Force 12

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

For Boaters, By Boaters™

St. Petersburg

Safe, Fun, Boating Starts Here!

January 2022 *Volume 79* *Issue 1*

Squadron Information

Commander:
Cdr Constance H. Beckman, SN
Commander@boating-stpete.org

Executive Officer:
Lt/C Fredrick M. Hauck, P
XO@boating-stpete.org

Education Officer:
Lt/C Robert E. Cox, Jr., JN
SEO@boating-stpete.org

Administrative Officer:
Lt/C Gene Sicard, P
AdminOfficer@boating-stpete.org

Secretary:
Lt/C Michele D. Kennedy, S
Secretary@boating-stpete.org

Treasurer:
Lt/C Kathryn A. Considine, JN
Treasurer@boating-stpete.org

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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Welcome 2022 and the 2022 Bridge

Congratulations to the 2022 Bridge, approved by the members during the December 2021 Annual Meeting! Let's all give them our utmost support.

Commander: Cdr Constance H. Beckman, SN

Executive Officer: Lt/C Fredrick M. Hauck, AP

Education Officer: Lt/C Robert E. Cox, Jr., JN

Secretary: Melissa Oelschig

Treasurer: Lt/C Kathryn A. Considine, JN

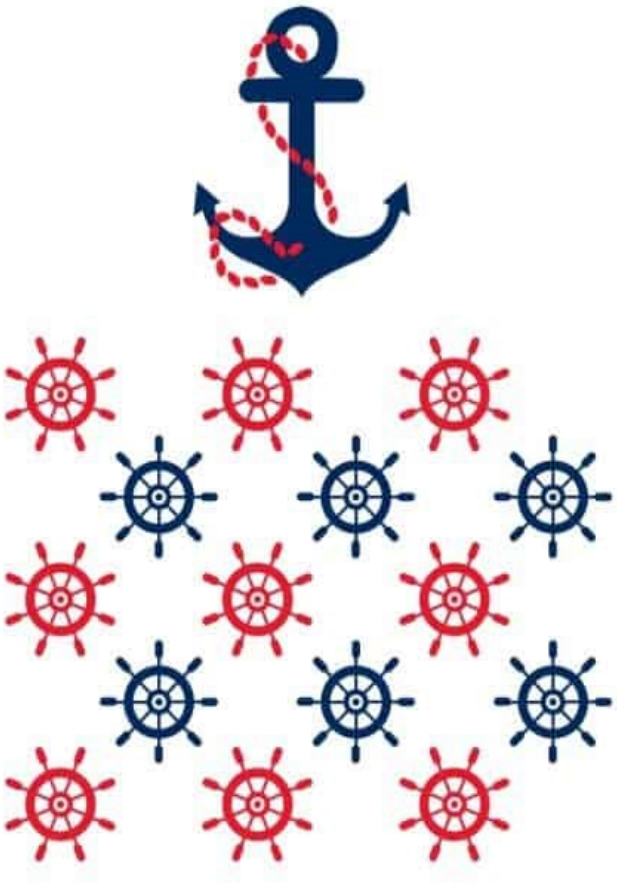
Past Commander: P/C Al Lima, AP

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

Join us at the January 22nd Change of Watch

to Welcome Them

On Board



THANK YOU

to **Commander Connie Beckman**, her leadership, and her crew for another great year!

Schedule your 2022 inspection!

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

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

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

or our chair:

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

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

Beach Clean-up
Saturday, January 15th

Come enjoy a one hour walk / beach cleanup starting at 9am at the south end of Pass-A-Grille Beach. Gloves and bags are provided or bring your own.

To 'prepare', we meet at 8am to enjoy the amazing menu of Skyway Jacks on 34th Street S for an early breakfast.

Contact Stf/C Louis McBride, P for more info at **louismcbride219@outlook.com**.

