



# CAN 15

Official Publication of District 15

Spring 2023

## Ahoy, all ye land lubbers!

It is officially boating season! Yes, along the Gulf Coast we are lucky enough to be able to boat just about year-round, but boating season is upon us. Outside of our normal fishing trips over the summer, Skylar and I are embarking on a trip to Bimini in a few days. We are towing a friend's boat from Baton Rouge to Fort Lauderdale, launching Saturday (5/6), and making the 60-mile trip over to Bimini. We have been planning this trip for a while and the stars finally lined up. We are looking forward to some fishing, jumping off the Sapona, and just being tourists. I look forward to regaling everyone about the trip at the District Conference in a few weeks.



D/C Taylor Baldridge, P



Preparing to Carry in the Flags  
2023 Annual Meeting in Orlando  
*photo from Liana Mihalca*

Skylar, Amelia, and I attended the National meeting back in February in Orlando. It was a great time. One of the seminars I attended was about the Co-Op Charting program. Co-Op Charting has three aspects: Geodetic Markings, Nautical Chart Reporting, and a Marina Survey. It was very informative and the point they continued to make was that squadrons who did Geodetic Markers as an activity were healthier over all. The easiest way to find the website with the geodetic markers is by searching Geodetic Markers (Link: <https://geodesy.noaa.gov/NGSDataExplorer/>), or copying the link. I am planning on restarting this in Baton Rouge this Summer. Here is the link to the Co-Op Charting Committee's page as well <https://www.usps.org/departments/12000/12200>

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Covington at the District meeting in a few weeks. The Lake Pontchartrain Squadron always does a great job putting the conference on.

I'll see you on the water!

**District 15 Spring Conference**  
**19-21 May 2023**  
**Hosted by**  
**Lake Pontchartrain**  
**Sail & Power Squadron**

**Holiday Inn Express**  
**45 Louis Prima Dr**  
**Covington, LA 70433**  
**See page 3 for details!**

## CAN 15

Spring 2023 (nbr 23-1)

### 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 Ron Swope, SN-IN  
850-516-1259

[seopsp@gmail.com](mailto:seopsp@gmail.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)

### 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

#### D/15 Web Page

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

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## Pictures from the 2023 Annual Meeting



**C/C Craig Fraser, SN-IN being installed for his second year at 2023 Annual Meeting in Orlando**  
*All photos from Liana Mihalca*



**P/D/C Karen Gercak, AP receiving her Life Membership**



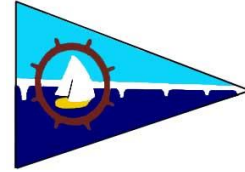
**Not sure what this picture is, but both Karen and Dick Gercak, are in it!**



**DISTRICT 15 SPRING  
CONFERENCE**

**19-21 May 2023**

**HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS'  
45 Louis Prima Dr.,  
Covington, LA 70433**



*HOST: Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron*

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Event	Approximate Time	Cost Per Person		Number	Total
Friday Cocktails	1700				
Saturday Lunch (Members, spouses & guests) Mixed green salad, Red beans and rice, sausage, cornbread, cookies and ice cream		D15 Sponsored			
Saturday Afternoon	TBD				
Saturday Dinner – Strawberry salad, Parmesan crusted chicken breasts, roasted vegetables, au gratin potatoes, white chocolate bread pudding	1800-2100	\$25/pp BYOB			
Sunday Farewell	0800-1000				

**For Room Reservations, Contact:**  
**HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS**  
45 Louis Prima Dr.,  
Covington, La 70433  
Phone 985-888-1200  
Fax 985-888-1201  
Holidayinncov\_agm@myhotels.com  
**ROOM RATE** \$119 per night to include \$10.00  
breakfast voucher

