

# PEACE RIVER PILOT

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



## 2024-2025 BRIDGE at Change Of Watch with D/C Braatz, JN

XO James Ayres, SEC Kris Ayres, AO Dean Sellers, AAO Ann Sellers ASEC Heidi Rowe, D/C Braatz, CDR Ed Maxwell; missing from photograph are EO Elias Quintos, AEO Ronald Ludvig, Tres Deborah Frank & ATres Sandy McDonald



**Visit Us On-Line : [www.puntagorda-boating.org](http://www.puntagorda-boating.org)**

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



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



## Commander Edward Maxwell Jr., AP



### We bought a building! On

Monday February 5, 2024  
I signed the purchase  
agreement for our new  
Headquarters and Edu-

cation Center. We are now the proud owners of 1250 square feet of untapped potential that will allow us to move onward and upward in accomplishing our mission of promoting boating safety. We will be changing a few small architectural changes and hope to have the building ready for classes by April 2, 2024. We have already scheduled the May monthly meeting as an open house, bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres and drink, social gathering where we will conduct a little business and enjoy our new surroundings. More info to follow.

I am still looking for help from anyone with computer graphic art skills. We need to design the new windows for the building. We have four beautiful glass portals to the world that need to tell everyone who we are and how to join us. Please contact me if you can help. Once we get a design approved, I have people to implement the creation of the window screens and installation. This will be a great tool to bring in new members and students.

The March monthly meeting will be a Saint Patty's Day Party with a catered meal. There should be additional info in this publication. Please mark your calendars. Sue and I will not be there, as we will be visiting relatives in Mexico, but Executive Officer Jim Ayres will be running the meeting. Please plan to attend and support him and the new Bridge.

We picked up four new full-time members and two associates in January. It is a good beginning to a great new year.

Things are moving rapidly. We have had two generous donations to our building fund from Barbara Troike and Betty Campanella. Thank you, ladies, for your support of the new building. Betty has advised that she personally challenges other members to step forward if you can.

I have high hopes for 2024 and you have an excellent Bridge and EXCOM to help me guide us through hopefully smooth waters. The 2024 calendar is almost complete, and we are working to get the new directory to you by the April Picnic.

Everyone say Hello to our new Pilot Editor, Larry Mack. Please send Larry lots of articles and photos to make his life easier. He has big shoes to fill, and I know he can do it. Thank you for all the support you gave to me and my team in 2023 and we all look forward to serving you again in 2024.



#### 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](mailto: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.

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The deadline for the  
April 2024 Pilot  
articles is Friday,  
15 March

## "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

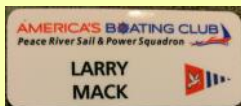
Our Burgee \$23.00



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](mailto: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

### March

- 05 Lunch Cruise - White Elephant, Englewood  
Contact Cindi Sanders- Text 765-721-1818 or email cesanders343@aol.com 1130
- 14 Excom Meeting PGBC 1900
- 16 Broadway Palm - "Beautiful" Carol King Musical 1115
- 19 St Patrick's Theme meeting PGBC 1730
- 20 Silver Trident Meet. Beef O' Bradys 1130
- 23 Bayfront Live Oaks Park Cleanup 0800

### April

- 10 Lunch Cruise - Snook Haven- 1130
- 11 Excom Meeting TBA
- 12-13 D22 Spring Conf. CHECC
- 28 Picnic/Business Meet. Harbor Heights 1200

### May

- 04 Kentucky Derby Party Beef O' Bradys 1630  
Contact Cindi Sanders 765-721-1818 or Joyce Sluzewski - 941-639-2009
- 09 Excom Meeting TBA
- 15 Silver Trident Meet. Rivera Bar & G 1130
- 16 Lunch Cruise Cass Cay Burnt Store 1130  
Contact Carol Musco - 941-391-2512
- 18 Beginning of National Safe Boating Week
- 18 Demo Day ?
- 21 Business Meeting TBA

### June

- 13 ExCom TBA
- 16-18 'Tween Waters Resort Cruise— by Boat Or 'Iron Dinghy'
- 25 Business Meeting TBA

For more information see the Monthly Calendar on page 21

PGBC: Punta Gorda Boat Club

CHECC: Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center

TBA : "To Be Announced"



## Executive Officer

Lt/C James E. Ayres, S



February has come in like a Lion with its cold breezes and hopefully March will give a warmer month for Boating. February has seen our **Change Of Watch (COW)** and Installation of New Bridge Officers. Yes, the Commander, Executive Officer and the Administrative

Officer have stayed on another year. We are moving forward with the job we started in buying a new Training and Education Center for our Squadron. It is vitally important for all Members to attend the Monthly General Business Meetings and help direct Our Squadron's New Growth and Future.

Coming up on **Saturday, 23 March 2024** is our first Coastal Clean-up of the year. OKAY EVERYONE, TIME TO CLEAN UP YOUR ACT or let's say Time to Do the **March Coastal Clean-Up**. We need to get the newer members interested in this project. The Coastal Clean-Up will commence at **0800** (8:00 a.m.) at the **Bayshore Live Oak Park** located at **23157 Bayshore Road, Port Charlotte, FL**. Give **Barb Cartwright**, the Coastal Clean-Up Chairperson a **Call / Text at 941-286-9987** or by an **E-Mail** to [anchorstitch@aol.com](mailto:anchorstitch@aol.com).

Do you want to be a *Safe, Clean and Active Boater*? Try getting involved with some of the following committees. Become a **Vessel Safety Examiner**, contact, **D/Lt Galen Price**, SN ([gppisces@yahoo.com](mailto:gppisces@yahoo.com)) and/or **D/Lt Sandy Darna**, SN ([s\\_darna@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s_darna@sbcglobal.net)) and they will get you into a **Workshop for VSC Examiner Certification**.

Do you Really want to get Involved out on the water, contact **Lt. Tom Rowe**, AP ([cool5461@earthlink.net](mailto:cool5461@earthlink.net)). **Tom** is the Co-Op Charting Chairperson. He is going to be expanding the **CO-Op Charting Program** and has updated the finding / searching out **Geodetic Markers**. Geodetic Markers can be found on land, on bridges, Canal locks or just about anywhere there has been surveyed land.

Getting involved in different Squadron Activities

*(XO continued on page #7)*



## Educational Officer

Lt/C Elias R. Quintos, N



To all of those who thought I could take on the responsibility of being the Educational Officer of the Peace River Sail and Power Squadron, I am grateful. I have taken on the responsibility of coordinating the different courses offered by our squadron to the public, a task so

fastidiously done by Lt/C Ronald P. Ludvig, SN-ACN over many years. As I peruse over my record of boating courses which I took in our classroom by Gilchrist Park along the Peace River, a spark of excitement reignites within me. I warmly remember those who diligently taught the courses and the senior members who were in the back of the classroom providing their insight and knowledge, and the inquisitive classmates learning topics that are the core of our organization. How I wish those days can be experienced by many who have the interest and that I could be by the helm of our educational goals. Times though have changed by forces beyond our control. Many of us are trying to restore things as they were and perhaps our attempts have not achieved the results we wish to have. Yet, our common goal of educating remains paramount and we have to be determined and may have to be a bit creative to adapt. As I have learned and continue to learn from those who are so generous of their time, wisdom and future guidance, I am looking forward to this challenge.

**America's Boating Channel™**  
Promoting National Safe Boating



## "BECOME A BETTER BOATER"

### America's Boating Club Peace River

#### 2024 Education Course

#### Schedule to date:

**ABC Two Half-Day 8 hr Sat, 02 - 09 March**

**ABC Two Half-Day 8hr Sat, 11- 18 May**

**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**

**[@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](mailto:sunshine@americasboatingclubpeaceriver.org)**





## Administrative Officer

Lt/C Dean R. Sellers, P



I thought this month I would concentrate on not just what our squadron can do for you, but what you can do for the squadron to optimize your membership.

The ExCom had this discussion at our last meeting, with an action plan and a policy put in place as a

result.

In its basic form, this power squadron is a *volunteer* only organization.

It simply cannot function or even exist without its members volunteering or donating their time towards its operation.

The policy follows this thought process by stating that there is an expectation that you will donate and commit some time back to the group. We also have a suggested minimum number of hours asked of you. Having a minimum of 12 hours per year, gets the member recognized by the squadron and is therefore awarded a Merit Mark to signify that achievement.

Optimizing your own membership to fit your own desired outcome should have been in your mind as you joined. What were you looking for when you joined? What were your interests in the squadron? What do you expect from the squadron?

Since we are a volunteer only organization, what will your role be in fulfilling those interests or expectations?

Ultimately, the amount of time you give back is what helps fulfill your desired outcome. For some, this could be, becoming a certified instructor or an officer. For others, it could be contributing to our community needs with activities such as our parades or home and garden shows. For me, it was to participate in a strong organization that wanted to see safe boaters on the waters.

Whatever your personal reason is for becoming a member, it is imperative to keep the following thought in the back of your mind. What I contribute to this squadron is what propels us forward into the future. The more active or involved you are in the squadron, the more accomplished the squadron becomes, in turn making the squadron better for you.

(AO continued on page #7)



## Secretary's Report

Lt/C Kris Ayres



Hello all members of America's Boating Club Peace River.

I want to thank the nominating committee and members who voted for me as the new secretary of our phenomenal organization. My biggest thanks, however, goes to

Marge Babkiewicz who has tirelessly

given her all to our group, and for her expertise in providing me with any and all back up assistance to move me in the right direction for my new position. Thanks also to all my predecessors for their input throughout the years.

The annual Change of Watch ceremony took place at Visanis' Italian Steakhouse and Comedy Theater on Saturday, 03 February 2024. This COW luncheon was well attended by both Peace River members and many National, District 22, and visiting Squadron officers as well as representatives of the Punta Gorda Boat Club. It is invigorating to see the camaraderie between Squadrons supporting each other at such events, and it is hoped that we can all continue the tradition of supporting one another since success can very often be attributed to groups working together toward a collective and productive end product. That end product for our Squadrons is continued presence, growth and retention of our members.

As Commander Maxwell discussed at the event, we are happily now owners of our own facility soon capable of hosting classes, meetings, and events on our own scheduling terms. Surely we can work together to ensure this new "Peace River" facility will be a beacon for community awareness of America's Boating Club and its dedication to safe and enjoyable on-the-water activities.

I hope that all of you long-standing members will offer me any suggestions to make me successful in my new position; I am open to any information, suggestions, and, yes, criticisms you may have.

A part of my responsibility, and in conjunction with Larry Mack's consistent hard work, is the Directory of members. Please look over your infor-

(SEC Continued on page #8)



(XO continued from page #4)

will increase your *knowledge of the Squadron, Boating and Civic Service*. Interested in being In Charge? We need Committee Chairpersons for Public Relations Committee, the Parades Committee and the Show Booth Committee. Give me a call and I'll tell you what those jobs entail. Contact me at the following, [jamesayres877@yahoo.com](mailto:jamesayres877@yahoo.com) or [xo@americasboatingclubpeaceriver.org](mailto:xo@americasboatingclubpeaceriver.org). We can set up a Chair or Co-chair spot for you, I guarantee!

The **Environmental Impact Committee** it is now going in a direction its name implies. This "new name" moves us forward in the true direction of our environmental work. The goal is to create Project Alliances with other groups, in the Charlotte Harbor Area, and combine our Efforts and Resources to a more functional and positive impact end. The *Sea Grass Project, Oyster Bed Cultivation Projects, Water Quality Testing and Bottom Testing* are just a few of the projects that our membership base will be able to participate in. Contact Committee Chairperson **Lt. Richard Sluzewski, AP** ([rsluzewskidpm@gmail.com](mailto:rsluzewskidpm@gmail.com)) to participate in a number of "user friendly" projects.

Everyone reading this column is undoubtedly a Member of *America's Boating Club Peace River*. You all joined to become involved in *Boating Education, Community and Civic Projects* based upon boating as well as a Fraternal Boating Group. This Squadron will only be as effective as its Members. So, come on, let's get this year going with your involvement! Regards & Fair Seas,

Jim Ayres S, XO - *America's Boating Club Peace River*

Semper Fi and Back the Blue

(AO continued from page #6)

Being active in the squadron has multiple benefits including keeping physically and mentally challenged.

How can I contribute, you may ask? We have multiple committees that are available for our members to assist in. Some in my department include the membership committee, activities committee, assistance in planning boating activities, or even something as simple as contributing a baked good to our monthly meetings. Coming 30 minutes prior to help set up or staying 30 minutes later to clean up the room after a meeting. If you want to learn more about how you can help, give me a call.

The above policy is the talk we gave to the perspective new members at the last ABC course. Along with mentioning what we could provide for them, we asked if they were willing and able to fulfill our expectations of volunteering. We are happy and proud to announce that we have signed 4 new members and are excited for them to be voted in and start participating in our squadron.

This will call back into action our calling committee making sure that these folks are kept well informed of our activities.

I want to remind you all that on 19 March we will be having our Dinner meeting at the Punta Gorda Boat Club. This is a St Patrick's themed event and we will be having corned beef and cabbage as our meals main course. This is a catered event so **you must sign up to have dinner, by 12 March** for the head count. There is a flyer in this Pilot but also one in last month's Pilot with the link to sign up.

