Force 12

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

For Boaters, By Boaters™

St. Petersburg

Safe, Fun, Boating Starts Here!

September/October 2025 **Volume 81** **Issue 4**

Engaging With Our Community

We started our summer strong at the Tampa Boat Show held 27– 29 June at the Florida Fairgrounds. It was a huge success! We had a ton of people come by and chat with us about our group. We even had a raffle for a free class, and we made 33 contacts! We have reached out to all we connected with at the show and we're going to keep in touch with them in the coming months.

Most members have noticed that our membership has been on the decline lately. It's not only our squadron, it's happening all over Americas Boating Club and other organizations. One way we're working to 'turn the tide' is by getting out there and engaging with our community.

Thank you to our members who took the time to represent us at the booth. Fred Hauck, Fran and Al Lima, Jamie Rimovsky, Douglas Townes, Carolyn Brown, Robbie Paul and the McBride family (Michael, Becky, and Louis) - you all did an amazing job! Thanks to your teamwork, we're able to reach out to more people and spread the word about our club.

We ask that ***YOU*** keep spreading the word among the boating community, and consider taking on a more active role in the coming year. We'd love to have you on board!

Sue Paul - Member at Large

Celebrating Ken Beckman turning 103 years young!

Over 50 people, many of them members of SPSPS, gathered on Saturday, 2 August to celebrate P/D/C Ken Beckman's 103rd Birthday.

Among his many accomplishments, Ken flew 48 B-17 bombing missions over occupied Europe during World War II, served as the navigator aboard Air Force One during parts of the Truman and Eisenhower administrations, and worked on development of the C5A cargo plane. For many years, Ken taught SPSPS celestial navigation classes and as a member of the National Offshore Navigation committee, helped develop celestial navigation courses and exams. The gathering, at Pass-a-Grille Yacht Club, featured a World War II trivia contest, as well as an open bar and selection of fine appetizers.

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

Chaplain's Corner

I said a little prayer for you and asked the Lord above to keep you safely in His care.
I did not ask for fortune, for riches or for fame,
I only asked for blessings.
Blessing to surround you in time of trial and stress and have inner joy fill your heart with peace and happiness.

Believe it or Not

* Labor Day is Monday, 1 September
  Labor Day honors American workers.
  Workers make our Nation strong.
* Four Corners - the only place in the US where 4 states meet at one point: Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico.
* We get only one childhood -
  some of us assume a second with age.
* Grandparents Day is Sunday, 7 September
  Grandparents are there to help children get into mischief they haven't thought of yet.
* Why is the 3rd hand on a watch called the second hand?
* In politics, people give you what they think you deserve and deny you what they think you want.
* Happy Halloween - enjoy the costumes
  And leftover candy.

By P/C Tom Krupa, October, 2013

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, catch and correct my mistakes?
Contact me at tskru@outlook.com
Sandy Krupa, Editor

Commander
Cdr Louis McBride, P

I hope that everyone enjoyed splendid cruises this summer, whether on land or at sea!

We hosted remarkable events throughout the summer, and from the stories shared with me and the events I was able to attend, there was a sense of camaraderie all around!

I am thrilled to announce that over the upcoming months, we will explore a variety of subjects during our general meetings, ranging from history to technology (a subject that I find truly impressive) here in the Burg! I eagerly anticipate the topics we will delve into in the coming months at our general meetings. Additionally, for the cruises and other activities, please stay alert as there are numerous options available, each offering something distinctive! Make sure to enjoy yourself, as that is the top priority!

A reminder to everyone that the District 22 Fall Conference is scheduled for 11 October. It is an event that merits your attendance, with this one being the first ever "1 Day" Conference. If you are interested in participating, please contact me so that I can assist you with the registration process for this invaluable event, which is to be held in Cape Coral at the Cape Coral Squadron Building.

Every month of June, we sadly hear the statistic reports for various 'on the water' incidents for recreational boating. There has been a drop in the number of deaths, yet a rise in incidents last year compared to prior years. This being said, being prepared is the best thing you can do to be safe on the water as you never know what can happen out there.

