



# DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter—Volume 66 Issue 1  
Spring-Summer 2023

# TRIDENT

**UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®  
is AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®**



Internet Addresses  
USPS: [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)  
D/20: [www.uspsd20boating.org](http://www.uspsd20boating.org)  
Public: <https://americasboatingclub.org>

**UNITED STATES  
POWER SQUADRONS®**

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not necessarily those of D/20 and USPS

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**TRIDENT  
DEADLINE  
1 SEPTEMBER  
2023**

**DISTRICT 20  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION OR CONTACT</u>
21-23 July	D/20 Cruise & Rendezvous	East Port Marina Greg Kelso
22 July	Council meeting	D/C Mike Ludtke
19-20 August	Chicago Air and Water Show	North Ave. Beach Chicago
27 August - 4 September	USPS Governing Board	Marriott Hotel Kansas City, MO
October TBD	D/20 Fall Conference	TBD
TBD	Council meeting	Electronic—TBD
11-24 February 2024	USPS Caribbean Cruise	Dawn Eckhart
3 December	Council Meeting/ Holiday Party	Ludtke Home

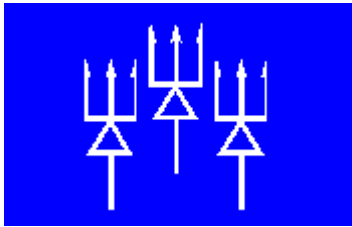
**MuVIT Boating Simulator**

The MuVit Boating Simulator was introduced at the February Annual Meeting in Orlando. It is a laptop program that can be displayed on a large monitor. Combined with a throttle and steering wheel it is a low cost version of the bulky and expensive simulator that has been around for a few years.

The MuVIT system can be purchased for about \$2,000 to \$2,500. Contact Scott Morris at Tampa Power Squadron for a firm quote.

See Page 12 for more details





**DISTRICT  
COMMANDER**

D/C Michael Buren Ludtke, SN-ACN

Summer is here and it's time to get back out on the water. I've had Smokin' J, my J/105 sailboat, in the water for several weeks and have the first few races completed, so we are off to a great start. Hopefully you are having a good boating season too. We have a short season, so make the most of it.

DEO Scott Harmon has been keeping me appraised as the ABC3 classes complete. As a district, we have passed more students since Jan 1 to present than the same period last year, so keep up the great work. With boating becoming more popular every year, our mission of boater education and safety is as relevant as it's always been. Like many, I just wish our membership numbers reflected the increase of new boaters.

Speaking of membership, I'm sorry to report the long running Decatur Power Squadron will begin the process of dissolving. Decatur was formed in 1961 and had a great history. In 2017, I visited Decatur for one of their monthly dinner meetings and heard about the annual trips to

Land Between Lakes in Kentucky and their other activities throughout the years. And while they have not been holding ABC classes of their own, many of their members were still involved with the DNR classes held in the area. So, they had a pretty good run and we'll be sorry to see them dissolve.

DAO Greg Kelso has been working hard on the 2023 Cruise and Rendezvous. Look for more information in this issue of the Trident. From what I hear, there will be plenty of opportunities to be on the water and while there will be a Council Meeting, I promise to keep it short, so we have plenty of time to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

Enjoy the summer and stay safe on the water. See you at the C&R.

Respectfully submitted,

*D/C Mike Ludtke, SN-ACN*

**District Commander**

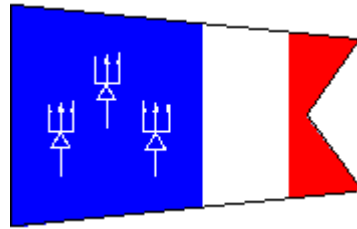
**Join USPS Growing Cruise Group for Feb. 2024**

Many members enjoyed a fabulous cruise last February on the gorgeous Celebrity "Beyond" and have already booked for next year's annual cruise on the new sister ship, Celebrity "Ascent" This ship will **sail from Fort Lauderdale Feb. 11-18, 2024**, to San Juan, Tortola, BVI; and Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis. As always, take advantage of the current Celebrity promotion or the exclusive group pricing, which includes drinks, Wi-Fi, and tips. This is our annual USPS fundraiser, and your district can also benefit if supported.

