Force 12

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

For Boaters, By Boaters™

St. Petersburg

Safe, Fun, Boating Starts Here!

March/April 2025 *Volume 81* *Issue 2*

Thank you to the following members who volunteered their time working for USPS in 2024 and have earned a merit mark!

Jack Albrecht	*Linda Albrecht*	*George Baulig*
Connie Beckman	*Ken Beckman*	*JoAnn Chamberlain*
Tom Chamberlain	*Casey Considine*	*Bob Cox*
Jacque D'Louhy	*Glenn Dobos*	*Dawn Eckhart*
Jeff Eckhart	*Evie Eibach*	*Charlie Ellins*
Jim Greenhalgh	*Fred Hauck*	*CJ Houck-Cox*
Joe Kennedy	*Michele Kennedy*	*Sandy Krupa*
Karen Lieberman	*Al Lima*	*Fran Lima*
Louis McBride	*Michael McBride*	*Becky McBride*
Stan Morse	*Joe Muczynski*	*John Novack*
Sue Paul	*Bob Potter*	*Nancy Reeder*
Bruce Rodgers	*Dan Schroeder*	*Carol Segundo*
John Tokarz	*Susan Tokarz*	*Douglas Townes*
Marilyn Van Goey	*Bob Zewski*	

Recognizing outstanding member voluntarism is the Chief Commander's privilege each year. The above deserving individuals were presented with a single Merit Mark, the highest recognition of annual voluntarism in United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club. It was my honor to have presented a Merit Mark for outstanding contributions of time and effort to the advancement of recreational boating safety and United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club.

Squadron Information

Commander:
Cdr Louis E. McBride, P
Commander@boating-stpete.org

Executive Officer: Open
Administrative Officer: Open

Education Officer:
Lt/C Robbie Paul, AP
SEO@boating-stpete.org

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

Secretary:
Lt/C W. Douglas Townes, SN
Secretary@boating-stpete.org

Past Commander: *
P/C Fred Hauck, JN

Members at Large: *
Lt Glenn T. Dobos, AP
Lt Sue Paul, S
Lt Jeff Eckhart, AP

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

Ships Store Help Wanted

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 and Squadron bag/satchels

NOTE! Contact Casey Considine to volunteer to take over the Ship Store - it's a great way to get to know fellow members!

2023 DISTINCTIVE COMMUNICATOR AWARD NEWSLETTER

'Distinctive Communicator' is an award for publications that meet or exceed USPS defined criteria.

Our Force 12 has been recognized for this award.

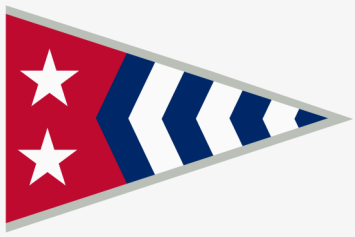
Some Thoughts to Ponder……

These items are

"ways to kill an organization"

1. When you get to a meeting, or class - do you go straight to 'your table' without getting to know other members?
2. Only sit with 'your own friends' at 'your table'?
3. Let that new member sit at your table - AND - get to know the new member ?
4. Do you take part by offering new ideas - and - help implement the ideas?
5. Vote on every motion, do nothing - then go out and criticize everything?
6. If asked to help - say you don't have time?
7. Do you actually read this newsletter and email communication from the Squadron?
8. Do you read (or at least peruse) The Ensign?
9. Do you criticize the leaders - remember - its easier to criticize than do, or to lead!

Please take a moment to think about what part YOU have taken as a member of America's Boating Club - St Pete!



Editing Help Wanted/Needed

After 15 years of finding errors in the Force 12
JoAnn & Tom Chamberlain have decided to retire
Thanks for your help!!

Would you like to review and help correct my mistakes?

Contact me @ tskru@outlook.com

Sandy Krupa, Editor

Commander
Cdr Louis McBride, P

As I start off this year as your new Commander, I would like to thank and applaud Past Commander Fred Hauck, AP for leading the Squadron the past two years.

