



SCUTTLEBUTT

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District 26: www.ABCclub26.org
NSSPS: www.abcnorthstrand.org
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FROM THE COMMANDER'S HELM



Cdr John Cattuna

Hello Fellow North Strand Sail and Power Squadron Members,

The District 26 Spring Conference and Change of Watch is being hosted by Lake Murray Power Squadron, March 27th through the 29th. This gathering of fellow USPS members has some interesting activities planned, like a boat manufactures factory tour, evening cookouts and some on the water boating on beautiful Lake Murray as well as the District 26 Change of Watch, dinner and awards presentations. These district wide gatherings are a great opportunity to meet and get to know USPS members from other D26 Squadrons.

The February NSSPS monthly meeting hosted a presentation by the North Myrtle Beach Water Rescue Team. They described their capabilities, training and exhibited their boat. Additionally, they expressed an interest in sharing training, offering to present a CPR/AED course for our members.

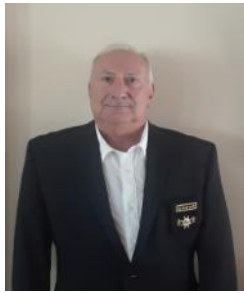
Thanks to the Membership Involvement Committee volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to organize our dinner meetings, squadron activities and plan for future meeting locations.

I hope to see those of you that can, attend the D26 Meeting at Lake Murray and hope to see you out on the water soon.

John



EXECUTIVE OFFICER



XO Rich Norris

I must tell you that my search for a candidate to take the helm next year is not going well. Maybe I should make myself more clear on my task this year. I need to find someone to step forward and be willing to work with me now to learn the ropes (I mean lines) regarding steering our squadron next year. Whoever that may be will most likely need some guidance and coaching to properly fulfill the role of Commander. So please, someone come forth and be willing to step into that position! I will not be Commander next year and if I fail at this endeavor, come January, we will be left with no choice but to shut this Squadron down! That is NOT what we want to happen, so please, someone come forward and show your willingness to keep this Club afloat.

On a personal note, Bea and I took our first boat ride of the season on the 23rd and it felt great to be back on the water!

Be safe out there!

Rich

EDUCATIONAL OFFICER



SEO Jamie Cross

Greetings Fellow Squadron Members and Happy Spring!

The 2026 boating season is now upon us and time to be thinking about what additional training you might like to undertake to make you a more well rounded and knowledgeable boater.

At the moment we are 1/3 through the Marine Electrical Course with the students learning the Mysteries and ways of electricity wiring and components.

On Saturday, April 24, we are planning for an ABC Course. Please spread the word to others who may need basic boat training to meet the South Carolina operator certificate requirements.

As always, we are prepared to undertake other elective seminars or courses that you, the members, would like to take...so please drop me a line and let me know your interests

Jamie

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



AO Doug Thomas

This has been a very active quarter for your new bridge. We have incorporated AI in developing our public releases. In fact, creating public releases has been a new concept for ABC North Strand. We have developed a new website. Please take a look at it at abcnorthstrand.org. Also, visit the pages of the website. Every click helps us get more recognition and moves us up in the search

engines, attracting more publicity. We're also moving into the world of social media, updating our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/americasboatingclubnorthstrand/>) and opening accounts with Google Business and Nextdoor. Hopefully, these new forays into social media will result in increased attendance in our ABC classes, which in turn will hopefully result in recruiting new boaters into our boating organization.

The Membership Involvement Committee, headed up by chairperson Donna Lippincott, has finished scheduling events and classes for the 2026 squadron calendar year. Speaking of calendars, you'll note the new website has a Calendar tab which will take you to the online squadron calendar. Hopefully, you'll visit this page frequently for the latest in activities and classes of interest to you. Another feature is the Club Info tab that lists the officers and committee chairs leading the squadron. If you have a question about a particular office or committee, this list should point you to the appropriate person in charge. For security reasons, we don't post the person's email or phone number, but you'll know who to contact. If you need to get in touch with them immediately, their contact info can be referenced on the USPS National website (portal.americasboatingclub.org), to which you all have access.

Between Constant Contact and the new website, we hope to stay in touch with you, our valuable members, throughout the year. By the way, if you haven't been receiving email notifications or squadron events via Constant Contact, let Bea Norris know at 610-533-4166 or wind6769@aol.com.

Happy and safe boating!

Doug



North Strand Cruise to Barefoot Landing

Come join us for a boat cruise on the AICWW to the Flying Fish Public Market and Grill at Barefoot Landing, on May 1, 2026. Or come by land. We plan to meet at 12:00 PM at the Barefoot Landing boat dock.

Please contact Kathy Johnson at (843) 240-1281 for questions or to sign up for a boat either leaving from the Little River area or Osprey Marina near Socastee.

Let's join Shallotte River Squadron for their first cruise of the season!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR APRIL'S CRUISE PLANNED FOR YOU

The Shallotte River Squadron of America's Boating Club is planning a shakedown cruise to Inlet View on Wednesday, April 22nd to arrive at 11:15 AM for lunch. This is an opportunity to check out our boats on a shorter trip before we plan the longer cruises as summer approaches. Dock space is free and we will order from the menu.

Monitor VHF channel 68. Let Amy Ann Pruitt know whether you can attend and if you have room for passengers on your boat. amyann655@gmail.com or 910-894-2807. If you would like a ride and serve as a crew member on a boat, also let Amy Ann know so she can make those arrangements with the boat captains. Click on the link to view their menu: <https://inletview.com/>

DIRECTIONS for GPS by Land Cruiser: 1800 Village Point Road, Shallotte, NC



Where The Road Ends... The Fun Begins!



VESSEL SAFETY EXAMINERS



P/D/C Rich Norris,
Chair

I'm happy to say that I passed the Vessel Examiners' exam and I'm almost ready to add my name to the list. I now need to do 5 vessel safety checks under supervision of a Certified VSC Examiner. The planning for that is already in motion.

Please contact any of the following for your free 2026 Vessel Safety Check.

- Twila Nahama, SN
- D/1st/Lt John Cattuna , SN-CN
- P/D/C Andy Hyman III, SN-ACN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Douglas L. Thomas	22
Denise M. Lenzo	25
Richard C. Lapine	26
Craig M. Huber	28



2026 National Recreational Boating Safety Survey (NRBSS)

The United States Coast Guard is excited to announce the launch of the 2026 National Recreational Boating Safety Survey (NRBSS). This nationwide survey is the only source for comprehensive recreational boating data in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, helping inform safety and security efforts on our waterways.

Disclosure:

OMB Number 1625-0089

Expires 2/28/2029

Why This Survey Matters

The NRBSS provides valuable insights into how, where, and why Americans go boating, what types of boats they use, and how often they enjoy this activity. These findings are essential for guiding national, state, and local programs that keep boating safe and enjoyable for everyone.

About the Survey

- Conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago, a nonpartisan research organization.
- Over 50,000 households across all 50 states and the District of Columbia will be invited to participate.
- Results will help shape safety standards, law enforcement programs, and boating policies nationwide.

Your Participation Makes a Difference

If your household receives an invitation by letter, postcard, email, or text, we encourage you to take part. Your input will help the Coast Guard protect our rivers, oceans, and other waterways. All responses are confidential and will be used only for statistical summaries.

A Legacy of Safety in Recreational Boating Safety

The Coast Guard has coordinated the National Recreational Boating Safety Program since 1971, saving an estimated 95,000 lives and achieving record-low boating fatalities in recent years. In addition to keeping recreational boating safe and enjoyable, we facilitate commerce vital to U.S. economic prosperity and strategic mobility by controlling, securing, and defending U.S. ports, waterways, and shipping, and through actions to revitalize the U.S. maritime industry. Through ongoing research and collaboration, we remain committed to protecting our waterways and supporting both recreational and commercial maritime activities.



North Strand April 2026 Calendar of Events

2026	APRIL					
CALENDAR YEAR	CALENDAR MONTH					
	MONDAY					
	FIRST DAY OF WEEK					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30	31	01 1900 - 2100: Marine Electrical Systems class, Tidewater Plantation Amenities Center, Small Mtg room, 2000 Spinnaker Dr, North Myrtle Beach, SC	02	03	04	05
06	07	08 1900 - 2100: Marine Electrical Systems class, Tidewater Plantation Amenities Center, Small Mtg room, 2000 Spinnaker Dr, North Myrtle Beach, SC	09 1900- 2100: ExCom mtg via Zoom	10	11	12
13 1700 - 1900: General Membership Meeting. Mulligan's Sports Bar & Restaurant, 1359 US-17, Little River, SC	14	15 1730 - 19:30: Heritage Shores Park Clean-up, W. end of 53rd St. N, North Myrtle Beach, SC 1900 - 2100: Marine Electrical Systems class, Tidewater Plantation Amenities Center, Small Mtg room, 2000 Spinnaker Dr, North Myrtle Beach, SC	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 11:15: Shakedown cruise to Inlet View w/ Shallotte S&PS 1900 - 2100: Marine Electrical Systems class, Tidewater Plantation Amenities Center, Small Mtg room, 2000 Spinnaker Dr, North Myrtle Beach, SC	23 1700: Happy Hour @ Filet's Waterfront, 2120 Sea Mountain Hwy, North Myrtle Beach, SC	24	25 0800 - 1700: America's Boating Course , Tidewater Plantation Amenities Center, Large Mtg room, 2000 Spinnaker Dr, North Myrtle Beach, SC	26
27	28	29 1900 - 2100: Marine Electrical Systems class, Tidewater Plantation Amenities Center, Small Mtg room, 2000 Spinnaker Dr, North Myrtle Beach, SC	30	01	02	03