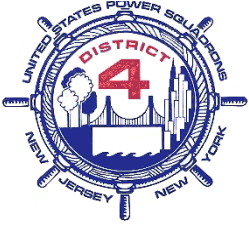


# UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS



# Mark 4



Official Publication of District 4 - A Unit of United States Power Squadrons

Volume 13

April 2017

Issue 1

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## Commander's Message Elaine Pfaff, JN

I don't believe it is March already. National's Annual Meeting was three weeks ago, then two weeks later we had the District 4 Spring Conference, a week later, our Memorial Service, and we are now starting to hold Squadron Changes of Watch. All of a sudden boats will be in the water and our boating will have started.

Boy, times flies by when you are having fun. It has been quite a year for me, and I have enjoyed almost every moment. I am saying almost every moment because I look around and see many squadrons that still do not have a bridge for the coming year. They are wonderful squadrons, and I have been to many of their meetings. Those not wishing to move up are really missing an opportunity, because it opens up a whole new world. Everyone is saying "Someone Else" will do it. Well, that "Someone Else" is you. If everyone can spend a little over 2 minutes a day, which equals 15 minutes a week, which equals 1 hour a month, how much work would get done? If everyone supports their Commander with that little time, the Commander's work will not be much,

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### Commander's Message (continued from page 1)

everyone would get a thank you Merit Mark, and you would have a complete, healthy squadron. That sounds like a win win to me. Everyone has something to gain and nothing to lose.

During this bridge year, it has been my pleasure to attend many squadron meetings and outings, and I have enjoyed them all

I have seen squadrons working together sharing classes, letting District use their facilities for meetings and opening up their events to the squadrons. I have met so many wonderful members of the squadrons, have felt right at home at their meetings, and I hope have made many new friends. I have attended National Meetings and now have friends from all over the country as well as Puerto Rico and Canada.

This would not have happened if I had said "Someone Else" will do it. It has been an experience that I cherish, one that I am thankful for, and I have all of you to thank for it. Because a bridge member was not able to continue on the bridge, there is a gap of one year for the office of District Commander. Because of this, I have been asked to stay on as District Commander, and I am very happy and honored to serve for another year. Many people have helped me and supported me this year which has made the job much easier. I wish more of you would step up and experience the joy that I have. There are so many truly caring and friendly members, and if you do not experience it, you are truly missing something.

So for me, this is not about passing on the gavel this year; it's just having more fun with many more friends. Looking forward to seeing you at your Change of Watch, meetings and summer events. See you then.

Thank you for the honor of a second term as your District Commander.



## **THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERYTHING**

The year was 1977. I took the boating course offered by Northern New Jersey Power Squadron and on passing it and being interviewed by a member, was offered membership in the squadron. Unfortunately that was the year USPS ran into a problem for denying full membership to females. USPS dropped dead in the water and many, such as me, dropped out as members. In 1986 I joined a yacht club and met Tony Russo through whose suggestion I rejoined Northern New Jersey. I was then 52 years old.

As a member of Northern NJ I proctored and then taught the boating course with some of my students joining the squadron and actively participating in its activities as members and officers. I saw many changes as time went by. Before I rejoined, women were allowed to join and take leadership positions (time had come). Many squadrons changed their name to reflect that they had both power and sail boat members (the time had come). Membership was made no longer subject to an interview but was open to all.

I had the honor of being elected District Commander in 2004 and had the opportunity to interact with members of the 18 squadrons in the district. Our district is now down to 14 squadrons, 4 being dissolved (their time had come).

Around 2006 I was asked to join P/D/C Frank Mc Hue in publishing Mark 4 for the district. The newsletter included ads which were paid for with the income offsetting the mailing costs to our 2300 members. Unfortunately the cost thereafter became prohibitive and we stopped publication (the time had come).

About 7 years ago, I came up with the idea of publishing Mark 4 again with distribution to the membership by internet. I have done this with the help of my wife Gail as proof reader and enjoyed it. There were times however when I doubted if any of the issues were read by our members (a recent survey however indicates that about 80% do so).

Having reached my 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday I am looking at changes to make in my life due to my age. We still own a boat and cruise with it but are contemplating our last voyage (its time is coming). I have been teaching the ABC Course for over 20 years but plan to stop next year (the time has come). I also thought the time had come to get someone new to edit Mark 4 for our members. I enjoyed editing Mark 4 and look forward to reading future editions released by its new editor, Jeanne Napier.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve District 4 and its members.

P/D/C David J. Meshulam, AP

## Thank you Dave!

District 4 thanks P/D/C David Meshulam, AP, for his past services as Editor/Publisher of *Mark 4*. Dave's dedication and experience resulted in many years of excellent issues of *Mark 4* and we will miss his guiding hand. We also thank his wife, Gail, for her many valuable years as his Co-Editor and Proofreader.

Our new Editor/Publisher is D/Lt Jeanne Napier, S, who is the present Editor/Publisher of Lackawanna Sail and Power Squadron's *Totem*. She will be aided by her staff, writers P/C Walter Graczyk, AP, May Louie AP, and P/Stf/C Csaba (Chubb) Varga, AP, proofreader P/D/C Rich Pfaff and photographer Cdr Ted Wallace, AP, and will be working with D/1<sup>st</sup>/Lt David Grill, JN to distribute issues via Constant Contact.

Please send any photos and/or articles to Jeanne at [jeanne.napier@lackawanna.org](mailto:jeanne.napier@lackawanna.org) so that District can share all the current news and exciting events that our Squadrons hold with all of our members.

P/D/C Richard Pfaff, JN

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### Mark 4

#### Volume 13, Issue 1

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## **2017 Spring Conference and Change of Watch By D/Lt Ted Wallace, AP**

District 4 held its Spring Conference and Change of Watch on March 10-12, 2017. V/C Gary P. Cheney, SN, was with us to deliver the Chief Commander's message.

Each year some members arrive on the Friday before the conference and stay till Sunday. This year was no exception and despite the cold nasty weather, some members checked into the hotel on Friday. Refreshments were served in the Commander's suite where the weekend was started on a happy note.

Friday evening, a group decided that they did not want to go out into the cold and chose to eat at the hotel. However twenty of us brave souls bundled up and went to Montvale to Belissimo's Restaurant for a fine Italian meal.

Saturday morning at 0800 hours registration for the conference began and at 0830 hours, Commander Elaine Pfaff, JN, called the Conference to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by P/D/C Jim Ulrich, SN, followed by D/Lt Ted Wallace, AP, who delivered the invocation.

V/C Gary Cheney delivered the Chief Commander's message which was not only interesting but informative as to what National is planning for the future of USPS. The District Officers delivered their reports and awards were given out. R/C Chris Windeler, SN conducted a seminar on HQ800 and P/D/C Richard Pfaff, JN, did a presentation on the new Digital Media Library that is available to all members. Upon the conclusion of the presentations, the conference was put in recess for the Member's and Social Luncheons.

Those who attended the Social Luncheon were treated to a thirty minute demonstration that was put on by the Marriott Hotel Chef who taught those present how to prepare simple appetizers. Rumor has it that those who attended would like another demonstration by the chef next year.

At lunch we were honored to have Commander Glenn Mason, US Coast Guard, speak to us about how USPS and the USCG work together.

After lunch, the conference resumed and the resolutions and nominations that were presented were approved.

Elaine Pfaff was nominated and approved by the membership to continue as the District Commander for another year. This is the first time since District Commanders started to be elected by the District in 1947 that a District Commander has served two terms.

V/C Cheney swore Elaine in as the new District Commander and then swore in the new Bridge. The Conference was adjourned.

After the conference, those members who remained joined the Commander in her suite for refreshments and to wish her well in the coming year.

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(continued from page 5)

## **2017 Spring Conference and Change of Watch**

**By D/Lt Ted Wallace, AP**

Saturday evening we attended the formal Change of Watch Dinner Dance where we all wined and dined and danced the night away to the music of Larry Kasar.

Sunday morning a Continental Breakfast was hosted by the Commander and her Bridge.

Those who did not attend missed a fun filled informative weekend.

**COME FOR THE EDUCATION AND STAY FOR THE FRIENDS.**

**DISTRICT 4**  
**A unit of the United States Power Squadrons**

**2017 REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

In accordance with the By-Laws of District 4, the Nominating Committee submits the following nominees for the 2017/2018 Watch year. All nominees are members of the USPS in Good Standing and all have agreed to serve if elected.

