

United States Power Squadrons®

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

TARS & TRIPE



Official Publication of the
Grosse Pointe Power Squadron



2026 Bridge



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www.gpps-d9.com



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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

Publisher: Copyrite Printing
bpalo@copyriteprinting.net

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

FEBRUARY 2026

- 9-15 MON - SUN - **National Meeting**
Myrtle Beach
- 11 WED - **General Membership Meeting**
GPYC
- 25 WED - **Executive Board Meeting**
GPYC | 7pm
- 28 SAT - **CPR**
GPYC | 8:30am

MARCH 2026

- 11 WED - **Membership Event**
TBD
- 25 WED - **Executive Board Meeting**
Via Zoom

APRIL 2026

- 8 WED - **Spring Launch Dinner Meeting**
Sinbad's
- 22 WED - **Executive Board Meeting**
GPYC
- 24-26 FRI - SUN - **District 9 Spring Conference**
Double Tree Hotel, Port Huron

MAY 2026

- 2 SAT - **Commander's Ball**
GPYC
- 16-17 SAT - SUN - **Great Lakes Boating Festival**
GPYC
- 27 WED - **Executive Board Meeting**
GPYC

JUNE 2026

- 10 WED - **Member Appreciation Picnic**
- 25 THU - **Great Lakes Water Authority**
Tour drinking water facility

JULY 2026

- 11 SAT - **Roadtrip - National Museum of the Great Lakes**
Tour and picnic / Toledo
- 25 SAT - **Roman's Marina Tendezvous**
with Steak and Corn Roast

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

Lt/C Cassandra Washington, P

February has arrived, and if Groundhog Day was any indication, many of us are still hoping for early spring. After what has felt like a particularly brutal Michigan winter, warmer days, open water, and boating season can't come soon enough.

Even with the cold, plenty is happening in the world of boating and within GPPS. Across the boating community, winter boat shows, safety education, and spring commissioning planning are in full swing; clear signs that the season is approaching, even if the snow says otherwise.

February also brings **Valentine's Day**, a reminder to spend time with those who matter most and to appreciate the friendships and camaraderie that make our Squadron so special.

Looking ahead, the **Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach (February 9 – 15)** is right around the corner, and we look forward to connecting with members attending and bringing ideas and new connections back home. Mark your calendars as well for our **Commander's Ball on May 2 at GPYC**—planning is underway, and it promises to be a wonderful evening of celebration and fellowship.

Finally, thank you to everyone who participated in our holiday service effort. **Joe Dattilio from Detroit Socks joined us at our first 2026 E-Board meeting on January 28** to accept the **168 pairs of socks** collected by GPPS during the Christmas season. **Detroit Socks is a registered 501(c)(3) charity** focused on collecting and distributing socks to those in need. Joey began the initiative as a high-school student and grew it from collecting small donations to organizing larger sock drives that supply new socks to homeless shelters and individuals experiencing housing insecurity. To date, Detroit Socks **has distributed more than 25,000 pairs of socks** to homeless shelters and individuals in Detroit and the surrounding areas since its founding in 2018. It is a meaningful reminder of how much the simplest gestures can make the biggest impact.

It is a true privilege to serve as your **2026 Commander of America's Boating Club – Grosse Pointe Power Squadron**. I am deeply grateful for the trust placed in me and inspired by the spirit of service that defines our Squadron. I extend my sincere congratulations and thanks to all **new and returning Bridge Officers, Chairpersons, and Members at Large** for stepping forward to serve. Your leadership strengthens our fellowship, expands our outreach, and ensures that GPPS continues to be a welcoming, engaged, and impactful organization. I look forward to working together as we build connections, serve our community, and make this a year marked by purpose, camaraderie, and shared success.

Stay warm, stay safe, and keep dreaming of spring launches ahead.
We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,
Cassandra Washington, Commander, GPPS





Education Officer
Lt/C Chester Dunbar Jr., AP



Executive Officer
Lt/C Lisa Nieves, AP

SPRING & SUMMER BOATING CLASSES

Grosse Pointe Yacht Club

The America Boating Club Grosse Pointe will offer a full schedule of boating and seamanship classes this spring and summer.

Classes are held Mondays | 6:30–9:00 PM

Registration: In person on the first night of class at 6:30 PM

Member Classes

Operations Training

April 20–27 | Venetian Room

Knots, Bends & Hitches

May 11 | Venetian Room

Boat Handling and Piloting

May 18–July 20 (No class May 25)
Venetian Room

Knots, Bends & Hitches

July 27 | Venetian Room

Public Classes

ABC3 Course

April 6–May 4 | Lakeshore Room

ABC3 Course

May 11–June 15 (No class May 25)
Lakeshore Room

ABC3 Course

June 22–July 27 | Lakeshore Room

Questions or additional information:

Phone: 313-744-7472

Email: classes@gpps-d9.org

We look forward to another great season on the water.

America's Boating Course

Presented by **The Grosse Pointe Power Squadron**



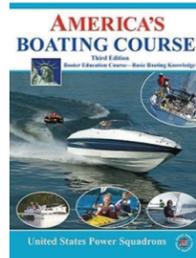
Learn the Fundamentals of Safe Boating and Operation

Taught by Boaters for Boaters

Appropriate for both New and Experienced Boaters

Comprehensive Course that Includes:

- Introduction to Boating
- Boating Law Both Federal and State
- Boating Safety Equipment
- Safe Boat Operation
- Communications
- Trailer Boating & Protecting your boat
- Hunting, Fishing and Waters Sports



- This course is approved by the NASBLA

- Accepted by Most Insurance Companies for a Discount

Classes held at: Zef's Dockside Bar and Kitchen

24026 Jefferson Ave.
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080

Class begins March 2, 2026 ending March 30, 2026

(This Class Meets Every Monday)

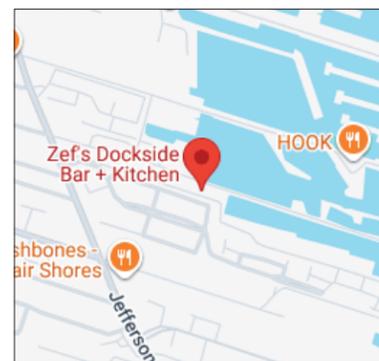
Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

(Registration first night at 6:30)

\$55 per Person includes Book

To Register call: 313 -744-7472 or email: classes@gpps-d9.org

www.gpps-d9.com



CPR-AED-FIRST AID COURSES – GET CERTIFIED- LIFE IS WHY

It is imperative that all America's Boating Club members and their families get certified in CPR.

As Seaman, Pilots, Navigators, Captains and First Mates, we are responsible for everyone aboard our vessels. The only thing worse than witnessing a Cardiac arrest is not knowing what to do to help! The first 4-6 minutes of sudden Cardiac arrest while waiting on EMS/Coast Guard is critical.

Cardiovascular Disease cause of death In the U.S. accounts for nearly 836,546 deaths, that's about 1 of every 3 deaths in the U.S. It is estimated that nearly 2,300 Americans die of cardiovascular disease each day, an average of 1 death every 38 seconds. Sudden Cardiac arrest mortality in the US was 366,807 in recent statistics. The majority of Cardiac Arrests happen outside of the hospital in public settings at 39.5%. In home or Residence at 27.5% and, 33% in nursing homes or health facilities.

It is estimated that 3 out of every 10 individuals will be faced with a life-threatening situation that requires CPR.

Scheduled CPR Classes for 2026-Registration is Mandatory

February 25, 9-1PM, November 7, 2026 9-1PM. Location: Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. 788 Lake shore Rd. Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236

To register for a class or for more information contact:

Lt/C Lisa Nieves, AP- Instructor – (313) 399-4900/Lnieves801@gmail.com or Lt/C Chet Dunbar Jr, AP (313) 774-7472



Administrative Officer *Lt/C Ken Owens, P*

It is an honor to serve as your Administrative Officer on the 2026 Bridge. I want to thank everyone for their vote of confidence in me to handle the tasks of this position. It is a pleasure to work alongside the other talented and creative 2026 Bridge Officers. Not only are we going to introduce some new events for this year, but we are also bringing back a couple popular activities that you haven't seen in a few years. My inbox is always available for your questions, ideas, and comments at GPPSnews@gmail.com.

Here's a little about me. I have over 30 years of nonprofit experience with several titles: Volunteer, Staff Member, Executive Director, Board Member, and contracted consultant. Also, I am an international selling author, and corporate workshop trainer. My training programs have taken me to 47 of the 50 United States; along with Canada, Puerto Rico, Bahamas, England, and Slovenia. You've also seen me on ABC's Good Morning America.

When I was ten years old, my grandparents gave me my first rowboat. Through the years, I've owned: a canoe, an outboard ski boat, a sailboat, and a kayak. My love of boating and the water has been strong my entire life. So much so, that I moved back to Michigan from Las Vegas a year ago just so I could get back into boating; and thus, how I became affiliated with ABC/Grosse Pointe Power Squadron.

I look forward to meet those of you I haven't met yet at an upcoming event.



Secretary *Lt/C Gaylynn Giliberto, AP*

My name is Gaylynn Giliberto. I am married to James (Jamie). We have two adult children and are blessed with five grandchildren who live in Miami, Florida, and Dripping Springs, Texas. My husband and I have been enjoying Lake St. Clair and Lake Huron aboard our new vessel for the past few years.

It is an honor and a privilege to have been selected and inducted onto the Grosse Pointe Power Squadron Bridge as Secretary. My husband and I have been associated with GPPS since 2021, beginning with the ABC Course as new vessel owners with no prior knowledge of navigation. As a member at large in 2025, I gained a deeper understanding of the GPPS Executive Committee, its functions, and its relationship with the district and national organizations.

As Secretary to GPPS, I promise to uphold the duties entrusted to me and to maintain integrity in recording and preserving the minutes of Executive Board meetings. I look forward to working with the officers who chair the committees under my oversight so that together we can give our utmost to uphold the name and reputation of GPPS.

Members,

We discussed having the Ford Michigan Central Train Station tour as our February social event. We are planning the event for the last Saturday in February, 28 Feb. The tour company does not yet have the information for the February tours, but we are planning for a late morning tour, 1030 or 1100. After this we will walk or drive to the Cork & Gabel restaurant and Six Spoke Brewing Company on Michigan Ave for some lunch. Cost for the tour is \$20.

Please let me know if you are interested as soon as possible. The tours sell out fast and I will prepay for all those committing to go. You can either send me a check or pay me the day of the tour. Please either respond to this email, call or text me at 734-649-1335. We're hoping to fill the tour with 25 of our members and a few from other squadrons.

**Commanders - please forward this to your membership. Thank you,
Fred J Hoitash**



February Birthdays

Tymon C. Totte
Kurt A. Hansen
Jay G. Kaiser
Paul Simon
Robert A. Malicki

Jeffrey A. Judson
Joseph A. Nagel
Caprice W. Baun
Karen Y. White-Owens

March Birthdays

William P. Quinlan
David Deronge
Melvin E. Riecher
Millicent Simon
Michael J. Babiarz

Stephen E. Lloyd
Jane E. Ellis
Kenneth J. Owens
Sheryl Kline Totte
Michael T. Wharton



Lake Huron Blue Ice



On Sunday, February 1, 2026, our Administrative Officer Lt/C Ken Owens took a road trip to Oscoda, Michigan. After seeing pictures on Facebook of the *blue ice*, he wanted to view firsthand, this wintry phenomenon. It takes certain winter conditions: cold temperature, currents, winds, and sunlight, to align properly, in order to produce blue ice on our Great Lakes. Below is the science behind Great Lakes blue ice. Enjoy the pictures!

Blue ice on the Great Lakes is caused by extremely dense, thick ice that forms without air bubbles, allowing it to absorb red/yellow light and scatter blue light. This phenomenon requires calm, cold conditions, often appearing when thick ice sheets crack and flip over, revealing deep, compressed, and clear ice, particularly near the Straits of Mackinac.

Key Factors Contributing to Blue Ice Formation:

- ✓ Lack of Air Bubbles: Unlike white ice, which contains trapped air that scatters light in all directions, blue ice is dense and bubble-free.
- ✓ Light Absorption: When light passes through thick, clear ice, the ice absorbs the longer wavelengths of the light spectrum (red and yellow) and scatters the shorter wavelengths (blue) back to the eye.
- ✓ Specific Conditions: It forms during periods of intense, sustained cold and calm winds.
- ✓ Ice Movement: The phenomenon is often visible when wind or pressure forces ice sheets to crack and flip, exposing the older, denser, and bluer, submerged ice to the surface.



While it can appear on any of the Great Lakes, it is most commonly spotted in areas where, like the Straits of Mackinac, two lakes converge and create significant pressure to pile up and flip the ice.



Oscoda had the largest fields of blue ice. There was no blue ice visible around the Tawas Point Lighthouse, or in Tawas Bay. The open water of Lake Huron in the Oscoda area must have had the proper currents this year to produce the sheer volume of blue ice.

2026 DISTRICT NINE SPRING CONFERENCE AND CHANGE OF WATCH 24-26 April 2026
CONFERENCE THEME IS "IT'S FIVE O'CLOCK SOMEWHERE"



Conference Hosted by: **AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB -MT. CLEMENS**

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

RANK	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GRADE	CERTIFICATE NO.	SQUADRON
RANK	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GRADE	CERTIFICATE NO.	SQUADRON
ADDRESS:		CITY	STATE	ZIP	
TELEPHONE		E-MAIL			

Check if you are a Conference First-Timer

Hospitality Night is It's Five O'Clock Somewhere!
Wear your Jimmy Buffet, Hawaiian or USPS wear.

Saturday Business Lunch
Italian Buffet w/Caesar Salad \$35 / pp

Saturday Evening Dinner - Your choice of
Beef Brisket or Salmon w/Salad
Seasonal Mixed Grilled Vegetables
Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Dark Chocolate Mousse or
Fresh Fruit by request \$65 /pp

Note: Cash Bar Open from 10:45am - 1:30pm

Note: Cash Bar Open from 6:00p to 10:00p

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
Mt. Clemens Pwr Squadron

D/Lt/C Debbie Foley, SN
72279 Russ Rd.
Richmond MI 48062

Dress Code & Event Info:

Friday Hospitality: Margaritaville or USPS Polo
Light snacks provided by D9 - **Cash Bar 7pm-10 pm**

Saturday Morning & Conference: Uniform F
(long sleeve with tie) or USPS logo attire
Coffee and Tea will be provided

Saturday Evening: Margaritaville / Hawaiian Attire
with Cash Bar from 6:00p until 10:00p

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

To MCPS

_____ Lunches @ \$35 each = _____
_____ Beef Brisket @ \$65 each = _____
_____ Salmon @ \$65 each = _____
_____ Vegetarian @ \$65 each = _____

NO MEALS RESERVATIONS AFTER 13 APRIL 2026

Attending Friday Night Hospitality: YES: _____ NO: _____
Attending Saturday Meeting: Meeting: with lunch _____ without lunch _____
Attending Saturday Night Dinner and Change of Watch YES _____ NO _____

2026 DISTRICT NINE SPRING CONFERENCE AND CHANGE OF WATCH 24-26 April 2026
CONFERENCE THEME IS "IT'S FIVE O'CLOCK SOMEWHERE"

Conference Hosted by: **AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB -MT. CLEMENS**

Book Your Room Today!!

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800 Harker Street, Port Huron, MI 48060

Room Rate is only \$159 plus taxes per night!



ROOM RATE ONLY
\$159 + TAXES

ROOM RATE ONLY
\$159 + TAXES

How to Make Reservations

Guests can reserve their rooms using any of the following options:

Online Booking: Visit www.porthuron.doubletree.com and enter Group Code: **USS** in the group code field.

Phone Reservations: Guests can call the hotel directly at 810-984-8000 and mention your Group Code: **USS** to receive the discounted rate.

Your block includes discounted rooms available until **MARCH 23, 2026** or until the block sells out — whichever comes first.

Explore & Enjoy Port Huron

We encourage you and your guests to make the most of your time in Port Huron! Check out these helpful links to explore the area:

DoubleTree Port Huron Flipbook (Property & Event Info):

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/zaaqp/pbjh/#p=20>

Be Truly Local (Local Dining, Shopping & Attractions): <https://www.betrulylocal.com/do-mi-thumbcoast>

Discover Downtown Port Huron: <https://downtownph.com>

CPR-AED-First Aid Courses



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CPR-AED-First Aid Courses



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GPPS Change of Watch



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GPPS Change of Watch



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USPS Awards Night Dinner Life Members Recognized



New Life Member



Grosse Pointe Power Squadron, District 9



William A. Stano, SN

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
For Boaters, By Boaters®

New Life Member



Grosse Pointe Power Squadron, District 9



Chester Dunbar, Jr., AP

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
For Boaters, By Boaters®



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Anchor Bay Yachting Association



SAFETY, CHARITY & EDUCATION
"Working together for the good of the boating community"

NOF
NOBLE ODYSSEY FOUNDATION



MOTOR CITY MITTEN MISSION



DAN BOATER

February 2023
Dan Boater will now be managed by Dan Boater and not USPS.

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.

For more information call 919-490-2011 or <https://danboater.org>

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Member Savings Available

<https://grossepointechamber.com>
Look for Member - Member to Member Savings - Member Discount Program





Grosse Pointe
Yacht Club

GROSSE POINTE POWER SQUADRON

EDITOR

P/D/C Chet Dunbar, AP



Grosse Pointe

