



**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF NEW ORLEANS POWER SQUADRON**

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**NUMBER 1**

## **Lots of Plans for the New Year**

*by Cdr Greg Mulvany, SN*

I would like to welcome Tiffany Eyer and thank her for agreeing to join the Executive Committee and Barry Hays for joining the NOPS Bridge in his position as Secretary. We need strong new blood to help the Squadron grow and move forward.

I would like to welcome our new members to the Squadron: Gary Toche, Brian Toche and Brett Toche. We are always pleased to get more boaters in the group and want to assure you that we are here to help as you plan your travels both in the immediate area and beyond. Let's talk about some of the classes and seminars that are available for you.

We had two great speakers at our January meeting. They gave firsthand accounts of what they went through as they spent approximately 30 hours in shark infested waters off the mouth of the river after their boat sank while fishing offshore. Thank you, Paul Le and Luan Nguyen, for sharing your experience with us. We all learned a great deal!

The holidays have come and gone and it is time to prepare for the 2023 boating season. There are lots of activities planned for 2023 including some opportunities to get away from the dock for some weekend cruising. In addition to the several annual rendezvous at the Chapman's home/dock on Moonraker Lake in Slidell we will have an opportunity to participate in several cruises with the Corinthians Sailing organization. Thanks to Louise Bienvenu for bringing these additional cruising opportunities to us.

Executive Officer, Greg Deis, is organizing a dinner

cruise on the Creole Queen in August when many of us are looking for ways to be on the water while still being in air conditioning. More to come on this via email.

The District 15 Spring Conference will be coming up in a couple months. This year the conference will be sponsored by the Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron in Madisonville. This will be a great opportunity for NOPS members to reach out and get to know our USPS neighbors on the Northshore. We recently had their Commander and Past Commander attend our January General Membership Meeting so let's reciprocate and do what we can to help make the Spring Conference a success. More on this once we get details.

We are getting closer to spring boating time and many of us will be thinking about cleaning off the boat and getting ready to hit the water for the 1st time in 2023. There are lots of things to check before heading out for the first time of the year and I would like to suggest that each of you look at your boat to see when your boat had it's last Vessel Safety Check. It might be a good time to schedule one before everyone gets too busy. You can request your Vessel Safety Check (VSC) at this link:

### **What's Inside**

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<https://americasboatingclub.org/index.php/scheduling-a-free-vessel-safety-check?highlight=WyJ2c2MiXQ==>

# TOPSIDE TALK

February/March 2023 (nbr 2023-1)

## MASTHEAD

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## Plans cont'd from page 1

If you are having problems getting scheduled please give me a call at (504) 377-8357 and I'll help get you set up.

There is also a Spring Commissioning Checklist included in *Topside Talk* that has been posted by BoatUS. A copy of this checklist is in the Files section of the New Orleans Power Squadron page on Facebook.

## Pictures from January Meeting

Pete Ingrassia arranged for a guest speaker, Mr. Paul Le, who spoke about how he and two friends survived and were rescued when their fishing boat sank in the Gulf of Mexico, just off the mouth of the Mississippi.

And from 2022 *WVUE* via *Gray Media Group, Inc*: Worried family members reported the boaters missing. Two of the boaters were found first, with hand injuries from fighting off sharks. The third boater was located and hoisted from the water by a Coast Guard Air Station New Orleans Jayhawk aircrew. All three boaters were wearing life jackets.

Hopefully, members walked away with lots of lessons learned.



Right, LANOPS members provided food for the meeting. Below, eating and socializing while waiting for the presentation to start.





# SPRING COMMISSIONING CHECKLIST

## Before You Launch:

- Check the condition of antifouling paint and repaint if necessary.
- Hose clamps should be inspected and replaced as necessary. Double clamp fuel lines and exhaust hoses with marine-rated stainless hose clamps. Keep seacocks closed when you are away from the boat.
- Inspect all hoses for stiffness, rot, leaks and cracking and replace any that are faulty. Make sure they fit snugly.
- Inspect prop(s) for dings, pitting and distortion. Make sure cotter pins are secure.
- Grip the prop (on inboard drive systems) and try moving the shaft up and down and side to side – if it's loose and can be wiggled, the cutless bearing may need to be replaced.
- Check the rudderstock to ensure it hasn't been bent. Operate the wheel or tiller to ensure the steering works correctly.
- Inspect the hull for blisters, distortions and stress cracks.

