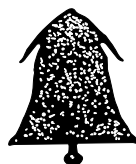




THE BELL



OCTOBER 2010



Santa Clara Power Squadron
Safe Boating through Education & Service

DISTRICT 25

SAFER BOATING THROUGH EDUCATION



Santa Clara Power Squadron

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***The Bell*, published monthly, is the official publication of the Santa Clara Power Squadron, a unit of United States Power Squadrons®. Deadline for articles and input is the third Wednesday of the month.**

Calendar-at-a-Glance

OCTOBER, 2010

- 10 Fleet Week Cruise on Steeves
- 11 Columbus Day
- 20 Executive Committee Meeting
- 22 Pizza Party
- 31 Halloween



NOVEMBER, 2010

- 11 Veterans Day
- 13 Alcatraz Tour
- 17 Executive Committee Meeting
- 25 Thanksgiving



DECEMBER, 2010

- 2 Hanukkah
- 11 Squadron Holiday Party
- 15 Executive Committee Meeting
- 25 Christmas Day



JANUARY, 2011

- 1 New Year's Day
- 11 Squadron Holiday Party
- 19 Executive Committee Meeting



Word Jumble

The object of this game is to unscramble the words and use the pointed out letters to solve the puzzle. Good Luck

DDPLEA _ _ _ _ _
 ↑ ↑

AAIPCTN _ _ _ _ _
 ↑ ↑

ERZAB _ _ _ _ _
 ↑ ↑

CTRAAAAMN _ _ _ _ _
 ↑ ↑

You don't want to be left behind here when visiting.

ANSWERS: Canoe, Pendant, Linear, Slough "Angel Island"



Commander's Message



Time to tack the membership theme in yet another direction. I attended the USPS Governing Board meeting in Bellevue, WA in early September, where a number of significant changes to USPS's way of doing business were enacted.

Right now, people who take the ABC boating course on-line are granted six months' free membership in USPS's CyberSquadron. The four squadrons nearest a new CyberSquadron member are notified of his/her joining so they can invite the person to join their "real" squadron. Approximately 100 people per month are now joining USPS this way, and SCPS has gained at least one member this way.

Effective 1 December, people taking ABC as a classroom course will also be granted six months' free membership. Well, sort of – National can not dictate dues practices to squadrons and districts, so SCPS and D/25 will have to adjust their dues structure to make this six months' trial membership truly free.

Why? Because USPS's leadership believes in "try it, you'll like it;" that trial memberships will effectively show ABC graduates the benefits of being USPS members. The Canadian Power Squadrons has been doing this for several years and their retention rate (people extending their membership after the initial six months) has been in the neighborhood of 70%.

Also eliminated as of 1 December is USPS's \$25 initiation fee for new members. This fee has personally irked me – entering a new member into the computer at HQ and sending them a USPS lapel pin certainly costs much, much less than \$25. This fee significantly increases the cost of the first year of USPS membership, not exactly something I think we want to do when encouraging someone to join USPS. SCPS has actually been waiving this fee, paying it instead out of our own treasury.

Another big change is that the membership category "Family Member" will be eliminated as of 1 June 2012. In the future, a member is a member is a member.

Until recently one could not be a full ("Active") member of USPS without having passed a NASBLA-approved boating course such as USPS's Boating, Boat Smart, or ABC courses. Family membership was invented as a way of allowing spouses and children who had not passed a course to join USPS. But Family Members are second class citizens – they can't hold office, they can't even vote.

Several years ago National voted to allow people to become Active members without taking a boating course. National also voted to simplify and change USPS's dues structure – an Active member pays a certain amount in dues; an unlimited number of family resident at the same address can be USPS members for an additional 50%. It doesn't matter whether these additional members are Active or Family members. The elimination of "must have taken a boating course

to become a full member” blurs the distinction between Family and full membership; today the spouse or child of a full member joining USPS can choose between Active and Family membership.

“If there’s no difference, why have Family members at all?” That is basically National’s logic in eliminating Family membership.

One thing not clear is whether existing Family members will be converted to Active members or whether they will remain as Family members. But effective 1 June 2012 (and allowable right now) is the option for an Active member’s family to be Active, rather than Family, members.

