

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

AHOY THERE.....AHOY THERE!!!

It's time for our "annual meeting" once again which will be held on February 19th at 1400. As in past years, you're invited to bring your "valentine" and join us for a late lunch/early dinner in the Fisherman's Grotto in sunny Charleston. There will be a very important item of business to take care of so we would like to see as many folks at the meeting as possible. We need to vote in our bridge for this next year.

We are currently planning on offering another Piloting/Coastal Navigation class this spring if we have at least four students. We'll try to firm up a timeline for offering this class at our next meeting so if you haven't taken this class before, or if you would like to review your piloting skills and knowledge, please think about joining in on this class. Our Change of Watch dinner is tentatively being planned for Saturday April 29th so save the date. Looking forward to seeing many of you at our annual meeting February 19th! Remember we're a team.....that's Together Everyone Accomplishes More!!!



Craig M. Swanson, J.D.
Co-Commander

The Marine Navigation Course (Piloting) The Coos Bay Power Squadron (America's Boating Club) is planning on putting on The Marine Navigation Course (Piloting). Marine Navigation (currently Piloting) is the first of the navigational classes focusing on techniques for piloting a boat in coastal and inland conditions. The course emphasizes planning and checking along with the use of GPS for determining position, and introduces digital charting along with traditional charting, compass and dead reckoning skills. Plotting, labeling, use of the compass, aids to navigation and a host of related topics are included in this all-new approach to coastal and inland piloting. The cost for the course will be \$150.00 for Members / \$200 for Non-Members. A deposit for that amount, will have to be paid No Later Than 1 March,2023. The tentative start date will be the 22nd of March. The course will meet once a week for about 10 weeks ending the week of the 24th of May. Please contact Allen Swanson @ 541-888-6178 if interested.

WINTER MEETINGS & EVENTS
ANNUAL MEETING Feb 19 1400 (2PM)
FISHERMAN'S GROTTTO(election)



Marine Board Conditionally Approves Grants, Administrative Rules Housekeeping

The Board also conditionally approved a Cycle One grant application for the Port of Bandon's Marina and boat ramp improvements. This is a complex, multi-faceted project to replace the boat ramp, boarding docks, abutment, and piling. Additionally, the marina will be replaced and reconfigured with a breakwater dock, short and long-term moorage docks, new piling, gangway, utilities, and a nonmotorized launch dock. The pumpout and dump station will be reinstalled on new docks. The Board approved \$1,020,899.31 in Boating Facility Grant funds, \$145,100.59 in Waterway Access Grant funds \$762,283 in federal Boating Infrastructure Grant funds and \$61,827 in federal Clean Vessel Act funds, for a total of \$1,990,109.90 from the 2023-25 Boating Facility Grant funding. These funds, combined with \$7,397,389.10 of applicant resources and administrative match for a total project cost of \$9,387,499. The Board and Director Warner expressed their gratitude to the Port Manager, Jeff Griffin, for his diligent effort in working with the community and other partners on a significant funding match for this comprehensive project. In its final agenda item, the also Board approved a staff proposal to reorganize administrative rules and standardize rule language with very few substantive changes. For more detailed information, please see the meeting materials linked on the Marine Board's Public Meetings page.

ANNUAL MEETING

The end of the Squadron year is rapidly approaching and this brings election time. So it's time to elect officers for 2023-2024. The Annual election meeting will be Sunday February 19 1400 (2:00PM) at Fisherman's Grille. All members urged to attend this important meeting.

BYLAWS

Section 11.1 Candidates for elective positions to be voted upon at the annual meeting may be nominated (1) by the Nominating Committee as herein provided or (2) by petition in writing signed by at least five active members in good standing and filed with the secretary at least 15 days before the date of election.

Section 11.2 The educational officer and the assistant educational officer (if any) are members of the USPS Educational Department, and shall be nominated and elected only after their qualifications have been approved by the national educational officer's designee.

Section 11.3 If vacancies exist in the properly formulated slate of nominees at the time of the election, they shall be filled by nominations from the floor duly made by voting members.

Section 11.4 No active member shall be eligible for nomination without first signifying willingness and ability to serve if elected.

Section 11.5 At any election, each voting member present and in good standing in this squadron shall have one vote for each office to be filled. Voting shall be in the following manner:

11.5.1 Cumulative voting is prohibited.

11.5.2 Election to an uncontested office may be effected by a supported motion and a ballot cast and recorded by the secretary.

11.5.3 Election to a contested office shall be effected by secret ballot, unsigned and cast in person. Such elections shall be determined by a judge of election and not less than three tellers, all of whom shall be appointed by the commander. The secret ballots shall be delivered to the judge of election and opened and inspected by the tellers, and the final results shall be tabulated and announced to the members before the close of the meeting.

11.5.4 Polls shall remain open for no more than one hour after the election is initiated as an order of business.

The following members will serve in their respective office for 2023 - 2024:

2023 - 2024 BRIDGE

Commander: Craig Beyer, AP
Executive Officer: Michael Gibbons, JN
Education Officer: Allen Swanson, P
Admin Officer:
Secretary: Carol Schuklt
Treasurer: Kim Singh
ASEO: Arthur Schuklt, SN
Executive Committee
Karen Gibbons, S
Kathy Walsh
P/C Arthur Schuklt, SN

Rules Committee
Arthur Schuklt, SN
3 members required
Audit Committee
Karen Gibbons, S
2 more members required
Nominating Committee
3 members required
Advanced Grades Chair
Electives Chair
Committee members are needed.



Dear, Lowell Beyer, Karen Gibbons, Michael Gibbons, Arthur Schuklt, Carol Schuklt, Kim Singh, Allen Swanson, Kathy Walsh and Car Craig Beyer,

Recognizing outstanding member volunteerism is the Chief Commander's privilege each year. The deserving individual is presented with a single Merit Mark, the highest recognition of annual volunteerism in United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club.

It is my honor to present you with a Merit Mark this year for your outstanding contributions of time and effort to the advancement of recreational boating safety and United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club.

I don't feel I can adequately express my appreciation for your dedication to our organization and its mission. I thank you and hope you continue to find satisfaction in your membership and volunteering.

Respectfully,

Craig

Craig Fraser

Chief Commander

United States Power Squadrons

BOAT OREGON NEWS

Recreational Boating Fatalities Down in 2022 but Remain High

The Oregon State Marine Board says 2022 was a safer boating year than 2020 and 2021, but the number of fatalities is still high.

In 2021, there were 19 recreational boating fatalities, and in 2020, there were 26, which was the highest number since 1993 with 25. 2022 ended with 16 boating fatalities. Brian Paulsen, Boating Safety Program Manager for the agency says, "Most of the fatalities come down to people not wearing life jackets."

Eleven fatalities involved non-motorized boats (i.e., rafts, kayaks, SUPs, a canoe and a sailboat without auxiliary power). Five of the motorized fatalities included a PWC and smaller open motorboats. Ten victims out of the 16 were not wearing a life jacket. "Everyone needs to be prepared, no matter where they are boating or how long they've been boating," says Paulsen.

"Accidents happen and no one can predict them. Wearing a life jacket will increase your odds of survival."

Inflatable life jackets are popular with many boaters, but Paulsen says they are not for everyone. "We investigate incidents where life jackets fail to inflate. What we generally find is that the owner didn't service the life jacket properly or it wasn't armed with a CO2 cartridge," Paulsen adds. "Inflatable life jackets are machines that must be tested and maintained. Every person who uses an inflatable should routinely test it to make sure it's working correctly. There are also hybrid life jackets available with foam flotation and an inflation mechanism. Hybrid life jackets provide immediate flotation if you fall overboard and if you need more flotation for the conditions, you can manually activate the inflation," says Paulsen.

Another popular boating trend is stand up paddleboarding. Stand up paddleboarders (SUPs) may not know the importance of wearing the appropriate leash for the water dynamics. For example, the Marine Board and American Canoe Association recommend wearing a quick-release leash on moving water, especially on rivers with obstructions. According to Paulsen, a quick-release leash differs from an ankle leash and attaches to the paddler's life jacket. "For example, if the paddler is on a river with swift current and is unable to paddle away from a strainer in time, they can pull the release mechanism from their life jacket. This will detach them from the leash which stays with the board so that they won't get entangled," Paulsen adds. "The leash and board may get caught up on the strainer, but the paddler will be able to stay afloat and self-rescue."

SUPs are defined as boats by the US Coast Guard and paddlers are required to carry a properly fitting life jacket and sound-producing device, like a whistle. "Safety equipment in boating is just like any other activity," says Paulsen. "The right gear at the right time will always be helpful."

The Marine Board and access providers continue to see a diversity of boaters in both motorized and non-motorized watercraft on Oregon's waterways. Paulsen says, "Anyone new to boating is encouraged to take a boating education class to learn about how to be safe through pre-trip planning and preparation. Consider joining a club to learn ways to build skills with others and don't boat on waterways that exceed your skill level."

