



August 2019 **Vol. 20-08** **Monthly Newsletter**

2018-2019 Bridge

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Commander's Report



Ahoy Squadron Members!

Finally, our beautiful lake is getting back to normal levels and I have seen some of our members out on the lake having fun again. NO, I'm not going to spend any more time on the weather. It's time to just get out there and go for it!

A couple of fun annual summer events are coming up and I hope you can join in. First up is our Ice Cream Social scheduled for Sunday August 18th. The Snyder's are opening their home to us for this fun afternoon. This is when we get to grill up some dogs and slurp up some home-made ice cream that a few of our members may churn up.

Next is the August 22nd Boat Rally. The Moore's have been diligently working on this program. This will get you out on the lake scavenging for interesting lakeside landmarks. There will be a prize for the top score as well as a booby prize for last place. As always, we will finish by enjoying lunch at the Parrot.

Look forward to getting these email announcements and the signup notices. A big thank you Moore's and Snyder's! Also look for our other events such as one last lunch meetup, and hopefully a raft up or dock party on the lake.

I want to extend special thanks to our Life Jacket Loaner Station committee, Steve Snyder, Scott Graves, and Ed Dennis for getting all our loaner stations back up and running after the floods. Your efforts have been noticed by our friends at GRDA. It's hard to imagine living any other place but here. Enjoy your summer and make the most of each day at the lake.

Kevin Kamrath, P
Commander
America's Boating Club—Grand Lake



S ——— *Seamanship*
P ——— *Piloting*
AP ——— *Advanced Piloting*



JN ——— *Junior Navigator*
N ——— *Navigator*
SN ——— *Senior Navigator*



Summer Dining Out Meet-Ups



Summer Fun - Eating Out

26 members met for a great lunch at the Parrot on Wednesday, July 10th at 11 am. John Walters was the only one who came in his boat (there was a pending storm front coming). He sped away as a Beatles song blared from his stereo to stay ahead of the storm and make it home safely.



Date	Day	Time	Location	Address
7-Aug	Wed	11:00 AM	Doc's Bar & Grill-Breakfast	31000 OK-125 Afton, OK 74331
22-Aug	Thu	9:00 AM	Boat Rally—The Parrot	Meet at the Marina/Lunch After

Above Water

The Grand Lake level is coming down more and more each day. Thanks to Steve Snyder, Scott Graves, and Ed Dennis for getting life jackets on the loaner stations at Wolf Creek, Honey Creek, Elk River and Bernice.



Wolf Creek



Honey Creek



Elk River

Bobber Drop



Look up in the sky—it's a bird, no it's Sam Williams, owner of the Grand Lake Sports Center dropping thousands of bobbers into Grand Lake for participants to pick up at Honey Creek, Shangri-La, Sail Boat Bridge, and Elk River. The event took place on Saturday, July 20 at 8 am. America's Boating Club-Grand Lake donated five \$20 gift certificates for the Sports Center and a Boat Handling class certificate to those lucky enough to pick up the right bobbers. The GRAND PRIZE of \$2,500 was provided by Grand Lake Casino and will go into a raffle if that bobber was not picked up, along with any other unclaimed prizes.



Summer Dining Out Meet-Ups



Summer Fun - Eating Out

19 members met for breakfast at the Hott Box on Thursday, July 25th at 9 am. There is only one more meet-up this summer, which is Wednesday, August 7th at 11 am for lunch at Doc's Bar & Grill. You will be able to boat over to the Shangri-La Marina and walk up to Doc's. Don't miss the fun!



Do You Know?

By P/D/C Larry Stout SN-IN

Article 1



Collision bearings are a series of bearings taken when your boat and another are on converging courses and might meet, resulting in a collision. A simple method of taking a bearing is to extend your arm pointing toward the other boat. If the boat is on your starboard side and the angle is decreasing, the boat will pass ahead of you. If the bearing or angle is increasing, the boat will pass behind you. The opposite is true if the boat is on your port side. Remember the angle is related to 360 degrees of a compass. If the angle remains constant, collision is a certainty and the rule to determine the give-way vessel should be followed.

If the other vessel is on your starboard, stay clear and pass behind it as you are the give-way boat. If it is on your port side, maintain your course and speed as the stand-on boat so the other vessel can slow and pass behind you. Unfortunately, not all boaters know the "Nautical Rules of the Road", so the ultimate rule is to avoid collision taking action as needed. The danger horn signal is five short horn or whistle blasts.

Article 2

Part of the fun operating a PWC is jumping wakes. However cutting to close to the sterns of other boats to jump their wakes is dangerous. Stay at least 100 feet behind the boat. This should give you sufficient room to observe traffic conditions in all directions. Avoid jumping wakes in areas of high boat traffic. If you fall, you may not be seen in the water, and you could be injured by an approaching boat. Remember, the GRDA's lake rule of no wake jumping in any arm of Grand Lake that has a name ending in Creek, Cove or Hollow or in the Cowskin and Elk Rivers.

A PWC is considered a boat and the operator must follow the same rules, plus some additional ones for the vessel. This also includes the no wake rules which is especially important with the current higher lake levels.

Article 3

Doubling a line can be very helpful when leaving a dock. It allows everyone to be onboard when leaving rather than having a crew member un-cleat the dock line and jump on board.

To double the line, attach the loop end of the line to the appropriate cleat on the boat. Then pass the line around the dock cleat without tying it off and back to the boat while making sure there are no knots in the line that would snag on the cleat when it is released.

When leaving the dock, gradually release the non-loop end as the boat leaves and then let it go free so the line will slip past the dock cleat. Quickly bring it onboard to avoid it getting caught in the propeller.

Boat Smart from the start and take a course from the United States Power Squadron, America's Boating Club. For more information visit our website at: www.grandlakeusps.com or on Facebook at America's Boating Club - Grand Lake.





To: All D/Cs, R/Cs, and Cdrs
Subject: America's Boating Club Plan Going Forward

June 27, 2019

Greetings to all from your board of directors.

When we identified America's Boating Club® as a brand two years ago, it was the beginning of an effort to make USPS more familiar to boaters everywhere and to facilitate advertising a name more recognizable and friendly to the boating world. The responses to this change have been very positive, and we truly appreciate all that squadrons have done to promote our new identity.

Efforts to that end continue with round two of national advertising this year and continued development of our America's Boating Club website. There have been more developments internally as well, especially in the Educational Department:

- We have begun the process of "modularizing" our courses so that students can focus on their areas of interest rather than have to take a long, sometimes redundant, course that taxes their limited time. Our old "all or nothing" approach has run its course.
- We have placed new emphasis on online courses and seminars, recognizing that learning needs to be available when it's convenient for the student
- Renewed efforts to promote on-the-water training are taking place including our new Learning Centers for members and the public.
- Jump Start has been very popular and is a good way to reach potential members while providing hands-on training.

With all the new and progressive things going on, our organization remains the same. In August of last year, I asked the national Planning Committee to focus on a plan to modernize our organization. In short, to formulate a model that will not only keep up with, but also facilitate the improvements in our approach to educating today's boater while providing a welcoming environment to new members.

The transition plan included is the result of a concerted effort to construct the plan, and there are many significant changes to USPS/ABClub presented. [Download the National Planning Committee Strategic Transition Plan Outline.](#)

The board has formally adopted this plan as a path to shape our future organization, and we ask that you pass it on to all members of your committees and squadrons for careful review. **Your input is very important!** We would like to have your comments by August 31 so that we will be prepared to discuss them with you in Louisville, Sept. 9-15. Please submit your comments using the form at <https://forms.gle/a34ezhGQzeT13BTp8>.

Thanks, and best regards,

Gary P. Cheney
 Chief Commander



Changes in Attitude

**Proposed 2019 Strategic Transition Plan for
United States Power Squadrons, dba; America's Boating Club
10 June 2019**

Here are some of the highlights from the strategic plan that are being considered. [Download the National Planning Committee Strategic Transition Plan Outline](#) to review the entire plan.

Strategy One: Establish an operational structure that ensures survivability of USPS/ABCub through the transition period and beyond.

Strategy Two: Assess Fiscal Management.

Strategy Three: Reflect age, gender, cultural, and demographic changes in the watercraft community while honoring our heritage.

