



UNDER THE BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cdr. John B. Bell, AP

Fellow LPSPS members, first I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve again this year as your Commander. It is truly an honor to belong to an organization with such fine people in it. We have a great squadron and I am hopeful that together we can make it even better in 2007.



For those of you that missed our Change of Watch event last month you missed a really good time. But, it's not too late for you to join in on some of the upcoming events that are awaiting us throughout the year. I know we have a number of additional social events that are currently in the planning stages. I encourage every squadron member to make it a point to attend at least one event this year. Whether you are volunteering to help with one of them or just attending to enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow boaters I know you will have a good time.

We will be seeing the boating season begin in just a few more weeks so be sure and contact one of our Vessel Safety Examiners to make arrangements for your complimentary vessel safety check. Before you call though, you may want to check the expiration dates on your flares. I just had to replace mine as they had expired.

We had a good turnout for the New Orleans Boat Show last month. I thought I saw a larger number of exhibitors at this year's show so it looks like people are beginning to make the return to New Orleans.

Be sure you keep an eye out for information regarding the new educational

offerings coming from USPS University. This new strategic direction is sure to attract a number of people with its new and enhanced training format.

We took care of a little business at the COW. A vote was taken on the education waiver which passed unanimously.

On a personal note...our "new to us" boat has finally arrived here. Now comes the challenge of cleaning it up and getting it ready for use in our local waterways.

We look forward to seeing you either on the water or at one of the LPSPS events soon.

Let's all continue to enjoy safe boating.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lt/C Doug Brooks, AP

ARE WE READY? It is a brand new year and every day is waiting for you to do something GREAT. Alright, maybe not great, but lets commit to something for your LPSPS this year. I know your asking yourself what could that something be. As your brand new Executive Officer, I would suggest you immediately volunteer to help out on SAFE BOATING WEEK. Oh sure, you and I know that project is a long way off in May, but I need your help now. I need ideas on how we are going to encourage more people to attend this very important event. Especially the children and young adults. Those are the ones that maybe we can teach to be safer boaters and hopefully their parents will see the importance of Safe Boating Week. So please give it some thought and then give



your suggestions to me or anyone on the bridge. It will make the difference in having a successful Safe Boating Week. Of course, we will still need Volunteers to help set up and man the booth.

Thanks to all the volunteers that helped for the New Orleans Boat Show. You all did a Great job.

Here are a few projects (committees) that I will need volunteers. Yes, you can volunteer for more than one. Don't ask me how I knew you would probably want to do that.

CoOp charting:

- Don Roman has offered to chair this committee. The group is responsible for coordinating cooperative charting activities within the squadron. The intent of the program is to provide NOAA with data obtained by trained volunteer observers for use in the producing accurate, up to date charts and related products to boaters.

Liaison:

Volunteer Needed to Chair.
On a squadron level, the liaison furthers the goals of USPS by developing and maintaining good relations with public agencies. Anyone with those kinds of relationships with Covington, Mandeville, or Madisonville, should let me know.

Public Relations:

Marlene Sobkowich, AP has volunteered. This office has two primary objectives: Publishing information on squadron safe boating courses and conduct a year round public relations program.

Safety:

Works towards providing an informative program for members and works with the education department to provide latest information for inclusion in education programs.

Vessel Safety Checks:

Schedules VSC activities for public boat inspection. Reviews submittals of completed VSC forms for accuracy and content. Then forwards the results to National.

All of the above are the heart and soul of what our squadron is about. Without your help and support, our squadron cannot be all that it can be. I am going to quote something our past Admin Officer Bob Christian said "Many hands make big jobs small." So with your help we will have a

Successful New Year. Please don't tell Bob I quoted him. He probably won't even notice. I can't have him think I actually read his article. It will go to his head and I will never hear the end of it.

Now I know YOU ARE READY so give me a call and let me know which job(s) you're qualified to handle and volunteering for.

