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

TARS & TRIPE



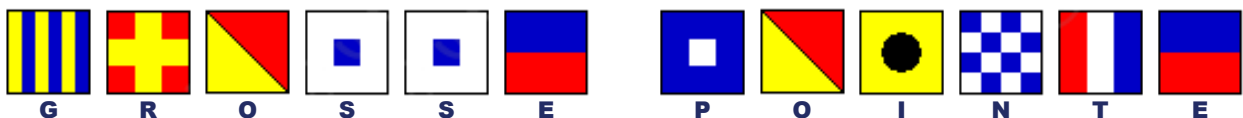
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Grosse Pointe Power Squadron



Axe Throwing Event - Total Sports - March 11th, 2026



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Bridge

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you'd like to read about?
Contact your Editor(s):*

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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

Welcome Spring

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**
Location TBD
- 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

AUGUST 2026

- 7-9 FRI-SUN - **Northport Lobster Bake**
Traverse City
- 15 SAT - **On The Water - Raft-Up**
Art Van Swim Hole / Lake St. Clair (South of Ford Cove)
- TBD **Detroit Tigers Event**
- 26 WED - **Executive Board Meeting**
GPYC

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. Cassandra Washington, P

After a long winter of anticipation, April brings us to the water's edge, with launch season just off the bow.

Since the start of the year, our 2026 course as a Squadron has been navigating with intention. In January, we dropped anchor in service, gratitude, and the strength of community. In February, we fixed our eyes on the horizon with hope, fellowship, and excitement for the season ahead. In March, we began charting our course, focused on readiness, growth, and inviting others aboard. Now, April calls us to do something more.

Move from anticipation to preparation for launch.

And before we do, I want to pause and appreciate the spirit that continues to make GPPS so special. Thank you to everyone who joined our **Axe Throwing** event on March 11. It was a terrific evening filled with laughter, friendly competition, and fellowship. Then, on March 25, we held an excellent **100% virtual Executive Board meeting** that was well-attended, highly engaging, and a meaningful example of how GPPS remains connected, engaged, and moving ahead together.

April also brings **Earth Day**, which feels especially fitting for boaters. Observed on April 22, this year's theme, **Our Power, Our Planet**, is a reminder that enjoying our lakes and waterways comes with responsibility; a duty to care for them well. Clean marinas, sound boating practices, proper waste handling, careful attention to fuel and maintenance, and protecting our waters from invasive species are part of our stewardship to uphold safe boating practices.

We are charting our spring course in the weeks ahead, with the first waypoint set for the **Spring Launch Dinner on April 8 at Sinbad's**. It is a wonderful way to launch the season together, with fellowship, good food, and meaningful updates on the Clean Marina Project, the Life Jacket Loaner Program, and the 2026 Predicted Log contest. Later this month, our route will take us to Port Huron for the **District 9 Spring Conference, from April 24 to 26**, where we will connect with the broader boating community and continue strengthening the ties that keep our district steady, connected, and on course.

And just over the horizon, May brings two outstanding opportunities to represent and elevate our Squadron. Our **87th Commander's Ball on May 2** will be a wonderful evening of celebration, camaraderie, and community. Then, on **May 16 and 17**, the **Great Lakes Boating Festival at Grosse Pointe Yacht Club** will provide a valuable opportunity to represent GPPS, connect with boaters from across the region, and welcome new interests and crew aboard.

As the season comes into clearer view, the broader boating community is setting its bearings toward National **Safe Boating Week, May 16 through 22**, the annual kickoff to the broader Safe Boating Campaign. This is the time to finalize a Vessel Safety Check, review required equipment, confirm that life jackets are in good condition and easy to access, and make sure your boat and crew are ready for the season ahead.

A strong boating season begins with preparation, and April is our month to get underway. As we launch into this new season, let us do so with gratitude for one another, confidence in our course, and excitement for the journeys ahead. May your days onward be filled with fellowship, safe passage, and the simple joy of being back on the water together.

Fair Winds,
Cassandra Washington
Commander, GPPS





Education Officer
Lt/C Chester Dunbar Jr., AP

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
GROSSE POINTE POWER SQUADRON

OPERATIONS TRAINING CLASS

Dates:
April 20 & April 27

Time:
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Location:
Grosse Pointe Yacht Club

IMPORTANT:
This class is for America's Boating Club Members **ONLY**

Contact: P/D/C Chet Dunbar Jr., AP
Call: (313) 744-7472
Email: chetdunbar@gpps-d9.org

PLEASE RSVP



Executive Officer
Lt/C Lisa Nieves, AP

STAY SMART ON THE WATER
Welcome Aboard!

As boating season approaches, it's the perfect time to refresh your knowledge and ensure every trip on the water is safe, enjoyable, and stress-free. Whether you're a seasoned captain or a first-time boater, safety should always come first.

Essential Safety Reminders

1. Wear Your Life Jacket

Accidents can happen quickly. Make sure everyone on board has a properly fitted life jacket—and wears it. This is especially important for children and non-swimmers.

2. Check the Weather

Always review the forecast before heading out. Sudden weather changes can turn a relaxing trip into a dangerous situation.

3. Avoid Alcohol While Boating

Operating a boat under the influence is not only illegal but extremely dangerous. Stay alert and keep your judgment clear.

Pre-Departure Checklist

Before leaving the dock, take a few minutes to:

- Inspect your boat for any mechanical issues
- Ensure safety equipment is onboard (life jackets, flares, fire extinguisher)
- Check fuel levels and battery charge
- File a float plan with a friend or family member

Navigation & Awareness

- Follow posted speed limits and no-wake zones
- Stay alert for other vessels, swimmers, and obstacles
- Use proper lighting if boating at dusk or night
- Keep a safe distance from other boats

Emergency Preparedness

Be ready for the unexpected:

- Carry a first aid kit
- Have a working communication device (radio or phone in waterproof case)
- Know basic rescue and distress signal procedures

Protect Our Waters

Boating responsibly also means caring for the environment:

- Dispose of waste properly
- Avoid spilling fuel or oil
- Respect wildlife and natural habitats

Final Thought

Safe boating is smart boating. A little preparation goes a long way in preventing accidents and ensuring everyone enjoys their time on the water.

Stay safe, stay prepared—and have a great time out there! Get a free Boater Safety Check by qualified examiners in your area. See Americasboatingclub.org for more information.

Lt Commander Lisa Nieves, AP



Administrative Officer Lt/C Ken Owens, P

Please Welcome our New Members this month:

Leslie Leitch
Patricia Mok



Also please Welcome Back **Brian McKenna**
who reinstated his membership with us.



Secretary Officer Lt/C Gaylyne Giliberto, AP

It is a privilege to be part of the GPPS, and an honor to serve as squadron secretary.

It all began with our first boat in 2020. Having never owned one before, my husband and I were wise enough to recognize that we needed a solid foundation in boating safety. With the pandemic limiting our options, we completed an online course — though it left us wanting more. We soon

discovered the Grosse Pointe Power Squadron offering an in-person America's Boating Course, and from there, our education truly took off. We've enjoyed every class, cherished the friendships formed along the way, and are proud to have earned our advanced pilot certification. The learning hasn't stopped — we continue to grow through online seminars and beyond.

The benefits of engaging with the GPPS extend well beyond the classroom. My bridge position has given me a deeper understanding of how national, district, and local organizations work together. Being part of this community means more than social events — through every conversation, we find ourselves learning more about our waterways, from the points of interest scattered across the Great Lakes to the nuances of navigating them safely.

Boating has truly become a lifestyle. When we recently vacationed in St. Lucia, we chose a resort at the island's marina — something we never would have considered before. The beach could wait.

There is also the reward of giving back. Since becoming secretary, I've introduced Zoom and incorporated the OWL system into our E-Board meetings, allowing members who can't attend in person to remain fully connected. When we were unable to meet at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club for our March E-Board meeting, the pivot to Zoom was seamless — business carried on from the comfort of our homes without missing a beat. Together, we are exploring fresh ways to promote the GPPS and welcome new and younger families into a community built on knowledge, safety, and a shared love of the water.

Because the truth is — we don't just navigate the waters. We navigate through life together.



District Commander R/C Bill Stano, SN

More Than a Website - A Better Way to Reach Boaters

Redesigned to reflect who we are, what we do, and how we serve the Lake St. Clair community.

The redesigned homepage reflects a stronger local focus—built for boaters on Lake St. Clair and those looking to build skills, confidence, and connection on the water.



Our website is often the first point of contact someone has with our Squadron. Before attending a meeting or signing up for a course, most people visit the site to decide if what we offer applies to them. The redesign was done with that in mind—to present a clear, accurate picture of who we are and to better connect with boaters in our area.

The new site is built around a simple idea: local boaters serving their local boating community. Everything on the site now supports that purpose.

You will notice a stronger emphasis on boating on Lake St. Clair and the surrounding waters. That is intentional. Most people who find our website are looking for information that applies to where they boat. When they see familiar waters and recognize their own boating environment, the Squadron immediately becomes more relevant to them.

This local focus is key to attracting new members. People are more likely to engage when they see that what we offer applies directly to their boating experience. They want practical knowledge for the waters they use, and they want to connect with others who boat in the same area. The redesigned site makes that clear.

The site also presents boating the way it should be—safe and enjoyable. It shows people out on Lake St. Clair spending time with family and friends, not just learning, but enjoying the water with confidence. That matters. People are not simply looking for instruction; they are looking for better experiences on the water. The site connects those two ideas—skills and enjoyment—without overcomplicating the message.

Visitors can quickly see what we offer and what to do next. Whether it is taking a course, scheduling a vessel safety check, or learning more about the Squadron, those paths are now clear and easy to follow.

Just as important, the site reflects what we already do well. We provide boating education, promote safe boating, and offer opportunities to connect with other boaters. The redesign does not change those strengths—it presents them more clearly.

This is a step forward, not a finished product. The website will continue to be refined as we learn what works best. But it now provides a stronger foundation to support our Squadron's efforts in education, outreach, and membership growth.

The website is a tool to help us reach more boaters, better reflect who we are, and support the future of our Squadron. If you have not yet visited the site, take a few minutes to look through it and share it with others.

www.gpps-d9.com

By R/C Bill Stano, SN
Squadron Web Master



Funny Weather Signs Around the World

For those of us who love using our boats in the Northern latitudes this is the absolute best time of the year. The dreadful winter of bitter cold, ice and snow is behind us. This is a time filled with hope and optimism. Soon the winter shrink wrap will be removed and spring commissioning will begin. We have everything to look forward to as the 2026 Great Lakes boating season is about to begin.

A number of years ago I moved my launch date to sometime during the third week of May. Prior to that I used to set a goal to splash my boat the last week of April. With age comes wisdom, I finally realized that I was not enjoying the process of waxing the topsides and painting the bottom while freezing my butt off on damp, cold April days. I had boxed myself into a self-imposed timeline to launch. On top of that, I would never use the boat until sometime around the third week of May anyway.

I suspect that this epiphany had a lot to do with my D.O.B on my driver's license. When I purchased Dolphin in 1995, I thought nothing of sanding, taping and painting her bottom in a single day. I had the energy and the drive to get her done. Arriving at the boat yard at 7 am and working until 7 pm was a badge of honor. I was able to physically work that hard and still function at my real job the next day. Trust me, there is not enough Advil, Ibuprofen and Tylenol in the drawer for me to accomplish anything near that ambitious today. Instead, I have learned to pace myself and enjoy my time working on Dolphin. No longer do I work nonstop, I take the time to enjoy visiting with other boaters trying to accomplish the same chores. I have discovered that they also are looking for a reason to take a break from working their ass off on their pride and joy!

So, what is my point in this rambling bunch of words? If you are old school like I am and commission your own boat for launch it is okay to set goals but don't drive yourself crazy trying to reach them. Getting in the water by the last week of April is overrated. Every aspect of boat ownership can be fun if you approach it the right way. Allow yourself the time to enjoy the process of preparing your boat for the season. That in turn will lead to a very enjoyable 2026 boating season.

Have fun and be safe on the water.

Dave Charvat



Located four miles south of Houghton, Michigan in the Upper Peninsula, on US-41 is this funny weather station sign. The sign was built in 1985 by students at Michigan Tech University. It clearly describes Michigan's weather conditions in a comical way.



While recently on a Caribbean cruise with a stop in the Turks & Caicos, I saw this funny weather sign at the Grand Turk Island Lighthouse. Very similar to the one in Michigan, it comically describes Caribbean weather conditions.

If anyone has similar funny weather signs from your world travels, please submit them for inclusion in an upcoming edition of our newsletter.



87th Annual Commander's Ball Save the Date

Please mark your calendars and **Save-The-Date** for one of our Squadron's most anticipated traditions of the year: the **87th Annual Commander's Ball**.

On **Saturday, May 2, 2026**, we will gather at the beautiful **Grosse Pointe Yacht Club** for an elegant evening of fellowship, celebration, and great company as we continue the long-standing tradition of honoring the leadership and spirit of our Squadron.

