



THE BREEZE

GREENSBORO POWER SQUADRON

Boating is Fun...We'll Show You How!

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, but they might.



**AP Cruise
24-26 April
You
Should
Have Been
Here !**

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Calendar of Events

May

2 Belew's Cruise

9 One Day Boating Course

**11 Membership Meeting
Lutheran Church
(Winery tour cancelled)**

15-17 Coop Charting-Oriental

June

8 Membership Meeting

20 GPS 25th Anniversary Party

25 Kids Day at the Lake

May Birthdays

3 Janine King	21 B. Wayne Newkirk
Paul D. Shelor	23 Eric C. Eakes
4 Gaither C. Frye Jr.	24 Paula Elliott
11 Rebecca L. Howe	Suzanne Chabon
17 Philip C. Deaton	26 W. Hardy Spence
19 Wayne Southern	30 Kevin D. Andrew
Jerry B. Chance	

Squadron Patrons

Chuck & Ann Freeman*Bluebird*
 Mack & Vinnie Gordy.....*Optional Necessity*
 Mike & Carolyn Hackett.....*Hattitude*
 John Lore.....*Sea Robin II*
 Wayne & Zaida Newkirk.....*Invictus*
 Jerry Newton.....*Petey*

John & Sally Oberholtzer.....*Sally O*
 Ron & Anna Pittman.....*Anna Bee*
 Betty Potter
 Jim & Frances Ward.....*Sea Star II*
 Larry & Madge Williams.....*C'est La Vie*
 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,

a special thanks to **Carolina Marina at Belews Lake** for their continued support.

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 Squadron, contact Lt/C Ken Fonville, JN 336-540-0610



From the Commander John Oberholtzer, AP



Executive Officer Lt/C Woods McGinn, AP



I'm going to steal SEO P/D/C Mack Gordy's thunder with this article but I'm excited and I want to share my excitement

I can't express how pleased I am with the success of the one day ABC Course we taught at Carolina Marina in April. After a rather disappointing turnout of 4 students for the four night version of the class in February to have 41 students arrives bright and early Saturday morning (they started showing up at 0715) was a thrill. The ability to reach out to the mailing list of Carolina Marinas 820 names was the key to our success. The calls started coming in for the course the day after the post cards were mailed. The students are required to come by, pick up the course materials and pay in full prior to the course. Once they have paid they show up. We actually sold over 50 courses but some are coming to the May 9th course.

The great pleasure of the day was the passing rate. When the students picked up their course materials they were told to read the book and to pay particular attention to the homework questions. The correct answers are in the book so if they do the work they should be well prepared. Every one of the 41 students passed the exam. This is also a tribute to the quality of the instruction and to the hard work and preparation of the instructors. My thanks to all who provided so much help, it's appreciated.

The May 9th One Day course is being held at Grandpa's Marina on North O'Henry Blvd., just above Cone Blvd. Grandpa's Marina volunteered their mailing list and added the mailing list of a friend who is an Allstate Insurance agent. Grandpa's also offered to pay for and supply the tables and chairs and to provide the beverages and the lunches. My thanks to the Past Commanders for putting the stamps on the 930 cards (actually a spy told me that Chris Puckett did most of the work). The day after this batch of cards mailed out, the calls started coming in. I'm writing this in advance of the class so I don't know the final numbers but I'm confident that we will have a similar rate of return and another class of 40 or more.

We are convinced that the ability to direct mail to a highly qualified list of boaters will lead to continuing success and holding the classes at the marinas is an additional draw. We will be contacting other marinas and boat suppliers to keep the program in high gear. It's a win-win situation for both Greensboro Power Squadron and for the marinas. We are providing the marinas' clients a significant added value service.

We're working to expand our success beyond just the ABC Course and offer additional courses to our members and to the general public with the co-operation of the marinas. If and when Senate Bill #43, mandating boater education, passes the North Carolina legislature we'll know how to reach out to boaters to provide the required education.

