

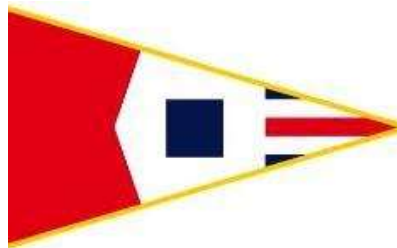


AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB® OF BEAUFORT<sup>SM</sup>

Enjoying and Exploring Historic Lowcountry Waterways since 1961  
The local unit of The United States Power Squadrons®

# NEW MEMBER HANDBOOK

*An introduction to your Beaufort Club*



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The information in this document must not be publicly released or otherwise provided to non-members.*

## Welcome, New Member

This booklet contains a lot of information that we hope will provide you with an interesting and useful introduction to our Squadron.

We are one of fourteen Squadrons that make up District 26. There are currently 34 districts that make up the **United States Power Squadrons®** (USPS).

In case you noticed, we use two different names. When you joined **United States Power Squadrons®**, you joined **America's Boating Club®**. The registered name of the organization remains the "United States Power Squadron," however an alternative name, and now the public face of the organization, is America's Boating Club®. We prefer to use **America's Boating Club® of Beaufort<sup>SM</sup>** in our public communications as it is more descriptive of our role in the community. We are a welcoming community, built by boaters, for boaters, and the new public name is more descriptive of that.

If you enjoy cruising, making new friends, volunteering in your community or learning from experienced boaters, we have the resources and activities you want. Our monthly dinner meetings are a time to share experiences and develop friendships. Our cruises give you a chance to explore new waters within the security that comes with a group cruise – and if you do not own a boat you will have many opportunities to "crew" with members cruising on their boats. We also serve the Beaufort community in various ways, from providing free vessel safety checks to organizing the holiday parade of decorated boats.

A major part of our mission is to promote recreational boating skills and safety by offering various boating-related educational courses. You may have recently completed one of these - the America's Boating Course (ABC). We offer many additional boating courses and seminars to help you improve your skills. We can even have a member join you on your boat if you would like to get some helpful suggestions about using your boat on our local waters. We want your time on the water to be enjoyable and safe, and believe that improving your skills and knowledge contributes to that.

Welcome to **America's Boating Club® of Beaufort<sup>SM</sup>**.

## Early History of USPS: What is a Power Squadron?

Recreational yachting in 1910 was largely confined to sailing craft. Gasoline-driven “power” boats were just coming into their own. Yacht clubs taught and promoted sailing and offered few activities for power boats. That changed in the summer of 1912 when twenty power boats were invited to go with forty windjammers on the annual Boston Yacht Club cruise to Portland, Maine. During the cruise a screeching nor’ wester blew up. Many of the sailing yachts were dismasted or otherwise disabled. The power yachts went to their rescue, towing disabled craft to port. At the next annual meeting of the Boston Yacht Club the "Power Squadron" was officially recognized.

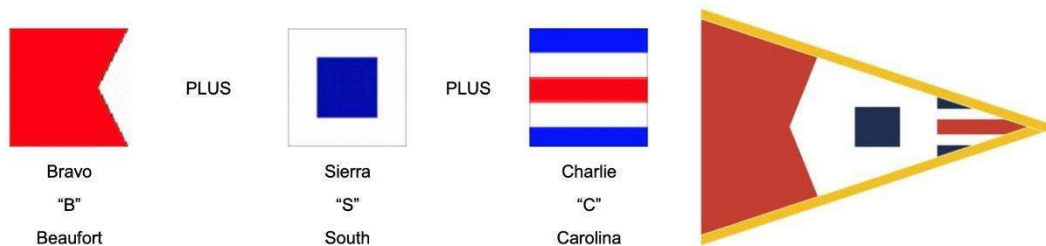
The United States Sail and Power Squadron was formally founded in 1914 as a non-profit educational organization. As it grew to its current 45,000 members and 450 squadrons, it shortened its name to the United States Power Squadron® (USPS), and recently registered its new public face as America’s Boating Club®. It is the largest non-profit boating organization in the US.

