



**America's Boating Club of Gainesville, Florida**

**UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS, INC.**



# **THE LEARNED LAMP**

**Winter/SPRING 2025**



## **Inside This Issue**

- Boating Knowledge: Tips for Towed Sports Safety
- “Hand of God” boating story by Rick Gordon
- Recent Event Photos: COW & more
- Fall 2024 in Photos
- From the Galley
- Upcoming Events





**America's Boating Club of Gainesville, Florida**

**UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS, INC.**



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# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Commander's Message	4-6
Boating Knowledge	7
Boating Stories and More...	8
Photo Gallery	9-19
From the Galley	20-21
Events Calendar	22
Event Flyers <i>TOMORROW! Kayaking &amp; Eating Event</i>	23
Closing Notes <i>Photo Competition &amp; More</i>	24



LOOK!

America's Boating  
Channel videos are  
available to USPS  
members to view and  
download for free at  
[bit.ly/USPSABC](https://bit.ly/USPSABC).  
And check out the very  
coooool drone videos!!!



# Commander's Message

## CDR Jean-François Roulet

Dear Members,

We've had a good start to the year! The salmon I baked for the Change of Watch (COW) on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, turned out very well (see recipe later in this Newsletter). We had over 20 participants attend the ceremony and, of course, eat the salmon and other delicious food brought by everyone as part of the traditional potluck format of our meetings.

First, I want to thank you all for trusting me to lead our club for the next year. I want to thank the ones as well who were willing to join the bridge for the upcoming year. A club is only as good as its members--members who not only participate in the events but also contribute to the work needed for the events to take place!

### **My goals as your Commander are the following:**

- Streamline our administrative and communication processes to be the most efficient to diminish the workload of all involved. I will on a regular basis send out the members list (to be updated as needed) and an events list with a dual purpose: information, as well as to request that you offer or provide topics for events and help in their realization.
- Fulfill the needs of the members, and based on my analysis: we are not only a boating club, but also a foody club. Therefore, I will try to create meetings that address not only the boating needs of the boaters, but the needs of the food lovers as well, which, for simplicity reasons, I have labeled “the eaters”.
- Increase the attractiveness of our club by the type of events offered in order to attract new members that love our camaraderie and hopefully own a boat for the events on the water.
- Start a photo competition. Wendy Kinser-Maxwell (wendykinsermaxwell@gmail.com) and I are asking you to send in any photo you take during the year using your phone or camera (submit as a jpg-file) regarding activities on the water or of the club. At the end of the year, we will find out which one is the best and give the author a prize, which already has been offered by our potential new member Robin Mundell.

# Commander's Message

*(continued, page 2 of 3)*

**Turning the above said into reality means that:**

- you already have received two Commander's "newsletter" emails (which now will be called "*Commander's Update*") to keep you up-to-date;
- we already have held a successful event in March (see below); and
- we have events for boaters and eaters planned for Sunday, April 13th and Saturday, May 17th, 2025.

Our second event of 2025 was hosted by Diane Howard and Jerry Steinberg at their home and was even more successful. We had 33 participants attending to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Knowing how much work it is to organize a successful party, I want to thank Diane and Jerry for hosting the Club at their house. The only flop was that the commander got lost, but with the help of competent members, I was given excellent directions to find the house. (I think I will have to enroll in Jib's navigation course again!)

We will continue our activities with paddling the Ichetucknee River and having lunch at Virginia Seacrist and Jim Duffy's River Home on Sunday, April 13th, 2025, and the traditional Rain Gutter Regatta on Saturday, May 17th at Connie and Seth Shrum's home. With your participation and help, we certainly will have more thrilling activities for boaters and eaters during the summer and fall of this year.

Earlier this month, on March 8th, 2025, Helen and I joined the District's Council Meeting in Daytona Beach to represent the Gainesville Power Squadron. I learned a lot about the America's Boating Club Organization and gave a short report about our club's activities.