Thank you to all those who participated at the US Power Squadron Annual Meeting held in Orlando a few weeks ago, including P/R/C Connie Beckman, Lt/C Douglas Townes, Lt Rebecca McBride, Lt Carol Segundo and Lt Dawn Eckhart. During this meeting, we gained valuable insights regarding updates to the iMIS systems, insurance developments and various changes at the national level.

There is a quote displayed on my door that I would like all of you to know "It's time for your next adventure, how exciting," from Robin Williams in Night at the Museum as it reminds me of our next adventure that is out there. Please consider contributing your time and talents for the squadron as we do this adventure together. There will always be opportunities for outings and new activities, which signify the promise of fresh adventures.

The District 22 Spring Conference will be held just over the Sunshine Skyway in Bradenton 2-3 May. It is an event that merits your attendance as the Chief Commander, Ralph Bernard, AP will be in attendance. The Chief and D/C Ron Jones will be holding a Town Hall meeting where various subjects will be discussed along with interesting Seminars and election of new District Officers. This year's theme is tropical, and the district and several squadrons will be hosting hospitality rooms. The flyer with information for hotel reservations and details is included on Pages 10 and 11.

I encourage members to attend this invaluable event!

Let us remember the words of Robin Williams

in Night at the Museum:

"Smile my boy, sunrise."

Executive Department News:

Vessel Safety Check: Decals have been distributed to our examiners. You are encouraged to contact any one of them listed on Page 6 to schedule your 2025 check. If you are interested in becoming an examiner, please reach out to Jeff Eckhart to discuss.

Beach Clean Up: As March would be our next month to service the cleaning of Pass-A-Grill Beach, we are still awaiting updates regarding the status of beach renourishment needed following the hurricanes which impacted the beaches. We will let you know if we get word.

Life Jacket Loaner Program at Tierra Verde Marina: Jeff Eckhart has graciously volunteered to lead this initiative to continue the program. If you are interested in contributing a little time to the program, please do not hesitate to contact Jeff.

We welcome any additional suggestions for civic service initiatives or activities.
Please feel free to pass along ideas to Cdr McBride for consideration as squadron projects.

- - - -

Education Officer
Lt/C Robbie Paul, AP

It is an honor to serve as the new Squadron Education Officer (SEO). Bob Cox has done a fantastic job over the past several years, and I realize that I have some big shoes to fill. I'm grateful for the ongoing support from Bob as I find my bearings. I look forward to working with our awesome instructors to continue the strong education program the squadron has built over decades. I'm excited to adapt our curriculum to better fit with the digital world and provide access to a larger audience.

My wife Sue and I moved to St Pete in the summer of 2022. Moving from Central Pennsylvania to the Tampa Bay area has really opened up the opportunity to spend time on the water, which we love.

One of the first organizations we joined was America's Boating Club. We have taken a number of courses and truly appreciate the insights and tips the instructors provided from their own boating experiences.

Congratulations to the following Students who have passed recent courses:

The Weather Course this past December:

George Hirsch, Doug Wisehaupt, Sue Paul and Robbie Paul.

The January Boating Safety Course:

Nova Kamyee Au, Ayscue Quincy Jr., Ayscue Quincy III, Eliza Cardew, Michael Dzioba, Derick Hesse and Pat Jeffares

Spring Courses:	Start	Day	# Weeks	End Date	Cost w/ Book	Sharing Book
Boating Safety Course						
Boating Safety Course - 2	22-Mar	SAT	1 Day	15-Mar	$70.00	$35.00
Seminars						
SUDDENLY IN COMMAND	16-Apr	WED	1	16-Apr	$35.00/50.00	$15.00/25.00
HURRICANE AND BOATS	23-Apr	WED	1	23-Apr	$35.00/50.00	$15.00/25.00
BASIC WX & FORECAST-ING	21-May	WED	1	21-May	$35.00/50.00	$15.00/25.00
Advanced Courses						
MARINE NAVIGATION (P)	13-Mar	THUR	10	22-May	$100.00/125.00	$35.00/50.00

If you don't see either a course or seminar that you are interested in, please send me an email at robbie.paul@me.com.