For more details, please email: [dawneckhart94@gmail.com](mailto:dawneckhart94@gmail.com) or call 727-403-0406. [-Dawn Eckhart](#)

## **PAST DISTRICT COMMANDER**

P/D/C Richard A. Davidson, SN



I spent my time as District Commander living through the reorganization plan of the National Bridge. There were presentations at the National Meeting, Town Hall Zoom meetings, a presentation by then National Executive Officer Craig Fraser to our Fall Conference, and finally a plan at the Governing Board. Votes were taken at the National Meeting last February on key rewrites of the bylaws for all levels of the organization. When the dust settled, districts survived, rules were more flexible, and electronic voting arrived to make remote meetings work throughout the Club. We survived major changes and ended up with modernization, streamlining, online education, an upgraded national website, and a chance to try again to keep America's Boating Club alive.

I attended a Zoom meeting of our new district bridge. It lasted for all of 20 minutes. We have a Fall Conference, Cruise & Rendezvous, and a Spring Conference in the planning stages. Mike Ludtke is showing his wisdom and experience as Commander and getting the business of the district done.

Between the changes at the national level and the leadership we have at the district level, we will have a boating club that will serve the needs of the members that choose to stay and enjoy the benefits.

Respectfully Submitted

*P/D/C Rich Davidson, SN*

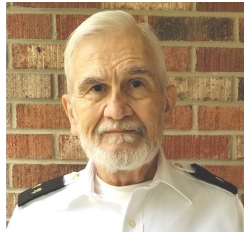
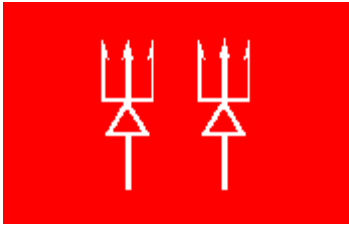
**Past District Commander**

## **ENSURING PROPER CONFIGURATION OF DIGITAL SELECTIVE CALLING (DSC)-EQUIPPED RADIOS**

The Coast Guard strongly recommends that vessel owners, operators, and crewmembers with DSC-equipped VHF radios:

- Obtain and properly register an MMSI number. Information to obtain/register a MMSI number can be found at <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/maritime-mobile-service-identity>.
- Ensure that your GPS and DSC-equipped radio are interconnected. Doing so may save your life in a distress situation! All DSC-equipped radios, and most GPS receivers, have an NMEA 0183 two-wire data protocol which allows for any model of GPS to be successfully interconnected to any model of radio, regardless of manufacturer. Before interconnecting your radio & GPS, consult the owner's manuals. Additional information on how to interconnect DPS-equipped radios with GPS receivers can be found at: <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/digital-selective-calling>. (continued page 5)





## **DISTRICT EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

D/Lt/C Jesse Bowen, JN

Well, warm weather is (mostly) here, and boating is in full swing! During our long off-season, it seems like this time will never arrive after all the prep work to get ready. Always fascinated with being in or around water. Whether swimming, paddling, diving, power boating, or sailing, I feel even more alive when engaging in some type of water activity. Whether you enjoy boating as a hobby, a sport, or a combination, I venture that most boaters have a similar gut-level reaction to being around water.

But beyond the challenge of learning and applying boat or watersport skills, another reward awaits. Making connections with other boaters has always been a great benefit of our water-focused recreation. Boaters themselves are by and large a very friendly bunch. Boating is a great conversation-starter. Even non-boaters are often

interested in hearing about our activities. That gives us a chance to help guide them in discovery of the joys of our hobby, whether as passengers, crew, or future owners.

As we embark on another boating season, let's also remember to be safe on the water. A good start on that is to get a vessel safety check for our own boats and to encourage others to do the same. Requesting a safety exam is easy— either contact one of our district examiners or visit the America's Boating Club public page at: [https://www.uscgaux.info/i\\_want\\_a\\_vsc/index.php](https://www.uscgaux.info/i_want_a_vsc/index.php).

May you have a safe and joyous boating season!

