



UNDER THE BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cdr. Carol Bell, S

GREETINGS TO ALL MY FELLOW BOATERS.



Is everyone just as surprised as I am that this is actually our December newsletter? This year has flown by so quickly! The squadron has enjoyed a great year with lots of activity to keep us on the move. Our last meeting of the year will be the infamous Dirty Santa Christmas Party. However before the madness and mayhem start we have one serious item to discuss and that is the election of our Bridge Officers and Executive Committee members. The list of those officers was printed in last month's newsletter according to USPS bylaws and printed again in this newsletter edition. Please make every effort to come out and show your support. Your Bridge works very hard to keep the squadron moving in the right direction and respecting your views and wishes.

Please mark your calendars for our annual Change of Watch which will take place on Saturday, January 22nd, 2011 at The Courtyard by Marriott in Covington. I had looked into several other places but the size of the rooms did not allow for entertainment and the prices were not cost effective. The Marriott has treated us very well in the past and the food and service has been excellent. It also makes it convenient for those who might have to travel a distance to stay overnight. This is an important evening and I encourage you to plan to attend. Don Roman will be back by popular demand as our favorite Master of Ceremony.

The woman in charge of the school field trips for the Maritime Museum, Catherine Lynch, has asked me to put out a request for more help with her field trips. At present we have Nick Chronis, P/C Doug Brooks, JN and Lt/C George Trousdale, S doing a water safety program and P/D/C Bill Dietrich, JN and Lynn Haase do a knot tying program. The field trips to the Museum show all that it has to offer and the squadron involvement helps fulfill our civic duties and gain recognition in the community. The feedback from the schools is very positive. If you are unsure about what is involved please come out and sit in at one of the sessions and I guarantee you will be impressed. Please contact me and I will get a list of dates for you and the schools that will be participating. Sometimes we run into a situation where our members have schedule conflicts and it puts the Museum in a difficult position. If we could have some backup support for occasions such as these it would be most helpful. Thanks to all of the above members for their continued support of this program and the effort that they put in to make sure that each child walks away with a positive experience.

Good news from National! As of December 1st, 2010 the \$25.00 initiation fee for new members will disappear. Also squadrons will be able to offer 6 months free membership to students who complete ABC2 and meet membership requirements. These are great tools to use to recruit new members as well as promote our excellent educational courses.



EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C George Trousdale, S

Others will probably report on the 2010 Wooden Boat Festival in their areas of responsibility. Your Executive Officer is responsible for having appropriate coverage for the East Gate, the dinghy dock and our Membership tent.



LPSPS had, at best count, 46 volunteers at the above locations! I can't list everyone, but must mention Peggy Roy who helped with the volunteer sign-up – many thanks, Peggy. We had all locations adequately covered at all times and absolutely no problems occurred. All comments were positive and everyone seemed to enjoy!

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum (www.lpbmm.org) is a most worthwhile organization and LPSPS is a driving force within: P/C John Bell, AP, Treasurer; Lynn Haase, Secretary; P/D/C Bill Dietrich, JN, Very Involved Volunteer; AND our own Commander Carol Bell, S who spent the last 6 to 8 months organizing the ENTIRE Wooden Boat Festival.

To all that worked not only for the Festival, but also those that support our Museum and LPSPS, a personal THANK YOU!

Don & Rebecca Roman came in from Daytona Beach just to help with the WBF and did a wonderful job. They stayed with us and, on the Sunday morning of the WBF weekend, I asked Don – a true weather guru with credentials – to give me a forecast using my computer. All of a sudden, he had moving “spaghetti” on the screen! It made me dizzy, so I moved a safe distance away. He came out and stated that we'd have a few showers and possibly later have a little more rain. I pointed out that it had sprinkled on the patio. Without skipping a beat, he said, “There you have it.” What a ham!

Next month is our Change of Watch and a new Executive Officer will be taking over. I want to thank you for all of your help, and I want to say that YOU ALL ARE A REAL HOOT!

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Bob Albers, AP

I believe all who attended our November meeting were pleased by the presentation on how to prepare your boat for a survey and also, what to look for when shopping around for a new boat. Kevin Martin, our presenter, can be reached at 985-727-4495 if you have questions he didn't answer at the meeting.



I wish to thank all the cooks who presented us with a marvelous variety of Gumbo for our Gumbo Cook-off rendezvous at the Madisonville wall November 20th. Congratulations to Al Baumer for winning the contest with his crawfish gumbo. I did my best to sample all of the entries and must say that no two were alike and all were delicious. I'm just glad that I didn't have to act as a judge. A special thanks to Jerry & Pud'n Waller for staking our claim to the pavilion north of the Madisonville Bridge.

Now to the serious business of our December meeting/election/Christmas party. The meeting will be held on December 9th at the Madisonville Maritime Museum beginning at 7:00PM, with our usual social hour beginning at 6:00PM. The business portion of the meeting will include the election of officers to serve on the 2011-2012 Bridge. A list of candidates is published in this newsletter and on our website www.lpsps.org for all to see.

