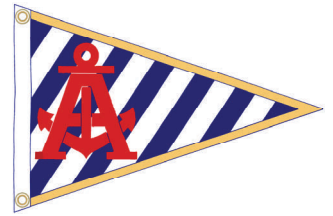




WATERLOG

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

Safe! Smart! Fun!



A Swimming Pool on the Lake

Beach Party and Luau



Get Ready for the TN River Cruise

Around the World on Solar Power

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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.

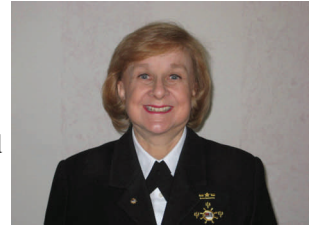
The editor reserves the right to revise, change or reject any materials submitted to the *Waterlog*, consistent with standards of accuracy, fairness, good taste and available space, subject to the approval of the Squadron Commander.



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

Cover photo contributed by Jeff Batson

Commander's Corner



Cdr. Carol Jordan AP

Vacations may be over and the kids are back in school, but some of the best days for boating are still ahead of us. Our Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron has a lot to offer on the water with a wide variety of activities to enjoy. Themed raft-ups and the upcoming TN. River Trip are just a few of the events that keep us busy perfecting our rafting-up, knot tying, navigating and cruise planning skills—not to mention the great camaraderie and memories we continue to build.

One of our many objectives this year is to continue building bridges to other boating communities. The next several months hold many opportunities for us to participate in community boating events.

On Sept. 10-13, the Special Olympics of Georgia is holding a fundraiser regatta on Lake Lanier and is in need of mark and chase boats and volunteers.

On Sat., Sept. 19 we can contribute to a large community clean-up of Lake Lanier, as the Fall Shore Sweep begins at 8am-1pm, followed by our fall "Show Your Colors" raft-up. By participating in the Shore Sweep we will not only be helping to clean up our lake environment but interact with other community volunteers and organizations that share the same goal: keeping the shores of Lake Lanier clean for everyone to enjoy. As much as we use the Lake, we should help keep it clean.

This Sept. 24-27 will be our fifth annual TN. River trip. Much planning and preparation has gone into making this the best trip ever, as we travel from Ditto Landing in Huntsville, AL to Florence, AL and beyond, as we explore the waters of Pickwick Lake.

Once again, the Barefoot Sailing Club will be holding their annual Sailboat Regatta on October 3-4. The Power Squadron has always been asked to provide mark boats and chase boats, and this year provides us with another opportunity to continue building our relationship with this boating organization. Our own P/C Margaret Sherrod is the Commodore of Barefoot Sail and I would like to see us contribute to the success of this event.

District 17 will be holding its annual Fall Conference on October 23-25, in Oakridge, TN. This weekend event provides all members with the opportunity to get involved in the activities, seminars and breakout sessions which promote various aspects of boating. If you haven't gone to a District conference, now is the time for you to look forward to meeting and enjoying lots of interesting people throughout our district that share our common interests in boating. I have had the pleasure of attending these conferences over the past several years, and would like to encourage everyone to "follow me", and see what you've been missing at the District Conference.

As we look forward to our Fall schedule, our Education Dept. has a new line-up of classes. Beginning on Monday evenings, Sept 14 at 6:30 pm, Seamanship, Advanced Piloting, Junior Navigation, and Sail will be offered to all members. The Heiskell School, on Moores Mill Rd, Atlanta, will continue to provide classrooms for our use.

As you can see, there are many boating activities left in the season. Just because summer is over, doesn't mean we can't have fun doing what we like to do best: enjoying our boats with like-minded folks.

See you on the water.



Squadron Happenings

JULY MEETING FEATURES RECAP OF BVI BAREBOAT CHARTER

The July ASPS meeting featured our own Glenn LaBoda recounting the experience he and Sheryl shared with Dave and Lisa Herndon in June 2008 when they chartered a power catamaran for a week in the British Virgin Islands. Glenn's presentation captured all the fun and adventure of such a trip, in addition to providing an excellent primer on the need for detailed planning.

Cdr Jordan presented "Take the Helm" awards to Marla Hendrix for her initiatives on building ASPS's presence on Facebook, and to Mike Guler for taking on the responsibility as Squadron Webmaster.



