Official newsletter of the
Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron

www.usps-atlanta.org

Jun 2002
Volume 50, Issue 4

WATERLOG

RAFT-UP
11 May 2002

GENERAL MEETING 18 APR 2002

See page 5

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The Waterlog is published monthly, with at least 10 issues per year.

It is published by and for the squadron members under the department of the Squadron Secretary and mailed to the listed address of all current members and advertisers.

All members in good standing, and approved non-member advertisers may submit articles and items for publication. They receive no gratuity.

The Editor reserves the right to revise, change or reject any materials submitted to the Waterlog, consistent with standards of accuracy, fairness, and good taste, subject to the approval of the Squadron Commander.

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

The ASPS is off to a great start with it's on the water activities. Mac Barrier put together a great raft up. As reported elsewhere, it was a success in every way. Ten boats and thirty "mariners" participated. The best part was the number of new faces there. Next time I want to see even more new faces. I know I had room for at lease six or seven boatless mariners. Make sure you join the fun next time.

I am writing this from the Houston TX airport. Margie and I have just finished a great USPS Governing board. I will be writing a separate article on some of the activities that are going on at the national level. But I do want to emphasize there is a tremendous amount going on at the national level. All for the benefit of the local squadrons. We have got to take advantage of these efforts to enhance our squadron, give more value to our members and better serve our community.

(continued on page 6)

OUR TRIP TO THE ABOCOS

By Bill and Cathy Gruber

This trip took place from 26 Jan 2002 to 9 Mar 2002. We left the coast of Florida with a beautiful sunset behind us and THE OCEAN ahead of us. I was nervous, to say the least. It turned out to be an awesome experience - an almost full moon and a 1-2 foot seas across "The Stream." We took turns snoozing a bit and snacking a bit. About 0300, we had to slow down, since we did not want to get too close to the land while it was still dark. We saw the loom of West End and then the dawn! The slips at Old Bahama Bay Marina were a bit expensive and there was no space to anchor, so we headed for Mangrove Cay after doing some laundry and taking showers. We met a couple from Nantucket in a 23-foot sailboat (even smaller than our 25 ft.)

One thing that Bill forgot to mention in our planning was that, after our stop at West End, there would be no civilization for the next two days. Just Bill and me and whatever food I had packed. Luckily, because of our camping experiences, I brought along enough Pasta Roni, Noodle Roni, and canned meats to cook some decent meals. We had no refrigeration, so finding things that would keep, like onions and apples, was a challenge.

We arrived at Mangrove Cay about 1700 - just a place to anchor in a somewhat protected area. We got close enough to another boat, *Happy Ours,* to talk to them and determine they were headed in the same direction as we were. The next day we headed for Great Sale Cay where we anchored on the southeastern side. Again no one lived there and this time we did not see any other boats.

Realizing that we forgot to refuel in West End, we had to stop at Fox Town, a small settlement on the coast of the Abacos. The guide book tells of four rocks (small islands) to go around to get to the gas docks. Not many boats can go in to the gas docks because the depth is only 3-1/2 feet with a bottom of rocks. But we just winched up the keel and then we only drew 3 feet (1'11" with both keel and rudder raised). We had started the trip in West Palm Beach with 18 gallons of gas in three 6-gallon containers. When we filled up we took on 16 gallons, showing we had only 2 gallons left when we got there. (Yes, we ARE a SAILING vessel, but it's hard to sail East when the wind is easterly.)

Fox Town is "laid-back" and still shows signs of hurricane Floyd (1999). We had a wonderful meal at the restaurant (no name) by the Shell gas dock. A huge plate of cracked conch, salad, and the best tasting coleslaw I've ever had.

The next day we set out very early for Green Turtle Cay because we were at the dock where the fishing boats came to fill up their gas tanks for the days work. By mid morning the sea was getting rough with the boat pounding on every third wave or so. We decided to head for shelter and the direction of the wind dictated going to Powell Cay which was another deserted island. We found *Happy Ours* anchored there, and talking to them on the VHF, found that they were planning to walk on shore in the morning. This sounded like a good idea so we thought we would join them, but since the night was less than peaceful we decided to continue to Green Turtle Cay. There were reports of a storm heading our way so we hurried on our way and covered the 12 nautical miles, in rough seas, and got there by noon, ahead of the storm. It rained that night and most of the next morning. It as a good time to read, write in a diary, play solitaire, sleep, or just relax. At lunch we went to the Bluff House (so named because it sits on a high spot overlooking the ocean) and had the most delicious conch chowder on the islands.

(to be continued in the next issue)

ANNUAL SQUADRON PICNIC

Bring your own meat or fish to cook, plus a dish to share. **Please** RSVP to Hans Meier (770) 993-7408 or click on the box on the web page. He needs to know how many fires to start.

SQUADRON HISTORY

Each year the squadron history papers are bound into a hard cover book. All volumes from 1991 on are missing. If anyone has any information as to their whereabouts please contact Executive Officer Ed Troncalli, N (770) 844-7289.

BOLLING F. DOUGLAS

This speaker at the April General Meeting has such an extensive background that we can only provide a brief sketch here.

She has been afloat both sail and power for many years. She has been active in the Coast Guard Auxiliary for 40 years achieving the rank of District Commodore. Also, she is one of the few female marine surveyors in the nation, and is still active in that field.

Mrs. Douglas has held positions in several marine related organizations: American Boat and Yacht Council, Inc; National Boating Safety Advisory Council; Rules of the Road Advisory Council; Marine Council of Underwriters Laboratories, Inc; and others.

Her love affair with the water started when she was ten when her father, Rear Admiral Robert Malcolm Fortson (now deceased) taught his children the ways of a mariner. They built skiffs, made sails and learned seamanship in a hands-on environment. Safety was always a discipline to be learned.

She says, "It has been my passion to help my fellow mariners." Obviously, she still has that passion today.

(abstracted from an article by Pamela A. Keene)

COMING EVENTS

01 Jun Boat Smart II
Northside Library
see web page for map.

08 Jun Luau and Raft-up
Sunrise Cove Marina
see page 8

13 Jun Executive Committee meeting
Old Hickory House
5490 Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd.
Dunwoody, GA
1830 Dutch treat dinner
1900 meeting
all members welcome

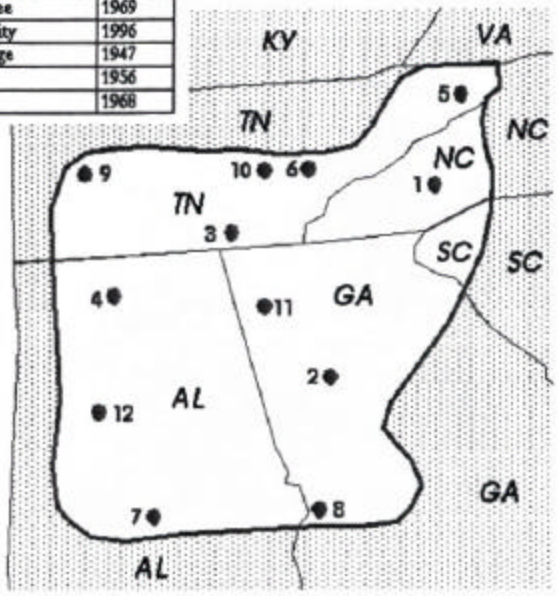
15 Jun Annual squadron picnic
Lake Altoona Shelter #7 at 1100
exit 285 from I-75
see our web page for directions

11 Jul Executive Committee meeting

13 Jul Luau and raft-up

#	Squadron	Chartered
1	Asheville	1959
2	Atlanta	1953
3	Chattanooga	1972
4	Huntsville	1965
5	Johnson City	1962
6	Knoxville	1963
7	Montgomery	1971
8	Muscogee	1969
9	Music City	1996
10	Oak Ridge	1947
11	Rome	1956
12	Vulcan	1968

District 17 Squadrons



EDUCATION UPDATE

NEWS FLASH NEWS FLASH NEWS FLASH

The results of the open and closed book testing for the Spring Piloting class have just arrived. Fourteen students passed both the exams. Congratulations are due these members: Robert Ayers, Susan Ayers, R. M. "Mac" Barrier, Keith Blanton, Elizabeth Calvert, John Calvert, Louize Christensen, Ellen Cleveland, James Cleveland, Jr., Jerald Cohn, Robert E. "Bud" Porter, Jackie Porter, Pat Roberts, and Woody Woodring. There are a few students that have one or two parts to make up so we could have more good news from this class at a later date. We are looking forward to seeing many, if not all, of these students in the Advanced Piloting class that will start in September.

The other news is that Peter Iskiyan, N, has now successfully completed both modules of the Sail course. We did not have a formal class in Sail so he did this through self study. Pete has only one more course to pass before he will complete his certificate and become a Senior Navigator. You should plan on joining Pete in the Engine Maintenance class this Fall.

Next month we will start providing descriptions of the classes that we plan to offer in September.

Lt/C Richard E. Morrison, SN
Squadron Education Officer

DUES PROTOCOL

National (USPS) recently sent out the annual membership renewal statements to all active members, family and junior members as well as life and sustaining members. If you did not receive your renewal statement (and joined or reactivated prior to March 2002,) please contact Margaret Sherrod, Atlanta Sail & Power Squadron treasurer, via email at mmsherrod@bellsouth.net or by telephone at 404/351-2976, immediately, so I can send you a duplicate renewal statement. Please include your current mailing address and telephone number in your message to ensure I can get your statement to you quickly.

Membership renewals are due to the ASPS treasurer by May 31, 2002. Memberships not renewed by June 30 will be dropped from the local and national rosters, meaning that non-renewing members will be deleted from local and national distributions, including the *Waterlog* and *The Ensign*. After June 30 membership renewals are subject to a reinstatement fee in addition to the annual dues. If you have questions, contact me.

Margaret Sherrod, Treasurer

Commander's Message (continued from page 2)

Also it is membership renewal time. If you have not renewed yet and it is on the "Round Tuit" list, stop what you are doing and put it in the mail. If you do not have your renewal notice, please call Margaret Sherrod (404)351-2976 for a copy.

Make sure you have on your calendar the squadron picnic, the lobster cook out and the next raft up.

Cdr Danny Tompkins, JN

Additional

Raft-up

pictures

ON THE WATER ACTIVITIES

Hey guys and gals, we sure missed many of you at our first cocktail party and raft-up on 11 May. It was great fun! We had 10 interested folks show up for the rafting seminar (6 from ASPS and 4 from the dock). Then there were 10 boats at the raft-up.

It was interesting to go aboard all of the boats and see how other mariners get their fun. Also there was a great deal of exchanging ideas on how to do things on our boats and hearing about some very exciting trips that some of our people have taken, or some that they will be taking in the near future. The drinks and food were outstanding as usual. A very special "thank you" to Louize Christensen for her expertise in making dynamite rum punches for the masses.

Two boats stayed overnight and it was great. More conversation and a few tall tales and jokes. What a way to end a super day.

Now for info on our next event. It will take place on **8 Jun** with an Anchoring Seminar at 1050 in the Sunrise Cove Marina clubhouse. There will be coffee and doughnuts to munch on while learning a few new ideas about successfully getting our boats on and off the hook.

Later, about 1600, we will again meet in the cove on the north side of Shady Grove Park to practice what we learned in the last two rafting and anchoring seminars. The format for this raft-up will be the same as the one just completed, but better because you will be there.

Again, some of us will stay overnight, so why don't you join us. If you do stay over then be sure and bring food for Sunday breakfast.

As before this is a bring your own food and drinks raft-up.

Phone me to let let me know if you need a ride, or if you can take someone on your boat.

"Mac" Barrier (770) 641-7524

The Digital Gulf #7
Is there a "Speed Limit?"

Last year I wrote a series of articles about e-mail, the Internet, and even digital pictures. Your encouragement and feedback were much appreciated, but after a while, my computer began burning a little oil. Shopping for a new computer is always an intimidating experience—there are always newer, glitzier gadgets-and they're always faster. It got me to wondering. Is there a speed limit on the Digital Gulf?

In the main part of the lake, DNR doesn't impose an arbitrary limit. The bigger your engine, the smoother your hull, the faster you can go! Up to a point! Then the laws of nature, the chop, breaking through the wind, friction on the water, and eventually the dam will stop you from going any faster. So what is the limit on the speed of my computer? Why is this year's model always faster than last year and where's the dam? And if I just wait a few weeks, is the next faster model going to be cheaper?

