



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF LAKE CHARLES POWER SQUADRON
LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons

*Articles and opinions herein do not reflect the policy
or endorsement of the USPS or LCPS unless so designated.*

Volume 51 Issue 1

January 2003

Commanders Corner

General Meeting

The January Meeting will be held on January 8th. The meal will be a covered dish. This will be an important meeting as we are to elect the next years Commander and Officers. Please make plans to attend.

December Boating Activity

We had several boats in attendances at the Christmas boat parade. Things moved rather swiftly and concluded with a spectacular firework display so that anyone who wished to attend the MSU football game could.

Special Thanks

I want to personally thank Lt. Harvey Kuttner and Margaret for graciously opening their home to the Squadron Membership for the December's General meeting. We had a great turnout and the food was wonderful.

This year we collected donations for the local Women's Shelter. Lt/C Songa Gremillion arranged to have a representative from the Board as our guest. Another worthwhile program we as USPS Members are involved with.

January Boating Activity

We will raft up in the lake. Theme will be Chili Chilly or is it Chilly Chili. Bring your best Chili recipe along with your friends. See you then!

Cdr. John Loukas, AP

OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Board of Directors)

<i>Commander</i>	<i>Cdr John Loukas, AP Kellison Rd. (337) 625-2056</i>
<u>EXECUTIVE OFFICER</u>	<i>Lt/C Ron Gremillion, AP (337) 527-5570</i>
<u>EDUCATIONAL OFFICER</u>	<i>Lt/C Sheryl Dautriel, AP (337) 598-2966</i>
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER</u>	<i>Lt/C Songa Gremillion, P (337) 527-5570</i>
<u>SECRETARY</u>	<i>Lt/C Ned Dautriel, AP (337) 598-2966</i>
<u>TREASURER</u>	<i>P/C Armin Brahm, P (337) 478-6856</i>
<u>IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER</u>	<i>P/C Chris McCain, P</i>
<u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS</u>	<i>Lt Larry Farmer Lt Harvey Kuttner Lt Annette McCain</i>
<u>Anchorline Editor</u>	<i>Annette McCain, P (337) 625-2088 413 Bowmer Ln. Sulphur, LA. 70663 mccain.c@cox-internet.com</i>

DEADLINE FOR PUBLICATION

January 22, 2003
E-MAIL ITEMS TO
Chris and Annette McCain
mccain.c@cox-internet.com

Check us out on the Web at our website below
<http://www.lcpsonline.org>

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

FIRST WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH
Social starts at 1800
Meeting starts at 1900

General Meeting

Our next General meeting is a very important meeting. We will have elections for the upcoming 2003 bridge. It will be held on January 8th. Menu is cover dish. Please make plans to attend.

Mark Your Calendar

January

1-5	USPS Annual Meeting	Orlando, FL.
1	Chilly Chili Raft-up	Lake Charles
8	General Meeting	Anchorage
17-18	Incoming Commanders Meeting	Lake Charles
29	Executive Committee Meeting	Anchorage
Jan 31 –		
Feb 1	Lake Charles Boat Show	Civic Center

February

5	General Meeting	Anchorage
15	Lake Charles Change of Watch	Pujo St. Café
15	Boat Smart Course	McNeese
26	Executive Board Meeting	Anchorage

Birthdays

Liz Phillips	1/1
Nonie Liles	1/3
Martin Hardy	1/8
Martha Hains	1/12
Sheron Faulk-Swoop	1/18
Ralph Johnson	1/25
Delores Ward	1/30

Please remember that if it is not here then I do not have it. Please contact Annette McCain at 625-2088 or by email at mccain.c@cox-internet.com

EDUCATION REPORT

Congratulations to **Lt Harvey Kuttner** and **Lt/C Ron Gremillion** for passing **Weather** in December. They worked hard to complete the course before the end of year 2002.

P/C Ralph Johnson has completed his sight folder for the **Navigation** Course. This is a major accomplishment so be sure to congratulate him.

