Force 12

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®
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St. Petersburg

Safe, Fun, Boating Starts Here!

December 2021 *Volume 78* *Issue 10*

Squadron Information

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Past Commander: *
P/C Al Lima, AP

Members-at-Large: *
Lt Susan Tokarz, SN
Lt John Tokarz, SN
Stf/C Louis E. McBride, P

* See the Roster for contact information or email: force 12@boating-stpete.org

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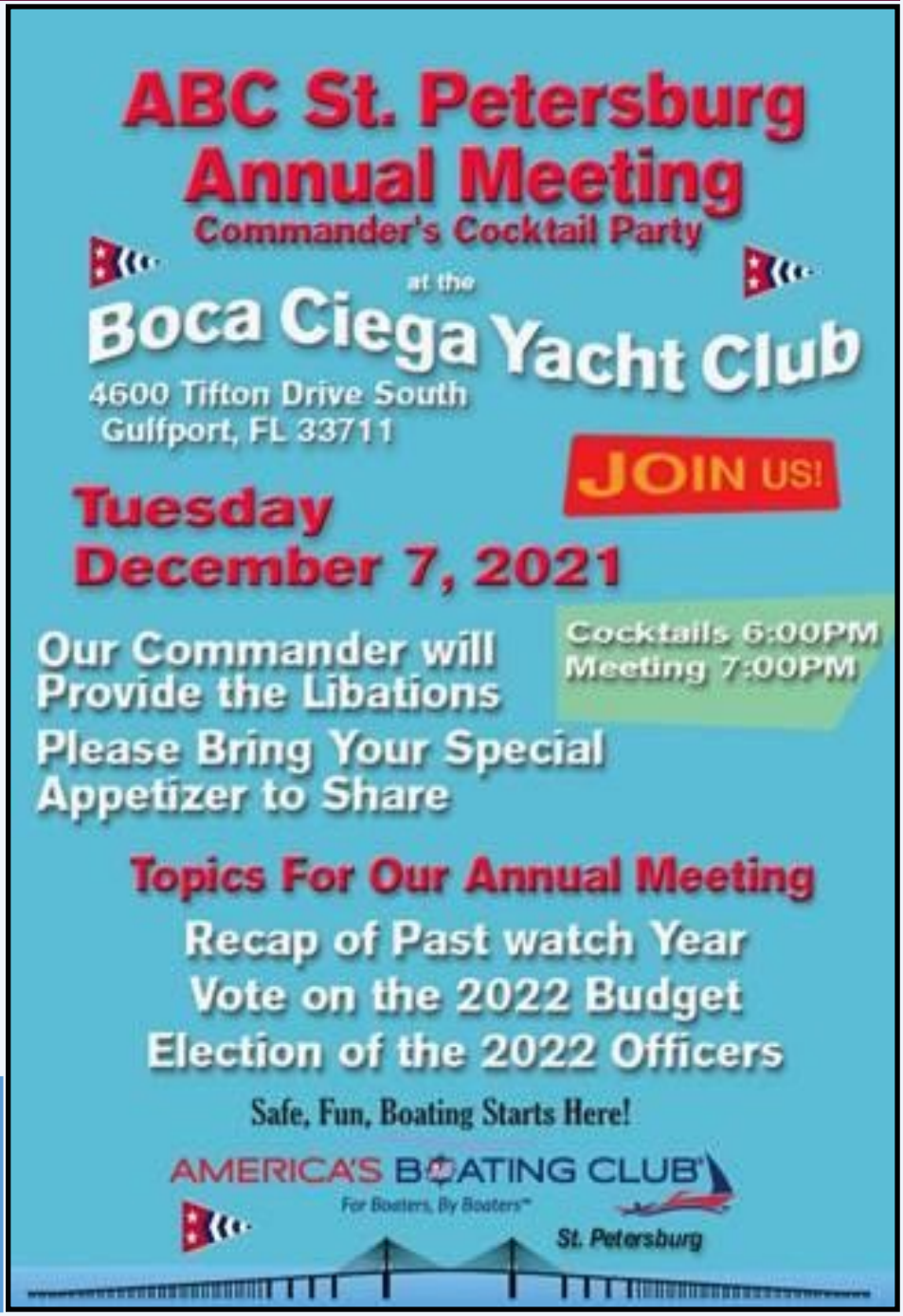


Schedule your 2021 inspection!

The decal indicates that your boat has the required safety equipment.

