

# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

For Boaters, By Boaters®




## THE DRUM

A Publication of the Finger Lakes Chapter

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editor@abc-flx.org

### From The Commander

By Jim McGinnis, AP      SV Brewster

#### View from the Bridge

Year-end 2021 is fast approaching – but obviously not the end for the pandemic as yet. Lynne and I flew to Nassau in the Bahamas last week and had a great visit. They require vaccination and a current antigen test result. I saw several cruise ships in the harbor, so the business is coming back to the island. I'll put together a quick article about our adventures. Yes, we went swimming with pigs!

#### Slate of Officers

We are doing well filling the open seats on the Squadron Bridge for 2022. We are still actively searching for a person to take the Executive Officer Role. This position is similar to a Vice President role in working with the Commander and coordinating specific projects or tasks. If you have some time to commit to it, you'll find it's rewarding to make a difference. Contact me or Phil Cherry.



#### 2022 Change of Watch

We will be having our Change of Watch (CoW) membership meeting virtually at 1PM on January 16<sup>th</sup>. District 6 Commander Rick Hibbs will officiate.

Please mark your new 2022 calendar. Should be a nice afternoon and a chance to meet (online) and

#### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual Change of Watch is the Power Squadron version of an Annual Meeting that all corporations are required to have. The details of the ABC-FLX Change of Watch can be found beginning on page 3.

Please try to attend!

congratulate the new Bridge Officers.

### Other Chapter Activity

Tom Alley (our Webmaster) has completed an update to the Squadron Website. This is a new site and addresses many of the maintenance and security issues that have been cause for concern over the past year. Please, take a look when you get a chance.

[WWW.ABC-FLX.org](http://WWW.ABC-FLX.org)

Our Chapter now has a second Life Jacket Tree completed with some new lifejackets purchased for the 2022 boating season. Phil Cherry got all the elements of the stand completed with a metal work firm and the Watkins Glen Parks Dept. completed the installation of the base. These life jackets get quite a bit of use during the season. A concerned citizen added a dog lifejacket last year to the Clute Park Tree - so that's available also.

### District Fall Conference

Lynne and I attend the District Meeting in Rochester on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. The District meeting was sponsored by the Rochester Squadron and chaired by D/C Rick Hibbs, SN. USPS National Representative Ralph Bernard, AP, discussed the efforts to streamline and consolidate Power Squadron operations. They are

considering reducing the number of Districts and increasing the geographical area. This is an ongoing discussion at the national level. [See the article on *Organizational Restructuring* later in this issue. – Ed.]

Additionally, our ABC-FLX Chapter was well represented by Tom Alley, Katie Alley, Mike Crouse, and me. We presented a summary of our travels on Long Island Sound and the Sam Weatherill Ocean Race last summer.

I was surprised and very honored to receive the District 6 Chapman Award at the meeting. The Chapman Award is given for excellence and commitment in Boating Education.

As you know I feel the future of our organization is growing the skills of our members and instructors and providing the best boating education available. In 2021, we initiated the Boat Operator Certification Program in our Chapter and certified instructors and students with help from Paul and Maxine Flagg of the Ithaca Squadron. I can't thank SEO, Charlie Fausold enough for his effort and follow-thru that made this possible. Please join me in thanking these individuals when you see them.

- Jim, SV Brewster  
[co@abc-flx.org](mailto:co@abc-flx.org)

### The Drum

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# 2022 Change of Watch

By Jim McGinnis, SN-IN

SV Harmony

From the Commander:

The Annual Meeting and Change of Watch of the Finger Lakes Chapter of America's Boating Club will be Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, beginning at 1:00PM. Due to concerns over the rapidly spreading Omicron variant, we will conduct the meeting online using Free Conference Call. Our agenda for the meeting appears below and the important login information is repeated here:

- <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/abc-flx>
- Online meeting ID: abc-flx
- Dial-in number (US): (605) 472-5637
- Access code: 766344#

On behalf of the Bridge and Executive Committee, we invite you all to attend the meeting.

USPS District 6 Commander Rick Hibbs will preside.

Also attached is the proposed slate of candidates for election to the Bridge and executive and other committees. As a member of the organization, you may vote on the slate of candidates during the meeting.

Please join us and welcome your new officers to their positions on the Bridge.

