



# DELHIGHLIGHTS

A Newsletter of the Delhigh Power Squadron

A UNIT OF UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

DISTRICT 5

SPECIAL SPRING EDITION

2010



APRIL 2010



# DELHIGHLIGHTS

A Newsletter of the Delhigh Power Squadron

## NAVIGATING THE FUTURE OF DISTRICT 5 NUN CAN DO BETTER



D/C L. CHRIS BROWN, JN AND P/C VIRGINIA BROWN, AP



## ADDRESS TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF DISTRICT FIVE

by **DISTRICT COMMANDER L. CHRIS BROWN, JN**

P/R/C Link, Past Commanders, Commanders, Members & Guests:

As Ginny and I have been travelling in the past few years, I have been amazed by the dedication and accomplishments of our Squadrons in District 5. Most are powerful and vibrant, whether they are big or small. The enthusiasm is fantastic, even with the threats of declining membership, and of competing activities everywhere for our time and money. From these experiences, we have come to believe that “NUN CAN DO BETTER” than the members of our squadrons to practice and teach our safety programs and boating skills to our members and the public, as we “Navigate the Future” into the next decade.

Yes, we have plenty of challenges to face in the coming year. Many times, challenges require change. Change can be good as we live in an ever changing technological world. We must face change in a positive way to survive both the generation gap and the cost inefficiencies of the old ways. But TRADITION and FUN must still remain part of the recipes for success in our Squadrons and District 5.

Membership growth is probably JOB # 1. We have been asked to strive for 6% growth in the coming year. How do we do it? There are many ways to acquire a new member, from almost everything we do. But let me suggest that through the backbone of our organization, our education program, is still the best way to begin. Anyone can be a member if your squadron wants them. And we can teach anyone, anywhere we want, using all the new and vast education resources we have at our fingertips. If we plan and, most importantly, execute this strategy to all boaters with that “NUN CAN DO BETTER” attitude, our membership will stabilize and grow. I believe this; I hope you believe this, for our future.

We all struggle to find new leadership to fill our officer positions in our Squadrons. In 2010, we will introduce some new instructional programs to help us transition our squadron warriors into chieftains. This leadership workshop for Administrative Officers began in Orlando, and will be offered here in District 5 in the coming year. We also will be initiating some new committees to better serve the members of D/5.

A Community Outreach Committee will focus on civic service opportunities to the public, and incorporate some new programs into the many we have, such as environment stewardship and wounded warriors. An information technology committee is forming to incorporate and improve the vast spectrum of new communications media available to us, and includes our new SailAngle adventure. I believe CPR and First Aid should be part of our Education Curriculum for boating safety. A new committee has formed and will begin efforts to provide this valuable experience to everyone wanting this knowledge.

FUN activities, some keyed to education, are being prepared for you in the coming year. Please come and participate. These activities are for you, the members, not just the hard core D/5er's. Along these lines, we will continue our “Collaboration of Activities” program with greater emphasis to communicate the information about the activities squadrons want to share with other D/5 members. The choices are yours to do something with USPS people almost any weekend of the year when something is offered. We are a “Family” of squadrons in a beautiful area; this program will help us become stronger and give us more opportunities for boating fellowship and wonderful friendships. If you want a “Bigger Bang for your USPS Bucks”, check this out and join in when you can!

Under his Leadership in 2009 and 10, Commander Ralph Bernard and Nance, and our Absecon friends, have given us a fantastic past year and we thank his team, so much, for that effort. In 2010 and 2011, Ginny and I, and my new bride, will be proud to serve you, along with our friends in Delhigh Power Squadron. Alone we may not have everything together, but together, with all our squadrons, we will have it all. NUN CAN BE BETTER than that! Come and join us, help us navigate our future in District 5 with our wonderful 36 Squadrons. Thank you ALL for being here, and sharing this evening with us, and we hope to see all of you tomorrow morning.







# DELHIGH COMMANDER'S PARTY



# HOSPITALITY SUITES













SPRING 2010



# BREAKFAST RECEPTION





# BREAKFAST RECEPTION





## The Commander's Deck

Cdr Jim Ziegenfuss, JN

At the District 5 Spring Conference in March, our Squadron began a journey that will take us to new adventures and challenges throughout 2010 and 2011. As the home Squadron to the new District Commander, we began the year by hosting the Commander's Reception and Breakfast Sunday morning. Because of the advanced planning and preparations of all the members who helped, the event was a rousing success. It certainly gave every guest attending ample time to meet the new Bridge, and enjoy a wonderful breakfast.

