

Bay Neigh

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

Vol. LXXI

July 2018

No. 4

Kayaking and Our Squadron

By P/C Chris Leavitt, N

Unless you have been away for a long while, you will have noticed signs that the Squadron is becoming interested in kayaking. There are a lot of reasons: kayaking is a pretty cheap way to be on the water, it's fun, one gets a little exercise while paddling, lots of other folks are doing it too, and did I mention that its cheap?

All those are good reasons for us to go kayaking, but even more, it is where the public is going, and they are not going safely. On May 20, the Squadron was kayaking for the 2nd time, and while we were having a great time, a kayaker on Lake Conroe drowned. That is a too-common outcome of kayaking. So, our idea is education. People who know a few things will be safer on the water.

The message for the kayaking community is threefold and is intended for new kayakers. First off, take a general boating course – our ABC3 is good, the Texas Parks and Wildlife course is ok, and there are online courses that are free. Take one. Money cannot be an obstacle. Next, take a skills course. We teach the American Canoe Association Level 1 – Introduction to Kayaking. There may be other introductory courses, but this is the standard to which they are compared. \$50. Lastly get a Vessel Safety Check. They are free. What's to lose? That's it. The Right Triangle of Kayaking. Right knowledge, right skills, right equipment.

This is being marketed to the public, but Squadron members are invited to attend.

We'll still provide the knowledgeable instructor, kayak, paddle, life jacket, and cold drinking water. God is providing the water to kayak on, with the assistance of the Texas Parks and Wild Life Department.

For more information, contact Chris Leavitt – I'm in the Roster.



Poop Sheet July 2018

- July 4
HSPS General Meeting – Rendezvous and Houston Yacht Club
- July 7
ABC3 – Rinker's Boat World
- July 11
Board of Directors Meeting – Home Port
- July 21
ABC3 – Home Port
- August 1
Board of Directors Meeting – Home Port
- August 8
HSPS General Meeting – TBD
- August 11
ABC3 – Texas Marine, Conroe



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



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Educational Officer Lt/C Alan W. Cross, AP
Administrative Officer Lt/C George H. Crowl, Jr., AP
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Treasurer Lt/C Monica K. Cross, P
Immediate Past Cdr..... P/C Scott. McDonald, SN-ACN

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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.

PRAYER

Grant us, O Lord, the resources to conduct successfully the educational program to which we have dedicated ourselves; teachers who are imaginative, eloquent, understanding and effective, students who are industrious, sincere, alert and cooperative, and administrators who are efficient, devoted, intelligent and dynamic.

And in all of our Squadron activities, may we reflect a warm, divine charity which is characteristic of those who seek Your glory rather than their own.

Help us, O Lord, now and forever and ever. Amen

COMMANDER'S CORNER



July 2018 Bay Neigh
Cdr Cathy Leavitt, P



District 21 Spring Conference April 2018 – Dallas Texas

This was my first Conference as the Commander, before I have attended in other capacities, so this was kind of exciting.

We had a huge crowd from Houston there. In addition to **P/C Scott McDonald, SN-ACN** and **R/C Claire McDonald, SN-IN**, there were **Lt/C Alan Cross, AP**, **Lt/C Monica Cross, P**, **Lt/C Susie Becvar, P**, and **P/C Chris Leavitt, N**. We were well represented.

My report to the District indicated that two of our members have passed on – **P/C Don Lipke**, and **Jim Pirrung**, and one, **Julie Bleisch, AP**, received her Life Member award for earning 25 Merit Marks.

I reported that we held 8 Public Boating Courses (the ABC3 class) with 28 students passing the exam. We have also had 15 pass Seamanship, 6 in Piloting, 3 in Marine Communications, 2 in Marine Electrical Systems, 3 in Engine Maintenance, and 3 in Instructor Development.

I also noted that our Squadron received the 2017 Brunswick Boater Educational award – Platinum level (and a check for \$1000), and one of our members, **Joseph Rogalski**, completed his Sea Scout Quartermaster Rank.

In short, we have accomplished a lot of education; more about this in a moment!

Over Christmas/New Year's, members of our Squadron supported Sailor U, a piloting outreach at Sea Star Base Galveston. The goal was to turn a number of youth into accomplished Pilots in a week. Not only was there daily classroom activity, but in the afternoon, it was practiced on the water. We also provided the cooks and dishwashers and tutors in the evenings.

Also, several members supported the Tall Ships in Galveston. Got the T-shirt too.

On to the good stuff – what awards did we win?

