



PEACE RIVER PILOT

Peace River Sail & Power Squadron - A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons® - District 22



**This is the vessel of Daniel Hartwig, P and Diane Hartwig, P
who will be using it starting 9 April to navigate the
GREAT LOOP.**

For more information on their boat & plan see page 18 and on the GREAT LOOP see pages 19 & 20.



Visit Us On-Line : www.puntagorda-boating.org

**Or on Facebook - [facebook.com/
PeaceRiverSailAndPowerSquadron](https://facebook.com/PeaceRiverSailAndPowerSquadron)**



**Or connect with us at: americasboatingclub-D22.org
Or tune in to : <https://americasboatingchannel.com/>**



Commander Edward Maxwell Jr., AP



Spring has sprung and April will soon be upon us. As you read this, the days are longer and the temperatures are warmer. The best of the boating season is approaching so let's all plan to get out on the water! Easter is bearing down upon us and the Annual Spring Picnic is just around the corner. The Administrative Department is working hard to put on a fun filled spread at Harbor Heights Park. Details

are found elsewhere in this newsletter, but please plan to attend and bring family and friends. The more the merrier. We will also be honoring the 2023 Merit Mark recipients at the picnic.

Things are moving along smoothly with our new Education Center and we hope to be in and fixing it up by 1 April. We are still looking for design ideas for the windows, so if you are artistically minded, give us some of your thoughts.

The D22 Spring Conference is 12-13 April at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center. Our own Ron Jones will be sworn in as the D22 Commander and I personally would love to see a large turnout of Peace River Sail & Power Squadron members to support him on this momentous occasion. Dinner tickets are only \$40.00 each for the meal and presentation and the cutoff date for ordering is approaching fast. More information is contained in the newsletter, but please come out and let's show the District that PRSPS supports their own and how proud we are of Ron and his accomplishments.

Volunteers are still needed for Life Jacket Stands, Show Booths, Parades and many other committees. Please consider donating some time to help. Contact the XO, AO or myself for details.

The new Squadron Directory will be printed and distributed in April. Please check your information in the current directory and notify Interim Editor Larry Mack, immediately, of any needed updates or changes.

Lastly, we are going to try to have the May Business Meeting at the new Education Center. It will give everyone a chance to see the new facility. Details will follow.

Thank you all who have helped get us through the post hurricane/Covid era and into the sunshine of 2024. Let's work hard to grow membership and to make our Squadron as active and enjoyable as it was in the past. Please contact me with any complaints, comments, or suggestions for improvements. All comments will be kept confidential.

Thanks, Cdr. Ed Maxwell

2024-2025 BRIDGE

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The 2024 Peace River Sail & Power Squadron Membership Directory is now being prepared.

If you have moved into a new home, or changed any of your contact information in the last year — Email Address, Home or Cell Phone Numbers, or your Boat Status, please contact: Lt Larry Mack, SN at ocean_mack@msn.com

When sending in your boat information, please include the Boat Name ,Boat Type (power or sail), length, draft and your MMSI number if you have one.

Support Our Advertisers
tell them you saw their ad in the
Peace River Pilot.

Advertisers	Page
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The deadline for the
May 2024 Pilot
articles is Monday,
15 April.

"Bill Bayer Memorial Education Fund"

Donations in Bill's name will benefit the Squadron's Education Program.

Donations will be used for classroom equipment and supplies, Outreach Programs to the community, and other education oriented projects or needs.

Donations may be sent to Treasurer Lt/C Deborah R. Frank, S, made out to PRSPS, with a memo reading "Bill Bayer Memorial Education Fund". Your donation is tax deductible.

Ships Store Items for Sale

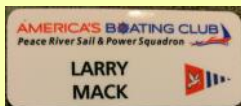
Our Burgee \$23.00



Front License Plate \$3.00



New "America's Boating Club" white Name Tags are now available with magnet backing - \$12.00.



Face Masks with America's Boating Club Logo.
\$6.00



Official Squadron Polo Shirts are available with the new "America's Boating Club" logo -\$32.00. Your name on the front is extra.

If you would like to purchase a squadron item
Contact Squadron Ships Store Officer
Lt Larry Mack, SN, at ships_store@americasboatingclubpeaceriver.org

The **PEACE RIVER PILOT** is published monthly except for July and August, by the Peace River Sail & Power Squadron, Inc. PRSPS is a unit of District 22 of the United States Power Squadrons, Inc. Opinions expressed by individual authors do not necessarily reflect USPS or Peace River Sail & Power Squadron policy or endorsement. The Editors reserve the right to modify materials submitted for publication. We appreciate your articles and input. Please make sure the information submitted to the PILOT is correct. All articles will be edited to assure conformity with USPS regulations and guidelines.

The Pilot's Deadline:

Members and Bridge are encouraged to submit material and photos with captions of squadron events, to the Editors by the 15th of the month or as requested by the Editors. All Articles should be written in Word, and sent as an attachment, not in the body of an Email.

2024

April

- | | |
|---|------|
| 10 Lunch Cruise - Snook Haven- | 1130 |
| 11 Excom Meeting TBA | 1900 |
| 12-13 D22 Spring Conf. CHECC | |
| 20-21 Spring Home & Garden Show CHECC | |
| 28 Picnic/Business Meet. Harbor Heights | 1300 |

May

- | | |
|---|------|
| 04 Kentucky Derby Party Beef O'Bradys | 1700 |
| Contact Cindi Sanders 765-721-1818 or Joyce Sluzewski - 941-639-2009 | |
| 09 Excom Meeting PRSPS Education Center | |
| 21234 Olean Blvd #8, Port Charlotte 1900 | |
| 15 Silver Trident Meet. Beef O'Bradys | 1130 |
| 16 Lunch Cruise Cass Cay Burnt Store | 1130 |
| Contact Carol Musco - 941-391-2512 | |
| 18-24 National Safe Boating Week | |
| 21 Business Meeting, Open House and | 1730 |
| Hors d'oeuvres at PRSPS Education Center 21234 Olean Blvd #8 Pt Charlotte | |

June

- | | |
|--|------|
| 13 ExCom PRSPS Education Center | 1900 |
| 18 Lunch Cruise- Lime Tequila Pt Char | TBA |
| 22 Coastal Clean UP-Bayshore Live Oak Park | |
| 25 Business Meeting Beef O'Bradys, PG | 1930 |

July

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| 11 ExCom PRSPS Education Center | 1900 |
| 16 Babcock Ranch Eco Tour and Lunch | TBA |
| Summer Break, no monthly meeting | |

August

- | | |
|---|------|
| 08 ExCom PRSPS Education Center | 1900 |
| 16 Lunch Cruise-Twisted Fork Port Charlotte | |
| Summer Break, no monthly meeting | |

For more information see the Monthly Calendar on page 21

PGBC: Punta Gorda Boat Club

CHECC: Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center

*EdCntr: PRSPS Education Center
21234 Olean Blvd #8 Port Charlotte, FL*

TBA : "To Be Announced"



Executive Officer

Lt/C James E. Ayres, S



Well the Ides of March have passed and we are now into warmer weather. Warmer weather translates into more and better Boating here in Southwest Florida. Within a few days we will be into our New Training and Education Center. The Building we have acquired will

surely make it easier for Training, Education and Squadron Meetings. We will have a new degree of stability in allowing classes and Squadron Activities to occur on our schedule at last.

April is a full month for squadron Activities. On Friday, 12 April and Saturday, 13 April 2024 District 22 will have our Spring Conference here in Punta Gorda at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center. Our Own Past Commander with now take the Helm of D22 as the New D22 Commander. For those of our Members who have never attended a D22 Conference I urge you all to attend. Register on Line, Call me or any of the Bridge if you are not sure how to register. Attendance is Free of Charge. You don't have to attend the Lunches or Dinners, these are optional. However, the Educational Workshops are Free. Attend these and get involved with America's Boating Club.

New Members and Seasoned Members this is a call for your assistance in setting-up the Volunteer Schedule for the Spring Home and Garden Show. The Spring Home and Garden Show will be Saturday, 19 April and Sunday, 20 April at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center. Everybody keeps saying we as a Squadron need to do more. Well it starts with simply getting Volunteers to work the "Show Booth". I'm challenging all Bridge Members to sign up for a two-hour shift and I'm challenging all New or Newer Members to work the Show Booth with a Bridge Officer. The Job is Easy. Talk to people stopping at our booth. Talk Boating, Talk where are you from, Talk About joining our Squadron dedicated to safe Boating and Boater Education. Be a Diplomat for **America's Boating Club Peace River**. To volunteer for the

(XO continued on page #7)



Educational Officer

Lt/C Elias R. Quintos, N



Congratulations to Lt/C James Ayres, P/C Sandra Darna, Willard Kelchner, and Michael Lento for completing the Engine Maintenance class and passing the exam with flying colors.

Eighteen have registered and are anticipating or have taken their exams in Marine Electrical Systems, Communications Systems, Sail, Marine Navigation, and Boat Handling, classes that started back in January.

All six who took the January ABC class exam passed, and four are registered for the March ABC class.

Congratulations to all our instructors for their diligence and dedication.

Currently these are the scheduled classes and seminars.

ABC classes are scheduled for 11 May, 13 July, 14 September, and 16 October.

Boat Handling is set for 22 May, Marine Navigation for 23 May, and Hurricane Preparation for Boaters on 25 May.

We are eagerly anticipating more interest once we have our classroom. Gleaning from discussions, we are keeping up with technological advances and the future is exciting.

"BECOME A BETTER BOATER"

America's Boating Club Peace River

2024 Education Course

Schedule to date:

ABC Two Half-Day 8hr Sat, 11– 18 May
ABC Two Half-Day 8hr Sat, 13-20 July
ABC Two Half-Day 8hr Sat, 14-21 Sept
ABC 4@2.5hr sessions 12hr Wed, 16 Oct—6 Nov

Boat Handling Wed, 22 May
Marine Navigation Thu, 23 May

If you want a particular course to be taught in the next several months, you need to contact Elias and let him know of your interest.

Questions? Call 941-584-5993

Or contact:

SEO Lt/C Elias Quintos, N
at [education](mailto:education@americasboatingclubpeaceriver.org)

[@americasboatingclubpeaceriver.org](mailto:education@americasboatingclubpeaceriver.org)



Sunshine Committee Report

To all Members:

If you know that someone in the Squadron needs a Sympathy card, a Get Well card, or an Encouragement card sent from the Squadron, please email or phone Mar Spaulding at 941-629-4458 (cell) or 941-505-1135 (home phone).

sunshine@americasboatingclubpeaceriver.org

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For Boaters, By Boaters®

DAN BOATER.ORG

BOAT
Responsibly



Administrative Officer

Lt/C Dean R. Sellers, P



The calling committee met on Saturday Feb 24th to discuss the new member communication. It was decided to call the group the New Member Contact Committee since communication is done through multiple ways.

A monthly overview will be written up by Patty Montorsi, the new chairperson, and sent to the other two contact members. We have 6 new members that we will be in contact with over the next 6 months. We just got word that another couple will be joining as transfers into our squadron. The paperwork is being processed and we will add them to our list.

In the next month, we plan to pull the membership committee together to discuss and implement new strategies to enhance and retain squadron members. Times have changed at a fast rate and we want to keep up with those times on what the new members are asking for, from the squadron. This will include reviewing the electronic "membership kit" that is sent to new members to be sure we are giving them updated materials and if it is all relevant to their needs and wants.

We had 27 paying members attend last month's St Patty's Day themed dinner meeting. A few others also attended the meeting but did not eat. I have heard feedback from some members that they would have liked another meat option so they could participate. Moving forward, we will make sure this is an option. Once again Hometown Grill catering, provided the meal.

The Flyer for the Picnic with the sign-up link, is located elsewhere in this Pilot. There will be a cost of only \$10.00 this year. As always there is a link for you to click on to sign up. We would like to thank Barb Troike for once again volunteering to take the registrations to our activities.

One last thing: If you are a power boater in this group, and I haven't already contacted you, please message me directly at adsel45@yahoo.com to let me know who you are and what type of boat you have

As always, please let us know of your ideas and suggestions- they are always welcomed.



Secretary's Report

Lt/C Kris Ayres



Greetings members of Peace River Sail and Power Squadron.

By the time you read this, we will have made it through the Ides of March, celebrated St. Patrick's Day, enjoyed a lunch at the White Elephant in Englewood, and hopefully you all were recipients of a pot of

gold along the way. If not, we promise some "golden" moments with our phenomenal squadron in the future; just keep up your ongoing participation at our events, and the prizes will be bestowed upon you.

A big thank you to Dean and Ann Sellers for their tireless and ongoing dedication to making our celebratory dinner meetings fun and always unique. I hope that you were present to hear the Florida Sea Grass presentation by Kate Rose, M.S. from the Charlotte County Extension; if not, take some time to familiarize yourself about this issue. This is a highly important initiative that we as a squadron need to promote. I personally spent hours on the web reading through numerous articles on Florida's Sea Grass issues and its environmental impact to our waterways, our fish, the endangered manatee population, and also importantly, Florida's economy. The information I garnered from my reading was a real awakening to me, and reinforces the need to not only get involved as a club, but to also promote to the public through our educational endeavors. Several good places to begin your information process is Florida Department of Environmental Protection (floridadep.org) Florida Fish and Wildlife (myfwc.com), and Florida Oceanographic Society (floridaocean.org).

Reminder: As mentioned in last month's post, a part of my responsibility, and in conjunction with Larry Mack's consistent hard work, is the Directory of members. If you haven't looked over the Directory, please take a moment to check over your information and advise me of any changes or updates that are necessary. You can send them directly to me at krisayres@yahoo.com and I will let Larry

(SEC Continued on page #8)

(XO continued from page #4)

Home & Garden Show call or text me at **313-701-7166** or E-mail to the following:
xo@americasboatingclubpeacriver.org or jame-sayres877@yahoo.com.

Regards & Fair Seas,
Jim Ayres S, XO - **America's Boating Club**
Peace River
Semper Fi and Back the Blue

Volunteers Needed **Earn your Merit Mark for 2024**

Sue Maxwell - Committee Chairman

The Life Jacket Stand Committee has several openings for volunteers to maintain a stand near them. It only takes one to two hours to keep the stands up and running and to earn a Merit Mark for your service.

If you are interested, please call or text Ed Maxwell at 561-252-2056. Leave a message and I will quickly return your call. This is an enjoyable way to see some of the local waterfront while performing your civic duty. Thanks.

Show Booth Help Needed!

New members and veterans, we need some help with manning our Show Booths.

We will pair you with our experienced show members that will help you get started.

You will gain hours toward a merit mark, work with and meet new friends and have free admittance to the shows.

BoatUS Civic Service Award input

Each year BoatUS presents the prestigious Civic Service Award, an award that Peace River has won numerous times. To simplify record keeping, bridge officers and/or committee chairs are asked to complete a brief report on-line at <https://forms.gle/rKAPD8p98b8U3PjYA>



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™ has produced videos to explain the new labeling system, which makes selecting the right life jacket easier. Watching videos like "Life Jacket Labels" (https://youtu.be/9v1_Eed4m90) and "New Label Benefits" (<https://youtu.be/MZ3v6JHPVlo>) are an excellent way to understand how to buy the best life jacket for your intended use.

Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like and subscribe to America's Boating Channel on YouTube as a fun and educational introduction to what our organization has to offer. This video and more also are available via the America's Boating Channel free on-demand app on Apple TV, Roku or FireTV.

Pilot Newsletter Submissions

Members and Bridge Officers are encouraged to submit material and photos, with captions, of squadron events, to the Editor by the 15th of the month or as requested by the Editor.

An event without photos cannot be documented toward the National Civic Service Award. All Articles should be written in Word, and sent as an attachment, not in the body of an Email.

(SEC Continued from page #6)

know so that we are consistently up to date on that information. changes or updates that are necessary. You can send them directly to me at krisayres@yahoo.com and I will let Larry know so that we are always up to date on that information.



REMINDER FOR OUR "SEASONAL MEMBERS"

For our Peace River "Seasonal Members" that will be heading up north (or already there) for the Summer/Fall timeframe, please email Larry Mack at:
ocean_mack@msn.com
and provide me with your northern address and about when you will be coming back south so we can keep our mailing list current.



Treasurer Lt/C Deborah R Frank, S

Will be going north for the summer but will be reachable by email at

franklydebbie@gmail.com
Or

treasurer@AmericasBoatingClubPeaceRiver.org



**Let's Welcome our
Newest Members
to America's Boating
Club Peace River**

Please check our membership directory updates for further information and contact them for their committee interests.



Yoshi Endo, P

Stf/C Bill Stano, JN

P/C Rose Stano, AP

BASIC BOATING COURSE **INSTRUCTORS AND PROCTORS NEEDED**

SEO Lt/C Elias Quintos, N

One of our squadron's primary purposes is to provide education about basic boating skills in our geographic area to experienced as well as novice boaters. Our squadron has been a leader in the number of classes provided each year in our district and we need to continue that tradition. Some of the presenters of our course have been doing so for as long as I have been a member of this squadron.

However, they need your help. Teaching methods have changed. New members desire other ways to be exposed to safe boating and newer approaches to presenting our important information.

I am asking for newer members of our squadron and transferees to join us as proctors and/or presenters this year. We present 17 different topic areas in each class, some of which involve hands-on student involvement that requires proctors to demonstrate and assist the students. The proctored sessions are often only an hour long and you do not have to stay for the entire half-day class unless you want to.

If you are interested, contact me at 941 916-0878 or either of my email addresses, quintosmd@comcast.net or seo@AmericasBoatingClubPeaceRiver.org and we can discuss how you can contribute.

BoatUS Distinguished **Civic Service Awards**

These awards are given annually to Clubs/Squadrons in recognition of exceptional service, public boating safety education and service to the boating community. Help document our squadron's service by submitting reports of squadron community outreach, civic activities and events, and boating safety education.

Click on the link: [Civic Service Activity Report Form](#)

WHAT IS ABC? **ABC IS AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE!**

The course gives you the basics you need to get out on the water safely, and it meets most states' boating education requirements. Our in-person boating course includes a comprehensive introduction to boating, covering boat types, boat engines, boat selection and more.

**Currently scheduled America's Boating
Course classes are scheduled
at the PUNTA GORDA BOAT CLUB**

If you have friends or neighbors who are interested in the ABC class, have them contact our Educational Officer Lt/C Elias Quintos, N at education@americasboatingclubpeacriver.org or call 941-584-5993 for more



Calling All Past Commanders! **Silver Trident Association**

The next Silver Trident Association Luncheon will be held at:

**Beef O'Brady's,
1105 Taylor Rd. Punta Gorda**

**15 May 2024
Social 1130, Lunch 1130
Speaker: TBA**

Contact Silver Trident Treasurer P/D/C George Musco, AP for your reservation: 941-391-2512, or email: GJMCLM@COMCAST.NET

**Deadline for reservations is
10 May.**

Make your Boat a Safe Boat



Get your FREE 2024 Vessel Safety Check!
Show the boating community you are a
responsible boat operator.
Have peace of mind that your boat has all the
right safety equipment.
Support your club and participate in this
sponsored activity.

PRSPS Vessel Examiners

P/Lt/C Dennis Barkow, JN
P/C Betty Campanella, SN
P/C Sandy Darna, SN
Lt Holles Dick, AP
Daniel Hartwig, P
Diane Hartwig, P
P/C Galen Price, SN
Lt/C Gregory Wise, SN

To request a VSC Exam please
email:

**VSC@AmericasBoatingClub
PeaceRiver.org**



April Birthdays

2 Lee Brandt

5 Beverlee Winslow

6 George Hart

16 David Bouchard

16 Barbara Cartwright

20 Chad Sterrett

27 Susan Maxwell

29 Elias Quintos

29 Gloriajean Veitch

If we've missed your birthday
please contact the Editors.



GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP

WHERE: BAYSHORE LIVE OAK PARK
23157 BAYSHORE ROAD
CHARLOTTE HARBOR, FL 33980

Meet at the pavilion to the right side of the playground along Bayshore Rd.

WHEN: SATURDAY, 23 MARCH, 2024 at 0800 hours

Please call or email to let me know how many to expect so there is sufficient donuts, juice and coffee. Shirts will be available to the first 20 who respond:

Barb Cartwright
941-286-9987 (cell, text)
anchorstitch@aol.com

I know it is a busy weekend for many. Please take 1 1/2 to 2 hours out of your early morning to spend time outdoors to help continue our commitment to the clean up of Live Oak Park.

The next cleanup— Coastal Clean-up—will be Saturday, 22 June, 2024.

Put it on your calendar now to **SAVE THE DATE.**



Friday, 12 April: All Membership Workshop

0930 - Introductions 1015 - 1200 - Roundtables / Workshops

1200 - 1330 - **Lunch on your own** 1330 - 1500 - Group Discussions
1600 - until ? - Gathering at Ice House Pub

Saturday, 13 April:

0830 - 1200 Registration Desk Open 0800 - 0900 Coffee and Danish

0900 - 1015 Roundtables

First Aid for Boaters

Dr Carl Schultz, AP & Jamie Rimovsky, RN

1030 - 1145 Roundtables

Importance of Public Relations

D/Lt/C Ron Jones, AP & P/C Bob Moro, AP

Coop Charting/Geodetic Marker Intro

P/R/C Jim Strothers, SN

How to Become an ABC3 Instructor

Tom Dawson



0900 - 1130 - **Instructor Recertification** - Cdr Susan Agruso, AP
Registration required by April 5 - jsa818.sa@gmail.com

0930 - 1130 - **Town Hall** - D/C Matt Braatz, JN & P/C/C Craig Fraser, SN



1200- 1330 Lunch - **Piloting Crowdsourced Bathymetry**
(seafloor depth)

Speakers, Sarah Grasty-Pruett, Project Manager and Dr Mark Luther, Director

*Hear how **you** can help collect seafloor depth measurements
in Tampa Bay and Beyond -in your own boat.*

1345 - 1600 - **District Conference Meeting**

1700 - 1800 - after Conference Social at SpringHills Suites (cash bar)

Change of Watch - event center

1800 - 1830 - Social 1900 - Dinner Served

Thank you for your participation - safe travel home!

Dress:

Daytime: Squadron shirt, khaki slacks, shorts or skirt

Change of Watch: Bridge - Uniform G (short sleeve shirt, black pants or skirt)

Members and Guests: Semi Formal or appropriate dressy casual attire

2024 Spring Conference

Saturday April 13, 2024

Luncheon and Change of Watch Menu



0800 – 9:00am - Complimentary Continental Breakfast

Luncheon – 1200 – *Piloting Crowdsourced Bathymetry (Seafloor Depth)*

Speakers - Sarah Grasty-Prueitt, Project Mgr & Dr Mark Luther, Director, Ocean Monitoring Lab

*Hear how you can help collect seafloor depth measurements in Tampa Bay and Beyond
– in your own boat.*

Choice of:

\$24.00 – Turkey Croissant – Sliced Turkey, Havarti Cheese, Cranberry Sauce and Dijon on a Croissant.

\$23.00 – Chef's Salad – Romaine and Iceberg Lettuce, Ham, Turkey, Swiss and Cheddar Cheese,
Hard Boiled Eggs, Cucumbers, Red Onion
Choice of Dressing: Ranch, Italian, Blue Cheese or Balsamic Vinaigrette

Iced Tea, Water and Assorted Fresh Baked Cookies - Coffee on request.

