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# Oyster Bay Sail and Power Squadron: America's Boating Club®

By Boaters...For Boaters™

## Gull Chatter



Commander's Report

by Ann Peltier, SN

### "A View from the Bridge"



Happy New Year...one and all! Some of our friends are already heading south. The Farmer's Almanac has me confused with its mixed predictions: colder seasonable temperature with a mild accumulation of snow in our area.

One thing for sure, I know you'll be thinking "Boating" long before St. Patty's Day and helping your friends and family comply with the 'new' law that requires all boat operators born after January 1st 1993 to take a safe boating course. Furthermore, by 2025 all boat operators (regardless of age) must have taken a safe boaters' course. That being said, our squadron is preparing for the many boaters who will be looking for a boating course, now.

Whether we have a mild winter or one that is blustery, I hope you will plan on joining us for some of our winter activities and outing. Check out the Educational page and contact Thomas about taking a course or seminar this winter. In addition, look over Kevin's AO Report and the many Activities schedules for this winter-spring. Kevin has been planning lots of new activities for us that includes our friends and family. Like Kevin says "Everyone's invited" because his family motto is "the more the merrier."

Lots of news since our Fall publication! At the D3 Fall Educational Conference we had 7 members join us for lunch and Oyster Bay won 6 Teaching Aid Awards. Our D3 Town Meeting was just great. Many of the Course-persons gave presentations about 'what's new.' A very informative Town Meeting, indeed. National approved 29 members for 2019 Merit Marks (see list on page 12). I want to thank all those who contributed their time and effort to the OBSPS this year. Our squadron is blessed to have so many dedicated members. Thank you all!

The USPS Annual Meeting will be in Sawgrass, Florida. From the pictures on the internet, it looks wonderful. Hope you plan on going to the meeting. I have been asked to continue the *Commander's Roundtable Discussion Session*. This seminar is open to all members of USPS-America's Boating Club. Last Annual Meeting we had 47 members who represented 21 districts. It was a lively discussion as the members looked to the future of the America's Boating Club and how we will meet and develop positive strategies for the future of our club.

Our squadron is also looking to the future and how we can help to inform the public, and our members, about important changes in boating laws, how to be a safer boater and the importance of sharing your boating experiences with other. Join us at the next meeting and be part of this exciting time.

See you there... *Ann*

### Gull Index

Commander's Report	1
Bridge Index	2
Education Report	3
Executive Report	4
Admin Report	4
Safety Article	5
Photo Gallery	6
Good & Welfare Birthday Wishes	7
Member Article	8
District / USPS	9
Squadron Calendar	10
Member Benefits	10
Back Page—Flyer	11
Merit Mark	12
Cover	13



**United States Power Squadrons®**

Oyster Bay Sail and Power Squadron Teaching Safe Boating in Our Community for Over 45 Years

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**Commanders Advisors:**

P/C Ronald Ferina, JN    Thomas J Peltier, SN    J/P/C Ron Nackman, JN  
**Flag Lt:** Ronald Nackman, JN                                  **Chaplain:** P/C Doug Durfee, SN

**Executive Committee**

J/P/C Ron Nackman, JN                      P/C Douglas Durfee, SN  
 P/Lt/C Donald Lustig, AP              Dennis Puccio  
 Jennifer Nackman



**District Commander**  
**Thomas J Pilek, AP**

12 Virginia Dr.  
 Medford, NY 11763  
 tjmedford@aol.com  
 and Alicia



**D3**  
**Terrapins**

## Educational Report

by Thomas J Peltier, SN



### *What's New in Education*

2020 is here which means that before you know it— it will be boating time, again. Will you be ready? Does your boat, or the boat that you crew on, need a once over before launching? Are the mechanical and electrical systems working correctly? Do you need to hire someone to perform routine tasks or do you think you can perform these Spring Commissioning activities yourself?

