



TAMPA POWER SQUADRON

District 22

Membership Newsletter—Published Quarterly
June 2023

SHORT BLAST

United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club®



**FROM
TAMPA POWER
SQUADRON BRIDGE
OFFICERS**

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D/22: americasboatingclub-d22.org/
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POWER SQUADRONS®**



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Opinions expressed are those of the
writers and not necessarily those of TPS
and USPS

Tampa Power Squadron Ready ... Set ... Mark !

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION OR CONTACT</u>
11 June	Boating/Social Activity	Tarpon Springs Tom Thompson (pg. 7)
23-25 June	Tampa Bay Boat Show	Fl State Fairgrounds Tampa (pg. 10)
24 June	Dinner Social & ExCom	Red Lobster, 11601 N. Dale Mabry Tom Thompson
8 July	Boating/Social Activity	TBA Tom Thompson
29 July	General Membership & Excom	Luis's Garden Grill 4502 W. Hillsborough Ave Tom Thompson
12 August	Boating/Social Activity	TBA Tom Thompson
26 August	Dinner Social & Excom	LongHorn Steakhouse 1820 W Hillsborough Ave Tom Thompson
27 August - 3 September	USPS Governing Board	Marriott Downtown Kansas City MO Anna Morris (pg. 13)
23-24 September	ABC3 Safety Course	Fraternal Order of Police—Tampa Scott Morris (pg. 4)

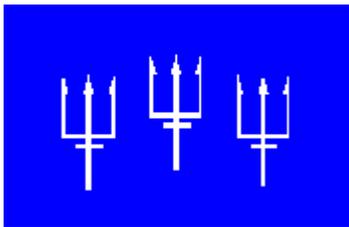
Welcome—New Member Lorella M. Fazio

P/C Thomas C. Thompson, AP helped new member Lorella M. Fazio recite the USPS pledge. Lorella joined Tampa Power Squadron 23 March 2023.



Lorella has already become an active member. She has participated in several member activities and we welcome her to Tampa Power Squadron

Cdr John A. Orr III, S



SQUADRON COMMANDER

Cdr John A. Orr III, S

R/C John DiPrima, AP Chairman of the Environment Committee 's published the following message about the environment that I thought was worth repeating: :

Environmental Considerations for Good Stewardship

Ever seen litter such as a Styrofoam coffee cup in the parking lot or along an area you frequent? Not only does litter detract from an area's beauty, but it's also harmful to the environment. Instead of walking on by or ignoring the litter, take a moment to pick it up and place it in a proper trash can. This same principle applies when you're out on the water. Let environmental best practices guide your actions regarding plastics, garbage disposal, toilet use, oil and fuel control, toxic waste, and more. If we're all good environmental stewards—on and off the

water, we will make a difference. As a club, we can also choose to take the next step and do something together, reaching out to our local communities to undertake a local waterway cleanup project—big or small. These events make a positive impression in your community and could possibly gain new members for our club. Good stewardship doesn't go unrewarded!

Protecting our beautiful state and waterways is important to remember. Stay safe and enjoy your summer. Also, take a look at our calendar on page 2. Hopefully we will see you at one of the events.

Respectfully submitted,

Cdr John A. Orr III, S

Commander



America's Boating Channel Smart TV Launch

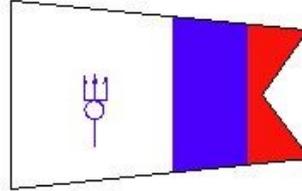
Click here to learn more: [SMART TV LAUNCH - YouTube](#)

America's Boating Channel's new smart TV offerings officially launched at the 2023 International Boating & Water Safety Summit (IBWSS). Sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard, America's Boating Channel is the boating safety and boater education video service of United States Power Squadrons.

Subscribe now for free to the on-demand app on Roku or FireTV and tune-in to the continuously playing live channel on Sports.TV. To get the app, on Roku, select Store using your Roku remote, select Channels and search for Americas Boating Channel, select Add Channel. On FireTV, go to Apps on your Fire TV Main Menu, search for Americas Boating Channel, select Get to download the app. For the channel, add the Sports.TV app on Roku or FireTV, select Live Channels and scroll down to America's Boating Channel, click the program grid to watch now.

**SQUADRON
EDUCATIONAL
OFFICER**

P/Stf/C Scott Morris, P



We have scheduled a 2-day ABC course for boaters of all skill levels.

