



UNDER THE BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cdr. Marlene Sobkowich, AP

I want to wish all of you a Happy and Prosperous NEW YEAR.

I don't know about you but I'm looking forward to the Change of Watch. It will mark the end of my time as commander and bring in a new team to continue working for the squadron's success. John Bell has worked hard on the squadron's behalf over these past years and deserves the role as Commander.

My new role will be helping John in the Membership Department and as Public Relations Officer.

Thanks to all of you who helped me during the two years I served as commander. I've really enjoyed this time. In closing, I encourage all of you to attend our 2006 Change of Watch.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lt/C John B. Bell, AP

Another year comes to a close. Only this is one most of us won't be sad to see go! With Katrina and Rita gone leaving us to deal with their aftermath, 2006 can only get better. Speaking of 2006, remember that our 2006 Change of Watch is on Saturday, January 21st at 6:00 pm at the Beau Chene Country Club. Although invitations were sent to each member, to check the web-site for details and then make your reservations with either Marlene at (985) 624-9116 or Carol at (985) 809-9805. RSVP no later than January 14th as we need an accurate count for meals. I know many of our members have not been to a Change of Watch event. If you have not, then I encourage you to attend. We begin the evening with refreshments and hors d'oeuvres followed by a sit down dinner. After that we have a brief ceremony to thank and discharge the 2005 Bridge and executive committee members followed by the welcoming and induction of the 2006 Bridge and executive committee. There will also be live entertainment, *Heere's Johnny*, for your dancing and listening enjoyment.



A new year also brings with it a wealth of opportunity -- personal opportunities that allow each of us to continue our recovery activities, and public service to others. Our Squadron supports several worthwhile events during the year and

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 02 Bill McNabb | 18 Brian Normand |
| 03 J. Crane Fraser | 19 Robert Baldrige |
| 06 Jim Richardson | 19 Harry Hebb |
| 08 Nancy Nelson | 21 Harry Talbot |
| 11 Dennis Blum | 22 Vincent Pisciotta |
| 12 Doug Bacon | 23 David Campbell |
| 13 Wanda Mascari | 23 Peggy Roy |
| 13 Helen Trousdale | 23 Frank Sanders |
| 14 Melanie Scarcella | 28 Dudley Haycraftt |
| 16 Stephen Miller | 28 Roy Mascari |
| 29 Jim Stockstill | |

we would love to have you become involved. We are going to try and break down our tasks so they will be able to accommodate whatever amount of time you would like to contribute. There will be more to come on that in 2006. I will take this opportunity to say "Thank You" for all of the support and help I have received from fellow bridge members, the executive committee, and squadron members during 2005. Happy Holidays to all and a wish for a healthy and prosperous 2006!



You are cordially invited to attend

Lake Pontchartrain
Sail & Power
Squadron's
Annual

Change of Watch

Saturday, 6 PM - January 21,
2006

Beau Chene Country Club
602 North Beau Chene Drive
Mandeville, LA

Choice of Entrée

Broiled Grouper Roast Prime Beef
Pork Wellington

Cash Bar

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
\$35 per person

RSVP by January 14, 2006
985-624-9116 Marlene or 985-
809-9805 Carol

EDUCATION

D/Lt/C Ronald Everett, AP

PILOTING CLASS - JANUARY 10TH

. We have room for 2 more students looking to hone their nautical skills.

First of a two-part program studying inland and coastal navigation. Its focus is on the fundamentals of piloting----keeping track of a boat's movements, determining one's position at any time and laying out courses to a planned destination. Included subjects are; charts and their use, aids to navigation, the mariner's compass, variation and deviation of the compass, plotting and steering courses, dead reckoning, plotting and labeling charts.

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.

Just a reminder, all Advanced Grade and Elective courses must be paid for in advance.

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. Call me, 985-624-9115 for more information.

