



Scuttlebutt Monthly Newsletter



Volume LVII, No. 8, October 2024

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

7 OCT	Engine Maintenance Class Begins — 6pm
22 OCT	Top Golf Outing — 1400
25-27 OCT	District 17 Conference — Oak Ridge, TN
28 OCT	ExCom Zoom Mtg — 1800
NOV	Boating Emergencies Free Seminar TBD
10 NOV	Lunch Outing — TBD
15 DEC	Holiday Party — 1400 The Wills Home

THE BRIDGE

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The latest Scuttlebutt and our Calendar of Events can also be found on our Squadron Website at: abcnorthalabama.org.

Be sure to check out the America's Boating Club and America's Boating Channel websites for even more helpful information at: americasboatingclub.org.



COMMANDER'S LOG

CDR Chuck Wills, P

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We had a great turnout for the free seminar, *Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes*, hosted by Alread Marine. The free seminar format has continued to help ABCNA to reach boaters in the community to get education and has also been a great source of new members for the club. Thanks to Lisa for teaching the class and to Randy Norman who provided support for the event.

I would like to congratulate Lisa Shier, who has been nominated for the Chapman Award for America's Boating Club. The Charles F. Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching for those who go above and beyond to educate their students and make boating better. As a nominee, our club believes Lisa exemplifies the creativity, dedication, and passion for education shown by Charles F. Chapman, the award's namesake. One of the Power Squadron's founding fathers, Chapman was a tireless educator, author and editor. Author of the boating bible, *Piloting: Seamanship and Small Boat Handling*, Chapman steered the editorial ship at Motor Boating magazine for many years.

Our club is always looking for new people to participate and contribute so please let me know if you want to be more involved. We are working on a potential slate of officers and positions for 2025, so please let Rich Walter or myself know if you want to be considered.

Our District is having a fall meeting at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, October 25-27. Please let me know if you are interested in attending. The event promises to be both educational and fun and allow us to develop relationships with others in the district with common interests. Our squadron will have at least 5 members attending. We plan to share some of the success our club is having and hope to learn more about how to make our club better for all or members.

I am looking forward to teaching the Engine Maintenance class with the help of Vern Gehm. Vern has taught this class many times and his help is very much appreciated. I spent my entire career in the engine business so this is a subject I want to teach. Last minute sign ups are welcomed. Jump in if you want to learn more about engines and boating systems. Monday's first class was recorded, so you may easily catch up.

I am here to serve as your club Commander this year. Please call, text, email any time you want to talk.



Amy & Chuck paddle-peddle Cape Cod!

Life On The Lake Is Great, Be Safe!

www.americasboatingclub.org

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SECRETARY

P/C Vern Gehm, AP

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30 September 2024 ABCNA ExCom Minutes

The September 30, 2024 ExCom was held at 1800 via zoom. In attendance were CDR Chuck Wills, P/C Chris Whitacre, AP; Lt/C Page Kennedy; Lt/C Lisa Shier, JN; Lt Ken Rorie; Lt Frank Scalfano, P; P/C Joel Weinbaum, AP; and P/C Vern Gehm, AP. CDR Chuck conducted the meeting. He announced the Lisa has been nominated for the Chapman Teaching Award. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as provided via email. Once the expected new membership applicants have completed joining, a new roster will be developed. Sunday, October 22nd we will have an outing at Top Golf at 2pm. The D-17 Conference will be held at Oak Ridge on 25-27 October. A lunch General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 10th, TBD. The Wills will once again host our Holiday Party on Sunday, December 14. John Farmer (D-17) is looking into a Boat Operator Certification and *Inland Navigation* courses. These will be via zoom platform and in person. The boating on Rivers, Lakes, and Lock seminar was a great success. About 18 people attended. A lock-through is planned for October 5th. Those participating need to meet at 9am at the Yacht Club. *Engine Maintenance* class begins Oct 7. The *Boating Emergencies* seminar and *Boat Handling* class will be pushed off until November. Lisa, Rich, and Chuck will sort out the locations and schedule. Our new pricing for classes is \$55 for eBooks, \$65 for paper books, \$25 for testing. For a class where an eBook is chosen, the cost would be \$80. If a couple shares a book, it is \$105 for both people. Let Lisa or Chris know what courses you would like to take. Our finances continue to be in good shape. Melissa Tatum agreed to be our Auditor. She has audited the Treasurer's Books, and everything is in order. The meeting adjourned at 1840.





EDUCATIONAL OFFICER & EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Lisa Shier, JN

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We are bringing the ABC Boat Operator Certification program to North Alabama. The certification includes a number of courses and seminars, plus on-water skills demonstration in a small powerboat. There are four levels of certification, but we are going to concentrate on just the first one, *Inland Navigator*. The program introduces you to all of the skills needed to operate powerboats in inland waters like the Tennessee River. The core courses for the program are *Boat Handling*, *Marine Navigation*, *Engine Maintenance*, and *Marine Electrical Systems*. The key seminars are *Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes*, *Weather for Boaters*, and *VHF Radio*. We will teach all of these in the next year. We will also arrange for a skills demonstration session.

We recently taught the *Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes* seminar at Alred Marina in Guntersville, on September 28th. We will teach *Boating Emergencies* in November. Date and location is still to be determined. This session will be both a FREE seminar and the kickoff to the *Boat Handling* class.

For this fall and winter, we will be teaching all four of the core courses for BOC-IN. *Boat Handling* will be taught in November, with the initial meeting in person. The class will set the schedule for the rest of the course at the first meeting. Chuck and Vern will be teaching *Engine Maintenance* on Monday evenings starting October 7. The mix of in-person and Zoom sessions will be decided by the instructors and the class. Mixily invites will be sent via email.

Marine Navigation will be taught locally in January and February. *Marine Electrical Systems* will also be taught after the holidays. Please contact Lisa Shier if you are interested in any of the courses or in pursuing the BOC-IN certification. Lisa Shier will be teaching a refresher for Certified Instructors at the District Conference on October 26th in Oak Ridge, TN.



Lisa kayaking on the Flint and Terrapin Creek in Cherokee County.



www.americasboatingclub.org

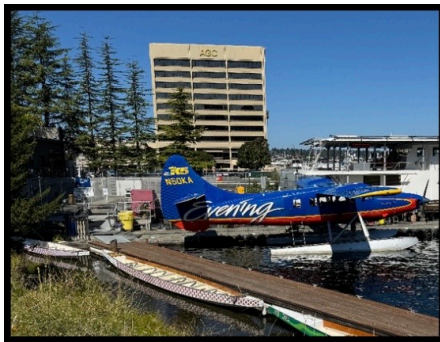
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SAFETY OFFICER

Lt/C Joel Weinbaum, AP

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Ever since I was a kid, I was enamored with float planes and sea planes. Even putting flying beyond the entertaining Saturday western serial of Sky King in his twin engine Cessna 310, *Songbird*. Maybe going back to the story of Sargent Preston of the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) in the remote location of northwestern Canada, with his horse Rex and dog Yukon King. That was a long time ago when I was a young kid. Great adventures in a young mind.



Back in August my dream of flying in a float plane was realized. While out in the Seattle area visiting my daughter and family, I decided to go flying...in a float plane. Kenmore Air up to San Juan Islands of the Pacific North West. They have to follow both FAA regulations as well as USCG. Going up was in the last nine cylinder radial engine driven De Havilland Beaver, loud sitting up front even with earplugs. Like a goose taking flight from the water takes some distance to become airborne. Coming back late afternoon the returning float plane was a larger turbo-prop De Havilland



Otter. What a difference on takeoff with the torque coming from the turbo prop engine. A newer plane and noisy in its own way. Water everywhere in the PNW. Coming back we had a stop on Lake Washington, backside of the Space Needle which we flew over dropping quickly to the lake. A little eerie looking at the top of the Needle. Float planes have so much drag in the air they come in at a very steep angle for landing on water. Once I relaxed after crossing over the Needle I fell forward in my shoulder harness. But landing on the water became a concern for the pilot with all the boating activity everywhere. As we approached they moved from the seaplane landing zone for a safe approach. As we all have learned through our training classes as ABC, the powered craft becomes the give-way vessel where paddlers and sailboats are essentially the crossing vessels. Had the surface been more obstructed with the kayakers and sailboats we would have had to go around for another try. I have included a video of that approach. Great outing to Friday Harbor. You can also ride the Washington Ferry to that location. Did I mention going whale watching for most of the day there. One humpback and a pod of Orcas...mother and three calves. Matriarchal. Friday Harbor is a great boater destination. Stay safe. Get on the water. We keep our skills by doing. And take our classes, the value of membership. It's not to late for *Engine Maintenance*.



Yours in Safe Boating — Happy Cruising!

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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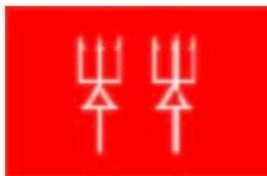


A B C N A
September '24

PAST DISTRICT COMMANDER

P/D/C John Farmer, AP-IN

caprfarmer@gmail.com



**Please join us for our District 17 Conference
October 25-27, 2024 – Oak Ridge, TN**

Thank you in advance for giving this the widest possible dissemination! Our agenda is finalized and includes:

* Three interesting presentations and more: *The Great Loop Experience*, *Predicting Wind and Data*; Commander's reports including ways the District and National can assist squadrons to grow and prosper, roundtables, dinners, socials and more!

* ID Recertification Seminar by Lisa Shier, Northern Alabama

The conference will be held at the Comfort Inn, 433 S. Rutgers Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (865-481-8200). Please use the following Group Booking Link for the rate of \$89 per night: www.choicehotels.com/reservations/ABC-D17groups/ok08p9. We have a block of rooms. Reference "Group ok08p9" when making your reservation over the phone. The cutoff date is 10 October.

Unlike National meetings, there is no fee for meeting attendance. We encourage as many people as possible to attend everything that they can. Let's please get our District back on track. We will also have a silent auction with many new items like B-II fire extinguishers.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you in October. For questions contact: caprfarmer@gmail.com or call 865-765-3407.



District 17 Conference

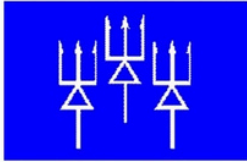
October 25-27, 2024

Oak Ridge, TN

DISTRICT COMMANDER

D/CDR Chris Whitacre, AP-IN

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I hope as many of you as possible will join John Farmer and I at the Fall Conference in the Oak Ridge/Knoxville area. Lots of good stuff has been planned and the food and fellowship should be grand so come on out and have a good time with fellow boating safety enthusiasts. John has sent out an email asking for some information to make the Conference a success which will in turn help to make our Squadrons a success.

Please also share with your Squadron/Club Commanders your ideas on what the District can or should be doing for the local Clubs and what you would like to see happening at District Conferences. We need your assistance to help make this District the best it can be. Once you share with your Commanders, please ask that they share with me. Reach out with any question at: 256.882.6909 or hrsar2@att.net.

Join us for our District 17 Conference in Oak Ridge, Tennessee

October 25-27, 2024



ABCNA Upcoming Events 2024



Monday, October 7th



6pm — *Engine Maintenance* seminar. This class will be mix of in-person and Zooms sessions. Express your interest to Chuck Wills. It's not too late to join this class--Monday's session was recorded.

Sunday, October 22nd



2pm — *Top Golf Outing*, Huntsville. RSVP to the Mixily invite when it hits your in-box.

October 25-27th

Oak Ridge, TN — District 17 Conference. Contact Cpt. John Farmer with your RSVP and questions at: 865.765. 3407 or caprfarmer@gmail.com.



November

Afternoon/TBD — Free Seminar: *Boating Emergencies*. This is the kickoff to the Boat Handling Class. Questions? Get with Lisa!

Sunday, November 10th

TBD/Lunch Outing — Mark your calendars now. Details forthcoming.

Sunday, December 15th



2pm/Holiday Party at Chuck & Amy's — Join us for our annual celebration!

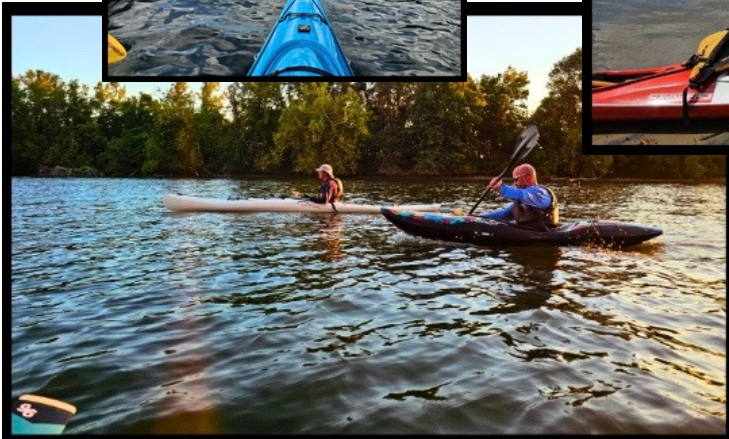
Stay tuned for Mixily event invites—coming your way soon!



Goat Island and a recent trip from the Guntersville Dam to Hobbs Island.



Supporting the Hobbs Island Swim and the last Hobbs Island Paddle of the season.



Send **YOUR** pics to:
page.abcna@gmail.com

Share Your Nature Pics!

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