



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF NEW ORLEANS POWER SQUADRON

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NUMBER 1

## As I Begin My Term...

by Cdr Tiffany Eyer

Ahoy!!

Change of the Watch this year was a lovely ceremony on Thursday December 7, 2023 where we got to celebrate some of our extraordinary senior members who have served for over half a century!

As commander for 2024, it is my pleasure to welcome the new bridge members and to convey my deepest gratitude to the returning bridge members and officers for their continued service.

In the last year, it has been so much fun working with the bridge and learning about all that goes into this prestigious organization. It is my honor to serve in the upcoming year and my focus will be growing membership by networking with the vast boating community that our area offers.

It will also be my mission to promote the wealth of knowledge our current members have to contribute to adventures on the water and boating safety.

I feel a great sense of hope for the future and encourage a wave of energy to preserve the work done by all the capable commanders from our past. Please reach out to me with your stories, plans and suggestions so we can share our passion and wonder for boating.

Congrats to all that are signed up for the Cruising class starting Jan 10th. Whether you are planning a trip to the Bahamas, the Caribbean or just across the lake it will be a beneficial series.

There will be an ABC Boating Course in March instructed by Mike Turner so spread the word and get signed up!!

**Above right, Cdr Tiffany Eyer being installed by P/D/C Bill Arcediano.**

**Below left, new Bridge and Committee Members.**



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January/February 2024 (nbr 2024-1)

**MASTHEAD**

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From top left, Marlene and Sissy being installed for LANOPS; P/C Greg with his comments; Cdr Tiffany and P/C Greg with their new flags; Sissy presenting Greg his framed Cdr's flag; MC Pete; Carol and P/D/C Bill getting ready to eat; Chris, Buddy, Pete!

more **2024 COW Pictures**

**Bridge Officers**

- |                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Commander              | Tiffany Eyer                |
| Executive Officer      | Gregory J Deis. SN-CN       |
| Educational Officer    | Chester G. Cooke III, SN-CN |
| Administrative Officer | Kevin Eyer, AP              |
| Secretary              | Barry Hayes, AP             |
| Treasurer              | Mike Turner, AP             |
| Asst. Secretary        | Eddie Brazeal, AP           |
| Asst. SEO              | Gregory M. Mulvany, SN      |

**LANOPS Officer**

- President Carolyn "Sissy" Chapman  
 Vice President Marlene Cooke  
 Secretary Lila Beyer  
 Treasurer Marlene Cooke



I love new officers fiddling with their flags!

Marlene and Chester



Tiffany and Kevin



LizAnn and Greg



Cheryl and Tiffany - Just want to point out that I was the first woman Cdr for NOPS in 1998. It only took another 25 years to get Tiffany for our second.  
 To be honest, NOPS hasn't had any interested women step up. Better late than never.  
 Exciting! And thanks to Tiffany for allowing me to join her and family at their table for COW.



# NOPS 2024 Calendar of Events

## January

5	Sunset Squadron Dock 5pm	
10	Cruise Planning 6pm, Trailer, 8 wks Wed	3-4
11	Exec Meeting	8
18	General Membership Meeting	15
27	Bilge Boat Parade - Slidell	24

## February

2-12	USPS Annual Meeting - Orlando	
2	Sunset at the Dock 5pm	2
8	Exec Meeting	??
11	Super Bowl	12
13	Mardi Gras	19
15	General Mtg - Founder's Day	22



## March

2	ABC Class	
10	Daylight Saving Time Starts	
TBD	Day at the Races	10
14	Exec Meeting	12-13
21	General Membership Meeting	17
23 or Apr6	Crawfish Boil	??
23	Big Bass Rodeo-City Park	31
31	Easter	



## April

6??	Crawfish Boil	3
11-14	French Quarter Festival	2 or 9
11	Exec Meeting	14
??	D/15 Spring Conference	21
18	General Membership Meeting	28
25-28	Jazz Fest	

## May

2-5	Jazz Fest	11
9	Exec Meeting	
12	Mother's Day	21
16	General Membership Meeting	25
18-24	Safe Boating Week	
25	Cheeseburgers In Paradise	



## June

??	Middendorf's - Baton Rouge S & PS	1
13	Exec Meeting	9
20	General Membership Meeting	16
16	Father's Day	
TBD	At The Wall	1-10

## July

1	Heritage Park Fireworks - Slidell	
4	Independence Day	
TBD	LANOPS Bunco-NOYC	
11	Exec Meeting	
18	General Mem Meeting	
20 or 27	Lobster Fest	



## August

3-4	Satchmo Summer Fest
8	Exec Meeting
15	General Membership Meeting
24	Lunch at GilliGils-Slidell

## September

2	Labor Day
??	Crab Boil
12	Exec Meeting
19	General Membership Mtg
22	Fall Equinox
22-30	USPS Fall Gov Board - Pittsburgh



## October

10	Exec Meeting
12-13	Wooden Boat Festival - Madisonville
17	General Membership - Nominations due
??	Moonshine and Moonbeams
31	Halloween

## November

3	Daylight Savings Ends
2 or 9	Fish Fry
14	Exec Meeting
21	General Membership Meeting
28	Thanksgiving



## December

11	Annual Meeting/Elections
	- Change of Watch
21	Winter Solstice
25	Christmas



## January 2025

1	New Year's Day
9	Exec Meeting
16	General Membership Meeting

## February 2025

1-10	USPS Annual Meeting - Orlando
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Check the latest issue  
of TOPSIDE TALK for changes.

## Boating on Lake Pontchartrain

**Lake Pontchartrain** is an almost ideal body of water for boating. The oval-shaped waterway is nearly 40 miles from east to west and 24 miles from New Orleans to the north shore. It is consistently 10 to 12 feet deep and the tidal range is normally less than 1 foot. Lake Pontchartrain deserves a high level of respect when storm winds blow. Keep a sharp eye out for numerous crab traps that seem to be randomly scattered across the lake; usually indicated by a small round white buoy.

Lake Pontchartrain is not a true lake. It is an estuary connected to the Gulf of Mexico via the Rigolets Straight and Chef Menteur Pass into Lake Borgne. It receives fresh water from the Tangipahoa, Tchefunct, Tickfaw, Amite and Bogue Falaya rivers and from Bayou Lacombe and Bayou Chinchuba. This area makes up one of the largest wetlands along the Gulf Coast of North America.

At Mile 35 EHL westbound vessels must decide if they are going to proceed to New Orleans by passing through the Rigolets (pronounced "rig-o-lees") and crossing Lake Pontchartrain (Route 1) or by continuing west in the GIWW and arriving in New Orleans at the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (Route 2). The distance is about the same. Conditions in Lake Pontchartrain will contribute to the decision. Planning, preparation and up-to-date charts are important to a safe and comfortable passage in this area.

### St. Tammany Parish

The south shore of St. Tammany Parish (22 miles north of New Orleans) offers everything from quaint bed and breakfast inns to antiques stores, fine restaurants and must-see swamp tours, which is the best way to see the nature estuary. Be sure to visit historic Olde Towne with excellent restaurants, lots of antiques shops and an ambiance that recalls simpler times. You can arrange to board an Amtrak train in Slidell for an easy trip into New Orleans and back.

### New Orleans

New Orleans dominates the southern shore of Lake Ponchartrain. A major U.S. port, New Orleans is considered an economic and commercial hub for the entire Gulf Coast region. It is an understatement to say you have arrived at a unique and interesting cruising destination. Just passing through these waterways is a notable journey. You will encounter bridges, locks and lots of traffic from barges and tugs to paddleboats.



New Orleans is known for its round-the-clock nightlife, vibrant live music scene and unique cuisine. "The Big Easy" has a long history as a melting pot of French, African and American cultures. Embodying this festive spirit is Mardi Gras, the late-winter carnival famed for raucous costumed parades and street parties. Whether you stay a few days or a few weeks, your visit to New Orleans will be a memory maker.

### Mandeville

The small towns of Mandeville and Madisonville are prominent features of the north shore. While the north shore may be only 22 miles from New Orleans, it is worlds apart; a much more relaxed area with the feel of the country. Many visiting boaters are attracted to the North Shore's peacefulness with

ready access to central New Orleans and its cuisine and nightlife.

Mandeville on Bayou Castine is a destination of its own in terms of ambiance, amenities and popularity. Its shoreline and streets are landscaped with majestic oak, magnolia and sycamore trees, which augment the Southern charm and blend in with an array of fine dining houses and pubs.

### Madisonville

The Tchefuncta (pronounced "Cha-funk-ta") River, 4 miles west of Lewisburg and 8 miles northwest of the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway, is Lake Pontchartrain's most popular weekend destination. This beautiful deep river has clean water, great anchorages, golf, tennis, country clubs, residential areas, several marinas and miles of undeveloped shores. It is also a popular waterway for crabbers so watch for crab pot floats.

Madisonville has a rich history on the river. The docks become crowded with small boats during the shrimp season and the town stays lively on weekends. Grocery stores, a Post Office, hardware store and other services are on the western shore (across the SR22 Bridge). There are also numerous restaurants and bars.

### Source: Waterway Guide Gulf Coast Edition

*(Editor's Note: This article was provided by Greg Mulvany, SN, with permission from Jeffery W. Jones of Waterway Guide.*

<https://www.waterwayguide.com/ship-store/regional-digital-print-access?zone=GC>

*Greg's comment: I think that many folks have forgotten what a great boating and cruising resource we have in our backyard. )*

## Educational Department News

SEO Chester Cooke, SN-CN

Mike Turner is having an **America's Boating Course** on 2 March. If you know anyone interested, contact Mike.

[turnermb@cox.net](mailto:turnermb@cox.net) or 504.458.1443

[www.neworleansboatingclub.org](http://www.neworleansboatingclub.org)

Greg is currently presenting the full Cruise Planning class which started Wednesday 10 Jan 2024, 6 pm at the NOPS trailer. It is in person and via zoom. For more information contact Greg Mulvany at (504) 377-8357 or email...[gmmlaf@gmail.com](mailto:gmmlaf@gmail.com)

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)

### Are You Teaching Differently?

If not, consider these reasons to change.

**New content delivery methods provide new ways to share information:**

- You can put content online for the boater to view.
- Doing this gives you time to help the boater learn to use the presented knowledge and skills.
- It also allows boaters who find information elsewhere to learn how to apply it to use on the water.

**Moving away from just providing information**

- allows you to focus on individual learners,
- creates a more interactive learning environment and
- lets you use more teaching aids to support learners.

**A traditional classroom instruction schedule isn't as popular today:**

- A fixed schedule in a 24/7 world is not as attractive.
- Online access to multiple resources such as YouTube

What teaching aids have you developed to help boaters? Have you adjusted the class schedule to accommodate busy lifestyles? Have you developed teaching strategies to create a more interactive learning environment?—Robert Rayburn [r.e.rayburn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:r.e.rayburn@sbcglobal.net)

*From the January 2024 USPS News Blast*



## THE NEW ORLEANS POWER SQUADRON

**will be conducting AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE with 8 hours of instruction on Saturday, 02 March 2024 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)**

## America's Boating Channel™ Understanding Life Jacket Labels

Let's start the year by getting our life jackets ready for the 2024 boating season. If you cleaned and inspected your life jackets before storing them for winter storage, you should know how many need to be replaced. (*See Safety right for info on how to check your life jackets.*) Which brings us to our topic of life jacket labels. You may be unaware of the new labeling system if you have not purchased a life jacket recently. Type I, II, III and IV labeling was removed by the U.S. Coast Guard from the Code of Federal Regulations in 2014, but it is taking several years for the legacy designations to be phased out.

To help boaters understand the current labeling system, Season Four of America's Boating Channel offers the video "Life Jacket Labels" in which you are introduced to the simplified labels that contain less writing and more icons.

Regardless of your age or experience level, data shows that life jackets save lives. So don't hesitate to replace older life jackets. America's Boating Channel also produced a sequel entitled "New Label Benefits" that covers the advantages of the new life jacket labeling system. In this video, viewers learn how to interpret label icons. Also featured are tips for selecting the right life jacket for your intended on-the-water activity.

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.

In addition to YouTube, these professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos are available via the America's Boating Channel free, on-demand app on Apple TV, Roku or FireTV. 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.

**CHOOSE THE DEVICE YOU WILL WANT TO WEAR**

**SIZE & FIT**

- Check label for user weight and if real size.
- Different body types float differently.
- A good fit is secure, comfortable, and adjustable.

TRY IT ON

**PERFORMANCE**

- Lower number offers greater mobility, comfort, and style with good flotation for most people.
- Higher number offers greater flotation, turning, and stability in the water.

**CONSIDER YOUR ACTIVITY & ENVIRONMENT**

**RISK MANAGEMENT \***

- In over 80% of boating fatalities the person was not wearing flotation.
- Most of these are sudden falls overboard or capsize of a small boat.
- The first moments in the water are critical, even for experienced swimmers.
- Cold water shock causes gasping, loss of muscle control and swim failure.
- Long term immersion in cold water requires thermal protection and flotation position to conserve energy.

**FLOTATION DEVICES SAVE LIVES**

### Safety-Check Your Inflatable Life Jackets

Do you have inflatable (Class V) life jackets on your boat? When was the last time you inspected them? It's best to check them annually. If you can, take them home or somewhere warm to do this. Check the webbing, covers, and buckles for damage. Open the cover and check the inflation valve indicator. If it is not green, your CO2 cylinder has lost pressure and should be replaced. For auto-inflation models, check the little water-soluble bobbin that activates the valve when you go in the water. It should have an expiration date and should be replaced if it is outdated. Blow it up as tight as you can by mouth using the oral inflation tube. Put the cap

on the end and let it sit out for at least 24 hours. If it stays full, you are good to go. Deflate and repack it. If the straps or buckles are damaged or if the bladder goes soft, you are probably better off replacing it. The seams of the bladder can develop pinhole leaks that are nearly impossible to repair properly.

-Jeff McKinney [jmckinney2606@gmail.com](mailto:jmckinney2606@gmail.com)

**The world is full of people whose notion of a satisfactory future is, in fact, a return to the idealized past.**



**Robertson Davies, (28 August 1913 - 2 December 1995) was a Canadian novelist, playwright, critic, journalist, and professor, "A Voice from the Attic", 1960**



## Flotsam and Jetsam

### 2024 Annual Meeting

Friday, February 02, 2024 - Monday, February 12, 2024 at Rosen Plaza Orlando, 9700 International Drive, Orlando FL 32819. Telephone: 407-996-9700, the rate is \$179.00.

[https://www.usps.org/php/reservations/meetinginfo.php?mtg\\_id=46](https://www.usps.org/php/reservations/meetinginfo.php?mtg_id=46)

If you can't attend the meeting in person, grab a cup of coffee and settle in to watch the livestream of Saturday's meeting on YouTube starting on Saturday, Feb. 10, at 9 a.m. ET. (The meeting will be recorded for later viewing if you miss it live.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFAvqiTpVFU>

Are you already making your summer plans? Please add the 2024 Governing Board Meeting in Pittsburgh, Sept. 22-29, to your calendar, too!

### Offshore Navigation Course Update Coming Soon

The Offshore Navigation Student Manual and Instructor Kit e-books will be available in early January 2024. Offshore Navigation is the first of a two-part program of study in offshore (open coast) navigation. In this course, students develop skills needed to carry on the day's work of a navigator at sea. Of particular interest and importance is the study of electronic offshore navigation planning and execution using downloadable computer software and NOAA charts, plotting sheets and other navigational data for offshore positioning and passage planning.

-Priscilla B. Clarke [pbc@buffalo.edu](mailto:pbc@buffalo.edu)

### VSC Decal Update

The 2024 Vessel Safety Check decals have been shipped from HQ to your squadron VSC chair of record or commander. Quantities were calculated based on the number of exams completed by the squadron in 2023. COMMANDERS: If your VSC Chair has changed since last year or you no longer have one, please note this on your OD-2 form for the coming year.

