



THE MARINER'S NEEDLE



January 2026

Volume 65 Number 06

Celebrating 65 years!

ABC/USPS D28

SAN LUIS REY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



JANUARY 2026

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION



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ADVERTISING RATES AVAILABLE





2026

JANUARY 2026

- 10 San Diego Change of Watch—Southwestern Yacht Club
- 11 1530 Oceanside Change of Watch—Hunter Steakhouse
- 23 1630 Happy Hour—Yard House, Carlsbad Mall.

FEBRUARY

- 2 1800 Ex Com Meeting—via Zoom
- 8-15 ABC/USPS Annual Meeting—Myrtle Beach, SC

MARCH

- 2 1830 Ex Com Meeting—via Zoom
- 13-14 D28 Annual Conference—Hosted by San Diego at SWYC
- 18 1830 All Member Guest Gathering & Potluck Dinner at OYC

APRIL

- 6 1830 ExCom Meeting—Hosted by: TBA
- 14 1800 Taco Tuesday—Light House Oceanside Harbor

MAY

- 4 1830 ExCom Meeting—via Zoom
- 13 1630 Happy Hour at The Broiler, Oceanside Harbor
- 16 National Safe Boating Week
- 28—04 June D28 Rhone River Cruise—France

JUNE

- 1 1830 Excom Meeting—via Zoom
- 6 H.O.T. Seminar
- 7 Raft-up Oceanside Harbor—More to Follow
- 11-14 San Diego Boat Show—San Diego

Bold—Our own club event and all members invited to attend.

Photos in this issue contributed by Jill Powell, Shawn Goit via A.I.

January 2026 Commander's Report



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

OCEANSIDE

Submitted by: Stf/C Shawn Goit, JN-ON, Commander

Greetings Fellow Members,

December closed out the year on a high note for **America's Boating Club Oceanside**. Our **Christmas Party** was a great success, well attended, and filled with good cheer, laughter, and camaraderie. Events like this remind us that while boating education and safety are our mission, fellowship is the heart of our club.

Looking Ahead – Change of Watch

As we turn the page into the new year, we are looking forward to our **Change of Watch in January**. This is always a meaningful event, recognizing the dedication of outgoing officers and welcoming those stepping into leadership roles. I encourage everyone to attend and help us celebrate continuity, service, and the future of our squadron.

Introducing Captain Walter™ – Boating Safety Ambassador

I am pleased to officially introduce **Captain Walter™** as our new **Boater Safety Ambassador and Safety Officer**.

Captain Walter will be helping us communicate boating safety in a friendly, approachable, and engaging way—especially to boaters who may be new, hesitant, or unsure where to start. With Captain Walter's help, we are expanding our **marketing and outreach efforts** to reach boaters who need training, with special emphasis on:

- **Hands-On Training (HOT)**
- **On-Water Training Activities**



ATTENTION PLEASE!



CHANGE OF WATCH 2026

San Luis Rey USPS/America's Boating Club
Oceanside, Change of Watch -Jan 11, 2026 at 3:30 PM
- Hunter Steakhouse, Oceanside, CA



ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!

Join your peers for the Annual Change of Watch Dinner
— *thanking the outgoing Bridge and installing the
incoming Bridge.*

When: Sunday 11 January 2026

Time: 3:30 — 5:30pm

**Where: Hunter Steakhouse, 1221
Vista Way, Oceanside, CA. 92054.**
(At I-5 and Vista Way.)

Cost: \$42 Per Person in advance. \$47 Per Person at Door.

EARLY DINNER MENU CHOICES:

ORDER UPON ARRIVAL

PRIME RIB—PETITE CUT

- *Ruby port au jus, mixed vegetables and red skinned garlic mashed potatoes*

NEW YORK STEAK

- *Served with mixed vegetables ad garlic mashed potatoes*

FOREST MUSHROOM CHICKEN

- *Served with rich whisky peppercorn sauce with mushrooms over rice pilaf and mixed vegetables.*

BROILED SALMON

- *Grilled then topped with a hity of garlic. Served with rice pilaf and mixed vegetables.*

Vegetarian available upon request.



Register NOW / Reservations Required
Please respond by 04 January 2026.
[America's Boating Club Oceanside](#)



NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS 2026

SQUADRON COMMANDER: **SHAWN GOIT**

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: **JEFF OLSEN**

EDUCATION OFFICER: **CIDA DIEHL**

ASSISTANT EDUCATION OFFICER: **JENNIFER GOIT**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: **PHIL WOELFEL**

TREASURER: **DARRYEL SIMMONS**

SECRETARY: **KIRK LIPPERT**

Respectfully submitted:

Lt/C Kirk Lippert JN-ON

Secretary



Christmas at Hunter Steakhouse



Educational Department Report



Lt/C Cida Diehl, SN-CN

NOAA (*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*) has ended the production of traditional paper charts.

