MEMBER HANDBOOK

Version 3.0.2 – Published January 2020

By P/C James M. Milton & P/C Suzanne R. Mora
Preface:

This version of America’s Boating Club of Great South Bay’s Member Handbook supersedes all previous editions. It is intended to help members, both old and new, understand our organization and functions of the various components within.

Words and expressions in this book that connote gender are to be construed as applying equally to both sexes unless the text implies otherwise.

The United States Power Squadrons, its Districts, Squadrons, and Members at all times observe all federal, state and local Human Rights Laws, regulations, and ordinances applicable to any USPS activity, procedure, or practice. At no level - National, District or Squadron- may any person be refused membership, denied office, or be prevented from participating in any activity because of any fact or circumstance which would identify that person as one of a protected class of individuals under the Human Rights Laws, regulations, or ordinances of any governmental jurisdiction where the person resides, or where USPS conducts business.

America’s Boating Club of Great South Bay and Great South Bay Power Squadron can be used interchangeably throughout this manual. In all instances, they apply to Great South Bay Power Squadron, Inc.

This book is intended for reference only. If this manual conflicts with standing USPS Policy, National, District, or Squadron Bylaws, the latter policies shall prevail.

This manual written by Cdr James M. Milton, JN and P/C Suzanne R. Mora, JN

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The Pledge:

The Pledge of
The United States Power Squadrons®
America’s Boating Club®

I do solemnly pledge to;
Abide by the bylaws of the United States Power Squadrons;
Promote high standards of navigation and seamanship;
Maintain my boat and operate it legally;
Render assistance whenever possible; and
Conduct myself in a manner that will add prestige, honor and respect to the United States Power Squadrons.

Mission Statement:

Our Mission Statement:

To increase our members nautical knowledge and skills through the study of navigation, seamanship, and safe boat handling.

To promote safe boating education courses and programs for the benefit of our members and the boating public.

To encourage our members, and other boaters to abide by the rules of the road.

To encourage and promote overall safety in recreational boating.

To expand the Vessel Safety Check Program to educate the public regarding required, and recommended safety equipment.

To provide a means to foster social and fraternal relationships among our members and boaters.

To provide, as a civic service, boating safety through education to the recreational boating community.
Welcome to America’s Boating Club of Great South Bay

**Membership Pin:**
A new member joining us will receive his certificate of membership and take the pledge located on page 5, usually with fellow members at a regularly scheduled general meeting. Typically, a new member will also receive this lapel pin soon after joining to signify membership in our organization.

![Lapel Pin Image]

**Name Tags:**
Name tags will be provided to you by the membership committee. Name tags are encouraged to be worn at meetings and some events held with other GSBPS members. Replacement name tags may also be purchased from the membership committee. This is an easy (and potentially less awkward) way to get to know everyone’s names.

![Name Tag Image]

This member handbook should provide an opportunity for you to find your area of interest or expertise for your contribution to the tradition of service.
America’s Boating Club® / U.S. Power Squadron Early History®

Before 1900, most recreational boats were sail-powered; everything relating to recreational boating was geared towards sailing. There were a few steam-powered boats, but they required large crews. Shortly after the turn of the century, gasoline-powered craft became available and many boaters bought them, making power boating a popular activity.

Since skills and education all were directed towards sailing at that time, power boaters found themselves with a skill and knowledge gap. In 1912, Roger Upton decided to fill that gap by forming an unofficial Power Boat Division of the Boston Yacht Club. A year later, that division became "The Power Squadron."

The Power Squadron received considerable media attention, and interest began to spread. During 1913, more than 70 power-boat clubs and owners' associations met at the New York Yacht Club. At the second meeting of this group, the United States Power Squadrons® was officially formed.

On 6 April 1917, Charles F. Chapman sent a letter to the Navy Department offering the services of The United States Power Squadron instructional program to train men for the Naval Coastal Defense. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, formally accepted the offer. Over 5,000 students attended these classes and entered the military. As a result of their USPS training, many earned commissions in the U. S. Navy. During both World War I and World War II, USPS supported the war efforts by training many naval navigators.

United States Power Squadrons® Ensign

The USPS ensign has a red canton containing 13 white stars surrounding a fouled anchor. The remainder of the flag contains thirteen vertical blue and white stripes. The USPS ensign has a 2:3 hoist/fly ratio. It is flown as a signal to others that the boat is commanded by an active member of USPS.

The preferred location for flying the USPS ensign is the starboard yardarm or spreader halyard. It may be worn there day and night. While in U.S. waters, the USPS ensign may be flown instead of the national ensign, and in any position and at any time appropriate to fly the national ensign.

(The USPS Ensign is a Registered Trademark of the United States Power Squadrons®)
Genealogy
America’s Boating Club® is a non-profit educational organization founded in 1914 whose mission is to improve maritime safety and enjoyability through classes in seamanship, navigation, and other related subjects. Almost immediately after the ABC/USPS were founded, New York Power Squadron was founded in 1915. Through the 1920’s, New York Power Squadron grew in size and split into Brooklyn Power Squadron (1918) and South Shore Power Squadron (1928), which covered Long Island. As Long Island continued to grow and population grew, a need for more geographic specific Power Squadrons arose. In 1941, South Shore would parent Old Field Point, Peconic Bay, and Great South Bay Power Squadrons. Great South Bay would go on to parent two squadrons in the next two decades: Captree Power Squadron (1951) and Patchogue Bay Power Squadron (1951), who would then parent Moriches Bay Power Squadron (1960).
History of Great South Bay

Great South Bay Power Squadron received its charter on May 16th, 1941, and a new division was born. Great South Bay’s first meeting was held at Cooper’s Hotel in Bay Shore and G. Rowe Whitcomb, JN, was sworn in as Commander. There were 46 members that first year. Great South Bay’s area included members from Amityville to Patchogue, spanned four townships, and covered over twenty-five miles of Great South Bay shoreline.

In the first issue of the Great South Spray, our 2nd Squadron Commander (1942) writes “Great things cast their shadows before them. The Great South Bay Power Squadron is a coming “great thing”, and this its first publication fore-shadows its future. It is my sincere hope that this youthful shadow cast by a crew of “jolly hood fellows”, pulling together with a spirit of work and play, may lengthen to that of a well-established and venerable institution.” – Joseph J Carlin, Commander.” The Spray has been in constant publication for 77 years and has won 20 consecutive awards for Distinctive Communication for Publications.

Great South Bay’s burgee was the first to be authorized to a USPS Squadron by the USPS National Governing Board. The original burgee depicts the Fire Island Lighthouse in the foreground of a red circle with a blue border. The red/white/blue theme is an homage to the flag of the United States of America. In 1991, a gold trim was added to the blue border to signify our 50th anniversary. In 2016, the gold trim was replaced with platinum to signify our 75th Anniversary. The pennant was designed by Aaron Jacobsen and Benjamin Bromberg for the Great South Bay Division of South Shore Power Squadron in 1936.

