



NOW HEAR THIS!



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KNOXVILLE POWER SQUADRON
A Unit of District 17 of the United States Power Squadrons
Sail and Power Boating

Vol. 27, No. 8

August 2015

KPS BRIDGE

Commander:

Cdr Mike Scher, AP, P/D/C
(865) 405-5512

Executive Officer:

Lt/C Dave Powers, AP
(901) 337-3770

Squadron Education Officer:

Lt/C Delila Callahan, AP
(931) 456-0505

Administrative Officer:

Lt/C Linda Sundstrom
(716) 937-6807

Secretary:

Lt/C Jean Armes, AP
(865) 458-9624

Treasurer:

Lt/C Tom Dietrich, SN
(865) 657-9190

Executive Committee:

Current Bridge plus —

P/C James Barkley, SN
(865) 966-7261

P/C Chuck Smith, AP
(865) 376-1370

P/C Cathy Phillips, AP
(865) 694-4944

Ray West, AP
931-456-0505

Newsletter Editor:

Sue Depew, S
(865) 805-9432

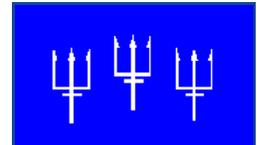
Webmaster:

Ken Bloomfield, AP
(865) 315-4227

Commander's Comments

Cdr Mike Scher, AP, P/D/C

I've been in the Knoxville Power Squadron for over fourteen years now and I don't remember a single year that we had to cancel more than one water event in a year—that is until this year—an unfortunate first. On the morning of July 2, after checking and rechecking two different weather forecasts, I consulted with our Executive Officer, Dave Powers, and listened to our Weather Instructor. The prognosis was not good—light winds and rain every day for a week with the possibility of severe thunderstorms. So in keeping with one of the Power Squadron's primary objectives of maritime safety, we cancelled the July 4 Raft-Off event. Would we have been in trouble out on the water with the weather over the weekend? Probably not, but we didn't know that. Better to be safe than sorry. And at a minimum, even though decent weather was possible for the actual fireworks display, the idea of sitting around on our boats in the rain all day and then again that night was not pleasant.



As our membership continues to grow, we are experiencing a few "growing pains," especially with regard to increased attendance at our dinner meetings. This increase is great, but it does present some significant challenges. Finding restaurants that can accommodate groups of 50 or more at a reasonable price is difficult. And making additional seating available at the last minute for members who did not make a reservation is difficult as well. So far, thanks to Linda, we have been able to host everyone who shows up. But at the last meeting because everyone had not made a reservation, we were close to having to turn away some of our members. **YOU**, however, have the solution to this problem. If you plan to participate in an upcoming KPS event, please respond when we ask who will attend. If you fail to make that reservation, it may be necessary for you to wait outside the room until all dining chairs have been claimed by those who did make a reservation. That means that some couples who did not make reservations may not

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United States Power Squadrons®

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Our Website is: WWW.KPS-SITE.ORG

ELECTED NON-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

AUDIT:

CHAIR: Paul Dockins, P
2 Year: Larry Lanz, P
3 Year: Dave Ogrod, P

NOMINATING:

CHAIR: Janet Bray, P
2 Year: Cindy Davis, S
3 Year: Maureen Hill

RULES:

CHAIR: P/C Margaret Edidin, P
2 Year: Bill Brumit, AP
3 Year: Mike McCarthy, S

PORT CAPTAINS

WATTS BAR LAKE: Robert McConnel, S/N FT LOUDOUN LAKE: P/C James C. Barkley, SN TELLICO LAKE: P/D/C Mike Scher, AP

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS and OFFICERS (Some of the following positions will be updated.)

