



***Open Letter to the HSPS Membership
From the Nominating Committee***

We are over half way through the current watch year. We will be electing officers and committee members for next year at our dinner meeting in January. Your Nominating Committee is working to prepare a slate of candidates for that election.

For the last 3 years we have struggled to fill the positions of the Executive and Administrative Officers. These positions are called the "Bridge Track" as they provide the personnel to fill the Squadron Commander position.

All three positions - Admin, Exec and Commander - offer an excellent opportunity to contribute to the organization and develop your leadership skills. They are not particularly demanding as we have many volunteers to assist the Bridge in running the Squadron. In fact, we have many volunteers that have served for years and the Squadron could not function without them.

What we need right now are 3 individuals to step up and fill all three positions – Admin, Exec and Commander – for next year. While we are not in a "Crisis," we are getting close to having to make some tough choices. This might include reorganizing to change our management structure, merging with another squadron, selling our Homeport and shrinking our size, or disbanding the organization. **We can no longer continue to operate HSPS without a viable Bridge.** Now is the time to step up and help save this valuable resource.

¿Hablas español?

The Squadron would like to have one or more members who are fluent in Spanish help in teaching when we have a Hispanic audience. This situation just occurred when we were asked to help the Coast Guard teach commercial fishermen about Rescue 21. A qualified Spanish-speaking instructor might also enable us to offer a seminar or class given in Spanish. If you can help, please contact Robert Campbell at 713-594-1876.

Poop Sheet November 2011

- November 2
Board of Directors Meeting – Home Port
- November 5
D/21 Picnic/Paddling Event – Bay Area Park
VSC – Clear Lake
- November 9
HSPS General Meeting – Italian Night
Home Port
- November 10
USPS University Seminar – Marine Radar –
Home Port
- November 12
ABC Class – Home Port
- November 16
Operations Training Class – Home Port
- November 19
Flounder Fishing – Clear Lake
- November 24
Happy Thanksgiving, HSPS!
- December 4
HSPS General Meeting – Holiday Brunch –
Brady's Landing
- December 7
Board of Directors Meeting – Home Port
- December 8
USPS University Seminar – Mariner's
Compass – Home Port
- December 10
D/21 Party at Clear Lake Christmas Boat
Parade
- December 25
Merry Christmas, HSPS!



Bay Neigh

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



Editor
Lt Jana Wesson, AP

Assistant Editor

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6910 Bellaire Blvd #15
Houston, Texas 77074
www.uspshouston.org

Bridge

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

Squadron's 1st Lieutenants

Asst. Educational Officer. ... 1st/Lt Carl A. Stendebach, Jr., JN
Asst. Secretary TBD
Asst. Treasurer..... 1st/Lt Kathy Fussell, S

Executive Committee

All Bridge Officers... Robbie J. Robbins, JN
S. Dennis Fegan, AP Forrest Paddock, P
Bill Fussell, S Jana Wesson, AP
Kathy Fussell, S P/C Claire McDonald, SN
P/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

With the cool of autumn
So closes the season of storms.
We thank you, Lord, once again
For shielding our friends and neighbors
From the awesome fury of the sea.

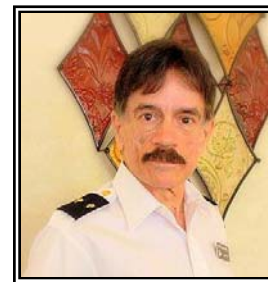
And with the season we return to port
To home, hearth, and family.
We share the company
Of those we hold dearest
And find you in our midst once again.

