Bay Nash
Official Publication of
America's Boating Club Houston
'Where the Cowboys Ride the Sea'
March 2024

Upcoming Events

Club Dinner

4.10 , 6:30 – 8:30 pm, BB's Tex – Orleans Restaurant, 6154 Westheimer Rd, 77057

Classes

Amateur Radio – Tuesdays, 7-9 pm, April

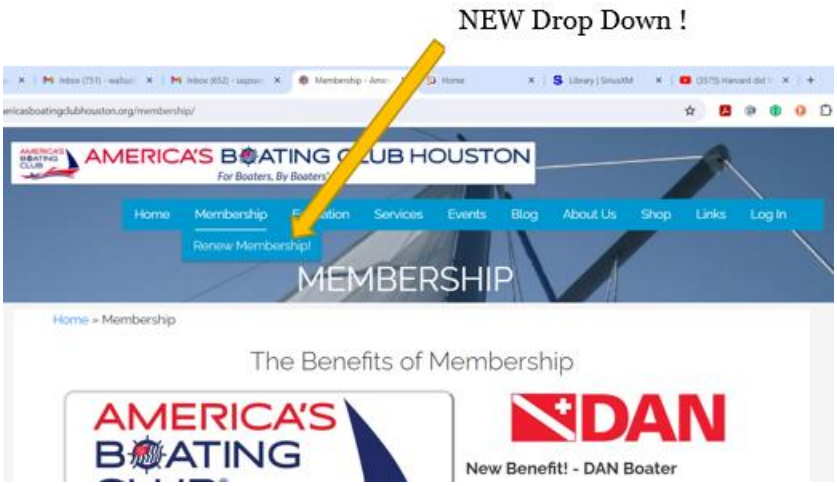
Boater Safety 4.7 Capt Roy's 5.4 Homeport, 5.5 Capt Roy's, 6.1 Homeport, 6.2 Capt Roy's, 7.13 Homeport, 7.14 Capt Roy's. All 8 am – 4:30 pm

Kayak L1 4.20 10 am – 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm- 4 pm, Kickerillo Mischer.

Community Service/Outreach

Easier to Renew Your Membership

You love being in the Houston Squadron, but that yearly renewal notice! That one email from National and you skipped reading it, or it got buried in a thousand other emails. You want to renew but the hassle of finding that one email and your membership number and your invoice number … … well, some relief is here! There is a new drop-down menu selection added to the Houston Squadron webpage to help you renew your membership!! Hover your mouse over *Membership* on the Home Page and a new drop-down appears. It's called **Renew Membership!** How intuitive is that!? When you click on that link, you go directly to the Membership Renewal screen on the National website, where, Yes, you still need to enter your membership number and invoice number – but at least some of the pain is gone.



Leadership for 2024

Roger H. Runnels	Commander
Christopher J. Leavitt	Chairman Merit Marks
Frank Amsler Jr.	Executive Officer
Alan W. Cross	Educational Officer
Roger H. Runnels	Administrative Officer
Scott D. McDonald	Secretary
Monica K. Cross	Treasurer
Steve Sheward	Assistant Educational Officer
Scott D. McDonald	BOC Training Chairman
Christopher J. Leavitt	Boating Activities Chairman
Catherine M. Leavitt	Chairman Nominating Committee
Corey E. Bloom	Co-operative Charting Chairman
Scott D. McDonald	Historian Chairman
Roger H. Runnels	ID/ID Recert/Teaching Aids Chairman
Steve Sheward	Information Technology Contact
Robert L. Smallwood	Law Officer
Scott D. McDonald	Liaison Officer
Wolf Guenthert	Member Benefits Chairman
Lisa Guenthert	Member Involvement Chairman
Claire M. McDonald	Membership Chairman
Irmi Willcockson	Newsletter Chairman
Scott D. McDonald	On Water Training Coordinator
Peter H. Hames	Operations Training Chairman
Christopher J. Leavitt	Public Boating Education Chairman
Scott D. McDonald	Public Contact
Lisa Guenthert	Public Relations Chairman
Scott D. McDonald	Roster Contact
Scott D. McDonald	Ship's Store Chairman
William S. Haddock Jr.	Vessel Safety Check Chairman
Steve Sheward	Webmaster
Shirley D. Heald	BOC Certifier
Scott D. McDonald	BOC Regional Certifier

