

HOMESTEAD POWER SQUADRON
A UNIT OF THE UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

December, 2011-January 2012,
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FORE & AFT CHRISTMAS NEW YEAR EDITION



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Homestead Power Squadron received Educational Awards at District 8s Fall Conference

At the District 8 Fall Conference held September 23-25, at the Boca Raton Marriott, Homestead Power Squadron did very well receiving several awards for Education, taking second place in the Teaching Aids competition, and receiving the prestigious "District Distinctive Communicator" Award for our newsletter "Fore & Aft". Squadron Commander: Cdr Jon Bensman gave the state of the Squadron report to the assembled District 8 Bridge and other Squadron Commanders, on new members and holding our first ABC Class in over four year. Included in the

report was the Squadron's recruiting effort for the rest of this year. The Commander was involved in a discussion panel on "Putting Butts in Seats". The panel talked about how to get more students for the boating course, one of the ways is through the internet use of web sites, facebook, and twitter.



Special points of interest:

- Monthly Fish Fry
- American Boating Course
- District 8 Spring Conference April 2012

Octobers & Novembers Friday Fish Fry are a smashing success!

The First Fish Fry for the year was held October 21st was a smashing success! We move our monthly fish fry's to Friday and we had close to 90 people in attendance and almost ran out of food for the first time in year. Lt/C Brock Shiffer stated 'he couldn't believe

the turnout we had, it was amazing.' Moving it to Friday Night was a great idea. Guest speaker; Tony Fiore, talked about cruises and what to expect while you are on them. Novembers fish fry was a little more laid back we served over 50 diners that night.

The number of people was smaller than Octobers due the weather and the NAS-CAR Race that weekend. Out guest speaker for the night was Charlie Hudson speaking on her book Family End Times. The next fish fry will be Friday January 20th starting at 6 PM.

Commander's Corner

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone! I hope everyone's holidays was an enjoyable one. Now that the new year is here lets make it a great one for the Squadron. I want to congratulate P/C John Furey and Andy Matthews on receiving credit for Advance Pilot, Lt/C Brock Sheffer and Lt/C Brian Coleman for completing the leadership development course. Lt/C Brock Sheffer for being named "Citizen of the Year" by the Marine Corps. This next general meeting on the 10th of Janu-

ary is when we hold our elections of 2012-2013 Bridge, on page 4 will be a list of candidates for election. Upcoming events in the next few months are: ABC course in January, monthly fish fry's, monthly general meetings, change of watch in March, District 8 Spring

Conference in April. I sent out to Brock and Bob the details on the USPS Poster Contest, I like to get it to anyone's children and grandchildren who want to enter and get it voted on at the April fish fry so we can send it to District 8 Spring Conference. I will have the rules posted on the Squadron's Web Site.



"this is the first one that the Squadron has done in four years."

Executive Officer's Corner

For most of June, July and August the building and property served as a continuing home for Speedway Community Church's Daisy's Closet. The Closet continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturday every month at 7:15 AM for 2 hours. The purpose is to give out free clothing to

needy families. People start lining up as early as 6:30 AM to be first in line. This program has grown to serving an average of 75 people per weekend. The church has also been instrumental in keeping the grounds in good shape; although recently, due to a financial problem with

one benefactor, it hasn't been as well maintained. I am told that this is about to change!



Executive Officer's Corner Cont.

Speedway Community Church is also using the Squadron's building to hold Bible Studies and makes monthly contributions to the Squadron. This helps out with the financial needs of HPS. The entire Speedway family is greatly appreciative of the hospitality shown for several years now by the HPS, and looks forward to

many more years. The church is also encouraging certain members to join the Squadron and take an active role in the organization.

I want to thank Lt/C Joel Ann Shiffer, Lt/C Brian Coleman, and the Commander for helping for scrubbing and waxing the Squadron's entire floor.

GOING AGROUND What to Do When Your Bottom Hits the Bottom

Ohmigosh – we’ve run aground! Ugly words, aren’t they? But, unless you’re far offshore, you may be faced with shallow waters and narrow channels and you have to know what to do when your bottom hits the bottom.

First is safety! After having everyone put on a life preserver, determine if you, your crew, or your passengers are hurt. Cruising into an immovable bottom at 15 or 20 knots can cause people to fly about. If someone has been hurt, determine the nature of their injury and whether they need medical assistance. If so, use your VHF radio to call for help.

The second concern is for your boat. Check your bilges to see if there are any holes (you’ll quickly

notice water). Your boat won’t immediately sink, but you will need to prevent your vessel from getting into deeper waters. If you can repair the hole(s), great! If not, call for help.

There are several ways to get your boat back into the water:

You can wait until the tide comes in and your boat floats again. Watch that wind or current doesn’t push your boat further into shallow water; consider setting an anchor.

If your boat is small enough, someone can jump over and push it into deeper water in his or her PFD with a lifeline attached to the boat. Remember to turn your engine(s) off. On a sailboat, have those aboard go to one side or the other to help get

the centerboard off the ground. If your boat has outboard or inboard-outboard engines, you may be able to raise the lower unit so that the propellers are off the bottom enough to motor into deep water.

