



CAN 15

Official Publication of District 15

Summer 2022

Reorganization Information

This is not an article from D/C Taylor, it is a report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Reorganization

So, What's Going on with the Reorganization of USPS "America's Boating Club"?

The current reorganization efforts of the United States Power Squadrons/America's Boating Club are to focus on the needs of individual members and their local clubs.

After months of study and hearing concerns from USPS/ABC members nationwide, several recommendations were presented to the Chief Commander and the Board of Directors in January, according to Allan Bombard, a member of the reorganization committee. The recommendations are that USPS/ABC should:

- focus on serving the squadrons/clubs and members above all else.
- encourage clubs to critically assess the value that all aspects of the organization bring to their local operation, including the value of Districts.
- ensure clubs are given a voice (and more votes) in determining their future.

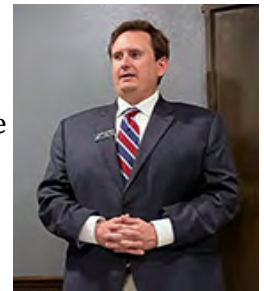
These recommendations are the result of reorganization discussions that began during the 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting, Bombard said. Later that year, the BOD asked V/C Craig Fraser, SN, the then National Executive Officer, to evaluate several trends negatively effecting the organization. V/C Fraser recruited a geographically diverse group of members to evaluate the creation of regions out of the current Districts.

This year, the original reorganization group was enlarged and re-designated the Ad Hoc Committee on Reorganization and placed under the leadership of Paul Mermelstein, SN, and Miles Gee, SN. The BOD also directed the national Planning Committee to further evaluate districts, he said.

Since its organization, the ad hoc committee has been working to supplement member input with two live virtual townhall meetings. Most of the national

committees have been engaged in simplifying many of their chartered activities to improve and deliver services directly to the clubs and members.

The committee has also identified areas to improve the organization's capacity to offer greater service to its members. The areas are: Communication, Marketing, Boating & Social, and Education. The committee is seeking member volunteers to assist with the simplification and updating of these endeavors. Anyone interested in helping should contact Myles Gee at MKGee@MSN.com



D/C Taylor Baldridge, P

Reorganization Background

The committee was formed at the request of the Board of Directors in early 2021. It is currently made up of eight members from geographically diverse areas, with diverse backgrounds. The driving need was to address challenges facing our organization including:

- Shrinking membership due to recruiting and retention challenges
- Tiny Districts and Clubs
- Lack of member volunteers to get the work done
- Leadership and staff positions are hard to fill
- Communication & coordination is poor; members & Clubs feel out of touch
- Erosion in public perception of who we are and what we do; much of the boating public does not know us by any of our names
- The number of students taking courses and seminars is declining
- Harder to fulfill our mission of educating boaters; we have lost our prominence in boater education

The Goals of reorganization are as follows:

- Enhance the attraction of America's Boating Club to increase member recruitment and retention

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Reorg Background from page 1

- Meet the needs of satisfied and engaged members
- Preserve and strengthen Club capabilities to serve their members
- Reduce burdens on Clubs; allow freedom to do what's necessary
- Bolster capabilities of local Clubs to market, teach boating education
- Where necessary, directly provide education to individual members
- Increase participation in boating events, social activities
- Reduce red-tape and bureaucracy to streamline services, administration, and coordination

- Improve communication to Clubs and to all members
- Provide better marketing and management tools to Clubs and undertake more National marketing campaigns

The overall strategies to achieve these goals are as follows:

- Improve support to clubs from National departments
- Streamline club operations
- Simplify entire organizational structure

A deeper discussion on the three strategies can be found in the recording of the 3/29 Town Hall meeting:

<https://uspowersquadrons.sharefile.com/d-sae48bc2f3c8943b7918f05c82d026413>

The Q&A in the Town Hall focused on the disposition of Districts. We received significant feedback, mostly negative, on the elimination of Districts. Since that Town Hall meeting, the committee revised our recommendation. We now recommend that Districts be included under the simplification umbrella. Some may choose to dissolve, some may choose to merge, and some may remain as they are today, hopefully unburdened by the reduction in administration that simplification is intended to bring. The National Board of Directors has asked the National Planning Committee to take on the scope of District simplification. The Reorganization Committee will collaborate with the Planning Committee to ensure the work the two committees are undertaking remain in harmony towards the reorganization goals.

