



Sound of the Pamlico Newsletter

April 2025

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A District 27 Squadron

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Our April General Membership Dinner Meeting was very interesting. After we enjoyed two excellent meal choices, we were treated to a presentation by Jason Raupp, Ph.D, Program in Maritime Studies at ECU. Dr. Raupp's specializes in historical and maritime archaeology and has worked around the world prior to settling in NC with his wife and son.

An aspect that became very apparent was Jason's pleasure in developing/mentoring the students of the field school. ECU has a 71% graduation rate, 300+ graduates and 76% job placement in the archaeology field.

ECU research has a long history on the Tar & Pamlico Rivers and around Washington for the past 40 years. First as a shipbuilding center, Washington slowly evolved into an entrepôt where goods harvested at local farms, fisheries, and timber were shipped in the Tar-Pamlico trade.

In 2020 the ECU Field School, under Jason's direction, investigated two wrecked or abandoned vessels, the Copper Wreck and the Centerboard Wreck sites documenting maritime infrastructure (wharves & piers) and the remains of those vessels.

In 2021 the Field School focused on the history of Castle Island, across from Washington waterfront. The field team traversed the dense growth on the island to locate sites related to the shipbuilding, lumber, and lime production facilities on the island that date approximately from the mid-19th century to the turn of the 20th century. The field team was able to identify several clusters of material potentially related to historic structures, including a substantial brick foundation for a late 19th century oyster shell burning lime kiln that contributed to the island's reputation as "the Castle."

Jason also shared that during the 19th century, NC saw a rapid expansion to local oyster industry and fisheries as the Chesapeake NC invaded our estuaries. In 1890, the Washington Oyster canning factory opened and carried on until 1920 until the decline of oysters in the Pamlico Sound.

More photos and a few informative links on page 9.

Maritime History of Washington

- 1705 Bath became NC's first town
- 1726 Plantations established upriver
- 1771 Major James Bonner petitioned for a town called "Forks of the Tar"
- 1782 Officially renamed Washington
- 1790s Washington developed rapidly as a regional entrepôt for naval stores & lumber
- 1820s Shipbuilding & sawmills
- 1860s Civil War & aftermath
- 1890s Lumber, lime, agricultural & fisheries

History of Castle Island

- 1780s John & Thomas Blount build warehouses on Castle Island to aid privateering and shipping industries
- 1818 Fowle Bros. begin shipbuilding on "the Castle"
- 1850 Hanks sawmill established
- 1860s Castle Island fortified during Civil War & aftermath

Washington, NC Oyster Industry

- Around 1890, an oyster canning factory opened in Washington that employed over 150 people.
- The business was very successful, and oyster shells were so prevalent in Washington that they literally had to burn them to get rid of them.
- The streets were surfaced with shells and a massive lime kiln was built on Castle Island.
- Unfortunately, the Chesapeake Bay oyster fishers did not learn their lesson and quickly over fished the Pamlico Sound.
- The Washington, NC oyster house was owned by a Baltimore firm, but southern built vessels were most likely being used to catch the oysters.
- Industry carried on until around 1920 when a decline in oyster led to the closure of the local oyster house

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

As I am writing this warmer weather has finally arrived. I hope you have completed your Spring work projects and are ready to enjoy the season. We have a busy summer season approaching. We have the Marine Flea Market coming up on May 17, a social meeting at Backwater Jacks on May 21, and a cruise to New Bern from June 12 to 16 overlapping the District 27 Rendezvous June 13 and 14 hosted by Cape Lookout. Consider joining us for a day or overnight for a couple days at the Rendezvous.

I hope you can participate and enjoy each of these events.

Our Squadron depends on active members and volunteers. Please see the areas we need volunteer help with that is listed on page 8 in this newsletter and consider helping out, many are "one off" volunteer opportunities.

The annual National Safe Boating Week kicks off May 17th. We will have materials on boating education, safety and Vessel Safety Inspections at the Marine Flea Market as we chat with folks we meet. In addition, our VSC Inspectors will finish the week at Havens Gardens Launch Ramp area to conduct inspections.

