



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 11/12

November/December 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 10/29/2025

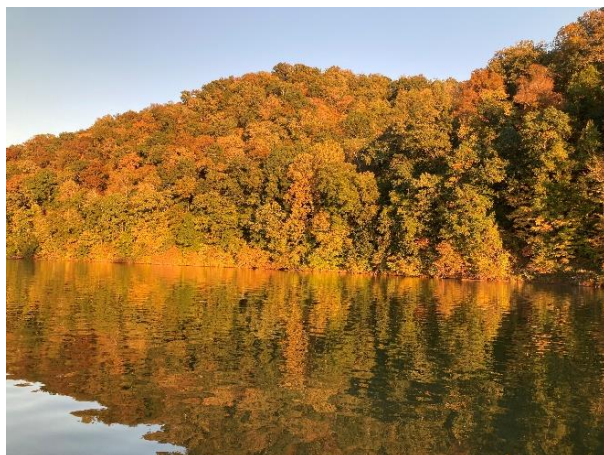
Boating has been the main activity for our squadron during this wonderful fall cruising season. Most recently, Brigitte and I enjoyed an "invitational cruise" on Tellico Lake October 13-17. The cruise was open to anyone who wanted to join; however, unfortunately, there were no takers.



Brigitte and I anchored in a cove across from Tellico's Jackson Bend Island (yes, there is more than one Jackson Bend on our lakes) for the afternoon of the 13th and 14th. The view was impressive and we were able to swim, since the water was "warm by Canadian standards" (we swam in British Columbia during our August three-week charter in Desolation Sound).

On the 14th, we went in the evening to Tom and Marbeth Dietrich's home for dinner with Rand and Cheryl Henke, who are recently back from their cruising adventure to Lake Michigan by going up the Mississippi River against its strong currents to the Illinois River.

Our next stop was one of our favorite anchorages, Notchy Creek. There we enjoyed beautiful sunsets, more Canadian style swimming and the dramatic scenery.



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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)



Our last night was spent at Tellico Yacht Club where we had dinner with Dan and Chris Johnson, chatting about experiences and enjoying each other's company. Finally, we headed for home on the last day after a memorable five days on the water at the best time of the year.

Since we are a boating organization, and we offer the education, the opportunities for gaining experience with other seasoned boaters, and the ability for everyone to grow in skill and confidence, I encourage all of our members to consider taking advantage of all that our uniquely wonderful area offers boaters. I also encourage all of us to consider chartering as a way to find whole new adventures on the water and experiencing things in life and ashore that often can only be done from a boat.

Since winter is coming, I hope to see you at our next indoor event.

Don Perrine

Commander



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National Recognition – Updates and Who Is Recognized

This past year some changes to awards have been made in our national organization. Before reflecting on what recognitions our members have, it is best to review what is now achievable. **We are happy that USPS has expanded recognition for inland river boating achievement – and we thank our member, John Farmer, for being the champion.**

MERIT MARK - Active members can earn one merit mark annually (between 10/1 and 9/30). The mark is national recognition within the organization for your participation. Earning a Merit Mark is based on your cumulative efforts on committees and activities over a year's time. Merit mark applications are yearly due at USPS by 11/15. Members submit data justifying their mark to our ABC-K Commander, who submits individual applications to USPS.

Senior Members – are those who earned 5 merit marks.

Our senior members are

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Judy B. Millington, S | • William C. Brumit, AP |
| • Robin C. Hanson, S | • Bonnie H. Fried, P |
| • Walter E. Hanson, AP | • Gary Millington, SN |
| • Donald A. Perrine, AP | • Stephen Wayne Brumit, AP |
| • Richard H. Woodlee, SN | • Sue G. Lockett, AP |
| • Peter Barile, AP | • William T. Hall, SN |

Life Members – are those who have been members for 25 years and have earned 25 merit marks. A life member is exempt from paying national dues. **Our life members are:**

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| • Tom Dietrich, SN; his 25th mark earned this year! | |
| • William S. Murdoch, SN | • James C. Barkley, SN |
| • Jeanette C. Farmer, P | • Robert R. Bray, JN |
| • Robert M. McConnel, SN | • Edgar N. Lockett, AP |
| | • John C. Farmer, SN |

GRADE – USPS assigns a grade, the letter(s) behind a member's name, to reflect the successful completion of advanced grade courses. The below table indicates the courses required to be completed, the designated grade, and the members that hold that grade.

Courses completed	Grade	Members holding the Grade
Boat Handling or Seamanship	Seaman (S)	Harold E. Fendley Elizabeth H. Fendley Robin C. Hanson Judy B. Millington John Sanseverino Charles J. Schmitt
Marine Navigation or Piloting (also the combination of S and P)	Pilot (P)	Jeanette C. Farmer Bonnie H. Fried
Combination of S and P plus either Advanced Marine Navigation or Advanced Piloting	Advanced Pilot (AP)	Peter Barile William C. Brumit Stephen Wayne Brumit Walter E. Hanson Sue G. Lockett Edgar N. Lockett Donald A. Perrine
Combination of AP and Junior Navigation	Junior Navigation (JN)	Robert R. Bray John A. Cento Chris L. Johnson Dan F. Johnson
Combination of AP and Offshore Navigation	Offshore Mariner (OM)	
Combination of AP and Celestial Navigation	Celestial Mariner (CM)	
Combination of AP and Inland Boating (which is a new course)	Inland Mariner (IM)	Most recent grade to be designated. The new course should be available in 2026.
Combination of AP and both Offshore and Celestial Navigation (also the combination of JN and Navigation)	Navigator (N)	



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National Recognition – Updates and Who Is Recognized (cont'd)

USPS also recognizes certain U.S. Coast Guard licenses (which are currently in effect), USCG Auxiliary courses, and Canadian Power & Sail Squadron courses as equivalent to USPS courses. The SEO can assist a member who desires to get credit for an equivalent course.

EDUCATIONAL PROFICIENCY is awarded to anyone attaining a grade level of at least Advanced Pilot (AP) and completing at least three Elective Courses. The Grade behind the member's name is underscored to indicate this level of advancement. **Our members who have been so recognized are:**

Peter Barile
James C. Barkley
Bill Brumit

Steve Brumit
John A. Cento
Walter E. Hanson Jr.

Chris L. Johnson
Dan F. Johnson
Edgar N. Lockett III

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT is the highest educational recognition award given by USPS. **A person with this award is known as a Senior Navigator** and uses the printed grade designation of SN. The SN grade is awarded to anyone attaining the N, JN, OM, CM, or IM grade plus a specified number of electives and additional advanced courses. There are now 5 paths to Senior Navigator:

Pathways	Course Abbreviations
1. N grade + 6 of: CUPS, EM, ID, MCS, MES, Radar, Sail, WE, IB	CUPS - Cruising Under Power and Sail, which includes its precursors: (1) Cruise Planning and (2) Cruising and Cruise Planning
2. JN grade + 7 of: CUPS, EM, ID, MCS, MES, Radar, Sail, WE, IB	CN - Celestial Navigation
3. OM grade + 7 of: CUPS, EM, ID, MCS, MES, Radar, Sail, WE, CN, IB	EM - Engine Maintenance
4. CM grade + 7 of: CUPS, EM, ID, MCS, MES, Radar, Sail, WE, IB, ON	IB - Inland Boating (under development)
5. IM grade + 7 of: CUPS, EM, ID, MCS, MES, Radar, Sail, WE, CN, ON	ID - Instructor Development (which for this purpose includes IQ-Instructor Qualification)
	MCS - Marine Communications Systems
	MES - Marine Electrical Systems
	ON - Offshore Navigation
	WE - Weather

Our Senior Navigators are:

Tom Dietrich
John C. Farmer

William T. Hall, who achieved his SN earlier this year!

Robert M. McConnel
Gary Millington
William S. Murdoch
Richard H. Woodlee

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
TOM DIETRICH AND WILLIAM HALL
FOR THEIR RECENT RECOGNITIONS
OF MERIT AND ACHIEVEMENT!**



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Reporting navigation hazards – It depends

There are plenty of agencies that have jurisdiction on the **Tennessee River System**, so who do you call when there is something out of place or otherwise hazarding navigation.

COAST GUARD? USCG is responsible for safe navigation within the **primary channels** of the Tennessee River System. These are the channels navigable by commercial vessels (e.g., ships, tugs and barges).

