



Vol. 50 No 1 Apr May Jun 2021

# America's Boating Club® Oyster Bay Sail and Power Squadron

By Boaters...For Boaters™



## Gull Chatter

### Commander's Report

by Ron Ferina, JN

### *"A View from the Bridge"*



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Our **Change of Watch** is upon us and the upcoming Bridge will remain basically the same with a couple of changes. Kevin Kuo, serving as Administrative Officer will move into the Executive Officer role which had been vacant in 2020. We welcome Fred Doulton, AP, to the Bridge as Administrative Officer for 2021. All other positions will remain filled with those who served in 2020. Having our Bridge, Executive and committee members continue their roles in our Club, helps maintain a certain continuity to our efforts.

One change for 2021, we welcome Peter Ackerman (P) as our squadron Port Captain. The Port Captain is the local resource for our members, and all USPS visiting members from other squadrons, providing information about our home ports. Note that "ports" is plural. Oyster Bay Sail & Power Squadron covers Hempstead Harbor, Oyster Bay Harbor (including West Harbor) and Cold Spring Harbor. The Port Captain is the person who accumulates information regarding anchorages, shore-side facilities (Yacht clubs and marinas), fuel and repair facilities, pump-out services, transient slip and mooring information including local restaurants and sources for provisions. The Port Captain provides "local knowledge" regarding navigation in and out of the harbors. It sounds like a great deal to do and sometimes it is. But we can all help out by providing information to Peter. I ask that you forward information to Peter and help our new Port Captain. His efforts, coupled with your help, will establish a baseline of '*essential boat information*' that could help boaters and our Cooperative Charting program.

While the challenges for the past year curtailed many of our activities, everyone persevered to keep the squadron active and planning for the upcoming season. Thanks to all our members for their support and efforts to keep in mind our mission during these trying times.

This year marks our **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** as a squadron, and we are looking forward to seeing all our members at our Change of Watch (virtually) and our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event scheduled for later in the year (hopefully, in person) around September. All of us on the Bridge, Executive Committee, and Committee people look forward to a 2021 rebirth and the ability to reform the foundation of the Oyster Bay Sail & Power Squadron for the next 50 years.

*Have a Great Spring!*





## Educational Report

by Thomas J Peltier, SN



### *What's New in Education*

2020 had us perplexed! Our classes were cancelled in Spring because we lacked a teaching venue where we could maintain social distancing. But, that didn't stop us. We immediately obtained Virtual media software (GoToMeeting) and encouraged our students to join Virtually—with some success. However, by Fall we were really a Virtual GO and successfully held 2 ABC classes in Syosset and Roslyn not to mention the Virtual Piloting and N classes we hosted.

So, this Spring we're ready to host a full Virtual Learning experience. Our instructors (Ann, Doug, Kevin, Ron Ferina, Ron & Jenny Nackman) have tested the waters and encourage everyone to jump in.

We have made plans to switch to ***Blended Learning*** (a combination of Virtual and In-Person sessions) when allowed; otherwise, we'll be Virtual. And if we are allowed—this year we will be featuring a Blended Learning Experience that may include On-the-Water Components when applicable. Our Educational department is here to support your boater needs. Contact me if there are any courses, seminars or webinars you'd like presented. We've got the cameras rolling!

*Thomas*

### 2021 Early Spring Schedule— Sign up NOW

Because of the Corona Virus Pandemic, State and Local Restrictions have required our classes to be limited (to allow for Social Distancing) thereby causing us to invite you to our NEW **Virtual Classroom**.

Virtual **Boat Handling – 5 week Course** will begin May.

Virtual **Piloting Course –10 weeks** will begin in April

Virtual **Man Overboard Seminar (2 hours)** will be held May or June

Pre-registration is essential for all Seminars and Courses

Please contact Thomas as soon as possible.

**All Classes must Pre-Register  
to ensure that books and materials are available**

## Executive Officer - Elect

by Kevin Kuo, AP



The coronavirus created some changes in our way of doing business last year. Hopefully, this boating season will put us back on track. As the Incoming EXO, I am happily responsible for some exciting and interesting activities: Boat Shows, Cooperative Charting, Environmental Issues, Public Relations with community groups, Safety Announcements, Security/Liaison to local government and Vessel Safety. Several members have volunteered to Chair some of these posts and I hope that this year we will be enjoying some fun activities together. Always watch for announcements concerning all activities. I know this is going to be a great year. Happy sailing!

## Admin Report - Elect

by Fred Doulton, AP

Dear Members,

A special thank you to Kevin for putting in place the 2021 calendar. It certainly makes my job a little easier. We will be updating our squadron activities as the year continues. Here's a quick glance at the next couple of months.



4/12/21 1930 Change of Watch	Virtual
5/10/21 1930 Open House	Virtual - Facebook
5/23/21 1330 Multi-Squadron Spring Picnic	Tappen Beach Sea Cliff,
6/06/21 1330 Blessing of the Fleet -	Oyster Bay
6/14/21 1730 Commander's cocktail hour	Cooper's Bluff
7/12/21 1830 Social Distanced Scavenger Hunt	TBD
8/09/21 Raft-up / Overnight @ Stamford	TBD

Help us make this the best year yet. Contact me, or any of the Bridge, and let us bring activities and events that will make you Smile!

**All Meetings Listed are planned Virtual Events —join us !**

## Member's Article - Introduction to your Bridge....

### Executive Officer: Kevin Kuo

I was introduced to the Oyster Bay Sail and Power Squadrons from the ABC class. The allure of discounted classes with membership encouraged me to join. I would say that Ron Nackman really was instrumental in pulling me by offering me the opportunity to help him maintain his boat and then sailing with him later that season. The most exciting part of being a boater especially within the squadron is connecting with people who have similar interests. I have dreams of making a transatlantic or transpacific cruise by sail. If I couldn't sail anymore I would probably spend that time building scale models or increase my luxury watch trading activities. As a boater on Long Island it is a blast because it doesn't take long to access the water. And one big wish—I would like to see America's Boating Club invest in club boats like zodiacs or dinghies to help people with on the water training, learning the rules of the road and experiencing Cooperative Charting, first hand.

Hope everyone is excited for the upcoming season! Cheers, **Kevin**

### Squadron Educational Officer (SEO): Thomas Peltier

Back in the mid-1990's, Ann and I decided to buy our own boat. We had been boating, but on other peoples boats (OPB) and knew it was time for us to strike out on our own. After searching for 1 year, I came across a boat that would satisfy my desire to fish and Ann's desire for comfort. Consequently, on June 15th 1999, we purchased a 1987, 34ft Silverton Cruiser—"In the Mood." Our friends thought purchasing such a large 1st boat was very aggressive. We quickly realized that 'WE NEEDED A CLASS!' After seeing an ad in the Pennysaver, I called and spoke to the SEO Marvin Freidman who suggested that we enroll in the Fall Basic Boating class. At that time, the 12 week course was taught by a group of Oyster Bay 'experts' giving us a chance to meet so many squadron members. The rest is history! Today, *In the Mood* has been retired, but Ann and I continue to enjoy Squadron, District and National activities and friends. As the current SEO, I enjoy bringing safe boating classes to the community and the membership which now includes arranging Virtual Educational Classes—which keeps me very busy. Who knows maybe the pandemic restrictions are lifted, I will again begin my search for the perfect boat and be back "*In the Mood, Again!*" **Thomas**

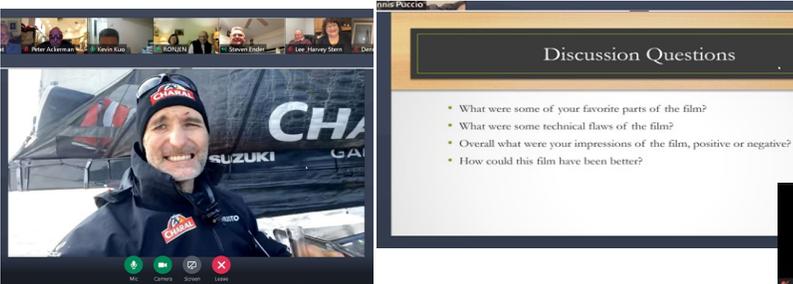
### Administrative Officer: Fred Doulton

