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Cdr Janice Kromer, AP
768-1861

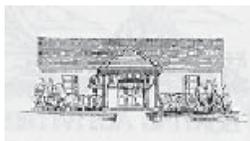
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MEETINGS

Executive Committee -1st Thursday @ 1830

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**SAFE BOATING THROUGH
EDUCATION**

From the Commander Cdr Janice Kromer, AP



We're right in the middle of the busy Spring season in Charleston, and the boating world is gearing up for some great cruising. Sandwiched between the Charleston Boat Show and the In-Water Boat Show was the Flowertown Festival on March 31, April 1 and 2. For me, our participation in this very popular event was one of the best experiences I've had to tell the public about USPS. When Excom approved the squadron's participation, we viewed the event as both a public relations opportunity and a fundraiser. The show is attended by 250,000 people and we got a chance to tell our story to many interested potential, new and experienced boaters. And to top it off, our fund raising efforts yielded a profit of close to \$400.

Past Commanders Steve and Charlotte Yeomans, and Gene and Carol Gilfillin led the squadron's efforts to pull this show together. We showed off our new squadron banner, and it grabbed the attention of many potential boaters. We gave out free children's boating safety coloring books along with promotional material on our VSC and Boat Smart programs. Many members made wooden boats for us to sell as the fund raising aspect of this project, and we had a small pool in front of our booth to sail the boats. Needless to say, this was an eye-catcher for thousands of children – and many of them had fun getting wet as the temperature rose in the afternoons. Very special thanks go to P/C Billy Lynes, P/D/C Ken Beeber, Lt Gene Gilfillin and Dick Brannan who used their woodworking skills to make 115 wooden sail boats. And Carol Gilfillin crafted sails for each and every one of them. We ran out of our wooden boats by noon on Sunday, and we could have probably sold close to 200 if our supply had been larger.

Although I was disappointed in the number of volun-

teers who offered to man our booth, those that did help out were enthusiastic and had lots of fun! Thanks go to Lt Gene and Carol Gilfillin, P/Lt/C Elizabeth Mims, Bob & Barbara Weaver, Stan & Karen Whitman, 1st Lt Joan King, Glenn & Mary Workman, Lt/C David and Wendy Walsh, Ray & Alice Harp, Russ Smith, Jim & Peggy Bass, Lt/C Steve Kromer, P/C Steve and P/C Charlotte Yeomans, Steve Poe, P/C Ricki Silveria and Mike Spruill, and Dick & Betsy Brannan.

All in all, the Flowertown Festival turned out to be a very successful show for the squadron, and I hope this year's participation is the first of what turns out to be an annual event.

To close my article this month. I'd like to remind each of you that it's time to renew your annual membership in the squadron. By now you should have all received a personal letter detailing the benefits of participation in our organization and telling you how the membership benefits far outweigh the annual dues. Remember, you will be sending your dues to National this year, which will then reimburse the squadron for its portion of the membership fee. And if you prefer, you can go online and pay with a credit card. If anyone is "sitting on the fence" about renewing, please just call me or one of our Bridge members, and we'll be happy to show you why it's the right decision to renew!

-Janice



Executive Officer
Lt/C David E. Walsh, AP



SC In-Water Boat Show

Many thanks for the volunteers who helped Squadron Boat Show Chairman, Jim Davis, at the SC In-Water Boat Show. Our presence at boat shows is a great opportunity to meet the boating public, promote membership in the squadron and register boaters for a squadron BoatSmart course. Those who saw our booth noted a new and very attractive Charleston Power Squadron banner. Thanks goes to Joan King for getting this very useful banner printed and delivered, in time for the Squadron's participation in the Flowertown Festival as well as the In-Water Boat Show.

National Safe Boating Week

May 20-26, 2006 is National Safe Boating Week. The theme is "Boat Smart. Boat Safe. Wear it!" and promotes use of life jackets (PFD's). The Charleston Power Squadron is participating more than ever in Safe Boating Week. Bob Gulbrandsen, our squadron's "Visitor," has placed BoatSmart and safe boating brochures and posters at local marinas, boat dealers and boating retailers. Joan King's publicity committee has arranged to air public service announcement (PSA's) on all local TV and radio stations. These PSA's are professionally produced messages from TV star John Amos, Olympic Mentalist Rebecca Giddens and NASCAR driver Bobby Labonte that remind boaters to always wear a PFD when on the water.

