



The 45th Parallel



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*Articles for publication must be received by **the 20th** of the month. Articles may be submitted by e-mail, or hard copy to:*

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General Membership meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at Sleders. Executive meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at Traverse City. Anyone interested may attend via Zoom

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Grand Traverse Bay Sail and Power Squadron 2025

May 1	General Meeting-1800	Sleders
May 8	Lunch with the Commander-1200	Cottage Café
May 15	Executive Meeting-1600	Zoom
June 5	General Meeting-1800	Sleders
June	Shakedown	Clinch Marina
July 6-25	Summer Cruise	
September 4	General Meeting-1800	Sleders
September 11	Lunch with the Commander-1200	Cottage Café
September 18	Executive Meeting-1600	Zoom

1 MAY 2025

P/C JERRY WILLIAMS, AP

SPRING FIT OUT

1800 Social Hour
1830 Dinner

Perch
Slabtown Ribs

\$25 Per person

If your telephone caller does not reach you by Sunday, April 27, please call John Holcombe at 231-590-5150 or email John Holcombe at jholcombedds@gmail.com by April 28.

Please let your caller know if you will need a ride.



COMMANDER'S REPORT

Cdr Nicole Smethells

Executive Officer Bill and I will be travelling to the District 9 convention that will be held the weekend of April 25 - 27. Jeff Babbie from Core, the insurance company for USPS, will be there. I plan to spend time with him to more fully understand the insurance situation. I will report back to you at the meeting on May 1, and hopefully clarify, at that time, more details regarding our insurance coverage. Meanwhile, we know, at least, that our monthly meetings and classes at NMC are covered.

On-water teaching insurance, through the USPS national office, was held up pending a review of the details in the policy. Finally it was approved toward the end of last week at which time Asst. SEO Mike Adkins quickly submitted the necessary information to the insurance company to secure such insurance for the Sail course. Thanks, Mike.

ExCom met virtually on April 17 with insurance as the main topic. The consensus was to wait until more information is gathered at the District 9 meeting before proceeding. ExCom will meet again on May 1 at 11 AM, to review what was learned at the District 9 convention. All members are, of course, invited to this virtual meeting as usual. I will report on both meetings to the membership that evening.

Hooray, hooray for the first of May! The Bay and Lake are calling.





EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT

Lt/C Bill Smethells N

Commander Nicole and I have recently spent time trying to understand the insurance situation. As she mentions, we have learned a lot, but will know more after talking to Jeff Babbie, the representative from Core. See her report in this issue of the 45th; she also plans on updating the squadron at the May 1 meeting.

The next Orientation Meeting for new members will be held in October or November depending on recruitment. If you want a copy of what was provided at the previous meeting, please see me.

If you are interested in having a hand in planning our recruitment process, please see me. I envision a committee that recommends a process for the squadron to which all members can contribute, following the old maxim that “many hands make light work”. Encouraging people to join us should be fun and not taxing. Let’s see what we can do!





ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Lt/C John Holcombe, AP

MAYDAY!

We all very much look forward to welcoming back Jerry and Madonna Williams, who have moved to Holland but remain active in our group. Jerry is presenting the program on May 1 on Spring Fit Out. His programs are always great and hopefully it will help us to make sure the only May Day we say this year is about our dinner meeting.

Menu choices are:

- Perch dinner
- Slab Town ribs

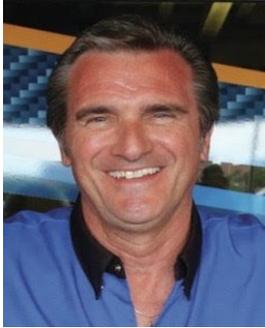


MAY BIRTHDAYS—

Thomas Lyon, AP	5/2
Donna Nelson, AP	5/3
Norman Dill, SN P/C	5/6
Barbara Wentzloff	5/12



Eitors note- we are going to again add dates so you know when to send greetings



EDUCATION OFFICER
Lt/C Craig Shantz

We have spent a lot of time discussing insurance coverage for our Squadron training course offerings lately, and I'm pleased to confirm that we now have insurance coverage on all of our upcoming classes! I think?

I say I think, because there have been many changes and new requirements along the way, but I do truly feel that every hoop has been jumped through at this point.

Nicole and Bill Smethells have been keeping us updated on the insurance situation, and it's great to know that our Squadron Training Courses are all covered, including on-the-water training, but it hasn't been easy. I would like to extend a **"Big Thank You to Mike Adkins"** for all of the time and effort that he put into procuring, completing and submitting the required documents, so that he could provide the Sailing Course with "on-the-water training" this year. The requirements are all new for on-the-water coverage, and the package he put together included:

1. **Certificate of Insurance Request Form (OTW)**
2. **Motor Vehicle Release Form**
3. **Copy of the instructor's driver's license**
4. **Physician's Release Form**
5. **Certificate of Achievement**

Below are the (3) upcoming courses available for registration though NMC. Mike Adkins will lead the Sail Course with the help of long time Sail Instructor, David Terrell.

Tom Stone will be the lead on the two ABC Courses with the help of Bill Bailey and others. Currently, Dan Cline, John Krieger, and myself will be assisting with the adult ABC course in May.

Although the Sail Course is full, we still have room in the two ABC courses. Please let your boating friends know about the upcoming schedule. It's always our goal to fill each one of these classes by the start date.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our May meeting, and now, it's finally time to take the winer cover off! That makes me Happy!

Course Name	Instructor	# Days	Dates
Sail	Mike Adkins	10 Wednesday's 6:00 - 8:00 PM	4/23/25 thru 6/25/25 (12 currently enrolled)
America's Boating Course (for adults)	Tom Stone	3 Monday's 6:00 - 9:00 PM	May 5, 12 and 19 (8 currently enrolled)
America's Boating Course (Grades 7-12)	Tom Stone	Mon., Tues., Wed., Thur. 9:00 – 12:00 Noon	6/16/25 thru 6/19/25 (8 currently enrolled)



SAFETY OFFICERS REPORT

Lt Brian Nelson, AP

Short, But To The Point

Is it really Spring? Or is it another false start? By the time you read this, maybe we will know for sure. This is a very short report since Donna and I are hastily preparing to leave our Arizona home to return to our beloved Great Lakes. It is this time of year when anything to do with boat maintenance is synonymous with boating safety as we prepare for another season on the water. In other words, it's all about mishap prevention.

The latest edition of BoatU.S. Magazine has a few excellent articles on maintenance/safety issues that are particularly important as we prepare for the annual spring launch:
76 | Spring Commissioning 78 | All About Ropes 82 | Maintaining PFD Inflatables 86 | Engine Mount Inspection 90 | Trailer Spindle Sleeves 94 | Ask The Experts 96 | Alerts!

Go to

<https://cdn.coverstand.com/53247/843763/03a3882f4cc022fd3b6c1e47ae4ba1a757cc9489.pdf>
to read these articles and more. Prepare for a safe boating season. Spring is upon us!



APRIL MEETING—



Paul Ward
Harlene Ward
Cdr Nicole Smethells
P/C Bill Smethells, N



Janet Ward, AP
Pat Kernaghan, S
L/C John Weih,P



Our speaker Steve
Wyckoff



Cdr Nicole Smethells



Jim Schultz, S
Merri Lee Day
Chuck Day



Cdr Nicole Smethells swearing
In new members Paul and
Harlene Ward

WINNERS-



Carol Currin, P



John Campbell



Lt/ C Dan Cline, S
Linda Cline



A great turnout