



United States Power Squadrons®

Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the FriendsSM

CROSSED ANCHORS

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May/June 2017



Commander

Lt/C Bill Davis, SN



Just like Felix my saga with my new/old boat continues. My daughter and her husband came up from New Orleans a couple of weeks ago, so I dragged my boat to the big town of Jamesville in eastern North Carolina where I grew up. Again you need to hunt the internet to find this place. Hint, it is not in Wisconsin which is the first location you will find. So on that Saturday I dropped it into the Roanoke River in Plymouth which, thanks to the wildlife folks, there is a really nice launch. It also had slips with facilities which is amazing in itself. I expect one day Plymouth will be competing with Beaufort for visitors!

Anyway everything was going fine until we got up river to the even more famous town of Jamesville 5 or 6 miles to the west. Then the engine died! Okay, it is a four stroke Yamaha with new plugs and oil. That's not it. Next the gas flow. After emptying the mini water separator on the engine we got it started again. Unfortunately we had to do this several times.

Background. When I bought the boat in July of 2016 it had quite a bit of fuel in it. Since then I have put non ethanol fuel in it but obviously I still haven't flushed out the original gas with ethanol and water yet. I saw in the paperwork that came with the boat that the previous owner had the fuel tank emptied once before to get the water out. Moral of the story. If your boat sits for long periods DO NOT USE GAS WITH ETHANOL. It's going to attract water and my engine for one, will not burn water. In the meantime I have bought this big filter/water separator to put on the boat.

At the June bridge meeting I discussed my progress with the Vessel Safety Check program. We are late this year getting this off the ground as I pointed out in the last newsletter. It took me a while to figure out how to get the stickers from National. It appears we have about 5 folks who are willing to take the test and get qualified with a certified instructor. Stand by. Molasses here is on the move. More instructions to follow.

As your serving Executive Officer as well I am supposed to organized or at least keep up with out of town activities. Actually most of this work takes care of itself thanks to a little help from my friends. (Beatles 1967 Yellow Submarine)

Word came back from sources that the Pirate Invasion is back on for August 11 and 12 in Beaufort, NC. I understand the attack comes by land on Friday and by sea on Saturday. I personally have not been attacked by pirates before (maybe a few Viet Cong but that was it). Sounded interesting and I am looking into it.

Next the D27 Rendezvous is August 25 -27 and I will be attending that. It was a lot of fun last year in Washington, NC. This year it is in Wilmington. Hard not to have a good time in Wilmington. Think about coming down for that one too.

There's more stuff planned for the fall so I will hold that barrage for the next newsletter. Hopefully Debbie will give you the lowdown on things we will be doing in town this summer. Stay tuned!



Educational Officer

Lt. Kin Cartrette

In last month's Crossed Anchors I closed by encouraging everyone to remember "Safety First"! It is pretty much a routine saying as sayings go, especially around boats and other sports where there is a risk that things can go badly. It doesn't take but just a moment for a lapse in judgement or lack of knowledge to have an impact.

On Friday, June 2nd, two boaters were preparing to fuel up at the Ocean Isle Fishing Center. For whatever reason, they mistakenly fueled the boat through a rod holder and not the fill pipe. After 28 gallons of gas they realized the mistake, stopped pumping, and called Sea Tow. When Sea Tow arrived, they found the men on the boat attempting to disconnect the battery which resulted in a spark and triggered an explosion. The two boaters were airlifted to area hospital burn centers and the Sea Tow worker was treated locally at Myrtle Beach. The men were engaging in a routine procedure for most boats and when they realized the mistake, did the right thing to correct it up to a point.

At the beginning of every boating season I watch to see if any accidents are happening. This year it was a loose kayak on High Rock Lake locally and the fire at Ocean Isle. When tragic moments like this happen, they serve as painful reminders that there are no good substitutes for solid boating education and procedures and staying alert. Things can and do go wrong and people forget things from fatigue or just lack of practice. Please encourage your boating friends to take one of the boating safety courses. We thoroughly cover topics such as refueling, trailering, marlinespike, and emergency procedures. It is easy for seasoned boaters to forget as well and need a refresher. In our last class Bill Davis sat in and set an example that perhaps we all should follow. Keeping up with the latest training is important.

Denny Brigadier asked about setting up an Americas Boating Course – 3 this summer for boaters in another local club. I am all for the idea and think a mid-summer course locally is needed for everyone. I am in the process of communicating with a couple of favorite sites and plan to offer the course hopefully in July/August. Watch your email for details and I'll also post on Facebook. We'll still offer our October ABC-3 class at the Old Town Recreation Center on Tuesday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

I'm still looking for students interested in taking the Marine Electronics or Junior Navigation courses have also had an inquiry about offering Piloting. If you are interested in taking or helping teach one of these courses, please email me at scoutingplus@aol.com or call me at (336) 413-6490. Please let me know ASAP and I'll get those courses set up!

Please remember that safe boating is no accident!

See you on the water soon!
Kin Cartrette





Fish House Chronicles

By P/C Don Breault, AP



Destination Beaufort, NC

While cruising the inner banks of our North Carolina shores, you will often come across some of our best natural hidden treasures this state has to offer. The Crystal Coast offers an abundance of clear water beaches you can actually see your toes from a few feet deep. Our broad and long sandy beaches are legendary. They have occasional sand dunes with the many sea oats growing from the base of these dunes.

