



# Sound of the Pamlico Newsletter

April 2024

Volume 24, No.2

A District 27  
Squadron

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What an interesting evening, Linda provided a Reference Specialist/ Genealogist and Historian from the Brown Library focused on the history of Washington. Stephen Farrell, a graduate of East Carolina University became interested in history at a young age. We enjoyed spending the evening with he and his wife.



Stephen presented the story of valor, war and a vessel lost to the chronicles of history. The Gunboat Picket, 45'x10'x8' started its career in 1861 selected by Federal forces as General Burnside's flagship during his expedition to Hatteras Inlet (Graveyard of the Atlantic). During the summer of 1862, Federal forces firmly controlled eastern North Carolina with garrisons stationed at Washington, New Bern, etc. Federal detachments raided the country

side at will, while Confederates struck back with raids of their own. On September 6<sup>th</sup>, the Confederates with 1,000 infantry, cavalry and artillery units from Eastern NC slipped past the Federal 1,200-man garrison in Washington. As the fighting continued, the Federal gunboat, USS Picket was able to fire one shell at the Confederates. Picket's magazine exploded in the river, killing the captain, 19 crewmen, wounding 6 others sinking beneath the murky depths, still resting on the bottom of the Tar River.

Interest in the site was generated in 1960's when local dredging uncovered material and an elevation screw for a boat howitzer. They identified a wrecked hull to be none other than the Gunboat Picket. The remains of the vessel were first examined in the Fall of 1970. Research and dives continued through 1976 and numerous artifacts were recovered such as muzzle-loading carbines, several bayonets, ships lantern, brass plates, mini balls, telescope, a stamp bearing the seal of the City of Washington and other treasures offering a glimpse into the past of bygone days. Stephen brought numerous preserved artifacts with him.

Fast forward 50 years, the Brown Library History Room Archives holds some of the most unique and personal items recovered from the wreck which you can see today from members of the original team. The names of those families from that era and from the recovery efforts...are well known names still residing in Washington today.

Stephen included throughout his presentation, many facts about Washington in those bygone days. For example, Stuart Parkway as we know it, is really not that old and the Pamlico River initially came right up behind the brick buildings making Main Street the first street off the water. Also, Washington was a key port of commerce and had been set up with a Federal Custom House. It was obvious he had many, many historical stories he could share.

Stephen invites us all to give him a call, visit him at the Brown Library and to keep in mind should we uncover relics from the past. He would be interested!

## Commander's Corner

**Cdr. Walt Morrissey**



As I write this, Spring is Springing and all the things we love about eastern North Carolina weather is here. I hope you have all completed your spring boat projects and are ready to hit the water. Don't forget your VSC!

I attended the District 27 Conference and Change of Watch in March and was happy to accept multiple awards recognizing the work of our Squadron. I was humbled and proud to accept the awards on our Squadron's behalf. We received awards for our work in Education, Communication and Website. I was very happy to highlight those awards and present them to members who were the energy behind making that happen and are continuing to do so. In addition, District 27 awarded Pamlico Sail & Power Squadron "Squadron of the Year". Wow! See the photo below and the description of what our membership did to deserve this recognition.

*See all Award Photos on Page 8!*

### SQUADRON OF THE YEAR AWARD

Walt presented a prestigious award and recognition he received at the District Change of Watch in March. This award is a testament to the successes of our Squadron and all members.



*Comments from 2023 D27 Commander Bill Beers, JN-IN*

The Squadron selected had a productive year holding dinner meetings, social outings and a fun Christmas party. They held four cruises to interesting places close by including two weekend cruises and tours of local interesting sights related to waters in their area. There four Vessel Safety Examiners conducted a total of 22 Vessel Safety Checks. They had a Kickoff for Safe Boating Week and members volunteered for a day of Salvation Army Bell Ringing and collected locally for Toys for Tots. Not only did the squadron hold two America's Boating Courses and the Cruising & Cruise Planning Course they also conducted Basic Weather, Marine Radio and Partner in Command Seminars. For these reasons, I am proud to present the 2023 District Commander's Trophy as Squadron of the Year to Pamlico Sail & Power Squadron.

In closing, we have two big upcoming events for our Squadron that all of our members can look forward to. The first is the May 18<sup>th</sup> [Marine Flea Market](#) in Chocowinity. We appreciate your donations and would like you to consider helping us sell those donations.

Secondly, on August 2-3, our Squadron will be hosting Rendezvous 2024 for District 27. Save the dates and get ready to enjoy Washington and meet other Squadron members. Some information has already been sent out with more to come soon. We will need your help and hope all will come out to enjoy the event.



**Reggie (Reginald) & Ellen Gordon**  
Chocowinity, NC



**William & Dia Roberts**  
Winston-Salem, NC

**Executive Officer****Lt/C Mike Johnson, S**

**Spring Vessel Safety Inspections** - We are doing great. We have had vessel safety checks in Pamlico Plantation, WYCC, and 2 events at Cypress Landing. We have an excellent cadre of inspectors, but we need more help. We would welcome more inspectors and we would encourage all of you to reach out to boat owners about the importance of a VSC. Again, we need to approach and convince them of the need for inspections. Currently we have thirty +/- inspections, and we have many non-inspected vessels in our area. If you have a friend with an uninspected vessel, please set us up to

inspect their boat. Your recommendation will speak volumes! If you are at a different marina and would like to have a VSC event set up, just let us know by emailing [VSC@pspsnc.com](mailto:VSC@pspsnc.com). We would be happy work out a date with your marina.

**ABC-Pamlico's Marine Flea Market – Saturday, May 18, 2024**

Donations for our Market are coming in from members and from surrounding local YC's. We need your help, review the [Marine Flea Market Flyer](#) link for ways you can participate in this event. Initially, we encourage everyone to consider donating recycled items you have no further use for. Volunteers are needed the day of the Flea Market for set up and meeting with the public. Reach out with any questions, directions regarding donated items and to Volunteer the day of the Flea Market. This is our single fund-raising effort of the year and all proceeds go directly to public boating education and safety programs. Contact me at [executiveofficer@pspsnc.com](mailto:executiveofficer@pspsnc.com) or call 757-849-9138 or Walt Morrissey at [commander@pspsnc.com](mailto:commander@pspsnc.com) or call 252-623-1714.

**Working Together**

Successful organizations have one common denominator...active participation. Lack of participation generally leads to failed organizations. Many of you have heard of the old 80/20 rule (or similar rule) where 20% of an organization's members account for 80% of the work (participation). After some time, 20% become overburdened and eventually drift off. I've experienced this with various types of clubs and have contemplated what can be done to draw more participants into our activities. Most of us understand and support activities that benefit others. Most see the utility of organizations that help their fellow man and will generally open their pocketbooks in support of a worthy cause. However, what can we do to encourage worthy organization members to roll up their sleeves and work as a team? How can we convince retired members or members that are still working, raising a family or just too busy to take an active role?

We need to clarify the need for our membership. Since we are asking members to give up one of their most valuable assets (their time) we are obligated to ensure they are clear on what is needed. Secondly, we need to have a good plan that answers all the interrogatives and conveys that information up front. Third we need to consider all volunteer's capabilities and limitations. Fourth we need to ask them personally. Lastly, we need leaders. If I am willing to ask others for help, I should be there. Most are willing to do so if led by leaders willing to be by their side.

Our Squadron has remarkable members who have volunteered to take up a position or take on a task and are willing to do whatever needs to be done to make our organization strong. I have observed the amount of time members are willing to give for the benefit of others. I am very proud to be associated with them. However, I do see that they need or could use our help. I see many members doing double and triple duties within the Squadron such as teaching classes, VSCs, event participation and assisting others. I see those in the administrative side of the squadron multi-tasking at a feverous pace. That's a lot to handle, why do it? Simple answer, there is a need. So please consider investing some of your time to help and let's change the 80/20 rule to 100/100!

