

Official newsletter of the
Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron

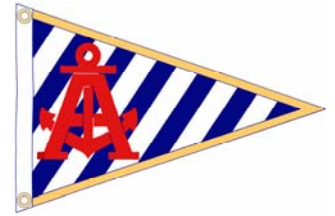
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WATERLOG

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

Safe! Smart! Fun!



Consider Service

Birds at Bomb Island



Lake Murray and
TN River excursions

D-17 Fall Conference

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Cdr. David Herndon, JN

Commander's Corner

We've built a bridge! One of the goals we set for this year was to improve our relations with other recreational boating organizations. While the primary intent of that goal is to work closer with other boating organizations in the Atlanta area, working with other Squadrons can also have benefits.

We certainly showed that during our recent visit with the Lake Murray Power Squadron. The details of the weekend are reported else-

where in this issue, but suffice it to say that LMPS understands the definition of hospitality. They made their docks at their lakeside facility available to us; they gave a great tour of the lake, including a unique opportunity to watch thousands of purple martins fly in for their evening roost on a nearby island; and they hosted us at a fabulous fish fry and barbeque. We're already looking forward to their return to Atlanta in 2009 in what has become the annual home-and-home event. I've sent a formal "Thank You" to LMPS Cdr Elaine Price and Lt/C Jeff Langlois, XO, expressing our appreciation. OK, folks, we gotta get some water in Lake Lanier to get ready for them next summer.

Events like this illustrate one of the advantages to being a part of a national organization like USPS. It makes it easier for us to spend time with like-minded boaters and explore different waters, make new friends and share ideas. Like us, LMPS believes that boating should be Safe, Smart and Fun.

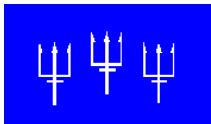
It's exciting to be able to welcome several new members over the past few weeks. Like food and water for us, new members are the sustaining life force of the Squadron. The challenges of the low water levels and the overall economy have given us additional obstacles to overcome in attracting new members, but I'm convinced that together we can continue to grow this fine organization.

Remember the Power of One. Your invitation to an event, or your casual discussion of the benefits of our extensive educational opportunities, may be all it takes to pique the interest of a future member.

And speaking of educational opportunities, fall classes are just getting underway. A new version of the Navigator course is debuting, along with Seamanship, Engine Maintenance and Advanced Piloting. In addition, a BoatSmart will be held on consecutive Mondays, Sep 15 and Sep 22. This would be a good opportunity to get your boating friends engaged with the Squadron.

As I've mentioned in a previous column, look for some changes in the way we manage our membership renewals in 2009 and beyond. A subcommittee of the ExComm has thoroughly reviewed the Headquarters Anniversary Billing option and will recommend that we adopt this going forward. In effect, this means that our annual renewal notices will come from National rather than from the local Squadron Treasurer, and that we will remit our dues to National, who will, in turn, return to District and the Squadron their portion of the annual dues. This change will save us both and money. Special thanks to Meg Haas and Patti Price for their work on this recommendation.

Happy boating!



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.



Cover photo by Lisa Herndon on Lake Lanier

Squadron Happenings

FALL CLASSES START SEPT 8

Classes started 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 is holding sessions on Sept 15 and 22, at 6:00 p.m. at Heiskell School.

TENNESSEE RIVER TRIP SEPTEMBER 26-28

The 2008 Tennessee River Trip is being organized by Mike Litke and Barbara Tyson. Mike is handling the boating, and Barbara is making arrangements for Bag Dragers. The trip will begin Friday morning, Sept. 26, and will conclude on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 28, 2008.

Boats will launch in Chattanooga near MM 471 on Friday morning, and will cruise upstream to Terrace View Marina at MM 544.5 (www.terraceviewmarina.com), going through the Watts Bar Lock on the way. The group will spend Friday and Saturday nights at Terrace View Marina, with either a raft-up or a trip further up-river on Saturday, Sept. 27. Boat slips for boats under 30 feet are \$30 per night. One bedroom accommodations range from \$75 to \$95 per night.

The Marina is planning to keep the restaurant open in late September. The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner - but not for breakfast. If the Marina decides to close the restaurant participants need to be prepared with adequate provisions for most meals. There will be a cook-out at Terrace View with the Saturday dinner at the Terrace View Marina Restaurant (assuming it is open).

Participants will need to make their own reservations for the trip. Please contact either Mike or Barbara if you plan to join this fun excursion.

LAKE WINDWARD YACHT CLUB REGATTA AND POKER RUN

ASPS is continuing to "build bridges" with the boating community in the Atlanta area and other USPS squadrons. New member Mark Small brought an opportunity for ASPS members to support the Lake Windward Yacht Club in its First Annual Reggae Regatta and Poker Run to be held October 11. The fun-filled day is packed with activities including a bagel breakfast, a silent auction, kids activities, and a "Jamaican Island Barge Party".

ASPS will display its boat show booth, banners and information, and will also provide services including manning the "Poker Run stops." Because this is a restricted lake for electric motors only, no one has to bring their boat—only their time, talents and smiles.

Volunteers please contact Glenn LaBoda.

FuN GARAGE SALE A BIG SUCCESS!

The FuN (For U Nan) garage sale was held after several weather postponements and the sale met with a wonderful, steady stream of buyers eager to find treasures and make purchases. Proceeds will be applied

Lots of shoppers found great treasures at the FuN garage sale



to Nan Putnam's remaining condo expenses so she can get it back on the market while she is recovering from an extended illness.

Several squadron members have made donations, made pickups, and spent time pricing and arranging merchandise. Special thanks to the Ladies Who Launch for the bake sale, and especially to Tim and Barbara Tyson for their leadership and tireless efforts.

THANK YOU FROM NAN

Thank you to all of my friends in the ASPS for the time, effort and resources you have so generously donated to help me during this difficult time of recovery. Thanks to Doug Watson and Tim Tyson for organizing all of the many volunteers who spent hours painting and repairing my condo and holding the garage sale to help with expenses. Thanks to Jeff Wise and to Margaret Sherrod for making sure my pets have been cared for. You've all given me hope and I can't wait to join you again soon at an ASPS activity. I plan to thank each of you individually and in person, but please accept my "group thank you" from the bottom of my heart.



Sincerely,

Nan Putnam

CONGRATULATIONS, CAPTAIN COMMANDER TAYLOR!

Past Commander Frank Taylor and Ms. Dawn Pinner rafted up for good on July 19th of this year. "The Bear's Den" crew has grown from one to five with the addition of Dawn and her three children, Orlando, Amani and Elijah. The Squadron extends its best wishes to the Taylor family and we are looking forward to seeing all of them on the water very soon. The Squadron is having a celebration event for The Taylors at the home of Charlie and Lillian Cox on October 26. More details will follow in subsequent emails. Please contact Lillian Cox and Barbara Tyson for details.



Squadron Happenings

LAKE MURRAY SQUADRON HOSTS ASPS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Content based on excerpts by Debra Allen, Past Cmdr, Lake Murray Power Squadron as presented in the LogJam; For additional pictures, see the Lake Murray website is www.lmpsonline.org

In the summer of 2007, the Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron welcomed Lake Murray members to Lake Lanier. Well, turnaround is but fair play and this year Lake Murray Power Squadron hosted the Atlanta Squadron. Six boats arrived on Friday and everyone had a great time boating, eating, and sharing stories about their various adventures on the water. The Atlanta Squadron docked at Flotilla Island for the weekend and was impressed and appreciative of the facility that the Lake Murray offered for their use.

After everyone arrived safely at the dock Friday evening, August 15, several Lake Murray members drove the Atlanta folks over to Lighthouse Marina for dinner on the Quarterdeck. Even a rain shower failed to dampen spirits as the crowd enjoyed karaoke and dancing!



