

VULCAN POWER SQUADRON

NIMBUS



Spring 2006

Number 2

NOAA Digital Charting, Electronic Navigation, Gulf Coast Update to Highlight 27 April Vulcan Dinner Meeting

Our program speaker for April is Tim Osborne, Regional Activities Coordinator for NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the US Department of Commerce. Tim is a native of Tampa, Florida and received his B.S., Marine Science from Florida State University. He has an MS in Marine Science and Masters in Public Administration from Louisiana State University and he is a NOAA Sea Grant Fellow. Former staff of U.S. Senator Lowell Weicker. Formerly Program Officer of the NOAA CWPPRA Program. Presently, Regional Coordinator of NOAA's National Ocean Service.

Tim will talk to the Squadron about the latest advances in digital charting and electronic navigation as well as provide updates on the work being done on the hurricane-ravaged Gulf coastal areas.

Tim sent an email to Vulcan squadron, to remind our members that, "as the sport boating season starts on the Gulf, extra precautions must be

taken due the very large number of hazards and debris in the water off of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama today. No resources have been available to survey and chart and support the removal of these hazards at this time.

Boaters should try to stay within maintained and marked navigation channels and waterways. Movement out of these waterways should be done with care and caution taken to reduce the risk of a boat strike to an object or wreck or large debris.

Any reports of hazards to NOAA and USCG is very much appreciated from your group."

We appreciate Tim's informed advice and look forward to the educational April program.

Joy Godsey, Administrative Officer

Due to the expected interest in this meeting, Reservations must be made by Friday 21 April. Make reservations with Allen Folts at 205-912-5961 or 205-933-6669 or email allen@mdb.org. We only have 50 chairs, so respond early. The Meeting will start at 1830 with a BYOB social.

As a special treat, Frank and Diane Kennedy are preparing the meal for the 27 April meeting.

The menu includes:

Frank's Homemade Chili

Tamales

Diane's coleslaw with John's Famous Dressing and for dessert --

sopaipillas -- a delicious Mexican pastry topped with powdered sugar

A VPS Tradition...don't miss it!

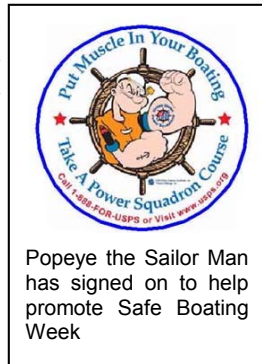
Piloting Class in Full Swing, Boat Smart set for 24 May To Observe Safe Boating Week, GPS Seminar in Planning

Nine Vulcan members have enrolled in the Piloting Class currently being held on Wednesday nights. The intense course has drawn attention because it's the first time the "new" Piloting Course has been offered by Vulcan.

Instructors for the 12-session course are Cecil Morgan, Bill Duffey, Carl Schultze, Jim Nye, and Joe Murphy. The exam is tentatively set for 14 June.

Vulcan will convene a Boat Smart class in observation of 2006 Safe Boating Week. The first session will be held on 24 May the middle of Safe Boating Week. The class will be publicized at local marinas and boat dealers as well as USPS' and Vulcan's web sites. Hopefully all 50 seats will be filled. If we have sufficient over-

flow, we'll schedule another class for possibly later in the summer or early fall. On another note, I have received some of the materials for the GPA Seminar that several members have asked about. It appears that it will be a very helpful program to those who lack a working knowledge of the latest in navigation technology. We may even be able to offer this seminar to the general public as a part of USPS' arrangement with West Marine, more on this later.



Allen Folts, Education Officer

Season's First On-the-water Event, Guntersville Lock-thru and New Member Orientation Set for 29 April at Alred Marina

A full day of activities is scheduled for VPS members and guests on Saturday, 29 April with a new member orientation, BBQ picnic lunch, and a good old fashioned Lake Guntersville Lock Thru.

We'll gather at Alred Marina at 1030 for new member orientation (and old member re-orientation (from downtown Guntersville take U.S. Highway 431 North for 2.5 miles; go past the airport on right and turn left on Baker's Chapel Road; follow the signs to the marina). Everyone needs to be there by 1130 whether participating in the Orientation or not.

