



# CAN 15

Official Publication of District 15

Fall 2023

## Brief Your Crew

Before heading out for a day on the water, be sure to brief your crew. Talk to your passengers about your boat and make sure you have someone on board who knows how to operate it should



you become incapacitated. A crew briefing can make running your boat easier and your guests feel safer.

**Here are some things you should consider covering:** - Where to find life jackets, a first-aid kit, visual distress signals and fire extinguishers. Be sure to offer life jackets to your guests and encourage everyone to wear them. Additionally, point out the best places to sit on board and remind them to spread out and not all sit or stand on one side of the boat.

How to operate the VHF marine radio in case of an emergency. Most people know that radios are “push to talk,” but in an emergency, they forget to “release to listen.”

How you will handle docking procedures and what help you expect when you get to your destination. You don't want to be unprepared for docking. Although everyone wants to help, they may not know the best way to do so. Covering this ahead of time helps avoid last-minute confusion and mishaps.

While you're at it, discuss the route so they understand what they will see along the way. Visitors may not be familiar with local waters. Helping them appreciate what they are about to experience sets the stage for a fun day.

Finally, always have someone on board who can be your partner in command. This person should be able to operate your boat and get everyone home safely (or to a designated access point where help is available) if you

become incapacitated. Taking time to brief your crew will help everyone stay safe and have more fun on the water.

-Thomas E. Dawson  
America's Boating Club Cape Coral  
Image courtesy of America's  
Boating Channel  
*From Compass, September 2023*

## Set a course for better boating

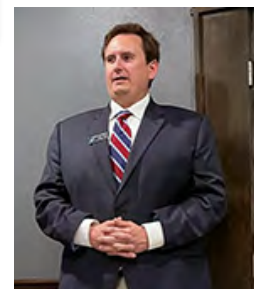
The go-to boating resource for both new and experienced boaters, **America's Boating Compass** features articles, videos, practical tips and advice to help you have more fun on the water and boat with confidence.

Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter and become a better boater today!

<https://boatingcompass.org/>



ABClub Annual Meeting  
February 6-11, 2024  
Orlando, Florida



D/C Taylor

## CAN 15

Fall 2023 (nbr 23-2)  
**MASTHEAD**  
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
OF DISTRICT 15



### DISTRICT BRIDGE

Commander Taylor Baldridge, P  
225 767-7432

[TaylorB@WilsonWarehouse.com](mailto:TaylorB@WilsonWarehouse.com)

Executive Officer Wilbur Hugli, SN-IN  
850-499-5797

[wilhugli@cox.net](mailto:wilhugli@cox.net)

Educational Officer Gregory Deis, SN-CN  
[deisfamily@outlook.com](mailto:deisfamily@outlook.com)

Administrative Officer - Open  
Secretary Karen Gercak, AP  
850-598-9234

[uspssailorgirl@outlook.com](mailto:uspssailorgirl@outlook.com)

Treasurer Dan Ross, S  
504-610-5166

[dross14@cox.net](mailto:dross14@cox.net)

Asst Treasurer Mike Turner, AP  
[turnermb@cox.net](mailto:turnermb@cox.net)

### CAN 15 STAFF

#### Editor

Cheryl D. Jarrell, AP  
130 Sherwood Forest Dr  
New Orleans, LA 70119  
504-430-9743

[cdjarrell@cox.net](mailto:cdjarrell@cox.net)

#### Production Manager

Cheryl

#### Photographer

Cheryl, Barry, Chester, Carol, Mady

#### D/15 Web Page

<http://www.usps.org/localusps/d15/>

® "The Ensign", "the Squadron" with design, "United States Power Squadrons", "USPS", the "Flag Design", the "Trident Design", and the "Wheel-and-Ensign Design" are Registered Trademarks of United States Power Squadrons, Inc. America's Boating Club® and logo are registered trademarks of the United States Power Squadrons®

## Modern Marine Navigation

A powerful navigation tool that fits in your pocket, the smartphone has changed the way all boat operators approach marine navigation.

