



Scuttlebutt

Commanders Report Special Edition

January 2011

Our Squadron celebrated its Tenth Anniversary in March of 2010. As a mature Squadron of the United States Power Squadron, we faithfully carried out the goals and purpose of USPS - Community Service, Boating Safety Education, Continuing Education of Boating Skills and Fellowship.

A Strong Squadron

The Executive Committee conducted the affairs of the Pamlico Sail and Power Squadron in a businesslike manner, and our financial structure is sound. Financial reserves are adequate to weather prolonged periods of slow national economic growth. As a Squadron we rely on new members to invigorate the group with new contributions. In the past, our ranks have benefitted from a strong real estate market, as newly-relocated people often seek out new social contacts or look for sources of local knowledge and general boating know how. Although membership growth (and the real estate market) has stalled the past three years, we closed the year with 105 members, still one of the largest member squadrons of USPS.



Your elected officers and the rest of the organization chart carried out their duties and responsibilities with a high degree of dedication. Attendance at the ten Executive Com-

mittee meetings and one special Bridge meeting was nearly 100%. The secretary kept detailed minutes, which are available for member inspection at any time. The work of the Nominating Committee, as seen in their recommended slate of elected officials for 2011, assures the continued excellence of your squadron.

Education - A Priority

Education programs are often mentioned as the core of the Power Squadron. Public courses introduce the organization to the general boating public and in many cases are the driver of new memberships. The many valuable skills seminars and advanced training courses inspire current members to stay active. Thirty members of the Squadron are certified as instructors of USPS-approved courses. This coming year, the course offerings will be largest in the history of the squadron. A new mission statement for the Education Department assures the enthusiasm long into the future. New national programs, such as the Boat Owners Certification, will expand our reputation as the premier source for boating education.



On the local front it is a pleasure to note some trailblazing accomplishments. Scott and Inza Mackenzie have developed a seminar to de-mystify Maptech. The program was beta-tested to an overflowing classroom in early January. As a result, several small improvements are in the works. The Mackenzies will be offering the seminar to our brethren in District 27 and plan a national rollout by USPS. Also to be congratulated are Jim Hackney and our Communications group. Several *Sound of the Pamlico* and website articles have been picked up and reprinted in national publications.

Award Winning

Evidence of the health of our group are the awards collected over the past year. The newsletter, *Sound of the Pamlico (SOTP)*, and the squadron website were honored. We received the national "Doing it Right" award for membership retention and recruitment. Of particular note was participa-

tion in the cooperative software purchase program, which saved our members nearly \$11,500 off the suggested retail prices.

Community Service

On the community service front, our flag flew proudly. We supported the Little Washington Sailing Club with a scholarship for a needy student. Through articles and press releases, we alerted the public to various safety concerns and new state regulations. Fred Schroeder and his crew of certified inspectors conducted more than 130 boat inspections as Fred is concluding his ninth year as the leader of this dedicated



group. Once again, the squadron was involved with all aspects of the Christmas Flotilla on the Washington Waterfront. We are key to the success of the Flotilla because of our expertise in organizing the on-water phase of the event. *Toys for Tots* and The Salvation Army also benefit from the work and generosity of PSPS members.

Good Fellowship

On the social front, my personal favorite, the year was packed with great activities. The seven dinner meetings, which included the Change of Watch, the Tenth Anniversary Celebration and the Christmas Dinner-Dance, were all well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. We hold dinner meetings only in "odd number months". This year, to encourage more involvement, we instituted several off-month, low-cost special events that were very well attended. We had a good blend of informative speakers and member interaction at all our events.

The planned on-water events again took a beating, from hot, miserable temperatures for some events and rough weather storms for others. Continuing high fuel costs and general economic factors keep boating activities at historic low levels. The few successful events reinforced the value of the effort to plan events to keep members involved.



The district and the national organizations continue to provide valuable assistance. Representatives of PSPS supported and participated in Spring and Fall District 27 meeting and a Summer Cruise to Oriental. Our District Commander, Jamie McCurry and Administrative Office, Harold O'Briant, have honored us with visits to meetings.

Assuring Our Future

A last minute plug is in order for two critical fund raising efforts. Each year, among his many other projects for the squadron, P/C Bill Waite heads up the group seeking financial support in the form of advertisements in the SOTP. The annual revenue from his efforts averages over \$1,500 per year with nearly \$8,000 raised to date. Another project which provided great benefit to the squadron is the raffle that replenishes the Colwell Education Fund. P/Cs Larry and Joyce Colwell donate a week at a North Carolina mountain resort for the raffle. The goal is to raise at least \$1,000. The funds from both of these fund raisers are directed toward our educational and community services.

As I look forward to the Change of Watch, I feel a real sense of pride in having the opportunity to serve as your Commander for 2010. As I look over the list of past Commanders, I only hope that I pass the Pamlico Sail and Power Squadron over to my successor in as strong a position as it was handed to me by those who preceded me. Your nominees for leadership positions in 2011 assure the continued success, and indeed further strengthening, of the Pamlico Sail and Power Squadron.

Tom Miller, S
Commander, 2010.