

# 026° True

A quarterly newsletter publication of

## United States Power Squadron® America's Boating Club®



Beaufort Charleston Dreher Shoals Golden Corner Lakes Golden Isles Hilton Head  
Lake Hartwell Lake Murray Long Bay North Strand Savannah River Swamp Fox  
Thurmond Lake Tybee Light

Website: [District 26](#)



VOLUME 65, Issue No. 4, Summer 2021

## ABC OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND COASTAL GEORGIA



### COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

D/C Jim Wilkins, AP



After almost 3 years of having had the honor to be your Commander, I'm finally able to write my last article as Commander.

I would be remiss if I didn't first express my gratitude to the District and Squadron Bridge Officers/Executive Committee members who have so graciously provided their support in seeing our way through the challenges of the past 3 years.

One of the first challenges I encountered was an attitude from some of the Squadrons that could be stated as "What has District done for us lately?" Looking back to my 2 years as a Squadron Commander I could relate to that attitude...it always seemed we were being told how to do this; how to do that; provide us this data or that report; etc., etc. That challenge was one of my main driving forces...I was bound and determined to make the District more supportive of the Squadrons. Were we successful? I'm not qualified to answer that question...only the Squadrons can. But, I am proud of some of the efforts we made, such as:

- Eliminated the need for there being two Conferences each year. D26 led the way for National to change the Bylaws to state that only one Conference was required each year. This reduced the amount of money members would be expected to pay for the privilege of attending two Conferences. It also expanded the time between when a Squadron would be charged with hosting a Conference...always a challenge requiring a great deal of effort.
- Promoted the use of the Squadron Activities Reporting System (SARS) being developed by Al Lehman. SARS has proven its ability to vastly simplify the capturing of pertinent information pertaining to the participation of a Squadron's membership in its activities. It is exceptionally helpful in capturing the data necessary to formulate the annual Merit Mark submissions.
- The Commander's Report to District Commander had always been a challenge due to requesting lots of data that had to be manually entered. With the introduction of SARS, that report has been dramatically simplified since most of the data requirements are available in SARS reports.
- We established a Conference Planning Committee with delegates from each Squadron to be sure future conferences catered to the interests of the Squadrons.

Article continues on page 2.

### WHAT'S INSIDE

#### Featured Articles

XO Report .....	2
D26 Spark Plug Award Winner .....	3
Virtual Trainer a Success in Charleston .....	3
Educational Department Report .....	4
April C&R Pictures.....	5-6
D26 Fall Conference Dates .....	7
Tybee Light Participates in Videos .....	8-9
Farewell to Doug Nelson .....	10
D26 Nominating Committee Report .....	11
D26 Contact Information .....	12

### SAVE THE DATE

October 22 & 23

District 26  
Fall 2021 Conference

## Commander's Message (continued from page 1)

- Our DEOs and SEOs continued to do a commendable job of conducting educational classes. While attendees of the ABC class did not always become members, we should be proud that they are now smarter boaters than they would have been without attending the classes.
- D26 has once again established itself as a leading participant in Coop Charting.
- Under the leadership of our Secretary, Carol Sherratt, we have initiated a significant revision of our website with Paul Hoyte of Hilton Head leading the effort.
- Our biggest accomplishment was/is surviving the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.
  - Most of the credit belongs to the Squadrons as each of them developed ways/means of keeping their members engaged...I was often amazed at some of the ideas the Squadrons employed. The end result is that D26 was able to do a commendable job of retaining membership.
  - With the collaboration of the entire District Bridge and others, we were able to maintain communications with Squadrons and members by teleconferencing. Perhaps our biggest achievement was the development of the 2020 Awards Celebration and Fall Conference/COW which very much impressed the National officers who participated.

So, it's been a challenging and rewarding 3 years and I look forward to my "retirement" knowing full well that the District will be in good hands as the newly appointed, well qualified Bridge officers take command.

Fair winds and following seas.

*Jim*



**D/Lt/C Rich Norris, SN**

### XO CORNER



Hello all and WELCOME BACK to a (optimistically) bit of normalcy. For sure, we hope that you and your squadrons are back to face-to-face meetings and events, while remaining cautious, and are all staying safe!

