



“America’s Boating Club®” United States Power Squadrons ABC - San Diego Sail & Power Squadrons



The Ships’ Mail

The Ship’s Mail is a quarterly publication of the San Diego Sail & Power Squadron, Inc., a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, America’s Boating Club®

Vol. 76, No. 1, New Year’s Issue 2024



“Ahoy, Mates, wow...,” as Commander Deb always began her *Ships’ Mail* column.

Crossing the Bar

It is with profound sadness and gratitude that this issue is dedicated to our recently passed Commander, Debra Ann Oberger, JN. The following obituary appeared in Legacy.com:

Debra Ann Oberger (nee Wanta) left this world on December 16, 2023, at the age of 59, due to complications from CREST Syndrome and Congestive Heart Failure. She was a devoted wife, mother, sister, aunt, and friend, leaving behind a legacy of love and service.

Debra is survived by her loving husband of 33 years, Peter Oberger, and their son, Luke. She is also remembered fondly by her sisters Linda Starr and Susan Sciacchitano (Jay), along with numerous nieces and nephews whose lives she touched with warmth and kindness. She predeceased by her parents, Ted and Joan Wanta.

Deb was born in Milwaukee, WI and was raised in West Bend, WI where she went to St. Frances Cabrini until 8th grade. She completed her schooling at West Bend West High School, Class of 1982, where she was a competitive cross-country runner. She graduated in 1984 from Moraine Park Technical Institute with an Associate degree in Accounting and Computer Programming prior to moving to San Diego in 1985.

She worked at Applied Micro Circuits Company for many years prior to retiring and pursuing her true passion for helping the youth in her community. While at AMCC, Debbie was able to travel to Hong Kong and Singapore, fulfilling another passion of hers to travel aboard.

"Commander Deb" joined the United States Power Squadron (USPS); America's Boating Club in 2015 and, for the last 3 years, led the San Diego Sail & Power Squadron as the Club Commander, Executive Officer, Public Relations contact. She was USPS Senior Member and successfully





completed many of the USPS/ABC course offerings including Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Pilot, Junior Navigation, and Weather.

A passionate advocate for youth development, Debra dedicated much of her life to the Boy Scouts of America. She was an avid and active member, holding various volunteer leadership positions that showcased her commitment to fostering the growth and well-being of young individuals. Debra worked professionally for the

Boy Scouts for many years at the San Diego Imperial Council Offices, where her dedication and enthusiasm had a lasting impact on the organization and those she served. She sailed to Catalina several times with the Sea Scouts.



As well as her volunteer work with the Boy Scouts of America, Ms. Debbie, as her former students called her, was a member of St Columba Parish where she prepared hundreds of children for their 1st Holy communion for many years.

Debbie will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. May she rest in eternal peace, and may her legacy of compassion, service, and dedication continue to inspire us all.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that you give to a charity that supports youth development. Debra's life was a testament to the belief that investing in the future of our youth is a noble and worthwhile cause.

San Diego services will be held at St Columba Catholic Church, 3327 Glencolum Dr. on Saturday January 6th with the Viewing at 10 AM and Funeral Mass at 11am, followed by a reception at Elijah's Restaurant, 7061 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

Wisconsin funeral services will be held on Saturday January 13th. Debbie will be laid to rest next to her mother, father, and family members.

Please note, regarding Commander Deb's services:

In recognition of her many years of service in with the United States Power Squadron/America's Boating Club, the SDSPS Bridge requests that all members of the Squadron please attend. Those that have Power Squadron uniforms, please wear them. Her scouting friends will also be in their uniforms.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan T Bombard, SN-CN
Commander, District 28
Editor, *The Ships' Mail*





→ Important Update for the Upcoming Change of Watch!! ←

America's Boating Club® San Diego Proposed 2024 Bridge Officers (Amended)*

January 1, 2024

(* due to death of SDSPS Commander since the prior publication of this list)