Executive Department

Currently, there have been updates regarding Florida Freedom Boater Safety decals. However, I recommend you to still have your vessel inspected by one of our vessel inspectors. Although there was a reduction in fatalities last year related to recreational boating, incidents have still risen. Conducting safety checks can assist in ensuring your safety while on the water. Would you be interested in volunteering for our vessel safety check program? Reach out to Jeff Eckhart.

We will be doing our next beach clean-up on Saturday, 27 September, we meet at 9am at Castle Hotel, 401 Gulf Way, St Pete Beach. Several of us meet for breakfast at Skyway Jacks at 8am.

The youth sailing regatta, Cats Point Regatta, is coming up! If you are interested in volunteering, there is a day of service for squadron members on 8 November from 8am to 4 pm, lunch included, helping with the events that are ongoing for the youth that are in attendance. If you have any expired flares and fire extinguishers, we are accepting those too! Please contact Cdr Louis McBride, P to donate those expired devices safely or if you are interested in volunteering this year.

We welcome any additional suggestions for civic service initiatives or activities.

Please feel free to contact me so that we can consider incorporating them

to be done at the squadron level.

Administrative Department

3 - 7 September – National Fall Governing Board

This National meeting serves as a platform to understand national developments of the Power Squadron, as Squadrons from across the USA, as well as from various regions of the world, convene to discuss the future of boating. This year's meeting will take place in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

10 September – General Meeting at SPYC - Social 5:30pm, Dinner 6:00, Meeting/program 7:00

The speaker will be Robbie Paul who will present how to use Facebook and report how our social media has been working on Facebook with the Squadron education program.

11 September - Lunch Bunch - 11:30am

Lunch at Thai-Am restaurant, 6040 4th Street N, St Pete, famous for their Thai cuisine

20 September - Fall Commanders and Council Meeting

Squadron commanders, officers and/or delegates of District 22 meet together to discuss business within the organization and hold the Council Meeting required prior to the Fall Conference.

27 September - Beach Cleanup - Breakfast 8am, Cleanup

Help the local community clean Pass-a-Grille Beach. Meet next to Castle Hotel, 401 Gulf Way, St Pete Beach. Optional breakfast beforehand at Skyway Jacks, 2795 34 Street S, St. Pete.

7 October - Lunch Bunch Taco Tuesday 11:30am

Enjoy Taco Tuesday at Cali Restaurant , 190 37th Avenue, St Pete

8 October – General Meeting at SPYC - Social 5:30pm, Dinner 6:00, Meeting/program 7

The keynote speaker will be Rev. William Graveley, who will talk about the Historic Gas District of St Pete and share his experiences growing up there.

11 October – District 22 Fall Conference

Attend this one-day conference meeting to hear updates, attend seminars, discuss business and vote on various organization items.

18 October – Egmont Key Cruise

Cruise to our Local Gem - Egmont Key. Watch for details via email

Thank You to Our Delegates to the D22 Spring Conference

Jamie Rimovsky, Carol Segundo, Fred Hauck, Louis McBride, Bruce Rodgers, Michele Kennedy, Connie Beckman, Ken Beckman, Dawn Eckhart, Becky McBride, Michael McBride

Education Officer
Lt/C Robbie Paul, AP

We are actively advertising the upcoming fall boating courses and seminars on Facebook and in the Florida Mariner Magazine. Our education program was promoted at the Tampa Bay Boat Show in June.

An additional "Facebook Page" for America's Boating Club St. Petersburg has been created - **we encourage you to check it out and 'like and follow' us.** This page is in addition to the current "Facebook group" we have. This new page allows us to promote our organization and better engage with the audience. Having a dedicated page gives us the ability to run ads and "boost" posts. Boosting simply means we are paying Facebook to promote a post to reach a larger or more targeted audience. Specifically, we are boosting our boating courses and seminars. When boosted, these posts will appear in the timeline of all boating enthusiasts in the St. Pete/Tampa Bay Area. We have had some success in getting the word out by boosting. For instance, the upcoming Boating Safety Course in September currently has 18 registered students. This is more than we've had in many quarters. This is promising and there is still much work to do.

