



UNDER THE BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cdr. Carol Bell, S

Greetings to All My Fellow Boaters!



The boating season is now officially open and I hope that everyone is prepared. We all have a punch list of things that need attending before we head out on the seas. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to get your boat

checked by one of our Vessel Safety Examiners to ensure that you have all the proper safety equipment. It doesn't take very long and may just save your life if caught in an emergency situation. Please check our website for a list of our Examiners.

The new Bridge is settling in very well and each Officer is up to speed and coming up with new ideas for the year. It is very rewarding to see how well the group works together to help each other as well as the Squadron. It takes a lot of time and energy to put these new things together. If you have some spare time it would be appreciated if you would offer a hand. If you don't wish to take on a specific job how about a onetime offer with help on a special project? It has been very refreshing to see the friendships that have formed just by jumping in and lending a hand when needed. It is a great way to get to know your fellow Squadron members. Contact anyone on the Bridge or myself and we will guide you in the right direction.

If you enjoy cruising and are reluctant to go on your own, there are a lot of people who like to use their boats to do more than day trips. The best way to go about that is to think about where you want to go and talk to others about your ideas. Just sitting and talking and exchanging ideas you can learn a new thing or two. There is such a wealth of information in our Squadron members. More experienced cruisers know all

the little tricks, such as dinners to cook on board, best and worst restaurants in ports, great spots to anchor, what extra parts you should have onboard, where to get fuel or find pump out stations. The knowledge is endless. Sometimes we get tired of going to the same old places and fresh ideas are always welcome.

Have you been to a meeting recently? This is another way to get to know your fellow members. In our Squadron we have a social hour before each meeting to catch up with our friends and get to know those members that we don't normally see too often or who are new. Everyone is made to feel welcome! If you are new and are uncertain about what you should bring or if it's ok to bring a guest, please feel free to call any of the Bridge Officers and they will happily answer all your questions.

There are a lot of activities happening over the next few months and I encourage each member to come on out, have some fun, learn something new and meet new friends. Please read the Bridge Officers reports to find out the details.

Various members of the Bridge attended the D15 Spring Conference in Baton Rouge that was held April 9-11. This was the District's Change of Watch and we will fondly said goodbye to the outgoing Commander John Wilkes who has done a wonderful job. Our incoming Commander is Hal Brewer and we look forward to welcoming him at our various functions and give him our support. Any news from that Conference will be reported back to our members both in our newsletter and at our next general membership meeting May 13th

Safe Boating to All!

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C George Trousdale, S

The United States Power Squadron has a



recommended organizational chart which shows the responsibilities for each officer and committee.

The Executive Officer has many committees, but the seemingly most active are:

Cooperative Charting (Don Roman), Public Relations (Peggy Roy), Vessel Safety Check (John Bell) and Safety (myself). To this end, I will try to highlight each of these in the coming newsletters.

Of course, all of these committees are on-going, but there are highlighted times for each. One of the annual events is "SAFE BOATING WEEK" – May 22 – 28, 2010. LPSPS will conduct VSC's (Vessel Safety checks) at Marina Del Ray on Saturday, May 22, 1100 hours (11:00 AM) until 1600 hours (4:00 PM) well led by John Bell and his merry Vessel Safety Checkers!

On Sunday, May 23, 1300 hours (1:00 PM) A "Flare-off" and fire extinguisher demonstration will be held at the Madisonville Landing located at the mouth of the Tchefonctue River. This event will be attended by members of the United States Coast Guard, Madisonville Police Department, St. Tammany Sheriff's Department and the St. Tammany Fire Department. LPSPS members and the public are invited to attend. Bring your outdated boating flares and your expired or soon to be expired fire extinguisher(s)! This is a great way to dispose of the flares and learn, first hand, how to use them and how to use your fire extinguisher! Yes, FAA, US Army and TSA will be advised!

It seems that the same LPSPS boaters keep showing up on the water! I, for one, would like to see more of our members who own boats come out! It doesn't matter what size your boat is! Just come on out! If you want to call to see if anyone is boating, feel free to call me 985-259-1489. Some say that Helen & I do a little bit of boating. If I'm not, I'll refer you! We really do have a good time, and everyone is welcome!

Good, safe boating!
George Trousdale, XO

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Bob Albers, AP

This is a wonderful time of year. As I write



this I can smell the blossoms on my navel orange tree, the Valencia orange and lemon trees will be next to bloom. The fish are jumping and crayfish and shrimp are coming like every year.

