



## *View from the Bridge:* **Commander Jack Moore**

I can hardly believe it, here it is September, and the year is fast approaching a close. But before I go into anything, I would like to wish a Happy Birthday to our members who have birthdays in September: Dan Bartell, Ken Elkins, Sandy Moore, Shaun Haycock, Gerald Privette, George Rogers Jr., Paula Stewart, Nicole Williford and Mary Williams.

We have had a productive year. We completed three America's Boating Course sessions and from them we have had several new members join our organization. Our Vessel Safety Check program is doing quite well, and we had another event on August 31 at Buster Boyd Bridge landing. This is keeping with our efforts to have an inspection event right before major holidays to try and reach as many boaters as possible. We try to ensure as many boats as possible get inspected to help ensure a safe holiday for everyone.

This year, as you know, we did not organize a Predicted Log competition with America's Boating Club of the Catawba. The existing trophy will be retired while in our possession. If in the future we want to reinstitute this competition, we can certainly do that.

In lieu of a competition, we held a social event in August with Catawba and invited their members to our Merit Mark Point facility. Everyone had a great time and the weather treated us quite well. We did have a Predicted Log course set up if any members wanted to run a personal course and our Treasurer, P/Lt/C Mary Chaney JN, scored the results the same way the competition is run. I think several members found out it is a little more difficult than they imagined, but it was fun.

In addition to the personal predicted log, we had other games: a trivia game conducted by P/R/C John Rogers SN-ACN, a corn hole game, knot tying demonstrations and practices by P/C Brevard Myers SN-ACN, a steamboat race conducted by John Rogers and a straw-blown sailboat competition. And of course, we had hot dogs and hamburgers and plenty of side dishes. No outing would be complete without a surprise signature dessert (all handmade from scratch and out of this world) made by our own P/C Marvin Chaney SN. The frozen dish was delightful and did not last long.



*Commander Jack Moore*

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We have at least three more large events coming up shortly. Our first will be our Charlotte Rendezvous in Southport, N.C. This will be from September 19 through 22. More details will be forthcoming or please contact Charles Ibach or Brevard Myers.

Our second event will be our annual fall barbecue to be held on at Merit Mark Point on October 26. Please make plans to attend this long-standing event. It is a ton of fun with lots of great food including yet another surprise signature dessert from Marvin Chaney that you don't want to miss.

The third event will be our annual Christmas party, which will be held December 7 at Reflection Pointe club house in Belmont. Details will be sent out shortly. The date is also found on our website calendar.

I think we have had a full year and still have a lot of fun things to do prior to this year closing out. I look forward to seeing all of you at some of the upcoming events.

*Jack Moore AP-IN is Commander of ABC-CLT.*

## **ABC-Charlotte has rules for storing your kayak too**

**By P/C Marvin Chaney SN**

The dock repair is substantially complete, the kayak launch is usable, and the first paddlecraft storage rack is in place at Merit Mark Point.

Members that decide to store their kayaks and canoes using the racks need to adhere to the rules that the Executive Committee has established. Members storing paddlecraft also need to sign an agreement (also called a waiver).

The current rules and the agreement are on the squadron's website (use this [link](#)). To get to this webpage you will need to sign in with your last name, certificate number, and year that you joined the squadron.

Note that the rules for the use of Merit Mark Point are also on this same webpage. If you have trouble getting this information from the website, you can send an email to the commander at [commander@charlotteboating.org](mailto:commander@charlotteboating.org) or to the webmaster at [webmaster@charlotteboating.org](mailto:webmaster@charlotteboating.org) requesting copies of these documents.



*The paddlecraft rack at Merit Mark Point is a new addition to the facility.*

**America's Boating Club-Charlotte**

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

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 Educational Officer  
 Executive Officer  
 Administrative Officer  
 Secretary  
 Treasurer  
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 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

**SIDE LIGHTS STAFF**

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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](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 September & October 2024

### September 2024

| Day   | Event                                  | Time                          | Location/Details      |
|-------|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 16    | ABC-CLT ExCom Meeting                  | 6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting | Jocks & Jills         |
| 17    | Wylie Gator Rowing Club                | 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.              | Pat Hakanson's home   |
| 19-22 | ABC-CLT Rendezvous, CoOp Charting      | Various                       | Southport Hampton Inn |
| 20    | <i>Side Lights</i> October article due | View from the Bridge          | Treasurer             |

### 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          |

**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

**Southport Hampton Inn & Suites** – 4820 Port Loop Road SE, Southport



Happy September birthdays!

Dan Bartell, Ken Elkins, Shaun Haycock, Sandy Moore, Gerald Privette, George Rogers Jr., Paula Stewart, Nicole Williford and Mary Williams

## Here's a glimpse at what happens at an America's Boating Class

By P/C Ken Elkins JN

Layna Holland wants to know the rules of the waterways so she can captain the family's boat, a 21-foot Sea Ray, when hubby, Carter Holland, isn't available.

James Maher wants his three daughters and wife to know how to safely pilot the three-passenger personal watercraft. One of those daughters, Vanessa, and wife, Lisa, are in the classroom to learn about boating.

After five years living in the Charlotte area, James Maher is ready to get on the water safely.

"We're finally getting into it," he says.

