

## Duluth Sail and Power Squadron

# Channel Chatter



United States Power Squadrons

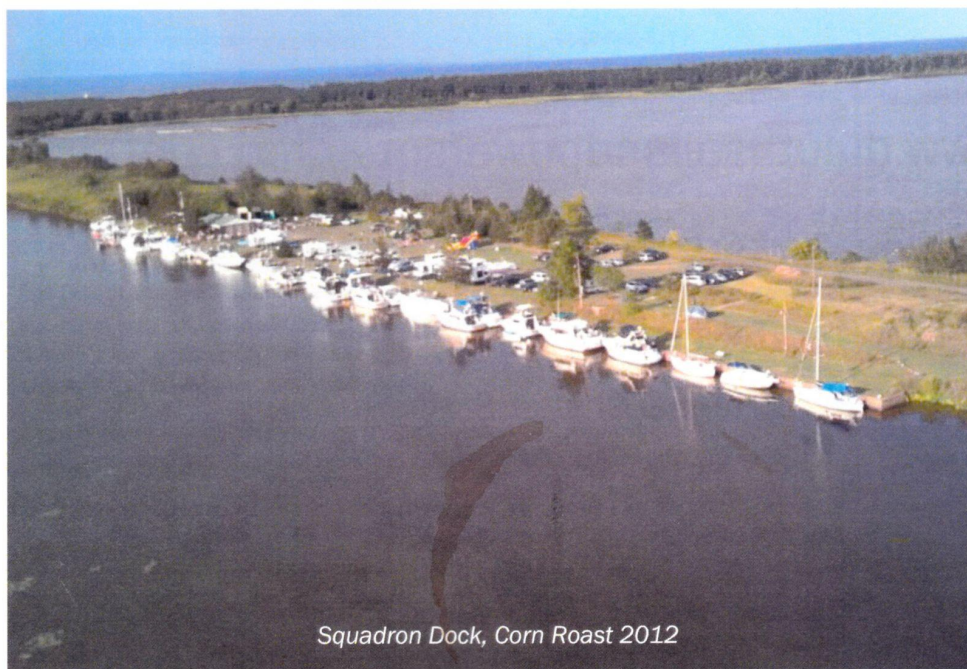
Hello Everyone,

We put the "HELP WANTED" sign in the window of the Channel Chatter a few months ago. That sign is now brightly lit in neon! Having put together many, many wonderful Channel Chatter issues over the last several years, Karen Bray has decided to move on and give another individual the opportunity to pick up and run with the torch. I want to give Karen the Squadron's utmost thanks for the incredible work she has done, and my personal thanks to her for her help and guidance with the Chatter and various other publications that running our Squadron requires be completed. She is always cheerful, helpful, and ready to roll up her sleeves to do what is needed, and it has been a pleasure working with her!

The issue you are reading is the last that will be forthcoming until we find a new editor for the Channel Chatter. I strongly encourage anyone who is interested in this important and rewarding position to contact me to discuss it.

Thanks for your consideration,

-Pat Joyal  
Commander  
DSPS



Squadron Dock, Corn Roast 2012

Volume 2012 Issue 4

October, 2012

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*Photos in this issue are by P/C Todd Carlson, P/C Dave Stokes, P/C Bob Ouellette, and Valerie Ouellette.*

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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## Squadron Educational Officer

SEO Mary Rantala

We had a great summer and now with the boating season winding down it's time to look at expanding our boating knowledge. The squadron offered a weather class this fall. I felt that with all the unpredictable weather that we had this summer it was a good class to have.

Looking ahead to winter classes there has been some interest in the Seamanship class. The Seamanship course extends the knowledge and skills of the boater in handling and maneuvering a vessel, both power and sail. The course provides a better understanding of how boats behave under various conditions. One's knowledge and skills are increased in the areas of anchoring, emergencies and rules of the road. This is a class that a lot of



us could benefit from.

There will also be an ABC class offered this coming spring. This is an excellent class for the basic fundamentals of boating.

The squadron is in need of teachers for the upcoming sessions, so if you would like to learn more about becoming certified to teach please contact Pat Joyal or myself. We have some great teachers now but this is an area that falls under "the more the better" scenario.

I hope to see everybody in class.

