

The Ship's Mail

The Ship's Mail is a bimonthly publication of the "San Diego Sail & Power Squadron, Inc.
Vol. 59, No. 4 A unit of the United States Power Squadrons® July/August 2006

Farewell Jerry D: Burial at Sea

by P/C Marie Baer, P
Chair/Boating Activities

Jerry Donovan passed over the bar on March 2, 2006. A church service was held in Clairemont on March 6, where many friends and family members celebrated his life by speaking about their connection to him.

The incredible range of interests and activities in Jerry's life was astounding. Yet, everything had his undivided attention. Jerry always made time for his family and was a fantastic father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He also was active in his church, having attended a meeting a few days prior to his last admission into the hospital. He was not only a Past Commander (twice), but stayed very active with the Squadron.

Jerry passed on his love of boating through his teaching. He taught many students their final courses in navigation (both JN and N for many years). Jerry was also instrumental in getting our Squadron Bridge in succession. He joined USPS 46 years ago and transferred from District 6 when he moved to San Diego. In addition to his love of family and boating, Jerry also had a continuing curiosity about computer technology. Jerry attended the San Diego Community College for every possible computer course offered. In one word, Jerry was amazing.

When Jerry's will was read, the second line after "being of sound mind" was his request to have his ashes scattered at sea. His eldest daughter, Kathy, lives in Omaha, Nebraska with her family and does not have an extensive knowledge of the sea and boating. As a result, the family wasn't sure how to go about honoring Jerry's request, until they spoke with his Power Squadron family. PDC Bill Bridge and PC Richard Cross were quick to assure the family that this would indeed not be an issue, and asked PC Marie Baer to organize a flotilla.



Photo: Ed Bowler

The SDSPS flotilla heads out past Point Loma to say a last Goodbye to P/C Jerry Donovan.

On June 9, with arrangements completed and family present, a line of 6 boats (4 sail and 2 power) left the docks at Southwestern Yacht Club towards the open ocean. Jerry's family included three daughters Kathy & Mick Farrens (Nebraska), Debbie Donovan (San Diego), Marty Hartsock & grand daughter Eileen (Huntington Beach), grand daughter Tanya & Pat Becker with great grand children Jason and Ellie (Nebraska), grand son Bryan (Minneapolis), grand son Scott & Trista and great grandson Major. And last, but not least, his best friend Ethel Birgelaitis and her daughter Mary. While the bay was calm, the rollers were increasing at sea. Happily, only one of the 15 family members had a problem with it, and the others all easily exonerated her because she's also pregnant.

Jerry Murphy led the procession. PC Dave Baer had suggested a navigational course being appropriate for this occasion, and one was set up to SD1, the

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Jerry Donovan's Burial at Sea

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entrance buoy to San Diego Bay. The procession included: Jerry Murphy on *Destarte*, David & Marie Baer on *Casamar*, Mike & Carol Fontaine on *Tuffy*, Don Litzenberg on *Jandon*, Ted & Claudia Bowler on *Fiddlers Green*, and Steven Bakalis on *Sea Hunt*. Crew on board: J. Brockway Clark, Bill Bridge, Bob Hubbard, Mike Sampsel, Frank Fitzgerald (Phoenix PS), Katie Law, Gene King, and Tom Fota.

No one is sure who pulled the strings, but a nuclear submarine, aircraft carrier, and Coast Guard cutter all were seen returning from sea as the flotilla for Jerry made its way out. One of the security boats, investigating why the flotilla that was just out of the channel, came over to ensure our position was appropriate. No problem there, as they had guns pointed!

Once the traffic lightened, the seas flowed in 3 – 5' swells creating lots of bouncing around for sure. At Lat 32 deg 36.85'N and Long 117 deg 14.75'W we squared off and circled around. PDC J. Brockway Clark and PC Bob Hubbard said prayers and spoke about Jerry as an incredible man. And, Jason, 7, spoke about "Great Grandpa Jerry" as well. There was not a dry eye amongst anyone present after that for sure.

Jerry Murphy read the Christian Burial, and a stunning red rose was tossed to mark the special site. Then, each participant said a silent prayer and added a beautiful flower into the sea. A moment's silence was then given before heading back to the yacht club and a reception.

