Force 12

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

For Boaters, By Boaters™

St. Petersburg

Safe, Fun, Boating Starts Here!

Spring 2022 *Volume 79* *Issue 2*

Squadron Information

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Past Commander: *
P/C Al Lima, AP

Members-at-Large: *
Lt Susan Tokarz, SN
Lt John Tokarz, SN
Lt Michele Kennedy, S

* See the Roster for contact information or email: force12@boating-stpete.org

Inside Contents:

2 - 2022 ABC Cruise
3 - Class Schedule, Hospice Cup, and Beach Clean-up
4 - Calendar
5 - Birthdays and Lunch Bunch
6 - 10 - From the Bridge, Safety, Ship's Store, and Businesses
11 - 2023 ABC Cruise

GPS Scavenger Hunt

What a great way to spend a Saturday. Douglas Townes, aided by Casey Considine, designed an interesting scenario for all to follow. Instead of a street address like most scavenger hunts, this involved a latitude and longitude coordinate. A smart phone app was used as the GPS. At each set of coordinates, participants had to answer a question or so about something in the area. Getting from one set of coordinates to another was a bit challenging for some, others not so much, and took folks through some very interesting areas of St. Petersburg. The final location was for all to meet at The Chattaway Restaurant. The owner of The Chattaway, Julien Frers (one of the answers to the bonus questions), graciously donated a $20 gift certificate to the second-place winners, Fred Hauck and Michele Kennedy, while the winners of the hunt, Dawn and Jeff Eckhart, received a $30 cash prize. Everyone had fun and was saying something like "wait 'til next 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'!

2022 America's Boating Club Cruise on Holland America SS Rotterdam

For those who were unable to attend this cruise, you missed a really good time and great camaraderie. A huge "Thank You" to Dawn Eckhart for the arrangements. There were 144 members and friends in our group on the cruise. The ship was beautiful, the food was outstanding, the entertainment phenomenal, and beverages flowing. In San Juan, the local Power Squadron met the ship and, for those who wanted, provided a walking tour of the historic area in old San Juan. The local squadron in St. Thomas also met the ship and greeted members. The hospitality of both was truly amazing. If you would like to join the next adventure, please see Dawn's flyer on page 11.

Grand Turks

San Juan

St. Thomas

Schedule of Classes

	Start	Day	# of Weeks	Cost with Book Members/ Non-members	Sharing Book Members/ Non-members
ABC Course					
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					
USING VHF/DCS MARINE RADIO	23-Mar	WED	1	$ 30.00/$ 40.00	$15.00/$20.00
SUDDENLY IN COMMAND	20-Apr	WED	1	$ 30.00/$ 40.00	$15.00/$20.00
HURRICANE AND BOATS	27-Apr	WED	1	$ 30.00/$ 40.00	$15.00/$20.00
BASIC WX & FORECASTING	18-May	WED	1	$ 30.00/$ 40.00	$15.00/$20.00
ON BOARD EMERGENCIES	21-Sep	WED	1	$ 30.00/$ 40.00	$15.00/$20.00
Advanced Courses					
CRUISE PLANNING	15-Mar	TUE	9	$ 60.00/$100.00	$20.00/$40.00
OFFSHORE NAVIGATION (JN)	17-Mar	THU	13	$ 95.00/$150.00	$20.00/$45.00
BOAT HANDLING (S)	5-Apr	THU	5	$ 60.00/$100.00	$20.00/$40.00
ADVANCED PILOTING (AP)	8-Sep	THU	10	$ 60.00/$100.00	$20.00/$40.00
WEATHER	20-Sep	TUE	8	$ 60.00/$100.00	$20.00/$40.00
CELESTIAL NAVIGATION (N)	3-Nov	THU	14	$170.00/$210.00	$30.00/$50.00

Hospice Cup Invite

Departing from
Davis Island Yacht Club
to benefit both
Hillsborough and Pinellas Hospice

When: April 23, 2022
Where: Davis Island Yacht Club

Join the St. Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron/America's Boating Club crew on S/V Jade, 44' CSY

Jade will be participating in the Hospice Cup Regatta and she is looking for crew!
You do not need to be a racer to enjoy a day on Tampa Bay, all are welcome

For details contact:
Al Lima 813 230 5751
Bosbyshelllima@msn.com

Beach Clean-up Saturday, May 21st

Come enjoy a one hour walk / beach clean-up 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, St. Petersburg, for an early breakfast.

Contact Lt/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

Spring Calendar of Events

Time	Event	Location	Contact
	********** **APRIL** **********		
April 1	April Fool's Day		
April 1-2	D-22 Spring Conference	Punta Gorda	Cdr Connie Beckman
April 7 11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Portofino's St. Pete	P/C Marilyn Van Goey
April 8-10	Boating Event	St. Pete Municipal	Lt Dawn Eckhart
April 13 5:45pm	General Meeting	St. Pete Yacht Club	Lt/C Fred Hauck
April 17	Easter		
April 23	Hospice Cup Race	Davis Island	P/C Al Lima
	********** **MAY** **********		
May 4 6:30pm	EXCOM	St. Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Connie Beckman
May 5 11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Portofino's St. Pete	P/C Marilyn Van Goey
May 8	Mother's Day		
May 11 5:45pm	General Meeting	St. Pete Yacht Club	Lt/C Fred Hauck
May 20-22	Boating Event	Treasure Island	P/C Al Lima
May 21 9:00am	Beach Clean-up	Pass-A-Grille Beach	Lt/C Louis McBride
May 28 2:00pm	Memorial Day BBQ	Hauck/Kennedy Residence	Lt/C Fred Hauck
May 30	Memorial Day		
	********** **JUNE** **********		
June 1 6:30pm	EXCOM	St. Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Connie Beckman
June 2 11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Portofino's St. Pete	P/C Marilyn Van Goey
June 8 5:45pm	General Meeting	St. Pete Yacht Club	Lt/C Fred Hauck
June 17-19	Boating Event	Long Boat Key Moorings	Lt Sue Tokarz
June 19	Father's Day		
June 21	Summer Begins		

SPRING BIRTHDAYS

APRIL

2 - Nancy Reeder
4 - Katie Rodgers
10 - Donald Rife
12 - George Keffalas
15 - Joseph Kane
16 - Michelle Siviter
19 - John Humphreys
22 - Jack Flick
22 - Robert Oakley
23 - Jeff Boehler
26 - Michele Kennedy
29 - Susan Tokarz
30 - Nancy Anello

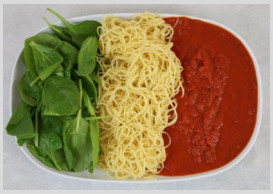
MAY

1 - Georgia Binns
2 - John Novack
5 - Robert Russell
6 - Kevin Houck
8 - Stephen Badea
9 - Jacque D'Louhy
12 - Daniel Schroeder
14 - Robert Morris
15 - Kathryn Considine
16 - Michael Saul
21 - Gail Poffenberger
26 - Bill Shivers
27 - Jeanette Erb
29 - Robert Springer

JUNE

1 - Clara Poffenberger
2 - Trina Espinola
6 - Christy Wood
9 - Elaine Schroeder
12 - George Pownall
18 - Gene Hammond
19 - JoAnn Chamberlain
23 - Karen Lieberman
26 - Shelia Moore
27 - Paul Jaynes
27 - Zhenyu Shou
27 - Jason Wood
29 - Kevin Anello

LUNCH BUNCH



Thursdays - April 7th, May 5th, June 2nd

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.
mvangoey@tambabay.rr.com or **727-501-5345**

Commander
Cdr Connie Beckman

I just read an article named "Top 10 Reasons to Volunteer". The first reason was that volunteering **provides physical and mental rewards**. It: Reduces stress: Experts report that focusing on someone other than yourself interrupts usual tension-producing patterns. It makes you healthier: Moods and emotions, like optimism, joy, and control over one's fate, strengthen the immune system. While I have found that this is true, I think that many members in our squadron don't believe this statement or choose to ignore the benefits. I know many have other commitments to other organizations or families, but giving just one hour a month or many hours in one month to St. Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron (SPSPS) would benefit you and benefit SPSPS.

What do we need?

- Someone who knows how to start and use MailChimp? (I promise I will not make you be the only one who will use and maintain it .) The same with Constant Contact.
- Someone willing to promote our boating events (already planned) well in advance.
- Someone to coordinate our Safe Boating Classes graduation nights. (There are only three left.)
- Someone willing to research placing free ads in various media.
- Someone willing to send gentle reminders to people who have not renewed.
- Someone willing to head up our new "Wheel on Meals" delivery commitment.
- Also, members are needed to deliver meals once a year or once a month.

Think about helping the squadron one hour a month and helping us grow by giving more to our community service and having fun with general meetings, boating activities, and social events. Just call me at 727 867-3088 or email me at connie@kenbek.com to join in these activities.

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.

****

New Ball Caps are IN STOCK!

