



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
HOUSTON SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

'Where the Cowboys Ride the Sea'

Vol. LXIV

February 2011

No. 2

**Houston Sail and Power Squadron
 At the 2011 Houston Boat Show**
Photos by Lt/C Bob Leatherwood, S

HSPS had its usual presence at the Houston Boat Show, with a double-size booth between Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Being near the front of the show seemed to bring good traffic. People were very happy to pick up a USPS bag and one of our whistles, whether or not they wanted more information about the Squadron. Lt/C Bob Leatherwood took some time to tour the show and take pictures of some of the boats for those who could not make it.



Poop Sheet February 2011

- February 1
Board of Directors Meeting – Home Port
- February 2-5
USPS Annual Meeting – Orlando, FL
- February 9
HSPS General Meeting – Founder's Day
Home Port
- February 12
America's Boating Course – Home Port
- February 14
Happy Valentine's Day, HSPS!
- February 21
Spring Courses Begin – Home Port
- March 2
Board of Directors Meeting – Home Port
- March 12
America's Boating Course – Home Port
- March 17
St. Patrick's Day, HSPS!
- March 26
Change of Watch - HYC



Bay Neigh

Official Monthly Publication of
Houston Sail and Power Squadron
A Unit of United States Power Squadrons
District 21

COMMANDER'S CORNER



February 2011 Bay Neigh
Cdr Claire McDonald, SN



Editor
Lt Jana Wesson, AP

Assistant Editor

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Bridge

Commander..... Cdr Claire M. McDonald, SN
Executive Officer Lt/C Bob Leatherwood, S
Educational Officer Lt/C Richard A. Fisher, SN
Administrative Officer TBD
Secretary Lt/C Robert W. Stevenson, JN
Treasurer Lt/C Phyllis W. Stendebach, P
Immediate Past Cdr..... P/C James S. Hotop, JN

Squadron's 1st Lieutenants

Asst. Educational Officer. ... 1st/Lt Carl A. Stendebach, Jr., JN
Asst. Secretary TBD
Asst. Treasurer TBD

Executive Committee

All Bridge Officers... Robbie J. Robbins, JN
S. Dennis Fegan, AP Mary Sandoval, S
Bill Fussell, S P/C Richard C. Snapp, AP
Kathy Fussell, S Carl A. Stendebach, Jr., JN
Jana Wesson, AP D/C Scott McDonald, SN

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and publication herein does not imply endorsement by USPS, or the Bay Neigh.

PRAYER

God be in my head
And in my understanding.
God be in my eyes
And in my looking.
God be in my mouth.
And in my speaking.
God be in my hear
And in my thinking.
God be at my end
And at my departing.

Amen.

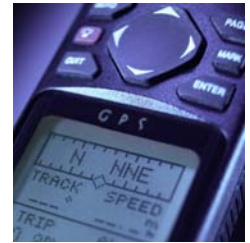
P/C Scott D. McDonald

I hope that all of you took the opportunity to visit our booth when you were at the 2011 Houston Boat Show. Thanks to our twenty-four wonderful HSPS members who sat watches at our booth for the entire ten-day show, we were able to distribute all of our five-hundred HSPS logo life jacket whistles and over two-hundred flyers describing our upcoming course offerings. Sixty individuals were happy to provide contact information to us so that we can follow up with them about everything that HSPS has to offer. The boat show was well attended this year and many visitors wanted to discover how to further their boating knowledge. The public was impressed with the quality and depth of what we do. I feel proud that we were so well represented. I was also delighted that our booth was, once again, adjacent to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Houston Police Department Marine Safety Division. Many boat show visitors stopped by each booth to collect information, take part in activities, and ask questions. It's great fun to meet the recreational boating population of Houston.

I know that each one of us volunteers to help to the best of our ability in the many arenas of our busy lives. Every now and then it's important to pause and recognize truly extraordinary service that none can fail to admire. How many of us can claim to have volunteered our time and skill for over fifty years? Our own Marguerite Badger was recently awarded the first ever Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Services by Memorial Hermann – Texas Medical Center Campus. Long known as the "First Lady" of Life Flight, Marguerite retired as director of flight operations for Life Flight some time ago. At 91 years young Marguerite still volunteers weekly in the Emergency Center. The most exciting news is that "in her honor, beginning in 2011, Memorial Hermann – TMC will award the first Marguerite Badger Award for Volunteer Services. Each year, one recipient will be nominated by fellow volunteers, based on the five attributes Marguerite displays everyday: commitment to community service, compassion, integrity, a team player, and a positive attitude." (quoted from the Memorial Hermann December-TMC 2010 newsletter, p. 4) Warm congratulations to you, Marguerite. Many thanks for serving as a reminder to all of us that as we continue to volunteer the benefit to others and to ourselves is incalculable.

