

# “FILES AND PROFILES”

## FROM THE DISTRICT

“The Dixie District” - - - District 17 2005 June

### IT'S HURRICANE SEASON!



(Editor's Note: The front page this month is dedicated to our dear editor friends in Districts 8 and 15. Every year you seem to get the brunt of Mother Nature! Since all of you seem to just take the dangers in stride, I thought you might enjoy the following article.)

**Florida Hurricane Season Notes:** We're about to enter the peak of the hurricane season. Any day now, you're going to turn on the TV and see a weather person pointing to some radar blob out in the Gulf of Mexico and making two basic meteorological points: One, there is no need to panic, and two. . . we could all be killed.

Yes, hurricane season is an exciting time to be in Florida. If you are new to the area, you are probably wondering what you need to do to prepare for the possibility that we'll get hit by "the big one".

Based on our experiences, we recommend that you follow this simple three-step hurricane preparedness plan:

**Step 1.** Buy enough food and bottled water to last your family for at least three days.

**Step 2.** Put these supplies into your car.

**Step 3.** Drive to Nebraska and remain there until Halloween.

Unfortunately, statistics show that most people will not follow this sensible plan. Most people will foolishly stay in Florida. So, we'll start with one of the most important hurricane preparedness items;

**HOMEOWNERS' INSURANCE:** If you own a home, you must have hurricane insurance. Fortunately, this

insurance is cheap and easy to get, as long as your home meets two basic requirements: One, it is reasonably well-built, and two, it is located in Nebraska.

Unfortunately, if your home is located in Florida, or any other area that might actually be hit by a hurricane, most insurance companies would prefer not to sell you hurricane insurance, because then they might be required to pay YOU money, and that is certainly not why they got into the insurance business in the first place. So you'll have to scrounge around for an insurance company, which will charge you an annual premium roughly equal to the replacement value of your house. At any moment, this company can drop you like used dental floss. Since Hurricane George, I have had an estimated 27 different home-insurance companies. This week, I'm covered by the Rick and Big Stan Insurance Company, under a policy which states that, in addition to my premium, Rick and Big Stan are entitled, on demand, to my kidneys.

**SHUTTERS:** your house should have hurricane shutters on all the windows, all the doors, and if it's a major hurricane – all the toilets. There are several types of shutters, with advantages and disadvantages:

**Plywood shutters** - The advantage is that, because you make them yourself, they're cheap. The disadvantage is that, because you make them yourself, they will fall off.

**Sheet-metal shutters** – The advantage is that these work well, once you get them all up. The disadvantage is once you get them all up, your hands will be a useless bleeding mess, and it will be December until they stop bleeding.

**Roll-down shutters** - The advantages are that they're very easy to use, and will definitely protect your house. The disadvantage is that you will have to sell your house to pay for them.

**"Hurricane-proof" windows-** These are the newest wrinkle in hurricane protection: They look like ordinary windows but they can withstand hurricane winds! You can be sure of this, because the salesman says so. He lives in Nebraska.

**"Hurricane Proofing" Your Property** – As the hurricane approaches, check your yard for movable objects like barbecue grills, planters, patio furniture, visiting relative, etc. You should, as a precaution, throw these items into your swimming pool (If you don't have a swimming pool, you should have one built immediately.) Otherwise, hurricane winds will turn these objects into deadly missiles.

**EVACUATION ROUTE:** If you live in a low-lying area, you should have an evacuation route planned out. (To determine whether you live in a low-lying area, look at your driver's license; if it says "Florida", you live in a low-lying area.) The purpose of having an evacuation route is to avoid being trapped in your home when a

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major storm hits. Instead, you will be trapped in a gigantic traffic jam several miles from your home, along with two hundred thousand or so evacuees. So, as a bonus, you will not be lonely.

**HURRICANE SUPPLIES:** If you don't evacuate, you will need a mess of supplies. Do not buy them now! Florida tradition requires that you wait until the last possible minute, then go to the supermarket and get into vicious fights with strangers over who gets the last can of SPAM.

In addition to food and water, you will need the following supplies:

23 flashlights

At least \$167. worth of batteries that turn out, when the power goes off, to be the wrong size for the flashlights.

Bleach. (No, I don't know what the bleach is for. NOBODY knows what the bleach is for! It's traditional, so GET some!)

