



SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Vol. LXXXI, No. V, September 2017



The Dumping Grounds

Official Publication of the Detroit Power Squadron

Editor: Lt Dara Brooks, P



Take A Look Inside This Issue

The Dumping Grounds is the official newsletter of the Detroit Power Squadron. This issue is an addition to our normal six issue a year publication schedule. **It is also the exception for 2017 in that it contains no advertisements, no index, no executive committee or safety columns. All advertisers will receive placement in the six issues they contracted for.**

In that we are on top of our 101st year as an organization, I took the opportunity to share with you the topics and people that made us who we are. This format, very different from our 100th Anniversary Gala and Displays, offers a deeper dive into our history which is also our journey.



For those of you considering becoming a part of our organization, I invite you to learn about our organization through this publication and to feel free to join us for any and all activities. We are here to serve the boating community and those who have a respect for our waterways.

The deadline for the next issue is September 10th. Submit your articles and updated calendar information to:

Dara Brooks at dtolbrk@gmail.com.

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-Lt Dara Brooks, P





Why This Special Issue?

by Lt Dara Brooks, P



101 Years and Counting

Many people have documents, photographs, and artifacts that tell stories of themselves, their families, organizational liaisons as well as reflect the times they lived in. As the years go by more of these things are generated. Such items are important because they help define who we are, remind us of those ties and interactions, and provide us with ways to share our stories. And sharing those stories is most important because they provide a glimpse of the building blocks of the family, organization and community. Along the way, key events and participants are identified but most importantly the road traveled is unfolded. It is also clear that if history is not somehow captured then it will soon fade as our elders begin to forget or fail to pass the information on.

September 2017 marks the 101st year of the journey of the Detroit Power Squadron. This special electronic issue is designed to teach, share and honor the contributions of those who made this long and remarkable existence possible and to report some of the changes along the way.

Speaking of changes, in June the USPS® Board of Directors approved the



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United States Power Squadrons®

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use of the name *America's Boating Club™* to help market **United States Power Squadrons®**. In addition, the Board of Directors approved a new logo for *America's Boating Club™* and a new tag line, "For Boaters, By Boaters". This tagline was chosen after a survey of members and nonmembers. The National Marketing Committee website is where camera-ready art can be found along with details in the brand standards manual.

This publication is not intended to boast but to report, thank and to show appreciation to the men and women, U.S. and Canadian citizens, military organizations, governmental agencies and various levels of our own organization who played a part in this journey. Due to our changing times and needs of our boating community, the focus of our organization has had to be adjusted and has evolved. No longer on alert for military involvement and support, today we are about the business of servicing the recreational boating community. Certainly a soft focus when compared to the military readiness of our history but an important one none the less.

Please note that the following pages are in no particular order and certainly will not include every contributor or significant moment but I hope you will turn the pages, be educated and uplifted.



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2017 D9 Fall Conference



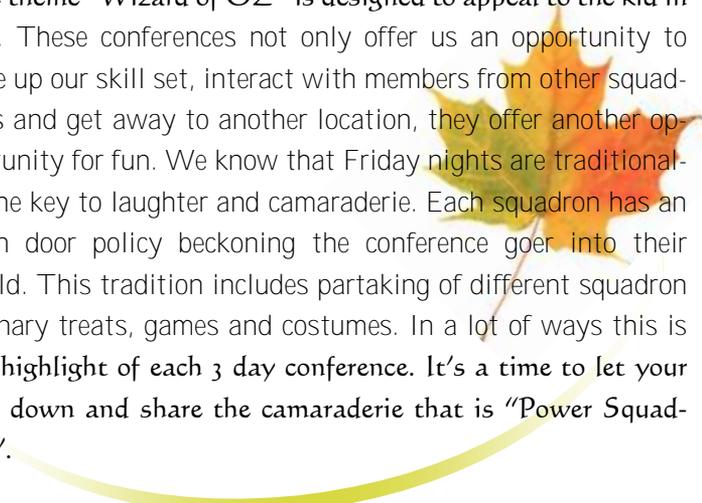
Treetops Resort, Gaylord, MI

October 13-15

Fall is a very special time for me. The colors of the season are my favorite thing. The reds, oranges and yellows warm my **soul and make my heart sing, maybe because I'm an October baby.** But also because Treetops Resort in Gaylord, MI is our **destination for the 2017 Fall Conference.** Going "Up North" during the fall in Michigan is a chance to see the beauty that our fair state has to offer. With rolling hills and pristine waters it is potpourri for the eye.

