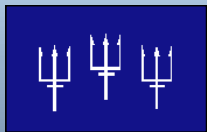




Commander's Corner



Cdr H. J.
South, S



Fellow ABC Nansemond River Boaters...

Going into the second month of 2021, it's time to reflect on my year of being Commander. As all of our members know, the time going back 12 months we were just hearing and learning about COVID-19. Now for me, I've just spent the last two weeks dealing with it personally with an exposure in my office. There are only three of us working together in a large office where we sit with about 16 foot spacing, and we wear masks. We opened this office back in August when the pandemic was in full swing so we applied good

safety protocols and if I were asked I would have said things are the best it can be. As for the three of us working together we had history going back 30 years. We all three practiced the guidelines for dealing with the pandemic outside of work life. So with all of that said the three of us should have been safe from contracting the virus, but even with what I thought was a good plan, it failed. All three of us in the office tested positive including two of our wives, Mary being one of those. So your take away from this story should be live your life but this virus is a very serious thing.

On to other things like working out the details for keeping us connected and using Zoom meetings till we can gather safely again. There will be no dinner meeting in February, it will be done with Zoom as we did in January. The main issue covered in our January Zoom meeting was to vote on the new slate of Officers for 2021. Our Change of Watch is scheduled for Sunday 28 February but this may not be the best plan. The current State Guidelines run through January (No more then 10 in a group), based on the numbers in our local area. If I had to make the call today I would be changing our COW to Zoom to meet our schedule and push the event to later in the year when things get better.

Again we will be successful in doing the Squadron business by being flexible as we continue

If any of you need anything or need help with anything, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'll do my best to make it happen. This includes help with understanding Zoom in order to join in the meeting. I am proof that old sea dogs can learn new tricks!

Contact me if you have any questions or concerns at 757-284-1432 or email me at hjsouth@outlook.com .

Contents:

Executive Officer's Report	2
Administrative Officer's Report	2
Members' Corner	2
Educational Officer's Report.....	3
Ditch Bag List.....	3
Member Benefits	4
2021 D5 Spring Conference Info	4
Boating Cartoon.....	4
Safety Officer-Barge out of Control	5
USPS Virtual Annual Meeting.....	6
Meet the new Bridge Officers.....	6
Calendar of Events	6



February 2021

**Executive
Officer's Report**

Lt/C Art Aikin, SN



Well as I come to the end of my second term as your executive officer, I can say without hesitation that this time has certainly been different. But hopefully with the vaccine becoming more widely available, we can look forward to some point this summer to a more normal boating season. I know the cruise planning group is working on some new and exciting trips and that we may soon be able to plan normal

squadron activities. We will at some point be able to gather for meetings at a new location more convenient for all of our members and enjoy the fellowship we had become used to and taken for granted in the past.

From posts on line and other sources, it appears that many marinas are planning special events this summer to lure boaters back to their facilities, so that is something we should consider as we plan our cruises. Everything from crab cook outs and movies to special entertainment nights for families.

In closing I would like to thank all of the members for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Executive Officer this past year and I also appreciate all of the help and encouragement as well. Good luck to the new incoming bridge members who I know are going to do a super job for the squadron and take us to the next level in these uncertain times.

If you have any questions or concerns call me (757)681-5897 or email: agaenterprises1@gmail.com .

**Administrative
Officer's Report**

Lt/C Mark Barnes



**Good Day Fellow Nansemond River
Power Squadron Members!**

It is my sincere hope you all had a wonderful Holiday season! Mine was filled with children, grandchildren, memories and lots of love. I truly am blessed.

Well, my wishes for freedom in the New Year have been put on hold. This COVID-19 virus and its limitations are still with us, unfortunately.

I know no magic exists that will get us out of this mess as quickly as anyone, no everyone would like. Do not despair better days are coming. My faith will pull me through these times and I pray yours will also.

Your ABC NRPS Bridge has been working hard to keep everyone together with this newsletter, phone calls and with the magic of ZOOM teleconferencing. We are lucky to have P/C Frank Brown, AP-IN putting these technologies together that allows us to hold virtual meetings. I think it's great to see the folks on screen. No, it is not a good as an actual meeting, but at least we can see and talk to one another. The one bright spot is the food is good and the drinks are much cheaper!

Final plans for the change of watch are still fluid and the Bridge will notify all as soon as possible. Currently we are still planning on doing the Change of Watch at the Country Club but this could change. Many Squadrons last year had to do theirs electronically. Depending on the COVID situation we may be forced to do ours electronically this year. Prior planning prevents poor performance, your bridge is looking at all options and will inform all as soon as possible. You have a determined Bridge that is necessary for the success of the Squadron.

Your Bridge will be monitoring the situation and we will definitely reserve us space at Amici's for the soonest possible date to get us all together again. I for one can hardly wait to see all of the membership at one place. Great pizza and cold beer sound really good right about now!

Hoping all are warm and in good health. Hoping to see all of you soon!

If you have any question or concerns please email me at: a6nascar@gmail.com, or call me at 904-742-6683.



Members Corner

February Birthdays



P/C Frank Hudson, AP
P/C Thomas Andrews, P
Jeff Horne
Beth Beebe
Michelle Thornton

February 1
February 23
February 24
February 26
February 28

Educational Officer's Report

Lt/C Carl Smith, SN



From a Boating Education Perspective.....

Electronics can assist you to screw up at the speed of light. When you are merrily cruising along and you zoom out to see what is ahead of you the screen loses a lot of detail.

Zooming back in restores the details and that is where you should be most of the time. In Georgia there are a lot of winding creeks on the ICW. One of them after a long open water run has a big mud bank extending well beyond the channel marker. The mud shoal goes almost halfway across the channel. It is not a nice place to while away two hours waiting on the tide.

That unplanned delay also resulted in getting to navigate up a very dark channel on a very dark night. It can be done but only when absolutely necessary. Humility drills are not much fun. Hoping for an early spring and good times on the water.

Any educational questions, concerns or ideas, please contact me captcrs@cox.net cell 757-672-5893. More Classes announcements coming soon! There are many we can do online, with Zoom. Please let me know what you might be interested in taking!

Making your ditch bag list

Reprinted from USPS Compass, www.boatingcompass.org

When putting together an abandon ship bag, ask yourself, "Besides my life jacket, what would I need to survive in the water?" If you plan for the worst and assume you could be in the water for an extended period in the blazing heat, freezing cold, at night, in poor visibility, or in a storm, you quickly begin to understand what essential items to put on your ditch bag list.



Ditch bag basics

- **The ditch bag** should be watertight and be able to float with all your gear inside it. Your emergency ditch bag won't do you any good if you can't reach it in a hurry, so keep it nearby at all times, and don't leave port without it. It might be a good idea to put your ditch bag on a tether.
- **An EPIRB or a personal locator beacon** to transmit your location and send a distress signal to the authorities. PLB devices are reasonably priced and readily available, so make sure the device is registered and functional (batteries charged). It will communicate your exact position via the radio (using precise latitude and longitude coordinates) and alert passersby to your plight via the flashing strobe.
- **A handheld VHF radio** (waterproof or in a sealed pouch, with extra batteries). Some newer models offer built-in GPS as well as the ability to float. Try to get a unit with a high-power feature for extended range in an emergency.
- **Signaling devices.** Your immediate objective is to get out of the water as quickly as possible. To do this, you must get the attention of a rescuer. To be visible in the water, you'll need a selection of [flares](#) (parachute and handheld), a strobe light (may be attached to inflatable PFD or on PLB), flashlight (waterproof and floatable with extra batteries in a sealed pouch), whistle (may be attached to inflatable PFD), and signal mirror. You should have these items on board anyway, so store them in the ditch bag.
- **Food and water.** Individually sealed emergency water packets (as much as you have room for) and emergency food rations (commercially available, sealed high-calorie energy bars). It's important to have energy and to be alert while in the water.
- **Rope** can keep the crew together should a lifeboat not be available.
- **Hats and sunscreen** provide sun protection and help retain body heat.

If you are far offshore and expect to be in a life raft, your ditch bag list will be significantly more extensive.

Once you have assembled a ditch bag, check it at the beginning of every season and before a long trip. Look for expired flares and torn food packets. Replace batteries and thoroughly check all items for corrosion or functionality. —Greg Allen

USPS® Member Benefits

by Lt Cheryl Hanbury



For this month's member benefits we'll be looking at "Advancing Education."

Great Lakes Cruising Club (GLCC).

All GLCC on-line cruising-related webinars are available to USPS members at reduced USPS registration rates. Recordings are also available at an even lower reduced rate! Registration is free to all. Directions for registering for webinars can be found on the front page of the GLCCSchool web site. To receive your USPS discount for GLCCSchool webinars and webinar recordings, make sure to include the discount code on the course registration form. Discount code is: 2021USPS. Although many of the webinars and recordings relate to the Great Lakes, some are generic such as:

- Happy Hooking – The Art of Anchoring
- Cruising America's Great Loop
- Fiberglass Repair Techniques

For more info visit <http://www.GLCCSchool.com>.

Mariner's Learning Guide – Captains License Software.

The USPS on-line Ship's Store offers a 10% discount on Captain's License software for USPS members! Here's a list of available licenses:

- OUPV/Six-pack Captains License
- Auxiliary Sailing Endorsement
- Assistance Towing Endorsement
- OUPV Upgrade to Master
- Deck License Renewal

NOTE: You can log on to americasboatingclub.org and click on the member benefits button to learn more about these and other benefits!!

DISTRICT 5 MARK 5

From the 2021 Winter Edition...

2021 D/5

Due to the uncertainty of the Covid 19 Pandemic, the 2021 District 5 Spring Conference and Change of Watch will be conducted virtually, April 5-8, 2021.

Monday evening will be the usual Squadron Commanders' meeting. Officers and Committee Chairs will conduct their training and committee meetings at their discretion throughout the week. Stay tuned for the final schedule during the month of March.

The event will culminate with the Change of Watch ceremony Thursday evening, April 8 at 1900 hours.

Keep an eye on the upcoming Mark 5 for the list of the 2021 District awards and certificates.

D/C Jeffrey E. Short, JN



"What do you say we stay here for the next 10 years, and tell our bosses that we were shipwrecked on a desert island?!"

Safety Officer's Article

Lt Grace Brown, P



(This month, I am sharing my space with Past Commander Butch Baxter, P, who always has intriguing past experiences to relate! This rather interesting situation could happen to any of us living by the water!)

BARGE OUT OF CONTROL



By P/C Butch Baxter, P

These pictures were taken on 3-10-2020 behind my house. Barges pass close by here all the time, but not this close.

It was a strong windy day with winds out of the SW. As part of the AICW, many vessels pass here. How would you like meeting an out-of-control barge 200+ feet in length on the ICW? This is an empty hopper barge that carries scrap iron/steel to industrial facilities in Edenton, NC and up the Chowan R. close to Winton, NC. Several towing companies push these scrap laden barges from various locations in this area, as well as cities up the bay. In this case, Intercoastal Marine's tug MERRIMAC appeared to have lost an engine. The captain had also lost the wind protection of the tree-lined Albemarle and Chesapeake canal, since his tug was now in the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River. Today the wind had the upper hand; the tow was all over the place. Debbie called out to me, "We are about to get hit!" The barge was headed right for my mooring piles and bulkhead. Luckily, the tide was near low water and the barge grounded and came to a stop. By the time I got my camera, he was able to back off a little. Once backed off, the wind took control again and the barge turned 180 degrees headed back towards the Great Bridge lock. The captain ran upriver where he was able to do another 180 and head back down river. He made it safely past this time, only to get turned in the next bend where the wind caught him again. This time the tow was grounded on both ends and took out marker #37. He was there for some time, at which point I called Intercoastal Marine and told them that the MERRIMAC was in trouble and needed the help of another tug. The MERRIMAC finally freed herself and backed behind the tree line where I could not see her anymore, so I do not know the outcome.

Two of these pictures were taken from my dining room window. The other was from my back deck, looking at a neighbor's dock two doors down. They got a free dredging job from this at the end of their pier. Since I have lived here, marker #37 has been knocked out four times, and marker #38, a stone's throw from my dock, was knocked out at least two times, maybe even three.

The captain of the MERRIMAC was really fighting it with one engine out. The tug did not have the power to control the large barge with just one engine. That tow could have done a lot of damage to people's property. I do not know of any except marker #37, and I believe the towing company did send another tug to assist.

In conclusion, when navigating the waterways, things may not be as they appear, keep a good eye on the other guy.

For me, "Hats off to you, captain of the MERRIMAC, for not damaging my dock; you were really fighting to maintain control."



Virtual Annual Meeting

The United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club, 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting will run from Feb. 15–26, with sessions scheduled at different times to accommodate members in all time zones. Registration is not required for meetings, and everyone is invited to attend. (One course does require pre-registration.) Just open the agenda, find the sessions of interest to you, and mark your calendar.

How to Connect

- *Go to [FreeConferenceCall.com](https://www.freeconferencecall.com) 10 minutes before the meeting date and time.
- *Enter meeting ID **USPSABC** for ALL meetings on the agenda.

Meet our New Bridge Officers for the 2021-2022 Year



**Commander
Mark Barnes**



**Administrative
Officer
Bob Fino**



**Ass't. Admin
Officer
Dave Orwig**



**Educational
Officer
Carl Smith,**



**Secretary/
Treasurer
Linda Barnes**

What do you do with a sick boat?

- Take it to the doc.

Which type of vegetable is banned on ships?

- Leeks!

A dentist opened an office on a boat. What was the boat's name?

- The Tooth Ferry

From www.godownsize.com

NRPS 2020-2021 Calendar of Upcoming Events



*KARLA SMITH
Nansmond River Light
1878-1935*

**January 26
Tuesday**

**Bridge Meeting on ZOOM Online Meeting,
Commander to set up. 6:00 PM**

**February 3
Wednesday**

**General Meeting on ZOOM Online Meeting.
Commander to set up. 6:00 PM**



2020-2021 Bridge Officers

Commander	Cdr H. J. South, S
Executive Officer	Lt/C Art Aikin, SN
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Mark Barnes
Education Officer	Lt/C Carl Smith, SN
Secretary	Lt/C Frank Brown, AP-IN
Treasurer	Lt/C Mary Fisher, AP

Publisher's Statement

THE NANSEMOND LIGHT newsletter is published monthly. Deadline is the 24th day of each month for the following month. We welcome articles & photographs of interest to our members. *THE NANSEMOND LIGHT* published for the members of America's Boating Club Nansmond River.

Publisher: Cdr H. J. South, S
Editor: Lt Grace Brown, P
Assistant Editor: Lt Cheryl Hanbury
Photographer: Lt Mary South