

Volume 49#3

50th year "America's Boating Club"©

December 2011

January 7th 2012

D/27 Training

NC State Univ. Club

USPS National Meeting

25-29 January 2012

Jacksonville, FL.

March 23-25 2012

D/27 Spring C/C

COW

New Bern Hilton

May 4-5th 2012

D/27 Rendezvous

Holiday Inn Express

Little River, SC

September 2-9 2012

USPS Detroit, MI

October 12th-14th 2012

D/27 Fall C/C TBD

January 5th 2013

D/27 Training

NC State University Club

January 16-20 2013

USPS National Meeting

Jacksonville, FL

Hyatt Regency

March 22nd-24th 2013

D/27 50th Anniversary

D/27 Spring C/C

Change of Watch

Raleigh, NC

D/C Message

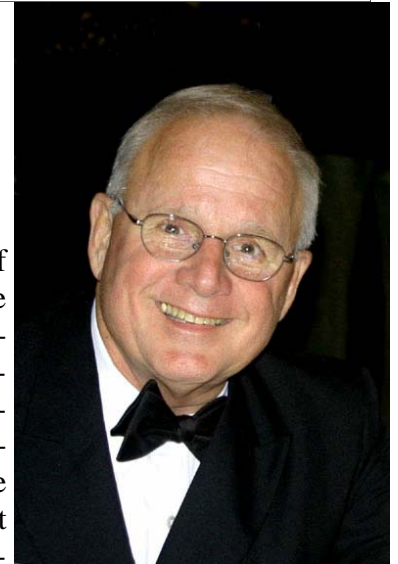
Michael D. McCulley, JN

Fellowship

As all of you know, the three primary objectives of USPS as stated on our organization's web site are "community service, continuing education, and enjoying the friendship and camaraderie of our fellow members". It is understandable why friendship and camaraderie are listed last in that statement. Community service and education are certainly important, as is the promotion of safety on the water. However, I think that all too often, the fellowship aspect of USPS membership is taken for granted. This dynamic could affect a squadron in several ways, such as declining attendance at meetings and an eventual crisis when the squadron becomes "troubled" to the point of considering deactivation. There is no doubt that the quality education a current or future boater receives through USPS classes is invaluable in recruiting new members. But, I also believe that one of the initial motivations of potential members is their expectation of enjoying camaraderie with others who share similar interests. I believe District 27 squadrons fully understand this concept and, with few exceptions, do a great job of catering to their members' desires with lively and entertaining meetings and other social activities.

As Carolyn and I have traveled around the state visiting your squadrons, we are encouraged by the warm welcome and friendliness we received from the members who were present. However, I must tell you that I have noticed a trend of diminishing attendance developing at both squadron and district meetings that is troublesome. I'm sure there are numerous reasons for this, not the least of which is the state of our country's economy. My primary concern is that the fraternal nature of the squadron participation is being affected and members will eventually cease renewing if their needs are not satisfied. Therefore, if your squadron is having attendance problems, I ask that you not ignore it. Discuss the situation openly at General and Executive Committee meetings and become proactive in finding solutions to turn the situation around. I and your other district officers are available and anxious to help. Just give us a call.

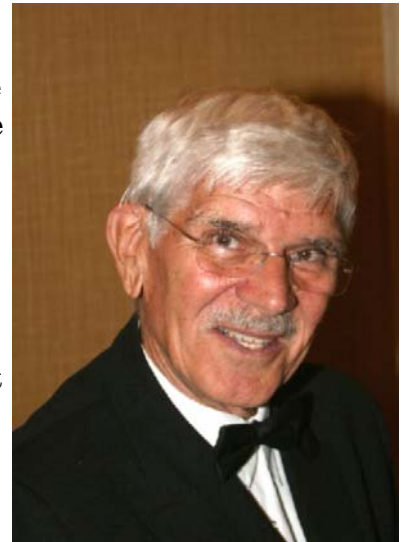
D/C Mike McCulley, JN



District Educational Officer D/Lt/C George Malindzak, SN

ABC-3 Status

For the past 18 months, I have been part of the revision team for the current edition of the ABC-3 course which is near completion. These revisions require NASBLA review and approval. NASBLA has reviewed the revisions and approved them with minor suggestions for improvement. Printing of the new edition of the ABC-3 Student Manual will begin shortly after the beginning of the new year.



