

# Balboa Sail & Power Squadron

A Unit of United States Power Squadrons® - District 28



Sail & Power Boating

*Boating is Fun . . . We'll show you how*

April 2017  
Volume 78  
Issue No. 2

## THE TRIDENT

*The Voice of the BSPS—District 28*



### Commander's Log

*By Eric Gritzmacher*

#### CHANGE OF WATCH

Our 2017 Change of Watch was held at BCYC on Friday, January 27th. The good news is we were able to fill our Bridge and Members-at-large positions.

In addition, Peter Barbour will be our Assistant Educational Officer. Please join me in expressing your appreciation to all for their willingness to step up. We also have a new editor for the Trident, Elizabeth Nielsen. Thank you Beth.

In attendance were members of the San Luis Rey Squadron, our "sister" Squadron (or brother, just to be gender neutral) down the road in Oceanside: Shawn Goit along with their new Cdr. Suzy Cooper and husband Mike. The District Commander, also a member of SLRSPS was there to help run the show. We appreciate it when members from our fellow District 28 Squadrons join us so thanks.

Now for the bad news. Well, actually there really isn't any bad news; people just assume when you start out saying "the good news". Having said that, we only had 30 or so people in attendance, and that includes those from San Luis Rey, which is the smallest group I have seen. This is the most important annual event for the Squadron so I hope to see more of you next year. Don't worry, I will remind you.

The Bridge is seriously considering moving to another location for 2018. It is a wonderful facility and the food is always very good. The issue is the cost. The price goes up almost every year. The price we charge members - it was \$37 this year - does not include other expenses and charges which the Squadron picks up. We will see.

#### EDUCATION

We are working to get our schedule of classes together soon. The "sudden" loss of our EO Boris Buzan (loss in the sense he moved to Portland late last year on short notice), we have not been able to get everything worked out. The expectation is we will have at least two seminars in addition to 2 ABC classes. As soon as we have the dates, we will let you know. I will also post them on the website so check it from time to time.

#### NEWPORT BOAT SHOW

The boat show, which is being held at Lido Village, will be held on Thursday April 27th through Sunday April 30th. There is no better way to get ourselves in front of the public and tell our story than a boat show. So please come down even if for a few hours and help us out at the booth. Wes Heusser is typically there every day, all day and he could use a few breaks. We also expect to have the virtual boating simulator set up again which is always a big draw.

### 2017 Bridge

#### Commander

Eric Gritzmacher

#### Executive Officer

Tara Keebaugh

#### Educational Officer

Eric Gritzmacher

#### Treasurer

Lou Loth

#### Secretary

Ken Warren

#### Admin. Officer

Wes Heusser

#### Members at Large

Glen Hulett

Mike Stewart

Ted Woodmas

Al Gussin

## Commander's Log (cont.)

### EVENTS

Thanks to Debbie, Ken Warren, Peter Barbour, Wes Heusser, and Tara Keebaugh (I might be forgetting someone), we now have a schedule of events for this year.

Sunday May 21st. Opening Day. We figured if yacht clubs can have opening days, why not us. It will be held at the Newport Dunes beginning at 2:00pm.

Saturday June 24th. This will be our first dinghy event of the year and the gang has some special events planned. 2:00pm in Newport Beach harbor.

Saturday August 5th. Our next dinghy event. This one will kick off at 1:00pm in Newport Beach harbor.

August 25 - 27th. Cruise to Dana Point. We have had such a great turn-out for this we will do it again. Those of you with boats can head down on Friday the 25th and pick up a guest slip. Over the course of the weekend, we have lunches, dinners, breakfasts, and just plain kicking back and enjoying the day.

Saturday September 23rd. End of summer BBQ to be held at the Dunes.

The details for all of these events are still being worked out but please put these dates on your calendars and we will get you more information when we can. It will also be posted on the website.

### WEBSITE

Speaking of the website, I am slowly making progress in figuring out how to use it and posting events, updates, and other information which should be of help to members as well as non-members. If you any photos from one of our gatherings - e.g. GMM's, cruises, etc., please pass them along to me. And be sure to check the site from time to time to see what is going on. The website name is: [www.newportbeachboating.com](http://www.newportbeachboating.com) or you can just Google Balboa Sail and Power Squadron.

### ROSTERS

We recently receive our 2017 rosters. We will be bringing them to each of our GMM's. For those that don't pick them up, we will get them into the mail - yes, mail as in US Post Office. Otherwise, you contact Wes Heusser.

## Save these dates:

### CALENDAR

#### April:

ExCom  
13th 7:00pm NBTC

GMM  
20th 6:00pm NAC

Newport Boat Show - Lido Village  
4/27 to 4/29

#### May:

ExCom  
11th 7:00pm BCYC

GMM TBD

Opening Day - Newport Dunes  
5/21

#### June:

ExCom TBD

GMM TBD

Dinghy Cruise (Newport Harbor)  
6/24

(The calendar may change, keep an eye on our website for announcements)

### WHAT IS A MMSI NUMBER AND WHY SHOULD YOU HAVE ONE?

All fixed marine VHF radios - the radios that are installed on your boat - are required to have DSC (Digital Selective Calling) capability. This is the red "distress" button you find on the front of your radio.

In short, DSC allows the user to send out a mayday distress signal automatically with the push of the button. Once it is pushed, typically 3 - 5 seconds (read the manual for your radio as operation varies by manufacturer and type), it sends out a digital signal on channel 70 *without* having to make a voice mayday call on channel 16. This is particularly useful if you don't know how to make a call, the operator is incapacitated, or simply do not have the time due to the nature of the emergency.

However, in order for it to be useful you *must* get a MMSI number (it stands for Maritime Mobile Service Identity if you must know) and program it into your radio. Then, when you push the button it identifies you and your boat to both the Coast Guard and other boats in radio range that are DSC equipped. Often they are the first ones on the scene.

Sounds hard? In fact, it is quick, simple, and free. Just go the USPS website, Sea Tow, or Boat US (probably shouldn't say this but it seems easier with Boat US) even if you are not a member. It will ask you for information that is critical to getting your assistance as quickly as possible e.g. the name of your boat, description such as length and color, Documentation or Registration number, home port, emergency contact information, etc.

Once you have completed the form, you will be given a unique 9 digit number that you will then program into your radio. It is not really all that difficult (again, be sure to read your manual). After you have entered it into the radio, when you push the distress button, the responders will now have the information to provide assistance as quickly as possible.

In order for it to be really valuable, connect your radio to your GPS (many now have GPS built in) and they will not only know *who* you are but exactly *where* you are in the event they cannot make contact.

Without the MMSI, there is no way for responders to know how to find and contact you. You might have heard the Coast Guard issue an all mariners' call saying "we have received an emergency call from an vessel in an unknown location. Please keep a sharp lookout", or something to that effect. In most cases, that is the result of someone pushing the button but without the identification information needed to help. And they think the Coast Guard will be there in five minutes!

Be aware that if you buy a boat with a radio that already has a MMSI number, you will need to change the information so your information is displayed, not the former owner.

### Dues News!

Your Executive Committee has approved a Motion to reduce Balboa dues by an amount equal to any increase imposed by our USPS National entity for the 2017 dues year. As dues statements are received by you, the amount due will indicate no increase from 2016 notwithstanding the increase assessed by National.

Please help Balboa with a prompt payment to the Headquarters Annual Billing (HQAB) program. Most of the USPS 300+ squadrons participate in this program which adds much to our calendar of boating, educational, social and civic activities.

Lt Lou Loth, AP  
Balboa SPS  
Treasurer



**SEA SCOUTS**

Sea Scout Ship 711 Del Mar, on March 11th, participated in the 34th Annual Long Beach Invitational Regatta hosted by the Long Beach Sea Scout Base. They took a small crew of six scouts to competition this year lead by boatswain, Christopher Shintani. They competed against twelve other ships and took 1st Place overall, beating the 2nd place overall by five points. They placed first in kayaking, identifying parts of a sailboat, filling a barrel blindfolded, as well as compass and relative bearing. Even though they placed 8th in canoeing due to one of their canoes capsizing, they used their scouting skills and emptied the swamped canoe with another canoe in the center of the channel! "I thought it was a lot of fun," said Spencer Finkbeiner after capsizing the canoe. "I would flip anytime." Ship 711 also held USPS America's Boating Course for four of their scouts throughout the month of March. Even though they not find an instructor to teach course, Christopher Shintani under the guidance of Skipper, Stewart, and Chartered Organization Representative, Wes Heusser, lead the scouts through the material. In the end, all four scouts passed the course with very exceptional scores and are now preparing for another regatta during Memorial Day Weekend



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**Balboa Sail & Power Squadron Has a New Burgee**

After many months of sleuthing to return our flag to its original colors and proportions, this objective has been reached. Now the printed version at USPS National, District 28 and our own Trident can, and should, depict the burgee as it was recorded in 1957....plus a change to acknowledge our 75-Year Anniversary. This also applies to future stitched renditions on various clothing items. This change, approved by our EXCOM and the National Flag & Etiquette Committee is the incorporation of a platinum in color border around the fly of the burgee. Our new burgee will be displayed at the 2017 USPS Governing Board meeting on 25 February in Orlando FL. Ordering the flag or obtaining the proper digital file is expedited by contacting Lt. Lou Loth, AP at 714.404.2070.



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**Bookmark these sites:**  
 Balboa: [www.newportbeachboating.org](http://www.newportbeachboating.org)  
 National: [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)  
 District 28: [www.usps.org/localusps/d28/](http://www.usps.org/localusps/d28/)  
 Trident Editor: [nielsene4877@gmail.com](mailto:nielsene4877@gmail.com)

