AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS, INC.®

JACKSONVILLE AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

NOVEMBER 2026

THE SKIPPER



Photo courtesy of: Andrea Schappert

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Bridge Officer memos
- Educational Class Flyers, Upcoming Events
- Holiday Party Info & Greeting Cards!
- 2026 Events Calendar

2024 DISTINCTIVE COMMUNICATOR AWARD NEWSLETTER

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The Skipper, published monthly, is the official publication of the Jacksonville Sail and Power Squadron. It is mailed to members, district and national officers and our supporters. Opinions are those expressed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the policy of nor imply agreement with The Skipper Staff, Jacksonville Sail and Power Squadron, D/23 or USPS®. At the discretion of The Skipper Staff, articles submitted may be printed in all, or in part or may be rewritten. Advertisements appearing in The Skipper are supplied by our supporters and no endorsement is expressed or implied.
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COMMANDER
CDR GARY CALLAHAN, SN-CN



Before we start looking ahead to November, I would like to look back a few weeks and thank Tom and Suzanne Keenan for organizing one of the best Pig Roasts in years. It is always one of our favorite annual events, but this year we were facing the prospect of an all-day rainstorm. Rather than having everyone huddle under tents, Tom and Suzanne graciously offered to host the roast under their home. Yes, that's right—under their home. They have a beautiful house on the Intracoastal Waterway, built on pilings, and the spacious covered area underneath was the perfect setting for a larger-than-normal crowd. Thank you again, Tom and Suzanne, for opening your home and making the day such a success.

We were in Cocoa Beach this past weekend for the District 23 Fall Conference. Sandy and her team did an excellent job hosting the event. We enjoyed a wonderful dinner along the Barge Canal, complete with music, trivia, and, of course, plenty of great conversation. District 23 Commander Mark Adams will share more details in his article.

Unfortunately, our raft-up at the south end of NAS Jacksonville to watch the Blue Angels air show was canceled the night before due to a Nor'easter. Thirty-mile-per-hour winds, breaking whitecaps, and temperatures in the 60s made that an easy decision. Fortunately, that didn't stop us from ending the day at Whitey's. We still had a great turnout, good food, and lots of boating stories to share.

As we look toward the end of the year, we still have much to do. Our annual Turkey Dinner is only a few weeks away. This year we will be gathering on the waterfront at Green Cove Springs City Park.

Our Christmas Party is scheduled for Friday, December 4, and we hope to see a great turnout for both events.
We are also about three weeks away from completing the beta test of the new Advanced Navigation course.

Our squadron was honored to be the first in the nation selected to test the new material before its national release. Because we were not sure what to expect, we limited the class to four students. Rather than simply attending the course, they became an important part of the evaluation process by identifying areas that worked well and offering suggestions for improvement.
Mark and I would like to sincerely thank Donna Mohr, Andres Lopera, Donnie Lamey, and Dave Backus. We appreciate your patience, thoughtful feedback, and willingness to help shape what will become a valuable course for boaters across the country.

We are approaching the holiday season. I wish all members safe travels, enjoyable times with family and friends, and continue to enjoy our Florida boating season.

Be safe on water and on land.
Gary

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
D/C MARK ADAMS, SN



Welcome to Fall. We just returned from the fall conference in Cocoa Beach. What a great weekend. Cocoa Beach Squadron treated us to great food and games on Friday night. Saturday, we had a good district council and conference meeting. The only item requiring a vote was the budget for the 2027-2028 bridge year prepared by the budget committee. It was approved.

Speaking of 2027, the D23 conference will be here soon. Lisa is currently working on a date and a venue. She needs your help with plans for the weekend. If 2-3 can help please let her or me know. Let’s make this a weekend of fun and fellowship with a little business thrown in the mix. Yes, there is district business to conduct, but let's make fun and fellowship a priority! This is an opportunity for members to bring fresh ideas and help make the event enjoyable for everyone.

Perhaps you've thought about becoming more involved but haven't been asked. Well, consider this your invitation!
I hope to see everyone at the events planned for the squadron over the next few months.

