



View from the Bridge: Updates to nautical charts, new apps make boating safer

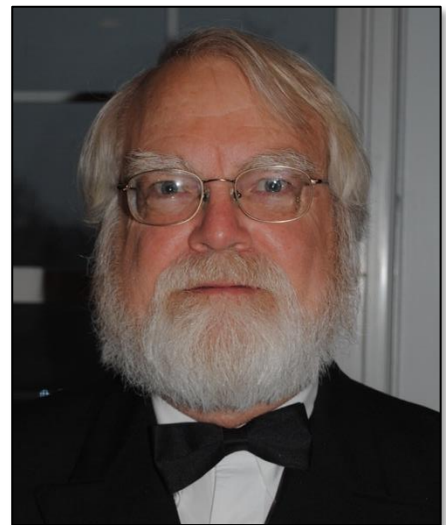
By Lt/C Brevard S. Myers Jr. SN-ACN

My vessel navigation equipment when I first joined the squadron was a paper chart, a compass and a watch. Later I used a LORAN that my dad acquired but found to be unreliable. The alternators or engine spark system were possibly affecting the LORAN's electronics.

I acquired my first GPS in the 1990s. It was handheld but worked great considering my earlier options. That first GPS had a small screen and no chart or even markers in the background to reference. Only waypoints.

We have come a long way and things are still continuing to change. Educational courses change and are updated to deal with the new technology. In the 30-plus years since I joined United States Power Squadrons, who would have thought that the navigation courses would evolve so much with today's electronics?

Let me summarize some points about the April membership program I presented and make a comment about using up-to-dated charts on the water. For a long while, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has not been printing paper charts. They have, however, been producing up-to-date PDF images of paper charts that can be printed. These were referred to as "paper charts." Now NOAA will no longer be producing the digital format of the paper charts by January 2025.



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

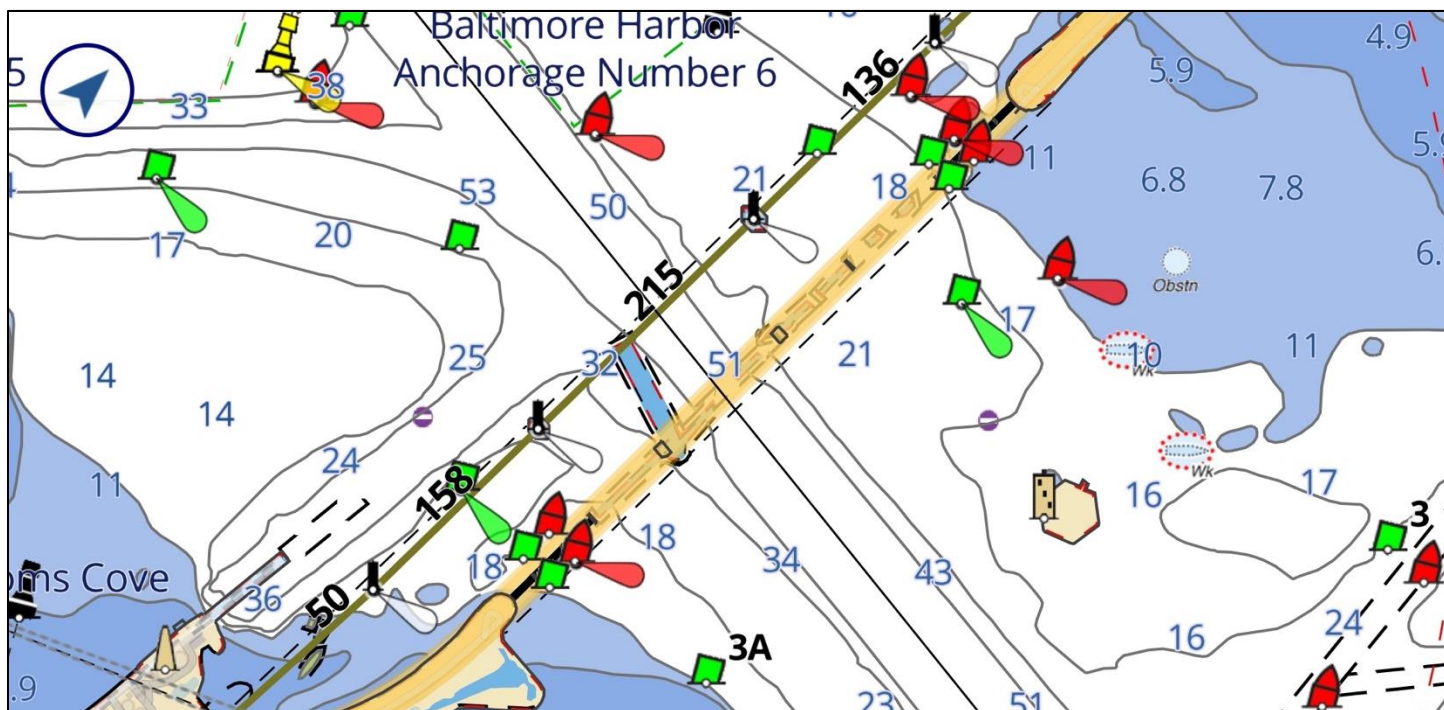
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Paper charts of our Carolina coastal waterways were retired in August of 2023. (No more paper charts. Chart numbers as we knew them are gone.) As a substitute, NOAA has on their website a custom charts program that creates high resolution PDF files of chart images from their electronic navigation chart files. These chart files are known as Electronic Navigation Charts or just ENCs. The PDF images can be used to print a "paper chart." These ENC files can be read by certain chartplotter programs.

