



Afterdeck

NEWS



Volume 61
No. 9

of the **PALM BEACH SAIL & POWER SQUADRON, INC.**[®]

Located at LATITUDE 26° 47.8' N and LONGITUDE 80° 04.9' W
a unit of the United States Power Squadrons[®] • District 8

December
2005



Squadron Member Ken Wall, a former Squadron Commander and District Commander in New Jersey, had some memorable experiences as a flyer in World War II, but since then all his piloting has been on the water. He's profiled on Page 7.

This Month's Meeting
COMMANDER'S BALL
Monday 19 December
PGA MEMBERS CLUB

Here's the evening's schedule:

Hospitality 1800 (6 pm)
 Dinner 1900 (7 pm)
 Music 1900-2000

There will not be a formal meeting at this event and we will take this opportunity to honor our past commanders and celebrate the holiday season. Lt/C Gary Ferguson, AP has set up a gala evening of dining, dancing and socializing. Les Mack & SPECIAL EDITION, the trio, featuring Tommy Smith on trumpet, will provide dance music for the evening.

Menu

Caesar salad
 Petit filet mignon w/béarnaise
 or
 Breast of Chicken, sautéed and topped w/lobster bourbon sauce
 Roasted redskin potatoes, green beans amandine
 Holiday dessert, coffee
 (For fruit cup, please notify at the time of reservations)

Invitations have been sent to members. Please make reservations by returning RSVP card to Lt Roberta Stephens, P before 14 December.

Price: \$45 per person inclusive. Please make check payable to the Palm Beach Sail & Power Squadron.

Members who make reservations are responsible for paying the cost.

Bridge Uniform: Uniform A with bow tie.



Photo by Lt Jim Tedesco, P
Les Mack & Special Edition, featuring Tommy Smith on trumpet

Holiday Raft-Up
10 Dec. at Old Port

The Squadron's annual holiday raft-up and gift exchange will be held on Saturday, 10 December at Old Port Cove, starting about 1100 hrs.

Please bring your beverage, along with a covered dish and a dessert to share. If you would like to participate in the Pollyanna gift exchange, bring a small wrapped gift in the \$10 range.

Palm Beach Boat Parade is 3 Dec.

The Holiday Boat Parade of the Palm Beaches will be held on Saturday, 3 December, starting at Peanut Island. The boats will travel north on the Intra-coastal Waterway as far as Jonathans Landing. The parade is sponsored by the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County.

If you plan to enter, fly your PBSPS burgee. For information, call 845-9010. The Fort Lauderdale Winterfest Boat Parade will be Dec. 17.

Annual and Governing Board Meetings

By D/Lt (P/Stf/C) Rodney Landsman, AP

The Annual and Governing Board meetings schedule for 2005 - 2009 are listed below with room prices. The National Meetings Committee provided this schedule at the Fall 2005 Governing Board.

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>PerPerson</u>
Annual	2005	03-08 Jan	Orlando, FL	\$88
G/B	2006	15-20 Aug	New York, NY	\$169
Annual	2007	20-25 Feb	Jacksonville, FL	\$124
G/B	2007	04-09 Sep	Norfolk, VA	\$119
Annual	2008	19-24 Feb	Dallas, TX	\$137
G/B	2008	03-08 Sep	Detroit, MI	\$126
Annual	2009	18-22 Feb	Anaheim, CA	\$135

Introduce Yourself: Wear Your Name Tag!

Don't forget to wear your Name Tag at all squadron events. It really helps folks get to know each other. To order one, contact Ship's Store manager Lt/C Gary Ferguson, P at 352-8144 or e-mail him at gferguson@adelphia.net.



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 Sail & Power Squadron

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CDR BARBARA ROEMMELE, JN

COMMANDER'S REPORT

Special members, special awards



Congratulations to Lt/C Herb Hoffstein, SN, who has just completed **50 Years of Membership** in USPS. C/C Lesly Johnson, SN, has awarded a testimonial plaque of appreciation to Herb, who is serving this year as our squadron secretary.

We also have four members who, this year, have renewed their membership for the 25th time. In

recognition of this distinction a special gold-wreathed 25 year pin will be awarded to these members:

- Russell A. Jester, AP
- Lt Ralph Morse, JN
- Edwin J. Nelson
- P/C John L. Reid, SN

All of you are to be commended for attaining this special award.

The District 8 Fall Conference Expo and Seminars, held on 23-25 September was well

attended by our squadron members, and congratulations are in order for the many awards presented to fellow squadrons in D-8 and to you, members of Palm Beach Sail & Power Squadron! The exciting details of these awards are in this issue of the "Afterdeck". The very latest information on Power Squadron programs and educational innovations are disseminated at these conferences, and the social

events are well planned to be great fun. We were delighted to have so many of our members with us at the D/8 Conference.

Now I urge you to plan to attend the United States Power Squadrons' Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL (03 through 07 January 2006) as described in the "Ensign". All members are welcome to participate, and you can be assured that warm hospitality will be extended to all of you from your own squadron and from many of the other squadrons in attendance.

A question on non-renewals of membership is in order. Why does it happen? To learn why this occurs in our squadron we mailed out letters with surveys to all of the folks who did not renew their membership by July. The largest amount of responses were:

1. Moving
2. No longer interested in boating
3. Unable to participate due to age or illness.

NOT ONE reply faulted the welcoming warmth of the members, or the fine educational opportunities afforded by our teachers. Many responders complimented us for our friendliness, our welcoming inclusion of those interested in participating in activities, and our superb educational department offerings. It is my hope that this fine spirit of fellowship continues to flourish within our organization, and I am delighted to be a part of this wonderful squadron.

Barbara C. Roemmele

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mtdodd@aol.com

Address changes

Please report changes in address, telephone or e-mail, or birthday corrections, to the secretary.

From the Bilge Mouse: No Sticker? It's Shocking!

In my travels 'round the docks I have noticed a remarkable absence of a small, triangular sticker on boats owned by members of the Palm Beach Sail & Power Squadron. That little emblem represents one of the major services that USPS offers to the Community. But, alas, less than 20% of squadron boat owners have a current sticker, or have ever had one! Oh, my, what a shame! This, in spite of the fact you promote this service and tout its benefits far and wide. What is this small triangular sticker? It is the Vessel Safety Check sticker (VSC). The mouse really wonders why?



Positive reasons for having a VSC:

- It assist the boat owner to keep safety equipment updated and in working order.
- It may save the owner on insurance premiums;
- It may keep you from being stopped and/or boarded by the marine patrol.
- It says to other skippers in the marina that you are a knowledgeable captain and care about water safety.
- It gives you another pair of eyes looking into pos-

sible, preventable problems.

- It cost '0' - nada - zilch - , i.e., nothing.
- Only you as owner/captain get the results from your friendly VSC inspector [member of the squadron]. No report is filed with any government agency - it's for 'your eyes' only! [Our VSC member will even come back to re-inspect if necessary.]

Negative thinking:

- Well, golly-gee, it takes about an hour of your time once a year, and from the perspective of the bilge mouse, that don't amount to much when it comes to takin' care of a major investment, and, your crew!

The mouse wants you to call your VSC Chairman, Lt/C Alan Patti, N at (561) 626-6606 to line up one of your squadron inspectors [you have several in the area] to visit you and your boat; at home, on a rendezvous, at a "nose-up", on a raft-up, on the trailer — wherever — just do it – today, and remember you're in command; boat safely!!! Who knows, the life you save may be mine. [I just might be takin' a ride with you on the next rendezvous — check your bilge, I'm the little guy wearing the little orange life jacket...]

Nominees for Squadron Officers for 2006

In accordance with Section 6.8 of the Bylaws of the Palm Beach Sail & Power Squadron, the Nominating Committee has submitted the names of these members to serve the squadron during the coming year. Election will be held at the General Membership Meeting on 17 January and the change of watch will take place at the same meeting.

Commander Lt/C (P/C) Lesly McWhorter III, S
 Executive Officer Lt/C Gary L. Ferguson, P
 Administrative Officer Lt Richard C. Hofmann, P
 Education Officer ... Lt/C (P/R/C) William C. Eldridge, SN
 Secretary Lt/C (P/C) Herbert Hoffstein, SN
 Treasurer Lt/C Alan Patti, N
 Assistant Education Officer Lt Darryl C. Aubrey, AP

Members at Large:

Lt Ralph Morse, JN
 Lt Jim D. Palmer, AP
 Michael Stern, P
 P/C Barbara Roemmele, JN
 Immediate Past Commander

General Committees

Auditing

1-Year Doris Speckeen
 2 Years P/C Klaus J. Reinwarth, AP
 3 Years Lt Janice Tedesco

Nominating

1 Years P/C Edward A. Newman, S
 2 Years Roberta Stephens, P
 2 Years Joan Thompson, P
 3 Years Lt Leroy E. Batchelor, AP
 3 years P/C Frederick P. Bierschen, AP

Rules

1 Years P/C John L. Reid, SN
 2 Years P/Stf/C Rodney G. Landsman, AP
 3 Years P/C John R. Luciano, AP

Respectfully submitted by:

Chair – Lt Anna Jean Muntz, P
 Lt Leonard Kantor, JN; P/C Edward A. Newman,
 S; Lt Roberta Stephens, P; Joan Thompson, P

Bert Haines Celebrates 100th

On Nov. 9, Bert Haines, AP, celebrated his 100th birthday!

