Force 12

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

For Boaters, By Boaters™

St. Petersburg

Safe, Fun, Boating Starts Here!

Winter 2023 **Volume 79** **Issue 4**

Squadron Information

Commander:
Cdr Fredrick M. Hauck, JN
Commander@boating stpete.org

Administrative Officer:
Lt/C Louis E. McBride, P
AO@boating stpete.org

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

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

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

Past Commander: *
P/C Constance H. Beckman, SN

Members at Large: *
P/C Douglas Townes, SN
Lt Elaine Schroeder, AP
Lt Sue Paul, S

* Please see the Roster for contact information or email:
force12@boating stpete.org

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December Holiday Party

Our many thanks to Terry Sicard for arranging our Holiday Luncheon at Isla Del Sol Country Club. We were entertained before and during a fabulous lunch by the musical talent of Farley Compton. After lunch, Terry started the festivities with a GPS quiz, providing clues in addition to the GPS location. Winners were given a Lottery scratch-off ticket. What fun that was! And, in keeping with the holiday spirit, Gene Sicard "tickled the ivories" and led us in song to several Christmas carols. Of particular fun were the singers of "Santa Baby" and "The Twelve Days of Christmas". Winner of the holiday basket was Cory-Jeanne Houck Cox.

Lining up for lunch

Terry giving us the GPS coordinates

Our volunteer carol singers

Santa Baby

That look when the carol being sung doesn't match the sheet music!

*And...drum roll…..
Our Twelve Days of Christmas singers*

MEET YOUR INCOMING BRIDGE

On December 14th, we conducted our Annual Meeting at Boca Ciega Yacht Club. Heavy hors d'oeuvres were provided by the members and thoroughly enjoyed. The best part was the fact the current Commander provided the beverages! During the meeting, we approved the budget and elected the Bridge for the upcoming year - assuming responsibilities during the Change of Watch scheduled for January 19th. Please see the flyer on page 9 of this issue of the *Force 12*. Let's all give them our support and don't forget to volunteer to assist them.

(L to R: Connie, Douglas, Louis, Fred, Bob, Casey, Sue, Glen)

Commander -	Fred Hauck
Executive Officer -	Louis McBride
Education Officer -	Bob Cox
Assistant -	Dan Schroeder
Secretary -	Douglas Townes
Treasurer -	Kathryn Considine
Assistant	Cory-Jeanne Cox
Past Commander -	Connie Beckman
Members at Large:	Elaine Schroeder
	Sue Paul
	Glen Dobos
Committees:	
Auditing -	JoAnn Chamberlain
	Linda Albrecht
Rules -	Sandy Krupa
	Jacque D'Louhy
	Connie Beckman
Nominating -	Al Lima
	Connie Beckman

Beach Clean-up: Saturdays January 20th and March 16th

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

To 'prepare', we meet at the Seahorse at 8am to enjoy the amazing menu for an early breakfast.

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

FROM THE BRIDGE

Commander
Cdr Fred Hauck

Wow….2023 is almost over and 2024 is just around the corner!

We had a great turnout for our Holiday Luncheon at Isla Del Sol Country Club. Many thanks to Terry Sicard for taking the lead; she did a phenomenal job. Of course, assisting her was our own "piano man", husband Gene Sicard.

We also had a great Annual Meeting at the Boca Ciega Yacht Club in which we voted on our 2024 budget and elected our 2023 officers. The election results are listed in this Force 12. I am honored to have been nominated again for and voted in as your Commander again next year.

Be sure to mark your calendar for our upcoming Change of Watch, Friday, 19 January 2024, at St. Petersburg Yacht Club.

On Thursday, 25 January 2024, we will hold a meeting to plan our 2024 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 input 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 go to or activity to do, then let's do it. Remember, this is your club.

