



Sound of the Pamlico Newsletter

August 2023

Volume 23, No.4

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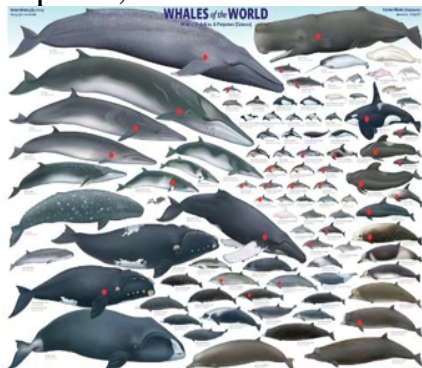


August 17th General Membership Dinner Meeting

Liz organized an excellent meal selection and a very sought after speaker this month. We were happy to welcome Keith Rittmaster, Director of the Bonehenge Whale Center and Natural Science Curator, NC Maritime Museum in Beaufort.

Keith has a Master's in Environmental Management from Duke University and has worked as a marine mammal scientist on research projects in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, Cook Inlet Alaska, Gulf of Mexico, and northwest Atlantic Ocean. In 1985, he and his colleagues began a long-term photo-identification (Photo-ID) study of the bottlenose dolphins near Beaufort, NC to investigate residency, migration, associations, reproduction, and mortality. They developed techniques for identifying individual dolphins by the scars and notches acquired on their dorsal fins. This is tricky work, as these distinguishing characteristics can change over time or be obscured in some photos taken in different research locations.

Collaborations with neighboring researchers have tracked the movements of individual dolphins as far south as central Florida and as far north as Long Island, NY. The identified best-known dolphins, ones that we have photographed more than 50 times over 15-25 years, generally exhibit seasonal presence patterns – some we know as NC's "winter" dolphins and others we call our "summer" dolphins, with little or no overlap.



Through his presentation, Keith provided an overview of the many species he encounters through his work and the conservation issues faced. He introduced thirty-four species of living cetaceans (whales, dolphins, and porpoises) that have been documented in the waters off the North Carolina coast.

The graph to the left indicates those species with red dots. He also brought hands-on display items such as bones, teeth, baleen oil.

Keith also responds to reports of dead, dying, and entangled marine mammals as part of the NC Marine Mammal Stranding Network. He shared a number of photos and their stories of entangled damage from discarded fishing line or nets that he encounters through his work.

He also introduced the recently completed Bonehenge Whale Center in Beaufort. It is a facility from which to base research, exhibit preparation and display, marine conservation, educational programming, outreach, publications, and stranded specimen collection & maintenance that focus on NC cetaceans (whales, dolphins, and porpoises), past and present.

For more detailed information on their amazing efforts, visit their website at <https://bonehenge.org/>

Commander's Corner**Cdr. Walt Morrissey**

Happy Dog Days of Summer to Everyone!
It's hot, it's Summer, and I love it.

As you are reading this I hope to be moving a 'new to me boat' to our Marina. Unfortunately, that also made me miss our General Membership Dinner Meeting on August 17. I am hopeful you were able to enjoy the evening and learn about NC marine wildlife, the species they encounter and some of the conservation issues they face at the Bonehenge Whale Center. We are fortunate to live in such a beautiful place.

The Executive Committee and each of the Bridge Officers are beginning to work on upcoming fall events and into the Holidays. So please enjoy Summer and get ready for some fun events later this year.

Here's an example, we'll kick off September with our Social Event coordinated with the Washington Harbor District Alliance FAB Crawl in downtown Washington. Lorne Hope has arranged dinner that evening at Down on Main Street. Thanks Lorne, for such great planning!

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, our Squadron will be hosting the 2024 Summer Rendezvous for District 27. After meeting with WHDA, Visitor Center and Festival Park/Docks as well as other program presenters, we find we have many options to create a weekend that will be something ABC-Pamlico will be proud of and our Members will surely have a great time. We hope for your support in this effort as we start our planning. More details should be available at our next General Membership Dinner Meeting, October 19th.

