Force 12

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

For Boaters, By Boaters™

St. Petersburg

Safe, Fun, Boating Starts Here!

May/June/July 2025 *Volume 81* *Issue 3*

Celebrate Founder's Day with a Picnic

Enjoy a Picnic Buffet **Wednesday, 11 June**

Hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, broccoli salad, coleslaw, baked beans, potato chips, assorted cookies

Squadron "birthday" cake, ice cream

AND

FUN and surprises

$31 ($1 discount for cash or check) Parking in the SPYC garage is INCLUDED

Last date for reservations or cancellations is 5pm Friday, 6 June

Send your reservation to: reservations@boating-stpete.org

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

Where is my 2025 Roster?

The formal booklet form of the St Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron roster will not be published in 2025. An electronic version is available, called a phone list.
A hard copy was shown at the March General Meeting and a sign up list to receive an email copy was provided.
If you would like to receive an electronic copy, please email our Secretary, Douglas Townes at det949@mindspring.com.

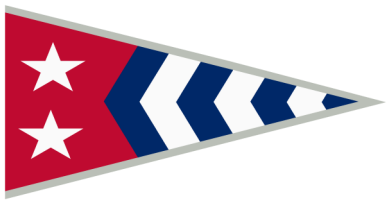
Sadly, we report the passing of 2 former VERY active Members

Don Roth passed away
March 13 at 93 years of age
and
Mary Lou Warner passed away
March 24 at 99 years of age

May they rest in peace

Show that you are a proud member of the Squadron

Check out the ship's store for items with the squadron logo:
license plates (for the front of your vehicle), burgees to fly on your boat , a variety of hats or visors, messenger bags, large bags (for transporting your supplies to or from your boat), and shirts.
We can even have the squadron logo added to your favorite shirt.



The items in the Ship's Store are displayed at each General Meeting.

We're also looking for a volunteer to take over the Ship Store.

It's a great way to get to know fellow members and collect a merit mark.

Contact Casey Considine to discuss

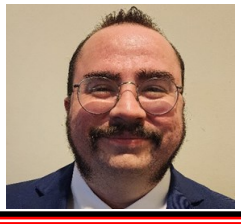
'Distinctive Communicator' is an award for publications that meet or exceed USPS defined criteria.

Our Force 12 has been recognized for this award.

Help Wanted/Needed

Would you like to review and help correct my mistakes?
Contact me at tskru@outlook.com
Sandy Krupa, Editor

Commander
Cdr Louis McBride, P



The Bridge hopes everyone enjoyed a delightful Easter and Patriots' Day!

During our Land and Boating Events planning meeting, a busy schedule brimming with exciting activities was created. These include cruising in the Keys, a raft-up in Gulfport, and a trip to Caladesi Island State Park after it re-opens from hurricane damage.

There are numerous initiatives within our squadron either resuming or gaining momentum! From Jeff Eckhart 's ongoing support of the Life Jacket Loaner Program to Glenn Dobos launching the Port Captain program, Sandy Krupa's continued support of being the lead of Force 12, there is much to celebrate! This revitalization is truly refreshing!

Additionally, we have created an information card on the web for easy access for our social media pages. If you wish to follow any of our social media pages, you can find it at https://boating-stpete.carrd.co/.

An event that merits your attention is the District 22 Spring Conference scheduled for the first weekend of May just over the Sunshine Skyway in Bradenton. This year's theme is tropical, and the District will be incorporating the theme into various activities, including a hospitality room. Fliers with the schedule, meal purchase info and an explanation of the various activities can be found on pages 9, 10 and 11 of this issue. If you are interested in participating, please contact me to discuss and I can assist you with the required registration process.

Do you know of any area where the squadron could help with Civic Service initiatives or activities? Please feel free to contact me so that we can consider incorporating them as proposed ideas that could be done at the squadron level.

As we approach the month of May, I would like to share a quote from my first Scoutmaster, Scott Ludes, which I often contemplate during this time of year: "The poet Ella Wheeler Wilcox composed the following lines: *"One ship sails east and another sails west, With the same winds at their backs, It is the positioning of the sails, not the gales, That determines the course they take.""*

Sailboats are capable of tacking in various directions under the same wind conditions, yet regardless of their course, they ultimately reach the same destination to the same goal in mind - homeport.

May you enjoy safe, happy boating this summer!

Members of Troop 295 who participated in our last beach cleanup. Our Squadron actively promotes the event to all local scout units.

Thank You Troop 295!

