Commander Janet Razze, AP

Dear Members of America’s Boating Club,

I would like to extend my appreciation for all of our volunteers who work to make the squadron stronger. We have done a lot this year with the building, rentals, work parties and events. Realizing we all have families and other commitments, so many members still find a few moments each month to help in some way. On behalf of all of us, thank you.

Our annual yard work party was held this month. Everyone’s time and energy is greatly appreciated. We were able to clean up a dead tree and bundle a lot of palm fronds. Peggy Craven tackled the inside while the rest of us worked outside. The amazing part is that we did it all in less than 90 minutes and then went to brunch at Judy’s Restaurant. The weather was perfect for outside yard work, and when the sun came out it was actually delightful. Many thanks to Cliff Root, Larry and Joanne Wilhelm, Gary and Janet Razze and Dave Haddox. All big things on the list were done. We still have a couple of smaller projects on our list that can be tackled before it gets too hot – like painting the back door and power-washing.

IMPORTANT - We need help from each and every member in the next two months. Our annual fundraiser is quickly approaching. We have been lucky enough to only have one fundraiser each year. We do need everyone’s help. If you are able bodied, we need your help that day, so please make sure you have purchased your luncheon ticket. We need to work on getting a lot of tickets sold this year. So please look to post notifications and extra tickets around your clubhouses, church, other organizations, with friends and family. We also need help obtaining donations. We ask that each and every member make a donation of something to put toward a prize. If you don’t want to shop, you can make a monetary donation and we will do the shopping on your behalf. Just put a note with your check that it is for a prize purchase. I will send out more information in an Eblast for our newer members. We also need models! This event is always a lot of work, but it is also very rewarding and a ton of fun. We are known to put on a great event and we have so many people attend year after year. It is all because of the energy and enthusiasm of our members. Kudos to all of you.

I’ve been watching our winter winds create crazy whitecaps; colder temperatures chase our beloved manatees to warmer water, and the lack of rain slow down the growth of our lawns. But the good news is that I have also witnessed a first sign of spring in Florida. The ospreys in my front yard are rebuilding their nest and yes, there are eggs in it already. The Audubon Society has given them names, “Palma” and “Sola.” So, I guess Florida Spring is right around the corner.

Wishing everyone a safe winter boating experience.

Sincerely,

Cdr. Janet Razze, Advanced Pilot
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2018 Bridge

Commander Cdr Janet Razze, AP 941-761-1860
Exec Ofc Lt/C Lawrence Wilhelm,S 941-383-3485
Admin Ofc Lt Quentin (Mike) Graham,S 941-254-4144
Education Ofc P/C Clifford Root, SN 941-383-1269
Treasurer Lt/C Gary Razze, AP 941-761-1860
Secretary Lt/C Joanne Wilhelm, S 941-383-3485

Past Commander
Past Cdr P/C Jim Charney,P 847-217-0738

Members-At-Large
Lt/C Reynald C. Kotlarek,AP 941-778-4497
Lt Richard G. Graven,AP 717 377-8114
Lt/C Irene A. Estler, S 941 792-9600

Get A Safety Check!
To schedule your complimentary VSC, please contact any of the examiners listed below:

AMISPS Vessel Safety Check Team
Janet Razze,AP 941-761-1860 jrazze@aol.com
Gary Razze,AP 941-761-1860 grazze@aol.com
Tony Rizzotti,S 603-303-0937 Tony1950R@gmail.com
Cheryl Matheson,P 941-302-3693 cmathwhit@gmail.com
Barry Fenstermacher,P 610-360-7588 muffster11@gmail.com
Al Mondus 715 891-4423 amondus19@gmail.com
Richard Graven, AP 717 377-8114 graven12@aol.com

The Bearing is published 10 times annually. Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication.

Deadline for submission is the 10th of the preceding month. Send articles, comments, and suggestions to the editor, Larry Wilhelm — email: ljwilhelm1@verizon.net

AMISPS Website — http://www.usps.org/localusps/annamaria

Regular Meeting Dates:
General Meeting - Usually the 1st Thursday of the month at 6:00pm. Pot Luck meal begins at 6:00pm. Meeting begins at 7:00pm.
Executive Bridge — Usually meets on last Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. Members are welcome to attend.