Above and left : Marla Hendrix and Mike Guler accept the "Take the Helm" Award. from Cdr Jordan



JULY RAFT-UP: BUILDING A SWIMMING POOL ON THE LAKE

The July on-the-water event involved the construction of a Swimming Pool raft-up. Basically, this involved rafting up in a circle, instead of in a line as is our usual custom. The area inside the circle of boats becomes the "swimming pool."

Careful coordination was required to ensure all boats dropped anchors in the right place and approached the raft-up from the proper angle.

The 10-15 kt breezes added a little challenge for the boats anchoring abeam to the wind, but the group managed to build an eight boat circle. All was well until one of the anchors let go and we all learned the answer to that age old question: "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" At least for this raft-up, the answer was clearly "No".

Following a regroup in a more traditional raft-up configuration, the

participants enjoyed a great afternoon of fun and fellowship on the water.

BOATSMART ATTRACTS A CROWD

ASPS presented a BoatSmart class to the public on Saturday, August 1, at the Corps of Engineers Visitors Center on Buford Dam Road. Approximately 25 students participated, including 17 Sea Cadets.

(A related article on the Sea Cadets is in this issue's AFTerthoughts column.)



Executive Officer Kevin Schoonover instructs a packed house of BoatSmart students.



Will the Circle Be Unbroken? Here's half of the circle raft-up: l to r: [Lightning Rod](#), [The Bear's Den](#), [Sea Trek](#) and [Water Music](#).

Squadron Happenings



AUGUST RAFT-UP: A BEACH PARTY

By Lisa Beers

The Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron's 2009 Annual Luau Raft-Up was another great opportunity for sharing a fun day on the lake, fellowship, games, and of course, great food. The event also allowed us to raise awareness of the ASPS and its benefits.

The luau took place on August 8 on a beachy shore at the outskirts of the Van Pugh day use park. The ASPS took over a large strip of beach with, at one point, seventeen boats rafted up on the northern and southern sides. We made our presence known with banners hung on sun shelters, and the very visible location attracted much attention. Throughout the day, members found themselves talking with other boaters who were coming into this popular area of the lake. We were all more than happy to talk about our meetings, educational opportunities, on the water events, and other social activities.

Securing such a large and visible spot during the weekend on Lake Lanier in August isn't an easy task. Several families arrived the evening before to claim our stake. David and Lisa Herndon, Glenn and Sheryl LaBoda, Ed and Genie Troncilli, and Lisa, Josh and Sophia Beers all showed up before sundown. To our surprise, Mike and Beth Guler powered up in *Lightning Rod* around midnight, joining the cruisers already anchored on the southern side.

The event officially got underway around noon on Saturday, with the smell of the grill going strong, and more members showing up. By the day's end, we'd had the largest variety of boats ever to participate in an on-the-water event. Members and guests came in cruisers, sailboats, a PWC, a pontoon, a bass boat, and even several "big 'uns" including Pat and Donna McGrath's 65' Bluewater. We certainly represented all of the variety and camaraderie that ASPS offers!

Scenes from the luau.

Top left: A view across the beach to the northside where the big cruisers rafted-up.

Second: A little help from my friends. Wave action pushed Charlie Cox's boat a little too far onto the beach, and the whole gang went to the rescue.

Third: Patti Price answers that old limbo question—how low can you go?

Bottom left: Festive food and drinks

USPS NATIONAL FALL GOVERNING BOARD SET FOR SEPT 9-12 IN KANSAS CITY

The annual Fall Governing Board meeting of the United States Power Squadrons will be held in Kansas City September 9-12. ASPS will be represented by P/Cs Jeff Wise and Margaret Sherrod, who will also be representing District 17 as Executive Officer and District Education Officer respectively.

Squadron Happenings

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Keith Petty**
- Greg McFee**
- Tracy Kruse**
- Lisa, Duane, Josh, Sophia Beers**
- Charlie Newfield**
- Michael Paslawskyj**
- Jeff and Sandie Ace**
- Terry and Erika Dukes**
- John Preston**



Keith Petty was a member of the Los Angeles Power Squadron and has been in Atlanta for five years. Keith keeps his boat in north Florida.



