



# The Soundings

June 2008  
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Official Publication of the Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron - Unit of the United States Power Squadron ® District 23 Sail and Power Boating

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## General Membership Meeting

**Tuesday, June 03, 2008 @ 1900  
Brevard Veterans Center  
400 Sykes Creek Parkway Merritt Island, FL**

## Captain Ernie Stallings-Monthly Speaker

**Captain Ernie Stallings will be our featured speaker for the June 2008 membership meeting. He will speak on how to prepare for a boat delivery, including preparing a boat for delivery, and what paperwork is necessary. (i.e. Insurance, etc) He will tell us several humorous stories about some of his boat deliveries, and about various charters and fishing tournaments that he has organized or been involved with.**

## Attention on Deck

**We are proud to announce we have another new member who is, P/C Kermit B. Forbes, P of Cape Fear Power Squadron. He, and his wife Susan were introduced at our last membership meeting.**

**Please remember to call, email, or mail Marilyn Flanigan any changes for the Roster 2008-2009 which will appear in the July-August issue of the Soundings.**

**Please remember our senior members who would like to attend our monthly meeting and/or functions that may need a ride. If you know of a member that needs to obtain a ride, please make yourself available to accommodate them. They are our anchors!**

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**SOUNDINGS DEADLINE:  
THE 10TH OF EACH  
MONTH**

We welcome comments,  
boating stories and any  
articles of interest you'd  
like to submit...

E:Mail an Attachment to  
debra.burleson@yahoo.com

# AT THE HELM

**Commander J. P. Longway III, P**



Another busy month has passed that offered much in the way of boating, education and fraternal events. There was something for everyone. We began with the Coco-Nauts hosting their Spring Luncheon and Game Party. As expected, a great time on Saturday (4/12) was had by the sixty Coco-Nauts, Squadron members and guests who attended and enjoyed the food, fun and fraternal gathering. Thanks C-C President, Lt Doris Valentine and other ladies for a job well done. On the following Sunday, (4/13), Lt George and Peggy Guerrero, attended the Brevard Veterans Council's luncheon ceremony, on my and the Squadron's behalf, to view the Center's expansion plans, memorial garden, etc., with a special recognition to the new Korean Veterans Memorial. Both George and Peggy are retired U.S. Marines. We are fortunate to have George as our liaison with BVC Semper Fidelis. We had seven attendees at the D23 Education/PRO Seminar at Satellite Beach on Saturday (4/19). The attendees expressed that it was a very productive and informative session. The following Saturday (4/26) was the first Raft-up of the year at Ski Island. Even though there was a competitive boating event elsewhere, four boats arrived with a combined total of 15 participants who deemed it a beautiful, worthwhile and fun day. An evening fraternal event was held on Thursday (5/1) at the Brevard Community College Planetarium. This event always has a great turn-out, and with two dozen plus members from the Banana River and Titusville Squadrons, we had one hundred and one in attendance, out of one hundred and five who paid. The social was the usual beehive with lots of buzzing and eating. The featured IMAX movie "Living Seas" fascinated everyone, and was followed by an interesting space/star filled laser show. Thank you Lt's Valentine, Logway and Ragusa for coordinating a wonderful evening "under the stars, as well as under the seas".

Since Donna and I will be on an already planned vacation, we will miss two major upcoming events that we have enjoyed in the past. We hope everyone made it possible to attend the D23 Picnic, Rendezvous & Council at Titusville on Saturday (5/10), and participate in the joint Cocoa Beach & Banana River "Blessing of the Fleet" to make it a success at the start of "Safe Boating Week.

Congratulations to the seven Squadron members who passed the recently completed "Weather" course.

Congratulations, as well, to the recent additional members to the Squadron. We have one new member, one transfer, and three reinstatements. Welcome aboard.

As I mentioned at our General Membership Meetings, D23 leadership's emphasis on "Togetherness" has much merit in bringing the Squadrons' members closer by sharing lessons learned, be they successes or failures. If you enjoy being in the USPS, please make sure you express it by giving back to your Squadron. Peace (V).

