



# Scuttlebutt



## Monthly Newsletter

Volume LIV, No. 9, October 2021

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

19 SEP	General Membership Meeting. - 1600 - 1700. - Lake Gunter'sville Yacht Club
27 SEP	EXCOM - 1800 - via ZOOM
8-11 OCT	Florence, Alabama Weekend Cruise. - <b>CANCELLED</b>
25 OCT	EXCOM - 1800 - via ZOOM
14 NOV	General Membership Meeting. - 1600 - 1700. - Lake Gunter'sville Yacht Club
5 DEC	Christmas Brunch. - TBD. - The Gehm's

### THE BRIDGE

COMMANDER	Cdr Richard W. Walter, AP Res: (256) 230-5047
EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Vacant
EDUCATIONAL OFFICER	P/C Chris M. Whitacre, AP Res: (256) 882-6909
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	Lt/C Chuck Wills P Res: (256) 505-7773
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The latest Scuttlebutt can ALWAYS be found on our Squadron Website for your information.

### VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:

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

View our Calendar of Events at:

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

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## COMMANDER'S LOG

Cdr Rich Walter, AP

[rww2488@earthlink.net](mailto:rww2488@earthlink.net)

Hello everyone. I wanted to acknowledge several folks for their continued efforts in supporting activities in the boating club. We have several members who belong to the Guntersville Yacht Club, and once again we are thankful for the offer to host the general membership meeting last month at their facility. If you haven't attended an event there, I recommend it as it really is an ideal location to get together socially and enjoy time with friends while overlooking Guntersville Lake. Chuck and Amy Wills always are gracious hosts and take care of coordinating all the necessary details for a great event. Watch the calendar as a November social event is being planned. Mike and Tina Walley continue to stay active in arranging our on the water events, acting as the anchor boat for raft ups. There continues to be a lot of interest in our educational classes, and Chris Whitacre and Lisa Shier continue to offer great educational opportunities for interested folks. Check out the upcoming weather class being taught by Lisa. And you can let either Chris or Lisa know if there is a particular class you are interesting in taking to help them plan upcoming educational classes. Vern Gelm continues to turn the crank on a lot of administrative things that need to get done, including responsibilities for managing our membership and serving as the squadron secretary. Tina Walley continues to balance the books and manage the treasury duties. Melissa Tatum recently updated our squadron informational handbook, and Paul Tatum continues to maintain the squadron website. And as always, thanks to Dick Raymont for continuing to serve as editor of our Scuttlebutt newsletter, often the first introduction to the squadron for people considering joining the boating club. The club only operates when people get involved and serve and we have a great set of folks who make the squadron go.

America's Boating Club is nationwide, and we are members of District 17, which is made of clubs from Atlanta, Blue Ridge, Chattanooga, North Alabama, Johnson City, Knoxville, Memphis, Music City (Nashville), Oak Ridge, and Vulcan (Birmingham). The first face-to-face district conference in a couple years will be held at The Ridges Resort in Hiawassee, Georgia from 12 to 14 November. The conference will be hosted by Atlanta Boating Squadron, who I'm told knows how to throw a party. The conference offers several social times to meet and talk with other boaters from Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia. If you are able to attend, reservations can be made prior to Wednesday, October 13, 2021 by calling 706-896-2262 or by calling the sales coordinator, Steven Jarrard, at 706-400-0099.

For me, the next two months are the best for being on the water. Take care and stay safe.

*"We must be willing to get rid of the life we've planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us." — Joseph Campbell.*

**Take care and stay safe.**

<https://americasboatingclub.org>

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## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Chuck Wills, P

[willscharles@gmail.com](mailto:willscharles@gmail.com)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Cancelled** Florence Alabama Weekend Cruise

Saturday, October 9

Due to conflicts with both the club Admin and assistant Admin officers we decided to cancel this event. We will look for a new date in spring.

### **ABC North Alabama Social Gathering – Mark your Calendars**

Sunday, November 14, 4:00 – 7:00pm

Location:

Lake Guntersville Yacht Club

498 Yacht Club Rd, Guntersville, AL 35976, USA

This is our quarterly social get together where we are able to share our boating stories, have a drink and a meal together. It will be held at Lake Guntersville Yacht Club, rain or shine. More details as the event gets closer, but please save the date and plan to attend.

See the calendar of events with latest updates here:

**Web Site:** <https://www.abcnorthalabama.org/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/abcofnorthalabama>

**America's Boating Club:** <https://americasboatingclub.org/>

**America's Boating Channel:** <https://americasboatingchannel.com/>

## Club Activities

We had a great get together at the Lake Guntersville Yacht Club on September 19. While the flooding to the North of Guntersville kept several people away, we still had a great turnout. Moe's BBQ was served and many stories were shared. Vern even provided entertainment with a few of his cleaner jokes. The Yacht Club continues to be a great venue for our gatherings as it is more private and quieter compared to a restaurant so we will continue to use it more frequently for our get togethers. Vern offered to provide some more details below.

### September 19<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting

Chuck and Amy Wills hosted the meeting at the Lake Guntersville Yacht Club. Plans changed and the meeting was held inside because of the weather. The areas of Huntsville and points west and north got over 6 inches of very heavy rain earlier in the day. Fourteen attended, but water over the roads caused five to cancel. The meeting was very enjoyable with a delicious Moe's BBQ dinner catered by Chuck. We ate and visited and had a wonderful time.



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## SECRETARY

P/C Vern Gehm, AP

[bvgehm@hiwaay.net](mailto:bvgehm@hiwaay.net)

### 27 September 2021 EXCOM Meeting

The September 27, 2021 EXCOM was held at 1800 via zoom. In attendance were CDR Rich Walter, AP; LT/C Chuck Wills, P; P/C Chris Whitacre, AP; Lt/C Tina Walley; Lt Lisa Shier, JN; Lt Melissa Tatum, Paul Tatum, and P/C Vern Gehm, AP. CDR Rich Walter logged on late. Chuck conducted the meeting until he arrived. The Fall D17 Conference will be held 12-14 November. The membership will be requested to provide Merit Mark inputs in the next month or so. Minutes of the last meetings were approved as provided via email. The General Membership Meeting at the Lake Guntersville Yacht Club on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> was enjoyable. Fourteen attended in spite of heavy rain and flash flooding. The cruise to Florence on 8-11 October has been cancelled because of Covid restrictions and conflicts. Paul Tatum has completely taken over maintenance of our website and is looking for pictures to post. A pot-luck General Membership Meeting will be held at the Guntersville Yacht Club on 14 November between 4:00 and 7:00 PM. The December 5<sup>th</sup> Christmas Brunch will be held at the Gehm's in Huntsville from 2:00 and 4:30. An ABC Course was taught at the Lake Guntersville yacht Club on September 18<sup>th</sup>. We had a class of 10. All passed. Lisa will teach Weather beginning October 19<sup>th</sup>, via zoom. Seamanship will be taught after Christmas. Let Chris or Lisa know your education interests. The meeting adjourned at 1850.

### Coming soon, a new feature in the Scuttlebutt

In the next month or two we will be introducing a new feature to the Scuttlebutt. It will be a, "Meet Your Fellow Members" article. Each month we will introduce a couple of our members. Norma Martin has agreed to head this up. She was Scuttlebutt Editor for many years, so she isn't a stranger to this sort of thing. Each month a couple of members will be asked to provide a picture and to fill out a questionnaire, via email. From that information, Norma will develop a short article to introduce them to the membership. We hope to include a little background info, their boating and other interests, and what is on their bucket list. Participation will be voluntary, please be responsive when asked to participate. Hopefully we will get to know each other a little better.



## EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

P/C Chris Whitacre, AP

[hrsar2@att.net](mailto:hrsar2@att.net)

Lisa Shier has offered to teach the Weather course starting 19 October 2021 and ending before Christmas break as a virtual course. Please let me know if you are interested so we can get the materials ordered. Cost for the Weather Course is \$65.00 per person.

We are planning to teach Boat Handling, which replaces the Seamanship Course, beginning in February, yes, we moved it back so as not to interfere with Weather. Current plan is for it to be an in person class at Latham United Methodist Church, starting on 8 February 2022 at 1800. The presentation method for the course may change depending upon the wish of the students and instructors so please watch for updates as the date approaches. The class should last no more than 2 hours and should be done in 8 weeks or less depending on how fast we can cover the material. Cost for Seamanship is also \$65.00 per person. Please let me know if you are interested so we can get the materials ordered.

As always, please let me know what course you would like to see us offer next. As you know, things are beginning to return to normal very slowly. Therefore, we will continue to try to plan courses and seminars that can be done based on the restrictions existing at the time of planning.

## SAFETY OFFICER

P/C Chris Whitacre, AP

[hrsar2@att.net](mailto:hrsar2@att.net)

Well October is here and the weather is still nice, so boating season in our area seems to have gotten an extension. Which means we need to keep a sharp look out for changing weather, shorter days and longer nights. Based on what's in the news, keeping our lookouts looking out may be very important.

So how do we look out, remember to scan from side to side in overlapping arcs of about 10 degrees and do not look directly at the horizon, look slightly above it. Move your head from side to side while keeping the eyes fixed. This will give any stationary object in the field of vision the appearance of moving and thus make them easier to see.

Lookouts should be stationed well forward and away from the engine sounds and lights so as to be able to see and hear other vessels sounds and lights. Be sure to look over your Navigation Rules to know what the lights and sounds are required to be made, so you will know what you are trying not to hit. Also, remember that Marinas and other shore facilities may have lights that look like vessels, so be sure to consult the light list of your operating area.

Watch out for what's ahead, whether it be a change in weather or another vessel, it's always best to know what's coming.

***Yours in Safe Boating!***

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## CLASSIFIEDS



Tennessee River  
MM 334

Dry and Wet Boat Storage      Fuel Sales and Snacks  
RV Park      Greenways  
293 Ditto Landing Road SE \* Huntsville, Alabama  
office: 256.882.1057 \* fuel dock: 256.883.9420  
[www.dittolanding.org](http://www.dittolanding.org)

**Lynn Layton** 

2416 Highway 31 South at Hwy 67) Decatur, AL 35602

Decatur Phone: 353-5531      Huntsville Phone: 533-1575  
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AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB  
*of North Alabama*

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