

America's Boating Club of Winston-Salem



CROSSED ANCHORS



Nov, Dec, Jan Feb, 2022

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

Change of Watch

Welcome to 2022. This past Saturday we enjoyed a gathering to do our annual Change of Watch at the Maple Chase Golf and Country Club. Due to the Covid situation, we had a small turnout, but a good meal and a good time was had by all.

Thank you to Sarah McCurry, in coming Commander D27, and her husband, Jamie for attending and swearing Bill back in as Commander. We have honored all of our officers with one more term.



Sarah McCurry, D27 Commander Elect



Bill Davis, Commander



Don Breault, Past Commander & Officer of the Deck



George Ellis, Past Commander & Laura Ball



David Jackson, Admin Officer



Becky Shinlever

Christmas Party 2021

We celebrated the Christmas Holiday at Firebirds Wood Fired Grill. There was 14 of us to enjoy wonderful socialization, great food, and a fun time exchanging gifts. Here are a few pictures to share.



Gary Lewis & Shirley Kennedy



Jan Whittle & David Jackson



Bill Davis & Cathy Clark



Don & Sheila Breault



Commander

Lt/C Bill Davis, SN



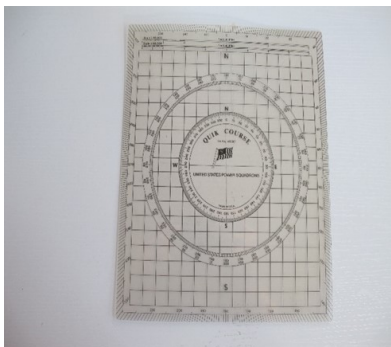
I'm cold and I protest! I am calling for a vote to eliminate January. All in favor?

The only good thing about hard times is making the good times look even better. With the sun continuing to shine, I so look forward to warmer weather and being able to get out and get stuff done outside. In the meantime, 2022 COW will be done by the time you read this, and we look forward to wet boating, Geodetic Surveys, and **meeting in person** again.

In my continuing effort to bore you with boating trivia I would like to review more almost "historical" items from the last Crossed Anchor edition.

If you remember we covered sextants, a compass in the form of a "hockey puck", and the Nautical Chart book that explains **all** the symbols on charts.

Below on the left is a compass tool large enough to be very helpful with plotting courses on a chart. The large size makes it easy to lay out a line from a single point. Notice, for instance, that you have three points on this devise to lay out 120° from the center point



Above on the right is the hard way to locate stars in the sky. (Best if you do this at night). I found this tedious at best. The directions are to "Turn disk until date and time are set. Hold overhead with North toward the North Pole. Chart and actual star positions will match." Of course, you need a compass to figure out where north is and Polaris. The grommet in the middle represents Polaris (the North Star) so I guess you are supposed to look thru the grommet? Good luck with that.

In lieu of that I recommend Sky Guide on your smart phone.

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On the left below is a pendulum you mount on your sailboat to determine listing to left or right, I suppose to alert you just before you keel over. I bought this from Al Pike of the Greensboro Power Squadron at an auction. In technical terms that is when your center of gravity is above your center of buoyancy you are in deep trouble. Life jackets on.



Above on the right is a flashlight with a red light. You need this to read charts or operate your sextant in the dark and not mess up your night vision. Either that or keep one eye closed with the white light on so as to maintain your night vision. That is what Robert Duvall had to do near the end of the Jack Reacher movie in the quarry pit shooting scene.

Administrative Officer

David Jackson



Dear members,

Here we are at the start on another year for our club. Spring is around the corner and warmer temperatures are not far behind. We are looking forward to an active year, hopefully, if the virus gives us a break.

We just completed our Change of Watch even though our numbers were small. Everyone had a good time and decided to do it again for this next year! Special thanks to all of our helpers, Debbie, Becky, Eddie, and Sheila for the flowers and center pieces. Bill did an excellent job with the presentations and Don was an expert master of ceremony. Special Thanks to our out-of-town guests, Jamie and Sarah McCurry from D-27. It was nice to see everyone and have some time together. Also, thanks to those who joined on the Zoom link.

I am looking forward to getting back to work in the new year. Some of our goals are membership retention, Boating Safety Classes, vessel safety checks and growing our group. When others are folding, we are determined to carry on. Upcoming activities in the planning stage are the summer picnic, some geodetic hunts, and possible boating classes.

I would also like to take a group to the Elkin Wine Festival. This year's festival is scheduled for May 21, details to follow. I have been before and it's a lot fun to taste local wines and listen to music in the park, and only have to drive to one location. Another possibly is local winery tours. Debbie and I discovered four new wineries that are local and have excellent wines.

Our next XO meeting will be on March 1, we will be using the Zoom format. If everything goes well our next in person Membership meeting will be on March 16 at Bleu Restaurant. This will depend on number of attendees and the Covid positive rate. Keep your fingers crossed! At this point we are not going to get too far ahead with our updated calendar.

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



Squadron Education Officer

Lt/C Kin Cartrette, P

Americas Boating Club of Winston-Salem had scheduled a two-part Americas Boating Course on Saturdays September 11th and 18th from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the Polo Park Community Center. Unfortunately, the class didn't materialize. After some brainstorming, we may need to depend on offering classes to established organizations such as the Scouts and yacht clubs as well as continuing to offer courses at the recreation centers.

This spring, as soon as we are able to come up with dates for the classes, we are planning to offer a one-day ABC-3 class at Old North State Marina on Badin Lake. We are also looking at setting up a traditional four-week ABC-3 course with classes in the evening at Polo Park Community Center. There will be more information coming on the dates and times for these classes.

The United States Power Squadrons – Americas Boating Club educational video service (americasboatingchannel.com) is developing a program by which member squadrons can participate using drones to report on high-traffic inlets and waterways. You can learn more at bit.ly/DroneVideoProject.

USPS-ABC members and squadrons can participate in three ways:

- simply recommending inlets for coverage. We all have our favorite inlets that are a challenge to navigate.

- Drones can now record the inlet channels, sandbars, and boat traffic from a birds-eye view.

- teaming with producers in preparing notes on unique aspects of your recommended inlets for production.

- Nature abhors a straight line and inlets are no exception. One of the better resources for learning a channel is information from the local boaters. Squadrons and boaters may not be able to pilot a drone, but there is information to be shared about local waterways and inlets.

- acquiring drones and actually shooting and submitting video footage under professional supervision for inclusion in a drone video. This is a great opportunity for R/C pilots to sharpen their flying skills and perform a service project. The drones will be shooting footage of the inlets and activities from different altitudes so that boaters can see the challenges they will face navigating the inlets.

If you are interested in learning more about the drone project,
email DRONES@AmericasBoatingChannel.com

Stay safe and we'll see you on the water!

Kin Cartrette, P.



Fish House Chronicles

By P/C Don Breault, AP

“My Little Dinghy”

With another Change of Watch behind us, it has come to mind that there are some stories worth re-telling in case those former or present boaters have forgotten. It seems that those owners of larger than trailerable sea going mechanized vessels will always have a smaller inflatable type of water craft neatly stowed on deck or somewhere where they can easily launch it while on the hook someplace. These larger boat captains are very proud of that inflatable tender called a “Dinghy”. There are many boaters in every squadron who just own a dinghy as it may be left over from when they sold the big boat, or one they were handed down from a family member, or one that was recently purchased because it looked like an easy to manage and operate little boat in small creeks, streams, and shallow water estuaries like coastal Carolina.

Now what is a “Dinghy”? They come in all shapes and sizes and colors. Most are small enough to be stowed out of the way and in many cases, they can easily be re-inflated in mere minutes if they are stowed and packed away in a “Dinghy” bag of some sort. Both sail boats and motor yachts will always have one. We all know how proud boat captains are of their boat, but if you ask them what they really like about boating, most will tell you it is using their “Dinghy”. And if I might add, they are all very proud of their “Dinghy”. When we had “Liberty” I loved my little dinghy.

If you ask one boat captain which dinghy is the best, they will tell you of course it is their own dinghy. Because the dinghy to each and every boat captain is personal, so they all tend to brag about their dinghy. Is this typical of a man when it comes to describe something very personal and sometimes private to them? By gosh it is. It is on the same level as to which ACC basketball team is better than the other. It is almost as heated as who is willing to put the dinghy to the test in an all-out dinghy competition. One you can easily spot at the Cape Lookout Bight on a late summer afternoon.

Henceforth, we have the formation of the “Dinghy Wars” of Cape Lookout. Listed below are questions every potential “Dinghy” owner needs to answer before getting his dinghy ready for competition:

Who has the best dinghy? Who has the longest dinghy? Who has the quickest dinghy?

Who has the cleanest dinghy? How long can a dinghy be?

How many people can a dinghy handle? When does a dinghy run out of gas?

Where do we keep the dinghy? How heavy is the dinghy, one handed or two handed?

Is it a hard dinghy? Or is it a soft dinghy? Is my dinghy safe to use?

How many pounds of thrust does a dinghy need?

Is there a difference between a French Dinghy or an English dinghy?

What about Asian dinghy's?

How much is this little dinghy? Will my wife like my little dinghy?

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Can my wife handle my little dinghy? Will my wife need help handling the dinghy?

What color should my dinghy be? Is a used dinghy still ok to use as a dinghy?

How do I keep my little dinghy firm? What if my dinghy has a leak?

Will I like my dinghy? Will I be proud of my dinghy? Will others admire my dinghy?

Now some Captains are quite proud of their dinghy. They like to name them. Dons little dinghy is named Belle. Does this mean he rings a bell every time he uses his dinghy? Now Reid's dinghy is named Cristo. Is this a name from the Count of Monte Cristo, the infamous French sailor who used his dinghy often? Or what about a Captain with a dinghy with no name. He may be a candidate for stealth night time action that will come and go with out being seen. Beware of Denny's little dinghy !

Then we have those Captains without a dinghy. These are dinghy wanna be's. Kind of like Hector and Felix. They dream of getting a dinghy, but for some reasons, they can not get one. Perhaps their spouses or girlfriends feel they have enough to worry about with out having to support a dinghy. Because once a man discovers how much fun his dinghy is, he may become easily distracted and pay too much attention to his dinghy. You know what they say about those sailors who always think about their dinghy. Or perhaps a sailor with out a dinghy may have no place to keep a dinghy. Or they are not sure if they need a hard or soft dinghy. Or perhaps they are not sure if they can handle a dinghy. I do know that they dream about dinghy's often and they do admire other dinghy's. Ask Felix, he can tell you.

Dinghy's can be a lot of fun or they can be a pain in the butt. Keeping them firm is not the challenge for most of us who have a dinghy. You hope they don't leak but I have been watching Cristo get pretty soft from being used over several seasons. Now a dingy can be abused. If you do not care for them, they will break down and eventually stop working and they tend to go soft or even flat. Stroking them with a warm soft cloth with restoration chemicals may not be enough. This is especially true for a very old dinghy that is way past its prime. You may have to take the "old" dinghy to a dinghy doctor who will rejuvenate the dinghy with some sticky fluid shot inside of the dinghy to keep it from loosing its firmness. I have always been afraid to ask what that stuff they use comes from. But there again we are told "don't ask, don't tell".

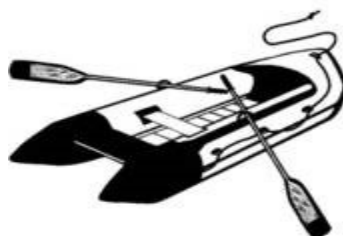
Now we have to cover the area of dinghy performance. Denny's dinghy is the fastest dinghy. But his dinghy is always slow to get up to speed due to some malfunction in the engine area. I think he put in an additive in the fuel cell that has improved its performance in getting up to speed. Reid's dinghy is always a good performer when he manages to get it out. He has the longest dinghy so his dinghy can do a lot of people at once. Don's dinghy is the cleanest dinghy and it has the most width or beam. This makes it a slow performer but it lasts and lasts on a single charge. Besides, who said this was a race. It is the ride that counts. Now Bubba, Felix's Florida friend has a new dinghy because he wore his old dinghy out, in Florida and the Caribbean over the last couple of years. He didn't have much to say about the change over process, so I guess everything is still working ok. We can not forget to mention those who had a dinghy but lost it or sold it. Ray had the shortest dinghy. And it only lasted a couple of seasons and no one ever saw it again. I think "B" sold it on e-bay.

Now with all this said about our dinghy's, it may appear that there could be a contest of some sort. If one develops in the up and coming boating season, this could be the equivalent to an Olympic event. If you do not have a dinghy, then you have plenty of time to get one during the off season. I am sure this could be a fun event for everyone. Spectators and "Dinghy Drivers" included. Or just come and root for the one you want to see win. Remember, it's all about the "Dinghy".

See You on The Water

P/C Don Breault

"Boatless, and no dinghy"





2022 Bridge Officers

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Members at Large: Lt. Jim Frazier S, Faye London, Tisha London,

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.