Force 12

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

For Boaters, By Boaters™

St. Petersburg

Safe, Fun, Boating Starts Here!

St. Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron

November/December - *Volume 82 – Issue 5*

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving

And
Merry Christmas

Squadron Information

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

Executive Officer: Open
Administrative Officer: Open

Education Officer:
Lt/C Zoran Stanisic, 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 Becky McBride and Lt Jeff Eckhart, AP

"Distinctive Communicator Awards"

Awarded by National to Squadrons whose newsletter and website exceed USPS criteria.

Message from Commander Louis E. McBride, P

As we enter the final months of 2026 and prepare to welcome 2027, I want to reflect on the accomplishments, dedication and continued growth of the St. Petersburg Sail & Power Squadron. Serving as your Commander has been an honor, and I could not be prouder of the members who make our organization a strong and active part of the boating community.

My appreciation to the members who have earned Merit Marks this year. Your dedication and at least 12 hours of service do not go unnoticed. Whether through education, vessel safety checks, cooperative charting, community service, leadership or simply lending a helping hand at our activities, each of you represents the foundation of our Squadron.

A ***thank-you*** to everyone who participated in our Founders Day celebration. Since our founding in 1939, the St. Pete Squadron has carried forward a tradition of education, fellowship and service. It is important that we continue to recognize our history while looking toward the future.

One of the accomplishments I am particularly proud of is our continued effort to promote a more youthful and welcoming organization. We are preparing the boating leaders of tomorrow. Through our involvement with Sea Scouts and younger boaters, we are demonstrating that America's Boating Club has something valuable to offer every generation. Younger members bring fresh ideas and a willingness to learn, while our longtime members provide the knowledge, experience and mentorship that make us special. We are creating an environment where generations can work side by side, sharing their passion for boating, safety, education and service. This is something we should all take pride in, and I encourage every member to continue supporting these efforts.

I am looking forward to the Annual Meeting and Change of Watch. These occasions provide an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of the past year, celebrate our members and elect the leadership that will guide our Squadron. I hope to see everyone there as we gather to celebrate this past year.

Special Thanks to our Bridge Officers, Executive Committee, Committee Chairs, Instructors, Volunteers and members who have made this year possible. Leadership is never due to one individual; it is the combined dedication of those who believe in our organization.

As we begin the holiday season and the new year, I encourage everyone to remain involved, attend our activities and invite others to experience what makes our Squadron special. Every new member, volunteer hour and act of service helps strengthen our future.

I am proud of where we have been, of what we have accomplished and where we are going. Let us continue building a Squadron that honors its traditions, welcomes new generations and remains committed to serving our boating community.

Thank you all for another wonderful year. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting and Change of Watch!

Fair winds and following seas, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Executive Department

The Executive Department promotes boating safety, environmental stewardship and volunteer service in our community. Members support the mission of USPS to make a positive impact on the waters of Tampa Bay and beyond.

Merit Mark recommendations for 2026 have been submitted for processing. Merit Marks recognize the members who volunteer time to support Squadron activities, educational programs and community service. We thank everyone who has stepped forward throughout the year to help keep our organization active and successful.

Vessel Safety Examiners have conducted 40 vessel inspections this year. These inspections play an important role in educating boaters about proper safety equipment, Federal and State requirements and safe boating practices. We extend our appreciation to the volunteers who conduct these inspections and are looking for members to become certified Vessel Safety Examiners. If you enjoy working with fellow boaters and want to make a difference in our community, we encourage you to consider joining this program (only 10 exams a year earns a merit mark). Members interested in becoming an Examiner should contact Jeff Eckhart for more information on training and certification.

The next Beach Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, November 21. Come for a walk on the beach some Saturday morning while cleaning Pass-a-Grille Beach. These efforts are an opportunity to give back to the community while enjoying fellowship with Squadron members. Every volunteer makes a difference in preserving the natural beauty of our coastal waters.

