



THE BELL



SEPTEMBER, 2010



Santa Clara Power Squadron
Safe Boating through Education & Service

DISTRICT 25

SAFER BOATING THROUGH EDUCATION



Santa Clara Power Squadron

BRIDGE

Commander

Lu Abel, SN
(408) 448-9250

Executive Officer

Lindy Zink, AP
(408) 866-2660

Administrative Officer

Tim Ellenberger, P
(408) 998-5521

Educational Officer

Dave Norris, JN
(408) 356-1949

Secretary

Jim Sadler, P
(408) 274-9676

Treasurer

DeWayn Meek, AP
(408) 225-6097

WHAT'S INSIDE

Calendar of Events
Word Jumble
Commander's Message
Executive Officer
Administrative Officer
Ship's Store / Just For Laughs
Treasurer
SEO
Meeting Minutes
First Wednesday Dinner
Riddle
Featured Article - Shop Tip
From the Editor

DIRECTORS

Alfred Hughes
Stephen Fisher, P
Don Hardy, SN

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Boating Activities	Tim Ellenberger, P	(408) 998-5521
Boating Class	Lt. Stephen Fisher, P	(408) 723-0619
Co-op Charting	P/C Dennis Parker, AP	(650) 326-1474
Membership	Lt. Stanley Tice, JN	(408) 269-8659
Member Involvement	Jim Buckley, P	(408) 225-0184
Public Relations	John Cassidy, AP	(916) 983-4160
Meetings & Programs	Nancy Zink	(408) 866-2660
Supply Officer	Carolyn Fisher	(408) 723-0619
Newsletter Editors	P/C Lindy Zink, AP & Nancy Zink	(408) 866-2660
Vessel Safety	Lt. Stephen Fisher, P	(408) 723-0619
Computer Systems/Web	P/C Dennis Parker, AP	(650) 326-1474

***The Bell*, published monthly, is the official publication of the Santa Clara Power Squadron, a unit of United States Power Squadrons®. Deadline for articles and input is the third Wednesday of the month.**

Calendar-at-a-Glance

SEPTEMBER, 2010

- 6 Labor Day
- 18 Rendezvous – Angel Island
- 22 **Executive Committee Meeting**
- 28 ABC/3 Basic Boating Course



OCTOBER, 2010

- 11 Columbus Day
- 20 Executive Committee Meeting
- 22 Pizza Party
- 31 Halloween



NOVEMBER, 2010

- 11 Veterans Day
- 13 Alcatraz Tour
- 17 Executive Committee Meeting
- 25 Thanksgiving



DECEMBER, 2010

- 2 Hanukkah
- 11 Squadron Holiday Party
- 15 Executive Committee Meeting
- 25 Christmas Day



Word Jumble

The object of this game is to unscramble the words and use the pointed out letters to solve the puzzle. Good Luck

OCNAE — — — —
 ↑ ↑

NDPNTA — — — — — —
 ↑ ↑ ↑

EIARNL — — — — — —
 ↑ ↑ ↑

UGSLOH — — — — — —
 ↑ ↑ ↑

What the skipper said the plan for the day was.

— — — — — — — — — —

ANSWERS: Boat, Labret, Islet, Hydraulic “Cruise the Bay”



Commander's Message



I'm continuing my theme of membership, but tacking it in a different direction this month. At its last meeting, your Executive Committee (the Bridge plus the three Directors who are elected representatives of our membership) decided on some important changes which we hope will enable us to attract more members to SCPS.

From its start nearly a century ago, USPS has always had education at the heart of its mission, believing that an educated boater is a better boater. Today USPS has three broad line of educational materials:

1) our basic boating course, America's Boating Course; 2) our seminars covering a pin-point topic like on-board weather forecasting or chart symbology (there are now over two dozen of these seminars); and 3) our eleven intensive member courses such as Seamanship, Weather, and Engine Maintenance.

Many recreational boating experts flatly claim that our member courses are among the best available. I myself have heard people state that they took a \$300 to \$500 course from some outfit in Alameda or Sausalito, only to discover that a USPS member course was better taught and covered more material.