Our options used to be a paper chart or cruising area charts—plus a compass, timer, speed indicator and a charted object or two plotted bearings to find where we were on the chart. Now, you can determine latitude and longitude in seconds using any smartphone. Paired with a charting app like OpenCPN, Aqua Map, iNavX, Argo and i-Boating, your smartphone can



instantly display your location and all navigational data.

### How it works

Most every smartphone, as well as tablets and laptop computers, have full GPS receivers as well as the radios—receivers and transmitters—for the cellular and Wi-Fi network areas we live in. Most phones also have other sensors and radios. As a result, many new recreational boaters use phones or tablets instead of the pricey chartplotters found on larger recreational vessels. Many boaters with chartplotters will also mount a tablet with a charting app to get different views of the chart while underway.

Newer or updated navigation equipment is also moving to a new NMEA 2000 networking standard, <https://kus-usa.com/resources/a-quick-guide-to-nmea-2000/> so all instruments on your boat will communicate over Wi-Fi, including the chartplotter and any phone or tablet logged into the network. This means your chart apps and programs can grab data and display navigation information that the chartplotter has (AIS, engine data, radar, anemometer, speed meter). Other functions like remote auto helm control accompany this capability.

### Mounting your tools

Mounting smartphones and tablets on a boat is easy. Sailboats with a binnacle have a large variety of rail mounts to choose from. To find one, search for "rail mounts for cellphones and tablets" to find a variety to choose from. On boats with a flat surface, many people Velcro-mount their devices to the bulkhead. When mounting phones and tablets, choose a location that makes viewing them easy while you are underway.

### OpenCPN <https://opencpn.org/>

A free open-source app, OpenCPN shows how the new screen environment of chartplotters and GPS-enabled applications work along with building an understanding of charts. OpenCPN demonstrates waypoints and waypoint navigation for trip planning.

Because OpenCPN is free, it runs on Windows, Macintosh OS, Android, and Linux systems. It does not run on iPhone or iPad. All charting apps operate similarly, so knowing one gives you the skill needed to adapt to other GPS charting apps.

—Mike Maszczyński of Annapolis Sail & Power Squadron; Assistant Chair of America's Boating Club's Navigation Committee

*From Compass, October 2023*

## Pictures from D/15 Spring Conference Hosted by Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron



Top left, P/C/C Louie Ojeda presenting the Chief's message; top right, installing D/C Taylor; then Taylor installing his bridge; above, Louie installing the newest member of D/15, Amelia Baldrige; left, conference meeting.



### D/15 Officers Installed at Spring Conference

Asst Treasurer Mike Turner, DEO Greg Deis,  
Treasurer Dan Ross,  
Secretary Karen Gercak,  
and D/C Taylor Baldrige.

Congratulations to all of the officers.

*Pictures from Chester Cooke, Glenn Roy,  
and me, Cheryl*

# More Pics from the Conference

## Instructor Recertification at the D/15 Conference



Instructor Chester Cooke



Recertification Students



Thanks LPS&PS for a great conference!



Scott Talbot made a presentation on USCG SAROPS



**Search & Rescue Optimal Planning System SAROPS**

- Search Objects affected by Leeway and Currents
- Position uncertainty (Area, LK, LKP-DR, Voyage)
- 2000/5000/10,000 particles drift models
- Applies drift characteristics to particles for search object
- Applies EDS Winds/Currents
- Imports SLDMB Data to EDS models




**From D/15 Educational Officer**  
D/Lt/C Gregory Deis, SN-CN

**The Environmental Best Practices Trifold Brochure**

You Tube is one of my favorite internet social mediums. It's been a great source of information for "Do It Your Selfers" like me on how to repair things like leaking shower valves. I am also drawn to "click" on other videos that have interesting or entertaining topics, including videos of all things boating. I personally get a kick out of YouTube videos of novices (and some old hands) trying to launch and recover their water craft. I have to admit, there has been more than one time that I'm glad no one had a camera around when I was at the launch!



