



GALVESTON BAY



# the Galveston Bay Breeze

Galveston Bay Sail & Power Squadron—District 21

A unit of United States Power Squadron®

Father show us Thy chart, Thy compass and Thy course that we might navigate life's foggy water to behold Thy eternal paradise at the end of our voyage

VOLUME LXIII

April-May 2026

NUMBER 2

## From the Helm



We attended the D21 Spring Conference held in Houston a few weeks ago and learned a lot of new ways to help with membership drives and also reaching out to the public through social media. We attended some amazing workshops and discussions concerning how to move us into the future of the digital age through classes, meetings, and out reach. I would like to take a moment to thank all who attend the D21 Conference from GBSPS. Some things Malin LaPlace and I are working on is getting the squadron web page and other social media pages up and running. So we can communicate with the members and general public much easier and more efficiently.



Also we have several events coming up. On 11 April is our monthly members' meeting at St John's. We need you there. See details on page three. The Kemah Boat Crawl is scheduled for Saturday, 18 April beginning at 0800 and ending at 1700. We will have a booth at Little Yacht Sales, I could use some help manning the booth. This is a meet and greet the public event..

We will also be hosting the D21 Incoming Officers meeting at St John's on that Saturday as well. This meeting brings together all the new squadron officers to learn about their responsibilities in the individual squadrons and District 21.

Keels and Wheels Saturday, 25 April and Sunday, 26 April. We have the boat simulator which I will need assistance setting up for both shows. We need volunteers to man the booth for a minimum of 2 hours for each show. Please contact myself or Jim Hammond if you can volunteer. This is a way to reach new members and boaters looking to take boating courses.

I'm still looking into avenues to get GBSPS back near the water. Whether into a yacht club, marina, or our own building. Safe travels and safe boating.

Commander Aaron Williams, S

# The Galveston Bay Breeze

The Galveston Bay Breeze—April-May 2026

Official monthly publication of the  
Galveston Bay Sail & Power Squadron,  
a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®.

Address correspondence to:  
Galveston Bay Sail & Power Squadron  
957 Nasa Parkway #140, Houston, TX 77058  
or  
**Galveston Bay Breeze Editor**  
Lt/C James Hammond, SN-ACN  
413 Coral Lilly Dr., League City, TX 77573-5961

**Staff:** (photography, proofing, distribution, etc.):  
Email & Mail Distribution: P/C Linton Arbaugh, JN  
Webmaster: Lt Douglas Haberman, AP  
Lt Marian Scott, S Lt Dianne Hammond, S  
P/D/C Billie Kearney, N Jinx Manning, P  
All members of the Bridge

**Squadron website-log into** [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org) as a member and then  
go to GBSPS or [www.usps.org/local/usps/sss-ga](http://www.usps.org/local/usps/sss-ga)

## Bay Breeze Contributors

Contributors to the *Bay Breeze* are welcome to e-mail copy to the editor; or mail to the address shown above. Or, if you wish, just bring yourself and your ideas to monthly meetings or proofing. Your joining us in this event is important and greatly appreciated.

## The Bridge: 2026-2027

Commander Cdr Aaron Williams, S  
Executive Officer: P/D/C Charles Scott, SN-CN  
cscott0@comcast.net  
Education Officer: Lt/C Malin La Place, S  
malinlaplace@yahoo.com  
Administrative Officer: Lt/C Jim Hammond, SN-ACN  
james.l.hammond42@gmail.com  
Treasurer: Lt/C John Gross, AP  
gross144john@gmail.com  
Secretary: Lt/C Lana Sands, P  
Lana02660@gmail.com  
Past Commander: P/C Keith Schwabe, S  
Lana02660@gmail.com  
Members at Large: 1st/Lt Ronnie Foster, AP  
foster.ronnie@att.net  
John Morawski, SN  
morawsu@swbell.net  
P/C Keith Schwabe, S  
Lana02660@gmail.com  
Elected Assistants:  
Assistant SEO: 1st/Lt Jim Hammond, SN-ACN  
Assistant Secretary: Vacant  
Assistant Treasurer: Vacant



## April

Karen Coady	01
Charles Cody	17
Raymon Underwood	20

## May

Morgan Santarlasci	06
Duncan Hassell	09
Peter Aronstam	15
John Mastroianni	18

# Monthly meeting details

## **April 2026**

**WHAT: Members' Meeting**

**WHEN: 11 April, 1130 until 1330.**

**WHERE: Stein Hall, St. John's Episcopal Church—815 S. Broadway, La Porte, 77571**

**MENU: Main course ham and baked beans. Sides and desserts by members.**

**COST: \$10.00**

**ATTIRE: Boating casual**

RSVP to your call girl or to Lana Sands.

