



BEACHCOMBER



Formerly known as DAYTONA BEACH SAIL & POWER SQUADRON
A Unit of United States Power Squadrons Sail & Power Boating

JANUARY, 2026

- JAN 8:** Executive Committee, HRYC, 7 p.m.
15: Squadron Dinner Mtg. Red Lobster, Daytona. 6:15
- FEB 9-16:** USPS America's Boating Club National Conf.,
Myrtle Beach, SC
12: Executive Committee, HRYC, 7 p.m.
19: Squadron Dinner Mtg. Red Lobster, Daytona. 6:15
- MAR 12:** Executive Committee, HRYC, 7 p.m.
13-14 D23 Conference, Hilton Garden Inn, Lake Mary
- APR 5** Easter Sunday



In this issue:

- Calendar
- Bridge and Committees
- Squadron Officers' Reports
- Activities
- Member Birthdays
- District & National News
- Gallery
-

THE BRIDGE

Commander:

Cdr. Paul Martines, JN

(386) 451-4575

paulmartinesd23@aol.com

Executive Officer:

P/C Don Roman, AP

(386) 453-6456

andanteroman@mac.com

Administrative Officer:

P/C Don Roman, AP

(386) 453-6456

andanteroman@mac.com

Education Officers:

P/C William C. Benny, SN

(386) 871-8087

aikido09@hotmail.com

P/C Don Roman, AP

(386) 453-6456

andanteroman@mac.com

Secretary:

D/Lt/C Sharon Neitzey

(386) 290-1243

sneitzey@aol.com

Treasurer:

Lt/C Luc Labreche

(407) 761-2468

llabreche28@gmail.com



Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow."
Albert Einstein

Executive & General Committees

Executive Committee

P/D/C Jeffrey T. Wise, JN
Tom Leitzel, P
Gary Foster, P
Kathleen Foster, S
Christine Zahornacky

Finance/Audit Committee

P/D/C Jeff Wise, JN
P/C Cheryl W. Martines, A

Nominating Committee

P/C Don Roman, AP
P/D/C Jeffrey Wise, J N

Rules Committee

Cdr Paul S. Martines, JN
P/D/C Jeff Wise, JN

Executive Department

Boat Show Committee

P/C Don Roman, AP
P/D/C Jeff Wise, JN

Boating Safety Committee

P/C Don Roman, AP

Vessel Safety Check Committee

P/C Don Roman, AP

Commander's Department

Chaplain

Lt /C Gary Foster, P

Flag Lieutenant

P/C Don Roman, AP

Merit Mark Committee

Cdr Paul S. Martines, JN

Public Relations Committee

P/C Don Roman, AP

Educational Department

Assistant Educational Officer

P/C Don Roman, AP

Elective Courses

P/C Will Benny, SN
P/C Don Roman, AP
P/D/C Tim Henke, JN-CN
Tom Leitzel, P

Administrative Department

Meetings & Programs Committee

P/C Don Roman, AP

Assistant Admin Officer

P/D/C Jeff Wise, JN

Membership Committee

Cdr. Paul S. Martines, JN

Operations Training

PC Will Benny, SN

Boating Activities Committee

P/D/C Jeff Wise, JN

Port Captain

P/D/C Jeff Wise, JN

Secretary's Department

Information Technology Committee

D/Lt/C Sharon Neitzey
Christine Zahornacky

Public Contact

P/C Don Roman, AP

Ship's Store Committee

Cdr Paul S. Martines, JN

Webmaster Committee

D/Lt/C Sharon Neitzey
P/C Don Roman, AP
Christine Zahornacky

Historian

Cdr. Paul S. Martines, JN

Website:



SCAN ME

abcdaytonabeach@gmail.com



SCAN ME

Facebook



FACEBOOK

COMMANDER

Cdr. Paul Martines, JN



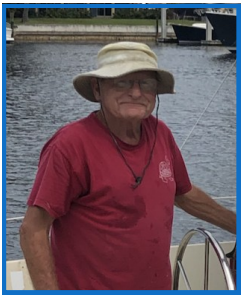
I can't believe 2026 is here. We had a fantastic year 2025 for the squadron. We had numerous events that we participated in: Boat Shows, Education classes, District Conference meetings & picnics, National meetings, and a great, well-attended Christmas Party.

I would like to thank all the bridge officers and members of the Executive Committee for all their outstanding work in helping the squadron have a successful year. The Bridge Officer's made my job a lot easier for the last few years. We had great participation from our membership in events and outings. I would also like to thank all 21 members who turned in their Merit Mark information and were accepted by National to receive a Merit Mark. Great Job!

