



UNDER THE BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cdr. John B. Bell, AP

We are preparing for our annual civic event with the Madisonville Wooden Boat



Festival. I know many of you have already volunteered to help at either our booth or at the gate. But we still need more volunteers. Please contact Carol Bell, or myself if you are able to donate about 4-5 hours of your time on Sunday, Oct 22nd in the

afternoon. We are still shy about 6 – 7 people so if you can help please let us know. If you haven't been involved in this event in prior years I can only tell you that they are fun and rewarding and also an opportunity for us to get the word out about USPS and our safe boating programs.

This past month saw several impromptu rendezvous' events in addition to our planned one at Fairview Riverside State Park off Hwy 22 in Mandeville. A number of members showed up and enjoyed good company, plenty of food (of course), and a got to observe a lively political debate for entertainment. If you would like to be on the call list for the impromptu events just let me know and I we will get you added.

Sometimes these events just pop up with an idea or suggestion from someone that invites someone else, who invites others, and so on. Occasionally they turn out to be a same day or the next day event so there is not a lot of advance planning and lead time. Usually the weather plays a role in these too and as we try to stretch the last few good days of summer these seem to occur more frequently. So, let us know and

we will try to contact you for these last minute rendezvous.

You won't want to miss our next General Membership meeting. We will be learning more about the new educational seminars coming out from National. These sound very exciting and informative. Look for more details on the meeting in this newsletter.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

04 Candice Mallard	15 Bob Owens
06 Martha Heard	16 William Scarcella
06 Patsy McDonnel	21 Dennis Tauzin
08 Chip Correjolle	28 Russell Harris Jr
08 Henry Martinez	28 John Moores Jr
08 John Webb	29 George Trousdale
11 Thomas Heard	30 Sheryl Gruenig
12 Rodney Branch	30 Vaughn Knight
12 Joey Wheeler	30 Randy Tillman

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lt/C Bill Dietrich, AP

We are fast approaching a new year. National has requested opinions on a waiver of a "test" requirement for USPS membership! There are many things leading to this: however, a need for membership is primary. To salve the wounds,



they have begun to provide a series of seminars, that are designed to provide knowledge in all phases of navigation and seamanship, in as great or greater depth than had been provided in the Basic Boating Course. Better content and a vigorous presentation should

prove an even greater level of safety to the local

boater!

I've reviewed both a Chart reading seminar and a GPS seminar. These are well written and should be able to be presented with enthusiasm knowing that those in the audience have been exposed to state of the art, navigation from the ground up.

We should be providing a Public Boating Class just after the Wooden Boat

Show and then the new people along with the 'veterans' should undertake a series of the Seminars to see how successful we may be in recruiting new members. The quality courses are a prime benefit to all power

Squadron Members!! As Patton said:: "Lead, Follow or get out of the way!" If it wasn't Patton, it should/could have been!!!

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Lt/C Bob Albers, AP

Excuse me while I get "Secretarial" instead of continuing with my electrifying articles.



There are a couple of matters which must be addressed.

Do you fancy yourself as "creative"? Do you enjoy expressing yourself by the written word? Have we got a job for you! If you have gone

to the website recently, you may have noticed that we are in need of a newsletter editor. Ron has done a remarkable job as editor for many years and for that we thank him profusely. Now it's time for someone else to take the reins of our little blurb. The primary work is to collect submissions from the executive board and throw in a few pictures. You don't have to write anything yourself although I don't know why you couldn't have an editorial if you wanted one. You might even consider something like "letters to the editor", but you don't have to. You might like to exercise your creative juices, but the bulk of the job is organize the submissions of others and put it in Acrobat PDF format. We even have the software for you. Call or e-mail either Ron or myself to volunteer. Ron: 985-624-4840, e-mail RonEverett39@aol.com. Bob: 985-727-4665, e-mail rcalbers@bellsouth.net The pay is great--1 million at-a-boys/girls per

year now and John's considering doubling the salary.

Although the squadron was initially called "The Lake Pontchartrain Power Squadron" The powers that be wisely included the words "Sail and". To be sure, if any of our sailing brethren were to race me to Merida, Yucatan, I would surely get 3 days (sailing days) ahead of him in my power boat. Then I would run out of gas and founder while waiting the remainder of the 3 days for him to catch me. Hopefully he would come to my rescue and not give me a Bronx cheer as he sailed by. In truth a sailing vessel could circumnavigate the globe and expend less than 10 gallons of fuel, most of which would be used to charge the batteries.

