CROSSED ANCHORS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WINSTON-SALEM SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON December, 2011 Volume XXI No.6

Christmas Party 2011
Best wishes to all

Upcoming Events

7 Jan.	D/27 Winter Training, Raleigh, NC
4 Feb.	Change of Watch at Pinebrook Country Club, $15/person
6 Feb.	Executive Committee Meeting at Jim & Ginny Frazier, social begins 6pm

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From the Helm

Cdr. Debbie Mayfield, S

December is a time to reflect on the accomplishments and successes of the past year. Our squadron has been busy teaching classes, doing boat cruises, learning from our meeting programs, and the success of our social events. Our Christmas Party at the Hawthorne Inn was a great finale for 2011. It was a night of merriment, fellowship, and celebration of the Christmas Season. Thanks to Marilyn Shuping for another great event.

Our first event for 2012 will be the D27 Training on January 7, 2012. It will be a great time to update our knowledge of our different offices and what is new in USPS. All members are invited to attend. Please let me know if you would like to participate, we will car pool for those who are interested and the Squadron will cover the cost of the lunch meal.

Next on our agenda is the Change of Watch on February 4, 2012 at the Pinebrook Country Club. The cost this year will be only $15.00 per person so we are hoping to have everyone in attendance for this annual event. Be sure and pencil this into your calendar for the year. Invitations will be mailed out soon. We can look forward to see who wins the coveted DEWDA award and to see who our member of the year will be. Please let Kathi Vestal know if you will be attending and send in your money for the event.

Bill Davis is busy working on the year's meetings and events and Don Breault has held the first cruise planning meeting for 2012. If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer to help, please let them know. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

2012 is going to be another great year for the Winston-Salem Sail and Power Squadron.

If there is anything I can do for you, please don't hesitate to contact me. My contact information is in this newsletter.

Merry Christmas and Happy 2012 to Everyone!!

Education Officer

P/C Dawn Gaskill, AP

NEW EDUCATION THOUGHTS FROM DISTRICT

As an experiment, consideration is being to combining the ABC-3 and Seamanship course into a single integrated course. A great deal of what is offered in Seamanship is a repeat in ABC-3. Our District Education Officer thinks this can be tightened up to provide a single compact course. Two exams could be given and the cost of the combined course would be that of ABC-3 and Seamanship, and credit for each would be received accordingly. Aside from getting new members 'over the Seamanship hump', these individuals would become eligible for Bridge position appointments.

Let me know your opinion and I will let them know what we think.

'Till later, have a great Christmas.

Administrative Officer

Lt/C Marilyn Shuping, S

Holiday Greetings to Everyone from your Administrative Officer!

It's a busy month for most of us as we shop, wrap, cook, bake and partake in Holiday traditions. It all seems to go so fast. When I was young (I know, that was long, long ago!) it seemed like the time between the Christmas' was a lifetime. Now you barely have time to regain financial footing and clean the kitchen before the season is upon us again.
I'm happy to report that I brought $435 to the Food Bank plus several boxes of canned goods. Several of you have mentioned that you already received a letter of thanks. You don't need the WSSPS food drive to contribute to the Food Bank. They are in dire needs this year. It's hard to believe that right here under our noses in Winston-Salem there are people, little children going to bed hungry. But there are. So please share your good fortune with them.

While our "Year in Review" program that Debbie & Linda produced last month was wonderful, the meeting location was not. It was unacceptable. Bill Davis, our incoming Administrative Officer, and I are actively working on a new location. This week's Christmas party at the Hawthorne Inn will be one of those locations. Please feel free to give us your input after the party on Saturday night. It is the frontrunner for our monthly meetings.

If you weren't at the Executive Board Meeting last Monday night at the London home you missed some of that great barbecue that we grilled in September. Reid did a wonderful job resurrecting the meat to its finest. Thank you, Reid.

This brings us to the Christmas Party this coming weekend. We will start at 6:00pm at the Hawthorne Inn at 420 High Street, downtown Winston-Salem. It's going to be a great party. I have 35 signed up. Please remember to bring a $5 gift for our Christmas game. Fun for all!

Mike and I send our most sincere holiday wishes to you and your families this year and only hope for the best health and safe boating for all of us!