## History of the Beaufort Sail & Power Squadron







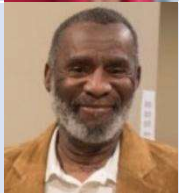

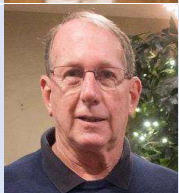
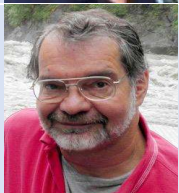


The Beaufort Sail & Power Squadron® began in 1960 as the Beaufort Division of the Tybee Light and Charleston squadrons. In 1961 we were officially chartered in the State of South Carolina as a “not-for-profit” educational organization. BSPS maintained a steady growth, and in 1988 some BSPS members were issued a separate charter as the new Hilton Head squadron. BSPS currently has approximately one hundred members.

In 2018 we were early adopters of the move to modernize our public appearance. This largely involved reducing the use of maritime or navy terminology in favor of terms more understandable to the recreational-boating public. Hence, we began using the public name of America’s Boating Club® of Beaufort<sup>SM</sup> (ABCB). Since this process is ongoing, you will find other examples in this booklet, where both the old and new terms are used.

**Our Burgee** is a collage of flags that spells out **Bravo, Sierra and Charlie, (Beaufort, South Carolina)**. Combine them into the shape of a pennant and you have the Squadron burgee.



The following are some former Commanders who remain active in our club today. Look for these members at any event. They have all contributed greatly to our organization and its long history. They can be a tremendous resource, in addition to simply being great people to talk with.

Owen Hand	1989			Waldo Phinney, Jr. (Capt. Wally)	1992	
Howard Heckrotte	1994			Royal Stevens (Roy)	2012	
Thomas Hurley (Tom)	2005			Kathryn Stevens (Cookie)	2017	
Steve Mendoza	2014 2019			Carol Sherratt	2018	
Douglas Sherratt	2021			Robert Corsaro (Bob)	2020	
Mary Corsaro	2022			Robert Pollard (Rob)	2023	

## The Courses we offer

Boater education is one of the primary missions of the club.

The starting course is [America's Boating Course \(ABC\)](#), which every member should have (or its equivalent). But it only gives you the basics you need to get out on the water safely. Following it, the courses are classed into two groups: Advanced courses and Electives.

**Advanced courses:** There are five courses that form the core course series. Upon completion of one of these courses you are recognized by adding one of the six rank designators after your name (S, P, AP, JN, N, and SN).

- [Boat Handling \(S - formerly Seamanship\)](#) builds your competence and confidence on the water with an in-depth look at the practical boating skills. Usually the first course after ABC.

**(The Navigation courses are taken in series, as they build on previous courses.)**

- [Marine Navigation \(P - formerly Piloting\)](#) and [Advanced Marine Navigation \(AP - formerly Advanced Piloting\)](#) give you the skills you need to get where you're going using charts and marine electronics as well as a knowledge of winds, currents and tides.
- [Offshore Navigation \(JN - formerly Junior Navigation\)](#) and [Celestial Navigation \(N - formerly Navigation\)](#) a must for oceangoing captains, teaches you about planning and monitoring your voyage using modern marine electronics and how celestial observations can help you estimate your vessel's position with confidence.

**Elective courses:** these are on various topics and offered to increase your knowledge of your specific areas of interest. You are welcome to take any of these courses when offered.

- [Weather](#) discusses the causes of weather, various types of storms, clouds, and predicting.
- [Engine Maintenance](#) gives you information on how engines work and basic maintenance procedures, as well as how to recognize problems.
- [Cruising and Cruise Planning](#) prepare you for a multi-day voyage.
- [Sail](#) provides information on sail terminology, the types of sailboats, and operation.
- **Marine Electronics Series**
  - [Marine Electrical Systems](#) provides information on AC and DC boat electrical systems. It is recommended that this course be taken before others in this series.
  - [Marine Communications Systems](#) explains the different types of radios and other communication options.
  - [Electronic Navigation](#) gives you information on the various electronic devices available today that help you navigate and select routes.
  - [Radar for Boaters](#) covers the different types of equipment and how they apply to boaters.

**Boat Operator Certificate (BOC)** certifies USPS members at various levels of recreational boating proficiency. Each level of certification requires achievement of prior levels, the successful completion of particular skills and seminars, plus the demonstration of essential skills on the water. Skill certifications are conducted by qualified USPS BOC Certifiers. There are four levels in the program:

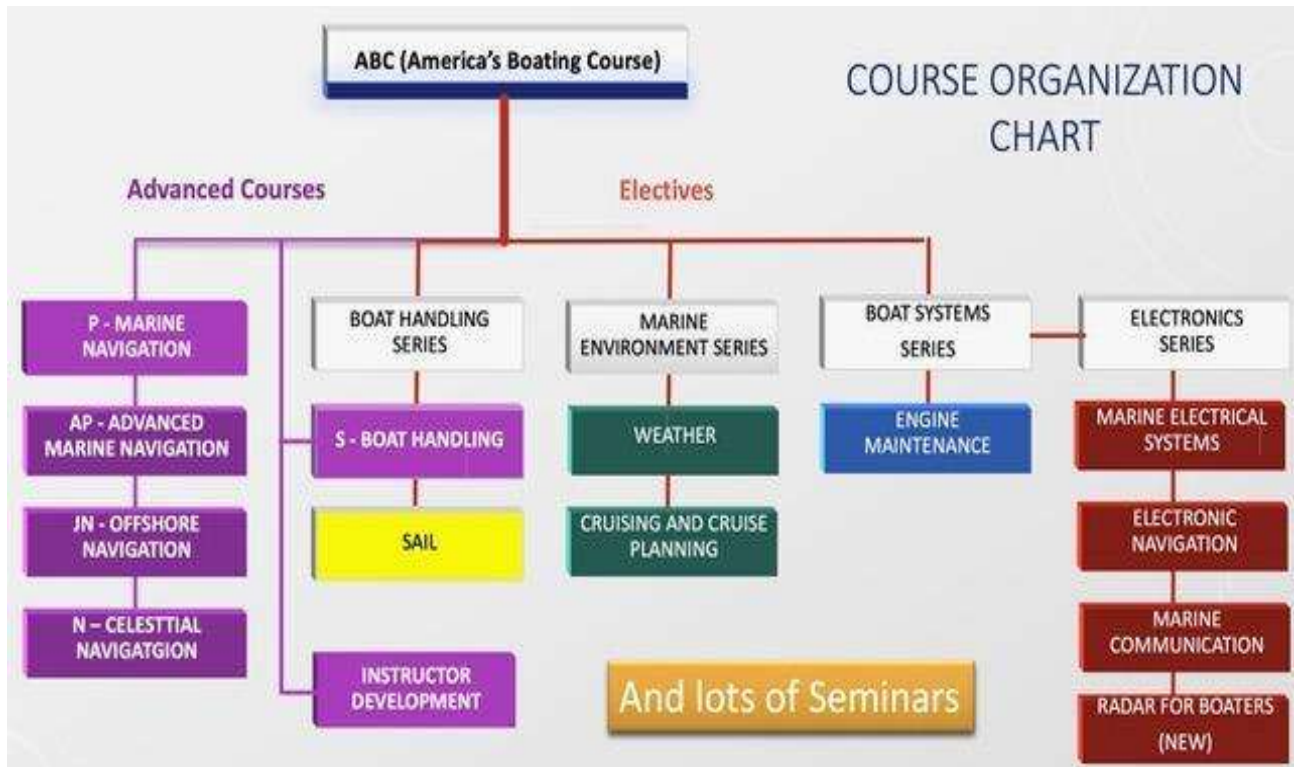
- Inland Navigator (IN)
- Coastal Navigator (CN)
- Advanced Coastal Navigator (CAN)
- Offshore Navigator (ON)

One Seminar of particular interest for new members and new officers is our **Operations Training** seminar. It is a great introduction to the organization and our Beaufort club, and is worth taking soon after joining and every few years thereafter.

We also offer many **Seminars** on select topics, usually two hours in length, for those who want information on a particular topic, such as Trailering or Hurricane Preparedness.

Many seminars are now being revised and incorporated as components of the new course material.

- [Boat Handling](#) replaced Seamanship last year with a series of 6 seminars.
- [Marine Navigation](#) replaced Piloting with a series of 6 seminars.
- [Instructor Development](#) if you are interested in becoming a course instructor.



## Bridge Officers:

The Bridge is composed of six officers, elected by the active members during the Annual meeting.

Official USPS Office Name	ID	Brief Description of duties
Commander	Cdr	Presides at all meetings and is responsible for the activities of the squadron.
Executive officer	XO	Primarily responsible for squadron activities involving the public.
Administrative officer	AO	Handles internal affairs of the squadron and arrangements for meetings.
Squadron Educational officer	SEO	Schedules and supervises the educational program of the squadron
Secretary	Sec	Takes minutes at all Executive Meetings (ExCom) and reports all correspondence to the Bridge.
Treasurer	Treas	Tracks income and expenses and keep BSPS on a financially sound footing.

**Assistants:** Each Bridge officer may have an elected assistant. Assistants may have specific areas of responsibility, and may act in the principle's stead should they be absent. Two are particularly called out as having areas of special responsibility:

Flag Officer (Squadron Flag Lieutenant) is the assistant to the Commander. They advise the current Commander as to prudent actions. It is usually held by a Past Commander.

ABC course coordinator (ASEO) is the Assistant Education Officer. In our squadron this officer schedules and organizes ABC classes.

**Board of Directors** (also called the Executive Committee).

The Board members hold a meeting each month, referred to as the **ExCom meeting**. The members of the board include the six Bridge Officers and four active members of the squadron. These members vote on all matters brought before the Board.

All members are welcome to attend the ExCom meetings and bring matters before the Board.

### **Other Officers and Committees.**

The following is just a brief description of our committees. Each committee is responsible to a member of the Bridge, and each has a committee chair. If you have an interest in serving on one of these committees, please offer your services.

### **Committees under the Executive Council and/or the Commander**

**Auditing** (Elected) Reviews all financial records.

**Nominating** (Elected) Select candidates for each elective office.

**Chaplain** (Appointed) Provides appropriate oratory when called upon.

### **Other committees appointed by the Bridge are:**

#### **Committees under the Executive Officer (XO)**

**Vessel Safety Check** - Provides free vessel safety checks.

**Co-op Charting** - Identify and notify USCG of any discrepancies of Aids to Navigation.

**Public Relations** - Liaison to media, government, and community.

**'Light Up the Night' Boat Parade** - This is our major annual public event.

#### **Committees under the Administrative Officer (AO)**

**Membership** – Introduces new candidates for membership and maintains roster.

**Cruise Committee** – All on-the-water activities.

**Operations Training** - Conducts and organizes the Ops Training Course.

#### **Committees under the Squadron Education Coordinator (SEO)**

**Advanced Courses** - Determines membership needs and organizes advanced courses.

**America's Boating Course** – Assists the ASEO in conducting the ABC Course.

**Instructional Aids Committee** – Mentor students and assist with classroom setup.

#### **Committees under the Secretary (Sec)**

**News Letter Chair**- Designs, Prints and Disseminates the Beaufort Log.

**Merit Mark** - compiles and correlates data for merit mark recommendations.

**Webmaster** - Maintains Squadron Website & Facebook Pages.



## **Squadron Awards**

**Merit Mark** - Substantial contribution to ABCS on a project or series of events throughout the year.

Your contributions and hours of volunteer activities are documented throughout the year.

If sufficient, you are issued one Merit Mark. You can only receive one Merit Mark each year.

*(Important: If you do anything in service to the club, make the MM Chairman aware of it.)*

**Anchor** - Quarterly - Member (not holding office) whose squadron performance is outstanding.

**Sparkplug** - New Member (less than 2 yr.) demonstrated great dedication to the Squadron.

**Yeoman** - Dependability, Outstanding Service, Positive Image of ABCB.

**Charles Chapman** - Education award given to member who has excelled as a teacher.

**Co-op Charting** - Given to member that has made greatest contribution in identifying/notification of discrepancies to aids of navigation.

**Member of the Year** (Commander's Circle) Member who contributed most to boating activities.

**Certificate of Merit** – Given to members for outstanding service in an area.

**Certificate of Appreciation** – Given to non-members for any reason deemed worthy.

**Bent Prop** - Member who suffered a disastrous event in boating on his/her own boat.

## **Special Recognitions**

**Order of Mariners** is an honorary distinction made by District 26 to recognize exceptional service and achievement by individual members. To qualify as mariner, a member must have earned 15 Merit Marks and attained Educational Proficiency Status (Advanced Piloting plus three electives). Current active members who have received this award include:

Waldo A. Phinney, Jr, AP 2006      Dean Hewitt, JN 2019

**Educational Achievement Award** recognizes those who have passed all advanced grade courses plus any six elective courses. The recipient is referred to as "senior navigator" and can display his grade as "SN." Currently, our Squadron has more than a dozen members who have achieved this prestigious award.

## Squadron Ranks

While we rarely use these in squadron communications, communications to the District or National offices will preface the office holders name with the rank of the office held.

Rank	Full Title	For Position Held
Cdr	Commander	
F/Lt	Flag Lieutenant	(Commander's consultant)
Lt/C	Lieutenant Commander	Bridge Officers
1/Lt	First Lieutenant	Assistants to Bridge Officers
Lt	Lieutenant	Committee Chairs
P/C	Past Commander	
P/Lt/C	Past Lt Commander	Served as a Lt/C for 3 years

## Mission Statement

The mission of the United States Power Squadrons® is to promote recreational boating skills and boating safety through education, hands-on training and civic activities while providing fellowship for members.

## The Pledge

"I \_\_\_\_\_ (member name) \_\_\_\_\_ do solemnly pledge to abide by the Bylaws of the United States Power Squadrons®; promote high standards of navigation and seamanship; maintain my boat and operate it legally; render assistance whenever possible; and conduct myself in a manner that will add prestige, honor, and respect to the United States Power Squadrons®."

## Web Sites of Interest

<b>Our site -</b>	<a href="http://www.BeaufortBoatingClub.com">http://www.BeaufortBoatingClub.com</a>
Our District site (D26) -	<a href="http://www.usps.org/localusps/d26/">http://www.usps.org/localusps/d26/</a>
National site -	<a href="https://americasboatingclub.org">https://americasboatingclub.org</a>
Additional info	<a href="https://www.usps.org/index.php">https://www.usps.org/index.php</a>

### **CLUB ACTIVITIES**

**ExCom Meetings** - Typically the first Monday of the month unless otherwise communicated. It is at 6 PM in the Port Royal Town Hall. All active members are welcome to attend.

#### **Monthly Meetings:**

- Typically, the second Tuesday of the month.
- Usually there is a social period starting 6 PM, dinner at 6:30, and meeting at 7:00.
- The meeting announcement is sent 30 days in advance via Constant Contact. As with any meeting/dinner, your RSVP or Regret is critical to planning.
- Some meetings are held on Saturdays in conjunction with a cruise option. Check Squadron Calendar on website or the Beaufort Log
- The March meeting is the Change of Watch / Annual Meeting.

#### **Educational Opportunities:**

- ABC - We typically run three to four ABC classes each year.
- Other courses are usually held in two seasons: Spring and fall.
- Each season we have one or two of the Advanced courses and one or two of the Elective courses. Seminars are held when there is sufficient interest in a topic.

**Cruises** - Monthly, usually from March to October. Dependent on weather & interest.

**District & National Meetings** - These are annual meetings that are fun and informative. Check Squadron Calendar of Meetings for dates and locations.

### **Where to find more information and the latest updates.**

**The BEAUFORT LOG** - Published monthly, this is our award-winning newsletter. It contains the latest calendar of meetings, courses, cruises and events. Also reports from the Bridge officers, photos and items of interest.

**IMPORTANT:** Let us know if you are not receiving the LOG via Constant Contact. It is your primary source of news and upcoming events.

**CLUB WEB SITE:** [www.BeaufortBoatingClub.com](http://www.BeaufortBoatingClub.com) - In addition to general information, you may also find a Calendar of Events and the minutes of all ExCom Meetings. Find the members-only area using the password "**safeboat**" to see the current membership roster, and other members-only information.