



UNDER THE BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cdr. John B. Bell, AP

I am going to be brief this month. I have only two items to report on. The first is the successful D15 Spring Conference held April 21-23 in Jackson, MS. I was very pleased to see the turn out and representation from Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron. These are the types of events that



we need to continue to support. I believe everyone that attended had a great time. It was nice to meet new friends from other squadrons in the District along with seeing old friends again. It is also important that we understand what is going on at the District and National levels as they can ultimately have an effect on us at the general membership level. An example is the attention that is being placed on the boat vessel insurance issue. Although this is not an easy issue, I am confident that a solution will ultimately be reached. I know a number of our members are waiting with anticipation to find out how this will be resolved.

My second item. It is very apparent to me that we have an incredible amount of talent among our membership in LPSPS! I am honored to be leading this organization. My concern is we do not have enough people that understand the various roles and responsibilities of our elected bridge positions. Without understanding what is expected, people are reluctant to volunteer and offer their skills and expertise. Our Operations Training is specifically designed to address this issue. We will be scheduling an Operations Training session soon and I would like your comments on when it would be most appropriate. Now I know many of

you will read this and simply ignore it. A few will read it and think about it and not give me any comments. And yet, fewer will read it and offer me comments. I encourage everyone to comment. We need to ensure we have sustained leadership candidates for our squadron

FAMILY SAFE BOATING FESTIVAL

Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron along with U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will present the Fifth Annual Family Safe Boating once again on Saturday, May 20th from 9 AM until 4 PM. This is a "FREE" event for the whole family. "This event is important to the community as it provides an opportunity and awareness of safe boating practices and safety on the water." stated Marlene Sobkowich, Squadron Public Relations Officer.

Displays of knot tying (marlinspike), boat safety equipment, life jackets, a US Coast Guard simulated helicopter water rescue, and opportunities to become familiar with USPS educational courses, and possibly free boat rides.

In addition, US Power Squadrons, America's largest boating educational organization, has announced that virtually all of its 450 squadrons will be offering a public boating course during National Safe Boating Week 2006. The voluntary organization of boaters has more than 50,000 members throughout the nation, in Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and even in Tokyo, Japan. Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron, a unit of US Power Squadrons, serves the local area and will be offering a USPS Boat Smart Course which covers all of the requirements for state certification. All students who pass the course, and just about everyone does, receive a US Power Squadrons Boating Course Graduate decal for their boat which

indicates to law enforcement officials that the operator has passed a USPS course. It also meets qualification for membership in United States Poser Squadrons.

Squadron Commander John B. Bell, AP, announced that their local squadron class will be held at Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum, 133 Mabel Drive, Madisonville on Monday, May 22nd, Monday, June 5th, and Monday June 12th, with registration at 6:30 PM the first night. Class will start at 7 PM and run to approximately 9 PM. The course is open to all adults and youngsters at least 12-years of age. The cost for the course is \$35 per person. Additional details can be obtained by calling Lt/C Ronald Everett 985-624-9116.

Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron was chartered in 1990, has 198 members, and offers Boat Smart, a safe boating class. In addition to public boating classes, Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron offers a large variety of additional courses for its members, including Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting and Celestial Navigation 1 and 2. The voluntary USPS instructors also provide courses in Engine Maintenance, Marine Electronics, Cruise Planning, Sail and Weather.

In addition to its courses, members of Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron provide vessel safety inspections of recreational vessels, along with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, as part of a US Coast Guard initiative. Those boats that pass the examination receive a decal. Those that do not pass are given a listing of items that should be corrected, such as outdated flares.

"National Safe Boating Week was created to make boaters more aware of safety on the water," Lt/C Bill Dietrich, Squadron Executive Officer, continued, "and we hope that everyone who goes boating will take our Power Squadron course."

"People waste time, effort and money on all kinds of things that don't make sense, when by owning a boat one can consolidate and waste them all on one thing." *George Trousdale*

Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron

A unit of United States Power Squadrons

WHAT WE ARE ABOUT;

The mission of the United States Power Squadrons is to promote recreational boating safety through education and civic activities while providing fellowship for our members.

We at Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron take this matter to heart. You will see that as a squadron, we are very active in areas from boater education, to civic service to FUN.

We are indeed a "Sail and Power Squadron" with members who have large boats, small boats, or no boats. We are a group who want to socialize with like minded people. We encourage education for all members and with our combined experience can answer just about any question you may have.

Our educational courses cover a multitude of topics and we can guarantee that there is something for everyone.

Whether you boat for an afternoon or plan to cruise for six months or more. Whether you are a Captain or First Mate and need to confidently participate in a boating experience.

Take time to read our information and if you have any questions just ask.