Advertise in The Bearing:
We can list “classified advertisements” for our members in good standing. Advertise your boat for sale, boating or fishing equipment, or other items you want to sell or give away for free. List your name, contact information (phone or email) and a brief description of the item(s). Each ad is limited to 200 characters. We ask for a $10 donation by check written out to AMISPS. We can also do local businesses ads. Ads should be the size of a business card and be sent to us electronically. Donations for a one-month ad is $20 per issue or $100 for ten issues. We will reserve the right to refuse business ads not appropriate, etc. Monthly deadlines are on the 10th of each month. The Bearing is not published in July or August. Ads are not secured unless payment is received by the 10th of the month. Checks to be written out to AMISPS.
EXECUTIVE OFFICER Lt/C Lawrence Wilhelm, S

Just in case you’ve never noticed the “Amazon Smile” box in this newsletter or would like to know more about how this benefits us, I’d like to share my experience. I’ve registered with them and do all of my Amazon purchases through this charitable link. Since I registered about 2 years ago, I’ve generated about $46.47 for our squadron. That included any Christmas presents, household goods and purchases for the new boat, among other things.

I’d say most purchases qualify, just not the shipping or handling costs. The charity you choose (hopefully the squadron) earns .5% on those qualified purchases. That’s not really a lot but every bit helps. However, that being said, our very sharp treasurer (Gary) has discovered that Amazon doesn’t cut us a check for this unless the amount is over a certain amount. I don’t recall what this cutoff point is but I can understand their policy.

The point I’m slowly getting to is that it’s very important that if you are purchasing on-line from Amazon and haven’t done so already, please sign up for this. It takes only a moment and doesn’t affect your purchases in anyway. If we all do this, it will really make a difference in: 1. increasing the amounts we receive and 2. never loosing a payment because it was not considered large enough for Amazon to bother with. Hence, it’s a potential win-win.

Larry

GET A SQUADRON NAMETAG: Contact Gary Razze grazze@aol.com (941) 761-1860 with how you want your name badge to read – he will tell you how much it is and when to send him a check. The badge will be delivered to you at the next event. Badges are available in magnet only. Wear your name badge often and everywhere and network.

JOE Q. SQUADRON AMISPS

Half Hull Ship Models

By Steve Rogers.

Most old wooden boats were built from half hull models, literally a "low tech" blueprint. All of the relevant information about the ship’s lines was contained on a half hull; the construction details were standard practice dictated by scantling requirements from either Lloyds of London or longstanding experience of the boat builder. The half hulls were kept by the shipyards as work product and for promotional purposes, but over the years, they suffered the same fate as the shipyards. Some half hulls were fortunate enough to fall into the hands of people who knew what they are and appreciated them, but more often they ended up nailed to the wall of some seafood restaurant for decoration. Others have been simply lost or destroyed.


It’s The Brunch Bunch!

Join the ladies for their next monthly meeting, on second Thursdays, 9:30am at:
Judy’s Restaurant,
9516 Cortez Rd. (Mt Vernon Plaza)
Please RSVP Pat Laney by calling (941) 795-2964 or email hpstick@aol.com.
Bring your appetite (just not your husband)
From Lt. Commander Mike Graham, Outgoing Administrative Officer of the AMI Sail & Power Squadron
This is to thank the Squadron for a great couple of years as the A.O. We made improvements to our building inside and out. This included repairs to the flooring, the kitchen where required, to the windows and blinds, to the exterior - we painted and repaired doors and re-roofed the building. The air conditioning is new, and the locks work in the new doors! Our yard has been maintained, and we are looking good. This has all enhanced our rental opportunities, and that helps to keep our building going.
As I pass on my flag to Larry Wilhelm, I am confident we will be in good hands. Larry is handy with any tool he has in his hands at the time. Give him the same assistance that I have enjoyed from our membership, and turn to Larry with any questions that fall under the A.O. because he is one well-informed dude.

With all best wishes to our incoming Bridge, 
Quentin (Mike) Graham

**For Our Monthly Members’ Meeting**

We need you to host! It’s simple and you’ll have lots of help. Contact Larry Wilhelm at: ljwilhelm1@verizon.net or call 941-383-3485 for more info about what it takes. Here’s who’s on-board so far:

February 7th (COW) - Hosts: OPEN
March 7th - Hosts: Claudette Welch & Betty Zimmerman
April 4th - Hosts: Peggy Cravens & Rich Graven
May 2nd - Hosts: Bev & Cliff Root
June 6th - Hosts: OPEN
July 4th - Hosts: OPEN
August 1st - Patti & Bob Fraser
September 5th - Lori & Barry Fenstermacher
October 3rd - Hosts: OPEN
November 7th - Hosts: OPEN

Notes: May through September meeting are held at restaurants. No speaker required.
No Members’ Meeting in December

Many thanks to Lynn Talit-Graham & Mike Graham for hosting our January meeting!