D/C Jan Klumpp, AP has blocked off rooms for conference attendees and these reservations must be made by September 15th. This is a highly sought after resort, so I recommend you make those reservations right away.

The theme "Wizard of OZ" is designed to appeal to the kid in you. These conferences not only offer us an opportunity to tune up our skill set, interact with members from other squadrons and get away to another location, they offer another opportunity for fun. We know that Friday nights are traditionally the key to laughter and camaraderie. Each squadron has an open door policy beckoning the conference goer into their world. This tradition includes partaking of different squadron culinary treats, games and costumes. In a lot of ways this is **the highlight of each 3 day conference. It's a time to let your hair down and share the camaraderie that is "Power Squadron".**



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United States Power Squadrons®

2017 D9 CONFERENCE

Treetops Resort, Gaylord, MI

October 13-15

Saturday, October 14th features our seminars, business meetings, lunch and dinner. D/C Klumpp has loaded a registration form in SailAngle with all of the details of meals and uniform requirements.



These events are to be reserved separately by making checks payable to: **USPS® District 9.**

Mail checks and reservation forms to:

Dave Dudek 35801 Schmid Dr., New Baltimore, MI 48047

Direct your questions to:

Fred Hoitash at cfdist@comcast.net (734) 649-1335 or

Mike Rachuk at mike.rachuk@gmail.com (586) 876-5818



Room accommodations are to be made directly with Treetops Resort by calling (855)261-8764. It is important for you to call rather than to book online in order to receive the discounted rate.

Identify yourself as a **USPS®** member and ask for reservation code: **USPS® District 9 Conference 2017.**



From the Editor's Laptop

Why Preserve Our History?

by Lt Dara Brooks, P



This issue seems perfect for the topic of preserving our history. As you read in the Aug/Sep 2017 issue I was able to arrange the donation of the Walega Collection to the Detroit Historical Collection.

This gift from P/Lt/C Dick Walega, SN consists of numerous volumes of *The Practical Navigator* from as early as 1848 to 1977; *Chapman's Piloting* publications; as well as various tables including *Dutton's Navigation & Piloting*; *Tables of Computed Altitude & Azimuth*; *Sight Reduction Tables for Marine Navigation*; *Azimuths of the Sun and Other Celestial Bodies* *Declination* and much, much more related to navigation.

Since then I have met with DPS member Donna Fletcher, S, daughter of P/C Al Atwood, JN and P/Lt/C Dorothy Atwood, SN to inventory their holdings. Named the Atwood Collection these items include years of sailing magazines, now defunct; over 50 years of *The Ensign* and our own *Dumping Grounds* publication. Once again the Detroit Historical Collection has offered to take the materials and make them part of their collection thus preserving part of our Detroit Power Squadron legacy.

I got the idea when with the cooperation of P/C Alanna Harvey, P I visited **Lansing Sail and Power Squadron's P/C Robert C. Shaft, N Memorial Library**. Their library was a lifetime of boating related materials amassed by its name sake. Impres-

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sive in its scope it also required a lot of floor space, something DPS does not have. I reached out to a number of organizations in our vicinity and one of them was the Detroit Historical Society. As a subscribing member I know that their scope includes the Detroit Historical Museum located at 5401 Woodward Avenue, Detroit and the Dossin Museum located at 100 Strand Drive, Belle Isle, Detroit. They expressed an interest in the collections of DPS and ultimately we were able to come to an agreement.

By no means was this a singular effort. Thanks begin with P/C Dave Caldwell, JN who as DPS Historian accepted the donation from P/Lt/C Dick Walega, SN and housed it until I came along to review it and begin the inventory. Thanks to P/C Joe Tatham, SN who took the Walega Collection from P/C Dave, completed the inventory and prepared it for pickup by the DHC.

For the Atwood Collection thanks go out to P/Lt/C Dorothy Atwood, SN who always gave me access to their materials whenever I needed some background for any DPS project I was **working on at the time**. I'd become so familiar with the archives when it became clear that P/Lt/C Dorothy would no longer be able to care for herself, daughter Donna Fletcher, S immediately offered the collection to me. Thanks to Donna and her husband St. Jean Fletcher who helped me separate the materials

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Why Preserve Our History?

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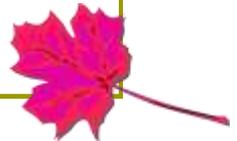
and prepare them for the DHS.

I am so pleased that the efforts of our members Lt/C Dick Walega, SN and P/C Al Atwood, JN and P/Lt/C Dorothy Atwood, SN will live on through eternity as will DPS.

In thinking about this topic of preserving our history I reached out to some of our Past Commanders. Having led squadrons as well as participating in them at a high level, each had a unique vantage point filled with lots of opportunities for observation. They say hindsight is 20/20. Anyone who has tackled a problem or had to make a decision and lived with the consequences knows exactly what I mean. We all have our take on **what should happen and even how we're going to make it happen** but reality paints a different picture.

 How many times have we looked at photo albums where the **organizer points out who's who and what the event is, later** to find out that there are no notes or labels and our organizer has taken that information with them. Such is the issue with many families and organizations. How often have we looked at trophies or certificates with fancy plaques or titles knowing that it was significant and important but with no proper explanation to accompany it. In the end unless we can reach into the memories of those who have come before us or in other ways recreate the information by gathering the proper documents, those important moments will be forever lost.

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From the Editor's Laptop

Why Preserve Our History?

by Lt Dara Brooks, P

I polled some of our P/CS and others who have a wealth of insight and asked, "Why Preserve Our History?" Below you will find their words colored with their own journey and 20/20 hindsight.

"The biggest plus in preserving power squadron history is that it provides a valuable, accumulated base of various types of reference materials on member participation and squadron activities."

P/C Peggy Schwaller, AP
Birmingham Power Squadron

"National says we're the 5th oldest squadron. Why wouldn't we preserve our history?"

P/C John Broadwell, P
Detroit Power Squadron

"With 101 years, lots of history!"

P/C Dan Bodner, AP
Detroit Power Squadron

"You want a legacy of those who have kept this organization preserved."

Lt/C Gail Graham, S
Detroit Power Squadron

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From the Editor's Laptop

Why Preserve Our History?

by Lt Dara Brooks, P

"As long as it's still in existence we can watch our path from the beginning."

D/C Jan Klumpp, AP
Mount Clemens Power Squadron

"History is good."

P/C Dave Caldwell, JN
Detroit Power Squadron

"All history is important. We have a unique organization with a long history. History has value to people and should be of interest to those who come after us. It's not done out of vanity but provides a perspective of what and who."

P/C Ron West, P
Detroit Power Squadron

"I'm a history nut who believes history should be preserved no matter what. There are profound lessons buried in every history."

P/D/C John Bennett, SN
Grosse Pointe Power Squadron

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United States Power Squadrons®



Jewels from the Treasurer Chest
P/C LISA MARIE BARRON, AP
July 18, 1959—October 5, 2002

This issue of the Dumping Grounds pays tribute to Lisa Marie Barron near the anniversary of her death.

We thank her for her passion for life
and commitment to DPS!

Lt Dara Brooks, P



When I joined the Detroit Power Squadron in 2002, one of the people I heard about early on was Lisa **Barron who was respected for “stepping up to the challenge” and putting the Squadron ahead of her own needs.** Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1994 while she was carrying out her duties as Administrative Officer, she never complained. MS as it is generally referred to is a long-lasting disease that can affect the brain, spinal cord, and the optic nerves of the eyes. Vision, balance, muscle control, and other basic body functions can be affected and **thus severely impact one’s day to day activities.**

When Executive Officer Mike Irwin, P suffered a stroke Lisa insisted on helping him serve his term with her assistance, acting as his voice since his speech was one of the areas affected. Being an emergency room registered nurse by training Lisa was **familiar with her own disease and Mike’s situation** and felt she could carry out her commitment to the power squadron, and she did.



Jewels from the Treasurer Chest
P/C LISA MARIE BARRON, AP
July 18, 1959—October 5, 2002

Lisa not only completed her term as Administrative Officer, she kept her commitment to Mike. They were good friends and were going up the Bridge together. Then, without complaint she **stepped up, doing most of the Commander's job** herself for Mike while carrying out her Executive Officer duties at the same time. Lisa enlisted the help of Bryan Bartlett, SN as Administrative Officer. In 1996 she became the first female Commander in the Detroit Power Squadron. Her courage and perseverance are a testament to true leadership.

Lisa grew up in a family of sailors. Parents Joseph H. and Kathleen Barron, also DYC members were accomplished sailors and kept their boat on Lagoon. Lisa, also a DYC member sailed with her dad quite often. According to P/C Dave Caldwell, JN one evening both were at the DYC bar, him waiting for a DPS meeting to start and her just having a drink. His invitation to accompany him upstairs to the meeting was accepted. Lisa joined the Detroit Power Squadron on 01 Nov 1991 earning her first merit mark soon after as co-chairman to Ray Suchowesky who chaired the DPS Predicted Log Program. The following year





United States Power Squadrons®



Jewels from the Treasurer Chest
P/C LISA MARIE BARRON, AP

July 18, 1959—October 5, 2002

she and Ray managed the program.

Lisa was eager to learn and participate. She immediately went on to pass Seamanship and Piloting, earning Advanced Piloting status in 1992. In addition to moving up the bridge, Lisa served as liaison to the DYC for two consecutive years, chairman of the Fitting Out Party and chairman of the Safe Boating class at the DYC for three consecutive years.



Lisa was a realistic and passionate sailor who participated in the Port Huron to Mackinac Race as a navigator. Her skills and strong will persevered because she walked away with 1997 and 1998 Navigator Trophies. **In the late 90's she was awarded a USPS® Life Saving Trophy** for her part in the rescue of a fellow sailor in a race. Always willing to be on the water, as her illness advanced she continued to support the race team by being the chase vehicle, delivering parts where needed.

Lisa's dream was to save up enough money so that she could move to the Caribbean and crew on larger sailboats.

Maybe, in God's infinite wisdom she made it.



Places We've Held Events

Mariners Boat Club on North River Road in Harrison Township was one of the places DPS members gathered for social events. This private recreational club served food, alcohol and offered billiards as a recreational pastime. P/C Dave Caldwell, JN a member of MBC for 15 plus years hosted DPS on several occasions over the years at Mariners offering members an opportunity to meet in a more casual setting than the DYC.

Founded in 1950, the small, private club had five full time employees. About three years ago the club folded and the facility was bought and reopened as a public bar and restaurant with the river side featuring indoor/ outdoor seating on the Clin-



ton River. The new facility renamed Bumpers is in the same foot print of Mariners after it expanded to the adjoining space and includes the small out building next to it once used for MBC meetings. **Certainly designed for today's diner, it features live entertainment and a view you can't beat using the recreational boating traffic as part of the ambience.**

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Places We've Held Events



DPS has had an opportunity to hold events in many of the important places around Detroit combining our history with that of the city. One of them was The Tuller Hotel located at Adams Avenue West, Bagley Street, and Park Avenue across from Grand Circus Park. Once one of the largest luxury hotels in Detroit, it was the first to be erected in the Grand Circus Park Historic District. Known as the "grand dame of Grand Circus Park" it was also the location of DPS annual meetings the years following WWII.

On 08 March 1958 District 9 held its conference at the Whit-tier Hotel located at 415 Burns in Detroit. The structure built beginning in 1921 was originally an apartment hotel. This concept allowed residents to rent while having the benefits often associated with hotels. This area overlooking the Detroit River is a prime location, this structure still stands and can be seen from the Detroit Yacht Club, home base for DPS. Friday night was devoted to socializing while Saturday was reserved for the business meeting, election, luncheon and dinner dance surprisingly like today's events. The structure was added to the U. S. Register of Historic Places in 1985.

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Places We've Held Classes

At one point in history, thanks to great formal advertising and word of mouth, our classes were in great demand. It was not unusual to have multiples of the same courses on the east and west side, wherever there was a need and opportunity.



So attractive were the courses that many graduates became DPS members. A great example is when 47 graduates from our Fall 1950 Piloting Course became members. Courses were conveniently located and held in many locations including the Brodhead Naval Academy (pictured above), the Edison Boat Club, the Crescent Sail Club, the Detroit Boat Club, the St. Clair Yacht Club, Eastland Shopping Center, the Detroit Yacht Club, businesses owned by DPS members, as well as several middle and high schools. Marine Electronics was once held at WJBK TV2 in Southfield; Piloting was held at St. Clair Recreational; Advanced Piloting was held at Modern Business Records and Wayne County Community College; Seamanship at Redford Community Hospital; Safe Boating at Thurston High School and on and on.

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Places We've Held Classes

Our classes were so well regarded, the U.S. Department of the Army declared the USPS® endorsement of Navigator be accepted in lieu of a college degree in the Officer's Reserve Corps as outlined in Special Regulation No. 140-105-8.



