

# The Ship's Mail

Vol. 56 No. 1

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Jan./Feb. 2004

The Ship's Mail is a Bimonthly Publication of San Diego Sail & Power Squadron, Inc.



## Commander's Message

By E. Ronald Weiner, [erweiner@adelphia.net](mailto:erweiner@adelphia.net)

The morning of December 13, members of the Bridge and others went on a cooperative charting outing, under the leadership of J. Brockway Clark, on Mike Fontaine's beautiful new boat *Tuffy*. We took several readings of the Zuniga jetty, determined that it was still where it is supposed to be, and will report that information to the Marine Chart Division, National Ocean Service of NOAA. As one wag put it, "The bottom of my boat could have verified to you that it is still there." This outing was another reminder to me of how much the SDSPS contributes, not only to members of our own organization, but to the general public, by teaching boating safety courses and, in this case, assisting the Federal government to maintain accurate nautical charts. We have been told that the Cooperative Charting Program is recognized as the most effective user-participation program in all of the Federal services. So we are not just another pretty face.

This will be my last message as Commander. It has been a rewarding and learning experience for me. In this holiday season of thanking people for their kindnesses, I am especially grateful for the hard work of the Bridge, Members-at-Large, and those Committee members and other volunteers who made a difference for all of us this year. It is our collective good fortune that many of them will continue in 2004 to serve the organization.

If you will indulge me, I would like to give special thanks to those individuals who have served you and me well and will retire from active participation in the Squadron management at the Change of Watch. They include Lynda Juniper (Boat Shows), Michael Grinnell (Boating Courses), Gerald Murphy (Membership), Virginia Prutow (Secretary) William Frame (Former Webmaster and Member-at-Large), and our *Ship's Mail* Editor Suzanne Weiner and her collaborator, Marsha Smelkinson. I hope that this is the complete list of "retirees," but sometimes the commander is the last to know. These people as well as those who are continuing and/or coming on as new officers or committee members deserve our thanks and gratitude for their service.

While we did not reach all the goals that I had set for the year 2003, I am proud of some of the major accomplishments achieved during my term. They include:

\* Revitalization of our Vessel Safety Check program (Dick Barck, Chairman),

## Annual Membership Meeting

### Friday 9 Jan 2004

1800 no-host cocktails  
1830 dinner  
1930 business meeting  
Southwestern Yacht Club  
2702 Qualtrough St., Pt Loma

**Program:** Annual Meeting of the San Diego Sail & Power Squadron. Annual reports and officer elections will be held at this meeting.

### Dinner reservations:

not later than  
12:00 noon on Wed., January 7.  
Tossed green salad, Chicken  
Marsala with rice pilaf and  
vegetables; cookies, coffee & tea

**Cost:** \$18 incl. tax & tip  
(reservations required)  
Bring your checks made payable to  
SDSPS (cash accepted as well).

Reservations are required for the  
buffet dinner, but not for  
the 1930 annual meeting.

*To make dinner reservations,  
contact Katherine Law at  
(619) 281-3410 or  
[killawyer@msn.com](mailto:killawyer@msn.com)*

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# Commander's Message

*Continued from p.1*

\* Development of a Squadron e-mail list, electronically transmitted roster, and a peer review of our website, which is in process of being updated (Tom Fota, Chairman).

\* Purchase of PowerPoint equipment (Tom Fota and John Isaksen, Treasurer) for use by our Educational Department to upgrade our classroom presentations.

\* Replacement of our boat show canopy and (soon) a new banner as well (Lynda Juniper (Boat Show Chairperson) and Dick Barck (Bannermeister).

\* Acquisition of newly designed Squadron caps, shirts, and sweatshirts (John Isaksen).

\* Creation of an award-winning newsletter which draws raves from all who see it (Suzanne Weiner, editor, and Marsha Smelkinson, design and layout).

The Educational Department (Mike Fontaine, Chairman) can be extremely proud of their accomplishments. In competition with the other District squadrons, they walked away with all the trophies given out this year for excellence in Advanced Grades (Dave Baer), Elective Grades (William Bridge), and Engine Maintenance (Michael Fontaine). In addition, we achieved a significant increase in our boating class graduates, thanks to efforts by Michael Grinnell and his rotating instructors.

