



# Side Lights



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

December 2024

Volume 63 Number 10

## View from the Bridge:

### Boating mistakes that make you go 'Wow!'

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

At times and even quite often, I look at YouTube videos about boating and find myself surprised at some of the situations boaters get into.

I have even been known to have incidents during boating that I am not proud of. Running aground during a rendezvous at Beaufort, S.C., made Side Lights several years ago. As one of the members said to me, "Of all people to run aground, I did not think it would be you."

I even saw the disturbed water that I hoped was a tideline and not shallow water. Heading towards the known deeper water, I hit an underwater sandbar firmly. It turns out this was a sandbar soon to be populated with many boats. I was just first to arrive there that day.



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



Running aground near Beaufort

What the heck. If you are not boating, you are not having fun. This is just part of the experience.

The following are experiences boaters have had that could use improving.

- YouTube video "Paige At The Boat Ramp" usually features the Buster Boyd Landing on Lake Wylie.

This is the place to see how our local boaters function. A typical repeating issue is docking boats without both bow and stern lines used to secure boats to the dock. The boats may be secured at the bow, but the boat's stern swings away from the dock. This often puts the stern of the boat (and motor) over the large ramp curbs that can ruin a propeller or damage a drive unit or other underwater gear on a boat.

This ramp area is also very busy and with waves from boat wake and wind from the main Lake Wylie area.



Boat motor being "eaten" by the boat ramp concrete

Another activity I see are people in the water trying to launch or retrieve their boats. The dripping wet people are sometimes the ones who end up in their land vehicles all wet.

- YouTube has several channels featuring Haulover Inlet near Miami, Fla. Personal watercraft, small vessels and very large yachts use this narrow inlet. This inlet can be calm but due to current, tides and wind, it can be very rough.

Many YouTube channels have cameras on the jetties and drone shots of activities there. Boaters showing off for the cameras can be seen speeding through this congested area. The following are some screen shots from videos of some dramatic issues where experience (or good judgment) could help.

Will Rogers and others have used this quote: "Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that [experience] comes from bad judgment."

America's Boating Club with its classes and activities offers experience that will help you develop that good judgment. Stay safe.

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

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Haulover Inlet with small and large craft



PWC overloaded, and no Personal Flotation Devices being worn as required



Anchoring from the stern is not recommended. This boat lost power. Their anchoring system is not sufficient to keep this boat off the beach.



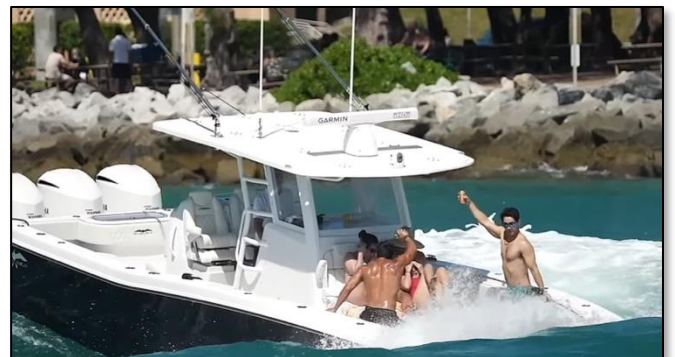
Keep a good lookout. The cruiser made a last-minute turn to avoid hitting the boat.



Overloading and low bow. In the right photo, some passengers were removed from the swamped boat by Good Samaritans.



As illustrated by these three photos, many boats are not designed for waves. Loading the bow of these boats with people in rough waves may not be a good idea.



In the photo to the left, a young lady is tossed overboard as her ride goes through Haulover Inlet. She is later rescued by a passing PWC, all the time holding her smart phone above the water.

Most photos for the Boating Mistakes article are courtesy of YouTube videos. For more chills, spills and mistakes, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEgLQcnQ4n0>

# 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

Cmdr. 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  
D/Lt/C Charles "Bo" Ibach III SN-ACN  
P/D/C Paula F. Stewart AP

## SIDE LIGHTS STAFF

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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](mailto:publications@charlotteboating.org) or [photographer@charlotteboating.org](mailto: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.

## Appreciation for membership fundraising

**By P/D/C Paula F. Stewart AP**

Thanks to everyone who has participated in our "50/50" Fundraisers at our membership meetings.

Meanwhile, we still have plenty of Auto Bell gift cards for sale. The cost is \$20 per card and our squadron gets \$10 for each card sold.

Everyone loves a clean car! Please see me at our next meeting to purchase yours. Also, if you prefer that I mail them to you, I can do that too. Just let me know. Thank you for your support.