Change of Watch Dinner – Cocktail Social 1800 / Dinner 1900

Change of Watch Ceremony 2000

Choice of:

\$40.00 – Bourbon and Bacon Pork Tenderloin – Seared and Roasted Bacon Wrapped Pork Tenderloin,
Sliced and Complimented with Bourbon Demi Sauce

\$40.00 – Shrimp Scampi – Jumbo Shrimp Skewered and Baked with Lemon Garlic Butter
Atop Rice Pilaf with Shrimp Scampi Sauce

\$40.00 – Chicken Marsala – Sauteed Chicken Breast Finished with Mushroom Marsala Sauce

Entrees will be plated and served with Garden Salad, Loaded Potato Casserole, Green Beans,
Rolls and Butter, Iced Tea and Water – **Key Lime Pie** - Coffee on request.

Drinks can only be purchased with Credit Card - Event Center no longer accepts Cash

Purchase your meals using the D22 Website:

Sign in to the D22 website — <https://americasboatingclub-d22.org/>
Members Only – Registration/Purchase -
then follow the instructions (need your credit card)

No Reservations or Cancellations after **April 2, 2024**, please.

2024 District 22 Spring Conference Roundtables

Friday 12 April

All members and officers alike come together to build networking with their like office holders to set out responsibilities, identify common challenges, solutions and challenges.

Saturday 13 April – 0900 – 1015

Basic First Aid Kits for Coastal Cruising – *Dr Carl Schultz, DO, AP*

Let's talk about what you need in your first aid kit for the boating you do. AND, various scenarios for using items in the kit.

Coop Charting/Geodetic Markers Introduction – *R/C Jim Strothers, SN*

Want to participate in Co-op Charting but do not have a boat? The Geodetic Marker Recovery program is just for you. Come to the Roundtable to learn more about this program.

Saturday 13 April – 0900 – 1130

Instructor Recertification Seminar – *P/C Susan Agruso, AP*

Are you one of the 28 members of District 22 who need to be recertified as an instructor during 2024? If you are, join with other instructors to talk about how to teach more effectively and to share your teaching experiences. Renew your Instructor Certification while enjoying this stimulating learning experience.

Registration required for this course – email Susan Agruso @ jsa818.sa@gmail.com by April 5 to reserve your spot.

Saturday 13 April – 0930 - 1130

Town Hall - *D/C Matt Braatz, JN & P/C/C Craig Fraser, SN*

Hear how the District and National USPS operate. Use this opportunity to discuss issues which may be of interest to the group. Bring your questions and/or issues that you might have.

Saturday 13 April – 1030 – 1145

Importance of Building a Public Relations Program – *D/Lt/C Ron Jones, AP & P/C Bob Moro, AP*

An effective public relations program helps your club attract students to your classes and seminars and increases your club's positive image in your community. Learn how to use your increased visibility to even build membership.

How to Become an ABC3 Instructor – *Thomas Dawson, Cape Coral Squadron*

Florida is working to make boating education mandatory for every boat operator starting July 2026. Are we ready to capitalize on this opportunity? More students in your classes mean more members in your squadron. This session is designed to take the mystery out becoming an instructor.

Saturday's 13 April - Lunch

Piloting Crowdsourced Bathymetry (seafloor depth)

Speakers, Sarah Grasty-Prueitt, Project Manager and Dr Mark Luther, Director of Ocean Monitoring Lab



Crowdsourcing is the collective efforts of a community to gather data. Anyone enthusiastic about the ocean can participate in collecting data about our seafloor. Bathymetry focuses on measuring and mapping the topography of the ocean floor. It is the study of underwater depths, contours and features, providing crucial insights into seafloor formations such as mountains, canyons and ridges.



April Lunch Cruise

Wednesday, April 10th at 11:30

Snook Haven

**5000 E. Venice Ave.
Venice, FL 34292
941-485-7221**

**Snook Haven asks us to please be prompt at 1130 as it
Is high season and they are unable to hold tables.**

**Please RSVP to Patty Montorsi by April 5th
pcmontorsi@msn.com. 440-487-1440 (call or text)
I will return your email or text with confirmation.**

ALSO:

***At this location you can explore the Myakka River
With Logan River Tours. They will offer a 1:30pm and 3pm
Departure. Seating is limited and
Reservations suggested***

Contact

***Logan River Tours at
941-875-2070
www.LoganRiverTours.com***

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Snook Haven Lunch Cruise 1130	11 ExCom PRSPS Edu- cation Center 1900	12 D22 Spring Conference CHECC	13 D22 Spring Conference CHECC
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Spring Home & Garden Show CHECC
21 Spring Home & Garden Show CHECC	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Spring Picnic Harbour Heights Park 1100	29	30				
					Education Green Lunches Tan Dinners Purple Meetings Black Events/Shows Red Cruises Blue Parades - Maroon	



Kentucky Derby Party

Who: PRS&PS very own Cindi Sanders "Sea Biscuit" and Joyce Sluzewski "American Beauty" will be hosting our party.