**District Bridge Officers**

District Commander	D/C Elaine Pfaff, JN (2 <sup>nd</sup> Year)	Lackawanna S&PS
District Executive Officer	D/Lt/C Jeff Horton, N	Lake Hopatcong S&PS
District Education Officer	P/D/C Richard Pfaff, JN (2 <sup>nd</sup> Year)	Lackawanna S&PS
District Administrative Officer	P/C Ben Schneider, P	Shrewsbury PS
District Treasurer	D/Lt/C S. Robert Phillips, SN (7 <sup>th</sup> Year)	Northern NJ S&PS
District Secretary	D/Lt/C Jay Lipper, AP (5 <sup>th</sup> Year)	Lackawanna S&PS
Asst. District Education Officer	D/1 <sup>st</sup> / Lt David Grill, JN (3 <sup>rd</sup> Year)	Northern NJ S&PS

**Audit Committee**

Two Years*(Chairman)	Lt/C Ronald Dornau, P	Barneget Bay S&PS
One Year	D/1 <sup>st</sup> /Lt Rita Langere, P	Staten Island S&PS
Three Years	P/C Richard Mohrbutter, AP	Shrewsbury PS

**Rules Committee**

One Year *(Chairman)	P/C Joseph David, SN	Staten Island S&PS
Two Years*	P/C Harold Goldberg, N	Staten Island S&PS
Three Years	Andrew Tashjian	Palisades PS

**Nominating Committee**

One Year *	P/D/C William Chefalas	New York S&PS
	P/C Christina DiMeo, P	Staten Island S&PS
Two Years*	P/R/C Joseph Balbo, AP	Shrewsbury PS
	D/Lt Joel Jones, SN	Liberty Harbor PS
Three Years	D/Lt Theodore Wallace, AP	Watchung S&PS
	P/C Walter Graczyk, AP	Shrewsbury PS

Respectfully Submitted,  
 2016-17 Nominating Committee

P/D/C James Ulrich, SN (Chairman)  
 P/C Joel Stoesser, SN  
 P/C Joel Jones, SN  
 D/ Lt Christina DiMeo, P  
 P/Stf/C Joseph Balbo, AP  
 P/D/C William Chefalas. N

\* Previously elected.

**FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

D/Lt/C Bennett D. Schneider, P

I am writing this message to thank the members of District 4 for the opportunity to serve as your Administrative Officer for the 2017-2018 year.

The Administrative Department is responsible for the planning and coordination of all activities internal to the district. I would like to begin by mentioning Boating Activities. We all joined the USPS because of the educational opportunities afforded to us through our membership. Boating Activities was my second reason for joining. My goal in this area is to increase the number of boating activities and more importantly, to ensure that each member is aware of the activities taking place throughout the district so they too can participate, go boating, and make new friends. With the cooperation of each squadron, I would like to collect information about your boating activities and disseminate it down to the membership through the use of Mark 4 and squadron newsletters. This will give each member the opportunity to go boating and learn how to plan and carry out their own boating activities while making friends throughout the district.

Please join me in congratulating R/C Vincene Aquilato and the members of the Meetings Committee who planned and organized the D4 Spring Conference. Each of you deserve the appreciation and gratitude of every member in the district for the dedication you've displayed and the wonderful manner in the way the conference was executed.

Congratulations also to D/Lt Trisha Bolt and all of the volunteers who supported, planned, and carried out the magnificent D4 Memorial Service. What a beautiful ceremony to honor those who have passed on and to show our support to their families. Job well done!



### **103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Governing Board**

During the week of February 20 to 25, 2017, members of the United States Power Squadrons descended on Orlando, Florida to enjoy the warm weather, play golf, participate in the many tours offered, relax by the pool, gorge themselves at the many fine restaurants, gain knowledge at the many seminars and attend the Annual meeting.

There is so much to do for members and family that the week passes too quickly.