The District 23 annual COW was celebrated March 28 – 29 at the Westin Hotel in Lake Mary, FL. Our own Laraine Teiss, Yvonne Gilbert, and David Roque

# Commander's Message

*(continued, page 3 of 3)*

represented our club, since I had to fly to Germany on short notice. More on this event--which was full of excitement--in my next monthly Commander's Update email.

Finally, I have two more pieces of news to share, a good one and a sad one: The good one is that, at the District 23 COW, Wendy Kinser-Maxwell was presented an award for her outstanding work on *THE LEARNED LAMP* newsletter. Congratulations to Wendy!

The sad news, I regret to inform you, is that our member, Mike Urbaniak, passed away last weekend following a prolonged battle with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Our thoughts are with Anne Wallace in this difficult time. Dear members, when you read this, please take a minute of silence to remember Mike. Please keep him in good memory.

Sincerely yours,  
Jean-François Roulet  
Commander



USPS Gainesville Boating Club

# BOATING KNOWLEDGE

## America's Boating Channel™ Tips for Towed Sports Safety

The summer will be here before you know it, which makes the topic of our safety message even more critical – Towed Sports Safety.



As our waterways become crowded during this time of year, it is vital to identify and implement important measures for safely water skiing, wake boarding, knee boarding, wake surfing, and tubing.

Videos like this one underscore the need for safety considerations when participating in towed sports. Did you know that according to the Coast Guard, towed water sports account for over 400 boating incidents per year. And don't forget your life jacket when you're out having fun on the water. In addition to a properly fitted life jacket, get one designed for the type of towed sport you

are enjoying.

These measures are presented in the ["Towed Sports Safety"](#) video where viewers learn about proper equipment selection and preparing to tow a person. For instance, tube ropes should be around 60 feet long and heavier than water ski and wakeboard ropes, which should be about 75 feet long. Also, ski ropes should have more give than wakeboard ropes. Additionally, the video features tips for operating underway.



Follow the video link above or visit

<https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel>

to find this 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.

In addition to YouTube, these professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos are available via the America's Boating Channel free on-demand app on Apple TV, Roku, or FireTV. [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.



# Boating Stories and More...

## The Hand of God

My plan was simple: leave Beaufort by heading down Taylor Creek then use the shallow draft of my catamaran to tip toe up Core Sound to the Pamlico Sound. From there I planned to dodge around Royal Shoal and follow Nine Foot Shoal Channel into Silver Lake on Ocracoke. Historically, the nearly circular Silver Lake was a favorite hangout of the pirate Blackbeard. I'd done the trip before and found it much quieter and more peaceful than grinding up the ICW ditch with all the other northbound boats.

It went well until I turned off the Pamlico into the Nine Foot Shoal Channel. An ugly, black, roll cloud grew on my Northwestern horizon. It looked ominous and I clearly wouldn't beat it to Silver Lake, a well regarded Harbor of Refuge. There was a big spoil island to my immediate west, and a dredge working the main channel to Ocracoke Inlet a couple of miles to the east. I decided this was a reasonably protected place. So I eased slightly out of the channel towards the spoil bank and got my biggest anchor ready, preparing to ride it out. I figured the lights on the dredge would serve as a useful frame of reference if I started to drag.

I hustled to get the anchor set and made it into the cabin as the first heavy drops of rain arrived. I like to watch the local news after I'm anchored: I refer to the local weather portion of the newscast as my color weatherfax. So the rain arrived and I tuned in to the news. As I watched the TV the wind and rain picked up. Then the boat abruptly turned 180 degrees, as though the Hand of God had reached down and spun it. Surprised, I turned and looked out the hatch. There, a stone's throw from my port stern, was a big waterspout. The wind over the boat accelerated, the rigging whistled and the bimini started to flap. The thick gray cylinder tracked directly behind the boat, pulling hard. It had sucked up debris and black chunks of wrack whirled around in the spiraling cylinder. My frightened mind immediately identified them as the Gargoyles which decorate medieval churches. I thought to myself, well Captain, how are you going to get out of this one? The wind howled through the rigging and pulled at the anchor. I jumped to put on my inflatable life jacket.