What: 150th Kentucky Derby Race, televised live from Churchill Downs, Louisville, Kentucky.

Where: Beef O'Brady's Restaurant, 1105 Taylor Road, Punta Gorda, FL 33950.

When: Sat, May 4, 2024, 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM, 6:45 PM Post Time for the race.

Cost: Price of your dinner (and mint juleps) Betting on the horses-optional but fun. \$5 per bet.

Hat Contest: For Ladies and Men. Prizes for winners.

RSVP: TEXT to Cindi Sanders 765-721-1818 or cesanders343@aol.com

This will be a fun time.

Dan and Diane Hartwig, both Pilots in PRSPS, will be leaving on 9 April to start their transit of the GREAT LOOP which will be explained on the next pages by a blurb from the NOAA website.

Dan supplied the below boat specifications, voyage plan, and a way to follow their adventure online. It's a 2021 Jeanneau NC895. A 30' cruiser with twin 200HP Yamahas. Twin queen berths (one for storage) 9.9' beam, 2' water draft, 12' air draft, 230 mile range on capacities of 158 gal fuel, 40 gal fresh water, 24 gal black water, 25 gal hot water heater. WOT speed = 30 kts. We stay almost exclusively on the hook every night. Our little dog is trained to use the artificial grass in the cockpit. I still use the head though. We'll be blogging on www.adventuresoftheJennaDi.com eventually after I get it set up. I'll still be doing some work from the boat as I've always dreamed of doing. Diane will be just dreaming of work as she relaxes and enjoys the scenery. We expect to do the 5800 miles and 115 locks in about 9 months.

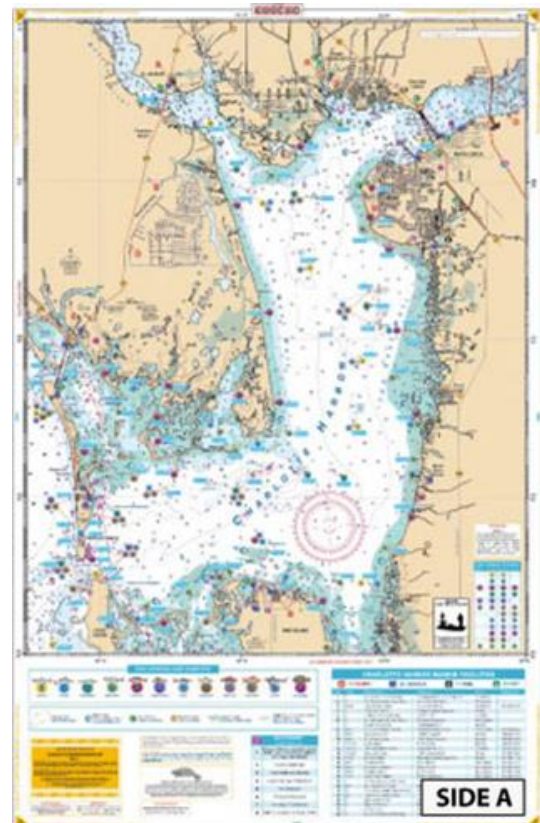
D. J. Hartwig

Marine Navigation

Marine Navigation is the first course in the sequence of USPS courses on navigation, covering the basics of coastal and inland navigation. This course focuses on navigation as it is done on recreational boats today and embraces GPS as a primary navigation tool while covering enough of traditional techniques so the student will be able to find his/her way even if their GPS fails. The course includes many in-class exercises, developing the student's skills through hands-on practice and learning. Topics covered include:

- Charts and their interpretation
- Navigation aids and how they point to safe water
- Plotting courses and determining direction and distance
- The mariner's compass and converting between True and Magnetic
- Use of GPS – typical GPS displays and information they provide, setting up waypoints and routes, staying on a GPS route.
- Pre-planning safe courses and entering them into the GPS
- Monitoring progress and determining position by both GPS and traditional techniques such as bearings and dead reckoning

The "Seaman's Eye" – simple skills for checking that one is on course.



National Ocean Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

HOME » OCEAN FACTS » WHAT IS THE GREAT LOOP?

What is the Great Loop?

The Great Loop is a continuous waterway that allows boaters to explore Eastern North America.



Boating along the Erie Canal, part of the Great Loop (image courtesy of Gladys L. Buzzell).

The Great Loop is a continuous waterway that recreational mariners can travel that includes part of the Atlantic, Gulf Intracoastal Waterways, the Great Lakes, Canadian Heritage Canals, and the inland rivers of America's heartland. Anyone who completes the journey is then named an official '[Looper](#).'

