Force 12

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

For Boaters, By Boaters™

St. Petersburg

Safe, Fun, Boating Starts Here!

Winter 2022 **Volume 79** **Issue 5**

Squadron Information

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

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

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

Secretary:
Lt/C Louis E. McBride, P
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
Lt Michele Kennedy, S

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

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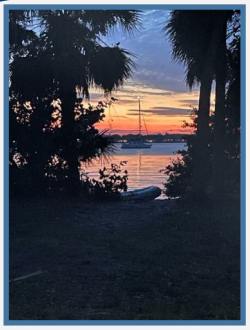
5th Annual Fall Kickoff Cruise

In spite of the windy, rainy weather forecast for Sunday, when most cruisers would have been returning home, the turn-out for the Fall Kickoff Cruise at Emmerson Point was impressive. There were 19 boats representing: SPSPS, Dolphins Cruising Club, Women Who Sail, Davis Island Yacht Club, Tampa Sailing Squadron and members of the Harborage Marina. The group was treated to a beautiful sunset every evening (probably beautiful sunrises also, but I was never up early enough to say for sure). The highlight of the event was the Saturday night covered dish dinner. While waiting for grills to heat up, the 35 attendees enjoyed a "match the lyrics to Jimmy Buffett songs" game. First place winners (John Tokarz + 2 other men) were able to match lyrics to "Vampires, Mummies and the Holy Ghost" before any other songs were matched. First, second, and third place winners took home a variety of small liquor bottles and chocolate. As usual for these events, the food was great and plentiful and the comradery was fantastic. A 6th Annual Fall Kickoff Cruise is being planned – Emmerson Point, the weekend before Thanksgiving. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

- Sue Tokarz



ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

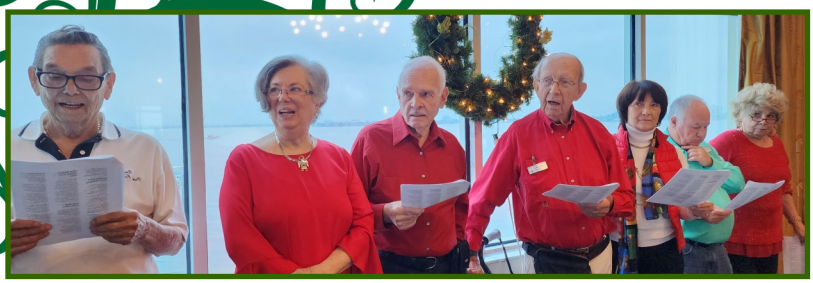
For those of you who may have missed it, we had a wonderful turnout for the Annual Holiday Party, December 11th, at Isla del Sol Yacht Club. Many thanks to Terry Sicard for organizing the entire event. We were entertained by Farley Compton and our very own Gene Sicard, with assistance from his lovely wife, Terry. The food was wonderful. Ken Beckman shined again as the first day of Christmas and our new voice, Douglas Townes, as the fifth day of Christmas.

ENTERTAINMENT

Gene on the piano with vocal assistance from Terry and Farley Compton on guitar and vocals.

Our first five days of Christmas ...

And days six through twelve



ANNUAL MEETING / ELECTION OF NEW BRIDGE

What a great turnout for our annual meeting at the Boca Ciega Yacht Club on December 14th. The Commander provided the libations and members brought heavy hors d'oeuvres to share. The ballot for the upcoming Watch Year was presented, voted on, and approved as follows:

Commander - Lt/C Fredrick M. Hauck, JN
Executive Officer - Lt Vanessa Goodrum, P
Education Officer - Lt/C Robert E. Cox, Jr., JN, Assistant Dan Schroeder
Treasurer - Lt/C Kathryn A. Considine, JN, Assistant Lt Cory-Jeanne Cox, AP
Secretary - Lt/C Louis E. McBride, P, Assistant 1/Lt Michele Kennedy, S
Members at Large - P/C Douglas Townes, S/N, Lt Elaine Schroeder, and Sue Paul
Past Commander - Cdr Connie Beckman, SN

