

United States Power Squadrons®

We are America's Boating Club®





Official Publication of District 15

Spring 2019

Spring Conference in March

D/C Joey Wheeler, AP



Spring and warm weather is here. Now is a great time to get a VSC for 2019 and make sure our safety equipment is up to date. Beyond a VSC, now is also a fine time to review our vessels for maintenance and reliability issues to help ensure a safe and

uneventful boating year for all. Please, encourage your fellow boaters to do the same. Then let's get out and have some fun. I am looking forward to all the rendezvous and other activities on the horizon.

I was unable to attend the Annual Meeting and would like to thank our Executive Officer P/D/C Gercak, AP for attending and representing District 15.

The Spring Council and Conference will be hosted by the Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron on 29-31 March. Be sure to plan on attending. This will be a good time to learn about activities held in other squadrons in our district as well as visiting with old and new friends. (See details on these meetings elsewhere in this issue.). Also, this will

be the District COW so it is a great opportunity to meet the new Bridge.

My watch as District 15 Commander is almost over and very much thanks to all those who helped and supported me this year.



Members of the Board of Directors - P/C/C Louie Ojeda, SN; V/C Ben Coons, JN-CN; V/C Mary Paige Abbott, SN-IN; V/C Craig D. Fraser, SN; V/C Harry Hebb, SN; V/C Lee Popham, JN

C/C Gary Cheney, SN presenting D/15's own V/C Harry Hebb, SN, with his V/C flag. Congratulations to Harry the new National Secretary for USPS!



C/C Rep will be NExO Mary Paige Abbott, SN-IN see page 2

> D/15 Fall Conference 29-31 March 2019

Holiday Inn Covington, LA See pages 3-4 for complete details

Hosted by
Lake Pontchartrain
Sail and Power Squadron



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF DISTRICT 15



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D/15 Web Page

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NExO Mary Paige Abbott, SN-IN C/C Rep D/15 Conference

V/C Mary Paige Abbott, SN-IN, joined the USPS National Bridge in 2016. Abbott previously held the positions of R/C for the National

Marketing Committee (2015) and the National Membership Committee (2012-2015). She has also served as an Aide to Chief Commander Baldridge.

A member of the Sanibel-Captiva Sail & Power Squadron since 2000, Abbott first served as the Assistant Squadron Education Officer. She co-founded the Sanibel School safe boating education class in which all sixth-graders participate. She moved from Squadron Administrative Officer in 2004 to Executive Officer then to Commander in



2006. She currently teaches Partners in Command and Cruise Planning. Abbott became Commander of District 22 in 2010 after serving as Executive and Administrative Officer, respectively. She and her husband, Steve, boated to nearly all eighteen D22 squadron changes of watch via AusSea, their 52' Maritimo motoryacht.

V/C Abbott began boating (paddle, sail, and power) as a youth with her family when living in Michigan. Her father served on the Michigan State Waterways Commission which was then working on collaborative boating education & training for recreational boaters as well as enforcement agencies. USPS as a boating education source was introduced to her at that time. A move to Fort Wayne, Indiana, changed her focus to AAU swimming and golf. She became an advocate of recreational boating safety when a swim team friend was struck and killed by a speedboat during a summer lake party.

Abbott did some boating during college when she crewed on observation boats during the 1977 America's Cup Trials off Marblehead, MA. Sailors Ted Hood, Ted Turner, and Dennis Conner reignited her love of on-the-water boating activities. Her sailing continued after college albeit on a Sunfish with her golden retriever as crew.

After completing American Sailing Association on-the-water training classes, Abbott and her husband purchased their first sailboat together, Corsair, a Sabre 38. They became avid weekend sailors on Lake Michigan. Retiring to Florida in 1999, the Abbotts made the switch to powerboating in 2000.

A graduate of the University of Massachusetts in Marketing Communications, Abbott retired as the Marketing Communications Manager for Essex International, Inc., which followed stints in banking, Junior Achievement, and the City of Fort Wayne. She has served on community boards, was Fleet Captain of the St. Charles Yacht Club, is a member of DAR, and continues to play golf.