The annual St. Petersburg Boat Show will be held January 14 - 17! Come check out the boats and spend some time in our booth, chatting with 'old salts' as well as folks interested in purchasing their first boat. We need you to help us share the word about our Squadron.

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2027 and 2028 USPS National Meetings

Will be held at the Embassy Suites USF Tampa

February 7 – 14, 2027

And

February 6 – 13, 2028

Watch for future details!

Administrative Department

7 November: District 22 Fall Conference – Palmetto Elks Club – 1pm

Members from Squadrons along the West Coast of Florida come together to collaborate, share ideas, and strengthen the future of our squadrons

7 Nov: Cats Point Regatta - Boca Ciega Yacht Club – 8am – 4pm

Annual day of service assisting with the games at the Regatta. No background knowledge needed, free lunch included

11 Nov: General Meeting at SPYC – Social 5:30pm, Dinner 6pm, Meeting 7pm

Come celebrate our Veterans – uniform still fit? Free meals for Veterans (must provide proof of Veteran status)

21 Nov: Beach Cleanup – Breakfast 8am, Cleanup 9am

Help clean Pass-a-Grille Beach, meetup next to Castle Hotel 401 Gulf Way, St Pete Beach. Breakfast beforehand at Sea Horse, 800 Pass-a-Grille

21 Nov: Sunset Cruise – 6pm – 9pm

Watch your email for details

10 December: Annual Mtg at Boca Ciega Yacht Club – Social 6pm, Meeting 7pm

Important Meeting to hear Bridge reports, vote on Budget, elect Bridge Officers, hear any major changes - and the **commander provides the drinks!** Members asked to bring your favorite heavy hors 'oeuvres.

12 Dec: Holiday Cruise on Calypso, John's Pass – 11am – 3pm

Hosted by Rebecca McBride

14 – 17 January: St Pete Boat Show

Volunteers obtain a free ticket to the event while volunteering at the booth!

23 January: Change of Watch at SPYC – Social 6pm, Dinner 6:45pm

An evening to celebrate a change in leadership of the Squadron

30 January: Beach Cleanup - **Breakfast 8am, Cleanup 9am**

Help clean Pass-a-Grille Beach, meetup next to Castle Hotel 401 Gulf Way, St Pete Beach. Breakfast beforehand at Sea Horse, 800 Pass-a-Grille

Treasurer, Lt/C Kathryn Considine, JN

Donations thru September - $342.44 - 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 printing and distribution of the Force 12 and electronic communication fees.

Squadron Education Officer, Lt/C Zoran Stanisic, AP

Saint Petersburg Sail & Power Squadron 2027 Class Schedule

(as of 22 October 2026)

Boating Safety Course							
Boating Safety Course – 1	16-Jan	SAT	1 Day	23-Jan	Jeff Eckhart	$70.00	$35.00
Boating Safety Course - 2	3-Apr	SAT	1 Day	20-Mar	Jeff Eckhart	$70.00	$35.00
Boating Safety Course - 3	4-Sep	SAT	1 Day	4-Sep	Jeff Eckhart	$70.00	$35.00
Boating Safety Course –4	23-Oct	SAT	1 Day	23-Oct	Jeff Echart	$70.00	$35.00
Seminars							
USING GPS	17-Feb	WED	1	17-Feb	Doug Townes	$35./50	$15./25
SUDDENLY IN COMMAND	17-Mar	WED	1	17-Mar	Al Lima	$35./50	$15./25
HURRICANE AND BOATS	21-Apr	WED	1	21-Apr	TBD	$35./50	$15./25
BASIC WX & FORECASTING	19-May	WED	1	19-May	Bruce Rogers	$35./50	$15./25
ON BOARD EMERGENCIES	15-Sep	WED	1	15-Sep	TBD	$35./50	$15./25
USE VHF/DSC MARINE RADIO	22-Sep	WED	1	22-Sep	Louis McBride	$35./50	$15./25
USE CHART SEMINAR	20-Oct	WED	1	20-Oct	Bob Cox	$35./50	$15./25
Advanced Courses							
MARINE NAVIGATION (P)	28-Jan	THUR	10	1=Apr	Bob Cox	$100./125	$35./50
BOAT HANDLING (S)	23-Mar	THUR	5	20-Apr	Bob Zewski	$75./100	$35./50
OFFSHORE NAVIGATION (JN)	TBD	THUR	13	TBD	Stan Morse	$125./150	$50/75
ADV MARINE NAVIGA (AP)	2-Sep	THUR	10	4-Nov	Bob Cox	$75./100	$35./50
WEATHER	14-Sep	TUES	8	2-Nov	Bruce Rogers	$75./100	$35./50
CELESTIAL NAVIGATION (N)	TBD	THUR	14	TBD	George Baulig	$150./175	$50./75

