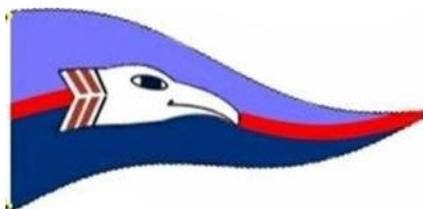




# **Marco Island Sail & Power Squadron**

## **40th Anniversary 1978 - 2018**



# **A Message from your Commander**

**Gene Burson, JN**

2018—2019

It is with extreme pleasure that I am serving as your Commander during The Marco Island Sail and Power Squadron's 40th Anniversary year. What a year it has been! What the first 40 years have been! All due to the efforts of you and your predecessors. From the beginning the Squadron was recognized numerous times for excellence in many aspects of education. The Squadron was recognized for Vessel Safety Checks, Cooperative Charting, and Community Involvement. Individuals received recognition in the above areas plus for achievements such as the Chapman Award for Teaching Excellence, the Educational Achievement Award, and the Educational Proficiency Award. In general members increased their knowledge and boating skills making the waters of Marco a safer place to boat. All this while having fun. As you can read below, the Squadron enjoyed numerous social activities on and off the water. Say thanks to the past and hello to the future. Stay safe and go boating.

# UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRON

Organized in 1914, USPS is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to making boating safer and more enjoyable by teaching classes in seamanship, navigation and related subjects. Members are boating families who contribute to their communities by promoting safe boating through education. They enjoy participating with fellow members on the water and in the classroom. USPS has nearly 25,000 members organized into over 340 squadrons across the country and in some US territories. USPS is America's largest non-profit boating organization and celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014. MISPS is in District 22 in southwest Florida where there are 16 squadrons from Crystal River to Marco Island.



# **EARLY HISTORY**

The First Ten Years

1978-1988

**NAPLES POWER SQUADRON,  
MARCO DIVISION**

Prior to the year 1978, before Marco Island became a Squadron, those who were interested in promoting safe boating, or wished to take a boating course, became members of the Naples Power Squadron. After commuting between Naples and Marco Island, several islanders thought it time they formed a Power Squadron on Marco Island.

The very first meeting on the road to becoming a Squadron was held at Shea's restaurant on 17 September 1977. Some 19 USPS members (not all of Naples Squadron) attended. They signed a petition on a place mat that Commander Arthur Lane of Naples used as our appeal for Squadron status.

Commander Arthur Lane of the Naples Squadron called a subsequent meeting at Shea's on 18 November 1977 which USPS District Commander O. Fenton Wells attended.

The "place mat petition" was presented to him. It might be interesting to note that this luncheon was "Dutch treat" with the price being \$3.25 including tax and tip!

At that time the members on Marco Island became a Division of the Naples Power Squadron. The first meeting as a Division on 7 December 1977 was held at the Trade Winds Apartments Recreation Room, and so many attended that

they were seated on the floor! “Acting Officers” were appointed by Commander Lane, and all activities were channeled through the command chain of the Naples USPS.

With the election in January 1978 of Commander Richard Fallon, the Naples Squadron agreed to underwrite all expenses (especially postage) until the charter application was approved. They also collected dues from those who were “transferring in” from other northern units. The backbone of the Marco Squadron was composed of such transferees coming from Kansas City east to the Atlantic coast, some 60 to 70, and parts of Canada.

In the words of Acting Commander, Arthur L. Schultz, “the Marco Division is under rather stringent requirements that it not take unto itself the prerogatives of a Squadron until such time as it is legally so constituted. In other words, the Squadron had to “do it by the book” and the period of preparation could extend to more than a year.

Eligibility to become a member of the Naples Squadron, Marco Division, consisted of certain standards: a male U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older, and proposed by a USPS member who had close association with the candidate. Qualities sought were congeniality, ability, experience, re-

sponsibility, interest, and availability. Those who had previously been USPS members were not proposed for membership in the Marco Division; they had to apply for reinstatement. Those paid up in other Squadrons had to request that the Naples Squadron secure their transfers.

The Marco Division's first boating class, sponsored and directed by its members, consisted of ten weekly sessions at Tommie Barfield School which was attended by some 60 persons. Members conducted lectures under the direction of Acting Commander Arthur Schultz, while others served as group instructors each coaching small groups. Several lectures specifically addressing the Marco needs were worked into the curriculum. One, delivered by Dr. Jack Greenfield, dealt with first aid afloat and included novel procedures for combating mosquitoes and "no-see-ums" if an emergency forced a stay in backwater areas. A lecture was also delivered by A. Holden Higbee on proper radio techniques and language.

The first social outing of the Marco Division was a picnic, the location being the Marco Island side of Big Marco Pass (the channel between Marco and Coconut Islands). It was a great success.

# A Squadron At Last

The March 1978 edition of the Marco Division's newsletter, called "The Marco Chip," contained the following words by Acting Commander Arthur L. Schultz:

*"The organization of the Marco Island Division of the Naples Squadron and its eventual attainment of Independent Squadron status is the natural and logical outgrowth of the fact that many persons from Long Island Sound, the Great Lakes and the Chesapeake have moved to Marco with long and well-established USPS loyalties. Of the 59 members, nine hold Navigator rating, two Junior Navigator, 15 Seamanship and 10 Advanced Piloting. It is only natural that these members seek to perpetuate their membership in the new community and to extend the ideals and the teaching principles of the organization to the community."*

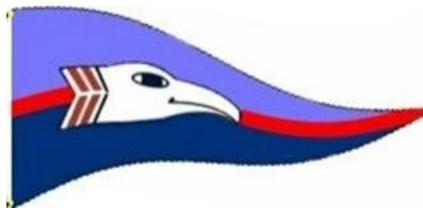
The April 1978 District 22 Conference held in Clearwater, attended by several Marco members, resulted in a "Squadron kit" containing all the necessary paperwork to be completed on the road to becoming an independent Squadron. A considerable amount of background work had already been accomplished by the temporary officers, including a draft of the Squadron by-laws. In addition, documentation in the membership area, of members' qualifications and status, and other specified requirements put

additional burden on the temporary officers of the Squadron. A special committee headed by Don Barber worked on developing a Squadron Burgee. It was to be distinctive and representative of our area, and ideas were welcomed.

