

VOLUME 59 NUMBER 2
APRIL 2006

Cdr Janice Kromer, AP
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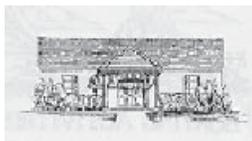
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MEETINGS

Executive Committee -1st Thursday @ 1830

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**SAFE BOATING THROUGH
EDUCATION**

From the Commander Cdr Janice Kromer, AP



The D/26 Spring Conference held in Charleston during the weekend of 10, 11 and 12 March was a huge success. There were well over 100 district members who attended the Conference and Council on Saturday and it was an interesting event. Vice Commander Creighton Maynard presented a very thorough program on Leadership Development, and Charles Barreras, the D/26 Public Relations Officer, told of his plans for the media blitz for National Safe Boating Week. Unfortunately, I was busier than I expected attending to last minute details, and I was unable to attend most of the other sessions of the Council and Conference.

Squadron participants were greeted at the registration desk with welcome bags donated by Boater's World in West Ashley. They also received registration envelopes which contained tickets (expertly printed by P/C John Sikes) for all of their events. The activities opened with our Hospitality Suite, manned expertly by P/C Tony Ward and Mark Rutter and Bobby Dodgens. Our Silent Auction items were displayed throughout the weekend. Thanks to Lt/C Art Clark and his crew for soliciting all of the donations. And special thanks to P/C Charlotte Yeomans and her assistant, P/Lt/C Elizabeth Mims for setting up the lovely display. Charlotte spent most of the weekend at the auction tables and distributing the goodies on Saturday night.

The party at the Maritime Center on Friday night was just loads of fun. P/Lt/C Cindy Kridler and her crew did a marvelous job with decorations and general ambiance. The food was wonderful – but we had so many last minute attendees that I was afraid we were going to run out of meals for everyone. The highlight of the night was D/C Dick Erler's presentation of a Life Member Plaque to P/Lt/C Martin Gipe. Martin

was honored with this award for having earned 25 Merit Marks during his years with USPS. Many in the crowd were teary eyed – including me.

Several of the ladies who attended the Saturday afternoon tour of Charleston, given by Charleston Tours, raved about the knowledge of the tour guide, and they loved shopping downtown. Many thanks to Diane Williams for arranging the outing for us. During the afternoon, Drs. Mike and Gina Coursan treated anyone who was interested to a mini-massage in our Hospitality Suite. Several squadron commanders took advantage of this special treat.

Saturday night's banquet was beautiful. P/C Charlotte Yeomans provided lovely centerpieces for the table and guests were served their choice of London Broil or Broiled Flounder. During the Awards Ceremony, our own P/C Ed Kridler received the Ed Fetner award. The award recognizes the runner-up to the Commander of the Year Award.

The weekend concluded with a brunch held at our home in Summerville. Surprisingly, only one carload of people got lost, and most everyone commented on the clear directions which were put together by John Van Way. The crew of cooks for the brunch was wonderful. Le Anne and Jack Meyer actually came from the emergency room to get the food table set up. 1st Lt. Joan King manned the scrambled egg station, and Master Chef Dave Walsh, in costume, was in charge of the omelets. My grandchildren attended and asked their mom if Dave was Chef Boyardee! Our guests were also treated to baked ham, smoked salmon, fruit salad, rolls and pastry. I finally broke my diet to enjoy a hearty breakfast!

I absolutely could not finish a report of the D/26 Conference Weekend without an absolutely huge "thank you" to Joan King. Joan was in charge of registration, which doesn't begin to explain all the work she did. Besides acting as my general sounding board, Joan put together and kept updated a very complex spreadsheet to track incoming funds and who wanted to go to

what. Joan was still making changes on Friday and Saturday as people realized they had forgotten to register and pay for some of the events. At absolutely any point in the planning process, Joan could tell any of our Committee Chairs just how many participants were expected at the events they were planning. Joan even made sure each participant's squadron burgee was printed on their registration envelope and their dinner ticket. It was my absolute pleasure to work with Joan – she's a real professional.

Cdr Janice Kromer



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Oops...

Special thanks to Steve Rustin for his help at the squadron's booth at the 2005 Charleston Boat Show. We inadvertently left Steve's name off in our boat show report in last month's Log. Sorry Steve, you did a great job and deserved credit in our report.