*P/D/C Paula F. Stewart AP is America's Boating Club-Charlotte Fundraising Chair.*

## Calendar of Events December 2024 & January 2025

### December 2024

Day	Event	Time	Location/Details
---- No General Membership or ExCom meeting in December ----			
7	ABC-CLT Christmas Party	4 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Reflection Pointe Clubhouse
20	<i>Side Lights</i> January article due	View from the Bridge	Incoming Commander

### January 2025

Day	Event	Time	Location/Details
6	ABC-CLT Annual Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
20	ABC-CLT ExCom Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills

**Reflection Pointe Clubhouse** – 1305 Reflection Pointe Boulevard, Belmont

**Jocks & Jills** – 4109 South Stream Boulevard, Charlotte

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

**Shore Club at Tega Cay** – 15083 Molokai Drive, Tega Cay, S.C.



## Happy December birthdays!

Aidan Cahill, Marshall Bain, Marvin Chaney, George Davis, Tom Forshaw, John Johnson, Geoffery Leek, Todd Osmolski, John Rodgers

### 🍁 Christmas Party reminder 🍁

Don't forget to RSVP for the 2024 America's Boating Club-Charlotte Christmas Party. Deadline is December 2, 2024.

Time: 4-8 p.m.

Date: December 7, 2024

Place: Reflection Pointe Clubhouse

RSVP: Paula Stewart [pfstewart@carolina.rr.com](mailto:pfstewart@carolina.rr.com)  
(704) 214-1244

Also, please bring a dish to share according to the first initial of your last name:

A-F Dessert

G-R Side

S-Z Appetizer

Ham and turkey will be provided

## Here's your 2025 slate of squadron officers, committee members

Here's your chance to vote for a new bridge and executive committee for America's Boating Club-Charlotte. The vote will be taken as an entire slate of nominees at the Annual Meeting held January 6, 2025.

The location of that meeting is set for Jock's & Jills with dinner beginning at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m.

Here are your bridge nominees for 2025:

Commander: D/Lt/C Charles "Bo" Ibach III SN-ACN

Executive Officer: Vacant

Education Officer: Lt/C Brevard S Myers Jr. SN-ACN

Administrative Officer: Warren Francois

Secretary: Lt/C Rose Samonds

Treasurer: P/Lt/C Mary Chaney JN

ExCom nominees continued:

Immediate P/C Jack Moore JN-IN

P/C Doug Drum Sr. AP

Shaun Haycock

Here are your nominees for Nominating Committee:

P/C Jack Moore JN-IN (3 years)

Here are your nominees for Executive Committee:

P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN

P/C David Stewart AP

P/D/C Paula Stewart AP

Lt Pat Mencil S

P/C William G. Granger P-IN

P/C Dan Bartell SN-ACN

Here are your nominees for Rules Committee:

P/C Marshall Bain AP (3 years)

Here are your nominees for Auditing Committee:

P/C David Stewart AP (2 years)

Tom Wirth (3 years)

## Are you going to get a 2024 Merit Mark? Check here to see

**By P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN**

A merit mark is awarded by the chief commander to a member for substantial personal effort in furthering the interest, programs and objectives of United States Power Squadrons, its districts and squadrons.

It is a coveted award; it's the main USPS-wide official recognition members receive for their efforts. Only one merit mark may be awarded in a year. Members may receive recommendations to receive merit marks from any or all of the following: our commander, the district commander and national organizations.

This year we are fortunate to have 41 members that have received merit marks:

Marshall Bain, Bruce P. Banbury, Barbara Bartell, Dan Bartell, Hank Bateman, Rosanne Bateman, Mary Cele Brooks, Charles Brooks, James Cahill, Valerie Cahill, Mary Chaney, Marvin Chaney, Doug Drum, Ken Elkins, Ronald Eveson, Warren Francois, Thomas Frederick, Kathryn Granger, Will Granger, Pat Hakanson, Shaun Haycock, Ronald Helms, Donna Ibach, Michael Ibach, Charles (Bo) Ibach III, John King, Pat Mencil, Jack Moore, Brevard Myers, Don Osmond, Al Parker, Gerald Privette, Richard Reighart, John Rodgers, Pat Rodgers, George Rogers Sr., David Samonds, Rose Samonds, David Stewart, Paula Stewart and Tom Wirth.

Congratulations and thanks for your service at the squadron, district and national levels!

*P/C Marvin Chaney SN is Webmaster for America's Boating Club-Charlotte.*

## Verify information on your Member Portal account

### P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN

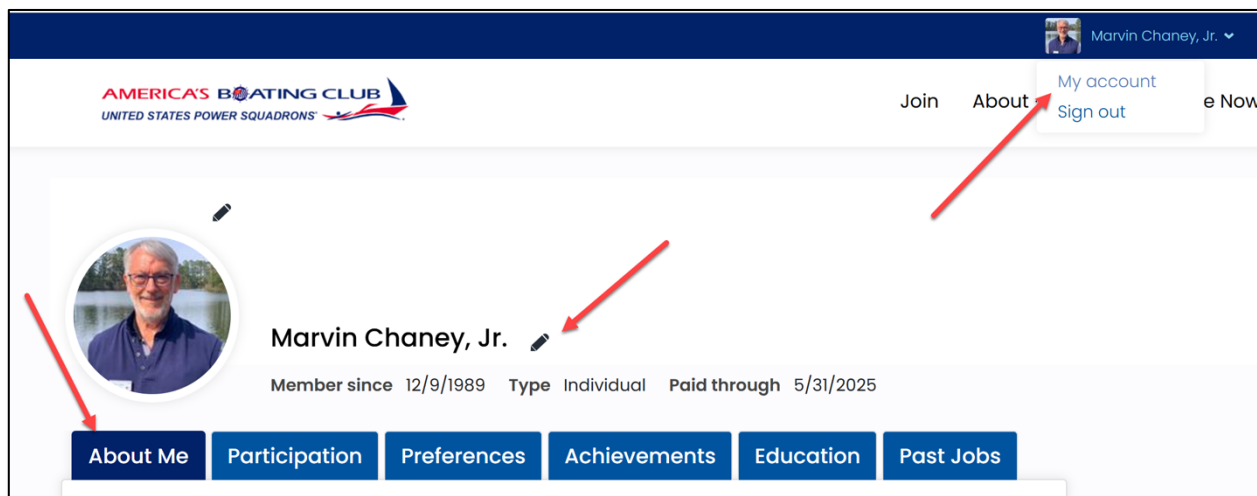
All membership information is in transition from the old to the new national system. Part of the systems upgrade included the creation of the new Membership Portal, where members can see information about themselves, update it and pay dues online in their renewal cycle.

You should have received an invitation to log in and create your new Membership Portal account over the summer.

National is aware that some information is not reflecting correctly on the Membership Portal. Three examples include: the “Last Merit Mark Year,” “Vessel Safety Examiner Status” and “Rank” if the person has one of the levels of Boat Operator Certifications. National is in the process of getting these and other items corrected. Note that these are examples of many fields within the system that a member cannot directly fix; we are monitoring to see when the discrepancies we have identified are corrected.

There **ARE** fields that might not be current that a member can directly fix themselves. Examples of these fields are address, phone numbers, birth date, email address, boat names, boat type and home port. **The email address is especially important to be correct, since all levels of the organization use this email address as the primary way of communicating with members.**

We are requesting that **every** member log into their Membership Portal account and verify the information for the fields highlighted in the above paragraph. Please pay special attention to your email address. Here’s how to do it:



*Sample of the “About Me” display in the new Membership Portal*

- Open an internet browser window
- Enter <https://portal.americasboatingclub.org/> as the URL
- From the top right of the webpage, select “Sign In.”
- Enter your user name and password and select the button “Sign In” (Note that your user name should be the email address that National has on file for you, not your Certificate number as for the old system.)
- When the page displays, look at the top right of the page and you will see your name with a “down arrow.”
- Select the “down arrow” and select “My Account.”
- The “About Me” tab will be displayed.
- Review the information that is shown. If any of the information needs to be updated, click on the “pencil” icon that is closest to the information that needs to be updated, update the information and then select “Save.”

- When you have completed updating information, go to the top right of the screen, find your name, select the down arrow and select "Sign out."

If you did not create your Membership Portal account over the summer, please take the opportunity now to create that account. Here's how to do it:

- Open an internet browser window.
- Enter <https://portal.americasboatingclub.org/> as the URL.
- From the top right of the webpage, select "Sign In."
- **Enter the email address that National has on file for you** as the user name and then select "Forgot Password."
- Complete the fields to establish the password and your account.

If you have any issues, please send an email to Marvin Chaney at [webmaster@charlotteboating.org](mailto:webmaster@charlotteboating.org) and I will follow-up with you to address those issues.

*P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN is Webmaster for America's Boating Club-Charlotte.*

## Potential dues billing issue crops up at National

**P/Lt/C Mary Chaney JN**

As many of you know, National is undergoing an upgrade to the computer systems that support squadron functions, billing and dues renewal being a part of that update. It has come to our attention that some members may have been billed incorrectly.

We have been able to identify that this seems to only affect families that have 2 or more members in the same household.

Please look at the information below for all membership levels and confirm that what is shown is what you are being billed or were billed in this year's dues renewal cycle, especially if you renewed your membership / are renewing your membership since June 2024. If this is not what happened in your case, please email Mary Chaney at [treasurer@charlotteboating.org](mailto:treasurer@charlotteboating.org) so that any issue can be investigated.

Household Description	Annual Dues Renewal Amount
1 active member	\$115
2 or more active members	\$172.50
1 active member that is a Life / Emeritus member	\$40
2 or more active members and 1 active member is a Life / Emeritus member	\$98

National still doesn't have a way to bill a household where both active members are Life/Emeritus members. Each member of this household, for now, will receive a bill for \$40, which is just for squadron dues.

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



***Members of America's Boating Club-Charlotte wish you Happy Holidays***



**Holiday Cheer**



*Marvin and Mary Chaney*

**Ship shape holidays**



*Dave and Rose Samonds*

**Ship shape holidays**



*Tom Wirth and Linda Elder*

*Happy Holidays*



**Best Wishes for the Holidays**



*John and Pat Rodgers*

**Ship shape holidays**



*Pat Hakanson*

*Happy Holidays*



**Holiday Cheer**



*Bo and Donna Ibach and Lola*

**Holiday Cheer**



*Brevard, Lori, Mary and Amelia*

**Ship shape holidays**



*John, Connie and Katie King*

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**HALL MARINE**  
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**MARINEMax**  
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## 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



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