



CAN 15

Official Publication of District 15

Spring 2020

Spring Conference

D/C Karen Gercak, AP

Our Spring Conference and COW was held on March 14, 2020, and hosted by the Pensacola Sail & Power Squadron.

DEO Ron Swope held a training session Saturday afternoon on OpenCPN which is a free navigational software program that you can use in your squadron courses as well as in real life on-the-water situations.

OpenCPN is introduced in Section 18 of Chapter 5 of America's Boating Course Third Edition and can be used in all the navigation courses from Piloting (now called Marine Navigation) to Navigation (now called Celestial Navigation).



V/C Harry, R/C Dick, D/C Karen



Above, D/C Karen, new DAO Taylor, and his proud Dad, P/C/C Robert



Installation of Officers

Right, P/D/C Lenny and P/C Pete



Thanks Pete for providing the pictures

D/15 Spring Conference was held 13-15 March 2020 in Pensacola, FL
Hosted by
Pensacola Sail and Power Squadron
C/C Rep was D/15's own
N Sec Harry Hebb, SN
see page 2

**CAN 15**

Spring 2020 (nbr 20-1)
MASTHEAD
 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
 OF DISTRICT 15

**DISTRICT BRIDGE**

Commander Karen Gercak, AP

850-598-9234

uspssailorgirl@outlook.com

Executive Officer Wilbur Hugli, SN-IN

850-499-5797

wilhugli@cox.net

Educational Officer Ron Swope, SN-IN

850-516-1259

seopsp@att.net

Administrative Officer Taylor Baldrige, P

225 767-7432

TaylorB@WilsonWarehouse.com

Secretary Donald W. Rowe, SN

251-401-8812

rowe32@comcast.net

Treasurer Dan Ross, S

504-610-5166

dross14@cox.net

CAN 15 STAFF*Editor*

Cheryl D. Jarrell, AP

130 Sherwood Forest Dr

New Orleans, LA 70119

504-430-9743

cdjarrell@cox.net

Production Manager

Cheryl

Photographer

Cheryl, Barry, Chester, Carol, Mady

D/15 Web Page

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

NSec Harry Hebb, SN C/C Rep at D/15 Conference

Harry pretty much grew up on the water. Summers were spent on the family's waterfront camp on the Saint John's River in Jacksonville, Florida. He began boating at age 12 and has been an active boater for many years. First in a 12 foot pram, then a 20 foot Clinker built runabout then on two Navy Aircraft Carriers as he sailed the Mediterranean and Gulf of Tonkin seas during his twenty years of service as a Navy Photographer. He was awarded two Teacher of the Year awards while assigned to the Navy Schools of Photography in Pensacola, Florida. Following retirement from the Navy, he graduated from the University of West Florida with degrees in computer science. He taught one year as a graduate student and one year full time. He received a Teacher of the Year award from the Data Processing Management Association during his association with the University. But then it was off to his hobbies including Scuba Diving, Amateur Radio and boating where there were runabouts, jet skis and now a kayak.



His interest in boating and education led to his joining the Squadrons in 1992. He dug in and completed Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting, Junior Navigation, and well the rest of the courses necessary to complete his Full Certificate in three years. After a year in the squadron, he began teaching courses. Three years later he had taught all five advanced grade as well as all six required elective courses. While serving as first Squadron Educational Officer and then as Squadron Commander of the Pensacola squadron, he also served as Assistant District Educational Officer and was a member of the USPS Navigation Committee writing and grading examinations and sight folders. At the 2000 USPS Annual Meeting, he was awarded the Charles F. Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching for his service to the Educational Departments of USPS. He was an aide to C/C Les Johnson, SN, for two years.

He was elected to the D/15 Bridge and served as Administrative and Executive Officer as well as Commander. During his year as D/15 Commander, he made 86 squadron visits visiting each of the District's twelve squadrons at least five times and co-hosted the 2003 Governing Board in New Orleans providing the administrative arm for event reservations. At that Governing Board and not having enough to do, he volunteered for and was selected to be a member of the Operations Manual Committee. He accepted the job of editor of the manual, a position he holds to this day. He served as both the Staff and Chair of the OM committee.

