

The Bilge®



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Singing River Sail and Power Squadron

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District Fifteen

May 2009



The Commander's Corner

Cdr. Gerry Sorrell, P

May is here and so is the beautiful boating weather. Our District 15 Spring Conference and Change of Watch was a wonderful and exciting event. On the first night we had a Mexican fiesta with homemade enchiladas, corn tamale casseroles, chilies, dips, refried beans, chips, and an assortment of other casseroles. We had all of the accompanying beverages: beer, wine and coffee. In addition, we had a wonderful lounge entertainer. El John Zorro Wilkes played the Guitar and sang Mexican songs from the past. The truth is John was really a good singer. Everyone left with a full belly and smiles on their faces commenting on the good time they had at the fiesta. The following day our focus was on ways to improve membership with a discussion on seminars being the primary idea for an outreach program. We also discussed the idea of providing free membership with our basic course, and offering our advanced courses to nonmembers. A member would pay a reduced price compared to a nonmember that would be charged a higher price and this would hopefully entice the nonmember to join to save on the price of the courses. At previous meetings we talked about teaming with yacht clubs and this idea was carried to the most senior levels within the organization and they are meeting with all of the yacht clubs across the US to discuss teaming in the area of training. During break, I asked our senior leaders about the Sea Scouts again and if we are still pursuing this avenue of involvement, as I have not heard any follow-up on this in awhile from Florida. They have not heard any feed back but would get back to me at a later date. I am still interested in the younger generation and what their families can bring to our organization. It is my intent to make one more pass at trying to see if these young sailors are interested in assisting our organiza-



Gerry's Blue Water
(unverified)

tion in providing a community service and joining our organization.

Our Squadron received the following awards: 2008 award for our website design and ease of use, content and dissemination of the spirit of the USPS received by Cdr. Gerry Sorrell, 2008 Journalism Award for *The Bilge* received by D/LT/C John Wilkes, 2008 USPS Educational Fund Certificate of Merit received by Cdr. Gerry Sorrell for the Squadron. The Change of Watch ceremony was excellent

D/LT/C John Wilkes AP relieved D/C Glenn Roy, AP with Glenn dismissing his slate of officers and John installing his new slate of officers. We all enjoyed a fine meal, held a raffle, and gave out too many prizes to list. Our Dot Warner was recognized for her wonderful overall contributions to this event by our District Commander. Our Squadron Officers and their spouses did a great job in setting up and contributing their efforts to making this event a success. Please note our next upcoming event noted by our Admin Officer. To make our Squadron a

fun place to be we need your attendance at our meetings. We need your ideas, smiles and place at our table when we eat. Come and join us again. We have only been getting about 11 to 14 people show for the meetings and this is truly disheartening when we have over 65 members. The meal is only \$10 and that includes the drink and desert. Our meetings are at the VFW in Gautier.

Why PFD's should be Orange or Yellow

An SRSPS member gets shipwrecked. When he wakes up, he's on a beach. The sand is dark red. He can't believe it. The sky is dark red. He walks around a bit and sees that there is dark red grass, dark red birds and dark red fruit on the dark red trees. He's shocked when he finds that his skin is starting to turn dark red too. "Oh no!!!" he says astutely realizing what has happened. "I've been marooned!"



From the D/15 Conference Chair

P/C Dot Warner

Now that D/15 Spring Conference is behind us, it is time to thank the many Singing River Power Sail & Power Squadron members that helped to make the Spring Conference a success. First, a special thanks and hug to Geneva Wilson for her many hours of preparation and the ladies that prepared food for Friday night hospitality. Namely, Ann Fortenberry, Joahan McDole, Betty Jarden, Nancy McDannald, JoAnn Wilkes, Helen and Gerry Sorrell, Nellie Allen, Eula Beck, Associate Member Peggy Larkins, Alice Pardoe, Sandra Reid, Carmille Lott, and Dot Warner. An extra thanks to Jerry Fortenberry and Stan Warner in helping to set things up and make ready for the hospitality.

A great big thanks to John Wilkes for the entertainment on Friday night. Everyone enjoyed his playing and singing. Thanks John, we had many, many nice comments.

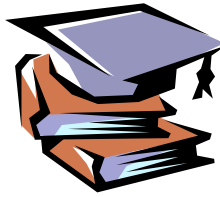
Jerry Fortenberry obtained our luncheon speaker, Commander Schofield, Deputy Manager for the U.S. Coast Guard Deepwater Program. Thanks Jerry!