Amen
P/D/C Scott D. McDonald

COMMANDER'S CORNER



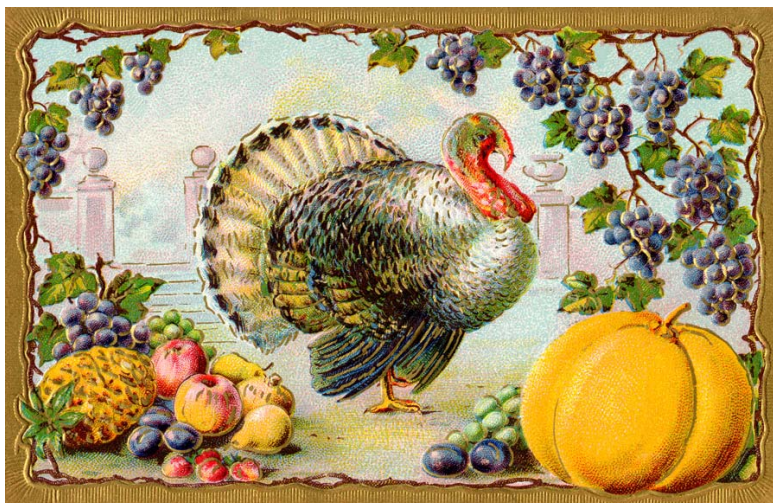
November 2011 Bay Neigh
Cdr Bob Leatherwood, S

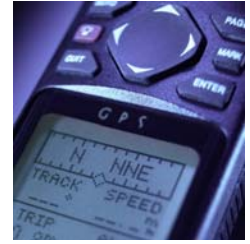


Here it is November, and the change in the weather certainly has been terrific. Although the year is far from over, it's once again time to be planning and preparing for the upcoming watch year. Part of our preparation involves establishing a slate of candidates to be elected at our "official" annual meeting in January. This slate will be published in the December *Bay Neigh*. Our nominating committee has been working diligently to contact and secure members willing to serve but once again, we're thusfar coming up short for several important Bridge positions. I urge anyone who would like to help move the Squadron forward in the upcoming watch year to contact our Nominating Committee Chair, P/C Denny Fegan at sdennisf@aol.com. Make no mistake, you would not be thrust into any position and left to fend for yourself. There's a tremendous source of information as well as an amazing support system from those who have held the positions in the past and are ALL willing to help you along the way. Although we can survive for awhile, "recycling" members into positions they've held before, what keeps the Squadrons alive and moving forward is "New Blood" and even more important, NEW IDEAS!

This time of year is a great time to be out on the water and I hope that many of you have been able to do just that. I was out on the water in Clear Lake, just a couple of weeks ago and it couldn't have been nicer. Lt/C Rolf Hogfeldt and I were trying out 2 new oceangoing Kayaks and we couldn't have picked a nicer day. We spent several hours out on the water and then stopped in at Classic Cafe for something to eat. After that we wandered through the parking lot, looking at all the boats and then checked out a few clubs that just happen to be in the same parking lot. They're definitely worth checking out next time you're in the area. One actually had sand floors and a swing. There IS a boardwalk if you prefer to avoid the sand, but it's on the water and looks like it could be a lot of fun.

Our annual "Roman Night" Dinner Meeting should be coming up in just a few days, by the time this issue is published, so try not to miss that. We'll be having some new food additions as well as a speaker that night. The speaker will be a member of the Coast Guard and will be giving a presentation on Rescue 21, the new fast response national emergency response system.





Education News
Lt/C Robert Campbell, JN

Advanced Grade and Elective Course News

Fall courses are under way. We have a very active semester with large enrollments in each of the following classes.

- Seamanship
- Piloting
- Junior Navigation
- Navigation
- Marine Electrical Systems

Public Boating News

ABC3 – Boating Safety – A The next America's Boating Course class is Saturday, November 12th.

USPS Seminars –Our October Seminar was Knots, Bends and Hitches conducted by Robert Campbell. We had one student attending.

The Seminar schedule for the rest of the year is as follows:

- Nov 10th – Marine RADAR
- Dec 8th – Mariner's Compass

Call me at (713) 594-1876 or email seo.hsps@comcast.net if I can assist you in furthering your boating education.

HSPS Presents at USCG Seminar on Rescue 21

Rick Fisher and **Denny Fegan** (pictured) supported USCG workshop to promote Rescue 21 program. Our part was to teach VHF radio & DSC and GPS connections and how to obtain a MMSI station identification. The program was especially put together for Vietnamese and Hispanic bay fisherman that operate inside the 12 mile boundary.