- Make sure your engine intake sea strainer is not cracked or bent from ice, free of corrosion, and is clean and properly secured.
- With inboards, check the engine shaft and rudder stuffing boxes for correct adjustment. A stuffing box should leak no more than two drops each minute when the prop shaft is turning.
- Inspect and lubricate seacocks. Make sure strainers are clean.
- Use a garden hose to check for deck leaks at ports and hatches. Renew caulk or gaskets as necessary.
- Inspect bilge pump and float switch to make sure they're working properly.
- Check stove and remote LPG tanks for loose fittings and leaking hoses.
- Inspect dock and anchor lines for chafe and wear.
- If equipped, ensure that the stern drain plug is installed.
- After the boat is launched, be sure to check all thru-hulls for leaks.

## Engines and Fuel Systems:

- Inspect fuel lines, including fill and vent hoses, for softness, brittleness or cracking. Check all joints for leaks, and make sure all lines are well supported with noncombustible clips or straps with smooth edges.
- Inspect fuel tanks, fuel pumps and filters for leaks. Ensure portable tanks and lines are completely drained of stale fuel before filling with fresh fuel. Clean or replace fuel filters.
- Every few years, remove and inspect exhaust manifolds for corrosion (for inboard powered boats.)
- Charge battery. Clean and tighten electrical connections, especially both ends of battery cables. Wire-brush battery terminals and fill cells with distilled water (if applicable).
- Inspect bilge blower hose for leaks and run blower to confirm correct operation.

## Engine Outdrives and Outboards:

- Inspect rubber outdrive bellows for cracked, dried and/or deteriorated spots (look especially in the folds) and replace if suspect.
- Check power steering and power trim oil levels.
- Replace anodes that are more than half wasted away.
- Inspect outer jacket of control cables. Cracks or swelling indicate corrosion and mean that the cable must be replaced.
- Inspect lower unit oil level, in sterndrives and outboards, top up as necessary.





# SPRING COMMISSIONING CHECKLIST

## Sailboat Rigging:

- Inspect swage fittings for cracks and heavy rust (some discoloration is acceptable). Inspect wire halyards and running backstays for “fishhooks” and rust.
- Remove tape on turnbuckles and lubricate threads, preferably with Teflon. Replace old tape with fresh tape.
- If you suspect the core around a chainplate is damp, remove the chainplate to inspect and make repairs.

## Trailers:

- Inspect tire treads and sidewalls for cracks or lack of tread and replace as necessary. Check air pressure – don't forget the spare.
- Inspect wheel bearings and repack with grease as necessary.
- Test all lights, replace any broken bulbs or lenses.
- Inspect winch to make sure it's working properly. Inspect hitch chains.
- Inspect trailer frame for rust. Sand and paint to prevent further deterioration.
- Inspect brakes and brake fluid reservoir.

## Safety:

- Check expiration dates on flares. Inspect fire extinguishers. Replace if over 12 years old. Over 40 million Kidde extinguishers with plastic handles were recalled on Nov. 2, 2017 (learn more at [BoatUS.com/extinguisher-recall](http://BoatUS.com/extinguisher-recall)).
- Make sure you have properly sized and wearable life jackets in good condition for each passenger, including kids. Check inflatable life jacket cylinders.
- Test smoke, carbon monoxide, fume and bilge alarms.
- Check running lights and spare bulb inventory.
- Update paper charts, and chart plotter software.
- Replenish first aid kit items that may have been used last season.
- Check the operation of VHF radio(s) and that the MMSI number is correctly programmed in.
- Be sure to get a free vessel safety check from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary or US Power Squadrons. Find out more at [SafetySeal.net](http://SafetySeal.net).

## For the Dock:

- Check both ends of the shore power cable connections for burns, which indicate the cable and/or boat's shore power inlet or the dock's receptacle must be replaced.
- Test ground-fault protection on your boat and dock, and know how to prevent Electric Shock Drowning by going to [BoatUS.com/ESD](http://BoatUS.com/ESD)

## The Paperwork:

- Make sure your boat registration is up to date. Don't forget your trailer tags.
- Review your boat insurance policy and update coverage if needed. BoatUS provides free quotes at [BoatUS.com/Insurance](http://BoatUS.com/Insurance). Provide a copy to your marina or club.
- Ensure your BoatUS Membership is in good standing. Login to [BoatUS.com/Account](http://BoatUS.com/Account) to check your Membership status or join at [BoatUS.com/Join](http://BoatUS.com/Join)

Visit [BoatUS.com](http://BoatUS.com) for More Helpful Boating Information

# NOPS 2023 Calendar of Events *(All dates are tentative.)*

## January

- 12 Exec Meeting
- 19 General Membership Meeting

## February

- 4 Bilge Boat Parade - Slidell
- 9 Exec Meeting
- 12 Super Bowl
- 16 General Mtg -- Founder's Day
- 19-25 USPS Annual Meeting - Orlando

## Mardi Gras

## March

- 8 Day at the Races  
- informal meet up
- 9 Exec Meeting
- 11 ABC Class
- 12 Daylight Saving Time Starts
- 16 General Mtg  
- Founders Day



## April

- 1 Crawfish Boil
- 9 Easter
- 13-16 French Quarter Festival
- 13 Exec Meeting
- 14-16?? D/15 Spring Conference
- 20 General Membership Meeting
- 28-30 Jazz Fest



## May

- 4-7 Jazz Fest
- 14 Mother's Day
- 11 Exec Meeting
- 18 General Membership Meeting
- 20-26 Safe Boating Week
- 27 Moonraker-Cheeseburgers In Paradise



## June

- 3 Middendorf's - Baton Rouge S & PS
- 8 Exec Meeting
- 15 General Membership Meeting
- 18 Father's Day
- ?? At the Wall Early 4th Party

## July

- 1 Heritage Park, Slidell Fireworks
- 4 Independence Day
- 12 Exec Meeting
- 15?? LANOPS Bunco
- 22or29 Lobster Fest



## August

- 5-6 Satchmo Summer Fest
- 10 Exec Meeting
- 12 Dinner Cruise
- 17 General Membership Meeting
- 26 Lunch GillyGills, Slidell
- 27-Sep 5 USPS Fall Governing Board - KC, MO

## September

- 4 Labor Day
- 9or16 Crab Boil
- 14 Exec Meeting
- 21 General Membership Meeting



## October

- 12 Exec Meeting
- 14-16 Heritage Park Slidell
- 15-16 Wooden Boat Festival
- 19 General Membership - Nominations due
- 28 D/15 Fall Council and Conference
- 31 Moonshine and Moonbeams
- Halloween

## November

- 5 Daylight Savings Ends
- 9 Exec Meeting
- 11 Fish Fry
- 16 General Membership Meeting
- 23 Thanksgiving



## December

- 7 Annual Meeting/Elections  
- Change of Watch
- 25 Christmas



## January 2024

- 1 New Year's Day
- 11 Exec Meeting
- 18 General Membership Meeting

## February 2024

- USPS Annual Meeting

**Check the latest issue  
of TOPSIDE TALK for changes.**

# Mind Your Docking Lines

from *Compass* December 2022



## Falling Overboard

While we were at the marina, a fellow boater fell in the water while putting the cover on the bow of his boat. I heard him yelling for help, so we ran down the docks to find him. Because of the dock's height, we couldn't pull him out of the water.

We dropped the stern ladder on his boat and pushed the boat away from the dock. This allowed him to maneuver between the dock and the boat. Then we helped get him to the stern swim ladder. Although he had some serious injuries, he lived to talk about it.

