

United States Power Squadrons®

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



CROSSED ANCHORS

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A lovely picture of Lake Norman right after an afternoon rainstorm. Bill Davis's boat on the right of the dock.

We had a wonderful day, thanks to Jim and Genny for sharing their lovely home with us.



Commander

Lt/C Bill Davis, SN



NOW we have some decent boating weather, finally. However, I am told "Don't go in the water" if you are at the coast. Too much pig poop was the reason given. Nevertheless. Jim and Genny Frazier were very generous to host the group at their home on Lake Norman August 18th. Jim recommended I use a closer boat ramp to his house to bring my boat in by sea as opposed to everyone else coming by land. But the old girl (my 13 year old boat) needed the exercise so we launched from Blythe Landing near the [McGuire Nuclear Station on the south end of the lake. It didn't help that I forgot the plug](#) in the stern. Actually I wanted to test the pumping capacity of the bilge pump which proved to be excellent. You all believe that don't you!

Anyway the weather was great and we were entertained with a brief shower about 5 PM and to a beautiful rainbow afterward complete with a pot of gold.

As most of you may know the Doubletree at Atlantic Beach got its first floor flooded out during Florence so they had to close the month of October for repairs. I. E. we aren't going there for the D27 Fall Conference. It will now be at the Doubletree in the Raleigh Durham area. A delegation of us will be attending the weekend of October 20.

Cathy and I will be going to Charleston the weekend before for the Greensboro Power Squadron outing to see the Hunley and other planned activities. I hope to see KB and Cindy while there.

We have other exciting news to share but, like any good saga, we will pass it along as the story unfolds



Educational Officer

Lt. Kin Cartrette

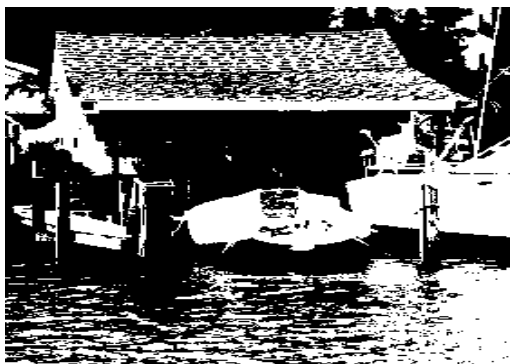
The fall has started off with a nice bit of momentum for WSSPS education! On Saturday, September 29th, four youth and two adults took and passed the Americas Boating Course – 3 at the Old North State Council BSA office in Greensboro. Congratulations to those young Scouts and their adult leaders. If you know of groups or are a member of a group, youth or adult, that would like to take the ABC-3 class locally, please let me know!

The Americas Boating Course – 3 class at Polo Park Recreation Center has two folks attending and possibly a third joining us next Thursday. The class is being taught on Thursdays, October 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, and November 1st from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Polo Park Recreation Center is located at 1850 Polo Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27106.

Our spring class will be a one-day class taught on Saturday, March 30th, 2019 at Salem Lake in Winston-Salem. Cost for the class is \$26 to cover the cost of the educational materials. Please talk it up among family members, friends, and fellow boaters! Fun boating begins with safe boating!

To better serve the educational needs of the WSSPS membership I would like your input into which courses and seminars that you would like to see us offer. Please click on the link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/86PKC9H> and complete this eight-question survey on Survey Monkey. Results of the survey will be used to plan courses and seminars for the fall and winter.

Fair winds and following seas!



Fish House Chronicles

By P/C Don Breault, AP

Felix Gets A New Boat

Now for those of you who have been following our dear friend Felix and his adventures along the North Carolina Coast, you will remember that Felix decided to buy a new boat. He has placed “Ester” his century old wooden schooner he inherited from his late Great, Great, Uncle Ernie. Because Felix was unable to keep up with the many repairs and needed updating on “Ester”, he practically sold it for a modified salvage value using a very fast talking and “slick” character named “Ronald” the boat broker. This gave Felix the opportunity to make another clean start in replacing his beloved “Ester” with a much newer and lower maintenance type of boat.

A smaller “Down Eastern” style power boat. After searching the internet and many displays adds in the latest boating type magazines, Felix discovers a boat that strikes his fancy and he is sure this is the one that Mandy his new wife will easily approve of. The name of this new boat is called “Fish Kettle”. It is a small 30 foot single screw down east style pilot house boat with a larger open cockpit and small cabin ideal for just 2 people. Mandy being the trustworthy wife trusts Felix to make the right choice for this cruising family, so she leaves all of the traveling and initial negotiating up to Felix. This process takes a couple of months as Felix sees the market as having plenty of inventory. After a recent couple of Hurricanes that came through Florida, Felix sees the market appears to be saturated with used boats for sale in this region. Felix wonders why? Oh well, Felix is very confident that he knows what he is doing. Felix strikes the deal on the internet.

The next step for Felix will be to do the prudent thing of arranging for a Marine Survey on this newer boat. This will be an experience for Felix as he has no clue what to expect. So who does he call? His Brother Hector. Now Hector is not a marine surveyor, but an old salt who pretends to be a big game sport fisherman. We all know that great fishing story Hector likes to retell over and over again on the porch of the fish house. His story of that big one that got away always grows a foot or two with the number of beers he consumes. But Felix trusts his brother Hector to help him decide if this new boat purchase is the right boat. So off to Florida the two go in Hectors older beat up Ram Charger SUV. Destination: Mexico Beach, FL.

Now the broker who represents the seller on this boat tells Felix this boat is like new. It is sitting on the “hard” and has little salt water in it as it appears to be high & dry. Felix asked if the boat leaks and the broker told him that every boat leaks, but this one leaks less than most boats. That was convincing enough for Felix along with some older outdated pictures of the boat Felix saw on the internet. What really attracted Felix to this particular boat were the words in the add: “Price reduction” seller wants to move this boat and will entertain all offers. Felix makes an offer of \$10,000 and it is accepted right away so Felix feels he is getting a steal.

The next day Felix & Hector arrive in the vicinity of Panama City and what they saw was something to remember for a life time. The number of used boats all stacked up on the hard with for sale signs on them. There were sail boats, power boats of all sizes and types. There were many boats sitting on trailers of all sorts with some trailers not even matching the load they were carrying. It was one right after another. Hector & Felix were swimming in used boats. There were so many available to look at. Hector commented that he thought there were a thousand or more boats for sale. Felix calls the broker and tells him where they are and the broker plans to meet them near a remote marina.

The two brothers arrive at the marina and thought it was odd that there were no boat docks or boats in the boat yard. The broker shows up, and after the pleasantries are over, he directs them to follow him where "Fish Kettle" is located. It takes them another 45 minutes of back roads driving between various canals and low country swamp lands until they finally arrive at a back woods fish camp that is isolated from the rest of the world, with the looks of a Halloween movie setting of many live oaks with Spanish moss growing down in clumps. There were mosquitoes as big as sparrows carrying off dead field mice to suck out the remaining blood. Felix nudges his brother that he has a bad feeling about this one. After they park next to a fallen down remains of a shack that once was someone's house, they observed an older man coming out of the shack. His appearance was between frightening and scary. He had on an old oil soaked baseball cap on his head of oily greasy hair that has not been washed in a year or more. The old man had no front teeth and needed a shave along with the odor of something like low tide in an oyster bed. He had on oil and blood soaked bib overalls and was barefoot as his toes squished mud between them as he walk toward the two brothers and the broker. The broker introduced this old man as his cousin Billy Ray Bob Cooter. He told the two brothers just call him Cooter for short.

Now Cooter had little or no manners because he gave the two brothers from North Carolina a look of distrust because he thought they were a couple of city slickers from up north. He was carrying a small jug of some sort of liquid that had a strong odor of alcohol but the smell and stench from this nasty old man seemed to cover it up somewhat. The old man asked his cousin if these two boys were the ones that were interested in his boat "Fish Kettle". The broker replied with an up and down nod of his head. Follow me bleated the old man. They walk down to a wooden dilapidated dock that was leaning into the water by 45 degrees. Tied to the dock was a small 18' center console and the old man told everyone to get in. This is not the boat I bought on the internet said Felix. It's not, said the broker. This is the boat that we need to take to get to your boat. So with a quick turn of the key the 4 of them sped off in a flash zig zagging through a series of canals and swamp passages that even gave Hector the creepy feeling that "Deliverance" was about to happen all over again but this time he could be the little piggy. They arrived 20 minutes later to a deserted island in the middle of the swamp protected by snakes and alligators. The canopy of this area gave it the light of dusk at best so visibility was not so great if the sun gets any lower. They tie up the small center console to a wooden post that was rotting at the base and they jumped on to what appeared to be dry ground that moved a bit. Hopefully it was not the back side of a sleeping reptile. The four of them walked in single file on a beaten path laden with dead fish and bones of small mammals half eaten by something with crushing teeth like an alligator.

After 15 minutes of walking they came across the appearance of what Felix thought was the boat he bought on the internet. As they grew closer, there it was docked against a small wooden pier and the words on the stern grew in size as they got even closer revealing the words “Fish Kettle”. As they approached the dock, Felix could not wait to shout out “this is it”. “This is the boat I found on the internet”. The old man leading the way toward the boat told the two brothers to hold off from boarding her as he had to evict the tenants inside first. Tenants asked Hector? Are you renting this boat cabin as a shelter or somewhat to other people? The old man said don’t be alarmed as they were just family displaced from a recent storm. The old man pounded on the side of the cabin and said we have company, so get decent and come out so these two men can take a closer look at the cabin.

In two or three minutes, there were some sounds of a couple of young female voices talking and hurrying to get on clothes. They emerged in a few more seconds revealing themselves to Felix & Hector as they climbed out on to the helm deck from the cabin below. One of the younger women appeared to be in her early 20’s with long straggly hair that has not been combed in a while. Her hygiene also reflected her hairstyle and when she spoke it was obvious that her dental work was nonexistent. The second girl appeared right behind her and looked identical.

Cooter introduced them as his other cousins. Hector thought to himself that this resembles a scene he remembered in “Lil Abner”. Just great he thought, what a fix we could be in. Somewhere in the back woods swamp land of Florida stuck between “Deliverance” and “Moonshine Magic”. How are we to ever get out of this one he thought to himself.

At that time the broker interjected, that here it is, take a look for yourself and make sure this is the boat you wanted. So down below the two brothers went to check things out. They opened the engine hatch and looked around and saw that the boat was somewhat cared for but needed cleaning as there appeared to be some significant water line stains about 2 feet below the gunnels. The engine started and seemed to run ok. The electronics did not work and neither did the compass as it always pointed south. The head seemed to be not working either as the stench from it was enough to knock down a charging bull.

Felix told the broker he was ok with the boat and he will take it for the agreed price and he handed the broker the \$10,000. The broker had to negotiate with his cousin Cooter. After a few minutes with all of the cousins together in a huddle, the broker came back and said there is a couple more things we need for you to do for our family before we can let you leave this place with this boat. Felix had the look of Fright on his face that resembled the movie “Friday The 13th “. Hector gulped and hesitantly asked; “What is it we need to do?”

Stay tuned for the next chapter of “Felix Gets a New Boat” to find out how he and Hector get themselves out of this fix!



2018 Bridge Officers

Commander Lt/C Bill Davis, SN – mail to: wld122@aol.com (336) 817-0347
Executive Officer Lt/C Bill Davis, SN – mail to: wld122@aol.com (336) 817-0347
Administrative Officer David Jackson, S—cjackson12.dj@gmail.com (336-341-2552)
Secretary Shirley Kennedy—sawk1942@yahoo.com (336-748-9205)
Treasurer P/C Eddie Shinlever, P – mail to: eshinlever@triad.rr.com (336) 368-5046
Educational Officer Lt/C Kin Cartrette, P – mail to: scoutingplus@aol.com (336) 413-6490
Newsletter Editor Lt Sheila Breault, S – mail to: WSSPSNewsletter@gmail.com (336) 712-0661
Past Commander P/C Eddie Shinlever, P – mail to: eshinlever@triad.rr.com (336) 368-5046
Vessel Check Lt Gary Lewis, AP – mail to: glewis@r
Membership P/C Dawn Gaskill, AP – mail to: dawnatg@aol.com (336) 785-0996
Members at Large: Lt. Jim Frazier S, Faye London, Tisha London, P/C Dawn Gaskill, AP
Nominating Committee: Lt/C Eddie Shinlever, P, P/C Debbie Mayfield S, P/C Reid London

Feel free to contact any of the above if you have questions. Our meetings are always open to the public.
Please visit with us anytime.

Balance of our Calendar of Events for 2018.

Wed, Oct 17	Membership Meeting - Bleu Restaurant* 1800 hr
Oct 19-20	D27 Fall Council/Conference Meeting - Atlantic Beach, NC - Doubletree
Mon, Nov 5	Executive Meeting - Mayberry's 1800 hr
Wed, Nov 14	Membership Meeting - Bleu Restaurant* 1800 hr The Year in Review - Bill Davis Visit from D/C Greg Shay, JN-CAN,
Wed, Dec 12	Squadron Christmas Party - TBD 1800 hr
Mon, Jan 7	Executive Meeting TBD 1800 hr
Sat, Jan 12	D27 Winter Training - Cary Resurrection Lutheran, Cary, NC
Sat Feb 2	WSSPS Change of Watch, TBD 1800 hr
Mon, Feb 4	Executive Meeting - Mayberry's 1800 hr
Feb 20-24, 2019	Spring Annual Meeting - Orlando, FL
Mar 22-24, 2019	Spring Council/Conference & COW - Raleigh, NC

Articles in the WSSPS Crossed Anchors reflect the opinions of the authors. United States Power Squadron is not responsible for editorial content. Readers' comments, suggestions, and contributions are welcome. Please contact any of the bridge officers.