RRPS’ 6th Annual 
Chili Cookoff!

PLUS!

SOUPS’ ON!

A new twist to this culinary experience

Bring your Favorite Recipe for The Competition!
30 January 2016
1730-1800 Social Hour
1800- 1930 Soup/Chili Tasting/Dinner
1930-2230 Games/Conversation

St. Christopher’s Catholic Church
Mary’s Room-Bldg west of the church-2nd floor
20141 Detroit Road
Rocky River, Ohio 44116

Bring A Pot of Soup or Chili For Judging, or a Side Dish/Appetizer or Dessert
Salad/Fixings/Snacks provided
Low Cost Refreshments Available  *Competitors get a free beverage!

*** PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR
The (3) BEST pots of CHILI and the (3) BEST pots of SOUP! ***

Cost $14.00 First person/ Second person $7.00
Children under 12 FREE with adult(s)

BRING YOUR FAVORITE GAME TO PLAY AFTER DINNER
2015-2016
Bridge Officers

Commander
James R Holcepl, N
18979 Story Rd
Rocky River, OH 44116
440-281-4999
Holcepl.jim1@gmail.com

Executive Officer
Thomas S. Glassell, AP
19564 N Sagamore Rd
Fairview Park, OH 44126
440-333-0768
Depcottom@yahoo.com

Educational Officer
James Christman, N
37248 Sugar Creek Ln
North Ridgeville, OH 44039
440-537-4800
jimjc@hotmail.com

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1626 Lakeland Ave
Lakewood, OH 44107
216-905-7234
James.mason@enersys.com

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Gerald Nagy, AP
11 South Hampton Cr
Rocky River, OH 44116
440-356-0870
gnagy44@yahoo.com

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Cleveland OH 44135
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kamott70@gmail.com

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19564 N Sagamore Rd
Fairview Park, OH 44126
440-333-0768
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Rocky River, OH 44116
440-476-1918
dgraf32@sbcglobal.net

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32887 Electric Blvd
Avon Lake OH 44012
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jpoplstein1@gmail.com

Personnel/Fleet Roster/Computer Data:
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4066 W 161 St
Cleveland OH 44135
216-470-9278
glassco3727@att.net

Website: www.usps.org/localusps/rockyriver

THE ROCKY RIVER CURRENTS
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November/December Deadline October 1
January/February Deadline December 1
March/April Deadline February 1

Editor: P/C James E. Mason
James.mason@enersys.com 216-905-7234

Like us on FACEBOOK!!
Follow us on TWITTER!

Julie and I enjoyed the Steak and Lobster event at CYC. The weather was wonderful this year! While we did not attend the recent Friday night pasta buffet dinner at the LYC, I was told that everyone enjoyed being there and no one left hungry. As I write this we are looking forward to the holiday dinner at Behind the Woods, the December and January membership meetings at Houlihans and the Chili Cook off at the end of January with all of our friends in RRSPS and surrounding squadrons. As we get into 2016, we have Founders Day, our change of watch, the Spring District Conference in Canton, a cruise or two, and the Governing Board meeting in late August in Pittsburgh. In addition to these activities and upcoming educational opportunities, we have some exciting ideas for reaching out to more potential members….all wonderful, positive stuff!

This is the season of thanksgiving and giving! My thanks to Robert Brown, Donald Kaatz, Michael Zavansnik and Daniel Krzystan for being members for the past 25 years. These gentlemen have either taught or supported the squadron in numerous ways over these years. Also thanks to P/C Mary Glassco and P/C James Mason, who will soon be receiving Life Membership by earning 25 Merit Marks. I also wish to thank each member of the Bridge and executive committee, as well as all other members, who are continuing to give of their time and talents to allow this squadron to function. I use the term “member” to define those who are active in the squadron. Of the 100 or so people who belong to our squadron about 30% are members, the other 70% are “joiners”. A “joiner” pays their dues, may take a class or two, may come to a few dinners, but otherwise are not active members. Please take a close look at the triangle on the back cover of this issue of the Currents. USPS has three key purposes: Self Education, Civic Service, and a Fraternal Boating Club. When you participate in all three areas, you get more out of it than you give and you are truly a MEMBER. What a fantastic return on your investment of time….plus you get the recognition by earning a merit mark!
Each active member of RRSPS has been doing all they can to make this one of the best squadrons in District 7. We are blessed with many members who give willingly, from a few hours to many hours, to help the squadron function. Some members jump right in and help out, others are asked, but I think, once committed, the experience is fun and rewarding. As the saying goes, “many hands make light work.” I recently read another squadron’s newsletter and their Executive Officer stated it well: “Our call to service is an important part of membership in the United States Power Squadrons. Ever since a young Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as Under-Secretary of the Navy, urged the 1914 formation of this family of boaters, it has been our honor to serve the nautical community. Whatever your skills, do not wait to be asked, let us know your interests, because we need you. It is those unknown skills that often become the start of something new.”

The recent “notice to members” which was sent out, via email and by regular mail to those that do not have internet access, made it clear that your support is required today to make this all happen! Please find the time to commit to help YOUR organization. Please say yes to our Nominating Committee, or even better, tell them you will help before being asked.

Cdr Jim Holcepl, N

WOW! Is another year almost over? It seems like only a few months ago I was putting Christmas in the attic and suddenly it's time to bring it all down again and believe me, there's plenty of it. I guess it's like the old saying "what goes up must come down."

And speaking of old sayings, remember the one "sink or swim?" Unfortunately that's the point our squadron has reached. We're hopefully optimistic we will be swimming next year but we need YOU to make that happen. This isn't the first time you've heard this but we're getting down to the final hour and timing is more critical than ever. The ball is about to start dropping. Amongst the best Christmas presents we could receive would be YOU saying "Yes" when asked to help us stay afloat.

Information on the Boat Show is noted on the back page. If you have any questions please feel free to call me: 440-333-0768. The addition of the boating simulator to our booth is a huge asset and will provide a great opportunity to talk to folks about USPS.

Our holiday party is scheduled for 18 December and I look forward to seeing many of you there. Almost immediately following that is another event I look forward to every year: the Winter Solstice (22 Dec) when the days will gradually be getting longer. It can't happen soon enough.

Finally, I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season. I know this can be a difficult time for some of us but I hope you will be able to take a few minutes to re-elect, and give thanks for the memories shared throughout the years.

All the best for Christmas and the New Year.
Tom
REMINDER!!

The ‘John C Hauck, SN Memorial Fund’ accepts applications for assistance from members considering taking either Junior Navigation or Navigation advanced grade courses.

There are scholarship funds available for those who complete and pass the exam.

This is a great opportunity to advance your boating skills and knowledge at a discount up to half off the course fee.

Contact Educational Officer Lt/C Jim Christman, N 440–537-4800 or Cdr Jim Holcepl, N 440-281-4999 for additional information on upcoming course offerings and to apply.
We welcome our newest member, Robert (Bob) Thompson and his wife, Theresa, reinstated members from Port Huron Power Squadron in Michigan. 
634 Tournament Drive 
Avon Lake, OH 44012 
810-300-3894 
rthompson@bluesparktechnologies.com

They plan to attend our Christmas Party so we’ll all have a chance to meet and welcome them in person to RRSPS.

MERIT MARKS
32 Merit Marks have been completed for our members and sent to Area Monitor P/C/C Ted Smith, SN. They have been approved by Cdr Smith and sent to C/C Robert Baldridge SN.

Once approved by C/C Baldridge, Merit Marks for our members will be sent to your email address or mailing address. Watch carefully for your Merit Mark if you have contributed time to RRSPS.

Kate and I send you our best wishes to one and all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We Have Joined The 21st Century.

Rocky River Sail and Power Squadron is now on twitter.
You may choose to join and follow. Or not. Currently we have over 100 followers. We are following some interesting boating sites. (177) ILYA Junior Sailing, Old Town Canoe, US Power boating, Water Safety Congress, Spirit of America, Youth, Great Lakes Boating, Ohio DNR and many more.
Click the blue twitter icon and see what it is all about.

We are also on Facebook
We have 70+ likes and are looking to get at least 100. This is a more casual atmosphere. Features include reminders for meetings, weather, events, pictures of events, people, class information and updates and much more.
Check us out.
Click the blue Facebook button.
Feel free to join and post as long as the information is boating related.
Let me know what you think.
Twila twilaboat@roadrunner.com

SUNSHINE, GOOD WISHES and CONDOLENCES
A welcoming sunrise, calm seas and restful sunsets…God bless all our friends and their families….

Notify the Commander, Secretary or Sunshine chair, Lt Corey Nieding, S, c_nieding@sbcglobal.net or phone 216-228-0736 with notices of needed sunshine for illness, accidents or GOOD news announcements to be included in the Currents.

Thank you!!
To all who signed the petition to develop a personalized USPS Ohio license plate...
IT’S HERE!

