Bay Mesh
Official Publication of
America's Boating Club Houston
'Where the Cowboys Ride the Sea'

Vol. LXXV **October 2022** No. 4

On the Water with Bill and Judy
Or – "How I learned to Miss the Generator Operating but Kept Moving Forward"

By Lt/C Alan W. Cross, AP

What a wonderful adventure **Bill and Judy Kehres** presented to plough the waters of Louisiana, the ICW and Galveston Bay. The adventure was the first "long" trip for Bill and Judy, a shakedown cruise to last over a week and test their preparedness for an upcoming Great Loop excursion. It was most interesting and very informative, with some challenges but also some once-in-a-lifetime meetings!

The idea was to board the vessel *Young America* and leave their anchorage in Lake Charles and motor the bayous, lakes, ICW and bays to the Kemah/Seabrook marinas. The crew of Bill and Judy was complimented by me (yours truly, the author) and CC – the year-old Dalmatian. The vessel is a *Great Harbor N37*, a well-designed, rugged, comfortable, and amazing trawler. With 500 gallons of fuel and two low fuel-consumption engines, spacious everything (literally, including a huge refrigerator and freezer!), and a great command station, they are known as America's *Go-Anywhere Liveaboard*.

(Continued on Page 4)

Poop Sheet Oct-Dec 2022

October 21-23
D/21 Fall Conference –
Comfort Inn & Suites – Westpark

October 30
Kayak Rendezvous – Big Island Slough

November 2
Board of Directors Meeting – Teleconference

November 5
America's Boating Course – Home Port

November 9
General Meeting – TBD

November 12
Cooperative Charting – Clear Lake

November 13
Kayak Rendezvous – Sheldon Lake

November 19
Kayaking Level 1 – Kickerillo-Mischer Preserve

December 7
Board of Directors Meeting – Teleconference

December 10
Kayak Rendezvous – John Pundt Park

Watch your email for event announcements!

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®
For Boaters, By Boaters™

Bay Neigh

Official Monthly Publication of
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District 21

Editor
Lt Jana Wesson, AP

Assistant Editor

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Executive Officer ..... Lt/C Al Meyer, JN
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Administrative Officer ..... Lt/C Roger Runnels, AP
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PRAYER

Heavenly Father, it would appear that through their sincere devotion to You, and, in return, through the inspiration You have bestowed on them, the members of the Unites States Power Squadrons have been endowed with a remarkably vibrant spirit. They are deeply and enthusiastically dedicated to a course which is certainly admirable in Your sight – the safety of their fellowmen – and in carrying out their program, they manifest generosity, self-sacrifice and loyalty to an unusual degree. Through Your Divine assistance, may that spirit which is so characteristic never diminish, but grant that it may grow even stronger as the years go by.

Amen

COMMANDER'S CORNER

October 2022 Bay Neigh
Cdr Marie Vu, P

Good day everyone! Fall is here and now it is the time to get in your last-minute on-the-water fun. I hope everyone had a great summer with family and friends, and with all the friends in the Squadron.

The Houston Squadron is hosting the *District 21 Fall Conference*. All Friday of the Conference is at the newly renovated Home Port. Saturday is at the conference hotel across the street, and Sunday is back at Home Port. This is a clearinghouse for subjects of interest to the District. The Fall Conference is especially focused on education, with meetings and workshops during the conference to provide an opportunity for an exchange of ideas for improving teaching and for discussion between instructors and leadership on effective presentation of both National education materials and homegrown education courses.

There is a slogan we still use: "*Come for the Education, Stay for the Friends*". That is so true these days. Our Squadron has a lot of friends, and it is fun to see the relationships grow. It's friends that are starting up the cruiser group, and other friends that are focused on public service, and still other friends that love teaching!

Speaking of friends, the Houston Squadron has friends in all the other squadrons in the District. Ouachita donated their education materials and library and some training aids, Lower Rio Grande Valley and Austin donated assets to let Houston continue to grow, and members from our north Texas Squadrons donated to help us rebuild our education facility.

Everywhere you look, there is fun in being part of the Houston Squadron. There are so many initiatives we have that are growing, and so many new initiatives we have started, the list is almost too long for my article, so we'll list them and send them out to you in an email and next month's *Bay Neigh.* So, remember, however you came to the Houston Squadron, stay for the friends.

A Bit of Fun

How do you tell the sex of an ant?
Drop it in water.
If it sinks – Girl Ant
If it floats – _____

(Hint: Boy Ant – buoyant…)

Focus on Boating Education

Lt/C Alan W. Cross, AP
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uspsseohouston@gmail.com

Together, we make boating better

Education is for Everyone

Let me reiterate what Commander Vu said in her article, "*Come for the Education, Stay for the Friends*". Our Squadron is keeping the promise we make to boaters everywhere, that is, safer boating through education. Did you know your Squadron offers education from "Introduction to Kayaking" to celestial navigation, and pretty much everything in between? You probably did if you read the *Bay Neigh*! Do you know about all the other courses we offer? These are courses, not from USPS National but from other organizations that focus on the same things we do, but differently.

