CROSSED ANCHORS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WINSTON-SALEM SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON December 2012 Volume XXII No. 8

"A Marina Christmas" *

Twas the night before Christmas and all along the coast
The sea fog rolled in like a holiday ghost,
Spooner, the dock dog, asleep near our heads,
While most boat owners were home snug in their beds.
The TV weatherman predicts cold weather is near,
As the next Christmas of the East Coast soon will be here.
The boats were in their slips, both large and small,
No mass confusion here, like in a holiday mall.
Sounds in the boatyard were limited in number,
No dock parties to rouse the skipper from his slumber.
The splash of the otters, gleefully jumping,
The gurgle of bilge-pumps, occasionally pumping,
As the boats converse, without dialing of cell phones.
They talk to each other in quiet murmurs and moans,
And to old special friends, who call the marina their home….

and to all
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year.

***adapted from the poem," A Marina Christmas" written by Mike Holmes**

Don't forget the 2013 WSSPS Change of Watch –Feb 2, 2013 @ Pinebrook Country Club. RSVP is required by Jan. 26. More details in the January Newsletter.

WSSPS 2012 Christmas Party

At "The District"

More Christmas pictures
next month……...

From the Helm

Cdr. Debbie Mayfield, S

As 2012 comes to an end, it is amazing how many great times were had by all in the Winston-Salem Sail and Power Squadron. We have had some great socials hosted by our members. The Pig Pickin' done by John Tatum, the rendezvous at the coast held by the Shaping's, a cruise on the Catawba Queen at Lake Norman, the commander's picnic hosted by Beckie and Wayne Creekmore, the Wine Tour hosted by Tom and Cathy Loveless, and the WSSPS Christmas Party. And then there are the cruises planned by our cruise director, Don Breault. Many thanks goes out to Bill Davis, our admin officer. in assisting with the planning of these events but also for our monthly meeting programs. It addition, boating classes were taught to the public and several classes offered to our members this year. In addition we had Vessel Exams performed by several of our members.

Merit Marks were submitted for our squadron and many members earned their merit marks this year for their outstanding work for the squadron.

District training is on January 5, 2012 and it would be great if not only our newly elected officers would attend but also other members to learn how our organization works and what support is available at the District 27 level. There are many amazing individuals that support the work of the USPS at not only the Squadron level but also at the District and National Levels. We have several WSSPS members that work at the National and District levels.

Be sure and put the WSSPS Change of Watch on your calendar for February 2, 2012, As always, it will be a wonderful event. Reid London is the chair and could always use some extra hands setting up and cleaning up. Please let him know if you are willing to help.

If there is anything I can do for you, please don't hesitate to contact me. My contact information is in this newsletter.

NEWS ALERT

Eddie Shinlever has agreed to serve as the 2013 WSSPS Executive Officer. We will have an election for this position for our squadron at the Change of Watch on Feb 2, 2013.

Education Officer

P/C Dawn Gaskill, AP

Your new Education department for the coming year has some exciting plans. They will be posting online courses for you to sign up and take. If you need help signing up online please call me. You can still send an email and we will preregister you online.

Courses in the works:

Sail
Weather
Seamanship
Engine Maintenance or Marine Electronics
Piloting and/or Advance Piloting
Instructor Development

If you want something else please email or call Lt Kin Cartrette or P/C Wayne Creekmore or me. Looking forward to an exciting year and watch out for the classes scheduled in future newsletters.

Squadron Contacts

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P/C Wayne Creekmore, JN	creek2k@yahoo.com (336) 859-3773
P/C Dawn Gaskill, AP	dawnatg@aol.com (336) 785-0996
Lt/C Kathi Vestal, S	kbvestal@triad.rr.com (336) 368-5046

Feel free to contact any of the above officers if you have questions.
All club meetings are open to the public.

Administrative Officer

Lt/C Bill Davis, SN

Are any of you starting to feel old? USPS is starting to turn 100 years old, District 27 will be 50 years old next year, and the Winston-Salem Sail and Power Squadron is older than the district. As Lewis Grizzard said "Elvis Is Dead and I Don't Feel So Well Myself".

It is the end of the year and I am ready for the Christmas party. Since I first wrote this article before the party I hope to catch the newsletter editors before publication with this revised edition. Mucho thanks to Don Breault for being Groucho Marx and reading "Twas the Night Before Christmas". Thanks to Sheila for the nice table decorations. Thanks to Reid for setting up the PA system and Debbie for her pirate's Christmas story. And yes we will forgo the Pecan Encrusted Chicken Breast if we go back next year.

Also, being the end of the year, we have completed all the events my administrative duties called for and at this point I have no clue what we will be doing next year. Besides the usual general meeting programs I hope to come up with some more, shall we say unique events. Perhaps in some small way, tangentially related, by some stretch of the imagination related to boating. In that vein I would welcome ideas from the membership. I have a few left over from last year. My e-mail is wld122@aol.com for those with an unbridled urge to make a suggestion or tell me off, whichever comes first.

I am as guilty as probably everyone else but during those long cold winter nights, between basketball games, go to the USPS website. Forget the solicitation to join. You are likely already a member if you are reading this. You can hit the Home button if you like but the good stuff is under the Site Index tab. That will keep you busy for hours reading all the stuff about USPS and about boating.

Now, if I may get into someone else's sandbox, I would suggest that all take the weather course that I heard will be offered next year. We have weather on dry land as well as on the water. I have found it a very useful course to have under my belt. It can be a bit of a challenge to complete the course. Like weathermen used to show on TV in the old days you need to learn what a cold front, a warm front, a high and a low look like. You learn how to determine which direction the pressure center is located. Naming the cloud levels is fun. You won't need a weather dog to send out again. You know, if he comes back in wet it's raining, if he doesn't come back at all, it's windy.

Also taking the GPS seminar and learning to use one is also very useful on dry land. Besides entering an address you have the option on a map of entering latitude and longitude coordinates. If you really want to have fun with your friends ask them for the Lat/Lon of the restaurant you are to meet them at 1830. You may get that dog in the Victrola look but it will be good for them to learn world geography is controlled by coordinates.

PHOTOS NEEDED

During the colder seasons, there is not as much nautical activities occurring; therefore, I am requesting your help. Would you please email (newsletter@wssps.org) any pictures of your boats, large or small? I would like to use them in the newsletter. Please include the owner, name of boat and where berthed. I would graciously appreciate any and all photos that you could send me for any of our other WSSPS activities also.

Thanks, Linda Brigadier, WSSPS Newsletter editor

Fish House Chronicles

By P/C Don Breault, AP

Defining Life by the Journey

If we can ever display our experiences and cross-reference them into an encyclopedia of moments we have never forgotten, or if we could somehow explain the why we do what we do in recreation, work, family, or just playing to have fun. We would try and define those experiences we have had and have yet to have. But what would we define them against? How can you explain to someone that may not understand your life-style that is so near and dear to your heart? That something you did last week on the water with your boat, or on the beach with friends and family, or back on the dock that created so much humor or embarrassment to yourself.

You define these experiences to someone by those journey's you take each weekend with your friends and family in someone's boat. A boat that can journey off to a near but far away place and take you off of those every day chores of working and or taking care of your mainland property. You can also gain unique experiences that are accustomed to those journeys. One of them is that ride to the beach of four plus hours. The other is the journey you may take to do some local volunteer work on a weekend that you are planning to stay ashore in Winston-Salem. Another journey you take is one that takes you into the experiences of someone else who may be discovering for the first time that major big boat purchase. Or a journey with someone who may be in need of comfort or assurance from a very scary event in their life.

One of the big journey's you get to take is one of making a new friend from an adversary, or a new person who has approached you for some advice you felt you were not qualified to give. Now that would be pretty cool if your advice was right on. How about that journey you take to some place you never planned to go but were asked to help escort someone who had fear of that destination. What about that journey you may be asked to help organize because you have great organization skills and some people are all thumbs when it comes to planning a trip.

Now how about that journey a small child in the first or second grade asked you to go on with them to discover new and exciting fish in an aquarium. Or that journey a loved one asked you to help with, when they have discovered a serious illness concerning themselves. Or the journeys you may have to lead others on, that are afraid of what they do not believe in. Or that journey you may take to help someone that is asking the wrong questions about their health care or financial strength in retirement. These are all questions and journeys we take in everyday life. I guess we can define our life by the journey we choose to take. Or in retrospect, life is defined by the journey.

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Because most journey's we take may not be preplanned at all, we tend to assume that we have made a pretty good plan based on what we see, feel and hear around us. But when things suddenly do not add up, we tend to go off on another unplanned journey to try and discover the "why" in that addition malfunction. Then we try and analyze the how come, and the other unknown facts of surprises life throws at you. It never takes a highly educated person to figure out that "why" when you realize that this journey may have never been planned by you but planned all along by someone else from a much higher authority. You have been a victim of another life experiencing journey. One you hope to remember so that those future journeys will not be as painful as the earlier ones were.

In essence, when you look upon the life long experience of owning and operating a boat, you can accumulate lots of sea stories that will make a small novel in defining life by the journey. But the most important journeys you take may not be boat related at all. The boat ones are those that we remember a lot of. The character of a true journeyman or journeywoman is the depth of those experiences we all had the opportunity to share with.

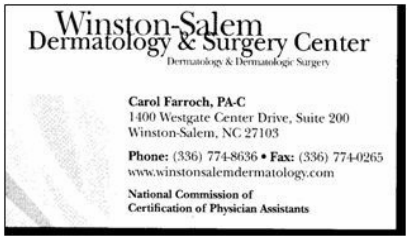
So define your life by the journey. You can't do it sitting at home watching someone else doing it. So get out and just do it. If someone is too shy to ask you for help, just volunteer to help them. This is how you create that journey. The water is not that cold, and it is never too deep in North Carolina.

