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*'Where the Cowboys Ride the Sea'*

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**March 2010**

No. 3

***Come to the D/21 Spring Conference!***  
*By P/C Scott McDonald, SN*

The USPS District 21 Spring Conference is coming up on March 25-27. It will be held at the Hilton in Clear Lake City. Houston is the host Squadron for this conference, and we will have visitors from all across Texas and Western Louisiana in attendance. The conference flyer and registration can be found later in this edition of the *Bay Neigh*.

Here's a summary of the conference events.

- Thursday Night is a Barbeque Cook-off, held in the park right next to the hotel.
- Friday will be a full day, with seminars, a working lunch, workshops, and the District Council meeting. The day will be topped off with hospitality suites sponsored by District and the Squadrons.
- Saturday starts with departmental meetings, then moves on to the District Conference. There will be member and social lunches, and then the final event of the conference, the Change of Watch dinner and dance.

This conference is a special event in more ways than one. In addition to Houston hosting the event, I will be moving up to become the District Commander at the Change of Watch on Saturday. It will be the culmination of a lot of planning and effort that's been underway for quite a while. The job ahead for me is a big one, and I think it's an important one. I will need the support of my family, of D/21, and of the members of HSPS to be successful. I'm asking each and every one of you for your support. Here's what you can do to help.

- Register to attend – Take in a seminar, visit the free workshops, and participate in the conference.
- Volunteer – We need people to assist with the registration desk, event setup, event cleanup, and provide general assistance during the conference. Many hands make light work.
- Join us for the Barbeque Cook-off on Thursday. It will be great fun and great food. We would love to have more people competing with their own recipes.
- Visit the Houston hospitality suite on Friday. Claire will be hosting it. It's free, and there will be lots of food and drink. Bring a dish to share with our guests.
- Join us for the Change of Watch on Saturday night. Celebrate the good work done by D/C Shirley Heald and the rest of the District officers. Help me to get the new watch year started off on the right foot. I'll see you there!

***Poop Sheet March 2010***

March 3  
 Board of Directors Meeting – Home Port

March 6  
 Vessel Safety Check – Lakewood YC

March 10  
 HSPS General Meeting  
 Home Port - Potluck

March 11  
 USPS University Seminar "Trailing" –  
 Bass Pro Shops, Pearland

March 13  
 Public Boating Course – Home Port

March 17  
 Happy St. Patrick's Day, HSPS!

March 20  
 Vessel Safety Check – South  
 Shore/Watergate

March 25-27  
 D/21 Spring Conference – NASA Hilton

April 4  
 Happy Easter, HSPS!

April 7  
 Board of Directors Meeting – Home Port

April 8  
 USPS University Seminar "Anchoring" –  
 Bass Pro Shops, Pearland

April 14  
 HSPS General Meeting  
 Joe's Crab Shack – 2120 S. Hwy 6

April 17  
 Public Boating Course – Home Port

April 24  
 Adopt-A-Beach



## Bay Neigh

Official Monthly Publication of  
Houston Sail and Power Squadron  
A Unit of United States Power Squadrons  
District 21

## COMMANDER'S CORNER



March 2010 Bay Neigh  
Cdr Claire McDonald, SN



Editor  
Lt Jana Wesson, AP

Assistant Editor  
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**Home Port**  
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Houston, Texas 77074  
www.uspshouston.org



### Bridge

Commander..... Cdr Claire M. McDonald, SN  
Executive Officer.....Lt/C Bob Leatherwood, S  
Educational Officer.....Lt/C Richard A. Fisher, JN  
Administrative Officer..... TBD  
Secretary.....Lt/C Robert W. Stevenson, JN  
Treasurer.....Lt/C Phyllis W. Stendebach, P  
Immediate Past Cdr.....P/C James S. Hotop, JN

### Squadron's 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenants

Asst. Educational Officer.... 1<sup>st</sup>/Lt Carl A. Stendebach, Jr., JN  
Asst. Secretary..... TBD  
Asst. Treasurer..... TBD

### Executive Committee

All Bridge Officers...	Robbie J. Robbins, JN
S. Dennis Fegan, AP	Mary Sandoval, S
Bill Fussell, S	P/C Richard C. Snapp, AP
Kathy Fussell, S	Carl A. Stendebach, Jr., JN
Jana Wesson, AP	P/C James S. Hotop, JN

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and publication herein does not imply endorsement by USPS, or the Bay Neigh.