Darla Edwards, Cindy Milford and Ann Fortenberry spent their Saturday afternoon making the center pieces for Saturday night Dinner/Change of Watch. They were beautiful and enjoyed by everyone. Thanks Darla, Cindy and Ann.



Now P/D/C Glenn Roy and Conference Committee Chairman, P/C Dorothy Warner (*Editor's note*) Notice how the rose pales in comparison because of its proximity to Dot.

Craig Edwards! What can we say about Craig? He worked months on end soliciting gifts to raffle off on Saturday night. The door prizes



From the Education Officer

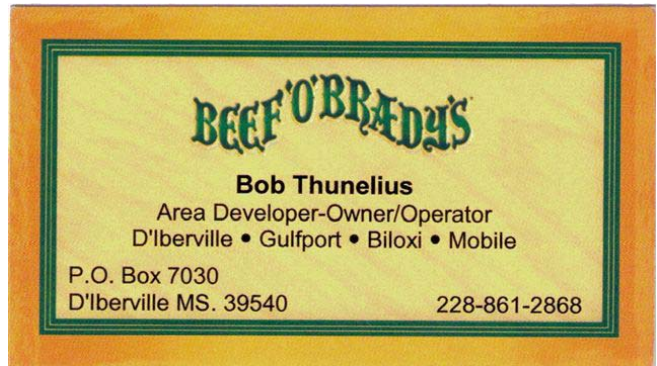
P/S/C Stan Warner, N

.With the District Spring Conference behind us, its hoist the mainsail and jibber the jib and full speed ahead for the

Spring Boating class!

The class will start 13 May 09 at six o'clock pm (1800) at the Ocean Springs Yacht Club. Since the purpose of this class is mainly for us to get acquainted with their members and them with us, and not necessarily membership driven, it should be a fun class.

I've been working with schedules with the OSYC Commodore, Steve Sloan who passed the task down to Vice Commodore John O'Shaughnessy, who is coordinating with Chris Bond on the details. Man, you've got to love the delegation process. If you know of anyone locally who might be interested, give me a call and we'll fit them in. Course cost is \$20.00.



and raffle items were the highlight of the dinner on Saturday night. Thanks Craig and his assistant Roger Milford.

Everyone was given a send off Sunday morning with delicious breakfast casseroles and pasteries prepared by Ann Fortenberry, Joahan McDole, Betty Jardin and Dot Warner. A very special thanks to Steve Wilson, Geneva Wilson's son, for the many trips he made to WalMart to purchase items that we forgot. Thanks Steve we could not have made it without you.

All in all the D/15 Spring Conference was a success due to the hard work by SRSPS members. If you missed any of the events you missed a good time. Thanks everyone.

Now! We must join together and support our new D/15 Commander, John Wilkes, a member of the SRSPS.

Good Friend Depart for New Shores

Dear friends of Singing River Power Squadron,

As you may have heard by now Sue and I are moving to St Louis to help care for Chuck's parents. This was quicker than we had planned and we did not get to say adios in person. We both enjoyed the friendship of each and every member we had the opportunity of meeting. We may not be able to get back this way any time soon, and we have not found another squadron yet but we have updated our membership at SRPS.

Congratulations to our new District Commander.

Best wishes and smooth sailing.

Chuck and Sue Kraeger

(Editor's Note: The Kraegers will be sorely missed by everyone, but we wish them all the best and hope they keep in touch).



From the Co-op Charting Department

Update of Chuck Kraeger's Original



Those of us that seek excitement will find it on May 23rd. There is a trip to Sand Island being planned so we can do some charting. This will be unusual in that Sand Island is not identified on any chart! Since I am not from the coast I emailed John Wilkes with the question "Does Sand Island go by another name?" His response was that he always knew it to be Sand Island off the Western tip of Petit Bois Island. Sure enough with much magnification I found it right where he said it would be. However it is not named on the chart. On chart 11373 it is north and west of the western tip of Petit Bois Island. It is on the western side of the ship channel. If you look at the chart you will see all kinds of symbols used for navigation in the area. Our challenge is to find errors on the chart or confirm accuracy and develop enough detail to send corrections to NOAA. Any of the following implements you may have will be useful in the task at hand: GPS, camera, tape-measure, paper and pencil, sunscreen and liquids. This is a good chance to meet your fellow boaters in a less crowded environment. There will be more information before the event. Hope to see you there.