Jerry gave so much to the Squadron, and this ceremony certainly was a fitting tribute. Rest in Peace, Jerry.

Welcome New Members!

Welcome back, all you SD squadron members who paid your dues at renewal time! And a special welcome to our new members: Cynthia and David Cramer, John Gaddis, Sam Gaddis, Robert Gibbs, Jeanne Gleason, Richard Hamm, Susan Henry, Allen Ryan, Mike Saad and Ken Yeager. *We're glad to have you aboard!*



Education Department Report

by SEO Mike Fontaine, AP

Discounted boating products are now available to all Power Squadron members on the **USPS** website, Education section. You can buy charting products directly from Maptech and C-Map and books from McGraw-Hill. Free NOAA charts are also available through C-Map. Previously these items were only available for purchase by going through the Squadron Education Officer. Take advantage of these excellent products at great prices.

Upcoming classes for your consideration are: **Instructor Development** begins 11 July and runs for 7 Monday nights. This is a terrific course and you don't need to intend to be a teacher to get a lot out of it.

Piloting begins 16 August and teaches you more about the art and skill of coastal navigation; and **Engine Maintenance** begins 19 September and covers the mysteries of the marine engine systems. These courses are for your benefit. Take a class and be a smarter boater.

The summer Boating class began on June 21st at Southwestern Yacht Club, and finished at the end of July. Ed Mraz will teach a 4-week **Boat Smart** course, beginning 6 September on Wednesday evenings. Ed covers an introduction to boating safety (but no chart work). And the next **Boating** course will begin on 4 October. Send your boating friends and relatives to this class for a great educational experience taught by Dan and Trish Carlin.

Executive Officer Report

By Lt/C Ed Bowler, AP

Executive Committee (Ex Com meetings)

The Executive Committee is made up of the Commander, *Tom Fota*, Executive Officer (ExO), *Ed Bowler*, Administrative Officer (AO), *Barbra Goddard*, Educational Officer (EO), *Mike Fontaine*, Secretary, *Don Litzenberg*, Treasurer *Claudia Bowler* and three Members-at-Large. Every member is invited to attend any and all Executive Committee Meetings. They are held the first Monday of each month at the commander's home. We continue to meet and take action on San Diego Sail and Power Squadron business. Meetings start at 1900 (7 PM) and usually last until 2030 (8:30 PM). *Tom Fota* directs the meeting and much is accomplished. Please plan on attending a future meeting. We would love to have you.

Vessel Safety Check (VSC)

One of the great services the San Diego Sail and Power Squadron provides to the boating community is free Vessel Safety Checks. So far this year we have examined 25 vessels. Current examiners are *Richard Barck*, *Bob Hubbard*, *Katie Law*, *Gordon Parham* and *Elaine Townsend*. Two new examiners, *Tom Fota* and *Ed Brunjes* have passed the on-line VSC test and are now completing their five "check out" vessel exams before becoming full-fledged examiners. Congratulations *Tom* and *Ed*, you are joining an elite group of Power Squadron members trained in vessel inspection. Talk to some of these examiners at the next General Membership Meeting (GMM). Everyone should consider becoming a Vessel Safety Examiner. Just ask us how!

Boat Shows

The Executive Committee (ExCom) and *Shaun McArdle*, Boat Show Chairman, are considering the San Diego Sail and Power Squadron participate in the San Diego Summer Boat Show. This will be held at the Sheraton Hotel/Marina on Harbor Island 20-23 July, 2006. Please watch our website www.sdsp.org for more information. Remember spending a few hours at the Power Squadron booth gets you free admission to the show. WHAT A DEAL!

District 28-Summer Conference

[3-4 June 2006, Laughlin, Nevada]

Claudia and I were able to attend District 28 (San Diego, San Luis Rey (Oceanside), Balboa (Orange County) and Phoenix Squadrons) Summer Conference in Laughlin, Nevada. We were interested in attending for three reasons: First, we wanted to support a new squadron to District 28. Second, we had never been to Laughlin, Nevada and thirdly the rooms in the luxury resort were \$40.00 per night.