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:**

**Lake Pontchartrain  
Sail and Power Squadron**

**MAIL TO:** P/C Carol Bell  
20436 Narrow Road,  
Covington, La. 70435  
985-264-1662





**District 15 2022 Spring Council & Conference  
Saturday 20 May 2023**

**AGENDA**

**Uniform – USPS/ABC Team Casual**

**0800 Hours-----Breakout Meetings**

**0900 Hours-----SPRING COUNCIL CALL TO ORDER**

- Establishment of a Quorum
- Clarification of voting delegates
- Approval of Previous Council Minutes
- Adjournment of Council

**0930 Hours-----SPRING CONFERENCE CALL TO ORDER**

- Invocation
- Pledge of Allegiance
- US Power Squadrons Pledge
- Roll Call and Introductions
- Necrology
- Clarification of Voting Delegates
- Establishment of a Quorum
- Change Order of Business
- Approval of Previous Conference Minutes
- Host Squadron's Welcome
- Secretary Report
- Treasurer Report
- Education Report
- Presentation of Awards
- Old Business
- New Business
- Nominations
- Election of Bridge Officers
- Benediction
- Adjournment of Conference

## From D/15 Educational Officer D/Lt/C Ron Swope, SN-IN

### Marine Navigation Course Out in Beta Form

For several years we've been hearing that the new Marine Navigation course is almost ready. Well, "almost" is here. The beta test version was released at the end of January. It is in e-book format only, both for student kit and instructor guide. Feedback from the instructors will be used to make corrections and changes before the final version is released sometime later this year.

The new course will be a replacement for the current Piloting course. It has a strong emphasis on electronic charting and uses Open CPN. It also includes tutorials to help the instructor with the software. It continues support of paper charting and it covers both inland and coastal navigation. It has 7 sections and is expected to be taught in 9 class sessions plus the exam.

Open CPN is free, computer navigation software that anyone can download and use. Chapter 5, Section 18 in the ABC3 book has an introduction to it. The basic course, as we normally teach it, only includes chapters 1-4.

### Wonder How a Course or Seminar is Developed?

I've always wondered what the process was to develop one of our courses. I knew there were a lot of people involved but I didn't understand what it took to bring about a new or updated educational offering. R/C Priscilla Clarke, AP chair of the Publishing Committee gives a good overview of the process in a 15-minute video. The process begins when the committee responsible for the content has the idea and continues until the final product is ready for your SEO to order. Click this link to view the video. <https://www.usps.org/eddept/pubcom/files/PubCom-Video-2210.mp4>

### Boat Operator Certification Certifiers

District 15 currently has 14 BOC certifiers. A certifier is one who can sign off on the on-the-water portion of the BOC program at a specific level; Inland Navigator (IN), Coastal Navigator (CN), Advanced Coastal Navigator (ACN) or Ocean Navigator (ON). Since the pandemic, all of our certifiers have had their certifier expiration date extended to 3/21/2026, regardless of whether or not that certifier completed any certifications in the past four years. While the certifier extension was implemented for all our certifiers, it did not recertify their instructor certification, which is required every four years and is necessary for BOC certifiers as well as those teaching the public boating (ABC3) course. Certifiers at the

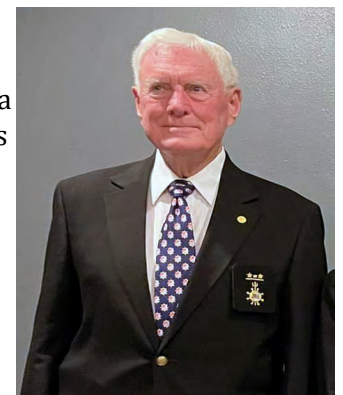


known as Practical On-The-Water Training.