Washington's Mayor, Donald Sadler, will sign a Proclamation supporting the National Safe Boating Week and the start of year-round effort to promote safe boating in our local waterways. He encourages all boaters and passengers to wear your life jackets. In particular, be aware children under the age of 13 must wear their jackets when underway.

The USCG has just released the latest annual report of boating accidents. A summary is shown on Page 7 and certainly reinforces our efforts in boating education and safety.

I would like to report, Terri and Mike Johnson attended a Salvation Army appreciation dinner representing ABC-Pamlico and picked up a certificate for our support of their Red Kettle Program. At the dinner, new board members were introduced, and top Bell collectors recognized. Overall Salvation Army was extremely pleased with the kettle collection efforts, and were able to end their year in the black for the first time in a number of years.



**D27 Rendezvous in New Bern
Hosted by America's Boating
Club of Cape Lookout**

**Check here for all updated details,
agenda and the reservation form.:**
<https://uspsd27.org/php/d27Calendar.php>

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 expanding our civic opportunities. We are reaching out to membership as 2025 specific events are planned for help.

Review the list of currently opportunities on Page 8.

Being a part the effort for just one civic project can be rewarding.....let us hear from you!

Vessel Safety Chair

Bill Davis



We kicked off our VSC inspections on March 29th at Cypress Landing Marina with all five of our VSC Team. Everyone worked together and we accomplished 16 inspections by noon. We had the opportunity to provide boaters with additional information relating to NC law, safety, etc. Our Membership Chair, Joni Caputo, was also on sight promoting upcoming classes and membership. The docks were lively, great job to all.

A second VSC event was held at Cypress Landing Marina in conjunction with the CLYC Blessing of the Fleet. We inspected 6 additional boats.

We continue to plan 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. Here's our scheduled at this time.



5/10-Washington Waterfront Docks,
Moss Landing and Havens Wharf
8 AM to 12 Noon

5/24-Havens Garden Launch
8 AM to 12 Noon

Dates still pending for:

- Pamlico Plantation Marina
- Dowry Creek Marina
- Washington Yacht Club Marina

Watch for more information as details as additional events are confirmed.

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. Also, if you have a friend with an uninspected vessel, encourage them to start the season with an inspection. Your recommendation will speak volumes!



Educational Officer**Lt/C Bob Vecchi, P**

As we start to move from spring to summer weather patterns, the one thing we could use more of is RAIN.... But the sunshine and pleasant temperatures have afforded many of us opportunities to start using our boats. That is, if you can deal with the windy conditions we have had on a regular basis. So maybe the small boats are staying closer to home port due to the wind. And the humidity has been almost non-existent as well. Anyway, my hope is for more pleasant weather for our boaters and more RAIN for everyone. How's that for trying to please all.

The Engine Maintenance Course may be just about completed by the time you read this. Wayne Estabrook and Mike Karlovich did a fine job of explaining the differences between gas and diesel, inboard and outboard, oil and antifreeze, and all the preventive maintenance work needed to keep our vessels in tip top shape, so no one leaves themselves stranded on a sand bar somewhere.

We are also in the middle of our annual ABC course. The class is small this year, which is a bit of a disappointment, but it gave Mike and Cathy Karlovich the opportunity to engage with each of the students, which is very important for a successful class. Ellen Gordon, our new Education Administrator, is learning her job and is very meticulous in performing her duties. Mike Johnson is also assisting and learning the job as well as Assistant Education Officer. I am hopeful that we may get a few new members from these classes. Below are photos of the first day of the class.



This is also the first time in many years that we gave Tom a break from presenting this ABC material as we now have 3 Certified Instructors with Mike Karlovich, Cathy Karlovich and myself. Thank you, Tom, for those years of support.

Looking to fall, I plan to offer the Boat Handling Course as a series of seminars. It will be more work scheduling them as separate classes, but I hope to entice some who may feel they may not need all the segments and therefore decline to take the entire course.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer boating season. If you have a particular seminar or course you would like to see for the fall or next winter, reach out to me.

Administrative Officer

Lt/C Linda Moyer



Our April 17th General Membership Meeting was attended by 28 members and I received positive comments on both meal selections. The Chef came out chatting with us to confirm everyone enjoyed their dinner.

