



Upcoming Events

January 9, 2016
D27 Training Session
Resurrection Lutheran
Church
Cary, NC

February 15-21, 2016
USPS Annual Meeting
Rosen Centre Hotel
Orlando, Florida

February 21-28, 2016
2016 Annual Meeting
Cruise
Western Caribbean

March 18-19, 2016
D27 Spring Council/
Conference/COW
Doubletree Hilton
Atlantic Beach, NC

District Commander's Message D/C David E. Parsons, JN

Where has this year gone?? It feels that we just completed our COW in Raleigh and here we are at the end of 2015 and before we know it we will be joining together at Atlantic Beach to conduct our 2016 District COW.



Of course this is a busy time of the year, winterizing boats, getting Christmas presents bought and wrapped, decorating, and eating lots of great food at the holiday parties. Change of Watch for squadrons are underway and in a few weeks we will meet for our Annual Training Day in Cary, NC. I am hopeful that we will have all the new Squadron Bridge Officers in attendance that day, as there is lots to learn and plenty of help to get your new Bridge year off to a great start. One item that I want to emphasize is the session we will hold concerning Nomination Committee delegates. If you are not aware of how important the NomCom is to our District then you definitely need to be in attendance at this training session. The future strength and growth of the District, as well as individual squadrons, rest in the hands to the Nominating Committee members. I sincerely hope that as you agreed to represent your squadron on this important task that you will do your part and serve with your attendance at our Conferences.

I am looking forward to our Spring Conference in Atlantic Beach. The host squadron, Goldsboro Power Squadron, is hard at work planning their responsibilities. Once again, a mini-expo will give everyone an opportunity to see what the District has to offer to your squadron and we will have two special presentations that you won't want to miss on Saturday morning. More detailed information will be forthcoming as we continue to firm up the speakers for Saturday morning.

Linda and I had the opportunity to take a once in a lifetime trip for 16 days during the month of November. Traveling by River Boat on the Danube, Main Canal and Rhine Rivers. We visited many sites in Austria, Slovakia, Hungary and Germany on what was titled Castles, Cathedrals and Fairy-tales. We look at things we consider old here in the US as being 100-200 years, but there, old changed to 1000-2000 years. Grand palaces, painted ceilings, historical sites, Trans versing 66 locks, great food and beautiful weather, we could not have asked for anything better. The unfortunate terrorist attack in Paris occurred during our voyage and I cannot express how grateful we are for the thoughts and prayers for our safety. We were in great hands and our tour guides took real good care of us.

The United States Power Squadrons Annual Meeting will be coming up in February in Orlando. The Rosen Centre is a great meeting facility and there is lots to do in Orlando. D27 will be hosting a reception at this meeting, overseen by my Chief Aide, Connie Shay of Raleigh Squadron and her team of Aides. I know it will be a top notch presentation of our District. We had a great turnout from the District in San Diego and I foresee a much larger contingency of D27 members present at this annual meeting. Come, meet old friends, make new friends, and enjoy getting away from the wintery weather.

As I mentioned earlier, Change of Watches are getting started. Your District Bridge Officers have


their assignments and if there is any squadron that has not been contacted by or know who will conduct your COW, then let me know and I will make sure you get the information you need.

Linda and I extend our Wishes for a Very Merry Christmas and that 2016 will be a great year for each of you and for your Squadron.

“Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the FriendsSM”

District Executive Officer—D/Lt/C Gene R. Alligood, AP

What a fast year -- 2015 is over already?



Sharon and I attended the United States Power Squadrons National Governing Board in San Diego August 24 – 29. Following are excerpts from the session I attended for District Executive Officers: There will be no consolidation of the National Meeting and the Governing Board in 2016. Consideration was given to consolidating the two meetings to reduce costs; however, the decision has been made to continue with two meetings for the foreseeable future. Members carry the load for the meeting costs and Districts run the Organization/Structure. Registration fees for the National meetings subsidize the costs. Four hundred and nineteen members attended the Governing Board from 31 Districts (D/27n had 20 attendees); 75 members (or less) receive any reimbursement for expenses in any form. Historically, 350 to 400 members are paying full expenses “out of pocket” to attend the National Meetings. Many members make the National meetings a vacation trip.