Above: Cdr. Jordan administers the oath to the Beers family and welcomes our youngest members: Lisa, Duane, Josh, Sophia.

Allen Douglas is the principal of Marine Surveyors and Consultants, LLC in Flowery Branch. He has been acquainted with the U. S. Power Squadron since he was a child, attending boat handling and navigation classes as a teen-ager.

Allen shared stories of growing up on boats on Lake Lanier, including some pictures and tales of the Chinese junk, the *Red Dragon*, his family operated for several years.



Marine surveyor Allen Douglas shares experiences with ASPS members

He also provided information about critical areas of concern for would-be boat purchasers, potential problems with ethanol blend fuels, things to watch out for when winterizing engines, and the dangers of carbon monoxide on board boats.

ASPS ANNUAL DUES (Effective 6/1/09)

| | New 1 st Year | Subsequent Renewing Years | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Primary Active | | | |
| Family Member | \$146.20 | \$ 77.20 | |
| 1 st Additional | | | |
| Family Member | 48.60 | 38.60 | |
| Family Unit (2) | \$194.80 | \$115.80 | |
| Family Unit (3 or more) | \$204.80 | \$115.80 | |
| | | (No increase from 2) | |
| Detailed Breakdown: | | | |
| ANNUAL FAMILY DUES: | Primary Active Member | 2 nd or More Members | |
| ASPS | \$30.00 | \$15.00 | |
| District | 10.00 | 5.00 | |
| USPS | 37.20 | 18.60 | |
| Total | \$77.20 | \$38.60 | |
| ONE-TIME FAMILY ENTRANCE FEES: | Primary Active Member | 2 nd Member | 3 rd or More Members |
| (1 st Year Only) | | | |
| ASPS | \$44.00 | \$1 0.00* | \$10.00* |
| USPS | 25.00 | 0 | 0 |

*Covers cost of additional name badges

ALLEN DOUGLAS FEATURED AT AUGUST GENERAL MEETING

Professional marine surveyor Allen Douglas was the featured speaker at the August General Meeting of ASPS. About 35 members attended the new venue in the meeting room of Gorgon Biersch (formerly the Rock Bottom) in Buckhead.

During the business session, Cdr Jordan presented The "Take the Helm" award to Tim Tyson for his initiatives in arranging the meeting location and putting together a mini-fundraiser by selling t-shirts and golf towels with the ASPS logo.



Cdr. Jordan presents the "Take the Helm" award to Tim Tyson

Squadron Happenings

2009 TENNESSEE RIVER TRIP: PICKWICK LAKE AND THE TENN-TOM

By Barbara Tyson

This year's annual Tennessee River Trip will take ASPS cruisers farther west than we have ever been before on the River.

We will gather at Ditto Landing on September 24 and 25, 2009. Ditto Landing is located on the Tennessee River near Huntsville, AL. Transient slips and trailer parking are available. For those who need a hotel room, the Radisson Hotel is nearby.

On Friday, September 25, we will depart Ditto Landing and cruise west to Florence Harbor Marina on the eastern edge of Pickwick Lake. We will pass through Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Gen. Joe Wheeler Lock and Dam and Wilson Lock, Dam and Hydro Power Plant. As in Huntsville, transient slips will be available at Florence Harbor Marina, and the Hampton Inn is only ½ mile away for bagdragers.

Saturday, September 26 will see us cruising Pickwick Lake, to the north end of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. We will pass Seven Mile Island, the Colbert Steam Plant and Bear Creek. From Pickwick Lake we will take a southern turn into Yellow Creek, the northernmost part of the "Tenn-Tom". After a short cruise down the Tenn-Tom, we will return to Florence Harbor Marina and a Saturday night cocktail party and dinner out. And – for those who would rather fish than cruise, Pickwick Lake and Bear Creek offer abundant fishing areas.

We will return to Ditto Landing (alas!) on Sunday, September 27, and, from there, home to Atlanta.

For more information about the trip, please enter the following web site into your browser: <http://web.me.com/btyson2>.

LEADERSHIP TEAM PLANS MARKETING STRATEGY

On July 28 several members of the ASPS leadership team got together to discuss our marketing and public relations strategy and initiatives. Lt/C Lisa Herndon, AO and past Marketing Chair, hosted the meeting. Cdr Carol Jordan; XO Kevin Schoonover; P/Lt/C Sheryl LaBoda, Membership Chair; Lt Glenn LaBoda, Boat Show Chair; and P/C David Herndon participated.

