



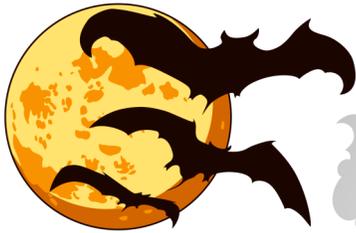
TAMPA POWER SQUADRON

District 22

Membership Newsletter—Published Quarterly
October 2023

SHORT BLAST

United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club®



*Happy Halloween !!
Have lots of Candy for the Kids
And Enjoy !!*



Internet Addresses
USPS: www.usps.org
D/22: americasboatingclub-d22.org/
Tampa PowerSquadron: www.tampaps.org/

**UNITED STATES
POWER SQUADRONS®**



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Tampa Power Squadron

Ready...Set...Mark 1

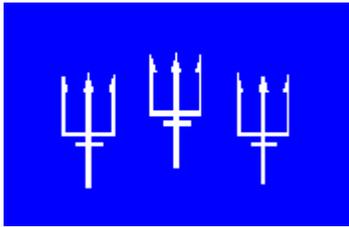
<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION OR CONTACT</u>
28 October	Annual Pizza Party 4 p-m	ABC Pizza House,
25-29 October	Ft Lauderdale Boat Show	801 Seabreeze Blvd. Ft Lauderdale
18 November	Party Fishing Boat Meet at 11-11:30 am	Queen Fleet Clearwater- Leaves at 1 pm
25 November	General Membership & ExCom Meeting- 4pm	Luis Garden Grill Tampa
16 December	Annual Christmas Party 4pm	Luis Garden Grill Tampa
23 December	Tampa Lighted Boat Parade	Tampa Convention Center
6 January 2024	General Membership Annual Meeting—4pm	Luis Garden Grill Tampa
18-21 January 2024	St Petersburg Power & Sail Boat Show	Duke Energy Center for Arts
21 January 2024	Change of Watch 2pm	Columbia restaurant, 2117 E 7th Ave, Ybor City

WELCOME ABOARD!

Five new members joined Tampa Power Squadron since our last newsletter. Their membership was announced in the *Mini-Toot* but we want to be sure everyone does a “Grip and Grin” the next time you see them.

Please welcome:

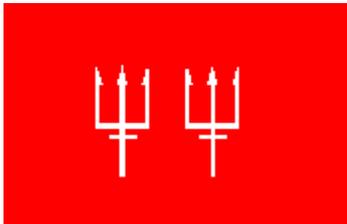
- Stephanie (Steph) Thomas an ABC student
- P/C Judy DeMeglio, SN from the Cyber Squadron and previously Anclote Key
- Gracia (Grace) Hirigoyen transferring from St Petersburg Squadron
- P/C James Geske, AP and P/D/Lt Cindy Geske reactivated their membership
- Al Antoni, AP and P/Stf/C Pat Antoni, SN are associate members for now.



SQUADRON COMMANDER

Cdr John A. Orr III, S

Commander John had back surgery. He is recuperating at home and would welcome cards and letters. We will all keep him in our prayers and wish him a quick recovery. His home address is: 425 S. 50th St., Tampa, FL 33619



SQUADRON EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Frank E. Penny, SN

The District 22 Fall Conference was held in Punta Gorda October 13-14. I attended as the representative of Cdr John Orr, Jr. SN. Friday morning was the Commander's meeting. All but three squadrons were present. The discussions mostly covered membership and how to improve it. No easy solution. There was also a discussion of the council and do we need one. Friday afternoon the Council met. Again, the discussion was whether the Council was required.

Saturday morning a round table was held on "Build and Maintain Membership". A key point was made many times that when we take in a new member, we must get them involved right away and make them feel welcome. When older members attend a meeting, we should strive to sit with the new members. Have a welcome

committee talk with the new members. Remember "Grip and Grin". Have interest groups such as "Kayak Group", etc.

Saturday afternoon was the District Conference. A disappointing note was the announcement that D/22 lost 300 members during the past year and now stands at 1,879.

Tampa Power Squadron was presented with a certificate from C/C Craig D. Fraser, SN honoring the squadron for "75 years of dedicated service to the mission of safe boating through education". It was an honor to receive it as the Commander's representative.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lt/C Frank Penny, SN

Executive Officer

St. Petersburg Power and Sailboat Show

The St. Petersburg Power & Sailboat Show is the largest boat show on the Gulf Coast and will take place **January 18-21, 2024** at the Duke Energy Center for the Arts Mahaffey Theater Yacht Basin and Albert Whitted Park in St. Petersburg, Florida. The show will feature an impressive selection of powerboats and sailboats displayed in-water and on-land, along with a 40,000-square-foot tent housing all types of marine gear. Attendees can also enjoy seminars on boating, fishing, and other marine-related topics, along with other attendee favorites: Hook the Future's kids fishing clinics with Captain Don Dingman and On-Water Training courses with the Annapolis School of Seamanship and Progressive.



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



Chief Commander Craig D. Fraser, SN
1504 Blue Ridge Road | Raleigh, NC 27607

On behalf of America's Boating Club, the United States Power Squadrons, it is my pleasure to extend congratulations as you celebrate your 75th Anniversary.

The [Tampa Power Squadron](#) has been an integral part of United States Power Squadrons, the world's largest private recreational boating organization. Boating is an exciting family activity and enjoyed by people everywhere. On this special occasion, I join all America's Boating Club members in expressing our gratitude for your dedication to increasing boating safety and enjoyment; it is truly appreciated.

Please accept my best wishes for a most memorable celebration and your continued success. Enclosed is a commemorative certificate for achieving this milestone; display it with pride – you have earned it.

Congratulations!

Chief Commander

October 14, 2023



Office of the Chief Commander

Presented to

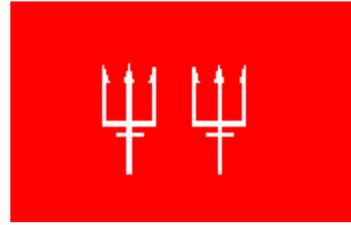
Tampa Power Squadron

in recognition of its outstanding accomplishment covering
75 years of dedicated service to the mission of safe boating
through education!

Chief Commander

SQUADRON EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

Lt/C Scott Morris, P



A writer from Yachting magazine spent some time with a demo MuVIT system I sent to them to evaluate. After interviewing me, I sent him the following information about why education is important for all boaters.. Looking forward to reading his review and the interview when they publish it.

Navigating Safe Waters: The Importance of Boating Education

Introduction

Whether you're an experienced captain or a novice, the world of boating offers endless opportunities for adventure and relaxation. However, to ensure that your time on the water is enjoyable and, more importantly, safe, boating education is a crucial aspect of this maritime journey

Safety First

Safety is paramount when it comes to boating. Every year, accidents and mishaps occur on the water, and many of them are avoidable with the right knowledge and training. Boating education provides individuals with the skills and awareness needed to navigate waterways safely. Courses often cover topics like proper vessel operation, navigation rules, emergency procedures, and the importance of life jackets, ultimately reducing the risk of accidents and casualties.

Environmental Responsibility

Boaters are not just passengers on the water; they are also stewards of our aquatic ecosystems. A well-rounded boating education program should emphasize the importance of preserving and protecting these delicate environments. Education helps boaters understand the impact of pollution, habitat destruction, and invasive species on the waterways, empowering them to make responsible choices. Knowing how to dispose of waste, avoiding sensitive areas, and respecting wildlife are all vital

components of responsible boating.

Navigational Competence

Effective navigation is a skill that all boaters should possess. Boating education equips individuals with the knowledge needed to read charts, understand buoys and markers, and utilize GPS and other navigation tools. These skills not only help ensure the safety of everyone on board but also prevent accidents, such as grounding or collisions, which can have serious consequences.

Legal Compliance

Compliance with boating regulations and laws is a critical aspect of responsible boating. Boating education courses cover the specific rules and requirements in your region, ensuring that boaters understand issues such as speed limits, alcohol restrictions, and licensing. Ignorance of the law is not an excuse, so it's crucial to be well-informed to avoid fines, penalties, or even legal trouble.

Lifelong Learning

Boating is an evolving field, with new technology and safety practices emerging regularly. Boating education is not just for beginners; it's a journey of lifelong learning. Experienced boaters can benefit from advanced courses to stay up to date with the latest developments in the field, from improved safety equipment to changes in regulations.

Conclusion

Boating education is not just a nicety; it's a necessity. From ensuring the safety of those on board to protecting the environment, navigating competently, complying with the law, and fostering a culture of continuous learning, boating education is the compass that guides us through the intricate waters of maritime exploration.

Respectfully submitted,

Lt/C Scott Morris, P

Educational Officer

See West Marine 20% off coupon for Safety Items. Pg 17. Good through 12/31/2023



Brief your crew

Before heading out for a day on the water, be sure to brief your crew. Talk to your passengers about your boat and make sure you have someone on board who knows how to operate it should you become incapacitated. A crew briefing can make running your boat easier and your guests feel safer.

Here are some things you should consider covering:

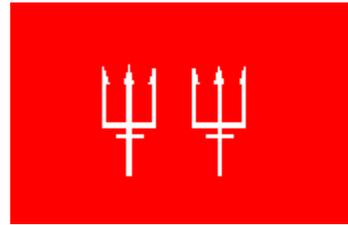
- **Where to find life jackets, a first-aid kit, visual distress signals and fire extinguishers.** Be sure to offer life jackets to your guests and encourage everyone to wear them. Additionally, point out the best places to sit on board and remind them to spread out and not all sit or stand on one side of the boat.
- **How to operate the [VHF marine radio](#) in case of an emergency.** Most people know that radios are “push to talk,” but in an emergency, they forget to “release to listen.”
- **How you will handle docking procedures and what help you expect when you get to your destination.** You don’t want to be unprepared for docking. Although everyone wants to help, they may not know the best way to do so. Covering this ahead of time helps avoid last-minute confusion and mishaps.
- **While you’re at it, discuss the route so they understand what they will see along the way.** Visitors may not be familiar with local waters. Helping them appreciate what they are about to experience sets the stage for a fun day.

Finally, always have someone on board who can be your [partner in command](#). This person should be able to operate your boat and get everyone home safely (or to a designated access point where help is available) if you become incapacitated. Taking time to brief your crew will help everyone stay safe and have more fun on the water. –*Thomas E. Dawson of America’s Boating Club Cape Coral*

Image courtesy of America’s Boating Channel

SQUADRON ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Thomas C. Thompson, AP



The past several months have been very hot. But, that didn't stop our squadron members...they still enjoyed our planned events.

On the **11th of June**, nine members went on the Odyssey Cruise that departed from Tarpon Spring Docks. The one hour narrated cruise down the Anclote River was very interesting and the boat ride was excellent., We then had a delicious dinner at one of the famous Greek Restaurants near the docks. Everyone had a great time.



On the **20th of August**, nine members boarded the Silver Springs Glass Bottom Boat to view the fish below our feet. The cruise was narrated by the captain. The trip up and down the river was 1-1/2 hours. We had some small rain showers but the boat had a roof and the few drops we got felt good. After the cruise we traveled down the road and had dinner

at a very nice Italian Restaurant in Brooksville. We all had an enjoyable day together.

On the **17th of September**, six members climbed aboard the Calypso Queen double decker boat that departed out of Clearwater Beach Marina. We were invited by Lakeland Power Squadron who had sixteen members attend this outing. The first floor was the dining area. A good buffet meal was served along with plenty of refreshments. The boat captain pointed out homes owned by famous people and told lots of stories about the area.



The ship stayed in the Intercoastal waters and the ride was comfortable. We are planning to do more outings with the Lakeland Power Squadron in the future.

Several more events are planned for the next three months. On Saturday, the 28th of October, we will host our annual pizza party for our members. The event will be at the **ABC Pizza House, 1242 West Hillsborough Ave., Tampa starting at 1600 (4pm).**

The Tampa Power Squadron will pick up the tab. Hope to see everyone there and come hungry.



I'm planning a squadron **fish-ing trip in November** when the weather is somewhat cooler and hurricanes are gone. I have found a fleet with the largest boat and best price for this event. Some members from the Lakeland Squadron are interested in attending as well.