Cooperative Charting

We have a special segment of boating volunteers in our squadron, who participate in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Cooperative Charting Program. Rather than complaining about a lack of government services and less-than-timely chart updates our boaters along with others in the ranks of the U.S. Power Squadrons have pitched in to do something about it. The Charleston Squadron is among 109

squadrons in all corners of the U.S. that are "adopting" NOAA charts. Our squadron has adopted two whole NOAA charts, Nautical Chart 11518 which covers the Intracoastal Waterway from Casino Creek north of McClellanville to the Beaufort River and Nautical Chart 11522 which includes the Stono and North Edisto Rivers.

Cooperative Charting involves taking GPS reading (fixes) on navigational features that are shown on the chart. This included day marks, range markers and charted items such as bridges and marinas. When back on land, these GPS fixes are compared with the locations of nautical features shown on the chart. Any discrepancies or additions are reported electronically to NOAA using the Cooperative Charting website, CCWEB. This alerts NOAA's cartographers of needed chart revisions. Some of the noteworthy chart corrections to look for in our area are new bridges, water towers, overhead wires and buildings and inaccurate positions of aids to navigation, sand bars and changes in water depths.

-Dave

NOTICE FOR JUNE AND SEPTEMBER CRUISES

If you are planning to make the Georgetown Landing or the Shelter Cove, Hilton Head Cruise by boat, reservations should be made this month to insure you will be able to get a slip. It's my understanding that both marinas will be very busy due to fishing tournaments and Labor Day weekend. Please plan to make your reservations early. The phone number for Georgetown Landing Marina is 843 546-1776 and for Shelter Cove, Hilton Head the numbers are 843 842-7001 and 843 842-7002.

Happy Cruising,
Ray

Administrative Officer Lt/C Art Clark, P



Our Squadron Activity level continues at a high pace. Since the last Palmetto Log we have taken a cruise to Cape Romaine, had our boating season kick-off picnic at Buzzard's Roost, sponsored a booth at the Summerville Flowertown Festival and conducted a successful member meeting. Fred Wichmann was in fine form taking us through the history of Cape Romaine and telling us about his early life as the Cape Romaine lighthouse keeper's son. It is always a pleasure to listen to Fred. Dinner at the Crab Pot Restaurant was excellent as always. About 30 people attended this event.

Our picnic at Buzzard's Roost was another success thanks to Tony Ward and his team. Bob Gulbrandsen and his folks were able to complete several vessel safety checks. This is always a great way to start off the season.

Our April member meeting turned out well. The pot luck dinner was superb and for perhaps a Squadron first, nearly grazed out. Our guest speaker was Harl Porter, a new member who transferred to us from the Maryland Eastern Shore. Harl presented an overview of GPS systems. The talk was excellent. More importantly, Harl will soon conduct a four part tutorial for GPS operations. Keep an eye out for this offering as it should be terrific!! We also auctioned off one GPS text book which can be used at Harl's upcoming GPS course. Thanks to all who helped set up for the meeting and those who helped clean up.

More New Members - A hearty welcome aboard to all new members.

Wendell Ford
Robert Kemp
Harl Porter
Betsy Porter

Upcoming Member Events

May 11th – Our guest speaker will be Dr. Fred Holland. He is the Director of the NOAA Environmental Laboratory in the Charleston area. Dr. Holland is a toxicologist and will speak on subjects such as non-point pollution and homeland security as well as an overview the Lab functions and mission. Dinner will be at the Gilligan's in Mt. Pleasant.. Cocktails will be at 1830; dinner around 1900. Mark this on you calendar as a must come. This promises to be an excellent evening.

May 20-21st – Another picnic cruise to The Navy Recreation facility on Lake Moultry. We have reserved the same pavilion as last year. 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 with lifeguard, 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 Saturday. At this time, it looks like the Myrtle Beach Power Squadron will be joining us for the trip up and at our pavilion.

