

## **Notes From the Chair**

The "Grapevine" is the SCTEA-R Chapter's way of keeping you informed about our yearly activities and what we're planning for you, our constituents. We enjoyed seeing many of you at our Spring Rally last May 14 at Midlands Tech. We want to let you know we're already making plans for the 2011 Spring Rally; more about that event in next year's "Grapevine." An event coming up very soon, however, is the 2010 SCTEA Annual Conference. It will be held February 18-20, 2010, at the Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort. You will be receiving information on how to register from your college's SCTEA Representative in late November or early December. The SCTEA-R Chapter is planning to again sponsor four sessions at the conference. We always try to offer topics that are interesting not only to retirees but to active employees as well. The conference is an economical way to learn about what's currently going on in the South Carolina Tech System, to meet up with old friends and make new ones, and to just have fun. We hope to see you there in February.

The "Grapevine" is obviously a group effort. Joe Schang is our editor and Greenville Tech prints all of our copies. SCTEA-R Chapter board members provide the articles. Your colleges and the central office provide the envelopes with your names and addresses and also pay for the postage to mail them back to you with the "Grapevine" enclosed. The board members put the "Grapevine" into the envelopes at their November meeting. Thanks to all the individuals and all the colleges and the central office for making this newsletter possible. Ann Osborne, Chair, SCTEA Retirees' Chapter

### ***Officers for 2009-2010***

***Ann Osborne, Chair***

***Cheryl Lopanik Paschal,  
Chair-Elect***

***Betty Jean Craft, Recorder***

***Alex Strozier, Fiscal Officer***

***J.E. Cox, Immediate Past Chair***

**SCTEA Website:  
[www.sctea.org](http://www.sctea.org)**

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# ***The Grapevine***

***A Newsletter to SC State Tech Retirees  
from the SCTEA Retirees' Chapter Coordinating Committee***

**Fall, 2009**

**Volume III, Issue 1**

## **Join SCTEA NOW!**

### **“THE PERFECT BOAT”**

At first, Bob and I wanted a small boat just to launch into a nearby lake (Lake Windemere near Blythewood) in order to catch a few fish. Then we started talking about the possibility of going to Lake Wateree and Lake Murray. Finally we started thinking about towing a boat to the coast. The plan for a little boat quickly morphed into something quite a bit larger.

We knew we wanted an aluminum boat because it would be lighter and thus easier to tow than a fiberglass boat. My two requirements were waterproof storage and high gunwales (to help keep water out of the boat when lakes and rivers are choppy). Bob wanted space to move around. After looking at MANY boats and studying MANY brochures, Bob decided on a Triton 1756, a 17 ft. aluminum boat with a modified “V” hull and a side console. He also decided to equip it with a Honda 50 hp outboard and a Minn Kota trolling motor. I said “go for it.” We custom ordered the boat without a live well to free up more space to walk around. In addition, we ordered a bimini top, an automatic bilge pump, a waterproof rod box, and a 12 gal. built-in fuel tank. For my peace-of-mind, the Triton has high gunwales. We took possession of the boat a year ago last June and haven't looked back.

The main thing about the Triton is how forgiving it's been. Bob hadn't owned a boat in years and I'd never spent much time in them. In spite of that, we've been able to easily tow the Triton and launch it in places we probably had no business launching it in. We've been able to maneuver around salt marshes at the coast at low tide with as little as a foot of water under us. We were able to get the Triton out of the water at low tide at a landing that was meant for kayaks. AND, we were able to rock it off an oyster bed in the Wando River we ran up on when we forgot to put in the plug!

Because Bob did his homework, we have a safe and reliable boat that's easy to tow and launch. We even take it out in the colder months, searching for monster redfish on the coast or huge stripers in Lake Murray. It's fun even on the numerous occasions when we don't catch big ones! For us, it's “the perfect boat.”

Ann Osborne

**Photo op**

**8:00 A.M., May 14... Chief Cook (Betty Jean Craft) and Bottle-washer (then Chair-Elect Ann**

**Osborne) setting up for the 2009 Spring Rally.**

First-time novelist Tom Rob Smith scored a best seller with *Child 44*, a mystery-thriller set in 1950s Russia. The plot focuses on a serial killer who cannot be caught because murder does not exist in Stalin's Russia. Complex characters, a twisting plot, historical detail...this book has them all. A research bibliography added as an appendix stands as testament to Smith's efforts to recreate the day-to-day paranoia of Stalinist Russia. Read three pages and you will be hooked...you won't want to put it down.

*Balance of Power* by James W. Huston (1998) was a paperback I picked up at the beach this summer. The Congress thinks the President is a closet pacifist and is in an uproar when he fails/refuses to take military action against terrorists who have seized an American ship and killed its crew. A constitutional crisis arises when the Congress issues a Letter of Marque (Article I of the US Constitution) to the Admiral commanding a carrier battle group. His mission...get the bad guys. I never finished the book but the concept of a modern use of a Letter of Marque intrigued me. Some research on the subject turned up this Wiki tidbit that might tickle your funnybone. "In December 1941 and the first months of 1942, the Goodyear blimp *Resolute* was operated as an anti-submarine privateer based out of Los Angeles. As the only US craft to operate under a Letter of Marque since the War of 1812, the *Resolute*, **armed with a rifle** and flown by its civilian crew, patrolled the seas for submarines". (emphasis added) U.S.Navy blimps saw a lot of service during the war and were better armed than this privateer in those first dark days after Pearl Harbor.