Our **annual Christmas Party will be December 9th at 1600 (4pm).** Dinner will be at Luis Garden Grill, 4502 West Hillsborough Ave. After dinner we will have our yearly Chinese Gift Exchange Game. Bring a wrapped gift \$20.00 or less. Everyone will have a great time trying to chose the best gift.



To end the year, I'm planning a boat ride down the Hillsborough River on Saturday the 23rd of December. We will travel to the Tampa Convention Center basin and watch the Tampa Lighted Boat Parade. More information will be provided when all the details are completed.

Please contact me at 813-765-7415 if you have any questions or suggestions for upcoming events.

Respectfully submitted,

Lt/C Tom Thompson, AP

Administrative Officer

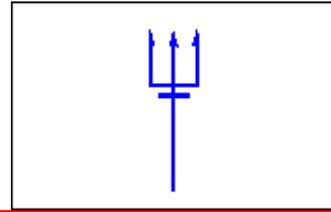
The **Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show (FLIBS)** is recognized as the largest in-water boat show in the world. It spans nearly 90 acres across three million square feet of exhibit space that is connected by an intricate network of water and ground transportation services. The five-day show attracted over 100,000 attendees and 1,000 exhibitors representing 52 countries with more than 1,300 boats on display in 2022. Products range from superyachts to sunglasses and everything in between. The show opens October 25th and closes on the 29th. The main location is 801 Seabreeze Blvd, Ft Lauderdale. One-day general admission is \$42.00 and self-parking is \$37.00. Go to website & buy on line.



SQUADRON

SECRETARY and TREASURER

R/C Anna Morris, SN



Greetings from the steno pad! Actually, there is a bit more going on in the Secretary Department than just recording the minutes of our General Membership and Executive Committee Meetings. For instance, next month the Nominating Committee will publish their candidates for the 2024 Watch Year and I'll be sending that information, along with the Call to the Squadron Annual Meeting on 7 January (special date), the invitation to the 76th annual Change of Watch, the 2024 Squadron Calendar and Roster. Getting back to minutes for a second, all minutes are posted in the Members Section on the squadron web page.

Also in the Secretary's Department is P/Stf/C Pat Antoni, SN who is the functioning editor of the Short Blast. Pat is also responsible for corresponding with D/22's BEACON and HQ's The Ensign publications. And what a wonderful job she is doing! Now, if she can just get the rest of us to pay attention to the deadlines! Pat is aided by various squadron photographers, but especially Jim and Cindy Geske.

The Information Technology Committee, headed by Lt/C Scott Morris, P, is responsible for maintaining the squadron's web (<https://tampaps.org/>) and facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/TampaPowerSquadron>)) pages in addition to those for the MuVIT boat

simulator (<https://muvit-boating.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/muvitboating/>, respectively).

And completing the Secretary's Department is the Ship's Store located in the back of Tom Thompson's SUV! Tom does a great job at ordering items upon request. Ask him about recycled items which is a great way in which to save money.

Did you know that the secretary and treasurer are the only two flag positions that may be held by a single officer? The positions are not combined; only provisional squadrons have secretary/treasurer position. So, the Tampa Power Squadron has a Secretary's Department AND a Treasurer's Department and both are headed by ...me!

The Treasurer's Department really has no news to report. Our accounts balance and the squadron is solvent. If you want to know the actual figures, come attend one of the general membership meetings.

Respectfully Submitted:

R/C Anna Morris, SN

Secretary and Treasurer



Social Outing Tampa Bay Lighted Boat Parade

This picture of the parade was taken last year by Scott Morris. The number of boats participating is unbelievable. We are planning a boat ride down the Hillsborough River on Saturday the 23rd of December to see the parade. More information will be provided when all the details are completed.

USPS OPERATIONS REVIEW

OFFICER RANKS AND MEMBER GRADES

To a new member this might seem a bit like alphabet soup. **Rank** is used to identify what position an officer actively holds and it goes before their name. In other words, rank indicates what you are doing this year. At any level of USPS, the highest current (active) rank is always correct. This applies to all but P/C/Cs (as the saying goes—"Once a Chief, always a Chief")

Except for P/C/C, past ranks have no standing in the hierarchy of ranks. Having said that, due deference is of course, given to those who have served in the past, and the appropriate past rank may be used when the member holds no officer's position.