Effective marketing is about understanding the product (membership in ASPS), its placement (how people know about us), its position (how ASPS membership is perceived relative to other ways people could spend their time and money) and its price (what does it cost to belong in money and time). Lisa led the group through a discussion of the importance of marketing effectively and what information we need from our members, prospective members, past members and the boating community

at large to be effective. The consensus is that we understand the product and the price fairly well, but we need to do a lot more work on placement and positioning.

The group spent some time brainstorming by suggesting attributes they would like to people to associate with ASPS. "Attributes" are those words or phrases we want to come to mind when people hear about ASPS? A lengthy list of suggestions such as "friendly", "competent", "welcoming", "fun-loving", "here for the long run" were suggested. The marketing team will begin building a consistent set of messages that incorporate these attributes, along with our "Safe, Smart, Fun" theme.

There was consensus that we should put more effort into emphasizing the Fun aspect of membership. Many prospective members seem to know that ASPS offers boating education and vessel safety checks, but they don't know about the raft-ups, cruises, and parties.

Over time, we will convey these messages through articles, brochures, advertisements, presentations, our website, Facebook and one-on-one encounters with prospective members. The team also put together a list of Frequently Asked Questions about ASPS that conveys the basic information a prospective member might be interested using verbiage built around the some of the key attributes. These FAQs were debuted at the BoatSmart class on Aug 1. After some time survey tools will be used to assess how well the message is getting across and help the team determine how to take corrective action.

Every member can help with this marketing effort. Make sure all your boating friends know about all aspects of ASPS membership. The Bridge Officers can assist you in providing additional information.

NEW OWNER FOR ON-THE-WATER TOWBOAT COMPANY ON LAKE LANIER

Capt. Robert Estrada has purchased TowBoatUS Lake Lanier, GA, an on-the-water towing company that recreational boaters can call to get reliable assistance day or night. Battery jump starts, fuel drop offs, ungrounding services and tows back to a launch ramp are the most common requests.

While lake water levels have rebounded from last year's drought conditions, the U.S. Coast Guard licensed Estrada says boaters continue to have issues with underwater obstructions. "Now that the water is back up, it's like exploring a new lake all over again, which can lead to an accidental grounding or prop damage. It's a lot easier to call us than to ask a friend to come and find you and safely get you back to a marina or launch ramp," he adds.

From the Bridge



THE 2009 BRIDGE SQUADRON OFFICERS

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Commander | Carol Jordan | commander@usps-atlanta.org |
| Executive Officer | Kevin Schoonover | xo@usps-atlanta.org |
| 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*

FALL IS THE TIME FOR EDUCATION

By SEO Patti Price

Fall Classes at Heiskell

As summer comes to a close, it's time to start back to "school". The fall session of classes start on Monday, September 14, 2009 at 7:00 PM at Heiskell School. Choose a class to continue your boating education. Seamanship, Advanced Piloting, Junior Navigation (the first celestial class), and Sail are being offered.

GPS Seminar

Are you thinking about purchasing a GPS? Do you have one that just does not perform as you wish it would? Join David Herndon at the University Yacht Club on Sunday, September 20, 2009 at 2:00 PM. Find out how GPS works and how to obtain optimum performance from your unit. Contact UYC at 770-967-2814 to register.

Boat Smart

Do you have a friend or neighbor who might benefit from some boating education? The next Boat Smart class will be held on 3 consecutive Monday evenings. Oct. 5, 12, and 19, 2009. The location is at Heiskell School; class meets from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

Register for classes and seminars online or by contacting edu@usps-atlanta.org



*1st/Lt Marla
Hendrix
Assistant Secretary*

FEATURED SPEAKERS AT UPCOMING MEETINGS

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.

??? AUGUST PUZZLER ???