I would like to say a special thanks to Bob Hubbard who assisted me in so many ways by providing good counsel, historical perspective, and his friendship throughout the year.

I am also grateful to Chester White whose understanding of the rules and his willingness to share them with me, kept me from straying too far afield. And last but not least, I would like to acknowledge and thank my wife Suzanne, for taking on the task of doing *The Ship's Mail* as an accommodation to me. More importantly, she put up with the hours I spent in front of the computer doing SDSPS work and rarely complained about being relocated from our house during the monthly Executive Committee meetings. Of course the alternative would have been Monday Night Football so maybe it wasn't so difficult for her after all.

I appreciate the opportunity that I have been given to serve as a Bridge member these past three years, and I extend my best wishes to the new Bridge.

Support our Advertisers!  
Tell them you saw their ad in the *Ship's Mail*!

## Wanted, Editor!

*The Ship's Mail* needs a new editor beginning with the next issue. This volunteer job gives you an insider's look at the Squadron and its activities. For more information about this fun and challenging job, please contact Suzanne Weiner at (760) 632-8555 or [suzw03@adelphia.net](mailto:suzw03@adelphia.net).

### *The Ship's Mail*

6076 Charae Street  
San Diego, CA 92122

*The Ship's Mail* is published bi-monthly for the members of the San Diego Sail & Power Squadron. The purpose of the Squadron is to promote safe sail and power boating.

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[suzw03@adelphia.net](mailto:suzw03@adelphia.net)

**Design and Layout:** Marsha Smelkinson [marsha29@adnc.com](mailto:marsha29@adnc.com)

**Advertising:** John Bertran

**Mailing:** Virginia Prutow, Tom Fota

**Roster Changes:** Tom Fota  
[roster-updates@sdsps.org](mailto:roster-updates@sdsps.org)

Article submission deadline and editor for the next issue will be announced later.

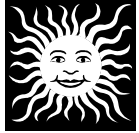
## Boat Show News

By Lynda Juniper,  
[LLuvJuncue@yahoo.com](mailto:LLuvJuncue@yahoo.com)

The San Diego Boat Show takes place at the Convention Center from Thursday, January 8, through Sunday, January 11. Volunteers are needed for 2 ½ to 3 hour timeslots.

To signup, go to our website: [www.usps.org/localusps/sandiego](http://www.usps.org/localusps/sandiego). On the Home page look for the box "The San Diego Boat Show." Press the "Sign Up Now!" button, fill in the information, and you are good to go. Thanks go to Tom Fota, Information Technology chair, for linking the signup sheet to the website.

If you do not have access to the Internet or have questions about this volunteer opportunity, please call Lynda Juniper at (858) 254-5143.



# Administrative Report

By Katharine Law, [killawyer@msn.com](mailto:killawyer@msn.com)

San Diego Sail & Power Squadron members had a busy schedule over the past several months, what with hosting the October 25 CNC/predicted log event, and the November general membership meeting, the November 1 final raft-up at La Playa, and our December 8 Shelter Island barbecue to view all those decorated boats in the City's 32nd annual "Parade of Lights" competition. As usual, a great time was had by all at each of these events.

Having assumed my current post in mid-summer, I am beholden to many members for their support. As we look toward the Change of Watch and to closing out the year, I want to acknowledge these wonderful people who helped to make my job look easy, and to offer my sincere thanks for their efforts.

Marie Baer has been invaluable in supervising boating activities, coordinating our participation in both SDSPS raft-ups and District 28 rendezvous over the year. And it was Marie who came up with the brilliant idea of the Shelter Island barbecue for the "Parade of Lights" viewing. After rain for most of the day, the skies cleared, the (almost) full moon came out, and 24 Squadron members were treated to a perfect view of both the fireworks and the colorfully decorated boats.

Ted Umland has devoted countless hours to organizing our monthly Sail Fleet races, sometimes wrangling as many as 12 boats and keeping a firm and steady hand on the field.

The final race results are on our SDSPS website, thanks to Webmaster Tom Fota. David Weimer has coordinated our participation in the CNC/predicted log competitions, with an unflappable disposition. Steven Bakalis planned, and with the able assistance of Cathy Mangold, flawlessly executed the luncheon for the October 25 CNC participants, which our Squadron hosted at the Coronado Yacht Club. Steve also showed up to cook for the Shelter Island barbecue. He is surely adept at navigating around the grills and providing delicious food for the hungry hordes, as his many eager customers can attest!