October 2011 Executive Committee Meeting
Houston Sail and Power Squadron

Executive Department: Cdr/XO/AO Robert Leatherwood, S

- **Cooperative Charting:** Report from P/C Dick Snapp, AP. Sept 18th event did not happen due to problems with Dick's boat.
- **Vessel Safety Checks:** As of 10-3-2011—209 VSC's have been made, with 155 passing.
- **Public Relations:**
 - **Initiatives with Sea Scouts:** Report on September Fleet Meeting by Chris Leavitt was sent by e-mail, and Chris was unable to attend this meeting. Near term activity is planning for participation at the Sea Scout Bridge of Honor in December. The date and logistical details are needed. It is also evident that discussions on and detailed plans for supporting the Sea Scout Academy are needed. Chris is coordinating this planning.
 - Report by Cdr Bob Leatherwood, S on PR and sponsor-seeking efforts "in the works":
 - **Videotapes:** The September dinner meeting was videotaped. The swearing in ceremony of a new member, along with the presentation of a 25 year pin, will be edited and posted online.
 - **Grant Letters:** Letters requesting donations have been sent out, targeted at people in business who have boats. One response was received in the last month to this outreach effort. Sealco will buy a 1/4 page ad in the Bay Neigh for a year, the space for which can be used by the Squadron for boating safety tips.
- **Website**
 - The "Events" section of the Home page has been updated as of October 3rd. The fall course schedule has now been posted.
- **Software:**
 - New software was provided to one purchaser after this meeting.
 - The Squadron's GoToMeeting conferencing software license has expired. The Ad Hoc Committee for planning the November 5th Cookout/Kayak event met using Lawrence Behrmann's 8x8 Virtual Meeting software.

Education Department: Lt/C Robert Campbell, JN

- **Classes:**
 - **Fall Courses:** Registration was very active.
 - 8 Seamanship students, including two new members voted in at this meeting. Rick Fisher instructing.
 - 10 Piloting students, including two potential new members. Scott McDonald instructing, Al McCarthy assisting.
 - 2 Junior Navigation students returned to complete their course work. Bob Smith and Ozzie Osborne are assisting the self-study group.
 - 5 Navigation students, including two students who returned to complete their course work. John Glaeser instructing.
 - 6 Marine Electrical Systems students, Bill Haddock instructing.
 - **ABC3 Classes:** November 12 and December 8.
 - **Seminars:**
 - October 13: "Knots, Bends and Hitches" presented by Robert Campbell
 - November 10: "Marine Radar" presented by P/C Denny Fegan, AP.
 - **USCG Assistance:** A Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiner with the USCG Marine Safety Unit in Texas City has requested assistance from HSPS in training and assisting Vietnamese and Hispanic captains as they learn about VHF/DSC, MMSI and connecting GPS to their radios. The training will occur on October 20 and 21. A C. McDonald/Stevenson motion passed to approve this event and add it to the Calendar.
 - **Leisure Learning Initiative:** They are still interested in teaming with HSPS on courses. A customized plan is anticipated within a week, which will be considered by the Ad Hoc Committee. Caution is necessary when considering what to do at the Boat Show, because of our status as a non-profit provider of services. Claire McDonald will investigate the specific restrictions and report.
- **Boat Operator Certification:**
 - P/D/C Scott McDonald, SN, attended a presentation on USPS On-the-Water Training held during the recent USPS Governing Board meeting. HSPS and GBSPS will be able to present the training on March 23-25, 2012. The boat will be available beginning March 13 or 14, and can be used for squadron PR purposes until the training sessions begin. It is also likely that the boat will be available for a time after the training for more PR. The dates assigned by National for the training conflict with the squadron Change of Watch, so a change may be necessary.
 - Scott also learned that in addition to BOC there is now a second, separate but linked program called Practical On-the-Water Training. This is a one day event with classes before and after an on-the-water training session. It is aimed at new boaters, whereas BOC is primarily for experienced boaters.

October 2011 Executive Committee Meeting

(Continued from Page 4)

- **Training Aids:** There has been a new request from the D/21 Commander and DEO for training aids to be brought to the Fall Conference next week. In view of the short notice, there will not be any aids provided by HSPS members.
- **Additional Seminars:** USPS is preparing to roll-out a number of new seminars.

Administrative Department: Cdr/XO/AO Robert Leatherwood, S

- **Membership:** A S. McDonald/C. McDonald motion passed to approve the membership of Randy and Diana Hoover. Cdr Bob Leatherwood reported that a number of new members had been contacting him about attending various events.
- **Bay Area Park Rendezvous November 5th:** Ad Hoc committee met online and most planning logistics were worked out. We decided to go with a charcoal grill, as opposed to propane. Cdr Bob Leatherwood agreed to purchase a 5'+, barrel type grill for the event. He is looking into renting a truck to carry the grill and kayaks to and from the event. Bob is still working to make this a District event. There is a potential conflict with the scheduled VSC at Lake Conroe that needs to be worked.
- **Upcoming Dinner Meetings:**
 - Oct. 15th Dinner Meeting aboard MV *Sam Houston*
 - November Roman Night at Home Port on November 9th. Although the dinner meeting will be close to the cookout on the 5th, no change is planned.
- **Events:**
 - **Report on Governing Board Meeting in Greensboro-Sept. 14th-18th by P/D/C Scott McDonald:** In addition to the information covered in the Education Department section, Scott attended a tour of USPS Headquarters which included their immense library of boating books. At the meeting there was agreement to raise USPS dues by a small amount. It is currently unknown if District will increase its dues. The HSPS E Board will consider proposing a small dues increase to be voted on at the Annual meeting in January.
 - **Adopt-a-Beach Cleanup:** Report on Adopt-a-Beach cleanup – Sept. 24th in Surfside by P/C Claire McDonald was not needed, since all participants were at this meeting and an article had appeared in the October Bay Neigh. No Sea Scouts participated in our group although busloads of Scouts were there.
 - **Double Bayou Rendezvous:** Cdr Bob Leatherwood will send out a notice about the event. The event will be on if there are people and boats to participate. Arrive on October 21 or 22, and leave on the 23rd.

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

- **Financial Report:** Financial report was provided by Lt/C Phyllis Stendebach. Additional revenue is coming soon from fall course sales, new member dues, and the *Bay Neigh* ad. Also, people who RSVP'd and then didn't show at the dinner meeting will be asked to pay for that dinner to help cover the cost to the Squadron.
- **Electric Usage:** Running both Home Port A/C units at the same time has produced a jump in the rate charged and a significant increase in expense. A sign has been posted warning people not to start both within a few minutes of each other. P/C Denny Fegan is registering for Smart Meter monitoring and tracking. Effects of the A/C startups will be monitored, but the high rate being charged will be in effect for a year – until summer 2012.

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

- **Squadron Newsletter:**
 - Was mailed on 9/29 and posted on the website.

Commander's Department: Cdr/XO/AO Robert Leatherwood, S

- New donor signs have been hung in Home Port.
- Cdr Bob Leatherwood asked members to consider people they know and ask for donations/sponsorships.
- Low cost classified ads will be considered for the Bay Neigh to help members sell things.

Unfinished Business

- Report from P/C Denny Fegan on Nominating Committee progress: A document will be put together to send to the membership that describes our situation. It will be sent out this month.

D/21 Fall Conference in San Antonio
Photos by Cdr Bob Leatherwood, S



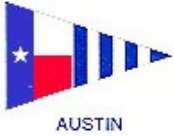
Kayaking and Fun in Clear Lake
Photos by Cdr Bob Leatherwood, S





District 21 Fall Conference Cruise

October 18-22, 2012



Austin Power Squadron is hosting this conference on a four day cruise aboard the Carnival Triumph

Itinerary:

18 Oct, Thu	Depart Galveston @ 1600
19 Oct, Fri	At Sea (Meetings)
20 Oct, Sat	Cozumel, Mexico
21 Oct, Sun	At Sea (Meetings or Seminars)
22 Oct, Mon	Disembark @ 0800

Cruise Pricing:

- Category 4B Main deck - Interior, Twin/King, Double Occupancy \$455 per person
 - Category 6C Main Deck - Ocean View, Twin/King, Double Occupancy, \$500 per person
 - Category 8B Empress Deck - Balcony, Twin/King, Double Occupancy \$565 per person
 - Category 8C Empress Deck - Balcony, Twin/King, Double Occupancy \$570 per person
 - 3rd & 4th person in same room \$195-234 per person
 - Contact Travel Agent for Suites and other Categories
- Prices Includes \$99 port charge, \$32 taxes, \$40 gratuities, and a **Private D21 Cocktail Party!**

Booking: Book by 11/7/2011 W/\$150 pp deposit to hold price and cabin.

