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Promoting Safe Boating and Education
Dear AMISPS Member,

Welcome to the Anna Maria Island Sail and Power Squadron. Your membership will avail you of many boating related opportunities, the first and generally foremost of which is education. Our primary purpose is boating education and I hope you will take advantage of our many class offerings. You can learn about these opportunities by contacting the Squadron Education Officer.

In addition to education, the Anna Maria Island Sail and Power Squadron offers regularly scheduled monthly dinner meetings, usually the first Thursday of every month, but may change according to holidays and other events. These meetings feature a program of general interest to the membership. The Squadron also organizes several rendezvous for members to get together at sites accessible by boat or car. Much of my own boating education has come from the interaction with other experienced boaters in the Squadron at these gatherings.

You will receive the bi-monthly USPS publication THE ENSIGN and our Squadron publication, THE BEARING. Our affiliation with BOAT U.S. offers you a discounted membership. We regularly interface with local marine equipment providers and other local boating groups as a resource for information and equipment.

We communicate via email for almost everything. Our squadron email is amispsbridge@gmail.com. It is very important that we have your current email address. We will need your phone number and cell number when we are organizing boating activities and watching the weather for last minute cancellations. If you ever change your information, simply notify myself or our Secretary. We are now on Facebook! Watch for photos of our activities throughout the year. Now you can “like” them, comment on them and share them with your family and friends.

I hope you will enjoy the many opportunities provided by the Anna Maria Island Sail and Power Squadron. If you have any questions regarding your membership, do not hesitate in contacting any one of our officers or myself.

Sincerely,
Janet Razze, AP
Commander
Additional information available to new members.

- The USPS “We Need You” pamphlet.
- “Play it Safe on the Water” - a plastic coated tip sheet for skiing, hypothermia, safety—from the supplemental Educational material for the Public Boating Course. There’s a lot of good material with the Public Boating Course.
- Boat US complimentary membership form supplied with the Public Boating Course material. Check with SEO for the forms.
- Our current Squadron Roster is now done electronically.
- Current copy of our newsletter, THE BEARING.

United States Power Squadron and District 22

USPS is dedicated to the promotion of boating safety through education. Each of our squadrons offers very comprehensive public boating education. District 22 is a unit of the United States Power Squadrons Sail and Power Boating, the world’s largest non-profit boating organization. USPS is composed of over 400 squadrons nationwide and overseas. The squadrons are organized into districts, geographically associated, and District 22 is those located on the west coast of Florida. The Anna Maria Island Sail and Power Squadron is part of District 22.

Helpful Websites

- Anna Maria Island Sail and Power Squadron—
  District 22— www.usps.org/localusps/d22
- United States Power Squadron—usps.org
**Member Benefit Center**

**Now Your Membership Saves You More Every Day!**

The USPS Benefit Center is an exclusive and dynamic benefit program that is providing benefits such as auto and home insurance, discounted vacations, wireless savings, prescription savings, on-call international medical & travel assistance, identity theft protection, Sears Commercial marketplace, Life Line Screening, long term care insurance program, cruises, Wyndham hotels, Avis/Budget car rentals, and much more for USPS members, their families and businesses. The USPS Benefit Center can save you hundreds of dollars, while every purchase you make helps support the United States Power Squadrons.

For more information and updates on member benefits and discounts visit http://www.uspsbenefits.org

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**USPS Pledge**

I do solemnly pledge
to abide by the bylaws
of the United States Power Squadrons;
promote high standards of
navigation and seamanship;
maintain my boat and operate it legally;
render assistance whenever possible;
and conduct myself in a manner
that will add prestige, honor and respect
to United States Power Squadrons.

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**Promoting Safe Boating and Education**
Congratulations on joining the ANNA MARIA ISLAND SAIL and POWER SQUADRON.

The Squadron has a three-part mission: fraternal boating club, self education, and civic service.

Membership gives you opportunities to foster fraternal and social relationships with others interested in boating. The educational program endeavors to promote a high level of seamanship in handling power and sail boats. Advanced courses from seamanship through advanced ocean navigation are available.

The ANNA MARIA ISLAND SAIL and POWER SQUADRON (AMISPS) is one of over 400 component squadrons of the United States Power Squadrons. The Operations Training (OT) program teaches about the formal traditions and structure of our National, District and local organizations.

**DRESS:** With the exception of the Change of Watch (usually held in the Spring), casual or informal dress is acceptable. For officers, uniforms are encouraged for the Change of Watch.

**DINNER MEETINGS:** There is a calendar posted on our website which shows dinner meeting dates. You will receive an email reminder of each upcoming meeting. Dinner meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of each month, except July and August. All meetings are held in the squadron building unless otherwise indicated. Most are potluck. They usually begin with a social hour, followed by dinner, announcements, and a speaker. We encourage flexibility in this area and make every effort to keep costs to members as low as possible. If you have some new ideas for dinner meetings, venues or programs, please share them with one of the officers.

At each meeting, members are encouraged to wear their name tags. The Squadron has a Ship’s Store with burgees and other items of interest for purchase. These are often displayed at dinner meetings.

Many of our meetings have fun themes. Others have programs of particular interest to members. You are encouraged to attend these special meetings. You will find them among the many fun things we do.

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**www.amips.us**
CRUISE
RENDEZVOUS (C&R)
A high point of the boating season, C&Rs are informal gatherings held at popular boating destinations. Most destinations are accessible by car, as well as by boat. Like everything else in the Squadron, rendezvous are organized by volunteers. Please help when you can. We welcome new ideas for locations and activities.

WHO’S WHO: AMISPS is managed by a “Bridge” of officers elected by, and responsible to, the membership.

The elected officers are:

- Commander (Cdr)
- Executive Officer (XO)
- Education Officer (SEO)
- Administrative Officer (AO)
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Assistant Education Officer (ASEO)
- Assistant Administrative Officer (AAO)
- Assistant Secretary
- Assistant Treasurer

The Executive Board handles routine Squadron business. The Executive Board consists of the Commander, other elected members of the bridge, the immediate past commander and three members elected from the general membership. Their names are listed in the Electronic Squadron Roster and in our newsletter, The Bearing. The Executive Board meets the last Thursday of each month. Board meetings are open to all members.

The officers are assisted in their duties by committee chairs that carry out the programs, functions and activities of the Squadron. Each elected officer is responsible for several functions and is an ex-officio member of each committee in his/her department. The officer/committee list is found in the Roster.

COMMITTEES: There are many committees within the Squadron. Some jobs involve a one-time commitment. You’ll get more fun out of your Squadron membership if you participate in a committee and the Squadron will be better off. Please select one or more areas that interest you and contact the committee chair to volunteer your help.

RANK: What is it? Who has it? Rank is the Squadron’s way of recognizing the commitment of our volunteer leaders. The elected bridge officers, other than the Commander and assistant officers, have the rank of Lieutenant Commander (Lt/C). The elected assistant officers have the rank of First Lieutenant (1/Lt). Appointed officers have the rank of Lieutenant (Lt).

Promoting Safe Boating and Education
Publications

THE ROSTER
This is distributed each year to members only. Starting this year, it is send only electronically to those members what have registered their email with us. In it you will find a list of all AMISPS members. Please be certain you are correctly listed. Errors or changes should be noted and sent to the Roster Chair listed in the Roster.

THE BEARING—OUR NEWSLETTER
The Bearing is our award winning monthly newsletter and primary means of communication. We encourage you to read it thoroughly. On the inside of the cover is a list of current officers and how to reach them. Inside the back cover is the USPS pledge. In between, you will find the locations, date and time of our monthly dinner meetings, reports from the officers and articles of general interest to the membership.

Of special interest will be announcements of future educational classes, including start date, location, instructor and cost. Watch for this information in the SEO’s report.

In addition, announcements of rendezvous and special events are always made to help you plan participation in the Squadron’s upcoming activities.

The Editor is always looking for newsworthy articles, so please write and submit any you think may be of interest to the squadron. The Bearing deadline is the Monday after the monthly dinner meeting.

THE ENSIGN
A United States Power Squadron journal that is published four times per year.
Maritime Education

COURSES
A list of course and their contents is found in the Education section of this booklet.

INSTRUCTORS
Instructors are volunteers. They are members of the Squadron who donate their time to help you improve your boating knowledge. New instructors are always welcome. If you would like to help teach, please volunteer your services to one of the class chairs or the Squadron Education Officer.

Cooperative Charting

COOPERATIVE CHARTING—A major civic service of the USPS and its members is Cooperative Charting (Co-Op Charting) which is the contribution of correction data for nautical and aeronautical charts, reports of marine facilities, and condition and status of geodetic survey markers to NOAA and the National Ocean Service.

