



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 4

April 2003

Welcome boating friends.

Here we are getting close to warm weather fun. The squadron was represented at the Armed Services Appreciation day with three boats. The "Mother ship", "Miss JP" and the Lu "E" LU "EZE" were ready to give the service members a tour of the Lake. I am a little unsure on just how many people we gave a ride to but I would guess around 140 would be close. We made two trips each to the port before the weather went a little south. Miss JP and LU "E" LU "EZE" stayed the night to guard the Mother Ship. Ken will never know just what this service cost him. The next morning all enjoyed a boat trip to Harrahs for breakfast. Then we left for a trip to Big Lake for a rendezvous with the Mansenita for fishing lessons.

We will be having a busy month in April. The general meeting on the 2nd, then the much planned and anticipated Spring Conference on the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th. The boating activity will be an Easter egg hunt on the water scheduled for April 12th. This is a much-needed break following the Spring Conference for all the members who helped plan and prepare for the conference. Come on out for a fun time. We then end the month with the Executive Board meeting.

The Spring Conference numbers are up!! Please plan to attend and support our very own P/C Ken Wilkinson who will be sworn in as District Commander. It should be a great time. Remember, the Lake Charles Power Squadron is known to "Pass a good time"!!!!

See you at the conference
Cdr Ron Gremillion

General Meeting

OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Board of Directors)

Commander	<i>Cdr Ron Gremillion, AP 3124 John Bunch Rd Sulphur, LA 70663 (337) 527-5570</i>
<u>EXECUTIVE OFFICER</u>	<i>Lt/C Songa Gremillion, AP (337) 527-5570</i>
<u>EDUCATIONAL OFFICER</u>	<i>P/C John Loukas, AP (337) 625-2056</i>
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER</u>	<i>Lt/C Ned Dautriel, AP (337) 598-2966</i>
<u>SECRETARY</u>	<i>Lt/C Annette McCain, P (337) 625-2088</i>
<u>TREASURER</u>	<i>Lt/C Chuck Lemoine, S (337) 474-5876</i>
<u>IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER</u>	<i>P/C John Loukas, AP</i>
<u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS</u>	<i>Lt Larry Farmer Lt Harvey Kuttner Lt Keith Monroe</i>
<u>Anchorline Editor</u>	<i>Lt/C Annette McCain, P (337) 625-2088 413 Bowmer Ln. Sulphur, LA. 70663</i>

DEADLINE FOR PUBLICATION

April 30th, 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

Our next General meeting is on April 2nd, 2003. Social starts at 1800 meeting starts at 1900. Menu will be brown bag. Mr. Bryan Beam, Assistant Parish Administrator will be our guest speaker. Come on out and listen to what he has to speak about.

Mark Your Calendar

April

2	General meeting	Anchorage
3-6	Spring Conference	Lake Charles
12	Easter Egg Hunt	Anchorage
20	Easter	
30	Executive Board Meeting	Anchorage

May

	Contraband Days Boat Parade	Lake Charles Seawall
1		
2-4	D/21 Contraband Days	Lake Charles
7	General Meeting	Anchorage
	USPS Spring Governing Board	New Orleans
7-11		
11	Mother's Day	
	D/21 Geodetic Co-Op Charting	New Braunfels, TX
16-17		
	National Safe Boating Week	
17-23		
24	Boat Smart Class	MSU
25	Vessel Safety Check	Prien Lake Park
28	Executive Board Meeting	Anchorage
	D/21 Nautical Co-Op Charting	Galveston, TX
30-31		
30-31	Memorial Day Trip	Lake Arthur

Birthdays

Vivian Prichard	4/3
Robert Sparks	4/3
Pat Garber	4/8
James Churchman	4/10
Songa Gremillion	4/17
Harvey Kuttner	4/24

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

Chris Nelsen reports that three of the four students who took the February Basic Boating Course at the Boise Paper Mill in DeRidder have taken the final exam and all passed. The final student is scheduled to take his final exam at the end of March.

Chris is also working with the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury on scheduling a Basic Boating Course class for the Water Patrol. Once a date is agreed upon he will come to Lake Charles and teach the Boating Course in the same format as he uses in DeRidder.

The Bowsprit Award Program is a national recognition for the District that the Collective Squadrons make happen. The respective measurement areas are Membership Growth as of May of the current year over the past year. Membership Retention is measured by the percentage of membership retained and not determined until August of each year. The most important is the Growth of Public Courses offered by all of the Squadrons in a district compared this year with last year titled boating, meaning boating Courses. Advanced grades completed in this year compared to last and Elective Courses completed this year compared to last year. The most important three parts of this are Courses both Public and Member. This is where the most points can be achieved. We all know that both Public and Member Education is the primary mission of USPS and that is what gets members and keeps members happy by fulfilling their expectations.

If there are any courses you would like to take, either self-study or as a group, please let me know.

P/C John Loukas, AP
Squadron Education Officer

Administrative Department

Speaker for General Meeting

Mr. Bryan Beam, Assistant Parish Administrator, has agreed to speak at our General Meeting on 02 April 2003. His topic will cover the redevelopment of Prien Lake Park, which is close to our Anchorage. Taskforce members are considering a boat launch with parking, a boat dock for temporary use, a pedestrian trail, nature trail, botanical garden, amphitheater and a multipurpose building. A dockside cafe is also considered. Don't miss this opportunity to hear of the park development designs for our area.

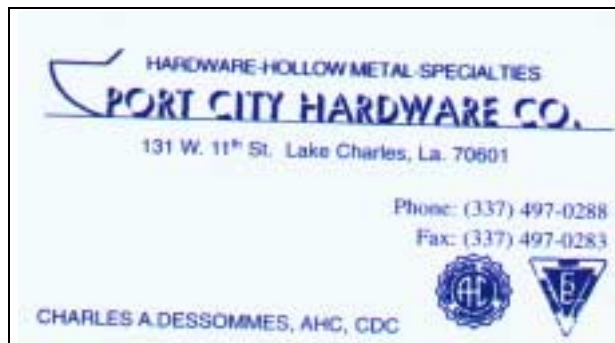
April Boating Activity

If you did not attend last year's EasterEgg Hunt on the water - DO NOT MISS THIS ONE! Lt Larry and Dolla Farmer have a new twist to add, so don't skip (or hop) out. The date is **Saturday, April 12** at the Anchorage and all begins at 11:00 AM. Bring a friend or potential new member. Dolla says that *even children* are welcome this year! There will be a decorated Easter basket contest for the women and a decorated egg contest for the men. For more details come to the General Meeting, Wednesday April 2nd.

June Poker Run

Maggie and Bill Cromwell have volunteered their wharf again for our June Poker Run. It is scheduled for June 7th. There will be more information in the next newsletter. It should be a wonderful day for all attending.

Ned Dautriel
Administration Officer



**Three Times the Fun!!!
District 21 Nautical Cooperative
Charting Event At Galveston
Lake Charles to Galveston Squadron
Boat Cruise
A Potentially Tax Deductible Trip On
Your 2003 Income Tax Return**

Our District will be holding its first **Nautical Cooperative charting event of the year on May 30 – 31 in Galveston.** John Morawski is presently working on the final details as far as lodging and the Saturday evening restaurant. We'll have a more detailed write-up in the May Anchorline. This is the perfect time of year for a boat cruise to Galveston and the chances are high the weather will be great. Also, if you were not aware of it...IRS Guidelines Publication 526 "Charitable Contributions" should be consulted because of the potential for expenses incurred on this trip (excluding the shopping in Galveston!) being tax deductible, yes, tax deductible. There are not a lot of boating activities where you can write off your gas, food, and lodging, so give it some thought. If you don't want to cruise to Galveston, they will have plenty of boats over there, so put this date on your calendar for a weekend of fun!

Lt. Chris H. Nelsen

Cooperative Charting Committee Chairman



Bridge Point Yacht Center

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Lake Charles has a full service Marina

Floating Docks * TV * Surveillance * 35 Ton Lift
Showers * Laundromat * Store * Yacht Repair

800 Mike Hooks Rd * Westlake, LA

Squadron Store

If there is anyone who would like a new tag you can email me the information at mccain.c@cox-internet.com or catch me at the next general meeting.

The prices are as follows: A tag w/pin Clip is \$6.00 and a tag w/Magnetic clip is \$7.50. The tags have our squadron burgee with the gold border along with your name in white on a black background.

If you need information about them please contact Annette McCain at 337-625-2088.



District 21
“Geodetic” Cooperative Charting Event
New Braunfels, Texas May 16 – 18, 2003

Hotel

Hawthorn Inn & Suites
 1533 IH-35N
 New Braunfels, TX 78130
 Phone: (830) 643-9300
 Reservations: (800) 527-1133

Driving Instructions

New Braunfels I-35
 Take Exit 190
 Hotel is on west side of I-35
[Hawthorn Inn Website With Map](#)

Rates: \$79.95 + tax per night (Identify yourself as a USPS member for this rate). Rooms available include Smoking or Non-smoking, Queen or 2 Doubles. Hotel has a full hot breakfast buffet, including scrambled eggs, ham, sausage, or bacon (hotel choice), cold cereal, toast, sweet rolls, juices, coffee, milk, fruit and more!!!.

Individuals must make room reservations no later than May 1st to get the above rate. Rates are good for up to 1 week before or after these dates for those who want to spend additional days for sightseeing, vacation, etc.

Schedule

Friday, May 16	Check-in	1400 or later
	Hospitality Room	1500 – 2300
	Dinner on your own	
Saturday, May 17	Hospitality Room	0700 – 0800
	Geodetic Assignments	0800 – 0830
	Search and Recovery	0830 – 1500
	Hospitality Room (Submit Reports)	1500 – 1830
	Group Dinner at Local Restaurant	1900 – Till
Sunday, May 18	Departure	Your Schedule

Additional	John Morawski	(281) 992-9793	morawsu@swbell.net
Information	Chris H. Nelsen	(337) 463-0141	chrisn@worldnetla.net

Bill Johnson is working on a great Saturday night dinner at one of two great restaurants that will prove to be another very enjoyable evening for all of us. This is a great area to spend a few extra days and here are just a few of the attractions. Schilitterbahn Water Park, Guadeloupe River Rafting, San Marcos Outlet Center, Historic Gruene, and Natural Bridge Caverns, as well as an Experimental Plane Fly-in the same weekend!

Hosted by the San Antonio Power Squadron

Fishing for Yellow Fin Tuna.... Venice Louisiana

Last month I left you on the docks of the Cypress Cove Marina in Venice, Louisiana ready for a day of fishing. Although I can remember all of my trips out of both this marina and the Venice Marina.... the trip that stands out most was the day we caught nine tuna. The whole truth about this trip is that six of the fish caught were yellow fin tuna, three were smaller black fin tuna, and their combined weight was probably closer to four hundred pounds.... which filled ice chests that took up most of the bed of our one ton pickup truck. But more on that later.

Two friends from San Antonio, a friend from Tacoma, Washington, and two buddies of Captain Kevin Frelich were on the marina dock as Captain Kevin topped off his diesel tanks. It was 7:00 am, which was abnormally late for a typical fishing trip, but Captain Kevin said the tuna bite had been turning on around 10:00 am, so there was no reason to get out there early. In a matter of minutes we were on our custom sportsfisherman running down the pass and beginning our day with high expectations.

I've fished for tuna using five different methods. Trolling past offshore rigs, trolling major underwater geological structure, trolling behind and alongside shrimp boats, trolling major rip lines, and still fishing while chumming along major rip lines. On this day, our captains' strategy was to stick with the first two methods. Just as Captain Kevin had observed, shortly after 10:00 am the first tuna hit and one of the Penn International reels began to sing. Matt drew first rod, so he quickly put the fighting belt on and was handed the rod. I had never seen so much pressure being put on a rod and fifteen minutes later, Captain Kevin yells out yellow fin. A few minutes later a 60+ pound yellowfin comes into the boat. With high fives and photographs taken, the boat is back to trolling and in short order a second fish is battled by Gary. The story repeats itself with a similar sized yellowfin. Then a third yellowfin, this one pushing 80+ pounds. We now have three men who for a period of time are absolutely whipped. Joe, who catches the third large tuna actually hurts his back due to the punishment these fish can deal out and chooses to enjoy the rest of the trip by watching the five of us continue catching fish.

The fishing is steady through the late morning and early afternoon. By 1:30 pm, we have five yellowfin tuna on board and three blackfin tuna. In the salon area we take time out to enjoy lunch, re-hydrate ourselves with our favorite refreshments, and enjoy the luxury accommodations of our fishing yacht. An hour and a half goes by and we don't pick up a single strike. It's pushing 3:00 pm and discussions from the captain begin to hint we're getting close to heading home, when one of the reels begins screaming. All of us jump on the other rods to bring in the adjacent trolling lures, and we begin to fight another tuna. With all of the strength we can muster, we're fighting a large tuna with a five foot stand-up rod that although is as stout as a broomstick, is bent and pointing toward the ocean bottom. Somewhere around five minutes, the first fisherman can no longer take the pain of fighting this fish, so the belt is transferred to the second fisherman and the battle repeats itself. Every five minutes or so, it rotates and I get to be take the rod as the fifth fisherman.

