FROM THE COMMANDER

Cdr. Joey Wheeler, AP

Last month we had a wonderful and well attended Superbowl Rendezvous at the Chiasson’s. We are truly grateful to Mike and Nolia Chiasson for hosting the party.

Also well attended was our Middendorf’s rendezvous. Many thanks to Hellen and George Trousdale for planning and organizing this Rendezvous.

The D-15 Spring Conference is fast approaching. This year our Squadron will be hosting the conference and encourage all to attend. Carol Bell is working hard to plan and coordinate our efforts for the district conference. If you would like to help in this effort, please let Carol know.

The Spring Conference is a great time to get to meet some of the members from our neighboring Squadrons and a good time will be had by all. I hope to see you there. Attached you will find the registration form/schedule of events.

As the weather warms up our boating activities will become increasingly more active. This is a good time to examine your vessel. Have you checked your machinery, fluid levels, belts, hoses, batteries, spares, first aid kits, fire control / lifesaving appliances and actuated your seacocks? After confirming that all are in good order it would be a good time to schedule a Vessel Safety Check with one of our VSC examiners.

Although everything may appear in order at this point it would be prudent to conduct sea trials. It is not uncommon to take a boat out in the spring only to figure out what does not work. Depending on the issue it may be just an inconvenience or may present a real safety hazard. Dangerous situations are generally not the result of one bad decision, but rather, a series of bad decisions. Know your boat, know its condition and test the systems before you leave the slip. Be safe on the water.

Your squadron offers many opportunities to increase your education and proficiency with respect to boating. Have you taken a moment to consider how you might make the most of these opportunities? If you should have an interest in a particular class, please let your SEO, Assistant SEO or a member of the Bridge know.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the March 10th general membership meeting and the Madisonville wall Rendezvous on the 19th of March.
The Boat US Foundation has some tips when you’re shopping for or installing boat lights:

**Navigation lights must be approved.** Some manufacturers are selling navigation lights that don’t meet regulations. These lights are typically cheaper but do not provide the proper color quality, brightness or cut-off angles that boaters rely on to avoid collision. So how do you know you are buying a good nav light? Look for:

- USCG approval
- The rated visibility of the light in nautical miles
- Meets ABYC A-16
- “Tested by [laboratory name]”
- Manufacturer and model number

**Don’t let your boat lights confuse other boaters.** The USCG reports that some boaters have hazardously installed unapproved red and green LED strip lighting on the bow, which hampers other boaters’ efforts to avoid collision. Also avoid displaying any light that could be confused with another navigation light or another vessel. And remember, flashing blue lights are reserved for law enforcement; at a distance, wave action combined with the steady rocking of below-the-waterline high-intensity blue lights can give the appearance of a police vessel.

**Don’t install lights that prevent the operator from maintaining a good lookout.** When running between sunset and sunrise, it’s critical that those behind the wheel maintain their night vision, so the goal is to keep light out of the operator’s eyes. Glare from existing nav lights may be a problem, or reflections from aesthetic lighting such as LED rope lights wrapped around a helm station can hinder eyesight. —**Boat US**

Last month’s rendezvous at Middendorf’s restaurant in Manchac seemed to be an enjoyable time for all those who attended. Turnout was great as many LPSPS members attended arriving by land and by sea.

This month’s general membership meeting on March 10th will feature a St. Patrick’s Day theme. The squadron will be providing corned beef and members should bring a dish. Details will be disseminated by a separate email.

Our rendezvous for this month is a crawfish boil to be held at the wall in Madisonville on Saturday, March 19th. Members will be able to select whether they would like boiled crawfish or shrimp. An email will be going out regarding the crawfish boil shortly. An RSVP will be mandatory and selection of your preference of crawfish or shrimp will be required.

Safe and happy boating!
**Education Officer**

**Lt/C Douglas A. Brooks, JN**

BY Bruce E. Meyers

----How to Be an Excellent Instructor

I have been contemplating how to end my tenure as SEO of the New Orleans Power Squadron. I was looking for some profound wisdom to leave as my legacy to guide the squadron into the future. I couldn’t come up with anything profound or especially wise. But the following is stuff I have learned during my vocational training days, as a USPS instructor, and from the recent Instructor Development (ID) class. I believe I learned more than the other students in the ID class because I earnestly tried to present a good example. It was sometimes painful to realize how much I fall short. However, this information reflects my thoughts on how to be an excellent instructor. I think it is worthy of your consideration.

Learning is something we do every day. Learning is both active and interactive. It requires active participation on behalf of the student. As much as we would like to, particularly with children, you can’t pull back the skull cap and pour knowledge in. Presentation skills can be learned and are different from technical skills. Many people with excellent educations on the material sometimes are poor teachers.

