

# Peralta Helmsman



January  
2015  
Volume 55  
No. 4

**P/D/C Norm Pennington, SN  
is apprehended by Ancient  
Roman Centurion in Rome.**

See Pages 4 and 5 for more details about  
Peralta's Wonderful Year in Review



**Proud recipient of multiple USPS National Distinction in Journalism Awards  
Quarterly publication of the Peralta Sail and Power Squadron, San Leandro, California**



# Commander's Comments

This will be my final input to the Helmsman as the Commander. After three-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. The average person does not know about them and some never see them. For me, I was surprised to learn how many different boating organizations there are.



Summer will arrive fast so get ready for some great boating! I hope to see you on the water.

**Cdr Alan Smith**

## Peralta Sail and Power Squadron Nominations for the Bridge

The Peralta Nominating Committee has been hard at work crafting a slate of officers for the 2015-16 Bridge. Their slate will be presented at the Change of Watch Dinner on February 28 at the San Leandro Yacht Club.

Here is their work in progress:

**Commander:**

Lt/C Barbara Waldstreicher, AP

**Executive Officer:**

P/C Ricardo Mares, P

**Educational Officer:**

D/Lt C Norm Pennington, SN

**Administrative Officer:**

Open

**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

One Vacant

**Nominating**

Lt/C Josette Mares, S

Patricia A. Folger, S

One Vacant

**Rules**

D/Lt/C Norm Pennington, SN

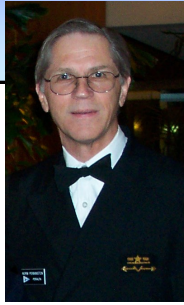
P/C Alan Smith

One Vacant

*The duties of Administrative Officer include attending monthly Executive Board meetings, and communicating with the Squadron membership and Newsletter Editor to promote and involve members in Squadron activities.*

# Education Officer's Report

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



By the time you read this I will be heading to the USPS Annual Meeting in Jacksonville Florida. You might be thinking why should I attend these national meetings in the dead of winter and all the way across the country? In as much as there are more members living on the eastern half of the country, more of the meetings are held in that part of the country. Every few years we get lucky and one of the national meetings is held on the west coast. The date hasn't been set yet, but the next Governing Board Meeting will be held around the end of August in San Diego California. We are currently planning on offering Boat Operator Certification schools for Inland Navigator, Coastal Navigator and possibly Advanced Coastal Navigator. These exercises will be held out in the ocean and should be a lot of fun and rewarding for those seeking certification. So, if you want to get some salt spray on your face and experience some challenging maneuvers out on the water, than that is for you.

To answer my question as to why do I attend national meetings, the answer is simple. No, not because I was elected as the District Educational Officer and also have additional responsibilities in Boat Operator Certification. The real reason is that I learn first-hand what is new in education, educational offerings and techniques in delivering education to members such as you. Besides I get to see a lot of other members with similar interests.

Later this month the Progressive Insurance San Francisco Boat Show will be held at Pier 48 next to McCovey Cove 22-25 January. Special this year, the district booth will have the Virtual Boating Trainer, which you can demonstrate your ability to operate a Boston Whaler in a number of skill scenarios. Its a lot of fun and I encourage all of our members to head over to the boat show and give the trainer a test ride. In addition to the usual vendors showing their best and latest products both within the building and out in the cove, we are scheduled to present several dockside training seminars each afternoon for Discover Boating. Presenting the seminars is our own P/C Ricardo L. Mares, P. Discover Boating will also be conducting a number of on the water seminars for both power and sail. So, come on down to the show, participate and show your support for the Power Squadron.

Starting on 9 February we will be putting on an America's Boating Course in Benicia. A little far away for most of our members, so starting Wednesday, 4 March we will be offering the America's Boating Course

followed with Seamanship on 8 April at the San Leandro Yacht Club. On Saturday 16 May we will be offering the Mastering the Rules of the Road and Emergencies on Board seminars and then continuing on with Advanced Piloting starting Wednesday, 16 September. Drop me a line if you are interested in any other course.