Fatalities occurred in all types of waters in 2022, in all types of watercraft. The average age was 43 years old. Three of the victims were female and 13 were male.

"Before you get on the water, check to see if you have the required and appropriate equipment, check the weather, and always wear a life jacket. Safe boating is easy if you take the time for planning and preparation," says Paulsen. Recreational boating data and annual summaries are available from the Marine Board's website.

Learning for a Lifetime

The Mandatory Education Program is over 20 years old now! Passed by the Oregon Legislature in 1999, the requirement for motorboat operators with motors over 10 hp to take a class and carry an education card has helped improve safety. With waterways getting more crowded, education and skill are more important than ever. Paddlers should consider taking a free online class or joining a local paddling club to learn key skills.

Winter Boating and Life Jackets

Oregon waters are cold year-round. Please wear—don't just carry, a US Coast Guard-approved life jacket. Accidents happen too fast to reach for stowed life jackets. There are lots of styles and fabrics available. From inherent flotation to inflatables, there's a life jacket right for you and the activity you're doing! Invest in the vest...your life is worth it! Learn more about the required equipment for your boat.

The Marine Board is directly funded by boaters in the form of registration, title, and permit fees, as well as through marine fuel taxes. No lottery, general fund tax dollars or local facility parking fees support the agency or its programs. Boater-paid fees support the boating public through boating safety services (on-the-water law enforcement, training, and equipment), boating safety education, grants for the construction and maintenance of boating access facilities, and environmental protection programs. For more information about the Marine Board and its programs, visit BoatOregon.gov.

America's Boating Channel™

Promoting Boater Education to Our Members and the Public

As production of America's Boating Channel™ Season Seven gets underway, remember the channel has six seasons of videos archived and available to help educate ourselves and others.

An outstanding example is the video "[Boater Education](#)," which underscores the importance and value of taking boating safety courses. Viewers learn about online, classroom, and on-the-water educational offerings.



Screening boater education videos is an excellent way to prepare for safer experiences on the water. "Boater Education" reminds us about required safety equipment and that we need to know the rules of the road when operating a boat.



Taking the concepts in this video a step further, America's Boating Channel produced a sequel entitled "[Knowledge Versus Skills](#)." It covers differences between boating knowledge and boating skills and why it matters. Viewers learn approaches to take to improve their boating abilities and what pitfalls to avoid in boater education.

These videos also are an excellent tool to help recruit participants to our educational program and to membership. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like and subscribe to America's Boating Channel to introduce them to what our organization has to offer.

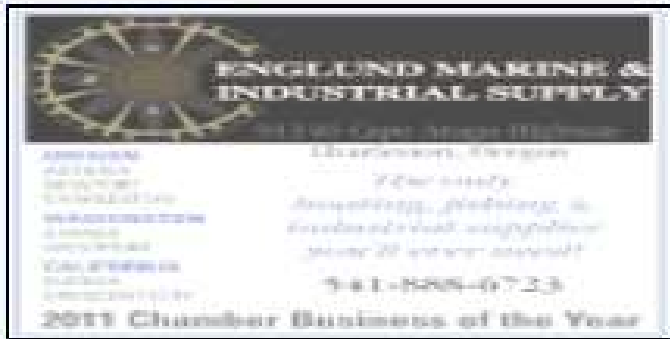
Available on YouTube, America's Boating Channel offers quick and easy access to professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos.

[America's Boating Channel™](#) is produced by the United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
For Boaters, By Boaters™

America's Boating Club® is a trademark of the United States Power Squadrons®



THANK these Sponsors of the WHISTLER

2023 - 2024 OFFICERS

Cdr Craig Beyer, AP
 SEO Allen Swanson, P
 EXO Michael Gibbons, JN
 Treas Kim Singh
 Sec Carol Schuldt
 ASEO Arthur Schuldt, SN

Phones

541-290-3957
 541-888-6178
 541-290-7694
 541-404-6307
 541-756-4408
 541-756-4408

MEETINGS

Squadron / Executive Board Meetings THIRD SUNDAY each month. Board Meetings may be called by Cdr or Board. Meetings are at 1400 (2:00 PM) at FISHERMAN'S GROTTO Covid-19 restrictions followed if required

Editor

Art Schuldt, SN
 2175 Everett
 North Bend OR 97459
 Phone: 541-756-4408
Email:
a.schuldt@charter.net
www.usps.org/coos



Close