Feel free to contact any one of St. Pete Squadron's dedicated inspectors directly:

Jim Greenhalgh - tbskjim@gmail.com
Al Lima - bosbyshelllima@gmail.com
Bob Zewski - bobzewski@yahoo.com

or our new chair:

Jeff Eckhart - jeffeckhart41@gmail.com or 727-295-5920

Please contact Jeff if interested in joining the 'team'!

TAMPA BAY WATCH

Thank you to Rachel Arndt, who has served as Communications Manager for Tampa Bay Watch for almost fourteen years. She was the presenter at the November General Meeting. She addressed many issues concerning the recovery of the bay, from an abundance of sea grass growth, the negative impact from the red tide, the Community Oyster Reef Enhancement (CORE) project, removal of derelict crab traps, fish line recycling, and other items of interest and concern. .

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Janice Keller
1935-2021

It is with deep sadness that we say, "Fair Winds and Following Seas," to long time USPS member, Jan Keller. Jan earned 28 Merit Marks during her membership.

(Photo courtesy of Tampa Bay Times)

=======

Wayne Partie

Also, we regret to inform you of the passing of former member Wayne Partie.

Rest in Peace

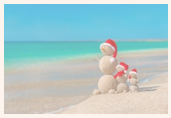
Fall Schedule of Classes

	Start	Day	# of Weeks	Cost with Book *Members/ Non-members*	Sharing Book *Members/ Non-members*
ADVANCED COURSES (*on-going*)					
Boat Handling (S) - started Nov 3			and	Celestial Navigation (N) - started Nov 4	

See page 6 for the 2022 Class Schedule

December Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
Dec 1	6:30pm	EXCOM Meeting	St. Petersburg Yacht Club	Cdr Connie Beckman
Dec 2	11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Portofino's, 34th Street	P/C Marilyn Van Goey
Dec 7	5:45pm	Annual Meeting	Boca Ciega Yacht Club	P/C Al Lima
Dec 12	12:00pm	Holiday Luncheon	Isla del Sol Yacht Club	Lt Terry Sicard
Dec 21		First day of Winter		
Other Celebrations:				
Nov 28 - Dec 6		Hanukkah		
Dec 25		Christmas		
Dec 26 - Jan 1		Kwanzaa		



Boating Events

Let us Know!

Is there a boating event you would like to see added to the calendar for 2022?
Are you willing to champion an event?

If you have ideas and/or would like to volunteer your services, please contact either P/C Al Lima or LtC Fred Hauck.

We are starting our planning meetings in late December/early January.

Al Lima - bosbyshelllima@msn.com, 813-230-5751
Fred Hauck - fred_hauck@yahoo.com, 813-391-1065

December Birthday Greetings to:

1 - Anne Murray	19 - Gene Sicard
2 - Angie Deal	28 - Fred Hauck
13 - Ken St Jean	29 - Tricia Billings
16 - Bruce Rodgers	29 - Robert Fillingham
17 - Melissa Oelschig	31 - Frederick Neckers

January 2022 Calendar of Events

Time	Event	Location	Contact
Jan 1			
Jan 5 6:30pm	EXCOM	St. Petersburg Yacht Club	Cdr Connie Beckman
Jan 6 11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Portofino's, 34th Street	P/C Marilyn Van Goey
Jan 17			
Jan 22 6:00pm	Change of Watch	Isla Del Sol Yacht Club	Cdr Connie Beckman
Jan 24 7:00pm	ABC1 Course	St. Petersburg Sail Center	Lt/C Bob Cox
Jan 25 7:00pm	How to Use a Chart Seminar	St. Petersburg Sail Center	Lt/C Bob Cox
Jan 27 7:00pm	Marine Navigation Course	St. Petersburg Sail Center	Lt/C Bob Cox

Ship's Store

Show that you are a proud member of our Squadron by flying our burgee on your boat and wearing a squadron shirt.

We also have Squadron license plates or how about a Squadron bag/satchel?

Contact Douglas Townes at
det949@mindspring.com
to place your order or see him at our General Meetings.

Lunch Bunch

Thursday, January 6th

Portofino's Italian Restaurant
5035 34th Street, S
St. Petersburg
Publix Shopping Center)

Join us for the camaraderie

Please let P/C Marilyn Van Goey
know that you plan to attend in order to
allow the restaurant to make CDC arrangements
mvangoey@tampabay.rr.com
or **727-501-5345**

Commanding Officer
Cdr Connie Beckman

A while ago, I wrote about the theory of evolution, which says that only the adaptable - not the strong - survive in this world. Our squadron is no exception. So, watch for these changes next year:

- The *Force12* will be published quarterly, in January, April, July, and September.
- A "What's Happening" will be published weekly or bi-weekly depending on what activities are happening. It will be an easy-to-read flyer.
- We have purchased Constant Contact to help the bridge and members more easily communicate.
- Our location for the dinner meeting will change to the St Petersburg Yacht Club. Come try it out for our first meeting in February.
- Watch for a new member party during the first quarter of the year.

