



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF LAKE CHARLES POWER SQUADRON
LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons

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Volume 49 Issue 3
March 2001



Commanders Corner

*Cdr. Christopher M. McCain P
Lake Charles Power Squadron*

Myself along with our new bridge thanks all of you for your vote of confidence. I now want to thank P/C Armin Brahm and his wife Janelle (our new Boating activities Chairperson) for the use of their home and hospitality as well as the smooth transition at the COW. Along with the help of P/C Tom Cameron and his wife Elaine and Ben and Pat Garber Sr., The COW went very well.

I would like to Thank all of the members of the squadron for participating in year 2000 and we hope to keep your involvement as the bridge year 2001 commences. Our Bridge has come up with a motto: Busy as a beaver Young guns 2001. I'm hoping that this will be the best year yet with the numerous events coming up. Membership

participation is what the Lake Charles Power Squadron is all about.

Being a nonprofit organization we rely on our members to share their time to make this the best squadron in all of District 21. I will be posting a list of the new officers and chairpersons of the numerous committees on the bulletin board at the Anchorage. You will note that we still have a few openings, so please don't hesitate to volunteer for these committees.

I would like to congratulate P/C Armin Brahm for being nominated for Assistant Boating Activities Chairman (District) to handle D/21 Fleet Review, which will be held here in Lake Charles Oct.12-14. In addition Armin has accepted a three- (3) year term on the D/21 rules committee. I would also like to congratulate P/C Ken Wilkinson for being nominated for D/21 Administrative Officer.

By now all of our members should have received their invitations to Spring Conference in Austin. The date is set for April 5-8, and it sounds like a good time as well as provides us a chance to see into the workings of District.

We're still working on a Calendar of Events and a rough draft will be attached to the bulletin board at the Anchorage, which will be updated regularly.

Cdr. Chris McCain

EDUCATION REPORT

Members who did not attend the Feb 03rd **Boat Smart** class missed seeing a group of eager boaters who appreciated the course and the LCPS Anchorage. Thirty-seven registered with thirty-five testing and passing. One was underage and the other did not test. It is a pleasure to announce that P/C Alice Pippin was available to sign up one new recruit for our squadron. Cdr (now P/C) Armin Brahm spoke briefly about the USPS boating safety program and our LCPS.

Prior to the class, P/C Stan Chapman did an excellent media appearance in uniform promoting the BS Course. He instructed Section One, "Getting Ready". Lt. Sheron Faulk Swoop has been the central contact person for the public and receives many calls concerning the boating classes and signees from the Boat Show. She instructed Section Two, "What's Needed" and placed a news release to our local newspaper. P/C Ray Lebert concluded the course by instructing "Rules to Live By". It was apparent that the class appreciated his expert knowledge of boating. We are grateful to have such dedicated instructors.

Many helped at Boat Smart for which we are thankful. 1st Lt. Ned Dautriel supplied doughnuts and coffee and his heater for the day. Because the weather was a bit chilly, P/Lt/C Charles Dessommes also furnished his hugh heater. I don't think we have ever been so warm! Lt. Herman Manuel had to bring in more sodas. Lt. (now Commander) Chris McCain manned the kitchen and kept that end functioning. Lt. John Loukas and C (now P/C) Armin Brahm graded exams and Janelle Brahm recorded their grades. Everything ran smoothly. We even had space for members to take the three-hour **Vessel Safety Check Exam**, which will be reported by Ken Wilkinson. The Anchorage was truly hopping with activity and all of your help was appreciated.

I must mention that the free **Activity Book** handouts were a great success when distributed at the Lake Charles Boat Show. It is a wonderful way to reach young people and to teach boat safety.

February 24th is when Lt. Chris Nelsen will instruct the **Boating Course** in DeRidder. Exam date will be about March 24th. The new 2001 material along with CD-ROM furnished by USPS will be used. He also incorporates PWC info and exams with this course. LCPS will have the next Boating Course on Sept. 11 in Gayle Hall at McNeese University.