Just when things looked like they might slow down a little, he was offered the position of Assistant National Secretary and now National Secretary. As a life member of USPS, National Secretary, Pensacola's squadron treasurer, webmaster, computer secretary and learning to navigate his kayak, et cetera (you get the idea), there is little time for anything but service to the United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club. Guess what, he likes it that way.

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AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

For Boaters, By Boaters™



Chief Commander

C/C Mary Paige G. Abbott, SN-IN

March 11, 2020

For more than 100 years the United States Power Squadrons has advocated and educated our members on safety; it is even a part of our Mission Statement: "To promote recreational boating skills and boating safety through education, hands-on training, and civic activities while providing fellowship for members."

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our headquarters staff, I wish to convey to all that our true priority is our members. Your safety is of utmost importance to us and that includes the health of you and your family.

Today with the advent of coronavirus, we need to reach beyond the sea and apply situational awareness to our communities. Be aware of your surroundings and those who surround you, take care of yourself and your family, and keep in mind America's Boating Club members and their health. We ask that all follow best health practices as you go about your daily life.

Please be advised that we are not shutting down the operations of the United States Power Squadrons as we continually educate ourselves on COVID-19. We support those decisions made at the local and district level to postpone events and activities. This includes personal decisions. Factual resources abound so stay informed and check on your fellow members regularly. FYI: Here is the CDC site <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

I wish you fair winds, calm seas, and good health as we weather these challenging times together.

Best,

Mary Paige Abbott

Chief Commander

2020 Annual Meeting in Ponte Vedra Beach FL



United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club elected their first female chief commander, Mary Paige Abbott, at their 106th Annual Meeting of the Governing Board. Chief Abbott is a member of the Sanibel-Captiva Squadron in Southwestern Florida, District 22. P/C/C Frank Dvorak, SN administers the pledge of office to incoming C/C Mary Paige Abbott, SN as her husband. P/R/C Steve Abbott, SN proudly observes.



Installation of Bridge Officers
 V/C Ralph Bernard, AP (5/Absecon Island) NAO
 V/C Craig Fraser, SN (7/Akron) NExO
 V/C William McManimen III, SN (5/Main Line) NEO
 V/C Harry Hebb, SN (15/Pensacola) NSec
 V/C Diana Jackson, SN (8/Sebastian Inlet) NTrea

5 Excuses Not to Wear a Life Jacket, 5 Reasons You Should Wear One!

From the National Safe Boating Council

We've heard just about every excuse not to wear a life jacket. Here are the most common excuses with the top five reasons to wear a life jacket.

1. "I have life jackets on board." Having life jackets on board the vessel is not enough. Accidents happen too fast to put on a stowed life jacket.

2. "I'm a strong swimmer." Even a strong swimmer needs to wear a life jacket. During an emergency, clothing can become heavy or waterlogged while in the water.

3. "It's too hot and doesn't look cool." Old-fashioned, bulky orange life jackets have been replaced with new styles, like inflatable life jackets that may resemble a pair of suspenders or a belt pack. These are much cooler in the warmer weather.



4. "It gets in the way." There are life jacket styles available for any recreational water activity – fishing, water sports, hunting, paddling and more. There are even styles for pets!



5. "Nothing is going to happen to me." Face it, accidents happen. Boating can be a fun, safe and enjoyable activity, but when the "Wear It!" message is ignored, the consequences can be grim.



WEAR IT

A program of the National Safe Boating Council

National Safe Boating Week May 16-22, 2020

<http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com/>

Pictures and comments from 2020 Annual Meeting were obtained from Facebook postings of America's Boating Club, and also R/C Anna Morris, SN, Chairman Operations Manual Committee, Tampa Power Squadron D/22.



Editor's Note: NomCom Report, Call to Conference and Agenda (page 6) were sent to all members in advance, but are included here for completeness.