	Squadron	District	National
Commander	Cdr	D/C	C/C
Department	Lt/C	D/Lt/C	V/C
Assistant	1st/Lt	D/1st/Lt	R/C
Chairman	Lt	D/Lt	R/C
Asst Chairman	—	—	Stf/C

“Department“ refers to the five Bridge Officers: Executive Officer, Educational Officer, Administrative Officer, Secretary and Treasurer. Each level within USPS has the same department bridge officers and they all carry the same Department Rank.

Grades are used to identify the advanced courses the member has successfully completed and are added after their name. There are 5 advanced grade courses and their designations are awarded in sequence, each building on knowledge gained in the prior course. The courses can be taken out of sequence, but Grade will not be awarded until all the prerequisite courses are passed.

1. Seamanship—Renamed Boat Handling (S)
2. Piloting—Renamed Marine Navigation (P)
3. .Advanced Piloting—Renamed Advanced Marine Navigation (AP)
4. Junior Navigation—Renamed Offshore Navigation (JN)
5. Navigation—Renamed Celestial Navigation (N)
6. Senior Navigator (SN)

The SN (Senior Navigator) grade applies to a person having passed all 5 Advanced Grade courses and any 6 of the 8 Elective Courses. These are the only 6 grades approved by the Governing Board to be used after a member's name.

NOW YOU KNOW WHAT THE ALPHABET SOUP SURROUNDING A NAME IS ALL ABOUT.

P/Stf/C Pat Antoni, SN

DISTRICT 22 CONFERENCE REPORT

P/C Judy DeMeglio SN

I attended two Round Table discussions at the D/22 Conference. The first one was "Education Updates - USPS Strategic Plan":

- New courses are being completed and beta tested.
- Seminars are being added including "How to use a GPS Chartplotter" and "Marine Diesel Engines".
- America's Boating Drone Project encourages squadrons to purchase and use a drone to demonstrate waterway channels to new boaters.

The second Round Table was on "Preparing for

the Next Storm". The main topic was on protecting squadron property such as buildings and equipment. Is it insured? Do we have a plan to evacuate it?

Among the other topics mentioned of interest was electric cars catching fire when the batteries are hit with salt water as happened during Hurricane Ian. Another topic was providing assistance to members who are snowbirds or others who have sustained damage to homes or boats. Use of a call-in checklist was recommended. But the big take-a-way was insurance, insurance, insurance.

P/C Judy DeMeglio, SN

CONGRATULATIONS

Lt/C Frank E. Penny, SN

Cdr John Orr, P presented Frank Penny with his 50 year Achievement Certificate. Frank is currently a Life member. He has 49 Merit Marks and next year he will become an Emeritus member and be granted the status of Governing Board Emeritus with lifetime voting privileges.

In 1974 Frank joined the Susquenango Power Squadron in D/6. When he moved to Florida, he transferred to Tampa Power Squadron. He was District Commander in 1993, R/C for National Meetings Committee in 1996 and R/C for Squadron Development Committee in 2001. In between he held many leadership positions at the squadron, district and national level.

Frank is still supporting USPS and our squadron. He is currently the Executive Officer of Tampa Power Squadron and we are very lucky to have him. Congratulations Frank !!



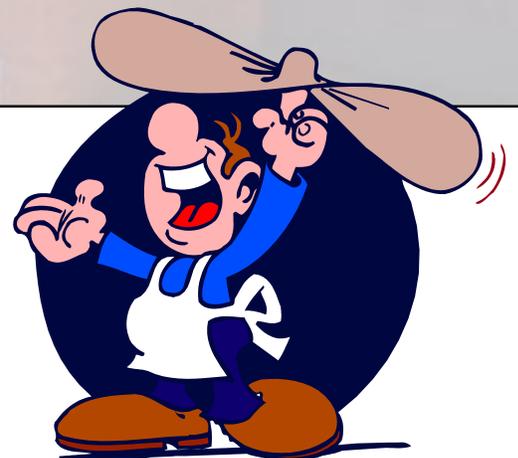
ANNUAL PIZZA PARTY
28 October at 1600 (4 pm)

PIZZA !
PIZZA !
PIZZA !

Bring Your Appetite.
Come and share your
boating stories with us.

Tampa Power Squadron is inviting you to attend their annual Pizza Party. The pizza is on us.

ABC PIZZA HOUSE
1242 W. Hillsborough Ave.
#1314
Tampa, FL 33603



SQUADRON SAFETY CHAIRMAN

Lt/C Scott Morris, P

Stf/C Jeff McKinney, JN wrote the following Safety message that contains good advice about maintaining your PLB or EPIRB. Lt/C Scott Morris, P

Does Your PLB or EPIRB Need Offseason Maintenance?

While today's personal locator beacons and emergency position indicating radio beacons are essentially maintenance-free, the battery requires periodic servicing. Each device has a sticker showing the battery expiration date.

The newest EPIRBs have 10-year lithium batteries that you can often replace yourself. Older EPIRBs and PLBs have 5-year batteries and usually need professional service to ensure the devices remain waterproof and transmit properly. **IMPORTANT:** You can't put a 10-year battery in a 5-year EPIRB.

If you send it in for service, the turnaround time varies, but you should expect a couple of weeks at minimum, and probably longer during the offseason when everyone else is sending theirs in for service. Check your owner's manual for additional information. Once you get it back, don't forget to test it before putting it back on board.

Viewers Now Have the Choice of Apple TV, Roku, or FireTV plus Online and Mobile Options

America's Boating Channel™ will launch its free-to-view smart TV offering on Apple TV. Scheduled availability 1 November.

The video-on-demand app is already available at no charge on Roku and FireTV smart TV platforms, and for online and mobile viewing, at AmericasBoatingChannel.com, providing a consistent viewing experience regardless of the type of connected device used.

America's Boating Channel on Apple TV now presents more than a thousand titles covering boating and water sports themed television pro-

grams, motion pictures, and boater educational videos, with that number steadily growing as new videos are added.

In making the announcement, **America's Boating Channel's VP of Smart TV Kathryn Strachan** stated, **We're excited to add Apple TV to the viewing platforms where our smart TV offering is available at no charge.** As the first full-time television destination for all-things-boating, we want to make it as easy as possible for everyone to access our boating entertainment, sports, and information anywhere, any time, and on any device.

How to tow a boat safely

As a boater, you'll eventually have to learn how to tow. Whether you're at the helm of the towing boat or the boat being towed, safety should be your top priority.



The wrong way to tow a boat

Simply tying a line from the towing boat's stern cleat to the other boat's bow cleat would make steering the towing boat difficult, if not impossible, and cause the towed vessel to yaw. Even worse, the towing boat's stern cleat could rip loose and shoot back into the towed boat, or the towing boat's stern could dip underwater, swamping the rescue boat..

The right way to tow a boat

Before getting started, plan the tow with the other boat and stay in touch on VHF. First, you'll need to make a tow bridle for each boat. Tow bridles spread the strain over two or more attachment points and minimize yawing, or back-and-forth swinging. To make the tow bridles, tie the spliced eyes of two dock lines to each end of the towline. (Use [bowline](#) knots if you want to untie the lines later.)

Attach the ends of one bridle to the towing vessel's stern cleats and the ends of the other bridle to the towed boat's bow or midship cleats, as illustrated below.

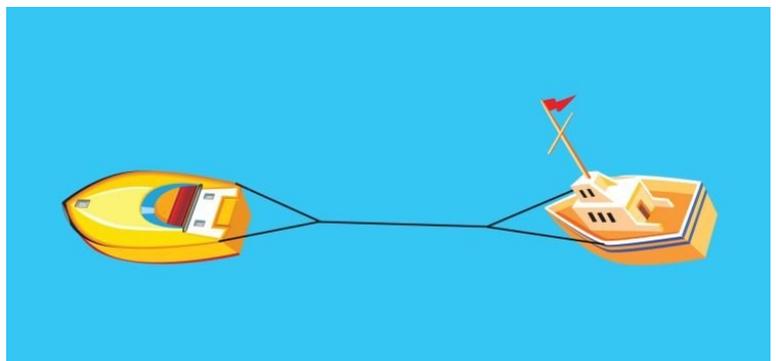
In rough water, take a couple of turns on the cleats and run the lines aft to more attachment points, e.g., the midship cleats, stern cleats or mast. When transferring the line, don't toss it to the disabled vessel unless the water is calm. Instead, tie a fender or life jacket to the end and another approximately 50 feet up the line. Then, approach the vessel from behind and run parallel, bringing the line to its stern.

