

Sea Scout Ship 681 - Old Ironsides September 28, 2017

The weekend after last months Board Meeting saw Ship 681 and Troop 234 camping and sailing. Twenty youth and a dozen adults enjoyed the calm weather (compared to the original planned Hurricane Harvey weekend) and multiple sailing opportunities. I know it is repetitive, but the Scouts really enjoy the service project opportunities as it helps them complete service hour requirements (Adult leaders like it also because it helps us teach youth the benefits of service). Special thanks to Bo Kersey on *Abandoned Assets* and Hector Lujan on *Banshee* for taking Scouts sailing. The wind was light in the afternoon, but there was plenty to move us around the lake. All the boys had a great time sailing, swimming and camping.



In addition to hosting the Boy Scout Troop, the Ship has had another sail and work day this month. We continue to enjoy participating in the Beer Can races on Friday evenings. We plan to participate on our smaller boats this Friday as our other September activity was a work day.



We had three activities planned, prepare our old Hunter 23.5 to be given to a new Sea Scout Ship forming on Lake Pontchartrain, unstep the mast of our S2 and patch holes in our Club 420's.

Mate Allen spent ALL morning power washing the hull of the Hunter. The new Ship will be VERY pleased to get a boat cleaner than when we received it. One of

our older scouts learned fiberglass repair while rebuilding a donated Laser. All Sea Scouts need to learn this skill, so he taught several of our ship how to prepare surfaces and apply



cloth and resin and patch the holes in the bow. No more bailing to keep the boat afloat!!



Lastly. Who can do without learning how to do things from YouTube ?? We built an "A" Frame derrick and un-stepped the mast of our S2 that was donated in March. In the process the Sea Scouts learned about mechanical advantage by building a 5:1 pulley setup. All mast lights are non-working, the spreader chafe protectors need replacing and the mast plate leaks. Likely this 32 yr. old boat has not had the sealant replaced in a dozen years at least ! So, while we have the mast down we will seal the mast plate and spreader plate covers, trouble-shoot the lighting issues (bulbs are good - likely wire corrosion) and replace chafe protection. ALL tasks that Sea Scouts need to learn for rank advancement!!

By the way .. does anyone have an S2 trailer that we could borrow for a day to power wash her bottom ?

Thanks again for all your support to our Ship !!

- Chris Schuttger - Skipper - SSS 681 - Old Ironsides