In May of 1941, after being Chartered as its own Squadron, Great South Bay would adopt the burgee as its permanent symbol. More about our burgee can be found on page 13.

Since its foundation, Great South Bay has been a unit of District Three (D3) (which encompasses Long Island from Brooklyn to Montauk). D3 was founded on December 13th, 1938. Great South Bay has had the honor of having four Past Commanders serve as District Commander [V. Aldric Beere 1954, Angelo Giovannello 2004, Lawrence Postel 2012, and Thomas Pilek 2019]. Additionally, GSB has had the honor to have three members serve as District Educational Officer. [Peter Richichi 1999-2002, Lawrence Postel 2008-2011, Luann Kazanecki 2017-2020]

The USPS Governing Board actions at the September 1981 and September 1982 meetings recognized two important aspects of USPS participation. In 1981, members whose long service had earned them 50 merit marks were granted the status of Governing Board member emeritus, with lifetime voting privileges. In 1982, a special meeting of delegates approved changes in the constitution and bylaws eliminating a male-only membership rule, thereby permitting women to become active members.
Although many women had long held a "woman's certificate", entitling them to enroll in all USPS courses, it was apparent that the antiquated statue preventing them from becoming full members would need to be abolished. Accordingly, the bylaws were changed to make family memberships available, as boating had clearly become a more family-oriented endeavor. The first female active and family members were accepted in November 1982.

Great South Bay would welcome its first female active members at the Annual Change of Watch Meeting in the Spring of 1983. A little over a decade later, in 1995, the membership would elect its first female educational officer: Barbara Hesketh. The next year, another barrier would be broken when Great South Bay would elect its first female administrative officer, who in January of 1999 would be elected as its first female Squadron Commander, Marie DeVito, who would be sworn in that following month as our 59th Commander. In the following years, Great South Bay would elect five more female Commanders and three additional female Educational Officers. One of whom, Suzanne R Mora, would be the first Commander to be elected to serve two consecutive terms in 2015 and 2016.

In September of 2016, the Squadron Board of Directors approved the formation of a Squadron Emergency Response Assistance Team (SERAT) to be led by James M. Milton, as an on-water emergency support team geared towards providing aid to the U.S. Coast Guard and local law enforcement. On August 7th, 2017, the National Squadron Activities Committee would approve our formation and designate Great South Bay as SERAT 08 – Great South Bay. Great South Bay is the 8th Nationally, and 2nd Squadron in D3 to be approved to form a SERAT Unit, behind Sewanaka Power Squadron, SERAT 04.

2017 would bring some big changes to Great South Bay, including the adoption of our new brand: ‘America’s Boating Club’. Led by Commander Arthur Wallach, there was a total overhaul of who we are and what we do. Our public-facing image would be ‘America’s Boating Club of Great South Bay’, which possesses a more friendly and inviting tone than “Power Squadron”.

The Squadron Board of Directors would again be active in the fall of 2018 when it would approve the formation of Sea Scout Ship # 2070 under the guidance of Great South Bay Power Squadron. Sea Scouting is a program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women ages 14 to 20. Along with Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Venturing, Sea Scouting provides a program for fraternal, educational, and other community organizations to build character, encourage citizenship, and foster mental and personal fitness training for youth.
The Great South Bay Burgee

Before 1941, when the Great South Bay was formed, we operated under the name of Great South Bay, Division of South Shore Power Squadron, Freeport, NY. During the period between 1936 to 1938, a decision was made that we were entitled to have our own Burgee. Ben Bromberg and Aaron Jacobsen were granted permission to design our burgee, and they spent the evening at Aaron’s house on Smith Avenue in Bay Shore considering several ideas. The prevailing idea was the Fire Island Lighthouse.

The following is an excerpt from a memoir by A.B. Jacobsen:

The Great South Bay Pennant is triangular, while with a blue border and in image of Fire Island Light in black and while on a circle of red.

The pennant was designed by Aaron B. Jacobsen and Benjamin R. Bromberg for the Great South Bay Division of the South Shore Power Squadron in about 1936-1938. Fire Island Light was chosen as a prominent, outstanding and well known feature in Great South Bay. It was a nautical and simple design. It was approved for use by the Great South Bay Division under the auspices of South Shore Power Squadron.

After Great South Bay was chartered in May 1941, the membership voted to retain the Division burgee as the Squadron pennant on July 25, 1941.

All Squadrons in ABC/USPS have a story behind the design that helps to commemorate at least a portion of the history of the founding of the Squadron.
### Squadron Commanders of Great South Bay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Commander</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>G. Rowe Whitcomb, JN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>* Joseph J. Carlin, N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>* Howard C Coleman, AP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>* Harold C. Albertson, AP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>* Arthur F. Thorstensen, N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>* V. Aldric Beere, AP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>* Alfred Parks, AP</td>
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<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>* George N. Coulter, JN</td>
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<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Reginald T Elton, N</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Archer H Quick, AP</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Raymond J. Schofield, N</td>
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<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>* Clemense A Lominska, N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>* Ben R. Bromberg, JN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>William J. Wihlutz, JN</td>
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<td>1955</td>
<td>William W. Shelbourne, AP</td>
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<td>* Harry C. Dumper, JN</td>
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<td>* John T. Koleda, N</td>
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<td>* Thomas F. Kiely</td>
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<td>1959</td>
<td>* Edmund O. St. George, N</td>
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<td>1960</td>
<td>* Richard C. Miller, AP</td>
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<td>1961</td>
<td>* Vernon F. Clifford, SN</td>
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<td>1962</td>
<td>Ervine A Gaggin, AP</td>
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<td>1963</td>
<td>* William J. Schmidt, N</td>
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<td>1964</td>
<td>Donald I Smith, AP</td>
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<td>1965</td>
<td>* Kenneth E. Steenbuck, N</td>
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<td>1966</td>
<td>Edward J. Vana, JN</td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>* Bernard J. Rose, AP</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>* Gordon L. Brooks, N</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>* Louis G Kaufman II, SN</td>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>* Louis F. Burgermeister, JN</td>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>* Wilbur P. Gumbs, AP</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>A. Wayne Overton, N</td>
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<td>1973</td>
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<td>Robert A Van Jones, SN</td>
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<td>* Arnold Hillier, AP</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>Edward Wray, AP</td>
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<td>1977</td>
<td>* Warren A Alber, JN</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>* Jerald P. Ernst, AP</td>
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<td>1979</td>
<td>Charles K. Meyer, AP</td>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>Donald J. Salerno, AP</td>
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<td>1981</td>
<td>Robert D Johnson, AP</td>
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<td>1982</td>
<td>* Ross Robbins, SN</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>John G. Hannan, JN</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>* James M. Dondero, AP</td>
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<td>* Eugene F. Kuliberda, SN</td>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>John E. Goebel, SN</td>
</tr>
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<td>1987</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Irving Smyle, AP</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>* Richard J. Recame, P</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>Barry M. Schwartz, AP</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Peter A. Richichi, SN</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>* John E. Hudzik, AP</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Lawrence W. Postel, SN</td>
</tr>
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### Educational Officers of Great South Bay

