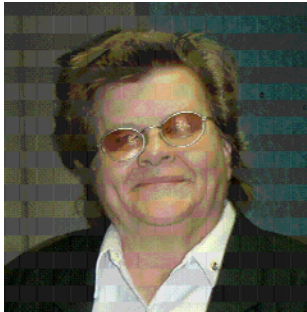


June/July 2008

RESACA ECHO

**The Lower Rio Grande Valley Power Squadron
Sail and Power Boating News
Volume 35 Number 1
A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®
District 21**



A View from the Bridge
By Cdr Barbara Ketchum, S

Hello to All,

Here it is the middle of July already, boy how time flies, when you are having fun with boats and doing your own thing, so far we have had an active Spring and early Summer. Early in June we had a Flare shoot scheduled, but the weather did not cooperate. There was a small tornado offshore so that eliminated us from going out on that day so we rescheduled and that was successful. Two boats went out with 5 people on each and we practiced shooting flares. Trust me, the flares with the pull chains do not work, we tried several, but the smoke ones did work as well as the flare guns. We had two responses within 30 minutes, 100% better than two years ago.

We kicked off Safety Boating Week, the end of May on Memorial week-end. The event was held at the Sea Ranch I on South Padre Island, a total of 5 boats were given Vessel Safety Check inspections, but we had no stickers to give, we were totally out. I am proud to say we now have the stickers to place on the boats. All 5 vessels passed their inspection.

On July 25-27 we are having the D21 coop charting event; it is being held at the American Inn (Formerly Ramada Limited). We are going out on the boats on Saturday the 26th to do some charting on the water. Austin Power is co-hosting the event. It sounds like a lot of fun. We need more boats and people. The event starts in Harlingen at the hotel on Friday evening; there will also be a Hospitality Suite... fun events to follow.

Barb Ketchum, S
Commander



Resaca Echo
 Official Publication of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Power Squadron
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Bridge 2008 -2009

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 Executive Officer Sid Rouch, S
 Educational Officer Peter P. Pranis, Jr., AP
 Administrative Officer Kenneth "Larry" Lewis, S
 Secretary Kathryn E. Polt, AP
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 Asst SEO Gerardo Carrillo, P

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 Bruce Bauer
 Daniel Bauer
 Santos Ponce
 William A. Rutledge, AP
 Stuart D. Simpson, Jr., AP
 Keith Shantz, AP

Auditing Committee

Jacqueline M. Judah, P (Chair)
 James B. Palmquist, P

Nominating Committee

Kathryn E. Polt, AP (Chair)
 Christine G. Rakestraw, AP
 Martha (Boo Boo) Lewis, P

Happy Birthday

July and August



Janice Ciomperlik	July 04
Russell J. Judah	July 06
Christine G. Rakestraw	July 08
Stanley T. Ciomperlik	July 24
M. E. Dodson	Aug 07
Kasey Lewis	Aug 15
David Joseph Ivory	Aug 26
Kyle Wagener	Aug 28
George Rivas	Sept 01
Barbara J. Ketchum	Sept 06
Gary Stephen Sollner	Sept 08
John Pinkerman	Sept 13

Editor's Note

P/C Paul E. Thompson, Jr., AP

Ahoy mates,

It has been awhile since I have done a newsletter. I could tell you any errors you find are intentional to see if you are reading RESACA ECHO but that would not be true. I hope that you read it, let me know about but forgive the mistakes. Many members have put time and energy into writing the material that they submitted for this issue. I would be remiss if I did not give well earned praise to Anthony Venegas the previous editor who had to give it up to continue his education. Anthony did an excellent job as editor. Ataboy Anthony



Safe Boating Week 17 May 2008



Caption for photo to Left:
Safe Boating Week 17 May 2008
Members standing under shade
are (L to R)
P/C Peter P. Pranis, AP
Lt Orren Ketchum
P/C Christine Rakestraw, AP
Cdr Barbara Ketchum, S
Lt Rolando Lozano, AP

Caption for photo to right :
Blessing of the Fleet during
Safe Boating Week 17 May 2008
persons standing (L to R) are
P/C Peter P. Pranis, AP
Father
Lt Orren Ketchum
Lt Rolando Lozano, AP



FAMILY SEA STORIES
By P/C Christine G. Rakestraw, AP

While visiting family and friends I came upon 2 items which intrigued me: a photo in an old album and a list of ships a relative of mine had crewed on, beginning in 1/7/1898 in Denmark to his retirement in San Francisco in 1945. Later, I remembered a photo in one of my Dad's old albums which I went back and found.

