



Darien Sail & Power Squadron
 District 2, United States Power Squadrons®

DSPSCT.org
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 April, 2026

America's Boating Club Darien Chapter Change of Watch Address by our New Commander Fred Elliott



The Bridge

Commander
 Cdr Fred Elliott
 Executive Officer
 open
 Education Officer
 D/Lt/C John Pedersen, SN
 Treasurer
 D/Lt/C John Pedersen, SN
 Admin Officer
 Lt/C Barbara Raasch
 Secretary
 Lt/C Marilyn Ramos
 P/C Jeff Brown, S
 P/C Geoff Axt, AP

Members At Large

Peter Adler
 P.J. Adler
 Lorraine George-Harik

Advisers

Jeff Gerwig
 Neal Konstantin
 Rob Steckel
 Jim Travis
 Marc Cohen



I grew up with boats. From the age of five, either my parents had “the boat” or, beginning in 1991, I had “the boat.” I think it was 1965 when my parents joined the Westchester Power Squadron. By then we were on our third boat, a 32’ Manson, a wooden cabin cruiser that could sleep 6, with a flying bridge, twin engines and a hull that was very seaworthy. With the education provided by the Power Squadron, we suddenly were taking cruises

during vacations. We discovered places like Stonington, Watch Hill, Shelter Island, Block Island, Cuttyhunk and the Vineyard over the next few years. Mom would chart the course; Dad was the Skipper.

The Power Squadron did two cruises, both up the Hudson River, in 1965 and 1967. Does anyone remember Expo '67, the World's Fair in Montreal? We did it by boat, with about 15 other Squadron members! What I recall from those two trips were the friendships established, the fun we had as a group and the boating knowledge and experiences that were shared. While the Squadron was known for its thorough training on every boating topic, the real-life experiences that were shared were equally supportive. I also recall that they had a few social events during the off-season, cocktail and/or dinner gatherings for members. It was a robust organization.

That's part of the vision I have for the Darien Sail & Power Squadron {although technically we're the Darien chapter of America's Boating Club). To be a robust group, enjoying the water together, learning together and having some gatherings. We have a great membership, 195 plus three recent additions from the ABC Course. We have a slightly new Bridge and we will listen and create events on and off the water that you want to participate in. We, as a Bridge, will make it a point to get to know you—each of you. And I would love to do a Darien cruise in the Summer of 2027—early Summer, because that's when my boat is usually working well! Let's do some boating together this Summer with our Dock-n-Dine program.

We do have opportunities where you can support our infrastructure; we need someone to help update our current webpage on an ongoing basis. Maybe it's 10 hours a month? We need course instructors. We are partnering with the Norwalk Chapter in offering Advanced Level courses, but we need to develop our own instructors. We have some people willing to serve on a Hospitality Committee—I'd like to find a few more people, and possibly co-chairs of this important committee. And we need someone to help in publishing our on-line newsletter, *The Trident*. I'd like this to be published monthly, maybe every other month during the off season. If you have an interest in any of these opportunities, you are welcome to see me this evening or contact me as soon as you can.

Founded in 1914, the guiding principles of the United States Power Squadron (now America's Boating Club) are: Education, Civic Service and a Fraternal Boating Club. We were established in 1953. When I think of education, community service and “just messing around with boats”, the first image that comes to mind is Frank Kemp, who passed away late last year. He joined the Squadron in 1972 and quickly rose to Commander. His energy, dedication and enjoyment of all that he did for the Darien Sail and Power Squadron were exemplary. His primary focus was on education. And getting to know our membership. In his honor, we are establishing this “Frank Kemp Award” which will be awarded to a new-er member (1-3 years) who does what Frank did—learns by taking (or teaching) courses, is involved in Community Service (think Boat/Camp or another volunteer effort led by us, working with the Town of Darien) and having a pure love of boating.

