Side Lights
AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
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CHARLOTTE

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September 2026 Volume 65 Number 7

View from the Bridge:

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A Busy Eight Months

By Commander Warren François

First, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to lead this great Squadron and to work alongside such dedicated and capable Executive Committee members.

I have had the luxury of having several past commanders on the Bridge and ExCom, including D/C Charles "Bo" Ibach III SN-ACN. Their guidance and assistance have been invaluable.

I have attended America's Boating Courses run by Ibach, P/C Brevard S. Myers Jr. SN-ACN and P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN held at MarineMax Lake Wylie Marina. Helpers included P/C John P. "Jack" Moore Jr. AP-IN, P/C Dan Bartell SN-ACN, P/C Ken Elkins JN and a few others.

I attended the National meeting of America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons in Myrtle Beach in February and was impressed by the attendance and education offered. Several Charlotte Squadron life members were recognized and earned awards.

I attended the D/27 Change of Watch in Cary in March where P/C and D/27 Executive Officer Ibach was sworn in as the District Commander for 2026/ 2027. I accepted many 2025 awards for the Squadron on behalf of Bo because Lola, ABC-Charlotte mascot, was on his lap and he could not get up. The Squadron was well represented at the event and won many awards under Bo's leadership.

The Squadron had two Life Members cross the bar this year. A flagpole is in the process of being erected in memory of P/C George William Davis AP; Betty Davis donated funds to help with the cost. Discussions are also underway to recognize P/D/C George H. Rogers Sr. AP's contributions to ABC-Charlotte. Effie Mae Miller Rogers donated several items, which will be auctioned off to support the Squadron.

As I look forward to the rest of my term, I do hope to get to know more of you. We still have the Fall Barbecue and Christmas Party as well as a few General Membership Meetings before the next Change of Watch in January 2027. Please check the calendar and join us.

Warren G. François is 2026 Commander of America's Boating Club-Charlotte.



Commander Warren François

Watch for texts from ABC-Charlotte

By P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN

We receive communications from a lot of sources these days, but statistics show that, in general, people do not answer phone calls from telephone numbers that they don't recognize.

They don't listen to voicemails that are left for them; sometimes they don't even accept voicemail. Folks may read or respond to emails, but it may be days before they read them if they look at anything beyond the subject line.

Snail mail has become a dumping ground for political ads, local contractors' promotions, coupons and cruise brochures.

It seems one type of communication that people pay attention to is texting.

That's been my personal experience communicating with members of other squadrons in D/27. I found myself blocked from calls or from leaving voicemails, and I never got a response to emails. But I did receive responses, almost universally, within minutes when I texted.

To make every effort to communicate with the membership and select other groups (e.g. ABC Safe Boating Class attendees), we have added a mass-texting capability. This is NOT a substitute for email, social media, our newsletter *Side Lights* or the website. It is in addition.

Please add **980-431-5324** to the contacts list on your mobile phone. Name the contact "Charlotte Power Squadron Info" or something similar — something that you like. This will help identify the texts that come to you and hopefully prevent them from being identified as spam.

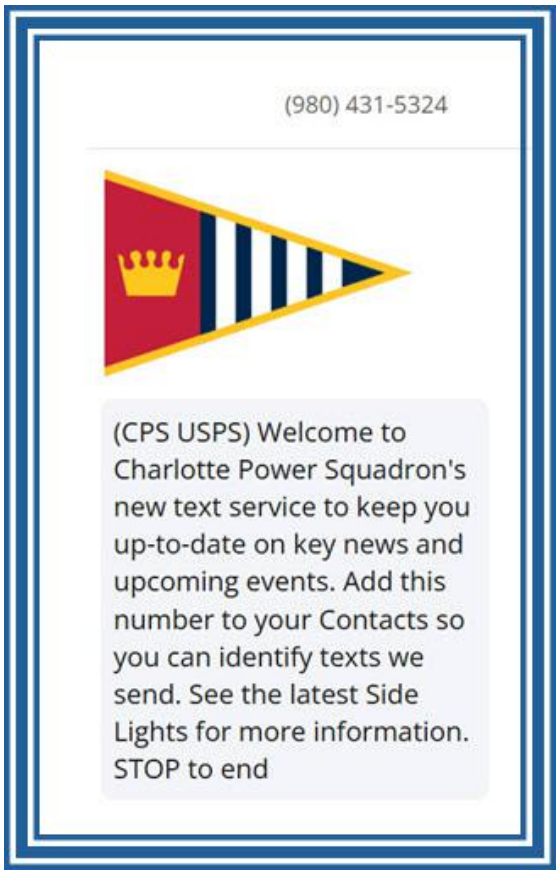
We won't be flooding you with texts. Texts will remind you of events (e.g. membership meetings or BBQs), note the availability of the latest *Side Lights* issue and potentially request RSVPs (e.g. the Change of Watch or the Holiday Party). Texts will NOT be sent assuming extensive two-way conversations.

There may not be a graphic in each text, but the "CPS USPS" label will be present at the beginning of each text that we send.

We will send texts to your mobile phone number listed in the CPS roster. If you decide that you don't want to receive texts, just **reply STOP** to any text we send you and you will be unsubscribed from future texts. If you do unsubscribe but decide later that you would like to restart receiving texts, texting **START** to the phone number will re-enroll you in the program.

However, we hope that you will at least try it for a while to see if this method is effective in keeping you informed on a timely basis about our activities.

Marvin Chaney, Jr is America's Boating Club-Charlotte Secretary and Webmaster.



Here's what the ABC-Charlotte texts might look like.



You can bid on America's Boating Club-Charlotte items at the General Membership meeting.

Silent Auction of Squadron Swag

By P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN

Join us on Monday, August 31, from 12:45-2:45 at Papa Doc's Shore Club for the General Membership Meeting.

At this meeting we will have a special treat. Effie Rogers has donated several squadron-specific materials from George so we could raise funds for ABC-Charlotte. The vast majority of these items is looking for their first owner, but some are gently used. Come and get some unique items to celebrate your membership.

Here's a sampling of what's available:

· Navigation tools (plotting supplies, Lake Wylie charts, historic Lake Norman chart)

· Squadron attire (hats, 50th and 60th anniversary t-shirts, uniform components, burgee pins, necktie)

· Flags (older burgee, Ensigns in various sizes, and an American flag)

· Suspenders® inflatable life jackets

Each item will be auctioned separately. Write your name and bid on the bid sheet, and bid as often as you like until the auction closes. Payment: Credit cards accepted. Cash or check preferred.

We hope to see you there.

Marvin Chaney Jr. is Secretary and Webmaster of America's Boating Club-Charlotte.

2026 BRIDGE OFFICERS		
Commander	Commander Warren François	commander@charlotteboating.org
Educational Officer	P/C Dan Bartell SN-ACN	education@charlotteboating.org
Executive Officer	Open	
Administrative Officer	Open	
Secretary	P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN	secretary@charlotteboating.org
Treasurer	P/Lt/C Mary D. Chaney SN	treasurer@charlotteboating.org
Immediate Past Commander	D/C Charles "Bo" Ibach III SN-ACN	pastcommander@charlotteboating.org

2026 MEMBERS AT-LARGE	
P/C William G. Granger P-IN	P/C Jack Moore AP-IN
Lt Tom Frederick	P/C Brevard S. Myers Jr. SN-ACN
Lt Shaun M. Haycock	P/C David Stewart AP
Lt Pat Mencel S	P/D/C Paula Stewart AP

Calendar of Events

August - October 2026

Date	Event	Time	Location/Details
8/31	General Membership Meeting & Silent Auction	12:45 p.m.-2:45 p.m.	Papa Doc's
9/1	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
9/5	Vessel Safety Checks	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Buster Boyd Landing
September 7 Labor Day Holiday			
9/8	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
9/12	Children's Outing II	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Red Fez Club
9/15	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
9/21	ABC-Charlotte Executive Committee Meeting	5 p.m.-7 p.m.	Jocks & Jills
9/20-27	America's Boating Club Fall Governing Council	Various	Embassy Suites, Cary
9/22	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
9/25	View from the Bridge article due	Treasurer	To Side Lights editor
9/29	Wylie Gator Rowing Club make-up day	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
10/3	Riversweep	9 a.m.-12 p.m.	Buster Boyd Landing
10/5	General Membership Meeting	Dinner	TBD
10/6	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
10/10	District 27 Special Bridge Meeting on Zoom	8 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
October 12 Columbus Day Holiday			
10/13	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
10/17	Clean up for BBQ	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Merit Mark Point

10/19	ABC-Charlotte Executive Committee Meeting	5 p.m.-7p.m.	Jocks & Jills
10/20	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
10/23	View from the Bridge article due	Secretary	To Side Lights editor
10/24	Fall BBQ	1 p.m.-6 p.m.	Merit Mark Point
10/27	Wylie Gator Rowing Club Makeup Day	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pat Hakanson's home

Locations:

Buster Boyd Landing – Next to Papa Doc's at 3990 Charlotte Highway, Lake Wylie, S.C.

Pat Hakanson's house – 6812 Old Ridge Road, Waxhaw

Jocks & Jills – 4109 South Stream Boulevard, Charlotte

MarineMax Lake Wylie Marina – 310 Blucher Circle, Lake Wylie, S.C.

Merit Mark Point (MMP) – 4892 Power Squadron Lane, York, S.C.

Papa Doc's Shore Club – 3990 Charlotte Highway, Lake Wylie, S.C.

Red Fez Shrine Club – 16600 Red Fez Club Road, Charlotte



September

Dan Bartell, Ken Elkins, Gerald Privette, Travis Simpson, Paula Stewart and Nichole Williford

October

James Cahill, Warren François, Kathryn Granger, Richard Reighart and David Stewart

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John and Connie King on the water *Drawing by the late Carl Foesch*

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America's Boating Club-Charlotte is fortunate to have the following sustaining sponsors:

- Marvin and Mary Chaney
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- John and Connie King
- Paula and David Stewart
- Anonymous sponsors

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Side Lights is published 10 times a year for the members of America's Boating Club-Charlotte, also known as Charlotte Power Squadron. The opinions expressed in the articles are those of the writers and not necessarily those of America's Boating Club-Charlotte.