

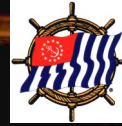
The Southwind

P/Stf/C Donald Stark, JN, Co-Editor
65 Stark Spur
Eighty Four, PA 15330-2547



Sunset over the Main Street lift bridge on the St. Johns River in Jacksonville, Florida, at the USPS Annual Meeting in January.

March - April
2012
Volume 7, Issue 2



The Southwind

Publication of the South Hills Power Squadron
A Division of the United States Power Squadrons®



Squadron Members Enjoy the Apres Christmas Gathering

Photo by Cdr Bill Macko, AP

Coming Events

- **14 March SHPS Change of Watch** at Kings Restaurant 155 McMurray Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241. 1800 Dinner
- **20 March Spring Begins—Vernal Equinox** 0114 EDT.
- **23, 24, 25 March Tony Award Spectacular - D7 Spring Conference** Clarion Inn, Hudson Ohio.
- **11 April SHPS Meeting** at Kings Restaurant
- **19—25 May National Safe Boating Week**
See www.safeboatingcampaign.com for safety information, graphics, activities, and public relations materials.



SHPS Bridge

Commander

William Macko, AP
412-279-4571

Executive Officer

Lewis Doughton, S
724-941-1173

Educational Officer

Tom Merritt, JN
412-466-6319

Administrative Officer

Dan Marino, P
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Shelia Macko, AP
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**The South Hills Power
Squadron website**
www.SH-PS.org



In Sympathy

South Hills Power Squadron members extend their sympathy to Cdr Bill Macko and Shelia on the passing on Wednesday, 22 February 2012 of Bill's Mother, Margaret E. Macko of Erie, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Macko was 92.

We also extend our sympathy to Nancy Toler, whose sister, Jeanne M. Allen of Baldwin Township, passed away on 16 January 2012. Mrs. Allen was 85.

SUPPORTERS OF THE SOUTHWIND 2012

Warren Bell

Bob & Jane Brandenstein

Ken & Gloria Campbell

Lew & Vi Doughton

Dorothy Meloy

Patricia Petersen

Audrey Rice

Art & Emily Schock

Don & Marjie Stark

If you would like to contribute to the publication of this newsletter, please make a contribution in any amount to South Hills Power Squadron, c/o Lt/C Warren Bell, AP, Treasurer. We will list your names in *The Southwind*.

Also, if you have photos or items of interest that you would like to share with your fellow members, please forward them to the editor.

The deadline for the next issue will be **23 April 2012**.

Thank you for your support .

Administrative Department

Lt/C Dan Marino, P

Our February meeting, which was our Annual Meeting, was held at Kings Restaurant in Upper St. Clair. We had a very interesting program from Don and Marjie Stark, during which they gave us a presentation on their travels through the Panama Canal and crossing of the Caribbean on the tall ship *Star Flyer*. We had a nice turnout, a good time, and the Squadron picked up the tab for everyone's dinner.

Our next meeting will also be our Change of Watch. We'll be back at Kings Restaurant at 155 McMurray Rd. on 14 March. Dinner and meeting will be at 1800. Join us as we thank Cdr. Bill and the previous bridge and usher in the new.

Lastly, a final reminder that the D7 Spring Conference will be in Hudson, OH and hosted by the Akron Power Squadron on 23-25 March. As of this writing, everyone should have received emails with Conference and registration information. Anyone interested in going who needs more info, please let me know.

Actually, lastly, as this will be my last Administrative Report, I'd like to thank P/C Chris Orie, AP for slipping back into her old role as Administrative Officer. I'm sure she'll do a great job of keeping you informed of the activities of the Squadron. I'd also like to thank everyone for the support they've offered during my next endeavor with the Squadron. I know we have challenges ahead, but I think we can also look forward to the enjoyment and good times that lie ahead with SHPS.

SHPS Places Second Nationally in VSC Program!

For the year 2011, South Hills Power Squadron placed second in the VSC Program. Below is the announcement as it was made at the USPS Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida.

There will be an award presented to South Hills Power Squadron at the D7 Spring Governing Board Meeting on 24 March in Hudson, Ohio.

It should also be noted that there are some re-

porting changes in the VSC program this year. There will be a presentation at the Spring Conference to review those changes and to review the new report forms.

Lastly, if anyone is interested in becoming a VSC examiner, please contact our VSC chairman, P/C Ken Campbell, JN at 412-881-3006.



A Legacy of Service

Brian Cook is a dedicated volunteer fireman. He is a member of the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 in Huntingdon, PA. He has been called to perform many duties, some of them on the water. On 2 January 2012 Brian was called to search for the body of a 20 year old man, Julius Rodgers, who fell off the Neu Bridge in nearby Mount Union on New Year's Day. To aid in the search. Brian had cadaver dogs. He was not able to locate the body. A different team using lights located the man's body the next night.

Brian is the son of Carol (Campbell) Cook and is the grandson of P/C Ken Campbell, JN. His rescue boat was the first boat that P/C Campbell inspected this year under the Vessel Safety Check Program. According to Ken, Brian's boat is unique because it has a jet drive outboard of about 250 horsepower. This aids in shallow water operation.