New Squadron ball caps are in stock! The new hats come in four colors and two styles (see photo). Note these caps have the new logo. In the photo, there are two rows of hats. The first row of hats is called a "soft" ball cap and the second row is called a "structured" ball cap. The difference in cost of the two caps is minor, so both styles are being sold for $13.

THAT IS A SAVINGS OF $2 OVER OUR PREVIOUS BALL CAP STOCK!!!!!

See Douglas Townes at the next meeting if you want to purchase a new ball cap and proudly show off the boating club to which you belong. Since there is only one hat per style and color (except for the navy blue), better call or email Douglas if you want to reserve a hat.

Education Officer
Lt/C Robert Cox, Jr

Now that we have spent 3 months into the new year, 2022 is racing by. The weather has been near perfect for our Tampa Bay boating community. The better news is we have several more perfect weather months before we enter the 2022 Atlantic Hurricane season. As you might anticipate, the National Weather Service has increased the number of projected hurricanes, stating "the season has a **65 percent chance for an average to above average season with at least 13-18 named storms, 6-11 hurricanes, 2-5 major hurricanes**". This should be enough motivation for everyone to take a good look at your hurricane preparedness plans and our education opportunities to help you prepare.

Speaking of education, I hope all of you have looked at our upcoming training scheduled for this spring and coming fall. We are off to a good start this year with good attendance at both our January and March ABC Boating Safety classes, our GPS Seminar and Marine Navigation course.

The 2022 Training Calendar is also posted on our Squadron website. We are excited about getting back to a full training schedule this year.

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, there is an ABC app for your phone. It 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 safe fun on the water; we are here to serve you and the local boating community.

Please support the businesses hat 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.

(See page 10)

Executive Officer
Lt/C Fred Hauck

Hello Squadron Mates

We had a great turnout for our February and March meetings/dinners at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. Our presentations were outstanding - the Florida Aquarium in February and Joy and Larry Wissing's tale of "Going Uphill" in March. For April, we will have Jared Emerick talking about professional fishing and boating in the Middle East and boating safety which, by the way, is a great segway to Safe Boating Month. For May we will have the pleasure of hearing from our own Vanessa Goodrum on her cruise up north. Mark your calendar for our Founder's Day Celebration on June 8th. It will be our 83rd birthday. Be sure not to miss them.

We have several events lined up for 2022, so please check out our Boating and Social Events Calendar in this *Force 12*. Note that just in April alone, we have the District 22 Spring Conference, a Marina and Social Event to St. Petersburg Marina, and the annual Hospice Cup Race. We are still looking for more squadron events and need your input and involvement. Remember, this is your club.

As May is Safe Boating Month, if you haven't done so, it's time to get your Vessel Safety Check for the year. 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.

Remember, living in Florida, we have the entire coastline as our water playground year-round. So, go out and have a great Spring 2022.

SPSPS APRIL BOATING ACTIVITY

April 8 - 10

St. Petersburg Municipal Marina
Downtown, St. Petersburg

*****If you plan to attend via iron dinghy, please call or email as a headcount is required for the Saturday evening group dinner*****

Please call or email Dawn Eckhart (727) 403-0406 or dawneckhart94@gmail.com

Treasurer
Lt/C Kathryn Considine

2022 DONATIONS TOTAL THROUGH FEBRUARY: $109.00

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 the 50/50 at our General Meetings, 5) from general donations made to the squadron, or 6) from Life Members in lieu of dues.

Thank You!

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

Today's Smiles

P/D/C Tom Krupa, AP

How do I respond to other writers who accuse me of plagiarism? Their words, not mine.

Babies are such a nice way to start people.

4,153,237 marriages last year; not to cause trouble, but shouldn't that be an even number?

"Psychic wins lottery!"
A headline you'll never see.

We are prisoners of our phones. That's why they're called "Cell Phones".

Despite the rising cost of living,
it remains popular.

Why did Kamikaze Pilots wear helmets?

Next time you wave use all your fingers.

So – you're telling me a shrimp fried this rice, a flea runs this market and this garage is on sale?

You know there are a number of things I can never know, places I can never go, people I can never be, that's ok because I know friends like you. . .

Safety Article

by

P/D/C Bob Morris, AP

Recently, I came across an article in Boat US explaining about the new USCG regulations regarding fire extinguisher requirements becoming in force on April 20th of this year. Having done vessel safety checks for years (now retired), I couldn't help but think this information is worth sharing. I know many of us are aware of new things coming up, but I certainly think that this article is worth sharing.

