



America's Boating Club SAN ANTONIO®

A UNIT OF THE UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS



Now Hear This

Upcoming Events

- ABC3 Course May 25
- Executive Board Meeting June 13 Location TBD (All Members Invited)
- Executive Board Meeting July 11 Location TBD (All members invited)
- In the recent past, July and August have typically been reserved for family vacations, fun and days on the water. So Enjoy! If something comes up, watch for the news to come.

Inside this issue:

- San Antonio Boat Show 1
- D21 Spring Conference 2
- Your 2019 Bridge 2
- Vessel Safety Checks 3
- Recent Awards 3
- Now—The Rest of the Story 4

Spring Issue 2019

May Publication

Commander's Message

Greetings to All,

It is clear to me that we enter 2019 with some unknowns about exactly what course we are on as a Squadron. We know we struggle with gaining new members. We know we have difficulty in encouraging many current members to participate. We know we are not having the social events that we all once enjoyed. And we know social boating events are rare, in fact non-existent.

Yet we know we are not the only squadron in the nation having difficulty keeping and gaining new members. We know we remain able to and continue to deliver quality boating education to members of our boating community. And we continue to conduct Vessel Safety Checks for all water craft operators accepting our free service designed to give boaters confidence in

meeting Texas laws and regulations.

We have not given up at ways to increase our participation and membership. An example is our 'Meet up' website. We retain a full subscription of 50 members. Many of our own members are not involved in 'Meet Up'. Reminds me of how 'change' is difficult for many.

Our members are important – you are the foundation of what the squadron is and has been. But IF we want to continue on, we must get successful in signing up new members. Today I am not yet certain how to bring 'Meet up' members to our mission but we'll keep trying.

I ask as your Commander to not give up on us. I've been so

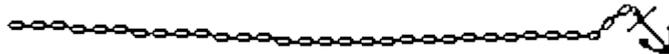


close to that myself at several times but have stayed on—for now. Call me or email if you have any thoughts.

Also, check out my plan as we proceed— page 2 'Your 2019 Bridge'.

Enjoy,

David Baltzell, AP
Squadron Commander
dbaltzell@earthlink.net



San Antonio Boat Show

The 2019 San Antonio Boat show was held this past February.

Our Squadrons lead on this event was who else but our very own [Frank Christ](#), a many times repeated organizer for this event. Also key players were [Price Darling](#), [Earl Gilley](#), [Tony and Lee Gobernatz](#), [Audra](#)

[Gilley](#), [Tom Stapleton](#). And I had the pleasure of staffing our booth with our newest member [Greg Granello](#). Our members showed their dedication to representing our squadron by doing overtime during the show. From set up and take down, to staffing the booth an entire day, to staffing the booth on multiple day/time blocks. Collectively

we covered the booth the entire event and Tony and Lee conducted an impromptu, full day boat seminar.



(Continued page 2)

San Antonio Boat Show (continued)



Our thanks should go out to all who supported this year's boat show, especially Frank Christ for his time and commitment to having our squadron well represented.



Great Job to All!



HOW TO CONTACT US

Cdr. David Baltzell, AP
dbaltzell@earthlink.net

Membership & General Info
 P/C Price Darling, SN
pbd6@earthlink.net

Events & Public Relations Info
 Lt/C Lee Gobernatz, P
seawatch5704@comcast.net

Educational Courses
 P/C Tony Gobernatz, P
seawatch5704@comcast.net

Vessel Safety Checks
 P/C Price Darling, SN
pbd6@earthlink.net

Check us out on Facebook for more information

D21 Spring Conference

Another District 21 Conference has been enjoyed by many. Our delegate at this conference was P/C Earl Gilley, AP. This spring conference was hosted by America's Boating Club Houston and held at Sea Ship/Moody Gardens in Galveston. On his return, P/C Earl reported to your Executive Board his overall thoughts and experience at this conference.

While at the conference P/C

Gilley verbally reported to the District Commander, the D21 Bridge and all attendees. P/C Gilley brought back several awards given to the Squadron. The awards are mentioned in the article Recent Awards on the following page.

We should all thank P/C Gilley for representing our Squadron at the Spring Conference. Collectively, we appreciate his time and energy to attend and

to show the District 21 Bridge and all attendees at the conference that San Antonio remains dedicated to completing our mission.

THANK YOU EARL!!

Your 2019 Bridge

I, along with others, surely realize by our current member involvement, there are only a few who are trying to keep this squadron active. I have thought about transferring to Galveston given our boat is slipped at Clear Lake – Carolyn and I will visit the area often. Yet I know many members have a true connection to San Antonio and I commend them for that. And because of that it is my desire to recognize and support our members achieve-

ments. I am prepared to remain Commander if the following commitment by all members is soundly heard.

FIRST, your 2019 Bridge:

Cdr David Baltzell
 XO Frank Christ
 AO Lee Gobernatz
 SEO Tony Gobernatz
 Secretary - TBD
 Treasurer Price Darling

Members at Large
 Nell Moore and Earl Gilley

Any member who desires to join in just drop me a note.

SECOND, we should develop an 'Exit Plan' to release our San Antonio charter should we vote to do so. We must establish a timeframe that allows planning, transfers, wrap up of current projects, etc. I am suggesting a 2 year timeline.

(Continued Page 4)



Vessel Safety Checks

Did you know?

2018 was a big year for our Squadron's Vessel Safety Check program, at least in recent history. Seventy-one checks were completed by our two VSC Examiners. And they are not slowing down for 2019. This year so far twenty-seven VSC's have been completed.