We have a busy schedule coming up in the next few months. On the National scene, we have a USPS National Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina from February 9 through 15. There is also a USPS Fall Governing Board Meeting scheduled for September 20 through 27 in Cary, North Carolina. Our Squadron Change of Watch will be in March with info to follow soon. Check the District 23 report for upcoming District activities.

Our squadron is very active, and we have a lot of events planned for the coming year. Make sure you read through the issues of The Beachcomber and pay attention to the calendar of upcoming events. Please try to support our activities when you can.

Respectfully Submitted: Cdr Paul Martines, JN



EXECUTIVE OFFICER P/C Don Roman, AP

Commander Martines and I want to thank each member for supporting America's Boating Club Daytona Beach in 2025 and into 2026. Our mission areas of membership, camaraderie, fun, education, public service and education remain just as vital today as they have been. We had a terrific turnout for our annual CHRISTMAS PARTY at Red Lobster on Sunday afternoon, 14 Dec. It was good company, good food, a great gift exchange and wonderful donations to our Squadron "Second Harvest" offerings of food and cash. Thanks to all that participated. Thanks to all who helped set up/break down, to Phil and Eileen Daniels, who handled the decorations, and to Jeff Wise for again providing wonderful music and DJ support.

2026 here we come. Our squadron is doing well, with a healthy list of activities last year and more to come. Let's look forward to an active upcoming year that "meets our needs" of providing activities that serve our membership and that also attracts even more members. If you have ideas that would interest our members and/or, help us attract new members, please bring them forward! Call our Bridge Officers or come to an Executive Committee meeting and let us know.

I must also mention that we need to have some members step up to fill executive committee and bridge positions and help direct the squadron going forward. It's time for others to help instruct our courses and to add to our list of vessel safety examiners. We need innovators. For example, we need folks to help manage public affairs, organize outings/picnics, manage dinners, etc. There are lots of opportunities to engage and contribute. Ours is a service organization. If you can, please help make our squadron even better this year.

Our squadron did 149 Vessel Safety Checks last year, the most we've managed in a number of years. We're looking for a few more folks who would like to participate as examiners. Now is the time to get yourself trained and ready while we wait for next year's decals to arrive. If you like to look at boats, this is a great gig. Contact Don Roman if interested.

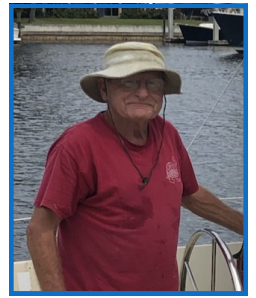
Respectfully Submitted: P/C Don Roman, AP



Education Officers

SEO P/C Will Benny, SN

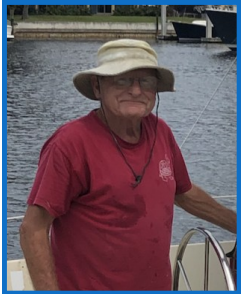
ASEO P/C Don Roman, AP



We successfully completed our year-end ABC3 class on 13 December. Our Marine Radar Course will be finished this January.

If you have any suggestions for courses or seminars you'd like to take, please let me know. Don Roman, andanteroman@mac.com, ph 386-453-6456.

Respectfully Submitted: ASEO P/C Don Roman, AP



**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
P/C Don Roman, AP**

Our 2026 January Dinner will be at Red Lobster, Thursday the 15th January starting at 6:15pm. Capt. Nik Foster of SeaTow has agreed to join us and speak. He always provides an excellent presentation. Also, we hope to have Capt. Ashley J. Barnett, a local USCG licensed Captain, as well. It should be a fun time.

At the Christmas dinner, we pre-ordered our dinners, allowing us to both expedite our meals, as well as to save everyone the cost of sales tax. We need some feedback on whether you liked ordering dinner this way or not. Or do you have other ideas as to how we can improve our meetings? Do you have suggestions for other dinner locations?

Respectfully Submitted: P/C Don Roman, AP



**Treasurer
Lt/C Luc Labreche**

Our treasury is in very good shape. Our balance is strong and we are receiving good service from our new bank. We have had no unusual expenditures or deposits this month. We are looking into possibilities for earning interest on some of our reserve funds. Contact Luc Labreche with suggestions or ideas.

If you would like your name to appear on the Beachcomber Squadron Sponsor page for the 2026 publishing year, give a \$20 donation to Luc Labreche. Checks should be made to USPS Daytona Beach.



**Secretary
D/L/C Sharon Neitzey**

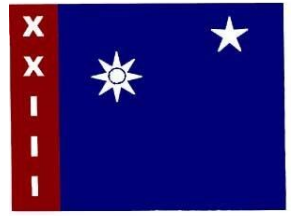
Please contact me (sneitzey@aol.com or 386-290-1243) with any corrections or questions regarding the current minutes. Also, let me know if you have photos or news that you feel should be included in our Beachcomber. Please send photos to Christine Zahornacky at gandczee@gmail.com. We will need all information and photos for the February Beachcomber by January 25.

