donna joined the



squadron just two years ago when she signed up for the Junior Navigation class. Her current boating-related goal is to take the two courses she still needs to earn the grade of Senior Navigator and to encourage others, especially women, to take the advanced courses offered by the squadron.

Donna and Billy's Jet Boat, providing a rare sight—a boat at Charleston Sail and Power Squadron Headquarters.

Newcomers' Nook

Editor's Note: Another new feature in the Palmetto Log, this column will introduce new members to the squadron. Be sure to take a good look so you can greet our newcomers at the next Membership Meeting and help to get them involved in CSPS activities.



Newcomers Tony Marchesani, Lee Ann Holmes and Adren Phillips, in attendance at the Change of Watch. Not sure where Bev Marchesani was when the picture was taken, but she has provided a nice image on their boat.

I will try to get a brief biographical profile of Lee Ann and Adren for the next issue. Here is what Bev has sent me to introduce herself and Tony to the squadron:



“Tony and I are both retired. He is a retired Civil Engineer and I am a retired Registered Nurse. We came to Charleston to be able to have a long sailing season during retirement. We are both impressed with the boating courses and safety focus of the Sail and Power Squadron. We hope to contribute to the boating community here. We relocated to Charleston from New York last summer. We are sailing a 36 foot Beneteau cruising vessel, which we dock at Patriot's Point.”

Let's all give these new members a big CSPS welcome!

Celebrate the season at CSPS!

It's a poker themed party and here's how you play: Pick at least five of the tasks listed. For each one you complete, you draw a card. If you do more than five, you choose your highest five cards to make the best poker hand possible. Prizes are awarded based on your hand.



13 December
Fun starts at 1800!
Join us for food, fun, and prizes.
All for just \$10 per person.

RSVP to Donna, lynes@tds.net or 843-696-2438 by 10 December so we can order food.

1. Attend the party. Draw your first card just for showing up!
2. Bring new men's undergarments, any size, to be donated to the Ralph H. Johnson Veteran's Hospital. Help a hero have a good holiday!
3. Wear a holiday hat—the zanier, the better.
4. Tell Santa what you want for Christmas. Write your top wish on a slip of paper and drop it in Santa's mailbox. Serious or spoof, signed or anonymous.
5. Kiss somebody under the mistletoe.
6. Open mic—Play a song on a musical instrument. You need to supply the instrument. Collaborative efforts allowed.
7. Open mic—Lead us in a holiday song. Collaborations allowed.
8. Open mic—Tell a holiday joke.

Rules: You can do any task as many times as you wish, but you only draw a card the first time. Absolutely no card swapping.



Important Web Pages

United States Power Squadrons

www.usps.org

District 26

www.usps.org/localusps/d26

Charleston Sail and Power Squadron

www.usps.org/localusps/cps

The Palmetto Log is an electronic newsletter and is distributed by email to all members who have provided us with their email addresses. Providing us with your email address shall constitute agreement to receive notices electronically. The Palmetto Log and our Bylaws are posted on our web site, www.usps.org/localusps/cps.

The Palmetto Log

The Publication of
The Charleston Sail and Power Squadron
<http://www.usps.org/localusps/cps/>.

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