Trying to describe what this tuna is doing to five grown men is almost embarrassing, because five plus minutes of fighting this fish, and it's all I can do to pass it back to the first fisherman for a second round. Even though the water is that beautiful, clear, aqua blue color, we still haven't even seen what's on the other end of the line. One by one, we go through the second rotation process and forty-five minutes into the battle, Matt is on the rod and we see the fish, and Captain Kevin goes crazy, because it's a monster yellow fin tuna. I'm now on the side of the boat ready to take some pictures and hoping Matt brings the fish in, because I'm not sure I want the rod a second time. Ten minutes later, the fish is coming over the port side of the boat, and what a beautiful fish. With long arching fins that almost seem to touch is tail fin, and colored with the prettiest yellow you can imagine, we stare in amazement and then muscle the fish into the icebox.

The twin diesels begin to roar like they did just eight hours earlier, and we sit back knowing we've just experienced one of those very special fishing trips. As we're backing into our slip at Cypress Cove Marina, most of the boats have returned and the attention turns to our boat. When we muscle the big yellowfin onto the dock, it draws a lot of attention. Hoisting it onto the tournament scale we measure the fish at exactly five foot and the scale tips out at 149.5 lbs. Although it's early October, we're told it's the biggest tuna caught so far that year off the coast of Louisiana, and we take several pictures, as if memories of this trip may some how fade.

An hour and a half later, we're cleaned up, sitting in the same rocking chairs on the restaurants' balcony, toasting margaritas, watching the last bit of color fade away on the western horizon, each knowing we just experienced the perfect fishing day.

Lt. Chris H. Nelsen

2003 CONTRABAND DAYS FAMILY NIGHT BOAT PARADE

The 2003 Contraband Days FAMILY NIGHT Boat parade is scheduled during Family Night Thursday, May 1st, at 7:00 p.m. We encourage you to participate in the Contraband Days FAMILY NIGHT Boat Parade. With your help and cooperation this will be an enjoyable and safe outing. You will be judged on decorations, costumes and enthusiasm reflecting the Contraband Days & Buccaneers theme. If not, come join the fun with us anyway. We also encourage you to bring candy, gum, or trinkets to throw to the crowd as you pass the Civic Center Seawall. Please read the following instructions prior to the parade so you will be familiar with the procedures when you arrive at the rendezvous site.

TIME SCHEDULE: MAY 1st

- 4:30 Tagging & parade position assignment begins
- 6:45 Parade departs staging area for Civic Center Seawall
- 7:00 First boat passes Civic Center Steps
- 7:30 Last boat passes Civic Center Steps
- 8:00 Winners announced & awards presented

PARADE INSTRUCTIONS

Please make every effort to pre-register your boat two days prior to the parade. The registration forms can be dropped off at the Contraband Days office or mailed to the address below. The tagging area will be the south end of the Seawall Steps. Parade coordinators will be in the area at 4:00 PM. Monitor VHF Ch. 68 for assistance. After registration proceed to the line-up area (north of Robert Noland's wharf). If you wish you may check in or register by radio. Call Lloyd Lauw on VHF Ch 68.

Please fill out the registration form and have it ready when approaching the tagging area, if you have not pre-registered. You will be assigned a position number and told which boat you will follow in the parade. After getting your position, remain close to the boat you will follow until ready to depart. Try to maintain a slow steady speed and a distance of approximately 100 feet between boats at all times.

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

- 1st Place \$60.00 + 2 VIP concert seating passes
- 2nd Place \$40.00 + 2 VIP concert seating passes
- 3rd Place \$30.00 + 2 VIP concert seating passes
- 4th Place \$20.00 + 2 VIP concert seating passes
- 5th Place 4 Contraband admission tickets 2 VIP concert seating passes
- 6th Place 4 Contraband admission tickets 2 VIP concert seating passes
- 7th Place 2 Contraband admission tickets 2 VIP concert seating passes
- 8th Place 2 Contraband admission tickets 2 VIP concert seating passes
- 9th Place 2 Contraband admission tickets 2 VIP concert seating passes
- 10th Place 2 Contraband admission tickets 2 VIP concert seating passes

-----cut across dotted line-----
Boat Captain: _____ Address: _____

City ST Zip _____

Day Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Boat Name: _____ Boat Length: _____ Ft Boat Type: _____ (sail or power)

For further information concerning the boat parade contact: Contraband Days, 436-5508

Boat Parade Chairman Lloyd Lauw 625-7799 lloydlauw@msn.com

Registration Form Mailing Address: Contraband Days Boat Parade, P.O. Box 679, Lake Charles, LA. 70602



