



UNDER THE BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

Special Announcement to USPS Boat Insurance Customers:

As you are all probably aware, the extreme frequency and severity of windstorms in the past two years have caused enormous losses for all marine insurance carriers. To make matters worse, NOAA and the other leading weather specialists are in agreement these two hurricane seasons are not anomalies but are indicative of what can be expected in the foreseeable future due to changing global weather patterns.

Accordingly, The St. Paul Insurance Company, which has underwritten USPS Boat Insurance Program for almost twenty years, is being forced to make changes (as are all marine insurance carriers) in their underwriting criteria in order to operate profitably. After looking carefully at the USPS Boat Insurance Program from every angle, the changes being mandated by St. Paul's are as follows:

- All boats over 10 years of age in the coastal and adjacent counties of AL, FL, GA, LA, MS and TX will be non-renewed. *The non-renewal process will begin on March 1, 2006 with policy effective dates of approximately May 1, 2006.* If your policy has already been renewed for 2006 or has an effective date before approximately May 1, your policy will remain in force until 2007.
- No new business will be quoted in coastal and adjacent counties of AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC and TX if the boat is over 30 feet in length or if the hull value is greater than \$100,000.

We request that any member that has their policy non-renewed or has their coverage restricted to a degree that they find unsatisfactory, **call us toll-free at (800) 763-USPS.** As one of the largest insurance brokerage firms in the United States, McGriff, Seibels and Williams has access to virtually every major marine insurance underwriter in the marketplace which puts us in the best position possible to explore the best options available to USPS members. Also, effective immediately we are able to offer all USPS members the following options:

- **Liability-only policy**
- **Navigation Warranty** – Endorsement to existing policy stating that your boat will not be kept below 35 degrees N Latitude between June 1 and November 15
- **Named Storm Exclusion** – Endorsement to existing policy stating no coverage for any named or numbered storm

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cdr. John B. Bell, AP

The year is getting off to a pretty good start. We are already planning for the New



Orleans Boat Show, the District 15 Spring Council meeting, and a number of other events. As always, we are looking for membership input and suggestions for social activities and events that you would like to see. Then we need volunteers to help

organize and put them together. Just to give you an idea of how much work is

involved in planning one of these, here is an example. The initial planning for our first rendezvous of the year consisted of a telephone conference call with about 4 people. Out of that came the date, time, food and refreshment plans, location, and a few follow up action items that were completed within 48 hours. Now, I ask you does this sound like a lot of hard work... (I think not) and something you could contribute to...(I think so)? Just give me or any of the other Bridge officers or executive committee members a call and we will readily accept your thoughts, suggestions, and help. I am encouraged by the initial level of involvement but we really need YOUR thoughts and input as well. With your input we can focus on developing a plan for the year that will satisfy many of our members. Remember, that is you.

Does anyone want to volunteer to help organize a spring fishing rodeo? I truly do not know how so if we are going to have one or more of these this year we need a committee to plan and organize it. Then we can get the word out to everyone. If you would like to help with this, please call me or Bob Christian our Admin Officer in charge of Boating Activities. I would like to target having the plan together and ready for distribution by the end of March. Thanks in advance for your help.

Another event we need to form a planning and organizing committee for is an LSPSPS sailing regatta this year. I know we have a number of sail members and I am hoping this is something that would be of interest to them. Again, please call me or Bob Christian and let us know if you can help.

Our last General Membership meeting at the Pontchartrain Yacht Club was our first in their temporary building. Although we were a bit cozy we are working with the Yacht Club to rearrange some of the furniture for our future meetings so we will have more room. I encourage you to plan on attending the next one. They continue to be fun and informative.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9th MEETING

***Place: Pontchartrain Yacht Club
Time: 6 PM Social 7 PM Meeting***

"BRING A COVERED DISH"

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lt/C Bill Dietrich, AP

Help needed from all you boat lovers. The



New Orleans Boat show is at the convention center this year! It should be a better set up and we can help New Orleans put on a good show!! Bob Christian is ram rodding LPS&PS participation and Carol Bell, Marlene and Ron Everett are in the line of fire for

scheduling. Dates are Wednesday thru Sunday March 8th thru 12th. This means you can't miss getting a shot if you get in touch with one of them. At last count, Available times were:

Wed & Friday 1 @ 1730 to 2000.
8th & 10th 2 @ 1930 to 2200

Sat. 11th 2 ea from 1400 to 1730
 2 ea from 1700 to 2000
 2 ea from 1930 to 2200

Sunday is covered so hurry to get one of the available slots. Ask Ron Everett for stuff to hand out for the March 20th Boating Class!!

Don't have anything else for now since I've been out of town a bunch this month! More next time, Please help on this boat show!!

EDUCATION

Lt/C Ronald Everett, AP



Our next Boat Smart Class will take place on Monday, March 20th, 27th and concluding on Monday, April 3rd. If you have a friend, boating buddies, or dock friends, they can sign up on line by visiting the USPS web site. Or, they

can call me at 985-624-9116.

