

Official newsletter of the
Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron

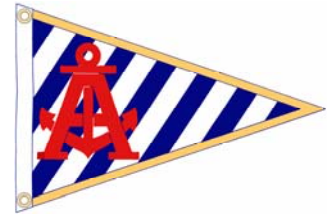
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WATERLOG

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

Safe! Smart! Fun!

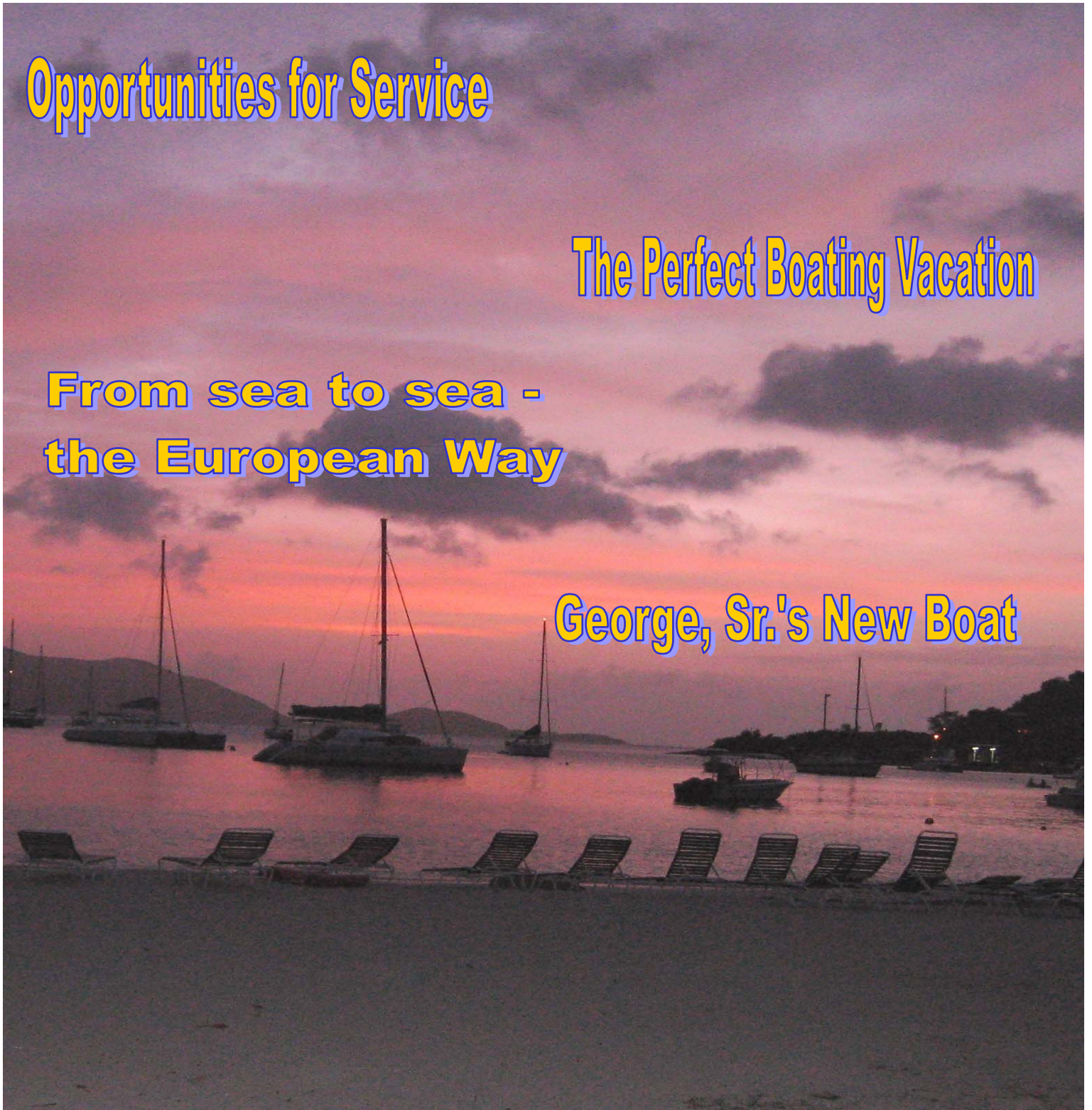


Opportunities for Service

The Perfect Boating Vacation

**From sea to sea -
the European Way**

George, Sr.'s New Boat



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Commander's Corner



Cdr. David Herndon, JN

What a terrific organization we have!

It was truly inspiring to see Nan Putnam's rental condo so full of volunteer workers that they were tripping over one another, spattering paint on each other, and generally having a good time as they gave the place a face-lift. The entire unit was repainted; the dishwasher and stove were replaced; some major plumbing repairs were completed;

and numerous other minor repairs and clean-up projects were done. Straw Boss Doug Watson organized the effort and kept folks focused on the needed tasks. Volunteers included: Carol Jordan, Patti Price, Dave Crumbley, Sheryl LaBoda, Glenn LaBoda, Barbara Tyson, Patti Watson, Ann Batson, Mike Schneider, T. J. Convery, Mike Guler and Lisa Herndon. To all who helped, thanks for the effort.

But wait, there's more! Tim and Barbara Tyson are coordinating a garage sale, with the proceeds going to Nan to further assist her in getting the condo back on the market. See insider for more details.

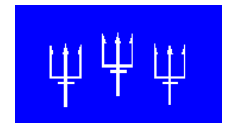
Great news for recreational boaters: Congress passed and President Bush has signed into law the Clean Boating Act of 2008. The new law places restrictions on the water that is discharged from commercial vessels, but exempts recreational boaters from these requirements. A number of us have lobbied our Congressional representatives to help ensure this outcome, and it is gratifying to see this positive outcome..

Congratulations to P/C Frank Taylor on his recent nuptials; to Charlie and Lillian Cox, and Doug and Patti Watson on the birth of their new grandchildren; and to Capt. Jeff Batson on receiving his "six-pack" license.

At the August membership meeting, (7:00 pm EDT, Aug 21, 5 Seasons Brewery) D/SEO Herman Green will be speaking to us about the new USPS Boat Operator Certification program. Some of us saw a preview of this at the D-17 Spring Conference, and I am excited about getting this program underway in Atlanta. In a nutshell, the program will offer five levels of certification ranging from inland waters to offshore. At each level of certification, boat operators must demonstrate both academic knowledge and on-the-water skills. Please attend this meeting and learn how you can obtain your certification, and how to become a certifier for other boaters.

Happy boating!!

Dave



The Waterlog

The Waterlog is published at least 6 times per year along with an abbreviated companion the Watertwig.

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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 E-mail:waterlog@usps-atlanta.org

Squadron Happenings

EXPLORING THE GREAT LOOP OF EUROPE

The July meeting featured ASPs's newest Senior Navigator Haim Zukerrman describing his four-month cruise "from sea to shining sea"... the Mediterranean to the Black Sea, that is. Accompanied by a slide show featuring spectacular European backdrops, Haim described his 2500 km adventure, having the perfect boat for the trip—built in Taiwan, a 57' Grand Harbour Express, and having it shipped to France from Fort Lauderdale. The boat holds 1000 gallons of fuel and 350 gallons of water and draws 4.5 feet.

The trip involved 217 locks, some with 3 inches on each side of the boat (thus the research ahead of time for the "perfect boat"). At one point, he went through 25 locks in one day to get to the Rhine River, which flows at 10 knots. Haim, who is of Russian heritage, and his wife, Batia, who is Romanian, had friends from Europe join them at different points along the route to assist with language and local knowledge.

Some parts of the trip (Romania, Bulgaria) had no marinas or fuel, so the trip had to be carefully planned. The adventure included leaving in the middle of the night when the local culture looked a little too menacing.

Everyone enjoyed the first-class presentation by one of our own members.

Commander Herndon awarded his second Bridge-tender Award to Genie Troncalli for her development and implementation of the Mentor program, assigning current members to help new members become involved and kept informed of the squadron activities.

The **August meeting** will be held at the Five Season's Brewery just inside I-285 on Roswell Road in the Prado shopping center. The featured speaker will be District Education Officer Herman Green. Herman will be providing details of the new USPS Boat Operator Certificate program. Come hear what it takes to get your operator certification and also to become a certifier.

FuN ACTIVITIES FOR A GOOD CAUSE

The Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron members are more than just community servants on the water. They're more than a boating club who have a great time together at raft-ups. They support each other on and off of the water.

This month several members have stepped up to help Nan Putnam, who has been recovering from surgery and subsequent infection that left her bed-ridden for several months. Nan is now up, getting about with a walker and staying with friends.

Doug Watson organized work days to help clean and paint Nan's vacated rental condo in order to get it in shape to go back on the market. Over three days, volunteers painted, cleaned and even donated a oven to the cause. Workers discovered rotted wood flooring in the upstairs bathroom and Mike Schneider spent several days rebuilding the subfloor and retiling the floor. Thanks to all who participated with their sweat equity!

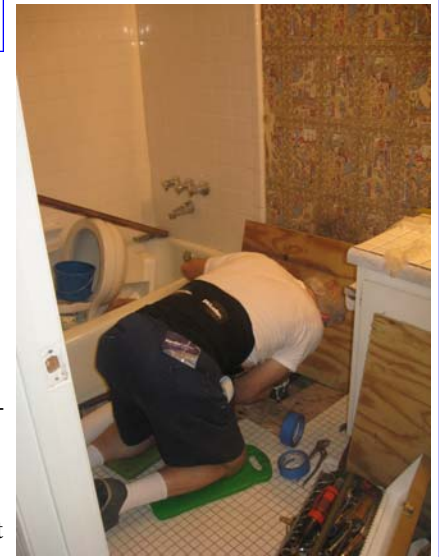
The second part of the FuN (For U Nan) activities will take place the weekend of August 22-24 with a garage sale at the home of Tim and



Above: Doug and Patti Watson and Dave Herndon give the condo a facelift with their paintbrushes. Below: Mike Schneider has his head in the head as he repairs the floor.

Barbara Tyson (and their two neighbors). The proceeds will help defray costs of the remaining condo

repairs that will require professional workers, and work that will complete the condo renovation. Tim needs your RSVP for workers and expected donations so everything doesn't come in at the last minute. Carol Jordan is coordinating food for sale provided by The Ladies Who Launch. Patti Watson is coordinating pricing, but please put suggested prices on articles prior to delivery to help with the process. Lastly, don't forget to come by and purchase all those treasures that others don't have room for!



FALL CLASSES START SEPT 8

Classes start Monday evening Sept. 8, at 7:00 p.m. at Heiskell School. Come expand your boating knowledge. The curriculum includes Seamanship, Advanced Piloting, the new "beta-VERSION" course for Navigation, and Engine Maintenance. Please register via the web or contact Patti Price at seo@usps-atlanta.org.

BOAT SMART CLASS - SEPT 15th and SEPT 22nd

The next session of Boat Smart will take place on two consecutive Monday evenings, Sept 15 and 22, at 6:00 p.m. at Heiskell School. If you would like to assist, please contact Patti Price at seo@usps-atlanta.org. OR Pat McGrath at p McGrath00@bellsouth.net.

Squadron Happenings

LAKE MURRAY SQUADRON HOSTS ASPS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

The Atlanta and Lake Murray squadrons had so much fun in 2007 getting to know each other on Lake Lanier, that Lake Murray has graciously offered to host Atlanta on their turf...er, water, located just west of Columbia, SC. Lake Murray is a 50,000 acre man-made lake which provides power and water to Columbia and is now at full pool. Currently there are six boats signed up for the event. Following is a brief recap of events for the weekend, currently planned:

Friday August 15- Arrival (*arrive after 4:00 to avoid traffic from a bass tournament underway*), launching at Lake Murray Marina, docking at the Lake Murray Power Squadron docks on Flotilla Island for the night. Dinner that evening will be on the deck of nearby Rusty Anchor restaurant, which features a DJ and Karaoke on Friday nights:

<http://www.rustyanchorrestaurant.com/>

Saturday August 16 -Cruise to No Name Cove, raft up for the day of swimming and socializing (and water fights!! COME PREPARED!!). Late afternoon cookout at Flotilla and then back out to Bomb Island to watch the birds (if they are still flying in). Return to Flotilla and relax with music and entertainment provided by "Island Time" (aka the Herndon's with speakers....).

Sunday August 17 – Morning cruise up the lake for brunch provided at Gladys Parsons' lake house (Lisa Herndon's Mom)... a little playing in the water and back to the launch site to haul out boats and return to Atlanta.



Lake Murray fires the opening volley of water balloons at the 2007 ASPS - LMPS Raft-up

CLEAN BOATING ACT PASSED WITH RECREATIONAL BOATERS EXEMPTED

Excerpted from "News from BoatUS", July 23, 2008

In a remarkable display of bipartisan support for recreational boating, both the House and Senate today passed S. 2766, "The Clean Boating Act of 2008" which will permanently restore a long-standing exemption for recreational boats from permitting requirements under the Clean Water Act. The legislation now goes to the White House for the President's signature. [Editor's note: President Bush signed the bill into law on July 30, 2008.]

Congressional action was spawned by a U.S. District Court decision in September 2006 under which an estimated 17 million recreational boats would have fallen under Clean Water Act permit requirements effective September 30, 2008. The permit would have dictated maintenance and operation procedures and potentially subjected boaters to citizen lawsuits as well as a penalty system designed for industrial polluters.

"This is a fabulous victory for common sense and it just goes to show what can be done when the boating public, the marine industry and its representatives in Congress row together in a bipartisan way," said BoatU.S. President Nancy Michelman.

BoatU.S. Government Affairs Director Margaret Podlich was quick to shower praise on a boatload of legislators who did much of the heavy lifting including Sens. Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Representatives Jim Oberstar (D-MN), Steve LaTourette (R-OH), Candice Miller (R-MI) and Gene Taylor (D-MS). A complete listing of all legislators involved will be available at <http://www.BoatUS.com/gov>.

DISTRICT 17 FALL CONFERENCE IN HUNTSVILLE, AL

The D-17 Fall Conference will be held in Huntsville October 10-12 at the Four Points Hotel by Sheraton, 1000 Glenn Hearn Boulevard · P.O. Box 20068 · Huntsville, Alabama 35824.

More details on logistics and agenda will be provided in the next issue.

ASPS members should plan to attend to support our own D/C Danny Tompkins and D/Lt/C Jeff Wise, District Treasurer.

USPS FALL GOVERNING BOARD

The USPS Fall Governing Board will be held Sept 2-7 at the Detroit Marriott, Renaissance Center, Detroit MI. Details are available at www.usps.org.



From the Bridge



THE 2008 BRIDGE SQUADRON OFFICERS

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Assistant Treasurer	Julia Haas	
Assistant Secretary	Nan Putnam	
Assistant SEO	Pat McGrath	

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Cdr David Herndon, Chairman
 Lt/C Carol Jordan, Vice Chairman

Patti Price	Jonathan Blackwood	Jeff Batson
Sheryl LaBoda	Frank Taylor	Margaret Sherrod
Michael Litke	Charlie Cox	Margaret Haas
Patrick McGrath	Kevin Schoonover	Tim Tyson
Doug Watson		



Cdr. David Herndon



Lt/C Carol Jordan
Executive Officer



Lt/C Patti Price
Education Officer



Lt/C Kevin Schoonover
Administrative Officer



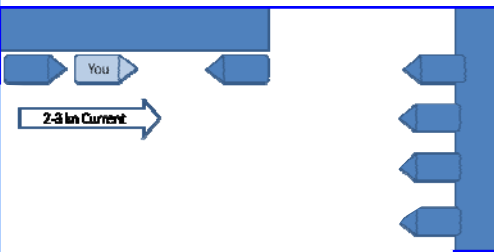
Lt/C Jeff Batson
Secretary



Lt/C Margaret Haas
Treasurer

???JULY PUZZLER ANSWER???

You and your 2 person crew are preparing to depart a fuel dock in your twin engine 35 ft cruiser. A strong tidal current is on your stern. Wind is not a factor. A boat is directly behind you, and another boat is about 20 ft from your bow on the fuel dock. A dock of finger slips perpendicular to the fuel dock approximately 25 yards in front of you. (See diagram below.) How do you safely get off the dock?



Answer: Select the longest dock line and have a crew member hold this line at the stern. It should be cleated fast to a stern cleat, preferably on the starboard side, and looped around the dock cleat with the crew person keeping the bitter end

looped around the stern cleat. Release all other lines except this stern line and the bow line. Allow some slack in the stern line and push the stern away from the dock by hand or with an extended boat hook while the other crew member releases the bow line. Engage engines port forward and starboard reverse, helm hard to starboard. If you have a bow thruster, use it to assist the tight turn to starboard. The stern crew person slowly pays out the stern line until the bow comes around, but does not release it until the bow is into the current. Once the bow is into the current, the captain puts the starboard engine in forward, the stern crew person releases the bitter end of the stern line, and retrieves the standing part - being careful that the line doesn't foul the props ..

