

Volume 46 #2

47th year "America's Boating Club"©

August 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 9-13
2009**

USPS GB

Kansas City

**September 18-
20 2009**

Fall C/C New
Bern

**January 16,
2010**

Winter training
Raleigh

**February 2-7
2010**

USPS

Orlando, FLA

**March 19-20
2010**

Annual meeting
COW
Wilmington

D/C Message Jerry Hall, SN

The recent joint rendezvous with District 5 was a resounding success. Our District was well represented; we had nearly 100 members from 14 different squadrons. Thanks to the Rendezvous Planning Committee, with P/D/Cs Don Dunlap and Ben Reed along with P/C Jet Powers representing D27, all the many activities went smoothly and everyone seemed to have a great time. More details of the rendezvous can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Bitts.



The winners of the D27 Youth Poster Contest were determined at the rendezvous. We had 26 posters, which had won at the Squadron level, submitted by four Squadrons – Cape Fear, New River, Ft. Macon, and Durham. First, Second, and Third place winners were determined for each of the three age categories. The First place winning posters will be taken to the upcoming Kansas City Governing Board meeting to compete in the National Winners Contest. The District's winners are: in the 6 to 8 year old category – Sophie Korenek, (age 6) New River; 9 to 11 year old category – Sadie Latimer (age 10), New River; and, in the 12 to 14 year old category -- Dustin Stiles (age 12), New River. I thought all the posters were excellent and was happy that our panel of judges, and not me, had to select winners. Well done everyone.

In early July Governor Perdue signed a bill establishing a mandatory boating education law. This law becomes effective on 1 May 2010 and requires that all boaters in the State under the age of 26 complete a NASBLA approved safe boating course. Although this law isn't everything we had hoped for, it is a very good beginning. And, it provides all our squadrons with an excellent opportunity to advertise and attract more folks to our public courses and the potential to attract new members.

Our Fall Council/Conference will be coming up 18 -20 September in New Bern. Cape Lookout is the host squadron and New Bern is a favorite destination for D27. The hotel where we meet - the Sheraton - is now the Hilton. It is the same facility in the same great location. The agenda and registration form is elsewhere in this issue of the Bitts.

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COMMANDER ARTICLE Continued from Page 1

This meeting occurs the week after we attend the USPS Governing Board meeting in Kansas City, so the information we will be bringing back will be very fresh. We are very fortunate that the National Representative to our Fall Council/Conference will be one of our own; VC John T. Alter, SN. John is the National Administrative Officer and a member of the Raleigh Squadron. He has had experience, during his many years in the USPS, at the Squadron, District, and National levels.

We will have ample time to visit and catch up with one another. And in keeping with our effort to bring more emphasis to education, we will be having two breakout sessions on education as well as two separate sessions on Co-op charting.

I look forward to seeing all of you in New Bern.

**CHIEFS REPRESENTATIVE
AT THE FALL COUNCIL-CONFERENCE
NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE
V/C JOHN T. ALTER, SN**



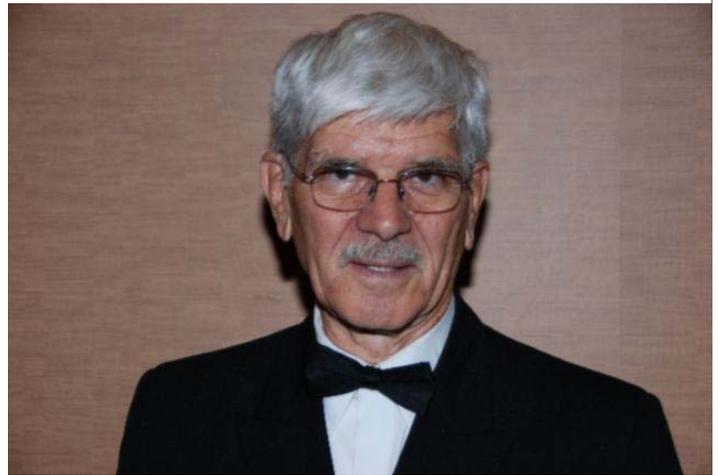
John and his wife Judy live in Whispering Pines, NC and are members of the Raleigh Sail and Power Squadron in District 27. Both are natives of Toledo, OH. He joined the Toledo Power Squadron (D/29) in 1970. In 1977 he was transferred to Cleveland, OH and became a member of the Rocky River Power Squadron (D/7). He served on the squadron bridge, and was Commander in 1985 and again in 1987. In 1990 he was transferred back to Toledo and served on the D/29 Bridge, including District Commander in 1996. Throughout his squadron career, he has taught the Public Boating, Seamanship and Piloting courses. At the national level, he has been an Aide to two Chief Commanders and has served on the Governing Board, the Strategic Planning Task Force. He was a member of the Budget Committee for the past nine years and most recently served as National Treasurer from 2003 to 2006. He was a member of the Committee on Nominations and the Restructuring Committee and an Aide to the National Treasurer and squadron Radio Technical Officer. He is a Life Member with 27 merit marks.

