



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 4
April 2001



Commanders Corner

Cdr. Christopher M. McCain P
Lake Charles Power Squadron

I've pretty much settled in after COW, with my first Executive Board Meeting and my first General Meeting under my belt as Cdr. Wow! Kind of scary with all of the new orders of business. I'm tiptoeing around to see where the first order of business should be! If you didn't make last month's general meeting you missed a lot of good politics! We had a good crowd, 31 members showed up and participated in the meeting, Susan Hardy won the pull along ice chest! Along with a guest speaker, David Perry running for City Council. A newer member Richard Hebert showed up to present his views on the railroad bridge North of I-10.

Annette & I made the trip to Waco; our girls were taking leap test & couldn't make it. The Cooperative Charting was great along with the weather.

Gary Freer, D/21 Co-Op Chairman has done it again, the hospitality and camaraderie was outstanding.

My congratulations to Gary and his new wife Becky may their future be Bright & Happy!

I want to thank everyone for the turnout for the workday at the Anchorage. My special Thanks to Kay & Ralph Johnson, John Loukas & Stan Chapman who showed up with bells on their toes! A whole lot was accomplished including washing of the floors, defrosting of the fridge and most important maintenance of the stairs. The power washing was done by Stan & John. Kay headed up the Fridge and the floors, May God Bless her. Ralph & Stan succeeded on bracing the west stairway. John & I patched the roof, and my dad painted the doors on the storage rooms downstairs. This is a group effort folks and I realize that you all have plans & places to be.

We need to thank the members who have made our building possible and show them that we appreciate it by maintaining it!

I'll see you at the next general meeting on Wednesday, April 4, 2001. It will be brown bag dining. Social and eating starts at 6:00 with meeting starting at 7:00.

Cdr. Chris McCain

LAKE CHARLES POWER SQUADRON

(A Non-Profit Corporation)

*A Unit of District 21 and the
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRON*

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

FIRST WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH

Social starts at 1800

Meeting starts at 1900

DEADLINE FOR PUBLICATION

April 18, 2001

E-MAIL ITEMS TO mccain.c@att.net



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



April	4	General Meeting	Anchorage
	5 - 8	D/21 Spring Conference	Austin
	18-22	Spring Governing Board	
	22	Dinner on the Grounds	Lake Charles
	25	Executive Meeting	Anchorage
May	2	General Meeting	Anchorage
	4 - 6	Contraband Days Rendezvous	Lake Charles
	19	Boat Smart Class	Lake Charles
	19 - 26	Boat Safety Week	
	30	Executive Meeting	Anchorage

Reminder

Don't forget next meeting is on April 4, 2001 at the Anchorage. It will be a brown bag dinner.

Invitation to the Contraband Days Rendezvous is located in the Anchorline. RSVP early.

EDUCATION REPORT

Five members have passed the **Seamanship** exam. Congratulations to: Trisha Garber, Martin Hardy, Harvey Kuttner, Charles McAlister, and Charles Ware. Their stickers should arrive shortly. We thank Lt Ben Garber, Sr. for such a fine job of instructing the course. **Piloting** is scheduled in April with seven members committed. P/C Ray LeBert has instructed this course for many years and we look forward to many more. **Weather** is on hold until we get enough people to fill a class. Lt. Chris Nelsen reports two students who took the Feb 24th **Boating Course** wish to take their final exam (original test date of March 24th) with his second class of about four people, maybe as many as seven or eight, sometime at the end of April or the month of May. His second class will begin on March 31, 2001 in DeRidder. With even a power failure at the Boise Cascade PaperMill on February 24th, Chris Nelsen persevered to present the Boating Course. All oppositions were overcome and the BC was a success. Thank you Chris for being so persistent.

Who saw the news segment of our Past Commander Brahm on the John Bridges's airing of "Best of Travelers"? Another great coverage for the Power Squadron well done. P/C Stan Chapman has made arrangements to go on the Morning Show on May 10th, prior to our **Boat Smart** class scheduled for May 19th at Gayle Hall -McNeese State University. Also, the **billboard advertising** campaign is finalized. Five locations will be allotted to promote safe boating education this April and May. Look for them! I'll post a location list at our next meeting.

An update from P/C & D21 Admin Officer Ken Wilkinson on approval of LA Boating Course for USPS membership: Links with La. Dept. of WildLife & Fisheries and Texas Parks & WildLife are in the works. Approval of their courses by the USPS will provide additional contacts for the membership work.

He has acquired more safety booklets for distribution at the Vessel Safety Check inspections. The **VSC** decals are in! Dates are now being set for VSC "mass inspections". He will report the locations after Wed night meeting on March 28th. Ken said to bring your ideas to make this a great program for safety and the USPS.

FYI: If you have a US Coast Guard documented or undocumented vessel, information can be found on the Internet at: [U.S. Coast Guard-Port State Information eXchange.](#)

An article worth reading concerning boat safety can be found in March issue of Boat/U.S. entitled "Houseboat Tragedies Call for Recall". Carbon monoxide is a deadly gas and the design of certain houseboats poses a threat to public safety.

Spring Conference is in Austin, Texas. See you there.

Safe Boating!
Sheryl Dautriel
Squadron Education Officer

Member News

Vivian Pritchard, one of our longtime squadron members is moving on April 21. She will be having a garage sale on Thursday, April 12 through Saturday April 14. She is trying to sell a boat, motor and trailer for \$400. She also has some uniforms that belonged to her husband, Roy that she would like to give to someone who needs them. She has 1 Black Suit, Size 40, 1 long sleeve White Shirt and 1 Short sleeve white shirt, a pair of White pants and a hat. These still have the insignia sewn on. Go by and visit with her before she leaves. Let her know that we will miss her dearly. Call her at 474-1402.

Her new address will be:

Rt. 2 Box 24B
Hindsville, AR 72738
501-789-2351

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

John Loukas, AP

We have just returned from D/21 CO-OP Charting event held in Waco, TX. Hosted by Dallas, Fort Worth, and Austin. Had a good turnout with well over fifty D/21 members. Cdr. Chris McCain and Annette, P/C Don Hains and Martha, my bride Vicki my son Luke and myself made up the representation from the Lake Charles Power Squadron. Some very beautiful country, but a little early for the blue bonnets. Next CO-OP Charting event is going to be held in Orange, TX. June 8-10, 2001 hosted by Acadiana, Beaumont, Lake Charles and Orange Squadrons. Our boating activities chairperson, Janelle Brham has planned a raftup to in conjunction with this event. More details to follow.

It is starting to warm up and time to get ready for another great summer of boating activities. One thing we should not forget is the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. Here is an article from the United States Coast Guard on this very subject.

COAST GUARD WARNS BOATERS OF CARBON MONOXIDE HAZARD CAUSED BY GENERATOR EXHAUST

The Coast Guard advises boaters that have swim platforms on the stern of their boat and also have a gasoline-powered generator exhaust port in the transom to ensure that the generator is not running when the swim platform is in use. Additionally, on boats designed with generators exhausting into the cavity between the swim platform and the transom of the vessel, boaters should not enter that cavity.

The Coast Guard was made aware of the deadly combination of generator exhaust and swim platforms through a September 2000 NIOSH study of houseboat carbon monoxide accidents on Lake Powell in Arizona. The study showed that the particular design of the stern swim platform on certain models of houseboats created a cavity between the hull of the vessel and the swim platform where the gasoline-powered generator exhaust port is located. When the generator is running the carbon monoxide buildup in this cavity, as well as the swim platform and rear deck space, is so high that it creates a "death zone" for anyone who enters the area even for a very short period of time. The common practice of keeping generators running to power air conditioning, entertainment centers, and electronic suites while moored or anchored has exacerbated the problem.

The Coast Guard has conducted a preliminary investigation into the problem and has issued a letter to all known houseboat manufacturers informing them of this design defect and soliciting their plans of correction of the defect.

The problem may not be confined to houseboats, however, since any boat with the same design configuration of transom gasoline-powered generator exhaust and a swim platform could present the same lethal hazard. The Coast Guard is expanding its investigation of this problem to include all types of boats.

Previous carbon monoxide warnings and educational materials have concentrated on the hazards created by the exhaust of the main propulsion engines while underway. Although these dangers still exist, the Coast Guard will develop new educational materials to emphasize the additional hazards of using a gasoline-powered generator, especially while not underway.

The Coast Guard warns all boaters that this is an extremely dangerous matter that could result in serious injury or death and advises all boat owners to heed this warning.

For further information call the toll free Coast Guard Infoline – 1-800-368-5647, TDD 1-800-689-0816.





BOATING ACTIVITIES

Janelle Brahm

OLD FASHIONED “DINNER ON THE GROUNDS”

April 22, 2001
11:00 A.M. until...
@ The Anchorage

Back in the “olden days” when we were not in such a hurry, this was a great way to socialize with your friends on a Sunday afternoon.

Plan to come out to the Anchorage by boat or by car any time after 11:00 A.M. on Sunday, April 22. Bring a picnic lunch for your family and enjoy what will hopefully be a beautiful spring day on the lake.

VESSEL CHECK RAFT-UP

What a surprise! Sunday, February 25th turned out to be an absolutely beautiful day on Lake Charles. The LCPS members who are taking part in the Vessel Safety Check Program needed some boats to be available for inspection. After pretty miserable weather on Saturday, Sunday turned out to be perfect for T-shirts and shorts. With all the Mardi Gras activities at the Civic Center and warm sunshine no one wanted to go home as the sun was setting. Thanks to the VSE’s (Vessel Safety Examiners) many of us enjoyed an unexpected day of boating in February. Another bonus was that since there were so many people at the Civic Center for the Mardi Gras festivities, the LCPS got a lot of attention.

LOOKING AHEAD

Before you know it, our Contraband Days D-21 Rendezvous will be here.

Date: May 4-6, 2001

The second weekend of Contraband Days is the fireworks display. We will be rafting up in Lake Charles for this as we have in the past.

Date: May 12, 2001



Birthdays

Vivian Pritchard	4/03
Robert Sparks	4/03
Pat Garber	4/08
James Churchman	4/10
Harry Reed	4/15

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

THE LAKE CHARLES POWER SQUADRON

Invites you to the

**Contraband Days 2001 Rendezvous
In Lake Charles**

Laissez les bons temps rouler avec couchon du lait

Let the good times roll with a roast pig luncheon

D-21 Rendezvous Schedule and other optional Contraband Events

All Contraband Days Event Times are tentative, check their Website after April 3: WWW.Contrabanddays.com

Friday, 4 May: Registration / Welcome at Anchorage 1400 to 1700

1400 Welcome by Jean Lafitte's Representative Pirate

1400 "Open Bar" with Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks

1600 Travel to Lake Charles Civic Center to observe Friday's Contraband Activities:

1600 Militia defend the city.

1800 "Landing of Buccaneers", Capture of the City, "The Mayor Walks the Plank"

1900 "Wang Chung" in Concert

2030 Dinner on your own

2200 Try the "River Boats" We wish ya'll Good Luck !

Saturday, 5 May: Late Registration / Welcome at Anchorage 1100 to 1600

1100 Cash Bar

1230 "Couchon du lait" (Roast Piglet) served by Charlie's Rooters with all the trimmings

1400 LCPS "Raft-Up" at the "Mothership" (south-east corner of Charlie's Lake) - BYOB

1400 Scheduled Tender Shuttle starts from "Lady Claire" dock at the south end of Civic Center

1400 "Sailboat Regetta" in Charlie's Lake

1500 "Buccaneer Parade"

1630 "Country Showdown"

1730 "Pirates Raid" of the "Mothership"

1830 Last scheduled tender shuttle to and from "Lady Claire Dock"

1900 "Clay Davidson" in Concert

2000 "Raft-up" continues overnight . The Party continues till ????

Sunday, 6 May: Day on Your Own

1000 Classic car show

1200 "Raft-up" continues - BYOB

1400 "Food Fest" inside the Civic Center

1900 "Blue Oyster Cult" in Concert

REGISTRATION FORM

Please return by April 21, 2000

Complete the information and return with your check made payable to LCPS

To: **Lake Charles Power Squadron**
Attn. Cdr. Chris McCain
413 Bowmer Ln., Sulphur, LA 70663

For additional information, questions:
Phone (337) 625-2088 E-Mail: mccain.c@att.net

NAME:..... Squadron.....

DAY PHONE:..... Arrival Date/Time.....

Bring Boat ? Yes No Boat Size: L:.....B:.....

BOAT NAME:..... Where Staying ?.....

OTHER NEEDS:.....

Number of Persons attending:..... Registration @ \$20.00/person.....
(Includes Open Bar on Friday, Meal on Saturday, Tender Service to Raft-Up, All On-Boat foods, events, etc)

Festival Passes
(\$2.00 daily) Number passes:.....(\$5.00 two week pass or weekend pass) Number Passes:.....
Passes available after April 1

NOTE: Late Mail in registration after April 21: \$ 25.00 On Site registration is not available

KEEP THIS SECTION FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE:

DIRECTIONS BY CAR:

To reach the LCPS Anchorage by car from the west:
Passing the Sulphur exits on I-10, take the I-210 loop and cross over the I-210 bridge. As soon as you have passed the bridge, take the first exit #3 (Prien Lake Road). Immediately take the next road to the right into Kiwanis Drive. (This is following the sharp curve in the exit road at the chain-link fence). Continue into “LaFleur Park” and identify yourself as Power Squadron member at the gate (you will not have to pay the entrance fee!) Continue along the loop, which passes under the I-210 bridge. Pass the boat launch and continue into the private road. The Anchorage is the second building on the left.

To reach the LCPS Anchorage by car from the east:
Take the I-210 loop and continue to exit # 4. (“Nelson Road”) Exit here and take a left turn at the traffic light. Make a right turn at the second light (ahead of the EXXON Station). Continue to the Stop sign. Turn right and proceed to the next Stop Sign. Turn left into Kiwanis Drive. Follow the above directions from there.

DIRECTIONS BY BOAT

Detailed information, tailored to your needs, will be mailed out at your request. Contact our Port Captain Lt. Billy Gilbert by phone (337) 625-5060 or via E-Mail: Vgilbert@usunwired.net

GENERAL INFORMATION

If you need anchorage other than staying in the lake, contact Chris McCain or the port captain. We will assist you as best as we can, but slips are normally filled. Fuel and fresh water are available near the Raft-up area at Nalmar’s Landing. Boats may stay anchored in the Lake, but need their own electricity.

Fire on Board

Fire aboard a boat can be a terrifying experience. A person may only have a split second to act to save themselves and all passengers. The importance of having fully charged fire extinguishers on hand is vital.

Most boat fires can be put out rapidly if you act immediately. Do not hesitate. If a fire starts, grab the extinguisher, activate it and direct it at the base of the flames. Use short bursts and sweep it from side to side. Do not wait until a fire starts to read the directions on the label. Take the time to make sure that you and those who boat with you regularly know and understand exactly how to use the fire extinguisher.

There are several preventable measures to take in order to avoid most boat fires:

- Clean bilges often and maintain proper gear stowage.
- Make sure short-tie cables are properly connected.
- Place oily rags in covered trash cans or dispose of them on shore.
- Store propane fuel for stoves in a secure area.

If and when a fire does break out on board your boat, never use water on fires started electrically, by gasoline, oil, or grease. Water will spread a gasoline fire and since water is a conductor of electricity, you may receive a damaging shock from an electrical fire. Water should only be used to extinguish burning wood, mattresses, rags, rubbish, and alcohol. When extinguishing the fire, make sure it is completely out. If not, it may smolder for a long while and possibly start again. If possible, soak burning materials over the downwind side of the boat. Also remember to avoid littering the waterways by removing any debris after the emergency is over.

Follow these steps if fire breaks out while you are underway in order to prevent the fire from spreading to other parts of the boat:

- Slow or stop the boat. Wind from the boat's motion feeds the flames.
- Keep the fire downwind. If the fire is aft, head the bow into the wind. If forward, put the stern into the wind.
- If the motor catches fire, shut off the fuel supply immediately.

Always remember not to panic. Many boats burn to the water line because people jump overboard without assessing the situation first. If you realize that the fire cannot be put out with the fire extinguisher, put on your life jacket and exit the boat upwind of the burning craft. Use a radio, cellular phone, or visual distress signals to gain assistance.

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