



Galaxy 23

From the District Bridge

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The calendar will soon be turned to a new year. 2013 saw many newsworthy items for everyone involved in the United States Power Squadrons. On a district and a squadron level, we said goodbye on the passing of familiar friends. We lost one of our 50 year squadrons – Ponce De Leon Inlet was dissolved.

Sometimes change can be hard to swallow. We always prefer to operate in our comfort zone. Everything around us always changes and we have to embrace that change.

Shortly after changing our date to 2014, each and every member of the United States Power Squadrons is hereby invited to attend the week of annual meeting events that will occur basically in all our back yards. The event is just more than our organizations annual gathering – IT IS OUR 100th Birthday of the United States Power Squadrons. What a grand celebration it is going to be. Please plan on being there. The dates range from January 27 thru February 1st 2014. Things really begin to ramp up on Thursday and will reach an apex on Friday afternoon with the armada of boats assemble to form the Lighted boat parade of boat parades.

Jacksonville – both city and Squadron will be pulling out all of the stops to make this an evening on the water to remember. There will be a fabulous fireworks presentation to cap of the parade. Don't have a boat, never fret. The party will also be going on inside the anchor hotel the Hyatt of Jacksonville. We will have a large outdoor deck area to view the parade from and all of the districts along with the hotel will be providing food and drink for all of the land lubbers. The next morning the District Commanders will return, all of the ensigns adorned with the battle ribbons that each squadron has applied during the last year. This will kick off the 100th annual business meeting of our organization. Hopefully by now everyone has a room reservation for at least Friday evening. I would also suggest staying over Saturday evening as the Formal banquet will feature the National Officers Change of Watch. The theme will be a New Orleans style Yachty-Gras (Mardi -Gras) celebration.

So what can you do to get ready? Do you and your boat want to be involved the lighted boat parade? Get headed that way and contact Jacksonville's Commander Thomas Anderson.

Reserve your rooms Thursday thru Sunday morning.

Sign up for the numerous meetings and seminars that will be held on Thursday and Friday. Attend the Expo area on Friday. Sign up for the numerous meals where each has its own unique theme. From the kick off themed breakfast to the Saturday evening ball. Take it all in. You only will see a single 100th gala like this one. To obtain additional details and up to date information go to www.usps.org and scroll to the bottom of the home page. All the information that you need is there.

BUT, before you head to Jacksonville, each squadron needs to make sure that all bridge officers are attending the annual meeting, along with Squadron Changes of Watches taken care of and all delegates in line to represent every member of District 23.

On January 11th, we will have our District 23 Winter Council Meeting in Daytona ARC center to address several points of business for the District and also discuss final preparations for The National Meeting.

On the forefront, District 23 is venturing forward in an E-learning experience to benefit all members in continuing the educational process. No longer will a squadron be stuck, not being able to teach a class because of the usual reasons. We have a dedicated group that is invoking this change to better us all!

SO THE FUTURE is screaming towards us. It might seem like a whole lot of change. It is that the USPS is headed into its second century with a fresh new surge that will bring success for all. Come and be a part of your organization – The United States Power Squadrons -next level, next century!