



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



CHARLOTTE



Side Lights

December 2025

Volume 64 Number 10A

View from the Bridge:

Could we soon see detailed route planning for marine navigation?

By Brevard S. Myers Jr.

Have you wondered how we got so reliant on our electronic navigation systems?

Take automobiles, for example. Our commander, D/Lt/C Charles R. "Bo" Ibach Jr. SN-ACN, still uses a Garmin in his car. I prefer Google Maps. Both of our systems display road routes automatically. Visual and verbal instructions from our electronics guide us to our destinations. These are now our primary navigation devices for our automobiles.

Many of us will use the units for trip planning or just to see how long it will take to get to our destination. Even for short trips where we are familiar with the route, we often use our GPS. Hop in the car, turn the key and tell Google Maps where you want to go. Extensive planning is usually not required even for longer trips.

Piloting an airplane or a watercraft is much more complicated. Compass, chart and navigation tools (plus the knowledge to use them) may be inferior compared to modern navigation equipment.

Pilots in aircraft and skippers on boats both need to know where they are and how to get to where they are going. We would not want to wander into a restricted area by mistake. *(This has happened to our members: Does anybody remember being visited by patrol boats in the restricted areas of Charleston Harbor or at the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point along the Cape Fear River? Does anybody remember big guns pointed at his boat?)* With an automobile, a fence with a sign that says "keep out" may be enough to keep you out of restricted areas.

I did not know until recently that some modern vessel navigation devices will generate a route just as Garmin or Google Maps provide a land route with instructions. Usually, marine routes need to be



Brevard Myers Jr.

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entered manually, with a starting point, an end point and depth restrictions. There are modern navigation programs or apps that will generate a safe route for your vessel following a marked channel or taking you around shoal areas or land areas. With certain speed parameters provided, a time on route or estimated time of arrival is automatically calculated.

On two recent trips to the coast — one during our Rendezvous at Southport/Oak Island and another to Shackleford Banks/Cape Lookout — I had a chance to experiment with my electronic navigation devices. One was a Garmin GPS Chart Plotter/Fishfinder and the other was a tablet using the Aqua Map app.

Many use Garmin GPSs as their primary navigation device. Since Garmin's electronic charts are not updated in a timely manner, Garmin's official stance is that their units should be used as an aid to navigation, not as the primary navigation device. (This helps limit their liability also.) Aqua Map uses information from NOAA that is updated in a much more timely manner.

Both units showed me negative characteristics during their operation on these trips as I will explain. As many of you know, I have been accused of getting my passengers wet. It is not my fault. On the recent trip, wind conditions at Shackleford Banks were 15 to 25 with gusts to 35. I put the curtains up to keep the wind and spray off my passengers. It was an unusual day: blue sky with the ocean calm near shore. The inlet and sounds had a mean chop due to the strong wind.

Water from the wind made chop splashed on my boat and found its way past my canopy and curtains, dripping on my Garmin GPS and the tablet running the Aqua Map app. Both devices have touchscreen controls. Wouldn't you know it? Dripping water on a touchscreen acts just like a finger. Each time I looked at the navigation devices, it looked like kids had been playing with them. Resetting the instruments was necessary to make them provide useful information again. Maybe a lock screen setting or cover would help these instrument function in wet conditions.

I have encouraged those who are hesitant but are interested in boating at the coast to participate in our annual coastal trips. The shallow waters and marker system plus navigation information can be confusing to anybody, but our coastal boating has so much to offer. The benefits include abundant wildlife, coastal history, fishing opportunities and socializing with good friends. Hands-on experience and courses available within the America's Boating Club-Charlotte can help make your adventures on the water safe and enjoyable.

Lt/C Brevard S. Myers Jr. SN-ACN is Educational Officer of America's Boating Club-Charlotte.

Here is the Official Slate of Officers for 2026

By Marvin Chaney

In compliance with the Charlotte Power Squadron bylaws, the Nominations Committee is pleased to present the squadron with a great set of candidates for officers and committee members for 2026.

We thank those nominated for agreeing to serve the squadron next year. Election of officers will be held at our annual business meeting on Monday, January 5, 2026.

The Executive Officer and Administrative Officer positions are allowed to be open per the Bylaws and at this time we do not have candidates for these positions.

The nominees are:

Bridge

- Commander – Lt/C Warren François
- Educational Officer – P/C Dan Bartell SN-ACN
- Executive Officer – (open)
- Administrative Officer – (open)
- Secretary – P/C Marvin Chaney SN
- Treasurer – P/Lt/C Mary Chaney JN

At Large Members of ExCom

- P/D/C Paula Stewart AP
- P/C David Stewart AP



Warren François nominated for 2026 Commander.

- Lt/C Brevard Myers Jr. SN-ACN
- P/C Will Granger P-IN
- Lt Pat Mencil S
- P/C Jack Moore AP-IN
- Lt Shaun Haycock
- Lt Tom Frederick

Immediate Past Commander

- D/Lt/C Charles “Bo” Ibach III SN-ACN

Committees

- Nominations Committee – D/Lt/C Charles “Bo” Ibach III SN-CAN (3 years)
- Audit – P/R/C J.J. Rodgers SN-CN (3 years)
- Rules – P/C Hank Bateman JN (3 years)

Marvin Chaney is chairman of the America’s Boating Club-Charlotte Nominations Committee, which submitted the nominees for officers.

America’s Boating Club-Charlotte

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

2025 BRIDGE OFFICERS

Commander	D/Lt/C Charles “Bo” Ibach III SN-ACN	commander@charlotteboating.org
Educational Officer	Lt/C Brevard S. Myers Jr. SN-ACN	education@charlotteboating.org
Executive Officer	Open	
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Warren François	adminofficer@charlotteboating.org
Secretary	Lt/C Rose Samonds	secretary@charlotteboating.org
Treasurer	P/Lt/C Mary D. Chaney JN	treasurer@charlotteboating.org
Immediate Past Commander	P/C Jack Moore AP-IN	

2025 MEMBERS AT-LARGE

P/C Dan Bartell SN-ACN	Lt Pat Mencil S
P/C Doug Drum Sr. AP	P/C David Stewart AP
P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN	P/D/C Paula Stewart AP
P/C William G. Granger P-IN	P/C Jack Moore JN-IN
Lt Shaun Haycock	

SIDE LIGHTS STAFF

Editor	P/C Ken Elkins JN	publications@charlotteboating.org
Photographers and Writers	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 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.

Christmas Party

America's Boating Club-Charlotte

**Saturday, December 13, 2025
4 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

**Reflection Pointe Clubhouse
1305 Reflection Pointe Boulevard
Belmont, North Carolina 28012**

BYOB

**Also, please bring a dish to share
according to the first initial of your last name:**

**A-F Appetizer
G-R Side Dish
S-Z Dessert**

ham and turkey will be provided



**Please RSVP to Paula Stewart
pfstewart@carolina.rr.com
(704) 214-1244**

by Monday, December 8, 2025. Thank you

**Reflection Pointe is a gated community requiring a code
for entry. Code will be provided when you RSVP.**



Island Holidays *Charles & Donna Hach & Lola*

Peace on Earth



John, Connie and Katie King

I Saw Three Ships



David & Paula Stewart

Best Wishes for the New Year



Tom

Best Wishes for the New Year



Brevard and Family

Ship Shape Holidays



P/C Mary Cele & Chuck Brooks

Peace on Earth



P/C Marshall & Ellie Bain

Ship Shape Holidays



Marvin & Mary Chaney

Best Wishes for the New Year



Ken & Joann



Merry Christmas

*Warm wishes
Warren Francois*

Peace on Earth



Jack & Sandy Moore



Happy Birthdays!

December

Marshall Bain, Aiden W. Cahill, Marvin Chaney Jr.,
George Davis, Geoffrey D. Leek, Todd Osmolski, John J.
Rodgers, Lindy L. Sikes and Jim S. Turner

Calendar of Events for December 2025

No General Membership or Executive Committee meetings in December

<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location/Details</u>
2	Rock-On Rowing (women's rowing)	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
9	Rock-On Rowing (women's rowing)	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
13	ABC-CLT Christmas Party	4 p.m.-7 p.m.	Reflection Pointe Clubhouse
16	Wylie Gator Rowing (men and women)	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
19	Deadline for View from the Bridge column	5 p.m.	Nominated incoming Commander
23	Rock-On Rowing makeup day	9:15 a.m.-1 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home

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

Reflection Pointe Clubhouse – 1305 Reflection Pointe Boulevard, Belmont

Merit Mark Point (MMP) – 4892 Power Squadron Lane, York, S.C.

Squadron schedules Christmas Party, Annual Meeting, COW

By Charles R. "Bo" Ibach

Our upcoming annual Christmas Party is on December 13 at the Reflection Pointe Clubhouse starting at 4 p.m. and going to about 7 p.m. Please let Paula Stewart know of your intentions so that we can provide the code to enter the gated community.

Members with last names A-F, please bring an appetizer, G-R a side dish and S-Z a dessert except for Marvin Chaney, bringing one of his famous homemade desserts. I will be providing ham and turkey (from The Honey Baked Ham store) and sweet potatoes.

I'm also requesting that everyone contribute at least \$10 that we will present to a local food bank to help others have a more joyous holiday season.

Our annual meeting will be at Jocks and Jills on Jan. 5 at 1 p.m. (Note the time change.). This is a very important meeting where the Bridge for 2026-27 is elected. In the past, each officer has read their annual report, but this year we'll just publish them in the next issue of Side Lights. So hopefully we'll have a good attendance at this meeting.

Our Change of Watch is going to be Jan. 24, 2026, at the Fish Market in Baxter in Fort Mill. Start time will be 5 p.m. with dinner at 5:30-6:30 p.m. and then our program and installation of the new Bridge. An invitation will be forthcoming; please respond as quickly as possible.

Lastly, the National Annual Meeting is February 9-15 in Myrtle Beach at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Oceanfront Resort. You can register for the room now and the agenda will be coming out soon. As this is a short drive for us, hopefully we'll have a good showing from Charlotte and D-27.

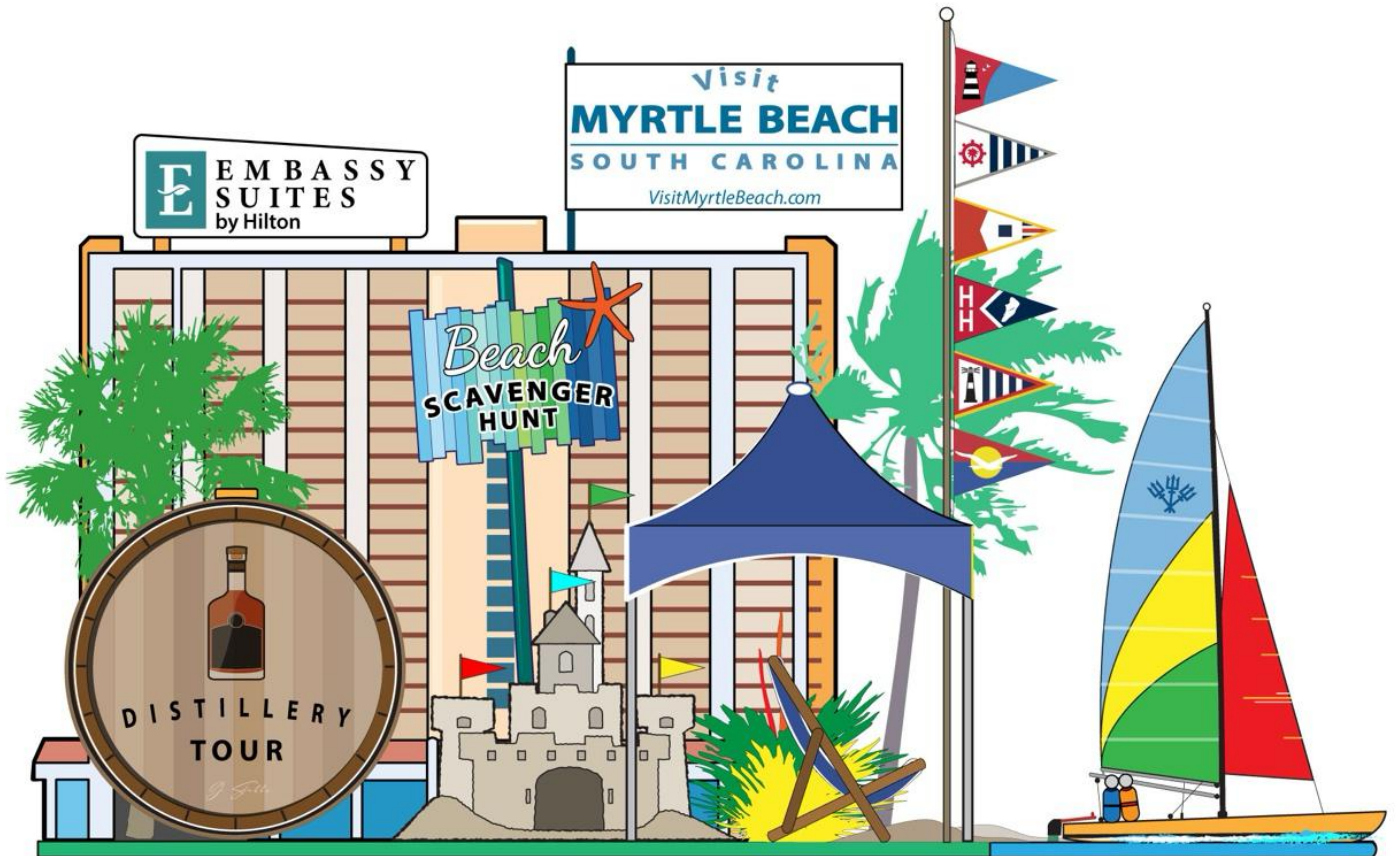
This is especially significant for Charlotte, as in all of District 27 there are only five people who have achieved Life Member status and 4 of them are from Charlotte. They are P/C Will Granger, P/R/C Don Osmond, D/Lt/C Paula Stewart and P/C Doug Drum. They will be honored with a certificate presentation, I believe, on Thursday night (this is the traditional time but subject to change). This is a great honor, as each of them has received 25 Merit Marks over the time they've been a member. Remember you can only receive one Merit Mark per year so it's a big deal.

Check the National website for more information and scheduling for the meeting.

See you at the Christmas Party.

Commander Bo

D/Lt/C Charles R. "Bo" Ibach SN-ACN is Commander of America's Boating Club-Charlotte and Executive Officer of District 27 USPS.



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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