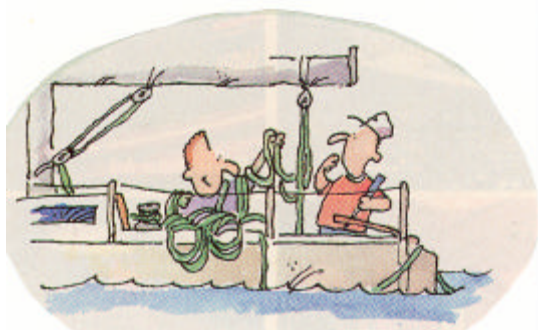


'FILES AND PROFILES' FROM THE DISTRICT

"The Dixie District" - District 17 2005 August

THE TEN BIGGEST SURPRISES IN BOATING (For Beginning Boaters)

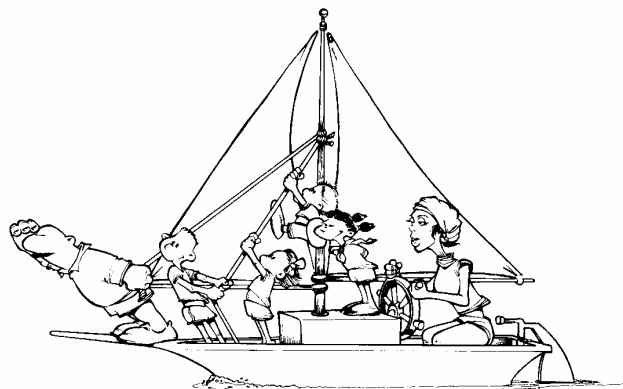
1. Land is often closer than you think. You may be miles from shore and have solid land only inches away from your keel. Although water gives the appearance of being one big open field upon which you can drive anywhere, there is nasty solid stuff waiting just below the surface
2. Boats don't like water. The worse thing you can do is put one in water, whereupon it begins corroding and becomes home to the ever-expanding ecosystem. Boats do best in driveways or dusty corners of boatyards.
3. You must learn to tie knots. Someone finally invents Velcro and you have to go back in time to master arts that were already old school to the ancients.



4. You develop a sense of direction. The great thing about boats is they can go anywhere, which is also a problem. On land there are streets; on water you are on your own. Remember how you once laughed at Boy Scouts with their compasses? Well, it's merit badge time!



5. You have more friends than you remembered (or knew) since you bought your boat.



6. The Marine catalog has worked its way to the top of the bathroom reading rack and you know the page number for crimp fittings.
7. Your memory improves. You know where everything is on your 40-footer as well as the boatyard painter's kid's name. Oddly, you still can't find the butter in the refrigerator at home or remember your wedding anniversary date.



8. You discover you are handy. You would never think of rewiring your car or changing the hot water system in your house. But by the second season on your boat, you've become a master plumber and electrician.
9. Nothing costs less than \$100.00. Ever!
10. You have acquired a new language, although you are still not sure if a head is a room or a bowl.
11. The biggest surprise, however, is that it is better than you thought it would be. The first time you backed your boat into a slip single-handed with a current and high wind, or popped out of the fog exactly where you thought you'd be, you are a New Person and all the above was worth it!

--Reprinted from *The Fort Walton "Porpoise"*, District 15, July 2005 Issue. Editor, Carl Hutto, AP

WARNING: NO “TEAK SURFING”

The United States Coast Guard advises boaters not to “Teak Surf”. Recent boating fatalities revealed that carbon monoxide (CO) emitted from a vessel’s exhaust resulted in CO poisoning and the death of teak surfers. “Teak Surfing” places the individual in position directly exposed to the CO in the engine’s exhaust. This may result in a loss of coherent responses and even death. In addition, “Teak Surfing” dangerously exposes the individual to a possible propeller injury, and since it is done without a life jacket, it significantly increases the probability of drowning. Therefore, the Coast Guard stresses, “Teak Surfing” is a very dangerous activity and advises boaters not to participate in it.

This is a new and dangerous boating fad that involves an individual holding on to the teak swim platform of a vessel while a wake builds up, then lets go of the platform to body surf the wave created by the boat; hence the term. . “**Teak Surfing**”.