Having always wished to be out on the water in a boat, I first bought a 12ft derelict sailboat at a yard-sale in 1993. I had it rigged and then launched it in Manhasset Bay without knowing anything about sailing or seamanship. Almost capsizing in the first few minutes, I was rescued by a kind boater who suggested I take a class, before going out on the water, again, and take a course offered by the United States Power Squadron. I did! And continue to do so, today. I get so much more by participating and committing to being a good boater as well as passing on the knowledge and wisdom that I was so happily been given. It's a beautiful life out on the water in the nooks and crannies along the shores of Long Island, sharing the water with like-minded others who present the same spirit of seamanship and love for boating. As a part of America's Boating Club, I hope to continue to be a part of a boating community, working to create and supporting an environment for a safe, knowledgeable and dedicated to an enthusiastic boat-life for anyone who loves being a boater! **Fred**

# Photo Gallery... Virtual Meeting Pictures Page 6



On **January 11th**, our General Meeting was a little different. This was our first **Movie Review Night**. Members were encouraged to watch “Turning Tide” a French film sharing the story of a navigator determined to win the Vendee Globe—a 3 month long sailboat race around the world. As we learned, the adventure had many emotional twists and turns. After our ‘general’ discussion about the movie, Kevin shared some quiz-like questions. We all had a wonderful time. And we even learned some new French words!



## March Executive Meeting



March is the beginning of the Meteorological Spring and the Bridge was happy to enjoy the time (virtually) planning Summer / Fall Activities. We were treated to some wonderful Spring artwork to help us get in the mood.

## March Annual Meeting

## GOOD AND WELFARE

Congratulation to **David Tuck** for obtaining 100% on his *Piloting Weekend Cruise and Exam*.

Well Done David—that was a first for our USPS grader!



**Congratulation Ron Nackman**  
**Oyster Bay's newest 50 year member**



**Welcome Aboard !**

**Russell Stuart** who joined our Squadron on 3/17 who not only wanted to participate in our Piloting Course but happily become a member of our Club!



Congratulations— **George Hoffman, SN** and his **D3 Lines** as they take the helms. 2021 to 2022



We are proud to announce that Oyster Bay was honored by USPS with the 2020 Distinctive Communicator Award for both our Gull Chatter and Website.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!



- Jacqueline Bass
- Clifford Chabina
- Gerald Di Cunzolo
- Fred Doulton
- Edwin Marks
- Theresa Moschetta
- Joseph Musso
- Sabrina Navaretta
- Ralph Parisi
- Alice Sorenson
- Norman Sorenson

- Shirley Durfee
- Steven Ender
- Patricia Ferina
- Jim Friscia
- Peter Manning
- Ronald Nackman
- Robert Tatem Jr.

- Stephen Akseizer
- Jonathan Bass
- Justin Corrado**
- David Kessler
- Andrew Navaretta
- Thomas Peltier
- Harvey Stern
- Dorothy Titus

## Safety Article

by P/C Ann

# Boating Safely on July 4th

I know this is the April / May / June edition - so what better time to talk about July 4th. Many recreational boaters start NOW to plan their 4th of July water adventure. Unfortunately, sometimes these trips can cause chaos at marinas, boat ramps and anchorages; not to mention the unexpected congestion **on the water**.

As you know, the 2020 boating season held many headlines about boater mishaps due to 'inexperience' and boaters 'without lifejackets.' It is expected that this year boaters will, again, plan on hosting voyages with Crew and Guests. Perhaps some Guests have little or no boating experience nor have they taken a Safe Boating Course.

Looking through my computer library, I found a great article I clipped and saved from **BOATUS** which got me thinking. What should **Guests Know** when invited on your boat? With that in mind, I put together a **Tips List** for your enjoyment on '**How Guests can Survive Independence Day on the Water.**'

- Before you head out, give your Crew and Guests a short orientation. No matter the size of your boat—a tour of where everything is located is important including all safety equipment like lifejackets, marine radio, flares.
- Guests who are not experienced boaters may still want to help. So if you plan on assigning them a task during your voyage, make sure they completely understand **How to complete the Task** and what is expected of them. Don't forget to have them demonstrate the task. And remember, sometimes it is okay to have your Guests just be your Guests.
- Everyone should know the essentials. But it's so important to instruct Guests on **How to Move About the Boat** properly—utilizing the 3 point theory: one hand always in contact with the boat for stability.
- Guests must be instructed on **How to use the Head** and discard waste items properly.
- Everyone should know **How to use the VHF radio** and **How to put on a Life Jacket**. Always assign a Life Jacket to each individual and check to see if it fits correctly.
- Guest boaters may forget that you have limited space aboard. So give your Guest a list on **How to pack for a day on the Water**. Always include personal water, snacks, change of clothes and medicines, if needed. As Skipper, you should be in charge of coolers, etc. Small boats must be extra careful - they are prone to list or swamp if items are not stowed properly.
- Guests must know where to sit and where NOT to sit. No Guest nor crew should ride or sit anywhere other than designated places while underway. Riding with legs over the side or on gunnels is unsafe and illegal in New York.
- **How and When to Party**. Okay, it's 4th of July and it's Party Time. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents. Wait to celebrate with alcohol when you've safely returned to home port for the night. Also consider the effects of sun, wind and waves coupled with alcohol consumption which can cause Boater's Fatigue...slowing your awareness and reaction times.