Let's go to Savannah and Shop

The weekend of April 22 is our cruise to shop and spend as much as we can in historic Savannah Georgia. I've been looking at hotels on the internet for some time now with no luck so when it comes to accommodations it will be every man, woman and couple for them self. We will be staying in Pooler Georgia and driving into Savannah so if you want a ride just let us know. We will rendezvous at 1200 in the small park just north of the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Saturday, April 21. Just in case you are having trouble finding us, you never know we could be in a near by pub, call us at 843-830-3027.

If shopping is not to your liking then I suggest calling one of the following golf courses for a tee time. Try the Beacon Park Public Golf Course at 912-354-2625 or if you want to step it up a bit call the Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort at 913-201-2000. If this all sounds like too much exercise how about an afternoon cruise on the Savannah River? There is a riverboat leaving from 9 East River Street at 1400 and 1600 and prices are ±\$18.00 per person.

Be sure to save enough money for dinner at 1845 at The Lady and Sons' Restaurant, located at 102 West Congress Street. If your not sure how to get there call them at 912-233-2600 for directions. The first person who calls me, P/C Boo Ward at 762-9766 with the name of the well known southern chef that owns this restaurant will get one free drink. Following a nice meal and for those of us that have some energy left we will use it enjoying the Savannah night life.

After a good nights rest we will meet up again for Sunday brunch at Belfords located at 315 West St. Julian Street at 1100. Then it will be time to head back home or go back and buy that one item you decided you just couldn't live without.

-Boo Ward

Executive Officer
Lt/C David E. Walsh, AP



SC In-Water Boat Show

The SC In-Water Boat Show is the largest in-water boat show between Annapolis and West Palm Beach. This year, the show features over 100 boats in the water and 120 on-land exhibits. The Charleston Power Squadron's "on-land" exhibit is a booth in the commercial exhibit tent. In addition to the boats and exhibits, the SC In-Water Boat Show offers seminars, special events and family entertainment to create 4 days of fun for everyone. Volunteers who help at our booth will receive free entry to all of the boat show events.

Dates and time for the show are:

April 27-30, 2006

Thursday April 27 • 3pm - 6pm

Friday April 28 • Noon - 6pm

Saturday April 29 • 10am - 6pm

Sunday April 30 • 10am - 5pm

The venue is the Charleston Harbor Marina at Patriots Point in Mt. Pleasant, SC.

Our presence at the boat show offers us a great opportunity to meet the boating public, promote safe boating and register boaters for our BoatSmart course. Because this is a four day event, we need more than the usual number of volunteers to man our booth. Please volunteer to help at the squadron's booth by contacting The Charleston Power Squadron's Boat Show Chairman Jim Davis. Jim's phone number and e-mail address are: 388-2303 and jim.davis@foresightst.com

National Safe Boating Week

More than 70,000,000 Americans enjoy recreational boating each year. Annual boat registrations have increased steadily from just over 10 million in 1988 to 12.8 million in 2003, the last year for which data is available. During this same time period, boating-related fatalities have decreased,

due mostly to increased use of life jackets, or personal flotation devices (PFD). May 20-26, 2006 is National Safe Boating Week. The theme for this year's North American Safe Boating Campaign is "Boat smart. Boat safe. Wear it!" During Safe Boating Week, the Charleston Power Squadron is working to raise awareness that every person on a boat should wear a life jacket. The following are the main points that the squadron is emphasizing during Safe Boating Week:

**Wear Your Life Jacket While Boating* - Life jacket use by all boat occupants can reduce drowning. All US states and territories (except Hawaii, Idaho, and Guam) have a mandate regarding the wearing of life jackets, though they vary and many only pertain to children under age 12. Coast Guard-approved life jackets are now more attractive in appearance and comfortable to wear than ever.

**Take the Squadron's BoatSmart Course* - More than half of reported boating accidents are due to lack of operator training, inexperience, unsafe speeds, and failure of the operator or passenger to "lookout" for hazards. BoatSmart teaches regulatory ("Rules of the Road") and trains boaters how to safely operate recreational water craft.

**Participate in the Vessel Safety Check (VSC) Program* - The Vessel Safety Check (VSC) is a free public service provided by The Charleston Power Squadron. The squadron's team of inspectors checks safety equipment and provides information about boat equipment, safety procedures and applicable regulations. To get a free safety inspection of your boat contact VSC Chairman Bob Gulbrandsen. Bob's phone number and e-mail address are, 884-0798 and morningstar804@msn.com.

