

Peralta Helmsman

**March
2015
Volume 56
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*New Commander
Barbara Waldsreicher
receives her officers
flag from District
Education Officer
Norm Pennington at
the Change of Watch
on Feb. 26.*

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Executive Officer's Report

P/C RICARDO MARES, P



I'M BACK ...

This time I am back as your 2015 Executive Officer. This office covers a number of safety and public relation departments. I feel one way to get Peralta members involved and to expose us to the public and potential new members is to get out there. 2015 has started in a very positive way with my predecessor involving us in the San Francisco Boat Show in January. Our members came out and supported this by manning the booth and communicating to the public how much the Power Squadron has to offer.

As an example of this, Peralta is holding what I call a basic boating class for all boaters which is the America's Boating Course. We have 15 signed in and three sitting in this class, and this is not a four-hour or one-day, two-day class. This is an 8-week class. So, this proves that the public is looking for education. We will continue to promote ourselves through Safe Boating Week in May, offering Vessel Safety Exams at different marinas throughout the year, and meeting with the Department of Boating and Waterways for their Dock Walker program to promote clean water and environmental awareness.

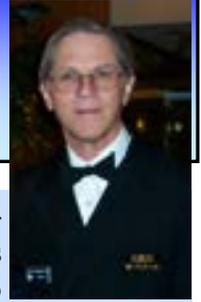
I have spoken with the Commodore of NCPCA, which is the Over-The-Bottom Contest Club, and they have scheduled for May a Novice Contest in the Antioch area. Peralta is invited to participate in this one-day event. There will be more information about this coming out. This will give boaters an opportunity to meet at Bridge Marina for a short seminar and then go out on the water to practice their seamanship and piloting skills. This is basically you and your boat maintaining a course and a selected speed to see how well you are able to maneuver the course from way point to way point in a specific time.

For those Peralta fishermen out there, my plan is to schedule one or two fishing trips. For those members who have other ideas for boating activities, let me know so we can put them in the schedule and keep the momentum going.

I look forward to seeing you on the water.

Education Officer's Report

By D/LT/C
NORMAN W. PENNINGTON, SN



Your Squadron Educational Department continues to be active, only this time in the North Bay with P/C Ricardo Mares, P who has been putting on the America's Boating Course at the Benicia Yacht Club. I planned to put on ABC3 when I returned from vacation; however since I did not get any students I decided to cancel the course. Coming up in April I will be offering the Seamanship course at the San Leandro Yacht Club and on Saturday, May 16th I will be offering the Rules of the Road and Emergencies on Board seminars, and in September I will be offering Advanced Piloting.

The national educational Department is currently working on revisions to the GPS and VHF radio seminars. Additionally, they will be releasing a seminar on Automated Identification Systems, or AIS. These seminars should be ready in the fall.

In case you haven't heard, the United States Coast Guard is in the process of changing the classifications of personal flotation devices, commonly referred to as life-jackets. The current type classification such as type I, II, III, IV and type V are generally not understood by the boating public and are, in fact, confusing. The new references, when published will most likely retain the type of water the vessel is operating in such as near shore, offshore, etc. The Coast Guard is working with the PFD community to revise the classification and labeling of PFD's. When completed, this information will be updated and hopefully be somewhat easier to understand.

The United States Coast Guard has released a new navigation rules book now titled navigation rules and regulations handbook. The new handbook contains international and inland rules of the road and the respective annexes, bridge to bridge radiotelephone regulations, and vessel traffic management rules. The new regulations are not available yet in printed form from the US Government printing office, but commercial versions are available from Amazon, or you can download the new handbook at this URL: http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/navrules/CG_NRHB_20141118.pdf larger vessels (12 meters or more (39.6 feet)) are required to carry a copy of the regulations. The USCG says that an electronic

Continued on Page Three

copy will suffice, if readily available (i.e., can be accessed within two minutes).