## 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>

## 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)*

mation in the directory and advise me of any changes or updates that are necessary. You can send them directly to me at [krisayres@yahoo.com](mailto:krisayres@yahoo.com) and I will let Larry know so that we are always up to date on that information.

I look forward to working with and for all of you as we move forward. Please mark your calendars for our next meeting on 19 March. We are assured of another great evening planned with St. Patrick's Day as our theme. Here's to corned beef and cabbage along with a side of rainbows and maybe even a pot of gold to top off the evening.

## 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](mailto:Larry Mack) at:  
[ocean\\_mack@msn.com](mailto: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.



Sunday,  
10 March  
0200



Lt/C Deborah R Frank, S is our new Treasurer.



**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.

David Morgan

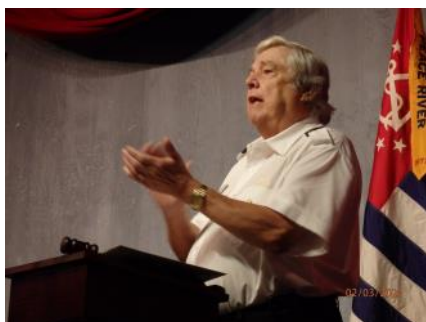
Lisa Dawn Morgan

Christine Quandt

Joseph Quandt



# PRSPS Change of Watch



Cdr Ed  
Maxwell,  
AP



D/C  
Matthew  
P. Braatz,  
JN



R/C Ronald  
C. Jones, AP  
Serving as  
Master of  
Ceremonies



D/C Braatz,  
JN  
swearing in  
Cdr Ed Max-  
well, AP



Executive  
Committee  
being sworn  
in by Cdr Ed  
Maxwell, AP



Silver Trident  
Officers be-  
ing sworn in



P/D/C George  
Musco, AP and  
P/D/Lt/C Carol  
Musco, AP re-  
cognized for  
years as PR Pilot  
Editors



P/Lt/C Marcia J.  
Ling, AP recog-  
nized for years  
of service as  
Treasurer



P/Lt/C Marge  
Babkiewicz, AP  
recognized for  
years of service  
as a AO and  
then Secretary



Recognition of  
Past  
Commanders  
who are mem-  
bers of Peace  
River

## 2024 National Meeting Report

As Squadron Commander, I attended the 2024 National Meeting to represent America's Boating Club Peace River. I was accompanied by Lt. Susan Maxwell and Secretary Kris Ayres and Executive Officer Jim Ayres. The conference was held at the Orlando Rosen Center on February 4-11. We only attended the last four days as the beginning was setup and National Committee business. Ralph Bernard, AP of Absecon Island, District 5, was inducted as the new Chief Commander with Mile Wiedel, JN as Executive Officer, Chuck Wells, as Educational Officer, David Allen, Jr., SN as Administrative officer, Al Lankin as Secretary and Shirley Heald as Treasurer.

In his outgoing information, Past Chief Commander Craig Fraser, SN, highlighted our issues with membership and funding. The two go hand in hand with fewer members bringing in less revenue. The total membership of America's Boating Club is just under 18,000 with a 2023 loss in membership of 8.9%. This is up from the 10 year average loss in members of 6.2%. It was also recognized that the existing membership is aging and the competition for new members is fierce when you take into consideration the other avenues for education available on the internet.

Revenue is down but the endowment funds are doing well in the booming stock market, and through November 2023 have gained an average in excess of 12%. A plea was made for donations to the education fund between now and the end of March as a benefactor has offered to match all contributions up to \$100,000.00. It was reported that the 2023 Fall Governing Board Meeting lost \$60,000.00 due to low attendance and not meeting our room and lodging quotas. The Meeting Committee is researching ways to lower expenses and make the meetings more attractive. The next Governing Board Meeting will be September 24-29 in Pittsburgh, PA.

On a positive note, America's Boating Club TV is thriving and winning awards across the United States and Canada. If you have not seen the programing, please check your local streaming services (Roku, Hulu, etc.) and review the service. We were informed that the State of New York has adopted our TV presentations as the official education tool for their State Safe Boating Certifications.

The Co-op Charting Programs are proving to be a success in many squadrons in organizing day events by car for the members. The Geodesic Marker location program provides a day of activities on land. Also, Marina Inspections can be done without a boat and earn Co-op Charting points for the Squadron and Members.

Vessel Safety Checks were also mentioned as a wonderful way to obtain your Merit Mark. A Merit Mark is awarded for completing ten VSCs.

The National Organization recognizes the problems and is working on solutions. Money will be available to the Squadrons for Public Relation programs to reach out to potential new members.

