



Sound of the Pamlico Newsletter

March 2025

Volume 25, No.1

A District 27 Squadron

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Annual Meeting & Change of Watch – March 8th

The Pamlico Sail & Power Squadron, held its Annual Meeting and Change of Watch on Saturday, March 8, 2025. We were happy to be joined by the current D27 Commander Otis White and his wife, Barbara White, Commander of their Cape Fear Squadron. Commander White presided over our Change of Watch and Installation of Bridge Officers.

With 37 attending, we enjoyed an excellent lunch and appreciate Linda's detailed attention to all the details for a successful annual meeting. The invocation was given by Jim Hackney, our Squadron Chaplain prior to lunch. Jim included the passing of Gene Alligood. Commander Walt also recognized our loss of Gene who served in many rolls including our Past Commander and District Past Commander. We were happy to have Sharon Alligood, another of our Past Commanders attending and we wish her well.

A special treat during the social and lunch, Beth McCluskey, our Historian, provided a photo slide show that included highlights from our very active 2024 events. Beth also provided several of Squadron Scrapbooks for members. Thank you, Beth!

Following the lunch, Commander Morrissey opened the Annual Meeting. He pointed out the [2024 Squadron's Accomplishment Report](#) that covered our many successes during the year and is linked above.

The annual minutes and Financial Audit Committee's Reports were presented. P/C Tom Graham and current Treasurer presented the Treasurer Report and the Proposed 2025 Budget. All was approved by membership.

The Nomination Committee's Report was given and Commander Morrissey asked for nominations from the floor. The nominations were approved by members and the Annual Meeting was adjourned.

Change of Watch

Beginning the Change of Watch portion, Commander Morrissey expressed his appreciation of outstanding work of the Bridge officers and the members supporting those roles. The Commander also presented the Commander's Award to Sharon Alligood and Chris Young for their outstanding work organizing the D27 Rendezvous. They both did a great job and was fully supported by members resulting in a success.

Commander Morrissey expressed his pleasure to have served as Squadron Commander this past year and his appreciation of the many members that have been supportive and encouraging. He is looking forward to 2025 and another fun, productive and rewarding year for our Squadron. He then introduced District Commander Otis White.

Change of Watch Continued

Commander White commented our squadron was among some of his favorites. He also recognized Pamlico, chartered in 2000, will celebrate 25 years this June. All squadron newsletters are sent to District and he said our newsletter is always a delight to read. Also, he appreciated our Squadron's efforts for the 2024 D27 Rendezvous...it was awesome and so much fun. He reminded us that the next District Rendezvous will be in June in New Bern.

He also shared that this has been a challenging year with problems with the new website portals, problems with VSC and the on-going problems with insurance. These problems are all being worked on diligently. Lastly, he thanked Pamlico for keeping it going, keeping the spirit and keeping boating safe.

After relieving the 2024 Bridge and Commander Walt, Commander White administered the Oath of Office to our 2025 Commander Walt Morrissey and the 2025 Bridge and Assistant Bridge Officers and command was officially turned over to Commander Walt Morrissey.

We are so very fortunate that Commander Walt is willing to extend his role for another year. His leadership has been exceptional, his support appreciated and our Squadron's results for all of us has been rewarding.

The 2025 Bridge consists of: Returning Commander Walt Morrissey; returning Education Officer Bob Vecchi, P; returning Administrative Officer Linda Moyer; returning Secretary Marisa Morrissey; and returning Treasurer Tom Graham, SN.

Assistants to the Bridge Officers include: Assistant Educational Officer Mike Johnson, S; returning Assistant Administrative Officer-Boating Mike Karlovich, AP; returning Assistant Administrative Officer-Social Loren Hope AP; returning Assistant Secretary Edith Hope; and Assistant Treasurer Don Parker. The 2025 Squadron Organizational Chart is shown on Page 8 along with a collection of photos.



Commander's Award –
Planning effort for the
D27 Rendezvous



Commander's Corner

Cdr. Walt Morrissey



I am hoping this message finds all of our members well. It has not been a normal winter. Ready or not, 2025 is here.

Our Squadron had our change of Watch on March 8. I was thrilled to be nominated and will continue to be the Commander of the Pamlico Sail and Power Squadron for 2025.

My theme for this year will be looking for help. We have many open positions. We are starting 2025 with the Executive Officer Position open, this position supports many community outreach projects. With this position open we will need your help as those civic opportunities come up. You will see these help requests multiple times. Please consider helping, your contribution will be appreciated.

I would like to highlight two members taking on important roles for our Squadron that will definitely be meaningful.

Joni Caputo has assumed the role of Membership Chair, replacing Sue Duclos in this role. Joni will respond to all prospective members, providing them a full understanding of who we are and our mission. She will process all new membership through completion and welcoming them aboard. If you know of anyone who may be interested in membership, simply email Joni at membership@pspsnc.com with their contact information...she'll take it from there.

Bill Davis has stepped up as our Vessel Safety Chair and has already kicked off the planning of inspections in advance of spring and summer boating activities. As a boat owner you will be getting your spring work list started, while doing that, please add getting a vessel Safety Check Inspection to your list. It is simple, no fee involved, and even if you fail there is no consequences other than you just became more aware of the deficiencies that affect safety and need to be corrected, so your boating days are safer for your crew and your passengers. Bill provides more information in his article on the next page.

Hope to see you soon, Commander Walt



Chris & Dawn Beisner
Chocowinity, NC
Sailboat - Firefly



*A very special thanks to
 Sue Duclos for her 9+ years in
 the role as Membership Chair.*

Executive Officer

Civic Opportunities

With this role open at this time for 2025, we will continue our efforts to reach out to our communities promoting boat safety, education and maintaining or expanded our civic opportunities. We will reach out to membership as events are planned for help. Being a part the effort for just one civic project can be rewarding.....let us hear from you!

Spring Project - ABC-Pamlico's Marine Flea Market – Saturday, May 17th

We are happy to report that we will have the opportunity for a Flea Market for 2025. Our Marine Flea Market will be held, Saturday, May 17 in conjunction with the Chocowinity Fire Dept's Spring Heat Car and Truck Show. We participated in this show twice before and it was a great success with record number of people attending the show and lots of activity. This is our single fund-raising effort of the year and all proceeds go directly to public boating education and safety programs.

The first step is to identify the items we have for sale. We encourage everyone to consider donating recycled items you have no further use for as you clear out storage areas, attics and garages for spring cleaning. If your neighbors are doing the same, let them know we can help with those items. Although it's a marine flea market....just about anything goes.

The Marine Flea Market flyer will be out shortly that will identify ways you can participate in this event. Reach out to Walt with any questions, directions to drop off donated items or arrange for pick up and to Volunteer the day of the Flea Market.

Walt Morrissey – commander@pspsnc.com – 252-623-1714 – Chocowinity

Vessel Safety Chair

Bill Davis



I became a VSC Inspector last year and truly appreciated how meaningful this inspection is for all recreational boaters. I'm happy to serve as Vessel Safety Chair this year. We are fortunate to have 5 Certified Inspectors and we are all looking forward to assisting in your readiness.

As we all know, this is a key component of getting your boat ready for the boating season. Your VSC inspection sets you up to insure you are complying with state and federal regulations as well as checking standard safety equipment for a safe and enjoyable boating season for you and your passengers.

Our plan is to set up various VSC Inspection days at many of our surrounding yacht clubs, marinas and public docks to reach as many of our local recreational boaters as possible. We will have Certified VSC Inspectors available to inspect power boats, sailboats, pontoons, personal water craft, paddle crafts and fishing boats.

Initially, we have the following dates with a few pending confirming details:



March 29 – [Cypress Landing Marina](#)
 April TBC – Washington Waterfront Docks
 April TBC – Washington Yacht Club Marina

April TBC – Pamlico Plantation Marina
 April 12 – Cypress Landing Marina
 Date TBD – Dowry Creek Marina

Watch for more information very soon as details are confirmed. Be sure to sign up at respective locations for a time slot convenient for you and to insure we have enough Inspectors on site

If your boating group or marina would like to set up a date for inspections, just let us know by emailing VSC@pspsnc.com or text/call me at 252-940-9080. We would be happy work out a plan.

Educational Officer

Lt/C Bob Vecchi, P



Spring is rapidly approaching. We recently moved the clocks ahead and hopefully everyone compensated by retiring an hour earlier than normal so not to lose that valuable sleep time. The weather has been all over the place, with warm days spoiling us for the following chilly ones. But don't worry, spring will settle in like it always does, and that means we need to ramp up our education offerings and to do our part to make boating safer and more enjoyable for all boaters.

The [Engine Maintenance Course](#) is scheduled to begin on April 1st, for ten weeks. It is an in-depth program covering diesel as well as gasoline engines, both inboard and outboard, steering systems and drive train items such as shafts and propellers, as well as engine controls. If you enjoy doing mechanical things, you can become an educated DIY mechanic and save a bunch of cash in the process.

Our annual [America's Boating Course](#) will be held April 26th and May 3rd. For years, we had one instructor qualified to teach this course. We now have 4 certified instructors among our instructor team. This course encompasses a wide range of important subjects related to boating, such as Rules of the Road, use of marine radios, proper use of knots, aids to navigation, how to handle emergencies and mechanical issues when on the water, trailering basics, as well as water sports using paddle craft of all types. A section of the course covers local boating laws and regulations so, for those born after January 1, 1988, upon successful completion, the course qualifies for the North Carolina required operator's certification.

Mid-January a Custom Navigation Seminar was provided by Mike Karlovich. Navigating without a Chart Plotter and using Navionics and Aqua Maps was a great success with 20+ folks attending. Here's a few photos of the enthusiastic group that included a second hands-on session on the 30th. More photos are available [here](#).



Administrative Officer**Lt/C Linda Moyer**

I am excited to continue in my role of Administrative Officer this year. I've continued to meet with the WYCC General Manager and Event Services Manager on menus. We have also confirmed dates for all of this year's meetings dates that are posted on the website calendar.

Saturday, March 8 was the date for the Change of Watch luncheon and meeting at the Washinton Yacht and Country Club. There were 37 attendees, including Otis White, District 27 Commander, with his wife, Barbara. The Change of Watch took place after an excellent lunch which included the retiring of the 2024 Bridge and the installation of the 2025 Bridge Officers.

Our [April General Membership Dinner Meeting](#) speaker will be Jason Raupp, PhD, a maritime history professor at ECU. For our June meeting, we are exploring the possibility of having a representative from the Whiskey Project Group present. The Whiskey Project Group is an Australian firm that plans to build a new boat manufacturing plant in Edenton, NC. If you hear of an interesting speaker, please let me know and I will research for our group. Likewise, if you would like to volunteer to help with ideas and planning for general meetings and the holiday party, please contact me at 619-933-2345 or email me at administrativeofficer@pspsnc.com.

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

I am very happy to continue in my role for 2025 and truly appreciate your excellent attendance at our various social lunches and dinners.

Our first outing was just south of New Bern at the Saltwater Grill at Riverbend Marina. Fifteen attended and proved to be a road trip challenge, so a number of us were just not sure we had the right route in our GPS for success. Saltwater Grill in on the water and a real surprise. The food was good and the Weather, although chilly, was sunny and well worth the drive on a nice day.

I'm always open to suggestions and would be happy to explore any ideas you may have. Here's a thought....should we consider reaching out at another location further afield this summer like Beaufort or Swansboro? Let me know your thoughts, email me at social@pspsnc.com



Assistant Administrative Officer - Boating**Mike Karlovich, AP**

Spring boating is a great way to shake off the colder weather and a perfect time for a shakedown cruise down river. If you haven't already, it's time to begin that spring checklist of tasks to get your boat ready for the season. Be sure to include your Vessel Safety Check Inspection for 2025. It ensure all systems are in working order and safety equipment is in good condition and others are not outdated.

If anyone has a idea for a day cruise, an overnight on the hook, a raft-up or just a trip to Bath for pizza, let us know. We can get a quick, spur of the moment email out or you can use our Facebook to put out a call for others to join you. If you aren't a Facebook member, click on the link below and join so that you don't miss a thing.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PamlicoSailAndPowerSquadron>

Hopefully we can include plans for all size of vessels. We are also looking at a cruise to Cotton Patch for grilling/picnic, scheduling an event with High Water Social and with Dowery Creek as well. All boating plans that will allow for car riders to join in. No dates yet....we need to hear your thoughts.

The Chesapeake Cruise is scheduled for April 11 through 24. The first three ports are planned with the balance of the cruise determined by those cruising on a "plan a day or two ahead" for flexibility. Click [here](#) for the flyer details. Car riders are encouraged to drive north to catch up with the boaters at interesting ports. Be sure to email me, boatingactivities@pspsnc.com if you have an interest for all or part just a part of the cruise.

The District 27 Rendezvous for 2025 is scheduled June 13 & 14 in New Bern. Stay tuned for more details from the host squadron, Cape Lookout. If you have ideas for cruising, continue to let us know there's sure to be others interested in the same destinations.



**Boating Tips
Column
Washington Daily
News**

Mike Karlovich, our ABC-Pamlico Writer, continues to provide 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:

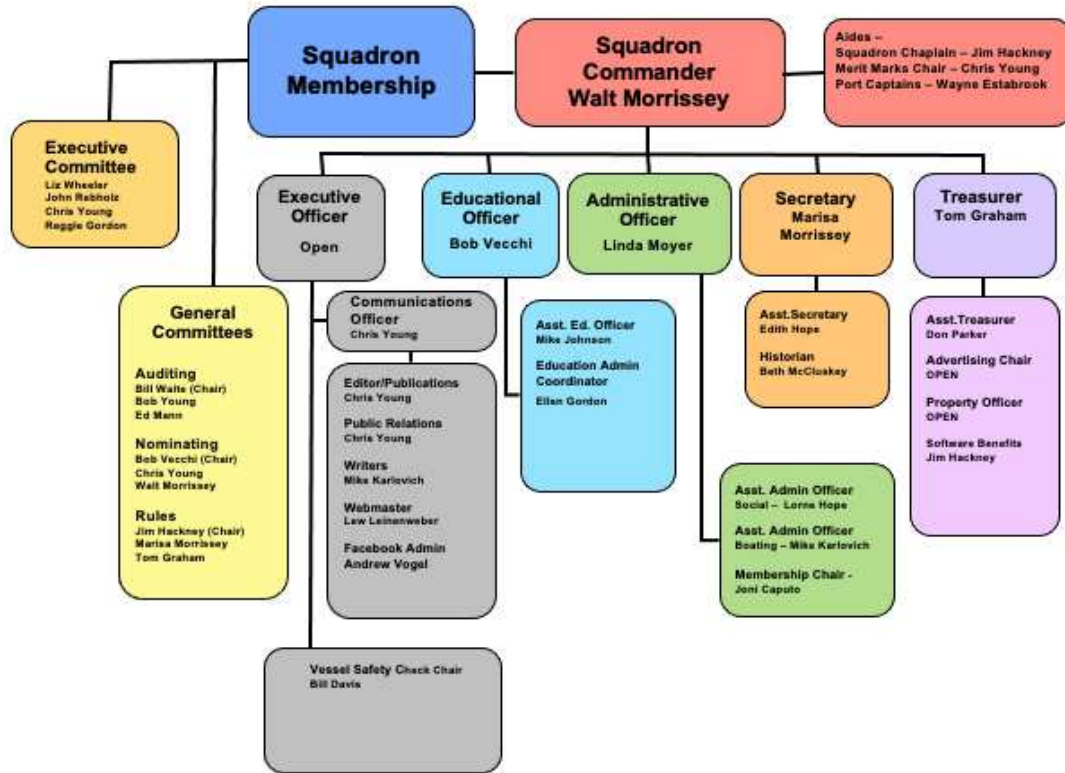
[Importance of a Basic Boating Course](#)

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

Calling creative writers - We would like to expand our writers team for the monthly boating column. Those of us who have small or large boats, sailboats, paddle craft, etc all have experiences and suggestions to get the safest and enjoyable times on the water. If you are interested in writing short articles, let us know at communications@pspsnc.com or chat with Mike.

America's Boating Club of the Pamlico Organizational Chart

2025



Annual Meeting & Change of Watch Photos – [More photos Here](#)







Engine Cut-off Switches

This "WEAR AN ECOS" video covers federal regulations governing the use of engine cut-off switches (ECOS) on recreational vessels. Viewers will also learn about "circle-of-death" dangers from runaway boats. Also featured are new wireless systems as well as traditional lanyard-types.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0Nu7Gu-JG0&list=PLgibejIMU2HeflYrldNBfQxhOLpd8pQGb&index=2>

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

The Ensign Winter 2025 issue



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

<https://issuu.com/theensign/docs/theensignwinter2025?fr=sMTgwZTgxMjY3NjQ>

Member Benefit Highlights



The SmartPlug – Hamilton Marine is a shore power system created to replace the outdated and problematic twist-type design. SmartPlug products provide superior protection against loose connections and corrosion - the leading cause of fires.

Log on to:

<https://www.usps.org/departments/14000/14500-member-benefits/14500-benefits?view=article&id=1248:smart-plug&catid=163:member-benefits>

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To see all USPS Member Benefits, visit <https://www.usps.org/departments/14000/14500-member-benefits/14500-benefits>

America's Boating Club of the Pamlico Ship Store

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



Contact Linda at administrativeofficer@pspsnc.com to place your order or give her a call at 619-933-2345 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!**



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We appreciate our virtual home at WYCC.



Gas & Fuel available to all recreational boaters:
Monday & Tuesday – By appt only
Wednesday & Thursday – 11AM to 5PM
Friday, Saturday, Sunday – 9AM to 5PM

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.



**ORIENTAL IN-WATER
BOAT SHOW & NAUTICAL
FLEA MARKET**

APRIL 11-13, 2025

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OrientalBoatShow.com

Contact Information

Bridge

Commander
Cdr [Walt Morrissey](#)

Executive Officer
Open Role at this time

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

Administrative Officer
Lt/C [Linda Moyer](#)

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 [Don Parker](#)

Asst Admin-Social
Lt [Lorne Hope, AP](#)

Asst Admin-Boating
Lt [Mike Karlovich, AP](#)

Executive Committee

P/Lt/C [Liz Wheeler](#)
P/Lt/C [Chris Young, S](#)
[John Rebholz](#)
[Reggie Gordon](#)

Other Contacts

Membership Chair
Lt [Joni Caputo](#)

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

Vessel Safety Chair
Lt [Bill Davis](#)

National Awards Received



2023 Distinctive Communicator Award PPS Website



2023 Distinctive Communicator Award PPS 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 PPS Website Calendar [here](#):

March

21-22 [Spring 2025 D27 Council/Conference](#) – Cary, NC

29 [Vessel Safety Inspections](#) @ Cypress Landing Marina

April

4 Vessel Safety Inspections @ Washington Waterfront

TBD Vessel Safety Inspections @ Pamlico Plantation

11-24 [Chesapeake Cruise](#)

12 Vessel Safety Inspections @ Cypress Landing Marina

17 [General Membership Dinner Meeting](#)

TBD Vessel Safety Inspections @ Washington Yacht Club

May

TBD Social Outing
18 Marine Flea Market

Spring Heat Car & Truck Show in Chocowinity

18 Kick off - National Safe Boating Week

Be Sure to Visit us on [PPS 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](#).