



# Side Lights



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

October 2024

Volume 63 Number 8

## View from the Bridge:

### USPS really is a family organization

By P/Lt/C Mary D. Chaney JN

I am bringing back a bridge message I wrote almost 30 years ago (slightly revised), revisiting my experience with USPS® in years past and remembering that the organization I grew up knowing still has relevance today.

#### USPS® (now America's Boating Club) – A Family Organization

When I was growing up, my father and mother were very involved in the Fayetteville Power Squadron, and they remained so for many, many years. As a child, I can remember being involved in numerous activities with the squadron — boating outings, cookouts, etc. As a teenager, I helped my father administratively when he was Commander of the Fayetteville Squadron and when he served at the district level. I even helped him when he was taking his sights for Junior Navigation.

We always seemed to have a boat — whether one for fishing, waterskiing or sailing. Learning at an early age how to behave in and around boats certainly gave me a good foundation for my involvement today. I may not have been a member when growing up, but I benefited from my parents' involvement.

When I went off to college and was not around boats as often, I developed other interests that occupied my time. However, when Marvin and I married, and he was exposed to sailing. He was hooked! We bought our boat in 1987 and took the USPS® Public Boating course in 1989. He joined the squadron shortly after finishing the course. From 1990-1992, I was in graduate school, but I reacquainted myself with USPS® by joining again in early 1993.

Marvin and I have both completed many educational courses offered by USPS®. We have developed some wonderful friendships, taken many exciting trips, participated in civic activities, and over the years, I was reacquainted with other squadron members I knew from my childhood in Fayetteville.

My point in giving you our personal biographies with USPS® is that USPS® is, and rightfully should be, a family organization. While a prospective member must be 16 years old to join as an active member, a junior family membership is also available. Children are always welcome at any squadron function, and if they are a member, they can take any course offered — advanced grade, elective or seminars.



P/Lt/C Mary D. Chaney JN

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What better time to begin teaching someone about boating safety than when they are young and impressionable? Members: Bring your children and grandchildren to squadron outings. If they are old enough to be a member, encourage them to join and take classes. Better yet, take a class with them. Properly educated, our children today are the safe boaters of tomorrow.

*Mary D. Chaney is treasurer of America's Boating Club-Charlotte.*

## **T.K. Moore Fall Barbecue set for October 26 at MMP**

**By P/R/C John J. Rodgers SN-CN**

Well by golly, don't you know, it's Q time again. Fall is here, it's getting cooler and we are in for some great Carolina weather and some great barbecue.

This annual barbecue has been dedicated to our good friend and Past Commander T.K. Moore. T.K. was the driving force behind our acquisition of Merit Mark Point and was our Barbecue Master for many years. T.K. along with our Squire McGinn organized our first barbecue in 1979 so this is actually our 45th year.

The location will be Merit Mark Point, our facility on Lake Wylie. The menu will consist of pork barbecue, beans, slaw and all the fixings. Our regular cooking crew will be there, and we would like to invite any other members, new or experienced to give us a hand. Chopping will start about 1400. Come on out and enjoy the wonderful fall weather at the lake.

Please bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre or dessert and any adult beverages to the attitude adjustment period which will start at 1600. (That's 4 p.m. for those of you who haven't taken Piloting.) We will serve the meal at about 1700 (5 p.m.).

The price is only \$10 per person. We will be selling tickets at the October General Membership meeting so bring your checkbook or some cash. If you can't make the meeting, drop me an e-mail so we will know that you are coming and will be able to save some 'que for you.

See you there.

PS: As usual, we will have a clean-up party on the Saturday preceding the barbecue (October 19th) from 1000 to 1400. Come and lend a hand if you can.

*John J. Rodgers is the Senior Apprentice Pig Cooker.*



## A Brief History of the flags we fly

By P/R/C John J Rodgers SN-CN

So, what are all these flags that we fly on our boats? Well, there are three main categories, Ensigns, club flags and private signals.

Ensigns identify our country and are always flown at the stern from 8 a.m. to sunset. Never, never, never fly an Ensign from the bow, or fly one that is too small. It should measure one inch of length (the fly) for every foot of boat length.

You have several choices when picking out an Ensign. First is Old Glory, the current US flag. In fact, it is the only choice if you are going to enter foreign waters.

If you are staying home, you might like the salty look of the Yacht Ensign. It was originally authorized to be flown only by documented vessels, but that restriction no longer applies and it can be flown on any vessel.



*Yacht Ensign*



*USPS Ensign*

Finally, you can use the USPS Ensign. Our flag was developed in the early years of our organization and was primarily intended to show commercial craft the vessel was being operated by a competent seaman. Accordingly, it should only be flown on a vessel that is being operated by a USPS member. (Hint: If you sell your boat, don't include a USPS Ensign unless the buyer is also a member.)



