



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 12.1

December 2025 Special Edition

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 11/29/2025

Where are we going? The answer is both here and there.

Here...

Captain John Farmer will continue the Power Squadron in 2026 with his presumed election to the position of commander in January. He will endeavor to continue our education programs in 2026 under the leadership of retired Professor Jeff Schmitt. He will also do what he can with boating and social events, notwithstanding the insurance limitations now imposed on squadrons as a result of the recent insurance coverage national has obtained. The secretary's responsibilities will be assumed by Retired Coast Guard Captain Walt Hanson. However, to complete a minimalist bridge team, a treasurer is needed, so anyone willing to step up and help with this mostly bookkeeping responsibility will be most welcome.

There is a list of members who have signed up for the current private invitation list, which enables our squadron to conduct boating and social events outside of national's new and questionable insurance policy. This list is likely to continue to be used throughout 2026 as a way to continue these events with simplicity and confidence.

There will be an election and planning meeting on January 17 at 10 am using one of the online programs, so no one will have to travel to the meeting. The slate of officers for 2026 are as mentioned above, and the main event will be soliciting ideas for activities in 2026, then completing a program for the year. The meeting is expected to last two hours, and the details will be provided before the meeting. Please mark the date on your calendar.

All members are encouraged to continue their membership and participate in events that bring them joy from boating, socialization, camaraderie and often growth through experience and learning.



Check out our....

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national organization at: www.USPS.org

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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: **Vacant**
 2-Year: **Vacant**
 3-Year: **Vacant**

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OFFICERS – 2025

Chaplain**Vacant****Historian**

Lt 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

Lt Joel Stern

Membership:

Lt Jeanette Farmer, P

Merit Mark**Vacant****Newsletter Editor**Lt/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 Chair

Lt Joel Stern

Commander's Report (cont'd)

...and There

A new but “informal” group will be “formalized” after the January meeting. It will NOT be part of the Power Squadron, but a separate and independent group. It will be open to anyone who has a boat and is interested to both participate and lead at least one boating event per year. Hence, Power Squadron members can be members of both, while non-Power Squadron members may also join this informal group. The group will be just a list of people who will be invited to participate in occasional planning meetings as well as the planned events themselves.

The group will have no other structure, no formal leadership and no dues. However, owning and using a boat; periodic planning; updating and commitment to lead at least one activity are essential. It is not intended to compete with Power Squadron events, but may even complement Power Squadron programs. A proposed name for the group is Boating Friends. More information will be provided to you after the January 17 Power Squadron planning meeting and election. If you have questions in the meantime, please let me know at DAPerrine@tds.net.

Wishing you happy holidays and great boating in 2026,

Don Perrine

Commander



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Administrative Officer Report by John Farmer

I joined the Muscogee Power Squadron in Columbus, Georgia, on 6/1/1972, so I have 53 years invested in USPS. When I joined, we taught the Basic Boating course in the Naval Reserve building and had to turn students away after reaching 100 due to capacity constraints. Obviously, things have changed. I am seeing reports that power boat dealers are overstocked, and the interest on their showroom floor plan loans for boats is eating into profits hard.

When I joined, the expectation was that you would take all the courses and electives leading to Senior Navigator, which I have done. My navigation (P – N) instructor was an extremely sharp retired metallurgist from Armco Steel who had turned down an offer to work on the Manhattan Project. My weather instructor was a former airport meteorologist and sailor. My engine maintenance instructor was an outboard motor repairman. My Power Squadron training and the “*Get Your Captain's License*” book by P/D/C Bud Gonder, SN, in California, made it very easy to get my 100-Tom CG Master's license. Bud's book had study questions and answers. I remember emailing Bud and saying that the answer makes no sense. He would reply, John, you and I are both SNs, but the answer is the Coast Guard solution from the old test and possibly on the revised test.

There is a LOT of expertise in the Power Squadron, and I hope serious boaters will take advantage of that! Many of our courses are online, and online exams are coming. National is working very hard to make learning as convenient as possible.

This is your organization, and I hope you will contribute. I am doing my part and have 46 merit marks. I am currently: Squadron Admin. Officer, Webmaster (building us a new site at abc-k.org), Dist. Educ. Officer, and Member National Navigation Committee. For next year, I will pick up the Commander and Newsletter editor roles. Jeanette is serving as our Membership Chairman and our Member Benefits Chairman. **Knoxville and I desperately need your help!** We especially need a treasurer. Tom says it is a simple task on an Excel spreadsheet.

My thanks to Don for organizing a standalone boating group in the interim until we can get better insurance from National. As of now, we only have one insured BOC certifier in D17.

End-of-Year Message to Vessel Examiners

Thanks to everyone for another outstanding VSC year. As it draws to a close, don't forget to get your VSCs logged in ASAP! USPS updated its data management processes, and you can put your data in up to 12/31.

IMPORTANT: The VSC submission tool will be turned off at the end of that day and will be unavailable until about 1/10/2026 for data cleanup. The 2026 decals have been ordered, but there is no shipping date yet. USPS will start sending decal batches as soon as they can to the VSC chair on record or the commander. It is critical that those names and mailing addresses are current in the respective member's files and the OD-1 is up to date. [-Jeff McKinney](#)



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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	12 attended
May 24	Weekend Outing	Lenoir City Park Pavilion 1	Private Pot-luck Picnic	Jeff Schmitt	15 attended
June 20-27	Week-long Outing	Clinch & Emory River Cruise	Destinations might include Oak Ridge & Harriman	Jeff & Barbie Schmitt	canceled
July 3-5	Holiday overnight	Jackson Bend	7/3 pool party @ Perrine's home, then fireworks at Jackson Bend on 7/3	Don Perrine	10 attended
August 13-15	Weekday overnight	Lake Cumberland	Stay at cliff resort overlooking the lake & either trailer or rent boat(s)	Tom Dietrich	canceled
September 24-28	Extended weekend overnight	Watts Bar Lake & Hiwassee River Cruise	Explore tributaries taking advantage of cooler weather, fewer boats	Walt Hanson & Ed Fendley	10 attended different legs of the cruise
October 13-17	Weekday overnight	Tellico Lake	Several raftings and opportunity for star anchor	Don Perrine	2 attended
November					Nothing scheduled
December 10	5-9pm	Hanson's home (Loudon)	Social and potluck dinner	Walt & Robin Hanson	14 attending
January 17, 2026		2-hour Virtual Meeting	Planning Meeting	John Farmer	All are welcomed
February 26, 2026	5-10pm	Kirkwood HOA Clubhouse (catered)	Change of Watch (address is 7860 Ellisville Lane, Knoxville, TN 37909)	John Farmer	All are welcomed



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