

# TONKANAUTS

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB<sup>®</sup>  
For Boaters, By Boaters™



SPRING!

*Is It Here Yet?*

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*Cover Photo - Kathy Thyre*

# At The Helm

Cdr Dan Saniti, P

## Getting ready for our first cookout!

I had the opportunity to assist with getting firewood to our island, Streater Cove, a few weeks ago while the ice was still very much frozen. Ian Villamil, our squadron Assistant Administrative Officer and Membership Chairman, coordinated a group of very efficient squadron members to cut up, split and drive over several trailers full of firewood. I needed to take a time out and get a picture as it was a cool but sunny day and all I could think about while we were driving to the island was that it was getting closer to opening up our island and having our first cookout!!! KC please sign me up...



To all new members that joined our squadron last year and already this season I welcome you and invite you over to visit anytime you're on the island. I'm the one member with that large 50 foot stick reaching up to the sky... Yes, I'm that "blow boat" sailing member of our squadron. Please feel free to walk over when you see me on the island. My boat's name is "Local Current" and has red covers on the sails and a red bimini. I'm planning to be staying at Streater Cove from Thursday to Sundays in the months of May through August.

I'm looking forward to a great year with our squadron supporting all of the Civic Service (external to our squadron), Fraternal (internal to our squadron) and Education (teaching a class or helping out with education, not just taking a class) events that we have planned.

While several of you are looking forward to getting back on the island, please remember that we have a lot of events like parades, safe boating week, Hope Kids, safe perimeter keep out monitoring, public island cleanup, vessel safety examiner, geodetic marker search, the boat show, packing food with Feed my Starving Children, etc. that occur off the island. We are very fortunate to have our island resource but our squadron is so much more than what we only do on the island.

### A word about Merit Marks...

Now is the time to start planning events to volunteer to ensure you have enough hours to obtain approval for a merit mark. I recommend you get at least 12 hours of service and if you are wanting to have island access, spread your volunteering time across 2 different categories or "sides of the triangle" as we say. Our squadron bylaws state that in order to be approved for Island Rights we need to obtain a merit mark at least every 2 years and across two difference categories. Anyone on our Executive Leadership Team (or other squadron members) can help to ensure you know about new events to volunteer at. Our MinnetonkaPS.org website is also a great place to signup for events to volunteer.

Fingers crossed we will have the island opened up by the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of May. This all depends on when the ice is finally out. Stay tuned to our website, Facebook and eBeacon communication for more information. We have several education classes on our schedule. Ensure that the eBeacon emails don't get caught in your spam filters... These are sent out from [Membership@MinnetonkaPS.org](mailto:Membership@MinnetonkaPS.org).

Finally, we have the feedback that you would like to see our squadron communicate with text messages. We are working on this and hope to have something started this year. These would be very short reminders about items like our First Friday Happy Hour sent out on the day of the event along with the location and time.

We are all looking forward to a great year together!

Happy to hear from you anytime. I can be reached at: [Commander@MinnetonkaPS.org](mailto:Commander@MinnetonkaPS.org)





# Executive Officer

Lt/C Paul Lemmerman, P

## Hello, fellow boaters!

The boating season is just around the corner. Winter is dragging on a little bit longer this year for us living in Minnesota. I will be heading to Marco Island from March 31st through April 7th to do some boating and a break from the cold weather.

I'm excited to step into my new position of Executive Officer. It should be smooth sailing according to Dan Saniti. Dan left the position in perfect shape for me. I have a call out to Paul Vassar to be the Parade Officer. Once that position is filled, my chart is full.

This spring, Kirk Lau will be at the boat landings handing out safe boating information to boaters. Helpers are always needed to distribute information. Plus, it is a great way to earn towards a merit mark.

Dan Saniti will continue to be our Vessel Safety Chair. Make sure to get your boat inspected by Dr. Don, Dan, or Steve. They will be watching for you!!

# Administrative Officer

## What is a "Three Dog Night"?



Lt/C Kevin Cooper, AP

One definition is that it is a night so cold, that Eskimos have to bring three of their sled dogs into the igloo for the evening, just to keep warm.



Now you may ask, "What does this have to do with the Admin Office?"

