



UNDER THE BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cdr. John B. Bell, AP

So...is it worth it to be a member of the USPS?

I have been asked that question a number of times and probably like you have said "it sure is!" We have great safe boating educational courses, a friendly and helpful membership, and fun rendezvous'. I have also felt a little uncomfortable that I wasn't able to fully articulate some of the 'soft benefits' of being a member. But recent events have reinforced my perception of the absolute value of those "soft benefits" so let me explain a bit.



We recently purchased a new-to-us boat and are planning on picking it up in south western Florida in an area that we are not familiar with. So we began asking questions of fellow members and others in our D15 family. You cannot imagine the amount of help and great advice we have received and are continuing to receive. I won't get this in the right order but let me relay some of the experiences we had. We flew to south western Florida to check out the boat and determine if we wanted to firm up our offer based on the condition of the vessel. D/Lt/C Glen Roy and his wife Peggy (LPSPS members) drove from the Ft. Lauderdale Boat Show they were attending to meet us and check out the boat too. (The boat happens to be the sister vessel to Glen and Peggy's so they know the boat VERY WELL.) They offered many helpful suggestions and insights. Several days before we went to inspect the boat we met with Don and Becky Roman (LPSPS members) and they offered to contact a friend of theirs that is very familiar with the brokers and surveyors in the area to ensure we were getting good qualified ones...the kind that are on the buyers

side in this case. Their contact researched the players involved and provided his report back to us. (Positive on all counts.) Jeff and Chris Williams (LPSPS members) have been helping with our cruise planning for the return trip. Jeff is going to accompany us and help on-board part of the way back. George and Helen Trousdale (LPSPS members) have loaned us a laptop computer for the trip back home along with a back up handheld GPS unit. D/Lt/C Dick Gercak and his wife P/D/C Karen Gercak (Ft. Walton Beach squadron members) are helping with land accommodations on our way to south Florida. D/Lt/C Ron Everett (LPSPS member) assisted with a draft of a MARPOL waste management plan and guidance for us to obtain an on-board copy of Navigation Rules. Noah Reon (LPSPS member) advised me on a very good book to purchase on marine diesel engines. And the story goes on and on. Anyone I've left out please don't be offended as I know this is just a representative list of the many squadron people that have assisted in some way or another. My point here is you don't get this type of service, advice, assistance and genuine care from your average boat dealer or broker. I believe these are only a part of some of the "soft benefits" of being in the USPS. There are many more and we should start noting and tracking these because they do represent real value to our members.

Don't forget our General Membership meeting on December 7th. It's being held at the Maritime Museum and will be our annual election and our "Dirty Santa" event. Those of you that have attended these previously have an idea of how much fun we have with the gift exchange...it really is a tough crew!

It's time to pencil in our annual Change of Watch event in January. It will be at the Beau Chene Country Club again and you will be hearing more details about it in the coming weeks.

I look forward to seeing you at our December meeting...until then safe boating, stay warm (with the chilly spell we have been having), and smile a lot

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

03 Jay Conner	13 Stephen Morris
06 Laura Beverly	14 Don Egle
10 Ali Williams	18 Chip Miller
12 Charlie Chapman	18 Brad Oncale
13 Earlita Harris	24 Kate Oncale
31 Dennis LaRocca	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lt/C Bill Dietrich, AP

It is my wish that you partake of the "bird" and enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday to the fullest. In addition to being thankful for the obvious, let your thoughts roam and think of all the good things to be thankful for! We are bombarded with tragedy but enjoy much. Spend a little time on the good, and let's point toward doing a little more for the "boaters" of our area.



EDUCATION

Lt/C Ronald Everett, AP

Our last safe boating class of the year was held on Tuesday, November 21st. The squadron conducted 6 Boat Smart classes this year. It could not have been accomplished without the help of some dedicated individuals such as Bill Dietrich, Lynn Haase, and new comers Don Roman and Gene Mallard. Bill and Lynn were also the driving force behind the advanced grade classes. Thanks to all of you for making my job easier.



ADMIN'S VIEW

Lt/C Bob Christian, P



The holidays are now upon us and I know that everyone is busy this time of year. For a really enjoyable weekend getaway, don't forget to sign up and join in our Christmas weekend in Destin, Florida scheduled December 1st-3rd.

Our next General Membership meeting will be

held Thursday, December 7th at the Maritime Museum. This is an important meeting as we exercise our voting rights to elect our Bridge and Executive committee for 2007. We have also planned the "Dirty Santa" event for this meeting. Don't forget to bring your gift of around \$10 to \$15 per person if you wish to participate in the excitement. You may also want to bring some body armor as the ladies get pretty aggressive during this event! Our bill of fare will be deep fried turkey and ham provided by the squadron. Please bring you favorite Christmas side dish to share and the recipe for it. Also you are responsible for providing your own liquid refreshment as there is no bar available at the Museum.

Don't forget the New Orleans boat show is January the 10th - 13th. Although the New Orleans Power Squadron is responsible for the booth at the New Orleans Boat Show, we share in staffing and assisting the booth. Please volunteer ASAP. Coincidentally, this is a very good way to get in and see the boat show and all of the great new toys while you are off duty.

