



# UNDER THE BRIDGE

## LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

### FROM THE COMMANDER

*Cdr. Douglas A. Brooks, JN*

I hope everyone had a great summer; it's too bad the end weekend was spoiled by Gustav. I can certainly think of better ways to spend a long holiday weekend than preparing houses, boats and property for all that wind and rain. Oh well, I guess it's the tradeoff for all the other good reasons for living in Gulf



South.

I really enjoyed the Summer Olympics this year from Beijing. However, while I was enjoying all of the activities this summer I could not help thinking about what a great country we live in and the opportunities we have. It is really hard to believe that a group of people like al-Qaida and Taliban have only one goal: to destroy us. With the passing of the 7th anniversary of 9-11, I want to remind everyone of their obligation to keep our waterways and country safe. That means we all should be on alert for any suspicious activities where ever we might be.

Things to watch out for and should be reported:

- Suspicious person or persons conducting unusual activities, near bridges or high security areas on or near the water.
- Individuals setting up roadside stands near marinas or public areas that weren't there or used before 9-11.
- Unknown or suspicious persons photographing or making drawings of undersides of bridges, areas around buildings, power plants or public water plants.
- Suspicious persons loitering for extended time in one particular area.
- Strange vendors in trucks near public places.

These are just a few activities that you should take note of. Nobody enjoys being the police, but because of a few fanatics, we all must pay closer attention to our security and our surroundings, so our country will be a safer place.

Maybe, with all of our help we can prevent another tragedy like 9-11-2001 from ever occurring again.

Did you know that when you are boating within 500 yards of any military vessel over 100 feet you are required to slow to minimum speed and not get any closer than 100 yards? The penalty is severe, a \$250,000 fine and up to 6 years in prison. This law is known as the " Naval Vessel Protection Zone". It is always a good idea to stay away from all government regulated areas like dams and port operations when possible.

The last and probably most important responsibility each of us has is to secure our boats when we go home from a fun day on our waterways. If all of us do our part, I know we will have a safer place for our families.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our October meeting. Until then, enjoy your boating activities, but keep a sharp eye out for the unusual.

Thanks for your support,

Cdr. Doug Brooks, JN

### EXECUTIVE OFFICER

*Lt/C Jeffrey L. Williams, JN*

#### Why Boats Sink



You may be surprised to know that for every boat that sinks underway, four boats sink in their slips. We sometimes suffer from a false sense of security about our boats' systems. After all they've never failed us before and even if water does get into the boat we have automatic bilge pumps as a back-up.

Boat US examined 100 insurance claims for boats that sank in their slips and found:

- 50% of the claims were the result of leaks at underwater fittings. The majority of the leaks were at stuffing boxes (12), followed by out drive or shift bellows (11), failed hoses or hose clamps (8), sea strainers (4), and drain plugs (4). There were two sinkings each from air conditioning fittings, gate valves, transducers, mounting bolts, and mufflers. One boat went to the bottom as a result of a leaking speedometer impeller.
- 32% of the sinking claims resulted from rain accumulating in boats with self-bailing cockpits that should have shed the water overboard.
- 9% of the claims were from fittings above the water line that had cracked.

The first line of defense is to visit your boat regularly and at least twice a season inspect fittings and hoses above and below the waterline. If you see water in the bilge, or you notice that the bilge pumps are working more frequently than normal, ask yourself why and try to track down where the water is coming from. It isn't unusual to encounter leaks in hatches, ports or chain plates. Identifying and caulking these leaks early on not only keeps water out of your bilge but will prevent costly structural repairs later. Scuppers that are clogged with leaves and debris can allow water that should be draining to back up and eventually find a way into the bilge. Make sure scuppers are clean and draining freely. Inspect thru hull fittings, sea cocks, gate valves, hoses and hose clamps for deterioration or corrosion. Replace deteriorated fittings, rusted hose clamps and hoses that are dried out, cracked or otherwise showing wear.