These crown jewels of USPS education heretofore have been available only to USPS members. In a seismic shift of policy, delegates representing the 440 squadrons and 33 districts of USPS voted at the Annual Meeting in Orlando last February to allow non-members to take these courses. While some argued that we would be giving away the most significant benefit of membership, the majority favored the "dope dealer" approach – allow people to experience the quality of our courses and instructors and thereby hook them on the benefits of USPS membership. National has actually changed its computer systems to allow non-members to take final exams for these courses and to maintain a record of their grades so they can receive credit for the course if they become a member. Non-members are to be charged a "significant premium" over the member price for a course.

Steve Fisher, our Public Education chairman, Dave Norris, our SEO, and I brainstormed ideas on how to best bring our courses to non-members and, in particular, how to attract ABC/3 students to take member courses and hopefully become a SCPS member. We presented them to the full Executive Committee who then voted to allow non-members to take member courses.

We also set boundaries on the process. For example, to make non-members seriously consider USPS membership, non-members will be charged twice the member price for a course. Depending on the particular course, that will be slightly less than to much more than the cost of a year's membership.

At the same time we also provided several incentives to attract non-members to join SCPS. We agreed that a non-member who takes a course and then signs up for SCPS membership within 30 days of the end of the course will have the difference between the non-member and member price for the course credited towards their dues.

We also agreed that we would allow anyone, member or non-member, to sit in on the first session of a course for free. "Try it, you'll like it."

These will provide some significant opportunities. The Executive Committee also agreed to start a Seamanship course on 14 October. Our fall ABC course will have started three weeks earlier. I plan to invite all of our students to sit in on the initial session of Seamanship to experience the next logical step of their boating education. In fact, two of the people signed up for ABC have already stated they will join SCPS and take Seamanship!

With the agreement to open our courses, we can now advertise them to the general public. I hope to advertise Seamanship at various West Marine stores as well the San Jose Sailing Club, the Los Gatos Yacht Club, and many of the yacht clubs in Alameda.

Even more exciting will be the impact on the course we hope to teach next Spring, our basic offshore navigation course, Junior Navigation. I'm personally fascinated by the opportunity of offering the course to suitably qualified non-members. The mysteries of celestial navigation hold sway for many boaters: "All I ask for is a tall ship and a star to steer her by" in the words of the poem. If even two or three of the thousands of South Bay boaters hear that call, we'll have a great JN class!

Meanwhile, please help publicize ABC (starts 28 September) in whatever way you can. Company bulletin boards, newsgroups, friends and personal contacts, whatever.

And don't forget our rendezvous at Angel Island on the 18th. Details elsewhere in this issue.

Lu

Executive Officer



WEIRD LAWS

In Arizona – You could get up to 25 years in prison for cutting down a cactus.

Now that's a real stickler.

I feel like half the time when I write my article for the Bell I am preaching to the choir. You know, writing about things like we need more volunteers, or how do we get members more involved, or what type of activities should we be doing. So when I sat down to write this one, I vowed that I would not do that. Instead, I am going to address an issue that is near and dear to my heart. The issue – friendship. But not just any type of friendship, because I think we all can look at ourselves and say we have some friends. Some more, some less. But that is not what this article is about. Instead it is about the friendships we form by joining groups like the USPS and taking the time to get to know our fellow members.

Now there are numerous reasons to join the USPS but I doubt if anybody really joined to meet new friends. Instead, there are those individuals who have joined for the discount on their insurance, or to take a class or two and then move on, or maybe for some other unknown reason. I know when I joined, it was not my intent to meet new friends. It was simply to learn how to operate a boat safely. But let me tell you, over the years since I have been involved with the USPS and more specifically our squadron, I have met some wonderful people and I feel very fortunate to be able to call them my friends. Oh sure, there are some members that barely know me and me them, and perhaps that is my fault. But on the other hand, there are many members that I feel I know pretty well and they know me and my family.

Now I know what you're thinking, 'What the heck is his point?'. Well, my point is simple. These people I speak of became my friends because they took the time to get to know me and I them. We attended events together. We talked to each other. Heck in one case, the person pestered me endlessly until I signed up for a class, but I am so glad he did, because he is now a friend of mine. You see, if I had followed through with my original intention, take a class, learn some boating skills and move on, I never would have had the opportunity to meet him and the many other members that I am proud to call my friends. So in closing, this article is for you, those individuals who I now call my friends. Thank you so much for making my life richer with the experience of knowing you.

Lindy Zink

From the Admin



NEXT OUTING

What: Angel Island Rendezvous

When: Saturday, 18 September

Where: Angel Island

See further details in the Admin article.