In November of 1978 the long-awaited giant step toward independent status began with the arrival of the “new Squadron kit.” Marco Island was now authorized to petition for charter, adopt the Squadron name, adopt by-laws, elect officers, sign on charter members, and complete letters of transfer. A letter was published in “The Marco Chip” stating how to become a charter member.

Finally, at the close of December 1978, after 15 months, Marco Island achieved independent status and became “MARCO ISLAND POWER SQUADRON”!

In a letter sent to all members on 31 December 1978, Commander Arthur L. Schultz stated: “Thanks to the hard work of many dedicated individuals, our charter was granted in record time. We can all take a large measure of pride in this accomplishment. The promise our Squadron holds for Marco Island in boating education and safety, sociability and fellowship, far transcends any thanks we could extend to those many skilled and generous members contributing to this achievement. Your own Squadron is your reward.”



One of the Squadrons most historic and memorable moments was the first Change of Watch Ceremony held in February 1979. The first officers to lead the newly formed Marco Island Power Squadron were:

- Commander.....Arthur L. Schultz
- Executive Officer.....John G. Montag
- Educational Officer.....A. Holden Higbee
- Administrative Officer.....Harold E. Krout
- Secretary.....Frederick Davison
- Treasurer.....Ira E. Evans
- Asst./Ed/Officer.....Fred L. Rudisill
- Asst./Secretary.....Robert Meyer

The idea of a Ladies Auxiliary was expressed in May of 1978, and Lynn Renshaw welcomed the pros and cons of this formation. However, it never came to be. Women were permitted to attend meetings and social events, but they were not eligible for membership. They could take classes, if so desired, but were considered “certificate holders” and not given any grade or rank. In September 1982 the USPS Governing Board approved the USPS Constitution to be changed by deleting the word “male,” thereby permitting women to become active members. The first group of women and family members was accepted into USPS in November 1982. From the beginning in 1978 with original charter membership of 66, the Squadron grew to a total of 200 members in 1988.

# United States Power Squadrons



## Squadron Charter

We It Known that upon application duly made and pursuant to resolution of the Governing Board of the United States Power Squadrons, a Local Squadron had been constituted, known as the

### Marco Island Power Squadron

#### To consist of

Robert K. Bair, N	Ira C. Chans, N	Paul K. LeFevre	Francis Rascher, S
Don O. Barber, S	Robert J. Freburn, S	Herbert Ripson, AP	John Renshaw, AP
William E. Barrott, Jr., S	James K. Gallagher, AP	Richard V. Lohrens	Fred Robbins
Robert Billeter, S	Richard K. Gannon, S	Mac M. Mader	Fred L. Rubisilli, N
T. Howard Black, Jr., S	Theodore M. Gilmore, S	Richard E. Marsh, S	Klayd A. Russ, JN
J. Edward Brister	John D. Glass	Frederic A. McCarty, S	Charles O. Sahler, S
Laurence S. Clark, N	Jack Greenfield, AP	Earle H. McCoy, S	Arthur L. Schultz, JN
Robert W. Cochran	Wayne K. Hesson	Harry A. McGrath, AP	Shrewood B. Seely, N
David M. Crabtree, AP	A. Holden Hyger, JN	Harry W. McKey	Raymond K. Sheehan
James P. Cullen, S	B. Raymond J. Holdstein, AP	C. Robert Meyer, S	William L. Slocum, S
Ernest H. Davis, AP	C. John H. Holden, AP	John J. Mikelos	L. Edwarrd, Stone
Frederick E. Davison, S	D. Thomas W. Johnson, S	William S. Motes, AP	Barford M. Swaby, S
B. J. Dickinson, S	E. William S. Key	John S. Montag, AP	John C. Taylor, S
Ernest J. DiSabatino	J. Harold E. Krou, S	George B. Newberry, S	Ted Ulmer
George S. Eckel, S.	S. Charles A. Lambert	Leigh S. Plummer, N	Carl H. Wall, S
John J. Eckel	D. S. Frank Langford, AP	Newton J. Pollitt	George J. Wellner, S
Dani J. Enders			Austin D. Winters, N

And such other members of the United States Power Squadrons, as may be elected to membership therein.

This Charter is granted subject to the provisions of the Constitution and by-Laws of the United States Power Squadrons, now or hereafter in force.

In Witness Whereof, this Charter is issued under the hand of the Chief Commander and Secretary  
This day of 6 December 1978

After finally becoming THE MARCO ISLAND POWER SQUADRON in December of 1978, the Squadron publication needed a new name. Members were asked to submit names of what they would like their publication to be called. Some 50 names were submitted, and a "board of judges" selected the ten best names. These ten choices were then put to the vote of the membership by means of a coupon which appeared in the February 1979 issue of the

Squadron newsletter.

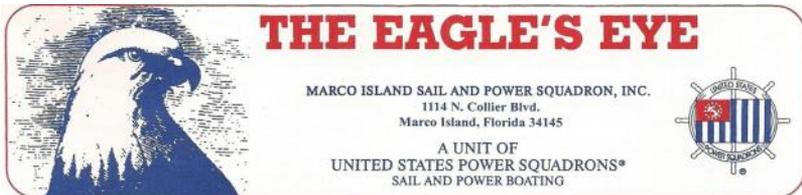
The top 10 finalists were:

- |                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| The Current     | The Marco Island Light  |
| The Eagle's Eye | The Marco Island Marker |
| The Helmsman    | The Marco Mariner       |
| The Intercom    | The Masthead            |
| The Marco Chip  | The Rudder Post         |

The first edition of the newly-named publication ran this article:

### SQUADRON PUBLICATION GETS NEW NAME—JUST BARE-LY!

“Let it be known that the Marco Island Power Squadron’s official publication will now be known as “The Eagle’s Eye.” Let it be known, too, that it won out (over the old original Marco Chip) by an eagle’s eyelash. Paul H. LeFevre, who submitted the winning name of “The Eagle’s Eye,” received a prize of twelve dozen “factory trained” shrimp from Marco River Marina.



The first editor of the newly named “The Eagle’s Eye” was

Howard Black. Succeeding early editors were Arthur L. Schultz, L. Edward Stone, Robert S. Hagerman, Thomas B. Kalbfus, Lloyd A. Russ, Carol S. Henry, and Shirley Mair.

