

The Bilge®

Official Publication of the
Singing River Sail and Power Squadron



Vol. 47 Issue No. 2

District Fifteen

February 2009



The Commander's Corner

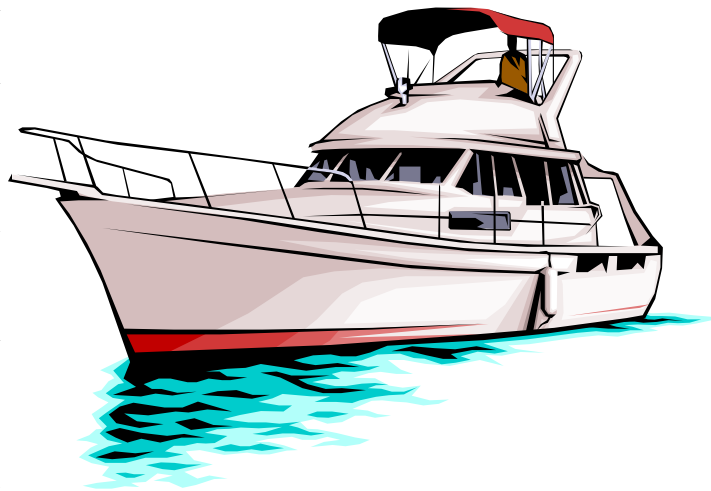
Cdr. Gerry Sorrell, P

Our United States Power Squadrons is one of the best volunteer organizations in the nation, and we have always lived by our pledge and strove to give our all to our community and country through honored service.

Our National Headquarters held a nationwide survey and I am proud to say our District was the third highest responder to the survey. The key outcomes of the survey of why people join and stay were as follows: The primary initial attraction appeared to be educational opportunities. This was followed by our fraternity of brotherhood and sisterhood and third, members being given the opportunity to start performing civic service within our organization. This past week, I had the opportunity to be a part of our fraternity at the Mobile Change of Watch. The new commander cited the same statistics I noted above and they addressed their successes in the areas of education, recruiting, and boat safety inspections. They also talked about the fun times they had during the year and the upcoming year with enthusiastic voices. I am proud we are in District 15. Our District exhibits the type of esprit de corps that will help us all succeed through team work.

You all will be surprised about the fun times we have planned and upcoming training

opportunities for our local community. We are planning on a good boat safety inspection program this year. The first step for our success is having a meal together at our next meeting at the VFW and talking about our upcoming year. As a side note we have some members that are unable to drive or may need some assistance to attend the meetings. Please give your shipmates a call and offer them assistance. In addition we have



kept the cost of our meals at \$10 and this includes desert and tea or coffee. In order to do this we need to have a good head count for the cooks. Please let Fred Pardoe know at 875 3986. He calls to get a head count prior to the meetings. My email address is ggsorrell@cableone.net.

Your assistance in this area will be greatly appreciated. (We prefer a yes or no response).

Gerry Sorrell

FACTOID

The Amazon rainforest produces more than twenty per cent of the world's oxygen supply. The Amazon River pushes so much water into the Atlantic Ocean that, more than one hundred miles at sea off the mouth of the river, one can dip fresh water out of the ocean. The volume of water in the Amazon River is greater than the next eight largest rivers in the world combined and three times the flow of all rivers in the United States.

D/15 2009 SPRING CONFERENCE

D/15 Conference Chair, P/C Dot Warner

In less than three months Singing River Sail & Power Squadron will host D/15 Spring Conference.

This will be an important conference. SRSPS's own John Wilkes will be installed as District Commander. Every member of SRSPS is urged to attend the conference and support John. The conference site will be the LaFont Inn in Pascagoula and convenient for everyone. This will be a good time to renew acquaintances with members of other squadrons in D/15. The National Chief's Rep to attend the spring conference will be R/C William Neef, SN from Tarpon Springs, FL.

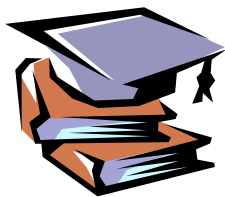
The conference will kick off with a "Golf Scramble" on Friday morning, for anyone interested in playing golf. The golfers will return to the LaFont Inn in time to freshen up for a good ole Mexican hospitality starting at five o'clock. The hospitality is a casual and a fun time evening. Saturday, the conference will commence at approximately 9 o'clock with lunch at 12 o'clock.