EDUCATION

Lt/C Ronald Everett, AP

USPS National Education Department has



developed four new courses, read seminars, to maintain or elevate a member's knowledge in the areas of modern marine technology.

At present the seminars available are; **Using GPS, Using VHF & VHF/DSC**

Marine Radio, How to read a Chart, and Onboard Weather Forecasting.

These seminars are also being offered to the general public.

Each seminar will be taught in one 2 to 4 hour session. If you or a friend is interested in taking one of the classes, contact me @ 985-630-2912.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Lt/C Bob Albers, AP



Another year, another dollar. I hope I saw you at the Change of Watch. It was enjoyable and featured exciting though unexpected pyrotechnics. Merle seemed to think that our table caught fire because we're HOT STUFF! If you want more

details, I suggest you join us at our next general membership meeting February 8th. As we bring in the New Year in Power Squadron, we are looking for a few good men and women to fill some important jobs. First is the laudable and enviable position of Newsletter Editor. Ron has done a marvelous job for a long time, but he wants to pass his editor's shade to someone else.

I think the job probably takes only 2 or 3 hours each month. It would take Ron even less time if he didn't also count the time required to create his own column. As editor, your own column is optional. The job also pays well. You get the undying gratitude of your bridge officers not to mention your fellow boaters. Apply to me, Ron Everett or our illustrious commander, John Bell.

I wish to thank the members of our telephone committee for their excellent work this past year. Each month that there was a meeting, they contacted as many people on their list as they could to remind us of the meeting time, location, program and menu. Before going on to another subject, are you sure that we have your correct phone number? Did you move recently? Get a new boat? Please check your information on our database via the web. If you can't easily do this, call me & I'll check/correct it with you.

Spring is just around the corner. Because we are technically in winter (I say it that way because we don't normally "winterize" or boats), it's a good time to check for things like water in the lower unit of our outboards or I/O drives, clean the hulls and get new zincs. If your engines are fresh water cooled, check the coolant. If your engine is raw water cooled, check and maybe replace the engine zincs. This is a good time for all those maintenance items you've put off so you could enjoy your boat during "the season".

This brings us to the subject of Vessel Safety Check. I have volunteered to be the VSC chairman this year. There is some irony there as I didn't do enough checks last year to maintain my certification. That will change! We will also need members to train as, and be available, to perform vessel safety checks this year. VSC training will be scheduled for the last half of February or the first part of March, weather permitting. In the meantime, anyone interested can go the national website at; <http://safetyseal.net/usps-ve-test.asp?BHCP=1> And take the Vessel Safety Check test.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lt/C George Trousdale, S

Officers have been installed for the coming



year. The change of Watch was a wonderful function. Good food, entertainment and charged with the "Who Dat!" vigor.

More activities are in store for your boating pleasure for the coming year.

Rendezvous are scheduled for each month in addition to the fun meetings. We're really excited about all of the camaraderie to be had! The more, the merrier, so look at the LPSPS web site - <http://lpmps.org/> for the rendezvous information. March 24 is the target date for the next rendezvous. Reserve that time for a great boating experience! More information is forthcoming. Of course, any suggestions about activities that further safe boating and fun boating are greatly appreciated. A phone call to anyone on the bridge will have your views aired at the very next monthly Executive Meeting. If you have any other ideas, please let Gene Mallard know!

Our finances are in good shape – thanks again to Doug Brooks and the Bridge. LPSPS is alive and well!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as Treasurer.

If any member has any questions about our finances, please call me.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

***6 PM Thursday February 8th
Madisonville Maritime Museum
"BRING a COVERED DISH"***

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

D/15 Spring Council Meeting

Holiday Inn, Exit 15 B, Tillman's Corner
Mobile, Alabama

Saturday, 10 March 2007

Squadron Officers and other interested parties
are encouraged to attend.

Mark your
calendar!



Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power 2007 Bridge Officers

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