In case you missed it, we had the Virtual Boating Skills Simulator at the Progressive Insurance San Francisco boat show at Pier 48 in January. The simulator is an excellent training aid for boat operation allowing students to practice maneuvers in the classroom using the simulator. The simulator mimics the operation of a 20 foot Boston Whaler Center Console boat with a single outboard motor. The operator follows anyone of a dozen preprogrammed scenarios, practicing skills such as docking, undocking high-speed maneuvers, a slalom course and a variety of other maneuvers. While in the body of water where there are other boats of various sizes and types and differing weather conditions such as day or night, wind and or current. One student at the boat show commented that the simulator is so real that the actually felt a little seasick well sitting in the chair operating the boat. The district has budgeted to bring the simulator back in the fall for the Boat Fest show in Alameda, and again next January at the Progressive Insurance Boat Show at Pier 48 in San Francisco. We hope that members will be able to come and visit the show, experience the simulator, but more importantly serve in our booth representing the United States Power Squadrons.

Besides education, your Bridge is planning a number of activities that we hope you will be able to participate in. A barbecue, the Chili Cook-Off, day trips, and some on the water activities including participating in the District 25 Summer Rendezvous at Rio Vista next July. Let us know if there is a class or activity that you want and we will see what we can do to provide.

Bye for now.

PERALTA'S GREAT 2015



*Photos bly
P/C Alan Smith, P*



Report from the British Virgin Islands



By D/Lt/C Norman W. Pennington, SN

Front view of Knot Bad

In February several Peralta members and friends embarked on a journey of a lifetime in the British Virgin Islands aboard a 50' Voyager Catamaran.

Planning for the trip started last May when Peralta member and our host, Dr. Arnold W. Goldschlager learned that his club, the St Francis Yacht Club, was arranging their next Commodore's Cruise in the British Virgin Islands. Arnie, remembering how much fun the 2013 Commodore's Cruise to the Leeward Islands was, quickly assembled his crew and began making plans for the trip.

The crew consisted of our captain and host, Arnold Goldschlager; his daughter, provisioning expert and galley queen, Hilary Goldschlager; our skipper and former Peralta member, Lee Stevens; our anchor watch, deck hand and all around good guy, Nick Haney; and I serving as the sanitation engineer, treasurer, navigator and any

other job as assigned. The vessel was a 50-foot Voyager Catamaran that was chartered from Voyager Charters in Tortola. Our boat, The 'Knot Bad', had four staterooms, five heads and a generous main cabin with a lounge, navigation station and galley. There was one additional sleeping compartment that Hilary described resembling a Spider Hole that could only be reached from a forward deck hatch aft of the trampoline and anchor locker. The arrangement of the cockpit and helm was fair, although not as good as the Leopard 4600 that we used on the 2013 Leeward Islands cruise.

Our journey started at the San Francisco airport where we boarded an evening flight to St. Thomas with a stopover at Dulles International in Washington DC. After boarding the aircraft and settling in our seats, the aircraft began to taxi to the runway where we learned that there was a problem that the crew was attempting to resolve. Technical talk for there would be a long wait. After what seemed a very long time we were informed that the aircraft needed to be



Soper's Hole on Tortola BVI





Norm on Norman Island

returned to the gate. Eventually the problem was resolved and we departed nearly three-hours late. There must have been a good tail wind as we arrived at Dulles to just in time to catch our flight to St. Thomas.

After arriving in St. Thomas we headed by taxi to the harbor to catch our water taxi to Tortola. I was expecting a small, yet well-appointed watercraft to take us to Soper's Hole where we had to pass through Immigration before heading to Sebastian's, our hotel on the north-west end of Tortola. Our water taxi powered by twin outboards was actually a fast cuddy cabin with a small open cockpit. Our trip to Tortola was fairly quick as we weaved past a St. John, a number of cay's and small islands. Needless to say, we were a little damp from the salt spray when we arrived at the immigration station. A local taxi driver whisked us to our hotel off Belmont Point.