Executive Department

The Vessel Safety Check trifolds have been updated to reflect 2025 rules, etc. We encourage you to become a volunteer in this valuable safety activity, just reach out to Jeff Eckhart to discuss.

The next beach clean up is scheduled for 17 May, the location is still to be determined as the City of St Pete Beach is still renourishing the beach.

Glenn Dobos has volunteered to lead our Port Captain program. The following explains the program:

- A Port Captain is a member of USPS®, who stands ready to provide advice and assistance about safe boating and general issues regarding specific waterways.
- The Port Captain can recommend service providers for boats such as mechanics, sail repairs medical products or assistance, local restaurants, lodging and shopping. Online tools available for boaters, including Garmin® **Active Captain,** is software available to cruisers to provide the latest information listed by other boaters for boaters.
- The Port Captain is familiar with the activities of local USPS Boating Clubs, the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary, including events available in the towns they represent.
- Port Captains are under no obligation to provide more than friendly advice, enjoy people and be of assistance to any and all contacts, if possible.
- They are eager to share their knowledge of local waters, unmarked hazards to safe navigation and to make inquirers feel they are welcome and have found a friend.

Suggest you contact Glenn at 727-561-9110 if you have questions or are interested in becoming a volunteer in becoming a Port Captain.

Administrative Department

6 May - Lunch Bunch - 11:30am
Lunch at Paisano's Pizza n' Pasta, 6000 4th Avenue N, St Pete

14 May – General Meeting - Social 5:30, Dinner 6:00, Program 7:00pm - SPYC

Speaker, Artist Robyn Crosa,
talks on Cuban art based around the folk art of gourds

17 May – Beach Clean Up - ????
Watch for an email with updates on the completion of the Pass-a-Grill beach renourishment.
Breakfast 8:00am at Skyway Jacks, 2795 34 Street S, St Petersburg

23 - 24 May – Boca Ciega Yacht Club Memorial Day Raft Up
Watch for details from Louis McBride and Michael McBride

1 - 8 June - Scuba Cruise to Islamorada
2 spots remain for cruise to Florida Keys for scuba diving and/or snorkeling around the coral reefs

10 June - Lunch Bunch – 11:30am
Enjoy Taco Tuesday at Cali Restaurant, 190 37th Avenue N, St Pete

11 June – Founders Day at SPYC – Social 5:30, Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00pm
Celebrate the founding of SPSPS in 1939 by enjoying a picnic buffet

Education Officer
Lt/C Robbie Paul, AP

We had to cancel a couple of our spring courses due to lack of enrollment. There is general recognition and acknowledgment that we need to promote our classes more widely. We have great content and awesome instructors. We need to do a better job at getting the word out. We have been advertising on Facebook and in the Florida Mariner Magazine. Going forward, we will be expanding our promotional reach to other social media platforms as well as exploring co-marketing with boating related websites.

We are exploring having a presence at the upcoming Tampa Bay Boat Show in June.

Below find the upcoming courses for the rest of this year:

Start	Day	# Weeks		End Date	Instructor	Cost w/ Book	Sharing
Boating Safety Course							
Boating Safety Course - 3	6-Sep	SAT	1 Day	6-Sep	Jeff Eckhart	$70.00	$35.00
Boating Safety Course –4	25-Oct	SAT	1 Day	25-Oct	Bob Cox	$70.00	$35.00
Seminars							
BASIC WX & FORECASTING	**21-May**	**WED**	1	21-May	Bruce Rodgers	$35.00/50.	$15.00/25.
ON BOARD EMERGENCIES	17-Sep	WED	1	17-Sep	TBD	$35.00/50.	$15.00/25.
USING MARINE RADIO	24-Sep	WED	1	24-Sep	Louis McBride	$35.00/50.	$15.00/25.
HOW TO USE A CHART	15-Oct	WED	1	15-Oct	Bob Cox	$35.00/50.	$15.00/25.
Advanced Courses							
OFFSHORE NAVIGATION (JN)	TBD	THUR	13	TBD	Stan Morse	$125.00/150.	$50.00/75.
ADV MARINE NAV (AP)	4-Sep	THUR	10	6-Nov	Bob Cox	$75.00/100.	$35.00/50.
CRUISE PLANNING	16-Sep	TUES	8	4-Nov	Al Lima	$75.00/100.	$35.00/50.
BOAT HANDLING (S)	6-Nov	THUR	5	11-Dec	Bob Zewski	$75.00/100.	$35.00/50.
CELESTIAL NAVIGATION (N)	TBD	THUR	14	TBD	George Baulig	$150.00/175.	$50.00/75.