I can share a personal experience with you. We had pulled our boat from Lake Ontario for winter storage "on the hard" and gone through our normal procedure of winterizing and covering the boat. As usual, we had the marina operator block the boat on the cradle so that any rainwater or snow melt would run to the aft and drain out through the scuppers in the back of the cockpit. When we returned the following spring to get the boat ready to go back in the water you can only imagine our surprise (and horror) to find three feet of water inside the entire 30 feet of cabin. Ultimately we discovered the culprit to be a cracked hose that ran from the scupper, through the aft cabin to a thru hull fitting in the stern of the boat. Essentially all of the water we'd assumed would be draining off the boat was instead collecting inside the boat. This condition probably existed for a long period of time but was hidden by a well operating automatic bilge pump. I guess the silver lining in our cloud was that we had "sunk on land" instead of in the water!

## ADMINISTRATIVE *Lt/C Carol Bell, S*

Greetings to all My Fellow Boaters!



Hopefully this finds everyone "back to normal" after the two recent hurricanes blasted through. I don't know about anyone else but I am ready to get back in the swing of boating again.

This was our first time as boat owners of a non trailerable boat that we had to worry about getting it ready, in addition to our house. Oh what "fun" we had! One of the wonderful things about being part of this Squadron is the help from fellow members with our boat preparations. It all started last year with Don Roman assessing what our needs would be with lines etc. He drove to New Orleans to get the line for us, figured out the lengths that were needed, cut them to the specs necessary and advised us how to best tie up in a hurricane. In the days prior to Hurricane Gustav, fellow members and marina neighbors George Trousdale and Art Roberts pitched in to help John take down our canvas and gave him some very helpful tips in the process. Walter Mlynarski, another member who docks at our marina was of invaluable help to all of us. He checked on all of his fellow members' boats before, during and after the storm, adjusting lines and fenders and calling us frequently to update on the status of our boats, the condition of the marina and the water surge. There are a lot of very nice people at our marina and they all look out for the boats around them but I believe that our Power Squadron members take it to the next level. Many thanks to the above mentioned people for all your help and support to the First Timers in Hurricane Preparations!! I was curious though when I put out the email to let them know we were putting it all back together again and why they didn't show! Smart Guys! On that subject, do you know how fast things can come down but they never seem to go back at the same speed or ease? John and I were close to having the majority of our canvas back on but one stubborn piece was not cooperating. Then fellow members, John and Jeanne Winters came by in their Whaler and added that extra bit of strength needed to get the canvas in place. My heroes! After putting the canvas back then comes the many, many trips to the boat with all the "frou frou". I didn't know I had that much stuff on board! Why, oh why did I take it all off? John had told me to take off anything that I would not want to lose if the boat didn't make it. Pillows? Towels? What was I thinking? Would it have

been so bad to have to shop for new stuff? Lessons learned! One thing I did appreciate was the value of duct tape. I think we should have a lesson on all the things you can use duct tape for on a boat, the proper ways to apply it and that you don't have to go to extremes with it! Sometimes less is really more. John and I had a debriefing on all our lessons learned and stored them in the vault where hopefully one of us will remember to pull them out should we need them again.

Our October 9<sup>th</sup> general membership meeting will be at The Maritime Museum in Madisonville with a Social to start at 6pm and Dinner at 7pm. immediately following dinner, we will have a one hour presentation from two World War 2 Vets on loan from the D Day Museum. We are very excited and honored to have them do their presentation for us. Please come on out and show our Vets your support. Feel free to bring guests with you who may be interested in this program, and or the Squadron. It will be a "Bring a Covered Dish" meeting and please inform any guests you bring of this so they can plan to bring something or you can bring an extra dish for them. As always please remember to bring your own beverages and also for your guests. We will make sure to have ice available. After the presentation we will have a short business meeting. As our guests have a long trip back to New Orleans we feel it best to have our meeting afterwards.

Our November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at The Maritime Museum with a Social to start at 6pm and Dinner at 7pm. This will be a catered event, menu and price details to follow. Our very own Bob and Susan Owens will be doing a 1 hour presentation on their last trip to Alaska. If any of you were following them along their journey via email you will know what an incredible time they had. This trip was not on a cruise ship but with a friend on his boat. Come on out and hear and see what they experienced.