SQUADRON MEETINGS

General Membership Meetings (GMM) are held the second Thursday of each month, except July and August, at the Pontchartrain Yacht Club

141 Jackson Street
Mandeville, LA 70448

Social Hour 6:00 PM

Meet and greet your friends and boating companions. Adult beverages, as well as soft drinks, are available from the Club Bar.

MEAL 7:00 PM

Most often a "Pot Luck" event but occasionally may be a catered meal. Advanced reservations are required when catered.

Meeting Starts

Around 7:30 right after the meal. We try to have informative speakers on subjects of interest to members

Membership in LPSPS is open to the public. Taking and passing a Safe Boating Class is a requirement for membership. Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron presents these classes on a regular basis – The next is schedule for Monday, May 22nd at the Maritime Museum in Madisonville. Additional information on the Safe Boating course and Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron can be obtained by calling Membership Chair, Marlene Sobkowich at 985-624-9116.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

01 Janie Bigelow	16 Bob Christian
01 Benny Schenck	21 Rebecca Roman
03 Rene Ellis	22 Upton Lea
04 Ed VanHoven	27 Brett Thorne
08 Paul Lumpkin	28 Norm Currier
10 Fred Beverly	28 Tom Page
15 Trubee Racioppi	31 Jerry Whorton

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lt/C Bill Dietrich, AP



The Squadron has an opportunity to help the public. This is your opportunity to participate and help! Here's How! A short scenario!

On May 20th the Squadron participates in a Safe Boating week show at the Mandeville Lakefront Harbor. Our function is to provide the public with a short show of "Safe Boating Practices" and how our USPS can help one another and the public. We will do this by manning booths to show safe boating practices in fire control (extinguishers), marlinspike, needed knots, PFD selection and a Show & Tell booth for Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron. When called or asked to help in one of these booths please ask how you can help and make yourself available! This is your chance to help and also a step toward earning a merit mark!!

Another thing we can do is collect out of date flares from visitors to our area. We are developing the means to dispose of them safely.

ADMIN'S VIEW

Lt/C Bob Christian, P

The D-15 conference in Jackson was a great event and meeting so many other people from the other squadrons was great fun! Participants from our squadron were Ron Everett, Marlene Sobkowich, John and Carol Bell, Peggy and Glenn Roy, Bill and Minta Dietrich, and I.



Our May 11th

Membership meeting will be at *Benedicts Restaurant*

in Mandeville. The cost per head is \$20.00 which includes the tax and tip. Bill of fare is Pecan Smoked 8oz. Prime Rib or Seafood Au Gratin, host salad, and fresh veggie, bread pudding, with coffee or tea.

Reservations are required! Please R.S.V.P. Carol Bell no later than Monday, May 8th. Our program speaker for this meeting will be Steve Bellas. Some of you may remember Steve as a former weatherman at channel 6 in New Orleans. These days, he is now a professor at Southeastern University. The topic that Steve plans to present will be entitled, "*Weather Cast Reporting and Hurricane Katrina*". This presentation should be very interesting; you won't want to miss it.

A Brady Island Raft Up will be an LPSPS goal on Saturday, May 13th. Show up around 12 p.m.

At our June 15th meeting, we have planned a very interesting and unique program on "*Hurricanes and Ghost Towns along Manchac*", presented by faculty members of Southeastern University.

Our June rendezvous location is yet to be determined. Please forward any suggestions!!!

Don't forget, the FAMILY SAFE BOATING FESTIVAL is Saturday, May 20th!

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Lt/C Bob Albers, AP

If you were at our last meeting, you heard



that I have recently obtained another boat to replace the lost **PJ**. It will be called "**Deuce**." Deuce survived Katrina with a few minor blows. The jell coat is damaged in several places, one of the out drives will not rise, and the trim tabs are on the blink. The Bimini apparently tore loose and smashed the control panel damaging the several switches, circuit breakers and some of the fiberglass structure of the panel.

As a retired electronics engineer, I naturally decided to tackle the electrical problems first. Boat electrical wiring may seem simple at first glance, but it is every bit as exacting as the fiber optic systems I worked with for AT&T and Tyco Submarine Systems. As I opened up the control panel to work on it, I noted that there was a lot of "creative" wiring. Any boat that's been around a few years has probably had a few "extras" added to it. The manufacturer may have left extra space in the control area for them, or perhaps you have outgrown the original design. Whether you do the work yourself or have it done, it's a good idea for you to know how it should be done. Isn't that what the Power Squadron is all about?

In this article, I would like to address the simple subject of adding a VHF radio. The radio requires power, an antenna, and a place to hang the microphone when not in use. Some radios have remote control microphone capabilities, but that is a subject for another time. First you must locate a place where the radio will not be rained on as most don't mix well with water. Will this chosen location give you a problem with reading the display in full sunlight? If so, find another place. Is the chosen location reasonable in so far as connecting to the antenna? The power? The loudspeaker? The P. A. speaker?