Seamanship is meeting on Tuesday nights at the Anchorage with six members. Exams will be in March. Lt Ben Garber, Sr. is instructing this course and has taken the Closed Book exam for **Junior Navigation**. He is awaiting results. The others are still putting together their site folders. We plan to start a **Piloting Course** right after Seamanship. "Don't be left out!" Contact me soon, so your book can be ordered.

Anchor Line

March 2001

Now that Change of Watch and Mardi Gras has passed, P/C Alice Pippin's students will soon complete **Advanced Piloting**. Harvey Kuttner has passed the exam for **Engine Maintenance**. Home study in **Marine Electronics** has a group of three members with two more to add when their books arrive. The **Weather Course** is planned to begin sometime this Spring after the April Conference. We have not had this course offered lately. So don't miss a special speaker or an arranged "demonstration"! You will learn how to make weather observations and predictions, learn how to read a weather map and the sky, structure of the atmosphere and much more. You as the skipper are responsible for your crew, so it is important to learn about the weather. **Navigation** books arrived and students picked up most materials. We have been late in getting this course "off the ground", but in our location, Spring is the best time to get sites. Members taking Navigation are P/C Virginia Gilbert, P/C Ken Wilkinson, P/C Alice Pippin, and P/C Ralph Johnson.

Just a reminder for you to visit our local Lake Charles Power Squadron website. We are now linked to District 21 at: <http://www.org/localusps/d21/lcps> Thank you Ben Garber, Jr. for such a fine job. It looks great!

We will attend the April Conference in Austin, Texas to update the squadron members of the latest on boating safety education.

Safe Boating!
Sheryl Dautriel
Squadron Education Officer



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Janet Gilpin	3/05
Kay Johson	3/11
Henry Liles	3/17
John Loukas	3/17
Chris Nelsen	3/20
Ben Garber, Jr.	3/23

Please remember that if it isn't here then I don't have it. Please contact me at 625-2088 or email me at mccain.c@att.net

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

John Loukas, AP

I would first like to give my congratulations to our newly installed Commander Chris McCain and his bridge. Also would like to thank all the members who worked so hard to make the COW such a wonderful evening. Congratulations are in order to three of our menders who are on the D/21 board. P/C Ken Wilkinson, P/C Armin Brahm, P/C Don Hains

CO-OP charting event will be in Waco TX. March 16 - 18. If you have not made your reservations yet, you still have time to make them. Check the flyer inset in this month's newsletter.

If you've never been to a Co-op charting event you don't know the fun and fine fellowship you have been missing. Also this is a D/21 event. So come on out meet your friends, make new ones and help the district keep the number one standing of all districts in Co-op charting again this year.

USPS District 21 Spring 2001 Conference to be held in Austin, TX. 5 - 8 April so make your plans early to attend. Rumors have it that Jean Lafitte and his mates will land in Austin, more to follow.

PETTICOAT NEWS

Alice Pippin, chairperson of the petticoats had an informal meeting on Wednesday, 21 Feb to plan the year's activities. The following dates are scheduled. Please mark on Calendars. More information will be published or put out by Big Mouth at a later date.

March 21, 2001	Petticoat Dinner Meeting Location TBA
July 15, 2001	Old Time Summer Social Anchorage
January 4, 2001	12 th Night Party Anchorage

BOATING ACTIVITIES

Our new Boating Activities chairperson, Janelle Brahm, has planned the following boating activities. Please mark your calendar.