While the US Coast Guard makes sure you don't pollute the waterways with garbage, trash, and oils; we also teach from Leave No Trace, Inc. about how to respect and work nicely in your maritime activities and play well with others.

Everyone in the Squadron with a boat has a VHF radio (well, you should!) and some members have extensive long-range communications. Guess what? Your Squadron also has a Radio Technical Officer (a real rarity these days) who organizes, teaches, and tests for your ham radio license.

I know some of you are just dying to take a celestial navigation course and don't have them but have this curiosity about sextants. That's right, we have a short course with a hands-on activity where you use a sextant to find where you are on the planet. It's a fun four hours and totally suitable for youth.

Everyone here has a lot of experience signaling for help on the water, right? Of course not, but to help you get ready, we have a fun educational opportunity where you actually do put out a fire and handle live bright and smoke flares and some aerial flares. Of some note, all the aforementioned are Free. You just look on the calendar and attend.

Now, a final fun thought – you know we have a good collection of top-notch instructors that have a passion for their appointed topic. Do not assume there is no room for more. Seriously. More instructors is a good thing. These last two years has seen a phenomenal growth in the subjects taught, but there is one issue – scheduling (of course it's scheduling). We have folks wanting to take a course, but the instructor has a scheduling conflict. You know, if we had two or three instructors for the introductory level and some ancillary courses… …that's a hint. Email me or call me. I have an opportunity for you.

The U.S. Coast Guard Mobile App

The USCG Boating Safety App features include:

- Find the latest safety regulations
- Request a vessel safety check
- Check your safety equipment
- File a float plan
- Navigation Rules
- Find the nearest NOAA buoy
- Report a hazard
- Report pollution
- Report suspicious activity
- Request emergency assistance

When location services are enabled, users can receive the latest weather reports from the closest National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather buoys as well as report the location of a hazard on the water.

The app also features an Emergency Assistance button which, with locations services enabled, will call the closest Coast Guard command center.

The Boating Safety Mobile app was not designed to replace a boater's marine VHF radio, which the Coast Guard strongly recommends all boaters have aboard their vessels. The app was mainly designed to provide additional boating safety resources for mobile device users.

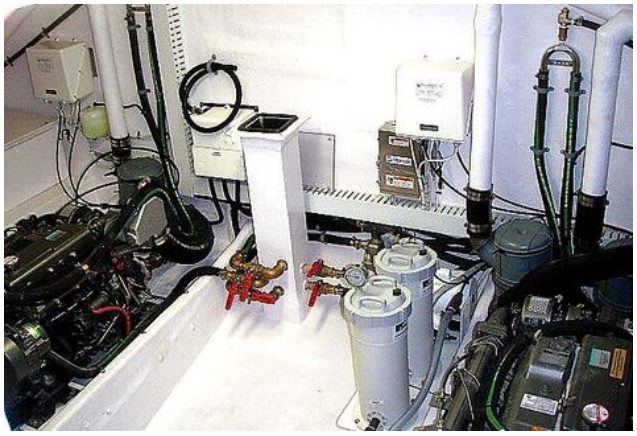
The app is self-contained, so personal information is stored on the phone and is not sent to the Coast Guard unless the user chooses to send it. The Coast Guard does not track a user's location, and the app does not track a user's location unless the app is being used.

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

On the Water with Bill and Judy

(Continued from Page 1)

Of course, there are some pictures, and what else but the engine room and the hull. All the rest is normal stuff!! Seriously, having an engine room you can stand up in and is equipped with dual-everything and bypass what you want when you want capabilities – It's pretty nice.



Now back to the story. Motoring out of the marina in Lake Charles was interesting. Who knew you could get such a large boat up a bayou. Past the casinos and out into the lake, found the ICW (so that's what those AtoN's are for – just kidding) and down the ICW, or as I learned, West Bound. Our first stop was Peggy's on the Bayou, pretty much in Orange (Texas) and I thought, out of the way. Nope, tugs came by and so did the Coast Guard on patrol. And the alligator.

Day two we did the long stretch through Port Arthur, and by then I really did understand the reason you MUST have an AIS system on board and operating. Without one, it's like driving at night, blindfolded in a grocery store parking lot. OK, not that bad, but it sure was nice to have the USCG and those much bigger vessels know who and where we were. Not uneventful is what some folks say about the ICW – unless you are will Bill and Judy and Bill accidently pushed the MoB button on the steerage controller. That was an exciting 45 seconds. Enough of that.

