



Commander's Monthly Update March/April 2025

Gainesville, March 17th, 2026

Dear All,

Technology can be very helpful at times, but at other times it can be quite frustrating. Following the last Monthly Update, I received feedback that the second page could not be viewed on phones or tablets. Additionally, some users noted that attachments are difficult to open on mobile devices.

To address this, I will send this Monthly Update as a “double package”—both as an attachment or directly in the body of this email. If this approach still does not work for you, please let me know—and kindly suggest a solution.

We had a wonderful St. Patrick's Day gathering at Diane and Jerry's home, with 29 participants in attendance. Thank you both for graciously hosting us! We also held a rather lengthy business meeting. Lisa Harris (D23 Executive Officer) and Clay joined us as guests.

For your reference, the following items are included (both attached or within this email):

- Invitation flyer for our April 25 meeting. Please review carefully and RSVP by April 15, as indicated.
- Minutes from the March 15 business meeting
- Updated 2026 calendar. Please note that I am seeking a volunteer to manage the June meeting—let me know as soon as possible if you can assist.
- Information regarding the District Fall Conference (October 16–17, 2026)
- Proposed district bylaws

Best regards,
JF Roulet
Commander

<https://gainesvilleboatingclub.org/>

Virginia's Ichetucknee River Boaters meet Eaters Adventure SAT April 25

**EATERS: Meet at 2 pm
at Virginia's River
Home, 2766 SW Santa
Fe Drive, Fort White FL
32038.**

ONCE DONE -> JOIN

**RSVP by APRIL 15th
to
jroutlet@dental.ufl.edu
YOUR NAME
YES or NO
of persons
Boaters, Virginia
Special, or Eaters**

BRING A DISH

**BEVERAGE =
gift from Jim**

**BOATERS: Meet at 11:00 at Statepark Office (42087
Southwest U.S. 27, Fort White, FL 32038)**

RESERVE A BOAT:

<https://ichetuckneesprings.com/ichetucknee-springs/plan-your-day/kayaking/>

**or Phone 386 497 1500: Kajak single 50\$, Kajak
double 70\$ Canoe 70\$; Fee for transporting your
own boat: 15 \$/boat + 15 \$/person. Parking 6 \$**

**Alternative with your own boat/tube: "Virginia
special" approx. 1 h CALL: **352 275 3833****

NO DISPOSABLE CONTAINERS ALLOWED ON THE RIVER

Jim Dufty will provide WINE and BEER for the club



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

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Business Meeting – St. Patrick's Day Gathering
March 15, 2026
Attendance: 28 Members Present

Minutes

1. Welcome

JFR opened the meeting and thanked the hosts, Diane Howard and Jerry Steinberg, for their hospitality.

2. Report from D23 Change of Watch (COW)

Held March 13–15, 2026, in Lake Mary

JFR reported the following highlights:

- Recognition: Jib Davidson received Life Member Status (25 Merit Marks), including a lifetime membership and commemorative pin.
- Jib announced that he and Teresa will be traveling on an extended boating trip and will not return until October 2026. Members can track their progress via AIS and communicate through Nivo.
- Conference Participation:
 - Evening COW attendance: 19 members
 - Daytime meetings attendance: 13–19 members
- Key Discussions & Updates:
 - The squadron is encouraged to establish a Google profile. A volunteer is needed—please contact JFR if interested.
 - Gainesville Squadron continues to show strong engagement (~60% participation vs. ~20% in Jacksonville).
 - District 23 was nationally recognized as the fastest-growing district.
 - Safe Boating Week is scheduled for May.



