



# UNDER THE BRIDGE

## LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

### FROM THE COMMANDER

*Cdr. John B. Bell, AP*

The USPS 2006 New York Governing Board meeting is being held on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> in New York at the Grand Hotel on Park Avenue. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend but I am sure those that do will have a wonderful and informative time. At this time I am not aware of anyone from our squadron that is planning on attending. I think many people are still in the recovery process from last years' hurricane devastation. If anyone decides to attend at the last minute be sure to participate in some of the wide variety of events available to you while you are there.

I had an opportunity to attend the last class of the Boat Smart class that LPSPS offered in Slidell. I was pleased to see a large number of people registered for the course and an impressive number in attendance. Well done to our SEO and the other squadron members that helped teach and proctor the course. There are a number of other courses planned to be offered this year so when they are announced be sure to sign up for the ones that interest you.

Like many other squadrons in the UPSP our website is becoming an important means of communication for our members. Be sure you check it often to keep informed on upcoming events. In case you don't know you can find it at [www.lpsps.org](http://www.lpsps.org).

This month, August, is the second of two months we suspend our monthly General Membership meetings. Our next one will be in September. Watch for details regarding time and location.



One more reminder to all squadron boat owners to get your vessel safety check. We have a number of qualified Vessel Safety Examiners that will be pleased to meet with you at a mutually convenient time and place to perform a complementary vessel safety check on your boat.

I look forward to seeing you at our next rendezvous or general meeting. Until then, let's all continue to practice and promote safe boating for ourselves and our fellow boaters.

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

03 John Bell	16 Glenn Roy
11 Noah Reon	19 Glenn Decoteau
12 Brian Heard	28 Joyce Tracey
15 Renee Cheek	29 Bob Warren

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Lt/C Bill Dietrich, AP*

As you know the Exec is in line to help the Commander. Responsibility for several committees ( i.e. Co-op charting, Vessel Safety Checks, Public Relations, Safe Boating Week) is a part of the duty! In addition, letting you know what progress has been made in these areas should follow. Don't know how your schedule is going, but feel that we all have had our plates full, with busy work if not with necessary stuff!

The word from the committees is we have been busy, just not always with committee business. Maybe a respite from the daily



drudgery is in order to be replaced by some Squadron duty that will give us a change in location and lift in our lives.

We have spent some time planning for the future, and have managed to fit in a Boat Smart class in Slidell, with an excellent attendance. It's fun to be a part of a successful venture and Ron Everett put this one together well. All phases of the Power Squadron were covered, and it is invigorating to be a part of something that the public seems to need and appreciate!

Pick a committee, volunteer and don't let your interest be ignored. We need and appreciate your help!

**When .....16 September, 2006**

**Time..... Immediately following the Council Mtg**

**Where..... At the Warner's, 805 Powell's Point Dr., Gautier, MS**

**Cost..... \$8.50/person—under age 15 half price**

**Cash Bar.. Best prices in town**

**Come by boat, seaplane or car. Be there!!!**

**Make Reservations with**

**P/D/Lt/C Fred Pardoe at 228-875-3986**

**deadline for reservations 11 Sept. 06**

### **FALL COUNCIL MEETING**

The D/15 Fall Council meeting will be held on Saturday, 16 September 2006 at the Holiday Inn 1-10 and US 90, in Tillman's Corner - Mobile, Alabama

Room reservations may be made by calling the Holiday Inn at **1-251-666-5600**. Our contact person is Anne Hayden. The room rate is \$89.99 per night. The room rate **does not** include a continental breakfast; however, there will be a breakfast buffet available from 0600. Be sure to ask for the Mobile Power Squadron Room Rate and Ref # MPS. You may use the 1-866-436-4329 number or call the motel directly.

**Uniform – Team casual attire – Squadron, District or USPS shirt and slacks**

### **AFTER COUNCIL LUNCHEON**

**Singing River Sail & Power Squadron Presents**

***A Fantastic D/15 Going Home Party***

***Featuring "A Taste of Italy"***

***Now that's Amoure !***

***Enjoy the cool Italian breezes blowing off the water as you relax after an outstanding Council Meeting. Sip a cool one under the palms as you renew acquaintances with other District members. Dine on succulent cuisine prepared by our outstanding SRS&P Squadron Chefs.***

**MAKE A DAY OF IT!!!!**

### **SECRETARY'S CORNER**

***Lt/C Bob Albers, AP***

Last time I promised you an article concerning the AC or shore power side of your boat's electrical system. Here it is.

