

# TONKANAUTS

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



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# At The Helm

Cdr Dan Saniti, P

## Busy Few Months!

I can report that the Minnetonka Squadron has been very busy over the past few months. We have hosted several events large and small. Happy to say that we are back in the full swing of summer fun. This publication has a lot of pictures from several of our events.

One item that I would like to mention early in this article is that ALL Minnetonka Squadron members in good standing (paid) are always welcome to our property, Streater Cove, for any officially squadron sponsored event regardless of island privileges (current year's decal on their boat). It unfortunately happens each year but sometimes a member is questioned as to if they have island privileges when docking their boat. This is usually due to not displaying or properly displaying the current year's island decal on the port AND starboard side of their boat. I do ask everyone to properly display the current year's decals. Thank you.

But...

When we have an official squadron sponsored event everyone (paid members) is welcome. It is your squadron leadership team's responsibility to ensure this. If you ever have a question just let one of us know the person's name and we can take it offline with the individual. It is usually best not to escalate this on the day of a big event when everyone is a bit stressed. I do ask on the slower days or days when we don't have an officially sponsored event to ask the question of any boat without the proper year's decals. Please be nice when asking and help guide them along the way especially if they are a newer member!

I want to formally apologize to two of our squadron's newer members who came to Streater Cove for Shrimpfest along with some guests and were questioned by another squadron member (not from our leadership team) as to his island privileges in a manner that was more public than I feel it really needed to be. I sincerely apologize for the behavior of the other member(s). My comments above is one effort to prevent this going forward. Please contact me if you would like to discuss in person or over the phone. [Commander@MinnetonkaPS.org](mailto:Commander@MinnetonkaPS.org)

We did have some trespassers on our island this past month that escalated a bit after dark. It was clear that this group did not have a member present. I want to send a thank you to Keith Kask for assisting with this situation which resulted in a 911 call to the sheriff for assistance. This situation has nothing to do with anything above.

A reminder to please be careful when helping to dock boats. Use the dock lines provided by the skipper and wrap them around the post. Let the dock do the work. If inclement weather conditions exist please don't do this alone and ask for help from other squadron members. We recently had a member get hurt and was in need of medical assistance when docking a boat (ok it was my sailboat). I'm very grateful that this member was able to get the medical attention they needed and will be ok. (Shout out to you my friend. I'm so thankful that you're going to be ok!)

Finally a bug THANK YOU to ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS who made each and every event a complete success. I can't name you all here. Without you none of this would be possible.

Hope to see you again very soon!



# Executive Officer

Lt/C Paul Lemmerman, P

Hello, fellow squadron members!



The past 4th of July weekend was awesome out on the lake and the Island. The lake was less busy this year. We had members having cook-outs at the Squadron. I attached a picture of Jason Zattler's 14 pound roast he smoked.

The sand side of Big Island was not crazy or anything over the top. We spent lots of time over there this 4th of July weekend.

The fire works from Excelsior was awesome. Commander Dan's Sailboat looked great with his string of lights on.

Looking forward to the upcoming events on the calendar: Spirit of the Lakes Parade, fire works, Wakesurf Championship, Aquatennial Dignitaries and Princess boat rides.





# "Burgers & Movies" BBQ 2022

When: 13 August 2022      Social Hour: 1800      Dinner: 1900

We are having a BBQ event with movie night!

We hope to show

**Minions: The Rise of Gru**

+

**Top Gun: Maverick!**

We are serving burgers, beans, chips & coleslaw. The movie selections are subject to change. Movies begin at dusk. You can sign up [here](#)!

Registration Deadline: 11 August, 2022

Tickets will be available at the door, but \$5 higher.

Adults \$15. Children 11 and up \$5. Children 10 and younger are free.

Please click [here](#) to sign up now!

(If you don't, we will tell your kids that they missed Minions because of you!)

No pressure.

