



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

February—March 2026

NUMBER 01

From the Helm



Change of Watch Commander Address by Aaron Williams, February 7, 2026

Every watch begins with trust — trust in the crew, trust in the vessel, and trust in the course we set together.

Good day and welcome to The historic Houston Yacht Club, Past Commanders, Bridge Officers, members, guests, and friends — thank you for being here today.

On Galveston Bay, we learn early that leadership doesn't announce itself loudly. It shows up steady. It shows up prepared. And it shows up when the water changes — because it always

does.

This Change of Watch is not about a single person taking command. It is about continuity — about one watch standing down and another stepping forward to keep the course steady. On Galveston Bay, we've learned you don't fight the tide — you wait, you adjust, and you move when the water's ready.

I am honored to accept the responsibility of Commander, and I do so with deep respect for the waters we navigate, the traditions we uphold, and the people who make this squadron strong.

Before we look ahead, we recognize those who guided us here. To our outgoing Commander and bridge — thank you.

Leadership in a volunteer organization is an act of service. It requires time, patience, and a willingness to give back to something larger than ourselves. Because of your leadership: our education programs continued, our friendships strengthened, and this squadron remained a welcoming place for boaters at every stage of their journey. You leave us with a strong foundation, and we are moving forward because of that work.

Continued on page three

The Galveston Bay Breeze

The Galveston Bay Breeze—February-March 2026

Official bi-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 as a member and then go to GBSPS or 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
aaronwilliamssr1@gmail.com
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,
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

February

Happy

Birthday

Linton Arbaugh	15
John Paterson	20
John Morawski	21
Linda Worthington	20

March

Happy

Birthday

Rebecca A Murray	08
Douglas Haberman	15
Dale Robinson	15
Kay Foster	22

Commander's Comments continued from page one.

My Leadership Philosophy

For me, leadership is about clarity and collaboration. It is about setting direction — while listening carefully. It is about honoring tradition — while remaining open to growth. And most importantly, it is about creating space for others to contribute, because this squadron thrives when many people bring their strengths forward.

Every member — whether you have been here for decades or are just beginning your journey with us — has something valuable to offer, and this year we will continue building a culture where everyone feels both welcomed and needed.

Setting Our Course for the Year Ahead

As we begin this new watch, I want to share the priorities that will guide us this year. These are practical goals designed to strengthen our squadron, serve our members, and ensure we remain a trusted and relevant presence in the Galveston Bay boating community.

Goal One — Strengthen and Modernize Education

Education is our anchor.

This year we will: Expand participation in boating safety and navigation courses. Create learning experiences that are practical, engaging, and accessible. Integrate modern navigation tools and technologies while preserving the seamanship fundamentals that define us. Our objective is simple: when someone wants to learn boating skills on Galveston Bay, they should think of this squadron first.

Goal Two — Grow and Retain Membership Through Connection

A strong squadron depends on strong relationships. We will: welcome new members and help them connect quickly. Encourage mentorship between experienced members and newer boaters. Offer events that balance education, camaraderie, and time on the water. Growth is not simply about numbers — it is about belonging.

Goal Three — Increase Visibility in the Galveston Bay Community

We have knowledge and experience that matter. This year we will expand our outreach by: increasing public boating safety education. Strengthening partnerships with local marinas, yacht clubs, and boating organizations. Making this squadron a trusted resource for safe and confident boating.

Continued on next page

Continued from page three

Goal Four — Improve Communication and Participation

We want it to be easy for members to stay connected and involved. This means: clear, consistent communication. Accessible volunteer opportunities. Creating more ways for members to share ideas and shape the future of our organization.

Goal Five — Stewardship of Our Waters

Galveston Bay gives us so much. We remain committed to protecting it — promoting clean boating practices and environmental awareness so future generations can experience the same freedom and joy we enjoy today.

What This Means for All of Us.

These goals are not mine alone. They belong to all of us. Every member plays a role — whether teaching, mentoring, organizing events, supporting outreach, or simply showing up and participating. Boating teaches us that even the most experienced captain depends on their crew. And this squadron is a strong crew.

In Closing,

On this bay, conditions change — tides shift, winds turn, and sometimes the path forward isn't perfectly smooth. But when we move together with purpose, experience, and trust, we navigate successfully. We don't need to move fast to move forward — we just need to move together, with purpose. I believe deeply in this organization, and I believe in what we can accomplish together during this watch.

Thank you for your trust.

It is an honor to serve as your Commander.

Fair winds... and flowing seas.

