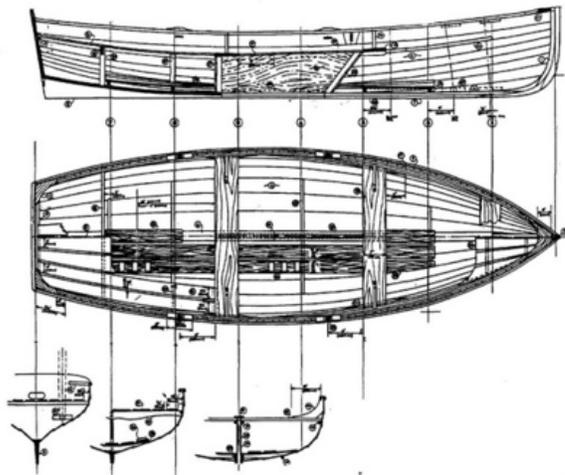


Building Sandra Catherine
By Al Meyer, AP

The Beginning.

In 2004, I launched *Wee Lass*, a Penobscot 14 designed by Arch Davis. She's been a great little boat, and I've had a lot of fun with her. She's also a tough little boat, having survived Hurricane Ike in 2008. The hurricane did take a toll on her, so I determined to start building a replacement and have it ready before *Wee Lass* became unseaworthy.

I settled on a Tammie Norrie, a design by Scottish designer Iain Oughtred, similar to the Penobscot 14 in style and dimensions, but has a few details which make it a slightly prettier boat, such as open gunwales and "park bench" type seating.



A Tammie Norrie uses lapstrake construction. When properly built, these boats are absolutely beautiful – however, this is not an amateur-friendly method of construction. In about the 1980s, small craft designers started working with glued lapstrake construction. In making the planks out of marine-grade plywood, instead of lumber, and gluing the planks together with epoxy, a lapstrake hull could be built while eliminating much of the interior structure. Tammie Norrie has a backbone consisting of a stem, keel, and transom, but no frames. This type of construction has two key advantages: first, it is within the reach of amateur construction, and second, it allows the amateur to construct boats that resemble the classic boats of the late 1800s, such as the Whitehalls, Rangleys, and the Melonseeds.

(Continued on Page 6)

Poop Sheet November 2018

- November 2-4
D/21 Fall Conference – Oklahoma City
- November 7
Board of Directors Meeting – Home Port
- November 10
HSPS General Meeting – M/V *Sam Houston*
Kayaking Level 1 – Galveston Island State Park
- November 17
First Aid/CPR/AED Class – Home Port
- December 2
HSPS General Meeting – Christmas Brunch
Location TBD
- December 5
Board of Directors Meeting – Home Port
- December 8
ABC3 – Home Port



Bay Neigh

Official Monthly Publication of
America's Boating Club - Houston
District 21



Editor
Lt Jana Wesson, AP

Assistant Editor

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Bridge

Commander..... Cdr Cathy Leavitt, P
Executive Officer Lt/C Susie Becvar, P
Educational Officer Lt/C Alan W. Cross, AP
Administrative Officer Lt/C George H. Crowl, Jr., AP
Secretary Lt/C Kyli S. Doucette, S
Treasurer..... Lt/C Monica K. Cross, P
Immediate Past Cdr..... P/C Scott. McDonald, SN

Squadron's 1st Lieutenants

Asst. Educational Officer. 1st/Lt Monica K. Cross, P
Asst. Secretary TBD
Asst. Treasurer..... P/Lt/C Phyllis Stendebach, P

Executive Committee

All Bridge Officers...	Chris Leavitt, N
William E. Blan, S	Scott McDonald, SN
Scott Cromack, P	Steve Sheward
John L. Glaeser, SN	Carl Stendebach, JN
Daniel C. Huston, AP	Robert W. Stevenson, JN
Jana Wesson, AP	

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and publication herein does not imply endorsement by USPS or ABC-H.

PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve, pour down on us the abundance of Thy mercy, forgiving us those things where of our conscience is afraid, and giving us those things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and meditation of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Our Lord.