Our December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will also be at The Maritime Museum with a Social to start at 6pm and dinner at 7pm. The Squadron will provide the turkey and ham and we ask that you "Bring a Covered Dish" to go along with this. Everyone seems to go all out each year with their favorite holiday dishes. We will be having our Annual Elections for the Squadron at this meeting. This is the time of year when we vote on our Bridge Officers and various committee members for the following year. The Nominating Committee provides the list that we will vote on. This will also be our Christmas party and we will be doing our usual "Dirty Santa" gift exchange. For those of you who have not participated in this before, please bring a wrapped gift which doesn't have to be gender specific valued between \$10.00 to \$15.00.

These are all put on a table and you will receive half of a ticket and the other half goes in a pot. When your ticket gets called you can choose a wrapped gift from the table or "steal" a gift from someone else. Let the insanity begin! The rules sometimes get confused so this year we will try to contain the crowd but there are no guarantees! It is a lot of fun and who knows, Santa himself may appear!!!

The Wooden Boat Festival is October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. We need volunteers to help us collect admission fees at the Rt 22 entrance gate and to man the LPSPS booth. Please call Jeff Williams at 504-220-6524 if you can help out.

Please don't forget to send in your registration forms for our District 15 Conference on Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> as soon as possible. Time is running out and we need to get our numbers into the hotel. There will be a form in this newsletter with all the details so I won't go through them here. Come on out and golf with us on Friday. You don't have to be a golfer to come out and play. It is "Best Ball" and even people like me can play and have fun.

We have a Rendezvous on the schedule for November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Madisonville wall. As this is the weekend before Thanksgiving, we are not sure how many people will want to attend. When we get closer we can firm up the plans once we know how many will be attending. The wall is always a nice place to gather especially at that time of the year with cooler temperatures.

In a previous article, I stressed the fun we have when we get together at Rendezvous' and that all people whether by land, kayak, fishing boat, dinghy, swimming, etc. were encouraged to attend. People have come in all of those ways. The size of your boat doesn't matter to anyone or even if you have a boat. It is your respect for your fellow members, the love of boating, the shared stories, the good food, the shared knowledge and common interests that keep us coming back for more. So why do you want to miss out on all of this?

We look forward to seeing each and every one of you at our next Rendezvous! Who will be that person to step forward and take charge of our next Rendezvous, I wonder.

**EDUCATION OFFICER**

*Lt/C Paul Lumpkin, SN*

Education Department News



We will continue with the USPS Seminars and Navigation Rules at the General Membership Meetings.

The following is a list of the 2009 training schedule. We will have classes for each of the following courses if a minimum of 6 students are enrolled in each of the courses.

**LPS&PS Training Schedule for 2009**

America's Boating Course

31-January-2009

6-June-2009

18-July-2009

**Advanced Grades**

Seamanship	10-August-2009
Piloting	25-February-2009
Advanced Piloting	13-May-2009
Junior Navigation	TBA
Navigation	1-September-2009

**Elective Grades**

Cruise Planning	20-January-2009
Engine Maintenance	26-May-2009
Marine Electronics	10-March-2009
Sail	11-August-2009
Vessel Safety Check	TBA
Weather	14-September-2009

Note: Dates are subject to change.

**Now it's up to you to take advantage of this USPS educational opportunity. Be sure to sign up early for these classes.**

**YOU MUST BE REGISTERED 30 DAYS BEFORE THE CLASS STARTS!**

Contact Paul Lumpkin to enroll or to request additional information on one or more of the above programs. Last day for ordering materials will be 30 days before beginning of class.

L. Paul Lumpkin, SN  
LPSPS SEO  
Phone: 504-450-7817  
E-mail: [freevsc@mchsi.com](mailto:freevsc@mchsi.com)

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

*Lt/C George Trousdale, S*

Our finances are down from last year due to



lower renewal rate. Please encourage our fellow members to renew! Why? We offer so many opportunities, such as FUN, education, volunteerism, etc. It is amazing how close you can be with great boating

people!