Cooperative Charting

Now that spring is "just around the corner" it is time to get on the water. Cooperative Charting is one of the best excuses that I have to go boating. The Charleston Power Squadron has two "Adopt-A-Chart" assignments. We have Nautical Charts 11518 which covers the Intracoastal Water-

way from Casino Creek north of McClellanville to the Beaufort River and Nautical Chart 11522 which includes the Stono and North Edisto Rivers. Squadron Cooperative Charting Chairman Jack Meyer has scheduled a Cooperative Charting training meeting at Squadron Headquarters for Wednesday evening 12 April, 1900 to 2000. Come this meeting to get a charting assignment, a copy of a chart (they are free) and training on the new Cooperative Charting CCWEB program. Jack's phone number and email address are, 875-9337 and jfmeyer@comcast.net.

Dave



Administrative Officer Lt/C Art Clark, P



Wow!! We had 70 members and guests come listen to the Coleman's. My apologies for the poor acoustics. My excuse is that we planned for an event in the back room (a quiet area) believing that 30-40 members would attend as usual. By the day before we had 55 members committed and we had to move to the outer area. By the time all was said and done we had 70 members and friends attend. Feedback from members was very positive none-the-less. I will plan better next time.

More New Members

This has been an excellent team effort. Thanks to everyone who has been working on bringing in new members. The results are obvious.

Laurence (Pat) Hays
Patty Hays
Angela Wright
Steven Ireland
Chateal (Nikki) Wright
Terry Melloy
Shirley Malloy

Upcoming Member Events

25 March – Our annual Hornick Cruise. Always a big event as we kick off the new boating season. We will be featuring Vessel Safety Checks as well as a potluck picnic and, of course, a great time. This is an excellent opportunity to **bring the whole family for a terrific family boat outing**. We will gather at Buzzard's roost Marina.

14 April – Regrettably, our speakers will be unable to attend. Consequently, we are looking for a suitable replacement at a rather late hour. While I am disappointed, I know we will have a great time meeting new members and getting reacquainted. This will be pot luck,

so bring your best dishes!!!!

21-23 April – Our brand new **shopping spree trip to Savannah** being coordinated by **Boo Ward and Cat Yeaman's**. This is a “don't miss” outing as I understand that Cat and Boo know all the best shopping places in town. This promises to be a terrific weekend where you can **shop-'till-you-drop and/or get around to the historic places of interest**. If you have never been to Savannah, it's a must see!! If you've gone before I think you'll agree it's a fantastic place to visit any time. Throw in the shopping, a little Boo and Cat and you're bound for a fun weekend.

May 11th – Member Meeting location and speaker to be determined. Likely at a local restaurant with a suitable back room.

May 20-21 – Another picnic cruise to The Navy Recreation facility on Lake Murray. We had reserved the same pavilion. This year, however, we will stage the picnic burgers, etc. at a villa which I have reserved as well. I will get out a float plan, directions, etc when needed. Entrance to the facility will be no cost. However, we will need to charge a fee for the picnic. Burgers, “dogs” and all the fixin's will be provided. We would appreciate your bringing salads and deserts. **Let's plan on this being a family day.** Join us in a **caravan up the Cooper River and through the lock, go it on your own (it's easy, but is about 50 Miles from Charleston) or launch your boat at the Short Stay Boat Ramp**. There is a sandy beach available for swimming, hiking trails, fishing (come on Le Anne Myer and Dave Walsh) and other activities as well as a general store. This should be a bang-up weekend!!

Art

Educational Officer Lt/C Stephen C. Kromer, AP



I can't believe it's Spring already. Up in Summerville the azaleas are blooming, we're getting ready for the Flowertown Festival, and I don't have a boat. Rats.

OK, I'll stop bellyachin' and give you some news about the Educational Department. First of all, we got exam results back for Engine Maintenance and Weather 101. Jerry Reeves and Stan Whitman both completed Engine Maintenance. Ed Arrington, Art Clark, Jim Easley, and David Walsh all completed weather 101 and have already started Weather 102. I've got to tell you, the exam scores in Weather were unbelievable. I won't tell exactly what the scores were, but the average was so high I got altitude sickness just looking at them. I think Paul Yura does a great job teaching this course and I think that the students will agree. Our Engine Maintenance team of David Walsh, Ken Beeber and Art Clark continue to provide instruction and hands on training on all aspects of boat engines. This year Art even wrote a diesel engine supplement.

Spring classes are well under way at this point. We have the largest Seamanship class I ever remember - 11 students. Seamanship is being led by the “Two Mikes” – King and Page. We have 4 students in Advanced Piloting with Glen Workman as the lead instructor. Two students are taking Cruise Planning with Fred Wichmann. Got off to a rocky start with this one since Fred was ill for the first couple of weeks. Finally, we have 2 students taking Marine Electronics with Ken Beeber, Gene Gillfilin and Dan Moore instructing.

