



The Soundings

February 2004
Volume XXXVI
Issue 2

Official Publication of the Cocoa Beach Power Squadron –A Unit of the United States Power Squadron ® District 23 Sail & Power Boating

In this Issue		
Cdr's Column	2	<p><i>You are cordially invited to attend the Change of watch, Sunday 29 February, festivities to begin at 1500. We hope you will join us.</i></p> <p><i>The Change of Watch is both traditional and impressive.</i></p> <p>The Radisson Resort in Cape Canaveral is the place to be for all members of the Cocoa Beach Power Squadron. On 29 February the annual Change of Watch, the 2003 Bridge turning over its office to the 2004 Bridge, will occur and will include the Coco-Nauts transition of officers, affording members the opportunity to meet their officers past and present.</p> <p>The event will be preceded by a social hour beginning at 1500 (3:00 PM), dinner at 1600 (4:00 PM). and the ceremony at 1700 (5:00 PM) The installation dinner will end at approximately 1800 (6:00 PM) You may have your choice of Prime Rib \$28, Chicken Oscar \$24, Florida Grouper w/ Lemon \$29. Please dress appropriately.</p> <p>1/Lt Agnes Bond AP, who is coordinator of this event , has requested that reservations for dinner and entree selection be sent by 23 February.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Agnes Bond 1465 Girard Boulevard Merritt Island, FL 32952-5506 E-mail : ronford1@castlegate.net</p>
Admin. Off. Report	3	
SEO Report		
Honor Roll		
Coop Charting		
District Bridge Report	4	
Co-op Charting Report		
Roster Changes		
Spring Conf. 2004	5	
Reservation forms	6	
Calendar	7	
Story by George Minto	8	
Youth Poster Contest	9	
Ads	10	
Ads	11	
Mailer	12	

MARK CASBURN SCHEDULED 02 FEBRUARY MEETING GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Casburn was not able to attend as our scheduled guest speaker for January due to illness, but the last report is that he is fine and ready to go. He'll talk about "The Fractional Shared Yacht " concept. You'll find out how you might have more boat than you thought you could have had. This promises to be an interesting program.

Lt Mark Anderson AP

SOME PEOPLE NEED THE USPS BOATING COURSE MORE THAN OTHERS

Reported by Peter Schmidt

An 8 week boating course will be held each Thursday at 7:00 p.m., starting March 4 through April 22, 2004, at the Veterans Memorial Center. At a meeting held on Wednesday, January 14, the usual, reliable instructors have committed to present various classes.

Grateful thanks are extended to P/C Fred Adame SN, P/C Ed Kydd SN, P/C Sue Kneland SN, P/R/C Dick Schnoor and P/R/C Jane Schnoor SN, Sandy Schoonmaker SN, Rick Schoonmaker SN, and Steve Winter P, who have volunteered their expertise and time once again. Additionally, Lt Michele Anderson AP, Lt Mark Anderson AP and Lt John Mulkey have offered their expertise as well.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the February meeting for members willing to help with proctoring, or you may call **Pete Schmidt at 455-9366**.

This is a great opportunity for members to do something important for their squadron as this is an event that promotes the USPS image and gains new membership.



THE COMMANDER FILLE'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

Lt/C Richard Fille, AP

THE BRIDGE

Commander

Cdr Richard D. Fille AP
868-1883

Executive Officer

Lt/C Robert W. Schaefer P
784-9128

Administrative Officer

Lt/C Marion A. Miller JN
638-1247

Educational Officer

Lt/C Howard M. Bernbaum SN
452-0320

Secretary

Lt/C Pamela Johnson P
783-0560

Treasurer

Lt/C Raymond C. Smith S
799-1991

Asst. Educational Officer

P/C Lester Tribout AP
636-5811

Asst. Secretary

1/Lt Lea Collins P
631-3911

Assistant Treasurer

1/Lt Gary B. Pell P
784-5184

Members-at-large

P/D/C Fred Adame SN
635-9455

Lt John F. Mulkey P
633-0094

Lt John H. Lynn P
537-8438

Lt Gary J. Monai P
799-3635

The Soundings

**DEADLINE: THE 10TH OF
EACH MONTH.**

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Lt. Trent S. Milliken, P

Wow ! A year flies by real fast. I enjoyed it and I learned more about the Power Squadron mission, responsibilities and successes than I expected when I assumed the role of Commander.

I find myself looking back in appreciation and looking forward with great anticipation of good things to come under new leadership.

We are fortunate that we all received the benefits of great speakers, classes and events that made this a very good year for the members. The Commander can take no credit for that. The meetings were highlighted by a series of entertaining speakers arranged by Lt. Mark Anderson, AP and Lt. Michelle Anderson, AP.