- Jim

[commander@abc-flx.org](mailto:commander@abc-flx.org)



## America's Boating Club – Finger Lakes Chapter

(Seneca Sail & Power Squadron)

62<sup>ND</sup> CHANGE OF WATCH - 1 PM SUNDAY, JANUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2022



### Virtual Meeting on FCC

- <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/abc-flx>
- Online meeting ID: abc-flx
- Dial-in number (US): (605) 472-5637
- Access code: 766344#

### Agenda

1300 HRS - Meeting Called to Order	CDR James McGinnis, SN-IN
Invocation	P/C Mark Erway, AP
Pledge of Allegiance	Katie Alley, P
Introductions:	CDR James McGinnis, SN-IN
D/6 Commander	
Executive Committee	
Past Commanders	
Squadron Reports 2022	CDR James McGinnis, SN-IN
Membership	P/C Mark Erway, AP
Education	P/C Charles Fausold, SN-IN
Audit Committee Report	Lt/C Denis Kingsley, S

1320 HRS Election of Bridge Officers	D/C Richard E. Hibbs, SN
Election of Officers, Nominating and Audit Committee Members	
Pledge of Commander	
Pledge of Bridge Officers and Executive Committee	
1330 HRS D/6 Commander's Message	D/C Richard E. Hibbs, SN
1345 HRS Commander's Message	CDR Phillip Cherry, AP
1350 HRS Adjournment	CDR Phillip Cherry, AP

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## Nominations for 2022 ABC-Finger Lakes Chapter

### Bridge and Executive Committee

The Nominating Committee Chair proposes the following nominees for 2022:

#### *Bridge Positions:*

Commander – Philip Cherry, AP

Executive Officer – *Open*

Educational Officer – James McGinnis, SN-IN

Assistant Educational Officer – Jim Morris, JN

Assistant Educational Officer – Katie Alley, P

Administrative Officer – Maggie Martin

Secretary – Andrew Price

Treasurer – Marcia Taylor, AP

#### *Standing Committee Chairs*

2022 Nominating Committee – James McGinnis, SN-IN

2022 Audit Committee - Lt/C Denis Kingsley, S

#### *Executive Committee:*

P/C	P/C James McGinnis SN-IN	Member	Lt Thomas Taylor, AP
Member	P/C Mark Erway, AP	Member	D/Lt/C Thomas Alley, SN-IN

## Past Commanders of Seneca Sail & Power Squadron

1960 & 1961	* Robert D. Maloney, JN	1988	Ronald S. Stalford, AP
1962	* Harold K. Glasser, N	1989	David E. Jessup, AP
1963	* Clifford W. Swain, P	1990	Joan R. Eggers, AP
1964	* James A. Davenport, JN	1991	Gary C. Weber, AP
1965	* Michael Wagner, JN	1992	Leslie R. White, AP
1966	* Gilbert L. Dann, S	1993	Howard W. Stasch, AP
1969	Robert W. Sparrow, N	1994	* Linda S. Weber, P
1967	* Robert W. Draper, JN	1995	Dene Kimball, P
1970	* Bryon N. Gregg, N	1996	Thomas K. Stantz, JN
1971	William L. Schwab, N	1997	Bruce A. Layton, P
1972	* Michael Mangano, AP	1998	Merrill F. Sproul, SN
1973	* John W. Mills, N	1999	Kathleen M. Healy, P
1974	* Richard H. Sachs, N	2000	Peter Honsberger, P
1975	* Billy Douglass, N	2001	* Lauren W. Lodge, S
1976	* Lyman H. Howe, JN	2002	Marian A. Rutty, P
1977	* James A. Davenport, JN	2003	Scott H. Satterlee, AP
1978	Arthur Wolfe, Jr., AP	2004	Richard Palmieri, S
1979	William L. Belles, AP	2005	Merrill F. Sproul, SN
1980	H. Allen Russell, JN	2006 - 2008	Russell C. Dibble, JN
1981 & 1982	Glenn E Boyce, AP	2009 - 2011	Terry L. Stewart, JN
1983 & 1984	* Stanley H. Patten, N	2012 - 2014	Charles J. Fausold, SN
1985	* Robert B. Chamberlin, AP	2015 - 2018	Mark A. Erway, AP
1986 & 1987	Creighton J. Miller, AP	2019 - 2021	James E. McGinnis, SN

\* Deceased

# From the Executive Officer

By Phil Cherry, S

SV Harmony

## Don't Wait!



I've been fully retired for almost a year. Its hard to believe, but I'm busier now than I was when I was

working! You hear people say that a lot, and now I know, that for me, it's true. It's not a good thing or a or bad thing, it's just busier. Why is that?

The concept of "retirement", or the practice of leaving one's job or ceasing to work after reaching a certain age has been around since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The origin of the word "retire" is from the French word *retirer* or *to draw back*, often to a place of safety or seclusion. This usage dates back to the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century. It wasn't until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century that private business and governments began to adopt retirement programs for their workers. The federal retirement system wasn't started until 1920... just over 100 years ago. Not that long ago.

My point is that I believe that government, business, and the French got it all wrong in using the word and what it really means. I believe the correct definition of "retire" is to leave one's business or occupation and to do

what they really want to do. It's perfect, right? No wonder you're busier after you retire...you're doing what YOU want to do. It just so happens that most people can't make as much money doing what they really want to do, as opposed to doing something they went to college for, or that they have been trained in, or that came through a family business or whatever pathway we follow in our careers. We need that money to put bread on the table and that yacht in the slip, so we step into the work world, earn our stripes, and make enough money to provide for our family and hopefully retire early..., so we can do what we really want to do before our body gives out! It's simple. And that's where you come in.

Our ABC-FLX leadership team is, as of this writing, without a nominee for the role of Executive Officer (XO). Our Change of Watch meeting (where the leadership team is reappointed for the upcoming calendar year) is January 16, 2022 (see the details here) and we've been having a tough time recruiting for the XO job. Our organization's bylaws state "...The **executive officer** shall: (1) assist the commander; (2) have general supervision of the Executive Department as directed by the membership, the commander, or the Executive Committee; (3) be an *ex officio* member of all committees of the

Executive Department; and (4) in the temporary absence or incapacity of the commander, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the commander." Upon careful reading, there's not a lot there. Lots of authority, but not a lot of real work. I've been the EO for the last year and can attest to the workload, or ease thereof. What's often underscored by folks I approach about the position is that there is a chance the XO may need to take over the Commander's role, if, God forbid, the Commander is somehow incapacitated for an extended period and the XO is then pressed into service as the Commander. I don't know that that has ever happened, and hopefully never will, but I recognize that's a concern for most folks.

What does the recruitment of an XO have to do with your retirement you ask? If you have been thinking about getting involved in a non-profit or some other civic minded group after you retire, I'm here to tell you not to wait! Do it today! If you're likely to be busier after you retire, then it's at least arguable that must have some extra time now to devote to your favorite organization, ABC-FLX! Can we sign you up?

- Phil

[xo@abc-flx.org](mailto:xo@abc-flx.org)

## From the Education Director

By Charlie Fausold, SN-IN

### Looking Forward: Upcoming Courses



Three courses are scheduled for the immediate future.

Instructor

Development begins January 6<sup>th</sup> in Montour Falls, Marine Navigation begins March 3<sup>rd</sup>, also in Montour Falls, and America's Boating Course (ABC) begins March 10<sup>th</sup> in Waterloo. We have a good group signed up for Instructor Development, but there is room for one or two more.

We are also planning to teach a Sail class beginning in the April timeframe. This class will have a mix of classroom and on-the-water instruction.

### Looking Back: Reflections

I would like to use the remainder of this space to reflect a bit. At the Change of Watch in January I will be stepping down as Director of Education, and Jim McGinnis will assume the role, one he has held before with distinction. I am not going anywhere and will still be involved with our club in several capacities, but after 10 years

or so on the Bridge as Commander, SEO, ASEO and XO it is time to move aside and make room for somebody else with fresh ideas and new energy.

I first joined the Seneca Sail and Power Squadron as it was emerging from a "near-death" experience resulting from weak leadership and declining participation. A small group of individuals – some of whom remain active in club affairs today - stepped forward to fill the breach and set the course for future growth. Which has happened. Guided by the Strategic Plan we adopted in 2014, ABC-FLX today is one of the strongest and most active squadrons in District 6. A major impetus for our success has been a robust education program (guided and nurtured over the years by Tom Alley and a cadre of excellent instructors) and a capable and dedicated Executive Committee.

Whether it is intensive courses or focused seminars, vessel safety checks and life jacket loaner trees, boat operator certification and social events on and off the water, we do a lot for a relatively small organization. Just within the past three years our education program has evolved from one that was centered on ABC and a set rotation of 8-week intensive courses to an array of in-person classes

and seminars, distance learning, self-paced online courses, YouTube videos, e-books and webinars. This past year we took our first steps towards shared instruction with other squadrons, and our on-the-water focus (when feasible) remains a cornerstone. Our award-winning website and newsletter, along with our Facebook page and timely public service announcements, help spread the word about what we are up to and attract new members.

I extend my appreciation and gratitude to all those who have helped teach classes, donated use of their boats for on-the water instruction, helped with publicity, or processed financial, membership and other transactions in support of our work.

Our Bridge and Executive Committee for 2022 will have a mix of veteran leadership and fresh faces, a new group of Certified Instructors will join the ranks by the time we start to think about spring launching, and several new Boat Operator Certifiers are ready to hit the water. I am looking forward to an even better and brighter future for ABC-FLX!

- Charlie

[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)

## Water Lines

By Glenda Gephart, Public Relations Officer

### Book Review



A new book came into our home as an early Christmas gift: “*Catch the Spirit ... Boating or Other.*” In this book, published

in 1997, Philadelphian Molly F. Walter writes about her houseboat experiences on Canadian waterways including the Thousand Islands, Trent-Severn and Rideau Canal.

