



# WILMINGTON POWER SQUADRON

DISTRICT 5

A Unit of United States Power Squadrons®  
SAIL AND POWER BOATING

## THE LUBBER'S LINE

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## WPS Celebrates Change of Watch

Sunday, 22 March 2009 ushered in the 70<sup>th</sup> Change of Watch of the Wilmington Power Squadron. The ceremony was held at the elegant Deerfield Country Club. Sixty plus attendees enjoyed socializing prior to a sumptuous buffet luncheon which included, among other things, a beef burgundy entrée as well as pan-seared Crab Cakes.

These proceedings, always a slight bit on the formal side, offer us as members the opportunity to both recognize and to thank the outgoing Bridge and committee members for services rendered as well as welcome the incoming officers and Executive Committee members.



*District Representative  
P/D/C William Selden V, AP,  
swears in new  
Cdr. Harry S. Anderson II, JN*

Master of Ceremonies P/C C. David Sharpless, AP, called the meeting to order at 1400. Those recognized and honored guests included long time WPS favorites District Representative P/D/C William Selden V, AP, and his wife Donna, Sgt. Gregg

Rhodes representing the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Jean Anderson, mother of Commander Elect Harry (Sut) Anderson, II, JN, and his sisters Melanie Preisendanz, Sue Frampton, and Gail Cox. Regrettably Sut's father, P/C Harry S. Anderson, SN, unable to attend, missed witnessing the second generation of his family to assume the Commander's role at WPS. Additionally recognized were long time members P/C Hugh Mahaffy, N, wife Ruth, and daughter Lynn Mahaffy.

All ten attending Past Commanders were traditionally again welcomed and enthusiastically thanked by membership for past as well as ongoing contributions

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**2009 WPS  
Annual Picnic  
Reservation Form  
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**Change of Watch  
Photos  
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**COMMANDER'S  
MESSAGE**

By Cdr. Harry S. Anderson, II, JN

**Why do we exist?**

Four years ago, when asked to handle PR, and again each year as I have accepted watch in a new bridge office, I have searched for the meaning of our existence. I'm not being melodramatic, I don't mean our existence in a cosmic way....I mean: Why does our boating club exist? To find the answer one needs to peel back the layers of this onion we know as WPS. We don't exist to create jobs or to make a profit or to save the world. We exist to help our members meet certain needs. Individually these needs vary but we can summarize them collectively as having fun with our boating friends on land and on the water and having confidence in our skills so we are relaxed and safe while boating. I am convinced that boaters who are confident in their skills and are active enough to enjoy the peace and beauty of boating, add 5-10 years to their life expectancy.

**So, how are we doing meeting the expectations of our 200 members?**

The answer can't always be quantified, but one measure of health is the level of participation in squadron activities. Last year between 60 and 80 members attended each of our four socials with excellent speakers at each. We had 24 boats or about half of all our boats over 30' in length, join the 2008 cruise. We had 4 picnics with a combined attendance of about 200 members and 64 enjoyed our recent Change of Watch. In addition to the cruise we had 4 other on-water events plus many opportunities to join other squadrons or our D5 events. We certified over 40 basic boaters. Seventeen members took advanced grades, 24 took electives and 34 signed up for the rig inspection and tuning seminars. I estimate that 60-70% of our member families are active attending 3 or more activities per year. This is exceptional.

**Are we positioned to continue meeting our member's needs?**

We have one of the highest levels of volunteer participation in our district. In 2008, 55 members received merit marks meaning

*(Continued on page 5)*

## *Executive Department*

In March, I attended the District 5 Training Session in Ocean City. Also in attendance from our Squadron were: Commander Sut Anderson, Educational Officer Jim Robinson, Administrative Officer Rita Shade, P/C Mike King, and P/R/C Steve Leishman. We met the current National Chief Commander Creighton C. Maynard, Jr. I attended several training and informational seminars, including Leadership Development, Bridge Officer Training for Executive Officers, Public Relations, and a presentation by the D-5 Marketing Team. I learned that my job, as the Executive Officer, is to make the Commanding Officer look good. So if any of you have any concern about how our Commander is looking, please bring your concerns to my attention, not his.