Amber Crews doesn't have a boat yet but who knows, maybe she will buy one of the yachts that she gestures to in the MarineMax Lake Wylie showroom.

"I'd like to be able to get out on the lake," Amber says.

All three attended the Squadron's August 10 America's Boating Course and now have little cards saying they have the training to captain a water-worthy vessel. They are among the 15 students in the day-long session filled with instruction ranging from the new rules on life preservers to aids to navigation.

At the end of the day, all passed the comprehensive test.

ABC instructors in the squadron are convinced that the boating course is the best source of new members for ABC-Charlotte. P/C Brevard Myers Jr. SN-ACN points to the fact that after the Aug. 10 class, one recruit, Tom Frederick, joined and showed up at both the Commander's event at Merit Mark Point and at the August 26 General Membership meeting.

However, United States Power Squadrons figures show that the number of America's Boating Courses held internationally over the last 15 years is in decline. The number of classes peaked at 896 during the 2013-2014 year and have steadily decreased in number to 424 during the 2023-2024 year: less than half the number 10 years earlier. As one might expect, the number of classes bottomed out during the Covid pandemic years of 2020-2021.

One might assume that if the numbers continue to decline then so does USPS's ability to attract new members. Not a comforting thought.

There are no worries during the August 10 class. The students are listening closely as instructor P/C Charles "Bo" Ibach SN-ACN goes through the textbook and adds stories of his personal experiences on the water.

The ABC course also allows the participants to save a bit on their boat insurance. For the young participants, such training is required for them to captain a boat on Lake Wylie and beyond.



**Layna Holland poses with a copy of the ABC manual.**



**Members of the Maher family try their hand at knots during a break in instruction.**

## How to win the USPS membership renewal fight

By P/C Marvin Chaney SN

Several members have noted that they had issues paying their dues to renew their membership for the coming year. This may have affected many of our members since most of us “old timers” all have June renewal timeframes before the timing of renewals was changed to anniversary dates.

The issue seems to have been related to the rollout at National of the new iMIS system, which is going to upgrade many of the systems that have been in place for decades. As of August 2024, you should be able to get past any issues.

You should have already received an email to create a new login for the Member Portal component of the iMIS rollout. You can now use this Membership Portal to submit your dues renewal. And life and emeritus members, don't forget that you still need to pay Charlotte squadron dues to keep your membership current. You don't have to pay National or District dues.

The information below comes from the “iMIS Migration Information” page on the [usps.org](https://usps.org) website.

### ***To Get Access to the new Membership Portal***

Log in to your member account — your email address of record is your username. Locate the "Member Portal" link under the "Login" at the top of [usps.org](https://usps.org) and click on it. (Or you can use this link [Member Portal](#)). Enter your email address of record as your username. If this is your first time logging in, click on the "Forgot Password" to create your password. Note that you can use the same password that you use on USPS.org, but you cannot use your membership number as your username as you do on USPS.org. If you have already created a password, just enter that password along with your email as your username.

### ***To Pay Dues to Renew Membership***

Renew your dues — log in to the Membership Portal and go to “My account” which appears if you click the down arrow under your name to the right in the top bar. You will either see a button or hyperlink to renew dues. Email [hilly@hq.usps.org](mailto:hilly@hq.usps.org) if you don't have a log in or if you don't see a link to renew. You can also call headquarters at 888-367-8777 ext. 219 or 229 and the membership staff will renew your dues over the phone. Invoices are being sent out relative to your membership anniversary date, but renewing online or by phone is the easiest way to pay dues.

## America's Boating Channel™ Fire Extinguisher Regulations

In 2022, the Coast Guard amended portable fire extinguisher rules for recreational vessels in the U.S., making it easier and less costly for millions of boat owners to maintain the onboard fire protection equipment that they need.

The rules do not change the number or types of extinguishers required on board but do simplify inspection and record-keeping requirements. The simplified rules also are now published with other recreational boating rules, making it easier to identify them.



America's Boating Channel video "[Fire Extinguisher Regulations](#)" offers an overview of the rules that separates commercial and recreational vessel fire protection requirements. It will help you learn how to ensure that all required portable fire extinguishers comply. Also featured are tips for preventing onboard fires in the first place.

If you need a refresher on classifications and carriage requirements for marine fire extinguishers, the channel offers a second video titled "[Fire Extinguisher Standards.](#)" It offers tips for placing and servicing fire extinguishers and explains the acronym PASS. Above all, ensure that the proper number of functional fire extinguishers are on board, readily accessible and that all responsible adults on board know to "pull, aim, squeeze and sweep."

U.S. Coast Guard approved marine-type fire extinguishers fully charged and in good and serviceable condition are required on recreational boats where the engines or fuel system could pose a fire hazard. Good and serviceable means that a fire extinguisher aboard a recreational vessel is properly charged and reads "charged" if it has a pressure gauge reading or charge indicator, that the extinguisher has a pin lock that is firmly in place, that it does not show visible signs of significant corrosion or damage and has a discharge nozzle that is clean and free from obstructions. Disposable dry chemical extinguishers expire 12 years after their date of manufacture, and rechargeable extinguishers expire annually unless maintained by a certified technician.



Follow the video links above or visit <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel> to find these 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.

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**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



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