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MEETINGS

Executive Committee -1st Thursday @ 1830

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**SAFE BOATING THROUGH
EDUCATION**

From the Commander Cdr David Walsh, AP



A few days before the change of watch in November, I went to the Charleston Power Squadron headquarters building in the late evening to get a PowerPoint projector. District 26 Commander Archie Trawick had indicated that he needed a projector for his keynote speech at our change of watch. When I arrived, the building was dark, empty and silent. This was an unusual experience for me, since I was used to headquarters being filled with activity, members attending meetings and students taking squadron classes. As I entered the darkened building I turned on the lights and proceeded forward. As I entered the hallway, I was compelled to stop in front of the wall that displays photos of past commanders. Here I was, the next commander standing there just looking at the photos of past commanders who seemed to be looking back at me and saying "Well David, it's your turn - what are you going to do in 2007?" I will try to answer that question and describe the squadron's plans for 2007.

As the next Commander, I am fortunate to follow a great Commander, Past Commander Janice Kromer who made substantial progress in 2006. Progress was made in membership recruiting, member involvement in squadron activities, educational programs, finance and community involvement. In 2006 the squadron "turned the corner in membership, with 34 new and transfer members added to Charleston's roster. This was a reversal of a declining membership trend for the past five years. Much of the success in recruiting new members was due to the effort of Past Squadron Educational Officer, Steve Kromer, who offered weekly BoatSmart classes year round.

Having cited substantial progress in 2006, we now must look forward to 2007. This year, most of the Bridge Officers are newer members and they have many new ideas for on-the-water activities, squadron

programs and cruising venues. Here is a brief introduction to the new bridge and a summary of plans for the coming year.

Art Clark is the new Executive Officer. Art served on last year's bridge, is a retired US Navy officer and an instructor in the Squadron's Engine Maintenance Class. New member Dick Howells is the Administrative Officer for the coming year. Dick comes to us experienced as a business executive, serves as squadron parliamentarian and has experience operating nonprofit organizations. Jim Bass is the new Squadron Secretary. Jim is a retired engineer who teaches Piloting and is an enthusiastic boater and Cooperative Charting Captain. This year's Treasurer is Chuck Altschul. This is Chuck's third year as Squadron Treasurer. The Squadron's Educational Officer is Chet Rogers. Chet served as last year's Assistant Educational Officer and is a retired university professor.

Two years ago, The Charleston Power Squadron developed a strategic plan. One of the first tasks of the new bridge will be to review and update this strategic plan. Our focus for Squadron Year 2007 will be to build progress made in 2006 and add some new initiatives. Increased membership involvement will be a major effort throughout the year. Past Commander Janice Kromer leads the membership involvement effort and plans to improve communications and emphasize the squadron's Mentor Program in the coming year.

Membership recruiting will continue as a major effort for 2007. Wendy Walsh will continue as Membership Chairman. She will provide membership information, support new member recruiting and current member renewals. Our goal will be to increase membership in 2007. Squadron Public Relations Officer Gary Whitley will also support member recruiting efforts. Gary is a retired marketing executive and is well qualified to lead the squadron's publicity effort. Gary intends to fully utilize the US Power Squadrons' PR programs and materials. This includes applying for advertising grants and partnering with local boating organizations in events such as the National Safe Boating Week. In addition to media ads, the squad-

ron will emphasize the Visitor Program. In this program, a squadron representative visits local boat dealers, marinas and retailers. He provides literature regarding squadron programs such as Vessel Safety Checks, the BoatSmart course and other squadron events. Art Clark will lead the Visitor Program. The Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program will be led by Harl Porter.

The Cruise Chairman for 2007 is new member BJ Smith who is planning cruise venues that appeal to a wide variety of members. BJ plans to have a cruising schedule that includes day and weekend cruises, and a cruise to the District 26 meeting in Beaufort, SC in June 2007 and a cruise to the USPS Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FL in February 2007. This provides an excellent opportunity for Charleston members to participate in district and national USPS meetings and cruises.

The squadron's emphasis on Cooperative Charting will continue in 2007. This year's Cooperative Charting Chairman is Steve Kromer who plans to conduct depth surveys of the Intracoastal Waterway and the North Edisto and Folly Rivers. Steve is also completing the implementation of the DepthWhiz, USPS's depth survey reporting program.