BOAT SHOWS

Lt/C Dave Powers, AP

MEMBERSHIP

Ed Armes, AP

NATIONAL LIAISON

P/D/C Ronald Lukens, AP

SAFETY

PDC Michael P. Scher, AP

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Ray West, AP

LAW OFFICER

P/C Jim Barkley, SN

SQUADRON HISTORIAN

P/C Nick Tronolone, AP

VESSEL SAFETY CHECK

P/C Bob Bray, JN

PROPERTY OFFICER

P/C Bob Bray, JN

LEGISLATIVE/LIASION

P/C Chuck Smith, P

ROSTER& CALLING COMMITTEE

Nancy Campbell, P

OPERATION BOAT SMART

Lt/C Dave Roberts, JN

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Ken Bloomfield, AP

WEBMASTER of KPS Website (www.kps-site.org)

Ken Bloomfield, AP

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATION

Nancy Campbell, P
Brenda Bloomfield, AP
P/C Kathy Phillips, AP
Denise Powers, AP
Maureen Hill

ABC CLASS COORDINATOR

Otto Schwarz, S

MERIT MARK

Kathie Hawbaker, P

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be able to sit together. Please do your part by making your reservations in advance by the request-
ed deadline.

Coming up next is the Ice Cream Social on August 15. This has always been a popular event and
we expect nothing different this year. Be aware that August 15 is also the day of the Dragon Boat
Races at Tellico Marina, making that stretch of water a very busy place. If coming by boat, it
would be best for you to arrive before 1000. Even parking may be tight. Please make your plans
early.

Thanks—and hope to see you all soon!

Michael



LOOKING BACK**JUNE 22 DINNER MEETING AT COPPER CELLAR**By: *Denise Powers*

June's dinner meeting was a huge success with 49 in attendance including several new members and guests. Ken Bloomfield led a program regarding lightning strikes—how to avoid, protect life and property, and detect damage. Carry out boxes were taken home, implying that dinner was ample. As always, the conversations were lively. KPS monthly dinner meetings have all been top notch this year! Mark your calendar! Don't miss out.

COMING UPBy: *Linda Sundstrom***CALLING ALL BOATERS WHO LOVE SWEETS !!!**

**Join us August 15 for the Ice Cream Social
Tellico Harbor Clubhouse
2000 Cherokee Drive, Maryville**

Our next event will be here before you know it. Please join the Squadron for its annual Ice Cream Social which will be held at the Tellico Harbor Clubhouse, 2000 Cherokee Drive in Maryville from 1400-1600 hours. If you wish to come by boat, you may tie to the dock at the Tellico Harbor Clubhouse and may dock there overnight. However, the Tellico Harbor dock is not in the greatest of shape, so please be careful if you decide to use it. There are also anchorages available in the area which you might consider.

Also on August 15, the Tellico Marina will be hosting the **Blount County Dragon Boat Festival** starting at 0900 and finishing up by 1300 or 1330. Because of the anticipated crowds that this festival will draw that day, you might want to check with Rodney at Tellico Marina (865-856-6806) as to availability of parking and/or slips at the Marina. Mike Scher and Dave Powers might also be of assistance.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to bring homemade ice cream, toppings, sweets and whatever “special somethings” you would like to have with ice cream. Please let me know if you will be attending and what you will be bringing no later than **August 10**. I can be contacted by phone at 716-937-6807 or by email at lsundstrom17@gmail.com. Water and soft drinks will be provided. There will be no charge for this event.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!*(AO Report Continued on page 4)*

NEXT DINNER MEETING



August 24 — Tanasi Bar & Grill
Tellico Village
450 Club House Point, Loudon
Telephone No. 865-458-9392

1800 Hours: Social Hour
1900 Hours: Dinner

We will be ordering off a limited menu – salads, sandwiches and entrees. Prices range from \$6-\$10. I am told there is a full service bar. Servers will take our food orders at 1900 Hours and our meeting will start shortly after that. This is not a prepay event and you will be responsible for your own tab that evening.

Our guest speaker will give a presentation about “Critters On The Water,” which should be both interesting and beneficial to everyone. Questions and answers will follow the presentation.

Tanasi Bar & Grill will need a headcount, so please let me know ***no later than August 18*** whether you will be attending. As Cdr. Shear mentioned in the cover letter, not having an accurate headcount results in food and seating arrangement issues. Please help us be prepared for this event by making your reservations by the August 18 deadline.

ANNUAL SALMON ROAST



September 26 — Lenoir City Park, Pavilion 1

1030 Hours: Fire Department Demonstration
1300 Hours: Lunch

The Lenoir City Fire Department will be putting on an exhibition of proper use of fire extinguishers and flares on boats beginning at 1030 Hours. The exhibition should last about an hour. We expect to have lunch at 1300 Hours. Since there is no charge for the event, we ask that everyone bring a dish to go along with the salmon.