It was once again reiterated, that if every member would recruit just one new member, out totals would double in 2024. So please look around, talk up the organization and get involved again with the local Squadrons. Let's all look for our one new member. Peace River lost 25% of its members in 2023, or 2.8 times the national average. We need new blood!

Sue and I want to thank the Squadron for allowing us to represent you and our thanks to Kris and Jim Ayres for accompanying us. The meetings are dwindling in number, partly because they are now live streamed, but the face to face contacts are invaluable for future growth and interaction with both National, Districts and local Squadrons.





# Annual Meeting and Change of Watch February 4–11, 2024

Orlando, Florida



Rosen Plaza Hotel at night...



## board of directors



Absecon Island/5

**CHIEF COMMANDER RALPH BERNARD, AP**  
Bernard became squadron commander after previously serving at bridge positions. Later, he became district commander after serving as administrative and executive officer. He has served as rear commander of the national Committee on Rules. After serving as aide to past chiefs, Bernard became national administrative officer and national executive officer. He and his wife, Nancy, spend summers boating on the Chesapeake Bay.



Milwaukee/10

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER MIKE WIEDEL, JN**  
Wiedel joined the Milwaukee squadron in 1988, eventually becoming commander. At the district level, he progressed to commander. At the national level, Wiedel served as rear commander of the Safety Committee and was aide and national flag lieutenant to two past chief commanders before becoming national administrative officer. He also enjoys teaching courses and seminars. He and his wife, Kim, enjoy boating on Lake Michigan.



Kent Narrows/5

**NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL OFFICER CHUCK WELLS**  
Wells served on the bridge and as CEO for Rockville Sail & Power Squadron. He later served on the District 5 bridge. After moving, he became commander of the Kent Narrows Sail & Power Squadron. At the national level, he was chair of the Marine Environment, Instructor Development, Navigation, and Member Benefits committees in 2021. During boating season, Wells and his wife, Deann, enjoy the creeks and rivers of Chesapeake Bay.



Lake Murray/26

**NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER DAVID ALLEN JR., SN**  
Growing up boating on the coast and blockwater rivers of South Carolina, Allen joined what is now the Lake Murray squadron and served as commander in 1994. A certified instructor, he has taught various courses, including Operations Training, and is a vessel examiner. As national law officer, he led the team that created the Endowment Fund. He previously served as National Secretary.



The Valley/13

**NATIONAL SECRETARY AL LAKIN**  
Lakin joined Valley Ho Power Squadron in 1990 and served as commander before becoming district commander. He is currently a member of The Valley Sail & Power Squadron, where he serves as educational officer. He has served as rear commander on the Rules Committee as well as Communications, IT, Law, Nominations, and Planning. Lakin lives in Los Angeles with his spouse, Sandra.



Houston/21

**NATIONAL TREASURER SHIRLEY HEALD**  
Heald served on the Dallas Sail & Power Squadron bridge and became commander in 1996. She also served on the District 21 bridge and became district commander in 2009. At the national level, Heald served on the Safety and Leadership Development committees and as rear commander of Program Partner Relations and Marketing committees. She holds an MBA in finance from Southern Methodist University and is a member of the Houston Sail & Power Squadron.



Akron/7

**PAST CHIEF COMMANDER CRAIG FRASER, SN**  
Fraser served on the Akron Sail & Power Squadron bridge and became commander in 2009 before becoming district commander in 2013. At the national level, he served on the Inland and Coastal Navigation and Publishing committees and as rear commander of the Basic Public Education Committee. Previously, he served as national educational officer and chief commander. Fraser spends his summers on Lake Erie with family.



## Lunch Cruise to the

### WHITE ELEPHANT PUB

1855 GULF BLVD.  
ENGLEWOOD

TUESDAY,  
5 MARCH 2024  
1130

COME BY BOAT OR CAR  
BEACH ACROSS THE STREET!