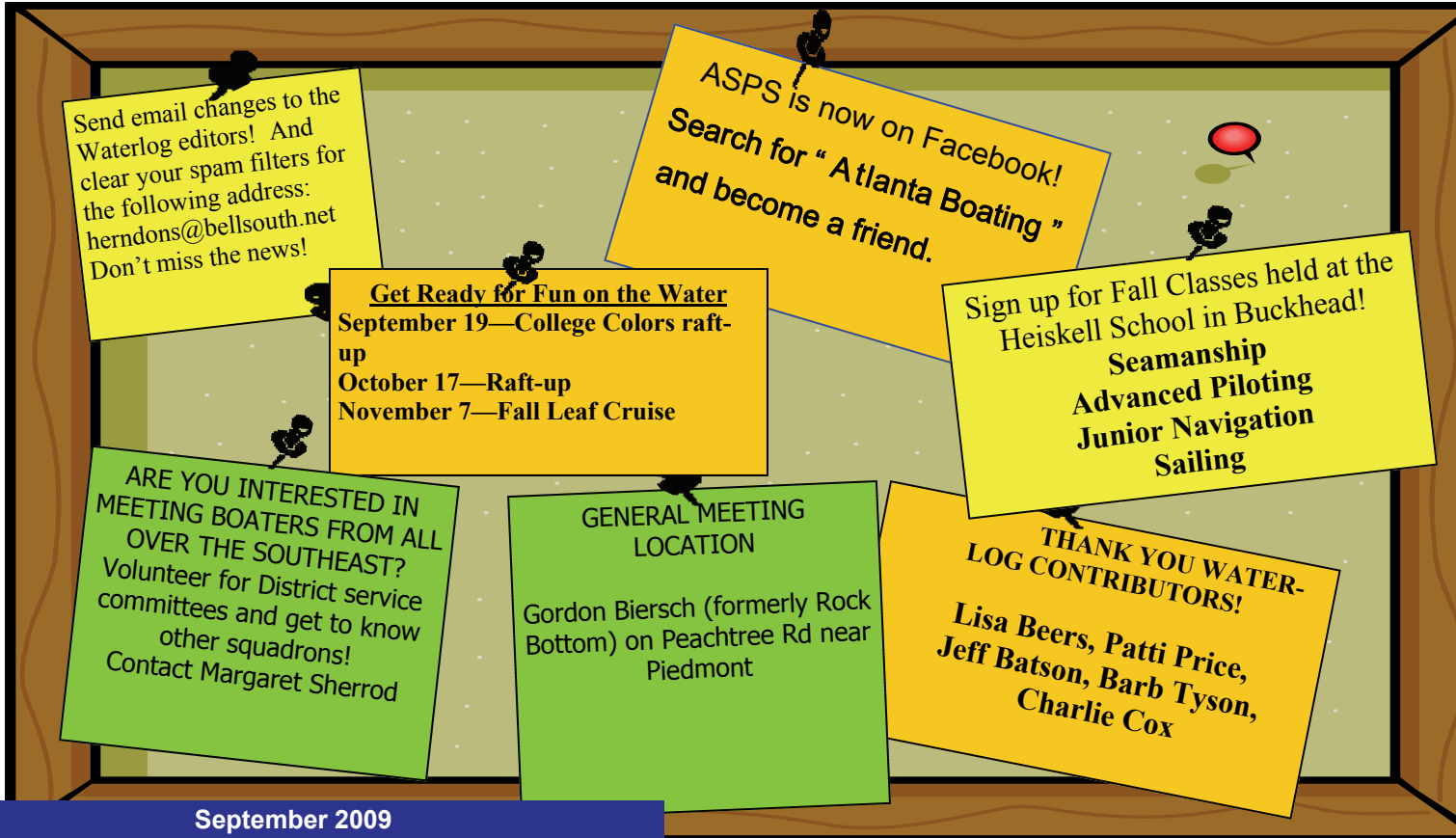
Which of the following don't belong in this list: Ulysses S. Grant, Rudyard Kipling, Woodrow Wilson, Grover Cleveland, Al Gore and Calvin Coolidge? (Hint: it has nothing to do with writing great novels or running for President.)

??? JULY PUZZLER Answer???

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

Answer: Joseph was born in 1994 BCE, or about 2000 years before the birth of Christ. In 1987 BCE he was 7 and in 1982 BCE he was 12.

