



# The Ocean Breeze

An official publication of America's Boating Club® of Hilton Head  
"For Boaters, By Boaters™"



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The Ocean Breeze is published monthly by the America's Boating Club® of Hilton Head, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons. Articles in this publication represent the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the United States Power Squadrons or the America's Boating Club of Hilton Head.

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## SPECIAL EDITION CHANGE OF WATCH

- Commander's Remarks – Mark Larson
- Presentation of Awards
- Installation of Bridge & Members-at-Large



*America's Boating Club of Hilton Head  
celebrates the season with  
the  
Hilton Head Shore Notes Ensemble*



*We invite you to join us for Cocktails and Dinner  
December 11, 2018, 6:30pm*

Entrée Choice of  
Prime Rib with Rosemary Roasted Potatoes and Mixed Vegetables  
Shrimp Scampi over Risotto with Mixed Vegetables  
Chef's Choice Vegetarian Entrée on Request  
Served with Mixed Green Salad, Rolls and Butter,  
Crème Brulee Cheese Cake, Coffee, Tea

As is our annual custom, we support those who are in need and will be contributing to:

### Bluffton Self Help

Representatives from BSH will be on hand to accept your generous donations of unwrapped child's toys, non-perishable food, or clothing. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Cost \$36

RSVP with your guests & entrée choices no later than **December 9**  
The Golf Club at Indigo Run  
101 Berwick Dr. HHI, SC 29926  
Holiday Attire

"America's Boating Club® is a trademark of the United States Power Squadrons®"



## CHANGE OF WATCH

### Commander Mark Larson

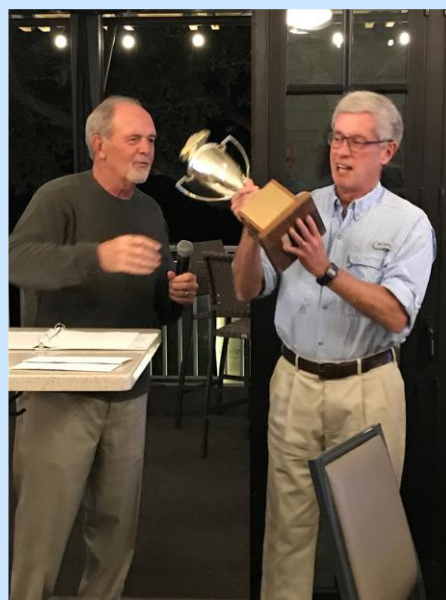


The evening served as our Change of Watch meeting, which is a Squadron tradition where we express our appreciation to all members who have volunteered their time and effort leading our club, and where we swear in the leadership of the Squadron for the next year. Introductions were made of past commanders, guests, and a special welcome was extended to newly-elected District Commander Jim Wilkins and his wife Dee.

I'd like to thank all the members of my 2018 Executive Committee, including the Bridge and Members-at-Large: Executive Officer, Walter Kirk; Secretary, Debbie Dion; Treasurer, Craig Christiansen; Education Officer, Pete Dion; Membership Chair, Glenn Crews; Technology Officer and Member-at-Large, Paul Hoyte; Members-at-Large, Mark Dryden; Bob Newbert; Randy Royen and Hal Wilson. Additionally, I would like to thank our recent Past Commanders, Mick Holroyde, Barb Sommers, Larry Tremetiere and Joe Etter. All of them have continued to be very active in the work of the Executive Committee, and I appreciate their wise counsel over the past year. 2018 has been a good year for America's Boating Club of Hilton Head. We remain in excellent financial condition under the direction of Craig Christiansen. Our communications with members are frequent and thorough. Debbie Dion put out a great series of Ocean Breeze publications during the year. And we have had a full year of the new website thanks to Paul Hoyte and his committee. Through a combination of an excellent education program, our relationship with the Freedom Boat Club, and our efforts at new member mentoring, our overall membership status is great. As we close the current year, we officially have 199 members. We actually have more than that as we have just completed the fall ABC course and have eleven applications in hand, so we will be at 210 as we start the year. It's been quite a while since we have had over 200 members. We started the year with 175 members, added 65, and saw 30 leave. We experienced a net growth over last year of 20%, in spite of the loss of the 30 members that I mentioned. That means we retained 83% of the folks that were here at the beginning of the year, which is an excellent result, due to great work by your Executive Committee, and in particular Membership Chair, Glenn Crews, to produce a great membership year. Participation in our many boating activities was broad under the leadership of Barb Sommers and Mike Gilroy; we had 14 different boating events during the year, compared to nine last year. While we were somewhat affected by weather, on average we had 14 people participate as captain or crew in each of those cruises. We had 20 different education seminars or courses during the year with an average of seven members per class. That does not include non-members. Many thanks to Pete Dion and the team of instructors who make this happen. We were again very successful in vessel safety checks with a total of 129 performed by Larry Tremetiere and his crew of inspectors. We have about 40 member-owned boats in the Squadron so we provided the broader Hilton Head/Bluffton community with 89 inspections. Great job! And we've had a great response to our recent solicitation for new inspectors. Nine members have signed up to join the VSC Inspector Team. We wanted to improve participation in our dinner events. We had fewer of them than we have had in the past, but with an emphasis on having our social events at different locations. On average we grew the attendance at these gatherings by 15% over last year. Thanks to Paul Hoyte and Nancy Stermer for their efforts in planning and organizing in this area. And another 'kudos' to Paul and his committee for putting together a wonderful 30th anniversary celebration in September at the Harbour Town Yacht Club.