**For The Bradenton Area**

**Bring a friend to the next squadron event!**

Did you know? You can access all your USPS Member Benefits at: www.usps.org/national/admin_dept/membenefits.htm

**Show them how much fun membership is!**

https://smile.amazon.com

Shop on SMILE & they will donate .5% of the purchase price to the squadron. If you’re new to SMILE, you will be prompted to “Select a Charity”. Search by typing ‘United States Power Squadrons’. Scroll & select ‘Longboat Key, FL’ ~ that’s where our non-profit status is registered. And thanks!
**Tickets Now On Sale For Our Big Annual Fund Raiser!**

**Don’t Get Left Out! Buy Your Tickets Early!**

*Fashion Show*

Help us make this our biggest one yet!

**March 14 & 15** (Thursday and Friday) – Basket Assembly Days ½ day each

**March 22** (Friday) – Work day to staple programs, make nameplates, etc.

**March 26** (Tuesday) – Model fitting day at Irene’s Resortwear

**March 28** (Thursday) – Fashion Show!

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**CRUISE & RENDEZVOUS (C&R’s) 2019**

**Please sign up to be a host/hostess**—it involves reserving the restaurant, greeting people, handling out tickets for door prize (provided). 50/50 will be done by another volunteer. C&R’s begin @ 1130 hours. **Contact Larry Wilhelm to be a host.**

**2/23** ~ Mar Vista Dockside Grill  760 Broadway St, Longboat Key  (941) 383-2391
   Hosts: Lori & Barry Fenstermacher  941-442-9390

**3/16** ~ Eliza Ann’s at The Waterline Resort  5325 Marina Dr, Holmes Beach  (941) 238-6264
   Hosts: Joanne & Larry Wilhelm  941-383-3485

**4/20** ~ Riverhouse Reef & Grill  995 Riverside Dr, Palmetto  (941) 729-0616
   Hosts: Peggy Craven & Rich Graven  717-377-8114

**5/18** ~ Tarpon Bay Grill  7150 N Tamiami Trail (Rt. 41)  (941) 413-3240  [formerly The Bearded Clam]
   Hosts: Beverly & Cliff Root  941-383-1269

**6/15** ~ The Old Salty Dog  1601 Ken Thompson Pkwy, Sarasota (City Is.)  (941) 388-4311
   **HOST: OPEN**

**7/20** ~ Anna Maria Oyster Bar  200 Bridge St, Bradenton Beach  (941) 778-2662
   **HOST: OPEN**

**8/17** ~ The Bridge Tender Inn  135 Bridge St, Bradenton Beach  (941) 778-4849
   **HOST: OPEN**

**9/21** ~ The Shore Restaurant  800 Broadway St, Longboat Key
   **HOST: OPEN**

**10/19** ~ Caddy’s 801 Riverside Dr E, Bradenton  (941) 708-3777
   **HOST: OPEN**

**11/16** ~ Riverside Cafe  955 Riverside Dr, Palmetto  (941) 729-4402
   **HOST: OPEN**
Since leaving the Mobile River, the number of tugs have decreased from one-an-hour to one or two a day. The color of the water and river banks has changed from a mud gray to tan. The current is about 1-2 knots. Our fears of high flood waters from the Mississippi Valley are unfounded. This area is marked by large sandbars (beaches) on the inside turns and 10-15 badly eroded vertical banks on the outside turns. Every April-May there is heavy flooding along these rivers. As a result, there is heavy erosion along the outside turns, vertical banks and fallen trees in the river bank, most with their leaves still on them. The high flood levels are probably the reason there are no towns near the river. The few old cottages along the river banks are abandoned due to flood damage. Newer cottages are built on 30-ft pilings. The light rain quiets and we have a pleasant day.

River navigation is unique. You must stay close to the bank on the outside turns. The inside turns shoal half-way into the river. Follow the middle of the river and you start to run out of water (10-ft) on the turns. On a good day, the average channel depth is 14-20 ft. On the horseshoe turns, the depth is 40-50 ft. If you run a straight line course between two markers, you cut the inside corners and run out of water. Because we have to steer to the outside corner of every turn, we probably add a quarter mile to each turn which occurs approximately every half-mile. Very often the river is a long continuous series of turns.