The End of an Era After 150 years

Paper charts are no longer updated or printed by NOAA. The agency has ceased creating new editions and updates to the old charts.

NOAA started this project to go electronic in 2019. After five years in the making, it has now replaced all paper charts with Electronic Charts. It now uses the Electronic Navigation Chart (ENC) System - a modern, detailed, and continuously updated digital format.



Boaters can still get the paper version, but only by printing from NOAA Custom Chart Tool.

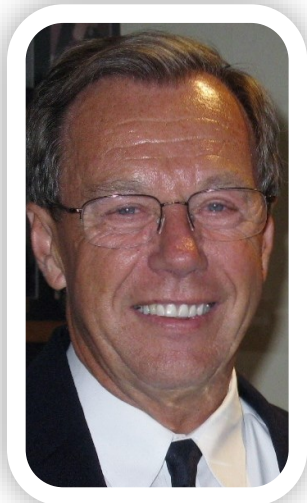
This tool allows users to select their own area, scale, and layout from ENC data base, then print it themselves. Electronics charts provide better accuracy, are easier to update, and have more flexibility for the modern navigation system. The system allows real-time data integration- tides, depths, and hazard. Every boater is encouraged to print their only charts for back up.

Above: Las Vegas Cdr Jay Higgins demonstrates at D13 Fall Conference how easy it is to print your own paper charts to Arrowhead's Lt/C Ronnie Mann, Lt/C John LeDell and Oceanside's Lt/C Cida Diehl.

Happy New year to ALL our readers!

JANUARY

SAFETY LESSONS LEARNED FROM ..THE ...



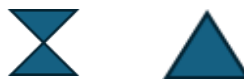
Time to say “**Happy New Year**” to all my friends one last time and then move on with it. With the start of 2026 we can ponder, contemplate, expect, fear, or just make it happen. We all make choices in life and for many people life happens, while some of us make it happen as much as the good Lord allows. In sailing terms I believe, as adapted from **The Sailors’ Prayer Book** (1852) that “*We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails.*”

In the year 2025 we saw **Artificial Intelligence** (AI) make major inroads. It is hard for me to say, even with my long background in computer science, whether this year brings us an acceleration of AI, or its normalization. Some economists even predict the bursting of an AI bubble. I asked AI to comment 🙄 and it says: “*The key boating safety lessons for 2025 focused on mandatory boater education laws in various states, emphasizing the core principles of Navigate Responsibly, Wear Life Jackets, and Avoid Alcohol, with courses covering navigation rules, emergency procedures, PWC safety, and new focus areas like carbon monoxide risks and trailer safety.*” If this is all the focus of your boating life, then your Intelligence is as good as Artificial Intelligence.

For my challenge in the previous issue, we continued looking at restricted visibility. I asked you to select one **FALSE** statement of the four. If you look in the USCG Navigation Rules - CONTENTS you will easily find that Rule 19 deals with this issue. You may also notice that the INTERNATIONAL Rule 19 is identical to the INLAND Rule, always good to look at. Of the answers offered, reducing steerageway, navigating with caution, and taking avoid-

ing action all make sense. The **FALSE** answer I was looking for is stopping your engine. You may not have the propellor engaged, but without a running engine you may be able to quickly respond when needed, **do you agree?** I received an immediate and correct response, Answer B, from **R/C Allan Bombard**. *Thank you!* Let me give you one more action to think about, for if you are under sail only, what should you do? ***I am curious as to whether anyone responds to this question.***

For this month (January), we’ll look at a somewhat unusual situation: You encounter a vessel with two day shapes at once. Two cones with apexes together, vertically, one above the other, on her port side, and one cone apex up on the starboard side.



Which of the following is it?

- A) *A vessel under sail being propelled by machinery.*
- B) *A small tug with tow greater than 200 meters astern.*
- C) *A vessel trawling.*
- D) *A fishing vessel with nets more than 150 meters out.*

Find the Rule and choose the right answer. Let me know what you think.

I hope you consider our “**On-the-Water Boating Program**” with **Shawn Goit** as the instructor in the classroom and on the water. To see if you can join, do not hesitate to contact Shawn. <https://americasboatingcluboceanside.org/classroom/>

Of course, you don't become a safer boater by asking AI about boating safety. I still believe that an actual sit-down course, taught by an experienced boater, offers the best opportunity for life-long learning. Give it a try and help to bring boating accidents down!

Captain Adriaan Veldhuisen

awveldhuisen@gmail.com

Happy Birthday !!