John is a graduate of Xavier University, in Cincinnati, OH. He has both Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Business Administration. John spent 27 years with the Ohio Bell Telephone Co. holding various marketing, human resources and customer service positions in Toledo, Columbus and Cleveland. Judy is a Registered Nurse and a graduate of the St. Vincent School of Nursing in Toledo. Judy is a member of the National Meetings FAST team and has 11 merit marks.

John and Judy have four adult children and eleven grandchildren. John has “been messing around with boats” since the age of six, when his parents purchased a summer home on the shores of Lake Erie. The shallow water and treacherous storms, for which Lake Erie is known, taught him the values of safe boating and seamanship at an early age. Most of his experience has been with powerboats, although they did have a sailboat when living in Columbus. Their children also shared the love of boating, and summer weekends on the water were family affairs. Their current boat is a 20-foot pontoon boat they use of Thaggard Lake.

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

The combined D5/D27 Rendezvous held at Cape Charles, Va., on July 24-26, 2009, was a great success in many ways; in particular, the marine educational acumen of D5/D27 was improved considerably. At the Rendezvous, arrangements were made to permit On-The-Water (OTW) skills demonstrations certified by Regional and Master Certifiers. Approximately ten individuals from D27 took and passed the OTW skills demonstration required for Inland Navigator (IN) certification, and they became eligible to be appointed as Advanced Certifiers.



As a reminder, the IN level is the first step of certification, which is followed by Coastal Navigator (CN), then Advanced Coastal Navigator (ACN) and finally, Offshore Navigator (ON). Only Advanced Certifiers (and Assistant Regional Certifiers, Regional Certifiers and Master Certifiers) are permitted to 'sign off' on the OTW skills demonstration requirements for IN Certification. I know for certain that at least one application has been submitted from D27 for an appointment to the Advanced Certifier level of instructorship. That appointment is likely to be made within the next few months. For those of you who missed the D5/D27 program, fret not, your soon-to-be-new local Advanced Certifier will plan for arrangements to replicate the OTW skills demonstration program held at the Rendezvous in the future.

In addition to the OTW skills demonstration exercises, arrangements were also made for individuals to get 'signed off' on the use of Distress Signals, such as smoke, flares and firing of the flare gun under Regional Certifier supervision. I had personally never ignited a flare or fired a flare gun, although I thought I knew how to do it, but being able to actually do it was a comfortable feeling.

In all, the educational programs were outstanding. For those Squadrons interested in pursuing the IN level of certification and beyond, plans should be made to present some of the supporting Seminars, such as: "How to Use a Chart", "The Mariner's Compass", "How to Use a GPS", "Marine Maintenance", "Marine Mechanical Systems", "Using Radar", "VHF and VHF/DSC Marine Radio", and "Onboard Weather Forecasting", in lieu of scheduling the traditional USPS courses in these subject areas.

At the Fall Council in New Bern, NC, the Education Department will host two breakout sessions: (1) on Saturday Morning, Tom Penders and I will present a session on "How to Use a Chart"; this will basically be a review and a reminder for those who have completed the Piloting Course, and an introduction for those who haven't. This session will also serve as an introduction to the Cooperative Charting session to follow, and (2) an afternoon session on how to report ABC-3 student registration and course completion data to National Headquarters. In the April 2009 ABC-3 Student Participation report from National for D27, I discovered a roughly 17% underreporting error; it appears that this was largely due to faults in the actual reporting process. It is my intention that this Breakout Session will help those who might be having difficulty with this process. P/C Ralph Daniels will be presenting this session.

