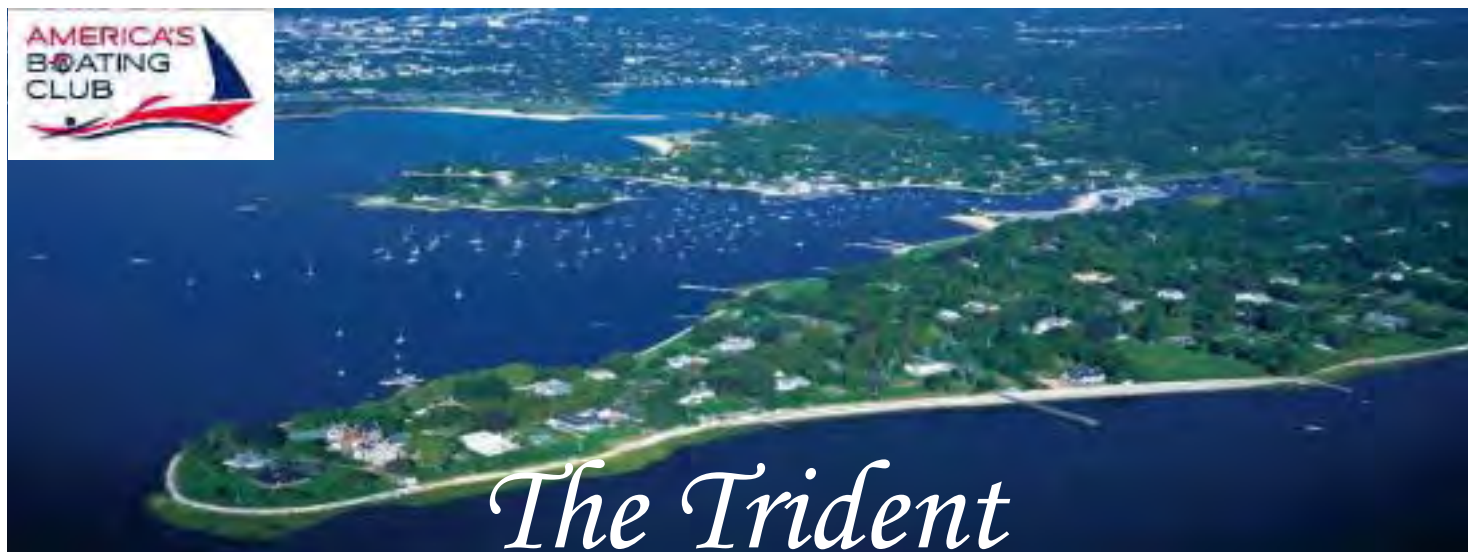




Darien Sail & Power Squadron

District 2, United States Power Squadrons®

DSPSCT.org

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July, 2026

Moments of Glee

Boating with grandchildren, or any child, is so much fun! Their energy, curiosity and wonder are contagious. I am blessed to have two grandsons, Spencer (7) and Liam (4). Their father loves to fish and he is patiently and lovingly teaching his boys the art of “catching the big one!”

I must admit, prior to Spencer coming along on these expeditions, my son would call and say “Hey, could you take me fishing tomorrow? I’ll meet you at the Yacht Club at 5:30 AM, I’ll bring coffee.” We would generally leave the dock at 6:00, and after a few of these trips I was fond of saying “I’m guaranteed two things when I do early-morning fishing with Andrew; beautiful sunrises.....and *no* fish.” Truth be told, rarely did he catch a n y t h i n g, but oh, such beautiful sunrises!

But then Spencer started coming along when we went fishing, not in the early morning but later in the day. I think he was 5 years old when a line was cast one Sunday afternoon, and something snagged it. Andrew reeled it in while Spencer jumped up and down, a mixture of excitement and a little fear as well. A live fish might be hauled out of the water, what would it look like? A whale? A big shark? A colorful minnow? The first big catch turned out to be a Sea Robin, one of the uglier specimens in the Sound. But Spencer was gleeful. A real fish that Dad had caught! He could touch it, poke it, watch it flop about the deck before being released back into the water. The sheer joy and happiness on his face was unmistakable.

A year later, Spencer would hold the rod with Andrew coaching him. The phrase “pull up, reel down” was becoming the lesson of the day. The occasional “hit” while Spencer held the rod kept his attention; when there was a lull, he would hand the rod over to Dad. Last September, they teamed up to catch two porgies, two dogfish sharks, and a sea robin.

