



The 45th Parallel



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General Membership meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at Sleders. Executive meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at Traverse City. Anyone interested may attend via Zoom

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Grand Traverse Bay Sail and Power Squadron 2023 Activities Calendar

February 2	General Meeting-1800	Sleders
February 9	Lunch with the Commander-1200	Cottage Café
February 16	Executive Meeting-1600	Zoom
February 19-26	ABC Annual Meeting	Orlando, FL
March 2	General Meeting-1800	Sleders
March 9	Lunch with the Commander-1200	Cottage Café
March 16	Executive Meeting-1600	Zoom
April 6	General Meeting-1800	Sleders
April 13	Lunch with the Commander-1200	Cottage Café
April 20	Executive meeting-1600	Zoom

2 FEBRUARY 2023

**Cdr John Krieger
Lt/C Cathy Holcombe**

Giving an update on the financial condition of the Squadron and membership oportunities

1800 Social Hour
1830Dinner

Sausage and Kraut
Cherry BBQ Chicken

Please let your caller know your preference

\$25 Per person

If your telephone caller does not reach you by Sunday, January 26,
please call John Snow at
231-492-8395 or email John Snow at johnsnow@charter.net by Monday, January 27,
(Please let your caller know if you will need a ride to the meeting)



COMMANDER'S REPORT

Cdr John Krieger, P

I trust everyone had joyous holidays and have recovered from hosting and guesting, which is enjoyable but can also be exhausting. As we enter the midwinter lull, we just need to remind ourselves that we are that much closer to being one the water!

January has proven to be a busy month in responding to National and District requests including reconciling our roster and making sure our newly minted life members and fifty year members are correctly identified and recognized. Eric Currin and David Terrell are our new Life Members and Lee Nowak reached the fifty year membership mark. Congratulations to all three!

For those of you that were at the January meeting I hope you enjoyed our speaker Dave Conrad with Great Lakes Sailing Company. For February, we will have a presentation by Cathy Holcombe and me about the Squadron's financial condition and new developments in membership. Regarding membership, I am please to inform you that we added eight new members in the last six months with one new, and two strong prospects so far this year.

Finally, if you haven't heard, Traverse City is under consideration for the D-9 fall conference in October. Stay tuned, we will keep you informed of any developments as they occur. In the interim, stay warm and we hope to see you at our February meeting.

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥



EDUCATION OFFICER

Lt/C Bill Smethells, N

There are two main items to report on this month— current Spring course enrollments and a list of probable seminars in May and early June. The Sail course closed at 12 students with 4 students on a waiting list. The other courses are filling more slowly: So far we have 2 students each in Boat Handling (previously Seamanship) and America’s Boating Course (ABC) along with 5 students in Marine Electrical Systems. Boat Handling and Marine Electrical Systems are held in-person, starting in mid-March at NMC; ABC is offered later in May, virtually through NMC’s Zoom. Please note that Boat Handling and Marine Electrical Systems will likely not be offered again until Spring 2025; so, if you have been thinking of taking these courses, now would be a good time. To sign up, go to nmc.augusoft.net. Boat Handling completion provides a grade of “S”. ABC is offered annually.

Here is review of how the grade system works: The navigation series leads to grades S, P, AP, JN, and N upon completion of Boat Handling (previously Seamanship), Marine Navigation (prev. Piloting), Advanced Marine Navigation (prev. Advanced Piloting), Offshore Navigation (prev. Junior Navigation), and Celestial Navigation (prev. Navigation) respectively. Other courses, not including ABC, are electives; if six of them are completed, the grade awarded is SN (senior navigator).

The Spring Seminar Series this year is likely to include the following six seminars:

- Spring Fit-Out (Williams)
- Review of Rules and Regulations (Terrell)
- Smartphone Navigation (Bailey)
- Testing Your Boat’s Electrical System (Smethells)
- Forecasting Weather at the Dock (Terrell)
- Anchoring (Bailey)

This is a preliminary list; if you have suggestions, please let me know. The dates that are available are Wednesday evenings in May (5/10, 5/17, 5/24, 5/31) and Monday and Wednesday evenings in June. The list will become finalized including dates in the next few weeks. Registration will be available on our website: gtbayboating.org.

