



# SCUTTLEBUTT

January 2026



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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)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/abcnorthstrand](http://www.facebook.com/abcnorthstrand)

## FROM THE COMMANDER'S HELM



Cdr Ed McNiff

Well, we made it past the holidays, which means the 2026 boating season can't be too far off!

With the Change of Watch coming up on January 12<sup>th</sup>, these will be my last comments as Commander. As I was told by the previous commanders, the position brings more things to do that you could possibly plan on but looking back I can say that I enjoyed being your Commander and did my best to make NSS&PS an organization that we could all be proud of.

At the Annual Meeting/Christmas Party in December, the membership approved the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for the elected officers for 2026. The new Bridge Officers and other Committee members will be sworn in at the Change of Watch which is on January 12<sup>th</sup>. You have just a few more days to respond to the Constant Contact email to let us know that you are planning to attend.

The new Bridge will need the support of the membership if we are going to have any chance of NSS&PS continuing as a successful and fun organization. One of the first actions for the new year will be to organize a membership involvement meeting. Someone needs to step up to plan and hold the meeting so that the activities that everyone would like to have can be put on the 2026 calendar.

The National Meeting is being held in Myrtle Beach February 11-14. This is a great opportunity to see how much goes into running a large organization like USPS. Please try to attend at least one day of the meeting and maybe join those members of our Squadron who have already responded that they will help the organizing committee with some activities; information was sent out in a Constant Contact message. The meeting's registration information was sent out in a separate email from USPS and is also available on the USPS website membership portal.

I hope to see many of you at the Change of Watch, where I will become "Past Commander". Right now it's time for me to head out and start cleaning the boat!



## Educational Officer's Briefing



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

The USPS Operations Training (OT) contains detailed guidelines and information for all members of the United States Power Squadrons. It is important that members, especially officers, be familiar with the procedures, programs, duties, methods of operation, and time tables so that the organization functions more efficiently. OT starts with the history of how the USPS was formed, describes the functions of the various Bridge Officers, meetings and ceremonies, flag etiquette, the various awards and information members will find useful to know about our organization. We will be scheduling this seminar either in person or via zoom in the coming months.

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.



## Minutes of the 2025 North Strand Sail and Power Squadron Annual Meeting

The 2025 Annual Meeting of North Strand Sail and Power Squadron was held December 8<sup>th</sup> at Chestnut Hill Restaurant in Myrtle Beach.

Twenty one members were present as well as 4 guests.

P/D/C Rich Norris nominated Doug Thomas as Administrative Officer. The nomination was seconded and approved.

The slate of officers as previously presented to the membership was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted

Beatrice Norris, P

Secretary

## Vessel Safety

### Vessel 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



**REMINDER - SEND RSVP**  
**AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB**  
**North Strand Sail & Power Squadron**  
**25th Anniversary CHANGE OF WATCH**  
**Monday January 12, 2026**

at  
**SUN COLONY CLUBHOUSE, 200 Sun Colony Blvd.,**  
**Longs (off Hwy 9)**

BUFFET DINNER:  
 Tossed Salad w/Ranch and  
 Italian Dressings  
 Fried Chicken Assorted  
 Pot Roast  
 Broccoli/Cheese Casserole  
 Scalloped Potatoes  
 Sweet Corn  
 Dinner Rolls  
 Coffee & Water  
 Dessert: "25th Anniversary"  
 Cake

**COST: \$25 Per Person / B.Y.O.B.\***  
**Dress will be business casual or USPS Uniform.**  
**Social Hour at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Dinner 6:00 p.m., followed by**  
**The awards ceremony and C.O.W.**  
**(This will also serve as our January membership**  
**meeting)**

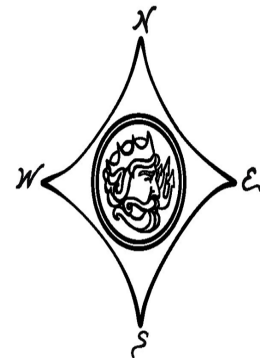
**PLEASE COMPLETE THE CONSTANT CONTACT RE-**  
**MINDER FORM IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.**



|            |            |    |
|------------|------------|----|
| Jeffrey W. | Horton     | 12 |
| Edward P.  | Bullwinkel | 15 |
| Linda      | Lapine     | 16 |
| Edwin H.   | Mora       | 19 |
| James R.   | McVey      | 23 |

This is a reminder that Shallotte Squadron will be having a wine tasting and chili cook off at Silver Coast Winery on Jan. 5. Please join them for a delightful evening.

Silver Coast Winery Ocean Isle Beach 6680 Barbeque Road, Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469 Plan to join the squadron members and guests at 5:30 pm on Monday, January 5th, 2026, for a wine tasting and Chili Cook Off. The cost is \$15 per person to taste 4 wines. Chili will be served. Please RSVP to Amy Pruitt at amyann655@gmail.com. The kind folks at the winery normally close at 5:00 pm but are open just for the squadron meeting. We hope to see you there where you will discover the hidden treasures of the Silver Coast. Visit Brunswick County's first winery, located just inland of Ocean Isle Beach. The winery offers tours and tastings of our award winning, European style wines every day. The winery is located midway between Wilmington and Myrtle Beach just minutes from Sunset Beach and Ocean Isle Beach. Explore the art gallery where local art adorns the walls for visitors to enjoy. Shop in the unique gift shop for an array of wine related items and gifts. The Barrel Room, with its enchanting waterfall, offers a unique setting and is perfect for special events and meeting.



*Silver Coast Winery*  
*Ocean Isle Beach*

## *The 2025 North Strand Sail and Power Squadron Christmas Party*

was held at Chestnut Hill Restaurant on December 8, 2025. Approximately 30 members and guests enjoyed delicious food, fun games and great camaraderie. The room was festively decorated and Christmas music played throughout the evening. Everyone had a great time as you can see in the pictures below.



## 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



Annual Meeting  
February 9-15, 2026  
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

### NSSPS 2025/2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Heritage Shores Cleanup

January 21st at 3:30 PM