CONTACT CINDI SANDERS

Text to 765-721-1818

Or email [cesanders343@aol.com](mailto:cesanders343@aol.com)







## Broadway Palm Dinner Theater

1380 Colonial Blvd.  
Ft. Myers, FL  
lunch matinees- 1115  
~~~~~

**\$70.00 each**  
**SEND MONEY NOW!**

**for**  
**Saturday, 16 March 2024**  
**to see**  
**Beautiful: Carole King Musical**  
**\$70.00 each**

Contact Jeane Anderson at  
941-575-9776 or 941-661-1831  
[jeaneyanderson@embarqmail.com](mailto:jeaneyanderson@embarqmail.com)

## 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.

**FUTURE CLASSES are**  
**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@americasboatingclubpeaceriver.org](mailto:education@americasboatingclubpeaceriver.org) or call 941-584-5993 for more information.



## 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**

**20 March 2024**  
**Social 1130, Lunch 1200**  
**Speaker: TBA**

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

**Deadline for reservations is**  
**15 March.**



## 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**



## March Birthdays

3 Melody Groh  
8 Cindi Sanders  
11 Louise Rea  
13 Robert Montorsi  
15 Greg Scotten  
15 Richard Sluzewski  
19 Galen Price  
22 Marge Babkiewicz  
24 Robert Mudge  
27 John Caron  
27 Daniel Hartwig

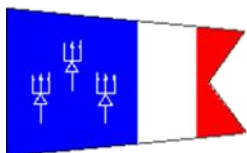
If we've missed your birthday  
please contact the Editors.



## **2024 Spring Conference**

**Friday, 12 April and Saturday, 13 April**

**Roundtables - Member Luncheon  
District Conference Meeting**



### ***Change of Watch***



#### **Hotel Info:**

**Four Points Sheraton – 941-637-6770**

**\$149.00** + \$9.00 amenity fee and taxes (normal senior rate \$297)

**cutoff date 3/20**

Make your reservation directly with hotel and use code PO1768 to get special rate

-----

**Springhill Suites by Marriott – 941-347-4224**

**\$179.00** + taxes (normal senior rate \$229)

**includes breakfast - cutoff date 3/21**

[Book your group rate for Americas Boating Club](#) by clicking this link

**Rates are good for one day prior and a day after the conference dates \*Must book for 2 nights and state United States Power Squadrons for these rates\***



### **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**

**1030 - 1145 Roundtables**

#### **First Aid for Boaters**

Dr Carl Schultz, AP & Jamie Rimovsky, RN

#### **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-Prueitt, 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](mailto: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.



## Our Loyal Advertisers!

When you visit one of these establishments and use their services, please tell them you are a member of the Peace River Sail & Power Squadron and saw their advertisement here. We want them to know how much we appreciate their support for our publication and organization.

**We ♥ Advertising**

The Pilot is currently looking for new advertisers. New Ads should be boating related: such as Marinas, Boat Brokers and Restaurants which cater to boaters. The next time you visit your favorite business, ask if they would like to take out an Ad in our Pilot Newsletter.

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Google Play Store





# March 2024

| Sun                                                                                       | Mon | Tue                                                             | Wed                              | Thu                         | Fri                                                                                                                        | Sat                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                           |     |                                                                 |                                  |                             | 1                                                                                                                          | 2<br>ABC<br>PGBC<br>0830<br>Part 1                                                        |
| 3                                                                                         | 4   | 5<br>Lunch Cruise<br>White<br>Elephant Pub<br>Englewood<br>1130 | 6                                | 7                           | 8                                                                                                                          | 9<br>ABC<br>PGBC<br>0830<br>Part 2                                                        |