Commander	Gerald "Jerry" S. Murphy, P
Executive Department	
Executive Officer	Carl Schwartz, AP
Public Relations & Marketing	Scott Hinkle, S
Vessel Safety Checks	P/C Bob Gibbs, <u>JN-IN</u>
Educational Department	
Educational Officer	P/C Bob Gibbs, <u>JN- IN</u>
Asst. SEO	(TBD)
Administration Department	
Administrative Officer	Alice Kulikowski
Membership Chairman	Lt/C Paula Vance, P
Secretary's Department	
Secretary	Lt/C Paula Vance, P
Information Technology	(Open)
Newsletter	D/C Allan Bombard, <u>SN-CN</u>
Public Contact	Scott Hinkle, P
Roster Contact	Lt/C Paula Vance, P
Ships Store	Lt/C Debbie Lenart, S
Webmaster & IT support,	D/Lt Nancy Kangas, AP
Sea Scout Liaison	Mike Philbrook, P
Treasurer's Department	
Treasurer	Lt/C Debbie Lenart, S
Members at Large	D/C Allan Bombard, <u>SN-CN</u>
	P/C Shawn McArdle, AP
	Luis Sepulveda
	P/C Carole Hallock, AP
Southwestern Yacht Club Liaison	D/C Allan Bombard, <u>SN-CN</u>
	P/C Carole Hallock, AP
Sail Fleet	(Open)
Rules Committee	P/D/C Richard Cross, SN-ACN
	P/C Steve Bakalis, <u>SN</u>
Legal Officer	(Open)
Boat Shows & Public Shows	Alice Kulikowski
Finance Committee	P/C Carole Hallock. AP
	D/C Allan Bombard, <u>SN-CN</u>



Nominations Committee

P/C Bob Gibbs, JN-IN (Chair)

D/C Allan Bombard, SN-CN

P/C Carole Hallock, AP

P/D/C Richard Cross, SN-ACN

Merit Mark Committee

P/C Carole Hallock, AP

Lt/C Paula Vance, P

Please plan to attend the upcoming Change of Watch and cast your vote!



**The ABC-San Diego Sail & Power Squadron
Announces this special January event:**

**72nd Annual SDSPS Meeting & Change of Watch Dinner
and General Membership Meeting
Saturday January 13, 2024**

All members of the San Diego Sail & Power Squadron and their guests are invited to attend the Annual Meeting and Change of Watch Dinner, with no-host cocktails at 6 pm. The business meeting and installation will begin at 6:30 pm.

Dress: Business casual (Uniform A or G, optional*)
Date: Saturday January 13, 2024
Place: Southwestern Yacht Club
2702 Qualtrough Street
San Diego, CA 92106

Purpose of the meeting: To conduct an **election of the officers for the year 2024**; to consider and **vote upon the 2024-2025 budget** proposed for adoption by the SDSPS Executive Committee; to hear reports of outgoing officers and committee chairs; and to accomplish such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

(* USPS Operations Manual App. B.87; p.224)

Purpose of the Change of Watch: To install the 2024 Bridge Officers and Elected members.

Entrée choices:



- *Chicken Cobb Salad (large) – \$18*
- *Yacht Burger w/cheese - \$21*
- *Miso-Glazed Salmon w/couscous & seasonal vegetables - \$35*
- *Filet mignon w/mashed potatoes & seasonal vegetables - \$44*

Coffee, tea, and alcoholic beverages are available for purchase.
Walk-Ins may order from the dining room menu.

Please RSVP your attendance and MENU CHOICE by January 7, 2024
to Carl Schwartz at carls1199@yahoo.com or call at 619 528-9111.



Dec 2023 San Diego "Parade of Lights"

Do you know WHY our motto is "FOR BOATERS, BY BOATERS"?

Our club is more than your connection to the water. Being a member of United States Power Squadrons-America's Boating Club is bigger than boating. It's about friendship, memories that last a lifetime, bettering your community and being the most confident boater you can be.



Commander's Column



Doug Bass, SN-ACN
Acting Commander, ABC San Diego

It is with sincere regret that Deb Oberg, JN, our Squadron/Club Commander, has passed peacefully with her family in attendance. Deb did a wonderful job as Commander of the Squadron for the last three years during a trying time of the pandemic and its recovery. We are thankful for her efforts to bring together our group and give us all of her strength to keep us going.

Deb's funeral mass and celebration of life will be at St. Columbia Catholic Church at 3327 Glencolum Dr on Saturday January 6th, with viewing at 10am and funeral mass at 11 am. These services will be followed by a Celebration of Life at Elijah's Restaurant, 7061 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

In lieu of flowers Deb's family kindly requests you give to a charity that supports youth development. In recognition of her service for many years with the squadron we request all members of the squadron attend, and those that have Power Squadron uniforms, please wear them. Her scouting friends will also be in their uniforms.



Administrative Officer

Lt/C Carl Schwartz, AP

Hello Fellow Boaters,

Just a few quick announcements this time...

Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) Update: 56 as of 23 December

DIST# 28 SQUADRON: San Diego Sail & Power

NAME	TOT. CHECKS	# PASSED	#
Allan Bombard.	21	19	
Jonathan R. Coats	10	7	
Robert Gibbs	25	20	
Shaun McArdle	5	4	
TOTALS	56	50	

2024 Upcoming Event Schedule

Jan 9	ExCom Meeting/SWYC
Jan 13	Operations Training/SWYC SDSPS Change of Watch & GMM/SWYC
Feb 6	ExCom Meeting/SWYC
Feb 6-10	USPS Annual Mtg/Orlando
Feb 11-18	USPS BVI Cruise
Feb 26	Advanced Piloting Course begins/SWYC
Feb 28	Electronic Navigation Course begins/SWYC
Mar 5	ExCom Meeting/SWYC
Mar 17	Day @ Docks/Shelter Is.
Mar 20	Operations Training Course/SWYC
Mar 22-24	D-28 Change of Watch/BSPS (Ayres Hotel)

(See Full Year Next Page)

Tentative Event Calendar and Dates for 2024

2024	Day	Event	Location
Jan 09	Tuesday	EXCOM	Southwestern Yacht Club
Jan 13	Saturday	Operations Training & Change of Watch/GMM	Southwestern Yacht Club
Jan 15		Articles Due-Ships Mail	
Feb 06-10	Tues-Sun	ABC Annual Meeting	Orlando
Feb 11-18	Sun-Sun	ABC Nat'l BVI Cruise	Virgin Islands



Feb 26	Monday	Advanced Piloting	Southwestern Yacht Club
Feb 28	Wednesday	Marine Electronics	Southwestern Yacht Club
Mar 05	Tuesday	EXCOM	Southwestern Yacht Club
Mar 17	Sunday	Day-At-The-Docks	Shelter Island
Mar 22-24	Fri-Sun	District 28 Chg of Watch	The Ayres Hotel-Costa Mesa, CA
April 09	Tuesday	EXCOM	Southwestern Yacht Club
May 17	Friday	GMM	(TBD)
May 17-18	Fri-Sat	Boating Skills Virtual Trainer	West Marine
May 18-24	-----	National Safe Boating Week	(TBD)
June 03	Monday	Boat Handling/Seamanship	Southwestern Yacht Club
June 04	Tuesday	EXCOM	Southwestern Yacht Club
June 08	Saturday	Vessel Safety Check	Southwestern Yacht Club
June 10	Tuesday	Offshore Navigation	Southwestern Yacht Club
June 15		Articles Due-Ships Mail	
June 15-16	Sat-Sun	Koehler Kraft Boat Show	Shelter Island
July 09	Tuesday	EXCOM	Southwestern Yacht Club
July 07	Sunday	SDSPS GMM/BBQ	Mission Bay/De Anza Cove
July 13	Saturday	District 28 Picnic	Oceanside
July 19-21	Fri-Sun	Summer Raft-Up	Newport Beach
Aug 06	Tuesday	EXCOM	Southwestern Yacht Club
Aug 15		Articles Due-Ships Mail	
Sep xx	Fri-Sat	America's Boating Course	Southwestern Yacht Club
Sep 02	Monday	Sail Course	Southwestern Yacht Club
Sep 09	Tuesday	EXCOM	Southwestern Yacht Club
Sep 07	Saturday	GMM-Potluck	Deb Lenart's home
Sep 11	Wed	Marine Communications Course	Southwestern Yacht Club
Sep 22	Sunday	Ice Cream Social/Movie	Bob Gibb's
Oct 07	Tuesday	EXCOM	Southwestern Yacht Club
Oct 15		Articles Due-Ships Mail	
Oct 20	Friday	Wine Tasting/Appetizers	(TBD)
Nov 05	Tuesday	EXCOM	Southwestern Yacht Club
Nov 08	Friday	GMM	Southwestern Yacht Club
Dec 03	Tuesday	EXCOM	Southwestern Yacht Club
Dec 08	Sunday	Parade of Lights BBQ	Shelter Island
Dec 15		Articles Due-Ships Mail	

See you on the water. Safe Boating!

Carl

carls1199@yahoo.com



Dec 2023 SDSPS' "Parade of Lights"



Secretary

Lt/C Paula Vance, P

District Webmaster **D/Lt Nancy Kangas, AP** will soon be managing all 3 local Squadron websites, plus the District 28 website, so they all have the same look and feel. Thanks, Nancy! If you have any pictures, notices, or articles you'd like to see posted on our website, send them to Nancy at nancywebwizard@gmail.com.

Annual dues are still \$103 for a single and \$146 for a family membership.

National will now provide some financial support for our local marketing efforts. If you have ideas about publicizing the great work our organization does, and the great time we all have doing that work, send those ideas to **P/C Bob Gibbs, JN-IN** (BobGibbs555@gmail.com) or **Alice Kulikowski** (alicek@ucsd.edu).

As members you are also encouraged to post pictures and comments on our Facebook site:
<https://www.facebook.com/sdpsorg>.

I speak for everyone on the Executive Committee in encouraging each or you to join us in helping to plan, set up, and run our events and classes. To learn more about these opportunities, please contact one of us at ExCom@SDSPS.org.

Paula

Paula Vance, P
Secretary, America's Boating Club San Diego



Education Report

P/C Doug Bass, SN-ACN
*SDSPS Club Educational Officer
& Acting Commander*

Respectfully,
Doug Bass, SN-ACN

On the education front, our District Commander **Allan Bombard, SN-CN** will be teaching the **Operations Training Class** for our many new members of the Bridge, as well as to new members of SLRSPS and BSPS. Attendees will learn about the operation of America's Boating Club/USPS. The class is tentatively scheduled to be held at Southwestern Yacht Club on **January 13th at 1430-1700**. Attendees must pre-register with the instructor → District28ABC@gmail.com so that a sufficient number of materials can be provided, and pre-training instructions can be forwarded for pre-class completion.

In addition, the much-awaited Electronic Navigation will begin. Originally scheduled to kick off on 3 January, it has been pushed back to allow for completion of the ongoing Piloting Class. The Electronic Navigation Course will begin on 28 February. Please see the information below!



SAN DIEGO

Electronic Navigation Course

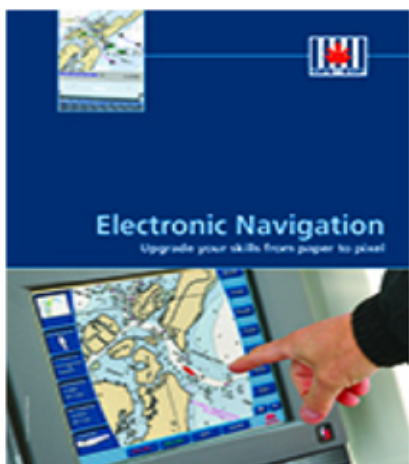
Date : Wednesday, Feb 28th, 2024

Time : 6:30 – 8:00 PM Wednesday for eight weeks

Place : Southwestern Yacht Club 2702 Qualtrough St, San Diego, CA 92106

Cost : \$90 member, \$110 non-member

Contact : Education Officer (seo@sdps.org)



Electronic Navigation introduces GPS technology from the most basic receiver to chart plotter systems for navigation on board. The process of navigating by establishing waypoints and routes, and then running the planned courses, is demonstrated. Further, electronic charting software for the desktop computer is examined, with creation of waypoints and routes on the desktop and subsequent download to the on-board unit. Despite differences among the various manufacturers' offerings, a thorough discussion of the features being made available is included.