Do you have any children, grandchildren or friends who want to pilot a boat or drive a personal watercraft? Florida law states that anyone born on or after January 1, 1988 (35 or younger) who operates a vessel powered by 10 horsepower or more must pass an approved boater safety course and have in his/her possession photographic identification and a

boating safety education identification card issued by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC).

Our course is approved by the FFWCC and NASBLA. So send them to us.

Respectfully submitted,

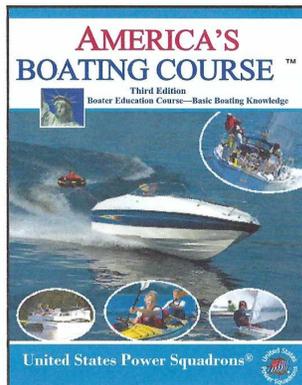
P/Stf/C Scott Morris, P

Educational Officer

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®
of Tampa Bay

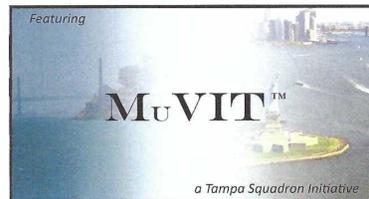
presents

A 2-day course, written by boaters, for boaters of all skill levels.



- ▶ **All Types of Boating, Inland And Coastal**
- ▶ **Bonus Navigation Supplement**
- ▶ **Meets Florida State Requirements for Certification**
- ▶ **May Reduce Boat Insurance Premiums**

Tampa FOP Lodge 27
6912 N. Florida Avenue
Tampa
September 23 & 24



DAY 1: 8:30 am - 3 pm
Registration & Fees
Classroom Lectures
Simulator Exercises

DAY 2: 9 am - 3 pm
Classroom Lectures/Simulator Exercises
Florida State Boating Laws
Course Review & Proctored Exam

\$55 per student / \$80 for a couple sharing a book

NO CHARGE to Active or Retired Military & First Responders



For additional information, call **813-810-6914**.

To register, go to tampaps.org.

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SQUADRON SAFETY CHAIRMAN

P/Stf/C Scott Morris, P

America's Boating Channel Urges Use of Engine Cut-Off Devices

Are you aware of the legal requirement for using engine cut-off devices? This is a requirement that could save your life.

The requirement to use an engine cut-off switch (ECOS) took effect on April 1, 2021, and applies to all U.S. waterways, with fines of \$100, \$250, and \$500 for the first, second, and third offenses, respectively. State and local authorities may choose to enforce the law differently, but using an engine cut-off switch is now the law for qualified vessels everywhere in the United States.

The law applies to all personal watercraft and recreational boats under 26 feet with motors capable of 115 pounds of static thrust (a little under 3 horsepower). Boats not currently equipped with an engine cut-off switch are exempt, but that grandfather clause is closing fast. Another recent federal law required manufacturers to install engine cut-off switches on all new boats starting in January 2020.



Boating Channel™ produced these videos to help viewers learn about traditional lanyard type devices, as well as the new wireless systems.

Watching videos like "[Engine Cut-Off Devices](https://youtu.be/3J3M8dMzqTk)" (<https://youtu.be/3J3M8dMzqTk>) is an excellent way for boaters to prepare for safer experiences on the water. America's Boating Channel also produced a sequel entitled "[Wear an ECOS](https://youtu.be/i0Nu7Gu-JG0)" (<https://youtu.be/i0Nu7Gu-JG0>). It covers differences between boating knowledge and boating skills and why it matters. Viewers learn approaches to take to improve their boating abilities.

You can follow the above links or visit <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel> to find these and other safe boating videos, which are an excellent tool to help recruit participants to our educational program and to membership. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like and subscribe to America's Boating Channel to introduce them to what our organization has to offer.

Available on YouTube, America's Boating Channel offers quick and easy access to professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos. [America's Boating Channel™](#) is produced by the United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.



YBOR CITY/TAMPA SOCIAL OUTING

16 April 2023

Five members met in Ybor City to catch the free trolley to the waterfront in Tampa. As we waited for the trolley to come, P/C Tom Thompson, AP gave us a history of the town. Tom is a native Floridian and a treasure chest of information about the area.

