



United States Power Squadrons® is
America's Boating Club™

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
of North Alabama



Huntsville Sail and Power Squadron is
America's Boating Club of North Alabama

Volume LIII No. 1 January 2020

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 13 JAN | General Membership Meeting/
Election of 2020 Officers - 1800 -
Blue Plate Cafe, 7540 South
Parkway, Huntsville |
| 17-19 JAN | Huntsville Boat Show - Von Braun
Center |
| 9 FEB | General Membership Meeting/
Change of Watch - 1400 - TBD |
| 24 FEB | EXCOM - 1730 - Panera Bread
Co., Bridge Street, Huntsville |
| APR 3-5 | District 17 Spring Conference. -
Embassy Suites, Chattanooga, TN |

THE BRIDGE

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| COMMANDER | Cdr Thomas J. Hamilton, SN-CN
Res: (256) 508-3092 |
| EXECUTIVE OFFICER | Vacant |
| EDUCATIONAL OFFICER | P/C Chris M. Whitacre, AP
Res: (256) 882-6909 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER | Lt/C Richard W. Walter, AP
Res: (256) 230-5047 |
| SECRETARY | Lt/C Vern Gehm, AP
Res: (256) 882-9515 |
| TREASURER | Lt/C Jimmie W. Pruett, AP
Res: (256) 355-8127 |

PUBLICATIONS STAFF

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| EDITOR | P/C Richard J. Raymont, SN
Res: (256) 533-5369 |
| WEBMASTER | CDR Tom J. Hamilton, SN-CN
Res: (256) 508-3092 |
| FACEBOOK/
INSTAGRAM | Charles Farmer
Res: (256) 508-5188 |

The latest Scuttlebutt can ALWAYS be found on our
Squadron Website for your information.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:

<https://www.abcnorthalabama.org/>

View our Calendar of Events at:

<https://www.abcnorthalabama.org/>
Or <https://americasboatingclub.org/>
Or <https://americasboatingchannel.com/>

This newsletter is published monthly for the benefit of members and friends of the Huntsville Power Squadron. Commentary expressed in published submissions is that of the submitter and should not be considered as an endorsement by the Huntsville Power Squadron. Membership in the Squadron is available to anyone interested in boating who has completed America's Boating Course or its equivalent. For additional information please contact any of the officers listed.



COMMANDER'S LOG

Cdr Tom Hamilton, SN-CN

bmc3i@yahoo.com

Happy New Year everybody! We're going to kick this New Year off with our **Annual Meeting**, quickly followed by the **Huntsville Boat Show**. According to our Bylaws, we hold our Election of Officers during our Annual Meeting. Dick Raymont sent everyone the Slate of Officers a few weeks ago, so you should have received it. But we'll go over all of that at the meeting on Monday, 13 January. The Annual Meeting is a pretty important event each year, so I hope you can make it. We realize that's the night of the BCS College Football Championship, but that's the best date we could find.

Both of these events are coming up very soon, so please read our Administrative Officer's article in this newsletter so you can see the details of place and time, etc. I've included the Boat Show "manning roster" below so you can see what time slot you signed up for, and for those who haven't signed up yet, you can see which time slots are open. This is voluntary, so pick a time you're comfortable with and we'll see you there. We'll discuss Boat Show details at the Annual Meeting and you can sign up then.

Boat Operator Certification (BOC) School

In addition to being your Commander, I'm also the District 17 Boat Operator Certification Director. As such, I'd like to announce a very special BOC event that's coming up in March that you might be interested in.

The United States Power Squadrons will provide a BOC School for members who are in the BOC Mid-South Region. Since the Mid-South Region includes, District 17, any members in the America's Boating Club of North Alabama (Huntsville Sail and Power Squadron) are eligible to participate. So if you've been waiting for a chance to get involved in BOC, this is the best chance you'll have for quite some time. Here are the details as I know them so far.

- **BOC Levels:** Inland Navigator (IN), Coastal Navigator (CN), Advanced Coastal Navigator (ACN), and Offshore Navigator (ON)
- **BOC School Dates:** March 26th to 29th 2020
- **BOC School Location:** Pensacola, Florida
- **How to Sign Up:** Contact Tom Hamilton via Email: Bmc3i@yahoo.com, or call (256) 508-3092. Once I have a list of those interested, I will provide everyone the information they need. Please respond to me soon if you're interested.
- **Cost:** This will depend on how much you plan to accomplish during the School. If you're just getting started, you'll want to complete the on-water skills for the first one or two levels (Inland Navigator then Coastal Navigator). To do so, you'll need to order a "BOC Passport" for each of those levels. A BOC Passport costs \$50 and can be ordered by contacting our Educational Officer, Chris Whitacre.

<https://americasboatingclub.org>

This newsletter is published monthly for the benefit of members and friends of the Huntsville Power Squadron. Commentary expressed in published submissions is that of the submitter and should not be considered as an endorsement by the Huntsville Power Squadron. Membership in the Squadron is available to anyone interested in boating who has completed America's Boating Course or its equivalent. For additional information please contact any of the officers listed.

- **Where to stay:** There is a Holiday Inn Express in the Pensacola area that has been contacted to block rooms at a given rate. The specific rate has not yet been announced but it should be quite affordable.
- **Deadline to sign up:** February 1st 2020
- **BOC Description and Information:**
- <https://www.usps.org/index.php/departments/13000/13700-on-the-water-training-certification/2017-05-08-01-34-35/13700-boat-operator-certification>

Once I know exactly who is interested in participating, I'll set up a conference call, web conference, or face-to-face meeting with everyone to discuss all of the details and answer your questions. BOC is a relatively complicated topic, so don't feel bad if this seems confusing to you. I will clarify everything for you tell me you're interested.

So if you're interested, or even if you think you might be interested, email me so I can add you to my list of participants. You can make up your mind after we talk it over. This type of opportunity to get a head start in BOC does not come around often.

Thanks for your participation and support of our club! This year is going to be fun!

The Huntsville Boat Show, VBCC South Hall, 17-19 January 2020

ABCNA Booth Sign-Up Sheet

Thursday – 1/16/2020

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
(Booth Set-Up Only)
Tom Hamilton & Chris Whitacre

Friday – 1/17/2020

Noon – 2:00 PM
Tom Hamilton & Nancy Hamilton

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Mike Walley & Tina Walley

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Chuck Wills

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Chris Whitacre

Saturday – 1/18/2020

10:00 AM – Noon
Charles Green, Linda Green &
Tom Hamilton

Saturday – 1/18/2020

Noon – 2:00 PM
Paul Tatum & Melissa Tatum

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Chuck Wills

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Vern Gehm & Barbara Gehm

Sunday – 1/19/2020

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
(Booth Tear-Down Only)
Tom Hamilton & Chris Whitacre



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Rich Walter, AP

rww2468@earthlink.net

General Membership Meeting, Monday 13 January at 6 PM

The General Membership meeting is held to elect the bridge and officers for the 2020 year. Please plan to attend this important meeting. We will be meeting on South Memorial Parkway at the private room of the Blue Plate Café. It is in the same parking lot as Rosie's Mexican Cantina on South Parkway. RSVP requested at rww2468@earthlink.net

Huntsville Boat Show

Don't forget the Huntsville Boat show is scheduled for 17 to 19 January in the south hall of the Von Braun Center. See the section on how to sign up for a time to help man our booth. Additional info about the boat show is available at

<https://wdrm.iheart.com/featured/tennessee-valley-news/content/2019-01-15-the-boat-show-huntsville-jan-18th-20th/>

Change of Watch Ceremony 9 February at 2:00 PM

The Change of Watch Ceremony will be held on 9 February to end the watch of the 2019 Bridge and installs the new leadership for the 2020 Bridge. District 17 XO Ray Alley will attend to swear in the new bridge. Please block your calendar to join us. Location details are still being finalized.

District 17 Spring Conference to be held 3-5 April in Chattanooga

Check out the District 17 newsletter for details on the upcoming Spring Conference. Location will be the Embassy Suites near Hamilton Place in Chattanooga. The District 17 newsletter provides attendance information and how to make reservations at the group rate.

Annual Christmas Brunch



Squadron members recently met at the Pruett residence in Decatur, AL for the Squadron's annual Christmas Brunch. Our thanks to the Pruett's for hosting the event and the attendees had a great time of food and fellowship and ushered in the 2019 Holiday season.

<https://americasboatingclub.org>

This newsletter is published monthly for the benefit of members and friends of the Huntsville Power Squadron. Commentary expressed in published submissions is that of the submitter and should not be considered as an endorsement by the Huntsville Power Squadron. Membership in the Squadron is available to anyone interested in boating who has completed America's Boating Course or its equivalent. For additional information please contact any of the officers listed.