## Membership

As we come to the close of another Duluth boating season, I would like to officially welcome those who joined us, as new members or associate members, during the 2011-2012 watch.

"Welcome Aboard":

Scott Schoeler	Christopher Schnepfer	Chris Spokely
Tom Linderholm	Arthur Johnston	Mary Rantala
Aaron Dandrea	Ryan Ohr	Steve Lawrence
Steve Becker	Elizabeth Becker	Allison Becker

I also want to give a huge shout out to all of you who have been and continue to be members of the Duluth Sail and Power Squadron. A squadron is only as strong as its ability to grow, and to do so, it has to retain its current members. So, **thank you!**

A reminder to all members, new and continued:

As a member it is your responsibility to step up and become a productive member of your squadron. To help your squadron be successful, you need to volunteer.

The Duluth Sail and Power Squadron is a group of individuals who have come together with a common interest in boating. The goal of the squadron is to help educate others on **safe boating**. This does not mean you have to donate a huge amount of time. After all, who has a huge amount of spare time these days anyways. If each and every one of us, steps forward and gives an hour a week or several hours a month, together we can make great strides.

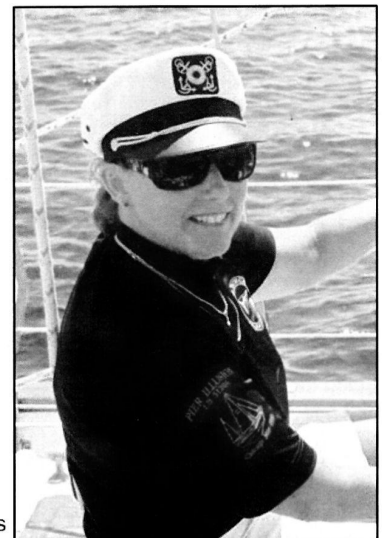
If you have an interest in some specific area; Hospitality, Membership, Education, Communications, Photography, Public Relations, Writing, ...etc., there is a place for your skills and talent within the squadron.

To get more involved in your squadron, give me or any one of your Bridge Officers a call.

Have a fabulous fall,

Lt/C Paula J Hall

218-348-9470



Paula J Hall  
Secretary and Membership Chair

## Squadron Administrative Officer

Admin Officer Lance Olson, P

It is a Saturday in early October and I am on my boat preparing for haul out tomorrow. It's about 40 degrees outside, maybe colder, and about 50 in the boat. I just started the heater so it will be cozy soon. The boat is ready but, as is typical, I am not ready to end the season. Haul out will mean oil changes and draining the water system; engine and outdrive maintenance; cleaning out the boat; and final preparations for winter storage. I'm just not ready for all that yet.

This has been a great year on the water and my daughters, at ages 8 and 10, have risen to the challenge with improved boat handling, dock skills, and general live aboard aptitude. Mackenzie, my oldest, has definitely proved her worth in handling the boat. During the Corn Roast Dingy Run, we were boarded by the Coast Guard and she drove the boat while I talked with the boarding crew. We had been boarded earlier in the year, so they didn't have much to inspect, but we had a long talk while waiting for their vessel to retrieve them and I used the opportunity to educate them on our Vessel Inspection Program. Samantha has also been a great help this summer. She has learned to handle the lines and I think that by the time she is 12 she could be teaching the knot tying class.

Just now, I hear some engines outside, so I slide open the hatch and see *First Thing Monday* coming in to dock. I jump out and take their lines and find past Commanders Len Robinson, Dave Stokes, and Todd Carlson with a few friends coming in for dinner from the Squadron Dock. They encourage me to come up for a drink even though I am trying to finish this article. I put them off and tell them I'll be up in bit after I put some more words down.

Well, it's Sunday morning, the sun's out and the weather looks good for next weekend so I think I'll put off the haul out for another week and spend the day on the water.