Happy Thanksgiving!!
Mark



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
D/LT/C LISA HARRIS, AP



Upcoming events:
Nov 5- General Meeting *has been moved* to the Nov 7 Turkey Dinner

Nov 7 - Al Richardson Turkey Dinner and Military Appreciation at Green Cove Springs Park (not Marina)

Nov 14 - ABC Class

Dec 3 - General Meeting *has been moved* to the Dec 5 Holiday Party

Dec 5 - Holiday Party will be at the Athenian Owl at 5:30

Jan 22-24 - Jacksonville Boat Show at the Prime Osborne Convention Center

Feb 6th ABC Class

HOLIDAY GREETING CARDS for the December Skipper are BACK this YEAR!!! Be sure to sign up and choose your greeting card image at the Turkey Dinner! *Get a sneak preview in this issue and plan ahead!*

Come and join us for all the fun. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Lisa Harris
Admin Officer



EDUCATION
D/LT/C TOM ANDERSON, SN-CN



Greetings from the Educational Dept.

Our last ABC3 class for the year is scheduled for 14 November. We have 6 students registered so far. We are planning to start 2027 on February 14, 2027. The Prime Osborn Boat Show will be January 22,23 and 24, 2027. Hopefully we will be able to recruit some students for 2027. A reminder anyone born after 1 January 1988 is required by the State of Florida to take an approved Safe Boating Course.

The NEW Advanced Marine Navigation Class is starting the testing process. They are finishing up the final reviews then a week to complete the test. We are one of the first Squadrons offering the Class. Our instructors Mark Adams and Gary Callahan are very qualified to take on the task. Mark and Gary have already spent many hours working on the class material and working with the Navigation Committee on issues.

A CHALLENGE FOR 2027!!!!

Send me your thoughts on EDUCATION! What do we need to do to improve our department. Would you be interested in 2hour Seminars? Many of the courses have been updated to reflect the new electronic world we are in. GOOD comments are welcome along with BAD comments.

"If you have any questions involving Education, feel free to contact me." As a reminder, we still have the classroom at Lambs Yacht Center, we have instructors. WE NEED STUDENTS…..

Live your Dreams

Tom Anderson
District 23 and JSPS Educational Officer
ander1@bellsouth.net
904.704.2746 cell/text

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER

Rhiannon Doherty	**11/9**
Andras Andras	**11/18**
Jennifer Foster	**11/19**
Bob Brindle	**11/20**

Cheers to another year of adventure –
With fair winds and a following sea.



Safe Boating is a Choice
Gain Boating Confidence

Learn or refresh your knowledge from Certified NASBLA Instructors of the Jacksonville Sail & Power Squadron.

America's Boating Course

November 14, 2026: One-day class 8am - 5pm

Lambs Yacht Center (second floor)
3376 Lake Shore Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32210

Topics covered include: boat & PWC handling, docking, anchoring, trailering, knots, navigation aids & rules, VHF radio, adverse conditions and emergencies.

The **$20 course fee** includes a 244-page illustrated book & proctored exam ***($5 for each additional family member sharing a book)***.

Per Florida Law: Anyone born after 1 January 1988 must have an approved Safe Boating Course. This course is approved by Florida and the USCG, after passing the course you will receive your State of Florida Certification Card.



Price Reduction: This course is usually $40.
However, we received a grant from the
Jacksonville Marine Charities/Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament
to assist in reducing the cost.

Information contact:
D/Lt/C Tom Anderson, SN-CN
Squadron Educational Officer
ander1@bellsouth.net
904-704-2746

All JSPS members, family and friends.

Annual Holiday Party

Saturday, December 5th

Happy Hour at 5:30pm • Dinner will start at 6:30pm

WHERE: The Athenian Owl
9551 Baymeadows Rd
Jacksonville, FL

WHY: To share the Holiday Spirit with friends and have a lovely evening.

- *We will start with Happy Hour at 5:30 with Hors d'oeuvres provided by the Squadron.*
- *Drinks and meals will be paid individually by members.*
- *Dinner will start at 6:30. The entire menu will be open to order from.*
- *After dinner, there will be a White Elephant Gift Party, gifts not to exceed $20. Those who participate in the White Elephant gifting should present their wrapped gifts at the beginning of the evening to be placed on the gifting roster. A gift will be 'retired' once it changes hands twice.*

HOW: *Just RSVP to:* jsps-admin@gmail.com
by November 23rd.

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
For Boaters, By Boaters®

HOLIDAY GREETING CARDS

are back for 2026 in the

DECEMBER SKIPPER!!!

Be sure to sign up and choose your greeting card image at the Turkey Dinner!



Greeting card of your choice and your personal message to your fellow members will be published in the December Skipper!

