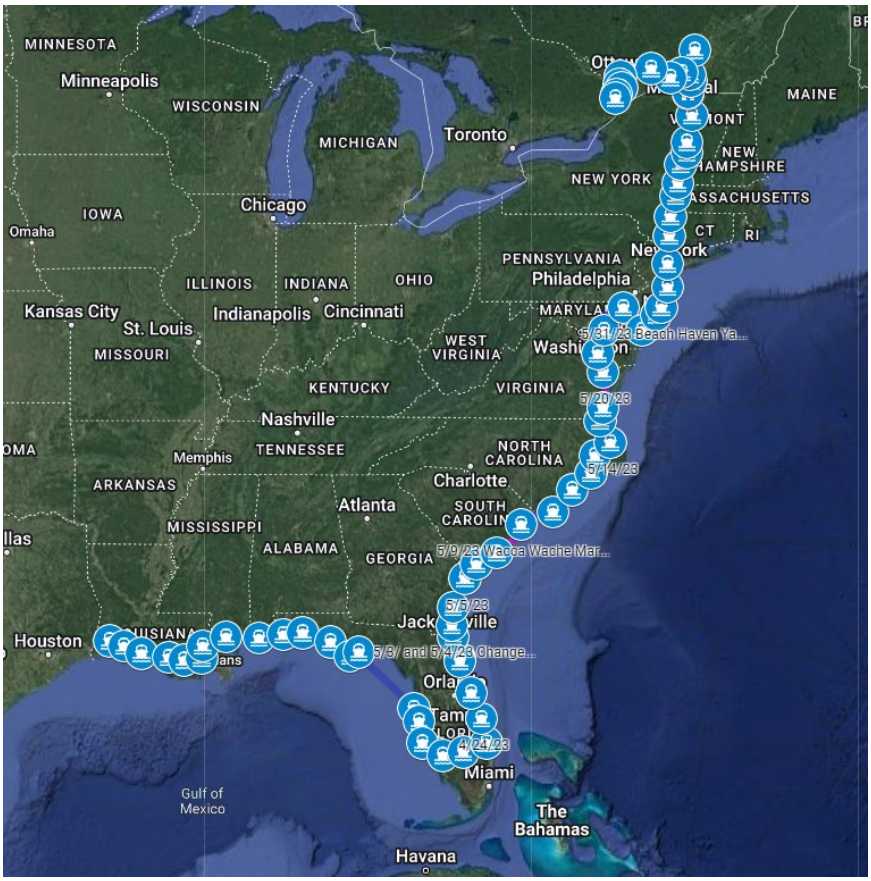
Bay Mesh
Official Publication of
America's Boating Club Houston
'Where the Cowboys Ride the Sea'

Vol. LXXVi | July 2023 | No. 2

Where in the World are Bill and Judy?

By Lt/C Alan W. Cross, AP with photos by Bill and Judy Kehres

Bill and Judy Kehres are progressing on their Great Loop adventure! Their education and experiences are being shared with the Squadron, where it all started with education and friendships. The story of their passage is outstanding; and will be a source of inspiration and education when they return. So what's your passion? The Great Loop or the Caribbean? Perhaps the Gulf Coast? Regardless, start your dreams with the Squadron - we'll help you focus, and you'll be a better boater, wherever you are.



(Continued on Page 5)

Poop Sheet July 2023

July 5
Board of Directors Meeting – Teleconference

July 12
General Meeting – Mia's Table

July 15
Kayaking Level 1 – Kickerillo-Mischer Preserve

July 16
Boater Safety Course – Capt. Roy's

July 29-30
Islands on the Air – Galveston Islan State Park

August 2
Board of Directors Meeting – Teleconference

August 5
Boater Safety Course – Home Port
First Aid for Mariners – Home Port

August 9
General Meeting – TBD

August 12-13
Wilderness First Aid – Home Port

August 13
Boater Safety Course – Capt. Roy's

August 19
Kayaking Level 1 – Kickerillo-Mischer Preserve

August 22
Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop – Home Port

September 8
Board of Directors Meeting – Teleconference

September 9
Boater Safety Course – Home Port

September 16
Geodetic Marker Recovery Day - Seabrook

Watch your email for event announcements!