Note - Navigation additional fee will be added if more exams or site folders needed.
Plotters - $8.00; Dividers - $12.00

Members are encouraged to provide feedback on the schedule and share any specific courses or topics they would like to see offered. Feel free to contact me at zstanisi@yahoo.com to discuss.

Safety Article

By Lt Joe Muczynski, Safety Officer

Single Points of Failure

Your boat likely has a backup anchor.

Does it have a backup captain?

Most boats have more redundancy than their crews do. When the failure of one component, person, or capability could compromise safety, it's called a single point of failure. Most commonly this refers to equipment, but it can apply to human skills or planning as well.

A throwable cushion, easily accessible emergency tiller, high capacity backup for a shower water bilge, a second anchor, spare engine filters and belts are all good examples of equipment redundancy. If you're safety minded, then several more examples likely came to mind.

A single diesel engine, rudder, mast and rigging, seacock without an emergency thru-hole plug, chart plotter without paper charts, single cell phone for navigation, and a single charging cord are all good equipment examples of single points of failure. Did you think of others?

When redundancy and alternatives cannot help, planning ahead can reduce your risks. A diesel engine may have no backup, but you can reduce your risk by planning your harbor approach with wind, current, and adequate maneuvering room in mind. If the engine quits, that extra room provides precious time to anchor or take other corrective action.

A solo sailor without a tether; a sailing pair with one capable operator; a dingy operator untethered to the engine kill switch; a family with one capable helmsman; one capable operator of vessel, VHF, chart plotter, or other essential equipment are all human single points of failure. Which of these have you noticed, experienced, or rationalized as unnecessary maintenance-of-safety?

Before your next sail or cruise, challenge yourself or your crew to find one single point of failure and make plans to fix it. If you are crew on another vessel, challenge yourself to have the courage to gently point out a single point of failure and a proposed solution to the captain.

If you did see something, did you do or say something?

November

1 – Jesse Marsano *6 – Jim Greenhalgh & Jeff Eckhart*

11 – Magnolia Bates *13 – Zoran Stanisic* *15 – William Graveley*

30 – Rosario Reyes & Sally Morse

December

10 –Kevin Hoper *19 – Lauren Epps*

24 – Doug Townes

28 – Fred Hauck *31 - Fred Neckers*

September Meeting

Mary Burrell, Pinellas County Emergency Management Coordinator
Gave a great presentation on 'Surviving the Storm'

October Meeting

Long time members, as well as our District Commander,
D/C Roxanne Fox

Welcomed 4 new members

Editor's Note:

You may have noticed a different look to this edition of the Force 12. I have been using the Publisher program which has now been discontinued. This edition was created in Word.

I was not able to use info that was stored in Publisher, so need to update the cards of our advertisers and thank them for their support:

Embree Marine

Robert Siviter of Fillingham Yacht Sales

Venturing – BSA

Merry Christmas, Sandy Krupa, Editor – tskru@outlook.com

SPSPS ANNUAL MEETING
& HOLIDAY PARTY

Held at Boca Ciega Yacht Club

4800 Tifton Drive South
Gulfport, FL 33711

Thursday, December 10, 2026

Cocktails 6:00pm
Meeting 7:00pm

Commander to provide Libations!