It was my honor and pleasure to serve the last year as your Administrative Officer. I really enjoyed the opportunity to work with many of you on the various committees planning and organizing the cruise, the raft-ups, the assemblies, the Change of Watch, and other social gatherings we all enjoy. Most of the committee members will continue to donate their time and effort. I hope you all appreciate their efforts and will consider joining them. This year, I have another great team helping me:

- Cdr. Sut Anderson and I will co-chair the Boat Show Committee,
- Carl and Mary Stacey will co-chair the Community Services Committee, Bill Orris will continue as our Web Master,
- Steve Leishman will chair the Cooperative Charting,
- Keith "Big Daddy" Sanclemente will continue as our Legal Officer,
- Dave Sharpless will serve as our Liaison Officer,
- Marty Wagner and Dave Sharpless will co-chair Membership,
- Dotty Brabson will head up Public Relations,
- Chuck and Judy Stadler will continue as Safety Officers, and
- Jim Robinson will lead the Vessel Safety Check team.

*Lt/C John G. Ingram, AP*  
Executive Officer

## *Administrative Department*

The Outdoor Activities Committee, Cruise Committee, and Assembly Committee work hard (yes, they have fun, too!) to put together a schedule of events for all of us to enjoy this boating season. Mark your calendar now for these upcoming events:

**16-17 May ANNUAL LAND AND SEA RENDEZVOUS AT TURNERS CREEK PARK ON THE SASSAFRAS**

This is a terrific opportunity for launch your 2009 boating season with friends, whether for a couple hours or an overnight anchor out. Come by car or come by boat -- get together and share the WPS experience. Look for details in this issue of the Lubber's Line.

**10 June WPS ANNUAL CRUISE SKIPPER'S MEETING**

We will discuss cruise details and distribute cruise kits. The meeting begins at 19:00 at the Brandywine Hundred Library.

**20-26 June WPS ANNUAL CRUISE & SAIL RACES**

This week-long cruise begins with the Commander's Kickoff and Spring Picnic at the Sailing Emporium in Rock Hall, MD. Even if you are not going on the cruise, we hope to see you're here at 1700. See cruise details on our website.

**17-22 July DISTRICT 5 CRUISE TO CAPE CHARLES, VA.**

More details to come.

**18-19 July WPS SUMMER RAFTUP RENDEZVOUS**

Location to be announced. Watch for more details.

## *Boating Safety News*

### **Anchoring Mistakes Lead to Tragedy in Fishing Accident**

It is never a happy thought to dwell on the details of tragedy at sea, except for those insights we can gain for other boaters who venture out on the water. Since we have been travelling on the west coast of Florida after leaving Marathon in late February, we have heard repeated news stories of the boating accident in which 3 of 4 ex-football players lost their lives on a weekend fishing trip in the Gulf of Mexico. During that particular weekend, we were riding out the cold front and gale-force winds at a marina in Sarasota, not far from where the crisis was occurring, though we did not know of any problems at the time. It was early Monday, as we headed north to St. Petersburg, when we heard the repeated "Pan-Pan" notices from the Coast Guard.

As is often the case, there are lessons to be learned from this tragedy. A report issued recently by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission concluded the men made significant anchoring errors that led to the accident. The lone survivor gave them a detailed account of what occurred. It seems to be a good time to review anchoring practices, and especially safe practices for freeing fouled anchors. Briefly, this is what happened: The group was in a 21 ft. fishing boat, anchored in about 140 ft. of water some 50 miles off shore. The winds and waves picked up, and they decided to haul anchor and head for home. Unfortunately, the anchor wouldn't budge. After trying to pull up the anchor, they decided to feed the anchor line to the stern of the boat and gun the engine to try to dislodge the anchor. This maneuver caused the stern to go under, and the boat flipped, sending all four men into 62°F water. The rest has been repeatedly reported on newscasts nationwide. A review of newscasts and the commission report with anchoring diagrams are available online at [links.tampabay.com](http://links.tampabay.com).

An investigator for the commission indicated that the anchor should not have been attached to the stern, but should have remained attached at the bow to attempt freeing maneuvers. The investigator suggested that this is a situation where cutting the anchor line may have saved lives. Consider the question "What would I have done in this situation?" Chapman piloting discusses several methods for freeing fouled anchors, including running slowly in a tight circle, using a buoyed trip line, and using tides and swells to advantage. If you haven't done so recently, we suggest just taking a few minutes to review some of these good seamanship practices. It never hurts to review, and, also keep in mind that cutting an anchor line is not a sign of failure, but may be the smart thing to do to keep your crew safe.

