



You too can suggest programs for General Membership meetings

By Lt/C David J. Samonds P

Hello from the Bridge.

As we get into the boating season and look forward to the activities of the year, let's think about what topics we would like to see presented during our general meetings. We just had a wonderful presentation from webmaster P/C Marvin Chaney SN who told us about all the changes to our website, including moving to a new platform.

For April, we have Educational Officer Lt/C Brevard Myers Jr. SN-ACN presenting on the changes in the nautical maps and how you can get them now that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration doesn't print them any longer. We have a couple of possible speakers for later in the year.

This is where you come in. Please let Cmdr. Jack Moore P AP-IN or me know if you have a topic you would like to hear about or know of someone that could come and speak to the group.

We are also open to other activities, like some we have had in the past, playing games that challenge your knowledge and skills.

Now that spring is here, as you are doing spring cleaning at home, please consider spending some time helping clean up Merit Mark Point on April 6th as we get it prepared for our summer activities.



Lt/C David J. Samonds P

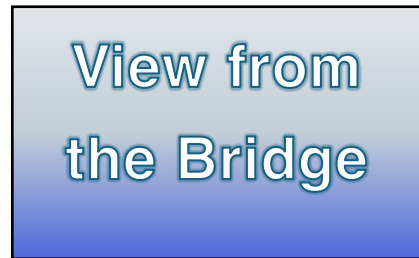


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Looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming activities.

David J. Samonds 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



2024 BRIDGE OFFICERS

Commander
 Educational Officer
 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

2024 MEMBERS AT-LARGE

P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN
 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-SCN
 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.

Get Ready for the Chicken-Q

By P/R/C John J. Rodgers SN-CN

Our annual Merit Mark Point Spring Chicken-Q will be held on Saturday, April 20. This is our spring kickoff at the lake and the Squadron Weatherman has promised wonderful weather. So, help support our place at the lake and come out to MMP and enjoy a great day and a great meal.

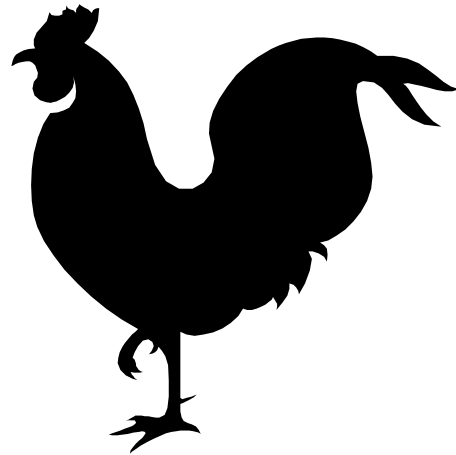
Our menu will consist of barbecued chicken, baked beans, coleslaw and fixings. We are maintaining our bargain price of \$10 per plate cash or check (no bitcoins please). We plan to have extra so plan on taking some homes for Sunday lunch.

The chickens have been interviewed, individually selected and are now being fattened and pampered for the occasion. The secret sauce, which was once used by Lumbee Indians on dove and quail, is fermenting in the springhouse and the bean sauce is simmering on the wood stove.

Cooking will start at 11:30 a.m. or noon. Attitude adjustment will start about 4 p.m. Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share, your adult beverages and join us. Dinner will be served about 5 p.m. and a good time will be had by all. You gotta have a ticket, so get yours at the April meeting or call me to make a reservation.

See you there.

Check your Roster or www.charlotteboating.org to reach John J. Rodgers.



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 March 4 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 March was P/C Will Granger P-IN. Congratulations, Will!

Please plan to join in the fun at our next membership meeting to be held on April 1 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 April membership meeting.

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

Calendar of Events April & May 2024

April 2024

Day	Event	Time	Location/Details
1	ABC-CLT General Membership Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	John's Family Restaurant
6	MMP Clean-up for Chicken-Q	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Merit Mark Point
13	ABC Class	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	MarineMax Lake Wylie
15	ABC-CLT ExCom Meeting	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
19	<i>Side Lights</i> article due	View from the Bridge	Educational Officer
20	Chicken-Q Spring Barbecue	4 p.m.-8 p.m.	Merit Mark Point
22	Wylie Gator Book Club	6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. meeting	Jocks & Jills
27	Vessel Safety Check	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Buster Boyd Landing

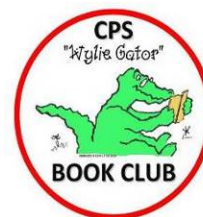
May 2024

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
24	<i>Side Lights</i> article due	View from the Bridge	Secretary

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.
Red Fez Club – 16600 Red Fez Club Road, Charlotte
Victory Lane Karting – Victory Lanes Karting, 2330 Tipton Drive, Charlotte

Wylie Gator Book Club discussing *Rules of Civility* in April

The Wylie Gator Book Club will discuss *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles at its April 22 meeting. There's plenty of time to grab a copy and come to Jocks and Jills at 6 p.m. for dinner and conversation.



