



UNDER THE BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cdr. John B. Bell, AP

Fellow LPSPS members, Have you ever asked yourself, "Why am I in the LPSPS?" I have, and I like the answers. When we bought our first boat a few years ago, we knew very little about boating other than, you had to launch it into the water at the launch ramp, be sure you had gas and oil, check that the plug was in, have a few life vests aboard, and enjoy the day. Then, after going through that routine a few times, we realized there was a whole lot more to boating that we needed to learn. We began looking for places to get the training we were seeking, only to find that very few places offered it and then typically at times and locations that were not convenient for us. Therefore, we continued to look until one day we ran across a small ad in the local newspaper about a safe boating course offered by the U.S. Power Squadrons. At this time, we had not even heard of the "Power Squadrons" but we signed up for the course anyway. To make a long story short, we have not looked back since then. Not only did we enjoy the basic safe boating course but we began our journey through the USPS advanced courses too. In addition to that, we met many other people in the LPSPS that were active in boating as well. We were able to share stories, adventures, questions, and problems. Many times, we would get an answer from someone in the squadron who had already encountered the same or similar problems and questions we were pondering. We found yet another reason to be glad we are squadron members...lots of free expert advice from knowledgeable folks with the same interests. Then we found ourselves becoming more active in the squadron's social and public service activities. We had lots of fun and great camaraderie too. When you put it all together, to me it equates to belonging to a great



organization with a team of outstanding folks learning, working and playing together. That then becomes the realization of our USPS association...safe boating education, promoting safe boating through our community services, and enjoying the fellowship of our fellow squadron members. So, whether you are an "active" LPSPS member or you just enjoy being in the squadron, I am sure there is something of value to you...and we are glad you are a member of the LPSPS.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lt/C Doug Brooks, AP

Hey Power Squadron members-have you had your



Vessel Safety Check for 2007? The boating season is already in full swing and this is one item that should be done first. Who better to help you with getting that done than your friends at Lake Pontchartrain Power Squadron? All you have to

do is call Bob Albers and he or several other qualified VSC members can set up a time to come inspect your vessel. We just finished several inspections at Marina Del Ray and Beau Chene Marina. We all had a great time, but the important results were that the boats that passed know that they have at least met the minimum safety standards and they are ready to have fun safely. Of course, those that did not pass are advised what they need to do to pass and are not reported to any authority. Educating the boating public on the minimum requirements for a safe boat is what makes the VSC such a great program.

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, we still need more trained VSC for Safe Boating Week coming in May. If you are interested, call Bob Albers, Chairman of VSC committee or me.

I have to tell you the course test is not easy and it really tests your knowledge of having the right safety equipment on your boat.

Even if you are not going to be a VSC, taking the test provides great information for everyone to have. I would like to challenge everyone in the squadron to take the test just to see how much you really know about safe boating and the equipment you are required to have. What is great about the test is that you get the results instantly and they are confidential. Only you and the computer know how you did. The test can be taken as many times as needed in order to pass. When you think about it, every time you get on a boat you should look it over to make sure it is equipped for your safety. Having the knowledge could save your life and others. Please give this some thought. You would be helping your squadron and making boating safer for all of us. Not to mention all the fun we have doing it and I have to tell you we meet all kinds of people with all kinds of boats.

I look forward to seeing all of you having fun on the water safely.

Now get out there and lets Rendezvous,
XO Lt/C Doug Brooks,AP.

EDUCATION

Lt/C Ronald Everett, AP

Two member courses are in the planning stages. Start dates have not yet been set. Weather and Cruise Planning - both are great courses. The Weather Course will be instructed by Don Roman and will be held on Tuesday evenings at Bob Albers' residence in Mandeville. The cost of the 12-week course is \$85.00 for course material and related items, and payment is required prior to the start date. Please register now.

Cruise Planning is for anyone that may take an overnigher or a long-term cruise. The course will be held on Wednesday evenings at John and Carol Bell's house in Covington. The instructors will be speaking from practical experience and have much to offer. They will discuss both sail and power vessels and cover all that is involved in the planning of trips. The cost for this 6-week course is \$40 and must be paid prior to the first class.

More member classes will be offered as members express an interest and are willing to offer the space needed to hold the classes. Most of the classes, with the exception of the Weather Class are 6 to 8 weeks in duration. Here is the list of classes that are available: Seamanship, Piloting,

Advanced Piloting, and possibly Jr. Navigation. Elective Courses are Sail, Marine Electronics, Engine Maintenance, Weather, and Cruise Planning. Contact me at a meeting or give me a call if you are interested in a class or hosting a class. Most classes have approximately 10 students.

Our Boat Smart classes have been well attended with 20 students. Interest in becoming members has been shown from a number of these students.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Lt/C Bob Albers, AP

Spring is here! We need to take the cover off our boat and get ready for good times on the water. We have six Vessel examiners in the squadron. Let's get things started with a vessel safety check. Visit the Vessel Safety page on our web site and contact one of the examiners to have your boat inspected. We can make this a safe & fun filled boating season.



Membership qualifications have changed. It is no longer necessary to pass a safe boating class before being admitted to membership. If you would like to recommend anyone for squadron membership, please bring him or her with you to our meetings or other events. Introduce them so they can see first hand what we are about. Feel free to nominate them for membership. Membership is temporarily being handled by the Education Department so contact Ron Everett at (985)624-4840 or email to roneverett39@aol.com.