A few members have inquired about the Seamanship Course and there are a few manuals in stock. Bridge officers and new members build on the basics learned in Boating; the Seamanship course is an important foundation for other "advanced grade" courses.

The student learns –

Basic marlinespike seamanship

Hull design

Navigation rules

Operation under normal and adverse conditions

Responsibilities of the skipper

Fire prevention and control

Basic first aid

Common courtesies on the water

Boat care

Nautical customs and flag etiquette

Interested? So sign up now!!

Revised Coast Guard Life Jacket Rule: Effective on 23 December 2002. It is intended to minimize drownings among children under 13. In support of the ongoing efforts of the states and Coast Guard to improve boating safety, the Coast Guard is requiring that all children under 13 years of age wear Coast Guard approved life jackets, while aboard recreational vessels underway, except when the children are below decks or in an enclosed cabin.

Lt Chris Nelsen has scheduled two **Boating** Courses for those in the DeRidder area. The dates are 08 February 2003 and 22 February 2003.

Boat Smart is scheduled at McNeese University on 15 February 2003. The one-day Boat Smart class falls on the same date as our Change of Watch. Your cooperation will be needed and greatly appreciated.

Lt Sheron Faulk Swoope reminds everyone that she is taking orders for our LCPS burgee with new gold band to commemorate the squadron's 50th anniversary. Only eleven remain, so get yours ordered right **now!** Call Ship-To-Shore **474-0730**.

A positive New Year's Resolution is to further your boating education.

Have a Happy New Year and Safe Boating!
Sheryl Dautriel
Squadron Education
Officer

Anchor Line

January 2003

Memoriam



Please keep Ralph and Kay Johnson in your prayers as they mourn the untimely death of their son. Eric Neil Johnson, 44, passed away suddenly on Wed, Dec. 11, 2002, in Bolder, Co.

Squadron Store

I contacted the company who makes our nametags and asked them if they can add the gold border around our burgee on tags that we already have. They informed me that it was impossible to make the change with our names already on the tag. Our burgee must be reduced in size so that the gold border brings it back to the current size on our tag. If there is anyone who would like a new tag with the gold border you can email me the information at mccain.c@cox-internet.com. The prices are as follows. A tag w/pin Clip is \$5.00 and a tag w/Magnetic clip is \$7.00. If you need information about them please contact Annette McCain at 337-625-2088. The tags have our squadron burgee with name in white on a black background.

Lake Charles Annual Boat Show



The Lake Boat Show will be held on Friday, January 31 through Sunday February 2nd. We need volunteers to man a Power Squadron booth. If you can make it please contact Sheron Faulk Swoop at Ship to Shore to sign up. We have plenty of time slots call early to pick the best times. Call Sheron at 474-0730 or email at shiptoshore@expedius.net

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Lake Charles Mardi Gras Lighted Boat Parade March 2, 2003, An Evening of Fun!!!

Last year, with fifteen minutes to spare, we registered for our first ever Mardi Gras parade. Several weeks earlier, we purchased 1,400 throws (beads, rings, coins, footballs, and the list goes on), and began planning on the big day. For those of you who may not have been on the water that evening, we had temperatures in the 40's with 15-knot winds out of the north, and it was cold! But the crew of ten said let's do it, so we headed to Lake Charles, and spent the evening on Contraband Bayou looking for a place to get out of the wind. Even with the cold, we had a great time, and the folks said let's do it next year.... and guess what.... it's almost that time again.

I did a quick check of the Internet, and found out that Fat Tuesday is really late this year. It's March 4th and a Krewe website that shows the following:

Event: Lighted Mardi Gras Boat Parade
Date: March 2, 2003
Day: Sunday
Time: 1900 hours
Location: Lake Charles Seawall

Since I've left the Christmas lights on the boat, and since the opening of red snapper season is after Mardi Gras, we'll just recycle our Christmas lights and save the day of work decorating the boat. So we're set and barring horrible weather, will make an evening of it.