As you're towing, make sure everyone stands clear of the towline; if it snaps, it could injure anyone in its path. Also make sure the vessels stay in rhythm, riding up and down the waves at the same time. Don't go faster than 7 knots.

In protected waters, shorten the towline for better maneuverability, and slow down even more. —*Jim Sever*

What type of towline should you use?

The towline should be strong double-braided nylon, slightly stretchy and long enough to maintain a catenary, or dip, during the tow. The longer the towline, the easier the ride and the less stress on the hardware. The bridle should be even stronger than the towline; if anything breaks, you want it to be the towline.



AMERICA'S BOATING CHANNEL™

Expands Video Service Coverage throughout North America

America's Boating Channel, the U.S. Coast Guard funded boating safety and boater education video service of United States Power Squadrons® - America's Boating Club®, will debut **Water Ways TV**, a new television program series from Canada, in October.

The announcement was made by **United States Power Squadrons - America's Boating Club Past Chief Commander (P/C/C) Mary Paige Abbott and Water Ways TV Executive Producer (EP) and Host Steven Bull.**

P/C/C Mary Paige Abbott, noted, **"We're excited to complement our international boating coverage by adding a new component to our program line-up and expand the scope of USPS-ABC's video service to encompass all of North America. Ten extraordinary Canadian recreational boating videos from Season One of Water Ways TV will debut on our smart TV service offerings in October."**

Water Ways TV EP Steven Bull added, **"We're thrilled to have Season One of Water Ways TV airing on America's Boating Channel, aligning ourselves with industry leaders and trusted partners.**

We share a vision of inspiring while educating boaters, new and experienced alike. Whether it's sharing best practices to make

sure everyone gets home safely, giving new ideas for destinations, or sharing incredible maritime history, there's something for everyone on the water and we want to help get you there.



Season One of **Water Ways TV** features the **"Series Debut Toronto," "Peterborough," "Muskoka," "Well and Canal," "Port Colborne," "The North Channel," "Georgian Bay," "Port Lambton," Rideau Canal on Le Boat," and "Flibs Tibs & Fall Colors."**

Water Ways TV launched pilot episodes in 2022 featuring Ontario's incredible boating options from the Trent-Severn Waterway – well known to Loopers – to the Great Lakes to 250,000 smaller lakes. The series is expanding in 2023 with a wider reach, longer journeys, and celebrity guests like Neil deGrasse Tyson.

Smart TV viewers can subscribe to America's Boating Channel for free on Roku and FireTV. On Roku, viewers can select Store using their Roku remotes, click on Channels, search for Americas Boating Channel, and then add the channel. On FireTV, viewers can go to Apps on their FireTV Main Menu, search for Americas Boating Channel, select Get, and then download the app.

On computers tablets, or mobile phones, the best ways to view the videos are to **visit AmericasBoatingChannel.com or subscribe at no charge to America's Boating Channel on YouTube."**

Visit AmericasBoatingChannel.com. Members can also download individual videos plus a compilation of the entire season at bit.ly/USPSABC

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on the Water



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on the Water



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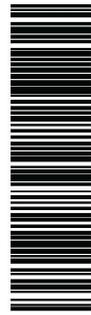
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LET'S GO FISHING!

Tampa Power Squadron has scheduled a half-day fishing trip for our next social outing.

WHEN: 18 November 2023
Boat departs at 1 pm

WHERE: **Fleet Location:**
Queen Fleet Deep Sea Fishing
25 Causeway Blvd. Slip #52
Clearwater, FL 33767



COST: **Adults** — \$61.99
Children (12 & under) — \$36.99
Rod Rental — \$4.67 or, you can bring your own fishing equipment.