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

**Lt/C Lance H. VandeBerg, P**



**Our vessel examiners have completed 115 inspections so far this year.**

**The “Water Ski Island Hot Dog Roast” was on April 26<sup>th</sup> with about 20 squadron members in attendance. It was a beautiful day.**

**The Planetarium event held at BCC on May 1 was a big hit with over 100 in attendance including people from the Banana River and Titusville squadrons. A special thanks to Lt Doris Valentine for coordinating this event.**

**I attended the D23 council meeting on 5/10/08 at the La Cita CC in Titusville. Also in attendance from our squadron were P/D/C Fred P. Adame & P/R/C Carmen Adame. Most of the 11 District Squadrons were represented. Reports were given by all squadron commanders with focus on education, safety, and new membership. It was reported that 50% of the dues have been received which are due by 5/31/08. Reservation forms were received for the USPS District 23, Fall Conference to be held at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront Resort in Daytona Beach on October 10-12**

## **SEO REPORT**

**P/D/C Fred P. Adame, SN**



**Ken Grahame once wrote in *The Wind in the Willows* “Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing—absolutely nothing—half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats. Simply messing...about in boats—or with boats...In or out of ‘me it doesn’t matter. Nothing seems to matter, that’s the charm of it.” And “messing about in boats” surely includes studying about them. That’s what we do in the Educational Department. And we’ve been very successful.**

**Like P/D/C Les Tryout whose sight folder was approved just last month making him a brand new Junior Navigator. Like the graduates of our recently completed Weather Course, taught by P/D/C Dick Schnook, SN. They are Lt’s Mark and Mona Chatelaine, Lt/C Jim Green, P, Lt George Guerrero, 1/Lt Paul Ragusa, P, and Lt Francesca Ragusa, P, and Lt Jack Worst, P. And, most recently, like new Advanced Pilots Lt/C Jim Green and Lt Adriane Goldstein, taught by Lt Jim O’Malley, AP. Congratulations to all these recent graduates and their instructors. You’ve certainly been “messing about in boats” and I hope you had some fun at the same time.**

**Coming up on the horizon are an Instructor Development course and a Seamanship course. Both courses await the return of instructors and students from their cruises to the Bahamas so they should be well experienced when they return. If you’d like to sign up for either of these courses, and be assured of a book on opening night, be sure to give me a call at 635-9455.**

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Lt/C Jim Green, P



My monthly article of interest this month can be found on page 10. Please be sure to write or call your Senators or Representative regarding the Clean Boating Act of 2008 S. 2766.

Just to give you heads up , here are the speakers I have lined up so far,

Jun 3rd Capt. Ernie Stallings (Topic of interest can be found on front page)

Jul 2nd Sean McCoy of the Sheriffs department

Aug 5th Mark Nelson of Port Plastics

He will talk about his custom fabrication business in which he fabricates boat parts from plastics. He will bring some samples to show.

Oct 7th Matthew Ruane, PHD. Will speak on his book "Pirates-Plundering Paradise" [mruane@fit.edu](mailto:mruane@fit.edu)

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Lt/C Marilyn Flanigan, P



Now that we are officially CBSPS and have our New By-Laws approved the Executive Board has a lot of things to take care of. I'm sure the committee that the Commander has put together to do these duties will work hard to get them done as quickly as time allows.

Please be patience with them.

Your secretary will have all Roster changes in the July/August Soundings. If you have any changes, I must receive them by June 1st. You may phone me (321-452-4602), email ([bobmar2215@bellsouth.net](mailto:bobmar2215@bellsouth.net)) or mail to my home address which is 1490 Holly Ave. Merritt Island, FL 32952

Thank-you in advance for your help!