These beaches will also support some of the best surfcasting in the world. This Crystal Coast also is a resting place for over 2,000 shipwrecks commonly called the “Grave Yard of the Atlantic”. Some of these wrecks are legendary from “Blackbeard’s” Queen Ann’s Revenge to a German U-Boat wreck left over from WWII. This coastline is dotted with several marina’s and marine services that attract the many snow birds who travel south in the fall and north in the early spring in search of a pleasant and historical place to stay along the way in their journey.

Families suffering from vacation desperation may partake in boat tours to one of my favorite places called Cape Lookout. These tours offer historic boat tours and wildlife tours to view our famous Shackleford Banks wild Mustangs. Family vacation fun can also build life time memories amidst the peace and serenity of the dunes on the Cape. Sometimes you may feel you are the only one on the beach because they are so vast stretching out for miles and miles. And for those who venture into the clear saltwater brine with gently slapping waves, you can walk out 200 yards and be only up to your knees. Now you are thinking that this may be a piece of heaven on earth, and sometimes you will have to pinch yourself to see if this is real or a dream.

Tucked behind Cape Lookout and Shackleford Banks is the little seaside town of Beaufort. This little village is deep rooted in maritime history. It is one of those special places that exist between the water and land. Founded in 1709, Beaufort remains today as a welcoming port of call for these many snowbirds and other local and long distance cruisers. Not far from the inlet leading to the vast waters of the North Atlantic and lying just 1 nautical mile from the ICW, Beaufort makes for a natural destination for blue water sailors and local cruisers who for the most part may be somewhat apprehensive to test their nautical skills in heavy surf. This entire area is rooted in history of famous watermen and has supported the boat building and fisheries industries for over 2 centuries.

You will want to sample the many local cuisines this seaside village has to offer as most restaurants offer the fresh catch of the day. Before your meal you will want to build that appetite with a stroll along the Beaufort Town Docks admiring the many transient cruisers who stopped off for a day or two for low keyed rest and relaxation while re-provisioning their cruisers for another few days at sail. As you stroll along these docks, venture a half block onto Water Street along Taylors Creek. Visit the many boutique and antique shops that provide the many colorful store front displays. You will also not want to miss the Maritime Museum. This facility is supported by donations only so there is no set fee to get in to view the many artifacts and historical displays about our Crystal Coastal areas from pre-historic to the modern day tourist industry that helps to support this area.

In addition to visiting the many art and antique shops, there is a significant historical section of town that will draw you into the past as you can just imagine what it was like to live so close to the waterfront as you would keep an eagle eye for your returning loved one to return safely from the sea. As you continue your stroll from the historic section back toward the waterfront, take in the serenity and view of the small island that shares the opposite shore line of Taylors Creek. Look to see the many seabirds that are foraging for their meal in the murky low tidal flats of this spit of land that can support more than you realize. This coastal island is home to over two dozen wild horses who are descendants from those horses who safely made to shore when the Spanish ships wrecked off of our coast line in the late 17th century. Very often you can get a view of these majestic animals grazing off the sea oats or drinking water from the fresh water pools left over from a recent rain shower. You can easily identify the “Bachelor” stallions that roam independently on their own and on occasion view the entire herd of mares and the alpha stallion who keeps charge of his harem.

If you have a smaller shallow draft boat and you are brave enough to venture down Taylors Creek, you can take in the many historic homes that dot the land mass on the west side of the creek to include a new marina named the “Boat House” which is a dry stack and large boat storage facility that is also boasting a small village for those who yearn for coastal living part time in a condo type of setting with all of the amenities. If you read your charts correctly and have some local knowledge of where the shoaling is, you can navigate alongside of Harker’s Island and venture into Cape Look Out from the back side. But always beware that channel markers do not necessarily mean the deepest part of the channel as this area is subjected to tide driven shoaling, especially after a recent storm.

After you get your “Fix” of Cape Lookout, you can venture back into Beaufort and either take up a wet slip in the town docks or get a room at a waterfront hotel. If you are a night life person during the season, you may have your pick of live entertainment along the waterfront. There is always something going on during a weekend in Beaufort and most of the time it involves a fiddle, or an acoustical guitar, or a combination of a small band matched with a great vocalist. Most of the music is local and you will only hear this in Beaufort. Not New York, and not in Nashville, but only in Beaufort. You can join the many locals as they “clog “ to the beat of the music on the docks, and many will be sipping their favorite adult beverages as they sit and become mesmerized by the sounds of the music and the ocean nearby. Later that evening as you retire to your cabin in the boat or that lovely hotel room with such a view, you will soon realize that you have been given another fix. Yes that Beaufort fix. A fix you can take with you in the back roads of your mind as you venture off to another destination the next day. Or for some, they just may stay awhile until they feel the need to move on. Caution to those who are not aware of how addictive this experience can be. Beaufort can be so addictive; some will never want to leave.

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See You On The Water

P/C Don Breault

“Still Boatless”

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