You can always measure the success of any event by the response you get after it's all over. And I am pleased to say we got plenty of feedback: emails; letters; and cards from individuals throughout the District. It was indeed gratifying to witness the commitment and hard work of so many Delhigh members, and to observe the results. But what was equally as gratifying was receiving so many wonderful compliments, from people living miles away who took time out of their schedules to comment.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the D-5 weekend a success. Our Breakfast Teams did an outstanding job, and performed with enthusiasm and professionalism. We're off to a good start. And although our journey has many more stops in 2010, I am confident it will continue to be fun and enlightening for everyone who can get involved.

D/Cdr Chris Brown.....Good Luck! It was (and is) our pleasure to serve you and the new District 5 Bridge.

From my first Delhigh rendezvous at age 7, I have many memories of the fun and games with Delhigh, and being with you and all the others on the docks. What great fun growing up....and what a great ride to be on throughout the years. Congratulations on your new Command. It was indeed a pleasure for Lindsey and me to be part of the D-5 Conference and support you in your new endeavors.

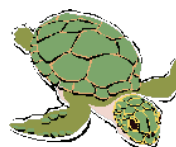
*ERIC & LINDSEY*

Your commitment to USPS, District 5, and Delhigh is an attribute that will insure your success as the new D-5 Commander. Good luck this year. I enjoyed being part of the Spring Conference, and participating in all the activities surrounding your Change of Watch. Jim and I look forward to working with you throughout the year, and sharing in all your activities and events. *MINNA*

WOW. It took our little Squadron 49 years, but we finally had one of our members achieve the rank of District Commander. Congratulation to you, Chris, on this accomplishment, and thanks for your dedication to USPS and the principles for which this organization stands. As you saw at the Spring Conference, our Squadron is there to support you. Together, we can all make District succeed....because *Nun Can Do Better!* *JIM*

My congratulations to D/C Chris Brown. I know he will contribute greatly to USPS in this capacity. His knowledge and skills will certainly be beneficial to all. We are all proud of you D/C Chris Brown and your position is very special to us at Delhigh.

GREG MAYER



## Delhigh Takes Three Awards at District Conference

by Cdr Jim Ziegenfuss

Delhigh Power Squadron was honored at the D-5 Spring Conference in Ocean City, MD by receiving three awards for 2009 accomplishments.

During the Saturday afternoon general session, Delhigh received second place in **Membership Achievement** for 2009 for medium sized Squadrons. This award included the overall and final new member totals for 2009. In November, Delhigh had been awarded a certificate for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in member growth, tied with Rockville Power and Sail. D/Lt. Joe Stemrich, Sr. led Delhigh as the Membership Chair in 2009, and to its goal of recruiting and retaining members throughout the year.

The second award was presented during the Change of Watch Banquet Saturday evening. In this area, Delhigh received recognition for the 2009 Water Clean-up and VSC efforts at Beltsville Lake in May of 2009. This **Commander's Community Civic Award** was presented by D/Lt/C Bernie Karpers, N and received by Cdr. Jim Ziegenfuss on behalf of the Delhigh membership. The Beltsville Clean-up and VSC effort was chaired by P/C Bob Rendish, who has coordinated this activity for the past several years with Delhigh members, local businesses, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. This event previously gained National recognition in 2009 through an article in the USPS Ensign.

The third award was also presented at the Saturday Banquet. Delhigh was awarded the United States Power Squadrons **Distinction in Journalism Award** for 2009 for our publication Delhighlights. Accepting the award for Delhigh was D/Lt Bea Norris, Squadron Editor for the publication. This award recognizes those newsletters that continually follow the subject, format and overall standards established for Squadron publications. Bea has been the Squadron Editor for several years.

## What I Did Do During My Spring Break?

by D/Lt Joe Stemrich, P

Every year, whether I like it or not my school closes for a week for spring break. I'd rather make up any snow days that were missed during the winter since they will eventually take away from my boating season, but that's not my call. One benefit to spring break is that it coincides with the annual District 5 Spring Conference in Ocean City, Maryland. This year's D-5 Spring Conference was especially important since Chris Brown was taking over the helm as District Commander and that, in itself is a big deal. In the past five years that I have been attending the conference, Delhigh has had about 8 – 14 Delhigh attendees and as squadrons of our size go, that's pretty darn good. But this conference was a big deal; by my count, we had 29 members, 9 first timers, 4 guests of members and 7 members who have only been members for less than two years.

We all came together to welcome Chris to the D-5 Bridge and put on one heck of a great reception for the new bridge. We served shrimp and deviled eggs, lots of deviled eggs, pastries, ham sandwiches on little tiny bagels, fruit cocktail, coffee, tea, orange juice, tomato juice, Mimosas and Bloody Mary's. It truly was a feast fit for the new bridge.

