Force 12

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

For Boaters, By Boaters™

St. Petersburg

Safe, Fun, Boating Starts Here!

March 2021 *Volume 78* *Issue 3*

Change of Watch Highlights

Our Bridge: Cdr Beckman, SEO Cox, AO Sicard, XO Hauck, Tres Considine, Secy Kennedy

P/C Roger Erb receives his Past Commander Pin and Certificate

Chief Commander Mary Paige Abbott swears in our new commander

Squadron Information

Commander:
Cdr Constance H. Beckman, SN
Commander@boating-stpete.org

Executive Officer:
Lt/C Fredrick M. Hauck, S
XO @boating-stpete.org

Education Officer:
Lt/C Robert E. Cox, Jr, JN
SEO@boating-stpete.org

Administrative Officer:
Lt/C Gene Sicard, P
AdminOfficer@boating-stpete.org

Secretary
Lt/C Michele D. Kennedy, S
Secretary@boating-stpete.org

Treasurer
Lt/C Kathryn A. Considine, JN
Treasurer@boating-stpete.org

Past Commander: *
P/C Roger Erb, JN

Members- at- Large*
Lt Susan Tokarz, SN
Stf/C Louis E. McBride, P
Lt John Tokarz, SN

*See the Roster for contact information or e-mail force12@boating-stpete.org

Color copies of Force 12 can be found at:
http://boating-stpete.org/spsps/resources/

Schedule your 2021 inspection!

The decal indicates that your boat has the required safety equipment.

Feel free to contact any one of St Pete Squadron's dedicated inspectors directly:

Jeff Eckhart - jeffeckhart41@gmail.com
Jim Greenhalgh - tbskjim@gmail.com
Al Lima - bosbyshelllima@gmail.com
Bob Zewski - bobzewski@yahoo.com
or
Tom Krupa at tskru@outlook.com
or 727-422-1380

Contact Tom if interested in joining the 'team'!

Ship's Store

Show that you are a proud member of our Squadron by flying our burgee on your boat and wearing a squadron shirt.

You can bring your own shirt to have the logo embroidered.
We also have Squadron license plates!

Contact Tom Krupa at tskru@outlook.com to place your order or see Tom at general meetings.

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PHONE: (727) 347-7737 FAX: (727) 347-0179
jsmorse@injurylawus.com www.injurylawus.com
Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Cases

A Walk on the Beach
Saturday, March 20

Come enjoy a one hour walk / beach cleanup starting at 9 am at the south end of Pass-A-Grille Beach. Gloves and bags are provided or bring your own.

To 'prepare', we meet at 8 am to enjoy the amazing menu of Skyway Jacks on 34th Street for an early breakfast.

Contact Stf/C Louis McBride for more info at louismcbride219@outlook.com.

The beach cleanups are hosted by our Sea Scout Ship Ballyhoo 912 every other month.

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

OUR VISION:

"Making *safe* boating *fun* for everyone!"

OUR MISSION:

As a nonprofit organization America's Boating Club, St. Petersburg, makes safe boating fun by offering scores of informative and affordable boating education classes suitable for every level of boater.

Our goal is to make the water a safer place for all boaters. Through numerous, regularly scheduled events, we encourage social engagement with other members-- on and off the water-- wherein having fun with friends is "the order of the day."

We believe we have a responsibility to serve our civic community in measurable ways through our sponsored programs that makes St. Petersburg the boater's paradise it is for all its citizens.

Commander
Cdr Connie Beckman

Do you feel enthusiastic, motivated and energetic when starting something new but after some time, you lose your enthusiasm and interest? That seems to have happened to many members of ABC/ USPS, St Petersburg and Covid hasn't helped our squadron rebuild or keep new members involved.

You can help by setting aside Netflix, crossword puzzles, sudoku, novels or other escapist activities and get involved with America's Boating Club, St Petersburg. We are looking for you, your skills, and your talents. If you are willing to help by giving one hour each month, just contact me at connie@kenbek.com or call 727 867-3088.

We need people willing to:

- ◊ Use word and excel spread sheets to move data from one platform to another
- ◊ Help teach classes or become an instructor
- ◊ Help plan monthly meetings and contact speakers for our meetings
- ◊ Become a Vessel Safety Examiner
- ◊ Help with our Force12 monthly newsletter
- ◊ Help plan new member receptions
- ◊ Notify people via email that their dues are due
- ◊ Send out welcoming emails to new members
- ◊ Use an email contact manager
- ◊ Sponsor an activity of your own or Participate in Cooperative Charting
- ◊ Confirm educational courses by email
- ◊ Call members on a regular basis

The opportunities are endless and the rewards are great.
Remember the squadron's success depends on your participation.

Education Officer
Lt/C Robert Cox, Jr

As I sit and prepare this update, the America's Boating Club Virtual Annual Meeting (VAM) has begun and there has been some great information put out by the hard-working National Commander and her Staff. The winter storm has set in across half the country, with ice storms in Texas and below zero temperatures in many states, meanwhile in Tampa Bay, it is a balmy 75 with great winds for our local sailors. I am so glad we moved to Florida!! Oh, and let us not forget, The BUCS WON the SUPER BOWL…now who saw that coming?

One of the highlights from attending the first day of the VAM was learning about the new ABC app for your phone. It is an excellent resource and free for all to use. National created this phone app with links to a number of resources, with boating education and safety resources placed at your fingertips for ready reference and to enhance your safe boating experience.

The training for 2021 is well underway with better than expected attendance at our current ABC 1 course, VHF/DCS Marine Radio Seminar and Marine Navigation Course. Please keep in mind that our courses are being supported by the St Petersburg Sailing Center, and we must remember the COVID-19 protocols remain in force and a mask should be worn anytime you are on property attending a class.

Please take a look at the schedule posted online, share it with you friends and boating neighbors so we can educate the public to safe boating practices. The Current Schedule is listed below.

Lastly, we continue to look for new instructors or volunteers willing to help as table proctors for some of our classes. If you are interested in working with the education department, please reach out to me soon so we can take advantage of your unique talents and love for boating in support our local boating community. If you have an interest in becoming an instructor, or assist in any way, please let me know by dropping me an email at SEO@boating-stpete.org.

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

March Classes:

Basic WX & Forecasting Seminar on March 16
Boat Handling Course begins March 17
Offshore Navigation Course begins March 18
ABC 2 course begins March 22

April Classes:

April 20 — Seminar

Suddenly in Command

April 27
Hurricane and Boats Seminar

AMERICA'S BOATING CHANNEL™

An excellent resource for boating information is provided at Americas Boating Channel

https://americasboatingchannel.com/

Check out the Boating app at

Boating App from America's Boating Club

https://americasboatingclub.org/app

Safety Article

by

P/D/C Bob Morris, AP

What boat? Where are the lights?

Recently, I was very sad to hear that two boats had collided in heavy fog and several people were injured. That all took place right here in the St. Pete/Tampa area which caused me to believe that we still have much work to do as members of our Power Squadron.

The other morning, I went out on our balcony overlooking Boca Ciega Bay and couldn't believe my eyes. Several boats were underway and not one of them had their navigation lights on. None were sounding their horns every 2 minutes and some were leaving a wake which tells us that they were going too fast for the conditions. To make matters worse, there were at least ten boats anchored with not even one anchor light displayed. Limited visibility doesn't have anything to do with the time of day!

Here is what the USCG has to say on this subject:

"**Boating in Fog"**

Fog can develop very quickly and brings an increased risk of collision. In fog, if other boats can't see you they need to hear you. If you see fog moving in, do the following before your visibility becomes seriously reduced:

- Fix your position on a chart or mark it on an electronic plotter.
- Reduce your speed to the point where you can stop your vessel in half the distance you can actually see.
- Turn on your navigation lights.
- Instruct any passengers to help you keep watch – by sight, sound, and smell – preferably in the bow.
- Begin sounding one prolonged blast on your horn (4–6 seconds) every two minutes while underway and making way and two prolonged blasts every two minutes when underway and stopped. Continue until the fog lifts and visibility significantly improves.
- If you decide to anchor your vessel and shut off the engine, the sound signals change. While you are at anchor you must rapidly ring your bell for 5 seconds at intervals of not more than 1 minute. This lets other vessels know where you are and what your status is.