WEAR IT
A program of the National Safe Boating Council

National Safe Boating Week:
May 16-22, 2026



- The D23 Fall Conference will take place in Cape Canaveral (October 16–18, 2026). A flyer will be included in the monthly update.
 - Proposed District Bylaw changes have been approved and submitted to the national organization.
 - Declining interest in educational programs and strategies to attract new members were discussed extensively. A committee will be formed to explore establishing a new squadron in Central Florida.
 - It was proposed and approved to hold the 2027 D23 COW as a 3–4 day cruise out of Cape Canaveral.
 - Guest Remarks:
 - Lisa Harris, D23 Executive Officer, expressed interest in forming an awards committee and is seeking volunteers.
 - The district is also seeking candidates for Secretary and Administrative Officer positions. Interested members should contact JFR.
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3. Meeting Times

The following proposals were presented:

- Virginia Seachrist: Set meeting time at 6:00 PM
- Jerry Steinberg & Diane Howard: Maintain current schedule (6:00 PM weekdays; 5:00 PM weekends)
- JFR: Allow flexibility with no fixed rule

Decision:

The membership voted in favor of flexibility, allowing the event host to determine the meeting start time.

4. Ichetucknee Paddle Event

- Question raised by Virginia Seachrist: Should the event be canceled in case of all-day rain?

Decision:

The event will not be canceled due to rain. Virginia offered to open her home for the group if needed.

5. Dues Update

- Seth Shrum reported that District policy has changed:
 - New members must now pay their initial dues directly to the squadron.
 - Renewals will be billed by the national organization.

- The squadron did not previously follow this process and was charged by the district for new members.

Action Items:

- Invoices will be issued to affected members (list maintained by Seth).
- Members are reminded that couples should register under a Family Membership, which is more cost-effective than two individual memberships.

6. Other Business

- A question was raised regarding capacity limits for boating events if participation exceeds available space.
- JFR noted that this has not been an issue recently, as current boat capacity has been sufficient. Additionally, the new Brice family membership includes ownership of two boats, increasing available capacity.

Prepared and submitted by:

JF Roulet

March 16, 2026

American Boat Club Gainesville

2026- Events

RED = tentative and possible

Yellow = past

Date	Event	Location	Comments
JAN			
SAT 17	Social meeting 5:30 Cocktails, 6:00 Dinner	Peppers , 7750 W Newberry Rd, Gainesville FL 32606	Select your food and drink on your own \$
FEB			
Sat 21	COW	J-F Roulet 9604SW 35 th Lane Gainesville FL 32608	6:00 pm.
.MON 23	19:00 D23 Council meeting by conference PHONE		
MARCH			
13/14	COW D 23	Hilton Garden Inn Lake Mary	See flyer from D23
15	St. Pattys Day Potluck	Diane and Jerry's home, 8507 SW 5 th Place, Gainesville FL 32607	5:00 pm. Bring a dish for 4 and your beverage of choice RSVP by March 6th
APRIL			
SAT 25	Kayackers/Canoers meet eaters	Kayak Adventure on the Ichetucknee river and Virginias River home Boaters meet at 11 am at the Ichetucknee springs state park 12087 SW US 27, Fort White, FL 32038 Eaters meet at 2 pm at 2766 SW Santa Fe Dr., Fort White, FL 32038. Special short boating: CALL 352 275 3833	eaters join boaters by car at Virginias River home. Potluck. SIGN UP by April 15

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MAY			
SAT 16	Rain gutter Regatta Seth and Conny	Connie and Seth Shrum's house, 8522 SW 5 th Place, Gainesville FL 32607	16:30. RSVP until May 1 st Bring your favorite sail boat. Bring a dish and your beverage of choice
.			
JUNE			
SAT.20	Plantation Crystal River	NEED VOLUNTERR TO ORGANIZE	
.			
JULY			
Sat 18	St Johns river	JFR will organize. We will need BOATS	Grilling at shallow and dinner at Corky Bells
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AUG			
Sat 15	Monthly meeting ar Rella's house	.Bob and Sherry Rella, 14232 SW 79 th St Archer, FL 32618 352 278 4198	Pot luck 17:00
.			
SEP			
SAT 19	Meeting at Brice and Suzanne Millers house PRESENTATION: Salt water Fly Fishing	Brice and Susanne Miller, 4499 SW SR 45, Newberry	5:00 pm Pot luck. Bring a dish and your favorite drink
OCT			
FRI-SUN 16 - 18	D23 Fall Conference	Country Inn and Suites, 9009 Astronaut Blvd – Off North Atlantic Ave, Cape Canaveral	Room \$171 +Tax. Deadline Sept 16 2026
SUN 25	Fish Fry + Presentation UF ????	Teiss Home 16320 SW 129th Lane Cedar Key	1:00 pm, Dinner will be served at 4:00pm
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NOV			
SAT .7	Man over Board Competition and Raft Up and Veterans Day Raft Up with good food	Lake Santa Fe	Be at Alachua County Boat Ramp at 10:00. Bring something to share for lunch and your preferred beverage. RSVP and let us know how many persons may join

			you in your boat by Nov 1 st to XXX
SUN 21	JFR Birthday Party	JFR 9604 SW 35 th Lane Gainesville FL 32608	17:00
DEC			
SAT 5	Christmas Party	CHRISTMAS PARTY	5 PM Pot Luck
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JFR/DEC29 2025



Friday Night: October 16, 2026

ISLAND TIME

**Dolphins Waterfront Bar and Grill at Cape Crossing
310 Lagoon Way
Merritt Island, Florida**

Put on your Hawaiian shirts and enjoy a buffet dinner with live music.



**Cost: \$35.00/per person
Reservations Required**

Saturday: October 17, 2026

D23 FALL CONFERENCE

Host: America's Boating Club Cocoa Beach



**Brevard Veteran's Memorial Center
400 South Sykes Creek Parkway
Merritt Island, Florida, 3295
Gray Hall Conference Room**

Morning Registration:

- **8:00 AM: Coffee and doughnuts will be available.**

D23 Council

- **8:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

N Club

- **10:30 AM – 11:30 AM**

12:00 Noon Lunch:

BBQ Buffet: \$22.00/person: Reservations Required

Fall Conference Meeting:

- **1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**



**D23 Fall Conference
October 16-17, 2026
Host: America's Boating Club Cocoa Beach**

Hotel Accommodations



**Country Inn and Suites
9009 Astronaut Blvd – Off North Atlantic Avenue
Cape Canaveral, Florida
Free Breakfast and Free Parking
A block of rooms at guaranteed rate until noon September 16, 2026
Rate \$171.00 + Tax
For reservations call: 321-784-8500
Group Name: America's Boating Club**

Optional Saturday Activities

**Lighthouse Cove Miniature Golf
3811 N Atlantic Avenue
Cocoa Beach**



Enjoy 18 holes (\$16 or Sr Rate \$13) ; then walk next door to browse Ron Jon's Surf Shoo

OR



Free tour of Brevard Veteran's Memorial Museum

**Found at the site of the D23 Conference
Plan an hour for this museum of military history from the Revolutionary War to the Viet Nam Conflict.
P/C Jay Longway will guide you through the museum. (sign up at registration)**



**D23 Fall Conference
October 16-17, 2026
Host: America's Boating Club Cocoa Beach**

**Meal Reservation Form
Deadline: October 9, 2026**

Friday: October 16, 2026

Island Time at Dolphin's Waterfront Bar and Grill

Buffet Dinner with cash bar

Menu will include a variety of appetizers, salmon, Polynesian chicken, Hawaiian pork, and several vegetable choices.

Cost: \$35.00 X number of meals _____ = _____

Saturday: October 17, 2026

Menu: BBQ Buffet: Pulled pork, grilled chicken, baked beans, green beans, potato salad, rolls, condiments, iced tea, lemonade and dessert

Cost: \$22.00 X number of meals _____ = _____

Total enclosed: _____

Checks payable to: CBSPS

Mail to: America's Boating Club Cocoa Beach

PO Box 540651

Merritt Island, FL 32954-0651

ARTICLE 1

District Organization

- Section 1.1** This district shall be known as District 23, United States Power Squadrons.
- Section 1.2** The district shall be composed of the chartered squadrons assigned it by the Governing Board of United States Power Squadrons. It shall be governed by a District Conference functioning as the governing body and by a District Council functioning as an executive committee of the District Conference, all in accordance with the policy and authority of USPS.
- ✓ **1.3** Reserved