**NOTE: YOU DO NOT NEED AN ISLAND STICKER TO ATTEND THIS EVENT!**

Merit Mark Opportunity:

We need volunteers for setup, cleanup, food transportation to the island and garbage removal from the island.

Please contact Karen Christenson 612-280-9951 or [kccookin@comcast.net](mailto:kccookin@comcast.net) to volunteer.



# Website Officer

## Journal to Streeter Cove

Bob Connolly, S

For many years I boated by Streeter's Cove. I always looked over with curiosity and maybe a little envy. From the channel it looked like such a cool place. I saw a large grassy area with tents, picnic tables, fire pits and horse shoes. And around the corner I could see some sort of pavilion and several docks. I even spotted a beach and a playground. What awesomeness was happening over there I wondered.

Over time I would continue to boat by, sneaking a peak at the activity, and always thinking, "I should join." Though I never did. Maybe next year I thought. And then the next year. I eventually checked out the website. I learned more about the squadron. I saw all the events and the camaraderie, but still, I never made any moves to join.

And then 2020 arrived. Since March of that year, most of us had all been trapped in our homes. I remember the first time I did get out on the boat that spring. I couldn't believe all the people out on the lake. Anyone with a boat was very lucky that year.

We started the boating season like normal. We anchored each weekend in our usual spot not far from our dock. The same spot we had been going to for years. In fact, we rarely went anywhere else. It was time for something new. It was time for something more.

Over the winter, I had been talking with my neighbor about joining the squadron. We'd talk about the process, what was involved and how much fun the island looked. And then one day he told me he applied and he was taking the final test tomorrow.

That was it. I knew what I had to do.

It was going to be the 4th of July soon, and I needed to work fast if I was to have any shot at spending it at Streeter's Cove. After filling out the membership application, I got to work studying, taking the quizzes and finally taking the test. I passed! We were in. We were in the Minnetonka Squadron. I was finally going to that place I only boated by.

The Minnetonka Squadron was extra special in 2020. An escape from it all. We went nearly every weekend that summer. 2020 was my motivation to finally join. The Minnetonka Squadron was a silver lining during an uncertain time. It was oasis then, now, and for all time.

I would tell you it was worth the wait, but that is not what I tell people. I tell people I should not have waited. I should have joined long ago.

Here's to the Minnetonka Squadron. I am happy to have finally met you.



## Safe Boating Week by Kirk Lau

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered at the boat launches at Gray's Bay, North Arm, Spring Park Bay and Cook's Bay.

Saturday May 21st started out at 44 degrees and ended the day at an acceptable 54 degrees. Sunday May 22nd started out at 46 degrees, and ended at 56 degrees. Gray's Bay again wins for the coldest boat launch of the four. To put the weather in perspective, there were plenty of days in March that the temps were much higher, so much so that it required having a cold one while sitting on a pail fishing crappies!!!!

The cooler weather considerably lowered the number of pleasure boaters using the launches and maybe even contributed to the few who could not get their boats running. Although the numbers were down, it is always great fun to spend a few hours chatting with squadron members.

Again, thank you for your participation in Safe Boating Week, not only in educating boaters, but also by making our Squadron very visible.