EDITOR

D/Lt/C Ron Everett, AP

We have elected the following:

2006 BRIDGE OFFICERS



Secretary

Lt/C Bob Albers, AP

I don't know about you, but I began 2006 by burning my 2005 calendar. I don't ever want to see that year again! I think many of you feel the same. Now for the sake of going forward, we are in need of a few good men and women. Specifically, we need people to fill the following positions:

- 1) Editor—responsible for editing & publishing the news letter.
- 2) Roster: Responsible for maintaining the squadron roster. Although we have access to the national roster site, there is much local information required
- 3) Telephone committee—This position will inform the membership of upcoming events.

So, come on! This is your Power Squadron. Let's make as good as it can be.

FIFTEEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY

P/C R. Upton Lea, AP

The foundation for the Lake Pontchartrain Power Squadron was laid during the period from 1986 to 1987 when several classes were held on Sunday mornings at the Pontchartrain Yacht Club. These classes resulted in 14 active members. In 1987 a Boating Course was held for all members of the Sheriff's Search and Rescue Squad. Other boating classes at Tammany Yacht Club and Marina Del Rey resulted in even more members. The date is now 1990 and the North Shore members decided it was time to form a local squadron.

In George and Margaret Tranchina's dining room at the 1990 Memorial Day Rendezvous, the Metairie Squadron stepped up and agreed to sponsor our Division. By June we were officially recognized by National as a division. At our organizational meeting an acting bridge was elected, meeting dates were set and a squadron kit was requested. By this time we had 21 North Shore members active in division affairs. When our kit finally arrived and we set about meeting National's requirements to become a

squadron. Some of the requirements were scheduling and holding membership meetings, rendezvous, coop charting, sending representatives to attend district councils/conferences and holding and teaching classes.

On May 4, 1991 we received our Charter with 36 active members. Since that date much effort from our membership, the squadron has grown to 190 members, which includes family members and associate members, one of the largest in District 15.

UPDATE ON SAFE BOATING

Leaving the dock is optional. Returning is mandatory.

Keep in mind -- If you turn the wheel towards shore, the houses get bigger. If you turn the wheel away from shore, they get smaller. That is, unless you keep turning the wheel, then they get bigger again.

Sailing isn't dangerous. Sinking is what's dangerous.

It's always better to be on shore wishing you were out there, than to be out there wishing you were on shore.

The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire.

When in doubt, stay out to sea. No one has ever gone aground on a wave.

A "Good" return to your slip is one from which you can walk away. A "Great" return is one after which you can use the boat again.

Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself.

You know you've hit the dock hard if it takes all your bilge pumps running at full power for you to step on to the dock.

Always try to keep the number of departures you make from your slip equal to the number of returns you've made.

You start with full bag of luck and an empty bag of experience. Be sure to fill your bag of experience before you empty your bag of luck.

In the ongoing battle between objects made of fiberglass going tens of MPH and the

shore going zero MPH, the shore has yet to loose.

LOOKING BACK TO THE FUTURE

Do you remember why your first joined the Power Squadron? For the educational courses that were offered? Or being able to participate in boating activities with others who have the same interest as you? Or, being able to give back to your community through the squadron's civic endeavors?. Or, obtaining a better rate on your boat insurance?

When was the last time you took a USPS course? When was the last time you volunteered to help with a Boat Smart class? When was the last time you attended a meeting?

The world is different today. We all seem to be doing more with less, more work with less time. We all need to doing something for the fun of it. Keep this in mind when you're looking at your invitation to attend the squadron's COW.

BECOME A VESSEL EXAMINER

Looking for a way to earn points for your merit mark? Here's one. Become a Vessel Safety Examiner -- its easy. Just pass the VSE open book exam (now online), perform 5 supervised vessel inspections under a certified examiner and you're there.

You will be ready to help the boating public understand the importance of having the required USGC safety equipment onboard and readily available. And, to pass on information about the squadron's BoatSmart® classes.

Call me, 985-624-9116, if you have an interest in becoming a VSE.



Opening the SAFE BOATING WEEK Festival



Impromptu gathering of squadron members



Side trip on Biloxi Cruise



Pontchartrain Drive after Katrina



Happier Times at the Haase Camp

*Happy
New
Year!*