Continued on page 2



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

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Peter Adler

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Lorraine George-Harik

Advisers

Jeff Gerwig

Neal Konstantin

Rob Steckel

Jim Travis

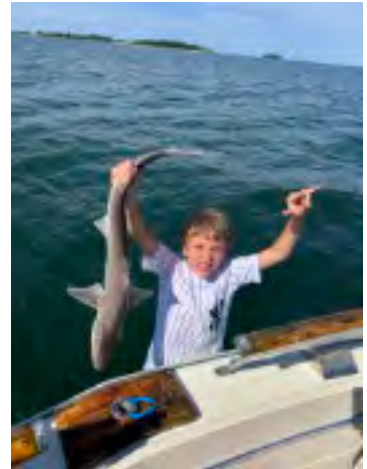
Marc Cohen

Spencer would joyfully say “I got a hit!” and pull up the rod, then try to reel in while leveling the rod. His Dad would help him.

A few weeks ago, on our first fishing excursion of the season, we anchored off Sheffield Island on the Sound side. After a lengthy period of “not even a nibble,” Andrew and then Spencer got hits, both being dogfish sharks. For the first time, Spencer hooked and began to reel his catch a good distance towards the boat before handing the rod over to his Dad. He “pulled up, reeled down” just as he had been taught, and now understood how it worked. He was bursting with joy, knowing that he had caught one on his own.

I hope that Spencer calls me to go “early morning fishing” in the near future.... odds of catching both a beautiful sunrise *and* a fish or two seem to have improved significantly!

– Cdr. Fred Elliott



Frank Kemp Tribute

The Town of Darien recently recognized Frank Kemp with an everlasting tribute by co-naming “Seagate Road,” his home for decades, as “Frank B. Kemp Way.” The brief ceremony took place on May 24th, unfortunately in rainy conditions.

Frank’s military service began when he joined the Army ROTC in 1965. Later, he was installed as a second lieutenant of the infantry at Camp Casey, Tongduchon, Korea. This post is located north of Seoul, very close to the DMZ at the time.

Frank was a former Commander of the Darien Sail and Power Squadron and was passionate about our education program. It is estimated that he educated some 3,000+ students in their successful completion of the initial Safe Boating Course.

He was also deeply involved in the Darien Arts Center, East Coast Contemporary Ballet, Saint Luke’s Parish, and the town of Darien’s government, where he served on many committees, both elected and appointed.



Captain's Cove Seaport Dock-n-Dine

Our July 12th "Dock-n-Dine" was a nice success, with good seafood, nice weather, and interesting little shops and boutiques to peruse. It's casual dining with a boardwalk and very family friendly. Captain's Cove Seaport in Bridgeport is a few docks down from Black Rock Yacht Club.

Members arrived by car or boat. New member Joyce Meurer, who does not own a boat, raised her hand and said she would like to attend by boat, and she hitched a ride aboard *Carpe Diem II*.

A surprise attendee was Norman Marsilius, the Commander of the Penfield chapter of America's Boating Club. We all enjoyed meeting him and "talking boats."

Our next "Dock-n-Dine" is slated for August 9th at Louie's Dock in Port Washington, NY. There is a real possibility that we may select a dining port closer to home, on our side of the Sound. Confirmation of the destination for August 9th will be sent out in a few days. If you don't have a boat but would like to be aboard one for this upcoming Dock-n-Dine, e-mail elliottfc.07@gmail.com.



We Are Seeking a Communications Director

We are looking for someone to fill the role of Communications Director, currently being handled by our Past Commander, Jeff Brown. Knowledge of utilizing Constant Contact is needed. Mailing lists need to be maintained and updated when necessary. Communications to be sent will be "ready to go" with some possible editing or enhancements done.

If interested, please contact either Jeff Brown (JeffreyBrown2@optonline.net) or Fred Elliott (elliottfc.07@gmail.com)

My Wife Wants to Get Off the Boat

About a month ago while cruising off Long Neck Point heading towards Stamford I noticed a sailboat off in the distance in front of me that was not following the proper course of going up and around the buoy that marks Smith's Reef, but instead going *through* the rocks. Maybe there is "local knowledge" that says a short-cut through Smith's Reef does exist? *No way*, I thought to myself.

I slowed my speed and gradually pulled up close enough to observe the sailboat. There was motion as it bobbed up and down, but the craft certainly was not moving forward. I called over and eventually learned that yes, the boat was stuck, Sea Tow had been called "and would be out in a few minutes," and that the Captain's wife wanted to get off their boat. *Can't say that I blame her.*



I radioed the Coast Guard, gave them coordinates of the stranded boat's position, vessel description, and situation. Sea Tow arrived, and for a few moments we had a three-way conversation. Sea Tow stated that they were "assessing the situation." I then radioed the Noroton Yacht Club, asking if they might send out a RIB boat to get the wife off the stranded sailboat, and to also alert the Darien Police Boat.

I was on the scene for roughly 45 minutes, and rescue boats from Sea Tow, Noroton Fire Department, Darien Police, Noroton Yacht Club, and, I believe, the Coast Guard all arrived at Smith's Reef. Due to insurance reasons, the Noroton boat was handcuffed with their ability to directly assist the stranded vessel. None of the rescue boats had any means directly available to them to get the wife and husband off the boat; they were now waiting for a smaller craft to come from Stamford which would have the ability to get to the sailboat and retrieve passengers.

The final radio communication I heard was instruction from Sea Tow (I think) to "put out your anchor with about 75' of line, so that when the tide comes in your boat won't float away." The response was "I will try. The boat is now leaning at such an angle that getting to the anchor is a big challenge."

I told those aboard my boat "that was the classic example of why you have to know where you are at all times when on the water."

I am getting a small inflatable dinghy in the immediate future for my boat.

– Cdr. Fred Elliott

Marine Weather Seminar Coming Soon!

Have you ever been on the water and experienced a sudden change in weather? From a sunny, breezy climate to a downpour with strong winds? Have you seen dark clouds approaching and "thought the worst" yet nothing happened? It's these spontaneous changes in weather that when misinterpreted can create serious problems. One can't always rely on their cell phones nor their on-board electronics either.

Gunnar Edelstein, Past Commander, and instructor of the Squadron's weather course for many years, will be presenting a Marine Weather seminar sometime in late August through mid September. The exact date, location, and further details will be communicated shortly. You will get an understanding of barometric pressure, clouds, and wind speed and how each impacts the weather conditions we experience. You will learn about convective weather, and get an idea on the speed of hurricanes.

We expect the seminar to be about 2 hours.

Who Stopped the Rain? We Did!!

After a day of chilly temperatures and steady rain, Memorial Day arrived. The forecast was the same, rain in the morning. The annual Memorial Day Parade adheres to the motto “The show must go on!” so unless there is lightning or hurricane force winds, odds are good that inclement weather will not stop the parade.

As planned, the pontoon boat from Bridgeport’s “Bass Pro Shop” arrived as scheduled, albeit in the rain. A special thank-you to former Commander Jeff Brown for arranging the boat for the parade with Bass! As we gathered together to ride in the boat for the parade, all of us thinking “No rain! No rain! No rain!,” the rain stopped! While the number of spectators seemed a little lean at first, the downtown section and end of the parade route was well attended! A great time was had by all!!



BOAT/CAMP 2026

IT HAPPENS TOMORROW!

**THIS WILL BE OUR 28TH “BEST DAY ON THE WATER” OUT OF 31
PLANNED DATES (2 LOST TO RAIN, 1 TO COVID)**

**WE WILL HAVE 18 VOLUNTEER BOATS WITH SKIPPERS SHOWING
SOME 75 CAMPERS LOCAL SIGHTS ON LONG ISLAND SOUND.
THEY WILL VISIT GREEN’S LEDGE LIGHTHOUSE, SHEFFIELD
ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE, TOUR FIVE MILE RIVER, SEE PIRATES IN
ZIEGLER’S COVE, AND SOME MAY VISIT FISH ISLAND.**

**WE ARE INDEBTED TO GERRY RAASCH WHO HAS LED THE BOAT/
CAMP EVENT FOR THE PAST 8 YEARS. HIS DEVOTION AND
DEDICATION TO BOTH THE SQUADRON AND THIS ANNUAL “BEST
DAY ON THE WATER!” IS UNMATCHED.**

BOAT/CAMP 2027

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW – JULY 30, 2027

PLAN TO VOLUNTEER IN SOME FASHION

**IF YOU HAVE A BOAT, EXPERIENCE THE REWARDING EXPERIENCE
OF TAKING CHILDREN OUT ON LONG ISLAND SOUND, SOMETHING
THAT MANY OF THEM HAVE NEVER DONE BEFORE.**

7/30/2027 **BOAT/CAMP BE THERE!!**