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Please note that Sail 2009 is now available, listed in the Squadron Materials Catalog, and is being shipped from USPS Headquarters on request.

Finally, I am still receiving reports from SEOs and D27 members who are having difficulties using the new ABC-3 Courseware CD. Recent changes by Acrobat and Microsoft require that the default computer settings be changed to permit this Courseware CD to run. If you are having difficulties, please download this file (http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/b/files/abc3_computer_settings.pdf). This link can be found on the USPS Education Page website. If you are still having problems, please contact me.

N CLUB SEXTANT AVAILABLE

The District 27 N Club has a sextant available for use by a squadron that is teaching JN and/or N and needs a sextant for use by the students. The SEO of squadrons desiring use of the sextant should call or e-mail P/D/C Larry Stockett, JN at 919-788-0300 or stockett@att.net. The sextant will be available after the District Fall Conference on 26 September 2009. P/D/C Larry Stockett, JN

Boating Safety Education Statue

The Mandatory Boating Education act; (session Law 2009-282; senate Bill 43); has been signed into law by Governor Perdue. The bill was signed into law Friday, 10 July 2009, and becomes active 1 May 2010. It states, among other things, that no person shall operate a vessel with a motor of ten horsepower or greater on the public waters of North Carolina unless the operator has met the requirements for boating safety education or provides proof that he or she is at least 26 years of age. The statue is two pages long and includes operating requirements for personal watercraft. The law can be found at the NC General Assembly Home Page, under Legislation/Bills.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!!
THE RULES OF THE ROAD

District Executive Officer D/Lt/C Jamie McCurry, AP

“Where do I park my boat”

If you attended the D27/D5 Rendezvous you probably wanted to know the answer. Three hundred thirty members and guest were in attendance. Along with eighty eight boats. The dock was full. D/27 was well represented with over ninety members and guests. Bean Bag Baseball, Conch Blowing Contest, Potato Cannon Competition, Youth poster contest along with Boat Operator Certificate (BOC) on water certification and Skill Demonstration –Using Pyrotechnic Distress Signals. All of this with food and fellowship contributed to a successful rendezvous.



The Executive Department continues to be active. D/Lt Devohn Rhame reports that Governor Bev Perdue has signed the Boating Education Bill (S-43). I am sure that we will be hearing more on this subject in the near future and I am sure that USPS will continue to be the leader in safe boating education in North Carolina. The summer boating season is a time for on the water fun with a reminder that being safe on the water is more fun. P/Lt/C Louise Manke is available to assist you with safe boating information. Vessel Safety checks should be on every Squadrons activity list. Co-Op charting is another way to enjoy the boating season while keeping our waterways well marked and safe. P/C Ralph Daniels has been busy researching the joys of vessel repairs while cruising. PRO Cdr. J.B. Bagby continues to juggle three hats in service to USPS and D/27. Liaison office Bob Howd has been busy in keeping Squadrons up to date with information from the National Liaison Officer.

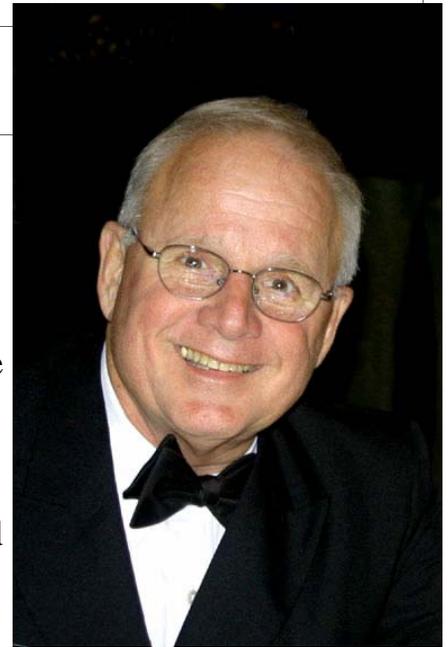
I hope everyone is looking forward to the Fall Council/Conference in New Bern. Cape Look-out is busy putting together a fun filled event for you. Please plan to attend, mark your calendar 18-20 September. In addition if you have the opportunity attend a National meeting. Kansas City will be hosting the Governing Board 9-12 September. If you need more information on these events please let me know.