The evening will begin with **cocktails and reception at 1800 hours**, followed by **dinner at 1930 hours**, and **dancing at 2100 hours**.

Guests are warmly welcomed, and we look forward to sharing a memorable night with friends from across our boating community.

- Cost is **\$65 per person**.
- **Formal invitations will be mailed the week of March 9.**
- Invitations will include a **QR code for convenient online RSVP and meal selection.**
- You may also **return the RSVP card by mail. Responses are requested by April 10.**

This event is always a highlight of the year! Please join us for what promises to be a fantastic evening.

April Birthdays

Natasha Duvall
Peter E. Metropoulos
Virginia Lorraine Mitory
Bonny J. Utz
Michael Vincent Posch
Folkert Schmidt

Megan Stano
Patrica A. Anderson
Cassandra Washington
Michael B. Pipia
Dale Ellis

May Birthdays

Joseph Minano
Bruce M. Boutin
Kelsey Paige Jackson
David J. Brace
Nathan Stano
Michael J. Guzdial, Jr.
Robert F. Wiczorek

Fred John Reif
John J. Simon
Susan A. Guzdial
Rodney A. Aziz
John E. Dewald
Rahmon A. Dunbar





**National Safe Boating Week:
May 16-22, 2026**

The National Safe Boating Council encourages all boaters to participate in Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day on May 15, 2026, the day before National Safe Boating Week. No matter where boaters are working, they can join in the fun by wearing their life jacket and posting creative pictures on social media for a chance to win a prize.

This is a great way to encourage others to boat responsibly.

How to Participate

Boaters share a picture of themselves wearing a life jacket at work (or home) on social media along with the hashtag #wearyourlifejacketatworkday and tag @boatingcampaign (Facebook, X, or Instagram).

Don't use social media? Email photos to outreach@safeboatingcouncil.org.

Chance to Win a Prize

Winners will be chosen randomly throughout the day to receive boating swag from the Safe Boating Campaign including dry bags, stickers, and more!

Lt. Jane Ellis, AP, Boating Safety Officer



**Life Jacket Loaner
Program for Kids!**

...Offered by Boat US and the Grosse Pointe Power Squadron, since 1997

The Boat US loaner program is designed to help boaters comply with state law requiring children under 6 years old to wear either a Type I or Type II life jacket while on an open deck.

A boating family can go to a participating marina and borrow a life jacket, free of charge, for short-term use. Three different size jackets are available: infant, small child, and youth. Now available-- adult life jackets.

Where can I go to borrow a life jacket?

Duffy's Landing at Belle Maer Harbor
41700 Conger Bay Drive
Harrison Twp, MI 48045
586-468-1630

Ken's Marine at Michigan Harbor
24600 Jefferson, St Clair Shores MI 48080
586-775-9274



Lt. Jane Ellis, AP, Boat Safety Officer

Axe Throwing Event at Total Sports



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Photos by Lisa Nieves and Rose Stano

Axe Throwing Event at Total Sports



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Spring Launch Dinner at Sinbad's Restaurant

Brian Kelley - Clean Marina Project



P/C Dale Ellis, AP presented the Predicted Log Trophy to 2025 winners, Lt Dave Charvart, SN

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Photos by Lisa Nieves and Rose Stano*

Spring Launch Dinner at Sinbad's Restaurant



Lt Jane Ellis, AP - Safety Chair Life Jacket Loaner Program



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AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

For Boaters, By Boaters™




TRADER TODD'S MARINA

Open House At the Clubhouse

Light Brunch at 10:00AM

Blessing of the Fleet at 11:00AM

Vessel Safety Checks & Barbecue After Blessing of the Fleet

Saturday, June Thirteenth

EXCLUSIVE MEMBER DISCOUNT

10% OFF DOCKAGE

TRADER TODD'S MARINA

Location: 24030 E. Jefferson Ave
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
Contact: (586, 776-5650) tradertoddsmarina@gmail.com

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- Must present a valid GPPS Membership Card
- Offer cannot be combined with other discounts or seasonal promotions.
- Valid for the 2026 Season.


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"Working together for the good of the boating community"

NOF

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LAKE ST. CLAIR GUIDE



Inland Seas EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



DETROIT COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER



DAN BOATER

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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.

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GROSSE POINTE POWER SQUADRON

EDITOR

P/D/C Chet Dunbar, AP



Grosse Pointe