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Officer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>* Walter Schlenitz, JN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Ken Steenbuck, N</td>
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<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Louis Kaufman, N</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>James Dondaro, AP</td>
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<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Richard Plunkett, SN</td>
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<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Lawrence Katz, N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Peter Richichi, SN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Ralph Bauer, JN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Thomas Piecra, AP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Note: The list includes the years and the names of the commanders and educational officers for the Great South Bay Squadron.*
Official Publication — The Great South Spray
The Spray is the official Great South Bay publication. The Spray is published 10 times annually and may be found on our website at www.BOATgsb.org/. Also posted to the website are several special editions from our 1st year, 1941. The Spray has been in constant publication for 77 years and has won 20 consecutive awards for Distinctive Communication for Publications.

The Squadron Bridge
Great South Bay is managed by the “Bridge”, which are officers elected by, and responsible to, the membership. The Bridge is assisted in its duties by an Executive Committee elected from our membership, as well as Committee Chairpersons and members who carry out programs, functions, and activities of the squadron. The Great South Bay Bridge consists of the Commander (who also serves as chairman of the board), Executive Officer, Education Officer, Administrative Officer, Secretary, and Treasurer. Bridge officers are elected for a term of one year at the annual meeting in January and installed at the Change of Watch meeting, usually in February.
**The Squadron Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee consists of the current Bridge Officers (Commander, Executive Officer, Education Officer, Administrative Officer, Secretary, and Treasurer), the immediate Past Commander, three Active members elected from the general membership, and the Chairman of Rules Committee as provided for in the Squadron Bylaws. The members of the Executive Committee that are exclusive of the Bridge are elected for a term of one year at the January Annual meeting and installed at the Change of Watch early in the same year. The Executive Committee typically meets on the first Tuesday of each month and has general charge of the policy, management, and finances of the Squadron. Members of the committee are vested with and have legal custody of all the property of the Squadron. The Executive Committee appropriates such sums as may be deemed advisable, within the limits of the current resources of the Squadron, for the normal and usual operation of the Squadron, including Squadron, District, and USPS functions.

The Executive Committee:

- Votes to approve membership applications recommended from the membership committee.
- Carries on the normal business of the Squadron between meetings of the membership.
- Establishes committees and appoints members, thereto, as may seem advisable in the best interests of the Squadron.
- Approves or disapproves the Commander’s appointment of members to offices and committees.
- With the advice of the Treasurer, designates depositories insured by an agency of the United States government in which the squadron’s funds shall be kept, and approves all expenditures.
- Enforces the authority given to it under Squadron Bylaws and acts as necessary to advance the best interests of the squadron consistent with the policy and authority of USPS.
- Invites the Law Officer to its meetings when legal expertise is desirable. The Law officer has the privilege of the floor at such meetings but is not entitled to vote.

**Membership Dues**

The USPS/ABC recently changed its billing procedures to allow for anniversary billing. Members who joined prior to the adoption of anniversary billing have an “anniversary date” of June 1st; members who join after that date have an “anniversary date” that coincides with the month they joined the Squadron.

Dues notices (renewals) are mailed and/or emailed from USPS headquarters to every member or household. The dues cover the ensuing 12 months.

Membership types and billing categories are different. For billing purposes, two categories exist: single and family unit. A single unit is a primary active member; a family unit is a primary active member and all other attached members (additional active or family).

Regular dues reflect amounts billed to renewing members, whereas new member dues reflect regular dues plus a one-time entrance fee for name tag(s) and administration. All dues collected from members are apportioned among USPS, USPS District 3, and Great South Bay Power Squadron.
**Uniform**

At squadron meetings, social events, and educational affairs, officers and members may be seen in uniform. Members are not required to have or wear a uniform. To add uniformity and dignity at formal and official occasions, USPS/ABC has adopted a modified navy style uniform. Insignia on the uniform reflect the member’s rank, educational achievements and merit marks (one for each year of active work contribution) Members may also wear the regulation blazer with a USPS emblem.

The rank for elected office is shown on the member’s uniform by gold tridents and by sleeve stripes of a specified number, and by width or by shoulder insignia of tridents on summer whites. For example, the Squadron Commander’s (Cdr) insignia is four stripes with three gold tridents above them. The Executive Officer, Education Officer, Administrative Officer, Secretary and Treasurer hold the rank of Lieutenant Commander (Lt/C) whose insignia is three stripes with two gold tridents above them. Elected assistants such as Assistant Education Officer (ASEO), Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, all serve with the rank of first lieutenant (1/Lt.). If their rank is noted on the member’s blue uniform, it will be noted with one stripe and one red trident above it. Committee Chairman and officers appointed by the Commander hold the rank of Lieutenant (Lt.).

Both Past Commanders (P/C) and Past Lieutenant Commanders (P/Lt/C) wear the designation of the previously held office, but with silver tridents instead of gold. District and National Officers have similar uniforms with trident size, shape, and location varying by office. More information on uniforms can be found in chapter 13 of the USPS Operations Manual, Uniform and Insignia.

Uniform A is for formal events, B & C are summer formal, D & E are summer working uniforms, F is our most used all-purpose uniform. And D is Spring/Autumn working uniform. These are just guidelines as the commander sets the uniform for events.
District, and National Ranks – a reference to the most commonly used/referenced

### National Officers

<table>
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<th>Position(s)</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>‘Rank’</th>
<th>Flag</th>
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<td>C/C</td>
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<td>V/C</td>
<td>Vice Commander</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Asst. Bridge Officers</td>
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<td>Rear Commander</td>
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<td>Committee Chairs</td>
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<td>Staff Commander</td>
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### District Officers

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<td>District Commander</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Officer</td>
<td>D/Lt/C</td>
<td>Dist. Lieutenant Cdr.</td>
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<td>Executive Officer</td>
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<td>D/Lt/C</td>
<td>Dist. Lieutenant Cdr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>D/Lt/C</td>
<td>Dist. Lieutenant Cdr.</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>D/Lt/C</td>
<td>Dist. Lieutenant Cdr.</td>
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<td>Asst. Bridge Officers</td>
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<td>District Flag Lieutenant</td>
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<td>Dist. Committee Chairs</td>
<td>D/Lt</td>
<td>Dist. Lieutenant</td>
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**Squadron Officers**

**The Commander**
One officer, the Commander, presides over all of our membership and Executive Committee meetings, serves as chairman of the board, and performs all other tasks normally accomplished by the president of any corporation or similar group. To provide a nautical recognition and honor to the office of our chief executive, he or she holds the rank of "Commander," (Cdr) and receives a special flag to fly. The flag includes three tridents with short staffs on a blue field, as shown here. The Squadron commander in formal settings is addressed as ‘Commander’.