WOW! Life is good! Our neighbors to the north are just thinking of taking their boats out of "mothballs" and we're alive in the fact that we don't have to put ours away for the winter.

I want to give a special thanks to Ms. Jean Couglar for her wonderful presentation on Lighthouse hostelling and B&Bs in the Great Lakes area. I think some of us are considering this as a possible vacation venue.

All in all, the April meeting was an enjoyable event in spite of the snafu on food. For this year, alternate meetings will be catered meals interspersed with potluck dinners. When we have a potluck event, each of the members is asked to bring either a vegetable, starch or entrée (main dish), **not a desert or salad unless you are specifically asked to do so by Norma Roberts.** My personal favorite is a green vegetable like broccoli, spinach, string beans, asparagus, eggplant—well, you get the idea. Now just as a reminder, the following meetings will be potluck: June, October and December. Actually, the December meeting (Christmas party) will be semi potluck with the squadron providing turkey and baked ham as in previous years. The remaining meetings May, September and November will be catered. No meetings are held in July and August.

New this year and **important is RSVP** notification by email. When we have an event requiring reservations such as a catered dinner meeting, the email address for responding with the number in your party and any selection information is *(month)*@lpsps.org where (month) is the month of the event. You could declare your intention to come to our May meeting now by sending an email to may@lpsps.org. As a matter of fact, why not do that right now. Our May 13th meeting will feature a speaker from Wildlife & Fisheries and will be catered.

Although the meeting is on May 13th, we'll be celebrating *Cinco de Mayo*. The meal will be catered by Casa Garcia Mexican Restaurant and will feature Honey-Habañero Chicken or Beef Enchiladas & Romaine Salad Combo. The cost for the meal will be \$15.00 per person. **Please RSVP by May 6th** by email, or call Norma Roberts at 225-766-4302. Mexican attire would be appreciated and if you happen to have any Mexican party decorations to contribute bring them!

Moonraker Lake beckons us for our May rendezvous. Beginning Friday night May 28th we will start to gather with the New Orleans Squadron for dinner at Phil's Marina Restaurant, then on Saturday we will join in the Cheeseburgers in Paradise. As this event is organized by the New Orleans Squadron, please refer to their newsletter, Topside Talk, for details. Also, when details are available, they will be posted on our website www.lpsps.org. Check out our calendar and click through the link on the date for details as they become available. We will need to RSVP to them so they can plan for our appetites.

EDUCATION REPORT

Lt/C Nick Chronis, JN

Title: LPSPS Implements "On-The-Water" Training



It's a real pleasure to provide this upbeat report on an educational development that seems to have enabled another success story for our

squadron. Indeed, most of this article tells the story about how LPSPS has used "On-The-Water" (O-T-W) training methods to enhance the Seamanship class that was concluded last month.

As we made plans to teach the 2010 Seamanship Course, we asked ourselves the following question: *What would make this already good course an even better and more meaningful learning experience for our members?*

For the most part, we answered that question by reminding ourselves of two important

considerations. First, we acknowledged that in times past we often complained about being students in USPS courses that were too focused on "academics" with little to no practical (i.e. hands-on) learning activities. Second, we were aware of evolving USPS Headquarters and District 15 policies that encouraged the incorporation of O-T-W learning experiences to provide a more balanced approach to teaching ... and learning. As a result, we were able to design a course that combined solid classroom instruction with practical and meaningful O-T-W exercises aboard vessels that belong to members of our squadron.

Our goal was to make the classes instructive and more fun in ways that would enhance understanding and retention. We employed multiple instructors in the classroom sessions as well as during our on-board demonstrations and practical exercises. To further enhance retention, we afforded students multiple opportunities to practice new skills using hands-on techniques. For example, we practiced marlinspike skills by ensuring that each student had several supervised chances to learn and demonstrate the most common knots, bends and hitches. Then, to make sure the new knowledge didn't deteriorate, we practiced applying the new skills on board the demonstration vessels. The repetition worked, and soon it was apparent that students had gained not only competence, but confidence as well.

