

Fort Macon Power Squadron Wins National Award

By JB Bagby



The United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) celebrated their 100th anniversary in Jacksonville, Florida, during their annual meeting in early February. All power squadrons had been challenged by the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety & Clean Water to submit a list of their civic service and outreach efforts to their boating communities. The Fort Macon Sail and Power Squadron was awarded first place in this national competition among over 400 squadrons within USPS. Fifteen squadron members are Pine Knoll Shores residents who contribute to many civic service projects.

BoatUS Foundation Assistant Director of Boating Safety Ted Sensenbrenner said during the awards ceremony: "The Fort Macon squadron worked with a number of organizations to get their messages out to the general public. One unique way was using the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce store front window for displays for the entire month of May [2013], changing it each week to announce safety classes, to promote vessel safety checks, provide information on how to join the squadron and finally to promote National Safe Boating Week."

Continuing, Mr. Sensenbrenner remarked: "Another out of the box idea: they volunteered to park cars for the North Carolina Seafood Festival, which was an opportunity to hand [the owner of] each car parked a squadron brochure with the message, 'A Safe Boater is an Educated Boater.'"

In addition to their outreach efforts in boating safety awareness, the Fort Macon squadron partners with the North Carolina Maritime Museum, has members on the local NOAA weather station advisory committee and cultivates a relationship with the local Ship of the Sea Scouts. Also, because the local Coast Guard station closes their galley during Christmas week, squadron members joined with the local US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla to deliver a traditional home-cooked Christmas dinner to Coast Guard crew members who were working on Christmas Day.

Members of our local power squadron generously volunteer their time throughout the year to promote boating safety and educate the community. Those interested in classes or seminars sponsored by the US Power Squadrons may visit <http://www.usps.org/cgi-bin/nat/eddept/cfind.cgi?C>.

Congratulations to the Fort Macon Sail and Power Squadron on receiving the 2013 Distinguished Civic Service Award, and many thanks for your support of boating safety on the Crystal Coast.—The Editors

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