We learned several things about both purchasing Mardi Gras throws, as well as what to buy in the future. The small little throw rings, cups, wrist beads, small plastic footballs, and coins all experienced mixed reviews on making it to the crowd. The fifteen-knot winds played a roll in this, but so did the lightweight of the throws. This year, I think we're going to stick with a bunch of different types of bead throws. Between the companies in Lake Charles, as well as the internet companies across the south, there are some real deals to be had when purchasing a case of throws, and one of the keys is not buying at the last minute.

We'll track down more information, as well as a registration form, and try to get it in our February Anchorline. Until then, see if you have a Krewe who wants to enjoy the evening and begin planning your own Mardi Gras fun this year.

Hope to see you there,

Chris H. Nelsen



Can You Run 4,000 Christmas Lights Off Your Boat Battery?

You're probably wondering: Why would anybody ask such a ridiculous question, and why wouldn't you just run the Christmas lights off of the boat generator? Well, as some of you know, our marine generator went south again about six weeks ago and not being in the recent Christmas parade was not an option.

The answer to the above question is "**absolutely yes**", thanks once again to the power of surfing the Internet. I've tried the small, heavy, noisy, and hot portable generator on the fishing deck of our boat several years ago, and although it got us through the parade, we needed a better option this year, since repairing our generator meant removing it again.... ughhhh!.... and we'll tackle that after the New Year.

The only other option was looking at purchasing an "inverter" that converts 12 volts dc to 110 volts ac. Since we normally run about 5,000 lights for the Christmas boat parade, I was guessing we needed to purchase a really large inverter. Purchasing 1,500 or 2,000-watt inverters take a healthy paycheck, so I jumped into eBay, and found two Coleman 1,000 watt inverters for \$86 apiece. The price was right and this way, I could put a load on each of the boat's 4D batteries. Then I went to Wal-Mart and purchased a 20' long set of heavy gauge automobile battery jumper cables, followed by a trip to the local electrical store to buy four wire connectors. Taking the set of jumper cables, I cut them in half, so I had two ten foot lengths in which one end of each set, had the large clamp grips that go on your battery. The other end was terminated with the connectors so they could be connected to each inverter.

With about 4,000 lights, the starboard inverter had a 550-watt load, and the port inverter had a 600-watt load, and the voltage dropped from 13.5 volts to 12.2 volts, so we were set. We kept all the non-essential 12-volt accessories turned off the entire evening of the parade.

Cont' page 5

Can You Run 4,000 Christmas Lights Off Your Boat Battery? Cont' from page 4

We had portable lanterns to give us light in the main berth, head, and salon. I also kept all of our electronic gear turned off except the VHF radio, incase we got into a low voltage problem. Some of you may have also noticed, we kept almost all of our Christmas lights turned off until minutes before the parade was to start. The first pass down the seawall was great and a lot of fun, and all systems looked good. I noticed the battery with the heavier load (each inverter has a lighted readout for both watts and voltage) was already down to 11.3 volts. So we continued the parade running one engine in neutral and at 3,000 rpm. The result was enough current from that engine's alternator to bring the battery voltage back up to 12 volts! As we wrapped up the second pass, and as we turned our boat to port to head out into the lake, I heard some alarming sounds. Putting both engines into neutral, I climbed down from the flying bridge and saw the readouts on both inverters were 10.4 volts, and the alarms were letting me know the voltage was dropping. So we turned off the Christmas lights, voltage jumped back up to over 12 volts, and we were successful in pulling off a major lighted boat parade with two 4D batteries. How's that for deep cycling your batteries to increase their overall life!!!

Chris H. Nelsen

Lake Charles Christmas Boat Parade an Enjoyable Success

Saturday afternoon, December 7th, had all the makings for an enjoyable evening on the water. The winds were almost non-existent, the temperature was in the upper 50's with a forecast of dropping to the lower 50's, and Lake Charles was in the Christmas spirit.

During the boat parade registration process on the lake, we were told our number was #10 and that ten boats had pre-registered, but there could be a few more. Shortly after 1800 hours, we started lining up and fifteen decorated boats were ready for the evening. Checking our boat log, as well as our memories, we can't remember a better turnout in the last half dozen years or so.