Please bring hors d'oeuvres to share

Be a part of the Holiday Sweater event –
wear your Holiday sweater

Topics for Annual Meeting:

- **Recap of Past Watch Year**
- **Vote on 2027 Budget**
- **Election of 2027 Officers**

RSVP to reservations@boating-stpete.org

St Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron Slate for 2027

Commander – P/R/C Connie Beckman, SN
Executive Officer - P/C Fred Hauck, JN
Administrative Officer – P/C Al Lima, AP
Education Officer -Lt/C Zoren Stanisic, AP
Assistant Education Officer – 1/Lt Bob Cox, Jr., JN
Secretary- Lt/C Douglas Townes, SN
Treasurer- D/Lt/C Kathryn Considine, JN
Assistant Treasurer – 1/Lt Cory-Jeanne Houck-Cox, AP
Past Commander – Cdr Louis McBride, P

Members at Large - Lt Glenn Dobos, AP
Lt Rebecca McBride
Lt Jeff Eckhart, AP

Committees:

Auditing - - Open
- Open

Rules - P/Stf/C Sandy Krupa, P
P/Lt/C Jacque D'Louhy, S
Cdr Louis McBride, P

Nominating - P/C Al Lima, AP
P/C Fred Hauck, JN

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact

November

4	6:30pm	EXCOM Meeting	St Pete Yacht Club	Cd McBride
7	9:30am	District 22 Fall Conference	Palmetto Elks Club	Cdr McBride
7	8:00 – 4:00	Cats Point Regatta	Boca Ciega Yacht Club	Cdr McBride
10	7:00pm	Boat Handling	St Pete Sail Center	Bob Zewski
11	5:30pm	General Meeting	St Pete Yacht Club	Cdr McBride
18	7:00pm	On Board Emergency Seminar – Sail Center		
21	8:00am	Beach Cleanup	Castle Hotel	Cdr McBride
21	6:00pm	Sunset Cruise	John's Pass	Cdr McBride

December

2	6:30pm	EXCOM Meeting	St Pete Yacht Club	Cdr McBride
10	6:00pm	Annual Mtg	Boca Ciega Yacht Club	Cdr McBride
12	11:00am	Holiday Cruise on Calypso	John's Pass	Becky McBride

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AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®
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St. Petersburg

You are cordially invited to St Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron's

87th Change of Watch at St Petersburg Yacht Club

Saturday, January 23, 2027

Cash Bar 1800 Dinner 1845

Watch your email and January Force 12 for reservation information

The D22 2026 Fall Conference

Saturday 7 November

Palmetto Elks Lodge

4611 4th Avenue E, Palmetto, FL

Registration 0930 - with coffee and pastry

Co-Op Charting Updates - 1000 - 1025

Town Hall/Governing Board Reports - 1030 -1145

Lunch - 1200 - 1245 - ***Philly Cheesesteak Buffet*** - $15.00

Includes salad bar, brownies and coffee or tea

Advance Registration, payment and order

of your choice of Beef or Chicken Cheesesteak

(advise if gluten free)

required thru D22 website - americasboatingclub-d22.org

'about us – registration/purchase'

Registration page will open October 1 and close October 31

District Conference Meeting – 1300 til done

Hotel Info:

Quality Inn Bradenton North I-75, 580 66th Street Court E, Bradenton – from $137/night
Comfort Inn & Suites Bradenton North I-75, 648 67th Street Circle E - from $68/night

Any questions or issues, please email Mark Koski at koskibeersnob@gmail.com

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

FEB 2028 WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

7 nights: 13-20 Feb 2028

Roundtrip from Tampa on CELEBRITY CONSTELLATION®
Itinerary: Georgetown, Grand Cayman; Cozumel & Costa Maya, Mexico

GROUP PRICING INCLUDES-DRINKS & WIFI

Inside from $1165
Ocean view from $1252pp
Verandah from $1841pp
Concierge class from $1856pp
Aqua class from $2193pp

Travel protection & transfers are additional.

Feel free to invite your friends, family and neighbors to join us

Email dawn@dawnstraveldeals.com or call
(727) 403-0406 to join our group!

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