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

Bay Neigh

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

Editor
Lt Jana Wesson, AP

Assistant Editor

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

Bridge

Commander .....Cdr Amy L. Taylor, S
Executive Officer.....Lt/C Roger Runnels, P
Educational Officer..... Lt/C Alan W. Cross, AP
Administrative Officer.....Lt/C Frank Amsler, P
Secretary.....Lt/C Scott McDonald, SN
Treasurer.....Lt/C Monica K, Cross, AP
Immediate Past Cdr ..... P/C Marie Vu, P

Squadron's 1st Lieutenants

Asst. Educational Officer..... 1st/Lt Stephen C. Sheward, S
Asst. Administrative Officer..... P/C Chris Leavitt, SN-CN
Asst. Secretary.....P/R/C Claire McDonald, SN
Asst. Treasurer..... 1st/Lt Deborah Collings

Executive Committee

All Bridge Officers…
Susie Becvar, AP
Robert Campbell, SN
Linda Crowl
Warren Fields, P
Lisa Guenthert, AP
Lynn McKee, P
Richard Robson, AP
Adam Salazar
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.

America's Boating Club® is a registered trademark
of the United States Power Squadrons®
© United States Power Squadrons®

PRAYER

O God, who has made the sea and whose hands prepare the dry land, we beseech Thee to preserve all seafarers through the perils of the great deep, that they coming safely to the haven where they would be, may be duly sensible of Thy merciful providence and ever express their thankfulness by a holy trust in Thee.

Amen

COMMANDER'S CORNER

July 2023 Bay Neigh
Cdr Amy L. Taylor, S

What a great year ABC Houston has been having! There have been so many activities such as visiting the Tall Ships in Galveston, Geodetic Marker recovery, Boat Shows, lots of education, kayaking excursions, wonderful dinners and speakers at our monthly general meetings, and so much more!

I would like to take a moment to commend our Administrative Officer, **Lt/C Frank Amsler, P**, for his hard work this year. Frank has done a phenomenal job selecting great restaurants and lining up diverse speakers for our general meetings. We have had a Coast Guard Officer, a Master Naturalist, a Yacht Club Commodore, and a representative from Kirby Marine speak at our latest meetings. All were engaging, informative, and interesting to hear. I know we have a lot more lined up for the future that I am really looking forward to (July is a former US Navy submarine officer)! Frank has also put together great outings including the Tall Ships visit in Galveston. Those ships are always amazing to see, and what a treat it was to have so many visiting our area at once.

I encourage you all to visit our club calendar and see what great things are lined up for the future. There is always something for everyone! Our general meetings are always open to all of our members. I would personally love to see more of our members attend and enjoy the fellowship and food, and maybe even learn a little something new!

Focus on Boating Education

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

Together, we make boating better

"Change is Inevitable. Growth is Optional"

There will be NO dry diatribe about our Squadron education programs this month! Nope, we'll go full-bore into fun, and thanks to the infamous quote by John Maxwell, here we go.

Change is inevitable, whether we want the change, we expect the change, or if we prepare for or love the change. We get older, wiser, more educated, and certainly more experienced When change arrives, in any form, we can be prepared for addressing that change, or we can scramble at the last moment and try to adapt to the change; or be crushed by it. Take for example two very positive changes in our Squadron.

One is embracing the change of "what is a vessel"? Some 100+ years ago, most boaters believed that wind power was the only way, until the power boats rescued unfortunate sail racers during a storm – it's all in our history. Not so many decades ago, the Power Squadrons were all about vessels (you know, those 42' to 65' vessels that could plough the seas for months with a full crew in near-luxury conditions, and using 12 gallons per hour of fuel, that was just fine). Not that they could be bothered with the change of population dynamics and [seemingly] everyone owning a 21' center console vessel. Now that was a change! Everyone could get on the water, and they didn't even have to know how to properly navigate with the stars and double-angle off the bow techniques.