1. Our website received the Distinctive Communicator Award.
2. Our *Bay Neigh* newsletter received the Distinctive Communicator Award.
3. Our Squadron received for the 44 year, the USPS Educational Fund Certificate of Merit.
4. Our Squadron received the 2016-17 Educational Award for Elective Courses.
5. Our Squadron received the 2016-17 Educational Award for Advanced Grades.
6. Our Squadron received the 2016-2017 Prince Henry Award for Advanced Navigational studies.
7. Our Squadron was one of two Squadrons to received 4 Stars in the Star Squadron competition and barely missed out on Squadron of the Year.

In short, Houston is an Educational Powerhouse!!! Thank you **P/Lt/C Bob Stevenson, JN** and the rest of the Educational Department who made this happen! Way to go guys!



Focus on Boating Education
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*Together, we make
boating better*

July!! Sign up a Friend. Efforts continue with other Committees to “sell our program” of education by reaching audiences outside our general scope of education. With a good number of folks taking the ABC3 course, increasing membership, and folks in the community taking online courses, there is a wealth of people who could (and should) benefit from our training. For all the membership: take a moment and make that positive decision to take the course you’ve always wanted to take – and bring along some of your friends. Our courses are fun, and more fun if you know a student or three.

Congratulations! Several of our members have recently reached personal pinnacles in their training. **P/Lt/C Lawrence Behrmann, SN** completed the Electronic Navigation course, and **P/C Chris Leavitt, N** completed his Navigation course. A number of recent graduates from our ABC3 course are now members, and I congratulate you on your accomplishment and encourage you to continue on with training.

Ham Radio Class? There is a possibility that in early 2019 the Houston Squadron will organize and/or host an amateur (ham) radio series of classes and examinations. If you are not a licensed ham radio operator, this is a good way to learn and earn your license. If you are licensed, there will be studies to guide you to the advanced levels.

Seminars. The Education Department is currently looking for a “USPS Seminars Chair”. Our 2-Hour Seminar series covers a wide variety of topics any boater can put right to use. Many seminars can be taken online, or in person, with a live instructor. We have a complete set of seminars ready to deliver. With the advent of a marketing push and our new website, these are great courses for all our audience types. Seminars are also a requirement for several of the Boat Operator Certifications. If you are interested, please contact me. I will work along-side the Seminars Chair to build this part of our training.

Coming Up – RADAR. During our colder winter months, there is a RADAR seminar being proposed. A great time to come indoors and learn about another tool for your adventures.

Course Promotions and Target Audiences. Each member of the Squadron has insight into different groups, organizations and associations that would provide the Education Department with students. Currently, there is an ongoing program to reach all the Sea Scouts, BSA in the greater Houston area. We do know that Sea Star Base Galveston is having the Houston Squadron return this next Christmas season for expanded training opportunities with the Sea Scouts.

With the big promotional event on July 7th, we will possibly reach hundreds of new prospects. My request to you – look in your circle and promote our courses. With his promotion is an interest by the Constable to have us teach (expanded north side) courses in boater safety. Our course benefits his office (fewer incidents), the general public (safer boating), and our Squadron.

The new kayaking program is live, and one of the prerequisites is completion of a boater safety course. The numbers in a session are expected to increase as well as a few additional courses. If anyone is interested in becoming involved in teaching our ABC3 course, please let both **Chris Leavitt** and me know. An “Instructor Development” course may be delivered in the Fall/Winter if interest is sufficient.

Upcoming Courses. Currently scheduled and “open for enrollment” this Fall are courses for Seamanship, Engine Maintenance, Advanced Piloting, and Communication Systems. All are currently scheduled for Home Port. Check the website for details on dates and specifics for the course.

Don't see a course listed?

Want to take a USPS course with some friends?

The website has a “request a course” function. So, if you have a need or desire for a specific course that is not currently on the calendar, make a request for a course. Remember that with a group of 5 or more, considerations are always given to the time, date and location. Our goal is to have safer boaters through education.

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

HSPS 22nd MATAGORDA FISHING RENDEZVOUS

The Matagorda Fishing Rendezvous will be held August 24, 25, & 26, 2018.

Bring a side dish, your lawn chairs & BYOB

Trophies for the heaviest fish include first and second place offshore as well as first and second place inshore. If you can't bring a boat, an angler can catch a ride on a friend's boat, fish from the Matagorda Beach Pier or fish the surf.

Location: #131 Beach Road, Matagorda, Texas 77457
State Road address: 3848 FM2031 Beach Rd, Matagorda, TX

Agenda:

Friday, August 24:	Early arrival of boats
	1900 Dinner at The Harbor Waterfront Restaurant 190 County Road 214, Matagorda, TX 77457 Turn left at sign for Matagorda Harbor (past cemetery)
Saturday, August 25:	0730 Coffee and donuts
	0800 Departure of boats
	1700 Weigh-in of fish ends
	1830± Fish and potluck dinner
	1930 Awards presentation
Sunday, August 26:	1000 Brunch



Menu: Catch of the day
Side dishes by attendees
Bring lawn chairs & BYOB

Directions:

By car, enter Matagorda via Hwy. 60. Turn left at the flashing red light (Stanley's Market on corner), cross bridge and go south approximately 3 miles. Watch for #131 – a two-story tan house on right.