Merry Christmas!
Marilyn

Fish House Chronicles

By P/C Don Breault, AP

These are moments frozen in time while cruising or pretending to be cruising. "The Fish House Chronicles" is a unique collection of short story's and essays of the experiences of the infamous coastal cruisers of the Winston-Salem Sail & Power Squadron. At least we try and sometimes pretend that we are all having a good time cruising with our boats. Even when they break-down or go hard aground once in a while. We even have the best slip cruising stories ever told on land.

"The Return of Felix"

(The case of the sunken "Squiggle" and the adventures of the Lake Norman People)

Felix and Mandy cruised for most of that Saturday afternoon all along the western shores of Lake Norman. Checking every little cove, every creek, and every marina in search of the pontoon boat they deemed responsible for bringing an end to Alex's "Squiggle". But they did find a small inboard cruiser called "Mad Dog" sitting high and dry on a boat lift not too far from the Marshall Steam Station.

On shore in front of a pretty gray and blue cottage was a large group of people sitting in lawn chairs drinking beer and wine. They all had the appearance of older adults trying to act like kids wearing white or blue polo shirts with a funny little symbol over their breast pocket in the shape of a small pennant. Felix immediately thought this could be some of those people from the infamous Winston-Salem Sail and Power Squadron. You know those people who taught Felix everything he knows about boating and weather. Well now said Felix to Mandy, this may be a little detour from our mission so let us join this crew of hardy party animals and see what's up. So with a nod and a notion, Mandy quickly set the anchor.

Getting to shore to join this party was another feat but alas, there was the old "Tom Cat" crew hanging around with canoes and kayaks. The solution of a dry trip from the boat to shore was at hand. A free ride was offered for the price of an Old Milwaukee Light or Coors Light and away the two sojourners went from boat to Kayak to shore. Now if you know the people of this Winston-Salem crowd, you know they will always welcome any party crasher as long as the crashers could bring entertainment and or beer. Felix had them both. He had a case of Coors Light and Mandy.

Now Felix met all of the players and especially the hosts of this grand party on the lake, Gennie and Jim. With a quick trip too and from the head, Felix was beginning to feel no pain as he was introduced to the new drinking game recently invented by Travis called toss the monkey fist. Eventually Felix was allowed to win as Travis and Michael started to become very distracted from too much sun or too much staring at Mandy. We are sure beer and wine did not have anything to do with that.

Next on the agenda was a small picnic of various food items which was the courtesy of many Squadron members from Lake Norman and Winston-Salem. Everyone had the chance to sample many of those particular dishes that appeared to be somewhat unique to the area. Boston Bakes Beans, New England Style Clam Chowder, Boston Buts and a little sampling of Sam Adams refreshments. Someone stuck in some fried okra and fried chicken along with sweet tea to make most local people feel at home.

Then along came KB who had invented another drinking game that would go along with where Travis left off. KB had this funny contraption called a potato gun. The secret of this event is too safely load a potato

into a tube where you cock it by forcing compressed air behind the potato and then you shoot it into the lake to see how far you're your potato can go. After many attempts to out do one another and several cans of brew, the game became more interesting as the contenders were trying to see how close they could come to hitting Felix's new boat without hitting it.

Many sacks of potatoes were used and to no avail, no one could come even close. Then a new contender showed up in a shiny red convertible sports car playing the Bee Gees. His name was Dwight. Now Dwight was a person you could all count on to participate in any event that would involve a modest amount of drinking and fun. He took this potato gun and locked and loaded a fresh 2 pound spud and fired away trying to near miss the new Rinker anchored in front of Jim & Gennie's lake house. With amazing in-accuracy, the spud struck the hull of Felix's boat and easily penetrated it and exited out the other side. Everyone looked with amazement and said this "aint good".

Now Felix dropped his beer and looked like someone had just sunk his boat. Yes his boat was sinking but fortunately it was in 4 feet of water so it only sank 4 feet. Another member of this Squadron named Tom came over to Felix and consoled him by saying: That hole in your hull is a clean hole and this is an opportunity for you to install a bow thruster in your new boat because I have one on my boat and it works real good until you get heavy handed with the control stick. Another member by the name of Joel came over and consoled Felix to say there is some good news here. We could all witness the fact that your boat is gone aground and you could get an award for that. Three other Squadron members came over and talked Mandy into swimming out to the sunken wreck and sunbath on the bow as it would make the boat look good from a distance. KB came over and gave Felix information on how to file his insurance claim for the damaged cruiser and he also explained how buying back the salvage can get you a nice boat for almost free.

