

Bay Neigh

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America's Boating Club Houston
'Where the Cowboys Ride the Sea'

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No. 3

USPS Course Opportunity
By P/R/C Bruce Albertson, SN-ACN
(Oklahoma City Sail and Power Squadron)

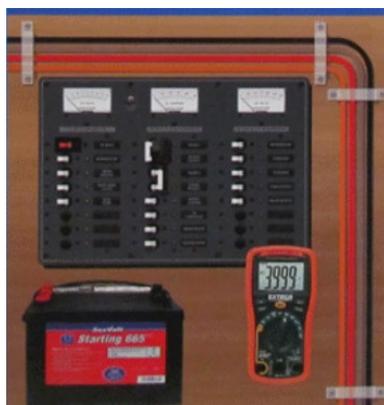
In the last few months Commander Marilyn and Danny Goss have sent out notifications regarding Americas Boating Club Houston offering the availability of online seminars in order to keep offering learning during the pandemic. Later Houston offered the USPS course Marine Electrical Systems starting 14 July and finishing with the final test on 1 September. I enrolled in the course and will take the final as soon as I receive it in the next few days.

This course was apparently the first regular USPS course that ABC Houston offered via teleconference (Free Conference Call .com), the course appears to have been a success! There were 5 students, two from Houston, two from Harlingen (Lower Rio Grande Valley Squadron) and me in OKC. If you look at a map, we were definitely spread out! All five of us will take the test!

The instructor, Bill Haddock was excellent! Very knowledgeable, handled the challenges of remote learning well.

Marine Electrical System consists of the following subjects: Properties of Electricity, Boat Electrical Wiring Practices and Diagrams, Direct Current Power, Alternating Current Power, Galvanic and Stray Current Corrosion, Lightning Protection and Trouble Shooting and Repair. This course can help you be much safer on your boat and help your boat operate as it should. The cost of the course including the student manual was \$112.00. I feel the Alternating Current section would also be useful at home.

This is a great way to increase your boating knowledge and access an excellent instructor during the present pandemic!



Poop Sheet October 2020

- October 3
America's Boating Course – Home Port
- October 7
Board of Directors Meeting –
Teleconference
- October 17
Kayaking Level 1 – Kickerillo-Mischer
Preserve
- October 24
VSC – Alexander Deussen Park
- October 25
Fires, Flares and Fun – Sea Star Base
Galveston
- October 31
Happy Halloween!
- November 4
Board of Directors Meeting –
Teleconference
- November 7
America's Boating Course – Home Port
- November 8
First Aid/CPR/AED – Home Port
- November 26
Happy Thanksgiving!

Watch your email for event announcements!



For Boaters, By Boaters™

Bay Neigh

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District 21



Editor
Lt Jana Wesson, AP

Assistant Editor

Home Port
6910 Bellaire Blvd #15
Houston, Texas 77074
www.uspshouston.org

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PRAYER

O Lord, Heavenly Father, source of all power and might, and giver of all good gifts, grant us, we pray Thee, the vision to set a straight course in the path of greater service toward our fellow man.

Give us grace so to help him, that by our own good example and by instruction in the teachings of the Squadron, he may become a better man and greater servant of Thee.

In Thy name we ask it.

Amen

John Osgood Hart, Past USPS Chaplain

COMMANDER'S CORNER



October 2020 Bay Neigh
Cdr Susie Becvar, AP



In my "Outside Voice" – Thank You!!

I would like to thank our Education Department for a job well done!!! This has been a strange year to say the least, but as we sail our way through it, we see a beacon at the end of the jetty. Our Education Department under the direction of **Lt/C Alan W. Cross, AP** has surpassed any and all expectations. We have exceeded the goal of over 300 students taking our classes and seminars. In a year of pandemic this is truly remarkable.

Alan has reached out to folks far and wide with his ever-relentless efforts of getting students to take our classes. We have had students from the East Coast to the West Coast take our classes and seminars. We've even had several members from other Squadrons take our classes. That says a lot about our educational teachers.

I have had the pleasure of hearing all the many accolades from other members at the District 21 conference calls congratulating the Houston Squadron for our outstanding efforts in getting classes and seminars setup. This is all thanks to Alan!! We owe a debt of gratitude to Alan for all the hard work he has put into this job and wish for his continued success!! We still have two more months!!

