

Dock 29

An E-Publication of District 29

DISTRICT 29

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

SUMMER 2008

COLUMBUS • FORT WAYNE • FOSTORIA • LIMA • MARION • PORT CLINTON • SANDUSKY • TOLEDO

From the Commander -

Here it is, the month of June, and I'm sharing time between two boats. Neither boat is ready for launching as yet nor has the weather been cooperating as it's been raining every afternoon. Maybe, just maybe, one of these money pits will get its bottom wet within a week or two. And then again, we also have two Lymans that require too much time and they will not see water this year.

Past: The District Spring Conference was well attended with overflowing attendance for the two afternoon seminars. The Sawmill Creek Lodge was an outstanding pick for the Conference. There was plenty of elbow room for all the events.

District 29 was honored with the presence of a National Bridge member, V/C John Alter and spouse Judy. With John on the Bridge, USPS is in good hands. Also attending the weekend was our own P/V/C Joe Mesenburg and his better half, Karen. Joe recently came off the Bridge after serving three years as treasurer. With our economy falling apart, my personal feeling about Joe as our National Treasurer during that time; "We had the right man in the right place at the right time!"

Patricia and I attended the three Commander's Balls along with most of the other District Bridge members in attendance. We also traveled to Fort Wayne for their annual Commander's Fish Fry. Last year I attended this same event and arrived a little *too* early as CDR Manter put me to work breading the fish. This year I made sure we arrived on time...not too early...but right on time!! All the outings were A-1.

Present: Safe Boating Week has just ended with each squadron busy with their self designated assignment and duties. Squadron Safety Officers, remember to fill out the National Safety Log and send to our District Safety Officer, D/Lt David Michael.

Of course, summer means plenty of D/29 Squadron rendezvous and cruises ranging from stops in Canada to sightseeing down the Ohio River; fireworks to attending a baseball game; poker runs to water cannon fights. The Spring/Summer edition of the Pier 29 has the calendar of events listed.

Catawba West Harbor Yacht Club (CWHYC) and Gem Beach Marina will be the location for this summer's District Council

Meeting and Rendezvous, 24-26 July. Co-Chairs David and Bonnie Michael have crunched a week of activities into the weekend. We all should be dragging by the time of Sunday's departure. Activities will include a dingy poker run, 1st Mate hands-on docking training, several seminars, fish fry dinner, pizza party...

Future: Remember that the Fall/Winter Pier 29's deadline for articles and squadron activity/education calendar is 01 September.

Each Squadron is to submit their full agenda covering the time span from 01 October 2009 through the end of February 2010. The calendar should include all educational classes, Public Boating Classes, Changes-of-Watch, etc.

Don't forget to make plans to attend the Fall Conference in Findlay being hosted by the Fostoria Squadron. I have seen some of their plans and it looks to be another outstanding weekend. This may be the last time "Fostoria" will be hosting a Conference. To answer your question as to why the last time for "Fostoria", you'll need to attend the Summer Council Meeting.

Naturally I hate to think about the future...future means winter with snow and freezing temperatures. It also means shrink-wrap...shrink-wrap is depressing!

Have a great, safe summer...see you at Gem Beach!

WmC.



D/C William C Hall, AP
District Commander

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Report from the Administrative Officer

As D/29 Administrative Officer, this article will introduce you to some of our committees and how they are working for you.

Operations Training: P/D/C Read Backus SN reports that there will be a class being taught in Toledo on June 11, 18 and 25 at the home of Jim Sommers. Anyone is welcome, just let Jim know. For you newer members, this class allows the members to learn the workings of the USPS squadron, district and national levels of organization. Participants should gain a better understanding of USPS and what may be expected of them as members. The nice thing about this course is that there is no cost and NO exam.

Youth Activities: P/C Judy Roettiger, JN wants to remind all of us of the Youth Poster Contest. (See the entry form located in this issue.) The contest is for all children age 6-14 with the theme for this year being "Boating is Fun". Please have entrees available for display at the Summer Council meeting. The actual deadline is Sept. 9, 2009 when the final judging will be at the National Governing Board Meeting. If you bring the posters to the Summer Council Meeting, they can be delivered to the Governing Board Meeting from D/29

Rendezvous and Cruise: P/C David Michael, P has done a great job of getting everything ready for the Summer Council Meeting—see the registration form in this issue. It sounds like it will be a fun 2 days with something for everyone to do and enjoy. There is also a list of our district cruises and rendezvous in this issue. Please feel free to contact David if you have any questions as to times and specific information needed. He can direct you to the person who can answer your questions.

By the time you receive this issue, most annual dues will be past due. Let us all, Bridge members, Membership chairmen, and Membership Involvement chairmen make a special effort to contact those members who failed to renew their membership. A gentle reminder via mail, e-mail, or phone call can maybe stop someone from slipping through the cracks. We all work hard to recruit new members, so follow up to keep them is important. The latest report from National (April 30, 2009) shows a loss of 90 members since April 30, 2008.