Moments later all of those rude Bass Boats found earlier in the day were speeding over to the sunken Rinker to see if it could qualify as underwater "Structure" in hopes that fish would find refuge in or near it. Obviously it was too soon so they just pretended to fish while they all starred at Mandy. After awhile they left in search of another secret fishing hole no one was supposed to know about.

Now Dwight has quickly disappeared and no one could find him or his red convertible 2 seater sports car. The search for Dwight was a new mission Commander Debbie said with authority, Let us board a boat and search for Dwight!! And off into "Mad Dog" everyone went. Jim lowered "Mad Dog" into the lake and the engine fired and in gear they were. Now the search was on for Dwight. Fortunately someone made sure there were plenty of refreshments on board so Jim was happy and all other crew was feeling real fine. They even had limes to go with the beverage. This allowed the crew to extend longer distances in a search and find mission. Eventually they came across a disabled pontoon boat that had a small 4 person crew aboard. This pontoon boat had red flames painted along the sides. It had shark teeth painted along the front of each pontoon. Could it be? Yes it was. It was Dwight serving Bloody Marys to everyone aboard. They were waiting for Tow Boat U.S.

With this knowledge, Felix and Alex were quick to offer some help. They quickly tied a tow line in the back of "Mad Dog" and attached it to the pontoon boat. They talked Jim into towing this evil killer looking pontoon boat into the middle of the deepest part of the lake. Dwight could not do a thing as the best of the Bloody Mary's taken their affect. The boats were floating in 80 feet of water when they came to a stop. They just drifted together while Don quickly attached a plank to the port side of the pontoon boat deck. Now with a little nudging and prodding with the business end of a pirate sword, Dwight was forced to walk the plank as retribution for sinking "Squiggle" and the new un-named Rinker.

Now another member named Leon came to Dwight's rescue by saying he must have a trial before sentencing. So a court was formed on the decks of the two boats. Counsel was assigned and a jury was formed from those who could no longer stand because of all the beverages consumed. A judge was appointed and his name was Denny the Judge. The trial began and after a very short deliberation by the jury, (beverages were running low and they had to get back to shore to p) A verdict of guilty was delivered faster than an "April Star" could cruise. Denny the judge passed sentencing immediately. Dwight would not walk the plank like Don the Insurance Pirate originally wanted him to, but that Dwight would have to serve 2 years as Squadron Administrative Officer, 2 years as Squadron Commander, and 2 years as Squadron Educational Officer. In addition, Dwight would have to provide countless hours of Squadron community service in hosting many monthly bridge meetings and would be responsible for making sure that the Squadron would never run out of liquid libations ever.

A spare gallon jug of old gasoline was found on "Mad Dog" so that Dwight could start his pontoon boat and they all sped off back to Jim & Gennie's lake house to finish off the remainder of the party. Dwight never appealed his sentencing so we are all looking forward to his service over the next few years.

Moral of this story. Never fear to be tried by your peers because sentencing could be more than you ever hoped for. Just volunteer your time and advice during social events because you will always get what you wish for. Always trust that something good will come about any misfortune with a boat. Always remember that any boat that breaks can be repaired with enough money. Always have hope that your fellowship can positively influence the outcome in any situation on the dock. And most of all; Make it happen, and make it fun. Let 2012 be the greatest journey on the water ever!!

From the crew of the "Liberty"

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Some New Year's Resolutions to Consider

(Excerpted from Bill Hempel, P, fellow USPS Sail & Squadron member from Peace River)

I'm an experienced boater, why make resolutions you ask?
Just remembering all of those rules is really quite a task.
And so to set the record straight and clear up the confusion,
Let me explain the reason for my New Year's resolutions.

I will turn on my blower, when I'm running rather slow
"Cause CO is odorless and deadly, as you know.
I'll check flares and extinguishers, especially the date,
Because in an emergency, there's little time to wait.

I wear a lightweight life jacket when voyaging around,
Because in most fatalities, you'll find the victim drowned.
I'll Vow to take a first aid class; learn CPR and more
When the emergency's on board, help's always on the shore.

