

United States Power Squadrons®

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

TARS & TRIPE



Official Publication of the
Grosse Pointe Power Squadron



Catch of the Day!



VOLUME 53 NO. 8 | SEPTEMBER 2026
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

Hello,
September!

SEPTEMBER 2026

- 9 WED - **Diamond Jack Dinner Cruise**
- 13 SUN - **Predicted Log On-the-Water Workshop**
- 17-20 THU-SUN - **Progressive Metro Beach Boat Show**
(Volunteers to staff table)
- 20-27 SUN-SUN - **National Governing Board Meeting**
Cary, North Carolina
- 22 TUE - **Tall Ship Science & Sail - SOLD OUT**
Miliken Marina
- 23 WED - **Executive Board Meeting**
GPYC

OCTOBER 2026

- 14 WED - **General Membership Meeting**
GPYC
- 23 FRI - **Commander's Tea**
Pier Park
- 28 WED - **Executive Board Meeting**
GPYC
- 30-31 FRI-SAT - **D9 Fall Conference**
Ann Arbor

NOVEMBER 2026

- 11 WED - **General Membership Meeting**
GPYC
- 18 WED - **Executive Board Meeting**
GPYC

DECEMBER 2026

- 16 WED - **Holiday Party**
GPYC



***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

Ahoy, GPPS Community,

September may signal the beginning of fall, but there is still plenty of boating season ahead. Across the country, the **U.S. Coast Guard** is asking boaters to help shape the future of recreational boating safety through its **2026 National Recreational Boating Safety Survey**. The survey looks at how, where, and why

Americans boat and will help inform boating safety programs nationwide. GPPS members can learn more and volunteer to participate through the U.S. Coast Guard's survey page: [2026 National Recreational Boating Safety Survey — U.S. Coast Guard](#).

Nationally, **America's Boating Club®** will hold its **Fall Governing Board Meeting September 20–27 in Cary, North Carolina**, bringing leaders together to conduct organizational business, enjoy fellowship, and continue advancing its mission of boating education, safety, and service.

Here at home, **GPPS has a full September ahead**. Our sold-out **Diamond Jack Dinner Cruise on September 9** will give members another opportunity to enjoy the Detroit and Canadian waterfronts. From **September 17–20**, the 17th annual **Progressive Metro Boat Show** returns to Lake St. Clair Metropark, followed by our sold-out **Tall Ships Science & Sail on September 22**. I am pleased to see such strong participation in our activities and encourage members to continue engaging with opportunities to learn, connect, and enjoy the boating community.

Our commitment to the boating community also extends beyond our own membership. GPPS recently had the privilege of making a donation to the **Noble Odyssey Foundation**, a Michigan nonprofit dedicated to advancing knowledge of the Great Lakes through maritime education, scientific research, and underwater exploration. Led by **Capt. Luke Clyburn**, the Foundation brings together scientists, educators, volunteers, and young people, including members of the Great Lakes Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

What makes this partnership especially meaningful is the investment in young people. Sea Cadets ages 10–18 gain hands-on experience in seamanship, open-water diving, Great Lakes research, and exploration. **P/D/C Michael Babiarz, AP, and I had the pleasure of meeting the crew and enjoying cadet-led tours of the ship**. Experiences like these do more than introduce young people to the water; they build knowledge, confidence, discipline, and a deeper connection to the Great Lakes. By supporting Noble Odyssey, GPPS is helping prepare the next generation to lead, protect, preserve, and enjoy our waterways.

As summer begins to give way to fall, I trust you will make the most of the boating days still ahead. Stay safe, stay engaged, and continue sharing your knowledge and love of the water with others.

Thank you for continuing to represent GPPS through education, fellowship, and service. I look forward to seeing you on the water and at our September activities.

Until our next wake,

CDR Cassandra Washington, P





Education Officer
Lt/C Chester Dunbar Jr., AP

 Grosse Pointe Power Squadron
AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®
Learn • Boat • Share • Enjoy

Knowledge Builds Better Boaters!

VIRTUAL FREE GPS SEMINAR
NAVIGATE • PLAN • EXPLORE • WITH CONFIDENCE

-  **GPS FUNDAMENTALS**
How GPS works and key terminology
-  **PRACTICAL SKILLS**
Routes, waypoints, tracks and more
-  **TIPS & BEST PRACTICES**
Get the most from your GPS
-  **LIVE VIRTUAL SEMINAR**
Join from the comfort of home

 **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 9:00 AM**

 **VIA ZOOM**
Join from anywhere!

 **PLEASE RSVP (313) 744-7472**

— GPPS MEMBERS ONLY —

Safe Boating for a Lifetime®

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®
BOAT • LEARN • EXPLORE



Executive Officer
Lt/C Lisa Nieves, AP

 BOAT SMART. SWIM SMART. STAY SAFE.

It's Never Too Late to Learn how to Swim - Practice Matters!

 MAKE WATER SAFETY A FAMILY PRIORITY

Summer is a great time for boating, swimming, and family fun. Before heading out, ask:

Are you and your family ready for a water emergency?

Swimming is a key water safety skill. It builds confidence, comfort, and the ability to respond if you fall into the water.

 IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN HOW TO SWIM!

Whether you're 5 or 75, **it's never too late to learn**. If you're not confident, take lessons. If you can swim, keep practicing.

Practice matters. Skills improve with repetition, and confidence comes from learning your limits.

 BOATERS: BE PREPARED BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE DOCK

- ✓ Wear a properly fitted life jacket when needed.
- ✓ Know where all life jackets are stored.
- ✓ Teach kids basic water safety.
- ✓ Never assume strong swimming ability.
- ✓ Supervise children at all times.
- ✓ Know what to do if someone falls overboard.
- ✓ Check weather and water conditions.
- ✓ Avoid alcohol while boating.
- ✓ Know your limits in the water.

 SWIM SKILLS + LIFE JACKET + PRACTICE = BETTER SAFETY

Swimming is important, but **even strong swimmers should wear a life jacket when boating or when conditions require it**. Emergencies can happen to anyone.

The best time to learn is before an emergency.



Administrative Officer *Lt/C Ken Owens, P*

Great Lakes Trivia

1. Which Great Lake is the largest by surface area?
2. Which Great Lake is the smallest by surface area?
3. Which is the shallowest Great Lake?
4. Which is the deepest Great Lake?
5. Which Great Lake is located entirely within the United States?
6. What acronym helps people remember the names of the lakes?
7. Which Great Lake has the longest coastline?
8. What famous ship sank in Lake Superior during a storm in 1975?
9. Which Great Lake is known as the "Graveyard of the Great Lakes" due to having the most shipwrecks?
10. Which French explorer was the first European to see one of the Great Lakes?
11. What war featured the famous 1813 naval battle, the Battle of Lake Erie?
12. What is the largest island in the Great Lakes?
13. Which national park is a remote island wilderness located in Lake Superior?
14. What invasive species, introduced via cargo ships, covers lake beds and filters out native nutrients?
15. What percentage of the world's fresh surface water is held in the Great Lakes?
16. All of the Great Lakes combined contain _____ gallons of water.
 - A) 3 quadrillion
 - B) 16 million
 - C) 8 trillion
 - D) 6 quadrillion
17. Lake Superior alone, contains ____ % of the world's fresh water, not frozen in a glacier or ice cap.
 - A) 12%
 - B) 5%
 - C) 10%
 - D) 18%



18. A person in Michigan is never more than _____ miles from a natural water source?
19. Which Great Lake is the second largest?
20. What is the name of the 30 to 40 foot-long "monster" who allegedly lives in Lake Erie?
 - A) Chelli
 - B) Bessie
 - C) Betsy
 - D) Miggie
21. The Great Lakes were carved by glaciers _____ years ago.
 - A) about 2,000
 - B) more than 12,000
 - C) 1.2 million
 - D) 500
22. Michigan has the longest freshwater coastline in the United States. How long is it?
 - A) 7,420 miles
 - B) 3,288 miles
 - C) 500 miles
 - D) 8,550 miles
23. There are ____ lighthouses along the Great Lakes.
 - A) 200
 - B) 75
 - C) 300
 - D) 115

Why isn't Lake St. Clair considered a Great Lake?

Lake St. Clair isn't considered one of the Great Lakes simply due to its size and depth. Covering just 430 square miles with an average depth of roughly 11 feet, it is heavily dwarfed by the true Great Lakes, whose depths span hundreds of feet and cover tens of thousands of square miles. However, it sits right between Lake Huron and Lake Erie, acting as the essential connecting artery for the entire system. Because every drop of water flowing out of Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, and Lake Huron must pass through it to reach Lake Erie, it is frequently referred to by locals and geographers as "*the sixth Great Lake*". Despite its smaller footprint, it is a massive economic and ecological powerhouse. The shallow marshy waters, especially the St. Clair Flats delta, support an incredibly productive ecosystem, yielding about a third of the entire annual Great Lakes sport fishing catch. In comparison, the smallest Great Lake, Lake Ontario, is 17 times larger by surface area, and more than 80 times by volume.

Answers to the Great Lakes Trivia on page 9



Secretary Officer *Lt/C Gaylynn Giliberto, AP*

As I sit gazing at the garden, the trees, and feel the cool breeze on my skin, it's undeniable that autumn is making its debut. Summer always seems to pass too quickly here in Michigan, which is why we make it a point to grab every chance to enjoy the warm, sunny days. This summer, our Squadron enjoyed wonderful social gatherings — educational events, entertaining events, and simple get-togethers

that let us know one another a little better.

With the change of season comes a change in direction, as we prepare for falling leaves, chillier breezes, and shorter daylight. It's time to put our vessels away for the winter. For some of us, that means becoming snowbirds and heading south, leaving the cold behind.

But for our Squadron, our course doesn't change. We don't have to say good-bye to serving on the Bridge or being part of a committee. Technology keeps us connected as a group, and we keep moving forward no matter the season.

Moving forward this fall means new classes to expand our boating knowledge, speakers to enlighten us on our local waterways, and projects that help keep us safe when we're back out on the water. It's a season for learning, planning, and staying engaged — even from the shore.

This is also a great time to promote the Grosse Pointe Power Squadron. As we take part in fall and winter events, we have wonderful opportunities to strike up conversations about who we are and what our mission is all about. Let's be proud to be part of an organization that has served our boating community since 1939. Let's speak with genuine enthusiasm about our dedication to GPPS, the real value of vessel safety checks, and how our classes and seminars help build safer, more confident boaters for the season ahead. And let's invite others to come to an event and experience our GPPS community for themselves.

Spring will be here before we know it — let's make sure we're ready for it, together.



September Birthdays

Chester Dunbar, Jr.
Daniel J. Aitken
Kenneth C. Kazerski
Scott R. Homuth

Roman Bier
Mrs. Dolores M. Bier
George E. Metropoulos
Mark A. Baun

October Birthdays

Derek Shawn Williams
James J. Giliberto
Kalimah Johnson
Gary W. Owens
Lori Ann Peltier
Kristyl S. Girschner
Franz J. Forster

Richard J. Bania
Philip Trupiano
Rose Claus
Susan Lynn Bireescu
George J. A. Heitmanis
Jonathan B. Eadie

Great Lakes Trivia Answers

1.Superior 2.Ontario 3. Erie 4.Superior 5.Michigan 6.HOMES (Huron Ontario Michigan Erie Superior)
7.Huron(including all its islands) 8.Edmund Fitzgerald 9.Erie 10.Samuel de Champlain(reached Lake Huron)
11.The War of 1812 12.Manitoulin Island(Lake Huron) 13.Isle Royale 14.Zebra Mussels(Quagga Mussels)
15.About 20% 16.D 17.C 18.6miles 19.Huron 20.B 21.B 22.B 23.D




PROGRESSIVE

METRO BOAT SHOW

September 17-20 2026
Lake Saint Clair Metropark

31300 Metro Pkwy
Harrison Charter Township, MI 48045

SHOW HOURS
Thursday & Friday: 1pm – 7:30pm
Saturday: 11am – 7:30pm
Sunday: 11am – 6pm



**American
Heart
Association.**



HELP4CPR.ORG

The Basic Life Support (BLS) Course is a video based, instructor led course that teaches both single rescuer and team Basic Life Support. This course trains participants to promptly recognize several life-threatening emergencies, give high quality chest compressions, deliver appropriate ventilation, and provide early use of an AED. All courses teach skills using the American Heart Association's proven Practice While Watching technique, which allows Instructors to observe students, provide feedback and guide students' acquisition of skills.

