

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
For Boaters, By Boaters®



*Helmsman June 2023
Volume 63
Issue No. 2*

The Peralta Helmsman

www.peraltasquadron.org

“WHY WEARING A LIFE JACKET IS COOL” Will Be First Video to Premiere

Raleigh, NC, 1 June 2023 – 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**, was premiered on Fire TV, Roku, and YouTube, as well as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and other

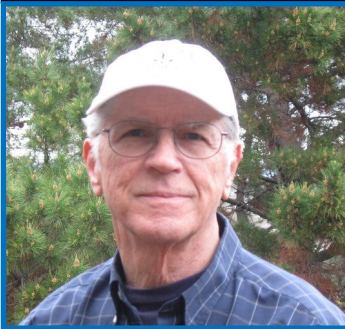
Continued on Page 3

Also in this Issue:

- Messages from our Commander and Bridge Officers
- District 25 Summer Rendezvous Flyer on Page 6
- California Boater Card on Page 4
- America’s Boating Club Information Center Explained on Page 7
- Those were the Days by P/C Melba Hale, P on Page 5

Educational Officer's Report

R/C NORM PENNINGTON, SN-ON



Not much has occurred over the past six months, however I am happy to report that we completed America's Boating Course for Alan Smith, Barbara Waldstreicher and Judy Pennington, all passing with flying colors

and now having qualified for and applied for their California Boater Card. Remember, starting in January 2025 everyone operating a boat or supervising an underage minor will be required to have I their possession a California Boater Card (CBC). We will be holding another America's Boating Course starting Wednesday, October 4th on Free Conference Call. This is your chance to qualify for the CBC.

Our newest members, Bruce and Vivian McBride have been taking the Marine Communications Course, which I expect will conclude shortly. I am sure that they will be wanting to take other courses, so as soon as I learn more, I will let everyone know. In the meantime, please let me know if there is a course or seminar that you are interested in taking.

For more than ten years I have been involved in the Boat Operator Certifier program, mostly serving as a Regional or Assistant Regional Director that covers the Pacific Southwest region of the United States, mainly covering California and Nevada. Recently, I was asked to chair the Boat Operator Certification Committee. I have been charged with getting the website and all of the documentation up to date. On this topic, the Sacramento Squadron is planning on hosting the Inland Navigator on the water certification event. This will occur over the summer and we are looking for members who may want to complete the IN passport, or any member who desires to get started with this program. If you have any interest, or have any questions, please contact me and I will provide answers as soon as possible.

Until next time, stay safe out on the water.

Administrative Officer's Report

By Lt/C Alan Smith, P



Winter time in the Bay Area is not usually the best time for boating. With the heavier than normal rain storms, this has reduced my boating opportunities even more. I haven't done any boating in months. So for this Helmsman article I'm digging very deep in other people's boating stories.

This sea story article took place back in the late 1950's to mid-1960's. You know when men were men and possibly not that smart. In this article note the safety hazards that was going on.

Back then if you needed a Delta speed boat, you didn't need to buy one. Just lay a couple of sheets of plywood on the driveway. Get a junk but running V-8 motor from the junkyard, build some motor mounts to mount the engine on the plywood. From there start building up the sides of the hull. A flat bottom boat with six-inch freeboard should be enough. Once the basic boat was built, then put some fiberglass over the seams, simple.

Oh, I might add. The propeller shaft was directly connected to the engine's flywheel. No transmission needed. When the engine was fired up, you took off NOW!!! No reverse. These boats were fast and cheap.

After a while of blasting up and down the Delta they got a little bored. One day someone thought, why not take a cruise from Monterey Bay to Berkley in our homemade flat bottom boat? At the time it sounded like a fun adventure.

Arrangements were made to trailer the boat to Monterey. After leaving the launch ramp they would be picked up at the Berkeley Marina. Two spare 5-gallon gas cans were all that was needed for

Administrative Officer's Report Continued on Page 4

Continued from Page 1

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 & CURES; TOWED SPORTS SAFETY; TYING DOCK LINES; INTRODUCING AIS; MARINE RADIO ETIQUETTE; NAVIGATING LOCKS; and BORDER CROSSING.

