



United States Power Squadrons®

Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the FriendsSM

CAN 15

Official Publication of District 15

Fall 2015



CHANGE OR PERISH

D/C Bill Arcediano, SN-CN

I'm not sure if it was Aristotle, Albert Einstein or Captain James T. Kirk who said that change is constant and that you change with the times or perish along

with the dinosaurs.

Myself, I hate change, I like the status quo. In my personal life and career I have found that you must crawl out of your comfortable box either by choice or bedragged out by someone else while you're kicking and screaming. Why this heavy subject, I just returned from the National Governing Board meeting in San Diego. It was a great meeting in a fantastic location. I haven't been to San Diego since I completed Navy Boot Camp and Radioman "A" school in early 1966.

It seems that almost every decision made during the meeting was driven by our declining membership and the reduced revenue that goes along with it. The Board of Directors were authorized to go to one national meeting a year (*but only if unusual circumstances dictate*) by a vote of the Governing Board. The Chief Commander stated that there will be a Governing Board meeting next year and the unofficial rumor is that it will be in Pittsburg. The other change was announced a few weeks before the meeting. District Conferences will only have a Chief's Rep attend if they are having a change of watch. A Chief's Rep will be available to attend via Webinar and answer questions and the Chief's message that they normally deliver will be done via video.

To fix the declining revenue, \$47,000 in the red as of 31 July, we must dramatically increase dues or increase membership. The Board of Directors has opted to not make any drastic dues increases so that leaves us with cutting expenses and increasing membership. We have all been in many, many meetings over the last several years where that discussion has taken place. Unfortunately my experience has been that the same discussion is held over and over with little change of the outcome. I do know that Albert

Einstein's definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. I wish I had a magic answer but I don't, we all must crawl out of our box, comfort zone, and embrace change.

It was stated during the meeting that the sale of power craft is declining and the sale of paddle craft is exploding. The top 3 paddle craft manufacturers in the United States sold over 800,000 units, with most of them being sold in the United States. Wow, my reaction to this was, I know nothing about paddle craft. Now, the question becomes how do we capitalize on this information and make it part of the solution to our revenue problem. New members, maybe, the sale of on-line and in class room courses, absolutely. How do we support peddle craft owners with education and skills development? This needs to be the subject of meetings at each squadron, remember, change is not liked or wanted but we must if we want to survive.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the Fall Conference in Orange Beach on Oct. 23, 24 and 25, hosted by the Perdido Bay Squadron. Details and registration form are in this newsletter.

I apologize in advance to the English teachers who have been cringing as they read this article. Yes, I was the guy in the back of your class who didn't want to be there.

**D/15 Fall Conference
23-24-25 October
Island House Hotel in Orange Beach**

**Hotel rates guaranteed till 2 October
See page 3 for complete details**

**Hosted by
Perdido Bay Power Squadron**

**CAN 15**

Fall 2015 (nbr 15-2)

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Chester, Carol*D/15 Web Page*<http://www.usps.org/localusps/d15/>**Star Calendar 1–31 October 2015**

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|------------------------|--------|--------|-------|---------------|------------|-----------------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 Orion | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Mars Jupiter |
| 18 Sagittarius | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Venus Jupiter | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Jupiter | 30 | 31 Orion |

