

S P R I N G 2 0 1 7

**UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS
DISTRICT 17
DIXIE DISTRICT NEWS**

**2017 SPRING CONFERENCE, THE RIDGES RESORT, HIAWASSEE, GA
31 MARCH – 2 APRIL, 2017**



**Please join us for a “Wineadendron” Tour
31 March 2017 1130 hrs. Brasstown Valley Resort**

We will begin our **“Wineadendron” Tour** with lunch at **11:30AM, March 31** at the Brasstown Valley Resort. At **1:30PM** volunteers from the Garden Club will give us a **private tour of the Rhododendron Garden**. Following the garden tour we will have a **wine tour at Crane Creek Vineyards**. Please meet in The Ridges parking lot at 11:15AM. We will caravan to Brasstown Valley Resort. Each event is pay-as-you-go. Typical costs are: Lunch-\$12-13; Garden Tour-\$5 and Winery Tour-\$10. **We need a headcount by Friday, March 24, 2017.**

Please RSVP to HLColon@aol.com. Hosted by P/C Douglas Townes and D/Lt/C Hector Colon (678) 778-2131.

**Commander’s
Welcome**

On behalf of the Atlanta Sail & Power Squadron I welcome you to the District 17 Spring Conference. Our venue here in the north Georgia mountains in Hiawassee is a beautiful one, and we hope you’ll get out and appreciate the scenery. We’re looking forward to an interesting and informative conference and an opportunity for friendship as well. Don’t forget to view our Silent Auction items and get in on the Raffle!

If I can do anything to make your visit more comfortable, please let me know.

Cdr Mary T. Larsen, AP

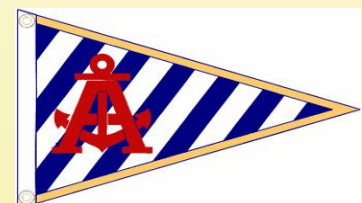
Save the Date!

**March 31 –
“Wineadendron
Tour”
Registration
Hospitality Room
Spring Conference
opens at Dinner**

**April 1 –
Break-out Sessions
D17 Conference
PM Seminar &
Boating on the Lake
Dinner/Officer
Install./Raffle
Silent Auction**

**April 2 –
Breakfast
ExComm Meeting**

**HAVE A SAFE
TRIP HOME!**



1953



The Ridges Resort

The Ridges is just a short two-hour drive from Atlanta, GA, Asheville, NC, Chattanooga, TN and Greenville, SC. Address: 3499 Highway 76 West, Young Harris, GA 30582. Tel: (888) 834-4409. GPS Address: Fieldstone Road, Young Harris GA 30582 GPS Coordinates: Lat 34.971060752043456 Long - 83.81795883178711

Saturday Afternoon

Saturday afternoon's programs include:

1. **Co-op Charting and Geodetic Markers- P/Stf/C Don Grotjan**
2. **A session of Trivial Pursuit for Boaters-If the weather is unfriendly.**
3. **Boating on Lake Chatuge – If the weather's fine-get your boat in the water, grab fellow members and enjoy a few hours exploring Lake Chatuge!!**

USPS District 17 Slate of Officers 2017-2018

District Commander - D/Lt/C Hector Colon, SN
 District Exec. Officer- D/Lt/C Walt Whitacre, AP-CN
 District Ed. Officer - D/Lt/C Marty Heck, JN
 District Admin. Officer- Cdr Ray Alley, AP-CN
 District Secretary - Deanne Rodenburg
 District Treasurer - P/D/C Danny Tompkins, SN

Planning Committee Chair. -P/C Steve Brumit, AP-IN
 Rules Committee Chair. – P/C Douglas Townes, SN
 Audit Committee Chair. –P/D/C Danny Tompkins, SN

Nom. Com. Chair. P/D/C Margaret Sherrod, SN-CN





FROM THE BRIDGE
(and beyond.....)

DISTRICT COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



On behalf of the Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron, my home squadron, I would like to welcome all members of District 17 and their guests to our 2017 Spring Conference at The Ridges Resort and Marina in Hiawassee, GA.

Over

the last two months I have visited with many of you at your squadron's Changes of Watch. I look forward to this Conference to be with you again and to visit with more members from District 17. I learn more about our organization, our members and the boating passions of our members each and every time we meet.

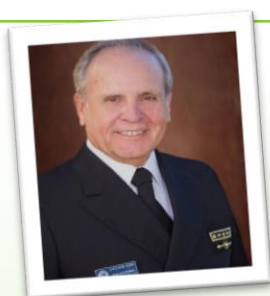
While breakout sessions are planned for Saturday afternoon (see DEO's article for details), feel free to bring your trailer able boat or rent one at the marina and spend the afternoon on beautiful Lake Chatuge. PC Douglas Townes, SN, will be available to give chart/cruise briefings for those wanting to venture out on the lake.