## **The Early Years**

### **Education**

The early public boating courses of the Marco Island Power Squadron were held at Tommie Barfield School and ran for ten sessions. Student participation ranged from 45 students to over 100 at times. Members also took their knowledge about boating to Everglades City where classes were held at the Ranger Station and the Outdoor Resort. Sessions about safe boating were also given to teenagers in the area during the summer months. These classes consisted of six sessions and were held in the adjoining backyards of Don Mills and Ben Dickinson! A course known as the "Wife Saver Course" was organized and taught by P/R/C Austin Winters. This course was geared toward educating women in case of emergencies while boating with their husbands.

Elective and advanced courses for Squadron members were held in various places during those early years. Many were in the instructors' homes. The Seamanship class, which was taught by William Slocum, was held in his office at the Captain's Landing Building. Other locations used as classrooms included The Tradewinds, The Veterinarian's Building on San Marco Road, Marco Bay Resort and the choir room of Wesley United Methodist Church.

# The Early Years

## Activities

Social activities and cruises were numerous and well attended by the pioneer members. Some early social activities involved fishing excursions, better known as "Fishing Days." Other than District conferences, Governing Board meetings, and Change of Watch ceremonies, which many members attended, the Squadron held picnics at Coconut Island, bus trips to the Miami Boat Show, bus trips to Key West, Christmas parties, luncheons at the Naples Dinner Theatre, and each month a luncheon with the ladies.

Early cruises involved trips to Indian Key, Everglades City, Port-of-the-Islands, South Seas Plantation, Captiva, Marathon, the Florida Keys, and the Fort Myers Yacht Basin. Longer cruises to the East Coast of Florida, the Florida Keys, and the Bahamas were enjoyed by members. Social activities included the District 22 Cruise and Rendezvous, estimated time contests with the Naples Squadron, predicted log contests, dinner meetings, and Past Commanders dinners.

# The Next Fifteen Years

1988-2003

## **MEMBERSHIP**

As the years passed, Marco Island Power Squadron increased in membership. In 1993 the membership topped at 238 members. The membership in 1998 was 206.

Life Members included: Lt Alfred Ciasco, N, 1988; P/C William Rowe, JN ,1989; P/C Robert Sparrow, N, 1989; P/C Carl Dahlberg, N, 1991. In 1996 P/R/C Austin Winters, N, achieved his 50 year Member Award which included his 44 Merit Marks.

Fourteen members received their 25-year Certificates, twenty-one received their Senior Member status and nine received their Full Certificates. Between 1988 and 1998 thirty members died and their contributions to the Squadron were greatly missed.

In 1990 Lt/C Eleanor W. Shoop, P, became the first woman Commander of the Marco Island Power Squadron. She was followed by Lt/C Susan J. Layton, N as the Commander in 1997. Under Cdr Susan J. Layton, N, on 23 January 1998, the Marco Island Power Squadron changed its name to

Marco Island Sail and Power Squadron so as to include all boaters.

Squadron members also served on the District 22 Board. From 1990 to 1993 P/D/C Hamilton Shoop, N, served in various capacities from member of Finance Committee, to Admin Officer to Executive Officer. In 1993 he became District 22 Commander. In 1994 he and P/C Eleanor Shoop, P, served as members of the District Personnel Committee.

From 1998-2003 the squadron continued to thrive. The active membership in 2003 was 210. In 2001 P/C C. Robert Meyer, AP became a Life Member. In addition, four members received their 25 year Certificates; two members received Full Certificates; and twenty-one members received Senior Member status. The Squadron mourned the deaths of eleven members.

Squadron members continued to serve at the District level: In 1999 P/C Dell Tower, N, Chair of the Navigation Committee and P/C Susan Layton, N, Chair of the Seamanship Committee; in 2000 P/C George L. Taylor, AP, on the Auditing Committee.

## **AWARDS**

The Squadron received many awards over the 15 years. In 1991: Venice Boating Achievement; Charles F Chapman Educational Achievement Award; Prince Henry the Navigator Trophy. In 1992: Eagle's Eye—Peace River Graphics

Award; Charles P Keller Memorial Award to Richard Prior for excellence in Advanced Piloting. In 1994: Teaching Award and Chapman Award to P/D/C Robert Sparrow, N; Eagle's Eye –Outstanding Publication Award, Lt. Janice Wohl, P, Editor. In 1995: Merit Award for Outstanding Instructor to Lt/C Owen Henning, AP; USPS Journalistic Excellence Award to Lt Janice Wohl, P.

The Squadron was again recognized for its achievements at the D/22 Spring and Fall Conferences capturing the Peace River Graphics Award, the Journalism Award, the Fort Myers Publication Trophy, the Youth Poster Contest and the Prince Henry the Navigator Trophy (first place awards) and the Fort Myers Publication Award, the Educational Achievement Award, the Venice Boating Achievement Award and the Peace River Graphics Trophy (2nd place awards). The National Publications 2000 Award of Merit and the National Award for Distinction in Journalism were awarded to the Editor and staff of the Eagle's Eye.

Over 1100 Merit Marks were earned in the 15 years.

## **EDUCATION**

The interest in the Squadron Educational Program drew record numbers to enroll in the varied classes that were offered. Wife Saver classes were conducted with Marco Island Coast Guard Auxiliary. In 1990 the class name was

changed to Skipper Saver. In 1991 Introduction to Astronomy, Predicted Log Contest and Compass Adjusting were added to the list of classes. In 1992 Oceanography was added and in 1996 Cruise Planning and Boating Safely. The Boating Safely course was for young people and directed by I/Lt Marie Forberg, P. The Safe Boating class was changed to Boat Smart which is a shortened class of three to four sessions. This course was very popular for those who wanted to know the basics of boating safely without the charting.

From the knowledge received from the educational classes, many members tried out their expertise in boating by participating in planned trips to the Bahamas, St. Petersburg/Tampa, Clewiston, Tarpon Springs, St. Augustine, The Keys, plus many short trips.

In 2003 the education program flourished with 92 advanced grade and 43 elective course graduates. Many of the 32 members completing the cruise planning course joined other Squadron members on cruises to the Bahamas, the Keys, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Boca Grande, St. Augustine, and circling South Florida as well as many short trips. Of particular note, 480 boaters completed our Boat Smart class.