After the business portion of the meeting we will have a catered meal. The cost is a very round figure for the membership, \$0.00. Members are encouraged to bring desserts, cookies, etc. as well as their favorite beverages. It is very important for us to know how many will be attending so we don't order more food than we need. Please RSVP by 6:00PM Tuesday, December 7th, to december@lpsps.org or to Norma Roberts, S, at (225)766-4302, Commander Carol Bell, S, at (985)809-9805 or to me, at (985)327-8069. The PREFERRED way to RSVP is the e-mail as you will get an automatic reply in confirmation from the web.

After the meal we will have a visit from Santa. Now this isn't just any ordinary Santa, this is the

“Dirty Santa”. He not only rules the waves of Lake Pontchartrain but sometimes he waves the rules. My understanding of the rules as they exist today is:

- 1) Each participating member brings a gift valued between \$10 and \$15. The gift may be a nice gift or a naughty one, but not so naughty as to make Santa’s elves blush. It must be fully wrapped as to prevent anyone from guessing the contents of the package. Creative wrapping, stealth wrapping and otherwise use of misleading wrapping is encouraged.
- 2) Upon arrival, each participating person places the gift “under the tree” or on the table in exchange for a ticket.
- 3) After the meal, Santa’s elf will draw the first ticket from Santa’s stocking. Whoever has the matching ticket will select a gift from under the tree.
- 4) The gift will be opened for all to see.
- 5) As Santa’s elf draws additional tickets, the person having that ticket may take a gift from under the tree and open it, or (here’s the dirty part) steal one of the previously selected opened gifts.
- 6) If a gift has been taken from you, you may then steal a gift from someone else or take a wrapped one from under the tree. You just can’t take back what was taken from you.
- 7) There is a limit on thievery. No gift may be stolen more than 3 times.

Santa may also lead us in Christmas Carols or other merriment.

In conclusion, **MERRY CHRISTMAS** to all. See you there!



EDUCATION REPORT

Lt/C Nick Chronis, JN

In impressive fashion, two USPS Classes got



underway immediately following the squadron’s substantial involvement in the 2010 Wooden Boat Festival (WBF) as a number of our squadron members transitioned from “Community Service” to

“Continuing Education” mode. Less than one week after providing a lot of heavy lifting in support of the WBF, a number of our members altered course to begin the “Piloting” (“P”) and / or “Cruise Planning” (“CP”) courses. Twelve persons are working hard to master the skills of piloting; another ten are studying the intricacies of how to ensure a successful cruise through careful planning.

An equally impressive thing to note is the fact that several LPSPS members are providing the instruction for the “P” and “CP” classes. These volunteer instructors are not only devoting their Saturday mornings to provide the instruction, they are heavily invested in the various requirements that are involved in *preparing* to teach each of the classes. It’s fair to say that for every hour of classroom instruction our instructors spend between two to four hours of personal preparation. And, by any measure, that is a significant personal investment. So, the next time you see P/C John Bell, AP, P/D/C Bill Dietrich, JN, P/C Doug Brooks, JN and P/D/C Glenn Roy, please give them a pat on the back and thank them for their unselfish service to the members of our squadron.

And, speaking of instructors, during calendar year 2010, LPSPS has been very fortunate to have had a cadre of members who willingly have stepped-up to volunteer their services for other scheduled classes and instructional activities. So, when you see Bob Albers, P, Commander Carol Bell, S, John Gniady, S and Lt/C George Trousdale, S, please thank them as well. And while we’re saying thanks, it’s appropriate for us to express gratitude to those boat owners -- namely the Trousdals and the Williamses -- who generously have allowed us the use of their boats for “on-the-water” instruction. Also, we’re very grateful to Peggy Roy for seeing to it that our courses are always well-advertised.

In the past year, our classes also have incorporated another feature that adds significantly to the enjoyment level of our instructional programs. That feature involves refreshments in the classroom (typically freshly baked treats and a variety of snacks and beverages). While several folks contribute to this effort, it is routinely and expertly coordinated by another pair of volunteers, Norma and Art Roberts. They too have been very faithful in making our classrooms hospitable; they and those who have provided the refreshments also deserve a pat on the back.

So, as calendar year 2010 comes to an end, I hope you'll join me in saluting all the folks whose hard work has made this instructional year one that has been characterized by several noteworthy improvements. One and all, their efforts have been a testament to "teamwork".

Thanks!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lt/C John Winters



Dear Members, it has been a slow month for the Treasurer. We did fulfill our donation to the Museum and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Membership for their generosity. The Madisonville Maritime Museum is vital to our squadron operations almost on a weekly basis.

On another note, I have been in contact with National regarding dues and membership. Both National and I agree, so if there are any of you who have paid your dues and NOT received your membership card, please call me as soon as possible.

