



Side Lights



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
CHARLOTTE

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Jan./Feb. 2026

Volume 43 Number 1

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Do we have dock work in our future at MMP?

By Warren François

Editor's Note: This article is the product of discussions between Warren François and Side Lights editor Ken Elkins.

With a favorable vote from the membership this month, I will be installed as Commander of America's Boating Club-Charlotte. It's an honor to lead this fine group of people dedicated to boating education, safety and comradery.

I suffered some health problems in December that required hospitalization, but I'm back on my feet and ready to serve the membership of the Squadron.

I joined the Charlotte Power Squadron in 2002 and became increasingly involved in its management during the last two years, having gone through the ranks of the executive committee and bridge. There I learned that the Squadron has been very well managed by a bridge and committee of seasoned and proven leaders.

We stand today with strong financials, good support from America's Boating Club nationally and an asset that few squadrons enjoy: a place on the lake, Merit Mark Point. We're in the process of installing security at MMP and crews are often at the site to maintain and improve the facility.

If we have any deficiency at Merit Mark, it's the need for substantial improvement on two of the three floating dock systems. Instead of patching the docks, we should start a program to entirely replace the surfaces of the floating portions of the piers.

We could finance this several ways, including simply paying for the materials and supplies out of the funds dedicated to the maintenance and improvement of the facility. That would get us going quickly, and on warmer days of winter we could have crews of volunteers begin work and probably have it completed by the time spring rolls around.

Another way would be to start a fundraiser to finance the work. I personally like the idea of having our own Poker Run, paid for by participants, squadron members and their guests.

Tell me what you think. Do we patch the docks or conduct a refurbishing campaign?

Lt/C Warren François is currently administrative officer of the Squadron.



Nominated 2026 ABC-Charlotte Commander Warren François

Side Lights gets new delivery method

Have you noticed? It's just a little bit easier to open Side Lights when it arrives in your email inbox.

Now, when you click on the email message, Side Lights is displayed in the body of the email.

In the past, you had to click on the email message and then click on a document attached to that email. It's not a huge change, but the idea is to make the newsletter easier to read and, hopefully, more enjoyable.

If you want to print Side Lights in its new format, simply click on the button that reads "View as a PDF" located at the top of the email. Then print the document.

Many thanks to Virginia Faircloth, a professional graphic designer and Commander Bo Ibach's daughter, who helped add features to the newsletter.

Hope you enjoy the changes. Email me at publications@charlotteboating.org if you have a comment to share.

P/C Ken Elkins is editor of Side Lights, the Charlotte Power Squadron newsletter.

Here is the Official Slate of Officers for 2026

By Marvin Chaney

In compliance with the Charlotte Power Squadron bylaws, the Nominations Committee is pleased to present the Squadron with a great set of candidates for officers and committee members for 2026.

We thank those nominated for agreeing to serve the Squadron in 2026. Election of officers will be held at our annual business meeting on Monday, January 5, 2026.

The Executive Officer and Administrative Officer positions are allowed to be open per the Bylaws, and at this time we do not have candidates for these positions.

The nominees are:

Bridge

- Commander – Lt/C Warren François
- Educational Officer – P/C Dan Bartell SN-ACN
- Executive Officer – (open)
- Administrative Officer – (open)
- Secretary – P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN
- Treasurer – P/Lt/C Mary D. Chaney JN

At Large Members of ExCom

- P/D/C Paula Stewart AP
- P/C David Stewart AP
- Lt/C Brevard S. Myers Jr. SN-ACN
- P/C William G. Granger P-IN
- Lt Pat Mencil S

- P/C Jack Moore AP-IN
- Lt Shaun Haycock
- Lt Tom Frederick

Immediate Past Commander

- D/Lt/C Charles “Bo” Ibach III SN-ACN

Committees

- Nominations Committee – D/Lt/C Charles “Bo” Ibach III SN-ACN (3 years)
- Audit – P/R/C J.J. Rodgers SN-CN (3 years)
- Rules – P/C Hank Bateman JN (3 years)

P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN is chairman of the America’s Boating Club-Charlotte Nominations Committee.

2025 BRIDGE OFFICERS		
Commander	D/Lt/C Charles “Bo” Ibach III SN-ACN	commander@charlotteboating.org
Educational Officer	Lt/C Brevard S. Myers Jr. SN-ACN	education@charlotteboating.org
Executive Officer	Open	
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Warren François	adminofficer@charlotteboating.org
Secretary	Lt/C Rose Samonds	secretary@charlotteboating.org
Treasurer	P/Lt/C Mary D. Chaney JN	treasurer@charlotteboating.org
Immediate Past Commander	P/C Jack Moore AP-IN	

2025 MEMBERS AT-LARGE

P/C Dan Bartell SN-ACN	P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN
P/C Doug Drum Sr. AP	P/C William G. Granger P-IN
Lt Shaun Haycock	Lt Pat Mencil S
P/C Jack Moore JN-IN	P/C David Stewart AP
P/D/C Paula Stewart AP	

Calendar of Events for January and February 2026

Date	Event	Time	Location/Details
1/5	ABC-Charlotte Annual Meeting	1 p.m.-3 p.m.	Jocks & Jills
1/24	ABC-Charlotte Change of Watch	5 p.m.-8 p.m.	Fish Market, Baxter
2/5-8	Mid-Atlantic Boat Show	12-8 p.m.+/-	Charlotte Convention Center
2/9-15	America's Boating Club National Meeting	Various Times	Embassy Suites by Hilton Oceanfront Myrtle Beach
2/20	Deadline for View from the Bridge March column	5 p.m.	Treasurer

Locations:

Charlotte Convention Center – 501 South College Street, Charlotte

Embassy Suites by Hilton Oceanfront Resort – 9800 Queensway Boulevard, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Fish Market Bar & Grill – 990 Market Street, Fort Mill, S.C.

Jocks & Jills – 4109 South Stream Boulevard, Charlotte

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



Commander Bo presents \$350 check to Crystal Rivers of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina.

2025 ends with generous gift to Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina

By Bo Ibach

Well, my year is quickly ending. It's been a great year and I look forward to a new year with our new Bridge.

Our Christmas Party was a big success. We had decided that in lieu of doing a "White Elephant" gift exchange, we would raise funds to help support a local food bank. That turned out to be a great success. We raised \$350, which I took to the Second Harvest Food Bank Metrolina in Charlotte to help them provide a more joyous holiday season for many. The nice thing that I learned is that there is a donor matching all monetary gifts. So, our \$350 became \$700. Thanks so much to those who donated at the party.

Upcoming events:

January 5, 2026 – Our annual Squadron meeting will be at Jocks & Jills at 1 p.m. Please note the change of time. This is our meeting for electing the Bridge for the coming year. We used to also bore you with officer reports, but this year those will be published in an upcoming Side Lights. Much better to have another nice social time.

January 24, 2026 – Change of Watch time! The invitation and a reminder have been sent so please try to attend. This is our annual big event where the new bridge is sworn in and the old one phased out. Please respond by January 16. (See invitation and registration form below.)

February 5-8, 2026 – Mid-Atlantic Boat Show: We have a booth and will be using the simulator that we inherited from National. It's a great tool that not only gets attention but affords us the opportunity to talk to those who stop by. Remember that this is a time to encourage showgoers to take our safe boating course. Right now, we're scheduled to hold classes at MarineMax – Lake Wylie on April 18 and May 16. Please reach out to P/C Jack Moore AP-IN to volunteer to help at the show.

February 9-15, 2026 – National Annual Meeting that this year will be in Myrtle Beach. Hopefully we can have an excellent showing from Charlotte considering it's close by. And on top of that, we have four members receiving their Life Memberships. There's only one other person in D-27 achieving this honor. Those from Charlotte: P/C Doug Drum Sr. AP, P/C William G. Granger P-IN, P/R/C Don Osmond and P/D/C Paula Stewart AP. (See info graphic below.)

March 20-21, 2026 – D-27 Change of Watch. Once again will be in Cary, N.C., at the same Hilton Garden Inn as last year. I really hope that we'll have a great showing. As if you don't already know, I'll be sworn in as District Commander for 2026-27. There will be more information forthcoming about signups, etc.

Again, thank you all for a great 2025-26 and please support our Bridge in the coming year.

Charles "Bo" Ibach III SN-ACN is 2025 Commander of America's Boating Club-Charlotte.

Change of Watch

America's Boating Club-Charlotte

COME ONE, COME ALL!



You are hereby invited to make a reservation
for your seat at the annual America's Boating Club-Charlotte's
Change of Watch Banquet

The Change of Watch will be held at the

Fish Market Bar & Grill

990 Market Street

Fort Mill, SC 29708

The banquet will be on **Saturday**

24 January 2026

Drinks/social time **1700**

Dinner **1730**

Program **1830**

Price is \$49 per person, which includes choice of soup or salad, entrée and dessert

—CASH BAR—

USPS uniform or blazer & tie, or suitable attire

Please fill out the reservation form and return it with your payment no later than 16 January 2026.
(Checks payable to Charlotte Power Squadron)

Please list names of those attending:

Mail Reservation and Payment to:

P/D/C Paula F. Stewart AP
2301 Kendrick Estates Drive
Gastonia, NC 28056

Christmas Party 2026



Three wise men: P/C Ken Mart AP, P/C Brevard Myers SN-ACN and P/C Doug Drum AP

Photos by Mary Cele Brooks and others



Commander Bo Ibach SN-ACN, Effie Rogers and guests Morgan Hornung and Jordan Carty



Left to right, P/C Will Granger P-IN and Kathryn Granger, P/D/C Pat Hakanson SN, P/C Brevard Myers SN, and P/Lt/C Barbara Bartell S and P/C Dan Bartell SN-ACN



P/C Mary Cele AP and Chuck Brooks



Sean Morris, Tom Frederick, guest Lynn Kimbal and Lt/C Warren François, who is nominated to be 2026 ABC-Charlotte commander



Smiling Stewarts, P/C David AP and P/D/C Paula AP



D/Lt/C Mary Chaney JN and P/C Marvin Chaney SN with our host Lt Pat Mencil S



P/C Jack Moore AP-IN and Sandy Moore



P/C Mary Cele Brooks AP and P/D/C George Rogers AP

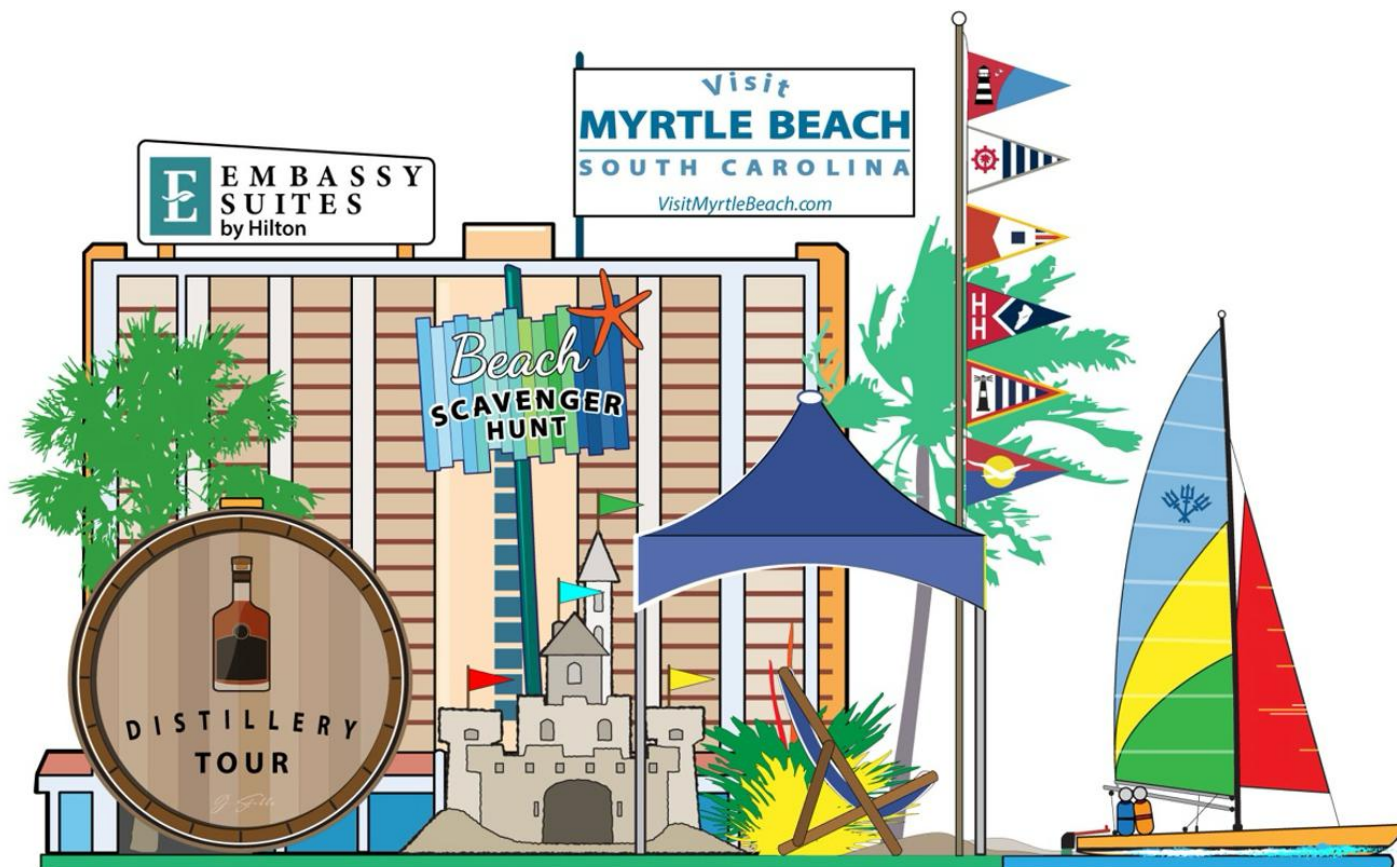


January

**Hank Bateman, Mary Cele Brooks, Tom Monza,
George Rogers, Kate Stahlman, Zach Townsend**

February

**Barbara Bartell, Meaghan Cahill, Lisa Ishee, John
King, Pat Mencil, Brittany Osmond, Dwight Pruitt**



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Annual Meeting
February 9-15, 2026
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

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John and Connie King on the water Drawing by the late Carl Foesch

Friends of the Squadron

**America's Boating Club-Charlotte
is fortunate to have the following
sustaining sponsors:**

- Marvin and Mary Chaney
- Ken Elkins and Joann Infante
- John and Connie King
- Paula and David Stewart
- Anonymous sponsors

Side Lights Staff

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Side Lights is published 10 times a year for the members of America's Boating Club-Charlotte, also known as Charlotte Power Squadron. The opinions expressed in the articles of this publication are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the America's Boating Club-Charlotte.