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.

Let me know if you have any suggestions for better ways to promote our classes.

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

Vessel Safety Checks

National Safe Boating Week will be held from May 17-23, 2025, reminding all boaters to brush up on boating safety skills and prepare for the boating season. This observance week is the annual kick-off of the Safe Boating Campaign, a global awareness effort that encourages boaters to make the most of their boating adventure by being responsible.

"We're committed to teaching boaters that the best boating experience is a safe day on the water," said Peg Phillips, executive director of the National Safe Boating Council, a nonprofit dedicated to helping create a safe boating experience for all boaters and the lead organization of the Safe Boating Campaign. "This National Safe Boating Week, prepare for a great boating season by inspecting your boating safety gear and commit to providing comfortable life jackets for all your passengers to wear every time you go boating."

America's Boating Club, St Petersburg offers a Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program to help boaters ensure their vessels comply with federal and state safety regulations. During a VSC, a qualified Vessel Examiner will inspect your boat and provide recommendations for any necessary safety improvements. If your vessel meets all requirements, you'll receive a VSC decal indicating compliance.

To prepare for a VSC or to conduct a self-assessment, you can refer to the Vessel Safety Check Form (ANSC 7012). This form outlines the items that will be inspected, including:

- Display of numbers
- Personal flotation devices (PFDs)
- Fire extinguishers
- Backfire flame control
- Navigation lights
- Marine sanitation devices
- Registration/documentation
- Visual distress signals
- Ventilation
- Sound-producing devices
- Pollution placards
- Navigation rules
- Overall vessel condition

Paddle Craft also recommends a safety check, the specialized form - Paddle Craft Vessel Safety Check (ANSC 7012A) is available for your review.

Remember, a VSC is a voluntary, free service (without fines), aimed at promoting boating and ensuring you have the necessary equipment to handle emergencies on the water.

We encourage you to become one of our inspectors, contact Jeff Eckhart to discuss

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:

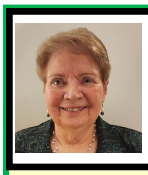
Jim Greenhalgh tbskjim@gmail.com
Bob Zewski bobzewski@yahoo.com

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

Calendar of Events

Time	Event	Location	Contact
	May		
2 - 3	District 22 Conference	Bradenton	Cdr Louis McBride
6 11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Paisano's Pizza	Lt Becky McBride
7 6:30pm	EXCOM Meeting	St Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Louis McBride
11	*Happy Mother's Day to all mothers*		
14 5:30pm	General Meeting	St Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Louis McBride
17	Beach Clean Up	??????	
23 - 24	Boca Ciega Yacht Club Raft Up		Cdr Louis McBride
	June		
4 6:30pm	EXCOM Meeting	St Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Louis McBride
10 11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Cali Restaurant	Lt Becky McBride
11 5:30pm	Founders Day	SPYC	Cdr Louis McBride
15	***Happy Father's Day to all fathers***		
	July		
4	*Happy Birthday, America!*		
10 11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Thai-Am Restaurant	Lt Becky McBride

watch your email for updates for announcements of summer activities



Treasurer
Lt/C Kathryn Considine, JN

Thank You!

2025 Donations through March : $256.00

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

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May	June	July
1 – Georgia Binns	1 – Clara Poffenberger	1 - Glenn Dobos
2 – John Novack	12 – George Pownall	3 - Linda Albrecht
3 - Carol Lavigna	18 - Gene Hammond	5 - Robbie Paul
9 - Jacque D'Louhy	19 - JoAnn Chamberlain	7 - Kit Dabney
12 - Daniel Schroeder	23 - Karen Lieberman	28 - Steve Epps
15 – Casey Considine	23 – Shelia Moore	29 - Bryce Rodgers
21 – Gail Poffenberger		31 - Demario Willett
31 – Sue Paul		

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.