Members who do not have boats may participate in the program by reporting on geodetic survey markers. Members, with or without boats, may also participate by turning in facility reports on marinas. This information frequently changes and is used to update Small Craft Chart folders.

There is competition among squadrons and districts based on the number of reports and reporters. Recognition of achievement for Cooperative Charting is given at district and national meetings.
Promoting Safe Boating

THE PUBLIC BOATING COURSE
This class is offered several times each year. The course meets state requirements for licensed boating operators. The completed certificate may provide a discount on your boat insurance. Check with your provider. Like all Squadron functions, everyone is a volunteer. We welcome new instructors and proctors. There are plenty of opportunities for everyone who wants to get involved. And, it’s fun!

VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC)
The Vessel Safety Check helps to achieve voluntary compliance with federal and state recreational boating safety laws, particularly with regard to the carriage of safety equipment. It raises boater awareness about safety and environmental issues through voluntary contact. Members can become an examiner after taking a short course and completing several exams with a certified examiner.

BE PREPARED FOR UNITED STATES COAST GUARD INSPECTIONS
Make sure you have a Power Squadron Vessel Safety Check prior to any surprise inspections by our local United States Coast Guard. The Vessel Safety Check will make it easier to “sail” through the Coast Guard inspections.

www.amips.us
MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Each new member is assigned a membership number by USPS. The number appears on the membership certificate as well as on the membership card issued to each new member. It is necessary to have the membership number available when enrolling in educational courses.

PARTICIPATION

The Anna Maria Island Sail and Power Squadron is an all volunteer organization. Nothing gets done unless someone donates their time and energy to do it. If you want more done or something done better, offer to help. We need your assistance and will be grateful. You will get more out of your membership and everyone will profit from your participation.

MERIT MARKS

This is a yearly recognition of you from our Squadron and USPS for your participation in our activities. Earning a Merit Mark is based on your cumulative efforts on Squadron committees and activities over a year’s time. One Merit Mark may be earned each year.

IT’S FUN TO GET INVOLVED IN THE SQUADRON’S ACTIVITIES

Again, congratulations on becoming a member of the Anna Maria Island Sail and Power Squadron.

We look forward to a long, mutually rewarding association, and to your help and participation in making our Squadron a strong and dynamic one. It’s fun to get involved in the Squadron’s activities. What you, and the community get out of membership can give a lot of enjoyment and satisfaction.

In the pages that follow, a few lines tell what each appointed committee does, how you can help and how you can enjoy.

They all need volunteers. So offer your help, your skills, and your special training. You’ll be astonished at how many new friends you can make in a hurry—and how much pleasure you’ll get from your membership.
**AIDES**

Aides are appointed by the Commander, to augment his service to the squadron. Aides carry out special assignments and contribute special skills or knowledge of USPS and squadron procedures.

**AUDITING**

The Auditing committee audits the Treasurer’s records and verifies the financial status of the Squadron. A bookkeeping background is helpful.

**BOAT SHOW**

The Boat Show Committee staffs exhibit booths at boat shows and greets show visitors to promote public Boating Courses. This is a great place to serve and meet new people.

**BRUNCH BUNCH**

This is a group that meets to simply socialize once a month usually for Brunch at a local restaurant. Discussion may or may not be about brainstorming ideas for future activities. All are welcome.

**CANADIAN LIAISON**

The Canadian Liaison acts as liaison with the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons.

**CHAPLAIN**

The Chaplain offers prayers at Squadron meeting and ceremonies.

**COOPERATIVE CHARTING**

Any member can share in this fine civic service. Report damaged, missing or deteriorating navigational aids, marine features that disagree with chart data, changes in landmarks, etc.
CRUISE AND RENDEZVOUS

This is a fun committee! If you like to check out those good food-and-drink sites at nautical destinations, plan and promote good times, shop for door prizes or handle tickets, join this congenial group. If that is not for you, share in the cruises and rendezvous anyway – a great way to participate in the fun-loving element!

ENSIGN CORRESPONDENT

Do you have a good boating story or a tip on engine or boat maintenance? Pass it along to our correspondent for possible inclusion in The Ensign, the official publication of USPS.

FINANCE

The Finance Committee team works closely with the Treasurer, as well as other Bridge Officers and the Executive committee to plan the Squadron’s financial year. This is a good way for finance-oriented people to help.

