Under The Bridge

Latest News and Events

From The Commander

Cdr. Joey Wheeler, AP

For those of you who missed the March meeting at The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum the evening went well. The turnout was good, the food great, a fine raffle and an interesting speaker. After dinner Jeff Williams spoke about the origins of lake Pontchartrain and the effects of opening the spillway. The presentation was both interesting and informative. A special thanks to Norma Roberts for organizing another fine dinner.

We had a good turnout for the Madisonville Wall crawfish/shrimp rendezvous with much fun for all. At one point during the event a special presentation was made to joint co-winners Doug Brooks and Joey LeBlanc for the auspicious “paddle” award. Many thanks to Scott and Janice Bordelon for organizing the rendezvous.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the district conference April 15-17. Don’t forget that 2016 is our squadron’s 25th year anniversary. Hopefully we will have a strong representation and attendance at the conference from LPSPS members.
Possibly the least used but second most important safety devices on any boat, fire extinguishers should always be ready for action. The U.S. Coast Guard recommends checking onboard fire extinguishers monthly. Here’s a suggested monthly fire extinguisher check:

- Fire extinguishers should be mounted in an easily accessible location with no debris or material blocking access. Signs and decals make them easier to find. Hint: Have more than the minimum required extinguishers and place them throughout the boat.

- Check the gauge to ensure the extinguisher is charged.

- Check that the extinguisher type and instructions on the label can be read easily.

- Ensure that the discharge hose and nozzle are not cracked, broken or clogged. Note: Critters like to hangout inside the nozzle.

- Turn dry chemical fire extinguishers upside down at least three times to prevent powdered contents from caking, but do not shake or tap them.

- Check extinguishers for rust or corrosion buildup. Replace extinguishers that don’t meet these requirements. In addition to the monthly check, consider teaching the P-A-S-S method to all members of your crew.

  P—Pull the pin at the top of the extinguisher to release the handle.
  A—Aim the extinguisher at the base of the fire, not at the flames in the middle.
  S—Squeeze the handle to release the extinguishing agent. To stop the discharge, let go of the handle.
  S—Sweep from side to side at the base of the fire until it is out. Operate the extinguisher from a safe distance, and move toward the fire once it begins to diminish.

  When the fire is out, watch smoldering hot spots for possible reflash. –Don Braga

Hello Squadron

This is the first of my quarterly reports to the membership. Do rest assured that I report to the Bridge each month. We are a few hundred dollars behind last year in dues renewals and socials but our admin ladies always seem to catch us up. Our March meeting and rendezvous have already started to beef up the Treasury. Hopefully our renewals will catch up with the spring weather. Hope to see everyone soon.

See you on the water,
John
LPSPS members enjoyed a very successful crawfish and shrimp boil rendezvous at the Madisonville town docks on Saturday, March 19, 2016. Fun was had by all who attended and the seafood was said to be excellent.

In April we have an upcoming rendezvous at the Gulfport Mississippi municipal marina the weekend of April 8 through the 10th. This is the 1st weekend of the Gulf Coast Yacht and Boat Show in Gulfport.

A dock party will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 3 PM. Please bring an hors d’oeuvre and what you would like to drink along with chairs for the dock party.

A group of power squadron boats are planning to be there all weekend. Most boats are planning to leave on April 7 to head to Gulfport. Some boats (ours) is already there. There is a boat launch right at the Gulfport marina for those folks who may want to bring a boat that is trailerable.

More information about the Gulf Coast Yacht and Boat Show can be found at: http://www.gulfcoastyachtandboatshow.com

The general membership meeting for this month has changed in location, date and time. The squadron general membership meeting will be held on Friday, April 15, 2016, at 6:00 pm at the Staybridge Inn and Suites. This meeting will be catered and held in conjunction with the District 15 conference that our squadron is hosting.

Lots going on in the upcoming month so please be on the lookout for emails with details on all events and meetings.

Until then, safe and happy boating
E DUCATION OFFICER

Lt/C Douglas A. Brooks, JN

Published by the Marketing/PR Committee
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WHY IS THE STARBOARD LIGHT GREEN?

Hopefully, every boater knows that the port side running light is red and that the starboard side light is green. The standard of having the red light on the left and the green on the right comes in handy after dark when boaters can determine the movements of other vessels based on the visibility of these lights.

In addition, the green light also indicates which boat has the right of way over the other. Anyone that has ever participated in a sailboat regatta is familiar with the resounding calls of “Starboard” as the skippers declare that they have the “right of way” due to being on a starboard tack.

To understand how these terms evolved, one must delve deeply into the boating days of yore. Viking vessels were steered by a paddle or board inserted in the water called a “styra.” Most folks being right-handed, the steering board was always located on the right side of the ship and the term “styra” became associated with the right side. Norsemen later used the same term for a board steering in larger vessels. The word styra evolved into today’s English term “starboard.”

Because the steering was located on the right side of the vessel, captains tied the left side to a dock to avoid damaging steering mechanisms. Thus, the left side became known, in English, as the port side, because beyond the dock was a port town.