The Ohio squadrons were successful in the final development of a auto license plate for purchase. The plate can be ordered at the BMV, and online as well for an additional $25.00. ohio.state.gov/license.
The proceeds of the license plate sales go directly to the Ohio squadrons for educational purposes. So at your next renewal, or purchase of a new vehicle, inquire about the NEW USPS License Plate!

Another way to promote and support your squadron!!
Open letter to our MEMBERSHIP

Once upon a time...there was a small group of boaters that established a fraternity of mariners to enhance and further recreational boating through educating upcoming boaters. That small group of boaters became the United States Power Squadrons and swelled to a national membership of over 100,000!

Sail and power boaters and even fisherman! Alike would gather on land and sea to share their love and expertise on boats and boating, laugh and enjoy each other’s friendships. One hundred years ago.

Fast forward 80 or so years. Sad to say, but the vision those Founder’s had, is fading. Your bridge and executive committee isn’t willing to ride into the sunset just yet! No abandoning the ship!

There has been a core group of individuals leading and committing to the ‘stick-to-itedness’ that has been required to sustain your squadron. Our squadron, as all others, has been affected by many outside influences in cultural, generational and financial obstacles. It is recognized in our aging membership and reduction of boat owners in our organization. It is said today’s younger people do not tend to join groups. They are more centered on themselves and their personal desires, a young family and wanting to associate with like-minded and similar individuals and spend their time connecting with people with common bonds. (Sound familiar?) Most of us have raised families, worked, have grown in our careers, personal relationships, and wealth, all while being a member of one of the greatest organizations in US history. So why can’t we get more young people involved, and get more of our current members desiring to be involved? We all have far too many options today to ‘do it all’ as we once did, nor do we have the energy, and all generations have their passions. We all know (and are probably related to) people who are boaters, new and experienced, that could become an asset to USPS and to Rocky River Sail and Power Squadron.

I really had some time on my hands!!?? And decided to research what membership in an organization is.
What is a member? Of a society, community, party to, association, part of a whole.
What is membership? A collective body of members, a participant, associate, an essential part of a framed structure.
What is an investment? To layout money or effort, a contribution in order to receive some benefit or return in that investment.
What is involvement? To occupy, a connection with something, feel a duty & affection to the interest of what you are joined in.
What is a volunteer? Springing from oneself, to offer, bestow one’s services.
What is Fraternal? A brethren or brotherhood of like-minded individuals.
What is community? Common body with similar interests made of, done for, shared and participated in.
What is an organization? An association of persons dedicated to the cause, commitment, success, longevity and its continued existence.

After taking the time to think about my own involvement and commitment over 21 years, I am proud to say that I have made a significant investment. I have received a multitude of benefits from that investment including very special friendships, knowledge I would not have had otherwise, shared belly laughs, waterfalls of tears when a friend takes ill, has an accident, feels pain, is overcome by fear or one passes on to the that far horizon.

Reflect on why you made a decision to join the squadron. Have you received what you were hoping to get as a return on your investment, that satisfied your particular need, and gained the knowledge that you desired? What have you invested to get that return?

THANK YOU! For taking your valuable time to read this letter.

You ARE a valued member of your squadron. And the current bridge aches to know why our members are complacent and unwilling when it comes to the investment and contribution so needed to make an organization work and work well. Please be the idea, the energy, the plan, the excitement and the joy you want to see. How else will anyone know?

In the next few weeks, many of the bridge and executive committee as well as members of the nominating committee will be contacting each member to determine RRSPS’ human resources. What can you or will you bring to the table? Who are you? How can we help you get what you want and need from your membership? There are many opportunities to participate and share your skills and expertise. Some small, some not so small but all important.

As I said, I have been a member for 21 years. I don’t know many of the names and certainly not the faces in the roster, and I haven’t seen some others recently. Why? Help us in our quest to rebuild this squadron by engaging young people, other boaters of ALL ages, vessels, education levels and spreading the word that we are ‘rebranding’ ourselves within USPS. The executive committee has many forward thinking ideas that will be shared in our conversation with you individually and ask for your input.

It’s not about the money; that gets shared with D7 and USPS headquarters, but it is about YOU!
Your bridge and executive committee wishes everyone a safe, blessed and joyous holiday season.

The boat show is coming soon! Get ready!

