

Duluth Sail and Power Squadron

Channel Chatter



United States Power Squadrons

Navigating 2014

Volume 2015 Issue 1

Winter 2014-15

Inside this issue:

Commander	3
Education	4
Administration	4
Executive Office	5
Treasurer	5
Secretary	6
Nominating Committee	6
Calendar	7
The Year in Photos	8
Editor's Note	23



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P/C Editor Dave Stokes and members

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Commander's Report

Hello DSPS Members and Friends,

You should have received your invitation to the Annual Meeting by now which means that Change of Watch is just around the corner, so this is a good time to reminisce about the past year.

Arguably, the biggest event of the year was our hosting of the district Rendezvous and all the activities that go along with this event. Len Robinson and Dave Stokes and their support team did a great job with organizing this, so I was able to relax and enjoy it. I have heard an enormous amount of praise regarding our running of the event from those in attendance, so I hope you were able to attend and participate. If not, our special Rendezvous Edition of the *Channel Chatter* captured some of the fun.

The rest of the year was filled with all of our traditional annual activities, ranging from the Fitting Out Party in the spring, which is one of our primary fundraisers, to the Corn Roast in the fall, which is our end-of-season party to say goodbye to our boats for another northern winter. I want to give a special thanks to Paul Lind, our Dockmaster, for all his work behind the scenes to keep the dock in tip top condition. It takes a substantial effort to keep the dock in shape, so please extend your thanks to Paul when you see him.

This is my last article as Commander, so I want to take this time to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve you, the Squadron and the community, and I look forward to continue to serve you in the future. As shown in the proposed slate of officers which was included with the Annual Meeting invitation, we have a great team coming in to lead this organization and I am confident that they will do an excellent job leading it forward.

Serving on the Bridge was a rewarding experience for me, and I encourage anyone who has an interest to come forward and participate. For the past several years, we have not had Assistants for our Executive, Administrative or Education Officers but these are great opportunities to get involved and learn the inner workings of the Squadron.

You can also get involved in membership, community outreach, education or numerous other areas. This can be a large or small commitment as meets your desires and lifestyle. If you have an interest in any of these, please let



one of the bridge officers know – we can't find you if you don't raise your hand.

The days are getting longer now so it's a good time to start thinking about these opportunities as we also think about getting our boats out of storage. I was out in the barn tinkering with my boat over the past weekend and am already getting excited to launch. It will be here before we know it.

Cheers,

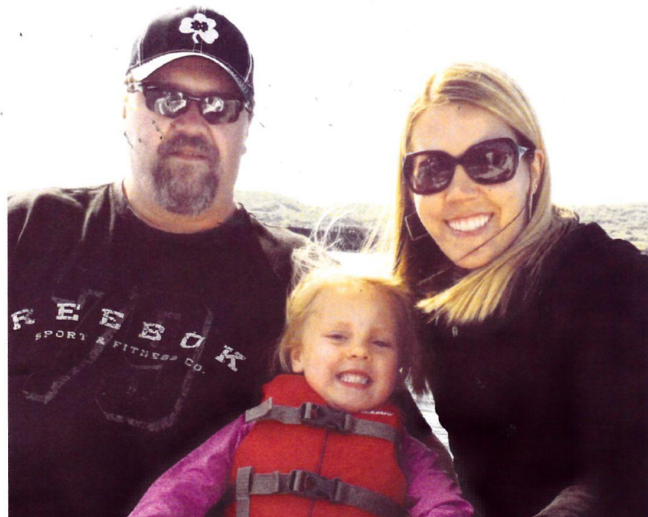
Cdr. Lance R. Olson, P
Duluth Sail & Power Squadron

Educational Officer's Report

I'd like to begin by introducing myself. My name is Chad Lowney and I am currently the Squadron Education Officer of the Duluth Sail and Power Squadron. I am a lifelong resident of Superior, Wisconsin. I reside in the Billings Park neighborhood with my wife, Stacy, and 5-year-old daughter, Dakota Jane. Stacy and I have had a few sailboats and loved to race, but now are the proud owners of a Cruisers Inc. 338 Chateau Vee.

