



America's Boating Club® - Knoxville

For Boaters, By Boaters™



Now Hear This!

A Unit of District 17 of the United States Power Squadrons, Inc. ®

Newsletter Vol 37 No 4

April 2025

Executive Committee 2025

Commander:

Cdr Don Perrine, AP
(865) 963-9550

Executive Officer:

Vacant

Administrative Officer:

D/Lt/C John Farmer, SN-IN
(865) 765-3407

Education Officer:

Lt/C Jeff Schmitt, S
(410) 493-4395

Secretary:

Lt/C Walt Hanson, AP IN
(865) 803-5842

Treasurer:

Lt/C Tom Dietrich, SN-CN
(865) 567-3555

Bridge Assistants 2025

Asst Education Officer:

1st/Lt Steve Brumit, AP-IN
(423) 737-9922

Asst Admin Officer:

1st/Lt Beth Fendley, S
(865) 384-1233

Commander's Report 3/25/2025



The first big boating event begins the second week of April with the Rossini Festival in Knoxville.

The program starts with boats coming to our home and docking on Thursday afternoon, April 10, for a potluck dinner and an overnight stay. On Friday around noon, the boats will depart for the Vol Navy dock where we'll have docktails followed by dinner at nearby Calhoun's on the River. Saturday offers the festival's music, crafts and food followed by docktails and then dinner on our own. Sunday offers more of the festival with the option of either departing for home Sunday afternoon or staying overnight, returning home on Monday.

Our participants by boat are Chris and Dan Johnson, Tom and Marbeth Dietrich, Rand and Cheryl Henke, Don and Brigitte Perrine and possibly Louis and Kim Soltero as guests. Walt and Robin Hanson are hoteling downtown to join us for all of the above activities as well as attending the Saturday evening Pops Concert.

Anyone who hadn't planned and may now want to go by boat or by car, please let me know as soon as possible. I want to work with you on the arrangements.

I look forward to a very enjoyable event with our friends.

See you soon on the water,

Don Perrine

Commander

Mission Statement

"Join for the joy of boating and grow with knowledge, experience, skill and confidence"



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Page 1

Organization

GENERAL COMMITTEES – 2025

Audit

Chair: Lt/C Walt Hanson, AP-IN
 2-Year: 1st/Lt Beth Fendley, S
 3-Year: **Vacant**

Nominating

Chair: **Vacant**
 2-Year: Ed Fendley, S
 3-Year: **Vacant**

Rules

Chair: Wayne Baker, S
 2-Year: **Vacant**
 3-Year: **Vacant**

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OFFICERS – 2025

Chaplain**Vacant****Historian**

P/Lt/C Jeanette Farmer, P

IT / Facebook AdministratorD/Lt/C John Farmer, SN (**interim**)**IT / Website Administrator**Lt/C Tom Dietrich, SN (**interim**)**Law Officer**

P/C Jim Barkley, SN

Legislative Liaison

P/C Chuck Smith, P

Membership:

Lt Bonnie Fried, P

Merit Mark

P/C Dave Kimball, S

Newsletter EditorLt/C Walt Hanson, AP-IN**Port Captain - Fort Loudoun**

D/Lt/C John Farmer, SN

Port Captain – Lower Norris

Lt Bonnie Fried, P

Port Captain - TellicoDan Johnson, JN**Port Captain - Watts Bar**

Ed Fendley, S

Public Relations Chair**Vacant****Roster & Calling Committee**

Lt Robin Hanson, S

Vessel Safety Check

Lt Joel Stern

Current ABC-Knoxville Members According to USPS

The April mid-month blast will include an updated roster with contact information for our Club. The below member list is from USPS HQ. Names are as reported by USPS HQ. If you have questions, reach out to Robin Hanson (robin.c.hanson@gmail.com).