The newest change around paddle craft is something to behold. Our Squadron looked at this change, promogulated by others, and said "we can adapt to this, and have fun, keep folks safe on the water, and make a few bucks to keep the lights on". So – what did this "change" of teaching paddle craft safety and skills do for the Squadron? How about 17 new members! How about the new people we meet? How about being the number one kayak educator in the Houston area! How about it being the number one product we sell!

We saw the change. We embraced the change. We are better for our positive decision!

Now this second change is even more fun! It's more fun because [again] the Houston Squadron was ready for the change. Power Squadrons teach boater safety. Our education helps a person (that "boater") be safer on the water through good education and skills training. We do an excellent job of that! Sometimes, however, decisions are made far above our lowly Squadron level that affect what we can do. Anyone who has ever worked in corporate – scratch that, in any job – will understand that some decisions have ramifications far beyond the quick and ordinary. That is to say: negotiations to allow the Power Squadrons to teach boater safety in the State of Texas using US Power Squadron materials – changed. We, as a Squadron, were left with several choices: don't teach boating safety or teach another version of boater safety. You may have heard that we chose the latter.

OH – and we WILL excel at teaching this new material.

Which brings up a FUN (caps intended) opportunity.

Since we are teaching the State of Texas boater safety program in its entirety, all YOU need to be is become qualified and approved through the State in their Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. It's easy. Seriously, the State knows how to manage volunteers and it's easy. How easy? Well, **P/C Chris Leavitt, SN-CN** and I are going to let you know with emails and video meetings. We were able to bring on-board three new instructors in a matter of a day (ok, maybe 10 hours). It's paperwork and an interview. OH – did I mention you don't have to take the 11-week *Instructor Development* course? How is that for a bonus!

Change is inevitable.

Come grow with us.

Being an instructor with the Houston Squadron is fun.

Bring your particular passion for a subject to the group.

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

Your Personal Goal in Education

By SEO Lt/C Alan W. Cross, AP

I have an idea for you. It's about education with the Squadron. Specifically, setting goals for your personal recognition that you've accomplished something worthwhile.

But first, let's set the tone of this article. I'm re-reading *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, slowly making my way through *Military Misfortunes: The Anatomy of Failure in War*, getting myself ready to re-read *Junior Navigation* and this time complete the course, and I have on the nightstand a fun read titled *To Catch a Mouse, Make a Noise Like a Cheese*. Each of these books have a common theme: Focus on what you can do and then succeed.

The Squadron offers a plethora of courses, each a building block to a better, safer, more educated boater. Along the way, and with a few seminars and a few hands-on activities, you can receive recognition for your accomplishments. It's what the National office calls "*Boat Operator Certification*".

There are four levels of Certification and for now, let's just focus on the initial certification. Inland Navigator is the first level of the *Boat Operator Certification* program. The focus is on basic powerboat operation and general boating knowledge. The Inland Navigator (IN) requirements are:

Courses:

NASBLA-approved safe boating course
Boat Handling (or Seamanship)
Engine Maintenance
Marine Electrical Systems

Seminars:

How to Use a Chart (or Piloting course)
Weather for Boaters (or Weather course)
How to Use GPS or Using GPS (Piloting course)
All About Marine Radio or Using VHF and VHF/DSC Marine Radio (or Marine Communication Systems course)

Skills:

Basic Powerboat Handling skill demonstration (BPH)
Use of Fire Extinguishers (FE)

Take a look at the list again. See, you are just about there! If you have a few blanks to fill in, there are online seminars on the National website (and they are really good). What about the skills? Glad you asked. The use of fire extinguishers is our "Fires, Flares, and Fun" adventure that is being scheduled for early September. Basic Powerboat handling – speak with **P/R/C Scott D. McDonald, SN-ACN** or **P/C Chris Leavitt, SN-CN** and schedule your ride!