2 Oct High in the west before dawn, the moon is only ½ degree from Aldebaran. Orion is to the left.**7 Oct** High in the east before dawn, three planets and a bright star line up to the moon's lower left. Venus is 1 fist-width below the moon, Regulus is 1 finger-width to Venus' left, Mars is another fist-width to the lower left, and Jupiter is 2 finger-widths beyond Mars.**8 Oct** This morning the moon is less than 2 finger-widths to Venus' upper right. Regulus is to Venus' left.**9 Oct** The moon is 2 finger-widths to the right of Mars and Jupiter.**10 Oct** Before sunrise look for Mercury 1 fist-width to the moon's lower left. Jupiter is 4 finger-widths above the moon.**11 Oct** Low in the east before dawn, Mercury is less than 1 finger-width to the moon's upper left.**16 Oct** Tonight Saturn is 3 finger-widths to the moon's lower right, and Antares is 4 finger-widths to the lower left. Before dawn Mercury is at its greatest elongation, 18.1 degrees west of the sun.**17 Oct** Mars and Jupiter pass within 0.38 degrees tonight. Low in the west at dawn, Mars is to Jupiter's upper left.**18 Oct** The moon is above the dome of Sagittarius, the Teapot constellation.**21 Oct** The moon lies midway between Altair, 3 fist-widths to the upper right, and Fomalhaut, to the lower left.**22 Oct** From top to bottom, Venus, Jupiter and Mars line up low in the east before dawn.**23 Oct** Venus and Jupiter are separated by the width of 1 finger held at arm's length.**25 Oct** Separated by ½ finger-width, Venus and Jupiter stand side by side low in the east before dawn.**26 Oct** Venus reaches its greatest elongation, 46.4 degrees west of the sun, and begins its slow journey back toward the sun. Venus remains prominent in the predawn sky for several months before passing east of the sun next summer.**29 Oct** Tonight, the moon is 1 finger-width to the lower left of Aldebaran, the brightest star in the constellation Taurus, the Bull.**31 Oct** Rising 4 hours after sunset, the moon is flanked by Orion to the right and the Gemini Twins to the left.**From the Fall issue of the Ensign**

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DISTRICT 15 FALL CONFERENCE
23-25 OCTOBER 2015
Island House Hotel
Orange Beach, AL 36561
HOST: PERDIDO BAY POWER SQUADRON



Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____

Spouse/Guest _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Squadron _____ Phone _____ E-Mail _____

| Event | Approximate Time | Cost Per person | | Number of Attendees | Total |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------|-------|
| Friday Cocktails | 1700 | \$8.00 | | | |
| Saturday Lunch (Members, spouses & guests) | 1230-1330 | \$20.00 | | | |
| Saturday Afternoon Dolphin Cruise for those not attending classes | Times to be determined | \$20.00 +tax Per person | | | |
| Saturday Dinner | 1800-2100 | \$45.00 | | | |
| Sunday Farewell | 0800-1000 | N/C | | | |
| | | | TOTAL | | |

For Room Reservations, Contact:

The Island House Hotel
 (all rooms face the Gulf)
 26650 Perdido Beach Blvd.
 Orange Beach, AL 36561
 251-981-6100

Online Request group code: 2369239

By phone: US Power Squadron rate

<http://www.islandhousehotel.com/>

Room Rate:

Standard King/Queen \$109.00 +tax

Questions or problems?

Send e-mail to: P/C Pat Brewer, P

creekits@gulftel.com

251-961-7669



MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
PERDIDO BAY POWER SQUADRON
MAIL TO: P/C Pat Brewer
 9213 Soldier Creek Rd.
 Lillian, AL 36549
 251-961-7669



Dolphin Cruise is dependent on # of people that sign up and weather condition on day of trip. Refunds will be made if trip cancels.

District 15 Conference Hotel Rates are GUARANTEED until 02 OCTOBER 2015
ALL ROOMS PLUS LOCAL AND STATE TAXES.



From the D/15 Secretary

My service is winding down the mast after this District 15 Fall Council and Conference. I have filled my duties to the best of my abilities and enjoyed learning and serving three great commanders. I hope that I didn't embarrass the office as D/15 secretary too badly or put our little slice of heaven to shame. Living here in the Gulf States we are all so fortunate, for we have some of the best weather for boating almost all year round.



I'm not at all sure if you all know what the secretary's department entails and I'm not going into it all now, but I'll say we're all dedicated to communication and service. You can follow the link below (after you've signed in to the member area of usps.org) to find out more on the specific departments a district secretary liaisons with. Between national and squadrons, we try to hold it all together.

<http://www.usps.org/index.html/index.php/departments/15000>

Between our daily lives with families, occupations (if you're still employed), hobbies and home, I hope some of you have enjoyed serving the United States Power Squadrons as much as I, and carry the friendships and experiences in a safe harbor in your heart, as I will.