Bert joined PBS&PS February 1972 after retiring from being an executive with the Philco Corp. in Philadelphia.



He quickly earned the grade of AP and served on different committees but was mostly recognized as being our chaplain for about 20 years. *(See it pays!)*

He was also a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (Flotilla 51). He became Flotilla Commander and then on to become District Captain.

His wife Ruth (SEO Bill Eldridge's aunt) and he have also celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary. Both are still very active and live comfortably in their condo on PGA Boulevard (since '71).

Their two sons and their families were here to share the milestone.

Raffle in time for Christmas



DOLL HOUSE. Built and donated by Joan Smith

Great Gift Items offered

By Lt Kathy Eldridge, P

Three items have been skillfully produced and donated to the squadron for this raffle. All three donors are from the past Craft Ladies Group. All three would make excellent, unique Christmas gifts. And the drawing is 13 December—timely to enhance your shopping plans.

The items are shown here.

RAFFLE TICKETS are available for a donation of \$1 each or six for \$5.

Tickets may be purchased from these ladies or any bridge member. If you would like to take a bunch of tickets to sell to your friends, church or club associates, please contact Kathy Eldridge, P (863-1461) and she'll gladly accommodate you. Let's get behind this effort to boost our squadron's endeavors.



STAR SASH QUILT, 45" x 54" Crafted and donated by Cdr Barbara Roemmele, JN



BLUE BIRD framed PICTURE, 19" x 23". Stitched and donated by Kathy Eldridge, P

FROM THE SAFETY DECK: Put flotation in fashion

By Lt Richard C. Hofmann, P

How much do you weigh? I raise this question because it addresses a possible and the probable cause for the tragic boating accident that happened on Lake George, in upstate New York.

The New York State law for passenger-carrying craft estimated capacity was based on an average weight of 150 lbs per person. The U.S. Coast Guard estimate is based on 140 pounds per person.

In this case, when the passengers were older, and in many cases handicapped, the average weight was more

likely 225 pounds. The boat was probably riding very low in the water, unstable, and as a result it did not take much of a wave to swamp her.

The lesson here should not be lost on those of us who take passengers aboard. Every boat has a safety weight limitation and it is up to you, the captain, to ensure that your passenger total weight does not exceed it.

Common sense dictates that you take the weight factor very seriously. If there is loss of life you are responsible both morally and legally.

P.S. No passengers were wearing a LIFE JACKET!

Squadron 2nd in District in Coop Charting

By Lt Al Shemo, SN
Chair COOP

Palm Beach Squadron again has performed well in the cooperative charting field. Fourteen members received Honor Roll Certificates.

Lt Scott Clinton, N and his crew consisting of Jim Miles, AP (Captain of Vigilant), Dick Finn, AP, John Litwinka, S, Lt/C (P/C) Les McWhorter, S, P/C Ed & Lt (P/Lt/C) Joyce Newman, S surveyed local waters and the Intracoastal Waterway. Surveying local marinas for chart revisions and updates were Lt Jim Palmer, AP, Lt John Worssam, Lt Jim Tedesco, P and P/C Ben J. Swanka, AP. Lt/C Alan Patti, N, Barbara Patti, P and Lt Al Shemo, SN reported on the recovery of geodetic marks.

Palm Beach placed second in District for cooperative charting. First place for the Messingschlager Award went to Sebastian Inlet Squadron. Awards are given out using a formula, which lets small squadrons compete with larger squadrons. Skagit Bay squadron only need 84

credits and Palm Beach needs 220 credits to equal them. Then it is scaled on another formula for excess credits after that. Cape Coral needs the highest credits at 230. Palm Beach is next with 220 and then scaled downward according to the members in each squadron.

Case in point: Sebastian Inlet needs 160 credits for honor roll status. Their credits for the year were 8,653. Excess credits given them were 5,308. Thirteen members participated. Palm Beach needs 220 credits for honor roll status. Our credits for the year were 11,897. Excess credits given were 5,308. Fourteen members participated. Even though we had 3,244 more credits for work performed for the year, and had more members participating, under the formula used, we came in second.

That is the reason some of the smaller squadrons win a large amount of awards year and year. It's really not calculated on the amount of work performed, but the size of your squadron. Not complaining, just stating the facts.



Our squadron received a number of awards at the D/8 Conference. Pictured is National Educational Officer, V/C Spencer Anderson, SN, congratulating Squadron Educational Officer, Lt/C Bill Eldridge, SN, for our three earned educational awards, including one for best overall educational program of any squadron in District 8. This was earned by the great efforts of our members (instructors and students) toward our educational endeavor. Thirty-three Merit Marks were awarded within the educational department this year.