As for all the Education Teachers!!! Yes, you are the ones who make Alan's goal a reality by sharing your expertise and knowledge with the students. You do a tremendous job teaching the classes and seminars. We would not be a success without you.

In closing, I'd like for all our members to please take the time to reach out to Alan and thank him for all his hard work and diligent in keeping us at the fore front in the educational process.





Focus on Boating Education
Lt/C Alan W. Cross, AP
281-451-1146
uspsseohouston@gmail.com



*Together, we make
boating better*

Education Success Stories

Yes, Year 2020 has presented interesting challenges and a great “we will rise to the occasion” attitude with the Houston Squadron! While many Squadrons throughout the nation were flummoxed and wondering their next moves in education, the Houston Squadron focused on our education mission and vision and delivered education.

All our regularly scheduled Advanced and Elective courses were delivered, not from Home Port, but with teleconferencing. To put a noteworthy spin on this, several courses that typically require a lot of hands-on mentorship and show-and-tell sessions, were all effectively delivered with a teleconference. Yes, there were some “bumps” and it “would have been easier” if the students, instructors, and mentors were physically together, but it worked. As a testament to that statement – all the *Advanced Piloting* students passed, all the *Marine Engine Maintenance* students passed, and it is expected that all the *Marine Electrical Systems* students will pass.

Emphasis on the “but it worked” statement; in that it worked for students both inside and outside our normal area! We have a great gathering of students reaching from Harlington (Texas Valley area) to Oklahoma City, over to Austin and San Antonio, and up to Oregon, and Georgia; and a goodly smattering of places all over Texas, too numerous to mention. What was once an educational offering for only those folks in the Greater Houston area has now extended our boundaries throughout the US. This approach and the successes were due specifically to the Instructors with the Houston Sail & Power Squadron. They were the ones who understood the challenges, they were the ones who drove the success. Very specifically a *Thank You* to **Lt Richard Lipham, P/Lt/C Bob Stevenson, JN, P/C Bill Haddock, AP, 1st/Lt Steve Sheward, S, Craig Shipp, AP, Mario Martinez, AP, and Randy Pike, AP.**

Seminars and ‘Conservations’

This year, to date, the Squadron has delivered Seminars to 140 registered students!

The idea of offering USPS seminars in 2020 was built on three premises: keep members busy with education, reduce pricing, and offer free seminars to encourage participation (and offer every seminar to support those pursuing a *Boat Operator Certification*). The spring and summer were filled with a myriad of Instructors offering almost every seminar available from USPS. Each seminar was offered at least twice, different weeks, different days, and different times – all to encourage the “best time and date” for attending. This was an upbeat achievement!

These seminars were marketed in the local market to (a) the Squadron members, (b) to local Sea Scouts, and (c) to all students in our ABC3 Boater Safety courses. For the not-so-local markets, the seminars were announced on multi-state social media platforms for Sea Scouts and to all the other Squadrons in District 21. Now that the summer is over, it appears that we have reached a saturation point, and the expected fall off of registrations has occurred. However, the idea and process of delivery is proven and will be incorporated as a standard method of delivery for 2021. So, check your email and calendars and read the *Bay Neigh* for announcements!

Refocusing on a new program called “*Conversations with Chris*” – this is another great idea brought to fruition by **P/C Chris Leavitt, SN**. These *Conversations* were developed from a request by a few Sea Scouts to help them progress and advance in their program. There are certain points-of-education that these young adults needed, but had difficulty finding locally – or anywhere! These *Conservations* are just that; not a seminar, not a course, not a lecture – but a mentor delivering a topic in a fun and friendly manner and eliciting questions and feedback. AND they are open for any Squadron member to listen to!

These were so wildly successful that they are being codified (OK fancy way to say all the PowerPoints will look the same) and ready to be offered again.

So, the best total we come up with is about 80+ participants over 3 months – and again – from Oregon, Washington, Georgia, Louisiana, other hot-spots like Palestine (Texas!).

(Continued on Page 4)

Focus on Boating Education (Continued from Page 3)

Amateur Radio Course for the Houston Squadron

The *Amateur Radio* course is about to wrap up. An amateur radio license can add value to your on-the-water experiences. This course will teach you what you need to know for the entry-level Technician Class License.

