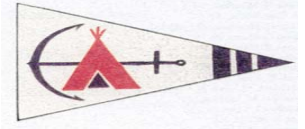


SMOKE SIGNALS



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Commander Robert M England, S

Time flies when you are having a ball! This is especially true during the holidays. Time well spent with friends and relatives ends too soon and we find ourselves back to our daily grinds. I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. Norma and I had a chance to travel to Asheville, NC for a few days to enjoy a tour of The Biltmore House and to dine at The Grove Park Inn. The decorations at both locations were beautiful and we were amazed at all the different trees and greenery on display. We discovered a new option at Biltmore that is a great new addition to their tours. It is called a Butlers Tour and they guide you to places that you do not see on a regular tour. Your guide also give you insight into how the household duties were handled. It is amazing to see how the care and upkeep for approximately 175,000 sq. ft. of living space was handled in 1896. So if you plan to visit Biltmore House in the near future, I recommend you try this tour!

The new year is here and it is time to reflect on times past and to plan for the days ahead in 2011. We all need to reflect on our efforts last year for the Squadron and look for ways to improve our efforts this year as we plan for the many events that lay before us. We have the Change Of Watch on the 28th of this month at the River Hills Country Club that should be a great event for all to attend! This spring, we also have the Yard Sale, the Children's Outing and the shrimp boil at the Commodore Club to look forward to. There will be several raft ups this summer and lets not forget the landing cleanups the Squadron under takes to help keep our waterways cleaner and safer for all who uses this great waterway. This fall we will have the "Great Steak Out" membership drive at the Commodore Club and The world famous "White Elephant Sale" at our November meeting. And most important of all are the classes we will sponsor this year to help improve boater safety and waterway seamanship knowledge to every one interested in improving their boating skills. There will be other activities during the year to keep the Squadron hopping! I mention all these activities to remind you that there are many ways you can be a part of Squadron events. You can support the Squadron in sooooo many ways! You just have to pick the areas that appeal to you and get involved. We never want someone to do any thing they do not want to do! Our activities are for fun and comradery. You all joined this Squadron for a reason. Share that "Reason" with your friends. We are the best kept secret in this region!

I am again honored and humbled to be asked to be your commander again for a second year! There are many things I need to improve my performance from last year. There were many of you who helped me when I needed guidance for Squadron Procedures or Protocol. I won't name names because you know who you are. Just know I really appreciate your help! It is a great feeling as a leader to know that members are there for you when you need them! My new years resolutions For the Squadron are as follows:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

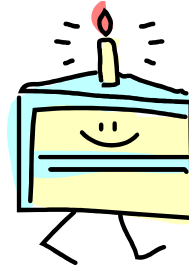
- 5 Jan EXCOM
Diane Woods' Office
6:30 pm
- 8 Jan D/27 Bridge Training
Raleigh
- 28 Jan Catawba COW
River Hills Country Club
6:30 pm
- 1-6 Feb USPS Annual Meeting
Orlando, Florida
- 2 Feb EXCOM
Diane Woods Office
6:30 pm
- 2 Mar EXCOM
Diane Woods Office
6:30 pm
- 9 Mar General Membership Meeting
Location TBA
6:30 pm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY**January**

- 3 Karen Kaylor
14 Peggy Macauley-Jordan
15 Lynn Joachim
19 Bill Murphy

February

- 8 Rein Juergen
10 Joe Murphy
19 Barbara Murphy
27 Paul Christensen



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**The next issue of the Smoke Signals
will be sent about March 1, 2011**

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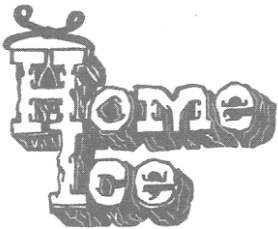
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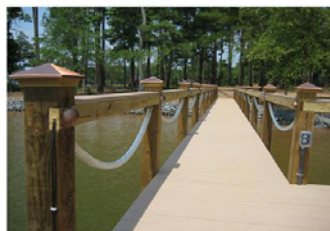


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Commander's Message cont. (

- (1) Be more interactive with each member to let you know how important you are to this Squadron.
- (2) To be more active in District activities and communications.
- (3) To have better general meetings with interesting speakers and guests.
- (4) To guide this Squadron in a way that will improve its recognition and efforts for the local community and the District.
- (5) To listen to all who have ideas and suggestions about Squadron needs, goals, and activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a safe and prosperous new year. May you have many days of safe boating adventures with friends and family. May Clemson and Carolina get their acts together for better records this year for football! (Can I have an amen on that?)