Due to the McNeese State University football playoff game, the fireworks were rescheduled to fire off at 1815 hours, followed by the boat parade. When the fireworks ended, we closed in on the seawall and made our passes to a large and excited crowd. An obvious concern for several of us this year was whether or not folks would hang around after the fireworks. We quickly found out that at least for the first pass of parade boats, our concerns were unfounded. The seawall headcount showed us that somewhere between 900 – 1,000 folks

were there to enjoy the parade. Kelly O'Blanc of the Arts & Humanities Council of SWLA did a great job in pulling this event together, and special thanks to Commander John Loukas for letting them use one of his VHF radios.

Of the fifteen boats, three well-decorated boats, filled with folks ready to bring in the Christmas Holidays, represented our Squadron. They included **Stan and Joyce Chapman** on Miss JP, with guests **Don and Martha Hains, Ralph and Nonie Liles**, and **Ellie and Charles LeMoine**; **Ron and Songa Gremillion** on Lu-e-Lueze, with guests **Charles and Linda Dessommes**, and **Herman and Patsy Manuel, Vickie and Luke Loukas**, and **Karen Richard** and our boat Reel Paradise, with a smaller crowd this year of only nine family and friends.

After the parade, the judges quickly announced the winners and began passing out trophies to the following folks:

Best of Show	The Nile	Carson Fasske
1 st Place	Aquatic Infatuation	Dion & Shay
Schoening		
2 nd Place	Reel Paradise	Chris & Vickie Nelsen
3 rd Place	Desparado	Tony & Kim Giaimis
4 th Place	Lu-e-Lueze	Ron & Songa Gremillion
5 th Place	Southern Exposure	Gary Connor

We were back at the dock around 2000 hours so the crowd could go hit the mall for some additional Christmas shopping. I removed the speakers, flags, secured the boat for the evening, and sat back and watched the videotape I shot from the flying bridge during the parade. It was fun to see how many folks had a fun time and it was once again a great way to bring in the Christmas holidays.

Chris H. Nelsen



Cooperative Charting Program

Lt. Chris H. Nelsen



Traveling to Washington's Peace Arch Park

Last week, I needed to spend several days in Boise, Idaho to attend a Total Quality Conference, so I chose to fly through Seattle and spend four days with my Mom prior to the meeting. This would give me a few days to help ensure the house was ready for another Pacific Northwest winter, as well as take care of any last minute yard work and errands. My mom just turned 76, and she's one of those rare ladies who never acquired a drivers license, so every time I'm up there, we take off on a short trip. This gives her a chance to get out of the house and we either find a place she hasn't been to, or re-create a trip we did as a family years ago. This trip to Seattle was no different, and I decided to take her up to Blaine, Washington. Blaine is one of the northern most towns in Washington, and is located on Interstate 5 at the Canadian border. My plans included a visit to the Peace Arch, the beautiful grounds and park, as well as having a nice lunch at a restaurant on the water, overlooking the harbor and two marinas.

You're probably wondering how this relates to Cooperative Charting. Well, the night before heading to Houston and flying out, I turned on my Magellan 330M GPS, made Blaine a waypoint to identify it's longitude and latitude, and went into www.ngs.noaa.gov to do a short radius search of markers around the Peace Arch. To my surprise, I found a number of concrete monument markers that dated back to 1905 and 1936, all located within walking distance of the Peace Arch. Spending a few more minutes on the computer, I also found a marker in a rock that's dated 1858, located on the beach a few miles away. All of these markers had not been witnessed in the last 20-40 years, and none of them had ever been witnessed by a USPS member. So the second day I was in Seattle, we headed north, and enjoyed the drive up to the border. Parking the car a few hundred yards from the Peace Arch, I could see five of the first six markers without even leaving the car, and it was just as I pictured. Five of the markers were ornamental concrete obelisks that stood six foot tall, with cast inscriptions that identified the international boundary, the Canadian side, and the United States side. With very little effort, I was able to search for a dozen markers and our Squadron will receive the appropriate points. After walking up to the Arch and to each marker, we then enjoyed a great lunch on the water, dining at an Italian restaurant where we each had fresh halibut cooked in an Italian lemon butter sauce. Wow! I saved the 1858 marker for another trip. It will take me about a half-hour to walk down a beach during low tide and look for it. It was last witnessed in 1960, so I believe it's still there...and if so, may be one of the oldest markers ever witnessed by a USPS member.