**The Squadron Bridge Officers**
The Executive Officer (XO) is our “senior vice president”. Second in command, the XO performs the Commander’s duties when the Commander is unavailable. This member is responsible for the external functions of the squadron, such as public relations, cooperative charting, boat show booths, legislation of interest to us as boaters, radio technical information and safety issues, and is also liaison to District.

The SEO (Squadron Educational Officer) is responsible for the entire educational program of our squadron. This officer may well be our busiest member (having the most fun), because he or she supervises our busy educational program, which includes both the courses offered to the public, as well as those for our members only.

The Administrative Officer (AO) is responsible for all of the internal functions of the squadron, (as opposed to the XO’s external functions). The AO’s tasks include recruiting and retaining members, keeping us involved in squadron activities, arranging for membership meetings, programs and entertainment, and setting up cruises.

The Squadron Secretary is our records-keeper. Just as the secretary of any organization does, this officer records and keeps minutes of all of our meetings and safeguards our legal documents. Our secretary also maintains the squadron membership records (database), and is responsible for publishing our newsletter and roster of members.

The Squadron Treasurer manages all of the financial transactions of the squadron. In addition to keeping the financial records, the Squadron Treasurer presides over the Ships Store officer and Property officer.

Each of the Executive, Educational, and Administrative officers, as well as the Secretary and Treasurer, is a Lieutenant Commander (Lt/C). The flag of a Lt/C has two short-staffed tridents on a red field, as shown below.
Squadron Bridge continued
The Bridge officers are elected at our annual meeting, installed at our Change of Watch and serve until our next Change of Watch. Usually, our SEO, Treasurer, and Secretary serve for three consecutive one-year terms, but our other Bridge members usually serve for only one or two one-year terms. Flags designating yacht club or USPS officers are rectangular in shape, blue (with white design) for senior officers, red for next lower in rank, and white (with blue design) for lower ranks. Other officer flags may be swallow-tailed or triangular in shape.
An officer flag is flown in place of the owner's private signal on all rigs of motor and sailing vessels except single-masted sailboats, when it is flown in place of the club burgee at the masthead. On smaller motor boats without a signal mast, a USPS officer flag may be flown from a radio antenna, preferably to starboard, either singly or beneath The United States Power Squadron ensign.

Communication with Members

Monthly Meetings
General Membership meetings are typically conducted during the last week of each month between September to June. Date, time, and location are announced in The Great South Spray. Some dinner meetings may be scheduled for the monthly meetings. The Holiday Party meeting in December and the Change of Watch meeting early in the year are two different types of dinner meetings that may be held. All members are invited to attend all meetings, whether they participate in the dining or not.
Unless there is other time-consuming squadron business, general membership meetings will have a program of general interest to the membership scheduled by the meetings program chair.

Squadron Newsletter
The Spray is the official GSBPS publication and has meeting announcements and general information on the planned activities of the squadron. More on this can be found on page 13. A PDF version is available on the GSBPS web site www.BOATgsb.org.

E-Mail / Sail Angle / and the web
GSB Members who have access to email, and have provided an address to the secretary, will receive updates and reminders of meetings and other squadron activities from the Squadron Secretary via Sail Angle.

- Great South Bay Power Squadron Web Site: www.BOATgsb.org
- District 3 Web Site: www.usps.org/localusps/d3 and/or www.WeBoatSafe.org
- United States Power Squadron Web Site: www.usps.org (contains information about educational courses, National Committees, upcoming National Meetings and much more. You will need your certificate number to log into the members' page)

Calling Post
A telephone committee will occasionally make announcements and reminder follow-up calls regarding significant and urgent Squadron activities and events. Generally, this method is only used for short-notice announcements, such as the passing of a Squadron Member.
Squadron, District, and USPS Website

*The Ensign* is the United States Power Squadrons® national publication. All members receive a copy of *The Ensign* both in the mail and digitally.

Squadron Almanac

A Great South Bay Almanac is published annually (in the Spring) and distributed to members. It contains the name, grade, address, spouse’s name, phone number, email address, and boat information of each member. Also included is a listing of the current Squadron Officers and Committee Chairpersons. **USE OF THE ROSTER FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN SQUADRON BUSINESS OR PERSONAL USE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

Member information is maintained in a file by the Squadron Secretary and is updated as changes in member status are brought to the attention of the Secretary. Changes to educational grade are sent to the Secretary by USPS National Headquarters after a course has been passed. Members should send changes in phone number, address, email, or boat information to the Squadron Secretary. The Secretary’s file is used to prepare the Almanac and member mailings.

The annual dues notice, which is sent to each member, contains an area for updating roster information. Changes noted will be entered into the Squadron’s files.

Educational Programs

The Squadron Educational Officer (SEO) is responsible for all public and member courses and programs. As a result, the Educational Department is fairly large and involves a number of our members. The SEO has an Assistant Squadron Educational Officer (ASEO) who helps guide this department’s work.

Public Course Offerings

Public courses and programs are varied, and include The ABC Boating Course, which you may have previously taken. These are free of charge to everyone, with the only cost being for the texts, materials, and any fees charged for classroom use.

Advanced Grades

A major element of safe boating is knowing your responsibilities and how to move your boat from one place to another, whether across the marina or around the world. Many people think that anyone can get into a boat and drive it with no special training. Perhaps they can. But they won’t be safe—nor will anyone else who is on the water at the same time they are.

Our Advanced Grades courses present a series of information that is important for you to know to be safe and to get where you’re going with the least trouble. We recommend that you take them in the following order, but you may take them as they become available if the instructor approves. The instructor will ensure that you have sufficient background to absorb the material without delaying the progress of other students in the class.
**Advanced Grades Courses are:**

**Boat Handling – formerly Seamanship (S)**
Seamanship is our boat-handling course. It covers your responsibilities as a skipper. You will learn the basics of anchoring, line handling, rules of the road, and marlinspike seamanship (e.g. some basic knots, bends, and hitches—more than those taught in our public courses).
Your accomplishment in completing Seamanship is recognized by all of us, with our sincerest congratulations, by awarding you the right to attach the suffix S after your name. In addition, if you have a uniform (you don't have to have one), and/or if you have a blazer (you don't have to have one of these, either), you may display the award shown here on its breast pocket.

**Marine Navigation – formerly Piloting (P)**
Your primary course in navigating your boat within sight of land, Piloting (P), will show you how to get from where you are to where you want to go, both safely and directly. You will learn how to plot your course and position on a chart, the various types of charts available, the different types of aids to navigation, and how to use a compass effectively. Upon successful completion of this course, you may display the award shown here on its breast pocket.

**Advanced Marine Navigation – formerly Advanced Piloting (AP)**
After taking Seamanship and Piloting, you'll want to take Advanced Piloting (AP) to complete your near-shore cruising education. You will learn sophisticated methods of finding and plotting your position. You'll also learn how to avoid dangerous-water conditions, figure out if there'll be enough water to enter your marina, too much water to get under the bridge, or if the current is too strong for your boat to get through the pass quickly. You'll also learn how to determine your compass' deviation and to prepare a deviation table for your boat.

If you have the background and skills to do the work, you may study and complete Advanced Piloting before you take Seamanship and/or Piloting. However, if you do, you will not have earned the AP grade designator until all three of those courses are successfully completed. Upon completion of all three, you will have earned that privilege and may use the emblem below on your breast pocket.

**Educational Proficiency**
Members who complete Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting and any three Elective Courses have earned the Educational Proficiency Award. Your breast-pocket grade designator may be underscored, as shown here, to display your award.
Junior Navigation
When you've completed your near-shore cruising education, it will be time to learn how the more adventurous seamen travel the high seas. Junior Navigation (JN) is the course that will tell you everything you've wanted to know about electronic navigation, as well as introduce you to celestial navigation: finding your way using only the stars and planets. Or, what to do when the batteries die.

Once again, if you're able, you may take JN before completing the earlier courses, but your grade designator will not be "JN" until Seamanship, Piloting, and Advanced Piloting have all been completed. And, as you may have guessed by now, when you complete these four courses, you will have earned the right to change your name's suffix to JN and display this breast pocket emblem.

Navigation
And now, the full dose of celestial navigation! In Navigation (N) you will learn nearly everything there is to know about finding your way using only a sextant and celestial bodies. In fact, you'll even learn how to find where you are in emergency, lost-at-sea situations when you don't even have a sextant. When you take navigation, you will learn not only how to use celestial navigation, but the theory behind it and how it works.

When you've completed all of Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting, Junior Navigation, and Navigation, once more you are entitled to change the suffix used with your name to N and display the breast pocket emblem shown here.

Advanced Grades courses may be taken in any order you wish, but, as described above, your grade designator will always depend upon which courses you have completed in the order prescribed by USPS. Although you can self-study any or all of these courses and challenge any course's examination to obtain permanent credit, we encourage you to take them with other student members. Students always bring their own experiences to the classes and share them, so you will learn things not found in the texts. You will also develop lifelong friendships with your fellow students due to the love of boating that we all share.

Educational Achievement Award / Senior Navigator
When you complete all of the Advanced Grades and Elective Courses, you will have earned the Educational Achievement Award and have acquired a classroom-level nautical education equal to that from any military or service academy.

But is there still more to learn? You bet! Where do you go to learn it? Out on the water, of course; this is your opportunity to put what you've learned to use and go out and practice it.

In the meantime, however, you have earned the privilege of showing the symbol SN (Senior Navigator) as a suffix to your name and displaying the emblem shown below on your breast pocket.
Is the use of these grade-designator suffixes bragging? Maybe, but there really are two important reasons we use them. First, they help us to inspire our friends and fellow-members to "be all they can be," and to absorb as much education as they can.

Second, when you go out in public with your grade-designator emblem on your breast pocket, non-members often ask you what it means. Tell them, and tell them what USPS does for the public, and how we do it. We want everyone to be the safest boater possible. After all, our primary focus is “Safe Boating Through Education!”

**Elective Courses**

Elective Courses may be taken at any time, and in any order you choose. These courses are:

**Cruising and Cruise Planning**

Designed for mariners who plan to cruise for a day or for a week in either a sail or powerboat. This course covers the following topics: cruise preparation and planning, boat and equipment, anchors and anchoring, security, chartering, cruising into neighboring countries, crew and provisioning, communications, navigation, weather, and emergencies. The manual includes sample cruises in four geographic regions of the US and detailed appendices.

**Engine Maintenance**

Modern engines offer high reliability and good performance through the use of computerized systems for fuel delivery and engine timing. Most of these systems are “black boxes” that can no longer be serviced by weekend mechanics with ordinary tools. The Engine Maintenance course covers those repairs that do-it-yourselfers can still perform, teaches how to diagnose problems that might be beyond your ability to fix, and how to share information with your mechanic so the right repairs get performed. The Engine Maintenance course also covers basic mechanical systems such as drive systems (propellers), steering systems, and engine controls. The last chapter discusses solutions you might use to problems that could occur while afloat and away from a repair facility. Gasoline, diesel, and outboard engines are treated independently in this chapter.

**Instructor Development**

This course deals with effective communication for speakers and teachers—a quality that benefits the individual in all walks of life. It offers practical instruction in: preparing for teaching assignments, preparing for meeting presentations, effective teaching techniques, conducting efficient meetings, and selecting and using audiovisual aids.

**Marine Electronics**

The new series of Marine Electronics courses is being structured into three new manuals: Marine Electrical Systems, Marine Communication Systems, and Electronic Navigation.

**Marine Electrical Systems**

Marine Electrical Systems (MES) covers the practice of wiring your boat, including boat electrical wiring practices and diagrams, direct and alternating current power, galvanic and stray current corrosion, and lightning protection. Troubleshooting is emphasized throughout, so students should feel comfortable performing even tricky wiring tasks after passing this course.

**Marine Communication Systems**

Marine Communication Systems (MCS) is an in-depth, nine chapter review of communications systems available to the recreational boater. Radio history and spectrum definitions are presented along with definitions of radio
circuits that the student should learn, to choose the best communications method for his/her situation. One chapter is devoted to the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) and another to FCC Rules and regulations. The remaining chapters cover High Seas radio (MF/HF and satellite communications) and other systems such as Family Radio Service transceivers. There is also a chapter on troubleshooting of radio installations.

**Electronic Navigation**

Electronic Navigation (EN) covers all aspects of electronic navigation using GMDSS as the foundation for modern marine communications. GPS is taught as the primary method of position fixing. This is a systems course (not “how to” navigate) that focuses on the use of electronic devices to augment the practice of safe navigation on the water. Topics include GPS, the Automatic Identification System (AIS), RADAR, depth sounder and related instruments, electronic charting systems, and a working understanding of the electronic bus structures needed to tie these devices together. The EN course was developed in conjunction with the Canadian Sail and Power Squadrons.

**Sail**

The Sail course serves the needs of the novice and experienced sailor, as well as the non-sailor, for basic skills and knowledge. The course starts with basic sailboat designs and nomenclature, rigging, safety, and sail processes and then tackles the physical aspects of sailing forces and techniques, sail applications, marlinespike, helmsmanship and handling of more difficult sailing conditions, navigation rules, and an introduction to heavy weather sailing. Appendices introduce sailboat racing and sailing in Canadian waters.