The second Town Hall meeting was conducted on 5/4/22. An update on progress was provided via a set of PowerPoint slides, but the bulk of the meeting focused on Q&A. The recording of that meeting can be found here: <https://fccdl.in/mbPSDbNeav>

Next Steps: The Reorg Com has asked each National Department to develop implementation plans to support the goals of reorganization. Specifically, each department will:

- Identify what they do to support Clubs and members
- How they contribute to member recruitment and retention, if relevant in their role and stated responsibilities
- Identify other functions that support the organizational mission
- Identify improvements to current organization, functions, and procedures so that they can better serve the areas above

- Create a project plan with tasks, responsibilities, and timelines
- After approval with their department head, implement those plans

The goal is implementation by summer 2023. Constraints include resource availability and that we are, a volunteer organization. With BOD support, we anticipate significant progress.

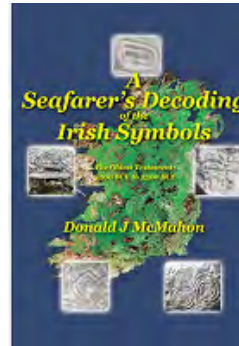
The February 2022 Reorganization Plan, can be found at

<https://theensign.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Reorganization-Proposal-General-Release-Final.pdf>

Pictures from D/15 Spring Conference Hosted by New Orleans Power Squadron



Above, from left, DAO Taylor, Trea Dan. D/C Karen, P/D/C Bill calling role, DEO Ron; Right, P/C/C Robert presenting the C/C's message.



Above right, P/C Chester on 'Seafarer's Decoding of Irish Symbols'. See entire presentation at <http://www.usps.org/localusps/d15/> Asst DEO Dick sitting in front of Chester, D/15 members below.



Below, lunch at NOPS!
Thanks to D/15 for picking up the tab. Deviled eggs, fried chicken tenders, fried catfish, desserts.



District 15 Winners

2021 Distinctive Communicator Award

Website Winners

District 15

Baton Rouge Sail & Power Squadron

Lake Pontchartrain Sail & Power Squadron

Mobile Sail & Power Squadron

New Orleans Power Squadron

Pensacola Sail & Power Squadron

Perdido Bay Power Squadron

Newsletter Winners

D15 – Can 15

New Orleans – TOPSIDE TALK

Pensacola – Lazy Log



The requirements for earning a DCA for 2022 are similar to those for 2021. If you would like to review the details of the evaluation forms, go to <https://www.usps.org/departments/15000/15800> and use the pulldowns on the left.

If you have any questions, contact the appropriate adviser:

Webs - P/R/C Kathleen Lambert, AP

kglambert@comcast.net

Newsletters - Stf/C Catherine Anderson, AP

ca81920a@aol.com

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 2022 Fall Conference. *(Coming soon.)*



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.

D/15 Fall Conference will be hosted by Lake Pontchartrian Sail & Power Squadron.

Additional details will be sent out as they become available.



Squadron reps receiving website and newsletter awards at the Spring 2022 Conference. From left, D/C Karen, Cheryl, Harry, Dick, Don, Robert, Bill.

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

New Fire Extinguisher Requirements in April

The Coast Guard has issued new requirements concerning fire extinguishers. If you go to the actual regulation and go down to subsection 25.30 you will find the regulation. It can be a little confusing.



<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-46/chapter-I/subchapter-C/part-25>

Here is what it means.