Thank you for putting a bit of faith in a non-office type. And if I have done anything right or looked as if I've had it all together, it's only because all my committee chairs made me look good. I want to thank those members who took the time to make this office smooth and seamless. I also want to thank the commanders, past and present, who have been patient with me.

Always here to serve,
Lt/C of District 15 and P/C Debi Gould, S
Mobile Sail and Power Squadron

District 15 Conference Rotation Schedule



- 2015 Fall – Perdido Bay
- 2016 Spring – Pontchartrain
- 2016 Fall – Pensacola
- 2017 Spring – Baton Rouge
- 2017 Fall – Ft Walton
- 2018 Spring – Miss. Gulf Coast
- 2018 Fall – Mobile

CALL TO CONFERENCE



In accordance with District 15 bylaws, Article 5, Section 5.5, this constitutes official notice to the membership of District 15 of call to meeting, containing the agenda and other pertinent details for the 2015 Fall Conference.

The conference meeting will convene at 0900 on 24 October 2015 at the Island House Hotel in Orange Beach, AL.

All members of D/15 are encouraged to attend the Conference and may request the privilege of the floor, in accordance with bylaws Article 5, Sec 5.8.

Each squadron commander is entitled to vote. Delegates shall be selected by each squadron on the basis of one delegate for each 25 active members in good standing, or major fraction thereof, as of the preceding 1 March, with a minimum of two delegates per squadron.

Voting members of the Conference are: District Commander, District Lieutenant Commanders, Chairmen of the General Committees, Squadron Commanders, Past District Commanders who are active members of District 15 squadrons, and the delegates.

Uniform at the Conference meeting for the District Bridge will be USPS uniform G. The uniform for other members and guests will be uniform G or other appropriate attire.

Want to have an Award Winning Newsletter and Web for 2015?

Requirements for earning a DCA (Distinctive Communicator Award) for 2015 can be found at:



Newsletter Evaluation Form:

<http://www.usps.org/national/commcom/ccPubEvalFm.pdf>

Web Evaluation Form:

<http://www.usps.org/national/commcom/ccWebEvalFm.pdf>

Thanks to the editors and webmasters for advancing communications for their squadrons.

Newsletter advisor for District 15 is:
Stf/C Kathleen Lambert, AP kglusps@gmail.com

Web advisor for District 15 squadrons is:
P/C Frank Kemp, JN fkemp@optonline.net



District 15 Fall Conference Agenda
Saturday 24 October 2015
The Island House Hotel
26650 Perdido Beach Blvd., Orange Beach, AL
Hosted by Perdido Bay Power Squadron
Uniform G - Black trousers and short sleeve shirt

**0800 Commanders' Breakout -
Education Breakout**

D/Lt/C Don Ellis, SN-CN
D/Lt/C Wil Hugli, SN-IN

0900 Fall Conference Called to Order

Invocation
Pledge of Allegiance
USPS Pledge
Roll Call and Introductions
Necrology
Establishment of a Quorum
Change Order of Business
Clarification of Voting Delegates
2015 Spring Conference Minutes Approval
Host Squadron's Welcome
Chief Commander's Message
Treasurer's Report
Secretary's Report
Administrative Officer's Report
Educational Officer's Report
Executive Officer's Report
Commander's Report

D/C Bill Arcediano, SN-CN
D/Lt Ann Gniady, P
D/Lt/C Don Ellis, SN-CN
D/Lt/C Charles Fosha, AP
P/D/C Robbie Jarrell, AP
D/Lt Ann Gniady, P
D/Lt/C Debi Gould, S
D/C Bill Arcediano, SN-CN
P/D/C Bill Dietrich, JN
D/Lt/C Debi Gould, S
Cdr Lynn Neff, AP
TBA
D/Lt/C Karen L Gercak, AP
D/Lt/C Debi Gould, S
D/Lt/C Charles Fosha, AP
D/Lt/C Wil Hugli, SN-IN
D/Lt/C Don Ellis, SN-CN
D/C Bill Arcediano, SN-CN