A new U.S. Coast Guard regulation beginning April 20 for disposable fire extinguishers mandates a 12-year expiration date from the date of manufacture. Boaters can find the manufacture date stamped into the bottom of the bottle or near the UL label. This may be two or four digits – if it is two, as in 08, that means 2008. Additionally, while the new regulation does not change the type (U.S. Coast Guard-rated) or quantity or requirement for USCG approved fire extinguishers aboard, it does specify the minimum Underwriter Laboratory (UL) classification of extinguishers to be carried aboard certain vessels – depending on the boat's model year.

This is the result of phasing out older "B-I" and "B-II" labels for newer "5-B" "10-B" and "20-B" extinguisher classifications. The number in this new rating refers to the size in square feet of the potential fire the device is suitable to extinguish and not the exact weight of the dry chemical inside the bottle.

Vessels on the water today that are less than 26 feet and model year 2017 or older may continue to carry older, dated or undated "B-I" or "B-II" disposable extinguishers. However, when they are no longer serviceable or have reached 12 years of age since manufacture, they must be replaced with newer class "5-B" or greater extinguishers. Boats less than 26 feet and 2018 model year or newer must carry unexpired "5-B" "10-B" or "20-B" fire extinguishers. Having older "B-I" and "B-II" types do not meet the new carriage requirements.

Many retailers today offer "10-B" class fire extinguishers, which may be a good choice as they exceed U.S. Coast Guard minimum carriage requirements for boats under 26 feet, while at the same time giving boaters more extinguishing coverage. For boats 26 feet or greater, however, having one "10-B" aboard does not equal two "5-Bs". Only a "20-B" classification meets the requirement to carry two "5-B" extinguishers. For a look at how many and what type of fire extinguishers are needed aboard all recreational boats up to 65 feet, go to BoatUS.org/Fire-Extinguishers.

BoatUS strongly recommends going beyond the regulation's minimum requirements. The results from a Foundation-sponsored boat burn showed that one extinguisher may give very little time to make an emergency call or potentially prepare to abandon your vessel.

BoatUS also notes that most U.S. Coast Guard disposables on the market today carry at least a dual B:C rating, able to douse both liquid and electrical fires, and some boat owners wisely prefer triple rated A:B:C extinguishers, adding a third protection for combustible fires.

Safety Article - continued

To be serviceable, a portable extinguisher must have a pressure gauge indicating an operable range, lock pin firmly installed, clean discharge nozzle, and no significant corrosion or damage. Some more recently manufactured portable fire extinguishers aboard boats today may carry both old and new labeling, for example, having simultaneous "B-I" and "5-B" classifications.

There are no changes to rechargeable or fixed mount (i.e., engine room) extinguisher regulations. They continue to require regular maintenance and serving, typically done annually by a technician.

"This new U.S. Coast Guard expiration date regulation aligns with the 12-years recommended by the National Fire Protection Association," said BoatUS Foundation Assistant Director of Boating Safety, Ted Sensenbrenner. "We expect that the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and United States Power Squadrons vessel safety check program will soon include this new regulation as part of their free, no-penalty vessel exams. Because this change affects a critical piece of safety equipment aboard your boat, we also expect the U.S. Coast Guard will initially focus on education. You may want to start checking extinguishers now while your boat may be ashore this winter."

Sensenbrenner adds, "Also take a look now to ensure your fire extinguishers are readily accessible. You can buy only the bracket if you don't have one and mount your extinguishers where they need to be – at points of egress, at the helm, and near the engine and fuel supply. Burying them in the bottom of a compartment ensures they will be hard to reach when you need them the most. Familiarizing yourself with the PASS method (Pull, Aim, Squeeze, and Sweep) will prepare you for fighting a small fire aboard."

For more information on the new requirement, as well as frequently asked question and an infographic, go to www.uscgboating.org.

I hope you find this useful and want us all to stay safe on the water and have fun.

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Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Cases

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®

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

Feel free to invite your friends, family and neighbors to join us as we embark on an adventure BEYOND anything you've experienced before!

Everyone must book through Dawn Eckhart in order to be included in our group and receive the exclusive group benefits. USPS will receive remuneration from proceeds of this group event.

Email dawnstraveldeals@gmail.com or call

(727) 403-0406 to join our group on this new, exciting ship!

Celebrity Cruises

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Force 12 is a publication of
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Force 12

Color copies and previous *Force 12* issues can be found on our website www.boating-stpete.org — 'resources'

Distribution either by email or hard copy;
please let us know which you prefer at force12@boating-stpete.org.

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