



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



CHARLOTTE



Side Lights

November 2025

Volume 64 Number 9

View from the Bridge:

Finding strength in becoming more active in the Squadron

By Lt/C Warren François

The reason I joined the Charlotte Power Squadron is that it has long been a cornerstone of boating safety, education and camaraderie. It also has an amazing waterfront property with covered facilities, bathrooms, a large barbecue grill and several boat docks located on Lake Wylie.

I joined in March 2002, referred by Fred Kaplan, who lived in Belmont and later moved to Chocowinity, N.C., which is near Washington, N.C.

For almost two decades I would make an appearance at Spring or Fall BBQs, holiday parties or predicted log events. It was always great to see a lot of familiar faces. Many times, at dues renewal, I would think of not renewing, but I would continue to renew my membership, thinking that I still supported the idea of safe boating, enjoyed the camaraderie with the members and was convinced that one day I would dedicate more time to the Squadron.

That time came in 2023, 21 years after I joined the Power Squadron. I was asked to serve as a member of the Executive Committee. So, in 2024 I attended executive meetings, learning a little more about how the Power Squadron operated. I attended all the general meetings, MMP cleanups, barbecues and the Christmas party.

I was asked at the end of 2024 if I would consider holding the position of Administrative Officer and rank of lieutenant commander or Lt/C for 2025. I was sworn in at the Change of Watch in January 2025. A couple months later, I attended Operations Training led by P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN and P/D/C Paula Stewart AP. I did my first Co-Op Charting road trip this year and attended a District 27 USPS meeting, where I met several members with a very long tenure in the United States Power Squadrons.



Warren François

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The Charlotte Power Squadron has had many members represented on the District 27 executive committee over the years. Currently, Cdr. Charles “Bo” Ibach III ACN-IN serves as Executive Officer and Paula Stewart serves as Treasurer.

I’m not sure where the future will take me with the Charlotte Power Squadron but whatever it is, I’m sure I will have the support of members with a lot of knowledge, great camaraderie and a will to keep this organization strong and growing.

Lt/C Warren François is Administrative Officer of America’s Boating Club-Charlotte.

America’s Boating Club-Charlotte

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



2025 BRIDGE OFFICERS

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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	

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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.



Happy Birthdays!

November

Mary Chaney, Jamie Conetta, Will Granger, Susan Ruth Hochstetler, Jack Moore, Theresa Nicolosi, Don Osmond and Jacqueline Simpson

Calendar of Events for November 2025

<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location/Details</u>
4	ABC-CLT General Membership Meeting	1 p.m.-3 p.m.	AmberJack Restaurant
4	Rock-On Rowing (women's rowing)	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
11	Rock-On Rowing (women's rowing)	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
17	ABC-CLT ExCom Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
18	Wylie Gator Rowing (men and women)	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
21	Deadline for View from the Bridge column	5 p.m.	Educational Officer
25	Rock-On Rowing makeup day	9:15 a.m.-1 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home

AmberJack Seafood and Steaks – 4253 South New Hope Road, Cramerton

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

Jocks & Jills – 4109 South Stream Boulevard, Charlotte

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

Calendar items and results from the Fall Barbecue

By D/Lt/C Charles “Bo” Ibach III

Here are a few events that we have coming in the immediate future for Charlotte Power Squadron:

- November 4 – lunch at AmberJack’s at 1 p.m. We’re meeting on Tuesday because the restaurant is not open on Monday.
- November 17 – ExCom meeting at 6 p.m. at Jocks and Jills
- December 13 – Christmas Party at Reflection Point. More details to follow but ham and turkey and sweet potatoes will be provided. The time is 4-7 p.m.
- January 5 – Annual meeting for the Squadron at Jocks and Jills. Time to be determined.
- January 24 – Change of Watch at the Fish Market in Fort Mill. 5-5:30 p.m. social, 5:30-6:30 p.m. dinner, program to follow.
- February 9-15 – National Annual meeting in Myrtle Beach. Registration for hotel is available now on the National USPS website.

I thank all who attended our Fall Barbecue. I heard that everyone enjoyed my cooking and there was plenty of food. Thanks to all who helped serve and clean-up. I brought very little pork home for Donna and me, which is a good sign.

Next year, we’re planning on having the Fall Barbecue start at an earlier time, like 12 p.m. for attitude adjustment and about 1 p.m. to serve food: a lunch instead of a dinner. That way everyone will travel in daylight, allowing me to bring my golfcart home before nightfall.

I’m not sure about an earlier starting time for the Chicken-Q as the birds must be cooked at Merit Mark Point. A lunch event would require getting there early but it may be doable.

D/L/Cdr. Charles “R” Ibach III ACN-IN is commander of America’s Boating Club-Charlotte.



Members of America's Boating Club of the Catawba joined ABC-Charlotte at the Fall Barbecue. They are, from left to right, Mary Williams, Kevin Toevs, Bart Kinzel, Pam Merrill, Will Jordan and Commander Ray Williams.

Let's all attend the 2026 USPS National Meeting in Myrtle Beach

By D/Lt/C Charles
"Bo" Ibach III

It's time to go to the beach in the winter.

To members of District 27 and especially America's Boating Club-Charlotte, the 2026 national meeting of United States Power Squadrons/America's Boating Club will be held next year in Myrtle Beach, S.C., for the first time.

It's scheduled for February 9-15, 2026.

This meeting will be at the Embassy Suites and the reservation information is available on the national website. Unlike previous meetings, parking will be free, breakfast will be provided for free and there will be a cocktail hour each

afternoon. I'm told that each suite will have an ocean view and balcony so what a great venue this might be.

Next year, the annual meeting will return to a Florida venue. The 2027 USPS annual meeting is going to Tampa, Fla. I'm not sure of the particulars for this one yet.

I would really like to see a great turnout of D-27 and D-26 for this annual meeting in Myrtle Beach!

Continue to watch for additional sign-ups on the national website. As District Executive Officer and upcoming D-27 Commander, I would really like to see a great turnout. You sure can't complain about the distance needed to travel.

Thank you and looking forward to seeing everyone in Myrtle Beach.

Cdr. Charles "Bo" Ibach III SN-ACN is Commander of America's Boating Club-Charlotte and is Executive Officer of District 27 of United States Power Squadrons.



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

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