Enter the laws of physics. Einstein taught us that nothing can go faster than the speed of light, 186,000 miles per second. But computers do millions or billions of calculations in a second, so we need to look at something less than a second—how about one billionth of a second? In the world of physics, that's known as a nanosecond. (1/1,000 second = millisecond, 1/1,000,000 second = microsecond, 1/1,000,000,000 second = nanosecond). Light (and electrons) travel about a foot in one nanosecond in a vacuum and about 6 inches in copper wire. In the early 1970s, the Cray computer was the fastest machine in the world and the wires interconnecting its parts were about one foot long. We were about to reach the point where we couldn't push electrons through wires fast enough.

Enter a young scientist (and sailor), Gordon Moore. In 1964, Moore was working on the first integrated circuits at Fairchild Semiconductor in Portland, Maine. It had 32 transistors on a single chip. Moore's idea was that if you can't make the electrons go any faster, then we need to reduce the distance that they have to travel. In 1965, Moore predicted that **the power (and speed) of integrated circuits will double every two years.** In the world of computer electronics, that's known as Moore's Law, and it has held true for nearly 40 years.

Five years later, in 1970, Gordon Moore founded Intel Corporation - and last year, Intel Corp's Pentium IV chip contained 42-million transistors. The distance that the electron has to travel has been reduced from a foot-long copper wire to 15-nanometers, about 0.00000004 inches, or about 1/3000 of the thickness of a human hair.

Enter the laws of physics, again. What happens when the transistor becomes so small that there aren't enough atoms in it to control the electrons? With current and projected silicon transistor technology, at a little less than 9-nanometers, the gate (the "working" part of the transistor) is only a few atoms thick and the transistor won't work. At our current rate, we'll reach that limit in about 2015. So then what?

Ray Kurzweil, an inventor and author claims that Gordon Moore's prediction is pessimistic - the growth rate of computer power is accelerating. He claims we're in the fifth generation or

(continued on the next page)

paradigm of computing. It started with punch cards in the 1890 census. Relay-based computers were used during WWII to crack the German codes. Vacuum tube computers in the 1950's led Thomas Watson, founder of IBM to predict that the world would only need 3-4 computers. Discrete transistor computers were used by NASA to go to the moon. And silicon IC computers have brought computing power to our desktops. Kurzweil claims we're on the verge of the next great transition in computing power.

For example, last year, Lucent Technologies Inc.'s Bell Labs announced that they have succeeded in fabricating molecular-sized organic transistors-a transistor in a single molecule. IBM researchers have demonstrated that they can make molecular transistors today that are cost and speed competitive with where silicon transistors will be in 10 to 12 years, near the end of the silicon life cycle.

Another technology, carbon nanotubes make transistors by rolling a sheet of carbon that is only one atom thick, and they're doing it in the lab today! And yet a third technology in the research labs involves "quantum computing," storing information in the quantum level (the position) of a single electron of a single atom.

Organic molecular transistors, carbon nanotube transistors, quantum computing; where does it end? Assuming that researchers hit no major barriers in constructing circuits from molecular transistors, in the next 15 years, Kurzweil expects to see computers with one million times the power of today's most advanced silicon chips.

What does a computer with that kind of power do? Think 2001-A Space Odyssey or Star Wars. We're talking about computers that have the potential to support speech, sensory, and decision-making functions approximating human intelligence. If Kurzweil is right, by 2020, we'll have individual computers approximating the intelligence of a single human for about $1000. (That means I'll be able to tell the robot to tack rather than my wife.) At that growth rate, by 2050, I'll be sailing a cloud, but individual computers selling for $1000 would pack the computing power of all human brains combined.

Me? I'm pessimistic about the rate at which technology is adopted into society. Give it 30 years instead of 15, or even 50 years. Think it's impossible? Well, I spent the weekend with a 3-year old. A 3-year old who thought nothing of going to Disney's web site, printing out a page from their digital coloring book, and sitting down with his crayons.

If you were born in 1944, you were born before ball-point pens. You've seen the invention of radar, fast food, transistors, microwave ovens, push button telephones, satellites, beepers, color TV, 8-track tapes, lasers, men on the moon, cake mix in boxes, frozen dinners, e-mail, and the Web. Our generation has lived though an amazing growth-an amazing expansion of technology into our everyday lives. Will that 3-year old stand at the helm of his boat and tell the boat to tack itself?

By the way, we're not about to hit the speed limit, so you may as well buy a new computer today. Tomorrow's is going to be faster, cheaper, and glitzier, but in the mean time, you'll be able to check your e-mail and the squadron web site.