### PRAYER

Knowing, O Lord, that you stand ever ready to hear our petitions and to help us in our needs, we turn to You with confidence, asking for light and guidance in teaching and in carrying out all the precepts of the United States Power Squadrons. Since charity is the greatest of all virtues, and our Squadron work is all charity, we ask Thy blessings upon all our efforts.

Amen  
P/C Scott D. McDonald

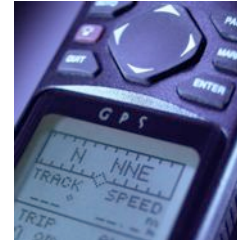
February has been unusually cold which has kept many of us indoors. Still, the Bridge has been working behind the scenes to plan a great spring season for HSPS.

During the first week of the month, Scott and I travelled to Orlando to attend the USPS Annual Meeting. held at the DisneyWorld Coronado Springs Resort and Conference Center. Seven HSPS members including **Tom and Mary Derden, Pete and Su Hames** and **Jean Hamilton** were in attendance among seven hundred other USPS members from around the country. There were many informative sessions and much to enjoy during the conference, but some moments were true stand-outs. At the awards ceremony on Friday evening, we had the pleasure of seeing **Pete Hames** receive his life membership. On Friday night, all the District hospitality suites were in full swing and a good time was had by all. Some of the most popular stops were District 33 (Puerto Rico) for piña colodas, District 8 (South Florida) for chocolate martinis, and of course, District 21 for good ole Texas/Louisiana hospitality. The annual meeting on Saturday was impressive. It was grand to hear **Karl Fernandes** announced as the #1 Co-op Charter in the nation. The key motion discussed at the meeting involved the lifting of the national restriction on teaching our courses to non-members. This motion was voted on and approved. Squadrons will now decide if and how to provide member courses to the public. Enticing new members to join the Squadron will still be a primary goal. Squadrons choosing to teach courses to the public are encouraged to charge a fair market price while offering members deep discounts, creating an inducement to join the Squadron. This new course teaching strategy has been successfully used by the Canadian Power Squadrons. The CPS has seen tremendous growth recently. There was also discussion of the recently launched on the water training offered by the Boat Operator Certification programs. These will also be very attractive to current and future members. The conference closed with an elegant Change of Watch. We saw our own CC **Creighton Maynard** of the Fort Worth Squadron pass the helm to our new CC **Frank Dvorak**. All HSPS members should think seriously about attending a National Meeting. The Annual Meeting next year will be right back at Disney World. Why not turn it into a family vacation?

Soon we will be calling on all of you to participate in our District 21 Spring Conference. It's coming up at the end of the month (March 25, 26, 27) at the Clear Lake Hilton. Aside from lending a much needed hand, you'll experience the fun of meeting folks from around our district. Come for all or part of it. Stay at the hotel or drive in from town. We'll see you there.



Coronado Springs Resort at Disney World



**Education News**  
**Lt/C Rick Fisher, JN**

**Member Courses – The Spring 2010 Semester is Underway**

**Seamanship** – Class is underway with three new members in attendance, including Robert Campbell, Tom Hooper, and Rob Rogers.

**Advanced Piloting** – Bob Stevenson's AP class has set course with three members in attendance, including Bob and Ellen White, and Ernest Veranes. (Al McCarthy is assisting Bob with the teaching duties.)

**Marine Electrical Systems** – Bill Haddock has a classroom full with eight students in attendance, including Bob White, Robert Campbell, Ernest Veranes, Mike Upchurch, Ed Roland, JoLee Haddock, Forrest Paddock, and Andres Cuellar.

**HSPS Boating Safety Course (formerly BoatSmart)**

On Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, we had six students successfully complete the 1-day boating safety course. Next class is Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Ed Nagel is heading up an effort to transition our boating safety course from our legacy **BoatSmart** course to a new **America's Boating Course 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition** course. For now, we will continue with the 1-day format and continue to partner with Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. to provide those attending to get their TPWD boating certificate.

**USPS Seminars**

In 2010, we will continue to offer monthly USPS University seminars in conjunction with Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World in Pearland. These seminars will be held on the second Thursday of each month at the Bass Pro facility located at the southwest corner of Hwy 288 and the Sam Houston Tollway.

The next seminar will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup>, and the topic will be **Trailing Your Boat**. This seminar explains how to select tow vehicles, hitches, and trailers. It also explains how to safely and securely trailer your boat, launch and retrieve it, and how to operate and maintain your trailering equipment. The seminar comes with an excellent new book, *Trailing Your Boat*, written by Bruce Smith, and published as a USPS Guide by McGraw-Hill. This book serves as an excellent reference on all of these topics. The seminar includes video segments provided by the US Coast Guard and excellent slide notes. Note: The photo below of a recent Dallas area accident shows what happens when trailering goes awry.



