



THE BREEZE/LITE

GREENSBORO POWER SQUADRON

A Unit of United States Power Squadrons®

District 27

America's Boating Club

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The BREEZE is the official publication of the Greensboro Power Squadron, a unit of District 27 of the United States Power Squadrons®, published eleven times a year. Membership meetings are held on the second Monday of each month beginning at 1930 at the First Lutheran Church, 3600 W. Friendly Avenue. Opinions expressed in the BREEZE do not necessarily represent those of the Greensboro Power Squadron or USPS.



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Calendar of Events

March

7 Boating Course Starts

9-11 D-27 COW Charlotte, NC

12 Membership Meeting

17 Ex-com Meeting

APRIL

9 Membership Meeting

16 Ex-com Meeting

28 Belews Cruise

May

18-20 Cooperative Charting Weekend

March Birthdays

3	Hackett	J. Michael	12	Mitchell	Ava B.
4	Hutson	Philip A.	16	Cooper	Craig A.
5	Bulla	R. Keith	22	Hackett	Carolyn E.
8	Canter	Clyde T.	25	Hamlin Jr.	William T.
	Chandler	Fabious James	28	Freeze	Patricia
	Stokes	R. Michael C.	29	Haggerty Jr.	Richard C.

Patrons of the Breeze

Bob & Bev Armfield.....*September Song*
 Keith & Kendra Bulla.....*Whisper*
 Stewart & Betty Colson
 Chuck & Ann Freeman*Bluebird*
 Mack & Vinnie Gordy.....*Taterbug*
 Mike & Carolyn Hackett.....*Islander*
 Tom & Mary Hamlin
 Mike & Sharon Hicks.....*Elixir*
 Clint & Jackie Jackson.....*Blueline*
 Wayne & Zaida Newkirk.....*Invictus*

Chuck & Connie Kammeyer.....*Frayed Knot*
 John Lore.....*Sea Robin II*
 Woods & Julia McGinn.....*Blue Moon*
 Jerry Newton.....*Petey*
 Steve & Chris Puckett.....*Too-Tents*
 Tom & Jo-Anne Statham*Allegra*
 Mike & Geraldine Stokes.....*Dad's Toy III*
 Frances & Jim Ward.....*Sea Star II*
 Alec & Kathy Wrenn.....*Carolina Wrenn*

“Thank You” From *The Breeze*

The above individuals made contributions in support of our newsletter this year.

On behalf of Greensboro Power Squadron, we thank the following Sponsors:

Thanks to your support and that of our many Patrons of *The Breeze*, we have had an outstanding publication this year, and we encourage your continued support. If you would like to become a Sponsor or Patron of *The Breeze*, contact Lt/C Charles W. Freeman, AP 336-288-8180



From the Commander
Tom Hamlin, AP



Executive Officer
Lt/C Mike Hackett, P



I have just returned from Jacksonville, Florida (Feb 22-24) for USPS 93rd Annual Meeting. This was my first National Meeting and I wanted to share with you some of the news and events I experienced.

One of the most encouraging news was our National Treasurers Report. The last few years have been crisis ones for us as membership has been dropping and overhead expenses have been increasing. Our own Steve Puckett is on the National Finance Committee and worked hard with others to look for areas to control expenses. Although our financial crisis is not over, operating expenses were cut \$315,864 and we actually ended the fiscal year with a positive \$58,355. I could sense a very positive concern and attitude from our National Bridge for our financial prognosis and need to continue to monitor overhead.

The only controversial issue that came up for a vote was the recommendation that squadrons would have the option of waiving educational requirements for membership. There was time for discussion and passionate pleas from both sides. After final voting, the measure carried by a 2/3 majority vote. Our ex com and membership had previously voted not to support this recommendation and I cast your vote accordingly. The passage of this motion does not change our local squadron – we will still continue to require certain education requirements for new members even though the executive committee could waive the requirement. Although no change for us, many squadrons across the country needing this additional tool to help them grow their membership. There were no requests for new squadron starts, but 7 squadrons have dissolved in the last year.

Membership news continues to be disappointing. Across the country, we have averaged a 17% drop in membership. Our squadron has averaged a 7% drop in membership and most alarming from my review of statistics, a high percentage of that is new members who have joined in the last 2 years who chose not to renew their membership. We, as a squadron, have a lot to offer to the boating public in the form of education, service work for boating community, and fraternal opportunities. We must do a better job of welcoming and involving newer members.

Lastly, one of the greatest benefits for me as your commander was the opportunity to visit with squadron members from across the country to talk about their success and failures as a squadron. I hope I have picked up some valuable information and hints to grow and improve our squadron.

A big “thank you” and congratulations to Bill Young, Boat Show Chairman, and all the members who gave their time and talents putting the Squadron out in front of the boating public. The booth looked great and we had many people stop and talk with our members about the boating safety course and the Greensboro Power Squadron organization.