Well, they say that every good story or play should include either children or animals to be a hit. In this case, it got you to read this far, so now that we have your attention, we can continue the story!

Many of you may know Deb and me as the "Back-dock couple with FIVE dogs" Sadly, we recently lost two of our pups to the

rainbow bridge, but our pack of dogs has given us so many good memories. We also have countless great memories from our much larger pack known as the Minnetonka Power Squadron.

And our group truly is like a pack. Everyone in the pack has a different purpose, different skill sets, favorite activities, and ways they contribute to the pack. What we all have in common is a passion for boating and sharing that passion with others. And the pack needs that diversity to function as a whole.

In the animal world, survival of the pack is perhaps the most important function of the group. We have seen nationally that many squadrons are at risk of keeping their group alive. We are so fortunate in our Minnetonka Squadron to not have those concerns. Last year we added 91 new members from 47 different families. We were also able to renew 94% of our previous members. We are the fourth largest squadron in the country and were just awarded first place in the combined growth and retention for our district. We grew from roughly 275 members to 350 in 2021.

While that gives us strength in our fiscal sustainability, it has never been our intent to grow the pack merely for the sake of growth. We have a responsibility to our existing membership at a manageable level and not oversell our dock capacity at Streater Cove. We were fortunate last year to see that Island Stickers sold did not outpace previous years and our events had great participation while never having to turn anyone away for lack of dock space. We also have a responsibility to the new members to welcome them to the squadron and fully embrace them to the pack.

## 2022 Membership Focus

So, with last year's success in mind, we are looking forward to shifting gears in 2022 - or maybe we should think of it as changing the pitch on our props! Our intent is to truly focus on quality over quantity in our new membership recruitment, and also to place an even higher importance in onboarding our new members.

With that as our goal, I am happy to introduce our Membership Team for 2022:

- **Membership Chair – Ian Villamil** Ian will lead the charge in evaluating new member applications and vetting them with the help of the full membership committee. Under Ian's leadership, we have already added 10 new members as of April 1 – and each of these members has clearly shown in their applications that they intend to support the mission of the squadron as well as volunteer with our safety, education, and fraternal programs.
- **Buddy Program – Butch Essig** Many of you know that Butch has fostered the Buddy Program for years, with the intent of making sure that each new member is aligned with a senior member that can answer questions and help introduce new members to others in the Squadron.
- **Onboarding Chair – Jim Russel** Jim was our first new member in the 2021 class and became such an advocate for the Minnetonka Power Squadron that we have asked him to help share his excitement with this year's new members. We will be working with Jim to get creative with ways to welcome new members. Ideas include nights set aside during the week to meet at the island or elsewhere that will be just for new members. We may have special registration tables at our larger events to recognize new members. All ideas are welcome so if you have any thoughts, please share them with Jim, Butch, Ian or me.

## Fraternal Events

The Admin team certainly has not forgotten about taking good care of the 350 members we are starting the year with! With 24 months of Covid behind us, we are looking forward to bringing back as many of our traditional events as possible. Please continue to watch the website and E-Beacon announcements for upcoming events. We should have the full calendar for the year updated by the end of April. Events we hope to continue with include:

- **The Fitting Out Party** – scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> with tickets available now on the website.
- **Italian Night** – Spaghetti and a chance to welcome new members.
- **Hope Kids** – a day of fun at the island for families living through trying medical issues.
- **July Fourth Breakfast** – a traditional favorite started by Doctor Don Duncan.
- **Shrimp Feast** – Shrimp, sausage, potatoes and corn cobs boiled and spiced to perfection and dumped at your table for finger licking fun.
- **Chili Cookoff** – a Sunday event during a Vikings football game. Taste and choose your favorite from 15+ chili recipes cooked with love by our members. But don't plan on anyone sharing recipes. Fraternal bonds only go so far.
- **First Fridays** – every month we meet around the lake somewhere to enjoy each other's company at a local establishment. Some even partake in the refreshments. Check the website calendar for locations.
- **Annual Holiday Party** – Location to be determined, but will take place in December or January. The only part we don't have yet to determine is that it will be fun and festive!

