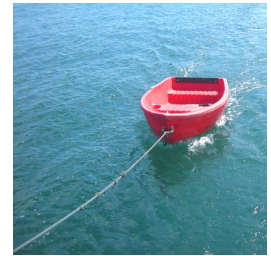




# Dinghy Painter

Oklahoma City Sail and Power Squadron



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OKLAHOMA CITY



SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

## THIS MONTH

### 28 August—Members (September) Business Meeting

Our September monthly meeting was held on Monday, 28 August 2023 at 7:00 PM at Tres mgt Office, 13204 N May Avenue

### 14-18 September—Lake Texoma Flamingo Rendezvous

Several members have reserved camping spaces (10, 23, 24, and 25) for their RVs. Danny and Marilyn will be arriving on Thursday, 14 September 2023. Make your reservations at 903-523-4222 and let them know your site number. As always, come-and-go members are welcome any time.

### 28 September—Casino Night

Bring your lucky charm and join us at the Church of the Resurrection, 13112 N Rockwell on Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 6:00 PM for fun and games. If you are proficient in any casino game, let Marilyn know so we can have dealers, high rollers and maybe cocktail waitpersons. Bring finger foods. Soda and water provided. There will be PRIZES!

### 30 September—Lake Hefner Cleanup

You know the drill. Meet at 10:00 AM at the lake, wear appropriate clothing, tools and bags will be provided or bring your own, RonDogs on the grill. See the Environmental Report in this issue for further details

## UPCOMING

### 2 October—Members Business Meeting

Our monthly business meeting will be held on Monday, 2 October 2023 at 7:00 PM at Tress Mgt Office, 15304 N May Avenue. Let Marilyn know if you wish to attend by conference call.

### 6-8 October—Lake Thunderbird Fall Rendezvous

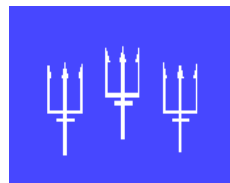
Our rendezvous will be held at Lake Thunderbird Little Axe Campground #2. Several members will be camping from Thursday through Tuesday morning. As always, come-and-go are always welcome.

### 6 November—Members Business Meeting

Our monthly business meeting will be held on Monday, 6 November 2023 at 7:00 PM at Tress Mgt Office, 15304 N May Avenue. Let Marilyn know if you wish to attend by conference call.

### 16 November—Wine & Cheese with Auction

Details TBA.



## COMMANDER'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023



### ***Large Decreases in Small Numbers, and Large Increases in Small Numbers***

Something to think about.

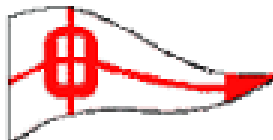
Looking at the USPS membership information is sort of alarming, alarming enough the dismay is slow to sink in.

It appears that the core membership is still shrinking at a significant rate. That is Active, Additional Active, and Active with Other categories. Other important categories, Life and related members seem to be holding their own. Dues relief is likely a factor.

Districts 50, 99 (USPS University), and the Cyber Squadron have a significant number of members. But I am unsure how these groups help support and grow the organization as a whole. Take every opportunity to participate in and promote our organization and activities. Something to act on.

On the other hand there is a growing trend in the increase in COVID. After hitting a low in early July the numbers of hospitalizations and deaths is on the increase. ER visits and positivity rates are growing as would be expected. Testing and infection rates are not being tracked as they were during the pandemic phase.

The defenses against the illness are the same that were not followed before. Stay home if sick, vaccinate, and social distance. The best estimates are this surge will not be as large or deadly as earlier ones, but winter cold, flu, RSV, etc. season is just a few months away. We will adjust our activities if necessary.



***Cdr. Dave McGhee***

***"To be successful at sea we must keep things simple."  
-R. D. (Pete)Culler.***



## My View From the Boat Ramp

Too hot to be out on the boat ramp, but I did pick up some other interesting observations.

I saw an interesting thing on TV the other day. A twelve-year-old girl was wanting to set a record on the number of life jackets she could wear in the water. Now there is no current record, so this is a first. Then she would get back out and put another one on and repeat the process. At one time she had enough on to keep about half of her body above water. She eventually ended up wearing forty-four life jackets. She had them strapped to her arms and legs. Some were adult size, some were child size, and she even had a few dog jackets. With that many life jackets she was completely safe in the water.

