



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

DSPSCT.org
DSPSCT@gmail.com
 June, 2026

At Last!



I woke up this morning with a little extra energy, a little adrenaline flow, that proverbial “bounce in my step” feeling. Today, I *should* be able to move my boat from the marina (and away from the mechanic) in Norwalk to its mooring off Noroton Yacht Club. It’s time for that first cruise of the season, the one which truly signifies that Summer is here. Such anticipation! I say “*should* be able to” because, although *Carpe Diem II* was launched on

May 18, there were a couple of delays and some bad weather and then Monday and Tuesday’s “Should be’s.” Owning an older boat with old engines (in age, not hours) often requires getting a new part, which when installed necessitates an additional part or two. As of this morning with new parts in hand and being the top job for them to complete, *today* is a definite “should be able to take the boat away” day.

As a kid, my Dad’s objective was to always have the boat in the water, ready to go by Memorial Day. When I acquired my first boat, a 1967 37’ Post double-cabin, new to our family then and inherited by me in 1990, I tried to keep that same schedule. With young sons active in youth sports, getting a 37’ wooden boat ship-shape by myself was a huge challenge! Given their sports schedules, it became evident that boating really shouldn’t start until late June. As a kid, I was never allowed to play organized sports in the Spring or Summer, because it would interfere with “the boat.”

One of the things I relish in this first voyage is seeing what’s new on land. Over recent years, the residential waterfront development has been steady, with either new homes or massive, noticeable renovations. Often

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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

one can't see what's going on from the street or sidewalk, but the view from the water is truly revealing. Some of the new structures are admirable, some not, and I always find myself comparing these new dwellings to my "favorite home on the water" from last year. There's one home that has held that title for several years in my eyes, even after a very tasteful renovation and expansion; I wonder if today's trip will present a serious challenger to "My favorite home on the water."

The first trip sometimes does come with a surprise or two. One time, I lost steering because I neglected to add hydraulic steering fluid. Another time, a gear shifter malfunctioned (it was a quick fix, like the fluid). Because of the current engine issue, a sea trial was done this morning, and *they* lost steering! I'm now feeling much better about my odds of today *should* be the day.

That salt air. That calming, relaxing salt air. I can't wait to inhale it, deep inside.

And I begin to think of boating adventures....our Dock-n-Dine events, Boat/Camp, cocktail cruises. A potential Yacht Club Cruise? Or do I meet up with them for a night or two then continue on my own?

Just got a text. Gotta' run! YES!! Today IS the day!!! I hope to see you on the water!!!

– Cdr. Fred Elliott

On May 20th, Commander Fred Elliott and past Commander Jeff Brown received a proclamation from Jon Zagrodsky, First Selectman of the Town of Darien.



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 8 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 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!





**DARIEN SAIL &
POWER SQUADRON**

A Unit of United States Power Squadrons®



Dock-n-Dine

June 14th

At....Rockin' Fish

155 Main Street, Northport, NY 11768 631-651-5200

Plan to arrive at noon (1200)

By BOAT: To use a mooring at Centerport Yacht Club (\$35) you must be a member of a club with reciprocal arrangement with Centerport Yacht Club. If you are, make a reservation through DOCKWA. In the "Customer Notes" or "Special Requests" section, please note the club you are a member with, that you are cruising with DSPS and the mooring is for the afternoon only. Centerport monitors VHF 68. Their launch will take you to the Town Dock.

OR

By BOAT: The Northport Town Dock is "first come, first served" and no fee during the day. Local knowledge says it's nice to tip the dock personnel, asking them to check your lines. These are stationary, not floating piers.

High Tide is at 11:19 AM

The walk from the Town Dock is about 5 minutes uphill, on Main Street. The restaurant is on the left.



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Dock-n-Dine plus, 2026

June 7: New Members Party

June 14: Rockin' Fish, Northport

July 12: Captains Cove, Bridgeport

July 31: Boat/Camp, Noroton Yacht Club

August 9: Louie's Dock, Port Washington

**Events are scheduled for members of the Darien Sail
and Power Squadron and invited guests**

DSPA MEMBERS SHOULD CONTACT Fred Elliott elliottfc.07@gmail.com IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE EVENTS.

LET HIM KNOW if YOU ARE TRAVELING ABOARD YOUR OWN BOAT.

**IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND BUT DON'T HAVE A BOAT, NOTIFY FRED.
WE'LL TRY TO FIND A SPOT FOR YOU. NO GUARANTEES!**

The rain stopped just in time for the festive Memorial Day Parade!



New Members

On June 7th we welcomed our newest members at a gathering hosted by Fred Elliott. Both the weather and the tide cooperated for a very fun evening!

We welcome Charlie, Laura, and Lily Carroll; Doug Hecker; Graham Goodrich; and Joyce Meurer, all of whom joined in 2026.

From 2025, we welcome Brian, Darren, Jane, Peter, and Michael Drittel; Bridget and Darrah Bepler; Conner, Emma, Jack, Kevin, and Susan Blenke; Melanie Brandson; Andrew, Conor, Ian, and Mary Ann Carman; Georgia, Mike, Samantha, and William Gault; Manny Harik; Chuck Jackson; Annabelle, Dennis, Lilah, Mary, and Rosemary Martin; Alexa, Julia, Matt, Nancy, and Vincent Morano; and Eric, Ned, and Stephanie Osterhus.

We are here to help make your boating experiences pleasurable! We hope to see you on the water, at our Speaker Series Events, at Boat/Camp and taking additional boating courses.