A 55-gallon drum of underarm deodorant.

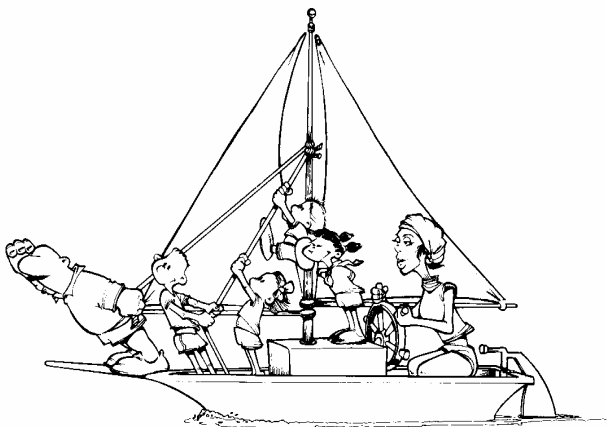
A big knife that you can strap to your leg. (This will be useless in a hurricane, but it looks cool.)

A large quantity of raw chicken, to placate the alligators. (Ask anybody who went through Camille; after the hurricane, there WILL be irate alligators.)

\$35,000 in cash or diamonds so that, after the hurricane passes, you can buy a generator from a man with no discernible teeth.

Of course, these are just basic precautions. As the hurricane draws near, it is vitally important that you keep abreast of the situation by turning on your television and watch TV reporters in rain slickers stand right next to the ocean and tell you over and over how vitally important it is for everybody to stay away from the ocean.

Good luck, and remember: It's great living in Paradise!!! ☺ (Now, don't you feel better?)



## The First Tennessee-Cumberland Rivers Cruise: A 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Retrospective

By Tom Hudson, P

(Parts II of III)

Their journey down the Holston River to the Tennessee, to its mouth at the Ohio, then up the Ohio and up the Cumberland, was a route of 1006 river miles. Theodore Roosevelt, in his book *Winning of the West*, wrote "The voyage of John Donelson and his party. . . is one of the most thrilling in history. . . In its political and historical consequences, it was one of the eventful occasions in the life of this nation, being equal in importance to the settlement of Jamestown or the landing at Plymouth Rock."

The Chickamauga tribe of former Cherokees, led by Dragging Canoe and angry at the sellout of their land, attacked the settlers' fleet several times along the way. Indians weren't the only hazard. There were storms and cold weather; many rapids and shallows had to be traversed. One family, the Stuarts, was stricken by smallpox—their flatboat was quarantined well behind the others; isolated so, on 8 March they were attacked by Dragging Canoe's warriors and all 28 were killed or captured. Smallpox soon ravaged the Chickamauga villages. The Jennings' boat with six souls aboard ran aground in the "sucks" about ten miles below present day Chattanooga where another Indian ambush awaited; one man drowned, and two were captured - - one of these was killed and burned, while Jennings' son was ransomed by a trader and later rejoined his father downriver. Mrs. Peyton, lightening the boat of its cargo to help get it off the rocks, mistakenly threw her day-old infant overboard as well. Nancy Gower at the helm of her father's flatboat received a musket shot which passed through her body; she survived to marry Anderson Lucas and settle in Nashville.

Reaching the Muscle Shoals (near Tuscumbia) on 12 March, "The river was swollen beyond its wont, the swift current running out in every direction from piles of driftwood which were heaped high upon the points of the islands. This deflection of the stream made a terrible roaring,

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which might be heard for many miles. At some places the boats dragged the bottom, while at others they were warped and tossed about on the waves as though in a rough sea. The passage which was, withal, exceedingly dangerous, was made in about three hours, the entire fleet coming through into the western channel of the river without accident. : After passing the shoals, they stopped to camp ashore to dry their goods and rest.

Some families, sick and weary, chose not to push upstream once they reached the mouth of the Tennessee on 20 March, choosing instead to float downstream on the Ohio instead, intending to settle in Illinois or perhaps floating all the way to Natchez. These included the John Caffrey family, daughter and son-in-law of Donelson. Travel upstream must have been an arduous task, against the spring river flow in the days before locks and dams. Imagine poling where the water was shallow enough, and pulling long ropes from the riverbank in deeper water, hindered by thick growth of smaller trees and bushes between the stately native sycamores and oaks. Sails rigged from sheets took advantage of the wind, when favorable. It took them three days to ascend fifteen miles on the Ohio to the mouth of the Cumberland, which they almost passed by because it looked so small compared to their recent experience on the Tennessee and the Ohio. (Conclusion will be printed next issue.)

