



District 9



Interlaker Spring 2025

Volume 78 Issue 1

Membership is Number One!

The 2025 Council Meeting
was held on 22 March 2025
See D9 Website for D9 Contacts

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Interlaker Editor: D/Lt Natalie Dunbar



D9 Photographer
D/Lt Bob Blau, SN
ABC Birmingham

Thank You to all!
Contributors!

United States Power Squadrons District 9 Spring Conference

25-27 April 2025

Host:

Grosse Pointe Power Squadron



Comfort and Inn & Suites and
Conference Center

2424 South Mission Street
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

District 9 Spring Council Meeting was held by Zoom
Saturday, 22 March 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

America's Boating Club® District 9

ANCHOR BAY - ANN ARBOR - BIRMINGHAM - DEARBORN
DETROIT - FLINT - GRAND TRAVERSE BAY
GROSSE POINTE - LANSING - MOUNT CLEMENS
PORT HURON - SAGINAW BAY
SAINT CLAIR SHORES - WYANDOTTE



Grosse Pointe Power Squadron Hosts 2025 Spring D9 Conference



AGE of AQUARIUS



Greetings and Welcome fellow members of District 9. As the Commander of Grosse Pointe Power Squadron, I invite you to the Spring 2025 District 9 Conference at the Comfort Inn & Suites and Conference Center in Mt. Pleasant, MI. The theme, "The Age of Aquarius."

Spring District 9 Conference

25-27 April 2025

Hosted by Grosse Pointe Power Squadron

Comfort Inn & Suites and Conference Center

2424 South Mission Street, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Friday Night Hospitality

- Registration begins at 1500 - 1800.
- Hospitality in room off the atrium with food provided by individual squadrons.
- D9 will be providing a bar; wristbands will be required.
- Hospitality room is open from 1800-2200 hours.
- Hippie themed clothing

Saturday Conference and Events

- Registration 0730 - 1200 hours.
- Morning dress code: Uniform F, Evening: hippie themed clothing
- Insurance talk with Core Insurance Group
- IMAS Workshop with Yvonne Hill (bring your laptop)
- Educational Department Meeting 0830
- District SEO and District VSC Meetings
- Annual Meeting/Conference: 1:30-4:00 PM
- Italian Buffet Lunch: 1200-1300
- Evening Banquet 6-11 PM,
- Cocktails at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 7:00 PM
- DJ, music, dancing



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

For Boaters, By Boaters™



Attention: All meal reservations MUST be received by April 12, 2025.

Uniform of the day on Friday night: hippie themed clothing

Uniform of the day on Saturday morning: Uniform F, Evening: Hippie themed clothing



First Time

Rank	Last Name	First Name	Grade	Certificate #	Squadron	Attendee? Yes or No
(1)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
(2)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
(3)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
(4)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____ Attending Friday Night Hospitality Night: _____

E-Mail: _____ Attending Meeting on Saturday/ No Lunch _____ -----

MEALS FYI: The hotel serves a free continental breakfast for hotel guests from 0700-1000 hours.

Lunch Buffet: Classic Italian lunch buffet which includes vegetarian, and Coffee, Tea, and soft drinks. \$30.00 per person

Saturday evening Dinner: Asiago Chicken, Salmon with Dill Cream Sauce, or Vegetarian Pasta Primavera

Of Lunch Buffets: @ \$30ea _____ Total Dinners @ \$45 ea _____ = Total enclosed \$ _____

Special Needs and Allergies: _____ -----

Make checks payable to: Grosse Pointe Power Squadron , mail to: Lt. Bonny Utz, 21502 Wedgewood Drive, Grosse Pointe, MI 48236

Due by April 12 2025



D/C Chet Dunbar at Flint Change of Watch , 5 Jan 2024
Photo by Cdr. Connie Hallenbeck, JN

District 9 Commander D/C Chet Dunbar, AP



Past Grosse Pointe Power Squadron Commander

Spring has arrived, bringing blooming flowers and the excitement of boaters preparing for the season. As we welcome our spring conference and change of watch, I reflect on my journey with District Nine—a journey that began in 2019 as District Treasurer. I have had the privilege of serving our district through both challenging times and moments of celebration, much like a perennial flower that continues to grow with each passing year.

As this Change of Watch marks the end of my tenure as a golden member of the bridge, I will transition to the role of immediate Past District Commander, embracing a new chapter as a silver member. It has been an honor to serve alongside such dedicated individuals over the past six years, and I look forward to supporting District Nine in the future.

Natalie and I have cherished every moment spent at squadron and district events, and we are grateful for the memories we have created together. We eagerly anticipate joining you all at upcoming conferences, boating classes, parties, Change of Watch events, and balls.

Americas Boating Club District Nine is a remarkable organization, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve as District Commander. I leave with confidence that our district is in excellent hands with the new bridge and officers. I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer boating season, and I look forward to continuing our shared journey at future events.

Stay safe, stay well, God Bless!
Wishing you safe waters!

Chet



Above

Chet swearing in Lansing S&P Commander
Michelle Reurink, P

Right

Chet swearing in St. Clair Shores Commander
Linda Lumpkin, S





District 9 Commander
D/C Chet Dunbar, AP



Past Grosse Pointe Power Squadron Commander

D/C Chet Dunbar at Flint Change of Watch , 5 Jan 2024
Photo by Cdr. Connie Hallenbeck, JN



Above
D9 Dinner at the spring Governing Board Meeting in Orlando. Photo taken by PC Rose Stano.



Chet swearing in Flint Power Squadron Commander Connie Hallenbeck



Detroit Commander Wendy Caldwell

Grosse Pointe Commander Roman Bier

Photo credit to Dlt Delphine Cooley

Blessing of the Fleet, Mariners Church, Detroit



Left: D9 attends the Peace River Change of Watch (COW)



District 9 Executive Officer

D/Lt/C William Stano, JN

**Staff Commander Bill Stano, JN
Grosse Pointe Power Squadron**

For more than three decades, membership in the United States Power Squadrons, also known as America's Boating Club, has been steadily declining, with the rate of attrition accelerating despite various efforts to reverse the trend. The organization faces a revolving door of membership: while new members are recruited, many of them, along with a significant number of long-standing members, leave shortly thereafter. This issue is further compounded by natural age-related attrition, creating an unsustainable trajectory for a club that relies heavily on member participation and engagement. Although raw membership numbers are critical, it is ultimately the quality of the membership experience that will drive retention, foster growth, and ensure long-term stability for the organization.

What is Membership Experience?

Member experience is how members feel about an organization, how they interact with it, and then the value they attribute to it. Member experience is a measure of how a person interacts with, feels about, and perceives an organization's members-only offerings.

Member experience is a measure of how a person interacts with, feels about, and perceives an organization's members-only offerings.

Member experience is a combination of a member's satisfaction and engagement with an organization, and it includes all interactions from onboarding to continued support.

Member experience is the emotional response that members have when they think of and interact with the organization.

An organization can have low fees and quality benefits, but if your members do not feel welcome and are integrated into the organization, then their experience will be poor.

A positive member experience promotes membership retention and expands an organization's reach for new members. It directly impacts the success and revenue. A positive member experience leads to:

- Increased satisfaction

- Word-of-mouth advertising

- Profitability



District 9 Executive Officer
D/Lt/C William Stano, JN

Past Commander of
America's Boating Club Grosse Pointe

Regardless of whether membership trends rise or fall, America's Boating Club must ensure it has the necessary support, infrastructure, and programs in place to deliver a positive experience that meets or exceeds the expectations of both new and existing members. Without proper preparation, new members are likely to leave through the revolving door of membership attrition. Improving the overall membership experience is a crucial strategy for revitalizing the organization. By fostering greater engagement, satisfaction, and loyalty, the club can build a stronger membership base that retains current members while attracting new ones. Enhancing the member experience is essential for the survival and long-term health of America's Boating Club/United States Power Squadrons. Consider how your squadron or club can contribute to improving this experience.

Finally, I want to thank the members of the Executive Department for all the hard work everyone did to make 2024 a successful year.

Respectfully submitted,
R/C Bill Stano, JN
District 9 Executive Officer



D9 Educational Officer
D/Lt/C Thomas H Geggie, SN

Past Commander of Birmingham Power Squadron



We have many accomplishments and changes to report in USPS | ABC education.

First, the accomplishments and good news:

The National Education Department under the leadership of Chuck Wells has been moving aggressively to update existing classes and to develop new class offerings.

In the Advanced Grades category, **Piloting** has been retired and is replaced by **Marine Navigation (MN)**. (If you are presently teaching Piloting, you may finish, but new classes should be moved to Marine Navigation). This new course significantly updates our introductory navigation offering by emphasizing electronic navigation while preserving traditional methods. A new **Advanced Marine Navigation (AMN)** class (to replace **Advanced Piloting**) should be offered in Beta form by the end of 2025.

Moving up the chain, a new class, **Offshore Navigation (ON)**, is now offered as an alternative to JN. This class will teach cruising and navigating offshore without the use of marine sextants. Another new course, **Celestial Navigation (CEN)**, is now in Beta and will focus only on the use of the marine sextant. The old **JN** and **N** courses will continue to be taught. Students wishing to earn the grade of N or N can follow a path beginning with Seamanship or Boat Handling, and then Piloting or Marine Navigation and then includes AP, JN and N, or they can take AP (or AMN when available), ON and CEN. The two paths cannot be mixed.

One of the most interesting things discussed at the 2025 National Meeting, however, is the launch of a new class, **Inland Boating**. This class will be aimed at the day boaters who populate our inland lakes and rivers. These boaters make up about 80% of all boaters. NEO Chuck Wells believes we are not speaking to these boaters with our traditional Advanced Grades classes, which are primarily aimed at coastal and offshore cruisers. (For definition purposes, the Great Lakes are considered as “coastal waters” akin to Atlantic and Pacific coastal waters.) Chuck’s goal, if the new class is successful, is to add new classes aimed at this market, and to identify existing courses and seminars, to reach out to them.

SEOs should be looking at the list of new and revised **Seminars** now available on the National site. These offer a good way to introduce potential students and members to our offerings.

Finally, I believe our D-9 Squadrons have stepped up to teach the ABC class in spite of the challenges we face in Michigan. Final statistics will be available in August, and we will let you know how we have done.

That being said, a new **ABC Course** has been developed and is in final review at the NASBLA level. It should become available soon and will replace the existing ABC Course. We will reach out to all Squadron Commanders and SEOs when we have details of the changeover to the new course.



D9 Educational Officer
D/Lt/C Thomas H Geggie, SN

Past Commander of Birmingham Power Squadron



Two final words:

There seems to be confusion across USPS | ABC about the requirement for **Instructor Certification**. While many squadrons pride themselves by asking instructors of all courses to be Certified Instructors, **the requirement comes from NASBLA and applies to only the ABC Course**.

The basic requirement for Instructor Certification is that a person completes **Instructor Development (ID)** and then attends a **Recertification Seminar** every four years. We offered a recertification seminar at the fall 2024 D-9 conference, however, we identified another certification issue for D-9 – our instructors are aging out and we need to recruit new instructors.

To assist squadrons, we will offer an on-line ID Class in the fall. We have many details to work out, but you will receive details and registration information by the end of the summer. In addition, we will offer a Recertification Seminar at the fall 2025 conference.

Birmingham will be offering the new **Celestial Navigation Class** beginning on Monday, May 19. This will be an in-person class and will be taught at Trinity Health Oakland – Education Center (previously named St Joseph Hospital).

This course will begin with six sessions of classroom time, then students will have some time over the summer to practice with a sextant and take sights, and the class will resume with another six sessions in the fall. Students will need access to a sextant (available for rental) and current-year Nautical Almanac (available for purchase elsewhere online). There will be no class on May 26.

Registration information is on the Birmingham web site – bpsd9.org.

Let's use this course to kick off cross-district classes. I hope to see you there.

Let's practice Safe Boating through education!

Tom
District 9 Education Officer



Did You Know?

The U.S. Coast Guard reports that drowning is the leading cause of death in recreational boating accidents, and most victims were not wearing a life jacket



Life Jacket Loaner Program for Kids

Michigan law requires all children under 6 years of age to wear a USCG-approved Type I or II PFD when riding on the open deck of any vessel while underway.

All vessels must be equipped with USCG-approved personal flotation devices (PFDs), also known as life jackets. The quantity and type depend on the length of your vessel and the number of people on board and/or being towed. Michigan life jacket laws include the following:

- All vessels must be equipped with a PFD for each person on board or being towed.
- A vessel that is less than 16 feet long, or is a canoe or kayak, must have either a wearable PFD (Type I, II, or III) or a throwable PFD (Type IV) for each person on board.
- All children under 6 years of age must wear a USCG-approved Type I or II PFD when riding on the open deck of any vessel while underway.
- The USCG requires that all vessels have at least one Type I, II or III PFD that is USCG-approved, wearable and of the proper size for each person on board or being towed. Sizing for PFDs is based on body weight and chest size.
- In addition to the above requirements, one USCG-approved throwable device must be on board vessels 16 feet or longer and be readily accessible.
- Each person riding on a PWC or being towed behind a PWC or other vessel must wear a USCG-approved Type I, II or III personal flotation device. Inflatable PFDs are not allowed on PWC or while being towed behind PWC or other vessels.
- All PFDs must be in good and serviceable condition and must be readily accessible.

Around the country, over 575 marinas, fuel docks, BoatUS Towing Operators, Army Corp recreation sites and other waterfront businesses lend out kids' life jackets for the day or weekend to families who have a temporary need for one. 140,000 lifejackets are loaned each year through the **Boat US Foundation**. One of the program's goals is to educate boaters on the significance of wearing the appropriate size and type of life jacket while boating.



Another is to make sure a day of boating isn't spoiled just because a family forgot a life jacket at home. And finally, the most important goal is to simply keep kids safe on the water! The loaner program is ideal for boaters who may have guests on their boat and wish to avoid purchasing extra children's jackets for one-time use. Organizers say the loaner program is designed to help boaters comply with state law.

Here is how the program works: A boating family can go to a participating marina and borrow a life jacket for short-term use. Three different size jackets are available: infant (under 30lbs.), small child (30-50lbs.), and youth (50-90lbs.). Adult jackets are also offered. Each jacket has a Boat U.S. Foundation Logo printed on it and a plastic tag with return information. See **BoatUS.org** for further information.

Where can I go to borrow a life jacket?

Ken's Marine Service – Boat US

24600 Jefferson
St Clair Shores
586-775-9274

Duffy's Landing at Belle Maer - Boat US

41700 Conger Bay Drive
Harrison Twp
586-468-1630

Sea Tow Foundation has a similar program with life jackets available.

Trader Todd's Marina- Sea Tow

24030 E. Jefferson Ave
St Clair Shores
586-776-5650

This article was written by Lt. Jane Ellis, AP
Boat Safety Officer- America's Boating Club Grosse Pointe



Photo by Peggy Schwaller

**Tom at the Registration Table
2023 Fall Conference General Membership Meeting**

My wife Martha surprised me with a trip to Hawaii. I have been to 49 states and this will be number 50. I will toast all of you, and our new District Commander Bill Stano while sitting on a beach, wearing a Hawaiian shirt and sipping a Margarita.

D/Lt/C Thomas J. Fisher, SN

Secretary

**District 9 Secretary
D/Lt/C Tom Fisher, SN**

**Past Commander of
America's Boating Club Mount Clemens**



I have continued to make some changes. At the last conference I changed the voting cards. They now have less information that needs to be filled out since, most of this information is readily available online. Also, the color has changed and will continue to change as card stock runs out.

As a reminder to everyone, Paper seat packets will be very limited at Conference. I have found that I bring a majority of seat packets home after conference unused. These go into secure recycling, I.E. my fireplace or firepit. Please download a copy to your phone, tablet or laptop for use at the meetings.

Since the last Conference I had the honor to swear in the Bridge of the Birmingham Power Squadron and the honor to attend the Change of Watch for Mount Clemens, Flint, and Saint Clair Shores.

I apologize in advance for not being able to attend the Spring Conference.

DLt/C Thomas Fisher swearing in Birmingham Power Squadron Cdr Julian Fiander





District 9 Secretary
D/Lt/C Tom Fisher, SN



Past Commander of
America's Boating Club Mount Clemens



Photo by Peggy Schwaller

Tom at the Registration Table
2023 Fall Conference General Membership Meeting



2023 Distinctive Communicator Awards from USPS®

USPS® Advisors

D9 Interlaker: P/R/C Angelo Giovanniello, SN
Squadrons' Newsletters: R/C Barbara Pearson, AP
Websites: P/C James Haglund



The District 9 *Interlaker* is judged on 2 seasonal issues. The squadron newsletters are judged on 4 monthly issues

D9 - Interlaker

- Anchor Bay - *The Porthole*
- Birmingham - *Bilge Chatter*
- Dearborn - *Anchor Lines*
- Detroit - *Dumping Grounds*
- Grand Traverse Bay - *The 45th Parallel*
- Lansing - *Crow's Nest*
- Mount Clemens - *Mooring Lines*
- Port Huron - *Splash*

D9 Website

- Anchor Bay Power Squadron
- Ann Arbor Power Squadron
- Birmingham Power Squadron
- Detroit Power Squadron
- Grand Traverse Bay Sail and Power Squadron
- Grosse Pointe
- Lansing Sail and Power Squadron
- Mount Clemens Power Squadron
- Port Huron Sail and Power Squadron



District 9 Treasurer

D/Lt/C Ron Babin, P

Member of Port Huron



District Treasurer

America's Boating Club District 9 is financially sovereign with all checks received being deposited and all bills due being paid. Please send any payment requests within one week of the event for prompt payment consideration.

D9 had positive cash flow in FYE 2025 and I'm working on improving the return rate on your funds in D9 in-between our main conferences. Please contact me if I can help in any way and it's been a pleasure to see so many of you over this past year!

Wishing you fair winds and safe waters!

D/Lt/C Ron Babin, P



D/Lt/C Ron Babin swears in Saginaw Bay Power Squadron Commander Guy R. Greve, P



Past District 9 Commanders

1940-41	Lee S. Nelson, N	Toledo	1989	William J. Bayer, SN	Warren
1942-43	Charles R. Austerbury, JN	Detroit	1990	James R. Leonard, SN	Lansing
1944-45	Carl J. Florian, N	Toledo	1991	Fred C. Sellenraad, SN	Saginaw Bay
1946	George N. Lilygren	Grosse Pointe	1992	Gerald Burpee, SN	Flint
	Carl J. Florian, N	Toledo	1993	Stf/C Edwin R. Schwenk, SN	Grosse Ile
1947-48	Richard Webber, JN	Detroit	1994	Joseph F. VanBlerck, SN	Mt Clemens
1949	Eugene C. Swift	Saginaw Bay	1995	R/C E. Steven Jensen, JN	Lansing
1950-51	Keith E. Brooks, AP	Port Huron	1996	Rick Mack, SN	Port Huron
1952-53	Fred L. Chalcraft, Jr. N	Detroit	1997	James M. Gabocy, SN	Grosse Ile
1954-55	W. Kent Fenton, JN	Toledo	1998	Michael M. Maziasz, N	Birmingham
1956-57	Robert L. Davis, JN	Grand Rapids	1999	Gert A. Baldwin, JN	Muskegon
1958-59	Charles L. Fead, AP	Port Huron	2000	P/R/C Allan F. Harold, SN	Ann Arbor
1960-61	William P. Ternes, JN	Detroit	2001	Stf/C John Bennett, SN	Grosse Pointe
1962-63	Ray C. Stevens, AP	Kalamazoo	2002	W. Lyle Rea, SN	Kalamazoo
1964-65	James D. Happle, JN	Wyandotte	2003	Richard P. Gallop, SN	Mt Clemens
1966-67	Robert E. Stanley, N	Detroit	2004	Michael J. Rachuk, SN	Anchor Bay
1968-69	Elliott B. Spreen, AP	Kalamazoo	2005	James G. Knaggs, SN	Flint
1970-71	John J. Wetzel, N	Grosse Pointe	2006	Denise C. Samu, AP	Birmingham
1972-73	P/C/C Richard W. Miner, SN	Birmingham	2007	Jerry Stephan, AP	Grand Traverse Bay
1974	Frank R. Veit, JN	Grand Rapids	2008	Denise Brooks, AP	Port Huron
1975	Everett R. Clark, N	Toledo	2009	Bryan Bartlett, SN	Detroit
1976	George A. Richardson, SN	Ann Arbor	2010	James Draper, JN	Flint
1977	James L. Mitts, SN	Kalamazoo	2011	Mary Ann Jensen, SN	Lansing
1978	James C. Acheson, SN	Port Huron	2012	Linda LaLonde, P	Dearborn
1979	Richard C. Rateich, SN	Grosse Ile	2013	William Stano, JN	Grosse Pointe
1980	Robert L. McLravy, JN	Lansing	2014	H. Jay Stevens, SN	South Bend
1981	Odell C. Mercer, SN	Wyandotte	2015	Dawn Flynn, JN	Lansing
1982	Don L. Bender, SN	Dearborn	2016	Anthony Lewandowski, AP	Birmingham
1983	Marvin W. Warmels, SN	Grand Rapids	2017	Janet Marie Klumpp, AP	Mount Clemens
1984	P/C/C Theodore H. Smith, SN	Grosse Pointe	2018	Michael J. Babiarz, AP	Grosse Pointe
1985	William J. Morrison, SN	Saginaw Bay	2019-20	Ralph Ziegler, JN	Lansing
1986	Gene R. VanRhee, SN	Kalamazoo	2021	Janet Hartesvelt, P	Grand Traverse Bay
1987	P/N/F/Lt Richard H. Jarmon, SN	Birmingham	2022	Alanna Harvey, P	Lansing
1988	Lewis W. Dance, SN	Dearborn	2023	Albert Schwaller, JN-CN	Birmingham
			2024	Chet Dunbar Jr, AP	Grosse Pointe

Prior to 1947 there were no district education officers. Initially the ranking educational officer, the chairman of education, served without rank and was appointed by the Governing Board. Later they became the DEO and was granted the rank of D/Lt/C in 1956. In 1962 an Asst. DEO was authorized. In 1974 the DEO and Asst. DEO were elected at the district conference, with prior approval of the director of education. Since 1967, every DEO who has served a full 3-year-term, except one, has been an officer of the National Educational Department.

Past District 9 Educational Officers

1947-48	E.C. Bogert, N	Detroit	1985-87	Herbert R. Davidson, SN	Lansing
1949	Avery T. Macklem, JN	Detroit	1988-90	J. D. Westbrook, SN	Irish Hills
1950-55	Reed E. Maes, AP	Port Huron	1991-93	Patricia A. Johnston, SN	Dearborn
1956-61	Fred L. Chalcraft, Jr., N	Detroit	1994-96	John P. Horan, SN	South Bend
1962-66	Lawrence Messersmith, N	Detroit	1996-99	Nancy L. McCully, SN	Birmingham
1967	Tracy B. Gardner, N	Dearborn	2000-02	Marlys H. Vickers, SN	Birmingham
1968	Arthur A. Obel, N	Detroit	2003-05	Thomas Hyatt, N	Detroit
1969-70	Glen H. Howell, N	Grosse Pointe	2006-08	William M. Stewart, SN	Dearborn
1971-74	Raymond H. Crockford, N	Grand Rapids	2009-11	Donald C. Fiander, SN	Birmingham
1975-78	James E. Ryan, N	Toledo	2012-15	Duane Carlson, SN	Mt. Clemens
1979-81	Donald C. Beran, SN	Flint	2016-18	Thomas J. Smith, SN-CN	Birmingham
1982-84	John D. Alstetter, SN	Grosse Ile	2019-21	David Kowalski, SN	Birmingham
			2022-24		