How would you get out of the water if no one could hear your cry for help? Do you have something to climb onto, provided you're physically able to do so? We suggest rigging a lightweight ladder so you can get out of the water quickly.

Look around your marina. Is there a life ring you could throw to someone or a lowered swim ladder nearby? If you're working on a project where you can easily lose your balance and fall in, consider wearing an inflatable personal flotation device. We rigged the swim ladder on our sailboat so we can deploy it from the water.

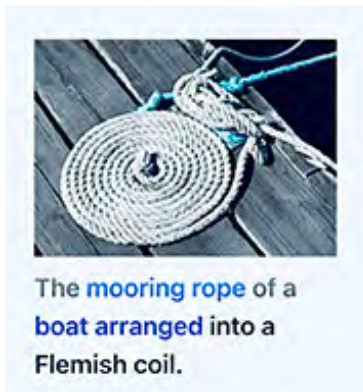
## Other Dockside Hazards

Cleats pose another dockside hazard. To save your toes from injury, wear shoes instead of flip-flops on the dock. Dock lines also pose a tripping hazard. Falling onto wooden or concrete docks or into the water can result in nasty injuries such as contusions, abrasions, broken bones and head injuries. As you walk down a dock, pay attention to your surroundings. Glance forward as well as down. I have seen quite a few people run head-on into an anchor or the bow of a boat because they were looking down at the dock. –Beth Schwab

Recently, I looked into my rode locker. Instead of the neat, orderly docking lines I thought I had stowed, I found what looked like an explosion in a spaghetti factory. I don't know what force of nature turns rope into a tangled mess, but I now believe any line left to itself will become foul and knotted beyond human understanding.

Tangled lines can be dangerous. In addition to docking and spring lines, every berth has electrical lines and water hoses. Together, they present a serious hazard. The marina where my boat, *Melodic*, spends the winter has finger slips more akin to rocking horses than walkways—treacherous even at the best of times. The other evening, my sidestepping a minefield of lines and hoses turned into a high-wire act as I tried to avoid losing my balance and falling into the drink. So, for safety's sake, be mindful of the lines attached to your boat.

The bitter ends of docking lines should be neatly formed into a Flemish coil. Aside from presenting a handsome appearance at the dock, this prevents the lines from running wild. Electrical cords should be plugged in, coiled twice around the dockside outlet, and then strung to the boat, leaving no excess cord on the dock. Long water hoses pose a particular hazard, but now you can buy inexpensive hoses that coil themselves into a tight, manageable circle, leaving a less hazardous footprint on the dock.



The mooring rope of a boat arranged into a Flemish coil.

If we watch our docking lines, our marina's docks will be safer for everyone. –Dan Fannon

May you have the  
hindsight to know  
where you've been,  
the foresight to  
know where you're  
going and the insight to know  
when you're going too far.



– Irish Toast

## Educational Department News

SEO Chester Cooke, SN-CN

The **America's Boating Course** is scheduled for March 11 at the trailer. Mike Turner will be the Instructor. 504.458.1443 or [turnermb@cox.net](mailto:turnermb@cox.net)  
[www.neworleansboatingclub.org](http://www.neworleansboatingclub.org)

New Orleans Power Squadron will instruct the American Boating Course on Saturday, 11 March 2023. Class will commence at 0900 and should wrap up before 1630. Graduates will receive a certificate of completion from the US Power Squadrons and the Louisiana Boat Operators License. There is no charge for the course however there is a fee (\$40.00) for the course material which can be shared. Space is limited, preregistration is required. You must register with NOPS & LA Wildlife & Fisheries in order to receive your USPS certificate and the LA Boat Operators License. Links are: NOPS registration:

<https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin/nat/eddept/800/getregformx.cgi?C-21039>  
(please update NOPS website and insert link here);  
LAWLF registration:

<https://louisianaoutdoors.com/events/192190>

If you have any questions, or an interest in taking or teaching classes, please contact SEO Chester Cooke, SN-CN, at [cgcooke3@yahoo.com](mailto:cgcooke3@yahoo.com)

## Marine Weather Forecasting: the 500 millibar Chart-Seminar

On Demand

Weather forecasting is critical for boaters heading offshore. This seminar covers how to use the 500 millibar upper-air chart to forecast your weather including when and where large storms will develop and how they will move. Topics covered in this seminar include:

- upper-level wind speed and direction,
- trough and ridge patterns,
- airflow patterns associated with foul, fair, and persistent weather, and
- the 5640 storm track line—a guide for passage makers.