Respectfully Submitted

*D/Lt/C Jesse Bowen, JN*

**District Executive Officer**

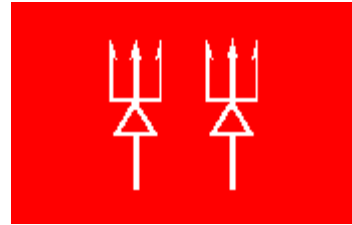
(continued from page 4)

- Confirm proper operation of your radio equipment. Testing procedures for your DSC equipped radio can be reviewed in Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 20-20 Change 1 which can be found at: Marine Safety Information Bulletins ([uscg.mil](http://uscg.mil)).
- DSC functionality or operations questions may be submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center on its Contact Us webpage: <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/contact/contact-us>. March 02, 2023 Safety Alert 03-23 Washington DC 2

This Safety Alert is provided for informational purposes only and does not relieve any domestic or international safety, operational, or material requirements. The Safety Alert was developed by the Marine Board of Investigation for the Commercial Fishing Vessel SCANDIES ROSE sinking and distributed by the Office of Investigations and Analysis.

**DISTRICT  
EDUCATIONAL  
OFFICER**

D/Lt/C Scott Harmon, AP



**America's Boating Channel  
Urges Use of Engine Cut-Off Devices**

Are you aware of the legal requirement for using engine cut-off devices? This is a requirement that could save your life.



The requirement to use an engine cut-off switch (ECOS) took effect on April 1, 2021, and applies to all U.S. waterways, with fines of \$100, \$250, and \$500 for the first, second, and third offenses, respectively. State and local authorities may choose to enforce the law differently, but using an engine cut-off switch is now the law for qualified vessels everywhere in the United States.

The law applies to all personal watercraft and recreational boats under 26 feet with motors capable of 115 pounds of static thrust (a little under 3 horsepower). Boats not currently equipped with an engine cut-off switch are exempt, but that grandfather clause is closing fast. Another recent federal law required manufacturers to install engine cut-off switches on all new boats starting in January 2020.



Videos are available that offer an overview of the importance of specialized safety equipment for recreational boating that will shut down the engine in an emergency such as the boat operator falling overboard. America's

Boating Channel™ produced these videos to help viewers learn about traditional lanyard type devices, as well as the new wireless systems.

Watching videos like "[Engine Cut-Off Devices](https://youtu.be/3J3M8dMzqTk)" (<https://youtu.be/3J3M8dMzqTk>) is an excellent way for boaters to prepare for safer experiences on the water. America's Boating Channel also produced a sequel entitled "[Wear an ECOS](https://youtu.be/i0Nu7Gu-JG0)" (<https://youtu.be/i0Nu7Gu-JG0>). It covers differences between boating knowledge and boating skills and why it matters. Viewers learn approaches to take to improve their boating abilities.

You can follow the above links or visit <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel> to find these and other safe boating videos, which 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 Channel Launches Seventh Season

**Following is an excerpt from the Launch Release publicity from USPS:**

WHY WEARING A LIFE JACKET IS COOL WILL BE FIRST VIDEO TO PREMIERE

America's Boating Channel, the U.S. Coast Guard funded boating safety and boater education video service of United States Power Squadrons (USPS) - America's Boating Club (ABC) will publicly debut its new season of twelve videos across its smart TV, online and mobile distribution platforms starting in June.

In making the announcement, USPS-ABC Chief Commander Craig Fraser remarked, *"We're excited to introduce America's Boating Channel's seventh season of original non-duplicated boating safety and boater education videos. This year's slate of titles reflects a sharpened focus on critical safety considerations, operational guidance, and electronic aids to navigation."*

The first video in the new series, WHY WEARING A LIFE JACKET IS COOL, will premiere on FireTV, Roku and YouTube, as well as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and other social networks at 8 pm EDT on Thursday June 1.

WHY WEARING A LIFE JACKET IS COOL asks a series of "What if..." questions about contemporary life jackets. Viewers will learn the benefits of wearing life jackets while underway on boats. Also featured are tips to consider when buying a new life jacket.

