



UNDER THE BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cdr. John B. Bell, AP

Thank you to all of the volunteers that



helped out with our Safe Boating Festival event. We had a good time and although the crowd was small there was a lot going on in the area that day. All in all, I think it was another successful LPSPS Safe Boating event.

We are scheduled to have our last general meeting on June 8th. As you may know, we suspend our monthly meeting for July and August so we can all get out and enjoy the prime boating season. We then resume our meetings again in September. I certainly hope the transition from the end of August into September this year is much more uneventful than it was last year.

Vessel Safety Checks are getting into full swing again. If you have not already done so, please contact one of our squadron examiners and make arrangement to have your vessel checked out for free. Remember, if you get stopped on the water by the Coast Guard or the Sheriff's department and they find your vessel out of safety compliance they are issuing citations with fines. It only takes a little while to get your complementary vessel safety inspection and the savings could be substantial. After all that we've been through I don't think any of us need more unexpected expenses. So take the easy way out and get that vessel safety inspection.

The last point I would like to make this month is for everyone to please take the time to prepare your hurricane readiness kits. I know this is getting a lot of publicity in the press nowadays but it can't be stressed enough. Those that delay and wait until

there is a storm in the Gulf to go out and buy their supplies are often disappointed because the inventories are depleted. Many retailers are going to be closing earlier this year in the event of a serious storm to allow their employees to take care of themselves and their belongings. With the large number of people living in temporary FEMA accommodations evacuations may be more frequent. So, please take the time before the rush begins to review your hurricane readiness kits, update and refresh supplies, and review your evacuation and communication plans. We are all hoping for a quieter season this year but we still need to prepare for the worst.

Keep checking the squadron website at www.lpsps.org for updates on upcoming rendezvous' and other events you won't want to miss.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

03 Fairby Oncale	20 Linda Keefer
06 Keith Dennis	27 Edith Cure
07 Warren Abadie	27 Art Roberts
14 Barbara Kowaleski	28 Dave Keyser
17 James Rust	29 Nick Chronis
	30 Gene Mallard

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lt/C Bill Dietrich, AP



There were a number of members who took part in Safe Boating Week Festivities on May 20th. Each earned credit towards this year's merit mark. All in all, I'm happy with the efforts of those who participated.

Our next big effort for volunteers will be the Wooden Boat Festival which is being held on Saturday, October 19 and Sunday, October 20th. This is one reason that Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron was presented with a National Award for Civic Service. I've worked at docking the "show" boats since there was a Wooden Boat Festival. Not only is it work, but it gives me the opportunity to meet boaters from a number of different states. I'm proud to take part in the festival and plan on doing so for many years to come. So set aside a few hours on that weekend and take part in this exciting event.

ADMIN'S VIEW

Lt/C Bob Christian, P

Thanks to Carol Bell for her help in arranging the dinner at our May meeting which was held at Benedict's Restaurant. Also, to Peggy Roy for providing us with Steve Bellas who presented an outstanding program. Steve provided us with an "inside" view on weather news casting.



Our June 8th meeting will feature Dr. Roman Heleniak of the Southeastern Louisiana University Department of History and Political Science. Dr. Heleniak has several publications such as "History of the Louisiana Bar Pilots" and the "Confederate High Command". Dr. Heleniak is also a leading authority on the history on the culture and commerce of the Manchac Swamp. This should be a very interesting program based on Dr. Heleniak's presentation, "Hurricanes and Ghost Towns along Manchac".

Our June 8th meeting will be held at the Maritime Museum in Madisonville and is "Bring a Covered Dish." Please bring your favorite dish along with a written recipe for our cookbook.

Our June rendezvous is still a mystery. We would welcome any suggestions you may have.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Lt/C Bob Albers, AP

As Secretary, I'd like to ask all of you to look at calendar and follow the link to the link to our meeting notice. As the radio/technical officer --



Hey, Memorial Day just happened. It's time to get that boat on the water and use it for what you bought it. Let's have some fun.

Assuming you have one, will the engine crank? Oops. A battery that has been laid up for some time and neglected is likely to need a little maintenance.