## **THE CONDO**

Another BIG step for the Squadron was the purchase of the condo at 231 North Collier Blvd., Marco Island, Florida, on

8 July 1988. The Squadron finally had a home to keep records, supplies, a place for Advanced Grades and Elective classes to meet as well a place for the Executive Board and Committees to meet. Subsequent condos were obtained in the years 1992 and 1997. Through the efforts of Lt Joseph Lesser, P, and Sonia Lesser, P, one condo was deeded by Dr. E. H. Cohen to the Squadron and the other condo was obtained for \$100.00 from Nations Bank as a foreclosure. Many thanks went to the Lessers and Dr. Cohen for these great assets for the Squadron.

In the years from 1998-2003 the Squadron moved three times. The first move was from 231 to 235 North Collier; then from 235 North Collier to 656 Bald Eagle Drive. At the current headquarters at 1114 N. Collier Blvd. education classes and other meetings continue to be held.

## **ACTIVITIES**

Squadron members were involved in many special and Community activities. Among the many were: Safe Boating Week; Safe Boating Parade; Holiday Street Parade; MISPS Booths at Seafood and Maritime Festivals; Boat Shows in Miami and Ft. Lauderdale; TV coverage of activities; Holiday dinners and dances; career days at Manatee Middle School; and Wine and Cheese Party Fund Raiser.

MISPS members also were a presence at the District 22

Spring and Fall Conferences and the District C & R 's. where many of the awards were presented. MISPS was recognized for community development activities through a Marco Island City Council proclamation to the 85th Anniversary of USPS and 20th Anniversary of MISPS.

In 2001 and 2002 the Squadron conducted 277 Vessel Safety Inspections, the second highest in the District.

In 1991 several of the MIPS members participated in the special activities scheduled. One was the 9th Annual Naples-Key West Sailboat Race. Forty boats were entered divided in three classes. Lt Charles L. Gage, AP, took first place with his 34' Irwin Sloop (Carefree II) and a crew of four. The Squadron was very proud of Chuck and his crew. In the same year during the Safe Boating Week, four members of the Squadron (Lt Bob Fletcher, P, Lt Dell Tower, N, Lt Buck Swaby, S, and his wife Maggie) participated in a simulated rescue exercise with the Civil Air Patrol. Their mission was to find a missing boat that was using an EPIRB unit. The group did very well and was able to put to use their knowledge from the educational classes.

# Commanders' Memories of the Last Fifteen Years





**2003-2004**

**Cdr Richard W. Rogers, P**

In 2003, chaired by P/C Owen Henning, AP, we conducted 167 vessel inspections, one of the highest in District 22. Also, at the 2003 District 22 Fall Conference, the Marco Squadron received a number of awards and trophies: the Cape Coral Cooperative Charting Trophy for the greatest numbers of credits from “NOS” for usable chart corrections (first place in District 22), Individual Cooperative Charting Award (first place in District, I/Lt Peter D. Clapp, JN). Co-Op Charting Chair P/C Bob Richardson spearheaded the effort which resulted in the Cooperative Charting Award for being in the 75th percentile nationally --first place in District 22, and 18th in the nation. We also received the Prince Henry the Navigator Trophy (first place in District 22). The Prince Henry Trophy recognizes the Squadron that has the highest percentage of members advancing from AP to JN.

Our 25th Anniversary Party was held at the Deck Restaurant with great fun. The Squadron had come a long way in

25 years.

Increased membership was a goal and 18 ABC graduates joined the Squadron. Through the active efforts of the membership committee and the bridge we had 206 members in the Squadron. A mentoring program was instituted to make new members more comfortable and become more involved in the various activities. Long and short boat trips were coordinated by P/Lt/C Jim Simmons. And who can forget P/C Tippy Cavanagh's Italian Extravaganza Lasagna Dinner!





**2004-2005**

**Cdr Andrea K. Battaglia,  
AP**

MISPS enjoyed some of the all-time highest membership (circa 225 members). Meetings were held at Mackle Park with various members hosting, preparing or serving the dinners. Twenty-five new boaters joined MISPS with 11 of them advancing to and passing Seamanship.

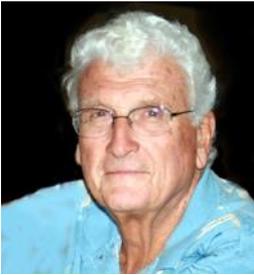
At D-22 Fall Conference MISPS received the Membership Growth Award and had 12 delegates at the Conference. The award-winning Co-Op team included 6 members making the National Honor Roll—Peter Clapp, Bob Richardson, John Cavanagh, Jim Olmes, Ed Foster and Lee Harkness. The Safety Certificate of Appreciation from D-22 was awarded for contributing substantially to promoting boating safety. P/C Gordon Henry, SN and P/C Louis Isaacs, AP were awarded 25 year gold pins. Lt/C Tippy Cavanagh received USPS Educational Award for attaining SN.

Boating activities had two divisions to accommodate the range of boats in the Squadron. Long cruises included one

to Clewiston (4 nights) with a record 16 boats participating. The experienced boaters were able to assist and teach novice boaters the procedure of going through the locks. Seven boats participated in the South Florida Cruise which had howling wind and rain keeping them in port for 3 days. There were short day cruises to the various Keys in the area as well as an “On the Hook” Cruise with 6 boats staying overnight at Whitehorse Key. Hurricanes were a real factor that year with *Charley*, *Frances*, and *Inez* severely damaging areas involving Squadron members of D-22 just a little north of Marco.

Civic Involvement included participation in “Women Making Waves” with Walkers Marine doing on-water training and MISPS women Andrea Battaglia, Gerry Marks and Jackie Belleveau teaching seamanship skills Our big fundraiser was “Oktoberfest” with 62 members working on the event.





**2005-2006**

**Cdr Lee Harkness, AP**

Hurricane Wilma made landfall at Cape Romano packing 120MPH winds on Oct. 24. We were up in Tampa for the D-22 Fall Conference that weekend with 15 Squadron members and 2 dogs. Fourteen (including the dogs) decided to wait out Wilma. The Squadron received 7 awards at the Conference: Prince Henry trophy (for having the highest percentage of members going from AP to JN); 2nd place Shipping Over award (membership retention); 2nd place Elective Courses Trophy; 3d place C & R Attendance Trophy; Safety Certificate of Appreciation; Certificate of Appreciation to Bryan Mordecai for his work in Co-Op Charting.

Other things of note were the revision of the By-Laws to bring them in line with National Bylaws where appropriate, sponsoring of a flare demonstration; participating in the Naples St. Patrick's Day Parade with the Naples Squadron with 25 people working hard to decorate the boat in the parade and to pass out cards with numbers to call for Vessel Safety Checks. A foursome from MISPS won the Naples Sail and Power Squadron golf tournament. A successful fund raiser, the Wine and Hors d' Oeuvres party, raised \$5000 to help offset Squadron expenses. Over 60 mem-

bers helped to make it the resounding success. Boating activities had: 16 overnight day cruise to Circle Florida with seven boats; and three 5 day cruises. There was a mystery day cruise captained by Uwe Drescher which was won by P/C Tippy Cavanagh, SN and Lt John Cavanagh, AP. Tippy and John also prepared an outstanding Italian dinner which was enjoyed by 93 members and guests.

Education Classes taken by our members included Seamanship, Piloting, JN, Cruise Planning, Marine Electronics, and Sail. Our VSC examiners did over 200 inspections. Oh, did I mention that the Eagle's Eye editor had to resign suddenly? That helm was taken over by yours truly (and lasted three years).





**2006-2007**

**Cdr John Noffze, S**

Highlights: Lt Bob Mueller started the MISPS Website, spending untold hours working on the project. The Marco Island Waterway Project (survey of waterway signs and markers) began. Bryan Mordecai and Jim Olmes who with their committee of many MISPS members worked on this very large project as there are 100 miles of waterways in Marco Island. Numerous hours were spent on the project that involved photos and location information. This encompassed over 300 signs and over 1200 photos.

Activities included marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, a Flare Demonstration, and holding the Wine and Hors d'Oeuvre party at San Marco Church Hall for the first time.

Boating activities included cruising to Sarasota with 9 boats, Naples City Dock overnight cruise and a 2 week cruise with 4 boats. The Mystery Cruise captained by Uwe Drescher was won again by Tippy and John Cavanagh.

The Executive Board along with a large committee planned to better our Squadron and increase membership by getting new members involved right away. New members sat at a special table with balloons along with their spon-

sors so they could be recognized and welcomed by all attending.

D-22 Fall Conference had Tippy Cavanagh become Assistant Treasurer of D-22 and Andy Battaglia on D-22 Audit committee. Many awards came our way at the Fall Conference: 2nd place Civic Service Award; 3d place Apollo Beach Boating Safety Award; 2nd place Manatee Education Award Trophy; and 2nd place Naples C & R.

Many education courses were offered with good attendance. We had 148 Vessel Safety Checks and 81 merit marks.





**2007-2008**

**Cdr Erin Olmes, JN**

**Education:** Conducted 4 Boat Smart Courses, educating over 100 students; Had six different round-table seminars: Compass Use; Creation of Waypoints; Pre-Cruise Planning; Hurricane Preparedness; Log Book Design\* DSC Radio Operation\*. (\*) Developed by Squadron Members.

**Squadron Activities:** Members participated in seven different multi-day cruises, ranging from 2 to 35 days. MISPS sponsored monthly luncheons, Captains' Meetings and Cruise & Rendezvous. Several "Cruise Around Marco" boating excursions helped educate new members about the waterways.

**Special Events:** Participated in Walker's Marine Open House; Held Annual Fundraising Event, raising over \$8000 to support Squadron education activities; participated in Annual Marco Island Coastal Clean-up Program; represented the Squadron in the Island's Investment Club, marched in the annual Island Christmas Parade.

**Squadron Accomplishments:** Development of Squadron Web-site; development of two round-table seminars; Co-Op Charting excursions; On-the-Water support of Marco

Island's sign-identification program. In addition, to help raise money, Phyllis Mueller designed a yearly calendar with pictures of members and events for sale.

Honors/Awards/Recognition: 1 Lifetime Membership Award; Three Stars in D-22 newly designed Five star Recognition Program; National Publications Committee Award; Tied for 1st place for Publications Trophy; 2nd place Graphics Trophy; Four "Power of One" Awards; Recognition of 2 new Senior Navigators; Feature article in local newspaper highlighting members' boating accomplishments.





**2008-2009**

**Cdr Patricia Cavanagh, SN**

At my Change of Watch (CoW) in March 2008 the future of the Squadron was bleak. I was sworn in with no Administrative Officer. Fortunately in the spring Anne and Steve Moore moved back to the Island from Texas and Steve accepted the position.

The Squadron met for dinner meetings catered by Kretch's at Mackle Park. In May and September we had cookie meetings. In the slow summer months of June, July and August we started to go to CJ's for happy hour (Captains' Meetings) and it continues to be a successful and fun time for members. We had our holiday party at Konrad's. The Squadron participated in the Holiday Street Parade in December. One of the highlights of my year was riding in Bob Mueller's decorated red Mustang convertible in the parade. In January we moved to the Marco Island Yacht Club for our dinners.

The Squadron had lunches at the Naples Yacht Club, Joe's Crab Shack, Mel's, Sunset Grille, Margarita's, Joey's Pizza, Boat House and Olio. Cruises took boaters to the Naples Boat Club, Tampa and St. Pete, Legacy Harbor, Clewiston and the C & R at Burnt Store.

D-22 Fall Conference was held in October at the Sarasota Hyatt. The theme was roaring 20's. P/D/C George Shirley, JN received his 50 year plaque. Many awards were garnered at the Fall and Spring Conferences—Distinguished Squadron Civic Service Award 3d place; EE awards included Ft. Myers Publication Award, 2nd place; Peach River Graphics Award 3d place, Distinction in Journalism including a 3 Star Certificate.

In April the 2nd annual Digital Scavenger Hunt (started by John and me the year before) was held. We had picnics in the summer at Cape Romano and Keewaydin Island.

ABC classes were held in October and January along with member classes of Seamanship, Piloting, Advance Piloting, Weather, Cruise Planning, Marine Electronics, Operations Training and several seminars.

Our Wine and Hors d'Ouevre party fundraiser was held in January headed by John and me. The activity was successful and raised money to support the activities of MISPS.





**2009-2011**

**Cdr Gary Riss, S**

Historically, Gary is the first Commander to serve two consecutive years in office at MISPS. The Change of Watch for 2010 sported a laid-back dress code of “Island Style” instead of the Class A Uniform. The Administrative Officer position was vacant.