Growing up I took full advantage of what Barkers Island had to offer. Whether it was fishing from the Island shore or sailing on my dad's San Juan 28, I was always taken in by the water. I remember watching the marina and hotel being built and thinking, this is going to be great! As a kid, sailing was always a mystery to me. I taught myself how to sail by watching my father and asking questions along the way, trying not to annoy my dad too much. I always thought my dad was a little too trusting by letting his 15-year-old son have free rein over a new 28-foot sailboat by paying for half the cost of insurance. (I was happy to pay.)

One of the reasons I joined the Power Squadron was for education. I really enjoy learning and keeping my mind fresh. Whether it be for safety or maintenance, I believe that being as informed as possible makes navigating the Big Lake that much more enjoyable. As I sink my teeth into the Education Officer position, I would ask that you all check the website regularly for upcoming classes and/or



seminars. I've had a lot of help from the bridge and past commanders with ideas and information that will move our education department to the front of the class! I promise that the next three years will be filled with classes and seminars that will attract new and old members alike!

Here's to a short winter.

Lt/C Chad Lowney

Administrative Officer's Report

Greetings,

I hope winter has treated you well. It has been great so far not to have all the snow and bitter cold as we slip into February. Not long and we can start thinking about waking up our boats. That is a very good thing.

As of this writing, the countdown is 3 months, 5 days and 22 hours until my new *Windtalker* splashes down. That's right, we said goodbye to the 30-foot Trojan *Windtalker*. She now is a member of my good friend the pirate aka Jason Yecohenco's family. She will treat them well and I'll get to see her every day this season as we will share the same dock this year. It will bring me much happiness to watch him get to know a new ship. My new *Windtalker* is sleeping now, but not for long. I plan on looking in on her very soon and wake her up. She is a beautiful 10-meter Trojan international sedan model, just a shade over 33 feet and a beam of 13.8. She is red, my favorite color. She is set up perfectly for fishing and cruising. She will be in the islands this summer for a 3-week family

vacation. Can't wait to splash her and hear the big block 454's rumble! Then get to know her and welcome her into my family – not too much longer.

Also, my time on the bridge has come to an end. I'm off to explore different things and spend every second on the water I can. My kids are getting older and getting ready for college and their life and place in the world, so I want to spend as much time as I can with them. I will still be a VSC Inspector, so get those inspections done and call me or one of the other inspectors when you need one. Have a great spring and summer. See you on the water. Calm seas and smooth sailing. *Windtalker* out.

Lt/C Jason A. Smitke, aka *Windtalker*



Executive Officer's Report

Let's not forget about the little things...

It's true, sometimes the simplest item overlooked can end up costing you substantially. As we brace for our annual spring thaw and start to gather our lists to fit the boats out, don't forget the little things.

Last year one of these little things was double-checking a strainer cap to ensure it was tight. Every year during haul out, I clean my strainers as I prepare for the hard. Last year in the process of getting back on the water I overlooked double checking that these were tight. On an initial run across the bay to our beloved Squadron dock, this overlooked item caused the port engine to overheat as it had vapor locked. After allowing the engine to cool, I went through the motions of identifying the issue. After looking over all the usual suspects, changing an impeller that looked perfectly fine, a thermostat that tested out and checking coolant, I came across the strainer top that was about a quarter-turn loose. Lo and behold, the problem was solved. Or so I thought...

A week later I readied my boat for the annual Jaws Derby fishing contest and headed over to Barkers Island Marina for the weekend. As I entered the channel and came off of plane, that same engine that had overheated apparently had a bit of internal damage. It began knocking really loud, as if someone dropped a brick of firecrackers in the bilge of the boat. After numerous consultations from fellow boaters it was decided that the end result of this event was I had dropped a piston seal due to the overheating of the engine.

Being it was a late summer, with ice into June, this was no way to start the summer. With help from fellow squadron



members, I was guided in the right direction of whom, how and where to get an engine pulled, bored and rebuilt (in a hurry). The process took about a week, from diagnosis to placing the engine back into the boat, and back off the dock.

