



*Houston Sail and Power Squadron  
Annual Meeting Ballot – January 19, 2011*

**Nominees For Bridge Officers:**

Commander	Lt/C Bob Leatherwood, S
Executive Officer	<b>To Be Determined</b>
Squadron Educational Officer	Robert Campbell, S
Administrative Officer	<b>To Be Determined</b>
Secretary	Lt/C Robert W. Stevenson, JN
Treasurer	Lt/C Phyllis W. Stendebach

**Nominees For Squadron First Lieutenants:**

Assistant Squadron Educational Officer	1 <sup>st</sup> /Lt Carl A. Stendebach, Jr., JN
Assistant Secretary	<b>To Be Determined</b>
Assistant Treasurer	Lt Kathy Fussell, S

**Nominees for At-large Members of the Executive Committee: (nine)**

Lt Bill Fussell, S	P/Lt/C Robert J. Robbins, JN
P/C S. Dennis Fegan, AP	Cdr Claire McDonald, SN
Lt Kathy Fussell, S	Forrest Paddock, P
P/D/C Scott McDonald, SN	1 <sup>st</sup> /Lt Carl A. Stendebach, Jr., JN
Lt Jana Wesson, AP	

**Nominees for the Nominating Committee: (three year term)**

Lt Robert Ryland Smith, JN (one year)  
P/C S. Dennis Fegan, AP (one year)  
Cdr Claire McDonald, SN (Three Years)  
P/D/C Scott McDonald, SN (Two Years)  
P/Lt/C John Glaeser, SN (Three Years)

**Nominees for the Rules & Bylaws Committee: (three year term)**

P/D/C Karl E. Fernandes, JN (one year)  
Lt Ed Nagle, AP (two years)  
P/C Merton (Ozzie) Osborne, N (Three years)

**Nominees for the Auditing Committee: (three year term)**

P/Lt/C John Glaeser, SN (one year)  
P/Lt/C William H. Mize, Jr., SN (two years)  
P/Lt/C Robert J. Robbins, JN (Three years)

Respectfully submitted,  
Nominating Committee

***Poop Sheet January 2011***

January 1, 2011  
Happy New Year, HSPS!  
January 5  
Board of Directors Meeting – Home Port  
January 7-16  
Winter Boat Show – Reliant Center  
January 13  
Instructor Development Course – Home Port  
January 17  
Planning Meeting – Home Port  
January 19  
HSPS General Meeting – Elections  
Spaghetti Western  
January 22  
D/21 Incoming Officers' Meeting – NASA Hilton  
January 29  
HSPS-GBPS Chili Cook-off  
February 1  
Board of Directors Meeting – Home Port  
February 2-5  
USPS Annual Meeting – Orlando, FL  
February 9  
HSPS General Meeting – Founder's Day  
Home Port  
February 12  
America's Boating Course – Home Port  
February 14  
Happy Valentine's Day, HSPS!  
February 21  
Spring Courses Begin – Home Port  
February 26  
Frostbite Rendezvous – Home Port



## Bay Neigh

Official Monthly Publication of  
Houston Sail and Power Squadron  
A Unit of United States Power Squadrons  
District 21

## COMMANDER'S CORNER



January 2011 Bay Neigh  
Cdr Claire McDonald, SN



Editor  
Lt Jana Wesson, AP

Assistant Editor  
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**Home Port**  
6910 Bellaire Blvd #15  
Houston, Texas 77074  
www.usps-houston.org



### Bridge

Commander..... Cdr Claire M. McDonald, SN  
Executive Officer ..... Lt/C Bob Leatherwood, S  
Educational Officer..... Lt/C Richard A. Fisher, SN  
Administrative Officer..... TBD  
Secretary..... Lt/C Robert W. Stevenson, JN  
Treasurer..... Lt/C Phyllis W. Stendebach, P  
Immediate Past Cdr ..... P/C James S. Hotop, JN

### Squadron's 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenants

Asst. Educational Officer..... 1<sup>st</sup>/Lt Carl A. Stendebach, Jr., JN  
Asst. Secretary..... TBD  
Asst. Treasurer..... TBD

### Executive Committee

All Bridge Officers...	Robbie J. Robbins, JN
S. Dennis Fegan, AP	Mary Sandoval, S
Bill Fussell, S	P/C Richard C. Snapp, AP
Kathy Fussell, S	Carl A. Stendebach, Jr., JN
Jana Wesson, AP	D/C Scott McDonald, SN

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and publication herein does not imply endorsement by USPS, or the Bay Neigh.

### PRAYER

#### A New Year's Prayer

Dear Lord, please give me  
A few friends who understand me and remain  
my friends;  
A work to do which has real value,  
without which the world would be the poorer;  
A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail  
be not blazed;  
An understanding heart;  
A sense of humor;  
Time for quiet, silent meditation;  
A feeling of the presence of God;  
The patience to wait for the coming of these  
things,  
With the wisdom to recognize them when they  
come.  
Amen.

P/C Scott D. McDonald

Happy New Year! 2011 promises to be another dynamic year for HSPS. Mark your calendar for January 19<sup>th</sup>, and we'll see you at the annual meeting and election of officers at the Spaghetti Western Restaurant. I know that you will want to be part of the quorum we require to bring our new officers on board. The date for our 2011 Change of Watch (COW) has been moved back a week to Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. By popular demand, we will again hold it in the afternoon. You will not want to miss the festivities at HYC as we bring in Lt/C Bob Leatherwood as our next HSPS Commander.

Thanks to all of you who sent in letters in support of maintaining the markers in the Anahuac, Double Bayou, and NASA channels. Many of our members depend upon these markers when they boat in Clear Lake and across Trinity Bay.

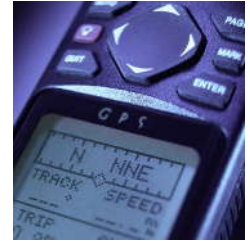
Thanks, too, to all HSPS members who volunteered to sit watches at the Winter Boat Show. We are able to man our booth during the entire nine-day show. All HSPS members are invited to stop by our booth when you attend the show.

We had a great mix of new and long time HSPS members attending the holiday brunch at Brady's Landing. It was a beautiful day on the Ship Channel and the food was better than ever. The brunch is always a fun way to begin the holiday season. The D/21 Christmas Boat Parade party was another delightful event. The view from the Hilton was fabulous and no fog at all this year!

Please consider coming to our annual planning meeting at homeport on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. This meeting is open to all members and we invite you to bring your ideas for boating activities, speakers, dinner meetings, courses, and anything you can imagine for our Squadron in the upcoming watch year.

Scott, Bob Leatherwood, and I will be heading out to the USPS Annual Meeting in Orlando at the beginning of February. Let any one of us know if there are any concerns you would like us to bring before the national organization. This is a great opportunity to meet national officers face-to-face. More importantly for HSPS, we will be cheering for our own R/C Jean Hamilton as she assumes the position of National Secretary. She'll be the first woman ever elected to the USPS National Bridge! We promise a GREAT D/21 party. There is still room in the truck if any one of you wants to come along.





**Education News**  
**Lt/C Rick Fisher, SN**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

**Spring 2011 CLASS SCHEDULE**

\*\*\*\*\* **Classes Available to Members and Non-Members**\*\*\*\*\*

Course	Class Day, and Registration Date	Instructor	Member Books and Tuition	Non-Member Books and Tuition
Seamanship	Monday, February 21	Rick Fisher	\$60.00	\$90.00
Advanced Piloting	Tuesday, February 22	Bob Stevenson	\$65.00	\$97.50
Marine Communications Systems	Thursday, February 24	Bill Haddock	\$60.00	\$90.00

Following the decision of USPS National to allow non-members to sign-up for all USPS University courses, HSPS is now listing our courses with both discounted member tuition, and non-member tuition. We have changed the website to reflect that the outstanding boating courses we offer are now available to everyone, and we encourage HSPS members to make it known to your friends and associates that we want everyone with an interest in boating to take a course with us.

