

March 2024 Volume 63 Number 2

Spelling out what we do at the Charlotte Power Squadron

By P/Lt/C Mary D. Chaney JN

For this month's bridge message, I decided to bring back a bridge message I wrote 20 years ago, but slightly revised to reflect changes in our organization and in our times since then.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Has anyone ever asked you what your membership in Charlotte Power Squadron (and our parent organization, United States Power Squadrons®) means to you? You may not have thought it through completely but let me tell you what it means to me:

Children's Outing — treating those less fortunate than ourselves to a day of fun on Lake Wylie

Helping with fund-raising efforts, so the organization continues to thrive

Annual Change of Watch — celebrating the outgoing and incoming Commanders, officers and members of the bridge

Rendezvous — outings galore, usually on or around water

Long-time members – you can learn so much from seasoned members of our squadron

Opportunity — use every one you get to spread the word about safe boating

Teaching — sharing your boating knowledge with fellow members and the public

Trailer trips — quick jaunts to distant cities for a day on the water

Education — Public boating, plus advanced and elective courses and seminars



P/Lt/C Mary D. Chaney JN, Treasurer



Predicted log contest — test your piloting skills and defend the Pride of Wylie cup
Outstanding food at our two barbecues and monthly membership and ExComm meetings

Waterway cleanup at the annual Big Sweep event

Events at Merit Mark Point, whether Squadron sponsored or on your own

Respect — we belong to a national organization that commands it

Speakers — people speaking at our monthly meetings on a variety of subjects

Quality – our people, our education, our events are all top notch

Unbelievably talented, creative people you can count amongst your friends

Attending our Coastal Rendezvous/Cooperative Charting outing — helping keep nautical charts, marina surveys and geodetic marker information current

Dedication — it takes a lot of this, and hard work, to keep an organization running well

Reading material — *Side Lights*, *Bitts* and the *National Ensign* and *Compass* publications

Operation Training —shaping squadron leaders of the future

National Meetings – Annual and Governing Board, everyone should attend at least once

I know I haven't touched on everything that we do, but we do a lot, plus there are only so many letters in "Charlotte Power Squadron." Everything we do is because of the selfless work of many of our members, and for the benefit of our members and the public. We are a fraternal, civic-minded, education-oriented boating organization, and that says a great deal about us. Take pride in your organization and help it to succeed.

P/Lt/C Mary D. Chaney JN is Treasurer of America's Boating Club-Charlotte

America's Boating Club-Charlotte

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



2024 BRIDGE OFFICERS

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

P/C Jack Moore AP-IN
 Lt/C Brevard S. Myers Jr. SN-ACN
 Open
 P/C David Samonds P
 Lt/C Rose Samonds
 P/Lt/C Mary D. Chaney JN
 P/C Pat Hakanson SN

2024 MEMBERS AT-LARGE

P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN
 P/C Will G. Granger P-IN
 Lt. Patricia Mencil, S
 P/C David M. Stewart, AP

P/C Douglas Drum, Sr., AP
 Warren Francois
 P/C Charles "Bo" Ibach SN-SCN
 P/D/C Paula F. Stewart, AP

SIDE LIGHTS STAFF

Editor

P/C Ken Elkins JN

publications@charlotteboating.org

Photographers

All squadron members

"SIDE LIGHTS" is published monthly* for the members of the America's Boating Club-Charlotte. The deadline for articles is the Friday before the third Monday of each month. Articles and photographs may be sent to P/C Ken Elkins at publications@charlotteboating.org or photographer@charlotteboating.org before the deadline. (* July and August are combined as a summer issue, January and February are combined as a winter issue.)

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.

Essential knots in boating

By Lt/C Brevard S. Myers Jr. SN-ACN

What knots do you use during your boating activities? Most of us do not think about this much until we need to do something with our boat lines or to help someone secure their boat at a dock.

How do you attach a line to your boat for docking? How about tying to a dock? How do you attach an anchor? Do you attach the end of your anchor line to your boat? (The bitter end?) How do you make a longer line by tying one line to another? What knots are easy to tie, easy to untie and does the job intended well? Can someone else identify your knot type?