Jerry Murphy, our membership chair, organized interview sessions (pep rallies?) after all our Boating and ABC classes, signing up enough members to qualify us to win the District 28 award for highest percentage membership increase. Great job, Jerry, and thanks to all the Squadron members who came out to help him interview prospective members! Lynda Juniper and Barbara Goddard pitched in wherever I needed them. And Suzanne Weiner and Marsha Smelkinson consistently produced award-winning issues of *The Ship's Mail*, which have kept members informed of Squadron activities. Suzanne, along with Bob Schloeman, Marie Baer and others, also captured photos of Squadron members in living color, immortalizing them in *The Ship's Mail*.

Two January events will cap off our year: the annual members' meeting on January 9 and the January 24 Change of Watch. Those of you familiar with Chef Marvin's culinary artistry at the Southwestern Yacht Club will want to attend both the buffet before the annual meeting (chicken marsala) and the Change of Watch dinner (a choice of beef, fish or vegetarian) — gourmet dining at moderate prices. Eating with fellow members allows us to get to know one another better in a more relaxed atmosphere than the hurly-burly of racing or the stress of some other events. Do come and hear from the Bridge, or make your own voice heard at the annual meeting. We need a quorum for the election of officers, so please plan to attend. And, of course, the Change of Watch dinner on January 24 is the highlight of the SDSPS social calendar. The cocktail hour that evening will start at 1800 with the "call to dinner" at 1900 and the "call to order" at 1945. Those of you who have attended in the past know how truly special this evening is. I encourage you to join us for both occasions and I look forward to seeing you there.

## SDSPS 2003 Officers

### Commander:

Ron Weiner, P  
(760) 632-8555,  
[erweiner@adelphia.net](mailto:erweiner@adelphia.net)

### Executive Officer:

Dave Baer, SN  
(619) 223-4479,  
[dave.baer@goodrich.com](mailto:dave.baer@goodrich.com)

### Administrative Officer:

Katharine Law, SN  
(619) 281-3410,  
[killawyer@msn.com](mailto:killawyer@msn.com)

### Educational Officer:

Mike Fontaine, AP  
(858) 793-1298,  
[mwfjcf@earthlink.net](mailto:mwfjcf@earthlink.net)

### Secretary:

Virginia Prutow, AP  
(858) 453-2526,  
[vprutow@yahoo.com](mailto:vprutow@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer:

John Isaksen, P  
(858) 484-3639,  
[jisak@ix.netcom.com](mailto:jisak@ix.netcom.com)

# Proposed 2004 SDSPS Bridge

Commander	Dave Baer
Exec Officer	Katharine Law
Admin Officer	Tom Griffin
SEO	Mike Fontaine
Asst.	Dan Carlin
Secretary	Barbara Goddard
Treasurer	John Isaksen
Asst.	Catherine Isaksen

## Members at Large

Bob Hubbard  
Sterling Campbell  
Richard Barck  
Karen Glaze

## Nominating Committee

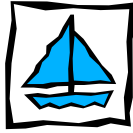
One year	Lawrence Lange Tony Jeske
Two Years	Mel Mones Rhoda Mones
Three years	Ron Weiner Ken Glaze, Jr.

## Rules Committee

One Year	Dave Weimer
Two years	Jerry Donovan
Three years	Julio Garcia

## Audit Committee

One year	Mike Collins
Two years	Bill Bridge
Three years	Ed Bowler



## Boating Activities

By Marie Baer, [mkbaer1@aol.com](mailto:mkbaer1@aol.com)

An impromptu raftup took place at La Playa Cove during the first weekend of November with *Hepsabeth*, *Casamar*, and *Tuffy* the participating boats.

Coming the farthest, from Harbor Island, Chris Lilly and Andy Backus on *Hepsabeth* arrived on Friday night. The trip for Marie and Dave Baer on *Casamar* and Carol and Mike Fontaine on *Tuffy* was shorter since both boats are berthed at Southwestern Yacht Club.

