



# SCUTTLEBUTT



OCTOBER 2025

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National: [www.americasboatingclub.org](http://www.americasboatingclub.org)  
District 26: [www.ABClubD26.org](http://www.ABClubD26.org)  
NSSPS: [www.abcnorthstrand.org](http://www.abcnorthstrand.org)  
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FROM THE COMMANDER'S HELM



Now that it's October, we are entering one of the best boating seasons for our area. The lower daytime temperatures and humidity make it great to be outside, especially anywhere near the water. Also, fall is a good time to tackle some of the maintenance and cleaning on the boats since it is a lot easier to do when the heat index isn't 105°.

We finally were able to do a Co-Op Charting/ATON inspection cruise in August. The Aids-to-Navigation between Calabash and Barefoot Landing were inspected and location verified. Most were in good condition and those that needed attention were reported. Within 15 minutes of submitting an ATON Discrepancy Report form to the Coast Guard by email, I received a text message from the Charleston Station asking me to call them for a follow-up. The CG person that I spoke to had never heard of the United States Power Squadron and was amazed that we did ATON inspections. She noted that the Coast Guard Station is way understaffed in this area and encouraged us to continue to perform this service. We are hoping to get out one or two more times to do inspections and cover the waterways in our boating area. If you are interested in participating, contact one of our "unofficial" ATON inspection committee members (John Cattuna, Ed Bullwinkel or myself).

As noted in my last message, please remember that hurricane season lasts until November, so continue to watch the weather and make sure the storm preparations for your houses and boats are up to date. By the time you are reading this edition of Scuttlebutt we will hopefully have dodged the bullets of tropical storms and hurricanes Humberto and Imelda.



## Educational Officer's Briefing



**D/1st/Lt John Cattuna, SN -CN**

The USPS Engine Maintenance course exam was taken in early September by four students. All passes the exam. Congratulations to **Kathy Thorne, Richard Lappine, Stephen Taylor, and Bob Verona!!**

Our ABC class scheduled for Sept 20th was canceled due to lack of interest.

We have had some interest from the Engine Maintenance Class members in the Marine Electrical Systems Course being presented. If anyone else would like to take this course please let me know. Most likely it will be presented after the first of the year.

We will be coordinating some Co-Op charting trips to inspect Aids to Navigation for discrepancies and verify that the Aids positions are consistent with the USCG Light List, and perform some bridge surveys for damage or missing signage. Additionally, we will try to include some Chart Discrepancy reports to ensure that the charts features are accurate with on-scene observations.

As always, anyone interested in any of the great boating education opportunities or seminars that the USPS offers please let us know, we are here to provide the education that our members desire.

## Nationwide Operations Training Program

USPS will hold a nationwide **Operations Training Program** on **Wednesday, October 1, at 8:00 PM ET** via Zoom. This abridged session (2 hours) introduces members to the structure, governance, and best practices of our organization, providing practical knowledge for both new and experienced leaders. This training is offered to all members of USPS/ABC at no charge!

Register on line!

Space is limited  
Delivered via Zoom

We look forward to seeing you there. *Additional sessions will be held to accommodate anyone who cannot attend this one.*

## Negligent Boating

Did you know that grossly negligent boating is considered a criminal offense? The U.S. Coast Guard and other law enforcement agencies may impose civil penalties, and operators can be fined, imprisoned or both.

Negligent boating may include

- operating a boat in a swimming area
- operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- speeding excessively in the vicinity of other boats or in dangerous waters
- participating in hazardous practices while water-skiing or engaging in other tow sports
- bow riding or riding on seat backs, gunwales or the transom
- diving or jumping off a moving boat

USCG statistics show that operator inattention, carelessness or reckless operation, excessive speed and no proper lookout are the primary contributing factors in all reported accidents. All of these things are under your complete control as operator of the boat. *-U.S. Coast Guard*

# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It's the time of the year again when your Nominating Committee is tasked with assembling **your** new steering team, AKA the 2026-2027 Bridge. The Bridge Members will guide the America's Boating Club of North Strand through the fun, learning, and operation of **your** Club. If we are to be successful, volunteers need to step forward and offer their time and talent to keep this Club a viable organization for many years to come.

