

LGPS SOUNDINGS

May-June 2020



Commander Message

By David J. Hawthorne

I am writing this, during these very upsetting times, concerned about the health and wellbeing of us all and especially about our elder members and officers. I'm also thinking about the members we have lost in the last year or so.

The global health crisis has affected us all, on so many levels, and our Squadron's affairs seem very small compared to the problems that now surround us. Some squadrons just managed to avoid the pandemic by holding their Change of Watch ceremony earlier than other squadrons. We were not so lucky. I called the venue hosting our ceremony and cancelled, officially. (no surprise there) In a conversation with our District Commander, I was reassured that "National" is allowing those Squadrons caught by this crisis, to proceed as normal, without holding an "official COW ceremony". Given Governor Cuomo's mandate on gatherings and distancing, we couldn't hold a Change of Watch. We are "status quo" anyways. We each had the opportunity to review the Nomination Committees report and our 2020-21 Bridge has been confirmed.

Earlier, Lake George marinas were delaying launching resident boats in an effort to enforce social distancing, but I don't have any up-to-date information on their current position on launching. The boat washing stations were also delayed. Good weather is certainly approaching and boaters are thinking spring but the effects of this crisis are still too unknown to predict an accurate start to the season.

Please use all the recommended measures to ensure your health and safety. Thank you all for your help - See you sometime soon!

WANTED

Quality - high resolution digital photographs for the Squadron Website Photo Gallery Page

All photo's should be submitted in landscape - digital jpeg format

Mail a CD or e-mail your photo's to Armand at lgpsinfo@nycap.rr.com

**LAKE GEORGE POWER SQUADRON
BRIDGE/EXECUTIVE MEETINGS**

**NO DATES ANNOUNCED
DUE TO RE-OPEN NEW YORK
AND
SOCIAL DISTANCING ORDER
IN EFFECT**



Now Hear This...

2020-21 Bridge – Executive Committee

The Squadron proudly announces the officers for 2020-21 as follows: Squadron Commander - P/C David Hawthorne; Executive Officer - P/Lt/C John M. Wainwright, P; Education Officer - P/C Donna S. Canestraro, S; Assistant SEO OPEN POSITION; Administrative Officer – Lt/C Katherine C. Williams; Secretary - Lt. David J. Wilkinson, S; Treasurer - Lt/C Max Gollmer, AP and Members-at-Large - P/C George K. Williams, AP, P/C Armand Canestraro, P and Lt/C Charles M. (Don) Puckett, S. If you do not see your name listed, there are still plenty of positions they can use your help with. Please come join us!

Vessel Safety Check 2020



Vessel Safety Check Vision: *Safe, Fun & Responsible Recreational Boating.* The VSC Program helps to achieve voluntary compliance with federal and state recreational boating safety laws, particularly with regard to the carriage of safety equipment while raising boater awareness about safety and environmental issues through voluntary contact by a Vessel Examiner (VE). Vessel Examiner discussions with recreational boaters is designed to motivate recreational boaters to maintain and operate their boats in a safe manner, taking boating safety courses to increase their knowledge and skills in boating and promoting overall safe boating. NOTE: In following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, we have been asked to postpone or cancel all gatherings until otherwise notified by the state or local officials (such as Ready, Set, Wear Life Jacket Days; Vessel Safety Checks). When it is safe to begin performing 2020 season VSC's, decals have arrived, please call Armand at (518) 372-7220 to schedule your VSC – he will be happy to get back to you when it is safe to perform the vessel safety checks.

Upcoming Bridge Meetings

The Bridge-Executive meetings are presently on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic and “Pause New York. Once life gets back to, and hopefully soon, a “*new normal*”, we will announce future meeting dates and times. We are hopeful to continue to utilize the meeting rooms at the Church of the Good Shepard – Route 50 – Burnt Hills, NY once things return. Stay tuned for more information.

COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic situation here and around the world remains a fluid situation, we urge our Squadron membership to continue to watch the daily briefings for up-to-date information. As we begin a new boating season let's not forget all the things that make boating fun and safe for everyone - this year will be particularly different with social distancing. Please Stay Healthy and Stay Safe!



Wear It! Campaign - Reminds boaters of the importance of boating safety, including always wearing a life jacket. The campaign is produced under a grant from the Sports Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. Visit [SafeBoatingCampaign.com](https://www.safeboatingcampaign.com) for **free** resources and information that you can use for your own Wear It! outreach efforts.



What Can You Tell Me About This DAN Boater Benefit?

What exactly is DAN Boater: America's Boating Club has partnered with DAN Boater to provide you with a host of valuable safety resources designed to help you when you travel — whether it's by boat, plane, car or rail. From 24/7 assistance with serious medical emergencies, to simple questions about travel-related health issues, professional help will be just a phone call away. DAN Boater is here for you with an experienced team of medical and travel emergency professionals 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Its emergency response team has decades of experience managing injuries and illnesses in remote locations. Paired with its global emergency services network, they work to provide you with the best possible care. Coverage on Land and Water - While you're cruising the seven seas, scaling the tallest mountains, or out exploring a new city, if an unforeseen event happens - don't worry. With DAN Boater, you're covered no matter where adventure takes you.

How does this all work: If you were an active America's Boating Club (USPS) member on December 31, 2019 and you did not opt out of the DAN Boater benefits prior to January 1, 2020, these benefits were automatically added to your America's Boating Club (USPS) membership **at no charge to you** and you may use them through the remainder of that current membership period.

On/After January 1, 2020 – Now what will happen:

When you join or renew your America's Boating Club (USPS) membership on or after January 1, 2020, you may choose to add or decline the optional DAN Boater benefits to your membership for the \$25 fee.

Do I have to participate in this benefit: When your America's Boating Club (USPS) membership comes up for renewal, you may choose to keep or not keep these benefits as part of your membership for an additional fee of \$25. The fee will be added to your regular membership dues at time of online checkout or on your paper renewal notice. You will have the option to decline these extra benefits (and the extra \$25 fee) at the time of renewal.

National Safe Boating Week - May 16th – 22nd

National Safe Boating Week is observed beginning on Saturday, May 16th, through May 22nd, 2020 this year. It was observed the week of July 4th from 1957 until 1980 and was observed the first full week of June from 1981 until 1993. It has been observed the seven-day period ending on the last Friday before Memorial Day since 1994. Here are some safe boating tips:

- 1) **Life jackets:** To model responsible safety behavior, all boaters should always wear a life jacket on any vessel underway (i.e. motorized and non-motorized watercraft). It is encouraged to have life jackets on children under the age of 13 while swimming or during other activities on open water (i.e. water trampolines, water slides). All state laws for life jacket use shall be followed (e.g. while operating or riding on a personal watercraft, etc.).
- 2) **Alcoholic beverages:** Boating under the influence of alcohol is the primary leading cause of recreational boating accidents. Any displays of alcoholic beverages or drug use will be avoided in all marketing and advertising. Be conscientious to avoid any containers that may resemble alcoholic beverages.
- 3) **Engine Cut-Off Device:** An engine cut-off device should always be used on a watercraft with a motor (i.e. powerboat, personal watercraft). This may be a cord lanyard that is attached to the operator's wrist or life jacket, and then properly attached, or a wireless device that includes a wristband or visible fob for the boat operator and/or passengers. An engine cut-off device will immediately stop the boat's engine should the operator, or for some brands – even passenger, fall overboard.
- 4) **Carbon Monoxide:** Gasoline powered engines on boats produce carbon monoxide; an odorless and colorless gas that is poisonous. Please avoid people swimming anywhere near the stern (rear) of a motorized vessel or occupants sitting along the swim deck/platform of a motorized vessel while the boat motor is running.
- 5) **Leash:** If a standup paddleboard activity is featured, the participant should wear an appropriate leash for the venue. This is attached to the paddleboard and to the participant's ankle or calf.



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