Three-fourths of the United States Power Squadrons budget is derived from membership dues; one-

quarter comes from education sales and WEBINAR “Town Hall” meetings. Our “Branding” project is moving forward; but you don’t have to burn your old shirts, etc. - you can still wear them. “Leadership Development” on the website has been updated to include “Role Modeling Behavior”. Take a look at it. “Protocol” and “Procedures” seminars are coming up. The Vessel Safety Committee is requesting that Squadrons give accurate exam reports. One squadron requested 400 decals last year, then requested 200 more; but, only reported 22 inspections. The squadron-proctored United States Coast Guard Captain’s License Course has been reduced from \$595 to \$495 (interested squadrons should contact Shirley Heald at National Program Partner Relations).

A new survey shows our potential market on which to draw for membership is 45 to 60 years of age. Paddle Craft is a new market for USPS Membership. Seven hundred to eight hundred thousand units are sold annually – 70% in the United States. California has implemented mandatory “Boating Safety Education” – a Boating Operator License will be required in 2018. We have received \$504,000 in grants from the United States Coast Guard this year.

We have 18 Boating Operator Simulators available to Squadrons and Districts – 4 more are scheduled.

Sharon and I attended the District 27 Fall Conference in Charlotte October 9-11 where we visited with many of you. I always enjoy the District Meetings and renewing old acquaintances; but, making new ones has become frequent. I will be conducting COW activities in 2016 as follows: 01/16/2016 - New River; 01/29/2016 – Catawba; 01/30/2016 – Charlotte; 02/13/2016 - Fort Macon; 03/04/2016 – Raleigh. I will be in touch with Squadron Commanders prior to the scheduled dates to get your slate of Bridge Officers for 2016.

Sharon and I will be in Raleigh for the District Training on January 9th. I hope to see at least the Bridge Officers for all 20 D/27 Squadrons. I encourage all squadron members to attend; you don't have to be an officer to attend district meetings. We

will be judging the Boarman Youth Poster Contest entries in Raleigh; so come take a look at what the kids are submitting.

PFD reports are no longer required by the Coast Guard; so don't submit one. Chapman Award recommendations are due by June 30th.

The Annual Meeting is in Orlando at Rosen Centre February 17 – 21, 2016 and the D/27 Spring Conference and COW is at the Doubletree Hilton – Atlantic Beach 03/18-19, 2016.

See you in Raleigh or Atlantic Beach!

District Treasurer—D/Lt/C David C. McMahon, AP-IN

The D27 financial condition continues to be strong and the funds necessary to finance the Fiscal 2015 Budget can reasonably be anticipated.



D27 WINTER TRAINING—TREASURERS' BREAKOUT:

There will be a training session for all current and incoming squadron treasurers on January 9, 2016 at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Cary, NC. As a bridge officer, the Squadron Treasurer is

encouraged to attend both Council and Conference meetings and should be familiar with the sections of the bylaws and Operations Manual dealing with the Treasurer. We will cover your responsibilities and general duties and important deadlines and forms that will assist you with the position of Treasurer.

e-POSTCARDS REMINDER: Again as a reminder to Squadron Treasurers, the IRS form 990 is due by the 5th month, 15th day after the close of

your fiscal year. USPS Headquarters wants to know that this report has been filed by submitting USPS form TR-1. Please contact me if you have problems with the forms or other questions concerning this very important task.

NEW MEMBER ASSESSMENTS: I have received to-date all payments for new members from all but one squadron for the first six months of this calendar year. New member assessments for July-December, 2015 will be sent to all squadron treasurers the end of January, 2016.

Nancy and I wish you a safe and joyous holiday season and I hope to see you all in Raleigh in January.

District Administrative Officer—D/Lt/C Paula F. Stewart, AP

In a few weeks, we will be welcoming in a new year. With a new year also comes a new squadron year. David and I will be visiting several squadrons as I help conduct the Changes of Watch for Shallotte River, Fayetteville, Kinston and Albemarle. We are looking forward to the fellowship with everyone and hearing about your successes in 2015.



MEMBERSHIP: The revised Doing It Right Award's submission deadline is December 15. Hopefully some of you have applied for this award. It is presented to Squadrons and Districts that achieve success in one or more areas that promote membership growth and member involvement. Details were on the National Website and the awards will be presented at the meeting in Orlando in February.