The auditorium at Eastland Shopping Center was once host to Power Squadron classes. A number of mem-

bers took their initial class and joined there. One such member was Franklin N. Cunard, Jr.. An engineer with Ford Motor Company, Frank expressed an interest in associating with people of like interests and expanding his boating knowledge through courses available from the squadron. Besides enjoying boating in his 26' Chris Craft Cabin Cruiser he enjoyed hunting, bowling and golf. Frank ended up becoming a real asset to the squadron earning 31 merit marks. He participated whole heartedly serving as proctor, assistant chairman and chairman

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Places We've Held Classes

to numerous classes and elective courses over his tenure. Frank became a life member in 1993. "Thank you Frank for your contributions to the Detroit Power Squadron".



DPS was fortunate to have Lt Mary Carter, AP serve as chairman of Safe Boating classes at Birney Middle School for many years. She came by the role when she responded to an advertisement in a local community publication where she met then instructors Jack and Jane Rhue.

Preparing to retire, the couple encouraged her to consider taking over as chairman since she was already participating in the power squadron. And of course the rest is history. Mary remembers getting support from instructors and proctors in the form of P/C Joe Tatham, SN; P/Lt/C Karl Bloomquist, P; Jack Glasser, AP and others. It was a great opportunity to wholly participate in the power squadron.



The “all male” initiation ceremony exclusively conducted by the Detroit Power Squadron has been in existence for decades. With the exception of 1988 when the event was held at the Edison Boat Club, it has always been held at the Detroit Yacht Club. Every squadron in District 9 can boast that many of their members belong to the coveted society called “Pelican”.

It takes a great deal of talent and manpower to manage things on stage and behind the scenes. The event is a Who’s Who of Detroit Power Squadron members who pitched in to make this the premier performance for DPS. From the Board of Directors to the committee members it took months of planning and preparation. Positions not normally thought of included the committee chairman, vice-chairmen, registrar and secretary. The positions needed for such an elaborate production included the stage manager, the director, prop men, and those that handled lighting and sound.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

by Dara Brooks, P



Let's not forget the actors themselves playing Leif Ericson, Captain Lawrence, King Neptune, Davy Jones, Moby Dick and our Botswain. These nautical legends have deep roots in our aquatic memories.

This is part of what makes the Detroit Power Squadron unique and significant to the history of District 9 and USPS®. **Members of every squadron from D9 have** memories of these great events only hosted and performed by DPS members. The suspense and mystery are what helped this wonderful event gain popularity over the years.

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**ADVERTISE
YOUR
BUSINESS
HERE**



WE APPRECIATE OUR ADVERTISERS

by Lt Dara Brooks, P

Any publication will tell you that advertisers are the life blood that allows them to continue communicating to their members and customers. Here at the Dumping Grounds we are no different. In our long history we have had many loyal advertisers. Early in our history many were our members using our publication to advertise their businesses. The following list though woefully incomplete is just a small sampling of our long time supporters. We at DPS thank you!

A-V-R- Manufacturing

The Rocho Family

1973 DPS Commander Victor, Rocho, Jr., JN

2000 DPS Commander Doug Rocho, P

Kimcraft Printers, Inc.

1980 DPS Commander Arthur W. Kletzka, N

Marine Sewing

American Marine Supply

Michigan Boat Cartage, Inc. & Surveying, Inc.

DPS Life Member Erv Unger, AP

Chaffee & Lancaster Travel

DPS Members Neal & Frank Chaffee

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WE APPRECIATE OUR ADVERTISERS
by Lt Dara Brooks, P

Kings Uniforms, Inc

Modern Business Records

1979 DPS Commander Tom Hyatt, N

C.R.P. Associates Security Systems

1989 DPS Commander Don Howitt, AP

Murdock Tool Company, Inc.

1985 DPS Commander Gil Couto, AP

Brownie's on the Lake

House of Lamps

DPS Member Clarence "Clare" Lantto, AP

Sinbad's Bar & Restaurant on the River

Dee's Sports Shop & Marine

E & N Hoisting Service

Yono's Wine Dock Liquor & Deli Shoppe

MacRay Harbor

long time advertiser and supporter

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P/C John Neubert, AP

It seems appropriate to include P/C John Neubert, AP in this special anniversary issue of the Dumping Grounds. I had the pleasure of visiting him recently and found that he too had a keen interest in history. His home is a tribute to family members who have come before him, especially his paternal grandmother Mimie Kunith. The house is filled with items passed down from her. On display are her wall clock (circa 1901), her locket watch (circa 1896), her Criterion music box complete with punched metal plates of songs (circa 1886) and his dad's metal toys (early 1900s). The hall holds photographs of family including one of his parents in the 1930s, his grandma Mimie, uncles, cousins and others, many long gone.



The most profound moment was when he directed me to the room which is a virtual time capsule of his experience as a power squadron member. He has nearly every center **piece from each commander's ball he's ever attended.** The room is filled with certificates, plaques, flags and other **nautical memorabilia.** **It's easy to know what happened** and when because John has it all, beginning with his membership year and all so tastefully displayed.

Often when you come into an organization and become active you meet people, hear about their accomplishments but have no idea what it all really means. John has a long list of accomplishments. He served in the U.S. Navy on board aircraft carrier U.S.S. Franklin D. Roosevelt CV-42 being honorably discharged in 1959. A husband and father



P/C John Neubert, AP

he believed in jumping all the way in.

John began his Power Squadron journey in 1983 when he signed up for a Safe Boating Class at Dominican High School in Detroit. Employed at Better Made **Potato Chips he owned a 23' Carver named Chips Ahoy.** Instructors P/C Al Atwood, JN and Lt Bob Schmaltz, AP signed him up for membership. Learning more about boating gave him more confidence. Spending more time with the squadron meant he and his family met more people.



Keeping his boat at Markley Marine he found that he was located next to DPS members Dave and Wendy Caldwell. They were very welcoming and helped him and his family fit right in to the squadron. Daughter Jenny commented on growing up with the Caldwell and other squadron children making them all a second family. One of her fondest memories was going to the National Conference in Anaheim, California because as kids they got to go to Disneyland. It was just one of the many events she and her siblings attended with their family. Others included the rendezvous, frost-bites and Friday night hospitality suites.

P/C Dick Turner, JN took John under his wing and **mentored him. One of John's fondest memories is traveling to a national conference at the Fountainbleau in Miami Beach, Florida with Dick who was Command-**



P/C John Neubert, AP

er at the time. This experience was not only fun but it opened his eyes to the larger organization and the **importance of the organization's purpose**. Dick encouraged him to run for the Bridge starting him off as Membership Chairman.

At one time he was a member of the D9 Nominating Committee and one of the technicians responsible for working the spotlight during the Pelican Initiation Ceremonies. Having served in the U.S. Navy he was familiar with uniforms and drills so when P/C Chuck Allen, AP invited him to become a member of the Color Guard it was a natural, and he did it for nearly twenty years. In recognition of his commitment he was awarded the J. L. Peters Award in 1989 and elected DPS Commander in 1990.

John says P/C Al McCurdy, N was one who embraced him, encouraging him to earn his grades and learn more about boating. He remembers serving as Executive Officer while Don Howitt was Commander, traveling to conferences together and forming a very close friendship. He remembers serving as Flag Lieutenant when Lisa Barron was Commander and what a good heart she had. He believes there is value in tradition and that the squadron is getting diluted every time the rules and dress code are relaxed.





P/C John Neubert, AP

P/D/C Bryan Bartlett, SN is the member he most admires and had the privilege of swearing in during his tenure as Commander. John says he could see right away that Bryan understood the purpose of the squadron and knew he would work hard and do well, and he has not been disappointed.



John is a little saddened that the men and women he worked with for so many years have passed away and that his age is keeping him from participating as fully as he once did. But his heart is filled by the time he **had and the contributions he's made.**

Just For Laughs

Sometimes it's important to interject a little levity into the conversation. Here is something to hang onto. Proper language requires that you understand the following:

A rope is a rope is a rope unless ...

It is in the locker, then it is called cordage

Unless it is coiled on a deck, then it's called a rope

Unless it is hooked onto something, then it is called a line

Unless it is pulling up a sail then it's called a halyard

Unless it is used to control a sail then it's called the sheet

Unless it's attached to an anchor, then it's called a rode

Unless it has a noose at the end of it

then it's curtains!



A Bit of Membership History

by Lt Dara Brooks, P

Like other power squadrons the Detroit Power Squadron was **formed as an "all male" organization. Most of them had wives** who accompanied them to the Detroit Yacht Club while they socialized among themselves and carried on squadron business. As a result bonds between the women were formed. These bonds evolved into work designed to support the efforts of the **DPS men and thus The Ladies' Auxiliary was born.**

The women helped in all aspects of the squadron. They procured classes, graded tests, typed certificates, worked the boat **shows, helped plan events including Commanders' Balls and** fundraisers. The fundraisers which took on many forms helped raise money for squadron class equipment and anything else needed.

Just A Few Words

by Shirley Allen



My husband, P/C Chuck Allen, AP joined the Detroit Power Squadron in 1971. A few years later I joined the Ladies' Auxiliary. Women were not allowed to join the **USPS® until 1982.** I found the Power Squadron course I took was invaluable, and wish it were mandatory for all boaters to take a boating course just like they have to do to obtain a driver's license. Our boating days were most memorable. We not only enjoyed the friendship and camaraderie of the other members, but it was also fulfilling to serve on various committees and host several rendezvous. So many good memories.

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A Bit of Membership History

by Lt Dara Brooks, P

Ladies' Auxiliary

When the Ladies' Auxiliary was formed, women were invited to meetings and needed, just as men did in DPS to be sponsored. Membership required the completion of a boating education class and a certificate of proof. That certificate, submitted to DPS yielded a women's certificate number. Evelyn Hyatt, wife to 1974 DPS Commander Howard J. Hyatt, N and mother to 1979 DPS Commander Tom Hyatt, N was the Auxiliary's very first president. She set the tone for the work the organization would do and how it would be carried out. Their 30 minute business meetings were structured to be followed by a program and run simultaneous to the men's meetings.

Members of the Ladies' Auxiliary consisted of Irene Walega, Pat Willson, Eileen Longpre, Mary Neubert, Pamela Pasmanter, Barbara Rose, Delores Shelfoon, Gerri Harris, Marge Desormeau, Eunice Turner, Lee Irwin, Ann Lane, Diane Dawes, Janice Siorek, Winnie McClain, Elaine Soule, Violet Steed, Shirley Allen, Joyce Strey, Mary Ann Pultorak, Betty Golden, Lori Kettler, Helen McCurdy, Peggy Schwaller, Mary Jane Kozar, Del Buhlinger, Judy Zeltzer, Ernestine Hyatt, Margot Sterren, Sharon Stewart, Mary Ann Treska, Ann Van Norman, Evelyn Hyatt and Julie Dick. (There were many more but my limited resources at this time only provided the above mentioned names.)

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A Bit of Membership History

by Lt Dara Brooks, P

A Change in the Wind

In the 1970s three women from New Jersey filed suit against USPS® to allow women to have full membership. At the Fall 1982 Governing Board it was announced that women would be accepted as members.

Al McCurdy, SN who was DPS Commander at the time (1982) recommended that women wait until January 1983 to join USPS® because dues were collected in January and this would give them a full year of membership. Based on the date of joining as listed in the 1983-84 membership roster his advice seemed to have been taken. When speaking with P/C McCurdy he was especially proud to have been Commander when this monumental event occurred and welcomed women's participation whole heartedly.

But this new policy spelled the ultimate doom to the Ladies' Auxiliary. Many women made the transition and some even opted for dual membership. But the responsibilities of both organizations, sometimes overlapping and the loss of members in the Auxiliary made it difficult. 1988 marked the last Ladies' Auxiliary meeting under the leadership of Mary Neubert.





A Bit of Membership History

by Lt Dara Brooks, P

Early Controversy

Feelings at the time were uncertain and they ranged the gamut. Some of the men were strongly against it and wanted the organization to maintain the status quo. Some of the women **didn't want to be part of an organization that didn't want them and others wanted to continue in an "all women" environment.** It did not help that this was new ground for **USPS® and local squadrons.**

Since DPS membership was not retroactive to Ladies' Auxiliary membership then long time members received their Life Memberships much later. Women also felt that their contributions made as Auxiliary members were not being honored because they were not awarded merit marks for their efforts. Clearly, some faults in the new system caused a lot of controversy and hard feelings.

