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Sail race stirs continued interest in boating

By Mary Chaney

Since America's Boating Club-Charlotte has new members who may not have heard this story before, I decided I would reprise a 10-year-old bridge message recalling a personal boating anecdote from many, many years ago. So, I hope you will indulge my taking a shortcut, as I present the following, slightly updated story.

Even though this past week we have had a bit of a reprieve from bitter cold weather, we are still in the middle of winter and fresh off our two back-to-back winter storms. North Carolina's own official prognosticating groundhog, Sir Walter Wally, sadly retired in 2023. But his counterpart up north, Punxsutawney Phil, saw his shadow and predicted six more weeks of winter. Either way you look at it from Groundhog's Day, by prediction or by calendar, we have six more weeks of winter.



Mary Chaney

The recent bitterly cold winter weather reminded me of New Year's Day 1990 when Marvin and I were still fairly new boat owners. We had purchased our Beneteau First 235 sailboat two years earlier in September 1987, Hull #36 out of the Beneteau factory in Marion, S.C. We were proud to be the owners of our first new boat. (We still own the same boat to this day.)

In late 1989, someone had talked us into registering for the Ice Bucket Regatta on Lake Norman, hosted by the Lake Norman Yacht Club. While I had grown up in the United States Power Squadrons and my father had been Commander of the Fayetteville Power Squadron (as it was called then) and the Commodore of the Waccamaw Sailing Club, which has hosted sailboat races for years, I had never actually raced sailboats. Although Marvin has since participated in sailboat races, he had not raced sailboats either up to that time. We thought it might be fun, so we registered our boat for the race.

There were quite a few boats that had registered and they varied in size, so the boats were broken out into classes to afford everyone a chance to compete fairly against other like-sized sailboats. We were placed in a class of boats ranging from roughly 20 feet to 25 feet. My younger brother had come to Charlotte to help us race the boat, as he had previously participated in races at the Waccamaw Sailing Club when he was younger. He was the voice of racing experience on our boat, and he was able to give us some pointers.

It's been 36 years since that race, so I have neither the memory nor the space in this message for all of the details. But suffice it to say, two things became abundantly clear: The Ice Bucket Regatta was appropriately named, as it was freezing that day and we were a little bit out of our league. Even with my brother's help, we realized we were competing against some very serious racers. Newbies that we were to racing, though, we had a blast and managed to take third place in our class.

Our membership in USPS and ABC-Charlotte reminds us of what a wonderful activity boating is, and we're proud to count as friends all of our fellow members who share in the joy of boating. We don't race our boat anymore, and we mostly just putter around making repairs or cleaning the boat these days. Springtime is coming soon, so whether on your own boat, or that of a friend, enjoy your time on the water this year.

Oh, and one final note, we took third place in that long ago New Year's Day race — in a class of three.

P/Lt/C Mary D. Chaney SN is ABC-Charlotte Treasurer.

Our new Life Members from America's Boating Club-Charlotte



P/D/C Paula Stewart AP



P/C Will Granger P-IN



P/C Don Osmond SN



P/C Doug Drum AP

National meeting marked by work, emotions, controversy

By Ken Elkins

Wow, was I glad that I not only attended the America's Boating Club national meeting in Myrtle Beach but stayed for the final day.

All told, we had nine members from ABC-Charlotte and four members from ABC of the Catawba attend the event held February 9-15.

Those Charlotte members attending the national meeting included P/C Dan Bartell SN-ACN, P/Lt/C Barbara Bartell S, incoming Commander Warren François, D/Lt/C Charles “Bo” Ibach SN-ACN and Donna Ibach, P/C Brevard Myers SN-ACN, P/C John Rodgers SN-CN, Pat Rodgers AP and me.

We saw four of ABC-Charlotte’s finest named Life Members, which is awarded for earning 25 merit marks. They are P/C Doug Drum AP, P/C Will Granger P, P/C Don Osmond SN and P/D/C Paula Stewart AP. Their photos, names and the Squadron burgee were shown on the large screen during an awards ceremony.

During the week, we attended meetings and ceremonies that reflected our interests. I met two leaders of the National Publications Committee who I had been working with for the past three years. They are R/C Anna Morris SN of the Tampa, Fla., squadron and P/R/C Priscilla Clarke AP of the Swiftwater Squadron in upstate New York. I’m used to seeing them on video calls so it was delightful to meet them in person.

