October is here and it looks as if we are well on our way to making through a fairly inactive hurricane season. October brings with it more pleasant weather and the Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival on October 8th and 9th. I look forward to seeing you there.

October also brings the task of compiling Merit Mark recommendations. As I work on these recommendations it encourages me to see how many of our members are deserving of recognition for their contributions to our squadron. So that no one is overlooked in this process please feel free to remind me of your contributions this year.

The USPS District 15 Fall Council meeting was held on September 17, 2016. It was hosted at the homeport of the Mobile Sail and Power Squadron.

The USPS District 15 Fall Conference is hosted by the Pensacola Sail and Power Squadron on October 14-16, 2016. All LPSPS members are invited to attend.
There are limitations to both electronic LED distress signals and traditional flares. Traditional flares can be compromised by being in a relatively wet environment. They burn hot and don't last very long. In addition, they often have limited shelf life as defined by the manufacturer, and many boaters find themselves buying new one every three years.

In comparison, LED lights last longer and are much safer to use, but as with any onboard electronics, battery life is an issue. LED's are also easier to test than traditional flares.

If you're on the water and find yourself in danger and in need of immediate assistance, transmit a DSc distress call or shift to channel 16 and issue a voice mayday. Have an EPIRB and your visual distress signals ready. Make sure whatever type of daytime distress signal you have on board is in serviceable condition, and carry a night-use visual device. As boaters we must always be prepared for threatening situations.

Information obtained from Joan Wenner’s article in The Ensign

Visual distress signals

As boaters, we hope we never have to use these, but they are an important part of our onboard emergency equipment arsenal. It's important to know that the U.S. Coast Guard sets minimum standards for recreational vessels to comply with federal rules.

To meet these standards, safety equipment is labeled Coast Guard "approved", or "certified", meaning it has met Coast Guard standards and regulations for performance, construction or materials.

Some manufactures use language such as Coast Guard "tested" or "cleared" to imply approval or certification where none exists. One related instance in which the Coast Guard was asked about a product, and they responded that they had no specific regulation against the use of such product, this turned into "USCG approval" of the product on the company's website.

The Coast Guard is sending out an increasing number of letters threatening legal action to offending companies that falsely claim or imply USCG approval of their products.

LED lights have evolved as an alternative to traditional flare visual distress signals and can be significantly better for the environment. In the next several years, an estimated 30 million flares will be disposed of in the U.S., many not in accordance with local and state hazardous waste regulations as the Coast Guard requires.

The Sirius Signal SOS C-1001 and Weems & Plath's LEF SOS Distress Light both meet requirements for nighttime visual distress signals.

Waiting at the Carnival Embarkation facility in New Orleans.

Photo courtesy of Janice Bordelon
We had 5 students pass the ABC (America’s Boating Course) USPS and State Exams with flying colors. Two of the students were a mom and her college age daughter. They drove from Lafayette (2.5 hrs) and mom hopes to soon be a charter captain in St. Thomas, BVI. The other 3 students are local and operate a large crabbing business on Lake Pont.

Thank you, thank you to PC John Gniady, Jeff Williams and PDC Bill Dietrich for their dedication and excellent preparations and presentations for the ABC Course. Nick Chronis submitted the demographic data to the LAWLF so the state certificates will be mail to the students. Thank you Peg Roy for taking care of all the administration and paper work that comes along with the program.

Members Bob and Jeanie Johnson completed and passed the INTENSE SAIL Course. What a challenging learning experience. Thanks to Jeff Williams for all his talents and dedication, including “hands-on”, on the water training.

Instructors Lynn and PDC Bill Dietrich completed the recent Coastal Navigation Course (P). It was the 2nd P course of the year and the tests for the 4 students are in USPS HQ for grading. Great Course….excellent instructing.

An Advance Piloting Class is underway. We have 6 students attending. The instructors, Lynn Hasse and PDC Bill Dietrich, are spear-heading this 10 week program. This is the first AP class in a Long time. Good luck to the attendees and all the thanks to our dedicated instructors.

We are asking members to help in our educational efforts. We need their talents and experiences to teach or help teach Seminars (1 – 2 hours long) at our membership meetings. LOTS or great Seminars are offered by USPS…just need the folks to present. Let us challenge each other to participate in this effort. Let us know if you are interested in this endeavor.
Ahoy LPSPS members,

Many of our members just returned from a very memorable rendezvous on the Cruise Ship Triumph. Feedback indicated fun was had by all, on the high seas and in Cozumel. Many are already discussing plans for a cruise next year.

We have a couple of rendezvous planned for this month of October. The first is the LSU vs. Ole Miss game in Baton Rouge on 22nd October. An email was sent out regarding this rendezvous recently. The second rendezvous in October is at John and Carol Bell's lovely home for their famous lobster boil. The date for the LPSPS lobster boil at John and Carol's is October 29th.

Stay tuned, more to come. Please plan to attend the general membership meeting and watch your email for additional information regarding these events.

Happy and safe boating.

Dinner on-board Carnival Triumph at sea.
Doug, Art, Norma, Scott, John, Ann, George, Helen, Elaine.

Photos courtesy of Janice Bordelon
2016 Calendar of Events for the next 60 Days see page 9

LPSPS OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13th, 2016
6:00 SOCIAL HOUR 7:00 DINNER AND MEETING
Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum
133 Mabel Drive, Madisonville, LA
LET’S CELEBRATE FALL!!!
Bring a FALL FAVORITE dish to share along with recipe copies.
Also don’t forget to bring your favorite beverage!

Rendezvous number 1 is the LSU vs. Ole Miss game in Baton Rouge on 22nd October.

Rendezvous number 2 is at John and Carol Bell’s home for their famous lobster boil, October 29th.

Advanced Piloting Course
This course is underway and proceeds for 10 consecutive weeks. Location: Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum, 133 Mabel Dr., Madisonville, LA
Contact either Lynn Haase or Bill Dietrich for more information.

Let the Education Department know what USPS Seminars you may be interested in seeing at our upcoming General Membership Meetings. They are trying to accommodate your needs.
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Elena Janssen
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- Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron
# Calendar

## October 2016

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## Notes:

- LPBMM Wooden Boat Festival
- Columbus Day
- General Membership Meeting – Maritime Museum – Pot Luck Meal - Social @ 6 pm; meeting @ 7 pm
- Rendezvous – Lobster Boil & Halloween Party Theme – Bell’s House – 11:00 am – BYOB & Pumpkin to carve