With this swift current and limited maneuvering space, the stern must be kept in place as the boat is swung to starboard. Otherwise, the current will push the boat into the docked boats before the starboard turn can be completed.

???AUGUST PUZZLER ???

What common item on a boat has a shank, a head, arms and a crown?



1st/Lt Nan Putman
Assistant Secretary



1st/Lt Pat McGrath



1st/Lt Julia Haas
Assistant Treasurer

BOAT OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

By Dave Herndon

USPS's new Boat Operator Certification (BOC) program offers a great opportunity for boater education, as well as for attracting and retaining new members for the Squadron. The program offers several levels of certification, with each level requiring the candidate to demonstrate a deeper knowledge of boat operation and navigation, and a higher level of skill on the water.

It's the "on the water" part that makes this program especially attractive. Like the road test, we all had to take to get our drivers' license, the BOC program includes an on-the-water segment in which the candidate must demonstrate skills to a qualified certifier.

ASPS can benefit greatly by committing to the BOC program. Every member with a boat should have a BOC certificate on the wall and a current VSC sticker on their boat.

D/SEO Herman Green will be the featured speaker at our monthly meeting on Aug 21. He will describe the BOC program in detail. Be there and become a part of this exciting new opportunity.

The Bulletin Board

Minutes of the Executive Committee meetings, you can signup at:
Http://groups.yahoo.com/group/aspsusps/
 Please provide your certificate number when making your request to join this Yahoo Group

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

Send email changes to the Waterlog editors! And clear your spam filters for the following address:
 herndons@bellsouth.net
 Don't miss the news!

DON'T MISS THE GARAGE SALE AUGUST 22-24!
WE NEED DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS!
PLEASE CONTACT TIM TYSON

BYLAWS CHANGES
 Proposed changes to the By Laws will be available for review at the August and September General Meetings

PLEASE RSVP FOR MEETINGS!
WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THE RESTAURANT IS PREPARED TO ACCOMMODATE YOU!

GENERAL MEETING LOCATION CHANGE!!!
THE FIVE SEASON'S BREWERY, JUST INSIDE I-285 ON ROSWELL RD IN THE PRADO (BE AWARE OF CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS)

Mark these dates!!
 School Colors Raftup—Sept 13
 Oktoberfest raft-up—Oct 11
 Fall Leaf Cruise—November 8
 Parade of Lights—December 6

USPS EVENTS: AUGUST 2008

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

USPS EVENTS: SEPT 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day	2	3 USPS Fall Governing Board	4 USPS Fall Governing Board	5 USPS Fall Governing Board	6 USPS Fall Governing Board
7	8	9	10	11 ExComm Meeting	12	13 School Colors Raft-up 1:00
14	15	16	17	18 General Membership mtg	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

LOCATION : General Membership Meeting at Five Season's Brewery and Restaurant, in the Prado on Roswell Road, just inside 285 and behind Frankie's

LOCATION : NEW!!! ExComm Meeting at Hudson Grille on Peachtree Industrial across from the Brookhaven MARTA station



Life on the Water

GEORGE H.W. BUSH TO TAKE DELIVERY OF A BRAND-NEW BOAT

By GREG KATSKI, Staff Writer,
Washington Daily News, Aug 6, 2008

President George H.W. Bush loves Fountain Powerboats.

A brand-new, 38-foot, open-bow Fountain Powerboat with three 300 horsepower Mercury's will be in the former president's hands by this afternoon. The fishing vessel retails for \$280,000, according to Reggie Fountain, owner of Fountain Powerboats.

The "Fidelity IV," as named by Bush, is the third Fountain Powerboat of the same name purchased by the former president.

The sleek fishing boat tops out at 75 mph, according to Fountain and features a stitching of the Presidential Seal on the front and back of the captain's seat.

Fountain is a friend of the Bush family, and has been on many fishing excursions with the former president. Bush keeps his boats in Kennebunkport, Maine, where he has a vacation house.

Bush fishes for stripers or "rock fish", as they are sometimes referred to, off the coast of Maine, Fountain said. But just because he prefers fishing vessels doesn't mean Bush is afraid to push his boats, he added. According to Fountain, when Bush goes on fishing trips his boat is guarded by three Secret Service boats. But they can't keep up with him," Fountain said. "He'll get about a half-mile lead, then he lets them catch up with us."

[Editor's note: Could there possibly be any relationship between this story, and the story about the Clean Boating Act?]