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							
On Board Emergencies	17-Sep	WED	1 Day	17-Sep	TBD	$35.00/50.00	
Using Marine Radio	24-Sep	WED	1 Day	24-Sep	Louis McBride	$35.00/50.00	
Using GPS	9-Oct	THURS	1 Day	9-Oct	Douglas Townes	$35.00/50.00	
How to Use a Chart	15-Oct	WED	1 Day	15-Oct	Bob Cox	$35.00/50.00	
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

Corrosion

Corrosion can compromise the strength of components and become a safety concern. Understanding corrosion and methods of preventing it allows you to protect your vessel properly.

There are several types of corrosion.

Oxidation is a chemical reaction between oxygen and metals. For some metals (e.g. tin, lead) a layer of oxidation forms that can shield remaining metal from further corrosion. When water is introduced on the surface, oxidation can accelerate 100-1000x by creating an electro-chemical reaction between slightly dissimilar areas on the wetted surface (anodes and cathodes). Treatments can be applied to the surface (e.g. anodization, plating, painting, etc.) to shield metal from oxidation. When these shields are compromised (e.g. scratched or separated due to poor bonding), then pitting and filliform corrosion, respectively, will occur.

Another form of electro-chemical corrosion occurs in crevices where surfaces become isolated from oxygen. This surface is electrically different from surrounding surfaces and saltwater as electrolyte will promote an electro-chemical reaction between these electrically different surfaces (anodes and cathodes). Keeping crevices clean with freshwater rinsing can help.

Galvanic corrosion occurs when dissimilar metals conduct electricity. An electrolyte (e.g. saltwater) between these surfaces creates an electro-chemical reaction. The anode dissolves into the electrolyte, while electrons flow to the cathode. In some cases anode ions can be moved to the cathode. When done intentionally the process is electroplating. When prevented intentionally the result is a battery. The first batteries were consecutively stacked plates of dissimilar metals separated by material that absorbed an electrolyte.

Galvanic corrosion between metals can be prevented by isolating them with an electrical insulator. This is common when combining steel and aluminum items. In electrical systems a copper lug contacting the lead post of a battery can galvanically corrode the copper and create copper oxide (green). Copper does form a barrier layer when exposed to oxygen, but it dissolves easily and is effectively an electrical insulator for marine applications. Therefore copper must be protected, especially in a saltwater environment.

ABYC recommends using tin plated copper lugs and wiring. To understand why, consider that different metals have different properties, including their ability to be electrically active. Those less electrically active metals are said to be more noble, similar to how noble elements are less chemically reactive. We can order metals by their nobility. Those close together in order have less electro-chemical potential and less galvanic corrosion. Although tin and copper can react galvanically, tinned copper allows no electrolyte interface. An electrically insulating coating (e.g. PVC) also protects the copper's tin shield from being damaged.

Tin and lead both form a protective barrier layer when exposed to oxygen and with exception of unusual environments (e.g. acids, chlorides) corrosion is prevented. Tin and lead are adjacent on the noble order and therefore not susceptible to galvanic corrosion.

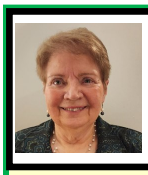
Galvanic corrosion can also be prevented by sacrificing a less noble metal, by placing it in the electrolyte with a more noble anode. This is commonly done within hot water heaters and near propellers and their shafts.

Galvanic corrosion can also occur between vessels sharing an electrolyte (e.g. saltwater) and electrically connected to shore power. A galvanic isolation device is therefore required in series with shore power safety ground to block DC current. This device is designed fail safe (i.e. shorted) to prevent electrical shock hazard that would otherwise occur with a disconnected safety ground.

Note that a failed galvanic isolator no longer blocks DC current and leaves the vessel susceptible to galvanic corrosion when connected to shore power. Therefore it is important to have this device checked regularly or suffer from vessel-to-vessel galvanic corrosion.

