

America's Boating Club of Winston-Salem



CROSSED ANCHORS



January/February 2021

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

Highlighting Cape Hatteras Lighthouse



The stunning **Cape Hatteras Lighthouse on [Hatteras Island](#), North Carolina**, enjoys the distinction of being the tallest lighthouse in the country, and one of the most recognized lighthouses in the world thanks to its pattern of black and white candy cane stripes. Often referred to as America's Lighthouse, the fully-functioning **Cape Hatteras lighthouse** still flashes a nightly beacon that rotates every 7 seconds and can be seen up to 20 miles out to sea.

Because of the treacherous **Diamond Shoals**, the intersecting and ever-changing currents off of Buxton's Cape Point, a lighthouse was imperative for ships passing this stretch of the Outer Banks. Hundreds and possibly thousands of shipwrecks in this area have given it the nickname of "Graveyard of the Atlantic". In 1797, Congress responded and authorized the building of a lighthouse.

This first lighthouse was completed in 1803, and was considered poorly constructed from its first day of service. At only 90 feet, the beacon's reach and visibility were simply inadequate. In 1854, the **original lighthouse** was renovated to stand 150 feet tall, and a Fresnel lens, one of the best at the time, was installed. This did little good, as the lighthouse, (constructed out of sandstone), continued to get cracks, and an entirely new lighthouse was recommended.

Legend has it that during the design process of the new lighthouse, an engineer in charge of the lighthouse's design had originally intended to give it a black diamond print, as an indication of the dangerous **Diamond Shoals** it bordered. Instead, the engineer accidentally mixed up the plans, and Cape Lookout's lighthouse now sports the black diamond design. **Hatteras Island's lighthouse** received the black and white candy cane stripes instead.

The new **Cape Hatteras lighthouse**, the one that stands today, was activated in December 1870. Towering at 210 ft and located 1,500 ft from the water's edge, it served as an imperative navigational aid for ships for decades. Comprised of 1,250,000 bricks with an iron infrastructure, the lighthouse has withstood generations of hurricanes with minimal damage.

Erosion, however, was one weather phenomenon that even the lighthouse could not withstand. In the summer of 1999, the Cape Hatteras Light was moved from its original location 2900 ft. back into Buxton woods to its present location. The move took a total of 23 days (including 2 days when there was no forward progress) reaching its new home on July 9th. Despite both local and visitor concerns, the move resulted in no significant damage to the well-loved national landmark.

Today, visitors are welcome to make the long 269 step climb (the equivalent of a 12 story building) to the very top of the lighthouse, where they are greeted with phenomenal bird's eye views of Hatteras Island and the Atlantic Ocean.

As one of the 4 remarkable lighthouses that dot the landscape of the Outer Banks, the **Cape Hatteras Light house in North Carolina** simply stands out for its size, its notoriety, and its amazing views that can be explored and enjoyed by all Hatteras Island visitors.

When visiting Hatteras Island, make sure you stop to visit the lighthouse. And if you are up to a good cardiac workout, the view is amazing. Contact the [National Park Service official Cape Hatteras Lighthouse website](#) for information about climbing the lighthouse (and to see why so many choose this historic site when looking for **Cape Hatteras things to do**)

Commander

Lt/C Bill Davis, SN



So Sheila wants me to write something interesting and witty in January with the rain and ice falling out of the sky. Great! Yes, we haven't met in person for 10 months now so we have no fish story lies to swap, nobody has done anything to win the DEWDA award, and my boat is still broke so I have no repair saga to regale about.

We did have our virtual 2021 COW on January 27 and it went surprising well. We had 21 in attendance and covered the news such as it was. Of significance was a commendation from district for Sheila's work in 2020 for communication efforts to keep us connected. See below. Thanks Sheila.

Dear Sheila,
Congratulations, CROSSED ANCHORS has been awarded the 2020 Distinctive Communicator Award. Your hard work and dedication are evident in the quality of your newsletter.
Regards,
Kathleen Lambert
D27 Squadron Newsletter Adviser

Also in from national is that a grant has been provided to USPS for up to 20 free ABC books. Kin is looking into applying for those books. He is hoping life will return to some normalcy later this year and we can perhaps conduct a Saturday class at Salem Lake. He has been full speed ahead with his Sea Scouts this past year.

By the way we have 2021 Vessel Safety Check decals in and they are a pretty blue this year. Now if we can ever get cut loose to stick them on boats. In particular I need one for my boat but my friend in Greensboro is out of the loop now so I guess I will ask for an inspection on the USPS website and see who volunteers other than my name coming up.

I will report that, based on feedback I have had, we will transfer to the Zoom app for our monthly meetings. We will be getting you information on that communication method later. I suspect many of you have already been using Zoom for other communication means.

Cont'd next page.

We have a bit of a conundrum regarding merit marks. I was able to submit 5 names last fall for MM's which were obvious for approval. However there are a number of others that participate in yearly activities and bridge meetings that could not for reasons we all understand. I wrote the Area Monitor of merit marks in D27 and got back a fairly generic reply that didn't help me much. I need to sleep on this and smoke it over too to see what we can justify for approvals. Stand by on that one.

Just to throw in some personal boating news I am so looking forward to better weather so I can try out my new boat box for the lower unit of my engine. I featured that to you in the last newsletter. In the meantime, I am studying diagrams from various websites to understand the internal workings of my engine and see how many ways gasoline could pass thru the engine and end up in the water. SIM Yamaha is my favorite. The YouTube's have been fairly useless.

Administrative Officer

David Jackson



Dear Fellow Members,

What a year 2020 was. We were able to do only a few things this past year. Luckily, we did not implode and fade away. When you can't meet and socialize, it makes it hard to do club activities. Thanks to Bill for working hard to keep us going, for my part all we could do is show support. Hopeful 2021 is going to be much better, and can get on track to resume some events. I know we will be virtual for a little longer.

I will have my second shot next week and the advice is to continue with the three W's for the time being. Hopefully everyone is able to get the shots, and advice is that if every one has had the shots you can gather in groups and not mask up. We will have to see.

I am looking forward to doing some meetings out doors when the weather gets warmer, a picnic in May or June would be good. But we will continue to stay home and work on household projects. I am about to get sick of painting!

With the COW behind us Bill and I will work on some calendar events when it is safe. Until then everyone get your shots and stay safe!

I am looking forward to working with each one of you to have a productive year.

Thanks for your support.

LtC David Jackson, S

Admin Officer, Americas Boating Club of Winston Salem.

Education Officer

Lt Kin Cartrette



Boating education is beginning to make some headway and get back on course! As I reported to you in the last issue of the Crossed Anchors, two of our Sea Scouts and one adult leader insisted on taking an in-person class rather than go online. We were able to hold the ABC-3 class for the three students at New Hope United Methodist Church and follow the COVID 19 guidelines. That was the first in-person class that we have been able to teach since the pandemic closure began one year ago. Last year we had an ABC-3 class and Vessel Safety Check scheduled at Salem Lake which had to be cancelled when the Winston-Salem Parks and Recreation closed its facilities due to COVID 19.

With the COVID vaccinations being administered and folks following the COVID procedures and recommendations, hopefully we will be able to safely offer in-person classes in the fall (fingers crossed). The United States Power Squadrons Educational Department has come up with an idea on how to help locally. After a survey of Squadron Education Officers, it was determined that the price of educational materials made our courses too costly for most boaters in our areas. Educational Fund trustee P/R/C Nigel Hargreaves came up with the idea of offering each squadron 20 copies of the Americas Boating Course – 3 (2018) materials free of charge! The cost of the materials is being paid for by an Education Fund grant. The materials for the Winston-Salem Sail and Power Squadron have been ordered. We will be ready when the “all clear” is given to begin teaching classes again. Hopefully we will be able to put together a day-long ABC-3 class/Vessel Safety Check at Salem Lake or one of the other area lakes before years end.

In the meantime, here are virtual classes that people can take to earn their boating license and the United States Power Squadrons also offers specialized seminars online for those interested. Here is a list of boating safety courses that are offered online that meet the requirements for a North Carolina state boating license. All of these courses cost \$34.95 online:

Americas Boating Course 3 - <http://www.americasboatingcourse.com/> This is the course that is taught by Americas Boating Club/United States Power Squadrons.

Aceboater - <https://aceboater.com/usa/north-carolina>

BOATSmart - <https://www.boatsmartexam.com/us/north-carolina/>

Boat US Foundation - <http://www.boatus.org/courses/>

Boat Ed - <https://www.boat-ed.com/northcarolina/>

I could not find a site for the online US Coast Guard Auxiliary "About Boating Safety" course, but the web address for the USCGAUX classes is <http://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/>.

Stay safe and stay in touch! We'll be back on the water soon!

Fair Winds!

Kin Cartrette, P.



Fish House Chronicles

By P/C Don Breault, AP

“The Navigationally Challenged”

Felix has a very good friend named Alfonse but everyone calls him “AJ”. AJ spent 20 years in the Navy doing all sorts of jobs because while on board a war ship, there are thousands of jobs to be done with most being below decks. So AJ with all of his years at sea, not once did he ever master the skill of how to read a chart or use a depth finder. Being retired from the Navy, AJ now lives in a small village in Harkers Island, NC. So what do Harkers Island people do for recreation besides fish? They cruise on any type of boat they can build, restore, find abandoned, or someone else’s boat.

AJ invites Felix and Mandy to spend a weekend on his new boat he found abandoned in Adams Creek while fishing one winter afternoon last year. This boat appears to be a 35 year old trawler that was obviously abandoned after a recent storm. So AJ gets some help from other Harkers Island people to re-float this 38 footer and tow it back to his dock on Core Creek. It took AJ a better part of the winter of 2020 to patch this boat and rebuild the old Perkins diesel. AJ’s wife never liked boating and for sure she was not enthused with the time, money, and attention this new venture was taking away from the family, but being a good partner, she said nothing. At least nothing directly to AJ.

It was a beautiful early spring day when Felix arrived with Mandy in tow. They settled in on the guest cabin and AJ’s wife speaking to Felix in confidence shared the intimate details of AJ’s lack of navigation skills. In essence, she said AJ was an idiot when comes to piloting any type of boat. Felix has not seen AJ or his wife in maybe 3 years since they moved to Harkers Island, and visiting AJ always rode high on the happy scale with Felix. Felix being an old salt tells AJ that he is so happy to be on his trawler and says that he prefers sailing to power boats because of the cost of fuel, but any boat that can release his bondage to the land was OK with him.

Navigation illiteracy attacks the central nervous system in a human body. Felix knows this because after they untied the trawler from the dock, AJ started immediately to twitch in his left eye. Now his lovely wife began to show a side Felix never seen before as she yelled at AJ to watch the markers and to stay in the middle of the channel. Then she yelled once more to tell him you are getting on the wrong side of those red markers. Poor AJ, now both eyes were constantly twitching and he began to stutter. But dear, there is plenty of water under the boat according to his rebuilt old digital depth finder. AJ tells everyone that he sees 6 feet of water.

Then AJ's wife yelled once more, "AJ you are out of the channel" "A blind horse could drive the boat better than you" Now the verbal gloves came off. AJ immediately responded in his mixed stutter; "I wish I was a blind horse instead of being married to one" His wife yelled once more "I thought that we were supposed to keep the reds to our left" AJ responded that the waterway guide says to favor the red side of the channel. "Well you are favoring it too much" One more ugly statement came from AJ's stutter and the conversation came to a silent halt. And so did the boat. It was now firmly wedged in the mud and it was not going anywhere.

Now AJ's wife tells Mandy that he does this every time they go boating. AJ kept reversing the shifter back and forth maybe trying to drown out his nagging wife's comments. The last one was over the top; "No wonder I don't enjoy boating" " He can't read a chart to save his life" AJ yells back and said this is nothing more than experience! "Everyone has to pay their dues" Now Mandy starts in taking AJ's wife side of the situation. Mandy bleats out" You should see the crappy fish finder Felix uses to determine depth " "He won't even spring to buy a new one" "We get stuck all the time too" "As a matter of fact, Reid has to pull us off the mud at least 3 or 4 times a year" This criticism goes on for a few more minutes where words and actions all came to a halt. Maybe Mandy is calling Reid or maybe Denny to come bail us out. At least she is not using the VHF to publicly announce how stupid AJ is by saying we are aground once again.

The bantering back and forth made Felix think why women don't enjoy boating, but he does not understand why they can't wait to go boating every time the opportunity comes around. He concludes that women really enjoy boating. They just don't like the types of men found on boats. Meaning those who are "Navigationally Challenged". Men have no culture from a women's point of view in boating. An example is; we men will scrub the decks, clean the grease and oil off an engine, and try to clean the bilge so it looks good for a GI type of inspection, but we will not clean the toilets or pick up after ourselves in the rack or staterooms. We men tend to fill the icebox with beer and bait but can't understand why there is nothing for dinner that day. So this is another lesson on why women are always right!!

See you on the water in someone else's boat,

P/C Don Breault



Due to the present situation with Covid 19 Virus, all future meetings and events have been suspended. We will be having some "Zoom" meetings in the future. Instructions and information will be sent to you as they become available.

In the meantime, please all stay in touch with each other and stay healthy. God Bless you all.

WSSPS



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Nominating Committee: Lt/C Eddie Shinlever, P, P/C Debbie Mayfield S, P/C Reid London N

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.