Photo by Jim Palmer, AP

Awards (and wig-outs) at D/8 Fall Conference

(right) Cdr Barbara Roemmele, JN dressed for the "Get down to the Sounds of the Seventies"



Kristen Braaten earns 'JN'

We have a new "JN"! Congratulations to Kristen Braaten, JN.

Meet A Fellow Squadron Member ... Ken Wall

This is the first in an occasional series of articles about individual Squadron members.

By David Cross, P

Could you land a B17 bomber on one engine at the height of the war at an airport that had just that day been liberated from the German occupation?

Ken Wall, a member of our Squadron, once did.

Ken was born 1920 in Glen Ridge N.J. The "service" was already in the genes from his father who was a Navy officer in WWI (and also in WWII). Ken joined the Air Corps in 1942 and graduated via BT22 Trainers to skipper of a B17 as a member of the 94th Bomber Group.

In 1944 Ken flew to Ireland during what turned out to be the very 24 hours that heralded the D-Day invasion. Bury St. Edmunds Air Force Base in the UK was his next stop. It was from here that he and his cohorts took off to blast the enemy in Europe.

Between June and October he flew

an amazing 35 missions, pounding targets in France and Berlin. The 31st mission might have been his last as the B17 sustained crippling damage to three of its four engines. Home base was out of the question. The nearest airport was Brussels, just liberated. With great skill Ken brought the heavy machine safely to earth, much to the relief of his crew and admiration of those on the ground. Apparently undeterred by this frightening experience Ken and the crew hitched an airborne ride back to the U.K. from where they flew four more missions.

Ken returned stateside in 1945 and was demobilized with thousands of his fellow airmen. He never flew again. However he does stay in touch with the five remaining members of his B17 crew and they just recently celebrated the 60 years that have passed since the fighting ended.

After the war he entered civilian life in the field of specialty electronic sales from which he retired in 2000. Along the way, in 1977, he and his wife Jean

bought a home in Old Port Cove whence they snow bired from New Jersey as the mood and weather took them, but finally settled there full time this year.

Ken and Jean have been active boaters since their first 19' runabout in 1961, finally graduating to a 43' Egg Harbor (sold in 1988) via a 27' Chris Craft and a 40' Owens Tahitian. Much cruising time was spent on Long Island Sound.

Over the years they have been very involved with Squadron activities having joined in 1961. Ken was commander in Northern New Jersey Squadron in 1975 and District Commander in District 4 in 1981. He taught classes for eight years and has 33 Merit Marks.

Ken and Jean have been married for 62 years. They have three children and six grandchildren. Obviously they can look back on a rewarding and exciting life and are anticipating active and interesting times with our Squadron.

Who's New in the Squadron

Bob Berman and Joanne
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Kenneth C. Brammer and Judith C.
Jupiter, FL

David Chapnick and Sharon
Lake Worth, FL

Mark Donaghy and Gail
North Palm Beach, FL

Thomas and Karen Edmonds
Palm City, FL

Scot Galvin and Julie Wallis
North Palm Beach, FL

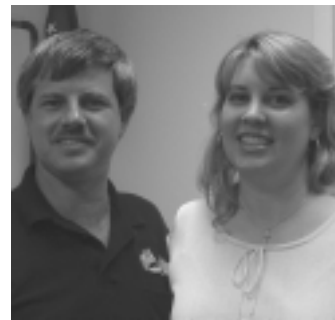
Kenneth M. Litz and Tanya
Loxahatchee, FL

Pierangelo Molena
North Palm Beach, FL

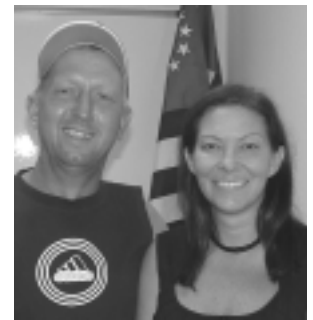
Joanne K. Callahan
Jupiter, FL



Chapnick



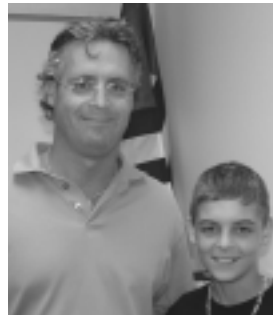
Donaghy



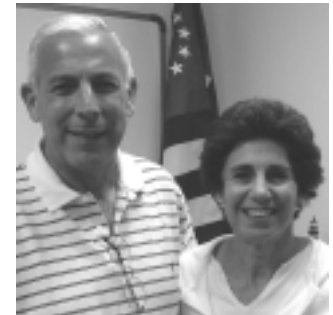
Litz



Edmonds



Rubin



Pritzker

Perry A. Curkendall
West Palm Beach, FL

Thorne Donnelley and Trish
West Palm Beach, FL

Paul Eddie Haber
Royal Palm Beach, FL

John D. Pingree and Teresa
North Palm Beach, FL