

THE PALMETTO LOG

Charleston Power Squadron

Sail and Power Boating

A Unit of District 26

United States Power Squadrons



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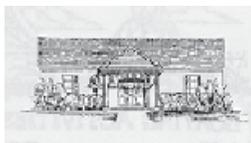
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Safe Boating Through
Education

From The Commander Cdr Dick Howells, JN



Spring is here after a slow start, so get on the water. I was trying to think of an approach to doing this article each month and decided I would try to do a general overview of what is going on with the Squadron and where I think we are headed.

Economic times are hard and everyone is cutting back on spending. That may cause a reduction in our members renewing this year. I understand. However, we offer one of the best bargains going in the recreational boating arena. The United States Power Squadrons have the best educational program of any organization. We have a consistent social program with cruises and meetings. You could not find a nicer and more social bunch of boaters anywhere. So when you get your renewal notices please give us your consideration as you are deciding what you can afford to spend.

The new 'America's Boating Classes' are very successful. So much so that they are putting a strain on our available instructors and staff. That's OK. We can cope with growing pains. If you would like to help, call Chet Rogers, SEO. We need more certified instructors, on the water captains and safety officers. I attend every class and serve beverages and snacks to the students and instructors. This gives me a chance to talk with the students. I'm finding that the instructors are great recruiters for the Squadron because they are good at what they teach and they talk up our other courses.

This interest has led to many students in Seamanship who are new members. Others I have talked to want to join to take Marine Electronics, Piloting and Engine Maintenance. That's great!

To a degree, we are trying to break out of our paradigms. If it works and the members like it, why not do it? If it attracts new students who will be good members, why not do it? If it furthers safe boating, why not do it?

If you are a member, talking about the Charleston Sail and Power Squadron is important to spreading the word, why not do it? Just maybe we can *stop being the best kept secret in boating!* Why not?

In case you missed it, Gene Corbett is our new member of the Executive Committee to replace Eric Namowicz. Congratulations to Gene; now he has to attend 2 meetings a month while Eric is sailing for a living. Hey Gene, are we doing something wrong here?

Hope to see you on the water.

Dick



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Larry Dorminy Administrative Officer

When I was invited to be Administrative Officer, I asked what the duties are. After a hesitation Cmdr. Howells replied: "Whatever needs to be done". Now that I've been in this position for several weeks, I am amazed at exactly how much Angie was doing as "Admin"! Her efficiency sets a high standard, and I hope you will bear with me as I learn the ropes.

MARCH SIGHTINGS:

March has been a busy month. Our dinner meeting on the 12th featured an excellent program on the Spirit of South Carolina and the upcoming Tall Ship Harbor Fest in June. Speakers Georgia Nettles and Sarah Piwinski of the Maritime Foundation painted a clear picture of how important the Harbor Fest is to Charleston and how important it is that we become involved as volunteers for Harbor Fest. (Please check out all the links to Harbor Fest on our website, especially, those related to volunteering.) In honor of Harbor Fest and the Tall Ships, Helen prepared a delicious "ship-board" meal of fork-cutting-tender brisket and cabbage.

Held in honor of John Hornick who, at his death, bequeathed a fund to ensure an annual party for the membership, this year's Hornick Cruise was held on the 14th at Rivers Edge Marina on the Ashley River. Despite an overcast, chilly day, we had a good turn-out, actually a few more than last year when the weather was warmer! A big Thank You to James Rowe and his crew for a delicious cookout of hamburgers, hotdogs, chili and all the fixin's. Of course, the member contributed side dishes were excellent, topped by Betsy Porter's famous German chocolate cake. BJ Smith and Gary Whitley were seen fighting over the first piece and the last few crumbs.

However, the highlight of the cruise was the christening and launching of Gary and Margaret Whitley's new boat, *Miss Grace*. After all, how often do we get to witness

the launching of a boat which the owners have helped design and build? Complete with a prayer and appropriate nautical toasts with champagne, *Miss Grace* slid gracefully into the water to oohs, aahs and applause. Gary and Margaret are justifiably proud, and it is an occasion we will long remember.

(See photos of the launch party and *Miss Grace* at our website.)

P/C Harl Porter, VSC Chair, reports that five Charleston Sail and Power Squadron Vessel Examiners did thirteen Vessel Safety Checks on Saturday 14 March at Rivers Edge Marina / Country Farm Landing. The weather was cold, all wore coats and some wore gloves; therefore, there were few boats at the public boat landing. .