We can't mention all of these events without recognizing and showing our appreciation to **Karen Christiansen (KC)** who has made these events so memorable for so many years!

Which leads to **Volunteer Opportunities**. With 350 members, there is a tremendous amount of planning and preparation that goes into these events. Volunteering to help is a merit mark opportunity so please contact anyone on the bridge with ideas as to how you would like to help, or answer the call when the E-beacon needs bodies for our projects.

Two last reminders. If you have not sent in a picture of yourself and/or your boat, please take a moment to email them to [webmaster@minnetonkaps.org](mailto:webmaster@minnetonkaps.org). We will add them to your online profile on the website. The hope is that being able to see everyone's face will make it easier for the newer members to get to know their squadron pack.

Lastly, next time you are at one of our events, please try to introduce yourself to at least one new face. Let them know you are glad they have joined the pack called The Minnetonka Power Squadron!

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!



This will be my second year as Squadron Secretary and my ninth year as a member. I continue to discover more information about the Squadron and about America's Boating Club online. I thought I would share again where to go to stay connected and learn more about our Squadron and what's happening. Many members may already be tuned into all these channels, but with so many new members I thought I'd share some of this again.

There are several places online that specifically have information about the local Minnetonka Squadron including; eBeacon emails, TonkaNAUTS newsletter, the Minnetonka Squadron website, and the Facebook page.

The **eBeacon** is our member email bulletin that goes out to all Minnetonka members twice per month. The goal of the eBeacon is to keep everybody informed of upcoming events and to be a venue for major announcements. Reading these is a great way to keep up with Squadron current events. These emails come from "mtkaps secretary" [secretary@minnetonkaps.org](mailto:secretary@minnetonkaps.org) and the subject line always starts with "eBeacon". If you are not getting these, or would like them sent to additional email addresses just send an email request to [secretary@minnetonkaps.org](mailto:secretary@minnetonkaps.org).

If you are reading this, you have found the **TonkaNAUTS** newsletter. In 2022 this will again be a quarterly newsletter. It is a source of shared stories from other members and updates from the Bridge. We are always looking for story contributions from members. If you have a story about a boating experience, or something to share about another experience with America's Boating Club, please share it with us! Article submissions can be sent to [Editor](#). Published articles will provide credit towards your merit mark for this year.

[www.minnetonkaps.org](http://www.minnetonkaps.org) is our web site. It has been a model web site for other Squadrons in District 10 and for the new D10 website. There is a lot of great information about educational, civic and fraternal opportunities and the site is frequently updated. Another way to stay on top of what is happening is the Calendar, which has a link to it on the home page. Needing to get in touch with somebody on the Bridge, or on a Committee? Go to the "ABOUT" section and you will find the 2022-23 Organizational Chart.

More information is provided in the Member's Only section once you Log In. The Island Policies and Procedures section provides all you need to know, or need to remember, about the Island. The ROSTER page is the place to go to learn all about your fellow members. There is a printable directory of all members, as well as a Boat Name Directory. Additionally, there is an online directory where each member can provide a photo of themselves and provide some personal information to share with other members. This is a great resource for networking, staying in touch, and even just for remembering that person you met on the dock. If you haven't provided a photo or added some profile information, please take some time when you can and email them to [Webmaster@minnetonkaps.org](mailto:Webmaster@minnetonkaps.org).

The Minnetonka Squadron also has a private group **Facebook Page** at, America's Boating Club – Minnetonka Squadron Members. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MinnetonkaSquadron>) If you are a Facebook user and have not joined the group, be sure to go to the page and click on "Join Group". This is a great place to post pictures and to share with the rest of the group. Need a slip, or looking to sell your boat? Who better to ask than the Squadron membership? Note that there is also a public page at America's Boating Club – Minnetonka Squadron. (<https://www.facebook.com/MinnetonkaPowerSquadron>) You will also want to "Like" this page to have it show up in your news feed.

You are now in-the-know regarding the Minnetonka Squadron. There is much more at the District and National levels of America's Boating Club. Check out the links to these and other places on the FAVORITE BOATING LINKS section of the Minnetonka Squadron web site.