GENERAL COMMITTEES

Nominating Committee Report
Rules Committee
Budget and Finance Report
Educational Fund Report
Conference Planning Committee
Presentation of Awards
Unfinished Business
New Business
Benediction

P/D/C Barry Pipes, JN
P/R/C Harry Hebb, SN
D/Lt Carl Hutto, AP
P/D/C Luther O'Brien, SN
P/C John Gniady, P
D/C Bill Arcediano, SN-CN
D/C Bill Arcediano, SN-CN
D/C Bill Arcediano, SN-CN
D/Lt Ann Gniady, P

Conference Adjourned

1230 Lunch

1400 Instructor Recertification

1400 Boating Skills Virtual Trainer (BSVT)

1800 Dinner - Island House Conference Center



From the D/15 Educational Officer

United States Power Squadrons® Brand Standards Manual

Instructor Recertification will be offered on Saturday afternoon, 24 October, during the upcoming Fall Conference. Below you will find information taken from the USPS webpages about the reasons for instructor certification and what to expect from the recertification seminar.



Also during the conference, there will be a short presentation on how to use the HQ800 system for Boating Classes, Seminars and Courses.

Want to test your boating skills? The Boating Skills Virtual Trainer (BSVT) will be available at the conference. Come out and try your hand at it.

ABC, "Chapter 8" - state boating info - has been completed and approved for Louisiana and Mississippi; the information for Florida is still being worked on.

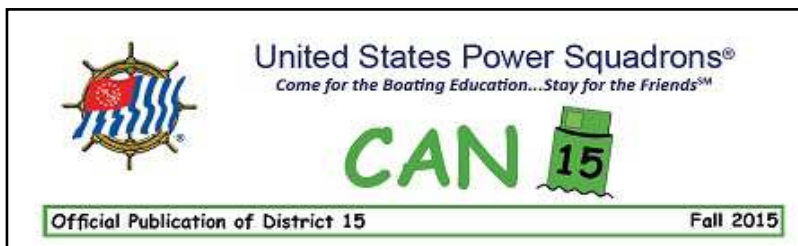
Fort Walton Sail and Power Squadron has the equipment and instructors for the Red Cross Certification program. If you are interested, talk to DEO Wil at the conference. The entire program (*without pediatrics*) can be presented in 4 hours.

D/Lt/C Wil Hugli, SN-IN
wilhugli@cox.net

A nationwide identity is important; we are much stronger as a national group - United States Power Squadrons - than as many smaller, individual squadrons.

The latest version of the Brand Standards Manual was rolled out shortly before the Governing Board meeting in San Diego. It is revision 1.5, dated July 2015 and page 2 includes a list of the most recent changes. http://www.usps.org/images/Exec/Marketing/Branding_Manual.pdf

The new brand standard logos should be in place on squadron and district newsletters and webpages as soon as possible, but **must** be used in 2016. Both CAN 15 and the D/15 webpage have been updated with the new logos.



Certification Policy and History

Many states and adult education programs have become concerned with the quality of instruction being given to the public, especially in the area of boating safety. Anyone who teaches the public must be able to show evidence that they have successfully completed an instructor training program. Just as the information in our public boating classes must meet or exceed the standards set by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and the individual states, our certification process is designed to make certain our instructors are of the highest possible quality.

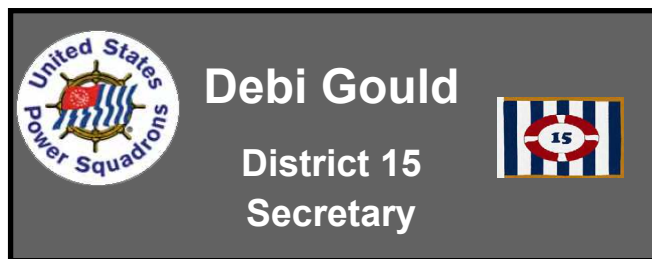
Recertification Seminar Description

The Instructor Recertification Seminar focuses on new technologies and techniques for presenting to adult audiences. It is a fun and audience participative program designed to renew enthusiasm and enhance presentation skills. It covers the benefits and pitfalls of using PowerPoint as an aid, as well as the value of manual aids. We have incorporated a lot we have learned from feedback since the inception of PPT in our courses. It is a two-hour seminar which can be readily run by squadrons as well as districts.