Learn about charts and chart plotters at April GenMem Meeting

During past America's Boating Club-Charlotte Rendezvous and Co-Op Charting events, Lt/C Brevard S. Myers Jr. SN-ACN would print out navigation charts or even chart books to cover the areas that we were investigating. Then boat crews would crank up their chart plotters (if their vessels were equipped with them) and plot a course to their assigned destinations.

Now, printing those charts is a bit more challenging and expensive. There's also a question about how recently the printed charts or chart plotter data has been updated.



The future, maybe even the near future, is looking up for navigating the open seas and inland waterways. Apps for mobile phones, iPads and laptops – such as Aqua Map, Navionics and Open CPN – make it possible to access digital charts and display them onboard. Other app offerings and updates to current programs are expected to make the experience even more convenient and accurate.

During the April 1 (no fooling) General Membership Meeting, Myers will talk about charts and navigation apps. He will also tell where to buy printed charts or at least get the digital files and how he prints them for our adventures.

America's Boating Club still recommends that we have paper charts onboard when we set out on a sea adventure. The savvy captain will have backups in case the digital aids to navigation fail.

Myers will tell us what the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Coast Survey has for us in the form of charts and how to use them in planning for a coastal or ocean trip.

2024 Children's Outing just around the corner

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

Fellow members, on May 18 we will once again be holding our annual Children's Outing for deserving children from the North Carolina and South Carolina area. Some of the expected participants are coming from the Salvation Army Boys/Girls Clubs and Thompson's Children Center.

We are being sponsored by Dockmasters (providing the rental cost of the Red Fez Club), Publix Supermarkets (provided a \$500 gift card for food purchase), Wendy's (providing the condiments and cups and napkins), Flowers Bakery providing the buns and Pink Portables (providing the porta-potties used by the guests: 2 donated and 2 covered by us).

The Children's Outing started in 1963 and has run continuously except for the 2 years missed due to COVID. It has taken place at the Red Fez, Bowater Park, Elk's Park and back to the Red Fez.

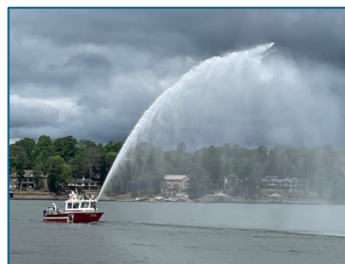
Children are given boat rides and there's swimming, fishing, games and food (lots of food). We put this event on in conjunction with Catawba Sail and Power Squadron. They provide the lifeguards and fishing equipment along with a bounce house for the kids to play in. We provide the food and many thanks to Ron Helms and others for cooking the burgers and hot dogs.

Please plan to come out and volunteer either by boat or on land. There's so much to do during the day. Arrivals start coming about 9 a.m. and we go to about 3 p.m. Gates open for us at 8.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Bo Ibach is chairman of the Children's Outing.

Children's Outings over the years



Bargain alert: ABC-CLT Ship's Store holds a fire sale

It's time for an ABC-CLT Ship's Store fire sale. Everything must go; you set the price. Co-Supply Officers David and Paula Stewart will take just about any amount of cash for a dozen or so items left in the Ship's Store. So, contact one of the Stewarts and make them an offer.

Below are the remaining items that we have for sale in our Ship's Store:

- 1 Khaki baseball cap
- 2 Red baseball caps with old burgee without the gold border
- 4 Blue baseball caps
- 1 Khaki bucket hat (size-small)
- 1 Men's white short-sleeve golf shirt (size-medium) with old burgee without the gold border
- 1 Sweatshirt-light grey (size-3XL)
- 1 Men's jean shirt-long sleeve (size-XL)
- 1 Women's jean shirt-short sleeve (size-medium)
- 1 Navy jacket (size-2XL)

In the future, we will NOT be maintaining an inventory, but any item you have (shirt, blouse, bag, hat, etc.) CAN be embroidered with the Charlotte Power Squadron logo. Please see David or Paula for details.

ABC-CLT takes some honors at District 27 Change of Watch

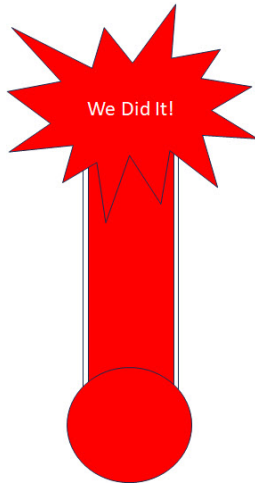
ABC-Charlotte Cmdr. Jack Moore, at left in the photo, accepts top squadron in District 27 for Co-Op Charting from V/C David Allen.

The photo was taken at the D/27 of America's Boating Club Change of Watch and Annual Meeting in the Wilmington area of North Carolina last month.

Twelve members of ABC-CLT attended the meeting: Cmdr. Moore, Mary and Marvin Chaney, Lori and Brevard Myers, Debra and Don Osmond, Donna and Bo Ibach, Paula and David Stewart and Ron Eveson, who received his Life Member certificate at the event.



Photo by Marvin Chaney



That's right: We Did It!

We reached the goal of \$3,000 in fundraising to finance dock repairs at Merit Mark Point.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to make this campaign a success.

Work is scheduled to start on the docks in early April, but we don't have an estimate of how long it will take to complete. We may have to plan to stay off the far-right docks during the next squadron event, the April 20 Chicken-Q.

Merit Mark Point cleanup comes early in the month

By P/R/C John Rodgers SN-CN

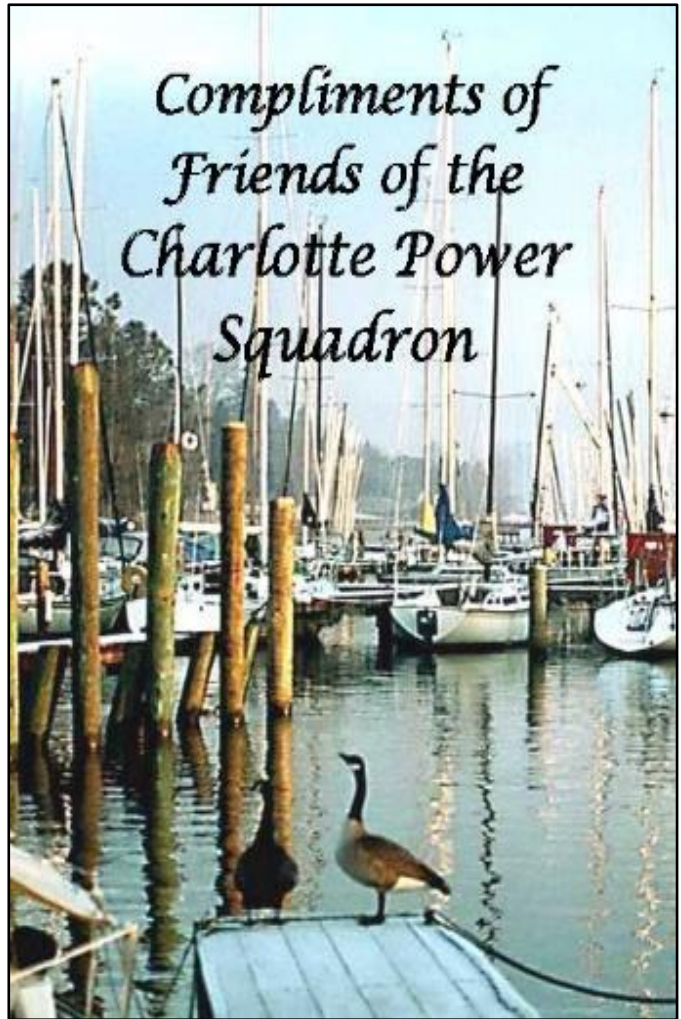
Our spring cleanup at Merit Mark Point is scheduled for Saturday, April 6. This is when we clean up from the winter, put the water system back in service and get the place in shape for the summer season.

There is a lot to do, but if we get a good turnout, the work will go quickly.

We will start at around 10 a.m. and work until mid-afternoon. Come for the whole time, or for as long as you can work into your schedule. Bring a sandwich if you are going to be there over lunch.

Come out and join us. You'll have a good time.

John Rodgers is chairman of the Merit Mark Point Committee



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CORNELIUS, NC
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