FLAG LIEUTENANT

The Flag Lieutenant is appointed to assist the Commander with a variety of details. He/she is responsible for the display of flags at Squadron functions.

FLEET CAPTAIN

The Fleet Captain insures orderly and safe docking, mooring and undocking at rendezvous.

HISTORIAN

The Historian prepares an annual history report and records Bridge and Committee Officers, Past Commanders, members serving D/22 and USPS, Education Department achievements, special awards given to received, cruises, other social events, and other significant items.

HOUSING

The Housing Committee looks after the care and maintenance of the building. They work with the Executive Committee for major repairs. The Housing Committee works with the Executive Committee to locate and arrange classroom space suitable for educational needs. The arrange accommodations for other Squadron functions as requested.

Promoting Safe Boating and Education
LEGAL OFFICER
The Legal Officer handles legal matters related to the Squadron. They may help draft bylaws, represent the Squadron in disciplinary actions, and collaborate with Rules and Legislative Committees.

LEGISLATIVE
The Legislative Committee keeps abreast of local, state or national legislation affecting boating and, coordinating with District Legislative Officers. They assess impacts of and advise members accordingly.

LONG RANGE PLANNING
The Long Range Planning Committee plans ahead for solid and continuing growth of our Squadron.

MEMBER INVOLVEMENT
The Member Involvement Committee insures that new members understand how the Squadron works and encourages instructors and sponsors to welcome new members at Squadron functions. They shepherd members into the educational program, and stimulate member interest and participation in the work and functions of USPS.

MEMBERSHIP
The Membership Committee is responsible for membership growth. They work closely with the public Boating Course Committee in recruiting likely new members prospects, and processing their applications. They work closely with the Member Involvement Committee to make sure that new members have the opportunity to participate.

MERIT MARKS
Every member is encouraged to earn an annual Merit Mark through Squadron activities. This committee collects data about individual members’ service and correlates reports from various committees to make sure each member gets full credit for his or her efforts.

NOMINATING
The Nominating Committee weighs qualifications of members being considered for elective officers. They select and recommend candidates for nomination. The Nominating Committee consists of the 3 most recent past Commanders.

OPERATIONS TRAINING
The Operations Training Committee conducts a program to train members for better management of Squadron activities. They give valuable insight into USPS, District and Squadron procedures. This program is helpful training for officers, committee chairpersons, or anyone moving into a leadership role.
PORT CAPTAIN
Any USPS member arriving or passing through the Bradenton/Anna Maria Island area will get answers to most questions about local boating by calling our Port Captain.

PREDICTED LOG
This is a fun exercise in applying Advanced Piloting. However, any skipper can enjoy the contest. It’s you and your boat against time, wind and current. Whoever comes closest, percentage-wise, to his predicted ETA, wins.

PROGRAM
If you have a flair for showmanship or booking talent, volunteer for this committee and help arrange for speakers, films or other programs for our dinner meetings.

PROPERTY OFFICER
The Property Officer keeps the inventory of Squadron owned small property (projectors, teaching aids, flags, etc.) so members will know what is available and where to find it for use.

PUBLICATIONS
The Squadron’s monthly publication needs news-writers, reporters, editorial, artists, and other assistance. This is a great spot for would-be-journalists.

RADIO TECHNICAL
The Radio Technical Committee is dedicated to the support of boating safety through proper knowledge and use of radio and electronic equipment. This committee keeps us up to date on FCC rules and regulations and on the latest technical developments in electronics.

ROSTER
The Roster Committee works closely with the Publications Chairman to compile an annual roster which shows the Squadron’s working organization and a complete electronic directory of members and their boats.
RULES
The Rules Committee prepares wording of bylaws and rules, recommends new bylaws or changes to maintain conformity with the policy of USPS.

SAFETY
Selected on the basis of interest in marine safety, the Safety Committee is responsible for distribution of bulletins, articles in the Squadron publication, promotion of National Safe Boating Week and public awareness of safe boating practices all year.

SICK BAY
The Sick Bay Committee stays informed of the welfare and health of Squadron members. They report on any illness or accident, and send flowers or cards as appropriate.

SUPPLY OFFICER
What do you need? If it’s authorized by USPS, our Supply Officer has it or can tell you where to get it—insignia, name tags, burgees and more.

TELEPHONE AND COMMUNICATIONS
The Telephone Committee is the official link between the Bridge Officers and the membership. The committee calls or e-mails members to advise them of dinner meetings, rendezvous, and other events. This is an enjoyable way to get to know other members.

