

LGPS

SOUNDINGS

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LAKE GEORGE POWER SQUADRON, INC.
OF UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS
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Commander Message

By George K. Williams, AP

Happy New Year everyone, time continues to fly by! With all the cold weather lately, it's difficult to think about boating now that our local lakes and waterways have grown hard. Things going on around the region are abundant from boat shows to ice fishing to my favorite, relaxing in front of a crackling fire. As winter continues its wrath, I know many of you, myself included, are looking ahead to sunnier days and warmer waters. While the chill may have us all docked indoors for now, it's the perfect time to prepare for the season ahead. In this issue, I have provided some essential tips to keep your boat in top shape and your spirits high during the off-season.

Even though your boat is docked, winter is the perfect time to address any maintenance tasks you may have been putting off.

Inspect Hull and Propellers: Look for any signs of damage that might need repairs.

Review Electronics: Test and update all electronic systems. Winter is a good time to update software or check wiring.

Clean Upholstery: Clean and protect your cushions, canvas, and other fabric parts to keep them in great condition for next season.

Until next issue – stay warm!

Embracing The Off-Season

Did you know that winter boating can be an incredible experience? While some marinas may be shut down, others offer year-round access to waterways. Here are a few reasons you might want to venture out on the water, even in the cold.
Peace and Quiet: Winter boating offers a unique opportunity to enjoy the serenity of the water without the summer crowds.

Wildlife Viewing: Winter is the perfect time to spot migratory birds, seals, and even whales in some coastal areas.

Seasonal Adventure: Try your hand at ice boating or simply enjoy the crisp winter air and beautiful, snow-capped landscapes.

Winter Photography: If you're into photography, winter boating can provide some incredible opportunities for shooting frozen landscapes, snow-covered boats, and unique wildlife shots.

Critical Squadron Website Security Updating Has Begun

The last issue of Soundings reported on the website, how due to old technology, it was being the subject of data security issues by not keeping up with the times. The support of the membership who voted in favor of the important updating, the proposed site-wide upgrade is now underway. This update will ensure the website is functioning at the latest security level keeping our chart vendor data and our account secure. The required re-programming will be underway shortly with our current technology service provider "CTS On-Line". We will announce the completion of the website project once it has been tested and brought online.

Make Plans for Upcoming Winter Events

Lake George Winter Carnival is back! Enjoy the winter carnival in Lake George Village January 25th through March 2nd – weather and ice conditions permitting. Ice bars will again be returning around the region. Artisans use saws and chisels to craft full bars and fancy fun wintry lounges made of ice at five locations in Lake George and Bolton Landing this winter. Expect themed cocktails and other drink specials along with ice luges, entertainment, sculptures and plenty of food and more.

When is it safe to walk on a frozen lake?

As a general rule of thumb, ice is safe to walk on when there is 4 inches or more of clear ice. It is important to understand that different types of ice varying in their strength. Clear blue or black ice is the strongest. This ice is formed from the lake water freezing. White opaque ice is weaker and is often formed from snow falling on the ice surface, partially melting, and then freezing. Gray ice is even weaker and is formed as it starts to break down. White and gray mottled ice is the weakest and will typically be found on a lake late in the season, not long before the ice completely melts. Our recommendation is to base your decision on safety on the amount of clear blue or black ice. As an example, if you were to check the ice and find 6 inches of ice, 3 inches of clear ice under 3 inches of white ice, this would not be considered safe. Follow the old saying, "thick and blue, tried and true, white and crispy, way too risky."

Ice Thickness Recommendations Provided By NYS DEC

2 inches or less: Stay Off

4 inches: Ice fishing or other activities on foot

5 inches: Snowmobile or ATV

8-12 inches: Car or small pickup

12-15 inches: Medium truck

The recommendations and information above are for non-running waters. DEC advises people to stay off the ice over moving or running water. Ice thickness over running water can be highly variable and falling through can result in being pulled under the ice. It is also important to stay away from inlets and outlets, as well as bubblers around docks and marinas.