Lake Murray Power Squadron shares clubhouse and dock facilities with the Coast Guard Auxiliary on Flotilla Island near Columbia SC

Saturday, August 16, dawned foggy, but the weather cleared and LMPS Executive Officer Jeff Langlois led the Atlanta folks, along with a healthy gathering of Lake Murray members, by the dam and up the lake to one of their favorite raft up spots — No Name Cove. After a day of floating, snacking, telling tall tales, meeting members from the Lake Hartwell Power Squadron and an unexpected hello from a transplanted New York Power Squadron member, everyone headed back to Flotilla Island where Lt/C Lee

Ayers was hard at work on a tasty fish fry.

Oops, almost forgot about total strangers visiting the raft up, including a pontoon barge of ladies celebrating a bachelorette party and giving away free Jell-O shooters!

Yes it was some day for the Atlanta Squadron.



LMPS has hosted fundraisers, dances and sold cookbooks to raise money to rebuild their docks



Nineteen boats enjoyed the raft-up in No Name Cove. Everyone had so much fun they forgot about the water fights! What do we do with all of those water balloons!?

Cdr David Herndon and his wife Lisa (the daughter of Lake Murray's own Gladys Parsons) entertained everyone out on the deck at Flotilla Saturday evening. You should have been there for the Herndon original, "Boat Dollars!" After stopping for lakeside services at Macedonia Lutheran Church Sunday morning, the Atlanta contingent went to Gladys' house for breakfast before departing for home and what is left of Lake Lanier.



There was no shortage of great food at the Fish Fry on Saturday and the brunch on Sunday.



David and Lisa Herndon entertained with Buffett, beach and boat songs, and presented LMPS XO Jeff Langlois and Cdr. Elaine Price with Atlanta burgees

Squadron Happenings

D-17 EDUCATION OFFICER DESCRIBES BOAT OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

District 17 Education Officer Herman Green was the featured speaker at ASPS's August meeting. He described the new Boat Operator Certification (BOC) program being launched by USPS.

The BOC program allows recreational boaters to achieve various levels of formal certification, based on their demonstrated academic and practical knowledge of boat handling, safety and navigation. The certifications will be recognized internationally as evidence of the holder's boating competence, which can be a big help when chartering in the Caribbean or in Europe.

D-17 is encouraging all the squadrons to adopt the BOC program, qualify certifiers, and enroll members in the program.



DEO Herman Green, speaking at the ASPS August meeting

you should consider taking them again as a refresher. Plus, it is a great excuse to get out of the house and be with your USPS friends each week.

Next on the agenda is our fall district conference in Huntsville, October 10th, 11th, and 12th. As you can see from the agenda, we are emphasizing this Fall Meeting to be a fun and informative weekend. Huntsville is about as centrally located as any city in our district. So, we hope to see great representation from all our squadrons. We remember what a great time we had in Huntsville two years ago.

Laissez Les Bon Temps Roulez!

D/C Danny Tompkins, JN

DISTRICT 17 FALL MEETING IN HUNTSVILLE OCTOBER 10-12

If you've never participated in a District event, this is a great opportunity to meet other boaters from throughout the Southeast. Registration begins at 2:00 on Friday October 10, with kickoff meetings followed by the evening party theme of "football mania" - wear your favorite jersey.

Saturday will be business meetings and informative seminars including: Boat operator certification, PR activities for your squadron, winterizing your boat, cooperative charting and more. The price of the room has been negotiated at \$70.00 plus tax.

When making reservations contact the hotel at (256) 772-9661 and be sure to tell the reservation clerk that you are a member of the District 17, United States Power Squadrons, in order to get the special rate.

Four Seasons Sheridan Hotel
1000 Glenn Hearn Boulevard
Huntsville, Alabama 35824

Dinner reservations must be received no later than October 1. Please visit the D17 website for reservation forms and more information.
[Http://www.usps-d17.org](http://www.usps-d17.org)

SEPTEMBER MEETING FEATURES ATLANTA SALTWATER SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

The September meeting will feature Scott Rowe of the Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club as the guest speaker. If ASPS has a sister organization in Atlanta, it's the ASWSC--they're a great group of people, have a great time boating, go to the coast several times each year, and are serious boaters. The only difference is that they catch fish when they go fishing (as opposed to some of our members who only get their line wet).

A MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT COMMANDER

Greetings from the grassy fields once known as Lake Lanier. Thanks to Hurricane Faye, the lake level rose two feet in two days. However, we are still down over fifteen feet.



It is great to see the many on the water activities taking place this summer all across the district. The great news is, by being blessed to live in the South, we have at least another two to three months of perfect boating ahead of us.



Next, it is back to school time. We have got all the kids settled in by now. So, it is time to for us to hit the books. The one area USPS has done a great job in the last few years is in updating the educational opportunities and materials available to not only our members, but also what we have available to share with the public via our seminars. Many of the advanced and elective courses have been updated, not only reflect the technological changes in electronics and engines, but also to reflect the changes in presentation and approaches to adult education. So, if it has been a few years since you had some of these courses,

CROSSING THE BAR

Fed Thomas, SN, a 25-year member of ASPS and resident of McDonough, passed away on June 22. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family, as well as our thanks for his years dedicated to boating safety and education. He was 84 years old and is survived by his wife, Mary Jo Thomas, three children, five grandchildren and one great grandchild. He was on a PT boat in the Philippines in WWII and never lost his love for boats after that time. He and his son, Jimmy, started attending Power Squadron boating classes in the mid 1960's. As a family, they made many annual trips to the Florida Keys and Sanibel Island with their boat in tow. Jimmy said, "We never worried about our safety, as long as my dad was there, even though there were many times we would be out of sight of land in our 19' outboard. We knew that he knew what he was doing and were confident that he could get us safely back to land."

From the Bridge



THE 2008 BRIDGE SQUADRON OFFICERS

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Administrative Officer	Kevin Schoonover	admin@usps-atlanta.org
Secretary	Jeff Batson	secretary@usps-atlanta.org
Education Officer	Patti Price	edu@usps-atlanta.org
Treasurer	Margaret Haas	treasurer@usps-atlanta.org
Assistant Treasurer	Julia Haas	
Assistant Secretary	Nan Putnam	
Assistant SEO	Pat McGrath	



Cdr. David Herndon



*Lt/C Carol Jordan
Executive Officer*



*Lt/C Patti Price
Education Officer*

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		



*Lt/C Kevin Schoonover
Administrative Officer*



*Lt/C Jeff Batson
Secretary*



*Lt/C Margaret Haas
Treasurer*

CONSIDER SERVICE

By Cdr Dave Herndon

The Presidential election campaigns are capturing a large share of the public's attention these days. Much has been made of the qualifications and platforms of the candidates, and every citizen must make up their mind as to which team can best lead our government for the next four years. Whatever you may think of the candidates' ideologies and platforms, most will agree that their self-sacrificing spirit of public service sets them apart from the rest of us.

Serving a larger group of people is not limited to political office. There are dozens of opportunities for service right here in ASPS. From Bridge Officer to Committee Chair to helper at the Chili Cookoff, there's much to be done. Specifically, the United States Power Squadron Operations Manual defines 48 different official responsibilities at the squadron level. ASPS tries to fill most of those positions as leadership teams are selected each year.

This is your opportunity to serve your fellow members and the boating community at large. Think about the things you really enjoy doing. Chances are that if you enjoy it, you're probably good at it. With several dozen leadership positions available, it's more than likely there's a Squadron job waiting to be done that could use your special talents.

Please consider sharing your time and talents with the squadron. The Nominating Committee is beginning their search for the next leadership team. They may be calling you, and if they do, I hope you'll consider their request. But don't wait for the call. We always welcome your ideas and suggestions – and we really like volunteers.

Contact P/C Frank Taylor or me if you have questions, suggestions, or would like to serve.



*1st/Lt Nan Putman
Assistant Secretary*



*1st/Lt Pat McGrath
Assistant SEO*



*1st/Lt Julia Haas
Assistant Treasurer*



???AUGUST PUZZLER ANSWER???

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

Answer: The anchor. See Chapman's 63rd edition, pg. 253

???SEPTEMBER PUZZLER ???

What is wrong with the picture above?

The Bulletin Board

Minutes of the Executive Committee meetings, you can signup at:
[Http://groups.yahoo.com/group/aspsusps/](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>

Are you receiving the USPS Compass published 6 times annually? Get lots of hints, tips and links to USPS and partner sites.
 To subscribe send information to:
<http://www.usps.org/national/natsec/newhome/compass.html>.

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

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)

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

Mark these dates!!
 School Colors Raftup—Sept 20
TN River Cruise Sept 26-28
 Oktoberfest raft-up—Oct 11
 Fall Leaf Cruise—November 8
 Parade of Lights—December 6

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 FuN Garage Sale	13 FuN Garage Sale
14	15	16	17	18 General Membership mtg	19	20 School Colors Raft-up 1:00
21	22	23	24	25	26 TN River Cruise	27 TN River Cruise
28 TN River Cruise	29	30				

USPS EVENTS: OCT 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 ExComm Meeting	10 D17 Meeting Huntsville	11 D17 Huntsville Lk Windward Regatta
12	13	14	15	16 General Membership mtg	17	18 Oktoberfest raft-up
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Frank and Dawn Taylor wedding celebration	27	28	29	30	31	

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

SEAFARING TALE AND A NOVEL WAY TO HONOR A LIFELONG FRIEND

Excerpts from article by Leigh Galithier Savage
in *The Furman Magazine Winter 2008*

“If there is something you really want to do, you better go ahead and do it, because tomorrow may not give you the opportunity,” says Beth Kendrick Tally.

She explores this statement in *The Beacon*, a novel she recently self-published through Rosedog Press. But it’s also a recurring theme in her life, which has involved exotic ports-of-call, a stream of new cultures and languages, and no permanent address.

“Life is the only story you need,” she says. “Interactions happen to you every day, so don’t discount them. Pay attention, and be aware of your own life, and you’ll enjoy it so much.”

Words of wisdom from a once reluctant “cruiser” - parlance for “one who lives on an ever-wandering sailboat.”

Tally is speaking by phone from the Rio Dulce in Guatemala, where she has learned about active volcanoes, explored Mayan ruins and been exposed to 23 different dialects. She’ll soon sail with her husband John to Belize. And after that, “I’m not sure what we’ll do,” she says.

This exciting life was never Tally’s ideal. “The water is not my thing,” she says, chuckling at the irony. “I get seasick.”

So imagine her surprise when John, her husband of 26 years, came home from his law practice one day four years ago and announced that his lifelong dream was to sell everything he owned and live on a boat. “I assumed it was a midlife crisis, but it didn’t go away,” Tally says wryly.

With her two grown daughters heading off on their own, she had been concerned about adapting to an empty nest—and then suddenly she says, “I didn’t even have a nest!”

But these days, she’s grateful that John convinced her to pursue his dream, which so far has taken them up the eastern seaboard to Maine and throughout the Caribbean. “It’s a very different perspective,” she says of her new lifestyle. “This mode of travel is slow, so you see a whole different atmosphere that centers around the water.”

On their 38-foot boat, *Up Jinks*, John serves as captain, chief mechanic and photographer for their Web site, www.lifesstory.com. Beth has come to relish her role as first mate, as it allows her plenty of time to pursue her primary passion: writing.

Chronicling their experiences helped her adjust to her new, peripatetic lifestyle, and as the months passed, she posted increasingly sophisticated entries on the web site. “It became my way of adopting cruising as what I wanted to do as well—my way of embracing what we are doing,” she says.

Although she didn’t set out to be a novelist, a random trip to a tiny community on Little Exuma Island in the Bahamas inspired her to take a stab at fiction. When they heard a radio advertisement inviting cruisers to a fund-raising bazaar for a church, she and John leaped at the chance for a closer look at the island.

After a delightful visit, full of conversation and barbecued chicken,

the idea for a book came to her, fully formed—the main characters of *The Beacon* and three pivotal chapters. She spent the next year fleshing out her tale of love, loss and redemption, which focuses on the close relationship between Gabriel, a pastor who overcomes a physical disability, and Manuel, his grandson, who survives his own tragedy that challenges his beliefs.

“It’s a simple story about one generation giving the next generation the things it needs in order to manage what life brings, and faith and love are the most powerful of those things,” Tally says. Manuel is able to rely on Gabriel and eventually finds a creative way to repay him for the love and faith he has provided.

After completing her book, Tally realized that its themes kept reminding her of a close friend from college, Katie Burgess and her family. Tally decided to allocate a portion of the proceeds from sales of the book to Family Connection of South Carolina, a statewide organization that provides parent-to-parent support programs for special-needs children and their families that Burgess helped to found.

Tally and Burgess became neighbors the summer of 1966 when each was preparing for their freshman year at Furman University in Greenville, SC. Their families built a friendship that has lasted through the decades, complete with births, deaths, triumphs and challenges.

After graduation, life took the women in different directions, but they came together again in 1986 when both were living in Columbia, SC. Shortly thereafter, Katie and her husband, Jim had a daughter, Bryann, who has Downs syndrome. Bryann’s birth was “a positively powerful event for them—and for the lives of thousands of other people,” says Tally, who was inspired by the way the Burgesses reached out to other families through Family Connection.

One key message in her novel is about overcoming limitations to achieve a fulfilled life, which is what her character, Gabriel, does. “He uses his convictions to inspire other people,” Tally says. Another theme is that love, faith and family are essentials. “It immediately came to me—that’s what Jim, Katie and Bryann are all about,” Tally says. She points to the accomplishments of Bryann, now 19, a singer, pianist and public speaker who is involved in community theatre and choir and has received a United Way Community Impact Award for her work with Family Connection.

With book signings behind her, Tally is considering her next foray into publishing. She has several manuscripts of children’s stories and is thinking about writing a “tongue-in-cheek diary” about how she was coerced into the cruising life and the adventures that have ensued. “we have many humorous things happen to us,” she says. “I’ve got a lot of stories to tell.”

While she misses her former job as executive director of Central South Carolina Habitat for Humanity, as well as easy access to her children, she says she and John are enjoying their seafaring life and aren’t sure when, or if, the adventure will end.

But she emphasizes that at least one event would bring her back to *terra ferma* in a hurry. “I don’t have grandchildren,” Tally says, “but John knows that as soon as I do, my days of being permanently on the boat are over.”



Life on the Water

PURPLE MARTINS RETURN TO BOMB ISLAND

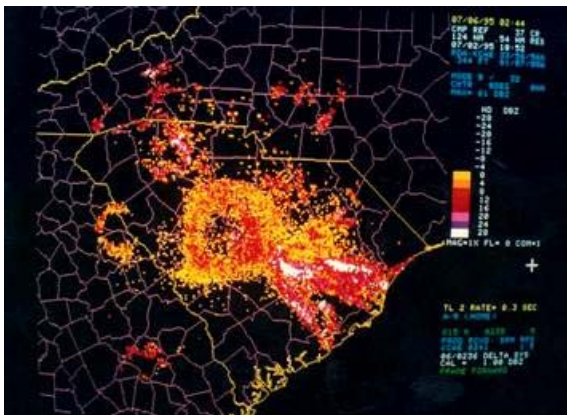
The ASPS members who travelled to Lake Murray, SC experienced an unexpected treat: witnessing the largest purple martin roost in all of North America.

The birds gather there from all over the eastern US from mid-June to mid-August to get ready to fly to Brazil for the winter. While roosting there, they leave each day and some fly out as far as 125 miles to train for the longer run to Brazil, which will begin in late August or early September. Some probably just fly around Lake Murray eating mosquitoes and other larger flying insects. But from mid-June to mid-August they come back every night just before sunset to Bomb Island - and only to Bomb Island. They number over 700,000 and computers have counted as many as a million. Witnesses have compared it to a "black tornado" of birds.

(Editor's notes: They say the Rusty Anchor has a great pan fried purple martin. They also say the bomber they pulled from the lake a few years ago will be on display in a museum in Birmingham, AL, but there are some spots on the windshield they can't get off. And finally, the local boaters cannot understand why all those birds come back every night just to see those boats around the island.)



