

United States Power Squadrons®

"Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the FriendsSM"

TARS & TRIPE



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Bridge

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Is there a subject or topic you'd like to read about? Contact your Editor(s):

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P/D/C Chet Dunbar, AP

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DRESS CODE FOR YACHT CLUB
Family Casual - Dress Pants or Dress Denim. Dresses or Skirts for women, if preferred. Collared shirts. No Tee Shirts, Baseball Caps or distressed clothes.

Calendar of Upcoming Events



JANUARY 2026

14	WED - ABC Grosse Pointe - Change of Watch GPYC 1900
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*Check Website for updates to Calendar
www.gpps-d9.com*

*Check District-9 Michigan website for other events
www.d9-usps.org*



***See www.gpps-d9.com for other Squadrons Activities you are invited to join.
Note: Refer to the GPPS web site for more details - Unless otherwise posted -
All GPPS General Membership Meetings are on the second Wednesday - Sept. through May
All GPPS Executive Committee Meetings are on the fourth Wednesday - Aug. through May*



Commander's Message Cdr. Roman Bier, P

Dear Grosse Pointe Power Squadron Members,

As we approach the conclusion of 2025 and prepare to welcome a new year, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the privilege of serving as your Commander. It has been an honor to lead the Grosse Pointe Power Squadron and to work alongside such a dedicated and capable membership.

Throughout this year, the Bridge and I have sought to implement initiatives designed to enhance your experience and strengthen our organization. I trust that these efforts have been of benefit and have contributed to the continued advancement of the Squadron's mission.

Serving as Commander has been a truly rewarding experience that has provided me with invaluable insights and lasting memories. As we transition into 2026, I am confident that the incoming Commander and Bridge will build upon our achievements and continue to foster growth, participation, and fellowship among our members.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve in this leadership role. May the coming year bring you and your families health, happiness, and fair winds.
With deepest appreciation,

Roman Bier
Commander, Grosse Pointe Power Squadron





Education Officer *Lt/C Chester Dunbar Jr., AP*

Education Update from P/D/C Chet Dunbar Jr, AP

2025 was a great year for education!

Thanks to the dedication of our **instructors, proctors, and students**, we successfully offered a wide range of classes and strengthened our educational programs.

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce plans to expand our offerings even further — including more public boating, elective, and advanced courses.

Your ongoing participation and support are what make our success possible. Let's work together to make this year even more rewarding for everyone involved!

Respectfully,
P/D/C Chet Dunbar



Executive Officer *Lt/C Cassandra Washington, P*

As we turn the page on 2025 and welcome the New Year, I want to begin with a heartfelt thank you. Serving as your Executive Officer this past year was an honor, and the progress we made would have been possible without the dedication, fortitude, and teamwork of our Bridge, Executive Committee, committee chairs, instructors, and members. Your steady hands kept us on course, especially when navigating choppy waters.

The holiday season invites reflection, and I am grateful for the spirit of service and camaraderie that defines Grosse Pointe Power Squadron (GPPS). We've shared many fun and meaningful experiences, from the great Halloween-Themed fun shared at the Commander's Tea in October, to the honor of attending the Grosse Pointe Commodore's Ball in December, and concluding the year together at our Christmas Dinner at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club with an angelic performance by students from Grosse Pointe North High School. Whether through classes, vessel safety checks, meetings, events, or the countless behind-the-scenes efforts that often go unseen, we showed up for one another.

That spirit was on full display this season. Through our holiday gatherings and coordinated outreach, GPPS, alongside our friends across **District 9**, focused on giving in practical, meaningful ways. Members donated over **250 socks, hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens (and monetary support)** to help keep the homeless warm, and supported efforts that provide **"Welcome Home Baskets"** that included **basic household necessities** for families transitioning into stable housing. These efforts reflect the very heart of America's Boating Club: **service, preparedness, and fellowship.**

As we close out 2025, I am pleased to share that GPPS remains on solid footing. We continued delivering high-quality boating education, promoting safe boating practices, welcoming new members, and strengthening our relationships within **District 9 and USPS**. The work accomplished this year provides a strong foundation for what lies ahead.

My final words for 2025 are simple and sincere: **we are strongest when we take care of our community.**

Looking forward to 2026, as I step into the role of your Commander, I do so with humility, gratitude, honor, and great enthusiasm. My commitment is steady and clear: to support **GPPS, District 9, and USPS** with integrity, collaboration, and service; and to keep our connections across squadrons strong. Together, we will continue building a vibrant, engaged Squadron rooted in education, fellowship, and shared purpose.

May the New Year bring fair winds, calm seas, and renewed energy for the journey ahead. Thank you for your trust, your service, and your friendship. I look forward to serving alongside you in 2026.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Washington, Commander, GPPS



Administrative Officer

Lt/C Lisa Nieves, AP

Hello,

I would like to thank our past commander Roman Bier for his leadership and the executive board and committee for their commitment, encouragement and support. My position as administrative officer was a great opportunity to grow and make new changes that included many new events and fun filled outings for the GPPS and its members to enjoy.

I was committed to organizing new events and experiences, I was very successful. Some of the many new events we enjoyed together included: Whirly Ball, Spring Launch Dinner at Bayview Yacht Club, Michigan Central Train Station Tour, Barcade (Adult Arcade), Jimmy Johns Baseball Field Game Outing, Ford House Tour (House and Garden Tour), Rendezvous, New Member Appreciation Picnic, Concerts and Marina Parties.

I am the newly elected Executive Officer for the coming year 2026. I look forward to my continued commitment and promise to the GGPS D9-America's Boating Club-Grosse Pointe. I will work in harmony with my fellow officers to provide dedication to the advancement of boating. Safety and education.

Executive Offer: Lt/Commander Lisa Nieves AP



January Birthdays

Lavonia Criner
Marissa Leal
Kathleen Sullivan
Jeanne B. Flynn
Natalie Simon
James T. Mestdagh
Conrad Sobczynski
David L. Charvat

John Neeson
Ruebenstein S. Washington
Myron G. Sherer
John G. Marshall
Kelly Posch
William A. Stano
Jerilyn P. Sandifer

2025 Membership Roster



By now, everyone should have received your **2025 Membership Directory & Fleet Roster**, either by attending an event or one being mailed to your home. The popular question being asked is, "Where on the Great Lakes is that lighthouse on the cover?" Do you have a guess? It is actually the Two Rivers North Pierhead Light Tower in Two Rivers, Wisconsin on the shore of Lake Michigan.

If you did not receive a copy or find an error in some of your personal data, please email GPPSnews@gmail.com. The 2025 Commander, Bridge, and eBoard hope you find this edition informational and helpful. PS. The 2026 edition will have a Michigan historic lighthouse on the cover.

COLD WATER IMMERSION



Cold water immersion is almost always the result of a capsized or swamping of, or fall overboard from, a boat under 26 feet.

IT INCLUDES, OVER TIME, THREE DISTINCT PHASES:

In each phase, without a life jacket, a person faces a much higher risk of drowning.



Cold shock response (gaspings, hyperventilation)



Cold incapacitation (swim failure, loss of function)



Immersion hypothermia (eventually resulting in loss of useful consciousness)

WITH THAT IN MIND...WHEN BOATING IN COLD WATER:

- 1 Always wear a life jacket when in an open boat or on deck, ESPECIALLY if operating solo.
- 2 At least the operator, and ESPECIALLY solo operators, should carry emergency communication devices (e.g. hand held VHF radio, cell phone in waterproof bag) and signaling devices (emergency locator beacon and visual distress signals) ON THEIR PERSON.
- 3 Make sure the boat has a re-boarding device (such as a swim step, ladder or foot sling) that can be used by a person overboard.
- 4 Solo operators should ALWAYS attach an engine cut - off device when underway.
- 5 Cold water boaters should consider carrying a small inflatable dingy or life raft, and immersion (survival) suits.
- 6 File (and stick to) a float plan.



*Permission for use from the Boat US Foundation.

BOATING IN DENSE FOG



- 🔊 Turn on all running lights, even in daytime
- ⚠️ Slow down, and listen for other boats that may be nearby
- 🎯 If you have radar, use it to locate objects nearby

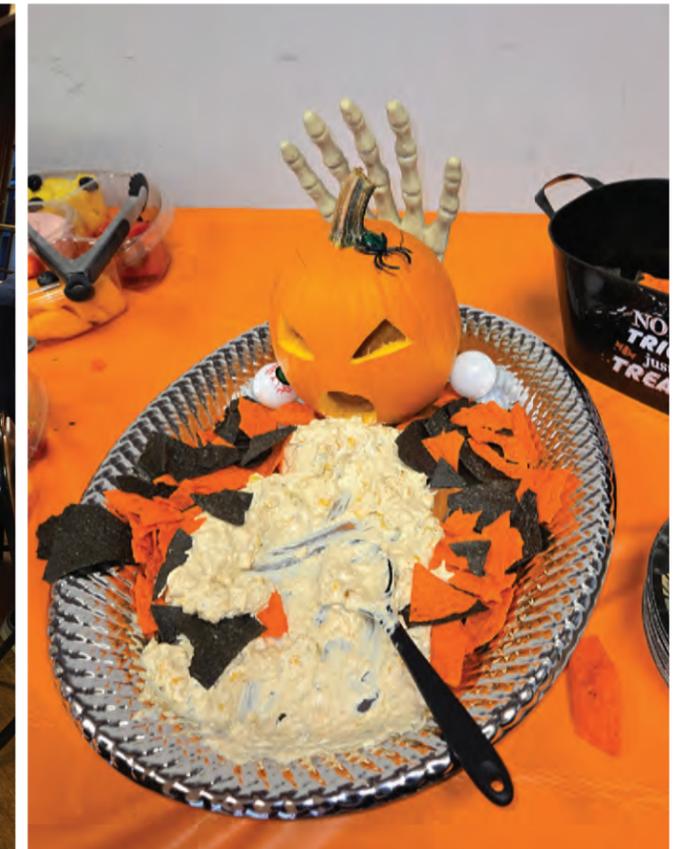
weather.gov



The Michigan Storm Chasers Facebook page is a very active and informative resource for Michigan and the Great Lakes weather. They also share data on meteor showers and northern lights over Michigan; as well as tracking the CN Holiday Train as it travels through Michigan each holiday season. They recently posted this winter graphic on their Facebook page which everyone should be aware of to keep safe on the frozen lakes. This information could save you or a loved one from drowning in icy conditions. Go follow their Facebook page for more Michigan weather related information!

Commander's Tea - Halloween Theme

Commander's Tea - Halloween Theme



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2025 GPPS Christmas Party



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2025 GPPS Christmas Party



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Holiday Party Donations

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The December 2025 Holiday Party donations changed from previous years. Due to scheduling conflicts at the Yacht Club, our party was later in the month than in previous years. Therefore, it was too late to collect toys for Toys 4 Tots. So, we decided to collect socks, hats, and mittens to donate to homeless organizations. That change ended up being a blessing!

Instead of collecting 30-40 toys, we collected many more pieces of clothing; touching many more lives! The final count amounted to: 168 pair of socks, and 111 hats, scarves, and mittens. Your generous donations will help keep 279 people warm, versus 30-40 with toys. This is a wonderful example of how our initial thinking of an adversity, actually turned into a blessing.

The 111 pieces will be donated to **Community Housing Network** and **PBJ Outreach**. The socks have already been donated to **Detroit Socks**. All three are wonderful nonprofit organizations who touch the lives of many people within our metropolitan area in a positive way. With the harsh winter conditions we are experiencing, these warm and dry items are greatly needed.

Joey Dattilio, the founder of Detroit Socks organization, attended our last Executive Board meeting to accept the socks and give us an overview of his organization. The picture is Joey posing with Commander Cassandra Washington. The Bridge would like to hear your ideas for a donation drive at the 2026 Holiday Party. Again, thank you for your generous donations.



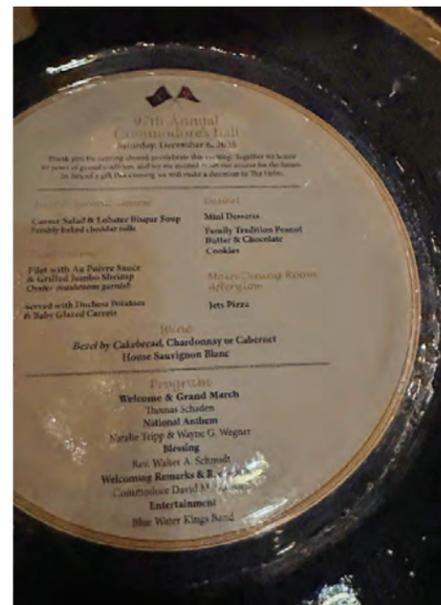
Opening Doors • Transforming Lives.



Holiday Party Donations



Grosse Pointe Commadore's Ball



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Grosse Pointe Commadore's Ball



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Past Commander's Dinner



Past Commander's Dinner
with the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club Commodore David M. Schaden

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<p>NOBLE ODYSSEY FOUNDATION</p> <p>LAKE ST. CLAIR GUIDE</p>	<p>p: 586.774.0006 • f: 586.774.2792 30503 Gratiot • Roseville, MI 48066 copyriteprinting.net</p>
	<p>https://americasboatingclub.org www.americasboatingcourse.com americasboatingchannel.com (YouTube & Digital Information) @AmericasBoating</p> <p>www.gpps-d9.com</p>
<p>DAN BOATER</p> <p>February 2023 Dan Boater will now be managed by Dan Boater and not USPS.</p> <p>Dan Boater will send out email to your registered email with information on renewal when needed. New rate will increase but will be discounted from the \$100.00 rate.</p> <p>For more information call 919-490-2011 or https://danboater.org</p>	
<p>GROSSE POINTE <i>Chamber of Commerce</i></p> <p>Member Savings Available</p> <p>https://grossepointechamber.com Look for Member - Member to Member Savings - Member Discount Program</p>	



Lake St Clair, Metro Detroit
from bitter cold
January 2025
courtesy NASA Landsat 9

GROSSE POINTE POWER SQUADRON

EDITOR

P/D/C Chet Dunbar, AP



Grosse Pointe