June 8th – Mike Murray, the head diver at the South Carolina Institute of Archeology and Anthropology has agreed to speak about the Institute and some of their activities at local underwater excavations. He will be accompanied by another equally interesting diver who is responsible for various artifacts kept at the institute. As I understand it, he will bring some of those artifacts with him. The meeting will be at a local restaurant TBD.

June 23-25th – Jack Meyer is putting together our cruise to Georgetown. The Harbour Walk Festival will be on that weekend and is always a lot of fun. Cabs are about \$5 from the Marina to the festival. The Marina has an excellent restaurant and a motel. Merle and I brought our grandchild and his parents... we had a blast!!

-Art

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



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**Secretary
Lt/C Robert A. Gulbrandsen, S**



The Vessel Safety Examiners Watch

On Saturday March 25th we began our 2006 Vessel Safety Examination season at the squadron's annual Hornick Cruise. At the end of this event squadron examiners had performed 10 vessel safety examinations, a good start for this year. We look forward to helping educate area boaters on how to keep themselves and their guest's safe on our waterways. We will be working in cooperation with the local Coast Guard Auxiliary flotillas at other events to promote Vessel Safety. If you are interested in having your boat inspection done, please contact me by phone or email and we will get an examiner out to you and your boat. No need to wait for a squadron event to check out your vessel. Remember, pass or fail your inspection form can be used at all West Marine locations to qualify you for discounts on safety related purchases.

We are always looking to find interested squadron members to join our ranks. Would you be interested in becoming a Vessel Examiner? It's easy and we are ready and willing to help you achieve your certification. At present we have five qualified examiners to do boat inspections, but can always use more help. If you wish more information on the Vessel Examiners program or the Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program, contact me at 843-884-0798 or email at Morningstar804@msn.com. Be SAFE and ENJOY the water!!!

Bob





Safety Officer

P/C John Sikes, AP

Designated Driver Not Enough, Study Warns

Well-intentioned programs that encourage the use of a designated operator aren't going to make much of a dent in the numbers of alcohol-related boating deaths, a research team has warned. The reason: A passenger who consumes alcohol on board is just as likely to die as an operator who is drinking, say researchers at the University of North Carolina and Johns Hopkins University.

Their conclusion, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, is based on a study of 221 boating deaths in North Carolina and Maryland between 1990 and 1998. People who are drinking often fall overboard and drown, the study found. And that can happen even if the boat is stationary, the researchers say, pointing to the death of Hollywood star Natalie Wood 25 years ago.

"People often assume that alcohol-related boating accidents involve a collision," said Dr. Robert D. Foss, research scientist at the UNC Highway Safety Research Center. "That happens, of course, but most deaths result from drowning – often when boats aren't moving at all."

The team said about 80 percent of fatalities result from drowning.

The image of the crazed drunken boater ramming into a dock or another boat is "a pretty rare phenomenon," Foss said. "If you've got a stone-cold sober boat operator and an impaired passenger, that passenger is still at high risk."

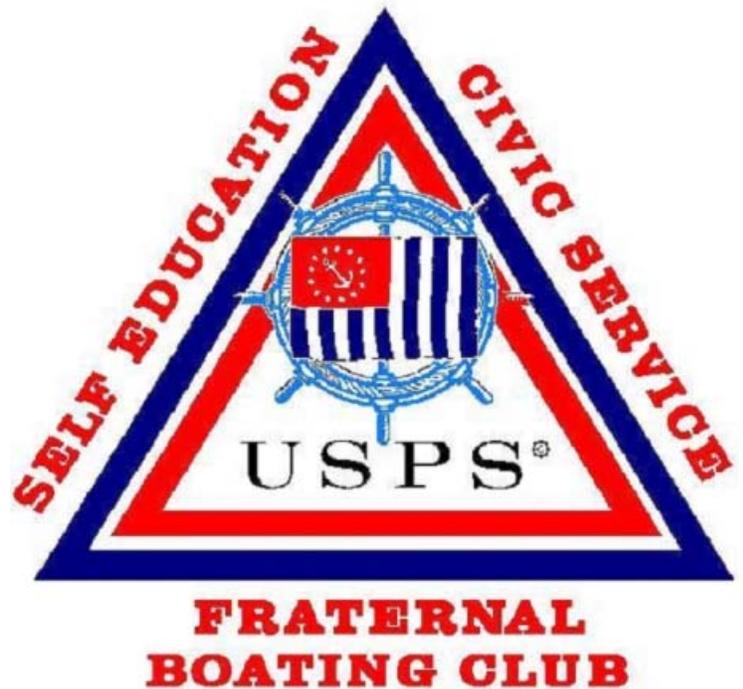
The research teams studied boating fatality records from medical examiners, and spent three summers interviewing and obtaining breath alcohol measurements from boaters in both states.