When pumping fuel into my boat I promise to take care
Flying may be fun, but not when blown into the air.
When setting my boat's anchor, the rode'll be 7 to 1
"Cause drifting on some muddy shoal is really not much fun.

I'll monitor my fuel, remembering the rule of thirds
Endangering on empty, is much more than absurd.
I'll check the weather forecast and always watch the sky
With rain you're wet and soggy, but with lightning you can die.

When a person is in the water, my engines I will stop
I wouldn't want to injure them with my razor sharp prop.
And I will never use alcohol when I am the skipper
For a Captain under the influence is as dangerous as Jack the Ripper

I truly love cruising my boat and don't want one mistake.
But there are times when I forget about my vessel's wake.
In the spirit of the New Year I will take time to pause
Remembering the injuries and harm my wake could cause.

These are my resolutions with appropriate explanations
To be a safer boater is high in my expectations.
I'll do things right and I'll forget past misdeeds and remorses.
Every boater needs United States Power Squadron courses.

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

Ship's Store

New WSSPS logo polo shirts (white)
Mens: Medium-X-Large
Ladies: Small-Large
$25

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Winston-Salem Sail & Power Squadron
Calendar of Events for 2012

Date	Event Date:12/21/2011
January 7, 2012	D-27 Winter Training Meeting. NC State University Club, Raleigh, NC
January 25-29, 2012	USPS Annual Meeting. Hyatt Regency, Jacksonville, FL.
February 4, 2012	WSSPS Change Of Watch "Pinebrook CC"
February 6, 2012	Executive Committee Meeting "Jim & Gennie Frazier House"
February 15, 2012	Monthly Meeting. Buena Vista Grille, Stratford Rd. Winston-Salem. "TBA"
March 5, 2012	Executive Committee Meeting "Breault's Boston Bar & Grill"
March 6, 2012	Public Boating Class Begins. Old Town Recreation Center
March 21, 2012	Monthly Meeting. Buena Vista Grille, Stratford Rd. Winston-Salem. "TBA"
March 23, 2012	D-27 Spring Conference & COW. "New Bern Hilton" 3/23 to 3/25
March 23-25, 2012	Cruise To New Bern
April 2, 2012	Executive Committee Meeting "George & Margie Lamb House"
April 18, 2012	Monthly Meeting. Buena Vista Grille, Stratford Rd. Winston-Salem. "TBA"
April 27-May 4, 2012	Norfolk, VA Cruise VIA The Dismal Swamp Canal
May 4-5, 2012	D-27 Rendezvous'. Little River, NC
May 7, 2012	Executive Committee Meeting "London Times Lounge"
May 12, 2012	May Fest, Pilot Mountain, NC
May 16, 2012	Monthly Meeting. Buena Vista Grille, Stratford Rd. Winston-Salem. "TBA"
May 26 - 29	Cape Lookout & Shackleford Banks Cruise & Raft-Up
June 2, 2012	Rendezvous': Mike & Marylyn Shuping "Coastal Retreat On The Neuse"
June 4, 2012	Executive Committee Meeting "George Ellis House"
June 18, 2012	Low Country Boil "TBA"
July 20 - 22	Cape Lookout Raft - Up
August 6, 2012	Executive Committee Meeting "George & Margie Lamb House"
August 15, 2012	Monthly Meeting. Buena Vista Grille, Stratford Rd. Winston-Salem. "TBA"
August 17 - 19	Coastal Cruise & Raft-Up "TBA"

CROSSED ANCHORS

A PUBLICATION OF

WINSTON-SALEM SAIL AND POWER

DISTRICT 27

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons

WINSTON-SALEM SAIL & POWER SQUADRON
204 Hadley Ct., Winston Salem, NC 27106

Important events

4 Feb.	WSSPS Change of Watch at Pinebrook Country Club, Winston Salem
6 Feb.	ExCom Meeting at Jim & Genny Frazier Social 6pm, Meeting 7pm

WEAR IT NORTH CAROLINA!

DISTINCTIVE COMMUNICATOR 2010

BRIDGE

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Executive Officer	P/C Wayne Creekmore, JN
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Marilyn Shuping, S
Educational Officer	P/C Dawn Gaskill, AP
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