

LGPS

SOUNDINGS

September-October 2024



LAKE GEORGE POWER SQUADRON, INC.
OF UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS
PO BOX 411, BURNT HILLS, NY 12027

Commander Message

By Cmdr. George K. Williams, AP

Summer – WOW, it certainly came and went ever so quickly. The summer heat is back again, with a lot less humidity, after all it is Fall. Before we knew it, it was time for de-commissioning and covering our summer toys with shrink wrap and tarps for the winter. Now is a terrific time to make a list of all those maintenance issues needing attention and hopefully will be tackled before winter storage. Why put off for spring what you can complete this fall?

Here are some of the summer projects we have been doing as a Squadron this season: (1) We distributed our navigation charts from Lake George Village to Fort Ticonderoga; (2) We distributed and replenished the 2024 NYS Boaters Guides and Squadron literature at several lake boat inspection washing stations; and lastly (3) We performed Vessel Safety Checks as time permitted.

I trust everyone had an enjoyable and safe 2024 boating season. Hopefully you will be out enjoying the soon to be upon us splash of autumn color during those last beautiful days on the water. With the cooler weather coming fast, now is the perfect time to begin thinking of taking a USPS course. Contact SEO Donna Canestraro at (518) 372-7220 to order your course workbook.



Wear It! Campaign

The Wear It! Campaign reminds boaters of the importance of boating safety, including always wearing a life jacket. The campaign is produced under a grant from the Sports Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Visit [SafeBoatingCampaign.com](https://www.safeboatingcampaign.com) for **free** resources and information that you can use for your own Wear It! outreach efforts.



Winter Boat Storage FAQ

Should you leave gas in your boat over winter?

Yes, most experts recommend that you leave gas in your boat over the winter if you won't be using it. In fact, it's recommended that you fill your tank with gas that's been treated with a fuel stabilizer. For the best results, use a fuel stabilizer recommended by your engine manufacturer. Treated fuel will remain stabilized for up to one year. **Pro tip:** Run your engine for 10 minutes to distribute the treated gas through your fuel system and engine before putting your boat away for winter storage.

Is it better to store a boat full or empty of gas?

There is debate over which is best, but most experts agree that if you can't empty the tank completely, it's best to fill the tank with gas and treat it with fuel stabilizer.

How much does winter boat storage cost?

The cost of winter boat storage ranges from a few hundred dollars for outdoor storage to thousands of dollars for indoor dry rack storage. To roughly estimate your storage costs, assume you'll pay at least \$100/foot of boat for adequate storage.

Factors that impact the cost of winter storage include:

- Size of boat
- Type of boat
- LOA
- Your location
- The type of storage you opt for (wet vs. dry, indoor vs. outdoor)

How long can a winterized boat be stored?

A winterized boat can be safely stored for about one year. However, some boaters have successfully stored winterized boats for two or more years. But keep in mind that you'll want to check your winterized boat for dry rot in rubber parts like:

- Hoses
- Impellers
- Engine primer bulbs

How do you prepare a boat for outdoor winter storage?

1. **Clean the boat.** Scrub the decks. If equipped, flush out the live well. Prevent mold and mildew by treating seats and wood trim. Remove life jackets and towels and check all storage areas for dirt, water, and grime.
2. **Fill up your tank and add fuel stabilizer.** Top off your fuel tank (but leave a little bit of space for expansion and contraction). Add a fuel stabilizer to prevent the gasoline from oxidizing.
3. **Change the oil.** Changing the oil and filter will prevent rust and corrosion.
4. **Remove and charge the battery.** Store the battery away from freezing temperatures. Charge it fully before storing your boat, then charge it once a month throughout the season. Alternatively, you can put the battery on a trickle charger.
5. **Change gear lube.** Your outboard motor's lower unit has a lubricant that must be drained and refilled before putting your boat away for the winter.
6. **Cover your boat.** Whether you opt for a simple tarp, a custom cover, or shrink wrapping, make sure your boat is covered to protect it.

Welcome Back!

The Squadron welcomes back past member Irving L. Metzger of Bolton Landing. Thank you for renewing your membership!

Do I Really Need a Safe Boating Certificate in 2025?

A safe day on the water is a fun day on the water! To help ensure NYS waterways remain safe and enjoyable, New York State will require all motorized boaters to take a safe boating course and earn their safe boating certificate by 2025. Until December 31, 2024, all operators of motorized vessels in New York State born on or after January 1, 1978 need to carry a safe boating certificate while operating. Starting January 1, 2025, a safety certificate will be required of **ALL** operators, regardless of age. Please note: The Squadron **DOES NOT** maintain any course completion information. You will need to contact the USPS Headquarters at 888-367-8777 or via e-mail at contactme@hq.usps.org – Regular business hours are 8:00am–4:30pm Eastern Time.