

Lightkeeper's Log



May 2020 Newsletter

COMMANDER'S REPORT

Cdr Peggy Campbell

Welcome to the Lightkeeper's Log of America's Boating Club of Southport.

Several weeks since my last memo to you we are all sitting cozily huddled down in our houses so I am sure you are not surprised that the Executive Committee has cancelled the May general meeting of the Squadron. Although rumor says NC will open on May 9 I am sure no restaurant will be taking a group our size at that time.

You have received a very informative note from Education Officer Max Sykes letting you know all classes are cancelled for now. He did give you information about some on line classes from the National.

Although none of us knows how the next few weeks will play out, we are hopeful that in June we will at least be able to have a picnic - possibly lunch for our June meeting. I have been talking with Suzanne and we are both ready to have FUN. So if it is allowed we will put together a wine and cheese gathering as soon as we can.

As our weather, except for all the wind, is getting more spring like, hope you are getting out in your boats. Stay positive! Looks like things are improving.

ABC of Southport Monthly Meetings **The 2nd Wednesday of Each Month**

Location TBD

Please join us at (place TBD) at 6:00pm each 2nd Wednesday of the month for dinner, our monthly meeting and an interesting program.

Month	Program
January	Recess
February	Valentine's Day Celebration
March	TBD
April	Wine & Cheese Party- Cancelled
May	National Safe Boating Week Activities- TBD
June	Club Sunset Group Cruise on the ICW- Cancelled
July	Oak Island Coast Guard Stn. -- Pot luck & safety demonstrations
August	Shrimp boil
September	Local Knowledge -- Boating in the Southport Area
October	October Fest Club Party
November	Thanksgiving Club Dinner
December	Annual Holiday Flotilla Party

Education Officer
Max Sykes

Unfortunately, our squadron education program is on hold. We started the year with an ABC course and a Boat Handling course. We had seminars scheduled for April that had to be scrapped. Currently, we have no idea when we can plan to pick up the pieces. This is not the report I wanted to present. But ... all is not lost! There are several on-line sources of boating education including two great ones provided by Americas Boating Club – on-line courses located on the USPS national website and Americas Boating Channel, sponsored by the Coast Guard and produced by Americas Boating Club.

Some of the offerings available on our national website include the basic boating course (ABC course), How to use GPS, Weather for Boaters, and Marine Radio. Completing any of these offerings should show up in a members educational record.

Be sure to check out Americas Boating Channel (americasboatingchannel.com). This is a website sponsored by the Coast Guard and produced by our national organization. There are a lot of useful and entertaining segments on this site. While providing useful information, this site may provide one alternative to binge watching old TV series. Thanks to Dave Bolea for reminding me that this site exists.

The weather is getting warmer and many of us may be able to get out on our boats in the coming days. While we may not be able to raft up, we can wave and say hello over the radio.

Max Sykes
Southport Sail and Power Squadron
Squadron Education Officer

Executive Officer
Dave Bolea

Changing Tides, Changing Times

District 27 Rendezvous Update,

In the best interest of all, D/C Cdr Hugh Hayes decided to cancel the District 27 Rendezvous originally scheduled for June 5-6 in New Bern. Please disregard any previous notifications and await information this summer on the Fall Conference. In the meantime, D/C Hayes sends his well wishes for all to stay safe and healthy.

Our Club recently received the **USPS Educational Fund Certificate of Merit** for 2019. We have supported this educational fund through our membership dues for the past 19 years. Our support helps National to develop and update our educational courses.

Shipmates, we need your assistance,

If you would like to help Cdr Peggy and our Executive Committee (ExCom), we have a few important openings on our ExCom:

Co-Chair for the Membership Committee- this is an opportunity to serve our club and at the same time get to know new members. Responsibilities include entering basic information from our members' application into the USPS National data base, and ordering name tags.

Merit Marks Monitor- Our members do a lot of planning and dedicated work during the year to support our civic and social events. The Merit Mark Program is important as it is one of the main ways that we can acknowledge the efforts of our members. Members who contribute 12-15 hours of volunteer work for our Club will receive a single merit mark per year. After 25 merit marks, the member achieves Life Membership in the USPS.

Norm Greisen just received his Life Membership in the USPS this past year. Norm, congratulations again. Norm is joining Doug Jones and Bob Klug of our Club who are both Life Members. "Thank you" to these members who continue to provide leadership and training for our Club members and boaters in the Southport area.

We Remember Memorial Day

On May 16, we remember Armed Forces Day. Following that, on May 25, we celebrate Memorial Day. The USPS was originally formed to rescue mariners that were shipwrecked on the seas, and we want to say "Thank You" to all who served in the Armed Forces. We especially remember all of those who gave their lives to protect our nation.



ABC of Southport is now on Instagram

Just a friendly reminder, we are on Instagram (southport_flotilla), thanks to the efforts of Suzanne Foster of our Club. Spread the word. So far, we have 100+ individuals and businesses that are following our civic, social and education courses on Instagram.

If you have some interesting pictures of our Club's social events that you would like to share with others, you may contact her at suzanne.fosterh@yahoo.com.

