



UNDER THE BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cdr. Marlene Sobkovich, AP

RENEWAL TIME

By now, most of you have received your renewal notice from National. Take time to renew, either by mailing a check or using your credit card. You can also email your renewal. Just following the instructions on your form.

FAMILY SAFE BOATING FESTIVAL

This event will take place Saturday, May 21st on the Mandeville Lake Front.

We are working in conjunction with Baton Rouge Sail & Power Squadron, New Orleans Power Squadron and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary – Flotilla 42.

We can use your help. Earn toward your merit mark by volunteering to work this event.

WELCOME TO:

Transferring Members **Ronald Messa**, and **Bill Rogers** from New Orleans and Reinstatement member **Dennis LaRocca** and his wife **Linda**.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

01 Janie Bigelow	06 Cleve Fair
08 Paul Lumpkin	10 Fred Beverly
15 Trubee Racioppi	16 Bob Christian
22 Upton Lea	27 Brett Thorne
28 Norman Currier	31 Micheal Cuccia
	31 Jerry Whorton

GET WELL

P/Lt/C Bob Owens just had open heart surgery and is doing well. P/Lt/C Harry Talbot also was under the knife for the same thing last month.

We wish both of you speedy recoveries.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lt/C John Bell, P

As we prepare to enjoy the peak of this years' boating season let me take a minute to remind you of a couple of upcoming events that are always fun and worthwhile.

The first one is on Saturday, May 21st the day of our annual Safe Boating Festival. This year it will be held across the street from the Lake Pontchartrain Yacht Club on the lakefront in Mandeville. Thanks to the efforts of our Commander Marlene we received permission from the City of Mandeville to have it there. This year it will again be a combination of our squadron along with the New Orleans and Baton Rouge Squadrons so we should have a good turn out of squadron members. We are hoping for a strong attendance by the public to enjoy the planned activities, demonstrations, and exhibits. There will be boat displays by various dealers, a Coast Guard air/water rescue demonstration, another on water demonstration of how to re-board a person overboard without jeopardizing yourself or others in the boat, along with many other activities. We are hoping this great spring weather will continue and favor our Annual Safe Boating Festival. Be sure you come out to visit and participate. I also want to remind everyone to check the Squadron website (www.lpsps.org) calendar to see when upcoming squadron rendezvous are

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY continued

Lt/C John Bell, P

The last thing I want to mention this scheduled. I know a large number of our squadron members have not been to one of these events yet. All I can say is you are missing a really great time. Many of the rendezvous are scheduled at venues reachable by either boat or car so you don't have to take your boat to get there. A few times when the weather has looked threatening we have attended by car.

ATTENDANCE DROPS

We have seen attendance at these meetings decline recently. We usually have guest speakers in that have interesting and relevant messages. Remember, these meetings are for you, the squadron members. If you don't want them, or want them to be on a different schedule, just offer your comments or suggestions to any one of the bridge members and it will be actively considered.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you at the next General Membership meeting, at one of our upcoming rendezvous, and at our Safe Boating Festival this month.

ADMINS VIEW

Lt/C H. Doug Bacon, S

MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Joshua Hunt will present "America's Waterway Watch." This is a national awareness program that asks those who work, live, or recreate on or near the water to be aware of suspicious activity that might indicate threats to our country's homeland security.

Also, the squadron will provide the main course for the meal but members are asked to ***Bring a Covered Dish*** that will compliment Smoked Beef Brisket or a dessert.

EPIRB INFORMATION:

I've been looking into a piece of fairly common equipment lately. The EPIRB, EPIRB stands for Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon. EPIRBs have been around for a while, but there have been some changes lately in the technology

that are worth mentioning. In the past, these devices operated on the VHF band at 121.5MHz (civilian Freq.) These units are still available for purchase, but as of February 1, 2009, their signal will no longer be monitored by the NOAA. The signal from these devices can only be picked up by low-earth orbit satellites and passing Air / Sea traffic. The future for these devices is not only a different signal output, but a variety of different form factors. The new frequency for EPIRBs is 406.025MHz. New devices transmit a burst signal that is picked up by COPSAS-SARSAT satellites that provide 85% global coverage. They also include in their signal GPS data, personal information, vessel information, and alternative contact information. These devices have reduced emergency signal reception time to approximately 4 minutes from several hours, and have narrowed search fields from over 20nm to a few meters.

