



UNDER THE BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cdr. John B. Bell, AP

As we approach the 'Dog Days of Summer' (and the prime recreational boating season) we need to be mindful of our responsibility to promote safe boating whenever we can. I know of a couple of people that have been very successful in getting their fellow boaters interested in safe boating. And it all began with their casual conversations. Let's all do our part individually and we will continue to have a positive affect.



Another reminder to those of you that have not had your vessel checked by one of our vessel examiners. The Vessel Safety Check is a free service and you may learn at least one thing new about boating and boat safety or how to do something easier, quicker, or safer while on a boat. We have a number of examiners. I am sure any one of them would be glad to perform a VSC on your boat at a mutually convenient time. It doesn't take that long, usually around an hour or less.

If you don't know who to call, just check the website or contact Ron Everett or myself and we will arrange for an inspector to contact you.



American Wind Symphony performing from their barge on the river in Madisonville.

A number of people showed up for an impromptu rendezvous at the free concert in

Madisonville on Friday, June 23rd put on by the American Wind Symphony. The orchestra has toured extensively in both Europe and the US with their musical entourage. A very enjoyable evening! And the weather co-operated too. It rained for just a few minutes before the concert then stopped and held off for the rest of the event.

Speaking of impromptu rendezvous', another one was held on Thursday, June 29th. This was again a free concert put on by the Mandeville Seafood Festival folks.



Members Marlene, Lynn, Doris, Patsy, Doug, Alan, Jeff, Chris, Helen, and Carol at the Mandeville Seafood Festival waiting for the music to start.

Although the festival begins on Friday, June 30th through the week-end they decided to have a free concert on the Thursday evening starting this year and going forward. Again, another enjoyable evening with good company, good food, and good music.

As rendezvous plans emerge we will post them on the squadron website. Be sure and check it often. Here's a hint...a suggestion was made to have another one in July. So as the plans come together check the website and come join us!

I believe everyone knows that we suspend our monthly meetings for the months of July and August just so we can all enjoy the boating season more. These are the times and opportunities for us to get together and socialize, frequently associated with some marine event. If you have any suggestions

for events please contact either Bob Christian (our Admin Officer) or myself so we can get the word out and see if it can get on the agenda.

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

JULY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 01 Judy Faust | 18 Jeff Leedy |
| 03 James Cain | 21 Rebecca Page |
| 03 Norm Lasky | 21 Manny Soto |
| 04 Diane Chronis | 25 Doug Brooks |
| 06 Cookie Brown | 28 Willena Dugas |
| 11 Richard Owens | 28 Jim McCarron |
| 13 Lou Adams | 30 Kim Vanek |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lt/C Bill Dietrich, AP



Summertime is with us. It's hot, the sun is shining. We get summer rains in the afternoon (sometimes). This is the time for boaters to put to use the things they have been learning throughout the winter. In more northern parts of the

country this is considerably more apparent to boaters since there has seldom been a "good" day to take a boat ride. Whether you are going for an afternoon jaunt or a trip to Destin, put in practice the things you have studied and learned. Flex your wings and enjoy the water knowing you have done your part to make boating safer for your family and those you meet or pass on the water! We are fortunate to live where we can boat all year round, but there are still procedures learned that are yet to be put in practice. Let your friends know of your new skills and tell them you know where they can be taught to be as safe as you!

It seems we're always pushing the learning, but what good is that if you never enjoy the pleasure of what have learned!

A wonderful summer to you, Remember, always practice safe boating and keep in mind, that many who operate their vessels may not know the rules of the

road. Keep a sharp lookout and a safe distance between you and other vessels.

ADMIN'S VIEW

Lt/C Bob Christian, P

Things are pretty quiet on the eastern front



as we rapidly move into summer. Unfortunately, business took me away from the last general meeting, but I look forward to our next general meeting on September 8th.

Our next rendezvous is scheduled on Saturday

July 22nd, at "Jazz n' the Vines" as Wardell Williams Blues Show Band performs. Our own Frank Sanders is the featured sax man with Wardell Williams. This rendezvous has been a favorite with members over the over the past years.

The cost is \$10 per person and is well worth the money. If you would like to provide something towards a picnic meal for that evening contact Doris Brooks at 985-845-2309 or Patsy McDonnel at 985-674-5440.

