



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 6

June 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 5/29/2025



First, I want to thank Jeff and Barbie Schmitt for hosting the picnic at Lenoir City Park in lieu of the lock-through event. It was well attended with burgers and brats cooked by Jeff.

Next, I am trying to connect with either the commander of the Chattanooga Power Squadron or one of their officers. My purpose is to discuss the possibility of Knoxville merging with them. The reason for the discussion with them is that we have a very thin leadership team; and in addition, the insurance change has limited our club-insured activities to mainly educational and VSC programs. The social and boating programs are now by invitation to the email list Robin has compiled that includes members who emailed her saying they want to be informed of these substitute activities. I will update everyone as soon as I've made contact and have something to report.

Additionally, **Brigitte and I are planning a cruise the week of June 15th. The rough plan is to cruise Watts Bar** and possibly do part of the Clinch, since Jeff Schmitt can no longer lead the Clinch cruise due to family coming to visit. **I'll be speaking with folks who have expressed interest in one or the other recently, then firming up the program. This is an invitation event that is "privately" organized; so, if you are interested, please put your name on the emailing list with Robin for these types of events.** (Her list is very short!)

Lastly, **Brigitte and I are hosting a pool party, which will be extended by invitation to everyone on the email list that Robin is maintaining for these events.**

Continued on the bottom of the next page



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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**Vacant****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

Commander's Report (continued)

The pool party will be July 3rd at our home, and we expect that Randy Boyd's exceptional fireworks show will be later that evening; however, at this time there is no guarantee the Randy will do the fireworks again this year. The pool party is a boating event, which means that it is open to anyone on Robin's list who wants to come by boat. We have 15, 30 and 50 amp power plus water and ample dock space. If you are interested to receive the invitation, please ensure Robin has your email address on her list.

See you 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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Last Private Invite Event – Lenoir City Park Pavilion 1 – May 24

Jeff Schmitt, brought his 17-foot canoe and offered some instruction on safe paddling in advance of the potluck picnic. The paddling activity started at 9:00 am at Pavilion 1. All were encouraged to bring their own paddle craft or just come and watch fun. The event was attended by 15: Don & Brigitte Perrine; Dan & Chris Johnson; Ivan, Nancy & Nadia Yanasak; Ed & Beth Fendley; Jeff & Barbara Schmitt and Will & Hope Connor (Jeff's guests).

Next Private Invite Events – Watts Bar Cruise and 4th of July Party

CRUISE OF WATTS BAR and possibly part of the Clinch River; planned start is **June 15**. Don Perrine will be leading this privately-organized invite event, which is being done in lieu of the Clinch and Emory River Cruise that had been advertised for late June.

If you are interested to receive the invitation, please ensure Robin has your email address on her list. Contact Robin @robin.c.hanson@gmail.com.

POOL PARTY is again planned for **July 3** at the Perrine's. Don and Brigitte hope for -- but there is NO guarantee -- their neighbor Randy Boyd will have his exceptional fireworks show that evening.

The pool party is a BOATING event, which means that it is open to anyone on Robin's list who wants to come by boat. We have 15, 30 and 50 amp power plus water and ample dock space.

If you are interested to receive the invitation, please ensure Robin has your email address on her list. Contact Robin at robin.c.hanson@gmail.com and ask to attend.

**Treasurer's Report – Financials and Insurance – by Tom Dietrich****FINANCIALS –**

- Year to date our income has been \$5,945 and our expenses. \$4,647.
- Total savings are \$12,335.



INSURANCE - On April 21 ABC Knoxville bought the \$1,000,000 D&O policy offered through E-Risk Services (Internal), on behalf of Scottsdale Indemnity Company for \$383 this year. The insurer is one that has been contracted by USPS to offer optional D&O insurance coverage (meaning the club pays the annual premium). This insures our officers in the conduct of their duties and allows us to continue such shoreside functions as voluntary vessel safety checks, etc.



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Education Related

NATIONAL NEWS –

The advanced course, JN, will be offered by USPS virtually this Fall and again in the Spring for those that need it.

ABC KNOXVILLE NEWS –

The scheduled education for Spring 2025 has been completed. ABC Knoxville has no planned summer powerboat or paddle craft educational opportunities in Knoxville. Sail 2009 might be offered in Watauga Lake in July/August. We thank our SEO and certified instructor Jeff Schmitt in affecting the following schedule of courses and seminars.

