



Side Lights

May 2025

Volume 64 Number 4

View from the Bridge: What does a broken swing have to do with boating?

By Lt/C Brevard Myers Jr. SN-ACN

My mind sometimes travels down a "rabbit hole" when I am trying to deal with everyday issues. Let me share one such topic and hope that this circumstance will help with your boating knowledge, specifically with lines we use on our vessels.

My youngest daughter loves being outside and playing on a swing. Several years ago, she asked if I could install a swing for her. We located a tree in our front yard with a strong limb that would work for her small size, cut a cedar board for a seat and hung the swing by 3/8-inch diameter braided rope. The rope had been stored in my shop and was still wrapped up in the original packaging.

She loved the swing and all was good ... UNTIL THE LINE HOLDING THE SWING BROKE.

The high stress point just below where I tied the knot of the line to the tree limb broke after a few months of use. OK, I have two issues to address before I let my daughter swing again. The line needs to be stronger and the stress point needs to be eliminated.

Reviewing the existing line specifications from the store website, the working load limit (WLL) for the 3/8-inch line may only have been rated for only 120 pounds. I found a replacement line on Amazon that had a breaking strength of over 5,000 pounds and also a kit with hardware for hanging swings on trees. The new line would be hung on new straps with D-rings and connected with locking carabiners holding a line run through thimbles. This is also typical of connections with our anchor lines to a shackle.

All was good for about four more years until one strap around the limb broke. I thought outside the box and ordered heavy vehicle tie-down straps (rated for a working load limit of 3,333 pounds) to be used around the limb with heavy duty stamped metal plates to connect the hardware to. (Wonder how many years this will last?)

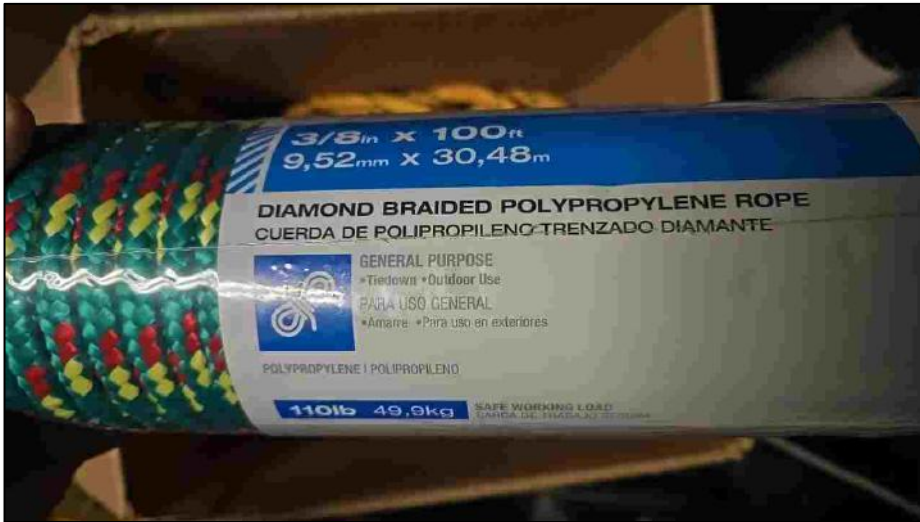
Why is this important to me and boating? Are your anchor lines and dock lines strong enough for your needs. What if you needed a tow line to pull someone else's boat or your own boat? Surely, I would not trust the 3/8-inch line with a working load of 120 pounds.



Brevard S. Myers Jr.

Table of Contents	Page
View from the Bridge	1-3
Bridge and Officers	3
May Birthdays	4
May & June Calendars	4
Busy May Begins Boating Season	5
Chicken-Q, 50-Year Pin	6
Sponsors	7-8

I regularly see 1/4" anchor lines being used on a good size boat. However, it is a good way to lose an anchor and a boat.



*This 110-pound safe working load line is perfect for some uses but not for others.
(Photo by Brevard Myers)*

Lines may look strong but check the specifications. Here are specifications of lines found at your local big box hardware stores:

- 1/4" braided polyester line. Working limit 100 pounds
- 3/8" braided polypropylene and non-woven fabric. Working limit 120 pounds
- 1/2" diamond braided polypropylene. Working limit 250 pounds

For our use of lines in boating, please select to correct line with the correct material from a reputable

source. Some lines used for towing and anchoring may have too much stretch to be used in sailing for sail adjustment and halyards where you want to limit line stretch.

Looking further in the marine, arborist and rock-climbing uses of rope/line, the strength in the specifications is listed as maximum tensile strength or breaking strength when new. Every time you pull on a line, you weaken it. The harder the pull, the sooner the rope will fail. Time in the sun, moisture and chemicals also affect strength. An arborist website described the safe working load limit as 1/10 of the new rope tensile strength. Below are listed tensile strengths of lines found on marine and climbing sites for specific lines they sold:

- 3/8-inch double braid Premium Marine grade nylon. Breaking strength 4,700 pounds
- 1/2-inch double braid Premium Marine grade nylon. Breaking strength 8,500 pounds
- 3/8-inch 3-strand nylon. Breaking strength 3,800 pounds
- 1/2-inch 3-strand nylon. Breaking strength 5,700 pounds

Specialty lines:

- 25/64-inch (3/8"+) Polyester with Dyneema core. Breaking strength 11,000 pounds

Note: the higher quality lines specific for marine and specialty projects are multiple times stronger than the discounted general use lines found in big



Here is Amelia Myers and her Super Swing. (Photo by Brevard Myers)

box stores.

Be sure your boat lines are strong enough to meet their intended purpose. Towing and strong storms can put stress on your line beyond their design point.

Amelia isn't really interested in line strength and the selection of the right line, but she is happy with her swing again.

Lt/C Brevard S. Myers Jr. SEO SN-ACN is Educational Officer for America's Boating Club-Charlotte.

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

SIDE LIGHTS STAFF

Editor
Photographers and Writers

P/C Ken Elkins JN
All squadron members

publications@charlotteboating.org

"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.



Happy Birthdays!

May

Bruce Banbury, Brian Chambers, Dianne Garrison, Harry Hammonds, Joann Infante, William Ishee, Brevard Myers, Scott Spivey, Larry Whiteside

Calendar of Events May & June 2025

May 2025

Day	Event	Time	Location/Details
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
31	Children's Outing	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Red Fez Shrine Club

June 2025

No General Membership Meeting in June

3	Rock-On Rowing (women's rowing)	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
10	Rock-On Rowing (women's rowing)	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
13-14	District 27 Rendezvous	check D/27 website	New Bern
16	ABC-CLT ExCom Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
17	Wylie Gator Rowing (men and women)	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
20	View from the Bridge article due	Past Commander	Submitted to editor
28	Vessel Safety Check	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Buster Boyd Ramp

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 Shrine Club – 16600 Red Fez Club Road, Charlotte

May starts busy boating season for ABC-Charlotte

By Commander Charles “Bo” Ibach III

May is going to be a busy month for us.

First off on May 5 is our monthly meeting, a continuing experiment, is going to be a luncheon at Papa Docs at 1 p.m. Hope we have a great turnout like what we had in March.

Second, on May 17 we're having our next ABC class at MarineMax-Lake Wylie. Start time for this is 9 a.m. and we go until about 5:30 or so depending on how many are there and how they finish the testing.

Third, on May 31 at the Red Fez Club is our annual Children's Outing for so many deserving children of the area. I've already heard from one group that I invite that they'll be bringing at least 40 children and staff. Hope that we'll have a lot more (I know we will). Please plan to come and help either on land or by sea! Remember, we now have on water insurance to cover this event.

By looking at the calendar, you can see Pat Hakanson's rowing dates and other stuff that's scheduled for May.

For early planning, MarineMax is going to hold a poker run on June 14. I don't have all the details but we're invited to participate. And Merit Mark Point is going to be one of the pickup points for envelopes with cards inside. I'll send out a blast email with details as soon as I get them. Pat Mencil has volunteered to be on the dock with a MarineMax person at Merit Mark Point. We'll also hand out flyers all about us to hopefully secure some membership applications from this event.

Mark your calendars for July 12, Commander's Picnic. One thing, it's going to be indoors at MarineMax (air conditioned) because 7/12 could be hot and we won't have to worry about weather. It's also going to be catered (no cost to members). More LATER.

Bo Ibach is Commander of America's Boating Club-Charlotte.

Chicken-Q, awards program come off without a scratch

America's Boating Club-Charlotte's Chicken-Q was one of the most well-attended in recent memory as a loyal squadron member received his 50-year pin.

The event was held April 5 at Merit Mark Point and was marked by the sale of 47 tickets. Plus, the Squadron sold 12 to-go plates of barbecue chicken and sides.

Total revenue for the event was \$725. Commander Charles "Bo" Ibach donated the chicken and P/C Hank Bateman JN gave us the beans, respecting the secret, Charlotte Power Squadron recipe for the legume dish. A P/D/C George Rogers AP received his 50-year pin, presented by Commander Ibach.

That means that Gerald Ford was president when Rogers joined the thriving Squadron with a place on Lake Wylie.



Rogers shows off his 50-year pin.



The picnic shelter was packed.

Photos by P/C Hank Bateman JN



Mary Cele Brooks and Marshall Bain seems to be enjoying the festivities.



John Rodgers received a CoOp Charting award during the Chicken-Q.

MARINEMAX**HALL MARINE****LAKE NORMAN**

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

**YAMAHA***Sea Ray***MARINEMAX****HALL MARINE****LAKE WYLIE**

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

**Harris FloteBote**

**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



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