More thanks go out to those of you who wrote letters to the Coast Guard expressing your concerns about the proposed removal of the aids to navigation in the Anahuac, Double Bayou and NASA channels. We have been heard and receive an encouraging response. The Anahuac Channel has now been put on a schedule to be dredged and appropriate aids will be maintained. The Double Bayou Channel has not been scheduled for dredging but the USCG will make multiple soundings around the existing aids to determine which aids can be safely reconstructed. The NASA Channel can no longer be maintained by the Coast Guard and will need to rely on private aids to navigation (PATON). This stretch is too shallow to rebuild former aids and it will not be dredged. No equipment will need to be carried by water through this channel to NASA for the foreseeable future.

We've laid the groundwork for a banner new watch year. Our calendar of events and courses has been established and will always welcome new ideas. Our next officers have been duly elected and there's always room for more volunteers to help in both big and small ways. As you read this, some of us are in Orlando at the USPS Annual Meeting. I can't wait to share what's new at National as well as our celebratory photos of the first ever woman on the National USPS Bridge, Jean Hamilton as National Secretary!



Education News
Lt/C Rick Fisher, SN

Spring 2011 CLASS SCHEDULE

***** **Classes Available to Members and Non-Members*******

Course	Class Day, and Registration Date	Instructor	Member Books and Tuition	Non-Member Books and Tuition
Seamanship	Monday, February 21	Rick Fisher	\$60.00	\$90.00
Advanced Piloting	Tuesday, February 22	Bob Stevenson	\$65.00	\$97.50
Marine Communications Systems	Thursday, February 24	Bill Haddock	\$60.00	\$90.00

Following the decision of USPS National to allow non-members to sign-up for all USPS University courses, HSPS is now listing our courses with both discounted member tuition, and non-member tuition. We have changed the website to reflect that the outstanding boating courses we offer are now available to everyone, and we encourage HSPS members to make it known to your friends and associates that we want everyone with an interest in boating to take a course with us.

And if your friends want further information on our course offerings, have them visit our website www.uspshouston.org or call me at 281-734-4443.

USPS Instructor Development

I want to thank P/D/C Karl Fernandes for leading the current Instructor Development class. The class participants include **Robert Campbell, Ted Hilton, Ed Roland, Larry Smith**, and a non-member, **Bill Nowlin**. We look forward to these students completing the course, and joining the HSPS instructor team.

Public Boating Safety Course News

The next America's Boating Course class is Saturday, February 12th.

While I am certain most of you have taken a boating safety course, if it has been some time since you took that course, you should consider taking a refresher by attending the new America's Boating Course-3rd Edition (ABC3). In 2011 we will hold a one-day ABC3 class on 8 Saturdays. The dates for this year are 2/12, 3/12, 4/16, 5/14, 6/11, 7/19, 9/10, and 11/12. Grab a boating friend or family member, and attend a class this year.

USPS Seminars

We held our first USPS seminar of the year on Thursday, January 20th at Home Port. P/C Denny Fegan presented the VHF Seminar and discussed the new and important Digital Selective Calling (DSC) capability.

Our seminar schedule for 2011 is still being firmed up. We want your input! Please email or call Denny or me and tell us where you would like to see us hold seminars, and what seminars you would come to. Go to the USPS Education site http://www.usps.org/e_stuff/seminars.htm and review the seminars that are available.

Once again, call me (281) 734-4443 or email Rick@ChampionMarineSurveys.com to sign up for a course, or tell me how I can assist you in furthering your boating education.

Lt/C Rick Fisher, SN
 Squadron Education Officer

Around the Corner
Lt/C Bob Leatherwood, S, XO

Well, WELCOME TO 2011. I guess now it's time to start working on those resolutions. January really started off with a bang, and what a successful bang it was. I'm talking about the Boat Show. I thought it went especially well this year and that THANKS goes to **Cdr. Claire McDonald**. Our booth was very well stocked with books and flyers for passers by to look at and plenty of information to take home as well. We were well staffed and got a surprising number of people on the sign up sheets requesting more information. **Robert Campbell**, our incoming Educational Officer turned out to be an amazing "barker" and did an unbelievable job getting the throngs interested. Many thanks to **Robert** and **Lt./C Rick Fisher** for the great job they did and also the long watches you covered. We had 24 people who stood watches this year, and thanks to everyone who participated and helped make this year's Boat Show a success!