Captain Scott Evans, Chief of the Office of Boating Safety, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters pointed out, “This puts that individual directly in the path of the vessel’s exhaust and poisonous external carbon monoxide. If that in itself is not dangerous enough, the individual is now in a position that a slight miscalculation may throw him into a whirling propeller. Still, it doesn’t stop there. In order to “Teak Surf” you don’t wear a life jacket; the two do not go together. As is easily seen, all this is a recipe for a tragedy. A tragedy that the Coast Guard wants to see averted. That is why we are issuing this warning.”

--Reprinted from The St. Andrew Bay

“Stuffing Box”, District 15, August 2005 Issue

Editor-Mary Anne Durgan

* * *

Those of you living on the Gulf Coast have had so much bad weather lately. Sometimes we wind up making fun of ourselves while trying to make the best of a bad situation. Enjoy the article below and smile!

YOU KNOW YOU’RE LIVING ON THE GULF COAST WHEN. . . .

You have more than 20 C and D batteries in your kitchen drawer.

The freezer in your garage is full of homemade ice.

You catch a 5-pound catfish. In your driveway.

You flinch when you are introduced to a person named Charley, Frances or Ivan.

You find yourself dropping words like "millibar" and "convection" into everyday conversation.

Your pantry contains more than 10 cans of Vienna sausages.

Making coffee on your propane grill does not seem like an odd thing to do.

You are thinking of repainting your house to match the plywood covering your windows.

When describing your house to a prospective buyer, you say it has three bedrooms, two baths and one safe place.

You are on a first-name basis with the cashier at Home Depot.

The road leading to your house has been declared a No-Wake Zone.

You decide that your patio furniture looks better on the bottom of the pool or in the garage.

You have the number for FEMA on your speed dialer.

You own more than three large coolers.

You can wish that other people get hit by a hurricane and not feel the least bit guilty about it.

Three months ago you couldn't hang a shower curtain; today you can assemble a portable generator by candlelight.

You can recite from memory whole portions of your homeowner's insurance policy.

At cocktail parties, women are attracted to the guy with the biggest chain saw.

You have had tuna fish more than 5 days in a row.

There is a roll of tarpaper in your garage.



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AND
SENATE BILL 786**

I received the following information from the USPS Government and Partner Relations Committee and thought many of you would be interested in the stand USPS takes on this Senate Bill:

“R/C William E. Husted, SN, Chairman of the Government and Partner Relations Committee, has asked that following information be provided to those concerned about the National Weather Service and Senate Bill 786:

The Operating Committee has adopted the following position statement regarding a recently-

(continued page 3)

proposed bill which, if passed, would adversely affect, in the opinion of the USPS leadership, the well being of USPS members and the general public.



Christian Chamaiz / Reuters

USPS Position Statement

Regarding National Weather Service

Under review by the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation since 14 April 2005 is Senate bill 786, National Weather Services Duties Act of 2005, proposed by Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.). It is the position of United States Power Squadrons (USPS) that adoption of this bill, which in essence restricts the National Weather Service to provide only severe weather information, would be detrimental to the safety and well-being of not only boaters, fishermen and other outdoor enthusiasts, but to the general public who rely on a variety of information NWS now furnishes. As an integral component of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), NWS provides weather, hydrologic and climate forecasts and warnings for the U.S., its territories, adjacent

waters and oceans for the protection of life and property. With its extensive network of Regional and National Support Centers, NWS is the preferred entity which can provide the scope of observations, forecasts and research at reasonable expense to the American people. Millions of others benefit from NWS data as well. USPS strongly encourages you to oppose S. 786 as individual and concerned citizens.

Approved by the Operating Committee,
United States Power Squadrons
25 July 2005

If you would like further information, you are urged to visit www.senate.gov and reference the bill by number or name. If you have any other questions or comments, please contact any member of the Operating Committee or the following:

R/C William E. Husted, SN
Chairman
Govt./Partner Relations Committee
United States Power Squadrons
or
D/Lt. Mary Ann Jensen, AP
Lansing Power Squadron/D9
* * *

**WANT TO SEE SOMETHING
YOU WILL NEVER SEE AGAIN?**

Mars has not come this close to Earth in the last 5,000 years, but it may be as long as 60,000 years before it happens again.

