

The Southwind

P/Stf/C Donald Stark, JN, Co-Editor
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Everyone enjoyed a pleasant afternoon meal at the SHPS After Christmas Party.
Photo by Don Stark

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The Southwind

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



Celebrating the 100th Anniversary at the USPS Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FL

Photo by Don Stark

Coming Events

- 12 March SHPS Change of Watch - Kings Restaurant
- 24 March Pittsburgh Power Squadron Change of Watch
Location and time TBA.
- 28,29,& 30 March 2014 Spring Conference hosted by
SHPS Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ft Couch Rd. Upper St. Clair.
- 9 April SHPS Monthly Dinner Meeting - Kings Restaurant
- 11 June SHPS Picnic Meeting - Bouquet Grove
South Park

SHPS Bridge

Commander

Dan Marino, P
304-723-5628

Executive Officer

Lewis Doughton, S
724-941-1173

Educational Officer

Tom Merritt, JN
412-466-6319

Administrative Officer

Chris Orie, AP
724-935-5087

Secretary

Marjie Stark, S
724-228-4177

Treasurer

Warren R. Bell, AP
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The Southwind

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**The South Hills Power
Squadron website
www.SH-PS.org**



The deadline for the next issue will be: 21 April 2014.



D/7 Cdr Craig Fraser, SN presenting the district 100th anniversary Ensign with all the Squadron Ribbons in Jacksonville at the USPS Annual meeting.

Sea Lions

Lt/C Lew Doughton, S

In the September Southwind, Shelia Macko wrote about the "Marine Hobo", a weasel that took comfort and food inside any boat where an opening existed. This story involves California Sea Lions who like to take refuge on top of vessels, as observed in the Newport Bay off Balboa Island. The town leases moorings for \$1,000 per year with two important provisions—they are not transferable, and they must stay in use. For those with leases who don't need them or would prefer a profit, they are sub-let to others for amounts up to \$50,000. The new person must immediately moor a boat there. If they happen to be "between boats", at the time, they purchase any old piece of junk that will float and tie it to their new mooring while they shop for the boat of their dreams. Sea Lions love this arrangement since it provides them a place to rest and bask in the sun, sometimes for months or even years at a time. It makes a great tourist attraction.

While reading about Sea Lions, I learned that they also have very interesting mating habits, but I'll save that for another day.



Photos by Lew Doughton

SOUTH HILLS POWER SQUADRON ANNUAL MEETING

12 February 2014 Kings Restaurant

Cdr Dan Marino called the meeting to order at 1845. The flag salute followed. Fourteen people were in attendance. The minutes for the January 2014 meeting were approved.

Executive Officer Lew Doughton reported that the Pittsburgh Boat Show was held in very bad weather. This hindered attendance at the show. Doughton and Tom Merritt worked the show for one day.

Education Officer Tom Merritt has secured the South Park permit for our 11 June picnic meeting at Bouquet Grove.

Ken Campbell has sent the 2014 Vessel Safety Check stickers to squadron inspectors. There is a recertification program that must be completed by all inspectors this year.

Don Stark reported on the UPS Annual Meeting in Jacksonville. He described the new boating simulator. The trainers will sell for \$15,000 each, and USPS will have five this year. The hope is that ten more can be purchased in 2015. Stark also displayed an LED light strip that could be used on a boat or a variety of other places. Don distributed copies of the new MARLINSPIKE Magazine. He and Marjie attended the Tall Ships America Annual Conference in San Diego, where the magazine was introduced.

Election of Officers was conducted. The new officers for 2014-15 will be:

Commander	Dan Marino
Executive Officer	Lew Doughton
Administrative Officer	Vira Doughton
Education Officer	Tom Merritt
Treasurer	Dorothy Meloy
Secretary	Marjie Stark

The D/7 Spring Conference arrangements were reviewed by Dorothy Meloy, Chairperson. Members were encouraged to place orders for USPS clothing with Dan Marino by 16 February in advance of the conference. Bill and Shelia Macko will chair the Ships Store with the assistance of Tom McFate. The assistance of other squadrons will also be appreciated. Dorothy asked for input on the choices of appetizers for the ice breaker. These will be purchased from the Crowne Plaza. Donations are needed for the Chinese Auction. The next meeting will be on 12 March 2014, which will be the SHPS Change of Watch. Kings Restaurant will be the site of the meeting at 1800.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marjorie G. Stark, S, Secretary



C/C John Alter, SN presents Lt/C Marjie Stark, S with her USPS Life Membership.

South Hills Power Squadron

Cordially invites you to the annual

CHANGE OF WATCH

12 March 2014

Kings Restaurant

155 McMurray Road, Pittsburgh PA 15241

Time: 1800

Meals will be ordered from the menu.

The new Bridge for 2014-2015:

Lt/C Dan Marino, P

Lt/C Lew Doughton, S

P/C Tom Merritt, JN

Lt/C Vira Doughton

Lt/C Marjorie Stark, S

P/C Dorothy B. Meloy AP

Commander

Executive Officer

Education Officer

Administrative Officer

Secretary

Treasurer

Please join us in celebrating the new Bridge and the accomplishments of SHPS.

Please RSVP to Dan Marino at danmar7@comcast.net



South Hills Power Squadron

Monthly Meeting

9 April 2014

**Kings Family Restaurant -
Upper St. Clair**

155 McMurray Road Pittsburgh, PA 15241

Time: 1800 Dinner - 1900 Meeting



Thanks to the Supporters of the South Wind for 2014

Ken and Gloria Campbell

John Mc Censky

Don and Marjie Stark

We welcome your support in any amount. Please send your donations for the South Wind to P/C Dorothy Meloy, AP.