What are we going to do in 2007? I can safely say that the answer is "plenty" and we have an excellent bridge of officers and team of enthusiastic committee members who are ready, willing and able to do "plenty."

David Walsh
Commander

Welcome New Member, Willie Gamble

Willie joined the Charleston Power Squadron after he completed our Boat Smart course this fall. A native of South Carolina, Willie located to Charleston in 1986. Willie got to know Charleston when he was stationed at the Navy Shipyard. After his stint in the Army, he became the owner of Berkeley Locksmith, which still keeps him very busy. Willie began boating in high school and now owns a Century 2400 walkaround. Already an active Cooperative Charting participant, Willie hopes to spend more time on the water with his fellow squadron members.

Janice

Change of Watch

The Charleston Power Squadron had an evening to remember - its 2006 Change Of Watch. Festivities started at 1700 at the Storm Point Center at the Naval Weapons Station. The Room was beautifully decorated with floral arrangements provided by Merle Clark. The Change of Watch ceremony followed an excellent dinner. Dancing and socializing went on until 2130. The event was well attended by 55 members and guests. Here are some photos of this memorable event.



Immediate Past Commander Janice Kromer gives her parting address at the Change of Watch



Art Clark Chet Rogers and David Walsh receiving the Squadron's Boner Award for going aground while on a Cooperative Charting Cruise



Past Squadron and District Commander Ken Beeber and Muriel Beeber. Ken received the Fred Taylor Award for his many contributions to the Squadron's Educational program



Jackie and BJ Smith. BJ is this year's Chairman of the Squadron's Cruising Committee



Keynote Speaker District 26 Commander Archie Trawick and Sherry Trawick. Archie gave the Change of Watch Keynote Speech

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

Squadron Change of Watch Meeting Friday 3 November 2006

The meeting was called to order at 1907 hours by Cdr Janice Kromer at Storm Point Center, Naval Weapon Station. A Quorum was established. An Invocation was given by P/C William Lynes followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States. Cdr Janice Kromer welcomed members and guest. Lt/C David Walsh introduced our honored guests:

- District 26 D/C Archie Trawick District Commander and his wife Sherry
- District 26 D/Lt/C Eric Pearson, District Education Officer and his wife Barbara

Past Commanders that were present were recognized.

Per Cdr Janice Kromer, John Meyer, who had been elected as Administrative Officer for 2007, at the annual meeting in October 2006, resigned the position because of his increased professional work load. As a result Lt/C David Walsh nominated Richard Howells to the open position. The nomination was seconded by Lt/C Art Clark. Richard Howells was elected by a unanimous vote.

AWARDS: The following awards were presented:

Lt Wendy Walsh	Wallace C. Till memorial award
P/D/C Kenneth Beeber	Fred Taylor award
Steve Poe	Spark Plug award
P/C Fred & Joyce Wichmann	Bronze Propeller Award
Lt/C David Walsh,	Boner award
Lt/C Art Clark,	Boner award
Lt Chet Rogers	Boner award
Lt/C David Walsh	Educational award
Terry Melloy	Fred Wichmann award – for best Yarn
1 st Lt Joan King	Commanders award for being most helpful
Jim Bass	Student of the Year

Change of Watch

D/C Archie Trawick relieved Cdr Janice Kromer of her successful Command.

D/C Archie Trawick administered oath of office newly elected Cdr David Walsh.

Cdr David Walsh call the remaining newly elected Bridge Officers and the spouses to report to the podium.

District Education Officer D/Lt/C Eric Pearson administered oath of office to the remaining newly elected Bridge Officers.

The new Bridge officers for Charleston Power Squadron for 2006/2007 are:

Commander	David E. Walsh, AP
Executive Officer	Arthur D. Clark, P
Education Officer	Chester Rogers, P
Administrative Officer	Richard Howells
Secretary	James K. Bass, AP
Treasurer	Charles Altschul, P

Cdr David Walsh presented P/C Janice Kromer with gifts in appreciation of her outstanding leadership during the past year as Commander of the Charleston Power Squadron.