Lt/C Brevard S. Myers Jr. SN-ACN

Depending on what we are doing, the correct knot can make a big difference. Which knots are reliable enough and strong enough to hold your life?

My first exposure to proper knot tying was in the Boy Scouts. The Boy Scouts have knots required for achieving the Tenderfoot level, Second Class level and First Class level. These are mostly associated with outdoor (land) activities. Several of our nautical knots are **not** included in the Boy Scout list of required knots.

Knots and knot uses historically listed in various America's Boating Club literature include:

- 1) **Cleat Hitch** — Attaching line to a cleat. (Note: This knot may not work well with polished cleat due to slippage.) Watch this video of how to tie a cleat hitch:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CLt4BEBMRk>
- 2) **Bowline** — Called one of the most useful knots. It makes a loop that will not slip or tighten up. This is the knot I use when towing so I do not need cut the line to disconnect it. Secure around a piling or wrap around the horns of a polished boat cleat. Slightly complicated to tie but easy to untie after it has been subject to strong loads. Watch this video of how to tie a bowline:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21EKnQaDo8k>

- 3) **Round Turn and Two Half Hitches** — Often used to attach a line to a piling. The round turn takes the strain and the two half hitches secures the knot. Watch this video of how to tie a round turn and two half hitches: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=daAM234GIV8>
- 4) **Clove Hitch** — Similar to a round turn. It is used alone often to secure coiled lines. If used on a piling to hold a vessel, it should not be used alone as it may slip. Secure a Clove Hitch with two half hitches and you got a secure knot that's easy to untie. Watch this video of how to tie a clove hitch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0VPM1h399c>
- 5) **Square Knot** — (Reef Knot) Joins two lines (often joins the ends of the same size line). Watch this video of how to tie a square knot: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2UoNizNx-U>
- 6) **Sheet Bend** — Joins two lines (especially lines of different diameters). Watch this video of how to tie a sheet bend: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jO8Xu-D0Wi0>
- 7) **Figure Eight** — (Stopper Knot) Often used on sailboats to keep lines from passing completely through blocks or sheaves. I once witnessed someone not using stopper knots on a small sailboat. One stopper knot should have been on the main sheet (sail adjustment line) to keep the line from completely leaving a boat mounted block. The other stopper knot should have been on the halyard (the line that raises the sail) going through a deck mounted block. Those lines were the only thing that attached to the rigging (mast, sails and boom) to the boat. The boat turned over in a high wind. They lowered the sails to upright the boat; all the rigging went to the bottom.) Hence the power of the stopper knot or figure eight knot.
Watch this video of how to tie a figure eight: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjA5E2Oeq7g>

Bonus: Whipping Knot — One more useful topic that most of us overlook is securing the fibers of the end of a line. Historically this is done using a form of “Whipping” hemp or other natural fiber lines so the ends do not come undone or fray. Whipping actually is a cord or twine used to bind or cover rope. Modern pre-manufactured store-bought line ends are typically fused and whipped. Lines bought off a spool are typically just taped after being cut. Fusing with heat and whipping the ends may be needed to keep line ends from becoming frayed. There are many methods of whipping. A less sophisticated but a quick and easy method of whipping is called the “Common Whipping Knot”

or just “Common Whipping.” This method can be seen at the following YouTube videos:

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=1CPcFDeRjT4&si=mxKk8jng-Arg0OVS>

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=lji3RXmBGEk&si=H1GUYf7tCo31Agjf>

Only two knots are featured in the current America’s Boating Course: the Cleat Hitch and the Bowline. These are most likely the two most useful knots in boating therefore **Essential Knots in Boating**.