Well, this Winter/Spring Educational Schedule is offering both *Marine Electrical Systems* and *Engine Maintenance* courses for your pleasure. Let me know if you are interested. We need to have books and supplies on hand before the classes start. The knowledge gained from these courses can be both mind easing and economically satisfying.

The Annual Meeting is quickly approaching and I will be attending. Stay tuned for updates in the March Oyster Bay "What's Happening" to learn more. Have a wonderful New Year and see you on the water.

*Thomas*

### 2020 Class Schedule—Sign up NOW

ABC.....

Syosset HS.....start date: Wednesday March 4th

Roslyn HS.....start date: Tuesday March 10th

Sagamore Yacht Club - \*3 day class (April 14th, 20th, 21st)

Brooklyn College ...start date: Jan 11th and 12th

Feb 8th and 9th

Mar 7th and 8th

Marine Electrical Systems...January 15th

Advanced Piloting.....February 20th

Engine Maintenance.....April 1st

Boat Handling.....May 5th

**Pre-Register required for  
all Classes  
to ensure that books and  
materials are available**

## Executive Officer

Ronald Ferina, JN



The marine industry is not immune to mandatory and voluntary product recalls. Perhaps over the next several “pre-season” months it would be a good time to verify that your gear is not subject to a recall. A good starting point is West Marine. They list these announcements on their website: [www.westmarine.com/customerService/ProductRecalls](http://www.westmarine.com/customerService/ProductRecalls)

This is not a comprehensive list as they are obligated to manufacturers’ product *that they sell*. It is a good idea to go to the manufacturers’ websites, locate their “product recall” section. Some manufacturers may have a private label or use different models for different retailers. Check your critical product with each manufacturer for recalls. (Have the serial numbers, model numbers and dates of manufacture handy if possible).

Another resource for checking product recalls is the United States Coast Guard. <https://uscgboating.org/library/boating-safety-circulars/Boating-Safety-Circular-Fall-2019-s.pdf> This website not only covers marine gear, but also lists boat manufacturers and models that have recall notices. Whether you have purchased a new or previously owned vessel, the publication on this website goes back to 1986.

Upon inspection of your gear, if you notice any anomaly, premature wear or anything that that may be an issue during use, notify the manufacturer. It is possible that a recall may not have been issued but the manufacturer may be aware of a potential problem and is willing to rectify it. Even if they do not, it will appear in their product record that may dictated action later or considered in future generations of the product.

It is good practice to file product registration with the manufacturer when possible. If any recalls do occur, you may be contacted directly.

Enjoy these winter days and hope to see you soon. Ron

In 2019, they posted safety warnings for:  
 Torqeedo outboard motor batteries  
 Sierra service valve  
 West Marine Folding deck chair  
 Pelican Kayak  
 Igloo Marine Elite coolers

## Admin Report

by Kevin Kuo, AP



Dear Fellow Boaters,

Take a look at our new up-dated Calendar on page 10. It’s all about Winter Fun! We’ve put together several interesting events for you to enjoy.

Although January we’re not having a General Meeting there is a special Family / Friends night at **Round 1** in Hicksville on January 13th. Our Annual Snow-Bird Brunch at the Harbor Mist is scheduled for January 26th. February we will be celebrating with a Pre-Valentines Day Night-Out at Canterbury. These are just a few of the events. So, look over the calendar and if you have anything you’d like to add, please contact me. And please RSVP if you plan to attend so we make sure we save a seat for you and your guests.

Have a wonderful Holiday and Great New Year.

In addition, I’d like to share the following with you:

### Winter for Boaters – In or Out?

One of the cyclic issues with boating is the recurring cost of storage during the winter months. While traditionally most people take their boats out in the winter, there are advantages to keeping your boat in the water over the winter.

One immediate advantage is that there will be less crowding in the waterways. This can give the more adventurous boater an opportunity to explore waterways that would otherwise be too crowded.