Commanders Address

Cdr David Walsh began his address thanking P/C Janice Kromer for a very successful 2006. He reviewed last years performance citing record membership growth for the year and the trend for growth on the rise. Some of the special activities for last year included the Holiday Parade of Boats, Cooperative Charting, Boat Shows, 11 Cruises, and a full complement of Boating Education Courses.. Plans for 2007, are to continue implementing our strategic plan emphasizing membership recruiting and membership involvement in our many activities. Activities for 2007 include the 2006 Holiday Parade of Boats, Boat Shows, Cooperative Charting, Cruises, Boating Education.

The official meeting then completed all were invited to enjoy the rest of the evenings entertainment.

Lt/C James K. Bass
Secretary

Administrative Officer Lt/C Dick Howells

It is great to be following in Art Clark's footsteps. He did a great job for the Squadron last year and I look forward to working with him and David Walsh this year. It is exciting to be a part of such an energetic group that does so much for boating in Charleston.

We have some great committees this year that are working diligently to provide us with great cruises and programs.

B.J. Smith has already lined up things for us this year following the guidelines of our Commander, David Walsh. Everything he is doing is designed to get more participation from members. Gary Whitley and Wendy Walsh along with his Cruise Captains assist BJ. The first "Cruise" is to the Water's Edge on 20 January. Ray Harp is the Captain for this and his information appears elsewhere in the "Log". After that we have the cruise to Cape Romain Lighthouse on 23 February. More information will follow on that. Once the entire schedule is finalized we will publish it so that everyone can plan ahead.

Dr. Stan Whitman is the chairman of the Program Committee. Joe Eisinger, Diane Williams, Maritza and Nick Pastis, Angela Wright, Steve Ireland and Ed Arrington assist him. I have met with the committee and can tell you the problem is trying to choose from so many good ideas. Here is what is on tap for the next two months.

At the 11 January 2007 meeting at Headquarters, Dr. Fred Holland will speak on "The Future of Our Coast". Dr. Holland is the Director of the Hollings Marine Laboratory, NOAA, located here in Charleston. He has over 25 years of technical and management experience in ecological and environmental services. His current research focuses on defining the linkages between land use in coastal watersheds and the quality of the marine environment.

On 8 February 2007 our meeting will also be at Headquarters. Our speaker will be John Sikes, P/C. He will do a Power-Point presentation on the US Coast Guard's "Rescue 21 Communications System". John has been a member of the Charleston Power Squadron since 1983 and was Squadron commander in 1987. He has also been a member of the USCG Auxiliary since 1993 where he served as Flotilla Commander, 1995-1996.

Remember, these meetings at Headquarters start at 18:30 with Cocktails followed by a brief meeting and a potluck dinner. (Be kind to our bartender; that's my wife Anne.)

Fortunately, our immediate Past Commander; Janice Kromer has agreed to serve as Chair of the membership involvement committee. Janice will continue with her articles on new members and John VanWay will assist her on the membership-calling group. If you are new to the organization and want to assist in any way, please contact Janice. I was always taught that the strength of an organization lies in the willingness of its members to volunteer. So please help out. From personal experience I can tell you this is a fun group.

-Dick

Boat Show

The "Biggest Boat Show & Sale" in the Lowcountry will be January 26 - 28 at the North Charleston Area Convention Complex. We will have a booth to pass out information and talk to attendees about boating safety. This is an important event for us to sign-up individuals and families for our Boat Smart program. And, we are going to need volunteers to man the booth during the three days of show. The show starts at noon on Friday 26 Jan., and ends Sunday at six. We will have a sign-up sheet at our next meetings, so please plan ahead and give us a few hours during these days to promote our organization and boating safety. It is also a fun event to see all the new boats.

Jim Easley

Welcome New Member, Steve Brostoff & Melissa White

Steve Brostoff & Melissa White are our newest graduates from Boat Smart. Eager to participate in our cruises, Steve has already been out on the water with Dave Walsh and Steve Poe. Melissa & Steve recently moved into their new house on Wadmalaw Island, and they're the proud owners of a Sea Hunt 186 – and a very long walkway to their dock on Bohicket Creek. Steve is originally from Boston and Melissa is a native of North Carolina. They spent several years in Charleston before they moved to California. But the Low Country had its effect, and they eventually made their way back to the Charleston area. Steve consults in the bio technical industry and Melissa is enjoying her retirement.

Janice

2006 Parade of Boats

December 2 was an enchanted night for this year's Christmas Parade of Boats. The stars were bright, and the ring around the moon was a truly special effect. The boats that participated seemed to be decorated more spectacularly than ever and everyone's spirits were high. Very special thanks to all of our members who helped make the parade a success. Tony & Boo Ward led the parade, while Nick Russo and Bob & Helen Kovach manned the command boat. David and Wendy Walsh hosted our judges on a 70' foot sailboat docked at the Charleston Harbor Marina. Nelson Hicks, Jim Davis, Jim Easley, Ray Harp and Terry Melloy provided workboats to keep the paraders safe. Members Art & Merle Clark, Jerry & Jenny Reves and Joyce & Fred Wichmann entered decorated boats and probably had the most fun! Cindy & Ed Kridler, Karen & Stan Whitman, John Van Way & Donna Fleming, Jim & Peggy Bass, Steve Poe, Willie Gamble and Ken Beeber were invaluable as crew for both the workboats and the parade entrees. As promised, everyone who helped received a special Christmas Parade of Boats baseball cap. If you missed the parade this year, mark your calendars now for Saturday, December 31 2007!

Luncheon Cruise to Shem Creek

Start the New Year off right and come out to Water's Edge Restaurant Saturday January 20th for lunch and a gathering of friends.

The restaurant is located on Shem Creek in Mt Pleasant, SC. You can come by boat or car. Lunch is planned for 1200 hours.

The food selection will be a choice from 4 entrees.

Water's Edge restaurant is located on Shem Creek with a view of a working fishing village. The Charleston Power Squadron has reserved a private dining room. It will seat about 50 people. Water's Edge restaurant offers free docking for the restaurant guests. Don't worry if the dock is full, just raft up with another squadron boat at the dock.

Directions to Shem Creek by Boat:

Follow the well marked Mount Pleasant Channel northwest from ICW's flashing daybeacon #130 to the mouth of Shem Creek. Water's Edge will be on your port side about ½ mile up the creek.

Directions to Shem Creek by car:

From Charleston, take US Highway 17 North across the beautiful Ravenel Bridge to Mount Pleasant, turning on to Coleman Blvd. Turn right on Shrimp Boat Lane before crossing the Shem Creek Bridge. The address is 1407 Shrimp Boat Lane, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464.

The restaurant phone number is 884-4074.

Reservations: Contact Ray Harp (843) 881-2284 by Wednesday the 17th of January.

**Educational Officer
Lt/C Chet Rogers, P**

The Squadron plans to offer four courses this winter. Marine Electronics, chaired by Harl Porter, will be taught on Tuesday evenings. Advanced Piloting, taught by Jim Hackett and Cruise Planning, taught by Fred Wichmann, will be taught on Wednesday evenings. Seamanship, tentatively chaired by Chet Rogers, is tentatively scheduled for Monday evenings. Additional information will be sent out on CPS Google Groups. Classes will meet at Headquarters at 1830 and will begin the week of January 22. We will hold a “meet the teachers night” on January 15 at 1830 for students to pick up course materials, meet instructors, and generally get all of the paper work out of the way.

BOATSMART SCHEDULE

Date	Subject	Instructor
05-Dec-2006	Rules Of The Road	Steve Kromer
12-Dec-2006	Getting Started	David Walsh
19-Dec-2006	Reading Charts	Steve Kromer
26-Dec-2006	No Class Christmas Holiday	
02-Jan-2007	No Class New Year Holiday	
09-Jan-2007	What's Required	David Walsh
16-Jan-2007	Rules Of The Road	Steve Kromer
23-Jan-2007	Getting Started	David Walsh
30-Jan-2007	Reading Charts	Steve Kromer

-Chet

Welcome New Member, Jim Williams

Jim Williams graduated from our Boat Smart class in November and immediately signed up to become a member of the Charleston Power Squadron. Although Jim doesn't own a boat, he's very familiar with the boating world. For the past two years he's been the Office Manager/Account at the City Boatyard, which is affiliated with the City Marina. Jim currently lives in North Charleston, and we hope he'll become a regular visit to West Ashley to attend our meetings.