Lt/C Brevard S. Myers Jr. SN-ACN is educational officer of America’s Boating Club-Charlotte

Calendar of Events March-April 2024

March 2024

Day	Event	Time/Details	Location/Details
4	ABC-CLT General Membership Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	John's Family Restaurant
15-17	D/27 Spring Conference & Change of Watch	Check D/27 website	Wilmington, N.C.
18	ABC-CLT ExCom Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
22	Side Lights Article Due	View from the Bridge	Administrative Officer

April 2024

Day	Event	Time	Location/Details
1	ABC-CLT General Membership Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	John's Family Restaurant
6	MMP Clean-up for Chicken-Q	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Merit Mark Point
13	ABC Class	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	MarineMax Lake Wylie
15	ABC-CLT ExCom Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
19	Side Lights Article Due	View from the Bridge	Education Officer
20	Chicken-Q Spring Barbecue	4 p.m.-8 p.m.	Merit Mark Point
22	Wylie Gator Book Club	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
27	Vessel Safety Check	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Buster Boyd Landing

Jocks & Jills – 4109 South Stream Boulevard, Charlotte, N.C.

John's Family Restaurant – 2002 Westinghouse Boulevard, Charlotte, N.C.

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

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

Invite your friends, neighbors to Chicken-Q

By P/R/C John J. Rodgers SN-CN

Our annual Merit Mark Point Spring Chicken-Q will be held on Saturday April 20, 2024. This is one of the two fundraisers that we hold to support Merit Mark Point, so, come out and support MMP and enjoy a great day and a great meal. (Everyone says that the chicken is great!)

Why not consider inviting your friends or neighbors to join us for a fun day? Who knows, they may discover that membership in Americas Boating Club-Charlotte is one of the best bargains going and join up.



As much fun as it is to attend, helping with the event is more so. If you would like to help with preparations, cooking, serving or cleanup, we would be glad to have you join us. Just let me know.

Reach John J. Rodgers by checking your ABC-CLT roster for his contact information.

New website discussed at General Membership meeting

Join us Monday March 4 at John's Family Restaurant for our first membership meeting of the year. P/C Marvin Chaney will present the features of our new website. Find out about both the public and members only capabilities that help us promote our squadron. You can check it out at <http://www.charlotteboating.org>.

Commander Jack Moore also plans to recap the boat show statistics and take a look at the start of the dock repair at Merit Mark Point.

Vessel Safety Checks are also on the agenda with information that our vessel examiners have to pay attention to, a course they have to take to keep their certification current and several items from National on VSC changes that every boat owner must know. Some of the items deal with requirements to pass a VSC before a sticker can be affixed to a vessel.

"Our examiners will adhere to these requirements so even if you don't think you will get stopped on the lake, you need to know what is required to have a successful inspection," Commander Moore says.

Other items include:

- Bo Ibach will talk about the Children's Outing 2024.
- Pat Hakanson will discuss an activity planned at Camp Thunderbird.

Commander's Annual Report: Pat Hakanson

Good evening, folks.

This has been my second term as the Commander of the Charlotte Power Squadron and indeed it has been a privilege and a pleasure to do so.

This year I had two goals in mind: First to downsize the Commander's job by attempting to spread the load around a bit more and secondly to try to expand our boating activities especially for our new members. I believe that together we have progressed in achieving these goals, though more can be done as always.

So, in that regard I want to thank the following aides in the Commander's department:

- my Flag Lt Will Granger
- our Chaplain J.J. Rodgers
- my meetings chair and proof reader Paula Stewart
- my merit mark chairman John King
- my merit mark assistant Pat Mencil
- and finally my photo guru Ken Elkins



Commander Pat Hakanson

You folks have made my job a lot easier. Thank you so much. Your efforts on behalf of our Squadron are much appreciated.

When it came to boating activities, we were able to get on the water with two Children's Outings, the Predicted Log Contest, the Scavenger Hunt and several rowboat outings. The Small Craft Picnic party failed due to my last-minute bad decisions and bad weather.