They are either automatically (category I) or manually (category II) activated. Automatic devices are generally released via a Hydrostatic Release Unit which releases the unit from its bracket at a certain depth allowing it to float up to the surface and transmit. There are also new Personal Locator Beacons, previously for land use, that have been adapted for marine use. These are less expensive and more compact solution. Remember all of these devices must be properly registered in order to be worth having. Currently they can be registered online at <http://www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov/> Regularly scheduled maintenance must also be performed on all of these devices, including battery checks, water-tight integrity, periodic HRU replacement (on auto devices), and signal checks.

An excellent site describing this maintenance can be found at

http://www.sarsat.noaa.gov/EPIRB_inspecting.pdf

If you don't already have an EPIRB on your vessel, and you operate offshore, it's definitely worth looking into. If you have one, keeping it maintained and updated is a must.

SUMMER CRUISE

I/Lt Bob Albers, AP

We are planning a Squadron cruise to Ship Island and Biloxi/Gulfport for the June-July time frame. To make this a fun-filled success, we need a planning committee to select the appropriate dates, formation point, sailing times for sail, trawler, & planning

SUMMER CRUISE continued

I/Lt Bob Albers, AP

hulls, so we all meet at the right location at close to the proper time. We would also want to coordinate this with the various casino shows and possible overnight docking facilities. I need at least 3 good people to get together to this end. We will have our initial planning session at my home May 18. Call me at (985)727-4665 or e-mail me at rcalbers@bellsouth.net.

WEBSITE NEWS

Beginning in July, the primary means of distributing the squadron newsletter "UNDER THE BRIDGE" will be via our web site. The cost, as well as reliability of printing and mailing, is becoming less and less desirable. To accommodate those who cannot access the newsletter via the internet, other arrangements can be made if you call Cdr. Marlene Sobkowich 985-624-9116.

WANTED "RECIPIES"

We now have a "RECIPE" Section for those of you who have prepared a dish for our 'Covered Dish' meetings or rendezvous. Submit your recipes to me by e-mail (rcalbers@bellsouth.net). Don't forget to include the meeting date for which the dish was prepared and a picture if you have one. Recipes will be categorized in the following categories:

- 1) Beverages. 2) Appetizers. 3) Soups. 4) Salads. 5) Eggs. 6) Vegetables. 7) Meats. & Poultry. 8) Seafood. 9) Desserts. 10) Cookies & Candies

MEMBER'S ONLY

Up and Coming is a Member's only section featuring our very own membership roster and a *Member to Member For Sale Section*. For access to this area, you will need to logon. Initially your logon ID will be your membership number. Your password will be your last name. When I really get this section into full swing, your password will expire. At that time, you will pick your own password.

ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER CHANGED?

If you have changes in your membership profile, you can access a section to make changes at our website. Just look toward the bottom of the Home Page just above the counter and you will see "*Squadron Roster.*" Click on the link and follow directions.

EDUCATION

P/C Ronald Everett, AP

CRUISE PLANNING Bob Owens, was the first followed by Bill Hancock and Noah Reon as guest speakers at the Cruise Planning class. Each has a wealth of knowledge on cruising and shared their thoughts with the class. Glenn and Peggy Roy will present "Florida Cruising" at the next session.

SEAMANSHIP* Class will start Tuesday, May 24th at the Maritime Museum.

SAIL* We are looking for one or two more for the class. Lynn Haase, AP is the Course Instructor. Call Lynn if you're interested in the course.

PILOTING * . Class starts Tuesday, September 13th at the Maritime Museum. You have plenty of time to make your decision on taking this class, but don't wait until the last minute. Manuals have to be ordered.

*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

A BIT OF OT We will also look into the organization of United States Power Squadrons. The how and why Squadrons

May's General Membership Meeting will feature the Squadron Executive Officer.

BRIDGE OFFICERS 2005

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FAMILY SAFE BOATING FESTIVAL

*Saturday, 21 May 2005
Mandeville Lakefront and Pavilion
9 AM – 4 PM*

FUN, GAMES, DEMONSTRATIONS

United States Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, American Red Cross, Mandeville Fire Department, Delta Logic Satellite Phone, United States Power Squadrons, Bleu Skies Yacht Brokerage, St. Tammany's Sheriff's Department, Louisiana's Wildlife and Fisheries, St. Tammany West Tourist Commission, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum, St. Tammany Marine, Pontchartrain Yacht Club, Sea School, Backyard Printing, Artist Annie Strack Mandeville's West Marine, National Marine Manufacturers Association, and Champagne Beverage.

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Flotilla 42*

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