There were lots of boating activities—the overnights, picnics, and C & R totaled eleven during the first year. In the second year there were 13 cruises, picnics, raft-ups, and a Scavenger Hunt. P/C Tippy Cavanagh, SN handled the monthly lunches. P/C Andy Battaglia, AP took over as editor of the Eagle’s Eye in April 2009. There was a record turnout for the April dinner meeting. CJ’s became an all year event.

Education had 22 new members join from the ABC Class. Membership increased by 17% and earned the Shipping Over Award from D-22 for the highest percentage of retention of members. The Boat Around Marco remained a popular event. New seminars were developed—GPS Seminar by P/Lt/C Jim Olmes SN. Six members attained JN. Three members received their 25 year pin—Lt Tom Menaker, AP,

Dave Brandt, and P/C John Krehbiel, SN. Vessel Safety Checks numbered almost 200. The squadron earned /the Prince Henry Trophy and Venice Boating Achievement as well as the Distinction in Journalism, 3d place Peace River Graphics and the Three Star Award.





**2011-2012**

**Cdr Steven J. Moore, S**

Increased participation in education, membership and boating activities were goals for the year. To begin, 30 new members were added to the roster, many coming from the ABC public boating course. In addition, 29 boaters took Seamanship, 2 for Piloting and 3 completed Navigation. Other courses and electives were offered throughout the year including an evening Seamanship class with good turnout.

A significant change was moving the monthly dinner meeting from MIYC to Porky's in October with over 60 people in attendance. Everyone seemed to have a good time. A new group, The Silver Tridents, spearheaded by P/C Gary Riss, came into being in March. The group is comprised of our squadron's past commanders and enjoy fellowship and discussion of squadron issues. Another group is the Ladies Luncheon who meet monthly to discuss anything they want! An offshoot of the ladies lunch was the formation of a Ladies Card Group who meet twice a month.

Many boating and social activities were held throughout the year. Cruises and monthly lunches were well attended.

Tippy and John's 5th Annual Digital Scavenger Hunt took place in March with the skillful winners Lt/Cs Chuck and Mary Alice Wilson, JNs. A joint cruise to Key West with the Sailing Association of Marco Island was headed by Cruise Captain Lt Dave Dumas. Nine MISPS members enjoyed the event. The VSC team under Lt Alan Epstein, S arranged for boat owners to have their HALON systems checked in order to get Fire Extinguisher Certification along with the Vessel Safety Inspection. A CPR Course sponsored by Physicians Regional Hospital and coordinated by Lt Carol Einhart, S, had 20 MISPS members in attendance. The Wine and Hors d'Oeuvres Party had the highest gross to date in January 2012.

At the Spring D-22 Conference MISPS won six separate awards: 4-Star in recognition of a D22 Squadron for completing a majority of stated squadron goals; Distinctive Communicator given in recognition of distinctive performance for USPS publications; USPS Educational Fund; 3d place Naples C & R Attendance Award; 2nd place Peace Rivers Graphics; and D22 Outstanding Service Award.





**2012-2013**

**Cdr Jim Olmes, SN**

Watch year 2012-2013 could be called the year of change. Changes were necessary to keep the Squadron fiscally healthy and in tune with the needs of its members and expectations of the public.

A comprehensive and detailed annual budget came about after analyzing the Squadron functions. The new reporting program provides full information on budget and financial performance and significantly reduces the possibility of ever raiding Squadron investments.

The “Cruise Around Marco” was integrated in the “ABC Course” as an optional, sanctioned on-the-water experience. There is a narration packet for onboard instructors to teach graduates about our local waters. To safeguard the Squadron, a disclaimer form was created and put in place.

Concern about membership retention led to the creation of a membership co-chair to oversee member involvement and help leadership gain some early warning on potential member loss.

Based on member input, a change in the dinner meeting format and location was instituted and the Squadron returned to the Marco Island Yacht Club. Safety was emphasized in a flare demonstration involving participation with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Marco Island Fire Depart-

ment, the Civil Air Patrol, the Marco Island Marina and the Marco Island Yacht Club. Also, representatives of the Squadron met with the Waterways Committee and were partners in designing a city sponsored safety brochure.

The Squadron flexed its muscle by arguing its case with District 22 that there was a possibility that information gathered via vessel inspections, particularly failures, could be made available to outside agencies, thus compromising the confidentiality of the inspections. The end result was a resolution passed at the District conference which led USPS to a by-law change which will now fully protect information.

At the Fall D-22 Conference Marco Island received the Five Star Award for outstanding achievement towards Squadron goals. The squadron was also recognized with three educational achievement awards. Two members of the squadron were also recognized for their academic achievement: Lt/C Carl Thieme, SN, received USPS Certificate of Educational Achievement which gives him the rank of Senior Navigator; and Rudolf Landwaard, JN, received the USPS Educational Proficiency Award. P/C John Krehbeil, SN and P/C Andrea Battaglia, AP received Life Membership





**2013 – 2014**

**Cdr Ted Reiss, SN-IN**

Thanks to your efforts, Marco Island Squadron was awarded the District 22 Five Star Award in Recognition of Outstanding Achievement in Accomplishing Squadron Goals. Other awards were: Distinctive Communicator award and Peace River Graphics Award for the Eagle's Eye edited by Lt Tom Ryan, S; USPS Member Involvement Retention Award Certificate of Participation to Lt/C Peggy Reiss, SN-IN; USPS Educational Achievement Award to Lt Cliff L. Winings, SN; USPS Educational Proficiency Award to Lt/C Mary Alice Wilson, JN; 25 year Pin for Paul G. Zerbi, AP; Doing It Right Award; and two members were certified as Boat Operator Certification Certifiers.

Education department conducted a second PILOTING course during the summer, a first in many years. Over 90 students attended courses and seminars. An external course with the Marco Emergency Medical Service was coordinated for First Aid and Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation training.

Over 40 social off-the-water activities included squadron lunches, Captains' Meetings, dinner meetings with speakers, ladies' lunches, and ladies' card playing. On-the-water outings were held each month with a different cruise captain for each event.

An initiative, to provide on-the-water hands-on training, was started in hopes of transitioning learning from the class room to the Boat Operation Certification Condo/classroom was painted - a little brighter, more spacious and nautical in appearance. Past Commander's Wall was updated, donated charts were hung and internet service was initiated. By-Laws were updated to include paragraphs creating an Investment Committee and a Member Involvement Committee. A FACEBOOK internet site was started.