We can all be proud we're fulfilling our mission statement:
Boating is Fun – We'll Show You How – Safely!

Check your calendar. The Greensboro Power Squadron has scheduled our annual Cooperative Charting service project to coincide with National Safe Boating Week: May 16–22, 2009. I hope you've made your reservations and plan to join us in Oriental for this fantastic weekend. I want to give advance thanks to Chairman Dan Kelly and our social hosts, Burton & June Kennedy, for resurrecting was has historically been a high-light event for our squadron. Watch for Dan's final announcements and event details at our May meeting.

In conjunction with the Coop Charting event we will again be offering Vessel Safety Checks. I hope you've realized by now that we will be offering VSCs at every squadron boating event. It's a sure bet that you'll be able to find at least one vessel examiner at every event. GPS presently has five VEs: Philip Andrew, Mack Gordy, Woods McGinn, Stephen Puckett and David Schultz. Please make certain you get your boat inspected at your next outing. If you'd like to make a VSC appointment contact Safety Officer David Schultz or any one of our VEs.

I'd like to issue a challenge to our members. I want you to get your boats inspected this year. If you own multiple boats should get every one inspected. If you have an old fishing skiff, a PWC, a canoe, or a kayak... get them all inspected. If you'd like to preview the VSC requirements on the internet it is really easy. Go to the GPS website, click on the button labeled "Vessel Safety Check" and then click on the pointer marked "Vessel Safety Check Requirements". Tell your friends and neighbors about this website – they can also use it.

USPS keeps statistics on VSCs at the local, district and national level. Nationwide our VEs averaged 16 inspections in 2008. USPS inspected 34,131 vessels and 86% of those passed inspection. Now that doesn't necessarily mean 14% of the boats on our waterway are unsafe. Almost every failed situation is remedied. When a boat fails an inspection, resolves the deficiencies and is ultimately re-inspected, every inspection is counted.

If you have an old, neglected boat in the back yard you should get it inspected. That may just be the impetus you need to get it back on the water again, or in to the hands of some one who will. And USPS and GPS will include yours in the statistics of Carolina boaters. Get involved!

Awards, Recognition and New Members



Grant & Judy Dawson's, "Real Man-atee" experience





Educational Officer
P/D/C Mack Gordy, AP



Administrative Officer
Lt/C Mike Hicks, P



Our guest columnist's this month are Grant and Judy Dawson, reflecting on their **"Real Manatee"** experience.

We have heard that the mermaids seen by sailors, may have actually been manatee. This would be the optimum case of imagination over reality.

Manatees are a mammal with a face that only a mother could love; however, they are very gentle and seem to enjoy interaction with humans. Their personality allows us to safely swim with them even though the adults are generally 10-12 feet and weigh 1500-1800 lbs, and calves are 60-70 lbs. and 3-4 ft. at birth.

Each winter, Grant organizes a group trip for a long week-end to Crystal River, FL to snorkel with the manatee and other snorkeling or diving in the warm FL springs.

This past January the air temp was only 31° at 6:15 am when we boarded the pontoon boat to look for manatee and yes, go swimming with them. We just kept telling ourselves that it was only 9° in NC and we were really lucky to be in sunny FL. We actually did have a mid-day temp of 65°.

The 72° water from the springs brings us and the manatee to this area of FL to keep warm. While we would really enjoy warm weather, we also know that the colder the weather, the more manatees come to the springs for us to enjoy – so we actually hope for cool weather.

No matter how often we have made this trip, it is always a thrill to slip into the water and snorkel around until we see the large flat tail, wrinkled snout, or have one come up for air behind you and blow in your ear. Manatee can stay under water as long as 20 min. but generally come up for air about every 5 minutes, unless they are sleeping.

Hopefully you have enjoyed or will enjoy this thrill but if not, please be aware of these gentle creatures. Unfortunately for the manatee, the leading cause of death is by boat strikes. Propellers and hulls can inflict mortal wounds. When boating where manatee live, slow down, stay in the marked channels, stay out of sea grasses where they feed, and watch for the "swirling" that occurs when a manatee surfaces for air. The good news is that since they became an endangered species, their population has almost doubled to approximately 3800 in FL.