If you are a fan of YouTube boating videos, I suggest you check out the Power Squadron's "America's Boating Channel". You can also find America's Boating Channel at <https://americasboatingchannel.uscreen.io/catalog> as well as Facebook.

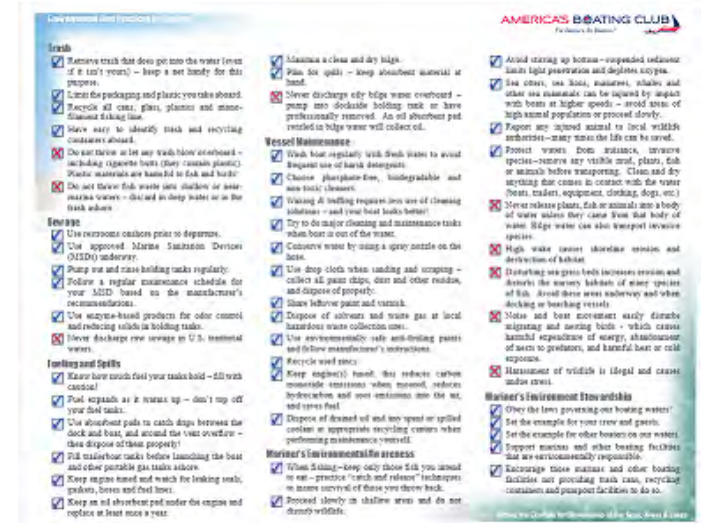
The channel has videos on boat handling, safety, navigation that you would expect from the Power Squadron but surprisingly, also has old "Boat TV Series" like *Gilligan's Island*, and "Movies for Boaters" such as *Mutiny on the Bounty*.

Check out the Inlet drone videos which show recreational boat operators what to expect when departing from and returning through specific US inlets for the first time. There is a "Drone Project" to add local squadron produced videos on to this video library.

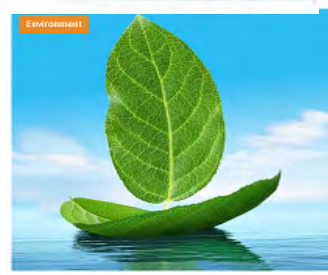
If you have any interest in producing a local inlet drone video, you should view the America's Boating Channel video INLET DRONE VIDEOS for Dummies click the link below:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bH7Bhd6AuVdNpTWaXxe7Qnk810JmZs/view>

Next time you find yourself online, take a moment to check out the America's Boating Channel. You will be entertained, amused or maybe even learn something good about our boating pass time.



This brochure is an up-to-date handout to educate boaters during VSCs about caring for our marine environment, to educate new members on being good stewards of our waterways, and to market America's Boating Club at boat shows and other public events. It's also a useful guide to remind all members of the role we play in protecting our precious marine environment.



If you aren't familiar with the order form, click on the link provided below. Log on to the members site and go to "Site Index, Forms, Brochure Order Form, ABC Brochure and VSC order form." It will be the last item on the form, listed as Environmental Best Practices, Item 09-09-117 and it is FREE.

**Environmental Brochure:**

[https://www.usps.org/images/Exec/Environmental/Environment\\_ABC\\_TriFold\\_2023\\_fillable.pdf?mc\\_cid=8bf8b2c460&mc\\_eid=676416d942](https://www.usps.org/images/Exec/Environmental/Environment_ABC_TriFold_2023_fillable.pdf?mc_cid=8bf8b2c460&mc_eid=676416d942)

**Order Form :** [https://www.usps.org/national/eddept/files/free\\_brochure\\_form.pdf](https://www.usps.org/national/eddept/files/free_brochure_form.pdf)

## Odds and Ends - News From USPS

### Information Center Presentations

The narrated Information Center PowerPoint presentations which were presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting in Orlando have been posted. Find them on the Information Center page.

