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[View from the Bridge:](#)

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Bo starts his duties as District 27 Commander

By D/C Charles "Bo" Ibach III SN-ACN

Well, as your immediate Past Commander, I've been asked to once more write a View from the Bridge article for Side Lights. So here goes ...

First off, please offer loads of support for our new Commander, Warren François. He will be doing an excellent job, but membership needs to step in and help him whenever possible. And while you're at it, please reflect on how you can also step forward to help lead our great organization. We're in desperate need of new blood in leadership roles. Sadly, this is a symptom of many Squadrons throughout United States Power Squadrons/America's Boating Club. Let's see if Charlotte can buck the trend and get members to lead. The job isn't too demanding—it's actually enjoyable.

As we go forward, I'm working hard to get great participation in our upcoming annual Children's Outing at the Red Fez Club on May 30. I would really like to have member participation either on land or on the water to make this day as memorable for all the children as possible.

But this year, we're also going to partner up with ABC of the Catawba on what has been their Fall Children's Outing, which has been at Camp Thunderbird for a number of years. This year though, their outing is going to be switching to the Red Fez Club on September 12. I plan to let our participants know that they can split their attendance between the two and make sure we're not overloaded with either one. Hopefully this will work.

Catawba will be doing most of the planning for the September outing, but we still need to have boats and on-land help as well.



District Commander Charles “Bo” Ibach is sworn in by P/C/C Ralph Bernard.

Lastly, as most of you hopefully know by now, I have been elected as your new District Commander for 2026-2027. My installation was held March 20 and 21, 2026 in Cary. Now I don't just have one squadron to look after, I've got 12.

With lots of help throughout the year, I know that this task won't be too daunting. But one thing we need to start thinking about is the 2027 District Change of Watch. Charlotte will be the host Squadron again in Cary because it's centrally located. I'm encouraging everyone to attend.

So please keep your calendar open around March 19-20 (alternate date, March 12-13) so we can make my outgoing COW very memorable.

Thanks and let's have a great year.

Bo Ibach is immediate past commander of America's Boating Club-Charlotte.



Here's the new Commander of ABC-Charlotte, Lt/C Warren François.

2026 COW means new leadership for Squadron

By P/C Ken Elkins JN

Much delayed and downscaled, America's Boating Club-Charlotte's Change of Watch happened with new Commander Lt/C Warren François and a new bridge installed in March.

Here are your new officers and new members of the Executive Committee:

Commander François received the oath of office. Both the Executive Officer and Administrative Officer slots are unfilled.

P/C Dan Bartell SN-ACN is the new Educational Officer. The new Secretary is P/C Marvin Chaney SN.

P/Lt/C Mary Chaney JN returns as Treasurer, which adds to the squadron's continuity.

At-Large members of the Squadron ExCom are Lt Tom Frederick, P/C Will Granger P-IN, Lt Shaun Haycock, Lt Pat Mencil S, P/C Jack Moore AP-IN, Lt/C Brevard Myers Jr. SN-ACN, P/C David Stewart AP and P/D/C Paula Stewart AP.

New District 27 Commander Charles "Bo" Ibach III SN-ACN is Immediate Past Squadron Commander. The Nominations, Audit and Rules committees all have new members.

Awards were also presented at the COW.

Ken Elkins, your humble reporter, was presented the Commander's Gold Brick award. Commander Bo included a small plaque that Elkins can keep after he gives up the golden brick.