**Weather**

The safety and comfort of those who venture out on the water have always been weather dependent. In this course students will become keener observers of the weather, but weather observations only have meaning in the context of the basic principles of meteorology — the science of the atmosphere. The course focuses on how weather systems form, behave, move, and interact with one another and reflects the availability of all sorts of weather reports and forecasts on the Internet. It is a general weather course that benefits those sitting in their living rooms as much as those standing behind the helm.

Each student receives a Weather Manual, USPS Weather, an explanatory text with full color photographs and drawings covering weather in the United States and its coastal and inland waters, a set of three Daily Weather Maps - learning aids with a complete explanation of map symbols designed to develop weather map reading and analysis skills, and NOAA's Sky Watcher Chart - a reference to assist in identifying cloud types — helpful indicators of approaching weather.

**Educational Department Staff**

So, how do we accomplish all this education? Clearly, it takes a lot of work. We're all unpaid volunteers, so the only way it's humanly possible to put on all these courses and create so many educated safe boaters is with a lot of help from many dedicated members.

Member volunteers plan, teach, and proctor our courses, build teaching aids, distribute information about our classes to members so they know when and where to show up, and encourage them to attend our courses and seminars.

Volunteer opportunities include:

Instructors for some or all of the topics in each course, Chairman for the course and Proctors who aid instructors by helping the students, grading homework, arranging teaching aids and ensuring the aids are ready and operable, setting up and breaking down classrooms, etc.

As you become more familiar with our Squadron, we hope that you'll not only agree to help when you're asked, but will reach out to volunteer when you hear or read that someone needs help.
Squadron Meetings
There are two main types of Squadron meetings: General Monthly Membership meetings and Executive Committee meetings. Various committee meetings will also be conducted on an as-need basis. All meetings are open to the full membership with the exception of the nominations committee meetings.

‘General Meetings’
General Meetings are typically held the last week of each month with the planned exceptions of July and August when no meetings are held to allow our members to make the most of boating season. Notices are published in The Spray to inform all members of the topic and meeting locations as well as on our website. Most meetings are held at the Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall in East Islip. Members are encouraged to bring guests. General Membership meetings are usually from 2000 to 2100.

‘Executive Meetings’
Executive Committee meetings are normally held on the 1st Tuesday of each month. The current location of Executive Committee meetings is the East Islip Library. Members are welcome and may participate in any discussion, but only executive committee members have the privilege to vote. These meetings are more geared toward the ‘business side’ of the squadron.

Other Meetings:

‘Committee Meetings’
Committee meetings are held at the discretion of the Committee Chair to discuss pending Squadron business and action relevant to the committee’s successful contribution to the Squadron. A list of major squadron committees can be found in Section 29 of this handbook. Members are encouraged to volunteer and become further involved in our Squadron by choosing a committee of their interest

Holiday / Change of Watch
Many of our Squadron meetings have a social component along with conducting or discussing current business of the squadron. Some traditional regularly scheduled meetings include the Holiday Party Meeting in December and the Change of Watch early in the new Squadron Year. The main business of the Squadron for the Annual Meeting in January is the election of the new officers for the coming new squadron year. The Change of Watch, held early in the calendar year, is a formal meeting where the new officers for the coming year are installed by the District Commander. Many of the District Bridge Officers and fellow District members often attend the Squadron Change of Watch.

Social Events
Our Squadron has several planned social gatherings for the purpose of getting to know our new members in a more informal setting and allowing members to have a designated time for social interaction. Members are encouraged to bring family members as well as guests. Some of the traditional social events that we have include:

- Boating Season Kick-Off
- Spring Picnic
- Blessing of the Fleet
- Memorial Day Parade – East Islip
- Fall Picnic
- Fall Social
- Holiday Party
- Change of Watch Dinner Dance

Our General Meetings are preceded by dinner and followed by a social period which serves as an opportunity to greet old friends and meet new ones. All social events are announced in The Spray.
District 3

District 3 is the Long Island New York regional organization of USPS/ABC. District 3 spans Brooklyn to Montauk and is home to 15 squadrons, including ours. District 3 hosts many events throughout the year, including:

- Spring Conference & Fall Conference
- Long Island Ducks Game
- Council Meetings (a district version of an executive meeting)
- Rendezvous East (more on page 27)
- Memorial Service for Departed Members
- Boat Shows
- Educational Cruises

On a District Level, there are various trophies and awards that squadrons compete for each year.

- **PRINCE HENRY AWARD**
  The seated likeness of Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal was given to several USPS districts by the government of Portugal for promoting education in the art of Navigation. In D/2 this award is presented at the Spring Conference to the Squadron who had the highest percentage of its members advance in grade.

- **CRUISE AND RENDEZVOUS TROPHY**
  The C&R trophy, a large handsome trophy mounted on a two-tier walnut pedestal, is a perpetual D/3 award presented annually at the Fall Conference to the squadron with the largest participation at the D/3 Rendezvous. The award takes into account boat size and distance travelled as well as attendance relative to membership. Great South Bay has won this trophy 29 of 44 years. Including a run of 17 consecutive victories.

More information and the rest of the awards can be found in the district Journal on the D3 site at: [https://www.weboatsafe.com/about-us](https://www.weboatsafe.com/about-us)
On-Water Events
Scheduled on the water boating activities is one area where the Great South Bay Power Squadron really shines, and we have many on-water events for our members to enjoy. The squadron regularly schedules events for both the cruising boater and the daytrip boater, as well as slower traveling vessels. It coordinates near and distant cruising destinations to allow members to join us by land as well when available.

Early in the spring, we start our boating year with our Spring Brunch, which is generally held at one of the fine restaurants on the south shore, allowing members to come by both boat and car.

Blessing of the Fleet
Next up is our Blessing of the Fleet. Annually, a procession of boats is assembled in either the Connetquot river or Bay Shore Marina area where they are given a non-denominational blessing for anyone who wishes to participate. There is no charge for this event and it is open to the public. Historically, the Coast Guard, Suffolk PD, Harbor Patrol, and many other municipalities attend our blessing. Our biggest blessing had more than 150 boats attend.

Spring & Fall Picnics
Sometime in June we have our Spring Picnic. The picnic is held somewhere on Fire Island between Watch Hill and Cedar Beach. The venue changes every year to keep it fresh. The picnic begins on Friday when we put up the tent, open the coolers, and make burgers and dogs for those that helped. The official event kicks off on Saturday morning. Members enjoy clams on the half shell, the ‘Commanders Liquor Locker’, pina coladas, home-made chili, and much more. Lunch is also provided; sometimes we have burgers and dogs, sometimes we have chicken and pulled pork, but we always try to change it up from year to year. Saturday night dinner is generally catered, but occasionally we will barbecue steaks and lobster. Members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert, which gives us the best of both a catered event and potluck dinner. On Sunday morning we take down the tent and pack up to go home. Most marinas that host us allow our members to stay the day on Sunday at a discounted rate, and many of our members take advantage of this offer.

