



TULSA POWER SQUADRON

A UNIT OF UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

26 April 2000

To: V/C Ted Smith, N
From: Marilyn B. Rose, P, Tulsa Power Squadron

I'm Tulsa Squadron's New Squadron Development Liaison in our effort to organize a provisional squadron in the Ft. Smith, Arkansas area.

Tulsa Squadron, with help from Beaver Lake Sail and Power Squadron (Arkansas) just completed the second Boat Smart course in Ft. Smith. We have signed up six unattached members and two current members of the Little Rock Power Squadron and a former member of the Oklahoma City Sail and Power Squadron who live in the area are also interested in organizing a squadron.

An organizational meeting was held 25 April and all documents and Provisional Squadron bylaws are being sent to USPS Rules Committee Chairman C. A. Miller, N. They selected River Valley Provisional Squadron as their name.

Following are answers to the four questions:

1. The area to be served:

Ft. Smith and the neighboring city of Van Buren are in the northwestern part of Arkansas, right on the Oklahoma state line. They straddle the Arkansas River which is part of the McClellan-Kerr Waterway, a navigable waterway from Catoosa, near Tulsa, OK to the Mississippi River between Memphis and Greenville, MS. Boaters in the area are on Lake Ouachita (pronounced Washita), near Hot Springs, Lake Tenkiller, near Cookson, OK and Kerr Lake, near Sallisaw, OK and Lake Dardanelle, near Russellville, AR, both part of the waterway plus smaller lakes in the area. Geographically its an excellent location for a squadron.

2. The need for a squadron:

The closest existing squadrons are Tulsa, 121 miles northwest, Little Rock, 160 miles east, Oklahoma City, 190 miles west and Beaver Lake at Rogers, AR, 94 miles north. There are many boaters in the area but the nearest squadrons are too far away. The prior member of the Oklahoma City Squadron dropped his membership and the two current members of the Little Rock Squadron do not attend squadron meetings or activities because of the distance.

3. Potential for growth:

Northwest Arkansas has experienced phenomenal growth and economic development. It has been stated that this is one of the fastest growing corridors in the country. Ft. Smith is now the second largest city in Arkansas with a current population just under 100,000. Van Buren's population is over 15,000. The population of the marketing area is approximately 260,000.

Boat dealers are experiencing exceptional sales, the Arkansas Fish and Wildlife Department is very concerned about boating education and the State of Arkansas and USPS have signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Ft. Smith Chamber of Commerce is very active in business development and the potential for continued growth is excellent.

4. Plan for creating the squadron:

Boat Smart courses will be offered at the local college, Westark, who provide class rooms to us at no cost and Tulsa Squadron offers Boating Courses on Lake Tenkiller. Ft. Smith hosts two Boat Shows and the provisional squadron plans to staff a booth at each of them.

The first two unattached members from the first Boat Smart Course have just completed Seamanship, two provisional squadron members have their AP grade and one has the JN grade so there is USPS knowledge within the group. These are active businessmen involved in community affairs and one is a Chamber of Commerce board member. Tulsa and Beaver Lake Squadrons will continue to provide guidance, and help with Operations Training, Advance and Elective Courses, publicity, marketing and anything else that will assist the squadron.

I feel it may require two years to grow the squadron to 25 or more active members but there is a core of officers and members that are dedicated to obtaining a squadron charter.

FYI:

Provisional Commander.

Education Officer

Sec/Treasurer

Executive Committee:

Terry Ransom

J. C Calvert,

Mike Berumen

Howard Armstrong

David M. Craven

Jack M. Cline, AP

Please don't hesitate to contact me if further information is needed.

cc: D/C Steve Johnson

D/XO Doug Gaither