Party Fishing Boat in Tampa Bay—Half-Day Fishing Trips (Up to 10 miles offshore)

These trips are 4 hours long. Typically, it takes between 45 minutes and an hour to get to the fishing grounds. Once out there, the boat will make between one and up to three or four stops, depending on how the fish are cooperating. So, you can expect approximately 2 hours of fishing time. Sometimes, if conditions permit, the boat will drift fish, and there is even more fishing time.

The typical catch on a half day fishing trip is grunts (snapper family), some sea bass, and an occasional grouper and/or kingfish. We also catch various species of shark, mostly in the warmer months.

Frozen, cut squid (included) is the preferred bait on the half day, although we do bring frozen herring as well, in case some larger species are hungry. This type of fishing is very easy to learn, and our crew (deckhand, captain, AND cook) are all able to show you how it's done! If you are new to this type of fishing, PLEASE ask the deckhand for some pointers on the way out, so your fishing time is maximized!

The deckhand will keep your catch iced down for you on a numbered stringer, and when you arrive back at the dock he will be happy to clean your fish for you for a small fee.

- Parking is limited. Plan to arrive 1-1/2 to 2 hours in advance. We will meet at Slip 52 located near the south end of the parking lot..
- Purchase your tickets on line. Go to <https://queenfleet.com>.
- There you can find out *what to bring* and *what not to bring*.
- **BUY YOUR TICKETS ASAP.** Weekends sell out quickly





ABC Club Annual Meeting
February 6-11, 2024
Orlando, Florida

It's that time again! The USPS / ABC 2024 Annual Meeting will be held at the Orlando Florida Rosen Plaza, the same location as last year.

We need your help!

Staying at the hotel helps us be able to have meetings. We require a lot of meeting space. Staying at the hotel and eating at the group dinners helps us save money to rent the meeting room space our members require. We appreciate your support in order to keep the expenses down and the communication high!

- Group Rate: \$179
- Dates you can get a group rate?
 February 3—February 11, 2024
- No room available?

Make a booking for at least one of the dates you are interested in.

Send an email to Kristi Anderson at kayakladyfl@gmail.com including your desired Check-in and Check-out dates.

- Why aren't there any king-size beds listed
 They don't have many. Add "king-size preferred" in the comment and the hotel will do what they can to get it to you. No guarantee.

Reservations Are Open!



Rosen Plaza

9700 International Dr.

Orlando, FL 32819

- If you forget to comment regarding the need for a king-size bed,
 Login to the website and choose to modify your reservation. Add it there.
 Then, call the hotel 1 (866) 470-9700
- Last date to get a group rate?
 January 11, 2024

There is nothing else available at this time.

Watch the National Meetings page on the USPS website. Meetings are being scheduled and the activities committee is working on finding interesting things to do ... other than sitting by the pool.

Make your reservations early so you can get the room accommodations you want.

SHORT BLAST

District 22, unit of United States Power Squadrons®

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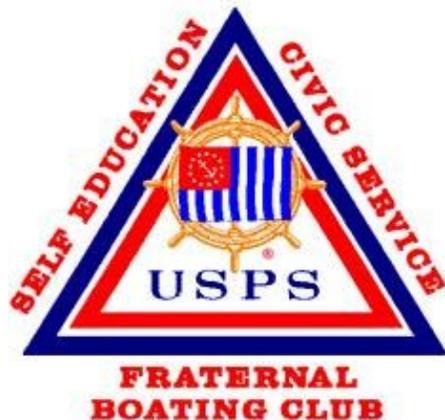
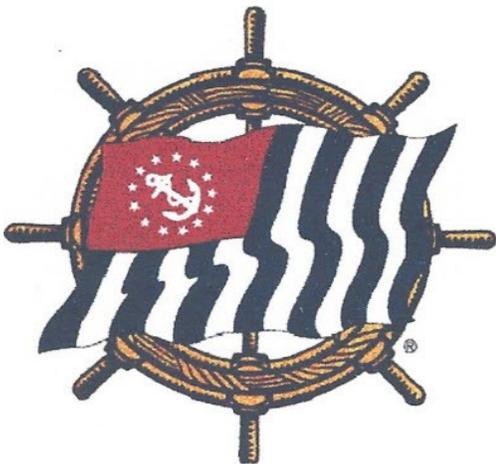
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