Have you seen the Madisonville Lighthouse recently? It has been painted and really stands out. I saw it from the Causeway and it is amazing how clearly you can see it. Also, thanks to Don Roman, the U. S. Navy has done a hydrology study in front of the lighthouse. That's a map of the terrain under water. Their findings are coming soon and should be most interesting. Many thanks, Don and the Navy! Next, we have to stop additional erosion by some sort of bank improvement.

Oh, yes, 9/10/08 was the peak of the hurricane season. Hopefully it's all downhill now and let's look forward to great boating!

Respectfully submitted,  
George Trousdale

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN REPORT**

*Helen Trousdale*

Our September 11<sup>th</sup> membership meeting was



well attended in spite of "Ike" being on the way. Twenty-six members showed up for a delicious catered meal! Everyone enjoyed Adam Aquistapace's program on wine tasting.

The Membership Committee has decided to send out postcards as reminders of the meetings and programs which, we hope will facilitate communications and increase participation in our meetings. Please remember that our meetings are the **SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH**. The exception to this is July and August when meetings are suspended for the summer.

We have a few cookbooks left for sale. Holidays are just around the corner and these cookbooks make great gifts!

Please welcome our new members: Mike Norman, and Tim Hood & family from Baton Rouge. It is each member's responsibility to make new members feel welcome. Let's show them a good time!

We're always looking for new members and hopefully our participation at the Wooden Boat Festival and the Vessel Safety Checks should help in this effort.

**Membership Committee:**

Helen Trousdale, Chair  
 Norma Roberts  
 Rebecca Christian  
 Doris Brooks  
 Patsy McDonnell

Safe boating;  
 Helen Trousdale

**September Birthdays:**

*Please wish our September "babies" a belated Happy Birthday!*

Robert Owens III	09
Billy Evans	11
Berry French	12
David Soileau	18
Terri Williams	26
Kenneth Rayer	29

**October Birthdays:**

*Please wish our October "babies" a very Happy Birthday!*

Candace Mallard	04
Thomas Pertuit	05
Louis John Correjolles	08
John Webb	08
Patsy McDonnell	10
Joey Wheeler	12
Robert Owens	15
William Scarcella	16
Dennis Tauzin	21
Russell Harris	28
John Moores	28
George Trousdale	29
Cheryl Gruenig	30
Vaughn Knight	30
Randy Tillman	30



**!!! REGISTER NOW !!!**

**DISTRICT 15  
 FALL CONFERENCE**

**October 24 - 26**

**HOSTED BY:** Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron

**WHEN:** October 24, 25, 26 2008

**WHERE:** Marriott Courtyard  
 101 Northpark Blvd.  
 Covington, LA  
 (888) 364-1200

**ROOM RATES:** Very nice accommodations - \$ 89.00/night + tax

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Friday Oct 24:**

- Golf at the Covington County Club
- Tee Off time 9:30 am, 68.00/person
  - Fish Fry and Maritime Museum Tour in Madisonville

**Saturday Oct 25:**

- Conference Meeting - 9:30 AM
- Shopping/Farmers Market for the Ladies
- Lunch with Guest Speaker Jay Martin, Director – Maritime Museum
- Dinner/Dance at Marriott

**Sunday Oct 26:**

- Going Home - Breakfast at District Cdr. Roy's House

**Must register by Oct 17<sup>th</sup>  
 (see registration form on pg 7)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

General Membership meeting

October 9<sup>th</sup> 2008

Madisonville Maritime Museum

*This is a "Bring a dish to pass"*

Social 6:00PM , Dinner 7:00PM

Guest speakers: WWII Vets from D Day Museum

*As always "BYOB"*

Wooden Boat Festival


October 18-19, Madisonville

We need volunteers to help us collect admission fees at the Rt 22 entrance gate and to man the LPSPS booth. Please call Jeff Williams at 504-220-6524 if you can help out.