Smart TV viewers can subscribe to America's Boating Channel for free on Roku and FireTV. On Roku, viewers can select Store using their Roku remotes, click on Channels, search for Americas Boating Channel, and then add the channel. On FireTV, viewers can go to Apps on their FireTV Main Menu, search for Americas Boating Channel, select Get, and then download the app.

Online, the best way to view the videos is to subscribe at no charge to America's Boating Channel on YouTube,

About America's Boating Channel

America's Boating Channel™ is produced for United States Power Squadrons®

(USPS) by Lafferty Media Partners (LMP) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The service features professionally produced, high-definition, safe boating and boater education videos, along with boating themed entertainment and informational television programs. America's Boating Channel has been recognized with the National Boating Industry Safety Award as the 2021 Top Marine Media Outlet, and with the 2022 International Boating and Water Safety Summit Communication Award for the top Video Public Service Announcement (PSA) Series. AmericasBoatingChannel.com Media Contact

America's Boating Channel

Ron Jones, Public Relations Officer ron.jones@americasboatingchannel.com 919-225-0144



Administrative Officer's Report from Page 2

this cruise. Oh, by the way, no radio. It was summer time so no need to check the weather reports.

Within 20-minutes after leaving the dock they realized that the two of them were way over their heads to continue. Since the truck and trailer had already left for Berkeley, there was no reason to return. So they pushed on in the rough seas.

Waves were splashing over the 6-inches of free-board. The Delta boat did not have a bilge pump. For that matter there was not any bailing devices on board. The sailors resorted to bailing water with their tennis shoes. Needless to say this was a long miserable trip.

Navigating became problematic because they could not see over the tall swells. With no compass they needed to stay relatively close to shore as not to get lost.

As the boat turned eastward toward the Golden Gate Bridge the last 5-gallons of gas was put in the gas tank. A short time later they cruised into the Berkeley Marina soaking wet from head to toe and very tired.

Sometime later all the metal fittings rusted.

Sounds like an adventurous trip that I missed. Then again, I'm surprised that they even made it.

California Boater Card

Did you know that the California Boater Card (CBC), is required for every boat operator 45-years and younger? However, starting in January 2023 the age was be increased to 50-years and younger. Additionally, every boat operator regardless of age supervising a child 12 to 15-years of age must have the CBC. You ask, who is checking if one has a CBC? I'm told that state and local authorities such as the county sheriff is checking when stopping a boat for safety compliance. The Coast Guard may or may not check as they are more concerned with compliance with Coast Guard regulations. One way to qualify for a CBC is to have taken the America's Boating Course after January 2018. As your squadron educational officer I am prepared to present the America's Boating Course to members at a very small cost to cover mailing of materials. Presentation of the course will be via Free Conference Call, so members will not need to travel to the classroom. Drop Norm a line if you are interested. Remember, the first offence for not having the California Boater Card is a \$100 fine.



Proper care of life jackets ensures they will work when needed. Plus, fresh clean life jackets are more attractive to wear and desirable for people to use while underway on your boat. Videos are available that offer an overview of the importance of wearing and caring for your life jacket. America's Boating Channel™ produced these videos to help viewers learn that it only makes sense to treat your life jacket as though your life depends on it.

Watching videos like "[Life Jacket Care](https://youtu.be/iEofd6mUwN4)" (<https://youtu.be/iEofd6mUwN4>) is an excellent way to understand how to properly care for your life jacket. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like and subscribe to [America's Boating Channel on YouTube](#) as a fun and educational introduction to what our organization has to offer. This video and more also are available via America's Boating Channel on-demand app on Roku or FireTV.

