Greetings to all America’s Boating Club – San Antonio Members,

OK, a belated Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the wonderful holidays and are feeling a new year in the making.

For those who may have missed it – yes we are now America's Boating Club – San Antonio, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons.

Perhaps you’ve missed something else, but no worries, our monthly newsletter publication ‘Now Hear This’ isn’t a by-gone. In fact I am very interested in keeping a correspondence as routinely as I possibly can containing information you might be interested in. Perhaps a quarterly or seasonal publication. It really comes down to the members and their contribution. If you are lost for words or ideas, check out some of the other squadrons newsletters – you might be pleasantly surprised.

I would like to thank all members who not only remained members, but am grateful to those who participated in any one of the many ways participation can be realized. This is your Squadron and it is what you make it. I do hope during 2019 that I hear from a few more members whose boating, teaching interest, and the desire for fellowship and camaraderie has not waned. I hope more of you will join in the activities and good times being considered for the year. None of which will happen without you! I will always accept your phone call or email should any of you be so inclined to offer your ideas, thoughts and comments – and of course I always appreciate your help with activities too.
Commander’s Message continued

As for our membership, it tends to hold its status quo. What we haven’t found is the connection for encouraging many new members to come on board – but we are not giving up. This year I hope to formulate a better relationship with our Meet-Up friends if nothing more than to show them what this organization is really all about. We are now maxed at our current 50 subscription limit, so to date 13 new interests have been turned away.

We wrapped up another year of Merit Marks. Congratulations to all recipients! Also, thanks go to Nell Moore for again putting all member information together.

The 2018 STAR Report is now a work in progress. Your Executive Board will submit our report by February 15.

Our calendar is already showing early 2019 events and activities. See our Calendar on following pages.

As for our meetings I’ll say this. I so much enjoy the small gathering of members at our Executive Board and General Membership Meetings. Yes, I wish there were more members participating, but I always find the atmosphere fun and informative. Check the calendar, stop on in. Everyone is always welcome!

I am currently re-working the squadron’s website. It’s time; so much is not only out of date but no longer acceptable as website criteria. I hope to soon have a presentation for member review before uploading files to the ‘big’ network. After that I will take on our Facebook page – ideally supported with contributions from members – so we’ll see how that goes.

For Carolyn and I there is a lot going on besides our squadron focus; MV Patriot has more repair work to complete, but after extensive work she splashed on January 9th. We are receiving many calls to discuss travel plans for 2019, and we are hopeful to break ground soon on a 2500 sq. ft. shop/barn building on our New Braunfels property.

Let’s hear about what you are all doing, share your thoughts.

Hope you are all keeping busy, healthy, and already into 2019! I look forward to seeing many of you during the year.

David Baltzell, AP, Squadron Commander

dbaltzell@earthlink.net  916-208-8245
America’s Boating Club
San Antonio*

Boating and Water Craft Education

Public Courses

• America’s Boating Course 3rd Edition

Public Seminars

Boat Handling
• Boat Handling Under Power
• Advanced Powerboat Handling
• Anchoring
• Boating on Rivers, Locks, and Lakes
• Sail Trim and Rig Tuning

Navigation
• Using GPS
• How to Use a Chart
• Basic Coastal Navigation
• Mariner’s Compass
• Mastering the Rules of the Road

Facing the Environment
• Basic Weather and Forecasting
• Hurricane Preparation for Boaters

Safety
• Tides and Currents

Techniques
• Emergencies on Board
• Fuel and Boating
• Partner in Command

Cruising
• Man Overboard
• Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio

• Knots, Bends, and Hitches
• Paddle Smart
• Trailering Your Boat

• Crossing Borders

Contact America’s Boating Club – San Antonio for more information

*America’s Boating Club – San Antonio is a unit of the United States Power Squadrons
ABC/3 Class

Class is required for anyone born on or after 1 Sept 1993 operating certain vessels on the waterways of TX. Register at https://tpwd.elementlms.com/find-classes/

19 January
23 March
25 May
20 July
21 September
2 November

Location:
Bass Pro Shop
17907 I-10
San Antonio TX 78257

January
19th—ABC/3 Class

February
14th—Executive Board
15th—“Now Hear This” articles due
28th—Nominees for 2018 Bridge due

March
21-24th—“San Antonio Boat Show”
23rd—Executive Board

April
11th—Executive Board

May
9th—Executive Board
25th—ABC/3 Class

Important Dates
General Notes

Your comments and suggestions for improving our new newsletter format are welcomed by your editor.