Executive Officer
Lt/C Fred Hauck

Hello Members!

Here we are into March which I hope will be brighter and safer for all of us.

The 2021 Vessel Safety Check (VSC) season is upon us. Tom Krupa is coordinating with the Fleet Captain of the St. Petersburg Yacht Club to provide vessel safety checks for approximately 35 vessels. This will continue to expand SPSPS's success story. On a similar issue, Tom and Sandy Krupa will be relocating to the state of Ohio sometime in June of this year. Jeff Eckhart has volunteered to take over as the Lead Vessel Safety Examiner. We are looking to expand our vessel examiner "fleet". Please consider volunteering…. give Tom a call to start the easy process to become one. You can study and take your test online.

Louis McBride is heading up another beach clean-up with the Sea Scouts at Pass-a-Grille Beach on March 20. Additional information is on page 3 of this month's Force 12. This is another worthwhile event that helps our community; please volunteer if you can.

Remember, we have the entire Florida coastline as our water playground; so go out and have a great March!

Treasurer
Lt/C Kathryn Considine

2020 Donations - $ 2,151.03

These donations help with the printing and distribution of the Force 12 and our electronic communications.

If you are making a donation, please remember to designate the use you prefer!

Secretary
Lt/C Michele Kennedy

Help Required

Minutes from the December 2020 Annual Meeting and January 2021 Change of Watch were posted at the February 2021 General Meeting. There were no changes and the minutes approved.

As we begin our 2021 year, I am making a plea to every one of you for a volunteer to take over as Editor-in-Chief of the *Force 12* from P/D/Lt/C Sandy Krupa, P. Sandy has done an amazing job as our editor, but with her and Tom's upcoming move, the June 2021 issue will be her last. That means we need a replacement editor no later than April so that he/she may work with Sandy when she puts the June issue together in May – the sooner the better, however. Please contact me (michele.kennedy@verizon.net) and/or Sandy if you are willing to take on this task.

On a happier note, I would like to thank 1st/Lt Linda Albrecht, P for volunteering to take on the role of Assistant Secretary upon Sandy's departure, to complete the Watch Year.

Thank you so much!

Please support the businesses who have their information in our newsletter

We hope you use the goods and services of the businesses listed throughout the newsletter. When using the business, please thank them and let them know that you saw their card in the Force 12.

If you know of anyone who would like their card published, please have them contact our Treasurer, Casey Considine.

DISTRICT 22

2021

SPRING CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All events will follow Strict CDC Guidelines

Friday, April 9

0900 – 1200 Registration Desk Open
0900 - 1200 Squadron Bridge Officer Meeting
1200 – 1330 Lunch on your own
1330 – 1400 Registration Desk Open
1400 – 1600 District Council Meeting

Dinner – social - 1730 / dinner served 1900

Saturday, April 10

0800 - 0900 Coffee and Pastry
0900 – 1145 Seminars/Roundtables
0900 – 1200 Registration Desk Open
1130 – 1315 Social and Luncheon

Speaker -Chief Commander's Representative

1300 – 1330 Registration Desk Open
1330 – 1600 District Conference

Change of Watch - social 1730 / dinner served 1845

Saturday Seminars / Roundtables – each limited to 24 attendees

0900 – 1145 - Instructor Recertification – *Lt Sylvia Weeks-Wedge, AP*
Pre-registration recommended - Contact Melissa Butler @ butlerm@wabash.edu

0900 - 1015

The D22, Squadron & National Websites
Lt Garry Stubbs, S & D/Lt Casey Considine, JN

Membership & Retention
P/Stf/C Sandy Krupa, P

Updated Info Educators Need to Know
D/Lt/C Melissa Butler, SN

1030 - 1145

Co-op Charting 2021 – "Moving Forward"
Stf/C Jim Strothers, SN

Emergencies on the Water
D/Lt/C Cliff Schmidt, JN

New Merit Mark System – Do's & Don'ts
Cdr Connie Beckman, SN

Dress: squadron shirt, khaki slacks, shorts or skirt / **Change of Watch**: Uniform A or semi formal

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Hotel Information

Four Points Sheraton – 941-637-6770 - $109.00 + $9.95 resort fee + taxes - cutoff date 3/10
State you have a special "Power Squadron room block" (code PO 1367) – need to make reservation directly

Springhill Suites by Marriott – 941-347-4224 - $99.00 + taxes - includes breakfast - cutoff date 3/19
Link to book your room online: **Book your group rate for America's Boating Club**

Rate is good for one day prior and a day after the conference dates

Must mention United States Power Squadrons and book for 2 nights for these rates

March 'in person' Dinner Meeting!