Continues Page 8



## SAFETY Report

by Ann Peltier, SN

### WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY ENGINE AND HOW MUCH TO FIX IT?

In the really olden days, outboard engines were not difficult to maintain or repair; you simply mixed the oil and gas in the proper proportions, maintained and kept the spring and pull cord in good condition - and you were all set. With those old-time outboards (some of us may still own), you 'kind of' just sat back and steered by manually turning the motor for direction. But, today's powerful motors and engines are a different story.

Today's boaters have both powerful inboard diesel and gas motors as well as those super-sized outboards. Manufacturers have added fuel injection, electronic control modules and computers. It's not surprising that many boaters are intimidated by their vessels' powering systems. While boating many things may go wrong, but nothing sounds more frightful and **expensive** than to be told "Sorry Captain, the problem is your engine."

Safety is always the first concern of power squadron members. It is important! Learning how to stay safe is equally important to the dedicated boater. And what better time to do your research on potential hazards you may encounter on the water but during these cold winter days as you sit in your cozy chair with some hot cocoa.

Here are a few common problems that could arise while on the water. Along with some thoughts / ideas you should think about in this pre-boating season. **The engine won't start.** There's nothing worse than turning the key and getting nothing. The engine just doesn't start. Some possible causes: the battery is dead, spark plugs are wet or fouled, fuel line clogged or it could be your ignition or starter. *Most skilled mechanics will be able to tell you in a matter of minutes what the culprit is just by listening.*

**The motor is overheating.** This is a common problem for outboard motors. Some possible reasons: you're extremely low on oil, low on coolant. If your engine is liquid cooled, something may be preventing water from flowing through the water intake.

**Propellers Problems?** A common source of woe for many boat owners. Some possible reasons: they are bound up by weeds, fishing line and/or nets. Equally, they can have been hit logs or debris. Outside of obvi-

ous physical obstructions, which may be visible to the boater, a propeller might not turn for other mechanical reasons. Most of these will be difficult to fix on your own unless you're a trained mechanic

**Why does the engine sputter?** A sputtering engine will rob you of crucial power. Sometimes the engine surges and just dies. However, the best (and least expensive) scenario is that you're just very low on gas. Possible problem: sputtering and spurts may indicate that fuel is not successfully being delivered to the engine. Hopefully, it's not a clogged fuel line or filter. Also, it could indicate a compression problem which could mean costly repairs. Sometimes an engine will just die and it's not clear why. Once again, the best case scenario is that you're simply out of gas or that someone hit the kill switch accidentally which happens more often than you'd think.

Being safe on the water requires boaters to take extra care both while on the water and off the water. Just know that all is not lost! *America's Boating Club / United States Power Squadrons®* has developed many courses and seminars i.e., **Engine Maintenance Course** and **Marine Electrical Systems** to help educate the both members and the public. Both of these courses will be available to you this Spring. Take a look at the Squadron Educational Report on page 3 for me details.

Doing repairs yourself, can save lost time on the water while you enjoy saving some money. But if you do not know what you're doing or what the mechanic is **talking about**, it could be a very different story. I recently read of two cases of boat "home repairs" that resulted in fires.

An educated boater is a wiser-safer boater. With the knowledge gleaned from the Power Squadrons, you will learn how to diagnose and to repair your engine, and to know your limitations. But dealing with mechanical equipment and fuel systems, can be dangerous. So be carefully.

Be the smartest captain on the water this summer by preparing this winter.

Inspired by Lt. Bill Hempel, Senior Feature Writer  
Marketing/Public Relations Committee  
**Compass Issue Dec 2013**

# Photo Gallery....



Sorry, found this on the internet...  
I had to share!

November's General Meeting was a real tasty treat. Thanksgiving Desserts filled the table. Everyone seemed to enjoy the Berry Cheese Cake but it was hard to tell which was the best because we didn't have much to wrap-up at the end of the night.

Dr James Law visited with us that night and told us about the Civil Air Patrol and the challenges faced during a rescue. It was a very informative discussion. It was a great night and Dr Law promised to send us some of his latest photos of rescues he has participated in during the year.