We celebrated our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a member of the United States Power Squadrons continuing to be one of the most outstanding squadrons in the United States Power Squadrons.

I personally was very fortunate to have such capable and hardworking Bridge Officers, Executive Committee members, Committee Chairpersons and Squadron members supporting me in my term as Commander.





**2014—2015**

**Cdr Carl Thieme, SN**

At the 36<sup>th</sup> MISPS Change of Watch, as the new Commander, I stated that one of the key challenges for the next few years was to strengthen and grow our core Civic Service mission. This strategic effort was focused on several key programs. The first program focus was the revitalization of the Vessel Safety Check Program under the leadership of Lt. Tom Ryan, P. We increased the number of VSC's by our MISPS Certified Examiners from 90 to 298. The second key MISPS program effort was building a MISPS Cooperative Charting program. This involved assembling a team of MISPS members to conduct on the water surveys of the Aids to Navigation primarily in and around Marco Island. The presentation of our initial findings to the Marco Island Waterways Advisory Committee and City Council resulted in a commitment by the City of Marco Island to replace all of the private ATON's in Marco Island over the next five years. The third program initiative was the exploration between MISPS and The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 95 on ways we could use our joint resources to improve Boating Safety in and around Marco Island. The result was a memorandum of understanding between the two organizations to explore specific opportunities.

A second major challenge was the development of a set of investment principals and guidelines and the appointment of an Investment Advisory Committee to guide our

investment strategy for MISPS’s cash assets.

A third initiative was the continuation during the year of the MISPS Condo Renovation Project initiated by then Cdr. Ted Reiss, SN.

The fourth major challenge was building the MISPS Brand “Safe Boating Through Education” by more aggressive advertising of our public educational course offerings, presentations about MISPS’s Mission to local organizations and a significant increase in articles related to Safe Boating in our local media.

MISPS was recognized by District 22, winning first place for the excellence of its Eagles Eye Newsletter. MISPS won both the 5-Star award for reaching highest level of performance possible by a squadron in D-22 and the Henry the Navigator Award for the highest conversion of members with AP to JN educational status. USPS awarded MISPS the National Communications Committee Distinctive Communicator Award for 2013 which was directly related to Lt. Cliff Winings, SN dedication to upgrading our web site and Facebook pages.





**2015—2016**

**Cdr Peggy Reiss, JN-IN**

The 37<sup>th</sup> Change of Watch for MISPS was unique by taking place aboard the *Marco Island Princess* during a sunset cruise. A record 93 people joined in for the festivities including several from District 22 and other honored guests from the community. The food was excellent, the weather fine and the sunset beautiful. My goals for the year were Fraternity, Education and Involvement and the Squadron was up to the task.

Many events on and off the water were held—cruises and picnics/lunches numbered around 17, with several being overnight options. The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Digital Scavenger Hunt, was a success with 23 participants finding their targets using Lat/Longs to show educational skill. The Captain's Meetings at CJ's continued throughout the year giving fellowship to all members and especially those who live here year round. Dinner meetings were held at Shipp's Landing with food catered by Kretch's during season. Ladies lunches were monthly and cards at the condo twice a month. Our annual Fund Raiser, chaired by Gene and Wanda Burson was a tremendous success with the largest amount of funds realized thus far.

The Education Program was great with 67 students and 14 instructors advancing their knowledge. Seamanship had

15 students and there was interest in a summer Piloting class that would be held in July. Our SEO Ted Reiss, SN-IN was awarded the District 22 Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Fall Conference which sent his nomination to National for the Chapman award. At the Conference a good number of awards were given to MISPS for Educational Achievement and Cooperative charting.

With support from USCGA Flotilla 95, MI Fire/Rescue and MI Police, MISPS held a hands-on Flare Demonstration at MI Yacht Club. Over 80 participated shooting off flare guns, and lighting hand held flares. In community involvement, MISPS participated in the Wear It! Campaign during safe boating week and were part of a world record for wearing life jackets. Vessel Safety Checks numbered a record 298. Other Community Involvement include the Chamber of Commerce Business Expo, Beach Cleanup, Christmas Toys for Kids for the Kiwanis Club, Christmas Street Parade, Tree Decorating, and packaging meals at Meals of Hope.





**2016 - 2017**

**Cdr William J. Hughes, JN**

At our Change of Watch ceremony aboard the Marco Island Princess, as the new Commander, I said that one of my goals was to continue doing things that we have been doing well. Importantly, this meant that we should prepare a pipeline of new talented, motivated people ready to move up to leadership positions. We worked on this goal over the watch year.

A number of new and interesting events were scheduled. We held a guided kayak tour of Rookery Bay, gathered a group of our members to attend an Island Theater Company play (The Saga of Roaring Gulch) and held our first breakfast cruise to Marker 8.5. We had a chartered lunch cruise aboard the Naples Princess with members of the Naples squadron invited to join us. As a squadron, we planned and participated in the worldwide "Wear-it" campaign, gathering a very large group of people wearing life jackets and bringing boats (police, fire and USCG) to the Rose Marina. We submitted a huge group photo. This news made all our local papers as well as an article for the *Ensign*. Another innovation was the installation of a virtual boat training system in our condominium where we gave training sessions.

In addition, our squadron and its members have won many awards presented at two District 22 conferences during 2016. . Notably, P/C Andrea Battaglia, SN, the editor of *The Eagle's Eye*, won District 22 first place awards for *The Eagle's Eye* newsletter. Linda Fernandes won National first place for her preparation of the squadron scrapbook, which was among entries from over 350 squadrons.

The watch year under my command started with 148 members and ended with 158. This was a good achievement considering other squadrons had trouble maintaining their membership. Special thanks to our membership chairperson, P/C Peggy Reiss, JN, as well as to my Bridge and many committee people who helped make my watch successful.





**2017—2018**

**Cdr Rhonda Gloodt, JN**

MISPS accomplished the goals of Education, Fun, Community Support and Participation. Our Education Department spent many hours preparing and implementing boating related classes. Many members joined MISPS because of a class they had taken.