D/15 Spring CONFERENCE 29-31 March 2019



Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron

Worried that there is no fun to be had in March once Mardi Gras ends? Worry no more....The Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron invites you to attend the highly coveted, often imitated and universally anticipated, event of the month, the <u>USPS 2019 Spring D15 Conference</u> scheduled for 29-31 March 2019 at the Holiday Inn Covington, 45 Louis Prima Drive, Covington, Louisiana, 70433.

This Holiday Inn is one of the newest hotels in Covington, and is a beautiful property complete with modern and updated rooms, a bar and restaurant on premises, a beautiful outdoor pool with a BBQ area and includes free Wi-Fi, free parking and free buffet breakfast (for registered guests). We have a group rate of \$89.95 plus taxes if registered by Feb 28th 2019. Please make your reservations with the Hotel at 985 888 1200 and ask for Group Code LPSPS/D-15 Conference.

To compliment the superb facilities, we have a varied and active schedule that should provide for a fun and successful event for everyone. We kick off the fun on Friday at the Holiday Inn with a Pool Side Gathering starting at 6 PM. Dress casually and come on down to meet and mingle with your Power Squadron friends! The hotel will be catering the event with Pulled Pork Sandwiches, salads and fixins' for \$20 and we have permission to BYOB or you can purchase drinks from the Hotel Bar.

Saturday starts early with the always eventful and often entertaining, District 15 Business Meeting followed by two scheduled events for the afternoon. For the adventurous attendees, we will be offering a professionally guided Honey Island Swamp Tour. Cost for the swamp tour will be \$25 per person. Lunch is on your own. For those wanting to further their USPS education, we have coordinated for the USPS Operations Training Course to be conducted at the Hotel. Lunch will be on your own.

Saturday evening will be a two - part event as we enjoy a delicious dinner at the Hotel and celebrate the District Change of Watch. Uniform will be Business Formal or the USPS Uniform A. Bring your appetite and let's have fun celebrating Joey Wheeler's successful year as District Commander and show our support for Karen Gercak as she begins her year as our new District Commander! Cost for the dinner will be \$40 per person, with either BYOB or you can purchase drinks from the Hotel Bar. There will be a bucket raffle and silent auction following the D15 Change of Watch.

We will wrap up the conference on Sunday morning with a buffet breakfast at the hotel. The breakfast is included for hotel guests and \$9.95 per person for all others. This will be paid directly to the hotel, so please do not include with your registration.

So, for a good time in late March, please plan on joining us, the Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron, at the District 15 Spring Conference at the Holiday Inn in historic Covington, Louisiana!

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D/15 Spring CONFERENCE

29-31 March 2019 Holiday Inn Covington

45 Louis Prima Drive, Covington, LA 70433 866-238-4218 or 985-888-1200

The Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron of	of the United States Power Squadron cordially invites you
to attend the District 15 Spring Conference.	
Name	Spouse/Guest

Street, City , State, Zip					
Squadron, Phone, Email					
Conference Event	Time	Cost	Count	Total	
Friday Dinner (Holiday Inn Pool Side) Pool side casual dress ~ pulled pork sandwiches, salads, etc. (BYOB or cash bar)	1800-1930	\$20/pp			
Saturday Conference ~ Uniform G or Business Casual	0830-1200	N/C			
Honey Island Swamp Tour (lunch on your own)	1300-1700	\$25/pp			
Operations Training (lunch on your own)	1300-1700	N/C			
Saturday Dinner - Holiday Inn (BYOB or cash bar)	1900-2200				
Roasted Port Loin		\$40/pp			
Grilled Cajun Salmon		\$40/pp			
Bourbon Baked Chicken		\$40/pp			
Sunday Morning —buffet *(included in Guest Stay) * we will have our meeting room to gather in	0830-1000	\$9.95/pp*	Paid direct to hotel!	DO NOT include \$	
TOTAL					

For Room Reservations Contact Holiday Inn Covington at address/phone listed above. Rates are \$89.95 + state and local taxes. *Includes free Wi-Fi, Parking and Breakfast*. Ask for Group Code LPSPS/D-15 Conference. *Reservations must be made by 02.28.19 to guarantee rate*. Reservations can start as early as Friday, 29 March 2019 and stay through Sunday, 31 March 2019 at our Group Rate. **DEADLINE TO BOOK IS 02.28.2019! Please return your conference signup sheet no later than March 18th!!!**

Hotel Bookings please call the 985-888-1200 number directly!