We were not disappointed with our decision. During the meeting *Ed Maxwell*, the new squadron commander, told us how the new squadron, Lake Mohave, went from no squadron to a squadron of over 40 members in less than one year. *Katie Law* directed a workshop on "Member Retention" that gave everyone in the room some wonderful ideas. After a terrific free lunch in our afternoon session, *Ed Mraz* and *Adriaan Veldhuisen* discussed the USPS "National Leadership Program". Everyone was impressed with the excellent material presented. We can use the ideas in all aspects of our life, even our marriage. The meeting was held at the Laughlin Bay Marina, a brand new luxury facility right on the Colorado River. We look forward to the next District 28 conference. Please consider attending. You will not be sorry.

Great Southwest Tri-Conference

[28 September-1 October, 2006 Phoenix, Arizona.]

This will be our next District 28 meeting. This one is very special because it will include three districts: District 13, District 25 and District 28. Squadron members will be from Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, Hawaii and Japan. WOW! Also in attendance will be the National Operating Committee Members. There will be six new seminars, meetings and spouse activities. Friday evening there will be a "Western Buffet Barbeque" while on Saturday evening there will be a more formal Dinner and Dance.

Please plan on attending. It is a pleasant drive, or short plane flight away at the Phoenix Airport Hilton Hotel. For further information, check out the District 28 website or the conference website by pasting this: <http://www.azsafeboating.org/JointConf/index.html> in your web browser.

VSC Chairman's Report by P/C E. Ronald Weiner, P

I am happy to report that we had a very successful VSC day at the Sunroad Marina, Harbor Island, on June 17th. In addition to doing 17 vessel safety checks, we also gained two new Certified Vessel Examiners, Cdr Tom Fota and new squadron member, Ed Brunjes. Special thanks to Katie Law and Bob Hubbard who worked with Ed and Tom to supervise the VSCs that they needed in order to qualify.

Thanks also to P/Lt/C Gordon Parham, who dropped everything to join us on the docks, and to Lt/C Ted Bowler, squadron executive officer, and P/C Shaun McArdle, both of whom lent moral support.

I will be out of the country from June 21 through July 18, but if anyone needs a vessel safety check, visit our website and let us know. Or corner one of our stalwart crew of Vessel Examiners at the July barbecue and someone will be happy to oblige you.

Administrative Officer's Report

by Lt/C Barbara A. Goddard, P

My thanks to all of you who complied with my request to sign up early for the July GMM and barbecue. As of the deadline for this article, more than 45 members and guests had indicated their intention to attend. It looks as if we will have a jolly time at our annual summer outing at the Breezy Point U.S. Coast Guard Station. Lots of good food, games and old fashioned fellowship!

If your name is one of the ones on my list, don't forget to bring a dessert to share and any drinks you want (other than water and sodas, which we will supply). The date is Sunday, 9 July, and the picnic/meeting will run from 1400 to 1900 (2 pm to 7 pm). I am sorry the cut-off date was so early, but our Coast Guard hosts needed the list of attendees a week in advance. *If you are just reading about it now, you have missed the event, but I'm certain tales of the fun will be spread around at the September GMM.*

Don't forget to join us at the District 28 Coastal Rendezvous on the weekend of Friday/Sunday, 4-6 August, at La Playa Cove. On Saturday evening, the 5th, we'll have a raft-up with boats from the other squadrons in the District (see article by P/C Marie Baer, Boating Activities Chair, on page). If you would like to go to the raft-up and don't have a boat, call me by 6 p.m. Thursday, and I'll get you on the "ferry" from SWYC for the evening.

Save the date! The September GMM will be at Southwestern Yacht Club on Friday, September 8th. Details about that event will be published in the next edition of The Ship's Mail and posted on the squadron website.

In the meantime, have a great summer and join us for one of these events. It won't be as much fun without you!

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The Ship's Mail is published bimonthly for the members of the San Diego Sail & Power Squadron, Inc. The purpose of the squadron is to promote safe boating.

