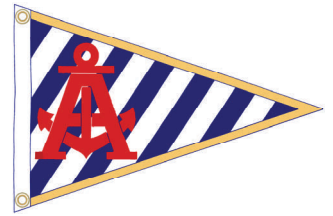




# WATERLOG

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

## Safe! Smart! Fun!



## Cardboard Boats and Blind Dinghies



## Keeping the Waterways Safe

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**Commander's Corner**



*Cdr. Carol Jordan AP*

Well here we are, smack dab in the middle of summer, and if you're not having fun with the Power Squadron, then you're probably on vacation. Since our last Waterlog, there have been many opportunities to get involved in our activities. As you know, our organization is aimed primarily at boating that is Safe, Smart and Fun. In just the past month we have had numerous activities that involved all of these areas.

At our June General Membership meeting, the Commander of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 29, Mary Larsen, gave a very spirited presentation on America's Waterway Watch Program, and how we can be an active participant in this area of Homeland Security. Who knew that by being an active and alert boater, that you could report possible terrorist activity on Lake Lanier (a water source for a large metropolitan area) as well as other waterways we often explore?

Our June raft-up was the largest we've had in several years, with 12 boats, 1 dinghy, 36 folks and 4 dogs. All (except the dogs and boats) participated in a live flare demonstration and had the opportunity to actually activate flares of several types. The aerial and smoke flares were visible for several miles and attracted much attention from other boaters. Thankfully, our own Don Nelson and Douglas Townes were on hand in their official capacity with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to make sure everything and everyone was safe and well informed. If you have never had to deploy an emergency flare, this was a great hands-on experience for everyone. It was also a good opportunity to see if all of those old flares that we tend to accumulate still work. One of our members donated flares which expired in 1953! How long has he been boating, anyway?

The raft-up which followed the flare demo was one that could possibly go down in culinary history. Everyone prepared items that could be cooked or assembled on-board and as usual, there was more than enough to go around. I've always said that our raft-up motto should be "We can't go home until all the food is gone"; this would almost guarantee a weeklong event! Following several attempts to display our anchoring retrieval skills, we were on our way back to our respective marinas, slips and trailers; sore, tired and sunburned but thankful for another great day on the lake with our ever expanding boating family.

And if you hadn't had enough fun yet, the next weekend at Terrace View Marina, for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Watts Bar Event would definitely put you over the top. Yours truly stepped up the 16<sup>th</sup> running of the Atlanta Sail & Power Squadron's Cardboard Boat Race, by taking it to the Terrace View Invitational, since our water level in Lake Lanier was unpredictably low at the time this event was initially scheduled. (Who knew that the lake would only be 5 feet below full pool, as compared to almost 17 feet last year?) I have been promoting the Fun Factor of this event for about 4 years and this time 15 fellow Squadron members accompanied me for a great weekend. This is a special three-day event to give all Squadron members an opportunity to get together for fun - no seminars, no meetings, just lots of eating, partying, swimming, dancing, fun, games and contests, with other like-minded boaters from across our District 17. Unfortunately the only bad part of this weekend was the fact that the Cardboard Boat Race did not turn out the way I would have liked (that means I lost...). There were four boats entered, each one from a different Squadron, but the last year's champion defended his title admirably. Since everyone had such an incredible time, they have graciously invited the ASPS to come back again next year for this event. I can honestly say that after coming home sore, tired, sunburned and worn out that if I had any more fun, I'd probably be dead! But I'm sure I'll be going back again next year!

Continued on Page 6...

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.



*Waterlog Editors  
Lt/C Lisa Herndon  
and  
P/C David Herndon*

Cover photo submitted by Tim Tyson: Tim crossing the finish line at the July 4 Peachtree Road Race

# Squadron Happenings

## FLARES AND CHEFS ON THE WATER

*By Lisa Beers*

The "Chefs on the Water" raft-up on June 20 offered an exciting and educational twist for everyone participating, a flare demonstration!

Members of the Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron began gathering just before 1:00 p.m. on the water at a favorite cove in Two Mile Creek that provided an excellent island location for the flare demonstration, as well as wonderful views of Two Mile Creek and the main lake basin.