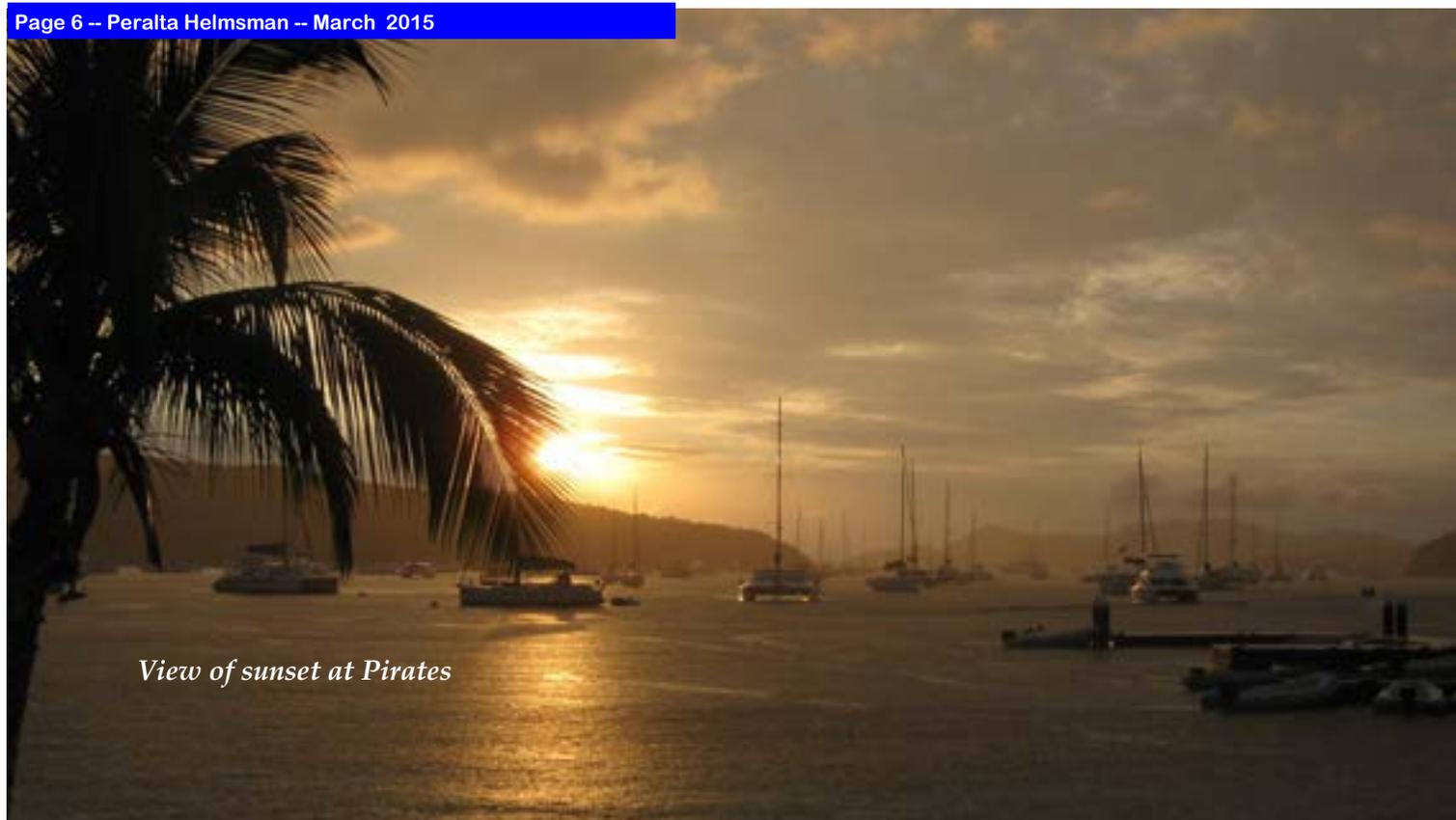
We spent the next two days waiting for our cruise to begin sampling the local cuisine and shopping for last minute supplies. Our hotel was situated on an isolated beach where there were what appeared to be an abundance of roosters. I'm told that the hens do not get out very much. With a few exceptions, most of the local structures were one or two story and decorated in pastel colors. The colors reminded me of Easter Eggs in a basket. The weather during the day was in the low 80's dropping in the low 70's in the evening. We also experienced occasional showers with rapid clearing. At night the sky was filled with millions of twinkling stars.

Finally the big day arrived and we headed to Voyages to start our cruise. The first day was to get an orientation of the boat and it's systems by Voyages, acquire any additional supplies and get settled in our staterooms. The next morning our cruise began with a welcome announcement by Commodore Sean Svendsen. Sean gave us the weather report, a brief announcement of the day's activities and ending with a nautical joke. After a brief chuckle, and waiting our turn to leave, we headed to Big Bight on Norman Island where that evening was the first of three parties and a dinner.

Our daily routine started with a generous breakfast



Motley crew waiting for dinner at Foxy's on Jost Van Dyke



View of sunset at Pirates

prepared by Hilary, then if we were sailing, then it was setting our course, hoisting anchor and heading to the next island. If we were staying in the same anchorage, then we would plan for lunch, board the dinghy and head for shore. Many of the anchorages had 20, 30 or more mooring buoys, but if we arrived late, then we would have to set the anchor well out of the way of other boats. Heading to shore was usually a dinghy of laughs as we adjusted our seating to sea and wind conditions to avoid getting too wet. When setting to shore near dusk presented new challenges as we had to uniquely display lights to be able to find our boat on the way back in the dark. Light sticks and a small lamp in addition to leaving our anchor, cockpit and underwater lights on did help. With the exception of the Baths on Virgin Gorda, every one of our anchorages had restaurants that ranged from rustic to exquisite. We planned to visit a restaurant at the Baths, but decided to stay on the boat when we found out that we would have to wade ashore after being dropped off by dinghy, and one of us would have to swim from the dinghy mooring to shore. Each night we would end the day with one or more after dinner beverages and a multi round play of dominos out in the cockpit.

Our cruise took us to anchorages

on the east end of Virgin Gorda at the Bitter End. There we attended the second party and had dinner at the Bitter End Yacht Club, which is a very fancy beach front restaurant and not a yacht club. Since we were there for two days, the next day we had lunch at the Biras Creek Resort that had fantastic hill-top views of three bays. Later that evening we dined at the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda, which was another resort that primarily caters to the luxury or mega yacht market and not a traditional yacht club. While we were there the mega yacht Casino Royale was at the guest dock. Our next port of call was the island of Anegada that is nearly encircled by a large coral reef. Entrance to the anchorage is a little tricky



: Seaplane tied up next to us at the Bitter End in Gorda Sound

British Virgin Islands Report from previous pages

where we needed to keep a bearing on some white roofs while passing between Jakes Reef and the Two Sisters. Actually, our GPS guided us safely into the anchorage. Our next port of call and our last party night was Great Harbour on the island of Jost Van Dyke. On Great Harbour we visited the famous Foxy's Bar and toured the island in a small jitney. The roads are very narrow and we had to stop at least once for a small bunch of goats to clear the road.

Our next port of call was back to the harbor on Tortola. We turned in our charter and headed back to immigration on the other side of Soper's Hole where we picked up our water taxi to St. Thomas. The weather quickly changed from clear skies to cloudy with showers. Unfortunately we were in an open boat, similar to a Boston Whaler that offered no protection to the weather. After stopping in St. Johns to clear immigration we arrived in St. Thomas for our last two days to dry out and rest before our journey home.