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## PRODUCING AN AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER



Well mateys, Charlotte is behind us and we find ourselves back chipping away in the Salt Mines again. Yep, here we are grinding out good newsletters month after month, right? Right! But it is always nice to remember some tips on how to do the cranking both easier and better.

The following information was distributed by the National Publications Committee quite a while back. I remember sending it to you once before. However, studying the information again

will be a good review for some of us, while other editors are relatively new on the scene. Wherever you fit in, here is How to Produce an Award-Winning Newsletter!

“The purpose of any organizational newsletter is to inform, generate interest, increase participation and instill a sense of identity. To do this a good USPS newsletter should:

- ? Be attractive and interesting to read
- ? Reflect the goals and objectives of USPS and the squadron
- ? Inform and encourage participation
- ? Establish a pride and sense of belonging to the organization
- ? Reflect the personality of the squadron

### What a Good USPS Newsletter Should Contain-

*A Leadership Article.* An article that shows leadership, motivates members or instills a pride in membership should appear in each issue. It can be written by the commander or another member of the bridge. Sometimes referred to as the “commander’s column” this article should NOT be a diary of the commander’s activities or a repetition of the events more properly reported by another officer. This creates redundancy and causes the reader to lose interest.

*An Education Article.* The education article should report on member courses and member education. It should not over emphasize the Boating Course. The newsletter is for your members and they have all taken a boating course. It is for the member education that many join the squadron. During the year, education articles should cover:

- ? Courses offered
- ? A description of course content
- ? Progress of courses
- ? Congratulations to completers
- ? Acknowledgment of teachers and proctors
- ? Articles that apply education to real boating situations.

*Coverage of Civic Service.* Civic Service is an oft neglected arm of the USPS triangle. These activities should be covered in squadron newsletters. Cooperative charting, Vessel Safety Check, Boat Shows, the Boating Course and community activities all are part of our civic service. The newsletter is a good vehicle to explain

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what these activities entail and how one can participate. If the squadron runs a training session the newsletter can publicize this. We should also acknowledge our civic activities and member achievements.

*Social and Boating Activities.* Most squadrons do a good job advertising squadron social and boating activities. Reservation directions are usually included but do you give information so the new or less active members know what to expect? If you report the details of an event do you also provide a motivation to attend?

*Articles to Increase Membership and Member Involvement.* The newsletter should include articles that will increase membership and member involvement. Some ways this might be accomplished include:

- ? Highlighting the accomplishments of the squadron members
- ? Getting many names into print
- ? Introducing new members
- ? Picturing members in action enjoying themselves
- ? Reporting Good and Welfare
- ? Including some personal accounts
- ? Emphasizing the TEAM spirit.

*Safety Article.* The primary purpose of the USPS is to promote safe boating. This should be reflected in newsletters. Safety articles do not always have to be long and detailed, but each issue should include something on boating safety. You can use safety tips as fillers or publish short seasonal tips or seasonal reminders.

*Coverage of District and National Activities.* All members are a part of the district and national organizations. Squadron newsletters can inform members of the details and encourage participation. They can report back on what happened and report new developments on the national and district levels.

*Articles of General Interest to Boaters.* These articles add interest to newsletters. Readers enjoy a variety of information and the articles of general interest can satisfy this interest. Some suggested topics might include –

- ? Nautical history or trivia
- ? Local landmarks, history or lore
- ? Quizzes, puzzles, jokes
- ? New products
- ? Book or video reviews

- ? Boat or engine maintenance tips
- ? Personal accounts

If you use information from other sources, remember to respect copyrights, request permission to use someone else's work and to give credit to the sources of the information. (Except between "us"; we share our articles and just enjoy each other's writings!)

Please understand these are general guidelines. If you wish to ask specific questions and/or need help, let me know. I will be happy to respond to you.

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### WISE WORDS OF WISDOM



1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead: It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you are 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big and important.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float a while.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

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Stay safe and have fun on the water this summer! Till next month.. . . .