Pick the number of your choice of greeting card from the below 5 options.

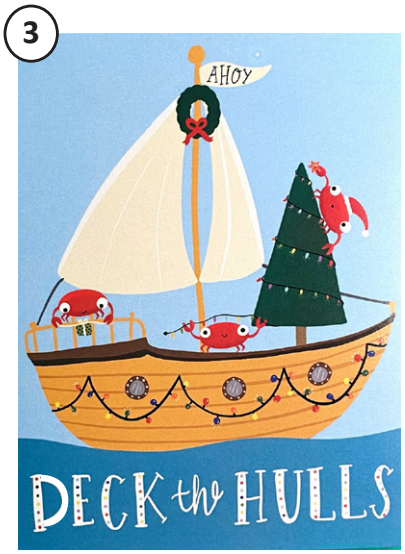
1



2



3



4



5



Choose your text: ***Sample text below (choose a letter) OR you can print your own personal*** *(up to)* ***2 sentence greeting.***

A "Warm holiday wishes to a great group. Can't wait to see you all back on the docks next season!"

B "Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and clear skies in the new year!"

C "Wishing everyone a cozy holiday season! May your winter be bright and full of good cheer."

D "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all."

E "Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season filled with peace, joy, and time well spent with family and friends."

F YOUR OWN PERSONAL (up to) 2 SENTENCE GREETING

Include your name (your family members' names) for below your chosen image and message.

JACKSONVILLE SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON
AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

Executive Committee Meeting
Lambs' Training Room
09/17/26

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Executive Officer CDR Gary Callahan, SN-CN at 6:00 pm. Members in attendance were Mark Adams, Robert Morgan, Buddy Poe, Tom Anderson, Lisa & Clay Harris, Jon Vanetta and Jim Suber.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website changes were discussed, while the members seem happy with the layout of the site, they are in the process of verifying the content is up to date.

Buddy is working with Google on getting a place to store our archive of images. He has been able to set up an account with Google.

Jon spoke about vessel safety checks, currently have 231 safety checks completed (187 passing).

Executive Officer Report – Mark Adams
Advanced navigation class coming together well.
District meeting coming up 16th -17th of October
-Payment for the hotel can be made tax free if going through Buddy
-There are 4 people from our organization signed up so far

Education Report – Tom Anderson
ABC3 class completed on August 22nd.
Next ABC3 class is coming up 9/19, 9 possibly 10 students signed up.
The next ABC3 class is set up for the 14th of November
A Marine Navigation Couse is underway.

Administrative Officer Report – Lisa Harris
Tubing trip is coming this weekend.

22nd lunch bunch at Wicked Barley

Pig roast on October 3 at Ameilia Island Marina

October 18th raft-up to see Blue Angels is being organized.

Turkey dinner November 7th, pavilion is being organized for 4 hours (1pm – 5 pm). Catering is being checked out with Woodpeckers Backyard BBQ restaurant.

The Christmas Holiday party is planned for December 5th and will be at the Athenian Owl. Lisa Harris will send out more information.

Assistant Secretary's Report – Robert Morgan, (filling in for Twyla Morgan)
No new news to report.

Treasurer's Report – Buddy Poe
All accounts are whole and all bills are current to date.
Zelle is now working

NEW BUSINESS:
Motion to increase the price of Burgees from $30 to $35. Motion was passed and will be published in the new skipper.

Name tags will need a new source. Motion to buy local, motion was passed.

Motion to set aside money for appetizers and other supplies for the Christmas dinner ($300-$400), motion passed.

Next Executive Meeting will be at Metro Diner on the 29th of October.

OPEN DISCUSSION:
None at this time.

Garry adjourned the meeting around 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Morgan
(Filling in For Twyla Morgan)

JACKSONVILLE SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON
AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
RUDDER CLUB
September 03, 2026

Members gathered at the Rudder Club for the September General Membership Meeting. Commander Gary Callahan, SN-CN, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed JSPS members and guests. John Vanatta led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. Followed by a blessing delivered by Gary.

Following the blessing, members and guests broke for dinner, which was provided by Big Dawg Catering. The meal was wonderful and enjoyed by all.

After dinner, Administrative Officer Lisa Harris, AP, presented a video about the Ichetucknee underground aquifer system. The Ichetucknee system is part of the Floridan Aquifer, a vast porous limestone reservoir beneath North Florida that supplies springs, rivers and drinking water to millions of people. Lisa noted that there are several interesting videos about the aquifer system available on YouTube.