Our family can relate. In 2004, we rented a houseboat with plans to cruise the Rideau system for a week. Our intentions were thwarted by a strike of the lock masters, but we still had an enjoyable and memorable time between locks in the Big Rideau section of the system.

Walter’s book will bring back some good memories and some laughs. With humor, she writes about “her adventures (and misadventures) but she also guides readers through basic navigation, lock passages, and travel information with side vignettes on

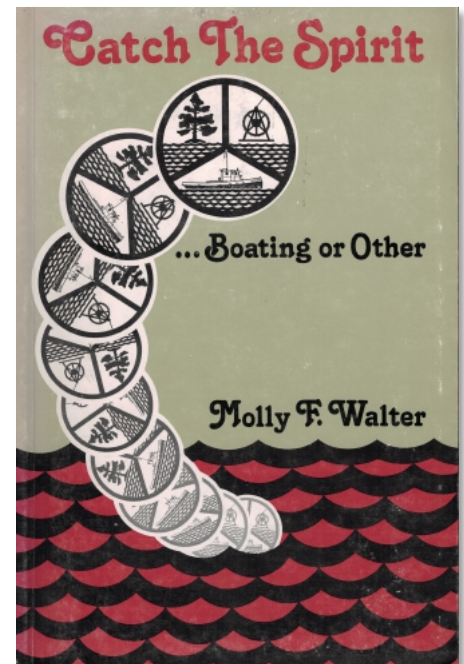
rowing, swimming, and snorkeling through hidden coves,” according to an online synopsis.

Just a few pages in, readers learn that Walter is beginning her houseboat cruising journey with no experience... on Labor Day weekend... in the St. Lawrence River. Wow! But she was hooked. (An online search tells me that Walter was in her 50s when she began boating.)

Appropriately, Walter credits U.S. Power Squadron courses for giving her the knowledge and confidence she would need as she continued to rent houseboats on the St. Lawrence. After four rental experiences, Walter buys her first boat, a 26-foot 1976 Yukon Delta with a 130-horsepower, Volvo Penta engine. When the book was published, she was captaining a second boat, a custom-built, 29-foot Cruisemaster 290.

Of getting the Cruisemaster, Walter writes about first impressions and apprehensions. Refusing to be overwhelmed, she writes, “The future would be dictated by U.S. Power Squadron’s engine maintenance, weather, and piloting courses.”

Chapters in the book use proper line handling rules as metaphorical subheads: “Knowing how to



care for line is more important to those on board than tying fancy knots.” “Soiled rope should be washed in clean water and dried thoroughly before storage.” “When rope has an old gray look and broken fibers it’s time to find another use.”

The book is described as a “nautical story with motivational overtones.” It will be a good read as a new year begins. Perhaps even motivation to consider trying that Rideau system vacation again.

- Glenda  
[pro@abc-flx.org](mailto:pro@abc-flx.org)



## Upcoming Classes & Seminars

### Instructor Development

This course deals with effective communication for speakers and teachers – a quality that benefits the individual in all walks of life. It offers practical instruction in: preparing for teaching assignments; preparing for meeting presentations; effective teaching techniques; conducting efficient meetings; and selecting and using audiovisual aids.

**Where:** Human Resource Center, Montour Falls, NY

**When:** Begins January 6<sup>th</sup>

**Course fee:** *FREE!*

**Instructor:** Charlie Fausold

### America's Boating Course (ABC)

An introductory course that will satisfy Brianna's Law requirements for New York State as well as put you on the path to becoming a more knowledgeable (and safer) boater.

**Where:** Waterloo, NY

**When:** Begins March 10<sup>th</sup>

**Course fee** \$45.

### Marine Navigation

Marine Navigation (currently offered as Piloting) is the first course in the sequence of USPS courses on navigation, covering the basics of coastal and inland navigation. This course focuses on navigation as it is done on recreational boats today and embraces GPS as a primary

navigation tool while covering enough of traditional techniques so the student will be able to find his/her way even if their GPS fails. The course includes many in-class exercises, developing the student's skills through hands-on practice and learning. Ten classes of two hours each normally are scheduled for presentation of this course. In addition, the students have seven days to complete the open book exam. Topics covered include:

- Charts and their interpretation
- Navigation aids and how they point to safe water
- Plotting courses and determining direction and distance
- The mariner's compass and converting between True and Magnetic
- Use of GPS – typical GPS displays and information they provide, setting up waypoints and routes, staying on a GPS route.
- Pre-planning safe courses and entering them into the GPS
- Monitoring progress and determining position by both GPS and traditional techniques such as bearings and dead reckoning
- The "Seaman's Eye" – simple skills for checking that one is on course.

**Where:** Human Resource Building, Montour Falls, NY.

**When:** Begins March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

**Course fee:** \$75

### Sail

A 9-week course with both classroom and on-the-water components.