This year Ed and Jean Armes have graciously volunteered to cook the salmon on their slow cooker. We do, however, need volunteers to help out with the serving. Also, it would be appreciated if someone (or two) could bring coolers with waters and soft drinks. Let me know at your earliest convenience whether you will be attending and if you will be bringing a dish, waters, soft drinks or dessert. Your help is always appreciated! I can be contacted by phone at 716-937-6807 or e-mail at lsundstrom17@gmail.com. This is always a fun event — so make plans to be there !



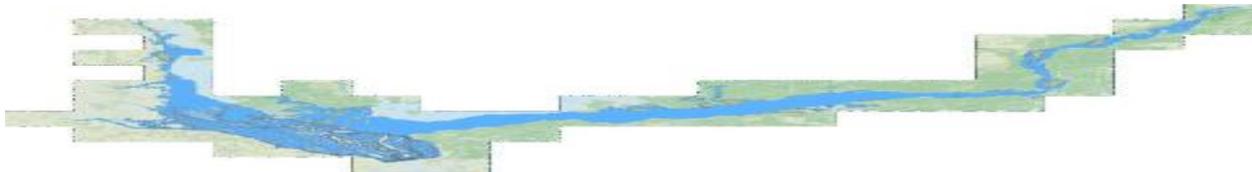
BOATING EDUCATION

EMERGENCIES ON THE WATER

Thirteen people tended this seminar on July 15. Thanks to Dave Roberts for doing an excellent job of alerting us to potential dangers while boating and how to deal with them.

FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Don't forget to put this on your calendar. The Lenoir City Fire Department will be demonstrating the proper use of fire extinguishers and flare guns, beginning at 1030 Hours (prior to the salmon roast) *on Saturday, September 26 at Lenoir City Park, Pavilion #1*. They will use live fires to demonstrate this equipment and have asked that KPS members bring their expired or nearly expired fire extinguishers and flares for the demonstrations. If you do not plan to attend, please give your equipment to Dave and Denise Powers who are captaining this event, which is free and open to the public.



JUNIOR NAVIGATION

Two additional students have joined the Junior Navigation class for a total of nine students. They meet one Saturday a month at the Oak Ridge Power Squadron facility and expect to complete the program this fall. This is our first cooperative education venture with the Chattanooga and Oak Ridge Power Squadrons and it has gone extremely well.

PILOTING

Seven students are pre-registered for this class, which begins September 24. It will be taught by Tom Dietrich at Gander Mountain. The Piloting course focuses on chart reading, course plotting and planning techniques, taking various types of bearings, GPS use, and monitoring progress from waypoint to waypoint. It is not necessary to have completed the Seamanship course prior to taking Piloting. If you have questions or want to register for this course contact Tom Dietrich at 865-657-9190 or Delila Callahan at 931-456-0505.



INTERFACING INFO

In the recent past, we held a seminar that highlighted the features of the free navigation program OpenCPN. This chartplotter program is quite powerful and can be very useful for extended river trips in our area. Also, in the recent past, this column was about the topic of AIS. On our river system, AIS can be particularly useful since you can “see” a tow ahead of you that is around a river bend where you will almost surely meet him if you simply “cruise on.”

Getting to this point is easier than ever. Standard Radio Corporation produces a very nice VHF with many features, one of which is built-in AIS. One system even includes a built-in GPS. This combination provides most of the key AIS features, but one feature that is not in this combo is the ability to display the AIS target on your chartplotter. Thus this little treatise.

One available output of most instruments is the NMEA 0183 data stream. This is a serial data stream that is quite easy to interface, especially if the device receiving the information is set up for that—and that includes most commercial chartplotters. However, whereas laptops used to all have a DB9 connector serial port, for several years now that has no longer been standard and only USB ports are available.

This is not a major hurdle in the interface world, as you can simply utilize an RS232 to USB adapter that sells for less than \$10. Once this AIS interface is in place, the approaching vessel is well displayed which is invaluable in terms of safety.



Some of the most valuable features are:

1. You can “see” around the bend ahead where even radar can not image.
2. You can contact the tow by vessel name and they will surely reply.
3. You can predict very well when and where you will meet.
4. You can set up an alarm to warn you of the approaching tow even if you weren't watching the display.