For a safe and enjoyable trip, there are a few things to consider when traveling the Great Loop—a great amount of time, a boat with less than a five foot draft (recommended) to travel inland waterways, [NOAA nautical charts](#), and a [NOAA radio](#). Along the way, it is possible to visit a number of [national marine sanctuaries](#) and [estuarine research reserves](#).



Map showing the Great Loop (image courtesy of Raven Cove Publishing).

How does a boater embark on the Great Loop? If you start in Chicago, continue south in a counter-clockwise direction to take advantage of the river currents that run into the Mississippi River. While a few people stay on the Mississippi all the way to the Gulf of Mexico, most 'Loopers' choose to

exit at the Tennessee River to avoid heavy barge traffic on the larger waterway. This path leads to the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, which also flows to the Gulf.

Regardless of the Southern route selected, boaters can float downstream to the warm waters of the Gulf and explore the [Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary](#). From there, cruise east on the Gulf's Intracoastal Waterway. While soaking up some Florida sun, visit the [Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary](#).

Then travel north up the Intracoastal Waterway and discover the [Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary](#). Continue north on the Intracoastal to New York City. From the Big Apple, it's a straight shot up the Hudson to the Erie Canal. Then head west across to the Great Lakes. Boaters may visit [Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#) when sailing up Lake Huron and then finally returning back to Chicago.

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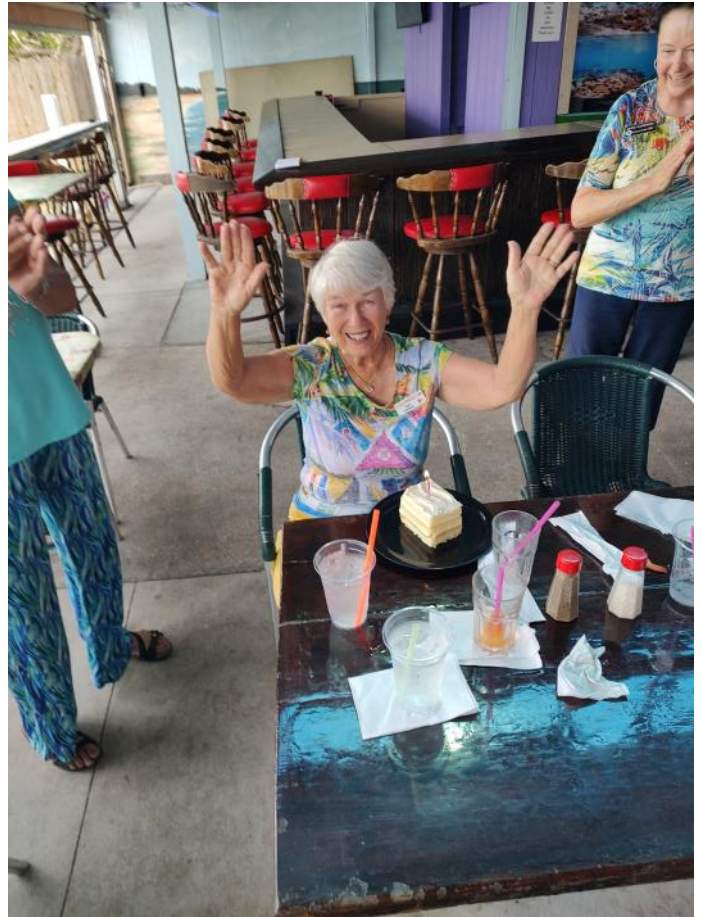


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There were 18 attendees!

Cindi Sanders, Kaythryn Correll, Joyce Sluzewski, Pragati Patrick, Richard Patrick, Bob Montorsi, Patty Montorsi, Jerry Ciccone, GeorgAnn Howell, George Bingley, Liz Bingley, Bob Springer, Lee Brandt, Wendy Heath-Brandt, Jim Ayres, Kris Ayres, Jeane Anderson, and Harold Anderson was the photographer.

Cindi Sanders with her Birthday Cake.



Call
941
584-5993
Choose option 4
To request one.



Spring picnic / Merit Mark recognition

Sunday 28 April 2024

Cost: \$10.00/person

Where: Harbour Heights Park 27420 Voyageur Drive Punta Gorda, Florida 33983	When: Sunday, 28 April 2024 1300 to 1600 (1pm to 4pm)	Attire - Casual with name badges
Program: Join us to recognize our 2023 Merit Mark recipients and the swearing in of our new members	Menu: Variety of submarine sandwiches, chips, beans, vegetable tray and assorted drinks and ice. Please contact Ann Sellers if you would like to donate a dessert. Alcohol is permitted so feel free to bring whatever you want.	

Please RSVP by no later than 21 April 2024. You can also **RSVP On-line -**

[Click Here](#)

If unable to RSVP online, please contact Barbara Troike bctroi@aol.com or call 941-639-0619

**Make checks payable to PRSPS and send to Barbara at- 240 Lewis Circle #211
Punta Gorda, Fl. 33950**

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