I am looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, December 7th, for the SPSPS Annual Meeting. Just bring an hors d'oeuvre to share, and the Commander supplies all liquid libations.

Then, on Sunday, December 12th, put on your Christmas finery and join us for our Holiday Party. More information is available in this *Force12*.

Hope to see you soon,
Connie

Mark your calendars:

CHANGE OF WATCH

January 22, 2022
Isla del Sol Yacht Club

Watch your inbox for more information.

Executive Officer
Lt/C Fred Hauck

Hello squadron mates! Just wanted to start off by saying we are hoping for a great turnout for our December Annual Meeting at the Boca Ciega Yacht Club. During this meeting, we recap this past year and vote on our 2022 budget and the nominations for the 2022 Bridge. Needless to say, I will be staying in the squadron's Executive Officer's position in 2022!

With that in mind, I will add that being the XO is not a committee of one and that we could not have been successful without the club members who volunteered to lead our various committees and activities. So, I need to give a special thanks to the following folks: John Tokarz (Cooperative Charting), Jack Albrecht (Port Captain and SPYC Liaison), Bob Morris (Safety Officer), Tom Krupa and Jeff Eckhart (Vessel Safety Check), and AO Gene Sicard (Media/Advertising/Graphics and Flyers). I know I am missing a few and I do apologize. Bottom line, without these folks putting in their effort and time, we couldn't have done as much as we did, considering the ongoing pandemic.

Yes, we are still moving along, though a bit slower, with Vessel Safety Checks (VSC). At the end of November, we have completed 138. We are still looking to expand our vessel examiner "fleet"; so, if you are up for the challenge, please give Jeff Eckhart a call to start the process to become a VSC examiner.

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page (**America's Boating Club - St. Petersburg**) for seminars, classes, and other events that are posted.

Remember, living in Florida, we have the entire coastline as our water playground year-round. So, go out and have a great December

Education Officer
Lt/C Robert Cox, Jr

We have closed out the Fall Classes with the Boat Handling Course concluding this December. Our ABC courses were well attended this past year, but our ability to translate that into membership was not as hoped, with only 30% of our ABC students becoming new members. Most of our courses and seminars were well attended with both the Weather Course and Seminar, led by Bruce Rogers, leading the attendance, followed closely by our Suddenly in Command Seminar led by Al and Fran Lima.

The weather has turned cooler earlier this fall than usual, but the boating in Tampa Bay continues to be enjoyable with winds steady for sailboats and quiet for those out enjoying our lengthy and rewarding fishing season. We fared well this hurricane season as the end of the season saw no serious impacts from the numerous named storms.

Congratulations to the ABC4 class which graduated 4 students scoring high marks. We are looking forward to seeing them all next year in our seminars and courses.

The final 2022 Training Calendar follows below and should now be posted on our Squadron website. We are excited about getting back to a full training schedule next year. **Additionally, we are looking to bring back our Table Instructors in the ABC course, so if you are interested in helping out in ABC, please contact Jeff Eckart or myself.**

If you don't see either a course or seminar that you are interested in, please send me an email (bob_cox_spsps@yahoo.com).

	Start	Day	# Weeks	Cost with Book	Sharing Book
ABC Course					
ABC1	24-Jan	MON	7	$45.00	$20.00
ABC2	21-Mar	MON	7	$45.00	$20.00
ABC3	29-Aug	MON	7	$45.00	$20.00
ABC4	24-Oct	MON	7	$45.00	$20.00
Seminars					
HOW TO USE A CHART SEMINAR	25-Jan	TUE	1	$ 30.00/$ 40.00	$15.00/$20.00
USING GPS	22-Feb	TUE	1	$ 30.00/$ 40.00	$15.00/$20.00
USING VHF/DCS MARINE RADIO	22-Mar	TUE	1	$ 30.00/$ 40.00	$15.00/$20.00
SUDDENLY IN COMMAND	19-Apr	TUE	1	$ 30.00/$ 40.00	$15.00/$20.00
HURRICANE AND BOATS	26-Apr	TUE	1	$ 30.00/$ 40.00	$15.00/$20.00
BASIC WX & FORECASTING	17-May	TUE	1	$ 30.00/$ 40.00	$15.00/$20.00
ON BOARD EMERGENCIES	20-Sep	TUE	1	$ 30.00/$ 40.00	$15.00/$20.00
Advanced Courses					
MARINE NAVIGATION (P)	27-Jan	THU	10	$ 75.00/$110.00	$20.00/$40.00
CRUISE PLANNING	16-Feb	WED	9	$ 60.00/$100.00	$20.00/$40.00
BOAT HANDLING (S)	31-Mar	WED	5	$ 60.00/$100.00	$20.00/$40.00
OFFSHORE NAVIGATION (JN)	17-Mar	THU	13	$ 95.00/$150.00	$25.00/$45.00
ADVANCED PILOTING (AP)	8-Sep	THU	10	$ 60.00/$100.00	$20.00/$40.00
WEATHER	21-Sep	WED	8	$ 60.00/$100.00	$20.00/$40.00
CELESTIAL NAVIGATION (N)	3-Nov	THU	14	$170.00/$210.00	$30.00/$50.00