**District 27 Fall Council/Conference – October 27 & 28**

What: Ctrl & Click [here](#) to view the Announcement
Where: Carolina Orchards Club House, Fort Mill, SC

I plan to attend the District 27 Fall Council/Conference on October 27/28 in Fort Mills, SC. Let me know at commander@pspsnc.com if you are thinking about attending, we could enjoy it together.

See you on the water very soon, Commander Walt



Michael & Terri Johnson -
Washington, NC
Power Boat - WYCC

Joining ABC-Pamlico as a past
members of the Virginia Beach
Sail & Power Squadron

Executive Officer

Lt/C Rio DeGennaro, P



Recently, I presented an ABC Basic Weather Seminar to recognize the signs of impending weather and the dangers it brings to boaters. Rapidly moving cold fronts spawn strong to severe thunderstorms that bring high winds, heavy rain, hail, and even tornados. By August, the Jet Stream has normally moved north taking most of the severe weather with it leaving us with only pop-up storms that develop in the afternoon. This summer, however, the Jet Stream has not moved as far north, bringing us waves of severe weather. Unlike pop-up thunderstorms, cold front storms sweep through an area in long, destructive lines.

Make weather awareness a major part of planning for a weekend of fun on the water. Begin days ahead by watching your local station's weather forecast along with weather information apps on your phone or tablet.

Check this Out!

We all know that tight dock lines help minimize damage to boats and docks during high wind events...right! Not so fast! There is much more to it. *More lines are better!* Along with bow and stern lines, use fore and aft spring lines. Add snubbers to the bow and stern lines to absorb shock stress that can (and will) tear cleats from the dock and your boat. Use plenty of fenders. We may not have lunar tides affecting our water levels but high wind events can change our water levels significantly. Boats tied to a fixed dock are very susceptible to damage if these "wind tides" are not accounted for. Plan for weather at the dock as well as on the water!



We have a possible new civic opportunity. Belhaven Chamber of Commerce has offered an awesome outreach opportunity for ABC-Pamlico. We've been asked to participate at a Marine Career Fair for all Beaufort County high school students and educate them about boating safety in October. More on this as details become available.



It's not too late for a VSC Inspection. Fortunately, here in coastal North Carolina, we are able to boat at least a few days of almost every month. But do you have your Vessel Safety Inspection this year? We will verify the presence and condition of certain safety equipment required by State and Federal regulations.

USPS/America's Boating Club members can now get coupons worth 20% off certain safety equipment purchases at West Marine in store or on line. **Control & click [here](#) to get the coupon for printing.**

If you do not have your inspection yet, email me at VSC@pspsnc.com or contact any of the Inspectors shown below.

Rio DeGennaro	678-313-4583
Bill Ramsden	252-364-5195
Mike Karlovich	919-810-6259
Bob Vecchi	518-703-4881

Educational Officer

Lt/C Bob Vecchi, P



Last newsletter, I complained about the weather being cold and windy. Well, I guess I need to be careful what I wish for, because now it's mostly too hot to venture out on the water. I remember boating in New York, where, if you were close to the ocean, you welcomed the cool ocean breeze during the hottest part of the summer. Even when I lived upstate, the summers were so much more pleasant than here. Maybe if I lived here all my life, I would accept the heat better. But I do still love North Carolina!

Our education calendar in 2023 is shaping up nicely. We recently completed the Cruise and Cruise Planning course, where we had multiple

Instructors with each teaching a portion of the course and that worked out very well. Bill Doar, Cathy and Mike Karlovich, Bill Sholl, and our newest instructor, Karen Herron, all did a great job. We also offered the Basic Weather Seminar, which was presented in superb fashion by Rio DeGennaro, who created his own slide presentation.



We have two fall seminars coming up; [All about VHF/DSC Marine Radio](#), scheduled for Tuesday September 26th at the Bay Club in Cypress Landing, to be presented by Wayne Estabrooks, and [Partner in Command](#), scheduled for Tuesday, October 24th, same location, presented by Cathy Karlovich and Kelly Haslinger.

The team has put together the winter/spring schedule to include the America's Boating Course, which will run over two Saturdays in February. We are having our newly certified Kelly Haslinger pairing up with Tom Graham, to instruct this class. Then we are going to present the Boat Handling Course, with Cathy and Mike Karlovich and myself sharing that load.