Cdr. Aaron Williams, S
Galveston Bay Sail and Power
Squadron

Monthly meeting details

March 2026

- WHAT:** Budget Meeting
- WHEN:** 14 March, Saturday at noon
- WHERE:** Stein Hall, St. John's Episcopal Church—815 S. Broadway, La Porte, 77571
- MENU:** Corn Beef and boiled potatoes provided by the Squadron. Sides and desserts by members.
- COST:** \$15.00 per person
- 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

April 2026

- WHAT:** Communication and Education
- WHEN:** 11 April, Saturday at noon
- WHERE:** Stein Hall, St. John's Episcopal Church—815 S. Broadway, La Porte, 77571
- MENU:** To be determined
- COST:** To be determined
- ATTIRE:** Boating casual

Executive Department



Charles E. Scott, SN-CN, BS & MS in Chem

From the time that I moved here in 1974, I have owned a boat. My sailboats in order of possession include a Gulf Coast 18, a Morgan 30/2, a J24, a Islander 36, and a C & C 35. My present boat is a Grand Banks 36 trawler.

My sailboat racing experience is extensive. I have done the Galveston to Veracruz race 11 times; the Galveston to Corpus Christi or Port Aransas race over 30 times and the Galveston to Pensacola race twice. I have delivered boats across the Gulf twice and have sailed as crew from HYC to Newport, R.I.

I was crew on the tall ship Elissa in Galveston for 8 years. I have taken every course that the Power Squadron offers and have taught a number of them, especially when knots are concerned.

I am also a Past District Commander and a Past Squadron Commander.

Areas of responsibility included in this department are all things external to the squadron. This includes Vessel Safety Checks (VSC), boat shows, and Co-op Charting. I am told that we finally have received our allotment of VSC decals from National. If you are a VSC examiner, contact Kate Fegan for your decals. She can be reached at: mkatef@aol.com.

An up coming boat show event is Lakewood Yacht Club Wheels and Keels. This takes place in April. We need members to man our booth during the event. For two hours of work you get into the event for free. Watch for more about Wheels and Keels in the coming weeks.

P/D/C Charles Scott, SN-CN

Executive Officer

Nautical Knowledge



I took advantage of my unexpected time off work to get the ultimate boating education when I completed my Master 100 Tons course at San Jacinto College Maritime campus. I also completed the U.S. Coast Guard approved First Aid & CPR. Since I design training for a living, it was an interesting study in cognitive overload and traditional onshore classroom delivery of a very hands on process not onshore! It also made me appreciate and value even more the educational opportunities and mentorship available within our squadron and America's Boating Club!



My sailing/boating experience started in the 1970s, when my dad got our first sailing vessel. It was an eighteen foot boat *C Duece*. I learned a lot about rigging, trailering and boat maintenance, as we had to step the mast, put the sails on and off and wash/dry/fold the sails after every outing.

We had a sunfish for a minute and had lots of fun tipping it over and losing shoes and hats!! I also attended Girl Scout Sailing Camp at Casa Maré.

Dad graduated to a 30' Morgan named Bluebonnet and we were very active in GBCA Racing. I think my sister and I actually won a trophy for the Ladies Day Race. I learned real tactician skills on Bluebonnet - how to read a tell tail, how to trim sails (including a spinnaker), and how to scamper from one side of the boat to the other while changing tacks (and to keep my head down).

Then there was *Island Time* and the best Rum Races ever! Then when *Island Time* was lost during Ike. Dad and Jim Hammond partnered to buy *Gemini* which continued the tradition of (sometimes) winning rum.

I also lived in the Virgin Islands and served as 2nd Mate aboard *Heavenly Days* - a 55' Catamaran at Bolongo Bay Beach Resort. We took cruise ship passengers and tourists on day cruises to Honeymoon Beach, St. John and sunset cruises around the St. Thomas Harbor. Captain Peter was so proud that the 1st Mate and I could raise the 800lbs of sails in under 5 minutes. He had some other crazy rules like no shoes allowed on the boat whatsoever, but I'll save those stories for another day!

Aaron and I had a little lovely CVX 17' Glastron Carlson and we learned that 2-stroke engines can no longer be maintained. I also redid most of the cushions and learned how to do upholstery and install speakers.

My dad acquired *Calypso*, 36' Grand Banks and we entered the trawler phase. I am learning about engine maintenance, wood work, anchoring, plotting and navigation.

Aaron and I joined the Houston Yacht Club and we are working with the Education Committee to offer Power Squadron classes that the education committee doesn't offer. The first request is a Celestial Navigation course that will be taught by Galveston Bay Sail and Power Squadron and offered to the membership at Houston Yacht Club. I am also polling some members to determine what else is needed/wanted.

Lt/C Malin La Place, S
Squadron Educational Officer

Administrative Department



D-21 Spring Conference 20—22 March hosted by Houston Sail and Power Squadron



Registration is Open for the Spring Conference. The Conference and ALL meals are Free if you attend. *If you attend only Saturday night celebration dinner there is a fee.*

There are round-robin events, prizes, workshops, the District Meeting, seminars, grand prizes each day, and social activities. The Conference is always youth-friendly. Learn about new happenings in the District and National. Want details on the schedule and offerings? See the link on the registration page.

