

THE C-WAY

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

"For Boaters By Boaters"®



DBA America's Boating Club of Chattanooga

Commander's Message

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February/March 2024



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

Our club was represented at the 2024 National Meeting in Orlando by Bob and Martha Heck , Don and Linda Grotjan, John DiPrima, and myself. Bob is on the Rules Committee, Don and Linda are involved in Vessel Safety Checks and Cooperative Charting (more on that at our meeting in March) and John presented 2 sessions for the Environmental Committee as well as receiving his Life Membership Award for 25 years with Merit Marks. I also attended a variety of sessions on Sea Scouts, Public Affairs, Cooperative Charting, and Safety. (Photos: Jack Everett)



John being presented with his Life Membership award by Chief Commander Craig Fraser, SN-IN



John DiPrima presented Environmental Committee information.



First timer Jack Everett being welcomed by Chief Commander Craig Fraser, SN-IN

The following video from the new Chief provides information on the National Meeting and future plans.

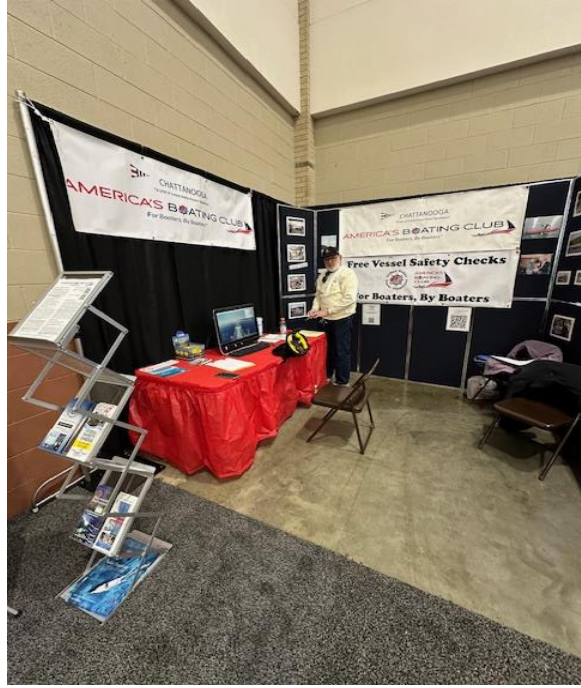


C/C Ralph Bernard February 2024 Fireside Chat

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Thanks to everyone who helped at the February Chattanooga Boat Show. Look at how much fun everyone had!!





Photos by: Carol Fairfield



Our volunteers from the Sea Scouts - Photos by: Sue Kuemmel



Executive Officer's Message
POSITION CURRENTLY VACANT



Administrative Officer's Message

Lt/C Susan Kuemmel, AP
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Phone: 832-474-3822

Hello Everyone,

It's just about time to begin meetings for the upcoming year. I'm excited to present our calendar because, while it is still in the works, I wanted to give everyone a heads up so they could note the changes from our usual format. We are being more flexible with meeting dates, days of the week, and times so we can be more inclusive of all the members. Most of us have constraints on one day or another, so we welcome comments from you as to whether or not you like what you see:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Thursday, March 21, 2024	Portofino's Greek Restaurant	6:00-8:00pm
Monday, April 22 nd	Privateer Yacht Club (Pot Luck)	6:00-8:00pm
Monday, May 13 th	Sue and Jim Kuemmel's house	4:00-6:00pm
Saturday, June 15 th	Pam Trotter's (Park BBQ)	4:00-6:00pm
Thursday, July 18 th	Island Cove Yacht Club (lunch)	1:00-3:00pm
Monday, August 19 th	Amigos Restaurant, Harrison	6:00-8:00pm
Monday, September 16 th	TBD	TBD
Tuesday, October 22 nd	Privateer Yacht Club (Chili)	6:00-8:00pm
Thursday, November 14 th	Privateer Yacht Club (Steak)	6:00-8:00pm
Friday, December 13 th	Privateer Yacht Club (Christmas)	6:00-8:00pm

Let me know! PLEASE NOTE: THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL MEET 5-6 PM ON MARCH 21, JUST PRIOR TO THE ABOVE SCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING.