As the DEO, I have noticed that the number of registrants for the ABC-3 course in D27 have fallen noticeably. I have also noticed that there are individuals being nominated for Bridge and Squadron leadership positions who have not yet achieved an advanced grade (or have achieved the minimum advanced level). As an experiment, I would like to suggest that consideration be given to combining the ABC-3 and Seamanship course, into a single integrated course. A great deal of what is offered in Seamanship is a repeat of what is offered in ABC-3. I think this can be tightened up to provide a single compact course. Two exams could be given, the cost of the combined course would be that of ABC-3 and Seamanship, and credit for each would be received accordingly. Aside from getting new members 'over the Seamanship hump', these individuals would become eligible for Bridge position appointments. Finally, the latter portion of this combo-course could be devoted to some practical OTW (on the water) instructions, i.e., not necessarily 'in the boat OTW', but dockside instructions, in the 'show-and-tell' format. The Fort Macon SPS is currently experimenting with this model and it appears to be popular.

BOC Status

Emphasis in the past year or so has been on the BOC IN and CN Certification training. By all measures of evaluation, this effort has been successful, with a respectable number of Certifiers who are now qualified and authorized to train others. Thank you all for your support and cooperation. Lastly, the Advanced Coastal Navigator training module is being beta tested now; it should be ready for release sometime soon after the National Meeting in January (2012).

D29 Rendezvous Little river/Myrtle Beach June 2012

This year during the D27 Rendezvous, the Education Department is going to devote its entire program to the Mates of us Skippers. To this end, we will be presenting the seminar 'Partners in Command' (this was once called 'Save the Skipper' seminar) in two parts. Part 1 will be delivered as a classroom presentation by Dan Bartell in the morning. Part 2 will be held dockside at the boats brought to the Rendezvous by the members, where the mates will be shown how to start/stop the boat, back out of/pull into a slip, make a radio call and how to drop/weigh an anchor. All mates (and any others interested) are invited to attend; there will be no charge for this seminar. *Continued on page 4*

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Kids for Sailing

The Kids for Sailing program is at the stage where we are writing a grant to the Boat US Foundation for support of a pilot program to build 3 Optimus Prams (for 3 selected children) and train 6 instructors to help youngsters build and sail their boat. The deadline for the grant submission is December 31, 2011. We will know by February 1, 2012 if we are successful in obtaining outside support. More details will be forthcoming when the grant disposition is known.

Spring (COW Conference 2012)

Consistent with the current philosophy of the Education Department, during the next Spring (COW) Conference (2012), we will be presenting the 'On Board Weather Forecasting' Seminar for Conference registrants free of charge. Part 1 will be held as part of the Education Breakout session in the morning; Part 2 will be held as part of the N-Club program in the afternoon. Attendance at both parts will qualify registrants for credit toward the BOC Weather seminar requirement.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND SAFE BOATING TO YOU ALL.



District Executive Officer

D/Lt/C Harold W. O'Briant, JN

We are shifting our gears to what some have termed the “automatic mode” time of the year for District 27. The District Bridge has the squadrons’ change of watch schedule and we have received our assignments to the 20 squadrons throughout the state. While this certainly involves a lot of traveling in a short period of time, to me it is one of the most enjoyable times as a district bridge officer.

This is the time of year we get to install new officers in the squadrons. As my memory serves me, it is a time of excitement and some anxiety for incoming bridge officers. It suddenly occurs to you that you are the group of individuals which will lead and represent your squadron members for the next year. It can also very humbling when you are reminded of all the responsibility which goes with your elected position.

