

ASPS FAQ's

1. What is the Atlanta Sail & Power Squadron?

The Atlanta Sail & Power Squadron (ASPS), also known as Atlanta's Boating Club[®], is a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, the nation's largest recreational boating organization. Dedicated to boating that is Safe, Smart and Fun, ASPS joins the 450 other squadrons across the country in pursuing those goals. ASPS was formed in 1954 and currently has about 235 members. Many ASPS members boat on Lake Lanier, although members have boats from the Gulf Coast to the Chesapeake Bay.

2. What are the requirements for membership?

There are two requirements for membership:

- (1) At least one member of the family who will be considered an ASPS member must have passed a boating safety course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), or equivalent. ASPS offers one such course called "Boat Smart", an introduction to navigation rules, boat handling, and boating safety. It is offered in two formats - an intensive all day class, or on three consecutive Monday nights.
- (2) Payment of dues (see question 3).

3. What does it cost to join?

An individual membership is \$77.20 per year and a family membership is \$115.80 per year. A one-time initiation fee of \$69.00 or \$79.00 for a single member or a family, respectively, also applies. Membership is renewable and dues are payable annually.

4. What is the advantage of ASPS over other Lake Lanier clubs? Why should I join this club if I'm already a member of another club?

Several ASPS members are also members of other boating organizations and find the activities and opportunities highly complementary. You will enjoy the advantage of a national organization which includes transferability of membership to 450 squadrons across the country and in some US territories, access to port captains nationwide, discounted insurance rates, and extensive boating education classes. In addition to our many local social activities, you will have opportunities to attend district and national functions as well.

5. What on-the-water activities does ASPS sponsor?

ASPS's on-the-water activities fall into two major areas: raft-ups and cruises.

The squadron sponsors at least one raft-up per month between March and November on Lake Lanier. Each raft-up is usually set around some theme such as the annual blessing of the fleet, school colors, Hawaiian luau, fall leaf cruise, etc. These events usually take place on Saturday afternoons and may have fifteen or more boats participating.

ASPS also has two cruises each year: an ICW cruise in the spring and a river cruise in the fall. The ICW cruise is usually a week-long event along the coast. The river cruise can vary in length – from a 4 to 7 day event.

ASPS members also have the opportunity to join their fellow squadrons in surrounding areas and participate in their lake, river and coastal cruises.

6. What social activities does ASPS sponsor?

In addition to the raft-ups mentioned above, ASPS holds monthly meetings with speakers addressing topics of interest to the lake and boating communities. These dinner meetings at local restaurants are both informational and a great opportunity to socialize with fellow boaters.

In December, ASPS holds its annual Seafarers' Ball, a formal holiday event that features dinner, dancing and an opportunity to assist with a worthy community service initiative.

7. How does ASPS contribute to boating safety?

Along with the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, ASPS is one of two boating organizations authorized to perform Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) on recreational boats. Our certified inspectors perform these inspections free of charge. A boat that passes a VSC will have met all the registration, documentation and safety requirements for the jurisdiction where the boat is located. The results of the inspection are reported only to the vessel owner.

In addition, ASPS teaches an extensive curriculum of boating courses, each of which provides the students greater insight into safe operation of their vessels.

ASPS also offers the Boat Operators Certification program. This newly launched, comprehensive program enables participants to obtain an internationally recognized certification based on their demonstrated abilities at the helm, their past experience and their classroom training.

8. What educational opportunities are available?

For the general public, ASPS teaches a NASBLA-approved basic boating course called "Boat Smart", a basic navigation course called "Chart Smart" as well as about a dozen 2-3 hour seminars on various topics of interest such as reading charts, basic weather, GPS, anchoring, trailering, etc.

ASPS members have access to an extensive curriculum of multi-week courses on coastal and celestial navigation, weather, engine maintenance, marine electronics, sailing and cruise planning. They are typically 8+ weeks for two hours each Monday night. These are offered in two semesters each year, one beginning in January and the other in September. Three or four different classes are offered each semester.

9. Can I obtain the "6-pack" Captain's license or similar certification through ASPS?

Only the U. S. Coast Guard can certify qualifications for this commercial boat operator's license. However, the ASPS curriculum addresses most of the material related to safety, navigation and general boat handling required for that certification.

10. What community service activities does ASPS sponsor?

As part of each annual Seafarers' Ball, ASPS has selected a worthy community service project. The Sea Scouts and Calvary Children's Home are two of the recent areas of focus.

ASPS plays a key role in the Parade of Lights on Lake Lanier, providing mark boats for the parade route and general logistical support.

One of the missions of the national USPS is Cooperative Charting. Under this program, members supply information to the Marine Chart Division of NOS/NOAA leading to corrections to nautical charts, small craft charts, and Coast Pilot publications. They also supply data on depth surveys and range status.

11. Who should I contact for more information?

For more information,

- see the ASPS website at *Atlantasboatingclub.com*,
- find us on Facebook at *Atlanta Boating*, or
- contact:

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