| 10<br> | 11  | 12                                                              | 13                               | 14<br>ExCom<br>PGBC<br>1900 | 15                                                                                                                         | 16<br>Broadway<br>Palms Dinner<br>Theater<br>Matinee<br>"Beautiful"<br>Carol King Musical |
| 17<br> | 18  | 19<br>St Patrick's<br>theme<br>Dinner<br>Meeting<br>PGBC        | 20<br>Silver<br>Tridents<br>1130 | 21                          | 22                                                                                                                         | 23<br>Coastal<br>Clean-up<br>Bayshore<br>Live Oak<br>Park 0800                            |
| 24                                                                                        | 25  | 26                                                              | 27                               | 28                          | 29                                                                                                                         | 30                                                                                        |
| 31<br>  |     |                                                                 |                                  |                             | Education Green<br>Lunches Tan<br>Dinners Purple<br>Meetings Black<br>Events/Shows Red<br>Cruises Blue<br>Parades - Maroon |                                                                                           |



United States Power Squadrons®

## Business Meeting Tuesday 19 March 2024

|                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Where:</b><br><br><b>Punta Gorda Boat Club</b><br>802 W Retta Esplanade,<br>Punta Gorda, FL 33950                                                        | <b>When:</b><br><br>Tuesday 19 March<br>2024<br>1730 Social/Dinner<br>1800 Meeting                                                                                                                                  | <b>Attire - Bridge Officers – Squadron Polo</b><br><b>Others – Casual / Squadron Polo / name tag</b><br><br>(Preferably wear something green) |
| <b>Program:</b><br><br><b>Florida Sea Grass survey</b><br><br>Presented by<br><br>Kate Rose, M.S.<br>UF/IFAS Extension Charlotte County<br>Extension Agent. | <b>Menu:</b><br><br>Traditional St. Patrick's meal:<br><br>Corned Beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, rolls & butter. Beverages<br>and dessert included. Bring your own alcoholic drinks.<br><br><b>Cost: \$21.00</b> |                                                                                                                                               |

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$21.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please RSVP by no later than 12 March 2024.**

You can also [RSVP On-line - Click Here](#)

Please make checks payable to PRSPS and mail to Barb Troike, 240 Lewis Circle #211, Punta Gorda FL 33950. To cancel your reservation, for refunds due to cancellations, or for special dietary needs, please contact Barb Troike **by 12 March 2024.**

*NOTE: If you find you are not able to attend, please contact Barb Troike by the reservation deadline. It is squadron policy that if you make a reservation, have not paid, do not attend AND do not cancel your reservation, you will be billed for the cost of the meal.*

# Our lunch cruise to the Lazy Flamingo



**Robert Springer**  
**George-Ann**  
**Ciccone**  
**Jerry Ciccone**  
**Jeane Anderson**  
  
**not shown, pho-**  
**tographer,**  
**Harold**  
**Anderson**

**10 Attended**



**Robert Montorsi**  
**Patty Montorsi**  
**Joyce Sluzewski**  
**Heidi Rowe**  
**Tom Rowe**



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## VERTICAL OYSTER GARDENING WORKSHOPS

Lt. Rick Sluzewski

Squadron members, attached to this email is information on the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Centers (CHEC) vertical oyster gardening workshops. This is an excellent opportunity to become involved in the Charlotte Harbor Oyster Reef restoration along the East Wall of Charlotte Harbor. Later this spring there will be opportunities to go out on the water in your own boats and further contribute to this project. As you all know our Harbor is dealing with multiple environmental stressors. The restoration of oyster beds will have a positive impact helping to clean our local waters. One oyster can filter 50 gallons of seawater every 24 hours. For additional information on this project, workshop registration information, and more information on the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center go to <https://www.checflorida.org/vertical-oyster-gardening>.

