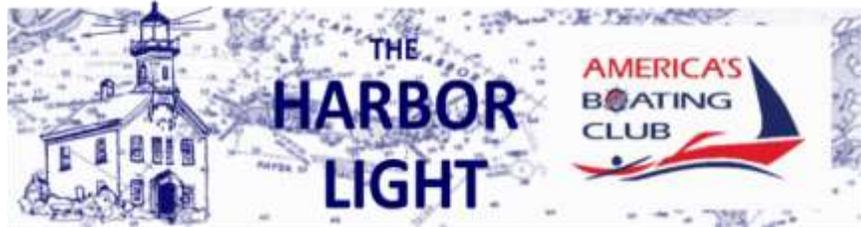


The Greenwich Sail & Power Squadron is now known as America's Boating Club of Greenwich



America's Boating Club of Greenwich - District 2

[Our website](#)

Volume 83, No. 2

NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2018



## From the Commander

First, I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for such a warm supportive welcome as I take the helm as your commander.

I look forward to serving the Greenwich Power Squadron now known as "America's Boating Club of Greenwich" in my new role. You can count on me to do my level best to maintain our high standards with our classes, speaker

events and to participate in community activities to support our youth such as SoundWaters and Sea Scout Ship 6.

District 2 has 13 squadrons and at the April conference it was announced that we had increased our membership by 37 since 2016 - an overwhelming success. We received awards for our website and newsletter among others and perhaps the most prestigious was the Outstanding Squadron Award which assesses ALL aspects of our activities and how we serve our members and the boating community. With your help, we can keep this up.

Spring and the boating season are quickly coming upon us, although the weather these past weeks is telling us differently. Many are planning and have started to prepare their boat for the season. Good luck with that, and let us know when you need your vessel safety check.

Check out the calendar in this newsletter for some exciting events such as GPS and 'Creature Feature' presentations, the spring party, the lobster bake and then all our

on-water activities such as the Tuesday night sails starting in June and the monthly raftups. Many thanks to all those responsible for organizing these; your hard work and enthusiasm are appreciated.

I look forward to seeing both established and new members at these and other events so we can all learn from one another and share the activities. Enjoy and be safe!

Commander Victoria Malara, S  
Cell: 914-714-1516 Email: [VPMalara@aol.com](mailto:VPMalara@aol.com)



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## From the Educational Officer



Many of our students have asked for additional instruction on GPS and on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4 - 6 pm, we're fortunate to have one of our new members Capt. Len Lipton present 'Introduction to GPS' for us. This will be held at Old Greenwich Yacht Club with light refreshments, and you can reserve your place on line: [RSVP here to OGYC](#)

Here is a brief summary of the Educational Report that I presented at our recent Change of Watch, with some current updates.

Overall, 2017 was another successful year for our Educational Department. The following is a summary of the courses offered and the students graduating in the 2017 fiscal year:

- ABC: 113 students
- Piloting: is currently under way: 13 students signed up
- Advanced Piloting: 7 students
- Cruise Planning: 10 students
- Instructor Recertification: 8 students
- Weather Seminar at Riverside Yacht Club: 65 participants.
- OpenCPN (navigation software) at Riverside Yacht Club: 59 participants

I want to thank all who taught or assisted in teaching classes this past year: David Cassuto, Jim Dobbs, George Friend, Marie Genteale, Bob Henry, Terry Henry, Ralph Kravitz, Jon Ricci, Chris Nitzsche, Andy Papademetriou, Susan Ryan, Bill Strong, Gordon Updegraff, Bill Vernon

Two of our members recently received National's Educational Proficiency Award: Joe Pucciarelli and Bill Vernon. This is awarded to anyone achieving a grade level of at

least Advanced Piloting (AP) and completing at least three Elective Courses.  
Congratulations to both!

*Andy Cummings, JN*



### **From the Safety Officer**



Safe Boating Week 2018 is May 19th through 25th. Again this year, the National Safe Boating Council has continued its theme of "Wear It" to emphasize the need to wear a life jacket while on board. The Council believe that awareness of the campaign is fundamental. Based upon survey results conducted by the Council, boaters who are aware of the campaign are significantly more likely than those who are unaware to wear their life jackets "always or most of the time." In addition, statistics prove the benefits of wearing a life jacket. Here are some key points, as reported by the

Council based upon 2016 U.S. Coast Guard data:

- Drowning was reported as the cause of death in 80% of all fatalities (four out of five people died from drowning).
- Approximately 83% of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets.
- In 2016, the Coast Guard counted 4,463 accidents that involved 701 deaths, 2,903 injuries and approximately \$49 million of damage to property from recreational boating accidents.
- The fatality rate was 5.9 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. This rate represents a 11.3% increase from the 2015 fatality rate of 5.3 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels.
- Only 13% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator had received boating safety instruction.
- Operator inattention, operator inexperience, improper lookout, excessive speed and machinery failure as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.
- Alcohol use is the leading known contributor in fatal boating accidents. Where the primary cause was known, alcohol was listed as the main factor in 15% of deaths.
- Sixteen children under age 13 lost their lives while boating in 2016. Eight children, or approximately 50% of the children who died in 2016, died from drowning.
- Where data was known, the most common types of vessels involved in reported accidents were open motorboats (47%), personal watercraft (18%) and cabin motorboats (15%).

Other important conclusions from these data are that boating education reduces accidents and that boating under the influence of alcohol significantly contributes to accidents and fatalities.

While the campaign is only a week long, as members of America's Boating Club of Greenwich, we can reinforce the campaign by setting an example for safe boating practices all season.

*Andy Cummings, JN*

### Calendar

For all details, contact [GreenwichSquadron@gmail.com](mailto:GreenwichSquadron@gmail.com)



**April 18, 7.00pm:** Creature Feature: Under the Sea; Marine Life Behavior at Greenwich Boat & Yacht Club, 9 Grass Island, Greenwich CT. Presented by Dive Master Andy Cummings. Free. Light refreshments.

**April 22, 4 - 6pm:** Introduction to Using Your GPS, at Old Greenwich Yacht Club, Tod's Driftway, Greenwich Point Park, Old Greenwich.  
Instructor: Captain Len Lipton



**May 5:** All-day safe boating class, Greenwich Police HQ

**May 20 - 26:** National Safe Boating Week. Contact us to attend the presentation of the Town Proclamation by First Selectman Peter Tesei

**June 1, 6pm:** Kickoff Party to the Boating Season - chez Cummings.

**Starting June 5** throughout summer, Weekly Sunset Cruises

**June 9:** All-day safe boating class, Greenwich Police HQ

**June 16, July 14 and August 11:** Raftups in Greenwich Cove

**July 15, 4pm:** Lobster Party, Clambake area, Greenwich Point Park

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The decals are in! To arrange your vessel safety check, contact [GreenwichSquadron@gmail.com](mailto:GreenwichSquadron@gmail.com)

These are free, take about 20 minutes, and ensure your equipment is up to regulation

### 2018 Change of Watch





Above, photos from the Change of Watch. Left to right, new commander Vicki Malara; outgoing commander Bill Vernon; Officiator Karl Wagner; Susan Ryan and Susan Darcy from District 2; John Giddings, Ellen Wink and Len Lipton; Tony Reyes with the Pucciarellis; The Henrys with Sam York; The Strongs; Nancy York.

Below, recent photos, left to right: Vicki with Andy at Boat Show, Vicki receiving Outstanding Squadron award at District Conference, Capt Eric Knott on 'Vive la Difference', Bill with Joy Sherman our Cuba speaker, Asst Admin Karolyn Armstrong, Andy teaching Piloting, Susan at National Meeting in Orlando.



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## Officers of America's Boating Club of Greenwich

Commander: Vicki Malara, S

Exec. Officer: Bill Vernon, AP

Treasurer: Bob Henry, SN

Educ. Officer: Andy Cummings, JN

Secretary: Bob Henry, SN

Admin Officer: Janis Stahlhut

Asst. Admin: Karolyn Armstrong, P

George Friend AP, Rich Malloy SN, Susan Ryan JN-IN, Bill Strong JN



Some of the new bridge members being sworn in by District Educational Officer Karl Wagner: Vicki Malara, Bill Vernon, Andy Cummings, Bob Henry, Karolyn Armstrong

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### Excerpts of an Interview with Victoria Malara by our Roving Reporter, Karen Griffin

**KG:** As the new Commander of America's Boating Club of Greenwich, what will you prioritize?

**VM:** It's vital to get the word out about boating safely, and our classes are crucial to this. Everyone on the water should know what to do in case of any unexpected situation, perhaps especially the youth and with whatever water sports they're doing - jet skiing, tubing, water skiing, paddle boarding, kayaking etc. because I don't think they realize the severity of what might happen.

Another goal is to develop and nurture friendships between our members. So I will work with our officers on great speaker events and parties.

**KG:** How long have you been in lower Fairfield County and what drew you to America's Boating Club of Greenwich?

**VM:** I've been here for four years. When I sold my house in South Salem, NY, I wanted to have either a view of water or mountains. I decided on water! Sailing is something I have always wanted to do since I was 18 years old and

when I came here I wanted to meet people with similar interests in boating. I knew I needed the safe boating class, and driving around Greenwich I saw a sign on Susan Ryan's lawn. I took a picture of it, called her and then met her to obtain the class materials. The rest is history - here I am!

**KG:** Rumor has it you are a new boat owner.

**VM:** A friend and I just bought from a Power Squadron member a 1984 25' Dufor sailboat with an outboard motor. It is a very well-kept boat and small enough to sail ourselves. It has a tiller, so you can really feel the current and movement of the water when you are sailing. We're bringing it down from West Haverstraw, NY, so we'll be going down the Hudson River, around Manhattan and bringing it into the TGM Marina Harbor in Stamford. I can't wait!

**KG:** America's Boating Club is lucky to have you as their new commander. You have the passion and enthusiasm to lead us forward. Thank you - see you soon.