

TONKANAUTS

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB[®]
For Boaters, By Boaters[™]



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Cover Photo - Kathy Thyr

At The Helm

P/Lt/C Kevin Shutes, AP-IN



I continue to be amazed and humbled by your dedication to our community. I sincerely want to thank each of you for volunteering your time and talents in support of our mission—especially for the many small and selfless acts that may go unnoticed. Our organization has a lot of heart, and I’m proud to be working alongside such a dedicated group of people.

Whether you are a new member or have been a member for many years, you are invited to get more involved in both big ways and small. If you are not sure where to start, just look for someone working and ask if you can help! I guarantee we can find a project or activity you will enjoy.

In the last couple of months alone, our instructors taught multiple courses. Our Membership Committee welcomed dozens of new members and their families. Our Safety Committee organized many volunteers to work the boat launches during Safe Boating Week. Energetic volunteers opened up the island and an ad hoc work crew split and transported wood for our fire pits; and that’s not all!

Our webmaster upgraded our website. The IT Committee and a work crew installed a new Wi-Fi system on the island. Our Vessel Examiners conducted many Vessel Safety Checks. The Foundation Committee drafted plans to make it easier to donate. Our Island Managers (and many of you) worked tirelessly to keep Streater Cove looking great. Our communicators created and curated content. Our administrators balanced the books and edited databases. We strengthened our relationship with the Water Patrol. The History Committee started scanning our historical archive. The Executive team and their respective committees planned multiple civic and social events like Hope Kids, parades and event perimeters. We had a rowdy and fun night together over Memorial Day weekend, and the list goes on and on. There is no shortage of opportunity to give back and I encourage each and every one of you to help our organization and community get “Back on Plane.” C’mon, it will be fun!



Moving Forward and Reaching Out

Executive Officer

D/Lt Dan Saniti, P

Its great to see everyone getting out and about again. With this we have a lot of events going on and I wanted to highlight a few. Please see our website to sign up and volunteer.

- Saturday, July 17 Spirit of the Lake Parade & Fireworks perimeter boats (Mound, MN)
- Saturday, August 7 Big Island & Back Event (Excelsior / Lake Minnetonka)
- Thursday, Sept 9 BSLOL Antique Boat Club Rendezvous (Streater Cove)

Each of these events are important to help us achieve our goal to promote safe boating through community involvement. I greatly appreciate those of you who have supported these events in the past and the new volunteers who have already signed up this year.

Some of you may not see a specific event not listed. While we are working hard to support as many community events as we can we are also cautious not to over commit our resources. I encourage those members who have volunteered at some of these events in the past to reach out and share stories with our new members. Each of these events offers ways for our squadron to give back while providing personal fulfillment. Thank you to those that can help out as this is much appreciated.

Education Officer

Lt/C Russ Straate, AP

Welcome to summer! The squadron education program is slowing down as we move into the summer season. We will continue to encourage you to take on-line courses provided by our national organization but local classes have been completed and we are now thinking about what we will do in the fall and winter.

We recently completed Boat Handling and ABC class. We had a good group of students and on-line participation worked well. Both classes required the exams to be proctored so we needed to meet face-to-face to conduct the exams. That worked well as we partnered with the Wayzata American Legion and they offered us the use of their space to hold the exams. Nice to be able to have a beverage and maybe even a burger as you take the class or the exam.

What's Ahead for Education?

This fall and winter we will be finishing the weather course we started this Spring and will probably be offering Piloting and Advanced Piloting. We might be able to include a couple of seminars in the mix. More on that later this summer.

Other education opportunities including seminars and webinar workshops through USPS are [available online](#). There is a nice selection of valuable boating topics to choose from that will certainly help you to enhance your boating experience and safety. Please go to the [Educational section](#) of our website for links to these opportunities as well. Thank you!

Hope to see you on the island this summer!

Connections:

Tonka Channels Education Information Link: [Education](#)

Email address for Russ Straate; rstraate@gmail.com



2021 Fall Governing Board
August 29 - September 5, 2021
Raleigh, North Carolina

Secretary

1st/Lt Pat Laughlin, JN

Livin' The Dash – The dash is that mark on a tombstone between the birth date and the death date. It was also the name of the 49' Meridian that we chartered in the Puget Sound in August, 2018.



I joined America's Boating Club in 2013 and like most members I started off by taking America's Boating Course in the Spring of that year. Then I moved on to Seamanship, (now called Boat Handling), the next year. The education part of this organization was starting to intrigue me, so I kept the momentum going and went the next step to Piloting the following year. That was a big step moving up to reading and plotting charts. More work – and more rewarding.



I took a year off and then in 2017 started back up with Advanced Piloting. It turned out that work/family life was just too full and I needed to drop the class. (Life happens.) But, I picked it up again and completed it in 2018.

In the Spring of 2018 I got a call from my friend Mark. He says, "I know you have been taking all these boating classes, what do you say we charter a boat together in the Puget Sound, bring the kids, and you be the captain?" Whoa.... Okay. Why not? He planted the seed and I went to work to see if we could make that a reality.

There are a few options for chartering boats in the Puget Sound. I landed on Anacortes Yacht Charters with a large fleet of trawlers and cruisers to choose from. These boats are all bigger than my single engine, 28' Regal. But I'm saying to myself, "hey, I'm an Advanced Pilot now. I got this!"

I started the reservation process and as a part of that they want to know that you are qualified to captain the boat you reserve. I had to fill out a Boating Experience Resume. I remember it had some questions that I wouldn't know if I hadn't taken the Piloting courses, like; "What does MLLW mean?" I got that! (Mean Lower Low Water – used on charts to show the average depth at the lowest tides.)

Then it asked about my experience with twin screw boats. Well.... I did charter a houseboat once in Voyageurs National Park that had two outboards on it. That's a twin screw – right? Then it asked about my experience with tides. My dad has a boat in Florida and I've taken that boat out many times and experienced the Florida tides. I knew that the tide difference in Florida was only about two feet, and in the Puget Sound it is more like twelve feet, but that was all I could say...

I was hoping my Advance Pilot grade was going to carry some weight.

So, I submitted my request for a reservation along with my Boating Experience Resume. I got a call back a couple days later. They were very nice and just commented on how the tides in Washington are a lot different than in Florida. I really didn't have the hands-on experience to charter one of their boats. But.... they do have a program called "Cruise-N-Learn". They send a captain along with us for the first couple days to teach us and make sure we know what we are doing, then he jumps off and we are on our own the rest of the week. Yes! I'm in!

We went on that trip in August, 2018. Two families, four adults and four teenage kids, on a trip of a lifetime. The hired captain that was with us for the first couple days was a retired airline pilot that had been teaching boating for the past seven years. He went through all the systems on the boat and had us practice a lot on docking procedures. He also passed along some tips of his own that were very helpful; like how to catch a dock cleat from up on the deck with no help below.

Perhaps more details to be shared about the trip in a future article.

The name of the boat was, "Livin' The Dash". We talked a lot on the trip about how we were enjoying Livin' The Dash, the boat, and how we were also enjoying living the dash of life. As I reflect on this trip I can't help but also reflect on how my involvement in America's Boating Club (USPS) has also been a great part of my "dash" for the past nine years.

2021 Safe Boating Week

Kirk Lau, AP



I would like to give a shout out to everyone who volunteered at the boat launches at Gray's Bay, North Arm, and Cook's Bay .

Saturday May 22nd started out at 70 degrees and 80 percent humidity and ended the day at a beastly 86 degrees and still 80 percent humidity. Sunday also started out at 70 degrees but with 82 percent humidity and ended at a bearable 81 degrees and still 82 percent humidity.

The only thing missing from the tropical weather was a Corona with lime. Everyone agreed the weather was preferable to our last 2019 Safe Boating Week when it was 50 degrees and rainy the whole time!!!!

Over 170– 2021 MN Boating Guide, 50 – Lake Minnetonka Maps, 50 – Boat Live 365, 114 – LMCD Lake Minnetonka Summer Rules, 40 – Sophia's Law, 40 – Electric Shock Drowning, and 50 – Business cards/flyers were distributed to the boating community.

Again, thank you for your participation in Safe Boating Week, not only in educating boaters, but also by making our Squadron very visible. Please let me know of anything you would like to change or add to Safe Boating Week. I look forward to your continued participation for many years!!! 2022 Safe Boating Week will be Saturday May 21 and Sunday May 22.



