

# *LGPS*

## *SOUNDINGS*

*November-December 2024*



LAKE GEORGE POWER SQUADRON, INC.  
OF UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS  
PO BOX 411, BURNT HILLS, NY 12027

### *Commander Message*

*By George K. Williams, AP*

As this year's boating season comes to a close, I would like to take a moment to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for making this year so memorable. Whether you were out on the water every weekend or enjoyed a more relaxed pace, your participation and spirit of camaraderie have made this season truly special as Commander of the Lake George Power Squadron.

I trust you've created unforgettable memories, explored new waterways and perhaps even met new friends along the way. Your passion for boating is what makes our Squadron vibrant, and together we should look forward to carrying that energy into next year.

While the boats may be tucked away for the winter season, there are still plenty of ways to stay engaged. Have you considered taking a self-taught weather, electronics or advanced grade coursework. Contact Squadron Education Officer Donna Canestraro to order USPS materials to enjoy over the winter.

Over the slow, winter months, and before chart sales again pick-up in the spring, we are looking to upgrade both the functionality and security issues found with our website. Please read the provided information on the following page of this newsletter for the proposed security upgrading of the Squadron website software and its e-commerce software functionality component that maintains our chart sales ordering and accounting system.

Thank you once again for your continued support of the Squadron's mission of keeping our lakes and rivers safe and enjoyable for everyone. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable off-season, and best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving and a joyous Christmas. Until next issue – Stay Warm – Think Spring!

### **Congratulations to 2024 Merit Mark Recipients**

The USPS Chief Commander awards annually a "merit mark" to a member for substantial effort in personally furthering the interests, programs and objectives of USPS, its districts and squadrons. It is a coveted award and is by and large the only "official" recognition a member receives for his/her efforts. Only one merit mark may be awarded in a year, no matter how extensive the contribution. A certificate is issued and a special insignia may be worn on the USPS uniform. Active, additional active and family members are all eligible. The Squadron Commander based on actual personal service performed this year by an LGPS member has made a recommendation for a merit mark this year for several LGPS members and thanked each for their dedicated service.

## **Critical Squadron Website Security Updating**

The Squadron has continually maintained a website over the past 20+ years. The website at [www.lgps.org](http://www.lgps.org) features information about who we are, what our mission is, past newsletters, a photo gallery and serves as our sole income generator (chart sales). Its most important function has been a secure portal for our many authorized vendors to purchase and pay for on-line ordering of the four-panel Squadron Navigation Chart of Lake George. In recent months, the website, due to old technology, has been a subject of data security issues by not keeping up with the times. A recent risk analysis identified several critically deficient areas requiring immediate upgrading. This needed upgrade will foremost fix critical, non-compliant e-commerce vulnerabilities in our Chart Vendor Portal. Our current e-commerce chart sales payment gateway has become unstable and opens our vendors to potential data breaches and increasing our own liability. As cyber threats evolve, outdated websites running old, outdated software such as ours have become more susceptible to attacks. A proposed site-wide upgrade will ensure the website is functioning at the latest security level keeping our chart vendor data secure. Since its deployment 20+ years ago, regulations around data privacy and terms of service have drastically changed. An upgraded website will (1) be easier to maintain; (2) have fewer software bugs; (3) eliminate conflicts and technical issues that arise from running outdated software; (4) long overdue, and (5) will keep both the Squadron and chart vendor banking data safe and secure.

The time is now to perform a site-wide upgrade. So, how much will such a software upgrade cost the Squadron? Over the past several months, we have met with and requested quotes of several IT software firms with e-commerce experience. Required software programming quotes ranged from a low of \$4,000.00 to well over \$10,000.00. Our lowest quotation was received from our current technology service provider "CTS On-Line". After careful review and consideration of both the scope of work required, our past experiences with CTS-Online, they have offered discounted pricing as existing customers and will provide us with the security and functionality we require.

Next Step: The Squadron has available the funding to proceed with this website security/upgrade project. The Bridge recommends that an award be made to "CTS-Online" for the necessary work. However, in order to authorize the award and to expend Squadron funds, it is required to notify the membership and require a vote to expend treasury funding of this nature. This software upgrade cost is not to exceed \$4,000.00 (four thousand dollars).

**Enclosed with this newsletter mailing you will find a secret ballot to cast your vote. Please follow the instructions accompanying the secret ballot and return it (postmarked) not later than Wednesday, December 4, 2024 in the pre-paid return envelope. We trust that you will support this important project.**

## **Make Plans for Upcoming NYC Boat Show**

The New York National Boat Show returns to the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center located at 655 West 34th Street, New York City. Show dates are as follows: January 22-26, 2025 – Wednesday through Friday from 12pm to 9pm, Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 9pm, and Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 6pm. Admission prices are Adult: \$20.00 each - 12 and younger: FREE with a paid adult admission. Purchase advance show tickets separately online at <http://www.nyboatshow.com/> or available in person upon arrival at the show.

## **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.