2023 Safe Boating Week will be Saturday May 20 and Sunday May 21.



Barry Blievernicht



Steve & Jane Camp  
Ron Frick



# Safe Boating Week

Jamie Kiefer  
Chase



Marge Lau  
Bruce and Lisa Skjerping  
Jennifer Morris



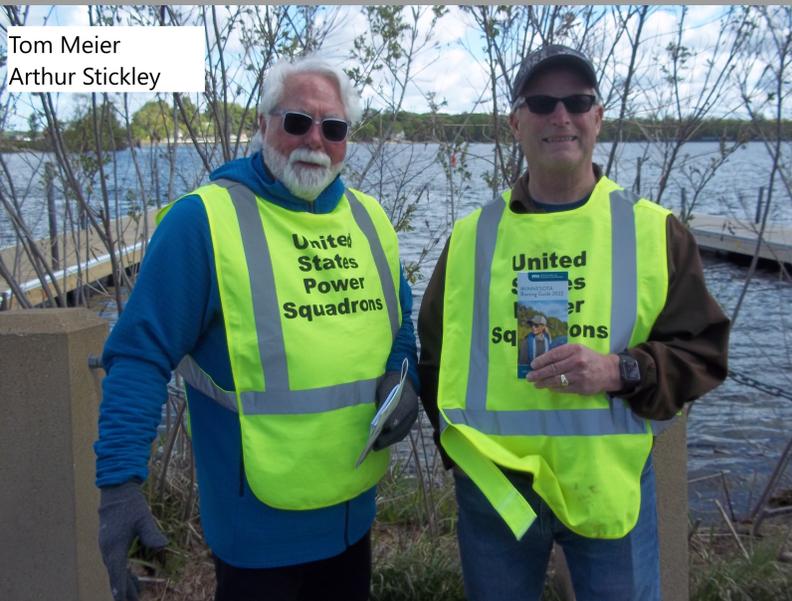
Tim Levens  
Nick Darcourt  
Ivan Anheluk



John&Kristina Mangold



Tom Meier  
Arthur Stickley



Brad Penrith



# Safe Boating Week

Bruce and Lisa Skjerping  
Jennifer Jacobson  
Laurie O'Melia



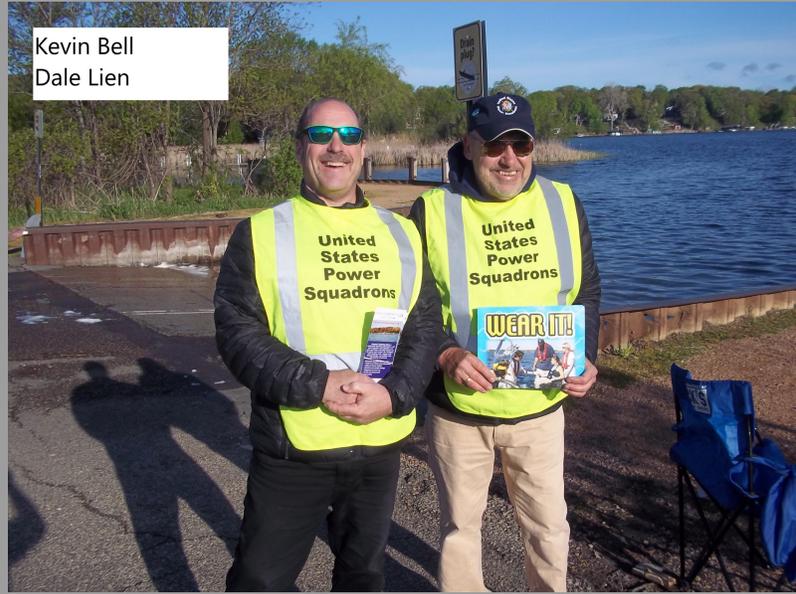
Judy Swanson  
Laurie Cole  
Eric DeRock



Katy Ullsperger  
Bill Weimer



Kevin Bell  
Dale Lien



Dave Bergman  
Kevin Bell





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Blue Lagoon Marine Inc is welcoming new owners. Beth and Jason Rice took the helm June 1, 2022. Beth is currently a Senior Vice President for a local community bank and Jason has worked in various roles in the marine industry for 12+ years, including Field Service Engineer for a large marine engine manufacturer. The prior owners, David and Cynthia Just, were very excited to find buyers that value customer service, community and employment retention as strongly as they did. Beth and Jason have plans to build additional storage facilities and add some polishing touches to the already successful business.

Blue Lagoon Marine Inc was incorporated in 1985.

It has grown from a small service garage to 140,000 square feet of indoor boat storage, 5 bay complete marine service center to service boats of all ages, parts department, and offers Brokerage services to buy or sell a boat.

Editors Note:

Beth and Jason are members of the Minnetonka Power Squadron. Congratulations!



## 2022 District 10 Summer Rendezvous

**You are invited to the  
2022 District 10 Summer Rendezvous  
Door County, Sturgeon Bay  
9-11 September 2022  
Hosted by: Door County Sail & Power Squadron  
Stone Harbor Resort**

Don't miss this event !!! Click [here](#) for the latest information regarding:

- Weekend Agenda
- Door County Hotels & Attractions:
- Lodge at Leathem Smith
  - Stone Harbor Resort
  - Other accommodations including campgrounds, RV, etc.
  - Destination Guide to Door County
- Area Map
- Event registration





# USS Abraham Lincoln Trip

Original story by the Victoria Gazette; modified and submitted by Steve Leighton, AP

On-Board a real BOAT!

Steve Leighton and Jeff Hoffman were among the chosen few Americans to spend 27 hours on board the USS Abraham Lincoln when it was stationed 130 miles off the coast of San Diego, California in August 2021. Today the ship is sailing somewhere in the Sea of Japan.

"It's a nuclear aircraft carrier," said Steve. "We slept on board with 5,000 sailors, ate what they ate, and watched F-35's take off right in front of our eyes. They can go from zero to 170 miles per hour in three seconds. The noise is horrendous when it takes off. We saw every part of the ship except the nuclear engine room. There were twelve of us in the group. On the ship we were called "DV's...Distinguished Visitors".

How did Steve Leighton and Jeff Hoffman get selected for the U.S. Navy's Distinguished Visitor program and trip of a lifetime? Jeff and Steve applied to the program and we had no idea if we would ever be selected. "A year or so had gone by and we weren't sure if anything would ever come of it. Then the program was suspended by the pandemic for some additional time. Quite honestly, we were pretty sure we didn't stand a chance of being selected."

Why did Steve and Jeff apply to live for an intensive 27 hours on a U.S. aircraft carrier? "We both wanted the experience". What is the purpose of the program? Replied Steve, "They want people who will go back home and tell their story and have an influence on young people especially. Jeff Hoffman is a City Councilmember in Spring Park and the chairman of the Planning Commission. He is also the chairman of the Business Advisory Committee for Hennepin Technical Colleges. I am an occasional guest speaker at the Wayzata and Minnetonka high schools which my grandchildren attend or have attended. I tell students about my experience serving in the U.S. Army in Vietnam." Now we can also tell them about the USS Abraham Lincoln!

Donna and I and Jeff and Jamie Hoffman flew to San Diego from Minneapolis at our own expense. The cost of the trip was paid by us, including the cost of meals on board the ship, approximately \$75."



"The ship was approximately 130 miles off the coast of California".  
"Upon arrival we were greeted and given a briefing on the trip, along with being issued flight gear for our flight out to the ship. We boarded an MV-22 Osprey for our flight to the ship. It was awesome flying in the Osprey as it has a vertical take-off, like a helicopter, and then transitions into a fixed wing aircraft. There were only 12 of us Distinguished Visitors, and I heard there were over 800 people on a waiting list to do this."



We were told to report into the Naval Air Station, North Island, San Diego. From there, it was the flight on the Osprey to the carrier. Once we landed on the deck of the carrier, we were non-stop touring every aspect of the ship. We spent time on the flight deck watching F-18's, E-2C Hawkeye's and F-35's takeoff and land. It was awesome to see them up close and personal! The takeoff's go from 0 to 170 in 3 seconds when they launch.



We visited the "helicopter briefing room" and met the pilots. We were given night vision goggles and got to experience what it was like wearing them in a dark room. We had lunch with the Captain, dinner with the XO and Senior Officers, breakfast with the Mater Chief's and lunch with the Sailors. Everything on the ship is geared towards flight operations. The pilots and sailors train constantly for approximately 6 months before deploying for 9-10 months.

There are approximately 100 aircraft onboard at any given time. The Osprey is replacing the old C-2 aircraft (the Lincoln had replaced to C-2 already), so we did not have a tailhook landing as we were on an Osprey. Sailors onboard the ship work 12 hours on and 12 hours off while they are underway.

There are no elevators on the ship, so we climbed many stairs as we visited the "perch, one level below the bridge" and the bridge. We enjoyed talking to many of the sailors and marines as we toured the ship. It was great to see so many young military people enjoying their work, working hard and doing such an important job. This was truly a trip of a life time that we enjoyed very much.



## Past Minnetonka Power Squadron Commander Kim Strandlund

Minnetonka Power Squadron lost another of its former leaders in June. Kim Strandlund was our Commander for the 2004-2005 Watch Year as Minnetonka Squadron continued to set the standard where female leadership is commonplace.



Kim had a constant enthusiasm and was a strong influence on all who found themselves within earshot as she recruited all to full participation in whatever she was up to.

Kim's watch year was generally uneventful (sandwiched between our New Docks and the Toilet/Shower building project) **except that she found herself engaged and later married to her executive officer!**



Kim was one of the several commanders who have chosen to operate their boats on other waters in the region. Her 28 Larson, *Rhianna*, was berthed in Duluth for many years, giving Kim a taste of the "interesting" times brought upon Lake Superior boaters. When she moved *Rhianna* and later *Essence* to Bayfield WI, she immersed herself in another group of boaters, becoming Commodore of the Bayfield Yacht Club and making sure there was no lack of social events for that group either.

Kim was particularly proud of cruising the Apostle Islands, whether in her boat or flying across ferry wakes in her inflatable out-pacing a squall line. She was particularly proud of a trip across the lake to Canada and the "Real North Shore" of Lake Superior. Braving some untenable seas, more as a good sport than an enthusiastic adventurer, she stoically forced the "guys" to make the call to return to port.



Perhaps the major highlight of her boating career was a trip with a dozen squadron members and friends to the British Virgin Islands aboard a 45-foot sailing catamaran. After the idea had been first broached at a post-Executive Committee happy hour, Kim wouldn't let it go and we soon found ourselves pitching the idea to the whole membership. Followed by quick USPS Cruise Planning and Sail classes, arrangements were made for two boats and off we went.

Once in the Islands, Kim made certain we all bonded and pulled the maximum enjoyment out of the experience. One particularly windy day she impressed the guys by pushing our cat to make 12 knots under sail while the rest of our crew took a leisurely cab ride to the next anchorage. She made sure the ladies could branch out in the islands while the guys were diving the wrecks.



Kim crossed the bar of her last horizon on May 28, 2022, in Rice Lake, WI, where she lived in her family home with her standard poodles Sundance and Roxie. She celebrated her 61<sup>st</sup> birthday in April. She is survived by her father, Zonnie, and her late brother, Mike's children, Brad and Sara.

## Minnetonka Power Squadron Member Dan Herbst

Our beloved friend Dan passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 28th, 2022, overlooking Lake Minnewashta, with the comfort of the sacraments and surrounded with love.

Funeral mass will be held on Friday, August 12th, 11 am, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Waverly, Minnesota. Reception to follow in the parish hall.

Daniel was born on May 21, 1940 in Waverly, Minnesota, the son of Jules and (Martha) Dulcina (Fitzpatrick) Herbst. He received his education at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Waverly. He worked and lived at St. Joseph's orphanage in St. Paul, Minnesota while delivering bread in the early mornings and juggling ROTC to finance his education at the College of St. Thomas (class of 1963). He was united in marriage to Karen A. Boll of St. Bonifacius, Minnesota on April 4, 1964.

Dan served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War in Japan. He rose to the rank of Captain and after the war, was stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he attended the graduate school of business. In 1968, when his brother-in-law, Mike (Sharon) Boll died, Dan and Karen returned to Minnesota to adopt their two nieces. He began a sales position at the Pemtom Land Company, eventually becoming president, then owner. He was responsible for numerous prominent residential developments in Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Chanhassen, Victoria, Stillwater, North Oaks, Wayzata, and Deephaven, to name a few. He also invested in and owned other companies, including Cheers Wine & Spirits.