The District training session on January 7, in Raleigh, is designed to provide you with the information you need to be successful at your position. Whether you are a commander, administrative officer, education officer, executive officer, secretary or treasurer or a member who is just interested in what is required of officers, this is your day. This is the one day specially planned for you. We will give you invaluable new information, provide you with handouts, show you “hands on” examples and hopefully answer your questions. To say you cannot afford to miss this opportunity is an understatement. Please mark your calendars and complete the registration form and plan to attend. Maybe we can even see some snow as we did last year!

Following this meeting is the National USPS meeting in Jacksonville, Fl. from January 24 – 29, 2012. This could be considered the training week for district bridge officers for all of USPS, culminating with the USPS Change of Watch. The wonderful news is that V/C John T. Alter, SN, of the Raleigh Sail & Power Squadron and District 27, is scheduled to be elected and installed as Chief Commander of USPS for the next two years. This certainly gives us notice that District 27 needs to do it better as one of our own will be the “Chief”.

Also, at the national meeting, the new leadership development seminar for district and squadron commanders will be offered for the first time. Next year will be the first year that district officers will have completed all three leadership development seminars.

As the present year draws to an end and boating activities seem to slow down, the district vessel safety examiners continue to examine boats. To date, our 124 examiners have examined 1869 vessels. This ranks fourth in USPS for this year, which is most commendable and speaks well for the efforts of D/Lt Bill Halkovitch, AP, the district VSC chairperson and all of the examiners.

In a related area, each squadron is required to submit an annual inventory of the inflatable life jackets on loan by the U. S. Coast Guard to be worn while conducting vessel safety exams.

District 27 is one of the first districts to submit inventory reports from all member squadrons. Congratulations. Please retain these reports for next year and also remember, the life jackets are on loan and you are responsible for them. Please maintain them as if they do belong to you. You are responsible for keeping up with your life jacket and squadron vessel safety chairpersons are responsible for maintaining an accurate inventory. *Continued on page 6*



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District 27 also has an active Co-Operative charting program lead by D/Lt Phil Benson, AP. To date, we have 10 squadrons which have enough credits for the Honor Roll for 2011. Unfortunately, that is not enough squadrons reporting to allow the District to achieve the Honor Roll for 2011. We need three more squadrons to submit reports for this to happen.

There are currently three coastal squadrons which have not submitted reports. This is unfortunate when you consider how easy it is to submit a co-operative charting report. We still have three more months in which to submit a report for the 2011 year and hopefully these squadrons will step up and submit reports. Sincere thanks to all squadrons which have already submitted reports.

This is the time of year when many reports are due from the squadrons. This is also true of the District. Just as squadrons are required to submit reports on their efforts, the District is required to submit reports on all 20 squadrons. And, just like squadron officers who do not complete reports on time, the District officers also receive notes, emails and phone calls from the National Bridge officer to whom we report. Thanks to all of you for your cooperation in completing your requested reports in a timely fashion.

As we close out this year, thanks to everyone who has planned, attended and supported District 27 events this year. District 27 and our squadrons are well-represented and well-respected throughout the USPS organization.

Please travel safely and best wishes to all for a happy holiday season.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY HOLIDAYS
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012

District Administrative Officer

D/LT/C Robert F. Howd, JN

Administrative Department

The 2011 membership awards will be awarded at the 2012 COW. December 31, 2011 will be the cutoff date for the data. The data for these awards will be from the national website for the calendar year 2011.

Coming up very soon is the annual training meeting in Raleigh on January 7, 2012. There will be training for each officer position. If you have a new job in one of your squadron's bridge positions it is a great opportunity to get a head start for the new year. It is also a good opportunity for a refresher if you are repeating in the position as well as an opportunity for learning about the operations of a squadron if you have no bridge position at all.

The Boarman Youth Poster Contest entries will be judged at this January training meeting. It is important that if your squadron has posters to submit they must be brought to this training meeting by a squadron representative. The National judging will be completed at the USPS Annual Meeting in Jacksonville in January. Last year the District had only three squadrons participate. We can do better than that. The D27 poster contest representative is D/1st/Lt Paula Schubert, AP.

paula.schubert@earthlink.net.