Give Lana a call at 281 793-3413 or email at [Lana02660@gmail.com](mailto:Lana02660@gmail.com)

## **May 2026**

**WHEN: 09 May 2026**

**WHERE: Ryan's Smokehouse, 103 Henrietta St, Webster, TX 77598**

**MENU: From the menu**

**COST: Individual checks**

**ATTIRE: Boating casual**



## Executive Department



### **Vessel Safety Check –A VSC**

Workshop has been provided by the USCG and its review provides some new information for all Vessel Examiners. The latest workshop is a requirement for certification. The Workshop can be viewed individually or in a classroom environment. There will not be any test, however if conducted in a classroom discussions are encouraged.

**This workshop is mandatory and must be completed by**

**June 30, 2026 to retain certification!**

The Workshop is available on the National Members website. Log in with your E certificate and password. Go to Site Index and find “Vessel Safety Checks”. Click on the link to go to the VSC web page. On the left hand side of the page find “Vessel Safety Check Updates”, click on the link. Follow the instructions on the page to access the Workshop in either PDF or PPT formats. When you have completed the training, make sure that you click on the link which says that you have completed the workshop. It took about 15 minutes to complete the workshop.

### **Cooperative Charting**

Jim Hammond is working with members of the Lake Charles Squadron to host a District Co-Op Charting event in Lake Charles. They are looking at a June as a possibility.

*Lt/C Charles Scott, SN-CN  
Executive Officer*

## Nautical Knowledge



The Instructor Development Committee will be hosting the new virtual Recertification Seminar on June 11, 2026, from 7 to 9 p.m. ET. Registration for the seminar will be available on the HQ800 System. There will be a limit of 25 participants. As in the past, this interactive seminar will emphasize teaching techniques that provide you with valuable tools to enhance your students' learning and engage them in the learning process. The more we learn, the more we need to share.



Galveston Bay Sail and Power Squadron is pleased to host the Incoming Officers Meeting for 2026.

Date: Saturday April 18, 2026  
Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Location: St. John's Episcopal Church  
Stein Hall  
815 S. Broadway St.  
LaPorte, TX 77571

We will be having dinner immediately following the meeting at The Houston Yacht Club. Dinner is your responsibility and we will arrange a guest membership for payment if you are not a member.

Registration deadline is April 15th. If you have any questions please call Malin LaPlace (337) 515-0769 or email [malinlaplace@yahoo.com](mailto:malinlaplace@yahoo.com).

Lt/C Malin La Place, S  
Squadron Educational Officer



Malin gets her D/Lt/C flag

## Administrative Department



04 April Texas Parks and Wildlife Boating Safety class.

07 April E Board Meeting 1830 to 2030 via Zoom.

11 April Members' meeting and Marine Communications Seminar

11 April TMCA's nautical flea market at Barge

15—22 April Houston Fleet Week.

18 April Boat Crawl Little Yacht Sales—sign up for a two hour shift from 1000 to 1600.

25 & 26 April Wheels and Keels at Lakewood Yacht Club 0900 to 1700. Sign up for a two hour shift to man our booth.

02 May Texas Parks and Wildlife Boating Safety class at St John's. From 0800 onwards.

05 May E Board Meeting 1830 to 2030 via Zoom

11 May Members Meeting at Ryan's Smokehouse, Webster

18 through 24 May 2024—Safe Boating Week

23—27 May TMCA's Spring Fling

04 June E Board Meeting 1100 to 1300 at Stein Hall, St John's

08 June Hurricane Stay-a-Way Party—place and time to be determined

03—05 July Houston Yacht Club

06 August 1100 to 1300 at Stein Hall, St John's

10 August Members Meeting—Place and time to be determined

*Lt/C Jim Hammond, SN-ACN  
Administrative Officer*

## Safety

### How to File a Float Plan

Embarking on a boating trip is an exciting adventure, but it comes with responsibilities, especially when it comes to safety. One of the simplest yet most effective ways to ensure a secure journey is by preparing and filing a float plan. This document outlines essential details about your trip and acts as a safety measure in case of emergencies. We strongly encourage every boater to include this step as part of their routine. A well-prepared float plan can make all the difference in ensuring a safe and enjoyable trip for you and your passengers.