Fair winds and calm seas.





ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Lt/C Janet Ward, AP

Welcome to our two new Calling Committee volunteers, Sally Weaver and John Snow. We could still benefit from having one or two more Calling Committee members. Callers duties are to contact about 8-9 people each month to get RSVP's for that month's dinner meeting and attendee's meal choices and then report the responses to the Committee Chair, John Snow. Nowadays, "calling" is a misnomer as contacts are made primarily by email. If you would like to volunteer on this committee and earn Merit Marks please contact me, Janet Ward, at janet.ward49@yahoo.com or 231-492-3038.

Another thanks to Tom Stone for planning and distributing the summer e-Quality Cruise itinerary for the North Channel, August 16-30. It gives us all boating adventures and great fun to look forward to during the winter season.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS—

- Patrick M. Kernaghan, S
- Dixie Lee Lockwood, S
- Barbara Lyon, AP
- Nancy G. Rea
- William Rottman, AP
- Daniel Sherburn
- Dennis K. Stockemer, P
- John W. Weih, P





SAFETY OFFICERS REPORT

Lt Brian Nelson, AP

The Surge Is Not Over

Available statistics on practically any subject always seem to lag by a year or two before they make it into the main-stream public domain. Unfortunately, this also includes data on boating incidents, injuries and fatalities. The problem in this case is that precious time is lost while data is being gathered, analyzed and publicized. Unless you are some sort of insider, the latest available statistics on boating accidents relate to 2021. So, why is this a problem? It is a problem because in the COVID years of 2019-2021, many people sought relief from lockdown-induced cabin fever and decided to buy a boat to enjoy in the great outdoors, away from other people. Nothing wrong with that, right? With the resulting surge in sales, showrooms went bare and manufacturers couldn't fill orders fast enough. In 2020, 35% of power boats were purchased by first-time boat owners. With more boats on the water being used more frequently, collisions and other incidents were sure to increase, and they did. In 77% of the cases recorded by the Coast Guard involving a fatality in 2020, the operator had no boating instruction or training. Even though there was an accompanying surge in persons seeking boating certificates and accessing online courses, that is not the same as experience. There was still a surge in accidents and fatalities.

Added to the surge in boat sales was a huge increase in boat rentals. Many would-be boat owners turned to rental companies when they couldn't find a boat to buy. Again, a large percentage of these persons were inexperienced and/or uneducated about boating. While overall boating deaths increased by 25% in 2020 to 767, there was a 98% increase in deaths involving rental vessels. That number jumped another 15% in 2021. The point here is that when boating accident statistics are known, it enables organizations such as ours to focus our efforts as we strive to educate and promote safe boating in our region. Dealers reported last year that sales were still strong, so we should expect that there will still be quite a few new boaters on the water this year. For those that are being financially squeezed, renting may be their remedy. To reach out to these inexperienced boaters, perhaps we should try to work through dealers and rental companies to get information into their hands regarding boating rules and educational opportunities. Think about it.

Prepare now for a safe and satisfying summer on the water!!



JANUARY MEETING—



Dave Terrell, AP
Ken Musson, SN
Pat Musson, JN



Joanie Leppek
Bill Rzyzi
P/C Mary Petterson, N



Nancy Gonzalez
Paul Gonzalez, N



Mel Bowman
Dee McClure
Linda Cline
Dan Cline



Larry Rotta
Susan Rotta
Dave Conrad



Lt/C Bill Smethells, N
Nicole Smethells,
Mary Norris
P/C Harvey Norris, AP



Our speaker Dave Conrad
from Great
Lakes Sailing



WINNERS—



Dee McClure, AP



Larry Rotta



Bill Rzyzi