It's satisfying to see how many of our squadrons are back actively doing VSC's and co-op charting. Although we strive for total participation from all our squadrons, we remain gratified for the successes we're experiencing. Thanks to all the active folks and congratulations for jobs well done. Having said that, I again reiterate the idea of keeping our members involved by getting small groups together for Geodetic Marker hunts and verification. The idea is to ask those members already actively searching to compile groups of up to six to go searching together. Hey, now I can say that I'm talking from experience, I just went out and recovered my first nine. As I said before, it's fun AND rewarding!

We also want to take this opportunity to remind our VSE's about the Mandatory VSE Workshop requiring completion no later than 15 August 2021. The workshop is intended to be viewed by certified VSC examiners and is located on the National web site. This is a requirement to maintain your VSE certification. Hopefully repeating this information is all unnecessary because everyone has already completed this workshop.

When I joined the D26 Bridge as Administrative Officer last Watch Year, my plan was to visit as many squadrons as possible, so my wife and I could get to know the folks of D26. Well, "thank you Covid19" (thank you isn't exactly the words I really had in mind), because of you it didn't happen. Hopefully this upcoming year, we'll change that.

In closing, please stay safe and stay healthy. Hope to see y'all real soon!

*Rich*

"Innovation, Education, Community"

## District 26 2020 Spark Plug Award Winner



On May 4, at a meeting of the Dreher Shoals squadron, Keith Leggett (on right) presented Jay David with his D26 Spark Plug Award. The wrong person was published as winner in the last *026° True* edition. Congratulations to Jay David.

Photo submitted by Butch Rachal

## Virtual Trainer a Success in Charleston

America's Boating Club Charleston recently participated in a nationwide weekend of virtual training at West Marine stores. Nine stores around the country, including Charleston's West Ashley store, were chosen based on store sales to host USPS virtual trainers for a weekend. West Marine's marketing department arranged for trainers to be sent to stores for three days May 14-16. Participants signed up online to use the trainer in thirty-minute slots throughout the day. Despite the short time frame, most students were able to master the slalom course on the trainer, and even those that didn't had a good time trying! Charleston club members supported the effort by manning the computers to coach students through the course and encouraging participants to take a boating safety course and get their boats inspected. Sea Scout Ship 1, chartered by the Charleston club, joined the fun on Saturday with a hot dog sale in front of the store. Sea Scouts were able to use the trainer as well, and it turns out they are a great group of young boaters! Many thanks to West Marine for allowing us to be a part of their program.



Instructor Ken Fonville assists a student on the USPS Virtual Trainer.



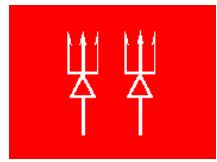
## Educational Department

### Educational Officer

D/Lt/C Charles Gresham, SN

### Assistant

D/1st/Lt Dennis Cusanelli, AP



BOC-IN is the first of the 4 advanced skills training available to squadron members. BOC-IN stands for Boat Operator Certification – Inland Navigator. To attain this certification a member must successfully pass these courses and seminars: ABC, Seamanship or Boat Handling, Engine Maintenance, Marine Electrical Systems, Charting, VHF Radio, GPS and Onboard Weather or Weather. In addition, they must pass these skills training: Fire Extinguisher and On the Water Basic Powerboat Handling (BPH). The 25 OTW Basic Powerboat Handling skills must be observed by a Certified BOC-IN trainer.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> we had a joint Tybee Light and Hilton Head BPH skills training at Skull Creek Marina. From Tybee we had myself, trainer Dave Yost and candidates Carl Ericsson and Paul Harwood. From Hilton Head we had trainers Al Pepe, Larry Tremitiere and candidates Chris Brigham, Peter Dion, Paul Hoyte, Mark Larson, Brad Loescher, David Medvedeff and Tom Ryley. All nine candidates successfully completed both the Fire Extinguisher training and the BPH skills. See the attached photos. Are you interested in attaining your BOC skills training and certification? If so, contact your SEO.

Dennis Cusanelli AP-IN

## Boat Operator Certification – Inland Navigator Training



# Cruise & Rendezvous Pictures

Unless noted, all C&R pictures provided by ABC Beaufort.



