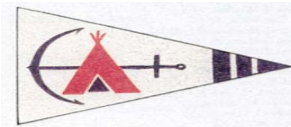


SMOKE SIGNALS



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Commander Robert M England, S

The heat wave is gone and what a relief it is. We can all now enjoy this cooler weather and get to those many chores that were neglected in the summer due to the hot temperatures. All we need now is rain to replenish the ground and lake levels in our area. Lake Wylie is down by several feet and this makes the lake more dangerous for lower units and prop damage. We need to be especially careful during this time and to recommend to other boaters our concerns due to the lower water levels. Share your squadron pride and knowledge of boating safety by reminding others of these new dangers on our local lakes and waterways. This recent fall in water levels in our lakes should remind us all of the importance of our Squadron and its impact on local issues concerning our waterways and water usage by everyone living in this area. We can and do make a difference in this matter. I challenge all of you to stay focused on our waterways and their preservation.

October is almost over and we have been a busy Squadron this past month. We cleaned up at two landings during River Sweep and had a perfect night out at the Commodore Yacht Club for our October meeting. If you were not there you missed a great meal and meeting. Thanks to all that helped at the landing clean up and the October meeting. Reports will be by others in this issue of Smoke Signals.

I would like all to be aware of the efforts of Jack Stevenson to publish this issue of Smoke Signals. He and Linda have a mess at there (USC spelling) home due to a remodel project that shut down his publishing center. Jack used his Clemson education to figure out how to publish this issue. Many would have just passed the buck and made excuses. But Jack showed his dedication and got the job done despite these obstacles. I guess he gets a lot of practice at this by following the Clemson Tigers football program. They always seem to be running into problems. Way to go Jack for a job well done!

November will be another busy month for the Squadron. We have our XCOM meeting on Wednesday evening at 1830 hrs at Diane Woods' office. Your XCOM board is busy with filling out next years Bridge. We also are preparing for our COW in January. Our world famous White Elephant sale will take place after our November regular meeting at the Pier 51 Restaurant on Mount Gallant Road in Rock Hill. All members need to bring some "special items" to the meeting and add them to the sale items. Colonel Jim and Linda are ready to have a rousing auction and will take

Cont on Page 4

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 3 Nov EXCOM
Diane Woods' Office
6:30 pm
- 6 Nov Predicted Log
Merit Mark Park
10:00 AM
- 10 Nov General Membership Meeting
Pier 51 Restaurant
Mt Gallant Rd Rock Hill
6:30 pm
- 1 Dec EXCOM
Diane Woods' Office
6:30 pm
- 3 Dec Annual Meeting/Christmas Party
Van Blarcom Residence
6:30 pm
- 8 Jan D/27 Bridge Training
Raleigh
- 29 Jan Catawba COW
River Hills Country Club
6:30 pm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November

- 5 Johnnie Helms
12 Jason Burwell
15 Elizabeth Allison
20 Marilyn Hakim
30 Janet Murphy



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The next issue of the Smoke Signals will be sent about November 1, 2010.

TEGA CAY MARINA
Tega Cay, SC

and
LAKE CLUB MARINA
Rock Hill, SC

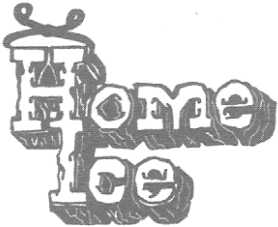
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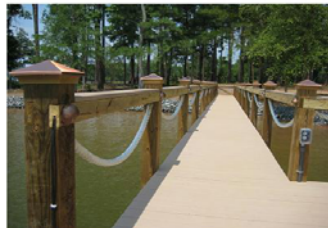
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Commander's Message continued

all bids. Remember that all monies raised will go to the Education Fund.

Well it is time for me to get off my soap box. We all need to vote on November 2nd! Many men and women have given their lives for us to continue with our freedoms. This is our obligation as citizens and to not vote is a sure way to one day lose these freedoms that sometimes we all take for granted! I always say that those that vote have a right to disagree with our elected officials and their actions. Those citizens that choose not to vote need to keep quiet about events and the politics that come from their outcomes. They have not earned the right to comment!

Hope you all have a safe and healthy November.

NOVEMBER SOCIAL MEETING**WHITE DOLPHIN SALE****PIER 51 Restaurant****Rock Hill****6:30 pm**

Please be sure to bring an item or two for the Re-Gifted Goodies Sale. The items don't have to have a boating theme. However the items should be a step up quality wise from the garage sale variety.