- **OUACHITA:** The most noticeable Coast Guard (USCG) presence on the water is the OUACHITA, which is a 65-foot river buoy tender, that maintains aids to navigation (ATON), which comprise of floating buoys and fixed beacons. If there is a discrepancy with the ATON, meaning that they are not properly standing watch (e.g., out of position), USCGC OUACHITA will address the matter. But it is not the point of contact for receiving a report.
- **NAVIGATION CENTER:** ATON discrepancies are reported to the USCG Navigation Center. The Navigation Center is responsible for issuing safety notices and advising USCG Sector Ohio Valley, which oversees OUACHITA, that action is required. The online **"ATON Discrepancy Report Form"** is accessible at: <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/contact/aton-discrepancy-report>. Simply fill out all fields that seem applicable; for example, Tennessee River ATON won't be found in Light Lists and are not lighted.
- **SECTOR OHIO VALLEY:** For other navigational hazards that could obstruct the primary navigation channel, contact USCG Sector Ohio Valley. It will likely issue a Local Notice to Mariners. When underway, contact "Coast Guard" using Channel 16. You could also call the Command Center at **502-779-5422**.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY? TVA has jurisdiction over the **secondary channels** of the Tennessee River

System. These are channels that serve recreational boaters. Discrepancies with buoys, daymarks and other aids are reported through the **"Navigation Aid Problem Report Form,"** which is accessible at: <https://tvaforms.wufoo.com/forms/sffnd061jwnb8b/>.

In September John Farmer reported an obstruction under a downtown Knoxville railroad bridge to TVA using TVAINFO@TVA.GOV. He included a screenshot of the channel in his report. He used OpenCPN and electronic charts provided by the Corps of Engineers (see below). Thanks, John, for looking out for fellow boaters, even the Vol Navy.

Secondary Channel and Tributary Reservoir Navigation Aids Maintained By TVA



Secondary Stream
Red Buoy



Secondary Stream
Green Buoy



Secondary Stream
Red Fingerboard



Secondary Stream
Green Fingerboard



Keep Out/Hazard
Buoy



Danger Buoy



Information Buoy



Control Buoy



Creek Fingerboard



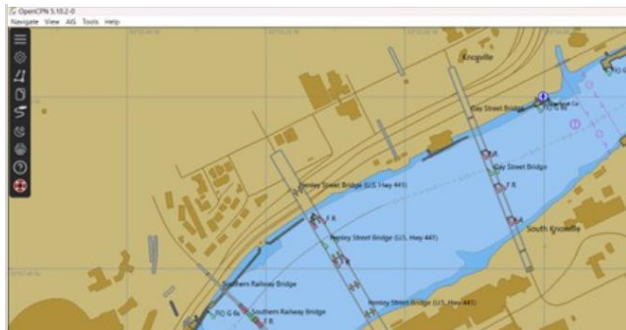
Elevation Gauge



Secondary Stream
Daybeacon



Daymark With Mile
Marker



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2026 Slate of Officers – What Is required to have a club?

The national template for by-laws requires that as a minimum, the elected bridge of a squadron shall be comprised of:

1. the commander, who shall be the ranking officer. John Farmer is willing to run for Commander.
2. an educational officer
3. a secretary. Walt Hanson is willing to run for Secretary, but will step away from Newsletter Editor.
4. a treasurer. Tom Dietrich will not run again as Treasurer.

The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by the same person if authorized by the Executive Committee.

***MEMBERS ARE NEEDED TO VOLUNTEER
THEIR TIME FOR US TO MAINTAIN OUR CLUB!
ARE YOU OUR MISSING PIECE?***



Membership program streamlines new member enrollment

USPS initiated a **“Direct-to-Squadron” Membership Program** that streamlines how new members can join. Our bridge agreed to comply with the program. In doing so, our squadron had to modify its by-laws and accept two conditions required by USPS. These were:

1. **Our by-laws were amended to permit the enrollment of new members without requiring Executive Committee approval.** This approval process had not been used for several years; so, it was a moot issue.
2. Our squadron had to waive its right to approve new members coming from National prior to enrollment in our squadron. We have had members enroll online, which made them part of the USPS cyber squadron. Then they transferred to us. The earlier mentioned approval process was not used; so, it again was a moot issue.
3. Lastly, our squadron waived its ability to charge initiation fees to new members who are added from National. Our squadron hasn't charged this fee; so, it again was a moot issue.

District 17 entitled to another member on the National Governing Board

To District Commander Chris M. Whitacre, AP-IN

As a member of the USPS / ABC Nominations Committee (NomCom), I am asking you to identify by name your nomination to the USPS / ABC Governing Board for the Bridge Year 2026-2027.

Per the USPS / ABC Bylaws, your District 17, with a membership of 381, is entitled to an additional Governing Board member. **You may select a new member from D-17 to be on the Governing Board.** If you select a new District 17 member to be your added selection, let me know ASAP your decision, so that the NomCom can prepare the slate of nominees for the Annual USPS / ABC Meeting in February 2026.

Fair Winds,
P/D/C Dave Smith, SN-IN
USPS / ABC Nominations Committee

Anyone interested?



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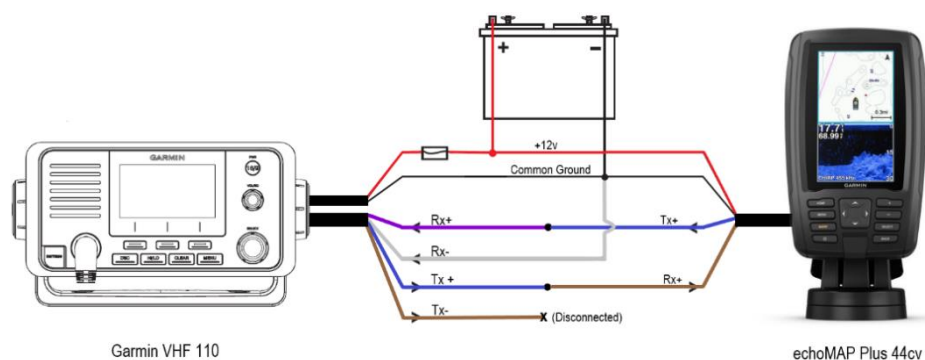
Educational Department Technical Corner by John Farmer

Editor's Note: NMEA is the National Marine Electronics Association. John's article provides a snapshot of the standards introduced by NMEA. For additional information, please consider Ocean Science and Technology's online article, "NMEA 0183 and NMEA 2000: A Complete Guide for Marine Electronics Networking,"

<https://www.oceansciencetechnology.com/resources/nmea-2000-nmea-0183-guide/>.

A new USPS seminar on NMEA 0183 and NMEA 2000 is tentatively planned for release on/after September 2026.

The older NMEA 0183 (<https://www.nmea.org/nmea-0183.html>) uses the 4-wire RS-422 protocol, and you may have to swap wires and try different baud rates until it works. Unless it is the high-speed version, it typically runs at 4,800 baud. Connecting a VHF radio and a depth sounder. 0183 uses a single sender and can have multiple listeners. My Float Hub vessel monitor has one 4800 baud port and one highspeed port for AIS signals from my VHF-AIS receiver.



NMEA2000 uses a proprietary physical connector, baud rate, and cable, making it easier to connect (<https://www.nmea.org/nmea-2000.html>). Unfortunately, at least one manufacturer uses their variant and does not follow the standard.

The new NMEA One Net standard (<https://www.nmea.org/nmea-onenet.html>) is complete and uses a faster Ethernet protocol to handle radar signals and other high-speed data. I had to use a separate Ethernet cable on THE STAR riverboat to connect my digital, spread-spectrum radar to my Simrad multifunction display. The new standard uses Ethernet everywhere, and gateway devices will be coming to connect existing NMEA2000 or 0183 devices to the new network.



So, take the USPS NMEA seminar after September 2026 to get up to speed on existing technology and get ready for the future of marine electronics connectivity. If you have questions in the meantime, email captfarmer@gmail.com, or our SEO, Jeff Schmitt, may be able to help.



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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
Early December	Gathering	Hanson's home (Loudon)	Social and potluck dinner	Walt & Robin Hanson	Private Event, not sponsored by ABC-K
January '26			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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