Despite the fact that the area was well populated with many other boaters that day, members had plenty of room to link boats together and enjoy a relaxing (and informative!) day on Lake Lanier.

Safety Officer Charlie Cox used his boat as a shuttle to transport ASPS members over to the island beach for the flare demonstration and members of our local Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 29 were also on hand to offer additional assistance and oversight. Everyone in attendance had the opportunity to not only observe, but also to have a hands-on experience with handheld signal flares, handheld orange smoke signals, and aerial signals (flare gun). Adults and children alike found the demonstration helpful in learning to safely light and hold handheld flares and signals, and how to shoot aerial flares to ensure the right trajectory for maximum visibility. But this hands-on experience was also quite thrilling, and sometimes very humorous, for everyone involved as well.

After all of the flares had been used, members returned to their boats and enjoyed socializing, swimming, and of course, eating! The idea of cooking on the water proved to be perplexing for more than a few members, but as always, there was an abundance of



excellent food to share and enjoy. By the end of the day, this outing had proved to be the best of what the Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron offers, boating fun and education with good friends!



*Above: Squadron members learn to use flares*



*Below: Charlie runs his taxi service between the flare demo and the raft-up..*

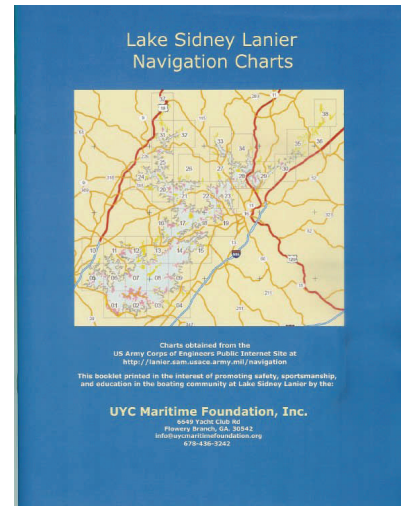
## UYC MARITIME FOUNDATION PUBLISHES LAKE LANIER CHARTBOOK

The University Yacht Club Maritime Foundation, in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers, has recently published a comprehensive booklet of navigational charts for Lake Lanier. In addition to containing detailed charts, the booklet includes other very useful information, including:

- 1) descriptions of navigational aids;
- 2) index of boat ramps, bridges, fish attractors, gas docks, power lines, streams, parks, marinas and islands;
- 3) list of important telephone numbers.

The booklet is printed on high quality water resistant paper, and will be a useful addition to the library of everyone who spends time on the lake. The cost is \$8.00 plus tax.

To get your copy, contact Lisa or David Herndon.



# Squadron Happenings

## WATTS BAR REVISITED

By Sheryl LaBoda

The very first boating trip I took after joining ASPS in 2003 was to the Euchee Invitational, a three-day weekend trip about 90 miles up the Tennessee River near Watts Bar Dam. One of the best parts of that trip was going through a lock for the first time (and having “Happy Birthday” sung to me by the captains and crews of several boats as we were locking through – how many people can say that?)

What used to be the Euchee Invitational is now called the Watts Bar Invitational and is held at Terrace View Marina in Spring City, TN. My, but has this event evolved from the Euchee Invitationals of years past! There were activities going on all weekend – but not to the point of feeling like you didn’t have any down time to relax – the events were spaced out very nicely but you always had something to look forward to.

We arrived at Terrace View Friday afternoon, after a smooth trip up the Tennessee River from Chattanooga aboard *Pokiedot Girl* with Tom Haas as captain and Meg Haas, Barbara Tyson and myself as crew. We went through the lock at Watts Bar Dam with no waiting. After settling into our rooms at Terrace View, we cruised to dinner aboard D/C Mike Scher’s houseboat, *Seaduction*. I was more than a little surprised upon my arrival to see in excess of 40 people aboard!! (And even more met us at the restaurant.) We had a lovely, leisurely cruise to an all-you-can-eat seafood buffet, where I think I pretty much ate my weight in snow crab – yum! After dinner, the cruise back was even more enjoyable with the night cooling off enhanced by a beautiful sunset.

