

Commander's Letter

At our most recent squadron dinner, we held our Change of Watch, where we officially installed our new leadership team. I'm truly honored to step into the role of Commander and am thrilled to work alongside such a talented group of individuals on our new Bridge. Together, with our dedicated committee leaders, our new team brings energy and valuable experience to the club, ensuring that we continue to be a vibrant and welcoming community for boaters. Our club's mission remains grounded in three core pillars: education and safety, social engagement with great boating opportunities, and community outreach and giving back. These guiding principles will continue to shape the direction of our activities in the year ahead.

One of the key factors that makes our club so successful is the remarkable volunteerism from our members. Every person who has served, or continues to serve, in any capacity does so as a volunteer. In addition to the personal satisfaction that comes from giving back, their efforts are what keep our club thriving and growing. During our recent dinner meeting, we had the privilege of recognizing some of our exceptional volunteers with Certificates of Appreciation and Annual Awards. It's important to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of those who go above and beyond to make our club a truly special place. Their contributions are deeply appreciated, and we look forward to continuing this tradition of recognition in the future.

On a different note, one of the most anticipated events of the season is the Hilton Head Holiday Boat Parade, also known as **"Deck the Hulls."** Unfortunately, we've had to make the difficult decision to cancel this year's parade. As many of you know, as part of the national US Power Squadrons, our events are covered by liability insurance provided at the national level. This fall, we were notified by our insurance carrier that they would not be renewing coverage after December 1st. With the parade just around the corner and no guarantee that we would have coverage in time, we felt it was important to make the decision early so that our boat captains wouldn't continue investing time and resources into decorating their boats without assurance of insurance protection.

While it's disappointing that we won't be able to gather for the parade this year, the good news is that both Beaufort and Savannah are moving forward with their respective parades, as these events are sponsored by their local cities. Additionally, the national US Power Squadrons organization has made significant progress in securing new insurance coverage, and we are confident that there will be minimal disruption to our other planned activities in the coming months.

Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. Together, we will continue to make this an exceptional year for our club and our community!