**COCONAUTS CORNER**  
**Lt Doris Valentine, President**

**Our May meeting was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> at the Merritt Island Library. Jennifer Sypien from the Wildlife Care Center of Florida was our guest speaker and I want to thank all of you who brought necessary items for the Wild care Center. They are desperately in need of money, food and cleaning supplies. The Coconauts gave a donation and several of our attending members wrote checks as well. I hope you will all keep this wonderful organization in mind.**

**We will not have a formal meeting in June but it will be a “fun” one! We’ll be going out for a FREE cruise from Port Canaveral on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 on the Sun Cruz Casino ship. You can bring husbands and guests but I do have to know who will be going so if you have not signed up as yet, please call me to get your names on the list !! Be sure to have a picture ID with you or you will not be able to board.**

**Our next meeting will be September 10<sup>th</sup> at the Red Lobster. We have no activities for the summer but please keep in mind our silent auction scheduled on Italian Night , Tuesday. October 7<sup>th</sup>. Save all your goodies to donate !!**

**Lucy Hixenbaugh on behalf of BRS&PS wanted to thank our Squadron for inviting their Squadron to participate in the social event that was held at the BCC Planetarium on May 01, 2008.**



**District 23**  
**From the District Bridge**  
**P/R/C Walter Fields, SN**  
**Education Officer**

**The District 23 Education Seminar held last month had a great turn out with 38 members attending representing 10 of the 11 Squadrons. If you missed it you missed a wealth of information about all the new courses, seminars, and how to use DB2000 and the Boating Course Assistant, and a great How-To demonstration of Power Point by Linda Legg. It was evident to me from the enthusiasm demonstrated by those present that this will be a great education year in District 23.**

**Speaking of seminars, USPS now has 11 really great seminars covering subjects that most experienced boaters want to know more about. We can use these seminars to get these boaters, our own members as well as the boating public involved and promote new members from the boating public. Our District Commander, Dick Letterman, recently used an innovative approach to advertise and get the boating public to sign up for one of these seminars. At a recent Jacksonville Power Squadron public Boating course, he passed around a flyer listing all the seminars available and asked the attendees to indicate which of the seminars they would like to take. Of the 15 persons attending the Boating Course, he got commitments from at least 9 for practically every seminar. This is a great idea That can be used to demonstrate what your Squadron and USPS is all about, and another opportunity to attract new members from the boating public. Try it-it works!**

**The beta version of the new Navigation course is now out and two of our District 23 Squadrons, Jacksonville and Daytona, are teaching the beta version and helping to improve this course. This revised Navigation course comes with a fantastic set of offshore navigation software from MapTech. This software set includes 17 DVD's of charts for the entire US, Puerto Rico, Alaska and Hawaii, all of which is included in the price of the course. MapTech normally sell this software set for \$450 to the public. Take note all you JN's and plan now to advance to the grade of N this fall when the final version comes out.**

**By now all our Squadrons have received their Chapman Award packet. This award honors the five best instructors in USPS each year and is the highest honor USPS can bestow on its members. From the candidates submitted from our Squadrons we will select one to submit for the National Award. Squadrons must have the nomination packet for their candidate into D23 by 15 July 2008. We have some excellent instructors in D23 and I would like to see a candidate from every Squadron.**

**The theme for D23 this year is The Chain of Success. I see great things for all of us in D23 this coming year as we advance in the Chain of Success, but we must always remember that the Chain of Success is a team effort and we are all a part of that team. Let's resolve to be the strong link in the Chain.**



## ***CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS:***

Check the web site and your email for updates!

### **MAY:**

27 - Tuesday, 1830, Executive Board Meeting- Merritt Island Library

### **JUNE:**

03 - Tuesday, 1900, CBS&PS General Membership Meeting- Brevard Veterans Center

04 - Wednesday, 1900, Boart Smart Examination, Cape Canaveral Hospital

14 - Saturday, 1030, Coco-nauts Sun Cruz Casino Cruise

24 - Tuesday, 1830, Executive Board Meeting- Merritt Island Library

28 - Saturday, 1100 CBS&PS Indian River Cruise & Rendezvous @ Chowders

### **JULY:**

01 - Tuesday, 1900, CBS&PS General Membership Meeting- Brevard Veterans Center

04 - Friday, Squadron Raft-Up for Fireworks at Cocoa Village River Front

17 - Saturday, Squadron Rendezvous at Sunset Grill

22 - Tuesday, 1830, Executive Board Meeting- Merritt Island Library

### **AUGUST:**

05 - Tuesday, 1900, CBS&PS General Membership Meeting- Brevard Veterans Center

16 - Saturday, Squadron Rendezvous & Picnic at CBCC Pavilion

26 - Tuesday, 1830, Executive Board Meeting- Merritt Island Library

### **Note:**

CBS&PS members are invited to meet and eat each Wednesday at 1130 at the Cozy Corner Café

