Newsletter for the members of the Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron
A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®
District 15 April 2005 Volume 14 Issue 4

UNDER THE BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cdr. Marlene Sobkowich, AP

DONATE those items you didn't know how to dispose of:

- Cell Phones are collected and sent to our Soldiers overseas for their use.
- Old Phone Books – Catalogs – Magazines- Credit for Over-night stays for families of sick children
- Can tabs also used for different hospital stays and procedures for those who cannot afford them.
- Children's Books Kiwanis Club youth reading advancement

These items can be dropped off at the Glass Menagerie for delivery to various groups.

NEWSLETTER CHANGES

You will notice the format is a little different and hopefully you got it a lot sooner than in the past. You will be receiving a hard copy of the newsletter until the first of July and then it will available on the web site only. If you do not have access to a computer, please let us know and we will arrange for a hard copy for those individuals. A roster is currently being put together that will be available on the web site with a secure link. More on this in the next issue.

NEW ADDITION

Your Commander is a proud Grandma with a new Grandson born March 16the weighing in at 6' 15 ozs. Michael Carlton Wilkerson.
Mom, Dad and Grandma are doing fine!

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Kennon and Fran Davis, William (Keith) Dennis, and J. Crane Fraser, Jr

NEXT RENDEZVOUS

Crawfish Boil and Casino Night – April 30th.
Harry Wood's Place on Hwy 22, Madisonville.
Crawfish Boil during the day followed by Casino Night on Harry's boat. He has all the casino equipment already installed. There is 300 ft of dockage with Power for our use. You need to let Harry know so he can plan your berth. The charge for all this is $15.00 per person and we will need reservations and money in by April 22nd. We need to have an idea of how much to order.

Call Marlene for reservations and please call early -- 985-624-9116 or drop your checks off at the Glass Menagerie. Harry's number 985-264-9952.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Ellis Brown - *1st*
Stephen Bloomer - 7th
Angela Rayer - *15th*
Walter Groce - *25th*
Chris Williams - *29th*
Robert Boettner - *4th*
Jim Kowaleski - *8th*
Matt Faust - *19th*
Michael Kritz - *27th*
Fran Davis - *30th*
Robbie Jarrell - ??

ADMINS VIEW

Lt/C H. Doug Bacon, S

SAFE BOATING WEEK

Starting on Saturday, May 21 and ending Friday, May 27 is Safe Boating Week. On Saturday, 9 AM – 4 PM, May 21st members of Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron, New Orleans Power Squadron, and Baton Rouge Sail & Power Squadron will celebrate the event on the Mandeville Lakefront and we need volunteers.

This SAFE BOATING FESTIVAL is for the public with a message of Boating Safety.

The 2005 North American Safe Boating

ADMINS VIEW CONTINUED

Campaign's theme is ***'Boat Smart, Safe Boat, WEAR It!' Life Jackets – They Save Lives!***

While it seems at first glance that life jackets are a dead horse that is being relentlessly beaten. Unhappily, there is still plenty of life left in the problem, especially in Louisiana.

Recent data shows that Louisiana ranks second nationally only to Alaska in drowning deaths each year. Our neighbor to the East, Mississippi is third.

These data cited, Dr. Megan Davies of the Center for Disease Control was asked to study the problem. Dr. Davies listed drug and alcohol use as the primary cause, sixty percent, of the boat accidents that led to the drowning. She added that use, or proper use of Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) would have prevented most of the accidents from taking a fatal turn.

Vessel Examiners, performing Vessel Safety Checks through out the nation, have found that thousands of boats are leaving the docks with either an inadequate number or no PFD's (life jackets) on board.

National Safe Boating Week is a timely event in that it is held the first full week before Memorial Day each year and, according to Dr. Davies, a disproportionate number of boating deaths occur on Memorial Day weekend in Louisiana.

We, as USPS Members -- an informed boating community, can surely help better the safety rate state-wide by better educating our youth. We all have a son or daughter, grandchild or beginner in need of this life saving information. Next time you're searching for that perfect gift, for a birthday, or graduation, etc. Contact our squadron for an educational gift certificate and give the gift of knowledge. Boat Smart is offered five or six times during the year and may help to provide the necessary tools for returning safely to the dock.

EDUCATION

P/C Ronald Everett, AP

SCHEDULE OF LPSPS CLASSES

CRUISE PLANNING Looking at a weekend voyage or a longer sojourn on the water? Then this is the class for you. We will be touching on subjects such as; Preparation and Planning, Boat and Equipment, Anchors and Anchoring, Security, Chartering, Traveling Outside the United States, Crew and Provisioning, Voyage Management, Communications, Navigation, and Emergencies. Class starts on Tuesday, April 26th.

SEAMANSHIP* Your first step into an Advanced Grade. You will become familiar with; Marlinespike (knots), Safety, Skipper's Responsibilities, Before Leaving the Dock, Weather and Wave Forms, Nautical Etiquette and Customs, Hull Design and Care, Docking, Undocking, and Trailering, Anchoring, Rafting and Mooring, Cruising Considerations and Boating Emergencies. Class will start Tuesday, May 24th at the Maritime Museum.

SAIL* Lynn Haase, AP is the Course Instructor with over 50 years of experience in sailing. At times we will be using Lynn's sailboat for instruction. Some classes may be held on Saturday afternoons. Class starts TBD

PILOTING * The second of five steps in Advanced Grades covering subjects such as Charts and their use, Aids to Navigation, Mariner's Compass, Variation and Deviation of the compass, Plotting and steering courses, Plotting and labeling charts. Class starts Tuesday, September 13th at the Maritime Museum.

*Successful completion of this course will give you a 2.5 percent discount off your insurance premium if you're insured through USPS. Passing 6 classes, 3 Advanced Grades and 3 Electives, will get you up to 15 percent total. Add a Vessel Safety Check and receive an additional 3 percent when you pass.

For registration or information on any USPS course, contact me, Ronald Everett, via phone 985-624-9116 or email; RonEverett39@aol.com

APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Once again, the Squadron will provide the main dish for "Bring a Covered Dish" -- TURKEY! Plan your side dishes around that theme. Looks as though we will have another good "feed" for the evening.

A BIT OF OT We will also look into the organization of United States Power Squadrons. The how and why, of National, Districts, and Squadrons. More so, on the squadron level. Bringing into play the role of the Squadron Commander, Executive Officer, Administrative Officer, Education Officer, Treasurer, Secretary

A BIT OF OT *continued*
Executive Committee and the most important – SQUADRON MEMBERS

Executive Summary
Lt/C John Bell, P

Spring is here! And with Daylight Savings Time with us again I can arrive home after work and usually have a bit of daylight left. Soon we will all be able to get fully back into the boating season again. I, for one, can hardly wait. Just a couple of quick items this month…first, if you didn't make it to the Lake Emfred rendezvous you missed a great time. We had a good turn out with a number of people arriving in their boats. Lots of great food and wonderful company. We have a number of additional rendezvous scheduled during the rest of the year. If you have not attended one recently (or ever) I encourage you to do so. Many of them you can get to by car so you don't have to commit to bringing your boat. They are really a lot of fun. I look forward to seeing you at one of them soon.

SAFE BOATING WEEK Another event we have coming up soon is the annual Safe Boating Week. This year we are planning on partnering again with the Baton Rouge and New Orleans Squadrons to have a combined event on Saturday, May 21st. Although we were initially planning it in Madisonville we have changed our plans and it now looks like it will be in Mandeville. Near the Yacht Club on the opposite side of the street. Check your calendar and plan on stopping by and see what's going on. If you have time I would always appreciate volunteers to help with the event. I will provide more information as we get closer to May.

In the mean time, as we all begin to sweep the dust from our vessels and prepare for another great boating season I wish everyone safe, fun, and happy boating.

SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW

VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS (VSC's) are tabulated for the calendar year. For this reason, you should make early arrangements for a VSC to be performed on your vessel. If you're insured through the USPS Boat Insurance Program, the successful completion of a VSC will net you a 3 percent discount on your insurance premium.

Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron has seven Certified Vessel Examiners ready to work for you. Just give one of them a call to perform a VSC on your boat. Bob Albers -985-727-4665; John Bell - 985-809-9805; Bill Dietrich - 985- 626-9730; Ron Everett - 985-630-2912; Lynn Haase - 985-871-1717; Trubee Racioppi - 985-898-2930; and Marlene Sobkowich - 985-624-9116.

Arrangements are being made to have a crew of CVE's at local boat launches and marinas on weekends offering Vessel Safety Checks. Also, VSC's will be available at Mandeville's West Marine location for those that trailer their boats.

NEW NATIONAL VSC AWARDS PROGRAM
Goals for this program were reported in the April issue of THE ENSIGN. Goals are to have at least 10 percent of a squadron's membership certified as Vessel Examiners and performing enough VSC's to equal or exceed its membership.

Keeping that in mind, LPSPS needs 12 -14 examiners to meet this goal. If you have an interest in becoming a Certified Vessel Examiner. Contact Ron Everett, 985-624-9116, for information. All potential examiners must have taken and passed SEAMANSHIP to become a Certified Vessel Examiner

No Chief's rep at
D15 SPRING CONFERENCE & COW

Chief Commander Les Johnson, SN, will be there in person to meet and greet members attending the conference in Baton Rouge.

Events are planned for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and everyone is invited to attend and take part in the activities.

Friday starts with a "golf" match at the XXX Country Club. The evening activity features a "Cajun Crawfish Boil." Saturday morning is set aside for business while the afternoon has a tour of the USS Kidd. Saturday evening festivities start with the incoming District Commander's Reception, followed by dinner and the installation of the NEW District Bridge
.
WHEN? Friday, April 15th through Sunday, April 17th. **WHERE?** Holiday Inn Select, 4728 Constitution Center, Baton Rouge, LA. See insert for activities and registration.

THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

No piece of paper can be folded in half more than seven (7) times.

Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.

Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise

Dentists have recommended that a toothbrush be kept at least six (6) feet away from a toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush.
(I keep my toothbrush in the living room now!)