Saturday morning a lavish breakfast was served dockside by the D17 leaders. I cannot remember when I have seen this much food put out for breakfast. There were casseroles, eggs, waffles, pancakes, sausage, country ham, biscuits, fruit, coffee cake, muffins and other items I’m sure I’m forgetting.

At 11:00 the 2nd Annual Blindfold Dinghy Race was held. I talked our highly-competent-in-all-things-nautical SEO, Patti Price, into entering the competition with me. I had grand visions of capturing first place and forever erasing the memory of our (mostly my) navigational shortcomings in the 2007 Cardboard Boat Race. We watched a few entries go before us and observed some pretty interesting figure-eights and docking maneuvers.



Sheryl LaBoda and Patti Price compete in the Blindfold Dinghy Race. That’s Patti at the helm with Sheryl navigating.

beat us with 1:23. Just like our 2007 Avis Award, we took second place.

We planned our strategy and did a brilliant job of methodically staying on course, albeit at a bit slower speed than most of the “figure-eighters”. But alas, while we held the first place title at 1:48 until almost the very end, the next-to-last contestants

There’s always next year.

After the dinghy race we had about an hour to play in the pool before our assigned lunches aboard various D17 members’ boats. I was fortunate to have been assigned to perhaps the coolest and most unique boat in attendance. My hosts, Ray and Delilah West, have a ~50 foot restored steel hull shrimp boat, *Sundancer*. We toured the boat in its entirety, including the engine room which, incidentally, is approximately the size of my entire boat. The history of *Sundancer* is very interesting in that she has never been shrimping! The original owner who commissioned her went bankrupt so she sat in a shipyard until she was purchased by a couple of men who had other ideas for her. They reconfigured her into a party boat complete with sound system, built in ice chests, kegs, etc. Her home port was in Louisiana so you can probably guess what happened to her next. Yep, Hurricane Katrina. Poor *Sundancer*. She is like the Black Beauty of boats. When Ray and Delilah found her, she was covered in rust – a total mess. But Ray had a vision and you should see this boat now. We were lucky to get to see her at all because the Wests were leaving shortly after our visit to go cruising for a year. They can never do the Great Loop in *Sundancer* because, while Ray removed 8 feet of her super-structure, she is still too tall to get under some bridges and he doesn’t want to compromise the ambiance of the boat any further.

After the cardboard boat race (see article page 5), Cdr Carol Jordan and First Gentleman Jim Jordan cranked up the soon-to-be-infamous Margaritarator. Several members in the area stopped by for a little post-race re-



Ray and Delilah West aboard *Sundancer*

freshment break. At 1700 Mike Scher hosted a cocktail party aboard *Seaduction* and afterwards we walked over to the marina restaurant for another nice and well-attended dinner. After dinner we had the pool area reserved and enjoyed dancing and swimming, punctuated by another stunning sunset.

Sunday was breakfast on our own and another smooth cruise back to Chattanooga with John and Lynda DiPrima and Norm Oien aboard *Southern Jewel*, Greg and Gail Clark aboard *Miss Gail II* and Dave and Ronnie Wall aboard *Miss Ronnie II*. A special thanks to Vickie Smith from Knoxville for organizing all the events and to D/C Mike Scher for his hospitality throughout the weekend. All in all, I can think of few other ways I would rather spend a three-day weekend.

# Squadron Happenings

## 2009 ASPS CARDBOARD BOAT RACE

*By Margaret Sherrod*

When the ASPS 2009 calendar was planned late last fall, the drought had made Lake Lanier less hospitable than usual with very few boat ramps open for visiting boaters and favorite raft-up coves reduced to mud puddles, at best. Since Lake Lanier didn't seem to be the ideal venue, our incoming Commander, Carol Jordan, suggested that the annual ASPS Cardboard Boat Race be held in conjunction with the annual Watts Bar Invitational. And so the venue was moved to a boat ramp on the Tennessee River. The existing ASPS cardboard boat race rules were published and distributed and invitations were extended to all D17 squadrons at a District Spring Conference special breakout session specifically covering the cardboard boat race. The competition was on.