*Original Charlotte Power Squadron burgee*

Club flags include our squadron burgee. Our squadron is unique in that we have had two burgees. The original featured a golden hornet nest on a blue field recalling General Cornwallis' comment during the revolutionary war that Charlotte was a "Hornet's Nest of Rebellion." Unfortunately, what looks good on paper doesn't always look good in real life. To many, the flag looked like a lemon on a stem.



*Current America's Boating Club-Charlotte burgee*

Accordingly, the squadron petitioned the Flag and Etiquette Committee to approve a new design based in The Queen City crown and it was approved in 1969. The gold border indicates that we have celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary is indicated by a platinum band. The burgee should be flown from a bow staff and should be sized at 5/8 inch of fly per foot of length.

Officer flags (Commander, Lt. Commander, etc.) are considered private signals. As such, they are flown from the masthead or the starboard spreader if you have one, otherwise they may be flown from an antenna on the starboard side. If you elect to display Old Glory or Yacht Ensign from the stern, the USPS Ensign may be flown from the starboard spreader or antenna in place of an officer's flag.

Finally, we have a flag that is not usually flown on the water and that is the District 27 flag. It features a representation of the Cape Lookout lighthouse. In the 1970's, NOAA recognized the efforts of D27 members in the NOS/USPS Cooperative Charting program by naming a spit of land near the lighthouse Power Squadron Spit. (We petitioned for "Power Squadron Point", but it didn't quite measure up.) It features the lighthouse in a white triangle on a dark blue field with the number 27 vertically in Roman numerals along the hoist. It also has a gold border to indicate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



*USPS District 27 flag*

Why Roman numerals? They read the same from either side of the flag.

For more information on USPS flags, refer to the Heritage and Documents Committee section of the Secretary's Department of the USPS website or the USPS University publication How to Fly Flags available from headquarters.

*Among many other things, P/R/C John J Rodgers SN-CN is a past commander of ABC-Charlotte.*

## 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

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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 October & November 2024

**Note:** The planned September 19-22 ABC-CLT Rendezvous and Co-Op Charting Event was canceled.

### October 2024

Day	Event	Time	Location/Details
5	Catawba Riversweep	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Buster Boyd Landing
7	ABC-CLT General Membership Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
15	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
18	<i>Side Lights</i> November article due	View from the Bridge	Administrative Officer
19	Barbecue clean-up	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Merit Mark Point
21	ABC-CLT ExCom Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
26	ABC-CLT Fall Barbecue	4 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Jocks & Jills

### November 2024

Day	Event	Time	Location/Details
4	ABC-CLT General Membership Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
18	ABC-CLT ExCom Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
19	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
22	<i>Side Lights</i> December article due	View from the Bridge	Educational Officer

**Buster Boyd Landing** – 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



## Happy October birthdays!

Warren Francois, James Cahill,  
 Kathryn Granger, Evelyn Johnson,  
 Richard Reighart, Carol Smith, David  
 Stewart



## How to: Aids to Navigation Surveys

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

One of the fun activities in Cooperative Charting is getting out on the water (We are a boating club after all.) to inspect aids to navigation on the waterways. This is part of the Co-op Nautical Program, which includes bridges.

When you conduct an Aids to Navigation (ATON) survey, you will receive 15 credits for each verification, which states that the aid is in its correct position and has no issues, and 25 credits if you find a discrepancy. A discrepancy could include that the aid is out of position or needs attention.

Here is the process of conducting an ATON survey:

To do a verification for individual credit, you will need to get reasonably close to the aid whether it is a day beacon or a floating aid. Remember though that most day beacons are not in deep water so be careful. If you determine that there is nothing wrong, take a time/date/GPS photo of the aid (Use an app like Solocator.) and then move on to the next one.

If you find there are issues, such as missing boards or numbers or the aid is missing all together, you then need to also report the discrepancy to the U.S. Coast Guard. You can do this via VHF radio, by phone, by email or on the USCG website. Make sure that you ask for and get a receipt from them showing that you were in contact. This will be attached to the report that you submit to the Cooperative Charting Committee. You also need to take a time/date/GPS photo of the defective aid or, if it is missing, of the area where it is supposed to be.

Do check the Local Notice to Mariners lists to see if what you have found has already been reported.

Once you have collected your information, go to America's Boating Club Co-op website under the Executive Department where you will find the necessary form to report your verifications or discrepancies plus a link to the NOAA site to report any discrepancies to them.

Make sure that you access the Light List to identify the number for each aid that you are reporting on. There is an app that you can use on Apple products called AV Assistant that is of great help in finding the information.

Once submitted, your report will be reviewed by a Co-op Charting Committee member and credits awarded. You should get an email acknowledging that your report has been reviewed.

The committee is also in the process of developing a program for reporting navigation issues like shoaling or other chart discrepancies to NOAA. This is only for reporting discrepancies in the charts, not general items or ATONs. More on that later.

Have fun and get out on the water as often as you can. If you have questions, please reach out to one of the committee members. We are always glad to help.

*Bo Ibach is Administrative Officer of D/27 USPS and a Member at Large of America's Boating Club-Charlotte.*



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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