What’s the implication for SCPS and, in particular, for growing our membership? Not clear. But it will simplify our dues structure and eliminate confusion about different kinds of “members” of USPS and SCPS.

Another change is that USPS now has *eight* Elective Courses. Marine Electronics has been split into three different courses: Marine Electrical Systems, Marine Communication Systems, and Marine Navigation Systems. Requirements for the grade of Senior Navigator are unchanged: All Advanced Grades courses (ie, the grade of N) and completion of six Elective courses. So you can now become a SN without taking two of the Elective courses – any two.

I heard a rising star in USPS national leadership comment “if you think these are big changes, wait until you see what happens over the next few years.” I hope so, for the sake of USPS’s growth and even existence.

This Governing Board was hosted by District 16 (Washington). In the past, they’ve put together a post-GB cruise of the San Juan Islands. I’ve heard rave reviews of these cruises, so the Fishers, the Sadlers, and yours truly (with new girlfriend, Diane) chartered a Monk 36 trawler in Anacortes and joined the cruise. There were nearly 60 boats and 220 participants. The cruise officially covered six days and five nights (we were allowed to pick up our boat a day early and keep it a day late, so we actually were on-cruise for seven nights, six at marinas and one “on the hook”). District 16 did an indescribable job – dockage was arranged at marinas for the five nights and buffets or other dinners were provided for four. We visited Roche Harbor, Victoria, BC (two nights), Sidney, BC, and Friday Harbor. I personally met a lot of new people (all joined by the bond of USPS membership), even Diane, who grew up in Minnesota, had fun exchanging Uffda’s with the half-dozen cruisers from District 10 (WI and MN). Oh, and one day a pod of Orca whales breached about 100 yards from our boat; we slowed to their speed and ran parallel to them for almost an hour, admiring their cetaceous beauty and playfulness.

Hope to see everyone (especially our newer members!) at our Pizza Party on *Friday, 22 October*. We’ll have some pictures and souvenirs from the San Juan Islands cruise to share.

Lu

Executive Officer



WEIRD LAWS

In Florida: Sarasota, it is illegal to sing while wearing a bathing suit.

Guess if you feel like breaking into song and dance, you either need to be fully clothed or naked.

Over the last several years, way too long to even think about, I have been involved in one way or another with this Squadron. During this time I have seen many changes within the organization. Members coming and going, different bridge officers, a change in the type of events we do, the restructuring of some of the by-laws, the less formal approach towards the organization and yet through it all, one thing remains the same. The commitment by several members to make our Squadron the best it can be and more importantly the commitment to keeping it going.

You might ask yourself why I bring this up now. After all, here we are in October and getting very close to the end of our year. That my friend is exactly why I bring this up. Very soon we will be looking at replacing the current Bridge Officers and committee members. Very soon we will be calling upon our members to step forward and assist in keeping our Squadron afloat. With that being said, I must first explain my thoughts on this topic and then ask for your assistance.

First my thoughts. As I stated in the early paragraph, several members have been very committed to keeping our Squadron going, and as time goes by, these fellow members begin to tire from their commitment. They begin thinking thoughts like maybe I need a break from my involvement. They begin questioning why aren't other members stepping forward and why don't we get participation and other members volunteering. While I and others have tried to answer these questions, it becomes more and more difficult, especially when you find yourself beginning to ask the same questions.

Now this isn't meant to say that I am growing tired of participating. I want to make it clear, I have not. What I will say is I and the other members that remain committed to our Squadron cannot do it alone. We need your help. We need fresh ideas. Fresh member participation and probably most importantly fresh commitments to keeping our Squadron going.

Very soon, myself and fellow members of the nominating committee will be calling the membership and asking you to step forward and take a role in participating. I know the thought of being involved can sound terribly scary and some of you might even say, "I

don't know how to do that job" or "I don't have the time", Rest assured, we would not ask anybody to do a job they can't do, and there are plenty of us that will support and guide you through the process. So what I am asking from you is to please make a commitment to our Squadron, agree to assist in any way you can, and don't say no when asked to participate.

I must confess, this request is kind of selfish. You see, I don't want to see this Squadron fail and I certainly don't want to see those members that have been committed over time get to the point where they walk away or get burned out. So PLEASE, won't you help keep things on track by simply offering to help when you get the call. Thanks.

