



UNDER THE BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cdr. Douglas A. Brooks, JN

Happy Holidays everyone. I hope you are in the spirit of the season. I know I am. We have been really blessed this year with no hurricanes and some really beautiful fall weather. Just great for us boaters.



John Bell and I were sorry to have missed the General

Meeting on November 12th, but we had to go to Ft. Walton, FL. for the Advance Certifier Training Course. Before you can take the course, you must also be trained in first aid and CPR, which we had to do. I hope most of you have heard of this new program called "Boat Operator Certification Program". Basically, it will be like a driver's license. What is driving the program are the new international rules for water safety from the UN Resolution 40 (International Certification for the Operation of Pleasure Craft). Right now, several foreign countries have accepted these rules and now are enforcing those regulations. That means you cannot take your boat into those countries without this UN certification. I was told Canada has now or will be putting this into effect soon. If you were stopped there, it is my understanding your boat would be impounded on the spot without this certification.

I also learned that New Jersey has implemented a new law that says you must have a state boating license to operate in their waters. I am telling all of you this because new rules are in the works around the world and the USPS is working hard to keep our organization up to date. I believe they are doing a great job from what I observed at the training program. The USPS "Boat Operator Certificate Program" states in the manual that it will certify members at various levels of recreational proficiency. They expect these certifications will be recognized domestically and internationally.

This program is still being put together and will take some time before it is finalized. The Coast Guard has asked Congress to authorize the Transportation Secretary to establish requirements for standards of proficiency for the recreational boater. I am sure those rules will be patterned after the UN resolution 40. The one thing is for sure, LPSPS will do our best to keep you up to date. That is why John and I have already taken Advanced Certifier training so our Lake Pontchartrain members will be ready to get the BOC Passport or boat license. This will happen--It is just a question of when???

Don't forget our last meeting of the year is on December 10th at the Maritime Museum. It is always a great time. See you there.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year..

Cdr. Doug Brooks, JN

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C John Winters

Welcome Squadron members. As I write this, it's mid November and we are finally enjoying South Louisiana's fine October weather. The last few weekends have been beautiful. Since we have a river slip at Marina Del Ray, we can't help but to follow the traffic. It's amazing to see boats out that you really haven't seen since April.



Do these skippers only boat 3 - 4 weekends a year??

On December 10th we will have our last General Membership meeting for the year at The Maritime Museum. This is our annual

Christmas party and always promises to be fun. Social will start at 6pm and the meeting will start at 7pm. The Squadron will be providing dinner,

so if you would like to bring a favorite hors d'oeuvre please do so. Please remember to bring your own beverages, (ice and cups will be available).

Our first order of business will be the Annual Elections of our Bridge Officers and elected Committees. Once this is done, then the "Dirty Santa" gift exchange begins. If you want to participate in the exchange, simply bring a wrapped gift per person participating valued at approximately \$10.00.

I need to know if you plan to attend as we have to order the food. Please call me at 504-957-7011 by December 3rd, 2009.

See you on the water!

ASSISTANT SEO REPORT

Nick Chronis, JN

As I write this article, I am preparing to travel north to share the Thanksgiving holiday with family. And, as is customary at this time of year, my thoughts invariably turn to being thankful for the good things that really should be regarded as blessings. In keeping with that seasonal theme, it's appropriate that this column be used to express appreciation to the many LPSPS members who have supported the squadron's education program as well as her SEO and ASEO. Your education team and others in our squadron have worked to keep educational outreach and continuing education on the minds of our members as we serve them and the communities we call home.

Although this year has identified some significant educational challenges, it also has yielded some noteworthy successes. We can and should be especially proud of the efforts we've put forth in our support to our host community. Two very fitting examples of LPSPS community outreach were apparent in:

1. The support several of our members have provided as instructors for the Maritime Museum's "Field Trip" Program; during Calendar Year 2009, we were pleased to be able to provide

Marlinspike and Water Safety instruction to 1,297 elementary school students.

2. The three America's Boating Course ("ABC") sessions we provided to local boaters who were interested in improving their boating knowledge. These public courses demonstrate LPSPS's commitment to safe boating. At the same time the "ABC" sessions provided some good advertising opportunities for our squadron.

Recognizing that our Continuing Education Program could be improved, we recently formed an Education Task Group (TG). The TG is hard at work identifying specific areas where we aim to improve the squadron's continuing education posture. Several of your LPSPS friends have been working quietly behind the scenes to plan and implement appropriate changes in the coming year. Based on what we've accomplished thus far, I believe we have good reason to be optimistic about meaningful progress. This will be a deliberate process and, admittedly, it will take some time ... but we think the improvements will be worthwhile.