We'll gather many items together and auction off the whole table of goodies you most definitely can't live without! We're trying to have a selection of at least seven tables of wonderful items for you to choose from. It's the ultimate re-gifting sale! Please remember to bring your checkbook or cash to the meeting. All the proceeds (even the auctioneers fee) will go to the Education Fund.

We will order from the menu.

**EDUCATION REPORT****P/C Gene Stutz, SN****Seamanship Course**

P/C Diane Woods and P/Lt/C Mike Daly are organizing a Seamanship Course. They will contact anyone needing it, including all new members. This is the first "Grade" course and graduation earns you an S after your name.

Piloting Course

After the completion of Seamanship, P/C Will Jordan will be organizing a Piloting Course. This is the second "Grade" course and it will earn you a P.

Weather Seminar (mini course)

P/C Jim Van Blarcom is planning a Weather Seminar later in the Fall.

Advanced Piloting (AP) Course

P/C Gene Stutz will be planning an AP Course late this year/early next year.

Junior Navigation (JN) Course

Catawba and the Charlotte Squadron are planning a joint JN Course, Details will be announced at a later date.

For information on any of these courses, contact me at genestutz@bellsouth.net or 803-831-8252.



"I'm dumping you, Howard. Since you love boats, I'll explain why in a way you'll understand—you're a canoe, but I'm looking for a yacht."

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Russell S. Crompton, S

As we approach the Holiday season, there is not a lot to report that won't be reported here by others.

We all had a great time at the October meeting at the Commodore Yacht Club and look forward to another great day out at the annual Scavenger Hunt at Merit Mark Point in conjunction with the Charlotte Squadron. There is a Chicken BBQ afterwards, don't miss it !

I know Matt and Diane have some great fund-raising ideas for next year to replace the Knights Baseball concessions, so watch out for them.

I was in the UK most of September and early October and we visited Lake Windermere in the English Lake District. We kept a succession of boats in the Windermere Marina over many years until we moved to the USA in 1999.

Lake Windermere is the biggest lake in England at 12 miles long, has 3 towns along its shores and is a wonderful area of natural beauty. The lake is flanked by hills and distant mountains and is fed by cool mountain streams and rivers from the north end. It is served by several passenger ferries plying between the towns of Ambleside in the north, Bowness-on-Windermere on the eastern shore halfway down and Lakeside at the south end. There is also a cable car ferry crossing the lake from Bowness to Hawkshead at a narrow point in the lake, only a few hundred yards. The waters flowing from the south of the lake are treated and supply drinking water to the population of Manchester and its environs 70 miles south.

Because it is the biggest by far (although much smaller than Lake Wylie), it has a large and thriving boating population with 40 foot cruisers and sailboats quite common. Also because of the flowing waters, the lake level can vary by 4 feet over a normal year, being higher when heavier rains and snow occur in the catchment areas north of the lake during winter. Traditionally, most of the marinas on the lake have fixed piers

which can easily accommodate this variance by mooring boats to weighted lines which move up and down through holes bored into the deckboards with the changes in water level and hold boats against fenders on the dock. Occasionally in winter we find a quick trip to the marina is necessary to loosen off lines when the weights, normally suspended in the water below the piers, come up against the bottom of the dock boards and put strain on the lines and ultimately the boat.

Whist I was there, I was told about a flood in November 2009 when the lake level rose nearly 10 feet in 2 days ! Windermere Marina has over 300 power and sailboats in its sheltered harbor and the picture here attests to the devastation which occurred in those few days, reminding one of Hurricane pictures in Florida. Over 20 boats were a total loss, with many more being the subject of extensive damage claims. Needless to say, floating piers are being busily installed to guard against the effect of what some estimate as one chance in a thousand years !

Even though we are used to some lake height variance on Lake Wylie, we have a lot to be thankful for and are usually concerned more with droughts than floods ! Happy Boating to all.



Lake Windermere, UK
Photo by EO Crompton

TRIPPING ON THE CHESAPEAKE 2010**Part 1****P/C Jim Van Blarcom, AP**

Got an early start this year and got to the boat in mid-May. Arrived in Deltaville, VA at the mouth of the Rappahannock River and was greeted by a terrible day. It was raining, mid-50s and the wind was out of the east at 20+ knots. Found out that the bottom paint was only half applied, the motor was running rough and the good news was the water had a slight taste of vodka from winterizing. When we finally got to do a sea trial on the boat two days later, the engine wouldn't get up to speed under a load. We found out later that we were discovering the joys of ethanol in our gas. It seems that ethanol acts like a detergent and it loosens all kinds of crud in our tanks and lines. Some of this crud blocked up the injectors of our trusty Yamaha and caused one of them to fail. Another 3 days and we find that the new injector does not totally do the trick, so all of the rest of the injectors are pulled, sonically cleaned and air blown, and reinstalled. You don't want to know what all this cost, but with labor at \$83/hour, you will guess low.