It struck me, why not start a column where LRGV members can display nautical family history? Below are the 2 pictures I found. Sadly, we don't have any more information about the pictures, who, when, where, than what I have written on the pictures.



PAGE OUT OF CHRIS RAKESTRAW'S LONG TIME FRIEND KAREN HERGER'S FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM



Mother at right
Chris Rakestraw's paternal grandparents:
Emma & William Rakestraw
home = San Francisco, California



Continued on page 5

The list of ships Mogens Andreasen crewed was provided to me by Lore Andreasen. I am trying to find out more information about the ships on the list but it is slow going. 2 ships, however, are easy to find information on: the Montebello and the Falls of Clyde.

The Falls of Clyde jumped out at me because I have been on her – in Honolulu where she is birthed at the Honolulu Maritime Center. She is owned by the Bishop Museum and is on the National Register of Historic Places. She has been open to the public since 1968 but now faces a very sad fate: being sunk-unless 32 million dollars can be obtained for repair and renovation by the end of 2008.

Falls of Clyde is the only surviving iron-hulled, four-masted full rigged ship, and the only surviving sail-driven oil tanker in the world. Mogens Andreasen sailed on her from 2/21/1907 to 3/29/1907.

“She was built in 1878 by [Russell and Company](#) in [Port Glasgow](#), [Inverclyde](#), [Scotland](#), launched as the first of eight iron-hulled four-masted ships built for [Wright and Breckenridge's Falls Line](#). She was named after the [Falls of Clyde](#), a waterfall up the [River Clyde](#). She was built to the highest standard - [Lloyd's Register](#) A-1 - for general worldwide trade.” Her vitals: “266'1x40'0x21'0; tonnage: 1809 GRT and 1748 NRT. Her forecastle is 34 ft long and the poop 23 ft”

Bit of her interesting history: “After 21 years under the Red Ensign, Falls of Clyde was purchased for US\$25,000. by Captain William Matson of the Matson Navigation Company, taken to Honolulu, Hawaii in 1899, and registered under the Hawaiian flag. When the Republic of Hawaii was annexed by the United States in 1900, it took a special act of the US Congress to secure the foreign-built ship the right to fly the Stars and Stripes.”

“From 1899 to 1907, she made over sixty voyages between Hilo, Hawaii, and San Francisco, California. She carried general merchandise from SF and sugar from Hawaii, and passengers both ways. She developed a reputation as a hand, fast and commodious vessel.”



LRGV Austin D21 Coop Charting event cancelled 25-27 July

Dear LRGV members,

Canceled due to hurricane Dolly the D21 Coop Charting event schuled for 25-27 Julyeen that we were to have co-hosted this year along with Austin Power Squadron. There is good news we are trying to reschule.

Lt Rolando Lozano, AP
Coop Charting Chair
956-491-5322

PC Kay Polt, AP
Secretary
kpolt@aol.com
956-778-5545



Logic Reasoning

Source unknown

A fourth-grade teacher was giving her pupils a lesson on logic.

"Here is the situation," she said. "a man is standing up in a boat in the middle of a river, fishing. He loses his balance, falls in, and begins splashing and yelling for help. His wife hears the commotion, knows that he can't swim, and runs down to the bank. Why do you think she ran to the bank?"

A girl raised her hand and asked, "to draw out all of his savings?"



Change of Watch (L) Cdr Kay Polt, AP counts the seconds until she leaves the bridge or etc.? (R) Stf/C Jean Hamilton, N



L/C John B. Carey, Jr., JN, Treasurer at Change of Watch





Latest USA Today/Gallup poll results indicate D/21 Fall 2008 Conference Apathy!

District 21 D/C states media emphasizing international Beijing 2008 Olympics over issues in District 21!

- ☆ *Ensure your voice is heard!*
- ☆ *Discuss the issues!*
- ☆ *Make plans now to attend!*

**District 21 fall 2008 Conference
2-5 October 2008
Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake**

Make your reservations now – cutoff for room block is 19 September.



\$89/ Night – all rooms feature panoramic views of Clear Lake
281-333-9300

“Power Squadron D/21” – ask for Nazie Greenwell

Registration information coming soon!

- Thursday:..... Sunset Dinner Cruise in the planning stages...
 - Friday:..... Anchoring, Sail, & GPS Seminars
 Instructor Recertification if you tell Alice you want it...
 ~ 1200 District Bridge & Squadron Officers Working Lunch
 ~ 1600 – District 21 Council Meeting
 ~ 1800 – ‘til: Squadron Campaign Conventions!
 - Saturday..... 0800: Cooperative Charting
 1000 & 1345: District 21 Conference
 1200: Members’ Luncheon – Honoring SEO’s
 1200: Social Luncheon “George Washington & Presidential Style”
 1700: District Commander’s Reception
 1900 – ‘til: Campaign Election Night Celebration
- Teaching Aid Display & Competition – Ship’s Store – Award Presentations – Exhibits
 Great Food – Champagne, etc. – Raffle Prizes

National C/C’s representative: V/C John T. Alter, SN



USPS District 21 Rendezvous and Fleet Review at the Houston Yacht Club August 1-3, 2008



You are invited to join USPS District 21 for a fun weekend at the historic Houston Yacht Club. We've got a full schedule of activities planned. You can also lounge around the pool or go boating on Galveston Bay. The highlight of the weekend will be the District 21 Fleet Review. We'll top it off with dinner at the Yacht Club. The food is great and the prices are very reasonable.

Bring your boat - transient berths will be available!

Accommodations

Some rooms are available at the club. There are also some hotels nearby. Please call for current lodging information. HYC has a launch ramp and space to park trailers, so please bring your trailerable!

Schedule of Events

Friday, August 1:

- 1700 – Happy Hour at the HYC
- 1900 - Evening Reception (Location TBD)

Saturday, August 2:

- 1000 – Captains Meeting - Beachcomber
- 1100 – Fleet Review
- 1200 – Lunch – Grill at the Beachcomber
- 1300 – USPS University Seminar
- 1500 – Code Flag Bingo!
- 1700 – Happy Hour
- 1900 – Dinner at the Yacht Club

Sunday, August 3

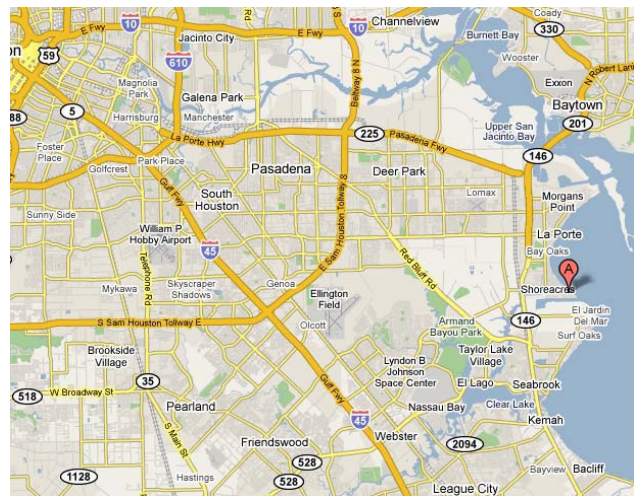
- 0800 – Breakfast at the Beachcomber (Sponsored by the D21 Bridge)
- 0900 – Boating, Coop Charting on Galveston Bay

Directions

HYC is about 30 minutes from downtown Houston. Take I-45 South to 610 East (toward Pasadena); exit 225 East (Toward La Porte); then 146 South (toward La Porte); Go about 4-5 miles - turn left on Shoreacres Blvd. Follow designated blue signs to HYC. A variety of lodgings are available in the vicinity

For RSVP and Additional Information Contact DAO Scott McDonald

- Email: ScottDMcDonald@comcast.net
- Phone: 713-303-8049





UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

SAIL AND POWER BOATING



Office of the Chief Commander - **Ernest G. Marshburn, SN**
1504 Blue Ridge Road - Raleigh, NC 27607

Dear Kathryn E. Polt,

The past two years have been fast and exciting ones for Dianne and me, and through our travels, we have made many new USPS friends at all levels of our organization ... friends just like you! We recognize that it is you who have laid the foundation for the success and future prosperity of our organization through your support, dedication and commitment to excellence. New programs such as USPS University and Boat Operator Certification are just two examples of our efforts to increase organizational visibility and make boating safer and more fun!

In addition, have you heard about the new Leadership Development Workshops? Developed by the Planning Committee through a Century Fund grant, these high-quality programs were developed in response to local, district and national feedback requesting that we invest more resources in preparing the next generation of leaders in our organization.

If you are a Century Fund donor, these are the kinds of programs and success stories that YOUR contributions enable. As an endowment, the Century Fund offers members like you the opportunity to invest in innovative and forward-thinking initiatives. The best news is that the principal in the Century Fund will always be preserved; only the interest and investment income are used to support new program grants. If you have not considered making a gift yet, check out [Your Contributions Fund the Future](#) in the latest issue of USPS Compass.

Incidentally, you may be interested in knowing that a group of enthusiastic members recently issued a challenge to the rest of us: Every member-generated contribution to the Century Fund between now and the end of the year will be matched, dollar-for-dollar--up to \$26,000. This challenge could generate more than \$50,000 for the Century Fund! Please join Dianne and me in making a gift to the Century Fund before 1 Jan. 2008. In addition to being tax deductible, your donation will help ensure USPS' continuing success in the future.

On behalf of our USPS family, Dianne and I wish you the very merriest of holiday seasons and a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

C/C Ernest G. Marshburn, SN



Safety
Lt/C Peter Pranis Jr. AP, Educational Officer

At the first Seamanship class session John Pinkerman raised an interesting point. You can tell the amount of charge on a wet cell 12 volt battery by measuring the voltage between the terminals when the battery is disconnected from all loads using the following table.

<u>12 Volt Battery Voltage</u>	<u>Battery Percent of Full Charge</u>
Greater than 12.6 volts D.C.	100%
12.4-12.6	75-100%
12.2-12.4	50-75%
12.0-12.2	25-50%

This should give added reason to have a D.C. volt meter on your console or distribution panel.

The Squadron Has Some New Equipment
Lt/C Peter Pranis Jr. AP, Educational Officer

Paul Guerin has given the Squadron two canvas sea anchors and a brand new Danforth 3 inch Corsair II High Speed Compass!

Paul says the sea anchors are a necessity on the Great Lakes as safety equipment to help stay off rocky lee shores when sudden violent storms blow up. By using two anchors with different lengths of rope he says it is possible to give your boat a limited amount of steering capability with he anchors alone.

See, there is something to be thankful for down here in the land of barrier islands and mud flats.

Paul got the compass for the boat he planned to get until health problems got in the way. The compass is a real beauty. How should we use it?

Thank you Paul and Meredith!

Sea Going Rodeo

Lt/C Peter Pranis Jr. AP, Educational Officer

Yes, the Sea Going Rodeo is getting a second, third, or fourth look based on talk in the Seamanship class. The idea came up during the discussion on low speed maneuvering.

So far, there have been two major problems.

First, where to hold it? The Port Isabel city manager doesn't want it in the fingers turning basin. The Port Isabel/San Benito Port turning basin south of South Point is too deep; 32' to 38' deep. We'd go broke buying even thin rope for the gallon jug buoys.

Second, what to have in a sea going rodeo?

The first problem at least might have a solution. The Laguna Madre Yacht Club holds its Bay Sail Boat Races to the north of Port Isabel/Laguna Heights. There is three to five feet of water there. We've used the same area for flare shoots and anchoring drills. There are no spectator perches, but so what? Who knows, if it takes off the Port Isabel city manager might "feel the heat to see the light."

The second problem of what maneuvers need to be included is a working progress. If you have any ideas at all, no matter how crazy, get in touch with John Pinkerman. His E-mail is brendenke@cs.com. His phone is 956-450-8113.

In thinking over the second point, it seems that there is a third point. Each maneuver and how it's judged needs to be written up in a "booklet". Each section would describe the maneuver, why it is important, and how it's judged. The booklets could contain advertising to pay for them. They should have tons of appeal to merchants seriously selling to boaters/fishermen.

So, any ideas? Watch for the next Echo issue.

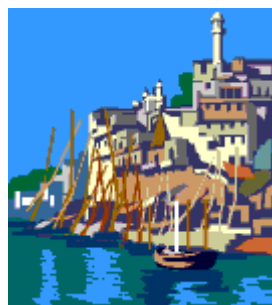
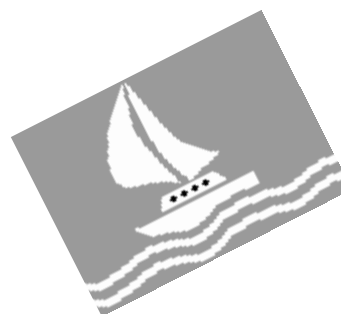
Used Boat Show

Lt/C Peter Pranis Jr. AP, Educational Officer

The Squadron has kicked around the idea of sponsoring a used boat show. It would focus on trailered boats, repair shops, equipment suppliers, and anyone else who'd pay the entrance fees.

Barb Ketchum raised the idea with "Boater's World" and got some positive feedback.

If you have any ideas or if this is something you'd like to work on, give Barb a call.