Well, maybe. She jumped into the water and was floating on top of the water with her hands and legs outstretched. Only one minor problem. She was face down. Look like she was doing what we called the dead man's float. Fortunately, she was agile enough to turn over face up.

So put your life jackets on and let's go boating.

"That's the way I see it!"

**PEACE  
LOVE  
LIFE JACKET**

*P/C Bob Hlubin, JN*



## From the Education Office:

### GOOD NEWS!

We will be starting a new course on January 3, 2024. We will be doing the Boat Handling course. The course will be eight weeks long and at present we have three attendees.

Our indoor courses will be conducted in accordance with guidance from the CDC. If you have a course you are interested in, please let me know. If we can't schedule a formal course maybe you would like to study on your own. You can buy or borrow a course book, study on your own, and take the test. One of our instructors can go one on one with you to review the material before the test.

If you or someone you know is interested in a USPS course, please contact me. 405-373-2310 (If no answer, please leave a message) or [bob.hlubin@cox.net](mailto:bob.hlubin@cox.net)

Time to get off your boat and into the classroom.  
(It's a tough job but somebody must do it.) That's why know that I am somebody.

*P/C Bob Hlubin, JN  
Educational Officer*



## What You Need to Know About Wireless Engine Cut-Off Switches

While engine cut-off switches have been standard equipment for decades, a recent law now mandates their use in all 50 states. For decades manufacturers have equipped boats with engine cut-off switches. A lanyard connects these switches to a life vest or belt loop, so if the operator leaves the helm while underway the lanyard pulls the switch and the motor stops.

The devices are not new. They are standard equipment since the 1980s. There is a good reason for the law. Accidents where the skipper is ejected or thrown from the helm are commonplace, and even if the operator stays near the vessel, the time it takes to regain control can result in injury or even death. According to U.S. Coast Guard statistics, 260 reported accidents last year involved a person overboard, and 175 of those people never made it back to the boat. A traditional hard-wired lanyard will stop the motor whenever the operator is ejected, incapacitated, or simply falls from the helm. It prevents the being in the water as the boat is still running. It's a simple, inexpensive and unique safety tool.

One problem with the lanyards is that they only stop the motor when the skipper leaves the helm. If a passenger falls out of the boat or off a PWC, the operator must stop the watercraft. This is where the new generation of wireless devices comes in. They can protect everyone onboard. Base models usually come with two fobs and can be linked to several more. This technology is invaluable on larger vessels where crew may be at risk of ejection without the captain being aware, and whenever children are onboard. Boaters even clip fobs on their dogs.

Several wireless, engine cut off switch systems are on the market now, including the MOB+ from Fell Marine and the OLAS Guardian from ACR. Both wire into your boat's existing engine cutoff switch and start at a little over \$200. Everyone on the boat can be protected with a wireless fob worn on a wristband, neck lanyard or clip. The captain's fob will cut the engine and activate an alarm within seconds of the transmitter losing connection, either by the wearer going overboard or moving too far from the helm. Passenger fobs activate the alarm, alerting the captain to a man-overboard situation.



The OLAS (Overboard Location Alert System) units come with a smartphone app that helps in this regard. When the fob is activated it marks the coordinates of the incident using the GPS receiver in the phone or tablet. All of those features add up to enhanced safety, but the best argument for wireless cut-off switches is that they're less intrusive than traditional lanyards. That means they're more likely to be used – every time. Wireless switches provide more mobility than a lanyard, and you don't have to plug it in again every time you come back to the helm. That's a big plus, especially for anglers who may stop and start dozens of times in a day on the water. Whether you choose to use the hardwired switch installed by your manufacturer, or a wireless fob, use your ECOS. It's the law, and it saves lives.  
( Jeff Moag, Water Sports Foundation, Contributor )

***Lt. Robert G. Van Ewyk, SN  
Safety Officer***

## Environmental Report

We are scheduled for our September 30, 2023, Pickup Picnic. Now would be a good time to start shopping for your preferred trash bag holder. As always, Oklahoma Beautiful will provide pick-up tools.

I have visited our area of the Lake Hefner shoreline. At this new elevated lake level 1198.39 feet, as of 1400hrs, and found that the debris lifted with the rising lake level appears to be minimal; however, at the risk of stating the obvious, I predict that as the summer ends, the falling lake level may reveal presently unseen treasures for our picking.

