

Duluth Sail and Power Squadron

# Channel Chatter



United States Power Squadrons

Volume 2012 Issue 1

March, 2012

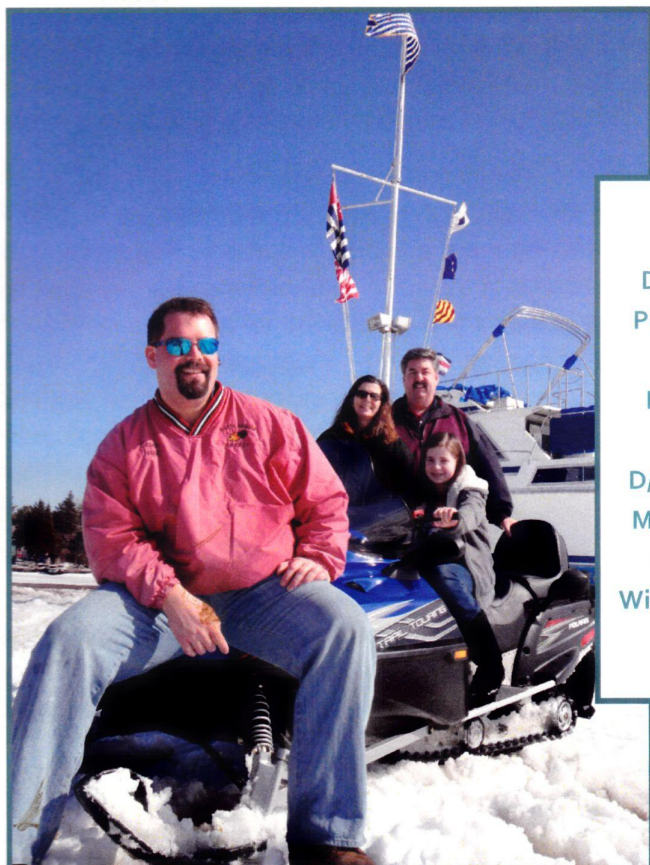
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The *Channel Chatter* is published six times per year for the members of the Duluth Sail and Power Squadron, a unit of United States Power Squadrons®.

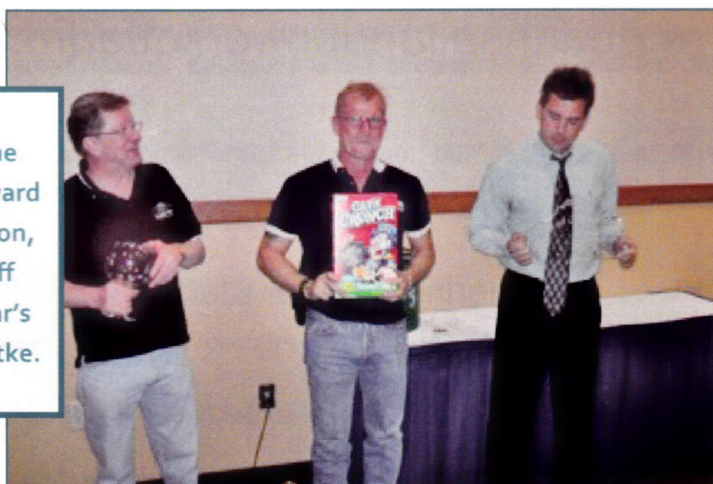
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Duluth Sail and Power Squadron Commander Pat Joyal, left, along with D/10 Commander Mike Skelley and family at the Winter Dock Party.

Nominees for the 2011 Calabash Award were Larry Evanson, Exec. Officer Jeff Hall, and this year's winner Jason Smitke.



## Bridge Officers 2012–2013

Commander	Cdr Patrick Joyal	H 651-674-8756 C 612-618-1576	pjdsgr7@netscape.net
Executive Officer			
Educational Officer	Lt/C Mary Rantala	H 218-724-1647	mlrantala@charter.net
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Secretary	Lt/C Paula Hall	H 218-728-0294 C 218-348-9470	pallahalla@msn.com
Treasurer	P/C Murray George, P	H 218-728-1567 C 218-310-6231	mgeorge44@aol.com
Immediate Past Commander	P/C David Stokes, S	H 218-879-4409 C 218-310-3972	dave@stokesmediahouse.tv

## Executive Committee Members at Large

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## Squadron Commander

Ahoy Everyone,

We are officially in the grips of March Madness! I know that term conjures up images of college basketball teams vying for the NCAA Championship and the bracket pools that go along with the tourney. However, the Madness to which I am referring is rooted in different origins...