As a volunteer instructor with HSPS, and a paid instructor for a for-profit US Coast Guard approved school, I can tell you with certainty that the courses we offer at Houston Sail and Power Squadron are a tremendous value. The USPS courses have all been updated with both state of the art teaching aids, and with current materials that reflect the latest in boating technology. So, we should spread the word to all recreational boaters that HSPS is the place to further your boating knowledge.

And if your friends want further information on our course offerings, have them visit our website [www.uspshouston.org](http://www.uspshouston.org) or call me at 281-734-4443.

***USPS Instructor Development***

With the growing portfolio of classes and seminars we are holding, we need additional instructors to join the instructor team at Houston Sail and Power Squadron. Please consider volunteering your time and sharing your knowledge by becoming a USPS certified instructor.

P/D/C Karl Fernandes will hold a free Instructor Development class spread over 3 nights beginning on Thursday January 13<sup>th</sup> at homeport. As part of the class, you will make a number of short presentations to your fellow students, and develop and present a simple lesson plan. Following the class, you will be asked to team teach a class with an experienced HSPS instructor.

Email me or Karl Fernandes [Karl.Fernandes@LoneStar.edu](mailto:Karl.Fernandes@LoneStar.edu) to sign up.

***Public Boating Safety Course News***

The next America's Boating Course class is Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

***Around the Corner***  
***Lt/C Bob Leatherwood, S, XO***

WHOOSH – Well, there went another year! It seems like just yesterday we were having a Change of Watch in January and now here we are, ringing in a New Year. I hope everyone's holidays went well. The December weather certainly helped. We got things started with our Sunday Brunch on the water at Brady's Landing, and it was a really nice day. Our turnout was nice too. We had 25 people there, all very festive. The food was wonderful, as usual, and they had several new additions to their layout that were fabulous.

Shortly after the brunch came the Christmas Boat Parade, and what spectacular weather we had for that. It was a crystal clear, crisp evening, and the boats could be seen for miles. Their lights lit up the marina and sparkled all the way past the Kemah Boardwalk. There was a great "party crowd" of around 50-60 and tons of food to snack on, all night long!!!

Now that January is upon us, we'll be starting off the New Year with the Boat Show, which starts on Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup> and runs until Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to all of those who were able to sign up for a watch at our booth. Hopefully everyone will be able to get out there to see the show.

After the Boat Show will be our election dinner meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> at Spaghetti Western. By all means, try to make it to that one to have some great food and to cast your votes. For that matter, it's still not too late to throw your hat in the ring for one of the open positions!!!! So with that in mind, I hope to see a lot of you at the Boat Show and the election meeting. Everyone have a very HAPPY NEW YEAR and then it's on with 2011!!!!

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***Education News***  
***(Continued from Page 3)***

***Seminars***

Our last seminar of 2010 was held on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Bass Pro Shops. I want to thank P/C Denny Fegan for putting together this seminar series, and for teaching many of the classes. Denny did a tremendous job in planning the series, coordinating with Bass Pro Shops, and preparing for, and teaching the seminars.

**The next time you see Denny, thank him for all his efforts!**

Our seminar schedule for 2011 has not been determined. We want your input! Please email or call Denny or me and tell us where you would like to see us hold seminars, and what seminars you would come to. Go to the USPS Education site [http://www.usps.org/e\\_stuff/seminars.htm](http://www.usps.org/e_stuff/seminars.htm) and review the seminars that are available.

***Texas Boating Education***

U.S. Coast Guard statistics have shown that only 10 percent of boating fatalities occurred on boats where the operator received some type of boating safety instruction. Texas currently mandates that only those under 18 who wish to operate a boat must have completed a boating safety course, and only then if the motorboat they operate has a motor greater than 10 horsepower, or a sailboat greater than 14 feet.

While it is a positive step that we in Texas are addressing the "boating youth", we are missing the vast majority of operators that are involved in accidents. (A study of all boating accidents involving fatalities that occurred between 1995 and 2005 found that the median age of operators involved in a boating accident was 40. This means that in approximately 50 percent of the fatal motorized vessel accidents, the operator was over 40.)

The Coast Guard, and The National Boating Safety Advisory Council, both are encouraging states to adopt an "All Operator" requirement. The eight states that have adopted this approach are reporting dramatic results, with Alabama reporting a 45 percent drop in boating fatalities.

Maybe its time for Texas to re-vamp our boating laws, and join the eight states that are experiencing the reduction in boating fatalities!

Once again, call me (281) 734-4443 or email [Rick@ChampionMarineSurveys.com](mailto:Rick@ChampionMarineSurveys.com) to sign up for a course, or tell me how I can assist you in furthering your boating education.

Lt/C Rick Fisher, SN  
Squadron Education Officer

**December 2010 Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Houston Sail and Power Squadron**

**Executive Department: Lt/C Robert Leatherwood, S**

- **Cooperative Charting:** Report from P/C Dick Snapp, AP: HSPS is in fifth place nationally.
- **Vessel Safety Checks:** Report from P/C Bill Haddock, AP: 217 checks completed this year, and 142 passed. P/C Jim Hotop, JN, did over 100 checks. There are no further events planned for 2010.
- **Winter Boat Show:** January 7-16; Watch sign-up will be available at the Christmas Brunch and the remaining available slots will be filled via e-mail and phone calls.
- **2011 Planning Meeting:** Incoming officers will meet on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to begin setting dates for the next watch year events.

**Education Department: Lt/C Rick Fisher, SN**

- **Advanced (Member and Non-member) Classes:** Spring session begins on February 21<sup>st</sup> with classes as shown in the December *Bay Neigh* and on the Squadron website.
- **Instructor Development:** P/D/C Karl Fernandes, JN will conduct this certification course over three weeks (1/13/11, 1/20/11 and 1/27/11).
- **Public Classes:** The 2011 class dates need to be established and sent to TPWD as soon as possible. This action will be handled by the SEO.
  - **Seminars** – The final one for 2010 was held by P/C Denny Fegan, AP, on December 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - **ABC3**
    - February 12<sup>th</sup> is next class and the first one in the new year.

**Administrative Department:**

- **Membership:** Report from Scott McDonald: 1 new family member has joined. The USPS initiation fee of \$25 has been dropped as of today.
- **Public Relations:** Cooperative advertising funds were received in November.
- **Upcoming Dinner Meetings:**
  - December 5<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) – Christmas Brunch – Brady's Landing
  - January 19<sup>th</sup> – Annual Meeting and Election of Officers at Spaghetti Western. D/C Scott McDonald, SN, will conduct the election.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - December 11<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) – D/21 Christmas Boat Parade party at the Clear Lake Hilton
  - January 22 – D/21 Incoming officers meeting
  - January 29 – HSPS/GBPS Chili Cook-off

**Treasurer's Department: Lt/C Phyllis W. Stendebach, P**

- **Financial Report:** Submitted
- **Additional Topics:** A laptop with PowerPoint and other applications has been donated to the Squadron for the use by instructors and dinner meeting speakers if needed. It will be added to the inventory of Personal Property by the Squadron Property Officer. The laptop will be kept locked in the Education Department storeroom.

**Secretary's Department: Lt/C Bob Stevenson, JN**

- **Squadron Newsletter:**
  - Squadron Newsletter: December *Bay Neigh* will be posted on Thursday 12/2 and mailed on Monday 12/6.

**Commander's Department: Cdr Claire M. McDonald, SN**

- Update from nominating committee: The election meeting slate was submitted. After discussion, Scott McDonald's term for the Nominating Committee was changed to 2 years to ensure a continuous roll-off of members per the Bylaws. The "term" is a bookkeeping measure, since all elected positions are up for election each year.
- SailAngle auto-enroll is complete. It is not necessary to log in each time a member goes to the website. Just log in the first time and never "Sign out". Any return to the website will take the member to their own home page.
- A Fegan/Stevenson motion passed to change the February Executive Committee meeting date to TUESDAY the 1<sup>st</sup>. The Cdr. & XO will be at the national meeting.
- A Stevenson/Fegan motion passed to **change the date for the Change of Watch to Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

**December 2010 Executive Committee Meeting**  
*(Continued from Page 5)*

- Tech Soup software purchase guidelines will be developed by the Ad Hoc business committee and submitted to the E Board for approval.
- Star Squadron form completion and submission is awaiting update of the D/21 website with the current form template and submission date.

**New Business**

- Denny Fegan reported that the term “Personal Flotation Device (PFD)” is going away in favor of the previously-used term “Life Preserver” under a National Safe Boating Council initiative. This will result in necessary changes to instructional and handout material.
- The Rules Committee should review the new USPS model Bylaws (especially those that reflect changes in membership rules) and identify changes needed to the HSPS Bylaws. A review of actions taken by the HSPS Executive Committee that should be incorporated into the Bylaws should be included. The update to the HSPS Bylaws should also include clarification on appropriate action when an elected Committee member is unable to continue for the anticipated full number of years of his or her “term”.

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***Christmas Brunch at Brady's Landing***  
*Photos by Lt/C Bob Leatherwood, S*



**D/21 Clear Lake Boat Parade Party**  
Photos by Lt/C Bob Leatherwood, S



**Sponsors**

The Squadron is seeking tax-deductible donations to help defray the cost of boating safety course materials to the public as well as to help fund other necessary Squadron expenses. We can accept as donations cash or items the Squadron needs – as long as they do not result in a tax problem for the Squadron or donor. Sponsors can be companies, individuals in business, or simply individuals (including Members) who wish to help. All donors/Sponsors will be listed on the HSPS website. Please send a check or recommend potential company sponsors to Commander Claire McDonald, SN. Make checks payable to HSPS. There is no cutoff date for the donations or suggestions for Sponsors. The search for annual Sponsors will continue indefinitely.



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## Bay Neigh Articles

If you have a story or experience that would be of interest to our members, please E-Mail pictures and stories to Jana Wesson at [beakboatgirl@me.com](mailto:beakboatgirl@me.com)

Houston Sail and Power Squadron  
6910 Bellaire Blvd #15  
Houston, Texas 77074

## January Birthdays

Vickey Foster	1/4
MaryEllen Pyle	1/4
James S. Hotop	1/5
James E. Lane	1/7
Randy Lane	1/7
Raymond L. Brisson	1/11
Forrest G. Paddock	1/13
James M. Parham	1/14
Terry Hargraves	1/15
Andrew P. Shatilo	1/18
Justin D. Merszei	1/28
Elton L. Glaze	1/30



## January Dinner Meeting – Elections!!



Fellow cowboys and cowgirls who ride the sea, let your voices be heard!

Come to the annual election meeting! Come be part of a GREAT new year!

**What:** Annual Election Dinner Meeting

**When:** Wednesday, January 19th

6:30 Cash Bar and Socializing

7:00 Dinner

8:00 Annual Election

**Where:** The Spaghetti Western Italian Café  
1608 Shepherd Dr, Houston, TX 77007

**Menu:** Fettuccine with blackened chicken and chipotle Alfredo sauce  
Beef lasagna  
Salad and warm silver dollar rolls  
Dessert  
Tea or soft drink

**Cost:** \$20.00/person

We're cutting it REAL close on this one, price-wise, so please, if you order any extras make sure to pay the waiters for anything not included with the dinner.

**Please RSVP by Monday, January 17th:** [icemangems@att.net](mailto:icemangems@att.net)

Or call Bob Leatherwood at 281-879-6005

OR sign up on our home page at <http://uspsHouston.org>