Word and Term Meaning

- ✓ Section renumbered

- Section 1.4** As used herein, and unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the term:
- 1.4.1** *USPS* means United States Power Squadrons®.
- 1.4.2** *Governing Board* refers to and means the Governing Board of USPS
- 1.4.3** *National* refers to and means the national organization and officers of USPS.
- 1.4.4** *Conference, Council, district, squadron, division, officers, committees, aides, members, and subjects* treated generally, refer to and mean those of this district
- 1.4.5** *Policy and authority of USPS* refers to and means the bylaws of USPS, and the policies adopted by the USPS Governing Board or the Board of Directors. The current USPS Operations Manual often includes or refers to these bylaws and policies for ease of member reference. If there is a difference between the National bylaws or USPS policy and the Operations Manual, the bylaws or policy always take precedence.
- Section 1.5** Any word denoting gender used in these bylaws shall apply equally to either gender as the context may require.

ARTICLE 2

Officers and Committees

General Provisions

- Section 2.1** All officers and committee members, elected or appointed, shall be subject to the following general provisions:
- 2.1.1** All elected officers, elected committee members and all committee chairmen, elected or appointed, shall be active members of squadrons in the district and at least 18 years of age. All appointed officers and committee members shall be members of squadrons in the district.
- 2.1.2** All bridge officers shall have been awarded at least one advanced grade and at least one merit mark. This requirement may be waived by the national executive officer for good cause in accordance with USPS Bylaws Section 6.8.
- 2.1.3** Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, all officers, committee members, and appointees shall: (1) be elected or appointed annually; (2) serve for one year or until their successors are elected or appointed, or if

Section 2.7 The treasurer shall:

- 2.7.1 Assist the commander.
- 2.7.2 Collect and hold, in the name of the district, all funds belonging to the district.
- 2.7.3 Pay all bills contracted by the district, which have been approved by the Council or provided for in the budget adopted by the Conference.
- 2.7.4 *[Reserved]*
- 2.7.5 Make a written report of the district financial condition at each meeting of the Council and the Conference, and as may be directed by the commander.
- 2.7.6 Send to each squadron a notice of the annual assessment levied against it by the Conference. Assessments shall be determined on the basis of the number of single active members or family units as shown on the records of USPS as of 1 March of the year for which the assessment is to be paid. Assessment notices shall be mailed within 30 days of the foregoing date. Payments will be made from National to the district treasurer within 30 days of each renewing member's anniversary date.
- 2.7.7 Prepare and file in a timely manner all required federal, state and local tax and information returns, following the instructions and recommendations of the national treasurer.
- 2.7.8 Be, *ex officio*, a member of all committees assigned to the Treasurer's Department.

Elected Assistants

Section 2.8 The Council may authorize election of an assistant educational officer, an assistant administrative officer, an assistant secretary, and/or an assistant treasurer. These assistants, when authorized, shall be elected, and serve with the rank of district first lieutenant. Any such officers shall assist their principals and, in the temporary absence or incapacity of their principals, act in the principals' stead.

General Committees

Section 2.9 The following general committees shall be elected by the Conference and shall report directly to the Conference the results of their assigned duties and responsibilities.

- ✓ **This new wording for the Nominating Committee was approved at the October 2025 conference, will be submitted for National approval with the additional changes.**

2.9.1 The Nominating Committee shall consist of a chairman and four other members, two of whom should be elected each year for a term of three years. This committee shall annually nominate a candidate for each elective district position, and its nominating committee report should be mailed first class, or hand delivered or sent via email to the district secretary not fewer than 45 days prior to the date of the conference at which the elections will be held. If practical, this committee shall be constituted of members who have at least 5 merit marks and at least two members are past district commanders or

past district lieutenant commanders and with not more than one member from any one squadron.

2.9.2 The **Rules Committee** shall consist of a chairman and two other members, one of whom shall be elected each year for a term of three years. This committee shall: (1) be responsible for adherence to the USPS Bylaws, USPS policy, and these bylaws; (2) be cognizant of the latest *Model Bylaws for Districts of USPS* and prepare necessary recommendations for district bylaws to maintain consistency with the policy and authority of USPS; and (3) prepare wording for amendments to the district bylaws and district resolutions to the Governing Board on motion of a committee member or as may be directed by the Council or the Conference.