Current nametags do not need to be thrown out, but if new ones are being ordered, the new branding should be used.

The new format is: black background with white lettering; larger USPS brand logo to the left; smaller squadron burgee or district flag to the right; name, committee or position if desired in the center. Tag providers now have the new logo.



The approved logo is the ships wheel including our name, United States Power Squadrons®. Various versions, with and without the name, white or translucent backgrounds are available on the following web page.



From the Executive Officer

D/Lt/C Don Ellis, SN-CN

Greetings fellow D/15'ers,

Your D/15 bridge officers, and squadron members all across D/15 have returned from the 2015 USPS Fall Governing Board (GB) meeting – A few stragglers still enroute back. The San Diego venue was great and the meetings were all well planned and messages well delivered. This GB had a lot more excitement than most with quite a few issues to be approved, rejected, modified and voted on – with a lot of debate and discussion in the process. Our National Bridge was very active through the entire process – both offering (carefully) their take on situations and definitely listening. Ultimately, the membership cast the final decisive votes. I will leave a reporting of all these weighty subjects to our District Commander and friend (Bill Arcediano).

Since D/C Bill is covering all that, I thought I would take on one of my favorite subjects – Member Benefits. Why? Well, (1) It's my favorite, and (2) Membership is #1 – and USPS Membership comes with great benefits! This our D/C discovered when he got to the D/C & D/XO meeting mere minutes before me (your humble DXO, Don). As is appropriate, I was chided for arriving late(er). Near the mid-point of the meeting we were treated to a Member Benefits presentation on what's new. Also, they started a 3-gift raffle (we were given tickets on arrival – probably to make sure we attended the day-long meeting). Well, Bill kept acclaiming he just missed by a few numbers – I said nothing. Then the last number called for the best gift – Bill said, " . . .



just missed it by one!" I quietly raised my hand with the winning ticket number. So, your District was the big winner! What did we win? A Revere Inflatable Waist Pac! Boating safety

and member benefits took a step forward! Bill is still grumbling. but he can wear it - **on my boat** ☺

I would encourage each and every one of you, this week, to visit the Membership Benefits USPS website: http://www.usps.org/national/admin_dept/membenefits.htm

You are, no doubt, familiar with the Office Depot / OfficeMax HUGE discounts on copies (which we seem to use a lot of) – Absolutely wonderful!. Well, check out the web site for new stuff. You will likely find something that will benefit you.

Traveling? We all have our favorite hotels –

especially on the way to, or in, frequently visited places. But what about trips where your plans are more fluid, routes adjusted, or the hour is extremely late – you are tiring – maybe even recognizing your condition as bordering on dangerous. You may not be able to plan for all these possible stops. So, visit our web site – copy or print out relevant info (like hotel benefits) and hit the road!.



Example, my High School class reunion – North of 35th reunion (*actual number is*

confidential) -- East Tennessee mountains -- Great visit with old classmates – late drive of 600+ miles back – getting more than tired on arrival in Meridian MS. Got out my Member Benefit “cheat sheet” –started looking for logo's that “matched” – found one – called the corporate (Wyndham) number (1-877-670-7088) – Said I needed a reservation at Meridian Days Inn (I was standing at the counter) – gave her the USPS Corporate Rate #1000008696 – Very courteous operator asked usual questions



(number in party, king or queen, non-smoking) – Said room was available – I said Book it! Clerk across the counter did her thing -- stated rate – I was almost to tired to grasp the number – knew it was good and I could get some sleep! Rate was \$50 w/tax – normal rate was \$89 w/o tax – A good deal! By the way, the Wyndham rate as stated on our web is “20% off best available rate” (which is usually the “rack rate”). Again, you have to call the 24/7 corporate reservation number to get the rate. The counter guys & gals cannot do that – they have no knowledge of it.