Lindy Zink



From the Admin



NEXT SQUADRON EVENT

What: Pizza Party Dinner

When: Friday, 22 October

Where: Roundtable Pizza, Los Gatos

See further details in the Admin article.

Winter, yes we do have winters in California and it felt like we had one this summer! With our recent warm September days, it has been easy to put off the preparations for our wetter season. It is time to add fuel stabilizer, check for any leaks around the hatches and portholes and make sure those dock lines will hold tight in a strong wind. I encourage you to visit your boat next week and take a few hours to get her snug and tight. If you have any questions about winterizing, member Bob Coons is a very knowledgeable reference...boatfixerguy@msn.com

As fall is now upon us, boating activities slow a bit but our Squadron's social calendar heats up! With appreciation again to the Monterey Squadron, we have an invitation to join them on the SSS Steeves to get an on-the-water perspective of the annual Fleet Week festivities on San Francisco Bay. And YES, THE BLUE ANGELS WILL BE THERE! You'll receive a flier in your email detailing the arrangements for this 10 October trip and I encourage you to get on-board early with a reservation. The cost, including lunch, is just \$30 per adult and \$10 for those under 12. We'll watch the Parade of Ships, see the entertainment close-up and have the Blue Angels soaring right over our bow. We'll also get to see our friends from the Monterey Squadron, the Peralta Squadron and other Northern Cal Squads. It will be a good day to have fun, see old friends and to make new friends.

Upcoming we will be enjoying a very interesting Pizza Party and Member's Meeting on Friday, 22 October. Do join us at the Los Gatos Round Table on Pollard Road at 6:00 PM. There will be a presentation by Carrie and Steve Fisher, Lu Abel and Jim and Dee Sadler who have just returned from the "Northwesting" cruise sponsored by Squadrons in the Puget Sound region. The narrative of their cruise through the San Juan Island will be accented by a slide show.

For those of us interested in local history and a good day on the water, we will be traveling to Alcatraz on 13 November. It is a good trip, about 3 hours and we will enjoy a relaxed lunch and perhaps a drink or two after the tour. They'll be more to come on this event soon.

Our closing event for the year is also traditionally our most well attended of the year...The Power Squadron Holiday Banquet. We will return to the Fish Market on Blossom Hill Road. The food is delicious and the banquet room is decorated in a nautical theme that suits us quite well. The date for this gala is Saturday, December 11th. If you have yet to attend the holiday banquet, it is a great time to dress-up and socialize with your Squadron friends. Do start looking for that “special” WHITE ELEPHANT ITEM for our gift exchange ... always good fun!

Tim the Admin
408-391-2430 or t.ellenberger@sbcglobal.net

Santa Clara Power Squadron 2010 Activities

October 22nd, Our Fall Pizza Party and Meeting

November 13th, Alcatraz (we go to the ROCK!)

December 11th, Squadron Holiday Banquet

And most months, please watch your email for an invitation to the Squadron's First Wednesday Dinners. The cost is usually \$15 or less and we visit some of the favorite restaurants that our members recommend. Do you have a place that you've been going to for years and always enjoy? If so, consider hosting a dinner there. Just get in touch with Tim the Admin...t.ellenberger@sbcglobal.net.

***Get involved.
Attend an event.***

Ship's Store

SQUADRON LOGO CLOTHING NOW AVAILABLE

The Embroidery Factory, which puts the squadron logo on the clothing we choose, has a new website. Members can view the website, without opening an account, and let the squadron Ship's Store place their orders with other orders. The squadron gets a 20% discount from the retail price.