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SDSPS CALENDAR –July/August/September/October 2006

Day/Date/Time	Activity	Site	Contact
July			
Sat/8 1200	Sail Fleet Race	North Bay	Ted Umland
Sat/8	San Luis Rey SPS BBQ	Oceanside	
Sat/9 1400-1900	Annual BBQ and GMM	USCG Station (Breezy Pt)	Barbara Goddard
Mon/10 1900	ExCom meeting	Cdr's home	Tom Fota
Tues/11 1900	Instructor Dev't course (7 Tuesdays)	Southwestern YC	Mike Fontaine
Sat/22	SD Cruiser Nav. Contest	Hosts: MBYC/CCYC	Dave Weimer
August			
Wed/2 1900	Piloting course (12 Wednesdays)	Southwestern YC	Mike Fontaine
Fri-Sun [4-6]	D/28 Coastal Rendezvous	La Playa Cove	Marie Baer
Mon/7 1900	ExCom meeting	Cdr's home	Tom Fota
Sat/12 1200	Sail Fleet Race	Offshore	Ted Umland
Tues-Sun [15-20]	USPS Governing Board	Grand Hyatt, NYC	Tom Fota
Sat/19	SD Cruiser Nav Contest	Host: SGYC	Dave Weimer
Mon/28 1900	ExCom meeting	Cdr's home	Tom Fota
September			
Fri/8 1900	GMM	Southwestern YC	Barbara Goddard
Sat/9 1200	Sail Fleet Race	San Diego Bay	Ted Umland
Tues/17 1900	Engine Maintenance (10 Tuesdays)	Southwestern YC	Mike Fontaine
Fri/29 through Sun/Oct 1	D/28 Tri-District Conference	Phoenix [AZ] Airport Hilton	Katie Law
Sat/30	SD Cruiser Nav Contest	Host: CCYC	Dave Weimer
October			
Mon/2 1900	ExCom meeting	Cdr's home	Tom Fota
Fri-Sat/6-7	San Diego-Ensenada Yacht Race		
Sat/14 1200	Sail Fleet Race	San Diego Bay	Ted Umland
Sat/21	SD Cruiser Nav Contest	Host: SDSPS at CYC	Dave Weimer

Safe Boating through Education

Tips for Reducing Fuel Usage [from *Discover Boating* web magazine, June 2006]

- *Slower speeds on the water will reduce use.
- *The proper use of trim tabs reduces drag, especially while accelerating up to planning speeds.
- *Minimize the amount of time that you idle at the dock.
- *Minimize the use of onboard generators.
- *Use dock-side electrical power in lieu of generators.
- *Have a float plan so you know exactly where you're going.
- *Make sure the hull is clean.
- *Don't under-power your boat. It's important you have enough motor to handle the load.
- *Check your propeller. If your boat is slow "out of the hole" or lacks top-end speed, you might have the wrong propeller.
- *A well-tuned engine uses less fuel.

**D/28 Rendezvous
Boating Activities
August 4, 5, and 6, 2006**

The District Rendezvous is planned for August 4, 5, and 6. Location: La Playa Cove

Call the Harbor Police @ (619) 686-6227 (moorings office) to make reservations for your individual boats.

Let's get all Squadrons out there in full force for "the most boats" in the raftup.

Menu planning is on your own for the weekend. We can have a pot luck on Saturday night, let me know when you reserve if this sounds good to you.

Please plan to have appetizers and beverages to share on Saturday afternoon. Guests from shore will be invited out to join in. Members will be invited to visit each of the boats and join in with the good eats.

Bring your dinghy, and make arrangements to pick up guests that would like to come out to the raftup for a few hours. Guests, please plan to bring something to share as well. If you are coming by land, you may park near Bessemer and Scott St. (Bessemer is off Rosecrans, first left past Talbot. Just walk down towards the bay for your ride. As always, wear shoes that you can easily remove and bring a towel for your feet.)

When you determine if you'll attend, please let me know. I will contact each of you via e-mail as the time gets closer and inform you which boats to be expecting in La Playa, guests to be expecting, and pot luck plans as well.

Marie Baer
Boating Activities Chair
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Cruise the CARIBBEAN 2007

With the San Diego Sail and Power Squadron

A Fantasy by Ted & Claudia Bowler

We had dreamed for many years about cruising the Caribbean. Hearing stories of the gentle trade winds, warm crystal clear waters, flat seas and friendly people, we wanted the experience. Finally, we did it! In 2005, we cruised the US Virgin Islands. In 2006, we cruised the British Virgin Islands [BVI].