Hope to see many of you at the Summer Council Meeting,



D/Lt/C Doris J Critzer, AP
Administrative Officer

2009 Rendezvous Schedule

Here is a list of some of the various squadron rendezvous that were reported in the various newsletters. Because of space, only the dates and destinations will be listed. Please notify each squadron commander if you are interested in joining any of the groups and he/she will give you the proper name/number of the person to notify.

JUNE	Port Clinton	6 June	Annual Auction
	Sandusky	8 June	Cookout/Reverse Raffle
	Fostoria/Lima/Marion	12-14 June	Huron Boat Basin
	Lima	14 June	Blessing of the Fleet
	Columbus	25-28 June	St. Clair River Trip
	Toledo	26-28 June	Boblo Island Cruise with Windsor PS (D/9)
JULY	Port Clinton	3-5 July	Huron Boat Basin
	Columbus	10-12 July	Muskingum River Trip
	Toledo	17-19 July	South Channel Yacht Club/Harsens Island
	Fort Wayne	18 July	Dillman's lake home on Jimmerson Lake
	D/29	24-26 JULY	SUMMER COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST	Columbus	31 July-1 Aug	Vermilion
	Fostoria	1-2 Aug	Nor'Easter
	Lima	6-8 Aug	Ohio River Trip
	Toledo	7-9 Aug	Toledo Beach
	Columbus	14-16 Aug	River Trip to Huntington, WV
SEPTEMBER	Toledo	21-23 Aug	Leamington
	Fostoria	22 Aug	Fish Fry at Son Rise Marina
	Toledo	4-7 Sept	Cedar Point

Report from the District Education Officer

As you know, this is the time of year to be preparing your squadron nomination for the Charles F. Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching. Is there a winner in your Squadron? Now is the time to begin your selection and submission process. The SEOs have received their submission packets. Please make your submittals to me prior to August 1. This will provide time to make a District selection and forward the District winner to National prior to September 1. The National selection committee will then select five National winners. The National Awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting at Kansas City in mid-September.

The following are excerpts from a white paper written by V/C Bob Sweet, our NEO which was sent to all DEOs and ADEOs:

“The public education programs are the primary route to bringing new members into USPS. It is imperative that we use our seminars and courses to reach out to as many new and experienced boaters as possible. Markets shift and times change, and so too must our approach to marketing our courses and seminars.

Imagine USPS as a storefront. We want to sell our products – namely courses and seminars. Our problem is that they are not regularly scheduled. Typically, squadrons offer and promote

courses one at a time with no overall slate of offerings or coordination between squadrons. If you are a potential customer and happen to come along when the promotional material is posted and a program is about to begin – you are in luck. Boaters want what they want, when they want it – we need to be visible and available.

The most successful squadrons use a different approach. Rather than offering a single program, they offer a slate of programs. With this approach, they can build momentum. People know where and when courses are being offered. The slate offers options and alternatives so that potential students can pick and choose. Districts that have stepped up to the plate to coordinate a slate of programs offered by its constituent squadrons are seeing success. It is imperative that the district coordinate with the media and squadrons and help establish a regional program offering, particularly for the public.

While many squadrons have instructors for public boating courses, many have difficulty supporting a range of seminar topics. We need our very best instructors in front of the public in order to impress them toward membership. Suppose we select the best instructors for each subject from across the district and have them rotate through various locations. This visiting instructor approach is a good way to help a struggling squadron. Bring in experts for each subject and offer a seminar series.

Obviously, one size does not fit all. Local approaches need to prevail. The topics, the physical breadth of the district, the type of boating all dictate tailoring approaches. What we are saying is take a broad view. Offer a range of topics, identify all locations where they can be attended. Use your best resources.

Our districts are key to our success, particularly with promotion and coordination. We can reverse the downward trend in membership and we can help fiscally support our squadrons and districts in the process.”

Remember, our primary goal is to educate. USPS is providing us with good material, now it remains up to us to make it available to our fellow boaters.

Report from the District Secretary

I am hoping all of you are having a great summer and boating season, and hope to be seeing you at the Summer Council/ Rendezvous at Catawba Island.

Just a couple of things I would like to remind you about: First if anyone has a new address, phone, cell phone or email it is very important that you get those changes to you squadrons DB 2000 Updater. At the last mailing of the Pier 29 there were still members whose publication was returned because of a bad address. If you did not receive a Pier in March, please contact your squadron so that this problem can be solved. The Updaters are working really hard to keep the rosters correct.

Sept 1st, 2009 is the deadline for your articles for the Fall Pier 29. We would like to publish schedule for educational classes for the educational year Sept thru April, this includes the Advanced Grades and Elective course, seminars and Public Boating classes. Also please let us know of any changes or update to your events schedule, Christmas Parties, COW or Commanders Ball, so that this schedule can also be included.

Attending other squadrons' events and classes is a great way to meet other members and have fun, and I encourage all members to participate. Wishing all of you a great summer.



D/Lt/C Thomas P Jagucki, SN
Education Officer



D/Lt/C Anne V. Gilcher, SN
Secretary

"All Hands on Deck"

Dear Squadron Members,

The District Bridge and members of Catawba West Harbor Yacht Club are pleased to welcome you to Gem Beach for a weekend to remember.

This summer's District 29 Summer Council will be a memorable one. "*All Hands on Deck*", this year's summer theme has several training activities that has been suggested by so many over the years; first mates need to be able to operate the boat should something happen to the skipper. This weekend will include educational seminars, hands on training, boat loads of fun, civic involvement and fellowship among USPS friends.

On Friday night we will have a traditional dockside welcoming party on Gem Beach Marina's Pier #1. District will provide refreshments, but please bring an appetizer to share and a lawn chair.

Saturday morning will begin with the free continental breakfast at Catawba West Harbor Yacht Club. However, the Columbus Sea Gals and Sea Studs will be offering an optional heartier breakfast for an additional fee. Chef Dave Ehrbar and his fellow Sea Studs will prepare custom omelets, sausage, hash browns and fruit. Chose which is best for you.

District 29 Summer Council Meeting will be from 0930-1130 at CWHYC. Uniform E is the uniform of the day.

After lunch, which is building your own sandwich with selections side dishes and salad, our Chapman Award winner, P/C James Sommers, SN, will present a seminar on the new marine radios and what's new from customs and immigration.

At 1400, there will be a short organizational meeting for those participating in the dinghy/jet ski/small boat poker run. Five locations around West Harbor have been selected. Those participating will receive a card in a sealed envelop at each location. Leave the squirt guns at home and bring the water cannons and prepare to get wet. This is great fun for kids of all ages. If you do not have a dinghy and wish to participate, just let us know. One card stop will include a free dinghy vessel safety inspection.

Commanders use this as an opportunity to certify new vessel safety examiners and increase your squadron's VSE numbers.

If you go off your diet once this summer, Saturday dinner at CWHYC will be the reason. If you were at last year's Council Meeting in Toledo, you know how good Chuck Yarlette's perch dinner including his fresh breaded onion rings are.

After dinner there will be an opening of the cards from the poker run with cash prizes being awarded to the three best hands. Music will follow at CWHYC.

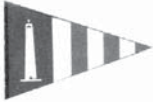
Sunday morning there will be another continental breakfast followed by Skipper Saver and First Mate Training Seminars. Jim Sommers will teach you what to do in case the Skipper becomes incapacitated and the First Mate has to take charge of the vessel. Our education will continue with first mates getting hands on experience docking a boat. Skippers may be needed to man the lines. As a special treat, Lakeside Marine has agreed to provide a boat with an IP drive and joystick steering. Those who are interested will be provided the opportunity to dock an IP drive boat.

Use this weekend to invite prospective members to join us and find out why we make boating fun!

Registrations are due by July 20. We will see you at the lake.

David & Bonnie Michael

District Rendezvous Co-Chairs



From the Port Clinton Squadron

Summer and the warm weather is almost here, thank heavens! We began our summer schedule with our annual Auction on June 6th. The 14th is our annual breakfast buffet at the Sandusky Yacht Club. On the 20th, we join the Dayton Squadron for their Saturday night dinner at CIC South. The month of July, is our Huron Rendezvous from the 3rd to the 5th, with the Yarlett's famous Fish Fry on the 4th. During the month of August, we have no activities planned, so we can relax and wind down until we start our meetings again in September. Our September meeting will be a Clam Bake at the Catawba Island Community Center on the 26th. On October 3rd and 10th, we have a 2 day Public Boating Course scheduled. Our October Meeting will be at the Maritime Museum in Sandusky. If you are interested in attending any of our meetings or social functions, you can get the details on our web site at www.portclintonpowersquadron.org.



Have a great summer and stay safe on the water!

Take care.

Commander, Gwen A. Smetzer, P

Sailing Around with the Membership Committee

Sailing around USPS "Membership Committee" national website can be interesting.

D-29 had a 1% membership increase goal of 1031 for this year. So far, we are at 92.4% of that, or about 953 members. Juggling the data, we can show that nationally, USPS is currently (May, '09) up by 408 members if compared to 12/08.

As Commander Hall sez, **"Don't give up the ship!"** Keep talking up the benefits and fun of squadron membership everywhere you go. Remember: you are all on the membership committee.

P/C Wayne Osborn, JN
Chair, Membership Committee

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From the Fostoria/Lima/Marion Rendezvous at the Huron Boat Basin



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Dock 29 is published electronically twice a year for the members of District 29 of the United States Power Squadrons. Deadlines are June 1 and January 1. Articles of information can be mailed to newsletter editor Lu Ann Vandemark at annelu@aol.com. Articles, opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect USPS policy or endorsement unless so designated.



Here's a picture of some of the great entertainment you missed if you were not at the Spring Conference at Sawmill Creek.