We will round out the schedule with the Engine Maintenance Course, presented by Wayne Estabrooks, and the Introduction to Navigation seminar, the instructor is TBD. If any of you seasoned instructors would like to present this, just let me know.

Because of emerging technologies and as electronic charting becomes more and more the norm for boaters, NOAA has decided to stop printing paper charts. Even though the ones you already have will still be mostly usable for some time to come, it behooves all of us to remember that redundancy is the key to onboard safety when it comes to navigation. Therefore instead of relying on those paper charts that will not be updated; as a backup to chart plotters, we have many options such as ipads with Navionics or Aqua Maps as backups. And those options have updates available to keep them current. So we all need to keep up with new things, and if you haven't taken one of our many courses or seminars in some time, you may find it prudent to do so in the near future, if just to refresh.

Did you know, you can supplement your classroom boating safety and education with **Free** short videos available on YouTube online, on Roku and FireTV? Produced by USPS Squadron members.

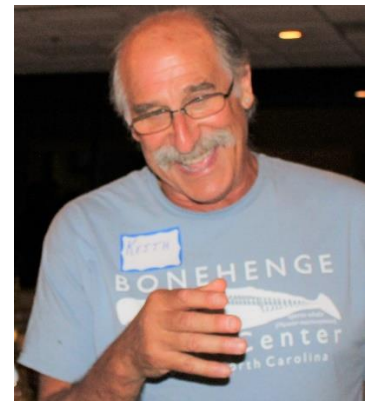
Click on the link below for Season Seven's videos and Subscribe for more.

<https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel/videos>

Administrative Officer**Lt/C Liz Wheeler**

The August 17 general meeting hosted 39 members and 11 guests in addition to our speaker Keith Rittmaster of the Bonehenge Whale Center. Because the topic was of high interest, we invited guests from area yacht clubs to join us. We were pleased that neighbors from Pamlico Plantation were present, as well as, a seminar participant and new neighbors from Cypress Landing. We hope that they enjoyed the evening and will attend our meetings, classes and seminars in the future.

A follow-up request from Keith Rittmaster's wonderful presentation on whales (see page 1) is a tour of the Bonehenge Whale Center in Beaufort. Information on a tour date and time will be distributed when available.



Our next General Meeting dinner is on October 19. The speakers will be the Dean & Lead Instructor from the Beaufort Community College Boat Building program.

December 8 is our Christmas Party...would you like to volunteer to help with ideas and planning for this festive party? Feel free to reach out to me via email, administrativeofficer@pspsnc.com or by cell number at 301-928-1056.

Assistant Administrative Officer - Social**Lorne Hope, AP**

As expected, the July social luncheon was a big success, with 35 attending what is always a terrific experience at Spoon River. Thank you all for making the trip to Belhaven. Spoon River has expanded their space and we were lucky enough to have a room and service devoted to our group. Following lunch, some enjoyed a Belhaven stroll, enjoyed the nearby ice cream shop, while others the new UCW Brewery and of course the hardware store.

Join us September 15 for a downtown experience and dinner at [Down on Main.](#)



Once our Website software upgrade is completed, more photos from this event will be posted.

Assistant Administrative Officers - Boating Tadd & Karen Herron, P



Hope you all have had a terrific summer so far! It's been a hot one, but on the water you just can't beat that cruising feeling. It's exciting to see our members actively on the water, some members with "new to them" boats joining in with the cruising group. Just remember the boaters truly enjoy being joined at various destinations by car riders participating in the cruising group dinners/events.

Karen and I have a plan to move The Wild Herron to Wilimington, Port City Marina, in September for an extended time. Could be a great destination to consider joining us anytime or for a long weekend cruise. If the opportunity comes up to visit with us, text us at 252-916-4832 or email boatingactivities@pspsnc.com.

July's Three Destination Cruise plan beginning July 7th that included Oriental, Beaufort and River Dunes wrapped up with the boaters returning to home port on July 13th. The weather was great for the mix of 5 to 6 boats cruising to all or part of the destinations. Beth & Tom McCluskey joined the cruisers and organized a group dinner at the Front Street Grill (great place for an upper deck waterfront viewing) in Beaufort.



Thanks
to the
various
crew
for the
pics!



NEXT CRUISES: [Labor Day Weekend Cruise to Ocracoke](#) September 1st to 4th. What a weekend to enjoy Ocracoke! A group dinner or picnic will be planned. Email Tadd & Karen at boatingactivities@pspsnc.com or text Tadd at 252-916-4832 regardless of travel by boat or staying in lodgings.
[Cruise to New Bern & River Dunes](#) – October 6th to 9th. Enjoy the weekend at the New Bern Grand with a stop at River Dunes on the return. Good time to catch a ride with one of the boats going!



Personal Watercraft Safety Tips



If you're planning to hit the water on your personal watercraft, you can maximize your fun by following some basic personal watercraft safety tips. Before you ride, know and follow all federal, state and local regulations regarding PWC operation. Read your owner's manual, and become well acquainted with your craft.

On the water

Follow all navigation rules. Pay attention to conditions in front, to the sides and behind you. Always operate at a safe speed that allows you time to react and avoid a collision.

Falling off

Falling off a PWC shouldn't be dangerous if you follow the manufacturer's safety guidelines. If your PWC has one, attach the lanyard engine cutoff switch to your wrist or life jacket. If you fall off, the engine will stop, allowing you to swim back to the PWC and reboard.

Righting an overturned PWC

If your PWC rolls over, right it according to the manufacturer's recommendations, which should be located on a decal at the rear of the vessel. Rolling your PWC the wrong way could allow water into the engine.

Reboarding

Follow the manufacturer's reboarding instructions. Practice boarding the PWC in deep water, but be aware that operator fatigue, strong winds and a swift current can make reboarding more difficult. If you find reboarding difficult, do not ride alone.

Source: USPS/ABC



**Boating Tips
Column
Washington
Daily News**

Tom McCluskey and Mike Karlovich, our team of ABC-Pamlico writers, provides interesting articles for the monthly Boating Column published in the Washington Daily News. This is an important role for our Squadron as it keeps America's Boating Club of the Pamlico in the minds of our local recreational boaters as the recognized organization for boating education and skill building.

Articles since the last Newsletter printing:

- Cruising....Plan Ahead!
- The Chesapeake – A great area to Cruise!
- Use of VHF Recreational Marine Radio

To see all articles and other news releases, visit the website at <http://www.pamlicosailandpowersquadron.org/index.php/news-info/psps-blog>

Do you have a boating topic you would like to share for publication? We could all benefit from many perspectives and topics. What do you think? Email communications@pspsnc.com if you want to learn more or chat with Tom or Mike.



COLLISION AVOIDANCE

The Collision Avoidance video covers the most basic and essential of Navigation Rules. Viewers will learn how to determine stand-on and give-way vessels in various circumstances. Also featured are tips for steering clear of potentially dangerous situations.

Copy the link below into your internet address line for the video:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cXv6s7wqjE&list=PLglbejlMU2HeflYrldNBfQxhOLpd8pQG&index=5

These videos are developed to provide a focus on boating safety and safe boating education. Hope you find them of interest.

The Ensign Summer 2023 issue



In this issue, we follow our intrepid octogenarians on part five of their Down East Circle Route Cruise. Prepare for hurricane season by reading "Riding Out Rita" and learn how one member kept himself and his boat safe during that storm.

To read this issue, copy this link into your internet address line:

https://theensign.org/images/summer2023/?mc_cid=ed6b972a2e&mc_eid=bfac945e46

Member Benefit Highlights



West Marine Safety Equipment Coupons

USPS members can now get coupons worth 20% off certain safety equipment purchases at West Marine in store or on line. The coupons are good until the end of this year. Details and terms are printed on the coupons.

Control & click [here](#) to get the coupon for printing.

Your USPS certificate number is your ticket to real savings!

To see all USPS Member Benefits, visit <https://www.usps.org/index.php/departments/14000/1450001/benefits-alphabetical>

August General Membership photos



Once our Website software upgrade has been completed, photos from this event will be posted.

Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends SM

America's Boating Club of the Pamlico Ship Store

Our Administrative Officer, Liz Wheeler has PSPS Burgees, shown below, in stock and available at a cost of \$25.00/each.



Contact Liz at administrativeofficer@pspsnc.com to place your order or give her a call at 301-928-1056 with any questions.



The National Ship's Store is set up for direct ordering of many articles including shirts, sweatshirts, wind shirts, ties, belts and boating accessories. Certified instructor and vessel examiner shirts and gear are already available, gift items and much more.

See more at <https://store.shopusps.org> and review catalog of items.

Return Policy: if you should receive defective merchandise or you are not happy with your purchase, USPS will accept returns and exchanges of unworn, unwashed merchandise with a valid receipt within 90 days of purchase.

Shipping Location: 1504 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27607

Join or Renew Your Membership



We appreciate you!

**Thank you,
America's Boating Club of the
Pamlico, for your continued
promotion of
boating safety and education!**



**The Cypress Landing Yacht
Club**

We appreciate our virtual home at WYCC.



**Announcing a Special Dinning
Membership you may find interesting!
For more information, contact Valerie at
Washington Yacht & Country Club.**



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Thank You!
to our Sponsors

**America's Boating Club of the Pamlico
is very grateful for the continued
support of our local community. Your
confidence has measurably helped the
Squadron move forward with boating
safety as well as other educational and
civic programs.**

**Come Cruise with
USPS/ABClub!**

Come have fun cruising around the
Caribbean! Different trips each
year on different ships.

**For information on the
February 2024 Cruise,
[Click Here for the Flyer](#)**

Each cruise is a fundraiser for
USPS/ABClub.

Please send all questions to Dawn Eckart
at dawn@dawnstraveldeals.com or call
(727) 403-0406

Contact Information

Bridge

Commander

Cdr [Walt Morrissey](#)

Executive Officer

Lt/C [Rio DeGennaro, S](#)

Educational Officer

Lt/C [Bob Vecchi, P](#)

Administrative Officer

Lt/C [Liz Wheeler](#)

Treasurer

Lt/C [Tom Graham, SN](#)

Secretary

Lt/C [Marisa Morrissey](#)

Asst Education Officer

Lt Cathy Karlovich, JN

Assistant Secretary

Lt Edith Hope

Assistant Treasurer

Lt/C Bob Young, AP

Asst Admin-Social

[Lorne Hope, AP](#)

Asst Admin-Boating

[Tadd & Karen Herron, P](#)

Executive Committee

Lt Jeff Wollard, P

P/Lt/C Chris Young, S

P/Lt/C Ed Mann, AP

Lt Cathy Karlovich, JN

Other Contacts

Membership Chair

Lt [Sue Duclos](#)

Communications

P/Lt/C [Chris Young, S](#)

Vessel Safety Chair

Lt/C [Rio DeGennaro, P](#)

National Awards Received



2022 Distinctive Communicator Award PSPS Website



2022 Distinctive Communicator Award PSPS Sound of the Pamlico Newsletter

District 27

Ship's Store



Now Open

<https://district27.qbstores.com>

Instant discount coupons and flat rate shipping available.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

For more information go to our PSPS Website Calendar [here](#):

September

- 01-04 [Labor Day Cruise to Ocracoke](#)
- 15 [Down on Main Street](#)
Social dinner & FAB Crawl
- 19 [Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio Seminar](#)

October

- 6 – 9 [Cruise to New Bern & River Dunes](#)
- 19 General Membership Dinner Meeting – Speaker, Ben Morris, Boat Building at BCCA
- 24 [Partner In Command Seminar](#)
- 27 – 28 [District Fall Council /Conference](#) – Fort Mills, SC

November

- TBD Social Outing, location TBD w/Toys for Tots Collection

December

- 8 Christmas Party at WYCC
- TBD Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Be Sure to Visit us on [PSPS Facebook](#)

Sound of the Pamlico is published six times a year by the Pamlico Sail & Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadron know as America's Boating Club. The editor reserves the right to modify materials submitted for publication. Questions, articles or comments should be directed to the [Editor](#).