First pay attention to your boat's model year, not when it was constructed. If it is a model 2017 or earlier, you can continue to use the B1 and BII extinguishers until they must be replaced. Then replace them with the 5-B or 20-B extinguishers. If your boat is a model 2018 or newer, the new requirements go into effect 20 April 2022. They will have a date on the bottom and will not meet carriage requirements 12 years after that date. If you have one dated 2022, it will not meet carriage requirements after 31 December 2034. You can substitute one 20-B for two 5-B's just as you could substitute one BII for two B1's. A word of caution. There is also a 10-B. While it has a higher capacity than the 5-B, you cannot substitute it for two 5-B's to meet the carriage requirements. Remember, the new requirements go into effect this April. Here is a list of MINIMUM requirements by boat length.

Minimum Number portable 5-B fire extinguishers required:

Under 26' no fixed extinguisher in machinery space, 1
Under 26" w/fixed extinguisher in machinery space, 0
26' to <40' no fixed extinguisher in machinery space, 2
26' to <40' w/ fixed extinguisher in machinery space, 1
40' to <65' w/ no extinguisher in machinery space, 3
40' to <65' w/fixed extinguisher in machinery space, 2

This requirement does not apply to motorboats less than 26' with outboard motor, not carrying passengers for hire if the construction of the boat will not permit the entrapment of explosive gases or vapors. If you have built in fuel tanks or a berthing compartment you are not exempt. The regulation available at the link above has diagrams showing more details of boats that would and would not be exempt from carrying a fire extinguisher.

Pyrotechnic Demo at NOPS after D/15 lunch



Odds and Ends - News From USPS

See What's Up in Raleigh - Plans for the 2022 Governing Board Meeting, Sept. 11 to 18, in Raleigh, North Carolina, are well underway. Start playing tourist with the great tours lined up to take you around historic Raleigh, including visits to USPS Headquarters! Friday's Keynote Breakfast on Sept. 16 features a conversation with Shallotte River Sail & Power Squadron member Richard G. Smith about the Intracoastal Waterway. Don't forget to sign up for the many exciting themed dinners we have planned. Event registration opens soon for purchasing meal and activity tickets. Hotel reservations can be made now using the online reservation system. Keep checking our website for the meeting agenda and our first newsletter!



Hilton Raleigh North Hills
3415 Wake Forest Rd, Raleigh, NC 27609
Double Occupancy \$159
Email: Kristi Anderson kayakladyfl@att.net

Don't Miss America's Boating Channel's Newest Videos - Activate your free subscription now to America's Boating Channel on YouTube and never again miss out as new videos are added. Check out the latest titles that cover "Trailer a Boat," featuring Lake Murray Squadron members, and "Commercial Traffic," featuring Tybee Light Squadron members, with more new videos throughout the boating season.

Help Plan America's Boating Channel's Season Seven - America's Boating Channel invites you to join in planning all aspects of its seventh season of boating safety and boater education videos. We welcome your ideas for topics that have not yet been covered and offer opportunities to participate in activities ranging from script-writing to video production to drone operations to digital video distribution and social media marketing. Please contact Grant Project Manager Marty Lafferty to learn more. marty.lafferty@americasboatingchannel.com
Read more: <https://americasboatingchannel.com>

Got Questions? We Have Answers! - The Operations Manual is a reference book—much like an encyclopedia. Together with the associated manuals on our downloads page, the Operations Manual strives to document the organization as it currently exists while keeping in step with national and various model bylaws. Written for all members, the Operations Manual Suite provides answers to questions from all levels of the organization.

Email: amorris@bangheadhere.org
<https://www.usps.org/operations-manual/downloads>

Marine Debris: Impacts on Ecosystems and Species - As responsible boaters, America's Boating Club members take our responsibilities as good stewards of the marine environment seriously. We protect our environment by being responsible regarding trash, sewage, fueling/spills, vessel maintenance, environmental awareness, and environmental stewardship. Squadrons can order the "Environmental Best Practices" brochure to help engage and educate potential members, especially during vessel safety checks. The trifold brochures outline each of these areas in detail. Order your free copies using the Brochure and VSC Order Form.