Amen

COMMANDER'S CORNER



November 2018 Bay Neigh
Cdr Cathy Leavitt, P



As we are in the month of Thanksgiving, I would like to thank so many people of the Houston Squadron for all they have done this year for the Squadron. This is the time of year where I get to submit people for merit marks. We submitted 32 people for merit marks this year. This is more than 20% of the Squadron.

P/C Chris Leavitt, N has succeeded in beginning the Kayaking Outreach Program. We have purchased 6 kayaks. Chris built a kayak trailer out of an old sailboat trailer. We have used those boats to train three new kayak instructors and an intern and have used them for our first class teaching the public. **Lt/C Susie Becvar, P, Karen Taylor, and Lt/C Monica Cross, P** took the training to teach the ACA level one kayaking class. **Pat Morin** taught the first class to several of us in the Squadron. She has been on the planning committee and helped teach our first class to the public. **Amber Steber** is one of our Apprentice/Sea Scout members. She participated in our first kayaking class and agreed to be an intern for the program.

This year, more than half of the bridge is composed of people new to the bridge. This brings new ideas and great enthusiasm. **Lt/C Alan Cross, AP**, as Squadron Education Officer, has learned much from **P/Lt/C Bob Stevenson, JN** and is not only organizing and marketing the usual classes and seminars, but is also started new seminars like CPR and First Aid which he, **Monica Cross** and **Susie Becvar** taught at the District 21 Fall Conference. We also had 14 people take the last Radar Seminar that he taught. He brings a wide range of knowledge and skills to the Squadron. Alan is always coming up with new ideas for marketing the boating classes. He recently spent the day with a large group of Scouts from the Vietnamese community and showed them how our classes could benefit them. Alan is also helping with the kayaking program.

Lt/C Monica Cross, P also brings a wide range of knowledge and skills as the new Treasurer. **Deborah Collings** and **P/Lt/C Phyllis Stendebach, P** helped Monica learn the accounting system. As a CPA, Monica is able to make sure we are doing things appropriately. Debbie Collings is doing a great job paying the bills. Monica Cross is also acting as the Assistant SEO and helping Alan whenever needed. Monica is helping to teach Kayaking classes, and acted as a voting delegate at the Spring and Fall Conferences. She steps in wherever needed. We are so fortunate to have her.

Lt/C Susie Becvar, P has done a fantastic job as the Executive Officer. She has supervised the development of our new Website that **Lt Steve Sheward** has designed and implemented. This new Website not only tells the public about our schedule of events and all the classes we offer, but also allows them to pay for the classes with PayPal or a credit card. It also allows members-only to access information that they would be interested in. People are able to access old *Bay Neighs* along with the current *Bay Neigh* within the Website. Steve and Susie have put in many hours to make this happen and the whole board has helped with finding any kinks in the system. With the advice and knowledge of **P/R/C Scott McDonald, SN-ACN** and **Bob Stevenson**, we now have a system that looks good with the new branding as America's Boating Club Houston and that works to make our jobs more efficient. Susie Becvar also worked with **Lt Scott, AP and Kelly Cromack** and **P/C Bill Haddock, AP** to bring a safety program to Lake Conroe. They joined with law enforcement to teach people about safety and offered vessel safety checks at a new marina. We are looking forward to a continuing relationship with the law enforcement on Lake Conroe and that marina. Susie has also been working with **Lt/C George Crowl, AP**. The Co-op Charting program has changed what we check and how we report. It also includes geodetics on land. George Crowl has been very helpful with the on-the-water Co-op program. Susie has been looking for people to have fun with the geodetics part also.

(Continued on Page 5)



Focus on Boating Education
Lt/C Alan W. Cross, AP
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uspsseohouston@gmail.com



*Together, we make
boating better*

Upcoming and Current Courses. Currently being scheduled and “almost ready to be open for enrollment” are courses this Winter and Spring for *Seamanship*, *Weather*, and one, possibly two courses for *Sail*. We are also offering a *Cruise and Cruise Planning* course with a new approach. The course will be online and a teleconference. All are currently scheduled for Home Port and one *Sail* course at the Galveston Bay Power Squadron headquarters in Seabrook. There is time to sign up. Check the website (<https://americasboatingclubhouston.org/education/>) for details on dates and specifics for the course. We may yet have an opportunity to deliver an expanded “Sailor University” at a Galveston-based location.

The *Engine Maintenance* course completed this last week with eleven (11) students taking the examination. Thanks to **Richard Lipham** for teaching the course, and **P/Lt/C Bob Stevenson, JN** for administering the exam.

The *Marine Electrical Systems* course is finishing up with the three (3) students taking the examination next week. Many thanks to **P/C Bill Haddock, AP** for teaching the course.

The *Seamanship* course is nearing completion in the next two weeks. The three (3) students will take their examinations and move forward. Thank you **Al Meyer, AP** for teaching a well-rounded course!

The *Marine Communication Systems* course is nearing completion with six (6) members preparing for the examination. Thanks to **Bill Haddock** for being the mentor for the course and preparing to administer the exam.

Currently ongoing is a high-intensity *Piloting* course being delivered by **Lt/C George Crowl, AP** and **P/C Chris Leavitt, N**. High-intensity because to meet the needs of a Sea Scout Ship in the Baytown area, two sessions are taught, each about three weeks apart. Many thanks to George for taking on this load and providing the education to young adults.

The *ABC3* course continues to draw interested folks to our training. Keep checking the online calendar for updates. The large team that delivers our basic course has done wonders this year.

The *Marine RADAR* seminar was attended by 14 folks! Of those that attended, seven (7) paid and received credit for attending and participating; the others received a certificate but no credit. However, they were impressed enough to ask about other seminar opportunities. Thanks go to **Bill Haddock** for delivering the seminar. As a side note, RADAR is harder than it looks!

Plans for 2019. Plans are still formulating for course offerings in early 2019 through the summer. If you want a course or don't see a course listed, the website has a 'request a course' function. So, if you have a need or desire for a specific course that is not currently on the calendar, make a request for a course. Remember that with a group of 5 or more, considerations are always given to the time, date and location. Our goal is to have safer boaters through education.

November!! Sign up a Friend. Efforts continue with other Committees to “sell our program” of education by reaching audiences outside our general scope of education. With a good number of folks taking the ABC3 course, taking the On-The-Water course, our increasing membership, and folks in the community taking online courses, there is a wealth of people who could (and should) benefit from our training. For all the membership; take a moment and make that positive decision to take the course you've always wanted to take – and bring along some of your friends. Our courses are fun, and more fun if you know a student or three. Our Sea Scout outreach is beginning to show some fruits of continuous contact.

Chapman Award. At the District 21 Fall Conference held in Oklahoma City, **Bob Stevenson** was awarded the Chapman Award for the District. The Charles F. Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching is an annual award program that provides Squadron, District, and National recognition to outstanding individual instructors. At the National level, the Chapman Award is the highest recognition and honor that USPS can give to the three instructors who are selected as the “best of our best” each year.

Ham Radio Class in the Making! Thanks to **Bill Haddock**, in 2019, the Houston Squadron will organize and host an amateur (ham) radio series of classes and examinations. If you are not a licensed ham radio operator, this is a good way to learn and earn your license. If you are licensed, there will be studies to guide you to the advanced levels. This course will be open to folks both in-and-out of the Squadron.

(Continued on Page 4)

Focus on Boating Education (Continued from Page 3)

Thanks to the Instructors. These are the men and women who ‘make’ the Education Department work. Each is giving of their time, talents and rich history. When you see them, just say “thanks for making better boaters”. The 22 Instructors we have do an excellent job!

Susie Becvar	George Crowl	John Glaeser	Holly Huston	Scott McDonald	Carl Stendebach
Larry Behrmann	Tom Derden	Bill Haddock	Cathy Leavitt	Al Meyer	Bob Stevenson
Robert Campbell	Denny Fegan	Pete Hames	Chris Leavitt	Ed Roland	
Monica Cross	Rick Fisher	Dan Huston	Richard Lipham	Stephen Sheward	

Prince Henry the Navigator Award. This award is given to the D/21 Squadron demonstrating the greatest improvement during the past year in the Advanced Grades (AP, JN, and N) versus the potential for improvement at the beginning of the year. I'm am both pleased and proud to announce that this year, the Houston Squadron has again earned the *Prince Henry the Navigator Award*.

Thanks go to the instructors and to the following, who completed AP, JN, N or EN and set the path for success.

- Scott Cromack (AP)
- Susie Becvar (AP)
- Chris Leavitt (N)
- Larry Behrmann (EN)



Helping us earn the award in 2019 will be members:

- Niki Serakiotou (soon to be AP)
- Spyros Lazaratos (soon to be AP)

On tap to possibly help us earn the award in 2019 is a plethora of young adult Sea Scouts and members who are currently enrolled or have just passed the *Piloting* course

Kera Adamson	Brian Chau	Nathan Eitel	Matthew Le	Monique Macias
Brandon Chau	Madeleine Cushman	Marcus Le	Evelyn Macias	Regan Smith

Special Course Being Prepared. To augment the growth of Vessel Safety Checks the Houston Squadron can perform, there is a beginning of talk about offering a once-a-quarter course (short, like a seminar) to help potential Vessel Safety Examiners learn “from the book” and “from the experiences” of VSE’s. Stay tuned to the website and announcements via many different channels of communication on this exciting development.



First Aid – CPR – AED. Although the US Power Squadron (we are America’s Boating Club) doesn’t have a specific course for first aid, the material and education is offered through 3rd party vendors. For the Houston Squadron there is a 3-person team qualified to deliver first aid, CPR and AED instruction and certification to the membership and others. Simply go to the Houston Squadron website to learn more. Recently, the team delivered training to seven (7) persons at the District 21 Fall Conference in Oklahoma City. The training is standard but with a slant towards the maritime community.

Course Promotions and Target Audiences. Each member of the Squadron has insight into different groups, organizations and associations that would provide the Education Department with students. Currently there is an ongoing program to reach all the Sea Scouts, BSA in the greater Houston area. A recent expansion grows our Squadron into some geographical boundaries with other Squadrons. We (Houston) are offering courses and education in all that we offer – and we are being recognized and known for that. To wit, everyone should have a backup helper! Just in case you have a perfect weekend for getting on the water – you can turn that afternoon/evening training over to them.

A number of other programs within the Boy Scouts have expressed interest in our basic training, including the Vietnamese community of Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Some of the Executive Board and Education Department are going “on site” at a Regional activity on Lake Livingston the weekend of November 10th to show them what we do and how we have fun doing it. Several Girl Scout Troops have contacted us and are pleased that our basic training can help with their advancement activities.

Check the Website. When you have a potential student for any course, including the Kayak or First Aid course, send them to the Squadron website at <https://americasboatingclubhouston.org/>. Here they can easily access information of importance to them, purchase a course and materials, and receive notice that they are successfully registered.

Contact. To contact me, best way is uspsseohouston@gmail.com or call me on the cell at 281-451-1146.

Commander's Corner
(Continued from Page 2)

Lt/C George Crowl, AP as the Administrative Officer has overseen the arrangement of several dinner meetings this year. We had a fun fishing tournament at the home of **Julie, AP and Gary, JN Bleisch** in August. Present were five past Commanders, myself, and many members and some neighbors. It was lots of fun with great food and fresh fish caught by Gary and many of those present. At the monthly meeting in September, we had a boating skills contest with a team boating trivia part to it. All had great fun. The teaching aid that we used in the contest to show who could do the best at heaving a line won first place at the Fall District Conference for teaching aids. The November Dinner meeting was on the *M/V Sam Houston*. It was a very cold night cruise. It was great visiting with everyone while enjoying the Ship Channel. We spent some time planning the trip this summer to the British Virgin Islands while eating great sandwiches and goodies from Executive Catering. The next meeting will be the Christmas party. This will be happening the first weekend of December. Save Sunday, December 2, 2018 on your calendar. It will be lots of fun.