-Jeff McKinney [jmckinney2606@gmail.com](mailto:jmckinney2606@gmail.com)

### Seeking Volunteers for Litter Cleanup

This past October, I saw an advertisement in my local community newspaper, Chattanooga Times Free Press, submitted by Outshine Adventures, a local tour coordinator I had worked with for kayaking trips on the Hiwassee River. They had partnered with several other local companies to do an environmental cleanup project in our area. Eager to ensure United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club, was part of this cleanup effort, I immediately signed up as our organization's representative. About 50 folks showed up, and several local rangers and Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency staff helped direct the activities. Everyone received bags and pickup devices to make

grabbing trash easier. One group had scales and weighed all the trash at the end. We spent three hours getting it done. What a great way to get your day off to a great start! I challenge each club to participate in a cleanup effort in your area during 2024. You'll be glad you did, and your community will be better off for your efforts. Happy New Year from your Environmental Committee in action! Keep me informed of what you do. -John DiPrima [captjrdiprim@hotmail.com](mailto:captjrdiprim@hotmail.com)

*As an aside, NOPS used to take part in Beach Sweep every year. I think, Ern Beyer arranged our participation. Maybe we should look into that again.*

### Make Twice the Impact With One Gift

Thank you for being a valued member of the United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club, family. With our organization's Founders Day (Feb. 2) fast approaching, I wanted to share some exciting news that can double the impact of your support. Just in time for the celebration of our founding in 1914, a long-time benefactor of our organization has provided the United States Power Squadrons Endowment Fund Inc. with a gift of up to \$100,000 and challenged members and supporters to match their commitment. Please donate today to have your gift doubled, giving it twice the impact on local programs, course development and training. Your tax-deductible gift will continue to help pioneer innovations, helping us reach boaters and increase our membership, develop new programs that meet the needs of our members, fund training programs, and create better outcomes for boaters and their families. This matching gift opportunity ends on Feb. 28, 2024, so don't miss the chance to have your gift go twice as far. Visit [uspsendowment.fund](https://uspsendowment.fund) and give today!

[https://uspsendowment.fund/?mc\\_cid=fa53f5633c&mc\\_eid=676416d942](https://uspsendowment.fund/?mc_cid=fa53f5633c&mc_eid=676416d942)

-John Malatak [jmalatak@comcast.net](mailto:jmalatak@comcast.net)

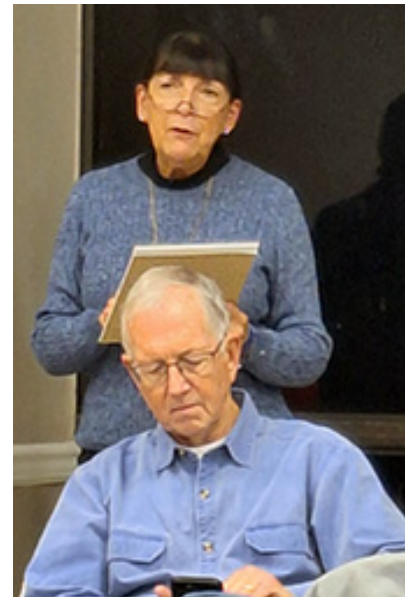
### Take Advantage of McGriff's Discounted Boat Insurance

Since its founding in 1914, United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club, has prioritized keeping our waterways safe. One of the many benefits of membership is the official ABC Boat Insurance Program, created to meet the unique needs of our members with discounts up to 38% available exclusively to dues-paying members. McGriff Insurance Services LLC administers this program. To request a quote, go online or call 800-763-USPS (8777), Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Central Time and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. CT.

-Tammy Brown [brownt@hq.usps.org](mailto:brownt@hq.usps.org)



# Pictures from the January Meetings



Above left, Cdr Tiffany and the NOPS meeting;  
Left, President Sissy and the LANOPS meeting.



more **2024 COW Pictures**



Dan and Judy Ross,  
Debbie and Eddie Brazeal,  
Thanks for making COW so outstanding.



**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**15 Feb - 21 March - 18 April**

1800 Social, Meeting - NOYC

**February**

- 2-12 USPS Annual Meeting, Orlando
- 2 Sunset at the Dock, 5pm
- 8 Exec Meeting
- 13 *Mardi Gras*
- 15 General Membership Meeting  
- Founders' Day

**March**

- 2 ABC Class
- 10 *Daylight Saving Times Starts*
- TBD Day at the Races
- 14 Exec Meeting
- 21 General Membership Meeting
- 23?? Crawfish Boil
- 23 Big Bass Rodeo-City Park
- 31 *Easter*

**April**

- 6?? Crawfish Boil
- 11-14 *French Quarter Festival*
- 11 Exec Meeting
- ?? D/15 Spring Conference
- 18 General Membership Meeting
- 25-28 *Jazz Fest*



Executive Board Meeting  
before the  
Change of Watch.