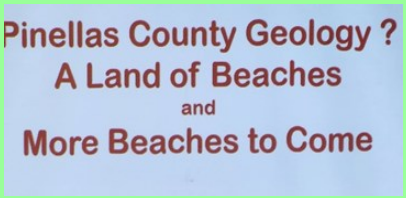
Squadron Members enjoying the Complimentary cocktail party aboard their Margaritaville Cruise

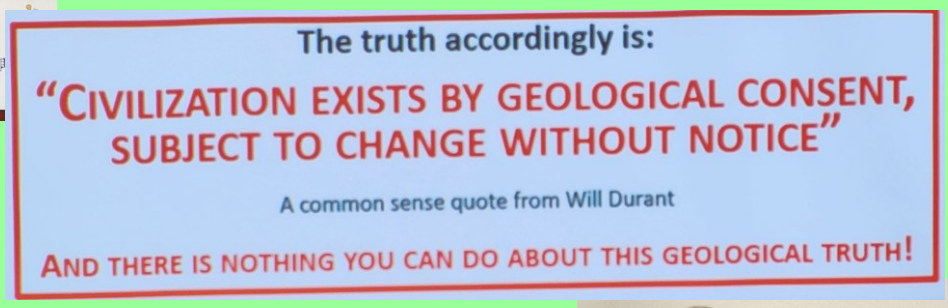
12 April Outing to the Florida Aquarium

The group had perfect weather for our visit to the Florida Aquarium. Jamie Whitehurst, our tour guide – along with some help from volunteer diver Fred Hauck – provided valuable information about the aquarium, upcoming projects, and the current exhibits.

March Meeting

Speaker P/C Bruce Rodgers, a professional Geologist gave an enthusiast and interesting talk on how the St Pete area was formed.

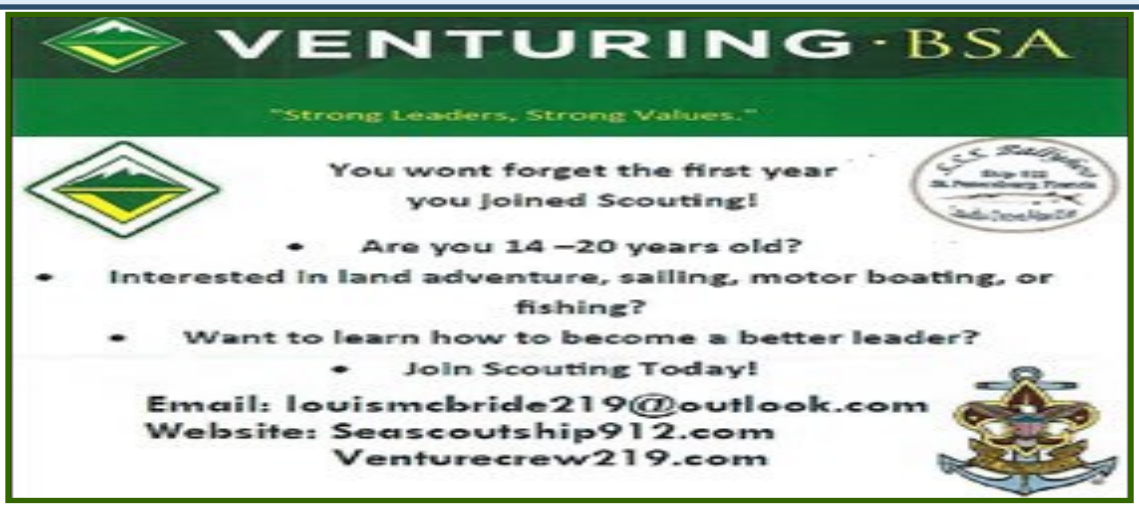




Past Commander Fred Hauck was presented with his Past Commander Plaque by his successor, Commander Louis McBride

April Meeting

Speaker, Michael McBride, a long time Boy Scout and Sea Scout Leader as well as father of our Commander, Louis McBride explained all the various activities and projects of the Sea Scouts



2 – 3 May 2025 - Courtyard by Marriott Bradenton

100 Riverfront Drive, Bradenton, FL 34205

Friday 2 May – *ALL* Member Workshop

1300 -1500 – Discussions on:

1300 – 1340 - Insurance – Ruth Wiztum, National Law Officer

1340 – 1420 - iMIS Questions – Yvonne Hill

1420 – 1500 - Digital Marketing of Your Squadron

5th Floor - 1600 - 1800 – *District Commander's 'Tropical' Social*

Wear your tropical attire and enjoy tropical offerings in the Commander's Suite And several Joint Squadron Suites