Lt/C Kyli Doucette, S has now almost completed her third year in the office of Secretary. She has done a fantastic job of taking the minutes in our meetings. She keeps us on track. She made sure all the papers were filed correctly and many other jobs. She oversees **Lt John Glaeser, SN**, who has done a wonderful job putting out the new roster each month. We have been getting many new members this year so this is no easy task. She also oversees the wonderful work that **Lt Jana Wesson, AP** has been doing publishing the *Bay Neigh*. At the District 21 Fall Conference we received several compliments on the *Bay Neigh*. Thank you, Jana and Kyli. We need a new Secretary for the next three years because Kyli will have completed her term in office. If you know of anyone you feel could do this job, please let me know. You could also let someone on the nominating committee know. The people on the nominating committee are Scott McDonald, Chris Leavitt, and Bill Haddock.

I do not have the space in this article to tell you about everyone. Many people do work like **P/Lt/C John Crowe, AP**, who keeps Home Port clean for all the classes and meetings that go on there. **Bill Mize, SN** helps to create our budget. Many people teach classes and do vessel safety checks and do coop charting and work service projects and organize raft-ups and parties. All of it is important. It is all what makes this organization so great. All of you make me proud to be able to represent America's Boating Club Houston. Thank you!

Useful Information on Trailer Registration and Titling
By P/Lt/C Bob Stevenson, JN

Trailer registration and titling is handled by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. There is information on their website (<https://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/buying-or-selling-a-vehicle/trailers>) about the process and their offices.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is responsible for Registration and Titling of recreational boats and outboard motors. There is information on their website (https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat/owner/titles_and_registration/) about the process and their office locations across the state.

An alternative to visiting a TPWD office for registration and titles is now that they can also be obtained at partner County Tax Assessor/Collector (TA/C) offices. The list below will help you locate a convenient office in the Houston area to obtain your titles and recurring registrations

- Austin County – No boat-related registration or titling
- Brazoria County – All offices handle boat-related registration and titling
- Chambers County – No boat-related registration or titling
- Colorado County – Boat-related registration and titling is handled in the main TA/C office in Columbus
- Fort Bend County – No boat-related registration or titling
- Galveston County – All offices handle boat-related registration and titling
- Harris County - No boat-related registration or titling
- Liberty County – Re-registration only, no titles, and only handled at the main TA/C office in Liberty
- Matagorda County – Boat-related registration and titling is handled in the main TA/C office in Bay City
- Montgomery County - All offices handle boat-related registration and titling
- Walker County - No boat-related registration or titling
- Waller County - No boat-related registration or titling
- Wharton County - No boat-related registration or titling

Building Sandra Catherine (Continued from Page 1)

Construction and Lining off.

Kits for a Tammie Norrie are available, but I chose to work from plans alone. The plans include full-size templates for the stem, transom, and molds, but they are printed on paper. Paper templates have received a bad reputation over the years; sometimes the printing machine distorts the plans, and paper itself is subject to changes in temperature and humidity. Fortunately, the plans also included a Table of Offsets, so the first thing I did was to build a lofting table, 4' wide and 16' long, and lofted the boat full size. This enabled me to lay out the patterns for the parts I needed, which were then traced onto sheets of Mylar. Once complete, the lofting table was disassembled and used to make the molds.



Straking

A Tammie Norrie has eight strakes per side. The planks are joined by a “scarf”; each plank is beveled with a 1:8 slope. The strakes are all shaped differently. Ideally, the port side of Strake #3 should be the mirror image of starboard #3, but Strake #3 is shaped differently than #4. The process of determining the shape of the strakes is called “spiling.” Spiling is described in the traditional boat building books, but each method to me seemed to include a little bit of black magic and voodoo.



