



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



CHARLOTTE



Side Lights

June 2025

Volume 64 Number 5

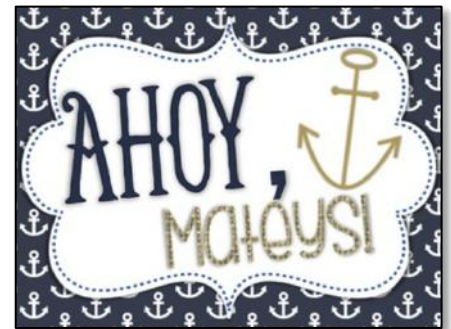
View from the Bridge: Boating with others brings people together

By Lt/C Rose Samonds

Boating is all about relationships!

We love spending time connecting, playing, laughing and exploring together while enjoying one of our favorite activities. Hearing the words "Let's go out on the boat" will get everyone excited for the lasting memories to come.

One of the biggest reasons people enjoy boating is that they can spend time soaking up the sun on a warm sunny day while cruising around a lake in a boat. Isn't that one of the best feelings ... breathing in the fresh air while there's a slight breeze. There just isn't anything that can compare.



Whether we are on Lake Wylie ...



or rowing on Samonds pond, it's always enjoyable.

Until next time,



Rose Samonds is secretary 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



2025 BRIDGE OFFICERS

Commander
Educational Officer
Executive Officer
Administrative Officer
Secretary
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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

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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
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P/C Jack Moore JN-IN

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"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.

Another USPS veteran celebrates 50 years, Merit Marks

By P/C Ken Elkins JN

Raised in Upstate New York, P/C Ken Mart AP was a reluctant boater. He enjoyed being on the water with his father, but he demanded Ken join the local Power Squadron before he could take out the family boat.

Ken signed up for the Rochester Power Squadron in 1974 and served as newsletter editor before moving up to become Commander in 2000-2001. He was also active in USPS District 6.

Ken bought a boat, a 20-foot Penn Yan stern drive, but few of his friends were interested in a day on the lake. After selling it, he stayed with the Rochester Power Squadron through two marriages and a 2010 retirement from his nursing career.

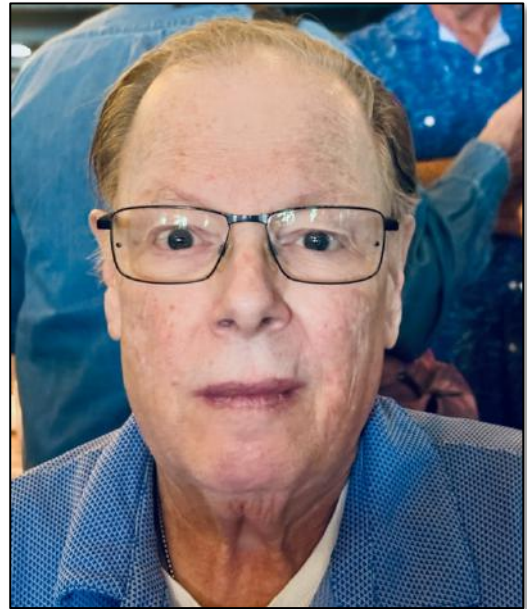
In 2024, Ken moved south to be near his stepson, daughter-in-law and grandchildren in Cornelius. He transferred his membership to America's Boating Club-Charlotte last year and is a frequent participant in our events.

Ken is an emeritus USPS member who doesn't have to pay national dues. He received that designation after being awarded 50 Merit Marks during his 50 years with USPS. He's also not the only recent 50-year recipient in our Squadron.

At this year's Chicken-Q, P/D/C George Rogers received his 50-year USPS pin, presented by Commander Bo Ibach SN ACN. Ken is eligible for the same ceremony. But where's his pin? He's called National and was told to contact the Rochester Power Squadron Commander. So far, its commander hasn't responded.

Despite the delay, Ken plans to become more active in the Squadron and will contact members of the Bridge to see how he can contribute to ABC-Charlotte. Welcome Ken!

Ken Elkins is editor of Side Lights.



Ken Mart



Happy Birthdays!

June

Valerie Cahill, Guynn Francis, Stacy Haycock,
Michael Ibach, Rose Samonds

Calendar of Events for June and July 2025

June 2025

No General Membership Meeting in June

| Day | Event | Time | Location/Details |
|-------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 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 |
| 14 | MarineMax Lake Wylie Poker Run | 10 a.m.-1 p.m. | One stop at MMP |
| 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 |
| 22 | Make up day for rowing | 10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Pat Hakanson's home |
| 28 | Vessel Safety Check | 10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Buster Boyd Ramp |

July 2025

No General Membership Meeting in July

| Day | Event | Time | Location/Details |
|-----|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Rock-On Rowing (women's rowing) | 10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Pat Hakanson's home |
| 8 | Rock-On Rowing (women's rowing) | 10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Pat Hakanson's home |
| 12 | Commander's Picnic | 12 p.m.-2:30 p.m. | MarineMax Lake Wylie Marina |
| 15 | Wylie Gator Rowing (men and women) | 10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Pat Hakanson's home |
| 21 | ABC-CLT ExCom Meeting | 6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting | Jocks & Jills |
| 22 | Make up day for rowing | 10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Pat Hakanson's home |

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

Please tell us if you're camera shy

By Marvin Chaney Jr.

We like to post photos of our events to promote the squadron and give us exposure to the activities we perform, such as photos of boating classes, Children's Outings, monthly meetings, rendezvous, picnics, etc. should be shared with other members via photos from those events. These photos almost always contain images of our members.

Unless we hear otherwise from you, we will continue to post these photos without reaching out to our almost 100 members first.

If you don't want your photo shared in these media and other promotional items, please email our publications, social media and webmaster chairmen at publications@charlotteboating.org (also covers social media) or webmaster@charlotteboating.org.

Marvin Chaney is America's Boating Club-Charlotte webmaster.

Summer marks picnic, poker run for ABC-Charlotte

By Commander Charles “Bo” Ibach III SN-ACN

Just a few things to note! June 14, there will be a MarineMax Poker Run on Lake Wylie running from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (that's 1000 to 1300). We are invited to participate. Plus Merit Mark Point is a stop on the poker run. I'll send out a blast with more information when I receive it.

On July 12, my Commander's Picnic that is going to be held at MarineMax showroom instead of Merit Mark Point. This way, temperature and weather and accessibility will not be an issue.

It's going to be a catered barbecue lunch with baked beans, slaw and potato salad, tea and water. You can bring your own beer or wine. It's FREE! Shortly I will send out an RSVP so please respond so we know how much to plan for.

On August 25, our next monthly meeting will be at Jocks and Jills with the Chaney's presenting a talk on their trip to New Zealand. Time for this will be evening dinner at 6 and program at 7. I will be handing out officer information as I've been doing instead of individual report.

On September 18-21, we have our Coastal Rendezvous in Southport! Please go ahead and make reservations at the Hampton Inn or accommodation of your choice, but Hampton Inn is our base of operations.

Would really like to see a great turnout this year! Friday night will be Low Country boil prepared by the one and only chef extraordinary, P/C Brevard Myers SN-ACN.

We will ask for some sides and desserts be brought by members. Also bring your own beer/wine or whatever. But please go ahead and reserve your room.

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

2025 Children's Outing is a great success

By P/C Ken Elkins JN

With more than 300 participants, the 2025 Children's Outing was a memorable event. We had all the boats we needed to provide rides. There was lots of entertainment and members of co-sponsor America's Boating Club of the Catawba showed up in force. The kids and adults also seemed to enjoy the event.

Commander Charles “Bo” Ibach III will update us on all the happenings of the Children's Outing in the July-August *Side Lights*. Stay tuned for that story.

Ken Elkins is editor of Side Lights.



New ABC-Charlotte member Sean Morris gives rides to participants in the 2025 Children's Outing.

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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