# DISTRICT 3 & USPS NEWS

**LOTS OF THINGS HAPPENING IN DISTRICT THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.  
MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL DISCOUNT!**



Due to Coronavirus—all District Activities Have Been either cancelled or re-scheduled—  
Watch for Up-Dates on our Website, Social Media and emails.  
Your wellness is important! Take extra care during this time.

District 3 Memorial Service April 11th 2021  
This year's Virtual Memorial Service will be honoring 2 of our  
members: P/C Len Hecht, JN who passed March 31st, 2019  
and  
P/C John Sossi, SN who passed August 19th , 2020

District 3  
Virtual Council Meeting May 21st 2021  
Watch for email Blast Invitation

District 3 2021 Moonlight Cruise June 15th  
No Information is available at this time



**Governing Board 2021**  
**America's Boating Club®**  
...there will be a Governing Board for your  
to enjoy. Watch for USPS Announcements.

continued from page 8

- After viewing fireworks from the water and pulling up anchor, you may have the urge to rush home. **Don't!** Think 'Go slow' and enjoy the ride. And don't opt for the 'tricky,' shallow shortcut route home. Be cautious and have patience. Show your Guests how to really enjoy an evening ride home by assigning them as one of your lookouts. The more lookouts you have at night, the better. Even an inexperienced Guest can be an excellent lookout. However, after dark, white lights in the cockpit or on deck can interfere with your crew's night vision and their ability to see boating traffic or hazards. You can help by turning off or dimming nonessential lighting, especially if using a cell phone. Portable LED headlamps with red lenses can help Crew and Guests get around the boat and preserve their sight for spotting traffic. So plan on a wonderful **4th Celebration** with your friends and family whether they are your Crew or your Special Guests.

# Oyster Bay - Calendar

## 2021–2022 General Meeting and Events

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, Oyster Bay's Activities and Meetings may be held by **Virtual Media**. Always check the website or contact the Commander or a Bridge Member to learn more about an event

	Exec Mtg	Gen Mtg	<b>Whether Virtual or In-Person we hope you can attend!</b>
<b>2021</b>			
<b>Jan</b>	4th	11th	<b>Virtual Movie Review Night - <i>Turning Tides</i></b> / Watch at home before the meeting Movie Review at the meeting
<b>Feb</b>	1st	8th	<b>Lunar New Year and Pre-Valentine Dinner – Think RED “Luxury Lifestyle Hacking”</b> presented by Kevin Ku
<b>Mar</b>	1st	8th	Oyster Bay's Annual Meeting / “Why Did I Join?” Discussion
<b>Apr</b>	5th	12th	11th District 3–Memorial Service 12th Oyster Bay's Change of Watch
<b>May</b>	3rd	10th	Open House—See What we're all About— “It's Picture Day!”
<b>Jun</b>	7th	17th TBD	No Formal Meeting / 5:30pm Commander's Cocktail Hour 13th ??? Blessing of the Fleet
<b>Jul</b>	5th	12th	No Official Meeting—Movie Night
<b>Aug</b>	2nd	9th	No Official Meeting—Raft UP
<b>Sept</b>	7th	13th	Welcome Back Meeting—Photo Contest / 911 Video
<b>Oct</b>	4th	11th	Virtual Bermuda Race (OB Game Night)
<b>Nov</b>	1nd	8th	Veteran Speaker— TBA
<b>Dec</b>	6th	NO	No Official Meeting Holiday Gathering

## Member Benefits



### Discounted Navigation Software for Members ONLY

25% Discount available - A Better Way to Plan and Navigate.

