



**Houston Sail and Power Squadron
 Annual Meeting Ballot – January 2024**

Nominees for Bridge Officers:

Commander	Lt/C Roger Runnels, P
Executive Officer	Lt/C Frank Amsler, P
Administrative Officer	TBD
Squadron Educational Officer	Lt/C Alan W. Cross, AP
Treasurer	Lt/C Monica Cross, AP
Secretary	P/R/C Scott D. McDonald, SN

Nominees for Squadron First Lieutenants:

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

Nominees for At-large Members of the Executive Committee:

P/C Amy L. Taylor, S	Jeny Ninan
Linda S. Crowl	Richard J. Robson, AP
Lisa Guenther, AP	Adam Salazar
Klaas Koster	Jana Wesson, AP
Lynn McKee, P	Chris Wise, S

Nominees for the Auditing Committee: (one time election for three-year term)

Mark E. Taylor, AP (1 year)
 Rochelle Salazar (2 years)
 P/C Susie Becvar, AP (3 years)

Nominees for the Rules & Bylaws Committee: (one time election for three-year term)

P/C William S. Haddock, AP (1 year)
 TBD (2 years)
 TBD (3 years)

Nominees for the Nominating Committee: (one time election for three-year term)

P/C Catherine M. Leavitt, P (1 year)
 P/C Susie Becvar, AP (2 years)
 P/C Amy L. Taylor, S (3 years)

Respectfully submitted,
 Nominating Committee

Poop Sheet December 2023

- December 2
 Kayak Rendezvous – Big Island Slough
- December 3
 General Meeting – Christmas Brunch at the
 McDonalds' House
- December 6
 Board of Directors Meeting – Teleconference
- January 3
 Board of Directors Meeting – Teleconference
- January 8
 Boater Safety Course – Home Port
- January 10
 General Meeting – TBD
- January 17
 Planning Meeting – Home Port
- January 24-28
 Houston Boat show – NRG Center

Watch your email for event announcements!



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
Administrative Officer Lt/C Frank Amsler, P
Educational Officer Lt/C Alan W. Cross, AP
Treasurer Lt/C Monica K. Cross, AP
Secretary Lt/C Scott McDonald, SN
Immediate Past Cdr P/C Marie Vu, P

Squadron's 1st Lieutenants

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

Executive Committee

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

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PRAYER

O, God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Jesus Christ, grant that we may continue to mold our lives in the paths set before us by his example.

Bless all who labor in Thy name and grant that the spirit of Christmas may dwell in our hearts always.

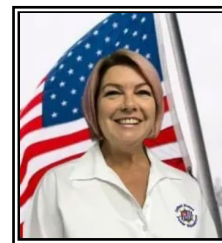
Amen

Rev. John Osgood Hart,
Past USPS Chaplain

COMMANDER'S CORNER



December 2023 Bay Neigh
Cdr Amy L. Taylor, S



"By boaters, for boaters."

What an accurate and precise slogan! When I look at our Squadron membership, I see such diversity in our boating styles. From power boating to sailing to paddle craft, we are well represented. And isn't that perfect for such a diverse city as Houston? One of our greatest goals is boater safety, and our community outreach is increased so much by welcoming different programs. As we approach a new year, my hope is that we continue to grow as boaters, as a club, and as a Squadron. It couldn't be possible without each one of you. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you all for your time and efforts in creating such a successful club!

I wish you a Happy Holidays and a fantastic New Year.

Membership Renewal – The Reminder By Lt/C Roger H. Runnels, AP

Remember to renew your membership in America's Boating Club Houston. In the past year, members like you provided valuable service to our community and the cause of recreational boating safety by teaching, providing vessel safety checks, participating in community service projects, and much more. You are a vital part of our boating family, and we hope you will renew your membership when it comes due.

When you get your invoice (usually by email) please review your invoice and renew online by clicking on (or pasting) this link into your browser:

<https://www.usps.org/dues/invoice.php>

Next, enter your Certificate number and then the invoice number that was provided. If you don't have this information – contact Roger Runnels at (713) 254-6615 or uspssrtohouston@gmail.com). Follow the steps to a successful renewal.

With your help, our Squadron will continue to grow, we can build a better, safer future for all recreational boaters. Thanks again for your continued support.





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



Together, we make boating better

The Year in Review for Education

What another extraordinarily good year for the Houston Squadron and education!

The plethora of our education courses, the outstanding instructors (*credit is due for their time and talents*), and the students have made this a good year. A few highlights for you following the division of education:

Workshops	30
Sea Scout Specific	1
Kayak & SUP	71
Advanced	12
Electives	28
Leadership	19
Boater Safety	190
Total Students	351

The **Kayak** and **Standup Paddleboard** category continues to remain constant in participation levels. With the addition of new Kayaking instructors and Qualified Assistants, we have eleven members growing this program to an anticipated 100 students in 2024. So, a big “thank you” to **Amy Taylor, Cathy Leavitt, David Krolow, Chris Leavitt, Linda Crowl, Monica Cross, Susie Becvar, Lynn McKee, Irmi Willcockson, Heather Gamber, and Olivia Cross** for the help and good work. You truly are appreciated!