A couple weeks before the event, Cdr Jordan asked me to be one of the judges for the race and I agreed. On the day of the race, we solicited two additional volunteers to serve as judges. They were John DiPrima (Chattanooga) and Art Izer (Knoxville). As spectators began to gather, taking up viewing positions along the docks, the judges tried to create some semblance of order in the racing venue. Don Grotjan (Chattanooga), using his kayak, set out a mark in the marina fairway to designate the course; the competitors would paddle from the starting area out to and around the mark and return to the finish line. Several members from Knoxville manned a polypropylene ski rope to serve as the finish line. Ben Birdwell (Knoxville) had brought along a mini starter's cannon for us to use as the starting "gun". With the racing area relatively in order the judges could then concentrate on the competitors.

There were four dramatically different entries. Two of the entries were designed to have two paddlers while the other two had single paddlers. Representing Music City (Nashville) were Ray Alley and McLean Hudson in "Purple Paper Eater". Representing Knoxville were Sharon Birdwell and Kathie Hawbaker in "In the Drink". Representing Chattanooga was Norm Oien in "Go for Baroque". And representing Atlanta was Carol Jordan in "Fiji". Words fail to adequately describe these unique vessels so look for the pictures elsewhere in this newsletter.

The judges inspected the boats and determined that they were mostly in compliance with the rules (after a few minor additions and corrections were made). All that was left was to see whether they would float and for how long. As it turns out all of the vessels were exceedingly seaworthy this year. So there were actually two races run, with all four boats competing in both races and some crew changes between races.

The following awards were announced the keeper trophies will be presented to the winners at the District Fall Conference in October in Oak Ridge.

- "Purple Paper Eater" – Ray Alley, McLean Hudson and Tom Hudson; in recognition of the best combined finishes for the two races, the best overall boat and the "2009 Cardboard Boat Champion".
- "In the Drink" – Sharon Birdwell & Kathie Hawbaker and Ben Birdwell & Chuck Smith; in recognition of the unique design, many

man hours devoted to the construction and the shared crewing responsibilities, the "Most Creative Engineering, Design & Teamwork" award.

- "Fiji" – Carol Jordan and Ray Alley; in recognition of the most spectacular dumping, not giving up, getting back in the boat and finishing the race, the "Perseverance" award.
- "Go for Baroque" – Norm Oien; the "Best Suited Boat Name" award in recognition of the absolutely fabulous choice, given the owner's other non-boating passion. And, not to be overlooked, realizing that the spectators' appetites must somehow be satiated impaled his vessel on an oar and thus claimed for 2009 the "Titanic" award.

Who knows what activities will be included in the Watts Bar Invitational next year but there is bound to be something exciting and fun. You, too, might want to join other Power Squadron boaters on the Tennessee River.



*The 2009 Watts Bar Invitational Cardboard Boat Race.*



*Chef Norm Oien helps serve breakfast*

# Squadron Happenings

## USCGA CDR. MARY LARSEN FEATURED SPEAKER AT JUNE MEMBERS' MEETING

Mary Larsen, Commander of U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 29 on Lake Lanier, addressed the ASPS June meeting at Cope-land's restaurant on June 18.

Cdr. Larsen enrolled in the Coast Guard Auxiliary in March 1987. She has served as District Commodore for the Seventh District. That district is comprised of the states of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina and the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

She regularly patrols Lake Lanier at the helm of her 28-foot Marinette, or aboard personal watercraft. During the time Ms. Larsen was a Division Captain, she participated in a pilot program in the Seventh District intended to train PWC Riders to work at the rowing venue for the Olympics in June 1996. The following year, as Rear Commodore, North, she assisted in the development of a PWC Standard Operating Procedure for the district, which led directly to the adoption of this element of the operational program.

As the current chair of America's Waterway Watch, Mary is leading efforts to raise awareness of the role that recreational boaters and water sports enthusiasts can play in keeping our waterways and waterside facilities safe and secure. The key point to remember is that people are not suspicious, behavior is. If you observe suspicious behavior or activity, you should note the details and contact local law enforcement. Never approach or challenge anyone acting in a suspicious manner.

