



America's Boating Club North Strand

SCUTTLEBUTT

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FROM THE COMMANDER'S HELM



Cdr John Cattuna

Hello Fellow North Strand Sail and Power Squadron Members,

I just got back from the USPS Governing Board in Raleigh. There were a number of informative sessions on marketing our squadrons and educational approaches in today's boat ownership environment. The summary of the marketing sessions is getting our name out using every available resource and doing it frequently and regularly. The summary for education is using short courses or seminars regularly and frequently to get our name out there as the place to go to learn about boating. They also said these short courses or seminars should be of minimal cost or free. Other sessions that I could not attend, as they were being presented while I was in the sessions that I did attend, were presented by the USCG and NOAA.

Other reported information included some disappointing statistics:

National USPS membership is down to less than 12,000.

Income is consequently negative.

Numerous squadrons have disbanded and 4 districts merged.

Please continue to promote the benefits of participating in our organization with activities like our Vessel Safety Check program, our boating educational opportunities and our civic and social activities.

We would like to get a Co-Op charting activity scheduled. This is a civic boating activity where we travel the waters that we use each time we are out on the Waterway. We visually check the position and condition of the channel markers along the waterway and Inlet to insure they are where they are supposed to be and in good condition. Any issues we discover we report to the USCG and NOAA for them to update the charts or repair or replace the channel markers as necessary. We'll need some members to volunteer their boats for this activity as well as observers/photographers and data entry help. I will be sending out a reminder in Constant Contact.

We held our 2nd 2026 ABC Class on Sept. 12th at the Sun Colony Club House. We had 18 people sign up and 8 show up. While this turn out is disappointing, it appears to be common across the nation. The suggestion from the conference is to include a method to pay for the course when people sign up. This help ensure that folks show up for the class.

Members interested in any of our great classes or seminars should contact our Educational Department so we can get the class scheduled.

The D/26, October 15-18th Cruise and Rendezvous is being hosted by the Golden Isle Squadron in the St. Simon and Jekyll Island area in Georgia. Anke and I are looking forward to this boating activity and all of the fun events they have planned. Our Cruise and Rendezvous are some of the best social activities presented by the USPS as we have an opportunity to boat on other bodies of water and make new friendships with fellow USPS members from other squadrons.

Hope to see you all soon out on the water.





EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

SEO Jamie Cross

Fall is in full swing and it's hard to believe that the summer went by so quickly! With the arrival of fall, it is time to start thinking about courses and/or seminars we want to offer to our members and the public in the off-season.

On Sept. 12, we had an "ABC Boating" course. We tried a different approach this time around offered and we offered the course at no charge through the SC DNR website and through our own promotional efforts. As part of the "no charge" offering, we decided not to include the course book to participants. The thought was that the ABC Boating course would be an opportunity to "show our stuff" and recruit some new members.

We had 18 people sign up for the course. Eight people actually showed up on the Saturday morning. Of the eight class attendees, seven passed. No one (as of yet) signed up for membership in the Squadron.

A big "thank you" to Cdr John Cattuna who, in my absence, did all the "heavy lifting;" performing all the administrative functions, preparing the new 2027 "ABC Boating" slide deck, as well as teaching a good part of the course that day.

As a lesson learned from this exercise, it is pretty clear that the majority of attendees through the SC DNR site sign up for the course solely to earn their Operator's Certificate. There is a low likelihood of these folks joining the Squadron. Another issue is that not in having any "skin in the game" many registrants became no-shows. On the positive side, the Sun Colony clubhouse served us well as a venue for the course.

On a different topic, Doug Thomas had a great conversation with folks at Bass Pro Shops in Myrtle Beach, with the possibility of us using their meeting room at the store for future course, at no charge. This is a great central location that could help draw participants from a broader area.

As always, I remain open to hearing from members about future course and seminar offerings. Please e-mail me at the squadron email "northstrandpss@gmail.com"

Be safe on the water!



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

AO Doug Thomas

Ahh, finally a break in this suffocating heat wave. Fall is here and a welcomed break has arrived with it. Hopefully we can begin enjoying some of our planned outdoor activities.

Among these is the monthly Heritage Shores Park Cleanup. Note that this activity reverts to once a month from October to May. It is categorized as one of our Civic Activities, along with Vessel Safety Checks, Coop Charting (on-water and geodetics on-land) and the ABC course presented to the public. Contact Donna Lippincott for a parking pass if you wish to attend. Contact her at 484-358-8646 or donnamlipp@gmail.com.

The September General Meeting was well attended with several good dishes being submitted at our potluck dinner. We strongly encourage all NSSPS members to attend our monthly General Meetings. They are generally held the 2nd Monday of the month at various locations. Check the calendar near the end of this issue of the Scuttlebutt for details about the upcoming October meeting on Monday, 12 Oct, featuring chicken blog and, again, a potluck. Bring your favorite dish to share with your fellow members.