Grant & Judy Dawson

I hope everyone is having a super spring so far. With all the rain, the lakes seem to be staying full, and the surrounding trees have been just beautiful.

I understand the Cape Fear River Cruise was a tremendous success. According to Chairman Larry Freeze, there were four boats and a total of twenty-one participants and one young grandmother who stayed ashore to be spoiled by her grandchild. On Friday evening, sailors gathered at Mack and Vinnie's condo club house for food and grog. Larry gave a do's and don'ts Aids to Navigation presentation about the Cape Fear River. The following morning boats cast off around 0930 in the Snow's Cut area for a day of piloting practice and fun. From the retelling of it and the fact that it was reported all captains carried current charts aboard their vessels and deployed excellent piloting skills, I believe much enjoyment was had and no Fouled Up Compass candidates emerged for consideration. I want to extend a special thanks to all boat owners for their participation and the use of their vessels, and to all home owners who graciously offered accommodations and hospitality to participating Greensboro Power Squadron members and their families making this a truly successful event. It is our hope that we can do this again next year.

Our next event is Belews Cruise being held 2 May. This event is chaired by Gene Elzinga and David Shultz. Boats should be in the water by 0900 at Carolina Marina. Gene and Dave will test our GPS skills. I know this will be a lot of fun. Remember to have a GPS that will go to the fifth decimal. It looks like there will be a big turn out for this event and I hope we have great weather and to see you all on the water.

Just around the corner is the Hummer in the Summer. This event will be chaired by Debbie Stevenson and held 13 July. Please start thinking about items you can donate for the silent auction. As with the other events, more information and a sign up sheet will be forthcoming at the monthly meetings.

Also in July will be The Blueberry Picking. This will event will be chaired by Dan Chance and held 25 July. So mark this date on your calendar and watch for the sign up sheet.

To all our new members, I encourage you to get involved in some of the planned events and especially the educational classes that are offered by the Greensboro Power Squadron. This is a wonderful way to get acquainted with the general membership and to learn how the Squadron operates and functions.

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

As you may know, the United States Power Squadrons membership consists of boating families who wish to contribute to their communities by learning and promoting safe boating through education and fellowship. We do this through on and off water activities such as cruises, navigation contests, classes, parties, dinners, picnics, field trips, and other programs. The Greensboro Power Squadron is always interested in increasing its membership. By means of encouragement, we would like to offer a modest incentive to existing members to become actively involved in recruitment. Any member who brings in the most new members by 30 November 2009 will be presented with a \$75.00 gift certificate to Bistro Sophia, which is a great little restaurant with super food and intimate atmosphere located in Guilford College. "New members" are defined as one accepted application with dues per family.

**Don't forget to order/pick-up our wonderful
2009 GPS Calendar as well as our 2009 Roster
Call John Oberholtzer for follow-up. 665-9141**

"Cooks Night Off"

Please join us at the K & W at Friendly shopping Center each Monday between 6:00 – 6:30 P.M. for dinner and conversation before the Monthly Squadron Meeting. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Look for familiar faces in the eastern front corner of the dining area. This is a terrific way to get to know your fellow squadron members on a more up-close and personal level. Lots of laughs, great conversation, and no one has to cook!!

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

2003 Grady White 282 Sailfish, 28' with cabin. Twin Yamaha 225 Four Stroke Engines with only 200 hours. Lots of extras. \$82,000. Call Pat Wright 336-317-0219 or e-mail wrightpbjs@aol.com



Advanced Pilot Cruise Carolina Beach 24-26 April



Additional photos on digital version pages 9 & 10

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FIRST CLASS

Please deliver to:



September Song



WARNING: The following page (10) has depictions of adults behaving in a manner not consistent with GPS standards and principals. If images of adults acting inappropriately and "going wild" might offend you, DO NOT GO TO PAGE 10. Ed.