Lt/C Lance R. Olson, P

Administration Officer

## Admin Department News

### Mentor Duluth

Mentor Duluth is a Twin Ports based organization which matches adults with children who can benefit from positive role models. Community members and children are matched based on similar interests and personality. Our relationship with Mentor Duluth started last year and we expanded it this year to two events. Our second event with Mentor Duluth for this season was on September 15. The format included mentors along with their mentees which was a little different from past events when we had mentees only, but we still emphasized boating safety as the key takeaway from the event. Following a hands on demonstration of life jacket use and a presentation on boating safety, we took them all out on the water. These kids don't often get the opportunity to enjoy this aspect of the Twin Ports and they are always enthusiastic and appreciative. Thanks to Pat Joyal, Reed Byers, and Bob Ouellette for the use of their boats and their expertise.



### Corn Roast

The Corn Roast was a great time as always. The food was awesome – thanks to Jason, Tom, Todd and Pat for spearheading the meals. Dave Stokes provided a great summary of the entire weekend, so please read his article in this issue of Channel Chatter.

### Christmas Party

The Christmas Party is planned for November 17 in the Armchair Lounge at Grandma's Sports Garden. We are planning a gourmet pizza buffet with a cash bar and it should be a lot of fun. I think you will all have your boats put away by then so we hope to see you there. Mark this date in your calendar and watch your mailbox for further details.

### Merit Marks

Merit mark submissions are due soon. We have tried to capture everyone who helped out with various events throughout the year, but just in case, please submit your hours worked to Len Robinson (lrobinson@nwoutlet.com) to insure that you get credit for time spent and that you get your 2012 merit mark (see merit mark form on page 12). Remember, after only 25 merit marks, you get free membership for life.



## Executive Committee Member at Large

1/Lt Tom Linderholm

### The Thrill of the Catch

Throughout the year I pride myself in spending time on the water in various ways, whether it's wading in the Brule chasing steelhead, staring down an 8 inch hole in the ice waiting for a walleye to tug on my line or trolling across the Gitch washing lures hoping for my next personal best fish. During this time I find myself constantly wondering what it will take to get that next fish to bite. Most of the time the fish I pursue are fickle creatures where it takes getting out of the norm to capitalize on that next bite, however, once in a blue moon Mother Nature gives you a day on the water that makes up for all of those slower days.

This past August produced a few of these days as I joined P/C Todd Carlson and a few others on a "fishing trip of a lifetime" bound for Isle Royale. Our route was planned to take us all the way around the rock with plenty of time set aside for taking in the surreal natural beauty of our Lake Superior National Park. We spent a few hours each day trolling for lunker lake trout as we made our way around the island, and luck would have it we managed to land a few of those lunkers.

On one of our picture perfect mornings while working our way down the south side of the Isle I had the pleasure of hooking into what was soon to be my next personal best Lake Trout. The fish had hit the lure hard making for a quick release from the downrigger and had the reel producing a sound I had only heard on Lake Michigan while fishing for King Salmon. I quickly picked up the rod and began what was soon to be an arm numbing experience while the fish on the line decided that he wasn't going to go easily. After what seemed to be half the morning of picking up ground on the fish only for him to spool the line back off we had our first sighting in the crystal clear waters of the lake. It

was indeed a fish of a lifetime! We had cleared the rest of our lines to make a landing strip for my Lake Trout and managed to cleanly net it and bring it aboard. It was a beautiful fish measuring 38 inches in length and nearly 2 feet in girth. After a couple quick photos and some measurements it was time for this fish to go back into the lake. I commonly release Lake Trout unlike Salmon, these

majestic fish can reach ages upwards of 30+ years; this fish based on its size was nearing that age and was well worthy of living the rest of his life out on the bottom.



It's hard to say whether the release of this greenstone gem was more enjoyable than the catch. However, after climbing down and lying on the swim deck to gently put this fish back in the water it was beginning to become apparent that this release was going to be. This fish had put up a fight and had used up all of its energy to avoid what he must have thought to be the end. After roughly 20 minutes of massaging its belly and raising its head to help release the air in the swim bladder he began to come back to life. I could begin to feel him twitch his tail as he was trying to tell me he was nearing ready to go. His energy began to build and he made a couple half hearted darts towards the bottom but I knew he wasn't quite there yet. A couple more minutes had passed and then with one big shake, he shook loose and began his trek back down to the bottom.

It's moments like that, that keep the thrill of the catch ever present in our minds.