- Coastal Explorer -software for recreational boaters
- Nemo Gateway - best way to interface all your marine electronics
- Rose Point ECS Industry - navigation software for professional mariners

**For more information Contact: <https://www.rosepoint.com/>**

# 2021 Oyster Bay Calendar

Print this Page and Put it on the Refrigerator So you don't forget about these special events

Due to the Coronavirus / COVID-19 Pandemic  
All Club Activities Have Been Postponed or Rescheduled  
Watch for Up-Dates on our Website, Social Media and emails.  
Your wellness is important ! Take extra care during this time.



## April Virtual Meeting Change of Watch April 12th, 2021

The Bridge cordially invites you to participate in Oyster Bay's 50th Change of Watch  
Be part of the Celebration!

## May Virtual Meeting May 10th, 2021

### It's our First Open House and everyone is invited.

Invite your friends to share —  
Samples of our Classes/Seminars  
Special Activities like *Blessing of the Fleet; Photo Contest, OctoberFest, Game Night* and much more.

When you're part of the Fun it's so great, but having friends share in the Fun makes it so SPECIAL.

Oyster Bay – Share the Fun!



## June - No Formal Meeting

### Welcome in the summer at the Oyster Bay's Commander's Cocktail Hour at 7PM - Cooper's Bluff

We can *social distance* as we enjoy the beautiful Sunset talking about the Covid year behind us and wonderful Summer ahead we are planning.

June —Blessing of the Fleet watch for flyer with date/ time

A special thank you to Jones Beach's Safety Officer Lt. Marty Seconhouse, AP for allowing us to re-print the following article. Marty joined USPS/America's Boating Club® May 1999 and has 21 Merit Marks. As an active member of Jones Beach, Marty continuously writes interesting and pertinent Safety Articles for all boaters. This article appeared in the Jones Beach *G & P* (their newsletter) February 2021 and, with Marty's permission, we happily shares this important information with the Oyster Bay Sail and Power Squadron Gull Chatter readers. Thanks again, Marty!



Here is a neat new safety item.

Introduced by ACR Electronics for the first time at Miami International Boat Show, the ACR OLAS Guardian is a new wireless engine kill switch and man overboard alarm system that provides a new level of affordable safety for the entire family.

The [ACR OLAS Guardian](#) system, an option within the full ACR OLAS (Overboard Location Alert System) product portfolio, will stop the engines within two seconds of a person, or pet, going overboard. It will also trigger a loud 85db alarm, alerting everyone onboard of the emergency, or, if boating alone, reducing the chances of a serious accident from an unmanned, uncontrolled vessel.

Wirelessly connecting up to 15 family members via wearable ACR OLAS transmitters, the ACR OLAS Guardian allows the skipper and crew to move freely around the boat without the constraint of a physical wired kill cord. The engine will cut out within an Instant of an OLAS Tag or Float-On light losing connection, either because of a man overboard (MOB) situation or via separation by distance. After five seconds, the kill switch is deactivated, enabling the engine to be restarted.

Quick and easy to install, the compact Guardian device connects to a vessel's 12/24v power supply and existing kill switch using the supplied connectors. The Guardian will automatically connect to any switched on OLAS transmitting devices within 2-meter range once the vessel is boarded and power switched on. A pause mode allows the user to leave the boat with the engine idling.

The ACR OLAS Guardian is easily operated via the ACR OLAS mobile app, which, in the case of a MOB incident, provides an easy to read directional screen showing where the alarm was triggered and advising on the correct mayday call. The App also allows the users to customize which crew transmitters will trigger engine cut-off and which will only trigger the audio/visual alarms. Used in place of or alongside an existing kill cord switch, the ACR OLAS Guardian provides coverage for vessels up to 50 feet, or up to 80 feet with the use of the [ACR OLAS Extender](#).

Stay Safe,

JBPS SAFETY OFFICER "OUT"



## Member's Article - Know the Members

Ever Wonder Why Other Members Joined.

The following was submitted by Stf/C Douglas Durfee. Thanks Doug!

I joined Manhasset Bay Power Squadron in January, 1975 after taking Basic Boating at Roslyn High School. Back then you had to wait to be invited to join the squadron. But, why did I join? William J. Vincent, my first boss with the Town of Oyster Bay was a member of Oyster Bay Power Squadron and a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. In fact, I even went on 2-3 patrols with him and his wife, Ann. He encouraged me to take courses and even provided time and space for me to study. Thereby, enabling me to take Instructor Techniques (now called ID) and Engine Maintenance at the same time.