CN level and above are also required to maintain First Aid and CPR certification which must be renewed every two years. Certifiers can also teach the Hands-On training formerly

### Florida Honors Dick Carson

Our own D/1st/Lt Dick Carson, JN-IN was recently recognized by the Boating and Waterways Section of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as Florida's 2021 Boating Educator of the Year! He was instrumental in getting virtual education for America's Boating Course available in Florida as well as setting up a system to facilitate issuing state cards to those completing the course. In part the reward article reads: "Without Dick's work, students who wanted to take a classroom boating safety class during the pandemic may not have had the opportunity." Interestingly, Dick actually lives in Alabama, near the border with Florida. In addition to contributing to educating the public in two states, Dick serves on our national Basic Public Education Committee and has chaired that body. He also serves on the national Boat Operators Certification (BOC) Committee, is an Assistant Regional Director for BOC, is the SEO and Vessel Safety Check Chair for his squadron and the Asst DEO for his District. Volunteers like Dick are the life blood of our organization. His work has made the waters safer not only in Alabama and Florida but everywhere we reach. Congratulations Dick!



*Reprinted, with permission, from the February 24, 2023 edition of Currents, the USPS EdDept newsletter.*

### Instructor Recertification

Chester Cooke, SN-CN, SEO of New Orleans Power Squadron, will be conducting the recertification training on Saturday afternoon of the D/15 Spring Conference. Seven instructors have registered.



## District 15 Nominating Committee Report 2023 - 2024

<b>Commander</b>	<b>Taylor Baldrige, P</b>
<b>Executive Officer</b>	<b>Wil Hugli, SN</b>
<b>Educational Officer</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Administrative Officer</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Karen Gercak, AP</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Daniel Ross, S</b>
<b>Asst Treasurer</b>	<b>Mike Turner, AP</b>
<b>Asst Educational Officer</b>	<b>Open</b>

### Nominating Committee:

<b>1 Year ...</b>	<b>Karen L. Gercak, AP</b>
<b>2 Years...</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>3 Years...</b>	<b>Open</b>

### Rules Committee:

<b>1 Year ...</b>	<b>Chris Houha, S</b>
<b>2 Years ...</b>	<b>Karen L. Gercak, AP</b>
<b>3 Years ...</b>	<b>Open</b>

### Auditing Committee:

<b>1 Year ...</b>	<b>Lenny Long, SN</b>
<b>2 Years ...</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>3 Years ...</b>	<b>Open</b>

### Submitted by:

**P/D/C Joey Wheeler, AP**  
**P/D/C Karen Gercak, AP**



**National  
Safe Boating Week  
May 20-26, 2023**

## 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 2023 Spring Conference.

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.

## 2022 Distinctive Communicator Award Winners

### Publications

D15 - Can 15  
Lake Pontchartrain - UNDER THE BRIDGE  
New Orleans - TOPSIDE TALK  
Pensacola - Lazy Log

### Websites

District 15  
Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron  
New Orleans Power Squadron  
Pensacola Sail and Power Squadron

The requirements for earning a DCA for 2023 may be slightly different from 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.

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)

## Odds and Ends - News From USPS

### National Meeting - Kansas City Here We Come

The National Meetings Committee is busy working on the Kansas City Governing Board Meeting. The Kansas City Marriott Downtown is ready to accept your reservations! Book at conference rates from Aug. 27 through Sept. 4 and make a vacation out of it! Our Activities Chair is working diligently to provide you with experiences you will remember! The Marriott Downtown is within walking distance to many of the area's well-known destinations: the Kansas City Power & Light District, Kansas City Music Hall and T-Mobile Center as well as the City Market of Kansas City, the Missouri River and the Arabia Steamboat Museum. Love Baseball? We have tickets for the August 29 MLB Kansas City Royals vs. Pittsburgh Pirates game! So set aside Aug. 27 through Sept. 4 and make your hotel and travel reservations now!



Room rate is \$189 a night. All "DOUBLE" rooms have two Queen beds, not Double beds. If you have an issue booking a room for any date during the meeting dates, contact Kristi Anderson at [kayakladyfl@gmail.com](mailto:kayakladyfl@gmail.com) and relay the desired dates/issue.

