



The Trident

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

DSPSCT.org
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May, 2026

“.....and there isn’t any salt air!”



‘tis the season, it’s that time of year again, time to get the boat ready!

As much as the time and effort to “get the boat ready” seems to get a little more challenging each year (and if you have an older craft like mine, a little costlier) whatever little doubts or obstacles that might arise are quickly dashed. There is something magically soothing, uniquely relaxing

and utterly decompressing about breathing in salt air over a few hours. Whether you’re on a short trip, enjoying a sunset cocktail cruise with close friends (one of my favorite pastimes) or beginning a lengthy voyage that will take you to distant ports, there is something special about being on the water, on our Long Island Sound.

As a kid, I remember my Dad coming home from work on Friday afternoons in the Summer. As a family we would spend the weekend on the boat in various coves or anchorages nearby. A few of those trips brought some nasty weather, some had some choppy seas, others even had engine issues; but they all mellowed my Dad. The tightly wound man who spent 5 days a week working in the “Rat Race” known as New York City simply unwound over a boating weekend. That didn’t happen in the Winter.

Shortly after my wife passed away 4+ years ago, my eldest son made a very convincing plea for me to move close to where he is, in the Asheville, NC area. Asheville has breathtaking natural beauty, a thriving arts culture, and a very attractive cost of living change from here.

My response was pretty simple. “Peter, I really appreciate your thoughts.

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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

But there are two important things missing. Unless you and Beth (his wife) aren't telling me something, there isn't going to be a grandchild there (my two grandsons live in Fairfield, CT).....and, there isn't any salt air!"

I believe it is a privilege to own a boat, and a responsibility to be a smart boater and learn all one can about being safe on the water. That's what we, the Darien Sail and Power Squadron (aka the Darien Chapter of America's Boating Club) are all about. Smart, safe boating goes hand in hand with salt air. Confidence in boating skills, knowledge of the water makes that salt air all the more relaxing.

My adrenaline is flowing. getting ready for another season on the water. I hope to see you enjoying the Sound, hopefully participating in one of our Dock-n-Dine excursions. Respect the Sound, and fellow boaters. And breathe in that wonderful salt air.....

– Cdr. Fred Elliott

Spring & Summer Speakers!!!

Normally our speaker Series takes a hiatus during April or May, commencing sometime in October. June through September, *we should be boating!* Scheduling and author availability sometime play a role in when we can find an agreeable date, however, which is why we have two unique opportunities to hear from fantastic authors in the near future.

Tim Queeney, Wednesday, May 6 7:00-8:00 PM The Darien Public Library hosts Mr Queeney, who will discuss his new book *Rope: How a Bundle of Twisted Fibers Became the Backbone of Civilization*. His work was recognized by *Library Journal* as one of their "Stellar Selection/Best Book" choices for 2025.

In *Rope*, Mr. Queeney provides us with the history of twine, from Magellan's world-circling ships to Polynesian multihulls, and including the building of pyramids, the Roman Coliseum, the Brooklyn Bridge, and others. Not content to just look at rope's past, he looks at its present and possible future and how the re-invention of rope with synthetic fibers will likely provide the strength for cables to support elevators into space. Mr. Queeney will also offer some of his own nautical stories and his reliance on rope while at sea.

Tim grew up in Stamford but now resides in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. A life-long sailor, he is the founder and former editor of *Ocean Navigator*, a magazine for offshore voyagers. He has had numerous short stories published.

Please go to www.darienlibrary.org, click on "Events" then click on "Meet the Author." Click on "May 6, Tim Queeney" and register to attend!

Eric Dolin, Thursday, July 23 7:00-8:00 PM The Darien Chapter of America's Boating Club and the Darien Public Library are co-hosting Mr. Dolin's presentation on his newest work, *The Wreck of the Mentor*. This is a true story of the 1832 wreck of the *Mentor* on a reef in the western Pacific, which left 11 survivors stranded on the Micronesian archipelago of Palau and captured by indigenous people. Dolin reconstructs their doomed voyage, the years of captivity suffered by the survivors, as well as the delicate negotiations and the fraught naval rescue mission that took place.

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The book is a revealing window of the great Age of Sail, a time when maritime ambition collided with local sovereignty, and the outcome of any one voyage could ripple across oceans and empires.

Mr. Dolin resides in Marblehead, MA and has published 14 books which focus on either the maritime, wildlife or environmental concerns. He has been honored with numerous awards and recognition for his writing prowess.

You will need to register for this event, which should be on the Darien Library website in June.

NOTE: Mark Bodian, Neal Konstantin, and Marilyn Ramos co-chair our Speaker series. Past speakers have included Michael Tougias, Tom Verde, Art Gottlieb, David Grann, Chuck Paine, Rick Del Fosse, Captain Bill McGovern, David Tunick, and Jon Waters & Emilie Waters Harris to name a few. Our speaker series began a dozen years ago! Suggestions for speakers are always welcome; e-mail addresses for Mark, Neal, and Marilyn are below.

mmarkb1968@gmail.com naknstntn@aol.com ramosmayo@optonline.net

Bill Wright Memorial Service

Bill Wright joined the Darien Sail and Power Squadron in 2017, just a few years after retiring from Exxon Mobil. Boating, and the Squadron, were a perfect fit for Bill, who found joy in anything that combined “fresh air and nature.” He was the unofficial harbor master of the Seagate Inlet of Holly Pond and could often be found on his boat with his wife Sally enjoying the Pond and just “being on the water.”

Bill was actively involved with Darien’s Environmental Protection Commission and was known to have spearheaded many local efforts of stewardship and preservation of nature, specifically Long Island Sound.

Bill’s Memorial Service will take place on Saturday, May 23, 12:30 PM at Weed Beach.



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.

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 much 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 do *mass mailings*, some with RSVPs 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!



SAVE THE DATE! MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW! PLEASE....

EVERYBODY LOVES A PARADE.....***THE ANNUAL DARIEN MEMORIAL DAY PARADE***, MAY 25TH, 10:00 AM. JOIN US EITHER IN THE PONTOON BOAT OR MARCHING BESIDE IT. GATHER AT "OLD KING'S MARKET" (FORMERLY GOODWIVES SHOPPING CENTER) BEGINNING AT 9:00. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

THE NEW MEMBERS PARTY WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH AT OUR COMMANDER'S HOME, 100 RING'S END ROAD, DARIEN. DETAILS TO FOLLOW. FESTIVITIES WILL PROBABLY OCCUR 5:00-8:00 PM

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT BOTH GATHERINGS!