I have accepted the Nomination Committee's invitation to become Commander of our Squadron for this watch year, and we held the Change of Watch event last weekend at Barker's island. The event was well attended and everyone had a great time. We were fortunate enough to have several of our children join us for the evening and awarded them with their own kid's table at the front of the room. It just happened to be coincidence that the table was right by the podium where we could keep an eye on them. In addition to the general organizational requirements and paperwork that go with changing of the bridge, I will be attending the District 10 conference in Madison on the weekend of March 24<sup>th</sup> along with several members of our new bridge.

Planning for the Fitting Out Party is underway, and by the time you receive this Channel Chatter, the flyer and donation solicitation letter should already have arrived at your homes. I strongly urge you to volunteer to help with something for the event. If you are unable to help out, please attend the event and tell all of your friends to do the same. This is our primary fundraising event and the majority of the funds are used to help with the dock expenses, so a successful event is very important to the continued health of our Squadron.

The Captain's Platter fishing tournament is our next big event after the Fitting Out Party, and is scheduled for Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Again, this is a big event and the more help all of you can offer, the less work everyone who helps has to do. The Captain's platter has become a great event that has allowed us to get our message out to area fishermen. We also have been successful at recruiting several new members from this fun event.

Our Spring Safe Boating Class is under way and I am happy to report that we have 12 students enrolled. We are focusing on rejuvenating the Education department this year by focusing on the basics and marketing to get the word out about our great classes. Education is our primary mission, and the classes give us a great opportunity to recruit more members.

I am excited to be the Commander for this watch year, but I really need all of your help to get the work done and keep our Squadron moving forward.

Respectfully,

-Pat Joyal

Commander, DSPS



Cdr Pat Joyal and Cole

**Squadron Educational Officer**

Mary Rantala SEO

Hi to Everyone,

I'm Mary Rantala, the new Education Officer for the Duluth Sail and Power Squadron.

My journey as a boater started in the mid 1970's. The first sailing adventure I had was in a Sunfish. On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, Steve took me out to the St. Louis Bay for my first sail. As you may or may not know, a Sunfish can be a wet boating experience. Very little freeboard, and basically you are sitting on the water. We sailed for a while, having a great time going back and forth in the St. Louis Bay, enjoying the sunshine and getting wet. Steve suggested that we call it a day and head in. Little did I know that the boat had a crack in the bottom and we were really sinking! We could hardly get the boat on the trailer.

We then purchased an AMC Puffer and had great fun with that. In February 1976 we got an O'Day 27, and that is the boat we still have today. Our five children have grown up on the boat and love sailing in the Apostle Islands.

I'm very excited to be the Education Officer for the Duluth Sail and Power Squadron, and look forward to getting to know everybody.

Don't forget—boating classes are for everyone!

Mary Rantala

SEO

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## Squadron Administrative Officer

Admin Lance Olson

Greetings Duluth Sail and Power Squadron members!

I am your new Administration Officer and I am looking forward to working for you this year and seeing you on the water. I have been involved with the Squadron only a few years now but I have been very impressed with the camaraderie within the organization and the good works that we do with educating boaters and the public in general and I am proud to be able to assist with that effort.

I have a long history of boating on Lake Superior having been raised in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and spending time on the lake in the Marquette and Houghton areas on my parents' boats. They currently have a President 42 and have just completed their second Great Loop. I got my first "big" boat in 1996 which was a 1972 Hallberg Rassy Rasmus 35, Hull #125. For those that don't know, that's a sailboat. That was also the year I was married, and although my new wife and I were rookie sailors when we took delivery, we worked hard and learned to sail the boat well over the next three seasons. In 1999, we renamed the boat *Freebird* and set off on our dream cruise from Duluth thru the Lower Lakes, Hudson River, Caribbean, and Pacific and landed in New Zealand. We spent a couple of years there re-establishing the cruising kitty and starting our family. We arrived as two and left as four with our beautiful little girls, Mackenzie and Samantha. We spent a couple of years in cruising SE Asia and then returned home when the girls were getting to school age.