Kevin Bell
Tom Gartner



Tom Brink
Anna Bader
Jim Bennett



Steve Dakolios
Dale Lien



Chris Estle
Frank Arellono
Ron Frick



Tom Gartner
David Bergman
Kevin Bell



Marge Lau
Bruce Skjerping
Lisa Skjerping



Tim Levens
Barry Blievernicht
Jennifer Jacobson



Andrew Punch
Steve Camp
Jane Camp



Bruce Skjerping
Lisa Skjerping
David Bergman



Patrick Sutter
Bill Weimer

Join Us On

facebook

Did you know that the Minnetonka Power Squadron is on facebook?

In order to spread the word and to stay connected please follow the link and "Like Us".

www.facebook.com/MinnetonkaPowerSquadron

Doug Swanson



4th of July Breakfast

Editor

A big thank you to Don Duncan and everyone that helped host, prepare, cook and serve the annual 4th of July Breakfast; it was delicious as always!



A Younger Members Perspective

Taylor Lemmerman



Hi, my name is Taylor Lemmerman, and I have been a member of the Minnetonka Power squadron since 2017. When I joined the island at 15 years old, I thought being on the lake and going to the island was a ton of fun. I enjoyed all of the members I met and adventures through the woods to find the old Excelsior Amusement Park remains. Although when I turned 16 years old, I got my license, and with that came the freedom to do what I want. I promised myself that I would still spend one night a year on the island. I made the mistake of rarely going to the island but only going on the boat. Even though I was not on the island every weekend, I still volunteered at HopeKids, and this year I ran the fishing pond.

After going to college in North Dakota. My dad Paul Lemmerman would constantly be Zooming me at college, asking me to help him with everything involving technology for his administrative position. I was the one updating his officer report and sending documents to other members. Since I was helping him out and saw how he contributes to the island, it inspired me to want to help out more.

So now, on the weekends, I always try to go out on the boat with my parents and dog. We always go to Big Island and usually have dinner at Maynard's then stop at the Power squadron. What I learned from going to Big Island with my family were the kind and caring Power Squadron members I met. I have met a ton of their friends who have been nothing but friendly and helpful to me. I now feel like I have become friends with them as well. I wish I could have stayed involved and kept going to the island from when I was 16 years old until now.

To any members my age, I recommended going out to the island and volunteering at any events that are happening this summer! You might be thinking, "it's boring on the island" or "I just want to hang out with my friends," but I have made more memories with my family in just a couple of weekends on the lake than I have in years. As well as meeting so many fun members at the bonfires or just by walking around the island.

US Coast Guard Certificate of Documentation Change

Reprinted with permission from BoatUS

In April of this year the US Coast Guard changed the Certificate of Documentation

to a 5 year period. Formerly documentation was \$26 per year and boaters could select the number of years, from one to five. The new five-year documentation cost for is fixed at \$130. Additional fees apply for initial documentation as well as exchanges. The Coast Guard will not issue refunds if an owner chooses to cancel documentation before its five-year expiration or if a vessel is sold during the renewal period.

Boat owners generally choose to federally document vessels with the U.S. Coast Guard versus the more common practice of state registration, for one of two reasons: the boat was purchased with a bank loan and the lender required it or the owner plans to travel beyond U.S. waters. A Certificate of Documentation is internationally recognized and makes it easier for American vessels to enter and leave foreign ports.

Documented vessels must also be a minimum of 5 net tons, which is about the size of a 26-foot boat. BoatUS notes that net tons are more about (cargo) volume, than weight.