“Where Do I Park My Boat?” was a radio transmission to the Dock master overheard while sitting on the porch watching the vessels arrive for the D27/D5 Rendezvous. It was the beginning fun for a fun event. Hope you were there. See you in New Bern.

District Administrative Officer D/Lt/C Mike McCulley, JN

A Bumpy Ride Home

While pondering what to write in my article for this issue of the BITTS, it occurred to me that many of you would like to know not only a little bit (no pun intended) about the D5/D27 Rendezvous but also how things went while traveling up and down up the ICW for those who chose to go by boat. Knowing that other District 27 Bridge officers have mentioned the Rendezvous in their articles, I will share some of my observations of the Rendezvous and then concentrate on the journey to and from Cape Charles and try not to bore you with a regurgitation of our log book entries aboard Dalliance. We had several experiences worth sharing - both good and not-so-good.



Our trip up the ICW was delightful, in spite of a choppy Albemarle Sound crossing. In addition to numerous osprey nesting on channel markers, we were thrilled to see Bald Eagles in trees along the banks of both the north end of the Alligator-Pungo canal and in the winding upper reaches of the North Landing River in Virginia. The remainder of the trip was uneventful until we were halfway across the Chesapeake Bay on the fifth day and the engine shut down due to fuel starvation. I have occasionally turned off one tank to help balance the boat and had neglected to check the fuel level and turn it back on. So, while dead in the water near the shipping channel with a southbound container ship approaching, I finally got the engine restarted after 20 minutes and 5 attempts at bleeding the fuel lines. What finally did the trick was reading the engine manual! Fortunately, there was little or no chop. For those of you who would recommend that I not do that again, I wholeheartedly agree.

I'm sure the 95 or so District 27 members who went to Cape Charles will agree with me that it was a fun, meaningful weekend. The folks in District 5 went all out to make it so. Bay Creek Marina is a first class facility with a responsive and helpful staff. Highlights included the winery tour and lunch, the seafood dinner prepared by the Cape Charles fire department, the conch blowing contest, the pig pickin', the bean bag baseball competition, the navigation contest and especially the Saturday morning introduction of national and district officers and squadron commanders and the flag raising ceremony with remarks by the town's mayor. It was the beginning of what I believe may become a traditional get-together by the two districts in the years ahead.

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The day we left Cape Charles, there was little indication in the protected marina area of what awaited us on the Bay. Upon turning into the strong southwest wind to cross the Bay towards Norfolk, we encountered a 3-foot chop that soon grew to a height of 4 to 5 feet. Severe pitching was the name of the game for over an hour. But, we were moving relatively fast at 7.5 knots due to the favorable tide and decided not to turn around. Fortunately, the Bay flattened out the closer we got to Thimble Shoal Channel and into the James River.

The next morning, after leaving Portsmouth and waiting for the Gilmerton Bridge to open, we were joined by 9 boats from the Richmond Squadron who were on a southern cruise. Their Cruise Captain told me on the radio that two of their boats had been to Cape Charles but the others had not. We were stuck in the middle of their flotilla from that point on until most of them cleared the North Landing Bridge and moved on. Two of the larger boats habitually lagged behind the rest of the flotilla and were requested to “close it up” several times. They were even late entering the Great Bridge Lock, almost causing everybody else to miss the Great Bridge Draw opening. The Currituck Sound crossing was choppy but pleasant until we were about a mile from Coinjock as we and the slower Richmond boats got caught in a series of severe thunderstorms lasting for around 45 minutes. Visibility in the heavy rain, strong wind and lightening was less than 100 feet and we slowly proceeded in the narrow channel staying on the GPS ICW magenta line as well as we could. Our Welsh Terrier, Brodie, is extremely frightened by thunder but was a real trooper through it all.

The trip back across the Albemarle Sound the next day was choppy (of course) but tolerable. A sad event occurred as we listened to a drama unfold over VHF Channel 16 about an Asian crewman of a crab boat on the Pasquotank River falling overboard and fellow fishermen not being able to find him. According to the fisherman speaking in broken English on the radio to the Coast Guard, the man was a non-swimmer and not wearing a PFD. It was heart rending to hear him declare that the man had probably died. A Coast Guard helicopter eventually arrived and searched unsuccessfully for him.

Our fourth day on the return trip had us bouncing down the Alligator River into a strong SW wind and even encountering white caps in the Alligator-Pungo Canal. Upon reaching the Pungo River, we had to outrace a series of thunderstorms nearing Belhaven. We barely made it to the dock at Dowry Creek Marina just as the storm hit. At that point, I decided that the forecast for the next two days was not conducive to going around Maw Point on the Pamlico Sound. So, we asked friends to come to Belhaven to pick us up. As of this writing, we are preparing to return to Dowry Creek to bring Dalliance home to Hancock Marina, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point.

I hope to see many of you at the District 27 Fall Conference September 18th thru 20th. My fellow District Bridge officers and friends in Cape Lookout Squadron are working hard to make your visit to New Bern enjoyable. Look for the Agenda and Registration Form in this issue of the BITTS.

District Secretary**D/Lt/C David Osmolski, AP**

We're over half way through our year and about half way through our boating season too. Where has the time gone? I am sure many of us have accomplished much of what we wanted to do with our time on the water this year. I know that many D/27 members have accomplished a long cruise this summer. I saw lots of D/27 boats at Bay Creek Marina, at the joint D/27-D/5 summer Rendezvous. Some members cruised up the ICW. Some members were bold enough to cruise outside. Everyone experienced good weather and the Rendezvous was a success.



The next adventure is the National Fall Council and Conference in Kansas City. I know many D/27 members will attend that too.

For us, here in D/27, our District Fall Council and Conference is coming up too. We are meeting in New Bern. Details are on another page in this publication. I can't urge strongly enough that every member in D/27 get to this meeting. I especially urge those new members in all the squadrons in D/27 to come. There is life beyond your squadron, and it is important that you expand your horizons as a part of your USPS experience. New Bern is a beautiful venue. There are many historic buildings there and there are guides who can explain the history of each.

New members attending this meeting will get a feel for the next level of USPS and how it works. You will meet members of other squadrons and make some real friendships in parts of the state outside your area. This is a benefit of USPS membership that is rarely mentioned. Start planning now. Get to New Bern. You will be glad you did.

In the Secretary's department, there have been some things happening that will affect all of us. As a cost-cutting measure, our national magazine *The Ensign* has been cut down to four editions per year. A sad thing surely, but the National Bridge felt it necessary.

Finally; Commanders it is that time again! It is time to fill in your Commander's report and send it to me with copies to D/Lt/C Jamie McCurry. The information on these reports is how you will be judged eligible for your Merit Mark. You have put in a lot of work this year. Don't let it go unnoticed. Get that report in to the D/27 Secretary and a copy to the D/27 Executive Officer.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and we will see all of you in September in New Bern.

District Treasurer

D/Lt/C Lloyd Moore, JN

NC sales tax refunds:

As a non-profit organization, all squadrons are entitled to receive a rebate for the sales tax paid for goods and services. If your squadron is not submitting the forms to the Dept of Revenue, I urge you to send the information to me for the first half of 2009. Those squadrons that wish to participate with the District for the NC Sales tax refund request

should send their purchase/tax records to me for the first half of 2009. I will need a copy of all receipts/invoices, and it would be very helpful if you would use the Excel Sales_Tax_Worksheet, and email that back to me.

I hope each squadron treasurer has filled out the e-Postcard for the IRS. It's very easy to do, just go to the IRS web site <http://epostcard.form990.org> and follow the instructions there. USPS HQ has also sent each treasurer a form that verifies you have submitted appropriate IRS form, so don't forget to return that to HQ.

I will be sending out the new member assessment invoices for April – June shortly. I appreciate the promptness that Squadron Treasurers have paid assessment in the past.

District finances are in good shape. One dark cloud we are all facing is the decline in membership. As an organization primarily funded by membership dues, we all face shortfalls in future budgets if the membership continues to decline. I urge all squadrons to make an extra effort in member retention and attracting new members. The key is membership involvement – give new members and old members something meaningful and interesting to do, and they will be much better members.