I've been a volunteer at CHEC for 3 years. It's a great place to volunteer or visit. The professional staff is very supportive and appreciative of all volunteer services. If you have questions, reach out to me at [rluzewskidpm@gmail.com](mailto:rluzewskidpm@gmail.com) or call me @ 219-588-3324.

### Vertical Oyster Gardening Workshops

1 message

Ashley Cook <[ashley@checflorida.org](mailto:ashley@checflorida.org)>

Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 10:36 AM

Reply-To: [ashley@checflorida.org](mailto:ashley@checflorida.org)

To: Rick Sluzewski <[rluzewskidpm@gmail.com](mailto:rluzewskidpm@gmail.com)>

#### **Have you heard the news? CHEC is providing the community with the opportunity to aid in restoring oyster populations within Charlotte Harbor!**

Our Vertical Oyster Gardening workshops educate and inform participants about water quality and what things contribute towards its health and degradation. With the water quality challenges our harbor faces, participants learn that oysters filter large volumes of water, removing contaminants and excess nutrients to help clean our waterways. The more oysters we have in the water, the cleaner the harbor becomes.

To help support the restoration of oyster populations, we provide all the materials needed to create your very own Vertical Oyster Garden. These gardens create the perfect place for juvenile oysters to settle and colonize so they can do what they do best...filter water!

Join the movement by attending a free workshop and taking home a Vertical Oyster Garden this season. Our community with the help of some very powerful oysters can help protect, preserve, and restore our Florida paradise.

#### **Upcoming workshops:**

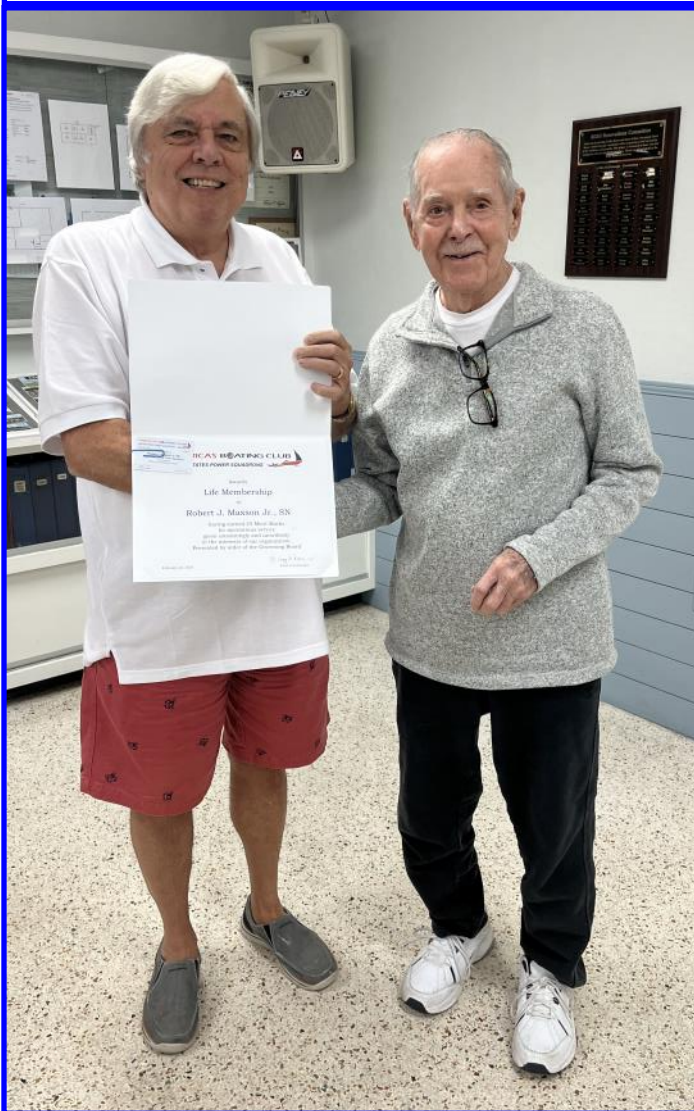
Friday, January 12th - Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association Center at 10:30 am

Friday, January 26th - Alligator Creek Preserve at 10:30 am

Learn more about the full scope of our program and register for workshops here: <https://www.checflorida.org/vertical-oyster-gardening>



At the 9 January Annual Meeting, P/C Robert Maxson, SN, (2002 & 2003) was presented with his 25-year Lifetime Membership Award and pin from Cdr Ed Maxwell.



### Do You Follow America's Boating Club Peace River on Facebook?

America's Boating Club Peace River uses Facebook to share information about boating in and around Southwest Florida. Upcoming courses and seminars are also available on the page. Every Friday the "Friday Follies" has a photo that illustrates "that could have gone better".

If you're on Facebook you're invited to "Like" the page. To get updates from the squadron on your Facebook feed you're invited to "Follow" the page. Simply visit <https://www.facebook.com/PeaceRiverSailAndPowerSquadron> and "Like" and "Follow" your squadron.

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](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 Fire TV.



## ***AN INVITATION TO ATTEND***

**America's Boating Club Peace River's  
Fifty-First Annual Change of Watch  
Saturday 3 February 2024**

**Visani Comedy Club  
2400 Kings Highway  
Port Charlotte, FL 33980**

**1145 Social Hour 1215 Lunch and Program**

### **Menu**

*Entrée's – Choice of one: Steak Tips Marsala, served with vegetables and rice*

*Shrimp Alfredo with Fettuccine*

*Baked Chicken Florentine, served with vegetables and rice*

*Dessert – Chocolate Mousse*

*Iced Tea, Ice Water, Coffee included, Cash Bar*

*(A Vegetarian Plate is available by prior request)*

**\$28 pp includes service charge and gratuity**

**Attire: Bridge Officers - Uniform G, (Short sleeved, open neck white shirt, black trousers).**

**Others – Uniform G or Casual/ Squadron Polo.**

Register on-line at <https://forms.gle/wh2e3iSUCo6KUiYSA> or detach form and mail to  
Barb Troike, 240 Lewis Circle, #211, Punta Gorda, FL 33950 . Email [bctroi@aol.com](mailto:bctroi@aol.com)

Name, Rank, Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée Selection 1. Chicken Florentine \_\_\_\_ 2. Steak Tips Marsala \_\_\_\_ 3. Shrimp Alfredo \_\_\_\_

Name, Rank, Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée Selection 1. Chicken Florentine \_\_\_\_ 2. Steak Tips Marsala \_\_\_\_ 3. Shrimp Alfredo \_\_\_\_

Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

***Please, reserve no later than 20 January 2024- Checks made to "PRSPS" if you find you are unable to attend, please cancel your reservation by contacting Barb Troike. It is squadron policy that if you make a reservation and do not attend AND do not cancel your reservation, you will be billed for the cost of the luncheon***