HopeKids Photos

Photos by Ross Langhands









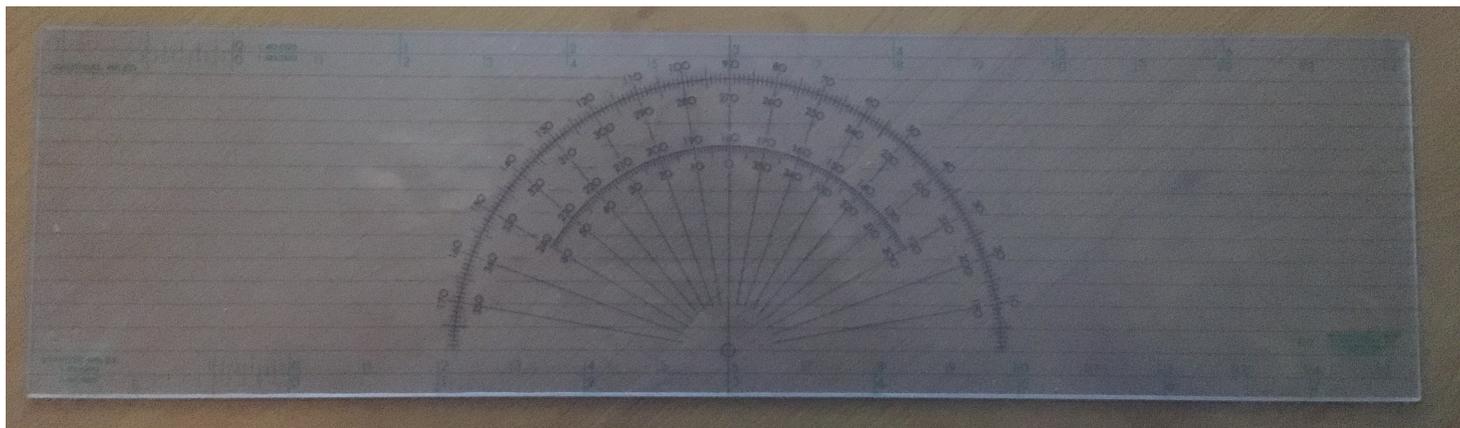
2011 Zodiac Zoom 310 SR – \$1,200



Hardbottom with ample storage in seat & forward storage compartment in bow for tow line. 10' - 2" in length. Special Feature: Attachable wheels for walking the Zodiac to and from the shore. This fun and practical boat comes with a 1997 two stroke Mercury 9.9. H.P. short shaft outboard motor with electric start.

Contact: Dan Goldman 612-751-4499 or dgfriendship@aol.com

Navigation and Plotting tools for Piloting Courses - Free - Contact the Editor



2006 Four Winns 318 Vista — \$79,000



- Twin 5.0 Liter V-8 - 506 + Hrs
 - Fuel Injection - 270 hp
 - Volvo Penta Dual Prop
 - 5.0KW gen set
 - 1500 Watt Inverter
 - Raymarine C80 GPS/Plotter/Depth
 - Air Conditioning
 - Central Vac
 - Windlass
 - Remote Spotlight
 - Wash Down Pump
 - Microwave
 - Coffee Maker
 - Awesome Stereo w/ 2 subs
 - 2 TV's w/ DVD Players
 - Full Camper Top
 - Cockpit Cover
 - Fenders
 - 3 - 30 amp power cords 2-50', 1-25'
- In water available for viewing
 Contact Jeff @ 612.720.1397
Jeffhoffman05@gmail.com



Bulletin Board



Northern Lights Sailing Club

- * A Twin Cities MN based cruising club
- * Monthly social and educational meetings
- * Local and worldwide sailing opportunities
- * No experience? No boat? No problem!

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Bridge Officers

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Assistant Bridge Officers

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 Assistant Education: 1st/Lt Mitchell Anderson, AP-IN
 Assistant Secretary: Jason Rice
 Assistant Treasurer: Lt Shawn Wischmeier, S
 Flag Lieutenant: P/C John Raby, JN-ACN

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 Member at Large: Lt Kirk Lau, AP
 Member at Large: Lt Ian Villamil, S
 Member at Large: Lt Paul Morales, S
 Member at Large: Lt Tom Witchger
 Member at Large: Lt Dean Weiser, S
 Past Commander:* P/C Andy Lalim, AP
 Law Officer:* D/Lt Greg Korstad, JN-IN
 (*Non-Voting Member)

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 D/Lt Greg Korstad, JN-IN 2021
 Lt Don Duncan, JN 2022
 Lt Tim Levens, AP-IN 2023
 Lt Shawn Wischmeier, S 2023

Nautical Humor



“What do you mean I never take you anywhere nice? Last week I took you to a bait & tackle show, and today we’re going to a boat show.”

Nominations Committee

D/Lt/C Tracy Gustafson, AP-IN 2021
 Lt Diana Straate, S 2021
 P/C John Raby, JN-ACN 2021
 Lt Steve Camp, S 2021
 P/C Andy Lalim, AP 2023

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 Lt Rob Wright, P 2021
 Lt Paul Vassar 2022
 Lt Marcus Krumpholz, S 2022
 Lt Pat Sutter, S 2023
 P/R/C Mike Skelley, JN-IN 2023

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 Lt Laurie O’Melia 2022
 Lt Donald Wilkenson, S 2023