District 27 recognized two squadrons with membership awards at the Fall Conference. Rocky Mount won the award for membership retention and Fayetteville won the award for membership growth for the second year in a row. Congratulations to both of these fine squadrons!

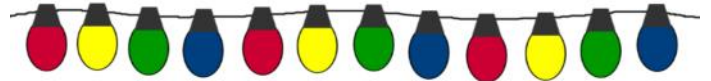
BOARMAN YOUTH POSTER CONTEST: Please make sure to bring your posters to the District 27 Training session in Cary on January 9, 2016. Judging will be done then and the district winners will be submitted to the National contest for judging in Orlando in February. If you have any question, please contact Chairperson Barbara Beers of Catawba Sail and Power Squadron or me.

Operations Training: June Reasons, Operations Training Chair for the district, reported at the fall conference that six squadrons had completed OT this year and one more squadron was planning a class before the end of the year. If your squadron has not conducted Operations Training recently, please plan to do so in 2016. Educating members on the structure and operations of USPS makes for a stronger bridge plus new members need to know this information. It will also help your members gain an understanding of their role within your squadron.

Please feel free to contact June Reasons of Cape Lookout or me if you have questions. Details are also available on the National Website under Leadership Development along with a power point presentation.

D/27 TRAINING: There will be a breakout session for current and/or incoming squadron administrative officers at the District/27 Training session in Cary on January 9, 2016. Please make every effort to attend this meeting especially if you are new to your position. This will be a perfect opportunity for you to meet your fellow squadron officers and hopefully learn something, too!

David and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!! Hope to see you at the D/27 Training in January and the USPS meeting in Orlando in February!



Happy
Holidays!

From District 27 to
our USPS Friends and
families. May your
New Year be
Prosperous and your
Boating be safe and
Plentiful.

District Education Report—D/1/Lt David H. Osmolski, SN-IN

A lot of water has passed under the keel since the last edition of The Bitts. Too, there have been many changes effected and proposed within the Educational Department programs.



The National Fall Governing Board was held in San Diego, CA 25 August through 30 August. Southern California is a nice place to visit, but personally I wouldn't want to live there. All along the coast there are high bluffs. Everything along these bluffs looks as if with the first good rain, it will fall into the Pacific. The

meeting venue was very nice with views of the Navy Base and the harbor with a lot of boating activity both civilian and military. It was too bad we didn't have windows in the Educational Department meeting room!

The Educational Department meeting lasted the better part of the day. There was a lot to be discussed, and as with almost every aspect of our organization much was concerned with decreases. The sales of all products were off by 7%. This included declines in sales of Basic Public Educational products, Practical On-the-Water training products, and Inland and Coastal Navigation products. Although this is discouraging, reductions in Cost of Goods Sold and Expenses resulted in Net

Margin after all expenses at \$261,142 is off only 1% from \$263,401 recorded in the prior year.

At last year's Annual Meeting, D/20 proposed a change in the grading of an Instructor Development candidate. The objection was there was too much emphasis on the lesson plan. It is now proposed that the candidate must receive a passing grade on presentation before the lesson plan is reviewed. Currently the grade is based 100% on the lesson plan. This will change to have 50% based on presentation and then 50% on the lesson plan.

Interactive On-Line courses are being developed along with the BoatUS Foundation. Hurricanes and Boats (what to do around your dock) seminar, All About Marine Radio (Using-VHF and DSC) and the first phase of Cruise Planning are now in production. Work is being done to produce a Using-GPS seminar and a How-to-use a Chart seminar.

By 2016 there should be 18 Virtual Trainer units available for squadron use at boat shows and other boating related events. There will be a hiatus in production while our IT department checks software glitches and works out the bugs for smoother operation. Work is being done to partner with the NMMA to help provide funding to cover half the cost of shipping, electricity and expanded website coverage for virtual trainers at NMMA sanctioned shows.

Education in Action

Seven members of Fort Macon took advantage of mild weather in early December to take morning and afternoon sun sights, along with the local apparent noon meridian transit of the sun during their JN class.



District Secretary—D/Lt/C John E. Bagby, JN

As I write this, it is not quite time to say goodbye to the good days of the fall even with the first day of winter just a week away. In the middle of December, on a perfect day in the 70s, I assisted our Fort Macon SEO and seven Junior Navigation class members limber up their sextants and take their morning and afternoon sun sights along with the local apparent noon meridian transit of the sun. This was on the southern-most of the Outer Banks at Fort Macon State Park on the Atlantic Ocean pavilion. The whole District enjoyed the same beautiful fall weekend weather.