So, take stock of your education and let me know what you are missing. My goal is to work with you to complete your Inland Navigator level certification. How about by October this year? Call me or email me and let's get started.

Junior Navigation Class Starting Soon

By SEO Lt/C Alan W. Cross, AP

I have scheduled an *Offshore Navigation* (*Junior Navigation*) course that will be held at Home Port (Bellaire, Texas) beginning on Thursday, July 27, 2023 7:00 pm. If you are interested, and if changes in the start date need to be made – this is not an issue. I want to work around getting as many folks as possible into the class and work around some practicalities of skills work.

This course is a bit different from many of the courses because it combines learning with a group, a number of exercises to learn particular skills, and a lot of group cooperation when working through the chapters. Which is to say that we will stay on schedule, mostly. There are a few classes that must be in person (and we have a great way to teach remotely!) but many of the classes are going to be teleconferencing.

So, if you are interested, the registration site is live.

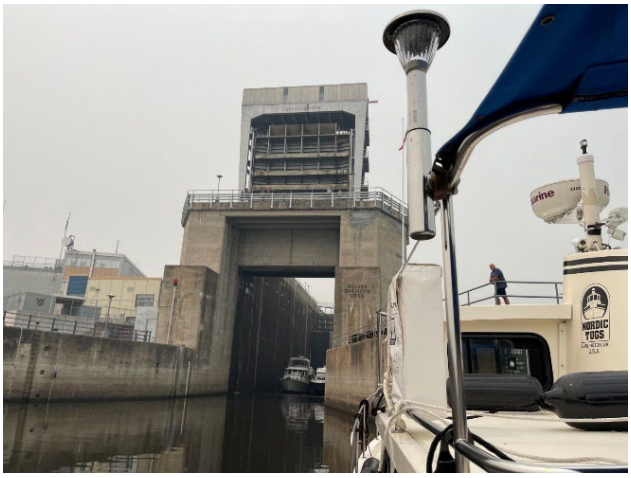
Where in the World are Bill and Judy?

(Continued from Page 1)

June 2 – Great day. Waves at 2' at 6 seconds. Rougher coming up the Hudson past the Statue of Liberty.

June 4 (West Point, NY) – Looks awesome from the water.

June 27 (Locks on Ottawa River) – Good day. Went through a 65' lift on a lock today.



IBWSS 2023

By P/R/C Scott D. McDonald, SN-ACN

The International Boating and Water Safety Summit was held this year in Little Rock, Arkansas. This annual event is conducted by the National Safe Boating Council through a grant from the US Coast Guard. It is an essential conference for anyone that has an interest in the subject of boating safety. Participating organizations include the U. S. Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), the National Safe Boating Council, America's Boating Club (USPS), Boat US, US Sailing, American Canoe Association, and the Army Corps of Engineers. There are also boating industry manufacturers and state Parks and Wildlife officers and staff from around the country. The primary conference is three full days of presentations, round table discussions, and breakouts. There are also vendor exhibits and numerous networking sessions where you can bend an elbow with industry professionals from around the country. The schedule for the conference is extended by the addition of other organizational meetings and workshops that are scheduled before or after the main conference.

At this year's event, America's Boating Channel was a key sponsor. The Summit coincided with the launch of the America's Boating Channel on Roku and Fire TV. What is unique about this launch is that the online service carries not only the videos created by America's Boating Channel but includes content from many of the organizations listed above. It also includes a lot of other content, including news, entertainment, and movies related to boating. The rollout of the channel was conducted by Marty and Sari Lafferty, who gave the event the full Hollywood-style red carpet treatment. What was even more impressive was the keynote session that opened the conference. Marty led the session, which featured representatives from eight of the different groups that provided content to the channel. Each gave a testimonial to the value and impact of the new service. It was gratifying to see our organization had played a part in building a bridge to connect so many groups and such important content.