- America's Boating Course (ABC3) – 4 courses offered
- Boating on Rivers, Lakes and Locks (BRLL) - 2 seminars offered
- On-the Water Lock-Through Training – cancelled due to lack of insurance
- Paddle Smart – 1 seminar offered

Volunteer Sought – Do you have an interest in perpetuating the education mission of the Club and are willing to give time **to do training administration and help with online posting of courses**? Please contact Jeff Schmitt. This role doesn't require you to become a certified instructor or teach, but you are encouraged to do same.

Certified Instructors are those who can teach public boating safety (America's Boating Course [ABC3]). Our list of certified instructors and when their certifications expire appears below.

Charles J. Schmitt 11/2025
Donald A. Perrine 02/2026
John C. Farmer 09/2026
Stephen Wayne Brumit 01/2028
William S. Murdoch 03/2028
Walter E Hanson 10/2028

Instructor Recertification Seminar - It's easy to find the new 2-hour Recertification Seminar on the Instructor Development Committee webpage at www.usps.org. This seminar is user-friendly, with full details for instructors to review. For additional questions about the Recertification Seminar (or the Instructor Development Course), contact id@usps.org or peltier.abc@gmail.com.

ABC ATLANTA NEWS –

Atlanta is offering virtual seminars, which are open to all D17. The squadron is preparing for a charter cruise in the US Pacific Northwest.

- The seminars are instructor-led, online for 90 minutes. They will be team taught by P/C Eric Ringwall, SN-CN and Meredith Randall, SN-CN. Both have taught for years and have cruised thousands of miles in coastal and offshore waters.
- Please register at <https://americasboatingclubatlanta.org/public-classes/upcoming-classes>.
- **Price for each seminar is \$15.** Payment can be by Zelle to treasurer@americasboatingclubatlanta.org or by check payable to ABCA and mailed to Treasurer John Reichmann, 3990 Donegal Ct, Tucker, GA 30084-2525. Please include in the payment memo for which seminar you have registered. If you have questions email seo@americasboatingclubatlanta.org.
- **Schedule: Each seminar is from 9 – 10:30 a.m. ONLINE on the following Saturdays.**
 - **Anchoring with Assurance** – (done)
 - **VHF** – **June 21**
 - **Tides and Currents** – **July 19**
 - **AIS Electronics for Boaters** – **August 16**

Also offered virtually is the **Cruising under Power and Sail** course, which will be **Tuesday evenings beginning on June 17** for about 8 weeks from 7pm until 9pm. The price for USPS members is \$88. Register following the guidance provided above for the seminars.



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Having a Trash Plan – Really?



Please Promote Environmental Responsibility!

Having a written trash plan is a Vessel Safety Check requirement for boats over 40 feet length overall, but **it's a good idea for all boaters to have a known plan about how to handle trash, and to make sure everyone on board knows how trash is to be dealt with on your boat.** This especially applies to your guests, as they might not be aware of what to do with their leftovers. Remember, if we bring it out on the water, we need to bring it back to shore for proper disposal.

The Dangers of Carbon Monoxide by Ann Renz (Compass, USPS)

The combustion and burning of gasoline and diesel fuel produces poisonous carbon monoxide gas. Because the gas is odorless and colorless, it's difficult to tell when you are being exposed.

Boats and other watercraft without emission control equipment exhaust a great deal of carbon monoxide, which interferes with your body's ability to use oxygen. Anyone who spends any time near the rear end of a boat can be exposed to too much carbon monoxide.

Exposure to low levels of carbon monoxide can cause headaches, dizziness and loss of concentration. High levels of CO ingestion can cause loss of consciousness or death. Unless suspected, CO poisoning can be difficult to diagnose because the symptoms resemble those of other illnesses.

The most common symptoms of CO poisoning include

- headache
- vomiting
- dizziness
- chest pain
- weakness
- confusion
- nausea

If you think someone on your watercraft has CO poisoning, move him or her to fresh air quickly and contact your nearest emergency services personnel.

You can take a few simple precautions to prevent CO poisoning.

- Stay away from boat exhaust.
- Keep your boat motor off at all times while you are docked.
- Never allow your boat motor to idle to run appliances like radios.
- Avoid crowded areas where lots of boats congregate if some of the boats are idling.
- **Be CO aware when rafting and when swimming around boats!!**



Boat exhaust can also flow back into the rear of the boat. The amount of carbon monoxide can reach life-threatening concentrations on and near swim decks.



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Membership Related

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS –

Judy and Gary Millington recently transferred to ABC Knoxville from ABC Johnson City, which is now inactive. They didn't want to pursue the "cyber squadron" option. Welcome aboard!



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

The Power of One

The Power of 1 is a national recruiting initiative that rewards members for bringing new boaters into America's Boating Club. Earn points for each referral and earn prizes, recognition, and squadron bragging rights!

Highlights

- ★ National Recruiting Initiative Launches June 1st!
- 🕒 Open to all members of America's Boating Club / USPS
- 🏆 Earn points for every new member you recruit
- 🎁 Redeem points for branded ABC/USPS merchandise and more
- 🏆 Top 5 individual recruiters nationwide win exclusive prizes
- 🏆 Top 2 squadrons recognized and rewarded
- 📅 Recruiting period runs June 1 – November 30, 2025
- 🏆 Top Recruiters honored at the 2026 Annual Meeting

Learn more on the Membership Committee page at USPS.org

Contact: R/C James M. Milton, JN
JMilton040@gmail.com
631-681-7650

NEW USPS INITIATIVE –

Are you aware of the "**Power of One**" Initiative that runs from June 1 through November 30?

Every member has the power to grow ABC by bringing in just one new member. When you bring in new members, you're helping strengthen our Club and can earn rewards from USPS. Whether it's a friend, family member, or fellow boater, your invitation could be the start of their journey.

NEW BENEFIT AVAILABLE THROUGH USPS –

Disaster Insurance Coverage is now offered through Recoop Disaster Insurance. It is marketed as offering up to \$25,000 in fast cash after hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes, and more. No deductibles. No hassle. Just quick support where your homeowners' or renters' insurance may fall short. More info is available at <https://www.member-options.com/disaster-insurance>.

The perceived cost and benefit based on Walt Hanson's

research: \$25,000 might be provided if you pay a \$55/mo premium. Recoop covers hurricanes (includes storm surge), wildfires, tornadoes, earthquakes, gas explosions, winter storms and

dust storms. Recoop does NOT cover landslides, tsunamis, fresh-water flooding, straight-line wind or hail damage regardless of cause. The home or apartment listed on your policy must have direct physical loss or damage that exceeds Recoop's \$1,000 damage threshold. For renters, this includes damage to personal property as well. Lastly, if a disaster is not declared by the state or federal government, Recoop won't approve your claim. And to approve the claim, your property must be within the physical limits of the declared disaster.

PASSING OF MARSHALL HERRON, 82, of Gray, TN. Marshall was an enthusiastic Life Member of USPS. His passion for the water was well-known among his friends and colleagues, who often heard tales of his maritime adventures. He passed away on May 13 at Johnson City Medical Center; his funeral was May 18. Marshall grew up in Gate City, VA, and had made his home in Gray, TN, for the past 60 years. He was a proud UT alumnus; He earned an engineering degree and had a career at Eastman Chemical Co. from which he retired. He then served as a self-employed quality manager. Marshall leaves behind his beloved wife, Brenda Gayle Greene Herron; their sons, Todd Herron (Dayanara) of Athens, GA, and Sean Herron of Gray, TN; their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



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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 & Knoxville downtown	7/3 pool party @ Perrine's home, then fireworks at Jackson Bend on 7/3 & at Knoxville on 7/4	Don Perrine	Private Event, not sponsored by ABC-K
August 13-15	Weekday overnight	Lake Cumberland	Stay at cliff resort overlooking the lake & either trailer or rent boat(s)	Tom Dietrich	Private Event, not sponsored by ABC-K
September 24-29	Weeklong overnight	Watts Bar Lake & Hiwassee River Cruise	Explore tributaries taking advantage of cooler weather, fewer boats	Walt Hanson & Ed Fendley	Private Event, not sponsored by ABC-K
October 13-14	Weekday overnight	Ish Creek	Star Anchor	John Farmer & Tom Dietrich	Private Event, not sponsored by ABC-K
November					Nothing scheduled
Early December	Gathering	Hanson's home (Loudon)	Social and catered dinner	Walt & Robin Hanson	Private Event, not sponsored by ABC-K
January '26			Planning Meeting		To be determined
February '26			Change of Watch		To be determined



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