Once again, call me (281) 734-4443 email me at Rick@ChampionMarineSurveys.com to sign up for a course, or tell me how I can assist you in furthering your boating education.

Lt/C Rick Fisher, JN  
Squadron Education Officer

**February 2010 Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Houston Sail and Power Squadron**

**Executive Department: Lt/C Robert Leatherwood, S**

- **Cooperative Charting:** Report from P/C Dick Snapp, AP: HSPS is in 3<sup>rd</sup> place nationally. There are two reports that have not been approved by the National Rep. Once approved, D/21 will be in the Honor Roll and in 1<sup>st</sup> place nationally. Dick asked to schedule events on June 6 and September 19, and the E Board agreed to add them to the calendar. A “how to” seminar will be held at Home Port on 6/3.
- **Vessel Safety Checks:** We, at a minimum, need someone to volunteer to collect the forms after the examiners have entered the data and to send out e-mails about upcoming scheduled VSC dates and sites to the examiners.
- **Web Site:** Lt/C Bob Stevenson, JN, reported no progress on the challenging effort to make it possible for our officers and committee chairs to be able to upload graphics and photographs to the new website which is under development using the software the developer was trying to use. [On 2/5 the website developer agreed to cancel the contract and return the down payment made to get the effort underway.]

**Education Department: Lt/C Rick Fisher, JN**

- **Member Courses:** Classes start February 15<sup>th</sup> – Seamanship (Fisher), Advanced Piloting (Stevenson/McCarthy) and Marine Electrical Systems (Haddock)
- **Public Courses:**
  - Seminar – Bass Pro Shop Pearland – Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> – Onboard Weather Forecasting
  - Public Boating Course – Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> – Home Port
  - Seminar – Bass Pro Shop Pearland – March 11 – Trailering your boat
  - Public Boating Course – Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> – Home Port

**Administrative Department: Lt/C Robert Leatherwood, S**

- **Membership:** Two new members, the Campbells, were sworn in at the COW. The Veranes' could not attend due to illness.
- **Public Relations:** Letters can go out to potential sponsors as soon as Claire McDonald can be provided contact names at target companies.
- **Upcoming Dinner Meetings:**
  - No February dinner meeting
  - March 10 – pot luck at Home Port

**Treasurer's Department: Lt/C Phyllis Stendebach, P**

- **Financial Report:** Provided. The Squadron is in good financial shape.
- **Additional Topics:**
  - Insurance renewal date for Home Port is coming up in February and an increase in its cost is anticipated.
  - The next year's budget cycle planning begins now. This year closes out, and all receipts must be in to the Treasurer and paid by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Secretary's Department: Lt/C Bob Stevenson, JN**

- **Squadron Newsletter:** February *Bay Neigh* was published to the website on 2/2. Folding and mailing will be completed on 2/7 due to technical problems with the print version. The March edition will be delayed due to Editor Jana Palfy's wedding and honeymoon.
- **Additional Topics:**
  - The August Fishing rendezvous in Matagorda has been confirmed. The proposed annual calendar will be sent to the E Board by e-mail for a vote of approval after Cdr McDonald returns from the National meeting.
  - Roster – Input was due to Scott McDonald by January 31<sup>st</sup>. The 2010 roster will be distributed after the input for each Department is received and the roster can be printed.
  - Forms for the annual tax exemption requests have been received by the squadron from HCAD. The Secretary is responsible for filling-out and submitting these forms, with assistance from the officers as needed. Submission is due by April 30.

**Commander's Department: Cdr Claire M. McDonald, SN**

- Supreme thanks to all who attended the COW and the rest of you who wished me well.
- As a result of the unexpected resignation of a newly-elected member of the E Board, a Leatherwood/P. Stendebach motion to appoint D/Lt/C Scott McDonald, SN, to the E Board passed. Claire had assured the E Board that Scott was willing to serve again until relieved as Membership Chair.



# Register Today!

The D/21 Spring Conference is almost here!

**Make your hotel reservations now!**

**When: March 25, 26, and 27**




**Where: Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake**

3000 NASA Parkway  
Houston, TX 70059  
Phone: (281) 333-9300 Fax: (281) 333-9748  
[www.Hilton.com/HoustonNASA](http://www.Hilton.com/HoustonNASA)

Single/Double Room Rate \$85.00 per night plus tax. Pets allowed, \$75.00 Non-refundable Deposit

Make your room reservations with the hotel now! Ask for the "District 21 Spring Conference" rate.