Our social events were delightful. Lt. Agnes Bond, AP did a very creative job in arranging the parties. Lt. Randy Johnson, P fought weather and member's barnacles to give us boating activities. Lt. Ann McCandless S and Lt. Johnny McCandless S spent hours working on refreshments and many other things that needed helping hands. A truly unsung hero was Lt. Gary Kingrea S, who worked silently setting up equipment for our meetings and events. I also thank Lt. Gene Millner, AP and P/Lt. Barbara Millner, S for their gracious hosting of the party that emptied my wallet, at The Commander's Reception.

The education program, capably run by Lt/C Howard Bernbaum SN was successful due to his efforts of organizing and recruiting excellent instructors. There were many and space is limited, but I thank them all. The tireless work of his wife, Lt. Rhoda Bernbaum kept you all abreast of the Squadron activities. Thanks Rhoda. Another unsung hero was Lt. Paul Pfadenhauer P, who took over the job of Soundings distribution and did most of it single handed. Lt. John Mulkey P and Lt/C Bob Schaefer P, did a wonderful job with the Boat Smart Courses. Lt. John Lynn P, with great help from many including P/C Duane Balkema AP and many others helped our cause with a very successful auction.

Those were many, but not all, of the people who did things to benefit our members and helped the squadron have an excellent year. We had many contributors to activities that were external in nature. The outstanding performance of our Vessel Safety Check program is commendable. P/Lt/C Bob Flanigan, SN led that effort and performed many



VSC's. Leading the pack in VSC's were P/R/C Mary Jane Schnoor, SN and P/R/C Richard Schnoor, SN.

Early in the year, Lt Pat Andrews S did a marvelous job of keeping the public informed about the Squadron's public activities. When he had to step aside, P/C Larry Hatfield SN stepped into the void and performed in that role. In addition, he coordinated our presence at various boat shows and community activities.

There are three people who, every time I turned around, were there helping in some activity or squadron function. Lt Marilyn Flanigan P, Marion Sweigart AP and P/D/Lt/C Frank Sebree SN who could always be counted on to help in whenever he was called upon..

I have counted names of people who contributed in some measure to our squadron's successful year. There are 51 more individuals that I have not named above. For that, I am sorry that we can't devote an entire issue to pointing out your contributions. Without your active giving of service, we would not have had a successful year.

Your Bridge Officers made this a successful year by selecting the people who made the Squadron go. They are the ones who stepped in to help, when necessary, and who offered counsel when needed. I was along for a pleasant ride. I can take no credit. It is all who are named above plus those of you not mentioned who made it a great year.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

I look forward to next year with enthusiasm. I think the nominated Bridge and Board will win the election. Lt/C Bud Miller JN will make a great new Commander and he has an excellent Bridge to support him. I will get out of his way and look to assume my role as an active, participating member of the Cocoa Beach Power Squadron.

Edr Dick Fille

While we're on the subject of thanks, all of us in CBPS extend to you, Commander, our thanks for all your hard work on our behalf.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

Lt/C Bud Miller SN

About this time of the year, many are talking about a COW. Some of you may think that pertains to a four legged Bovine that gives fresh milk and says moooo.

Wrong!!! The COW I'm talking about stands for the Change of Watch which is an annual affair in which the new CBPS bridge officers and other elected positions are officially sworn in. Based on my experience, the event is a little bit of ceremony and a lot of fun. This year, the Change of Watch will be on Sunday, February 29, 2004, and will be held at the Radisson Resort in Cape Canaveral, FL. The ceremony, which also will include the Coco-Nauts, will be preceded by a social hour starting at 3:00 PM, and dinner at 4:00 PM. Everything should be over around 6:00 PM. Details on front page.

Although it's still early in the year and the new bridge is still in waiting, planning is underway for several future events. Mark your calendars for the Commander's Reception which will be on April 17. Lt Gene Millner AP and Barbara Millner S have so graciously volunteered to allow us to have it at their beautiful home(again) on the Indian River. I guess I was just being naive when I asked Commander Fille AP who covers the cost of this, and he broke up laughing. The other important event is the Blessing of the Fleet which will be on May 22, 2004. As in the past, it will be held in the Indian River just off Cocoa Waterfront Park. A picnic will be held at the Lee Wenner Park pavilion following the blessing of all boats. We are fortunate to have Father Carol Travis perform the blessing, once again. Thank you Lts. Bob and Marilyn Flanigan for arranging this. The date of this event is significant as it occurs on the first day of National Safe Boating Week.

