

Lightkeeper's Log



May 2019

COMMANDER'S REPORT

Cdr Dave Bolea

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

So far, this Spring has been a very busy time for our Club. We have some changes at the helm that I would like to share with our members. Our Cdr, Susan Harman, has a consulting business firm that has grown steadily since she took command of our Club in January. Susan's out of town travels made it difficult for her to be available for club activities and meetings. She has done an outstanding job for us as commander. Susan's extensive knowledge of social media and her informative articles on boating appeared in local magazines. Local boaters and visitors to our website were introduced to our new branding name "America's Boating Club of Southport", through Susan's efforts. We all hope Susan will join in on the fun with our club when she is in town. In the meantime, safe travels to Susan.

I will be your commander through our Change of Watch in December. I thank ExCom for the privilege and opportunity to once again serve as your commander. Also, I am very pleased to announce that Joann Klug has joined our Bridge as Treasurer. Joann brings with her a lot of knowledge and experience in the accounting area. Joann, welcome to our Bridge. We look forward to having you at our ExCom meetings.

Our Club is a team of members that volunteer to help with our mission of offering safe boating courses. In that endeavor, we would like to hear your ideas and suggestions on ways to also grow our membership. I'm proud to say that the Lighthouses on our burgee are a lamp to boaters and all who are dedicated to promoting safe boating in our waters. I encourage all new members to join us in our civic events and explore ways that they can contribute their talent and interests. Let's have fun together!

Here's a great opportunity for our members-

Neil Harman, our Webmaster, is offering to train a member on how to maintain our club website. If you have interest in this area, you can contact Neil or any member of our ExCom. Neil received the USPS Website Distinctive Performance Award for 2018.

District 27 Spring Council/Conference Meeting in Durham, NC

Doug Jones, our Legal Officer, and Bonnie and I represented our Club at the D27 Spring Conference. Doug is on the USPS National Committee for environmental issues and Bonnie attended as a D27 delegate on the District's Nominating Committee. I attended the commander's meeting and conference meetings.

One of the Vision statements for USPS is to encourage Clubs to research the age, gender, cultural, and demographic changes in the watercraft community while honoring our heritage of boating education. ExCom will be discussing this topic in the next few months.

Membership growth-

Some Clubs are enjoying a growth in membership by offering seminars and hands-on training for paddle boards and kayaks. If anyone would like to start a short seminar on these watercrafts, or plan a cruise for kayaks, by all means contact our Education Officer, Max Sykes.

Southport Spring Festival April 19 2019



Thanks to all the Club members who staffed our table at this year's Spring Fest. We had a lot of fun passing out candy to young children while telling them how important it is to wear a life jacket when near a dock or on a boat. The Helbig Foundation gave us a large supply of Frisbee Discs that had the message to "Wear that Life Jacket". Gene Helbig is a member of our Club and will be glad to tell you more about the Helbig Foundation. Thanks Gene for the Frisbees.

National Safe Boating Week- May 18-25, 2019

Our Vessel Safety Inspectors are ready to check out your watercraft for the boating season. You kayakers may also want to have a safety evaluation of your equipment. The Coast Guard is encouraging the USPS to offer safety tips for kayak owners. Again, you can contact Kevin Jones and Max Sykes for more information about a safety inspection for your kayak.



La Polena Bed & Breakfast in Southport

Our new members, Suzanne and Jeff Foster, opened their Bed & Breakfast to our Club to watch one of the largest cranes on a ship to pass through our Cape Fear River. Their B & B is on the river, and the view was spectacular from the second floor balcony. The wonderful pastries, coffee and tea that Suzanne served us that morning were greatly appreciated by all. Many thanks to Suzanne and Jeff!



What's up next?

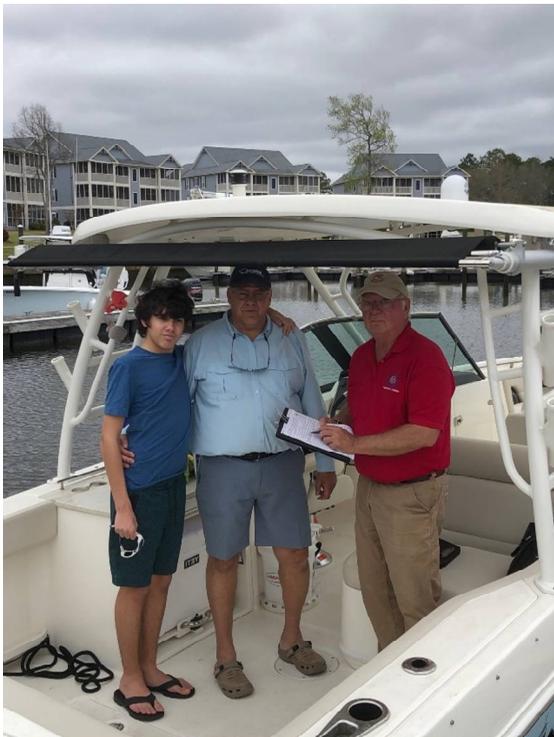
Peggy Campbell is once again our Chairperson for the Maritime Day at the Maritime Museum in Southport. You may recall this as “Girl Scouts Day” at the Museum in past years. We have the same venue as last year, but I hear the *adults* may try the Hula Hoops through our safe boating course on the museum lawn. Mark this one on your calendar: **Saturday, May 25 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Please contact Peggy to volunteer for a few hours.**

Cruises and more fun-

Our cruise captains are busy planning for the upcoming boating season and will soon announce a few short cruises. Land cruisers are always invited to join our boaters for a nice lunch. Cruises are great time to meet other members in our club. New members are encouraged to join us for the good food and fun for all. Contact Ron Smith for upcoming events or suggestions for cruises.

Vessel Safety Inspection Team-

Max and Kevin have been busy doing vessel safety inspections at our local marinas. Members, get your boat inspected as you ready for the boating season.



Education is Our Mission-

SSPS Educational Update April, 2019

As we are well into the second quarter of the year, it is a good time to review activities to date and to look forward to the rest of the year. We have and will continue to offer a variety of courses in an effort to keep the program interesting and to do our part to improve our skills. Thanks to the instructors that make this possible.

Our schedule for the first half of the year has included 2 ABC courses and 3 seminars. The seminars have been Celestial Navigation, Partner in Command, and Tides and Currents. Response has been good.

After we take a break for summer boating, we are planning at least one major course, 2 seminars and an ABC course in the 3rd and 4th quarters of the year. The major course for 3rd quarter will be Boat Handling (Seamanship replacement). The seminars planned are How to Read a Chart and VHF Radio.

Boat Handling and the two seminars are part of the Inland Navigator certification program, which we used as guidance for planning. Check it out on the national website for details.

Thanks to our instructors. For the ABC courses, instructors include Andy Bunch, Jim Carey, Rich Alt, Christy Beavers, and Bob Klug. Norm Greisen handled Celestial Navigation and Tides and Currents. We look to have a couple of new faces in the upcoming seminars.

Two final thoughts:

1. We are trying to offer a variety of courses. If there is a topic area that is of interest to you, let me know and we will do our best to take your needs into consideration.
2. Our instructors are all first string performers. That being said, our bench is thin. If you have any interest in joining the team, please give me a call.

Max Sykes
Squadron Education Officer
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Upcoming Membership Meeting-

Wednesday, May 8, 6:00PM at the CFYC on Fish Factory Rd, SE, Oak Island, NC.
Spread the word to a friend or neighbor to join us at this membership meeting.

Be Safe on the water, be kind to one another... it's the right thing to do!

Cdr Dave