Thought for the Day:

"Hang on to your hat. Hang on to your hope. And wind the clock, for tomorrow is another day." – E.B. White



DAN Boater- *reminder of a valuable benefit from our USPS*

As part of America's Boating Club® membership, beginning October 8, 2020 your membership includes the full protection of DAN Boater travel health and safety benefits at no additional cost* to you. When it's time to renew your annual membership, you may keep these valuable traveler safety benefits as part of your Individual or Family membership for only \$25.00*. <http://www.danboater.org/abc/>

Southport Flotilla Festival 2020

Cdr Peggy and Suzanne are busy making plans for a week-long celebration of the Southport Flotilla Festival in December. Southport maritime boating clubs will decorate their boats and visit the surrounding 6 marinas/bays during this festive week.

We would like to update information on our Club's fleet of boats at this time:

Type of Boat (power or sail),

Your marina,

Year,

Length

Draft,

MMSI number if you have one

Chartplotter (yes or no), AIS (yes or no).

Also, a picture of your boat and Captain and Mate. If you would like to enter your vessel in the Flotilla, please contact Suzanne at suzanne.fosterh@yahoo.com or call 503.780.0040.

Wishing you all a safe Memorial Day!

Dave Bolea

Vessel Safety Inspections (On Hold for Now)

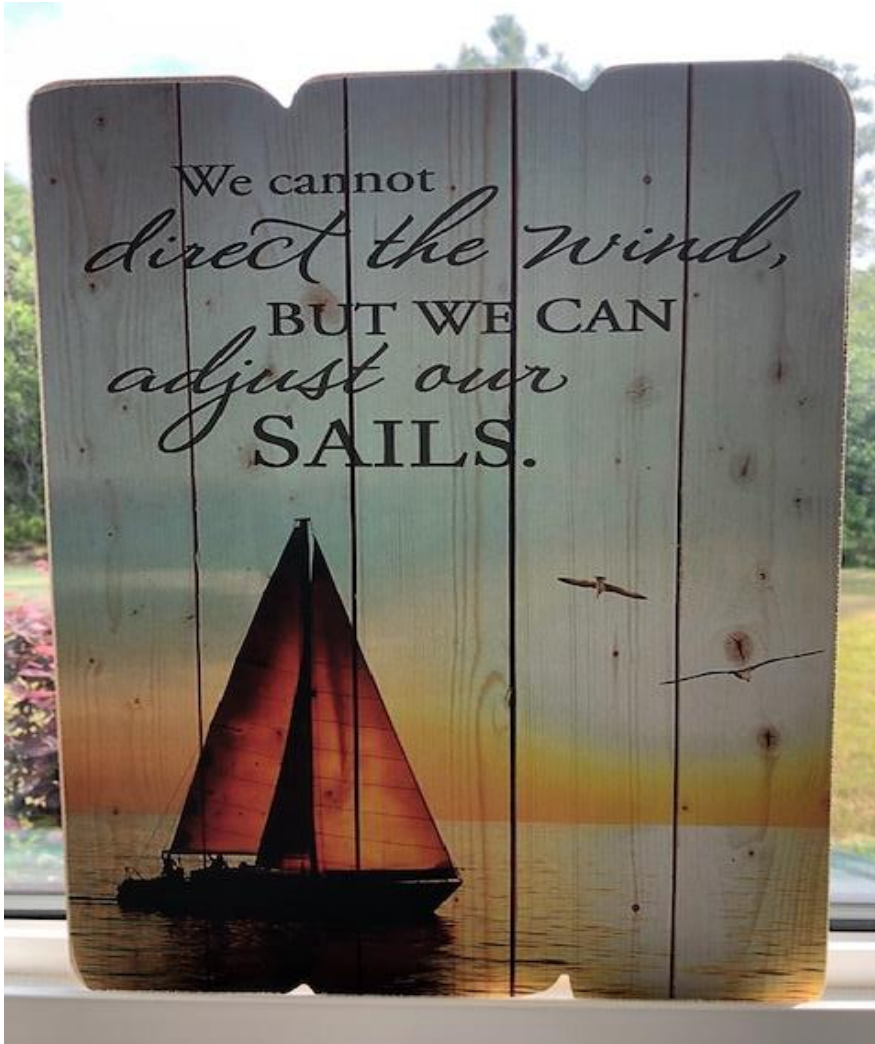
Our Club Certified Vessel Safety Inspectors now have the 2020 stickers and are ready to inspect your vessels. We also have inspection stickers for kayaks and paddleboards to identify the owner of these watercrafts. You can schedule a VSI with Kevin Jones, kjones235@nc.rr.com, and Max Sykes, hmsykes@atmc.net.



Our Club Face Book Page

Our Club has a Face Book page, “Southport Flotilla”, that has interesting articles and pictures of our activities. If you have a picture or an announcement that you would like us to include on our Face Book page, you may contact Suzanne at suzanne.fosterh@yahoo.com.

If you are planning to take your boat out for a day of fishing and would like to find out if any of our members are interested in joining you with their boat, try posting your plans on our Face Book page.



Shipmates, we are all in this together! Let us know how you are doing in these coming weeks and months.

Your ExCom