March 31	Fort Polk Appreciation Day Lake Charles Civic Center
April 22	"Dinner on the Grounds" @ Anchorage
May 4-6	Contraband Days D21 Rendezvous
June 9	Raft-up (TBA)
July 4	4 th of July Fireworks Raftup Lake Charles
August 4	Full Moon Raft-up
September 1-3	Labor Day Cruise
October 12-14	Fleet Review in Lake Charles
November 11	Raft-up (TBA)
December ?	Lake Charles Lighted Boat Parade
December 8	D21 Christmas Party & Boat Parade /Clear Lake
January 1	New Year's Day Raft-up in Lake Charles
February ?	Mardi Gras Boat Parade Lake Charles Civic Center

Activities and dates are subject to change.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

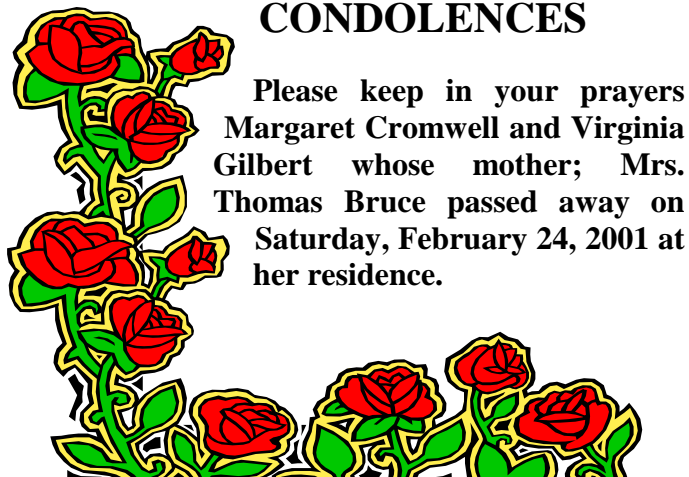
Please thank Buford Pippin the next time you see him. He has decided to retire as our membership chairman. He did a great job for the squadron. With this in mind let us now look at our new membership chairman. Buford's shoes are hard to fill but we have found someone who has accepted the position. Charles Dessommes is our new chairman. Maybe Charles can get some tips from Buford. If there is anyone who is willing to help Charles with this big job just give him a call and he might accept it.

Please welcome our newest members. Make a note in your roster

Trisha Garber - Wife of Ben Garber, Jr.
165 Petticoat Ln.
Lake Charles, LA 70615

Vernon Garber
1320 Moss Ct.
Lake Charles, LA 70601
Phone # 337-439-0857

Marilyn Green
1320 Moss Ct.
Lake Charles, LA 70601
Phone # 337-439-0857



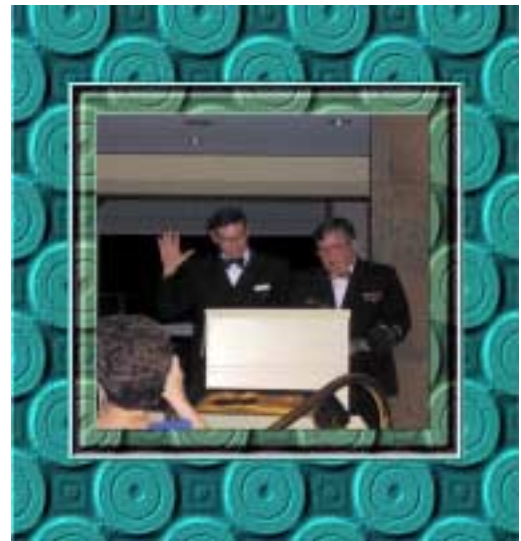
CONDOLENCES

Please keep in your prayers Margaret Cromwell and Virginia Gilbert whose mother; Mrs. Thomas Bruce passed away on Saturday, February 24, 2001 at her residence.



Change of Watch

P/C Armin Brahm & D/C Joe Dorn
It's finally over!!



Cdr. Chris McCain & D/C Joe Dorn
It's just beginning!!