WEBSITES AND NEWSLETTERS: At the direction of District Commander Dave Parsons, I looked at all squadron websites and newsletters to see how the District is doing about implementing the removal of our old symbols/logos and marketing phrases (tag lines). Some of these are “America’s Boating Club,” “Boating is Fun - We’ll Show You How.” Use the approved tagline only; “Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the FriendsSM”

Retire the old logos and use one or both of these.



I was able to report that we are in pretty near compliance with our websites and almost there with squadron newsletters. The brand standards are not yet required through 2015. I will update Secretaries, webmasters and newsletter editors on this at the January 9th training day in Cary, NC. Please plan to attend session “G” at 1100.

Please look at the District 27 (<http://www.uspsd27.org>) website and select the Calendar tab. Scroll down to the January D/27 Training entry and look at the “Agenda” document. This is for anyone and everyone who was always afraid to ask, “How do we get the Distinctive Communicator Award (DCA)?” Fill out the “Registration” form and attend session “M” at 1230.

In preparation for winter training, I have found the following links to the subjects listed below as vital information sources for everyone.

Operations Manual
<http://www.usps.org/national/om/>

Information Center

<http://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/tools/pages.cgi?beg>

Communications

<http://www.usps.org/index.php/departments/15000/15800>

USPS Secretary – Documents Tab

<http://www.usps.org/national/natsec/>

Secretary

<http://www.usps.org/images/secretary/opman/secman.pdf>

Historian

<https://www.usps.org/national/historian/HANDBOOKFORHISTORIANS.pdf>

Official USPS, District, and Squadron Stationery

http://www.usps.org/national/ot/stationery_page.html

District 27 Website - Calendar, Newsletter, Bridge, Documents, Forms

<http://www.uspsd27.org/>

OUT AND ABOUT: I have not been able to travel to squadrons the District Commander has asked me to visit, and I regret not being able to do so due to health issues.

CHANGE OF WATCH: My assigned squadron is: 1/16/2016 - Pamlico.

WINTER IS UPON US: And now we enter a busy time of the year for all squadrons and the District: annual reports, financial audits, next years’ budgets, nominations, elections, Change of Watch, and a New Year in which to excel as the daylight hours become longer and longer.

Last month, we gave thanks for the blessings of the year with family and friends. We look forward to the celebration of the birth of Christ and many religious observations this time of year around the world. Merry Christmas to all.