With our D/15 Conference coming up (23-24-25 Oct – Orange Beach), you have some time to check out these and other Member Benefits. Bring your stories to the meeting – share them with the rest of us. Cost of USPS membership? I've paid for next years with “Bene's” exercised this year!

See you in Orange Beach. We have business to do -- members to keep and members to add to our ranks.

All the very best,
Don (DExO & Sqd Dev Com Chair)



Odds and Ends

News From USPS

Annual Meeting 2016 will be held 15-21 February 2016 at the Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive, Orlando FL 32819. The rate is \$139.00 per night. http://www.usps.org/php/reservations_new

New Procedures for Instructor Development Final Evaluation - New procedures are being used to evaluate students' performance in the Instructor Development course. The squadron educational officer and course instructor have new responsibilities and more say over the grade students receive for the course. These new procedures are available under downloads on the ID course web page. Read more at <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/id/idcourse.htm>

The grading changes resulted from a study by the educational department of a resolution submitted by D/20 earlier this year.

Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund - Financed by taxes on motorboat fuel, fishing equipment and imported boats, the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund generates around \$600 million a year. The program benefits the recreational boating community and commercial interests through the Coastal Wetlands Act, Office of Recreational Boating Safety (USCG), Clean Vessel Act (pump-out stations), the Sport Fish Restoration Program, and the Boating Infrastructure Grant program. Most of the trust fund dollars go to states, but some of it is distributed in the form non-profit grants.

USPS Awarded Fourth USCG Grant - United States Power Squadrons recently received a grant for \$130,000 bringing the total to \$543,000 for all four grants from the U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Grant program. USPS will use these funds to support boating safety and education nationwide. The four grants will be used for the following: ABC (classroom version) in Spanish; development of an online Spanish-language version of America's Boating Course; updated options for the boating simulator, and a Spanish version; a media library of boating safety and skill training.

As has been the practice over the last few years, a \$2 individual and \$3 family **dues increase** was recommended at the San Diego Governing Board. Surprisingly, the membership overrode this suggestion and instead approved a \$4 single and \$6 family increase. Consensus was that USPS needs the additional income and the amount was basically the cost of a cup of coffee.



C/C Robert Baldrige, SN

Several **USPS bylaw changes** were discussed and voted on at the governing board meeting.

1.) Dates and number of national meetings to be held, and who determines. Approval was given to have the dates and places of meetings determined by the Board of Directors instead of by the Governing Board members. The rationale was that the time between GB meetings does not allow for short term changes or quick decisions (i.e., the recent need to change the dates of the San Diego meeting).

A second part to this change was to allow the BOD to go to one national meeting per year. The membership felt that there was too much value in face-to-face meetings - shared learnings, exchange of ideas. This change was amended to read, continue to have two meetings per year unless unusual circumstances (determined by the BOD) require cancellation.

2.) Change to the Endowment (Century) Fund Rules. There was lots of discussion on when to determine the 5% of the fund value that may be distributed for special projects or grants each year, but in the end that remained as the beginning of the fiscal year. Paragraph 9 (allow additional withdrawal of funds) was removed.

3.) D/5 resolution and bylaw change to increase the number of BOD members by 3 members-at-large who are not current or past members of the National Bridge. This change has been brought up several times in various formats over the last 2-3 years. The gist is that the current makeup of BOD does not include "real members" who know about "real problems" of USPS. This resolution/bylaw change was overwhelmingly rejected by the membership.

District 31 has been dissolved. The three remaining squadrons have moved to D/30 (Beaver Lake and Grand Lake) and D/21 (OKC).

