

United States Power Squadrons®

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

TARS & TRIPE



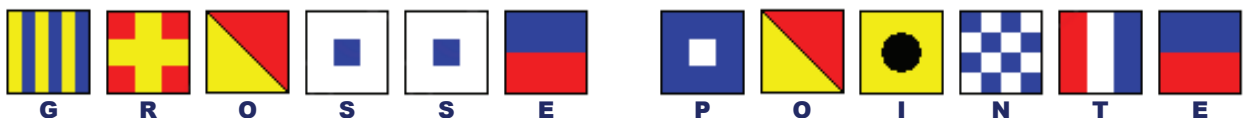
Official Publication of the
Grosse Pointe Power Squadron



2026 GPPS Bridge at the 87th Annual Commander's Ball
Honoring Cdr Cassandra Washington, P



VOLUME 53 NO. 5 | MAY 2026
www.gpps-d9.com





Bridge

COMMANDER
Cdr. Cassandra Washington, P

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Lt/C Lisa Nieves, AP

EDUCATIONAL OFFICER
Lt/C Chester Dunbar Jr., AP
chetdunbar@gpps-d9.org

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Lt/C Ken Owens, P

SECRETARY
Lt/C Gaylyne Giliberto, AP

TREASURER
Lt/C David Brace, P
treas@gpps-d9.org

ASSISTANT EDUCATIONAL OFFICER
Lt William P. Quinlan, AP
bill.quinlan@gmail.com

DISTRICT COMMANDER
RC William A. Stano, SN

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

EDITOR
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

MAY 2026

- 2 SAT - **Commander's Ball**
GPYC
- 9 SAT - Detroit Squadron's Flare Demonstration
DYC
- 16-17 SAT - SUN - **Great Lakes Boating Festival**
GPYC
- 27 WED - **Executive Board Meeting**
GPYC

JUNE 2026

- 10 WED - **Member Appreciation Steak Roast**
Pier Park Picnic Pavilion 6-9pm
- 25 THU - **Great Lakes Water Authority**
Tour drinking water facility

JULY 2026

- 11 SAT - **Roadtrip - Tour of National Museum of the Great Lakes**
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 Lake St. Clair**
North of Pier Park Point
- 25 TUE - **Detroit Tigers VIP Home Game Experience / Tampa Bay**
6:40 pm (limited tickets)
- 26 WED - **Executive Board Meeting**
GPYC

SEPTEMBER 2026

- 9 WED - **Diamond Jack Dinner Cruise**
- 17-20 THU-SUN - **Progressive Metro Beach Boat Show**
- 20-27 SUN-SUN - **National Governing Board Meeting**
Cary, North Carolina
- 22 TUE - **Tall Ship Science & Sail**
Miliken Marina
- 23 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

America's Boating Club of Grosse Pointe proudly hosted its **87th Annual Commander's Ball** on **May 2**, bringing together members, families, civic leaders, boating enthusiasts, and community partners for an evening of elegance, fellowship, and celebration.

The event was well attended and reflected the strength, tradition, and spirit of our Squadron. From the warm camaraderie during cocktail hour to a beautifully coordinated dinner, engaging program, and lively entertainment, the evening was a meaningful celebration of our shared commitment to boating education, service, leadership, and community.

Guests enjoyed outstanding entertainment by **Black Gold**, featuring the soulful sounds of Detroit artists **Isis Damil** and **Jeff Ponders**, adding a vibrant and memorable touch to the evening.

A special highlight of the program included the recognition of distinguished members whose service continues to strengthen GPPS. Congratulations to **R/C William Stano, SN**; **Lt David Charvat, SN**; and **P/Lt/C Sheryl Kline Totte, SN**, recipients of the **Neumann Awards**. We also proudly congratulate **Lt/C Ken Owens**, recipient of the **Annual Service Award**, honoring his dedication and meaningful contributions to the day-to-day success of the Squadron, and **P/C Joan McCarron, AP**, recipient of the **Cliff Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award**, recognizing her distinguished legacy of leadership, service, and lasting impact.

The success of this year's Commander's Ball reflects the dedication, planning, and collaboration of our Bridge, leadership team, members, and volunteers. More than a celebration, the evening reminded us that our greatest strength is found in the relationships that sustain and grow our organization.

It is truly an honor to serve as your 2026 Commander. I remain grateful for the trust placed in me and inspired by the spirit of service that defines this Squadron. This vividly reminds me of my own journey to GPPS, which began in the winter of 2023, when my husband, Rueben, and I attended our first boat show at Huntington Place. What began as a casual visit—at least, that was his plan—I had a slightly different vision; and somehow, we left inspired and, "unexpectedly", as new boat owners.

I like to call it manifestation. He still calls it a nautical surprise.

We soon realized we had never driven a boat and needed guidance, which led us to the booth where we met **P/D/C Chet Dunbar**, our Educational Officer. He encouraged us to come to an ABC boating class, where we gained valuable knowledge on how to boat safely and confidently. Through instructor-led guidance and member-support, we gained skills in seamanship, navigation, piloting, and other educational courses. But more importantly, we found community, connection, and a shared commitment to service, safety, and leadership. We joined later that year, and as the saying goes, "the rest is history."

That experience is why this organization matters so deeply to me.

As we move forward, our focus remains clear: growing membership, expanding visibility, and strengthening engagement across the Squadron. I encourage every member to **be an ambassador**: invite others, share your experience, and help broaden our reach. For those new to GPPS, I invite you to **Connect, Engage, and Explore** all that we have to offer—no boat required. Being present matters, but being involved is what makes the difference.

At its core, GPPS is about people. And, as Commander, I am committed to ensuring every member feels seen, valued, and connected—because those connections are what bring us together and keep us coming back.





Education Officer
Lt/C Chester Dunbar Jr., AP



Boat Handling

Presented by **The Grosse Pointe Power Squadron**



Boat Handling curriculum comprises of a six-part course and six seminars and covers these topics:

- Rules of the Road: A Practical Approach
- Confidence in Docking and Undocking: Slow Speed Maneuvering
- Boating with Confidence: Handling Your Boat Under Way
- Anchoring with Assurance: Don't Get Carried Away
- Emergencies on Board: Preparation for Handling Common Problems
- Knots and Line Handling: The Knots You Need to Know

Grosse Pointe Yacht Club

788 Lake Shore Rd, Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236

May 18, 2026 and ending June, 15 2026

7:00pm - 9:00 pm in Lakeshore Room

(Registration first night at 6:30)

\$70 per Person includes Book

313-744-7472 classes@gpps-d9.org

www.gpps-d9.com



Executive Officer
Lt/C Lisa Nieves, AP

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

The spirit of fellowship, service, and lifelong friendship is alive and thriving at the America's Boating Club Grosse Pointe. More than just a boating organization, this club is a welcoming community where neighbors become friends and friends become family—united by a shared love of the water and a passion for safe, enjoyable boating.

From the moment a new member walks through the door, they are greeted with warmth, laughter, and genuine camaraderie. Whether you are a seasoned mariner or brand new to boating, there is always someone ready to share knowledge, swap stories, and lend a helping hand. This culture of inclusion and support is what makes the club so special.

At the heart of the club is its commitment to education and safety. Through boating classes, seminars, and on-the-water activities, members learn how to navigate with confidence while promoting responsible boating practices across the community. But learning here is never dry or dull—it's paired with smiles, shared meals, and plenty of good-natured humor.

Social events are a cornerstone of club life. Potlucks, picnics, cruises, rendezvous, and event gatherings fill the calendar, creating countless opportunities for members to connect outside of formal meetings. These moments of fellowship are where true friendships are formed that last well beyond the boating season and often span decades.

Members frequently speak about the "family feeling" within the club. It's common to see longtime members mentoring newcomers, sharing boating tips, or simply catching up like old friends. The laughter heard during meetings and events is a testament to the joy people find in being together.

Community service is another proud tradition. The club actively participates in safety checks, public education, and outreach efforts that make local waters safer for everyone. Serving the community together strengthens the bonds among members and reinforces a shared sense of purpose.

What truly sets America's Boating Club Grosse Pointe apart is not just the boats or the classes—it's the people. It's the stories shared over coffee, the teamwork during events, and the friendships that carry on year after year. Members don't just join a club; they become part of a legacy of fellowship, learning, and fun. TO JOIN SEE: gpps-d9.com



Administrative Officer

Lt/C Ken Owens, P

Our Squadron's Executive Board recently passed a motion to allow for a National Office program called Honorary Membership. Honorary Memberships are a way for a squadron to offer inclusion to a person who has helped the squadron. There is no fee for Honorary Memberships. These persons do not have any voting rights, and cannot serve on any committee; nor do they receive any District or National benefits or membership discounts. They will

receive our email notifications to attend events and squadron outings. Each Honorary Membership is for a one year term.

An Honorary Membership is good Public Relations and can help spread the message of the positive impact we have on the local boating community. These members will gain knowledge about ABC/USPS; particularly our Grosse Pointe Squadron. We might gain future paying memberships from past Honorary Members and/or the goodwill they could spread within their professional circles. The National Office has a list of recommended people in a community to offer Honorary Memberships:

- Local waterway and Port Authority officials
- The Mayor, City Manager, County Manager, local/state elected officials
- Law enforcement Chiefs or safety officers
- Coast Guard Commandants
- NOAA officials, Fish & Wildlife officials
- News People: newspaper, television, radio personalities

If you have any suggestions of high-profile people, like those listed above, who could be a benefit to GPPS, please contact me at GPPSnews@gmail.com.

Congratulations to our first two Honorary Memberships for 2026:

Commodore Joe & Judy Chenevert – United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
Commodore David & Amy Schaden – Grosse Pointe Yacht Club



Douglas The Tailor who is the local resource for our Power Squadron uniforms, has moved. Their new location is 28077 Gratiot, Roseville MI 48066. The phone and website remain the same 586.775.3738, www.uniformsbydouglas.com. The new location is basically across the street in the Chester Boat complex.



Secretary Officer

Lt/C Gaylynne Giliberto, AP

In mid-April, I had the pleasure of visiting our daughter in Miami. She and her family live on Brickell Key, a lovely island that overlooks the Miami River and offers scenic waterfront promenades with panoramic views of Biscayne Bay.

Weekends open the waterways to a lively mix of vessels — pleasure boats, fishing charters, scenic tour boats, and party boats with captains eager to thrill their passengers. As we strolled along the waterfront that Saturday afternoon, however, what I witnessed left me genuinely unsettled.

Boat after boat passed by with adults and children perched on the bows of vessels clearly not designed as bow riders. Even those boats that were bow riders were dangerously overpacked, with passengers sitting and standing wherever they could find a foothold. People crowded against railings, and some leaned recklessly over the sides — all while the boats were underway. I found myself quietly tallying the number of people aboard certain vessels, wondering whether they had any regard for posted capacity limits, and whether there were nearly enough life jackets stowed below to match the crowd on deck. Most troubling of all: not a single child I observed was wearing one.

Gazing to my left, I spotted a No Wake Zone sign mounted above the waterline — nothing like the simple buoys we're accustomed to on Lake St. Clair. This was a large, bold white sign with block letters in red, impossible to miss. Yet miss it they did. Given how few boaters seemed to honor its meaning, one had to wonder whether posting it in another language might have helped. Sunday evening, past twilight, we settled in for a leisurely outdoor dinner overlooking Biscayne Bay — a welcome reprieve from the afternoon's unsettling parade of carelessness. The water had grown dark and quiet, the kind of stillness that makes you forget what you witnessed just hours before. Then, without warning, flashing lights pierced the distance. A wave runner, pulled over on the open water — one final reminder that the weekend's disregard for the rules had not gone entirely unnoticed.

I shared my observations with our daughter, and it gave me pause to reflect. How fortunate we were that when we first entered the boating world, our instinct was to seek out proper education — to take a course and learn the rules and regulations that exist for one reason: to keep everyone on the water safe.

Finding the Grosse Pointe Power Squadron has been truly invaluable. Their educational programs, combined with the collective wisdom of fellow members, have given me the knowledge and confidence to create safe, enjoyable experiences on the water — for myself and those around me.



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
GROSSE POINTE POWER SQUADRON

Member Appreciation Steak Roast

For GPPS Members / Associate Members, and their First Mate

*Join us for our annual member picnic
and relaunch of the Steak Roast*

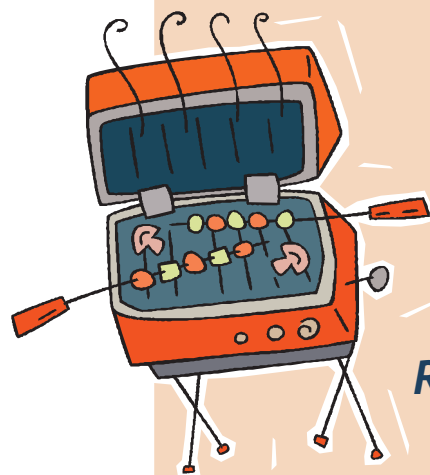
Wednesday, June 10 from 6-9pm
Pier Park Picnic Pavilion
(Look for the covered pavilion and GPPS Flag)

The Squadron will supply: Steak or
Chicken, Beer & Wine, Water & Sodas,
Street Corn Salad, and Tossed Salad.