While on St. Thomas we toured the island by taxi taking us to the top of the hills for some fantastic views of harbors chocked full of cruise ships. One of the restaurants we dined at was the "Room with a View" where we met 91 year old Neil Weiss who had been on St. Thomas for 44-years. He was a veteran of World War Two, serving as a B-17 Bombardier flying over Germany. He told us that on his second mission his aircraft was shot down and crashed. Only Neil and one other crew member survived the crash. They were captured and taken to the hospital before transported as a prisoner. Neil remained there until the Soviet troops arrived on 1 May 1945. Mr. Weiss shared his life story and confided that a book was in the works and that there may be a segment on an American television news program. Being a student of history I decided to read a book on the biography of the B-17 Flying Fortress that I recently received from P/C Bill Manolis, AP.

If you like to visit the British Virgin Islands, pick up a copy of the Cruising Guide to the Virgin Islands by Nancy & Simon Scott. The book contains a complete

Some easy links for new/potential officers to find their job descriptions

Since we have several new members on the Peralta Bridge and Executive Committee her are some links to find job descriptions for the positions.

The following are links to other important documents that you may find useful.

Operations Manual:

<http://www.usps.org/national/om/>

Secretary's Manual:

<http://www.usps.org/national/om/pdfs/secman.pdf>

Educational Officer's Manual:

<http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/files/edm1.pdf>

When I am looking for information on the national website I usually go directly to the site index rather than starting at the home page.

Site Index:

<http://www.usps.org/newpublic2/sitex.html>

Lastly, here is a link to the Peralta website:

<http://www.peraltasquadron.org/>

Looking for information and you cannot find it, just let Norm Pennington know.

2015 Calendar of Events

Saturday, 28 March—0900-1300--District 25 *Operations Training Workshops 3 & 4*, Petaluma Yacht Club, 10 C Street, Petaluma —D/Lt EJ "Betty" Dysart, JN

Wednesdays, starting 8 April—*Seamanship Course*, 8-Sessions, San Leandro Yacht Club—Register online

Thur - Sun, 9-12 Apr—*Strictly Sail Boat Show*, Jack London Square - Oakland

Monday, 13 April—*Peralta Squadron Executive Committee Meeting*, All Members Welcome - San Leandro Yacht Club

Saturday, 18 April—District *Building Bridges*, Benicia Yacht Club

Sunday, 26 April—*PICYA Opening Day on the Bay*

Fri-Sat, 1-2 May—*South Bay Opening Day*

Monday, 11 May—*Peralta Squadron Executive Committee Meeting*. All Members Welcome - San Leandro Yacht Club

Wednesday 13 May—*District 25 Council Meeting*, Location to be Determined

Saturday, 16 May—10:00 am, *Mastering Rules of the Road Seminar* San Leandro Yacht Club—Register online

Saturday, 16 May—1:00 pm--*Emergencies Onboard Seminar*, San Leandro Yacht Club—Register online

Saturday, 16-23 May—*National Safe Boating Week* — Website

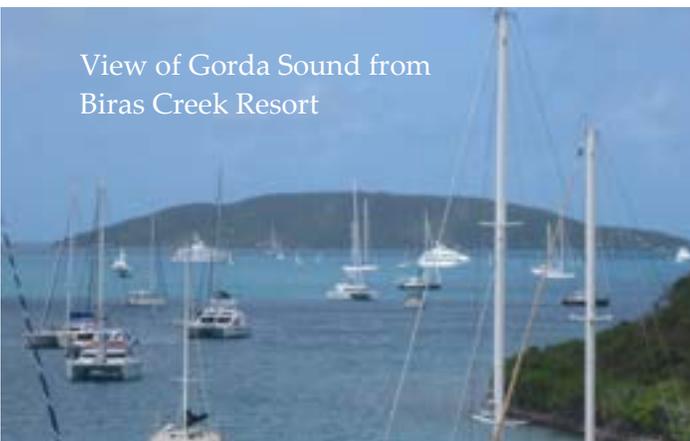
Saturday, 23 May—*In the Bay Peralta Rendezvous*, Clipper Cove Raft-up

