

THE C-WAY

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

"For Boaters By Boaters"®



DBA America's Boating Club of Chattanooga

Commander's Message

Cdr Jack Everett, N
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JANUARY 2024



See our Website <https://www.usps.org/localusps/sss-cha>

I want to thank everyone for their support and vote to promote me to this challenging position. I hope and pray that I will be able to meet your expectations!

Thank you to everyone for a wonderful Change of Watch. First is P/R/C Jack Cook ,SN, whom I will depend on to mentor me through this adventure. Thanks go to P/D/C Norm Oein, JN-IN for taking care of the Bell and the colors. As always, thanks to D/Lt/C Linda Grotjan for producing the program and coordinating with D/C Chris Whitaker, AP-IN to perform the ceremony. And as always, thanks to Lt/C Sue Kuemmel, AP, for arranging the venue.

Congratulations go to Norm Oein , the ever-busy cook, hard worker for all Club functions and always friendly face, for being awarded the Jarnigan Award, given by the Commander to the member that has made the most significant contributions to the success of the Club.

The Chattanooga Boat Show is underway. Thanks to Lt John Smith ,P for coordinating with the show producers, and delivering the booth. I assisted John, Susan Smith, S and Lt/C Greg Golian, SN to set up the booth. Thanks to Sue Kuemmel for coordinating the assistance of the Sea Scouts. If you are not working at the show, come by to see the set-up of the booth and Simulator.

The 2024 National meeting is next week Feb 4-10. R/C John DiPrima, AP will be presenting on environmental issues, and Lt Don Grotjan, SN will be awarded his life membership for 25 years with Merit Marks.

Let me know if there is anything you want me to gather information about.

In case you need additional information on the Chattanooga Boat Show Feb. 1-4, 2024, please see chattanoogaboatshow.com.



2024 Boat Show Volunteer Schedule Revised Schedule 1-24-2024

PLEASE SIGN IN BY YOUR NAME AND THE TIME YOU ARRIVED DURING YOUR TIME SLOT TO GET CREDIT FOR WORKING.

You must have Squadron Name Tag on or you will have to pay and that includes Sea Scouts.

Wednesday 31 January 2024 Set up Booth and Literature; Meet at Convention Center at **1:00 PM**. John Smith – Susan Smith – Jack Everett – Greg Golian

Thursday, 1 February

2:00 PM - 4:00PM Jack Cook

4:00 PM-8:00 PM Jack Everett

2:00 PM-8:00 PM Carol Fairfield

Friday 2 February

12:00 Noon-4:00PM Jenn Pope

4:00PM-8:00PM Pam Trotter
Tom Street

4:00-6:00 Lucas Sharp -Sea Scouts
6:00-8:00 Max Solis - Sea Scouts

Saturday, 3 February

10:00AM-3:00PM

10:00 AM-2:00 PM Jim & Sue Kuemmel

12:00-2:00 Maggie Akins - Sea Scouts

2:00 PM-4:00 PM John DiPrima

2:00-4:00 John Wood – Sea Scouts

3:00PM - 8:00PM Norm Oien

4:00-6:00 - Lilly & Aiden Young – Sea Scouts

6:00-8:00 – Lilly & Aiden Young- Sea Scouts

Sunday 4 February

11:00AM – 2:00PM Pam Trotter
Kaki Thornton

12:00-2:00 John Wood – Sea Scouts

2:00PM – 5:00PM Take Down Booth Greg Golian & Jack Everett

John Smith will deliver booth back to Norm Oien for Storage



Executive Officer's Message
POSITION CURRENTLY VACANT



Administrative Officer's Message

Lt/C Susan Kuemmel, AP
3001 Stage Run Dr.
Hixson, TN 37343
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Phone: 832-474-3822

Hello All,

Welcome to 2024 and the Year of the Dragon (Year of the Rabbit is being ushered out February 9th). Let's hope for a lively, energetic year full of enthusiastic, innovative ideas. I don't have a lot of information for you this month as we have just performed the Change of Watch and the new bridge has not yet met to plan this year's activities.

The Boy Scout Ship is finally afloat! The boys have been meeting for a month now and have selected officers and are in the process of picking a name for the group. Several of the members will be working with us at the Boat Show this week, helping to interface with the boating public. They will be sharing information about the Ship and our Boating Club, and I hope their presence will help bring people to the booth where they can spend a little time learning more about us and trying out the simulator. Please familiarize yourself with the simulator when you get to the booth and practice logging into the simulator program/demo loop programs in the event it needs to be restarted at some point while you are working the booth. Do not depend on the Ship mates to do this.

I expect the bridge will be meeting sometime soon to begin planning our year. We are planning to present our basic introductory class (America's Boating Course) two or three times this spring and we are offering the TWRA certification class at least three times as well. So, our teachers will be busy this year, especially if we present additional Boat Handling classes for the Ship mates. Several of the boys will be attending our first ABC program March 9th. If you would like to help with one of the classes, we could use help with check-in and/or grading, Please let Greg, Sue, Jim or Jack if you are able to help for one of the classes.

When we lay out the schedule for the year, I hope to include a few Saturday (afternoon) meetings, and I would like to alternate the day of the week for some of the meetings so we can better include those who cannot meet on certain days of the week. If you would like to have some input on the matter, please text or email me (myomasue@gmail.com or 832-474-3822). If I don't hear from the anyone, I am going to assume you are in agreement.

Of note: We need one or two additional Vessel Safety Inspectors onboard. This designation can be obtained through online study, and one of our current inspectors will be glad to help with your first five

(or more if you want) inspections. A minimum of five are required each year to keep you in practice and up to date.

Submitted by: Sue Kuemmel



Education Officer's Message

Lt/C Greg Golian, SN
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Asst. Education Officer

Lt Jim Kuemmel, AP
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Our first educational activity for the new year is showing our boating simulator demo at the boat show, in hope that it will help attract folks to our booth and maybe result in some new interest in our club.

Our first ABC class is set for Saturday March 9, 9 AM - 5 PM, in Hixson. We Expect to have a number of Sea Scouts in attendance, but still have room for more folks; I expect we will pick up some at the boat show. Our next ABC class will be Saturday April 27, 9 AM-5 PM, also in Hixson. On May 9 we will have a TWRA review and proctored exam evening session at Privateer Yacht Club, and repeat that on June 13 in Soddy Daisy. We will also be teaching the TWRA video course at McCallie in two parts, on April 29 and May 1.

John Farmer (our District Education Officer) will be teaching the new, electronics focused MARINE NAVIGATION course beginning Thursday, 14 March and running six weeks. There is a practice cruise to help you apply what you learned, and a final exam. This course is comprehensive and primarily focused on modern electronic navigation. It will be presented virtually (internet based) using Free Conference Call. This is a much-needed update to our paper chart focused piloting class and worth taking.

Submitted by: Greg Golian



Secretary's Message

Lt/C Carol Fairfield
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Asst. Secretary

Lt Pam Trotter
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**Minutes January 14, 2024 Annual Change of Watch
Amigos @ Island Cove Marina, Port of Chattanooga, TN**

Cdr John Cook brought the joyous group to order at 1:15 pm. The Annual Change of Watch Program was distributed as District Commander (D/C) Chris Whitacre, AP-IN, was introduced. Please see the summary of D/C Whitacre's amazing lifetime achievements at the end of the Meeting Notes. It was an honor to have Chris join us for swearing in the new Squadron Commander and his new bridge.

Norm Oien led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Don Grotjan leading the USPS pledge. John DiPrima then led the invocation, in which he thanked the old and new bridges for their service to the Squadron. He stressed we are all part of this organization to save lives and prevent accidents associated with boating activities. He thanked the Lord, with a reading of 1 Samuel scripture reading. Cdr Cook acknowledged how well received his message was to those in attendance.



John DiPrima sharing his words of wisdom during the invocation.

P/D/C Norm Oien, JN, Chair of the Financial Review Committee, provided the results of the ABC-Chattanooga Financial Review Committee's meeting at Cracker Barrel in Tiftonia on Jan. 9, 2024, ..."to review past financial transactions and records for 2023, and assuring that checks written and monies received were documented in accordance with accepted accounting principles. Bank statements were compared to A.B.C. – Chattanooga financial records, and checks written were verified with proper and documented receipts. Transactions which were examined were found to follow procedures, and monies were verified to be correct. The Committee commends the outstanding documentation and detailed and accurate records retained by our 2023 Treasurer, P/C Thomas G. Street II, JN (Quoted from letter by Norm Oien to Cdr Cook 1/9/2024.)

Cdr Cook then began the Change of Watch Ceremony by presenting the prestigious Frank Jarnagin Award to Norman Oien for his many contributions to the Chattanooga Squadron during 2023. Congratulations Norm, and many thanks for all you do for our Squadron!



Cdr John Cook (left) presenting the Frank Jarnigan Award to Norm Orien (right). Thanks for all your support, Norm.

D/C Chris Whitacre then began the Change of Watch swearing in, after Cdr Cook relieved the 2023 Bridge, thanking them for their service. He summarized a few of the Chattanooga Squadron achievements during 2023, including selling a donated boat, starting a collaboration with Sea Scouts, having a booth at the Chattanooga Boat Show for several years now, organizing picnics onshore as well as on/near members' boats, training 100+ new boaters, and broadening the scope of who we are.



D/C Chris Whitacre (left) thanking outgoing Cdr John Cook (right) for his great service! Does John seem happy being relieved of duty....just saying?

After Linda Grotjan read the new Squadron Bridge, all were sworn in, including our new Cdr Jack Everett! Congratulations to the new bridge members, and a huge thanks to the retiring and new bridge members for their service!



D/C Chris Whitacre (left) swearing in our fabulous new Squadron Commander Jack Everett!!! Congratulations Jack!!



2024 new Bridge being sworn in. Left to right are Lt/C Sue Kuemmel our Administrative Officer, D/C Chris Whitacre, Cdr Jack Everett, Lt/C Greg Golian – Education Officer, and Lt/C Carol Fairfield – Secretary. Treasurer Lt/C Tom Street was unable to attend the ceremony. Photo by Linda Grotjan.



Cdr Jack Everett(center) presented D/C Chris Whitacre (left) with a thoughtful thank you gift from our Squadron....nice touch Commander!! (Looks like Jack is perplexed by the gift....wrong bag?!!) Outgoing Cdr John Cook (right) shows Chris the Chattanooga toast!



Following photos show what a good time we all had enjoying a great meal and fantastic comradery.





Installation Ceremony
D/C Chris Whitacre, AP-IN

Acceptance of Command	Cdr Jack Everett, N
Announcements	Cdr Jack Everett, N
Adjourn	

Chris Whitacre has been a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and America's Boating Club for over 35 years. As an Auxiliarist, he has served as Coxswain, Master Instructor, Vessel Examiner, Qualification Examiner, Team Coordination Training Facilitator, Flotilla Commander, Division Captain, District Chief of Staff, and District Commodore. He has received numerous recognitions for public education and operations. In America's Boating Club, he is the District Commander and liaison between the ABC and the USCGAux. He is an Instructor and Advanced Pilot. Chris is a 54-year Scouting Veteran and has been a Scout all his life. He has his Arrow of Light, God & Country, Eagle, Quartermaster, and Vigil Honor. As a Sea Explorer he did his first assist, helping an over turned M-Scow, and he participated in two Rendezvous a year, bringing home trophies every time. As an adult, he has served at all levels of Scouting, holding positions which include Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Skipper, Troop and District Committee, OA Chapter Advisor, Roundtable Commissioner, Seabadge Course Director, and National Scout Jamboree Staff. He has completed Powder Horn training and served on staff for many training events. Chris has received the District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver, the Regional Venturing Leadership Award and the Power Squadron Finley Award for Outstanding Leadership. In his other life, His joys in life are boating, computers, teaching, trucks, and being of service – anything, anytime, anywhere.

Yours in Safe Boating,
Chris Whitacre
2023 District Commander
America's Boating Club D-17

THERE WILL BE NO FEBRUARY MEETING, in lieu of packed schedules for many who will be helping at the upcoming February 1-4 Chattanooga Boat Show, or representing the Squadron at the National meeting. The Executive Committee will meet in February to establish 2024 meeting/events schedule, so no schedule is included in this month's C-Way. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55, followed by a delicious lunch enjoyed by all. Thanks again to D/C Chris Whitacre for taking the time to join us at this important meeting, and to all our members for making this a superb gathering.

The Squadron would like to recognize the following Squadron members who received 2023 Merit Marks: Jack Cook, Jack Everett, John DiPrima, Donald Grotjan, Carol Fairfield, Linda Grotjan, Robert Heck, Martha Heck, Greg Golian, Norman Oien, Jennifer Pope, John Smith, Sue Kuemmel, Jonathan Wade, Jim Kuemmel, Leslie Wade, and Thomas Street. Thanks to all for making our Squadron a highly functioning, educational and fun Squadron!

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Don Grotjan made the Honor Roll for Coop Charting, and given that 2 people submitted reports, the Chattanooga Squadron also made the Squadron Honor Roll! Great job, as always, Don!

More news to celebrate....the Squadron C-Way received the Distinctive Communicator Award for 2023, thanks in large part to Assistant Secretary Pam Trotter for all her help, and to Linda &

Don Grotjan for initially teaching me the ropes! Congratulations also to Linda Grotjan for all her efforts compiling the District 17 Newsletter, for which she also received the Distinctive Communicator Award for 2023.

Our Squadron is certainly full of over-achievers...kudos!

Submission by: Carol Fairfield; Photos by: Pam Trotter & Carol Fairfield



Treasurer's Message

Lt/C Thomas G. Street III, JN
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No submission this month.



2024 Calendar of Events

All dates are **TENTATIVE!** **WATCH** the newsletters for changes in dates or locations.

<p>TO BE DETERMOINED</p> <p>NO FEBRUARY SQUADRON MEETING due to Boat show and National meeting</p>	
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