Thanks to Alred Marina owner, Russ Cranford, we'll be able to use the "patio" on "E" Dock (docks are clearly labeled) for the day's activities.

Lunch (between 1130 and 1200) will be barbecue from Simmons BBQ of Guntersville and after that has settled, we'll set sail for Guntersville dam, downriver 20 or 30 minutes.

The flagship will be Lee Harrison's boat, but anyone is welcome

to bring a boat. HOWEVER, you do not need your own boat to participate in the lock through!

We'll go downstream through the lock, turn around and come through upstream. We should be back at Alred Marina between 1530 and 1630. Reservations need to be made by 21 April. Contact Joy Godsey at 205-436-7779 or email at jgodsey@ccr-bhm.org.



Lee Harrison, Executive Officer

How To Lock Through



1
Ask permission from the lock operator to enter the lock via intercom or radio. Wait to be notified by intercom or radio, and horn or light signals to proceed.



2
Proceed into the lock and place fenders fore and aft on side of vessel high enough to protect the outermost edge of vessel.

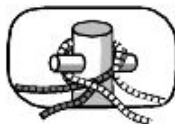
3
Tie up at the mooring bitt designated by the lock operator. Position your vessel so the mooring bitt is located amidship.



4
If there are several vessels in the lock, you may be instructed to tie alongside a craft already secured to one of the mooring bitts or use an alternate bitt.



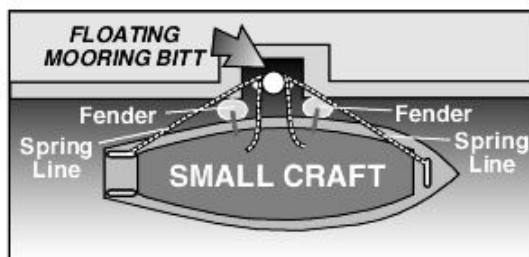
5
Use two spring lines, one from the bow and one from the stern.



6
Secure both lines around the mooring bitt and remain alert in case the bitt gets stuck and you need to release the lines quickly. Please remain secured to bitt until told to proceed.



7
View of final mooring position of your vessel for safe lockage.



US Army Corps of Engineers ©

Keep careful watch throughout the lockage!

In an emergency, you could be notified to quickly release your vessel from the mooring bitt.

ALWAYS WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET

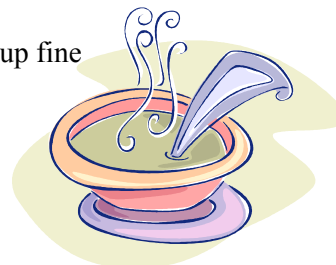
VPS Treasurer Joe Katz reminds all that invoices for 2006-07 dues will be mailed from Headquarters next month. Vulcan Dues have risen slightly. The new schedule is:

Active Member	\$11.80
Additional Active Member	\$10.90
Adult Family Member	\$10.45

Cook'n While You're Hook'n

Potato Soup for those Cold Nights on the Hook

½ Stick Butter
Small onion chopped
3 medium baking potatoes peeled (cut into bite sized pieces, 1 cut up fine
Water to cover potatoes
1 Bay leaf
1 ½ Cups Half-and-Half
½ tsp. Chopped Parsley
Salt and Pepper to taste



In a heavy pot, melt butter and sauté onions until clear. Add potatoes and stir to cover with butter mixture. Add water (chicken stock or broth is better) to just barely cover potatoes. Add bay leaf and cook covered until potatoes are done (about 15 minutes, do not overcook. Add Half and Half, chopped parsley, salt and pepper and serve.

Notes:

- Do not boil the soup after adding the Half and Half.
- The finely cut potato will break down during the cooking and will add thickness.
- Serve with hot Irish soda bread (See recipe in a later *Nimbus*).

See you soon on the “hook.”

Dan Dan the Banjo Man

Vulcan Power Squadron
c/o Allen Folts
1137 Lakeview Crescent
Birmingham, Alabama 35205