John Richard DiPrima captjrdiprim@hotmail.com
<https://www.doi.gov/ocl/marine-debris>

Email Addresses Needed - Our primary means of communication with our members is through email. That's why it's so important that we have an accurate email address on file for every member. A significant number of members don't have an email address on file. Others have email addresses marked as undeliverable in our system, which may occur if the email address has typos, if the member's email has changed, or if an email provider blocks delivery, incorrectly believing we are "spammers." Commanders, secretaries and roster chairs will receive regular reports on members we cannot reach by email. We ask you to please correct any incorrect or missing emails. If the email appears correct, wait until the next report to see if the problem has been resolved. Please let us know if the member's email still shows as undeliverable the next month. If the problem is with the email service provider, we can work with that provider to restore email service. Email: H Jay Stevens hjaystevens64@brighthouse.com

Help Your Squadron Achieve Ed Fund Honor Roll Status - Add a donation to the Educational Fund when you renew your dues this year. Your donation allows the fund to provide grants that further America's Boating Club goals at all levels of our organization. It also counts toward your squadron's \$1 per member requirement for achieving 2022 Honor Roll status. To donate, enter an amount when paying dues online or on the printed remittance returned with your check. Help your squadron keep its Educational Fund Honor Roll status. Email: Nigel Hargreaves EuroNEH@mindspring.com

C/C Craig Fraser's message to the D/15 Conference

P/C/C Robert Baldridge, SN-IN presented the Chief's message at the D/15 Spring Conference which was hosted by the New Orleans Power Squadron. First he showed the mission statement for USPS.

Mission Statement

Improve the competence, knowledge, and enthusiasm of the boating community by providing high quality boater education and enjoyable boating and social opportunities.

The **Marketing Department** has a lot of tools and resources that can be downloaded for free, and used for recruiting and retaining membership. There's a trifold on education and information on a Value Bundle that offers combined membership and specific courses together.

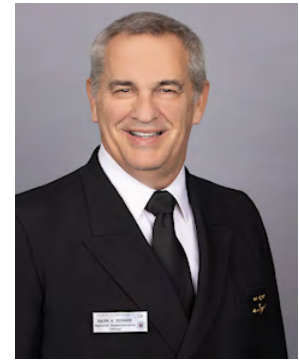
<https://www.usps.org/departments/12000/12400/>

The Chief's message also contained information on the proposed reorganization of USPS. For detailed information on that, see the cover article of this issue of CAN 15.

USPS Officers for 2022



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



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



V/C William McManimen, SN
National Educational Officer



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



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



V/C Diana G. Jackson, SN
National Treasurer



Enjoy Boating More
It's about expanding your boating horizons through learning, making friends and memories that last a lifetime, becoming your community and being the most confident boater you can be.

- Learn boating skills on-the-water, online, and in the classroom with certified and experienced instructors.
- Engage with other boaters in your area for fun, learning, WiFi tips, trivia, parties, and onshore events.
- Connect with the boating community and participate in events to improve the boating experience for yourself and other boaters.

Contact A Club Near You

Facebook.com/uspspower squadrons
twitter.com/boatingclubus

United States Power Squadrons, Inc.
America's Boating Club
1504 Blue Ridge Road
Savannah, NC 27607
866-303-8777
uspsusps@usps.org
www.usps.org/boatingclub

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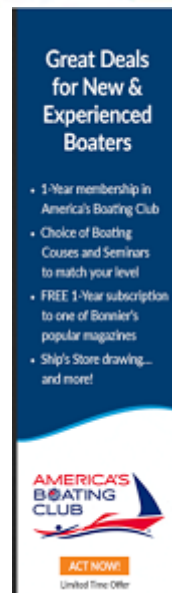
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For Boaters. By Boaters.