YOUR NEWLY ELECTED 2023 BRIDGE

Commander
Cdr Connie Beckman

What a year! Our outstanding performance was only because our members volunteer to accomplish the many tasks SPSPS needs to survive and grow. Thanks go to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) members. Our Education Department, headed by Bob Cox, and instructors far surpassed most squadrons in the number and variety of the courses offered to our members and the public. Fred Hauck, our Executive Officer, planned and advertised all our meetings, and encourages our Vessel Safety Checks. He also helped with the boating activities and picked up any tasks that needed doing. Casey Considine, our Treasurer, collected money and student information at our ABC classes. She also checked people in at the General Meetings and kept the squadron within the 2022 budget. Our newest member of the bridge, Louis McBride, has proven to be a great Secretary, but also led our Sea Scout program and Beach Clean-ups. Our Members-at-Large, Susan and John Tokarz, planned our D/22 Cruise and Rendezvous with the help of Al Lima. They were also involved with our boating activities and helped with the Advanced Grades procedures. The third member, Michele Kennedy, publishes our "What's Happening" monthly and the quarterly Force 12. The last member of our EXCOM is Past Commander Al Lima, who helped wherever he was needed. These are just a few of the members that it takes to make a successful squadron. Next year we have several new members who are willing to aid in making 2023 even better.

If you want to join the volunteers of SPSPS, just text me at 727-744-4397 and we will find just the task for you - from one that takes a few hours a year to ones that can take longer.

Don't forget to join us on February 4th for our Change of Watch. Hope to see you at the next meeting in January.

Connie

Executive Officer
Lt/C Fred Hauck

Wow….2022 is just about over and 2023 is just around the corner!

We had a great turnout for our December's Holiday Luncheon at Isla Del Sol Country Club. Many thanks for Terry Sicard for taking the lead; she did a phenomenal job. Of course, assisting her was our own "piano man," Gene Sicard. (Trivia note: Gene's piano teacher, when he was growing up, was also Billy Joel's!)

We also had a great Annual Meeting at the Boca Ciega Yacht Club in which we voted on our 2023 budget and elected our 2023 officers. The election results are listed in this Force 12. I am honored to have been nominated for and voted in as next year's Commander.

Be sure to mark your calendar for our next Dinner Meeting. This will be on January 11, 2023, with a special presentation by Bill Behrens on "Active Shooter" (postponed from October).

On Wednesday, January 25, 2023, we will hold a meeting to plan our 2023 squadron events, both boating and social events, at Fran and Al Lima's house. Please let Al know if you would like to attend. We are looking for more squadron events and need your inputs and involvement. Bottom line: we want to do more anchor outs, raft-ups, marina visits, visit local "haunts", have BBQs, etc. If you have a favorite place to then let's go. Remember, this is your club.

Before I leave out as the Executive Officer, I want to give special thanks to members who supported our squadron in the Executive Department and Administrative Committees this year. First to Connie Beckman, Casey Considine, and Al Lima for their continuous mentoring, John and Sue Tokarz for Cooperative Charting and boating events, Jack Albrecht for Port Captain and SPYC Liaison, Bob Morris as Safety Officer, Marilyn Van Goey for dinner meeting reservations, Rebecca McBride for the Monthly Luncheons, Karen Lieberman for the Super Supper Club, and Jeff Eckhart for Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs). Of note, our organization has conducted 66 VSCs so far this year with just a four-person crew: Jeff, Bob Zewski, Jim Greenhalgh, and Al Lima. And a very special thanks goes out to Michele Kennedy for keeping me straight for years.

Let's be safe out there and hope to see each and every one of you at the next Dinner Meeting.

Education Officer
Lt/C Robert Cox, Jr

As we close out 2022, I want to take a moment 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; John and Sue Tokarz, our Local Board of Electives; as well as our instructors: Bruce Rogers, Al and Fran Lima, Jack Albrecht, Ken Beckman, George Baulig, Howard Rothstein, and Douglas Townes; additionally, ABC support provided by Cory-Jeanne Houck-Cox, Casey Considine, Connie Beckman. All have been a tremendous help this past year and happily, all have volunteered to help next year. Finely, congratulation goes to Fran Lima for being selected as the 2022 Trainer of the Year! Also, please welcome aboard our new 2023 ASEO Dan Schroeder.

An enjoyable and welcomed 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 2023 and we are looking forward to bringing you the best the Squadron has to offer.

The 2023 Training Calendar is on page 5 and is also posted on our Squadron website. We are excited about adding more elective courses this year.

If you don't see a course or seminar you need, let me know as we can adjust to insure 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).

Treasurer
Lt/C Kathryn Considine

2022 DONATIONS TOTAL THROUGH NOVEMBER: $1,231.97

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

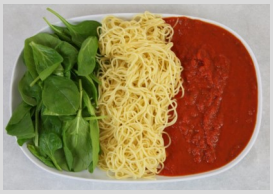
P/D/C Tom Krupa, AP

- Did you get a pack of batteries on Christmas with a note – toy not included.
- Nothing says holidays like a cheese log on top of a fruit cake.
- Worry not what you eat between Christmas and the New Year but worry about what you eat between the New Year and Christmas.
- Three Little Pigs were the first bacon bits.
- This time of year, the handkerchief is "cold storage".
- Found a book called "How to solve 50% of your problems"; so I bought two.
- New Year's Eve – about 22% of Americans pass out before midnight.
- In Florida, an unmarried woman is not allowed to parachute on Sunday.
- The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.
- As you age may you keep your sense of humor "vs" no sense at all.
- AND – "AHHH" the sound a smile would make if it made sounds. . .

Schedule of Classes

	Start	Day	# of Weeks	Instructor	Cost with Book Members/ Non-Members	Sharing Book Members/ Non-Members
ABC Course						
ABC1	23-Jan	MON	6	Jeff Eckhart	$50	$25
ABC2	13-Mar	MON	6	Jeff Eckhart	$50	$25
ABC3	28-Aug	MON	6	Jeff Eckhart	$50	$25
ABC4	16-Oct	MON	6	Jeff Eckhart	$50	$25
Seminars						
INSTRUCTOR RE-CERTIFICATION	18-Jan	WED	1	Connie Beckman		
HOW TO USE A CHART SEMINAR	25-Jan	WED	1	Bruce Rogers	$50 / $75	$25 / $35
USING GPS	22-Feb	WED	1	Doug Townes	$50 / $75	$25 / $35
USING VHF/DCS MARINE RADIO	22-Mar	WED	1	TBD	$50 / $75	$25 / $35
SUDDENLY IN COMMAND	19-Apr	WED	1	Al Lima	$50 / $75	$25 / $35
HURRICANE AND BOATS	26-Apr	WED	1	Howard Rothstein	$50 / $75	$25 / $35
BASIC WX & FORECASTING	17-May	WED	1	Bruce Rogers	$50 / $75	$25 / $35
ON BOARD EMERGENCIES	20-Sep	WED	1	Howard Rothstein	$50 / $75	$25 / $35
Advanced Courses						
MARINE ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS	24-Jan	TUE	8	Al Lima	$75 / $100	$25 / $50
INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT	19-Jan	THU	8	Connie Beckman		
MARINE NAVIGATION (P)	16-Mar	THUR	10	Bob Cox	$100 / $125	$25 / $50
ENGINE MAINTENANCE	28-Mar	TUES	8	Bruce Rogers	$75 / $100	$35 / $50
OFFSHORE NAVIGATION (JN)	TBD	THUR	13	George Baulig	$125 / $150	$50 / $75
ADVANCED PILOTING (AP)	7-Sep	THUR	10	Bob Cox	$60 / $100	$20 / $40
BOAT HANDLING (S)	9-Nov	THUR	5	Bob Zewski	$75 / $100	$35 / $50
CELESTIAL NAVIGATION (N)	TBD	THUR	14	Ken Beckman	$170 / $210	$75 / $100

LUNCH BUNCH



Thursdays - Jan 5th, Feb 3rd, and Mar 2nd

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

Join us for the camaraderie

Please let Becky McBride know that you plan to attend.
Email louismcbride219@outlook.com or call **727-459-1972**

Beach Clean-up
Saturday, January 28th

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 Seahorse, 800 Pass a Grill Way, Pass-a-Grille Beach, 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

Note the new breakfast location

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.

Schedule your 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

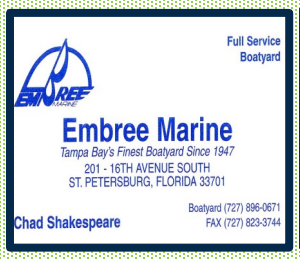
Please contact Jeff if interested in joining the 'team'!

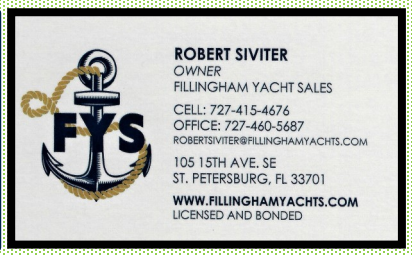
Please support the businesses that have their information in our newsletter

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.





CHANGE OF WATCH

You are cordially invited to join America's Boating Club,
St. Petersburg, for the Celebration of their
83rd Change of Watch

Saturday, February 4, 2023
Social (cash bar) at 1800 – Dinner at 1845
St. Petersburg Yacht Club
11 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Please send your reply to:
reservations@boating-stpete.org
by January 25, 2023

Please indicate your choice of meals.
Prime Rib or Grouper - $64 credit card/$63 cash

House Salad, Rolls & Butter, Chef's Seasonal Vegetables
Iced Tea & Coffee

Dress: Semi-formal
Uniform "A" (dark uniform with bow tie) or appropriate attire

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

ENJOY THE ALWAYS INCLUDED PERKS-DRINKS, WIFI, TIPS

GROUP PRICING FROM $1559pp
Inside stateroom from $1559pp
Outside from $1729pp
Verandah from $1889pp
Suites from $4376pp
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

©2019 Celebrity Cruises. Ships' registry: Malta and Ecuador

SAFETY ARTICLE

by
P/D/C Bob Morris, AP

Times are changing! I grew up in the Mid-west where there are lots of lakes and marinas to have boating fun. As long as we wore our life jackets, the kids were allowed to jump off the boats or docks and have a ball swimming and playing with water toys both in the marinas or at anchor if there were no fishing lines being used nearby. This was a big improvement over play-ing in the family's farm ponds.

There were very few big power boats or large sailboats around loaded with tons of elec-trical equipment - just a few house boats in the area and no "No Swimming" signs to be seen.

My grandkids were raised in the same manner, and we all loved the water.

After retirement, my wife and I bought a 44-foot sailboat and enjoyed cruising both the East coast and the Caribbean for about nine years, using the knowledge we had gained from the many courses offered by the USPS.

We finally wound up back in Florida and have been still active in a couple of Power Squadrons where safety has been my passion.

Just when I thought I knew the subject of boating safety well, I read an article about elec-trical leakage in a BoatUS magazine that nearly set me on the edge of the chair. To say it isn't safe to swim in a freshwater marina where there are many well equipped yachts is certainly an understatement.

The requirement for ground fault leakage interrupters (GFCI) on electrical receptacles in the head, galley, or on a weather deck has been around since the fifties but the use of 30ma ELCI devices on dock pedestals and on some boats is a more recent requirement.