NomCom Report 2020

Commander	Karen Gercak, AP
Executive Officer	Wil Hugli, SN
Educational Officer	Ron Swope, SN
Administrative Officer	Taylor Baldrige, P
Secretary	Don Rowe, SN
Treasurer	Daniel Ross, S (?)
Assistant Secretary	Open
Assistant Treasurer	Mike Turner, AP
Assistant Educational Officer	Richard Carson, JN

Nominating Committee:
1 year ... Barry DeArmond, AP
2 year ... Joey Wheeler, AP
3 year ... **Open**

Rules Committee:
1 year ... Glenn Roy, AP
2 year ... Chris Houha
3 year ... **Open**

Auditing Committee:
1 year ... Scott Bordelon
2 year ... Lenny Long, SN
3 year ... **Open**

Submitted by:
P/D/C Don Ellis, SN (Chairman)
P/D/C Barry DeArmond, AP
P/D/C Joey Wheeler, AP

From the D/15 Secretary

D/Lt/C Don Rowe, SN

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.

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 2020 Spring Conference.



The Conference will be preceded by the Spring Council. The council will begin at 0900; the conference meeting will convene at 0930, 14 March 2020 at the Homewood Suites, Pensacola, FL.

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.

D/15 Award Winning Newsletters and Webs for 2019

Newsletters

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

Webs

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



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

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

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

For Boaters, By Boaters™



District 15 Spring Conference Agenda Saturday 14 March 2020

Hosted by Pensacola Sail & Power Squadron
Homewood Suites Pensacola FL



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

- | | |
|---|--|
| 0800 Education Department Session | D/Lt/C Ron Swope, SN-IN |
| Squadron Educational Officers, Assistants, and any other interested party | |
| Squadron Cdrs and Execs Session | D/C Karen Gercak, AP |
| 0900 Spring Council Call to Order | D/C Karen Gercak, AP |
| Establishment of a Quorum | D/Lt/C Don Rowe, SN |
| Approval of Previous Council Minutes | D/Lt/C Don Rowe, SN |
| Old Business | D/C Karen Gercak, AP |
| New Business | D/C Karen Gercak, AP |
| Adjournment of Council | D/C Karen Gercak, AP |
| Spring Conference Call to Order | D/C Karen Gercak, AP |
| Invocation | TBD |
| Pledge of Allegiance | D/Lt/C Wil Hugli, SN-CN |
| United States Power Squadrons Pledge | D/Lt/C Dan Ross, S |
| Roll Call and Introductions | P/D/C Don Ellis, SN-CN |
| Necrology | P/D/C Don Ellis, SN-CN |
| Clarification of Voting Delegates | P/D/C Don Ellis, SN-CN |
| Establishment of a Quorum | D/Lt/C Don Rowe, SN |
| Change Order of Business | D/C Karen Gercak, AP |
| Approval of Previous Conference Minutes | D/Lt/C Don Rowe, SN |
| Host Squadron's Welcome | Cdr Chuck Fosha, AP |
| Chief Commander's Message | V/C Harry Hebb, SN |
| Reports | Various |
| Educational Fund Report | P/D/C Luther O'Brien, SN |
| Presentation of Awards | D/C Karen Gercak, AP |
| Old Business | D/C Karen Gercak, AP |
| New Business | D/C Karen Gercak, AP |
| Benediction | TBD |
| Adjournment of Conference | D/C Karen Gercak, AP |
| 1200 Loyal Association of Navigators (LAN) | |
| 1230 Lunch | |
| 1400 Educational Training Session | – Presented by D/Lt/C Ron Swope, SN-IN |
| 1800 Dinner & Change of Watch | – Uniform A, Blazer, Evening or other appropriate attire |

From the D/15 Educational Officer

D/Lt/C Ron Swope, SN-IN

NOAA to Phase Out Raster Charts

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration quit providing paper charts some time ago. However, they are still available through NOAA's certified Print-On-Demand agents. Raster charts can also be downloaded from the NOAA website. The expected sunset on raster charts is January 2025. This applies to the full size charts as well as the 8 ½ X 11 booklet charts and online raster nautical chart viewer.



Those of you who have taken the Piloting and Advanced Piloting courses may remember that a raster chart is a digital representation of a paper chart. It looks like a picture of a paper chart. NOAA also produces ENC or electronic navigational charts, also referred to as vector charts. Presently, they maintain something over 1,200 ENC charts. Eventually they expect this number to grow to over 9,000 with many of these being large scale 1:5,000 harbor charts.