Have Questions? Contact Amy Taylor at (281) 974-9981

Fleet Week Houston

HOUSTON – In partnership with the United States Navy, Mayor John Whitmire today announced new dates for [Fleet Week Houston](#). The weeklong event, postponed last year due to the federal government shutdown, will take place **April 15-22, 2026**.

Key Venues

Port of Houston, Downtown Houston (including City Hall, Post Houston and Discovery Green), East End, and surrounding districts and neighborhoods

“The City of Houston never forgot its commitment to hosting Fleet Week Houston, and I am excited about the new dates and honored to host the men and women who serve our country,” said Mayor Whitmire. “As I said before, I’m going to take my grandkids to it, and I invite all Houstonians to join me to help welcome the armed forces members, experience firsthand the work they do, and participate in the events from ship tours to demonstrations. The Fleet Week Houston festivities will be unique and monumental.”

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

03 March E Board Meeting 1830 to 2030 via Zoom.

07 March 0800 Texas Parks and Wildlife Boating Safety class.

14 March Members’ meeting—Annual Budget. VSCs and Spring Maintenance

20—22 March District 21 Spring Conference and Change of Watch. Hosted by the Houston Squadron.

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

15—22 April Houston Fleet Week

25 & 26 April Wheels and Keels at Lakewood Yacht Club 0900 to 1700

Spring Safety Checks

A new law that went into effect in 2021 requires a vessel operator to use either a helm or out-board lanyard or wireless engine cutoff switch on certain vessels. Be sure your switch is working properly and the lanyard is in serviceable condition. Add fresh batteries to wireless fobs or wrist-worn devices.

Check dates on pyrotechnic flares, which expire 42 months after manufacture. Inspect fire extinguishers. A new regulation goes into effect April, 20, 2022 that requires a 12-year expiration for disposables and has different carriage requirements for older and newer vessels.

Ensure you have properly sized and wearable life jackets in good condition for each passenger, including kids. Check inflatable life jacket cylinders and dissolvable “pill” bobbins in auto-inflating models.

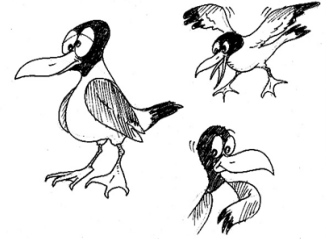
Test smoke, carbon monoxide (CO), fume, and bilge alarms.

Check running lights and spare bulb inventory. Update chartplotter software.

Replenish first-aid kit items that may have been used last season or have expired. Check the operation of VHF radio(s) and that the MMSI number is correctly programmed in. (BoatUS members can obtain a free MMSI number at [BoatUS.com/MMSI](https://www.boatus.com/MMSI).)

Get a free vessel safety check from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons.

Gabby



There was Gabby getting friendly with my wool hat. “How are you and your friends getting along with this freezing weather?” I asked.

“We found an exhaust pipe in the parking garage of one of the hotels and it is bearable there.” He said with a shiver.

“Ah yes,” I commented, “I sure haven’t seen many of you out over the bay.”

“Don’t say that!” Gabby shrieked loudly.

“Why not?” I inquired with surprise.

“Gertrude says that when we fly over the sea, we are seagulls, but if we fly over the bay, then we are Bagels.” He expounded strongly.

This N That by Marian & Ya'll

Keith and Lana are looking forward to a trip to Winnsboro, TX in the Spring!

John Gross hopes to be unsaddled of his neck brace by Feb. 12. Let's hope so!

Betty Carr thanks the squadron for recognizing and celebrating her Life membership and 25 years and 25 merit marks.

Malin La Place recently passed all 6 exams for a Master 100 Ton Captain's License!

Malin and Aaron are participating in 5 parades for Galveston Mardi Gras. Malin has a new job as a Learning Experience Designer at Wellby Financial!

Marian and Charles Scott are preparing to go on a cruise. It includes stops at Turks and Caicos and the Dominican Republic, lasting 9 days.

Charles has been a member for 25 years and has earned 25 merit marks, thus joining the circle of Life Members.

The Change of Watch at HYC was a great time. See pictures here and elsewhere in this issue.



D/Lt/C Amy Taylor swears in our new Commander Aaron Williams at Houston Yacht Club 07 February.



New Bridge Officers for 2026-2027 are sworn in. Left to right Jim Hammond, John Gross, Charles Scott, behind the table Lana Sands and Malin La Place.



Head table representing the old Bridge— Left to Right—Malin La Place, Lana Sands, Keith Schwabe, and D/Lt/C (soon to be) D/C Amy Taylor.



Happy members and guests enjoy a great meal at Houston Yacht Club.



Last as always, Jim Hammond as the clean up crew.