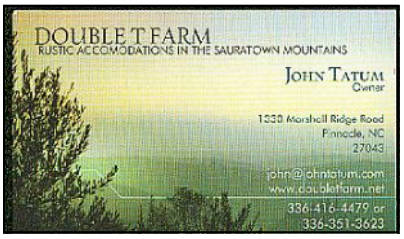
From the decks of "Liberty", our family wishes your family a happy holiday season and a very Merry Christmas. We all look forward to the New Year where we will introduce more "Tar Heel Tidewater" stories of what can, and will go wrong on the dock or at sea.
Remember to never park your boat where the birds are walking!!

God Bless You All,

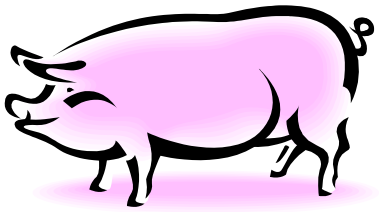
P/C Don Breault
"Liberty"

No response with answers to the questions in last months article about Felix were received; therefore, no correct answers to be given. Sorry.





December 22, 2012
1:00 pm til
Christmas BBQ
BYOB
@
John Tatum's



Directions: **52N to Pinnacle Exit. Left on old 51. Right on Hwy 268 at Shell Station. Go 7 miles to Rock House Road and turn Right on Rock House Rd. Left on Marshall Ridge.**

WSSPS Change of Watch
Pinebrook Country Club
February 2, 2013

RSVP Required
By January 26.

Watch for more information in the January Newsletter

Winston-Salem Sail & Power Squadron

Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT Date: 12/17/2012
December 22, 2012	Christmas BBQ. John Tatum's House, Pinnacle, NC
	2013
January 5, 2013	D-27 Winter Training Meeting. NC State Univ. Club, Raleigh, NC
January 13-20, 2013	USPS Annual Meeting. Hyatt Regency, Jacksonville, FL.
January 20, 2013	Operations Training, Davis House, Leon Corbett/WLD Instructors
February 2, 2013	WSSPS Annual C.O.W. Pinebrook C.C., Winston-Salem, NC
February 4. 2013	Executive Committee Meeting "Jim & Ginny Frazier House"
February 20. 2013	Monthly Meeting. Big Shotz Tavern, Clemmons. "TBA"
March 4, 2013	Executive Committee Meeting "Cathy & Tom Loveless House"
March 20, 2013	Monthly Meeting. Big Shotz Tavern, Clemmons. "TBA"
March 23, 2013	D27 C.O.W., Raleigh, NC. 50th Anniversary Celebration
April 1, 2013	Executive Committee Meeting "Breault"s Boston Bar & Grill"
April 17, 2013	Monthly Meeting. Big Shotz Tavern, Clemmons. "TBA"
May 6, 2013	Executive Committee Meeting. "Bill Davis' House"
May 15, 2013	Monthly Meeting. Big Shotz Tavern, Clemmons. "TBA"
June 3, 2013	Executive Committee Meeting. "Margie & George's House
June 19, 2013	Monthly Meeting. Big Shotz Tavern, Clemmons. "TBA"
August 5, 2013	Executive Committee Meeting "LTL"
August 8-11, 2013	D-27 & D-5 Joint Rendezvous, Cape Charles, Va.
August 21, 2013	Monthly Meeting. Big Shotz Tavern, Clemmons. "TBA"
September 18, 2013	Monthly Meeting. Big Shotz Tavern, Clemmons. "TBA"
October 7, 2013	Executive Committee Meeting. "George Ellis House"
October 16, 2013	Monthly Meeting. Big Shotz Tavern, Clemmons. "TBA"
November 4, 2013	Executive Committee Meeting "Breault"s Boston Bar & Grill"
November 20, 2013	Monthly Meeting. Big Shotz Tavern, Clemmons. "TBA"
December 2, 2013	Executive Committee Meeting "LTL"
December 14, 2013	WSSPS Annual Christmas Party "TBA"
	2014
January 4, 2014	D-27 Winter Training Meeting. NC State Univ. Club, Raleigh, NC

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A PUBLICATION OF

WINSTON-SALEM SAIL AND POWER

A PUBLICATION OF

DISTRICT 27

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons

WINSTON-SALEM SAIL & POWER SQUADRON
5135 Shattalon Dr., Winston Salem, NC 27106

Important Upcoming Events

22 Dec 2012	Christmas BBQ John Tatum's House, Pinnacle, NC
5 Jan	D-27 Winter Training Meeting. NC State Univ. Club, Raleigh, NC
20 Jan	Operations Training, Davis House, Leon Corbett/WLD Instructors
2 Feb	WSSPS Annual C.O.W. Pinebrook C.C., Winston-Salem, NC Social @ 6p. Meeting @7p
4 Feb	Executive Committee Meeting "Jim & Ginny Frazier House"

BRIDGE

Commander	Cdr Debbie Mayfield, S
Executive Officer	P/C Wayne Creekmore, JN
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Bill Davis, SN
Educational Officer	P/C Dawn Gaskill, AP
Secretary/Treasurer	Lt/C Kathi Vestal, S
Editor/Publisher	Linda Brigadier

Please deliver to: