



# Dixie District News

Fall 2006 Newsletter

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

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## "Magic Is In the Air!"



The District 17 Fall Conference will soon be upon us, and everyone at the Vulcan Power Squadron is excited to have this opportunity to support our District!

You will be hosted in "The Magic City" of Birmingham and entertained by a wonderful group of women known as "The ShowStoppers". As we relax the evening away, "The ShowStoppers" will entertain us Friday night with dance numbers they have performed throughout the state and as far away as Reno, Nevada. We can hardly wait to see everyone, so get your cow-

## District 17 Bridge

### Commander:

Thomas H. Carey, SN

### Executive Officer:

Janis H. Owen, SN

### Education Officer:

John P. Cook, SN

### Administrative Officer:

Daniel R. Tompkins, JN

### Secretary:

Dale Hamilton, AP

### Treasurer:

Michael P. Scher, P

### Newsletter Editor:

Richard J. Raymont, JN



boy hat or your cowgirl dress and be ready for a great night!



Jim Nye  
Commander  
Vulcan Squadron



The heat of the Summer is over. Fall is in the air. The best time to be on the water. Also the best time to take one or more of our USPS Elective or Advanced Grade Classes. Call your SEO and sign up for a class. I guarantee you will be glad you did.

If a full class doesn't fit into your schedule, sign up for one or more of our Saturday Afternoon and Sunday Morning Sessions at the District Fall Conference in Birmingham. Check the schedule elsewhere in this Newsletter and make plans to attend. If not for the classes, come for the food. I have tested it, and it will be fantastic, probably the best ever.

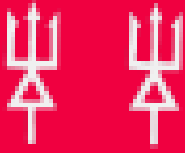
Come join us as we honor our squadrons who have excelled in presentation of Education Classes, members who have excelled in enlistment and member retention and other notable persons. Our District Conference Planning Committee, chaired by P/D/C Ben Owen, has done their usual outstanding job of organization for this, our last Conference of 2006. We all owe them a debt of gratitude.

I am especially excited that P/V/C Herb Rossmesil, SN, will be the Chief Commander's Representative for our Fall Conference. Herb and his wife Diane, who will accompany him, are residents of Birmingham, Alabama and members of Vulcan Power Squadron. Herb is a very close friend of mine and a Special Aide to the Commander which allows me to run offbeat ideas by him and expect an informed, judicious and intelligent reply. His C/C's Report will be likewise.

Of interest to anyone boating on the Tennessee River system is this list of phone numbers that TVA said could be used as an alternate to VHF Channel 16 communications to Lockmasters on the Tennessee River System. With cell phones becoming more available, this could be a reliable second communications resource. In some of the deep valleys it could be used as the primary communications when line of sight VHF is degraded to unusable status.

Phone Numbers for Locks on the Tennessee River	
Fort Loudoun Lock and Dam: 865-986-2762	Guntersville Lock and Dam: 256-582-3263
Melton Hill Lock and Dam:( Contact Fort Loudoun Lock)	Wheeler Lock and Dam: 256-247-3311
Watts Bar Lock and Dam: 423-334-3522	Wilson Lock and Dam: 256-764-5226
Chickamauga Lock and Dam: 423-875-6230	Pickwick Lock and Dam: 731-925-2334
Nickajack Lock and Dam: 423-942-3985	Kentucky Lock and Dam: 270-362-4226

Tom



When everyone arrives at the Alta Vista Hotel next month, a pleasant surprise will be waiting. The management has just completed a renovation that makes the place shine. Our accommodation for congregating and visiting is not the "Hospitality Room", but the "Presidential Suite" and the suite looks quite regal. The Meetings Committee has planned the conference with energy and excitement; we hope that this conference will be "the best of the best" for you.

Fifteen different breakout sessions have been planned to keep you interested and entertained over the weekend. The topics range from boat woodworking, amateur radio communications, marine electronics, member recruitment, teaching teens safe boating, cruising over 3000 miles in a 23' boat and on and on. (Please refer to the breakout session information in the newsletter for complete details).

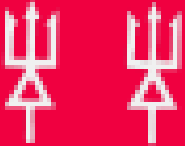
We are pleased to have as our guest Duane Morrison, who sets program parameters for Corps or Engineers and will answer your questions about the Corps and Co-operative Charting.

And if for no other reason, come to honor Frank Wedge. The Conference is to be dedicated in his honor for fifty years of service to USPS. What a delight to be part of an occasion in which he and Anita are recognized.

Looking forward to seeing so many of our friends in Birmingham!

### Official Call to District 17 Fall Conference

D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP



In Accordance with the bylaws of District 17, United States Power Squadrons, you are hereby notified that D/C Thomas H. Carey, SN, has called a District 17 Conference to be held during the period 3-5 November 2006 beginning with registration at 1300 to 1800 at the Alta Vista Hotel and Conference Center, 260 Goodwin Crest Drive, Birmingham, Alabama. Their reservations telephone number is 1-888-290-6099.

