



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 38 No 1

January 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 1/3/2026

First, I want to wish everyone a happy and successful new year.

Second, I will lead an election of officers for 2026. The election will be followed by a planning meeting to be led by John Farmer. The combined meeting will be on January 17th from 10:00 AM to noon. It will be online, sparing everyone from traveling, and it will be done using the following link: <https://meet.google.com/ftz-jats-isk>.

For the election, the nominees are:

- Commander: John Farmer
- Secretary: Walt Hanson
- Education Officer: Jeff Schmitt
- Treasurer: nominee needed

Anyone interested to serve in the above positions in place of the current nominees is encouraged to make their interest known either now or during the election. The Treasurer and other positions are opportunities to serve in leadership roles where one can make a difference in both the success of our squadron and the boating community that we serve. Please let either John Farmer or me know if you have interest or have questions about positions.

The Planning Meeting: As the main event, it will be about soliciting ideas for activities in 2026, then completing a program for the year. The meeting is expected to last two hours, and an agenda 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.

As spring is a great time to enjoy boating, I look forward to seeing you on the water.

Don Perrine
Commander



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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

What's in it for me? – Reflection by John Farmer

- **SENSE OF PURPOSE:** Volunteering offers a meaningful way to contribute to your community and make a difference in people's lives.
- **COMMUNITY CONNECTION:** It helps you feel more connected to your community and fosters a sense of belonging. Social opportunities: You meet new people and make friends who share similar interests and values.
- **SKILLS DEVELOPMENT:** Volunteering to teach or taking courses can help you learn new skills or enhance existing ones, thereby benefiting your personal and professional growth.
- **MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS:** Engaging in volunteer work can reduce stress and increase feelings of happiness and fulfillment.

Hosting any club activity requires a lot of work. This means volunteers are needed to plan, organize, set up, clean up, and more, to make our club successful. If someone had told me before I joined Muscogee Power Squadron in 1972 that I would have the opportunity to teach hundreds of students in Basic Boating through Celestial, plus many electives, work on the National Marine Navigation Committee, and obtain my Captain's license, which I used for 20 years - I would have thought they were crazy.

Now it's your turn! There is no limit to what you can accomplish once you get involved!

Our leadership team is always looking for people willing to join our ranks. All it requires is for you to say, "I would like to help." Reach out today to our squadron commander or anyone on our bridge. They will be happy to hear from you. And you'll be glad you did.

Here's to your continued success in 2026!



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Administrative Officer Report by John Farmer

I hope you had a happy holiday season and are ready for 2026.

MORE ABOUT THE PLANNING MEETING: The club is holding a virtual planning meeting on **Saturday, 1/17, starting at 10:00AM. ALL are invited. We need everyone's input to make this an enjoyable and meaningful year.** Your ideas are always welcome.

We will use Google Meet; the link is <https://meet.google.com/ftz-jats-isk>. Click the link to join. The plan is to have a calendar on the screen to share proposed events. **As a reminder this link will be shared with members by a separate email on Wednesday, 1/14.**

If you never used Google Meet and want to ensure you can access it properly, **I will hold a test meeting Friday, 1/16 at 7:00PM. The test meeting link is <https://meet.google.com/kaa-kfsx-drt>.**

I will be using the up arrow to share one of my screens with the proposed event calendar, etc. For those who use Zoom, Google meet is very similar. Features include: raising your hand and chatting.

CHANGE OF WATCH: Our annual change of watch meeting is on **Thursday, 2/26 at 6:00PM at the Kirkwood Subdivision Clubhouse at 7860 Ellisville Lane, Knoxville**, just off Middlebrook Pike. No alcohol is allowed in the Clubhouse. To hold down prices we will have a meal of McAlister's Deli club sandwiches, tea, water and a cookie. **Please make your reservation now by sending a check for \$18.00 per person to John Farmer, 8016 Ellisville LN, Knoxville, TN 37909. Reservations or cancellations are accepted until Monday, 2/23.** Please don't forget.

The meeting program includes the election and installation of officers and my presentation on "NMEA Vessel Electronics Communications" including the new NMEA One Net that is coming.

MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE: To try to increase our membership I created a

YouTube video "TN Boater Education" at <https://youtu.be/NPQOugX4u2I>

The video has been shared via our club's Facebook page and with every local, boating -related Facebook page that John could find. These included the local boat rental clubs, Concord Yacht Club, T-BART, TWRA, and 18 Knoxville area marinas.

A Director of Operations for one of the local boat rental clubs acknowledged the value of the boating essentials that were condensed into this 10-minute video. He also noted, "It is really difficult for me to get a group of members down for one of our mixers; trying to host them for one of your classes would be like moving mountains. I was wondering if we could collaborate on your knowledge of boating and my experience with our members short attention span in a way that we can deliver the most helpful and practical knowledge to them as boat clubbers, not boat owners. Let me know if you have any thoughts or ideas. I would love to use your video for our internal website..." [Stay tuned.]

