



SOUNDING BOARD

A Publication of the

SAN JOAQUIN DELTA POWER SQUADRON

Chartered May 10, 1970 as a member of the

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRON

DISTRICT 25

November 2018

Megan Patterson
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2018/11

SAN JOAQUIN DELTA POWER SQUADRON
Minutes
Monday, November 12, 2018

Call to Order: Robert Miles, Commander

7:37pm

Quorum: Yes

Pledge of Allegiance: Shelly Olympius

Approve Minutes: Karl Keller 1st, Gary Rogers, 2nd, passed



New Members: Phillip and Joann Horner and David Jurief

Reports:

Treasurer: We have money. Books will be closed on December 31st and an audit will follow.

Safety: Nick Patterson commented that there are many large objects in the water that can cause damage to your boat. Be careful! The Stockton Police are cleaning up Smith Canal. Jim Fenelon has a report about a Stockton yacht Club member and a fire on his boat. This will follow the Sounding Board

Membership Involvement: Reminder that RSVP's for the Annual Christmas Party are Due by Nov. 28th and Auction items by Dec. 1st. to Bonnie Rogers.

Vessel Safety Check: 100 completed this year! Great job. Welcome new VE Gary Rogers to the team.

Education: Cot. 25th was the Dist. 25 Fall Conference. A certificate for Education Professionalism was awarded to Doug Sherman.

ABC course in spring of 2019

Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering a Safety Class on Dec. 9th from 9-4pm at West Marine in Stockton.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12pm

Secretary,
Megan Patterson, Lt.

SAFETY TIPS FOR FUELING GAS ENGINES.

Jim Fenelon

On Sunday Oct 21 an explosion from gas fumes occurred on a vessel in the SYC marina. The owner was vacuuming water from the lowest area of the bilge which was in the helm-galley area when the explosion occurred. He did not see any fuel in the water, but did smell a faint odor of gas at the beginning. He thinks that maybe the concentration of fumes increased as he took out water. He is not sure what caused the fumes to explode. Afterwards he did see a very small flame which he was able to quickly extinguish with a nearby fire extinguisher and then he quickly left the boat. The boat sunk because 2 holes were in the bottom. He lost the skin on his arms but no longer feels any pain. He was in a burn unit approximately a week. He feels very lucky that he did not have more serious injuries. However, this event reminds us of the precautions that need to be taken to avoid the worst thing that can happen on a boat, i.e. a fire on a boat second to an explosion from gas fumes. Fire extinguishers can put out a fire, but an explosion is usually life threatening. One must always remember that a cup of gasoline equals a stick of dynamite. Always keep an outlook for liquid gasoline and then the fumes from gasoline. When refueling always turn off any pilot lights that may be on a boat from propane heaters or propane refrigerators. Then always close all cabin windows and doors to prevent fumes from entering the cabin even if your boat does not have pilot lights. Close all doors and/or hatches to the engine room. When placing the nozzle into the metal gas receptacle, be sure that the nozzle is always touching it. (The receptacle must be grounded to avoid any sparks at the entrance.) After refueling tightly close the cap to the gas hoses and turn on the blowers for at least 4 minutes. Open up all the cabin windows and doors to let any fumes out. Raise the engine room hatch cover on the back of the boat and any doors to an internal engine room. Look for any liquid gas around the tanks, bilges and engines. Use your nose and smell for fumes. An added precaution would be to go down into the engine box for closer inspection for liquids and fumes. Do not shut anything yet even if you are satisfied that all is OK. Go to the helm and start your engines. Assuming that nothing bad happened, you can now close all hatches, windows and doors.

What ignites the fumes? In the engine room/box there could be stray sparks from plugs, distributors, loose wiring, etc.

But problems could develop between fuel stops. Every time you plan to start your engines, first raise the hatch and look and smell. Leave hatches and engine room doors open until the engines are running. Twice I saw gas sitting on the engine by the carb when I inspected before starting the engines. Once a wrench stopped the leak and once it did not. Both times I returned to SYC with the hatch cover open during the trip. For the leak that I could not stop, I left that engine off.

Upcoming Dates:

November

28th Christmas Party RSVP Deadline

December

1st Stockton Lighted Boat Parade

8th Christmas party at Elks Club, Stockton 6pm

25th Christmas

January

1st Happy New Year

10th Regular Meeting 7:30pm

It is with much sadness that we report the passing of Mickey Thole. He was a very dedicated member of our Squadron, a great Port Captain and Cruise Director. He will be greatly missed by all of us but mostly by his First Mate Burgie.