Every ten days throughout the boating season, America's Boating Channel will launch a new video. Upcoming Season Seven titles include:

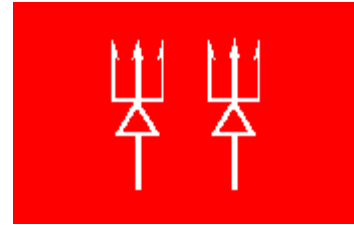
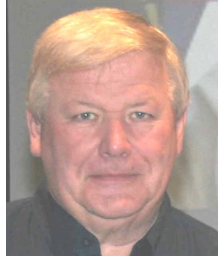
- ◆ Slips, Trips and Falls
- ◆ Partner in Command
- ◆ Disembarking Hazards
- ◆ Boating with Small Children
- ◆ Engine Failure Causes and Cures
- ◆ Towed Sports Safety
- ◆ Tying Dock Lines
- ◆ Introducing AIS
- ◆ Marine Radio Etiquette
- ◆ Navigating Locks
- ◆ Border Crossing

Smart TV viewers can subscribe to America's Boating Channel for free on Roku and FireTV. Online, the best way to view the videos is to subscribe at no charge to America's Boating Channel on YouTube.



**DISTRICT  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICER**

D/Lt/C Greg Kelso, AP



All, cruise.

See page 9 for the preliminary announcement of the 2023 Summer Cruise & Rendezvous to be held from Friday 7/21 - Sunday 7/23, 2023. Please review the information and save the date. If you want to bring a boat, you're welcome to do so. We are recruiting pontoon boats and Captains, so we have room for others to ride along who don't have a suitable vessel for the

Look for additional details to come. Please feel free to send any questions or suggestions to me and I'll work on them. My phone number is: 217-494-8455.

Respectfully submitted  
*D/Lt/C Greg Kelso, AP*  
**Administrative Officer**



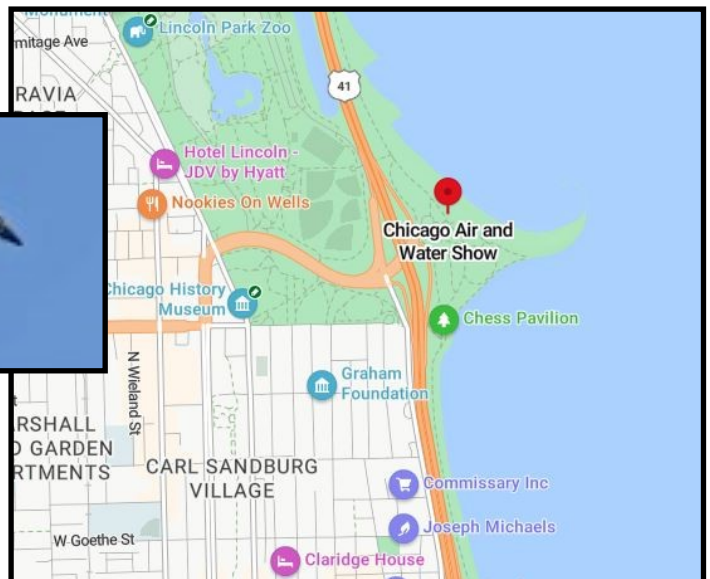
## Chicago Air and Water Show 2023

Every year, on the second half of August, an air and water show is held in Chicago. This is an impressive event with the participation of the best civil and military pilots who fly civil planes side by side with military planes in aerobatic shows, free fall demonstrations, marine and airy rescue exercises, etc....

**When:** Saturday, August 19, 2023  
Sunday, August 20, 2023

**Where:** Along the lakefront between Oak Street and Fullerton Ave.  
[Chicago, Illinois](#),

The two days event shows can be watched, for free, along the lakefront from Fullerton to Oak Street when the main activity takes place in North Avenue Beach.

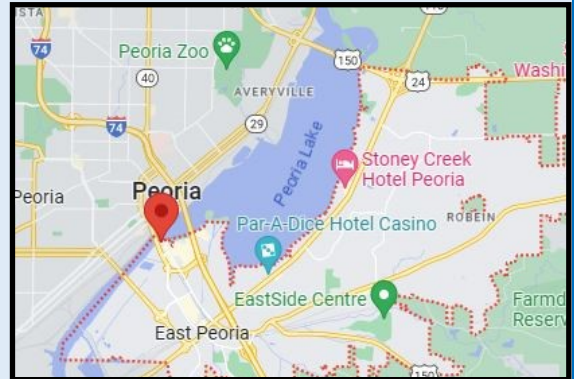




**District 20**  
**Cruise and Rendezvous—July 21—23, 2023**  
**East Port Marina, East Peoria IL**  
**PRELIMINARY PLAN**

**Saturday July 22, 2023**

- 1600** Arrive in East Peoria Friday afternoon.
- 1800** Dinner Friday evening at 1800 – Location TBD  
Looking at the **Storm Shelter East Port Marina**—they have a wide selection of sandwiches, burgers, salads, tacos, quesadillas and appetizers..