At last, we have a new editor for the newsletter. Christine Williams has taken over the green eyeshade from Ron. We thank Ron for his years of dedication, hard work and thank him for a "job well done". I know that he is a tough act to follow, but Christine can do it.

Let's wish the following members happy birthday this month.

Ellis E. Brown - 04/01, Robert A. Boettner - 04/04, Stephen L. Bloomer - 04/07, James E. Kowaleski - 04/08, Angela Rayer - 04/15, Matt Faust - 04/19, Donald A. Roman - 04/21, Michael Hardin Kritz - 04/27, John Hull - 04/28, Christine A. Williams - 04/29, Fran Davis - 04/30

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lt/C George Trousdale, S

With the advent of new membership not requiring an education class before becoming a member, I hope that our ACTIVE membership will increase! Certainly, the money will help (making us rich beyond our wildest dreams!), but LPSPS is about safety, education and having fun.



Vessel Safety Inspections are great. All boaters should have their stickers proudly displayed. Education courses are most helpful for all boaters. Fun is what you have with LPSPS members!

March started some impromptu rendezvous that always turns out to be a lot of fun. Mid March found this writer and wife on the Tchefuncta River with the Williams, Bells and Cooks. That Friday night, it is rumored that a Roman pirate ship tried to assault our boat, but was ignored (I didn't have my radio on...). Use a hand grenade next time, Don.

LPSPS finances are in order. I have discussed long-term financial philosophies with the leadership and believe that there will be firm stability for quite some time.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our fun meetings and ON THE WATER!

UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL

General Membership Meeting

6 PM, Thursday April 12th
Madisonville Maritime Museum
Dinner is being catered so please contact Carol Bell at 985-809-9805 or email jcbbell@bellsouth.net "BYOB"

District 15 Spring Council Meeting

April 20-22, 2007
Marriott New Orleans
– Metairie at Lakeway
Register at
<http://www.usps.org/localusps/d15/Conf-s07.pdf>

Crawfish Boil

Noon, Saturday April 28, 2007
Madisonville Wall
Price to be announced
Please contact Carol Bell in advance for reservations at 985-809-9805 or email jcbbell@bellsouth.net

CALL FOR RECIPES!!!

Our squadron is going to publish a cookbook with the proceeds going to fund ongoing Squadron safety and education initiatives. We would greatly appreciate your input in helping us make this project an overwhelming success. To submit your favorite recipes for inclusion in the Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron Cookbook, please go to our website at the link below, print out the recipe form, fill it in and it return to Rebecca@LPSPS.org

Rebecca Christian
4634 Hyacinth Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

http://www.lpsps.org/Cook_Book/Cookbook.htm

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

Upcoming Squadron Courses

Weather – Instructor - Don Roman

*Tuesday evenings for 12 weeks at Bob Alber's house,
Dates to be announced; Cost \$85 for course materials*
Learn about the basic structure of our atmosphere, how to interpret weather maps, and how to make your own skilled observations. All material is keyed to helping you predict and anticipate weather developments affecting your boating enjoyment and safety.

Cruise Planning – Instructor – To be announced

*Wednesday evenings for six weeks at John and Carol Bell's
Cost \$40*
This Course helps you prepare for voyaging afloat. Learn essentials about equipping and provisioning your boat, crew selection, financing your trip, entering and clearing foreign ports, emergencies afloat, & boat security.

Contact Ron Everett to register for these courses.

Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power 2007 Bridge Officers

Commander

Cdr. John Bell, AP 985-809-9805
jbellbcc@bellsouth.net

Executive Officer

Lt/C Doug Brooks, AP 985-845-3309
dbrooks@cpdrum.com

Education Officer

Lt/C Ron Everett, AP 985-630-2912
RonEverett39@aol.com

Admin Officer

Lt/C Gene Mallard, AP 985-641-6251
GMallard@TMLS.Textron.com

Treasurer

Lt/C George Trousdale, S 985-792-4130
gwt413@charter.net

Secretary

Lt/C Bob Albers, AP 985-727-4665
rcalbers@bellsouth.net

FUN ON THE WATER

Mardi Gras Boat Parade – The Vikings Are Coming!



Champagne Lady and her crew of Vikings, (some of whom you'll recognize as prominent LSPS members), sailed to first place in the Madisonville Boat Parade this year. Lynn Haase cornered the market on Viking hard hats! Great fun was had by all! There was a even an unofficial Squadron reviewing stand as a number of members gathered on George Trousdale's new boat "Talk About Good!" to watch the parade and give all the boats moral support.

Lake Emfred Rendezvous & Official Boat Re-naming Ceremony



The Ides of March smiled upon the 5 1/2 boats that came to the Lake Emfred Rendezvous. Still Dreamin' (Bells), Double D (Brooks), Lady Norma (Roberts), Tugley (Owens), Talk About Good! (Trousdale's) and Kayak (Dietrich) boated in. Many others came by land. Oh, the stories that were told! I believe that our Power Squadron is successful simply because there is a cohesive group with similar interests who are dedicated to having fun! The food and drink was great and there was plenty to be had. The Trousdale's had a renaming ceremony for the new 390 Sea Ray MY. Some believe that the miserly amount of champagne poured into the lake contributed to the malfunction of the generator and windlass. No one complained when Helen started pouring it into glasses for all!