I truly believe had it not been through the network of squadron members, this process would have been stretched into at least twice the time, and easily more than twice the cost. It truly is the little things that we overlook that cause us the most pain (boating) and the most pleasure (members).

Thank you Duluth Sail & Power Squadron Members!

Lt/C Tom Linderholm

Treasurer's Report

Greetings fellow boaters,

As spring approaches, plans for the upcoming boating season are starting to take shape. As I'm sure most of you are, I am also looking forward to making some boat improvements, taking trips with family and friends, and just enjoying time spent on the water.

As Treasurer of your Duluth Sail & Power Squadron for the past two watch years, I'm looking forward to another year of service. I particularly enjoy helping with and attending the Fitting Out Party in the spring. However, this will be my last year as Treasurer. My departure at the end of the 2015-

16 will open up an opportunity for others to serve! If you or someone you know is interested in fulfilling the role of Treasurer beginning with the 2016-17 watch year, please contact me. I'd be happy to explain the position, its responsibilities and tasks as well as provide some "on the job" training. Enjoy your winter activities, make your plans for summer, and I'll see you at the Fitting Out Party this spring!

Lt/C Paul Snider



Secretary's Report

Susan and I moved to Duluth in 2008. Although Duluth was my hometown, we knew "You can't go back again." We realized we would be trying new things. Taking a DSPS class at Central our first winter here was a good example. As a result of taking the class, I became a wharf rat. During the summer months you can find me most days at our boat ... or on your boat. It is funny how something as simple as taking a class can change your life ... and checkbook balance to the degree it has.

I have been Secretary for one year and am slated for election for a second term. Originally I agreed to this role because I felt we all need to do something for the Squadron. I thought this would be as good a solution as any to fulfill a time and energy commitment need often mentioned in the *Channel Chatter* and at various Squadron functions.

This role has created some nice surprises. Aside from getting a better feel for the annual rhythm of Squadron events and activities, I have been able to get to know others on the Bridge as well as many more boaters better. I have learned who might be able to offer advice on specific questions I might have, such as pros and cons about boats we are interested in buying, networking towards these potential purchases, trips we might take, mechanics best suited for specific issues, where the fish might be, as well as recipes. Sometimes we forget that offering our time is a two-way street. Yes, the Squadron receives benefit from our service, but we also benefit from the equation. We become more informed and better-equipped boaters and have some fun along the way. We give but also get at the same time.



Susan and I have found not only a fun hobby but a more fulfilling life in Duluth through our involvement with the Squadron. We now have a larger social group that is not only active during the ice-free months but lasts throughout the year. Our life at this unusual place we know as Duluth has been enriched by meeting all of you and we look forward to many more years of fun both on the water and on land with you.

I can't wait for one of those summer afternoons where the waves twinkle in the sunlight, you feel the slap of a walleye chop on the fiberglass, you hear The Eagles loud and clear from "See Ya Later," and the beer is almost too cold to hold.

Lt/C Reed Byers

Nominating Committee

In accordance of the bylaws of the Duluth Power Squadron, the Nominating Committee has selected the following slate for the elected officers and the elected committees for the 2015-2016 term. The required election of officers and elected committees will be held at the annual meeting on February 19, 2015. As you can see there are some opportunities to serve. The Nominating Committee will be working to fill the slate by the annual meeting. Please give serious consideration to helping your Squadron fulfill its mission.

Commander: P/C Len Robinson, S
Executive Officer: Lt/C Tom Linderholm
Education Officer: Lt/C Chad Lowney, P

Administrative Officer: OPEN POSITION

Secretary: Lt/C Reed Byers

Treasurer: Lt/C Paul Snider

Past Commander: P/C Lance Olson, P

Executive Committee Members at Large

1. P/C Dave Carlson, SN
2. I/Lt Duane Flynn, AP
3. OPEN POSITION
4. OPEN POSITION

Nominating Committee: P/C Lance Olson, P

Audit Committee: OPEN POSITION

Rules Committee: OPEN POSITION

Annual Meeting and Elections

Thursday, February 19, 2015

At VIP, 1201 Tower Ave., Superior

5:30 Social
6:30 Dinner and Business Meeting
7:00 Program

Business Meeting Topics
Summary of 2014: Outgoing Remarks
from 2014-2015 Bridge Officers
2015-2016 Officer and Committee Elections

Program
Pending & Proposed Duluth Harbor Infrastructure Projects
Presented by Chad Scott, President, AMI Consulting

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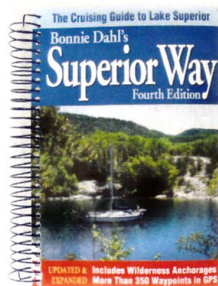
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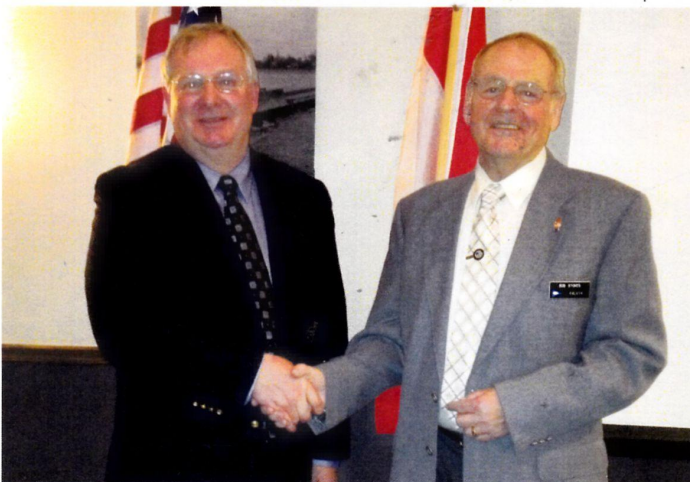
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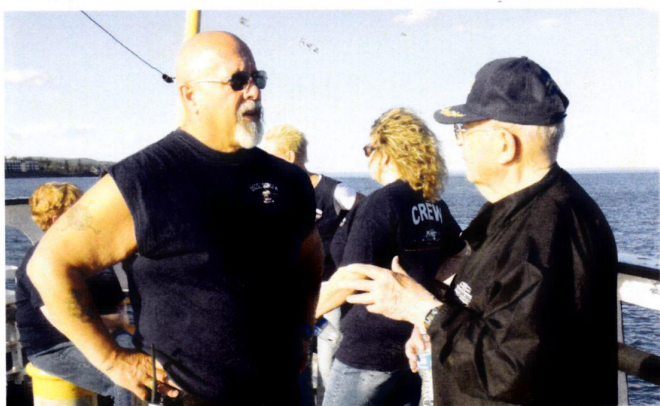
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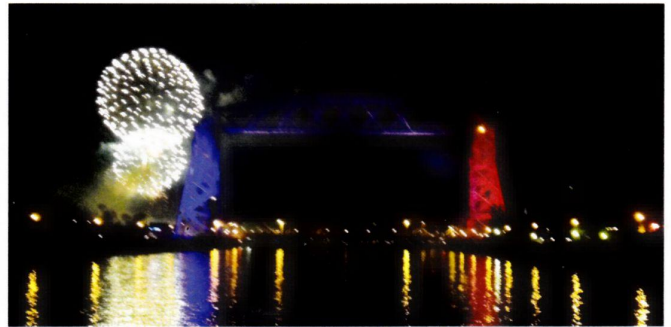
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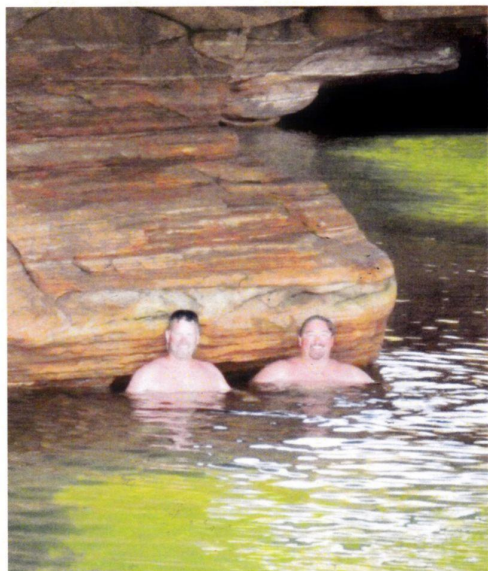