Since the accident, the various news media here have been extensively reviewing safe boating practices, in hopes of getting Florida's boaters to take notice. Some of the other points that have been mentioned that could have possibly averted this tragedy:

- Understand and check weather forecasts carefully
- Carry cold water gear, 62°F can and did lead to hypothermia
- Purchase or rent an EPIRB, especially for going off shore outside of range for radio communications

So often, a lack of knowledge and training in safe boating practices seems to be the basic cause of boating tragedies....so tell your boating friends about the great educational courses offered by the Wilmington Power Squadron!

*Lt/Judith C. Stadler, P*  
*Lt/Charles R. Stadler, AP*  
*Safety Officers*



*(WPS Change of Watch, continued from page 1)*

to our organization. This year we have two new 50 year members going forward, Lt/Thomas S. Webster, Jr., SN, and Robert Manning, JN. P/C Robert F. Mahaney, AP, recently deciding to retire from his role as squadron Treasurer, was heartily recognized for his service, past, present, and future, approaching four decades.

Additionally, the Change of Watch Committee, specifically Lt/C Barbara Sharpless, P, Lt/Mary Stacey, P, F/Lt Carl Stacey, AP, and Geraldine Walker, AP, were thanked for the behind the scenes work so necessary in making this day so special. Chaplain Lt/Carol Hanson, P, led the group in our Invocation followed by a moment of silence for departed members Charles S. Booz, AP, and Lt/Robert K. Wenhold, P.

P/D/C Selden spoke briefly on several subjects relating to our organization (both from the National as well as District viewpoints). Bill has always been incisive with his salient comments and organizational overviews. Equally as well received by our attendees was Sgt. Gregg Rhodes. Gregg not only is the Safe Boating Coordinator for Delaware but also is directly involved in first line compliance and enforcement. Both of these guests gave fascinating and well received talks.

As an organization of volunteers, recognizing the value and importance of contributions from membership cannot be overstated. Case(s) in point: (1) the Orris's - Pam, our superior award winning Lubber's Line Editor, received yet another District accolade at the ceremony, Distinction in Journalism – 2008, while husband Bill received the 2008 Website Award; and (2) 2008 also will be remembered as the year P/C Jay R. Minshall, AP, and Geraldine Walker, AP, reached merit mark milestones of 50 and 25 dedicated years, respectively, of service to WPS.

Outgoing Commander Donna F. Zimmerman, JN, summarized not only her year as Commander but articulated challenges of organizations such as ours going forward. Ultimately, Donna, seizing the opportunity, ended her talk with one of her COW jokes, as in milking type, with the joke subject derived from the acronym of the day (Change of Watch). Each of her Bridge members, having been summoned to the podium, were thanked, one at a time, and presented with appropriate mementos commemorating both her successful year at the helm and their respective contribution(s) to her year. Commander Zimmerman then assumed her newest and most deserved title, that of P/C (Past Commander).

P/D/C Selden called Commander elect Anderson to the podium to take the Oath of Office and present him with the Commander's gavel and flag. The 2009-2010 Bridge was then called to the front to receive the Oath of Office as well as their respective officers' flags and pennants.

After recognizing his mother's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, Commander Anderson delivered his enthusiastic acceptance talk touching on personal history dating from his years as an early teen participant in WPS activities. His charge forward is multifaceted with concentrated emphasis on boating education and membership involvement.

Change of Watch is a time of reflection, especially for our Past Commanders. Many, unable to attend, graciously choose pen and paper as their means of participation. These readings have become and hopefully will continue to be an observed and revered tradition at these ceremonies. Thanks P/C's!

The ceremonies concluded, a good WPS year ended, a new WPS year beginning, P/C Sharpless adjourned the meeting.

***Come by Land, Come by Sea.....Just Make Sure You Come!***  
16<sup>th</sup> May Rendezvous at Turners Creek on the Sassafras

Take a break, put down the brushes, and put away your tools for a few hours. Come join us under the Pavilion at Turners Creek for the seasons first BBQ and covered dish dinner on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> for the WPS annual Rendezvous.

The Pavilion is reserved from 1700 to 2000, but plan to come early and take advantage of all that Turners Creek offers and enjoy the beauty of the Sassafras River area.

We will fire up the grills for a 1700 dinner, so bring your burgers, hotdogs, chicken, or other favorite food for you and your party, and bring a side dish, appetizer, or dessert to share with other Squadron friends. We'll provide drinks, plates, and plastic ware. This year there is a \$5 per person charge for the event. No RSVP is required. (Alcohol is permitted only under the Pavilion.)