Not a lot of other news here. I have been attending the Sea Scout Meetings and the group is getting up and running. They have elected officers, decided on a name (The Lookouts) for the Ship, and have even picked a sailing trip (to Saint Thomas!) they are working towards. We owe them a big "Thank you!" for helping at the boat show. Five members signed up and worked two-hour shifts. They passed out literature from the Boating Club and a flyer for the Sea Scouts we put together at the last minute. I have obtained some "Adventure Cards" from the group and will be offering them for sale at the meeting for \$10 apiece. I know they would appreciate our support (and you will get some discounts at local businesses).

We're headed off to Los Angeles for our daughter's wedding this weekend and hope to come home to sunny, warmer weather. I've garden to plan and plant! Until then, God bless and smooth sailing!

Submitted by: Sue Kuemmel



Education Officer's Message

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Asst. Education Officer

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Our first ABC class is set for Saturday March 9, 9 AM - 5 PM, in Hixson. We will have a number of Sea Scouts in attendance, but still have room for more folks. The class is open for registration through March 8. Our second ABC class will be Saturday April 27, 9 AM-5 PM, also in Hixson. On May 09 we will have a TWRA review and proctored exam evening session at Privateer Yacht Club, and will repeat that on June 13 in Soddy Daisy. We will be teaching the TWRA video course at McCallie in two parts, on April 29 and May 1, 3:30-6:45 pm.

John Farmer (our District Education Officer) will be teaching the new electronics focused MARINE NAVIGATION course beginning Thursday, 14 March and running for 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 well worth taking.

Submitted by Greg Golian

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

OF CHATTANOOGA



America's Boating Course (ABC)

[America's Boating Course](#) gives you the basics you need to get out on the water safely, and also meets Tennessee state boater education requirements. Cost of this class is \$25. An optional comprehensive, fullcolor course book is available for \$25. Advance registration is required, to register use the Q codes or: <http://www.usps.org/localusps/sss-cha> . E-mail questions to csps.signup@gmail.com .

The 8-hour **America's Boating Course** covers:

- Introduction to Boating
- Boating laws and rules of the road
- Safety equipment and safe boating practices
- Finding your way – basic navigation
- Adverse conditions and boating problems
- Trailering, storing and protecting your boat
- Basic knots and lines
- Water sports and other boating tips

THE LAW - Tennessee residents born after January 1, 1989 must have in their possession a TWRA issued Boating Safety Education Certificate showing proof of successful completion of the TWRA administered boating safety exam if operating a boat or personal watercraft alone. Non-Tennessee residents born after January 1, 1989 must show a certificate from any course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA).

The class includes a final examination that satisfies the TWRA Boating Safety education requirements. **If you need a TWRA issued Boating Safety Education Certificate, you must purchase a boating safety "Type**

600" Exam Permit prior to the class from any business (licensed agent) that sells hunting and fishing licenses (Wal-Mart, Academy Sports, bait stores, marinas, etc.). **You must bring the exam permit to the examination administrator** to take the exam. The exam permit fee is in addition to the class fee. *The permit will **not** be available for purchase at the class site.*

America's Boating Course (ABC3) class dates:

Saturday March 9, 9 AM – 5 PM,
Hixson. Registration:



Saturday April 27, 9 AM-5 PM,
Hixson. Registration:



ABC at Your Own Pace

You can learn boating basics at home with the online version of **America's Boating Course**, available in Spanish and English. A comprehensive full-color *downloadable* course book in either Spanish or English is included with this course. For more information or to enroll see <https://americasboatingclub.org/learn>.

If you require a TWRA issued Boating Safety Education Certificate (see box on the left) the state of Tennessee requires that you successfully complete an in-person *proctored (not online) exam*. If you take ABC online, or wish to self-study for the TWRA exam, **America's Boating Club of Chattanooga** offers a proctored examination that satisfies the TWRA boating safety

education requirements. *Advance registration required.* Cost of the proctored exam session is \$ 25.

Proctored exam dates:

May 09, 2024, location: Privateer Yacht Club
June 13, 2024 , location: Soddy Daisy

Email csps.signup@gmail.com or call 832-474-3822 to register.

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01/19/2024

Before you can take this exam, you must purchase a boating safety "Type 600" Exam Permit from any business (licensed agent) that sells hunting and fishing licenses (Wal-Mart, Academy Sports, bait stores, marinas, etc.). **You must bring the exam permit to the examination administrator** or you will not be able to take the exam.

AMERICA'S BOATING CHANNEL

America's Boating Channel, sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard and produced by United States Power Squadrons, is the official showcase and repository for digital videos focused on boating safety and boater education. There is a wealth of boating knowledge on short videos (mostly less than 5 minutes each) viewable *at no charge*, see - <https://www.youtube.com/c/AmericasBoatingChannel>

Advanced Training

America's Boating Club offers in depth in-person and online courses that will help you to grow your skill and enhance your fun and safety on the water. For more information or to find a class see <https://americasboatingclub.org/learn> or e-mail csps.signup@gmail.com if you have questions. Offerings include:

Boat Handling (BH)

Boat Handling builds your competence and confidence with an in-depth look at practical boating skills. Covers topics applicable to both power and sail boats.

- Rules of the Road
- Docking and Undocking
- Boating with confidence -Handling Your Boat Underway
- Anchoring with Assurance
- Emergencies on Board
- Knots and Line Handling

Prior completion of the **ABC** class is recommended.

Navigation

Our marine navigation courses 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, and even celestial navigation in our most advanced classes.

Marine Navigation (formerly called Piloting) is the first of the marine navigation classes and focuses on techniques for piloting a boat in coastal and inland waters. The course emphasizes planning and checking, along with the use of GPS and chart plotters, and introduces digital charting along with traditional charting, compass and dead reckoning skills. Plotting,

labeling, use of the compass, aids to navigation and a host of related topics are included in this course.

Advanced Marine Navigation (Advanced Piloting) continues the development of your coastal and inland navigation skills. Some of the subjects covered in the class include:

- Advanced positioning techniques (running fixes)
- Hazard avoidance techniques using electronics
- Collision avoidance using radar, GPS, and AIS
- How to use tide and current data to determine clearances, depth of water, and effects of current
- Piloting in various wind and current conditions

Offshore Navigation and **Celestial Navigation** courses, a must for offshore trips, teach you about planning and monitoring your voyage using modern marine electronics, and how to use celestial observations to estimate your vessel's position with confidence. During these classes you will do actual sightings and fix calculations (loaner sextants are available). **Offshore Navigation** will teach fixes by the sun, while **Celestial Navigation** extends that skill to fixes by the moon, planets and stars.

These are our most advanced classes and will run about 14 weeks; homework includes a sample cruise exercise, an observation sight folder, and a take home exam.

Electives

While the above listed courses are intended to be taken in sequence, elective courses may be taken in any order with no prerequisites. A sample of course offerings:

Engine Maintenance

Marine Electrical Systems

Marine Communications Systems

Cruise and Cruise Planning Weather



Secretary's Message

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Asst. Secretary

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Minutes February 15, 2024 Executive Board Meeting At Sue & Jim Kuemmel's

Thanks to Sue & Jim Kuemmel for hosting the Executive Board meeting at their house February 15, 2024! The meeting was attended by Sue & Jim Kuemmel, Jack Everett, John Cook, Greg Golian, John DiPrima, Norm Oien, Carol Fairfield, and Tom Street (via phone).

The meeting was called to order by Cdr Jack Everett at 4:22 pm. Greg provided an update on courses planned for the upcoming months (info included in his above submission).

Cdr Jack gave a brief overview of the National meeting held in February in Orlando, FL. He attended the Sea Scout presentations, as well as John DiPrima's environmental presentations – which was great. Numerous other presentations were attended as well, which included John DiPrima's Lifetime Award - CONGRATULATIONS John (see Jack's submission above). There is a Vessel Safety new web interface and brochure, which we should get to be up-to-date.

John DiPrima informed the group that he knows the National Commander, Ralph Bernard, who acknowledged John and his contributions. We look forward to nurturing this important personal relationship for our Squadron. On the topic of how to recruit new members, John described the working model which the Houston Squadron developed whereby they purchased some kayaks and planned activities for young people for such recruitment – which resulted in 30 new members who also took several of the courses offered. John will reach out to the Houston Squadron for additional information and suggestions. We also discussed reaching out to the local canoe and kayak club as a mechanism to potentially attract new members. The National Environmental Committee, which John is a member of, has suggested that perhaps each committee member be assigned to another District to learn what other Squadrons/Districts are doing relative to environmental activities. Members of our Squadron

also sit on the Hiwassee River Blueway group, which will hold a Hiwassee River Blueway Rail to River Fundraiser Paddle event tentatively scheduled for June 22, 2024 – all are encouraged to join in this fun multi-day event, which our Squadron supported last year. In terms of new member recruitment, Sue shared that New Orleans Squadron sponsored a fishing derby in the past to attract potential new members. She has information on how this was organized in the past, if our Squadron wants to explore such an event.

Budget items were discussed with Tom providing information. The Board voted to make the following donations, as we have in the past, to support organizations which we hold meetings at as a way of giving our thanks: \$300 will be donated to Privateer Yacht Club and Stuart Heights Baptist Church, and \$200 to Island Cove Marina. There was discussion on what group we want to consider donating toys to at Christmas time. In the past, we have donated toys through the Samaritan Center, though they are only accepting monetary donations now. IF ANYONE KNOWS OF A LOCAL GROUP THAT WE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER DONATING TOYS TO THIS YEAR, PLEASE LET ONE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS KNOW – thanks!

We also discussed our budget moving forward, as it may not have been reviewed recently. Tom will provide information for such a review. We recognized the need to set up a formal budget review procedure to be followed each year. Tom informed the group that as of January 2024, our Squadron has a balance of \$16,011.04. Thanks Tom.

Sue provided a summary of the Sea Scouts activities and indicated that they might benefit from small monetary support as they continue to develop this program. After discussion it was agreed that if/when the Sea Scouts approach us with a need, we will reach out to our membership to request donations to meet small needs.

Sue also brought up the subject of whether we should be doing more advertising of the great classes our Squadron/District offers. Apparently, the National budget provides for \$300 for Squadron advertising, which Jack will look into in more detail. Greg pointed out that the TWRA website provides us with the most publicity, but our current issue is a limited availability of teachers. Until this is resolved, he recommended trying to recruit additional teachers from our Squadron – SO IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN HELPING TO TEACH COURSES, PLEASE CONTACT GREG. Sue also reminded us that it is to our benefit to establish relationships with local officials and news groups, which will be discussed in more detail at our next Executive Board meeting.

As Sue indicated in her above submission, we are proposing to move from a standard day/time for our general meetings, to a more flexible, varying schedule to accommodate members who may not be able to attend the 6-8 pm Tuesday meetings. PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK ON THE PROPOSED 2024 GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE which Sue diligently drafted. We also propose to hold Executive Board meeting one hour prior to the general meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 pm. Thanks to all in attendance.

Submission by: Carol Fairfield



Treasurer's Message

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No submission this month.



2024 Calendar of Events

All dates are TENTATIVE, pending your input (see Sue Kuemmel's message above)! WATCH the newsletters for changes in dates or locations. We will also add in other events we participate in as the dates become available.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Thursday, March 21,2024	5-6 pm	EXECUTIVE BOARD MTG Portofino's
Thursday, March 21, 2024	6-8 pm	Portofino's Greek Restaurant
Monday, April 22, 2024	6-8 pm	Privateer Yacht Club (Pot Luck)
Monday, May 13, 2024	4-6 pm	Sue & Jim Kuemmel's House
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