The **Boater Safety** course is growing as well. Our “normal” class participation was, well, normal! We had a gift of 111 additional students from the Woodlands High School. It was an “all-hands-on-deck” event, and it worked! There was never a doubt that the instructors could pull it off (OK, a little pessimism after day 2 – but everyone persisted, and we championed the cause). This year saw a successful transition from the ABC3 course to the Texas Parks and Wildlife course – and the new course is outstanding! For all the members, a reminder that if you have a group of 10+, we will come and teach at your location and on your calendar.

Come join the **Boater Safety** Instructor team and have fun a couple of Saturdays out of the year; and you’ll be in great company with (instructors and soon-to-be instructors) **Adam Salazar, Al Meyer, Bill Haddock, Cathy Leavitt, Craig Shipp, Lynn McKee, Chris Leavitt, Monica Cross, Klaas Koster, Roger Runnels, Susie Becvar, Scott McDonald, Steve Smallwood, Corey Bloom, Frank Amsler, Kelly Hunt, Heather Gamber, and Patrick Cummings**. If you are interested, just get hold of Chris Leavitt.

And there’s more!

We’ve done so well teaching boater safety under the new program that we have expanded a remote class (thanks **Robert Campbell**) in the Seabrook area with classes at Capt. Roy’s Marine Training. We are expanding (location to be determined) in the Lake Conroe area. If you want to teach in a specific area – let Chris know and it’s “done”.

That **Workshops** entry is all about the two programs developed and delivered by **Chris Leavitt** and **Scott McDonald**. Chris is producing video content with his *Conversations with Chris*, and Scott delivered two much-needed and detailed workshops on *Using OpenCPN*. These presentations are recorded and available to all members. You will be getting an email with the links to the presentation and the videos.

And there’s even more!

The virtual trainer is up-and-running at Home Port. A little more practice by the instructors is needed, but coming soon will be an open house where you are invited to come and use the virtual trainer and test your boating knowledge and skills. And have a lot of fun on any boat you want, in any weather, and crashing and sinking the boat has no consequences!

With your help, our Squadron will continue to grow, we can build a better, safer future for all recreational boaters – and that includes you! Remember to keep current with your membership dues, keep thinking about what classes you want to take, and thanks again for your continued support.

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

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

Dec 2023-Jan 2024 Birthdays

Martha J. Curry	Dec 1
Thomas W. Tunks	Dec 2
Kenneth P. Huynh	Dec 7
Kenneth W. Campbell	Dec 11
Claire M. McDonald	Dec 12
Leo Zou	Dec 12
Rochelle Salazar	Dec 14
Olivia B. Cross	Dec 16
Susie Becvar	Dec 18
Frank M. Pattee	Dec 19
Terry L. McKee	Dec 24
Kadi L. Gutierrez	Dec 26
Michael Collings	Dec 27
Patrice Lenhart	Dec 27
Justine E. Nolan	Dec 29
Jan R. Aikin	Jan 1
Robert Aikin	Jan 1
Hilton J. Brodie	Jan 1
Alvin T. Curry	Jan 1
Lisa Guenther	Jan 1
Bruce C. McElmon	Jan 1
Sean C. Sheward	Jan 1
Pamela Tyllick	Jan 1
Parker C. Nolen	Jan 10
Raymond L. Brisson	Jan 11
Ray J. Carlton	Jan 12
Donna Tolivar Barnes	Jan 15
Dana Day	Jan 16
Linda Lennon	Jan 16
Samuel Bonnett	Jan 17
Jeny M. Ninan	Jan 17
Alan W. Cross	Jan 18
William E. Blan	Jan 21
Mark E. Taylor	Jan 27
Margaret Funderberg	Jan 30



#LEAVENOTRASH

Have you noticed more trash in nature lately?

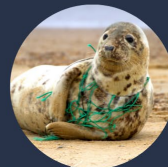
You can be the change! Take the Pledge and get involved in the #LeaveNoTrash event this April in your community.



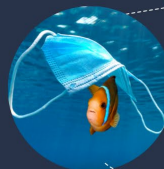
TAKE THE PLEDGE
www.LNT.org/EarthMonth

Did You Know?

Over **1 million** animals die every year either being trapped by or ingesting plastic. It's avoidable.



Our oceans hold **1 ton of plastic** for every **3 tons of fish**. At our current rate, that's more plastic than fish by **2050**.



We generate **260 million tons of trash** annually in the US— that's **4 pounds** per human, **EVERY DAY!**



Join in to change this & so much more! Take the **Pledge** and get involved in your community this April with **#LeaveNoTrash**.



TAKE THE #LEAVENOTRASH PLEDGE
www.LNT.org/EarthMonth