Calendar of Events

Time	Event	Location	Contact
September			
4	7:00pm	Advance Marine Nav	St Pete Sail Center	Lt Bob Cox
6	8:00am	Safe Boating Course	St. Pete Yacht Club	Lt Jeff Eckhart
10	5:30pm	General Meeting	St Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Louis McBride
11	11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Thai-Am Restaurant	Lt Becky McBride
16	7:00pm	Cruise Planning	St Pete Sail Center	P/C Al Lima
17	7:00pm	On Board Emergency Seminar - Sail Center		TBD
20	10:30am	District Cdr/Council Meeting	Sarasota	Cdr Louis McBride
24	7:00pm	Using Marine Radio Seminar - Sail Center		Cdr Louis McBride
27	9:00am	Beach Cleanup	Pass-a-Grille	Cdr Louis McBride
October			
1	6:30pm	EXCOM Meeting	St Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Louis McBride
7	11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Cali Restaurant	Lt Becky McBride
8	5:30pm	General Meeting	St Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Louis McBride
9	7:00pm	Using GPS	St Pete Sail Center	Lt/C Douglas Townes
11	9:30am	**D22 Conference**	Cape Coral	Cdr Louis McBride
15	7:00pm	How to Use a Chart	St Pete Sail Center	Lt Bob Cox
25	8:00am	Safe Boating Course	St Pete Yacht Club	Lt Bob Cox



Treasurer
Lt/C Kathryn Considine, JN

Thank You!

2025 Donations through March : $634.30

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!

September

3 - Robert Torche
3 - Chet Rees
4 - Threse Hammond
4 - Stan Morse
7 - Connie Beckman
10 - Lainey Fernald
11 - Jose Reyes
13 - Fran Lima
15 - Christy Fernald
15 - Don Reeder
18 - Becky McBride
21 - Doug Wisehaupt
22 - Robyn Crosa
24 - Joe Kennedy
29 - Tom Chamberlain
30 - Erik Ball

October

7 - John Tokarz
8 - Cheryl Leary
12 - Don Grier
13 - Nancy Shivers
13 - Clastel Patrick
21 - Joel Medina
22 - Joe Muczynski
23 - Brad Novack
23 - Stefanie Stevenson
27 - Dennis Reynard

Passing of Linda Potter

Linda Lucille Potter, SN passed away August 13 at the age of 77. She was diagnosed in 2014 with Alzheimer's Disease then suffered a debilitating stroke in 2020. Alzheimer's never dented Linda's gentle, sweet, cooperative, loving spirit. She was a joy to be with until the very end, always greeting friends with a smile.

Linda was born in Britton, South Dakota and earned a pharmacy degree at South Dakota State University. She moved to Minnesota and practiced pharmacy at some 70 Target stores, scattered across Minnesota, Wisconsin and Florida. Linda is survived by her husband, P/C Bob Potter, SN, son Jacob, three sisters and a brother.

Linda and Bob officially married in 2000 and were together for more than 30 wonderful years. The couple enjoyed many years of recreational boating on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers before moving to St Petersburg in 2005. They joined the St Pete Squadron in 2010 and became active attending all social functions as well as Squadron, District and National meetings while taking all the education classes to earn the grade of Senior Navigator in 2014. Linda served as treasurer in 2013, earning 10 merit marks. She was also a past member of the Boca Ciega Yacht Club and the St. Petersburg Yacht Club.

An informal memorial will be held
Thursday 28 August at 1430 at Lake Seminole Square, 8333 Seminole Blvd., Seminole

Founders Day Dinner/Meeting

11 June 2025

Carol Segundo provided an extremely informative presentation of the history of St. Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron prepared by P/C Sandy Krupa.

A slide show was running in the background showing members enjoying numerous events over the years.

July Clearwater Yacht Club Boating Event

The weather cooperated for the joint gathering of St Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron and Clearwater Sail and Power Squadron held 18—20 July. Fran and Al Lima came via water as did Mary and Tommy Markunas, of the Clearwater Squadron. Sue and John Tokarz stayed onboard the Lima's boat.

Peter and Carol Losi (Commander of Clearwater, as well as St Pete Associate members) and Fred and Michele Kennedy stayed at a nearby hotel.

The staff, libations, and food at the Clearwater Yacht Club did not disappoint. This year, there were bands playing at the Yacht Club on Saturday. All enjoyed time by the pool and camaraderie. Saturday night, the Lima's hosted members on their boat with pain killers (provided by the Limas) and margaritas (provided by the Markunas'). Sunday's brunch did not disappoint!

