

General Information

Where to Find Information:

Website: National – americasboatingclub.org
everything about USPS, Sail Angle
nautical social networking site, USPS
members can access through the USPS home
page

District – www.usps.org/localusps/d26
Covering South Carolina, northern coastal
Georgia, southeastern North Carolina

Local – americasboatingclubcharleston.org.
classes, social and civic events,
rules of the Squadron, and By-Laws

Publications: National – *The Ensign*®
Published quarterly
District – *026° True*
Published quarterly

Roster: A listing of Squadron bridge, committee members
and members, setting out their name, address,
phone and e-mail listings. Published annually as
a PDF; and available via the Squadron website.

Member Benefits: USPS offers many benefits to its members –
boat insurance, discounts on computers, travel charts. Check the
National website www.americasboatingclub.org and scroll down to
the members' benefits button to see what is available with your
membership.

Dress: Casual or informal is the norm at most club functions.
Many members wear shirts with the USPS or club logos during
general meetings. The annual Change of Watch is generally the
only 'dress up' event.

New Member Handbook 2020



Charleston Sail and Power Squadron



Welcome

Welcome to America's Boating Club, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons. This booklet attempts to introduce you to the many activities that the club offers.

A Brief History

The United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) is a nationwide boating fraternity dedicated to high standards of seamanship and an appreciation of yachting traditions. USPS was founded in 1912 to help educate boaters in the use of the newly developed power boats. The national, non-governmental, non-profit safe boating organization has grown to be over 30,000 strong. Recently USPS started doing business as America's Boating Club.

The Charleston Sail and Power Squadron, now doing business as America's Boating Club Charleston, began in 1946 and offers many activities in which you can participate, such as:

- Furthering your boating knowledge in the classroom or on the water
- Joining other boaters for cruises by boat (or sometimes by car)
- Listening to invited speakers at monthly dinner meetings
- Becoming a Vessel Safety Examiner
- Sharing your talents as a volunteer
- Taking advantage of benefits offered members
- Helping maintain the integrity of the charts for our area

A burgee is the distinguishing flag of any recreational boating organization. Our burgee has the colors red, white and blue to coordinate with the USPS Ensign. The gold trim was added to commemorate the golden anniversary of our squadron (1946-1996).

The palmetto tree is the symbol of South Carolina, enclosed in a ship's wheel representing boating and the squadron location.

Burgees are triangular and flown on the bow of power boats. Sailboats may display the burgee on either the bow or halyard. Ensigns are rectangular and flown on the stern for power boats and on either the stern or halyard of sailboats. The size of burgees and ensigns is dependent upon the length of the boat.

Elective Courses

(All with proctored tests. Can be done in the classroom or by home study.)

Cruise Planning: Covers topics for someone planning a cruise – whether for a weekend or a year – includes preparation and planning, anchoring, security, chartering and cruising outside the United States.

Engine Maintenance: Covers operating principals, maintenance and repair of gas and diesel engines, cooling, lubrication and fuel systems, clutches, shafts, props and common sense safety measures.

Instructor Development: Prepares students to teach USPS courses and public speaking. Covers various methods of presenting information, use of audiovisual aids (including PowerPoint).

Marine Communication Systems: Learn about Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), FCC Rules and regulations, radiotelephone operating procedures, also learn to troubleshoot radio installations.

Marine Electrical Systems: An explanation of electricity, then boat electrical wiring, DC and AC electrical systems, lightning protection, and troubleshooting boat electrical problems. Used as a guide for anyone interested in properly maintaining their boat electrical system. Covers installation and maintenance of AC and DC boat electrical systems and VHF radio, radar, GPS, etc.

Sail covers handling, piloting, anchoring, mooring and docking. Covers rigs, hulls, sailing theory, Rules of the Road and points of sail.

Weather: Learn to read the weather and interpret cloud formations and sequences and make observations while afloat.

Core Courses

(Suggested sequence – open book tests except Boat Handling)

Boat Handling builds on the basics of the public boating course with a higher level of boating skills, rules of the road and useful nautical knots.

Marine Navigation begins courses on navigation, covering the basics of coastal and inland navigation. Course focuses on navigation today using GPS as primary navigation tool while covering basic traditional techniques to help students find their way if the GPS fails.

