



America's Boating Club® - Knoxville

For Boaters, By Boaters™



Now Hear This!

A Unit of District 17 of the United States Power Squadrons, Inc.®

Newsletter Vol 37 No 9

September 2025

Executive Committee 2025

Commander:
Cdr Don Perrine, AP
(865) 963-9550

Executive Officer:
Vacant

Administrative Officer:
D/Lt/C John Farmer, SN-IN
(865) 765-3407

Education Officer:
Lt/C Jeff Schmitt, S
(410) 493-4395

Secretary:
Lt/C Walt Hanson, AP IN
(865) 803-5842

Treasurer:
Lt/C Tom Dietrich, SN-CN
(865) 567-3555

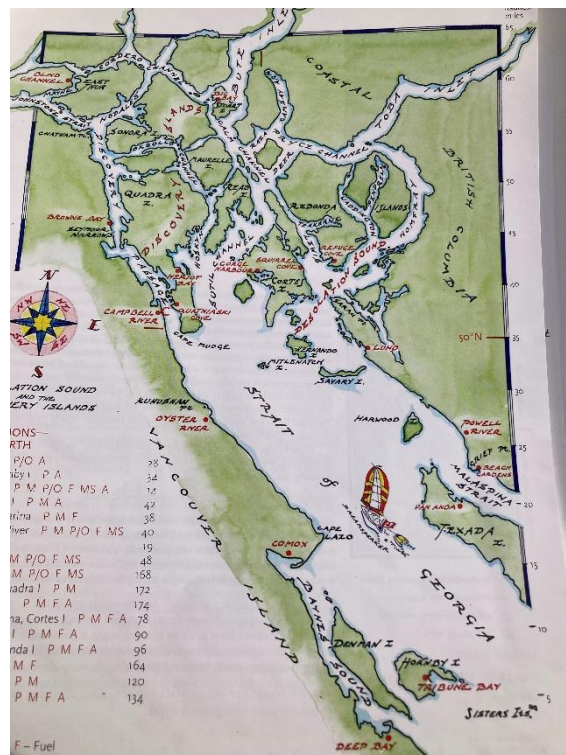
Bridge Assistants 2025

Asst Education Officer:
1st/Lt Steve Brumit, AP-IN
(423) 737-9922

Asst Admin Officer:
1st/Lt Beth Fendley, S
(865) 384-1233

Commander's Report 8/24/2025

One of the ways we boat is by chartering in areas that we would not be able to enjoy otherwise. Brigitte and I cruised for three weeks in a spectacular part of British Columbia's coast that had been recommended by Tom and Marbeth Dietrich. The photos below will give you an idea about its dramatic beauty where the Canadian Coastal Mountains drop into the fiords, channels and straits as much as 50 miles from the coast. Tides are up to 14 feet and currents can be up to 16 knots. We enjoyed an immersive experience, dramatic views, humpback whales, hiking, swimming and making new friends. On the next page is but a small sample in pictures.



We cruised about 500 miles from below the bottom to above the top of this chart.

Anyone seeking new adventures on the water should consider chartering, because it offers an experience where the boat is the vehicle to get you around in some of the world's most amazing places.

See you on the water,

Don Perrine
Commander



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Organization

GENERAL COMMITTEES – 2025

Audit

Chair: Lt/C Walt Hanson, AP-IN
 2-Year: 1st/Lt Beth Fendley, S
 3-Year: **Vacant**

Nominating

Chair: **Vacant**
 2-Year: Ed Fendley, S
 3-Year: **Vacant**

Rules

Chair: **Vacant**
 2-Year: **Vacant**
 3-Year: **Vacant**

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OFFICERS – 2025

Chaplain

Vacant

Historian

Lt Jeanette Farmer, P

IT / Facebook Administrator

D/Lt/C John Farmer, SN (**interim**)

IT / Website Administrator

Lt/C Tom Dietrich, SN (**interim**)

Law Officer

P/C Jim Barkley, SN

Legislative Liaison

Lt Joel Stern

Membership:

Lt Jeanette Farmer, P

Merit Mark

Vacant

Newsletter Editor

Lt/C Walt Hanson, AP-IN

Port Captain - Fort Loudoun

D/Lt/C John Farmer, SN

Port Captain – Lower Norris

Lt Bonnie Fried, P

Port Captain - Tellico

Dan Johnson, JN

Port Captain - Watts Bar

Ed Fendley, S

Public Relations Chair

Vacant

Roster & Calling Committee

Lt Robin Hanson, S

Vessel Safety Check Chair

Lt Joel Stern

Commander's Report (cont'd)



*The average mountain height is 6,500 ft and the highest is 13,000 ft.
 One of many impressive waterfalls we saw is pictured at right.*



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Farewell to our Late Friend and Boater – A. Wayne Baker



Our fellow ABC Knoxville Member of 10 years, A. Wayne Baker, passed away on August 15, 2025. Wayne was our Squadron's Executive Officer in 2017. He captained his 288 Four Winns Vista Cruiser "COLOR THE WIND," on a number of outings and was an able boater having completed Seamanship, Engine Maintenance and Comms Systems.

Wayne was born in Powder Springs, TN, and is survived by his daughter, Michelle Schmidt (Tom) of Knoxville, TN, and their children, Andrea, Tyler, and Haley; his son, Patrick Baker (Andrea) of Knoxville, TN, and their son, Tyler Baker (Thea); his sister, Sandi Esmon (Dwight) of Florida; and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Leanne Baker; his parents, Coy and Julia Baker; and his brother, Jay Baker. Wayne's family moved to the "Burlington" area of Knoxville early in his childhood.

Wayne graduated from Holston High School before moving on to East Tennessee State, where he earned his Bachelor's in both Political Science and Psychology. He later earned his graduate degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Tennessee.

Wayne joined the FBI in 1969, where he had an impressive career. He worked on several nationally recognized high-profile cases, including the Patty Hearst kidnapping; a case involving Sonny Barger, president of the Hells Angels; and the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995. Wayne spent much of his early FBI career in California. He eventually returned to Knoxville, where he was a sought-after agent for undercover operations. After retiring from the FBI, Wayne founded and ran a successful private investigator business in Knoxville and the surrounding areas for many years.

Wayne always lived an active and healthy lifestyle. He had a lifelong love for basketball, playing in various rec leagues and, in retirement, playing with friends in the Senior Olympic League until his passing. He had season tickets to the Vols for a period and was an avid fan of the Lady Vols. Wayne enjoyed many sports and activities, including flying, air races, boating, hunting, fishing, and pickleball. He adored these activities with family and a very special group of friends. Wayne also loved to travel and visited many countries; he particularly enjoyed extensive cruises. He loved good-quality food and was not afraid to dabble in the kitchen. Wayne believed in giving back and did so by contributing to several organizations. He had a soft spot for the Boys and Girls Clubs. He volunteered with friends at UT Hospital, the senior center, and hospice. Rest in peace, Wayne..

We thank Club members, Bill Brumit, the Farmers, the Fendleys, and Bonnie Fried for attending the visitation to honor Wayne's memory.

Dues Renewal Guidance from USPS

You can now pay dues by logging into the [member portal](#) and going to "My account" under your username in the top bar. You will either see a button or hyperlink to renew dues. Email hilly@hq.usps.org if you don't have a log in or if you don't see a link to renew. You can also call headquarters at 888-367-8777 ext. 219 or 229 and our membership staff will renew your dues over the phone. Invoices will go out soon, but renewing online or by phone is the easiest way to pay dues.



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Where There Is a Will, We Can Find a Way to Go Boating

The Club's planned August outing to Lake Cumberland was canceled, but three of our members ventured to Watts Bar Lake to affect a raft up as a substitute. Plans were for a several night event in the upper lake but weather and chance took its toll.

Our plans were to depart Wednesday, 8/13. However, morning storms made it risky for SOUL MATES (Tom and Marbeth Dietrich) to venture out. We agreed to delay a day. And as chance would have it, Ed and Beth Fendley (NEXT CHAPTER) had a huge branch crash down upon a recently renewed deck on their home. This delayed their departure. For both the Dietrichs and the Fendleys a day's delay to Thursday worked out.