I would like to thank Jeanette Meisner for being my co-chair. She really made sure that all of our ducks were in a row (everyone knew their assignments from the beginning to the end.), Delhigh Commander Jim Ziegenfuss for organizing the decorations and Minna Ziegenfuss, Jenny and George Jacobs, Russ and Amy Fontana, Bob Hannabery, Doug and Kathy McKenzie, Cyrus and Kathy Nowroozani, Gary Corcoran, Randy Meisner, Joe Stemrich Jr., Tara LaBar, Michael Lebeduik, Kim and Karly Karaman, Brent and Jane Rhoads, Keith Knoblach, Bea and Rich Norris, Eric Ziegenfuss and his fiancé Lindsey, Ginny and Chris Brown and of course my wife who keeps me in order, Cam Stemrich, for their help in ways too numerous to mention. If I forgot anyone, place your name here -- \_\_\_\_\_.

Hopefully you got to participate in some of the many educational seminars that were presented. Maybe you just went for a walk on the beach -- any which way you went I hope you had a great time. If you weren't there and you are thinking you missed a great time, there is always next year's conference when Delhigh will be working the whole conference, we will need you then too.







## DELHIGH POWER SQUADRON

### NUN CAN DO BETTER

by D/C CHRIS & P/C GINNY BROWN

Oh my gosh, Chris is now a D/5 Commander. Without Delhigh Power Squadron he would never be doing this. You recruited him, you taught him, you socialized him, you gave him an opportunity to lead you as a commander, you made him a believer in USPS®. And now, you are supporting him, with all your heart and soul. And we cannot thank you enough.

It is true NUN CAN do better than DELHIGH POWER SQUADRON. You blew D/5 out of the water with YOUR reception, with your innovative ideas that were out of the box, and the magical transformation of a very limited space. Your guests thought they were navigating the future when they entered the suite through the magnificent life sized red nun and green can, all lit up. Green Can 5 listed the new 2010 bridge members and Red Nun 10 listed all of the District 5 Squadrons. There was immediate coffee available at the doorway to ease the pain of standing in line and mimosa's and Bloody Mary's, served in customized glasses labeled with the Delhigh burgee and "Delhigh Salutes D/C Chris Brown and the D/5 bridge - 2010-2011," immediately at the end of the receiving line. Having one of the two rooms for receiving was great use of space, providing a nice cool, airy area for the guests and bridge to meet and greet but also to provide the beverages to the guests. And, having nice, polite, discrete Delhigh members urging along the long-winded was a real life saver for those guests standing at the end of the line. But the best was yet to come. The second room contained all the delicious, beautifully presented food. The food table was crowned by Delhigh flags leaving no doubt about who had prepared this wonderful reception. And the nun and can idea was carried out with smaller versions fashioned into flower holders. There was a second coffee station available. There were beautiful ladies dressed in the Delhigh blue shirts passing around seconds in the rooms and down the hallway. You thought of everything even providing a few tables in the hall for people to linger and a BIG trash can right at the elevator to keep everything neat and clean before leaving our area. And, never before have we ever seen the food tables draped - and it was blue draping. First Class.

Now, behind the scenes. All of this came with a lot of planning, getting together at the Stemrich's months ahead of time and dividing up the responsibilities, checking prices, shopping, prepping at home, loading cars, hauling to Ocean City, unloading, hauling up to individual condos or rooms. Then marathon final food prep slicing rolls, stuffing eggs, etc. in various condos and rooms and hauling once again to get it all to the reception area. And, bear in mind this facility had us in two separate buildings, with two separate parking lots - not accessible to each other without having to go back out into the highway and doing a couple of U turns. Some alert member located a stray shopping cart and eased some of the "moving stuff around" problem. Some things had to wait until the last minute and a staging room was rented across the hall to provide space for that and to store equipment needed to finalized the food. The rooms we were using were also being used for Ralph Bernard's Commander's reception on Saturday night so the Delhigh troops couldn't get started until the Absecon Island troops cleared out their stuff after the Saturday night banquet which didn't end until close to 2200. So the midnight oil was burning, and Delhigh was shoving furniture around and setting the stage for a 0500 wake up call. Somehow everyone gave that extra shove and got going and made the final transformation and were all standing in a line outside the reception room with big smiles on their faces and wearing Delhigh blue shirts when Chris and I and the rest of the D/5 bridge arrived at 0800. Till we shook the hands of all our friends and members, we were in tears and then we saw the entrance and rooms. It just blew us away. It was unbelievable. The rest of the bridge came in and they felt the same way. Never before have I seen a D/5 Bridge acknowledge a hosting squadron with any kind of recognition and believe me their cheers were real. CONGRATULATIONS DELHIGH.

