Side Lights
AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
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CHARLOTTE

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October 2026 Volume 65 Number 8

View from the Bridge:

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Let's take a trip back to the roots of Charlotte Power Squadron

By P/Lt/C Mary Chaney SN

When the Charlotte Power Squadron founding members formed the organization in 1961, the Articles of Incorporation stated that the purpose of the organization was "to establish a high standard of skill in the handling and navigation of small boats, to encourage the science of navigation, to cooperate with the agencies of the United States Government charged with the enforcement of the laws and regulations relating to navigation and to stimulate interest in activities which will tend to the upbuilding of our Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine."

We continue to morph into an organization that is more service-oriented.

Our organization has seen many changes over the years, including its rebranding as America's Boating Club-Charlotte, following suit with the rebranding in recent years initiated by our parent organization, the United States Power Squadrons®. We continue to morph into an organization that is more service-oriented. The literal meaning of our purpose as stated above sounds very government-centered, but I would argue that it is also meant to be very people-centered, as ultimately those who benefit the most from our activities are everyday people.

The Three Pillars of the USPS Triangle are Self-Education, Civic Service and Fraternal Boating Club. Think about the following activities we engage in and how they each fall under one of these pillars and/or how most of them also fulfill elements of our stated purpose:

- ABC Safe Boating Courses, our elective and advanced grade courses and other educational seminars and programs
- Vessel Safety Checks – inspecting boats so their owners are confident they have all the required equipment on board
- The annual Catawba Riversweep initiative, which several members continue to participate in on an individual basis, cleaning up the lakes, streams and creeks along the Catawba River Basin
- Cooperative Charting, Marina Surveys and Geodetic Marker Recovery outings
- Our two Children's Outings, in conjunction with Catawba Sail and Power Squadron, where we serve local youth organizations with a day at the lake, lunch and boat rides
- Coastal Rendezvous – usually weekend trips to the coast which are centered around the above-mentioned Cooperating Charting and Marina Surveys outings but are also focused on our

fellow members being able to enjoy time together

· Our Spring Chicken-Q, Commander's Picnic, Fall BBQ and annual Holiday Party

· Membership Meetings – where sometimes we have presentations related to boating or totally unrelated but informative topics or sometimes just socializing

· The Mid-Atlantic Boat Show – making our presence known at one of the largest boat shows on the East Coast, giving us the opportunity to reach out to potential safe boaters through our ABC courses

Charlotte Power Squadron (ABC-Charlotte) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization run entirely by volunteers. Are you availing yourself of the many opportunities to help our organization fulfill the stated purpose as outlined by our founding members in 1961? If so, thank you for your service to our organization. If not, attend a meeting, ask what you can do to help, help plan an event, offer to serve on the Executive Committee. There is no such thing as too many volunteers. Reach out to any of your Bridge members (as listed in the *Side Lights)* and ask how you can become more involved. We are ultimately all responsible for growing the organization and helping it continue to thrive.

Mary Chaney is secretary of ABC-Charlotte.





Marvin and Mary Chaney organize merchandise before the auction.

Rogers swag nets Squadron more than $300

By P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN

Thanks to everyone who came to the August/September meeting at Papa Doc's and made donations to acquire items that Effie Rogers donated to raise money for the squadron.

We raised $305 from the P/D/C George H. Rogers Sr. AP auction. If you couldn't come to the meeting or still want the opportunity to acquire one or more of the donated items, we will have them at the Fall BBQ.

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

2026 Children's Outing II



Commander Warren François takes his job dispensing soft drinks seriously.



The second Children’s Outing of the year was moved to the Red Fez Club.



America's Boating Club of the Catawba organized the event and brought fun items for the children.

Texts are now coming from the Squadron

By P/C Marvin Chaney Jr. SN

We launched our mass-texting capability last month. This is NOT a substitute for email, social media, newsletter *Side Lights* or the website. It is in addition.

Please add **980-431-5324** to your 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 or potentially request RSVPs (e.g., for 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 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.

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. 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.

Marvin Chaney Jr. is Secretary and Webmaster of ABC-Charlotte.



Donna Ibach and Lola

Memorial scheduled for Donna Ibach

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at Myers Park Presbyterian Church, 2501 Oxford Place, Charlotte, NC, for America's Boating Club-Charlotte member Donna Ibach, wife of District 27 Commander Charles "Bo" Ibach SN-ACN.

Donna passed away peacefully on Friday, September 18, at Atrium Health Pineville. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, as well as their six children, spouses and 11 grandchildren.

Donna was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 6, 1948, and resided in DeKalb County until 1959, when her father was transferred to Charlotte for work. She attended Smith Junior High and South Mecklenburg High School, graduating in 1966.

On a blind date at Lake Wylie. she met the love of her life (and he met his). Bo and Donna were engaged that year but didn't marry until June 6, 1970. Their honeymoon was a one-week trip to Florida and Georgia. On July 1, 1970, they moved to Pulaski, Va., for Bo's employment. Two years later with their eldest son (Charles Ibach IV) in tow, they moved back to Charlotte and had Lori, Robert and Virginia.

Tragically, Robert died in an accident in 1981, and later Donna gave birth to two more sons, Michael and Jonathan, and a daughter, Meghan.

In the late 1990s, Bo and Donna renewed their interest in boating and joined the Charlotte Power Squadron. They both became very active in Squadron activities, both locally and at District and National levels. Donna truly enjoyed the friendship of all the members that she came to know.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you please consider donating to the Charlotte Humane Society, local animal shelter of your choice or the Charlotte Power Squadron in Donna's honor.

Obituary adapted from McEwen Funeral Service-Pineville Chapel.



Ray Weir

CPS loses founding member Ray Weir

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is the obituary for Ray Weir, who some of us knew as a member of Charlotte Power Squadron at its beginning. Information provided by Kenneth W. Poe Funeral & Cremation Service, 1321 Berkeley Ave., Charlotte.

Rayner "Ray" Weir, age 96, passed away peacefully on July 27, 2026, in Charlotte. Ray was born on June 5, 1930, in Europe to Robert H. and Ruth S. Weir. He was raised in Boston, Mass., where he developed the values of hard work and integrity. He graduated from Vermont Academy in 1949 and earned his bachelor's degree from Brown University in 1953.

In 1954, Ray joined his family's business, becoming the third generation to carry on a legacy that began with the founding of the New England Waste Company in 1894. The company became Newco Fibre Company in 1968.

Early in life, Ray enjoyed playing tennis and snow skiing. He had a lifelong love of collecting maps and was always a passionate boater and sailor. He became a member of the Charlotte Power Squadron in 1960, where he proudly served as Commander from 1967 to 1968 and earned an extraordinary 50 Merit Marks in recognition of his decades of dedicated service and volunteerism.

One of the greatest blessings of Ray's life began with a blind date. It didn't take Ray very long to figure out that Adele Wilson would be the love of his life, and they would build a beautiful marriage together that spanned for over 66 years. Adele and Ray both shared the love of classical music and traveling the world. Together they visited countless destinations, but none was beloved more than their vacation house at Ocean Isle Beach.

A celebration of life service was held on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at Sardis Presbyterian Church, 6100 Sardis Road, Charlotte, NC 28270.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Ray's memory to the Children's Home Society of North Carolina.

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

October/November 2026

Date	Event	Time	Location/Details
October 2026			
10/3	Catawba Riversweep	Various	See catawbariverkeeper.org for more information
10/5	General Membership Meeting	6 p.m.-8 p.m.	Jocks & Jills
October 12: Columbus Day Holiday			
10/13	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
10/17	District 27 Special Bridge Meeting on Zoom	10 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
10/19	ABC-Charlotte Executive Committee Meeting	5 p.m.-7p.m.	Jocks & Jills
10/20	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
10/23	View from the Bridge article due	Secretary	To Side Lights editor
10/24	Fall BBQ BYOB, members bring desserts, $10.00/head supports the Squadron	1 p.m.-5 p.m.	MarineMax Lake Wylie Marina
10/27	Wylie Gator Rowing Club make-up day	8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
November 2026			
11/3	General Membership Meeting	1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	AmberJack
11/10	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
November 11: Veterans Day Holiday			
11/16	ABC-Charlotte Executive Committee Meeting	5 p.m.-7 p.m.	Jocks & Jills
11/17	Wylie Gator Rowing Club	8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	Pat Hakanson's home

11/20	View from the Bridge article due	Educational Officer	To Side Lights editor
11/24	Wylie Gator Rowing Club Makeup Day	8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	Pat Hakanson's home
November 26: Thanksgiving Day Holiday			

Locations:

AmberJack Seafood and Steaks – 4253 South New Hope Road, Gastonia 28056

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.



October

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

November

Mary Chaney, Will Granger, Susan Ruth Hochstetler, Jack Moore, Don Osmond and Jacqualine Simpson

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

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- John and Connie King
- Paula and David Stewart
- Anonymous sponsors

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