



Side Lights



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
 For Boaters, By Boaters®
CHARLOTTE

April 2025

Volume 64 Number 3

View from the Bridge: Revitalizing Our Power Squadron by Attracting the Next Generation of Boaters

By Lt/C Warren G. François

Hello from the Bridge.

This is my second year on the Executive Committee for the Charlotte Power Squadron and first as an officer. I became a member in 2002 and decided recently that I needed to be more involved in this great organization.

As a result, I have started visiting the USPS.org website more often and the Americas Boating Club website

(<https://www.americasboatingclub.org>) and I am amazed at all the great content that is available to members and non-members.

First, some administrative items. We have a busy year ahead and the CPS calendar will be updated as events are finalized. The full calendar can be found on the website in the [For Our Members](#) section (you must log into see the calendar).

Several notable events are coming up in the next few months.

- April 5 – Annual Chicken-Q at Merit Mark Point (ExCom meeting at 4 p.m. in lieu of the April 7 meeting)
- April 12 and May 17 – ABC Boating classes at MarineMax Lake Wylie
- May 24 & June 28 – Vessel Safety Checks at Buster Boyd Bridge
- May 31 – Children's Outing at the Red Fez Club
- July 12 – Commanders picnic at Merit Mark Point
- Monthly General Meetings, Co-Op charting (September), Monthly Wylie Gator Rowing for women and for all and a kayak event at the Commander's Picnic.

Revitalizing Our Power Squadron

We should leverage social media and digital outreach to target the “next generation” of members.

This year it is important that all members chip in to help to provide ideas and/or provide media content for our ABC-Charlotte website and Facebook page.



Warren François

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This will help with increasing new membership and will foster an increase in member participation and social interactions. As Bo says, "Let's have some fun this year."

Facebook's algorithm to promote content depends on "likes," "shares" and "comments." It also depends on the frequency of posting new content. So, a way to get our Facebook page and content exposed to more people, a like, a follow and a share with others will get us more exposure. When we like, share or comment or post videos or other content, it will appear on our personal Facebook pages and will be visible to those people that follow our personal accounts.

Sharing photos from CPS or ABC-Charlotte events with our webmaster and social media guru for our website and social media (Facebook) will help too. Shaun Haycock mentioned at a recent meeting that we should consider an Instagram account. Instagram is owned by Facebook and Instagram Reels can be found in Facebook feeds. Instagram has become a lot more popular than Facebook.

I'd also like our Commander and Educational Officer (and other members) to consider doing 30 second or longer video clips (Reels) to post on our website and Facebook page. Something like "Did you know that a life jacket is required for persons under 16 on a watercraft?" or "What would you do in this (add situation) situation on the water?" A video of a vessel check would be great.

Maybe we could harness the expertise of someone with video experience. We could post a video about trailer safety or Co-Op charting. Most people take for granted that markers on the water are accurately placed.

A great way for us to raise money would be to post boating safety related videos on a dedicated ABC-Charlotte YouTube channel. These videos could be monetized and bring in much needed funds for our squadron. Monetized videos on YouTube can be very lucrative. Plus, these videos would be a great way to reach potential members.

By embracing innovation while staying true to our mission, we can ensure the future of our Power Squadron remains bright. Let's work together to welcome the next generation of boaters and keep our waters safe for all.

Warren G. François is the Administrative Officer of the America's Boating Club-Charlotte.



Happy Birthdays!

April

Pat Hakanson and Bo Ibach

Charlotte commander installed as D/27 Exec Officer

By Cdr. Charles “Bo” Ibach III SN-ACN

After a very fun weekend in Cary, your Commander is now also the D/27 Executive Officer.

There is a very fun year ahead of us in D/27 with the Coastal Rendezvous in New Bern on June 13-15. Stay tuned for more information about this weekend.

America's Boating Club-Charlotte members in Cary for the D/27 Change of Watch included P/Lt/C Dan Bartell SN-ACN, P/Lt/C Barbara Bartell S, Lt/C Warren François, P/D/C Pat Hakanson SN, Donna Ibach, P/C Brevard Myers Jr. SN-ACN, P/D/C Don Osmond SN and Debra Osmond.

We're also working now for our ABC-Charlotte Coastal Rendezvous scheduled for Sept. 18-21 in Southport. We'll be staying at the Hampton Inn there and P/C Will Granger P-IN has secured rooms there at \$115 per night plus tax.

We have secured a very reasonable rate that I hope will encourage a lot of you to join us. This is a fun weekend but also a productive one for Co-Op Charting. We'll also have our usual Friday evening with Brevard cooking delicious shrimp at P/C John and Connie King's house on Oak Island. So please mark your calendars accordingly. We'll have more information soon on signing up.

Of course, on April 5 we have our annual Chicken-Q at Merit Mark Point, then on April 12 at MarineMax-Lake Wylie we'll be holding our first ABC public boating course. May has another ABC class on May 17, then May 31 is our BIG DAY — Children's Outing — for many deserving children at the Red Fez Club. Please try to come there and help make this day as memorable as we can for so many.

Our monthly meetings will be April at the Chicken-Q and then May 5 at Papa Docs on Lake Wylie with another luncheon meeting at 1 p.m. We'll have a nice social time.

Bo Ibach is Commander of America's Boating Club-Charlotte and now D-27 Executive Officer.



Bo Ibach, center, along with National Executive Officer V/C Mike Wiedel, left, and P/D/C Otis J. White P during a ceremony at the D/27 COW to present a 50-year pin to a Charlotte member. We'll hear more about that recipient later.



Charlotte members Warren François and Pat Hakanson attend the D/27 COW.

America's Boating Club-Charlotte

A unit of the United States Power Squadrons
District 27
Chartered April 10, 1961



2025 BRIDGE OFFICERS

Commander
Educational Officer
Executive Officer
Administrative Officer
Secretary
Treasurer
Immediate Past Commander

D/Lt/C Charles "Bo" Ibach III SN-ACN
Lt/C Brevard S. Myers Jr. SN-ACN
Open
Lt/C Warren François
Lt/C Rose Samonds
P/Lt/C Mary D. Chaney JN
P/C Jack Moore AP-IN

commander@charlotteboating.org
education@charlotteboating.org

adminofficer@charlotteboating.org
secretary@charlotteboating.org
treasurer@charlotteboating.org

2025 MEMBERS AT-LARGE

P/C Dan Bartell SN-ACN
P/C Doug Drum Sr. AP
P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN
P/C William G. Granger P-IN
Lt Shaun Haycock

Lt Pat Mencil S
P/C David Stewart AP
P/D/C Paula Stewart AP
P/C Jack Moore JN-IN

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The opinions expressed in the articles of this publication are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the America's Boating Club-Charlotte or the United States Power Squadrons.

Calendar of Events April & May 2025

April 2025

Day	Event	Time	Location/Details
1	Rock-On Rowing (women's rowing)	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
5	Chicken-Q/General Membership Meeting	4 p.m.-7 p.m.	Merit Mark Point
8	Rock-On Rowing (women's rowing)	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
12	America's Boating Class	8:45 a.m.-5:30 p.m.	MarineMax Lake Wylie Marina
15	Wylie Gator Rowing	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
18	View from the Bridge article due	Educational Officer	Submitted to editor
21	ABC-CLT ExCom Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills

May 2025

5	General Membership Meeting	1 p.m.-3 p.m.	Papa Doc's Shore Club
6	Rock-On Rowing (women's rowing)	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
13	Rock-On Rowing (women's rowing)	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
17	America's Boating Class	8:45 a.m.-5:30 p.m.	MarineMax Lake Wylie Marina
19	ABC-CLT ExCom Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
20	Wylie Gator Rowing (men and women)	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
23	View from the Bridge article due	Secretary	Submitted to editor
24	Vessel Safety Check	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Buster Boyd Ramp
31	Children's Outing	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Red Fez Shrine Club

Buster Boyd Ramp – Blucher Circle, Lake Wylie, S.C.

Jocks & Jills – 4109 South Stream Boulevard, Charlotte

MarineMax Lake Wylie Marina – 310 Blucher Circle, Lake Wylie, S.C.

Merit Mark Point (MMP) – 4892 Power Squadron Lane, York, S.C.

Pat Hakanson's home – 6812 Old Ridge Road, Waxhaw

Papa Doc's Shore Club – 3990 Charlotte Highway, Lake Wylie, S.C.

Red Fez Club – 16600 Red Fez Club Road, Charlotte

Take a trip down memory lane with Past Commanders album

By P/C Ken Elkins JN and P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN

P/R/C John Rodgers SN-CN keeps an album that tells a lot about the 64-year history of America's Boating Club-Charlotte.

It's a pictorial history of the commanders of the Squadron in a simple binder with page after page of portraits of the men and woman who have steered the organization.

Now you can see the album on the ABC-Charlotte website thanks to the painstaking scanning work of P/Lt/C Mary Chaney JN. Visit <https://www.charlotteboating.org/history> to see the album in a magazine format. Scroll down to the Past Squadron Commanders section and look at the end for a link that says here.

The late Bill Bodmer started the album as a part of his years' dedication to being the Squadron Historian. Bodmer gave it to Rodgers about 10 years ago as Bodmer's health declined.

Inside you see a collection photos and portraits that date to 1960. Amazingly only two photos are missing, both for commanders from the 1960s. There is photo of a uniformed P/D/C George Rogers Sr. AP with a devilish grin and mustache. Rogers was Commander in 1992-93. In the album, John Rodgers, commander in 1976-77, is beardless with a penetrating stare.

Joann Infante identified a photo of P/C Hank Bateman on the second guess. We won't tell you her first guess. Commander Bo Ibach is in the album too for what will be a record four times once his photo is added for his 2025-26 term. Bodmer, who was Commander in 1979-80, is there looking young and with a kind face, which is how I remember him.

P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN, commander in 1994-95 and again in 2022-23, looks like a grinning 30-something in a white CPS polo shirt during his first term. Almost 30 years later in his second administration, the smile is diminished and the hair is gray.

It's an absolute delight scrolling through the digital album. Newcomers may enjoy seeing all the leaders who have molded to the Squadron through the more than three score years of its existence. It's a good addition to the ABC-Charlotte website.

Ken Elkins is editor of Side Lights and Marvin Chaney is webmaster.



George Rogers Sr.
with a devilish grin.



Marvin Chaney then ...



Pat Hakanson in full uniform.



Bill Bodmer and his kind face.



A beardless John Rodgers.



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