One of the most recent educational advances involves the training and qualification of several new LPSPS instructors. By the time we publish our next newsletter, we hope to be able to provide an impressive list of LPSPS members who have either gained or renewed "Instructor Qualification". This achievement reflects great credit on those who took the initiative to undergo the training, take the exam and seek certification as an instructor. The addition of several certified instructors should provide us more flexibility in providing continuing education opportunities.

If, as you read this, you get the impression that I'm optimistic about the prospects for future improvements, that's both good and intended. In closing, I'll only add that as CY 2009 comes to an end, I'm grateful to and for everyone who has worked to support the squadron's education program. With your continued interest and support, we plan for more good things to happen in your squadron's education program. Stay tuned!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lt/C George Trousdale, S

Where did this fall go? All of a sudden the leaves started turning and our boat didn't turn one RPM! Too many darn landlubber activities are taking up valuable boat time. I'm really working on that, but it's tough.



My three year stint as being your Treasurer is rapidly winding down. Your Bridge has done a wonderful job of conserving our money and I have tried to present our financial picture to the Bridge clearly. If elected, I know that John Winters will do a great job of handling our money. That fits like a glove since he is a CPA!

Incidentally, I ordered 10 posters that show the necessity of wearing the appropriate life vests. Nick Chronis is getting them laminated. The posters will be put up at the local launching ramps. This is an inexpensive way to advertise boating safety and LPSPS. It just might save a life!

I'm sorry to say that my "Committee to Elect Trousdale as Executive Officer of LPSPS" is doing a lousy job. No money has been raised and no one has volunteered to work. It looks like my delusions of a yard sign in every yard will not materialize. If anyone has a suggestion to right this situation, please accompany your suggestion with a substantial donation – either cash or adult libation.

To remind you, LPSPS has an Audit Committee that audits the books every year. All income and expenses are verified by that committee and the results are reported to the Bridge.

I would like to digress for a moment if I may.

The joy of boating is not only the day you buy and the day you sell your boat. The joy of boating is who you're boating with.

The LPSPS consists of a great group of people who have interests in common such as boating and having fun. Boating encompasses many facets such as becoming an able Captain, (and first mate) learning all systems of your boat, etc.

The learning curve has many options. You can take formal courses, home study, learn from a friend, etc. You must understand that you will continue to learn for many years even though you can safely operate a boat sooner than that!

The fun part comes into play very shortly after you get involved with boaters! I am yet to find any boater that does not like to have fun. After 4 ½ years of boating, I am still amazed at how quickly the local boating community – read Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron – took Helen & me into the fold. Before we knew it, we were right in the middle of everything and to define "everything" in a word would be "SMILES"!

Yes, the joy of boating consists of being around happy people with a common interest. Thank you, members of LPSPS, for being instrumental in our happiness way south of Monroe.

Good boating,
George Trousdale

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN REPORT

Helen Trousdale

Two members of our membership committee, Norma Roberts and I, along with Art Roberts were at the ABC Boating class held on November 7th. There were nine adult students, hopefully all potential new members. They were invited to attend the November 12th membership meeting, as well as the rendezvous and Chili cook off November 20-22nd. One couple from the class, Mr. and Mrs. Guiady attended the meeting where they were warmly welcomed and we certainly hope to see them again.



Helen Trousdale.

Bridge Nominations for 2010

In accordance with LPSPS bylaws, the Nominating Committee recommends the following candidates for the indicated offices for the **2010-2011** year. All have indicated their willingness to serve in the respective Offices. Also, the District 15 Educational Officer has approved the qualifications of the Squadron Educational Officer and Asst. Educational Officer.

The vote on these nominations will be conducted at the Annual Meeting of the Squadron on December 10, 2009.

