



District 9



Interlaker

Volume 79 Issue 2

Spring 2026

Education is Core Mission

The 2026 Council Meeting on 21 March 2026

See D9 Website for D9 Contacts

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Interlaker Editor:
D/Lt Rose Stano

United States Power Squadrons

District 9 Spring Conference

COW April 24-26, 2026

Host - Mount Clemens



Double Tree by Hilton
800 Harker Street
Port Huron, MI 48060
810-984-800

District 9 Spring Council Meeting held by Zoom
Saturday, 21 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

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!!

DoubleTree by Hilton Port Huron
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>

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB



DISTRICT 9

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		<input type="checkbox"/> 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

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

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
Mt. Clemens Pwr Squadron

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 6:00p to 10:00p

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

Vegetarian- Marinated Veggie Stack \$65

Dress Code & Event Info:

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

Food Restrictions / Allergies:

_____ Lunches @ \$35 each = _____

_____ Beef Brisket @ \$65 each = _____

_____ Salmon @ \$65 each = _____

_____ Vegetarian @ \$65 each = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

To MCPS

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

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 _____



District 9 Commander D/C William Stano, SN

Past Grosse Pointe Power Squadron Commander



When the Wind Shifted

Reflections from the 2026 Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach

By R/C Bill Stano, SN

Rose and I put 639 miles behind us — Port Charlotte to Myrtle Beach, a long stretch of highway. By the time we rolled in, it was dark and cold. The wind off the Atlantic meant business. The hotel sat right on the beach, tall and lit up against the shoreline.

We checked into our room, opened the door, and the heat hit us like it had been waiting all day. The heating and cooling system had thrown in the towel, so we slid open the patio doors and let the Atlantic air come charging in. Cold. The room cooled down. The week had begun.

Members came from all over the country for the 2026 Annual Meeting. Some hadn't seen each other in months. It didn't matter. They picked up where they left off. Handshakes, quiet laughs, and stories that get better every time they're told.

The early days were filled with workshops and committee meetings — membership, public relations, boat systems, instructor recertification. Not glamorous work, just steady hands doing what needs doing.

Evenings brought receptions. The Awards Dinner. Familiar faces under softer lights.

The Saturday Governing Board carried more weight.

National dues were on the table. Discussion moved across the room — measured and deliberate. Then the vote. The membership spoke clearly. Active Members: \$10 increase. Active with Family: \$20. Life with Family: \$10. No fireworks. Just a decision made by members who understood the numbers and the road ahead.

Then came the elections.

You could feel the shift before anyone said a word. Conversations tapered off. Chairs stopped moving. The room grew noticeably quiet.

The current Administrative Officer wasn't nominated to move up to Executive Officer. A candidate was nominated. Ballots were cast. For a moment, the room held its breath.

When the count came in, the nominee wasn't approved. The National Bylaws don't allow nominations from the floor for national bridge positions. No second name. No quick fix. The office of National Executive Officer was declared vacant. The Change of Watch followed, steady and traditional, just as it has always been. The Board of Directors will appoint someone to serve temporarily until a suitable candidate is found and approved by the membership. Clean, procedural, and by the book.

And the evening came.

After the Saturday night dinner, Rose and I stepped back onto the beach. The Atlantic rolled in slow and steady. The wind off the water didn't say much, but it had a way of making you think.

The organization will move forward. It always does. Still, that room before the vote — the silence, the tension — stays with you.

Maybe it was simply careful deliberation.

Maybe it signaled something more.

Out on the water, when the current shifts, you pay attention.

And this one shifted.

Because when a chair on the bridge sits empty, sooner or later, someone's going to want it.



Cdr Julian Fiander, SN & D/C William Stano, SN process in as Color Guards For the start of ABC/USPS Spring Conference in Myrtle Beach 2026. R/C William Stano, SN presents Strategic Plan



District 9 Commander
D/C William Stano, SN



Past Grosse Pointe Power Squadron Commander



Life Time Achievement Awards Dinner

attended by R/C William Stano, SN and
P/C Rose Stano, AP.

New Life Members for D 9

- Anchor Bay - Jill Niebieszczanski, S
- Birmingham - Elizabeth Looke, P
- Detroit - Diane Dawes, JN
- Grosse Pointe - Chester Dunbar, AP
William Stano, SN
- Grand Traverse Bay - Arnold Taddia, AP

**Why you should come to Port Huron for the
Spring D 9 Conference.**

A lot of changes are on the horizon for America's Boating Club/ United States Power Squadron. For many years it was business as usual but Myrtle Beach proved things are happening. In a moving presentation, the Treasurer showed how dire our finances are, with 20% drop in membership in 2 years and inflation up 15% since our last dues increased 4 years ago. They requested a small yearly increase of \$2 each year over next 3 years. The membership from the floors proposed a larger increase of \$10/member and \$20/family immediately. This was overwhelming voted in. Members that come to meetings are a dedicated group.

Cuts at Headquarters over the last few years have removed all they can. **Lena Pedro** has taken over as the Director. Insurance premiums are down this year due to our improved performance. Boating Safety Classes continued to be covered. **On the Water Training** can resume as a covered activity with no additional cost by registering the activity and completing the forms required on the Treasurer and Education Department website. Not covered is DNO insurance for your Bridge Members and our social events. Come to Port Huron to talk with **new Treasurer, Larry Cole** and attend **seminar on Insurance** to get your questions answered. Plus the Boat Simulator has a new nighttime simulation.

The Planning Committee has developed a Strategic Plan as requested by membership at the Fall Governing Board in Grand Rapids. This plan will require us all to be involved, to reconnect with our local community. So come to hear R/C Bill Stano, SN discuss the process. Come get reenergized and participate in the change. We need you.

P/C Rose Stano, AP



District 9 Ranks 4th in the Nation for Vessel Safety Checks

More than one thousand boats inspected by District 9 volunteers in a single boating season.

During the 2025 boating season, members of District 9 conducted 1,056 Vessel Safety Checks, placing our district 4th nationwide in the number of inspections performed. Of those inspections, 953 boats met safety requirements and received the annual Vessel Safety Check decal.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by 83 certified vessel examiners who volunteered their time to help fellow boaters operate safer vessels.

The Vessel Safety Check program is one of the most important public services provided by America's Boating Club. These free inspections give boat owners an opportunity to confirm that their vessels meet federal and state safety requirements before heading out on the water.

Several squadrons made particularly strong contributions to the program:

Top Contributing Squadrons

- Detroit Power Squadron — 361 inspections
- Lansing Sail & Power Squadron — 324 inspections
- Grosse Pointe Power Squadron — 141 inspections

Behind these numbers are dedicated volunteers working with boaters at marinas, boat launches, and community events throughout the district.

District 9's vessel examiners demonstrate every season what committed volunteers can accomplish when they work together to promote safer boating.

As we approach the next boating season, District 9 encourages boaters to take advantage of this free safety inspection and invites members who enjoy working with the boating public to consider becoming certified vessel examiners.

More inspections mean safer boats—and safer boaters on the water.

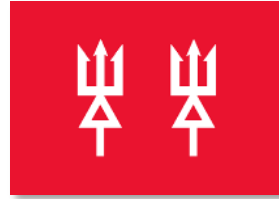
R/C Bill Stano, SN

District 9 Commander



District 9 Executive Officer
D/Lt/C Thomas Fisher SN

Past Commander Mount Clemens



Like many of you, I'm more than ready to say goodbye to winter. It feels like this season has been colder than usual, with more snow than we've seen in the past few years. I tried to make the most of the downtime by bringing all the upholstery home from our 1969 Chris-Craft and completely redoing it. For a few months, our basement bar doubled as an upholstery workshop! Although some of the original fabric was still in decent condition, it was definitely showing its age. I'm looking forward to peeling off the shrink wrap and getting everything reinstalled soon.

