



# Pilot

April  
2010

## Evansville Bend Power Squadron

[www.evansvillebend.org](http://www.evansvillebend.org)



### The Adventures of the Rombauer's - Power Boaters Become Sailors for a Week

What is it like for a power boater to become a sailor...if only for one week?? If you want to hear the story of how the Rombauer's survived one week on a sailboat, be sure to come to our Wednesday, April 21st meeting at Archie and Clyde's Roca Bar in Newburgh, IN.

Cdr. Richard Rombauer and SEO Karen Rombauer will share stories, and photos of their week-long trip around the British Virgin Islands at our next meeting.

The trip was put together by Jeff Lagrew, the USPS Commander in Lexington. He and his wife, Louise, have been sailing down there for many years - this was his 54th time there. There were also Power Squadron members from Louisville and Lexington. Two boats were chartered 2- 9 people per boat. Both were 50' monohauls. Jeff was captain on Richard and Karen's boat.

Another long-time sailor from the Lexington squadron captained the other boat.

Archie and Clyde's Roca Bar, is located in Newburgh, 8309 Bell Oaks Drive, Bell Oaks Shopping Ctr.

The Newburgh shopping center is located just past Bell Road on Highway 66 (Lloyd Expressway).

We will share pizza and salad, just \$10 per person. 6pm Social time with dinner at 7pm.

### Commander's Corner



I missed the March membership meeting due to being under the weather; but I understand it went well with

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Executive Officer:	P/Stf/C Sam Richey, SN (812-721-2322)
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Secretary/Treasurer:	P/D/C Janice Elwood, JN (812-401-8300)
Education Officer:	Lt/C Karen Rombauer, P (812-985-9956)

our speaker DNR officer Dan Belwood. I hope he was able to answer any questions you might have had regarding boating activities in the Evansville area.

The weather looks like its starting to warm up. All of us boaters are chomping at the bit to get our hulls wet. Hopefully you have scheduled an inspection with our vessel inspection crew. ( Henry Graper ) It's always nice to know that you are starting off safe with the proper equipment and paper work. This inspection is a great way to get you thinking about what's needed on the boat as well as refreshing the routine of safe boating.

The activities committee has put together a great year of activities that will be published in the Pilot. We would love to see all of you participating in these activities ---one because they are fun and --- two they take a lot of work to put together. Your participation would be a way of showing appreciation for all the hard work the committee put into planning and organizing these activities.

Please plan on attending April's membership meeting. We think we have a real fun presentation that all will enjoy. Stay tuned to the Pilot for further details.

*Cdr. Richard Rombauer, P*

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## Education Update



Talk about "**EDUCATION**" -- well, Rich and I just returned from a trip in which we got plenty of that!! We spent a week sailing the Brit-

ish Virgin Islands with a group of USPS members from our district (Lexington and Louisville squadrons) and we learned more about sailing than we could imagine possible in only one week's time. Now, you have to keep in mind that prior to this trip we had only been on a sailboat twice (for only a few hours each time) as guests. Not to mention that we're true power-boaters, knew absolutely NOTHING about sailing and didn't think we were really all that interested in learning to sail. But this trip sounded like fun, I've always wanted to see the BVI, and I've read that the best way to see those islands is by water, so..... we decided to give it a try. We're really brave and adventurous (or something - ha!!). Among other things, we now know the meaning of (and have experienced first-hand) things like "coming about", "falling off", "jibing", "luffing", and "wing and wing". At our next dinner meeting (April 21) we're gonna share our stories and pictures -- so please come and let us entertain you!!!

Our Feb/March ABC class has finished and 6 of the 7 students took - and passed - the test. Several of them have expressed interest in the Seamanship class, so we'll be scheduling that soon. Some are also interested in the Boat Handling Under Power seminar.

National USPS has announced a new seminar which is available now: *Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes*. Sounds like something that could be useful to our local members, so we'll be looking into that one soon, too.

*SEO Karen Rombauer, P*

## THINGS WERE A BUZZ AT THE HORNET'S NEST WITH OUR MARCH SPEAKER.



**Dan Bellwood** with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources was our speaker for the evening. Dan talked about many aspects of his

job throughout the year.

It changes from season to season; from May through the end of September patrolling the rivers is his primary responsibility. The boat is a Sea Ark vessel costing \$380,000 which was a part of the Homeland Security money received by states.

As the fall approaches his responsibilities change to being a conservation officer as hunting season approaches with some time spent in schools. It changes also during dove and deer season.

His discussion regarding boating and boaters centered on using common sense. For example, he stressed the importance of having life jackets out readily available to use instead of being stowed or locked in a compartment.

He also talked about the difference in the KY and IN Boating laws. Kids 12 and older can operate a jet ski or boat when they have a Boaters Education Certificate. In IN the age is 15.

We had posed several questions to

him in advance. One question dealt with the proper disposal of a flare. Dan suggested we take them to one of the tox-a-way days. He also discussed fire extinguishers and where to take them for refilling.

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## BOATING SEASON IS A COMIN'

Our Boating Activities Committee headed by P/D/C Leroy O. Elwood, AP has been busy putting together activities for our squadron this year.

- **June 3, 2010 (Thursday)** with a rain date of June 22 - Canoe trip on Hovey Lake (west of Mt. Vernon) followed by dinner at Hawg-n-Sauce Bar & Grill on Leonard Road east of Mt. Vernon. Will need the number of members attending so we have enough canoes. \$15 per person @ 4PM.
- **4th of July (Sunday) Celebration at Graper's River Retreat.**
- **July 9-10, 2010 – Lake Cumberland at Grider Hill Marina.** Friday night hospitality with BYO appetizers and snacks. Saturday raft up. Saturday night dinner at the Grider Hill Restaurant. This is a busy time so if you need a hotel room for the weekend call Grider Hill Marina & Resort at 1-866-387-5501 or 1-606-387-5501. Best Western Albany Garden Inn 7 miles away. 1-606-387-7238.  
[www.griderhillmarina.com](http://www.griderhillmarina.com)
- **August 13-15, 2010 – Lake Erie at Sandusky, OH.** Bring your boat or stay at a hotel. In the

process of getting phone numbers of a area hotels.

- **September 11, 2010 – Golconda Marina.** Leave from Evansville, Mt Vernon boat or by car. Cook out on the dock Saturday night & bring side dish. Lodging for the Saturday night, Lock & Dam 51 Houses 618-683-6702, River Road Lodging 618-683-3409 or San Damiano Retreat 618-285-3507. Will need to know the number of boats participating so we can make slip reservations.  
[www.golcondamarina.com](http://www.golcondamarina.com)

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## SPRING TIME BOATING DANGERS – THUNDERSTORMS

Spring is the time that boaters need to be especially aware of the weather conditions. You can get weather information from TV, radio or from one of the weather channels on your VHF radio. At certain times of the year, weather can change rapidly and you should continually keep a “weather eye” out in order to foresee changes which might be impending.

Certain signs you can look for indicate an approaching weather change:

- Although weather changes generally come from the west, you should be observant of weather from all directions, so scan the sky with your weather eye, especially to the west.
- A sudden drop in temperature and change in the wind often mean that a storm is near.
- If you have a barometer on your boat, check it every two to three hours. A rapid drop in pressure means a storm is approaching.
- Watch for cloud build up, especially rapid, vertically rising clouds. Be alert

for the sound of thunder.

- Watch for lightning and rough water. Remember that boats, particularly sailboats, are vulnerable to lightning if not grounded.

Thunderstorms form when warm, moist air rises, cools and condenses. They develop in three stages:

- The *cumulus stage* occurs as the warm moist air rises in a great vertical development. You will notice that the top of the cloud formation appears to “boil” as it rapidly rises.
- The *mature stage* occurs when the cloud formation has reached its maximum height, sometimes 60,000 feet. At this point you will see the top in the shape of an anvil. This is being driven by winds aloft and the front of the anvil will point in the direction that the storm is moving. If you cannot see the anvil shape the storm is either coming toward you or going directly away.
- The *dissipation stage* occurs as the cloud has released its precipitation and starts to go down. You will first observe a fuzzy, fibrous (called glaciated) top. As the storm continues to dissipate you will see cirrus clouds streaking from the top.

Be aware that thunderstorms can also include tornadoes and or waterspouts which are much more violent. A *waterspout* is a small, whirling storm over ocean or inland waters. Its chief characteristic is a funnel-shaped cloud. When fully developed, it extends from the surface of the water to the base of a cumulus cloud. The water in a waterspout is mostly confined to its lower portion. (*Information from Boat-Safe.com affiliated with Word Press*)