THE EMBROIDERY FACTORY WEBSITE

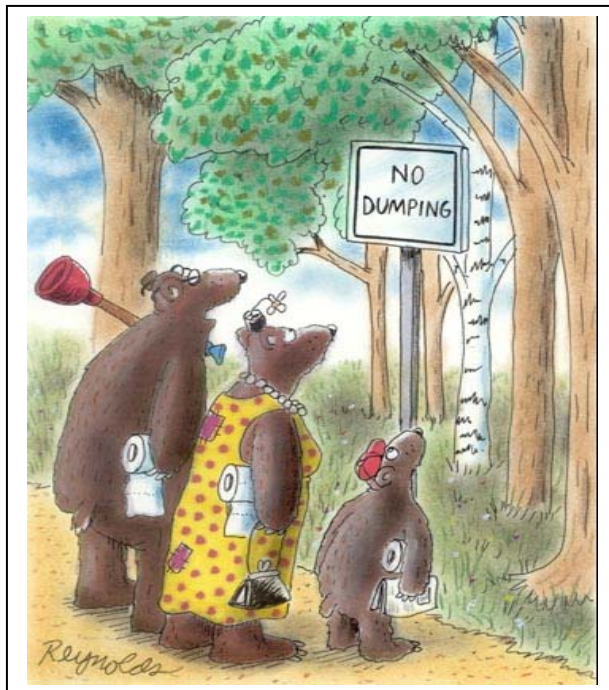
www.embroideryfactory.com

Order that special someone a gift that that they can wear with pride, an embroidered shirt or hat or perhaps a nice warm jacket. All of these items are available in different sizes and colors. Don't keep waiting, order now.

Carrie Fisher
(408) 723-0619
Carrie4318@aol.com



Just For Laughs



From the Treasurer



USELESS KNOWLEDGE

Chewing gum while chopping onions will keep you from crying.

So now there is no excuse for those tears. Unless of course, it is because you missed the onion with the knife.

THE PRACTICALITY OF STEAM

With all the excellencies of the internal combustion engine there are many attributes inherent in the steam engine which the former can never attain. The steam engine carries with it a vast store of energy, which may be instantly drawn upon. It starts from rest, or reverses when in motion, by the simple handling or throttle and reversing lever; thus doing away with all the complicated and delicate transmission mechanisms. Its power can be governed over long range and for short demands almost twice its normal effort can be had of it.

W. Startling Burgess, 1908

THE HOUSEBOAT *HELEN W.*, ILLINOIS, MICHIGAN CANAL, OCTOBER 7, 1903

After lunch we tackled Lock No. 11, and a terror it was. The walls were so dilapidated that care had to be exercised to keep the edges of the scow and roof from catching. Then the roof caught on the left front and the bottom on the right rear, and it was only on the fourth trial when we had worked the boat as far forward as possible that we managed to scrape through. The wind was still very brisk and dead ahead, so we tied up just below the lock. A steam launch, the *Lorain*, passed through bound down. She filled the lock with smoke, and we realized how much gasoline exceeds steam in cleanliness. A foraging expedition secured a quart of milk and four dozen eggs.

William F. Waugh

From the Mariner's Book of Days by Peter H. Spectre

We are solvent.
DeWayn Meek, Treasurer

From the SEO



Teaching Opportunity

We are always looking for members who are interested in volunteering to teach one of our boating classes.

If this is you, give me a call.

ABC 3-rd Edition class started on 28 September at Wilcox High School in Santa Clara, Tuesday evenings through 26 October.

Seamanship class to start on 14 October for six weeks; two and a half (maybe three) hours each Thursday evening starting at 6:30 PM, off on Thanksgiving evening with a return on 2 December for quick review and final exam. The class will be in the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office building at 55 W. Younger Ave., San Jose. Please reply to me, Cdr Lu Abel or P/Lt/C Roger Bradley with your interest. Course materials have arrived.

Nautical humor for October

Caulk:

Any one of a number of substances introduced into the spaces between planks in the hull and decking of a boat that give a smooth, finished appearance while still permitting the passage of a significant amount of seawater.