Respectfully Submitted: D/L/C Sharon Neitzey



DISTRICT 23 NEWS

D/L/C Sharon Neitzey, D23 Admin Officer



There are several important District 23 events coming in the next few months. Our District 23 Commander, Mark Adams, is in the process of scheduling a D23 Winter Council meeting for Squadron Commanders, District Bridge and Committee Chairpersons, and any other D23 members who wish to attend VIA ZOOM. Information will be sent out as soon as plans are finalized. We are also planning another great District 23 Picnic, probably in late April at Bing's Landing Park in Flagler County. Thank you to Paul Martines, who will finalize the reservation for that.

The most important news for now is that we have our District 23 Spring Conference coming up at the Hilton Garden Inn in Lake Mary on March 13 and 14. We have some great activities planned for the weekend. **SAVE THE DATE. INFO/REGISTRATION FLYER IS ON P 9.**

District 23 Nominating Committee is looking for some new District 23 Executive Committee. They especially need a Secretary and an Executive Officer. Let Jeff Wise, Sharon Neitzey, or D23 Commander Mark Adams know if you would be willing to serve our district.

At the National level, our USPS National Annual Meeting will be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina from February 9 through 15, 2026. You can find that information on the National website at www.USPS.org.

Speaking of the National Website, there is a wealth of information for members. Log in with your membership number. Some topics are: Education Classes and Seminars, America's Boating Channel, National Meetings, Membership renewal and information. Take a look and see what you can find!

Respectfully Submitted: D/Lt/C Sharon Neitzey, D23 Admin Officer



March 13 & 14, 2026

D23 CHANGE OF WATCH
HILTON GARDEN INN
705 Currency Circle
LAKE MARY, FL

ALL ROOMS \$142.50/NIGHT (\$139/NIGHT + COUNTY FEE OF \$3.50)

NAME _____ Phone _____

Please make selections and note numbers x costs for total costs.

Room Circle (K) or (Qu.) Circle Friday Saturday # _____ Nights x 142.50= _____

FRIDAY NIGHT Check in and head to St. John's River Seafood on the St. John's to eat. Return to hotel for a Crazy Music Bingo Party *Snacks free *(Cash Bar)

SATURDAY BREAKFAST (free to Friday hotel guests) Others # _____ x \$16 = _____

N CLUB, FOLLOWED BY CONFERENCE MEETINGS, SPEAKERS, ETC.

LUNCH ON- SITE \$22 (INCLUDES TAX AND GRATUITY) # _____ x \$22= _____

FINISH MEETINGS, SPEAKERS BREAK

CHANGE OF WATCH and SWEARING IN

DINNER \$45 (INCLUDES TAX AND GRATUITY), AND DANCE

SUNDAY BREAKFAST (free to Saturday hotel guests) Others # _____ x \$16 = _____

Total of all expenses (DUE FEBRUARY 10) _____

**Please send check (made to USPS D23) with registration to Sharon Neitzey,
724 Central Park Blvd., Port Orange, FL 32127**

Registering through D23 saves you FL sales and tourist taxes.

HAPPY *January* BIRTHDAYS

Stacy Lynn Conomos

Sharon Neitzey

Don Woods



Happy birthday to you.

Happy birthday to you.

Happy birthday dear squadron members.

Happy birthday to YOU!!!

Lucky Star

Lucky Star Winner

**OUR LUCKY STAR POT
WILL BEGIN THE NEW YEAR AT \$175.**

IT WILL BE DRAWN AT OUR JANUARY DINNER.

REMEMBER, YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.

DON'T MISS OUT!



GET READY
FOR THE NEW
VSC YEAR!



2026 STICKERS
SHOULD BE
HERE SOON.



A major component of a fun filled outing is a reliable boat which has all the necessary equipment operating properly. A free vessel safety check (VSC) is an important safe-guard, and our certified examiners will be happy to perform the check for you. There are no negative consequences if you don't pass. Our goal is simply to help make boating as safe as possible for you, your family and your friends through education.

America's Boating Club and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary are partners in this valuable program offered to the boating public. All examiners are certified and trained on the latest requirements. The Vessel Safety Check is similar to the review that is conducted by the USCG (& Sheriff) if you are boarded except a VSC is only for your benefit. It is not a "Boarding" which is a law enforcement activity. We perform a 15 point safety inspection which includes:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Display of Numbers | Registration/Documentation | Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) |
| Backfire Flame Control | Pollution Placard | Navigation Rules |
| Fire Extinguishers | Sound Producing Devices | MAR POL Trash Placard |
| Navigation Light | State/Local Requirements | Marine Sanitation Devices |
| Visual Distress Signals (VDS) | Ventilation | Overall Vessel Condition |

The VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC) Decal shows Active Duty U.S. Coast Guard, and law enforcement, that you have been examined and did comply with USCG requirements at the time inspected. It indicates your efforts to comply with both USCG and State requirements, and may just avoid an active duty USCG "Boarding" (or Sheriff/ FWC boarding) which is a true law enforcement activity.