To be fair, The Detroit Navigators Club admitted anyone passing the grade of Navigator, including women. Starting from DPS and still in existence today, the club embraced all those earning the navigator grade, offering numerous events and opportunities to use their skills. DPSLA member **Marge Desormeau was a "full certificate navigator" and very proud of it.**





The First Women DPS Members

by Lt Dara Brooks, P

Women stepping into a former “all male” organization in the early 1980s was a brave and trend setting undertaking and one filled with obstacles. Keep in mind that it was just a few short years before, in 1972 that Congress passed Title IX of the Education Amendments Act, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex by public schools. The Equal Rights Amendment which stated that men and women should be treated equally by law, was passed by Congress and sent to the states for ratification in 1977. Unfortunately, it failed by three states and by 1979 four states rescinded their ratifications.

It was just 1973 that women were guaranteed the right to an abortion as a result of the Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*, and the same year little league baseball was opened up to little girls. Two important wins for women. Today, there are still great examples of the struggle for equality. No matter the legislation, change is slow. Toward the end there were about forty members of **the Ladies’ Auxiliary, each trailblazers in their own right.**

The women listed on the following pages are the ones who according to our 1983-1985 membership rosters were the first to join DPS.





The First Women DPS Members

by Lt Dara Brooks, P

Lt Elizabeth Verbal, P

Detroit Power Squadron

Ladies' Auxiliary,

Yachtswomen

28' Trojan Sedan, Aquacap II

wife of 1984 DPS Commander

George Verbal, AP

joined DPS 1983 and was

awarded one merit mark

Jean Pierce

Detroit Yacht Club,

Yachtswomen

Writer, Palpa Nova, USA

Houseboat

joined DPS 1983

Elaine Godfrey, S

joined DPS in 1983

Gloria Williams

joined DPS in 1983

Ruth Clapper, AP

St. Clair Yacht Club,

Riverview Yacht Club,

Yachtswomen

Retired

power boat U-CCUNT-M

joined DPS 1983

Margaret Clarke

Detroit Yacht Club

wife of 1977 DPS Commander

Harold Clarke, AP

joined DPS in 1983

Cathy Kapphelm

Teacher, Beer Junior High

36' Sailboat, Larken

joined DPS in 1983

Lt Margie Desormeau, N

Detroit Yacht Club,

Detroit Navigator's Club,

Detroit Power

Squadron Ladies' Auxiliary,

Great Lakes Cruising Club,

Detroit Edison Yacht Club

Desmond Supply Co.,

Computer Control

Egg Harbor, Margie II

wife of 1983 DPS Commander

Harold Desormeau, N

joined DPS in 1983 and was

awarded one merit mark

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The First Women DPS Members

by Lt Dara Brooks, P

Eunice Turner

Detroit Power Squadron Ladies' Auxiliary, Pelican

wife of 1987 DPS Commander Dick Turner, SN

21' Weekender, Returner 2, 35' Owens Express, Returner III

joined DPS in 1983 and was awarded 1 merit mark

Mary Ann Pultorak

Detroit Yacht Club, Edison Boat Club

Yachtswomen

Detroit Edison

28' Irwin, Aquila

companion of 1989 DPS Commander Don Howitt, AP

joined DPS in 1983

Lt Patricia A. Willson

Pelican

wife of 1981 DPS Commander Stuart Willson, AP

joined DPS in 1983 and was awarded 1 merit mark

Sandra E. Schiff

joined DPS in 1983

Gloria Williams

joined DPS in 1983

Mary Kokosky, MD

Physician

30' Islander, Pussy Footin

joined DPS in 1983

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The First Women DPS Members

by Lt Dara Brooks, P

Jeanne C. Wright, S

WSSC

Claims Rep

20' Sailboat, Genie

joined DPS in 1983

Ellen Schelling

joined DPS in 1983

Some women became DPS members in 1984. Here is the list based on information from our DPS Membership Roster.

P/Lt/C Dorothy Atwood, SN

Jefferson Yacht Club, Great Lakes Cruising Club

Sugar and Spice

wife of 1986 DPS Commander Al Atwood, JN

joined DPS in 1984

Julie Dick

Pelican

joined DPS in 1984

Muriel Erickson

joined DPS in 1984

Though other women joined DPS in the coming years I wanted to give a special recognition to those who stepped into the fray at the beginning and paved the way for others.

We, as women and all of us as Detroit Power Squadron members know that without our women this organization would be a shadow of itself.

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I want to extend a “Special Thanks” to all who contributed to the successful journey of the Detroit Power Squadron thus far and especially to those who will come after us and continue to keep the light burning.

- Lt Dara Brooks, P
Proud Editor of the Dumping Grounds