But even still, Thursday was not without its calamities. SOUL MATES had a water pump casualty soon after departure. Because they were on Tellico Lake, they were assisted by T-BART. Within a half hour they were towed back to their home dock where Tom had a replacement water pump ready. Determined to not miss out, Tom switched out the pump, soft talked the Ft Loudoun Lock to open for them early, and caught up to us Thursday afternoon.

NEXT CHAPTER was a competent steed. So, when all was under control at its home, it provided a great ride for the Fendleys.

Walt and Robin Hanson's TIME AFTER TIME worked well despite it having been docked 326 days. The long time it was moored was in part due to a fault in the electric actuators within its hydraulic hatch lift system. This prevented the 500-pound engine compartment hatch from being lifted. After chasing down the correct fault and getting the engine compartment open enough, finding proper replacements for a 17-yr-old boat was challenging. Ultimately the fix took less than an hour. And then its engines and genset could be readied for the boating season.



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Where There Is a Will, We Can Find a Way to Go Boating (cont'd)

Just before 2 PM TIME AFTER TIME anchored in a sheltered cove on the right descending bank of the TN River (MM 576.5), which is downriver of Wilson Island. The cove's deepest depth is 17 feet. Anchoring in 14.5 feet of water, permitted a safe swing arc of 115 feet. NEXT CHAPTER rafted to the starboard side of TIME AFTER TIME. About 4 PM, SOUL MATES arrived and rafted on the port side. Despite what appeared to be storm clouds building, all we experienced was a gentle breeze and for our two days at anchor the cove was very calm. The temps were mid 90s but the water was in the 70s. So, swim calls were each day...as were hydration and happy hour hors d'oeuvres...and plenty of sharing.



Having a working generator, TIME AFTER TIME was able to provide power to NEXT CHAPTER, which made its cabin cooler. SOUL MATES roughed it with fans and the cooler night breezes. We all were fortunate because it did dip to 72 at night.

Friday weather through mid-afternoon was about the same as the day before. We made time to discuss plans for the September boat outing to the Hiwassee and had another refreshing swim call. But storm clouds and all of us having matters pressing to be attended to had us all making tracks for home.

Last Offering of JN and N Courses

Buzzards Bay Sail & Power Squadron (BBSPS) is offering JN starting Monday September 15, 2025 and will offer N starting in February 2026. Presentations are Monday evening 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. BBSPS will present all the course material using the ZOOM platform, generally one evening per chapter in the text. You must work with your local squadron to obtain course material, for hands on sextant training and sight taking, sight folder review, and exam. To register for the BBSPS presentation contact Richard Moore (chmbrck@live.com / 508-888-8238) and provide: (a) by email your name; mailing address; email address; phone number; USPS member number; and name of your local squadron AND (b) mail a check for \$100 payable to "BBSPS" to PO Box 1685, Sagamore Beach, MA 02562.



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Educational Department Corner**LASTEST ON THE INLAND BOATING COURSE** (news reported by John Farmer)

The Inland Boating group of the USPS Marine Navigation committee had a meeting on 8/19. The new Inland Boating student manual has been assembled and is being critiqued. It is 109 pages long. The group has decided to assign John Farmer's Rules of the Road subchapter (with images) as an appendix to shorten the text of the course. Jan, the Assistant National Educational Officer, has read the manual and submitted suggestions. The group is now hoping to send it to the USPS Publishing Committee by 10/15. This news was reported by John Farmer.

TECHNICAL CORNER – SEA-AI (Article provided by Bill Brumit)

The starting point for AI-based situational awareness on the water is considered.

- three cameras (one RGB camera and two thermal ones) and
- one AI processing unit.

Bill Brumit is considering “doing the Loop” and using the below described SEA-AI model as a log/obstruction detector. He and his son are looking at a Neel 47 sailboat in Charleston and are considering adding this model or the next one up of SEA-AI. [The boat the Brumits are looking at has a large 48-volt lithium battery bank, air conditioning, a washing machine, and a dish washer.]

