



THE LIGHT



LMYC and USPS Host Seamanship Course

Marilyn Myers

You could say that LMYC members were “all tied up in knots” for two weekends in September. United States Power Squadron, District 21 Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter conducted its first educational course in conjunction with the Laguna Madre Yacht Club Sept 11-12 and 25-26.

The Advanced Grade Course in Seamanship is one of five Advanced Grade courses offered by USPS. These courses are designed to be taken in sequence because each builds on skills taught in the previous course.

Participants in the Seamanship Course were Andres Garcia, Juan Ballesteros, Gene and Katherine Hause, Mike and Marilyn Myers, Dr. John and Marilyn Howe, Jana Davis, Joe Clark, Keith Portman, Aaron Godfrey, Terry Hernandez, and LMYC Commodore Bill Maples. Representing the USPS were Sid Rouch, USPS Commodore, Pete Prantis, Senior Instructor, Larry Lewis, Russell Judah, and Bill Stocker.

LMYC Flag Officer Wes Thom provided a special demonstration on Emergency Procedures complete with a four-man covered emergency life raft. His words to the group were not to be forgotten: “Never Step DOWN Into a Life Raft”—meaning if your boat is still floating and isn’t on fire—stick with the boat! Additional Advanced Grade Courses include Piloting, Navigation, Engine Maintenance, Marine Electronics, Cruise Planning, and Weather. LMYC members will



be notified of course availability and schedules via email and the *Light* newsletter. Members interested in participating in future courses can contact Comm. Maples for additional information.

All Members Note

More education will follow - The LMYC will be sponsoring and holding future events for members of the club and community that will encourage boating safety and awareness. Watch in your email and in future issues of *The Light* for information.

Boating safety extends to everyone on the water and can save lives. Follow the rules and help others be more aware.

Can You Get back Aboard?

It's funny how the little things on a boat can just slip your mind or go un-noticed for years. I took some friends of my kid's sailing recently and while they had a heck of a time off-shore, they thought it might be fun to swim in Barracuda Cove on the way back in.

As the captain, I worry about safety at sea and have rescue plans for dealing with man-overboard situations but as it turned out, simply swimming off my boat wasn't such a pleasure. The configuration of the transom doesn't allow an aft mounted boarding ladder so I carry two different ladders for rescue use. Neither one is very easy to use when the boat is a swimming platform with kids diving off every minute or two.

While I had carefully checked out the boarding ladders for fit and depth in the water assuming a one-time recovery need, I hadn't really considered the ease of use on a repetitive basis. The answer to the question posed at the top of the column was Yes but not easily. Not only that but the thought of getting back on board in rough seas using the equipment in place wasn't too appealing.

The bottom line was that while I have provided two methods for getting back on the boat, the reality is that the shape of the hull and amount of freeboard will make it difficult to get on board if someone is tired or worse-yet, injured.

While there are several good rescue systems on the market which are professionally reviewed we should all remember that making the purchase and throwing the system in the boat isn't the end of the exercise. I suggest that instead of simply writing off the solution as I did that we all actually test the systems ourselves.

Start with a calm day, head out to the cove and give it a try. Could you get back on if the person left on the boat was weak or injured as well? Can you re-board if you have on heavy, water-laden clothes in the cooler waters of the winter months?

After a series of "No" answers on my end I immediately started looking for other solutions that would work for everyone who might be sailing with me. Better now than later when I'll be saying "I wish I had gotten another system".

Yo Ho Ho and a Bottle of Rum NOT!

Please read in depth Thank you. New instatement of new State and Federal laws concerning the use of narcotic/drugs or possession of same by officers, crew or passengers and/or the excessive consumption of alcohol by Skippers/Captains or allowing crew members/passengers to excessively consume alcohol or use or have in their possession-narcotics/drugs, aboard vessels are in effect.

Skippers, Captain's and boat owners should familiarize themselves with the intent and extent of these regulations and the intensive power and discretion given to the inspecting boarding enforcement personnel. God forbid, if anyone of our LMYC fleet is targeted & detained our image will appear on the screen and the in-depth inspections will begin. Through personal relationships with the Federal and State authorities we as a club enjoy a level of mutual respect and low profile on the to be targeted list. Some of you have friends that have already reported being boarded and inspected for narcotics and given alcohol breathalizer tests to all on board as they enter and exit the Jetties area. It is on going. I am asking Chief Supervisor, John Marshall, as a courtesy, who is a club friend, and Supervisor Interdiction Officer of Homeland Security/DEA and Coastal Enforcement- to be our program speaker at the next social on the 9th of October 2010 to discuss how we can help in the on-going, Watch Program involving Terrorism and Illegal's and the liabilities associated with the new laws concerning the carrying of or use of narcotics and excessive alcohol consumption aboard vessels.

Commodores Corner

Col. Bill Maples

September has come and gone yet in many areas it left a trace of its impact upon us. In spite of the storms, the issues of realignment of Flag Officers, illness in our ranks, our LMYC, in its great resilience, weathered the storms and is flying even higher.

The Port Aransas, race from the view point of the Flag, was very well planned enjoyed by many more sailors than we expected. A great time was had by all despite the winds and rain.

Our thanks to our members in Port Aransas for their hospitality and local arrangements. A special "Thank you" to Rocky Poovey and Geff and Rose Willstrop of the "My Peace." Next year will be even greater with the enthusiasm created in the Port Aransas and Corpus Christi area.

Chris Hughston, an avid Brownsville businessman in insurance, aviation, & many public services in the Valley arenas has replaced George Lesieutre as LMYC Treasurer. Chris fills the unexpired term of George's position until elections in November. Chris will do extremely well in his new position and we thank George, who resigned from the Flag Officer Board due to outside commitments, for the many years of admirable service to our club.

Over the last two weekends we conducted our scheduled joint training period with the US Power Squadron. The attendance was high from LMYC and the training in the areas of Seamanship was well received. As a continuance of our early 2010 training plans, Dr. John Howe has agreed to serve as club training officer, who, with input from our Fleet Captain and members will continue the organization of training. This is our second phase with a direction toward sailing & power boating, safety, communications and other areas that will be taken from your input. The attendees at our first course witnessed the instructional ability of Wes Thom who contributed greatly in clarification of some teaching topics and safety instruction. Our continued concentration will be on "hands on," adding more instructional talent from selected LMYC instructors, such as Wes Thom, Brian Mikiten, Dr. John Pinkerman, Russell Judah, Larry Lewis, Pete Prentis, Jim Godfrey and other experienced boaters many are dual members of LMYC and USPS Please let me know of your training interests.

In accordance with LMYC by laws, the selection of a nominating committee has been effected. These appointed members have the responsibility to meet, con-

sider and nominate a slate of Flag Officers. These members will be presented to the board for approval as 2011 board nominees and once approved by the Flag board, the names of nominees will be announced to the membership for their consideration and rendering of votes at the November Social General Meeting. Other nominees may be presented from the floor at the General Meeting as part of the election procedure.

I am happy to announce that the final touch, before dredging begins is now in step. One of our own has been awarded the contract to finish up the necessary "on site survey," This is the last step of our quest to get things moving, For you that have been involved. Congratulations. However you know that we will not be satisfied until the opening has been celebrated and security has returned to the fingers and our "Safe Refuge" has been restored. Our persistence has paid off. There are a few inquiries from members not living in the fingers about what is going on. The Light has been very communicative on the subject, however controlled to the extent not to tie the LMYC into the political situation or divulge some of the issues not yet officially released by the city. If you have questions, I as the Chair of the Boating&Water Ways BWW- Laguna Madre movement will be glad to meet with you or talk to you by phone to bring you up to date. This is an issue that is delicate and very important to our members. Call me..979 218 4850 or wdm1000@aol.com.

In line with our continuing 2010 activities for the LMYC last week we (several members) re-arranged the profile of the furniture in the club. It looks great and a move will be either approved or disapproved by the board to purchase some additional Directors chairs with covers. We are painting the entire inside facility, bath rooms and all. Mr. Keith Portman is hard at it and should finish this week. Septic clean out, windows replaced, Burgees have been taken down cleaned and replaced, walls scrubbed and shined. I have an outside team standing by to clean the floor, couch and rug hopefully before the next social. Your dues hard at work bringing the club up to date.

Hope to see you at the Shrimp Night. Bill R has a great layout planned for the Ninth (9th) of October. Come Hungry and bring a guest. Our recruitment 2nd phase for members is moving ahead, with three new candidates (from Beth and ray Wolf) and one new member this month.

God Bless you all!

Steward's Corner

Oh my! It's fall already. Last month our Mexican cuisine seemed well received. Thanks to Nancy and Doris for los Rico Frijoles!

I feel a little out of touch at the moment because I am on a boat shopping trip and am a thousand miles from the valley. Alas, I am still boat-less, and it seems I will be for the foreseeable future.

October is upon us and our social this month will feature shrimp. I'm thinking of Jambalaya would be just the thing to go with it!

It should be a fun social, so be there or be square!

Bill Rushfeldt, Steward



Wes instructs on the proper use of a life raft.



Which way does the rabbit go?

2010 Race and Cruise Schedule

Note: Always check the website for current information

SEPTEMBER 18, 19 GULF AND BAY RACES- START FALL SERIES Cancelled due to Weather

OCTOBER 16, 17 GULF AND BAY RACES

NOVEMBER 20, 21 GULF AND BAY RACES

Remember, you don't have to own a racing boat to race. Everyone is welcome under our handicapping rules where the best sailed boat and not the fastest wins.

For changes or comments email bmikiten@idworld.net

Your 2010 Flag Officers

Commodore

Col. Wm. "Bill" Maples
H 956 421 3168 C 979 218 4850

Vice Commodore

Robert "Bob" Fisher C 956 299 1259

Rear Commodore

Brian Mikiten C 210 863 5245

Steward

William Rushfeldt C 956 266 3789

Fleet Captain

Rocky Poovey C 956 535 2224

Treasurer

Chris Hughston C 956 454 4443

Secretary

Jo Anne Lesieutre C 956 761 3169

Barrister

Bill Schwer C 713 882 0976

Fleet Surgeon

Wes Thom C 956 778 7628

Membership information

Clubhouse Phone Number
956-943-5692

membership@lagunamadreyachtclub.org

Port Isabel, Laguna Madre, Texas

October 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3:04 AM 1.7 6:41 PM 0.4	2:53 AM 1.6 12:14 PM 1.5 2:45 AM 1.4 2:24 PM 1.1 9:03 PM 1.1 7:53 PM 0.6 8:14 AM 1.1	2:39 AM 1.6 2:39 AM 1.4 4:00 PM 1.7 2:33 AM 1.8 5:24 PM 1.4 4:00 PM 0.8 10:13 PM 1.1 9:20 AM 0.5 11:31 PM 1.3	2:21 AM 1.8 5:24 PM 1.4 4:00 PM 0.8 10:13 PM 1.1 9:20 AM 0.5 11:31 PM 1.3	2:21 AM 1.8 5:24 PM 1.4 4:00 PM 0.8 10:13 PM 1.1 9:20 AM 0.5 11:31 PM 1.3	2:38 AM 1.9 4:13 PM 0.2	3:03 AM 1.8 5:28 PM 0.3
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
11:36 AM 0.0 9:28 PM 2.0	12:27 PM 0.0 10:59 PM 2.0	12:26 AM 1.9 2:21 PM 0.2	1:31 AM 1.9 3:26 PM 0.4	2:14 AM 1.8 4:35 PM 0.5	2:14 AM 1.8 4:35 PM 0.5	2:33 AM 1.7 5:44 PM 0.7
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
2:30 AM 1.6 10:59 AM 1.3 2:16 AM 1.5 1:23 PM 1.4 2:06 AM 1.4 2:49 PM 1.5 2:00 AM 1.1 8:52 PM 1.1 8:13 AM 1.0 8:52 PM 1.1	2:30 AM 1.6 10:59 AM 1.3 2:16 AM 1.5 1:23 PM 1.4 2:06 AM 1.4 2:49 PM 1.5 2:00 AM 1.1 8:52 PM 1.1 8:13 AM 1.0 8:52 PM 1.1	2:30 AM 1.6 10:59 AM 1.3 2:16 AM 1.5 1:23 PM 1.4 2:06 AM 1.4 2:49 PM 1.5 2:00 AM 1.1 8:52 PM 1.1 8:13 AM 1.0 8:52 PM 1.1	2:30 AM 1.6 10:59 AM 1.3 2:16 AM 1.5 1:23 PM 1.4 2:06 AM 1.4 2:49 PM 1.5 2:00 AM 1.1 8:52 PM 1.1 8:13 AM 1.0 8:52 PM 1.1	2:30 AM 1.6 10:59 AM 1.3 2:16 AM 1.5 1:23 PM 1.4 2:06 AM 1.4 2:49 PM 1.5 2:00 AM 1.1 8:52 PM 1.1 8:13 AM 1.0 8:52 PM 1.1	2:30 AM 1.6 10:59 AM 1.3 2:16 AM 1.5 1:23 PM 1.4 2:06 AM 1.4 2:49 PM 1.5 2:00 AM 1.1 8:52 PM 1.1 8:13 AM 1.0 8:52 PM 1.1	2:30 AM 1.6 10:59 AM 1.3 2:16 AM 1.5 1:23 PM 1.4 2:06 AM 1.4 2:49 PM 1.5 2:00 AM 1.1 8:52 PM 1.1 8:13 AM 1.0 8:52 PM 1.1
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:21 AM 0.3 7:47 PM 1.9	11:02 AM 0.2 8:58 PM 1.9	11:47 AM 0.1 10:21 PM 1.9	12:36 PM 0.1 11:42 PM 2.0	1:31 PM 0.1	12:35 AM 1.9 2:32 PM 0.2	12:54 AM 1.8 3:41 PM 0.4
31						
12:53 AM 1.7 4:56 PM 0.6						