This Squadron is a success because of the great work you folks are willing to put into our programs and events. Let me list those in the XO and AO departments and give each one a heartfelt thank you:

First in the XO department:

- Boat show chair: Jack Moore
- Co-op Charting: Brevard Myers
- VSC chair: Jack Moore
- Children's Outing: Bo Ibach
- Clean Sweep: Doug Drum
- Fund raising: Paula Stewart

Now in the AO department:

- Boating activities: Brevard Myers
- Predicted Log: Mary Chaney
- Coastal Rendezvous: Bo Ibach
- Merit Mark Point maintenance: Jack Moore

I want to thank all those who have contributed funds to repair the deck of the dock and to Jack and his crew who will be pulling up those rotten boards and replacing them with new ones. Go team!!!

- Change of Watch: Bo Ibach and Marvin Chaney
- Membership: David Stewart
- New member orientation: Paula Stewart
- Operations Training: Marvin Chaney

Thank you one and all.

We have had successes in other departments as well but I will leave those to the Bridge officers to cover.

And finally, I would like to thank all those who have served on the Executive Committee.

It has been fun meeting at Jocks and Jills. I am glad we have found a place where we could do so in peace and quiet. ☺ As you know, I enjoy being chairman of meetings and I really appreciate how you have followed my lead. Thank you so much.

Respectfully submitted,

Cdr Pat Hakanson, SM

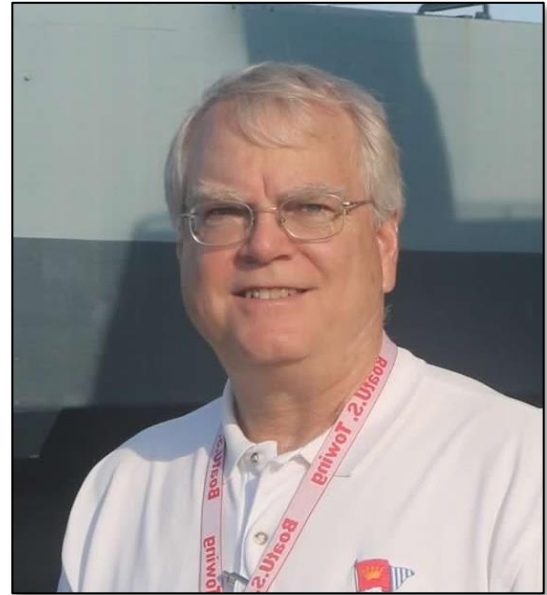
2023-24 ABC-Charlotte Commander

Educational Officer's Annual Report: Brevard Myers

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Squadron Education Officer (SEO) of America's Boating Club-Charlotte for this past year.

This year the Education Department:

- Scheduled and conducted three ABC classes. One class was conducted at Victory Lanes Karting in north Charlotte to access students in northern Mecklenburg County previously served by Lake Norman Sail and Power Squadron. The other two classes were conducted at MarineMax Hall Marine Lake Wylie.
- A total of 32 students successfully complete ABC courses. Students that successfully completed the course by South Carolina protocol have their names entered into the SC Department of Natural Resources data base and are eligible for a SC DNR issued Boating Education Card.
- Five instructors were recertified.



Lt/C Brevard Myers Jr. SN-ACN

As SEO, I performed the following duties:

- Attended and gave reports at most Squadron Membership meetings and monthly Executive Committee meetings.
- Processed orders for educational materials for the planned ABC classes.
- Performed clerical duties and taught at our ABC classes.
- Authored two bridge messages for Side Lights

In addition to performing my duties as SEO, I attended/participated in or will attend/participate in by the end of the organization year, the following events:

- America's Boating Club-Charlotte 2023 Annual Meeting/Change of Watch
- America's Boating Club-District 27 Annual Meeting—New Bern, N.C.
- Summer, lunch and get-together at Merit Mark Point
- BBQs at Merit Mark Point
- Helped with clean-up and repairs at Merit Mark Point
- Helped organize and participated in the Cooperative Charting event at Little River, SC. (Boating events such as this one provide a fun boating activity combined with on-the-water educational opportunities.)
- Attended America's Boating Club-Charlotte 2024 Change of Watch

I would like to thank the following individuals for serving in various capacities for the Education Department:

- P/C Charles R. “Bo” Ibach III SN-ACN – Chief Instructor and Co-Chairman of ABC Course
- Cdr Marvin Chaney Jr. SN — Technical Preparations and Planning and for supplies and food for the ABC class
- P/C Jack Moore Jr. AP-IN — For ABC class support both at boat shows and in class sessions and for contacting interested students
- Others not mentioned here specifically who have invested their time and efforts towards the squadron’s educational objectives

I thank my fellow members for the opportunity, and for the honor, of serving as the Squadron Educational Officer for America’s Boating Club-Charlotte.

Respectfully submitted,

Lt/C Brevard Myers Jr. SN-ACN
ABC-Charlotte Educational Officer

Secretary’s Annual Report: Rose Samonds

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Squadron Secretary of America’s Boating Club-Charlotte for this past year.

As Secretary, I performed the following duties:

- Attended and took notes at 9 of the 11 ExCom meetings. Thank you, Paula Stewart, for covering the two meetings that I was unable to attend.
- Digitally archived notes for the 11 ExCom Meetings.
- Attended five of the seven Membership Meetings, published and archived the notes for the August 28, 2023, meeting where we passed a motion.
- Created and archived the Historian Report.



Lt/C Rose Samonds

In addition to performing my duties as Secretary, I attended/participated in the following events:

- Attended the 2023 Annual Meeting/Change of Watch on January 28, 2023.
- Participated in the Mid-Atlantic Boat Show on February 11, 2023.
- Attended the Chicken-Q on April 15, 2023.
- Participated in the Children’s Outing on May 20, 2023.
- Wrote an article for the October Side Lights.
- Attended the Fall BBQ on October 21, 2023.
- Active participant in the Wylie Gator Book Club.
- Attended the Squadron Christmas Party on December 9, 2023.

I would also like to thank the following individuals for serving in various capacities for the Secretarial Department:

- P/C John A. King II AP as Editor of the Roster and our Side Lights newsletter, I appreciate your dedication and the incredible amount of time that you put into these publications.
- P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN our Webmaster and Google Workspace Administrator. Thanks, Marvin, for the many hours you spent creating and launching our new website.
- P/Lt/C Mary D. Chaney JN for finding 64 items that needed to be fixed on the new website. We appreciate your diligence in combing the website to make sure everything worked and/or looked right.
- P/C Ken Elkins JN for spearheading our Social Media efforts and regularly posting updates on our Facebook page.

P/Lt/C Rose Samonds

ABC-Charlotte Secretary

Treasurer's Annual Report: Mary Chaney

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Treasurer of America's Boating Club-Charlotte for this past year. In my capacity as Treasurer, I have performed the following duties:

- Attended all membership meetings and all Executive Committee meetings except May and September 2023
- Processed all dues collections, for both new and recurring members
- Collected and deposited all monies received by the organization
- Paid all standard/recurring debts of the organization as well as other debts as presented and approved by the Executive Committee
- Maintained the financial records of the organization
- Reconciled all monthly bank statements
- Submitted the Sales and Use Tax Reports to the N.C. Department of Revenue
- Presented financial reports at each meeting attended
- Prepared appropriate IRS forms as required



P/Lt/C Mary D. Chaney JN

In addition to performing my duties as Treasurer, since last year's annual meeting I attended/participated in or will attend/participate in by the end of the organization year, the following events:

- America's Boating Club of the Catawba 2023 Change of Watch on January 27, 2023

- America's Boating Club-Charlotte 2023 Change of Watch on January 28, 2023
- 2023 Mid Atlantic Boat Show – Helped set up and worked the CPS booth
- District 27 Spring Council/Conference/CO in New Bern, N.C., March 16-19, 2023
- America's Boating Club-Charlotte Spring Chicken-Q on April 15, 2023
- ABC-Charlotte/Catawba Sail & Power Squadron Predicted Log Contest as Scorekeeper on June 3, 2023
- America's Boating Club-Charlotte Commander's Picnic on July 8, 2023
- America's Boating Club-Charlotte Coastal Rendezvous, Little River, S.C., September 28-30, 2023
- America's Boating Club-Charlotte Fall BBQ on October 21, 2023
- District 27 Fall Council/Conference in Fort Mill, S.C., October 27-28, 2023
- America's Boating Club-Charlotte Holiday Party on December 9, 2023
- America's Boating Club-Charlotte 2023 Change of Watch on January 27, 2024

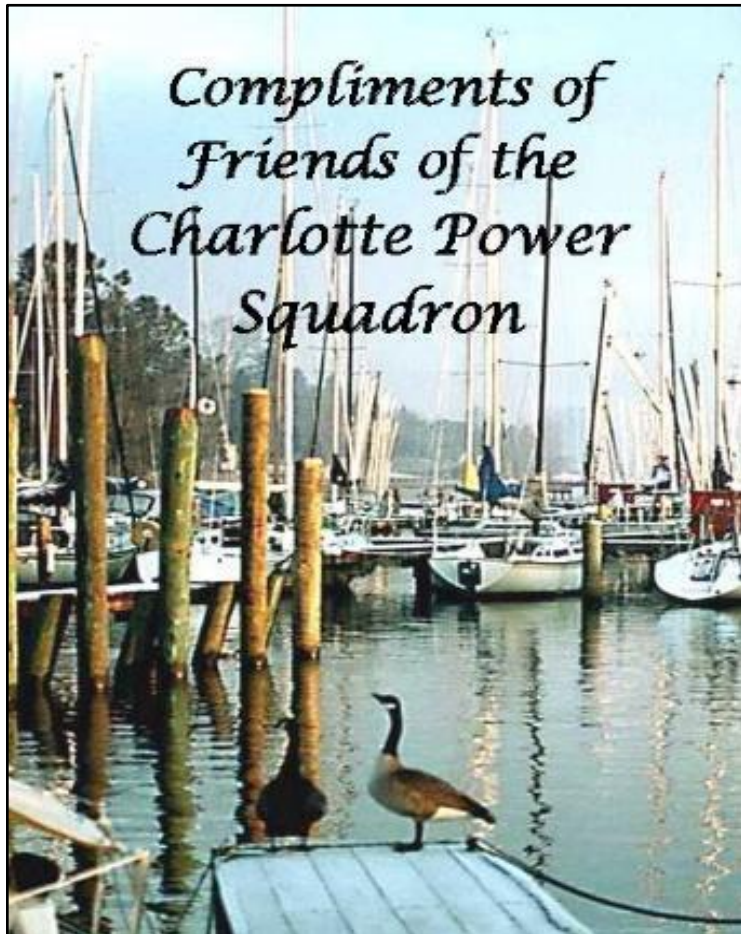
I would like to thank the following individuals for dutifully serving as Co-Supply Officers under the Treasurer's Department:

- P/D/C George H. Rogers Sr. AP
- P/D/C Paula F. Stewart AP
- P/C David M. Stewart AP

I thank my fellow members again for the opportunity, and for the honor, of serving as ABC-Charlotte Treasurer this year, and continuing for another year.

Respectfully submitted,

P/Lt/C Mary D. Chaney M
ABC-Charlotte Treasurer



MARINEMax**HALL MARINE****LAKE NORMAN**

Btwn. Exits 25 & 26 on I-77
 9209 Westmoreland Road
 CORNELIUS, NC
 704-892-9676

**MARINEMax****HALL MARINE****LAKE WYLIE**

Hvy 49 at Buster Boyd Bridge
 310 Blucher Circle
 LAKE WYLIE, SC
 803-831-2101



**WE SELL AND SERVICE THE WORLD'S LEADING LEGENDS
 COMPLETE SHIPS STORE, BOAT STORAGE AND GAS.**

Proud Members of

MARINEMax**HALL MARINE**

LAKE WYLIE • CHARLESTON • COLUMBIA • LAKE NORMAN • SAVANNAH • GREENVILLE

*Compliments of Friends of the
Charlotte Power Squadron*