When I returned to look out the hatch the waterspout had traversed the stern of the boat. Heavy rain obscured my visibility as the spout disappeared into the gloom, whirling off toward the dredge.

The noise from the rigging abated as the wind quieted down, although the rain continued to pound hard. Then the boat gently rotated back onto its original heading. As the commotion eased I could again hear the TV. I had missed the weather report.

Rick Gordon  
Inside Ocracoke Inlet  
Recreated 17 March 2025

# Photo Gallery *(page 1 of 11)*



**February 13, 2025 - Change of Watch (COW) at Francois & Helen's Home**



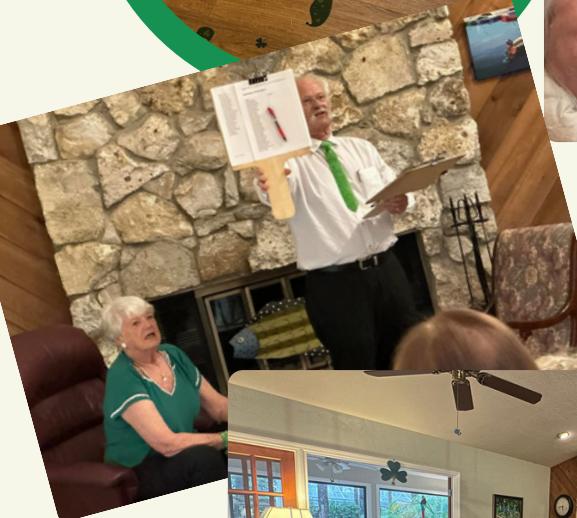
# Photo Gallery *(continued, page 2 of 11)*

More photos from our Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> COW.



# Photo Gallery *(continued, page 3 of 11)*

March 16, 2025 - St. Patrick's Day Potluck & Club Meeting,  
hosted by Jerry and Diane in their beautiful home, decorated  
with the luck of the Irish.



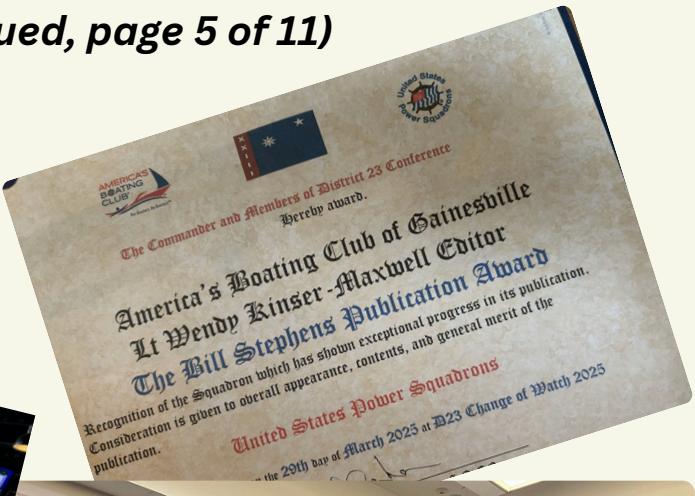
# Photo Gallery *(continued, page 4 of 11)*