Five member boats were checked, and all member boats passed their VSC and were awarded the Blue 2009 VSC Decal. Most interesting VSC was on Gary Whitley's new boat, *Miss Grace*. After lunch it was formally christened by Gary Whitley and Cmdr. Dick Howells. The boat builder was present for the christening.

Two members of Charleston Sail and Power Squadron were re-certified as Vessel Examiners for 2009. Vessel Examiners present were: Judy Fauss, Mike Fauss, Dick Howells, Terry Melloy, Harl Porter, David Walsh, and Stan Whitman.

APRIL SIGHTINGS:

April brings the long awaited BBQ Ribs Cook-Off between Dick Howells and James Rowe on the 9th. Three expert judges from local restaurants will be our guests and will critique both chefs' ribs and then choose a winner. After all the suspense and hoopla, we will get to eat the "evidence"! You will not want to miss this event! Get your reservations in early and be there!!

Also, the side dishes and desserts for the April Cook-Off will be "bring your favorite dish to share" – baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, German chocolate cake (hint, hint), etc. Since Helen will need to know what you plan to bring, have your choice made when you make your reservation. **Because of the cost of the ribs, reserva-**

tions for the Cook-Off are especially important! Please make a reservation! Walk-ins will be almost impossible to accommodate for this meal. Contact me at ldorminy@gmail.com or 610-996-4510 for your reservation and your side-dish.

April will also see the arrival of the Lake Hartwell Squadron Adopt-a-Chart cruise. At this writing they have eight boats arriving at the Maritime Center on Friday the 24th. We are invited to come up to Lake Hartwell by water or by trailering to join them for the run down the Cooper River. (See their Float Plan below.) They are especially interested in having us join them for a joint cruise on Saturday afternoon, and they are asking us to suggest destinations. Whether you plan to involve your boat or not, a welcoming committee on the dock on Friday afternoon would be super. Let's greet them in style! 1600 April 24, Maritime Center.

Lake Hartwell Float Plan

Friday, 24 April

- 1100 Arrive diversion canal and launch boats.
- 1200 Head across lake to lock. Rendezvous with CPS either at diversion canal or bottom of lock depending on whether you tow to diversion canal or come up by water Friday morning.
- 1300 Head down Cooper River.
- 1600 Arrive at Maritime Center.
- 1700 Cocktails on the dock
- 1900 Go to dinner.

Saturday, 25 April

- 1000 LHSPS Adopt-a-Chart work on Wando.
- 1300 Lunch at Shem Creek.
- 1400 Mini-Cruise with CPS???? Ideas???
- 1700 Cocktails on the dock
- 1900 Go to dinner.

Sunday, 26 April

- 0900 Head back up the Cooper River.

For more information see their website: www.lakehartwell.org

Larry

Secretary
Lt/C Wendy Walsh, JN



Notice to Charleston Power Squadron Members
Bylaws of the Charleston Power Squadron

Our Bylaws have been approved by the Rules Committee of The United States Power Squadrons. Our squadron amended our bylaws at the 2008 annual meeting in October. We changed our name to make it more accurately reflect who we are – both sail and power boaters. You can find our bylaws on the USPS website www.usps.org. Click on Site Index on the top of the page. Then scroll down and click on Rules. Find Squadron Bylaws. Our squadron is in District 26. We will now be known as:

Charleston Power Squadron, Inc.
Doing Business as Charleston Sail and Power Squadron

We will use the name *Charleston Sail and Power Squadron* to publicize our organization, but we still accept checks made out to *Charleston Power Squadron* or *CPS*. Our Google Group name will remain the same, Charleston-PoweSquadron@googlegroups.com.

Wendy

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Aquatic Nuisance Species

We all are aware of Zebra Mussels that were brought into the Great Lakes in water used as ballast in freighters coming from South America. These critters are slowly making their way from the Great Lakes down the rivers toward the Gulf of Mexico.

A “new” aquatic nuisance species has made its debut in the Northeast. The species *Didymosphenia geminata* is invading that area. Commonly known as “rock snot” due to its appearance, it is an algae that is making its way into New England and causing problems in the waterways.

The algae has already established itself in the western U.S. as far north as Alaska. It is a problem because when it blooms it forms thick, ugly, yellow-green masses (hence the nickname) that can choke a waterway and smother food sources for the local fish and insects. It attaches itself to rocks and to other plants.

