



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 10

October 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 10/1/2025

Brigitte and I enjoyed the Hiwassee River cruise in late September. We spent the first night at Tellico Yacht Club where we had dinner and enjoyed live opera arias hosted by the Knoxville Opera Company. The next day and night were spent at Sinking Creek swimming and hanging out. In the morning, we locked through to Watts Bar and met with Dietrichs, Schmitts, Fendleys and Hansons (who came by car) at Tennessee National Marina. Docktails were followed by rain just as we were finishing.

The Dietrichs and we left for Blue Springs Marina in the morning and were joined by the Fendleys and Hansons on their boats. The following day three of our boats locked through Watts Bar Dam and went on to the B&B Marina on the Hiwassee River (the Hansons stayed on Watts Bar).

We enjoyed dinner and live music that evening, while the following day, Saturday, Brigitte and I got up a Boule game won by Tom Dietrich and took a long walk in the area. Dinner was casual at their second restaurant while the Tennessee football game was on the big screen. When we left, we spent the afternoon at Watts Bar Resort and enjoyed a swim and a long walk.

Finally, the last afternoon and evening was spent at Sunset Cove on Tellico Lake where we could swim and then see an impressive sunset. It was a wonderful cruise with near perfect weather, in spite of the discouraging forecasts.

Speaking of cruises, Brigitte and I are planning a cruise on Tellico Lake in lieu of the Ish Creek star raft up, which has been cancelled. This is a private invitational cruise, due to our Power Squadron insurance, open to everyone on the private list or anyone who would like to be on the private list. The plan is provided on page 5.

See 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 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

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 - 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 Chair

Lt Joel Stern

Online Educational Opportunity from USPS

AIS ELECTRONICS FOR BOATERS: (Price \$34.95) – Learn how to avoid collisions with other ships in crowded waters by using the Automated Identification System (AIS).

Discover AIS advantages over using radar alone. You can avoid collisions in crowded waters by knowing the name and locations of other boats and ships, how close they will come, and when to act. Many AIS systems also broadcast your boat's information with other boats so they can also make better, safer boating decisions.

The online, self-paced, interactive USPS *AIS Electronics for Boaters seminar* can help you decide if AIS is right for you and shows you how AIS and Radar differ. AIS electronics are not just for commercial vessels; more recreational vessels are employing this technology for safer cruising.

What You Will Learn:

- What does AIS do and how does it work?
- Do I need an AIS System?
- How is AIS different from Radar?
- How do I use AIS to navigate more safely?
- How do I integrate AIS with my existing electronics?



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Last Port of Call – Watts Bar and Hiwassee River Cruise

As reported by the Commander, we had an invitation-only, private event that had as its goal to reach and eat at B&B Marina (B&B is located at 35 19.658N, 084 49.731W (street address is 117 Marina Drive NW, Charleston, TN 37310). Measured from our assembly point at TN National Marina, the round trip was 170+ miles plus locking through at Watts Bar. For our boats that were on Fort Loudon and Tellico Lakes, they had about another two days of travel (round trip) and as much as another 50+ miles. So this could be considered the longest cruise for several boats this year. All were watching the forecasts and fortunately Knoxville meteorologists got it



wrong. Clouds threatened but we were often dry. The worst was when Time After Time (the Hansons) and Next Chapter (the Fendleys) were downbound on 9/25 at the confluence of the Tennessee and the Clinch. The heavens opened and visibility dropped for about a half hour to less than 100 yards. The eisenglass biminis were worth the



investment. Rain also happened the next day at B&B, but it was after all were secured at the dock.

We thank Brigitte capturing some of the gatherings during the cruise. Docktails were the order of business at 5PM (so where else would boaters be). The top photo is at TN National on 9/24; the bottom 2 photos are at Blue Springs Marina on 9/25.



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Last Port of Call – Watts Bar and Hiwassee River Cruise (cont'd)



At left, Soul Mates (the Dietrichs) are cruising the Hiwassee. Below is the quintessential docktails at B&B Marina and the Paradise Bar & Grill that overlooks the Hiwassee. The bottom picture is Magic at the remnants of the Watts Bar Resort, which is on the right descending bank of the Tennessee immediately above Watts Bar Dam.



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Next Port of Call – Tellico Lake Cruise (Private Event)

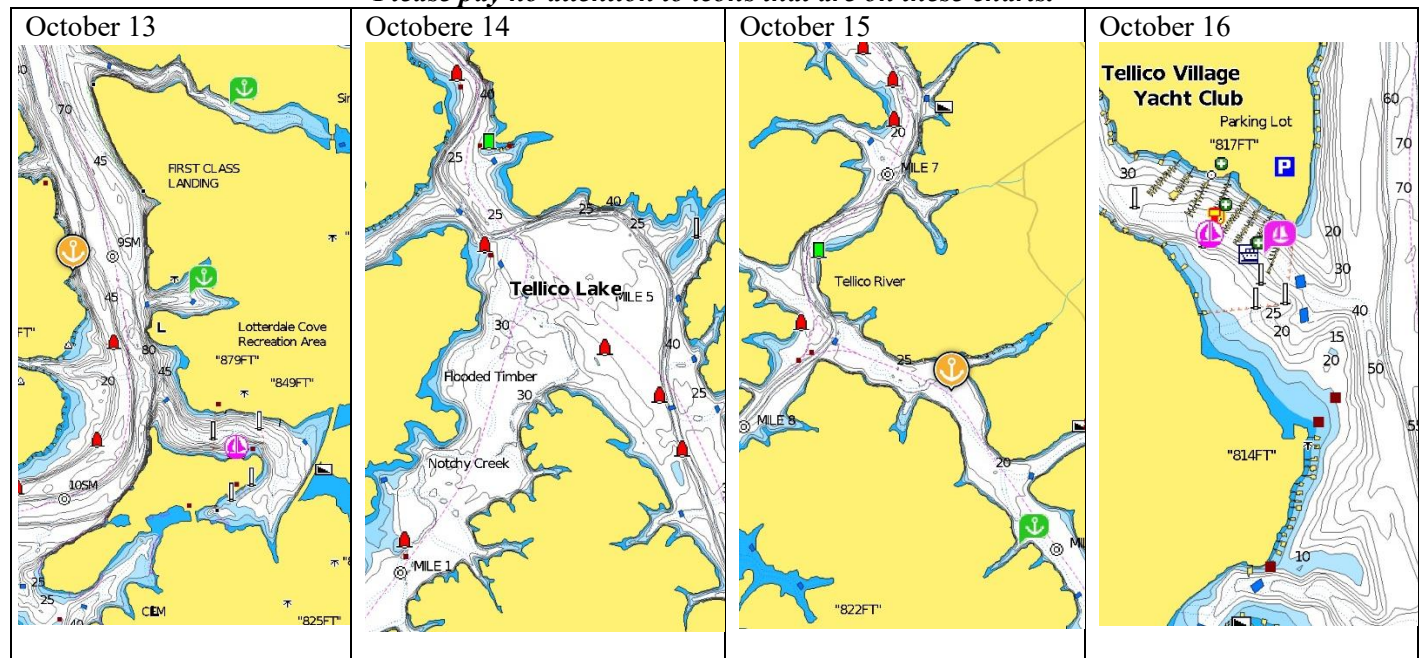
The planned Ish Creek outing has been replaced by a cruise within Tellico Lake. This will take advantage of the early fall colors and hopefully avoid crowds of day boaters. We thank Don Perrine for being the Event Captain for this private, invitation-only outing. Those on the standing invitation list have been notified by email of this event. They will need to RSVP to Don as noted below. Other members who have an interest who haven't expressed interest in participating in boating events may also RSVP to Don as noted below.

The itinerary for this outing is:

Monday, October 13	RAFT UP in the afternoon and spend the night at the cove located between Jackson Bend Island on Tellico between the small boat pass and Lotterdale Cove Campground's south side, which is 10.5 miles from the start of Tellico Lake at the route 321 highway bridge.
Tuesday, October 14	Cruise 13 miles to Notchy Creek off the Tellico River. We can do a STAR RAFT UP if there are enough boats, otherwise a conventional raft up could be done.
Wednesday, October 15	Cruise up the Tellico River 10 miles to Ballplay area to spend the afternoon and ANCHOR overnight.
Thursday, October 16	Cruise to Tellico Yacht Club to have dinner at the restaurant and SPEND THE NIGHT AT THE DOCK.
Friday, October 17	Return home.

Navionics screenshots provided below to help orient boaters who might not be familiar with Tellico Lake.

Please pay no attention to icons that are on these charts.



RSVPs are required for this boating event. Boaters are welcomed to participate in all or part of the cruise. Deadline for RSVPs is 6PM, Saturday, October 4. Please contact the Event Captain, Don Perrine at either 865-963-9550 or DAPerrine@tds.net



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NATIONAL NEWS – Financial Status of USPS

USPS financial information is reported regularly at both Governing Board meetings, and the audit of the organization is sent to any member when requested, after it is completed each year. This is in accordance with longstanding practices and North Carolina law. Reports by the Treasurer and other officers at the meetings provide context on the financial information presented. USPS has taken additional steps to maintain and strengthen USPS's commitment to responsible financial management and open communication with our members. To further enhance transparency, **USPS now publishes quarterly financial reports on the Treasurer's website.** Got to www.usps.org. If a member has a question about the posted report, they should contact the National Treasurer for clarification. The Board continues to monitor cash receipts and expenditures and adjusts the budget accordingly.

NATIONAL NEWS – Save Our Squadrons "SOS" Report

The "SOS" REPORT was released 9/1 – It served to focus discussion at this year's National Governing Board meeting. The attached report was published to give succinct answers to the following questions. **Members are encouraged to scan this easy-to-read attachment.**

1. Who is the Governing Board?
2. Are the Governing Board members entitled to transparency of USPS/ABC in financial operations?
3. Is there transparency to the Governing Board in USPS/ABC financial and Governance Affairs?
4. What is the current financial condition of USPS/ABC?
5. What does the 2024 Audit show?
6. What is the financial plan for USPS/ABC?
7. What is the USPS/ABC Strategic Plan?
8. What steps can the Governing Board take to help save USPS/ABC?

NATIONAL NEWS – Governing Board Outcome

The National Governing Board (GB) Meeting was attended by John and Jeanette Farmer. We thank John for providing the following reports.

The following decisions were made. They are mostly in response to the "SOS" Report.

- Increase the number of GB delegates per squadron from 1 per 100 members to 1 per 50 for broader representation. This was referred to the rules committee.
- Require the GB to submit a strategic plan at the next annual meeting in February.
- Require the GB to submit a financial plan that supports the strategic plan. This motion was amended to require the financial plan to be submitted one year after the strategic plan is approved.

The following observations were made about the boating public.

- Very few, if any, power boats under 50 feet with a cabin are produced today. People are either taking short one-day out-and-back trips or out-and-back trips with a hotel night stay
- An increasing number of people do not own a boat but belong to a boat lending club, where nighttime use is not allowed.
- Sailboats over 20 feet typically have a cabin; they make up 10% of the boat market
- Paddle craft are on the rise.

The following observations were made about boating education.

- Eighty percent of USPS courses are now taken online.
- USPS encourages squadrons to promote offerings as early as possible online (via its HQ800 system) so others can find them. A woman in California recently completed a course taught in Annapolis; we can do the same.



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Impact On Our Squadron (Opinion) – Keep Calm and Carry On

Given the crisis at the National level, our Bridge members have been assessing what course of action we might pursue. In the near term, District staff encourage squadrons to “hang tight” and continue to function as before. We are doing that. Keep Calm and Carry On!

Our Bridge is also researching options should the crisis affect future squadron operation. Opinions are that our club should be resilient and continue to offer value to our boating community. Items that surfaced from the initial look-see were:

1. Our squadron will likely retain its 501(c)(3) status.
2. With our treasury, we might acquire all of the current training materials offered by USPS, so that we can make use of those resources for boater education in our locale.
3. We would need to address insurance concerns

Educational Department Technical Corner by John Farmer



AQUA MAP – The navigation app company has a new, free navigation training program. I have just been notified that I have been approved as an instructor so I can see what they have.



ORCA – Somehow, I missed ORCA (<https://getorca.com/>). Orca navigation has been on the market since 2020, when the brand was founded by Norwegian, German, and Spanish enthusiasts. As of April 2025, Orca has grown to over 300,000 active users in just five years. I now have their free app on my tablet and have tested river (properly follows the sailing line) and ocean automatic routing. I can apparently download their charts for \$45 per year.

They have a Core2 navigation interface for \$599. It connects to your onboard devices via NMEA2000 and Ethernet (for radar and eventually NMEA One Net). It adds better GPS accuracy, autopilot control, and precision compass. This can interface with up to five devices like tablets, phones, Mac, and watches.



They offer a marinized Samsung, Android, daylight-bright tablet display for \$999 (outside my budget).

I am going to consider adding the Core2 to a Neel 47 trimaran that my son and I are trying to locate and purchase.

Orca supports the devices shown below. It's over-the-horizon AIS is derived from satellite data...great for offshore, but apparently it doesn't acquire inland data.



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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 (change)	Several raftings and opportunity for star anchor	Don Perrine	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	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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