IBWSS usually includes some form of on-the-water activities. This year, the Water Sports Foundation led the event with a series of on-water demonstrations of wake surfing and wake foils. On the second full day of the conference, we left the hotel and traveled to Lake Ouachita in the southwest corner of Arkansas. There we took turns boarding one of several brand-new wake boats. These high-end boats included all the latest features, such as touch-screen consoles, automatic ballast adjustment, and cruise control. I had the chance to observe a wake surfing session, something I hadn't seen before. The surfer started in the water, much like a regular wake boarder, but used a short tow rope of about fifteen feet. The surfer was quickly pulled up onto the water and immediately began riding the substantial wake coming from the stern of the boat. Almost immediately, the surfer tossed the tow rope back into the boat and continued to ride the wake of the boat free-handed. The boat never went above about 10 miles per hour, but the ballast of the boat provided ample wake to allow the surfer to ride continuously up, down, and around. The sport was amazing to watch and is quite safe due to the low speed and minimal impact on the surfer.

The IBWSS has always been a good place to interact with other groups to get a sense of how the market is changing. For my own perspective, it's a good chance to get a sense of how things are in boating safety education and on-the-water training. In talking to groups that offered boating safety classes, it was interesting to note that most reported a significant drop in the demand for boating safety classes. The general consensus was that demand for classes rose significantly during the pandemic, and this had drained the pipeline of new students. Recreational boating was still going strong, and the drop in demand is likely to be temporary.

In the on-the-water training market, things have been moving about. Some providers of powerboat training have stepped back due to low demand, while others are starting to come on strong. The National Safe Boating Council was one the first groups to have a powerboat program based upon the on-the-water standards, but the program was languishing only a couple of years ago. As of this year, they are back in force, as their program has been adopted by Boat US, the Freedom Boat Club, and the Carefree Boat Club. At this time, they are one of the strongest programs in the country. Our own programs continue to struggle, as only a handful of local clubs offer on-the-water training on a regular basis.

One interesting development in the on-the-water training arena was the announcement by NASBLA of a working group to establish an "enhanced boater safety certificate". This is the first formal attempt in the industry to combine standards-based boater education with standards-based on-the-water training. The idea is that a boater can get the boater education from one provider, the on-the-water training from another provider, and then submit both credentials to NASBLA and receive the "enhanced" certificate. This is where our Boat Operator Certification was about fifteen years ago. The difference is that our program was proprietary and limited to USPS members. Since that time, the industry has come together to establish standards for on-the-water training. This new credential from NASBLA is the next step in the evolution of on-the-water training. It was announced that this credential would begin trial rollout in three or four states this summer.

(Continued on Page 6)

IBWSS 2023

(Continued from Page 6)

Attendance at events like IBWSS is important for an organization like ours. It offers a great opportunity to connect with others that share our mission about boater safety. It also provides us an opportunity to learn more about the state of the industry and helps us adjust our focus to become more effective at our mission. In this instance, I think it was important to note the advances in on-water training. We still have an incredibly good program, and provide highly \effective training, but we will need to make some minor adjustments to maintain our alignment with the industry and our working relationship with NASBLA.

Be a Better Boater with First Aid Training

By Lt/C Monica K. Cross, AP-IN

The Houston Squadron regularly offers a 4-hour first aid course (with CPR and AED). Whether at home, on-the-road, or on-the-water – being prepared for handling common injuries and sudden illnesses is important so you can keep having fun or know when to head for port. This course is maritime focused and you have FUN. Interested? Check out the Squadron calendar and sign up for a course today. Do you have a group that needs the education? Get hold of **Monica Cross** (281-772-7802) and let her know your needs. Did we mention fun? See the smiles in the photo (Gene and Judy were not harmed!)

March Meeting Hosted at House of Pies on Kirby on March 8

By Lt/C Frank Amsler, P

America's Boating Club-Houston held our monthly meeting at the House of Pies in Upper Kirby on March 8th, 2023. We had sixteen people in attendance including our guest speaker, Boatsman's Mate First Class Kathryn Carlin.

We opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation by our squadron Chaplain, Roger Runnels. We were able to secure a private area of House of Pies, and our waitress did a great job getting our orders and delivering the food quickly. Katherine Leavitt announced an upcoming Kayak event at Big Island Slough on March 25th. Reach out to Catherine for more information.