Advanced Navigation continues to build coastal and inland navigation skill, covering more challenging conditions – unfamiliar waters, limited visibility, and extended cruises. GPS is used as the primary tool while adding radar, chart plotters and other electronic navigation tools.

Junior Navigation is the first in the two-part program in offshore navigation, followed by the Navigation course. It is a practical "how to" course covering: precise time determination, use of the Nautical Almanac, taking sextant sights of the sun, reducing sights to establish lines of position, special charts and plotting sheets for offshore navigation and offshore navigational routines.

Navigation teaches celestial positioning using other bodies in addition to positioning using the sun. Deals with software used to plan and execute offshore voyages. You learn to reduce sights by the *Law of Cosines* and the *Nautical Almanac Sight Reduction (NASR)* methods. Uses software-based planning and navigation program to create a Practice Cruise that ties the elements of the courses together.

USPS has a 3 part mission:

Civic Service

Fraternal Boating Club

Boating Education

Civic Service

Public Boating Course: Classes are offered several times each year to teach boaters the basics of boating safely. All class instructors have taken advanced boating courses through the squadron. Class presenters must complete the Instructor Development Class in order to become a “certified instructor.”

Vessel Safety Examiners: Promotes voluntary compliance with federal and state boating safety laws, with emphasis on the carriage of safety equipment. Free boat inspections also raise boater awareness of safety and environmental issues. Members can become an examiner after taking a short course and completing several exams with a certified examiner.

Cooperative Charting: Cooperative Charting Program of the United States Power Squadrons is conducted in close coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Program is a major public service of USPS. Members supply information to NOAA leading to corrections to nautical charts, and Coastal Pilot publications. They also supply data on missing or damaged aids to navigation and depth surveys. An Adopt-A-Chart program allows individual squadrons to assume responsibility for updating a chart or a portion of a chart in their local boating area and then get recognition for their public service. We have been told that the Cooperative Charting Program is recognized as the most effective user-participation program in all the Federal services. A boat is not necessary to become involved in this worthwhile cause.

Meetings and Social Events

General Meetings:

When: 2nd Thursday of each month

Where: Squadron Headquarters

1376 Orange Grove Rd., Charleston, SC 29407

Parking: rear of the building

Time: 6 PM Social Hour, 6:45 meeting and dinner followed by speaker

Option: There is a fee to cover dinner, but you need not buy dinner to attend the meeting.

Boating Activities:

When: cruise event or meet for lunch scheduled regularly
(See calendar on americasboatingclub.org for details)

Where: various destinations

Boat necessary? – NO

Members encouraged to also come with another boater or by ‘iron dinghy’ (car)

Change of Watch:

What: Officer installation, usually accompanied by a formal dinner

Where: Varies

When: November

Who’s Who in Your Club:

The club is managed by a “Bridge” of officers elected by, and responsible to, the membership, who are:

Commander (Cdr) – similar to President (*Donna Lynes*)
Email lynes@tds.net or phone 843-696-2438

Executive Officer (XO) – in charge of the activities outside the Squadron such as public relations, vessel safety checks

Administrative Officer (AO) – in charge of club events such as boating activities, meetings, dinners (*Assistant: Kathy D’Amaral*)

Education Officer (SEO) – in charge of squadron educational activities (*Billy Lynes*)

Secretary – takes minutes of meetings and handles club records (*Charlene Kahn*)

Treasurer – handles club funds (*Ken Fonville*)

The Executive Committee (ExCom) handles the business of the club. ExCom consists of the Commander and officers listed above along with three at-large members of the squadron and the immediate Past Commander. Meetings are open to all members. ExCom usually meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM at 1376 Orange Grove Road.

The officers are assisted by committee chairs who carry out the programs, functions and activities of the club. Each elected officer is responsible for several functions and is an ex-officio member of each committee in the department. The officer and committee list is found in the club roster.

Rank: By tradition, the USPS has used the concept of ranks for its leaders, and names of officers are preceded by abbreviations designating the officer’s rank. The elected bridge officers, other than the Commander (Cdr) have the rank of Lieutenant Commander (Lt/C). The elected assistant officers have the rank of First Lieutenant (1/Lt) and appointed officers have the rank of Lieutenant (Lt). The Past Commanders are designated by P/C. District and national leaders have other ranks.