We continue to have about 40 cyber squadron members living in the North Carolina area. We don't seem to have a very good conversion rate. Most squadrons have one or two in their geographic area. Please do what you can to contact these cyber members and ask them to join your squadron.

The Doing It Right (DIR) surveys have been turned in. D27 is the first district to have all their squadron's reports turned in. If you consider DIR a tool it should be 15 minutes well spent filling it out. If you consider it a silly report then it is 15 minutes not well spent. This survey is a self-evaluation of what your squadron is doing. For example: One of the questions is whether you are doing four seminars a year. An answer of No should lead you to ask whether you are missing out on a recruiting/educational/promotional tool.

Some notes from the Administrative committee chairs:

June Reasons (OT chair): This year has been very slow going for Operations Training. There is still time to get in a session for the 2011 year. Don't forget to let me know when and who took these sessions. A report needs to go to Raleigh as well as to me. 2rea-sons@suddenlink.net

Sarah McCurry (meetings): -- see the separate meetings article. smccurry@atmc.net

Sandie Williams Howd (member benefits): USPS Member Benefits can save you hundreds of dollars and every purchase supports USPS. One of the newer benefits is Life Lock Theft Protection. With your membership you receive 10% off their \$9.00 per month fee. As always, please check out USPS.org and click on Member Benefits for the great savings. Sandra.williams@juno.com.

Nita Neumeister (member involvement): A couple of ideas worth trying are book clubs (Cape Fear) and ladies luncheons (Raleigh). On-the-water training should be a really good tool with the ABC and Seamanship courses. nautinita@bellsouth.net

Jonnie' Chardonn (membership): What I know without a doubt, is that if the website is too complicated, they will leave. If it's too boring, they'll sleep. If your Squadron's *calendar* does not show upcoming events, they won't come. jchardonn@yahoo.com

Your administrative team is here to help make sure that you have a successful year. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

D/Lt/C Robert Howd, JN Administrative officer
RhowdI@ec.rr.com

D/1st/Lt Paula Schubert, AP Asst Administrative Officer
paula.schubert@earthlink.net



District Secretary

D/Lt/C David J. Simons, AP

Making Life Easier

One of the steps we made at the beginning of this D27 year in March 2011 was to implement a capability presented to us by our new website service provider. That step was to introduce what our service provider (www.1and1.com) calls "mailing lists". But we are limited to just a few, so we don't want to waste our opportunities. The only ones we have created so far are bridge@uspsd27.org and squadroncommanders@uspsd27.org. The Secretary's Department is committed to updating these mailing lists within 24 hours of any changes which affect one of those lists. We know well in advance of the D27 Change-of-Watch who the officers will be, so we can handle that change easily. The same cannot be said for the squadron commanders mailing list. We can only accomplish our goal if the current squadron bridge (not necessarily the commander) tells us who the new commander is and also provides the appropriate e-mail address. As they used to say in some old TV shows, "keep those cards and letters coming".



At the November D27 Bridge meeting, we agreed on some changes to the Squadron Commander's Report form. The goal was two-fold. One goal was to make it compatible with the changes in USPS such as the simplification of membership categories. The other was to eliminate confusion so that the information being requested makes sense and is easily obtained by the squadron commanders. You will note that the real beneficiaries are the squadron commanders and not the rest of us. But keep in mind that there are a good number of D27 members who have not yet been squadron commanders, so this will make their lives easier also when the time comes. The new-and-improved Squadron Commander's Report will be explained in depth at the January Training Meeting. I hope all in-coming squadron commanders and any aspiring squadron commanders will be there to hear all about it.