They are developing what they call NOAA Custom Chart (NCC). This will allow users to create and download and if desired print, their own custom chart defining their own scale and paper size centered on a position they choose. This is really remarkable. This is in the development stage and a lot of work has yet to be done. However, you can assist by going to the link here and trying out the prototype and then giving feedback on it. Start with the prototype at <https://devgis.charttools.noaa.gov/pod> and then tell them what you think through the ASSIST feedback at <https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/customer-service/assist>

The end of raster and paper charts won't happen all at once. Some will be pulled earlier than others. NOAA has put out a document titled Sunsetting Traditional NOAA Paper Charts, End of Paper and Raster Nautical Production, Introduction of NOAA Custom Charts. Get the full story by reading this document at

<https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/publications/docs/raster-sunset.pdf>

Our Deepest Sympathy to the Family of Iris Reddy, SN

Iris was a member of the United States Power Squadrons, and along with husband Richard, helped teach safe boating, was Staff/Commander in Ships Store, and Past Commander of Perdido Bay Power Squadron in Lillian, Alabama. Both were avid golfers.



Iris graduated as an RN from Mansfield General Hospital School of Nursing in 1960, now Ashland University. Iris married Richard in 1962. (Married 55 years)

She and Richard lived in Mansfield, Ohio, Lake Erie, and Lillian, Alabama before moving to Lufkin, Texas in 2009.



**PDC Glenn Roy, AP
Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power
receiving the Life Membership Award
from C/C Gary Cheney, SN at the
USPS National Meeting in FL.
25 year member with 25 Merit Marks.
Congratulations, Glenn!**



Odds and Ends - News From USPS Ponte Vedra AM

This is a portion of Annual Meeting 2020 reports. For complete Seat Packet reports, go to: https://www.usps.org/php/reservations_new/meetings.php?sp_mtg_id=37&mtg_id=39

USPS National Meetings

The 2020 Governing Board will be 6-13 September 2020 at the Hilton North Hills in Raleigh, NC.

The 2021 Annual Meeting will be 16-21 February 2021 at the Sawgrass Marriott Resort, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. The Annual Meeting is also scheduled in Ponte Vedra for 2022.

Basic Public Education - R/C Dick Carson, JN

America's Boating Course 3rd Edition (ABC3) public education course 2018 printing. This USPS ABC3 eighteen-section basic boating knowledge education course is approved and presented in two programs.

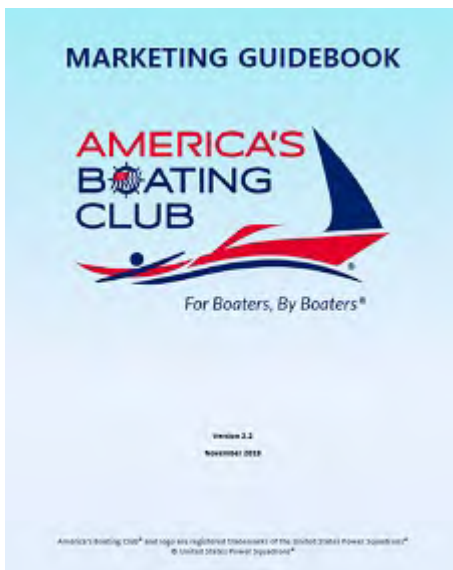
1. Short / 8-hour course - ANSI/NASBLA approved course was additionally approved by each state after state-specific material was imbedded in section eight. The short "NASBLA Course" is comprised of sections one through sixteen and presented in an eight-hour classroom course.

2. The whole 16-hour course continues by including sections seventeen and eighteen which introduce students to piloting with charts and electronic navigation. OpenCPN software which is used throughout the USPS continuum of navigation education is included. The whole course provides the student with a foundation for the USPS continuum of recreational boating education.

The short eight-hour course was approved by ANSI/NASBLA and 40 states as conforming to their Standards and meeting their basic boating knowledge education requirements.

Eight states limited their approval to classroom only, excluding on-line certifications. The ANSI/NASBLA course approval includes both English and Spanish language Student Manuals and supporting material.

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



Link to the latest Marketing Guidebook is above, Ver 2.2, Nov 2019.

Link to approved logos, below.