In case you cannot wait for a course or seminar in our area, there are now two ways to take USPS courses and seminars online:

1. A fully interactive online learning experience for USPS courses and seminars is online via BoatUS. See the USPS/BoatUS gateway page at: <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/edonline/main.htm> for more information on what courses and seminars are available to both USPS members (at discounted prices) and the public, as well as to start the easy sign-up process.
2. Traditional narrated courses and seminars are available online via UWF. In partnership with the University of West Florida (UWF), several of the advanced courses have been made available to those members needing an alternative method of effective boating education. These online courses are narrated versions of the classroom courses with student manual and handouts. Self-study chapter questions are completed and corrected online for immediate feedback. The course exams are also online to allow course completions without waiting for printing and mailing of a course exam. Several seminars are similarly available online.

What is needed and what is the process for the UWF program?

First, you need a computer and reliable internet service (preferably DSL or high speed cable). The narrated Microsoft Power Point© imagery has been modified by UWF to make it more easily downloaded and viewed.

Second, a little patience will be needed because the course material will be mailed from USPS Headquarters after they get the enrollment verification. After receiving the course material, your determination and study habits will determine the time necessary to complete the course.

Third, your e-mailed questions will take a little time for responses since the instructor will be available but not necessarily online when you are.

Fourth, testing online is controlled and time limited so that once started, the test must be completed. Students who have been in formal education programs in recent years will find testing easy—a few students may find the process challenging and need to use the self-study quizzes for practice.

Fifth, again a little more patience will be needed. On

*Continued on page 6*



# PERALTA POWER AND SAIL SQUADRON



August 23: Our fun outing to Delta Yacht Club



April 23: First formal dinner in mid-Atlantic enroute to Rome.