Now the sailboat is sold and we have a 29' Sundancer. It's a big change from the sailboat, but now that I'm back in the working world I don't have time to wait for the wind on the weekends or holidays afloat so it's the right boat for the job although as the years pass the urge to sail again gets stronger. We are out most weekends during the boating season and usually have at least one trip to Isle Royale and the Apostles each year.

We have a great year planned with the Captain's Platter, Corn Roast, Mentor Duluth, and other activities in the works. I look forward to seeing you at these events and getting to know those of you who I haven't yet met.

Fair Winds,

Lance Olson

Administrative Officer

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## Duluth 2011-2012 Commander's Year-end Report

Commander David R. Stokes, S

As another Watch Year comes to a close, it's time to look back at our accomplishments and opportunities for improvement.

It's my humble opinion that, all in all, we had another year to be proud of. That said, of course there's always room for improvement, and that's just what we will do. We had several Bridge members who were suddenly burdened with life challenges that made it difficult for them to meet their goals. We continue to wish our members well who are going through hardships.

Like many volunteer organizations, it is difficult to find individuals to fill positions. As Commander, one of my objectives has been to stream-line and simplify our organization. If we don't make it easier to lead, we simply won't have leaders.

I'm proud to say that we are, by far, a leaner and more efficient Squadron moving forward than we have ever been. Despite real world life challenges, the DSPS future looks bright. As in any business, cuts and downsizing can be difficult. But I believe our Bridge has done a fantastic job finding balance. I strongly believe that our future leadership is better positioned to keep the DSPS healthy and viable far into the future.

This past year has been a mix of deep-rooted successful events as well as introducing fresh, new ways to engage our squadron with the community. Our corner-stone events like the Corn Roast and Captain's Platter continue to grow, while our new events like Mentor Duluth Kids Day and the East-West Sailboat Regatta generate new excitement.

Our newly formed education summit committee is poised to do great things for our members and non-members alike. We also look forward to working closely with our new SEO.

We have a top-notch Channel Chatter publication and Editor, Vessel Safety Check crew, River Quest Team, instructors, chefs, fishermen, dock maintenance crew, and the list goes on. Being surrounded by so much talent is truly a blessing, and I want to personally thank everyone for their support this past year.

I'd like to thank my entire family for allowing me to make the sacrifice and dedicate my time to leading this organization. I'd also like to thank my father, P/C Bob Stokes, AP for inspiring me to be a second generation commander and for giving us the gift of boating.

Here are a few of the highlights from our past season:

- \* An emphasis on fun and excitement
- \* Growing educational opportunities
- \* Dozens of opportunities for member involvement at all levels
- \* Strong emphasis on community involvement
- \* Events focused on new member recruitment and public involvement
- \* Continued stream-lining and simplification of the organizational structure

The DSPS is financially sound and has solid leadership at the helm for our new Watch Year. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you. I'll be honored to fly a P/C flag aboard the M/V Purr-ecious Time!

Smooth sailing to you all in the 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

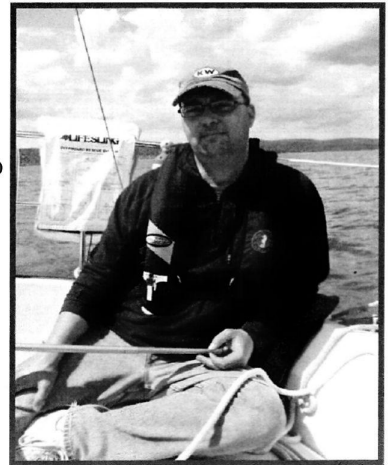
P/C David R. Stokes, S

## Executive Committee Member at Large

Hello fellow Squadron members,

I am one of the newly elected Members at Large for the 2012 watch year and would like to give those of you who don't know me a bit of an introduction.

I have been on or around water from a young age. My father took me and my siblings canoe camping on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers each summer throughout my childhood. I eventually took up sailing in my mid 20's and was hooked. I, along with my wife Tiffany, and daughter Madeline (6), love sailing on Lake Superior and "dinghy'n" to the beach. We've been sailing from Barker's Island Marina since 1998. New to the marine service industry, I joined the DSPS to meet and network with other boaters. I've been a member of the DSPS for one year. Safe boating is important to me and my family and I look forward to serving on the DSPS Bridge and furthering our mission.



**Paul Snider**  
Member at Large

Paul Snider

Member at Large

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## Roster Up-date Time

***New Email?***

***New Phone Number?***

***New Boat or Marina Location?***

The 2012 DSPS Roster will be published soon. **Please report any changes** in your contact information to Valerie Ouellette at [westernharbor@charter.net](mailto:westernharbor@charter.net) as soon as possible to be included in the new roster. If you do not have internet access, contact Valerie at 218-727-6079.

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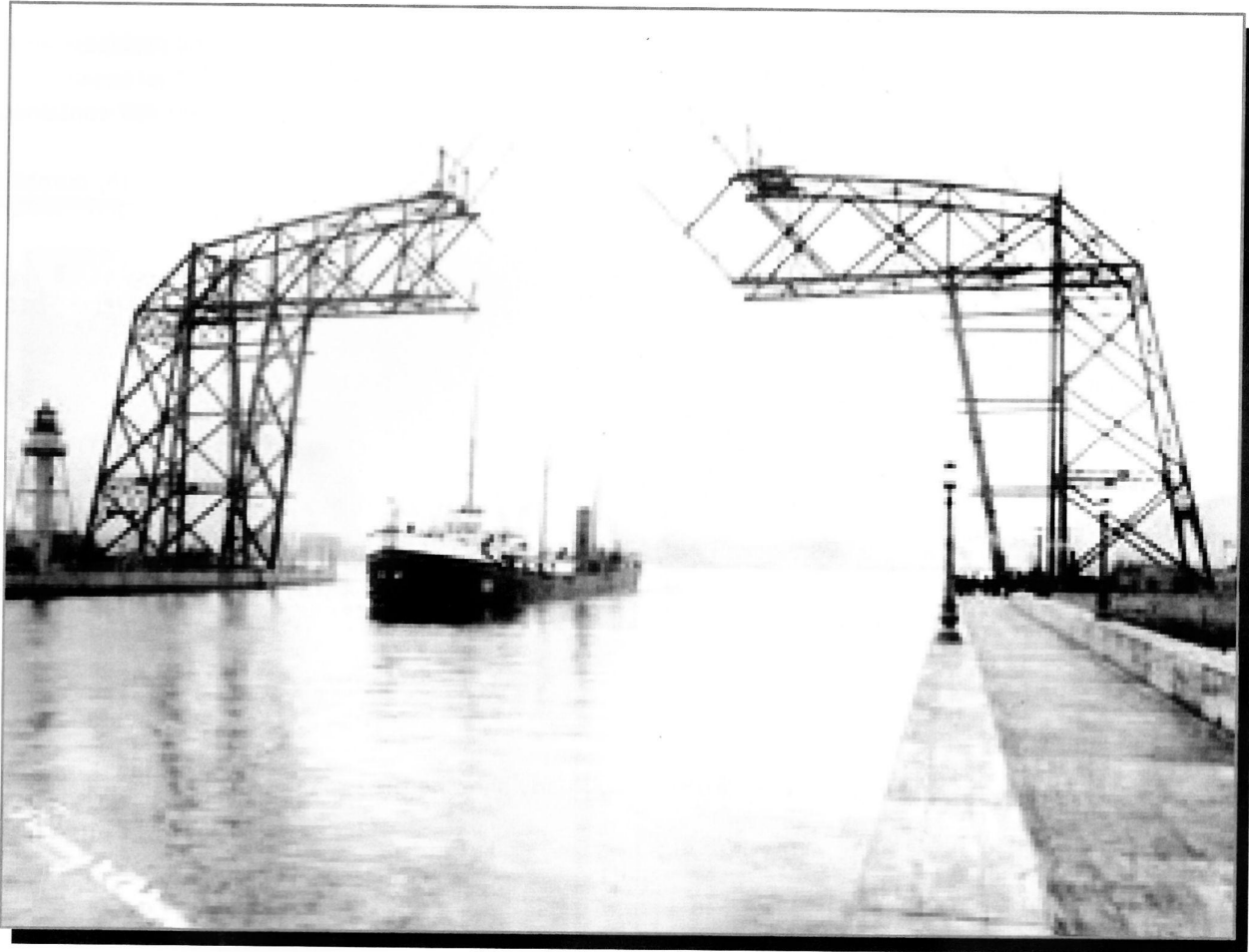
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Submitted by P/C Dave Carlson

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Orion Safety Products has issued a recall for two models of its hand-launched aerial signals, citing problems with the devices failing to launch and/or ignite.