Now, about those lights ... The practice of assigning vessel priority in crossing situations grew from the fact that vessels often had items in the ship’s center that blocked the helmsman’s view. Because the boat’s steering was controlled from the right side, he could see vessels on the right; therefore vessels on that side were given a green light - both figuratively and actually. Those vessels could safely pass in front of the steering person’s vessel.

Conversely, the left side was assigned a red light – again, both figuratively and actually. This evolved from an understanding that helmsman’s view of the left side from his right side station, were often blocked from his view by deck hands, cargo, and sails. So, these “out of sight vessels” gave way to the helmsman’s vessel. Much of maritime traditions about the right of way are the same today, with the addition of colored lighting to assist in identification.

It’s always interesting to delve into maritime history to discover the traditional reasons behind our modern practices. These little tidbits of information can help us remember the red and green lighting conventions and which vessel is “stand on” and which is “give way” between approaching boats.

To learn more about those important “Rules of the Road”, seek information from the members of the United States Power Squadrons® who tell us: “Boating is fun... We’ll show you how”. Go to their website at www.USPS.org for courses and seminars in your area.

Lt. Bill Hempel
Senior Feature Writer
Marketing/Public relations Committee
United States Power Squadrons®
Boating Safety Courses

Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron is offering Safe Boating Courses:

8:00 am – 5 pm: Saturday, April 23rd

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 instruction, course material 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
Come all members and tell your friends
Boating Safety Courses
Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron is offering Safe Boating Courses:
8:00 am – 5 pm: Saturday, April 23rd
Maritime Museum, call Peggy Roy 985 264 7467 or email glenn111@bellsouth.net

We have finished the 5th week of the 9 week Coastal Navigation Course. Lynn Haase with the help of Bill Dietrich, Chris Cottrell and Jeff Williams are working with the 20 or so students to advance through this very useful and interesting course. Enthusiasm is still high as the students and instructors work on their "piloting skills".

2 Field Trips at the Maritime Museum for 3rd graders were support by our LPSPS members. Approximately 100 students attended the Knot Tying and Safe Boating - 25 minute seminars (total 12 seminars). Thanks to Bill Dietrich, Peg Roy, Doug Gardner and Glenn Roy for their dedication and commitment to this important community service activity. Each volunteer spends 4 hours or more to help in this activity. GREAT JOB>>>LOTS OF FUN for the kids and LPSPS Members.

Thanks, Glenn
Get it!
APRIL SHOWERS duh

BIRTH'S
welcome
April

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Baumer, Penny Lynch 04/05
Robinson, Guy 04/05
Rhodes, Steve J. 04/17
Williams, Christine A. 04/29

2016 Calendar of Events for the next 60 Days

60 Days  see page 9

We would like to announce that the Squadron general membership meeting that would generally be held on Thursday, April 14 is being rescheduled to Friday, April 15.

The Maritime Museum is being used for a function on that Thursday afternoon. They will be cleaning up from their event as we would be trying to set up for ours. It would make it confusing for both groups.

We are holding the general membership meeting normally on Thursday night in conjunction with the District Conference on April 15 at the

Staybridge Suites,
140 Holiday Blvd, Covington.

It will be a catered event. Pulled pork, sides and dessert. Cost is $18 per person and reservations must be made by April 7th with Carol Bell jbcbbell@bellsouth.net

Come out and join the fun, meet some new people and enjoy the pool. If you have children or grandchildren who like to swim bring them along. There is also a small mini putt at the hotel.

Kids under 12 do not need to pay. Bring your own refreshing adult beverages! Set ups provided!

If it rains, we will move inside.

Items for our bucket raffle will be on display and tickets will be available for purchase. The drawing will be held on Saturday at the dinner. You can write your name on your tickets and you do not need to be present to win. There will also be a chance to win a door prize.

CLASS & SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Coastal Navigation Course going on now.
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<td>ABC Safe Boating Class Maritime Museum - 6:00 pm - 8 pm</td>
<td>Exec Board Meeting Claiborne Oaks Event Center - 6:30 pm</td>
<td>Rendezvous - Gulfport, MS - Gulf Coast Yacht Show</td>
<td>Rendezvous - Gulfport, MS - Gulf Coast Yacht Show - Gulfport Municipal Marina - Dock Party - 4:00 pm, bring an appetizer &amp; BYOB</td>
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<td>10 Rendezvous - Gulfport, MS - Gulf Coast Yacht Show</td>
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<td>15 Tax Day (Taxes Due) General Membership Meeting - Catered meal $18.00, Social 6 pm BYOB, Poolside @ Staybridge Hotel - Covington</td>
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<td>5 Cinco de Mayo Exec Board Meeting Claiborne Oaks Event Center - 6:30 pm</td>
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<td>8 Mother's Day</td>
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<td>12 General Membership Meeting - Maritime Museum - Pot Luck Meal - Cinco de Mayo Theme - 50/50 Draw - Social @ 6 pm; meeting @ 7 pm</td>
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<td>21 Armed Forces Day Safe Boating Week Begins - &quot;Ready, Set, Wear It&quot; Event - Marina del Rey - 10:30 am</td>
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<td>30 Memorial Day Rendezvous - Bay St. Louis Marina, MS</td>
<td>31 Notes:</td>
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