Dec. 6 Holiday Party



Jan. 25: Annual Crab Feed



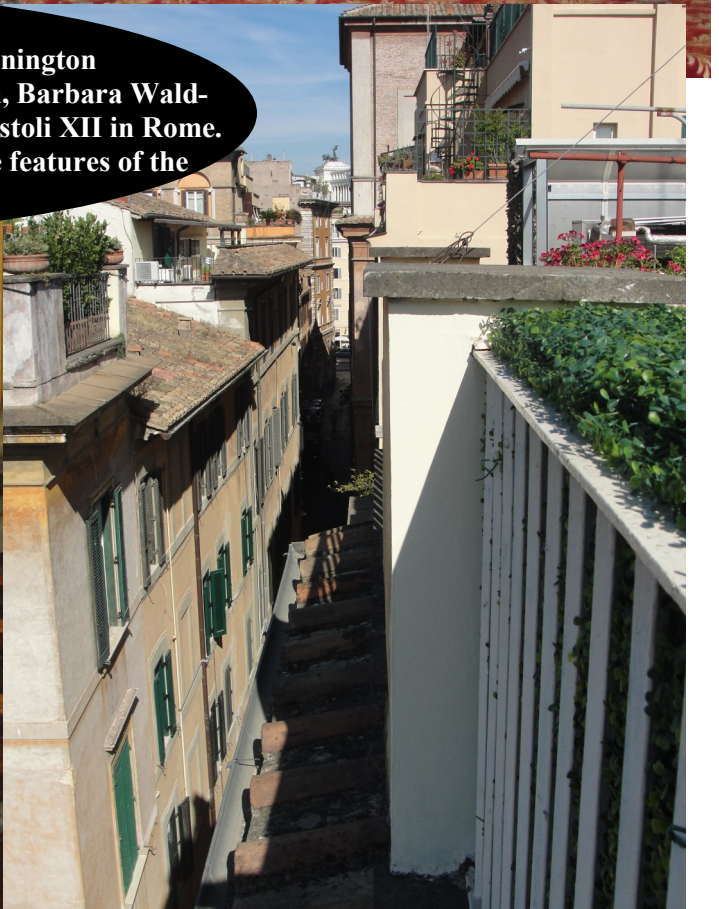
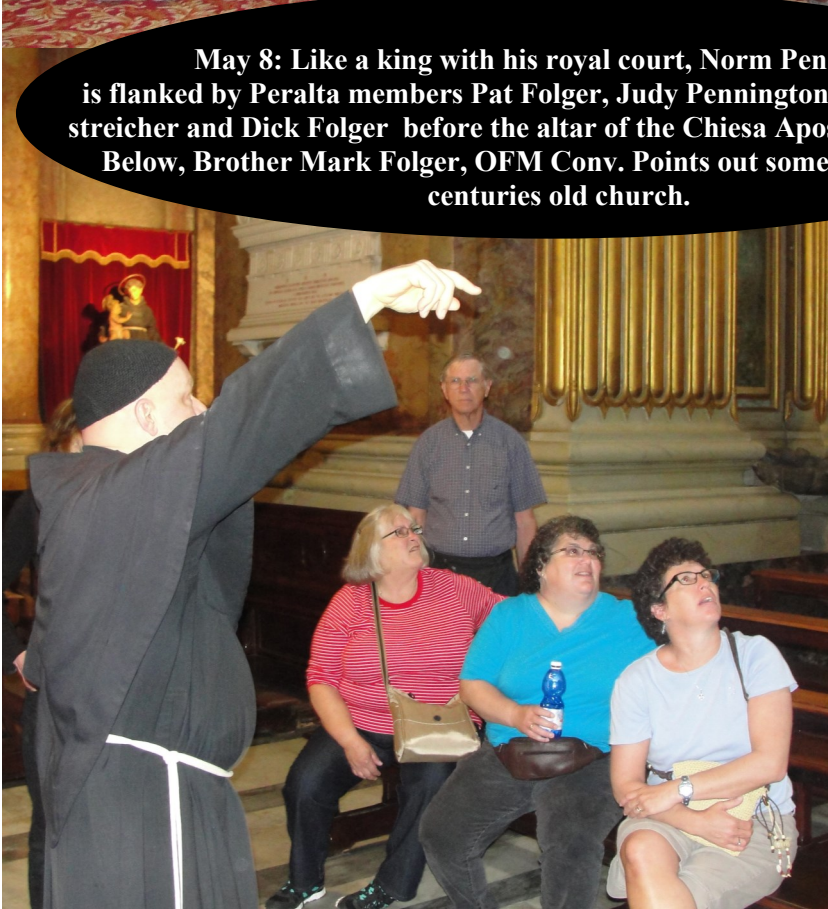
Dec. 6: Peralta Holiday Party.



# Roma!



May 8: Like a king with his royal court, Norm Pennington is flanked by Peralta members Pat Folger, Judy Pennington, Barbara Waldstreicher and Dick Folger before the altar of the Chiesa Apostoli XII in Rome. Below, Brother Mark Folger, OFM Conv. Points out some features of the centuries old church.





## 2015 Calendar of Events

**Saturday, 17 January 0900-1300—District 25 Operations Training Workshops 1 & 2**, Petaluma Yacht Club, 10 C Street, Petaluma — D/Lt EJ "Betty" Dysart, JN

**Mon – Sun, 19-25 Jan — USPS Annual Meeting**, Hyatt Riverfront - Jacksonville, Florida. Meeting Information

**Thur – Sun, 22-25 Jan—Progressive San Francisco Boat Show**, McCovey Cove and Pier 48 — Cdr Alan Smith, P

**Saturday, 31 January—Peralta Annual Crab Feed**, San Leandro Yacht Club—P/C Dick Folger, AP

**Monday, 2 February—USPS Founders Day**

**Monday, 9 February—Peralta Squadron Executive Committee Meeting**, All Members Welcome - San Leandro Yacht Club—Cdr Alan Smith, P