Dan was a dedicated philanthropist, generously donating to numerous charities, political campaigns, individuals in need, the University of St. Thomas, St. Mary's Catholic Church, St. Victoria Catholic Church, and veterans organizations in his hometown of Waverly. He was civic-minded, serving on multiple planning commissions, local community organizations, and in various executive levels for the Home Builders Association where he earned multiple awards for his work.

Dan loved boating, fishing, hunting, golfing, skiing, sunsets and having a good time. He was an ever-devoted father who guided and inspired his children and grandchildren. He made friends everywhere he went and has left behind many in his native Minnesota and Florida, where he built a winter home over 20 years ago and resided with his devoted wife Karen, who preceded him in death in 2016 after 52 years of marriage.

He is survived by his daughters, Michele (Bernard) Schumacher of Fribourg Switzerland; Stephanie (Jim) Lucke of Atlanta, GA; Melissa (Mike) Schiena of Edina, MN (Mike is also a member of the Minnetonka Power Squadron); grandchildren, Myriam, Sophia, Teresa, and Nicolas Schumacher; Katie (Kyle Vachon), Madeleine, and Daniel Lucke; Lauren Collins and Drew Schiena.

The family is grateful to Dan's companion Sharon Kaufmann who very faithfully accompanied and encouraged him throughout the last few years of his untiring six-year fight against lymphoma.

### Editor's Comment:

A group of us took a boat ride from the Island to Excelsior for lunch at Logo Taco's. After lunch Dan stated he was going to use the rest room and would be right out. Most of the group made their way back to the docks while Steve Leighton, Keith Kast and I waited for Dan. After some time I began to worry as Dan had not returned. I knocked on the rest room door to see if everything was ok only to find out Dan was locked in. The door lock/latch had failed and was inoperative. Steve, Keith and I spent the next hour fishing tools over the wall through the ceiling to Dan trying to dismantle the lock. Finally the lock gave way and Dan was free. The restaurant gave Dan a gift certificate for his troubles. The rest of the group didn't believe us at first when we explained our delay. We joked about this for years and always made Dan use the rest room before us.

The first day I met Dan he made me feel as if we were life long friends. I soon realized that would be the case. He was one of the most passionate and caring individuals I have ever met and loved life to the fullest extent. He will truly be missed by many.



# 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

Cmdr: Cdr Dan Saniti, P  
[commander@minnetonkaps.org](mailto:commander@minnetonkaps.org)

Executive: Lt/C Paul Lemmerman, S  
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Admin: Lt/C Kevin Cooper, AP  
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Educational: Lt/C Mitch Anderson, AP-IN  
[education@minnetonkaps.org](mailto:education@minnetonkaps.org)

Secretary: Lt/C Pat Laughlin, N  
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Treas: Lt/C Charles Essig, S  
[treasurer@minnetonkaps.org](mailto:treasurer@minnetonkaps.org)

# 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

By Steve Camp

**Do you need a boat of biblical proportions built?**  
 Because I Noah guy. I hear he's a fantastic Arkitect.

**Why did the sailor avoid the store with a big sale on boating supplies?**  
 It was too much of an oar deal.

**My husband told me I could choose the name he'd paint on the back of his new boat with the condition it be nautical themed. So I named it...**  
 For Sail.

**I bought a sail for my boat on Amazon the other day. Today it dawned on me that it's not the right size so I called to cancel. They said it's too late.**  
 That sail has shipped.

**Before my operation, the anesthesiologists asked if I wanted to be knocked out via gas or boat paddle.**  
 It was an ether/oar situation.

**I got a boat for my wife.**  
 Best trade I've ever made.

**Why are porthole windows in boats round?**  
 So the water doesn't hit the sailors square in the face!

# 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