Special attention is paid to apps for tablets and smartphones that provide the electronic navigation function at the helm, for relatively little cost.

Students should be familiar with basic charting concepts.

Topic: Electronic Navigation

Time: Wednesday Feb 28th 2024 6:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Registration: <https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?L-17767>



"Come for the learning, Stay for the fun."

D/Lt/C Doug Bass, [SN-ACN](#)

Education Officer

1-415-321-9800 Talk/Text

<https://sdps.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/sdpsorg>



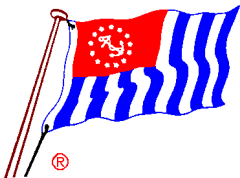
Treasurer's Report

Lt/C Debbie Lenart, S
SDSPS Treasurer

(None. To be presented at the Jan 13 General Membership Meeting & Change of Watch.)

Debbie Lenart, P
Treasurer SDSPS

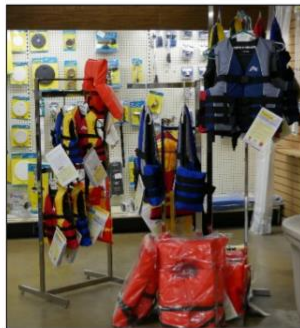
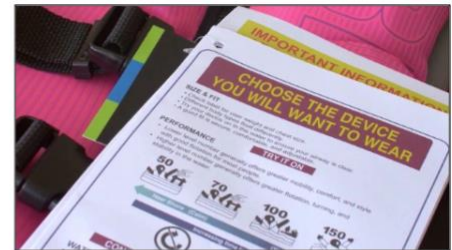
News from National



Communications Committee's
United States Power Squadrons® Member News

America's Boating Channel™ Understanding Life Jacket Labels

Let's start the year by getting our life jackets ready for the 2024 boating season. If you cleaned and inspected your life jackets before storing them for winter storage, you should know how many need to be replaced. Which brings us to our topic of life jacket labels. You may be unaware of the new labeling system if you have not purchased a life jacket recently. Type I, II, III and IV labeling was removed by the U.S. Coast Guard from the Code of Federal Regulations in 2014, but it is taking several years for the legacy designations to be phased out.



To help boaters understand the current labeling system, Season Four of America's Boating Channel offers the video "[Life Jacket Labels](#)" in which you are introduced to the simplified labels that contain less writing and more icons.

Regardless of your age or experience level, data shows that life jackets save lives. So don't hesitate to replace older life jackets. America's Boating Channel also produced a sequel entitled "[New Label Benefits](#)" that covers the advantages of the new life jacket labeling system. In this video, viewers learn how to interpret label icons. Also featured are tips for selecting the right life jacket for your intended on-the-water activity.

Follow the above links or visit <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel> to find these and other safe boating videos, which are an excellent tool to help recruit participants to our educational program and to membership. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like and subscribe to America's Boating Channel to introduce them to what our organization has to offer.

In addition to YouTube, these professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos are available via the America's Boating Channel free, on-demand app on Apple TV, Roku or FireTV. [America's Boating Channel™](#) is produced by the United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.



Orlando Awaits!

Orlando — We're Coming Back

The National Meetings Committee is gearing up for our return to Orlando, Florida, for the 2024 Annual Meeting. It is already November, and the time is flying by! Don't let the Jan. 11, 2024, deadline catch you without a room reservation at the Rosen Plaza. Make your hotel reservations now. The online agenda and events and activities schedule will soon be available for you to browse and begin building your schedule for your trip to Orlando. Keep visiting [our website](#) to stay current with what's happening in Orlando!