I am looking forward to this year as your Commander!

CHANGE OF WATCH
JANUARY 28 6:30 PM
RIVER HILL CC
Page 6 for details

SCENES FROM THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Russell S. Crompton, S

I had thought that December would be my last report as Executive Officer but Jack and Matt asked me to report on a significant and moving event in December.

Early in December P/C Diane Woods was contacted by Michael Bowers, grandson of Bob and Martha Metcalf.

Bob and Martha were active members of the Catawba Sail and Power Squadron when they lived in Tega Cay, and Bob was Commander in 1985. In 1987, Martha was diagnosed with MS and they moved to the Army Residence Community in San Antonio Texas.

On November 22nd, Martha passed away and the family discussed Martha's wish to have her ashes scattered on Lake Wylie. CSPA readily agreed to assist in this endeavor, and I got in touch with grandson Michael and eventually Bob and Martha's daughter Marcia who was coming to Tega Cay from Columbus, Ohio.

It was agreed that we would host a small ceremony on December 21st, starting from the Tega Cay Marina at 10.00 am and proceeding by boat to just offshore of the house on Point Clear Drive where the Metcalf's lived in the 1980s. There Commander Matt England would say a short eulogy and an appropriate nautical prayer. Marcia would then scatter her Mother's Ashes.

We commit the earthly remains of Martha Metcalf to the Deep –

ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

From water, all life arises.

Mother of waters, Father of rain, you have taken back your own.

As a stream flows into a river, as a river flows into the sea.

May her spirit flow to the waters of healing, to the waters of rebirth.

The etiquette requires that the vessel makes a

slow circle to port returning to the start position (meaning "turning back the hands of time") where the eulogy and prayer will be said and the ashes scattered on the waters. The vessel then circles to starboard to complete the figure 8 Infinity sign (meaning "time and life goes on"). The ceremony is concluded by sounding of the ship's bell 8 times (meaning "end of watch").

The ceremony was concluded almost without a hitch (apart from the clapper detaching itself from the ship's bell!) and we were much warmed by a naval toast of coffee and rum on the way back to the Marina and entertained by P/C Gene Stutz's reminiscences of Bob and Martha's time in the Power Squadron.

Attendees were:

Marcia and Doug Hatfield (daughter and son-in-law of Martha and Bob)

Commander Matt England

Past Commander Gene Stutz

Past Commander Jim Van Blarcom

XO Russell Crompton and Sarah

It was both a pleasure and a sadness for us to be of service to the Metcalf family and to remember past members in this way.

I trust that all members have had a great 2010 and a Merry Christmas. We all look forward to a Happy and Prosperous New Year.





2010 Bridge

Commander	Cdr Robert M. England, S	803-329-3789
Executive Officer	Lt/C Russell J. Crompton, S	803-547-8512
Education Officer	P/C Eugene L. Stutz, SN	803-831-8252
Asst. Education Officer	P/C James R, Van Blarcom. AP	803-548-5362
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Jeremy K. Kempf , S	704-989-4996
Treasurer	P/Lt/C Michael T. Daly, AP	803-327-5247
Secretary	P/C James R. Van Blarcom, AP	803-548-5362

EXCOM

Lt Thurston D. Carroll	803-831-1829	Lt. Leslie D. Conner	803-547-3491
Lt. David O. Kaylor	803-325-1944	Lt Robert M McCorkle, P	803-329-7960
P/C Diane K. Woods, S	803-548-3434		

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