USPS EDUCATION FUND
The USPS Educational Fund accepts memorials, gifts and bequests. These are used to develop and support education related to boating. The Fund maintains an honor roll and squadrons whose gifts during the year total one dollar or more per member, are recognized.

Local favorite view by the Starfish in Cortez Fishing Village

www.amips.us
It makes sense to get involved in our boating education! That’s the reason you joined the Squadron —— to learn more about boats and boating. Marine education is the very top USPS priority!

The best way to learn more about boating is to take USPS courses. Some courses are designed to be taken in a prescribed sequence, while others are elective and can be taken whenever offered.

One of the best ways to keep your new boating education fresh and current is to teach what you have learned to others.

USPS courses build self-confidence and increase your ability to take care of yourself on the water. This results in a lot more fun in all aspects of boating.

Promoting Safe Boating and Education
BOATING
This is the basic public course available to everybody in the District 22 area. Passing the boating exam is necessary to qualify for membership. We can always use your help in proctoring or teaching the boating course.

SEAMANSHIP
Seamanship is the first of the Advanced Grade courses for members only. The course covers boat handling, knots, splicing and working rope; as well as Rules of the Road, trim and stability, docking, anchoring, towing, marine emergencies, living aboard, etc.

PILOTING
Piloting follows Seamanship and introduces you to safe navigation of your boat. It teaches dead reckoning positioning by calculating time, distance and speed, and includes charting a position by taking bearings. It also includes compass use and how to plot and label estimated positions and fixes.

ADVANCED PILOTING
Advanced Piloting picks up where Piloting leaves off with a review of compass use, chart work, plotting courses, and determining position using bearings. It also covers danger angles, tides and tide tables, current prediction, and piloting in currents.

JUNIOR NAVIGATION
Junior Navigation introduces offshore plotting techniques using celestial navigation, time, the nautical almanac, heavenly bodies, and the sextant.

NAVIGATION
Last of the Advanced Grades, Navigation will supplement, extend and deepen your knowledge of celestial navigation, teach you three methods of sight calculation and link navigational concepts of time, compass, movements of sun, moon, planets and stars. All of this incorporates simple arithmetic that you use every day.

www.amips.us
Cruise Planning is a broad ranging course covering all aspects of planning. Whether organizing an overnighter or the extended offshore cruise of your dreams, you will be prepared.

Engine Maintenance helps you foresee mechanical troubles and pinpoints them if they do happen. It covers operating principals, maintenance and repair of gas and diesel engines, cooling, lubrication and fuel systems, plus clutches, shafts, props, and common sense safety measures.

Instructor Development has less to do with boating than any other USPS course. Instructor Development shows you how to be a better teacher and to organize your thoughts for any kind of public speaking.

Marine Electronics

Don’t wait! Suppliers are turning out more and better electronic equipment than ever before. Marine Electronics will give you an understanding of depth sounders, radio telephones, radar, loran, GPS, plus proper wiring, etc. It is better to learn about them in a classroom than at sea on a dark and stormy night!

Sail

Sail provides valuable information about handling, piloting, anchoring, mooring, docking, stability, and true and apparent wind. It also covers rigs, hulls, sailing theory, Rules of the Road, and points sailing.

Weather

Where will you ever find a better lab than our beautiful area for studying classic weather patterns? Learn to read the weather and interpret cloud formation and sequences, make observations while afloat, and prepare to deal with the unexpected. Be a weather expert on land or sea.

Promoting Safe Boating and Education
Advanced Powerboat Handling
Anchoring
Basic Coastal Navigation
Boat Handling Under Power
Boating and Our Florida Wildlife
  Sea Turtles
  Manatees
  Pelicans and Other Sea Birds
Boating and Saltwater Fishing
So I Now Have a Boat—Where Do I Fish?
Co-Operative Charting
Emergencies on Board
Fouling and Bottom Maintenance
Fuel and Boating
How to Use a Chart
Hurricanes and Boats
Knots, Bends and Hitches

Marine Radar
Mariner’s Compass
Mastering the Rules of the Road
Onboard Weather Forecasting
Paddle Smart
Partner in Command
Practice on The Water Training
Rivers, Lakes and Locks
Sail, Trim and Rigging
Sharing of a Special Cruise or Boating Experience
The Things You May Not Know About Marine Electronics
Tides and Currents
Trailering Your Boat
Using GPS

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