NOAA's goal is to keep chart data up to date every week or sooner. Your standard vessel chart plotter by Garmin, Simrad, Lowrance, Raymarine and others

may have their own charts (They get their base chart data from NOAA.) which are updated only once each year. NOAA offers free, up-to-date electronic charts which may have important data changes which we need now and not next year.

As an example, the container ship Dali hit the Francis Scott Key Bridge on March 26. NOAA's ENC charts were updated shortly afterward on April 2 showing the Dali, two temporary channels and a restricted area added to previous chart data. About a week later Aqua Map (Aquamap.app) also had updates to its chart. How long will it take other chart plotter manufacturers to update chart information for their devices?



These updated NOAA ENC charts can be used on personal computers, programs, and apps for tablets or even phones long before the primary chartplotters used on recreational vessels will have their updated chart packages released.

With NOAA changing chart formats, we lose the paper chart. Using ENCs with charting display programs, we may gain the ability to have other information available at our fingertips. Charting programs using these charts may have the capability to show specialized custom mapping data, tides (current speed, time, and height), weather, water depth, vessel traffic, and other data.

OpenCPN is a free PC program which uses electronic nautical charts and has many optional features. An app is also available for a fee. The Power Squadron currently navigates courses taught referencing this OpenCPN program. A PowerPoint tutorial for OpenCPN is available on the following USPS web page:

https://www.usps.org/images/eddept/b_files/OpenCPN_Basics2-3.pptx

It is important to have timely and useful chart information. It's economically available, so consider using current ENC charts on your vessel for safety.

Our squadron, like many others, had very active educational programs. Reports now indicate that we have not had anyone achieve the grade of Junior Navigator or Navigator in our District 27 in well over a year. We also had members as a group that were generally younger than we have now. It seems in the past there were more boating activities also since there were more members with boats.

I read a power squadron article within the last year stating that members are mostly not here for boating or safety education anymore. The main draw is for social activities. That being said, it is evident that more change is occurring. Our roots are in boating, specifically safer boating through education.