Warmest regards,
P/C Susan Rothacker, P

Your bridge and executive committee wishes everyone a safe, blessed and joyous holiday season.
Remembering P/C Richard Lowe, SN

When I joined our squadron in 1975 the only person I knew was our late P/C Jack Hauck, SN. Jack was heavily involved in the Education Department and since at that time we were an all male organization, he drafted me to help grade exams after the Public Boating classes as a way of "meeting the guys." Granted, it took a couple of years to learn my way around but a name I kept hearing was Richard Lowe. I was clueless. As it turned out, sometime during my early years, Richard had taken a temporary sabbatical from RRPS.

By the time he returned I had reached the end of my educational goals and never had an opportunity to take one of his classes which I understand were awesome. There was still the social leg of our USPS triangle and that's where I met Richard.

No matter where we were, on land or on the lake, he was always there to lend a hand or at the very least, to give advice. He had an analytical mind, a keen eye, and a pocket knife. Those three combined, often solved most of our problems. I don't know what the tool box on his boat looked like but I know his SUV was like Harbor Freight on wheels.

When decided to recycle what seemed like 100 center pieces that needed to be repainted for a District Conference guess who stepped up? Out came the compressor, the spray gun, the drop cloths and three cans of different colored paint. It all got done within a couple of hours and no mention was made of all the over-spray on the driveway.

Richard and I never 'hung' together but I always enjoyed being with him. He was sincere, honest and someone I was glad to be able to call a friend. When we lost him to cancer a year ago this past October I wanted to kick myself around the block for not getting over to see him when he was in his final days and only a few miles away. At the time I didn't know the end was as close as it was and I kept telling myself "You've got to get over there." I waited too long..............

P/C Tom Glassell
The Riverbelles enjoyed a delightful dinner held in Lakewood's Georgetown Restaurant's private room Nov 3rd. Tables were festive with an autumn flair - all arranged beautifully by Liz Glassell. Our business discussions centered around our charity donations and spring fundraisers.

The donated raffle baskets the Riverbelles prepared for the Steak & Lobster Fest raised $300 for RRPS.

New members are always welcome. 2016 meetings start in March.

Respectfully submitted
Gail Ahlers, President

Calendar of Events 2015-2016

We meet the first Wednesday of each month (except Jan/Feb/Aug) unless otherwise noted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Mar</td>
<td>Gail Ahlers</td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Apr</td>
<td>Pat Dever-Election Meeting</td>
<td>Pat Dever</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Change of Watch</td>
<td>Bobbie Felgemacher</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
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Would you like to join us at one of our meetings? Call us! We would love to see you!
Call President Gail Ahlers 216-228-8729

The Riverbelles invite and encourage all RRSPS members to join Riverbelles.
Contact President Gail Ahlers or
Vice President Mary Glassco for information
ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP IN RRSPS......AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR MEMBERSHIP

WHY DID I JOIN RRPS?
My husband, Tom, was ready to start his year as Squadron Commander. I was not sure that I wanted to join the Squadron. But I thought about it and no one was going to do his parties but me. To do this I had to become a RRPS member. You guessed it, I joined RRPS.

WHY DID I CONTINUE TO BE A MEMBER OF RRPS?
I wanted to take Advanced Grade and Elective Courses. At this time, you had to be a Power Squadron member to be eligible to take any of these classes. Now these classes are open to the public.
As I became more active in our Squadron, I met more and more people who have become life long friends. We studied together, boated together and par- tied together and still do.

Then I became active in our District and guess what....more life long friends from Ohio, PA and WV. We see each other at least five to six times a year and it’s like coming home to family.

Then I became active at the National Level and guess what, I worked really hard but I have so many more new friends across the United States that I am thrilled to share time with them twice a year.

To me, my membership in USPS is like being a part of a family. We boat, party, study and play together. Yet when there is a time of need, our USPS & now RRSPS plus our District and National friends are always there to assist.

WHY DO WE NEED YOUR HELP?
We need Instructors - Contact Jim Christman jimjwc@hotmail.com
We need help at our classes to spread the RRSPS word. Contact Liz Glassell at lglassell@yahoo.com

Life is different today but we still believe we have a need for your help and hope that you will remain an active member of RRSPS.