This coming spring, the squadron would like to organize a Sailing event. Sailing members of the squadron are asked to register as available to carry X number of guests. After we know how many sailors will participate and the number of guest openings available, we will then call for power boat members to register as guests aboard the various sailing vessels. I envision one or two weekends before the event when the sailing masters would get with their "crew" for a little "introduction to sailing". Then, the great weekend of the event itself -- what will we do? We'll decide that as we go along. *Laissez les bon temps rouler.*

Now for the last item on my agenda. I would like to have a section of the website dedicated to "Our Neighborhood". According to our charter, our neighborhood is the Northeastern portion of Lake Pontchartrain. There are many marinas, boat yards, fuel docks and other boating support facilities. There are also restaurants which cater to boaters. I would like to have members submit entries for the "Our Neighborhood" directory. In fact, I'm so hung-up on this idea, I would like to propose it to the district for all the squadrons to include this in their websites. There is a submission form on our website for this. Just click the master index button "Our Neighborhood" and follow the links.

EDUCATION

Lt/C Ronald Everett, AP



This is not an Education issue but an approach to gaining membership in USPS. The National Education Department and the Operations Committee are asking for a three year waiver of the exam requirement for membership into our boating organization. Why are they requesting a waiver? Membership is dropping and the rate of decline is steady. If this continues, we will see more “at risk” squadrons, merging of squadrons or those that chose to just close down. Members will also see fewer services offered, reduced budgets that will take a toll on our ability to invest in important programs, and diminished influence in local, state and national issues.

WE NEED THE ABILITY TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS!

Many of you may have friends who boat but have not taken a National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) approve safe boating course and never will. Do they practice safe boating? Would they make good squadron members? Would you recruit and endorse them if given the opportunity?

As it stands now, we recruit new members from our public boating safety course. There is extensive competition from free courses – state, online, and quick courses offered by many sources.

What is being proposed and endorsed by the National Education Department and Operating Committee is you can recruit members without an exam requirement for membership.

This waiver would last for 3 years. Enough time to pass for a realistic evaluation of the program.

The waiver is not an issue being dictated by National. It is a request, as such it will be voted on at the USPS Annual Meeting in Jacksonville this February. You will be asked to cast a vote. Cdr. John Bell will then cast a squadron vote at the National meeting whether it be for or against the Waiver. On my part, I am for a trial of the Exam Waiver.

ADMIN'S VIEW

Lt/C Bob Christian, P

Greetings to my fellow boaters, I am sure that like myself, y'all have been taking advantage of the brief cool spell that has come our way. It has made time on the water much more enjoyable.



Our next meeting will be on Oct 12th at the Maritime Museum. It will be a “bring a covered dish” and the recipe for that dish. Social hour from 6pm to 7pm. The meeting will start at 7pm.

As a reminder, the museum does not have a bar available for either soft drinks or alcohol. The squadron does not provide these either but will have cups and ice available. You are responsible for bringing your drinks. This is the night for our always fun Chinese Bucket Raffle, our entertainment and fundraising function. We ask that you bring your most valuable article that you no longer want or something that you can live without so that it can be raffled off. If you have not been to one of these before, it is a lot of fun. You purchase raffle tickets and use these to place in front of an item you would like and one ticket gets drawn for each item. Remember one man's trash is another man's treasure!!!

Our last rendezvous was a great success. It was held at Fairview Riverside Park. Due to weather concerns, we decided to drive rather than come by boat. Our entertainment was a heated debate between our Treasurer and our District Admin Officer. The subject was everything from air transportation to politicians. Both men spoke with great authority, but their sources and references seemed to be “vaporware”! Arthur proved to be champion in the horseshoe contest with Doug a slow second. Marlene played a good game too!! A great time was had by all!! Fall has arrived and don't forget that our Wooden Boat Festival is Oct. 21st and 22nd. We need everyone to step up to the plate and volunteer to stand a “watch”. This is our most important event of the year. Let's seize the moment!

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

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

Commander

Cdr. John Bell, AP 985-809-9805
jbcbbell@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

**LPSPS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

Thursday, October 12th
Social Hour begins at 6 PM

**Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum
Madisonville**

“BRING A COVERED DISH”

Chinese Raffle Tonight

**Bring Your Checkbook & Your donation for
the raffle**

Meet and Greet Fellow Members