Ybor City is the end of the trolley line and a perfect place to get on board. Parking was across the street; convenient and very reasonable. It was much better meeting there than driving to the waterfront and hunting for a parking space.

We rode the trolley to the convention center exit, got off and walked across the street to the riverwalk. There was so much activity going on that you could spend the day just people watching.

We timed it just right, the water taxi was sitting there and ready to take off. Again, Tom told us about all the points-of-interest while we rode to Rick's on the River for lunch.

We had a table outside on the porch with a perfect view of the Hillsborough River. The food and service were outstanding. Al and I enjoyed an appetizer of oysters on the half shell and grossed everyone out at the table. They were wonderful.

After a leisurely lunch, we caught a water taxi back to the convention center and then got the trolley back to our cars.

It was a beautiful day and a great adventure. I would definitely do it again. Thanks Tom for making this a memorable experience.



Rick's On the River Restaurant,
Hillsborough River, Tampa

Great food, great service and perfect
view of the river

Tom Thompson, Al Antoni, Jim Geske,
Cindy Geske, and Pat Antoni

We waited to be last to disembark so the
captain of the water taxi could take our
picture.



Water taxi—Round trip to lunch and back



BOATING/SOCIAL OUTING

TARPON SPRINGS

11 JUNE, 2023

Put on your walking shoes
Pack your camera and
Get ready for a fun day.!

- ◆ Meet at 1100 hours near the sponge dock's public parking lot.
- ◆ Walk around, shop and taste some goodies.
- ◆ Then board the Odyssey River Cruise
- ◆ Departs at 1300 hours and returns at 1400 hours.
 - ◆ Adult and Senior tickets are \$11.99 a person.
 - ◆ Tickets are available at their web site
- ◆ After the cruise we will have a late lunch near the water.



Bring your cameras for some amazing photo opportunities you won't find anywhere else.



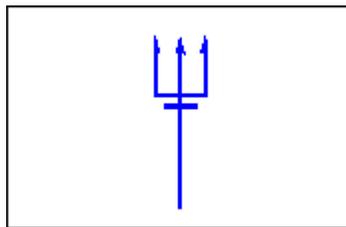
Odyssey Cruise

- See Historic Sites
- Complete Narration Tarpon Springs
- Osprey Nests
- Waterfowl
- Dolphin
- Manatee
- Sea Turtles
- Historical Anclote Lighthouse
- Stroll the beach
- Look for shells
- Handicap Accessible

SQUADRON

SECRETARY/TREASURER

R/C Anna Morris, SN



The article on page 9 about “**What’s next for Boating Simulator Training**” is from the Educational Department’s *Currents* that was published at the 2022 Governing Board. The US Coast Guard transferred their grant from the BSVT to MuVIT in September 2022. MuVIT Boating, LLC was founded in November 2022 to receive the USCG funds. The United States Power Squadrons and MuVIT Boating signed their contract in February 2023.

Up until that point, MuVIT research and development had been solely funded by the Tampa Power Squadron. Sales of Generations 1-3 had been to squadrons, districts and USCG Auxiliary flotillas at cost plus shipping.

In April of this year, Scott and I joined forces with Tammy Brown, HQ Marketing Director, to present MuVIT at America’s Boating Club table at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS) in Little Rock, AR.

This was the same event at which P/D/C Marty Lafferty, AP and P/C Sari S. Lafferty, AP

launched the 24x7 live streaming of America’s Boating Channel.

Other USPS dignitaries in attendance included:

C/C Craig D. Fraser, SN-CN;
Aide C/C Lianna F. Mihalca, SN;
P/C/C Mary Page Abbott, SN-IN;
P/R/C Steven R. Abbot, SN;
P/V/C Bob Brandenstein, SN-CN; and
P/R/C Scott D. McDonald, SN-ACN,
Houston/21 and BOCCom

Incidentally, the Houston Squadron is the first purchaser of a Generation 4 MuVIT, currently being assembled. Pictures of the event are forthcoming.

Respectfully Submitted:

R/C Anna Morris, SN

Secretary/Treasurer

KAYAK ADVENTURE GROUP

P/C Jim Greenhalgh, SN is a member of St Petersburg Squadron and an associate of Tampa. He and another friend started a private club for paddling enthusiasts who wanted to explore the waters in kayaks. They do not advertise for membership because they limit their club to sea and touring style kayaks. These vessels are longer and wider than the typical recreational kayak.