The Bulletin Board



September 2009

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|--|------------------------------|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 Labor Day | 8 | 9 | 10 Executive Committee Meeting | 11 | 12 Special Olympics Regatta |
| 13 Special Olympics Regatta | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 General Meeting USPS Fall Governing Board | 18 USPS Fall Governing Board | 19 College Colors raft-up USPS Fall Governing Board |
| 20 USPS Fall Governing Board | 21 ASPS Fall Classes Begin | 22 | 23 | 24 TN River Trip | 25 TN River Trip | 26 TN River Trip Local Shore Sweep |
| 27 TN River Trip | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

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

General meeting location: Gordan Biersch (formerly Rock Bottom) located on Peachtree Road just south of Piedmont

~ October 2009 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 Barefoot Open Regatta | 3 Barefoot Open Regatta |
| 4 Barefoot Open Regatta | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Executive Committee Meeting | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 General Membership Meeting | 16 | 17 Raft-Up |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 D17 Fall Conf | 24 D17 Fall Conf |
| 25 D17 Fall Conf | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |



Life on the Water

LOOK OUT "BELLOW"

(excerpted from *BoatU.S. Trailing*, Aug-Sep, 2009,
submitted by Charlie Cox)

Here's a statistic that will get your attention—and it's a statistic because boat owners didn't pay attention: Case files from BoatU.S. Marine Insurance reveal that 44% of sterndrive boats that sank at the dock had a leak in the bellows, the pleated rubber membrane that covers the engine and the submerged outdrive acting as a seal around the transom. In addition, leaking bellows have been the cause of 20% of sinkings when boats are underway.

There are two other kinds of bellows that can leak and possibly ruin a boat owners day: the U-joint bellows and the shift cable bellows are also made of accordion-like rubber and, like the bellows around the outdrive, can develop a tear that can result in water entering the engine, the bilge or both.

Boat manufacturers urge replacement of the bellows every five or six years because the rubber deteriorates over time. Prolonged exposure out of the water on a trailer or in dry storage can dry out the bellows to a point that when the sterndrive is raised or lowered, the rubber will rip or tear. Insurance files indicate that the owners never noticed the damage, proceeded to launch their boats, and suddenly noticed a lot of water in the engine compartment. Other case files are from boats kept in a marina that, over time, developed a torn bellows and took on water slowly. Besides normal wear and tear and deterioration from aging, muskrats have also been known to enjoy nibbling their way through bellows.

The key to protecting your boat from bellows-related damage is frequent inspections. Here's what to look for:

1. Inspect bellows closely for rips or tears in the material. Look closely in the folds or pleats in the rubber. A flashlight with a bright beam helps. If you find any damage, replace all bellows.
2. Put the outdrive all the way up and turn the helm to the left. Inspect the bellows closely. Then turn the helm to the right and repeat the process.
3. Check the clamps on the bellows to ensure they are intact and secure. If you're replacing bellows, replace the clamps as well.

AROUND THE WORLD ON SOLAR POWER

(excerpted from *Boattest.com*)

The futuristic-looking "Planet Solar," which is 100 percent powered by sunlight, is the brainchild of Swiss engineer Raphael Domjan, a former paramedic with a passion for innovative design and renewable energies

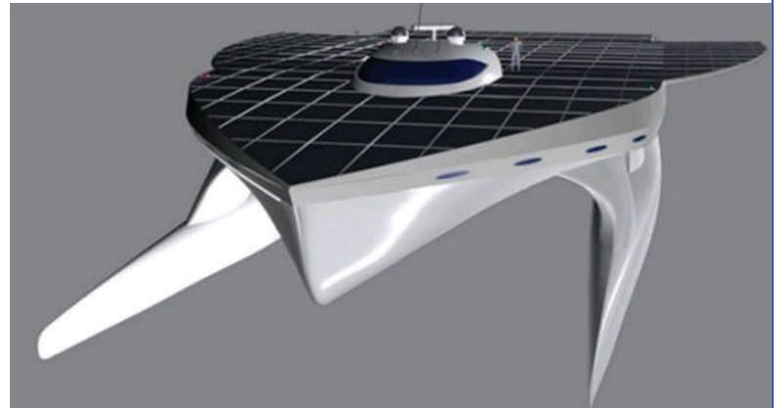
The 30-meter (97' 6") vessel is currently being built in Kiel, Germany, and will be finished early next year. If all goes according to plan, the boat will begin operation the summer 2010 -- first in European waters and then around the world. The following year it will make its around the world cruise.

