



November 2021

Vol. 22-11

Monthly Newsletter

2021-2022



# From the Helm



## STEERING COMMITTEE

P/D/C Larry Stout, SN-IN  
Co-Chair

P/C Bob Hunt, N  
Co-Chair

Arlene Starkman, S  
Secretary/Treasurer

Brenda Stewart-Murphy, S

Joel Hatfield

Alissa Hatfield

## WEBMASTER

P/C Kevin Kamrath, P

[www.grandlakeusps.com](http://www.grandlakeusps.com)

## THE PELICAN EDITOR

Kim Lindahl, S

A big **THANK YOU** to P/C Mary Alice Moore and her bridge for their leadership during the past two challenging years because of Covid.

We appreciate the membership for their overwhelming vote to approve the “waiver option” rather than dissolving our boating club. We currently have over ninety members onboard and the Grand Lake community needs us to continue promoting boat safety and protecting the lake environment. We have a great crew but are just lacking a few to take the helm.

The Steering Committee has stepped forward with the intent, and with your help, to simplify how we operate our “vessel”. Practically all of us are retired and at this stage of our lives not interested in another full-time job. As we simplify, it is our hope that others will see a leadership position as more doable and will step up to offer help.

A first step is to simplify how we meet. In the past, the Administrative Officer had the responsibility of finding a location for our meetings and working out the menu with a restaurant or caterer depending on the location. With typically over 40 attendees, this was not an easy task as we were limited on locations. Also, the cost of facilities has continued to escalate along with the food. To simplify this task, we arranged a location for our monthly meetings using the “Event Center on Third” starting in January running through May which allowed us to negotiate a lower cost. This facility seats over 200, so we will have room to space out tables as needed. We have a selection of caterers so we can vary the menu for each meeting.

Our national organization is also seeing the need to simplify. In this issue will be an excerpt from the national planning committee report from the recent national fall conference.

On another subject, all members should have received the ten-question online survey to complete. This will help guide the membership as we go forward.

With our recent October 21st membership meeting and the Christmas meeting/party on December 9th, it was decided to not have a November meeting.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, and we will see everyone at the Christmas party.

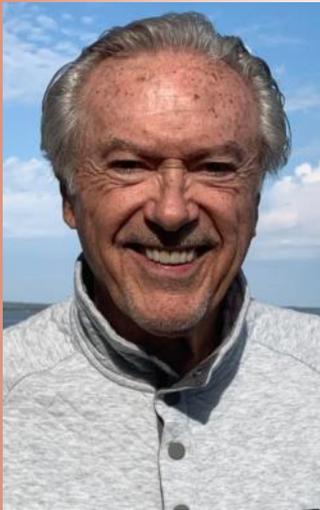
Your Steering Committee currently at the helm: Larry, Bob, Arlene, Brenda, Joel and Alissa

S ——— *Seamanship*  
P ——— *Piloting*  
AP ——— *Advanced Piloting*



JN ——— *Junior Navigator*  
N ——— *Navigator*  
SN ——— *Senior Navigator*





P/D/C Larry Stout, SN-IN  
Founding Member  
1999



Brenda Stewart-Murphy, S  
Member since 2015



P/C Bob Hunt, N  
Member since 2006

**MEET THE  
STEERING  
COMMITTEE**



Alissa Hatfield  
New Member 2021



Arlene Starkman, S  
Member since 2015



Joel Hatfield  
New Member 2021

## **INFO PROVIDED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF ABClub-Grand Lake:**

(This is an excerpt of the National Planning Committee report at the September National Conference in Raleigh, N.C. recognizing the national need to simplify and support local boating clubs in their communities as the organization transitions to a more popular “club” format.)

Are we there yet?

The (National) Planning Committee believes that the STP (Strategic Transition Plan) is still valid. We believe that it provides a chart to analyze ourselves and to simplify our organization in the transition to America’s Boating Club, a guide to change. Do we accept that transition requires change? Do our courses need updating to be relevant in today’s boating community? Do we accept that the boaters today have different boating activity interest than when we joined the Power Squadron? It was an honor and a privilege to be asked to join the Power Squadron. It was an elite well respected organization. It was a member driven organization. Is that still true?