I presented Commander Awards: The Dynamic Education and Membership Award to D/LT/C Ted Reiss, SN-CN and P/C Peggy Reiss, JN-IN: the Ten Outstanding Years as Eagle's Eye Editor Award to D/1Lt Andy Battaglia, SN; the Magnificent Web Master Award to Lt Cliff Winnings, SN and last but not least the Totally Terrific Treasurer Award to Lt/C Teri O'Connell, JN.

Awards received from USPS District 22 were: The Peace River Graphic Award, 1<sup>st</sup> place and Trophy and the Distinctive Communicator Award thanks to D/1Lt Andy Battaglia's, SN hard work on The Eagle's Eye; the Distinctive Communicator Award for the USPS Website, thanks to Lt Cliff Winnings, SN and the Service Award for the District 22 Cruise and Rendezvous.

USPS National Awards received were: 1<sup>st</sup> Place for National Chapman Scrapbook Award created by Linda Fernandes and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place nationally for the Member Involvement Retention Award due to P/C Peggy Reiss's, JN efforts. The USPS 25-year pins were presented to P/Lt/C Joanne Foote, S and P/C Dick Rogers, P.

MISPS received Best Lighting Award for float in the Marco Island Christmas Street Parade. A Proclamation for Safe Boating Week was received from the City of Marco Island.

MISPS participated in many community events: The Blessing of the Fleet; Lt Tom Ryan's AP VSC group made 313 Vessel Safety Checks; MISPS's first Safe Boating Class for Youngsters; the Coop Charting group led by P/C Carl Thieme, SN and Lt Cliff Winnings, SN was in full swing after Hurricane Irma, working with the City of Marco Island and Collier County to see that damaged and missing ATONs and PTONs were fixed or replaced. MISPS participated in the Chili Cook-Off for the Marco Island Fire Department; Meals of Hope; donated Christmas presents for the Manatee Elementary School; and participated in the Marco Island Christmas Tree Lighting/Tailgate Party and Christmas Street Parade.

MISPS had a lot of fun this year with a New Member Welcome Party at D/1Lt Andy Battaglia's home; a Digital Scavenger Hunt organized by Rick and Mona Kelso; monthly Captain Meetings at CJ's; member participation in the Spring and Fall District 22 Conferences in Punta Gorda; Nature Cruise at Rookery Bay; and monthly cruises and lunches on beaches and restaurants.

The Wine and Hors d' Oeuvres Party, MISPS only fund raiser was a huge success making more money than last year. Donation Chairs Lt Stosh Kott, S and Lt Karen Urso; Assistant Chair Lt Wanda Burson, S and General Chair Lt/C Gene Burson, AP organized the event and with the help of the MISPS members made the event a wonderful night to remember!





**2018—2019**

**Cdr Gene C Burson**

I was installed as Commander on February 13, 2018. Since becoming Commander, I have started many projects with the help of my Bridge.

The first major accomplishment for me was the successful completion of Junior Navigation. This course took me much longer than most people since I could not go to every scheduled class. My instructor, P/C Tippy Cavanagh, SN, worked with me from January through August. Thank you Tippy.

Prior to becoming Commander, I formed a group of Marco Island Commanders, Commodores and Presidents of boating organizations on the island. We found common interest in boating safety, especially after hurricane IRMA. The organization continues to meet twice a year to discuss boating safety and any new needs in the boating community.

At the D22 Fall Conference in 2017 as the current XO of the Marco Island Squadron, I volunteered to be the chairman of the following Spring Conference. In my enthusiasm to keep the meeting within the scheduled time frame, I forgot to hold elections for a new chairman for the Fall Conference. By default, I became the chairman for the Fall Conference also. It just so happened that it was our turn to Host the Hospitality Room. That's right, I got that job also.

During the Spring and Fall of 2018, the United States Power Squadron was changing their identity to the America's Boating Club. Our Squadron worked tirelessly to identify

what that meant for us. We spent a lot of time developing announcements to the members and the public. Our Christmas Party was a combination of America's Boating Club Grand Announcement and our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party.

To keep the Squadron on sound footing for the coming year, my wife Wanda and I stayed as the event General Chairmen to support the Wine & Hors d'oeuvres Party Fundraiser.

Many thanks to my Bridge and all of the members that helped to make my year as Commander a great success.



# 2018-2019 Bridge and Executive Committee

Commander	Cdr Gene Burson, JN
Executive Officer	Lt/C Thomas Morr, AP
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Robert Smith, AP
Educational Officer	Lt/C Thomas Ryan, AP
Secretary	Lt/C Margaret Smith, AP
Treasurer	Lt/C Teri O'Connell, JN
Asst Administrative Officer	1/Lt Earl Haldemann III, S
Asst Educational Officer	1/Lt John Maciolek, AP
Asst Secretary	1/Lt Kathleen Reynolds, AP
Asst Treasurer	1/Lt Deborah Rago
Executive Committee	P/C Steven Moore, S
Executive Committee	1/Lt Earl Haldemann III, S
Executive Committee	Lt John Salotto



# Acknowledgement

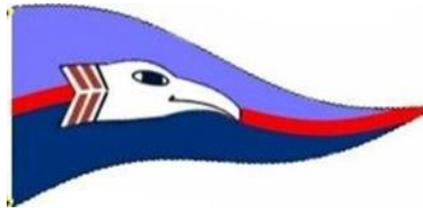
I would like to once again thank everyone that helped make the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary booklet such a wonderful historical treasure.<sup>1</sup> The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition is a combined edition of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary booklet plus the last 5 years. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition is on our website, [MarcoBoatingClub.org](http://MarcoBoatingClub.org) for you to download and print at your leisure.

I want to thank the MISPS for all the help in making the past 40 years so special. Particular thanks go to T.J. Brown, S, past historian and Shirley Mair, AP, past editor of the Eagle's Eye for Squadron history of the first 25 years.

Thank You's are richly extended to Tom Ryan for putting the booklet together, Peggy Reiss for guidance through the updating process, and the last 5 Past Commanders for their input to this document.

Please enjoy!

Cdr Gene Burson, JN



# NOTES

# NOTES

## **THE PLEDGE**

**"I do solemnly pledge  
to abide by the bylaws  
of the United States Power Squadrons:  
promote high standards of  
navigation and seamanship;  
maintain my boat and operate it legally;  
render assistance whenever possible;  
and conduct myself in a manner  
that will add prestige, honor and respect  
to the United States Power Squadrons."**