Thanks,
Liz Glassell

“Pasta Night” at the Lakeside YC
Fun Night
Wouldn’t it be nice if we could continue to have these FUN EVENTS?
Registration for D7 Spring Conference, April 1 - 3, 2016

Important Dates:
Registration form and payment must be received by March 20, 2016. Hotel reservation must be made by March 18, 2016 to secure this rate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate Number</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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Address
City, State Zip

Telephone
Email

Is this your first conference?  Yes  No

Complete package discount price: $95

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ice Breaker</td>
<td>$20</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch Selections:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BLT SANDWICH</td>
<td>$35</td>
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<tr>
<td>macaroni salad, apple, bottled water</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICH</td>
<td>$35</td>
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<tr>
<td>pasta salad, chips, apple, bottled water</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUNA SALAD SANDWICH</td>
<td>$35</td>
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<tr>
<td>pasta salad, chips, apple, bottled water</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dinner Selections:</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORANGE ROUGHY</td>
<td>$60</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDITERRANEAN CHICKEN</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>HERB CRUSTED PORK LOIN</td>
<td>$60</td>
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<tr>
<td>VEGETARIAN</td>
<td>$60</td>
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<tr>
<td>garlic mashed potatoes, honey glazed carrots, tossed salad w/ ranch or Italian dressing, cake</td>
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Coffee and tea will be served with both lunch and dinner.

A la carte total: $

Number of complete packages ______ x $95 = $

Total Amount Due: $

Make your check payable to Stark County Power Squadron and mail with this form to Tom Hancock, 426 Emerson Ave., North Canton, OH 44720-2308. Questions: contact thancock@neo.rr.com or 330-499-3660

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the McKinley Grand at 877-454-5008. Room rate: $89 + taxes (includes breakfast buffet for 2 per night)
District 7 Spring Conference
Information Page
McKinley Grand Hotel
April 1st – 3rd, 2016

The theme for conference is Television’s Greatest Hits of the 60’s to coincide with Stark County’s 60th anniversary celebration.

The hotel room rate is $89/night plus taxes. Please make room reservations directly with McKinley Grand Hotel: 877-454-5008. Mention that you are with the Power Squadron group to get our rate.

Parking is available in the parking garage across the street from the hotel. The parking garage fee is $8.00/day with no in/out privileges. If you need in/out privileges, you can purchase a parking pass through the hotel; the fee is $15.00/day.

Friday’s icebreaker food includes: fresh vegetable and dip tray, chips and pretzels, pizza, coney dogs and fixings and root beer floats. A cash bar will also be available.

The hospitality rooms will be located on the hallway near the ballroom as in years past. Please make hospitality room reservations with Tom Hancock at thancock@neo.rr.com. The hospitality room rate is $150/night.

Canton attractions include:
Canton Classic Car Museum
123 6th St SW

Motorcar Portfolio
McKinley Grand Hotel basement

Belden Village Shopping Mall
4230 Belden Village St NW

First Ladies National Historic Site
331 Market St S

Pro Football Hall of Fame
2121 George Halas Dr NW
PLEASE RETURN TO:  
USPS/RRSPS  
P/C James Mason, SN  

Address Service Requested

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### ROCKY RIVER SAIL and POWER SQUADRON  
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS for 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT / LOCATION</th>
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| Jan 18—22 | **Cleveland Boat Show** — IX Center  
Sign up at: WWW.signupgenius.com/go/boat6  
Contact Jeff Evans at: 330-723-1041 |
| Jan 30   | **Chili Cookoff** * — Starts at 1600 hrs  
Mary’s Room (Next to ST. Christophers in RR) |
| Feb 14   | **Founder’s Day** — Starts at noon  
Georgetown in Lakewood |
| Feb 14-21| **USPS Annual Meeting**  
Orlando FL-Omni Rosen  
After Meeting Cruise to  
Bahamas and Western Caribbean |
| Mar 2    | **Riverbelles Meeting**  
7:00 PM  
Gail Ahlers |
| March 9  | Election Meeting — Houlihans  
Dinner at 1600 hrs  
General Election at 1900 hrs |
| April 1—3| **D7 Spring Conference**  
See Pages 10 & 11 in this publication |
| Apr 6    | **Riverbelles Election Meeting**  
6:00 PM  
Pat Dever |

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### DATE   | EVENT / LOCATION                                      |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| April   | RRSPS Change of Watch — TBD  
Educational Recognition |
| July 29-31 | D7 Cruise at the Huron Basin  
Details in the next issue |
| Aug 24-27 | Governing Board Meeting in Pittsburgh |

*Dates/Locations to be confirmed, may be subject to change

When in doubt, call for Details ……

**Events:**  
**Admin:** P/C Jerry Nagy, AP  
gnagy44@yahoo.com  
**Commander:** James Holcepl, N  
holcepl.jim1@gmail.com  
**Classes:** Lt/C Jim Christman, N  
jimjwc@hotmail.com  
**Asst SEO:** P/C Jim Mason SN  
james.mason@enersys.com

**Come For the Boating Education...**  
**...Stay for the Friends**