We still have an easy three full months of chalking up points for our Squadron and District, so feel free to get out there and search for some markers. Don't forget we have a number of 3-ring binders of data sheets at the Anchorage, for the Lake Charles area, and they are ready for you. Merry Christmas, and if I can be of any help to you, please don't hesitate to ask.



LAKE CHARLES POWER SQUADRON

A UNIT OF UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

SAIL AND POWER BOATING

CHANGE OF WATCH

SATURDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2003

HONORING

<i>Commander</i>		<i>Ron Gremillion, AP</i>	<i>(Commander)</i>
<i>Lieutenant</i>	<i>Commander</i>	<i>Songa Gremillion, P</i>	<i>(Executive)</i>
<i>Lieutenant</i>	<i>Commander</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>(Education)</i>
<i>Lieutenant</i>	<i>Commander</i>	<i>Ned Dautriel, AP</i>	<i>(Administrative)</i>
<i>Lieutenant</i>	<i>Commander</i>	<i>Annette McCain, P</i>	<i>(Secretary)</i>
<i>Lieutenant</i>	<i>Commander</i>	<i>Chuck Lemoine</i>	<i>(Treasurer)</i>

INSTALLING OFFICER

District Commander

Vernon L. Helmke, AP

Time: 1800 Cash Bar 1900 Dinner and Program
Place: **Pujo St. Café 337-439-2054**
901 Ryan St.
Corner of Ryan St. and Pujo St.
Lake Charles, LA

Menu: Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo or Blackened catfish,
Rice Pilaf, Steamed vegetables, Dessert, Iced tea and Coffee

Dress: **Uniform "A" (with bow tie) or "After 5"**

Cost: \$25.00 per person

RSVP by 12 February 2003
Cancellation not later than 13 February 2003

Please detach and mail with check payable to:

LAKE CHARLES POWER SQUADRON
Attn: P/C Armin Brahm
4201 Waterwood Dr.
Lake Charles, La. 70605-4477

INQUIRIES, REGRETS, OR CANCEL:
Phone: (337) 527-5570
E-mail: gremmsg@communicomm.com

Lake Charles Power Squadron Change of Watch

Reservations @ \$25.00 each TOTAL ----- MENU ITEM:

NAME(S) OF ATTENDEE(S): _____

United States Power Squadrons District 21 2003 Incoming Officers Meeting

17-18 Jan 2003

Best Western Richmond Suites Hotel 800-643-2582 or 337-433-5213
I-10 at US 171 Lake Charles, LA bestwestern.com/richmondsuiteshotel

17 Jan 03, Friday,	1600-2130	Registration & Hospitality (heavy hors d'oeuvres & cowboy stew) Room 102
18 Jan 03, Saturday,	0730-1130	Hospitality Suite Open, Room 102
	0730-0755	Registration
	0800-1700	Meeting and Luncheon
	1130-1600	Social Luncheon & tour
	1700 -1830	Hospitality,
	1830 - ???	Dinner, & Hospitality

Friday and Saturday are structured with both informal and formal times to enable attendees to get better acquainted. The incoming 2003 Squadron Bridge members will be able to discuss things first hand with their counterparts in other squadrons as well as D21 officers and past officers.

On Friday evening the hospitality suite will be open to unwind from your long drives, eat lots of good food and meet with members of District 21.

The Saturday meeting and luncheon will provide extensive discussions of all aspects of things related to successful operation of a USPS Squadron.