Start planning what side(s) and condiments you would like to bring to our Picnic. In the meanwhile, Our Chief: "Have Ron-Dogs Will Travel Extraordinaire" can be periodically test firing, polishing up and fine tuning his new equipment.

Hope to see you there.

***Steve Bryant, JN***



## OKLAHOMA CITY SAIL and POWER SQUADRON

### Members Business Meeting Minutes 28 August 2023 (September meeting)



Cdr David McGhee SN called the meeting to order at 19:01 hours at the Tres Mgmt Bldg. The following members were in attendance: P/C Steve Bryant JN, P/C Mike Ellis JN, Lt Roberta Ellis, P/D/C Danny Goss SN, P/C Marilyn Goss P, P/C Bob Hlubin JN, Lt/C Ron Huff P, Lt/C Glenda Sims, and Lt/C Aaron Spivey AP (via teleconference).

**Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance** – P/C Mike Ellis JN gave the invocation; Lt/C Ron Huff P led the pledge.

**Secretary** – Lt/C Glenda Sims moved to approve the minutes of the August meeting; Lt/C Ron Huff P seconded; carried.

**Dinghy Painter** – Editor Lt Peggy Anglin P was unable to attend.

**Treasurer** - P/D/C Danny Goss SN has sent his report online to members; no new business. CD at Arvest Bank still awaiting review.

**Executive Officer** - Lt/C Ron Huff P asked for the following reports:

**Website** – P/D/C Goss SN has no new report and again urged members to submit any pics to be uploaded.

**Public Relations** – P/C Mike Ellis JN will place an ad at the Little River Marina (Lake Thunderbird) kiosk but needs a squadron rubber stamp to finalize. P/D/C Danny Goss SN stated that he thinks he might be able to find one.

**Legislation** – Cdr McGhee SN had nothing new to report.

**Safety** - Lt Robert (Van) Van Ewyk SN was unable to attend. See his report in the *Dinghy Painter*.

**Education Officer** - P/C Bob Hlubin JN will be ordering books soon for the “Boat Handling” course slated to be conducted beginning January 2024. See his report in the *Dinghy Painter*.

**Administrative Officer** – Lt/C Aaron Spivey AP asked for the following reports:

**Membership** – P/C Marilyn Goss P reported a membership of 29.

**Environmental Committee** - P/C Steve Bryant JN is moving forward with September 30 clean-up.

**Social Activities** – P/C Marilyn Goss P went over the slated social activities through December 2023. **\*\* SEE THE DINGHY PAINTER FOR ACTIVITY DETAILS \*\***. The August 24 event was canceled due to weather/virus conditions, thereby making it possible for the documentary “The Taming of the Red” to be shown at the impending Texoma rendezvous, Sept 14-16. Discussion of details.

**Commander’s Report** - Cdr McGhee SN has submitted his article to Lt Anglin P for publication in the *Dinghy Painter*.

**Old Business** – Cdr McGhee still is in the tedious process of going through/responding to emails from National.

**New Business** – SEE DINGHY PAINTER FOR CALENDAR OF EVENTS. Cdr McGhee SN expressed alarm at how low USPS/ABC membership has become along with the attendant concern of critically low revenue. National is seen as laboring under seriously outdated ideology/regulations and is still focused on selling course books. Teaching boating in Oklahoma (by squadrons) has been somewhat hog-tied due to old USPS rules; currently Oklahoma has a lack of boating instruction.

Online courses offered by the Houston squadron are still highly recommended to all members; Cdr McGhee endorsed them.

The meeting adjourned at 17:39 hours.

**Respectfully ,  
Lt/C Glenda Sims  
Squadron Secretary**





## 2023 CALENDAR

14-18 September	Lake Texoma Flamingo Rendezvous
28 September	Casino Night
30 September	Lake Hefner Cleanup
2 October	Members Business Meeting
6-8 October	Lake Thunderbird Little Axe Fall Rendezvous
6 November	Members Business Meeting
16 November	Wine & Cheese w Auction



The *DINGHY PAINTER* is the official monthly publication of the *Oklahoma City Sail & Power Squadron*. The deadline for materials submitted for publication is noon the day after the Members Business Meeting. Materials submitted for publication will not be returned unless prior arrangements have been made. Items may be sent to the Editor at: [anglin@swbell.net](mailto:anglin@swbell.net) or Lt Peggy Anglin P, 6529 Chelsey Ln, Okla City, OK 73132.

### ***DINGHY PAINTER***

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Oklahoma City, OK 73132



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