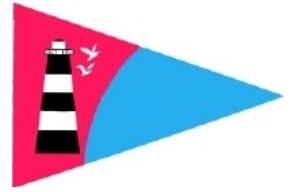


## America's Boating Club North Strand



# SCUTTLEBUTT



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National: [www.americasboatingclub.org](http://www.americasboatingclub.org)  
District 26: [www.ABClubD26.org](http://www.ABClubD26.org)  
NSSPS: [www.usps.org/localu,ps/northstrand](http://www.usps.org/localu,ps/northstrand)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/abcnorthstrand](http://www.facebook.com/abcnorthstrand)

### FROM THE COMMANDER'S HELM



Cdr Ed McNiff

As my first message to the Squadron as Commander, I am looking forward leading our Squadron in a year of great times spent with family and friends, hopefully some of that out on the water. To that end, my Bridge will be discussing opportunities to find activities for our members.

I want to thank Kathy Franklin, Twila Nahama and Liz Yamashita for helping make the Change of Watch ceremony, held on February 10<sup>th</sup>, a great evening. Unfortunately, although I was able to attend, I didn't get to talk to everyone since I was still recovering from whatever virus has been making the rounds. I'm now healthy!, and anticipate more interactions with members to continue to strengthen our Squadron.

Our first meeting following the COW will be on March 10<sup>th</sup> at the VFW hall. The dinner theme will be a Chili Cook-off. Let's dig out those secret family chili recipes and see who delivers the best dish. Please RSVP to the Constant Contact meeting announcement which should be in your email by the time you read this newsletter.

Please congratulate John Cattuna on his new (additional) position as the District 26 Educational Officer, which became official at the District 26 Spring Conference and Change of Watch held February 28 – March 2. As I sit doing the homework for the Navigation class which John is currently teaching, I encourage everyone to take advantage of John's immense knowledge and great teaching skills by signing up to take a class this year.

My closing message are words that my mother used to say all the time – “actions speak louder than words”. While we welcome everyone to voice their opinions on how we can make this a better organization, the only way change can occur is by backing up your suggestions with action. Make the effort to join or start a committee/team to make things happen. Every squadron activity comes together easier with more hands to pitch in.

Let's get the boats out!

## Educational Officer's Briefing



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

.We held the first 2025 ABC class on February 8<sup>th</sup> with 10 students, all passing the closed book exam. Thanks to all those that helped with presenting the class, setting up the classroom, grading papers and proctoring. Helping others learn is one of the best ways to stay abreast in boating changes, updates or techniques. We actually had some interest in a few students becoming members.

Our 2025 Navigation (N) Global Navigation class is ongoing, the class is scheduled to run through April 30<sup>th</sup>. This is our last course in the Advanced Grades which is great for those interested in learning the navigation techniques used by ancient mariners navigating with the Sun, Moon, Stars and Planets. This technique is still commonly used today. We currently have 3 students.

We have had some interest in presenting the USPS Engine Maintenance Course. The Engine Maintenance course consists of a ten chapter course that stresses the diagnosis of modern systems, while also teaching the basics of engine layout and operation. Gasoline inboards, outboards, and diesel engines are taught in a way that reinforces the common aspects of how engines work. The Engine Maintenance course also covers basic mechanical systems such as drive systems (propellers), steering systems, and engine controls discussing solutions you might use to problems that could occur while afloat and away from a repair facility. Again, if there is any interest in this course, please let us know so we can get the class scheduled.

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

## From the Desk of the Executive Officer

Hi Everyone! I am Bob Mattison, your new XO and Vessel Safety Check Chairman.

My wife, Elaine, and I are originally from MI. We lived in Little River for several years and were active in this group, then moved to TN for 7 years and joined the ABC-Knoxville group.

We are back in Little River, near family, and we have transferred back to ABC-North Strand, and plan to “stay put” here in SC!

I have been involved with USPS for more than 10 years, overall – serving as Commander, Past Commander, XO for 4 years and Vessel Safety Check Chairman for 5 years.

My passion is to help boaters be prepared, be confident and safe out on the water—making sure they have on board all of the basic equipment on the VSC check-list.

We boated in MI on many inland lakes; took a couple of trips up the east coast of MI with friends; had a small Maxum Cruiser and (lastly) a pontoon boat, along with a wave runner.

In TN we boated on the TN River and its lakes in the Fort Loudon Marina, Lenoir City area.

We do not plan to buy a boat here. We have agreed to rent one when the urge to be on the water hits us! We realize that boating on the ICW, and especially if we would venture out to the ocean, is a whole new experience, so we will listen to your stories and advice and learn from you to decide when and where we may want to go.

We have met with Ed and Liz for dinner, since she had to miss the C.O.W. Twila has been very helpful and informative and is always ready to answer my questions.

I have introduced myself to the team of Vessel Safety Check volunteers via email and received valuable feedback from them already. It may work best to have an open house at our place in Little River—for VSC forms and decals and any literature the team may want to be distributed at that time. Will see what day/time works best.

Elaine and I thank God for being back in SC, near our daughter and grandkids, and I certainly look forward to serving among you this year!

## MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MARCH 10, 2025

VFW - LITTLE RIVER

5:00 - 6:00 HAPPY HOUR

6:00 - 7:00 DINNER

7:00 MEETING



## Vessel Safety Examiners



Please take advantage of the FREE Vessel Safety Exam

SEE ONE OF THE 2025 SAFETY EXAMINERS

P/C Robert Mattison, S, Chair

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/D/C Jeffrey H. Horton

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB  
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS



We're excited to announce a new partnership with [Ditch](#)—a smart navigation app for boaters. We've teamed up to provide all our members with the latest cutting-edge navigation technology.

As part of this partnership, we're proud to offer you a FREE one-year subscription to Ditch! Read on to find out how to activate your subscription today.

Here's how Ditch makes your boating experience better:

- **Route planning:** Ditch's Smart Path™ technology uses billions of recent data points to provide the optimal route for your journey. Use it as a planning tool or live on the water.
- **Local knowledge:** See where other boats have traveled with Ditch's innovative use of historical AIS data and to gain local knowledge directly as a layer on your chart.
- **Smart ETAs:** We use historical data to identify slower areas along your route and factor those into your ETA calculation. This means you get a much more accurate arrival time.
- **Ease of use:** Ditch is designed to be user-friendly with automatically updated charts and a simple interface.

Ready to unlock your FREE year of Ditch?

[Download](#) the Ditch Navigation app.

1. Create a Ditch account.

2. Enter your exclusive members-only promo code: **BOAT2025**

If you have any questions, the Ditch team is ready to help. Drop them an email at [americasboatingclub@ditchnavigation.com](mailto:americasboatingclub@ditchnavigation.com).

This partnership reflects our shared vision of strengthening boaters' confidence through knowledge and tools to confidently explore the water. Together we are a more powerful force for safer and more enjoyable boating. Our future plans for more joint initiatives are in the works—let us know what you'd like to see.

Happy boating!

2025 Change of Watch Photos



2025 Change of Watch Photos



## D Ode to the Sock Burners

By Jefferson Holland, Poet Laureate of Eastport, 1995

Them Eastport boys got an odd tradition  
When the sun swings to its Equinoxical position,  
They build a little fire down along the docks,  
They doff their shoes and they burn their winter socks.

Yes, they burn their socks at the Equinox;  
You might think that's peculiar, but I think it's not,  
See, they're the same socks they put on last fall,  
And they never took 'em off to wash 'em, not at all.

So they burn their socks at the Equinox  
In a little ol' fire burning nice and hot.  
Some think incineration is the only solution,  
'Cause washin' 'em contributes to the Chesapeake's  
pollution.

Through the spring and the summer and into the fall,  
They go around not wearin' any socks at all,  
Just stinky bare feet stuck in old deck shoes,  
Whether out on the water or sippin' on a brew.

So if you sail into the Harbor on the 21st of March,  
And you smell a smell like Limburger sauteed with  
laundry starch,  
You'll know you're downwind of the Eastport docks  
Where they're burning their socks for the Equinox.



## NSSPS CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

### MARCH

10	5:00 PM	MEMBERSHIP MEETING
19	3:30 PM	HERITAGE SHORES

### APRIL

14	5:30 PM	MEMBERSHIP MEETING
16	3:30 PM	HERITAGE SHORES



<b>Nicholas</b>	<b>Jebaily</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>Twila M.</b>	<b>Nahama</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Holly</b>	<b>Mora</b>	<b>27</b>