Commander	Carol Bell, S
Executive Officer	George Trousdale, S
Administrative Officer	Bob Albers, AP
Secretary	Walter Mlynarski
Treasurer	John Winters
Education Officer	Nick Chronis, JN
Asst. Ed. Officer	Bill Dietrich, JN
Executive Committee	
Bob Christian, P	
John Bell, AP	
Doug Brooks, JN	
Bob Owens, SN	

Rules Committee

Lynn Haase, P	1 year
Joyce Tracey, SN	2 years
Norma Roberts	3 years

Auditing Committee

Mark Tupper, S	1 year
Paul Warnke	2 years
Mike Chiasson	3 years

Nominating Committee

John Bell, AP	1 year
Bill Dietrich, JN	2 years
Doug Brooks, JN	3 years

Newsletter Editor

Christine Williams, P

Budget and Finance Committee

Glen Roy, AP	1 year
Judy Warnke	2 years
Joyce Tracey, SN	3 years

Membership Committee

Helen Trousdale, S	Chairman,
Doris Brooks	
Rebecca Christian	
Norma Roberts	
Judy Warnke	

Submitted by the 2009 Nominating Committee

Norma Roberts,	Chairman
John Bell, AP	
Bill Dietrich, JN	



December Birthdays

Please wish our December "babies" a very Happy Birthday!

James Connor	03
Drew Pertuit	03
Laura Beverly	06
Walter Mlynarski	07
Ali Williams	10
Stephen Morris	13
John Cole	15
Bradley Oncale	16
Charles Miller	18
Rebecca Christian	22
Katrina Oncale	24
John Gambles	28



UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas in Destin

December 4-6, 2009.

General Membership Meeting

December 10th, 2009

Madisonville Maritime Museum

Social 6:00PM

Dinner 7:00PM

Election of 2010 Bridge and Committee members

"Dirty Santa" Christmas present exchange

Dinner will be provided by the Squadron. Bring a favorite hors d'oeuvre if you like. Please call John Winters 504-957-7011 by Dec. 3rd to RSVP.

As always "BYOB"

Dinner and Cookbook signing

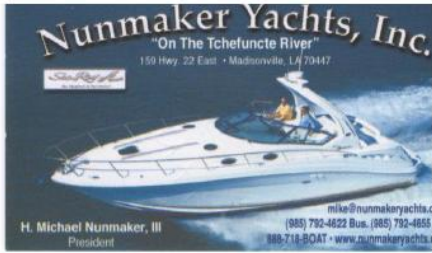
To be announced. Watch your email
La Provence Restaurant HWY 190

LPSPS Change of Watch

January 23, 2010

Details to follow.

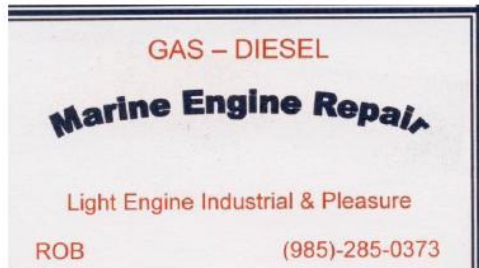
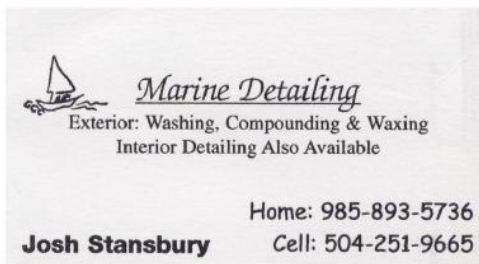
ADVERTISER'S CORNER



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



**Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power
2009 Bridge Officers**

Cdr. Doug Brooks, JN 985-845-3309
dbrooks@cpdrum.com

Executive Officer
Lt/C Carol Bell, S 985-809-9805
jcbbell@bellsouth.net

Administration Officer
Lt/C John Winters, 504-957-7011
jwinterscp@aol.com

Education Officer
Lt/C Paul Lumpkin, SN 504-450-7817
freevsc@mchsi.com

Treasurer
Lt/C George Trousdale, S 985-792-1335
gtrousdale@att.net

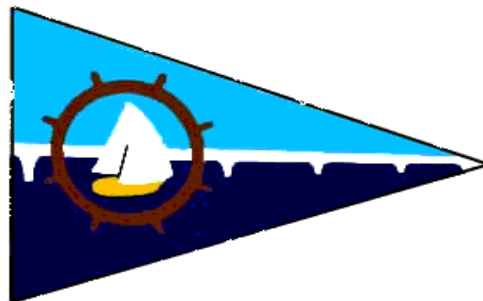
Secretary
Lt/C Walter Mlynarski 985-778-1783
wmlynarski@yahoo.com

Executive Committee Members

P/C John Bell, AP
Bob Christian, P
Bob Owens, SN
Peggy Roy

Newsletter editor

Lt Christine Williams, P
985-624-3813
sailont@aol.com



Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron
www.lpsps.org