As a reminder, Americas Boating Channel (https://americasboatingchannel.com) hosts a broad selection of videos on boating. The America's Boating Club app is also an excellent resource for all things boating. Best of all, it's free to download from the App Store! This phone app contains several educational and safety resources that can be at your fingertips for easy reference and enhance your boating experience.

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

Safety Article

By Lt Joe Muczynski, Safety Officer

H2O Heroes

H2O Heroes can be lifesavers of people and marine life while being stewards of the water itself. Take a moment to imagine the cries of marine life entangled in fishing lines/ nets or the silent death of turtles ingesting plastic bags instead of jellyfish. Leaving a location "without a trace" or "better than you found it" is a powerful scouting principle. This principle is ethically aligned with stewardship of nature and the silver/golden rules.

Imagine personal red/green H20 Hero Gauges indicating degrees of bad/good H2O stewardship. Your personal H2O gauge indicates to the greener direction as you personally avoid polluting, choose biodegradable products like sunscreen and cleansers, contribute to beach cleanup, occasionally dispose of found trash, lead by example, motivate and educate others, etc. Leading by example and looking for opportunities to emotionally connect and educate are powerful force multipliers that can inspire and motivate successive generations to appreciate the benefit of being an H2O hero.

Did you know that small amounts of diesel and oil pollution from multiple sources accumulate over time, degrading water quality, harming marine life, contaminating sediments, and disrupting ecosystems? While individual spills may seem minor, their combined impact leads to long-term environmental damage, bioaccumulation in the food chain, and economic costs, making prevention and responsible disposal critical.

Take a moment to imagine the cumulative effect of multiple generations of a world population rationalizing small infractions of H2O stewardship and the accumulating ramifications to successive generations of people and marine life.

Now imagine the consequences of multiple generations of a worldwide population practicing and promoting individual H20 stewardship, or better, the compounding improvement from leaving a marine environment better than you found it.

Take a moment to envision swimmers safely immersed in a sparkling clear waterway, picnic areas filled with people enjoying healthy locally caught seafood and the sounds of a thriving ecosystem near your closest shore.

Your continued efforts as an H2O hero can literally make a world of difference!

We now have the 2025 Stickers
Remember to schedule <u>your</u> 2025 inspection!

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

Make sure to contact any one of our dedicated inspectors directly:

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

or our chair: **Jeff Eckhart** - jeffeckhart41@gmail.com or 727-295-5920

Calendar of Events

Time	Event	Location	Contact
March			
4	6:30pm	Boating/Activities Meeting	Lima's Home	P/C Al Lima
5	6:30pm	EXCOM Meeting	St Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Louis McBride
12	5:30pm	General Meeting	St Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Louis McBride
13	11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Paisano's Pizza	Lt Becky McBride
13	7:00pm	Marine Navigation	St Pete Sail Center	Lt/C Robbie Paul
17	Happy St. Patrick's Day		
25	8:00am	Boating Safety Course	St Pete Yacht Club	Bob Cox & Jeff Eckhart
April			
2	6:30pm	EXCOM Meeting	St Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Louis McBride
9	5:30pm	General Meeting	St Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Louis McBride
10	11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Thai-Am Restaurant	Lt Becky McBride
16	7:00pm	Suddenly in Command Seminar—St Pete Sail Center	Lt/C Robbie Paul
20	Happy Easter!		
23	7:00pm	Hurricane & Boats Seminar	St Pete Sail Center	Lt/C Robbie Paul

Highlights from February Meeting

The Past Commander's Silver Trident Award (recognizing the member deemed to be the 'Member of the Year') was presented to P/C John Albrecht, AP.

Paula Tusia and her assistant, Ben Tusia of Sea Turtle Trackers gave an interesting presentation

Monthly Meetings are held at **St. Petersburg Yacht Club the 2nd Wednesday of the month**

Offering the SPYC Dinner Buffet with 2 entrees & 4 desserts
$31 ($1 discount for cash or check)

Parking in the SPYC Garage is INCLUDED

Last date for reservations or cancellations is 5pm the Friday prior to each meeting

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March

1 – George Baulig
12 – Thomas Poffenberger
14 – Lauren Fernald
22 – Axel Hoewt

April

2 - Joe Pennavaria & Nancy Reeder
4 - Katie Rodgers
15 - Joe Kane
16 - Michelle Siviter
22 - Jack Flick
23 - Jeff Boehler
26 - Michele Kennedy
29 - Sue Tokarz

6 – 8 June 2025

National Women's Sailing Association (NWSA) is hosting 3 days of Knowledge-Skills-Fun full day of hands-on workshops for women sailors of all levels, both On Land and ON THE WATER.

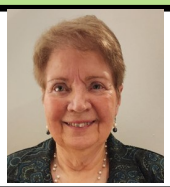
The women-led workshops are sail instructors and captains who will share knowledge and expertise. Classes include taking the helm on various vessels, with classes for beginners, cruisers, and to racers. Friday classes will be held at the USF - St. Petersburg campus and the Mastry Engine Center, with a tour of Island Packet Yachts in the afternoon followed by a social gathering with Women Who Sail Tampa Bay. Saturday classes will be held at USF, while Sunday classes and brunch will be held at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club.

In Memoriam of Evie Eibach

Evelyn "Evie" Eibach, 88, passed away peacefully December 28. She was born in Detroit, graduated from Wittenberg College in Ohio in 1959 with a teaching degree and worked as an elementary teacher. After seeing an ad for overseas teachers, Evie taught at a military base in Japan. It was a brave and adventurous move for a small-town girl in her 20s.

It was there that she first met and dated Bill. Evie continued to teach abroad and transferred to Germany, where she reunited with Bill and thus began their 53 year marriage.

Evie was a passionate teacher and went on to receive her Master's Degree in counseling and then worked as a school counselor and also an art teacher. She loved art, creating new crafts, cooking, and interior decorating. She and Bill were avid travelers and worked and lived around the world. Once retired, they settled in St. Pete and were longtime members of the St. Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron where Evie served as Roster Editor, Data Entry Chairman and on numerous committees. They enjoyed boating as well as traveling the U.S. in their motor home. She was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with her husband, P/C Bill Eibach, SN.



Treasurer
Lt/C Kathryn Considine, JN

Thank You!

2025 Donation Total Through January : $183.00

The donations are from various sources, i.e.: memorials for members who have passed, from members to offset expenses, 50/50 at General Meetings, general donations to the Squadron, and Life Members in lieu of dues. The funds are then used to help offset costs of the printing and distribution of the Force 12 and electronic communication fees.

New Year's Day Rescue

By Lt Dawn Eckhart

New Year's Day 2025 started off like any other day. It was a beautiful, sunny and slightly breezy day so we decided to take our friends out on our boat for a little sightseeing and lunch. But we weren't even in the water 20 minutes when everything changed. We were heading out to give our friends a look at the Gulf, but when I saw it was too rough out there, I turned back.

Upon re-entering the Pass-A-Grille channel, we heard MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY on the VHF. There was a 29' Monterey cruiser that had anchored in the middle of the channel and was quickly sinking. I began to communicate with both the Coast Guard and the vessel captain (Tim), letting them know that I was close by and able to render assistance.

As we were approaching the vessel, Tim made one last call to the Coast Guard that he was abandoning ship. When we arrived on scene, only the bow was sticking up out of the water and Tim had about a two foot hole near the windshield in which to escape. Thankfully, he had his life jacket on and also had two throwable cushions with him. He swam towards our boat and we threw a line when he was close enough, then helped him onboard. We ensured he was ok medically (my girlfriend is an RN) and gave him a blanket to prevent hypothermia.

We notified the Coast Guard that Tim was safe and stayed close to the sinking vessel while awaiting further direction from the Coast Guard. My girlfriend took pictures of the boat's registration number and a screen shot on her phone of the coordinates of our location which she texted to the Coast Guard. About 10 minutes later, a St Petersburg Fire and Rescue vessel approached us and took Tim onboard so they could take him to shore and further assist him. At that point, the Coast Guard thanked us for a job well done and then we continued on with our cruise to lunch.