< http://www.yachting-life.net/new%20index/frames3/jokes_frame.htm

Lt/C Dave Norris, JN
CaptDaveNorris@aol.com
or w6ctm@aol.com



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

22 Sep 2010

- Meeting called to order at 1900 and quorum established
- Present: Lu Abel, Al Hughes, Dave Norris, Tim Ellenberger, Steve Fisher and Jim Sadler.
- Revised minutes of the Aug meeting, as passed out by Jim Sadler, were approved.
- Dave Norris passed out a new Roster for Q3 and corrections were cited.
- Dennis Parker reported that troubleshooting the on-line course registration is the most difficult part of maintaining the web site. The data goes up to the National server, where the outcome is hidden from Dennis. First, I need to understand the normal behavior. I need to go back to our previous squadron educational staff, and understand what they saw when the system was working properly. Then I need to find the person at National who receives the form and maintains the database. Fortunately, Dave Hinders understands most of this stuff and may be responsive, being in the Educational Department at National, and a former student of mine at Santa Clara Squadron.
- Commander Lu gave the Treasurer's report as DeWayn could not make the meeting. We are solvent. ABC 3 should give us more revenue. The Educational fund is not showing as an expense.
- Tim said the Fleet Week flyer is coming out this week. Tim passed the flyer out to the Committee. The SSS Steeves is leaving the Brisbane Point Marina at 1100 on Sunday 10 Oct. The Blue Angels are still flying. It was suggested to nix the First Wednesday Dinner in October due to so close to the 10th, but it was decided that not many members go out on Fleet Week, so First Wednesday is still on.
- The Pizza Party and general membership meeting is on 22 Oct. Tim cc'd Jim Bosso to see if the Monterey Bay Squadron would like to attend and hear Commander Lu describe Nor'Westing 2010.
- The trip to Alcatraz is on 13 Nov. Jim Sadler will help with this.
- Dave Norris reported that 3 or 4 prospects from the Boat Show may show up for ABC3 which begins 28 Sep. We also may get some walk-ins.
- Roger Bradley has tested on Cruise Planning and Sailing. Jim Slider will test early. A San Joaquin member may take Seamanship. We have the room reserved for Seamanship. Bill Miner, Jim Slider and a list of others Dave will send that total 8 students.
- Lindy Zink was traveling and unable to attend the meeting, but Commander Lu read the PRO report to the Committee from the Chair, John Cassidy: On or about 25 August the Committee received an e-mail from Lu Able about doing brochures for District for the up coming boat show that were used for the last show. Hitched up with Norm Pennington from Peralta Squadron through Lu to gather information from the other squadrons about when and where they will be having their next ABC3 class.
- Information received was spotty due to squadrons not keeping their information current with national. There was also a problem receiving conflicting information from the same squadron and having the wrong contact person listed. Norm was

very helpful on contacting the squadrons as he was able and several squadrons were right on.

- On Sept 5th this committee sent the brochures to all Dist 25 squadrons for review of contact persons, requesting them to contact this committee if the information on the brochures was either INCORRECT, or if the wrong person was contacted to forward it to the right person.
- On 14 Sept at the last minute we finally received corrections from Carquinez, and even these were confusing and not complete. Received absolutely nothing from Monterey Bay or Redwood, so we corrected the brochure with what we had and sent them to Lu so he could get them printed for the boat show.
- An article was received from DeWayn Meek forwarded by Captain Gadget (Jim Catto) of the San Jose Sailing Club about “Expired Marine Flares”. We checked with Lindy Zink on or about 5 Sept about it and decided the PRC would make up a brochure. This was sent to ALL Dist 25 squadron contact persons as well as all the members of this squadron on 5 Sept. A corrected brochure was re-sent to all because of our error in the full contact address not printing.
- The theme for October will be on “Personal Water Craft” and “Houseboats”. We have not seen or heard much about safety requirements for these craft. These will be distributed to the members on or about 1 Oct, 2010. The committee should have received their copies.
- Commander Lu said the Boat Show was poorly attended with only 10 booths populated.
- Steve Fisher talked to contractors to the County of Alameda who said they do take expired flares and aerals, but call them before you come.
- Merit Mark recommendations are due by the end of October. Commander Lu will send out last year’s list. It can be found on DB 2000. Please be specific with your justifications. 8 – 10 hours of work can earn a merit mark.
- Commander Lu said we need to slightly fine-tune the rule around “crediting” non-members course price difference if they join SCPS/USPS. Last month we agreed to “credit” the difference towards the cost of membership. There are instances where the cost differential will be more than the cost of membership, so we should “refund” the difference. The Family Membership will be discontinued by national effective soon. There is now one membership fee.
- District Commander Mark Gathings contacted Commander Lu and asked if Santa Clara would have its Change of Watch concurrent with the District Change of Watch on 12 March as it will be held in Santa Clara. Tim Ellenberger asked about the price point.
- Al Hughes must put in a Safety Report in October. It is specifically organized. There is room for VSC’s but nothing else. The VSC date at Bair Island is April 9th.
- The next ExCom meeting will be held Wednesday, 20 Oct at the Sheriff’s Building.
- Meeting adjourned at 2022
- The Executive Committee reconvened at 2025. A quorum was present. No members had left.