See you on the water,

John

FROM OUR SECRETARY

Lt/C Judy Warnke,S

Hello Everyone. On November 18th, the ladies of the LPSPS took a trip to Magazine Street to do a little holiday shopping and then lunched at La Petite Grocery. A good time was had by all.



On December 10, we will be going to the Windsor Court Hotel for Classic High Tea at 2:00PM. The menu will include a properly brewed pot of tea, an assortment of four classic English tea sandwiches, two scones with preserves, Devonshire cream and lemon curd, assorted miniature cakes and tartlets, chocolate covered strawberry and truffle. Exact tea service will be determined the Monday before the outing. The cost is \$36.33 per person which includes tax, and gratuity. We will also be able to visit the Roosevelt Hotel to see their Holiday decorations. The hotel is decorated in all its grandeur of years' past. For those who live in West St. Tammany, we will meet in the parking lot by Fresh Market at 10:00AM to carpool. Those living in East St. Tammany will meet at my home in Slidell at 10:00AM to carpool. A meeting location in the Quarter for the two groups will be discussed a day or two before the outing.

Mark your calendars for this upcoming event and we hope everyone will be able to participate. If you are interested, please contact me at 985/646-3859, judy.warnke@yahoo.com or Cmdr. Carol Bell,S at 985/809-9805, jcbbell@bellsouth.net.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and I look forward to seeing everyone at our next squadron meeting December 9th for our Holiday party and Dirty Santa present exchange.



LPSPS 2011 Bridge Nominations

In accordance with LPSPS bylaws, the Nominating Committee recommends the following candidates for the indicated offices for the **2011-2012** year. All have indicated their willingness to serve in the respective Offices.

The vote on these nominations will be conducted at the LPSPS membership meeting on December 9, 2010.

Bridge

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Commander | Carol Bell, S |
| Executive Officer | Bob Albers, AP |
| Education Officer | Nick Chronis, JN |
| Asst. Ed. Officer | Bill Dietrich, JN |
| Administrative Officer | John Gniady, S |
| Asst. Admin. Officer | Norma Roberts, S |
| Treasurer | John Winters |
| Secretary | Judy Warnke, S |

Executive Committee

John Bell, AP
Doug Brooks, JN
Bob Christian, P
Bill Dietrich, JN
George Trousdale, S

Rules Committee

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Joyce Tracey, SN | 1 year |
| Norma Roberts, S | 2 years |
| Doug Gardner | 3 years |

Auditing Committee

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Paul Warnke, S | 1 year |
| Mike Chiasson | 2 years |
| Penny Baumer | 3 years |

Nominating Committee

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

Respectfully submitted by 2010 LPSPS
Nominating Committee:

John Bell, AP
Doug Brooks, JN
Bill Dietrich, JN

2010 Bridge Officers

Commander

Cdr. Carol Bell, S 985-809-9805
jbcbell@bellsouth.net

Executive Officer

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

Administration Officer

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

Education Officer

Lt/C Nick Chronis, JN 985-674-2687
nicholaschronis@bellsouth.net

Treasurer

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

Secretary

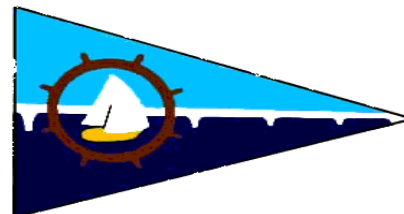
Lt/C Judy Warnke, S 985-633-1626
Judy.warnke@yahoo.cpm

Executive Committee Members

P/C John Bell, AP
Bob Christian, P
Bob Owens, SN
P/C Doug Brooks, JN

Newsletter editor

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



Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron
www.lpssp.org

Upcoming Events

General Membership Meeting

December 09, 2010

6:00PM Social

7:00PM Dinner/Bridge elections/"Dirty Santa"

This will be a catered event with no cost to our members. A dessert to share is welcome. Please **R.S.V.P** no later than December 7th.

The 2011 Bridge will be elected following dinner.

Dirty Santa gift exchange following elections.

Please see Bob's article for full details.

As always "BYOB"

Windsor Court Hotel High Tea

December 10, 2010

See Judy Warnke's article for info.

Change of Watch

January 22, 2011

Courtyard by Marriott in Covington

This will take the place of our January meeting.

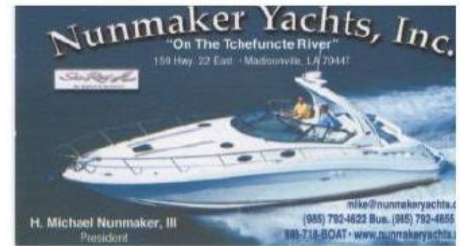
More details and invitation in near future.

December Birthdays

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

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Judy Warnke | 03 |
| Toni Gambles | 04 |
| Walter Legett | 05 |
| Walter Mlynarski | 07 |
| Al Baumer | 17 |
| Charles Miller | 18 |
| Noel Gniady | 19 |
| Rebecca Christian | 22 |
| John (Bo) Gambles | 28 |

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