Please bring your favorite picnic side
dish or dessert.

Pier Park
350 Lake Shore Rd
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

RSVP to: GPPSNews@gmail.com
By June 5, with steak or chicken preference



TOUR THE DRINKING WATER FACILITY
THURSDAY, JUNE 25 @ 10:00AM

GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY
WATER WORKS PARK
(NEXT TO SINDBADS & ROOSTERTAIL)

Join us on this educational free tour.

Photo ID and safety waivers must be completed ahead of time for security clearance.

We will learn all the science behind purifying the water our boats travel on.

A rare and exciting behind-the-scenes look at a vital resource to Southeastern Michigan!

WE ONLY HAVE 20 SPOTS SO RSVP
GPPSNEWS@GMAIL.COM

Learn how they make Detroit River
water safe for us to drink!





May Birthdays

Joseph Minano
Bruce M. Boutin
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

June Birthdays

Theodore H. Smith
Dan Claus
Howard E. Riley, Jr.

Virginia Carstarphen
James A. Anderson
John Simon, Jr.

The National Recreational Boating Safety Survey

Boating Safety Division | Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety
February 13, 2026

Summary- The NRBSS is the only method of measuring nationwide recreational boating in the United States. With an estimated 84.5 million recreational boaters in the US operating more than 25.5 million boats over 25,000 miles of navigable waters in 2018. That was about a quarter of US households and about a quarter of boaters are in the Midwest. Boaters spent about 10 billion boat hours in the US with about 90% motor and 10% human driven.

This enables estimate of safety equipment use such as Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) about 1/3rd, Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), Emergency Cut Off Switch (ECOS) about 80%, and VHF-Digital Selective Calling (DSC) Radios. VHF-DSC can send distress messages that contain GPS coordinates, receive weather reports and when registered with the Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) can give boat name, description, location and person to contact. Only 14% of boats had in 2018.

Knowing Boaters is important for national security and law enforcement. The data helps federal and state governments optimize safety and on-the-water enforcement programs. Randomly selected boaters will receive materials starting March 1, 2026. The last survey was done in 2018.

NORC will invite selected households to participate through mailed letters and postcards, as well as emails and text messages. All respondent information, held in the strictest confidence, will be aggregated to produce statistical summaries only.

For more information about the National Recreational Boating Safety Survey, visit <https://uscgboating.org/statistics/national-recreational-boating-safety-survey.php>.

For questions or additional assistance, contact onthewater@norc.org or SMB-COMDT-CG-BSX-Data@uscg.mil.

P/C Rose Stano, AP



**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

Awards



The author, publisher, or seller assumes no liability with respect to the use of information contained herein.
Photos by Lisa Nieves and Rose Stano

Commander's Ball



The author, publisher, or seller assumes no liability with respect to the use of information contained herein.
Photos by Lisa Nieves and Rose Stano

Commander's Ball



The author, publisher, or seller assumes no liability with respect to the use of information contained herein.
Photos by Lisa Nieves and Rose Stano

Commander's Ball



IN HONOR OF
*Commander
Cassandra Washington, P*



The author, publisher, or seller assumes no liability with respect to the use of information contained herein.
Photos by Lisa Nieves and Rose Stano

D9 Conference



The author, publisher, or seller assumes no liability with respect to the use of information contained herein.
Photos by Lisa Nieves and Rose Stano

D9 Conference



The author, publisher, or seller assumes no liability with respect to the use of information contained herein.
Photos by Lisa Nieves and Rose Stano



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

Terms & Conditions:

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


Anchor Bay Yachting Association



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

NOF

NOBLE ODYSSEY FOUNDATION



LAKE ST. CLAIR GUIDE



Inland Seas
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



DETROIT
COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER




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>

"YOUR PERFORMANCE PRINTER"



Copyrite

DESIGN & PRINT SERVICES

p: 586.774.0006 • f: 586.774.2792
30503 Gratiot • Roseville, MI 48066
copyriteprinting.net



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
Grosse Pointe

<https://americasboatingclub.org>
www.americasboatingcourse.com
americasboatingchannel.com (YouTube & Digital Information)
<http://twitter.com/americasboating> (@AmericasBoating)

www.gpps-d9.com

GROSSE POINTE
Chamber of Commerce

Member Savings Available

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





GROSSE POINTE POWER SQUADRON

EDITOR

P/D/C Chet Dunbar, AP



Grosse Pointe