Janice



Safety Officer

P/C John Sikes, AP

Why Boats Catch Fire

One problem with a fire aboard a boat is that unlike a house where running across the street to escape the flames is an option, on a boat there's no place to go but overboard. Unfortunately, this violates the second rule of boating: Stay with the boat. Ironically, if enough of what the boat is floating on can be brought into the boat, the fire can usually be put out. This, however, violates the first law of boating: Keep the water outside the boat. Obviously, stopping fires from getting started in the first place is the best defense. Fortunately, the best source for learning how to prevent fires is right here at Seaworthy—our Marine Insurance claim files. The files contain hundreds of fire-related claims which Seaworthy editors have spent many hours analyzing. Here's a rundown:

Causes of Fires Started Aboard

- 1) AC and DC wiring/appliance 55%
- 2) Engine/Transmission Overheat 24%
- 3) Fuel Leak 8%
- 4) Miscellaneous 7%
- 5) Unknown 5%
- 6) Stove 1%

For details on any of the above, links are provided on the BoatUS web site at

<http://www.boatus.com/seaworthy/fire/default.asp>

From *Seaworthy*, BoatUS' Marine Insurance Magazine



Squadron Flea Market was a Great Success

If you happened to drive past the West Marine Parking lot at 2049 Savannah Highway on Saturday 28 October, you would have noticed the Charleston Power Squadron's table at a flea market. Squadron members assembled an impressive array of boating and no-so-boating items for sale at this fundraising event. First, let me say that thanks to our wonderful donors, volunteers, and the people at West Marine who made this a very successful fundraising event for the squadron. Special thanks go to squadron members Mike King and Tracy Harler who work at West Marine and alerted us of the flea market. Mike even paid the fee for our market space.

We really had a good time manning the booth, socializing, handing out squadron literature, selling and some of us even bought some stuff, as well. Major donors were Fred Wichmann who gave us an inflatable boat, Martin Gipe who contributed a sextant and other navigation items, David Walsh brought an outboard motor, Art Clark brought a dog kennel and other valuables and Ed Arrington contributed a Bimini boat top. Steve Poe, Marge Bannon, Jim and Peggy Bass, Art Clark, Ed Arrington and Wendy Walsh helped man the booth. In all, we made some money for the squadron and had a great time. Our total for the sales netted \$833.00 for the Charleston Power Squadron. We had such a good time that the Flea Market Team wants to do this again next year. So, save your stuff for next year's Squadron Flea Market Sale.



Left to right Jim and Peggy Bass Wendy Walsh and Art Clark at the Squadron's Flea Market Table

Driveway Repaired at Squadron Headquarters

You probably noticed recently that the back of the squadron's driveway have been breaking up. This was due to a combination of tree roots and erosion from heavy rains. The housing committee, after consulting with squadron member Terry Melloy who knows about such things, decided to take out the damaged section of concrete and replace it with gravel. On Thursday 26 October squadron member BJ Smith arrived with a truck load of jack hammers and an amazing array of other tools. Wendy and David Walsh also showed up to help. As you can see from the photos, the job went well and the squadron's driveway is once again ship shape. Thanks BJ, Wendy and David for a job well done.



Driveway repair in progress
Member BJ Smith breaking concrete with his jack hammer



Job finished. David Walsh and BJ Smith take a break after spreading the gravel



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Shipmates Wanted!

The squadron will be continuing the shipmate program this year, and we're recruiting some fresh faces to help our newer members feel welcome. The shipmates answer questions, offer invitations to our events, and provide boating advice when needed. If you'd like to help the squadron in the shipmate program, please call me at 768-1861 or email to jkromer@telecomdb.com. The shipment program is a great way to make friends and provide a valuable service at the same time.

John Van Way will again be heading up the telephone calling committee, so expect to hear from your fellow members with friendly reminders of our cruises and meeting. I'll be chairing the Member Involvement Committee for 2006, so if you have any suggestions on how our squadron can be responsive to your boating and social needs, please just let me know. I'm always open to new ideas!