D 27's 2016 Annual Training Session

Resurrection Lutheran Church and School

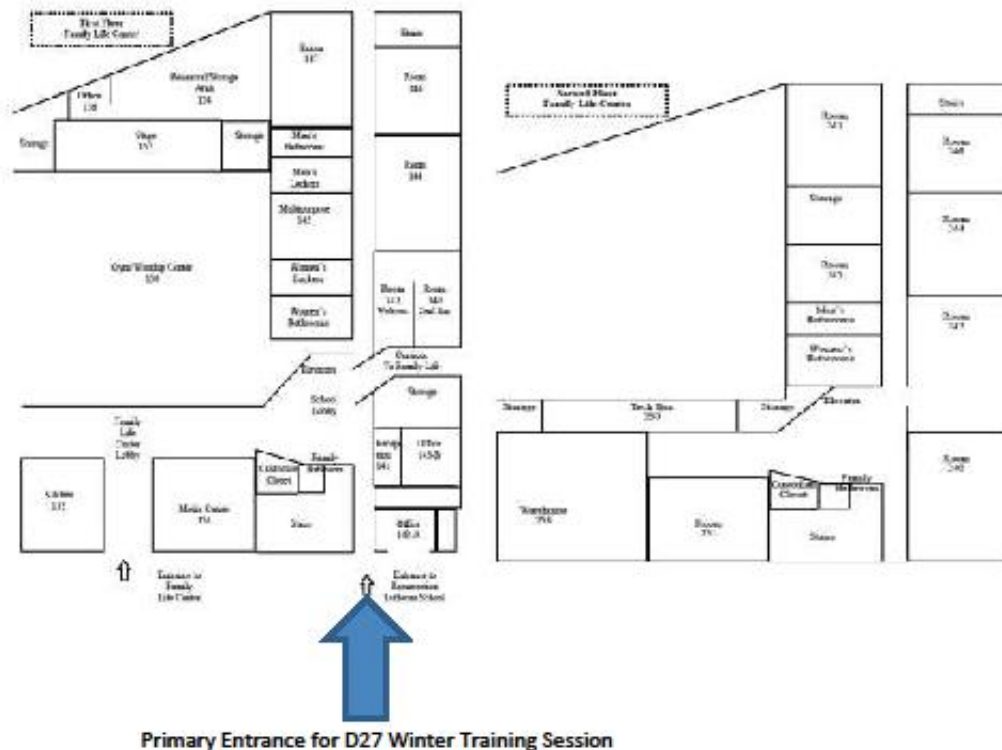
Welcomes

USPS District 27's 2016 Annual Training Session

Resurrection is located at 100 W. Lochmere Dr, Cary, NC 27518. Here is a link to [Google Map](#)



There are 4 parking levels with handicap parking reserved at the top level. There is an elevator for those who need assistance getting to the second floor conference rooms.





9 January 2016
 District 27 Winter Training Session
 Resurrection Lutheran Church School
 100 W Lochmere Drive
 Cary, NC 27518



AGENDA

Time	Activity	Room	Presenter
0900-0930	Registration	Entrance Foyer	D/Lt Sandie Howd AP
0930-0945	A Welcome and Overview	Gym	D/C Dave Parsons JN
0950-1050	B Membership – A to Z Workshop	Gym	P/D/C Robert Howd JN
	C Education Officers	Room 240	D/Lt/C Clay Helms JN
	D Co-Op Charting/Geodetic Workshop	Room 151	D/Lt Bo Ibach SN
	E Commanders	Room 133	D/C Dave Parsons JN
1100-1200	F Executive Officers	Room 133	D/Lt/C Gene Alligood AP
	G Secretaries	Room	D/Lt/C JB Bagby JN
	<u>SMALL GROUP SESSIONS</u>		
	H New to dB2000	Room 251	P/Lt/C Bo Wessell AP
	Advanced DB2000/Emailing		
	I Co-Op Charting/Geodetic Workshop	Room 151	D/Lt Bo Ibach SN
1200-1230	J Lunch	Gym	D/Lt Connie Shay/District Aides
1230-1330	K Administrative Officers	Room 240	D/Lt/C Paula Stewart AP
	L Treasurers/Dues Report System	Room 133	Stf/C David McMahon AP
	M Branding Standards for Newsletters	Room 151	D/Lt/C JB Bagby JN
	N NomCom Delegates	Gym	P/D/C Burt Pearson SN
	<u>SMALL GROUP SESSIONS</u>		
	O Sea Scouts	Room 251	Lt/C Bill Beers AP
1330-1400	Overview	Gym	D/C Dave Parsons JN



9 January 2016
 D/27 Winter Training Meeting
 Resurrection Lutheran Church, 100 W. Lochmere Dr., Cary, NC



This is a one day training session that is for ALL members, including present Squadron Bridge and especially those coming on to the Bridge.

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

Facility Fee for each attendee \$ 5.00 X _____ = _____

Lunch Choices include cookie & coffee, tea or water

Club Sandwich w/Chips	\$10.00	X _____ = _____
Club Sandwich w/Potato Salad		
Club Sandwich w/Fruit	\$10.00	X _____ = _____
Turkey/Cucumber w/Chips	\$10.00	X _____ = _____
Turkey/Cucumber w/Potato Salad	\$10.00	X _____ = _____
Turkey/Cucumber w/Fruit	\$10.00	X _____ = _____
Ham/Swiss w/Chips	\$10.00	X _____ = _____
Ham/Swiss w/Potato Salad	\$10.00	X _____ = _____
Ham/Swiss w/Fruit	\$10.00	X _____ = _____
Grilled Chicken Salad over Greens	\$10.00	X _____ = _____
TOTAL		_____

Please review the agenda and place the number of attendees by the sessions attending

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O

Send form and check made payable to District 27 to:
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DISTRICT 27 CAROLINA BITTS

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Carolina BITTS is published four 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

<http://www.uspsd27.org/>



D27 Winter Training Session
January 9, 2016 — Cary, NC

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