The Red Planet is about to be spectacular! This month and next, Earth is catching up with Mars in an encounter that will culminate in the closest approach between the two planets in recorded history. The next time Mars may come this close is in 2287. Due to the way Jupiter’s gravity togs on Mars and perturbs its orbit, astronomers can only be certain that Mars has not come this close to Earth in the last 5,000 years, but it may be as long as 60,000 years before it happens again.

The encounter will culminate on August 27th when Mars comes to within 34, 649,589 miles of Earth and will be (next to the moon) the brightest object in the night sky. It will attain a magnitude of -2.9 and will appear 25.11 arc seconds wide. At a modest 75-power magnification mars will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye. Mars will be easy to spot. At the beginning of August it will rise in the east at 10 p.m. and reach its azimuth at about 3 a.m. By the end of August when the two

planets are closet, Mars will rise at nightfall and reach its highest point in the sky at 12:30 a.m. That's pretty convenient to see something that no human being has seen in recorded history. So mark your calendar now to see Mars grow progressively brighter and brighter throughout the month.

Share this with your children and grandchildren. **No one alive today will ever see this again.** * * *

BUBBLE GUM AND FIREFLIES

Did you have a big sister or brother? Or were you the oldest? Big brothers and sisters are responsible for teaching the ones coming up a lot of things. Mostly it's very important things like not keeping your gum in your mouth when you go to bed unless you want to be wearing it in your hair in the morning or how to catch fireflies without knocking their little blinking behinds off when you close the jar lid. Being a member of your squadron's executive committee is something like being a big sister or brother. We learn about our jobs as we do them, and we have to make sure that the one coming behind us knows what is expected of him. When we leave our offices and move on to another job in the squadron, we need to be sure that all materials get passed on to the next guy. That includes any manuals we may have in our possession, copies of important documents, names of contacts we may have made during the course of our job, and general notes on how best to take care of the job's responsibilities.

I know some squadrons work very hard at orienting new members and officers. Huntsville Power Squadron did an especially good job of being great big sisters and brothers when Music City was growing up. Without the materials and accumulated wisdom from them, many of us would have had a terrible time finding out how to do the jobs we were expected to do. They took a lot of time with us both as a group and as individuals, and we were much better off because of their sharing.

Nurturing new members and new officers is a very important part of our Membership Retention charge. Nothing can make a new member/officer feel more frustrated and anxious than being left in the dark about a job he has volunteered to do. Let's try to keep our new members and new officers from waking up wearing bubble gum in their hair or look at a jar full of fireflies missing their blinking bottoms.

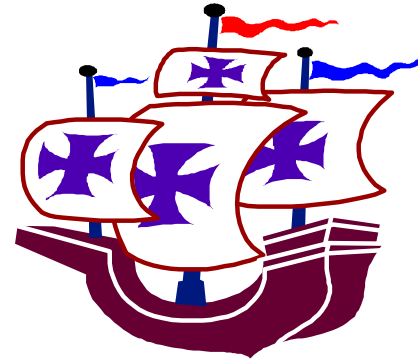
- -P/C Edie Oathout, JN

District 17 Membership Chairman

MARITIME TRIVIA

by Bryan Henry

- ? From the Greek word for "ships", we have inherited a word that means "illness" but that originally signified seasickness. That word is nausea.
- ? In sailing parlance, "devil" is not he of the forked tail, but a nautical term for the seam between two planks in the hull of a ship, on or below the waterline. Anyone who had to caulk a "devil" was caught between a rock and a hard place, or between the devil and the deep blue sea.
- ? The custom of serving a slice of lemon with fish goes back to the Middle Ages. It was believed that if a fish bone were swallowed, the juice from the lemon would dissolve it.
- ? The claws of the delectable stone crab can exert a pressure of 15,000 pounds per square inch.
- ? Columbus was paid 2,000 Spanish maravedis a month during the voyage on which he discovered America, or about \$60 in today's money for his two-month voyage.
- ? The British battleship *Temeraire*, built in 1877, had more sails than any other ship in history, weighing nearly two tons.



- ? Pirates wore golden earrings in the belief that they gave them better eyesight.
- ? In the second century, Archimedes invented a mirror that focused the sun on the sails of Romans invading Greece and caused them to flare into flames.
- ? In 16th century France, during the siege of La Rochelle, the Huguenots used oysters as projectiles after their ammunition was depleted.

Till next month, stay well and happy!

- - - Janis Owen