



2023 Commander's Annual Report

2023 has been a fun and productive year and I am thrilled to report that we have had success in many areas and functions of our Squadron. Our commitment to promoting educational and skill development opportunities was supported by a newly formed 4-person team in 2023. I am thankful to the efforts everyone that made this possible.

Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) were conducted in 2022 with an expanded team of dedicated examiners. Outreach in our traditional activities such as Toys for Tots, and Salvation Army Bell Ringing continued.

We are committed to creating Squadron membership meetings that provide opportunities to socialize with friends, learn and have fun. 2023 brought a wide range of speakers to our meetings and fun side trips to the Whale Center in Beaufort and the STEM Center in Washington. Our meetings, social outings and Christmas Party delivered! We have welcomed 12 new members to our club in 2023. It has been my privilege to have been a small part of this effort. The positive energy of our involved members and the leadership of the Executive Committee is what made this possible.

We have begun our planning for 2024 to keep this momentum. Plans for rejuvenating a Marine Market and hosting the 2024 Rendezvous are part of it. Commander Walt Morrissey

National Awards Received in 2023

	Website Distinctive Communication Award - PSPS Web Site
	Newsletter Distinctive Communication Award - Sound of the Pamlico

Boating Education

Our Education Officer and his team planned courses and seminars for members, surrounding yacht clubs and the public offerings for area local recreational boaters.

- When recruiting for volunteers for the Education department, the effort was made to encourage a team approach rather than an officer & assistant. The result is a 4-person team that is working very well, keeping everyone's individual efforts at a reasonable level and allowing for successful scheduling of many educational courses/seminars.
- Rules of the Road Seminar was held April 13th, presented by a seasoned shipping Captain with 32 students attending.
- The America's Boating Course was presented May 19 & 20 graduating 17 students; 2 of those students became members.
- Cruise & Cruise Planning Course was presented May (10 wks) with 7 students, all graduating.
- Weather Seminar presented July 25 by a member and past airline pilot providing enhanced additional information for 25 students.
- Marine Radio Seminar was presented September 26 with 21 students attending.
- Partner in Command Seminar was presented Oct 24 with 24 students attending.
- Communicated with local newspapers, radio & TV, surrounding boating clubs, yacht clubs and boating retailers encouraging boating skill building opportunities in our area.
- Maintains a public group on Facebook social media to promote education opportunities, safety, events and civic involvement.
- A team of Editors publish monthly educational, safety and boating information articles for the local Washington Daily Newspaper Boating tips column.

Civic and Community Involvement

The Squadron continues its efforts to strengthen our mission throughout Beaufort County in our community involvement.

- 22 Vessel Safety Inspections were performed for local boaters by our certified VSC Inspectors.
- Promoted National Safe Boating Week with newspaper articles, a Mayor Proclamation and materials kicking off National Safe Boating week May 20th at a booth outside Walmart entrance with 12 volunteers throughout the day.
- Collected marine related donations in anticipation of the annual WHDA Maritime Festival. Event was cancelled and a plan is in place for a Marine Flea Market in early 2024. The money from this annual event supports our efforts for boating safety and education within Beaufort County.
- Members attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at Beaufort Community Collage's new Boat Building classroom and construction facility.
- VSC Inspectors participated in the 1st Annual Marine Trade Fair for Beaufort County High School students Oct 3rd. The Fair advocated to students the value of learning marine trades and the opportunities in that coastal industry.
- Maintained annual membership in the Washington-Beaufort County Chamber of Commerce.
- Participated in the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program filling 7 collection boxes at 2 YC locations, golf club location and our November member social luncheon.
- Participated in Salvation Army's Red Kettle kickoff breakfast. Further supported their efforts by Bell Ringing December 15th with efforts of 24 members throughout the entire day.

Social, Boating and Fellowship Activities

In addition to our commitment to safe boating through education, our Squadron truly enjoys fun on and off the water.

- Members enjoyed our Change of Watch Luncheon, Elections and Member Award Recognitions in February 2023.
- Held four General Membership Dinner Meetings with exceptionally interesting local speakers, two of which expanded to member on-site tours of their facilities.
- Members enjoyed our annual Christmas Party with dinner, musical entertainment and holiday games that had everyone engaged and heavily competing.
- Popular social "Just for Fun" lunches/dinners were enjoyed at 5 local restaurants, very well attended.
- Our boaters were active, creating a Cruise Wish List by members which was used to develop cruises for the year.
- Throughout the various cruise destinations, car riders joined the boaters whenever possible for dinners, etc.
- Cruises included extended cruise to Dowry Creek/Manteo & The Great Chesapeake Bay cruise in April/May. Other Cruises included July to Oriental & Beaufort; October to New Bern/River Dunes wrapping up with the Fall Cruise to Dowry Creek in November. Unfortunately, the Ocracoke Labor Day Cruise was cancelled due to severe weather.
- Members attended the May Tar River Rendezvous, Oriental.
- The Bridge and Executive Committee met monthly 9 times to monitor and conduct the affairs of the squadron.
- Delegates attended all national and district meetings.
- We have been fortunate to have 12 new members in 2023.
- Provided our annual software program for substantial savings for our members on available software.
- Published 6 editions of the Sound of the Pamlico Newsletter.
- Merit Marks were awarded to 33 Members representing 1,450+ hours of volunteer support of ABC-Pamlico.