2.9.3 Auditing Committee: Reserved

✓ **Replaced by Budget and Finance Committee**

Appointed Committees

Section 2.10 The following committees and their members shall be appointed by the commander or the Council and shall report to the Council or their respective department heads as required or directed. Every appointee shall hold office at the pleasure of the appointing authority but not beyond the term of office of that person or body except to complete an assignment with the approval of the Council.

Standing Committees (Reporting to the Council)

2.10.1 The **Planning Committee** shall consist of a chairman and five other members, two of whom shall be appointed each year by the Council for a term of three years. If practical, this committee shall be so constituted that at least half the members are past district commanders or past district lieutenant commanders and with not more than one member from any one squadron. This committee shall make recommendations for proposed changes benefiting the district in response to requests from the Council, the Conference, or from within the committee. It shall file an annual report at the Spring Conference.

✓ **2.10.2** The **Budget and Finance Committee** shall consist of three members appointed by the Bridge for terms of 1, 2, and 3 years. This committee shall examine all records of the treasurer annually and submit a report of its findings to the next meeting of the Conference. An additional financial review shall be performed should a different person assume the office of the treasurer prior to the end of the fiscal year. This committee shall recommend policy concerning general reserves and operating expenses, anticipated income, and recommended assessment to be levied against the squadrons for the following budget year. The complete budget shall be proposed annually to the Council. Any change of assessment adopted at a conference shall not take effect until the beginning of the next USPS dues year.

2.10.3 The **Membership Committee** shall be composed of three members appointed annually by the commander. This committee shall be familiar with the policies and procedures outlined in the current edition of the USPS Membership Manual and shall coordinate membership activities within the district. Additionally, it shall work closely with other district committees to encourage participation in district activities by

members of district squadrons and, as requested, provide to the squadrons suggestions for programs to increase member participation in squadron activities by providing guidance to the squadron membership committees. The chairman shall have oversight of the district's squadron membership chairmen and communicate to them current membership activities.

2.10.4 [*Reserved*]

2.10.5 The **Law Committee** shall consist of the law officer as chairman and where possible, an assistant law officer from each additional state, if any served by the district. All shall be attorneys licensed to practice in their respective states. This committee shall perform such legal duties as may be assigned it by the commander, the Council, or the Conference which concern the affairs of the district, its squadrons, and its USPS affiliations.

Other Committees

2.10.6 The **Personnel Committee** shall consist of two members. This committee shall maintain a current inventory of district members' interests and skills for use as a source of qualified candidates for specific duties.

2.10.7 The **USPS Educational Fund** representative shall keep members informed of the progress of the fund and encourage gifts and memorials to the fund. The representative should have an aide in each squadron.

2.10.8 The **Marketing Committee** shall be composed of three or more members appointed annually by the commander. This committee shall make recommendations to the Conference of ways to market USPS.

2.10.9 Other committees consisting of those customarily assigned to the various departments of this district by the policy and authority of USPS may be appointed. They shall perform such duties as are usual for their responsibilities and as may be directed by their department heads and shall make such reports as are required by their operations.

Other Appointed Officers

Section 2.11 The commander may appoint an **editor** and an associate editor who shall report to the district secretary and perform such duties as may be required for preparing district publications.

✓ **Section 2.12** **Property officer (Reserved)**

Section 2.13 The commander may appoint a **chaplain**, a **flag lieutenant**, and such other **aides** or **lieutenants** as deemed necessary, to perform such duties as the commander, the Council, or the Conference may assign.

ARTICLE 3

The Council

Section 3.1 The Council shall be composed of the elected bridge officers, the immediate past district commander or the most recent past commander willing to serve, the chairmen of the general committees, and the squadron commanders, which persons shall be the voting members of the Council.

Section 3.2 The Council shall:

3.2.1 Carry on the interim business of the district between meetings of the Conference.