I would like to welcome all new members to the Cocoa Beach Power Squadron and personally invite you to join us at these events.

Lt/C Bud Miller, JN

SEO REPORT

Lt/C Howard Bernbaum SN

February brings a slight change in the squadron education department. With the Change of Watch upon us we will be getting a new Assistant SEO. Lt Garry Pell P agreed to take on this job. I have agreed to return as SEO only on condition that Garry takes on the bigger part of the job. He has agreed and we all owe him a thank you. The education department is a time intensive activity.

It appears that we are starting the new year with a goodly participation in the education department. In January we recommenced the Weather Course Module 102 and began a Junior Navigation Course. Rick Schoonmaker SN is teaching Weather and Fred Adame SN the JN class. Fred does stay busy. In February we are starting a new Seamanship Class and hope as many new members as possible will take advantage of the excellent teaching provided by P/C Dick and P/C Jane Schnoor, both SNs. We are also offering Advanced Piloting with P/C Frank Sebree SN at the helm. Depending on demand we are also planning to offer Engine Maintenance and Piloting toward the end of February or beginning of March. Classroom availability will determine the start of these courses. If any of our members would like a particular course, we ask that they contact the SEO or Assistant SEO. You can reach us at:

Howard B 452-0320 howardb@cfl.rr.com

Garry P 784-54155 beachpell@aol.com

Remember, the success of your education program depends on you, the students.

Honor Roll

The following students passed Cruise Planning in November:

Lt Joe Auchter AP, Lt Larry Carr P, Cathy Carr P, Bill Casto AP, Ross Clemons, D. Scott Kee P, Roland Norris P, and Lynne Schaeffer JN.

The following students passed Weather, Module 101 in December:

Lt Mark Anderson AP, Lt Michele Anderson AP, Jenise Grames S, Lt Randy Johnson P, Lt/C Pamela Johnson AP, & 1 /Lt Garry Pell P

We are especially proud of Michelle Anderson who scored 100% on the Weather exam.

Co-Op Charting Update

Lt Gary Monai P

I recently attempted to connect to (CCWEB) the USPS-NOS system for submitting Co-Op Charting reports to input reports from some members that do not have Internet access. I was greeted with the following message:

To all USPS members:

The National Ocean Service (NOS) regrets to announce a failure of the USPS-CCWEB server backups. All submitted USPS-CCWEB data sets submitted after September 8, 2004 have been lost and are irretrievable. NOS is working with our IT resources to mitigate the problem. Currently, CCWEB is offline and unavailable. NOS hopes to have CCWEB online by January 6, 2004. Members will not be penalized for late submissions.

If any members saved their reports that were submitted after September 8, 2003, please send NOS copies so that we may re-enter the data into CCWEB. We must receive these reports prior to March 31, 2004. If you need business reply envelopes, please let Ken Forster know and they will be sent to you. Ken can be contacted at the phone/email address on Page 4, column 2.

FROM THE DISTRICT BRIDGE - D/C Robert C. Flint, AP

Where has the year gone. The time has come when I must pass on the honor of being District Commander. The Nominating Committee has put together an exceptional slate of officers for the coming year and this powerful new Bridge team is already formulating the events for 2004. I am sure you will unanimously elect them to office but they are expecting that you will also provide them your continued support of the District activities. You can start to demonstrate that support by welcoming them into office at the Spring Conference being held in Gainesville 5-7 March. Make your reservations early for this fun and informative weekend.

In the surveys that we distributed last year you asked for us to come up with new and different ideas on conducting the business of the District. Well the new year will start with a stand-alone Education Seminar on 10 April 2004; a day dedicated strictly to workshops on different areas of the Education Dept. It will be held in Daytona Beach and will be open to all members, not just SEOs. Details will be finalized at the Spring Conference.

Next, the Summer Council will be combined with the Spring Picnic at Titusville on 15 May. The Council will meet and complete its business early in the day allowing everyone to enjoy the great corn feast, the comradery of other district members and the music of Jammin' Joe. This will minimize the district "meetings" and allow more cruising time for the summer.

USPS continues to attempt to emphasize the family aspects of our organization. To this end the Seventh Annual Youth Poster contest has begun.

This article had to be written before this year's Annual Meeting so, regretfully, I'm unable to report on the great Wednesday and Thursday night parties celebrating USPS's 90th Anniversary and Friday night's Hospitality Suite. I hope you all got to enjoy them and the fabulous new Expo set up by the Meetings Committee. Your new Commander will probably report the details of these events in her first article. This annual event in our own backyard provides a wealth of information on USPS and a keen insight to the operation of the organization. This will be held in Orlando for only two more years so you should take advantage of its location. This year we do have the additional advantage of hosting the Fall Governing Board in Jacksonville 8-12 September 2004, another opportunity to get a close look at the inner workings of the United States Power Squadrons.