## More St. Patrick's Day Fun



# Photo Gallery *(continued, page 5 of 11)*

## March 28-29, 2025 - District 23 Conference/COW at Lake Mary

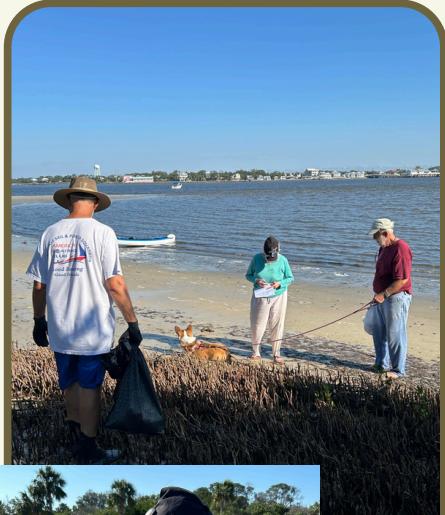


# Photo Gallery *(continued, page 6 of 11)*

## Looking back...

# Fall 2024

Sept. 21, 2024 Cedar Key  
Beach Cleanup



# Photo Gallery *(continued, page 7 of 11)*

## More Fall of **2024**

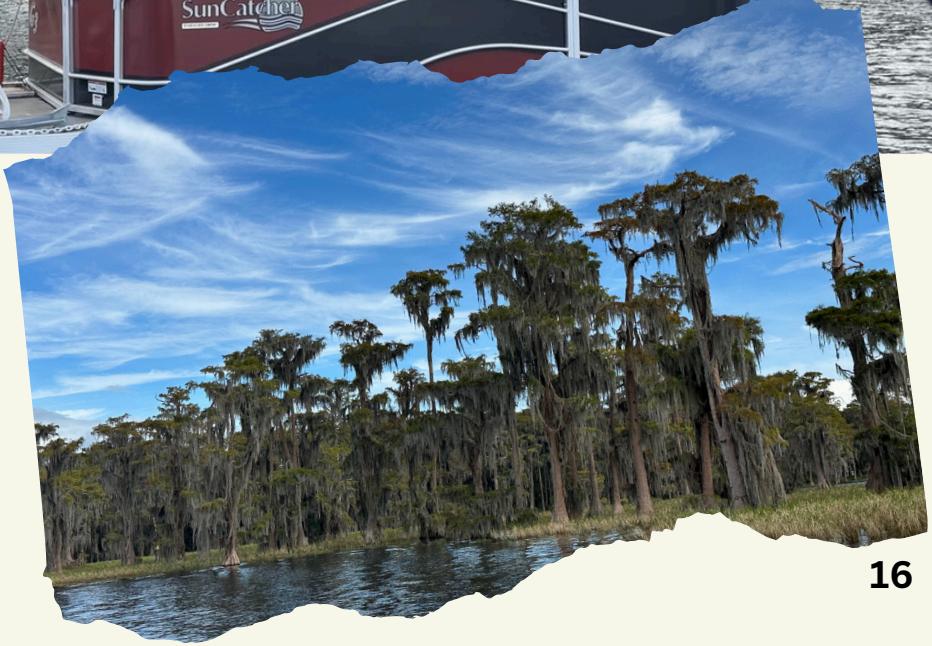
**Oct. 26, 2024** - Club  
Meeting & Potluck at  
David & Laraine's  
Gainesville Home



# Photo Gallery *(continued, page 8 of 11)*

# 2024 Continuing...

November 9, 2024 -  
Veteran's Day  
Raftup, Melrose Bay  
& Santa Fe Lake



# Photo Gallery *(continued, page 9 of 11)*

## More Fall of 2024

WHAT A  
BEAUTIFUL DAY  
FOR  
THIS YEAR'S  
VETERAN'S  
DAY  
RAFTUP!

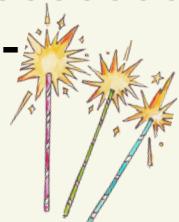


# Photo Gallery *(continued, page 10 of 11)*

More  
**2024**



November 16, 2024 -  
Celebrating  
Francois' Birthday...  
and enjoying fabulous  
dishes prepared by Chef  
Francois himself!



# Photo Gallery *(continued, page 11 of 11)*

And finishing up...

# 2024

December 7, 2024 - Holiday Party  
at Bob & Sherry Rella's Home



# FROM THE GALLEY

Another amazing recipe from our club...Remember that delicious salmon we all enjoyed at the COW, courtesy of our own "Chef Francois?" Many thanks to Francoise for sharing his very special recipe.