To schedule a Vessel Safety Exam, You can contact any of our Examiners Directly that work in the areas indicated:

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Will Benny | 386-265-5180 | New Smyrna Beach/Edgewater |
| Tim Henke | 352-483-6000 | Lake Marion/Seminole County |
| Paul Martines | 386-265-5180 | Daytona Beach/Holly Hill |
| Ron Radford | 515-236-8206 | Palm Coast/Flagler |
| Don Roman | 386-453-6456 | Ormond Beach/Daytona Beach |
| Jeff Wise | 386-299-4536 | Daytona Beach |
| Ermit Zapata | 386-279-2779 | Deland/West Volusia |
| Tom Leitzel | 704-591-6558 | New Smyrna Beach/Port Orange |

America's Boating Club - Daytona Beach
www.abcdb.club

MEMBER BENEFITS

Your membership is your ticket to savings.

SAVE WITH OUR PARTNERS

- ✓ Members Only Boat Insurance
- ✓ Members Only Boating Courses
- ✓ Boat Parts and Accessories
- ✓ Electronic Flares
- ✓ Boat Financing
- ✓ Home Mortgages
- ✓ 24/7 Boat Monitoring
- ✓ On-Water Towing
- ✓ Rental Cars
- ✓ Prescription Discounts
- ✓ Pet Insurance

and much much more!



For more information, visit our website
AmericasBoatingClub.org/Benefits



Do you know your benefits as a member of
America's Boating Club?

Go to the National Website to find out!

The link is [https://www.usps.org/
departments/14000/14500-member-benefits](https://www.usps.org/departments/14000/14500-member-benefits)

*You will need your membership number (on your membership card) to Log In.

NEWLY ADDED BENEFITS

Ditch Navigation | AI-Powered Navigation App
(Use promo code **BOAT2025** to activate your FREE 1-year
subscription)



*Your certificate # is your key to unlocking great savings. New benefits are added
frequently so be sure to check back often!*

<https://ditchnavigation.com/americasboatingclub>





SPONSORS

Jeff & Cathy Wise
Atlantic Marine, Pt. Orange
Aaron Kilman Jewelers
Halifax Veterinary Clinic

Frank & Sharon Neitzey
Aloha Marine, Holly Hill
McKenna's, Pt. Orange



We are always looking for new sponsors for our worthy organization. It is time to renew. Squadron Members who wish to appear on our Sponsor Page should give your \$20 donation to our treasurer, Luc LaBreche. Thank you.

A NOTE TO OUR READERS...

As the editors of this newsletter,
we welcome your input on articles in the newsletter
or suggestions for materials that you would like to see
included in future issues.

This newsletter is one of the primary tools used by the squadron to
communicate with its members.

Please review the articles and meeting flyers included and join
us for classes and events announced.

Each of us can play an important role in the success of our squadron.
Please feel free to contact us or e-mail us.

Sharon Neitzey and Christine Zahornacky

sneitzey@aol.com gandczee@gmail.com

Please submit any information or photos for the November

*Publication to us by **January 25.***

Send info to Sharon Neitzey and photos to Christine Zahornacky.

****Members please note that .pdf files submitted to the editors are
not grammatically correctable.*

*However, Microsoft Word and Publisher files are correctable.****

Photos should be in .jpeg format.

TENTATIVE CALENDAR FOR 2026

- JAN 8: Executive Committee, HRYC, 7 p.m.**
15: Squadron Dinner Mtg. Red Lobster, Daytona. 6:15
- FEB 9-16: USPS America's Boating Club National Conf., Myrtle Beach, SC**
12: Executive Committee, HRYC, 7 p.m.
19: Squadron Dinner Mtg. Red Lobster, Daytona. 6:15
- MAR 12: Executive Committee, HRYC, 7 p.m.**
13-14 D23 Conference, Hilton Garden Inn, Lake Mary
- APR 5: Easter Sunday**
9: Executive Committee, HRYC, 7 p.m.
16: Squadron Dinner Mtg. Red Lobster, Daytona. 6:15

Come join us for our next activity. Call Don Roman to RSVP. (386) 453-6456 to RSVP.

<p>Website:</p>  <p>SCAN ME</p>	<p>abcdaytonabeach@gmail.com</p>  <p>SCAN ME</p>	<p>Facebook</p>  <p>FACEBOOK</p>
--	---	---