The beach cleanups are hosted by
Sea Scout Ship Ballyhoo 912
every other month

Schedule of Classes

	Start	Day	# of Weeks	Cost with Book Members/ Non-members	Sharing Book Members/ Non-members
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

January Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
Jan 1		New Year's Day		
Jan 6	11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Portofino's, 34th Street	P/C Marilyn Van Goey
Jan 12	6:30pm	EXCOM	St. Petersburg Yacht Club	Cdr Connie Beckman
Jan 15	9:45am	GPS Scavenger Hunt	Demens Landing, St. Pete	P/C Douglas Townes
Jan 15	9:00am	Beach Clean-up	Pass-A-Grille Beach	Stf/C Louis McBride
Jan 17		Martin Luther King's Birthday		
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

January Birthday Greetings to:

01 - Charles Grose	07 - Sandy Krupa	22 - Al Lima
01 - John Howard	08 - Harold Bray	22 - Eileen Zewski
01 - Robert Poplstein	08 - Brenda Goebel	23 - Nancy Bray
01 - Michael Walsh	20 - Jack Albrecht	27 - Shawn Fernald
03 - Janet Hurwitz	21 - Robert Chaney	31 - Tony Cambria

February Calendar of Events

Time	Event	Location	Contact
Feb 2 6:30pm	EXCOM	St. Petersburg Yacht Club	Cdr Connie Beckman
Feb 3 11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Portofino's, 34th Street	P/C Marilyn Van Goey
Feb 8 5:45pm	General Meeting	St. Petersburg Yacht Club	Lt/C Fred Hauck
Feb 14	❤ Happy Valentines Day ❤		
Feb 21			

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

With the Holiday season behind us, it is time to thank all those who served St Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron from the Executive Committee (EXCOM) Members to the members who come to the meetings and events that support our squadron throughout the year. Thank You!

Members who served and helped the squadron have a successful year are:

- First is Fred Hauck, our Executive Officer. Under his watch, SPSPS Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) have increased to over 130 checks done with the help of all our VSC examiners. He has also overseen our new advertising trials, testing the best way to proceed by telling the public about SPSPS.
- Our Squadron Education Officer, Bob Cox, deserves our thanks for the classes he schedules and the instructors he obtains to teach each class while keeping up the many changes that National is making.
- Bob's wife, C.J., advertises all our courses using Facebook, and the remarkable results are because of her efforts.
- Gene Sicard, our Administrative Officer, gave us great graphics to use in advertising and a start on our membership recruiting for next year.
- Of course, Casey Considine kept our records and balanced everything. How she does it, I don't know!
- Michele Kennedy retook the secretary's job last year. Her minutes are precise and timely. She also took over Force12 when Sandy Krupa moved north.
- The three members at large, John and Sue Tokarz and Louis McBride, gave the EXCOM concise and much-needed input. Thank you for your service this year.

In addition to the EXCOM, thanks go to:

- Susan Tokarz, for writing the almost 50 merit marks for members this year;
- Fran Lima, who took over from Tom Krupa as Chaplain, and;
- Casey Considine and her committee of Evie Eibach, who keeps the roster, and Vanessa Goodrum, our website administrator, deserve kudos for their service.
- Often forgotten are the members of the Standing and General Committees. Our General (Elected) Committees are the Audit Committee led by Sharlet Filingham, with members JoAnn Chamberlain and Cory-Jean Houck-Cox, and the Rules Committee, headed by BL Dabney, with members Sandy Krupa and Jacque D'Louhy. John Albrecht led the Standing Committee Budget & Finance with Terry Sicard and Carol Segundo. Thanks to each of you.

Thank you all for your service. A special thanks has to go to Al Lima, who helped lead our squadron forward this year.

As you see, many people and their committees are needed to run the squadron. If you have a desire to help, please contact me and I'll explain the committee duties to you before you have to decide which one to join.

Have a great NEW YEAR,

Connie

Mark your calendars:

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

St. Petersburg Sail & Power Squadron 81st Change of Watch

Isla Del Sol Yacht Club
600 Sun Boulevard
St. Petersburg
Saturday, 22 January 2022

Cash Bar 1800
Ceremony and Dinner 1830
Details and Reservation form
will be sent via email

Dress: Semi Formal,
Uniform "A" (Dark uniform with bow tie)
or appropriate attire

Education Officer
Lt/C Robert Cox, Jr

As we close out 2021, I want to take a couple of moments to thank the Education Department for their steadfast determination to bring in-person education to the Tampa Bay boating community. I especially want to thank the following folks: Bob Zewski, ASEO, and Jeff Eckhart our ABC Boating Safety Coordinator; as well as our instructors: Bruce Rogers, Al and Fran Lima, Jack Albrecht, Ken Beckman, George Baulig, Tom and Sandy Krupa, Howard Rothstein, and Douglas Townes; additionally, ABC support provided by Cory-Jeanne Houck-Cox, Don Houck, Casey Considine, and Connie Beckman. All have been a tremendous help this year and, happily, all have volunteered to help next year. Finally, congratulations go to Bruce Rogers for being selected as the 2021 Trainer of the Year!

A bit of a surprise this past December, the weather turned unseasonably warm and boating on Tampa Bay continued strong as we approached the holiday season. The New Year continues to provide steady winds for sailboats and good fishing opportunities for all on the Bay.

We have a full training schedule planned for this year and we are looking forward to bringing you the best the Squadron has to offer.

The 2022 Training Calendar 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 in ABC, please contact Jeff Eckart or myself.**

If you don't see a course or seminar you need, let me know as we can adjust to ensure we bring you what you need to make your boating all that you want it to be. Contact me by email at (bob_cox_spsps@yahoo.com).

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. Boating educational and safety resources are 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 mark to having safe fun on the water; we are here to serve you and the local boating community.

On-Land Event

DON'T FORGET ABOUT GPS TRAINING
a.k.a. Scavenger Hunt
January 15, 2022

Last month's *Force 12* had an article by Douglas Townes concerning the upcoming "on land" boating event:

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.

Executive Officer
Lt/C Fred Hauck

Hello squadron mates. Welcome to 2022. The start of another great boating season (since we are in Florida) is now!

We had a great turnout for our December Annual Meeting at the Boca Ciega Yacht Club. Thanks to Al Lima for lining up the yacht club for us and thanks to all of you who helped and provided the substantives and libations!

Our Holiday Party at the Isla del Sol Yacht Club was fabulous. Thanks to Terry Sicard for heading this up and kudos to all who helped out.

We have a few events lined up for 2022, but we are looking for more squadron events and need your input and involvement. We plan to get together in January (everyone's schedule depending) and solidify our event calendar. Please mark on your personal calendar two events on January 15th - one is the Beach Cleanup led by the Sea Scouts and the other is the GPS Scavenger Hunt led by Douglas Townes. More information on both may be found in this *Force 12*.

Since our Change of Watch is January 22nd, we will not have a general meeting/dinner in January. We will have our first general meeting/dinner on Tuesday, February 8th at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. Our presentation at the meeting will be from the Florida Aquarium. Be sure not to miss this one.

We did have a great Vessel Safety Check (VSC) year in 2021! We are looking to surpass our VSC completion rate in 2022! To do that, we need your help in expanding 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 January 2022!

Treasurer
Lt/C Kathryn Considine

2021 DONATIONS TOTAL THROUGH NOVEMBER: $ 826.89

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 the new year is about to start – with a new Secretary on the Bridge – I look back on the past two years and wonder sometimes how we made it through. COVID has certainly taken a toll on many and affected how we have conducted our lives and business. Again, I thank all who have helped me learn the ropes of being Secretary and the patience those showed me when I had to take on the *Force 12*. I ask that you provide Melissa Oelschig the same support and help her in any way that you can.

All best wishes for 2022!

Safety Article

by
P/D/C Bob Morris, AP

As we prepare to begin a new year of boating activities, I believe we should look back on previous times and determine what the actual risks are that we have seen in our recent past.

This led me to discover the U.S. Coast Guard's RECREATIONAL BOATING STATISTICS 2020, which includes their most up to date data; I found it very interesting and informative. It's my hope that the America's Boating Club can help improve these numbers through our boating education classes. Until next time, stay safe and have fun.