See the next page for conference registration details. Here's a summary of the conference events:

<b>Thursday</b>	Conference Registration begins at 3 PM
<b>Thursday Night</b>	<p><b>Barbecue Cook-off!</b> Join us for a Texas-style celebration with food, drink, and music. Help us settle the bragging rights for best barbecue in D/21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the Pavilion in Clear Lake Park right next to the hotel</li> <li>• The gates will open at 7 AM for early cooking</li> <li>• The party is on from 6-9:30 PM</li> </ul> <p>Bring a team to compete! We'll provide the beverages, sides and desert. You provide the beef, pork, or chicken! You can also bring a sample of your local favorite barbecue for the "Home Town Favorite" competition. Contact Scott McDonald at 713-303-8049 for further details.</p> 
<b>Friday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seminars, Workshops, Ships Store</li> <li>• District and Squadron Officer's Working Lunch, PDC Lunch</li> <li>• District Council</li> </ul>
<b>Friday Night</b>	<p><b>Hospitality Suites are back!</b> Enjoy the food, refreshments, and hospitality of your fellow D/21 Squadrons! Bring the best flavors of your home squadron and strut your stuff! Suites are limited; we encourage smaller groups to team up with others. Please contact Charles Ashford at 281-474-7260 for suite reservations.</p> 
<b>Saturday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor Recertification, Departmental Meetings, Coop Charting</li> <li>• District Conference</li> <li>• Member and Non-member lunches</li> </ul>
<b>Saturday Night</b>	<p><b>Change of Watch, Dinner and Dance</b> Join us in celebrating D/21 as we honor the work of D/C Shirley Heald and all others who supported District in the past year. Help us welcome the new bridge and get the year off to a tremendous start! We'll have a great dinner followed by music and dancing. <i>Something Wonderful is going to happen!</i></p> <p>USPS District 21 <b>2010</b> <i>A Nautical Odyssey</i></p> 

## USPS D/21 Spring Conference 2010 Attendee Information

Rank	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Grade	Certificate Number
Rank	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Grade	Certificate Number
Address		City	State	Zip	Squadron/District
Home Phone		Cell/Office Phone		Dietary Restrictions?	
Email Address			First Time Attending?	Bringing a Pet?	

### Activities Registration

Time	Event	Quantity	Price	Amount
<b>Thursday</b>				
1800-2130	<b>Barbeque Cook-off</b> – Barbeque (provided by the contestants), Potato Salad, Beans, Cole Slaw, Peach Cobbler, Ice Cream, Beer, Wine, and Soft Drinks		\$20	
<b>Friday</b>				
0830-1100	<b>Leadership Development Program</b> - Leadership skills to improve your squadron and your career		Free	Free
0900-1100	<b>Rules of the Road USPS University Seminar</b> – The latest of the series from National.		\$35	
1115-1245	<b>District Bridge &amp; Squadron Officers Working Lunch</b> – Seafood buffet w/ Salads, Broiled Tilapia, Seafood Newburg, She-crab Soup, Glazed Carrots, Lemon Mousse		\$30	
1200-1300	<b>P/D/C Lunch</b> – Seafood buffet as above		\$27	
1300-1400	<b>Seminar on Seminars</b> – Learn about the USPS University Seminar Series, how to teach them, and what is covered in the seminars			
1400-1500	<b>DB2000 Workshop</b> – Get the most out of DB2000			
1500-1700	<b>D/21 Council Meeting</b>			
1800-????	<b>Squadron Hospitality Suites</b>			
<b>Saturday</b>				
0800-0900	<b>Instructor Recertification</b> – Is your instructor certification current?			
0800-0900	<b>Secretary/Treasurer Departmental Meeting</b>			
0900-1000	<b>Education Department Meeting</b>			
0900-0950	<b>Cooperative Charting Meeting</b>			
1000-1430	<b>District Conference</b>			
1215-1345	<b>Members' Luncheon</b> – Chicken Teriyaki Pineapple, Green Salad, Rice Pilaf, Vegetable Medley, Key Lime Pie, Chocolate Cake		\$35	
1200-1330	<b>Social Luncheon</b> – 3-Cup Salad with Fruit, Tuna, and Chicken; Key Lime Pie, Chocolate Cake, Special guest speaker.		\$35	
1730-1830	<b>District Commander's Reception</b>			
1830-1900	<b>Change of Watch Reception</b>			
1900-1100	<b>Change of Watch Dinner/Dance</b> – Steak and Shrimp, Galveston Bay Salad, Twice-baked Potato, Green Beans with Onions and Bacon, Bourbon Pecan Pie		\$65	
	<b>Early Registration Discount</b> – Postmark your registration by March 18 and save \$10 on the combined cost of Saturday Lunch and Dinner!		\$90	
			<b>Total:</b>	

Note: Meal costs include food, beverage, gratuity, and conference overhead. Your support and participation is appreciated.

