

Bos'n's Pipe



Phoenix Sail and Power Squadron
A unit of U.S. Power Squadrons®
Safe Boating since 1960
Phoenix, Arizona
April 2015

Calendar

April

22 Basic boating Class

25 General Membership Meeting, potluck at Kim and Dan Sheen's home

April potluck dinner

Our April meeting and potluck dinner will be hosted by Dan and Kim Sheen at their home in North Glendale. Here are the specifics.

- When: 25 April 2015
- Attitude adjustment: 1730
- Dinner: 1830
- Meeting: 1930
- Where: 6336 W. Hill Lane, Glendale AZ 85310 Phone: 623-760-8035

Bring: A covered dish to share, BYOB, chairs and your own dish and silverware. There are plenty of outlets for crock pots and chafing dishes. There should be plenty of tables, but remember: your own chair! If you have a favorite mixer, bring a bottle of it. **Don't bring:** tables, ice, setups or coffee.

This event will be a good time to meet with squadron members and discuss plans for the upcoming summer. Also, Dan Rye has generously offered to give a program on his Northwest summer adventures.

Directions to Sheen's House at 6336 W. Hill Lane in North Glendale

Take I-101 West from junction of I-17 and I-101

Take exit 19 for 59th Ave

Turn right onto N 59th Ave going north
Go 1.0 mile, Turn left onto W Deer Valley Road going west

Immediately turn right onto N 59th Ln

Continue on 59th Lane & it becomes W Robin Ln.



The real past commanders—The distaff side of squadron activities pose for the camera at last month's past commanders' barbecue at Lake



Sometime cooks—The came billed as past commanders, but everyone knew they were really cooks in disguise at the 2015 edition of the Past Commanders' barbecue. From left, Bill Johnson, Fred Drawert, Joel Lieberman (who supplied these photos), Connie Johnson, Chris Lockyer-Bratton, Jane Peterson, Chuck Peterson, Paul Schooner, Doug Frazier, Ron Werner, and Lee Whitehead

The view from the barbecue site. It's Lake Pleasant in all its glory.



Squadron Happenings

A quick look at what's coming up...

2015

- April**
10-12 Executive Committee Meeting
 Inland rendezvous, Katherine Land
 ing, Lake Mohave
22 Basic Boating Class
25 General Membership Meeting, potluck
 at Kim and Dan Sheen's home
- May**
7 Executive Committee Meeting
9 Lake Pleasant raft up
15-17 Arizona Safe Boating Celebration,
 Lake Pleasant and camping
20 Basic Boating Class
21 General Membership meeting
- June**
3-7 Summer rendezvous, Lake Powell
11 Executive Committee Meeting
- July**
9 Executive Committee Meeting
18 Soak and Sweat raft up, Lake Pleas-
 ant
- August**
7-9 Lynx Lake Campout and Picnic
13 Executive Committee Meeting
23-30 USPS Fall Governing Board, San
 Diego
- September**
10 Executive Committee Meeting
19 Potluck and General membership
 Meeting
- October**
2-4 D/28 Conference, Phoenix
7-11 Fall Rendezvous, Lake Powell
14 Basic Boating Class
23-25 Halloween Rendezvous, Pleasant
 Harbor RV park

Note: Some dates are proposed and subject to change. All Executive Committee meetings begin at System-Aire Office, 7136 W. Frier Dr., Glendale. General Membership Meetings are at various locations. Attitude adjustment, 1730; dinner, 1830; meeting and program, 1930. Locations are subject to change

Commander's Report

By Cdr Chris Lockyer-Bratton, P



It has been a very busy time since the Change of Watch, and we have been working hard behind the scenes to build an infrastructure to take us into the future. As Senator Marco Rubio said just

this week "Yesterday is over. We're not going back there." It was at the COW that the District Commander urged us to embrace Social Media technology, things like Facebook and Twitter, to reach out to a new and wider audience of potential new members. It sounds easy, but takes a lot of work to accomplish. Due to the efforts of a number of our members, we are already rising to that challenge. Let me take a few minutes of your time to tell you what we have achieved so far.

Our squadron now has a very much expanded presence on-line with the creation of a 'Meetup' page. I didn't even know about Meetup until it was discussed at the first Executive Committee meeting of the year. I went home from that meeting and tried it. Within minutes I had found a group of local British expatriates, and another local group of people who enjoy Model Engineering (as do I). I also 'joined' our page and found that we had already seen some activity on the page. A most encouraging start!

I urge all of you to go to <http://www.meetup.com/Phoenix-Sail-Power-Squadron/> and sign up. The process of
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The calendar has been updated with this issue. Be sure to check new entries and put them on your calendar. There have been several changes in dates for events and activities.