On Saturday spouses of attendees will be having lunch at a nearby restaurant followed by a tour of the Mardi Gras Museum of Imperial Calcasieu. Our guide will be Lake Charles Power Squadron Member, Margaret "Maggie" Cromwell, a past Queen of the Krewe of Noblesse, whose royal attire is prominently displayed there. Many other costumes of the past kings, queens, dukes and duchesses of all the krewes will be seen as well.

After the formal meeting ends on Saturday the Hospitality, Dinner, & Hospitality function will allow the attendees and spouses to further expand relationships with new and old friends.

Plan early to attend-to learn-to have fun.

**Make your room reservations ASAP -- but not later than 18 Dec 02!!
This is Mardi Gras season----- space is limited.**

Please return the registration form as soon as possible so we can be sure we have enough facility space, food, and drink for all.

Contact Ken Wilkinson, DXO, for detailed information: kdwilkinson@att.net or 337-478-6886

Dress code for the weekend will be Business Casual or Blue Blazer

Smoking is prohibited inside all facilities

USPS District 21 2003 Incoming Officers Meeting
Best Western Richmond Suites I-10 & US 171

Lake Charles LA

17 – 18 Jan 03

Registration Form

Please return as soon as possible with checks payable to: **USPS District 21**

Mail to: **Ken Wilkinson**
1305 Charlestown Ln
Lake Charles, LA 70605
kdwilkinson@att.net or 337-478-6886

Name & Rank _____ Grade _____ Squadron _____

Incoming 2003 Job _____

Spouse & Rank _____ Grade _____

Incoming 2003 Job _____

Email _____ Fax _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Hospitality, Heavy Hors D'oeuvres & Cowboy Stew (\$13 per person) \$ _____

Meeting & Lunch (\$17.00 per person) \$ _____

Spouse Lunch & Mardi Gras Museum tour (\$17.00 per person) \$ _____

Saturday Evening Dinner & Hospitality (\$20.00 per person) \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Room Fee includes full breakfast & evening refreshments

Best Western Richmond Suites Hotel 800-643-2582 or 337-433-5213

I-10 at US 171 Lake Charles, LA bestwestern.com/richmondsuiteshotel

Queen & King (standard & executive) \$79, Standard Suite \$89, Deluxe Suite \$99;

Double Occupancy, room rate plus 11.5% tax:

Make your room reservations ASAP -- but not later than 18 Dec 02!!

This is Mardi Gras season----- space is limited

Sixth USPS® Youth Poster Contest Entry Form 2002- 2003

Who can enter? Children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews of USPS member's ages 6 to 14 years old are eligible. There is a first, second, and third place winner in each division. All entries will receive a certificate and treated to a party. Winners will receive gift certificates.

Age divisions: Ages 6 - 8, 9 – 11, and 12 – 14

Contest Rules:

- ✓ The entry must be vertical, not horizontal, in orientation.
- ✓ The entry must be on **15 by 20 or 14 by 22 inch poster paper**.
- ✓ Participants may sketch the design lightly with pencil, but the end result must be a color poster.
- ✓ There is no limit to the type of media used, except professional illustrations, photos or copyrighted material may not be used, and computer generated art may not be submitted.
- ✓ Do not fold poster.
- ✓ The poster will be judged for the idea presented more than artistic ability.
- ✓ The contest entry form must be completed and pasted on back of the poster.
- ✓ One entry per person, please.
- ✓ All entries become the property of United States Power Squadrons, which reserves the right to display or otherwise use the submission and modify any poster for future reproduction.

Sixth USPS® Youth Poster Contest Entry Form - 2002- 2003

Theme: “CATCH THE BOATING SAFETY HABIT”

Instructions: Complete this form and paste on back of poster. **Deadline: February 24, 2003**

Mail to: Annette McCain, 413 Bowmer Ln., Sulphur, LA, 70663. All entries become the property of USPS, which reserves the right to display or otherwise use submission.

Artist Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone: () _____

Squadron _____ District _____

Squadron Member's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone: () _____

I give the United States Power Squadron® permission to include a picture of the above named artist in any publication of the United States Power Squadron including the squadron and district newsletters.

