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

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https://www.abcnorthalabama.org/
Or  https://www.facebook.com/abcofnorthalabama

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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.

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Huntsville Boat Show

I’m very happy to say that we had good results from last month’s Boat Show. We had a booth in a key location and it was manned by a fine team of member volunteers who obviously did a great job of welcoming visitors and having them “sign up” for our annual Cabela’s Gift Card raffle. When folks take a chance on the raffle, they fill out a “contact card” that includes a few simple questions about their interest in taking a boating course, joining a boating club, and getting a free inspection of their boat. The visitors who express an interest in any of these things are placed in a spreadsheet which becomes our “contacts list” for the year.

The winner of the Cabela’s gift card was a nice lady from Madison. The gift card was delivered to her along with our congratulations and a wish for her to please attend one of our America’s Boating Courses this year as she requested.

The total number of raffle entries was 52. Of those, 26 said "Yes" for "boating class", 16 said "Yes" for "join a boating club", and 9 said "Yes" for a "Free vessel safety check".

Many thanks to everyone who pitched in and helped out. We’re very excited about the results, particularly the significant number who expressed interest in joining a boating club. We will reach out to each of those who responded favorably to our questions.

2020 Change of Watch

Each year, our elected Officers and Executive Committee Members are installed in a brief ceremony officiated by an officer of District 17 of the United States Power Squadrons. This is an official function but also a nice social event, so please plan to attend if you can. Everyone should have received an email invitation for our Change of Watch on the 9th of February. Be sure to see Rich Walter’s article in this Scuttlebutt and RSVP so he will know how many folks to expect. The dress code is business casual.

Boat Operator Certification (BOC) School

In last month’s Scuttlebutt, I introduced you to a “BOC School” that will be held in Pensacola, Florida, in March. If you think you might be interested, or if you have questions about it, please contact me immediately. The absolute deadline to sign up is 15 February, so time is of the essence. If you have any interest in BOC, this will be one of those rare opportunities to get your on-water skills completed and signed off. You’ll find a complete description of this topic in last month’s (January) Scuttlebutt.

For more information about Boat Operator Certification, here’s a link:
2020 Bridge

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
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Lt/C Rich Walter, AP  
rww2468@earthlink.net

Change of Watch Ceremony 9 February at 1:30 PM (Carrabbas Italian Grill)

The 2020 Change of Watch Ceremony will be held 9 February to install the new leadership for the 2020 Bridge. District 17 Executive Officer Ray Alley will attend to swear in the new bridge. Please block your calendar to join us. Location is at Carrabbas Italian Grill, 2801 Memorial Parkway (Park Place Mall). For easiest access to Carrabbas park on the second floor of the mall parking garage. Please join us for great food and time together. You can RSVP to me at  rww2468@earthlink.net or to the email reminder that will go out this week. Dress is business casual.

2020 Planning Meeting 7 March 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM:

Squadron Bridge members and committee leaders will meet on 7 March 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM to plan squadron activities for 2020. All members are welcome to participate. We will be meeting at the Lake Guntersville Yacht Club, 498 Yacht Club Rd, Guntersville, AL

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. The rates for the Embassy Suites are very reasonable, and it is great opportunity to spend some time in Chattanooga and get to know other boaters from Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. There are planned dinner events and activities that you can participate in, as desired. And, you will gain a good understanding on the National and District Organization of America’s Boating Club.

Here is a link to the district newsletter which provides details of how to attend the conference:

https://www.usps.org/index.php/sds-info/sds-newsletter

https://americasboatingclub.org

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13 January 2020 ABCNA Annual Meeting Minutes

The meeting was convened at 1800.

Cdr Tom Hamilton called the meeting to order. The Secretary determined that a quorum was present. The first order of business was to elect the Officers for 2020. The slate from the Nominating Committee was read. Cdr Tom asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, he asked for a motion to elect the slate as presented. Motion passed.

The second order of business was discussion of the Huntsville Boat Show on 17-19 January 2020.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

EXCOM Meeting 20 January 2020

The 20 January EXCOM meeting was convened at 1730 with P/C Tom Hamilton, SN; LT/C Rich Walter, AP; P/C Chris Whitacre, AP; Lt Chuck Wills, P; P/C Jimmie Pruett, AP; and P/C Vern Gehm, AP in attendance. CDR Tom conducted the meeting. Tom is still working on a permanent new Boat Show Banner. Results from our Boat Show Booth were good. They were much better than last year. Minutes of the last meeting were approved as distributed to the Bridge via e-mail. Vern will develop a new Roster soon. Rich and Chuck reviewed the calendar for the year. The Change of Watch will be at Carrabba's Italian Grill on 9 February arrive at 1330 and eat at 1400. A planning meeting will be held on March 7 at the Guntersville Yacht Club from 1230-1430. Because of the Planning Meeting, there will not be a February EXCOM. Engine Maintenance Class tests were held on 4 December. All six students passed. Let Chris Whitacre know if there is a particular course you are interested in. The next ABC course will be on 22 February at Latham Methodist Church. A motion was made and passed to reimburse the cost of parking for Boat Show Workers who request it. The meeting adjourned at 1828.
EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

P/C Chris Whitacre, AP hrsar2@att.net

The first ABC course in 2020 for us is currently scheduled for 22 February 2020 at Latham United Methodist Church. The class will be held in the Boy Scout room of the Education Building at Latham.

The Annual Meeting is rapidly approaching. Again, this year there will be a Teaching Aid competition. The instructions on the web site are not 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 are 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

Fires happen, less frequently now than in times past, but they do still happen and we all need to be prepared no matter where we are. Please spend some time to develop evacuation plans for every place you go or stay and be sure to have a backup plan in case the primary exit is blocked. The recent marina fire in Jackson County happened at night and went from the shore side of the pier to the end in about 20 to 25 minutes in the wee hours of the morning, thus there was really no time to plan once the fire began. It is also a good idea to have a fire extinguisher with you or know where the nearest one is and how to use it, keeping in mind the only purpose of the extinguisher is to give you a chance to get to safety. Please spend some time to develop evacuation plans for your house, car and boat and then PRACTICE getting to safety. Share your plans with your family and friends.

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.