(Editor's Note) From what I have been told, Sand Island was man made from spoil from the Ship Channel and not a natural island. It originally had a very nice protected harbor that attracted throngs of local boaters every weekend. In the last ten years or so, storms and seasons have changed the island drastically and quickly, but it is still a very attractive place to enjoy the beach and surf,



From the District Commander

D/C John B. Wilkes

I would like to add my heartfelt thanks to all the SRSPS members who participated in hosting the D/15 Spring Conference and Change of Watch. It was both a moral and financial success due to so many SRSPS members donating their time and attending the events and Dot Warner's outstanding planning and preparation. She details the stupendous effort of those involved elsewhere in this edition. It gives me a lump in my throat and a tear in my eye just remembering it.



The 2009 D/15 Bridge: (L to R) DC John Wilkes, DXO Hal Brewer, DAO Dick Gercak, DSec. Peggy Larkins, DTrea. Larry Rathbun, DEO Dick Carson

Being installed as the new D/C is something I feel very proud to accept because of the quality of the people in our organization exemplified by all the SRSPS folks who helped with the conference. I hope all you folks had a good time and will plan to attend the Fall Conference. It will be just "down the road a short piece" in Mobile, and because of action taken by the voting body should be more affordable for those having to watch expenditures in this recession period.

For those who were not present, but remember the SRSPS room at the USO on the Navy base, we returned the squadron burgees in their frames to the squadrons who donated them originally. See the picture below.



I hope I get to see many SRSPS members at the Sand Island Rendezvous. If you need passage, call someone with a boat. Everyone is looking for crew.

Your 2009 Squadron Bridge

Commander *Gerry Sorrell, S* 471-4778
Executive Officer *Jerry Fortenberry, AP* 497-2410
Education Officer *Stan Warner, SN* 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.)

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The Joke De Jour Corner



A cowboy named Rod was watching his herd in a remote mountain pasture in Idaho when suddenly a brand new BMW advances out of a dust cloud towards him. The driver, a young man in a Brioni suit, Gucci shoes, RayBan sunglasses and YSL tie, leans out the window and asks, "If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf?"

Rod looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing herd and calmly answers, "Sure, why not?"

The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his Cingular RAZR V3 cell phone and surfs to a NASA page on the Internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite to get an exact fix on his location, which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photograph. The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany. Within seconds he gets an e-mail on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses an MS-SQL database through an ODBC connected Excel spread sheet with e-mail on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, gets a response. Finally, he prints out a full-color, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP LaserJet printer and turns to the cowboy and says, "You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves."

"That's right. Well, I guess you can take one of my calves," says Rod. He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on, amused, as the young man stuffs it into the trunk of his car. Then

Rod says to the young man, "Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my calf?"

The young man thinks for a second and says, "Okay, why not?"

"You're a United States Congressman," says Rod.

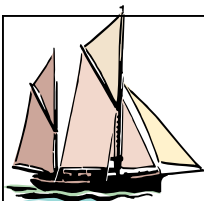
"Wow! That's correct," says the yuppie, "but how did you guess that?"

"No guessing," said the cowboy. "You showed up here even though nobody called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked. You tried to show me how much smarter than me you are; and you don't know a thing about cows ... this is a herd of sheep. Now give me back my dog."

When Obama started running for President, many said a black man would be President when pigs fly, but they had it slightly backwards. One hundred days after Obama gets in office we get the swine flu!

A little boy wanted \$100.00 very badly and prayed for weeks, but nothing happened. Then he decided to write God a letter requesting the \$100.00. When the postal authorities received the letter to God, they decided to send it to the President. President Obama was so amused that he instructed his secretary to send the little boy a \$5.00 bill. The President thought this would appear to be a lot of money to a little boy. The little boy was delighted with the \$5.00 bill and sat down to write a thank-you note to God, which read:

Dear God: Thank you very much for sending the money. However, I noticed that for some reason you sent it through Washington D.C. and those dirtbags took \$95.00 in taxes.



OVER THE HORIZON

May 13 Spring Boating Class, Ocean Springs Yacht Club
May 21 SRSPS Business Meeting, Gautier VFW
May 23 Sand Island Coop Charting Rendezvous