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(\* \*\* = Up for renewal )

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**2008 Cocoa Beach Sail & Power  
Squadron Boating Schedule**

	Event	Date	Day
1	*Ski Island Landing & Hot Dog Roast	26-Apr	Sat
2	Traditional Blessing of the Fleet	17-May	Sat
3	Indian River Cruise to Chowders	28-Jun	Sat
4	Cocoa Fireworks raft up	4-Jul	Fri
5	Squadron Rendezvous at Sunset Grill	19-Jul	Sat.
6	Cruise/drive to Cocoa Beach Pavilion At CB Country Club	16-Aug	Sat/ Sun
7	Conch Key Grill Cruise & Party Indian River/US1 South	20-Sept	Sat
8	Melbourne Harbor Cruise & Overnight for weekend	24-26 Oct	Fri-Sun
9	Old Florida Grill & Cruise Party - Frontenac	22-Nov	Sat
10	Samson Island Park off Grand Canal- Satellite Beach	24-Jan	Sat
Co-Chairmen Duane Balkema 452-5892 & Duane McConkey 454-6841			

**BLOOD DONATION**

***The next blood donation will be on 23 July at 0900 at the Blood Center on US Hwy. #1.  
All donations are appreciated!!!!***



## Radio Technical Officer June 2008 Soundings Report Lt Gene Millner, AP

The following 3 articles were taken directly from the May 2008 issue of Boat U.S. magazine. They have been considerably shortened. I highly recommend all members belong to Boat U.S. not because of their excellent magazine and support for boater's legislative best interests. Membership can be obtained for half price of \$12.50 by using Group No. GA84074B.

### Loran Lives On: Will evolve into eLoran.

The Federal Government will not be phasing out Loran due to concerns submitted by many mariners who rely on Loran and the possibility of GPS being knocked out by jamming. Loran is a land based system. Accuracy of eLoran will be between 8 feet and 65 feet. Receivers are now available that marry GPS and eLoran together.

### HF Weather Broadcasts to Continue

The US Coast Guard has reversed a plan to end high frequency (HF) weather broadcasts after a public inquiry found that stopping the service would leave no suitable alternatives and boaters' lives would be put at risk. Note that both this system of long range weather broadcasts and the Loran system were saved by public outcry and with help from Boat U.S. Your comments are being heard! Boat U.S. called on the Coast Guard to invest in new equipment to continue the broadcasts as one of its core missions to safeguard mariners.

### Rescue 21 Radio System has saved 32 Lives So Far

New VHF radios have the Digital Selective Calling (DSC) feature that when connected to your GPS will alert the Coast Guard and other boaters with the DSC capability of your location when calling in distress. A DSC radio has an SOS button that will transmit automatically on Channel 70 and also send the vessel's identification and location. You must obtain a MMSI number and program it into your radio. MMSI numbers can be obtained free from BoatU.S.. Refer to the official Coast Guard site [www.uscg.mil/rescue21/](http://www.uscg.mil/rescue21/) for more information.

## Boating Report by P/C Duane L. Balkema, AP

The Hot Dog Roast at Water Ski Island was great fun on a fine weather day. Bryants, Balkemas, Monforts, and Vandeborgs operated boats in to the beach with about 20 people on board. Plus other boaters joined us.

As you read this the "Blessing of the Fleet" event with Banana River Power Squadron should be happening, May 17, 2008. Contact Duane McConkey if you need any information. We hope many of you have taken this opportunity to follow the old Boating Custom of the blessing that is to insure good and safe operation of your boat for the 2008 year. A report will follow in the next issue.



Our next event, scheduled 11:30 AM, Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> will be, "Indian River Cruise to Chowders" and will be a lot of fun. We look for a lot of you to come by boat.

Immediately following that is our July 4<sup>th</sup> FIREWORKS Raft up at 04:00 PM, Friday. It is just off Lee Wenner Park in Cocoa. Fireworks begin after dark.