During late morning munchies and cocktails on board *Tuffy*, the three couples were joined by former Squadron member Terry Smith, who came out to the raftup via a dinghy. Later in the day the party grew as Jen and Greg Williams (also former members) dinghied out with their two children, Devin and Heather. Andy had a great time showing Devin everything he could possibly ask about the *Hesabeth*, while Heather slept through most of it. Appetizers and cocktails were enjoyed by all... well, juice for the kids! To get the kids safely back to land, the Williams motored away as it began to grow dark.

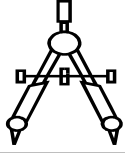
An incredible sit down meal, with contributions from each boat, was enjoyed aboard *Hepsabeth*. After some stargazing and sea stories, everyone scrambled back to their respective boats for the night.

On Sunday morning, everyone found his or her way over to the *Casamar* where more stories were swapped, and tube steaks were prepared. Reluctantly, everyone had to break raft and head all the way back to the docks. *Hepsabeth* had a little breakage at the bow, retrieving the anchor – but isn't that what boating is all about; a chance to visit the boat supply store?!

It was a great way to spend a November weekend in America's Finest City. The next raftup will take place in 2004, so keep your eyes and ears open for the details!



**San Diego Sail & Power Squadron has received its 50th anniversary burgee. This special burgee will be on sale at the AMM for \$26.**



# Educational Report

By Mike Fontaine, [mwfjcf@earthblink.net](mailto:mwfjcf@earthblink.net)

The **BOATING CLASS**, held at Mission Bay Yacht Club, started out with 22 and graduated 18 students on 18 November. Seven became new members, and I thank everyone who helped with recruiting following the final. Dan and Trish Carlin will be heading up the BOATING classes next year, giving Mike Grinnell, SN, a well-deserved break. Your support of their efforts is greatly appreciated.

**ENGINE MAINTENANCE 101 & 102** finished up on 11 November. Ken Glaze, Doug Swenson, Tom Stanford and Jamie Lawson completed the class.

Adriaan Veldhuisen and Van Diehl of San Luis Rey Squadron and Dave Weimer of SDSPS took the **NAVIGATION** final on 1 December. They are anxiously awaiting the results.

Ten members completed the open and closed book finals for **PILOTING** on 3 December. Results will be available early next year. Grading and correction of the "cruise" plot is a time-consuming process done by hand.

**JUNIOR NAVIGATION** is in progress with six students, scheduled to finish up in February 2004. The **NAVIGATION** classes have kept Steve Bakalis, SN, very busy. His efforts are appreciated!

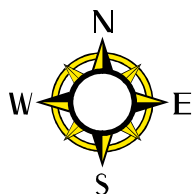
**SEAMANSHIP 101 & 102** under the instruction of Dick Prutow, SN, was begun on 3 December.

**ADVANCED PILOTING** started on 1 December. Most of the hopeful graduates of **PILOTING** are in the class.

**CRUISE PLANNING** will start 15 January 2004 at SWYC. This new, more convenient venue should increase participation in the course. Ted Bowler, P, will be the instructor.

**MARINE ELECTRONICS 101, 102 & 103** will start on 9 February at SWYC and will be taught by Chris Pikus, AP. This will be the first time the SDSPS is offering the new three module ME class.

Mark your calendar for these classes and be sure to check the **SDSPS** website for the complete 2004 Educational Schedule.



## *Merit Marks*

By E. Ronald Weiner,  
[erweiner@adephia.net](mailto:erweiner@adephia.net)

A merit mark is awarded by the Chief Commander to a member for substantial efforts in furthering the interests, programs, and objectives of the USPS, its Districts and Squadrons. It is a coveted award because it is the only official recognition a member receives from National for his or her efforts during the year. Candidates for merit marks are recommended by committee chairs, members of the bridge, and the Commander. I am grateful for the efforts of D/L/C Chester White Jr. for assembling all the bits and pieces into a cohesive report that was eventually approved.