DISTRICT 21'S

“GEODETIC”
COOPERATIVE CHARTING

WACO, TEXAS
March 16 – 18, 2001

MANOR HOUSE INN

4201 Franklin Ave.
Waco, TX 76710

RESERVATIONS
(254) 772-9440

ID AS USPS MEMBER

RATES:

\$53.00 SINGLE OR DOUBLE

NOTE: MUST MAKE RESERVATIONS BY 2 March 2001

SCHEDULE:

FRIDAY 16 MARCH

CHECK IN	1300 – TILL
HOSPITALITY ROOM (MEETING ROOM)	1500 – 2300
DINNER ON YOUR OWN	1800 – TILL

SATURDAY 17 MARCH

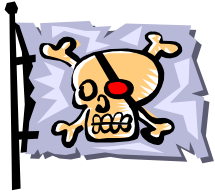
HOSPITALITY ROOM (MEETING ROOM)	0700 – 0800
COFFEE, JUICE, PASTRY	
GROUP MEETING (MEETING ROOM)	0800 – 0900
SEEK & RECOVER BENCHMARKS	0900 – 1500
HOSPITALITY ROOM (MEETING ROOM)	1500 – 1830
(WRITE UP REPORTS)	
GROUP DINNER	1900 – TILL

SUNDAY 18 MARCH

DEPARTURE

SPONSORED BY: DALLAS & FORT WORTH SQUADRONS

CONTRABAND DAYS 2001



Lake Charles Power Squadron Contraband Days
District 21 Rendezvous

Friday, 4 May 2001 - Sunday, 6 May 2001



Ahoy ye mateys! Pirates will invade Lake Charles and it's time for the LC Power Squadrons annual Rendezvous. Our schedule goes as follows. All events are tentative at this time. Details will be published when available. "Contraband Days" is the largest festival in southwest Louisiana, so make your reservations early. With advanced notice you can buy discount Carnival ride bracelets for kids and adults, discount gate passes, and pickup travel brochures for the area.

Friday, 4 May 2001

Grand Opening - Starting at 1730. Jean Lafitte and his Buccaneers sail into Lake Charles, storm the sea wall, defeat the Militia, and capture the mayor. A short trial ensues with the mayor in stocks. He is found guilty and sentenced to "Walk the Plank" at which time two weeks of fun and frolic is declared for Lake Charles citizens and guests. There is a \$2.00 daily admission to the Civic Center grounds and concerts. Festival passes will be available for those who RSVP early.

Saturday, 5 May 2001

Couchon de Lait at the LCPS Anchorage. The picnic starts at 1230 hours and will be finished in time to watch the parade or join the Raftup.

Contraband Street Parade. Over 100 floats with pirates throwing beads and doubloons will be parading North down Ryan St and end at the Civic Center. Starts 1600 hours.

Boat Raft-up on the Lake. After the picnic, boats will leave the anchorage to raft up in the lake and watch the activities. Guests are welcome aboard the boats or they can meet at the Civic Center. Smaller boats will shuttle people back and forth from the Mothership to Civic Center Festival Grounds to continue their enjoyment of the activities first hand. There are many activities for children young and old alike. There are outdoor concerts, food booths, carnival rides and plenty more to enjoy.

Sunday, 6 May 2001

Food Fest in Civic Center. The boat raft-up continues for members and guests. Food Fest is held in the Civic Center for those who want to taste the delicacies of Southwest Louisiana.

Hotels/Motels: These are just a few. Visit the Southwest Louisiana Visitors web site for more at:

www.visitlakecharles.org

Hampton Inn, Sulphur (800) 426-7866	Best Suites of America (800) 237-8466
Microtel, Sulphur (888) 771-7171	Inn on the Bayou (800) 642-2968
LaQuinta Inn (800)-687-6667 www.laquinta.com	Holiday Inn Express (800) 465-4329
Wingate Inn (800) 428-3123	Players Island Hotel (800) 977- 7529
Comfort Suites (800)-228-5150	Inn at the Isle (888) 475-3847

Vessel Safety Check Program is in Place

The Vessel Safety Check Program (VSC). is a great joint effort between the USPS and the USCG Auxiliary. The VSC program supports the US Coast Guard Recreational Boating Safety program to minimize the loss of life, personal injury, property damage and environmental impact associated with the use of recreational boats. To complete the certification process each candidate Vessel Safety Examiner (VSE) had to complete a three hour closed book exam and five VSCs supervised by a certified examiner.