Please share the link with everyone you can think of as a free community service AND use it to try to help us get new members. Anything else you can do to increase our membership would certainly be appreciated.



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Tellico Lake Orientation

Did you know that T-BART presents four “Lake Orientation” seminars each year? These free public seminars include descriptions of Tellico Lake, potential boating hazards on the lake, general boating safety information, key services around the lake, such as marinas and ramps, as well as boating organizations active on Tellico Lake. **For 2026, all seminars are on Saturdays from 1 to 4PM. Dates and locations are in the below table. Please pre-register at TBARTlakeorientation@gmail.com.**



Dates	Seminar Location	Downloadable seminar handouts are:
3/14	Tellico Village Yacht Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Basics • Contacts and Web Links • Waypoints
4/18	Kahite Community Center	
5/16	Tellico Village Yacht Club	
7/11	Rarity Bay	

Check out their website: www.T-BART.org. It has on-demand recordings of past orientation sessions.

Educational Department Report by Jeff Schmitt

Our SEO, Jeff Schmitt, plans to teach five public boating safety classes using the TWRA booklets. The courses will be promoted via the TWRA website. “Do you need a TWRA boating wallet card, or would you like to expand your boating knowledge further? Then America’s Boating Club of Knoxville can certainly help. We have trained and experienced TWRA-certified instructors and testers, and we can offer a more comprehensive ABC3 course with a 250-page book, including its optional Chapter 5 on navigation.”

The five TWRA classes each have two, in-person, 2-hour sessions. The classes are held at the Grace Lutheran Church, 131 W Gettysburg Ave, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM Fridays. The five classes are listed below.



Class	Session Dates
Class #1	3/13 and 3/20
Class #2	3/27 and 4/3
Class #3	4/10 and 4/17
Class #4	4/24 and 5/1
Class #5	5/8 and 5/15

Please pre-register by contacting Jeff Schmitt at tiavare@gmail.com. If you are interested in a more thorough course, then try America’s Boating Course (ABC3). It gives you more than the basics for boating safely and more knowledge to enjoy your time out on the water. To purchase a copy, talk to Jeff.

Either course qualifies you for the TWRA wallet card.

Students born after 1/1/1989 who require the TWRA boat operating permit must obtain a TWRA form 600 for \$10 at a retail store or online. They must present their form 600 at the in-person proctored exam.



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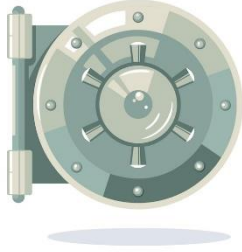
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Treasurer's Report by Tom Dietrich

The current balance in our treasury is **\$12,332.06**. The club's fiscal year runs from December 1 to November 30. Because Tom is not running for Treasurer, the annual audit is delayed till the date of his relief.



For the 2025 fiscal year, we had a net loss of \$757.

- Income was \$2,293.
- Expenses were \$3,050.

The primary reasons for the loss were our D&O insurance, education space that was underused and the cost for our website through Squarespace. The latter has been cancelled.

Boater's Thought for the Day by Don Perrine



Debris tends to be most dense in the water at wind protected bends because the debris drifts into these areas, and then it gets stuck there because of low current and little or no wind.

So...be on the lookout!



Parting Shots for the Year 2025 – Dinner Social at the Hanson's



Robin and Walt Hanson enjoyed celebrating the start of the winter holidays with ABC-K friends and family at their home in Loudon (TN River MM 584). It was potluck and we were very lucky. For all of us it was a great occasion to catch up.

The weather was good so it helped those who had to travel a long way. We thank Joel & Kathy for making the trek from Norris Lake.

The dinner social included Jeff & Barbie Schmitt, Joel & Kathy Stern, Dan & Chris Johnson, Tom & Marbeth Dietrich along with their daughter Kim and son Brian, Don & Brigitte Perrine and the hosts.

The number made it possible for all of us to be seated at the same table. It was great to hear from Kim and Brian that it was special for them to be present - they finally met the many people their folks talk about. Thank you to all who could come.



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Parting Shots for the Year 2025 – Dinner Social at the Hanson's (continued)



Above: Hurry-up we all want to eat!

At left: Marbeth introducing the “kids” Kim and Brian to Don and Brigitte.

Below pics: Taking advantage of the hors d'oeuvres and catching up with recent events.



Happy 2026!



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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 attended
January 17, 2026	10am-noon	2-hour Virtual Meeting	Election and Planning Meeting	Don Perrine & John Farmer	All are welcomed
February 26, 2026	Starts 6pm	Kirkwood HOA Clubhouse (catered)	Change of Watch (address is 7860 Ellisville Lane, Knoxville, TN 37909)	John Farmer	All are welcomed



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