Simplification Plan

- Significantly relax requirements for squadrons to fill so many positions. Completely eliminate many positions (i.e., Radio Technical, Chair of Local Boards, etc.)
- Review entire structure and eliminate programs. Validate everything as a cost benefit (true value to membership).
- Immediately eliminate ranks, grades as descriptors. Create an "almost no titles allowed" policy. Determine how younger people refer to positions.
- Immediately eliminate uniforms. Encourage adoption of proper attire and set a proposed standard for casual attire at gatherings.
- Allow all squadrons and districts to operate in a reduced, simplified, newly defined capacity. Be willing to "look the other way" a bit for awhile.
- Restructure Districts (replaced by three facilitators who mirror National Help/Chat Line) and keep in regular contact with the squadrons. (No mandatory Council or Conference Meetings)
- Reduce number of bridge positions to, maybe four (President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Educational Coordinator). Outline structure for squadrons to have more positions, if desired.
- Encourage squadrons to concentrate their manpower on activities that best fit the member's desires.
- Eliminate the requirement for monthly General Members Meetings. One annual business meeting may be sufficient. Make any regular gatherings fun and informative - no drudgery.
- Explore new approaches to filling positions.
- Encourage "outreach" by thinking "young" even if few members show interest.
- Encourage squadrons to adopt mostly electronic means of communication with members.
- Leaders need to focus on creating fun activity oriented jobs not administrative, reporting jobs. Eliminate most formal reporting.





*Where can you hear fiddles playing on Honey Creek?
Is there a Honey Creek cove where you can find candles with wicks?
How did you get across Honey Creek before the bridge was built in 1946?*

**These are just some examples of what you may have missed on Grand Lake.
Join us to find out about these and other items of interest.**

Mark **22 August 2019** on your calendar **NOW!** The ABC-GL Boat Rally is being planned and the course checked. We will have the start and finish of the rally at The Parrot Courtesy Boat Docks. The course is of a similar length to the past three events (approximately 2 - 2.5 hours). The ability to read a chart and to bring binoculars will be helpful. The course will be on the Honey Creek area of Grand Lake and may cover some waters you may have never visited. As in the past, don't plan on following the boat ahead of you as they may be going some other direction.

At the end of the rally, we will meet back at the Parrot, where you may order lunch and compare rally notes. There will be prizes for first and last place.

The materials you will need to participate include; an inquisitive desire to explore part of the lake, a boat owned and captained by a member of ABC-GL, a current GRDA/USPS vessel exam sticker, and at least four people in each boat. The additional people in the boat do not need to be squadron or USPS members. Bring your guests and let them see the fun that can be had with the ABC-GL. For those temporarily out of a boat contact one of your friends and join them for the rally.

Equipment needed includes; a compass, a Grand Lake Chart book, GLA map, binoculars, a clipboard for holding the instructions, pencil, and PFD's for everyone in the boat. Any other equipment you bring is at your option.

The schedule:

0900-1000: Vessel Exams for all boats that require one. Vessel Examiners will be on hand.

1000-1015: Captains meeting, everyone is invited. You will hear the last minute updates to the condition of the course(s).

1030-1045: First boat starts the rally. Boats will depart every five minutes thereafter.

1300: Official end of the rally. If you don't have it figured out by now, come back to order lunch.

Please call or text the Moore's or Kamrath's or email glspboatclub@aol.com to let us know if you plan to participate. We need to know how many will be attending to notify the Parrot for lunch.



Upcoming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
August			
8/7	Lunch	1100	Doc's Bar & Grill
8/13	E-Board	1300	GLA
8/18	Ice Cream Social	TBA	Snyder's House
8/22	Boat Rally	0930	The Parrot Docks
September			
9/17	E-Board	1300	GLA
9/19	Dinner Meeting	1800	TBA
TBA	Poker Run	TBA	Grand Lake
October			
10/4-5	D30 Fall Meeting	Varies	Eagles Landing



Happy Birthday



8/1	Jerry Ruzicka	8/9	James Carroll
8/1	Diana Smith	8/12	Sharon Dennis
8/3	Kim Lindahl	8/12	Bob Hunt
8/6	Mark Lindahl	8/13	Dennis Rice
8/6	Brenda Stewart	8/26	Judy Scarriot



From your Editor...

Please send me pictures (with names and the activity), ideas and suggestions that are most important to you. The deadline is the 25th of the month. Thanks for your input and support., Micki

Contact Information

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America's Boating Club-Grand Lake website...www.grandlakeusps.com

District 30 website...
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