Article 4, Section 4.1 of the District 17 bylaws states: "The Conference shall be composed of the Council, the past district commanders of this district who are active members of district squadrons, and the delegates, which persons shall be voting members of the Conference."

Article 4, Section 4.2 further states: "Delegates shall be selected by each squadron on the basis of one delegate for each 50 active members in good standing, or major fraction thereof, as of the preceding March, with a minimum of two delegates per squadron."

Article 4, Section 4.2.3 states: "Prior to each meeting of the Conference, each squadron commander shall submit in writing to the district secretary a list of the squadron's delegates entitled to vote at such meeting."

Article 5, Section 5.6 states: "At any meeting of the conference, 25% of the members of the Conference shall constitute a quorum."

Please send the names of the squadron voters to the District Secretary, Dale Hamilton, as soon as they are selected. E-mail address is [dale.hamilton@med.va.gov](mailto:dale.hamilton@med.va.gov) or mail to 160 Compton Road, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130.

**USPS DISTRICT 17  
FALL COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE 2006  
ACTIVITY SCHEDULE AND AGENDA**

**Friday, 3 November**      **[Uniform: Country and Western Attire (Jeans, casual shirts, square-dancing outfits, boots. Anything Western is appropriate.)]**

1300-1800	<b>Registration</b> (Follow posted signs.)	<b>First Floor</b>
1600-1830	<b>Hospitality Room Suite</b>	<b>Room 722, Presidential Suite</b>
1900-2000	<b>Dinner</b> (Please present ticket at door)	<b>Garden Terrace, First Floor</b>
1945-2030	<b>District Conference</b>	<b>Garden Terrace, First Floor</b>
	⇒ Call to Order:	D/C Tom Carey, SN
	⇒ Commander's Reports:	D/Lt/C Janis Owen, JN
	⇒ Recess Conference 'til Saturday A.M.:	D/C Tom Carey, SN
2045-'till	<b>"The Showstoppers" Dance Troupe</b>	
	⇒ Country-Western Dancing Sets	

**Saturday, 4 November**      **[Uniform: G for the District Bridge (White open-neck, short-sleeved shirt, no tie, long navy or black slacks.). All other members: G optional; comfortable casual clothing.]**

0630-0900	<b>Breakfast</b> (Complimentary for Overnight Guests) Present ticket at door.	<b>Dining Room, First Floor</b>
0800-1000	<b>Registration</b> (Follow posted signs.)	<b>First Floor</b>
0800-0900	<b>Breakout Sessions:</b>	
	⇒ Commanders, Executive Officers, Administrative Officers	
	◇ Chaired by D/Lt/C Janis Owen, JN	<b>Vulcan Room</b>
	⇒ Secretaries and Treasurers, Co-Chaired by:	
	◇ District Secretary Dale Hamilton, AP, and	
	◇ District Treasurer Mike Scher, AP	<b>Oxmoor Room</b>
	⇒ Educational Officers: Chaired by P/D/C John Cook, SN	<b>Homewood Room</b>
0900-0950	<b>District Council Meeting</b>	<b>Garden Terrace, First Floor</b>
	⇒ Call to Order	D/C Tom Carey, SN
	⇒ Roll Call	D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP
	⇒ Approval of Minutes	D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP
	⇒ Old Business	D/C Tom Carey, SN
	⇒ New Business	D/C Tom Carey, SN
	⇒ Announcements	From the Council
	⇒ Adjournment	D/C Tom Carey, SN

 **Ten Minute Break** 

0955-1200	<b>District Conference Meeting</b>	<b>Garden Terrace, First Floor</b>
	⇒ Call to Order	D/C Tom Carey, SN
	⇒ Pledge of Allegiance	P/D/C Ben Owen, SN; U.S. Army, Ret.
	⇒ USPS Pledge	D/Flg/Lt Lee Harrison, S
	⇒ Invocation – District Chaplain	P/D/C Norm Oien, AP
	⇒ Opening and Introductions	D/C Tom Carey, SN
	⇒ Welcome to Birmingham	Cdr Jim Nye, P, Vulcan Squadron
	⇒ Roll Call of Squadrons	D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP
	⇒ Minutes of Previous Meeting	D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP
	⇒ Chief Commander's Representative	P/V/C Herb Rossmeisl, SN
	⇒ Treasurer's Report	D/Lt/C Mike Scher, AP

**District Conference Meeting Con't.**

- ⇒ Secretary's Report D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP
- ⇒ Administrative Officer's Report D/Lt/C Danny Tompkins, JN
- ⇒ Educational Officer's Report P/D/C John Cook, SN
- ⇒ Executive Officer's Report D/Lt/C Janis Owen, JN
- ⇒ District Commander's Report D/C Tom Carey, SN
- ⇒ Unfinished Business
- ⇒ New Business
- ⇒ Announcements
- ⇒ Adjournment

- 1130-1215 **Plenary Session** with P/V/C Herb Rossmeisl, SN  
*"Town Meeting with Herb"* **Garden Terrace, First Floor**
- 1230-1345 **Lunch** (Present Ticket to Waitress) **Dining Room, First Floor**
- 1400-1650 **Saturday Afternoon Seminars—see page 8 for schedule**
- [Uniform for Saturday Evening: A for the District Bridge. All other members: A optional; Blazer with tie or other appropriate attire.]**
- 1700-Till Dinner **Hospitality Room Suite** **Room 722, Presidential Suite**
- 1900-2130 **Dinner** (Please present ticket at door) **Garden Terrace, First Floor**
- ⇒ Introductions - District Bridge
  - ⇒ Chief Commander's Message - - P/V/C Herb Rossmeisl, SN
  - ⇒ Celebration to Honor Frank Wedge: **"50 Years of Membership and Merit"**
  - ⇒ Awards - - District Bridge
  - ⇒ Door Prizes
  - ⇒ Adjourn

**Sunday, 5 November** **[Uniform: None. Dress Casual]**

- 0900-1150 **Sunday Morning Seminars—see page 8 for schedule**



## SEMINARS

### Saturday Afternoon

<i>Times</i>	<i>Homewood Room</i>	<i>Oxmoor Room</i>	<i>Vulcan Room</i>
1400-1450	<b>Cooperative Charting</b> Chaired by: P/Stf/C Don Grotjan, SN Guest Facilitator: Mr. Duane Morrison, Corps of Engineers <u>Electronic Navigation Chart Data Team</u>	<b>Marine Electronics Highlights</b> Guest Facilitators: Coosa Valley Amateur Radio Members: Mr. Ed Tyler Mr. Joe Minor	<b>Operations Training</b> Chaired by: P/V/C Herb Rossmeisl, SN
1450-1500	Break	Break	Break
	<b>Vessel Safety Checks</b> D/Lt Jeff Wise, N	<b>Wooden Boat Building</b> D/Lt/C Dale Hamilton, AP	<b>Operations Training</b> (con't) <u>P/V/C Herb Rossmeisl, SN</u>
1550-1600	Break	Break	Break
1600-1650	<b>Member Recruitment Retention in Knoxville</b> D/Lt Janene Allen, AP Commander Bob Allen, AP	<b>Basics of Amateur Radio And Its Many Variations</b> Guest Facilitators: Mr. Joe Minor K4JOE Mr. Ed Tyler KI4GKS	<b>Operations Training</b> (con't) <u>P/V/C Herb Rossmeisl, SN</u>

### Sunday Morning

<i>Times</i>	<i>Homewood Room</i>	<i>Oxmoor Room</i>	<i>Vulcan Room</i>
0900-0950	<b>What It's Like to be a River Boat Captain</b> P/C John Farmer, SN	<b>Amateur Radio An Alternative to VHF</b> <u>Herman</u> Green KI4GCJ	<b>"Hubble Telescope Sequels"</b> N" Club Program D/Lt. Jeff Wise, N
0950-1000	Break	Break	Break
1000-1050	<b>Creating a Web Site</b> D/Lt Jeff Wise, N	<b>Member Benefits and USPS Protocol</b> R/C Louis Ojeda, SN P/C Dot Ojeda, P	<b>"N" Club Business Session</b>
1050-1100	Break	Break	Break
1100-1150	<b>Creating a Web Site (con't)</b> D/Lt Jeff Wise, N	<b>"Teaching Teens Safe Boating"</b> P/C Herman Green, AP	<b>"Bellingham, Washington to Glacier Bay (3363 miles) in a 23' Stingray"</b> Dr. Mike Schneider

## Hotel Information District 17 Fall Conference

Conference Date: 03-05 November 2006

Location: **Alta Vista Hotel and Conference Center**  
**260 Goodwin Crest Drive**  
**Birmingham, AL 35209**

Phone: (205) 290-8000

You must call the hotel to make your room reservations. Advise the hotel when booking that you are with the USPS District 17 to get discounted room rates

Room Rates: Executive King or Double/Double  
\$62.50 (Room rates are subject to a 17% tax)

Room rates include a full American breakfast for each guest (with Southern gravy and biscuits in the buffet).



### Hotel Amenities:

- All local calls are free
- All rooms interior corridor
- All rooms include view of the city, coffee makers, data ports, a desk, iron with board and hair dryer.
- Guests laundry facilities
- Exercise rooms
- Parking is complimentary

**The Alta Vista Hotel** is located atop Red Mountain overlooking the city of Birmingham. All rooms have great views of the city. It is not too early to begin your plans to attend by reserving your room.

The meals will be catered by the Culinary School of Catering. This is one of the better food services in the city. Both **The Restaurant at Culinary** and **The Bakery at Culinary** have reputations of excellent food and service. The Meetings Committee had lunch at **The Bakery at Culinary** recently and the food was excellent.

We look forward to seeing you there! Any questions? Please e-mail: [N7LBW@juno.com](mailto:N7LBW@juno.com)





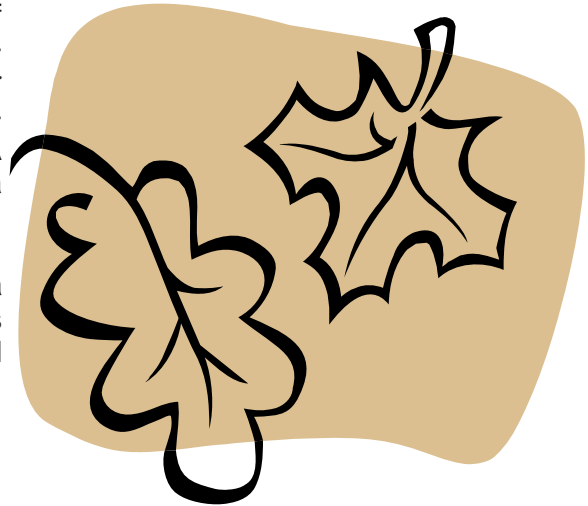
District 17 is pleased to welcome one of its own, P/V/C Herb Rossmeisl, SN as our National Representative, along with his wife Diane, at our upcoming Fall District Conference during 3-5 November 2006.

Herb worked for AT&T in New York from 1962 until his retirement in 1989 and was Director of Government Relations for the New England and New York region.

He served as Rear Commander and Staff Commander of the Member Involvement Committee before becoming the National Administrative Officer 1996-1997. Currently he is a member of the Vulcan Power Squadron where he serves as Chairman of Operations Training and the Leadership Development Programs. Presently he is a USPS Life Member, holding 26 Merit Marks.

He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Birmingham Chamber Music Society, a member of the Birmingham Opera Guild and a past Board of Directors Member of the Alabama Symphonic Association. A member of Southern Museum of Flight, he is certified as a commercial pilot with instrument and multi-engine ratings.

Herb enjoys restoring vintage automobiles, including a 1961 Jaguar XK-150 and a 1971 Jaguar XKE. Besides classical music, his other main interests are sailing and golf.



**District 17 2006 Fall Conference  
United States Power Squadrons  
Hosted by the District Meetings Committee  
Alta Vista Hotel and Conference Center**

Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Significant Other (Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday Night, 3 November 2006 Dinner:**

**South-West Chicken Piccata**

- House Salad with dressing
- Grilled Boneless Breast of Chicken with Lemon-Caper Sauce
- Wild Rice Medley
- Vegetable of the Day
- Bread and Butter
- Dessert – Chef's Selection

\_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$25.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Noon, 4 November 2006 Lunch:**

**Delicatessen Buffet**

- Roasted Red Potato Salad
- Pasta Salad
- Cole Slaw
- Sliced Smoked Turkey, Ham, Toast Beef, Swiss and Cheddar Cheeses
- Fresh Breads,
- Tomatoes, Lettuce and Pickles
- Dessert — Cookies and Brownies

\_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$16.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Night, 4 November 2006 Dinner:**

**Petite Filet of Beef and Grilled Shrimp with Bordelaise Tomato Concasse**

- House Salad with dressing
- Twice Baked Potato
- Vegetable Medley
- Bread and Butter
- Dessert — Cheesecake

\_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$30.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL SUBMITTED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: All meals include freshly brewed iced tea and fresh regular and decaffeinated coffee. All meals are inclusive of tax and gratuity.

**Meal reservations must be received no later than 20 October 2006.**

**Make checks payable to: District 17 Meetings Committee**

**Mail check and this completed form to:**

Ben Owen  
P. O. Box 454  
Pell City, AL 35125

*USPS District 17*  
 A Unit of United States Power Squadrons  
 Sail and Power Boating  
 Dick Raymond  
 1912 Colice Road, SE  
 Huntsville, AL 35801



### Calendar of Events

#### 2006

3-5 November      D17 Fall Conference  
 Alta Vista Hotel and Conference Center  
 260 Goodwin Crest Drive  
 Birmingham, AL

#### 2007

20-25 February      USPS Annual Meeting  
 Jacksonville, FL

TBD February      District 17 Spring Conference  
 Location TBD

The Dixie District News is the official newsletter of District 17 of the United States Power Squadrons.

Dixie District News is published two times per year.