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creating a Meetup account is simple (and free!). Once you have created the account, you can then find all sorts of groups to browse. You can **find us under 'Boating', or you can just enter the web address directly** once you have created the account. My thanks to Ron McNeil for making this happen for us!

We will soon have a Facebook presence, which will give us visibility to a huge audience. I have **already 'friended' a number of other USPS squadrons**, and now get instant news updates from them and their members. This technology is real. It is used by business all over the world, many of them reporting that the major part of their business is driven from their Facebook page. If it can work for them, it should be able to work for us.

Bill Johnson has been busy getting the website ready to be Google and Mobile Device ready. **I know it sounds like a lot of 'gobbledy-gook' to many of you, but it is important that we do all this 'homework' now. The benefits will come soon, even if we don't see great changes right away.** I spent an evening this week with Bill and we successfully installed the same web-page building software that is used by National on his computer, so we will soon (hopefully) be able to get the templates that have been developed by national to save us work and make our site have **the same 'look and feel' of the new National site.**

It is not just internet technology that we are using. For the past two Executive Committee meetings, we have been conducting those meetings using telephone conferencing. This means **that your EXCOM members don't have to drive all over town (or even be in town) to participate in these meetings, so we are also being 'Green' with the savings of gas and wear-and-tear on our vehicles!**

On a more 'traditional' path, Chuck Peterson has been tirelessly working on making our presence known in the local press. He has also been working with Ron Werner to make sure we have

a robust education program, promoting the Basic Boating classes and setting up a schedule for them at multiple locations across the valley. Well done, guys!

So there you have it. Four new (for us) technologies being used to reach out to a wider audience than ever before, as well as continuing to press our core competency of education. We are working hard to slow and stop the deterioration of our membership. This must be the year that **we arrest the 'freefall' and put our Squadron back on track for tomorrow.** Yesterday is over. Let us all pull together to build a bright future for the Squadron!

Ron Werner will make a presentation on the vessel safety check system at the April membership meeting in preparation for Safe Boating week.

Tom Parsley

Thomas 'Tom' Parsley, 76, passed away peacefully in the arms of his wife, Thursday, April 2, 2015, at his residence in Phoenix, AZ. He leaves behind his wife of 32 years, Stephany, four children, Tom Parsley II, Carl Green, Darian Parsley and Carrie Cantrill, five grandchildren and a sister, Susan (Bob) Norris of Canon City, CO. Tom was born in Granada, CO, the son of Charley and Winnie Parsley. He served his country proudly in the Army National Guard, active Air Force, Navy Reserves, and United States Power Squadrons. He was a private pilot and flight instructor, ham radio operator, and gun enthusiast. He was employed with Mountain Bell for 27 years and retired in 1986. He embarked on his dream of sailing when he and his first mate left Phoenix in 1998 for nine years of living and sailing aboard their sailing vessel, 'Sea Amigo'. He was a member of the Canyon Church of Christ family. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at the Canyon Church of Christ, 34975 N. North Valley Parkway, building #2, Phoenix, AZ, at 11am. Memorial donations may be sent to the TLC Ministry at the Canyon Church of Christ.

Happy Birthday

See this month's *Bos'n's Pipe* in color on the Squadron's web site at

www.sailange.com (That's all one word, no spaces.)

There's a year's worth of "Pipes" there in case you missed something earlier.

The following members are celebrating birthdays this month



Robert Aleksa, Dave Brickner, Willie Burgeson, Kaitlyn Joedicker, Douglas Lusko, John Schmelzeis, June Ventzos.

Many Happy Returns

THE FIRST 'MISS M' - Highs and Lows.

By Cdr Chris Lockyer-Bratton, P

Part 1 – First Experiences

It was April 2008 when I did something that I would never recommend to anyone now. I bought a boat on eBay. A 19' Bayliner Bowrider which looked to be in great condition. Two bids later it was mine, and all I had to do was to get to Mesa, pay the guy and tow it home. Or so I thought.

I dutifully arrived at the seller's house and was impressed by the cosmetic condition. It shined in the sunlight and all the upholstery was new. It looked great.

The new proud owner set off for home with 'Miss M' (named for my Daughter, Mary) large in my rear view mirror. It was fortunate that I was admiring my new purchase through the driver's side mirror as I rounded the turn on Route I-10, just in time to see the trailer's left tire disintegrate! Two hours later, the tow truck arrived, and



and we managed to drag the boat and trailer aboard for the short ride to the nearest tire shop. The tires on the trailer were apparently over 10 years old, even though there was a lot of tread on them. Being naive, I thought they were OK! Oh, how hindsight is 20/20!

Three new tires, two rims and a large bill later, *Miss M* arrived at her new home and was safely installed in the driveway. Only two days until the weekend and the first 'sea trial' at Bartlett Lake! New fenders, lines and fire extinguishers, together with a supply of life jackets were eagerly purchased on the Friday and packed in the forward storage, the gas tank topped off and the anticipation began.