District 15 Fall Conference

October 24-26, Courtyard Marriott-Covington

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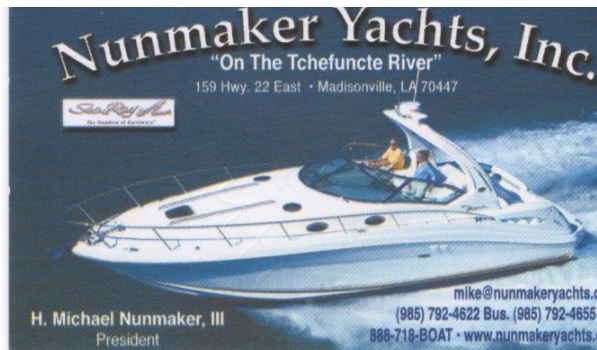


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**Josh Stansbury** Cell: 504-251-9665

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**TOWBOAT U.S. LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN OPENS.**

Captain Mark Tupper has opened TOWBOAT U.S. on the North shore at Mariners Village Marina in Mandeville. He will be servicing the entire Pontchartrain Basin.

To join call 800-888-4869 or call Mark Tupper at 985-373-6330

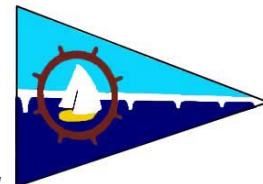


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# DISTRICT 15 FALL CONFERENCE

24-26 OCTOBER 2008  
MARRIOTT COURTYARD  
101 NORTHPARK BLVD.  
COVINGTON, LA 70433  
PH 1-888.364.1200

The **Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron** of the United States Power Squadron cordially invites you and your guest to the District 15 Fall Conference. Please complete this reservation form and mail to Carol Bell to arrive no later than Friday, 17 October 2008.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Street, City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Squadron, Phone, Email \_\_\_\_\_

<i>CONFERENCE EVENT</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>COST</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>TOT COST</i>
Friday Golf – Covington Country Club	See details listed below - Tee Time is 9:30 am			
Friday Fish Fry and Maritime Museum Tour (Wear <b>Red, White and Blue</b> – prize for best outfit)	1800 - 2100	\$ 25.00		
Saturday Lunch and Guest Speaker @ Marriott	1200 - 1400	\$ 20.00		
Saturday Dinner/Dance @ Marriott – Dressy Casual	1800 - 2100	\$ 40.00		
Saturday Abita Brew House Tour – Beer Tasting	1400 - 1530	N/C		
Sunday Morning Breakfast (Cdr. Roy’s house)	0800 – 1100	N/C		
		<b>TOTAL</b>		

**Reservations:** contact Marriott Courtyard at the Address or phone listed above. Rooms are **\$ 89.00/night** + tax. Ask for the D15 Power Squadron rate. The uniform for the Conference is business casual or Uniform G.

**Conference attendees,** please make checks payable to Lake Pontchartrian Sail and Power Squadron and mail to:

Carol Bell – Phone # 985 264-1662  
20436 Narrow Road  
Covington, LA 70435

If you have questions, please call Peggy Roy at 985 264-7467 or email her at [glenn111@bellsouth.net](mailto:glenn111@bellsouth.net).

**Golf attendees,** Tee Off is 9:30 am and cost is \$ 68/player. If you have questions concerning the Friday Golf event, please call Dick Reddy @ 251.961.3386. Send check payable to “D15 Golf” to:

Dick Reddy  
1164 Santa Anna Lane  
Lillian, AL 36549

*Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron  
Cdr. Douglas A. Brooks, JN  
107 Twin Oaks Lane  
Madisonville, LA 70447-9334*

## **Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power 2008 Bridge Officers**

### Commander

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[dbrooks@cpdrum.com](mailto:dbrooks@cpdrum.com)

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### Education Officer

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### Treasurer

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[gtrousdale@att.net](mailto:gtrousdale@att.net)

### Secretary

Lt/C Walter Mlynarski 985-778-1783  
[wmlynarski@yahoo.com](mailto:wmlynarski@yahoo.com)

## **Executive Committee Members**

P/C John Bell, AP  
Bob Christian, P  
Bob Albers, AP  
John Hull

## **Newsletter editor**

Lt Christine Williams, AP  
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[sailont@aol.com](mailto:sailont@aol.com)

