

Weddings

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She's charting weddings into smooth waters

By PAULA TRACY
Union Leader Staff

LACONIA

CAPTAIN JANIS POWELL has been teaching people how to maneuver their boats on Lake Winnepesaukee and offering tours for quite some time.

For the first summer ever, the captain is offering people an option of how to maneuver wedding plans into smooth waters, with a stress-free option aboard her vessel, the "Capt'n Jack."

Powell is a justice of the peace as well as a boat captain and is offering wedding cruises for about six people for a private ceremony on Lake Winnepesaukee.

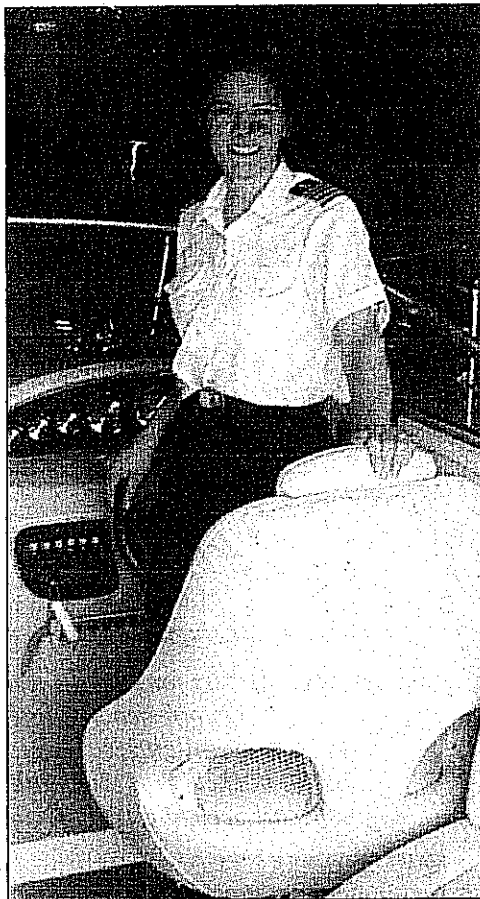
"I've been married twice," she said, noting the first marriage began with an elaborate, \$11,000 affair which included all the stresses associated with booking a facility, getting out invitations, choosing food, music and clothing.

Her second marriage cost her \$27 when she and her husband decided to effectively "elope" and went to a Maine town hall where a notary made it official.

"We wanted to find someone who would go with us on snowmobiles to a nice, remote spot to do the service, but the season was getting short and there was not a lot of snow and we just decided to go to the town hall," she said.

After earning her boat captain's license, she began to hear people ask her, "Do you marry people?"

In New Hampshire inland waters, she said, captains cannot do that without getting a jus-



PAULA TRACY/UNION LEADER

Capt. Janis Powell is shown aboard her vessel, the "Capt'n Jack," in the boathouse on Weirs Channel. Powell, also a justice of the peace, is offering an alternative stress-free wedding option aboard the boat on Lake Winnepesaukee.

Capt'n Jack ready for matrimonial duty on big lake

Powell

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tice of the peace certificate. She found that easy to do and thought it would be a nice addition to her nautical offerings.

At her web site, www.jpboating.com, there is a section on weddings where she offers the service for \$275, including a non-alcoholic champagne toast, a choice of locations and a certificate complete with latitude and longitude of the wedding location.

She received her first inquiry from a couple interested in getting married in Meredith on the water.

"My favorite spot is right out in the Broads with a 360-degree view. At sunset the view is incredible with the red sun going down" over Welch Island. "This would take the stress out of a lot of wedding plans for some and I thought it would be fun."

Powell owns a 2003 26-foot Chaparral that comfortably holds six passengers. She named it Capt'n Jack for her Jack Russell terrier, often aboard, named "Pirate."

She thinks the wedding idea will take hold for those who are planning a second marriage or are leaning toward the idea of eloping.

Her boat is docked in a boathouse in the Weirs Beach Channel, but she said she would be willing to meet folks at other locations for pickup and drop-off.

By weekday, Powell is a human resource official at a manufacturing company, and the boating is just an aside for now. But she sees this as growing and becoming something she can do in her retirement

years. She also instructs boaters to feel more comfortable about boating and docking by offering lessons.

"I see myself more as a guide to those who want to build confidence" in their boating and better understand how a boat maneuvers through the water.

For more information, go to Powell's web site at www.jpboating.com. You may also write to JP Boating, P.O. Box 294, Laconia, NH 03247-0294 or call her at 520-1863.