Boat Operator Certification / On the Water Training - (BOC/OTW) - R/C Robert Anderson, AP

The committee has 37 Regional and Assistant Regional Directors. These Directors are assigned to each BOC Region and to each USPS district. This should help the DEOs and SEOs with their on the water training programs. The Regional Directors are responsible for the 242 BOC certifiers in the various regions.

The Boat Operator Certification / On The Water Program has been awarded an Educational Department Grant for USPS Boat Schools. The grant will allow us to have two schools this year and two next. Funds will be used to bring in USPS Boat School Instructors, provide classrooms as needed and housing for instructors. The USPS Boat Schools will help improve the number of certifiers for BOC candidates, and the training of new certifiers and trainers for the BOC program.

ABC on-the-water Learning

Centers - The USPS Marketing Committee worked with our vendor, Rushton Gregory, to create ads and press releases for the new Tavares, FL learning center made possible by a grant from USCG.



The Marketing Committee (MARCOM) role is to create marketing policies, techniques, tools and branding specifications throughout the organization.

Odds cont'd on Page 9

The new America's Boating Club® Marketing Guidebook is extensive and comprehensive. Use it as your Go-To compendium for guidance to help you develop a marketing program, promote education and social activities, and recruit members.

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The **Cooperative Charting Committee** has been working to increase participation in our programs and the quantity of reports. As the unofficial results indicate, we have been successful.

Geodetic Mark Recovery Program as of 31 Dec 2019: (2018 stats in parentheses)

Number of Reports - 953 (672)

Number of Marks Reported - 3097 (2129)

Participation

Number of Members - 180 (152)

Honor Roll - 38 (25)

Number of Squadrons - 47 (45)

Honor Roll - 22 (19)

Nautical Program as of 31 December 2019:

Number of Reports - 628 (286)

Participation

Number of Members - 288 (137)

Honor Roll - 105 (50)

Number of Squadrons - 37 (33)

Honor Roll - 24 (14)

Additionally, the Cooperative Charting Committee is actively engaged in pulling together a new program which involves members visiting and reporting the status of marinas around the country. We are working with Cruisers.net to report on their current list of marinas in the Southeast (Carolinas – Florida). These will be published on their website.

USPS Membership

- Total membership year end 30 Nov 2019 - 23,150
- Total dues paying members 31 Dec 2019 - 13,399

The ending membership for 2019 shows the years loss at 1657, approximately a 7% decline; dues paying members loss of 1398, a 9% decline.

For the first time, we are getting the perspective of those who have left us. Our team of District Commanders, District Administrative Officers and the Board of Directors, developed a survey of members that left over the past two years, age group between 18 and 70. This resulted in a base of 4,000 members with their email addresses.

Over a period of weeks, the team focused on three primary questions-Why did you join? Why did you leave? And why would you return? The survey went out January 20, and we have had approximately a 10% return which is, by any measure, good for a survey. Details to come.

General Steps to Becoming a Vessel Examiner

1. Contact your Squadron VSC Chair
2. Download and print the latest VSC manual
3. Study, put it under your pillow, etc.
4. When you are ready, take the test on line
5. Upon completion of the test, request your Squadron Chair to have a qualified Vessel Examiner perform 5 joint Vessel Safety checks with you.
6. Have your Squadron Chair submit the VSC-2 form to HQ and request 5 decals for you.
7. Congratulations! You now are a qualified VE. Go out and inspect to your hearts content
8. We can use all the VS Examiners that we can get, there are a lot of boats!



The total number of **Vessel Safety Checks** (VSC) performed in 2019 was 28,090. For details on the VSC manual, test, online submittal, frequently asked questions, go to:

<https://www.usps.org/index.php/departments/12000/12900/12900-vessel-safety-check>

Pictures from the District 15 Fall 2019 Conference in Orange Beach AL Hosted by Perdido Bay Power Squadron

Friday Night Shrimp Boil



Saturday conference
meeting and awards
presentations



More Pics from the D/15 Fall 2019 Conference



Educational Fund Awards presented by P/D/C Buddy O'Brien, SN



Instructor Re-Certification



Thanks Perdido Bay for a great conference



P/C/C Louie