Before I wrap this up, I need to give special thanks to members who supported our squadron in the Commander's Department, Executive Departments, and the various Administrative Committees this year. First to Connie Beckman, Casey Considine, and Al Lima for their continuous mentoring. Louis McBride as Secretary and then moving up to Admin Officer, Fran Lima for taking on the role as our squadron chaplain, Vanessa Goodrum as our webmaster, John and Sue Tokarz for cooperative charting and boating events, Jack Albrecht for port captain and SPYC liaison, the late Bob Morris as safety officer, Marilyn Van Goey for dinner/meetings reservations, Rebecca McBride for the monthly Lunch Bunch luncheons, Karen Lieberman for the Super Supper Club, and Jeff Eckhart for Vessel Safety Checks (VSC). Of note, our organization has conducted 49 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 as Assistant Secretary, then moving up to Secretary and for keeping me straight for years.

Administrative Officer
Lt/C Louis McBride

Happy Holidays all! First of all, I hope all of you are enjoying all the activities we are having in the squadron. Each activity has unique opportunities and I recommend not missing out on any of them. All these activities are chaired and planned by multiple committees, and I would like to thank each of them for their hard work including those that led the activities. I would also like to thank all the volunteers that came out to help assist Cats Point Regatta and Beach Cleanups this year as we do our best educating young sailors while also keeping our shores clean.

Keep up the hard work and I cannot wait to do more!

Secretary
Lt/C Michele Kennedy

THANK YOU

As my time as Secretary (2020-2024) is drawing to an end, I would like to thank several individuals. First, I will start with Louis McBride who allowed me to step away from the position for just over a year. Next, I would like to thank Sandy Krupa, Linda Albrecht, and Dawn Eckhart who graciously filled in for me when I was unavailable to attend. Always having my back, a huge thank you to Casey Considine who has been there for me every step of the way.

I cannot thank Sandy Krupa enough for stepping in to take over the role of editor of the *Force 12*. We tried for six months before she and Tom moved to get a volunteer; no joy. Now, she is the only one willing to take on the role albeit from afar. I urge each and every one of you to provide whatever input you can to assist her with the issues. And speaking of the *Force 12*, thank you to JoAnn and Tom Chamberlain, Jacque D'Louhy, and Dawn Eckhart for your reviews and mailing over the years. It was greatly appreciated.

Lastly, thank you to Douglas Townes for volunteering to take on the role of Secretary for the upcoming Bridge year.

Education Officer
Lt/C Robert Cox, Jr

Let me start this final 2023 SEO input with a hardy thanks to the entire SEO staff for a job well done. You all went above and beyond with all the challenges we faced during the past year. Thank you to Dan Schroeder, ASEO; Jeff Eckhart, Local Board Boating Safety Lead; Michael McBride, Local Board Adv Grade; Robert Zewski, Local Board of Electives; and to the following instructors Jack Albrecht, George Baulig, Connie and Ken Beckman, Al and Fran Lima, Louis McBride, Stan Morse, Bruce Rodgers, Howard Rothstein, and Douglas Townes.

We have closed out the fall classes with the Advanced Marine Navigation Course concluding this past November. Our ABC (now called Boating Safety) courses were generally well attended this past year as we embraced doing a one day (8-hour course), but our ability to translate that into membership was not as hoped, with only about 20% of our ABC students electing to become new members. We had mixed results with our courses and seminars which were not well attended. However, of particular note, the Squadron received the District 22 Prince Henry the Navigator Award for efforts in advancing our Junior Navigation and Navigation Courses. The award was donated by the Government of Portugal in 1965 to the District and awarded by the District on an annual basis to the Squadron demonstrating the most conversions of Advance Marine Navigation to Offshore Navigation.

The weather has turned cooler earlier than usual this fall, but the boating in Tampa Bay continues to be enjoyable with winds steady for sailboats and quiet inshore 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.

I received the following information from the District 22 DEO. You should be aware of the effort to make basic boating education mandatory for all boat operators in Florida. Last year HB 261 failed and this year Senator Ileana Garcia is trying again with SB 30. For this effort to pass, it will need some vocal support and I am encouraging everyone to reach out to their State representatives to let them know where they stand on boating education for all boat operators in Florida. A letter was sent to Senator Ileana Garcia and pointed out three changes that might make the bill more palpable to the various stakeholders. In summary, the key changes I support are:

1. Phase in the age requirement over five years starting in 2024 as this may be easier to get the tourism industry and livery operators to buy in to the change. It would also allow residents time to take the course.
2. Limit the temporary certificate to one use only.
3. Lower the engine limit to 6-horsepower and under.