First, let's check for corrosion on the terminals. If there is any at all, it is best to disconnect the battery and clean both terminals and connectors with a wire brush. If you have a battery switch, set it to disable the battery. To avoid shorting anything out it is best to disconnect the negative terminal first. That way, if your tool should strike any metal frame while in contact with the battery, there won't be a short circuit. After the negative terminal is disconnected, the positive terminal may be disconnected without problem. Get all battery terminals and cable connectors bright. After cleaning, re connect the battery, positive terminal first and coat the terminals with a heavy grease or Vaseline to prevent water and air from getting to the connections.

Is the battery sealed or one that must be filled? If it must be filled, check the electrolyte (water/acid) level. If any cells indicate a shortage, top up to the full mark with DISTILLED water. The local grocery usually sells it. Now lets consider charging the battery. If the engine will start, that's probably good enough. The alternator will do the job nicely. If there is still no action, consider the possibility of "jumping" it with another battery from a car or another boat. If a jump isn't available, you must use a battery charger. A really dead battery should be charged slowly. Use no more than 2 amperes of charging current and watch the battery voltage. A high voltage (15 volts or more) in the beginning of charging usually indicates an open cell. If the voltage comes down in the first 15

minutes while maintaining a 2 amperes charge, or if the 2 amp level wasn't attainable at first, but the current is rising, the condition is correcting, else it's time for a new battery. The other indication of a defective battery is when the charge has been applied for about an hour and the battery voltage drops below 12 volts when the charger is turned off. This indicates a shorted cell. The ideal voltage read from a fully charged battery with no, or minimal, load should be 13.2 volts (6 cells X 2.2 volts/cell).

How many batteries do you have on the boat? How many should you have? The bare minimum would obviously be 1 to start the engine(s). If there is more than one engine, a second battery isn't unusual. Do you have a cabin and might anchor out over night? If so, you really need at least 2 batteries. One just for the cabin and anchor light. This cabin battery should be able to disconnect from the engine start battery by a switch to preserve the ability to start the engine after a night's rest and also allow the cabin battery to be switched together with the engine battery so it will be recharged by the alternator as the boat is under way. The cabin battery should be of the "deep cycle" variety (some newer battery designs are combination engine start and deep cycle). Those way constant deep discharges will not adversely affect the battery. More on battery care, maintenance and selection will be discussed later this year in one of our classes.

JUNE 8th
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Maritime Museum - Madisonville

Bring a Covered Dish

Social 6:30 PM – Meal 7 PM

Guest Speaker

Dr. Roman Heleniak

Presenting

**“Hurricanes and Ghost Towns
Along Manchac”.**

EDUCATION

Lt/C Ronald Everett, AP

Congratulations to Candice Mallard,

Gene Mallard, Brad Soileau, and Ed VanHoven. They have received their PILOT rating.



From National – Education requirements for membership in USPS may be waived for a

period or three years if the New York Governing Board passes on a recommendation of the National Operating Committee.

A “NEW” Seamanship course is scheduled for release in September 2006. It will include a supplemental text, a *One-Minute Guide* to the rules of the Road and an outline and study guide to prepare students to take the U. S. Coast Guard Captain's License exam.

Also, the National Education Department is Beta testing a “NEW” Junior Navigation course and the manual is scheduled to be available in September 2006.

On the squadron level – A tentative Boat Smart class to be held in Slidell. It has been a number of years since the squadron has taught a safe boating course on the eastern edge of our area. Location and dates are being explored at this time. If you have friends or relatives in the Slidell area, give them a “heads – up” on this class.

Seamanship – the NEW course will begin toward the end of September. Just after the manuals become available.

Junior Navigation – If there is enough interest in this course, it will be offered to members in January 2007. It may take some time for the instructors to determine how the course should be taught. Also, what equipment may be required to properly present the course to members.

Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron

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JUNE 8th
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Lake Pontchartrain Basin
Maritime Museum –
Madisonville
133 Mabel Drive

“Bring a Covered Dish”
And your own beverages – adult or otherwise

Social 6:30 PM – Meal 7 PM

Guest Speaker
Dr. Roman Heleniak
Presenting
***“Hurricanes and Ghost Towns
Along Manchac”***