P/D/C Corwin Broussard and P/C Kim Viator drove over from Lafayette on 24 Feb 01 to supervise the VSC candidate examiners as they inspected five vessels. Through their extraordinary efforts they were able to certify four Vessel Safety Examiners (VSEs) and supervise some VSCs by three other members. The newly certified members were able to complete the certification of the remaining three VSEs on 25 Feb. We all appreciate their efforts.

The training process was also greatly aided by the candidate VSEs plus other LCPS members and friends who brought their boats by water and trailer to the Garber's and Wilkinson's dock on 24 Feb and to the Lake Charles seawall on 25 Feb. Lake Charles now has seven qualified Vessel Safety Examiners (VSEs) to begin implementing the Vessel Safety Check Program (VSC). We also have several boats proudly displaying the 2001 VSC decal after passing the inspection.

This program provides an excellent mechanism for LCPS to reach more members of the boating community on a one-on-one basis. It will help use to increase the awareness of boating safety issues, the availability of USPS boating courses, and to increase interest in joining the USPS. It is one more public service effort that USPS can do to make the waterways safer for all of us.

The VSC program applies to ALL VESSELS ranging from kayaks to large pleasure craft. All of us in LCPS should support the VSC program by mentioning it to everyone we know who has a boat. We also should have all of our boats inspected annually by the VSEs to help assure we are in compliance with the Federal and LA requirements.

We will be scheduling VSC exams in the near future at local marinas, launch ramps, and as part of LCPS boating activities.

The new Vessel Safety Examiners are Lt/C Ronald W. Gremillion, Lt/C Songa Gremillion, Lt Martin H. Hardy, Harvey E. Kuttner, Lt/C John L. Loukas, Cdr Christopher McCain, D/1st/Lt Kenneth D. Wilkinson.

Please call me for information on the VSC program, scheduling a VSC, or becoming an examiner..

D/1st/Lt Ken Wilkinson, Chairman Ad Hoc Vessel Safety Check Committee

District 21 Is Still The One To Beat

District 21 did very well at the USPS National Meeting in Orlando. The District received first place in both Cooperative Charting and Operations Training. We also made the Honor Roll of the Safety Committee, continued our long time 100% on the Educational Fund honor Roll. This is what we expect to do every year and is the result of the efforts of all squadrons.

We also had several significant individual awards:

Gary Freer received 'The Golden Eagle' award, the highest individual honor given each year in CoOp Charting.

Billie and Ray Kearney EACH received the 'First Place' award in Aeronautical Charting.

J.L. Andrus and Corwin Broussard received a Website Award for their efforts on our district website.

Lower Rio Grande Valley's Keith Shantz won 'First Place' for his knot board. He was in a special category reserved for the Teaching Aids that have won first place at a district conference so he became the best of the best. Keith drove 350 miles one way to deliver the aid to Belton so that it could be taken to Orlando. I am very happy to say that LRGV has become the one to beat in several categories and they have now added another...

The following squadrons received the 'Excellence In Journalism' award and may display the emblem in the publication...

Acadiana
Austin
Beaumont
Dallas
Fort Worth
Galveston Bay
Houston
Lake Charles
San Antonio and
Shreveport

Eight of us became Life Members:

James Hokanson, AP, Houston
Marvin Radney, AP, Galveston Bay
John Scott, SN, Beaumont
Lane Sealy, AP, San Antonio
C.J. Settles II, AP, Galveston Bay
Ronald Slay, AP, Houston
David 'Duke' Walker, SN, Houston, and they even broke down and gave me the honor...
Joe Dorn, SN, Austin

The squadrons and members of District 21 made me a very proud to be your representative at the National Meeting, 2001... Thank You... Thank You... Thank You...

D/C Joe B. Dorn, SN