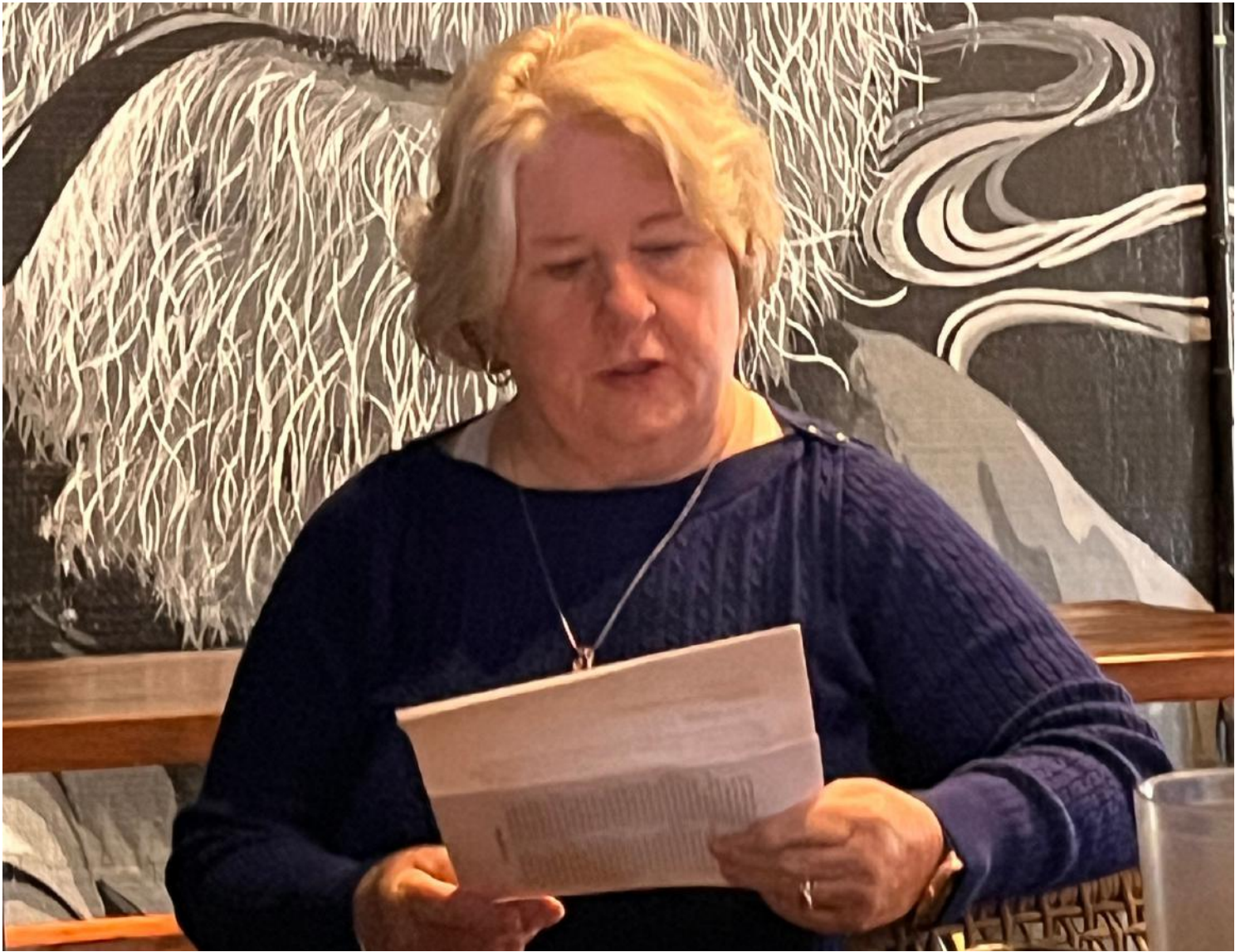
The Challenger Award went to P/R/C John J. Rodgers SN-CN as the person who had the highest standing in cooperative charting in the Squadron.

Top Gun Award went to Commander Bo.

Ken Elkins is editor of Side Lights.



At-Large members of the Squadron ExCom are, left to right, David Stewart, Marvin Chaney, Dan Bartell, Brevard Myers Jr., Tom Frederick, Marvin Chaney, Jack Moore, Will Granger and Paula Stewart.



P/C Mary Cele Brooks AP prepares for an Audit Committee report at the March ABC-Charlotte Change of Watch.

Bo's commandership continues

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By P/C Marvin Chaney SN

We recently held our delayed Change of Watch, where D/C Charles "Bo" Ibach III ACN-IN handed over the position of Commander of America's Boating Club-Charlotte to Warren François. Bo had served as Squadron Commander for the fourth time, joining P/C Jack Moore AP as one of the two members of the club who have done this. Bo was recognized with a plaque that commemorated this service.

Bo didn't wait long to keep the title of Commander, but this time for District 27 of America's Boating Club. On March 21, Bo was installed as the D/27 Commander, taking the reins from P/D/C Connie Shay. In

... on District level

the tradition of the past, this institutes "Bo Time" for the next year. Congratulations, Bo.

Marvin Chaney is secretary of America's Boating Club-Charlotte



Lt George W. Davis AP

1931-2026



ABC-Charlotte mourns the death of Capt. George. A member of ABC-Charlotte for 29 years, he had 21 Merit Marks.

George is survived by his wife of 71 years, Betty Seawell Davis.

A memorial service will be held at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at Steele Creek Presbyterian Church at Pleasant Hill, 15000 York Road, Charlotte. Betty and the family will receive friends at the church beginning at 1:30 p.m. until the time of the service.

MMP dock repairs:



A team of ABC-Charlotte members spent a March Saturday repairing a floating dock at Merit Mark Point and cleaning the property in preparation for the April 11 Chicken-Q. P/C Jack Moore AP organized the repairs and cleaning. Those who worked included Commander Warren François, P/C Marvin Chaney SN, Lt/C Mary Chaney SN, Lt/C Ron Helms, P/C Brevard Myers Jr. ACN-IN, Gerald Privette and Travis Simpson.

2026 BRIDGE OFFICERS

Commander	Lt/C Warren François	commander@charlotteboating.org
Educational Officer	P/C Dan Bartell SN-ACN	education@charlotteboating.org
Executive Officer	Open	
Administrative Officer	Open	
Secretary	P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN	secretary@charlotteboating.org
Treasurer	P/Lt/C Mary D. Chaney SN	treasurer@charlotteboating.org
Immediate Past Commander	D/Lt/C Charles "Bo" Ibach III SN-ACN	

2026 MEMBERS AT-LARGE

P/C William G. Granger P-IN	P/C Jack Moore AP-IN
Lt Tom Frederick	P/C Brevard S. Myers Jr. SN-ACN
Lt Shaun M. Haycock	P/C David Stewart AP
Lt Pat Mencil S	P/D/C Paula Stewart AP

Calendar of Events for April and May 2026

Date	Event	Time	Location/Details
4/5	Easter	All Day	United States
4/7	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
4/11	Chicken-Q and Membership Meeting	1-5 p.m.	Merit Mark Point
4/14	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
4/18	America's Boating Course	8:45 a.m.-5 p.m.	MarineMax Lake Wylie Marina
4/20	ABC-Charlotte Executive Committee Meeting	6-8 p.m.	Jocks & Jills
4/21	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
4/24	Deadline for View from the Bridge May column	5 p.m.	Educational Officer
4/28	Wylie Gator Rowing Club Makeup Day	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
5/5	ABC-Charlotte General Membership meeting	1 - 3 p.m.	AmberJack Seafood & Steaks Restaurant
5/5	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
5/12	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
5/16	America's Boating Course	8:45 a.m.-5 p.m.	MarineMax Lake Wylie Marina
5/18	ABC-Charlotte Executive Committee Meeting	TBA	Jocks & Jills
5/19	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
5/22	Deadline for View from the Bridge June column	5 p.m.	Secretary
5/23	Vessel Safety Checks	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Buster Boyd Landing
5/25	Memorial Day	All Day	United States

5/26	Wylie Gator Rowing Club make-up day	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
5/30	Children's Outing	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Red Fez Shrine Club

Locations:

AmberJack Seafood & Steaks Restaurant – 4253 South New Hope Road, Gastonia

Buster Boyd Landing – Blucher Circle next to Papa Docks Shore Club, 3990 Charlotte Highway, Lake Wylie, S.C.

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

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.

Red Fez Shrine Club – 16600 Red Fez Club Road, Charlotte



April

Pat Hakanson, Bo Ibach and Sean Morris

May

Bruce Banbury, Brian Chambers, Dianne Garrison, Harry Hammonds, Carl Holbrooks, Joann Infante, William Ishee, Brevard Myers, Carol E. Smith, Scott Spivey, Wyatt Weaver and Larry Whitesides.

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

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- Paula and David Stewart
- Anonymous sponsors

Side Lights Staff

Editor	P/C Ken Elkins JN	publications@charlotte boating.org
Assistant Editor	Joann Infante	
Photographers and Writers		All Squadron Members

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