To the best of this SEO's knowledge, this is a "first" for LPSPS and, for that, we extend a well-deserved salute to: the cadre of instructors (John Bell, Doug Brooks, Bill Dietrich); to Bob Albers for managing the myriad administrative and logistical requirements; to Lynn Haase for his O-T-W expertise and dockside support, and; to Norma Roberts (and all those who contributed baked goods) for coordinating refreshments for each of the class sessions. We are especially appreciative for the use of S/V "In Excess", M/V "Champagne Lady", and M/V "Talk About Good"; without the cooperation and generous member support from the Williams, the Janssens and Trousdals, the O-T-W portion of the course would not have been possible.

In closing, it's appropriate that LPSPS members be reminded that, thus far, the number of responses to the squadron's recent Educational Preference Survey has been very low. In fact,

the response rate is too low to provide us with feedback that we can rely on as being truly representative of our membership's general preferences for continuing education. If you haven't already done so, please complete the survey that was e-mailed to all members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lt/C John Winters

Hello Members,



It's time again for my monthly Treasurer's report and again I find myself with little new news financially for the Squadron. We have a General Membership meeting on May 13th, and I hope to have updated information for the first quarter

available to you then.

I have always found it very interesting as to the path our different members have taken to arrive at the Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron, and the boating background of each. Since Treasurer Reports can typically be boring (to some) I plan to survey the members over time and use their stories as part of my monthly newsletter. It will be a fun summer, see you soon.

John

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN REPORT

Helen Trousdale

I am excited to announce that Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron has 15 new members since January 1st, 2010.



We, as a squadron, have a good reputation for boating safety and education, not to mention all the fun we have with all our activities.

See you at the next General meeting May 13th!

Helen

FROM OUR SECRETARY

Lt/C Judy Warnke

The next outing for the LPSPS ladies will be



May 20th, for a French Quarter Walk, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The cost is \$15.00 per person for a two hour tour of the Quarter. We will lunch at Muriel's located in Jackson Square. They serve a Classic New Orleans Luncheon for \$16.00 or the cost for lunch

will depend on individual selection. We will meet in the parking lot of the Fresh Market on HWY 22 at 8:30AM in order to carpool. Tour begins at 10:00AM and we must arrive 15 minutes prior to the tour. We will pay our driver \$5.00 each to compensate for gas. If you would like to participate, please contact me at 630-899-1459 or Commander Bell, 985-809-9805.

Information on other future outings can be found on the Squadron Website, www.lpsps.org

Look forward to seeing everyone at the next General Membership meeting and future rendezvous and outings.

Judy

May Birthdays

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

Janie Bigelow	01
Rene Ellis	04
Edward Van Hoven	04
Fred Beverly	10
Bob Christian	16
Rebecca Roman	21
J. Webber Janssen	22
Brett Thorne	27
Jerry Whorton	31

Upcoming Events

America's Boating Course

May 1, 2010

Madisonville Maritime Museum

8:00AM-5:00PM

Instruction is free, \$25.00 for course material

For more info call Nick Chronis at 985-674-2687

Or Peggy Roy at 985-264-7467

General Membership Meeting

May 13, 2010

6:00PM Social

7:00PM Dinner

Madisonville Maritime Museum

This is a catered event and must be RSVP'd

See Bob Albers' article for particulars

"As always BYOB"

Vieux Carré Walking Tour

May 20, 2010

See Judy Warnke's article for info

Vessel Safety Check

May 22, 2010

Marina Del Ray

11:00AM-4:00PM

Flare off and fire extinguisher drill

May 23, 2010

1:00PM-3:00PM

Rendezvous

May 28-30, 2010

Oak Harbor-Moonraker Lake

<http://www.usps.org/localusps/neworleans/>

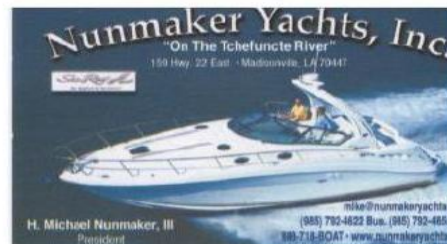
General Membership Meeting

June 10, 2010

Please be thinking of a dish to pass.

Main dish or vegetable please.

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



**National Safe Boating Week
May 22-28, 2010**

**Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power
2010 Bridge Officers**

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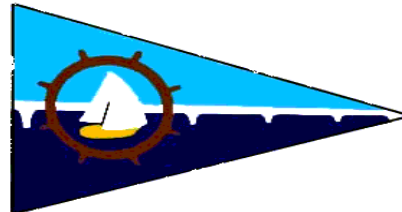
May 08, 2010

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