At this Conference, ASPS is staging a silent auction with many one-of-a-kind items for D17 members to bid on. The items will be displayed at the registration desk and at other times throughout the Conference. Look the items over and bid on your favorites items often! The winners will be announced at the Change of Watch ceremony Saturday night.

There will also be a 50-50 raffle for the primary door prize. Tickets will be available at the registration desk and throughout the Conference. They will be \$1 each, or 6 tickets for \$5, 13 tickets for \$10 or 30 tickets for \$20. The drawing for the winner will be at the COW ceremony.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our Conference in Hiawassee.

D/C Maraaret Sherrod. SN-CN



C/C Louie Ojeda, SN

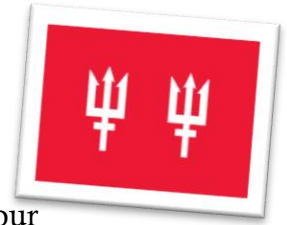


Dot and I are thrilled to be coming to your District 17 conference. Dot is a past Commander of Vulcan in Birmingham and her roots in district 17 are deep. The many friends we have made over the years mean a lot to us and we hope to be able to grip and grin with as many of you as possible.

The United States Power Squadrons is at a crossroads. For the last 15 years we have lost membership by continuing the path set out by our founders 103 years ago. Change is here and now so I urge all of you to attend and hear directly from me, how we are going to make it happen.

A hint is that the largest growth in recreational boating is with human or paddle propelled vessels. Unfortunately this is also the area of the greatest increase in deaths. We have a plan and I want to share it as many of you as possible. **Please join us.**

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE



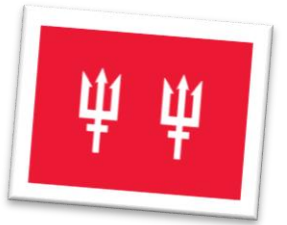
Welcome to The Ridges on beautiful Lake Chatuge. I am hoping the weather will cooperate and the members of this "Organization of Boaters" will be able to spend some time on the water. This was the reason we selected this venue for our 2017 Spring Conference.

Having just returned from the USPS Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, there are a few areas to report on. Cooperative Charting is once again gaining momentum. There are numerous ways to partner with NOAA, the US Coast Guard and the Army Corp of Engineers. P/Stf/C Don Grotjan, SN will offer a breakout session on the latest.

Government and Partner Relations are also on a run, keeping us up to date on what is coming out of Congress and our state legislatures. Thanks to our representatives P/D/C Marshall Herron, SN, P/D/C Bob Leathers, AP, and P/C Kim Latta, AP. We are still seeking a representative from Alabama.

Our national marketing folks are still hard at work finalizing our plan. USPS "staying relevant" is the goal. Selling the benefits of membership in USPS to all boaters is everyone's job. On that topic, we had an excellent presentation from Jake Hill of McGriff, Seibels & Williams on USPS boat insurance. Finally, you've heard me say it before, "if you are not having fun, you're doing it wrong." Boating and USPS are fun! Go out and have a great time, sharing your knowledge and making new friends.

D/Lt/C Hector Colon, SN



DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL OFFICERS'S MESSAGE
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Greetings to all members and friends of District 17. I am just returning from the National Meeting followed by a 10 day Panama Canal Cruise. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Ridges Resort on beautiful Lake Chatuge. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Ridges resort on beautiful Lake Chatuge.

The first order of business is to send congratulations to Dave Fuller of Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron. I am sure you have not heard Dave's entry was the 1st place winner in the National Teaching Aids Competition. All of the entries can be viewed on the National website. We can all be proud that our District 17 submission was selected as the best. We will be having our next Teaching Aids competition at the Fall District Conference. I will be bringing the new USPS Primer to the Conference and have more information from the Educational Department. There are questions and concerns we will be addressing at the educational department meeting. I hope you will be able to join me and share your thoughts.

D/Lt/C Monte H. DekJYN



DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

All of our D-17 Squadrons have been busy preparing for our upcoming summer boating season. Their activities are reported in the respective Squadron newsletters far better and in more detail than could be summarized here. Therefore, I recommend accessing the D-17 website, calling up the Squadron newsletters and reviewing them to see how active and diverse our District's squadron activities have been. Our Squadrons have been very productive and my congratulations to each and all!

D/Lt/C Walt Whitacre, AP-CN

Officers' Messages continued on next page.

DISTRICT SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

This will be my last District Secretary's Message. I have met so many wonderful people. I have so many great memories that will last me for the rest of my life – wine tours in Hiawassee, Pigeon Forge, the Tennessee River, Halloween costumes in Columbus, my flat tire at Henry Horton State Park!

I have learned so much, not only about USPS, but also about how each squadron is unique with a wealth of experience to offer, and about how USPS members may have differing opinions, but they are always friends ready to help out in times of need. Keep up the good work District 17 – I love you all!

D/Lt/C Barbara Tyson, P