I emailed Tim later to find out if he was ok and what he thought had happened. Here's his recollection: "All I know is that as I headed out to the Gulf, I decided it was too rough and started to turn the boat back. I then heard a very loud metal on metal sound that appeared to come from the starboard drive. I immediately shut down the engine and went to check out the drive underneath the swim deck. The housing was still there. I started heading back and the remaining port engine stopped working. I dropped my anchor as I was in the middle of the channel with no power. I opened the bilge access and saw that water had already filled up to the generator.

I turned on a 2nd bilge pump to try to stop the flooding, but there simply was too much water coming in. I called BOAT US hoping I could get pulled to a beach or something, but the water continued to flood the boat, and I then issued a Mayday call on the radio. You picked me up shortly after that. The plan is to haul the boat out of the water this morning and then I can try to figure out what caused such a massive and catastrophic loss of hull integrity."

Tim emailed me a few days later and informed me that the stern drive u-joint broke allowing the shaft to destroy the housing and boot for the drive which allowed the water to pour into the bilge and sink the boat.

District 22 Conference
Courtyard Bradenton Sarasota/Riverfront

2025 SPRING COUNCIL and CONFERENCE

Preliminary SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

This is the Preliminary Schedule, watch for details!

March 22, 2025 - Held at Sarasota Power & Sail Squadron Building
2814 Hyde Park Street, Sarasota, FL 34239

Commander & Officer Meeting - 1030-1200 Lunch **Council Meeting** -1300-1400

May 2 - 3, 2025 - Held at Courtyard by Marriott Bradenton
100 Riverfront Drive, Bradenton, FL 34205

Friday May 2 – *ALL* Member Workshop

1300 -1500 – Discussions on iMIS, Marine SEO and Insurance

1600 - 1800 – District Commander's 'Tropical' Social

enjoy tropical libations in the Commander's Suite wearing your tropical attire

Saturday May 3

0800 - 0900 – Coffee & Pastry 0830 – 1200 - Registration Desk Open
0900 -1145 - Roundtables and Seminars
1200 -1330 - **Lunch with speaker, Lt Garry Stubbs – History of D22**
1300 – 1350 – Registration Desk Open
1345 -1600 – **District Conference and Election of Officers**

***Change of Watch* - social 1745 - 1830 / dinner served 1830**
Change of Watch Ceremony

Hotel Info: - - - - Courtyard by Marriott – call 888-731-9096 by April 1

The hotel rate is only $134.00 per night (plus tax)

Must book for 2 nights and state America's Boating Club/United States Power Squadrons for these rates

2025 Spring Conference Meals

Saturday, May 3, 2025

Luncheon – 1200 - River Palm Room
Speaker – D22 History by Lt Garry Stubbs, S

Lunch Buffet - $25.00

Caesar Salad with Fresh Croutons, Grilled Chicken Breast, Chicken Salad
Served with Croissants and Butter, Dessert
Coffee and Iced Tea

Change of Watch – River Palm Room
Social – 1745, Dinner Served 1830, Change of Watch 1930

Dinner Buffet - $46.00

Fresh Garden Greens Salad with Assorted Dressing, Pasta Primavera Salad, Caesar Salad
Baked Ziti with Bolognese Sauce, Chicken Breast Marsala
Chef's Vegetable, Herbed Garlic Bread
Chef's Choice Dessert
Fresh Brewed Coffee and Iced Tea

Register for the Conference and Purchase your meals at the District 22 Website

americasboatingclub-d22.org — No login or password needed.

Click "About Us", then "Registration/Purchase" and follow the instructions.

(Credit Card required). Or simply click one of these two links:

Registration/Purchase Page

https://americasboatingclub-d22.org/registration-purchase/

No Reservations or Cancellations after 1200 April 25, 2025!

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We hope you use the goods and/or services of the businesses listed above, let them know that you saw their card in the *Force 12*.

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