If we are a member driven organization, then it is a member’s responsibility to look at their squadron and recommend changes to transition to their Club for its success. That does not mean National needs to tell us what to do. It does not mean that District needs to tell us what to do. It means every member needs to critically look at the membership advantages of their Club and work with their fellow members to insure that their Club is an asset in their community. We all need to focus on United States Power Squadron – America’s Boating Club success.

We suggest that the squadron as they transition to Club focus on the Operations Training items that are required of all squadrons:

1.) Leadership - separation of duties

a. Commander

b. Educational Officer

c. Secretary/Treasurer

2.) Offer the Basic Boating Course

3.) File 990 annually

4.) Recommend Merit Marks

Are we there yet? Membership is important. Financial stability is important. Are these the most important items that should consume our leadership?

Should we accept transition to America’s Boating Club? Should we focus on the Squadron success to Club success?

What is more important Membership numbers, financial bottom line, successful America’s Boating Club in your community? Success is in our hands.

Respectfully Submitted; R/C James McCurry, N

# From our Treasurer, Lynda Watson



## Where our Money Goes

### Treasurer's Report to the Membership

Checking Account Balance on September 30 was \$14,969.41

That balance includes the following Specified Funds:

- \$3,678 Education Budget for 2021
- \$38 Raffle Fund – \$500 used for September dinner mtg meals
- \$4.85 Walmart Grant – for life jackets and safety education

This leaves \$11,248.63 in Unspecified Funds

We have budgeted \$10,271 of that amount for expenses in 2021.

<b>September Income</b>	
Member Dues	\$30
<b>Total September Income</b>	<b>\$30</b>
<b>September Expenses</b>	
Commander Incidentals	\$60.30
Dinner Meeting Expenses	\$751.90
Har-Ber Village pavilion	\$50.00
Bank Maintenance Fee	\$3.00
<b>Total September Expenses</b>	<b>\$865.20</b>

**\$\$ Thank You for Shopping Amazon Smile \$\$**



Submitted by Bill Miller, P:

During the Change of Watch in 2015 I was asked what is a Merit Mark. A presentation was developed and presented to the membership in 2016. Recently I completed the Merit Mark recommendations for 2021 which was approved by our commander and subsequently sent to headquarters of USPS for review and submission to the Chief Commander who does the final determination of who should receive a Merit Mark for 2021. Some of you will be receiving an email from USPS with a Merit Mark certificate. Why did you receive the certificate? The following is the text of the presentation made to our membership in 2016.

### **At the recent COW, I was asked several questions**

I received a email from USPS with an attachment. Should I open it ?

I received a email from USPS with a merit mark certificate. Why me?

How did I get picked to receive a Merit Mark ?

***Which indicated we needed to explain the Merit Mark system to our members.***

During the year, the efforts of many individuals are required to make a squadron successful.

How do we thank a member for their efforts during the year?

There are several methods to thank a member for their efforts.



**With a verbal “Thanks” or during the year a members efforts may be recognized during a dinner meeting or recognized with a pat on the back for a job well done.**

The United States Power Squadrons has developed a program to formally recognize those members who have contributed over and above what is expected of them.

A "merit mark" (MM) is awarded by the Chief Commander of USPS to a member for substantial personal effort in furthering the interest, programs and objectives of USPS, its districts and squadrons.

*It is a coveted award.*

*It is the only official recognition members receive for their efforts.*

*Only one merit mark may be awarded in a year to a member, no matter how extensive their contribution.*

### **How are MM's awarded?**

Records are maintained during the year for each members contribution to the various squadron activities. The data is collected on a computer program. This program formats the information and generates reports for use in the determination of an member's contribution to the squadron. Prior to November 15 of each year the list is compiled and sent to our squadron Commander for review and recommendations to the USPS Chief Commander. If accepted by the Chief Commander a Merit Mark Certificate is awarded.

Is there a value for each activity or is the list subjective in nature? There are only two activities that have a specific requirement that will result in the awarding of a Merit Mark.