Finally get underway and head out into the Bay with the Potomac River as our destination. Engine runs fine, seas are running 1-2 feet behind us from the South East, wind SE 10 knots, and the sun breaking through around mid-morning. All in all, a nice day to start our trip. After about 5 hours we decide to go into Point Lookout Marina on Smith Creek off the Potomac on the Maryland side for the night.

While we are docking, I learned another lesson that going to sea can teach you. Always try to get the windward docking line secured first. The wind will blow you down on the other side, but trying to get off the leeward side into the wind is not easy and usually involves yelling at the mate, which is never a good idea.

They call this area "South Maryland", not Southern Maryland. It is a land of fields, dirt roads and farmhouses. Flat country surrounded by water. The marina while needing some sprucing

up had a pool (way to cold to use) and a restaurant (great view, good food) and a bunch of boats on the hard that looked like they could use some tender love and care. There was even a go-fast Cigarette type boat that had spent a lot of time under a tree and we were told that it was in hiding from a divorce case. After exploring the yard, we got our bikes un-collapsed and rode a couple of miles on the local roads. Being country roads they weren't too wide and while a car was going by, I couldn't avoid going over a three-foot stick in the road. Don't know who was more surprised when I rode over it and it jumped up at me. It was a snake in road and almost made the mate ride into the ditch, behind me. More to follow on the "rest of the story" of the Potomac Cruise.



Lekker at Point Lookout MD
And the piling that caused the problem

**BOO!!**

SAFETY REPORT P/C Lee Stinson, P

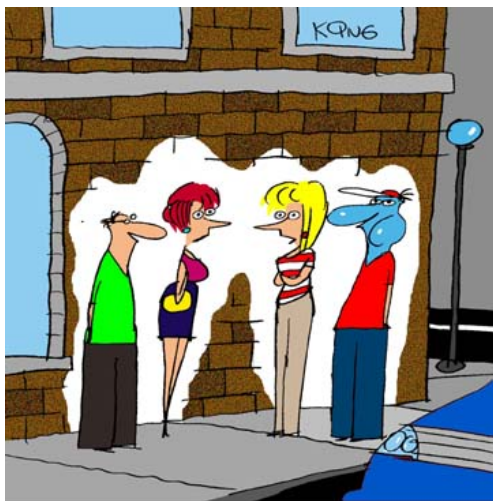
KEEP AN EYE ON THE WEATHER

Always monitor weather forecasts before going out on the water, whether you are going water skiing or embarking on an around the world cruise. Radio and TV forecasts are good sources for local weather. But once you are on the water you should watch for changes in the weather. Rising or changing winds, darkening or thickening clouds and sudden drops in temperature may all be signs of weather instability. When in doubt, get off the water or into a safe harbor if possible.

SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE

Have you ever had your guests seated on your boat and started to shove off and suddenly find that you have one foot on the boat, the other on the dock, the boat has drifted, you have nothing to hold on to and no place to go but down? And no one board knows how to pilot your boat. Very embarrassing, huh?

Make sure that someone on board knows the basic operation and systems of your boat. In an emergency, in which you the skipper are disabled, it might make the difference between life and death if someone else can operate the radio or get the boat back to shore.



"Jim's holding his breath until we buy a new boat. I have to give him credit, it's been over 5 hours now."

OCTOBER SOCIAL MEETING COMMODORE YACHT CLUB

The October meeting at the Commodore Yacht Club is becoming a tradition. A steak dinner prepared by our own chefs, prospective members as guests and (almost always) great weather.

This year Commander England turned over his duties as chef to P/C Will Jordan, Les Woods and others and enjoyed the evening.

Several members came by boat on a perfect evening weather wise.

The ladies of the squadron provided appetizers, a salad and many delicious desserts. The weather cooperated and we ate outside under the stars.

After dinner, Commander Matt presented some awards, introduced our guests and conducted a little business. Then everyone just relaxed and enjoyed the evening.

If you did not come, you missed a great time. Plan on coming next year.