I want to sincerely thank everyone serving on the Executive Officer committees for their dedication and hard work over the past year. Your commitment to the Power Squadron does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated.

I recently met with the General Manager of West Marine in Harrison Township, and she is interested in hosting a Vessel Examination (VE) event during National Safe Boating Week. Last year, neither the Power Squadron nor the Coast Guard Auxiliary was able to commit to participating. Events like this are valuable because they give us the opportunity to connect one-on-one with fellow boaters right on their boats. It's a great way to promote boating safety and share the many benefits of being part of the Power Squadron. I will send emails out as we get closer to the date.

This winter, I also had the privilege of swearing in the Commanders and Bridge members of Mount Clemens, Grosse Pointe, and Saginaw Bay. At Saginaw Bay, I was especially pleased to welcome and swear in two new members — always a positive sign for our future.

Spring Conference will take place April 24–26. Friday evening will feature a hospitality room with light appetizers provided by the district and a cash bar. Saturday will include several informative meetings, followed by the Spring Conference and the Change of Watch. The weekend will conclude with the Change of Watch dinner on Saturday evening. This year's theme is "5 O'clock Somewhere," so pull out your Hawaiian shirts and flip-flops and get ready for a fun, tropical-inspired weekend.

D/Lt/C Thomas Fisher, SN
Executive Officer



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

Past Commander of Birmingham Power Squadron



Spring 2026 Education Report

The most significant Education news of the year was the announcement of the new path to the educational rank of Senior Navigator.

This resulted from the announcement by National that our JN and N courses would be retired and will be replaced by Offshore Navigation and Celestial Navigation classes.

The Navigation Committee was concerned that this would unfairly “strand” JNs with no way to achieve SN.

The result is that if you have completed JN and 7 Elective Courses, you will be recognized as a Senior Navigator. In addition, if you completed the “old” Marine Electronics Course (which is now taught as three separate courses), you may count ME as three Electives.

This allowed me to be the first to congratulate approximately 28 new District 9 Senior Navigators at our fall 2025 District Conference!

Certificates for each SN were distributed at the National Meeting just concluded.

The other important news is the election of the new senior education team at National.

Jan Wright has been elected National Education officer replacing Chuck Wells, whose term had ended. Everyone who has been involved in education at the National level has come to rely on Jan for prompt service and answers to all possible questions. We look forward to working with her.

Eileen Rickard continues as an Assistant NEO and Dave Haddox joins her as an ANEO filling Jan’s former position.

I want to share with you my view that we have strong and dynamic leaders in Jan, Eileen and Dave, and I think we can look forward to their leadership going forward.

Tom Geggie
District Education Officer



New Senior Navigators in District 9

Birmingham Ernest W. Elliott, Gary L. Jialanella, Elizabeth G. Torres

Dearborn Christine J. Parkinson, Alfred F. Tondreau

Detroit Joe W. Brooks, Albert W. Schwaller

Flint Keith Cadman, James D. Draper

Grand Traverse Bay Bill Bailey, Thomas W. Stone

Grosse Pointe David L. Charvat ,Grosse Pointe, William A. Stano, Sheryl Kline Totte

Lansing D. Dennis Dudley Norwich, Harold L. Hladky, Gail Hladky, Charles L. McFarland, Georgia C. McFarland, Maxine G. Shepard, Philip H. White, James A. Williams, Ralph J. Ziegler

Saginaw Bay

Duane Michael Es-
senmacher, Marie
Mitchell, Richard A.
Spitzer

St. Clair Shores

Michael A. Boyle

District 9 in Myrtle
Beach— Cdr Cassan-
dra Washington, R/C
Bill Stano, P/C Rose
Stano, Cdr Julian Fi-
ander, Lt/C Lisa
Nievens.