We also had some Bayside Squadron guests (Gene and Sharon and P/D/C Guy) who joined us for the event. It's was nice that they could be with us.

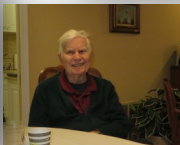


## The Annual Holiday Party—December 1st

Well the weather may have been dreary but the members who braved the elements certainly weren't. What a great time we had at Marion's home, our hostess who welcomed us with open arms - galoshes and all!

The Attic Auctions was great fun and many left with their holiday shopping done. Thank you to Ron, who took over the cooking duty for the group. There was so much food and desserts that were both tasty and beautiful.

Again, a special thank you to Marion for her hospitality and kindness. And a Happy New Year to all!



## GOOD AND WELFARE

We've got another New Baby - Dennis and Denise Puccio's  
1st (of many) grandchild Born at 2:45pm  
Mack Austin weighted in at 7lbs 12oz. Baby, Mom  
and Grandparents are all doing well!



Congratulations to all the students who participated in the NEW Radar  
course. Ann, Tom, Fred, Lee, Harvey, Ralph, Peter, Dennis. All passed  
with flying colors but Harvey really aced the course. Way to go Harvey!

Florida has two new Snowbirds. Ron and Jenny moved in to a warmer  
location down in West Palm Beach. Best of Luck.

Congratulations to Fred and Sally Dalton they are the proud owners of a  
new Sailboat. I bet Sally is glad that Fred took that radar course.  
Smooth Sailing to you both!

Welcome Aboard to our new members—Peter and Judi Manning.  
They joined us after Peter had taken the ABC at Syosset HS.  
Can't wait for the Spring Class when Judi and her friend  
will be taking the America's Boating Course, as well!



Joan Cassano  
Donald Lustig  
Elizabeth Paul  
Ann Peltier  
Thea Skupp



Sharon Ender  
Lloyd Hochberg  
Lance Kuba  
Milan Margetic  
William Titus



Joseph Frey  
Brenda MacAri  
Dennis Puccio

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!**



## Member Articles

by Kevin Kuo, AP

Continued from page 4...

The winter views of the shore can be quite breath taking, especially after snowfall. Plus, you can cruise at speed which can be helpful for the winter fisherman.

So, does it make financial sense to keep your boat in the water over the winter. If you must pay significant fees for storage, yes it can make sense to keep your boat in the water over the winter, provided you are committed to the additional winter upkeep. Winter boating will require you ensure your battery is charged, check all drains, portholes and seacocks and make sure they are in good shape. Check that seals are tight and there isn't hull or deck penetration. Change your oil and replace it with a cold weather formula.

With the maintenance issues covered, we need to talk about safety. Good practice for winter boating is always to wear your PFD. Wear clothing in layers with water repelling layers on the outside and breathable layers on the inside.

For an example of how to stay warm and dry, look at the clothing setup below from the inner layer outwards.

- ◆ Recover Sport Tee shirt - it wicks moisture well and dries fast
- ◆ Cotopaxi Fuego Down Jacket - a super warm but light puffer that packs small and is insulated with water-resistant down.
- ◆ Columbia Caldorado shell jacket - for extra windy days when the whitecaps splash or when there's any chance of rain. The shell is 100% waterproof and super lightweight.
- ◆ Microfiber BUFF sleeve – keeps neck warm and face covered if needed.
- ◆ DryFlx beanie cap - warm and light.
- ◆ Allister Prefer Slip-On boating shoes from Johnston & Murphy
- ◆ Skin goggles - They'll cut the sun's glare, the water's reflection and will keep you warmer

With weather considerations settled what are the safety concerns on the water.

- ◆ SEAMANSHIP - Manage your speed, keep your eyes ahead and don't fall overboard.
- ◆ PFD's - the use of lifejackets is more important during winter boating when the water's cold enough, you have only ten minutes before you lose consciousness and can't help yourself stay afloat.
- ◆ ICE – Titanic enough said. Also watch for ice on docks, decks, mooring lines and wires. Iced lines are harder to work and more prone to break, while icy wires can present a shock hazard.
- ◆ COMMUNICATIONS - Keep a phone with good service and/or a transponder with you and make sure your radio is in good working order.
- ◆ FLOAT PLAN – Make sure you make one and inform someone of it and do not deviate from your plan.

If you plan to go boating in the winter, make sure you are well prepared while you enjoy beautiful winter views of the shore.

# DISTRICT 3 & USPS NEWS

**LOTS OF THINGS HAPPENING IN DISTRICT THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.  
MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL DISCOUNT!**



## District 3 Council Meeting

03/06/2020

Marriott Melville

Meet & Greet: 6:30pm

Dinner: 7:15pm

Meeting: 8:00pm

Contact: Angelo Giovanniello  
631 661 5318

Dinner Reservations Required

## District 3 Spring Conference Change of Watch March 27-28

This is a very exciting event!  
Plan on a whole day of activities or  
just come for the meeting.

Meeting sign in: 7:45

Seminars: 10:00

Lunch: 12:30

Meeting Resumes: 1:30

Demonstrations and Seminars to enhance your  
boating skills. There's always something new!

### Change of Watch Dinner / Dance

7:00 to 11:00PM

'Live' Band for your dancing  
and listening enjoyment.

Plan on joining us? Contact Cdr Ann  
so she can arrange seating.

## District 3 March 22nd 2020

### D3 Memorial Service

We will be honoring our dear member  
P/C Len Hecht, JN.

Plan on joining us for special squadron  
dinner. When you RSVP - it makes planning  
so much easier.



## America's Boating Club

Annual Meeting  
Ponte Verde Beach, FL

February 9 to 15th, 2020

Check the USPS.org website



## Oyster Bay - Calendar

	Exec Mtg	2020 General Meeting and Events	
Jan	6th	13th 26th	<b>No General Meeting</b> Family/Friends Fun Night—Bowling / Darts / Billiards ( <i>Round 1</i> ) Snow-Bird Brunch - Harbor Mist
Feb	3rd	10th	<b>No General Meeting</b> Pre-Valentine—Canterbury's Oyster Bay
Mar	2nd	9th	Annual Meeting— presentation Physical Therapy & Functional Medicine
April	6th	13th	Change of Watch
May	4th	11th 31st	CPR Certification Spring Picnic and VSC Day—Tappen Beach
June	1st	TBA 15th	Blessing of the Fleet Friends and Family America's Boating Club—Open House
July	6th	TBA	Summer Movie Night— "Under the Stars"
Aug	3rd		No General Meeting
Sept	8th	14th	Author Cynthia Barrett, Author " <i>Three Sheets to the Wind</i> "
Oct	5th	12th	Virtual Bermuda Boat Race—Game Night
Nov	2nd	9th	Veterans' Day Speaker
Dec	7th	6th	Holiday Party— No General Meeting
<b>Dates and times may change. Always contact the Cdr for detailed information.</b>			

### Member Benefits

### Long Term Care Insurance



As a USPS member you can save more when you prepare for the future. Learn how in a FREE educational webinar! [Click here for details](#) LTC Global has developed a comprehensive educational program to provide you with all the information you need to determine which type long-term care solution is appropriate for you. Need to know more? Log in to USPS and click on Member Benefits.

# 2020

Print this Page and Put it on  
the Refrigerator  
So you don't forget about  
these special events



## January 13th Family / Friends Fun Night

Join us at Round-One Broad Common Mall  
Bowling/Darts/Billiard Teams

Contact Kevin or Cdr Ann for details and reservations information



Annual Snow-Bird Brunch  
January 26th

**Location: Harbor Mist  
05 Harbor Road (25A)  
Cold Spring Harbor, NY**

Reservations a must. Contact Kevin or Cdr Ann  
for details and reservations information

**April Change of Watch  
Sagamore Yacht Club  
April 13th, 2020**

**Welcome in the new Bridge  
and help us say Thank You  
to the Out-Going Bridge.**

**Check  
[www.boatosterbay.org](http://www.boatosterbay.org)  
to learn more.**

**February 10th — Pre-Valentine Party  
and General Meeting**

**A romantic evening with your honey**  
Drinks & Appetizers @7pm at the bar  
Dinner Optional @ 7:30pm

Join us for drinks and good cheer & a causal  
meeting at the Canterbury in Oyster Bay.  
Staying for Dinner - we'll reserve a spot for  
you. Please RSVP. Separate checks night!