## Baked Salmon with Hollandaise Sauce

*(page 1 of 2)*

### Baked Salmon

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 small whole salmon (6 lbs, scaled and cleaned, i.e., no guts). If it does not fit in the oven, cut the head off.
- Spiced Salt (sea salt + oregano, rosemary, basil, parsley, garlic, thyme, green pepper, lemon peel, chili, mustard, and celery)
- Black pepper
- 1 lemon, sliced
- Avocado oil



#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven set on convection bake to 375 °F.
2. Pat the salmon dry inside and outside, and spice it (I use spiced salt), and place lemon slices inside the fish.
3. Place it on an oiled cookie sheet. I prefer avocado oil, due to its heat resistance.
4. Bake for 40 minutes or until a thermometer placed at the backbone of the thickest part of the fish indicates 135 °F.
5. With scissors, cut the skin along the side line and at 90° along the gills and at the tail, and peel the skin from center to edges and remove the back fin.
6. Cut through the meat down to the spine of the fish. Then the filet can be pushed gently toward the edges and be transferred to a serving plate.
7. Remove the backbone with the bones beginning from the back. Then cut the bottom filet as described above and separate it from the skin.

# FROM THE GALLEY

*(continued)*

## Baked Salmon with Hollandaise Sauce

*(page 2 of 2)*

### Hollandaise Sauce

#### INGREDIENTS

- 8 TBS of vinegar (I use white balsamic vinegar)
- 2 large shallots or 1 onion, finely chopped
- Parsley, chopped
- 10 peppercorns
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 TBS cold water
- 4 egg yolks
- 2 sticks of butter (8 oz), between very soft and melted
- Spiced salt (see above)
- a sip of lemon juice



#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a small pot, add vinegar, shallots, parsley, peppercorns, and bay leaves. Simmer at low temperature until liquid is reduced by half. Add cold water and sieve into small bowl.
2. Transfer bowl into water bath not hotter than 140 °F (monitor with thermometer).
3. Add 4 egg yolks and whisk with a hand mixer until mix gets foamy. Then begin to add the butter in multiple small portions while continuing to whisk. While warming up, the sauce will start thickening. Once the sauce is sufficiently hot (lukewarm) and thick, add spice, salt, and lemon juice. Remove from the water bath and serve immediately with the fish.

NOTE: Do not exceed 140°F, because the egg yolk will coagulate, ruining the sauce without any way to save it!

# EVENTS CALENDAR

2025

## Gainesville Boating Club Activities

MONTH	DAY	START TIME	ACTIVITY
JANUARY			
FEBRUARY	13 Thursday	6:00 PM	Change of Watch (COW) Potluck, hosted by Helen and our new Commander Jean-Francois Roulet (JFR). Francois will bake salmon. Bring a dish to share and your beverage of choice. <u>Address:</u> 9604 SW 35th Lane, Gainesville, FL 32608 (Haile Plantation)
MARCH	16 Sunday	5:30 PM	March St. Patty's Day Potluck and Meeting, hosted by Diane Howard and Jerry Steinberg. Bring a dish to share and your beverage of choice. Be sure to wear green! <u>Address:</u> Diane and Jerry's home, 8507 SW 5th Place, Gainesville FL 32607
APRIL	13 Sunday	8:30 AM -- Boating; 1:00 PM -- Eating	"Kayakers/Canoers Meet-Up with Eaters" Potluck, at Virginia Seacrist's Ichetucknee River Home. ~ SIGN UP by April 5th.~ For those signed up to canoe/kayak, your adventure begins at 8:30 AM (see copy of emailed flyer on next page). For those signed up for eating only, festivities begin at 1:00 PM. Bring a dish to share and your beverage of choice. <u>Address:</u> 2766 SW Santa Fe Drive, Fort White, FL 32038
MAY	17 Saturday	4:30 PM	Raingutter Regatta & Potluck at the Schrum's Shipyard, hosted by Seth and Connie Schrum. Be sure to get your sailboats in ship-shape condition (boats are available on Amazon for sale in the \$10 range). Bring your favorite dish to share, beverage of choice, and sailboat; come with lots of WIND to make your sail sing to win one of the fabulous prizes. RSVP by May 1st, but know that you are always welcome. <u>Address:</u> 8522 SW 5th Place, Gainesville 32607 (Buckingham South)
JUNE	14 Saturday	10:00 AM	Man Over-Board Competition and Rafting on Lake Santa Fe. More information to follow. <u>Address:</u> Alachua County Public Boat Ramp, Lake Santa Fe State Park, 24500 SR 26, Melrose, FL 32666
JULY	6 Saturday	5:00 PM	Gyros Feast at Helen's and JFR's home. Bring your good mood and appetite, and help celebrate Helen's birthday, too! Look for future invitation. <u>Address:</u> 9604 SW 35th Lane, Gainesville 32608 (Haile Plantation)
AUGUST	*		*Open. Have an idea and want to plan an activity for the group? Let Francois know.
SEPTEMBER	20 Saturday	TBA	Tentative -- Cedar Key National Beach Cleanup Day. More information to follow.
OCTOBER	TBA	TBA	Tentative -- Annual Fish Fry at Cedar Key, hosted by David and Laraine Teiss. More information to follow.
NOVEMBER	8 Saturday	10:00 AM	Annual Veterans Day Luncheon Raftup in Melrose Bay. We celebrate our Veterans and share stories close to home, as well as our thanks to the many men and women who have served so faithfully preserving the Freedoms that we enjoy and never want to take for granted. Meet at the Alachua County Boat Ramp. Bring something to share for lunch and your preferred beverage. RSVP by Nov. 1st, and let us know how many persons may join you in your boat. More information to follow.
DECEMBER	TBA	TBA	Holiday Party. More information to follow.