In all, 207 D/5 members were greeted and fed from 0900 to 1030, yes, only 90 minutes. Now, it was cleanup time. Using all three available bathroom sinks and tubs, the scrubbing began. The leftovers were divvied up to those who wanted some

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and the remainder was taken to a local food bank. Dishes were packed away, the decorations were disassembled, the area was de-trashed, the hotel furniture was returned to its original arrangement in the room, and our cars were brought around to the entrance and loaded up. By noon we were out of the reception area. It reminded you of Thanksgiving dinner, two weeks of work, preparation and cooking for two hours of eating and enjoying.

All of that work was accomplished by 28 members of our 100 member squadron (28% participation is actually higher than the average of most other squadrons and D/5.) Although I am sure it took them several days to recover from their marathon, they also got to do some fun things while they were in OC, at the Delhigh cocktail parties, attending the hospitality suites Friday night and attending the Saturday night banquet where the food was actually good. They probably had fun chatting and getting know each other better while slicing rolls and stuffing eggs. They might have even attended the many informative seminars and officer training sessions and learned something they didn't know. We're sure they cursed while trying to load and unload tons of stuff and again when the alarm went off Sunday morning. But they basked in all the praise they got for their spectacular event and deservedly so. And the smiles never left their faces. We'll bet they are proud they are members of Delhigh.

Come out and join us and help Delhigh and D/5 Navigate The Future.

Thank you so much Delhigh. It was an unbelievable weekend and it meant so much to us to be able to share it with you.



*Chris and Ginny*







CONGRATULATIONS D/C L. CHRIS BROWN.  
IT WAS OUR PLEASURE TO SERVE YOU AND  
THE 2010-2011 D/5 BRIDGE.



# SAVE THE DATE

26 MAY 2010

## United States Power Squadrons National Safe Boating Week

Delaware River Educational Cruise aboard  
*M/V Ben Franklin*

For USPS Members and Invited Guests!!!

Boarding 1800      Departure 1830 hours

Cruising 1830 - 2100

This year's National Safe Boating Week Educational Cruise will once again be held aboard the *M/V Ben Franklin*, which will be departing from Penn's Landing in Philadelphia, Pa. Boarding will commence at 1800 hours with departure set for 1830.

This year's cruise will benefit from the dual narration efforts of P/D Lt/C James Heckman, SN, who is the former District 5 Educational Officer; and P/R/C William J. McManimen, SN, both of Main Line Power Squadron.

During the southbound trip, members of Delaware River area Power Squadrons will enjoy a delightful full-course dinner on the lower dining deck of the *Ben Franklin*. The narration during the daylight southbound leg of the trip will focus on aids to navigation, piloting and chart work using a hand-held compass and GPS, and on plotting our position on Delaware River Chart 12312. On the northbound leg beginning near the Philadelphia airport and Philadelphia Navy Yard, the topic of narration will shift to aspects of celestial navigation, as this portion of our journey will be conducted during twilight and into full darkness.

The *Ben Franklin* will head south on the Delaware River, from her home port, passing beneath both the Ben Franklin and Walt Whitman bridges. A highlight of the passage south will be passing close aboard the Battleship *New Jersey* along the Camden waterfront. We will also see the largest four-masted sailing vessel afloat, the *Moshulu*, which operates as a restaurant from her permanent location on the Philadelphia waterfront. Another interesting sight will be the hulk of massive ocean liner *SS United States*, which has been moored at Pier 82 since 1996. Recent news headlines have indicated that

this vessel may no longer be able to be saved from the scrap yard as the vessel's current owner, Norwegian Cruise Line, has indicated that it is no longer willing to pay her \$ 800,000 yearly berthing fees. We will also likely see active ship and barge traffic navigating the Delaware River.

*M/V Ben Franklin* departs from 401 North Columbus Boulevard, which is just NORTH of the Ben Franklin Bridge. Heading south into Philadelphia on Interstate 95, take the right lane at EXIT 22 for Callowhill Street. At the bottom of the off ramp, turn left onto Callowhill Street, and go several blocks to turn LEFT on North Columbus Boulevard. You will almost immediately come upon the parking lot at # 401 (on your right) where you will find ample parking.

This cruise event has been one the most successful educational events sponsored by the northern Squadrons of District 5. Passage for one fare is \$ 30.00, inclusive of dinner. From the moment of boarding, there will be a cash bar serving refreshments on the lower dining deck.

Please reserve your place as soon as possible. Enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow members of the United States Power Squadron! All members and guests will be required to sign in upon boarding and to sign a liability release waiver, as well. Please wear your USPS name tag to facilitate mingling between our member Squadrons.

For more information, call your local United States Power Squadron.

Jointly Sponsored by: Absecon Island Power Squadron, Delaware River Power Squadron, Delhigh Power Squadron, Kingsway Power Squadron, Main Line Power Squadron, Wilmington Sail & Power Squadron. Hosted by: Trenton Falls Power Squadron