The first half of January was pretty busy and it'll be nice when things settle down and we can get on with our new watch year. After the boat show came the planning meeting and the new calendar for 2011 is set and ready to go. From there we had our January dinner and election meeting. It was once again at Spaghetti Western and a really nice evening. The food is very good and even with 26 people there was tons left for everyone to grab styrofoam containers and pack up plenty to take home! **Jerry Tanksley** dropped by, which was a nice surprise. He's been working in West Texas so it's been quite awhile since we've seen **Jerry**.

Next on the agenda is the Incoming Officers meeting in Clear Lake and by all means I hope everyone who can, drops by the annual **D/21 Chili Cookoff** on the **29th**. After that, February, here we come!!!!

Annual Election Meeting at the Spaghetti Western
Photos by Lt/C Bob Leatherwood, S



January 2011 Executive Committee Meeting
Houston Sail and Power Squadron

Executive Department: Lt/C Robert Leatherwood, S

- **Cooperative Charting:** Report from Dick Snapp: HSPS is now in 3rd place nationally. The competitive year ends on March 31st.
- **Vessel Safety Checks:** Report from Bill Haddock: No change from previous report.
- **Winter Boat Show:** January 7-16 – Reliant Center. The squadron will have two booths. Booth supplies, including the transom, are being prepared for delivery and setup on January 7th. There will be a fact sheet for internal use so watch standers are consistent in their message. Incoming SEO Robert Campbell was a major contributor to handout material being prepared.
- **2011 Planning Meeting:** January 17th at 7PM – Home Port

Education Department: Lt/C Rick Fisher, SN

- **Boating Courses:**
 - Instructor Development: Thursday, January 13th – Karl Fernandes
 - Seamanship: Monday, February 21st – Rick Fisher
 - Advanced Piloting: Tuesday, February 22nd – Bob Stevenson
 - Marine Communications Systems: Thursday, February 24th – Bill Haddock
- **Public Classes:**
 - **Seminars:** A VHF radio seminar will be conducted on January 20th. A decision will then be made about the plan for 2011.
 - **ABC3:** February 12th at Home Port. The April class will be on the 16th.

Administrative Department:

- **Upcoming Dinner Meetings:**
 - January 19th – Annual Meeting and Election of Officers at Spaghetti Western
 - February 9th – Founder's Day meeting at homeport will be a pot luck
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - January 29th – GBSPS/HSPS Chili Cook-Off – Nassau Bay Park
 - February 26th – Frostbite Rendezvous is cancelled

Treasurer's Department: Lt/C Phyllis W. Stendebach, P

- **Financial Report:** No report. Treasurer is out of town.

Secretary's Department: Lt/C Bob Stevenson, JN

- **Squadron Newsletter:**
 - January *Bay Neigh* was posted on the website and mailed on January 3rd

Commander's Department: Cdr Claire M. McDonald, SN

- Providing information to non-members on HSPS real and personal property – do not do so without firm authorization.
- D/21 Star Squadron worksheet for 2010 and due date is not yet posted.
- Annual USPS meeting February 2-5 in Orlando, FL will be attended by Claire and Scott McDonald, Bob Leatherwood, Tom and Mary Derden, Pete and Su Hames, and Jean Hamilton from HSPS.
- The next E-board meeting is on Tuesday, February 1st, not Wednesday as usual.

Unfinished Business

- P/C Denny Fegan, AP, reported that there is no information available indicating a plan to dredge the channel into Double Bayou.

Volunteer Needs for the Secretary's Department

By Lt/C Bob Stevenson, JN

Please consider volunteering to help the extremely short-handed Secretary's Department. Contact Bob Stevenson at 281-993-4288 for more information or to just volunteer. The positions are shown in priority order.

Asst Secretary – In addition to being available to help with meeting minutes in the absence of the Secretary, someone else should start learning how to do the complete Secretary's job. The upcoming year will be Bob Stevenson's last as Secretary after six years in the job out of the previous seven.

Property Tax Exemption Preparer – This once-per-year function was transferred from the Law Officer to the Secretary's Department a few years ago. At least one knowledgeable backup to the Secretary is needed, due to the importance of this annual submittal.

Roster Committee Chair – Committee work includes gathering data, producing the roster files in printable form, printing and assembling Rosters, conducting a folding party, passing out Rosters at dinner meetings, and mailing residual Rosters. The Chair coordinates and participates in the activities.

