

# Galaxy 23

**From the District Bridge**  
**D/Lt/C Timothy Henke, JN**  
**Executive Officer**



While we enjoy seeing a late season, snow storm delay the start of boating season, “up north” our season has been in full swing. Most of us, are year round boaters and only notice it is not so hot or real hot. Hopefully, we never fall from the idea of practicing from what we preach - Safe Boating. Sometimes the lack of that seasonal break, lulls us into being a bit lackadaisical. So, this year, we are going to kick off the Safe boating season in grand style.

Hopefully everyone has May 12<sup>th</sup> marked on their calendar to journey to the District Picnic in Titusville. Yes, we will be at the beautiful pavilion of Sand Point Park. This year we are adding a new dimension of fun for everyone to the day’s events.

It will be a District 23, Wear-It Rally. We are asking everyone that attends the picnic, bring a life jacket. It can be an inflatable or a regular one. You do not have to power inflate it for the event. Everyone just needs to have a “legal” life jacket on. We are asking that everyone sign in on the colored sheets. Why? Because, we are going to snap a few pictures and submit them to The Ensign. As the event is published, we will challenge the other districts, to “beat” our number of, life jacket wearing, USPS members and friends. We might even set some sort of record? So don’t forget to bring a life jacket to the Picnic. Toss a spare in your car, for those that may forget.

Take the momentum that we build here and take it to the squadron level for National Safe Boating Week!

Don’t forget the Cardboard Boat race. The race will be held as the first event. There is a potential for several categories and fun for all to watch.

The Picnic starts at 10:30 and we have the pavilion for the day.

See the attached flyer for event details.

We all hope to see everyone, at this day of fun.

## **D/Lt Roger Wilson, P D-23 Radio Technical Officer**

KA1CPJ     [Treasurer@harrischain.org](mailto:Treasurer@harrischain.org)

I am the new District 23 Radio Technical Officer. I have been a Amateur Radio Operator for many years, though not too active. I live in a “restricted” community so do not have a High Frequency antenna. I am in the process of upgrading to General, and in hopes of putting up a “stealthy” antenna. How about setting up a D-23 Net?

I have a 22 foot pontoon boat on Lake Harris. Been involved with the Harris Chain Sail and Power Squadron for 3 years and it's Treasurer the past two years.

Please see my “first shot” below, at getting us thinking about safety and technology, as they go hand in hand.

After reading the first news articles on the two fishermen losing their boat and one losing his life in the Gulf of Mexico, my first thought was no safe boating course or just the basic course. But with further reading I found that the boat owner was a retired Sheriff's Deputy, with seven years service in the Sheriff's Marine Patrol. Not looking to arm chair quarterback, could this loss of life may have been prevented? So, this proves, even the sailor, with years of safety training, can get into trouble. The proper maintenance of the boat and checking it's fittings would have prevented this tragedy. It was found that the bilge filled from a failed thru hull fitting. Also some extra, safety planning, such as a proper emergency over board kit, with a hand held VHF radio would have helped the fishermen survive. There was no “ditch bag” with loaded necessities. Was the radio a current DSC with GPS interface? How about an EPRIB, or the new SPOT product? Though the cold water and hypothermia could not be eliminated, I do not think anyone with a 30 foot boat would have cold water survival suits. The two gentlemen were in the water overnight and ultimately one did not survive. Make the investment in up to date, safety equipment. Also know how to use them before heading out. Don't be afraid to teach each member onboard how to operate emergency gear. It is rather difficult to read instructions, while in the water.