Learning constructs new knowledge, but it is based upon the foundation of what each of us already knows. As a general statement, only 10% of lessons are totally new. 90% is processing or connecting the dots with things you already know in a new manner. Since the 90% you already have is unique to you and you alone, your reception of the 10% will also be unique to you and you alone.

Learning is goal oriented. Meaning you have to have a good idea of what you are going to learn because each person will make a decision as to how much of his attention he is going to pay to the instructional material. In my youth, I sat through many lectures; eyes open and facing forward as if listening, but my brain was shutdown or somewhere else. You may have to convince that person the information is important for him.

Checking for understanding provides essential feedback to the instructor. This can be by testing or rhetorical questions or by working out problems using the new information.

Make the new information meaningful. Rote memorization can work to a degree and may help you pass a test. But it is merely parroting and is not a true understanding. Memorization will generally be short lived unless it is used as a bridge to other learning. Memorization of rules such as “red right returning” can be used as a tool to bring about learning navigation rules.

Skill learning is learning by doing. This could be tying knots or docking the boat. When I was taking a sailing lesson, I was steering the boat down a series of channel markers. I was unaware that I was subjected to a cross current. The instructor then told me to look back. I was horrified to discover I was well out of the channel even though I continued to steer to a point between the next two channel markers. I learned that lesson well. Learning by making mistakes is very effective teaching provided the instructor ensures no harm occurs.

Make the lesson yours. Include your personal experiences. Underlined to add emphasis. However, do not delete material from the USPS Lesson Plan because you may inadvertently delete material that may appear on the test. However, personal experiences add interest and reinforce the importance of the material.

Identify yourself at the initial class. Include your pertinent boating history or education. Introduce the other instructors and allow them to speak of their boating history and education. Write your name and contact information on the white board (if available). Communicate important information such as bathroom locations, breaks, class schedule, and other important information.

Get to know your students and facilitate them getting to know one another. At the initial class, ask them about their boating history, education, and what brought them to your class. Communicate the expectation that they make new friends.

I have said this many times before, if you get to the point where you cease lecturing and instead have an ongoing conversation with the students, you have hit the proverbial home run. Effective teaching is two way communications. You have to make a deliberate effort to be an active listener.
United States Power Squadrons

Assistant: SEO
Lt Glenn Roy, AP

Boating Safety Courses
Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron is offering two Safe Boating Courses:
- one-session boating safety course 8:00 am – 5 pm: Saturday, March 12th
- four-session boating safety course 6:00 pm – 8 pm Wednesday March 16th and every following Wednesday (total 4)

Location: Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum, 133 Mabel Dr., Madisonville, LA

LOUISIANA LAW HAS CHANGED! Persons born after Jan. 1, 1984 may not operate a motorboat or PWC powered by a motor in excess of 10 HP unless they have successfully completed a boating safety course.

Learn About: Introduction to Boating; Federal and State Boating Laws; Personal Safety Equipment; Safe Boat Handling; Navigation; Water Skiing, and River Boating; Personal Water Craft (PWC) and much, much more.

This very popular Coast Guard approved course exceeds all State and Federal educational requirements. There is a $50 donation charge for course materials and lunch. Passing the course will qualify participants for boat insurance discounts with many insurance providers. Contact your insurance agent for what discounts they offer.

For information or registration call: Peggy Roy 985 264-7467 or email glenn111@bellsouth.net

Coastal Navigation Course (P) underway

WOW!! What a turn-out. We had to turn down 5 requests to register!

There are 20 students now attending the Coastal Navigation Course (Pilotng). It started last Tuesday, Feb 23rd just hours after all the real-bad thunder storms passed through the Madisonville area. What dedication of the students and instructors to participate. 3 of the students are already LPSPS members and hopefully after the 7 class meetings, we’ll have a few more of the students sign up. A whole bunch of thanks go out to Lynn Haase (main instructor), Bill Dietrich and Chris Cottrell for conducting the 7 – two-hour educational sessions. Peg & Glenn were instrumental in the administration dues. Great job all.

Piloting is arguably one of the best and most challenging Advance Courses USPS has to offer. It’s tough while you’re taking it, but really rewarding once you complete it. If you do any sort of coastal cursing with your boat it is definitely worth the time and effort to attend the P class. It’s actually fun to apply what you’ve learned in the Pilotng class while you travel in your boat along the coast. “You’ll know where you are at all times and the safest way to get where you’re going”. We will be offering P again in the next few months. BTW, all our LPSPS members are invited to visit the class and get to know some of the students. It’s every Tuesday at 6 pm at the Museum for the next 6 weeks

Next month we’ll start a one-day ABC Boating Course followed by a 4 session ABC Boating Course. Let your bridge or Educational Dept. members know if you or someone you know are interested in attending. When you complete it, you receive a certification from the State of LA (LA Wild Life & Fisheries) and USPS. It’s the LAW to complete the ABC course if you are born after 1984 (grandkids?) and operate a 10 hp or more vessel in LA. Completion can possibly save you some money on your insurance cost if you pass.
2016 Calendar of Events for the next 60 Days see page 9