Each navigation aid has a mile marker. We use the mile markers to plot our progress up the river. Our chart books are a series of three books. The first book is the “Lower Black Warrior-Tombigbee Waterway Charts” produced by the US Army Corps of Engineers. This book takes us from Mobile to Demopolis. The second US Army Corps of Engineer book takes us from Demopolis to the Tennessee River. The third book takes us up the Tennessee River to Chattanooga. The US Army Corps of Engineer books are a sort of trip ticket with each page covering approximately three miles. They show mile markers and navigation aids but no water depths or shoal indicators. The “Tenn-Tom Nifty Gritty Cruise Guide” covers Mobile to the Tennessee River. We use a regular Alabama road map to track our overall progress. There is very little civilization along the river other than several electrical power plants, chemical plants, bridges and train trestles. In the afternoon we pass the first signs of civilization and the town of Jackson, Alabama but it cannot be seen from the river. About 6PM we enter the Coffeeville Lock. Locking is a simple process. Inside the lock are floating moorings built into the sides of the wall. These moorings rise and fall with the water in the lock. You wrap a line twice around the mooring and attach it amidships. Each lock takes you up about 34-ft. We have the lock to ourselves. Waiting to see what it will be like to share a lock with several barges and a tug. That evening we tie to an overhanging tree and drop the bow and stern anchor. We have another canned dinner, Dean tells more stories and we go to bed. His two classic stories are the chickens and the applejack, and the farmer's mule. We covered 107 miles today. If we get an early start tomorrow, we should be able to make it to Demopolis with its restaurants, showers, ice cream, and civilization. This remote winding river is beautiful, interesting and peaceful but a short change would be nice. I was looking forward to oysters at Cedar Key and we anchored out. No seafood dinner at Panama City because the dock was full. No dinner at Dog River (Mobile) because the restaurant was closed. Pizzas Hut or Burger King are not going to cut it at Demopolis.

[Editor’s Note: Cliff’s log will continue our February issue.]
Volunteers Urgently Needed for the Cortez Fishing Festival Booth!

As of this writing, all of the time slots for manning our 2 day booth at the festival are open. Time slots are 2 hours long, starting at 10:00 am and running until 4:00 pm. If you intend on participating, please let me know. This event is paid for and has been very productive for us in the past. If you’ve already signed up, I have your name. Otherwise, please contact me at 941-383-3485 or ljwilhelm1@verizon.net. This is our only festival event for this year.

A Special Message:

Don't miss out on the upcoming special Squadron meetings to come:

Our February meeting will be our Change of Watch when our new Bridge will be sworn in. The district leadership will join us, and it is always a special gathering, so do attend this special evening to wish our newest officers well.

Thursday, March 7, 2019, our pot luck dinner and meeting will be hosted by Betty Zimmermann and Claudette Welch. We will have a very interesting guest speaker, Mr. Bob Pitt, whose life’s work has been yacht carpentry, rigging, traditional construction and consultation. We have more than a few sailors among us who are going to find this a great program, and for all the boaters in our midst, we will learn quite a bit about the truly ancient art and science of building and maintaining those elegant sailing vessels.

As you know, my boss, the Administrative Officer, Lt. Cmndr Mike Graham, is stepping down from that post, and with him, his faithful Assistant Administrative Officer (that’d be me, folks) is stepping down as well. We have greatly enjoyed our time over the past couple of years in our positions, and have benefited from our interaction with fellow members. My primary job, other than secretarial duties to Mike, have been to get hosts and guest presenters for our monthly meetings, and putting out some publicity about our meetings.

Now, given Mike’s and my upcoming busy travel schedule, and another new grandchild, I hope that someone who would like such pleasant interaction in our Boating Club will step forward and take my place. We change the watch in February, and the March meeting is the last one I have planned. Whoever takes over can call upon me for information and assistance, and I’ll continue to give what help I can.

All the best for 2019,
1st Lt. Lynn Talit Graham, Ass't Admin. Officer

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT: https://www.facebook.com/Anna-Maria-Island-Sail-Power-Squadron

It’s a great way to get information, reminders & pictures to you quickly. Facebook can keep you updated with family, friends & your squadron! You just might find your smiling face on Facebook!

Bring clean dishes -take dirty ones home!
GET SQUADRON EMBROIDERY for your apparel at Manatee Apparel Graphics, 1130 9th St W, Bradenton. Call (941) 746-6353 for hours. 1 item is $14, 2 to 5 articles are $12 each, 6 to 11 articles $9 each. If you purchase an item there, 1 item is $12, 2 to 5 items are $9 each and 6 to 11 items are $9 each, plus the cost of the item itself.

Note: if using a dark blue clothing, tell them to do the Navy blue in white thread instead!

Have silly jokes or sayings to share? Please forward them to me at ljwilhelm1@verizon.net.
This month’s joke was supplied by: Larry Wilhelm

Today’s Gentle Thought...

Bad Decisions... Make Good Stories!

“Believe me, my young friend,” said Water Rat.
“There is nothing, ~ ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ~ half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.”

~ from The Wind In The Willows by Kenneth Grahame

Sayings From The Sea

“Couple Of Shakes” – ‘shakes’ refers to the shaking (luffing) of the head sails. Sailors would measure short periods of time before watch changes with a “couple of shakes.”

Squadron clean-ups are scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

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<td>ABC Class 6:30pm - 9:30pm</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<td>27</td>
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February 2019