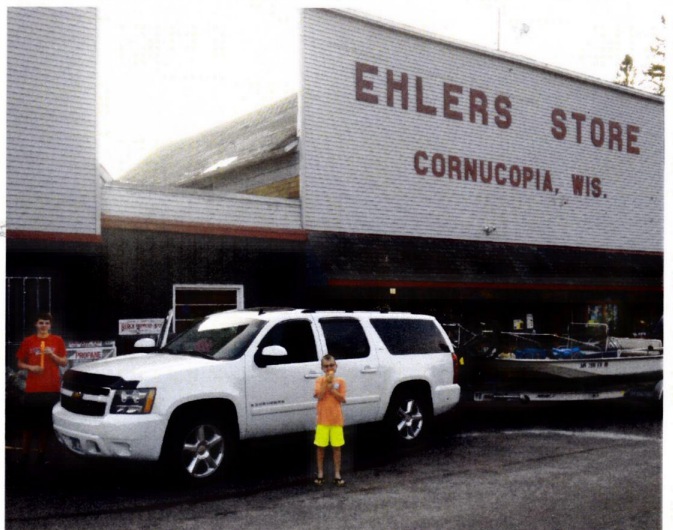


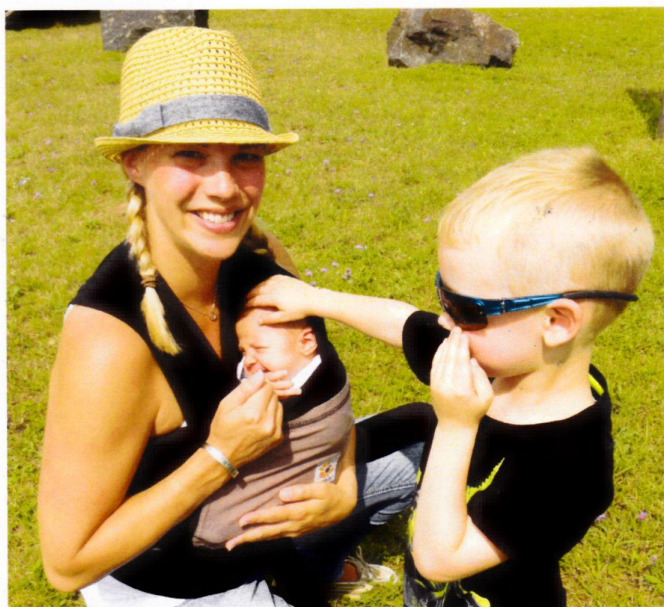












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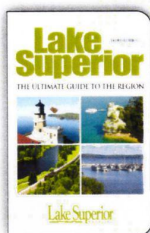
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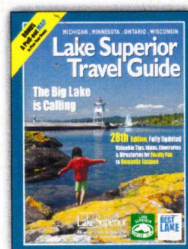
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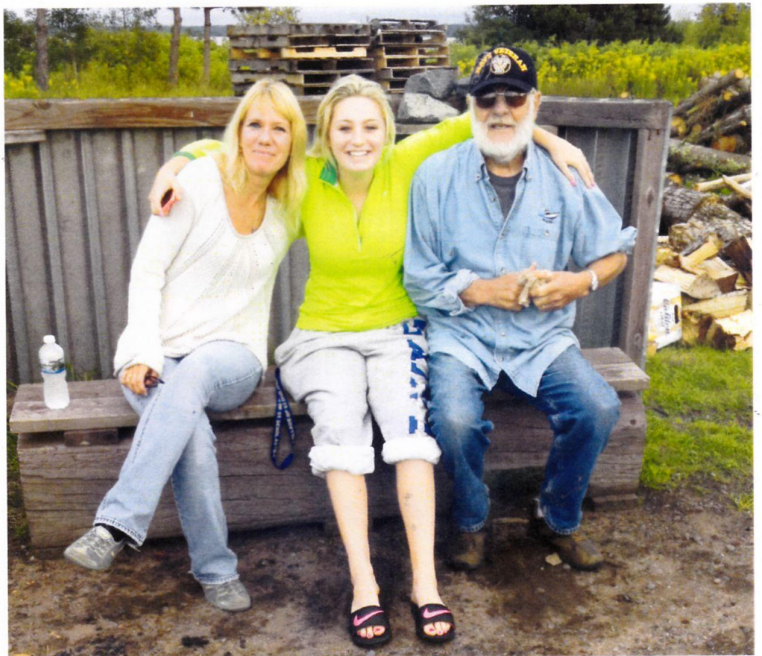
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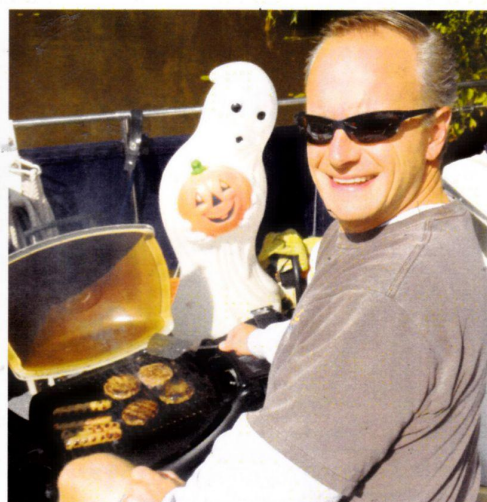
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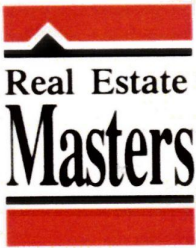
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Note from the Editor

Happy 2015 Mates!

It's hard to believe it's almost time to think spring. This issue of the *Channel Chatter* is a look back at 2014 – it was another year to be proud of our great squadron. I'd like to again give a special thanks to Captain Jeff and Toni Foster and Captain Steve and Nancy Kelly as well as the whole *Sundew* crew for making our 75th/100th Rendezvous Anniversary one for the record books.

2014 was one for the record books in many other respects as well. Some of those things we would like to forget. Record snowfall and cold, plus a lake full of ice on Memorial Day weekend, never really allowed Lake Superior to warm up all summer. Several of us had problems with our "iron sails" and watched our engines travel