The process continues, first hanging a strake on one side, then the other on the opposite side, then the next set of strakes. After all the strakes are hung, the outer stem and keel are installed. Then the hull is sealed with two coats of thin epoxy, primed and painted. Then it's turnover day!

Turnover Day

With the boat turned over, the hull needs to be strengthened. This includes the floor timbers, breasthook, quarter knees, and inwales. In boatbuilding, there are only two kinds of lumber: Not Cheap, and Very Expensive. Not Cheap lumber is what you buy at the local big box store. It's good for making patterns and templates. Very Expensive wood comes from the specialty lumber dealers. A familiar pattern would follow: first I would make a temporary piece out of Not Cheap wood to make sure I had all the dimensions and angles correct; once I was satisfied with the temp piece I would cut out the final part out of Very Expensive wood. Once the hull was strengthened, I could start fitting out the interior. Fitting out includes the floor timbers, centerboard case, thwart, thwart knees, stern sheet, bow seat, and side benches. The same process of making temp pieces first carried through the fitting out stage.



Details, Details...

Since she is a traditional-styled boat, there would be traditional fittings where possible, and so she would get her own set of rope-stopped wooden blocks. She would also get a nice set of rope fenders. *Wee Lass* also had rope fenders, but they were really too small to be very useful. The fenders on the new boat would be a different style, and larger.

Launch Day.

Finally, I got to the point where I felt comfortable launching, and on the calm-water weekend of October 27, 2018, *Sandra Catherine* was launched. The water was absolutely glass smooth and there wasn't a puff of wind, so the first trip would be under oars. Later in the afternoon, a small breeze picked up, so we rigged her for sail and ghosted along for a little while.



RADAR Seminar
By Lt/C Alan W. Cross, AP



The RADAR seminar held at Home Port on the 23rd of October was a resounding success. The seminar, taught by **P/C Bill Haddock, AP**, was attended by 14 persons.

The mix was also a success. There were seven (7) Squadron members attending, of which 3 were also Sea Scouts and of those 3, two were young adults (youth). There were also seven (7) young adults in Sea Scouts who attended to “audit” the seminar. They get credit for learning about marine RADAR in their Sea Scout studies, but nothing official from the US Power Squadrons. All total, there were five (5) adults and nine (9) young adults.

Women in the Outdoors Event
By Lt/C Susie Becvar, P

A special thank you goes out to all the lady instructors that helped with the “Women in the Outdoors” event held Saturday, September 29, 2018, IN THE RAIN, at Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center in Spring Texas. Thanks again to Karie Briscoe, Brenda Shaver, Niki Harbison, Alice Best; and especially **Lt/C Susie Becvar, P** and **Lt/C Monica Cross, P** with America’s Boating Club Houston.

The ladies learned how to tie fishing knots, understand how to select the proper PFD and how to properly wear the life jackets. Boater safety and personal responsibility talks were presented by ABC-Houston. Unfortunately, all the fishing events were postponed due to the rain.

Organizations involved were *TakeMeFishing™*, *Vamosapescar™*, Inland Fisheries, College Station - Houston District (TPWD), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Texas Angler Educators, *Kayak Angler Magazine* and America’s Boating Club Houston.



Bay Neigh Articles

If you have a story or experience that would be of interest to our members, please E-Mail pictures and stories to Jana Wesson at beakboatgirl@me.com

America's Boating Club – Houston
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November Birthdays

Niki Serakiotou	11/1
Van Z. White	11/2
Marvin V. Morris	11/6
C. H. 'Dutch' Hotalen Jr.	11/7
Kathy K. Kehoe-Lee	11/7
Rafael E. Ramos	11/8
Carlos Ramos	11/10
Kyli S. Doucette	11/11
Richard A. Fisher	11/16
Kevin Bennett	11/21
Jean L. Hamilton	11/22
John H. Crowe	11/30



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America's Boating Club Houston Christmas Party

December 2, 2018

Save the date – details coming soon!