Jim posts pictures of their adventures on the Tampa Power Squadron Facebook page. He said he would welcome anyone who had a sea or touring style kayak into their club. The reason

they do not allow recreational kayaks is the others have greater speed and the typical kayak cannot keep up. If you are interested, look up their FB posts and give him a call. His cell number is 813-909-0009.



What's next for Boat Simulation Training?

In 2013, USPS was awarded a US Coast Guard (USCG) grant to build a boating simulator for teaching boating skills to its members and the general public. With nine consecutive grants, the USCG has invested over \$1.2M in the development of the Boating Skills Virtual Trainer (BSVT).

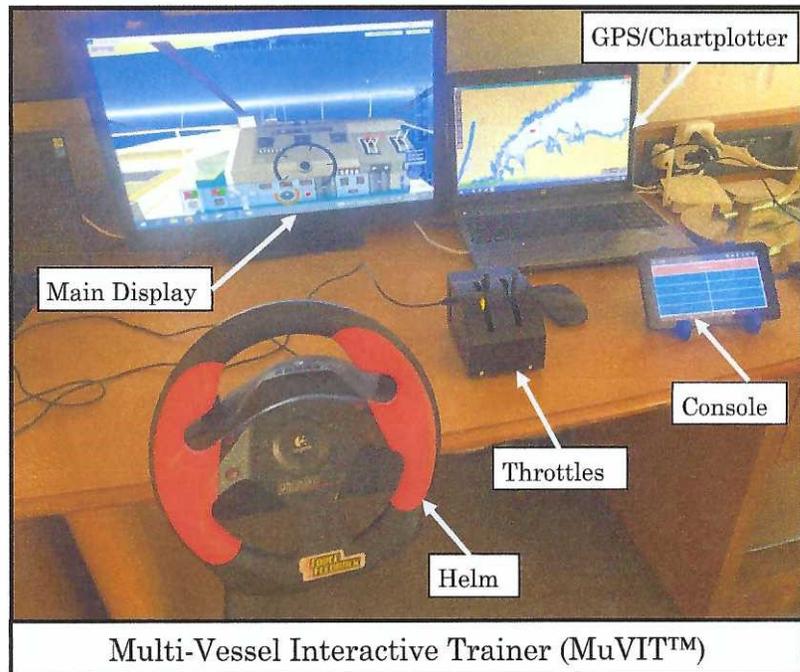
BSVT was conceived originally by Bob Palmer when he observed his grandchildren playing with a racecar simulator at a Chuck E. Cheese and thought, "why can't we do this for boaters?" Bob directed the program for many years with Lisa Herndon Wilson as project manager, working with our partner, Virtual Driver Interactive (VDI), to hone the exercises.

George Hallenbeck took over the reins as project manager in 2017 and over the course of the program, well over 17,000 students have been documented as users, with hundreds of others observing and participating.

George recently retired from this role; Lisa continues to work with the 23 full-sized BSVT units. VDI was acquired by Centrex, Inc. So, what is next on the horizon for training boating skills through simulation?

Concurrently over the years, Scott Morris worked with the Tampa Squadron to internally develop a laptop version called MuVIT™, the Multi-Vessel Interactive Trainer, using off-the-shelf software. MuVIT is now in its 4th generation and provides an economical trainer which is easily transportable and very versatile.

The platform has numerous advanced features to assist the boating educator and provide a visual draw at public events such as boat shows. The MuVIT™ software supports single or dual throttle operation, multiple types of vessels, including power, sail and PWC, with highly sophisticated features and functions suitable for a wide range of boating experience from beginner to advanced.



A beginner can practice docking and maneuvering in various wind, visibility, sea, and current situations which can be adjusted on the fly, including restricted visibility, and demonstrating wave crossing, as well as running before the waves, and demonstrating what happens in a beam sea. You can also interconnect multiple machines allowing students to practice such activities as crossing, overtaking, and close-quarters maneuvering. The trainer has scenery that allows the user to see and properly use navigational aids such as dayboards, buoys, and ranges.

The MuVIT™ platform has several features which make it ideal for some advanced navigation classes. Because it is based on a real-world global coordinate system, you can operate in local scenery, and the Latitude and Longitude are correct for the location. This is an important feature as the software allows for an NMEA interface with OpenCPN which then displays the vessel on OpenCPN charts as it operates.