Sail is a complete sail course created to serve the needs of the novice and experienced sailor, as well as the non-sailor, for basic skills and knowledge. The course starts with basic sailboat designs and nomenclature, rigging, safety, and sail processes and then tackles the physical aspects of sailing forces and techniques, sail applications, marlinespike, helmsmanship and handling of more difficult sailing conditions, navigation rules, and an introduction to heavy weather sailing. Appendices provide an introduction to sailboat racing and sailing in Canadian waters.

Course completion is documented by a closed book exam graded by USPS Headquarters.

**Where:**

- Classroom: Human Resource Building, Montour Falls
- On-the-Water: Watkins Glen Village Marina

**When:** Begins late April 2022

**Course fee:** \$80

**Lead Instructor:** Tom Alley

Class size will be limited to the number of students that can be accommodated on the boats used for teaching.

### How to Register

If you have questions about any of these courses, or better yet, if you wish to sign up, please contact:

Charlie Fausold  
[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)

or call 607-207-7771

Or you can go to the national web site ([www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)) and register under the “Find A Boating Class” tab on the member home page.

### Looking for Something?

The Finger Lakes Chapter of America’s Boating Club will be happy to accommodate requests for courses not currently on our schedule of formal offerings. If there is an area in which you would like to get some

instruction, please contact Charlie Fausold, the Chapter Education Director, with your request.

Available subjects for instruction can be found on the chapter web site:

[www.abc-flx.org](http://www.abc-flx.org)

## Long-Term Class Schedule

Seneca Education Department

BOC Level	Title	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Inland Navigator	Classes	ABC	X	X	X	X	X	
		Boat Handling		X		X		X
		Engine Maintenance	X					
		Marine Electrical Systems					X	
	Seminars	Using A Chart		X				
		VHF/DSC Radios		X				
		Using GPS	X					
		Basic Weather and Forecasting						X
	Skills	Basic Powerboat Handling	X					
		Fire Extinguishers						

BOC Level	Title	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Coastal Navigator	Classes	Marine Navigation		X		X	
		Marine Communication Systems				X	
		Weather		X			
	Seminars	Tides & Currents		X			
		Rules of the Road			X		
		Anchoring	X				
		Mariner’s Compass					X
	Skills	Coastal Nav	X				
		Pyrotechnics					

BOC Level		Title	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Advanced Coastal Navigator	Classes	Advanced Marine Navigation	X		X		X	
		Cruise Planning			X			
		Marine Navigation Systems				X		
		Radar			X			
	Sem.	Emergencies Onboard		X				
		Marine Radar			X			
	Skills	Advanced Coastal Nav		X				
		First Aid						

BOC Level		Title	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Offshore Navigator	C	Offshore Navigation	X				X	
	Sem.	Computer Weather Forecasting			X			
		Thunderstorms / Severe Weather			X			
	Skills	Offshore Navigation			X			
		CPR/AED						
Endorsmentss		Sail	X		X		X	
		Boating on Rivers, Locks, and Lakes						X
		Canadian Regulations				X		
		Paddlesmart	X			X		
Other		Instructor Development	X					
		Instructor Recertification			X		X	
		Operations Training	X					

**Table Key**

X = Planned

C = Completed

# USPS News: Local, District, National & More

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## New Member Welcome

Warmest welcome to our newest members!

- Bob & Nancy Sisbarro
- Lewis Chesebrough

---

## Happy Birthday!

Best wishes to Finger Lakes Chapter members who are celebrating their birthday in next couple of months.

### January

Katie Alley  
 Lewis Chesebrough  
 Mike Crouse  
 Maura Toole

### February

Billy Alley  
 Meg Cabezas  
 Dave Hursh  
 Dee Stafford

And we don't want to forget our neighbors in the Ithaca Sail & Power Squadron who are celebrating their birthdays:

---

## January

Auguste DuPlan  
 Maxine Flagg  
 James Graney

---

## New Web Sites Online

*By Tom Alley*

The District 6 web site has recently undergone a significant upgrade and is now online. Check it out at [www.USPSD6.org](http://www.USPSD6.org) and create your account on it today.

In a similar vein, the Finger Lakes Chapter has also had its web site updated. Although it looks very similar to the old site (that was intentional), a number of things that reside "under the hood" have been upgraded. Unfortunately, this means that, if you had login credentials on the old site, you must recreate a new account on the new site. Sorry!

Check out the upgraded site at [www.ABC-FLX.org](http://www.ABC-FLX.org).

- Your webmaster, Tom

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## Our Members in Print

Both the November/December 2021 and the January/February 2022 issues of *Good Old Boat* magazine ([www.GoodOldBoat.com](http://www.GoodOldBoat.com)) have articles by local member Tom Alley in their pages.

Tom has been a regular contributor to the magazine over the past several years, with the latest article being the eighth and ninth chosen for publication by *Good Old Boat*.

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## Got News?

*By Tom Alley, Editor*

Do you have any boating-related news or announcements? Contact your editor and have it printed here. We're happy to publicize anything of interest to our members, whether it's for the Seneca Squadron or one of our neighboring squadrons.

Contact Tom Alley:

[editor@abc-flx.org](mailto:editor@abc-flx.org)

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## A Recent Scouting Trip to Nassau

By Jim McGinnis

SV Brewster

For some time now I have been planning on sailboat cruising in retirement. I have built up sufficient boating skills through the Power Squadron and ASA Sailing to charter a boat just about anywhere. (In the Mediterranean Sea, skippers need a bareboat charter certification authenticated by an official and recognized organization, such as an **International Certificate of Competence (ICC)**. So, there are some requirements specific to the Med and I may take that on.)

Lynne and I have chartered boats in St. Petersburg, FL, Key West, Cape Coral, Ft Lauderdale, and the British Virgin Islands, some with charter boat captains and some bareboat. We have considered buying a boat for cruising - but where would we dock it? For now, we continue to enjoy traveling, figuring out a new area and planning a cruise in new waters.

Cruising guides abound and are extremely detailed on the availability of anchorages, dock

space and access to services. Port Captains can provide current information on changes in a local area.

Cruising is often known as the act of repairing boats in exotic locations at marina's you don't know, with contractors you don't know and limited access to parts. Boat charters eliminate a lot of that part of the equation and provide support during the charter but for an additional cost. That's the tradeoff. Getting to know the boat is also a trade-off. You also have about 12 hours to learn the intricacies and idiosyncrasies of the specific boat you are renting, before leaving the dock. So for now, we look at boats to buy and continue to charter during the off season while *S/V Brewster* is on the hard in Watkins Glen.



Photo 1: Our tour boat

This year we decided to look into Nassau as a site for chartering a boat in the future. Benefits of Nassau are: easy access flights from Florida and Atlanta, English is the primary language, they use US Dollars, and are set up for tourism. The colonial island has a seafaring (pirates) and British history since the 1600's. The Bahamas achieved their independence in 1973. Today, beautiful beaches and resorts surround the island with a hectic downtown in Nassau where cruise ships are able to dock in town.

Two reputable charter companies, Mooring's and Dream Yacht Charters, have boats located on the southeast corner of the island in Palm Cay. This is a charter base for the Exumas Islands which stretch all the way to Georgetown. There are catamarans and monohulls available, both of which have their benefits.

In mid-December, Lynne and I booked an AirBnB near Palm Cay and rented a car for a week

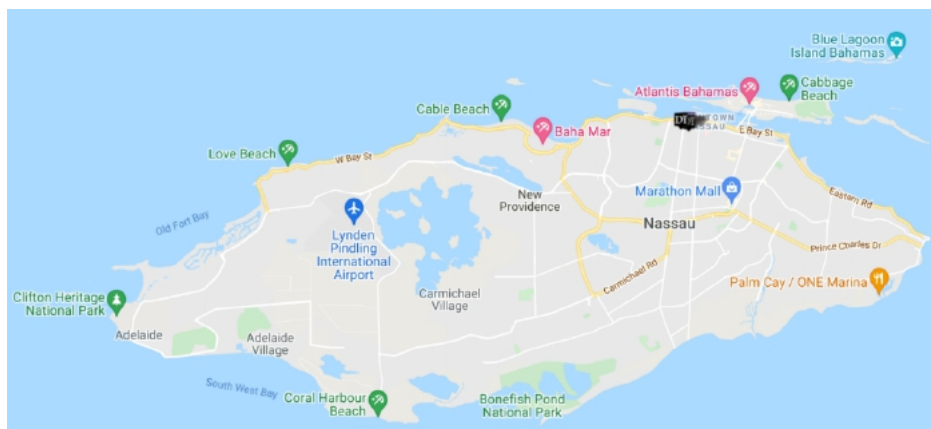


Figure 1: Nassau - We drove around the entire island – a left-hand drive.



*Photo 2: Unbelievably beautiful clear blue water and skies.*

to visit the island. The area is generally navigable water with numerous marinas and options for staying on the hook or on a dock when needed. Right near Palm Cay is a large new



*Photo 3: Visited the Swimming Pigs at Staniel Cay.*

supermarket and liquor store for essential provisions. We took a day trip on a fast power boat to Staniel Cay as part of the scouting process and had a great, but abbreviated, visit to the



*Photo 4: Until next time!*

Exumas. So, it looks like we will be back!