Course Covers

- Key changes in basic life support, reflecting the new science for the American Heart Association's Guidelines on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care
- Critical concepts of high-quality CPR
- The American Heart Association Chain of Survival
- 1-2 Rescuer CPR and AED for adults, children, and infants
- AED Use
- Bag - mask technique, and Rescue Breathing for adults, children, and infants
- Relief of choking for adults, children, and infants
- Opioid abuse discussion and Narcan use

Class Information: Location Gross Pointe Yacht Club 788 Lake Shore Rd Grosse Pointe Shores, 48236

Dates/Time: February 28, April 25, November 7, 2026. Registration 8:30am, Class time: 9-1PM

- Ages 12 years of age and older
- Cost **\$75.00/** person due day of class, cash or check only: Payable to GPPS
- Two-year certification provided on completion of course.

Registration Mandatory: Class Date, Name, Age, Email, and Telephone number needed for all participants. Deadline -One week prior to class

American Heart Association - Authorized Trainer - **Lisa Nieves**
(313) 399-4900 * Lnieves801@gmail.com





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

A Strong Year for Grosse Pointe Vessel Safety Checks

Our 2026 results are already ahead of last year — and there is still plenty of boating season left



If you have been around our squadron this summer, you have probably noticed that our Vessel Examiners have been busy. The numbers now confirm just how busy they have been. As of August 26, our 12 Vessel Examiners had completed 164 Vessel Safety Checks, with 137 boats passing. That already puts us ahead of our totals for all of 2025, when 10 examiners completed 141 checks and 116 boats passed.

That is something our squadron can be proud of. Before the end of August, we had already completed 23 more checks than we did during all of last year. We have also added two Vessel Examiners, growing our team from 10 to 12. Just as important, our examiners have continued to stay very active even as the team has grown.

Our contribution becomes even more impressive when we look at District 9. Grosse Pointe has only 12 of the District's 86 Vessel Examiners — about 14% of the total — but we are responsible for 164 of the District's 699 Vessel Safety Checks. In other words, our squadron is completing nearly one out of every four checks in District 9. Our examiners average 13.7 checks each, compared with 8.1 across the District.

We also compare very well nationally. Grosse Pointe represents just over 1% of all USPS Vessel Examiners, yet our share of the Vessel Safety Checks is larger than our share of examiners. Our examiners average 13.7 checks each, compared with 11.2 nationally. That tells us that our local team is not only active within District 9 but also performing above the national average.

You may also notice that our pass rate, 83.5%, is lower than the District 9 rate of 90.7% and the national rate of 92.2%. I would not look at that as a negative. A Vessel Safety Check is about helping boaters find and correct safety issues before they become problems on the water. A boat that does not pass the first time may simply leave the inspection with a better understanding of what needs to be corrected — and that is an important part of what this program is all about.

When we put all of these numbers together, they tell a very positive story. Our Vessel Safety Check program is growing, our examiners are highly active, and Grosse Pointe is making a significant contribution to boating safety both in District 9 and nationally. And with more than four months still remaining in 2026, we are not finished yet.

"With only 14% of District 9's Vessel Examiners, Grosse Pointe is completing nearly one-quarter of all District 9 Vessel Safety Checks."

At a Glance

Measure	2025 Full Year	2026 Through Aug. 26	Change
Vessel Examiners	10	12	+20.0%
Vessel Checks	141	164	+16.3%
Passed	116	137	+18.1%

R/C Bill Stano, SN
Grosse Pointe Vessel Safety Chair

ABC of Grosse Pointe
Tiger's Baseball Game



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Photos by Lisa Nieves and Rose Stano

ABC of Grosse Pointe
Tiger's Baseball Game



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Northport Lobster Bake



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AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®
Of Grosse Pointe



USPS DISTRICT 9 FALL CONFERENCE

Save the Date – October 30 and October 31, 2026



Double Tree by Hilton Ann Arbor North
3600 Plymouth Rd, Ann Arbor MI

Join fellow members for the Fall District Conference. We have many fun activities for the weekend along with educational training, interesting speakers, fellowship and a business meeting too!!

Start the weekend on Friday, October 30 7pm – 11pm with our popular “Squadron Crawl”. Squadrons will have the opportunity to bring food into the ballroom where they will have their own station for members to mingle and wander to the various squadron tables. A cash bar will be available for your favorite beverage. Ghouls and Goblins may be wandering around and costumes are encouraged!!!

Saturday morning, October 31, is a morning of training for SEOs and other educational staff members to help them with learning technical tools to help with running classes. SEOs are requested to bring a laptop with them for this hands-on training from 8:30am – 10:30am.

Meanwhile, a human interest speaker will be in a different room for those who would like to learn more about the Ann Arbor area from 9:30am – 10:30am. More information on this speaker to come.

Our business meeting starts at 11am with a buffet lunch at 12:15pm. If there are additional items to cover we will reconvene after lunch to be done by 3pm. This allows all to get home in time to hang out with their local trick-or-treaters!

Room rates are \$144/night plus sales tax. A block of rooms have been reserved for the conference. Deadline to reserve a room at the special rate is October 9, 2026. To reserve a room:

Please contact the hotel direct at 734-769-9800 or use the following link to reserve online <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/united-states-sail-and-power-mi-district/>

Registration forms for the conference will be sent out in the next few weeks. Deadline for registration is October 21, 2026.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

2026 D9 Fall Conference Registration Form on page 18

2026 D/9 FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

30 – 31 October 2026



Attention: All registration requests must be received, on this form, by 21 October 2026.

Hospitality theme is Halloween. Bring your tasty treats and spooky attire.

Attire for the Day: Seminars & Business Lunch: USPS Casual Polo

Rank	Last Name	First Name	Grade	Certificate #	Squadron	First Time Attendee? Yes No
(1)						
(2)						

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Friday Hospitality

Number attending: _____ Wristbands are required for Hospitality event. Join your fellow members for a taste of Halloween. Cash Bar.

Lunch

_____ @\$40.00 = \$ _____

Country Deli buffet includes desserts, coffee, iced tea and lemonade. Cash bar.

Special Meal/Dietary Requests: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____ Check # _____

Make checks payable to: Dearborn Sail & Power Squadron

Mail checks and this form to: P/C Al Lord, SN, 8069 Balfour, Allen Park, MI 48101-2205

Hotel reservations, DoubleTree Ann Arbor, 3600 Plymouth Rd, A2, 734-769-9800, Rate is \$144 + tax and parking Group ID – United States Sail and Power MI District. Deadline is Friday 09 October 2026. Reserve online: www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/united-states-sail-and-power-mi-district/

About Ann Arbor: Many museums and sites. Here are a few links to plan your Saturday afternoon/evening, or stay the weekend and explore!

Depot Town Ypsi, ypsilantidda.org/depot-town Wiards Orchards & country Fair, wiards.com
Matthaei Botanical Gardens, mbgna.umich.edu Kerrytown, kerrytowndistrict.org
Zingerman's Deli, zingermansdeli.com Main Street, mainstreetannarbor.org
Ann Arbor Parks, a2gov.org/parks-and-recreation
Things to do in Ann Arbor, annarbor.org
Washtenaw County Historical Museum, washtenawhistory.org (Museum on Main St)
There will be a presentation from the Histroical Society on Saturday morning.

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>

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gp♥cc



GROSSE POINTE POWER SQUADRON

EDITOR

P/D/C Chet Dunbar, AP



Grosse Pointe