[https://www.usps.org/php/reservations\\_new/meetings.php?mtg\\_id=45](https://www.usps.org/php/reservations_new/meetings.php?mtg_id=45)

### Two Opportunities to Partner with NOAA/NWS

The Public Affairs Committee encourages local clubs to develop partnerships with local government organizations to build community relations. Here are two opportunities to partner with NOAA and the National Weather Service in your community. Does your club want to help improve your community's readiness and response to extreme weather events? Consider becoming a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador. Learn more and apply at

<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/ambassadors>

In addition, the National Weather Service is seeking feedback from boaters on improved wave information in the experimental Coastal Waters Forecast Wave Component Update. Boater's comments will be used to implement enhanced wave forecast information in all coastal offices. For more information and to complete a brief survey, please visit

<https://www.weather.gov/marine/wavedetail>

### DB2000 and the Information Center

The phase-out of DB2000 continues. Most upload functions have now been disabled. You will no longer be able to transmit member information changes, OD-1 and OD-2 reports, merit marks, and other uploaded information from DB2000. If you attempt to use DB2000 for reports that have been disabled, you will get an "Upload Failed" message. The Historian Report remains an active function of DB2000.

Please note that access to some of the Information Center functions is limited to certain job classifications.

### Get the Most Out of the Information Center

Are you getting the most out of the Information Center? The Information Center is replacing most DB2000 functions, but the Information Center has even more features that are useful to squadron and district officers and members. A great place to start is with the online Information Center training. A series of six new narrated PowerPoint presentations for all levels, from beginner to advanced, is now available and can be accessed on the Information Center home page.

<https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/tools/infobeg.cgi>

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

### Instructor Development News

The dedicated members of the Instructor Development Committee continue to revise the Instructor Development Course to meet member requests for updated material concerning virtual instruction. Other course material needs updating as well. We plan to complete this project by the end of the year. We continue to encourage members to use the Teaching Aid Library and make entries to share with fellow instructors. Please remember that the latest improvements when making a submission allow for virtual entries as well as in-person and classroom aids. Both virtual and classroom versions of the Recertification Seminar are now available. The Individual Instructor Recertification program will continue as a one-time option for Certified Instructors who cannot find or are unable to attend a virtual or classroom Recertification Seminar. –Martha Heck [meheckrn@yahoo.com](mailto:meheckrn@yahoo.com)

<https://www.usps.org/departments/13000/13000-educational-committees/13290>

We have placed a presentation on the website titled "Teaching with Zoom" that looks at using Zoom from the "engineer's viewpoint." This presentation was recorded at the Annual Meeting using Zoom, as were the



## Odds from page 7

## Sun Protection on the Water from May 2023 issue of COMPASS

segments presented within the video.

Please note: You can place your Instructor Development Course on HQ 800 to allow members from other locations to sign up for your ID Course. Thanks to help from HQ Staff and the IT Department, you may soon advertise your ID Recertification Seminar to a larger group of instructors needing recertification. Look forward to placing your seminar on HQ 800 in the near future.



As a boater, you may be eager to get underway, but you need to consider sun protection when you're on the water. The sun can have an unwanted impact on you, from sunburn to boater's fatigue.

Warm, sunny weekends bring out more boat traffic. If you've taken a boating class, you may think you're a safe boater. But what about the other guy—does he know the rules of the road?

Even if you boat defensively, you may not be as sharp as the day wears on, especially if you become tired and dehydrated.

### How to protect yourself

- Put up the bimini if you have one. Run the boat from under its shade. You'll be cooler, and it will be easier to see your surroundings. UV rays reflect off the water and your boat's surface, however, so...
- Wear a high-SPF sunscreen, especially if you have fair skin.
- Wear a hat if you don't have a bimini. The brim will shade your eyes, and you'll feel cooler.
- Wear good polarizing sunglasses. They will block much of the sun's UV rays, and you'll see much better.
- Drink, drink, drink—but not beer or other alcohol, which accelerates dehydration. Water is best, but juices and other fluids are also good. If you and your crew aren't perspiring or using the head on a hot, sunny day, chances are you're dehydrated, which can lead to heatstroke.
- Anchor or pull in someplace when you're tired. Rest will help refresh you.