**Saturday July 22, 2023**

- 0930** Underway from East Peoria Marina to head north to Henry, Illinois for lunch. Depending on the group size, lunch location to be determined from one or more of three choices. (Mexican, Italian or American Bar & Grill) We will have a short meeting after lunch to discuss district business.
- 1400** Underway to head back. Arrive back to East Peoria approximately 1700.
- 1900** Dinner at location TBD.

**Sunday July 23, 2023**

- 1000** - Underway from East Peoria Marina to head south to Pekin, Illinois for brunch at Kuchie's on the Water. They are known for their "Shipwreck Bloody Mary", a meal in itself.
- 1300** After brunch, depart Pekin and head back to East Port Marina.
- 1400** Load all boats and head home.



- While we won't have an official registration process, please plan to let us know if you are attending. We want to have multiple pontoon boats available and be able to have room for all who attend to make the cruise. If you are planning to bring your own boat and are willing to take a few passengers along, we'll add your availability to the list.
- Transient boat slips are available in East Port Marine and we will have contact information and prices available soon.
- There is a hotel very close to Eastport Marina – Stoney Creek Inn - and many other choices nearby. We will have links available to several of those in the area. We do not plan to block any rooms for this event. Make your reservations early to get your choice, but there should be plenty of rooms available in the area.

**East Port Marina:** [EastPort Marina | East Peoria, IL \(cityofeastpeoria.com\)](http://cityofeastpeoria.com)  
**Stoney Creek Inn:** <https://stoneycreekhotel.bookonline.com>  
**Storm Shelter:** [Storm Shelter at Eastport | East Peoria, IL \(stormshelter-ep.com\)](http://stormshelter-ep.com)  
**Kuchie's on the Water:** [Kuchie's on the Water \(kuchiesonthewater.com\)](http://kuchiesonthewater.com)

**SAVE THE DATE !!**

# D/20 Spring Conference and Change of Watch



Holiday Inn—Elgin  
24-25 March 2023



The theme of this year's conference was selected to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the iconic movie **"American Graffiti"**.

The movie depicted the last day of summer in 1962. A lot of members went into their closet and found something that looked like it was the 50's or 60's. There was a cash bar, records playing 50's and 60's music and an American Graffiti Trivia Contest with some nautical questions thrown in for good measure. The winner of the Trivia contest was Cdr Rich Davidson (FIX ??). He got all the questions right except 1 and argued he was correct on that one too. HaHa

Saturday morning Mike Ludtke brought us up to date on what happened at the annual meeting in Orlando. And then we were entertained by Phil Aleo who told us about Chicago and the first hundred years of it's existence.

Phil was born in Chicago and has resided in Dundee Township his entire life. He has always been an avid researcher and documented projects on various subjects. He told almost forgotten stories of some of the most intriguing landmarks, buildings and people in Chicago. It was awesome!



Phil Aleo—Keynote Speaker



Mary Merrell & Rich Davidson

Friday night American Graffiti party

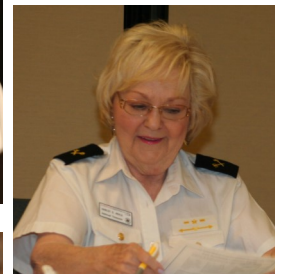


Bob Canfield, Frank & Karen D'Amico, Terry Phillips & Shirley Heald



D/C Rich Davidson

Saturday Conference



V/C Shirley Herald, AP C/C Craig Fraser, SN rep



Jesse Bowen & Clint Rahn



Sue Palazzo, Joanne & Ron Zingler, Karen & Frank D'Amico



P/D/C Natalie Witt



P/D/C Mary Merrell presenting award to Waukegan



Sue & Dave Anthony



P/D/C Karen D'Amico



After lunch the conference meeting was called to order by Cdr Rich Davidson, SN. During the meeting the slate of officers for 2023/2024 was nominated and voted into office.