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016
6:00 Social Hour  7:00 Dinner and Meeting
Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum
133 Mabel Drive, Madisonville, LA
SAINT PARTICK’S DAY THEME MEAL
Corned Beef will be provided by the Squadron!
Bring a dish to complete the meal.
MEETING PROGRAM:
THE STORY OF LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN
Presented by Jeff William
ALSO BRING BUCKET RAFFLE ITEMS TO BE USED FOR THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE RAFFLE WHICH OUR SQUADRON WILL BE HOSTING IN APRIL. THIS IS IN PLACE OF THE SQUADRON RAFFLE WE USUALLY HAVE IN MARCH. PROCEEDS WILL GO TO OUR SQUADRON.

CLASS & SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Piloting Classes on Tuesdays,
March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th
6:00 pm @ Maritime Museum

ABC Safe Boating Class on Saturday,
March 12th 8:00 am— 4:00 pm

ABC Safe Boating Classes on Wednesdays,
March 16th, 23rd, 30th, and April 6th
6:00 pm — 8:00 pm @ Maritime Museum
The Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron of the United States Power Squadrons cordially invites you and your guest to the District 15 Spring Conference.

Name:________________________________ Spouse/Guest:____________________________________
Street, City, State, Zip ______________________________________________________________
Squadron, Phone, Email _____________________ _______________________ ____________________

For Room Reservations: contact Staybridge Suites at the address or phone listed above. Rooms are $89.00/night + tax for the Standard Studio Suite (1 Queen); or $109.00/night + tax for the 1 Bedroom Suite with 1 King or 2 Double beds. Ask for the Lake Pontchartrain Power Squadron rate.

Full American breakfast included. The uniform for the Conference is business causal or Uniform G. Reservations must be made by April 1st. Conference attendees: please make checks payable to Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron and mail to: P/C Carol Bell, S – Phone (985) 264-1662 20436 Narrow Road, Covington, LA 70435

If you have questions please contact: Carol Bell or email her at jbcbbell@bellsouth.net or Christine Williams (985) 789-4090 or email her at christine20635@gmail.com

The Saturday Afternoon Outing Event
The Maritime Pilots Institute has the largest simulator in the industry. This multi-million $$$ simulator is used to train river Pilots. We will have an opportunity to tour the facility and see the simulator in action.

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<th>Conference Event</th>
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<td>Friday Night Dinner — Poolside at the Staybridge — BBQ Pulled Pork &amp; Sides (BYOB — setups provided)</td>
<td>1800 - 2100</td>
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<td>Saturday Lunch - Baked catfish &amp; crawfish etouffee - Guest Speaker SAC Jeffery Sallet – NOLA FBI Office</td>
<td>1200 - 1400</td>
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<td>Saturday Afternoon Outing @ Maritime Pilots Institute – Covington, LA</td>
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<td>Saturday Night Dinner &amp; D15 COW Pecan crusted chicken &amp; stuffed pork tenderloin (BYOB — setups provided) Uniform “A” or other appropriate attire</td>
<td>1800 - 2100</td>
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<td>Sunday Morning – Mimosas &amp; Bloody Marys – Poolside at the Staybridge</td>
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2016 Bridge Officers

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### Notes:
- ABC Safe Boating Class Maritime Museum - 6:00 pm – 8 pm
- Exec Board Meeting @ Claiborne Oaks Event Center – 6:30 pm
- General Membership Meeting – Maritime Museum – Corned Beef Provided, bring sides/dessert - Social @ 6 pm; meeting @ 7 pm - St. Patrick's Day Theme
- Rendezvous – Madisonville Wall North Side - Noon
- Rendezvous – Madisonville Wall North Side Crawfish & Shrimp Boil – Noon - Madisonville Wall or Under Museum
- Good Friday
- Tax Day (Taxes Due)
- D15 Spring Conference – LPSPS Hosting
- D15 Spring Conference – LPSPS Hosting

### March 2016
- Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Spring begins (Northern)
- Easter
- Rendezvous – Madisonville Wall North Side

### April 2016
- Rendezvous – Gulfport, MS - Gulf Coast Yacht Show
- General Membership Meeting – Maritime Museum – Pot Luck – Tax Day Theme “Po Folks Dinner” - Social @ 6 pm; meeting @ 7 pm
- Tax Day (Taxes Due)
- D15 Spring Conference – LPSPS Hosting
- D15 Spring Conference – LPSPS Hosting

### May 2016
- Rendezvous – Gulfport, MS - Gulf Coast Yacht Show – Gulfport Municipal Marina - Dock Party – 4:00 pm, bring an appetizer & BYOB