P/C Janice Kromer

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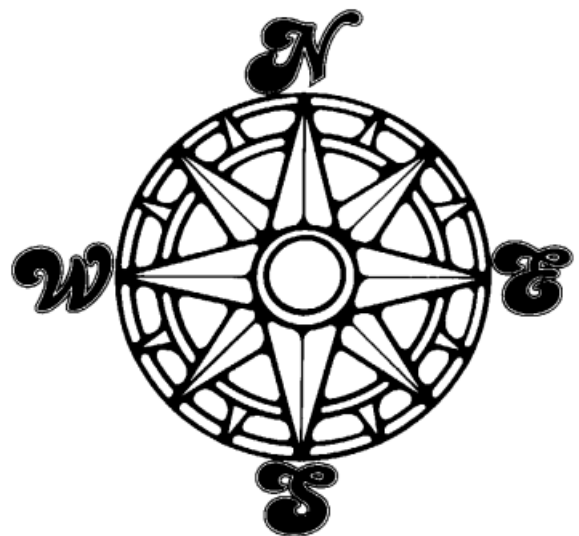
Annual Holiday Party 14 December 2006 at 1830 Squadron Headquarters

The Squadron's Annual Holiday Party will be Thursday 14 December 2006 at Squadron Headquarters, starting at 1830. This year we are planning a festive event complete with a wide array of heavy hors d'oeuvres. Food and soft drinks, punch and non-alcoholic beverages will be furnished. Beer, wine and other drinks will be available at an honor bar (donations only).

The party starts at 1830 with a social hour. The cost is \$15 per person. We will again have our famous Chinese Gift Exchange; so, bring a wrapped gift worth around \$10. The more novel your gift the more fun we will have exchanging gifts. When you arrive with your gift, you will be given a number that is used for selecting a gift from the gift table or trading a gift with another person. The limit for trading is three trades per gift.

Come Join the Fun!

Please call or e-mail Wendy Walsh by 8 December so she can plan the food for this party. Contact: Wendy Walsh, 556-3258 or e-mail wals6563@bellsouth.net.



Minutes of the Charleston Power Squadron Executive Committee Meeting 2 November 2006

The meeting was called to order by Cdr Janice Kromer at 1830.

Asst. Sec 1st Lt Joan King reported that a quorum was present.

An invocation was offered by PD/Cdr Ed Kridler, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

The minutes for the September and October executive Committee Meeting and the Annual Meeting held in October will be approved after they appear in the Palmetto Log (the December Executive meeting).

Executive-Lt/C David Walsh reported that the squadron made \$177.00 at the flea market and there are some items still to be sold.

The Cooper River Yacht Club has asked to use our headquarters building for their monthly meetings. They have also asked to use the building for their Christmas party on December 9. The consensus was that the Christmas party was approved. Lt/C Art Clark (incoming executive officer) will get more information for the committee.

The CPS Christmas party will be December 14 at Headquarters. The meal will be catered, and there will be a Chinese Auction.

Education-Lt/C Steve Kromer reported that "It is in the "LOG""

Administrative-Lt/C Art Clark reported that the Change of Watch plans are looking good. 56 people have made reservations.

Two of our members have the highest number of Merit Marks in D-26. P/C Fred Wickman has 43 and P/C Ken Beeber has 42. They will both be recognized at Change of Watch.

Secretary-Assistant Sec. 1st Lt Joan King had no report.

Treasurer-Lt/C Chuck Altschul was absent-no report.

Commander-Cdr Janice Kromer reported the CPS received the Bow Sprit award at the D-26 meeting. Increasing membership was our prime goal for 2006, we had a 2.88% increase in membership for the year. Special recognition goes to Lt/C Steve Kromer and Bob Kovack. Each brought in 10 new members. Jack Meyer resigned as Administrative Officer for 2007. There will be a special election at the beginning of the Change of Watch to approve Dick Howell for this position. This special election has been approved by D-26.

Committee Reports:

Housing- Lt Wendy Walsh reported that the drive way has been fixed. Many other little jobs need to be done when the committee has time.

Audit, Nominating, Rules and Planning Committees-No report.

Unfinished Business-Lt Steve Kromer reported that the Parade of Boats plans are going well. He is working on Press and TV coverage.

New Business-Cdr Janice Kromer turned the meeting over to incoming Cdr David Walsh. There being no new business the meeting was adjourned at 1855.

Submitted by
1st Lt Joan King,
Assistant Secretary

The Palmetto Log
Jerry Kemerer, Editor
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Upcoming Events For December and January

14 December - Christmas Party, Headquarters - 1830
11 January - Member Meeting, Headquarters - 1830
20 January - Luncheon Cruise, Shem Creek - 1200
8 February - Member Meeting, Headquarters - 1830

SAFE BOATING THROUGH EDUCATION