NOTE: For additional and up-to-date details, watch your in-box for the monthly "Commander's Update" and other event-associated emails from our CDR Jean-Francois Roulet (JFR).

# EVENT FLYERS

**Don't Miss Out!!**

**TOMORROW**

**Sunday, April 13th...**

**Didn't RSVP but still want to join the group  
tomorrow at 1 PM for potluck lunch?**

**Give Virginia a call now: 352-275-3833.**

**Virginia's Ichetucknee River Boaters meet Eaters Adventure  
Sunday April 13, 2025**

**Eaters:**

Meet at 1:00 pm

Virginias River Home, 2766 SW Santa Fe Drive,  
Fort White FL 32038.

**ALL:** If you get lost: call 352 275 3833

**Eaters and Boaters:**

Jim Dufty donated wine and beer

Bring a dish for 8

**Boaters: bring a boat or rent one**

Meet at 08:30 at Virginias River Home, 2766 SW Santa Fe Drive, Fort White FL 32038.

**NEED A BOAT? -> Phone 386 497 1500; [www.ichetuckneesprings.com](http://www.ichetuckneesprings.com) "PADDLE  
ICHETUCKNEE" Kajak single 35\$, Kajak double 55\$ Canoe 55\$; Fee for transporting your  
own boat: 15 \$/boat + 15 \$/person. Parking 4-6 \$**

**NO DISPOSABLE CONTAINERS ALLOWED ON THE RIVER**

**EVENT MAY BE CANCELLED DUE TO FLOODS ANY TIME!**

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB  
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS



# CLOSING NOTES

## ★ Call to action

- **REMINDER:** *Have you paid your annual membership dues for this year?*
- If you have stories, articles, and/or photos to submit for future newsletters, please send them to [wendykinsermaxwell@gmail.com](mailto:wendykinsermaxwell@gmail.com), and include in the subject line: “*GBC Newsletter*.”
- **DON'T FORGET!** Be sure to contact Francois [jroulet@ dental.ufl.edu](mailto:jroulet@ dental.ufl.edu) with ideas/plans for future Club activities, and share your boating activity ideas with Virginia [vseacrist@gmail.com](mailto:vseacrist@gmail.com)

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**PHOTO COMPETITION.** Send in any photo you take during the year using your phone or camera (submit as jpg-file) regarding activities on the water or of the club. At the end of the year, a prize will be awarded to the contest winner. All entries should be sent to [wendykinsermaxwell@gmail.com](mailto:wendykinsermaxwell@gmail.com). Note that all club event photos submitted for the newsletter will automatically be entered into the contest, unless you indicate otherwise.