Don’t try to motor off with inboard engines as you may suck sand into the water intakes. You can use a method called “kedging,” which entails setting an anchor and using it to pull your boat back into deeper water.

Call for help. If you have a towing contract, call your provider. If not, emergency services will assist in calling a commercial towing service.

GOING AGROUND What to Do When Your Bottom Hits the Bottom

Can you prevent going aground in the first place? One answer is to know the waters that you’re in and to have current charts available. The United States Power Squadrons® offers a complete education program designed for recreational boaters. Take advantage of these classes and other available education for an edge in keeping your bottom off the bottom.

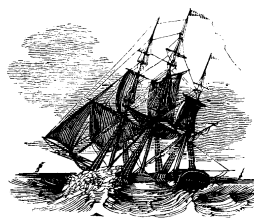
To locate local courses and seminars check your newspaper. To contact your area’s Power Squadron, look in your phone book or on line. The national website is www.USPS.org.

As USPS members remind us: Boating is fun...We’ll show you how!”

P/D/C Pete TenBrink

Feature Writer Marketing/Public relations Committee United States

Power Squadrons®



First is safety! After having everyone put on a life preserver, determine if you, your crew, or your passengers are hurt.

Education Officer



Upcoming education events for the Squadron are: the ABC course starting on Tuesday night January 10th at 7:00 PM and lasting 4 weeks

every Tuesday Night. The week of 14-18 February there is the Boat Operators Course being held in Miami Dade County. We are working preparations on where this course will be held. Both the Commander and I are trying to get the class held at the Squadron and Bayfront Park, which will make it convenient for members of our

Squadron to attend. This also could be an instructor course so we can teach this class to the public. Any member interested in taking a Seamanship course please let me or the Commander know so we can set one up.

Communication breakdown Going offshore? Take an EPIRB

Communications equipment is your lifeline on the water, and the more backup you have, the better.

Last fall, Coast Guard Station San Diego took a call at 1830 from a person reporting two friends adrift in a 19-footer five miles offshore.

After losing power, the boaters couldn't use their VHF marine radio to summon help. They used their cell phone, their only backup, to call their friend, but the signal kept breaking up.

It was cold. The boaters had no anchor and no propulsion, and their boat was drifting toward the rocks off North Coronado

Island. Then the phone went dead.

With darkness coming on, the Coast Guard dispatched an MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter to search for the vessel near their last reported position. At the same time, a 41-foot rescue boat raced

to the scene.

In the last rays of daylight, the Jayhawk crew spotted the vessel 50 feet from the rocks. They hoisted the man and woman from the boat and remained on the scene, guiding the rescue boat that took the vessel in tow.



Caption describing picture or graphic.



After losing power, the boaters couldn't use their VHF marine radio to summon help

Communication breakdown Going offshore? Take an EPIRB

Cell phone signals are sporadic offshore, making them poor backup for a hardwired VHF marine radio. An Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) or battery-powered marine radio would have been a better choice for getting help

quickly.

A rocky shoreline like this one almost cost two boaters their boat and their lives.

Photo courtesy U.S. Coast Guard

For more information and tips on boating safety, visit www.uscgboating.org.



The Cooks



Jennifer selling raffle tickets

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	6
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Schedule of Events

- Jan 9-Annual/General Meeting. Starts 7 PM
- Jan 10-ABC Class. Starts 7PM
- Jan 20-Fish Fry Starts 6 PM

Candidates for 2012-13 Bridge

This the list of candidates for the 2012-13 Homestead Power Squadron's Bridge:

Commander: Jonathan Bensman

Executive Officer: Brock Shiffer

Education Officer: Brian Coleman

Administration Officer: Bob Brinley

Secretary: Joel Ann Shiffer

Treasurer: Debbie Brinley

The Change of Watch will be held on March 24, 2012. We will have more information on the COW after the January or February General Meeting.



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Fore & Aft

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Homestead Power Squadron a unit of United States Power Squadron a national organization was chartered December 1, 1954, this is are fifty sixth year serving the Homestead/Florida City Community. We are a fraternal organization dedicated to “Boating Safety thru Education”. It was the intention of original group of 16 local businessman and residents to from the Homestead Power Squadron for the purpose of teaching SAFE BOATING to all persons interested. Over the years many residents of Homestead/Florida City have taken the classes in piloting, seamanship, weather and navigation.

**Check us out on Facebook & Twitter:
www.facebook.com/homesteadpowersquadron
<https://twitter.com/#!/PowerSqdr>**

**HOMESTEAD POWER
SQUADRONS BRIDGE**

2011-2012

Commander

**Cdr Jonathan Bensman, AP
cmdr@hpsq.org**

Executive Officer

Lt/C Brock Shiffer

Education Officer

Lt/C Brian Coleman, P P/C

Administration Officer

Lt/C Bob Brinley

Secretary

Lt/C Joel Ann Shiffer

Treasurer

Lt/C Jennifer Furey



P/C John Fury and Lt/C Brian Coleman at 2011 Christmas Party



November 2011 Monthly Fish Fry



November 2011 Fish Fry



Guest Speaker Charlie Hudson at November Fish Fry