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## Executive Committee Member at Large

1/Lt Paul Snider

### The Off Season

Living and sailing on Lake Superior we accept that our sailing seasons are limited. Some years though it seems that haul out comes sooner than expected. This summer was no different. Despite being one of the warmest summers on record, fall is here and the boat must be put up for the winter.

### A Time to Reflect

Haul out for me is a time to reflect upon the season and evaluate our achievements and missed opportunities. Inevitably each season has both successes and failures. Having a grade-schooler has changed the way we sail and use our boat. As mentioned in a previous article, Madeline exhibited a fear of heeling this year. As a result, we carefully watched the weather, trimmed our sails a little less aggressively and tried to maintain a more even keel. Something new this year was a short motor trip up the St. Louis River to the ore docks and a nice sail back to the marina.

Along with fond memories of seeing our daughter take interest in boat tasks like tossing dock lines to dad and dinghy trips to the beach, come thoughts of missed opportunities. Intentions to invite friends that never occurred, and projects left incomplete or never started.

### A Time to Plan

These missed opportunities are not necessarily all bad. My spring commissioning and project list usually gets written even before the winter cover goes on. The list will change many times between now and spring, but that is part of what keeps me sane over the winter.

The off season will afford us the chance to dream about next summer, plan for next season's projects, and share memories of another wonderful summer on the water. Only six and a half months until launch, I better get that list started. On second thought, there is snow in the forecast, let me put the winter cover on first.



Paul Snider

Member at Large

## VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

*This year our examiners completed 151 exams with 141 receiving a passing grade. Eight examiners received a merit mark for their work. I do say **THANK YOU** for a job well done.*

*There have been some changes to the rules so we will have a class early next spring for a refresher and update to the changes. Watch your emails for an announcement as to when and where this will take place. This will be when I receive the new decals.*

**P/C David Carlson SN**

**VSC Chairman**



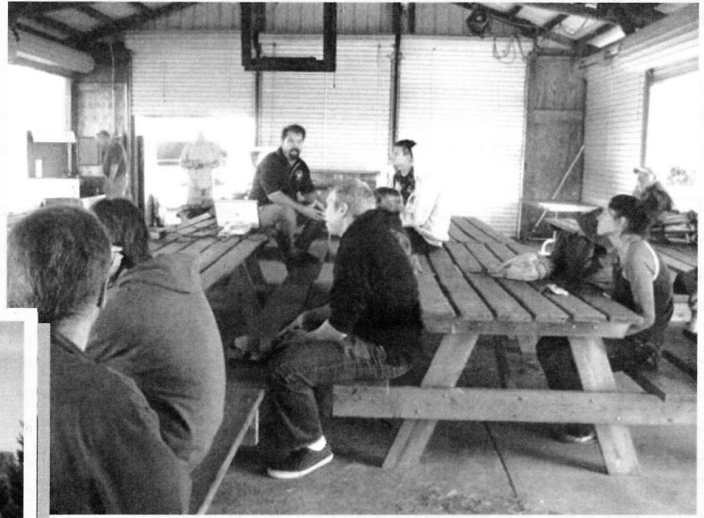
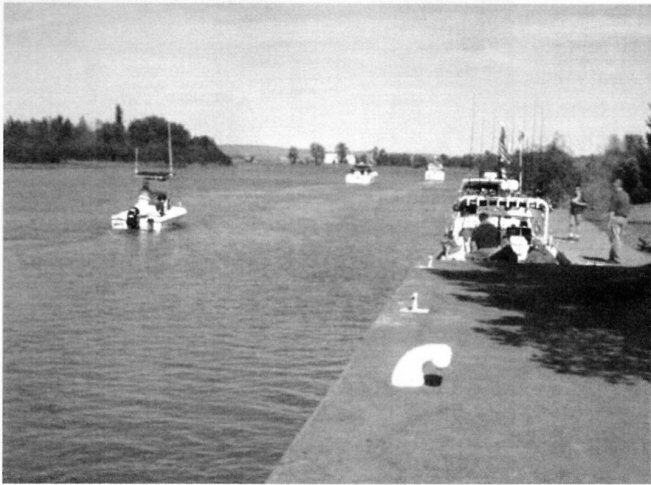
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## Mentor Duluth Day at the Squadron Dock



### From the Editor:

It has been my pleasure to work on the Channel Chatter for the last 7 years. I'd like to sincerely thank all who have contributed stories, photos, words of encouragement, comments and feedback. I'd also like to thank our advertisers (we couldn't do it without you) and especially P/C Dave Carlson for selling the ads, and P/C Todd Carlson and Carol Hesch for managing the mailing lists. I strongly encourage anyone who has the slightest interest to contact Cdr Pat and discuss the editor position.

I have enjoyed it very much!

**Karen Bray**



## Corn Roast Wrap-up

P/C David R. Stokes, S

It's hard to believe the 2012 Corn Roast is already behind us. As a child the Corn Roast was one of the most anticipated things of the summer! I'm so proud to see that tradition continue for Tanner and all of the kids young and old.

When P/C Murray George asked me to chair the event 7 years ago I had no idea what I was getting myself into. That said, it's been a fun ride, plus it's been very rewarding to watch the weekend at the Squadron Dock grow into a family destination. The Corn Roast is one of our Squadron's most treasured traditions. I'm very proud to see the next generation of leadership taking the reigns and doing such a great job.

Admin officer and event chair, Lance Olson, did a fine job making sure all the committees were on task. Our food crews are always incredible from Commander Joyal's Ribs to Tom Linderholm's shrimp boil & overall weekend expertise. P/C & 100 Ton Capt. Mr. Bibby also treats us to heartfelt meaningful invocations at meal time. The Smitke's did a fine job tackling the Perkins Pancake feed and it was great to see Daryle Rock, Gloria DeSmedt & P/C Bob Stokes back on the Crew. I'd also like to thank Captain Chris Spokely and Niki for their help and support.

P/C Jerry Carlson was even serving this year; very impressive! It's always great to see so many past commanders still support the Squadron-- we salute you!!! There are too many names to mention that make this event an annual success. It's always great to see the old hands and the new faces working together.



The kids were lined up for the Pony & Horseback rides and they were grinning ear to ear. We missed Bill and Katie Gooder this year for the kids' games, but Lance took charge and pulled off some fantastic fun competition. We had another record year with over 55 kids in attendance!

I am not sure how we have secured sunny skies and 80 degree weather for the past 7 years, but it's been a real treat. The dock was full with some rafted 3 deep, plus there were more than 15 RV's and tents lining the property. On top of that, it was great to have the US Coast Guard, DNR, & Sheriff boats in attendance with tours provided for the membership. The new horse-shoe pits were clanging away thanks to Glenn Pratt, Dock Master Paul Lind and the Grabbers! This is a fun, new addition to the dock.



Festivities continued into the night as Karaoke was a hoot and The Shack Shakers loaded the dance floor, sounding tighter than ever. Congrats to our new Corn King & Queen, Bill Carlson & Wynn. They are truly royalty.





I'd like to thank our sponsors who come back year after year and make all the things we've come to expect possible.

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And all the members who make additional financial contributions to the event!

It's also great to see our friends from other clubs not only join us, but jump right in and lend a hand! Thanks guys!

The 242

Duluth Yacht Club

Barkers Island Yacht Club

The crew from Spirit Lake Marina

We should all be proud of our current Bridge under the leadership of Commander Joyal. Let's keep this Squadron moving forward with new faces, great energy and fresh ideas. Don't hesitate to step up and be a part of the next command. Take it from me; it will be well worth your time.

It's been an honor to serve you!