As a reminder, an excellent resource for boating information is provided at Americas Boating Channel https://americasboatingchannel.com/. Also, the ABC app for your phone is an excellent resource and free for all to use. USPS created this phone app with links to several resources and boating educational and safety resources now placed conveniently at your fingertips for ready reference and ensured to enhance your safe boating experience. Check it out at Boating App from America's Boating Club https://americasboatingclub.org/app.

Remember safe boating and education are the hallmark to having fun on the water; we are here to serve you and the local boating community.

Admin Officer
Lt/C Gene Sicard

Meeting News:

- Mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting Tuesday December 7th at the Boca Ciega Yacht Club, 4600 Tifton Drive, Gulfport, FL 33711. Cocktails by our Commander, Connie Beckman, will commence at 6:00 pm with Meeting starting at 7:00 pm. Please bring your favorite appetizer to share.
- Our Annual Holiday Party Sunday December 12th, 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM, at the Isla del Sol Yacht Club, 6000 Sun Blvd, St. Petersburg, $32 per person, entertainment by Farley Compton. Please RSVP by December 1st.
- On November 7th, Rachel Arndt, of the Tampa Bay Watch, did a very interesting and compelling presentation about the quality of our Tampa Bay waters and how to get involved in the community to protect our fragile ecosystem.

Promotional News:

- Our television and digital advertising campaign with Spectrum News 9 has ended and the results will be discussed at our annual meeting.
- The ads in the Mariner and Gulfport Gabber look great but have yet to produce the results we are hoping for. Recent classes and seminars have done well.
- Our Facebook presence is also growing weekly and continues be a good source of fresh prospects for new membership.

Boating Event News:

- November 20th saw the "4th Annual Fall Kickoff Cruise" at Emerson Point Preserve Pavilion #1, with an overnight anchor out on the Manatee River.

Welcome New Member

Please give a warm welcome to Alan Nitzman who was sworn in during the November 9th General Meeting.

Treasurer
Lt/C Kathryn Considine

2021 DONATIONS TOTAL THROUGH OCTOBER: $796.89

These donations were 1) to help with the printing and distribution of the Force 12 and other electronic communications, 2) memorials for our members who have passed, 3) made by a member to offset expenses, 4) from our 50/50 at our General Meetings, 5) from general donations made to the squadron, or 6) from our End-of-Year Giving Program.

Thank You!

If you are making a donation, please remember to designate the use you prefer - education fund or operating fund.

Secretary
Lt/C Michele Kennedy

THANK YOU

As 2021 draws to an end, I would just like to send a big thank you to those who have been a tremendous help to me this year.

To Sandy Krupa: I know that distance now separates us; thank you for all you have done and for the continued support.
To JoAnn and Tom Chamberlain: Thank you for your patience as I tried to take on the *Force 12* and for your monthly edits.
To Dawn Eckhart: Thank you for being the final look of the *Force 12* and catching my errors! Also, thank you for taking notes at the May General Meeting.
To Jacque D'Louhy: Thank you for your understanding and mailing of the *Force 12*.
To Linda Albrecht: Thank you for volunteering to be the assistant secretary after Sandy left.

I appreciate each and every one of you. Thank you.

Safety Article

by
P/D/C Bob Morris, AP

With as many years as most of us have been boating, you'd think we would at least know how to wash and maintain something as simple as our life jackets; but since COVID came along, even this has a new twist. Here is what DAN Boater, a patron member of the National Safe Boating Council recommends:

Reusing Life Jackets: Special Precautions Against COVID-19

Are there any special safety precautions for re-using life jackets that may have been exposed to COVID-19?