One of best ways to educate is through experiences -- social experiences that we enjoy. Rowing (boating as a team), fishing trips (enjoying our coastal waters, local history, friends and food, learning experiences), Co-op Charting trips with rendezvous at the coast (great way to learn from those familiar with coastal navigation), monthly meeting programs, Children's Outing (help children experience and learn a little bit about boating while fishing, playing and having fun), Predicted Log navigation contest (basic on-the-water navigation contest) with social -- food and drink -- plus kayak and canoe opportunities that are just around the corner are social/educational programs we facilitate through our squadron.

We just had the largest ABC boating class in several years. (That is a good change.) The 26 adults and children attending all passed with a high grade average. I don't know if instructor Charles Ibach scared them with a flare gun or whether something else got their attention. I hope we have some of those attending who may want to improve their boating knowledge and join our merry social group.

Help with our changes. Have you considered education through our social experiences?

Brevard S. Myers Jr. SN-ACN is Educational Officer of ABC-CLT.

America's Boating Club-Charlotte

A unit of the United States Power Squadrons
 District 27
 Chartered April 10, 1961



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 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

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 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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"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.

New kayak rack christened at MMP; reserve your space now

By P/D/C Pat Hakanson SN

It is with great pleasure that I announce that our first kayak rack is in place and ready to use.

If you are a member of the Charlotte Power Squadron/America's Boating Club-Charlotte, you may store one vessel on this rack free of charge. If you are an additional active member of the squadron, you may also store another vessel on this rack free of charge.

We ask that you tag your vessel with your name and lock it up. P/D/C Pat Hakanson will supply you with a cable and luggage tag to do so. You must supply a padlock. The slots are numbered. Please report your location number to Pat after your kayak or standup paddle board has been stored.

A complete copy of the Rules for Storage of paddle craft at Merit Mark Point follows. Please read it.

Here's a plea for help: Before we can launch our kayaks from the new kayak launch we need to complete repairing the deck of the dock. Please let Commander Jack Moore know if you are available to help in this essential task. Happy paddling.



Pat Hakanson designed, built and installed the kayak rack with help of others.

Rules for storing paddle craft at MMP

1. Storage of paddle craft on the rack at Merit Mark Point is available only to Charlotte Power Squadron Members in good standing.
2. Storage is on a first-come-first-served basis. The Primary Active Member may store one paddle craft. Additional Active Members associated with the Primary Active Member may each store one paddle craft. Sea Scout/Apprentice Members may store one paddle craft. Storage rack positions will be assigned by number, and paddle craft must be stored in their assigned rack position.
3. All paddle craft must be permanently marked with owners' name and must be secured to the rack by lock while in storage. No accessory equipment such as oars or life jackets should be stored on the rack.
4. Charlotte Power Squadron is not responsible for loss or damage of stored paddle craft. Paddle craft owner will sign a waiver holding Charlotte Power Squadron harmless for such loss or damage.
5. In the event a member resigns or is no longer in good standing with Charlotte Power Squadron, their paddle craft must be removed from Merit Mark Point storage. If any Paddle craft is determined to be abandoned, the Executive Committee may, at its sole discretion, and with 30 days written notice to the owner (which may be via email), require the paddle craft be removed without delay or Charlotte Power Squadron will deem the Paddle craft abandoned and dispose of it.

Fundraising news: 50/50, car wash tickets

By P/D/C Paula F. Stewart AP

Thanks to everyone who participated in our "50/50" Fundraiser at our membership meeting on April 1 at John's Family Restaurant. We once again sold raffle tickets for a "kitty" (with the winner keeping half and the other half being donated to the Squadron).

The winner for April was D/Lt/C Charles "Bo" Ibach III SN-ACN. Congratulations, Bo!

Please plan to join in the fun at our next membership meeting to be held on May 6 at John's Family Restaurant.

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. Please see me at our next meeting or activity to purchase yours. Thank you for your support.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the May membership meeting.

Paula F. Stewart is Fundraising Chair of the America's Boating Club-Charlotte.