<b>Make checks payable to:</b>	D21 Spring Conference
<b>Mail registration and payment to:</b>	Claire McDonald 3714 Blue Bonnet Blvd Houston, TX 77025
<b>For any questions contact:</b>	Scott D. McDonald 713-303-8049 ScottDMcDonald@comcast.net

Please bring your Squadron name tag. We will provide a name tag if you need one.

**Around the Corner**  
**Lt/C Bob Leatherwood, S, XO**

Well, with March now upon us, **clearly** 2010 is here and we're ready for it. The Change Of Watch was beautiful and an afternoon to remember. The Chili Cookoff was **COLD** and you can bet your bottom dollar that NO ONE will ever forget that. Sooooo, with spring practically here, we'll have plenty to do and plenty to smile about, especially this month, with the D/21 Spring Conference not only being held here (Clear Lake) but with our own **Scott McDonald** as incoming District Commander and I hope all of you who can, will be there. It's going to kick off with a BBQ cookoff at the "White Top Pavilion" next door to the NASA Parkway Hilton. That should be a lot of fun, so check out all the other events and don't forget to make your reservations.

There are also a lot of other events coming up in early summer that I'll send out notices on later but many of you might want to attend. The annual "Bay Day" at Kemah Boardwalk is coming up and so is the 2010 Hurricane Preparedness Workshop. I was at both events last year and they're definitely informative and worth the time to check out.

Also, Jana and Lawrence got married on February 20<sup>th</sup>, and the wedding was absolutely beautiful!!!



**Sponsors**

The Squadron is seeking companies and individual sponsors to help defray many of the Squadron's expenses. As more sponsors are found, the likelihood drops that your dues will increase. Sponsors may choose to place an advertisement in the *Bay Neigh*. The size of the ad will be relative to the level of their financial support. Sponsors will also be recognized on the Squadron's website, which is being redesigned. Please recommend potential sponsors to Executive Officer Claire McDonald, who will contact them directly. There is no cutoff date for this information. The search for annual sponsors will continue indefinitely.



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Contact *Bay Neigh* Business Manager  
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## Bay Neigh Articles

If you have a story or experience that would be of interest to our members, please E-Mail pictures and stories to Jana Palfy at [beakboatgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:beakboatgirl@yahoo.com)

Houston Sail and Power Squadron  
6910 Bellaire Blvd #15  
Houston, Texas 77074

### March Birthdays

Nancy B. Cunningham	3/4
Jesse A. Reed III	3/4
Edward F. Nagel	3/12
Allen B. Cunningham	3/13
Joey V. McDonald	3/19
Bob Reardon	3/21



### Trashing Texas Beaches Isn't Cool!

The Texas General Land Office has been sending this message across the state for twenty-three years, and Texans have responded. Since the first cleanup in 1986, more than 390,000 Texas Adopt-A-Beach volunteers have picked up more than 7,500 tons of trash from Texas beaches, some of it originating from as far away as South America.

Due to tide patterns in the Gulf of Mexico, trash dumped anywhere in the gulf is likely to end up on a Texas beach. Volunteers record information such as the source and type of debris collected on data cards provided by Ocean Conservancy. This data has been instrumental in the passage of international treaties and laws aimed at reducing the amount of offshore dumping.

Keeping Texas beaches clean and safe is an economic as well as environmental priority. Coastal tourism, a \$7 billion industry, and commercial fishing, a \$1.9 billion business, demand clean beaches and a healthy gulf to thrive.

#### *The program strives to:*

- Raise public awareness;
- Educate citizens about the source of debris; and
- Generate public support for state, national and international action to clean up coastal waters.

The Texas Adopt-A-Beach Program, an all-volunteer effort, is dedicated to preserving and protecting Texas beaches. The program's success is due to the generous efforts of dedicated volunteer county coordinators, coastal community leaders, sponsors and citizens. Strong support from the private sector helps carry our message to Texans all across the state.

#### *Please join us at our next beach cleanup.*

- Feb. 12 - Winter Texan Cleanup - South Padre Island
- Feb. 13 - Coastal Bend Winter Cleanup - Corpus Christi Area
- April 24 - Spring Cleanup - Coastwide

HSPS will be participating in the April 24th beach-clean-up. Watch for details in the March and April Bay Neighs.