Upcoming Excursions

4.7 Chocolate Bayou

5.11 Turtle Creek

5.19 Galveston Island

6.8 Lake Charlotte

6.29 Huntsville SP

7.7 Walter Hall Park

Classes

Kayaking L1 4.20, 5.18, 6.15, 7.20 (am only), Kickerillo-Mischer.

Stand Up Paddleboard 5.19 2 – 5 pm, Riva Boat House

1st Aid/CPR 5.5 1:30 – 5 pm, Homeport

Paddle Sports

Paddle Sports have become an active part of America's Boating Club-Houston's offerings. The first introduction to kayaking is taking a Level 1 class, taught by our certified instructions and knowledgeable assistants. Classes are currently held at Kickerillo-MIscher.

After completing the Level 1 class, those who join ABC-H are eligible to join "Excursions", trips to paddling spots around the Greater Houston Area. The two main advantages of joining ABC-H on an excursion is that we always have experienced kayakers on the water, and kayaks are available to borrow.

The kayak program welcomes new members and is actively looking to expand. Please contact Chris and Cathy Levitt for more information or to help.

Level 1 Class March 24

2023 DISTINCTIVE COMMUNICATOR AWARD NEWSLETTER

The marsh, to him who enters in a receptive mood, holds, besides mosquitoes and stagnation, melody, the mystery of unknown waters, and the sweetness of Nature undisturbed by man."

- William Beebe

Oct 2023 George Crowl Memorial Paddle, an Advancement Program by ABC Houston for Sea Scouts, Lake Woodland

This event is designed specifically for BSA Sea Scouts. The major objectives are Sea Scout Advancement and developing kayak skills.

Dec 2023 Kayak Excursion – Big Island Slough

First Excursion of 2024 at Sheldon Lake. Heather Gamber, Chris and Cathy Levitt led the expedition.

Focus on Education

Learn At Home – Your Course, Your Time

Did you know that there is another great avenue to learn, at home, on your own time, with the subjects that interest you the most?

It's simple to get started! Go to the public website for the National organization at https://www.americasboatingclub.org/ . Once there, on the top of the page, click the "Learn" button. Then scroll to the bottom of the page and click on of the five categories that best defines your boating. My favorite is to click the red-colored button for "Complete Education Catalog".

For seminars, once again, go to the bottom of the page and click on the orange-colored button that says "Online Boating Education". From there – YOU find the course that YOU want to take. Read about the course or seminar, register and make your online payment, and take the course – when you want! You can leave the course at any time and when the time is right – come back and start where you left off. On completion of the course, you will get a nice certificate, and many of the courses / seminars have a downloadable PDF file that summarizes the course content. Your training records are updated within hours!

So, to have some fun with everyone in your family learning a little more about being a better educated and safer recreational boater.

Educational Outreach

Education is one of three pillars of success for any Squadron. Keeping our 'face' in front of the public is something every Squadron member is involved in; whether it's a one-on-one conversation with a friend at church, or someone new at the launch dock, what we do and say may make a difference that gets a new student or member.

Our new educational outreach this year touched on the invitation from the Maritime & Logistics Youth Exposition (we tried to get involved, but no response from them) at San Jacinto College; the upcoming Fires, Flares and Fun at Capt. Roy's Marine Education, and a successful Leave No Trace program with The Woodlands High School.

The Squadron is scheduled and being scheduled to return to some really nice, fun, and low effort but high yield shows, including the LaPorte Health and Safety Fair, the Baytown Nurture Nature Fest, the Hidalgo Falls River Festival (kayaking and we'll play a bigger part this year), and our successful Boater Safety class with The Woodlands High School.

