



United States Power Squadrons®

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

CROSSED ANCHORS

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December 2019



Our Christmas Party was held at the North Point Grill on Wednesday, December 11.

We had a Christmas Hat contest and exchange of gifts as “The Night Before Christmas” was read by Don Breault.

Great food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.



Commander

Lt/C Bill Davis, SN



After an epic battle with Microsoft and their Techsoup “low cost” programs I think I may have won a partial battle, maybe not the war. But then again, I haven’t got this Word document to your newsletter editor yet so the war may still be on. I have spent at least two hours getting Office 2019 to load. Of course, they would love for you to sign up for Office 365 with a subscription like every other service we have, i. e., TV, internet, phone, water bill, rent, insurance, estimated taxes, shall I go on?

Actually, boating may have slowed down for the winter, but we still gather for parties, the winter solstice, Christmas, New Year’s Eve events, D27 training, and our 60th Change of Watch. That’s right. 60 years of survival. The only thing I know older than that is me!

Speaking of parties, I’m sure Sheila will post for you pictures of our other than planned location for our Christmas party. That was interesting but turned out well anyway.

Pat promised three interesting speakers at the D27 training in January so we will postpostyou.on that. When bored to tears in January, consider coming for the training and fellowship.

And especially plan for the COW February 1. We have some surprise awards in store for that event.

So, in the meantime ma is in her kerchief and I’m in my cap will settle down for a long winter’s nap.



Administrative Officer

David Jackson



I want to extend a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of our members. I know everyone like me, is busy planning gatherings and working on their gift lists. This time of year there never seems to be enough time to do the shopping and all of the wrapping.

Let us not forget all of the work to tuck in the boats and get ready for their long winter nap.

We were able to have a swell Christmas party after some changes. For those who were busy and tied up, when we got to 66 Grill on Wednesday night we were greeted with a sign that said they were closed due to a water main break. Debbie and I had met with them on Monday and everything was set, right down to the tables and boneless wings! With a quick location change to North Point Grill the party went off as planned. Thanks to Faye for helping with the phone calls and thanks to everyone for your hard work and participation. We had a good time and the food was excellent.

Our next big event will be the Change of Watch on Saturday February 1. Put this date on your phone and in your calendar, and we hope to see everyone there. We will be celebrating our 60 years as an organization.

We will also have an executive meeting on January 6 at North Point Grill to go over plans for the Change of Watch. I am still working on all of our meeting locations. We have some changes in the New Year and may have some different locations. Our membership meetings are still scheduled for Bleu restaurant at this time. Our next membership meeting is Wednesday February the 12th. Please note, we will not have a membership meeting in January. I am working on activities for this next year and will appreciate any suggestions. Some ideas working are the Elkin Wine Festival, Pirate invasion, Lake Norman retreat, a Picnic and a program from the Yadkin River keeper.

I hope to see you soon
Thanks for your support.

Lt/C David Jackson, S

Admin Officer, America's Boating Club of Winston Salem

Educational Officer

Lt. Kin Cartrette



On Sunday, December 8th, Sea Scout Ship 924 participated in the Rural Hall Christmas parade. The youth decided to decorate their Southern 21 sloop “Capn’ Mac” and march in formation with the U.S. and Ship’s flag in front. The reception by the crowd was interesting. Several spectators were heard to make comments about boats, fishing, and specialized Scout unit. Several youth along the route took note of the “big” boat. More than once we had to slow as folks would walk out in front of us to snap a picture of the Scouts with the big boat. This is the third time that the Ship has participated in a parade, two Rural Hall Christmas Parades and a Veterans’ Day Parade, and the response from the crowd has always been good for the Scouts with the big boats. The participation by our Scouts was impressive, only two were unable to march in the parade. They unanimously decided to participate next year. Ship 924 was reactivated by the Winston-Salem Sail and Power Squadron and the Winston-Salem Friends Meeting in 2003 and have since been supported and trained by the WSSPS. The sponsorship of Ship 924 began after the development of a Memorandum of Agreement in 2002 between the United States Power Squadrons and Boy Scouts of America to sponsor and train Sea Scout Ships across the U.S. Ship 924 currently meets at New Hope United Methodist Church on Monday nights.

On Saturday, March 28th, the WSSPS is planning to offer the ABC-3 course as a day-long class at Salem Lake as part of “Creek Week”. Cost for the class is \$26 to cover the cost of the course manual. The Salem Lake staff has also agreed to let us do Vessel Safety Checks at the ramp as part of the day’s activities. More details coming!

If you would like to register for these classes please contact me at (336) 413-6490 or email scoutingplus@aol.com. Watch your email and the WSSPS website and Facebook page for updates. Enjoy the North Carolina winter and boat when you can!

Yo Ho Ho and Merry Christmas!

Kin





Fish House Chronicles

By P/C Don Breault, AP

“The Adventures of Felix Returns” Felix & Mandy take a holiday cruise to Oriental!

Now it was a year ago when Felix and Hector bought a new boat from a “cagey” fellow named Cooter in Florida. The boat name is: “You Call, We Haul”. It has taken Felix most of the year to re-fit and restore this smaller lobster style cabin boat. Sleeping quarters, air conditioning, and a good toilet in the head that actually works were all looked after to include new electronics and canvas. After several off-shore sea trials, Felix feels pretty confident that this new boat of his will do the job just fine for two adults cruising the Carolina Coast. And on occasion, Felix can actually fish from the open style cockpit when he does day trips with the boys. (and with all of the rod holders, Felix can even pretend to be fishing while napping in the bunk).

The month of December rolls around but once every year, and the village of Oriental has a real live celebration going on a week before Christmas. They have a great Christmas Parade, and a Dragon Dance for good luck along with a late night party at the Oriental Marina Inn with live entertainment. The weather forecast is reported to be a balmy 65 degrees that weekend and very pleasant into the evening hours. So the decision was overwhelmingly unanimous to leave the Fish House late afternoon on a Friday and get to Oriental around 7 pm.

Felix & Mandy packed the boat with light provisions, clothing, and plenty of libations for the weekend. They unplugged and cast off from the Fish House docks and into the late afternoon sun they sailed northbound along the ICW. Not much boat traffic to contend with this time of year, and they left just after the high tide so there was plenty of water under her keel. All systems were working well and the new chart plotter tied into the radar and auto pilot worked flawlessly for Felix as he set one waypoint after another to reach the open expanses of the Neuse River near the end of Adams Creek. The sun had already set, and the sunset was a beautiful Kodak moment as Mandy asked Felix to slow down so she could get some pics of the blazing orange and yellows over the coastline along the Neuse River. What a beautiful sight to see at the end of the day.

As they turned North East into the wide part of the Neuse, Mandy asked Felix to pick up some speed so they would have time to tie up and kick back with a few libations before going to bed. Felix complied and pushed the throttle listening to the roar of that sweet sound of a turbo charged diesel make rooster tails of the water behind them. After 3 minutes of high speed cruising, something began to go wrong. The engine began to spit, sputter and loose power with no warning what so-ever. Mandy asked Felix if they are alright and the look on his face was something she had seen before. Maybe several times before. Especially when Felix was just learning how to use a VHF radio many years ago. Then the engine quit and the came to an almost abrupt stop just drifting with the current in the middle of the Neuse River.

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It is late December on a Friday evening and this cruising couple are a-drift in a large river with many navigational hazards around them, and the current is ebbing back toward the Pamlico Sound. Felix opens the engine hatch and uses a flashlight to look to see if there was any water entering the boat and or some other liquid spitting over the engine. He found nothing. He asked Mandy to try and start the engine and she just turned over and over. No way was she getting started. Now Mandy being a Woman of the Sea, knows that women are always right when there is a problem to get solved, she thought for a second and asked the obvious question. "Are we out of Fuel?" Felix being the micro managed man he was remembered to make sure oil was up, seacocks were working, electronics came up as needed and safety equipment was intact. But Felix just remembered he forgot to re-fuel the boat the last time he used her and he checked his logs to find out there was less than 1/8 of a tank of fuel when they left the Fish House. And yes, Felix replied, we are out of fuel.

With no propulsion, and nightfall already blanketed the area, all they could do is keep the running lights on for being somewhat visible and pray the current won't force them aground into some rock jetty somewhere. Mandy recommended that Felix get his flare gun and maybe use up some of those expired flares he always kept aboard in case something like this ever happened. Felix said good idea so he got the flare kit and loaded one 12 gauge meteor in the pistol. Mandy heard some party goers along the shore having a good time so it was recommended to shoot a couple of flare in that direction to get their attention. The first flare shot in that direction and a second. Then in less than 10 seconds the party people along the shore saw the flares. They began to shout and cheer and clap. Felix quickly fired 3 more in that same direction and the roar of laughter and applause began to increase. Mandy thought she heard someone say, great fireworks, keep them coming! Felix was now down to his last 3 flares and they continued to drift away from the shore party.

The minutes turned to hours as the temperature dropped below 40 degrees and a cold North West wind crept up putting a chill into the boat and on to the cruising couple who did not remember to bring heavy outer wear. The boat continued to drift further into the Pamlico Sound and soon the sight of land went out of sight. This made it somewhat scary for Mandy who is nervous if she cannot see a land form nearby. Then off into the distance heading South East toward the stranded couple, a small center console was making headway speed. Only one running light was lit and they thought they could hear singing coming from the center console. Felix responded and fired a flare in the direction of the small craft, and then another. That second shot worked as the small boat changed course and was heading straight toward the small cabin cruiser. As the center console got within 100 yards, Felix fired his last flare and Mandy got the Bull Horn Denny gave her as a gift last year and hailed the other boat. (Felix did not think quick enough to use the VHF).

As the center console pulled up alongside, Felix & Mandy could not believe their eyes. A crusty old salt of a man in his 60's with shaggy hair and an untrimmed beard wearing a bib overall type of slicker and was also barefoot while he was holding a can of PBR. He asked if there was a problem here. Mandy said they were out of, but Felix quickly jumped in and said we have engine trouble, and it just quit on them as they were trying to cross the Neuse. The old salt replied "that you land lubbers have no dam business out here during the night. This is our sound for fishing and not for cruising and partying." Felix said he was trying to teach his wife how to fish for stripers at night. So the old salt took pity on them and said, "tie me up a bridle so I can tow you two pathetic wannabe fishermen to safety." So Felix complied and handed the old salt the bridle that was tied by someone who never took Leon's course in Marlin Spike.

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The old salt then reached into his cooler and pulled out 2 more PBR's and threw one to Felix with a wink of an eye. Felix caught the beer and popped the top open. The old salt said to the couple to sit back and enjoy the ride. Mandy thought she heard the old salt singing to himself about "Swimmin with bowlegged women".

After a few miles heading toward Oriental, the old salt stopped to tell a story about him losing his virginity in this very same spot on the Neuse River. The tow continued and the singing along with it. The old salt turned back and asked where Felix lost his virginity. Then more singing with some sounds Mandy has heard before about an "Old Spanish Lady". Then the tow stopped once more as the old salt turned to describe this place on the Neuse River that 25 years ago he saved a small Doe who was distressed trying to swim across the river alone. Then another PBR was consumed and the empty can was crushed and tossed on to the deck of the small boat. The tow continued and 2 hours later they were entering Oriental Harbor marina.

Now the old salt gave Felix specific instructions on how to dock the boat as he would sling shot them in-between two docks. With the experience of a man of the sea handling boats all of his life the towed cruiser was expertly slung between the two finger docks next to the fuel dock. Seems that the old salt really knew the reason they were stranded but spared Felix the embarrassment.

Mandy offered the old salt a reward and he declined and replied, "I need to be on my way because I have a date tonight in Beaufort with an old widowed lady. Time is too short for old salts like me, and I have to get it while it is still for free."

And off into the darkness he motored with more singing and the sound of another empty can of beer rolling on the deck beneath his bare feet. Mandy thought she heard him say as he drifted further away from the breakwater, Merry Christmas to you Land Lubbers. And may you all fish better tonight!!

See You on The Water
P/C Don Breault
"Island Girl"





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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.



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