After a delicious dinner Cdr Davidson thanked his bridge for their service and discharged them. The Chief Commanders representative, V/C Shirley D Heald, AP-CN, dismissed Cdr Davidson and installed Cdr Michael Ludtke, SN-CAN and his new bridge for 2023/2024. We wish them good luck and lots of success in making the coming year memorable.

Saturday Change of Watch



V/C Hearld installing Mike Ludtke as the new District Commander



I/P/D/C Rich Davidson & V/C Shirley Heald presenting D/C Mike Ludtke with his flag of office



Bonnie Breen, V/C Shirley Heald and I/P/D/C Rich Davidson presenting squadron gift to Shirley

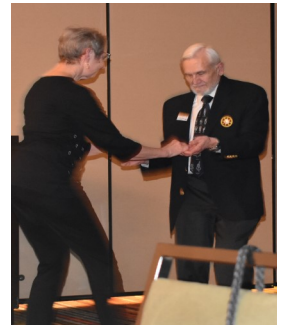
The District engaged "The Kennedy/Taylor Experience" combo to provide music for the balance of the evening. It was good to see the dance floor crowded almost the whole night.

After the banquet closed for the night, everyone moved to the hospitality suites to continue catching up with old friends and making new ones.

Saturday night dance party



The Kennedy/Taylor Experience combo were outstanding!

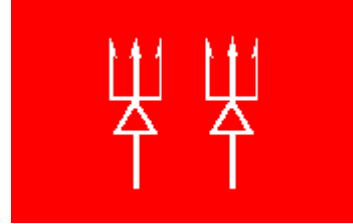


Pictures by: D/Lt/C Anita Donkers, AP & P/D/C Chuck Burger, SN



## **DISTRICT SECRETARY**

D/Lt/C Anita M. Donkers, AP



Saw a sign the other day... "Home is where my anchor drops". Yup, that's the lifestyle I want. And what better organization to be associated with than USPS? We can always find new friends in any port across the country. Someone is always willing to help out, offer advice on local waters, invite us for dinner, invite us to a local squadron meeting. What a great group of people we have met over the years.

If you go to our website (<http://uspsd20boating.org/port-captains>), you will find a link to Port Captains; the USPS link will show all USPS Port Captains. Another great resource if planning a cruise to unchartered waters.

Our District Roster is being finalized. Hopefully, by the time you read this newsletter the roster will be published. If you are planning a trip to unfamiliar areas in District 20, look up the local squadron and give them a call. You can join them for a cruise, or dinner, or get-together.

Hope to see everyone in Peoria 21-23 July for our 2023 Cruise & Rendezvous. D/Lt/C Kelso has lined up a great weekend. Looking forward to the cruises up and down the Illinois River.

See you soon.

Respectfully Submitted:

*D/Lt/C Anita Donkers, AP*

**District Secretary**

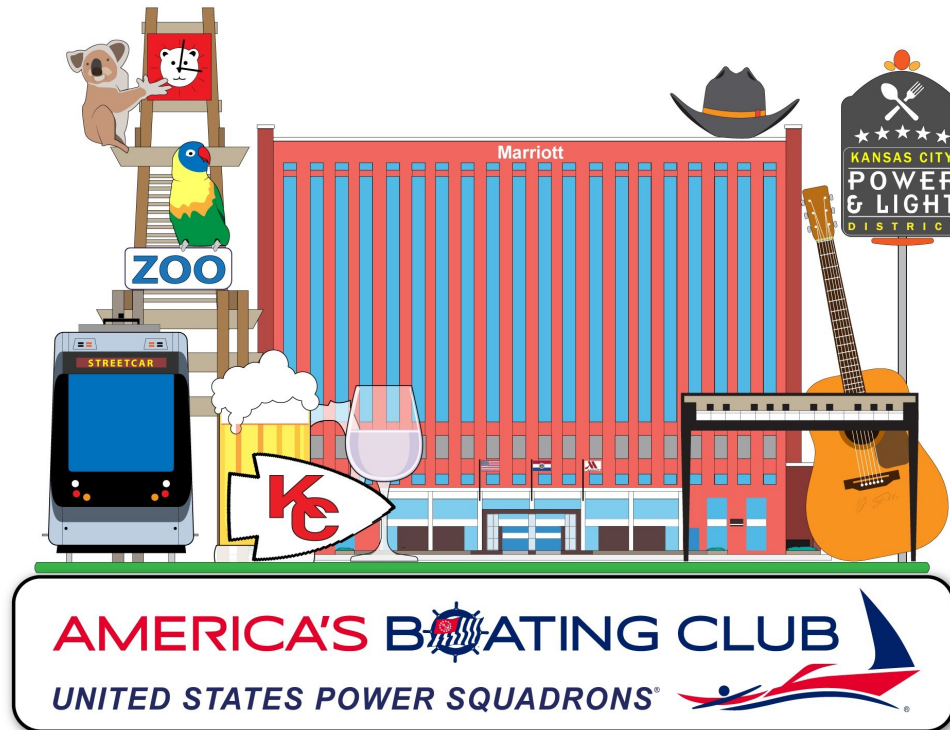
### **Inexpensive and expandable – The MuVIT boating simulator.**