Its tough to close out this chapter in my life. Its been a fun tour on the District Bridge which has allowed me to make many more friendships outside the confines of my home squadron. I want to thank my Bridge for their support and dedication throughout the year. And I could not have performed my duties without the guidance and expertise of those that have gone before. This is an exceptional organization held together by the volunteerism of many skilled and talented members throughout the District and the United States, who believe in the fundamental logic of "Safe Boating Through Education". I'm proud to say, as all of you should be, that I am a member of America's Boating Club®.



The 7th Annual Poster Contest Has Begun

Specific details and entry forms can be found on the Web at www.usps.org (Youth Activities).

Be sure you follow the specific rules

Deadline for submission to the District Admin Officer for judging is 15 May at the Summer Council.

WATER SMART + BOAT SMART = FUN is the theme

The contest is open to any child between the ages of 6 and 14.

See page 9 for requirements and entry form. **HAPPY PAINTING!**

Co-Op Charting

(Continued from Page 3)

Additionally, to restore credits and rankings from September 8, 2003 to mid December, 2003, NOS is asking members to send in any listings (Squadron Summary or District-Squadron-Individual) or rankings (Individual, Nautical, Aeronautical or Geodetic) that members may have printed from the CCWEB for their own use.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this difficult time.

Ken Forster
National Ocean Service-
Ken.Forster@NOAA.GOV 301.713.2737
x130

Please hold all report submissions for several days beyond the January 6th date noted in the message. Hopefully the government will have the system working again soon. At this time we have no way of knowing how much of the 2003 data was lost, nor how this will impact the squadron results and standings. I'll update our squadron with any additional information if/when it becomes available.

Lt. Gary Monai P



ROSTER CHANGES

Re-instated Member

Bradford L. Reinhardt
2050 Porpoise Street
Merritt Island 32953
Certificate #: E 174103

Change of Address

Associate Member
D/Lt/C George R. Fontes, AP
[Banana River Power Squadron]
1799 Freedom Drive
Melbourne, FL 32940
Certificate #: E1283380 92
GAFontes@aol.com
Mate: Anita
(321)752-9657

Coco-Naut

Change of address
Kay Hance
520 Gateway Drive
Merritt Island, FL 32952
(321)449-0179



Spring 2004 Conference & Change of Watch 5-7 March 2004

Holiday Inn West Conference Center

7417 Newberry Rd. Gainesville, Florida 32605 I-75, Exit 387
352-332-7500 800-551-8206 Fax: 352-332-4802

www.gainesvillehotelconferencecenter.com

Everyone knows Gainesville is home to the University of Florida, but bet you didn't know Gainesville began as a settlement in the early 1800s on the banks of the Hogtown Creek, a small creek that still runs through the center of town. Let's turn the clock back to the 1800s for the evening - come join us and listen to Dixieland Jazz while we ride the Riverboat down Hogtown Creek, as folks did in early Gainesville.

Friday afternoon, 5 March, registration opens at 3 pm, followed by our Hospitality Room from 4-6. We'll have a great Riverboat Cruise dinner later that evening - cash bar opens at 6:30, with dinner at 7pm. Come dressed as a riverboat gambler, a southern belle or gentleman, or just someone who loves Dixieland jazz! And you don't want to miss the costume 'competition' for the *coveted* 'Pink Flamingo'!! There'll be Blackjack, Poker, Craps, Roulette, & the Sounds of Dixieland Jazz throughout the evening!

Saturday morning starts with a free continental breakfast for hotel guests, with the Conference registration desk opening at 8 am. The council meeting, department and special interest workshops, and the Conference session will be conducted throughout the day, with a great Deli Buffet planned for lunch. Tours for spouses and guests not attending the meetings will be available to attractions in the Gainesville area or to Cedar Key. After the Conference business is completed, the Hospitality Room will open again at 4 pm, followed by a cash bar and banquet dinner at 6:30 pm.

Sunday morning, 8:30 am, will be the Farewell Breakfast, hosted by the St. Johns' N-Club. All conference attendees are invited to come for breakfast and enjoy the program. The Guest Speaker for the program is Danny McKnight, a dynamic and entertaining speaker, who will talk about his role in the "Blackhawk Down" incident. Danny was involved in "Blackhawk Down", and was a consultant on the movie. He is currently a Homeland Security Officer in Brevard County.