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# Organizational Restructuring

By the Reorganization Committee

*The national Board of Directors has formed an ad hoc committee to examine our organizational structure and operations to better serve our members and local Squadrons/Clubs. We are considering options that may include restructuring districts, forming regions, and/or improving services directly to Members from the national level. Please read the article below for more information.*

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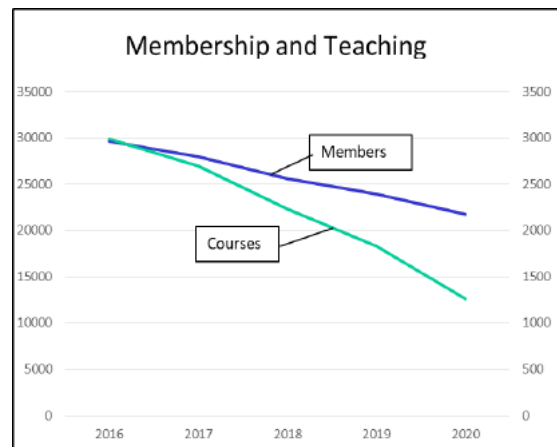
Our current organizational structure of Squadrons, Districts, and national leadership was created decades ago when we were a much larger organization, and we needed a hierarchical configuration for communication and coordination. Today however, total membership is much smaller, there are fewer Squadrons/Clubs and Districts, and telecommunications is far more advanced. Some Districts are no larger than Squadrons, Districts are consolidating, and too many Squadrons/Clubs dissolve each year. Commensurately, the number of educational courses completed continues to erode. A contributing factor is that our *modus operandi* has not kept pace with how today's boater learns, interacts with others, and depends on technology. As a result, we are challenged to recruit and retain members.

The Board of Directors has created a geographically diverse *ad hoc* group under the leadership of NXO Craig Fraser including

David Allen, Allan Bombard, John Crawford, Bob David, Myles Gee, Paul Mermelstein, and Ralph Ziegler. This committee presented ideas for restructuring America's Boating Club at the Virtual Annual Meeting in February, the Governing Board meeting in September, the DEO online meeting in October, and at various District conferences this Fall. As a work in progress, feedback was solicited and continues to roll in.

Predictably, there is some concern from members who enjoy participating in District and/or national activities and worry that we will lose that social interaction. Committee members understand; we have the same experiences and have made friends in our own Districts and at national events. It pains us to contemplate major organizational change, but we also recognize the following facts:

- Over 90% of our members have no relationship with, or interest in, District or national activities. They are



USPS National Board of Directors

served by their Squadrons/Clubs and want localized education, boating activities, and social interaction.

- It is from this 90%+ that we continue to lose most members. In fact, over half of all new Squadron/Club members leave within two years of joining.
- Every District has seen significant declines in both membership and courses taught.
- Very few Districts have the resources to help squadrons/clubs stem the losses.
- Over 25% of squadrons/clubs have less than 25 members and do not have robust programs.

We are carefully considering a range of major organizational and functional changes to improve the delivery of services in order to attract and keep members. We recognize that changing the organizational structure alone will not suffice. We also need to increase the volume, efficiency, quality, and communication of educational, boating, and social programs that we provide to our members. Our goals are to:

- Increase the attraction of America's Boating Club for both member recruitment and retention
- Meet the needs of members to keep them satisfied and engaged

- Preserve and strengthen squadron/club capabilities to serve their members
- Bolster the capabilities of local Squadrons/Clubs to market and teach boating education
- Where necessary, directly provide education to individual members such as cyber-members and Squadron/Club members who do not get adequate education locally
- Increase opportunities for members to participate in boating events and social activities
- Reduce red-tape and bureaucracy to streamline services, administration, and coordination
- Improve communication to Squadrons/Clubs and to all members

We recognize that, by definition, boating events and social activities must be localized. Active Squadrons/Clubs should be free to offer what they and their members want. However, many

Squadrons/Clubs do not boat much anymore and social activities are often limited to dinners and other gatherings. From our market research, member exit surveys, and common sense, we know that we need to have a much higher level of boating events and social activities to attract and keep members satisfied. Consequently, any organizational change must supplement local Squadron/Club event planning and the conduct of boating and social activities in locales that conveniently interest participants.

There is a range of options for addressing reorganization potentials, each with their pros and cons, including:

- Do nothing
- Rely on Districts, but allow more freedom
- Eliminate Districts and provide services directly from National to local Squadrons/Clubs and to individual members
- Consolidate Districts into about a half dozen regions with new systems and

procedures that will integrate and synergize both national resources and local Squadron/Club leadership

- Some combination of the above

The Reorganization Committee continues to work on this challenge and evaluating options. We have prepared a needs assessment survey that will be sent to all members in order to obtain direct input and better evaluate where we need to improve and what we need to change. We will incorporate this data along with feedback and suggestions that continue to arrive. Additionally, we will examine how we do business, current processes and systems, resources, and organizational functionality. Subsequently, we will determine and recommend the most appropriate course of action for review by the BOD and appropriate committees, before presenting to the Governing Board for approval. The work continues; stay tuned.