The end of summer is fast approaching but we have some fun times coming before the cooler fall weather sets in. Clear your decks for our upcoming First Wednesday dinner at Pete's Harbor in Redwood City! This is one of Dennis and Luella Parker's favorite spots and they would like you to join them there on the 1st of September. You'll find Pete's at #1 Uccelli Boulevard and it is quite a spot. The Waterfront Restaurant, our destination, is right on the Bay and you'll have a great view to enjoy along with a good meal (accompanied of course by a beverage of your choice from Pete's bar). We'll rendezvous at 6:30 PM, allowing a little extra time for travel. You'll receive a flier or two by separate email as a reminder of this fun event.

"Now Here This..." our upcoming on the water outing is scheduled for 18 September...a cruise to Angel Island's Alaya Cove. Members are diligently getting their boats ready for this event and crew may be needed. Alternately, for those who wish to drive up and take the ferry out of Sausalito, a car pool will be put together soon. Plan on packing a picnic lunch and meeting at the foot of the Alaya Cove dock at 1 o'clock.

And thinking of food, we have our Pizza Party and general membership meeting coming up soon. Do mark the date, October 22nd on your calendar. With a nod to the National, we have some interesting agenda items for discussion. The foremost of these is the latitude; should we wish to take it, of allowing non-members to take advanced Squadron course offerings. The thought behind this proposal is that if we get a non-member into one of our excellent classes it is highly likely that they will be inspired to join the Squadron and expand our membership base. Do plan on letting the Bridge know what you think of this idea and others that you may have for keeping the Squadron moving forward.

Tim the Admin
408-391-2430 or t.ellenberger@sbcglobal.net

Santa Clara Power Squadron 2010 Activities

September 1st, First Wednesday Dinner – Pete’s Harbor

September 18th, Rendezvous Angel Island

October 22nd, Our Fall Pizza Party and Meeting

November 13th, Alcatraz (we go to the ROCK!)

December 11th, Squadron Holiday Banquet

And most months, please watch your email for an invitation to the Squadron’s First Wednesday Dinners. The cost is usually \$15 or less and we visit some of the favorite restaurants that our members recommend. Do you have a place that you’ve been going to for years and always enjoy? If so, consider hosting a dinner there. Just get in touch with Tim the Admin...t.ellenberger@sbcglobal.net.

***Get involved.
Attend an event.***

Ship's Store

SQUADRON LOGO CLOTHING NOW AVAILABLE

The Embroidery Factory, which puts the squadron logo on the clothing we choose, has a new website. Members can view the website, without opening an account, and let the squadron Ship's Store place their orders with other orders. The squadron gets a 20% discount from the retail price.

THE EMBROIDERY FACTORY WEBSITE

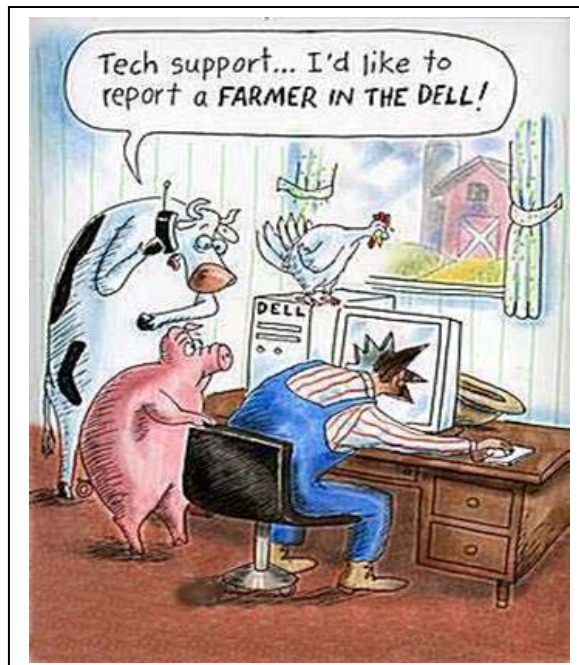
www.embroideryfactory.com

Order that special someone a gift that that they can wear with pride, an embroidered shirt or hat or perhaps a nice warm jacket. All of these items are available in different sizes and colors. Don't keep waiting, order now.

Carrie Fisher
(408) 723-0619
Carrie4318@aol.com



Just For Laughs



From the Treasurer



USELESS KNOWLEDGE

Tigers have striped skin,
not just striped fur.

So with that knowledge, next time you
see one, grab it, shave it and see if it is
true. Let me know what you find out.

THE 35 FOOT MOTORBOAT DETROIT, BALTIC SEA

OFF THE COAST OF ESTONIA, SEPTEMBER 11, 1912

Early in the morning we were off the port of Revel and could see a Russian gunboat inshore above the horizon, but the target and striking shots were clearly visible, being not three miles away. We were obliged to stop, the stuffing box having sprung a leak. After a half hour's work Ferguson got it packed and tight. All boats should have a stern tank fitted with an inside stuffing box; this would prevent this constant and annoying leakage. If this was done power boats could be kept just as tight as sail-craft instead of being half-afloat below.... The night to me was the most anxious of the whole voyage ... All those miles without a mishap an here right at the closing of the gates a stranding or breakdown. I went below several times in the night and had a heart -to-piston talk with my friend the engine. "Don't fail me now, little one," I pleaded. "You have done so splendidly and it is only a short distance now and think what will they say if we bring Detroit into port without a single accident" Cheerfully the engine responded, humming away, "Go back on deck and don't worry, Old Man" hummed she; "I'm taking care of things down here, you look after the helm and trust the getting there to me."

-Thomas Fleming Day
September 28, 1850

An Act of Congress established the coloring and numbering of buoys along the navigable waters of the United States.

From the Mariner's Book of Days by Peter H. Spectre

We are solvent.
DeWayn Meek, Treasurer

From the SEO



Teaching Opportunity

We are always looking for members who are interested in volunteering to teach one of our boating classes.

If this is you, give me a call.

ABC-3 Boating Class starts September 28. Call Steve Fisher or me to assist.

Seamanship class planning still in the works: Start on 14 October for six weeks; two and a half hours each Thursday evening starting at 6:30 PM, off on Thanksgiving and return on December 2 for a quick review and final exam. Please reply with your interest. Course materials have been ordered.

Nautical humor for September

Gordon Died - -

Gordon died. So Susan went to the local paper to put a notice in the obituaries. The gentleman at the counter, after offering his condolences, asked Susan what she would like to say about Gordon. Susan replied, "You just put, 'Gordon died.'" The gentleman, somewhat perplexed, said, "That's it? Just 'Gordon died?' Surely, there must be something more you'd like to say about Gordon. If it's money you're concerned about, the first five words are free. We really should say something more." So Susan pondered for a few minutes and finally said, "O.K., then. You put 'Gordon died. Sailboat for sale.'"

http://www.yachting-life.net/new%20index/frames3/jokes_frame.htm

Lt/C Dave Norris, JN
CaptDaveNorris@aol.com
or w6ctm@aol.com



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

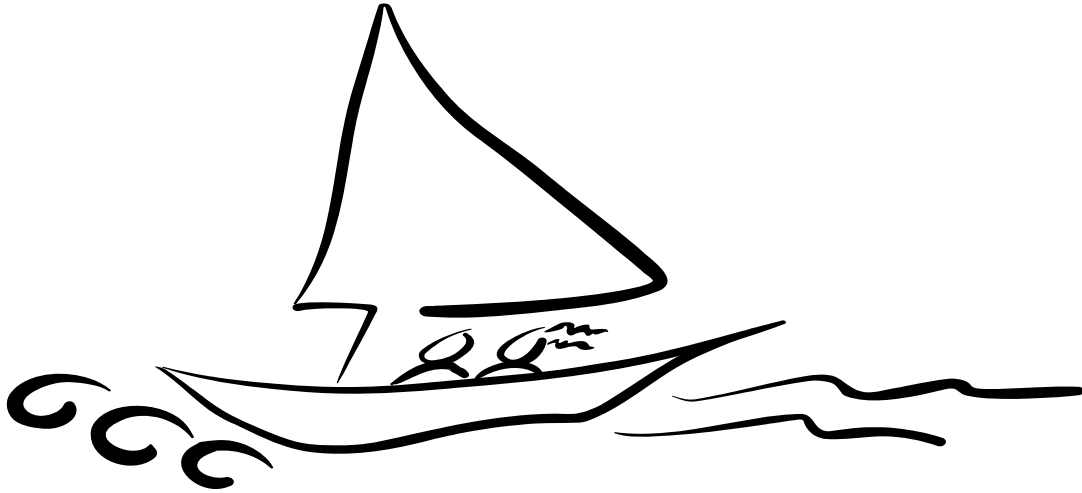
18 August 2010

- Meeting called to order at 1904 and quorum established
- Present: Lu Abel, Al Hughes, Lindy Zink, Don Hardy, Dave Norris, Tim Ellenberger and Jim Sadler.
- Revised minutes of the July meeting, as passed out by Jim Sadler, were approved.
- We are solvent.
- DeWayn was unable to make the meeting but emailed his report to Lu and Jim. We have a \$1500 variance in budget to actual revenue. Some revenue will pick up with the sale of the ABC3 Student Manuals.
- Tim said the cruise on the SSS Steeve's is set to go. We will serve sandwiches and sodas. We will go to a nearby restaurant for nachos and beer after the cruise. Jim Bosso told Jim Sadler there were 28 people signed up between Santa Clara and Monterey Squadrons.
- Tim has a call into Dennis Parker to ask if he would host The First Wednesday Dinner in September. The September activity is 18 Sep, a rendezvous on Angel Island. Tim will start to stir the planning pot. Many folks may arrive by ferry.
- Dave Norris reports that Roger Bradley is good to go for chairing the Seamanship course with Commander Abel and Dave Norris. There was much discussion about when to start the class, take a holiday break and then come back for the final. Potential students are Bill Miner and members who have taken ABC3.
- Lindy Zink read the PRO report. From John Cassidy, Committee Chair: The PRO received an e-mail from Lu Able on 23 July 2010 addressing the confusion that might arise if you carry an inflatable life jacket on board an aircraft with a CO2 cartridge. John went to the TSA web Lu provided and down-loaded the prohibited items list as well as the non-prohibited items. (Editor's note: one can carry inflatable life jackets and replacement cartridges in either their carry on or checked luggage) Lu gave the suggestion to make a flyer to send to the members and West Marine Stores. An announcement flyer along with the prohibited list was sent on Saturday 24 July 2010 to the members and on the 25th to the West Marine stores.
- After reading the July meeting minutes on 27 July 2010 about meeting with the park ranger, this Committee sent Lu Able three brochures about Kayaks: "Kayak", "Kayak Life Jacket" and "Kayak Rapids". If there were any changes to let us know as soon as possible and we could make them and send back. Changes were made.
- The drowning and vessel accidents continue along the American River and Folsom Lake.
- The Boat Show starts the week before the ABC3 class begins. SCPS is signed up for Sunday 19 Sept. Bob Aurner is asking for more ladies to work the booth.
- Regarding VSC's at the new Alviso Marina, Dave Norris is not sure this would be productive as there are only very small boats that can launch here. He thinks during the next month he will drive his motor home here, take some boxes of brochures with him and take the temperature of the public that uses the launch. The park ranger is most concerned with the paddlers using the waterway.
- The September ExCom meeting will be moved to 22 Sep due to a conflict with the District Council meeting on 15 Sep.
- Commander Lu reminded that merit mark recommendations are due in two months. It is time to start thinking about those that have earned merit marks.

- Commander Lu began a discussion whether to allow non-USPS members to take member courses. He said that at the national meeting last February, national voted to allow squadrons to offer USPS member courses to non-members. Since then national has implemented a system for assigning non-members a pseudo membership number allowing them to take final exams and keeping a record of their coursework in case they become members. Course pricing is up to squadrons; national urges squadrons to charge “substantially more” to non-members.
- Lu said the key word is “allow”, it’s up to the squadrons. Should SCPS allow non-members to take courses the squadron puts on?
- Lu presented the Con: Education is one of USPS’s strong points, allowing non-members to take courses diminishes the value of the USPS membership.
- Then Lu presented the Pro: Allowing non-members to take courses demonstrates the value of USPS to them; it’s a way of attracting new members, especially the experienced non-member. It’s also a way to make money.
- Lindy Zink said the purpose of USPS is education, not membership.
- Don Hardy moved that non-members be allowed to take member courses. Tim Ellenberger seconded the motion. Jim Sadler asked if the By-Laws allow the ExCom the authority for this motion. Lindy Zink said he would review the By-Laws for an answer. The motion provisionally carried.
- Lindy said we must be careful not to extend all the benefits of membership to non-members. There was a consensus that we double prices for non-members. Tim moved same, Don seconded. Motion carried.
- Within 30 days of completing a class the student can apply for membership and receive member prices for classes. Dave Norris so moved. Tim Ellenberger seconded. The motion carried.
- It was asked if this would affect our 501c3 status, as we cannot make a profit. We need a non-member column in our Revenue spreadsheet.
- Lindy Zink asked if we should apply to the judicial courts to get students who must take ABC3 by court order. He will look into this possibility. Lindy also mentioned that the Sheriff’s Department now has a Marine Patrol. This brought Commander Lu the idea of asking the Sheriff Marine unit to speak at a meeting.
- Lu will also get the word to Peralta of the JN course.
- The next ExCom meeting will be held Wednesday, 22 Sep at the Sheriff’s Building.
- Meeting adjourned at 2030.