Please consider supporting these three changes in the hopes that mandatory boating education will finally become a reality here in Florida.

The final 2024 training calendar can be found on page 5 and is also posted on our Squadron website. We are excited about getting back to a full training schedule next year.

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).

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. 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 fun on the water; we are here to serve you and the local boating community.

Treasurer
Lt/C Kathryn Considine

2023 DONATIONS TOTAL THROUGH NOVEMBER: $ 1,963.46

These donations are:
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.

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

Thank You!

Schedule of Classes

	Start Date	Day	# Wks	End Date	Cost w/ Book	Sharing Book
Boating Safety Course						
Boating Safety Course - 1	27-Jan	SAT	1 Day	27-Jan	$70.00	$35.00
Boating Safety Course - 2	16-Mar	SAT	1 Day	16-Mar	$70.00	$35.00
Boating Safety Course - 3	31-Aug	SAT	1 Day	31-Aug	$70.00	$35.00
Boating Safety Course - 4	26-Oct	SAT	1 Day	26-Oct	$70.00	$35.00
Seminars						
How to Use a Chart Seminar	24-Jan	WED	1	24-Jan	$ 35.00/$ 50.00	$15.00/$25.00
Using GPS	21-Feb	WED	1	21-Feb	$ 35.00/$ 50.00	$15.00/$25.00
Using VHR/DSC Marine Radio	20-Mar	WED	1	20-Mar	$ 35.00/$ 50.00	$15.00/$25.00
Suddenly in Command	17-Apr	WED	1	17-Apr	$ 35.00/$ 50.00	$15.00/$25.00
Hurricane and Boats	24-Apr	WED	1	24-Apr	$ 35.00/$ 50.00	$15.00/$25.00
Basic WX and Forecasting	22-May	WED	1	22-May	$ 35.00/$ 50.00	$15.00/$25.00
On-board Emergencies	18-Sep	WED	1	18-Sep	$ 35.00/$ 50.00	$15.00/$25.00
Advanced Courses						
Marine Navigation (P)	25-Jan	THU	10	28-Mar	$100.00/$125.00	$35.00/$50.00
Cruise Planning	13-Feb	TUE	9	9-Apr	$ 75.00/$100.00	$35.00/$50.00
Boat Handling (S)	21-Mar	THU	5	18-Apr	$ 75.00/$100.00	$35.00/$50.00
Offshore Navigation (JN)	TBD	THU	13	TBD	$125.00/$150.00	$50.00/$75.00
Adv Marine Navigation (AP)	5-Sep	THU	10	7-Nov	$ 75.00/$100.00	$35.00/$50.00
Weather	17-Sep	TUE	8	5-Nov	$ 75.00/$100.00	$35.00/$50.00
Celestial Navigation (N)	TBD	THU	14	TBD	$150.00/$175.00	$50.00/$75.00

- **Note** - Navigation's additional fee will be added if additional exams or site folders are needed.
  Plotters - $8.00; Dividers - $12.00 Additional

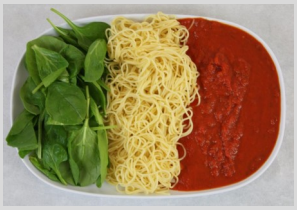
Winter Calendar of Events

Time	Event	Location	Contact
	********** JANUARY **********		
Jan 10 6:30pm	EXCOM	St. Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Fred Hauck
Jan 11 11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Portofino's, St. Pete	Lt Becky McBride
Jan 19 6:00pm	Change of Watch	St. Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Fred Hauck
Jan 20 9:00am	Beach Clean-up	Pass-A-Grille	Lt/C Louis McBride
	********** FEBRUARY **********		
Feb 5-10	Annual USPS ABC Conference in Orlando, FL		
Feb 7 6:30pm	EXCOM	St. Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Fred Hauck
Feb 8 11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Portofino's, St. Pete	Lt Becky McBride
Feb 11-18	Annual USPS ABC Cruise from Ft. Lauderdale		Lt Dawn Eckhart
Feb 14 5:30pm	General Meeting	St. Pete Yacht Club	Lt/C Louis McBride
Feb 28 6:30pm	EXCOM (for March)	St. Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Fred Hauck
	********** MARCH **********		
Mar 13 5:30pm	General Meeting	St. Pete Yacht Club	Lt/C Louis McBride
Mar 14 11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Portofino's, St. Pete	Lt Becky McBride
Mar 16 9:00am	Beach Clean-up	Pass-A-Grille	Lt/C Louis McBride
Mar 23	District 22 Commanders and Council Meetings in Sarasota		

