



S.H.B.C. Sentinel

April 2022

V10N4

The S.H.B.C. Sentinel is a periodic publication (terms of submission, last page) containing the stories and pictures of past events, and notification of events to come. Material is provided by Club Members and Guests and barely edited. Nothing provided here represents an official position of the Safety Harbor Boat Club, or anybody else for that matter. If you want official, try to get it signed and notarized.



Calling All members: we will have a SHBC
meeting on Wednesday APRIL 6th at 6:15 pm 2022

At the SH Library

Our guest speaker will be **Chris Parker**

He will present:

" Marine Weather and Cruise Planning"



BACKGROUND ON GUEST SPEAKER CHRIS PARKER:
Weather Forecasting & Vessel Routing Weather & Communications
- Hardware, Software, Sales, Consulting, Books, Seminars

SHBC BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES - APRIL, 2022

BY ELLEN HENDERSON, PIX: ARCHIVES

Congratulations to those SHBC Members, whose Birthdays and Anniversaries fall in the Month of **APRIL**.

Birthdays:

4-2 Jan Muller (Hornbuckle)
4-2 Riza Youra
4-5 Rainbow He ----->
4-10 Jack Box
4-16 Elaine McKenna
4-17 Betty Taylor
4-19 Susanna Lewalski
4-27 Mike Hornbuckle
4-30 Debbie Irving (Lund)



Anniversary:

4-16 Jack and Riza Youra ---->



HAPPY EASTER - APRIL 17

and for those who Celebrate

PASSOVER - APRIL 16



UPCOMING FUN 'N SUN INTERNATIONAL FLY-IN & EXPO - SATURDAY, APRIL 9th

BY ELLEN HENDERSON, PIX: ARCHIVES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: for the 3rd annual SHBC group excursion to the **Sun 'N Fun International Fly-in & Expo** held at the **Lakeland Linder International Airport** on **Saturday, April 9th**. Daytime admission is \$37 for adults, but **ONLY \$10 for Florida residents after 5pm**. Parking is \$10.00 per CARLOAD. **Bring CASH!**



On Saturday evening there is a lighted airshow from 7:30 to 9:30 pm during which they shoot fireworks out of the planes, while they do their aerobatic maneuvers. There are several area restaurants within a five-mile radius. There's also plenty of food/drinks sold at the Airshow. We will **meet @ 3:00 pm at the Parking Lot between 8th & 9th Ave. across from the Stuffed Mushroom on SH's Main Street**, and form carpools & will leave by 3:15 pm to attend the airshow and we will get to see all of the new and vintage airplanes.



If we arrive at the Lakeland Linder International Airport before 5:00 pm, we will join the bunch of locals parked across the road from the entrance in the FREE parking lot, as we did last time, to watch the ongoing daytime Air Show of the BLUE ANGELS, etc. until 5:00 pm or later, when the Parking Lot starts to empty out for the night time participants to enter.



More information will be available at our April 6th SHBC meetings and to sign up for the Air Show. If you can't make the meeting, **call or text Ellen Henderson (727) 656-4089** with any further questions. RSVP your plan to join us for the **Sun 'N Fun International Fly-In & Expo on Saturday, April 9th**.

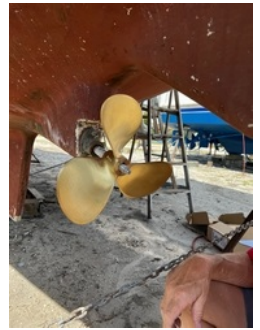
Ma Brandt's Red Bottom

By Linda Brandt



Labor (insert cost here), Materials (insert cost here), Marina charges (insert cost here) – cost for paying to watch someone else do the work – PRICELESS!! All kidding aside, a lot of satisfaction was achieved by doing it yourself (in this case, Mystic Marine Services). And I find it much easier to pay someone for their hard work when I see them work hard! I was there every step of the way, but since there was only one respirator and one sander, we drew straws. Just kidding again! I would probably pay Viking or another boatyard next time, but there were other jobs that needed to be done out of the water, so it made sense to haul the boat to a do-it-yourself yard. In addition to sanding and painting the bottom, MMS replaced three seacocks, waxed and polished the topsides, and replaced

the cove stripe and FL registration decals. We also took the prop in to be reconditioned, but it was beyond reconditioning and needed to be replaced. I was now the new owner of a shiny gold propeller. Imagine my horror when Larry painted it with a coat of Trinidad Red!!



