Newsletter for the members of the Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron
A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®

District 15 ***September 2005*** ***Volume 14 Issue 9***

UNDER THE BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

FROM THE COMMANDER
Cdr. Marlene Sobkowich, AP

After scaring myself and others half to death, I would like to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls, visits, and food. Also, for all the support I received over these last few weeks. I plan on being more than visible at our September 8th Membership Meeting at the Maritime Museum and I will attend the Rendezvous at the Haase Camp on September 17th. I maybe not as bouncy as usual but I will be there.

It's that time of year where things start to really happen again. Labor Day, when boating weather should become more comfortable, Thanksgiving dinner, and Christmas Parties.

The D15 Christmas Party is the first weekend in December at SunDestin. Rates are reasonable and you will have a great time. For details and contact numbers go to our web site – lpsps.org.

Nominations for Bridge Officers, Executive Committee, and other elective offices will be conducted through interviews by the Nominating Committee. Don't be left out -- get involved. This is your Power Squadron, it will be as good as you make it.

Contact John Bell if you can spare some time for the Wooden Boat Festival on Saturday, October 15th or Sunday, October 16th.

Free admission, a volunteer's T shirt, some food, and a chance to work toward your merit mark.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE DISTRICT COMMANDER

Dear Fellow Members:
I wish all of you could have attended the COW in Baton Rouge this past April. I am honored by the confidence you have shown in electing me to be your District Commander. I hope that I will measure up to my illustrious predecessors and be an effective ambassador for your District.

Over the years I have heard members question the need for the District and for that matter, the need for National. Let me express to you a few of my reasons for having a District.

Let's be realistic. Many of you aren't able to travel to the National Meetings. That's where District can step in and act as a conduit for the flow of information between you, the Squadron member, and our National organization. So it's important that if you have questions, opinions, or suggestions, tell us here at District and we will make sure you are heard.

Second, the District Conferences and Council Meetings are a venue for you to interact with other Squadron officers and members. They're a forum for the exchanging of information, sharing of ideas, discussing problems, and have fun. They can be a time to hold seminars on topics such as Co-Op Charting, VSC's, Publications, DB2000, or anything that might be of interest to you.

So, tell us what you want. Tell us what is important to you and what is not. If you think something needs to change let us know.

Remember, change won't come unless USPS knows what to change.
Paraphrasing what one of our more recent P/D/C's stated quite often, we are from the District and we are here to help you. I truly believe this and will pledge to always be there to listen.

Thank you all for your faith in me.

Sincerely,
D/C Karen Gercak, AP

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lt/C John B. Bell, AP

Here we are in the "Dog Days Of Summer" again. Only this year it has seemed different. Seems to me we have had more rain, especially on the weekends when many of us plan our boating events. Oh well, we had a beautiful spring and the rain will stop for a weekend soon…I hope. One thing for sure is we have had a lot more tropical storm activity in the Gulf this year. It may be that "*Global Warming*" is having an effect on our weather patterns. This type of weather calls for more vigilance and checking weather forecasts before setting out for a day of boating. We have suspended our monthly General Membership meetings for the summer months of July and August. The intent is to see if we can organize more on-the-water boating activities for Squadron members. We have had a couple of suggestions and we would appreciate your input also.
A convoy of squadron cruisers traveled to Biloxi with a side trip to Ship Island a few weeks ago. From what I hear everybody had a good time. Even with some mechanical incidents along the way, everyone made it there and back safely. And I also hear they may be planning this as an event in the spring and fall of the year.

CHECK LPSPS.ORG

Be sure you check the squadron's web page for an update on the very latest information. We are using the web page as the primary channel of communications to squadron members. If you visit it and don't find the information you are looking for, take a minute and drop a note to our webmaster.
Do you have a suggestion or two for squadron activities? If so, forward them to me, jbcbbell@bellsouth.net, so I can get them to the appropriate planning committee. There are numerous marine activities available to us on the Northshore and we should be enjoying them to the maximum.
One last thing…remember when engaging in boating activities that ***Safe Boating is No Accident.***

HAAS RENDEZVOUS – SEPTEMBER 17th

Lynn Haas Is Looking For You!

Primary feeding will be around 3:00pm Saturday, September 17th after that you are on your own with leftovers. Beer and soft drinks will be available. Appetizers & desserts will be up to you.

ENTERTAINMENT

Dominoes, card games, noodle races, the water is waist deep and easily allows for water games. Bring your bathing suit and towel and come prepared to have a fun time.
If you have a particular board or card game that you would like to teach us, bring it along.

OTHER THINGS TO DO

Hammock Testing

Rocking Chair Competition

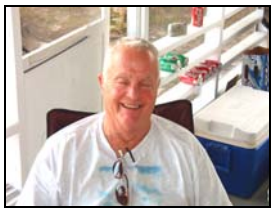
Rocking Chair Judge

Bed Making Competition

Falling off the floor

Dog Petting Competition

Recipe Exchange



Catch 40 Winks

DIRECTIONS TO THE RENDEZVOUS

By Automobile

The address is 91 Lakeview Dr (The old Rats' Nest Road going to Vera's place) The camp is down on your right hand side from Hwy 11. Parking is at a premium. Make sure your car is off of the road.

Trailered boats may launch at Tite's Place near the foot of the Highway 11 Bridge or at the end of Lakeview Drive there is a marina and fuel dock and boat hoist.

BY BOAT
YOU CAN ANCHOR

Just east of the Highway 11 bridge approx. 250 meters from the North shore.

Chart coordinates are:

L	**30**	**12.896' N**	**or**	**L**	**30**	**12.907' N**
Lo	**89**	**49.303' W**		**Lo**	**89**	**49.284' W**

There should be approximately 7' depth, but check as you approach anchorage site.

Weather permitting you may remain at anchor for the night or seek safe harbor @ Oak Harbor located about 1 1/2 miles to the east of the proposed anchor/raftup site.

WHO CAN BE A LPSPS MEMBER?

George Trousdale, S

Did you know that there are at least 45 positions that need filling in the Squadron Organization? Of course, we all recognize the Squadron Commander and a few others, but they are the tip of the iceberg! There are many positions that need to be filled that don't take much of your time and are very important. If you own a boat or have owned a boat, you can be involved in the Squadron's activities.

LPSPS sponsored a fun trip to Biloxi a few weeks ago. (See last month's issue.) Talk about interesting! Talk about fun! Shake down, break down boating and the participants laughed at each other til their sides hurt. How can you find out what needs to be done? Come to the meetings. It is fun and the food is good! Another way to find out is to call either Marlene or Ron at 985-624-9116. Tell them what you might be interested in and about how much time you want to give. You will be pleasantly surprised at what is available for you.

Of the 45 or so positions available, just one is a plain old (or new) member. Usually, a new member is busy taking classes from the Education Department's VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS who teach classes weekly forever – it seems. As a "newbie", I have not volunteered to fill one of the positions. Two courses and getting a boat into shape has taken up much of my time, but the boat is almost finished, so I hereby volunteer! Marlene, put me to work!

With the above statement, I challenge YOU to volunteer, come to the meetings and GET INVOLVED.

My wife, Helen, and I have met some absolutely great people through boating and we're excited about getting more involved. Though there were no meetings the last 2 months – vacations, etc. – the meetings have been fun and educational. Often, there are interesting speakers. The September meeting will be held at the Maritime Museum in

Madisonville with a tour of the Museum included! Supper is "Bring a Covered Dish."
The title of this column is a challenge to you. Who can you be? Do you want to remain as a dues paying member "for the insurance" or do you want to participate in boating with boaters? I can readily see that boating alone can be very boring. Get off your dead center! Volunteer! You'll have a great feeling of pride and fellowship!
Come aboard! You can be an active part of LPSPS!

ALGAE IN YOUR FUEL TANK

Lt/C Doug Bacon, AP

As part of routine maintenance on our boats, everyone changes the fuel filters. Filters on the engine itself and inline Racor type filters are the most common. Changing the cartridges is routine, but when there is "algae" in your fuel, then changing the filters won't get it out no matter how often you change them.
Diesel systems recycle fuel, and that means that heated fuel gets put back into your fuel tanks as you run your engines. Diesel fuel is a very refined product and heat accelerates the process of organic compounds used in the refining to "fall out" of solution and accumulate on the walls and baffles of your tanks.
These compounds form a black sludge commonly referred to as "algae". There are a lot of biocide products on the market for removing this "growth", but the problem with those products is that the sludge is not actually growing. There are biological contaminants in fuel, but they are a small minority. Killing them off will not solve problems that crop up with contaminated fuel.
These problems include eroded performance, increased smoke, and, at worst, engine failure. Drastic measures can be taken to remove bad fuel from a boat including removing the tanks to be replaced or boiled out. This can be avoided with a fuel treatment system called Algae-x. The algae-x system is described in great detail on their website: http://algae-x.net/index.html . The site gives application data, and an excellent "Frequently Asked Questions" section that describes the breakdown of fuel.
Their system is a combination of installed inline hardware (a fuel conditioning system) and additives for the fuel. It reverses the process by which the sludge accumulates, it removes water from the fuel, and it removes particulate matter.
The system is cost-effective as it reduces maintenance cost per engine and improves fuel efficiency. I have looked at several other fuel treatment systems as well. Links to information on them are: www.solareagle.com/pri.htm , and www.csicop.org/si/9801/powell.html. The algae-x system seems to be the most efficient and is locally available. (Me-2 Marine Service 985-630-7639) I hope you'll find this information useful if you've had problems with your fuel.

Safe Boating Festival

JULY BIRTHDAYS

01 Judy Faust	*18 Jeff Leedy*
03 James Cain	*21 Rebecca Page*
03 Norm Lasky	*21 Manny Soto*
04 Diane Chronis	*23 Chris Lawler*
08 Cookie Brown	*25 Doug Brooks*
11 Richard Owens	*28 Wilena Dougas*
11 Jeff Williams	*28 Jim McCarron*
13 Lou Adams	*30 David Groff*

30 Kim Vanek

Harry Wood's Crawfish Boil

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

01 Charles Wheeler	*15 Renee' Cheek*
03 John Bell	*16 Glenn Roy*
10 Bill Wellemeyer	*18 Clint Coldren*
11 Noah Reon	*19 Gayle Abadie*
12 Gary Garrigan	*19 Glenn Decoteau*
12 Brian Heard	*28 Joyce Tracey*
29 Bob Warren	

Biloxi Breakfast aboard LADY NORMA

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 Randy Sparacio	*16 Mike Alexander*
09 Michael Istre	*18 Russell Smith*
11 Bill Evans	*18 Brad Soileau*
12 Leonard Brewster	*24 Bill Blythe*
12 Barry French	*26 Terri Williams*
15 Robert Owens III	*29 Kenneth Rayer*

SEPTEMBER 8TH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This is a great opportunity to get the season started with a gathering of members at the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum – probably better known as the Maritime Museum in Madisonville. As William Shakespeare said, "A rose by another name would smell as sweet."

"Bring a Covered Dish" and enjoy the company and stories of this past summer's exploits. Don't be surprised if more than one or two pictures are passed around.

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to explore the exhibits, a member of the museum staff will be on hand so we can see and visit the numerous displays available. They will also give you the chance to support the museum by becoming a member. A one-year family membership is $25. For those that take advantage of membership, a t-shirt (one) of a past Wooden Boat Festival will be yours with each family membership.

EDUCATION

D/Lt/C Ronald Everett, AP

Executive Committee Decision

At the last Executive Committee Meeting the committee decided to implement a policy for advanced grades and elective courses. That is, course textbooks and materials must be paid for in advance of the class start date. The reasoning behind this is to minimize the cost to the squadron. We have had members indicate they wanted to take a course, we ordered the class materials, and then have the member decide not to take the class. We pay for shipping the class materials from National to the squadron and pay the shipping to return the materials to National plus a 10 percent restocking fee.

If you decide to take a course that is being offered, you will be required to pay in advance. If you choose not to take the course, you will receive the class materials you've paid for.

Congratulations Ron Messa, George Trousdale, and Keith Dennis passed SEAMANSHIP. Doug Bacon and Roy Mascari have completed all requirements for Advance Piloting.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MARITIME MUSEUM in MADISONVILLE

Bring a Covered Dish!

6:30 Social
7:00 Meeting Begins

8:00
Visit Museum displays, exhibits, and see films relating to maritime history in this area.

HAASE RENDEZVOUS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

ARRIVE BY BOAT OR CAR

Directions on page 3

MAIN DISH BY SQUADRON

(Main Dish is?)
Including Marlene's Cabbage Rolls
Side Dishes, Appetizers and Desserts by Participants

SWIMMING, GAMES, VARIOUS COMPETITIONS, and A GOOD TIME