Alarmingly, the study finds it doesn't take much alcohol to bring about impairment. Even with a blood alcohol content of only .01 percent, the risk to operators and passengers increased 30 percent, Foss said. The risk of death was more than 52 times greater when victims showed a blood alcohol content of .25 milligrams per deciliter, he said.

"Before we did the study, we had a fairly good idea about the risk curve for drinking drivers on the road, but we had no idea about the risk for boaters who had been drinking," Foss said. "This study gives us the first look at the shape of the risk curve for boaters."

The study was supported by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

-John



Executive Committee Meeting Thursday, 6 April 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 Mike King, Lt Gene Gilfillin, John Van Way, Wendy Walsh, P/C Billy Lynes, P/Lt/C Cynthia Kridler, P/C John Sikes, Lt/C Art Clark, Stf/C Harl Porter, Betsy Porter and Cdr Janice Kromer. A quorum was established. The minutes from the February Executive Committee meeting were accepted as published in the March Log.

Executive: Lt/C David Walsh was absent, no report available.

Educational: Per Lt/C Stephen Kromer: The spring courses are getting ready to take their exams. No other news to report.

Administrative: Per Lt/C Art Clark: We have concluded our investigation into the non-renewal membership. We found that 5 members had moved, 2 quit that were family members, 4 said they were too busy and 7 had no response. It appears from this survey that the squadron is doing nothing wrong to retain membership.

Secretary: Per Lt/C Bob Gulbrandsen: Nothing new to report from the Secretaries department.

Treasurer: Per Lt/C Charles Altschul: We have \$5,133.26 in the District 26 account, \$3,412.00 on our checking account and the Money Market account remains the same. The squadron is on budget. But our Commander reminds us that we are falling short on our projected expenses.

Commander: Per Cdr. Janice Kromer: We have created and purchased a banner for the squadron for public events thanks to Joan King. It was put into use at

the Flower town Festival at our boating safety booth. Membership renewal notices are in the process of being sent out on the new billing system.

Rules Committee: A rough draft of the squadron by-laws has been sent to the National Rules Committee. Added are sections concerning the use of electronic voting, dues and dues payment with the new billing system. Changes made in the removal of bridge officers by vote processes.

District Report The District 26 conference held in Charleston was a success thanks to the efforts of Joan King and our squadron volunteers.

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

Old Business: The Yahoo Charleston Power Squadron Group has been shut down. The Google Charleston Power Squadron Group is up and running. The spring conference was a success and we have broken even on our expenses. The Executive committee voted to release a statement to District 26 on the events expenses. The Flower town Festival Boating Safety booth was a great success; we sold over 115 toy boats and gave away all the free coloring book the squadron had on hand. The squadron made several contacts of interested boaters in the area.

National Safe Boating Week, Joan King has made contact with local radio stations to run the USPS advertising slots. Good Morning Charleston is going to be contacted as to the possibility of getting some air time there.

New Business: No new business on the agenda

The meeting adjourned at 1928.

The Short Stay Cruise

This great odyssey will be on May 20th. We have already arranged for a pavilion at Short Stay on Lake Moultrie. You can either drive (there will no entrance fee....tell them your with the Power Squadron party), you can launch your boat at the boat ramp or you can boat up the Cooper River and go through the lock into the lake. Short Stay is directly across from the lock. There will be 8-10 slips on a space available basis, but unfortunately no shore power. Regular slips have 8 ft. depth and the fuel dock has a depth of 10Ft. Once there, you are welcomed to use all facilities including the general store, showers, bathrooms, beach, etc. Exceptions are overnight accommodations, and purchasing alcoholic beverages and cigarettes. If you need the latter, I can purchase for you.