Why would anyone want to take a week from their lives and attend a meeting? I can't speak for everyone, but only for myself. Let me start by saying that I started going to the Annual meeting 20 years ago and haven't missed a year since. My wife MaryLou and I were a little apprehensive about our first meeting, but that quickly changed upon our arrival. We met many people who were in the same boat as us. We were not sure as to what we were supposed to do. We were given an itinerary for the week and decided that we would attend some of the seminars and see what it was all about. We ended up joining the National membership committee and were welcomed with open arms. We made many friends on the committee and that was the start of some long friendships that I still enjoy to this day. I look forward to going each year just to meet the many friends I have made and to meet and make new friends. That initial experience has since changed. Now First Timers can sign up upon arrival and a separate meeting is set up for them where they can meet and greet other First Timers and they are introduced to the many experiences that await them. It is the start of "Come for the Boating Education and stay for the Friends".

Joining committees and attending meetings and seminars are only a part of what you will be doing. There is plenty of free time to go on tours, visit Disney, Epcot, Universal, Sea World and the many attractions that Orlando has to offer, or just relax. Regardless of where the Annual meeting or the Governing Board meetings are held, there are always new places to go and new adventures to explore. I am really thankful for the United States Power Squadrons because I got to go places that I would not have gone and experienced activities that I would never have done. The last 20 years have expanded my life experiences beyond what I normally would have done and I would have missed out on so much.

This year, I took a day to go to Coco Beach. I stopped at the Coco Beach Pier on the ocean and took a photo with a pelican; I went over to the Police Memorial Museum and stopped at Cape Canaveral. It was a great day. I also took time to visit Disney Springs, formally called "Downtown Disney" and City Walk. It wasn't all work.

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## 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Governing Board (con't from page 9)

On the work side, I attended the IT Committee open meeting, the Communications Committee open meeting, the Squadron Development Committee closed meeting, and visited the Expo where I tried my skill on the "Virtual Trainer". I also voted at the "Youth Poster" booth and attended the Squadron Officers meeting and the Annual meeting.

As I said, it was not all work. In addition to what I already mentioned, I attended the D/4 Commander's Cocktail party, several other District cocktail parties and D/33's "Pina Colada" party. This was one you did not want to miss! Our Puerto Rico Squadron, D/33, does this every year and every year it gets better. Twenty members of D/4 went out Thursday night to Maggiano's Restaurant for dinner and nineteen members of D/4 went out Saturday night to the Copper Canyon Grill for dinner.

If you haven't tried us yet, "Come for the "Boating Education" and you will definitely "Stay for the Friends".

Author:

D/Lt Theodore O. Wallace, AP

### Check your Knowledge!

**A sheet bend is a good way to join two dock lines. Do you know:**

- **When to use it?**
- **How to tie it?**

**#BoatingKnowledgeCheck**



(Answer is on page 16)

## History of the D/4 Memorial Service

### In REMBERANCE

19 March 2017 – 2 PM

### Saint Alban's Episcopal Church, Staten Island

The D/4 Memorial Service is approaching its ceremony for the 36<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. It is a non denominational service, with remembrance for departed shipmates. Yet, instead of being a service of sadness it is rather one of all shared friendships and a tribute to the many efforts provided by those members who are no longer able to attend the worldly functions of D/4. Each of us shall have someone or several in mind as we give thanks for all that they gave to us as part of our district triangle logo.

The service itself began in 1982 with an idea of P/D/C Arthur J. Schilling, Jr, AP, Lackawanna and has been conducted every year since. It is usually held on the Sunday of the week following the Spring Conference. Our first location was in the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine. The service was then moved from upper Manhattan to Trinity Church in the downtown area. From this location, it was moved to Saint Andrews on Staten Island where it was held for 20 years. During the past 12 years it has been held at Saint Alban's Episcopal Church.

Departed P/R/C Hank Griffin, SN and his wife Charlotte, AP, of Staten Island were the principal movers and workers for this absolutely beautiful service for many years, including the 20 at Saint Andrew' Episcopal Church on Staten Island . The service is followed by a wonderful reception with food and drinks to celebrate the warm camaraderie and fellowship of good friends. We have kept much of the memorabilia from the past 36years.