Jump into Squadron activities and planning this year by learning something new in a class.

Do you want to really learn something about the squadron? Volunteer to help teach a class. This is the best way to learn.

Keep your eyes open for a powerboat that can get donated to the Squadron to increase our training opportunities.

https://www.usps.org/index.php

Meeting Locations

Executive Board meetings will be held at First Watch.
700 E Sonterra Blvd.

Membership meetings will be held at Grady’s

2018 – A Look at The Past

It came to mind that many of you may have no idea what your squadron is doing. Even by reading ‘Now Hear This’ you may only learn what the squadron is planning to do in the future, not what has actually occurred. So FYI, this message highlights some achievements of 2018.

- Executive Board met on nine (9) occasions
- General Membership meetings were held six (6) times
- Published nine (9) E-Newsletters ‘Now Hear This’
- Seventy-one (71) VSC were completed and the squadron maintained two VSC examiners
- Staffed a Squadron booth at the 2018 San Antonio Boat Show
- Received a ‘Safety’ Proclamation’ from the Mayor of San Antonio for work done to promote safe boating
- Partnered with South Central Texas Water Safety Coalition in the River Event at Whitewater Amphitheater
- Partnered with the Water Safety Council at Fun Fish event held at Camp Hueco Springs
- Participated as a sponsor/attendee in the annual Port Aransas plyWooden Boat Festival
- Participated in the annual ‘Keep Canyon Lake Beautiful’ event
- Participated in ‘Folds of Honor’ fish fry and hot dog day at Canyon Lake Marina
- Conducted five (5) ABC courses at Bass Pro Shop and updated our ABC delivery curriculum
- Gave a ‘New Boaters Delivery Safety Seminar’ at Bass Pro shop every third Saturday
- Achieved Instructor Development for ‘Practical-on-the-Water’ for one squadron member
- Conducted two (2) sessions of Jump Start on the water for non-member new boaters
- Timely submitted all financial/tax/educational forms for the period
- Received ‘Honor Roll’ status for the Education Fund
- Received confirmation of eleven (11) Merit Marks achieved by members
- Maintained our squadron website to meet new website criteria/rules and are evaluating updates to both website and Facebook sites
- Gained one new paying member to the squadron
- Established ‘Meet-up: America’s Boating Club’ and membership has reached our current limit of fifty (50) members.

Now I know I have missed a couple of things, but you get the idea that your squadron is not sitting idle waiting for something to change. We are out there, we are participating, and we are making things happen. For those members able and willing to participate, I am confident they are having fun and I commend them for their commitment to the future on their squadron. And for those members who simply remain as members, I am grateful you are there.

Look for more activities and events, achievements and fun times during 2019.

See you all soon,

Cdr. David Baltzell, AP
The Bridge for 2018-2019

Commander: CDR David Baltzell AP
916-208-8245

Executive Officer: Lt/C Tony Gobernatz P
425-210-8021

Educational Officer: P/C George “Mack” McKinney N
830-370-8488

Administrative Officer: Lt/C Lee Gobernatz P
830-537-3956

Secretary: Lt/C Liz McKinney N
830-377-4459

Treasurer: P/C Nell Moore JN
210-416-8611

Assistant Admin. Officer: Lt/C Tony Gobernatz P
425-210-8021

Assistant Education Officer: 1/Lt Clark Antone AP
210-564-8666

Members at Large
P/C Price Darling, SN
P/C Frank Christ, AP
P/C Myron Hayes, SN