## **BoatU.S. reports Discharge Bill Makes Headway, Support Sought**

Making good on last year's promise to the boating community, two key senators have introduced legislation to ensure that recreational boaters will not need a federal pollution permit to operate their boats.

Senate Environment and Public Works Chair, Barbara Boxer (D-CA), and Bill Nelson (D-FL) introduced the Clean Boating Act of 2008 on March 13. The bill would permanently restore a longstanding exclusion for recreational boats from permitting requirements under the Clean Water Act.

"While the boating community has promoted the H.R. 2550 and S. 2067 (the Recreational Boating Act of 2007) for nearly a year, at this point the new bill, S. 2766, now offers our best hope for quick passage," said BoatU.S. VP for Government Affairs Margaret Podlich.

Recreational boat fell under Clean Water Act requirements as a result of a September 2006 U. S. District Court ruling. In a case initially involving ballast water discharges from ocean-going ships, the court ordered the U. S. EPA to create a new permit system for operational discharges for all vessels, including recreational boats of any size.

The proposed Clean Boating Act of 2008 permanently excludes recreational boats and charter boats from the need for an operational discharge permit. This bill does not weaken any existing environmental laws restricting the overboard discharge of oil, fuel, garbage, or sewage. "We're going to pull out all the stops to have it signed into law this year," she said.

Ocean-going vessels use ballast water for stability and routinely discharge that water in U. S. ports and in the process, can introduce pollutants and invasive species, the real target of the lawsuit. The legislation does recognize that discharges from recreational boats are completely distinct from commercial ship discharges.

S. 2766 also creates a three-year, three-step process for the EPA and the U. S. Coast Guard to look at discharges from boats and determine whether any management practices should be required. Language in the bill requires public comment periods during each of the three steps, and performance standards will take into account different sizes, types and ages of boats.

But meanwhile, the clock is ticking.

Podlich also noted that the court decision put the EPA under the gun to come up with a federal discharge permit system for boats by Sept. 30 of this year. The agency is in the process of doing just that.

"If this bill does not pass soon, boater may be forced to apply for a permit to discharge any water overboard, including engine-cooling water and even deck runoff, as early as this summer," she said.

BoatU.S. has worked for over a year with a broad coalition of stakeholders, including the National Marine Manufacturers Association, to resolve the problem before the permitting deadline.

BoatU.S. urges boater to write their senators and ask them to co-sponsor the Clean Boating Act of 2008, S. 2766. For more information and suggestions on how to contact your senators, go to [BoatU.S.com/gov](http://BoatU.S.com/gov).

Senators and representatives for FL are as follows-

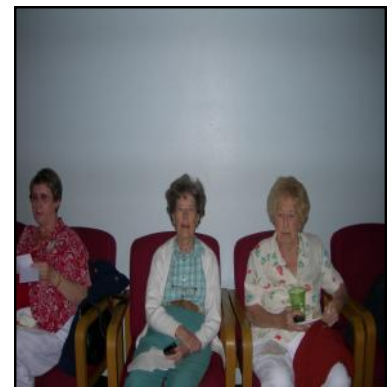
Mel Martinez (Senator), Bill Nelson (Senator), Dave Weldon (Rep), and Tom Feeney (Rep)

Article from BoatU.S.  
Submitted by Jim Green

**Card Party  
Saturday April 12, 2008**



**BCC Planetarium  
Thursday May 01, 2008**



### Boat Safety Starts with Ladders

A simple fall overboard is the No. 1 boating accident that leads to the most fatalities, the U. S. Coast Guard reports.

In 2006, 275 people died in 721 boating accidents that began with or involved a fall overboard. While some of these accidents involved other factors, being able to quickly get back in the boat – without help – isn't easy as a BoatU.S. Foundation test of 11 portable boarding ladders found.

“A fall into the water can turn into a life-threatening situation very quickly,” BoatU.S. Foundation President Ruth Wood said in a news release. “It doesn't take long for exhaustion or hypothermia to drain the life out of you. Boaters and anglers need to be prepared especially if you are alone. It can happen to you.”

While many larger boats have built-in boarding ladders, the Foundation tested portable Models on a 17' Boston Whaler, a 14' Jon boat and a 12' rigid-hull inflatable. After the tests, it compiled five tips to help ensure a fall overboard doesn't become tragic.