Twelve years ago my departed P/R/C Ken Bolt, SN, and I assumed the role of chair persons of the committee. We both agreed that this is one of the finest D/4 committees we could possibly be involved with. As for many years, departed USPS National Chaplain Bishop Herbert M. Groce, Jr. S, and now retired the Rev. Frederick W. Schraplau, our Rector Rev. Daniel L. Gross of Saint Alban's will guide us now. The service consists of hymns, poems, readings from the Old and New Testaments, the announcement of all departed D/4 members during the past year, and a most thoughtful homily. The Lord's Prayer was sung by the beautiful voice of D/LT/C Christine Zitniak, SN, Raritan Bay, and is now sung by Soprano singer Jana Ballard. Followed by a beautiful reception, there is no better place to remember your fellow shipmates than in St. Alban's, a wooden country like house of worship that was built in 1865.. (continued on page 12)

### History of the D/4 Memorial Service (con't)

In the past we have brought more than 100 friends and family to the service. It is certain that many more wish to share in this remembrance and tribute to our departed D/4 shipmates who have Crossed the Bar.

Please come back and join us again in Remembering,

Thank you all for your loyal and support.

D/LT Trisha Bolt, AP Staten Island - Chairman





## **District 4 Memorial Service**

March 19, 2017, members of District 4 gathered at St. Alban's Episcopal Church on Staten Island to celebrate the District's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Service for our departed shipmates. For those who have never attended this Memorial Service, you are missing a very moving, sincere, and well-orchestrated event that honors our departed shipmates.

Upon entering the church and looking around at the beautiful simplicity of this magnificent structure, you get the feeling of being transported back in time to a simpler, more peaceful time.

The service starts with the singing of "For Those in peril on the Sea". Then the Officiant recited an opening prayer which was followed with a reading from the Old Testament. Next, the members all recited Psalm 121 which was then followed by soprano singer, Jana Ballard, who sang "In Bright Mansions". A New Testament reading followed the song and then all members recited Psalm 23. After the Psalm, the Officiant read a passage from the Holy Bible and then delivered a brief Homily.

The District Commander next delivered a message to the membership which was then followed by members reading poems which were appropriate for the occasion. The poems that were read were "Crossing the Bar", by Alfred Lord Tennyson, "Gone from My Sight", by Henry J. Van Dyke, "When I Sail Away" and the Seaman's Prayer.

Next, Tricia Bolt stood before the membership and as she called the name of each Squadron in the District, the Commanders rose and recited the names of those members of their Squadron who had crossed the bar during his/her watch. The Mariner's Bell was struck as each Commander completed his/her message. Upon completion of the recitation of all names, the Reverend Daniel L. Gross delivered the Benediction and all members then sang "America the Beautiful" and then departed from the church to the Church Hall.

Once inside the Church Hall, there were two tables lined with food and desserts that the members brought for all to share. There were also tables and chairs set up so that we could sit comfortably and eat and enjoy friendship and conversation. Congratulations to Tricia Bolt for all of her hard work in making this a very successful event once again.

Author:

D/Lt Theodore O. Wallace, AP

## My Very First USPS Memorial Service

Thank you, Carrie Markham for asking me to go with you to the USPS Memorial Service. I would have missed a very memorable and touching event.

Why memorable?

First is the church - First Saint Alban's Episcopal Church. If someone was looking at my face when I walked in, they would have seen a look of awe and my mouth saying the word 'Wow!'. What a beautiful, unique church. I would have expected to see a church like this in Norway, somewhere in Europe.

The soprano's (Jana Ballard) voice was amazing. How often do you get to hear a voice like that?

Why touching?

How thoughtful of USPS not to forget their departed shipmates. It was touching to hear their names mentioned at the service. Very touching that this has been done for 36 years!

I'm a fairly new member of the Lackawanna Squadron. If someone asked me what I like about the USPS – it's the people. You are so lucky to have known each other for so long. I see deep caring friendships, almost family. I think most of you would say you are family. We are very lucky.

Author:

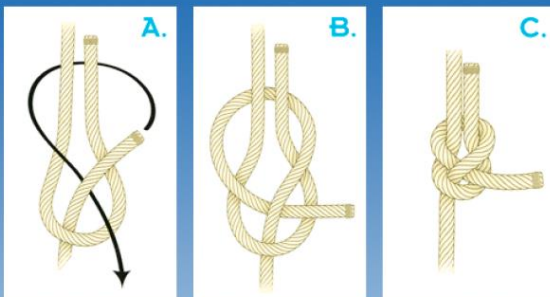
Jeanne Napier, S



## Save Your Plastic Bottles



Answer (see page 10)



A sheet bend is a good way to join two dock lines, especially lines of unequal diameter.

**#BoatingKnowledgeCheck**