District 9 Executive Officer

D/Lt/C Debra A. Foley, SN

Past Commander of
Mount Clemens



Hello Everyone in District 9!

I can not believe that a year has gone by since our last Spring Conference and Change of Watch. Over the last year I have attend the following:

- 2025 Spring Council Mtg.- March 22
- 2025 Spring Conference – April 25-27
- GPPS-Meeting at Bayview Yacht Club – May 14
- Flint-Dinner Meeting – May 21
- GPPS-Detroit Train Station Event
- MCPS-Commanders Picnic – July 26
- Attended all D9 Bridge Meetings
- Attended 2025 Fall Council Mtg. – September 11
- Worked at the Metro Beach Boat Show
- Attended 2025 Fall Conference – October 4
- Represent D9 – Detroit Power Squadron Change of Watch – December 4
- Attended Flint PS Dinner & Manheim Steamroller Concert – December 13
- Attended Zoom Meeting Re: Spring Conference – January 6, 2026
- Attended Flint PS Change of Watch – Frankenmuth – January 10. 2026
- Attended Zoom Meeting – National Conference, Myrtle Beach – January 14, 2026
- Attended the Detroit Boat Show in Novi and even though ABC was not invited Dave and I wore our name tags and were surprised when people asked us about them and our Vessel Safety Checks!
- RETIRED !!!! – February 13, 2026
- Attending Upcoming Spring Council Meeting – March 21
- Attending Upcoming Spring Conference – April 23-26



Well now that I got all the formalities done, I want to thank everyone for all your help over this past year. I have really enjoyed every minute, okay maybe not every minute, but most of them. I have been in USPS since 1983 and I have always enjoyed being a part of the big picture and moving on to the District Bridge has again given me that feeling. You meet so many wonderful people who all like the same thing you do. Boating and anything to do with boating! There is never a shortage of topics to talk about. But the biggest thing is that we are all here for each other. The friends that you make are for a lifetime.

So, everyone, jump in!! Become a part of something bigger. Volunteer to help with something in your own squadron or on the District level. You don't have to be on the Bridge; there are many other jobs available. You won't regret it.

BTW – we are looking for an Assistant Secretary!! It is not a difficult job, just helping out at the Conference and attending a few meetings a year. If you are at all interested give me a call !

Respectfully submitted,

D/Lt/C Debbie Foley, SN

dfoleysn@gmail.com

586.201.8221

2026 BOATING SAFETY CALENDAR

WEAR IT
A program of the National Safe Boating Council

2026 Boating Safety Calendar

- Jan Various Boat Shows
- Feb Various Boat Shows
- Apr 6 #406Day
- May 7-8 Virtual International Boating & Water Safety Summit
- May National Water Safety Month
- May 15 Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day
- May 16-22 National Safe Boating Week
- May 16 Kids to Parks Day
- May 22 National Maritime Day
- May 23-25 Memorial Day Weekend
- Jun National Safety Month
- Jun 6-14 National Fishing and Boating Week
- June 13 National Marina Day
- Jun 18 National Go Fishing Day
- June 20 Summer Sailstice
- Jul Sun Safe Boating Month
- Jul 4 Independence Day
- Jul 3-5 Operation Dry Water
- Sep 7 Labor Day
- Sep 24 World Maritime Day
- Sep 26 National Hunting and Fishing Day
- Oct National Hunting and Fishing Month
- Nov Child Safety Protection Month
- Dec Holiday Parade of Boats (check local community calendars)

safeboatingcampaign.com

instagram.com/BoatingCampaign facebook.com/BoatingCampaign twitter.com/BoatingCampaign

Reference to any specific commercial product, process, or service, or the use of any trade, firm or corporation name is for the information and convenience of the public, and does not constitute endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the U.S. Coast Guard.



District Administrative Officer
Lt/ C Bill Blau, SN
Past Commander Birmingham



Administrator Report

I went on the Caribbean cruise following the USPS Annual Meeting in February. We left Port Canaveral on the beautiful Sky Princess on February 16, 2026, for a six-day adventure to Nassau, Freeport, and Grand Turk. The ship carried approximately 4,000 passengers on a 1,000-foot vessel with 18 decks and side thrusters, eliminating the need for pilots or tug assistance. As we departed port, the ship’s horn even played the familiar Love Boat theme.

There were about 50 USPS members aboard from all over the country, and we held a private get-together one evening. While I did not gamble, drink, visit the gym, or play pickleball, I did manage to consume over 5,000 calories and log more than 12,000 steps each day during shipboard activities and shore excursions.

Our first stop was Nassau, where I visited the Blue Lagoon. I also toured Freeport and visited Lucaya. At Grand Turk I participated in a Duckboat tour of the island, traveling both on land and in the water. The Duckboat is essentially the size of a Greyhound bus and is designed to drive down a launch ramp directly into the water where it floats and transitions from wheels to underwater propulsion.

The Princess ship was extremely stable—you could hardly tell we were traveling at 20 knots, even while standing at the ping-pong tables. Naturally, we verified the ship’s navigation using my GPS and portable chart plotter. The weather was perfect, and it was wonderful to experience instant summer.

When I returned home there was still some snow on the lawns, but warmer weather had begun to arrive so it wasn’t too bad. Fortunately, I returned about a week before the South American skirmishes began, and there were no flight delays. The next USPS Caribbean Cruise in February 2027 will depart from Ft. Lauderdale.

D/Lt/C Robert Blau, SN/CN



District 9 Treasurer
D/Lt/C Ron Babin, P

Member of Port Huron



District Treasurer

America's Boating Club District 9 Treasurer report will be in the information presented at Council and Conference

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

NICE BOAT!
But, does it have the Safety Seal?

MARCH IS:
VOLUNTARY VESSEL SAFETY CHECK MONTH.

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE SAFETY CHECK TODAY.

www.safetyseal.net

District 9 by the Numbers

America's Boating Club Nationwide: ~13,800 members

District 9 Squadrons: 14

District 9 Members: 661

District 9 Membership by Squadron

Squadron	Members
Grosse Pointe	125
Lansing	74
Grand Traverse Bay	68
Birmingham	68
Port Huron	63
Detroit	58
Flint	36
Saginaw Bay	36
Dearborn	33
Mount Clemens	33
Anchor Bay	24
St. Clair Shores	18
Ann Arbor	15
Wyandotte	10



2026 National Safe Boating Week Offers Tips for All Boaters

CLEARWATER, FL – **National Safe Boating Week** will be held from **May 16-22, 2026**, reminding all boaters to brush up on boating safety skills and prepare for the boating season. This observance week is the annual kick-off of the Safe Boating Campaign, a global awareness effort that encourages boaters to make the most of their boating adventure by being responsible.

U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that drowning was the reported cause of death in three out of every four recreational boating fatalities, and that 87 percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets.

There are many options for boaters when it comes to choosing a life jacket. When selecting a life jacket, a boater should check that it is U.S. Coast Guard approved, appropriate for the water activity, and fits properly.

The National Safe Boating Council recommends these tips for boaters:

- Take a **boating safety course**. Gain valuable knowledge and on-water experience in a boating safety course with many options for novice to experienced boaters.
- **Check equipment**. Schedule a **free vessel safety check** with local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons to make sure all essential equipment is present, working and in good condition.
- **File a float plan**. Always let someone on shore know the trip itinerary, including operator and passenger information, boat type and registration, and communication equipment on board before you leave the dock.
- **Wear a life jacket**. Make sure everyone wears a life jacket – every time. A stowed life jacket is no use in an emergency.
- Use an **engine cut-off switch** – it's the law. An engine cut-off switch is a proven safety device to stop a powerboat engine should the operator unexpectedly fall overboard.
- **Watch the weather**. Always check the forecast before departing on the water and frequently during the excursion.
- Know **what's going on around you at all times**.
- Know **where you're going** and **travel at safe speeds**. Be familiar with the area, local boating speed zones, and always travel at a safe speed.
- **Never boat under the influence**. Always designate a sober skipper.

