

The Southwind

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The Graphics on "Water Trainer" say what USPS is all about. Photo by P/Stf/C Don Stark, JN

November-December
2011
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The Southwind

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



New USPS Boat for On-the-Water Training

Coming Events

- **District 7 Fall Conference** 4-6 November Canton, OH
www.districtsevenpowersquadron.com/fall.htm
- **SHPS Dinner Meeting** Wednesday 9 November - King's Restaurant
155 McMurray Rd. Upper St. Clair Dinner 1800 Meeting 1930
Program will be: "Almost a Perfect Day",
How Environmental Stressors affect boating safety and judgment.
There will be no meeting in December.
An Après Christmas Party will be scheduled in January.
- **USPS Annual Meeting** 25-28 January Jacksonville, FL
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront.
- **2012 Pittsburgh Boat Show** 26-29 January Monroeville Convention Center.

REMINDER: Merit Mark Recommendations are due! Be sure that Cdr Macko has information about jobs that you performed for SHPS this year!

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



SUPPORT THE SOUTHWIND!

If you would like to financially 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, 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. We also want to keep up with the health of our members. If you know of someone who should be in the Sunshine Column, please bring it to our attention.

The deadline for the next issue will be **23 December 2011.**

Thank you for your support of *The South-Wind*.

Coming About ...



*Charting A
New Course!*



In Memory of P/C Richard N. Toler, AP 1926—2011

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of **P/C Richard N. Toler, AP**. Dick served as Commander of South Hills in 1986. He chaired many committees for both the Squadron and District 7. Dick served as flag lieutenant, photographer, boat show chairman and in many other capacities. He was always one to volunteer to help with any activity. He was a great friend to SHPS and to all of the members. Dick will be greatly missed. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to Dick's wife, Nancy, and to his children, Kathy, Rick, and Dan and their families.



New Tool for On-The-Water Training for Squadrons and the Public



Seen at the USPS Governing Board meeting in Greensboro, NC was the new learning tool, a 20 foot Boston Whaler with a 200 HP Mercury engine and a Ford 150 tow vehicle. The new On-The-Water program will combine the best of USPS classroom education with the on-the-water power boat program advanced by U.S. Sailing. The boat has been provided through a grant from the USCG. Training will begin in Annapolis, MD and work its way to Florida and the Gulf Coast. Additional training teams are planned so that the program can go nationwide.

PFBC Announces New Regulations

Because of the high number of fatalities due to cold water immersion, the PA Fish and Boat Commission announced that beginning November 1, 2012 boaters will be required to wear life jackets on boats less than 16 feet in length and on canoes and kayaks during cold weather months, November 1 through April 30. The new regulation is intended to protect boaters from the dangers of cold water shock if they fall into the water.

Be Careful When You Shrink Wrap Your Boat.



Ashtabula, October 23, 2011. The boat owner was shrink wrapping his boat and caught a cushion on fire which, in turn, ignited the shrink wrap and the boat, a 37 foot Sea Ray. The area was filled with black toxic smoke. It gives a good idea of how quickly fiberglass burns. All were nervous about the chance of explosion and the danger of catching other boats on fire. The gas tanks were probably full for winter storage. Luckily there was no wind. The flames were going straight up. Boats at Ashtabula Yacht Club had been pulled the day before so the area was crowded with boats. The Ashtabula fire department did a great job at dousing the flames. There was no reported damage to other boats or nearby masts though they were covered with burnt plastic residue. Photos and Article by P/Stf/C Don Stark, JN

Commander's Message by Cdr William Macko, AP

The boat is out of the water, and ready to be winterized, shrink wrapped and ready for a long winter's nap in storage. Now is the time to evaluate the systems. Here is a short checklist that for me and the first mate over the years has proven to be successful.

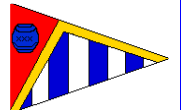
- Take down and store the canvas, bimini and eisen glass in the appropriate containers, we use the construction sonotube cardboard forms; clean up the power cords, I use a rag with acetone to get the seasonal gunk off. It works great. Just be careful where you use it. Not on the dock for sure.
- Change oil and filter.
- Water system, hot water tank, head, A/C, ice maker and engines winterized with the appropriate anti-freeze
- Inspect the fuel tanks and general condition of the engine compartment, drive train, and wiring
- All on board electronics removed or decommissioned
- Carpets cleaned, cushions stowed so air flow can circulate around them
- Stow the PFD's, flares and associated safety devices. Don't leave them on board.
- Remove or open floor access panels allowing air to circulate.
- Install the moisture desiccants within the interior sized for the vessel
- Batteries pulled; don't leave them on the boat

One thing to remember, store them in the garage or similar environment and be sure to charge them at least once a month during the off season. Without proper care and maintenance, they can get very expensive to replace every other year. Be sure to clean the battery terminals with baking soda if they are corroded.

If, during the boating season, certain issues develop, say like periodically a circuit breaker will require resetting, or maybe there is a leak around the portals or entrance door, then now is the time to take care of these issues while "you're thinking about it". As we all know, other priorities appear, and we never get around to it.

These are just a few recommendations and may not suit your boating scenario. They are common sense, and as we as conscientious boaters acknowledge, common sense is a great asset.

Enjoy the off season and get caught up on all the "honey do" list projects that we have put off all season because as we all know time flies and before you know it, SPRING TIME and we will get ready for another season on the water.



Administrative Department Lt/C Dan Marino, P

Now that we're into the swing of fall and everyone's boats are probably winterized and in storage, I'll make one last mention of the D7 Fall Conference. It is being hosted by the Stark County Power Squadron and will be 4-6 November 2011 at the McKinley Grand Hotel in Canton, OH. I know Don and Marjie Stark will be representing South Hills at the Conference.

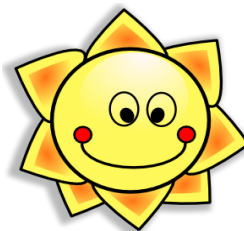
We had a few visitors at our October meeting. D/C Ken Leque, SN and D/Lt/C Craig Fraser SN joined us for dinner and the meeting. They provided us with some membership development ideas, some information about cyber members, and spoke about the goings on of the district and USPS. We also had the pleasure of Bob and Jane Brandenstein from the Pittsburgh Squadron attending our meeting. The room at DeBlasio's was a little crowded, but we all had a very nice time at the meeting.

Speaking of which, September and October meetings have been at DeBlasio's. Because it's been a little crowded for our meetings, we will be moving our meeting place until further notice. As I'm sure is mentioned elsewhere in this issue of SouthWind, our next meeting will be Wed., 9 November at King's Restaurant at 155 McMurray Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241. Dinner will be at 1800 and meeting at 1930. They have a private room, and Tom Merritt says they will be happy to accommodate us.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at King's,



Seen at the October SHPS meeting: (Left to Right) Lt/C Shelia Macko, AP; Cdr Bill Macko, AP; P/C Tom Merritt, JN; Lt/C Dan Marino, P; D/C Ken Leque Jr, SN; Lt/C Warren Bell, AP; D/Lt/C Craig Fraser, SN; D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein, JN; Lt/C Lew Doughton, S



Sunshine Corner

Best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to **Lt/C Warren Bell, JN** who is suffering from a hip infection and is currently resting at home.

Education Department P/C Tom Merritt, JN

The Junior Navigation course is up and running. We have had to move the location to my house. The new course seems better than the previous version with clearer explanations.

If you are interested in this or any other class, please contact me.

Vessel Safety Check P/C Kenneth Cambell, JN, Chairman

At last count South Hills members have completed 460 VSC's for this year. Over half of those were done by Morry Miller who has completed 283. Thanks to all who participated in the program this year. We are proud of SHPS's success. Keep up the good work!

Secretary Department, Lt/C Shelia Macko, AP

Being in a boat yard in the winter months is like sleepwalking through a land stacked with skeletal remains of summer memories. You stop in your tracks as you hear familiar voices talking and laughing, but no one's around. There's a chill in the air that makes you appreciate those very few sweltering summer days that made you either pilot to the nearest beach or turn the air conditioning on high and pray that the dog didn't need to go out until the sun set. At first the sound of the wind blowing through the yard is unsettling, and then it becomes a sad ballad as if played by the spirit of friends who have passed but long to laugh and talk with you for another season as you pilot your vessel across the bay. As the wind grows stronger, the flapping tarps and shrink wrap on neighboring boats sound like spirits who don't want to be forgotten. You walk a little faster and even laugh as you think of one of those summer "Do you remember" times. You smile as you pull down the ladder from the swim platform and climb onto the boat thinking that it seems like the summer launch was only yesterday. You take a little longer to pack up, since each item brings back a memory. As you cart your lawn chairs, boat poles, bumpers, and fishing gear to the storage unit, you vow to spend more time next year enjoying those fleeting summer months in order to stockpile more memories with friends and family to cherish during next year's winter walk through the boat year.