Tuesday, March 9

Isla Del Sol Yacht & Country Club
6000 Sun Boulevard
St Petersburg

Social 5:45 Dinner 6:15

Menu

House Salad, Corned Beef
Roasted Potatoes, Red Cabbage
Chocolate Bourbon Cake

$28.00
Only $27.00 if paid with cash or check

Email your reservation to
reservations@boating-stpete.org

Presentation:
'Connie & Al Show' presenting

The History of USPS

and

Presentation of Awards

Don't forget to RSVP as soon as possible!

Administrative Officer
Lt/C Gene Sicard

This is my first report as Administration Officer of our squadron. Thank you for your trust and help. As a club, we are moving forward with exciting new ventures regarding our marketing and promotion of our mission. This is quite an undertaking and I'm honored to take the lead.

We will be using Bay News 9 and other local media to get our mission heard and remembered. A new logo has been designed incorporating the Sunshine Bridge to mark the area that we serve. A necessary and functional upgrade to our website is being installed to accept payments for all classes and functions and an enhanced presence on Facebook.

There is a lot of work being done to achieve these objectives and we need all hands on deck. I want to thank all who stayed on in their positions, but need to fill the Social Activities and Boating Activities positions.

Please contact me if interested in helping.

Our March meeting will be a St Patty's Day Feast of corned beef and cabbage and possibly green beer. Bring your Leprechauns to claim your pot of gold.

USPS Awards will be handed out at the meeting, along with the "Connie and Al Show" with "The History of USPS".
You don't want to miss this.
Please make your reservations ASAP!

Working on a boating and/or land activity for March… stay tuned.

Lunch Bunch

Thursday, March 4

Portofino's Italian Restaurant

5035 34th Street S, St Petersburg
(Publix Shopping Center)

Join us for camaraderie

Please let P/C Marilyn Van Goey know that you plan to attend in order to allow the restaurant to make CDC arrangements

mvangoey@tampabay.rr.com
Or 727-501-5345

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

P/D/C Thomas Krupa

March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb; because March straddles the winter/spring line.

The world is changed by your example, not your opinion.

If this bumper sticker is getting smaller – the light is green.

"Duct Tape" therapy – used to treat common warts.

What rhymes with orange – no it doesn't.

If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?

Close you eyes and remember the smell of the cap gun.

"COB WEB" – the old english word for spider was "cob".

"Ship State Rooms" – traveling by steamboat was considered the height of comfort. Passenger cabins were not numbered. They were named after states. Thus today we have "staterooms".

Turtles can breathe through their butts. I know some people like that.

1889 – Queen of England orders first pizza delivery.

March 14th, Daylight Savings time returns.

March 17th, St Patricks Day!

St Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland. They gave him a great Uber rating.

Time for green beer & green mashed potatoes. . .

Chaplain's Corner

P/D/C Thomas Krupa

Like a ship tossed around at sea,
I cannot follow the planned course.

I know what to do but lack faith
in my decision.

You, my friend (my first mate) show the light to our journey's way.

Without you my future would be undecided – no shore in sight.

We now steer a course, which you have chosen - on calmer seas towards a safe harbor.

So today, I want to tell you (my friend) in case you might not know, how very much your friendship means to me.