With few incidents we made it to Stingree's and moored up. Folks came by to see the "big boat". That didn't last long when **P/D/C Benjamin A Garber** showed up in a 55' trawler. Amazing how he controlled that boat in shallow waters! And garnered all the attention!

The next day was Galveston Bay and Seabrook Marina. We got to meet some great folks. Of significance was the fact that 3 N37s were in the same area (Clear Lake) at the same time. As Russ, one of the other trawler owners said, it's amazing when 3 N37s are all in the Gulf of Mexico at the same time, let alone all on one lake.

The journey home was just a fun ride. Now there was, someone who we call *The Jerk*, in his 40-something-foot fast trawler who managed to have no AIS, no vessel name, but a Jerk Attitude as he passed us on marker #4 at full throttle – and left a 6' wake for us to wallow in. Where's the Coast Guard when you want them?! My new buddy CC didn't like it either. She was more of a placid trawler type.

There was one great rafting experience we had coming and going. There is a young woman from East Texas who is a distance rower. Over the course of the next 7 years, she is attempting to circumnavigate the world. Yes, in a rowboat! She (unlike *The Jerk*) had AIS and thanks to a heads-up by **Steve Sheward**, we were the first vessel to meet up with her! A quick hand-off of cold water and some snacks (high in chocolate) made her day. And on the way home, another raft up (with wind!) and more semi-frozen water and more healthy snacks. Her name is Ellen (Magellan) Falterman, and her vessel is the *Evelyn Mae*. Read more about Ellen and her adventures on the Explorers' Web and the New Yorker (September 29, 2022).

A testament to education, skills and hands-on, and just having fun by being focused, by-the-book and smiling… Bill and Judy have a great boat, they know how she operates, and with the patience of CC, will make an excellent Great Loop couple. Talk to them, they really are a wealth of information. Look – I had a great time with two really nice folks. I learned a lot by putting into practice what I've learned with the Squadron. So, all you soon to be cruisers, talk to each other.

OH YEAH about the generator… so I'm out of column space, but I'll tell you the story in person.

It's not Always the Big Things that Matter Most

By P/C Chris Leavitt, SN-CN

We teach classes and organize events and never know what all the results will be. It's similar to throwing a rock in a quiet pool and watching all the ripples that are created. Except, in the real world, we cannot see where all the ripples go.

In the summer of 2021, the Houston Squadron conducted a weeklong intensive educational program to help its Sea Scout members earn the rank of Ordinary. While it was a lot of hard work, it was also great fun for both the youth and the adults that participated. It turned into a great story published by our Squadron newsletter and by the National Ensign in the fall 2021 edition, but the story doesn't end there. Part of the package each youth received was a name tag with the Squadron Burgee – showing our cowboy riding a seahorse. It turns out that the youth like the name tags and wear them on their Sea Scout uniform. One of the youth, **Joseph Fields** received his name tag there, and this is a recounting of the ripples, as reported by Joseph's father, **Warren**.

Spring – At the Sam Houston Area Council Camp Strake, staffed the events shooting range allowing him to recruit Scouts to Sea Scouting. Later, at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, helping with robotics, the name tag provided an opportunity to explain ABC Houston and its value to Sea Scouts. On the streets of Annapolis, a Midshipman, who had been on the 2019 Sea Scout National Quarterdeck, asked about the tag.

Summer – At the Galveston Boat Club Sailing camp, Joseph and two other counselors taught sailing to roughly 25 youth. Every day it is uniform time, and each day the cowboy and seahorse were right there for all to see and ask about.

Late summer – At the Longhorn Council Aquatic School, Palo Pinto, TX, Joseph taught paddle sports. As the only Sea Scout, his dark blue uniform stood out, and of course so did the name tag.

The key takeaway from this short article, is that not all youth spend their summers watching reruns of "I Love Lucy". Many of our Sea Scouts and Apprentices are quite busy doing important stuff, perhaps more than us old folks. We have a mission to provide service to the boating community, and these youth are certainly part of that community.

ABC Houston Kayaking Excursion

By P/C Cathy Leavitt, P

We had our first kayaking excursion on Saturday morning, October 8. The participants were **Chris and Cathy Leavitt** and **Heather and Jim Gamber**. There was plenty of parking, even though a 10k race was happening in the area.

Heather and Jim rented kayaks, and we launched at the Riva Row Boathouse near Lake Woodlands. We paddled between trails near Lake Woodlands Drive and several beautiful townhomes on Riva Row. We encountered a few other fellow kayakers enjoying the beautiful autumn morning. We paddled under a bridge at Grogan's Mill Road to the main part of Lake Woodlands.

