

# SCUTTLEBUTT

February 2012

For news that can't wait!

## PAMLICO SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

A unit of United States Power Squadrons®




On the web at <http://pamlicosailandpowersquadron.org>




Pamlico Sail & Power Squadron will continue to support this important local youth program by providing an annual scholarship to a qualifying student in 2012.

### HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP AS WELL!

The Little Washington Sailing Club teaches seamanship and the fundamentals of sailing to youths of the Washington and Beaufort County area. Through classroom and on the water training, students (ages 10-18) learn basic boat handling skills, the parts of the boat, and rules of the road. Taught by a US Sailing certified instructor with the help of numerous volunteers, the program is designed to promote self-reliance, awareness of safety on the water, sportsmanship, team work, and respect for others and the environment. In 2011 the Sailing Club had a total of 79 students, of whom seven needful lucky beginning sailors received scholarships. To find out more about the Little Washington Sailing Club and its 2012 schedule, please visit the website [here](#).

-  **Sponsorship** - Foundation Sponsors provide backing for a Sailing Club boat and have their name posted on the boat and the website. You could also consider making an annual endowment;
-  **Volunteers** - The Sailing Club always welcomes volunteers to assist with teaching, boat maintenance, dock maintenance, fund raising, and other tasks;
-  **Education** - The Sailing Club is open to discussing a coordinated approach to teaching with PSPS.


There are a number of ways to help keep this fantastic program thriving:

If you have any questions or would like to help in any way, please contact Pat Kenefick; Little Washington Sailing Club; telephone (252) 923-0577 or email [pkenefick@embarqmail.com](mailto:pkenefick@embarqmail.com). 



# GPS Update

In the August 2011 issue of the *Sound of the Pamlico*, Jim Hackney wrote an article entitled "Is Marine GPS in Danger?" On 24 February, Margaret Podlich, President of BoatU.S., sent an email to members asking for further help. As you may remember, a private company, LightSquared, received preliminary FCC approval to offer a new cellular broadband service. Tests showed this service could significantly interfere with GPS signals.

Last week, further tests revealed that the LightSquared's network would interfere with GPS and that there are no practical fixes. As a result, the FCC has proposed to withdraw LightSquared's approval (<http://www.gps.gov/news/2012/02/lightsquared/>). The FCC has a new comment period (open to 1 March) asking for the public's opinion, and BoatU.S. is urging boaters to act. If you'd like to make a comment to the FCC, follow the instructions [here](#). 

## Pamlico-Tar River FOUNDATION



PTRF holds two annual river cleanups each year. The first occurs on 31 March in association with *National River Cleanup Week*.

The second is in October along with *North Carolina Big Sweep*. To date, PTRF volunteers have

removed more than 15,000 pounds of trash from the Tar-Pamlico River and creeks since 2006. The river cleanup is conducted throughout the entire watershed by the Pamlico-Tar River Foundation under the direction of the Riverkeeper, Heather Deck.

**When:** Saturday, 31 March, 0800 – 1200

**Where:** Washington, Greenville, Louisburg, Rocky Mount and Tarboro, NC




**Description:** River cleanup challenge along the Tar-Pamlico River.


### RIVERKEEPER CLEANUP CHALLENGE



The Challenge is to award the area that picks up the largest amount of trash. Washington has won before, let's do it again this year.

Volunteers are needed for the cleanup and you can assist in various ways:

-  Walk specific sections of the shoreline and pick up trash;
-  Paddlers with kayaks or canoes to gather trash at the shoreline not accessible from land;
-  Small boats such as whalers or skiffs to assist the paddlers.

If you are interested or want to learn more about the project, contact Heather Deck at 252-946-7211, extension #3, or email [riverkeeper@ptrf.org](mailto:riverkeeper@ptrf.org). 

### Some Important Dates for your Calendar!

#### March

- 7:** 1900 - [Weather Course](#) at the Lifestyle Fitness Center, Washington
- 15:** 1800 - [General Membership Meeting](#) at the Washington Yacht & Country Club
- 17 & 18:** [Shakedown Cruise to Bath](#), with lunch at Blackbeard's at 13:00 on the 18th
- 31:** 0900 - [How to Read a Chart Seminar](#), Lifestyles Fitness Center, Washington
- 31:** 0800 - Riverkeeper Cleanup Challenge

For more information, check the calendar at: <http://pamlicosailandpowersquadron.org/cal.html>. To sign up for a course, contact Educational Officer Lt/C Tom Graham, P [here](#).