The boat is expected to travel at up to 14 knots (26k/m) and would be the first solar-powered boat to travel at such high speeds. It is projected to be able to cross the Atlantic in just two weeks. Domjan hopes his

ambitious, \$11.5 million (€8 million) project will prove that boats can travel at high speeds without emitting any carbon dioxide.

"I want to show that we can change, that solutions exist and that it's not too late," Domjan writes on his website.

Planet Solar will be covered in 470 square meters (4,964 sq. ft.) of solar panels -- the equivalent of two tennis courts. Twenty-three percent of absorbed sunlight will be converted into energy that the boat can run on, compared with 17 percent for average panels.



Planet Solar. The 97'6" vessel is completely powered by solar energy

SALEM LADY JUMPS WAKES, BOAT JUMPS TREES

(excerpted from *Boattest.com*)

A Marblehead woman whose boat ended up in a tree in a Lafayette Street yard pleaded not guilty to drunken and unsafe boating charges yesterday.

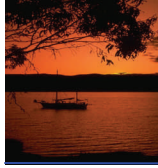
Caroline Driscoll, 41, of 9 Ridge Road said nothing during a brief appearance in Salem District Court and was released on a \$1,000 personal surety bond by Judge Robert Cornetta.

Driscoll, whose blood was taken at Salem Hospital shortly after the crash, could face the suspension of her driver's license if her blood alcohol level was .08 or above, but prosecutor Caleb Weiner said he did not yet have the result of the blood tests. He will be allowed to ask for a license suspension once the test results are available.

Driscoll and her passenger, Chad Megis, 33, were thrown from the boat while Driscoll was allegedly "wake jumping" near other boats, according to a witness.

Driscoll's 24-foot boat continued on, however, eventually launching into the air and coming to rest some 100 feet inland and 25 feet up in some trees in the backyard of a home, according to a police report.

Police, including Salem Harbormaster Sgt. Peter Gifford, caught up with Driscoll in a boat at the dock at Osgood Park. Driscoll admitted to police that she had been the operator of the boat.



AFTerthoughts

A few days ago, Ed Troncalli and I had the opportunity to assist Jeff Batson by providing some on-the-water training to a group of Sea Cadets.

We met at a dock at Aqualand a little after 9:00 on a dreary Sunday morning. It had been raining most of the night and the skies were heavily overcast with a 7-10 knot wind out of the southwest. It looked like it was going to dump buckets the whole time we were out but fortunately we only got an intermittent light drizzle.

The cadets looked none the worse for wear for having slept outdoors in the rain as they showed up in their Battle Dress Uniforms (BDUs) consisting of camo cargo pants, tunics and covers. We soon had all twenty cadets and a few of their adult leaders fitted with life jackets and on board our boats.

After a brief orientation to the layout of the boat, the location of safety and docking equipment, the operation of the navigation equipment and the helm controls, we assigned duties for casting off and getting underway. We headed out of the slip and into Flowery Branch Bay.

Once underway, we gave further explanation of operating the engine controls and the helm. Then we turned over the helm to the first cadet and asked him to come to a certain compass heading and hold it. After a few minutes, he handed over control to another cadet, and this routine continued until everyone had a chance to drive for a while and perform some basic maneuvers.

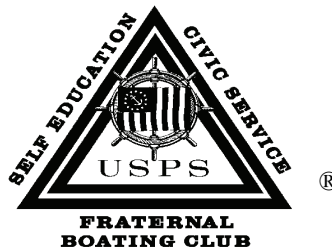
We then held a Man Overboard drill using a floating chair as the victim. Unfortunately, the lightweight chair caught the wind and took off like an Olympic swimmer. We were eventually successful in rescuing our victim, but only after an extended chase across the bay.

After our “man overboard” was safely back on board, we went back to the dock and the cadets headed off to strike their campsite.

Ed and I agree that we are confident that the future of the Republic will be safe with these fine young men and women in charge. Thanks to Jeff for his contributions to their training.

Happy boating!

David and Lisa Herndon
1332 Cambridge Ct. NE
Atlanta, GA 30319



STAMP