Merle & I are planning to boat up. We welcome all to join us especially those with boats that need to have the Strawberry Landing (6.5 ft closed vertical clearance) and possibly the Moncks corner (13 ft closed vertical clearance) rail road bridges opened. Staging location is to be determined. It's about fifty miles up the river from Charleston and should take about 2.5-3 hrs, meaning we will need to leave early. I have spoken with the bridge operator who tells me we need to call the day before to make arrangements; Moncks Corner phone 843-899-7647, Strawberry Landing phone 843-761-1572. I will do this for our flotilla. The bridges are operated from 7AM to 3:30PM daily. Getting through the lock is on demand. The lock operates from 7AM to 7PM daily. The phone # is (843-761-1572).

Merle and I and some of our family (Greg, Carla and Matthew (he's five) are planning to stay overnight at short stay because of the bridge hours of operation. If you can make the clearance, the bridges pose no problem. The lock will not operate in high winds (15-20 mph). All bridges and the lock are operational and the river will remain opened at the weapons station.

This will be a picnic style program at a covered pavilion in front of the boat slips. The sandy beach (with lifeguard) is just across the street or you may chose to go fishing if you like. So, bring the family for a fun day.

Please!!! I need a head count to plan the day and make arrangements for your boating needs. Call me at 843-849-9467 soonest. Let me know if you plan to drive, trailer your boat, boat up the river independently or join our flotilla. Leave a message if I am not there or give the information to Merle including your phone #. Or you can send me an e-mail at adclark1@bellsouth.net. Burgers/dogs will be served form 12 noon to, say, 3PM. Beer and wine will be available, and sodas will be provided. Cost will be \$7.50 per person. Contact me if you have any further questions.

Short Stay website: www.shortstay.nwschs.navy.mil

-Art

BOATSMART SCHEDULE

For Updated Information See
<http://www.usps.org/localusps/cps/>

Date	Subject	Instructor
02-May-06	Rules Of the Road	Steve Kromer
09-May-06	Getting Started	David Walsh
16-May-06	Reading Charts	Steve Kromer
23-May-06	What's Required	David Walsh
30-May-06	Rules Of the Road	Steve Kromer
05-Jun-06	Getting Started	David Walsh
12-Jun-06	Reading Charts	Steve Kromer
19-Jun-06	What's Required	David Walsh
26-Jun-06	Rules Of the Road	Steve Kromer

Vessel Safety Checks for the Great American Loop Cruising Association (AGLCA)

The week of 9th to 14th of April, Charleston Power Squadron members participated in and accomplished vessel safety check for the AGLCA in Beaufort South Carolina for their spring rendezvous. Charleston's Vessel Examiners were invited to join with members of the Great Loop organization to instill safe boating tips. VSC's Lt/C Steve Kromer and Lt/C Bob Gulbrandsen examined over 20 cruiser and trawler type vessel and met with AGLCA members to discuss boating safety. The American Great Loop Cruisers' Association is an association of boaters who have cruised or dream of cruising any or all of America's Great Loop. The purpose of the organization is to provide information to boaters who are interested in cruising America's eastern waterways. The American Great Loop is the continuous waterway that circumnavigates the eastern portion of North America. Along the Atlantic seaboard, across the Great Lakes, through the inland rivers, and around the Gulf of Mexico. It is sometimes referred to as the Great Circle Route. The six day rendezvous was an exciting adventure for everyone involved, from the seminars to the fellowship dinners each evening. Boaters sharing boating adventures, it doesn't come much better than that.

The Charleston Power Squadron
VSC Chairman Bob Gulbrandsen



Who's Boat?

Send your pictures and a story about your boat to
JKemerer@comcast.net.

The Palmetto Log
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Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

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MEET THE DEADLINE for May
19 May 2006

Ray Harp
Cruising Activities
Phone: 843-881-2284

Upcoming Events For May and June

- 4 May – EXCOM Meeting – Headquarters – 1830
- 11 May – Member Meeting – Gilligan’s Mt. Pleasant – 1830
- 20-21 May – Short Stay Cruise – Picnic – Stars at noon
- 1 June – EXCOM Meeting – Headquarters – 1830
- 8 June – Member Meeting – Location TBD – 1830
- 23-25 June – Cruise – Georgetown Landing Marina

SAFE BOATING THROUGH EDUCATION