The Holiday Inn West Conference Center is conveniently located ½ mile west of I-75, Exit 387, in Gainesville. Room Reservations by 5 Feb 2004 to assure availability & rate.

Uniform: Friday evening: Riverboat/Dixieland costume or appropriate attire.
Saturday, day: Uniform G (black pants/skirt, white short-sleeve open-neck shirt, or appropriate attire.
Saturday, evening: Uniform A with bow tie, or appropriate attire.
Sunday Breakfast: Casual



**USPS District 23 Spring 2004 Conference
Hotel Reservation Form**

Please tell the hotel you are a USPS reservation - use 'Code UPS'

I will be attending the USPS District 23 Spring 2004 Conference, March 5-7, 2004.

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____ # of Persons: _____

Rate Per Night: \$ 64.00, plus tax. Reservations must be received by **Thursday, February 5, 2004.**

Room Preference: Smoking ___ or Non-Smoking ___ ; 2 Double Beds ___ or 1 King ___

Name(s): _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

email _____ **Phone** _____

**Reservations received after February 5, 2004 will be accepted on a space available basis,
and may not be available at the negotiated Conference rate.**

For Guaranteed Reservations Only:

I understand that I am liable for one night's room & tax, which will be deducted from my deposit or billed through my credit card, in the event I do not arrive or cancel this reservation within 24 hours in advance.

Card # _____ **Type:** _____ **Exp. Date:** _____

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Reservations not guaranteed, will be held until 1600 only on day of arrival.

**Phone 1-800-551-8206; OR Fax your reservation: 352-332-4802; OR Mail reservations directly to: Holiday Inn West
Conference Center, 7417 Newberry Road, Gainesville, FL 32605**

USPS District 23 Spring 2004 Conference

Meal Reservations Form Reservations must be received by 15 February 2004

Make checks out to 'Gainesville Sail & Power Squadron', and mail to:

P/C Jib Davidson, AP 4424 NW 13th St, Suite C-2, Gainesville, FL 32609

Last Name: _____ **First** _____ **Rank:** _____ **Grade:** _____

Last Name: _____ **First** _____ **Rank:** _____ **Grade:** _____

Phone _____ **e-mail** _____ **Squadron** _____

Friday Dinner : Entrée Choices: Roast Beef ___ or Chicken ___ @ \$20.00 =\$ _____

Saturday Lunch: _____ @ \$14.00 =\$ _____

Saturday Dinner: Entrée: Grouper Vera Cruz ___ or Roast Beef ___ @ \$24.50 =\$ _____

Sunday N-Club Breakfast: All Conference Attendees invited ___ @ \$13.00 =\$ _____

Check enclosed for Total: \$ _____

Saturday Tours

Activities will be available for those not attending the Saturday meetings. The Cedar Key tour will be from 9am-4pm, with lunch in Cedar Key. For the other tours, the (A) part will be in the morning (9am-12), returning to the hotel for lunch. The (B) part of the tour will be in the afternoon (1-4pm). You must pre-register for these tours by 27 Feb; tours will be scheduled by interest. Tours and availability will be determined from pre-registration. Mail tour reservation form with your meal reservations to P/C Jib Davidson; OR e-mail your reservations to teresadavidson@gru.net. Tours are FREE. See D23 Website for tour website links.

Name: _____ Squadron: _____ e-mail _____

Tours: (A) Harm Museum of Art & (B) Florida Museum of Natural History _____ # Reservations
(A) Devil's Millhopper Geological Site & (B) Morningside Nature Center _____ # Reservations
(A) University of Florida & (B) Payne's Prairie State Park _____ # Reservations
Day trip to Cedar Key (cost of lunch in Cedar Key) _____ # Reservations

CBPS CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2004

FEBRUARY

03 Tuesday 1900-2100

General meeting
Veterans Memorial Center

24 Tuesday 1900-2100

Executive Meeting
Veterans Memorial Center

29 Sunday

Change of Watch Radisson Resort
Details on Page 1

Please plan to attend this special Squadron event.

You're invited to join us at the Moon Hut, 1130 each Wednesday, where the not too elite but very friendly CBPS members meet to eat and enjoy each other's company. Hope to see you there.

The Coco-Nauts meet the third Wednesday of each month. The locations vary. They are a great bunch and welcome new members- (yes-even men.) To join, call **Lt Doris Valentine 452-1835**

The Cocoa Beach Power offers its condolences to the family of Barbara A. Koontz of Merritt Island. She died Monday, Jan. 5. Barbara was a CBPS member and a member of the Coconauts

Penny Fille's mother passed away this month. Penny is the wife of Cdr Dick Fille. We offer our condolences to her entire family.