Following the presentation, the Commander and Executive Committee Members provided the following reports and announcements:

TREASURER – LT/C BUDDY POE, AP

- The 50/50 raffle generated $55.00. The winner received $35 and $20 went to the club.
- All accounts were reported as being in good standing.
- Members were reminded to complete and return the questionnaire that had previously been distributed.
- At the time of this meeting, two Burgees were available for purchase at $20 each
- Zell was reported to be up and working.

Education Officer – D/Lt/C Tom Anderson, SN-CN

- An ABC3 class was held on September 19th with additional information regarding the November class to be announced.
- The review and update of the Advanced Marine Navigation course was continuing.

ADMIN OFFICER – D/LT/C LISA HARRIS, AP

- The JSPS members met with the Daytona squadron at the Conch House on September 5th.
- A Celebration of Life for Pete Foster held September 12th at the Memorial Lutheran Church in St Augustine.
- The Ichetucknee Springs tubing outing took place September 19th.
- The Lunch Bunch met at Wicked Barley on September, 22nd.
- The October General Membership Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Erv Dunn Pig Roat at Amelia Island on Oct 3rd.
- The District Fall Conference will be in Cocoa Beach October 16 – 17.
- A raft-up is planned for October 17th & 18th to enjoy the Jacksonville Airshow with the Blue Angels scheduled to perform at 3 pm. RSVP to jsps.admin@gmail.com
- The October Lunch Bunch to meet at Chewy's in Town Center on the 21st. Members who plan to attend, should RSVP Lisa at jsps.admin@gmail.com .
- The Al Richardson Turkey Dinner and General Membership Meeting will be held November 7th.
- The annual Holiday Party will be held December 5th at the Athenian Owl. Additional information will be provided as the date approaches. Members planning to attend should RSVP to Lisa at jsps.admin@gmail.com .

EXEC OFFICER – D/C MARK ADAMS, SN

- Marke reminded members that the District Fall Conference will be held in Cocoa Beach October 16 – 17. Rooms were still being held at the time of the meeting. Members planning to attend should contact Mark.

Secretary – Lt/C Twyla Morgan

- There were 21 JSPS members and 1 guest in attendance.
- Updates to the JSPS website continue to move forward.

COMMANDER, GARY CALLAHAN, SN-CN

- Active Membership drawing stood at $175. An active member was drawn, #53, Jan Spencer. Since she was not in attendance, (you must be in attendance to win) the $175 rolled over, with an additional $25 to be added for the next drawing. The next drawing will take place at the next General Membership Meeting.
- Gary recognized Robert Morgan for his significant efforts in continuing to revise and improve the JSPS website.

New Business:

- Members were reminded that the next General Membership Meeting will be at the Erv Dunn Pig Roat at Amelia Island on Oct 3rd. Members planning to attend should RSVP to Lisa Harris at jsps.admin@gmail.com.
- The next Executive Committee Meeting will be at Metro Diner on the 29th of October.
- The Fall Governing Board met September 23 – 27th.

With all business concluded, the Commanding Officer, Gary Callahan, adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lt/C Twyla Morgan
Secretary

VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS



VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC)

A major component of a fun filled outing is a reliable boat which has all the necessary equipment operating properly. A free vessel safety check (VSC) is an important safe-guard, and our certified examiners will be happy to perform the check for you. There are no negative consequences if you don't pass. Our goal is simply to help make boating as safe as possible for you, your family and your friends, through education.

The United States Power Squadrons and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary are partners in this valuable program offered to the boating public. All examiners are certified and trained on the latest requirements. The Vessel Safety Check is similar to the review that is performed by the U.S. Coast Guard if you are boarded, except that it is voluntary, and only you receive the results. Our Vessel Safety Examiners will perform a 15 point safety check which includes:

Display of Numbers	Registration/Documentation	Visual Distress Signals (VDS)
Personal Flotation Devices (PFD)	Fire Extinguishers	Ventilation
Backfire Flame Control	Sound Producing Devices	Navigation Lights
Pollution Placard	MARPOL Track Placard	Marine Sanitation Devices
Navigation Rules	State and/or Local Requirements	Overall Vessel Condition

To schedule a Vessel Safety Exam, you may contact any of our Jacksonville Squadron examiners:

Mark Adams	904-303-2235	Tom Anderson	904-704-2746
Elmo Bailey	904-599-3851	Gary Callahan	904-629-8310
Robert DeComo	317-847-0584	Jim Spencer	802-233-4523
Jim Suber	904-509-0588	Lisa Harris	352-562-1464

Jon Vanatta-Program Director 904-859-1724



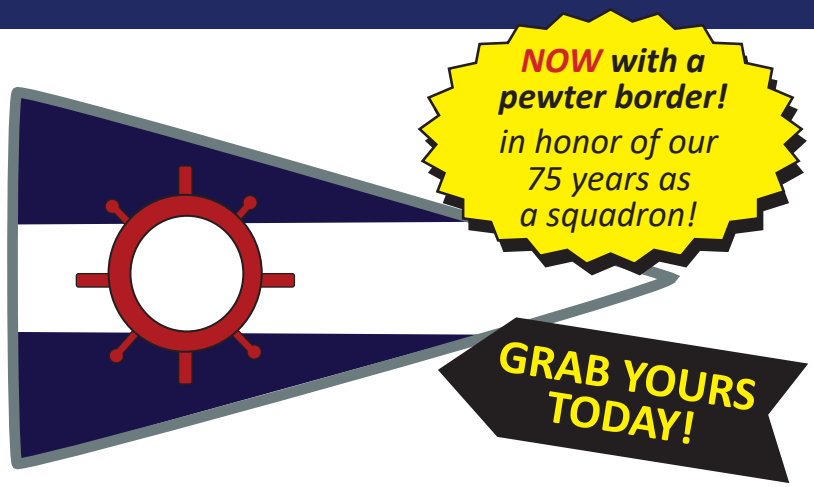
JACKSONVILLE'S VESSEL SAFETY EXAMINERS

Dudley Marcus Adams,
Thomas J. Anderson, Elmo Bailey
Gary N. Callahan,
Robert DeComo, William A. Poe,
James W. Spencer Jr., Jim Suber,
Jon M. Vanatta,
Timothy R. Wysocki

VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS COMPLETED IN 2026: 197 PASSING: 184

JSPS SHIP STORE

BURGEES:
$35.00



REPLACEMENT NAME TAGS

Pin back	$8.00
Standard magnetic back	$9.50
Power Magnet	$11.00

(New Members receive their first name tag free.)

United States Power Squadron Ensign: **$20** *(we have 2 left)*

Auto Window Decals: Small $6 Large $8

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AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

CONTACT: Buddy Poe at 904-518-2995 or send an email to: jsps.treasurer@gmail.com

FROM THE EDITOR
LT/C ANDREA SCHAPPERT, S



Hello All,

I am beyond thrilled to continue at the helm as Editor of our beloved monthly newsletter. Any/all feedback is welcome so that I can help tailor the monthly newsletters to the content you wish to see and read about going forward. I sincerely appreciate this opportunity and look forward to producing the best possible newsletter for our members.

As this newsletter is one of the primary tools used by the squadron to communicate with its members, please review the articles and meeting flyers included so you can join us for classes and the events announced.

Each of us plays an important role in the success of our squadron.

Please feel free to contact me at: jsps.skipper@gmail.com.

Andrea Schappert

The JSPS Needs You!

The JSPS is celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 2025 as a non-profit promoting Safe Recreational Boating through Education and Community Service. You can join our organization of committed Volunteers by joining us as Assistant Editor to help maintain the quality and timeliness of our Award Winning Publication The Skipper. From this position and as a Member you can also participate in all Meetings and Events for fun, friendship and service.

We need someone with excellent proofreading skills, an aptitude for word crafting and a willingness to work with the Editor to continue developing our award-winning publication. Some of the duties would include proofing materials submitted for publication, researching potential articles of interest to our members, and creating page layouts for the newsletter.

The current newsletter is prepared in Adobe Indesign (part of the Adobe Creative Suite). Familiarity with or a willingness to learn the software is desired.

Please contact Andrea at JSPS-skipper-editor@jspsboating.club or 904-820-7353 for more information.

If you would like to Advertise in our Newsletter

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IN THE SKIPPER, MAIL YOUR CAMERA READY ARTWORK OR BUSINESS CARD ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK MADE OUT TO JSPS TO:

Jacksonville Sail & Power Squadron
Mail to:
Jacksonville Sail & Power Squadron
9838 Old Baymeadows Rd - 198
Jacksonville, FL 32256

AD PRICES

Business Card $40*

1/8 Page $50 *

1/4 Page $90*

1/2 Page $170*

Full Page $330*

*** Ad prices are for 1 Year!!!**

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Month	Date	Event	Location	Chairperson
October	2026	12 Columbus Day 31 Halloween		
	29	Executive Committee Meeting	Lamb's Training Room	Gary
November	2026	1 Standard Time 11 Veterans Day 26 Thanksgiving		
	5	Membership Meeting - Moved to Turkey Dinner	Green Cove Springs Park	Gary
	7	Al Richardson Turkey Dinner & Military Appreciation	Green Cove Springs Park	Tom/Gary
	14	ABC3 Class	Classroom	Tom/Mark/Gary
	19	Executive Committee Meeting	Lamb's Training Room	Gary
	28	Jax Lighted Boat Parade	Metro Park	Tom/Jim
December	2026	25 Christmas		
	3	Membership Meeting-Moved to Holiday Party	Athenian Owl	Gary
	5	JSPS Holiday Party	Athenian Owl	Gary/Lisa
	12	Whitey's Boat Parade	Swimming Pen Creek	Jon/Mary
	17	Executive Committee Meeting	Lamb's Training Room	Gary
January	2027	1 New Year's Day 18 MLK Day		
	1	Breakfast on the Docks	Lamb's Yacht Center	Tom/Gary
	9	2027 Planning Meeting		Gary
	22-24	Boat Show	Prime Osborne	Tom/Jim/Gary/Cal
	28	Executive Committee Meeting	Lamb's Training Room	Gary
February	2027	14 Valentine's Day 15 Presidents Day		
	TBD	Change of Watch (Thursday)	TBD	Gary
	6	ABC3 Class	Classroom	Tom/Mark/Gary
	25	Executive Committee Meeting	Lamb's Training Room	Gary

HELPFUL BOATING TIPS



INSPECT YOUR INFLATABLE PFD

Although lighter and less bulky than most standard life jackets, inflatable personal flotation devices need to be inspected regularly to ensure their reliability.

Read the manufacturer's safety and inspection recommendations that came with your inflatable PFDs, and keep them in a safe place.

Note that some manufacturers recommend their PFDs be returned for annual testing and inspection, which may be required to maintain their U.S. Coast Guard approval.

ROUTINE INSPECTION

Examine your inflatable PFDs at the time of purchase, the beginning and end of each season, before and after each use, and periodically during the season.

Make sure the inflatable is free of creases, tears, rips, puncture holes and frayed material. All seams should be sewn securely. Check the material for grease or oil spots, heavy soil or mildew, which could weaken the fabric.

Check all hardware and straps for damage and strength. Zippers, snaps, fasteners and buckles should work correctly and be in good condition. Apply candle wax, crayon or bar soap to zippers and snaps to help them glide smoothly. Remove debris from Velcro fasteners.

Check the inflator, and ensure that the CO2 cartridge is operational. Make sure there is no dirt or rust on the fittings and no damage to the threads on a screw-type cartridge. Damaged threads usually can be fixed with a small fine file.

PRESSURE AND RELEASE TESTING

Periodically remove the inflation cartridge and inflate the PFD orally. Let it sit overnight to check for air leaks. If it loses firmness, replace it or return it to the manufacturer for repair. If there are no leaks, deflate the PFD and reattach the cartridge.

Store the dry PFD flat or rolled—never fold it. To be safe, store it with an extra cartridge or rearming kit. They are inexpensive and should be part of your boating equipment.

Some inflatables use a water-sensitive bobbin to trigger the automatic inflator. The bobbin can deteriorate when exposed to heat and humidity, which can cause the PFD to inflate unexpectedly—another good reason to keep an extra cartridge or rearming kit on hand. If the indicator tab that holds the manual inflation mechanism breaks, it usually can be repaired or replaced inexpensively. –Phyllis Jones

Photo courtesy of U.S. Coast Guard

Article Courtesy of:
https://boatingcompass.org/inspect-your-inflatable-pfd

FRIENDS OF THE JACKSONVILLE SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

Lamb's Yacht Center, Inc.



Mike Webster Yachts LLC

goboatinginflorida@gmail.com
904.923.0033 cell phone

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Tom Keenan

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OR $100 Gold Sponsor - ALSO BE SURE to include your desired designation: **Individual, Couple or Family -**
Donations can be made in any amount starting at $10 Sponsor
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