Raft-Ups
Over the summer we have two raft ups. A raft up is the tying together of a number of vessels to form a raft-like structure. Raft ups are the least formal event we have. There is no schedule, no events, no time to keep, and nowhere to be. It is a social gathering of our members. The entire event is BYO, but many members will pool resources with each other to make the day more enjoyable. The event typically extends overnight, and a “no generator after PM” policy is enforced to ensure a pleasant sleep for all.
Emergency Response Team

Our SERAT (Squadron Emergency Response Assistance Team) Unit is an arm of The United States Power Squadrons whose mission is to render assistance to boaters, the U.S.C.G., fire departments, law enforcement, and other agencies in the event of a water related emergency. We provide a team of highly qualified and experienced boaters with detailed knowledge of local waters who are willing to offer their time and effort to assist in the event of an emergency and other routine safety patrols. These may include water rescue, water search and rescue, water related patrols, and help in securing an area in the event of an emergency.

Dockside Raft Up

Only a few years ago we started our annual dockSide raft up. A dockside raft up follows the same format as a regular raft up; no schedule, no events, no time to keep, and nowhere to be. It is a social gathering of our members. The entire event is BYO, but many members will pool resources with each other to make the day more enjoyable. So if its dockside, what makes it a ‘raft up’? It’s held at a marina that doesn’t provide electric or water (such as Robert Moses Boat Basin). We receive special permission and permits to stay overnight in places you normally wouldn’t be able to.

P/C Warren Alber Invitational

The P/C Warren Alber, JN Invitational is named after the late Past Commander Warren Alber, whose skills with a vessel were 2nd to none. The rodeo is essentially a boat handling competition where you prove that you’re the Master & Commander of your boat and put your skills to the test. Participating captains maneuver their own boat through an obstacle course of buoys designed to challenge your close-quarter boat handling skills. Amongst other maneuvers, the course will simulate docking “starboard-side-to” to a dock space between other boats and backing into a slip. Although this a challenge of finesse and accuracy, the course will be timed with major and minor time penalties added for incorrect maneuvers or course infractions.

P/C Warren Alber, JN
Rendezvous East

District III Rendezvous East is generally held on the east end of Long Island, but sometimes in Connecticut. Squadrons from all over Long Island take the voyage east, often in groups of 5 or 6 boats. The Rendezvous is another three-day event that begins on a Friday. Friday evening is the ‘District Commanders Cocktail Party and Hospitality Event’, which offers food and drinks, a DJ or live band, and dancing. On Saturday the event is very much like our picnics, with food, open bar, music, and a very social atmosphere. Saturday night there is a district dinner that varies from year to year. Sometimes it is a BYO casual event under a tent, and others it is a sit-down dinner in a restaurant. The venue and District Commander decide what is best for any given year.

Vessel Safety Checks

Our Vessel Safety Examination program provides a courtesy examination of your boat (Vessel) to verify the presence and condition of certain Safety Equipment required by State and Federal regulations. Our Vessel Examiners are trained specialists and members of the US Power Squadrons or the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Any US Power Squadron member is eligible to become a Vessel Safety Examiner. The VSE will also make certain recommendations and discuss certain safety issues that will make you a safer boater.

- The Vessel Safety Examination committee falls under the Executive Officer.
- The VSE Chair leads the VSE committee composed of certified Vessel Safety Examiners.
- Vessel Safety Examiners must complete a minimum of 5 vessel examinations annually to maintain certification.
- The VSE Chair reports (at minimum) quarterly to the District VSE Chair.
- The VSE Chair will hold VSE certification training as needed to interested Squadron members.
- The Great South Bay Power Squadron takes the issue of vessel safety as a primary way to display public service to boaters in our communities.
- The Great South Bay Power Squadron annually publishes an honor roll of members that have a VSE conducted on their vessels.

Some of the items verified during a Vessel Safety Check include:
Proper display of numbers, registration/documentation, personal flotation devices, life jackets, visual distress signals, fire extinguishers, ventilation, backfire flame control, sound producing devices, navigation lights, state requirements, and overall vessel condition.
501(c)(3) Status
USPS and its Districts and Squadrons have been granted tax-exempt status under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 because of its nationwide educational activities. The status is very important to the organization. Preservation of the exemption is the responsibility of all USPS members.

Squadron member activity – One part of the code states that as an organization we must avoid attempting to influence legislation or intervene in a political campaign on behalf of a candidate for public office. As individuals, we may participate as much as we wish in trying to influence political or legislative matters. However, mentioning membership in USPS or a District or a Squadron is NOT permitted and could cause revocation of our status.

Personal Deductions – Members who participate in the function of USPS in an official capacity may deduct on their tax return certain expenses as charitable contributions. These expenses include transportation, parking fees and tolls, reasonable expenditures for meals, and lodging while away from home, uniforms, postage, telephone bills, supplies, dues and other miscellaneous cash expenses.

USPS Boat Insurance Program
One benefit of membership in USPS is access to the exclusive USPS boat insurance program. This program operates on the premise that USPS members are “preferred risk” boaters. The program, designed by the St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Company, offers broad coverage at very competitive rates. The program is open to boats of almost any type, size, construction, and age, including antiques. Premiums take into account such things as educational achievement in USPS courses, boating experience, and claims history. Additional premium discounts are available as a member successfully completes Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting and Engine Maintenance.

Boat/US Affiliation Discount
Great South Bay Power Squadron members who are members of BOAT/US pay annual dues to Boat/US at a reduced rate because of an agreement between the two organizations. When you receive your Squadron Certificate Number in the mail, call BOAT/US and provide it to them. They will apply the Squadron discount to your membership. If you have BOAT/US Insurance, please ask to be transferred to an underwriter to take advantage of the Insurance Discount as well.