LUNCH BUNCH

Thursdays: Jan 11th, Feb 8th, and Mar 14th

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**

FALL BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

4 - Bob Zewski
5 - Anthony Napolitano
7 - Gerald Brennan
9 - Marilyn Van Goey
12 - Michael McBride
13 - Corrine St. Jean
14 - Bob Potter
19 - Elisa Caro
21 - Mark Van De Ree
22 - George Fiber
25 - Norman Ferguson
25 - Roger Kinzie

MARCH

1 - George Baulig
3 - William Eibach
12 - Thomas Poffenberger
14 - Lauren Fernald
15 - Terry Sicard
19 - Jarrett Wolfe
22 - Axel Hoewt
23 - Manny Carmona III
27 - Mike Stoddard

Ships Store

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

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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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.

ROBERT SIVITER
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OFFICE: 727-460-5687
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AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®
For Boaters, By Boaters™
St. Petersburg

You are invited to

America's Boating Club, St. Petersburg

for the Celebration of their 84th Change of Watch

Friday, January 19, 2024

Social at 1800 – Dinner at 1845

at St. Petersburg Yacht Club

11 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Please send your reply to: reservations@boating-stpete.org

by January 10, 2024

Please indicate your choice of meal

Chicken Piccata	***~ Chicken Breast, Capers & Lemon Butter Sauce***	***$53pp***
Almond & Herb Crusted Salmon	***~ Wilted Greens & Beurre Rouge***	***$55pp***
English Cut Prime Rib	***~ 12 oz. Cut, Au Jus & Horseradish***	***$65pp***

All entrées include Salad and Dessert and are accompanied by Chef's Selection of Starch and Vegetables, Warm Rolls, Freshly Brewed Coffee, Iced Tea, & Water

Uniform A with bow tie or appropriate dress/semi-formal

FEB 2025 EASTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

7 days: 9-16 Feb 2025

Roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale on the BRAND NEW CELEBRITY ASCENT®

Itinerary: Bimini, Bahamas; Labadee, Haiti; Georgetown, Grand Cayman

ENJOY THE ALWAYS INCLUDED PERKS-DRINKS & WIFI

GROUP PRICING FROM $1789pp
Ocean view from $1789pp
Infinite Verandah from $1919pp
Concierge class from $2119pp
Aqua class from $2319pp

Price does not include $153.22 pp taxes & port fees. Travel protection & transfers are additional.

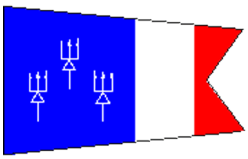
Feel free to invite your friends, family and neighbors to join us as we sail on this revolutionary new ship!

Everyone must book through Dawn Eckhart in order to be included in our group and receive the exclusive group benefits. This is the annual fundraiser event for America's Boating Club. Email dawn@dawnstraveldeals.com or call (727) 403-0406 to join our group on this amazing new ship!

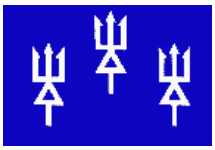
2024 Spring Conference

Friday, 12 April and Saturday, 13 April

Roundtables - Member Luncheon
District Conference Meeting



Change of Watch



Hotel Info:

Four Points Sheraton – 941-637-6770
$149.00 + $9.00 amenity fee and taxes (normal senior rate $297)
cutoff date 3/20
Make your reservation directly with hotel and use code PO1768 to get special rate

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Springhill Suites by Marriott – 941-347-4224
$179.00 + taxes (normal senior rate $229)
includes breakfast - cutoff date 3/21
Book your group rate for Americas Boating Club by clicking this link

Rates are good for one day prior and a day after the conference dates
Must book for 2 nights and state United States Power Squadrons for these rates

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America's Boating Club
St Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron
4384 95th Avenue N
Pinellas Park, FL 33782

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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