### Miss the Annual Meeting?

If you missed the Annual Meeting, it was recorded. The link for the replay is:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9rn0htd-Tk>  
It will not run directly. Copy and paste the link into a browser window and run it that way.

### Upcoming National Meetings

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Rosen Plaza  
9700 International Dr, Orlando, FL 32819  
(866) 470-9700  
We Need Your Help!  
Staying at the hotel helps us be able to have meetings. We require a lot of meeting space. Staying at the hotel and eating at the group dinners helps us save money to rent the meeting room space our members require. We appreciate your support in order to keep the expenses down and the communication high!  
Group Rate: \$179  
Dates for group rate? February 3 - 12, 2024  
Last date to get a group rate? January 11, 2024  
The **2024 Fall GB is scheduled for Pittsburgh, PA** Sep 22-30 2024. Details not yet available.

### Educational Fund 2023 Honor Roll

Does your squadron or district have an unbroken history of achieving Honor Roll status? The 2023 year ends on November 30, and while many squadrons have already met their \$1 per member goal, a few are just shy of their target. Collectively, the one dollar per member quickly adds up, enabling the Educational Fund to make grants available, which can go to squadrons, districts or the national organization. Every grant request is considered, though some requests fall outside the scope of our trust declaration. You can view your squadron/district Honor Roll status and see if you have a shortfall [https://www.usps.org/national/edfund/honor\\_roll.htm](https://www.usps.org/national/edfund/honor_roll.htm) You can find more information on the Educational Fund and the grant request form at our website.

–Nigel Hargreaves [euroneh@mindspring.com](mailto:euroneh@mindspring.com)

The D/15 squadrons who have achieved honor roll status for 2023 are: Baton Rouge, Ft Walton, Lake Pontchartrain, Mobile, New Orleans, Perdido Bay.

### What Does Your Burgee Mean?

As many of you already know, the Flag and Etiquette Team of the Heritage and Documents Committee is currently working to improve the graphics of the burgee database. However, the team has discovered that some squadrons and districts do not have heraldry for their burgee or flag. This is an opportunity for all squadron and district members to review or write their heraldries. What do the design and colors of your squadron burgee or district flag mean? What influenced the design of your squadron burgee and district flag? Commanders, you have the ability to update your own heraldry in the database. For assistance, contact  
Kent Simpson [kent@d30usps.org](mailto:kent@d30usps.org)  
or Anna Morris [amorris@bangheadhere.org](mailto:amorris@bangheadhere.org)

### Safety - Does Your PLB or EPIRB Need Offseason Maintenance?

While today's personal locator beacons and emergency position indicating radio beacons are essentially maintenance-free, the battery requires periodic servicing. Each device has a sticker showing the battery expiration date.

The newest EPIRBs have 10-year lithium batteries that you can often replace yourself. Older EPIRBs and PLBs have 5-year batteries and usually need professional service to ensure the devices remain waterproof and transmit properly. IMPORTANT: You can't put a 10-year battery in a 5-year EPIRB.

If you send it in for service, the turnaround time varies, but you should expect a couple of weeks at minimum, and probably longer during the offseason when everyone else is sending theirs in for service. Check your owner's manual for additional information. Once you get it back, don't forget to test it before putting it back on board.

–Jeff McKinney [jmckinney2606@gmail.com](mailto:jmckinney2606@gmail.com)

### Educational Department Manuals in Revision

Educational Department Manuals for squadrons (EDM I) and districts (EDM II) are currently being rewritten. The goal is to make them a useful training resource and a user-friendly reference for new, current, and prospective members of squadron and district educational teams. We invite your feedback on topics and guidance you would find most useful. Send your feedback to me, Jan Wright, at [aneo@usps.org](mailto:aneo@usps.org) or by calling 912-659-9358.

*No Conference currently scheduled.  
Details will be distributed when  
available.*

## CALL TO CONFERENCE

In accordance with District 15 bylaws, Article 5, Section 5.5, this constitutes official notice to the membership of District 15 of call to meeting, containing the agenda and other pertinent details for the .....