**Wear a life jacket.** All the BoatU.S. volunteers participating in the testing program wore a life jacket – before they voluntarily went over the side. All agreed a fully-clothed adult with no buoyancy would have difficulty getting back aboard using any type of ladder.

Testers found an affordable model fashioned from 4 – inch –wide yellow webbing proved best. The highest ranked ladders all had fewer than 3 steps. The ideal ladder length, measured from the water's surface to the bottom rung, averaged 20 inches.

Some ladders work better with certain types of boats. Hard sides or soft? Low or high freeboard? Depending on a boats construction or deck layout, most ladders performed well with one particular kind of vessel, and did poorly with others. It's important to match the ladder to the boat.

Before heading out, make sure the boarding ladder is positioned so it can be reached from the water. Also, attaching the ladder to the wrong spot on a narrow, lightweight boat can increase the chance of capsizing, especially if there is wave action.

Practice is a must. Many ladders were difficult to use on the first try. Take the time to fine tune any adjustments, get in the water and use the ladder. Some ladders threw testers off-balance when weight was placed on them, causing the device to swing underneath the boat. Only practice solved this problem.

To see a complete report on the tests as well as video of the ladders in action visit [BoatUS.com/Foundation](http://BoatUS.com/Foundation).

Article appeared in Florida Today April 13, 2008

Submitted by Debra Burleson

Marian Sweigart, AP and treasurer of the Coconauts would like to give special thanks to the businesses who donated door prizes for the Card Party that was held on Saturday April 12th. The donors are as follows-

Publix  
Carrabbas  
Ladies Workout Express  
Beef O' Brady's, Merritt Island  
Furniture Gallery, Merritt Island  
Outback Steakhouse  
Cozy Corner Cafe  
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Juice & Java Cafe  
Sunset Waterfront Grill  
Bumper to Bumper Auto Parts, Merritt Island  
Island Paint & Decorator  
Hobbs Pharmacy  
Sonny's BBQ, Merritt Island  
Freda's Hairstyles  
Ray's Tire  
Holiday Inn, Cocoa Beach  
Denise Stone

**IN 1999, Cocoa Beach Power Squadron members on boats and others Welcomed Disney's new ship "Magic" to Port Canaveral.**



**It was fun with helicopters flying overhead and a lot of boats on hand. Millners Sea Eagle and Balkemas Largo Lady are in pictures of the event. Bonnets, Valentines and many others had boats in the welcome fleet. PRO Larry Hatfield, Chuck Conklin and Bud Miller were on Largo lady with our family. "Magic" appeared out of the east with the Sun that morning. We also welcomed the good ship "Wonder" at the invitation of Disney.**

**P/C Duane L. Balkema, Boating Co-Chairman**

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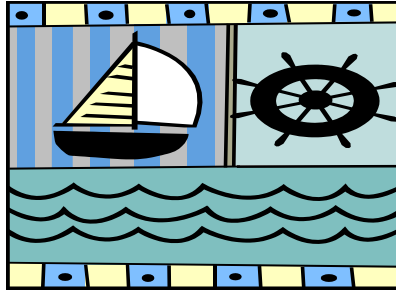
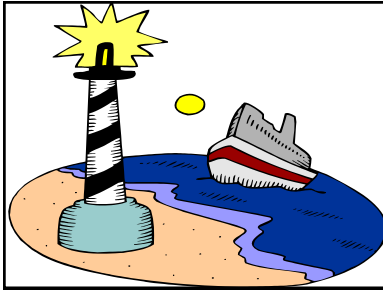
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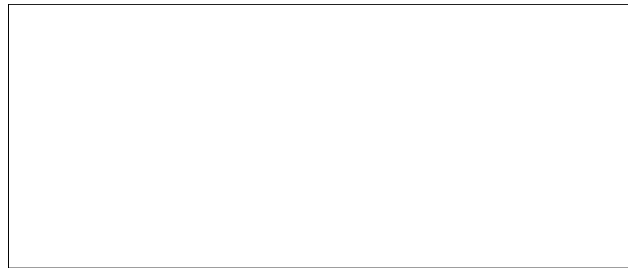
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