Your boat has "zincs" to protect from loss of important metal on the propeller(s), rudder(s) and drive shaft(s). These zincs work by an electrochemical process known as electrolysis, also called galvanic action. Not to get too deeply into the



technical aspects of the processes, let's just say that they "sacrifice" themselves for the security and integrity of the underwater metal portions of your boat. Now let's focus our attention to a grade school science lesson. Remember hearing about placing two strips of metal, one copper and the other zinc in a jar of euphoric acid? It resulted in a "battery" which changed chemical reaction into electricity. Carrying this simple lesson into high school, you may have learned that as the current increased (resistance between copper & zinc decreased), the zinc electrode disintegrated faster and faster. A college level chemistry lesson would have even quantified the rate of loss of zinc into solution as a function of the current.

Along with these lessons, you would have learned that sulphuric acid wasn't the only acid which could sustain this kind of electro-

chemical reaction, but indeed any acid could do the job. As our local waters are heavy in leaf droppings which produce tannic acid upon decay--yes, tannic acid as in tea -- our local waters can sustain this reaction.

But, where is the copper? The simple answer is that it doesn't have to be copper either. Any number of other metals can produce the electrolysis reaction with zinc.

Now let's see how our boat can actually be part of a battery sacrificing its zincs to generate unwanted and useless electricity. The marina's A. C. power service entrance is grounded at the meter or main breaker (fuse) box with a ground rod or water pipe ground. This is electrically conductive into and through the water in the marina. On your boat, the drive shaft, propeller and rudder are physically, and therefore electrically connected to the engine block and DC ground system of the boat. We now have two electrodes of different metals wetted by a slightly acidic water (electrolyte). When you connect your boat to "shore power" the ground wire of the shore connection may be electrically connected to the vessel ground system. This effectively completes the circuit, a short circuit (high current path) between the zincs on the boat and the ground rod of the marina's electrical service entrance. This connection will wind up costing you your zincs. Many vessels have this simplistic connection, either overtly in the electrical panel or "sneakily" through a battery charger. Any vessel which may be connected to shore power should use an isolator, as may be found in many marine catalogues, to electrically connect the A. C. ground to the vessel's ground system yet prevent the vessel's ground system from providing a D. C. connection to the marina's power system. Two such devices may be found in the current issue of the West Marine catalog on page 401. Other devices are also available; I suggest you shop the internet and other sources.

After making an investment in such a device, it is IMPORTANT to check your battery charger to insure that the A. C. ground on it isn't electrically connected to either of the battery connections. If you have a V.O.M. (Volt-Ohm Meter) this is an easy check. Just test for an open circuit between the A. C. input ground and the

negative (common) connection of the output circuit when the battery charger is disconnected. If you have any questions about this matter, please call me.

### EDUCATION

*Lt/C Ronald Everett, AP*

John Bell, Bob Christian, Bill Dietrich, Lynn Haase, and Don Roman have



added another notch to their belts by passing the Instructor Development course! Congratulations to all.

Sixteen students passed the Boat Smart exam. Slidell's Northshore Regional Medical Center

hosted the event. Bill Dietrich, Lynn Haase, Candice and Gene Mallard spent a great deal of time with students during class time making sure the "Safe Boating Message" was being comprehended and understood.

I'm waiting to see what Educational Offerings will be announced at the New York Governing Board. One thing for sure, those announcements may prove to be the cutting edge of future USPS Education Courses.

Safe Boating for September. At this time we are planning a "Boat Smart" class for the western part of St Tammany Parish. Again, it will be a 3 night effort – one night a week. Location, time and dates will be announced in the September newsletter. Members should alert friends and relatives who may benefit from this offering.

Coming up in October is the Wooden Boat Festival. The biggest event on the squadron's Fall calendar. This is only a two-day event but it takes many volunteers and an enormous amount of hours in the preparation and planning. If you think you have the "right stuff" and want to be a part of the process, contact John Bell, 985-809-9805; Marlene Sobkowich, 985-624-4840; Bill Dietrich @ 985-626-9730; or Lynn Haase, 985-871-1717 and volunteer.

Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron  
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