The Storefront

If we think of a USPS squadron as a retail business, we need to think about how we sell USPS and the Timbuktoo Sail and Power Squadron to the general public. Some may say we aren't selling anything. But I think we are. We are selling services such as education and knowledgeable experience. We are providing the opportunity to join in the camaraderie of a group of people sharing a common interest. We also provide the opportunity to participate in the general welfare of our communities. But we must think about how do people find us since we don't really have an office or a store or a street address? In my view, the advent of the Internet provides us with the storefront we never had. That "storefront" is the website.

If someone walks by a vacant storefront, they are certainly not going to stop and look. Or if the storefront is woefully out-of-date announcing such things as a sale that concluded 6 months ago, they will keep on walking. If the storefront is a hodge-podge of miscellaneous and unrelated "stuff", they will keep on walking. Our storefront needs to be bright and cheerful and VERY easy to understand by whoever walks by. We need to have the best website we can possibly create so as to encourage that passer-by to come through our front door and find out just what is going on.

USPS has defined an extensive set of criteria for a good website. These criteria are a good starting point, but they will not guarantee an outstanding website; nor are they intended to do so. But they do provide a very good set of guidelines to help squadrons get started. Our D27 Webmaster, D/Lt Luis Lopez, did an outstanding job of preparing and presenting a fairly detailed overview of just what those guidelines are looking for and trying to accomplish. The presentation was given at the Winston-Salem Council and Conference in September, but only a few squadrons were in attendance. *Continued on page 8*

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Those squadron members who did attend told me after the presentation that it was very valuable to them. I have asked Luis to make that same presentation at the January Training Meeting, although in a somewhat abbreviated form. He will be doing this as part of the Secretary's Department Break-Out Session in the morning. I strongly encourage all in-coming squadron secretaries to be there. I also strongly encourage them to strongly encourage their squadron webmaster, or anyone interested for that matter, to attend.

OH-MY-GOSH!!!!!! - DB2000!!!!

Contrary to the understanding of some people, DB2000 is not a communicable disease. DB2000 is both a tool and a database. It was developed by USPS members for use by USPS members. It contains almost all of the relevant information for every member of USPS; although there may be a few data points which are empty, such as date-of-birth. To access the database, you must have the READER authorization code or passcode. There is also an UPDATER passcode. These passcodes are given to each squadron commander for his/her squadron. Accessing DB2000 and understanding how to use it can be a mystery to many people; but it does not need to be. Although DB2000 usage is primarily the responsibility of the squadron secretaries, every officer should know how to obtain information from it.

Ed Cathey of the Cape Fear Sail & Power Squadron has been using DB2000 almost since its inception and has become very proficient with it. He will be giving a presentation during both the morning and afternoon general education sessions. This is intended to be a hands-on session, so we recommend the officers participating come prepared with their squadron's READER passcode and maybe even a laptop computer. This presentation will last no more than 45 minutes, so come prepared to learn.

Dave Simons, D27 Secretary

ALL SECRETARIES ARE NOT WOMEN!



DAVE IS OUR NUMBER ONE SECRETARY

District Treasurer

D/Lt/C David E. Parsons, AP

Where has 2011 gone??? It doesn't feel like we have nearly completed another SUPER year for D27 but time is quickly approaching yet another Change of Watch for our squadrons and for the District. I am looking forward to representing our District Commander at the Fayetteville Change of Watch.



I was a bit disappointed at the turnout of Treasurer's for the break-out session at our past District Conference in Winston-Salem, but the Winston-Salem squadron did an outstanding job as host for the Conference . I am looking forward to seeing more Treasurer's at the upcoming training meeting at the NC State University Club, January 7th. I encourage all newcomers to the position of Treasurer for their squadron to attend and become more familiar with the responsibilities of the position, what the District can do to assist you and also glean from the "old-timers" what has worked for them to make their jobs easier.

Our District is in good shape as far as the financial condition is concerned and should finish the year within the budget that was set for 2010-2011.

Safe and Fun Boating!

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?



Why am I being asked to pay a facility fee?

I have been asked to explain the reason for the facility fee that is showing up on the registration forms for our meetings.

