



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 2

February 2025

Executive Committee 2024

Commander:
Cdr Don Perrine, AP
(865) 963-9550

Executive Officer:
Vacant

Administrative Officer:
D/Lt/C John Farmer, SN
(865) 765-3407

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

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

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

Past Commander:
Lt/C Bob Mattison, S
(843)-504-8271

Bridge Assistants 2024

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 1/29/2025

Our Election and Change of Watch is at Bluetick Tavern, 128 W Broadway Avenue in Maryville, TN, (same location as last year.). Please join us **on Tuesday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m.** for this important annual membership meeting.

The price is \$25.00 per person for a salad and pizza buffet. We will again meet in the upstairs banquet room. You may purchase drinks from the bar. **The reservation deadline is Tuesday, February 18. A reservation made is a reservation paid.** Please mail checks made out to KPS to John Farmer, 8016 Ellisville LN, Knoxville, TN 37909.

The election was originally planned for January 11, but was postponed due to inclement weather. For the election, the proposed slate appears below. Note, however, that the bridge is open to nominations for these and additional elected positions at any time before the vote. Also, there are several appointed positions with current candidates, and these and other positions are open to anyone who would like to serve.

- Commander: Don Perrine
- Administrative Officer: John Farmer
- Education Officer: Jeff Schmitt
- Secretary: Walt Hanson
- Treasurer: Tom Dietrich



The Change of Watch ceremony will be brief so we can enjoy an interesting and entertaining talk by our own Jeff and Barbie Schmitt.

Some of what they plan to talk about are surprises that, if you had to explain why these things happen, you might simply say, "It's a Boat." Boat owners enjoy spending time on the water. Over time they will have great memories of good times when the weather was good, and the cruising plans went smoothly. However, when the weather is bad or when the going gets rough



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Mission Statement

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

Organization

GENERAL COMMITTEES – 2024

Audit

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

Nominating

Chair: P/C Chuck Smith, AP
2-Year: Ed Fendley, S
3-Year: **Vacant**

Rules

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

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OFFICERS – 2024

Chaplain
Vacant

Historian
P/Lt/C Jeanette Farmer, P

IT / Facebook Administrator
D/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 Editor
Lt/C Walt Hanson, AP

Port Captain - Fort Loudoun
D/Lt/C John Farmer, SN

Port Captain – Lower Norris
Lt Bonnie Fried, P

Port Captain - Tellico
Dan Johnson, JN

Port Captain - Watts Bar
Ed Fendley, S

Public Relations Chair
Vacant

Roster & Calling Committee
Lt Robin Hanson, S

Vessel Safety Check
Lt/C Bob Mattison, S

Commander's Report (continued)

we can gain "truly valuable" experience. Jeff and Barbie Schmitt are boaters with over 50 years cruising experience. **They will share some of their "truly valuable" learning experiences from their boating on sail and power boats, including America's Great Loop.**

This is a "don't miss" event, so sign up with John Farmer to participate (details above) and plan to have a very enjoyable evening with friends. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting where we'll do our best together to "make it a good year".

Don,
Commander



Downtown Knoxville Boat Show – 2/27 thru 3/2

The boat show is from 2/27 to 3/2 at the Knoxville Convention Exhibition Center. Last year 6,489 visited.



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Watch Year 2025 Planning Meeting Rescheduled – 3/1

Ahoy All Members!

Planning Meeting Ahead!

*We want **YOU** to be a part of the action!*

Our club's 2025 planning meeting was postponed to **March 1** due to inclement weather in early January. The meeting will be **9:30 am to noon at Don and Brigitte Perrine's home** located at 3659 Jackson Pointe Drive, Louisville.

Please come prepared to propose and discuss new boating and social ideas that might mean fewer but more worthwhile activities. We will also discuss some of the more traditional activities. Please also be prepared to take an active role in the events that we agree on for the coming year. Events will only happen because we all engage at some level to make them the best experience possible. **RSVP at your earliest to DAPerrine@tds.net.**



Update Regarding America's Boating Club Insurance Coverage

Marine Liability Coverage for on-water training events will be issued soon.. Since our January Newsletter all on-water instructors for supplemental or stand-alone hands-on training, as well as BOC certifiers have had to provide a list of their boating education achievements, boating experience, and their state driver's license number to USPS for the insurance carrier.

Those who didn't submit their information to National and desire to serve to be a future trainer or assistant for on-water training (e.g., Lock-through, Paddle Smart, ABC3, BH, BOC) will need to complete a "Certificate of Insurance Request Form," which is available from our Secretary, Walt Hanson.

ABC3 Instructors Recertified in District 17

Congratulations to the following ABC3 instructors who took the ID Recertification Seminar at the October 2024 D17 Conference. USPS recently updated training histories so that they can continue to serve as certified instructors for the NASBLA-approved ABC3 Course. A special thank you to our DEO, John Farmer, in helping resolve matters that delayed the training history update.