It was hardly dawn when I hitched her up and headed out to Bartlett. The launch was uneventful, although a bit clumsy. I hadn't taken a boat out on my own for a number of years, and had never launched from a trailer before.

After a short run around the launch ramp area, I noticed that *Miss M* had quickly developed a list and seemed sluggish compared to the way it had behaved when leaving the dock. A quick peek under the engine cover soon revealed the cause of both maladies. Water. Lots of it. Not where it should be. Thankfully

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Check the squadron's web site for the latest schedule of public boating classes. They are conveniently located on both the east and west sides of the metropolitan area. And volunteer to procure. You'll sharpen your boating skills with some very nice people.



the bilge pump was running, but was clearly incapable of pumping anything close to the volume that was coming in somewhere. Back to the dock, a quick sprint get the car and trailer into position and drag poor Miss M back out of what should have been her natural environment. Like pulling a fish out of water, she seemed to be evacuating her life blood as water poured out from behind the o



utdrive. Taking the drain plug out released a steady stream of water that seemed to last forever.

After the depressing drive home, it didn't take long to find out what was wrong (or so I thought). It seemed that all I had to do was apply a bead of caulk around the outdrive. Once the engine was out, it was clear that the whole bottom half of the transom core had the

consistency of foam packing, and had to be replaced.

Then the engineer in me kicked in. Surely, **there shouldn't be that big gap. Especially** with such a big bolt holding it all together. Maybe the nut was loose. My heart sank when I stuck my head deep into the engine compartment to try and tighten it. A huge bar of steel had been stuck in there where a simple washer and nut should be. In England, we call it a Bodge. Hillbilly engineering maybe (although that is probably an insult to hillbillies). **Whatever you call it, it was clearly not a 'repair' in any modern sense of the word.**

This wasn't going to be a simple job, so the rest of the weekend was set aside to get the engine out and search the internet for inspiration.

In for a penny, in for a pound.

The internet wasn't much help. Various 'quick' fixes were little better than what I had already. The expected repair cost would be far more than I had paid for Miss M just over a week ago. If I can build a steam engine from scratch, I should be able to fix this fiberglass and wood nightmare.

To get to the core of the transom, I had only two options. From the outside or the inside. No contest.

After hours of cutting, scraping and cursing, I finally had all the rotten wood out, and you **can clearly see from the 'waterline' of discoloration** how far the transom core had failed.

Now it was just a matter of making the **repair, but you'll have to wait until next month's** instalment to find out how I did it.

Notes to self: never buy a boat over eBay and always inspect any used boat VERY carefully.

See you next month!

Meetup - The next frontier for the PS&PS

By Ron McNeil, AP

In an effort to improve communications, increase participation levels at our activities and to attract new members, the Phoenix Sail & Power Squadron has established a group on Meetup.

Meetup is a social media designed to help local clubs, like ours, facilitate face-to-face meetings and activities. Meetup is accessible from the internet and/or a phone app. With 20 million members, 200 thousand groups, in 181 countries, Meetup has a proven track record of bringing groups together. Even though Meetup has matured into a robust web and phone application, the functionality has been kept simple and easy to use.

Meetup will be used to publish all our calendar events with lots of details. When you log into Meetup you will be able see all our upcoming events, you can RSVP to an event and you can see who else is planning to attend. You can also see and post messages related to an event or to **individuals**. e.g. **"Bob and I will be there by 2:00 and we are bringing my famous apple pie, so save room"**.

Meetup will also help us attract new members. There are well over a thousand local Phoenix area boaters already on Meetup and they all now have visibility to our Meetup group. They can see the types of events we are hosting and how many people are attending. We are also opening access to allow non PS&PS members to join our Meetup group and RSVP to select activities. We feel this is a great opportunity to open the recruitment process to attract new members.

This is all great but it will only work if we can get the majority of our members onto Meetup **using it how it's intended on a regular basis**. Here is an example why we need to get as many members as possible onto Meetup. We posted the Past Commander BBQ on Meetup but we **only had a few RSVP's even though we had over 30 in attendance**. So potential members on Meetup would see this and think the event was not well attended and would be less inclined to RSVP to future events or they might not continue **monitoring us on Meetup**. So it's really important that everyone help us make this a catalyst for our future growth and to improve the member experience.

Following are the steps to find us on Meetup, create a Meetup account and join our group.

- #1 go to www.meetup.com
- #2 Find our group by searching for "Power Squadron" within 25 miles
- #3 Click on our group picture to enter our group site.
- #4 Click "Join us" to create an account and join our Meetup group.
- #5 Follow the instructions to create an account by providing your name, email, etc.
- #6 As a security measure, you will receive an email with a link. Clicking the link in your email will complete your account setup and it will send a request to join our group.
- #7 By our choice, all requests to join our group are reviewed by our administrators, so you will need to wait for acceptance. Allow up to days but most requests will be processed much quicker.