**Mondays starting 9 February—America's Boating Course 9-Sessions**, Benicia Yacht Club, Benicia.—Register online

**Wednesday, 11 February—District 25 Council Meeting**, Yerba Buena Island,—Cdr Alan Smith, P

**Saturday, 28 February—Peralta Change of Watch**, San Leandro Yacht Club Cdr Alan Smith, P

**Wednesdays starting 4 March—America's Boating Course, 5-Sessions**, San Leandro Yacht Club—Register online

**Fri – Sat, 6-8 March —District 25 Spring Conference**, location to be determined—Cdr Alan Smith, P

**Monday, 9 March—Peralta Squadron Executive Committee Meeting**, All Members Welcome - San Leandro Yacht Club.—Cdr Alan Smith, P

**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

**Monday, 6 April—Helmsman Articles Due to Newsletter Editor**

**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

## Administrative Officer's Report

BY P/C DICK FOLGER, AP



The old guy in the assisted living care facility was beginning to show signs of dementia. But, he still remembered that he was a very important person. When his breakfast tray failed to arrive on time, the old guy was seething with anger. "Do you know who I am?" he demanded of the worker who delivered his tray. The worker backed away and answered: "No sir, but if you go down to the front desk I am sure they can tell you."

There are a lot of old guys (and gracefully aging gals) up on the bridge of Peralta Power and Sail Squadron. It is clearly time to transfer the squadron into the care of younger hands. I have always loved the lines from the martyred El Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero. He said:

*"We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own."*

When I joined Peralta back in 1968 it was a different world of sextants, wooden boats, uniforms and \$15 a month berth rental at San Leandro Marina. Boating in 2015 is vastly different from what it was then and what it will be in another half century. We old timers have done our part, the Good Ship Peralta is now ready for a new crew. We workers have done our best. The new leadership will chart the new course into an unforeseen future that is not our own.

From page 3

### EDUCATIONAL OFFICER'S REPORT

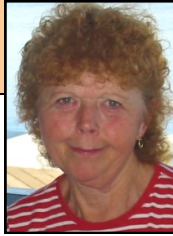
successful completion of the online course, a completion certificate will be sent by USPS Headquarters.

This is an easy process that will allow the USPS Educational Department to better serve everyone in a format independent of location and class size limitations.

So, if you desire to continue your USPS education you have choices as Peralta may be offering the course or seminar you are seeking, or one of our neighboring squadrons such as Santa Clara in the south bay or Diablo on the other side of the East Bay Hills, or an online course or seminar through BoatUS, or the University of West Florida.

# Meet Peralta's new members

BY PATRICIA ANN FOLGER, S



## P/C Rick Charles Erikson, AP

P/C Rick Charles Erikson, AP has had a lifetime love affair with boats. He grew up in a boating family and fun on the water became a natural default, included sailing catamarans and driving speedboats.

Rick began his USPS career in Las Vegas where he became squadron commander. After moving to Fremont he joined Peralta and was soon taking more classes and has recently been our Vessel Safety Examiner. He also will be the new Executive Officer for District 25. When Rick is sworn in more than half the District Bridge will be Peralta members.

Rick and his wife Vickie have a grown daughter who also loves boating. She teaches English at a high school in Las Vegas.

Vicki is a bookkeeper at Centerville Saw and Tool and Rick is a field construction manager at the Stanford Linear Accelerator.

The Erikson's own a trailerable 24.5' Bayliner Cruiser. Recently they took their boat, "It's About Time," up to Lake Powell in Utah for two weeks of cruising. They even motored into one of the caves and explored the watery canyons. "It's very relaxing and just beautiful," Vicki said.

They both spoke glowingly about Peralta with words like "wonderful people—they are so friendly!" and "really cool."



# Executive Officer's Report

BY P/C MELBA J.K. HALE, P

## Happy New Year ...

How does it happen so fast? Here it is, another year has passed. In China it is still the Year of the Horse. There's still a little time before the Chinese New Year comes on February 15. Then it will be the Year of the Sheep. At the risk of getting a groan from you, let's hope that the new year won't be "B-A-A-A-D."