## Educational Officer

Lt/C Bob Vecchi, P



The weather has been a little unpredictable lately. We've had some very nice days but also some chilly and windy ones. So, it's hard to plan boating activities in advance. Mother nature sure has a sense of humor. While we await the normal summer type weather on a more consistent basis, we have some educational opportunities to keep us engaged.

But first, on behalf of my education team I want to thank District 27 Awards Committee for bestowing the Tom Smiley award on our department for the second year in a row. The team has worked very hard pulling our program together and I am very proud of them.

Our [Boat Handling Course](#) will be starting on June 11<sup>th</sup>, for seven weeks, ending on July 30<sup>th</sup>. It is a comprehensive course covering everything from Rules of the Road to Emergencies on Board. Not only is it a most important course, second only to the ABC course, for newer boaters because of how much is covered; it is a great refresher for those who have been boating for many years. The flyer is already out, so be sure to sign up for it before it fills up.



Next in our seminar series will be Paddle Smart, held on June 27<sup>th</sup>, with a river cruise for paddlers, on June 29<sup>th</sup>. This will be our first on water component by the Education Department, and we are excited about it. The seminar will be presented by our Commander, Walt Morrissey, an experienced kayaker and will cover risks & safety, necessary equipment, life jackets for paddlers, optional equipment and more.

For the newer boaters or those wanting a refresher, we are planning an Introduction to Navigation Seminar for July. Stay tuned for more on this.

We are also working on the idea that the Education Team, along with Communications/Chris Young, establish a closer rapport with the local boat and retail sales, and other boating related establishments. Our goal is to have them encourage participation by their customers in the educational opportunities that we provide. Hopefully, we can increase our membership at the same time. Let's see how that develops.

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Have you checked out the many YouTube videos available on the America's Boating Channel?  
Click on the link below for short, **FREE** videos and safety tips.

Most are under 10 minutes and you can subscribe for more as they continue to be released.

<https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel/videos>

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.

## Administrative Officer



Our first General Membership Meeting for 2024 was attended by 30 members. We also had 7 guests that Commander Walt introduced and also presented our new members Jeff & Carol Somol and Hugh Roberts with their name tags. Dinner began with the Pledge of Allegiance; Invocation by Jim Hackney.

## Lt/C Linda Moyer



Our speaker, Stephen Farrell, presented an interesting topic regarding the USS Picket which is still laying on the bottom of the Tar River as well as historical stories that shaped Washington. All stimulated many questions from membership. Stephen brought with him maps and many relics from the Gunboat Picket.

Commander Morrissey also announced that at the June 20<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting, we will be asking our members to approve revised bylaws for our Squadron. He will provide information for members to review prior to the meeting. The next step following our members time to review the revised bylaws will be to approve them at the June Meeting.

## Assistant Administrative Officer - Social

## Lorne Hope, AP



The details are out for our next social, dinner at [Mellow Mushroom](#) in Greenville. They specialize in stone-baked pizza but have salads, sandwiches and burgers as well. Also a wide variety of craft beer. This venue drew a big group in 2022, so expectations are high.

Your RSVP is needed by May 12<sup>th</sup>, simply email me at [social@pspsnc.com](mailto:social@pspsnc.com). Edy and I are also on the lookout for new or popular restaurants. If you have a favorite lunch or dinner restaurant or maybe a new one that you could recommend, let me know, I'm happy to check it out for our group.

**AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB**  
For Boaters, By Boaters™



**D27 Rendezvous in Washington, NC**

Hosted by America's Boating Club of the Pamlico

**SAVE THE DATE**

**August 2 – 3, 2024**

**Assistant Administrative Officer - Boating****Mike Karlovich, AP**

The planning for the Down East Cruise from Beaufort, NC to Beaufort, SC beginning May 11<sup>th</sup> and continuing through May 30 has progressed into a firm plan. We will have 3 boats leaving Washington to begin the cruise, Midnight Rambler, Okie hokie and Sandy Paws. Don Parker will crew with me on Sandy Paws for the first couple days.