@ The 2024 Annual Meeting: Let PowerPoint and Google Docs Work for You

Save the date for Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, to attend this two-hour seminar. You'll learn to use graphics and other tools in PowerPoint and Google Docs designed to prepare engaging presentations. Plan to bring your laptop to participate in preparing an actual presentation. Then, take these skills home and share them with fellow members. The seminar is limited to 20 members, so watch your email box for 2024 Annual Meeting registration emails and sign up as soon as registration opens. See you there.

Board Approves National Communications Policy

In anticipation of the upcoming iMIS Membership Engagement System implementation, the Board of Directors approved a national Communications Policy that spells out how members and staff share information and communicate with each other and the public. The policy represents the first step in developing a more congenial and inclusive culture in United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club, laying the groundwork for future communication projects. Read or download the policy using the link below. [-Ad Hoc Communications Team](#)

Coming Soon: Cruising Under Power and Sail 2023

Fully revised, Cruising Under Power and Sail 2023 supersedes Cruising and Cruise Planning 2013. The new course reflects the changes to boats, technology and cruising techniques that have happened in the last 10 years. The new course benefits anyone thinking about exploring inland and coastal waterways on boats, including kayaks, motor cruisers or sailboats. The new Student Guide has 16 chapters, each devoted to a topic area, 10 appendices with lists of resources for cruising boaters, and five cruising area supplements. Designed for presentation in eight class sessions, Cruising under Power and Sail offers comprehensive PowerPoint presentations. Look for specific ordering details in next month's Member News. [-Gordon Bloom](#)

Cruise to the British Virgin Isles With Us

The America's Boating Club group cruise to the gorgeous BVIs continues to grow, and we'd love you to join us! We will be sailing on the newest Celebrity ship, **Celebrity Ascent** for our next group cruise following the Annual Meeting. The ship sails **Feb. 11–18, 2024**, from Fort Lauderdale to San Juan, Puerto Rico; Tortola, BVI; and Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis. Our exclusive group pricing is better than the advertised Celebrity promotion and does include drinks, Wi-Fi, and tips. This is an annual fundraiser, and your district can also benefit if supported. For more details, please [email me](#) or call 727-403-0406. [-Dawn Eckart](#)



America's Boating Club San Diego
San Diego Sail & Power Squadron: 2023-2024 Bridge

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(Open)

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Carole Hallock, AP Joy Bladykas, AP

Immediate Past CDR

P/C Doug Bass, SN-ACN

Merit Marks

P/C Carole Hallock, AP
P/C Paula Vance, P

Rules

P/D/C Richard Cross, SN-ACN
P/C Steven Bakalis, SN

Membership

P/C Paula Vance, P

Audit

P/C Carole Hallock, AP
D/C Allan Bombard, SN-CN

Nominations

D/C Allan Bombard, SN-CN
P/D/C Richard Cross, SN-ACN
P/C Carole Hallock, AP
P/C Bob Gibbs, IN-IN

Public Relations

P/C Bob Gibbs, IN-IN

SWYC Liaison

P/C Carole Hallock, AP
D/C Allan Bombard, SN-CN

Law Officer

Michael Wales, Esq/D/C Allan Bombard, SN-CN

Ships' Mail Editor

Vessel Safety Checks

P/C Bob Gibbs, IN-IN
P/C Shaun McArdle, AP

Publications

Alice Kulikowski
P/C Bob Gibbs, IN-IN

Sea Scout Liaison

Mike Philbrook, AP

Boat Shows

Alice Kulikowski

Web/IT Support

Mike Philbrook, AP

Ships Store/Property

Debbie Lenart, S

Safety Officer

(Open)

San Luis Rey Liaison

D/C Allan Bombard, SN-CN/P/C Doug Bass, SN-ACN

Sail Fleet

Boating Activities

(Open)



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