MARINE SWAP MEET

Do you have some boating items too good or valuable to throw away? Well, dig them out from where ever you've been hiding them and shine them up and get ready.

Mandeville's West Marine is hosting a Marine Swap Meet on Saturday, April 1st from 9 AM until 3 PM. All you have to do is

register no later than March 30th. Space will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis. For additional information contact Asst. Store Mgr. Kenny Schmidt, at 985-727-9443, during store hours.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 05 Reed Alford | 17 Paul Snow |
| 05 Keith Dellsperger | 19 Scott Kiser |
| 05 Lynn Haas | 20 Maureen Kullman |
| 05 Louis Pechon | 22 Craig Lewis |
| 07 Otis Favre | 22 Ron Messa |
| 07 Jim Hancock | 22 Mark Tupper |
| 09 Allan McDonnell | 23 Chad Williams |
| 12 Harry Wood | 24 Bob Albers |
| 15 Karen McNabb | 21 Louis Bolin |
| 16 Joel Champagne | 28 Pat Lumpkin |
| | 31 Hal Bigelow |

ADMIN'S VIEW

Lt/C Bob Christian, P

It was great to see everyone at our



February Membership meeting. I was briefly out of commission but I am now ready, willing, and looking forward to resuming my duties as Admin Officer.

A large welcome to new members Gene and

Candice Mallard. We are also pleased to welcome Don and Becky Roman from the Virginia Beach Power Squadron.

Our March meeting will be at the Pontchartrain Yacht Club on Thursday, March 9th. Social hour starts at 6 PM meeting to follow at 7 PM. Please bring a covered dish for dinner, an Irish motif would be good since St. Patrick's day is the 17th. Our program will be presented by Helen Trousdale and Norma Roberts with nominal assistance from their spouses George and Art. The subject is "Introduction to the Royal Clipper: World's Largest Sailing Ship!" What an adventure!

LPSPS first rendezvous of the year is scheduled for Saturday, March 25th at Lake Emfred. Be there at approximately noon. Bring a covered dish to share and something for you and your guests to cook on the BBQ. Members are encouraged to bring your family and friends. If you are driving, security has been tightened so be

prepared to show ID and LPSPS name tag, i.e. driver's license, green card etc. when you enter the gate to Tchefuncte Country Estates. For further info please feel free to contact either myself, or Carol Bell.

Cdr. John Bell has suggested we set up a mentoring program for new members.

This may be the key to beef up our lagging inactive member participation in our programs. Peggy Roy has volunteered to help with this program but a few more seasoned members would be welcomed to give her a hand.

Volunteers for booth duty at the NO Boat Show at the Morial Convention Center have not been overwhelming. So far we have 3 volunteers, Commander John Bell and Carol will serve on the Sunday early watch and I will serve on the evening watch.

Schedule is as follows. Wednesday the 8th, Thursday the 9th and Friday the 10th: 1st shift 5:30PM to 8:00 PM, 2nd shift 7:30 to 10:00PM. Saturday the 11th, 11:00AM to 2:30 PM, 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM, 5:00PM to 8:00PM and 7:30 to 10:00pm. Sunday the 12th, 11:00AM to 3:00PM and 2:30 PM to 6:00PM. Obviously we can not participate on Thursday the 9th due to our own meeting. We need members to help here! The New Orleans Power Squadron has been devastated and members are scattered all over the place!! We need to help out, so step up to the plate!

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Lt/C Bob Albers, AP

It seems that I am wearing many hats, not



only the Secretary's hat, but also webmaster, Summer Cruise Chair and recruiter for more members of the telephone committee. In these capacities, I would like to call your attention to the announcement on our

"frontpage" concerning boat Insurance. This has the potential for biting all of us.

Also, not much used yet, but of great potential is the "Members Only" section of our web site. This is a place for our members "for sale", "wanted" ads and

Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron
1815 N. Causeway Blvd.
Mandeville, LA 70471-3111

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Place: Pontchartrain Yacht Club

Time: 6 PM Social 7 PM Meeting

“BRING A COVERED DISH”

other things which our members might request.

On our Web homepage is a link to a questionnaire so you can help us plan our summer Cruise. We need your help here. Where do you think we should go? What should we do when we get there? Should there be any stops along the way? How long should we stay? When should we go? What about alternatives? I'm not mentioning "the H word".

Did you get the word on our next membership meeting? I hope so, but we do need help getting the word out. Join our telephone committee and help us keep other members posted. We need more committee members so each will be able to do less. It should only take 1 hour or so a month and this will earn credit toward a merit mark. Check that we have your correct phone number in the roster. You can get there by way of the Members Only area, unless you've asked me to supply a "unique" password, your password is your last name.

WE'RE BACK!!

***To Pontchartrain Yacht Club in
their “NEW” Temporary Facility***

114 Jackson Street

Mandeville, LA

Thursday, March 9th

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Place: Pontchartrain Yacht Club

Time: 6 PM Social 7 PM Meeting

“BRING A COVERED DISH”

***Speakers: Our Own Norma Roberts and
Helen Trousdale***

***“Introduction to the
World’s Largest Sailing Ship”***

Join with us this evening