The following SDSPS individuals were awarded a merit mark for their contributions during 2003:

Andrew Backus, David Baer, Marie Baer, Shelley Bakalis, Steven Bakalis, Richard Barck, John Bertran, Claudia Bowler, Edward Bowler, William Bridge, Sterling Campbell, Dan Carlin, J. Brockway Clark, Jennifer Combs, Jerry Donovan, Michael Fontaine, Tom Fota, William Frame, Richard Gaffney, Stephen Gawura, Kenneth Glaze Jr., Barbara Goddard, Michael Grinnell, Robert Hubbard, Catherine Isaksen, John Isaksen, Anthony Jeske, Lynda Juniper, Lawrence Lange, Katharine Law, Christine Lilly, Shaun McArdle, Ruth Melford, Melvin Mones, Rhoda Mones, Edwin Mraz, Gerald Murphy Jr., Daniel Norris, Gordon Parham, Irwin Pascoe, Christopher Pikus, Richard Prutow, Virginia Prutow, Michael Sampsel, Tom Stanford, Theodor Umland, C. David Weimer, E. Ronald Weiner, Chester White Jr.

We owe a debt of gratitude to these individuals who have contributed so much to the mission and programs of the San Diego Sail & Power Squadron.

# Welcome Aboard!

By Jerry Murphy, P,  
[gsmurphy@ix.netcom.com](mailto:gsmurphy@ix.netcom.com)

Greetings fellow USPS members! I will be turning over the Membership Chairman responsibilities to a new chairperson in January. If anyone is interested in this job, please contact any member of the Bridge, the Nominating Committee, or email me at the above address.

Please welcome the following new members to our squadron:

Miles Bodzin  
10339 Hitching Post Lane  
Santee, CA 92071  
(619) 258-9572  
[drmiles@bodzin.com](mailto:drmiles@bodzin.com)  
(power boat)

Dori and David P. Clapp  
10314 Spruce Grove Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92131  
(858) 566-8272  
[david.clapp@pcesandiego.com](mailto:david.clapp@pcesandiego.com)  
*Life 'O* (power boat)

Jason Lanman  
P. O. Box 388  
La Jolla, CA 92038  
(858) 405-0701  
[jlanman@scripps.edu](mailto:jlanman@scripps.edu)  
*Wendy Sue* (sail boat)

Daniel R. Morris  
770 Sycamore Ave.  
Suite J., PMB 112  
Vista, CA 92081  
(760) 583-0404

Mary Ann (Nancy) Renzi  
2965 Erie St.  
San Diego, CA 92117  
(619) 275-5710  
(sail boat)



# Adieu

By Suzanne Weiner, [suzw03@adelphia.net](mailto:suzw03@adelphia.net)

Over two years ago when Ron and I had the discussion about finding an editor for *The Ship's Mail*, and I said that I could help him out during his term of Executive Officer and then Commander, it was just that – helping Ron out. Little did I know how becoming involved with the newsletter and the members of the Squadron would make such a marvelous difference in my life. Getting to know members of the Bridge in a special way and interacting with Squadron members at the bimonthly meetings or at social events has been fun and enriched my non-work life.

I have come to appreciate the hard work, expertise and talent of the Squadron members as they tackle projects ranging from the physical (setting up a booth at a boat show) to the intellectual (teaching the most sophisticated, advanced boating course). Thank you for taking me into your group, and rewarding me with your compliments and support of my work on the newsletter. You have been as generous with your praise as you are in your volunteer efforts.

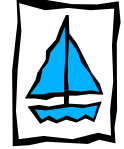
While I may hold the title of “editor” and have been the “front person,” so to speak, of *The Ship's Mail*, there are others who are deserving of praise and thanks for the work that it takes to produce the publication. I want to thank Virginia Prutow, who for many years, has routinely and faithfully prepared the newsletter for the mail and gotten it to the post office in a timely manner. I also want to thank Chester White, Bill Frame, and Tom Fota who, during my tenure, provided the mailing labels.

I am very grateful to my good friend, Marsha Smelkinson, the Executive Director of the Lawyers Club of San Diego who, when she heard that I was taking on this task, offered her help in designing and producing *The Ship's Mail* – giving up weekends and many evenings to create a beautiful newsletter. She is definitely the silent partner in this joint effort, and I am extremely proud and grateful of the job she has done. To my husband, Ron, I have the deepest admiration for his dedication to his role as Commander and for the high standards he set for the Squadron and the volunteers (including me!). He has been a terrific managing editor and proof reader par excellence; I thank him for catching my typos and for so skillfully guiding me through the waterways of the SDSPS.



# Predicted Log Racing

By Elaine Townsend, (619) 691-0449, and Ralph Salerno



The San Diego Cruiser Association completed its racing year with contests in October and November. Early morning fog did not dampen the spirits of the SDSPS as it sponsored Harbor Series 3/4 Predicted Log Contest on 25 October.

The 15.6 nautical mile course, developed by SDSPS and Coronado Yacht Club member David Weimer, was challenging, with four latitude/longitude positions. From a standing start abeam Channel Buoy 28, the course led them up the bay as far as CB 9, where they turned and headed south, finishing at San Diego/Coronado Bay Bridge Pier 19. For the fifteen, skilled skippers who ventured forth into the fog with light winds and calm seas, “monster” currents increased the difficulty of the course and resulted in high scores. To put these scores in perspective, the top six finishers had percentage errors between 1.5862 and 1.8634.

Ed Denaci of Southwestern Yacht Club, aboard *Microship II*, winning the contest with a 1.5862 percentage error, said about his first place finish, “*Microship II* competes with a crew of five plus an observer. Two crew members adjust the throttles, a spotter finds the next mark, the driver steers the course, and I take wind-speed readings, compute speed changes, and call the course. We win and lose as a team.”

Second place went to veteran competitor Paul Pettit of Coronado Cays Yacht Club on *Rosie*, who scored 1.6115%. In third place, with a 1.7419% error, was Coronado Yacht Club and Navy Yacht Club San Diego member Bob Erly, aboard *Lois*. When asked for his comment about the contest, the octogenarian said, “Strong currents defeat predicted calculations.”

Elaine Townsend also represented SDSPS and finished in 9<sup>th</sup> place. In his last race in the novice division, Coronado Yacht Club member Jeff Calabrese, aboard *Living Well*, took home the first place trophy and finished fifth overall, with 1.7836%. “It was a challenging race to predict,” Calabrese said, “because of the neap tide currents, numerous course changes, and the four race marks that were positions rather than navigation aids.”

Coronado Yacht Club won the team competition, but slid behind Southwestern Yacht Club in the year-to-date lead. Following the contest, San Diego Sail & Power Squadron provided a great barbeque lunch on the Coronado Yacht Club lawn and awards were presented to the winners.

On 15 November, fifteen skippers left the starting buoy for the final San Diego Cruiser Association event of 2003 under overcast skies and with the threat of rain. The predicted currents were low, leading to the likelihood of good race times. The wind, by its absence, aided the skippers in their quest for a perfect score.

To avoid any conflict with the sailing of the *Star of India*, the racecourse was changed to take place mainly in the south end of the Bay with Channel Buoy 22A as the starting mark. The course then proceeded toward the Coronado Bay Bridge into the South Bay, following the ship channel down to Channel Buoy 40. A timed run and a Lat/Lon mark brought the boats to the entrance to Coronado Cays. Back to Channel Buoy 40 and again following the ship channel past the Coronado Bridge to Channel Buoy 23 in front of the Marriott Hotel marina. A u-turn and back under the bridge to Channel Buoy 26, then another 180 degree turn to the finish at Coronado Bridge pier 20.

Under such favorable race conditions, five boats finished with less than 1% of error. Dick Devlin of Mission Bay Yacht Club, aboard *Irish Mist*, claimed first place with a score of .5488% of error with Bill Doherty, Southwestern Yacht Club, on *Aldebaran* took second place with a score of .8038%. Jim Lonergan, also of Southwestern and skippering *Casa Del Perro Dos*, posted a score of .8081 and took third place overall and first place in Division II.

For information about becoming a member of the San Diego Cruiser or Observers Associations, contact Commodore Ralph Salerno, San Diego Cruiser Association, at (760) 758-7798 or Elaine Townsend at (619) 691-0449.

San Diego Sail & Power Squadron, Inc.  
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## The Ship's Mail



***In This Issue:***

- \* Annual Meeting
- \* Commander's Farewell  
Message



## SDSPS Calendar



### January 2004

5	Exec Comm Mtg	Cdr's Home	1900
8-11	San Diego Boat Show (SDSPS booth)	Convention Center	
9	SDSPS Annual Meeting	SWYC	1800
14-18	USPS Annual Meeting	Orlando, Fl	
24	SDSPS Change of Watch	SWYC	1800