It also comes with an integrated chartplotter that allows for the creation of waypoints and routes. The display shows not only course and speed over ground, and all the usual data, but also

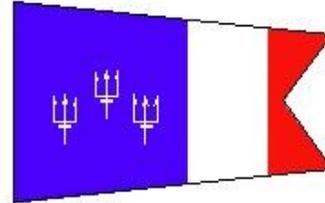
the heading and distance to the next waypoint. There are several GPS modes available besides the chartplotter, including the traditional numeric display, and compass. For the purposes of teaching, the ability to send the GPS/Chartplotter to a separate display is quite useful.

The software includes a sophisticated radar simulator that can track the operating vessels. The radar has a full complement of operating controls that function as one would expect from a real-world unit. These include gain, and range rings, as well as sea and rain clutter filtering. The electronic bearing line (EBL) and variable range mark (VRM) facilitate teaching the skill of getting a radar fix. You can teach a complete radar seminar using MuVIT™ and the ability to configure the system to send the radar display to a separate display is a bonus.

If you would like additional information, the MuVIT™ will be displayed at the fall Governing Board. Our website at: muvit-boating.com. Contact Lt/C [Scott Morris, P \(smorris@bangheadhere.org\)](mailto:smorris@bangheadhere.org) for MuVIT™ information. For BSVT information, contact R/C [Lisa Wilson, SN-IN \(lisa@herndon.net\)](mailto:lisa@herndon.net) ☞

SQUADRON ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

P/C Thomas C. Thompson, AP



I am so delighted that our new member Pat Antoni has volunteered to bring back the Tampa Power Squadron's newsletter. The newsletter provides our members and general public with information on what we have done and plan to do to help everyone become a safe boater. Also, we have fun enjoying water activities, while learning, on monthly squadron sponsored activities. Our squadron has grown with new members that are wanting to help increase our squadron mission.

During the past three months, TPS has been busy with the good weather.

In March, we held a Safe Boating Course for two days hosted by the Tampa Fraternal Order of Police. Four students passed the state test to get their boater identification card.

In April, our squadron members met in Ybor City and rode the trolley to the Tampa Convention Center. We then boarded the water taxi (Squadron Sponsored) and headed to Rick's on the River Restaurant where we had a great lunch. We all enjoyed the trip up and down the Hillsborough River, which was being narrated by the boat captain.

Also in April, squadron members enjoyed a dinner social at Stefano's Restaurant.

In May, the squadron sponsored the renting of a pontoon boat on the Homosassa River. We had seven members who enjoyed a great day on the water. I was the captain of the boat with the help of Pat as the navigator. The river is marked but very winding with one area named "Hell's Gate". We made it back without having to be towed in. Ask me later.

Our squadron members are meeting in Tarpon Springs for a water activity on June 10th. The June Social Dinner on 24th will be at Red Lobster located at 11601 North Dale Mabry Hwy. Hope to see you there.

Please contact me at 813-765-7415 by text for any questions or suggestions for upcoming squadron events.

Respectfully submitted,

P/C Tom Thompson, AP

Administrative Officer

TAMPA BAY BOAT SHOW

The Tampa Bay Boat Show will be held in the Florida State Fairgrounds on June 23-25.

The Fairgrounds are located at: 4800 N. US 301, Tampa.

Admission is free. I haven't been to this show so I don't know how anything about it. But, if you are looking to spend an afternoon looking at boats and accessories this is for you.

Show Hours:

Friday June 23—10 to 5

Saturday June 24—10 to 6

Sunday June 25—10 to 5



USPS MEMBERS GOING CRUISING AGAIN

Dawn Eckhart is a travel agent and also a member of USPS. She is the Assistant Treasurer for District 22 and a member of St. Petersburg Squadron.

Dawn is coordinating the 2024 Caribbean cruise that will take place after the Annual Meeting in February.. If you have always wanted to go on a cruise, this is the perfect time to do it with a lot of people who have the same interests as you have.

We went on a couple of them and they are great fun. Especially walking down the halls and meeting someone you know.

Following is a little preliminary information.

You will need to contact Dawn for pricing.

Keep Calm and Cruise On

Have you been seeing the Celebrity commercials touting the fact that the new Edge series ships have been voted one of the world's best places to be? We will sail on the newest Celebrity ship, Celebrity "Ascent" for our next group cruise following the 2024 Annual Meeting. From Feb.11–18, 2024, we will cruise from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to San Juan, Tortola, BVI; and Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis. As always, take advantage of the current Celebrity promotion or the exclusive group pricing, which includes drinks, Wi-Fi, and tips. This is our annual USPS fundraiser, and your district can also benefit if supported. For more details, please [email me](#) or call 727-403-0406. [-Dawn Eckhart](#)

HOMOSASSA RIVER/SOCIAL OUTING

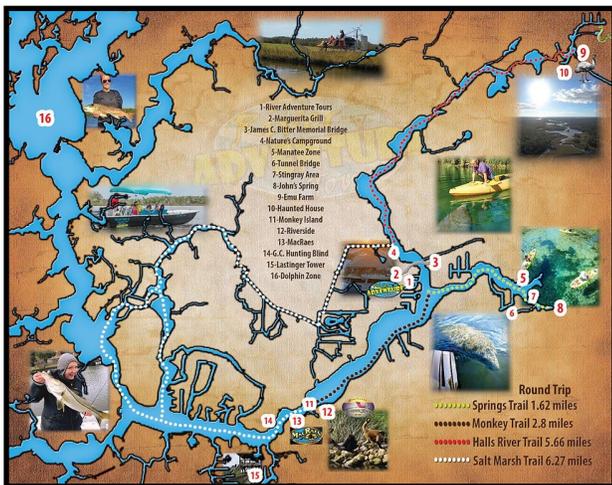
21 May 2023

Seven members met at the Homosassa Riverside Resort to spend the day on the Homosassa River. We rented a pontoon boat (squadron sponsored) for the morning. P/C Tom Thompson was the captain.

We started up river first to look at the beautiful homes along the way. On our way down river we went past Monkey Island. It sits in the middle of



the Homosassa river and is inhabited year-round by a small family of monkeys. The island is owned by the Resort. They care for the monkeys and feed them regularly. Unfortunately the island is being renovated and the monkeys were not there at this time.



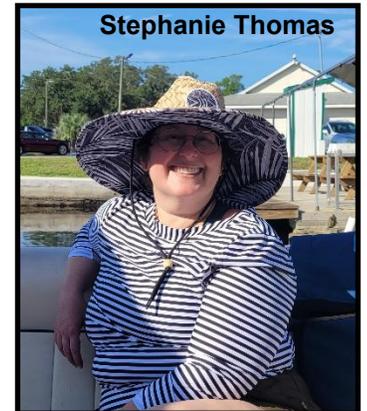
Going down river was a little more adventurous. Many places had very narrow channels and

wound around making it difficult to determine where you should be. I'm glad Tom was driving. After we went through a section called *Hell's Gate* we turned around and made our way back to the marina.

We had a delicious lunch in one of the Cracker Kitchen restaurants in the resort. There are several restaurants to choose from but we decided we had enough sun and opted to sit inside. Everyone had a great time.



Tom Thompson, Al Antoni, Lorella Fazio & Pat Antoni



Stephanie Thomas

Al Antoni, Tom Thompson, Jim Geske & Cindy Geske



Lorella Fazio & Jim Geske



America's Boating Channel Launches Seventh Season

Following is an excerpt from the Launch Release publicity from USPS:

WHY WEARING A LIFE JACKET IS COOL WILL BE FIRST VIDEO TO PREMIERE

America's Boating Channel, the U.S. Coast Guard funded boating safety and boater education video service of United States Power Squadrons (USPS) - America's Boating Club (ABC) will publicly debut its new season of twelve videos across its smart TV, online and mobile distribution platforms starting in June.

In making the announcement, USPS-ABC Chief Commander Craig Fraser remarked, *"We're excited to introduce America's Boating Channel's seventh season of original non-duplicated boating safety and boater education videos. This year's slate of titles reflects a sharpened focus on critical safety considerations, operational guidance, and electronic aids to navigation."*

The first video in the new series, WHY WEARING A LIFE JACKET IS COOL, will premiere on FireTV, Roku and YouTube, as well as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and other social networks at 8 pm EDT on Thursday June 1.

WHY WEARING A LIFE JACKET IS COOL asks a series of "What if..." questions about contemporary life jackets. Viewers will learn the benefits of wearing life jackets while underway on boats. Also featured are tips to consider when buying a new life jacket.