After lunch those that are interested will travel to Keesler Field for a visit with the Hurricane Hunters. You will be able to see first hand the Hurricane Hunter's airplane and talk with the crew about their missions. There will be a reception hosted by the incoming commander Saturday evening followed by dinner and Change of Watch. The purpose of the Change of Watch is to dismiss the current bridge and swear in the new Commander and Bridge members. Be sure to mark your calendar for April 24 - 26, 2009.

Dot Warner

ANOTHER FACTOID

Antarctica is the only land on our planet that is not owned by any country. Ninety percent of the world's ice covers Antarctica. This ice also represents seventy per cent of all the fresh water in the world. As strange as it sounds, however, Antarctica is essentially a desert. The average yearly total precipitation is about two inches. Although covered with ice (all but 0.4% of it, i.e.), Antarctica is the driest place on the planet, with an absolute humidity lower than the Gobi Desert.



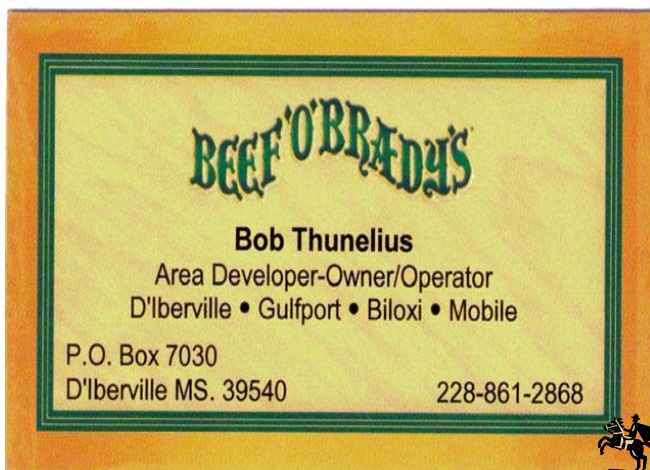
From the Education Officer

P/S/C Stan Warner, N

If you're old and thin-blooded like me and lollygagging around (maritime definition: putting off today what you can do next year) while waiting for these cold January and February winds to blow out of here, and some decent boating weather (80-90°F) to show up, you might want to check out your old Maptech Digital Chart Training CD (version 5.07d) to see if it runs okay on your Windows XP/Vista. If it doesn't, there are ways to correct it but the new version (5.08) works just fine.

For those who may have forgotten, once the CD is loaded and operating, you can download and use any charts you like from Maptech following the "Download-Free NOAA Charts" link.

On another subject, the Ocean Springs Yacht Club has expressed an interest for us to hold our Spring Public Boating Course at their facility. We are exploring this opportunity and will report later.



SRSPS WEB SITE ADDRESS:

www.usps.org/singingriver

2404 Pass Rd. N30°24.089'
Biloxi, MS 39531 W88°58.612'
(228) 388-9090
FAX (228) 388-3514
www.westmarine.com

 **West Marine**

A Message from NOAA. Beginning January 2009, NOAA will exempt anglers from the federal registration rule if they are licensed in states that have a system to provide complete information on their saltwater anglers to the national registry. “NOAA wants to work closely with the states and anglers to better capture the contributions and effects of sportfishing,” said Balsiger. “We expect that this additional year will allow a number of states to put in place systems to register their anglers annually and provide this information to NOAA.” NOAA had originally proposed that registration be required beginning Jan. 1, 2009, but based on public input decided to give states another year to put in place their own data collection systems. If anglers are not licensed or registered by a state that has been exempted and want to fish in federal waters, they will be required to register with NOAA. They also must register if they fish in tidal waters for migratory fish such as striped bass and salmon that spawn in rivers and spend their adult lives in estuaries and oceans. However, those who fish recreationally for these migratory species inland of tidal waters need not register, according to the final rule. Federal saltwater angler registrations will include an angler’s name, date of birth, address, telephone number, and the regions where they intend to fish. This information will be used by NOAA to conduct surveys on fishing effort and amounts of fish caught. Once anglers have registered, they may fish anywhere in U.S. federal waters, or in tidal waters for anadromous species, regardless of the region or regions they specified in their registration. The registration will be valid for one year from its date of issue. Anglers must comply with applicable state licensing requirements when fishing in state waters. Saltwater anglers will be able to register online or by calling a toll-free telephone number that will be publicized, and will receive a registration certificate. Anglers will need to carry this certificate (or their state license from an exempt state) and produce it to an authorized enforcement officer if requested. No fee will be charged in 2010. An estimated fee of \$15 to \$25 per angler will be charged starting in 2011. Anglers who fish only on licensed party, charter, or guide boats would not be required to register with