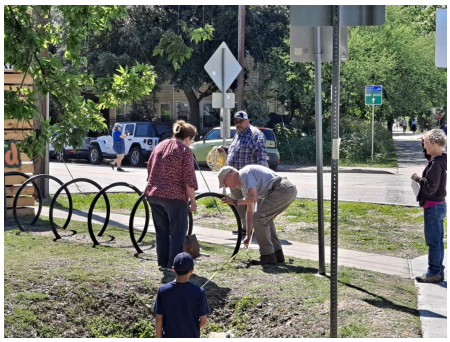
BM1 Carlin then spoke to the group about the mission of the US Coast Guard in the Houston Ship Channel and Upper Galveston Bay. The are four Control Zones in Galveston Bay where boaters need special clearance for entry. If we enter those waters without permission, we should expect a Coast Guard fast boat coming up on our beam with instructions to leave (and never do that again). Given there is a very large gun on the bow of this boat, it is strongly suggested that we comply immediately. 😊

BM1 Carlin then led a discussion of how the Houston Sail & Power Squadron can cooperate with the Coast Guard in the shared mission of increasing boater awareness and safety on our waters. She encouraged our efforts of hosting our many educational classes and Vessel Safety Checks team. Our paddle craft efforts were also recognized in both getting identifying stickers on the kayaks and teaching paddlers the rules and best practices for safety.

We closed the meeting by presenting Kathryn with a Squadron Burgee. She has invited us to come visit the Coast Guard station in Galina Park for a tour and possible potluck dinner. We will keep you posted as those plans come together!

Geodetic Marker Recovery Day

Photos by Lt/C Alan W. Cross, AP



ARRL Field Day Was a Successful Failure!

Lt/C Roger H. Runnels, AP – Squadron Executive Officer and Radio Technical Officer

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, thousands of radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote and not-so-remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN! It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

Despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

The “*Bay Neigh Amateur Radio Club*” had its first Field Day event at Home Port. Yes, you do not have to ‘go to the field’ for the event – air conditioning, a kitchen and a bathroom are acceptable. The event was put on by myself (Roger), Bill Haddock, Jana Wesson, Wolf Guenthert, and Alan Cross. Our ham radio station consisted of a Kenwood TS-140 transceiver, a power supply, various meters to monitor transmitter power and performance, and a unique homemade antenna! We heard a lot of ham radio stations, but Murphy was present and the grounding system was insufficient to help control a lot of RF energy in the room – and things went wonky! Although we didn’t make a single contact, we had FUN and next year we’ll do it all over again from the radio room being built-out at Home Port.

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

July 2023 Birthdays

Gail Koster	Jul 1
Jennifer Canup	Jul 5
Hilton B. Dickerson	Jul 6
Stephen Netemeyer	Jul 7
Irmi Willcockson	Jul 7
Walker S. Wharton	Jul 8
Adam Salazar	Jul 9
Robert L. Smallwood	Jul 10
Dylan Wise	Jul 10
Trey Gilbert	Jul 11
Marty Hunt	Jul 11
Richard W. Lipham	Jul 12
Matthew D. Heath	Jul 13
Colby Bloom	Jul 14
Mara H. Behrman	Jul 15
Jennifer D. Hardegree	Jul 16
Jeanette Ojeda	Jul 17
James Hubbard	Jul 18
Terrence A. Gaiser	Jul 20
Samuel P. Salazar	Jul 20
Soledad L. Salazar	Jul 20
Christian Bruner	Jul 21
Nicholas Hidrovo	Jul 21
Gabriel Fontenot	Jul 24
Zachry Tejada	Jul 24
Malcolm Barnes	Jul 25
Rafe Kotalik	Jul 26
Lynda Vu	Jul 27
Marie T. Vu	Jul 27
Lawrence Behrmann	Jul 31
Sophia Merhan	Jul 31
Robert J. Robbins	Jul 31