Tired of expensive boating simulators that just don't have all the functions, controls, and capabilities you need or want? Do you need more types and sizes of boats including sail, PWC's, trawlers, or cruisers? Better instrumentation such as fish finder type depth, a chart plotter, NMEA interface to OpenCPN? Need scenery that is real places with real data? If you answered yes then read on.

#### **So, what is the MuVIT boating simulator?**

Originally built as a tool to enhance the [Tampa Power Squadrons](#) (a unit of the [United States Power Squadrons](#)) [boating safety courses](#), the multi-vessel interactive trainer or MuVIT boating simulator was developed as a low-cost and easily transported boating simulator built with off-the-shelf components and software that you can purchase yourself to build your own simulator platform.

As currently implemented, Tampa's MuVIT boating simulator provides a full-featured simulated boating experience while maintaining a modest cost. Any size screen is supported as long as your computer can interface with it. The wheel and control panel/throttles can be packed into one small rolling case. The CPU is a commodity laptop that any squadron should have available, not an expensive gaming laptop. We currently run on an HP4540s i5 laptop, this model was new in 2010 and it performs just fine. Rather than retire that old laptop, repurpose it to be a boating simulator for boat shows or classroom demonstrations.



## Fall Governing Board August 27 - September 4, 2023 *Kansas City, Missouri*

**MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL:**

Thinking about a getaway? Why not consider merging business with pleasure? The Kansas City Marriott Downtown is extending its room rate discount for the 2023 Governing Board Meeting to include pre-meeting dates starting on August 27 and including Labor Day, September 4, for your visit to Kansas City. The Marriott Downtown is within walking distance to many of the area’s well-known destinations: the Kansas City Power & Light District, Kansas City Music Hall and T-Mobile Center as well as the City Market of Kansas City, the Missouri River and the Arabia Steamboat Museum. Love Baseball? We have tickets for the August 29 MLB Kansas City Royals vs. Pittsburgh Pirates game! Take a look at all Kansas City has to offer and consider making the 2023 Governing Board Meeting your family destination—with time for both business and pleasure! [—Rich Frenz](#)

Reservations are open for the convention. Click on national meetings on the member home page and reserve your hotel room.

The convention hotel is the Kansas City Marriott Downtown, 200 W. 12th Street, Kansas City Mo. Room rate is \$189 per night for a standard double queen room. The block starts on 27 August and you can extend through labor day, September 4th, if you wish to spend more time in Kansas City. At this time there is no information available for tours and meetings. National will post more information as it becomes available.



# TRIDENT

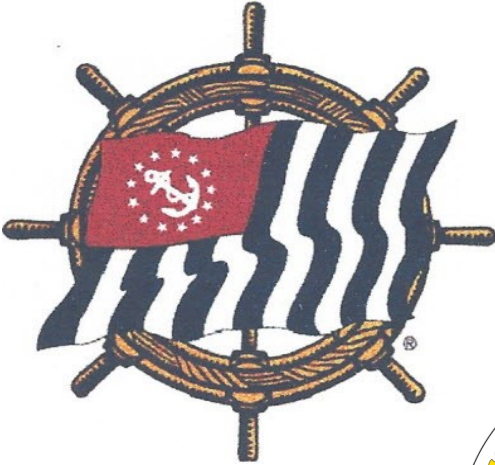
District 20, unit of United States Power Squadrons®

**FROM:**

P/Stf/C Pat Antoni, SN  
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## First Class Mail



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