Many don't consider that volunteering can be very rewarding. As a volunteer you become the engine helping to drive this great organization forward into the future. Without the membership stepping in with willingness to help, this great organization will fail to continue to exist. Ask yourselves, do you want to be responsible for the Clubs success or its demise? On what side of that scenario do you wish to rest? Can any one of our group honestly say "it's not my problem? Whether we are going to sink or swim is all our responsibility.

Very soon, you will be contacted by a member of this Committee to ask for your help to help keep this a thriving, viable organization. As a final point we'd like to add, don't kid yourself. Without everyone refusing to quit and in retrospect saying "count me in" this Club with all the good it does to the local boating community, will no longer exist. We are counting on everyone to ensure that is NOT our future. Thank you for your help and understanding.

Following this message, we've included an informative article about volunteering for a non-profit organization.

P/D/C Rich Norris, SN-CN

ABCNS Nominating Committee Chair

# VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering for a non-profit organization is a meaningful way to give back to your community, support important causes, and develop new skills. However, to truly make a difference and gain the most from the experience, it's important to approach volunteering with intention and preparation. This article outlines actionable steps and best practices for becoming an effective volunteer, ensuring your time and effort create positive outcomes for both the organization and yourself.

## 1. Identify Your Interests and Skills

Before selecting a non-profit to volunteer with, reflect on your passions, interests, and skills. Are you passionate about education, environmental conservation, or animal welfare? Do you have expertise in writing, event planning, teaching, or technology? Matching your abilities and interests to the non-profit's needs will help you find a fulfilling opportunity and enable you to contribute more effectively.

## 2. Research Non-Profit Organizations

Take the time to research potential organizations. Read their mission statements, values, and current projects. Look for reputable non-profits with a track record of transparency and impact. Consider reaching out to current or former volunteers for their perspectives. Ensuring your values align with the organization's mission will lead to a more rewarding experience.

## 3. Understand the Commitment

Non-profits rely on volunteers for various roles, some requiring ongoing commitments and others involving one-time events. Clarify the time commitment and expectations before you start. Be honest about your availability—reliable volunteers are invaluable, and organizations appreciate clear communication regarding your schedule.

## 4. Attend Orientation and Training

Many organizations provide orientation or training for new volunteers. Attend these sessions to understand the organization's policies, procedures, and expectations. Training equips you with the knowledge needed to perform your role confidently and effectively, ensuring you're prepared for your responsibilities.

## 5. Communicate Clearly and Professionally

Effective communication is key to successful volunteering. Keep in contact with your volunteer coordinator or supervisor, ask questions when uncertain, and provide updates on your progress. Professionalism, punctuality, and a positive attitude go a long way in building trust and respect within the organization.

## 6. Be Proactive and Flexible

Non-profit organizations often operate with limited resources and may require volunteers to take on various tasks. Be proactive—look for ways to help beyond your assigned duties, and be flexible when asked to adapt to changing needs. Your willingness to go above and beyond makes a significant impact.

## 7. Seek Feedback and Reflect

Ask for feedback on your performance and look for opportunities to improve. Reflect on your experiences to understand what you've learned and how you've contributed. This reflection not only helps with personal growth but also strengthens your future volunteering efforts.

## 8. Advocate and Spread the Word

Support the organization even beyond your volunteer hours. Share their mission and projects with friends, family, and on social media. Recruiting others or helping to fundraise amplifies your impact and supports the non-profit's long-term success.

## Conclusion

Volunteering for a non-profit is an enriching experience that benefits both the organization and the volunteer. By thoughtfully selecting a cause, preparing yourself, and embracing professionalism, you can ensure your contribution is both effective and rewarding. Remember, every effort counts in building stronger communities and making the world a better place.



THE OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE SUN COLONY CLUBHOUSE ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 13th. IT WILL BE POT LUCK . PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE AND CHOICE OF BEVERAGE. WATER WILL BE PROVIDED. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!! (A CONSTANT CONTACT MESSAGE WILL BE SENT OUT PRIOR TO THE MEETING .)

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**HAPPY HOUR AT BOARDWALK BILLY'S**

A fun group of North Strand members attended the Happy Hour at Boardwalk Billy's on Thursday, September 18. The place was very crowded, but we were able to get a table outside and had some great food, drinks, music, and camaraderie! Unfortunately, I am unable to print the photos of the event.

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**August Co-Op Charting And ATON inspection.**



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## DISTRICT 26 NEWS

### 026 SPRING CONFERENCE

MARCH 27-29, 2026

HOSTED BY:

LAKE MURRAY SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

#### Friday

**Afternoon** -Working on a tour of a local boat manufacturer (tbd)

**Evening**-Jimmy Buffet Party at Lake Murray's Flotilla Island (2390 Johnson Marina Rd, Chapin, SC)

Dinner

Speaker - WWII B-25C Bomber recovery and restoration

#### Saturday

**Morning** – several activities to choose from

On-the-water activities (weather permitting)

Tour of B-25C bomber restoration

(Other activity tbd)

#### Afternoon

Business Meeting

#### Evening

Banquet Dinner and Change of Watch

#### Sunday

Out-of-town attendees return to home port



Flotilla Island

## NATIONAL NEWS

### FEB 2026 CARIBBEAN CRUISE

**6 days: 16-22 Feb 2026**

**Roundtrip from Port Canaveral on the beautiful SKY PRINCESS**

**Itinerary: Nassau, Freeport, Grand Turk**

**GROUP PRICING FROM \$789pp**

**Inside from \$789pp**

**Balcony from \$1139pp**

**Mini suites from \$1409pp**

**Travel protection & transfers are additional.**

**OR-take advantage of current promotional pricing at time of booking.**

***A hotel block is already arranged for Sunday night in Cape Canaveral including parking during the cruise***

Email [dawn@dawnstraveldeals.com](mailto:dawn@dawnstraveldeals.com) or call (727) 403-0406 to join our group on this beautiful ship!

 **PRINCESS<sup>®</sup>**





## NSSPS 2025/2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Summer M.	Perry	08
Gerard C.	Jebaily	24
Kathy	Franklin	28
Julianne	Selph	29

### Vessel Safety Examiners



P/C Robert Mattison S,  
Chair

If your boat is in need of a 2025 VSC, please see one of our Vessel Safety Examiners:

**A total of 148 VSC's have been performed to date!**

Twila Nahama, SN

D/1st/Lt John Cattuna , SN-CN

P/D//C Andy Hyman III, SN-CAN

P/Lt/C Craig Huber, JN

P/C Frank Pope, JN

<p>October Meeting Monday, Oct 13, 5 pm Sun Colony Clubhouse POT LUCK!</p>	<p>December Meeting &amp; Christmas Party Monday, Dec 8 Chestnut Hill</p>
<p>Heritage Shores Clean-Up October 25, 3:30 pm</p>	<p>Heritage Shores Clean-Up December 17, 3:30 pm</p>
<p>Evening Music Event Oct/Nov (tbd) Greg Rowles Theater North Myrtle Beach</p>	<p>NSSPS Change of Watch January 12 Sun Colony Clubhouse</p>
<p>November Meeting Monday Nov 10, 5 pm Logan's Steakhouse</p>	<p>USPS 2026 Annual Meeting February 8-15, 2026 Embassy Suites Kingston, Myrtle Beach SC</p>
<p>Heritage Shores Clean-Up Nov 19, 3:30 pm</p>	
<p>Ladies Luncheon December 3 Clarke's North Myrtle Beach</p>	

Visit Our New Website  
[www.abcnorthstrand.org](http://www.abcnorthstrand.org)