The algae is now found nearly worldwide and is causing problems everywhere. In some areas where it has been found for years, without being invasive, it is now causing a problem. It is as though some of the growth has exploded tremendously. Some scientists suggest that this is a “super-mutation.” This new development was first noted in Vancouver, British Columbia in the 1980s in the Canadian rivers there. These earlier preferred areas, in rivers with cold water and gravel bottoms, seem to have expanded. The algae is now found in areas such as the warmer rivers in the U.S. where it was not thought to grow. This new variety continues to spread and cause problems.

Outside the U.S. and Canada this algae is a problem in other areas of the world. It is such a problem in New Zealand that everyone who knowingly spreads it faces up to five years in prison and a fine of \$100,000.

There are several things that can be done to prevent the spread of this nuisance species. Fishermen can clean their boats and gear, using disinfectants. This is especially true for any wells or areas where water can collect. If any clumps are present, they must be removed. Boats should be allowed to dry completely for at least 48 hours (and

cleaned) before being used in a different waterway or lake. The cleaning solution can be a weak (2%) bleach solution in hot water.

John Sikes,
Safety Officer



Rock Snot

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Upcoming Squadron Cruises

24 April 2009 – 26 April 2009: Joint Cruise hosted by Lake Hartwell

New Members

Mark, Tristan and William Robinson

Please welcome the entire Robinson family to the Charleston Sail and Power Squadron. Mark, Tristan and their son, 13 month-old William, joined the squadron after taking our ABC Course. Now in the Seamanship class, Mark is adamant about learning all he can about boating to keep his family safe. The Robinsons recently bought a Boston Whaler 230 Dauntless and named her “Norma Jean & Joy”, after their deceased mothers. She’s currently kept in dry stack on Shem Creek. Mark and Tristan moved to Mt. Pleasant about three years ago from Greensboro, NC. Tristan works in the Administrative Offices of the Charleston County School District, and Mark is a very proud stay at home Dad, spending his days getting to know William. Mark and Tristan hope to be both educational and social members of our squadron, and you can recognize them on cruises by sighting young William in his life jacket.

Leland and Lynn Landesberg

Leland Landesberg is a new member who just finished our ABC Course. The proud owner of a 20’ Scout Leland is in the midst of taking Seamanship. He won’t be comfortable out on the waters until he masters GPS and other important elements that the course offers. A former resident of Hackettstown, NJ, Leland and his wife Lynn moved to Hollywood in June of ’08. Lynn is a retired Special Education teacher, and Leland is semi-retired. He previously owned an audio/visual electronics company in Chester, NJ, and he stays active now with importing parts and running franchises. Leland is also interested in golf and tennis. He’s fairly expert in that sport, having played tennis in college and for the army. Leland sounds like a very busy guy, and now he’s added the Charleston Sail and Power Squadron to his list of interests.

America’s Boating Class On-The-Water

A new public boating course “America’s Boating Course” is being offered by the Charleston Sail and Power Squadron. This new course consists of 4 lectures covering the basics of boating, an optional lecture on electronic navigation, plus on-the-water practice. Here is a brief report of our first on-the-water boating practice event.

The session was held on Sunday 15 March at the Cooper River Marina aboard *Celebration*, a Catalina Sail Boat owned by boating student Jerry Koeble. Jerry is a retired US Navy Navigator who maintains his boat in excellent condition. This boat easily passed our Vessel Safety Check (VSC). Mike Fauss and David Walsh served as Instructor and Safety Officer, respectively. Eight students were aboard for this event. Mike started the session with safety instruction for all. Mike made sure that everyone was fitted with a PFD, knew the locations of safety equipment and instructed on how to respond in the event of an emergency.

The plan for the day was to practice sailing in Charleston Harbor. That plan soon changed, however. There was fog in the harbor and almost no wind. So, instructor and crew decided to practice motoring in the Cooper River and docking at the marina. Each student took a turn at motoring forward and backing the boat. Docking practice started by making slow approaches to the Cooper River’s long face dock. Later practice proceeded to docking at one of the marina’s slips. The most challenging docking technique involved backing the boat into a slip. Only Instructor Mike Fauss was able to accomplish this maneuver. Here are photos taken aboard *Celebration* during our first America’s Boating Course on-the-water session.

On-the-Water Boating Course Pictures



Students aboard *Celebration* for on-the-water training



Boating student Brook Casey at the helm of *Celebration*



Instructor Mike Fauss and boat owner Jerry Koebel

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17 APRIL 2009



James Rowe
Cruising Activities
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Upcoming Events

09 April - Howells vs Rowe BBQ Challenge and Cook Off
Headquarters 1800
24 April - Joint Cruise Hosted by Lake Hartwell

BOATING IS FUN...WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW