



The Lighthouse

Simplify your life
Easier and faster

The Marina Office is accepting credit/debit cards for all payments as well as auto pay.

Local happenings

Galveston Bay Cruising Association's Texas Race Week hits the water Thursday, July 13. TRW is three days of challenging offshore yacht racing designed to put a boat, crew work and tactical skills to Texas' ultimate test. Register early online at www.gbca.org. Registration includes two passes for all the events and parties. You can also buy an event pass for \$35. The event pass will get you a drink and burger at the Thursday night Rum Shack on Seawall Blvd. party. Friday night is still being determined. The Saturday night party is at the Texas Seaport Museum and Tall Ship Elissa. Your pass gets you free beer, rum and food catered by Benno's and entertainment by Andy and the Dreamsicles.

You can also purchase event passes' at the Skipper's meeting Friday, July 7 or at

More Happenings, page 2

Get the most out of your propeller

*Courtesy boat.com
 by Craig Ritchie*

If you're like most people, you wouldn't mind squeezing even a little more performance out of your boat. One of the easiest and least expensive ways to do this is to take a good hard look at your propeller.

A propeller is to your boat what tires are to your vehicle. Like tires, propellers come in a variety of styles and sizes that are intended for different uses. If you really need snow tires, radials won't do, no matter how good they are. Propellers are no different.

When you buy a boat the engine often comes with a basic, all-purpose propeller that the dealer assumes will do most things fairly well. It's a compromise propeller and for most people, it's all they ever need.

If the dealer is sharp, they will ask for a buyer's basic operating requirements and a wish list when they take the order to begin with. For example, will the buyer be driving the boat at full throttle most of the time? Or will they troll at idle speeds for hours on end? What are the water conditions when the customer goes boating generally like? How important is a fast hole shot and rapid acceleration? The answer to



these basic questions can influence propeller selection.

If you're looking to improve performance, start by taking a look at the motor manufacturer's propeller chart. These handy guides make it relatively easy to select a prop diameter and pitch that will make a given boat perform within an approximate speed and rpm range, based on the size and weight of the boat, the engine installed and the way that it's used. But taking it farther than that — selecting a prop that truly maximizes the boat's performance — is another matter entirely. There's a lot of variables to consider.

Assuming your boat is set up correctly, and the basic

More Propellers, page 5

Happenings

continued from page 1

an after-Rum Race social. Cash, credit cards and checks are accepted.

Shop 'til you drop

Join The Gypsy Rose Market at the Kemah Community Center on July 9, from Noon until 4 p.m. for a shopping experience with premium quality merchants and your favorite independent consultants. Attending merchants: The Gypsy Rose Market; Twisted Kitten & Kitten's Kissproof Kolers; Mary Kay by Crista; Kim's Gems Boutique; The Sugared Pear Boutique; Scentsy by Lily; Southern Owl Designs; Simple Nut Organics; Laura's Soap Shop; Sassy Storehouse; Thrive by Ashley; Mombie and Me Boutique; and Deb's Blings 'N Things.

Seabrook hosting music & picnic on Main

Friday, July 28, bring a picnic basket, a lawn chair or beach blanket and join Seabrook at Gazebo on Main Street starting at 8 p.m. Classic rock and country hits played by local musicians and then enjoy the Friday Fireworks Show across the water at 9:30 p.m.

Main Street will not be closed for this event, so be careful and keep an eye on your kiddos. Please park on either side of Main Street.

This is a free community event. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed. This event will not be rescheduled due to inclement weather. Times of event

are subject to change.

Galveston Bay Songwriters festival in Kemah

Galveston Bay Songwriters announced their headliners for their first festival. Hit Songwriter David Lee Murphy (*Dust On The Bottle and Party Crowd*) will perform Saturday, September 30, while Texas Native Radney Foster (*Nobody Wins and Just Call Me Lonesome*) will close the festival Sunday, October 1.



Both shows will take place in the Kemah City parking lot and tickets are on sale now. To learn more about David Lee Murphy, Radney Foster shows or the festival, visit www.galvestonbaysongwriters.com.

Kemah Boardwalk Mustang Car Show

Saturday, September 9 Kemah Boardwalk will be hosting the fourth annual Mustang Car Show and is brought to you by Space City Mustangs, McRee Ford and the Kemah Boardwalk. There is a \$30 to enter fee and all proceeds go to Still Creek Boys & Girls Ranch. Registration is 8-11 a.m., car show 11-3 p.m. with the awards ceremony starting at 3. There will be more categories and trophies, plus goodie bags for first 120 entries.

Phyllis Mitchell Marine Canvas & Upholstery

WE'VE MOVED

1206 MARINA BAY DR. SUITE A, KEMAH, TX 77565
(The old location of Boaters' Resale)

STOP BY AND SEE US FOR ALL YOUR CANVAS NEEDS
www.phyllismitchellcanvas.com • phyllismitchellcanvas@yahoo.com

FREE ESTIMATES

Call 832-914-4352

The Lighthouse

A monthly publication of South Shore Harbour Marina.



MARINA

2551 South Shore Blvd. Suite B
League City, TX 77573
(281) 334-0515 • Fax (281) 334-0288

MARINA STAFF

Donna Rogers

Marina Manager

Donna.Rogers@sshmarina.com

Chase Cobble

Harbormaster

Chase.Cobble@sshmarina.com

Virginia Zelenka

Accounting Coordinator

Virginia.Zelenka@sshmarina.com

Richard Bustamante

David Hillis

John Killins

Fuel Pier/Maintenance

Amber Moore

Leasing Agent

Amber.Moore@sshmarina.com

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Sat. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Sun. Noon-4:30 p.m.

FUEL PIER HOURS:

Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sat. & Sun. 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

The Lighthouse is a publication of South Shore Harbour Marina. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without permission.

Published by

Telltales

A Division of Waterfront Publishing Inc.
228-B Marina Bay Dr.
Kemah, Texas 77565

South Shore Harbour Marina and Waterfront Publishing Inc. are not responsible for claims of manufacturers or their representatives on any items published.

For advertising information, contact Mike DuBois at (281) 334-2202.



**TEXAS POWER
YACHTS** A Division of Little Yacht Sales

List your boat with us and

SEE RESULTS!

Call 281-334-2863 *Today*

**No other brokerage can offer our extensive,
proven marketing plan to get your boat sold!**

**TRAWLERS
EXPRESS CRUISERS
MOTORYACHTS
SPORTFISH**

see full specs and our complete inventory at

www.TexasPowerYachts.com

**See us at Pier 13
in South Shore Harbour Marina**

Accuracy of hurricane predictions

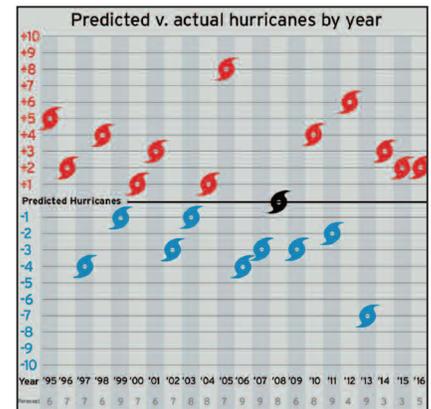
According to BoatU.S., damage from hurricanes is a leading cause for boat insurance claims. So each summer, the national advocacy, services and safety group anxiously awaits predictions, from a number of highly qualified experts with supercomputers, as to how many tropical storms and hurricanes will form in the Atlantic.

With most storm forecasts now predicting average to above-average activity for the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season, just how accurate are these predictions, and do boaters need to adjust their hurricane prep plans this year?

The BoatU.S. Seaworthy Program compared over two decades of storm predictions from one of the better-known hurricane-season forecasts from Colorado State University's Philip Klotzbach and the late Bill Gray. Said Seaworthy Director Charles Fort, "Our mission was not to judge the forecasters but to find out how much confidence we should have in the hurricane-season predictions and what it means to boaters."

Comparing annual predictions to actual weather, they discovered that out of 22 years of hurricane season activity forecasts, only one was 100 percent accurate. In some years, there were up to eight more storms than predicted.

Boaters often misinterpret what the forecasters try to do, says Fort. "Early season hurricane predictions don't attempt to forecast the percentage of storms that will come ashore or which coastal locations will be in the crosshair." Members can get public advisories from the National Hurricane Center as they are issued, as well as



Bottom numbers on the chart indicate how many hurricanes were forecast for each year. Red icons above the line indicate how many more hurricanes occurred than predicted. Blue icons below the line indicate how many fewer hurricanes occurred than predicted.

detailed maps of the forecast track, wind bands and wind field for each named storm.

The takeaway? "Weather forecasting is tricky business," added Fort. "Despite what forecasters may predict, a boater's mantra should be hope for the best but prepare for the worst. Have a well-thought-out hurricane plan, and prepare your boat. It could mean the difference between an easy recovery after a storm or a complete loss."

Free hurricane-planning help is available online at BoatUS.com/hurricanes.

BOAT MOTOR PARTS

Palmer Power

Is Now In
Clear Lake

935 Lawrence St., Kemah, TX
77565

713-244-6650

ALTERNATORS, STARTERS,

TILT MOTORS, TUNE UP KITS,

IGNITION WIRE KITS, POWER PAKS,
STATORS, CIRCULATION WATER
PUMPS, SEAWATER PUMPS,

IMPELLERS & KITS,

REMOTE CONTROLS & CABLES, FUEL
PUMPS, FUEL & OIL FILTERS, HOSES,
MARINE TRANSMISSIONS,

OUTBOARD & STERNDRIVE LOWER
UNITS & PARTS, BILGE BLOWERS,
BILGE PUMPS, ZINC ANODES,

PROPELLERS, BELTS, PULLEYS, &
MORE....

Also in Houston

1-800-ENGINES

TEXAS RACE WEEK

July 13-15

Galveston Island

Three days of challenging offshore yacht racing
designed to put boat preparation, crew work and tactical
skills to Texas' ultimate test!

For information and registration: www.gbca.org

Propellers

continued from page 1

pitch and diameter sizes have been calculated, you need to document your boat's current performance. What is your maximum rpm reading at full throttle? How high do you have to trim the engine to achieve this speed? How many seconds does it take to plane? How long does it take to go from 0 to top speed? What is your top speed? Does your engine ventilate or cavitate when trimmed positive at full speed? At 0 degrees? What is your boat's angle of attack at optimum speed? Where is your engine trimmed? Do you feel the engine is straining, or working too hard?

These questions shouldn't be difficult to answer, but few people keep tabs on this kind of information. At first it sounds a little overwhelming, but even though many boaters can't pinpoint exactly what is happening, they can usually point out what isn't. That's a key.

If you have just taken delivery of a new boat, start by checking the owner's manual for the engine to determine what rpm the engine should be turning at when run at wide open throttle. If your rpm are above that value, you probably need a higher pitch propeller. If your rpm are too low, try a smaller prop. If the prop slips, ventilates or cavitates to excess, especially in a straight line or when trimmed in, you might have a setup problem, or you could be set up with the wrong style of prop altogether.

Propellers are expensive, especially



Ask if you can test drive your new boat with several different propellers before signing the deal. You may find a significant difference in performance by switching from a three-blade prop, for example, to a four-blade version.

when you get into the stainless steel and high-performance models. Ideally, it's best to request a testing session with as many props as you can lay your hands on before you buy. If you're purchasing a new rig (boat, motor, propeller combination), negotiate this into the deal before signing a contract.

If you already own a boat and want to buy a propeller only, your options are limited. A dealer may let you test a propeller or two (and likely demand you leave a sizable deposit). If you can arrange to test two or more propellers at the same time, lay out a 3/4-mile oval-shaped course on the water, similar to a race track. It's best to choose a weekday for this, when weekend traffic isn't likely to interfere with your session. Six large bleach bottles sprayed bright orange make great marker buoys. Anchor them in place then dig out your stopwatch. If you have a companion, have him or her time you from a point on the shore for more accurate results. If you are alone, press "start" as you pass by a buoy down the straightaway and "stop" the next time

around. It's crucial to maintain consistency in your driving and trimming for your tests to be accurate. In most instances the smaller the pitch, the faster you'll accelerate; the higher the pitch the faster your top speed – provided your engine revs within a safe rpm operating range, of course.

During your tests, keep a close eye on your tachometer to ensure the engine doesn't over-rev. Don't worry about speed, since your stopwatch will tell you what prop is faster. For acceleration tests, drive from buoy to buoy, recording the time it takes to run the distance. You can time hole shots and any other 0-to-"X" mph runs to determine what propeller is best suited to your particular style of driving.

But don't get caught up in trying to stretch yourself or your equipment past safe limits. You're not trying to break speed records. Keep your driving consistent and watch how the boat handles, both in a straight line and through the turns. A four-bladed prop might work better than a three-blade, or a five-blade better than four. If propeller A is just slightly quicker than propeller B, but B handles much better, then you have a decision to make based on your personal comfort. A better-handling prop might also be faster in rough water than the fastest prop in calm conditions.

Having the right prop for your boat and your personal driving style can make a huge difference in how your boat performs. Trying a few different propellers might just surprise you. And even if you wind up with the prop you started with, you'll know it's the right choice, and learn a lot about your boat along the way.

PUMP DON'T DUMP

www.galvbay.org

GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION



Vinyl & Leather Repair

We repair, re-dye, restore and clean marine, automotive and aviation upholstery. Our mobile unit comes to you.

FIBRENEW

Clear Lake
(346) 315-7666
www.fibrenew.com/clear-lake/





South Shore Harbour Marina

2551 SOUTH SHORE BLVD. SUITE B
LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS 77573

A sailing ship is no democracy;
you don't caucus a crew as to
where you'll go anymore than
you inquire when they'd like to
shorten sail.

— Sterling Hayden



SALES HAVE BEEN BRISK!

**WE WANT
YOUR BOAT!**

**LET OUR EXPERIENCED TEAM
DO THE WORK FOR YOU!**

**Tommy
Tipton's**

Lauderdale Yacht Sales

"THE GULF COAST PREMIER POWER YACHT SPECIALIST"



Pier 14 — South Shore Harbour Marina

50+ Yachts Available • \$11 Million in Inventory

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

713-299-0102 lauderdaleyachtsales@gmail.com www.lauderdaleyachtsales.com