Remember, there's no substitute for common sense. Take steps to stay sharp when you're on the water.

–Pete TenBrink

### What's Your Squadron's Environmental Project?



Has your squadron or club started planning for its 2023 environmental project to further one of the essential missions of America's Boating Club? The Environmental Committee urges everyone to support their local club, squadron, or district with a local environmental project each year. We must show the public we care about our beaches,

oceans, lakes, streams, rivers, and waterways. We must demonstrate that we are good stewards of these natural resources. As leaders and partners in our local communities, our participation in environmental projects reflects our passion and concern for keeping our waterways pristine for future generations. Not only do we show our interest in safe boating, but we also set an example for others in keeping our waterways clean. This is a promising avenue for reaching potential members! You are the catalyst to make it happen at the local level.

<https://www.usps.org/index.php/departments/12000/12050>

–John DiPrima [captjrdiprim@hotmail.com](mailto:captjrdiprim@hotmail.com)

**District 15 lost several great members** in the last few months. Our deepest condolences to the families of:  
P/C Don Larson, AP Baton Rouge  
P/D/C Don Ellis, SN-CN New Orleans  
P/C Charles Chapman, SN-CN New Orleans  
P/D/C Hal Brewer, AP Perdido Bay  
P/V/C Harry Hebb, SN Pensacola

A common phenomenon, **boater's fatigue** occurs when you're out enjoying a day on the water. Caused by environmental stressors, boater's fatigue can impair both your physical and mental performance.

In addition to burning unprotected skin, sunlight bouncing off the water affects your vision, compromising color perception, peripheral vision and depth perception. It also contributes to dehydration.

Engine noise and vibration provide additional environmental stressors, as does the boat's constant motion.

*Above Boater Fatigue info from Compass, July 2021 issue*



## Get Ready for Hurricane Season

from May 2023 issue of COMPASS

Ready or not, hurricane season officially starts June 1. Experts encourage residents of hurricane prone areas to start preparing now.



If your boat is in hurricane-affected areas, follow these recommendations when securing your boat for a storm:

- Remove trailer boats from the water. Take them home or to an area elevated above the anticipated storm surge. Consider storing trailer boats in a garage.
- Choose a location free of trees, overhead wires and other potential dangers when storing boats on land. Avoid areas prone to ground saturation, because shifting ground can topple boats.
- Strap boats to the ground when possible.
- Reduce a boat's surface area—whether it's stored on water or land. Remove all covers, dodgers, canvas, biminis and gear stored on deck, including dinghies, small outboard motors, spare sails, and fuel containers. Remove all sails from the rigging.
- Consider removing expensive electronics and storing them at home.
- Close all through-hull valves (except auto bilge drains or other deck drains).
- Ensure that all batteries are fully charged. Turn off all electronics except for automatic bilge pumps.
- Close and secure all ports, windows and hatches as well as all vents and dorade boxes to engine spaces.
- Add extra dock lines. Use as many cleats as possible to distribute the forces on these lines to a larger area. Secure some heavy lines to pilings, allowing for tide and storm surge.
- Keep lines from the boat to floating piers as tight as possible. Tighten again after the lines are wet. The shock load of lines pulling on cleats is what usually causes their failure.
- Add chafing gear on dock and mooring lines where needed, especially if the lines go through chocks. The heavy strain placed on these lines significantly increases the amount of wear on them.
- Put out all your fenders, even if your boat is in a slip with no other boats beside you.
- Check your insurance policy, and keep it in a safe place.

–John Schwab

## USPS Officers for 2023



C/C Craig D. Fraser, SN-IN  
Chief Commander



V/C Ralph A. Bernard, AP  
National Executive Officer



V/C Charles J. Wells, SN-CN  
National Educational Officer



V/C Michael Wiedel, JN-IN  
National Administrative Officer



V/C David L. Allen Jr. SN  
National Secretary



V/C Shirley D. Heald, AP  
National Treasurer