For our 2018 awards the Commander's Cup Award goes to an individual in the Squadron who typifies the "best of the best." The person is chosen on the basis of character, participation, merit and contribution to the growth and stature of America's Boating Club of Hilton Head. This year's Commander's Cup Award goes to Bob Newbert. Bob has been an excellent Member-at-Large by bringing to the Executive Committee ideas and points of view that are in the best interests of the members that he represents. He is an animated catalyst for new ways of looking at things during all of our Executive Committee meetings. Bob is also the foundation behind your yearly Boys and Girls Club "Day on the Water" event, and this year has served on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and the Member Retention Committee. He has produced captain's brochures for our cruises and has himself led some of them. He has worked this year to produce a wonderful and extensive list of potential speakers for our dinner meetings. In other words, Bob does it all. Congratulations Bob and thanks from all of us.



Commander Larson congratulates Bob Newbert and presents him with the Commander's Cup Award.



Bob Newbert with the Commander's Cup Award. Congratulations!

The Lew Ward Award was initiated several years ago in honor of Lew's numerous contributions to our Squadron, the District and the National USPS organization. The award is given to an individual in the Squadron who over time has continuously performed "above and beyond" their regular responsibilities and for demonstrating a positive attitude that inspires others. This year's award goes to Pete Dion. I believe that few familiar with our educational programs would deny that they are the bedrock of our organization. Under Pete's leadership, we have a great instructor team. Pete is an educator by training, and he has been an innovator in continually finding new ways to attract students, offers them creative educational opportunities, and for non-member students, incentivizing them to join. Of the 60 people who have taken our two ABC courses this year, 40% of them have become members. Pete himself is an excellent instructor and a proponent of increasing our on-the-water offerings. He's also a good photographer for many of our social events. Thank you, Pete, for all that you do for our club, and congratulations.



Commander Larson congratulations Pete Dion as the recipient of the Lew Ward Award for 2018.

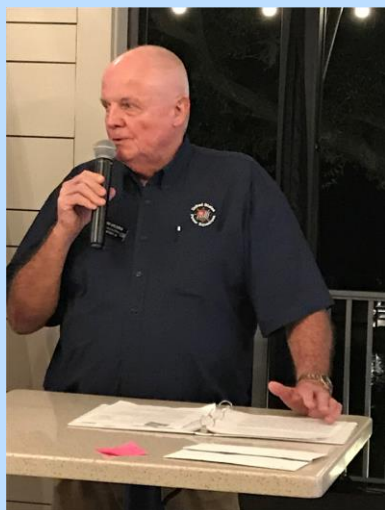


Congratulations to Pete Dion with the Lew Ward Award.



Finally, "Catch the Spirit, Pass it On" Award is a ceremonial flag based on the D26 flag, emblazoned with our district mottos in gold to match the 50th anniversary band around the outside of our district flag. The award flag is ceremonial and not intended to be flown. Therefore, it is displayed in a frame that passes from one recipient to another, and is presented to an individual that the Squadron Commander determines exemplifies the motto. This year's "Catch the Spirit, Pass it On" Award goes to Debbie Dion. As I was recently documenting hours, for Merit Mark purposes, of the many members who dedicate their personal time to the benefit of our Squadron, Debbie wound up at the top of the list. In addition to her work as Squadron Secretary - and all that that entails in keeping the rest of us organized and in line - Debbie also puts in many hours in gathering information and publishing our newsletter, *The Ocean Breeze*. She was a member of the 30th Anniversary Planning Committee, and on several occasions assisted in various ABC courses and other seminars. Debbie has become a key player in welcoming new members to our club. Debbie certainly has the spirit, and routinely passes it on. Thank you, Debbie,

One more special thank you from me to my wife Linda. The commander's job takes up a great deal of time - time that the marital relationship has to sacrifice as well. Thanks, babe, for your contribution and support.



District Commander Jim Wilkins addresses the members of ABCHH during the annual Change of Watch dinner meeting at the Skull Creek Dockside.



District Commander Jim Wilkins dismissed our current Commander and then swears in our new Commander. Hey, it's Mark Larson again!!!



In my last act as this year's Commander, I would like to express my sincere personal appreciation to all of my Executive Committee members for their many achievements over the past 12 months, and for their day-to-day support, counsel, and friendship. As I officially begin the new year for the Squadron, I want to thank all of our members for their continued dedication to our club, and particularly all of those who have stepped up to the volunteerism that allows our organization to survive, grow, and contribute to our communities.

## **2019 Executive Committee, Members-at-Large, And Standing Committees**

### **Executive Committee**

Commander - Mark Larson, AP

Executive Officer - Walter Kirk, AP-CN

Education Officer - Peter Dion, SN

Asst. Education Officer - Tom Ryley

Treasurer - Craig Christiansen, AP

Secretary - Debra Dion

Technology Officer - Paul Hoyte, AP

Asst. Treasurer Officer - David Frederick

### **Members-at-Large**

Glenn Crews

Mark Dryden

Paul Hoyte, AP

Wayne Mitchell

Robert Newbert, AP

Randy Royen, P

Hal Wilson, AP

### **Nominating Committee**

2 Years - P/C Mick Holroyde, AP (Chairman)

1 Year - D/Lt/C Barb Sommers, AP

### **Rules Committee**

2 Years - D/Lt/C Joe Etter. AP-IN (Chairman)

1 Year - P/C Larry Tremetiere, S

### **Audit Committee**

2 Years - P/C Larry Tremetiere, S (Chairman)

1 Year - D/Lt/C Joe Etter. AP-IN