A BOATER'S PERFECT VACATION



They call it Paradise for a reason. Without a doubt, a bareboat charter in the BVIs is heaven on earth for avid boaters who enjoy vacationing in tropical surroundings. Crystal clear waters, tropical breezes, sandy beaches, great bars and restaurants, and sunsets that are indescribable: that is my recipe for a great week. Garnish that with a well-appointed 37-ft power catamaran, a good set of charts and three other seasoned

cruisers and you have something really special.

Getting there is reasonably easy – well, as easy as any flight you take these days. A direct flight from Atlanta had us in St. Thomas in about four hours. Then a hour-long ride on the fast ferry, and we were checking into a mountainside hotel on Tortola in time to watch the sunset.

The next morning we picked up our boat at The Moorings in Road Town, and found it to be well-equipped for a week of cruising. Our only task was to provision the galley and the liquor locker. The local supermarkets and the boat charter companies are set up to take care of people like us, with free shuttle service back and forth to the market.

The boat layout was perfect for two couples cruising. Each hull of the catamaran is a separate, identical stateroom with a queen-sized berth, plenty of storage and closet space, and a head with a stand-up shower. The combination salon-galley is very spacious and comfortable, thanks to the boat's 16 ft beam. There is an interior helm station in addition to the controls on the flybridge. Powered by two small diesels, the boat was a very comfortable cruiser and very fuel efficient. The only minor drawbacks were the relatively small rudders that resulted in a somewhat slow response to the helm when underway, and the small engines sometimes required quite a bit of throttle to maneuver the boat in tight conditions.

By the time we got everything stowed and had our briefing, it was mid-afternoon, and an ugly-looking squall was sitting just outside Road Town Harbor. We decided to take the boat out for a short shake-down cruise and spend the night at the Moorings dock. That turned out to be a good decision, as a serious thunderstorm came through an hour or two after our return to the dock.



The Baths

Bright and early on Tuesday we headed out into the Sir Frances Drake Channel to The Baths on the southeastern tip of Virgin Gorda. With a 20+ kn wind out of the east, seas were a little bouncy. The catamaran handled the 3-4 ft waves easily. We arrived to find all the mooring balls taken, so we continued a little further up the coast and dropped anchor.

The Baths is basically a tropical beach with huge volcanic boulders scattered about (see photo). These boulders create lots of small, secluded beaches which are great for exploring, or just getting some sun.

From the Baths, we followed the eastern coast of Virgin Gorda around to the Bitter End Yacht Club, where we moored for the evening. After touring the facilities at BEYC, we enjoyed great steaks from the grill on our boat.

(Cont'd on page 9)



Life on the Water

A BOATER'S PERFECT VACATION (cont'd)

Wednesday found us heading for Anegada, the island at the northwestern end of the archipelago. Unlike the other volcanic islands in the BVI chain, Anegada is a coral reef whose highest point is 28 ft above sea level. Navigating the entrance requires close attentions to nav aids and bearings. Anegada is known for its beautiful deserted beaches, its waterside restaurants featuring lobster dinners and a flock of flamingoes.



You shoulda' seen him dock this baby!!



BVI Cruisers l to r: Sheryl and Glenn La Boda, Lisa and Dave Herndon

On Thursday it was back into the Drake Channel to Trellis Bay on Beef Island. Dinner that night at The Last Resort, a restaurant that fully occupies a tiny island in the bay, was quite a treat. The Last Resort is known for its dancing donkey and singing dogs; however, we learned that the donkey had died and the dogs were too sad to sing anymore. The humans who sang were pretty good, though.

On Friday, we continued southeast to do some snorkeling at the Wreck of the Rhone, and then on to The Bight on Normans Island for the evening.

Saturday morning we snorkeled at the Caves, a site on Normans Island where sheer cliffs drop into the sea. We learned that this area was Robert Louis Stevenson's inspiration for "Treasure Island." At the base of the cliffs are several caves that make for great snorkeling adventures. Midday Saturday, we returned the boat to The Moorings, where we received a pleasant surprise. During our week-long cruise, we had burned only 40 gallons of diesel, or something just over 3 gallons per hour. With diesel at \$6 per gallon, that was great news.

It was truly a great week for boating and for relaxing in a beautiful place.

Definition:

Propeller: an underwater, aft-mounted, high speed winch for taking up lines floating astern a boat.



The Caves on Norman Island



We expected singing dogs, but all we got were fishing dogs



Life on the Water

PREPARATIONS FOR ROUGH WEATHER

Excerpted from Chapman Piloting, 63rd ed., chpt 11



In anticipation of high winds and rough seas, a prudent mariner takes certain precautions. Although no single boat fits all boats or all weather conditions, some general guidelines are listed below.

Storms can be a tremendous test of the knowledge, endurance, courage and cool judgment of skipper and crew alike.

- Secure all hatches on the boat; close all ports and windows. Close off all ventilator coverings such as dorades and mushroom vents.
- Pump bilges dry. Free water in the bilges affects a boat's stability.
- Secure all loose gear; put away small items and lash down larger ones, including the anchors, any forward hatches, spinnaker pole and life raft.
- Plug the hawsepipe with a rag or other suitable item.
- Make sure batteries are fully charged, and avoid any unnecessary drain on them until the blow is past.
- Break out the PFDs and require everyone on board (including the skipper) to have their PFD on before the situation gets bad; don't wait too long.
- Break out any emergency gear that might be needed—hand pumps, bailers, sea anchors, drogues, etc.
- In plastic bags, seal off provisions for each crew member, including clothing, bedding, matches and food.
- Open cockpit lockers only if necessary and use caution when opening them.
- To the extent possible, check and plot your position; continue to update more often than normal.

- Make plans for altering course to sheltered waters. Have the necessary charts ready, especially the ones for inlets and harbors.
- Reassure your crew and guests. Instruct them on what to do, and what not to do. Ensure each person has a task to keep their minds off the situation.
- Make sure the navigation lights are working. Hoist the radar reflector. Ensure all flashlights have fresh batteries.
- Remember that being cold can affect your judgment. Have all crew members put on appropriate clothing; thermal underwear, thick socks, etc. Choose clothing that will remain warm when wet; e.g., wool or polypropylene.
- Close any sea cocks that are not necessary and label them. Post a note at the helm of sea cocks closed.
- Wear a safety harness at all times in rough weather.
- Bring the dinghy aboard and lash it down securely.
- On a sailboat, prepare all reefing lines, set up the storm jib and trysail if it can be done independently from the mainsail and foresails. Be ready to change storm sails quickly. If you are running, rig a strong preventer that can be released from the cockpit.
- If you cook with gas, switch to a new tank to avoid the need to do so in rough seas. If you use kerosene for cooking or lamps, top up now.
- Break out the motion sickness pills; it is better to take them before you get sick.
- If possible, ensure all aboard have a good meal while you have the chance; it may be many hours before the next one.
- If possible, prepare some food in advance. Make a thermos of coffee or soup, and something that can be eaten easily and quickly. Store in a watertight container.

* * * * *

...AND ON THE LAKE

- If skies are threatening, monitor the weather channels on VHF closely. If there is a high probability of a thunderstorm in your area, try to get off the lake before the storm hits. If you can't get to your dock or a ramp, try to find a cove that is sheltered to the west and southwest.
- If anchored, check the set of the anchor and let out additional scope if conditions allow. Set a second anchor, if you have one and conditions permit.
- Do all the items on the previous list that are appropriate to your situation.
- Break out the foul weather gear.



AFTerthoughts

SEASONS COME, SEASONS GO...

Wow! Has this summer passed quickly! Wasn't it just last week we were talking about getting our boats in shape for a new season? And now here we are a few short weeks from Labor Day, the nominal end of the season. How did that happen?

Despite the record low water levels in Lake Lanier coupled with record high fuel prices - and the normal sweltering heat - there has been a lot of activity on the lake each time we've been out. In fact, a couple of times we had trouble finding a cove with enough room for another boat to anchor - partly because the coves are much smaller than they used to be, but mainly because there were lots of boats already there. This past Sunday we had to contend with "2-3

foot seas" from the wakes of all the boats out and about in Aqualand Bay. There's plenty of good water available if you can just get to it.

Of course, for hard core boaters, the season never ends. Labor Day is just another long weekend on the water. High fuel prices just mean more time on the hook and less time cruising. Low water levels just mean being more cautious about where you go. And the heat? Well, it's the South where it's hot in the summer, but moderate enough for year 'round boating. We'll be enjoying a cruise on the lake in February when the only hope for time on the water for our northern brethren will involve ice fishing.

Happy boating!

David and Lisa Herndon
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