On Saturday, we heard a heartbreaking speech from D/Lt David Allen SN-IN, a Columbia, S.C.-area attorney and member of ABC of Lake Murray, who was passed over for National Executive Officer. Allen, who is leader of the squadron that has more than 200 members, was gracious, but it was apparent that he was disappointed by the Nominating Committee’s decision. He received a standing ovation at the end of his speech.

Also on Saturday, the squadrons voted not to elect Stf/C Cathie Johnstone P of the Syracuse, N.Y., squadron as National Executive Officer. All other members of the national bridge were elected including new Chief Commander V/C Michael Wiedel SN-IN of the Milwaukee squadron.

During the week, we received an email noting that Ms. Johnstone lives in Canada, has only two merit marks and has never held a national ABC seat other than aide to the Chief Commander last year. Nonetheless, Charlotte’s Ibach met her during the national meeting and was impressed. Based on his opinion, I voted on behalf of the squadron to elect her but was in the minority.

Now it’s up to the national bridge to appoint a National Executive Officer. I’m wondering it will be Mr. Allen after all. We’ll see.

P/C Ken Elkins JN is editor of Side Lights.



The Charlotte-area squadrons: Left to right, Barbara Bartell, Pat Rodgers, Dan Bartell, Catawba's Mary Williams and Bart Kinzel, Ken Elkins, Donna Ibach, Bo Ibach, Catawba's Ray Williams and Kevin Toevs, JJ Rodgers, Brevard Myers and new ABC-Charlotte Commander Warren François.



New Senior Navigators – D/27



Squadron	SN	Squadron	SN
Cape Fear	Wes J. Henry, Jr.	Pamlico	Nannette W. Kean
Cape Fear	Hamilton E. Hicks, Jr.	Raleigh	Kevin L. Lyon
Cape Fear	Megan F. Morrison	Raleigh	Greg D. Shay
Cape Lookout	John C Kwak	Southport	L. Douglas Jones
Cape Lookout	Lloyd A. Moore	Tar River	H. Clay Helm
Charlotte	Mary Dupere Chaney	Winston Salem	Alexander Cooper
Charlotte	Samuel S. Sanford	Winston Salem	Bobby R. Truett
Durham	Ronald B. Mosley		
Fayetteville	Henry C. Parker, Jr.		
Fort Macon	Thomas D. Myers		



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Can you pick out the important name to America's Boating Club-Charlotte? At the national meeting, our own Mary Chaney was awarded a senior navigator rank. Congratulations, Mary.

DCA returns to Side Lights

It's back after a year's absence.

The Distinctive Communicator Award has returned to America's Boating Club-Charlotte's newsletter. We missed out on the award in 2024.

ABC-Charlotte's website continues to be recognized under the management and design of P/C Marvin Chaney SN, who earned another DCA, his third in three years.



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 March and April 2026

Date	Event	Time	Location/Details
3/2	ABC-Charlotte Change of Watch/General Membership meeting	1 p.m.-3 p.m.	Papa Docs
3/3	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
3/10	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
3/16	ABC-Charlotte Executive Committee Meeting	5-7 p.m.	Jocks & Jills
3/17	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
3/24	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
3/20	Deadline for View from the Bridge March column	5 p.m.	Past Commander
3/20-21	D/27 Conference	Various Times	Hilton Garden Inn, Cary, N.C.
3/28	Merit Mark Point cleanup for Chicken-Q	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Merit Mark Point
3/31	Wylie Gator Rowing Club Makeup Day	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
4/7	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
4/11	Chicken-Q and Membership Meeting	2-5 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	5-7 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 March column	5 p.m.	Educational Officer

Locations:**Pat Hakanson's house** – 6812 Old Ridge Road, Waxhaw**Hilton Garden Inn** – 131 Columbus Avenue, Cary**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.**Papa Docs Shore Club** – 3990 Charlotte Highway, Lake Wylie, S.C.**March****Rosanne C. Bateman, Charles V. Brooks Jr., Alex Conetta, Thomas R. Frederick, Donna W. Ibach, Debra S. Osmond, Kristen Osmond, Tracy A. Tooley and Thomas G. Wirth****April****Patricia W. Hakanson, Charles Roland Ibach III and Sean Morris****Commander's Annual Report: Bo Ibach**

I want to again thank everyone for once more allowing me to lead this great organization. I think in all, we've had a very successful year. With that said:

- I attended our COW in 2025.
- I helped with the Mid-Atlantic Boat Show.
- I attended the D-27 COW and served as D-27 Executive Officer.
- I taught ABC classes in April, May and July.
- I provided and cooked approximately 80 lbs. of chicken at our Chicken-Q.
- I planned, procured funding for and led our annual Children's Outing on May 31.
- I also secured over \$2,000 in donations for the Children's Outing.
- I planned and provided \$350 for barbecue to hold our Commander's Picnic in July at MarineMax.
- I attended Raleigh's Commander's Picnic at Jordan Lake on August 2, 2025.
- I helped Catawba with their Fall Children's Outing at Camp Thunderbird, providing boat rides.
- I donated and cooked eight pork butts for our Fall Barbecue.

- I led our Coastal Rendezvous in Southport. We had a great time.
- I provided ham and turkey from Honey Baked Ham as well as sweet potatoes for our Christmas Party. Thanks to everyone who also brought sides and Marvin's dessert.
- I attended and led all Squadron monthly meetings, which for the most part transitioned to luncheons and social time.
- I also led all Squadron ExCom meetings.
- I performed VSC's through the year.

Wow, I didn't realize everything that I accomplished, but it was a rewarding year. I did watch us grow as a Squadron with new members. Let's hope that we can continue that in the coming year. I'm going to hopefully encourage all Squadrons in D-27 to do the same.

Thanks again for allowing me to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

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

2025 ABC-Charlotte Commander

Education Officer's Annual Report: Brevard Myers Jr.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Squadron Educational Officer of America's Boating Club-Charlotte for this past year.

This year the Education Department:

- Scheduled and conducted three America's Boating Course classes. All classes were conducted at MarineMax Hall Marine Lake Wylie.
- A total of 45 students successfully completed our ABC courses (about the same as last year). Students who successfully complete the course by South Carolina protocol have their names entered into the S.C. Department of Natural Resources database and receive a Boating Education Card.

As SEO I performed the following duties:

- Attended and gave reports at most Squadron Membership meetings and monthly Executive Committee meetings
- Processed orders for educational materials for the planned ABC classes
- Performed clerical duties and taught at our ABC classes
- Authored two bridge messages for Side Lights
- Authored article for Side Lights about what is needed to boat safely

In addition to performing my duties as SEO, I participated in or plan to participate in the following events:

- America's Boating Club-Charlotte 2025 Annual Meeting/Change of Watch
- America's Boating Club-District 27 Annual Meeting in Cary, N.C.
- Summer, lunch and get-togethers at Merit Mark Point
- BBQs at Merit Mark Point

- Helped with clean-up and repairs at Merit Mark Point
- Helped organize and plan the Cooperative Charting event at Southport, N.C. Boating events such as this one provide on-the water educational opportunities that are fun.
- Prepared a Low Country Boil during our Co-op Charting/Rendezvous at Southport/Oak Island
- Plan to attend America's Boating Club-Charlotte 2026 Change of Watch on March 2

I would like to thank the following individuals for serving in various capacities for the Education Department:

- Cdr. Charles R. "Bo" Ibach III SN-ACN — Chief Instructor and Co-Chairman of ABC Course
- P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN — Technical preparations, planning, supplies and food for the ABC class
- P/C Jack Moore Jr. AP-IN — For ABC class support both at boat shows and in class sessions and for contacting interested students
- P/C Ken Elkins JN for his persistence with communicating with our students at our ABC classes
- Others not mentioned specifically who have invested their time and efforts towards the squadron's educational objectives

I thank my fellow members for the opportunity, and for the honor, of serving as the Squadron Educational Officer for America's Boating Club-Charlotte.

Respectfully submitted,

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

2025 ABC-Charlotte Educational Officer

Treasurer's annual report: Mary Chaney

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Treasurer of America's Boating Club-Charlotte for this past year. In my capacity as Treasurer, I have performed the following duties:

- Attended all membership meetings except March 2025 and all Executive Committee meetings except March and November 2025
- Processed all dues collections for both new and recurring members
- Collected and deposited all monies received by the organization
- Paid all standard/recurring debts of the organization as well as other debts as presented and approved by the Executive Committee
- Maintained the financial records of the organization
- Reconciled all monthly bank statements
- Submitted the Sales and Use Tax Reports to the N.C. Department of Revenue
- Presented financial reports when requested by Cdr. Bo Ibach SN-ACN at each meeting attended
- Prepared appropriate IRS forms as required

In addition to performing my duties as Treasurer, since last year's annual meeting I participated in or will participate in by the end of the organization year, the following events:

- America's Boating Club-Charlotte 2025 Change of Watch on January 25, 2025
- Mid-Atlantic Boat Show February 2025 — Helped set up and tear down and worked in the CPS booth

- America's Boating Club-Charlotte Spring Chicken-Q on April 5, 2025
- District 27 Rendezvous — New Bern, N.C., June 13-15, 2025
- Commander's Luncheon — MarineMax, July 12, 2025
- District 27 Virtual Fall Conference October 11, 2025
- America's Boating Club-Charlotte Fall Barbecue on October 25, 2025
- America's Boating Club-Charlotte Holiday Party on December 13, 2025
- America's Boating Club-Charlotte 2026 Change of Watch on March 2, 2026

I would like to thank the following individuals for dutifully serving as Co-Supply Officers under the Treasurer's Department:

- P/D/C Paula F. Stewart AP
- P/C David M. Stewart AP

I thank my fellow members again for the opportunity and for the honor of serving as ABC-Charlotte Treasurer this year and continuing for another year in 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

P/Lt/C Mary D. Chaney SN

ABC-Charlotte Treasurer

Secretary's Annual Report: Rose Samonds

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Squadron Secretary of America's Boating Club-Charlotte for this past year.

As Secretary, I performed the following duties:

- Attended and took notes at nine of the 11 ExCom meetings. Thank you, Paula Stewart, for covering the meetings that I was unable to attend.
- Digitally archived notes for the 11 ExCom Meetings.
- Attended three of the seven Membership Meetings.

In addition to performing my duties as Secretary, I attended/participated in the following events:

- Participated in the Mid-Atlantic Boat Show on February 8, 2025.
- Attended the Chicken-Q on April 5, 2025.
- Participated in the Children's Outing on May 31, 2025.
- Wrote an article for the June issue of Side Lights.

I would also like to thank the following individuals for serving in various capacities for the Secretary's Department:

- P/C Ken Elkins JN as editor of our Side Lights newsletter, your dedication as well as the incredible amount of time that you put into these publications is greatly appreciated. It was great seeing your

most recent endeavor come to life in the new format for the January/February issue of Side Lights. I also wish to thank you for everything you have done for our Social Media efforts, including administration of a program that allows our Facebook page to now have more regular postings.

- P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN, our Webmaster and Google Workspace Administrator. Thanks, Marvin, for the extensive hours you have spent updating and maintaining our website. And to your wife, Mary, (who is also our Treasurer) for assisting you whenever any testing was needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lt/C Rose Samonds

America's Boating Club-Charlotte 2025 Squadron Secretary

Administrative Officer's Report: Warren François

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your Administrative Officer in 2025.

2025 Membership Growth Award

ABC-Charlotte was presented with a certificate recognizing membership growth at the 2026 National Conference. ABC-CLT came in first place for growth in Tier 3 (more than 100 members).

P/C David M. Stewart AP and P/D/C Paula F. Stewart AP assisted with Membership and Fundraising:

- Members on December 31, 2025: 101
- Fundraising in 2025 totaled \$720

I completed the Operations Training module designed by D/Lt/C Elizabeth J. Dysart from Diablo Sailing and Power Squadron and delivered by P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN and P/D/C Paula F. Stewart AP.

I attended squadron meetings, except for one ExCom meeting in October when I was in Florida. I assisted with the Children's Outing in May. I attended the Chicken-Q and Fall BBQ and the Christmas Party in December. I assisted with repairing the dock and with Merit Mark Point cleanups.

I attended the District 27 meeting in March and went to Southport, N.C., for the Co-Op Charting and Rendezvous trip in September.

Warren Francois

America's Boating Club-Charlotte 2025 Administrative Officer

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

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- 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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Assistant Editor	Joann Infante	
Photographers and Writers		All Squadron Members

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