Our Change of Watch (C.O.W.) will be held on January 20th. It's \$35.00 per person and will be held at the Beau Chene Country Club, 6:00 pm hors d' oeuvres, 7:00 dinner and start of program. Menu includes choice of Roast Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus with lyonnaise potatoes, or Broiled Grouper topped with a shrimp cream sauce with starch and vegetable du jour, or Pork Wellington marinated tenderloin topped with herbed goat cheese fried in a pyllo dough. Included are Beau Chene garden salad with vinaigrette dressing, baby green beans, rolls and butter, iced tea and coffee, and New York cheesecake with raspberry coulis. Music will be provided by Miss Candy.

RSVP no later than January 12, 2007 to Carol Bell at (985) 809-9805 or email her at jcbbell@bellsouth.net. As we all know how cranky she gets when we don't respond in a timely fashion let's work together and get our reservations in early.

My lovely bride Miss Rebecca would like to remind all you ladies and gents to bring your recipes with you. You can download a form from our website if you don't have one. The cookbook can only succeed if we all pitch in and submit our recipes.

I hear that Boudreaux got run over by a mudboat and that Santa travels in a pirogue in these parts of the country.

Happy and safe boating this holiday season.

You are cordially invited to attend

Lake Pontchartrain
Sail & Power Squadron's
Annual
Change of Watch

Saturday, 6 PM - January 20, 2007



Beau Chene Country Club
602 North Beau Chene Drive
Mandeville, LA

Choice of Entrée

Broiled Grouper Roast Prime Beef Pork Wellington

Cash Bar

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED \$35 per person

RSVP by January 13, 2006
985-809-9805 Carol

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Lt/C Bob Albers, AP

Let me try to get a jump on something. In January, the New Orleans Boat show will be held in the Convention Center. We will have a booth there. Please



check the Calendar on our web site for the New Orleans Boat Show. See how you can get in for FREE.

Well, now to something more timely. It's getting to "that time of year" again. We'll be celebrating Thanksgiving—an original American holiday which is becoming popular around the world. On this day we remember all that we have to be grateful for. As I recall, last year we were thanking God for our survival—certainly a very big thing indeed. This year, my gratitude is for both the mundane and the esoteric. I am thankful for a fun boat, for the love and warmth of my

family, for a good sturdy house and for friends like you.

Happy Holidays! Season's Greetings! Baah Humbug. No, this isn't Ebenezer Scrooge or The Grinch. It's just that those two phrases grate me the wrong way. In our attempt to please everyone by our "political correctness", it seems that we occasionally insult the majority in favor of avoiding conflict with a very vocal minority. We have accepted the ban on "Christmas" in our schools. Hanukkah decorations are seldom, if ever seen. Public lands cannot be used for depictions of the real reason for the season; that would be recognition of "an establishment of religion". Never mind that it recognizes the need of the majority of tax paying citizens to jointly celebrate something felt deep inside. Well, I suppose you've had enough of this vent, so for all of its political incorrectness, I wish you a **Happy Thanksgiving** (November 23rd) **Happy Hanukkah** (December 16th – 23rd) **MERRY CHRISTMAS** (December 25th) and **HAPPY NEW YEAR** (January 1st)

Nominations for 2007

Commander	John Bell
Executive Officer	Doug Brooks
Administrative Officer	Gene Mallard
Secretary	Bob Albers
Treasurer	George Trousdale
Education Officer	Ron Everett
Asst. Ed. Officer	Paul Lumpkin

Executive Committee

Bob Christian
Bill Dietrich
Carol Bell
Marlene Sobkowich

Rules Committee

Don Roman (3 years)

Auditing Committee

Jeff Williams (3 years)

Nominating Committee

Peggy Roy (1 year)
Jeff Williams (3 years)

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

It's almost too late!!
Don't miss out on the fun
2006 Christmas Weekend

Hosted by the New Orleans Power Squadron
Sundestin Beach Resort
1040 Hwy 98 E Destin Florida
1-3 December 2006

**Weekend Package Price for Two
3 Days & 2 Nights**

1 bedroom, 1½ bath Condominiums
Gulf Front \$281.00

Coastline \$263.00 Restricted View \$247.00
Above Cost Plus Taxes

Hospitality Room - All Weekend
Hosted by Maureen and Bernard Kullman

Friday Evening Welcome Party 5 - 7 PM
Hosted by Brenda and Jimmy Murphy

Saturday Evening Buffet 7 PM
(Dinner Fare to be set)

Sunday Champagne Brunch

Call Sundestin at 850-837-7093 ex 6216
Ask for Scott Hamblin &
Power Squadron Package

Additional information call Jim Murphy
850-650-6356



LPSPS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING & ELECTION

Thursday, December 7th
Social Hour begins at 6 PM

Maritime Museum
Madisonville, LA

Turkey & Ham
provided by the Squadron
(Members to provide side dishes)

**Don't forget to bring your
Dirty Santa gifts**