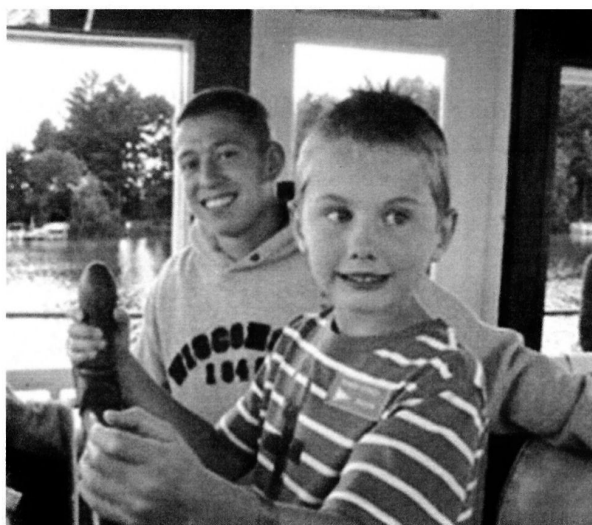
Past Commander David R. Stokes



## D-10 Summer Rendezvous

P/C David Stokes


The District 10 Summer Rendezvous to Waupaca, WI was a true delight. The Stokes family and P/C Dave and Corrine Carlson enjoyed the adventure on the Chain of Lakes in central Wisconsin. Among the highlights included a dingy ride in the crystal clear waters, a dinner cruise aboard the paddle wheeler Chief Waupaca and thrills at the water park. Remember, district events are open to all members and they are a great way to get to know others in our vast boating community. Duluth has hosted district rendezvous events in the past and will be hosting one to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of USPS and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Duluth Sail and Power Squadron.






## Member's Marketplace



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. Contact Karen Bray at 218-348-1191.



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What a surprise to give to the Captain of the ship for Christmas!

### Duluth Sail and Power Squadron Merit Mark Information Form

Name (as it appears on certificate): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Certificate Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron Member of \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which activities you have been involved with since January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. Please use additional space to list activities which do not appear on form.

#### Education

Classes Taught or assisted \_\_\_\_\_ Number of times \_\_\_\_\_  
 Classes proctored \_\_\_\_\_ Number of times \_\_\_\_\_  
 Helped organize/coordinate classes \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Developed teaching aids \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Interviewed Public Boating Class members \_\_\_\_\_ Number of times \_\_\_\_\_

#### Office Held / Committees Served On

Position Held \_\_\_\_\_ Number of meetings attended \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position Held \_\_\_\_\_ Number of meetings attended \_\_\_\_\_  
 Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Number of meetings attended \_\_\_\_\_  
 Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Number of meetings attended \_\_\_\_\_  
 National or District Office Held \_\_\_\_\_

#### Meetings / Events

Presentations at General Meetings / Events \_\_\_\_\_  
 Content of presentation \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 National or District Conferences attended \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organized District Events \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organized / Helped with Squadron Events \_\_\_\_\_  
 Responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Developed / Mailed flyers. Event \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Geodetic Markers filed \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_

#### Etc.

Distributed Safe Boating Material (where) \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vessel Safety Check Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Number of checks done \_\_\_\_\_  
 River Quest Participant \_\_\_\_\_ Number of sessions \_\_\_\_\_  
 Promoted USPS/DPS How? \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dock Cleanup / Projects \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wrote articles/submitted photo for Publication \_\_\_\_\_  
 Content of article / photo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Calling Committee - number of calls made \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other activities & activities not listed above: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit by mail to: P/C Len Robinson

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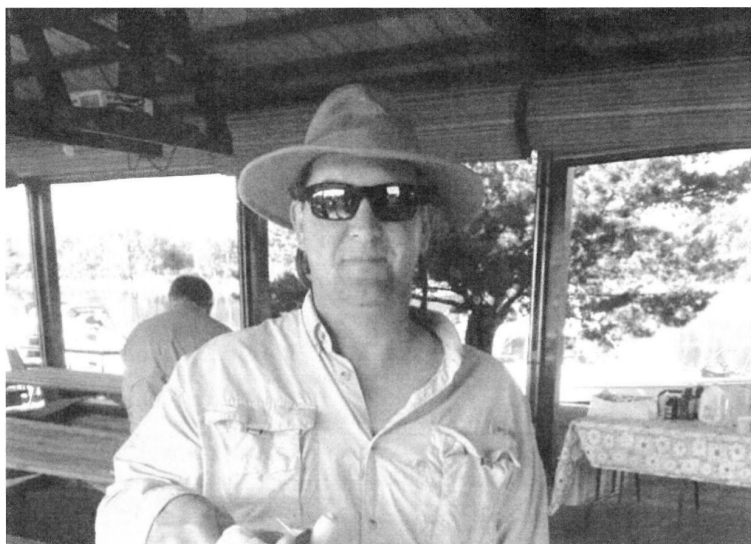
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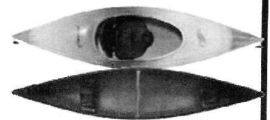
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