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Wayne Baker, S | 16. William T. Hall, JN | 32. Frederick McDonald |
| 2. Peter Barile, AP | 17. Robin C. Hanson, S | 33. Tracy McDonald |
| 3. James C. Barkley, SN | 18. Walter E. Hanson, AP | 34. Art Mercurio |
| 4. Stephen Wayne Brumit, AP | 19. Cheryl Henke | 35. William S. Murdoch, SN |
| 5. William C. Brumit, AP | 20. Randolph R. Henke, P | 36. Donald A. Perrine, AP |
| 6. David Crowden, S | 21. Chris L. Johnson, JN | 37. Barbara E. Richardson, AP |
| 7. Peggy Crowden | 22. Dan F. Johnson, JN | 38. John H. Richardson, AP |
| 8. Tom Dietrich, SN | 23. Kathleen Kayatin | 39. John Sanseverino (pending) |
| 9. Ira Edidin, P | 24. David A. Kimball, S | 40. Barbara C. Schmitt |
| 10. Margaret Edidin, P | 25. William E. Knappek, P | 41. Charles J. Schmitt, S |
| 11. Jeanette C. Farmer, P | 26. Maureen Leavitt (pending) | 42. Joel R. Stern |
| 12. John C. Farmer, SN | 27. Jane Lincul | 43. Richard H. Woodlee, SN |
| 13. Elizabeth H. Fendley, S | 28. Edgar N. Lockett, AP | 44. Ivan Yanasak |
| 14. Harold E. Fendley, S | 29. Sue G. Lockett, AP | 45. Nadia Yanasak |
| 15. Bonnie H. Fried, P | 30. Randall E. Lowe, S | 46. Nancy Yanasak |
| | 31. Robert M. McConnel, SN | |



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Next Port of Call – Rossini Festival – April 11-13

Consider coming to the Rossini Festival by boat or car April 11-13

The Rossini Festival is Knoxville Opera's annual International Street Fair that celebrates the global impact on the music, food, art, and culture of East Tennessee. Throughout the festival, the public is treated to non-stop entertainment on four outdoor stages showcasing opera, classical, jazz, gospel, ethnic music, ballet, modern, and ethnic dance. Attendees can purchase from scores of food vendors and more than 75 artisans throughout the day, while The Y FunZone keeps children entertained. More than half a million residents of Knox County and the surrounding area have enjoyed the Rossini Festival over the years.

Fun and family-oriented. Admission is always free. For more information about the festival, go to

<https://www.knoxvilleopera.org/rossini-festival> .



The core program is to arrive by boat at the Vol Navy dock on the afternoon of Friday, April 11, for docktails and a group dinner at a nearby restaurant. Saturday offers music, crafts and food at the festival activities followed by docktails and dinner on our own either on our boats or on shore. Sunday offers more festival events and the opportunity to return home Sunday afternoon. Note that there is no power available at the Vol Navy dock.

Options to consider are:

- (a) For those coming by boat - Stop at Perrine's dock for a potluck dinner at our home and stay overnight at our dock. Then Friday mid-day, leave to cruise to Knoxville. And you might consider returning home on Monday; we all need not leave on Sunday.
- (b) For all on Saturday is the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra's performance of the music of Fleetwood Mac. It will be at the Civic Auditorium starting at 8 pm. Tickets are available from the KSO website. For more information about the KSO concert, go to <https://www.knoxvillecoliseum.com/events/2025/knoxville-symphony-orchestra--landslide-a-symphonic-tribute-to-the-music-of-fleetwood-mac> .



If you are planning or just considering to come by boat or by car, then please let Don Perrine (DAPerrine@tds.net) as soon as possible. He needs to make appropriate dinner reservations, which will be adjusted close to the dinner date when everyone has confirmed.



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Visiting Knoxville by Boat – How to Cheaply Get Around



Consider using the Kiss Caboose (865-722-0779 / www.kisscaboose.com) to get around downtown Knoxville. The owner, Gina, operates a small Japanese-looking little van that carries about 4 people as a tip-only ride service. Our members have used her many times.