You'll also learn about the latest National Weather Service marine forecasting tools for the Great Lakes, offshore zones, and high seas. You will gain insights from Daren Figursky of NOAA and questions and answers from the original webinar. For a list of available seminars:

<https://uspsonline.lmscheckout.com/Course/index>



## THE NEW ORLEANS POWER SQUADRON

will be conducting **AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE** with 8 hours of instruction on **Saturday, 11 March 2023 at 9:00am-5:00pm** at New Orleans Power Squadron  
**7601 Breakwater Dr, New Orleans, LA 70124**

Students asked to arrive before 08:45am. The course covers seamanship, required equipment, navigational rules, emergency situations, and much more. Graduates receive a certificate from USPS for insurance purposes and their Louisiana Boat Operators License.

**THERE IS NO FEE FOR THE COURSE BUT A CHARGE FOR MATERIALS**

**THIS COURSE IS STATE CERTIFIED**

To sign up visit:  
[www.neworleansboatingclub.org](http://www.neworleansboatingclub.org) educational tab

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL: Mike at (504) 458.1443 Email: [turnermb@cox.net](mailto:turnermb@cox.net)



# Flotsam and Jetsam

## Upcoming National Meetings

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Rosen Plaza at 9700 International Dr, Orlando, FL 32819 on February 19-26, 2023, room rate \$169.

The Fall GB is scheduled for Kansas City, MO, August 27-September 4, 2023, no further details available.



[https://www.allcounted.com/s?did=c6tb2fjyabyf6&lang=en\\_US&mc\\_cid=cc2d64b85a&mc\\_eid=676416d942](https://www.allcounted.com/s?did=c6tb2fjyabyf6&lang=en_US&mc_cid=cc2d64b85a&mc_eid=676416d942)

## 2023 Annual Meeting Livestream Project

If you have no choice but to miss all the fun and excitement of the 2023 Annual Meeting in Orlando this February, we have a solution. For the first time, United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club, will livestream the Thursday Evening Awards Dinner and the Saturday Governing Board Meeting. A generous grant from the Dallas Sail & Power Squadron and additional funds authorized by the Board of Directors has allowed the organization to purchase equipment to facilitate programming that will be carried on Lafferty Media Partners, Americas Boating Channel, and via Zoom. Links to the programming will be posted on the USPS member pages shortly before the meetings occur.

## Annual Meeting Voting

The Annual Meeting of the Governing Board of the United States Power Squadrons will be livestreamed so all members, regardless of their location, can attend. All eligible voting members will be sent credentials and will be able to attend in person or remotely and vote electronically. Electronic voting instructions are available at

<https://www.usps.org/php/reservations/documents/Voting.pdf>

For the full text of the Call to the Meeting and the matters to be discussed and voted on, please see [https://www.usps.org/images/secretary/Call\\_2023.pdf](https://www.usps.org/images/secretary/Call_2023.pdf)

## New Club Organization Planning Guidebook

Does your club or squadron need help to benefit fully from the recent update to the USPS Bylaws Article 7 — Squadron Organization? The Guidebook for Planning Your Club's Organization can help you understand the flexibility available to your club and what your club needs to do to use it. The guidebook also provides examples and tools to support your club's planning and decision-making. Download the guidebook from the Planning Committee's webpage. Once you've logged in as a member, download the guidebook directly

[https://www.usps.org/images/Planning/2022\\_Governing\\_Board\\_Documents/Club\\_Guidebook\\_November\\_2022.pdf?mc\\_cid=e41af4d91f&mc\\_eid=676416d942](https://www.usps.org/images/Planning/2022_Governing_Board_Documents/Club_Guidebook_November_2022.pdf?mc_cid=e41af4d91f&mc_eid=676416d942)