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

FEBRUARY 2026 CARIBBEAN CRUISE

6 days: 16-22 Feb 2026

Roundtrip from Port Canaveral on the beautiful *SKY PRINCESS*

Itinerary: Nassau, Freeport, Grand Turk

GROUP PRICING FROM $789pp
Inside from $789pp
Balcony from $1139pp
Mini suites from $1409pp

Travel protection & transfers are additional.
OR-take advantage of current promotional pricing at time of booking

A hotel block is already arranged for Sunday night in Cape Canaveral including parking during the cruise

Email dawn@dawnstraveldeals.com or call

(727) 403-0406 to join our group on this beautiful ship!

PRINCESS®

D22 Eastern Caribbean Cruise

7 days: 23-30 May 2026

Roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale on the beautiful *REGAL PRINCESS*

Itinerary: Princess Cays, San Juan, St Thomas

GROUP PRICING FROM $1203pp
Inside from $1203pp
Balcony from $1603pp
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Mini suites from $2113pp

Travel protection & transfers are additional.
OR-take advantage of current promotional pricing at time of booking

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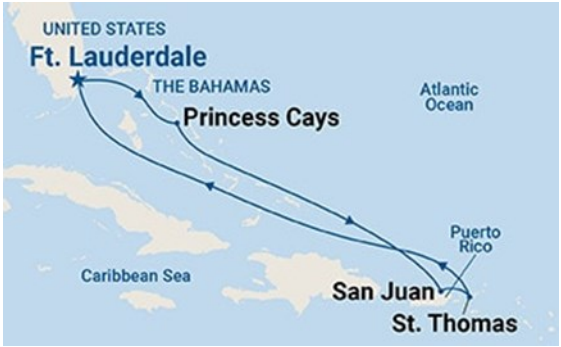
(727) 403-0406 to join our group on this beautiful ship!



UPDATE!

Commanders' Meeting & D22 Council Meeting

Saturday 20 September

Sarasota Power and Sail Squadron Building
2814 Hyde Park Street, Sarasota, FL 34239

Registration 1030

Commanders' Meeting 1100-1230

Led by *Cdr Barbara Warshaw*, Sarasota with *Cdr Mike Kohl*, San Carlos Bay, recorder

1230 – 1300 - Sandwich buffet with chips, drinks and cookies - $5.00

Advance registration and payment required

Access D-22 webpage at **americasboatingclub-d22.org -** Sign in NOT required

Once there, select **About Us** from the menu
Scroll to **Registration/Purchase**
The registration page will open 24 August and close 17 September

Late registrations cannot be accommodated.

Any questions or issues, please email Ed Maxwell at **edandsuemaxwell@gmail.com**.

Council Meeting 1300-1500

All Squadron Bridge Officers and Executive Committee members are encouraged to attend

- -

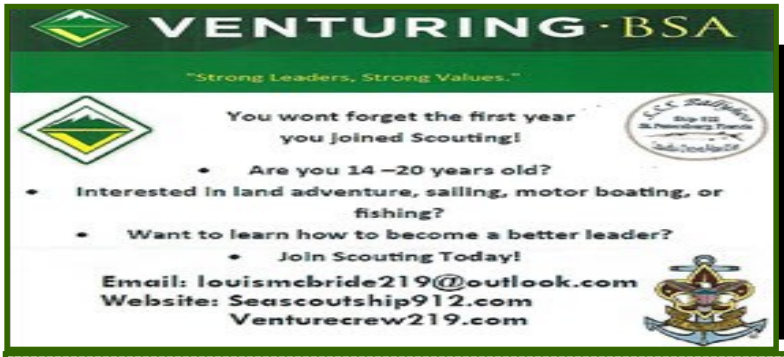
Watch for Details regarding our ***first '1 Day'***

District 22 Fall Conference

Saturday 11 October

Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron Building
917 SE 47th Terrace, Cape Coral, FL 33904

Force 12 is a publication of
America's Boating Club
St Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron
4384 95th Avenue N
Pinellas Park, FL 33782



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
Contributors this month: Sue Paul and Bob Potter