General Mailing Committee Chair – Committee work includes printing monthly *Bay Neighs* or special material, conducting folding parties, and mailing *Bay Neighs* plus any special material to members. The Chair coordinates and participates in the activities.

General Mailing Committee members – **Bob Stevenson has volunteered to help the Chair.** Additional members are definitely needed.

Historian – This person prepares the once per year annual history report for the Squadron, using input provided by each of the officers. Preservation and retrieval of Squadron files of minutes, *Bay Neighs* and other important papers are also a responsibility of this person.

Bay Neigh Business Manager – This person controls paid advertising and should participate in the HSPS Ad Hoc Business Committee deliberations.

Roster Committee members – **Ed Nagel has volunteered to create the several files from which the Roster is composed. Bob Stevenson has volunteered to help the Chair as needed.** Additional members would be useful to help with folding and mailing.

Bay Neigh Editor – **Jana Wesson has volunteered (again). Thanks, Jana!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Ensign Correspondent – USPS now has Advisors who serve in the role of communicating between the Ensign staff and Squadrons, so suggesting articles for inclusion in the Ensign is no longer needed; but the position is still listed in the USPS Ops Manual. **Bob Stevenson will serve as the nominal person for this role,** and will recommend that the Secretary following him use the same policy until USPS eliminates it as a listed position.



Houston Boat Show
 Photos by Lt/C Bob Leatherwood, S



Sponsors

The Squadron is seeking tax-deductible donations to help defray the cost of boating safety course materials to the public as well as to help fund other necessary Squadron expenses. We can accept as donations cash or items the Squadron needs – as long as they do not result in a tax problem for the Squadron or donor. Sponsors can be companies, individuals in business, or simply individuals (including Members) who wish to help. All donors/Sponsors will be listed on the HSPS website. Please send a check or recommend potential company sponsors to Commander Claire McDonald, SN. Make checks payable to HSPS. There is no cutoff date for the donations or suggestions for Sponsors. The search for annual Sponsors will continue indefinitely.



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Contact *Bay Neigh* Business Manager
 Ken Brooks

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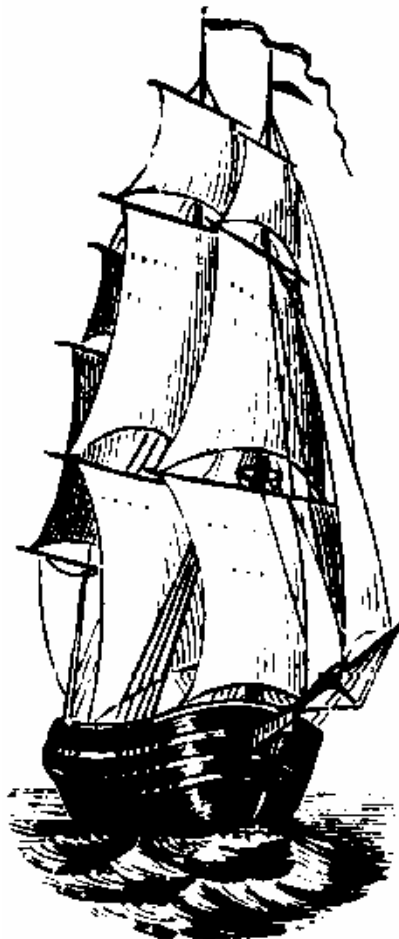
Bay Neigh Articles

If you have a story or experience that would be of interest to our members, please E-Mail pictures and stories to Jana Wesson at beakboatgirl@me.com

Houston Sail and Power Squadron
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February Birthdays

Robert I. White	2/4
Mel Laushaul	2/7
Kathy J. Fussell	2/8
Peter H. Hames	2/9
William S. Haddock Jr.	2/16
Vince J. Wall	2/20
Debra L. Gallington	2/21
Johnny Benkenstein Jr.	2/25
Richard C. Snapp	2/28



February Dinner Meeting – Founder's Day



Come out and join your fellow HSPS members for a social evening at Home Port. Enjoy a potluck dinner and hear Cdr Claire McDonald present a Founder's Day presentation on the history of USPS and HSPS.

What: Annual Founder's Day Meeting

When: Wednesday, February 9th

Where: Home Port

Menu: Potluck

Please RSVP: icemangems@att.net

Or call Bob Leatherwood at 281-879-6005

OR sign up on our home page at <http://uspshouston.org>