.....  
All members of D/15 are encouraged to attend the Conference and may request the privilege of the floor, in accordance with bylaws Article 5, Sec 5.8.

Each squadron commander is entitled to vote. Delegates shall be selected by each squadron on the basis of one delegate for each 25 active members in good standing, or major fraction thereof, as of the preceding 1 March, with a minimum of two delegates per squadron.

Voting members of the Conference are: District Commander, District Lieutenant Commanders, Chairmen of the General Committees, Squadron Commanders, Past District Commanders who are active members of District 15 squadrons, and the delegates.

## National Communications Committee and 2023 Distinctive Communicator Award Info

The National CommCom is in need of volunteers to review websites and newsletters. No experience necessary! The evaluation forms list specific requirements for compliance. If interested, contact:  
R/C Barbara Pearson [bpearson1024@att.net](mailto:bpearson1024@att.net)  
Stf/C John Goebel [johngoebel@cs.com](mailto:johngoebel@cs.com) (webs)  
Stf/C Catherine Anderson [ca81920a@aol.com](mailto:ca81920a@aol.com) (pubs)

The requirements for earning a DCA for 2023 are similar to those for 2022. If you would like to review the details of the evaluation forms for websites and newsletters, go to <https://www.usps.org/departments/15000/15800> and use the pull-downs on the left. Evaluation period ends November 15, 2023.

If you have any questions, contact your adviser:  
**Webs** - P/R/C Kathleen Lambert, AP  
[kglambert@comcast.net](mailto:kglambert@comcast.net)  
**Newsletters** - Stf/C Catherine Anderson, AP  
[ca81920a@aol.com](mailto:ca81920a@aol.com)

### Member Services

NEED HELP? The Member Services Committee is your answer. Your Member Services Liaison, assigned to your district and squadron, will help and guide you through the challenges that seem to have you stumped. Log on to the USPS website under the Secretary's Department, and you will find the Member Services webpages. The current list of district liaisons is ready to help! At this time of year, district commanders and executive officers are preparing for their fall educational conferences. Don't forget to list all those who helped put this great conference together. Start a list and transfer the information into the Merit Mark system. Continue to prepare your list by contacting the different chairs in your club. Collate the info and drop it into the system. It is that easy. While on the website, check your roster to find those members with "Address Unknown." These members will not receive important headquarters information. We need their current address and emails to inform them of the great things happening. Any questions: Contact your Member Services Rep or email us directly at [memserv.questions@gmail.com](mailto:memserv.questions@gmail.com)

-Ann Peltier

### ITCom News

You may notice changes in the member's website as we are upgrading the template the site is based on. Most changes were minor. We have tested the new template, but with nearly 2,000 pages on the website, some issues may have slipped by. If you see a page or a menu that doesn't look right, notify us at [help@usps.org](mailto:help@usps.org) Due to changes beyond our control, the e-book ordering system has been experiencing some problems. Those issues have been corrected. You should have no problem now ordering e-book materials and keys. If you experience any issues, please notify [help@usps.org](mailto:help@usps.org)

-H Jay Stevens [hjaystevens64@brighthouse.com](mailto:hjaystevens64@brighthouse.com)

### Keeping Your Public Relations Program Current

Is your public relations contact up to date? A good contact helps the Public Affairs Committee keep you informed of news releases that you can use to promote your club, new and updated national Memorandums of Understanding, ideas for partnerships, and ways to promote clubs/districts through news releases and social media. If you don't have an identified PR chair, adding your commander or exec officer provides a way to keep you informed. You can use Info Center to update your OD-1/OD-2 to add Public Relations Chairs. -Ron Jones [rcjones25@gmail.com](mailto:rcjones25@gmail.com)

# Middendorf's Rendezvous

hosted by Baton Rouge S&PS  
organized by P/D/C Bill Arcediano

All D/15 members were invited, and lots of members from Baton Rouge, Lake Pontchartrain, New Orleans showed up! Thanks to Chester Cooke for the pictures.