There is no such thing as death.
In Nature nothing dies.
From each sad remnant of decay
Some forms of life arise.

-- Charles Mackey, 1814-1889,



MARCH

02 Tuesday 1900-2100

General Meeting
Veterans Memorial Center

05-07 Friday, Saturday, Sunday

USPS Spring District Conf. 2004
Gainesville—Sounds Great!

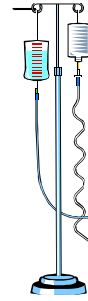
10 March 900-1100

Bloodmobile (if not enough people signup, it will be held at another location.

Call Lt Pat Clay. 456-5060

23 March 1900-2100

Executive Meeting
Veterans Memorial Center



Our thanks to those who signed up to donate,
14 January 2004

Joe Auchter

Carolyn Bonnett

John Lynn

Frank Sebree

CBPS Blood Drive Days

The second Wednesday of every other month- starting January 14th at the Veterans Memorial Center— 900 to 1100.

If you are fortunate enough to enjoy good health, please help those who are not as fortunate to regain their health.



"By Land or By Sea"

The new USPS National Cookbook is now on sale at the special pre-release price of \$20 including shipping and handling. (A real bargain !)

For additional information about "By Land or By Sea" and ordering information, visit the new website at: www.usps.org/national/auxiliary/cookbook

Interested members can also find links to the USPS National Cookbook on the USPS member's home page as well as the Auxiliary Advisory's home page.

Abraham Lincoln's birthday

is Thursday, 12 February, 2004. He was known as "The Great Emancipator". "Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it not for themselves; and, under a just God, can not long retain it." *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* edited by Roy P. Basler, Volume III.



George Washington's birthday is observed is on 16 February, 2004.

Washington's actual birthday is Sunday, 22 February, 2004.

Washington was our first President and was known as the "Father of Our Country."



I WISH THESE GREAT MEN WERE HERE TODAY TO HELP RUN OUR COUNTRY.

SIGN UP sheet AT GENERAL MEETING 03 Feb.



APPLY TO BE A VESSEL SAFETY CHECKER CHECKERS PERFORM A VALUABLE COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Vessel Safety Check Program is a new joint venture between the USPS and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. For folks who would like to have a trained eye examine their boat to be sure it meets all federal and state safety requirements the Vessel Safety Checkers conduct exams at no charge. It is not a requirement for the operation of a boat and has no legal implications, but serves only to increase the peace of mind of the owner and his or her guests.

Vessel Examiners attend a class, then are required to perform an exam on five boats. Examiners must perform five exams per year to maintain their qualification status. Lt Sandy Schoonmaker will conduct the class. How about joining the safety vessel check committee. You can schedule safety checks at your own convenience

Call Lt Bob Flanigan SN for further information: 452-4602

INDIAN RIVER LIGHTNING ROD ADVENTURE by George Minto

It was a cloudy April morning in Titusville, Florida with inconsistent wind; calm for a while then blowing one direction then another. It was not an ideal morning to be fishing on the Indian River flats. But my friend Chuck Guild and I had made our plans a couple days earlier and like most fishermen we were reluctant to stay at home. We caught a few trout and were constantly moving around trying to find habitat where better fish were hanging out. We moved into a sheltered area a bit north of the NASA Causeway because the wind was picking up and it was uncomfortable on the open flats.

We were fishing from my Pathfinder flats boat, which allowed us to roam far back into a cove in very shallow water. The Pathfinder 17 is a light fiberglass tunnel hull skiff with a side console powered by a 50hp Yamaha and equipped with a poling platform and trim tabs. It is the perfect boat for the type fishing we favor around Titusville.

We were concentrating very hard on some movement that looked like a school of redbfish. But the fish would not let me get close and I finally got tired of trying to get within casting range of them. I suppose we were so engrossed in our pursuits that we lost track of the weather to our west. I finally shook my head and said, "Charlie, they just are not cooperating this morning." As I put up my rod and glanced over the Titusville city skyline, I remember thinking "I don't like the looks of that weather over to the west." Although the sky was getting darker it really didn't look all that bad...yet! I figured we had plenty of time to get back to the ramp so we decided to pack it in and go get a beer.

We were in a manatee zone and therefore were reduced to idle speed as we crossed the river. The wind was picking up a little more with each passing minute and it was getting choppier than is comfortable in my boat.