America's Boating Club, For Boaters. By Boaters.
We've been boating boaters together since 1906. It's over 100 years.
americaboatingclub.org



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AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

ACT NOW!
United Time Offer

New Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Labels

Asst DEO Dick Carson, JN-IN

The emerging labels will use the term “Level” on the PFDs, followed by a number. Labels range from “Level” 50 through “Level” 275. Level 50 provides minimum buoyancy and is used in confined or protected waters. Level 275 provides maximum buoyancy and is used in open ocean boating. The increase in level number reflects increasing buoyancy ability, lifting the mouth and nose freeboard higher. PFD education in ABC3 continues to include the legacy “TYPE” labeling since those PFDs will be in use, provided they remain in “serviceable condition,” for several more years. Since students will be exposed to both labeling systems, the ABC3 manual discussions include both the legacy labels (Type I, II, III, IV, and V) and the new PFD “levels 50 – 275” labeling.

USPS emphasis continues - wear a PFD always when on the water!

Select the Proper Life Jacket-Boating Decision Making For Safe Boating!

Three classifications apply to the previous and new labels:

Life jackets – these devices provide face-up flotation with levels of support sufficient for various open and rough water uses. Life jackets have a buoyancy distribution sufficient to turn most users, when tested on users wearing swimming costumes according to ISO 12402, to a position where the mouth has a defined freeboard above the water’s surface, even when the user is unconscious.



Buoyancy aids – these devices should be comfortable for continuous wear and provide lift, without significant face-upturning ability, to float the conscious user with a level of support marked on the device. Buoyancy aids shall at least be suitable for sheltered waters, but at higher performance levels may be suitable for some users in other waters.






Special purpose life jackets and buoyancy aids – these devices perform as life jackets and buoyancy aids with different levels of support but have modifications related to special applications for use. These applications shall be stated on their label to maintain essential requirements.

The labels use symbols and icons along with text to better serve those selecting a life jacket.

ADULT UNIVERSAL






User Weight: >41 kg (>90 lbs)
Chest Size: 76-132 cm (30-52 in.)

- Drowning hazard if not worn.
- Must be fastened and properly adjusted to float the wearer.

Choose and wear the device which fits you and your activity, visit www.XXXXX.com.
Read and keep the owner’s manual and tags for info on wear, and care.

<p>Company Name Company Address Company website if available Indication of Country of Origin USCG Approved 160.064/XXXXX UL 1123 TYPE XX</p> <p>Model: XXXX Lot No. XXXX</p> <p>Approval conditions state that this device must be worn to be counted as equipment required by vessels meeting Transport Canada or USCG regulations.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">Lab Certification Mark</p> </div> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">Certifying Lab Identification and address</p>	<p>Use: Fasten all closures and adjust for a snug fit.</p> <p>Inspection: Inspect your life vest before each outing. Do not use if your life vest shows signs of weathering, damage, or rot.</p> <p>Care and Storage: Dry thoroughly after each outing. Store in a dry, cool place out of direct sunlight.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">      </div>
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Emergency Cut Off Switch

All “covered” (USCG term for boats less than 26 feet overall in length and capable of developing 115 pounds or more of static thrust – about 2 – 3 hp.) boats built after 4 December 2019, require an Engine Cut Off Switch (ECOS) installed. They also require an Engine Cut off Switch Link (ECOSL) capable of activating the ECOS should the operator be ejected from the helm area. The ECOSL can be mechanical or electronic. An individual operating a “covered” recreational vessel shall use an engine cut off switch link while operating on plane or above displacement speed, if one is installed. An exception to the rule is if the helm is installed within an enclosed cabin or if the vessel does not have an ECOS and is not required to have one (HIN indicates boat was built before January 2020).

This is a taste of the America’s Boating Course 3rd Edition, Student Manual 2022 printing.

Pictures from D/15 Change of Watch

Right, P/C/C Robert Baldridge, SN-IN presenting Karen Gercak, AP her P/D/C flag, again!



Far right, installing the 2022 D/15 bridge.



Below, P/C/C Robert installing his son Taylor Baldridge, P as D/C.



Above, the 2022 D/15 bridge; asst DEO Dick Carson, JN-IN; Sec Karen Gercak, AP; Trea Dan Ross, S; DEO Ron Swope, SN-IN; D/C Taylor Baldridge, P.