**Congratulations  
Kevin Kuo & Dennis Puccio  
for successfully completing  
the USPS  
Instructor Development  
Course  
Great Job!**

**March — Annual Meeting  
Special Guest Speaker  
Physical Therapy - Boaters  
How to stay physically fit and avoid  
mishaps while boating. (see flyer)**

To learn more about these and other  
activities offered by the OBSPS  
just go to the  
website at [www.boatosterbay.org](http://www.boatosterbay.org) or  
contact: Kevin Kuo

## USPS Merit Mark

A "merit mark" (MM) is awarded by the chief commander to a member for his/her effort in furthering the interest, programs and objectives of **USPS-America's Boating Club®**. It is the only official recognition members receive for their many hours of service and support. The **Oyster Bay Sail and Power Squadron** recognizes the efforts of the following members and their leadership and dedication.

Below is a list of members who have been awarded a Merit Mark for 2019. A quick example of what some of our members did this year: Actively participated on the Bridge, Executive Committee and Various committees (as outlined in our Bylaws). In addition, members participated in Coop Charting Cruises, Vessel Safety Examinations, organized events like picnics, meetings and dinners. Two members gathered important contact information about marinas and yacht clubs in the community. One member takes on the responsibility and is dedicated to the outstanding success of our Blessing of the Fleet. Some distributed flyers concerning the new Brianna's Law; while others continue to actively teach courses and seminars. There is a lot to do and I want to thank all those who have volunteered.

These were just some of the items reported to national that enabled members to receive a Merit Mark this year. The actual list is much longer. You know, there's always something that needs to be done. Your help is important to the continuous growth and development of our club. Just a few hours of your time can help us — as we continue to bring safe boating education and information to the community. As stated in an article posted in *Psychology Today*, Dr David Fryburgh noted that "**Volunteers Live Longer.**"

Thank you! *Ann*

**Ackerman, Peter**  
**Ackerman, Ada**  
**Beecher, Diane**  
**Chabina, Cliff**  
**Dunbar, Donna**  
**Durfee, Doug**  
**Ender, Steve**  
**Kenna, Gerry**  
**Ferina, Pat**  
**Ferina, Ron**  
**Hecht, Len**  
**Henken, Bob**  
**Hoyvik, Glen**  
**Kuo, Kevin**  
**Lustig, Donald**

**Margetic, Lilly**  
**Margetic, Milan**  
**Moscheeta, Theresa**  
**Nackman, Jennifer**  
**Nackman, Ron**  
**Parisi, Ralph**  
**Peltier, Thomas**  
**Puccio, Dennis**  
**Rubinfeld, Ruth**  
**Stern, Lee**  
**Stern, Harvey**  
**Titus, Dot**  
**Titus, Bill**  
**Weiss, Larry**

**Executive Meeting:**

1st Monday of each Month from January to December

**General Membership Meetings:**

2nd Monday of each Month from January, March, April, May and from September to November

Always check Call to Meeting flyers and the website (boatoysterbay.org )

For more detail information: Dates—Times—Place of meeting



Winter days may have you longing to be out on the boat.  
This would be a good time to take that boating class.  
Check our calendar for details.

It's the Law!

Brianna's Law states that *all motorized boater operators* will need to obtain a boat safety certificate by 2025!

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**Oyster Bay Sail and Power Squadron**

America's Boating Club  
PO Box 13  
Oyster Bay, NY 11771

**The Gull Chatter**  
January / February / March  
2020