This month, we welcome new members James and Paula Stephens. Let's give them a hearty welcome whenever you run in to them at one of our events. They have jumped right in and have actively attended our events since they joined in early September. WELCOME, James and Paula.

National (USPS) has recently announced a new online Marine Navigation course available to our membership. Details were included in this month's National newsletter. If you did not receive that newsletter, please let me, Doug Thomas, know so we can get you on the mail list. I can be contacted at 843-685-3234 or snazzyrags@gmail.com.

Have a great Fall and hope to see you all soon!



EXECUTIVE OFFICER

XO Rich Norris

Hello once again and WELCOME to the best time of the year to be out on the water.

Having said that, did everyone see the latest Constant Contact Message? Wouldn't it be special, if along with enjoying the time out on the water, you could combine that time with performing one of the best Civic Service activities that USPS has... as a Cooperative Charting Volunteer?

Commander John is volunteering his time to provide the training you will need to be successful in this venture. In case you missed the CC message, the training will occur over two sessions on October 10th at 1:00 PM and again on October 21 at 1:30 PM at a place yet to be decided upon. Please give John a call at (704) 807-9536 to join the fun.

Bea and I did a little of this last year, and it was fun! I had intended to add the pictures we took last year of a channel marker needing attention and a "runaway" No Wake Zone buoy, but they've disappeared from my phone.

Check out the pictures on the right. These are extraordinary "finds" of geodetic markers. Finding, recording and submitting geodetic markers is the on land version of Co-Op Charting.

Be safe out there!

2025 Geodetic Marker Recovery Extremes

Longest Time Since Last Found – 126 years
TV1031 – MORRO Castle
San Juan, PR
Ken & Becky Minton
Golden Corner Lakes D26



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS



2025 Geodetic Marker Recovery Extremes

Oldest Mark – 146 years, monumented in 1879
JY0461 – Q
Chillicothe, OH
Greg & Connie Shay/D27



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS



VESSEL SAFETY EXAMINERS

P/D/C Rich Norris, Chair

P/D/C Rich Norris, SN-CN

Twila Nahama, SN

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

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



Tami Casey 14

Reminder



The October Membership Meeting will be held at the Sun Colony Clubhouse on Monday, October 12th at 5 PM. It will be Pot Luck so please bring an entrée or desert to share. This is BYOB. Water will be available. See you there!!!



HERITAGE SHORES NATURE PRESERVE

Heritage Shores Cleanup Schedule

10/21/2026 - 03:30 pm

Donna Lippincott has parking passes for anyone who needs one.

North Myrtle Beach—Keep NMB Beautiful is asking for donations of single-use plastic bags to refill the doggie bag station.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!





USPS National Annual Meeting
2/7/2027 - 2/14/2027 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time
Embassy Suites USF/Busch Gardens
3705 Spectrum Blvd
Tampa, FL 33612



America's Boating Club-District 26

2026 Fall Cruise & Rendezvous
Oct 16 - Oct 18, 2026

St Simon
Best Western Plus
301 Main Street
St Simon
912-638-7805
Group Code - America's Boating Club Golden Isles Event
Images, if available, may contain additional links.
Hosted by:
America's Boating Club - Golden Isles



North Strand October 2026 Calendar of Events

2026

CALENDAR YEAR

OCTOBER

CALENDAR MONTH

MONDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
28	29	30	01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08 1900: ExCom meeting via Free Conference Call	09	10	11
12 Columbus Day 1700 - 1900: General Membership Meeting, Sun Colony Clubhouse, 200 Sun Colony Dr., Longs, SC Meal: Potluck Georgetown Wooden Boat Show, 729 Front St, Georgetown, SC	13 Georgetown Wooden Boat Show, 729 Front St, Georgetown, SC	14 Georgetown Wooden Boat Show, 729 Front St, Georgetown, SC	15 Georgetown Wooden Boat Show, 729 Front St, Georgetown, SC	16 Georgetown Wooden Boat Show, 729 Front St, Georgetown, SC	17 Georgetown Wooden Boat Show, 729 Front St, Georgetown, SC	18 Georgetown Wooden Boat Show, 729 Front St, Georgetown, SC
19 Georgetown Wooden Boat Show, 729 Front St, Georgetown, SC	20	21 15:00 - 17:00: Heritage Shores Park Clean-up, W. end of 53rd St. N, North Myrtle Beach, SC	22 Cruise to Conway City Marina	23 Cruise to Conway City Marina	24 Cruise to Conway City Marina	25 Cruise to Conway City Marina
26	27	28	29	30 Halloween	31	01