Our speaker, Dr. Jason Raupp was especially interesting. He is a

specialist in maritime archaeology and maritime history. He holds a B.A. in Anthropology from Northwestern State University, an M.A. in History from the University of West Florida, and a Ph.D. in Archaeology from Flinders University in Australia. Dr. Raupp presented interesting historical topics on our local history based on the shipwreck projects he led with the Eastern Carolina University Field School students and their findings in the Pamlico River region and Washington Harbor. See photos from the meeting on Page 9 that also includes several links that will provide more details on several topics he shared with us.



Commander Morrissey also announced at the meeting there were numerous opportunities that our members could become involved in, some of which are new and a few annual efforts. It's a great way to get involved without major volunteer commitment. A few of those such as organizing a 50/50 Drawing or something new for us, a Silent Auction consisting of some very generous contributions from members, could be lots of fun. See more details on Page 8.

For the June 19th meeting, I am hoping to get someone from the Whiskey Project Group to come talk to with membership. They are an Australian company with new US headquarters in Edenton. They fabricate aluminum and composite hulled vessels.

Assistant Administrative Officer - Social

Lorne Hope, AP



The details are out for our next social, is dinner at Backwater Jack's Tiki Bar & Grill. Always a great menu that is sure to please. They always appreciate our business and look forward to seeing us all. Your RSVP is needed by May 17, simply email me at social@pspsnc.com.



I recently had a couple suggestions of venues in Greenville for future social opportunities from members. Keep them coming, Edy and I are always on the lookout for new or popular restaurants. If you have a favorite lunch or dinner restaurant or maybe a new one that you could recommend, let me know, I'm happy to check it out for our group.

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

I'm working on a few on-the-water boating plans. A few are Raft Up's, a Cotton Patch Cruise, a Dowery Creek cruise and pool party and an event at High Water Social. The weather is getting right for these local boating events that can be planned with shorter notice. Hopefully you will bring your boats and join us, or ask to ride along with other boaters. Be on the lookout for these events.

We are also working on a Beaufort NC cruise. This is a great destination for a cruise and also an easy ride for day trippers wishing to join the boaters for an enjoyable visit to such a beautiful coastal town with lots to do and a selection of terrific restaurants.

June is busy with the [New Bern Cruise](#) (6/12 to 6/16) and the [D27 Rendezvous](#) in New Bern (6/13 to 6/14). At this time, there are 3 boats confirmed for the cruise...come join us. The boaters will break up the cruise at Oriental Marina & Inn on both legs. The New Bern Grand is a terrific marina and walking distance to the many shops and events that weekend. Those not boating, consider joining us for the day or an overnight to enjoy this historic town. A suggested list of hotels for the Rendezvous is provided [here](#).

The D27 Rendezvous hosted by Cape Lookout has released more details. The events agenda is now available and the Registration Form will be out very soon. Check in begins Friday at 3PM and much of the activity through Saturday is centered around the Harrison Center, 311 Middle Street. You will see all talented artists and crafters are encouraged to bring items for display and possibly be included in the silent auction. There are many more interesting presentations, entertainment, dinners, etc. All further updates will continue to be posted on District 27 [calendar](#).

If anyone has ideas for a day boat plan or a favorite cruise destination, let me know. A collaboration is always best or if you have a spur of the moment idea just because it's a beautiful day, send a notice on Facebook! If you aren't a Facebook member, click on this link and join so that you don't miss a thing. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PamlicoSailAndPowerSquadron>



**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.

Consider joining Mike in this effort, a team of writers certainly make the effort much lighter for all.

Articles since the last Newsletter printing:
Importance of Nationally Approved Boating Safety Education

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

As we open the boating season with the Kick off of National Safety Boating Week May 17th, the importance of our mission to provide superior boating education, safety boating and vessel inspections is never more important.

US COAST GUARD RELEASES 2023 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT

In calendar year 2023, the Coast Guard counted 3,844 accidents that involved 564 deaths, 2,126 injuries and approximately \$63 million dollars of damage to property as a result of recreational boating accidents.

The fatality rate was 4.9 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. This rate represents a 9.3% decrease from the 2022 fatality rate of 5.4 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels.

Compared to 2022, the number of accidents decreased 4.9%, the number of deaths decreased 11.3%, and the number of injuries decreased 4.3%.

Where cause of death was known, 75% of fatal boating accident victims drowned. Of those drowning victims with reported life jacket usage, 87% were not wearing a life jacket.

Where length was known, 4 of every 5 boaters who drowned were using vessels less than 21 feet in length.

Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; where the primary cause was known, it was listed as the leading factor in 17% of deaths.

Where instruction was known, 75% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction. Only 15% percent of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had received a nationally-approved boating safety education certificate.

There were 145 accidents in which at least one person was struck by a propeller. Collectively, these accidents resulted in 23 deaths and 133 injuries.

Operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed, and machinery failure ranked as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.

Where data was known, navigation rules violations were a contributing factor in 53% accidents, 34% of deaths, and 60% of injuries.

Collisions (with vessels, objects, groundings) were the most frequent first event in accidents, attributing to 56% of accidents, 24% of deaths, and 53% of injuries.

Where data was known, the most common vessel types involved in reported accidents were open motorboats (45%), personal watercraft (19%), and cabin motorboats (13%).

Where data was known, the vessel types with the highest percentage of deaths were open motorboats (44%), kayaks (17%), and personal watercraft (8%).

The 11,546,512 recreational vessels registered by the states in 2023 represent a 1.9% decrease from last year when 11,770,383 recreational vessels were registered.

Casualty Data for North Carolina

		Number of Accidents		Persons Involved		Damages
Total	Fatal	Non-Fatal Injury	Property Damage	Deaths	Injury	
155	19	57	79	20	80	\$1,781,755.72

ABC-Pamlico Volunteer Opportunities

Consider expanding your support of our Squadron by getting involved in the following opportunities. It's rewarding, fun and helps promote our missions!



Marine Flea Market Event – May 17

This is a major fund raiser for our Squadron and we need your help anytime from 8AM until 1PM in 2-hour shifts based on your availability. Items will be pre-priced to help you help us but the pricing is very flexible. We will have the opportunity to meet with the public and promote our mission of education and safe boating. Contact Walt Morrissey via [email](#) or text/call 252-833-9060.

Staff Tent/Table support for Vessel Safety Events – Two opportunities:

- **Washington Waterfront, May 10, 8 AM to Noon**
- **National Safe Boating Week kick off, May 24, Haven's Garden Launch, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

2-volunteers are needed to help us staff a table set up to assist Inspectors. Volunteers will provide information and literature on boating safety, education and importance of VSC as inspectors offer inspections. Contact Bill Davis via [email](#) or text/call 252-940-9080.

Belk Department Store – Belk Coupon Days – June Date TBD

This year we would like to participate in the Belk Department Stores Coupon Days. Volunteers will be needed to help sell tickets to neighbors and friends, prior to the event start day. Also to staff a table to sell coupons at the Washington Mall Belk stores, 2-hour increments on a date assigned to us. Other squadrons have found this to be a fun and profitable event. Contact Walt Morrissey via [email](#) or text/call 252-833-9060.

Writer for Washington Newspaper – Join the team to provide monthly articles

Our Squadron needs writers to create marine-themed articles for the Washington Daily News. Articles on boater safety relating to power boats, sailboats, kayaks, trawlers, fishing, personal watercraft, etc. Articles are short on various topics and written at approximately the 6th to 8th grade level. Past examples are available. Contact Chris Young via [email](#) or text/call 252-402-6692.

50/50 Raffles (June 19 and/or October 16 General Membership Dinner Meetings)

Volunteer needed to sell 50/50 Raffle tickets to membership, pick winning ticket and notify winner. Help us have some fun! contact Linda Moyer via [email](#) or text/call at 619-933-2345.

Silent Auction – (August 21 General Membership Dinner Meeting)

We have received some very generous contributions from members and need a volunteer(s) to help organize a Silent Auction at our General Membership meeting. Bidding occurs during the dinner meeting and successful bidder is announced at the end or optionally later. Please consider volunteering and have some fun. Linda Moyer via [email](#) or text/call at 619-933-2345.

Summer Festival – Washington – June 13 & 14, 2025

We would like to support Washington Summer Festival. Volunteers are needed to staff a tent/table in 2-hour increments to meet with the public, hand out information on our mission of boating education and safety. Signup & help plan this community opportunity. Contact Walt Morrissey via [email](#) or text/call 252-833-9060.

Smoke on the Water – Washington – October Date TBD

Our Squadron would be part of this community event hosted by the Rotary. This could simply be simply staffing a table of information and membership (2-hour increments) or possibly other needs by the Rotary. Signup & help plan this community opportunity. Contact Walt Morrissey via [email](#) or text/call 252-833-9060.

General Membership Dinner Meeting – April 17, 2025 – See all Photos here.**Additional links that may be of interest relating to his presentation:**

https://maritimestudies.ecu.edu/wp-content/pv-uploads/sites/92/2020/01/Raupp-et-al_ECU-Maritime-Studies-Fall-Field-School_2020.pdf

<https://maritimestudies.ecu.edu/2022/03/01/fall-field-school-2021-castle-island/>

<https://maritimestudies.ecu.edu/recent-projects/>



Fire Extinguisher Standards

The new "FIRE EXTINGUISHER STANDARDS" video covers new classifications and carriage requirements for marine fire extinguishers. Viewers will learn how to use PASS. Also featured are tips for placing and servicing fire extinguishers.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZY2aq1KnRo&list=PLglbejlMU2HeflYrldNBfQxhOLpd8pQG&index=8>

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

The Ensign Spring 2024 Issue



The Spring 2025 issue of The Ensign magazine features articles on the 2025 Photo Contest winners, Chapman Award recipients, a recap of the 2025 Annual Meeting, and so much more.

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

https://issuu.com/theensign/docs/theensignspring2025?mc_cid=721d202213&mc_eid=bfac945e46

Member Benefit Highlights



Ditch Navigation App

America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons is partnering with navigation app Ditch to provide members with the latest AI-driven algorithms, cutting-edge navigation technology. As part of this exclusive partnership, America's Boating Club members will receive Ditch at no cost for one year, including Ditch navigation's unlimited route-planning features.

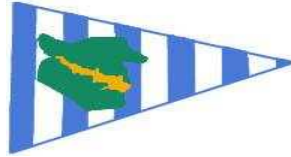
Promo Code: BOAT2025

If you have any questions, the Ditch team is ready to help. Drop them an email at americasboatingclub@ditchnavigation.com

Your USPS certificate number is your ticket to real savings!

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 619-9333-2345 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!**



**The Cypress Landing Yacht
Club**

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



24-Hour
Customer Service

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Agency Owner
Whitford & Associates, Inc.



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Fax 252-946-6860

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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.

United States Power Squadrons Escape to the Tropics with Us in February 2026!

Next year after the annual meeting, our group will cruise on the beautiful Sky Princess. The cruise is roundtrip Port Canaveral and departs on Monday, Feb. 16, on a six-night cruise to Nassau, Princess Cays and Grand Turk. Sign up in the current Princess promotion or our exclusive group rates. A hotel block has been arranged for Sunday night in Port Canaveral.

Contact Dawn for more details at 727-403-0406 or
dawn@dawnstraveldeals.com. **-Dawn Eckhart**

Contact Information

Bridge

Commander
Cdr [Walt Morrissey](#)

Executive Officer
Open 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 Mike Johnson, S

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
Lt John Rebholz, P
Lt Reginald Gordon

Other Contacts

Membership Chair
Lt [Sue Duclos](#)

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

Vessel Safety Chair
[Bill Davis](#)

National Awards Received



2024 Distinctive
Communicator
Award PSPS
Website



2024 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](#):

May

10 [VSC Inspections](#) at
Washington Waterfront-
Moss landing-Havens
Wharf

18 [Marine Flea Market](#)
Spring Heat Show
- Chocowinity and
Kick off - National Safe
Boating Week

21 [Backwater Jacks](#) Social
Dinner

24 [VSC Inspections](#) at Havens
Gardens Wharf

June

12 – 16 [Cruise to New Bern](#)
13 – 14 [D27 Rendezvous](#)-New Bern
19 General Membership
Dinner Meeting
Speaker TBD

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](#).