SEA-AI model of interest is the compact sailing SEA-AI system called “Offshore ONE,” which has a starting price of \$10,999 (excluding VAT). It has an extra slim design integrating three cameras and the AI processor into one housing. Its features are:

- Object detection from nearfield to horizon
- Works day and night
- Highly intuitive interface
- 3 alarm modes: Harbor, coastal, or offshore
- 3 view modes. Daylight view, thermal view, or map view
- Runs simultaneously on multiple screens.
- Compatible with major brand MFDs, iOS, and Android
- Constantly gaining performance with each software update.
- It can currently recognize:
 - As far away as 325 feet a BUOY, PERSON IN WATER, or similar small object
 - As far away as 800 feet a DINGHY, RIB, or INFLATABLE
 - As far away as 3,280 feet a MOTORBOAT or SAILBOAT
 - As far away as the horizon a LARGE VESSEL
- Detection angle during daylight and at twilight is 50°
- Detection frequency: 3/sec
- Resolution:
 - 2x thermal 320x256 px
 - 1x lowlight 2592x1944 px



There are two more expensive models with more capabilities.



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September Boat Outing – Another by-Invite Private Event

Our September boat outing explores the Hiwassee River to Mile Marker 13 and B&B Marina. The Hiwassee joins the Tennessee at TN MM 501.3. For the Event Captains, Walt Hanson and Ed Fendley, it is a one-way trip in excess of 85 miles. For those of you above Ft Loudoun Dam, you are at least 110 miles one-way. Tentative plans are to do the event in two legs with the first leg ending at or near Blue Springs Marina, which can be a fueling stop for diesel or gas.

Tell me about the objective – B & B Marina. It is 54.3 miles from Blue Springs Marina and we must lock down through Watts Bar Dam.

B&B is located at 35 19.658N, 084 49.731W (street address is 117 Marina Drive NW, Charleston, TN 37310 [it is easy to get to by car]). B&B Marina owners Ryan and Carrie are looking forward to our visit. At the time of this article, they have set aside five dock spaces for us.

One will be undercover with power, two will be in the open with power, and two will be at the fuel pier (no power). If we have more joining us, we may need to have them raft alongside one of us at the transient slip – or we will see if



B&B can find another spot. B&B doesn't have a fixed price for use of slips. It will be less than what we will pay at Blue Springs.

After Labor Day, the ship's store (and fueling) operates Thursday and Friday (11-4) and on Saturday and Sunday (11-6). They have gas (\$4.69/gal) and diesel (\$3.49/gal). The Marina's website is www.explorebbmarina.com; the ship's store is 423-336-2341.

B&B has two restaurants: the Pavilion (for specialty dining) and the Paradise Point Bar & Grill. Both have great food and a well-stocked bar. But boaters routinely have to compete with wedding parties at the Pavilion. The Pavilion is booked Saturday (9/26) but we may be able to enjoy its fare on Friday (9/25). Paradise Point will be open to us during our stay. The hours of both restaurants are Friday and Saturday (4-9) and Sunday (11-4).

Preliminary plans are to arrive Friday (9/26) and have either one or two overnights. We can make that determination closer to the date. Ed will be updating the owners the weekend beforehand.



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September Boat Outing – Another by-Invite Private Event (cont'd)

Tell me about Blue Springs Marina. From Fort Loudoun Dam it is 49.5 miles.



Blue Springs is located at 35 44.194N, 084 40.165W, which is a mile inside Evans Branch, which joins the TN River at MM 547.5 (street address 3952 River Rd, Ten Mike, TN [it is a pain to get to by car]).

Joanna, the co-owner, has transient spaces with power for six boats. She asked for last names and the size of the boats so she has a nominal list that we will have to update the weekend before. The store and fueling are open daily. They have gas for \$4.10/gal and diesel (price escapes me, we will need to call closer to our date). Blue Springs charges \$1.25/foot for a transient slip (power included). Pump out is \$20 (even if you fuel). The Marina's website is www.bluespringsmarinamarina.com; the owner's email is larrys@bluespringsmarina.com; the store is 865-376-7298.