Completion of ten (10) vessel safety exams will get you a Merit Mark. Teaching or proctoring two (2) or more classes during the year with some other involvement in the squadron will result in a Merit Mark.

This is an example of a Merit Mark Certificate.

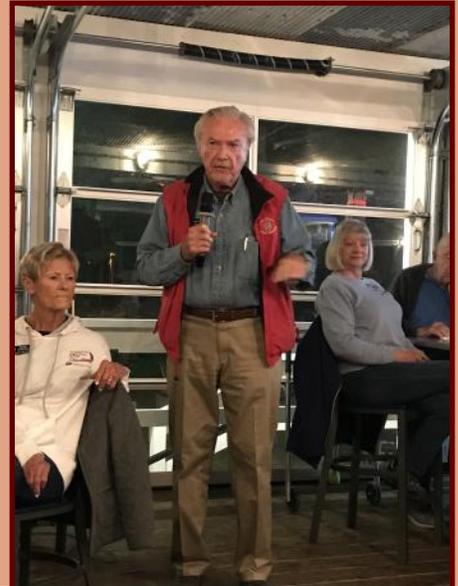


When received, it will include your name and near the bottom of the page how many MM's you have earned over the years.

Hopefully this will give you some understanding of the Merit Mark program.



Our October dinner meeting at The Quarter Deck café was awesome! 44 members enjoyed a pizza and salad buffet. We said goodbye to our 20-21 Bridge and thanked each of them for their service. We are very grateful to Commander Mary Alice for her leadership as we know COVID made everything challenging. But she kept us going with fun activities, continued service to our community and dinner meetings. She thanked her bridge for their support . Our meeting was conducted by the newly established steering committee and information was given on the direction our club will be heading. A survey will be sent to all to determine our interests and desire for the club.



# SAVE THE DATE!!

December 9th, 2021  
5:30PM

DECEMBER DINNER MEETING AT  
VISTA TOWERS AT SHANGRI-LA  
ON MONKEY ISLAND, TOP OF THE TOWERS!

Details of our Christmas party will be sent to you via email and in the December Pelican.



## CHRISTMAS CHARITY 2021 GROVE BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Steering Committee reviewed the suggestions that were submitted by the membership for our charity this year and the Grove Backpack Program received the most recommendations. Our club's funds will allow us to once again match up to \$1000 of the amount donated by our members.

**Donations may be given at the Christmas party/meeting December 9th or mailed to Arlene Starkman, 62500 E 259 Rd, Grove, OK 74344. Checks should be made to GLSPS, and we will present one check to the program.**

Through the Backpack Program, children receive a backpack full of kid-friendly, non-perishable and nutritious food on Friday to sustain them over weekends and school holidays. Typically, 140 or more local students receive a backpack of food each week. Sadly, one in four children in Oklahoma lives in a household that is struggling to put food on the table. This local 501c3 program is funded entirely by donations.

# Did You Know?

By P/D/C Larry Stout SN-IN



## Article 1

As we near the end of the boating season for most of us, it is a good time to look over our dock and anchor lines to see what we need to replaced next season.

Most boats use rope made of synthetic fibers. Nylon is the strongest and most elastic which makes it the line of choice for anchoring and for dock lines. The elasticity helps to absorb shock loads when the water is rough. Polyester is nearly as strong but has less stretch or elasticity which makes it a good choice for rigging on a sailboat.

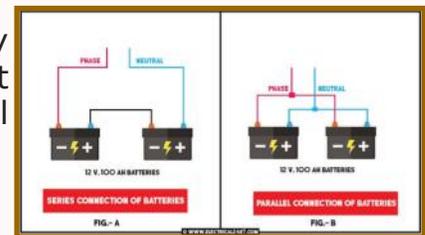
 <b>Dock Line Size Guide</b> 1/8" of Line for every 9' of Boat Minimum of 3/8"	
3/8": Up to 27'	5/8": Up to 45'
1/2": Up to 36'	3/4": Up to 54'

Polypropylene is less strong than either nylon or polyester, but its prime value is that it floats. This is the line of choice for ski lines and even towing small boats (dingy) since it is less likely to tangle with the propeller. It does deteriorate more from sunlight and is susceptible to chafe and abrasions.

## Article 2

When changing out your batteries or removing them for winter storage, take a picture with your phone camera to remember the correct connections. Label your battery cables and mark the positive post with red fingernail polish. Incorrect connections are a common cause of boat fires. Avoid shorting out the posts with a metal tool. When removing multiple batteries that are connected be sure to note if they are wired in a series or parallel and reconnect in the same manner. Battery connections should be inspected and tightened at least twice each season.

Automotive chargers should not be use on boats. They do not have the proper float settings and many are not ignition protected which is dangerous if there are fuel fumes in an enclosed compartment.



## Article 3



## Did you know? cont.....

### Article 3

The fall boating season is here on Grand Lake, but so is the lower lake level. Boat smart and study the charts for the area you are boating and watch your depth finder to prevent grounding. Slow down when in shallow or unfamiliar areas. Striking a hard bottom or rock at high speed can severely damage the boat, prop and drive system.

If the boat becomes grounded, first check the crew for injuries from the sudden stop, then examine the boat for holes. For serious problems contact the authorities for assistance. Next use a boat hook or oar to check the depth of the water at the bow and stern to see which direction it is best to move the boat. Determining if it is a rocky or a mud bottom is helpful for determining possible damage.

To re-float the boat, consider shifting the crew and other moveable weight fore or aft as needed and attempt to push off with the oar or boat hook. By partially raising the outdrive, it may be possible to gradually power off. Another option is to have a crew member wearing a life vest and safety line to get out of the boat and push it off while staying clear of the propeller. Kedging is a method using a float or a dinghy to set a kedge anchor and pulling the rode to move the boat to deeper water.

### Article 4

Next to capsizing, falling overboard is the second leading cause of fatal boating accidents. It is also one of the most preventable. Many overboard accidents occur before the boat even leaves the dock. Frequently it happens when passengers attempt to step onboard while carrying items and slip, or they step on the edge of the boat and lose their balance when the boat tips or moves.

Other overboard incidents occur when people stand up as the boat is underway, ride on the boat's gunwales (outer edge) or sit on the seatbacks. These positions can send a person overboard should the boat hit an unexpected wave or the driver fails to warn passengers of a sudden change in speed or direction.



To help prevent falling overboard, use footwear with good traction and follow the maxim, "One hand for the boat and one hand for yourself."



## Upcoming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>NO MEMBERSHIP OR DINNER MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER</b>			
11/25	Happy Thanksgiving		
12/9	Christmas Dinner Meeting	1730	Vista Towers on Monkey Isl.
12/25	Merry Christmas		

All are welcome to attend the monthly membership meetings.

## Happy Birthday

11/1	Billy Dulworth
11/12	Ed Landers
11/13	Sandy Hendrickson
11/15	Nancy Gibson
11/18	Bill Foster
11/19	Earl Starkman
11/20	Ken Noteboom
11/24	Peggy Miller
11/25	Mark Hendrickson
11/25	Ed Izydorek
11/25	Pat Janiga
11/27	Kathy Hunt



### From your Editor...

Please send me pictures (with names and the activity), ideas and suggestions that are most important to you. The deadline is the 25th of the month. Thanks for your input and support! Kim

## Contact Information

The Pelican is the official publication of America's Boating Club - Grand Lake, Kim Lindahl, Editor. Please email all correspondence to [kim.lakehouse@gmail.com](mailto:kim.lakehouse@gmail.com)

America's Boating Club - Grand Lake  
P/D/C. Larry Stout, SN-IN  
PO Box 6987 Grove, OK 74344  
918-257-4603

Current Webmaster: P/C Kevin Kamrath, P  
[kevkamok@gmail.com](mailto:kevkamok@gmail.com)



America's Boating Club-Grand Lake  
website.... [www.grandlakeusps.com](http://www.grandlakeusps.com)

District 30 website...  
[www.d30usps.org](http://www.d30usps.org)

National website...  
[www.americasboatingclub.org](http://www.americasboatingclub.org)