Registration Table

ABC Loop Cruise



Maureen Dodgen

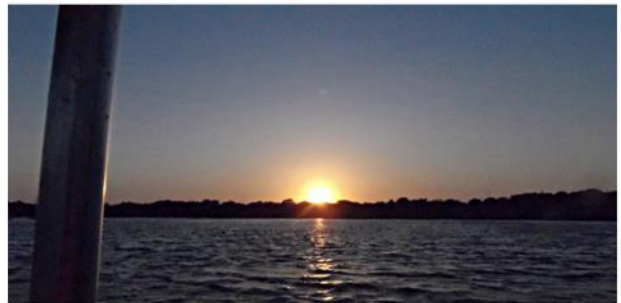
Sunset Cruise



San Dodgen



San Dodgen



## More Cruise & Rendezvous Pictures

### Daufuskie Island



### Oyster Roast



## District 26 Fall 2021 Conference

<b>October</b>				2021		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 <small>Columbus Day</small>	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### Save the Dates October 22 & 23

Friday – Awards plus activity/speaker

Saturday - Officer training, other sessions, Conference, Change of Watch plus speaker

## TLSPS Participates in America's Boating Channel Videos



TLSPS Group ABChannel first night social/meeting

Tybee Light Sail and Power Squadron (America's Boating Club Savannah) was one of four squadrons to volunteer and join in the production of the 2021 fifth annual boating safety videos produced by America's Boating Channel under the guidance of Marty Lafferty. The other three squadrons were: Chattanooga Sail and Power Squadron, America's Boating Club of Detroit, and Grosse Pointe Power Squadron. Marty is preparing 10 new videos to be released to the public starting around Labor Day of this year. These videos are produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard, which has final approval of script and content. At this time, the US Coast Guard has approved nine of the 10 videos. The 10 videos for 2021 are: Wear an ECOS, Knowledge versus Skills, Inflatable Life Jackets, Cold Weather Boating, Carbon Monoxide Dangers, Collision Avoidance, BUI Fatalities, New Label Benefits, Fire Extinguisher Standards, and Basic Marine Communications.

Marty Lafferty and his wife Sari arrived in Savannah on Friday May 7<sup>th</sup> and conducted a pre-meeting social with our "cast members" at the newly constructed Savannah Boathouse on Wilmington Island. Morning

and afternoon shooting began the next day, involving many of our squadron members and some guests, and continued through Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup> culminating in a squadron cruise to Sunbury Crab Company for lunch. We were fortunate to be able to arrange assistance for the production of the videos from Savannah Boathouse Marina, Hogan's Marina, TowBoatUS, Chatham County Marine Patrol, Savannah Yacht Club, and River Supply.



ABC Wrap at Sunbury Crab Company

Overall, this was a very educational and rewarding experience which provided yet another avenue for TLSPS to contribute to boater safety education on a much larger scale. It began in February after the virtual USPS Annual Meeting when Andy Anderson and Charlie Saytanides discussed volunteering TLSPS for video shoots and Charlie wrote an offer to Marty. Marty readily accepted and Charlie began months of planning, organization, and member recruiting with direction from Marty and Sari. Andy, Dennis Cusanelli, and Carl Ericsson assisted and played key roles in the videos. Bob and Gayla Bennett were on shoot nearly every day either in front of the camera or assisting in the background, and they provided housing and dining companionship for Marty and Sari during their stay here in Savannah. And, of course, thanks to all the members that assisted to make these videos great!

The following are streaming links to each of the nine now approved videos for your preview, and to share. Starting around Labor Day these videos will be available to the public on [www.americasboatingchannel.com](http://www.americasboatingchannel.com) (URL: <http://www.americasboatingchannel.com/>), and on YouTube. TLSPS is the exclusive squadron in the video "Knowledge vs. Skill"; and is a participant in Wear an ECOS, Collision Avoidance, BUI Fatalities, New Label Benefits, Fire Extinguisher Standards, and Basic Marine Communications.

Select the video link on the left or type the URL directly into your browser.

[WEAR AN ECOS – Closed-Captioned \(CC\) Streaming Version](https://youtu.be/i0Nu7Gu-JG0) (URL: <https://youtu.be/i0Nu7Gu-JG0>)

[KNOWLEDGE VERSUS SKILLS – CC Streaming Version](https://youtu.be/6Fi2A8b4cC0) (URL: <https://youtu.be/6Fi2A8b4cC0>)

[INFLATABLE LIFE JACKETS – CC Streaming Version](https://youtu.be/M77a_F7lCXM) (URL: [https://youtu.be/M77a\\_F7lCXM](https://youtu.be/M77a_F7lCXM))

[CARBON MONOXIDE DANGERS – CC Streaming Version](https://youtu.be/z4vByHXC_lo) (URL: [https://youtu.be/z4vByHXC\\_lo](https://youtu.be/z4vByHXC_lo))

[COLLISION AVOIDANCE – CC Streaming Version](https://youtu.be/7cXv6s7wqjE) (URL: <https://youtu.be/7cXv6s7wqjE>)

[BUI FATALITIES – CC Streaming Version](https://youtu.be/Uq2Xg5ypGm0) (URL: <https://youtu.be/Uq2Xg5ypGm0>)

[NEW LABEL BENEFITS – CC Streaming Version](https://youtu.be/MZ3v6JHPVlo) (URL: <https://youtu.be/MZ3v6JHPVlo>)

[FIRE EXTINGUISHER STANDARDS – CC Streaming Version](https://youtu.be/SZY2aq1KnRo) (URL: <https://youtu.be/SZY2aq1KnRo>)

[BASIC MARINE COMMUNICATIONS – CC Streaming Version](https://youtu.be/LxkxVOOoVOY) (URL: <https://youtu.be/LxkxVOOoVOY>)

Please enjoy!

Lt/Cdr Charlie Saytanides AP-IN  
Administrative Officer  
Tybee Light Sail and Power Squadron  
saytanides@sbcglobal.net  
912-677-0156

More pictures on the next page.



# More Pictures of TLSPS's Participation in Filming America's Boating Channel Videos



Cast with Marty at Bennett's Dock



Cast raising the flag



Classroom Dennis Cusanelli, Marty, Carl Ericsson



Sailboats - collision avoidance



TowBoatU.S. and boat accident



Chatham County Marine Patrol on scene



Ken Hylander, John Baynard, Hal Evans



Women's sailboat crew

## Farewell to Doug Nelson - A Burial at Sea



P/C, SEO, SN, ON,  
Licensed USCG Captain,  
Master Navigator  
Doug Nelson

The Power Squadron uses educational designators and titles to abbreviate accolades for members, but my humble task is describing the caliber of an accomplished, humble, friend. Doug was easy to befriend - he loved people; I had the good fortune to be considered a friend by him.

He relished challenges physically and intellectually. This determined athlete had a great youthful career in rugby and morphed into an accomplished mountain climber in the UK and Europe. Physical challenges provided confidence, confidence developed into courage and a keen moral compass made Doug a respected leader. He remained vanguard in every endeavor.

These traits brought the Beaufort Sail and Power Squadron a wonderful gift: student, educator, commander and his favorite office, Squadron Education Officer. Mostly, he remained a student. He was also a gift to historians, particularly on the subjects of sixteenth century French and Spanish navigation. This is where his talents shined brightest in our community.

Approached by the Santa Elena Foundation (their mission: to discover, develop and teach the history of America's first European settlements), they asked if he could find a route to bring *El Galeon San Pelayo* to Beaufort. He enlisted me! In the end he explained this could not happen due to navigational constraints but the Foundation was impressed and a lecture series was launched, often attended by historians from faraway places. Always, Doug's measured Lancastrian baritone drew the audience into the lecture. The Foundation honored him with the title Master Navigator. Notably, an

author approached, asking us to determine voyages that occurred centuries earlier. We fleshed out two voyages taking five years to reproduce a two month voyage. All of this worked because of the navigational skills acquired through Power Squadron courses, so in a true sense USPS affected our interpretation of history.

How do you say goodbye to such a man? Our Squadron worked with his adopted community, Dataw Island, and provided a burial at sea ceremony. We had a large group in attendance on shore and six boats with crews on the water. Doug's immediate family were onboard the yacht *Finisterra II*. The service was scripted so those not close by knew what we did. Doug's British heritage inspired the service; a poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson was read, commending him to the deep from the Anglican Book of Common Prayer followed, cremated ashes were spread, two smoky reports from a gun sounded the dispersal of the fleet and long blasts on the ships' whistles bid farewell. The boats returned to the dock and all gathered to remember Doug and toast his amazing life. That is how we bade farewell to a cherished friend and mentor.

Submitted by

P/C Howard Heckrotte, JN, ON



**DISTRICT 26****NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT****30 July 2021**

In accordance with the Bylaws of District 26, Article 2, Section 2.9.1; Article 5, Section 5.6; and Article 6, the USPS District 26 Nominating Committee submits the following slate of nominees for election under Article 4, Section 4.3.1 at the 2021 District 26 Fall Conference.

**BRIDGE OFFICERS****District Commander**

D/Lt/C Richard Norris, SN (North Strand)

**District Executive Officer**

P/C Mark Larson, AP (Hilton Head)

**District Educational Officer**

D/Lt/C Charles Gresham, SN (Thurmond Lake)

**District Administrative Officer**

P/C Marc Theriault, AP (North Strand)

**District Secretary**

P/C Donna Lynes, SN (Charleston)

**District Treasurer**

D/Lt/C Larry Tremiere, AP (Hilton Head)

**ASSISTANT BRIDGE OFFICERS****Assistant District Educational Officer**

D/1\*/L Dennis Cusanelli, AP (Tybee Light)

**Assistant Secretary**

Cdr Gail Wilshire, P (Golden Corner)

**Assistant Treasurer**

P/Lt/C Craig Christiansen, P (Hilton Head)

**IMMEDIATE PAST DISTRICT COMMANDER**

P/D/C Jim Wilkins, AP (Lake Hartwell)

**GENERAL COMMITTEES****RULES COMMITTEE**

1 Year – Lt/C Brian Hackley, SN (Golden Corner)

2 Years – Lt/C Alan Lehman, AP (North Strand)

3 Years – P/R/C Carl Filios, SN (Beaufort)

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

1 Year – P/C Joseph Etter, AP (Hilton Head)

1 Year – Lt/C Steve Mendoza, P (Beaufort)

2 Years – P/Stf/C William O'Neill, SN (Thurmond Lake)

2 Years – P/R/C V. Jan Wright, SN (Tybee Light)

3 Years – P/D/C James Wilkins, AP, (Lake Harwell)

3 Years – P/Lt/C Richard Agar, AP (Lake Murray)

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

1 Year - P/C John Ozols, AP (Golden Corner)

2 Years – D/Lt/C Barbara Sommers, AP (Hilton Head)

3 Years – Lt/C Teresa Wilsdorf, S (Golden Isles)\*

\*Continuation subject to nominee's approval

All nominees have indicated that they are willing and able to serve in the positions noted, if elected.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hublou, AP (Golden Corner Lakes) - Chair

Butch Rachal, SN (Savannah River)

Joe Etter, AP (Hilton Head)

Steve Mendoza, P (Beaufort)

William O'Neill, SN (Thurmond Lake)

V. Jan Wright (Tybee Light)

**DISTRICT BRIDGE CONTACT INFORMATION**

D/C Jim Wilkins, AP	<a href="mailto:jrwretired@bellsouth.net">jrwretired@bellsouth.net</a>
DXO D/Lt/C Richard Norris, SN	<a href="mailto:richrcna@ptd.net">richrcna@ptd.net</a>
DEO D/Lt/C Charles Gresham, SN	<a href="mailto:cgrshm@clemsom.edu">cgrshm@clemsom.edu</a>
DAO D/Lt/C John Ozols, AP	<a href="mailto:jozols@nctv.com">jozols@nctv.com</a>
SEC D/Lt/C Carol Sherratt, P	<a href="mailto:cs3173@hotmail.com">cs3173@hotmail.com</a>
TREA D/Lt/C Larry Tremitiere, AP	<a href="mailto:ltrem1943@gmail.com">ltrem1943@gmail.com</a>
ADEO D/1 <sup>st</sup> L/C Dennis Cusanelli, AP	<a href="mailto:dencus@bellsouth.net">dencus@bellsouth.net</a>
ADAO D/1 <sup>st</sup> L/C Nioka Rose, S	<a href="mailto:ecroses@bellsouth.net">ecroses@bellsouth.net</a>

**026° True**

**Official Publication of District 26 United States Power Squadrons®**

Online editions published in Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer

Editor: Cathy Stortz, AP

Email: [cstortz777@yahoo.com](mailto:cstortz777@yahoo.com)

From the editor:

It is my pleasure to be chosen as editor of this quarterly publication. Please submit your squadron's articles and pictures for our district newsletter.



**D/26 Standard Bearers for Safety!**



**Don't be stuck without it!**



*For Boaters by Boaters*



**"Innovation, Education, Community"**