Annual Vessel Safety Checks – Volunteers Still Needed!

America's Boating Club and the USCG Auxiliary are the only volunteer organizations that provide free voluntary vessel safety checks. The work saves lives! We need more vessel examiners! Several vessel examiners have aged out or moved away. We used to have six, now we have few and we lack coverage in Knoxville. All we need are members willing to learn and do about 10 examinations a year. **To become an examiner**, you must take an on-line class, pass a 60-question test and inspect 5 boats over-seen by a certified examiner. To volunteer or ask more questions, contact our VSC Chairman, Lt Joel Stern (oldseadog100@gmail.com).

By the way – It's a new year and all red 2024 VSC decals are out-of-date. Plan now when you want to have your examination done. Contact Joel to schedule it.



Over the Horizon – Any Interest in Cruising as a Group this Fall?



John Farmer has contacted a travel agent to see if we COULD do a November, possibly adults only, cruise to the Bahamas (the map at left is notional). As an idea, the first cruises that he found were:

- Carnival has large ships that carry 4000 to 6600 passengers. 5-Day The Bahamas from Jacksonville, FL from \$433 or 4-Day The Bahamas from Jacksonville, FL from \$401 (most likely family / party cruises).
- Holland America carries 1400 to 2600 passengers on their ships and stops at Half Moon Cay Bahamas. Seven day Caribbean cruise from Miami or Ft Lauderdale from \$744.
- Virgin Voyages adults only 4-nights Bahamas from \$1,600.

John Farmer will have details and prices later but needs to know if there is any potential interest. Please reach out to him

by email if you might be interested. His email is: captfarmer@gmail.com



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Mind Your Through-the-Hull Valves

You don't want to skimp or cut corners when it comes to keeping water out of your boat, and nowhere is this more important than with your boat's valves. Follow these tips to ensure that the water stays on the outside.

- **A failed underwater fitting or hose will easily overwhelm bilge pumps and sink your boat.**
- Use real seacocks, never gate valves, below the waterline.
- **Close all seacocks (except cockpit drains) when you are not on board:** They will be less likely to jam, you will remember where they are, and there will be fewer ways your boat will sink when you're not there.
- Make sure you have wood plugs handy. They are proven to stop a flood when a fitting or hose fails.
- Use only high quality 316 stainless or marine-grade hose clamps.
- Double-clamp below-the-waterline hoses and offset the fastener on the hose barb.
- Make a drawing of through-hull and seacock locations, and keep it handy.

Article from USPS Compass (credit Capt. John Schwab)

Get a 25% Discount on All Purchases – Another Reminder



Educational Department
Online Education Committee

Online Education Store Coupon

Are you interested in purchasing educational materials?

Starting February 12, members now get a 25% discount on all purchases at the **Online**

Education Store (uspsonline.org). The discount is applied to your shopping cart when you checkout. To get the discount, you must have a coupon code. **The code is case sensitive and the code will change periodically.**

To get the coupon code, go to <https://www.usps.org/departments/13000/13600-online-education-store>. This link will require you to login to www.usps.org first and then it takes you to a page in the Educational Department, which is where you can find the current code.

Boating "License" Reciprocity

Are you traveling out of state and want to go boating? Will your Tennessee Boating Education Card be valid elsewhere? In general - yes! The Tennessee Boater Education Card is accepted in 40 states. The reciprocity arrangement applies to operators of motorized boats, BUT not in all of these states is reciprocity given to operators of personal watercraft (PWC).

It is best to check the boating laws in the state you plan to visit prior to operating a

boat or PWC there. How can that be done? Go to the below link to see an "Education Reciprocity" table.

<https://www.uscgbloating.org/regulations/state-boating-laws-details.php?id=13&title=>.

The table that identifies the certificates from jurisdictions (US states and territories and Canadian provinces) and the boating safety courses that are accepted. Our NASBLA-approved ABC3 is broadly accepted!



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New Navigation App – Free Subscription thru USPS

Several of us subscribe to navigation apps and many have seen their subscription costs grow over the years. For example, Navionics used to be \$19, then it was \$25, and this year it is \$50. The increasing cost of subscription makes it important to check what is out there. Each year there is something new.

USPS announced a new partnership with [DITCH](#)—a smart navigation app for boaters. Here's how Ditch makes your boating experience better:

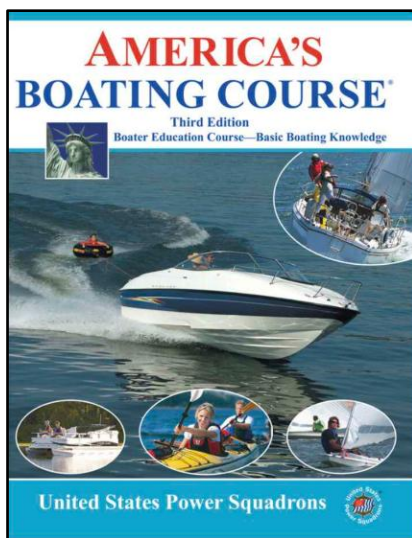
- **Route planning:** DITCH's Smart Path™ technology uses billions of recent data points to provide the optimal route for your journey. Use it as a planning tool or live on the water.
- **Local knowledge:** See where other boats have traveled with DITCH's innovative use of historical AIS data and to gain local knowledge directly as a layer on your chart.
- **Smart ETAs:** DITCH uses historical data to identify slower areas along your route and factors those into your ETA calculation. This means you get a much more accurate arrival time.
- **Ease of use:** DITCH is designed to be user-friendly with automatically updated charts and a simple interface.



Through this partnership, USPS can offer its members a FREE one-year subscription to DITCH! So, how do you activate your first-year free subscription?

1. [Download](#) the DITCH Navigation app.
2. Create a DITCH account.
3. Enter your exclusive members-only promo code: **BOAT2025**. The DITCH team is ready to help. Drop them an email at americasboatingclub@ditchnavigation.com.

America's Boating Course, 3rd Edition, Class Offerings



"Americas Boating Course" is the comprehensive NASBLA-approved public boating safety course that is produced by the United States Power Squadrons, Inc.

Four classes will be held at Grace Lutheran Church (using the rear entrance), 131 West Gettysburg Ave., Oak Ridge, TN 37830. **Each class consists of three 2-hour sessions that are from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm**, including the final examination during the last session. The dates of the sessions for each class are listed below. For questions, or to register, contact our SEO, Jeff Schmitt, by email at: tiavare@outlook.com or by telephone at 410-493-4395.

- Class 1: March offering completed
- Class 2: Sessions are April 4, 11 and 18
- Class 3: Sessions are April 25, May 2 and, 9
- Class 4: Sessions are May 16, 23 and 30

Students needing the TWRA wallet card must present their TWRA Form 600 at the exam. Form 600 can be purchased for \$10 at stores or online with the TWRA application. The course instruction is free of charge, but the student must purchase the 287-page PDF textbook for \$35 online at: <https://course.americasboatingcourse.com/ssl/enroll.cfm>.



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Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes Seminar Offerings

Learn the locking, boat handling, and navigation skills you need to boat on major inland waterways.

Our rivers can be hazardous. Confidently boat by developing the special skills you need to deal with currents and shallows, knowing how to maneuver through locks, and learning the correct ways to maneuver in the presence of commercial vessels on major inland waterways. What's included?

- Special navigation rules for rivers
- The Western Rivers System of buoys and marks
- River currents
- "Reading" a river
- Jetties and wing dams
- Intricacies of locking through
- Communicating with lockmasters and bridge tenders



This seminar is offered with online course materials and with in-person instruction at two locations. Following the seminar, join us for an on-the-water exercise on May 24, actually transiting the Fort Loudoun Lock.

- **Saturday May 10 - 9:00-Noon; Lenoir City Park, Pavilion #1**, 6707 City Park Drive, Lenoir City, TN 37772
- **Saturday May 17 - 9:00-Noon; Grace Lutheran Church** (rear entrance), 131 W Gettysburg Ave, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

To register, contact Jeff Schmitt (tiavare@outlook.com / 410-493-4395). Course tuition is free. Online course materials are available online for \$24.95 (25% discount for our members!) Go to:

<https://uspsonline.enrolmart.com/courses/boating-on-rivers-locks-and-lakes>

Fort Loudoun Dam Lock-through – On-the-water Training Opportunities

Join us for an exercise in locking your own boat, or observing on a boat captained by a Club member. (PS. **We need members and their boats!**).

WHEN AND WHERE: Saturday May 24 – 9:00-3:00pm; Lenoir City Park Pavilion 1, 6707 City Park Drive, Lenoir City, TN 37772

9:00 AM – Everyone arrives at Pavilion 1, Lenoir City Park. All sign-in and sign liability release forms. All will find the captains of their boats. The public will turn in their forms to the captains and introduce themselves. Members will help the public find their captains.

9:30 AM – Introduction to America's Boating Club; Lock-through overview.

10:00 AM – Embark boats. Ensure all have means of communicating with each other and have a guide who can safely direct the boat during the on-the-water event.

Noon (or soon thereafter) – Moor and debark boats. **Post lock-through will be a lunch and meeting to award certificates of completion. The club will provide drinks, grilled brats and buns, so bring an appetizer/side/dessert/etc to share with others.** Donations will be encouraged to help the Club offset expenses.



Course tuition is free. To register, contact Jeff Schmitt (tiavare@outlook.com / 410-493-4395).



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Event Calendar - 2025 Watch Year

Date	Time	Location	Event	Leader	Comments
February 25	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Bluetick Tavern in Maryville	Dinner, Election, Change of Watch, "Lessons Learned" Presentation by Schmitts	John Farmer	15 attended
March 1	9:30am - 12:00pm	Perrine's home	2025 Event Planning, Special Bridge Meeting	Don Perrine	12 attended
March 10	6:00pm -	Mimi's Café Turkey Creek	Dinner & "Our Caribbean Charters" Presentation by Farmers	John Farmer	Canceled
April 4-11	Weekend Outing	Knoxville Volunteer Landing	Rossini Festival, FRI docktails, SAT festival then docktails & dinner	Don Perrine	RSVP SOON, see page 3
May 23-25	Weekend Outing	Lenoir City Park Pavilion 1	FRI cookout, SAT lock-through & pot-luck lunch	Jeff Schmitt	Many members needed to help; see page 7
June 20-27	Week-long Outing	Clinch & Emory River Cruise	Destinations might include Oak Ridge & Harriman	Jeff & Barbie Schmitt	
July 3-5	Holiday overnight	Jackson Bend & Knoxville downtown	7/3 pool party @ Perrine's home, then fireworks at Jackson Bend on 7/3 & at Knoxville on 7/4	Don Perrine	Need co-captain to plan mooring arrangements for the "Festival on the Fourth" in Knoxville
August 13-15	Weekday overnight	Lake Cumberland	Stay at cliff resort overlooking the lake & either trailer or rent boat(s)	Tom Dietrich	
September 24-29	Weeklong overnight	Watts Bar Lake & Hiwassee River Cruise	Explore tributaries taking advantage of cooler weather, fewer boats	Walt Hanson & Ed Fendley	
October 13-14	Weekday overnight	Ish Creek	Star Anchor	John Farmer & Tom Dietrich	
November					Nothing scheduled
Early December	Gathering	Hanson's home (Loudon)	Social and catered dinner	Walt & Robin Hanson	
January '26			Planning Meeting		To be determined
February '26			Change of Watch		To be determined



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