I look forward to seeing you and having a Great Time!

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Lt/C Bob Albers, AP

Lately, I have been telling you about electrical systems, in particular the DC system. What follows is not necessarily in



agreement with "conventional wisdom", but is based on both my experiences as a boater and as an electronics engineer.

How many batteries do you need? How should they be connected? How should they be charged and maintained?

First, let's say that any boat which will be on the water at night needs at least 2 batteries; one for starting the engine and running the navigation lights and navigation related electronics. Taking into consideration that the anchor light must be illuminated dusk to dawn while anchored.

The capacity of the engine start battery must be sufficient to run this light and have enough power left over to crank the engine in the morning. I recommend at least one of 450 ampere-hour capacity. Engine cranking can take as much as 700 amperes in the first second or two of the starting period with about 400 amperes during the rest of the cycle if the engine cranks easily and starts in less than 1 minute. An alternative to this is to use a bank of batteries in the engine start/run section, one of them could be a small motorcycle or lawn mower battery provided that it can be switched off of the starting battery and used alone. That way, you will have full power to crank the engine in the morning. After you start the engine(s) you should then switch the smaller battery back in parallel with the starting battery. The fact that both batteries are of different capacities is irrelevant so long as they are both the same voltage (usually 12 volts). The most important factor in the battery arena is good, tight, clean connections. That way the battery will be fully charged as quickly as possible and also deliver maximum power to quickly start the engine.

If you have two engines, it is not required to have two separate starting batteries. Once one engine has started, allow 1 minute of run time at about 1500 rpm, then the second engine could be easily started on the same battery. This assumes that the battery is properly maintained and that the alternator on the first engine is functioning properly. Also, a well maintained battery will have more than one "crank" capacity.

Now let's look at the "cabin" battery. This should be a "deep cycle" battery. Although there are some batteries available which are billed as being both deep cycle and having high starting current capability. As the name stated, this is the battery or bank of batteries which will run the DC cabin lighting systems overnight. This may also include the stereo, head, refrigerator and a coffee pot. Because these functions will drain a battery in short order, the capacity should be at least the same as the starting battery. While the main engine is not running, it is essential that the cabin systems be isolated from the engine starting and navigation systems, yet be connected to an alternator while the engine(s) are running. Normally, the output of both alternators of a twin

engine system will be connected together to charge all batteries. This can easily be accomplished by use of a simple (high current) switch. If there are two engines, another alternative is possible, that is to arrange both engines to crank off of the same battery, but only one engine charges the starting battery, while the other charges the cabin battery. When this system is used, it is also a good idea to be able to connect the cabin batteries to the engine starting system should there be a problem cranking the engine.

Any time I used the term "battery" above, I could have said a "bank of batteries". It isn't unusual to connect more than one battery in parallel. Let's just say that the only time you might consider that you have too many batteries is if there isn't enough room left for the martini fixin's. When there is also a generator for AC power, the generator can use the engine start battery unless it has a battery of it's own. Next month, I will go into AC power systems on boats.

EDUCATION

Lt/C Ronald Everett, AP

Congratulations to Candice and Gene



Mallard as well as Brad Soileau for challenging and passing SEAMANSHIP.

Boat Smart will be taught in the Slidell area. It has been some time since the squadron presented

a safe boating course on the eastern edge of our area. The start date is Tuesday, July 25th with the location set at Northshore Regional Medical Center which is just off Gause Blvd. If you have friends or relatives in the Slidell area that could benefit from a safe boating class, give them a "heads – up" on the date and location.

Members Bob Albers, John Bell, Bob Christian, Bill Dietrich, Lynn Haase, and Don Roman will be taking the Instructor Development exam on Thursday, July 13th.

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SQUADRON RENDEZVOUS

Saturday, July 22nd

**WARDELL WILLIAMS
BLUES SHOW BAND**

An exciting New Orleans R & B band

featuring our own

Frank Sanders on the sax

6:30 to 9:00 p.m. *gates open at 5:30 p.m.*

Admission: \$ 10.00/person *pay at the gate*

Bring: Flashlight • Umbrella • Lawn Chair • Picnic
Dinner•

Wine and Food can be purchased from:

Pontchartrain Vineyards

Not Allowed: Other wine, beer, other alcoholic
beverages, or pets.

PONTCHARTRAIN VINEYARDS

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