Every ten days throughout the boating season, America's Boating Channel will launch a new video. Upcoming Season Seven titles include:

- ◆ Slips, Trips and Falls
- ◆ Partner in Command
- ◆ Disembarking Hazards
- ◆ Boating with Small Children
- ◆ Engine Failure Causes and Cures
- ◆ Towed Sports Safety
- ◆ Tying Dock Lines
- ◆ Introducing AIS
- ◆ Marine Radio Etiquette
- ◆ Navigating Locks
- ◆ Border Crossing

Smart TV viewers can subscribe to America's Boating Channel for free on Roku and FireTV. Online, the best way to view the videos is to subscribe at no charge to America's Boating Channel on YouTube.

SHOOTERS WORLD Social Outing 15 May 2023

Eight members and 2 guests had a blast at the Shooters World gun range. P/C Tom Thompson brought his personal guns to the event and was a talented instructor for the novices in the group. You may say “what does target shooting have to do with boating?” With all the stories we hear about pirates and trouble on the water, more and more boaters are carrying weapons on their boats for protection. We need to know how to use them correctly.

In addition to Tom having his own guns, Lorella Fazio and Anna Oakley/aka Anna Morris also brought their guns to practice shooting at the targets.

I will probably never shoot a gun again, but it was an exciting experience. All those who missed this outing missed a great time.



Marksmen of the Day: Tom Thompson, Lorella Fazio, Pat Antoni, Al Antoni, Cindy Geske, Jim Geske, Anna Morris and Scott Morris.





Fall Governing Board
August 27 - September 4, 2023
Kansas City, Missouri

MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL:

Thinking about a getaway? Why not consider merging business with pleasure? The Kansas City Marriott Downtown is extending its room rate discount for the 2023 Governing Board Meeting to include pre-meeting dates starting on August 27 and including Labor Day, September 4, for your visit to Kansas City. The Marriott Downtown is within walking distance to many of the area’s well-known destinations: the Kansas City Power & Light District, Kansas City Music Hall and T-Mobile Center as well as the City Market of Kansas City, the Missouri River and the Arabia Steamboat Museum. Love Baseball? We have tickets for the August 29 MLB Kansas City Royals vs. Pittsburgh Pirates game! Take a look at all Kansas City has to offer and consider making the 2023 Governing Board Meeting your family destination—with time for both business and pleasure! [—Rich Frenz](#)

Reservations are open for the convention. Click on national meetings on the member home page and reserve your hotel room.

The convention hotel is the Kansas City Marriott Downtown, 200 W. 12th Street, Kansas City Mo. Room rate is \$189 per night for a standard double queen room. The block starts on 27 August and you can extend through labor day, September 4th, if you wish to spend more time in Kansas City. At this time there is no information available for tours and meetings. National will post more information as it becomes available.



SHORT BLAST

District 22, unit of United States Power Squadrons®

FROM:

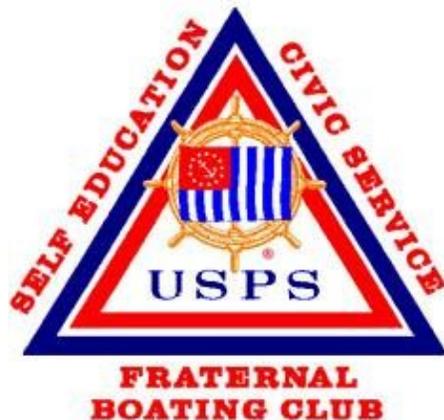
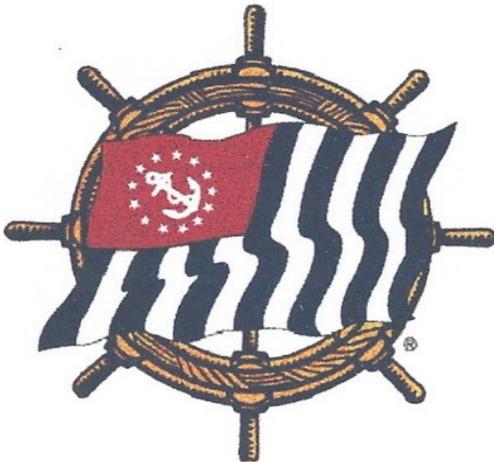
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