After about 20 minutes we approached the Intracoastal Waterway Channel, where a sailboat was motoring north ahead of us and we passed just to his stern. I could have picked up speed and ran north in the ICW channel, but I decided it was a better idea to cut the distance by angling across the flats toward the Kennedy Point Yacht Club ramp than to run the ICW to the yacht club channel a couple miles north. The area west of the ICW, however, is also a manatee zone so we were

continuing on at idle speed. About that time a noticeably cold breeze began to pick up. From over the trees on the shoreline came a very dark and threatening bunch of clouds. Both Chuck and I are first class cowards where lightning is concerned and we became very concerned at the speed these clouds were moving. About then we heard the first bit of thunder and saw a bolt hit the water near the sailboat in the channel.

"What do those boats with a tall mast like that do for protection in a storm?" asked Chuck. Before I could answer, a bolt hit the water a short distance ahead of us. Then big drops of rain began to pelt the boat and our faces. I said something like "I think we're going to get wet Charlie, lets put our wallets in the front storage compartment". We did that just as another bolt hit the water about two hundred yards off the port side with a resounding crack. Although I consider myself a very cautious boater, I realized we were suddenly in exactly the kind of situation about which I've always had nightmares. I remember thinking "Where did that storm come from so fast?" This is probably the same thought others before me had had in their last few moments on earth. "Charlie, hold on! I'm giving it the gun...manatee zone or not!" I yelled above the now strong wind. About the time I hit the throttle there was a super bright flash and an unbelievable bomb blast. I found myself blinded and blinking as if a giant flashbulb had gone off. Both of us were having trouble hearing as our ears were ringing. Chuck yelled, "I felt it." as he was shaking his left arm which had been resting on the side of the boat. By now we were both very disoriented and when I asked if he was OK, "I think so!" was his reply. So I hit the throttle again and we bounced across the flats as a couple more bolts hit the water off our stern.

In what seemed like only a quarter mile we cleared out from under the dark clouds and were suddenly in sunlight. We ran to the yacht basin channel and pulled in to the launch ramp where we hastily tied up the boat. After I backed the trailer into the water and got in the boat I tried the key to start the engine. Nothing! In confusion I fiddled with the trim tab switch and the baitwell pump switch, again nothing! Then I heard Chuck say, "Is that my fishing

There in the portside rod holder on the poling platform was a three foot long hunk of graphite, minus a reel and guides. "Oh God!" I said, "We were

hit!" Until that moment we thought the lightning had hit the water near the boat

not the boat itself. We looked at each other and I felt something like nausea at that moment. It's hard to imagine the feeling of realizing that I had put my good friend and myself in such a perilous situation. Just a normal morning's fishing had nearly been our last morning on earth!

Later a friend of mine told me he had been watching the local doppler radar on TV and said the storm was a very small blip of orange as it passed to the south of the city...not very impressive at all. Obviously it all depends on your point of perspective!. My regular mechanic told me that the lightning had struck the graphite rod first, then jumped over to the aluminum poling platform, then to the engine and into all the electrical circuits and out through the plate on the bottom of the hull. Altogether, the total damage was \$1000 to replace the components, which included both trim tabs, voltage regulator, baitwell and bilge pumps, engine fuse holder, dashboard switches and one wire in a harness and of course all fuses. But compared to what it could have been it seems minor. The Pathfinder's hull was unscathed and so were we. Another lesson I learned is that even when the engine fuse is blown, the engine will keep running until it's turned off with the key--something to remember if you've been suffering electrical problems and still have a ways to run to shore.

Most likely Chuck's rod saved our lives because it took the strike as the highest point on the boat. On the down side it was an inadvertent lightning attractor. But if it had been in horizontal storage, the highest point on the boat might have been one of our heads.

I had the rod "remains" mounted on a plaque and on the one year anniversary of that frightful April morning, I presented it to Chuck as "The Indian River Lightning Rod". It hangs in his office in his home. He says it's a reminder of an April morning that he'll never forget. Neither will I. Incidentally Chuck still fishes with me...God bless him!

GEORGE MINTO, THE AUTHOR, IS NO NEWCOMER TO FISHING..

GEORGE, WHO IS NOW RETIRED FROM LOCKHEED MARTIN, HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF TITUSVILLE SINCE 1972. HE IS ACTIVE IN THE BASS FISHING CLUB, DUCKS UNLIMITED AND IS A MEMBER OF BOAT U.S.

Children grown? Tell your grandchildren, friends children and grandchildren, any one who has children about this contest.



Seventh USPS® Youth Poster Contest

The seventh USPS® Youth Poster Contest Theme is “Water Smart + Boat Smart = Fun”. The contest starts fall 2003.

Who Can Enter?

The contest is open to all children ages 6 to 14 years old. There will be three (3) age divisions: 6 - 8, 9 - 11, and 12 - 14.

