



UNDER THE BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cdr. John B. Bell, AP

If you weren't at the Lake Emfred rendezvous you really missed a good time.



The weather was perfect, a good turnout by squadron members, and a delicious meal was enjoyed by everyone. Our next rendezvous is April 29th and will be our annual crawfish boil...even though sometimes we don't

actually boil the crawfish and buy it already cooked and ready to eat. This too is always a fun event so I encourage you to plan on attending.

Another event that is happening this month is the Spring Conference and the District Change of Watch. This year it is being held in Jackson, MS on April 21 – 23. This week-end event starts with a golf scramble on Friday morning. You don't have to be a good golfer to have fun with this one. In fact, many players really get their money's worth in traversing the fairways towards the greens. Lots of fun and laughs. Then Friday evening there is a Hospitality Crawfish Boil. We all know what that's about, more good food. Saturday afternoon there is a luncheon for members, spouses, and guests. Then the Change Of Watch ceremony followed by a dinner dance. Additionally, maps are available for on your own visits to the Russell Planetarium, MS Art Museum, the Antique Mall, or the MS Governor's Mansion. So all in all, there is sure to be something for everyone's taste. If you have not yet been to a D15 Conference they are held twice a year, one in the Spring and another in the Fall and they rotate locations from Squadron to Squadron in the District.

I am still looking for someone to help with leading and organizing a fishing event for all of the fishermen (persons?) in the Squadron. Please contact me if you can help.

Don't forget to see one of our Vessel Safety Inspectors and get your free VSC before we get into the height of this boating season.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing many of you at the next General Membership meeting, and at our upcoming events and rendezvous.

MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT 15 XO

D/Lt/C Cheryl Jarrell, AP

D15 Executive Officer

Attendance at district functions is not



what it use to be. What can we do to get members interested enough to attend?

Council and conference meetings are advertised to squadrons, costs are kept as low as possible, and weekend activities

are fun. Instructor development, co-op charting seminars, and information on DB2000 have all been offered over the last year at district meetings. Squadron commanders have been asked for suggestions on other breakouts that would be of interest to members.

When I first joined New Orleans Power Squadron, many of our members were active on the district and national level, not necessarily holding offices, but attending meetings and enjoying the opportunities to socialize with fellow boaters around the district and around the country.

Today, the efforts of district and national, officers and committeemen, no

longer seem to be acknowledged or appreciated. Many of our squadron officers and members feel that district and national are not needed, are useless, and are a waste of money.

The truth lies somewhere in the middle of putting district and national on pedestals and calling them a drain on resources. Expecting accountability is good; criticizing simply because something isn't what we would do is not.

Do you think district and national meetings are a waste of time? I don't. I enjoy seeing the friends I've made over the years, and I always come away with something, no matter how small, that I didn't know before.

I believe the first step to increasing attendance is getting squadron officers to not only attend, but to participate, in district activities. Then together, district and squadron officers can pass the word on to individual squadron members that district conferences offer the perfect opportunity to relax, to learn, to play, and to meet with other boaters.

I think that district activities are worth working to save. That's my personal opinion, and I invite you all to help me do it.

Editors Note: D/Lt/C Cheryl Jarrell is the incoming District 15 Commander and will become DC at the D15 Change of Watch in Jackson, MS on April 22, 2006.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

01 Ellis Brown	15 Angela Rayer
04 Bob Boettner	19 Matt Faust
07 Stephen Bloomer	27 Michael Kritz
08 Jim Kowaleski	29 Chris Williams
	30 Fran Davis

ADMIN'S VIEW

Lt/C Bob Christian, P

Many thanks to those of you who gave your time to help at the New Orleans Boat Show.



Although we were not able to give 100% support manning the booth, the New Orleans squadron was appreciative of our help. The show was well attended by the public and it was encouraging to experience the

number of boaters coming by the booth that were interested in safe boating.

Our rendezvous at Lake Emfred was a great success. We had 5 boats, the Lady Norma, Talk About Good, Peg's Choice, Sugarplum, and Andante. Two of our sail boaters tried their best to get there but the river was down too much and they had to return to port and come by car. There were approximately 25 attending, the weather was perfect, the company was superb, and as usual the food plentiful.

Our next meeting will be at the Lake Pontchartrain Yacht Club on April 13th. Social hour begins at 6:00 PM; the meeting starts at 7:00 PM. Please bring your favorite Easter covered dish. After several attempts to secure a guest speaker we decided that due to the Easter holiday week-end we would not have one. Instead we are going to call upon some of our "old salts" to demonstrate marlinspike or answer any questions anyone may have regarding boating. Let's have an open forum format and maybe we will all learn something from each other.

We are also trying to arrange for our May meeting to be at one of the local restaurants. Unfortunately we are having a bit of problem locating one that can accommodate our numbers with a private room we can use. I would welcome your suggestions for restaurants.

Our next rendezvous will be our annual crawfish boil. This year it will be held at the Madisonville wall on April 29th. We will purchase pre-boiled crawfish with all the trimmings...potatoes, sausage, corn. The cost has yet to be determined as it depends on the price of the crawfish. We will publish it on our website at a closer date. It should be somewhere between \$10-\$15 per person. Join us at The Wall.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Lt/C Bob Albers, AP



As we begin Spring, we must keep in mind that another hurricane season is just around the corner. We certainly don't need one but, like death and taxes, there isn't any way around it. Building on the

things we learned from the "K" and "R" experiences, I'd like to offer a few tips.

Right now, before there is even a hint of a hurricane, plan your strategy. Are you sure about your storm shutters/boards? Will you stay for a category one direct hit? Will you evacuate no matter what? Where will you go? What is your evacuation path for a hurricane coming on our east side? The west?

Collect a file of important information and papers to take with you:

- 1) Insurance contacts and policies
- 2) Telephone directories
- 3) Phone lists of family & friends
- 4) Birth, marriage certificates and passports
- 5) Irreplaceable photos
- 6) Medicines and prescriptions
- 7) Extra eye glasses
- 8) Cash should ATMs be down
- 9) Flashlights with extra batteries
- 10) Clothing for a week
- 11) Note books, stationery, envelopes, stamps
- 12) Portable radio/TV with batteries
- 13) Extra charger for your cell phone

If you plan to stay, do you have enough food and water? How will you prepare it? Do you have a generator? Does it work? Do you need to stock up on fuel? How about a chain saw? If you have to, can you get out from your second floor or roof? If your telephone/cell phone doesn't work, do you have an alternate means of communicating?

Plan to log on to lpsps.org and tell us your evacuation status. This feature will be available when required. It will be similar to the Katrina return status done last year.

If there is something on my list that you haven't thought of, I'm glad to bring it to your attention; if you think of something else, let me know and I'll add it to this when I post it on the web as a hurricane preparation page. Let's all hope and pray we don't need the preparations.



Glenn Roy, Bill Hancock, Noah Reon, and Bob Albers. What has got their attention? FOOD!



Don and Rebecca Roman recent transfers from Virginia Beach to LPSPS



Peggy Roy and Carol Bell comparing notes.



Bill Dietrich and his kayak



Bill Hancock and Noah Reon
trying to get into Lake Emfred

WE'RE BACK!!
To Pontchartrain Yacht Club in
their "NEW" Temporary Facility
114 Jackson Street
Mandeville, LA

THURSDAY, APRIL 13TH

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Place: Pontchartrain Yacht Club
Time: 6 PM Social 7 PM Meeting

"BRING A COVERED DISH"

DON'T FORGET
DISTRICT 15 SPRING CONFERENCE
APRIL 21ST thru 23RD
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI