

# *The* *Log*

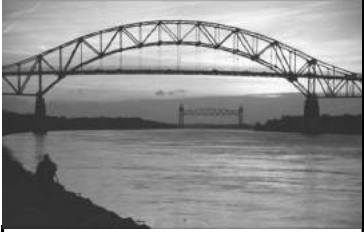
*Buzzards Bay Sail and Power Squadron*  
c/o Andrew Campbell  
PO Box 33, Woods Hole, MA 02543

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from the Willett Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation.

**United States  
Power Squadrons®**



**Island Home**  
(Photo by Nawrie Meigs-Brown)



## 2022 EVENTS

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## SUMMER/FALL EVENT PLANNER

### 2022

FOR CCSPS EVENTS PLEASE SEE THE CCSPS (Americas Boating Club Cape Cod) WEB SITE

August 9 16	Tuesday	Basic Coastal Navigation seminar in 2 parts Part 1 live virtual presentation Part 2 live virtual presentation	6:30 – 8:30 PM 6:30 – 8:30 PM
August 23 30	Tuesday	Boat Handling seminar in 2 parts (no on water training) Part 1, Control in Limited Spaces Part 2, Review & Open Water	6:30 – 8:30 PM 6:30 – 8:30 PM
August 23 24; 25; 29; 30 30	Tuesday	On Water Training Boat Handling part 1 Control in Limited Spaces On Water Training by Appointment Boat Handling part 2 Review and Open Water	6:30 – 8:30 PM 6:30 – 8:30 PM
September 10; 17; 24 October 1 October 8; 15; 22; 29 November 8; 12	Saturday	Coastal Navigation Piloting lectures: live virtual on line Advanced Piloting in person, hands on plotting & piloting skills instruction	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
September 12; 19; 26 October 3 October 8; 9	Monday	Celestial Navigation / Junior Navigation lectures: live virtual on line in person hands on sight reduction and plotting skills instruction sextant use instruction sextant practice / sun sights	6:30 – 8:30 PM
September 14; 21; 28 October 8; 12; 19; 26	Wednesday	Boat Handling / Seamanship virtual on line presentation in person break out sessions for knots as required	6:30 – 8:30 PM
September 8; 15; 22; 29 October 2	Thursday	America’s Boating Course (ABC) virtual format on line ABC “drive in” in person proctored exam	6:30 – 8:30 PM
September 13 Tuesday		New England / Cape Cod Weather seminar Live virtual presentation	6:30 – 8:30 PM
September 20 Tuesday		BBSPS E Board Meeting live virtual format on line	6:30 – 8:30 PM
October 6; 13; 20; 27 October 30	Thursday	America’s Boating Course (ABC) virtual format on line ABC “drive in” in person proctored exam	6:30 – 8:30 PM
October 11	Tuesday	Nautical Rules of the Road / Ropes & Knots	6:30 – 8:30 PM
October 18 25	Tuesday	Basic Coastal Navigation Part 1 live virtual presentation Part 2 live virtual presentation	6:30 – 8:30 PM



## BUZZARDS BAY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

*presents*

### 2022 SUMMER/FALL SEMINARS

BBSPS will present a series of *live, interactive, on-line* short seminars on a comprehensive range of boating topics to make you a more skilled, confident and secure boater.

#### JUST WHAT YOU NEED TO NAVIGATE THE CAPE WATERS KNOWLEDGE IS CONFIDENCE

##### **Boat Handling** – *with the author of the book on boat handling*

**Boat Handling, (in 2 parts) Close Quarters Control & Open Water - Tuesdays: August 23 & 30**

##### **Navigation** – *with the author of the book on coastal navigation*

**Basic Coastal Navigation (in 2 parts)  
– Tuesdays: August 9 & 16 or October 18 & 25**

##### **Weather**

**New England / Cape Cod Weather - Tuesday: September 13**

##### **Rules & Ropes**

**Nautical Rules of the Road / Ropes & Knots - Tuesday: October 11**

*Join us for a fun and effective learning experience  
Where the instructors are live on line with you and available to answer your questions*

**Seminars - USPS member \$30      non USPS member \$40**

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**  
*all seminars are presented on-line evenings 6:30 – 9:00PM*

TO REGISTER: Send a completed registration form\* along with a check made payable to “Buzzards Bay Sail & Power Squadron” to: Richard Moore PO Box 1685 Sagamore Beach, MA 02562-1685 Email: [chmbrck@live.com](mailto:chmbrck@live.com) Telephone: 508-888-8238

We will email you an on-line link just prior to the presentation.  
*\*the registration form can be found on [www.bbsps.org](http://www.bbsps.org) web site*



**BUZZARDS BAY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON**  
*presents*

**AMERICA’S BOATING COURSE**

America’s Boating Course (ABC) is recognized as one of the very best ways to prepare yourself for boating.

ABC meets NASBLA certification requirements, is recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard, and **meets MA requirements for boat operation by 12-15 year-old boaters.**

ABC covers the basics of operating a boat safely, including rules of the road, aids to navigation, required equipment, and boat handling techniques.

**Each class is a live, interactive, virtual presentation on 4 weekday evenings followed by a “drive in” in-person, proctored exam given the Sunday following the last class.**

**September THURSDAYS 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM**  
**SEPTEMBER 8; 15; 22; 29**  
**EXAM SUNDAY OCTOBER 2**

**ATTENDANCE ALL 4 DAYS PLUS THE EXAM IS REQUIRED**

**COST: \$65 per student**

You will receive a copy of the USPS ABC book, a summary of MA boating laws, and a US Coast Guard safe boating guide prior to the class.

**PRE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**  
**A PRE COURSE ASSIGNMENT NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED**  
**WE MUST MEET BEFORE THE CLASS TO DISTRIBUTE COURSE MATERIALS**

**TO REGISTER:** Send a completed registration form\* along with a check made payable to “Buzzards Bay Sail & Power Squadron” to:

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**Email: [chmbrck@live.com](mailto:chmbrck@live.com) Telephone: 508-888-8238**

**\* Registration form can be found on the web site [www.bbsps.org](http://www.bbsps.org)**





**BUZZARDS BAY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON**  
*presents*

**COASTAL NAVIGATION**

**Piloting and Advanced Piloting are the United States Power Squadrons courses providing you with skills needed to safely navigate coastal and inland waters.**

**Since most boaters use GPS, these courses provide you with what you need to successfully use GPS or a chartplotter to plan and navigate. You'll also learn how to check your navigation, and what to do if the GPS becomes faulty.**

**By merging the two courses, we can substantially reduce the overall class time. If you have not taken Piloting or wish to review the material take the initial 2 sessions and be up to speed for Advanced Piloting.**

**WHEN:** Saturdays 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Sep 10, 17, 24; Oct 1 Piloting  
Oct 8, 15, 22, 29; Nov 5, 12 Advanced Piloting

**Notes:**

*There are two parts to each class, 1) a live on line presentation of material held on Saturday, and 2) individually scheduled in person discussion/help during the week following the presentation.*

*The longer 3 hour presentations and combination of P and AP shortens the overall duration of the course.*

**COST:** If you have NOT taken Piloting \$150  
*Includes: USPS course plotter / ultra light dividers  
AP student manual / The Weekend Navigator book*

If you have recently taken Piloting \$80  
*(have "The Weekend Navigator", dividers, and plotter)  
Includes: AP student manual*

Non-USPS member: add \$100

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BEFORE SEP 1 SO WE CAN ORDER COURSE MATERIALS**

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Email: [chmbrrck@live.com](mailto:chmbrrck@live.com) Telephone: 508-888-8238

\* Registration form is available on our website: [www.bbsps.org](http://www.bbsps.org)



**BUZZARDS BAY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON**  
*presents*

**CELESTIAL NAVIGATION (*Junior Navigation*)**

**Junior Navigation is the first of a two part program of study in offshore navigation. It is designed as a practical how-to course. Subject matter includes: basic concepts of celestial navigation; how to use the mariner's sextant to take sights of the sun; the importance and techniques of accurate time determination; use of the Nautical Almanac; how to reduce sights to establish lines of position; and the use of special charts; plotting sheets and other navigational data for offshore positioning and passage planning.**

**When:**                    **Fall 2022**  
                                 **Introduction & Sights**  
                                 **Winter 2022/2023**  
                                 **Sight Folder preparation**  
                                 **Sight reduction, positioning techniques, and cruise**

**Virtual on line presentation with hands on sextant and sight taking as well as break-out sessions on sight reduction and plotting.**

**Mondays      6:30 – 9:00 PM      SEP 12; 19; 26      OCT 3**

**Sights:** We will begin hands on sextant training and taking sights on OCT 8/9

**Cost:**      \$150 USPS members      \$250 non members

**If you would like to take “JN”  
OR  
Just want to learn how to use a sextant or practice taking sights**

**Registration or Information Contact:**  
**Richard Moore PO Box 1685 Sagamore Beach, MA 02562-1685**  
**Email: [chmbrrck@live.com](mailto:chmbrrck@live.com)      Telephone: 508-888-8238**



**BUZZARDS BAY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON**  
*presents*

**ON THE WATER TRAINING**

- *Do you fear docking your boat?*
- *Do you think it is much easier to parallel park a car than dock a boat?*
- *Do you have trouble leaving a dock with wind pushing you?*
- *Is it a mystery why your boat behaves like it does?*

This 8-hour program is the perfect combination of an introductory classroom training seminar, followed by hands-on on-water practice, and a wrap-up seminar with more useful information - with expert instructors.

You'll learn how a boat responds to your controls and external factors such as wind and current. Animation and video clips help you visualize maneuvers prior to doing them on the water.

It covers the use of lines, departing from a dock, operating in a fairway, pivoting, mooring, backing, docking, steering, slalom, holding course, running a range, and stopping quickly.

**AUG 23**                    **live, interactive, on line seminar**                    **6:30 – 9:00 PM**  
**Tuesday**                **Boat Handling / Control / Limited Spaces**                **Part 1 of 2**  
**AUG**                        **24; 25; 29; 30**                    **On Water Training**  
                                  **by appointment**                    **weather dependent**

**AUG 30**                    **live, interactive, on line seminar**                    **6:30 – 9:00 PM**  
**Tuesday**                **Boat Handling / Open Water / Wrap Up**                **Part 2 of 2**

**WHERE:**    **On Water Training**                    **Red Brook Harbor/Buzzards Bay**  
                  **Meet at Parker's Boat Yard 68 Red Brook Harbor Road Cataumet, MA 02534**

**COST:**        **USPS member \$250**                    **Non-member \$350**

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**                    **SPACE IS LIMITED**

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**Email: [chmbrck@live.com](mailto:chmbrck@live.com)**                    **Telephone: 508-888-8238**                    **\*[bbsps.org](http://bbsps.org)**





**BUZZARDS BAY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON**  
*presents*

**USPS BOAT HANDLING (SEAMANSHIP) COURSE**

**Boat Handling, which replaces USPS seamanship, is the next course after the ABC boating class which treats subjects in greater depth and covers:**

- *A practical approach to navigational rules of the road*
- *Confidence in docking, undocking and slow speed maneuvering*
- *Handling your boat while underway*
- *Anchoring with assurance*
- *Emergencies on board and handling common problems*
- *Knots and line handling – the knots you need to know*

**This is also the first in the USPS Advanced Grades sequence of 5 courses which cover seamanship, coastal and offshore navigation.**

**WHEN:** Wednesday Evenings 6:30 – 9:00 PM  
SEP 14; 21; 28 OCT 8; 12; 19; 26

**WHERE:** Virtual, on-line presentation  
in person break-out session for knots as required

**COST:** \$75 USPS member \$175 non-member

**PRE REGISTRATION IS REQUESTED**

**TO REGISTER:** Send a completed registration form\* along with a check made payable to “Buzzards Bay Sail & Power Squadron” to:  
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Email: [chmbrck@live.com](mailto:chmbrck@live.com) Telephone: 508-888-8238

\* Registration form is available on our website: [www.bbsps.org](http://www.bbsps.org)

**Bridge Officers**

**Commander**

John A. Rossi Jr., AP

508-743-5105

truckerjar90@gmail.com

**Executive Officer**

Richard G. Moore, AP

508-888-8238

chmbrrck@live.com

**Administrative Officer**

John A. Rossi Jr., AP

**Educational Officer**

Richard G. Moore, AP

**Secretary**

Karen McCully Hong

508-759-7458 (H)

914-525-0533 (C)

karen3hong@yahoo.com

**Treasurer**

Richard G. Moore, AP

**Assistant Treasurer**

Bill Kelly

508-314-4692

bikelly@verizon.net

## The View

Summer is moving along quickly. Overall, we have had some great boating weather, with more to come. Many say that Fall is the best time to boat in New England.

We are continuing with our boating courses. Lately, we have been instructing folks across Eastern Massachusetts with our virtual courses. We have two more ABC sessions to go – August and September. With the coming of Covid, we have encountered a huge increase in new boaters. And, that has been accompanied by some very inexperienced boaters joining us on the waterways. Please encourage anyone you know who needs to learn to come to our programs.

Included in this issue of the LOG is an excellent article summarizing the how and why of accidents. You will be pleased to know that those who have taken a USPS course have among the lowest rates of accidents and fatalities. In reality, boating is a very safe sport, especially if you know what you are doing. Pass it along!

This month, we are offering two-session seminars for **Basic Coastal Navigation** and **Boat Handling**, the latter has an optional associated **On-Water** training session. Next month, we offer a seminar on **New England Weather**.

This Fall we have a strong line-up beginning in September with full courses in Coastal Navigation and Celestial Navigation. Make sure to sign-up.

Best regards,



Bob Sweet

## EDUCATION REPORT AUGUST 2022

### ABC classes

Our first ABC class will be in March 2022. We will offer a total of 8 ABC classes, one per month through October 2022.

August	1; 2; 4; 5 10 students	exam Sunday Aug. 7	Bob Sweet / Dick Moore
September	8; 15; 22; 29	exam Sunday Oct. 2	Bob Sweet / Dick Moore
October	6; 13; 20; 27	exam Sunday Oct. 30	Bob Sweet / Dick Moore

### Seminars

Bob Sweet / Dick Moore

Our 2022 Seminar Series will begin on March 7. As we did in 2021 these will all be presented using a live virtual format which allows for the participants to ask questions and discuss the topics with the presenters. Join us!! The great thing about seminars is that you learn a lot and there is no homework or exam!!

#### August

9 & 16 Tuesday Basic Coastal Navigation 2 parts  
23 & 30 Tuesday Boat Handling 2 parts

#### September

13 Tuesday New England / Cape Cod Weather

#### October

11 Tuesday Nautical Rules of the Road / Ropes & Knots  
18 & 25 Tuesday Basic Coastal Navigation (2 parts)

### On Water Training / Boat Handling

#### July

12 Tuesday on line seminar / boat handling limited spaces  
13; 14; 18; 19 On Water Training by appointment  
19 Tuesday on line seminar / boat handling open water

4 students completed the on water training and a total of 10 students completed the boat handling seminars.

#### August

23 Tuesday on line seminar / boat handling limited spaces  
24; 25; 29; 30 On Water Training by appointment  
30 Tuesday on line seminar / boat handling open water

### Marine Electrical Systems

Dick Moore

This is the first of three USPS courses on boat electrical and electronic systems and covers the wiring of your boat and its systems.

Congratulations to our members Wayne and Cathy Sampson on successful completion of the Marine Electrical Systems course.

### Boat Handling / Seamanship

Dick Moore

Wednesday evenings: September 14; 21; 28; October 8; 12; 19; 26 6:30–8:30 PM

Boat Handling replaces the USPS seamanship course and is the next course after the ABC boating class, which treats selected subjects in greater depth and covers: a practical approach to the rules of the road; fundamentals of close quarters maneuvering; handling your boat when underway; anchoring with assurance; emergencies on board and common problems; and knots and line handling.

### Celestial Navigation / Junior Navigation

Bob Sweet / Dick Moore

Monday evenings: September 12; 19; 26; October 3 6:30-8:30 PM

Saturday/Sunday October 8; 9 sextant training & sun sights

Lectures are live, virtual on line presentations. Sextant training and sight taking is in person and hands on. Sight reduction, lines of position and plotting are in person and hands on training.

This is the first of a two part program of study in offshore navigation It is designed as a practical how to course. Subject matter includes: basic concepts of celestial navigation; how to use the mariner's sextant to take sights of the sun; the importance and techniques of accurate time determination; use of the nautical almanac; how to reduce sights to establish lines of position; and the use of special charts, plotting sheets and other navigational data for offshore positioning and passage planning.

Coastal Navigation (Piloting & Advanced Piloting)

Bob Sweet / Dick Moore

Lectures are live, virtual on line presentations.

Plotting and positioning are in person hands on training.

Saturdays 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Piloting September 10; 17; 24; October 1

Advanced Piloting October 8; 15; 22; 29; November 5; 12

We've combined the Piloting & Advanced Piloting courses in one complete presentation of coastal navigation techniques. You will learn how to effectively use charts, GPS, and a chart plotter to safely plan and navigate, how to check your navigation, and what to do if there is a problem.

Our 2022 offerings are all planned using a live "virtual" presentation followed by individual in depth sessions with each student as necessary. We are striving to bring our members and the boating public high quality, comprehensive, boating education opportunities. Look at our schedule of classes and seminars and join us....learn something.....have fun..... and have some person to person interaction, even though in a virtual format.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Moore SN IN  
Education officer

## **Boat Handling Challenges**

### **Bob Sweet**

Handling a boat is not difficult – just different! The trick is understanding how the boat behaves in response to your actions. The challenge is in the wide range of possible conditions including varying winds, currents, and seas that you are likely to encounter. As a result, there is no single “canned” solution to what you seek to do.

Most people tend to learn how to handle their boats by trial and error. You do something and get an unpredicted result. So, you try doing it a different way. This is confusing and frustrating. Eventually, after enough tries, you may find something that works, but is it really the best way? But that is what you know, so it’s the way you continue to do it.

Some seek help from a professional captain. Many instruct by giving you step-by-step instructions. You may dock the boat, but afterwards you don’t know how you did it. It’s like traveling today with your car’s GPS navigator. You get detailed turn-by-turn instructions to get to your destination. But, in the end, do you remember how you got there? Could you repeat the trek without the navigator? It is important to know why you are doing something.

Our approach to instructing boaters how to handle their boats effectively begins with a seminar explaining how the variables affect your boat. You learn how to control your boat and develop a solid strategy for what you are about to do.

Then, when you get on the water, you have a solid expectation of how the boat will respond when you do something. When the boat behaves as expected, that is positive reinforcement. Early in your boating experience, you will need to think about each action, but as you gain experience you tend to respond automatically to varying conditions. Hands-on experience is ultimately the best teacher.

Our on-water training accelerates your hands-on experience by running you through a structured set of tasks that reinforces what you learned in the seminar. Then, a follow-up seminar reviews and reinforces what you have learned and goes on to describe dealing with other conditions and situations. There is no substitute for time on the water in building your base of experience.

Once you are up to speed, you realize you can do things with a boat that you cannot with a car such as easier parallel parking. Come learn, or expand your learning with us.

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# Boating Accident Statistics in the U.S. (2022)

By Robert Owens



Thanks to worldwide lockdowns and social distancing, we are seeing an increase in recreational boating and related accidents.

Sadly, boating accident statistics show that the majority of accidents are related to operator negligence. Here are some of the not-widely-known statistics about boating accidents.

## Boating Accident Statistics

Highlights of accident statistics:

- Boating **fatalities surged** 25.1% during the Covid pandemic.
- Over 5,000 boating accidents **occur yearly** in the U.S., causing \$62.5 million in damages.
- Lack of boating **safety education** accounts for 77% of fatal accidents.
- **Alcohol** is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents.
- 86% of **drowning victims** were not wearing a life jacket.
- Only **11.6% of adults** and 65.8% of kids wear a life jacket.
- **Collision** with another vessel is the most common type of boating accident in the U.S.
- The majority of boating accidents take place in **calm waters**.
- Boat **propeller accidents** surged 44% during the Covid pandemic.

## Boating fatalities surged 25.1% during the Covid pandemic.

The Covid pandemic has affected every person and industry worldwide. Most industries experienced a lack of demand and foot traffic. Surprisingly, the boating industry saw a surge in demand.

According to Info-Link Technologies, which tracks new and used boat registrations, first-time boat buyers accounted for a whopping 31% of all new boat sales and 37% of preowned boat sales. (1)

This makes an average increase in first-time boat owners by over 35%.



Interestingly enough, the new boat sales have been slowly declining for years until the Covid pandemic and lockdowns. There’s a high likelihood that the rise in boat traffic will only increase in the next years. (2) Unfortunately, this increased boating activity by first-time boaters resulted in more accidents, injuries, and deaths.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard Report on boating accident statistics, there was a 25.1% increase in boating fatalities nationwide. (3)

In 2020, 767 deaths in the U.S. were caused by 5,265 boating accidents. Compared to 2019, the number of accidents increased 26.3%, and injuries increased 24.7%. (4)

This can be explained by the sudden surge in first-time inexperienced boat owners.

All boating accidents contribute about 15% of total boating deaths per year during the last three years.

Year	Accidents	Deaths	Fatality rate
2020	5,265	767	6.5 per 100,000 vessels
2019	4,168	613	5.2 per 100,000 vessels
2018	4,145	633	5.3 per 100,000 vessels

The fatality rate increased 25% from 5.2 deaths per 100,000 vessels in 2019 to 6.5 deaths per 100,000 vessels in 2020.

The largest number of fatal accidents happened in January, March, April, and November.

Interestingly enough, most fatal boating accidents happened between 12:00 AM and 2:30 AM.

## Over 5,000 boating accidents occur yearly in the U.S., causing \$62.5 million in damages.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis statistics show that boating and fishing are the largest outdoor recreation activities in the U.S. at \$23.6 billion in current-dollar value-added. (5)

With more new boaters hitting the water, rises the potential risk for accidents.

By National Marine Manufacturers Association 2020 statistics, there are 11,878,542 recreational vessels registered in the United States. (6)

According to the USCG accident report (U.S. Coast Guard), boating accidents are in upwards trends with 26% more boating accidents than in the previous year. (3)

In 2020, there was 5,265 accidents (26% rise) that involved 3,191 injuries (20% rise) and 767 deaths (25% rise).

Year	Accidents	Injuries	Deaths	Damages
2020	5,265	3,191	767	\$62.5 million
2019	4,168	2,559	613	\$55 million
2018	4,145	2,511	633	\$46 million

Three main contributing factors for boating accidents were operator inattention, inexperience, and improper lookout.

Three main contributing factors for boating accidents were operator inattention, inexperience, and improper lookout.

All recreational boating accidents in 2020 caused \$62.5 million dollars of damage to property, up 12% from 2019.

The most expensive damages associated with all accidents were:

- Flooding/swamping – \$24,329,920.03 (1,007 accidents)
- Collision with recreational vessel – \$14,437,120.93 (1,478 accidents)
- Grounding – \$12,528,222.55 (598 accidents)

### **Lack of boating safety education accounts for 77% of fatal accidents.**

According to the U.S. Coast Guard boat safety statistics, inattention, inexperience, improper lookout, and excessive speed are the top contributing factors in boating accidents. (3)

All of these topics are covered in boating safety courses. Unfortunately, improper or lack of safety instruction can result in fatal accidents.

Where the operator instruction-level was known, 77% of fatal boating accidents occurred on boats where the operator didn't receive boating safety instruction.

As seen from the table below, every type of education is better than no safety education.

Lack of boating safety education is the leading cause of most fatal boating accidents and causes the most injuries.

<b>Education type</b>	<b>Accidents</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Injuries</b>
American Red Cross	2	0	2
Informal	271	15	142
Online course	258	18	148
State course	1,107	46	561
U.S. Power Squadrons	37	0	9
U.S.C.G. Auxiliary	121	5	49
Other	161	10	65
No Education	2,567	317	1,336

In contrast, only 12% of deaths occurred where the operator received a nationally approved boating safety education.

The boating fatality rate of 2020 was 6.5 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. Sadly, this is an increase of 25% from the previous year.

## Alcohol is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents.

The fact is that drinking and boating do not play well together. Just like with automobiles, there are legal limits for blood alcohol content (BAC) when operating a boat.

Operating a boat while intoxicated is a federal offense and can result in a \$1,000 fine and criminal penalties going as high as \$5,000. (7)

The current federal legal blood alcohol content limit in most U.S. states is .08%. (8)

According to the U.S. Coast Guard boating safety statistics, the primary contributing factor to boating deaths is alcohol. (3)

In accidents where the primary cause was known, alcohol was the leading factor in 18% of deaths in 2020. This number was 23% in 2019.

Primary contributing factors of deaths and accidents in 2020:

Contributing factor	Deaths	Accidents
Alcohol use	115	664
Hazardous waters	62	232
Operator inexperience	56	612
Operator inattention	55	664
Weather	42	244
Excessive speed	32	418
Improper lookout	28	578
Navigation rules violation	26	316
Machinery failure	19	373
Force of wave/wake	14	215

The U.S. accident statistics also show that states with the highest number of alcohol-related fatal accidents were Florida, California, and North Carolina.

Interestingly enough, drug use caused 1% of all fatal boating accidents in 2020.

## 86% of drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket.

It's a known fact that a life jacket is the most effective piece of boating safety equipment in minimizing marine casualties, but it only works if a person actually wears it. (9)

Marine accidents always happen at the most unexpected moments.

According to United States Power Squadrons, the greatest cause of boat deaths is drowning due to unexpected entry into the water. (10)

Most drowning victims could have been saved had they been wearing a life jacket before the accident.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard research, 75% of fatal boating accident victims drowned in 2020. Of those victims, 86% were not wearing a life jacket. (3)

Sadly not wearing a life jacket has been slowly trending over the last years.

Year	Drowning Deaths	Life Jacket Worn	Life Jacket Not Worn
2020	75%	14%	86%
2019	79%	14%	86%
2018	77%	16%	84%

## Only 11.6% of adults and 65.8% of kids wear a life jacket.

The harsh reality is that only a fraction of all adults wears a life jacket. Boat accidents are real, but one needs to wear a life jacket beforehand.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard Life Jacket Wear Rate Observation Study in 2019, the average life jacket wear rate for adults was 11.6% on all boats, excluding PWCs. (11)

Although 11.6% might sound small at first glance, this number has been in a strong positive trend, as it has been relatively increased by 49% since 2010.

One of the most interesting boating safety facts is, contrary to adults, the life jacket wear rate for underage kids was 65.8% on all boats, excluding PWCs.

This number has also been in a strong positive trend, as it has been relatively increased by 26% since 1999.

The kids' life jacket wear rate was the highest at 71.9% in 2017.

The reality is that only 11.6% of adults wear life jackets, whereas 65.8% of underage kids wear life jackets.

This statistic shows that adults care about their children but fail to assess the risk related to themselves.

The life jacket wear rate for all boats and boaters combined was 24.0% in 2019. This is a relative increase of 13% since 1999.

## Collision with another vessel is the most common type of boating accident in the U.S.

Boat collisions are the most dangerous and frequently occurring boating incidents on waters. The impact of deadly boat crashes is devastating, to say the least.

Collisions will often cause vessel damage, personal injury, and death.

According to the U.S.C.G collision statistics, collision with another vessel has been the primary type of boating accident in recent years. (3)

In 2020, there were 1379 collisions with other vessels, up 22.33% from the previous year, and fatal collisions of 66, up 28.79% from the previous year.

Year	Accidents	Deaths	Injuries
2020	1,379	66	831
2019	1,071	47	650
2018	1,028	40	661

The top five types of boating accidents in the U.S. are:

- Collision with recreational vessel
- Flooding/swamping
- Collision with a fixed object
- Grounding
- Falls overboard

### The majority of boating accidents take place in calm waters.

Every boater knows that weather and water conditions are the utmost important factor to consider before going boating.

Surprisingly enough, marine accident statistics show that most boating accidents in the U.S. happen in calm waters with waves less than 6". (3)

According to the U.S.C.G. reported accidents, 56% of all boating accidents in 2020 happened in calm and 29% in choppy waters.

	Waves	Accident %	Accidents	Deaths
Calm	Less than 6"	56%	2,946	409
Choppy	>6" to 2'	29%	1,519	179
Rough	>2' to 6'	9%	462	81
Very rough	Larger than 6'	2%	86	14
Unknown	Unknown	4%	252	84

Additionally, 75.4% of accidents in 2020 took place during the day with good visibility.

The majority (41%) of boating accidents happen between 2:31 PM and 6:30 PM, but the highest number of fatal accidents (24%) happen between 12:00 AM to 2:30 AM.

### Boat propeller accidents surged 44% during the Covid pandemic.

Boat propeller accidents are one of the worst boating accidents one can think of. Getting hit by a propeller in the water is a recipe for disaster.

Boat propeller strikes are usually the second or third event of an evolving boat accident. The first event usually being a collision with another vessel and an unexpected entry into the water. (12)

According to Coast Guard 2020 boat propeller accident statistics, there were 247 accidents where at least one person was struck by a propeller. This is a 44.44% increase from the previous year.

Propeller-related accidents resulted in 39 deaths, an 11.43% increase from the previous year.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Accidents</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Damages</b>
2020	247	39	\$511,850
2019	171	35	\$100,402
2018	177	25	\$80,389

82% of vessels that participated in accidents where a propeller struck a person were 16 ft to less than 26 ft in length.

As covered at the beginning of this article, boating fatalities as a whole surged 25.1% during the Covid pandemic.

This can be explained by the sudden surge in first-time inexperienced boat owners who cannot yet assess the risk of potential boating disasters.

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[Boating Accident Statistics in the U.S. \(2022\) | Quicknav](#)





## Latitude Announcements



### **CONTENT**

We are always looking for articles, stories and photographs to include in the LOG that would be of interest to our members. Please send them to the LOG editor.

### **COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING**

**FREE**

The business must be a BBSPS supporter and provide assistance to BBSPS in presenting its programs and/or events.

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Ads will run for 4 consecutive months

All Ad submissions should be made to Andrew Campbell using a Microsoft Word attachment for the desired ad

Please notify the LOG editor if your item(s) is(are) sold so the ad(s) can be removed

### **United States Power Squadrons Website**

The USPS public URL has been changed from "usps.org" to <https://americasboatingclub.org>.

### **LOG EDITOR**

**Andrew Campbell    [andrewriggscampbell@yahoo.com](mailto:andrewriggscampbell@yahoo.com)**



# Squadron Boosters 2022 - 2026



**Dates reflect booster expiration**

<b>Willett, Herbert III Estate Continuing Support</b>	<b>Buzzards Bay</b>	Moore, Tracy 11/30/22	Buzzards Bay
Campbell, Andrew 1/31/23	Buzzards Bay	Offinger, Catherine 10/31/22	Buzzards Bay
Church, Ron 1/31/23	Buzzards Bay	Richmond, Charles 4/30/23	Buzzards Bay
Daly, Jerry & Joan 3/31/23	Buzzards Bay	Rossi, John & Rose 1/31/24	Buzzards Bay
Diekmann, Werner 4/30/24	Buzzards Bay	Rugg, David 8/31/23	Buzzards Bay
Hong, Karen 8/31/23	Grt Blue Hills	Scavotto, John & Eleanore 11/30/26	Buzzards Bay
Kelliher, Joe 10/31/22	Buzzards Bay	Schofield, Robert & Penny 11/30/23	Buzzards Bay
Lingard, Frank 5/31/23	Buzzards Bay	Tarr, Paul & Judy 9/30/22	Buzzards Bay
Meigs-Brown, Nawrie 2/28/25	Buzzards Bay	Taylor, Bill & Marjorie 10/31/22	Buzzards Bay

### Enjoy the LOG? Become a Booster!

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- **Anchor & Relax - Half-Day Charter**  
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- **Coffee & Coastal Calmness**  
Sunrise Charter - 3 hours
- **Red Sky at Night - Sailors Delight**  
Sunset Charter - 2.5 hours
- **A Celebration of Life**  
Scattering of Ashes at Sea, call for details
- **Departure Location**  
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Phinney's Harbor, Bourne, MA



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