THANK YOU TONY & PRICE

The Vessel Safety Check Program is an effective, proactive preventative

safety program unique to the recreational boating community. It ensures that key marine safety equipment is present, is within prescribed functional limits, and is compliant with Federal, State, and local regulations. It provides the examiner an opportunity to discuss with the recreational boater, the purpose of the marine safety equipment, to clarify various Federal, State, and local regulations, to emphasize specific safety procedures

and practices, to answer any boating related questions and to encourage additional boater education.

Pass the word around. Vessel Safety Checks are **FREE** and provide a wealth of information to all boat and water craft operators. Let your boating friends and acquaintances know about our program.

Contact America's Boating Club San Antonio today for more information.



Recent Awards

We all like awards – right? Yes! Awards recognize an accomplishment of an individual or an organization. And who doesn't like to be recognized for their hard work. And this past year is no different. P/C Gilley brought back from the D21 Spring Conference the following achievement awards:

1. To the Staff of 'Now Hear This' In recognition of **Distinctive Performance for United States Power Squadrons Publications in 2018**. Without question this award belongs to Elizabeth McKinney for her dedication and hard work in keeping our newsletter in print. And to all those who contributed to our publication—thank you for your support.



2. To the Staff of San Antonio Sail and Power Squadron In recognition of **Distinctive Performance for United States Power Squadrons Websites in 2018**. Here our very own Larry Wiese gets the credit for maintaining the website beyond what I believe is suitable for the award. Trying to follow in Larry's talent I just hope I can keep that effort going.

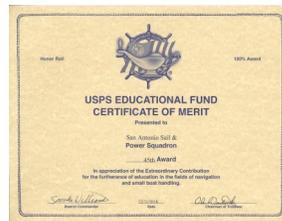


3. **2019 D21 Star Award 'Two Stars'** presented to America's Boating Club San Antonio. This award reflects the multiple ABC3 courses and



related boating training delivered during the year. Thank you for this award goes out to Frank Christ, Tony Gobernatz, Price Darling and Tom Stapleton.

4. Once again, our 45th Certificate of Merit for making the USPS Educational Fund Honor Roll.

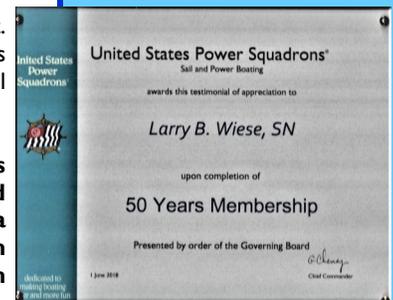


5. Last but certainly not least. We have a member who has achieved what some of us will never achieve.

This year the **United States Power Squadrons Sail and Power Boating** awarded a testimonial of appreciation to **Larry B Wiese, SN** upon completing **50 Years Membership**.

Congrats Larry!

Keep up the Great Work!



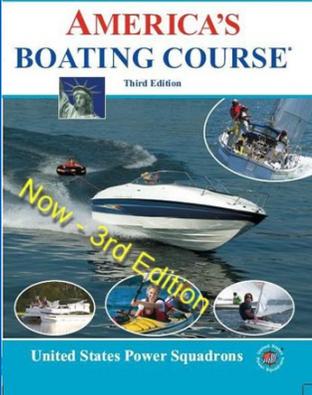


SAN ANTONIO SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

A UNIT OF THE UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

Take a Boating Course

America's Boating Course gets you the knowledge you need to be a safe boater and water craft operator. Classes are held regularly, Contact the squadron for more information.



JOIN US— just in time for the boating season



Your 2019 Bridge

(Continued from Page 2)

THIRD, we continue our efforts to deliver education for our boating community, including ABC3 course at Bass Pro Shop, Jumpstart on the water, and seminars we are cordially invited to deliver around the area.

FOURTH, we don't worry about social events for members – we rarely have them, few participate. Instead our

efforts will focus on the public at large – hot dog burns at Canyon Lake/Cranes Mill, staffing a booth at various local community events, and partnerships with other boating organizations – the fun stuff we are currently doing.

FIFTH, as a collective membership we commit, as reasonably as possible, to provide the opportunity for those members who desire to reach a membership milestone, such as lifetime

membership or significant years of service. If you are one who has a desire to finish a milestone please let me know.

If anyone has a comment to offer feel free to call me.

Commander David Baltzell



Now— the Rest of the Story

You may have noticed that our E-Newsletter 'Now Hear This' has changed. Several reasons are important to mention.

First, our long time Secretary/ Editor-in-Chief and Publisher Elizabeth McKinney has relocated to the state of Virginia. Of course with Liz relocating, so did Mack. But don't think for a minute their Squadron interest has gone to the way side. In fact, I have learned that Mack and Liz have transferred their membership to their new squadron — Northern Neck Sail & Power Squadron in District 5. To Mack and Liz we are grateful for your contribution to San Antonio and wish you the best with your new squadron friends.

Second, I couldn't find anyone

interested in leading the effort to produce some kind of periodic correspondence to all members, such as a newsletter. So, I refreshed some skill learned from long ago and began to create.

And third—that brings me to all of you. I know you are all living your lives full of fun and interesting times. I know boating is not at the top of most of your lists, but I can't imagine there isn't something that you could share. Pictures (new and of the past), recipes, celebrations, traveling and a few words go a long way – they really do. And I know some members read the newsletter, and some of those members actually enjoy it.

Help us show others what the Squadron is all about.

Support your Newsletter!

Meetsup America's Boating Club San Antonio

Here's our pitch -

"This is for landlocked boat owners in South Texas: kayaking, power boating, sailing, and operating personal water craft (PWC). All skill levels are welcome and our friendly group is for individuals and families who enjoy getting together on the water. We emphasize safe boating and enjoy teaching class room and on-the-water training to boost your boating knowledge and confidence. Whether your desire is to paddle on a river, sail across a lake, navigate the Intracoastal Waterway, or cross an ocean, this club can help you realize your boating dreams and make new friends.