It goes on to say that chances of electro-cution are much higher in fresh rather than in salt water because of difference in conductivity.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to the *Force 12* support staff:

JoAnn Chamberlain
Tom Chamberlain
Jacque D'Louhy
Dawn Eckhart

Winter Calendar of Events

Time	Event	Location	Contact

Date	Time	Event	Location	Point of Contact
		********** **JANUARY** **********		
Jan 1		New Year's Day		
Jan 4	6:30pm	EXCOM	St. Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Connie Beckman
Jan 5	11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Portofino's St. Pete	Becky McBride
Jan 11	5:30pm	General Meeting	St. Pete Yacht Club	Lt/C Fred Hauck
Jan 16		Martin Luther King Day		
Jan 25	5:30pm	Boating/Social Events Planning Meeting	Lima Home	P/C Al Lima
		********** **FEBRUARY** **********		
Feb 1	6:30pm	EXCOM	St. Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Connie Beckman
Feb 2	11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Portofino's St. Pete	Becky McBride
Feb 2		Groundhogs Day		
Feb 4	6:00pm	Change of Watch	St. Pete Yacht Club	Lt/C Fred Hauck
Feb 14		Valentine's Day		
Feb 20		President's Day		
Feb 26-Mar 5		America's Boating Club Western Caribbean Cruise		Dawn Eckhart
		********** **MARCH** **********		
Mar 1	6:30pm	EXCOM	St. Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Fred Hauck
Mar 2	11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Portofino's St. Pete	Becky McBride
Mar 8	5:30pm	General Meeting	St. Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Fred Hauck
Mar 17		St. Patrick's Day		

WINTER BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

4 - Robert Zewski
5 - Anthony Napolitano
7 - Gerald Brennan
9 - Marilyn Van Goey
12 - Michael McBride
13 - Corrine St. Jean
14 - Robert Potter
18 - Bradley Bell
18 - Diana Lee
20 - John Terradista
21 - Harold Hurwitz
21 - Mark Van De Ree
22 - Keith Booe
22 - George Fiber
24 - Debora Finn
25 - Norma Ferguson
26 - Tyler Bell

MARCH

1 - George Baulig
3 - William Eibach
12 - Thomas Poffenberger
14 - Lauren Fernald
15 - Sharlet Fillingham
15 - Terry Sicard
20 - Amy Bell
22 - Axel Hoewt
23 - Audrey Bell
23 - Chuck Piazza
24 - Rima Terradista
27 - Mike Stoddard
27 - James Turley Jr.
29 - Jerry Gorup

BOATING EVENT PLANNING MEETING

Do you have an idea for a boating event?
Do you have a favorite boating activity?
Do you like to plan fun adventures?
Is there something you would like for the squadron to do?

If you answered yes to any of these questions (or just want to have a fun evening sharing ideas), please join us for the Boating Event Planning Meeting.

Who: Friendly Boaters
What: Planning Meeting (including Pizza & Salad – bring your own beverage)
When: 6:30pm Wednesday, January 25, 2023
Where: Fran & Al Lima's

District 22 Spring Conference News

April 21, 2023, and April 21, 2023

*Four Points Sheridan **will not** be available to us this spring due to another standing event that has booked the weekend of our conference.*

SpringHill Suites has allotted us only 25 rooms at $159 or $169 per night

Rate available Thursday, April 20 thru Sunday, April 23
2 nights minimum for this rate
Last day to book is March 30, 2023

Once this allotment is used,
we were able to obtain more rooms
BUT – the rate will be $269 per night.

If you are planning to stay overnight during the conference –
suggest you make your reservation NOW!
The link is Book your group rate for America's Boating Club

Please be sure that you plan to attend before making your reservation, and if you need to cancel, please let us know to allow fellow USPS members to use your place.

You are free to check with other hotels in Punta Gorda, D22 does not have any info on rates nor availability.

Force 12 is a publication of
America's Boating Club
St Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron
3025 44th Ave N
St Petersburg, FL 33714

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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Assistance with this edition:
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