**If your boat is in the water and you are ready for a cruise:** Join us for a Saturday to Sunday overnight raft-up. Pay close attention to the entrance buoys and stay close to the right shore when entering. Do not cut across the submerged sandbar that heads west from the east side of the entrance. For drafts greater than 6 feet, anchor outside the entrance and take a dinghy in – OR, call the WPS Fleet on Channel 68, on low power, for a pick-up.

**Have dinghy or day boat will travel? Kayaks and canoes, too!** You can launch “day use” boats from the Turners Creek ramp. Turners Creek and Lloyd Creek, which is about three miles away, are great for kayaks. Other ramps you can launch from include Duffy Creek Marina and the public ramp near the Granary Restaurant. If you would like to transport your dinghy or kayak from Rock Hall, contact Jim Robinson. He'll be loading his trailer up the morning of the Rendezvous for a courtesy transport. If you are trailering, you will need a \$10 ramp permit, which you can get at Vonnies Sporting Goods.

**Tour the scenic Sassafras River:** You can do this on your own, or, if there is interest, Jeff Russell will guide interested boaters up the river. Meet at the public ramp at 1400.

**Lace up those hiking boots:** Bring your binoculars and look for bald eagles in the Sassafras River natural Resource Maintenance Area west of Turners Creek. Take the last road to the left before the Turners Creek parking lot and follow the signs. For more information on the web, go to [kentcounty.com/gov/parkrec/parks/sassaf.htm](http://kentcounty.com/gov/parkrec/parks/sassaf.htm).

**Just Come for Dinner:** You have to put the spring prep aside and eat sometime! Stop by at the end of your day and tell us how it's going.

**Old Fashioned Relaxation:** Bring your comfy chair, enjoy the water view, toast a new boating season, and start socializing at 1500 in the Pavilion. You can set up a chess board on the picnic table, deal a hand of rummy, or play a game of scrabble.

**Poker Hand:** Don't forget to get a card to build your hand for the Squadron Poker Challenge. You get one card for each event you attend – and select the best cards to create a winning hand. Best hand wins at the 2010 Change of Watch.

## *Educational Department*

### *What's New*

Our National Organization has made available an ever expanding list of educational seminars and guides structured toward the furthering of boating safety and awareness. To this end, your Education Department is prepared to offer a customized grouping of these courses (for partial listing please refer to pages 28 and 29 of the 2009-2010 WPS Yearbook) tailored to the need/desires of our membership. Specifically, customized translated means you select what course(s) you feel would offer you the “most bang for your time buck.” Based on your responses, we shall assemble a structured course format as per most popular course (s) sought, probably consisting of four to six hours of instruction. Timing of the class convening – up to you!

This offering will hopefully appeal to all members but is intended to be of particular interest and benefit to our large day boat contingency and/or members whose personal availability of time is limited. Contact your squadron SEO, Jim Robinson, at 610-444-5155 to discuss your needs. We cannot proceed with this worthwhile endeavor without your inputs.

*Education Department*

### *Turners Creek*

**Directions:** Take Route 213 south to Galena (past Sassafras River). Turn right at the town's one and only stop light, staying on Route 213. Continue 5.8 miles. Just past Vonnies, which will be on your left, turn right onto Route 298 toward Betterton and Still Pond. Continue 1.3 miles and turn right onto Turners Creek Road, which is Route 448. Continue two miles and park in the lot on the left, above the creek. The Pavilion will be down the path to your right.