# Education Officer

Lt/C Mitch Anderson, AP-IN

**Fellow MPS members!**



Education season will wrap up soon marking the beginning of the MN boating season. At last! This past winter continued to present challenges for offering our usual course schedule while observing appropriate classroom safety protocols. Going forward I fully expect many of our courses will be offered in a virtual classroom (Zoom) format rather than a more traditional face-to-face setting. While no longer required, it is often more convenient for all involved and if done properly can be just as interactive. The exception may be Marine Navigation (Piloting) where learning proper use of plotting tools seems to benefit from hands-on instruction. I am very interested in your thoughts on this -- whether in agreement or otherwise.

## What's Ahead for Education?

This spring we are offering our instructor-led ABC class but will be doing so in the virtual classroom format. If you know of any boaters that could benefit from this first step in boating education, please let them know about our ABC Course and direct them to the registration page on the web site.

We should all be interested in continuing our boating education and the Boat Operator Certification (BOC) program offers an excellent roadmap for sharpening your skills on the many diverse aspects of boat ownership and operation. The first step in the BOC program is the Inland Navigator (IN) certification. Achieving IN requires completion of three core USPS courses: Boat Handling (Seamanship), Engine Maintenance, and Marine Electrical Systems. In addition, there are required seminars (offered online) and skills that must be demonstrated. For more information on the BOC program, please visit <https://www.usps.org/departments/13000/13700-on-the-water-training-certification>. If you are interested in this or other certifications and courses, please reach out to me at [education@minnetonkaps.org](mailto:education@minnetonkaps.org) so we can plan future offerings.

## Upcoming Courses

America's Boating Course (ABC) is the perfect introductory course for all boaters. This course helps boaters learn the topics needed to meet MN requirements for the Watercraft Operators Permit. It is also *the first step in gaining an island-use permit*. If you are a new member or considering membership and want to use the island on Lake Minnetonka, you need to take this course!

All students passing the course will have their information submitted to the DNR and will receive a MN Watercraft Operators Permit.

[America's Boating Course \(ABC\)](#); Weekly on Monday evenings – April 11th - May 9th, 7 pm to 9:15 pm

**Location: Online Virtual Classroom with the final exam at the Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol Headquarters; 4141 Shoreline Dr, Spring Park, MN 55384**

I hope you will take the opportunity to participate in our education program and continue to build your skills and boating knowledge. Remember all our courses are open to non-members and they are a great way to introduce boaters and prospective boaters to the Minnetonka Squadron. Please encourage all your friends and acquaintances to join the fun!

**Hope to see you on the water!**

## Connections:

Education Information Link: <https://www.minnetonkaps.org/current-boating-safety-classes>

Email address: [education@minnetonkaps.org](mailto:education@minnetonkaps.org)





# Change of Watch Photos





Thank you everyone for all the hard work stocking the Island with firewood!



# MINNESOTA Boater Education: The Time Is Now

Key advocates in the boating and lakes and rivers communities have come together to seek implementation of a mandatory boater education program for motorized boat operators in Minnesota. **In the Land of 10,000 Lakes, we have more than 825,000 registered watercraft, and it is vital to keep users safe on the water and be good stewards of the water.**

Our waterways are Minnesota's most cherished natural resource. With record levels of recreation participation on those lakes and rivers and streams, it is more important than ever that we protect and maintain the safety, cleanliness and health of our aquatic ecosystems. Through a more formal boater education approach throughout Minnesota, we seek to unite the many stakeholder groups and create a strong civic partnership that will provide for recreational enjoyment, public safety, a strong lake-based economy and the long-term health of our waterways.

## Who does it impact?

**Minnesota Boat Operators:** Expands from current youth operator requirement to eventually include all boaters through a phased-in approach based on a born-on date.

**Out-of-State Boat Operators:** Boaters operating a privately owned watercraft.

**Rental Boat Operators:** Individuals without boater education completed from their home state.

## How do I become compliant?

**Minnesota Boat Operators:** Take and pass the online boater education safety course through the MN DNR platform, just like hunting safety or other recreational vehicles. In-person courses may become available for those interested.

**Out-of-State Boaters:** Meet the boater education requirements in your home state if operating in Minnesota waters less than 60 days. If over 60 days, follow Minnesota boater requirements.

