



2024 Commander's Annual Report

The past year has been a productive and fulfilling year for our Club and I am thrilled to report that we have had success in many important priorities.

Our commitment to promoting educational and skill development opportunities continued in 2024. We are fortunate to have 3 newly certified instructors to qualified to teach America's Boating Class and other courses. I am very thankful for all the hard work that was done by many of our members.

Vessel Safety Checks were conducted in 2024 with new qualified Examiners, and we completed more VSCs in 2024 than some recent years. Community outreach continued in other ways such as Toys for Tots and Salvation Army Bell Ringing.

The 2024 Marine Market was a great success. Thanks to the many generous donations from our members, we were able to raise a significant amount of money for our Club.

We are committed to creating membership meetings that provide opportunities to socialize with friends, learn, and have fun. We happily welcomed 16 new members in this year.

We also hosted the District 27 Rendezvous, introducing many attendees to Washington. The feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. I think we were able to share the beauty, history and culture of Washington with our visiting club members from NC & SC. This event was a success because of the efforts of so many of our members helping organizing and participating throughout the Rendezvous weekend.

We have begun our planning for 2025 and I am always interested in your ideas and thoughts for this new Watch Year.

Commander Walt Morrissey



Boating Education

Our Education Officer and his team planned courses and seminars for members, surrounding yacht clubs and the public offerings for area local recreational boaters.

- The Education department expanding to a team approach is working very well, keeping everyone's individual efforts at a reasonable level and allowing for successful scheduling of many educational courses/seminars.
- Three key instructors completed the Instructor Certification requirement over 2+ months qualifying them to present the America's Boating Course.
- The America's Boating Course was presented February 24 & March 2 graduating 19 students with 2 of those students becoming members.
- Boat Handling Course presented June 11 thru July 30 with 9 students passing the exam and 2 elected not to take it.
- Introduction to Navigation Seminar was presented August 6.
- The Paddle Smart Seminar was presented September 24 with 9 students attending. The following Saturday morning a group paddle up Chocowinity Bay was scheduled and included VSC Inspections for 3 kayaks participating.
- Communicated with local newspapers, radio & TV, surrounding boating clubs, yacht clubs and boating retailers encouraging boating skill building opportunities in our area.
- Maintains a public group on Facebook social media to promote education opportunities, safety, events, civic involvement and boating activities.
- A team of Editors publish monthly educational, safety and boating information articles for the local Washington Daily Newspaper Boating tips column.
- Members participated in Aids to Navigation Cruise presented by ABC-Crystal Coast. It was an excellent navigation presentation, on the water opportunity.



Civic and Community Involvement

The Squadron continues its efforts to strengthen our mission throughout Beaufort County in our community involvement.

- Recruited two new Vessel Safety Inspectors.
- Increased Vessel Safety Inspections to 60+ with our five certified VSC Inspectors. This included working with surrounding YCs participating in their spring kick off events.
- Our Marine Flea Market was a huge success in May 2024. A result of the many generous of donated items, volunteers collecting the items, pricing, setting up, tearing down and participating during the sale. We reported \$1,693 in sales for the day, the biggest ever. This is the Squadron's single fund-raising effort that goes directly to education and safety programs within Beaufort County.
- Promoted National Safe Boating Week with newspaper articles, a Mayor Proclamation and materials kicking off National Safe Boating Week May 20th at our Flea Market.
- A real highlight was hosting the District 27 Rendezvous August 2 & 3. It was a big success with 70+ attending across the district and many volunteers supporting the success.
- Participated in the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program filling collection boxes at our November members social dinner, Cypress Landing Yacht Club and Washington Yacht Club locations.
- Members participated in Salvation Army's Red Kettle Program with 19 members Bell Ringing all day on 11/21.
- Maintained annual membership and participation in the Washington-Beaufort County Chamber of Commerce.
- ABC-Pamlico was again awarded National recognition for our Website and Newsletter, Sound of the Pamlico.
- Revitalized our Facebook social media to include more photos, notices of education, safety and fun opportunities



Social, Boating and Fellowship Activities

In addition to our commitment to safe boating, education and civic involvement, our Squadron family truly enjoys fun on and off the water.

- Members enjoyed our Change of Watch Luncheon, Elections and Member Award Recognitions on March 9th 2024.
- Held four General Membership Dinner Meetings with exceptionally interesting local speakers.
- Invitations to surrounding YC's and Tar River sister Squadron for a dynamic speaker that was enjoyed by all.
- Members enjoyed our annual Christmas Party with dinner, music and holiday games that had everyone engaged and heavily competing.
- Popular social "Just for Fun" lunches/dinners were enjoyed at five area restaurants, always very well attended.
- Spring Cruise south covering 5/11 through 5/3 provided an opportunity for our cruisers to travel to ports of Beaufort, NC; Wilmington; Mrytle Beach; Georgetown; Charleston and Beaufort, SC along the beautiful coastline.
- Ocracoke Island Cruise was set for August 18-21, however, weather caused a cancellation. Maybe next year.
- The 2024 Fall Cruise north again provided options for cruisers to stop at ports in Dowry Creek; Alligator River; Edenton; Elisabeth City and some to Portsmouth, VA.
- The Bridge and Executive Committee met monthly 9 times to monitor and conduct the affairs of the squadron.
- Delegates attended all national and district meetings.
- We have been fortunate to have 16 new members in 2024.
- Provided our annual software program for substantial savings for our members on specific software.
- Published 6 editions of Sound of the Pamlico Newsletter.
- Merit Marks were awarded to 30 Members representing 1,335+ hours of volunteer support of ABC-Pamlico mission.