We travelled back and forth to Cut's Edge Marina in Palmetto for four days straight the first week and three days straight the following week. We were fortunate that the weather cooperated, and we were able to finish a day ahead of schedule. It was a rewarding experience in that I gained a better understanding on how things are done. I posted daily updates on Facebook and the picture that attracted the most attention was one of Larry reading the directions on the back of the paint can. I claimed to have made a rare sighting that day. One of my favorite sights, however, was heading over the Skyway one night to see it lit up in blue and yellow to support Ukraine.

And if the title of my article eludes you, there was a great movie in 2020 called "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" starring Viola Davis and the late Chadwick Boseman. They both turned out excellent performances.



DEA Issues Drug-Related Emoji Chart

Public Service by Mikey

You can find the chart here...

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwidp8Gz7vD2AhXMTTABHcW0CekQFnoECA4QAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dea.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2021-12%2FEmoji%2520Decoded.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3tsljr-8sdYT0MfLzI-VWV>

...and an explanation of why I included it:

"The Drug Enforcement Administration has released an "emoji drug code" guide the agency said can help provide readers "a better sense of how emojis can be used in conjunction with illegal drug activity."

The guide, published in December on the DEA website, "decodes" various emojis, small digital icons frequently used in online and phone messaging.

“The Drug Enforcement Administration is aware of drug trafficking organizations using emojis to buy and sell counterfeit pills and other illicit drugs on social media and through e-commerce,” a document accompanying the guide said.

Among the “decoded” symbols are a snowflake emoji for cocaine, a diamond emoji for meth, and a maple leaf, which the agency said is “universal for drugs.”

“Emojis, on their own, should not be indicative of illegal activity, but coupled with a change in behavior, change in appearance, or significant loss/increase in income should be a reason to start an important conversation,” the document said.”

If you have children with their own cell phone or email account, you should be monitoring their activity. The right of privacy for children does not apply when dangerous or illegal activity is possible or suspected. **It is your job to protect them**, not theirs to tell you what they are up to.

Rant by Mikey:

EQUALITY

It is not just a word, make
it mean something.

HAPPY EARTH DAY - APRIL 22!

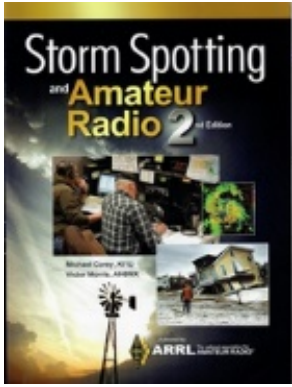
Cherish our earth; it's all we've got on this Planet.



What is a Radio “HAM”, Really?

By Mikey (really a Ham)

Why do they call it **ham** radio? The name “ham” is derived from the call letters of the first amateur wireless station operated by members of the Harvard Radio Club in 1908. They were Albert S. **Hy**man, Bob **A**blmy and Poogie **M**urray. They decided to use the first letter of each last name as the station’s call or identity and became the first ham operators.



Speaking of Ham Radio, we sailors sometimes find useful stuff in unexpected places. With a reference to Chris Parker’s presentation on the weather, I offer this book: **Storm Spotting and Amateur Radio, 2nd Edition**. It is published by the ARRL for \$22.95, so it might be easier if your Ham friend orders a copy for you.

The first part of the book is more related to station safety and weather-watch networks, but the good stuff starts at Chapter 5, **Meteorology** and is followed by the **Hurricanes** chapter. When it comes to hurricanes or bad weather, you cannot know too much!