JANUARY

JENNA ALCANTARA	10
SUZANNE SCHREIER	15
CATHY MANGEN	24

Oceanside, CA Harbor - Live



San Luis Rey USPS
666 subscribers

Subscribe

28

 Share
 Clip
 Save

2 watching now Started streaming on Jan 19, 2025

Please donate to America's Boating Club Oceanside to help support this camera.

<https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted...>

Oceanside, CA Harbor - this IP Camera is paid for and maintained by America's Boating Club - Oceanside and Oceanside Yacht Club. Check weather conditions or just watch the boats go by. Here is the schedule for camera angles.

12 midnight - 3:30am --- The North Jetty Only

3:30am - 8pm ----- Panning/Zooming of the harbor

8pm - 12 midnight ----- Marina Only



San Luis Rey USPS
666 subscribers



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
OCEANSIDE, California 

SUPPORTED NON-PROFITS

ACCEPTING DONATIONS!

[Click here to support](#) — *Thankyou*

Commander's Report continued from Page 2

• **Practical, confidence-building boating skills**

Be sure to read **Captain Walter's first Safety Report this month**, where he sets the tone for safety messaging that is informative, welcoming, and effective.

We are excited about the role Captain Walter will play in guiding this next phase of outreach and education.

YouTube Channel – Sunset Viewing Now Live

If you haven't already, please **like and subscribe to our YouTube channel**. You can now watch the **sunset live each evening from Oceanside Harbor**.



Sunset Highlight:

Watch **6 minutes into this video** and enjoy a sailboat gracefully sailing through the sunset—it's a beautiful reminder of why we do what we do.

<https://youtu.be/zC08BspUULA?si=oz9CEfyOiTf1SK1A>

Your subscriptions help support our outreach, safety messaging, and visibility in the boating community.

Final Thoughts

As we close out 2025, I want to thank each of you for your continued support, participation, and belief in our mission. With the addition of **Captain Walter**, renewed focus on **on-water training**, and strong member involvement, I am confident we are heading into a **prosperous and impactful year ahead**.

Here's to smooth seas, safe boating, and a strong start to 2026.

Respectfully,

Stf/C Shawn Goit, SN-ON

Commander, America's Boating Club Oceanside

Go our website:

<https://americasboatingcluboceanside.org>

Meet Captain Walter™

Mailman

Walter starts as a dedicated Postal Service worker



Training

Next Stop:

Walter takes USPS boating safety courses



Captain's License

Walter earns his captain credentials



America's Boating Club®

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

AmericasBoatingClubOceanside.org

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®





LEON HULL

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Vessel Safety Examiner
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LeonVesselSafetyCheck@gmail.com

Website:

<https://AmericasBoatingClubOceanside.org>



For Boaters, By Boaters™

Providing FREE & Confidential
Vessel Safety Checks

"We will come to you."



Please Contact:

Leon Hull
Shawn Goit
Kirk Lippert

As Above
(760) 468-6212
(442) 488-4178

United States Power Squadrons
WWW.USPS.ORG

America's Boating Club Oceanside

Safety Report – December 2025

Submitted by: Captain Walter™, Safety Assistant

On behalf of: Jake Alcantara, Safety Officer

A Safe Year Comes to a Close – Welcome Captain Walter™

As we close out 2025, America's Boating Club Oceanside reflects on another year of learning, seamanship, and a shared commitment to safety on the water. This January safety report is a little different — *it marks the introduction of a new helper in our safety efforts.*

Please join us in welcoming **Captain Walter™**, our newly appointed **Safety Assistant**, who will be working alongside Safety Officer **Jake Alcantara** beginning now, 2026.

Captain Walter™ represents a simple idea: **Safety doesn't have to be intimidating to be taken seriously.**

What Captain Walter™ Stands For

Captain Walter™ isn't a mascot for entertainment — he's a **visual safety ambassador**. His mission is to help deliver core boating safety messages in ways that are approachable, memorable, and effective for all boaters, especially families and new operators.

His guiding principles are the same ones we've emphasized all year:

- **The Captain stays sober. Everyone gets home.**
- **Slow is professional — especially near docks and harbors.**
- **Training builds confidence before it's needed.**

These messages reinforce what we already teach in our ABC classes, Hands-On Training (HOT), and On-Water programs — just in a way that catches the eye and starts conversations.

Year-End Safety Reflections

As 2025 comes to a close, a few reminders are worth carrying into the new year:

- **Wear your life jacket.** Accidents don't announce themselves, and flotation only works when it's worn.
- **File a float plan.** Especially for offshore or Catalina trips, letting someone know your route and return time remains one of the simplest lifesaving steps.
- **Expect reduced visibility.** Winter and early mornings can bring fog and haze along our coast.

Know your local tools. In Oceanside Harbor, remember that the foghorn can be activated using the MRASS system by keying your VHF microphone five times on Channel 83A when conditions warrant.

Prepared boaters are safer boaters — not because of luck, but because of habit.

Safety Report Continued from Page 11

Looking Ahead to 2026

Captain Walter™ will be assisting **Jake Alcantara** throughout 2026 by helping highlight monthly safety themes, support outreach events, and reinforce the same standards and practices that define **America's Boating Club** and **United States Power Squadrons®**.

You'll see him where safety education matters most:

- Life jacket awareness
- Float plans
- Sober skipper messaging
- Training and preparedness
- Professional seamanship

ALWAYS EDUCATIONAL - ALWAYS ALIGNED - ALWAYS SAFETY-FIRST

Closing

Thank you to our members, instructors, vessel examiners, and volunteers who made 2025 a strong year for boating safety in Oceanside. On behalf of Jake Alcantara and the entire safety team — including *our newest four-legged assistant* — we wish you a safe, peaceful holiday season and calm waters in the year ahead.

See you in 2026.

– Captain Walter™
 Safety Assistant
America's Boating Club Oceanside

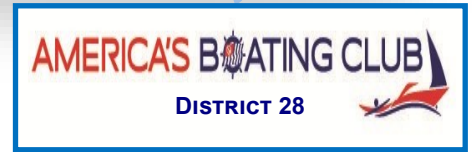




Portland, OR to Clarkston, WA



11—20 June 2027



*Would you be interested?
District 28 River Cruise within the USA!*

“Step into the intrepid shoes of **Lewis and Clark** and embark on a riveting journey through history on the **Columbia & Snake Rivers**. Setting sail from **Portland, OR to Clarkston, WA**, get ready for all this legendary waterway has in store for you. Admire the ever-shifting landscapes, from lush, forested mountains to cascading waterfalls and rocky shores, each turn offers a breathtaking spectacle unlike any other in **America**.

Watch as the ship passes through the intricate lock and dam system, witness firsthand the marvel of human engineering that tames these mighty rivers. Led by our local guides, discover the captivating stories behind iconic landmarks like **Mount St. Helens**, renowned for its explosive

1980 eruption, and enjoy a tour and tasting at **Maryhill Winery**, one of Washington State's largest wineries. Watch as the scenery switches from the towering peaks of the **Cascade Range** to the misty veil of **Multnomah Falls**, standing proud at a staggering 620 feet.

This region, with its waterways lined by the tallest trees you can imagine, mountains that blend into the uninterrupted sky, and eagles soaring above you is a truly remarkable sight. Experience America like never before, aboard our ultra-modern Riverboat.”

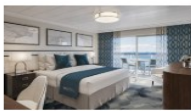

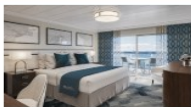
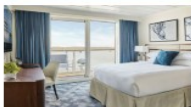
CONTACT:
D/Lt Jill Powell, AP
D28 Administrative Officer

“AMERICAN ANTHEM”:

- Coming in 2027
- 180 Guest Capacity
- Multiple Dining Venues
- All-Inclusive
 - * All meals and snacks
 - * Alcoholic/Non Alcoholic Beverages 24/7
- * Daily evening cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres and top shelf liquor
- Elevator Access to All Passenger Decks
- Spacious Staterooms
- Private Balconies
- Crew Gratuities
- Entertainment & Shore Excursion options
- Multi-Story Glass Atrium

Waiting to hear from you!

EXAMPLE

<input type="radio"/>		Vista Balcony View Stateroom Details... Book Now Free Brochure	\$8,230 Per Person
<input type="radio"/>		Premium Balcony View Stateroom Details... Book Now Free Brochure	\$7,835 Per Person
<input type="radio"/>		Deluxe Balcony View Stateroom Details... Book Now Free Brochure	\$7,390 Per Person
<input type="radio"/>		Single Balcony View Stateroom Details... Book Now Free Brochure	\$8,535 Per Person



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB OCEANSIDE

SAN LUIS REY SAIL & POWER SQUADRON : 2025 BRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

3 Year Term: 1/Lt Jill Powell, AP
 2 Year Term:
 1 Year Term:

FLAG LIEUTENANT

Position Open

MERIT MARKS

Lt/C Kirk Lippert, JN-CN

IMMED. PAST COMMANDER

P/C Darryel D Simmons, JN-IN

MEMBER AT LARGE

Russell Schneider

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2 year Term: Shawn Goit, SN-ON
 1 Year Term: Kirk Lippert, JN-CN

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CO-OPERATIVE CHARTING

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Lt/C Adriaan Veldhuisen, SN-ON

VESSEL SAFETY CHECK

1/Lt Leon Hull

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NEED TO CONTACT AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB OCEANSIDE ?

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<https://AmericasBoatingClubOceanside.org>