A Brief Report on the U.S.P.S. Annual Meeting
Lt/C Peter Pranis Jr. AP, Educational Officer

I attended my first USPS annual meeting along with Chris Rakestraw in Dallas this past March.

It was good news and bad news from my perspective. With one or two exceptions, everyone I met who is associated with national bridge/organization is a solid individual.

While the schedule doesn't say it, members could sit in on the various committee meetings. Frankly, these meetings were the best part of the whole show!

I sat in on "Seamanship", "Environmental", Pete Hames' Leadership, the tail end of the "The Ensign" meeting and with Chris Rakestraw most of the "PR/Marketing" meeting.

At Seamanship, after all business was finished, I raised the issue of our planned "Seagoing Rodeo". No one in the room had ever heard of such a thing. They really didn't have any ideas, but they are very interested in finding out how it works out. If we pull this off, it will be another first for the LRGVPS. I suspect it would quickly spread Squadrons wide.

The "Environmental etc" committee responsible for Cruise Planning and Weather Courses was held in the hotel's bowels. The meeting consisted of the chairman and me. This let us have a very interesting conversation. The high points:

* A new Weather Course will be out in the Fall of 2009. The main reason for a new course is that USA TODAY is not re-printing its' Weather Book. The main changes to the course will be first, the incorporation of more graphics. Some might be lifted from the USA TODAY book. Secondly, there will be more thermodynamics as in the old, old course. This will readily explain how nimbus cumulous clouds rise as gaseous water vapor condenses, releasing heat of condensation that warms the surrounding air so it has a lower density and thus can rise still higher.

It should be worth waiting for the new edition of the course.

* Cruise Planning is being revised as well. I suggested that they leave it pretty much as it is, with the boat handling section left in it. But above all, leave in the check lists!

* Finally, and the reason I went to the meeting was to suggest that the Squadrons add a course, "Oceanography/Marine Biology/Fishing". The reason is that half of all boaters' primary reason for boating is to fish. I said that the book, "The Fisherman's Ocean" by David A. Ross, Ph.D. and former head of Woods Hole could serve as a start on such a course. Ross's bottom line is that fish want to eat, stay warm or cool, avoid wasted exercise and avoid being eaten in turn. You'll find fish where two or more of these fish needs are being met. We'll have to see what happens here.

* Pete Hames' Leadership Session was good, as always. There really needs to be a way this material can be repeated to people several times to let it sink in. No not the power point, but maybe a book or tape?

* I got to the tail end of the "ENSIGN" meeting. The old timers were upset with the new format of very short articles. It seems that this point was taken to heart in more recent issues. Also, the fancy, high gloss covers are there because advertisers want them. It remains to be seen how much advertising we get.

* Lastly, the Marketing/PR all morning session attended by Chris Rakestraw with my late arrival was a big disappointment. Yes, they have come up with six really neat TV spot ads. The one on overloading a boat is really funny and to the point.

But...the thing that is nuts is that U.S.P.S has little or no idea of the demographic profiles of either members or boaters in general!!! A marketing professor from the University of Dallas gave a talk in which he quoted the demographics a boat manufacturer gave him. The problem is the manufacturer makes 50 foot boats! Most boats in the water are 25 feet or less. According to BOAT/US 71 percent of boat sales are used boat sales. Yet, when I privately asked the professor if he had any info on these segments he admitted didn't. Note: In his defense, he'd only been working with USPS for a couple of weeks.

Now the real kicker is that our PR/Marketing crew just hasn't looked for data. I asked Chris Rakestraw to do a quick Google search for "Demographic profiles of used boat buyers". She came up with 4,500 hits!! Apparently the info is there if someone will look. The same problem regarding the same information seems to reside with the planning committee.

* On other topics, it appears that the USPS financial position has stabilized. Contrary to popular myth, the Education Department is not a break even operation. It has an operating profit margin of about 41 percent. The Ship's Store on the other hand appears to really be a break even operation.

THE BELL AWARD

There is a teaching aid exhibit with awards associated with the annual meeting. Keith Shantz won the award for the best district winner teaching aid a few years ago with the Knot Board.

A good reason to enter a teaching aid is that the Squadron gets brownie points in the Star Squadron Award calculations.