America's Waterway Watch is a public outreach program, encouraging participants to report suspicious activity to the Coast Guard and/or other law enforcement agencies. Unlike some Neighborhood Watch programs, for example, participants do not formally join an organization -- there are no meetings, membership cards or membership requirements -- and you do



not become an agent of the Coast Guard or any other law enforcement agency.

See all the details at <http://www.americaswaterwaywatch.org>.

To report suspicious activity, call the National Response Center at 877-24WATCH (877-249-2824). If there is **immediate** danger to life or property, call 9-1-1, or call the Coast Guard on VHF channel 16.

Earlier in the meeting, Cdr Jordan presented her "Take the Helm" Award to Tom Haas in recognition and appreciation for his work in planning and coordinating the spring ICW Cruise.



*Tom Haas is first recipient of Cdr Jordan's "Take the Helm" Award*

## CROSSED THE BAR

Beth Guler's mother, Rose Marie Hansen, passed away on May 24. The squadron's deepest sympathies go out to Beth

Roland Jon Bernot, 33 year old son of Roger and Maggie Bernot, passed away on June 27, 2009. The squadron extends its deepest sympathies to the Bernot family.



*Cdr Jordan (r) administers the membership oath to new member and Waterlog contributor Lisa Beers. See Lisa's article on page 3.*

## ??? MAY PUZZLER ANSWER???

Capt Fred woke up early at the marina and began preparing for the overnight cruise he was about to take. He discovered his coffee supply was low and he could use a few more bottles of drinking water. Fred was waiting at the ship's store when the proprietor arrived and quickly found what he needed. The clerk rang up the items and said, "That'll be \$13.59." Fred checked his wallet and all he has was a \$50 bill. "Can you change this?" he asked. "No problem," replied the clerk. As the clerk handed Fred his change they both noticed something that made them smile. What did they notice?

*Answer: Capt. Fred's change, \$37.41, consisted of a \$20 bill, a \$10 bill, a \$5 bill, a \$1 bill, a quarter, a dime, a nickel and a penny—one each of the most common bills and coins in circulation.*

# From the Bridge



## THE 2009 BRIDGE SQUADRON OFFICERS

Commander	Carol Jordan	commander@usps-atlanta.org
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Education Officer	Patti Price	edu@usps-atlanta.org
Administrative Officer	Lisa Herndon	admin@usps-atlanta.org
Secretary	Stephen Hendrix	secretary@usps-atlanta.org
Treasurer	Margaret Haas	treasurer@usps-atlanta.org
Asst Secretary	Marla Hendrix	



*Cdr Carol Jordan  
Commander*



*Lt/C Kevin Schoonover  
Executive Officer*



*Lt/C Patti Price  
Education Officer*

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Cdr Carol Jordan, Chairman  
Lt/C Kevin Schoonover, Vice Chairman

Jonathan Blackwood	David Herndon	Frank Taylor
Charlie Cox	Lisa Herndon	Barbara Tyson
Richard Dukes	Sheryl LaBoda	Patti Watson
Margaret Haas	Michael Litke	
Stephen Hendrix	Patti Price	



*Lt/C Lisa Herndon  
Administrative Officer*



*Lt/C Stephen Hendrix  
Secretary*



*Lt/C Margaret Haas  
Treasurer*

## COMMANDER'S CORNER (cont'd)

*Continued from page 2*

Our free Vessel Safety Check program is up and running under the strong leadership of Brian Jernigan. He and his examiners are hitting the marinas and launch ramps on Lake Lanier to help keep boaters safe.

I was proud to be part of the team effort that went out on the Fourth of July to assist in this effort. I learned that there sure are some crazy boaters out there who can really benefit from the information we share, as well as the safety inspections we do. You get a chance to see exactly how unaware and uninformed a large majority of these holiday boaters are. I could only wish that more of you would become Vessel Safety Examiner, and in doing so, help to improve the public's awareness of boating safety; especially on Lake Lanier where we have a presence.