A friendly reminder, the Executive Committee meeting takes place on the third Wednesday of every month at 1900 hour. The meeting is held at the Sheriff’s Office, in a small conference room on the first floor. All members are welcome to attend and if you have any thoughts of joining a committee, becoming a Bridge Officer or just want to get a little more involved, this is a great opportunity to find out what it is all about. The meeting usually last about an hour and a half to two hours but there is always cookies to munch on and you don’t have to stay the entire time. Why not give it a try and drop by. Might be interesting.

**SANTA CLARA POWER SQUADRON
WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER
September 1st, 6:30 PM
DENNIS AND LUELLA PARKER INVITE YOU
THE WORLD FAMOUS PETE'S HARBOR
IN REDWOOD CITY!**



*TO EAT, DRINK
AND LAUGH*

Take 101 north, exit on Whipple and follow East Bayshore Blvd to the right.
Make a hard left turn at Bair Island Road and follow it until it becomes
Uccelli Blvd and you are there!

Dinners are under \$20 and we will enjoy a fantastic view of
the harbor. Please plan to join us.

Please confirm your attendance with Tim the Admin at 408-998-5521 or by email at:
t.ellenberger@sbcglobal.net

Monthly Riddle

What is the situation? I'm afraid to go home because the man in the mask is waiting there...



Answer is located on Editor's page.

"Sea-Fever"

**I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by,
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,
And a grey mist on the sea's face, and a grey dawn breaking.**

**I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;
And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,
And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls crying.**

**I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,
To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a whetted knife;
And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover
And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over.**

**By John Masefield (1878-1967).
(English Poet Laureate, 1930-1967.)**

Submitted by: Lu

SHOP TIPS



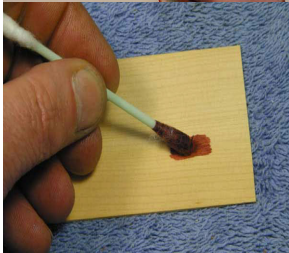
Before cutting fret slots, or much of anything else, rub an old candle along the edge of your saw blade. You'll be surprised how much easier it makes the process to have a bit of lubrication!



Single edge razor blades are incredibly useful around the shop. At about five bucks a hundred, they're a great bargain in a disposable product. They make good scrapers, slicers, etc.



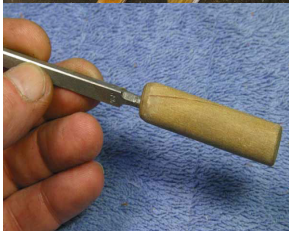
When you're about to glue up a crack repair or any other job where the glue will have to fill some gaps and be visible, don't forget to add some color to the glue. It's always better to have the glue line looking a bit darker than the surrounding wood, and the closer you match the color the better. Regular powdered artist's pigments work well with most any glue, whether water soluble or catalyzed.



A cotton swab is often just as good as an artist brush to dispense a bit of stain, finish or glue. And, there's no cleanup - just toss it after one use.



Any time I see kitchen knives for sale cheap at a garage sale, I grab as many as I can. They make perfect candidates for stubby little scrapers, marking knives, probes and just about anything else I can think of grinding them down for. Even the cheapest ones have decent steel and good handles.



Virtually **all files are safer** and easier to use with handles. For a small light duty file, like my fret crowning triangular file here, a simple piece of dowel cemented on the tang makes a great little handle, and costs virtually nothing.

If you have a tip that works in your shop, home or boat please pass it on. Send it to Lindy @ lindyzink@hotmail.com

SUBMITTED BY PRC

From The Editors



If you have a suggestion or something that you would like to see in The Bell or if you have an article, please send it to us via our e-mail. Lindyzink@hotmail.com



RIDDLE ANSWER

You are playing baseball and standing on 3rd base.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.

John Wooden