By ICW from Freeport, pass under the Matagorda Bridge, and take the first channel immediately to port. Do not pass through the locks. Go approximately 3 miles and look for the USPS Ensign and big white tent.

Lodging:

If you're interested in staying the weekend, or overnight, there are motels and rentals nearby. Check www.Matagordabay.com for lodging options or call/text Gary Bleisch at 281-850-1111 or Julie Bleisch at 713-515-3928 for info.

Contact Gary Bleisch (281) 850-1111 for additional information.

*From the National Membership Committee
By R/C Robert Howd, JN-CN*

The Power of One

If everyone recruited just ONE person each year we would double in size in about a year.

Sounds so simple but, it is difficult because many of us don't like to ASK someone to join us (it is selling). The worst they can do is say no. ASK a friend. ASK the person whose VSC you did. ASK the person who wonders about the insignia on your shirt or cap. ASK the person who took a class or seminar. Just ASK someone!

Membership Thoughts

Did you know that new members are living in your neighborhood? Try mass mailing to various neighborhoods when you have a class coming up. One Squadron did that for a seamanship class and gained four new members.

Kayaking Event at Galveston Bay State Park

Photos by P/C Scott. McDonald, SN-ACN

America's Boating Club – Houston member **Pat Morin**, an American Canoe Association instructor, taught several Squadron members the basics of kayaking.



Ready Set Wear It!

Photo by P/Lt/C Robert W. Stevenson, JN

America's Boating Club – Houston, along with several ABC3 class students, participated in this year's Ready Set Wear It! event, conducted by the National Safe Boating Council.



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

May/June/July Birthdays

Linda S. Blan	5/2
Walter P. Nass Jr.	5/6
Morgan L. Santarlaschi	5/6
Jonathon R. Cross	5/7
Thomas M. Derden	5/8
Fiona B. McDonald	5/10
Mike C. Manoloff	5/12
Patricia D. Morin	5/13
Jennifer M. Cross	5/16
Savannah X.W.A. Cushman	5/19
John L. Glaeser	5/21
Samuel Munroe	5/22
Randolph H. Pike	5/26
Mario A. Martinez	5/27
Tod J. Darcey	5/28
Lauren E. Miller	5/28
Eva Liu	5/29
Charles Albert Malone	6/4
Catherine M. Leavitt	6/5
Charles F. Spirka	6/15
Corey E. Dotrey	6/16
Kathy Benkenstein	6/17
George H. Crowl Jr.	6/25
Kelly Dobson	6/25
JoLee P. Haddock	6/26
Madeleine H. Cushman	6/28
Daniel C. Huston	6/29
Lelaina M. Clayburg	7/8
Trey Gilbert	7/11
Richard W. Lipham	7/12
Barton Bennett	7/14
Nancy J. Milstead	7/14
Mara H. Behrman	7/15
Jennifer D. Hardegree	7/16
James Hubbard	7/18
Christian Bruner	7/21
Gabriel Fontenot	7/24
Lawrence Behrmann	7/31
Robert J. Robbins	7/31

New Squadron Website

By Lt Steve Sheward, Webmaster

As The United States Power Squadron national organization moves forward with the America's Boating Club branding, our Squadron is moving right along with them.

We have a new domain name – americasboatingclubhouston.org, to which the old domain is now forwarded. The new site has a modern feel and is designed to be more user-friendly. It also boasts an event registration system, as well as a store to sell items, like books and other materials. We have also created our own online membership application, so folks can sign up directly with us, reducing confusion at national, and prospective members can pay for their membership right after they submit the form.

Take a look at the site today – <https://americasboatingclubhouston.org>. Create an account. Register for an event. Tell your friends about it, and get some excitement brewing for our squadron activities.

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

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New Site, Same Squadron!
Houston Sail and Power Squadron is America's Boating Club® Houston. For Boaters, By Boaters™

ABOUT US

Stay Safe on the Water - Get a Vessel Safety Check!

Membership
America's Boating Club is the nation's premiere boater safety membership. Members have access to on- and off-the-water activities, marina and ramp services.

Education
For more than 100 years, we have provided boaters with unsurpassed education on the water, in the classroom and online. Our educational opportunities are...

Services
We are a civic-minded organization. Our programs are provided to the public to raise awareness of boating safety issues, provide expertise...