First let's discuss what the District needs to conduct a meeting. I will use the last meeting which was the District Fall Council/Conference as an example. This meeting was held in Winston Salem, NC. The negotiations for this meeting began just after the previous Fall Meeting in 2010 and the contract was signed in February. The District Bridge required a general meeting room and four other breakout rooms with AV equipment. We needed food and beverage for lunch and dinner. We needed tables and space outside the general room for registration and tables for silent auction items. We needed sleeping rooms for members. The hotel charges a fee for each of these items.

The key to what we have to pay is the number of sleeping room nights we use. The more room nights we use, the price of meeting rooms, etc. are reduced. If we do not use the number of room nights that we contract, we have to pay for the ones not used. I have reduced the number of room nights at each of the meetings lately.

When you register for the meeting, you indicate what you will attend (lunch, dinner, other activity, etc.). The tickets price is the way that we pay for the events. The hotel has been raising the prices for the last few years for meeting rooms, meals, etc. We have fewer people attending the meetings as I am sure you have noticed. There are fewer people staying in the hotel. That makes it more difficult to come out even at the end of the meeting.

In order to be able to pay the bills, I have been adding a couple of dollars to the tickets. Since there are more people coming for the day; not eating lunch, not staying at the hotel, etc. We are coming up short. The meeting in Winston Salem cost the District about \$1,300.

The Planning Committee, at the 2010 Fall Council/Conference, stipulated that the Meetings Chairman should request a facility fee. This is to be paid by all who attend; especially those who just come for the day as they are getting advantages from the meeting as well. They feel that ALL should help pay for the meeting.

The District Meetings are planned to break even. I feel that if all participants pay this facility fee, then perhaps we would be able to reduce the charge for the tickets.

I hope that now more of you will understand why the facility fee.

Sarah McCurry

District Meetings Chairman

7 January 2012 District 27

Winter Training Meeting Agenda NC State University Club

4200 Hillsborough Street Raleigh, NC 27606

0900 - 0930 Children's poster display

0900 – 0930 Check-In

0930 – 0945 University Room- Welcome and Overview – D/C and Bridge

0950 – 1120 1st Breakout Sessions

Ballroom - Squadron Commanders and Incoming Commanders – D/C and D/XO

State Room – Incoming Squadron Secretaries – D/SEC

Bar Room - Incoming Squadron Administrative Officers – D/AO

University Room - Information and Reporting Sources (XOs, EO, and

Treas. Attend) – TBD

1120 – 1130 Children's poster judging

1130 – 1200 Lunch in the Main Dining Room

1210 – 1335 2nd Breakout Sessions

Ballroom – Incoming Squadron Education Officers – D/EO

State Room - Incoming Squadron Executive Officers – D/XO

Bar Room - Incoming Squadron Treasurers – D/TREA

University Room - Information and Reporting Sources (Cdrs, AO, and

Secretaries Attend) – TBD

1345 – 1415 University Room - Overview, Feedback – D/C and Bridge

7 January 2012
 D/27 Winter Training Meeting
 NC State University Club
 4200 Hillsborough Street
 Raleigh, NC 27606

This is a one day training session that is for your present Squadron Bridge, upcoming Bridge, and any interested members.

Check-In from 0900-0930 with morning sessions starting at 0930. Lunch will be at the University Club from 1130-1200. The afternoon sessions starts at 1210 and all sessions should be over by approximately 1415.

Rank	First	Last	Grade	Cert. No.
Address		City	State	ZIP
Home phone		email address	Squadron	

Lunch Choices

Facility Fee for each attendee \$ 4.00 _____

Club House Sandwich – Served with potato salad - \$20.00 _____

Chef Salad – Served w/ dressing on side and crackers - \$20.00 _____

Dessert of cookies, coffee, tea, and water included

Send form and check made payable to District 27 by 31 December 2011 to:
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 28468. Questions – smccurry@atmc.net or 910-579-9927.

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FIRST CLASS



WWW.USPS.ORG/LOCALUSPS/D27

January 7th 2012

D/27 Winter Training Meeting NC State University Club

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