NOAA since these vessels are surveyed separately from angler surveys. Those who hold angler permits to fish for highly migratory species, such as tunas or swordfish, and those fishing under commercial fishing licenses will also be exempt. Anglers registered or permitted to fish in a formal state or federal subsistence fishery will also be exempt, as will anglers under 16. NOAA received nearly 500 comments from anglers, state officials, and fishing and environmental organizations on its proposed national registry rule during the comment period from June 12 until Aug. 21. The registry is one component of the agency's new Marine Recreational Information Program, an initiative to enhance data collection on recreational catch and effort. To read the final registry rule and other information about the Marine Recreational Information Program, visit the Program's Web site. NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. *Debbie Gould and Joahan McDole*



From The Admin. Dept.

Lt/C Darla Edwards

The following events were scheduled at the January ExCom meeting: Please put them on your calendars. **March 21, Council Meeting –Holiday Inn, Moss Point—** Since this meeting is in our back yard, come and find out how the District conducts business—Details in March *The Bilge*. **March 28, Vessel Safety Inspections- Mary Walker Marina -** Whether you are a current VSE inspector or not, come and help out. **April 4, Annual Fish Fry- John & Jo Ann Wilkes’ home-** Come celebrate spring with good friends and good food. **April 24-26, SRSPS will be hosting the D15 Spring Conf/COW–La Font Inn, Pascagoula—** See details on page 3. **May 16, Sand Island Cooperative Charting/Boating Rendezvous—** Everyone please plan to participate. Our big boats need crew and passengers. **June 13, Land and Sea Slider/Weenie Roast-Stan & Dot Warner’s home—** always a great party!**Summer Date to be announced, Night out at Big R’s in Pascagoula –** come by boat or car. **October 03, Mullet Mansion Rendezvous-Jerry & Ann Fortenberry’s home—** another great occasion with good food and fellowship

Your 2008 Squadron Bridge

Commander Gerry Sorrell, S 471-4778
Executive Officer Jerry Fortenberry, AP 497-2410
Education Officer Stan Warner, N 497-2551
Admin. Officer Darla Edwards, P 875-8527
Secretary Ann Fortenberry, S 497-2410
Treasurer Charles M. McDannald, S 875-1456
Asst. SEO Richard Beck, SN 497-2410
Additional Executive Members: Joahan McDole, S (3 yr.),
John Wilkes, AP (2 yr.), Dorothy Warner, P (1 yr.)

The Bilge Staff

Graphics Editor Dot Warner
Advertising Manager Vacant
Calling Committee Fred and Alice Pardoe
Copy Editor Jo Ann Wilkes
Production Manager Jo Ann Wilkes
Publisher John Wilkes
Editor in Chief John Wilkes
Email: jbw60@charter.net, phone:228 623-4516



The Joke De Jour Corner



In Florida, an atheist created a case against the upcoming Easter and Passover holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews to enjoin the observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood objecting to the ruling saying, "Your Honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counsel, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The Judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fools Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God. Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool.

Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned."

Redneck and Cajun Etiquette Tips

In keeping with our pledge to help our readers get along with the affected folks who like to pretend they are superior, we offer these helpful hints

Entertaining In Your Home:

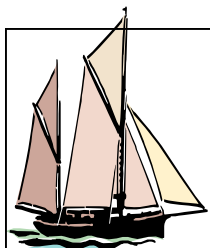
1. A centerpiece for the table should never be anything prepared by a taxidermist.
- 2.. When you have guests, do not allow the dog to eat at the table ... no matter how good his manners are.
3. If you have to vacuum the bed, it is time to change the sheets.

Weddings:

1. Livestock, usually, is a poor choice for a wedding gift.
2. Kissing the bride for more than 5 seconds may get you shot..
- 3.. For the groom, at least, rent a tux. A leisure suit with a cummerbund and a clean bowling shirt can create a tacky appearance.
4. Though uncomfortable, say "yes" to socks and shoes for this special occasion.

Miscellaneous:

1. Never take a beer to a job interview.
2. Always identify people in your yard before shooting at them.
- 3.It is tacky to take a cooler to church.
4. Even if you're certain that you are included in the will, it is still considered tacky to drive a U-Haul to the funeral home.



OVER THE HORIZON

February 17 Monthly business meeting, VFW, Gautier
February 17-22 USPS National Meeting, Anaheim, California
February 28 Jackson Sail & Power Sqn. COW
March 21 District 15 Spring Council Meeting, Holiday Inn, Moss Point