



UNDER THE BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cdr. Marlene Sobkowich, AP

We have had good times and some rough times this past year. We are fortunate enough to be able to take stock of past events and then move on. Speaking of moving on, it has been my pleasure serving as Commander of Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron for these past two years. John Bell will become your new Commander at the Squadron's Change of Watch. I'm looking forward to the transition and plan on assisting John any way that I can. Remember, this is a team effort and I'm sure that John will appreciate your help as much as I have.



You will find information regarding the Change of Watch in John's article. This is a good time to dress up and enjoy the food, music, and company of fellow squadron members and their guest. Plan on being there, I am.

SQUADRON ELECTION & CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 8th will be our Annual Christmas Party and Squadron Election. The location this year is the Mandeville Community Center on East Causeway Approach across from Mandeville City Hall.

At this squadron holiday gathering, we are asking that you "**Bring your Favorite Christmas Dish**" for the group's dining pleasure, and your

choice of an adult beverages or soft drinks. BYOB

Social Activities start at 6 PM - Dinner at 7 PM followed by Dirty Santa. To participate in Dirty Santa's Gift Exchange, each member or guest should bring a gift in the \$10 range. If all goes well, Santa may make an appearance!

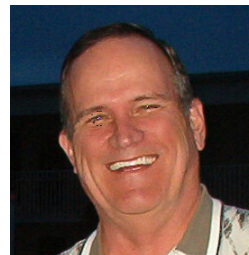
LSPS BURGEES AVAILABLE

Burgees for Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron are back in stock. See Alan McDonnell our Supply Officer if you would like to own one. They come in two sizes 14" x 21" or 16" x 24".

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lt/C John B. Bell, AP

It is hard for me to believe it is December already. With all of the impacts and turmoil from hurricanes Katrina and Rita it seems like the last 3 months have been lost or just disappeared in a blur of activity. I, like everyone else, was ready for this hurricane season to end. Having said that, I heard on the news recently, the weather forecasting experts are predicting another busy season next year. But next year is next year and we will take whatever it brings then. I know that many of our members were affected by the hurricanes in one way or another. In some cases, with extensive and severe, damage to their homes and boats. We are a



hardy stock though us boaters. And we don't give up easily. So I expect we will individually and collectively regroup and persevere to reach new levels of achievement. Boaters are like that, you know.

On November 19th and 20th the squadron supported the annual Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival by manning one of the entrance gates and selling tickets there. This year's event was postponed to November due to the hurricanes. And although we were competing with other Festivals and events in the same timeframe I thought we had a very good turn out. I think people were ready for a diversion from hurricane recovery activities. Everyone was pleasant and seemed to enjoy getting out for this festival. Many, many thanks to all of the squadron volunteers that helped man the gate and our LPSPS booth this year!!

But, getting back to it being December...don't forget to plan on attending our General Membership meeting on December 8th. This will be our annual Christmas/Holiday party and again this year we will be doing the "Dirty Santa". In case you missed the last one here's how it works. Everyone brings a wrapped gift. All gifts are placed on the table and you receive a ticket. Then we pick tickets from the hat. When your ticket is picked you get to choose a gift from the table and open it for all to see. Or, you can take a gift from someone that has already opened one! Our Commander was out of town last year and left me in charge of this and I must admit it did get a bit out of control. But our Commander is here for this one and will be sure we do it right. This really is a lot of fun so I encourage you to plan on attending...even if this is the first meeting you attend this year!!

We are in the process of firming up plans for our Change of Watch event in January and you will see more information on that very soon. Another annual event worthy of your attendance!

I will take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and pleasant

Christmas season along with a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Thank you for your participation and support this year. And thank you for your membership in the LPSPS.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

03 Jay Conner	14 Don Egle
06 Laura Beverly	15 John Cole
10 Ali Williams	16 Brad Oncale
12 Charlie Chapman	18 Deming Hoge
13 Earlita Harris	18 Chip Miller
13 Stephen Morris	24 Kate Oncale
	31 Dennis LaRocca

EDUCATION

D/Lt/C Ron Everett, AP



Congratulations to Helen Trousdale for passing Seamanship and Arthur Witherup for completing Advanced Piloting.

Looking forward to a New Year we've added two experienced instructors to the ranks. Paul Lumpkin, SN and Nick Chronis, AP, joining P/D/C Bill Dietrich, AP, Lynn Haase, AP, 1st Lt. Bob Albers, AP, and Bob Owens, SN. Paul served as Education Officer and Nick was an instructor at the New Orleans Power Squadron. Both have moved and transferred to the Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron

SAFE BOATING CLASS – JANUARY 16th

Boat Smart will be presented on 3 nights starting on Monday, January 16th at the Madisonville Maritime Museum. Is there someone at your marina, a friend, or a family member that could benefit from a safe boating course? Then let them know about this upcoming class. Better yet, Gift Certificates are available and make great Christmas gifts. Call me, 985-624-9115 for more information.

PILOTING CLASS – JANUARY 10TH

So far nine students have signed up for the course. We have room for more and are looking for members that want to hone their nautical skills.

Class starts on Tuesday, January 10th at the Madisonville Maritime Museum and will run from 7 PM until 9 PM for 10 sessions concluding with an Open Book Exam. You don't have to attend every class but you will be expected to keep current with class work.

Those completing the course and passing the exam can expect a 2 ½ percent reduction on their insurance premiums when insured by USPS.

Just a reminder, all Advanced Grade and Elective courses must be paid for in advance. This keeps the squadron cost to a minimum on postage and returned manuals. National charges a 10 percent restocking fee on all returned education materials.

West Marine

QUICK & DIRTY WINNERS

Their first attempt at boat building led to *Victory* in the Wooden Boat Festival's Quick & Dirty Boat Race.

Led by Mandeville's Assistant Store Manager, Kenny Schmidt, the team, made up of District Manager Frank Bush, Brent Lossett, Brian Borel, and Barry Hanks, from Baton Rouge West Marine, had winning on their collective minds.

On Sunday morning, while other teams were rushing to finish their crafts, the West Marine Team plotted their strategy over coffee and donuts.

Champagne was to come later as they christened the vessel "BLUE WAVE."

Our own Bob Doolittle was in charge of the event. Bob provided materials, encouragement and overall supervision for the nine teams in the Quick & Dirty contest.



Bob is a 25 year member of USPS. He is also on the Museum Board of Directors.



Other contestants in the Quick and Dirty on Sunday morning

Before the race, Frank Bush – West Marine's District Manager, stated that for one day, December 1st, five percent of West Marine's profits from all of their Louisiana stores would be donated to the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum. In my book, that makes them all WINNERS.

West Marine's Winning Crew with Trophy



Frank, Janice – Kenny's Wife, Kenny, Brent & Barry not pictured Brian Borel.

SOME AMAZING USES FOR WD40

- Gets oil spots off concrete driveways
- Loosens stubborn zippers
- Untangles jewelry chains
- Removes stains from stainless steel sinks
- Removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill

And my favorite;

- Keeps flies off cows