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# The Last Word

By Tom Alley, SN

## Year In Review



By the time you read this, you will either be getting ready to hang up your new calendars or you

will have just finished the task. I guess it also depends on how efficient I was at getting all of the content corralled for this issue and whether it was sent out on time, early, or late!

Human nature being what it is, the act of putting up a new calendar does provide some sense that we have an opportunity to assess the prior year as well as to begin planning for the new one. (Do I dare use the word, “resolve”?)

That said, how did we fare in 2021?

We certainly had some ups and downs. My crew's entry in the Marion-Bermuda race was a rollercoaster ride in and of itself! In my role of District Education Officer, there were also some disappointments that were offset by some nice achievements. We lost a couple of squadrons due to waning interest, but locally we are enjoying a relatively active membership with enthusiasm for the classes being offered, largely due to the effort of SEO Charlie Fausold.

I'm particularly excited about his establishment of a Boat Operator Certification (BOC) program that promises both durability and longevity.

### Resolutions?

Well, maybe “Resolutions” is too strong a word for the subtitle. Perhaps it should be more along the lines of “Suggestions”?

Work will continue this year to get the BOC program more firmly entrenched in both the Finger Lakes Chapter as well as the rest of District 6. If you haven't checked it out, perhaps you should resolve to look into it a bit more in the coming year. The goal is to use it to enhance and expand the hands-on, on-the-water experience that has been the signature characteristic of the Finger Lakes Chapter for over a decade and a half.

If you're not quite ready for formalized courses and seminars to be residing in your wheelhouse, don't forget about all the informal opportunities provided by your Chapter. We have cruises and rendezvous that also provide ways to broaden your skill set. There are also opportunities to study various subjects not listed in the course catalog. Just reach out to various leaders within the club and we'll see what we can do. Our membership has both breadth and depth of knowledge and there is bound to be a subject matter

expert available and willing to help you.

Finally, there is the social component of our group. While Covid has put a rather severe damper on our ability to get together, things do seem to be slowly easing up and brighter days appear to be ahead. Again, I would suggest that you avoid being content to stay isolated. Make it a point to come to one of our events. Who know, you might even enjoy it and want to come back!

### Baby Steps

Big goals are hard. Small ones generally aren't, so start there. Come to an event. In the original draft of this article, I was going to suggest coming to the Change of Watch, however Covid has since caused this event to be virtualized. (I would still encourage you to attend, but admittedly, it's not the same as being in person.) However, I would strongly encourage you to attend our next social event to meet some of our other members. It'll be just like the slogan from breakfast cereal commercial that some of you may be old enough to remember: “Try it! You'll like it!”

- Your Editor, Tom

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As always, send your thoughts about this newsletter to:

[editor@abc-flx.org](mailto:editor@abc-flx.org)

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# Calendar of Events

## January 2022

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* January issue publication date
- 06 Instructor Development course begins (1900)
- 11 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 16 Finger Lakes Change of Watch, *Harbor Hotel, Watkins Glen, NY.*
- 21 Deadline for D/6 *The Deep 6* articles. (D/6)

## February 2022

- 01 *The Deep 6* winter issue publication date. (D/6)
- 08 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 19-27 USPS Annual Meeting, *Ponte Vedra, FL* (National)
- 21 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

## March 2022

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* March issue publication date.
- 08 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 10 ABCourse begins, *Waterloo, NY*

## April 2022

- 08-10 District 6 Spring Council & Conference, *Holiday Inn, Binghamton, NY.* (D/6)
- 12 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 15 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles (D/6)
- 22 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

## May 2022

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* May issue publication date.
- 01 *The Deep 6* spring issue publication date. (D/6)
- 10 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 21-27 Safe Boating Week (National)

## June 2022

- 14 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 17 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

## July 2022

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* July issue publication date.
- 12 Bridge Meeting (1900).
- 22 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles. (D/6)

## August 2022

- 01 *The Deep 6* summer issue publication date. (D/6)
- 09 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 26 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

## September 2022

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* September issue publication date.
- 11-18 Governing Board Meeting, *Raleigh, NC* (National)
- 13 Bridge Meeting (1900)

## October 2022

- 11 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 15 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles (D/6)
- 21 Deadline for *Drum* articles
- TBA District 6 Fall Council & Conference (D/6)

## November 2022

- 11 Finger Lakes *Drum* November issue publication date.
- 11 *The Deep 6* fall issue publication date. (Delayed to cover Conference activities.) (D/6)
- 08 Bridge Meeting (1900)

## December 2022

- 16 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

Calendars are "living documents." For the latest information on squadron activities, please check our web site:

<http://www.abc-flx.org>

or our Facebook page:

<http://facebook.com/SenecaPowerSquadron>

for any last-minute changes.