**Rental Boat Operators:** Review summary of boater statutes and regulations provided by rental company. Take short, state approved, exam administered by rental company and initial the appropriate safety checklist.

## What will the education course look like?

**Coursework accessible online** for users, just as youth operator course is now.

**Stakeholders will work with MN DNR** to use the best available science and most recent safety guidelines to write and prioritize curriculum through a public engagement process.

**Relevant Minnesota boating specific information** will be available.

**Nationally recognized course** so Minnesota boaters can have reciprocity when boating in other states.

## Why now?

**Minnesota is one of a handful of states** that does not require boater education for boaters.

**According to U.S. Coast Guard data,** boater education courses dramatically improve a boater's chance for a safe and fun time on the water.

**An opportunity to deliver key messages** tailored for boaters using Minnesota's many lakes and rivers.

**Creates further awareness on the threat of aquatic invasive species** and puts additional responsibility on boaters to prevent the spread.

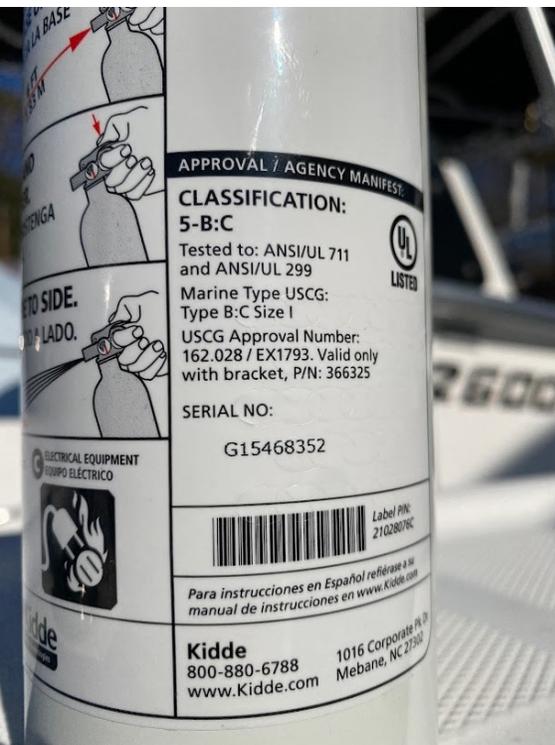


# New U.S. Coast Guard Fire Extinguisher Regulation

Reprinted by permission from BoatUS

A rite of passage for every boater is the annual spring commissioning. Newly added to the boat owners to-do list this spring will be to check all disposable (non-rechargeable) fire extinguisher dates of manufacture, as well as the label for their U.S. Coast Guard classification.

That's because a new U.S. Coast Guard regulation beginning April 20 for disposable fire extinguishers mandates a 12-year expiration date from the date of manufacture. Boaters can find the manufacture date stamped into the bottom of the bottle or near the UL label. This may be two or four digits — if it is two, as in 08, that means 2008. Additionally, while the new regulation does not change the type (U.S. Coast Guard-rated) or quantity or requirement for USCG approved fire extinguishers aboard, it does specify the minimum Underwriter Laboratory (UL) classification of extinguishers to be carried aboard certain vessels — depending on the boat's model year.



This is the result of phasing out older “B-I” and “B-II” labels for newer “5-B” “10-B” and “20-B” extinguisher classifications. The number in this new rating refers to the size in square feet of the potential fire the device is suitable to extinguish and not the exact weight of the dry chemical inside the bottle.

Vessels on the water today that are less than 26 feet and model year 2017 or older may continue to carry older, dated or undated “B-I” or “B-II” disposable extinguishers. However, when they are no longer serviceable or have reached 12 years of age since manufacture, they must be replaced with newer class “5-B” or greater extinguishers. Boats less than 26 feet and 2018 model year or newer must carry unexpired “5-B” “10-B” or “20-B” fire extinguishers. Having older “B-I” and “B-II” types do not meet the new carriage requirements.