In 2007, we want to return and experience it again with **YOU!** We want you to check out the great shopping in St. Thomas, the tropical breezes of Roadtown, Tortola, the sleepy capitol of the BVI, the geological wonder of the Baths, the Bitter End Yacht Club on the island of Virgin Gorda and the quiet solitude of Jost Van Dyke Island. That **DREAM** may come true for us on our Caribbean Cruise 2007:

PART I of IV - A "Dream" Day in the Caribbean

Sleeping in our elegant state room with our own private "head", we have just had the best night's sleep we can remember. At anchor we were lulled to sleep by the ripples of the Caribbean lapping gently against the side of the hull of our new 52-ft *Moorings 525*. A warm breeze was coming aboard from the slightly opened hatch overhead. Sunlight is just now peaking through the port and we began to smell fresh coffee being brewed somewhere nearby.

As we open our stateroom door, *Barbara Goddard* hands us mugs of fresh brew. Claudia gets fresh coffee, while Barbara knows I like hot chocolate with real whip cream on top. She has made it just right. Sleepily we climb the companionway ladder with drinks in hand.

Topside, *Bill Bridge* is just spreading out the latest weather charts on the cockpit table. He motions for us to join him and begins explaining what the weather will be like today [*sunny and warm with winds around 8 kts; a possible shower in the afternoon*]. He explains why we need not worry about the developing tropical storm, which was reported 1,500 nm to the south. We feel greatly comforted by his explanation and his storm avoidance techniques. Bill brings out his sling psychrometer and lets us use it. What a great guy! We are glad he is aboard.

Hearing about how to avoid 50 knot winds has made us hungry and we hear *Katie Law* call from below, "Breakfast is ready." We thought we heard some rumblings in the galley at 0400,

but we were not sure what it was. Katie serves us bacon and eggs, hash browns, wheat toast and orange juice. She reports that, yes indeed, she was in the galley at 0330, as she wanted to make sure we enjoyed our first day out with a hearty breakfast. As we discuss the activities planned for the day, she reminds we should hurry with our breakfast because, at 0900, *Marie Baer* will be teaching a Gourmet Cooking Class in one of the forward cabins. A half-hour later, Claudia and I are remarking what a wonderful class *Marie* taught on making a zero-calorie "Better than Sex Chocolate Cake." Marie made up the name, but we wonder if *Dave Baer* agrees with its presumptuous title? We'll ask him later but couldn't wait to get home to try Marie's recipe.

On the adjacent power yacht, we hear *Mike Sampsel* and *Shelley Bakalis* at the navigation station, where they are charting our two-hour sail to the anchorage at Peter Island. [Steven B. and Dianna S. are still in their bunks.] They are discussing the wind, current, set & drift, and some other confusing concepts that may affect our planned sail. Since they couldn't agree, they decide that, for one hour, they will follow *Mike's* recommendation and, for the second hour, they will follow *Shelley's* plan, then see who was closer to true conditions. It sounds like a good plan to us: a true USPS "coop charting" venture!

To be continued.... See if the 52' Moorings 525 arrives at Peter Island, BVI ... If you are interested in SDSPS Caribbean Cruise in June 2007 please contact: Ed and Claudia Bowler, or Katie Law.

Don't Toss Those Batteries!

by P/C Richard Gaffney, N
SDSPS Safety Officer

All batteries are now classified as "universal waste" and are unsuitable for disposal as solid waste, as per the California Universal Waste Rule. More information can be found at <www.zerowaste.ca.gov> or <www.dtsc.ca.gov>. So now, in addition to that "MARPOL trash" bag in the galley of your boat, you will need to find a place to put all your used flashlight and hand-held GPS and VHF batteries for proper disposal on land.

Save the receipts for your batteries... Then when they go bad... return them to the location in which they were purchased. Try to save the original (or a copy) of the sales receipt. This will be proof that you bought the battery there and they **Must By Law** take in the old battery. If there is any problem, tell them that you will be



Don't throw these away! It's illegal.

calling the Hazardous Waste Division that they refused to take you old battery ((...or just call). It is their responsibility to do so.

The deadline for the September-October issue of *The Ship's Mail* is 15 Aug 2006. All articles gratefully considered.

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First Class Mail