We are planning to run a GPS seminar in conjunction with National Boating Safety week, which is May 20-26. The price will be \$25 for members and \$50 for non-members. If you would like to take this course please contact either Janice or me to get on the list.

-Steve

Secretary

Lt/C Robert A. Gulbrandsen, S



Latest news about the ICW, one of our cruising areas. Congress agreed to minimal funding for 2006 to keep the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway operational but the \$10 million appropriated for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is another “band-aid” not a cure for the ailing ICW. The good news is that they got money for the waterway dredging in four of five Corps districts, despite the horrendous budget demands from hurricane relief. It is said that the budget for 2006 approved in Mid-November, includes dredging funds for the waterway in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. The members of Congress in these states really went to bat for the waterway amid some very trying times. Part of the reason for the success is that recreational boaters who use the ICW made an extraordinary effort to contact their members of Congress last year.

As always we are looking to post articles about you and your boat. Send us a picture and a little note about your boat. Your Squadron is anxious to share your photo in the next issue of the Palmetto Log, we want to get to know you and your boat. Please send information to Jerry Kemerer at [Who's Boat JKemerer@comcast.net](mailto:JKemerer@comcast.net). Or by snail mail to his address in the directory. He will be happy to return your photos after we post them in the log. We would also like to invite any squadron member to submit an article to your Palmetto Log. Tell us what you have been up to; have you had an interesting trip? How about a favorite photo or an experience you have had. Just email them to our editor Jerry Kemerer at JKemerer@comcast.net And don't forget, we still offer advertising space in the Palmetto Log. Do you know a friend or local business that could use our news letter to reach more people? We mail our Log to 200 people and maritime interests. We would be happy to talk to them. Or for information contact me at **Palmetto Log Ad** at Morningstar804@msn.com.

Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, 2 March 2006

The meeting was called to order by Cdr. Janice Kromer at 1830 at the Headquarters Building. Those in attendance were: Lt/C Bob Gulbrandsen, Lt/C Chuck Altschul, Lt/C Steve Kromer, P/R/C Ed Kridler, Lt Joan King, Lt/C David Walsh, Lt Mike King, Lt Gene Gilfillin, John Van Way, Wendy Walsh, P/C Billy Lynes, P/D/C Ken Beeber, P/D/C Bob Gissell, P/D/Lt/C Mike Page, P/Lt/C Cynthia Kridler, P/C John Sikes, P/C Scotty Jeter and Cdr Janice Kromer. A quorum was established and the Executive Committee was called to order at 1830. The minutes from the January Executive Committee meeting where accepted as published in the February Log.

Executive: Per Lt/C David Walsh: Nothing much to report, we need help to organize the Safe Boating Week events. Lt Joan King is planning to attend a conference on Safe Boating Week and see what she can discover then.

Educational: Per Lt/C Stephen Kromer: The spring courses are off and running. We have the largest group ever attending the Seamanship course. We have had 18 new members join the squadron this year as a result of our squadron boating course.

Administrative: Lt/C Art Clark was absent: But per Commander Janice Kromer, the Cape Romain cruise will be this weekend. Dinner for the cruise will be at the Crab Pot restaurant, please contact Joyce Wichmann if you intend to attend. The April members meeting will be held at the squadron HQ building.

Secretary: Per Lt/C Bob Gulbrandsen: I would like to welcome Steve Poe as our new Website Manager. Steve will be taking over the squadron web page from Nick Russo.

Treasurer: Per Lt/C Charles Altschul: We have \$15,390.00 dollars in the three squadron account up to date. Our squadron will be on the annual billing sys-

tem as of the 1st of March. Chuck presented a brief explanation of the credit card billing process to the members of the committee, Lt/C Steve Kromer motioned that we should adopt the credit card billing system for squadron. Lt Joan King seconded the motion; the motion was voted on and passed with vote of 7 for and 3 against.

Commander: Per Cdr. Janice Kromer: We still need to create a banner for the squadron for public events. Lt/C David Walsh agreed to work on this and to get back with the commander about it. We have had an audit of the squadron safety deposit box and all is well. We still need to complete an audit of the squadron properties in the headquarters building. P/Lt/C Cindy Kridler is working on an update of the squadron by-laws. We are still waiting for a decision on conducting email meeting of the Executive Committee. This will depend on the issue of legality per state of South Carolina laws.

District Report The Charleston Power Squadron is on track for the district conference this month.

National Report No new business to report on the National level.

