



Side Lights



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

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View from the Bridge:

Greetings from a New England oysterman's granddaughter

By Lt/C Pat Mencil S

Back in my pre-Charlotte Power Squadron days, I was surrounded by devoted oyster eaters in Connecticut along the Long Island Sound.

And, oh boy, are New England oysters delicious and different from Southern oysters! This is not to bash Southern oysters but to highlight the reason for the difference. New England/Northeast oysters mature slowly in the cold Northern Atlantic waters. Southern oysters mature faster due to the warmer ocean temperatures and consequently spend less time in the salty water. To me, brininess is a very desirable quality. Taste testing of many oysters from many locations is a worthy endeavor.

First, "back in the day" before oyster farming evolved as it is today, you only ate an oyster in a month that contained an "R," such as January, February or March and others. Non "R" months — May, June and others — were the spawning time for the oyster.

Starfish have continued to be the bane of oyster farmers. The starfish suctions open the oyster shell and sucks out the oyster. They can decimate a whole bed in a matter of days. Water pollution also had a devastating effect on the quality of shellfish. Luckily this has improved.

Oystering could be a very dangerous business back then. Planting, maintaining and harvesting the established oyster beds of the Long Island Sound and Cape Cod had its weather and boating risks. Although the Cape Cod Canal was approved in 1935, it was not completed until 1940 and consequently you could only get to the Massachusetts Bay area by going around the tip of Cape Cod.

Captain Mac, aka Grandpa, got caught in the Hurricane of 1938 while Captain of his boat, the *Bluepoints*, the flagship of the 20-boat fleet of the Southern Connecticut Oyster Farms. They owned 30,000 acres of oyster beds at various locations off



Pat Mencil

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How could anyone, in particular Pat's relatives, not enjoy these beauties?

the coast of Milford, Conn.; Sayville and Greenville, on Long Island; East Providence, R.I. and Bivalve, N.J. (Honestly that is a real town; I Googled it so it must be true). He and his crew lived to tell the tale.

If the name of the boat, Bluepoints, sounds familiar it is because it is a highly acclaimed type of Long Island Sound oyster also.

Interestingly, Southern Connecticut Oyster Farms was a subsidiary of General Foods Corp. Birds Eye, another familiar brand, was also a partial holding of General Foods. This changed hands in 1930. As the shellfish industry shrank in the early to mid-20th century, General Foods sold off the Southern Connecticut Oyster Farms and it became the Bluepoints Co. housed in Sayville, N.Y., and had family ties until the mid-1960s.

Today, I will admit that some of my relatives won't touch an oyster, despite their family history in bivalves. Grandpa would be disappointed.

Lt/C Pat Mencil S is ABC-Charlotte's Assistant Secretary.

Co-op Charting, Coastal Rendezvous scheduled for September

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

On September 19, we'll gather at the Hampton Inn in Southport, N.C., to begin our annual Coastal Rendezvous and while there, we'll get out on the water and perform Nautical Co-op Charting.

We'll also visit some of the local marinas and update their information for Cruisersnet.net. And if you have a mind, we can also get out and search for some of the geodetic markers in the area.

Last time we were there, P/C Brevard Myers and I climbed to the top of the Oak Island Light House to document a marker on the catwalk at the top. A very strange place to put a survey marker but it's there. And appropriately enough, it's called "Catwalk"!

For the Rendezvous, P/C John King and Connie, along with daughter Katie, are kindly going to host our Friday night gathering at their house on Oak Island.

As we have done in the past, Brevard Myers, hopefully, will also cook some of his delicious peel and eat shrimp. It would be very helpful if everyone could provide a donation to help cover the cost of the shrimp. Everyone attending is asked to provide an appetizer or dessert.

So please mark your calendars for September 19-22 at the Hampton Inn. There will be more information on making reservations shortly. The cost per room is set at \$135/night plus tax, breakfast is included. Right now, we have 10 rooms reserved but can easily add more if needed.

Looking forward to a fun weekend! And many thanks for P/C Will Granger for taking the lead on arranging our accommodations.

D/Lt/C Charles "Bo" Ibach III SN-CAN is a member-at-large of the America's Boating Club-Charlotte.

America's Boating Club-Charlotte

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

**2024 BRIDGE OFFICERS**

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Executive Officer
Administrative Officer
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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.

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.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next membership meeting on August 26.

P/D/C Paula F. Stewart AP is America's Boating Club-Charlotte Fundraising Chair.

July 2024

Day	Event	Time	Location/Details
	No General Membership meeting in July		
12	Raft Up with ABC of the Catawba	4:30 p.m.	Windjammer Park
15	ABC-CLT ExCom Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
16	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home

August 2024

Day	Event	Time	Location/Details
2-4	District 27 ABC Rendezvous	Various	Washington, N.C.
10	ABC Class	8:45 a.m.-5 p.m.	MarineMax Lake Wylie Marina
17	Predicted Log/ABC of the Catawba event	Noon-5 p.m.	Merit Mark Point
19	ABC-CLT ExCom Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
20	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
23	<i>Side Lights</i> September article due	View from the Bridge	Commander
26	ABC-CLT General Membership Meeting	6 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
Windjammer Park — 8999 Windjammer Drive, Tega Cay, S.C.

Raft up planned with ABC of the Catawba at Ski Show



America's Boating Club of the Catawba has invited the America's Boating Club-Charlotte to a raft-up to watch a performance of the Carolina Show Ski Team at Windjammer Park on Lake Wylie.

The event will be held at 6 p.m. on July 12. The address is 8999 Windjammer Drive in Tega Cay. On land there will be a food truck and a dessert truck. The ski team uses the piers and floating piers inside the inlet. So, it may be best to beach on the river side and walk to the trucks.

The show starts at 6 p.m. but planners suggest that boats arrive by 4:30 p.m. to ensure that there's room to raft together.

ABC of the Catawba members plan to grill burgers and hotdogs on at least two of their boats. Catawba Administrative Officer Mary Williams has offered hotdogs for the hungry.

"We've been doing this for two years," she says. "This year, we've extended an invitation to the Charlotte club like you've invited us to events at Merit Mark Point."

Mary Williams and Catawba Commander Ray Williams, Mary's husband, are also associate members of ABC-Charlotte.

Predicted Log makes comeback with a day of games

The Predicted Log trophy has been retired.

Now there's an effort to resurrect the activity with an event this summer between the two local United States Power Squadrons clubs at Merit Mark Point.

America's Boating Club-Charlotte and America's Boating Club of the Catawba are conducting a day of games and food that will be held August 17. ABC-Charlotte Commander Jack Moore expects the event to begin at noon and last for a few hours.



ABC of the Catawba Administrative Officer Mary Williams wants to maintain a cooperative attitude between the two squadrons with a renewed Predicted Log.

"It's been a competition between our clubs forever," she says. "This year we decided hold it without the competition. We should be doing more fun things together."

The Predicted Log for years pitted the squadron against each other in a game in which participants predicted how long it would take them to sail on a set course on Lake Wylie. The winner was determined by how close they could predict their times.

Moore says the event will be combined with games like horseshoes, cornhole and the blow-on-the-sails activity to entertain participants.



Happy July Birthdays

Doug Drum, Brandan & Declan Cahill, Ron Eveson, Ron Helms, Charles and Cynthia Jenkin, Lori Myers, Al Parker, Dave Samonds and Clyde Starr

Happy August Birthdays

Terry Maher and Pat Rodgers

Dock repairs, other work at Merit Mark Point complete

By Commander Jack Moore AP-IN

I want to let everyone know that the two main projects at Merit Mark Point that we started this spring are completed: installation of a hot water heater in our restroom facility and resurfacing our large dock with the kayak launch facility.

The dock still needs two very minor trim pieces to be installed but is totally functional. We also need to make repairs to the narrow "wing" dock, but we have the materials to accomplish that.

I want to thank the following members and I think everyone in our squadron owes these members a great compliment for all their very hard work: John Rodgers, Marvin Chaney, Mary Chaney, Ronnie Helms, Brevard Myers, Gerald Privette, Ken Elkins, Jimmy Cahill, Tom Worth, Warren Francois and Charles Ibach. Thanks to each and every one of you!

On one Saturday, the Helms-Moore-Privette-Elkins wrecking/building crew had a blast that is memorialized by one of the photos accompanying this article. On Sunday, another crew finished the main deck on the floating pier (or dock as many of us call it). It's all a part of a \$3,000 project to resurface the pier, one of three at MMP.

In the second photo by Commander Jack Moore, you can see the resurfaced pier. Bumpers and cleats were added next.

The dock is complete and ready for use but be careful to stay off the finger docks until they can be resurfaced.

Jack Moore is a veteran commander of America's Boating Club-Charlotte with at least three terms, two of them consecutive.



Here's the Helms-Moore-Privette wrecking crew.



The new deck on the dock is complete. Now we need to re-cover the finger docks.

2024 Children's Outing considered a great success

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

On Saturday, May 18, 2024, we along with America's Boating Club of the Catawba held our annual Children's Day on the lake at the Red Fez Club.

Although the weather forecast had been threatening, the day turned out just perfect.

All our guests had a great time.

There were boat rides, swimming, fishing, bounce house, face painting, snow cones, lots of food and other activities for everyone to enjoy. Especially, the boat rides. Many thanks to Catawba for their support for this outing.

I want to thank our members who were there for their hard work. We estimate that there were about 300 or so participants. We were expecting more, but again, the threat of weather kept many away, we think.

Charlotte members helping were:

Brevard Myers – boat rides and help with bun delivery and clean-up

Mary Myers – help with drinks and boat rides

Jack Moore – boat rides

Ken Elkins – boat rides and picking up and taking back PFD's to MMP

Lee Reighart – boat rides (Looney Tunes pontoon boat)

Doug Drum – VSC's and help on the docks

Mary Cele Brooks – food service

Chuck Brooks – food service

Marshall Bain – food service and not sure about parking help

Pat Hakanson – gate coverage

Ronnie Helms – cooking (150 burgers and 300 hotdogs)

Gerald Privette – cooking

Barbara Bartell – drinks

Dan Bartell – drinks

Bo Ibach – a whole lot of everything, rides, food procurement, etc.

Morgan Hornung – My first mate for rides and everything (not a member but needed recognition)

Our next Children's Day will be May 31, 2025, (Note: the weekend after Memorial Day) at the Red Fez Club.

Charles "Bo" Ibach III is chairman of Children's Outing.



America's Boating Channel™ Tips for Towed Sports Safety

The summer is in full swing, which makes the topic of our safety message today even more urgent – Towed Sports Safety. As our waterways become crowded during this time of year, it is vital to identify and implement important measures for safe water skiing, wake boarding, knee boarding, wake surfing, and tubing.



Videos like this one underscore the need for safety considerations when participating in towed sports. Did you know that according to the Coast Guard, towed water sports account for over 400 boating incidents per year. And let's not forget your life jacket when you're out having fun on the water. In addition to a properly fitted life jacket, get one designed for the type of towed sport you are enjoying.



These measures are presented in the [“Towed Sports Safety”](#) video where viewers learn about proper equipment selection and preparing to tow a person. For instance, tube ropes should be around 60 feet long and heavier than water ski and wake board ropes, which should be about 75 feet long. Also, ski ropes should have more give than wake board ropes. Additionally, the video features tips for operating underway.

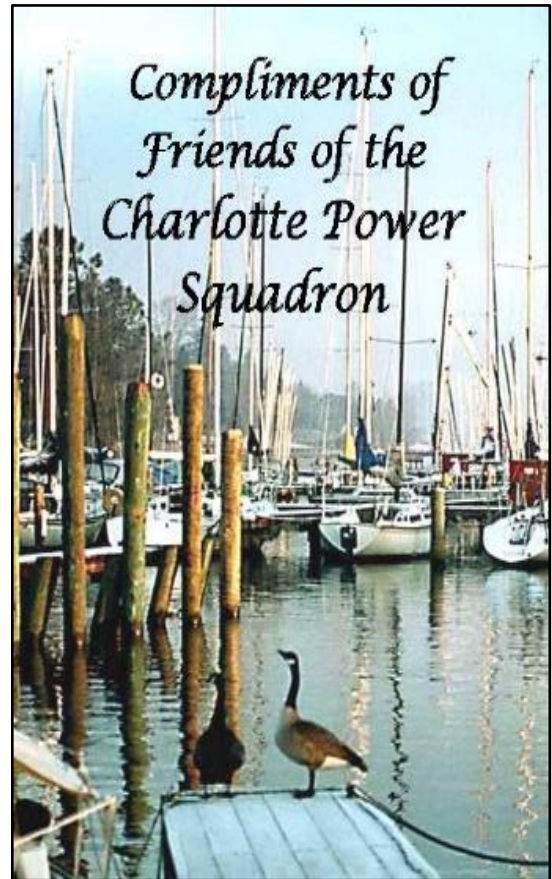
Follow the video link above or visit



<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.



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