BoatUS Spring Commissioning Checklist

How to have a trouble-free boating season

SPRINGFIELD, Va., March 10, 2022 – Boat Owners Association of The United States ([BoatUS](https://www.boatus.org)) offers its Spring Commissioning Checklist to help boaters start the season right. The nation’s largest advocacy, service and savings group also offers [BoatUS.com/Spring](https://www.boatus.com/Spring), a one-stop-shop for everything you need to know about the yearly ritual of recreational boat commissioning. A PDF copy of the checklist is available to download, print, and take to the boat with you. Be sure to follow all manufacturer recommendations for your specific boat, engine and accessories.

Before You Launch

1. Inspect all around the hose clamps for rust and replace as necessary. Double clamp fuel lines and exhaust hoses with marine-rated stainless steel hose clamps. While not technically required, it’s wise to double clamp whenever possible on all hoses — especially those below the waterline.
2. Inspect all hoses for stiffness, rot, leaks and cracking, and replace any that are faulty. Make sure they fit snugly.
3. Inspect prop(s) for dings, pitting and distortion. Make sure cotter pins are secure.
4. Grip the prop (on inboard drive systems) and try moving the shaft up and down and side to side. If it’s loose and can be wiggled, the cutless bearing may need to be replaced.
5. Check the rudderstock to ensure it hasn’t been bent. Operate the wheel or tiller to ensure the steering works correctly. Check the rudder bearing and steering cable for unusual play or movement.
6. Inspect the hull for blisters, distortions and stress cracks.
7. Make sure your engine intake sea strainer (if equipped) is not cracked or bent from ice and is free of corrosion, clean and properly secured.

8. With inboards, check the engine shaft and rudder stuffing boxes for correct adjustment. A stuffing box should leak no more than two or three drops each minute when the prop shaft is turning. Check the shaft log hose for deterioration and rusty hose clamps.
9. Inspect, lubricate and exercise thru-hull valves. It's a good idea to tie a right-sized wooden bung to the valve in case of failure.
10. Use a garden hose to check for deck leaks at ports and hatches. Renew caulk or gaskets as necessary.
11. Inspect and test the bilge pump and float switch to ensure they're both working properly. Also inspect the pump's hose.
12. Check stove and remote LPG tanks for loose fittings, leaking hoses and properly functioning shutoff systems. Use the pressure gauge to conduct a leak down test to check for system leaks.
13. Inspect dock and anchor lines for chafe and wear.
14. If equipped, ensure that the stern drain plug is installed.
15. After the boat is launched, be sure to check all thru-hulls for leaks.

Engines and Fuel Systems

1. Inspect fuel lines, including fuel tank fill and vent hoses, for softness, brittleness or cracking. Check all joints for leaks, and make sure all lines are well supported with noncombustible clips or straps with smooth edges.
2. Inspect fuel tanks, fuel pumps and filters for leaks. Ensure portable tanks and lines are completely drained of stale fuel before filling with fresh fuel. Clean or replace fuel filters and/or fuel-water separators if not done before winterization.
3. Every few years, remove and inspect exhaust manifolds and risers for corrosion (for inboard-powered and inboard/outboard boats).
4. Charge battery.
5. Clean and tighten electrical connections, especially both ends of battery cables. Use a wire brush to clean battery terminals, and top off cells with distilled water (if applicable).
6. Inspect the bilge ventilation intake and blower ducting for damage or leaks and run the blower to confirm correct operation.
7. Test engine warnings and alarms.

Engine Outdrives and Outboards

1. Inspect rubber outdrive bellows for cracked, dried and/or deteriorated spots (look especially in the folds) and replace if suspect.
2. Check power steering and power trim oil levels.
3. Replace anodes/zincs that are more than half wasted.
4. Inspect the outer jacket of control cables. Cracks or swelling indicate corrosion and mean that the cable must be replaced.
5. Inspect lower unit oil level and top off as necessary.