SECRETARY

P/C Vern Gehm, AP

bvgehm@hiwaay.net

EXCOM Meeting 9 December 2019

The 9 December EXCOM meeting was convened at 1730 with P/C Tom Hamilton, SN; LT/C Rich Walter, AP; P/C Chris Whitacre, AP; LT Mike Walley, AP; Lt Chuck Wills, P; Lt Melissa Tatum; and P/C Vern Gehm, AP, in attendance. CDR Tom conducted the meeting. Tom has ordered our new boat show banner. It will be here Friday. The Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers which will be distributed via email. Tom is in charge of the Boat Show Booth (January 17-19). Plans are complete and the staffing sign-up is under way. Minutes of the last meeting were approved as distributed to the Bridge via e-mail. Rich reviewed the calendar for the year. The Annual Meeting will be on 13 January at Blue Plate on South Parkway. The Change of Watch will be on 9 February at 1400. Location is TBD. A planning meeting will be held on 7 March at the Gunterville Yacht Club. Engine Maintenance Class tests were held on 4 December with six students. Let Chris Whitacre know if there is a particular course you are interested in. The next ABC course will be on 22 February. A motion passed to purchase a \$50 gift card for the Boat Show Booth Raffle. The meeting adjourned at 1810.



2020 Slate of Officers

Commander	Tom Hamilton
Executive Officer	Rich Walter
Educational Officer	Chris Whitacre
Administrative Office	Chuck Wills
Asst. Administrative Officer	Mike Walley
Treasurer	Tina Walley
Asst. Treasurer	Jimmie Pruett
Secretary	Vern Gehm
Members at Large:	
#1	Jim Pruett
#2	Melissa Tatum
#3	John Pierson



EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

P/C Chris Whitacre, AP

hrsar2@att.net

The Engine Maintenance course had six students and all six passed without any problems. Yah team!!

The first ABC course in 2020 for us is currently scheduled for 22 February 2020 at Latham United Methodist Church. This gives us plenty of time to advertise it both at the Huntsville Boat Show and elsewhere.

The Annual Meeting is rapidly approaching. Again this year there will be a Teaching Aid competition. The instructions on the web site aren't quite right. Each district can submit two. If you want to submit more, let me know. It's space-dependent. Required paperwork is on the web site - Instructor Development - Teaching Aids. The latest agenda says aids are on display 9-3 Friday. That means they need to show up before 9 and be picked up by 3:30. I need to know if you're bringing any, what size space is required and if you need electricity. Please send that as soon as possible so I can make sure enough space is available.

SAFETY OFFICER

P/C Chris Whitacre, AP

hrsar2@att.net

Short message this time, remember only one person on each vessel is responsible for everything that happens or fails to happen on that vessel and that is the skipper of that vessel. I bring this up because recently several boats attended an event in our area and went out in bad weather and things went very wrong. All of the people made it out in reasonable shape but at least one boater tried to blame the event leadership for the issues. Please remember, the skipper is the one who makes the call to go out or stay in, and that decision should be made with input from the crew based on all available information.

If you have a safety topic that you would like to hear more about, please let me know. If you would like to contribute a safety article, again, please just let me know. I like to share.

<https://americasboatingclub.org>

This newsletter is published monthly for the benefit of members and friends of the Huntsville Power Squadron. Commentary expressed in published submissions is that of the submitter and should not be considered as an endorsement by the Huntsville Power Squadron. Membership in the Squadron is available to anyone interested in boating who has completed America's Boating Course or its equivalent. For additional information please contact any of the officers listed.

CLASSIFIEDS


TRM 334

Ditto Landing 

"Where the best of the Alabama outdoors joins the excitement of the Tennessee"

- fuel dock
- boat ramps
- overnight docking
- wet slips
- picnic pavilions accommodating 50-300
- dry storage up to 23 ft.
- fishing
- security guards
- shaded campsites

256-882-1057 800-552-8769
P.O. Box 14250 Huntsville, AL 35815
<http://www.dittolandings.org>

Lynn Layton 

2416 Highway 31 South at Hwy 67 Decatur, AL 35602

Decatur Phone: 353-5531 Huntsville Phone: 533-1576
Birmingham Phone: 252-6410 Toll Free: 888-999-0702



ON SITE
Boat Care

**UPHOLSTERY • CANVAS
DETAILING • FLOORING**

2316 Hwy. 79 South Guntersville, AL 35976
256-486-2444
OnSiteBoatCare.com



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
of North Alabama

Scuttlebutt Editor
1912 Colice Road
Huntsville, AL 35801