Keep in touch. Have **more than one** communication device that works when wet. **VHF radios, emergency locator beacons, satellite phones, and cell phones can** all be important devices in an emergency.

The Safe Boating Campaign is produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The campaign offers a variety of free and paid resources to support local boating safety education efforts. Learn more at www.safeboatingcampaign.com.

About the National Safe Boating Council— Established in 1958, the National Safe Boating Council is the foremost coalition for the advancement and promotion of safer boating through education, outreach, and training. For more information about NSBC programs and professional development opportunities, visit www.safeboatingcouncil.org. **Great resources for information and graphics . R Stano**



District 9 Membership and the National Strategic Plan Strengthening Our Squadrons for the Future

The future of District 9 begins with the strength of our squadrons.

As of March 2026, District 9 has 661 active members across 14 squadrons. These members are the volunteers who teach boating education, conduct vessel safety checks, and promote safe boating throughout our region.

Across the entire organization, America's Boating Club has approximately 13,800 members nationwide. District 9 represents an important part of that national effort and plays a significant role in advancing boating education and safety.

However, membership across District 9, like the national organization, varies widely from squadron to squadron. Some squadrons remain strong and active, while others operate with smaller memberships. When membership declines, it becomes more difficult for a squadron to sustain programs, recruit new members, and maintain leadership continuity.

District 9 is not alone. Squadrons across the country are facing similar challenges as membership declines and volunteer capacity becomes more limited.

This is precisely why the National Strategic Plan was developed.

The plan recognizes that strong squadrons are the foundation of our organization. Squadrons are where members meet, courses are taught, vessel safety checks are conducted, and new boaters are introduced to America's Boating Club. They also provide something just as important as opportunities for boaters to get together, share experiences, and enjoy the fun and fellowship of boating.

The plan also recognizes an important reality: some squadrons may not have enough active members to sustain all activities on their own. Instead of allowing those squadrons to struggle, the strategic plan encourages greater cooperation between squadrons with support from their districts.

Working together allows squadrons to share instructors, coordinate vessel safety checks, organize joint programs, and pool volunteers and resources for activities that may be difficult for a single squadron to sustain.

The goal is straightforward: keep squadrons active and members engaged.

The Strategic Plan is not simply a national document. It is a practical framework designed to help squadrons succeed and help districts support them.

When squadrons remain active and connected, membership grows, programs continue, and our organization remains strong.

The future of America's Boating Club will ultimately depend on the vitality of its local squadrons—and on our willingness to work together to support them.

R/C Bill Stano, SN

District 9 Commander



America's Boating Club/ United States Power Squadron

Fall Governing Board

September 23-27, 2026

Cary, North Carolina

Details being formulated

Come enjoy the suite size rooms

Free evening cocktail hour

Daily breakfast buffet included

Embassy Suites by Hilton Raleigh Durham Research Triangle





2025 Distinctive Communicator Awards from USPS®

USPS® Advisors
Squadrons' Newsletters:
Lt/C Ronnie Mann, JN
Websites: P/C James Haglund, P

The District 9 *Interlaker* is judged on 2 seasonal issues.
Squadron newsletters are judged on 4 monthly issues sent in by 12/1



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*

D9 Website

- Ann Arbor Power Squadron
- Birmingham Power Squadron
- Detroit Power Squadron
- Grand Traverse Bay Sail and Power Squadron
- Grosse Pointe Power Squadron
- Lansing Sail and Power Squadron
- Mount Clemens Power Squadron
- Port Huron Sail and Power Squadron
- Saginaw Sail and Power Squadron
- St Clair Shores Sail and Power Squadron



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. Wetzal, 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	Detroit
			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	Judy Delarge, SN	Birmingham