Congratulations to Tom and Dory Merritt who have just moved into a new home. SEO Tom has a new email address. You can contact Tom at tommytinker@verizon.net.

Commander Notes

by Cdr Dan Marino, P

With the boats laid up for winter, I know it's easy for many in the north who don't boat year round to *lay up* for the winter also. I know I haven't been on the water much for the last two seasons. Two years ago I was between boats, and last summer I was only able to get out for a couple test runs on the new one. When the boat is ready for spring launch this year, I think it's a good idea to make sure the skipper is too. I believe our D7 Spring Conference will offer some refreshers and good new information for all of us. Sure, we all remember how to tie a few knots. We know we have to give way to that vessel crossing our path from starboard, and also to that vessel approaching from the port side if it's a rag hauler that's not under power (and you're a power boater like me)... please forgive me sail boaters. However, there's no end to what we can learn as boaters and always plenty to brush up on.

I was thinking about the title of our upcoming Conference—*One Hundred Years of Safe Boating*. We've all heard the statistics about boating accidents and the unfortunate fatalities that have occurred in some of them. One statistic I don't believe we'll ever be able to hear is how many lives have been saved by education of boaters and the advancements in safety gear. From something as basic as a life jacket to more advanced equipment such as an EPIRB, I have to think the numbers are probably tremendous.

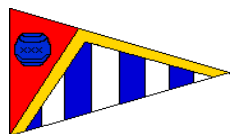
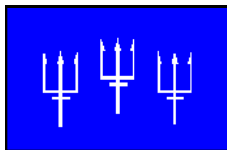
Even though some of this equipment has been required by government regulation, unfortunately, you can't legislate common sense. Experience is a good teacher, but when it comes to boating, we can be in for a pretty tough education if that's the only way we learn. I like to think that's where we come in as USPS members. Everything we're able to learn makes us better boaters, and everything we're able to pass along makes others safer. From information given in a class or seminar, to something that can be as brief and simple as giving a few tips during a vessel safety check, we never know when we might have made a difference in someone's life.

Though I know I don't have to plug the upcoming Spring Conference to members of our squadron, again, I think there will be some good information in these areas offered there. Being the host squadron takes many hands. Please try to be available if Dorothy taps you on the shoulder for help requests. Although our numbers aren't as many as some, I'm confident that South Hills Power Squadron will be able to put on a good conference for old timers and first timers alike.

Lastly, as you all know, this month also brings our Change of Watch, which will be on 12 March. It's hard to believe another year has passed since our last one. I'd like to thank D/C Craig Fraser for coming in to do our installation. I'd also like to give special thanks to those new officers who stepped up to take a place on the bridge for the upcoming year and to the old salts who were willing to re-up for another hitch with me.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Change of Watch.

Dan



A BOATER'S WINTER DREAM

By P/Lt/CSHelia Mack, AP

After the long winter season, sitting here in a lounge chair with my eyes closed while being rocked to sleep by the gentle sway of our boat is a long awaited pleasure after this harsh winter. With the sun light on my face and the feel of a warm breeze, the memory of dark cloudy skies, brisk winds, and ice crystals striking my face are swept from my mind. It's been a long time since I have heard the gulls calling and the fish jumping out of the water. The distant sound of my dock mates talking, lulls me to sleep.

Why is my pillow moving? Suddenly I feel a sharp elbow hit my rib cage causing my head to pop up. As I look around me in a daze, I'm trying to comprehend why my husband is telling me to hurry, or I'll miss our stop. Oh no! I'm on the subway on the way home from work and not enjoying an afternoon nap on-board my boat in Erie. I guess this was just a boater's winter dream. Now that I'm fully awake, I realize that what I thought was the sun on my face, was actually the overhead lights in the vehicle, and the warm breeze was from the heat vent that I was sitting against. The swaying of the subway car can be as intoxicating as the gentle swaying of our docked boat as it rides the ripples in the water. As the annunciator calls out the stops and the other patrons exit the car, I realize that those sounds are not unlike those made by gulls and other boaters in my dream. As my boot breaks through a thin layer of ice that has crusted on a puddle of melted snow, the memory of a fish jumping out of the water comes to mind. As I make my way through the icy snow to my car while bundled up in ten pounds of extra clothing, I'm wondering if I can survive this nightmare of six more weeks of snow, sub-zero temperatures, icy roads, and soggy clothes. In my dream I have the sun and summer breezes to keep me warm, but in this winter reality I have my wood stoves to keep me warm on the outside, but the inner me stays warm with my logs of summer memories and a fire of hope for an early and hot summer.



For Sale: Woman's USPS Blue Dress Uniform

Size 22. Custom made by U.S. Navy Dept. Outfitted: Sr. Member, Commander, AP with 6 mm. Includes 1 long sleeve shirt, 1 short sleeve shirt, a white skirt and hat. Pieces are interchangeable for all uniform categories except E. Price \$225.00.

Contact Dorothy Meloy at
412-653-3848.

1220 Cochrans Mill Rd. Pgh, PA 15236-3612

One thing that you can be sure of is that your dessert at Kings will be ample. At the right, Vi Doughton got a surprise at the February meeting with the size of her Sundae.