When mounting the radio and antenna, remember that screwing directly into fiberglass can lead to failure down the road. Fiberglass should always be backed up by either wooden blocks or "fender" washers to

avoid having the stress on a screw "stripping out" the fiberglass. It is always a neater installation if the antenna wire can be hidden inside the structure. The location where the antenna wire enters and exits the fiberglass, metal or wooden structures should be protected by a neoprene grommet or other device to avoid chafing the wire as well as sealing the hole from rain or splash. The same is true for the other wires. Inside the console and other structures, the wires should be neatly bundled and supported along the surfaces that they parallel.

In making the electrical connections for powering the radio take care to have good, clean, tight connections to both the ground and power or positive leads. They are of equal importance. The radio should have its own individual fuse or circuit breaker and be powered from one of the battery and ground buses in the console. The power wires should be twisted around each other for about 1 twist to the inch. This may avoid having an effect on the magnetic compass. It is not normal practice for the VHF radio to be on the "Accessory" or switched battery circuit of the ignition switch.

As electrical wiring is a rather extensive subject, you can brace yourselves for more in the coming months. I'll address the subject of batteries, upsizing your alternator, AC generators, and shore power, in future articles. A great deal of this is discussed in USPS Marine Electronics Course which should be offered later this year.

EDUCATION

Lt/C Ronald Everett, AP

Advanced Piloting is scheduled to begin at 7



PM on Tuesday, May 9th at the Maritime Museum. Class materials have arrived from National and will be distributed that evening. If you would like to enroll in the class, call me or just show up that evening. We have room and materials for 2 or 3 more students. Instructors are Bill Dietrich, Lynn Haase, Don Roman, and Ron Everett.

LITTLE-KNOWN MARITIME FACTS

(Or why education is important!)

Submitted by George Trousdale

A number of primary schools were doing a project on "The Sea." Kids were asked to draw pictures or write about their experiences. Teachers got together to compare the results and put together some of the better ones."

1. This is a picture of an octopus. It has eight testicles. (Kelly age 6)
2. Some fish are dangerous. Jellyfish can sting. Electric eels can give you a shock. They have to live in caves under the sea where I think they have to plug themselves to chargers. (Christopher age 7)
3. Oysters' balls are called pearls. (James age 6)
4. If you are surrounded by sea you are an Island. If you don't have sea all around you you are in continent. (Wayne age 7)
5. I think sharks are ugly and mean, and have big teeth, just like Emily Richardson. She's not my friend no more. (Kylie age 6)
6. A dolphin breathes through an asshole on the top of its head. (Billy age 8)
7. My uncle goes out in his boat with pots, and comes back with crabs. (Millie age 6)
8. When ships had sails, they used to use the trade winds to cross the ocean. Sometimes, when the wind didn't blow, the sailors would whistle to make the wind come. My brother said they would be better off eating beans (William age 7)
9. I like mermaids. They are beautiful, and I like their shiny tails. How do mermaids get pregnant? (Helen age 6)
10. When you go swimming in the sea, it is very cold, and it makes my willy small. (Kevin age 6)

FAMILY SAFE BOATING FESTIVAL 2005



Lynn Haase demonstrates "Marlinspike."



Always a favorite – USCG Helicopter with simulated water rescue



Fire Extinguisher Display

Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron
Cdr. John B. Bell, AP
20436 Narrow Road
Covington, LA 70435-0423

***MAY MEMBERSHIP
MEETING***

***BENEDICT'S RESTAURANT
MANDEVILLE***

Bill of fare is Pecan Smoked 8oz. Prime Rib
or Seafood Au Gratin, host salad, and fresh
veggie, bread pudding, with coffee or tea

\$20 Per person includes tax and tip.

Reservations are required!
Please R.S.V.P. Carol Bell no later than
Monday, May 8th.

Steve Bellas, former Channel Six
weatherman. Presents
***"Weather Cast Reporting and
Hurricane Katrina"***

**Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power
2006 Bridge Officers**

Commander

Cdr. John Bell, AP 985-809-9805
jbcbell@bellsouth.net

Executive Officer

Lt/C Bill Dietrich, AP 985-626-9730
Billd1@bellsouth.net

Education Officer

Lt/C Ron Everett, AP 985-630-2912
RonEverett39@aol.com

Admin Officer

Lt/C Bob Christian, P 225-930-9330
bchristian@ies_llc.com

Treasurer

Lt/C Doug Brooks, AP 985-845-3309
dbrooks@cpdrum.com

Secretary

Lt/C Bob Albers, AP 985-727-4665
rcalbers@bellsouth.net