### What Is a Float Plan and Why Is It Important?

A float plan is a written document detailing your boating itinerary. It includes crucial information such as your vessel's description, departure and return times, planned route, and contact details. But what is the purpose of filing a float plan? Its primary function is to provide rescuers with a clear starting point if something goes wrong. Time is often critical during emergencies, and having a float plan for boating ensures that responders have the necessary details to assist you effectively. Imagine encountering unexpected mechanical issues, adverse weather, or an unforeseen medical emergency while on the water. In these situations, your float plan becomes an invaluable tool for those trying to locate you.

### When and How to File a Float Plan

When should you file a float plan? A float plan is essential for any boating trip, but it becomes especially critical when venturing into remote areas, embarking on multi-day journeys, or boating alone. Even for short trips,

Continued on page 9

## Gabby



As Gabby showed up, I had to laugh and I showed him the cartoon above as typical seagull activity. However, he looked terrible and said, “I can’t stand this weather. Last week it was almost freezing and now it is hot. I feel like my face is in an oven.”

“Can you believe I know exactly how you feel and I can give you a riddle that fits with that,” I said with a smirk. “What did one toilet say to the other toilet?”

“Oh please,” returned Gabby, “What?”

“You look a little flushed!”

# This N That by Marian & Ya'll

Results from the D-21 Conference has Galveston Bay with a strong showing. The Hammonds picked up three prizes (a book, a lighted handheld compass, and a first aid kit). Not to be out done Charles took another one of the drawings.

We had nine members that attended the D-21 Conference: Commander Aaron Williams, Executive Officer Charles Scott and his wife Marion; Squadron Education Officer Malin La Place; Admin Officer Jim Hammond and his wife, Dianne; Secretary Lana Sands and her husband Keith; and Denny Fegan. The Houston Squadron did an excellent job of hosting the event.



Our Education Officer, Malin La Place, stepped up to fill the position of District Administrative Officer for the new bridge year. If she follows the progression on the Bridge, she could be the District Commander in four years. Galveston Bay has not had a District Commander since Charles Scott in 2016.



## Safety Continued from Page 7

creating a USCG float plan is a responsible choice. Unexpected issues can arise quickly, and having a plan in place ensures someone knows where you're supposed to be and when you're expected to return.

To ensure your boat travel plan is complete, follow these steps:

1. **Provide Boat Details:** Clearly describe your vessel, including its name, registration number, make, model, and any distinguishing features. This information helps responders identify your boat if needed.
2. **Outline Your Route:** Include departure points, stops, and your destination. Be as specific as possible, especially for larger bodies of water where search areas can quickly become vast.
3. **List Emergency Contacts:** Provide details about who to contact in case of an emergency, such as family members or marina officials. Mention onboard communication devices like radios or satellite phones.

**Use a Template:** A downloadable USCG float plan can help ensure you include all relevant information. These templates are structured to prompt you for essential details, leaving nothing to chance. By carefully filing your float plan, you're not only protecting yourself but also reducing the workload of emergency responders by giving them a clear action plan.

### **With Whom Should a Float Plan Be Left?**

One of the most important questions to ask is with whom should a float plan be left? Ideally, leave it with a trusted individual who will monitor your expected return and contact authorities if necessary. This could be a family member, friend, or even a staff member at the marina where you dock your boat.

Choose someone who understands the importance of the float plan and is reliable enough to act in your best interest. Before leaving, review the details with this person to ensure they understand your schedule and what steps to take if you do not return on time. If you're making changes to your itinerary, keep them informed to avoid confusion or unnecessary alarm.

### **What to Do After Returning from Your Trip**

Once you return from your trip, notify the person holding your float plan immediately. This small but critical step helps avoid false alarms and unnecessary rescue efforts. Failing to do so can lead to wasted resources and stress for the person monitoring your plan.

It's also a good idea to review your boat travel plan after each trip. Evaluate whether there are any gaps or areas for improvement. For example, did you include enough detail about your route or vessel? Were there communication tools onboard that could be added to your next plan? These reflections can make future boating trips even safer.