With the brownie points in mind I started out with the idea of submitting three teaching aids. One; a stripped down version of the classroom fix that we use in the boating course. Two; a gradient display made out of shirt cardboards to illustrate both bottom contours as shown on charts and isobar pressure gradients on weather maps. Three; a balloon to illustrate how fluid flowing from a nozzle will generate a static charge which could lead to a spark then to an explosion if the fluid were gasoline. Hence, why fueling nozzles must be grounded to gas tanks to avoid sparks. The idea is to hold an inflated balloon next to a water faucet/nozzle, one without an aerator, for a few minutes while the water is flowing. Then move the balloon next to your arm and watch the hair on your arm stand up or the feeling of the influence of the electric field the static charge has around the balloon has on your arm hair.

This is a quick and simple demonstration. Apparently that is what the powers that be are looking for. Any more KISS ideas we can use?

I procrastinated and fooled around with the first two ideas until I threw up my hands. Not this year. This left the balloon.

As Bill Rutledge observed, what I came up with was a grade or middle school science demonstration. Anyway, I set up the teaching aid display at national. It was a pile of cream colored balloons with a pile of one sheet explanations.

When the time came to pick up my teaching aid I saw a card. We had won Best in Show! For a Balloon!! I have to admit I had seriously toyed with the idea of using a balloon that had "only for use to prevent disease" on it, but didn't want to embarrass our own incoming Chief Commander Creighton Maynard.

Anyway, I was awarded the Bell Award for Best in Show for the teaching aids. It is an honest to

God ship's bell. Lower Rio Grande Valley Power Squadron now has its name on this unusual trophy. The bell weighs 40 to 50 pounds. It has its own traveling box.

Now I've got to figure out how to get it to the next annual meeting!

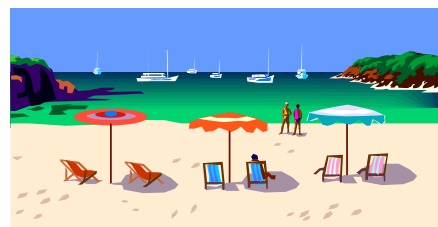
**LRGV Change of Watch Photos
P/C Peter P. Pranis, AP explains teaching aid that won the Bell Award.**



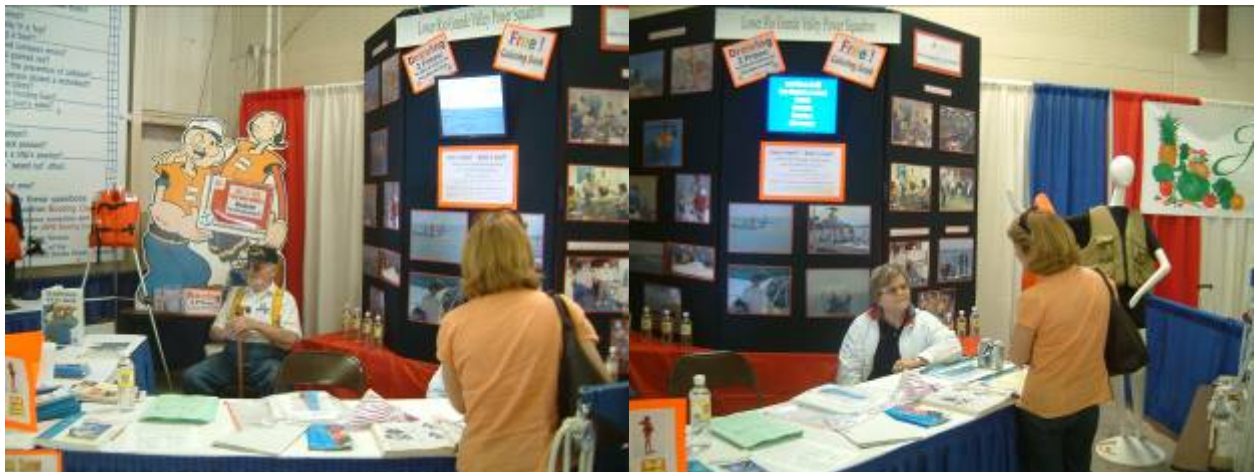
**New Bridge Officers being sworn in.
(Pt—Stb)**



John B. Carey, Jr., JN;
Peter P. Pranis, Jr., AP;
Kenneth "Larry" Lewis, S;
Barbara Ketchum, S;
Kathryn E. Polt, AP;
by D/C Fernandez, N
(See page 2 for office and rank.)



Boat Show Pictures



More Boat Show Pictures!!!!





LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY POWER SQUADRON

A UNIT OF UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

SAIL AND POWER BOATING

Resaca Echo
P/C Paul E. Thompson, Jr., AP
P.O. Box 606
Donna, TX. 78537-0606