It was moved to accept two members from the San Joaquin Delta Squadron to be Associate Members of the Santa Clara Squadron as they live in San Jose, but boat in the Delta. They are Jerry and Karen Kosmala. The measure passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 2026.

A friendly reminder, the Executive Committee meeting takes place on the third Wednesday of every month at 1900 hour. The meeting is held at the Sheriff's Office, in a small conference room on the first floor. All members are welcome to attend and if you have any thoughts of joining a committee, becoming a Bridge Officer or just want to get a little more involved, this is a great opportunity to find out what it is all about. The meeting usually last about an hour and a half to two hours but there is always cookies to munch on and you don't have to stay the entire time. Why not give it a try and drop by. Might be interesting.

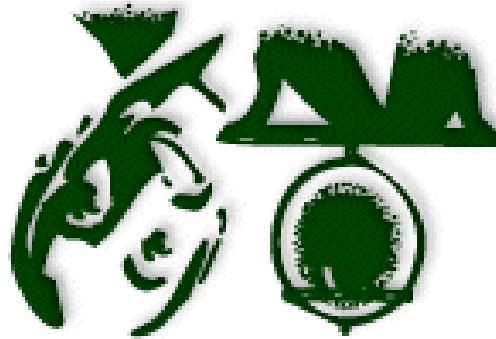


**WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER
6 October at 6:00 PM**

EAT, DRINK AND EAT SOME MORE!

***CUP “N” SAUCER DINER
1375 BLOSSOM HILL ROAD #20,
SAN JOSE***

(Princeton Plaza Shopping Center, where Mervyns’s used to be)



At the suggestion of Dave Norris who says...the food is good, plentiful and very reasonably priced. Come hungry, leave happy, hey...it's a diner!

**Do let Tim the Admin know your coming...
408-998-5521 or t.ellenberger@sbcglobal.net**

Monthly Riddle

You are standing on a bridge. A boat passes under and everybody is up on deck, but you can't see a single person. Why is that?



Answer is located on Editor's page.

**The Santa Clara Power Squadron invites you to enjoy
Fleet Week aboard the Sea Scout Ship Steeves**

10 October, Sunday



Brisbane Point Marina, 10:30 AM Boarding

We'll be joining our friends in the Monterey Squadron for a wonderful trip out on the Bay where we will have a close-up view of the fleet and the flyovers by the BLUE ANGELS. Drinks and a sandwich are included, as is parking. You don't want to miss this great day of patriotism, cruising and fun!

DIRECTIONS: North on 101 to exit 426B, Sierra Point Parkway, bear right and continue until the third stop sign to the Brisbane Point Marina. Parking will be on your right, do look for our hosts the Sea Scouts. The Steeves will be in the Visitor's Slip.

For reservations call Monterey Past Commander Jim Bosso, phone: 831-345-9965. Checks, \$30 per adult and \$10 for under 12's, and payable to the S.E.Y.A. Inc. (Sea Explorer's Youth Association) should be mailed to:

Jim and Jeriann Bosso, 200 Linden Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

And do let Tim the Admin 408-998-5521 or t.ellenberger@sbcglobal.net know you'll be aboard!

Note...extra donations to the Sea Scouts may be added to your check!

<http://www.chiff.com/articles/san-francisco-fleet-week.htm#schedule>

Photos From Cruise on the Steeves



Steeves awaits Squadron at dock.



Pre-castoff briefing given by Jim Bosso.



Members listen to safety lecture.



Steeves Skipper Jim Bosso.



Tim and Sandy brought lots of snacks.



USPS ensign proudly flies.

More Photos from Steeves Cruise



It was a little windy and cold.



More evidence of the cold weather.



Jim giving instructions to crew.



Okay weather fans, what does this mean?



The end of a beautiful day.

From The Editors



If you have a suggestion or something that you would like to see in The Bell or if you have an article, please send it to us via our e-mail. Lindyzink@hotmail.com



RIDDLE ANSWER

Because they are all married.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.

Albert Einstein