What is ahead on the Calendar:

- June 12** **Executive Committee Meeting—7:00 p.m.**
All members welcome via Zoom
- July 21-23** **District 25 Rio Vista Rendezvous**
- August 14** **Executive Committee Meeting—7:00 p.m.**
All members welcome via Zoom
- September 11** **Executive Committee Meeting—7:00 p.m.**
All members welcome via Zoom
- October 4** **America's Boating Course—7:00 p.m.**
Virtual course on Free Conference Call

Those were the days by P/C Melba Hale, P

Many of us have owned more than one boat during our lifetime and each vessel has provided occasions for wonderful memories. Pictured below are just a few of friends' boats that I have had the privilege to enjoy over the years, and sadly, the boats now have new owners. Also shown is my last boat.



Recently, I participated in a discussion with other Squadron mates regarding why we loved our boats. This is what I shared:

WHY I LOVED MY BOAT

My boat, “*Sea Note*”, was a 34’ Sea Ray Sedan bridge. Twin screw; Upper and lower helm. The transom door to the cockpit provided easy boarding. Prior to owning *Sea Note* I had the pleasure of owning a 42’ Chris Craft Commander “*Leisure Lady*” was a wonderful 1969 ... but replacing parts became a bit difficult - such as ordering risers from New York - so I gave up 8’ of length and learned to enjoy being at the upper helm of a 34’ sedan bridge. The name and stern graphics on *Sea Note* were in place when I purchased her over 15 years ago. Those of us that read music would appreciate the significance of the graphics that showed a musical note on the third space of the staff, and in the treble clef that space is named “C” - and if you want to go even further with a play on words: the boat cost a “C note” and more.

- ◆ *Sea Note* had a very comfortable layout; master berth with privacy door in the bow; additional sleeping accommodations mid-ship on the folding settee and convertible sofa in the stern salon area. During warm weather cruises, some guests slept in the upper helm area. Not classified as a party boat, nevertheless, we had a lot of enjoyable times aboard *Sea Note*.
- ◆ *Sea Note* was easy to handle, so as a female captain I was not intimidated – except when docking. I never overcame the fear of damaging someone else’s boat while docking.
- ◆ There was a period of time when I was on board three or four nights per week and had all the comforts of home – even hot water for my boat bath or shower. Most of the time I had soft, peaceful music playing on the built-in stereo.
- ◆ *Sea Note* was a dependable vessel: regular maintenance and TLC contributed to that. I’m of the opinion that a well-cared-for vessel is a well-loved vessel – and vice versa. When you put forth effort – and elbow grease - in caring for your vessel, you just naturally become more attached.
- ◆ Just as in any given situation or relationship: if you have a personal interest and invest time in it, everything just gets better and better.
- ◆ I think my guests enjoyed being on board, too. I loved reading their comments written in the Guest Book.

Yes, I loved my boat ... and wept when she went away to another owner. But, who knows? ... I may have the privilege of owning another boat someday.

Mid-Summer Fling



Summer Cruise & Rendezvous

July 21-23, 2023

Hosted by Diablo Power Squadron



Friday July 21

The cruise officially begins on **Saturday**, but if you are free on Friday, Diablo will host an **informal get together** at the barbecue area of Delta Marina, for all us **early arrivers** – come join us at **1800**. There will be burgers and hotdogs, Potato salad & cookies, bottled water and soda.

After dinner enjoy a movie under the stars.

Delta Marina Harbor is located in Rio Vista on the Sacramento River just south of the Rio Vista Bridge. From the river, look for "The Point" restaurant sign. Marina is tucked in behind it.

Skippers, call 'Foot Loose' on VHF channel 71 before entering marina, for docking instructions/position. Be sure to include your boat's vital stats on the sign-in reservation form - attached.

Land Cruisers welcome, too. Rendezvous is for all squadron members in D25 to come & play.

Saturday July 22

Diablo will be the host squadron and has planned an exciting and enjoyable weekend for us.

At 1330 the **Squadron Competitions Photo Scavenger Hunt**

Cocktail hour begins at **1700** (bring your own). Dinner at **1800**

Menu

Roasted Chicken w/garlic sauce or Tri-Tip w/Chimichuri sauce
Roasted Red potatoes,
Green Salad, Dinner Roll
Assorted Cookies/Browniesr.

Following Dinner award for Squadron Competitions will be presented.

Sunday July 23

We will have a pot luck breakfast in the barbeque area, at **0900**, so please bring a dish to share.

At your leisure, head on back to your home port, practicing smart and safe boating all the way, of course.



Reservation Deadline is Tuesday, July 12

America's Boating Club Information Center Explained

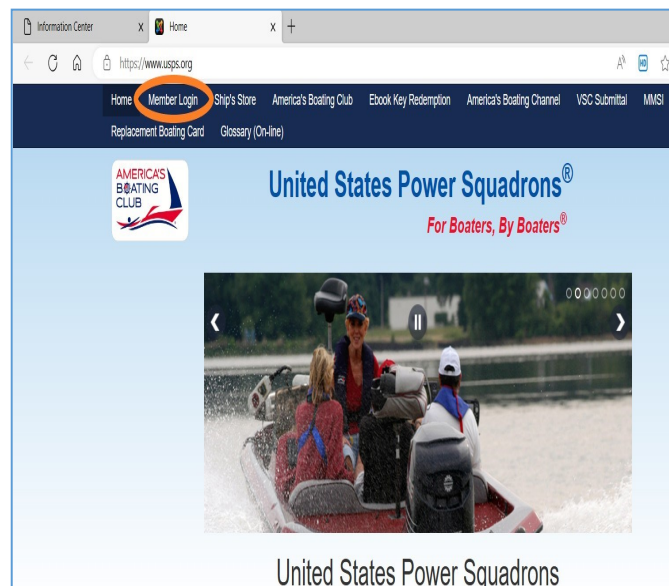
Printing or re-printing your membership certificate. Have you wondered what classes or seminars that you have taken, or perhaps any demographic information such as your contact information, or what volunteer positions you may be holding within our organization? Perhaps you are seeking information about squadron or district leadership. The answer to all of these questions can be found in the Information Center.

The Information center provides access to information about all members, squadrons, district and national officers and committees. What information you can view and modify is based on what jobs you hold at the squadron, district, and national levels. Additionally, members can only modify personal information such as an e-mail address, boat name, telephone number, etc.

The menu contains a Table of Contents with links to sections which cover different categories. The Information Center tools allow you to access, and

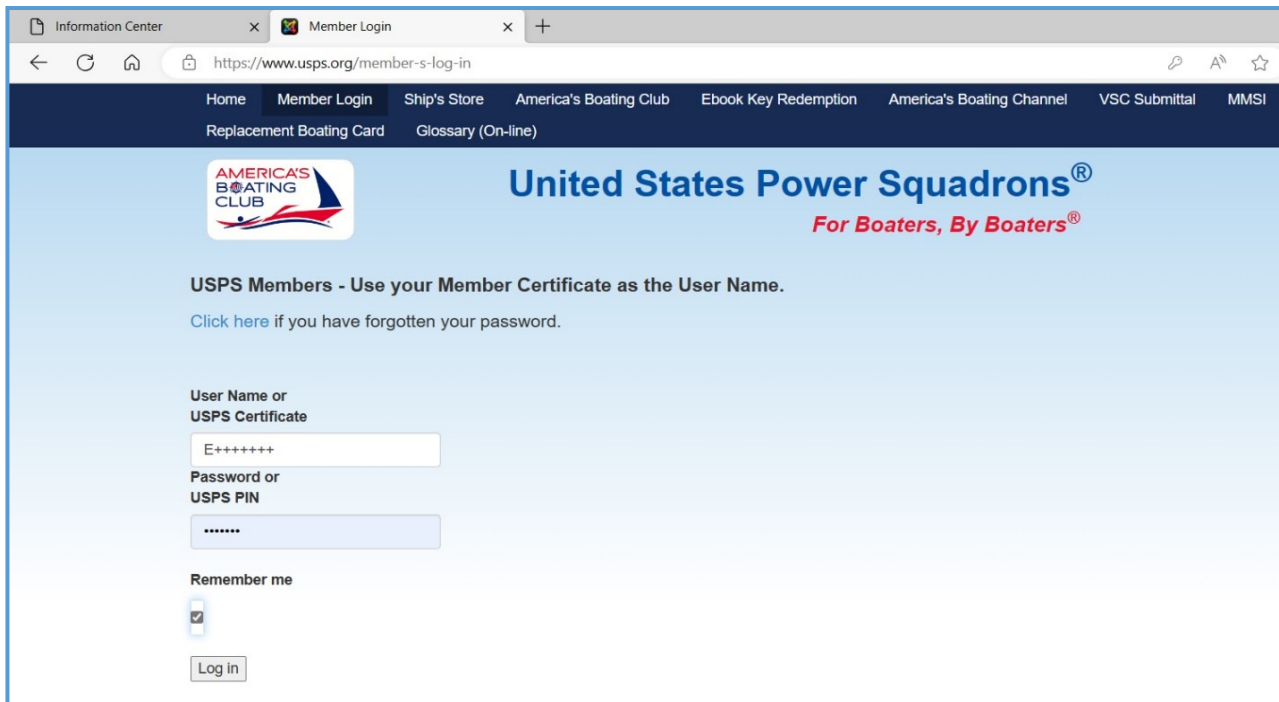
if authorized, update information contained in the USPS server data bases, and where appropriate, to update Head Quarter's databases.

To find the USPS Information center you must first login to the USPS website and find the Information Center. First, go to this website: <https://www.usps.org/> You should see the following screen:

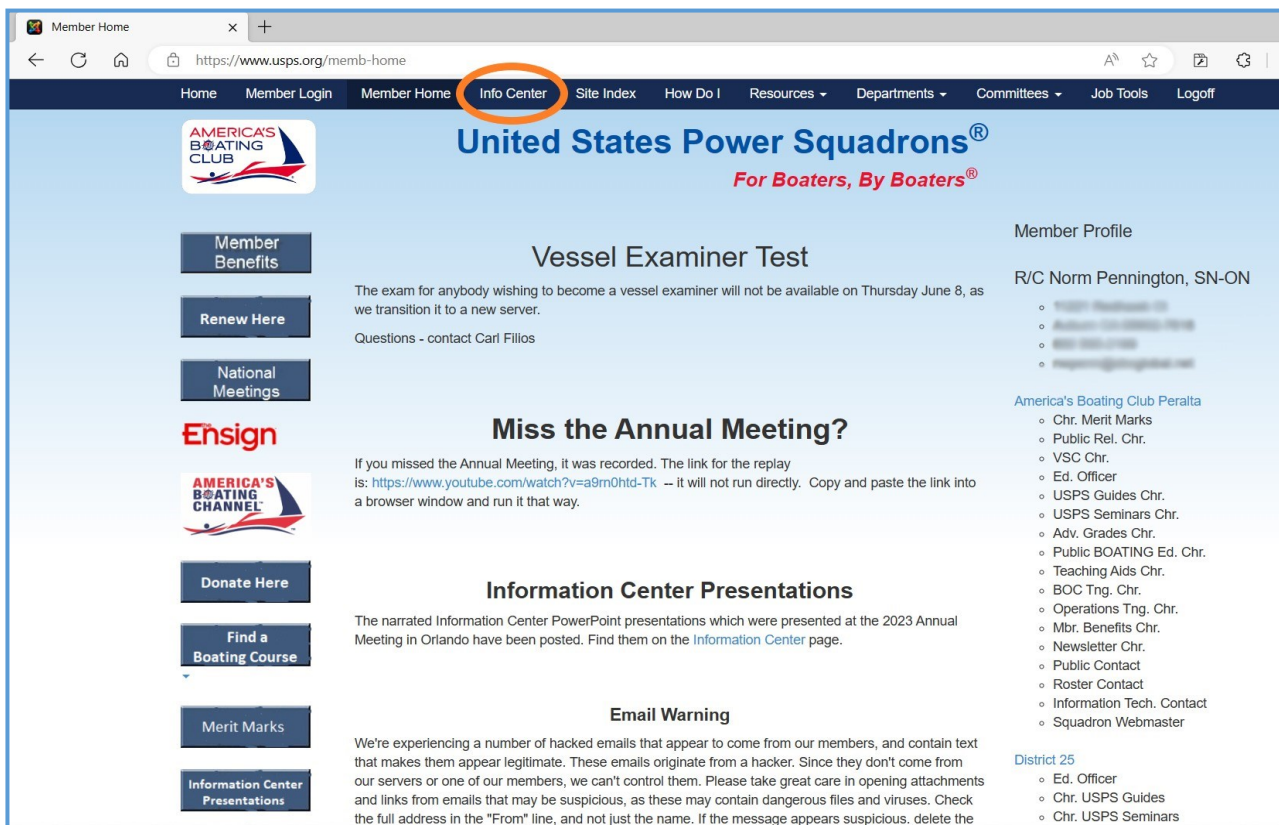


Pressing the Member Login tab will bring you to the screen on the following page:

Information Center Explained (Continued)



On this screen you will need to fill in your Certificate Number, usually starting with the letter E followed by six-digits. If you successfully entered your Certificate Number and Password or Pin, you will see your home screen similar to this one.



Information Center Explained (Continued)

At the top of the screen, click on the “Info Center” tab and you will see the following screen:

MENU 0★ed

Close Menu

Information Center Table of Contents

[Security](#)
[My Information](#)
[Organization](#)
[Contacts](#)
[Membership](#)
[Mail Tools](#)
[ED & TR Tools](#)
[Other Tools](#)
[Links](#)

[Open a new tab](#)

Click on a **+** to expand or a **-** to shrink a menu section.

Quick Picks

- [Find Members by Name or Certificate](#)
- [Show Information about a Squadron or District](#)
- [Find a Job Holder](#)
- [Squadron Membership/Roster](#)
- [My Personal Profile](#)

[Return to Contents](#)

Pins & Security **+**

My Info **+**

Welcome to the ITC Information Center
How to Use

You are logged on as Norm Pennington

The Information Center provides tools designed for member use. Links to tools are found on the menu that appears when you click on the **menu icon** anywhere on the page.

If you are new to the Information Center it is highly recommended that you read the "How to Use" by clicking on that button.

IC Recent Update log

- Generation of Course Completion Information for Course Query rewritten. 8/22/2022.
- Added the ability to treat Seamanship and Boat Handling as the same on the Course Completion Query. 8/22/2022.
- **NEW** Added the ability to treat Piloting and Marine Navigation as the same on the Course Completion Query. 4/1/2023.
- **NEW** As part of restructuring added district jobs: CH Budget/Finance; CH Auditing; CH Meetings/Conferences; Aide to DC; ADXO; Aide to DXO; Aide to DEO; ADAO; Aide to DAO; ADSec; Aide to DSec; ADTr; Aide to DTr. 4/12/2023.
- Planned: Rewrite the squadron/district roster process.

[Download the Spring 2021 "Understanding the Information Center" Presentation](#)
[Download the Fall 2021 "Information Center Update" Presentation](#)
[Download the Spring 2022 "Information Center Update" Presentation](#)
[Download the Fall 2022 "Information Center Update" Presentation](#)
[Download the Spring 2023 "Information Center Basics-Part1" Presentation](#)
[Download the Spring 2023 "Information Center Basics-Part2" Presentation](#)
[Download the Spring 2023 "Information Center Basics-Part3\(IC Mobile\)" Presentation](#)
[Download the Spring 2023 "Information Center Advanced-Part1\(OD1/OD2\)" Presentation](#)
[Download the Spring 2023 "Information Center Advanced-Part2\(Membership Queries\)" Presentation](#)
[Download the Spring 2023 "Education/Training Queries" Presentation](#)

Any problems can be addressed to the Author at danb@usps.org

On this screen click on “My Personal Profile” and you will see the following screen.

Managing your Personal Information
From the Website and the HQ Data Bases

[Definitions and Information](#) on Grades, Ranks and Achievement awards
[Email Status - Definitions and Processing](#)
[About Member Information Display Options](#)
[Show training history](#)

You have a BOC Passport Record - [View](#)

HQ102 Change this member's Name or Report them Deceased.

Checking for newer HQ Data.
 Phone2,0000000000,00
 Fax,00.
Newer HQ Data was found and applied to the Website.

Updates to your information may be made by entering changes in those data fields which accept changes. For any other data, contact the "squadron roster contact" listed below.

The contact for your squadron to make updates is:
 Your Roster contact, Norm Pennington, with email address: Norm@usps.org

Rank Display Option Current HQ Enhanced
Grade Display Option HQ Proficiency Enhanced

Certificate Name
Nick Name
Nick Preference Yes No
Use Nick Name on displays Yes No

From this screen, click on “Show Training History” and you will be presented with the following screen.

Information Center Explained (Continued)

Training History
[How to Use](#)

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
 For Boaters, By Boaters™


Information Center

[Definitions and Information](#) on Grades, Ranks and Achievement awards

Certificate **EDDEPT**
Name Norman W. Pennington
Grade: SN-ON
Joined 08/14/1985
Squadron#: **430**
SQ Name: Peralta Sail & Power Squadron
District: 25
Member for: 40 Years **Life Member**
Merit Marks: 37
Last MM: 2022
[Print last Merit Mark Certificate](#)

[Show BOC Passport](#)

To print an Educational Department Completions Certificate, click on a highlighted abbreviation in the first column.

 [Print an Eddept "All Completions Certificate"](#)

Classes

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|-------|----------------------|
| AP | 09/1987 | Class | Advanced Piloting |
| BC | 04/24/2013 | Class | Basic Boating Course |
| CP | 02/2000 | Class | Cruising Planning |

On this screen, click on Print an Eddept “All Completions Certificate.” You will be presented with a listing similar to the one on the following page.

Information Center Explained (Continued)



Older members may remember that when completing courses or seminars they would receive stickers representing the completed course to apply to their certificate. The term when one has completed all courses was called a Full Certificate. Lots of other information is available

2023-24 Bridge

Commander:

Cdr Nicholas J. Pack, JN

Executive Officer:

Lt/C Ricardo L. Mares, P

Educational Officer:

R/C Norm Pennington, SN-ON

Administrative Officer:

Lt/C Alan Smith, P

Secretary:

Lt/C Barbara Waldstreicher, JN

Treasurer:

D/Lt/C Judy Pennington, P

Assist Educational Officer:

1st/Lt Rick Erickson, SN-IN

General Committees

Auditing

P/C Janis K. Chapman, AP

Susan Ann Holmes, S

P/Lt/C Fred Holmes, AP

Nominating

P/Lt/C Josette Mares, S

P/C Melba J. K. Hale, P

Rules

RC Norman W. Pennington, SN-ON

Lt/C Alan Smith, P

Lt/C Ricardo L. Mares, P

THE PERALTA HELMSMAN

Peralta Sail and Power Squadron
11221 Redhawk Ct.
Auburn, CA 95602-7616



Commander's Comments



As Covid restrictions have come to an end, and the rain has stopped, hopefully this will give us more opportunity to have squadron

gatherings.

For those who enjoy spending time out on the water, being knowledgeable about boating safety is of the utmost importance, due to the rise of recreational boating. It is more important than ever to understand the rules and regulations of boating and how to stay safe while on the water. Fortunately, for those looking to expand their knowledge, the U.S. Power Squadrons is an excellent choice.

Along with our safety programs we can have other events like picnics in other marinas, field trips to nautical venues. If crab is available and the price isn't too high, then maybe we could have a crab feed.

Graciously Norm and Judy Pennington vol-

unteered their home for a picnic on June 24th. Hopefully you will be able to attend.

In closing, I am in hopes in the near future we can have a venue to have classes, meetings and social activities.



Peralta Helmsman

Published in March, May, September and December



D/Lt/C Norm Pennington, SN, Editor
650-595-2169 or
nwpenn@sbcglobal.net
Quarterly publication
of Peralta Sail and Power Squadron
San Leandro, California