Back then, USPS did not have a Piloting course. The curriculum went from Seamanship to Advanced Piloting. I was lucky to have as my Advanced Piloting instructor, Bill Schwartz of Manhasset Bay PS, who became the author of what we now know as Piloting. I continued my education with the power squadron. Unfortunately, I failed the Junior Navigation and Navigation tests the first time I took them. But I was not deterred. Consequently, I completed my *full certificate* in January, 1983.

I began teaching courses and loved it. P/C Joe Frey, who obviously later joined Oyster Bay, took the Seamanship course, along with his two sons, with me in 1991.

I have always taught in jacket and tie and tried to stay away from a uniform. But, when I was elected to the Oyster Bay Bridge as Administrative Officer in 1994, I purchased my first uniform. I was again elected to A/O in 1998. And served as Commander of Oyster Bay from 2000-2002.

About that time P/C Al Brown, SN, and I developed what we called the "Latitudes" program. Al, P/C Cliff Chabina, Dave Wasserman and I presented the *Development of Celestial Navigation* to Oyster Bay Power Squadron at one of the General Meetings. Al thought we should "take it on the road," but Cliff and Dave were not in agreement. So, Al and I started an ever-evolving 'road show' called "*Latitudes*." This presentation showed the development of celestial navigation from the Vikings to present day. When we opened the programs to questions, we just never knew what the audience would ask. We quickly learned to learn from our audience.

In 2007, I was awarded the *Gull Award* presented to me by the Oyster Bay Bridge for outstanding leadership, followed by the *Simica Award* from District 3 and then the *Charles Chapman Award* by National (for *Excellence in Teaching*) at the Annual Meeting in Dallas in 2008. Ann Peltier and I had to share shoulder boards!

I have been on the National Offshore Navigation committee since 2008. I can count many of these members and Rear Commanders as friends that I treasure. The funny thing is whenever I pass the Burger King on Jericho Turnpike, next to Kmart, I say to myself "That's where it all started."

Well that's my story...what's yours? Regards Doug Durfee



Doug with Latitudes then and now as published in the USPS Ensign



September 12th, 2021, *Oyster Bay Sail and Power Squadron* will be Celebrating 50 years of teaching Safe Boating in Community!

You are cordially invited to be part of this outstanding milestone. We'd like to make this weekend spectacular. Maybe we can start on Saturday with a tree planting in the park or some other memorable event. We are open to ideas.

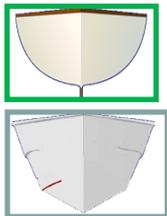
So, don't be shy—send them along.

However, on Sunday, we are planning a Picnic at Roosevelt Park Marina (if permitted by the town) and everyone's invite. Hamburgers and Hot Dog will be prepared by the *Club*. Or, feel free to bring your own special entrée to share with your friends. Don't forget your drinks and chairs. And be prepared to stay for Coffee and Cake. Weather permitting we'll enjoy the waterfront together. Clouds and Showers don't bother us...we've got tents!

We will be producing a commemorative **50th Anniversary Journal** with some pictures from the past you may had forgotten about. Better yet, send us your pictures (either from the past or now) and be part of this 'keepsake' Journal.

*Happy Anniversary!*

We were hoping you'd help by off-setting the cost of the 50<sup>th</sup> Year Celebratory Journal to be published 12 September 2021.

Boat Message Pick your Hull Sail or Power		\$ 10.00	4 to a page ENLARGED SPACE FOR YOUR FULL MESSAGE
Business Card Style		\$ 30.00	3 to a page
1/2 Page Supporter		\$ 50.00	
Full Page Supporter		\$ 75.00	Picture Collages Welcomed

Use this sheet to submit your  
**50th Anniversary Journal Sponsor Donation**

Forward your Journal Sponsorship Donation to:

(Payable to Oyster Bay Power Squadron)

P/Cdr Ann Peltier,  
 92 Log Road  
 Patchogue, New York 11772

Send your old pictures or your Expression of Congratu-  
 lations via email to the Anniversary Journal Editor at

[apeltier@optonline.net](mailto:apeltier@optonline.net)

or include them with your Journal donation.

Either way your support will be welcomed.