Conference attendees please make check payable to:

Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron / LPSPS

Attn: Janice Bordelon 72096 Ramos Avenue Suite D * Covington, LA 70433



NomCom Report 2019

Commander **Executive Officer Education Officer** Administrative Officer

Secretary

Treasurer **Assistant Secretary**

Assistant Treasurer Assistant Education Officer Karen Gercak, AP Wil Hugli, SN Ron Swope, SN

OPEN

OPEN - HELP US FILL

THIS POSITION

Daniel Ross, S

OPEN

Charlie Heintz Jr., P Richard Carson, JN

Nominating Committee:

1 year ... Don Ellis, SN

2 year ... Barry DeArmond, AP

3 year ... Joey Wheeler, AP (Nomination from floor)

Rules Committee:

1 year ... Hal Brewer, AP

2 year ... Glenn Roy, AP

3 year ... Open

Auditing Committee:

1 year ... Dean Hoffman, P

2 year ... Scott Bordelon,

3 year ... Open

Submitted by:

P/D/C Bill Arcediano, SN (Chairman)

P/D/C Don Ellis, SN

P/D/C Barry DeArmond, AP

D/15 Award Winning Newsletters and Webs for 2018

Newsletters

District 15 - CAN 15 Lake Pontchartrain - UNDER THE BRIDGE New Orleans - TOPSIDE TALK Pensacola - Lazy Log

Perdido Bay - Lost Bay Treasures

Webs

District 15 Baton Rouge Sail & Power Squadron Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron **New Orleans Power Squadron** Pensacola Sail & Power Squadron Perdido Bay Power Squadron

Thanks to the editors and webmasters for advancing communications for their squadrons.

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 2019 Spring Conference.



The Conference will be preceded by the Spring Council. The council will begin at 0900; the conference meeting will convene at 0930, 30 March 2019 at the Holiday Inn, Covington, LA.

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.

Uniform at the Conference meeting for the District Bridge will be USPS uniform G. The uniform for other members and guests will be uniform G or other appropriate attire.

From the D/15 Secretary

D/Lt/C Maddalynn DeArmond, AP

After an attempt to send out an updated calendar to all members, there were quite a few undelivered because of faulty email addresses. Please update your email address with

National, as this is our way of communicating with all of you, and we have some very good "stuff" to share. Thank you.



Newsletter advisor for District 15 is: Billie Kearney, N bjg1312@comcast.net Web advisor for District 15 squadrons is: Kathleen Lambert, AP kglambert@comcast.net **CAN 15**





AMERICA'S B®ATING CLUB

For Boaters, By Boaters[™]

District 15 Spring Conference Agenda Saturday 30 March 2019

Hosted by Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron Holiday Inn Covington LA

Uniform G - Black trousers, white short sleeve shirt, no tie

0800 **Commanders and Exec Officers Breakout** P/D/C Karen Gercak, AP **Educational Breakout**

0900 Spring Council Meeting Call to Order

Roll Call

Quorum Confirmed by Secretary

Minutes Approval - Fall Council, Ad Hoc Committee

Report of the Nominationg Committee

Fall Council. Conference Dates

Council Adjourned

0930 Spring Conference Called to Order

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

USPS Pledge

Roll Call and Introductions

Necrology

Establishment of a Quorum Change Order of Business Clarification of Voting Delegates

2018 Spring Conference Minutes Approval

Host Squadron's Welcome Chief Commander's Message

BRIDGE OFFICERS REPORTS

Treasurer's Report Secretary's Report

Administrative Officer's Report **Educational Officer's Report** Executive Officer's Report Commander's Report Presentation of Awards