**LLOYD
THE
BIG
BLOW**



DISTRICT 27 FALL COUNCIL & CONFERENCE MEETING
 18-20 September 2009
HILTON NEW BERN/ RIVERFRONT
 100 Middle Street
 New Bern, NC 28560

Room Rates: \$119.00 plus tax Reservations: 252-638-3585
 (Ask for D27 USPS Block – Cutoff date for special rate is **18 August**)

REGISTRATION FORM

		Friday	Saturday	Saturday	Saturday	
		Attendees' Reception	Members' Lunch	Trolley Tour: Historic New Bern	Dinner Buffet	
		Hors d'oeuvres Cash Bar	\$18.00/ person	\$18.00/ Person	\$23.00 / person	
		\$12.00/ Person		Lunch CHELSEA'S Pay on your own		Total
Rank/Name/Grade	Squadron	"Dinner On Your Own Around Town"				

New Member since January 2008 _____ Total enclosed _____

First Time attending a District Meeting _____

Please make checks payable to: Cape Lookout Sail & Power Squadron

Mail check and completed Registration Form by **4 September** to:
 Marilyn P. VanSlyke, AP 323 Lakemere Dr., New Bern, NC 28562-8927

Marina reservations should be made directly with the Dock Master, Chuck Doyle, Hilton Marina, 252-638-3585.

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY

AGENDA
D27 Fall Council Conference
18-20 September 2009
New Bern, NC

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>HOST</u>
FRIDAY – 18 September			
		Uniform Casual – Squadron Shirt	
1400 - 1800	Member & Voter Registration	Lobby	Cape Lookout Squadron/ District Secretary
1600 - 1645	New Members, 1 st Timers & Squadron Commanders' Reception	Executive Conf. Room	D/C and Bridge
1645 - 1745	P/D/C's & Host Squadron Reception	Exec. Conf. Rm	D/C and Bridge
1800 - 1900	Attendees' Reception	Bradham	Cape Lookout Squadron
SATURDAY – 19 September			
		Uniform Casual – Squadron Shirts, Blazer Optional	
0700 - 0900	Member & Voter Registration	Lobby	Cape Lookout Squadron
0830 - 0930	Meeting Convenes Invocation Pledge of Allegiance Introduction of National Officer & Guests	Neuse/ Pamlico	D/C Jerry Hall, SN D/Lt Alex Wrenn, N Cdr Bud VanSlyke, Jr., AP D/F/Lt Mack Gordy, AP
0945 - 1045	National Representative Town Hall Meeting Bridge Officer's Reports (As Needed)	Neuse/ Pamlico	V/C John Alter, SN D/C Jerry Hall, SN
1100 - 1155	Breakout Sessions Commanders & Executive Officers Charting Nominating Com. (Closed)	Neuse/ Pamlico Hawks Palmer	D/C Jerry Hall, SN D/Lt/C Jamie McCurry, AP D/Lt/C George Malindzak, Jr SN P/D/C Ann Bailey, AP
1200 - 1315	Member's Awards Luncheon	Trent	
1330 - 1420	Introduction of Guest Speaker		D/Lt/C Michael McCulley, JN
1430 - 1530	Breakout Sessions Education Planning Com. (Closed) Co-op Charting	Palmer Gaston Hawks	D/Lt/C George Malindzak Jr, SN P/D/C Mack Gordy, AP P/C Phillip A. Benson, JN
1530 - 1545	Meeting Reconvenes	Neuse/ Pamlico	D/C Jerry Hall, SN
	Report of General Committees Standing Committees		
1545	Meeting Adjourns		D/C Jerry Hall, SN
1600	N Club	Gaston	P/D/C David Blankenbeckler, SN
1800	Cash Bar	Bradham	
1900	Buffet Dinner	Bradham	
SUNDAY – 20 September			
		Uniform Casual – Squadron Shirt	
0900	Co-op Charting	Hawks	P/C Phillip A. Benson, JN

FROM THE RENDEVOUS AT CAPE CHARLES 2009



REGISTRATION



DOCK MASTER OFFICE AND SHOPS



NITA NEUMEISTER



SOME MEMBERS BOATS



BEACH BEAN BAG TOSS



A WORKING CHESAPEAKE DEADRISE FISHING BOAT

DISTRICT 27 BITTS

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The Bitts is published several times a year by district 27, a unit of The United States Power Squadrons®. Articles in the Bitts reflect the opinion of the author. The USPS® and district 27 are not responsible for editorial comment.

FIRST CLASS



WWW.USPS.ORG/LOCALUSPS/D27

D/27 Fall Council-Conference September 18-20 2009

New Bern, North Carolina

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