Monday, 8 June—*Peralta Squadron Executive Committee Meeting*. All Members Welcome - San Leandro Yacht Club

Saturday, 13 June—*National Marina Day*—Website

Saturday, 20 June—*General Membership Meeting and BBQ*, San Leandro Yacht Club

View of Gorda Sound from
Biras Creek Resort





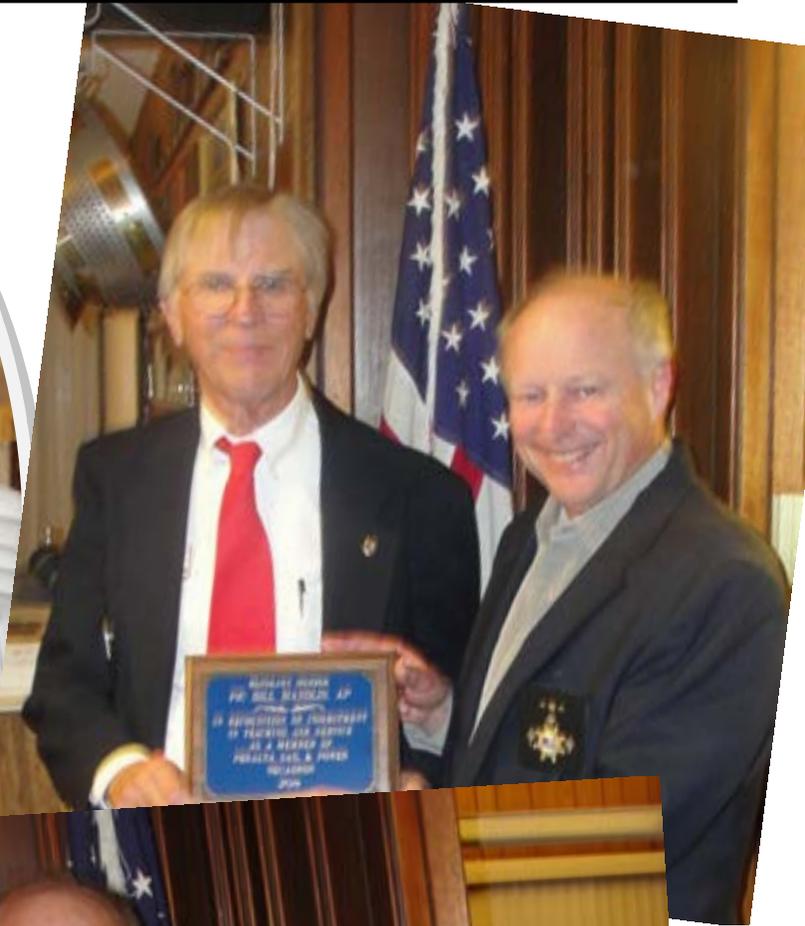
Above: The first order of business for our new Cdr Barbara Waldstreicher, AP was to give the oath of office to her new bridge officers. At right Michael Mares entertained during the change of watch. Far right, John Fellows was unable to attend the COW because he was leading a troop of Boy Scouts on a weekend adventure. Below, the new bridge shows off their new burgees.



Peralta Sail and Power Squadron's "Night of Honors"



Above: P/C Alan Smith, P presents Patricia Folger, P with the Robert Arenkiel Woman of the Year Award in recognition of her contributions to Peralta over the past decade.



Top right: D/Lt/C Norm Pennington, SN, receives the Peralta Honorary Member Award on behalf of P/C Bill Manolis in recognition of his many contributions to Peralta.



Right: P/C Alan Smith receives the Peralta Member of the Year award in recognition of his unprecedented three consecutive years as squadron commander.



Incoming Executive Officer Ricardo Mares, P brought prospective new members Phyllis and Bob Ritter to attend the COW.



Outgoing EXO P/C Melba Hale and Larry Goertz are ready for some free time!



The New!



Peralta Sail and Power Squadron Bridge

Commander:

Cdr Barbara Waldstreicher, AP

Executive Officer:

P/C Ricardo Mares, P

Educational Officer:

D/Lt C Norm Pennington, SN

Administrative Officer:

John Fellows

Secretary

Lt/C Josette Mares, S

Treasurer:

D/ Lt C Judy Pennington, P

General Committees

Auditing

Lt. Fred Holmes, AP
Lt/C Barbara Waldstreicher, AP
Open

Nominating

Lt/C Josette Mares, S
Patricia A. Folger, S
Open

Rules

D/Lt/C Norm Pennington, SN
P/C Alan Smith
Open



Past Commander's Final Report

BY P/C ALAN SMITH, P

A fond farewell

As the past Commander I want to thank everyone on the Bridge and everyone else that helped me run our squadron so smoothly. Without your help it would have been much more difficult. As the Commander it gave me the opportunity to see what goes on beyond the squadron level. It is impressive how much work goes on at the higher levels.

As Commander over the last few years it was sad to see our membership slowly drop. Reduced membership is not only facing boating groups. Many other groups are struggling with the same problem so we are not alone. People at the District level are working on reversing this trend.

For me the Commander's position was out of my comfort zone. I accepted the challenge, it was an interesting experience. Operating in a structured environment with by-laws and rigid procedures was foreign to me. Attending some of our Bridge meetings and especially meetings at the District level I was amazed how the meeting got hung up on procedural rules. Like I said such a structured environment was new to me.

In my professional career, once I was funded for a project my only limit was pure physics, chemistry, or in rare cases national or international politics. For

me conflicts were dealt with differently, there were no rules to hold be back.

This will be my final input to the Helmsman as the Commander. After 3-years it is time to let someone else have the glory. I'll still be around manning another position in the Peralta Squadron.

These years have been tough for the economy and that makes it tough on boaters. Still we managed to keep our boating passion going. I encourage others to get out of their "comfort zone" to get more involved in boating by attending meetings or becoming a bridge member. There are a lot of interesting things that go into boating that the average person does not know about or ever sees. For me I was surprised how many different boating organizations there are.

Summer will arrive fast, so get ready for some great boating! I'll still be around in our Squadron somewhere. So for now I'll just go to the big "Ship Graveyard in the Sky".



OUCH!

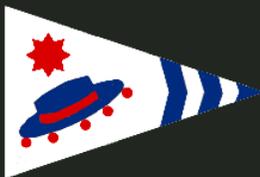
In case you haven't heard, the Department of Homeland Security and the United States Coast Guard have instituted a new fee for the renewal of the Certificate of Documentation for documented vessels. Prior to this new fee, the cost to renew the documentation certificate was the cost of a first class stamp, however since November 10, 2014 the fee for a new Certificate of Documentation is \$26.00. There is also a \$5.00 penalty for late renewal submissions.

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Commander's Comments

Greetings,

As your new Commander, I welcome you to a new and exciting year of fun, camaraderie, existing friendships and new friendships.

I look forward to the new challenges ahead and have a new and very qualified Bridge. This year we have four new incoming officers: me (Commander), P/C Ricardo Mares P, (Executive Officer), John Fellows (Administrative Officer), and P/Lt/C Josette Mares P, (Secretary). Along with these new officers, we have , D/Lt/C Norm Pennington SN (Education Officer) and D/Lt/C Judy Pennington P (Treasurer). They will continue to bring their wisdom, knowledge, experience and advice to the Bridge.

We have many land and water activities planned that will hopefully be interesting to many of you and we hope to have an increase in attendance to our events. Who knows? You might meet someone



new and have a great time.

I hope to see you at many of the events and activities planned for this year. And again, thank you for letting me represent you as the Commander of our Peralta Sail and Power Squadron.

Cdr. Barbara Waldstreicher, AP