Nominating Committee Report

GENERAL COMMITTEES

Rules Committee Audit Report

Educational Fund Report Election of Officers

Unfinished Business

New Business Benediction

Conference Recessed until Change of Watch

1145 Loyal Association of Navigators (LAN)

1215 Lunch on Your Own

1300 - 1700 USPS Operations Training

1300 - 1700 Honey Island Swamp Tour

1900-2200 Dinner, Change of Watch, Silent Auction, Uniform A or Business Formal

D/Lt/C Ron Swope, SN-IN

D/C Joey Wheeler, AP

P/D/C Don Ellis, SN-CN D/Lt/C Maddalynn DeArmond, AP D/Lt/C Maddalynn DeArmond, AP

P/D/C Bill Arcediano, SN-CN

Lt/C Pat Brewer, P D/C Joey Wheeler, AP D/C Joey Wheeler, AP P/C Chester Cooke, SN-CN P/D/C Karen Gercak, AP D/Lt/C Wil Hugli, SN P/D/C Don Ellis, SN-CN P/D/C Don Ellis, SN-CN

D/Lt/C Maddalynn DeArmond, AP

D/C loev Wheeler, AP P/D/C Don Ellis, SN-CN

D/Lt/C Maddalynn DeArmond, AP

Cdr Chris L. Cottrell, P

V/C Mary Paige Abbott, SN-IN

D/Lt/C Dan Ross, S

D/Lt/C Maddalynn DeArmond, AP

D/Lt/C Wil Hugli, SN D/Lt/C Ron Swope, SN-IN P/D/C Karen Gercak, AP D/C Joey Wheeler, AP D/C Joey Wheeler, AP

P/D/C Bill Arcediano, SN-CN D/Lt/C Ron Swope, SN-IN P/C Eddie Brazeal, AP P/D/C Luther O'Brien, SN D/C Joey Wheeler, AP D/C Joey Wheeler, AP D/C Joey Wheeler, AP P/C Chester Cooke, SN-CN

From the D/15 Educational Officer

Join us at the Holiday Inn Covington on Saturday, 30 March at 0800 for the Educational Breakout before the Spring D/15 Conference Meeting.

A New Learning Model?

If you read the latest issue

of Currents, the Educational Department's newsletter, you would see that there are plans to try a new delivery method for some of our courses. It will significant involve changes. The presentations will be put on-line so that students can go to them whenever they like (within the bounds of the class length) study them more than once if desired as they will have voice-over incorporated, and then be prepared for an on-line class session.

The instructor doesn't so much teach the class but acts more as a facilitator and leads discussion and answers questions. The technology of this is accomplished through one of several software programs. Students, although in different locations, will be able to interact with each other as well as with the instructor. Students will have to have enough self-discipline to complete the assignment before each class session. Remember, the instructor is not going to be re-teaching the material.

There are several benefits to blended learning. First the student doesn't have to be in the classroom. Squadron members can take classes more easily if their own squadron doesn't offer it. The material to be studied prior to the on-line session can be accessed anytime and from any place. I don't know how the mechanics will work, whether or not you will be able to download. Before this method can be implemented the material will be updated and whatever is used for the student to access on-line before the class session will be narrated.

This is not a new teaching method. Colleges have been doing this for a long time. It is going to take a lot of work to bring even one course up to the point that it is ready for this delivery system. New materials will need to be developed to help reinforce the information the students learned on-line. At this point I don't know when to expect the first trial class.

D/Lt/C Ron Swope, SN-IN

Preparations for Operations Training

Operations Training will be held on Saturday Afternoon of the Spring Conference. To get the most from the training participants should bring a laptop or tablet to follow along and if necessary a power adapter and extension cord.