We are picking up Wild Herron in Wilmington on day four. Carol will bring Cathy down to switch off with Don on Sandy Paws. Continued cruising will take us to Myrtle Beach, Georgetown and on to Charleston. Two boats are stopping at Charleston and two are going on to Beaufort, SC. Then we'll cruise our way back dropping Wild Herron off in Wilmington. Wish us fair weather...

We might have a boat or two join us on the last leg from River Dunes but nothing confirmed.

The cruise route on the right. Feel free to contact me if you are interested in joining us for the whole or any part of the cruise, by email to [boatingactivities@pspsnc.com](mailto:boatingactivities@pspsnc.com) and [Click here](#) to see the various ports included.

We are planning an event this summer to Dowery Creek but no dates set yet. Stay tuned for more on this.

If you have ideas for cruising let us know, there's sure to be others interested in the same destinations. Let's not miss an opportunity, the cruise planning can be coordinated by any boater or collection of boaters. Just let me know and we'll get it communicated to our fellow boaters.

Keep in mind, we also encourage all non-boaters to join us too. Drive to catch up with the boaters for dinner at their various destinations or stay over and enjoy a few days. The more the merrier!



**Boating Tips  
Column  
Washington Daily  
News**

Tom McCluskey and Mike Karlovich, our team of ABC-Pamlico writers, continues to provide interesting articles for the monthly Boating Column published in the Washington Daily News. This is an important role for our Squadron as it keeps America's Boating Club of the Pamlico in the minds of our local recreational boaters as the recognized organization for boating education and skill building.

Articles since the last Newsletter printing:

[Importance of a Basic Boating Course](#)  
[Spring is the Boat Inspection Season](#)

To see all articles and other news releases, visit the website at <http://www.pamlicosailandpowersquadron.org/index.php/news-info/psps-blog>

## How to Test an Inflatable Life Jacket

Testing your inflatable life jacket is one of the most important (and fun) things you should do before going out on the water. If you've never used one before, you'll want to get a hang of how everything works. Likewise, the best way to check the buoyancy of your PFD is to confirm that it floats.

### Reasons to Test Your Inflatable Life Jacket

1. Make sure it floats you comfortably and adequately for water conditions and optimum performance.
2. Make sure it works to confirm product integrity. It should inflate quickly and easily without leakage.
3. Learn how it works by arming and activating the CO2 inflation system, re-arming, and using the oral inflator tube.

### HOW TO TEST USING THE ORAL INFLATION TUBE

Testing your [inflatable life jacket](#) with the oral inflation tube is the most common way to test your vest and will not require any spare parts or re-arming kits. Orally inflating your vest is a great way to see how it inflates and floats you in the water without the need for replacement parts.

1. Remove the CO2 cylinder to prevent inadvertent activation.
2. Don the life jacket and enter shallow water deep enough to stand with your head above the surface. Weak swimmers should partially inflate the life jacket to support their ability to complete full inflation without touching the bottom. Note this level of inflation because it's the minimum amount needed to safely use this device.
3. Fully inflate the life jacket using the oral inflator.
4. Attempt to float on your back or just slightly back of vertical. Your mouth should be above the water's surface in a relaxed floating position. Note the effect of where you hold your arms and legs on how you float.
5. Exit the water and deflate the life jacket using the oral inflator tube.
6. Dry thoroughly, re-arm, and repack the life jacket.

**Caution:** If oral inflation is used, do NOT allow the chamber to be also automatically inflated. Remove the cylinder and bobbin to prevent inadvertent over-inflation which could result in damage to the life jacket.

### How to Test using the automatic inflator

When testing using the automatic inflator, you will need a fully-armed life jacket and a [replacement re-arming kit](#) approved for your specific model. This is the most accurate representation of how your inflatable will perform in an emergency.

1. Don the life jacket and enter shallow water deep enough to stand with your head above the surface. The life jacket should automatically inflate within seconds of the inflator being submerged.
2. Attempt to float on your back or just slightly back of vertical. Your mouth should be above the water's surface in a relaxed floating position. Note the effect of where you hold your arms and legs on how you float.
3. Exit the water and remove the used CO2 cylinder and bobbin from the inflator.
4. Deflate the life jacket using the oral inflator tube.
5. Dry thoroughly, re-arm with the replacement re-arming kit you have on hand, and repack the life jacket.

### HOW TO TEST USING THE MANUAL INFLATOR

When testing using the manual inflator, you will need a fully-armed life jacket and a [replacement re-arming kit](#) approved for your specific model.

1. Don the life jacket and activate the inflation system by jerking firmly downward on the yellow manual pull cord.
2. Enter shallow water deep enough to stand with your head above the surface.
3. Attempt to float on your back or just slightly back of vertical. Your mouth should be above the water's surface in a relaxed floating position. Note the effect of where you hold your arms and legs on how you float.
4. Exit the water and remove the used CO2 cylinder.
5. Deflate the life jacket using the oral inflator tube.
6. Dry thoroughly, re-arm with the replacement re-arming kit you have on hand, and repack the life jacket.

### How to Test your inflatable life jacket for air leaks

Your device may be inflated and submerged in water to check for leaks. If bubbles appear by the oral inflation valve, invert the black cap and tap the green spring. If bubbles continue to appear anywhere throughout the vest chamber, the device should be removed from service and replaced.

**Source:** [America's Boating Club®](#)

General Membership Dinner Meeting – Congratulations Pamlico – Squadron of the Year Award!



Website + Education + Newsletter Awards



Enjoy more photos [here!](#)



## Lifejackets – New Labels

This video covers the advantages of the new life jacket labeling system for recreational boaters. Viewers will learn how to interpret prominently featured label icons. Also featured are tips for care and maintenance as well as selecting particular life jackets for various boating activities.

Learn more at [bit.ly/BoatingEd](https://bit.ly/BoatingEd). Join USPS at [bit.ly/JoinUSPS](https://bit.ly/JoinUSPS).

Copy the link below into your internet address line for the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZ3v6JHPVlo&list=PLglbejlMU2HeflYrldNBfQxhOLpd8pQG&index=7>

These videos are developed to provide a focus on boating safety and safe boating education. Hope you find them of interest.

## The Ensign Spring 2024 Issue



In our spring issue, our Down East Circle Route cruisers complete their journey, one member recalls boyhood boating adventures on the Cumberland River, and our paddlecraft guru recounts a harrowing rescue in the washing machine.

To read this issue, copy this link into your internet address line:

[https://theensign.org/imag/spring2024/?mc\\_cid=c527e05fed&mc\\_eid=bfac945e46](https://theensign.org/imag/spring2024/?mc_cid=c527e05fed&mc_eid=bfac945e46)

### Member Benefit Highlights



#### Boatfix - 24/7 Boat Monitoring

Monitors essential functions, alarm response, mechanical support, GPS tracking security

America's Boating Club Members save \$20 on the cost of the device with the purchase of a 1-year subscription. Call 844-340-3500 and tell them you want to join with the U.S. Power Squadrons Special Offer.

<https://www.usps.org/departments/14000/1450001/1450001-benefits/163-usps/administrative/member-benefits/1223>

**Your USPS certificate number is your ticket to real savings!**



## America's Boating Club of the Pamlico Ship Store

Our Administrative Officer, Liz Wheeler has PSPS Burgees, shown below, in stock and available at a cost of \$25.00/each.



Contact Liz at [administrativeofficer@pspsnc.com](mailto:administrativeofficer@pspsnc.com) to place your order or give her a call at 301-928-1056 with any questions.



The National Ship's Store is set up for direct ordering of many articles including shirts, sweatshirts, wind shirts, ties, belts and boating accessories. Certified instructor and vessel examiner shirts and gear are already available, gift items and much more.

See more at <https://store.shopusps.org> and review catalog of items.

Return Policy: if you should receive defective merchandise or you are not happy with your purchase, USPS will accept returns and exchanges of unworn, unwashed merchandise with a valid receipt within 90 days of purchase. Shipping Location: 1504 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27607



Reference the details in this link:

[https://www.usps.org/php/reservations/meetinginfo.php?mtg\\_id=49](https://www.usps.org/php/reservations/meetinginfo.php?mtg_id=49)

## Join or Renew Your Membership



## We appreciate you!

**Thank you,  
America's Boating Club of the  
Pamlico, for your continued  
promotion of  
boating safety and education!**



**The Cypress Landing Yacht  
Club**



**Ryan Whitford**  
Agency Owner  
Whitford & Associates, Inc.



**Allstate Insurance Company**  
700 West 15th Street  
Washington, NC 27889  
Phone 252-946-3904  
Phone 252-793-3232  
Fax 252-946-6860  
RyanWhitford@allstate.com  
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**We appreciate our virtual home at WYCC.**



Gas & Fuel available to all recreational boaters:  
Monday & Tuesday – By appt only  
Wednesday & Thursday – 11AM to 5PM  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday – 9AM to 5PM

*Thank You!*  
**to our Sponsors**

**America's Boating Club of the Pamlico is very grateful for the continued support of our local community. Your confidence has measurably helped the Squadron move forward with boating safety as well as other educational and civic programs.**

**United States Power Squadron February 2025 Caribbean Cruise**  
**7 days: February 9 – 16**  
**Itinerary: Bimini, Bahamas; Labadee, Haiti; Georgetown, Grand Cayman**  
**Special group pricing and details at:**  
**[https://www.usps.org/images/Exec/Nat\\_Meetings/2025cruise.jpg](https://www.usps.org/images/Exec/Nat_Meetings/2025cruise.jpg)**

**Must book through Dawn Eckhart in order to be included in the group and receive the exclusive group benefits. Email [dawn@dawnstraveldeals.com](mailto:dawn@dawnstraveldeals.com) or call (727) 403-0406**

**Contact Information**

**Bridge**

Commander  
Cdr [Walt Morrissey](#)

Executive Officer  
Lt/C [Mike Johnson](#), S

Educational Officer  
Lt/C [Bob Vecchi](#), P

Administrative Officer  
Lt/C [Linda Moyer](#)

Treasurer  
Lt/C [Tom Graham](#), SN

Secretary  
Lt/C [Marisa Morrissey](#)

Asst Education Officer  
Lt Cathy Karlovich, JN

Assistant Secretary  
Lt Edith Hope

Assistant Treasurer  
Lt Susan Stockman

Asst Admin-Social  
Lt [Lorne Hope](#), AP

Asst Admin-Boating  
Lt [Mike Karlovich](#), AP

**Executive Committee**

P/Lt/C Liz Wheeler  
P/Lt/C Chris Young, S  
P/Lt/C Ed Mann, AP  
Lt Cathy Karlovich, JN

**Other Contacts**

Membership Chair  
Lt [Sue Duclos](#)

Communications Officer  
P/Lt/C [Chris Young](#), S

Vessel Safety Chair  
[Walt Morrissey](#)

**National Awards Received**



**2023 Distinctive Communicator Award PSPS Website**



**2023 Distinctive Communicator Award PSPS Sound of the Pamlico Newsletter**

**District 27**



<https://district27.qbstores.com>  
Instant discount coupons and flat rate shipping available.



**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

For more information go to our PSPS Website Calendar [here](#):

**May**

TBD [Mellow Mushroom Social](#)  
18 [Marine Flea Market](#)  
Spring Heat Show  
- Chocowinity  
18 Kick off - National Safe Boating Week

**June**

11 [Boat Handling](#) – through 7/30 (7 wks)  
27 Paddle Smart Seminar  
Includes on the water Paddle 6/29

**July**

TBD Social Outing

**August**

2 – 3 [D27 Rendezvous](#) hosted By ABC-Pamlico  
22 General Membership Dinner Meeting

**Be Sure to Visit us on [PSPS Facebook](#)**

Sound of the Pamlico is published six times a year by the Pamlico Sail & Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadron know as America's Boating Club. The editor reserves the right to modify materials submitted for publication. Questions, articles or comments should be directed to the [Editor](#).