Many retailers today offer “10-B” class fire extinguishers, which may be a good choice as they exceed U.S. Coast Guard minimum carriage requirements for boats under 26 feet, while at the same time giving boaters more extinguishing coverage. For boats 26 feet or greater, however, having one “10-B” aboard does not equal two 5-Bs. Only a “20-B” classification meets the requirement to carry two “5-B” extinguishers. For a look at how many and what type of fire extinguishers are needed aboard all recreational boats up to 65 feet, go to [BoatUS.org/Fire-Extinguishers](https://www.boatus.org/Fire-Extinguishers).

BoatUS strongly recommends going beyond the regulation's minimum requirements. [The results from a Foundation-sponsored boat burn showed](#) that one extinguisher may give very little time to make an emergency call or potentially prepare to abandon your vessel.

BoatUS also notes that most U.S. Coast Guard disposables on the market today carry at least a dual B:C rating, able to douse both liquids and electrical fires, and some boat owners wisely prefer triple rated A:B:C extinguishers, adding a third protection for combustible fires.

To be serviceable, a portable extinguisher must have a pressure gauge indicating an operable range, lock pin firmly installed, clean discharge nozzle, and no significant corrosion or damage. Some more recently manufactured portable fire extinguishers aboard boats today may carry both old and new labeling, for example, having simultaneous “B-I” and “5-B” classifications.

There are no changes to rechargeable or fixed-mount (i.e., engine room) extinguisher regulations. They continue to require regular maintenance and servicing, typically done annually by a technician.

“This new U.S. Coast Guard expiration date regulation aligns with the 12-years recommended by the National Fire Protection Association,” said BoatUS Foundation Assistant Director of Boating Safety Ted Sensenbrenner. “We expect that the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and United States Power Squadrons [vessel safety check](#) program will soon include this new regulation as part of their free, no-penalty vessel exams. Because this change affects a critical piece of safety equipment aboard your boat, we also expect the U.S. Coast Guard will initially focus on education. You may want to start checking extinguishers now while your boat may be ashore this winter.”

# 40' Covered Slip - \$10,000

40' Covered Slip

Quite Waters

Electrical Power

Convenient Parking

Easy Load In, Load Out

This slip is located on the west end of Harrison's Bay at the end of Baywood Shores Drive in Mound.

Contact Rod Thyer at 612-597-6268



# 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!

www.nlsc.org      nlsc\_mail@nlsc.org

# Bridge Officers

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Treas: Lt/C Charles Essig, S  
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# Assistant Bridge Officers

Assistant Admin: 1st/Lt Ian Villamil, P  
 Assistant Education: 1st/Lt Scott Trombley, P  
 Assistant Secretary: 1st/Lt Jason Rice, S  
 Assistant Treasurer: 1st/Lt Shawn Wischmeier, P  
 Flag Lieutenant: Suzanne Saniti

# Executive Committee

Member at Large: 1st/Lt Dean Weiser, S  
 Member at Large: 1st/Lt Paul Morales, S  
 Member at Large: Lt Pat Sutter, S  
 Member at Large: Lt Jason Zattler, P  
 Member at Large: Lt Angela Story, P  
 Member at Large: Lt John Huh, S  
 Past Commander:\* P/C Kevin Shutes, AP-IN  
 Law Officer:\* P/R/C Greg Korstad, N-IN  
 (\*Non-Voting Member)

# Endowment Committee

Lt Don Duncan, JN	2022
Lt Tim Levens, AP-IN	2023
1st/Lt Shawn Wischmeier, P	2023
Lt Josh Karlgaard, S	2024
Lt Tom Witchger, S	2024

# Nautical Humor



*“Yes dear, everything here at work is going well. Can I call you back? I have something, I mean, someone on the other line.”*

# Nominations Committee

D/Lt/C Tracy Gustafson, AP-IN	2022
Lt Diana Straate, S	2022
P/C Andy Lalim, AP	2023
P/Lt/C Eric Schmidt, S	2023

# Rules Committee

Lt Paul Vassar	2022
Lt Marcus Krumpholz, S	2022
Lt Pat Sutter, S	2023
P/R/C Mike Skelley, JN-IN	2023
Lt Ian Pinegar, AP	2024
Lt Paul Peterson, S	2024

# Audit Committee

Lt Laurie O’Melia, S	2022
Lt Donald Wilkenson, S	2023
Arthur Stickley, S	2024