I thank you for being here today. I thank Jeff Brown for his leadership as Commander, and those on the Bridge. Special thanks to Susan Darcy and to John Zagrodsky; Susan, I O U a “Dark-n-Stormy,” and John, I promise to pay my taxes on time and will seek a volunteer effort for the town that we can support. I look forward to working with the Bridge and all our membership, making the Darien Chapter of America's Boating Club one that we want to continue being associated with and all enjoy. We will get there!

DSPS Bridge Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month. That is, 7:00 PM on 4/14, 5/12, 6/9, 7/14, 8/11, 9/8, 10/13, 11/10 and 12/8 for 2026. Mark your calendars! Zoom will be available for all meetings (the link will be sent out usually the morning of the evening meeting date. Meetings will be held at 100 Ring's End Road, Darien unless otherwise noted.

A New Volunteer Opportunity!

At a Wonderful Yacht Club! For Just a Few Hours!



The Noroton Yacht Club this summer is hosting 5 sailing regattas that are open to competitors from Long Island Sound and beyond, “beyond” being places like Maine, San Francisco, and Bermuda. A few years ago, the Club and our own beloved Frank Kemp initiated a “Safety Desk,” the purpose of which is to be the first on-land contact for any type of catastrophe that might occur on the water during a sailing regatta; think personal injury, boat damage, illness, and the like.

The Safety Desk is comprised of VHF radios, one a direct link to the Coast Guard, one tied to the Race Committee, and one for weather/Club communications. Whomever is at the Safety Desk is responsible for fielding any “calls for help” and making the necessary communications to whatever on-land organization might be needed (Post 53 for example, or Club personnel). There is also the recording for on-the-water milestones like start time, finish time, and order of finish (if transmitted).

The Safety Desk is a support for those competing, the Race Committee, and other crafts associated with the regatta, that we all hope is never truly needed. Still in its infancy, it hasn’t been needed.

This is also an opportunity to mingle with those who sail and compete, meet people from other clubs, relax and read a book while enjoying Noroton Yacht Club (and listening to the VHF chatter), and relishing the salt air while being available for potentially an emergency situation. There are generally two people at the Safety Desk, so you won’t be going solo.

The shifts are usually 3-4 hours in length, AM or PM, and lunch is provided. Training will also be provided.

The Regattas are as follows:

Sinclair Cup May 16-17

M14 Long Island Sound Championships May 30-31

Sears Cup August 7-10

Lipton Challenge September 12-13

Kirby Cup September 26-27

Interested? Contact Fred Elliott (elliottfc.07@gmail.com or 203-482-0054) for more information.

DSPS Change of Watch 2026

On March 14, 2026, DSPS had another very successful Change of Watch. Outgoing Commander Jeff Brown summed up the past two years and remembered our good friends and former members Frank Kemp, Port Draper, and Bill Wright, who passed away in 2025. Dick Woods also gave a moving remembrance of Frank.

As part of his remarks, Commander Brown presented awards to various DSPS members:

- **Gerry Raasch:** the Adler Communications & Technology Award for once again organizing, expanding, and very successfully running Boat/Camp.
- **Lynn Kelly:** the DSPS Commander's Award for her many hours of detailed and organized hospitality work to make sure we had enough to eat and drink at all our functions.
- **Mary Kay Daughters:** the Monroe Dinell Memorial Trophy Award for her outstanding energy and commitment in helping plan and organize our events, recruiting new members, and promoting the DSPS Boating Course.
- **Marilyn Ramos:** the Edwin (Bus) Bell Award for her tireless efforts to cut through the morass of conflicting information to find insurance coverage for DSPS events, both on land and on water, after our National organization was forced to cancel most squadron insurance coverage.

Fred Elliott was sworn in as our new Commander by District 2 Commander Susan Darcy. Fred was given the Kraft Commander's wheel as a token of his new position at the helm of our Squadron. Commander Elliott then administered the oath to the rest of our new Bridge and delivered some brief remarks (see page 1). The new Bridge is listed on the masthead on page 1.

As part of the ceremonies, D2 Commander Susan Darcy was presented with a Moby-Dick themed plate in recognition of her attendance at and involvement with many DSPS functions, helping to make them all the success that they have been. Finally, Darien's First Selectman, John Zagrodsky, who was made an honorary DSPS member, also gave some brief remarks.

We had a delicious dinner prepared by outgoing Commander Brown and his wife, Mary Kay Daughters with appetizers and side dishes contributed by other members. The pictures on the next page were taken by Mary Kay Daughters.





Gerry Raasch - Adler Communications and Technology Award



Marilyn Ramos – Edwin (Bus) Betts Bell Award



Mary Kay Daughters – Monroe Dinnell Memorial Trophy



Handing Over Command



D2 Commander Susan Darcy



Congratulations to new Commander Fred Elliott

The Frank Kemp Award

Lovinde



As announced at the March 14th Change of Watch, this new award will go to a new member (1-3 years) who displays a love of boating, takes and/or teaches courses, and participates in our events and other community service volunteerism.

The three pillars of the United States Power Squadron are education, civic service and fraternal boating. Joining the Darien Squadron in 1972, Frank rose to Commander in a short period of time. Throughout his lifetime membership he took 13 different Squadron courses and probably taught most of them to our membership. He taught the introductory "Safe Boating Course" for years, and by so doing met and established lasting relationships with many of our members. Most of those friendships involved heeding his call to action, whether it be to help with a Squadron event, or distribute fliers announcing a course offering or some other task.

Frank enjoyed a catboat for many years. He raced it (yes, there is a fleet of catboats on the Sound), did leisurely sails with it, and also circumnavigated Long Island (in a counterclockwise direction) *twice* that I know of. When the catboat became a little too much to handle by himself, he then went with a 19' Mako. This craft allowed him to cruise up the Connecticut River (to Hartford, I think) and up the Hudson River, venturing into the Erie Canal. Again, these were solo cruises.

When the concept of Boat/Camp was conveyed to Frank, he presented this event to the Bridge some 30-plus years ago. 1995 was the first Boat/Camp, and Frank spearheaded this fantastic "best day on the water!" for approximately 20 years.

At the time of his catboat purchase, the previous owner sealed the deal based on the condition that Frank keep the name *Lovinde*. He did. And that nameplate in honoring him with this award.

You Can Help! Just be like Sawdust!

As a teenager I spent two Summers working at McMichael's Yacht Yard (#3) in Cos Cob, CT. It was located right below the I-95 overpass, and has long since been converted to a condo and marina.

Back in the early '70's wooden boats were still plentiful, and there were lots of "tricks of the trade" I learned about them. Linseed oil became my best friend when painting boats with oil-based paint. Sand with the grain. And when launching a wooden boat after months of being on land, always have sawdust available.

Wood expands and contracts, the latter occurs when it dries out. So when a wooden boat was launched after Winter storage, odds were that small, thin gaps between the wood planks of a hull would be present. That meant water would flow into the bilge readily. To lessen the water intake until the wood expanded, we would attach coffee cans filled with sawdust to long poles and submerge them under the waterline, close to the hull. The sawdust would get sucked into the thin gap and plug it shut. The sawdust made for a safer and quicker launch.

Taking that example, and bear with me here, we have some "gaps" in our infrastructure that need some "sawdust." We have a website that needs updating, a task that might take 10 hours a month, but generally less. We have this publication, *The Trident*, which is vitally important, a communication vehicle that I'd like to see distributed monthly, maybe every other month during the off season. We have an upcoming New Member Party (1-3 years) on June 7th-we could use some volunteers and even co-chairs! We do mass mailings, some with RSVP's and if anyone is knowledgeable in "Constant Contact" we have an opportunity for you to help us! And, we are seeking instructors for our boating classes.

Please let me know if you could help us out, become some sawdust and get us floating and leak free as soon as possible! Training provided!

You can reach me at elliottfc.07@gmail.com or 203-482-0054. We can be as good as we can be if we all help a little. Many hands (on deck) make light work!