I'm looking forward to hearing about the trip Glenn LaBoda will be discussing at our next General Meeting. He and his wife Sheryl, along with another couple, bareboat chartered a power catamaran for a trip throughout the BVI. What a great opportunity to come and hear how they applied their classroom knowledge to smart and practical hands-on learning and cruising experience. Their tales of this adventure may even encourage others to start making plans or at least thinking about the possibilities.

If you have been on vacation, or somehow missed out on any of the above activities, I can only suggest that you make plans to come out and be part of our special, first ever, Swimming Pool Raft-up on the lake. See how we anchor our boats to form a large circle, and then everyone can swim in the center. This should be a real Kodak moment, so bring your cameras.

On a final note, I'd like to remind everyone to get the word out about our upcoming BoatSmart class, to be held on August 1. This is a great time to help folks get acquainted with our organization; to become safe boaters, and see that we are interested in boating that is Safe, Smart and Fun. This is an opportunity for us to be great ambassadors for our Atlanta Sail & Power Squadron.

You might even want to tell them about all the fun we've been having.

See you on the water!

*Carol*



*1st/Lt Marla  
Herndrix  
Assistant Secretary*

## FEATURED SPEAKERS AT UPCOMING MEETINGS

**July 16:** Glenn LaBoda discusses chartering in the British Virgin Islands.

**August 20:** JOA Marine will discuss boat maintenance and service.

**September 17:** Lake Lanier Association. Vickie Barnhorst will outline the activities of the Lake Lanier Association, including the September Shore Sweep. The Association is dedicated to a clean and full Lake Lanier.

**October 15:** 1071 Coalition. Grier Todd and Alex Laidlaw will discuss the goals and activities of the 1071 Coalition. 1071 feet is the full pool level of Lake Lanier, and the coalition is seeking to bring a common voice to legislators, the Corps of Engineers and other constituent groups.

## ??? JULY PUZZLER ???

In 1982, Joseph was 12 years old but in 1987 he was 7 years old. How can that be?

# The Bulletin Board

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

ASPS is now on Facebook! Search for "Atlanta Boating" and become a friend.

**Get Ready for Fun on the Water**  
 July 18– Swimming Pool Raft-Up  
 August 8—Luau!

**THANK YOU WATERLOG CONTRIBUTORS!**  
 Lisa Beers  
 Sheryl LaBoda  
 Margaret Sherrod  
 Tim Tyson

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MEETING BOATERS FROM ALL OVER THE SOUTHEAST?**  
 Volunteer for District service committees and get to know other squadrons!  
 Contact Margaret Sherrod

**GENERAL MEETING LOCATION**  
 July—Five Seasons, Roswell Rd just inside I-285  
 August—Gordon Biersch (formerly Rock Bottom) on Peachtree Rd near Piedmont

July 2009 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Executive Committee Meeting	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 General Meeting	17	18 Swimming Pool raft-up
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2009 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Luau Raft-up
9	10	11	12	13 Executive Committee Meeting	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 General Meeting	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**ExComm location :** ExComm Meetings are at Aldo’s Restaurant at the intersection of Roswell Rd and Abernathy Dr.

**July meeting location:** Five Season’s restaurant, located in the Prado, just inside I-285 on Roswell Road

**August meeting location:** Join the grand re-opening of Gordon Biersch (formerly Rock Bottom) located on Peachtree Road just south of Piedmont





# Life on the Water

## OH, DEER! FAWN FOUND 1-1/2 MILES OFFSHORE



This little fawn was swimming, obviously very lost. Thankfully, a sportfisherman happened to "hook" the little deer and bring her safely aboard.

This unusual "catch" was 1 1/2 miles offshore in Chesapeake Bay. (No information was available on the best lures and line for catching deer, but it would be hard to beat this fish story.)



## LAPTOP VS MOBILE PHONE

By Karen and Jeffrey Siegel, Boattest.com

About 90 percent of large boat cruisers have a laptop onboard, but what about fishermen in small boats and people out day cruising in the sportboat? Ever tried to use a laptop on a PWC? But a laptop has some drawbacks over the mobile phone.

First of all it is big! Where are you going to put it on your center console? Your typical laptop computer was not designed to work in the harsh and often unforgiving marine environment. It is more fragile, takes up more space, has a longer boot up time and uses far more power. Finally, when it comes to true mobility, a mobile phone blows a laptop away. Try taking your laptop with you for navigation on your bass boat!