### *Entrance to Turners Creek*





***WPS Change of Watch 2009***



***Master of Ceremonies P/C C. David Sharpless, AP, called the meeting to order***



***Sgt. Gregg Rhodes  
Delaware Department of Natural Resources  
and Environmental Control***



***Cdr. Harry S. Anderson, II, JN and his  
mother Jean***



***P/C Hugh Mahaffy, N,  
and daughter Lynn Mahaffy.***



***50 year members  
Lt Thomas S. Webster, Jr., SN,  
and Robert Manning, JN***

**WPS Change of Watch 2009**



***Lt/ Pam Orris, P, Lt/ Bill Orris, AP  
P/D/C William Selden V, AP***



***Lt/C Barbara Sharpless, P  
Lt/Mary Stacey, P***



***P/C Jay R. Minshall, AP,  
Sgt. Gregg Rhodes***



***Geraldine Walker, AP***



***Lt/C John G. Ingram, AP  
Executive Officer***



***WPS Change of Watch 2009***



***Dick and Betty Parker***



***P/D/C William Selden V, AP,  
and his wife Donna***



***Charlie, Zelma, Jimmy Robinson and Donna Hilton***



***P/C Martin G. Wagner, AP***



***Lt/C James Robinson, AP  
Educational Officer***

**WPS Change of Watch 2009**



***Lt/C Rita A. Shade, P  
Administrative Officer***



***P/C Donna Zimmerman, JN , Robert Manning, JN  
Lt/Thomas S. Webster, Jr., SN***



***F/Lt Carl E. Stacey, A/P  
P/C Lynda L. Hastings, AP***



***P/C Dennis M. Wallace, P***



***George and Barbara Roewe***

***WPS Change of Watch 2009***



***P/C W. Michael King, AP***



***Joe and Mary Donia***



***Nancy and Jim Ennis***



***P/C Edward H. Kris, SN***



***Dues Renewals-Clarification***

In previous years collection/accounting for dues renewals was done by the Treasurer's Department of the local squadron. Confirming invoice information, from this year forward remittances are to be sent payable to United States Power Squadrons c/o USPS Headquarters in Raleigh, NC.

*P/C C. David Sharpless, AP  
Assistant Treasurer*



### *WPS Birthday List May - June*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
Joshua M. Swift	3/05	D. Frederick Yaeger	6/06
Lynn A. Mahaffy	7/05	Victor M. Salter	7/06
Paul W. Esterle	8/05	Bart Wilson	7/06
Glenn T. Halsey	10/05	Bill Moody	9/06
Thomas A. Minshall	12/05	Donna Zimmerman	12/06
Carol Hanson	13/05	Nyla Deputy	15/06
Jeffrey W. Mitchell	13/05	Maurice A. LaPlace	15/06
Kevin R. Mullery	13/05	J. Mark Walters	16/06
Robert Updegrave	16/05	J. T. Reager	16/06
Paul Bosco	18/05	Bonnie Fairchild	19/06
Reade Y. Tompson	18/05	Jane E. Drummond	21/06
Susan L. Clark	20/05	William Orris	22/06
Kirk L. Bailey	25/05	Martha J. Sanclemente	23/06
Callie Eros	28/05	Carla Miners	25/06
Hugh M. Mahaffy	29/05	Lynne M. Schaefer	26/06
Mary Polk	2/06	C. Forrest Collier	28/06
Stephen A. Leishman	3/06	Stephen M. Marrone	28/06
Harold C. Marden Jr.	6/06	Robert B. Hall	30/06

### *Welcome New WPS Members*

Please welcome the following new WPS member:

**Lyn F. Anderson** – Lyn, wife of WPS Cdr. Harry (Sut) Anderson, II, JN, has been an active participant in squadron functions for the last few years. After passing the most recent Boating Certification class held at McKean High School, she decided to make her participation “official”. She can be seen at many of the WPS events with her camera taking pictures for the Lubber’s Line. Lyn and Sut keep their 31’ sloop, Freedom, in Oxford, MD.

Welcome Aboard Lyn!



*Lt/C Barbara Sharpless, P*  
*Secretary*



## Calendar of Events



			Weekly Luncheons: Lucky's Coffee House, Concord Pike, Talleyville DE, Wednesday
01-02	May		D/5 - NOAA Co-op Charting Workshop Atlantic Marine Center, Norfolk VA
16-17	May	1700 - 2000	WPS Spring Land & Sea Rendezvous Turner's Creek MD
16-22	May		National Safe Boating Week
27	May	1930	WPS Executive Committee Meeting Conectiv Energy & Technology Center, Newark DE
31	May		Last day for 2009-2010 dues renewal
<b>7</b>	<b>Jun.</b>		<b>Deadline for July Lubber's Line material</b>
10	Jun .	1830	WPS Executive Committee Meeting Brandywine Hundred Library
10	June.	1900	Skipper's Meeting (for WPS 2009 Cruise) Brandywine Hundred Library
20	Jun.	1700	Commander's Kickoff & Spring Picnic Sailing Emporium, Rock Hall MD
20-26	June		WPS Annual Cruise, including Sail Races See March-April Lubber's Line for details