Saturday 3 May

0800 - 0900 – Coffee & Pastry

0830 – 1200 - Registration Desk Open

0900 – 1015 - Roundtables and Seminars

***Rio Vista E* -- Education Updates – D/Lt/C Myles Gee**

***River Palm Room* -- Paint a Masterpiece – Kris Peterson & Meg Gee-Schmidt**

20 max – pre-register - rfox627703@aol.com

***Rio Vista W* -- Nautical COOP Charting Survey Procedure and Review –**

P/Lt/C David Siesel & Jose Antonio Garnham

***4th Floor Board Room* -- 0900 – 1100 - Instructor Re-Certification – Stf/C Susan Agruso**

Registration by April 25 – email Susan Agruso @ jsa818.sa@gmail.com

***Rio Vista* -- 1045 – Town Hall Meeting – C/C Ralph Bernard & D/C Ron Jones**

***River Palm* -- 1200 -1330 - Lunch *Welcome to District 22,* created by Garry Stubbs**

Presented by Myles Gee & Carol Segundo

1300 – 1350 – Registration Desk Open

***Rio Vista* -- 1345 -1600 – District Conference and Election of Officers**

***River Palm* -- *Change of Watch* - Social 1745 – 1830 (cash bar)**

Dinner served 1830 - Change of Watch Ceremony 1930

Attire: Friday and Saturday: squadron shirts

Change of Watch: Bridge - Uniform G (short sleeve shirt, black pants or skirt)

Members and Guests: Uniform G or business casual/dressy casual attire

2025 District 22 Spring Conference Roundtables

Friday 2 May

All members and officers alike come together to hear updates and get answers regarding:

1300 – 1340 - Insurance – Ruth Wiztum, National Law Officer
1340 – 1420 - iMIS – Yvonne Hill, National Publications Director
1420 – 1500 - Digital Marketing of Your Squadron

Saturday 3 May

***4th Floor Board Room* -- 0900 - 1100 - Instructor Recertification** – *Stf/C Susan Agruso, AP*

Are you a D22 instructor who needs to be recertified in 2025? If you are, join with other instructors to talk about how to teach more effectively and to share your teaching experiences. Renew your Instructor Certification while enjoying this stimulating learning experience.

Registration required by April 25 – email Susan Agruso @ jsa818.sa@gmail.com

***River Palm Room* -- 0900 – 1015 - Paint a Masterpiece** - *Kris Peterson, assisted by Margaret Gee*

Join renowned Bradenton artist, Kris Peterson in painting your own 'masterpiece'. Kris has accumulated and sold a large number of original and limited edition watercolor paintings over her years in Venice, Italy along with commissions for international galleries and clients.

Limit of 20 participants, register with Roxanne Fox -rfox627703@aol.com.

***Rio Vista E* -- 0900 – 1015 - Education Updates** – *D/Lt/C Myles Gee, SN*

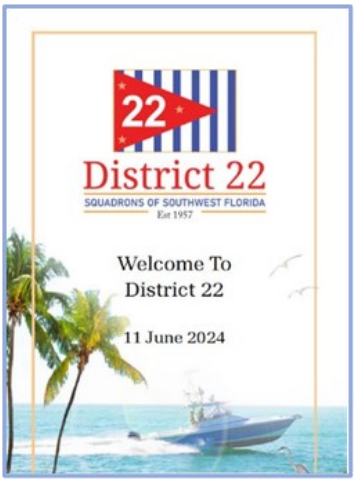
Obtain information on all the latest education updates released at the 2025 National Meeting.
Discuss your squadron's issues.

***Rio Vista W* -- 0900 – 1015 - Nautical COOP Charting Survey Procedure and Review –**
P/Lt/C David Siesel, AP & Jose Antonio Garnham, SN

Hear how to be part of a crew that takes pictures and records observations which are reported to NOAA. Learn how to enjoy a fun morning out on the water while being part of this vital service to the local community and our national marine navigation system.

Rio Vista* -- 1030 – 1145 - Town Hall - *D/C Ron Jones, AP & C/C Ralph Bernard, AP

Hear how the District and National USPS operate. Use this opportunity to discuss issues which may be of interest to the group. Bring your questions and/or issues that you might have.



***River Palm* -- Lunch – 1200 - "Welcome to District 22"**
Speakers, Myles Gee & Carol Segundo

Filling in for D/Lt Garry Stubbs, S, creator

The 68 page book brings together the history, objectives, mission and vision of the United States Power Squadrons organization.

Including the history of District 22, along with all the past and present Squadrons of the District.

Link to Welcome To District 22 - District 22 - America's Boating Club

Force 12 is a publication of
America's Boating Club
St Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron
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Pinellas Park, FL 33782

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Please support the businesses that have their information in our newsletter
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'
Distribution by email. A fee is required for a hard copy contact force12@boating stpete.org for details
Editor: Sandy Krupa Assistance: Jacque D'Louhy, Michele Kennedy and Dawn Eckhart