Member's Signature _____

Safety Recall: SOS Inc. Inflatable Life Jackets

United States Coast Guard
U. S. Coast Guard Headquarters
Washington, DC

SAFETY ALERT/Media Advisory

Date 8-28-2002

Coast Guard Announces Safety Recall of SOS Inc. Inflatable Life Jackets Equipped With The Hammar Model MA1 Manual/Automatic Inflators.

SOS Inc., (SOSPENDERS brand), of Fruitland, ID, alerted the United States Coast Guard, distributors and public that they are recalling approximately 7,200 automatic inflatable personal flotation devices (PFDs or life jackets) to investigate a safety defect involving the Hammar model MA1 Manual/Automatic inflators.

SOS, Inc. makes PFDs using two different types of automatic inflators for their inflatable vest. They emphasized, that only PFDs using the Hammar model MA1 Manual/Automatic inflators are affected by this recall. To date, SOS Inc. has not received any reports of PFDs malfunctioning in the field, and no injuries have been reported. The Coast Guard and the manufacturer noted that all the identified inflatable PFDs should be returned to the SOS Inc. factory in Fruitland, ID.

The Coast Guard and SOS, Inc. stressed: it is important that **consumers stop using the identified PFDs immediately and return them to SOS Inc.** To assist distributors and consumers the following information is provided:

1. Follow the procedure provided by SOS at their web site (click on "**• warning • SOSpenders Recall Notice**") www.sospenders.com, or by
2. Contacting SOS Inc. customer service department at **1-800-858-5876** between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. PST, Monday through Friday for shipping instructions.

SOS Inc. indicated that approximately 300 defective Hammar inflators in one lot of 500 were assembled incorrectly and will not inflate the PFD with CO2 gas either automatically or manually. Only oral inflation of the PFDs with the incorrectly assembled inflators will provide any buoyancy to the user.

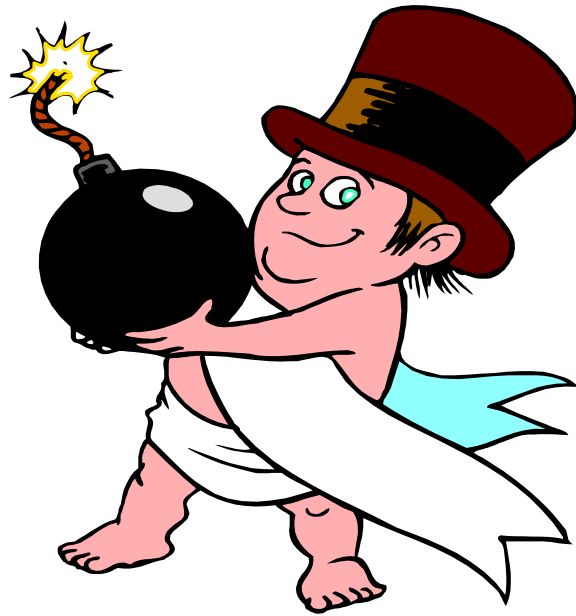
Since there may be a significant risk of drowning if these PFDs are not inflated, SOS Inc. has made the decision to recall all products using the Hammar inflator for a 100% safety inspection. SOS Inc. will apply an additional marking on each inflator that passes this inspection.

The Coast Guard points out that this recall demonstrates why it is so **important for consumers to register their inflatable PFDs or any consumer product with the manufacturer.** When a safety recall such as this is necessary, the manufacturers must have a registration on file to effectively contact the affected consumer in a timely manner.

The affected PFDs have the brand name *SOSPENDERS*. These PFDs can be identified by the Yellow Hammar MA1, Manual/Automatic Inflator Cap (see Figure 1):

For more information go to the United States Coast guard link below.

<http://www.uscgboating.org/index.aspx>



Happy New Year



**ANCHOR LINE
LAKE CHARLES POWER SQUADRON
413 Bowmer Ln.
Sulphur, LA. 70663**

Editor, Annette McCain