

LGPS

SOUNDINGS

November-December 2020



Commander Message

By Cmdr. David Hawthorne

It's that sad time of year in the boating season when the fun has officially ended and the work of winterizing and laying-up of our vessels begins. Hopefully, years of experience (and a little USPS training) will make this chore a little easier. It goes without saying, how well we prepare our boats for winter directly affects our launch, next season.

I have a special congratulation for our squadron (and District 2) Secretary, David Wilkinson on officially attaining USPS Life Member status. District Commander Papademetriou will be sending a Life Member plaque to David and I hope he has a fitting place to proudly display it. Obtaining this status is not an honor every USPS member will achieve. In David's case, it is a well-deserved recognition of his many years of dedication as a USPS member and Secretary to both the Lake George Power Squadron and District 2.

Lastly, as the holidays approach, I wish all our members a happy and healthy Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's celebrations. Please remain socially distanced, wear a mask, wash your hands and stay safe and well.

Hope to see you all soon!

WANTED

Your help in serving on the
2021-22 Squadron Bridge!

Contact
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**LAKE GEORGE POWER
SQUADRON
BRIDGE MEETINGS**

**CANCELED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

The Great Upstate Boat Show (GUBS) - Canceled

In an effort to comply with New York State's policy in response to limiting the spread of the Corona virus, the 2021 boat show has been canceled.

New York National Boat Show – January 2021 Canceled

The annual boat show conducted at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in NYC has been canceled.

Cold Weather Boating Requires Caution and Preparation

Source: U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – While many boaters in colder parts of the country have winterized their boats or put them into storage until spring, many still use their vessels for hunting, fishing or transportation. Unfortunately, the risk of a deadly accident is increased with cold weather. Extra caution and preparation should be taken before heading out on the water in winter.

The importance of wearing a life jacket becomes even more critical when the danger for hypothermia is added to other concerns. Sudden immersion in cold water can have severe physiological consequences, including cardiac arrest, quick loss of body heat (the body loses heat 25 times faster in cold water than in cold air) and involuntary inhalation of water (gaspings) that results in drowning. Wearing a life jacket can keep the boaters head above water, keep the person warm, and provide a chance for rescue.

Wearing the right clothing also contributes to more enjoyable and safer cold weather boating. Consider layering clothing, and including a wet suit or dry suit, to help ward off hypothermia.

Here are some additional tips for safe winter boating:

- 1) Assess the risks – think what can go wrong and be fully equipped and prepared.
- 2) Leave a float plan with a responsible individual who knows your intentions, location, and who to call if you fail to return as scheduled.
- 3) Carry a VHF radio and an EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon), signal flares and other means to draw attention to your location.
- 4) Be aware of and prepared for the shock of sudden immersion and incapacitating effects of cold water – dress to get wet and carry a change of clothing in a waterproof container.
- 5) Be aware of activity around your vessel and potential for fast-changing weather.
- 6) Boat safe and sober – save the alcohol for when you've safely returned.
- 7) Be sure your vessel is in good operating condition and has the necessary safety equipment on board before you leave the dock.
- 8) Refresh your seamanship skills - take a boating safety course offered by your local Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla.