

Official newsletter of the
Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron

www.usps-atlanta.org



WATERLOG

United States Power Squadrons
Sail and Power Boating - America's Boating Club®



Sailing diary from the BVI

Toga! Toga!



Maritime Music
Through the Ages

Welcome New Members

In This Issue

Commander's Corner	2
Welcome New Members	3
Vessel Safety Checks Held	4
The Marketing Committee introduces new brochure	4
Annual Parking Permits	7
District 17 Happenings... and Toga Party	4
The Puzzler	5
Education Update	5
Bulletin Board and Calendar	6
Boating Fatality Facts	7
Maritime Music through the Ages	7
Cruiseship hit by seven story wave	7
Diary from the BVI	8
Shake-a-leg Miami Program	9
AFTerthoughts	10

The Waterlog

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

It is published by and for the squadron members by the staff of the Squadron Secretary and is 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, good taste and available space, subject to the approval of the Squadron Commander.

Please send comments and suggestions to:-

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Cover photo by Sheryl LaBoda; Grounded shrimper in the ICW near Thunderbolt Marina in Savannah, GA



Commander's Corner



Cdr. Jeff Wise, N

EIGHT DAYS! From when I'm writing this, it's only eight days until we'll be on the ICW! I'm already finding myself daydreaming about it—kind of like the end of school—it can't come soon enough. I mentioned last month that our ASPS

theme this year will be "The Power of FUN!" I think we're going to be off to a good start. Carol and Jim Jordan and all their helpers have done a magnificent job of putting the trip together—and they haven't taken Cruise Planning yet. That trip will make the fifth straight weekend that I'll be doing something Power Squadron-related. What could be more FUN.

Two weekends ago was the District 17 Spring Conference in Rome—Georgia, that is. Now what would you expect a crazy bunch of boaters to do in a Holiday Inn in Rome? They say it's a tradition, but I can't believe that any hotel would let the Power Squadron have a TOGA Party more than once. Just imagine about a hundred, slightly happy (read inebriated) boaters dressed in bed sheets and little else dancing to a 60's DJ in Rome, Georgia! To top it off, the Rome squadron even had their Change of Watch in togas that night. Margaret Sherrod, Danny Tompkins, Don Williams and I represented the squadron. The four of us in togas has to be a scary thought.

R/C Darrell Allison was the Chief Commander's Representative at the conference. He's the National Marketing and Public Relations officer, so it gave me a golden opportunity to brag about the job the our marketing committee is doing, but also to buttonhole him about support from National. The bottom line is that National's budget is so tight that there is no way that they can afford to do any nationwide advertising. We do hold an unlimited license to use the Popeye characters and they are preparing some stand-up displays, but overall, Allison and National believe that any marketing, advertising, etc. should originate at the local level. That's the bad news. The good news is that he was very impressed with what our committee is doing, asked for copies of our flyers, CDs, and newspaper articles that he can show to other squadrons, and is an advocate for us at National.

R/C Allison mentioned that some of our problem is that our own members don't know enough about everything we do. So here are a few facts for you. We taught 33,239 students in 1815 public boating courses last year. The number of classes is down a bit, but the total number of students is up from the year before, almost evenly divided between Boat Smart (8-hour) and The Squadron Boating Course (12-week). America's Boating Course (at least as far as the reporting goes) is less than 5% of the students. Nationally, we completed 33,016 Vessel Safety Checks last year and our goal this year is 37,000. So what difference are we making? Nationally, boating accidents and boating fatalities are down dramatically even though the number of recreational boats has risen constantly for many years. Still, there were 703 boating deaths last year, 3,888 injuries, 5,438 and accidents from a total of nearly 13 million boats. Drowning was the most common cause of death, and striking another vessel was the most common type of accident. I'll post the data on the web site soon. If you're going on the ICW, See you in St. Mary's, if not, we'll be thinking about you—NOT! Regardless, have FUN... Safely!

Squadron Happenings

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The new members' orientation was held on 16 April at Holiday Marina. The event was organized by Nan Putnam and attended by 11 new members and 11 current members and officers. The brisk breeze didn't slow down activities as everyone moved into the sunny areas and donned sweatshirts and blankets. The Bridge officers explained the various activities in their departments and encouraged new members to participate where they could contribute to the organization. Everyone enjoyed hot dogs and hamburgers while they swapped boating stories and experiences.

Welcome new members! We look forward to seeing you at future events!



The new "class of 2005" has a wealth of boating experience: L to R Mike and Martha Schneider, Nan Putnam (Membership Involvement chair), Robin McIntire, Charlie Cox, Jim McIntire, Cdr. Jeff Wise, JoAnn Lackey, Gail Clark, Doug Lackey, Greg Clark, Sandra Gualtieri, Frank Gualtieri



Captain Greg Clark and his wife Gail enjoy long runs along the coast on the "outside" and have brought a 40' SeaRay and a 42' trawler to Lake Lanier. Greg has just returned from a tour on the USCG flotilla where he served as PR Officer.. He and Gail are members of the Coral Ridge Power Squadron and are active with the USGCA



Jim and Robin McIntire have a 26' power boat and live in Roswell.

Frank and Sandra Gualtieri enjoy bringing their grandchildren on their boat. Frank used to teach USPS classes in Tennessee and now enjoys his retirement with grandchildren and boating.



Doug and JoAnn Lackey enjoy months during the summer in Bar Harbour, Maine where they have a Sundancer 240



Taking the new member oath at the 2005 Change of Watch. L to R: Charlie Cox, Lillian Cox, Robin McIntire, Jim McIntire, D/Lt?C Janis Owen, JN, and P/C Hans Meier, JN

Mike and Martha Schneider have enjoyed boating on Lake Powell, among many other places. Mike will be the featured speaker on this subject at the April general membership meeting



We look forward to meeting:

Janet Randall and Szymon Laczny, transferring from the Madison, GA Power Squadron

Squadron Happenings

VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS HELD AT UNIVERSITY YACHT CLUB



Patti Price is outfitted with the official Vessel Safety Examiner attire

Twenty vessel safety check exams were completed at the University Yacht Club on 10 April 2005. From a 40' Hatteras to jet-skis, the inspectors checked boats for safety equipment. The VSC Day was a cooperative effort with the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Safe Boating Day is 21 May, with Boating Safety Week from 21 May to 28 May.

The ASPS now has seven examiners, with two newly approved examiners and one pending approval. Contact Doug Watson to have your boat inspected, or for information to qualify as an examiner for the Vessel Safety Examination program.



CORRECTION: The March issue of the *Waterlog* erroneously listed P/C John Fowler, SN, as Ben Owen, D17. Our apologies, John!

DISTRICT 17'S TOGA PARTY

By Ben Owen D17

We have always heard "When in Rome...do as the Romans do!" The Spring Conference of District 17 was held in Rome, GA recently. To celebrate, the squadron decided that a Toga Party was the most appropriate activity..

Several party-goers had to obtain help from friends to togas properly draped to cover some body parts. A few of the members even held dress rehearsals during the afternoon!

The party kicked off Friday night beginning with a hospitality bar at 1730. Feasting on a buffet of salads, pastas and other Italian delights, the group enjoyed visiting with each other. Not since last fall had most of us seen each other and we had much catching up to do!



Incoming D17 Commander, Marshall Herron, gets into the party mode with Lt./C Margaret Sherrod

ANNUAL PARKING PERMITS

Annual parking permits are now available for Corps of Engineers boat ramps. The \$30 permit is good for 12 months and a 50% discount is available to seniors. With the permit, boaters do not have to pay the standard \$1 per use. Permits are available from the manned parks at Lake Lanier and from the Corps of Engineers office at the Buford Dam.



ASPS MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The membership roster now reflects 241 members, including 58 active members with family members and 96 active members without family members.

MARKETING COMMITTEE DESIGNS NEW BROCHURE

The Marketing Committee, chaired by P/C Ed Troncagli, has designed a new ASPS brochure. The trifold color brochure summarizes the activities and goals of the ASPS. Introducing the ASPS as "Atlanta's Boating Club" in a user-friendly format, the brochure will be available for distribution during Boating Safety Week. Look for it in all of your favorite marine supply stores, and help distribute it if you don't see it prominently displayed.

FALL DISTRICT CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA

The Fall District 17 Conference will be held in Marietta, Georgia at the Wyndham Gardens Hotel. Mark your calendars now for 14-16 October.



From the Bridge

THE 2005 BRIDGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2005

SQUADRON OFFICERS

Commander	Jeff Wise	commander@usps-atlanta.org
Executive Officer	Margaret Sherrod	xo@usps-atlanta.org
Administrative Officer	Frank Taylor	admin@usps-atlanta.org
Secretary	David Herndon	secretary@usps-atlanta.org
Education Officer	Kevin Schoonover	edu@usps-atlanta.org
Treasurer	Sheryl LaBoda	treasurer@usps-atlanta.org
Assistant Treasurer	Tim Tyson	timtyson@earthlink.net
Assistant Secretary	Edy Marsal	asec@usps-atlanta.org
Asst Education Officer	Roy Stegall	rapidroy@bellsouth.net

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Cdr Jeff Wise, Chairman	
Lt/C Margaret Sherrod, Vice Chairman	
Frank Taylor	David Herndon
Kevin Schoonover	Sheryl LaBoda
Hans Meier	Bob Leathers
Patti Watson	Patti Price
Carol Jordan	Tim Tyson
Lisa Herndon	Bob Ginsberg
Nan Putnam	

EDUCATION UPDATE

Students Complete Courses

Congratulations are in order for the following squadron members who have successfully completed all sections of recent course offerings:

Engine Maintenance: John Calvert, Jeff Clark, Carol Jordan, Hans Meier, Patti Price, Pat Roberts, Margaret Sherrod, Frank Taylor, Andrew Wilson, and Jeff Wise.

Advanced Piloting: Jim O'Neil and Roy Stegall

CPR Certification: This summer we are planning on having at least one and maybe more CPR Certification classes. Keep your eyes on the *Waterlog* and *DR* for more information when dates and locations have been finalized as space will be limited.

Fall Classes: Yes, its only April and September is a whole summer away, but I thought it would be worthwhile listing the classes planned for this fall. They are as follows: Seamanship, Advanced Piloting (New Version), Junior Navigation, and Sail. Classes begin September 12th, 2005 at 7:00PM in the Heiskell School.

???APRIL PUZZLER ???

What ASPS member started their party days at a young age?



???FEBRUARY PUZZLER ANSWER???

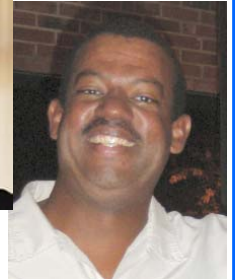
OOPS—the answer wasn't printed! "Princes" changes from a masculine plural word to a feminine singular word when you add "s".



Lt/C Margaret Sherrod,
JN
Executive Officer



Cdr. Jeff Wise, N



Lt/C Frank Taylor, P
Administrative Officer



Lt/C Sheryl LaBoda, S
Treasurer



Lt/C David Herndon, AP
Secretary



Lt/C Kevin Schoonover, AP
Education Officer



Ist/L Roy Stegall, P
Asst. Squadron
Education Officer



Ist/L Edy Marsal
Asst. Secretary



Ist/L Tim Tyson, S
Asst. Treasurer

???MARCH PUZZLER ANSWER???

An off-duty policeman is working as a night watchman at a marina. He's walking the docks and he strolls past a 30-ft cruiser. From inside the boat, he hears raised voices: an argument seems to be taking place. He hears someone say: "No, John, no! Don't do it, John, no!" Then there are three gun shots and a thud. The policeman leaps onto the boat and crashes into the cabin. He finds the following: a dead guy on the floor, a smoking gun, also on the floor; and three people in the room, alive and breathing—a power boater, a sailor and a boat mechanic. He walks over to the boat mechanic and arrests him. How did he know the mechanic did it?

Answer: The mechanic was the only male in the cabin. The power boater and the sailor were both women.

The Bulletin Board

Check out the latest District 17 Newsletter at <http://www.usps-d17.org>

Burgees, USPS Ensigns (and other fun boat stuff) available at: www.boatfanatics.com

May Meeting features speaker on GPS
Doug Townes will be presenting a program on GPS, followed by GPS classes this summer

HELP WANTED
The Squadron is looking for a new webmaster. If you have the skills to maintain and occasionally update the squadron website, and can spare a couple of hours each month, we need your help. Please contact David Herndon at secretary@usps-atlanta.com

Please help the Waterlog! Send your favorite boating stories, adventures, and learnings to waterlog@usps-atlanta.org

Help us save expenses!
If you received a hard copy of the Waterlog and would be willing to go "email only" please send a message to waterlog@usps-atlanta.org.

DATE CHANGE!! DATE CHANGE!!!
Tennessee River Trip dates changed to **September 23-25**
September General Membership meeting changed to **September 15**

USPS EVENTS: APR 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 D17 in Rome GA	2 D17 in Rome GA
3 D17 in Rome GA	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Univ Yacht Club VSE 1200 hrs - ICW mtg 1800 hrs @	11	12	13	14 Excomm Mtg	15	16 New Member orientation 1000-1200 hrs Holiday
17	18	19 Auxiliary @ 57th Fighter Squadron 1130 hrs	20	21 General Membership mtg	22 ICW	23
24 ICW Cruise	25 ICW Cruise	26 ICW Cruise	27 ICW Cruise	28 ICW Cruise	29 ICW Cruise	30

USPS EVENTS: MAY 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Excomm Mtg	13	14 Raft-Up
15	16	17	18	19 General Membership mtg	20	21 Safe Boating Day
22 Safe Boating Wk	23 Safe Boating Wk	24 Safe Boating Wk	25 Safe Boating Wk	26 Safe Boating Wk	27 Safe Boating Wk	28 Safe Boating Wk
29	30	31				

General Membership Meeting at the Foghorn Grill, 3230 Medlock Bridge Rd, Norcross, GA

ExComm Meetings at the Hickory House, 5490 Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody, GA



Life on the Water

BOATING FATALITY FACTS

From the National Safe Boating Council
Reprinted from *The Agonic Line*
Oak Ridge Squadron, District 17

If 2005 is an average year, approximately 700 recreational boaters will die due to boating mishaps. The vast majority of boating accidents are caused by operator controllable factors and not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors.

- The majority of fatalities (about 79%) occur on inland waters, such as rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds.
- Drowning continues to be the #1 cause of deaths in boating accidents. Approximately 80% of drowning victims were not wearing life jackets. Less than 23% of boaters in all boating groups wear life jackets. More than 60% of boating fatalities result from capsizing, falling overboard, or flooding/swamping.
- Fatalities rates decrease significantly when a boater has some boater education. 88% of fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had not taken a boater education course.
- Open motorboats have the highest overall number of fatalities (approximately half).
- Canoes and kayaks have high numbers of fatalities due to drowning. Personal watercraft (PWCs) have a relatively high fatality rate due to trauma.
- Roughly 1/3 of recreational fatalities occur while boaters are engaged in fishing activities. A smaller number die while hunting from a boat.

MARITIME MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES

By Nan Putnam

Humming a little tune as you raise the mainsail? Why not? Ever since there has been the sea and sailors, music has played a role in the working of a ship, whether it is hauling the halyard or alleviating angst around Cape Horn. The album *"Classic Maritime Music"* from Smithsonian Folkways recordings offers today's generation a glimpse of traditional maritime songs since the colonization of America. The album includes sea shanteys painstakingly recorded by noted music historian Moses Asch, as well as more modern recordings by the X-Seamen's Institute and a host of other singers and groups.

For an hour, lay back and be transported to the days of the sugar trade, oyster dredging, fighting the little Bonaparte of France, gambling, drinking grog and wooing Spanish ladies. Included are such songs as *"Roll, Alabama, Roll"* (the famous Confederate blockade runner), *"Shenandoah"* (the song is actually named for the Indian chief of the Oneida), *"The Black Ball Line"*, *"The Sloop John B."*, *"All Me for Grog"* and twenty-seven other songs. LeadBelly, who has a prodigious repository for American folklore songs, sings *"Haul Away Joe,"* recorded in 1951. Many of the songs were recorded originally on field tapes by the song catchers of maritime music.

If your interest is piqued, this album and many more Smithsonian folkways recordings can be found at www.folkways.si.edu. Comments, questions and catalogue request may be addressed to folkways@aol.com.



Just in case you wondered if this was shallow water...

CRUISE SHIP HIT BY SEVEN STORY WAVE

From CNN.Com



A seven-story high wave damaged a cruise ship returning from the Bahamas over the weekend of 16 April, smashing windows, flooding more than 60 cabins and injuring four passengers.

The *Norwegian Dawn* was diverted from its route when the ship ran into rough weather on the way back to New York. The 965-foot-long vessel was docked in the Charleston harbor ... for repairs, officials said.

"The ship was hit by a freak wave that caused two windows to break in two different cabins," Norwegian Cruise Line said in a statement. It said 62 cabins flooded and four passengers had cuts and bruises. The wave reached as high as deck 10 on the ship, company spokeswoman Susan Robison said Sunday.

The ship's hull was damaged but the vessel was not taking on water, said Keith Moore of the Coast Guard Group Charleston. "All the passengers had donned personal flotation devices as a precaution," Moore told *The (Charleston) Post and Courier*.

The cruise line said passengers whose cabins were flooded were being flown home from Charleston and the safety of the ship "was in no way compromised by this incident." The ship left New York last Sunday with 2,500 passengers aboard. It was expected to arrive in New York on Monday.



Life on the Water

Following are excerpts from the editor's diary "many years ago" which give a flavor for chartering a 51-ft sailboat for a week in the British Virgin Islands.....



SAILING THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Saturday

Stayed in Red Hook Bay at the American Yacht Harbor on 51 foot Endeavor named "Cheers." Ate at "The Frigate" (St. Thomas.)

Sunday

Went diving with Chris Sawyer's Dive Shop. Two dives on Thatch Key – the first at Boulder Bay and the second at Jaws Reef (just nicknamed because a diver the week before had gotten sick and dropped his dentures overboard!)

Sailed around Mary Point through "The Narrows" and anchored at Leinster Bay by Water Lemon Cay. One group snorkeled by the Cay while others went up to see the ruins of the Old Sugar Mill. Grilled BBQ chicken and put on beach music for shagging on the boat.

Monday

Snorkeled in the a.m. in Leinster Bay – saw a stingray, a sea turtle and hundreds of starfish. Sailed across to Sopers Bay on Tortola to check into the BVI; sailed to Peter Island to dock for the night. Ate BBQ chicken and hamburgers; went to the beachside bar to hear the steel drum band.

Tuesday

Sailed across to Virgin Gorda. Docked at Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbor. Swam/snorkeled at the Baths – saw 5 squid. Ate at the Olde Yard Inn (the Creole snapper and the quaint ambience were great – our driver James had recommended it.)

Wednesday

Sailed to the Bitter End Yacht Club. Part of the group went jet ski-

ing and had a wonderful time. We found a guitar at the "food/bar" and had a sing-along. Ate steak on the boat and went in to hear the steel drum band – danced on the beach. What a beautiful place!

Thursday

Went diving at the Grado off Long Bay of Virgin Gorda. Ran into rain going over, but the weather cleared and dive was beautiful. The guys went windsurfing while the "ladies" hit the shops and the beaches... finding the greatest hammock of all time.

Friday

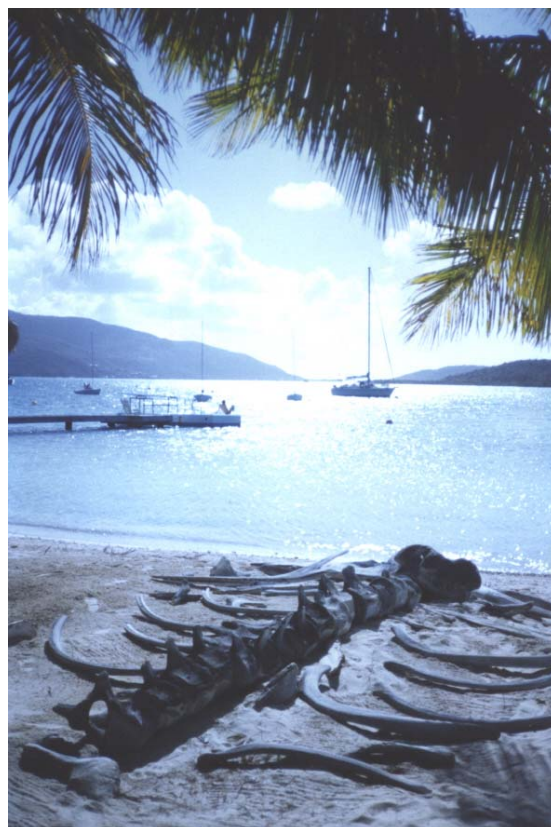
Sailed on a broad reach up St. Francis Drake Channel. As we approached Norman Island, we were boarded by the Coast Guard for a vessel check. Anchored in the bight of Norman Island and went snorkeling. We went over to the "William Thorton," an old sailing vessel restaurant/bar... Stay away from the head and the ladies in the cellophane dresses!

Saturday

Motored over to the Indians off of Pelican Island for diving. Had to motor because not enough wind for a broad reach. Hit rain on the way back. Went into St. Thomas to shop and saw the "tourist festival" in the square. Ate at the "Famous Johnnie Cakes" – superb stirfry, conch and pasta.

Sunday

We cleaned up "Cheers", checked our bags and went back to town for another quick shopping frenzy before saying our goodbyes to a wonderful week of beautiful weather, new friends and relaxation.





Life on the Water



SHAKE-A-LEG MIAMI (www.shakealegmiami.org)

The Shake-a-leg-Miami program enables people with disabilities to sail. A quote from a participant: "The hardest thing about making something accessible is making your mind accessible to it"

Mission Statement: *To bring hope, confidence, social integration, independence and fun back into the lives of people with disabilities and their families. To provide affordable and effective services and programs that will enhance the participant's independence, employment potential, and quality of life. To develop a universally accessible water sports training facility in Miami, open to all people, serving local residents,*

Shake-a-Leg Miami's twenty-foot 'Independence' sailboats are designed to be universally accessible with two special seats and all lines coming to the cockpit to give wheelchair-bound individuals maximum safety and control. These sailboats can accommodate most individuals with disabilities including those with spinal cord injuries, amputations, Muscular Dystrophy, Spina Bifida, Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, Downs Syndrome, blindness, deafness and other neuromuscular injuries. *and visitors from around the world.*

S

Milestones

1986 Participated in the development of an accessible sailboat and created a model, disabled sailing program in Newport, Rhode Island.

1990 Established a program in Miami in conjunction with the City of Miami and the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis.

1992 Rebuilt after Hurricane Andrew. Expanded programs to serve youth-at-risk.

1995 Reorganized Shake-A-Leg Miami to take on the challenge of expanding the programs and facilities, as well as create a community watersports center to serve the entire community. We served 1,500 people annually.

1996 The watersports center plan was included as a premiere project within the Trust for Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond Issue. It was approved by 67% of the voters.

1997 Formed a strategic alliance with the YMCA to create the Miami Watersports Park and Recreation Center. U.S. Sailing awarded

Shake-A-Leg Miami the most outstanding year-round community sailing program.

1998 Expanded our Partnership Network with 60 community-based organizations insuring that a cross-section of the community is served.

1999 5,000 people served with over 18,000 outings: 50% disabled, 30% youth-at-risk, 20% college students, families, and community volunteers. Hosted the World Blind Sailing Championship in which 120 sailors (60 visually impaired) from 14 countries participated. Completed Phase 1 construction of the Miami Watersports Park Recreation Center with the installation of the docks and the restoration of the hangar.

2000 Raised money to fund the construction of the new watersports building. Expanded Dade County Public School Program to 600 students. Expanded summer outreach program to put 1,000 kids on the water. Added a fleet of 12 Access Dinghies to an existing fleet of 14 keel boats, 20 kayaks, and 3 safety boats. Groundbreaking for new Watersports Center building - October 2000

Nov 9-12 International Access Dinghy Championship open to young and old of all abilities. March 2001 Opening of new Watersports Center building. Host International Disabled Sailing Regatta and Festival.

Ongoing Operate model, community watersports center providing quality programming to more and more people, continuing to launch boats and dreams

Programs include: Adult Instruction and Leisure, Youth Instruction / Recreation and Summer Camp, Youth At Risk, Municipal Parks and Groups, Competition Training, Special Olympic / Developmental Disabled, Education and Outreach, Research and Development

Shake-A-Leg Miami
2620 South Bayshore Drive,
Miami, FL 33133
Contact: Louisa DeSilva
305-858-5550 x.104



In the fleet, Shake-a-Leg Miami has three, twenty-three foot 'Sonar' sailboats, which are the boats of choice for disabled sailing competitions worldwide.



AFTerthoughts

ARE YOU READY FOR THE SEASON?

An article in a boating magazine from last year took a tongue-in-cheek look at the preparations boaters should go through to get ready for a new boating season. The advice included such things as crawling into the cabinet under your kitchen sink to get yourself in shape for that de-winterizing dive into the bilge. Another exercise is to have your entire family sit on top of the kitchen table and eat sandwiches to get everyone ready for those enjoyable picnics on the water.

Of course whoever wrote that piece wasn't a Southerner because he or she failed to mention those glorious spring days that are absolutely perfect for the first venture of the season onto the water—except for the “yellow snow.”

First, good luck on finding your boat under the golden April drifts of pine pollen. Then when you take it out for the first time, you will probably breathe in enough of the foul yellow dust to populate the Sahara with loblollies.

In addition to the physical contortions and inhalation therapy that may be necessary to get ready for the lazy, hazy, crazy days of sum-

mer on the lake, there's something else to consider—and its literally a matter of life and death.

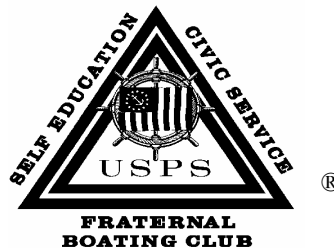
That's a Vessel Safety Check. Regardless of the size, age or general condition of your boat, make it a top priority to have a safety check done by one of the squadron's certified examiners. It's free, it only takes a few minutes, and it can pay huge dividends.

We had our boat inspected recently, and it was a valuable experience because it forced us to think about where the flares were stored, when we last cleaned the flame arrestor, when the fire extinguishers expired, etc. We passed, and the whole experience took about twenty minutes.

A Vessel Safety Check may save you some money on insurance. More importantly, it may save a life. If your vessel does not meet the qualifications, be sure to fix the problems immediately. Deficient findings are rarely expensive to correct. Then display the sticker proudly, and tell all your boating friends how they can have it done as well.

Happy—and safe—boating!

Lisa Herndon
1332 Cambridge Ct.
Atlanta, GA 30319



STAMP