From the D/15 Council Meeting

The Fall Council Meeting was held on Saturday, 26 September in Mobile. After a breakfast provided by Jan and Don Rowe of Mobile Sail and Power Squadron, breakout meetings for SEOs, Cdrs and other interested members, C/C Robert Baldrige, SN conducted a town hall. From the town hall:

USPS is back in the business of **Geodetics**. During the San Diego GB, the Cooperative Charting Committee held its first Geodetic Walk. Ten people participated and 3 marks were recovered. Another geodetic walk will be held in Orlando during the 2016 Annual Meeting. Interested in more info on geodetics, go to:

<http://www.usps.org/national/coch/CoChPage45.htm>



USPS intends to offer all types of **Education** - online, in the classroom, on-the-water and the simulator. Some squadrons will even be testing Distance Learning Classes - using webinar or skype with a live instructor. America's Boating Course 2015 has been updated to meet NASBLA standards. However, an extension was granted to allow time to confirm state-required exam questions. The new N15 Student Manual will replace the Capn software with OpenCPN. *See a write up on OpenCPN that appeared on pages 9-10 in the Aug/Sep 2015 issue of Topside Talk at the following link:*

<http://www.usps.org/localusps/neworleans/ts15aug.pdf>

National Treasurer V/C Bob Miller, SN has suggested that USPS consider having only one class of membership, and that would be a Family Membership, much like yacht club membership. Pay one fee, equal to 1.5 times an individual and the entire family gets membership. Family membership is already available as an option, but under V/C Miller's suggestion, it would be the only option. This has received a considerable amount of discussion; some think it will work, others think that individual members will no longer join because of the increased dues. *(Current members would be "grandfathered in"; family membership would only apply to new members.)* At this time, the BOD is willing to let interested squadrons volunteer to try this. Contact V/C Miller. Remember, if your squadron signs up to try this new program, you can **only offer family membership**.

The 6 month free trial membership is still available for ABC course graduates. But...do not automatically signup every student. You must ask adult graduates if they are interested in the 6 month trial, and you must also have them complete a membership form. Do not signup individual kids at all.

As an alternative, squadrons can collect a year's



Educational Breakout

dues upfront to ABC graduates, but give them an 18-month membership.

District Treasurer Karen Gercak, AP was unable to attend the council, but she did provide a **budget for next year**, along with a recommendation that the district offer a subsidy to the district exec and admin officers to attend the USPS Annual Meeting. Both the budget and the subsidy were approved and will be sent to the conference for final vote.

Have you checked your bylaws lately? There have been many changes over the last few years, and yours may be out of date.

The above statement appeared in the Spring issue of CAN 15, and as it happens the D/15 bylaws had not been updated in 10 or 12 years. P/R/C Harry Hebb, SN used the model bylaws from February 2015 to update our district bylaws. Some specific changes you may want to note, concern district councils and conferences - two of each per year, not to conflict with national events (for example, national meetings, religious holidays), councils must be before conferences at a date set by the previous council. These bylaws, which have been tentatively approved by the appropriate member of the national Committee on Rules, will be presented at conference in October for approval. To review prior to conference, see:

http://www.hebb.me/cache/bylaws_d15.pdf

P/R/C Hebb is also a member of the national Operations Manual Committee, and responsible for updates to the manual. The latest version is 2015.2 and can be downloaded from www.usps.org/national/om This is the old usps.org website, but at this time, that is where the **latest OM** can be found.

Congratulations to the new **Mississippi Gulf Coast Sail and Power Squadron**. Their charter was presented to D/C Bill Arcediano, SN at the San Diego GB.



The Council Meeting



D/C Bill with the Miss Gulf Coast Charter

District 15 Members Having Fun in San Diego...



Enjoying the Cruise - Robbie, Dan, Judy, Carol, Bill, Don, Greg, Cheri



Is D/C Bill giving NExO Louie tips on how to run USPS next year?

Nancy, Carol and Dot



D/C Bill and DExO DON, presiding over the festivities!



C/C Robert, Cheri and Cdr Greg



Don, Dick and Karen

Robbie and Cheryl



These guys may be working - Greg, Dan, Don, Bill