While hugging the protected southeast shore around an island, we saw many birds and few turtles. We took our time traveling to the main part of the lake where it was choppy but also fun. It was enjoyable paddling around the beautiful homes and yards.

Upon reaching Northshore Park on the north side of Lake Woodlands, a band was playing, so we decided to listen for a while from the water. We paddled next to a couple of stand-up paddle boarders and told them about our program before making our way back to Riva Row Boathouse.

After putting boats away, we met at La Madeleine Restaurant for a delightful lunch and great conversation. We were on our way home by 1 30 PM. We had a fun time and are looking forward to our next adventure at Big Island Slough on Sunday afternoon, October 30 at 2 PM. It is on the Southeast side of Houston near Red Bluff Road. Please come and kayak with us.

Below are more details about the location for our next expedition. We will have 4 kayaks available on a first come first served basis. Let me know if you would like to use one of our kayaks. No rentals at this location.

Sunday, 10/30 – Big Island Slough: https://paddling.com/paddle/locations/armand-bayou-sluce

ABC Houston Sail Class On-the-Water Outing

By 1st/Lt Steve Sheward, S

Frank Amsler, Roger Baptiste, and Roger's wife Neva joined **Trish and me** for a great sail on Galveston Bay. The winds were light – around 6 knots, which is perfect for sailing a small boat without the worry of messing up causing real problems. We were able to give everyone who wanted time at the helm and the ability to man different positions during tacking and jibing.

Afterwards, we met up with **Bill and Judy Kehres** while they were docked at the Seabrook Marina on a short cruise from Lake Charles to Seabrook and back. We had lunch at Tookie's Seafood and then toured their 37' Great Harbor trawler. Super cool! Love the engine room and storage space. Their dog CC is super cute and a joy too!

Our conversation at lunch ended up centering around scuba diving, as most of the folks at the table are certified divers. Grenada came up, as Roger and Neva are planning to move there. I mentioned I had been there diving and talked about a wreck dive there. The wreck is actually the largest diveable wreck in the Caribbean at 600 feet. It sank just off the coast, and the people of Grenada saved the people on board and sheltered them until they could make their way back home. The crew and passengers presented the town with a replica of the statue – Christ of the Abyss, which you can see right on the coast at Carenage Harbor. Roger asked who we dived with. it was Aquanauts, based in True Blue Bay Boutique Resort.

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

Oct-Nov Birthdays

Alexandra V. Aikin	10/1
Larry J. Smith	10/3
Julie R. Bleisch	10/5
Richard J. Robson	10/5
Arian Chander	10/6
Juliet Smallwood	10/8
Cheryl D. Nimtz	10/10
Grayson D. Youngblood	10/10
James H. Wells	10/12
Marcus Carrig	10/16
Marsha L. Smith	10/17
Sujith K. Joseph	10/17
Edwin John Roland	10/20
Deborah L. Collings	10/22
Anna Banach-Aikin	10/25
Mikela A. Hellberg	10/28
Robert J. Campbell	10/30
Christopher Wise	10/30
Mark G. Statham	11/4
C. H. 'Dutch' Hotalen Jr.	11/7
Kathy K. Kehoe-Lee	11/7
Raman Chander	11/7
Rafael E. Ramos	11/8
Linda Dolente	11/10
Carlos Ramos	11/10
Cindy Grimes	11/13
Jonathan I. Sujith	11/17
Gabriella Trout	11/18
Jean L. Hamilton	11/22
John H. Crowe	11/30
Dale J. Wilpers	11/30
Felix D. Garraty	11/30

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.

D21 Spring Rendezvous
Fort Worth & Oklahoma Hosting
May 5-6, 2023
Cedar Mills Marina, Gordonville, TX
(903) 523-4222

Important to use discount code **POWER SQUADRON** when booking reservation

All 19 cabins on pre-hold giving us the Lodge FREE ($1200 per day) for Saturday class as long as the cabins are booked within 30 days.

Available Lodging

- There are 10 Deluxe cabins directly on the Airfield $163.24 and $137 non weekend prices.
  Pilots are welcome to fly their own plane there.
- 7 Standard Cabins $100.70 Fri/Sat and $88 non weekend.
- 25 RV Spots with Both 30/50 at each spot for $25 a night. $35 for Full Hookup.
- 1 Family Cottage $180.20 a night
- 1 Mobile Home with 4 Bedrooms $397 per night but a group of 4 could split it.

Boat Slips are $15 a night

Pelican's Landing is a full-service bar restaurant on property

Pets welcome

Smoking done outside only

Alcohol allowed

Event Coordinators

Allison Rothermel – Fort Worth
214-493-2062

Marilyn Goss – Oklahoma
405-550-8662