Old Business: The D26 conference we need help with organization of the bus tours, IE a starter to get guest on the buses. Janice also needs volunteers as cooks for the Commanders brunch at her house. It was decided that the squadron bar will be used at the conference and donations will be asked for the drinks. The Flower town Festival is in need of volunteers to set up the boating safety booth on Thursday. Discussion of the on the squadron email group led to the following motion. Lt/C Steve Kromer motioned that he would set up an experimental email group on Google to explore the possibilities. Lt/c Bob Gulbrandsen seconded the motion and the Committee voted to accept the motion.

New Business: John VanWay motioned that Amy Rustin be awarded honorary membership to the

Charleston Power Squadron for 2006. Ed Kridler seconded the motion and the Committee voted to accept the motion.

The Commander will be sending out a letter to our non-renewal members to ask why and possibly interesting them to reconsider.

Jerry Kemerer, Chuck Altschul and Bob Gulbrandsen will looking into possibilities of using a different source to print the Log and Directories due to the raise in printing rate by Kinko's. They have almost doubled the cost of printing this year.

The meeting adjourned at 1940.



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Thanks Power Squadron for your work and dedication in Boating Education and Public Safety. *Barney M. Metts*

The hurricane seasons of the last two years have been devastating to many of our members who live on the Gulf Coast, Florida or along the southeastern seaboard. Then the other shoe fell in January when St. Paul Insurance Co. announced that they were no longer going to insure boats of members living in those regions that were over ten years old or over \$100,000.00 in value.

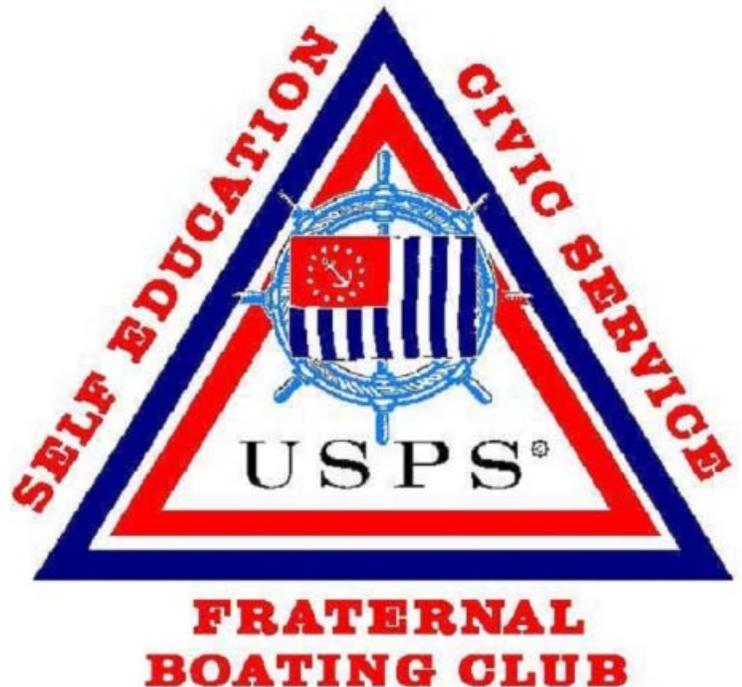
If you are a USPS member and have received a notice of non-renewal of insurance, or anticipate such a notice from St. Paul, we recommend that you contact our insurance broker McGriff, Seibels and Williams immediately at 1-800-476-2211. Please ask for Mr. Ben Gilbert, Jim Park or Jake Hill.

McGriff, Seibels and Williams is one of the largest insurance brokerage firms in the country and they represent many insurance companies. Although the insurance market has changed dramatically in the hurricane affected states, they have pledged to work with our members to either appeal individual cases with St. Paul, or to try and find replacement insurance with other companies.

R/C Luis Ojeda, Chairman of the Member Benefits committee will be meeting with Lee McGriff and Ben Gilbert at their offices in Birmingham AL in early April in an on-going effort to help our affected members.

Remember that we are your advocates in these trying times.

V/C Frank A. Dvorak, SN
National Administrative Officer



The Palmetto Log
Jerry Kemerer, Editor
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Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

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Upcoming Events For April and May

- 6 April – EXCOM Meeting – Headquarters – 1830
- 13 April – Member Meeting – Potluck/HQ – 1830
- 21 thru 23 April – Savannah Shipping Trip – Savannah
- 4 May – EXCOM Meeting – Headquarters – 1830
- 11 May – Member Meeting – Location TBD – 1830
- 20-21 May – Short Stay Cruise – Picnic – Stars at noon

SAFE BOATING THROUGH EDUCATION