Course Description

The Technician class license is the entry-level license of choice for most new ham radio operators. To earn the Technician license requires passing one examination totaling 35 questions on radio theory, regulations, and operating practices. The license gives access to all Amateur Radio frequencies above 30 megahertz, allowing these licensees the ability to communicate locally and most often within North America. It also allows for some limited privileges on the HF (also called "short wave") bands used for international communications.

Class Schedule and Examination

This course is usually completed in 2 six-hour sessions. There is a third session for review and taking the FCC examination. You must have the ARRL *Ham Radio License Manual* 4th Edition book in order to complete the course. Only one study book is required per household. The course is being held in-person at Home Port.

Amateur Radio License Course Costs

Tuition is free. The *Ham Radio License Manual* must be purchased during registration. There is an additional fee of about \$15.00 for the examination that will be collected on the day of the examination. The license from the FCC is free (no additional cost) when the examination is passed.

The amateur radio license does not qualify you for the Ship Radio Stations license. A separate application and fee is required for this maritime service (and there are Squadron personnel ready and available to guide you through the simple process).

Let me know if you are interested in taking this course in the future. If there is interest, we can schedule another session.

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

NEW

America's Boating Club FREE Mobile App

Your Single Boating Information Source
for a Safe Day on the Water

Nautical Reference Information,
Maintenance Records, Float Plans,
Weather Radar, Tides and Currents
and much, much more

DOWNLOAD NOW!

AmericasBoatingClub.org
Apple Store
Google Play Store

Infographic Available: New Life Jacket Label
From National Safe Boating Council, August 12, 2020

How to Read the Label

Did you know there is a new life jacket label? The label is being phased in, and you may see it printed on the inside of a new life jacket. The new label DOES NOT make obsolete life jackets with the old label. Always look for a life jacket that is U.S. Coast Guard approved.

Remember, the best life jacket is one you wear! Your life jacket should be appropriate for the water activity and in good condition. Life jackets with a tear, broken pieces, or buoyancy loss should be disposed.

Download [our latest infographic](#) to learn how to read the new life jacket label and visit safeboatingcampaign.com/life-jackets for more information.



Life Jacket Label Flyer

This educational flyer is helpful for communicating with recreational boaters about selecting (and wearing) a life jacket. It gives an overview of icons on the new life jacket label - performance level, turn ability, and warnings - as well as other helpful information.

These front-back flyers are full-color, 3.5" x 8.5", and ship in a pack of 200. This is a great handout for events, trainings, and vessel safety checks.



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
6910 Bellaire Blvd #15
Houston, Texas 77074

September/October Birthdays

Shaun Pierce	09/02
Kelly Watkins	09/02
Jeannine K. Garnett	09/03
S. Dennis Fegan	09/04
William H. Thorne	09/07
Gary A. Delzer	09/08
Mike Taylor	09/12
Tony Lee	09/16
Janet E. Glaeser	09/19
Patrick Cummings	09/21
Spyridon Lazaratos	09/22
Kendall C. Wills	09/22
Gary L. Bleisch	09/24
Marcus Le	09/24
Scott D. McDonald	09/27
Mary K. Thompson	09/27
Jana Wesson	09/29
Larry J. Smith	10/03
Julie R. Bleisch	10/05
Elena A. Menasco	10/05
Robert William Stevenson	10/05
Juan C. Perez	10/13
Kayla Doulati	10/14
Marsha L. Smith	10/17
Edwin John Roland	10/20
Deborah L. Collings	10/22
Robert J. Campbell	10/30

Amazon Smile Gives Back to America's Boating Club Houston

Are you going to buy something from Amazon? Don't go to amazon.com. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> so that a percentage of your purchase will be donated to America's Boating Club Houston.

The U.S. Coast Guard Wants Your Feedback! From Texas Parks and Wildlife Department "Staying Afloat" Newsletter

The U.S. Coast Guard is conducting a short [online survey](#) to determine the navigational needs and requirements of vessels operating in shallow draft navigable waterways throughout the country. They are seeking input from boaters who operate on navigable waters of the U.S. where the depth is 12 feet or less.

Questions include: years of experience, waters where you operate and how often, what navigation tools you use (radar, electronic charting systems, etc.), your concerns and more!

Please take a few minutes to assist the Coast Guard – [take the survey](#) by Nov. 1.