Remember you can also download the phone app and take us wherever go. If you have questions or require assistance you can contact Ron or Chuck.

Ron McNeil Phone: 623-256-5926 Email: ronaldwmcneil@yahoo.com

Chuck Peterson Phone: 602-908-7380 Email: chuckp7173@gmail.com

Thanks for your support and we look forward



More chatting than serving—A few past commanders and others prepare for the meal at Lake Pleasant. From left, Chris Lockyer-Bratton, Sam Whitehead, Danny Friend, Ron Werner, (Rose Werner took the photo) Bill Johnson, Lee Whitehead, and Doug Frazier

Paper or Online?



Phoenix Power Squadron
2014-2015 Bridge

Over the past few years, many members have opted to receive the publication by computer instead of "snail mail." Increasing the number of online-only readers has a significant influence on the squadron's budget. Postage has increased to 49¢ per copy. The October-November 2014 edition was typical, so it cost about 56¢ per copy. The number of mailed copies has been reduced by many households, saving postage and printing.

Most, including the current editor of the publication, believe the *Bos'n's Pipe* is an easily justifiable expense. There are members, however, who would rather have the *Pipe* delivered each month exclusively online. Online distribution saves the squadron money, and the publication is available for use two or three days before it is delivered by mail. And, of course, the online edition is in full color usually with one or two extra pages that the printed version does not contain.

The form below must be used to end receipt of the *Bos'n's Pipe* by mail, if you wish. If you want to continue receiving the monthly newsletter each month by mail, do nothing.

If at some later time you wish to reconsider and resume receiving a paper copy, just let us know, and we'll restore your address to the mailing list.

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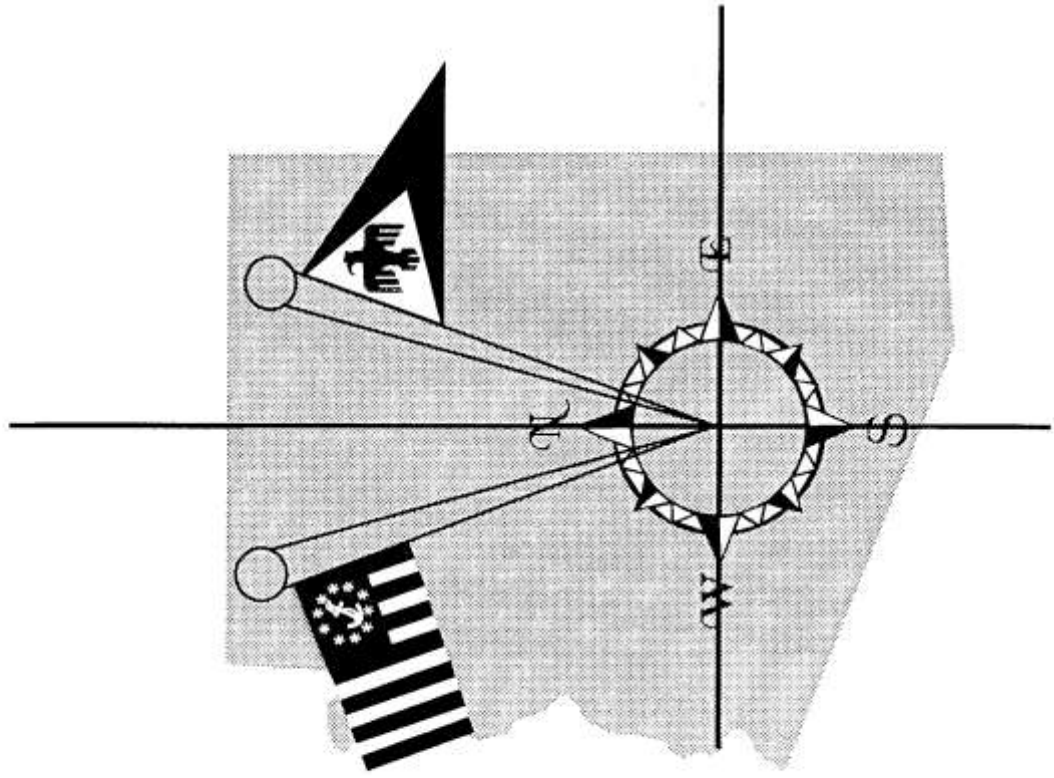
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BOS'N'S PIPE

Phoenix Power Squadron
A UNIT OF THE UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS
SAIL AND POWER BOATING



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Bos'n's Pipe

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First Class