- Margaret Sherrod, ABC Atlanta
- Jack Everett, ABC Chattanooga
- Walt Hanson of ABC Knoxville
- Rich Walter and Chris Whitacre of ABC North Alabama



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2025 Watch Year Education Planning – Jeff Schmitt

Our Education Officer, Jeff Schmitt, has presented a 2025 training plan with the hope of involving several members to engage the boating public. Tentative offerings, subject to instructor resources, are as follows:

America's Boating Course, 3rd Edition (ABC3) would be offered 4 times this spring. Each class would tentatively have three Friday evening sessions (7:00 to 9:00 pm). The sessions would cover: (1) Chapters 1-2; (2) Chapters 3-4 and (3) knots, a review and final exam.

Boat Handling Course (BH) would be offered; the number of classes is yet to be determined. This class is for students who have successfully completed a certified boating safety class (e.g., ABC3, TWRA-administered or USCG Auxiliary-administered). Successful completion of the BH course earns ABC members the advanced grade of "S." The class would tentatively have six Saturday morning sessions (9:00 am to noon). The sessions would cover:

1. Confidence in Docking / Undocking 2. Boating with Confidence / Boat Handling Underway 3. Rules of the Road	4. Anchoring with Assurance 5. Emergencies On Board 6. Knots And Line Handling, Review and Examination
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A combination ABC3 and BH class would also be offered for those students who haven't completed a certified boating safety course (USPS requires having successfully completed a boating safety course as a a prerequisite in obtaining a certificate for successfully completing the BH course.) Our club will market ABC3 and BH as a combined course with a \$75 price. The price includes a student ebook (.pdf format), the in-class sessions, and access to online lessons. This combination offering would tentatively have Saturday morning sessions (9:30 am to noon).

Additional marketing would welcome students to attend any session for free as a recruiting strategy for students who might not be ready to commit to the entire class. This gives them the opportunity to see what we are teaching and hopefully decide to take the full class. All education opportunities are opportunities for our club to recruit members.

On-water training supplements continue:

- **Lock-through training** would be similar to past years. The proposed schedule is May 10 for training initiated at Ft Loudon Marina and May 17 for training imitated at Tennessee National.
- **Supplemental training as it pertains to ABC3 and BH** would be scheduled for Saturday afternoons with participants encouraged to bring their own boats.

Marine Navigation (MN) would be offered; the number of classes is yet to be determined. This class is for students who have successfully completed the BH course. Successful completion of the MN course earns ABC members the advanced grade of "P." Each class will consist of six online modules and a practice cruise. The examination is done online; it covers the material in the student ebook and the practice cruise. Students will need to register for the online course. Also, the class will meet in-person for 2-hour sessions. Students bring their laptops for the OpenCPN sessions. The in-person sessions will coach the practice cruise.

Our club will market this course with a \$75 price. A list of the chapters in the course are on the next page.



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2025 Watch Year Education Planning (continued)

The MN course covers the following:

1. Planning 2. Electronic Navigation using OpenCPN 3. Paper Chart Navigation	4. Navigating Coastal Waterways 5. Navigating Inland Waterways 6. Practice Cruise and Examination
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Updates on Courses and Seminars – John Farmer

Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes (BRLL) Seminar – the effort to update this seminar has been discontinued. During the development phase of the update, the USPS Navigation Committee (NavCom) realized there was too much information to present in a 2-hour seminar. As a result, a decision was made to expand the material to encompass everything you need to know when boating on inland waters. The current seminar will remain in the catalog until the new course is released.

John Farmer, who is our District Education Officer and is a NavCom member was the one who rewrote the Boating on Locks and Lakes portion for the seminar. He also has written the Inland chapter on Navigable Waters. John states that the ***BRLL Seminar is valuable for our boating...and if you have not already done so, please purchase and download it now!***

Inland Boating (IB) Course is currently in progress. The topics covered include the definition of inland boating, cruise planning, charts, weather, navigation rules and aids, river boating (with a detailed discussion of commercial traffic operations), the Automatic Identification System, locking through (featuring a new 5-minute video), bridges, lake boating, human-powered vessels, and transporting your vessel.

The course addresses the essentials of boating on inland rivers and lakes (excluding the Great Lakes) in the United States. Inland rivers (aka U.S. Western Rivers or the Inland Waterway System) are the navigable waters from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. Boating on inland waters can involve various time frames (i.e. day trips to multi-week excursions). The course is planned to be offered as an elective with multiple seminars. Successful completion of all seminars (either by attending the classes or testing out) will earn the student the IB designator. The projected release date of the Beta version is fall 2025.

Cruising Under Power and Sail (CUPS) Course. This updated and revised course is ready for prime time. I have now reviewed the first chapter of the Cruising Under Power and Sail (CUPS) course. ***If there is enough interest, John Farmer is willing to offer the first chapter online as a free seminar. Interested members should contact John via email at captfarmer@gmail.com.***

- Ch1 – Preparing to Cruise. This section includes Cruising types; Destination selection; Season & length; Collecting information; Cruising guides; Tourist bureau websites; and Cruise planning checklist.
- Ch2 – A Boat for Cruising. This section includes: Why, who, what, when, where; Chartering vs. buying; Ownership; Powerboats; Sailboats; and Evaluating a boat.
- Ch3 – Propulsion & Electrical Systems. This section includes: Engine systems; Propulsion systems; DC electrical systems; AC electrical systems; and Tools & spare parts.



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Education Dept – Technical Corner – John Farmer

Night Vision Option for Boaters - If you boat at night, you should have radar, but even that can't see all the river debris. Now, there is a less expensive and easier-to-use option with a color, night vision optic, from Sionyx at <https://www.sionyx.com/products/aurora-pro> .



When John Farmer captained THE STAR, he installed a more expensive FLIR grayscale thermal vision camera aboard her; so the bridge could see standup paddleboarders out at night without lights. Thermal vision can see bridges and things beyond them better than radar.

Fisherman Outreach – Feedback Requested – John Farmer

Top 10 USA boating activities based on general participation, with estimated participation percentages. These participation percentages are based on surveys conducted by the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) and other boating-related research organizations.

1. Fishing – 40%
2. Cruising/Leisure Boating – 20%
3. Water Sports (Water Skiing, Wakeboarding, Tubing) – 15%
4. Canoeing/Kayaking – 12%
5. Sailing – 10%
6. Stand-Up Paddleboarding (SUP) – 7%
7. Scuba Diving/Snorkeling – 5%
8. Boating Events/Regattas – 4%
9. Boat Camping – 3%
10. Personal watercraft operation – 2%



Feedback Requested - If you are a fisherman or a friend of one, we welcome answers to the following questions. Please relay responses to either Jeff Schmitt or John Farmer.

1. What boating education might interest fishermen?
2. If we were to offer it, how can fishermen be reached (e.g. FaceBook local fishing pages, fishing organizations)?

“How to Use GPS” Seminar for Fishermen - It seems that all fishermen use GPS chartplotters. So, John Farmer suggests a free seminar, “How to use GPS.” This seminar introduces students to the basics of how to use GPS. Topics include: setup and status, using your GPS, and boat systems integration. John observed that his Lowrance plotter defaults to recording his tracks. At a marina, he saw a bass boater that had so many overlapping tracks that it was hard to read the chart. John showed him how to delete tracks and turn track recording off. And John gave the fisherman contact information about our club.



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Event Calendar - 2024 Watch Year

Date	Time	Location	Event	Leader	Comments
January 13	9:30am - 12:00pm	Perrine's home	2024 Event Planning Meeting	Don Perrine	17 attended
February 12	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Bluetick Tavern in Maryville	Change Of Watch	Robin Hanson	21 attended
March 26	6:00pm –	Carmichael Inn, Loudon	Asst Ops Manager, Matt Emmons	AO Team	45 attended
April 20-21	5:30pm –	Tupelo Honey, Knoxville	Rossini Festival boating cx'd but dinner mtg held	Beth & Ed Fendley	15 attended
May 11	9:00am – 3:00 pm	Lenoir City Park Pavilion 1	Lock-through #1	Jeff Schmitt	26 attended
May 24	10:10am – 1:00 pm	Tennessee National Marina	Lock-through #2	Walt Hanson	canceled
May 25 (change)	3:00pm - overnight	Cove near Lenoir City Park	Rockin' The Dock	Robin Hanson	2 attended
June 4	6:00pm -	Finn's Irish Tavern, Knoxville	Dinner Meeting, TWRA speaker	John Farmer	21 attended
June 22	3:00pm -	Perrine's home	New member orientation & pool party	Don Perrine	18 attended
July 5	3:00pm - overnight	Tennessee National Marina	8pm Jimmy Buffett Tribute Concert and Fireworks	Walt & Robin Hanson	8 attended
August 16-17	3:00pm - overnight -	Tellico Lake	Raft-up cx'd due to wx but dinner held	Dan & Chris Johnson	7 attended
September 19-23	Multi-day	Richland Creek RDVU	Clinch River to Oak Ridge	Walt & Robin Hanson	13 attended
October 20-25	Multi-day	Kingston RDVU	Emory River to Harriman	canceled	
October 25-27	Muti-day	Comfort Inn, Oak Ridge	D17 Conference	John Farmer	Many; 7 from ABC-K
November 14	6:00pm – 10:00pm	Concord Yacht Club	Joint meeting with CSC/CYC	Canceled	
			Gala	Canceled	
January 11	9:30am - 12:00pm	Perrine's home	2024 Event Planning Meeting	Don Perrine	Postponed to 3/1 due inclement weather
February 25	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Bluetick Tavern in Maryville	Election, Change of Watch and Boating Talk by the Schmitts	John Farmer	



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