

R/C David Allen, SN

National Law Officer David Allen and his wife Debra live in Columbia, South Carolina, and are members of the Lake Murray Power Squadron in District 26. He joined the Congaree Power Squadron (D/26) in 1985 and has served in virtually every leadership position, including bartender. As Commander in 1994, he led the move to change the squadron name to Lake Murray. He has taught Public Boating, Seamanship, Operations Training and is a Vessel Safety Examiner. His District service includes serving as District 26 Law Officer since his graduation from law school in 1993 and various District committees including chairing the District Rules



Committee. He has served on the National Law Committee since 2000 and served concurrently on the National Rules Committee where he drafted the current Model District Bylaws. He is a Life Member with 26 Merit Marks and continues to make time to teach America's Boating Course with Debra each spring and fall.

A graduate of the University of South Carolina with Bachelor's Degree, *cum laude*, in Journalism and Master's Degree in Mass Communications, David spent over 15 years managing public relations programs for statewide non-profit groups and state agencies. In 1990 he switched careers and enrolled at the University of South Carolina School of Law. During his legal career, he has served as staff counsel to the South Carolina Consumer Advocate and, as a private practice attorney, has been

involved in multi-million dollar consumer class action litigation and filed cases argued before the United States Supreme Court. Currently he is a business lawyer in private practice and general counsel to a local manufacturing company. A licensed private pilot, he also holds a USCG 50 Ton Master's License. A Carolina graduate as well, Debra has served as spokesperson for the University of South Carolina and is currently administrative manager of the University's Office of the Board of Trustees. A Past Commander with 22 Merit Marks, she also holds a USCG 50 Ton Master's License and currently serves as squadron webmaster.

David has been boating as long as he can remember, beginning on the black water lakes and rivers of South Carolina. As he got more adventurous, the Intracoastal Waterway and near shore waters of South Carolina presented new challenges – currents, tides and an ever-shifting bottom. A strong advocate of using USPS education to have fun, he has cruised the East Coast from New York City to Key West, often leading his squadron. In lieu of children, David and Debra have had a fleet of powerboats over the years, from his first Checkmate speedboat, to a catamaran sailboat to cruisers. They currently have a 27' Wellcraft express cruiser, *Wild Meridian*, which they trailer with impunity throughout the Southeast when not on their home waters of Lake Murray. They also enjoy their 16' Sugar Sand jet boat, *Meridian Flyer*, which is the perfect boat for river running and exploring coastal marshes.