



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®
FOR BOATERS, BY BOATERS®

NEW HAVEN SAIL & POWER SQUADRON
A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons® • Sail and Power Boating • District 1

BULLETIN

THE OLDEST CONTINUOUS SQUADRON IN USPS - CHARTERED 23 APRIL 1914

www.nhspss.org

APRIL 2025

Examples of Aquatic Invasive Species in Connecticut



Water Chestnut



Zebra Mussel



Milfoils

Photo by CAES TAPP



Chinese Mitten Crab



Rusty Crayfish



Rock Snot



Hydrilla



Curly Leaf Pond Weed



Fanwort

Source: CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



Message from Cdr Peter Jenkin, SN

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Spring is here, and it's time to get busy prepping to launch our boats.

Something new for this season, and into the future, is the **AIS decal**. In the past your boat registration fee included an "Aquatic Invasive Species" fee. For this year it is not included, and must be paid separately to the CT D.E.E.P. When you print your current year Boating Safety Certificate, you will have the option of paying \$25 for a decal for your boat, or paying \$7 for an individual fee. Go to: <https://ct.aspirafocus.com/internetsales>

You will be sent a decal to place on your boat. It's required to operate on Connecticut's inland waters. The fine for operating without the decal is \$95.00. So, after bottom painting, buffing and waxing, putting on registration stickers, and checking all your required safety gear, remember to put the AIS decal amidships on the port side of the hull or cabin. Oh yes, and get a Vessel Safety Check. Those are just a few administrative tasks to help keep the waters you boat in healthy and to help keep your boating fun safe. ([Aquatic Invasive Species Stamp PDF](#))

Related to boating safety, we have presented a two-hour seminar each month in January, February, and March as well as a targeted Partner-in-Command presentation to the Northeast Nordic Tug Owners Association in Essex.

The saga of USPS liability insurance continues. We have insurance for our classes. We do not have insurance under the USPS policy for activities such as a rendezvous. So, we will not have a Squadron rendezvous this season. Of course, if a member makes known to other members that he/she is planning on being at a certain location, and other members happen to join in to socialize with them, that would not be a "Squadron Function." The USPS District 1 Spring Conference shed no new light on the insurance situation.

Donation: The District Conference voted to purchase a \$1,700 paver as a donation to the new Coast Guard Museum in New London. It was suggested that each squadron do the same, at \$1,000. We have the funds to afford such a donation, and I will ask for a motion to purchase one at the next Squadron meeting. It's worth discussing.

So, back to preparing for the summer. Get that boat all ship-shape and Bristol fashion, get out on the water, and revel in the freedom of the open sea, (or the constricted Sound).

Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!

Clean, Drain, Dry, Checklist



Clean

Clean all visible plants, fish, animals, mud, and other debris from your boat/trailer, paddlecraft, and any other gear that touched the water.



Drain

Drain all the water from your boat, livewells, bait buckets, and other equipment.



Dry

Let your boat, paddlecraft, or gear dry for 7 days in hot, dry, weather. If drying is not possible, wash equipment with soap, a bleach solution, or 100% vinegar before visiting another waterbody.

Fly your ensign and your Squadron burgee and return safely with an ear-to-ear grin.

Calendar

April 2025

08 April 1830 (second Tuesday)

NHSPS Bridge Meeting

Virtual Meeting on Zoom.

Membership is invited.

15 April 1830 (third Tuesday)

Membership Meeting – Presentation TBD

Longley's / Allegra's Café

249 W Main St., Branford, CT

Membership and guests invited.

Details will be sent out via email.

May 2025

03 May 0800 – 1500 (first Saturday)

Hartford Power Squadron's Annual Swap Meet and Craft Show

West Marine

1667 Boston Post Rd., Old Saybrook

Membership and guests invited.

Details in *Bulletin* and

Sounds of 1 Spring 2025 issue.

06 May 1830 (first Tuesday)

NHSPS Bridge Meeting

Virtual Meeting on Zoom.

Membership is invited.

13 May 1300 (second Tuesday)

Membership Meeting - Presentation TBD

Longley's / Allegra's Café

249 W Main St., Branford

Membership and guests invited.

Details will be sent out via email.

NHSPS Education Department



From January through March 2025, the Squadron held a variety of two-hour seminars on boating safety related topics for new and experienced boaters. Each of the three seminars had around 30 attendees. The topics covered included docking, emergencies while on the water and aspects of handling your boat while underway. These boaters are now better prepared to get out on the water this coming summer!

Spring 2025 Meetings & Activities



Kate Mosely, Director of Marina Operations at Saybrook Point Resort and Marina giving her firsthand account of the response to the boat explosion that occurred last summer in Old Saybrook. (Photo by Sally Noonan, S)

The monthly membership meetings, which are held during the non-boating season (on the evening of the 2nd Tuesday of the month), are good times to get together with fellow boaters to reminisce about past boating trips or to talk boat maintenance woes or to see a presentation on boating safety or other interesting nautical related topics. This past late winter and early spring season included some of these opportunities.

At the March meeting a presentation on **“Safe Boating: Reflections on the Past Season & Best Practices for Safer Seasons Ahead”** was given by Kate Mosely, Director of Marina Operations at Saybrook Point Resort and Marina in Old Saybrook. Kate gave her firsthand account of the response to the boat explosion that occurred last summer in Old Saybrook. She also covered safety practices every boater should know to prevent accidents like this in the future. It was a fantastic presentation.



March's membership meeting also included the swearing in of new members **Joan Lyke and Andree Acampora** by Cdr. Jenkin at Longley's Cafe. Welcome aboard Joan and Andree! (Photo by P/C Nancy A. Miller, SN)

February Change of Watch



The following officers are shown with their officer's flags after they were sworn in: (L to R) Treasurer Sally Noonan, S; Administrative Officer Douglas Roberts, P; Secretary Marshall Quin, AP; Squadron Education Officer Peter DePascale, AP; and Commander Peter Jenkin, SN. (Photo by John Noonan, P)

Members enjoyed our annual Change of Watch ceremony and dinner during the afternoon of Sunday, 16 February, at Longley's Restaurant in Branford. This is our most important event of the year. The event began with a social hour of cheese and crackers. It was followed by a buffet dinner of lemon chicken, eggplant parmigiana, roasted mixed vegetables, roasted potatoes, bread & butter, and a fruit platter for dessert.

After the pledge of allegiance, Commander Peter Jenkin, SN, introduced the past commanders present. The old Bridge was dismissed, and Staff Commander Art Andrea, AP, gave his view from the District Bridge. After installation of Cdr. Jenkin and the new Bridge, Cdr. Jenkin gave his Commander's outlook for the new year.

Squadron Loses Former Member Eric Spitzner, AP



We are sorry to report that we lost a former member recently. **Eric C. Spitzner, AP**, died on 18 January. He joined NHSPS in 1999 and was a member for 17 years. He was a Senior Member, had 15 Merit Marks, and held a number of positions. He served as Administrative Officer, Treasurer, Bulletin Editor, and Webmaster. He owned a sailboat which he kept in New Haven.

Link to the obituary below:

<https://www.wallingfordfh.com/obituaries/Eric-Clinton-Spitzner?obId=34588251>

Hartford Power Squadron's Swap Meet & Craft Show

The Hartford Power Squadron will be hosting its Annual Swap Meet at West Marine, 1667 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, CT on Saturday, 3 May 2025. This family-friendly event will feature cookout-style food as well as items for sale, not restricted to boats and boating equipment/services. Vendors can showcase locally made crafts, unique jewelry, one-of-a-kind gifts, clothing, tools, and much more! Vendor reservations are available at only \$25 for a 9x18-foot space. Rent a table and sell your unused boating equipment! For more information or to reserve a space, email today! swapmeet@hartfordpowersquadron.com

!NEW! Power Squadron Benefits

America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons has a list of benefits in the areas of insurance, marine and travel. And they are adding more benefits regularly, including the latest benefit which is Ditch a navigation app that is available to members at no cost for one year.

As the Power Squadron website says about Ditch:

"America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons is **partnering with navigation app Ditch** to provide members with the latest cutting-edge navigation technology. As part of this exclusive partnership, America's Boating Club members will receive Ditch at no cost for one year, including Ditch navigation's unlimited route-planning features.

This collaboration furthers America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons' commitment to fostering boating safety and boosting confidence in boaters of all ages and experience levels.

"Navigation is an essential part of a great day on the water, so providing a world-class navigation tool like Ditch to all our members allows us to continue to drive our mission to make boating better for all," said Chief Commander Ralph Bernard.

Bringing next-level technology and AI-driven algorithms directly to boaters' screens, Ditch's tools help boaters navigate waters with unmatched confidence and safety. This collaboration will go beyond just providing access to technology. America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons and Ditch are committed to fostering a culture of lifelong learning and bridging generations of boaters through joint initiatives focused on education, skill development and responsible boating practices."

Learn how to access your member benefit here

<https://ditchnavigation.com/americasboatingclub>

You can find the entire list of benefits at:

<https://www.usps.org/departments/14000/14500-member-benefits/14500-benefits>

New Haven Sail & Power Squadron

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