Since there is a great deal of material to be covered you should read the following ahead of time; Operations Manual Appendix A "Using this Manual", Chapter 5 "Squadron Organization", Chapter 6 "Squadron Educational Activities", Chapter 7 "Squadron Departments and Committees", Chapter 13 Uniforms and Insignia" and Appendix B "Tailor's Guide". It is not a matter of memorizing this information. It is knowing it is there and where to find it. To find the most up to date version of the Operations Manual go to the USPS home page and log in as a member. Click on the "Site Index" link at the top of the page and scroll down the third column on the right to Operations Manual. Please read your squadron bylaws.

The training will be in three parts: Navigating USPS (accessing web resources), Squadron Organization and Introduction to Leadership Development (knowing what to expect and what is expected of you when contributing to our organization). Lt/C Chuck Blair, AP-IN will conduct the session.

Some Fun Information

The extent of the US shoreline is something a bit over 12,000 miles. When you add in all of the little nooks and crannies, it's more like 91,000 miles.

There are approximately 41,000 members of the United States Coast Guard.

That means each guardsman or woman has 2.2 miles to guard!





ABC on-the-water Learning Centers

A Learning Center will be opening in Florida shortly. Eventually additional LEARNING training centers will be in Texas and http://www.usps.org/national/marketing/ABClub/ABClub%20Trifold.pdf CENTERS California. USPS will now move on

with a Texas site selection.

USPS National Meetings

The 2019 Governing Board will be 8-15 September 2019 at Galt House Hotel in Louisville, KY.

The 2020 Annual Meeting will be 9-16 February 2020 at the Sawgrass Marriott Resort, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. The Annual Meeting is also scheduled in Ponte Vedra for 2021-2022.



Notice to All Vessel Examiners

Effective immediately, it will be the position of the Safety Committee that: You can't have too many VSC decals, but you can have 'not enough'! Please do not hesitate to

request additional VSC decals from your commander. Stf/C Bob Bales bobbales1949@gmail.com

Membership Info

Membership says "Have you ever queried those that do not renew? Maybe there is a fixable reason. Check out the short questionnaire under membership forms."

And, have you prepared a new member/member retention plan for this year? A written plan is much easier to follow and also much easier to pass on.

R/C Robert Howd rhowd1@ec.rr.com

America's Boating Club Business Cards

Vistaprint Corporate America's Boating Club business cards can be ordered at a discount rate by visiting the USPS members main page, the Member Benefits page or the Safety Committee page.

https://americasboatingclub.go.customprintcenter.com/register

Fill in your information and create a new password. That's it! Log in and start customizing your print materials.

America's Boating Club Education Brochure

- emphasizes the educational offerings, benefits that we provide. Use this brochure at boat shows, public educational events, and interactions with the public.



America's Boating Club Trifold Brochure - The revised brochure may be downloaded and used at any squadron event, boat shows, public boating education session, or anywhere else where you want to recruit students and members. The brochure briefly describes our organization and benefits of membership, and stresses education by listing courses and seminars.

An Educated Boater is a Better Boater

Better boaters feel more confident on the water,

at the helm, and in the company of other boaters. They're boaters who boat more, boat more safely, and have more fun.

Our classroom, online, and hands-on training programs help you develop the knowledge and skills you need to take your boating abilities to the next level, whether you enjoy powerboating, sailing, or paddling on fresh or salt water. Our certified instructors have a passion for teaching, strong technical knowledge, and real-world experience that will help





you, your family, and friends get on the water and into fun, safer and faster.

We offer a wide range of courses, seminars, and webinars to help you be the best boater you can be. Choose from:

- Basic boating to advanced techniques
- Boat handling
- Rules of the road
- Inland, coastal, and offshore navigation, using marine electronics and traditional methods
- Electronics, including marine radios, GPS and chart plotters, AIS, radar, and more
- Boat systems, including engines, electrical systems, and fuel systems
 - Trailering your boat
 - Cruise and trip planning
 - Weather and the marine environment
 - And much, much more.

Need help? Let us know. We can help you decide where to start.

Info from the America's Boating Club Trifold Brochure.