**Submit your**

Boat Label / Business Card / 1/2 Page / Full Page ad — NOW.

Your supporter page ad will be posted in the Journal in the order  
 received. It's always nice to be in the FRONT!

Journal Advertisement:

All ads must be placed May 1st, 2021. If you require any  
 assistance preparing your ad, please contact Ann Peltier at  
 516 933 -1768 or by e-mail at [apeltier@optonline.net](mailto:apeltier@optonline.net)

Boat Label	\$ 10.00	_____
Business Card	\$ 30.00	_____
1/2 Page Supporter	\$ 50.00	_____
Full Page Supporter	\$ 75.00	_____

As a participating supporter, your name will be posted on the  
 the *Gull Chatter* Supporters' Page.

## Spring!! Safety Check Season Special Article - by Cdr Ron

Time to conduct your own basic “safety check” of your vessel

- Check the dates on your flares!
- Fire extinguisher gauges should be in the green!
- All navigation lights working? Lenses crazed?
- Check the condition of your PFDs. Are they the correct size for crew and guests?
- Manually inflate your inflatable PFDs.
  - Do they hold air for 24 hours?
  - Press on the bladder; does it lose air?
  - Inspect the CO2 cartridge, firing mechanism, and “tablet”  
(hydrostatic module should be replaced every 5 to 7 years; see mfg. recommendation)
- Engine Cut-Off Switch present and functional? (see below)

This is only the most basic check. You are encouraged to have a free vessel safety check because our examiners are trained to check **ALL** federal and state mandates, observe conditions that are potential issues, and provide additional information regarding your safety on the water.



Contact Dennis Puccio, your New Vessel Safety Check Coordinator, at [denpooch@verizon.net](mailto:denpooch@verizon.net) to schedule a safety check. The safety check can be ashore or on the water and available to members and non-members alike. Spread the word.

A new federal safety law was passed by congress last year proposed by the U.S. Coast Guard in response to a marked increase in incidents that has grown over the past few years. Operators falling overboard while underway are causing the vessel to continue to run. With no one at the helm, the vessel will turn to circle; sometimes with the person in the water inside the circle.

### U.S. Coast Guard announces new law requiring use of engine cut-off switches

WASHINGTON -- Operators of recreational vessels less than 26 feet in length will be required to use an engine cut-off switch (ECOS) and associated ECOS link (ECOSL) as of April 1, 2021, as the U.S. Coast Guard implements a law passed by Congress.

The ECOS and ECOSL prevent runaway vessels and the threats they pose. The ECOSL attaches the vessel operator to a switch that shuts off the engine if the operator is displaced from the helm. The ECOSL is usually a lanyard-style cord that attaches to an ECOS either in close proximity to the helm or on the outboard motor itself if the vessel is operated by a tiller. When enough tension is applied, the ECOSL disengages from the ECOS and the motor is automatically shut down. Wireless ECOS have recently been developed and are also approved for use. These devices use an electronic “fob” that is carried by the operator and senses when it is submerged in water, activating the ECOS and turning the engine off. Wireless devices are available on the aftermarket and are beginning to become available as manufacturer-installed options.

(source: <https://uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/engine-cut-off-switch-faq.php>)

This safety law requires manufacturers to incorporate the ECOS on boats manufactured after mid-year of 2020. If your vessel had an after-market ECOS installed, the new law **REQUIRES** the operator to use them while underway.

## Oyster Bay Sail and Power Squadron

America's Boating Club  
PO Box 13  
Oyster Bay, NY 11771



**The Gull Chatter**  
April / May / June  
2021

Oyster Bay Sail and Power Squadron

*Social Distancing can't keep us from continuing to work for a safer, healthier boaters' world.*

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic  
Oyster Bay will be hosting Virtual Meeting and featuring a NEW Distance Learning Experiences

**NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK**  
May 22-28, 2021

Our Virtual Classroom bring Award winning USPS boating courses / seminars directly to your home.

**It's the Law!**  
Born on or after **January 1st 1993** you will need an  
approved **NY State Safe Boating Course** this year.

### Executive Meeting:

1st Monday of each Month from January to December (Virtual ONLY)

### General Membership Meetings:

2nd Monday of each Month from (Virtual Meetings at this time)

Always check Call to Meeting flyers and the website ([boatosterbay.org](http://boatosterbay.org))

For more detail information: Dates—Times—Place of meeting

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