



# SCUTTLEBUTT

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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



Hello Fellow North Strand Sail and Power Squadron members,

Thanks to all who helped with organizing and coordinating the NSSPS Change of Watch on January 10<sup>th</sup>. This was a great celebration that was very well planned and executed. I think all the members who attended really enjoyed the event.

Cdr John Cattuna

We even received some complimentary comments from our District Commander Barbara Sommers. This is an example of what we can accomplish as a club when members chip in to help. This ceremony honored our 2025-2026 Bridge for all of their hard work operating the Squadron during some difficult membership times. Additionally, the incoming Bridge for 2026-2027 was installed.

The new year has started off with a Membership Involvement meeting hosted by Donna and Barry Lippincott so we can plan the activities our squadron members would like to participate in during the upcoming year. It is important to get involved with the tasks required to operate our squadron so that we are providing the classes, activities and civic services that our membership desires us to do as a club.

Keep a look out for our new calendar of events which is coming soon to our North Strand Website. Also, we plan on presenting the Operations Training seminar known as OT2 which explains all of the functions of the various Bridge Officers as well as all of the activities involved in operating the Squadron. Bridge Officers should attend but this seminar is open and valuable to all members.

The weather has been cold this winter so far but Spring will be arriving soon so get your boating activity desires to your Bridge and Committee members so we can enjoy being on our waters together.

Hope to see you all soon,

John



**MEET NSSPS 2026-27 EDUCATIONAL OFFICER, JAMIE CROSS**



**SEO Jamie Cross**

Greetings, fellow NSSPS Members!

In my first column as the Squadron Educational Officer, I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I joined the ABC / North Strand PS about three years ago, but I have many years of experience in "Power and Sail" Squadrons during our years living in Winnipeg, Canada, and later, in Toronto. In the Winnipeg Squadron of CPS (as it was then known) I was Education Officer, Supply Officer, XO, and Commander, as well as an instructor. I was inactive in any squadron activities in the 20 years that I lived in Vermont, but joined the Port Credit Squadron in Toronto, Ontario where I served as Membership Committee Chair, XO, and an instructor. I also served as an instructor for the Oakville Squadron "on loan" from Port Credit PS. At various times, I have taught Boating, Piloting, Marine Electronics, Engine Maintenance, and the Weather course. In 2020, I was fortunate to win the CPS William Bowman "Instructor of the Year" award. John Cattuna kindly worked with ABC National to have my course completions and certifications transferred to USPS so I wasn't starting from scratch here.

My boating experience has its beginnings in my teenage years with fishing boats and runabouts at the lake, followed by years of small boat sailing on Hobie Cats and one-designs. Later, we had several small keelboats ranging from a San Juan 21 to a Tartan 37 which we kept on the coast of Maine during our time living in Vermont. During our time living in Toronto we lived on our boat (at that time a Jefferson 52 flush-deck motor yacht) at Port Credit Yacht Club. Yes it is possible to live on a boat year-round in the Great White North. We purchased the boat in Chicago and with the help of friends I piloted it through the Great Lakes and the Welland Canal to PCYC. Then in August, 2020 we decided to move back to the U.S. and sailed her from Toronto across Lake Ontario through the Oswego and Erie Canals, the Hudson River and the ICW to our new location in Little River, SC. Since 2021 we've become landlubbers again.

In taking over the squadron SEO duties, I am acutely aware that I have big shoes to fill following in the footsteps of John Cattuna. John has been very gracious in providing training and being a resource on which I can draw moving forward. In addition, I am very thankful to have the assistance of David Hoch who has kindly agreed to be Assistant SEO. Between the two of us, I think we can get this done!

To the matters at hand, please be aware that we are in the process of setting up Marine Electrical Systems course which we plan to offer in March / April. Several members have expressed interest in this course. Of course, an ABC course will be offered in the spring, and at least one more in the summer and another in early fall. Details will be in a forthcoming email blast. Stay tuned!

**MEET NSSPS ASST. EDUCATIONAL OFFICER, DAVID HOCH**



Yvonne and David Hoch

Born in Butler, PA, my family moved to Daytona Beach when I was 5 years old where I stayed until I was commissioned in the USAF in 1976 after receiving a BS in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and moved to Las Vegas, NV where I lived until 2011.

I met my wife Yvonne, who is an Occupational Therapist, in Las Vegas, married in

2006 on an island at Lake Mead, and have been

boating together ever since. While in Las Vegas, I also served as the commodore of Nevada Yacht club and president of the Lake Mead Sailing Club. We joined the Las Vegas Sail and Power Squadron where we both completed AP and I taught the Seamanship and Sailing courses. I completed JN in Sarasota, FL.

We moved onto *Abundance*, a 50-foot cutter-rigged monohull, after retiring from 18 years working for Clark County government in air quality management. We planned to sail around the world on *Abundance* when we left St. Petersburg, FL in December of 2017. We made it as far as Fiji in the South Pacific when we learned that Yvonne's brother had terminal cancer in NC. We sold *Abundance* in 2019 and moved to Loris to care for her brother until he passed.

We've just bought a Sea Ray 260 Sundancer and plan to start on the Great Loop in 2027. We love to travel and are out of town a lot.

I am honored to serve as your ASE0 now. I have a lot to learn and hopefully some to share! I'm eager to get to know you all, and to enjoy boating and working with the North Strand squadron.



Treasurer Ethan Selph

### Ahoy North Strand crew!

I'm Ethan, your new treasurer for America's Boating Club North Strand, and I'm excited (and a little nervous) to be stepping into this role!

I've been boating for 30 years—mostly in Utah on stunning reservoirs like Lake Powell (canyon exploring, beaching, and motoring to Rainbow Bridge), Jordanelle (mountain waterskiing and fishing), and Deer Creek (wake sports and relaxed cruises)—and the last 10 years here along the South Carolina coast and inland waterways around North Myrtle Beach. My 26-foot MacGregor has carried me on plenty of fishing trips, sunset cruises, and the occasional unexpected adventure—like falling off the boat while securing it on the trailer after a day out this summer (lesson learned the hard way: always double-check footing and take your time on those slippery ramps!).

About two and a half years ago, I was also diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (Philadelphia Chromosome positive)—but thanks to outstanding medical care, including a stem cell transplant, I'm approaching my two-year cancer-free anniversary this May/June. We'll be celebrating that milestone somehow—likely involving the boat, good friends, and fair winds!

Incidents like the fall remind me there's always more to learn, even after decades on the water. It's one more reason to dive deeper into America's Boating Club courses and seminars—trailing safety, ramp techniques, and personal precautions can make all the difference. I joined about 7 years ago to sharpen my skills through the excellent education and to connect with other passionate boaters. The focus on safety, education, and camaraderie hooked me right away.

When the treasurer position opened up, I figured my background in business management and small business finances would let me contribute meaningfully and help keep our squadron's books as smooth as a calm day on the water.

My goal is to handle dues, expenses, and report efficiently so we can spend less time on paperwork and more on what we love: boating education, on-the-water events, cruises, and social gatherings. I'll be happy to answer questions about renewals, reimbursements, or anything budget-related—just shoot me an email at [ethanselph@yahoo.com](mailto:ethanselph@yahoo.com) or catch me at the next meeting or rendezvous.

Looking forward to serving the crew and making this a great year on and off the water. Fair winds!

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER



XO Rich Norris

Hello to one and all from your Executive Officer.

I was born in Rochester, New York and spent most of my adult life in Allentown, Pa., where Bea and I boated on the Chesapeake Bay in *Miss Kelsey*, our 50 ft. Carver. As we got older and moved to Myrtle Beach, our boating needs changed and we currently have a 19 ft. SeaRay Bowrider, *Full Certificate*.

For those who are unfamiliar with my background in USPS, I have been Squadron Commander twice, albeit not here. I have also served on two different District Bridges. At District 5, I served first as Asst. Admin officer and then Administrative Officer. Then at District 26, I served as Administrative and Executive Officers and District Commander. Having this experience prepares me well for my task this year.

My task this year will be to guide a person (or persons) as they watch and learn how this organization functions and get prepared to be ready, willing, and able to take the helm in 2027!

If I fail to convince the membership of the necessity of this action, then the Club will dissolve next year! So, It is time for us to unite and keep this club thriving for many years to come!

I look forward to being your XO this year and working with our 2027 Commander.

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



AO Doug Thomas

I am pleased to serve as your new NSSPS Admin Officer for 2026.

The Administrative office hit the ground running with a Membership Involvement Committee meeting headed by the MI Chairperson, Donna Lippincott.

One major change that came from this meeting was the decision to alter the nights of the General Meetings. To make the meetings more accessible to more of our members, it was decided to alter the nights of the meeting. They will be held on either the second Monday, Tuesday or Saturday of the month. We hope to accommodate more of our membership who have firm commitments on Mondays and couldn't make our Monday meetings. The dates of our meetings will be announced well in advance via Constant Contact. So watch your emails in the first week of each month. Also, all meeting dates for the year will be posted on the squadron website calendar. And for the sake of variety and spice, the locations may vary. Although most will be held at Sun Colony clubhouse, as in the past, some will also be held at various locations on the Grand Strand. Bottom line: Watch your Constant Contact notifications or the squadron website calendar.

## Silver Coast Winery Event

On January 5th, twelve members of North Strand Power Squadron attended a wine tasting and chili contest at Silver Coast Winery in North Carolina hosted by Shallotte Power Squadron. North Strand members were judges of the chili contest and although it was VERY difficult to choose 3 winners, we did our best. All the chili was wonderful and Betty Duarte won first prize with her chicken chili. Amazing!

Members of the Shallotte Squadron were so welcoming and friendly and made all of us North Stranders feel like family; and come to think of it, we are—all part of the United States Power Squadron family!!

Thanks again to Shallotte P.S. for having us. We look forward to getting together again this year for more USPS fun and camaraderie!



On January 22, 2026, the Membership Involvement Committee held a planning meeting at the home of Donna and Barry Lippincott. Plans were made for meetings, picnics, boating and other events for the coming year.



NORTH STRAND SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON 25TH CHANGE OF WATCH—2026



## POT LUCK !

The **Monday, February 9**, membership meeting will be pot luck at the Sun Colony Clubhouse. Salad and deserts will also be needed. It is a BYOB event. Water will be available. Please contact Bea Norris at wind6769@aol.com with what you plan to bring so that we don't have too much of one thing. Thanks and we look forward to seeing you there.



|            |         |       |
|------------|---------|-------|
| Beatrice   | Norris  | 02/01 |
| Edward F.  | McNiff  | 02/05 |
| Valarie J. | Weede   | 02/18 |
| Charles W. | Schuler | 02/25 |



## 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