The recall applies to older Orion XLT and 12-gauge signals made with orange ABS plastic. XLTs are self-contained, hand-launched signals, while 12-gauge signals have a pistol-style launch and a plastic shell.

In 2008, Orion switched from orange ABS to red-colored, glass-filled polyethylene for its better strength, durability and resistance to moisture. The last XLTs that used orange ABS in the launch tube body expire this month, while the last 12-inch gauge shells using the orange ABS plastic expire in March 2012.

If you have an XLT signal with an orange launch tube that has an expiration date between November 2011 and December 2011, or an orange 12-gauge shell that has an expiration date between November 2011 and March 2012, you are eligible to receive a free, four-pack replacement at no cost.

To obtain a replacement pack, submit the following information by email to [customerservice@orionsignals.com](mailto:customerservice@orionsignals.com), subject "SIGNAL REPLACEMENT," or by mail to Orion Safety Products, Attn. Signal Replacement Program, P.O. Box 1047, Easton, MD, 21601:

- Name
- Address
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- Expiration date

Customers are also asked to submit a photo of their signals, clearly showing the expiration date and lot number. Do not ship any signals back to Orion.

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DSPS members may place one want ad (3.5" x 2") free of charge. Continuation of the ad in subsequent issues may be purchased for \$10 per issue, payable in advance. Larger ads may be purchased by arrangements with the editor.

Checks should be made out to DSPS, and must be mailed by 4/20/12 for the May 15 issue.

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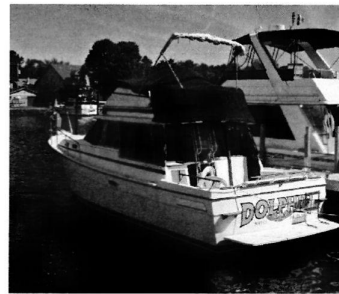