Ken is justifiably proud of his grandson and his willingness to serve his community through the Volunteer Fire Company. Most likely Brian has learned that commitment to community from his grandfather and family. P/C Campbell leads our squadron's effort in the VSC program and has performed far greater than 1000 vessel examinations.



Brian Cook at the helm of rescue boat.

SOUTH HILLS POWER SQUADRON

Cordially invites you to the annual

CHANGE OF WATCH

14 March 2012

Kings Restaurant

155 McMurray Road, Pittsburgh PA 15241

Time: 1800

Meals will be ordered from the menu.

The new Bridge for 2012-2013:

Lt/C Dan Marino, P

Commander

Lt/C Lew Doughton, S

Executive Officer

P/C Tom Merritt, JN

Education Officer

P/C Chris Orié, AP

Administrative Officer

Lt/C Shelia Macko, AP

Secretary

Lt/C Warren Bell, AP

Treasurer

Please join us in celebrating the new Bridge.

Please RSVP to danmar7@comcast.net



TONY AWARD SPECTACULAR

Akron Power Squadron Hosts D7 Spring Conference

23, 24, 25 March 2012

Clarion Inn & Conference Center

240 East Hines Hill Road, Hudson, OH 44236

It is going to be a great time. Hope to see you there.

For a Registration form see:

<http://www.akronpowersquadron.com/announcements/2012D7SpringConferenceRegistration.pdf>

Send Conference Reservations

before 10 March 2012 to:

Lt Linda Sutherland, S

3440 Edgewood Dr

Stow, Ohio 44224

Hotel Reservations:

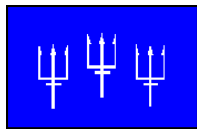
Call Clarion Inn 330 - 653- 9191

Standard Rooms \$82 + tax per night

Hospitality Rooms \$82 + tax per night

Commander's Message

by Cdr William Macko, AP



Fellow Power Squadron Members: This will be my last article as Commander of the South Hills Power Squadron. I can honestly say it has been interesting in my three terms as Commander. I have learned a lot regarding the structure of the organization. I would like to think that I have made some positive impact on the Squadron as we are today.

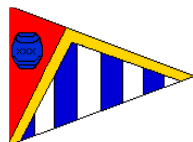
We have been through some tough times, and I am confident that it will get better. In my profession I have been involved in multiple management situations where decisions and discussions were, shall I say, less than professional. That has never been the situation with the SHPS. We are all dedicated individuals donating our time for a goal and mission that we all believe in. In my three terms there has never been one time that I regretted my decision on taking on the duties of the Commander, well maybe one or two but it has always been a positive outcome.

I must admit, this term I have not been able to dedicate the time required to do an acceptable job. There have been many times where I had called on my Bridge to cover my butt because of job and outside commitments and requirements. For that I thank every one of you for the assistance and support.

In my "retirement" I will do whatever I can do to assist my fellow members in any way possible to carry on and continue with the USPS mission. Do not hesitate to ask, I will do whatever I can to accommodate.

Thanks

Bill



Four District 7 members received their life membership at the USPS annual meeting. From Left to Right: P/R/C Bob Brandenstein, SN; C/C Frank Dvorak, SN; P/R/C Barbara Spraggins, SN; P/C Joan Adams, AP; P/Stf/C Don Stark, JN; and incoming C/C John Alter, SN.

Secretary Department, Lt/C Shelia Macko, AP

Listen to that wind. I'm sure glad that they opted for the better shrink wrap this season. Hey Hunter, are you doing OK over there? Wow! I just got a chill down my mast. What a nasty night! Other than a cold breeze blowing in from my stern due to some loose strings on my canvas cover, I'm fine over here Nightmare. At least you are covered Hunter. Did you see that poor 28 foot Chris in front of us? They must have covered her in tissue paper, because that first storm we had in September ripped her shrink to shreds. Poor thing! I can hear her shaking in that cradle. Since I didn't see any mooring cover, I would bet her seats are ruined and her deck's a mess.

Hey! Get off of me Kid! What's happening, Old Moe? OOOH Nightmare. I knew when they decided to use only four jack stands and no blocks on the 34 footer next to me that I'd be in trouble this season. Knowing the Kid's owner, I'll be wearing him until the Spring thaw. Can you imagine the beam bruise I'm going to have? OUCH! Sorry Moe. Maybe someone from the Marina will come out tomorrow to check on the damage from tonight's storm, and lift the Kid from you before the snow starts piling up. You are a dreamer, Nightmare.

Oh no, my water broke! What's going on Princess? My frugal and ill-informed owners didn't bother to drain or put antifreeze in my water system, and now my bilge is filling up fast with water. I can see it now, after this winter, my stringers will be weak and rotting; I'll smell of mold; and my hull will have tiny cracks. I'm not going to age well after this incident. If our owners would only prepare us properly for winter storage, the ravages of winter wouldn't take such a toll on our structures, and they wouldn't complain about the costly Spring repairs.

This is where we as Power Squadron members can help. We examine and inspect boats during the Spring and Summer months for safety concerns, but do we do anything to assist fellow boat owners prepare for winter storage? Take a trip through some boat yard this time of the year, and you will see the deplorable state of many boats. One suggestion is to create a check list for boaters who store their boats outdoors. This could be made available to boaters starting in late August. The damage done by improper winterization can also cause problems that may not be apparent during the spring launch but could impact a boater's safety later in the season.