THE LAKE CHARLES POWER SQUADRON



Invites you to the
Contraband Days 2003 Rendezvous
In Lake Charles
Laissez les bons temps rouler

D-21 Rendezvous Schedule and other optional Contraband Events

All Contraband Days Event Times are tentative

For more events scheduled throughout the festival check the Contraband days website after April

www.contrabanddays.com

Friday, 2 May: Registration / Welcome at Anchorage 1400 to 1700

- 1400 Welcome to the Anchorage "Open Bar" with Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks
- 1600 Rock Wall, Ejection Seat, Quad Power Jump, Bullride – Open all weekend
- 1700 Travel to Lake Charles Civic Center to observe Friday's Contraband Activities:
- 1800 Militia defends the city.
- 1900 "Landing of Buccaneers", Capture of the City, "The Mayor Walks the Plank"
- 1930 Dinner on your own
- 2100 Marshall Tucker Band in Concert
- 2200 Try the "River Boats" We wish ya'll Good Luck!

Saturday, 3 May: Late Registration / Welcome at Anchorage 1100 to 1600

- 1000 Classic Car Show (Civic Center)
- 1100 Cash Bar
- 1230 Boiled Crawfish or Chicken
- 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
- 1730 "Pirates Raid" of the "Mothership"
- 1830 Louisiana Kingfish in concert
- 1830 Last scheduled tender shuttle to and from "Lady Claire Dock"
- 2030 Blackhawk in Concert
- 2000 "Raft-up" continues overnight. The Party continues till????

Sunday, 4 May: Day on Your Own

- 0600 Jean Lafitte Fishing Tournament
- 1200 "Raft-up" continues - BYOB
- 1900 Starship with Mickey Thomas in concert

REGISTRATION FORM

Please return by April 23, 2003

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

To: **Lake Charles Power Squadron**
Attn: Cdr. Ron Gremillion
3124 John Bunch Rd., Sulphur, LA 70663

For additional information, questions:

Phone (337) 527-5570 E-Mail: gremmsg@communicomm.com

Name: _____ Squadron _____

Day Phone: _____ Arrival Date/Time _____

Will you be coming by Boat? Yes No Boat Size: L: _____ B: _____ Boat Name: _____

Other Needs: _____ Number of Persons attending: _____

Registration @ \$15.00/person _____ Please specify Boiled Crawfish _____ or Chicken _____
(Includes Open Bar on Friday, Meal on Saturday, Tender Service to Raft-Up, All On-Boat foods, events, etc)

NOTE: Late Mail in registration after April 23: \$ 17.00 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: ygilbert@xspedius.net

GENERAL INFORMATION

If you need anchorage other than staying in the lake, contact Cdr. Ron Gremillion 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.

DISTRICT 21 "NAUTICAL" COOPERATIVE CHARTING

Galveston Bay

May 30-31, 2003

HOTEL

Best Western

NASA – Space Center

889 W. Bay Area Boulevard

Webster, TX 77598

RESERVATIONS

Phone: (281) 338-6000

Fax: (281) 338-2834

ID AS USPS MEMBER

ROOM RATE - \$59.95 + TAX

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 30, MAY

CHECK-IN	1300 -TILL
HOSPITALITY ROOM (SIGN UP YOUR BOAT)	1500 – 2300
DINNER ON YOUR OWN	1800 – TILL

SATURDAY 31, MAY

HOSPITALITY ROOM	0700 – 0800
COFFEE, JUCE, PASTRY	
CAPTAIN'S MEETING	0800 – 0900
SEEK & RECOVER	0900 – 1500
HOSPITALITY ROOM (WRITE UP REPORTS)	1500 – 1830
GROUP DINNER	1900 -TILL

SUNDAY 1, JUNE

DEPARTURE

JOHN MORAWSKI PHONE (281) 992-9793

FAX (281) 992-9794

E-MAIL morawsu@swbell.net

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Risk or Opportunity? How Do Thieves View Your Boat?

Author: MariSafe

Dan Hurley took Friday off and rose early for a long-awaited and well-deserved offshore fishing trip. He arrived at the marina an hour before his fishing buddies so he could get his 36' sportfish, *HydroTherapy*, provisioned and ready to go by the time the guys arrived. But when he reached the slip, it was empty. *HydroTherapy* was gone. A big hole in the slip gave way to a big hole in Dan's heart, followed by an even bigger hole in Dan's wallet.

After the lengthy police reports, months of searching along the coastline in a borrowed runabout at every opportunity for his beloved boat, countless hours gathering paperwork for filing an insurance claim—including all those elusive receipts and credit card bills, and even posting a reward for information about the theft, no sign of the boat or its disappearance ever surfaced. Dan was out tens of thousands of dollars in deductibles and equipment he couldn't account for, not to mention the loss of use of his pleasure boat, and the seemingly endless stream of aggravation and inconvenience for which there *is* no compensation.

According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), boat theft is a \$40 million business in the United States alone. As the season nears, boat thefts increase to as many as 1,000 a month, involving boats with price tags of \$10,000 to more than \$1 million. Like cars, SUVs and trucks, boats offer thieves an opportunity to make huge profits.

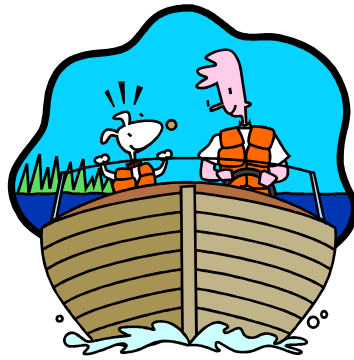
Protecting your car from thieves is something you do automatically: by locking your doors, taking your keys, installing alarms, immobilizing or tracking systems—even parking in well-lighted places. Does your boat get this much anti-theft protection? Remember, most thefts are committed by amateurs. Will potential thieves see your boat as an opportunity, or as too risky? Taking a few steps to secure your boat can mean the difference between enjoying a season of pleasurable outings and a stolen boat nightmare that could end your boating days forever.

The NICB, a Palos, Illinois-based nonprofit organization established to combat theft and insurance fraud, issues guidelines for boat owners that include clearly identifying and marking your boat with hull identification numbers (HIN) and driver's license numbers, installing hidden ignition switches and alarms and other techniques for making your boat less attractive to thieves.

First, secure your boat to the dock and secure your equipment to the boat. Thieves won't steal your boat if it takes too much time or creates too much noise. Don't leave your keys in the boat and always turn off the engine when you leave the boat, even if you're just going into the marina store for a soda. "You may think it's a nuisance to shut off your engine, but it's a lot more inconvenient when your boat is stolen," says Robert M. Bryant, president and CEO of NICB.

Here are **twenty tips** on ways to make your boat and equipment less attractive to thieves:

- Remove any equipment, especially expensive equipment, that can't be locked in the boat when you're not there.
- Close the curtains when you're not aboard to prevent window-shopping of your below decks equipment.
- Install hatch locks, available at any marine store, and use them.
- Equip exterior lockers with non-removable hasps and hinges, and padlock them.
- When you step into the marina store to pay your fuel bill, don't leave expensive items such as a handheld VHF or a pair of binoculars lying in plain site on your seat.
- Make a complete inventory of your boat, trailer and equipment by brand, model and serial number.
- Permanently mark or engrave your boat, trailer, equipment and personal items with your boat's HIN ([Hull Identification Number](#)).
- In addition, permanently mark or engrave your driver's license number in an obscure location that won't be noticeable to thieves, on your boat and on your trailer.
- Take a rubbing of your HIN using a thin sheet of paper and a pencil, and store it with your boat's papers and insurance information.
- Take pictures or videotape of your boat and equipment from a variety of angles, including a close-up of your hull identification number (HIN), and keep copies with your other boat documents.
- Keep copies of your boat and trailer registrations, titles and documentation in a safe place at home or somewhere other than the boat, such as a safe deposit box.
- Disable the boat when you aren't using it by shutting off the fuel lines, removing the battery or removing the distributor cap.
- Chain and lock your outboard motor to the boat. Better yet, remove it and take it with you.
- Secure your boat to the dock with a locked steel cable.
- Use a trailer hitch lock when your boat is parked on its trailer.
- Turn the trailer around so the hitch is inaccessible, or park a car in front of the trailer.
- When storing your boat on a trailer outdoors, remove at least one wheel, and use a high-quality chain and lock to secure the boat and trailer to an immovable object such as a tree, pole or post.
- Install an alarm system. Inexpensive, self-contained systems are available. Purchase a system designed for marine use.
- *Never* prop the security gate open at a marina for your convenience or the convenience of others.



..."A designated skipper on the water is as important as a designated driver on the road. And all boaters should make safe decisions about boating and drinking. Let's keep boating safe for everyone, everywhere"
Peter Coors



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

Editor, Annette McCain