We are not suggesting that you can take your laptop off of large boats -- at least not yet. There are still tasks that will most likely require your laptop. Some websites use embedded software such as Java or Flash, which will not run on today's mobile phones. And for some tasks, the small screen and keyboard may be a detriment.

But we believe that 85 percent of what you are doing with your laptop today on your boat can be done as well, if not better, on a mobile phone. We believe the day may come when a mobile phone will be your only onboard computer. Your mobile phone can be with you at the helm if you are fishing in your 16' Smoker Craft or at the helm of your megayacht. Best of all you can easily take it with you, going ashore, visiting another boat, or tootling around in your dinghy.

Access to the Internet and email on our boat was literally a life changing experience for us. It made the difference between cruising several months of the year and staying ashore. For the past 5 years we have been able to run our business from our boat while exploring the East Coast from Maine to Key West and the Bahamas. Now we are hardly ever out of touch with our customers and business partners.

On our last cruise we managed to be continuously connected the entire distance from Castine, Maine, to Vero Beach, Florida, with the exception of 25 miles on the Pungo-Alligator Canal. And that included being up to 20 miles offshore.

Access to timely, accurate weather is critical for added safety and enjoyment. Your mobile phone is perfectly suited to this task, too. It is particularly handy if you are out bass fishing and you don't want to turn on a VHF and spook those hungry guys below. You can easily access and display NOAA marine text predictions from the NOAA website – silently!

You want to go ashore and have lunch, buy more bait, or do some shopping, but are afraid of weather coming in while you're away from the boat? Forget about the VHF, just open your phone! Try lugging around your five-pound laptop and see how much fun that can be.

## SITUATIONS

Submit your suggested captions for these "situations". A couple of possible captions for each picture is included to get your juices flowing.

*"But the GPS said turn left at the ramp."*

*"Wow! The tide really comes up quick, doesn't it?"*



*"Now that's what I call a chicken tender."*

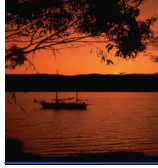
*"Be patient. I'm telling you this boat is a real chick magnet"*



*"The chart says there's a big rock around here somewhere but I don't see it."*

*"Don't be scared. That little boat won't hurt you."*





# AFTerthoughts

## ANOTHER BIRTHDAY

Wow! What a Fourth!

We celebrated the 233rd anniversary of this great political experiment on two different lakes, spending Friday, July 3, on Lake Lanier and Saturday the 4th on Lake Murray. The fireworks were spectacular at both venues, and it was great to spend time on the water with family and friends.

But you know what? It's even greater to be part of a country that takes pride in its long heritage of freedom and stands ready to carry that banner forward into the world and the future.

On a hot July day in Philadelphia so long ago, 55 men pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to the cause of liberty. That courageous act was the genesis of a political experiment unique in the human experience: a government of laws, not of men, based on the consent of the governed; equality of every person before the law; individual rights codified in the Constitution—the list could go on.

Like every successful new thing, the American experiment has not been perfect. We've had our challenges, our shortcomings and our failures along the way. But through every test we've come out stronger and more knowledgeable of what it takes to sustain this mag-

nificent union.

Will America stand forever? Will she stand for a millennium? No one knows. Many critics say that even now her best days are behind her, that we're in decline. One advantage to having achieved a certain age is to have gained some perspective on where this nation is and where it has been. I am proud and confident to say that I see America's best days yet ahead of her. If you recall the world we lived in during the "good old days", you quickly realize that we described it then as "these trying times." Our sheer size and power pretty much assure many more years of pre-eminence in the global community, and our patriotism and pride will ensure that we stay true to the principles of the experiment.

As in our past, we will face new challenges at home and abroad. And as in our past we will meet those challenges—we will solve the great problems—and America will endure both as a nation and as a notion, an inspiration, to people all over the world who crave the blessings of freedom.

Lee Greenwood sang, "I'm proud to be and American where at least I know I'm free." Me, too, Lee.

Happy boating!

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