Nominating Committee Report

2011

BRIDGE

Commander	- Matt England, S
Education Officer	- Eugene Stutz, SN
Executive Officer	- Jeremy Kempf, S
Administrative Officer	- David Kaylor
Secretary	- Thurston Carroll
Treasurer	- Michael Daly, AP
Asst Education Officer	- Jim Van Blarcom, AP
Executive Committee	- Diane Woods, S
	- Marilyn Hakim
	- Don Antonucci
	- Tony Esposito

The squadron bylaws require that one member of the Nominating, Rules and Audit committees be elected by the membership.

P/C Diane Woods has been nominated for all three committees.

PREDICTED LOG
Merit Mark Point
November 6, 2010
10:00 AM

Commander Matt England and P/C Worth Parker need your help! The Pride Of Lake Wylie is the trophy awarded to the squadron winning the annual Predicted Log contest between the Catawba and Charlotte squadrons. The trophy has been in the possession of the Catawba squadron for several years, and in fact, many feel we should retire it since Charlotte can't seem to win it back! This year however, many of our most experienced captains are unavailable for this important contest. So Matt and Worth need your help. Boats and drivers are needed. Experience is a plus but not required.

Worth will arrange a quick course on how to prepare for and run a course. It is NOT work. It IS fun! Remember, it is boating. So give it a try. Contact Matt at mengland74@comporium.net or 803-329-3789 or Worth at worthagency@bellsouth.net or 704-521-6422.

BOATING IS FUN, WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW.

ADOPT-A-LANDING/RIVERSWEEP
LT Mary Jo Barreto, P

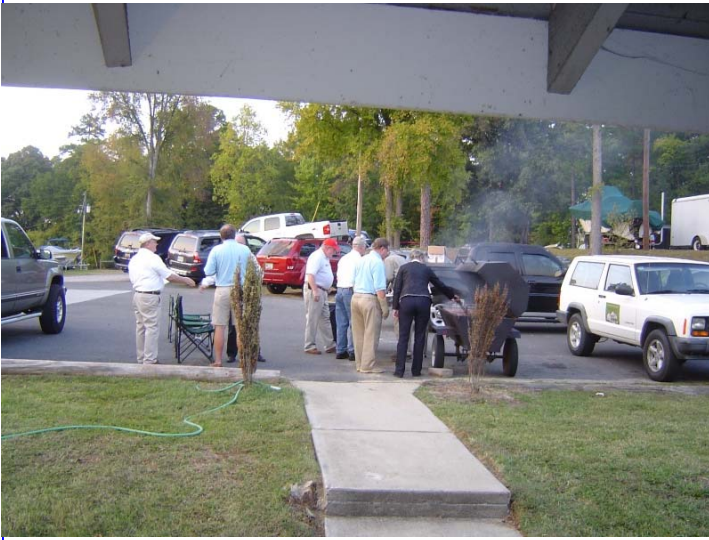
Once again, the Lake Wylie Riversweep was a success. The early October day was absolutely beautiful and brought out the volunteers. According to the Catawba Riverkeepers, there were over 900 volunteers this year which is more than the last three years combined. This was the 9th year for this organized clean-up. Slightly over 28 tons, yes, I said 28 TONS, of trash was collected. This is slightly less than the 31 tons collected last year. Hopefully this is a sign that the public is more aware of the importance of our lakes and land and are littering less.

The Catawba Sail and Power Squadron did our part. We had volunteers at Niven's Creek Landing and Allison Creek Landing. Tony Carroll was kind enough to bring his pontoon which allowed Marilyn Hakim and Mary Jo to go up into the end of the cove. They were actually surprised on how little trash was up in the end of Niven's Creek compared to last year. The rest of the crew was busy at the landing. The group collected 12 bags plus a tire and a broken pruner. Tony transported all the trash up to the large barge out in the middle of the lake near the Tega Cay marina. Thanks to all the hard work from Leigh Van Blarcom, Barbara and Joe Murphy, Dennis L'hommedieu, Keith McCorkle, Lee Stinson, Tony Carroll, Marilyn Hakim and Mary Jo Barreto.

Thanks to Worth Parker and the Kempf family for keeping up the CSPS commitment at Allison Creek Landing. I am not sure how many bags were collected but it is usually just as much as at Niven's. What is neat is that not only did Jeremy help but his wife Natasha and their daughter Jaden also helped. What a great thing to get children involved early in keeping our world a cleaner place. And guess who was a winner at the raffle later in the day at T-Bones. – Jaden! She won a one day pass to the Whitewater Outdoor Center. Goes to show – when one least expects a reward – it may come!



October General Membership Meeting



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		

Smoke Signals is the official publication of the Catawba Sail and Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of USPS, District 27 or the Catawba Sail & Power Squadron. Please visit our website at www.catawbasailandpowersquadron.org

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