Calendar of Events May & June 2024

May 2024

Day	Event	Time	Location/Details
4	ABC Class	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Victory Lane Karting
6	ABC-CLT General Membership Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	John's Family Restaurant
11	Private Party	All day	Merit Mark Point
18	Children's Outing	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Red Fez Club
20	ABC-CLT ExCom Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
21	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Pat Hakanson home
24	<i>Side Lights</i> article due	View from the Bridge	Secretary

June 2024

Day	Event	Time	Location/Details
	No General Membership meeting in June		
1	PROPOSED: Predicted Log training	To be determined	Merit Mark Point
8	PROPOSED: Predicted Log	To be determined	Merit Mark Point
17	ABC-CLT ExCom Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
18	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Pat Hakanson home
21	<i>Side Lights</i> article due	View from the Bridge	Assistant Secretary
24	Wylie Gator Book Club: Stampede/Castner	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
29	Vessel Safety Checks	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Buster Boyd Landing

Buster Boyd Landing – Blucher Circle, Lake Wylie, S.C.

Jocks & Jills – 4109 South Stream Boulevard, Charlotte

John's Family Restaurant – 2002 Westinghouse 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 home -- 6812 Old Ridge Road, Waxhaw

Red Fez Club – 16600 Red Fez Club Road, Charlotte

Victory Lane Karting – 2330 Tipton Drive, Charlotte

Meteorologist to speak at May meeting

WCNC-TV meteorologist Brittany Van Voorhees will speak at the May 6 General Membership meeting of the America's Boating Club Charlotte at John's Family Restaurant.

She has been asked to talk about weather and boating and the upcoming hurricane season.

An Atlanta native, Van Voorhees has done the weather at television stations in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Fort Myers, Fla. and now Charlotte.

Van Voorhees and fellow WCNC-TV meteorologist Chris Mulcahy won a Midsouth Regional Emmy Award for the television station's Weather IQ series.

Van Voorhees says telling the weather story in an engaging way is important to her.

"I believe our job as meteorologists isn't just to forecast the weather," she says. "It's explaining the science to you, the viewer, in a fun, accurate and engaging way. I try extremely hard to tell the weather story the way I think the viewer would want to hear it."

Away from the television station, Van Voorhees enjoys exploring the outdoors with her dog Roger. She also likes to dance, swim and watch her University of Florida Gators and the Atlanta Falcons and Braves.

She also is active in volunteering for Charlotte organizations and is an involved member of the Junior League of Charlotte.



WCNC-TV meteorologist Brittany Van Voorhees has been asked to speak about weather and boating.



Happy May Birthdays

Bruce Banbury
 Brian Chambers
 Dianne Garrison
 Joann Infante
 William Ishee
 Brevard Myers
 Scott Spivey
 Larry Whitesides

May 18 Children's Outing needs your help to be successful

The America's Boating Club-Charlotte in conjunction with the Catawba Sail and Power Squadron is holding its major event of the year, the Children's Outing, and we need your help.

Boat captains can bring their vessels to Red Fez Club and others are needed for parking assistance, for dock duty, for food service to the participants and to show them how to fish. Contact Bo Ibach to say how you can help. The event is held 9 a.m.-2 p.m. but check with Ibach to see if he wants you there earlier or later.

The Children's Outing started in 1963 and has run continuously except for the two years missed due to COVID. Children are given boat rides and there's swimming, fishing, games and food. There are lifeguards and fishing equipment along with a bounce house for the kids to play in.

Children's Outings over the years:



America's Boating Channel™ explains the difference between boating knowledge versus skills

Think about it: Knowledge is theory and skills put knowledge into practical practice. It requires a combination to become a better boater.

This is brought home through the "[Knowledge Versus Skills](#)" video that covers differences between boating knowledge and boating skills and why it matters. Viewers also learn approaches to take to improve their boating abilities and the pitfalls to avoid in boater education.



Knowledge doesn't mean you're good at boating, but it can help you more easily and safely develop boating skills that must be practiced on the water. Concepts, principles and information about boating can be learned through reading, studying and observing. The ability to plan, depart, anchor, dock and perform other boat maneuvers is mastered through experience.

Videos like this one can kick-start a classroom presentation. Follow the video link above or visit <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel> to find this and other safe boating videos, which are an excellent tool to help recruit participants to our educational program and to membership. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like

and subscribe to America's Boating Channel to introduce them to what our organization has to offer.

In addition to YouTube, these professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos are available via the America's Boating Channel free, on-demand app on Apple TV, Roku or FireTV. [America's Boating Channel™](#) is produced by the United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Weir gets USPS Emeritus Award, 50th Merit Mark

P/C Ray Weir earned his 50th Merit Mark and was recognized by America's Boating Club with the Emeritus Award.

Weir, a former commander of Charlotte (1967-68), and his wife, Adele, transferred to the Shallotte River squadron several years ago.

In the photo to the left are (standing left to right) Jamie and Sarah McCurry of Shallotte, Barbara Bartell, Mary Chaney and Dan Bartell and (seated) Ray and Adele Weir and Marvin Chaney.

Ray now joins J.J. Rodgers and Al Parker of Charlotte who have received this prestigious Emeritus Award. Congratulations Ray!

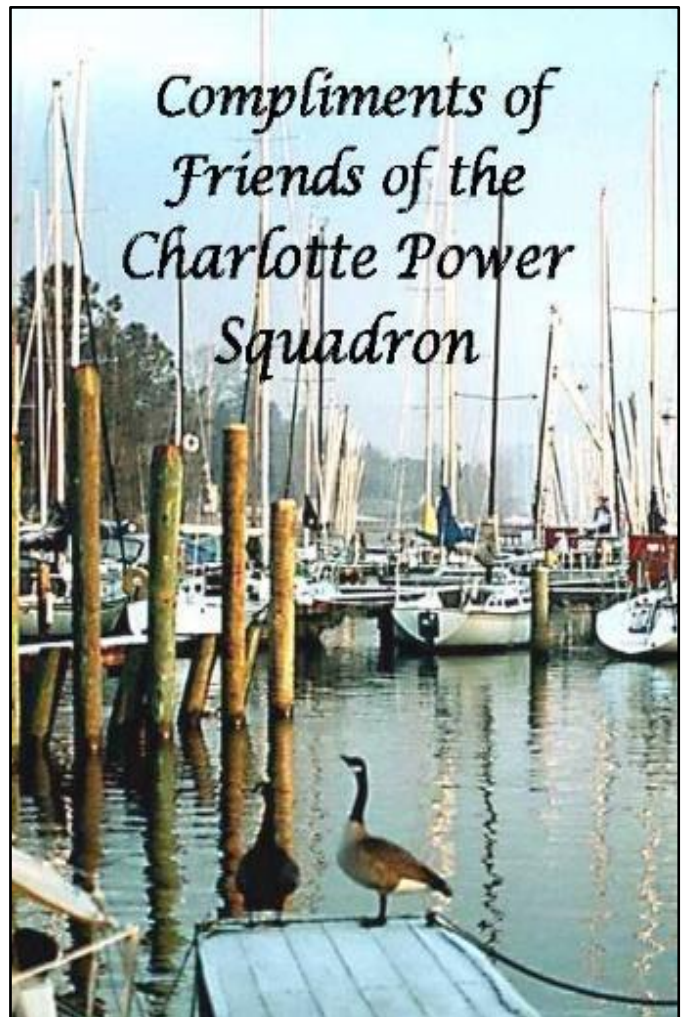


Chicken-Q attracts large crowd

The 2024 Chicken-Q brought out a nice-sized crowd despite the rain.

The count was 46 including numerous guests.

The event was held April 20 at Merit Mark Point.



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