- May book any time after but price may be higher
- Plus \$150pp by **1 Jun 2012**, and balance due **1 Aug 2012**
- Contact Charlene Broyles, Eagle Travel, at 512-651-3014 or charlie@eagletravelinc.com or Debbie McLaughlin at debbie@ricotours.com to book cabins/upgrades

Why you should attend:

- There will be no Conference registration fee.
- Conference will be held on day at sea leaving a full day in Cozumel to enjoy excursions.
- Cost is all inclusive except for parking in Galveston which is about \$40 for the four days.
- Cost is comparable to hotel conferences, 4 days long. (registration, hotel and many meals)
- Fine dining or casual dining, it's your choice and midnight buffet every night.
- Camp Carnival for your children or grandchildren ages 2 to 15 and teen activities.
- Activities & entertainment, clubs, bars, lounges, and casino.
- Access to Spa Carnival a complete fitness center with classes, whirlpool, sauna and steam room.
- Spacious staterooms, nightly turndown, room service, TV and more.

Other things you need to know.

- Passports or proof of citizenship for every passenger is required. Questions: Contact travel agent.
- Uniform details, if any, meeting times and places will be furnished later.
- Private D-21 cocktail party and other perks from travel agent only available to those who book through our travel agent.
- Other questions—P/C Ginny Strong 512-266-1638 or P/C Chet Geist 512-327-0928

Payment schedule:

- Deposit of \$150 pp with booking confirmation due 11/7/2011
- Second Payment of \$150 pp due 06/01/2012
- Balance due 08/01/2012
- No agency fee is being charged unless you cancel

Cancellation & Refund Policy

For written or phone cancellations received:

- Until 08/01/2012 - full refund less \$25 per person agency fee
- 08/02/2012-08/30/2012 - 50% of cruise cost plus agency fee
- 08/31/2012-09/15/2012 - 75% of cruise cost plus agency fee
- After 09/16/2012 - no refund plus agency fee

We strongly recommend the purchase of travel and trip cancellation insurance. Eagle Travel can assist you to select the best policy for your situation.

USPS District 21 Spring Conference March 29– April 1, 2012

“Cowboys and Culture In Fort Worth”



Radisson Fossil Creek
2540 Meacham Blvd, Fort Worth TX 76106
1-817-625-9911

Reserve your room before, TBD to guarantee your room rate of \$TBD
Rooms are held under room code USPS District 21 Spring Conference

Thursday, March 29

Ice Breaker party at Coors

Friday, March 30

Registration

Vendor displays and Ship's Store

Anchoring, USPS BOC Boat and Climate Change Seminars

Squadron Hospitality Suites Signature Drink Shoot-out Challenge

Saturday, March 31

Registration

Members Meeting

Tour of Bass Hall and Ladies Social Luncheon

Ship's Store

District 21 Change of Watch

Mark your calendars and come to Cowtown for the 2012 Spring Conference!

Great Displays—Garmin, Fire extinguishers, Anchors, etc

On the water training w/Official USPS B.O.C. Boat

Conference schedule and registration information to follow

Get your questions answered!

What is District 21?

What is the e-board?

What is in this for me?

What is a merit mark?

What is a rendezvous?

What is a full certificate?

You know you want to.

Find out about what is going on in the Houston Sail & Power Squadron.
Find out how YOU can participate and help us grow and improve.

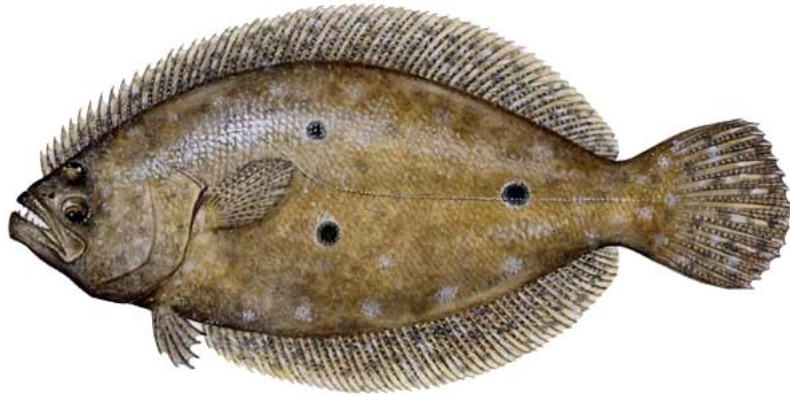
COME TO OPERATIONS TRAINING
AT HOME PORT ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH
FROM 1900-2100

This **FREE** program is great for all HSPS members, both new and old.
Completing operations training is part of achieving a full certificate.

For more information contact:

Claire McDonald
mcdonald@stthom.edu
713-668-5994

It is FLOUNDER FISHING time again!



The day is SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19th.

We can return to Clear Lake or find a likely pier or jetty and stay on land. If you would like to join us contact Claire McDonald at mcdonald@stthom.edu or 713-668-5994.

THIS FISH IS WAITING FOR YOU!

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 Bob Leatherwood, S. 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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Memories and unique gifts

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

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

November Birthdays

Lynne A. McCarthy	11/02
Van Z. White	11/02
Marvin V. Morris	11/06
C. H. 'Dutch' Hotalen Jr.	11/07
Robert Ryland Smith	11/07
Ellen K. White	11/12
Elnor S. Ellis	11/14
Richard A. Fisher	11/16
Louis E. Robichaux	11/16
Jean L. Hamilton	11/22
Ramona Blank Snapp	11/24
David W. Walker	11/24
John H. Crowe	11/30
Joan W. Tenney	11/30
Dale J. Wilpers	11/30

Get on the Water!

Maybe you're in between boats, or your boat has become a project boat, or you have a sailboat but want to do a little fishing. No worries, mate! Capt. Robert Campbell is offering "free" fishing and boating charters to HSPS members, family and friends.

You provide: Fuel & Food

I provide: Boat, Tackle, Ice & Water

Bay fishing or offshore: fly fishing, wadefishing, kayak ferries, drift fishing, jetty fishing, or just sightseeing.

For more info contact:
Capt Robert Campbell
713-594-1594
seo.hsp@comcast.net

November Dinner Meeting

ANDIAMO! Please join us at Home Port for **ITALIAN/ROMAN NIGHT**.

We'll be serving delicious food from The Olive Garden Restaurant. Come share a glass of wine, bottle of beer, a MARGARITA (or soft drinks) with us!

It will be a fabulous evening!

We hope to see you there and be early because we'll be having a speaker from the USCG!

WEAR YOUR TOGA because who knows, maybe C-Zar will make an appearance!!!

What: November Dinner Meeting

When: Wednesday, November 9, 2011

6:00-7:00 – Social hour, beverages provided and the BAR will be open (bring red wine if you like!)

7:00 – Dinner Served

8:00 – A member of the USCG will be speaking on Rescue 21, the new fast response national emergency response system and P/D/C Scott McDonald will talk about the ongoing progress of the USPS "On the Water Training" program.

Where: HSPS Home Port, 6910 Bellaire Blvd #15.

Menu: Lasagna, 5 Cheese Ziti Al Forno, Cheese Ravioli With Meat Sauce, Meatballs, Salad, Garlic bread and more

Dessert: I WON'T Forget Dessert!!!

Drinks: Wine, Plenty of Beer, or Cocktail - If you're an "enthusiast", bring a bottle of red wine!

Cost: \$12.00/person

An RSVP anytime before November 7th would be appreciated:

icemangems@att.net

Or call Bob Leatherwood at 281-879-6005

You can also use the sign up page on the home page of the HSPS website
<http://uspshouston.org/>

Ci Vediamo!!!!