Above, award winning photo by Vicki Ferguson 2007; Right, Clemson University NEXRAD radar image of 700,000 birds leaving Bomb Island



MANAGING FUEL COSTS

Excerpted and adapted from "Fuel for Thought" by Dudley Dawson, Yachting, September 2008

Fuel prices headed toward double-digit dollars have gotten the attention of even the most dedicated boaters among us. What can we do to ease the pain?

To begin, it's important to understand that it's a matter of proportions: the larger the boat, the lower the fuel costs as a percentage of total operating expenses. For a mega-yacht with a captain, crew, professional manager, slips in many ports of call, catered parties, and lots of ongoing upkeep, fuel—even at double or triple the price—is a secondary consideration. But for those using our gas-guzzling trunk to haul our 25-footer three hundred miles to the coast a couple of times a month, it's a more direct and painful concern.

It's a problem, but it's a manageable one.

First, put your boat on a diet, because fuel consumption is directly proportional to the weight of the vessel. Short days trips don't require full fuel and water tanks. Keep aboard only what you reasonably need for the trip plus a reasonable margin for weather, and to accommodate a change of plans. Unless your itinerary includes a cruise up the Amazon, leave the spare props and shafts in the dock box. Don't carry a third "storm anchor" just in case. When cruising in the Bahamas, you don't need enough chain to anchor in a Norwegian fjord. You simply don't need enough oil for five oil changes, clothes for four seasons and food for three months on board.

Second, slow down. Generally, power requirements, and thus fuel usage, vary directly with the square of the speed of the vessel. Slowing from 20 knots to 18 is a 10% difference in speed, but a 19% reduction in fuel usage.

Reducing engine rpm produces even more dramatic effects. Power requirements vary almost as the cube of the rpm. Slowing from 2000 to 1800 rpm, a 10% reduction, produces a 27% reduction in power and fuel consumption.

Third, keep everything at peak operating efficiency. Clean the hull bottom regularly to reduce drag. Have the engines tuned regularly. Operating efficiently includes selecting the right speed for your boat. Somewhere between poking along at displacement speed and zooming across the water on plane is a no-no area called hump speed. At hump speed your bow is in the air, you're trailing a massive wake, and you're burning lots of fuel. Either run slow with the hull in the water, or get quickly up to planning speed to conserve fuel. Use your trim tabs to optimize running trim angle.

Other options include having the propulsion system (engine, propeller and gear package) evaluated by a professional to ensure they are optimized for your boat. You may even consider re-powering the boat to take advantage of modern, highly efficient engines. Even though the trend among boaters is to go increasingly larger with our next boat, maybe its time to downsize. Smaller boats use less fuel over the same distance.



AFTerthoughts

SEASONS COME AND SEASONS GO

*“The falling leaves drift by the window
The autumn leaves of red and gold
I see my wake crossing the water
My sun-burned hands the helm do hold”*

Sorry for rather bad paraphrase of a great lyric, but it helps make the point—somehow another boating season has nearly passed us. Of course, as we’ve said before in this space, we’re incredibly fortunate to live in a place where the boating season really never ends. But nevertheless, I suppose we have to mark the passage of the seasons just like my family makes me admit to having another birthday every year.

It was fun last weekend to pull into a cove to see three or four boats rafted up and hear someone’s speakers blaring out the play-by-play

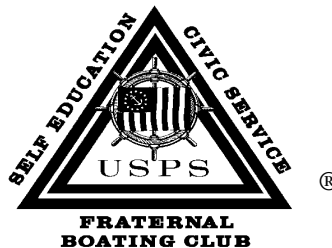
of a favorite football team—especially when you could float on your favorite water toy, sipping your favorite cold beverage, while enjoying the game. Did I mention that I love the South?

Despite the low water problems, 2008 has been a great season for us. Beginning with the early raft-up in March, through the ICW trip and the summer OTW events, and onto the Tennessee River cruise and the annual leaf cruise, we’ve managed to put some good hours on the water.

Well, maybe it wasn’t a perfect season. There were the unexpected repairs to deal with, the unexpected thunderstorm in the middle of an otherwise great raft-up, and so on. But you know what? When I was floating out there on the lake last weekend listening to the ball game, I didn’t think much about those things.

Happy boating!

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STAMP