## Got 10 Minutes? Take Our Social Media Survey

USPS is developing a social media policy, strategy to help squadrons get the most out of their social media efforts. So, we want to learn about your squadron's social media use. If you manage or previously managed your squadron's or district's social media, please take a moment to fill out this questionnaire. It will only take 10 minutes, and your answers will help inform an organization-wide social media plan. –Amy Townsend [townsenda@hq.usps.org](mailto:townsenda@hq.usps.org) Link below to survey:

## Upcoming D/15 Conference

Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron will be hosting the spring conference. The date is expected to be April 14-16, but final contracts have not yet been signed. When complete details become available, they will be posted on both the NOPS and D/15 websites.

The **NOPS annual Founders Day Ceremony** and recognition of Past Commanders will take place at our March meeting.

The February General Membership Meeting has been canceled due to many members being unable to attend. My apologies if this change creates an inconvenience for you. *from Cdr Greg*

**Don Larson** passed away recently. Don was a P/C of the New Orleans Power Squadron (1973) and a current



Donald J. Larson, AP  
1973

member of the Baton Rouge Squadron. Don passed away in his sleep in January at the age of 86. Margie said he wanted to be cremated and to have his ashes spread in the Tchefuncte River.

Our thoughts to Margie and their family.

Flotsam cont'd on page 9



**Flotsam** from page 8

**2023 Change of Watch**

P/C, and P/D/C, Don Ellis, SN-CN, passed away on February 10, 2023 at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans. His beloved wife Darlene and daughter Donell were with him.



**Don R. Ellis, SN  
2013**

Don was born in Rutledge, TN, and served in the US Navy. He later graduated in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Don had a passion for sailing and was a member of the New Orleans Power Squadron and the New Orleans Yacht Club.

Don was a great storyteller, an excellent member of the squadron, and an all around great guy. He will be missed.

Our sympathies to Darlene, Donell and their family.

Entire obituary can be found at:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/norco-la/don-ellis-11148750>



**Left, Emcee Pete; below, LANOPS officers, Lila, Marlene, Sissy, D/C Taylor.**



**Left, Incoming CDR Greg, MC Pete, D/C Taylor; Right, Cdr Greg Mulvaney, SN with his words of wisdom for 2023;**



**Below left, Sissy presenty Greg his commander's flag and a contribution from LANOP; Below right, new officers and committee people, Pete, Tiffany, Dan, Eddie, Barry, Cdr Greg, Mike, Chester, Greg D., Taylor, in front. Charlie.**



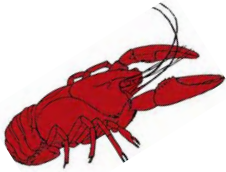
# Crawfish Boil

## Saturday 1 April

at the trailer

**\$20 per Person**

Open at 1200 (Noon)  
Crawfish at 1300 (1pm)



**Depends on the weather.**  
**whether we are inside or out.**

**Hooch will be available for purchase or BYOL**

Reservations to Cheryl  
by 24 March  
504-430-9743  
or [cdjarrell@cox.net](mailto:cdjarrell@cox.net)

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### No February Meeting - 16 March

1800 Social, Meeting - NOYC

### February

- 12 Super Bowl
- 16 Membership Meeting Cancelled**
- 21 Mardi Gras
- 19-25 USPS Annual Meeting - Orlando

### March

- 8 Day at the Races--Informal Meet Up
- 9 Exec Meeting
- 11 ABC Class
- 12 Daylight Savings Time Starts
- 16 General Meeting - Founders Day

### April

- 1 Crawfish Boil
- 9 Easter
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- 14-16?? D/15 Spring Conference
- 20 General Membership Meeting
- 28-30 Jazz Fest

## Few More Pics from COW



Left, P/C Dan presenting the 2022 Marvin Moate Award to P/D/C Don.



Left, Debbie and Eddie;  
Above right, Dan and Judy;  
Right, Marlene and Chester.