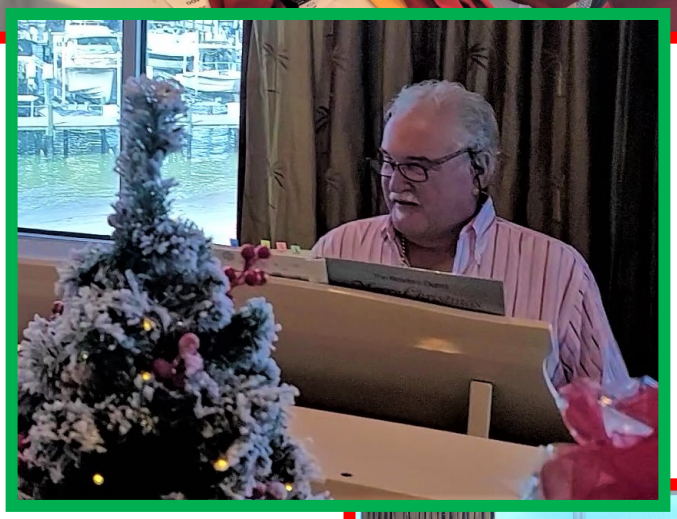
2020 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In calendar year 2020, the Coast Guard counted 5,265 accidents that involved 767 deaths, 3,191 injuries and approximately $62.5 million dollars of damage to property as a result of recreational boating accidents.
    - There is evidence that boating activity rose significantly during the pandemic, from reports of increased boat sales, insurance policies taken out, insurance claims, and calls for towing assistance. The Coast Guard is analyzing variables associated with boating activity to normalize accident data.
    - Numerous states cited difficulties registering boats due to office closures during the pandemic. The Coast Guard did not perform any statistical adjustments to state figures.
    - The fatality rate was 6.5 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. This rate represents a 25% increase from the 2019 fatality rate of 5.2 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels.
    - Compared to 2019, the number of accidents increased 26.3%, the number of deaths increased 25.1%, and the number of injuries increased 24.7%.
- Where cause of death was known, 75% of fatal boating accident victims drowned. Of those drowning victims with reported life jacket usage, 86% were not wearing a life jacket.
- Where length was known, eight out of every ten boaters who drowned were using vessels less than 21 feet in length.
- Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; where the primary cause was known, it was listed as the leading factor in 18% of deaths.
- Where instruction was known, 77% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction. Only 12% percent of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator was known to have received a nationally-approved boating safety education certificate.
- There were 247 accidents in which at least one person was struck by a propeller. Collectively, these accidents resulted in 39 deaths and 241 injuries.
- Operator inattention, operator inexperience, improper lookout, excessive speed, and machinery failure rank as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.
- Where data was known, the most common vessel types involved in reported accidents were open motorboats (46%), personal watercraft (22%), and cabin motorboats (13%).
- Where data was known, the vessel types with the highest percentage of deaths were open motorboats (50%), kayaks (15%), and pontoons (9%).
- The 11,838,188 recreational vessels registered by the states in 2020 represent a 0.34% decrease from last year when 11,878,542 recreational vessels were registered.

Happy Holidays

For those unable to attend the Annual Holiday Luncheon this year at Isla del Sol, you missed out on a great meal and a wonderful time with friends and members of the St. Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron.

A very special ***thank you*** and shout out goes to **Terry Sicard** for leading the arrangements for such a delightful time.



The highlight of the afternoon was the singing - can it be called that? - of The Twelve Days of Christmas, accompanied on the piano by Gene Sicard with Terry having to run around with the microphone to each "day" singer. What fun!

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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AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

FEB 2023 WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

7 days: 26 Feb – 5 Mar 2023

Roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale on the BRAND NEW CELEBRITY BEYOND®
Itinerary: Nassau, Puerto Costa Maya, Cozumel, Grand Cayman

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Price does not include $166.88 pp taxes & port fees. Travel protection & transfers are additional.

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FEB 2022 EASTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

7 days: 27 Feb – 6 Mar 2022

Roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale on the BRAND NEW ROTTERDAM
Itinerary: Grand Turk, San Juan, St Thomas, Half Moon Cay

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Force 12 is a publication of the
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Force 12

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