Sailboat Rigging

1. Inspect swage fittings for cracks and heavy rust (some discoloration is acceptable). Inspect wire halyards and running backstays for "fishhooks" and rust.
2. Remove tape on turnbuckles and lubricate threads, preferably with Teflon. Replace old tape with fresh tape, and ensure that water is able to freely drain from it.
3. If you suspect the core around a chainplate is damp, remove the chainplate to inspect and make repairs.

4. Inspect masthead sheaves and all blocks to make sure they're running freely.

Trailers

1. Inspect tire treads and sidewalls for cracks or lack of tread and replace as necessary. Check air pressure; don't forget the spare.
2. Inspect wheel bearings and repack as necessary.
3. Test all lights and replace any broken bulbs or lenses.
4. Inspect winch to make sure it's working properly. Inspect hitch chains.
5. Inspect trailer frame and axle(s) for rust. Sand and paint to prevent further deterioration.
6. Inspect brakes and brake fluid reservoir.

Safety

1. A [new law that went into effect in 2021](#) requires a vessel operator to use either a helm or outboard lanyard or wireless engine cutoff switch on certain vessels less than 26 feet when traveling on plane or above displacement speed, so be sure your switch is working properly and the lanyard is in serviceable condition. If you use a wireless cutoff switch, ensure batteries in the fobs and wrist worn devices are refreshed.
2. Flares expire after 42 months so check expiration dates.
3. Inspect fire extinguishers. A [new regulation that goes into effect April 20, 2022](#), requires a 12-year expiration for disposables and has different carriage requirements for older and newer model year vessels.
4. Ensure you have properly sized and wearable life jackets in good condition for each passenger, including kids. Check inflatable life jacket cylinders and dissolvable "pill" bobbins in auto-inflating models.
5. Test smoke, carbon monoxide, fume and bilge alarms.
6. Check running lights for operation and spare bulb inventory.
7. [Update chartplotter software.](#)
8. Replenish first-aid kit items that may have been used last season or are expired.
9. Check the operation of VHF radio(s) and that the MMSI number is correctly programmed in. ([BoatUS members can obtain a free MMSI number at BoatUS.com/MMSI.](#))
10. Get a free vessel safety check from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons. Find out more at cgaux.org/vsc.

For the Dock

1. In addition to checking its entire length for wear or abrasions, check both ends of the shore power cable connections as well as the shore power receptacle on the boat for burns, which indicate the cable and/or boat's shore power inlet or the dock's receptacle must be replaced.
2. Test ground-fault protection on your boat and private dock, and [know how to prevent Electric Shock Drowning](#).

The Paperwork

1. Make sure your boat registration is up to date – and dinghy if you have one. Don't forget your boat trailer tags
2. Review your boat insurance policy and update coverage if needed. BoatUS provides [free quotes at BoatUS.com/Insurance](#). Provide a copy to your marina or club.

3. Ensure your BoatUS membership is in good standing, and check your [TowBoatUS](#) coverage by logging into [BoatUS.com/Account](#), or join at [BoatUS.com/Membership](#).
4. Download the free BoatUS App ([BoatUS.com/App](#)) to make it easy to summon on-water assistance and speed response times as well to check tide tables, weather, and partner discounts.

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Newsletter Terms of Submission:

Material may be slightly corrected for grammatical or spelling errors, but generally left as-is unless you request otherwise. Ideally, a Microsoft WORD document would be easiest to process, but we can work with text, HTML, most word processors, or Google e-mails. **PDF files (and videos) cannot be used in the Newsletter**, but are okay if the end destination is the Club website. Text and image messaging to my cell phone, not so much. If you wish to submit your story or report in another word processor or document format, contact the S.H.B.C. Webmaster / Newsletter Editor (me) for discussing.

Submissions must be complete with text and images. If received after the 24th of the month, they will be held over for publication and not included in this current issue.

Images / photographs: If using a cell phone to take the picture, please hold the phone in the horizontal (**landscape**) position. Otherwise, they are rotated 90 degrees at my end. Unless of course it was your intent to put them in sideways, then please let me know.

Mike Hembrey
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor
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