Looking back at 2014 I ask you "How did you spend your summer?" Hopefully you got out on the water and practiced your sea-faring skills. Then as winter came on there's the question: "How did you spend your holidays? Were you thankful in November? Did you take the time to reflect on just how many Thanksgiving dinners you have already enjoyed?"

Coming to December we find ourselves grateful for the multitude of activities to be enjoyed! From times of spiritual renewal to the sharing of love by the giving and receiving of gifts--to the refreshing outdoor sports activities or the reflective times by the hearth. Maybe you were able to take a nighttime walk in a neighborhood that was elaborately decorated with festive lights. There are so many ways to enjoy happy days with family and friends ... and it seems ... so little time to get it all done. Whatever and however you celebrated, we reflect on the times now, and are thankful.

Today we have the fresh opportunity to make 2015 a wonderful new year. Our Squadron is now ready with a new calendar of activities. We will soon have a new commander and officers that will steer us in the months ahead. Hopefully you plan to be a part of it.

Over the years with Peralta I have discovered that there is a great amount of camaraderie in our Squadron family ... and your Bridge/Officers are once again dedicating time to serve your needs. Feel free to give any one of us a call or email any time. And if you have some time to spare, we always need volunteers. Be sure to sign on and sign up for the Peralta fun that we have in store this year. And, whatever you do ... endeavor to make 2015 a

## Happy New Year ...

# Peralta Helmsman

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January, March, June, and September

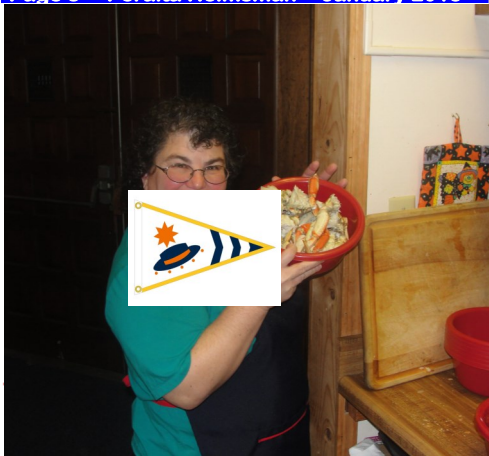
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**Peralta Helmsman**  
16 Cobblestone Lane  
Belmont, CA 94002-2310



## Peralta Sail and Power Squadron Annual Crab Feed

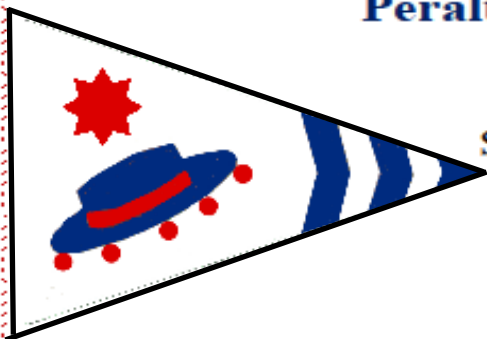
Saturday, January 31, 2015

San Leandro Yacht Club  
20 Mulford Point Dr.  
San Leandro, Ca. 94577

Attitude Adjustment 1700 Hours  
Dinner 1830 Hours

**Menu:**  
Salad, Pasta,  
Fresh Crab  
French Bread  
Dessert, Coffee

**GRAB A  
BIB,  
SNAG A  
CRAB,  
AND HAVE  
SOME  
FUN!**



Cost: \$40.00 Per Person/ Children 12Yrs & younger \$20.00  
**Pasta Only Dinner \$15.00**

Please mail your reservations with check *Payable to the Peralta Power Squadron* – **Deadline Wednesday January 28** *Space is limited so please reserve early.*

TO: P/C Judy Pennington  
16 Cobblestone Lane  
Belmont, Ca. 94002-2310  
Telephone 650-595-2169  
E-mail [judypenn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judypenn@sbcglobal.net)

Number of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ X \$40.00 Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20.00 Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Pasta Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_