Odds Cont'd from page 8

USPS America's Boating Club Marketing Guide

The newest version is now available. It is Ver 2.0 from February 2019. Lots of information in this guide.

https://www.usps.org/national/marketing/ABClub/America's%20Boating%20Club%20Guidebook.pdf



The time to transition to the new logo is now. We hope to complete the change by the end of 2019. National has made some suggestions on how individual squadrons may use the new logo. But the rules and the timing are not hard and fast in order to allow time for squadrons to adapt to the new concept.

Squadrons should NOT change their official names, but may want to register a DBA name with their states .

The national organization is moving to the new ABC logo as of the AM 2019, and so are many squadrons and districts. Squadrons may need more time to update their materials and website, of course, but many squadrons are excited to get started. Our guidance is to discontinue use of the ship's wheel logo and establish a trade name based on America's Boating Club by the end of 2019.

To explain these changes to your members, use the following presentation:

http://www.usps.org/national/marketing/ABClub/Americas Boating Club Presentation.pptx



West Marine is hosting a used life jacket turn in during Safe Boating Week. Turn in a used, never to be used again jacket and get a 25% discount.

Some Other Suggestions

The **USPS Triangle** is an outdated descriptive element, NOT a logo.

Additionally, the words in the triangle are archaic by today's standards. Instead, we cover the same conceptual territory with new action-oriented words: Learn, Engage, Connect. We should say:



LEARN Boating Skills ENGAGE with Boating Friends CONNECT with the Boating Community

Dual Branding - Until the end of 2019 squadrons should de-emphasize the use of the traditional ship's wheel logo, but may use the traditional logo along with the new America's Boating Club logo.

Membership Increase - Congratulations to Pensacola Sail & Power Squadron for winning first place in growth for squadrons within USPS. Pensacola had a 79% growth in membership. Both New Orleans (9.5%) and Lake Pontchartrain (8%) had growth, but nothing like Pensacola.

Save Your History or Lose It

March brings many changes of watch with new squadron and district leaders. Will your retiring leaders be set aside and forgotten? This will happen unless someone files the Historians Report for the past year. The report is easier than ever to file using DB2000. For help, contact the committee advisor assigned to your squadron or district. If you don't know your advisor, no problem, Karen Gercak incoming D/C of D/15 is also the new Assistant Chairman Heritage & Protocol Committee. If you need help, talk to her at our upcoming D/15 conference. Keep your squadron and district history records up to date.

Communications Committee

And now that I've tattled on Karen, I'll also tattle on myself. If you have any questions or problems with either your newsletter or web page, talk to me because I am chairman of the Communications Committee. Cheryl Jarrell cdjarrell@cox.net

See page 5 for the DCA award winners for 2018, and names and contact info for your individual advisers.



Incoming NSec Harry with outgoing NSec Howard





Retiring the Flag

Orlando Happenings



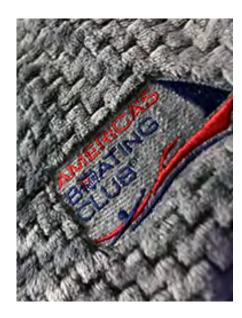
Karen, Taking the oath of office as Stf/C of Heritage and Protocol
Committee



USPS Boarrd of Directors and their escorts



Some fun new America's Boating Club items in the Ship's Store -Shawl and Blanket!





Pics from D/15 Fall 2018 Conference

Hosted by New Orleans Power Squadron

Chris Cottrell of Lake Pontchartrain S&PS made a safety presentation at the Fall 2018 D/15 conference. One of the items he demonstrated was an electronic flare beacon.





D/C Joey and Cdr Don Rowe of Mobile



D/C Joey Wheeler and P/D/C Bud O'Brien on the Educational Fund



Treas Dan Ross, Sec Mady, Cdr Todd Larson of Pensacola



Afternoon training

Below, NOPS Cdr Mike Turner, DSec Mady DeArmond, LANOPS President Sissy Chapman - picking winning tickets for prizes!





P/D/C Don Ellis, R/C Harry Hebb (now V/C), DAO Wil Hugli, Dan, Mady