Membership Involvement, Committees, and other positions

Reporting to the Commander
Chaplain
Flag Lieutenant
Good & Welfare
Merit Mark Chairman
Meetings and Quarters Chairman
(All bridge officers also report to the Commander)

Reporting to the Administrative Officer
Predicted Log Chairman
Skipper's Award Officer
Cruise & Rendezvous Chairman
Spring Picnic Chairman
Fall Picnic Chairman
Entertainment Committee Chairman
Program Committee Chairman
COW House Committee Chairman
Membership Committee Chairman
THE ENSIGN Correspondent
Boating Activities Committee Chairman
Membership Involvement
Port Captain

Reporting to the Executive Officer
Public Relations Officer
Photography Officer
Radio Technical Officer
Safety Officer
Boat Show Chairman
Cooperative Charting Chairman
District 3 Liaison Dance Officer
Governmental Liaison Officer
District 3 Rendezvous East Chairman
Vessel Safety Check Chairman
Environmental Committee

Reporting to the Educational Officer
Asst. SEO
CH/LB/B Sachem
CH/LB/B West Islip
CH/LB/ East Islip
CH/LB/AG
CH/LB/EC
CH/USPS/GUIDES/Seminars
CH/Teaching Aids
Operations Training Chairman
Leadership Development Chairman
Partner in Command

Reporting to the Treasurer
Supply Officer
Asst. Supply Officer

Reporting to the Secretary
The Great South Spray Editor
Asst. Editor
Business Manager
Almanac Chairman
Telephone Committee Chairman
Historian
Computer Services Chairman
Asst. Computer Services
Website Chairman (Web Master)
Asst. Website Chairman

Reporting to the Membership
Executive Committee
Nominating Committee
Auditing Committee
Rules Committee
Local Board for Boating
Budget Committee

How to get involved
We strongly encourage you to find a committee which interests you and get involved! Speak to any Executive Committee member listed in The Spray. The Organization Chart and Committees List illustrate how Great South Bay Power Squadron works. Committees have been, and will continue to be, established to accomplish our goals. Each committee reportsto a bridge officer or to the membership. Chairpersons and members of committees are volunteers who want to contribute their time, energy, and expertise to help the squadron achieve its goals of self-education, civic service, and fellowship with boating-oriented people. Most of us have an area of interest or capability that can help the squadron achieve those goals.

There are opportunities for all. Some of the committees are active at specific times of the year. For example, the Boating Activities Committee, which plans and organizes our cruises and rendezvous, is active mainly during boating season. Other committees are active all or part of the year. In education, Teachers and Proctors are almost always needed.
How to get become a bridge member or executive committee
Attend meetings and participate.
Chair a committee and contribute to the success of the squadron.
Express interest to a current bridge member, or nominating committee member.

Merit Marks
Merit Marks are one of the tangible rewards for squadron service.

Member involvement in significant work for the squadron starts with finding an area that interests you where you are already proficient, or an area that you would like to increase your knowledge. USPS offers no monetary compensation to any member – just the opportunity to perform voluntary service.

The varied and valuable voluntary service does not go unrecognized or un-rewarded. A USPS member who “performs substantial effort in furthering the interests, programs and objectives of USPS, its Districts and Squadrons” may be awarded a merit mark by the Chief Commander. Each year, recommendations of candidates are submitted by individual Squadrons, and a summary of services performed is included. Merit Mark information can be submitted by individual members or committee chairs via the merit mark submission form and forwarded to the Merit Mark Committee as designated by the Great South Bay Squadron Commander or directly to the Commander as appropriate.

Work deemed appropriate for merit mark recognition can be submitted via the merit mark form at any time during the year, but must be submitted no later than 1 November, as the first group of submissions will be forwarded by 15 November of each year. The Squadron Commander submits merit marks to be reviewed by an Area Merit Mark Monitor and then forwarded to the Chief Commander for review and the awarding of the merit marks. Please note that this is one area that our Squadron Merit Mark Committee and Commander take significant care in ensuring timely submission, and that The United States Power Squadron Chief Commander reviews every Merit Mark submission, which typically is more than 20,000. Only one Merit Mark will be awarded a member in a given year, no matter how large the contribution. When a member has received five merit marks, a designation of Senior Member is received, along with the privilege of wearing the Senior Member Insignia on The United States Power Squadron uniform. With the award of a member’s twenty-fifth merit mark comes a status known as Life Membership, a plaque awarded by the Chief Commander, a permanent membership card printed in silver, and exemption from USPS dues. A member who achieves 50 Merit Marks receives a special award from the Chief Commander and the status of USPS Governing Board Member Emeritus.

Squadron Awards (Typically presented at the Squadron Change of Watch)

Skipper Award – Recognizes a member’s achievement in boating education and participation in Squadron activities.

Pilot Award – Recognizes a member’s achievement of an advanced boating education and active participation in Squadron activities.

Commodore Award – Recognizes a member’s achievement of a thorough boating education and enthusiastic participation in Squadron activities.

Admiral Award – Recognizes a member’s achievement of a complete boating education and devoted participation in Squadron activities.

Additional information on how to qualify for each award can be found in the Almanac.
A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons

History has been defined as the ideas, acts, and events which shape the future. USPS has been shaped by its history and to understand our present more fully, we must first look back into our past. Seldom does the complete story of an organization's founding survive the passage of time. So, we grope today for much of the story of our beginnings. The gaps in what remains to us in the minutes, manuals and magazines of the early era have had to be filled in with assumptions and the memories of early recruits.

This much is certain: in the list of founding fathers, the name of Roger Upton of Boston and Marblehead, Massachusetts stands pre-eminent. The "power squadron" idea was the projection of his thoughts. The power squadron spirit was the reflection of his enthusiasm and early growth was the fruition of his labors. As you become more familiar with the activities and opportunities available in our squadron and district, you will often hear people discussing "national" this and "national" that. It's important to realize that you, and I, and every USPS member everywhere, are "national."

All the word really means is that the 60,000 USPS members and the 450± squadrons, throughout the country, the Virgin Islands, and Tokyo, work together to achieve our common goals. In order to do this, we elect a national body, called the Governing Board, and national officers. The officers' positions are essentially the same as those in our squadron and district, i.e., Commander, Executive Officer, Educational Officer, Administrative Officer, Secretary, and Treasurer, but their titles are a little different.

For example, our national commander has the title Chief Commander, and the other five officers on the national Bridge are all Vice Commanders. Chairmen of the national committees, which also correspond to those we've discussed in our squadron, have the title Rear Commander, and their assistant chairman are called Staff Commanders.

Of course, the work done at the national level is also somewhat different. For example, in the National Educational Department committees are responsible for developing, writing, and publishing our courses and programs. Course committees are also responsible for creating and grading examinations.

Similarly, in the other national departments, the work done is not the same "front line" work we complete at the squadrons and district levels. Rather, squadron members working at the national level provide leadership, guidance, and structure. This helps us to ensure that all of the important work we do to achieve our common goals is accomplished in a uniform and legal manner throughout USPS.

The main operating body of USPS is the Governing Board, i.e., our national board of directors. The Governing Board (GB) elects our national bridge officers and other national officers. The GB meets once a year, usually in January. Every member is welcome at any of these meetings, and you will find reservation forms and a great deal of information about them in our national magazine, The Ensign.

The spring and fall GB meetings are held at different locations around the country, giving those who attend an opportunity to visit interesting places, and those who live in the vicinity of one of the meetings an opportunity to attend without having to travel far.

Certificate Numbers

Each new member is assigned a Certificate Number by USPS/ABC. The number appears on a member’s certificate as well as on the membership card issued to each member. When enrolling in a course, the member must have his certificate number available. This is your unique ID in our club. You do not need to memorize it for day-to-day interactions.
Legal


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