through the air on special lifts as they were destined for replacement. The captain and crew of the M/V *Paul R. Tregurtha* even found themselves spending an extended September afternoon listening to the sounds of music at Bayfront Festival Park.

I'd also like to recognize the hard work put in by so many members who made everything happen this past year. From classes, vessel safety checks, work at the district level and the merit mark program to events such as the Captain's Platter, District Rendezvous, Corn Roast and Mentor Duluth kids cruise, just to name a few. And behind all of this, was our fearless leader at the helm, Commander Lance Olson, who is serving a second term for us. Thank you for all that you have done.

With a mild winter and low fuel prices, it's looking like 2015 will be a great year. So, get excited,

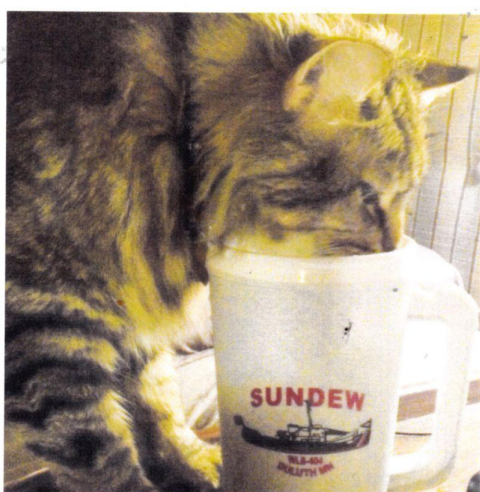


get involved and bring new faces and ideas to the table! I hope you enjoy the hard work that goes into this special publication that keeps us connected. Please support our advertisers who help us off-set our production costs.

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This is *Purr-ecious Time* WDF8089 clear and standing by on channel 16.

P/C Dave Stokes



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Save the Date

The DSPS Annual Meeting is February 19.
See page 7 for details.