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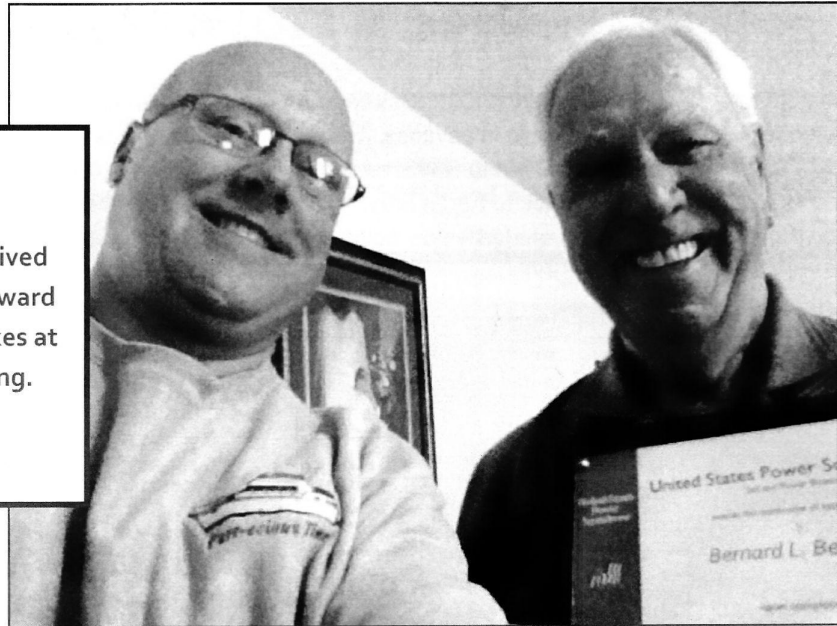
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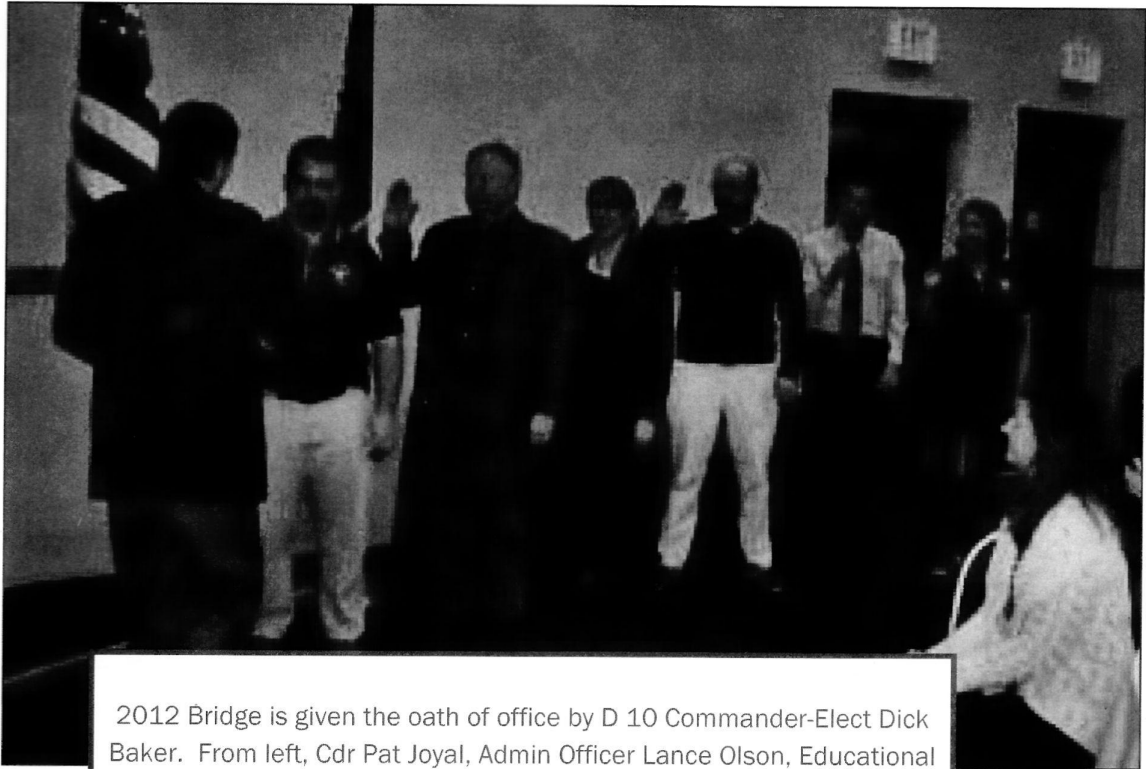
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Bernie Beatty received the USPS 50 year award from Cdr Dave Stokes at the annual meeting.



Duluth Sail and Power Squadron annual meeting at Tycoon's Alehouse and Eatery.

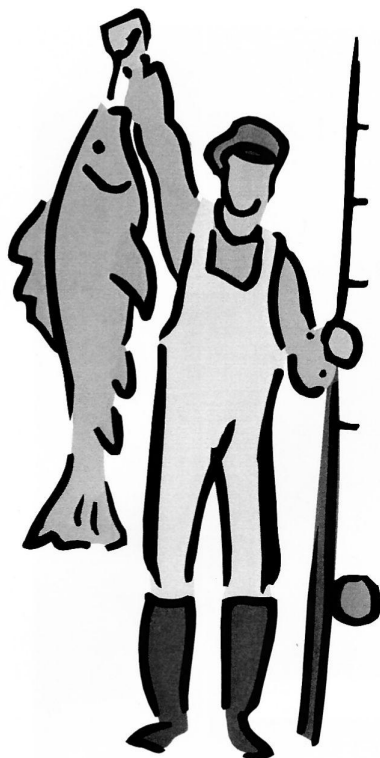


2012 Bridge is given the oath of office by D 10 Commander-Elect Dick Baker. From left, Cdr Pat Joyal, Admin Officer Lance Olson, Educational Officer Mary Rantala, Members at Large Paul Snider and Jason Smitke, and Secretary Paula Hall.



Dick Baker, Pat Joyal and Squadron kids relaxing in the pool after Change of Watch.

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## ***Captain's Platter Fishing Contest***

**Saturday, June 9  
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25 26 27 28 29 30  31

Safe boating

# ► April 2012

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4/28 Fitting Out  
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