The focus of attending these events is to meet the public, talk with them about safe boating, and perhaps some encouragement for education and fun with the Squadron. Look at the Squadron calendar, watch for email and other communications inviting you to attend, and prepare yourself for a fun time!

Lt/C Alan W Cross, JN-IN uspsseohouston@gmail.com or 281-451-1146.
Squadron Education Officer

Past Events

District 21 Conference

The Spring District 21 Conference is the change of leadership conference and a general meeting. Workshops covered best practices in leadership, social activities, service to others, how to market programs, and education.

Participants are practicing a heaving line throw at Home Port.

ABC- Houston Change of the Watch

Roger Runnels became the new commander in this Change of the Watch ceremony February 4th, 2024.
L to R – Monica Cross, Alan Cross, Steve Baker (District 21 Commander), Roger Runnels, Frank Amsler, Scott MacDonald

District 21 Change of the Watch

ABC – Houston is well represented in District 21's leadership. Susie Becvar is Commander, Amy Taylor is District Administrative Officer, Alan Cross is District Education Officer and Roger Runnels (not pictured) is District Radio Technical Officer.

"*The Magical Crab Trap*" or "*How the Squadron Supports the Folks Who Protect the Waters We Play In*"

An absolutely beautiful day on the 24th of February 2024 as the Houston Squadron participated in the annual '*Abandoned Crab Trap Removal*' program. Each year, we support the State of Texas and the Galveston Bay Foundation in removing abandoned crab traps from the coastal waters of the State. Each year the State closes waters to allow the crab population significant time to recover and thrive. This year Corey Bloom, P and Alan Cross, JN-IN met with all the volunteers at Fort Anahuac Park (TX) on the shores of Trinity Bay, launched and headed out. Now I have to mention two things.

First, Trinity Bay is really shallow and getting to the bay is interesting. There is a channel around five feet maybe a bit deeper in spots. Which brings us to a salient point – we teach always checking the weather and tides. Well, the weather was astoundingly beautiful – 60 degrees, 3 knot wind, the water was like glass, and a clear, beautiful sky. About 15 minutes into the journey out to the bay, we realized that we probably needed to have checked the tides. If we'd done that, we would have learned the water was at *mean low low water*. For those who've not taken our *Advanced Marine Navigation* course, that means that 5 foot channel ended up being about 26". When your boat drafts 14", and your motor's cooling water intake is a few inches below that .. .. .. well. We didn't get too far before we made the wise decision to turn around and head back.

Two, which brings us to "*The Magical Crab Trap*". Corey and I had the most magical crab trap in the entire Bay! You see, as we were preparing to head out, one of the coordinators with the Galveston Bay Foundation (who knows us and the Squadron!) asked if we'd mind taking the two official photographers for the event with us! Of course we'll take them!! And she just happened to have a nice 'un-squished' crab trap for us to take, just in case we didn't find a crab trap to recover.

So – that place where is got really shallow and we decided to turn around? Well, through the artistic abilities of the film and videographer team, it looked like Corey and Alan were busy that morning pulling up abandoned crab traps! Toss in the un-squished crab trap, use six different angles, 8 takes, and some additional videos – we looked good pulling up those crab traps. Why we could be movie stars! Which brings up the point – check the weather AND the tides, and always have fun on-the-water. The photographer team was Eric and Alan (Yes, another Alan) and they were excellent company. Eric made the mistake of asking "What does America's Boating Club do?" … … and the elevator speech kicked in.

What would be do different next time?
Probably go to another location! Or use Chris Leavitt's Jon Boat!!

Alan Cross

Alan and Eric

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Up on deck in damp air
we lie back, feel
our clothes turn wet to skin,
and look for Orion's belt.

- Judith Minty, 1974
"Sailing by Stars"

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 Irmi Willcockson at willcocksonconsulting@gmail.com