The coronavirus pandemic is a new challenge, and it is truly not known how all materials exposed to the virus respond to laundering. But if you must reuse your PFDs within 72 hours, the Life Jacket Association suggests the following precautionary guidance:

- Many viruses die by drying out and by heat, which some fibers can enhance. Generally, coronaviruses survive for shorter periods at higher temperatures and higher humidity than in cooler or dryer environments. However, the CDC does not yet have direct data for a temperature-based cutoff for the inactivation of COVID-19.
- COVID-19 virus may exist 3 days on or in clothing. The virus can exist longer on porous surfaces.
- Synthetic fabrics, plastic, and metal surfaces may harbor the virus longer.
- Buckles, zippers, other hardware, and hook/loop fasteners (e.g., Velcro®) are hard to clean due to crevasses and metal/plastic construction.
- Using 60%–90% solutions of alcohol sprayed/wetted on these components is acceptable.
- Avoid spraying inflatables with specific disinfectants that are detrimental to the fabric (e.g., bleach-based products).
- Life jackets should be hand-washed with gloved hands. The CDC recommends using disposable gloves when laundering items and washing your hands afterward.
- Wash as hot as possible (< 60°C/140°F) to kill the virus. Hotter would be better in trying to kill the virus, but it is not advisable since the fabrics are only certifiable up to 60°C.
- Ensuring complete drying is critical. Heated air drying (< 60°C/140°F) is encouraged.
- Do not share garments.

DISCLAIMER: Remember, it is not possible to carry out or guarantee complete disinfection. The goal of these suggestions is to minimize your risk.

In addition, boaters and other water sports enthusiasts should consider following the CDC's guidelines to clean and disinfect areas on your boat or personal watercraft in which you routinely store your life jackets.

All for now. Stay safe and have fun!

Associate Member
P/C Douglas Townes, SN

GPS for ~~beginners~~ ~~experts~~ EVERYONE

The Squadron is going to have two opportunities to sharpen our GPS navigation knowledge and GPS skills this winter. You do not have to own a nautical GPS to attend either event. As Yogi Berra might say, "You don't even have to know how to spell GPS in order to participate."

The first GPS event is a fun outing on **January 15th**. It is designed after a "Scavenger Hunt", but some might call it a "Treasure Hunt" because prizes will be awarded for the most right answers. Here is a description of the first event:

> We will meet at 0945 for a brief greeting and rule explanation at the round-a-bout in Demens's Landing Park in St. Petersburg (027° 46.18818'N, 082° 37.72404'W). A briefing will be given at pavilion #1 (pavilion closest to the round-a-bout). During the briefing, a list of 50 questions will be given out. Each question will be about a particular GPS location. You will need to navigate to the GPS location then write down your answer to the question about that particular location. The list is divided up into three geographical areas of St. Pete. So that all vehicles are not converging on the same GPS coordinate at one time, the participants will be divided up into three groups and assigned their first geographical area. This event will use your cell phone and a vehicle. Teams of two people (or more) are necessary because the driver cannot have a cell phone in his/her hands while driving. GPS teams will need to head to the Chattaway Café at 1200 for lunch. During lunch, the GPS team sheets will be scored by our expert panel of judges.

The GPS software recommended for use with this event is the free app called "Map Coordinates". Why "Map Coordinates"? You need software that lets you enter coordinates by Lat Lon. You can use whatever software you want, but "Map Coordinates" is suggested. I highly recommend practicing with this GPS software (or your choice of software) before you come.

So what is the "treasure" you will be playing for? First prize will be a $25 gift certificate from West Marine. Second prize will be a free pitcher of Sangria (or $15 food credit) from Chattaway. Third prize will be a $10 credit from the Chattaway.

This will be a fun event that will have a nautical theme and a way for you to practice your GPS navigation skills. What a great time of year to get outdoors with your fellow squadron members for food, fellowship and a nautical theme event! Go ahead and mark January 15th on your social calendar. More details will follow about this event in the next edition of the *Force 12*.

The second GPS event the Squadron is planning for this winter is the class on GPS on February 22nd. A presentation of the U.S. Power Squadron's seminar "GPS for Mariners" will be given by Douglas Townes. Watch the *Force 12* for more details about this seminar.

Please support the businesses who have their information in our newsletter

We hope you use the goods and services of the businesses listed in this newsletter.
When using the business, please thank them and let them know that you saw their card in the *Force 12*.

If you know of anyone who would like their card published, please have them contact our Treasurer, Casey Considine.

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7 days: 26 Feb – 5 Mar 2023

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7 days: 27 Feb – 6 Mar 2022

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Force 12

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