Contest Rules

- The entry must be vertical, not horizontal, in orientation.
- The entry must be on 15-by-20 or 14-by-22-inch poster paper.
- Participants may sketch the design lightly with pencil, but the end result must be a color poster.
- There is no limit to the type of media used, except professional illustrations, photos or copyrighted material may not be used, and computer generated art may not be submitted.
- Do not fold the poster.
- The poster will be judged for the idea presented more than artistic ability.
- The contest entry form must be completed and pasted on back of the poster

- One entry per person, please.
- All entries become the property of United States Power Squadrons, which reserves the right to display or otherwise use the submission and modify any poster for future reproduction.

Squadron & School Contests

School posters will be judged first at the school then with squadron entries at the squadron level. Posters must be judged at the squadron level prior to judging at the district level (spring conference or summer rendezvous). Posters should be submitted to the individual designated by the squadron commander. Squadron & school winners will be announced after judging is concluded. First-, second- and third-place winners in each age category at the squadron level can be entered at the district level.

District Contests

At the district level, posters should be submitted to the individual designated by the district commander. District winners will be announced after judging is concluded. First-place winners in each age category can be entered into judging at the national level.

The National Contest

National level submissions may be made through Thursday, 09 September 2004 at the fall Governing Board Meeting in Jacksonville, FL. The entries will be numbered with age indicated. Attendees may view the posters at a prominent display area.

The grand prizewinner and two runners-up in each division will be presented with a monetary award and announced at the Governing Board Meeting.

After judging at the national level is completed, non-winning entries will be returned to the respective districts. All participants at the national level will receive certificates of appreciation signed by the Chief Commander.

Deadline for Entries

- Squadron level - prior to judging at District level.
- District level - District spring conference or summer rendezvous.
- National level - 09 September 2004 at the USPS fall Governing Board Meeting in Jacksonville, FL. Please mark the entry Attn: P/R/C Priscilla B. Clarke, AP.

Seventh USPS® Youth Poster Contest Entry Form - 2003-2004

Theme: Water Smart + Boat Smart = Fun

Instructions: Complete this form and paste on back of poster. Send entry to your squadron’s designated chairman. All entries become the property of USPS, which reserves the right to display or otherwise use submission.

Deadline for squadron-level entries: Prior to District deadline (Spring Conference or Summer Rendezvous).

Artist Name: _____		Age _____	
Address _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	Telephone: A/C No. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please check if this is a school entry.		School name: _____
School Address: _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	Teacher Name _____
Squadron _____		District _____	
Squadron Member’s Name _____			
Address _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	Telephone: A/C No. _____

The 7th annual Poster Contest Has Begun Get Ready. Get Set, Paint!

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Our thanks to the following members who have generously contributed a minimum of \$10.00 to cover some of the Soundings costs. May we include you among their ranks?

Ron and Agnes Bond, George and Genevieve Link, Dick and Penny Fille, Dick and Mary Jane Schnoor, Bob and Marilyn Flannigan, Frank and Jane Sebree, Ed and Helen Kydd, Marian Sweigert, and the members of the Silver Tridents were past contributors joined by John Mulkey, Clarence Pennington, Jenise Grames, Margaret and Arthur Hansen, and Raymond Smith, the most recent contributors.

The Cdr thanks you, the Squadron thanks you, the Soundings Staff thanks you, and I thank you.

Your Soundings Editor, Rhoda

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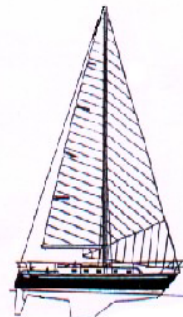
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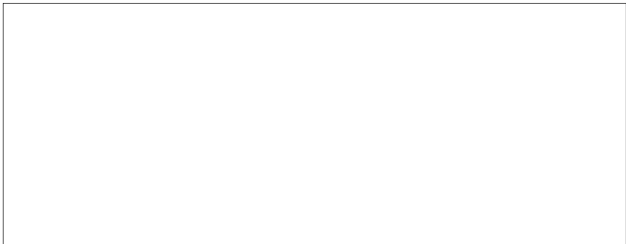
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is a pleasant face, You may not see
it during the day, but others will.
- Anon.

An advertisement for Jon's Fine Jewelry. It features a decorative blue border with a repeating pattern of stylized faces. On the left side of the border is a mermaid holding a pearl. In the center, the name "Jon's" is written in a large, elegant cursive font, with "Fine Jewelry" in a smaller, sans-serif font to its right. At the bottom center, the address "215 Brevard Ave. ~ Cocoa Village ~ 631-0270" and the name "Jon C. Miller, P" are printed. A starfish is located in the bottom right corner of the advertisement area.