It is getting so close to boating season I can almost hear the engine trying to start and see the flat tires on the trailers. Now is the time to start getting your boat ready for the season and there is nothing more important than checking all the safety items and the USCG equipment requirements for recreational vessels. Woods McGinn will be leading our Vessel Safety Check program this year and he has told me that he wants to inspect every boat in the Squadron. Please help Woods achieve his goal. Give him a call to arrange a time.

In May we'll be in Morehead City for our annual Co-Op Charting weekend. John Lore is arranging as many hotel rooms as we can secure for Friday and Saturday night. The good news is that there will be plenty of activities available during the weekend. The bad news is that it will also be the weekend of the 150th anniversary of the founding of Morehead City!!! I suggest when John gives us the info on the Hotels, that you make your reservations immediately. Larry Freeze will be putting together the charting part of the weekend and he will need to know who will have a boat available and how many passengers they can accommodate. Please keep the dates in mind and make plans early.

Our June event will be Kid's Day at the Lake and Jim and Cheryl Humphries have already starting the planning process. The date is Thursday June 14th and we will need boats for this event as well. This is part of our community outreach and we need as many of our members involved as possible

Our District 27 annual meeting, to be held in Charlotte this March will see our own Mack Gordy, installed as District Commander. Mack will need the support of all of us, and I know he will appreciate hearing from the Greensboro Squadron with offers to help along the way.

Think I'll go work on my boat soon. If you would like to be more involved with the Squadron, please call or e-mail me. Still need a Blood Drive Chairperson!!!



Educational Officer
Lt/C Bill Davis, JN



Administrative Officer
Lt/C John Oberholtzer,



The current N class appreciated your prayers for us at the February general meeting. The closed book test was February 17 with the following 15 days to complete the open book part. Then the sight folders need to be turned in to complete the trial by fire. The seamanship class took their test February 20 and I will be reporting the results later.

Carolyn will send out a mass e-mail to the membership periodically to ascertain interest in advanced and elective courses. You probably got the first by now. I need students to make a class as instructors have told me they detest teaching to an empty room. I know it can be difficult to keep up with all the activities our power squadron offers. If it weren't for Julie I wouldn't have a clue as what's going on. I suffer from farmer mentality, i.e. I shoe the horses, she pays the bills.

I particularly want to encourage you to sign up for an elective course that would be of interest to you. There are some courses I would like to take if we can come up with 5 interested members.

Carol and Hardy have the spring boating course organized, and it is amazing to me how many people discover us through the internet. Talk it up at your work and with your associates. I collared two last year myself. And as they say "come on down". It's like a church reunion at the classes on Wednesdays with all the visiting going on. Support the squadron by proctoring, grading, and meeting the students, our future members and friends. One last item. We are on a crusade to inventory the GPS stuff. It's been a few years and having been thrust into the "you need to do this status", Phil Andrews or I may be coming to see you. Hide the family jewels and fess up to ownership of official Greensboro Power Squadron stuff when we come calling.

The speaker at the March membership meeting will be Cameron Ingram from the North Carolina Wildlife Division. He will speak on changes in the boating and fishing laws and some other topics that members have contacted me and requested that he cover. This should be quite informative and of value to all of us.

There are two upcoming events that we need to make our plans to attend, the Belews Lake Cruise and the Co-Op Charting event. Thanks to chairmen Dave Schultz the Belews Cruise will have another interesting and challenging contest that will not only test out navigation and GPS skills, but will be a whole lot of fun as well. Let's make this a great start to another active year; sign up early and encourage everyone to attend. We need all the boats we can get so hook up your trailer and bring your boat for a day of challenge and pleasure. There will be lots of room for those who are boatless; so don't be shy about attending.

The second event on our cruise schedule is the Co-Op Charting cruise, which will be held from Friday May 18th through Sunday the 20th at Morehead City. That week, from the 12th through the 19th, is Morehead City's 150th Anniversary celebration. There will be a lot of events, concerts, and other celebrations so hotel and motel space will be at a premium. Co-Chairs, John Lore and Larry Freeze have been hard at work on finding blocks of rooms and group restaurant facilities for our use. There will be lots to see and do; the wives may want to take in the quilt show, which is one of the largest in the Carolinas. Co-Op Charting is one of the G.P.S.'s oldest traditions and serves a valuable service to the entire boating community. Plan to bring your boat and your GPS. Please sign up and make your reservations early. You don't want to miss the fun, fellowship and service that this event provides. Again, you don't need your own boat. We all need help to ensure that we can accomplish the charting.

BREEZE ADVISORIES



This section is to provide information to GPS members. **POST UPCOMING EVENTS HERE.** If you have a boating related item for sale, list it here. If you are looking for a partner to charter a boat, post it here. If you run across a new marina or restaurant on the coast that you think others might enjoy, let us know. Contact Tom 852-8411 or if possible TSTAT@AOL.COM



**MORE PICTURES
MYRTLE BEACH
2006**



You can become a sponsor or patron of the Breeze to help off-set the cost of the newsletter. Contact Lt/C Chuck Freeman, JN for more information.

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