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Calendar of Events

March	Time	Event	Location	Contact
March 3	6:30pm	EXCOM Meeting	St Pete Yacht Club	Cdr Connie Beckman
March 4	11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Portofino's, 34th Street	P/C Marilyn Van Goey
March 9	5:45pm	Monthly Dinner/Meeting	Isla Del Sol Yacht Club	Cdr Connie Beckman
March 14	2:00am	*Daylight Savings Time Begins*		
March 16	7:00pm	Basic WS & Forecasting Seminar	Sail Center	Lt/C Bob Cox
March 17	7:00pm	Boat Handling Course	Sail Center	Lt/C Bob Cox
March 18	7:00pm	Offshore Navigation Course	Sail Center	Lt/C Bob Cox
March 20	9:00am	Beach Cleanup	Pass-A-Grille Beach	Stf/C Louis McBride

April	Time	Event	Location	Contact
April 1	11:30am	Lunch Bunch	Portofino's, 34th Street	P/C Marilyn Van Goey
April 4		Happy Easter		
April 7	6:30pm	EXCOM Meeting	TBD	Cdr Connie Beckman
April 9 & 10		District 22 Conference	Event Center, Punta Gorda	
April 13	5:45pm	Monthly Dinner / Meeting	Isla Del Sol Yacht Club	Cdr Connie Beckman
April 20	7:00pm	Suddenly In Command Seminar	Sail Center	Lt/C Bob Cox
April 27	7:00pm	Hurricane and Boats Seminar	Sail Center	Lt/C Bob Cox

1 — George Baulig ***3 — Bill Eibach*** ***12 —Thomas Poffenberger***

14 — Lauren Fernald ***15 - Shar Fillingham*** ***15 —Terry Sicard***

22 — Axel Hoewt ***27 — Mike Stoddard*** ***27 — Jim Turley***

You are invited to join a special group event for members of

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

FEB 2022 EASTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

7 days: February 27 – March 6, 2022

Roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale on the BRAND NEW **ROTTERDAM**

Itinerary: Grand Turk, San Juan, St Thomas, Half Moon Cay

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GROUP PRICING FROM $799pp

Inside stateroom from $799pp

Outside from $1069pp

Verandah from $1299pp

Suites from $1799pp

Price does not include $175 pp taxes & port fees. Travel protection & transfers are additional.

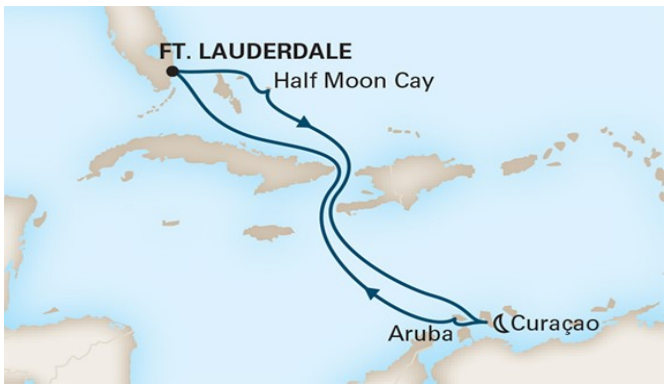
Don't miss sailing on Holland America Line's newest Pinnacle Class ship!

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

Everyone must book through Dawn Eckhart in order to be included in our group and receive the exclusive group benefits. USPS will receive remuneration from proceeds of this group event.

Email dawnstraveldeals@gmail.com or call

(727) 403-0406 to join our group on this new, exciting cruise!



Force 12 is a publication of the
St Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron
PO Box 13542
St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3542

Welcome to our 2021 Honorary Members!

Honorable Rick Kriseman, Mayor of St. Petersburg,
the following of St. Petersburg Yacht Club, Commodore David Mendelblatt, Shawn Macking, Waterfront Director. Cory Hall, Sailing Center Programs Coordinator,
Captain Matthew A. Thompson, Sector Commander, United States Coast Guard St. Pete,
and the following of Isla del Sol Yacht Club, Commodore Kelly Hart and Richie Fowler,
Dock Master.

You will be receiving our newsletter each month
to inform you of our activities. We hope you join us for a class or event.

Force 12

Color copies and previous Force 12 issues can be found on our website www.boating-stpete.org — 'resources'

Distribution either by email or hard copy,
please let us know which you prefer at tskru@outlook.com

Editor: Sandy Krupa **Assistance to this edition:**
JoAnn Chamberlain, Tom Chamberlain, Jacque D'Louhy and Dawn Eckhart