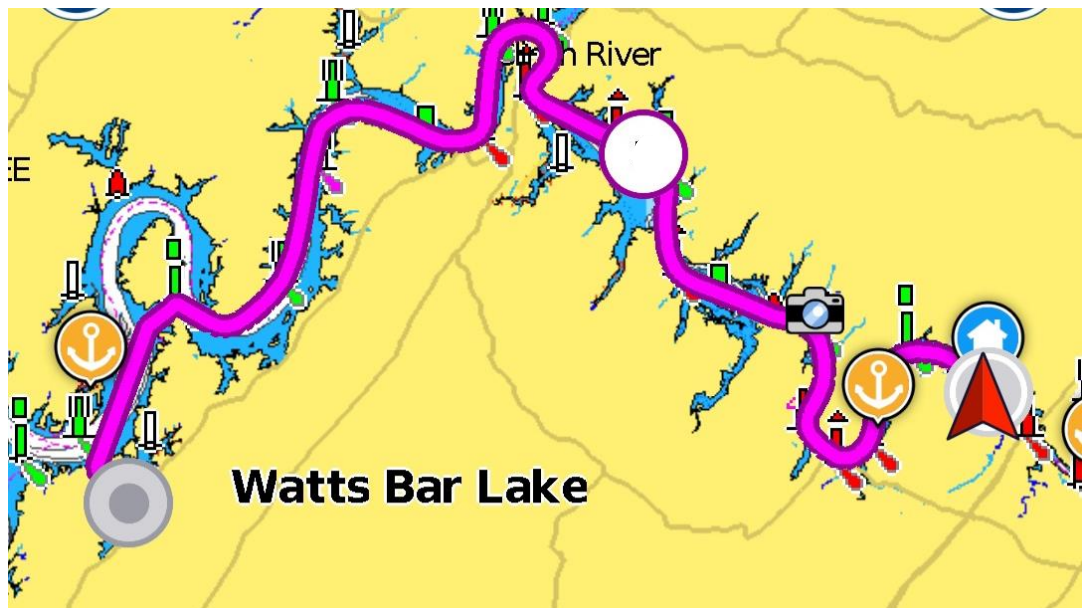
The Blue Springs ship's store and its attached Crow's Nest Restaurant have been remodeled. The fare has been simplified and akin to a decent truck stop focusing on burgers and chicken with large salads. It has a well stocked bar. Walt recently ate there and could only finish half of his meal. It was good enough to take home and reheat.

Preliminary plans are to arrive Blue Springs on Thursday for those who need fuel and/or desire to have power for the night and not be at anchor. It is likely that the Crow's Nest won't be open. As noted, we are tentatively expected to stay overnight at Blue Springs, but another option is to anchor. One location is the Martin Light anchorage (35 48.815N, 084 40.916W), which is a shielded cove, just west of TN River MM 548.2 (entering on the right descending bank of the river). It is 2.1 miles upriver of Blue Springs Marina. In the cove it has a 370' diameter circle suitable for a star anchor if so inclined.

Walt Hanson will be out of the country till September 19, so co-captain Ed Fendley will be coordinating with those boaters who are interested and with the respective marinas so that all know the same plan.

In summary, our preliminary plan is:

1. Thursday 9/25:
Rendezvous off Tennessee National Marina (TN River MM 583) around 1:30 PM. Assuming 16 mph SOG arrive at Blue Springs Marina around 3:30 PM. Remain overnight. See chart at right; we travel from right to left.



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September Boat Outing – Another by-Invite Private Event (cont'd)

2. Friday 9/26: Depart Blue Springs Marina no later than 11 AM. Assuming 16 mph SOG and 1 hour at Watts Bar Lock, we arrive at B&B Marina at 3:30 PM. We will have at least one overnight. See chart below; we travel from top to bottom.
3. Depart B&B Marina either Saturday 9/26 or Sunday 9/29, depending on boaters' schedules. Some might choose to anchor in the cove near Martin Light on the return leg.

We are open to suggestions regarding this plan. The intended end of this outing is Monday evening 9/29.

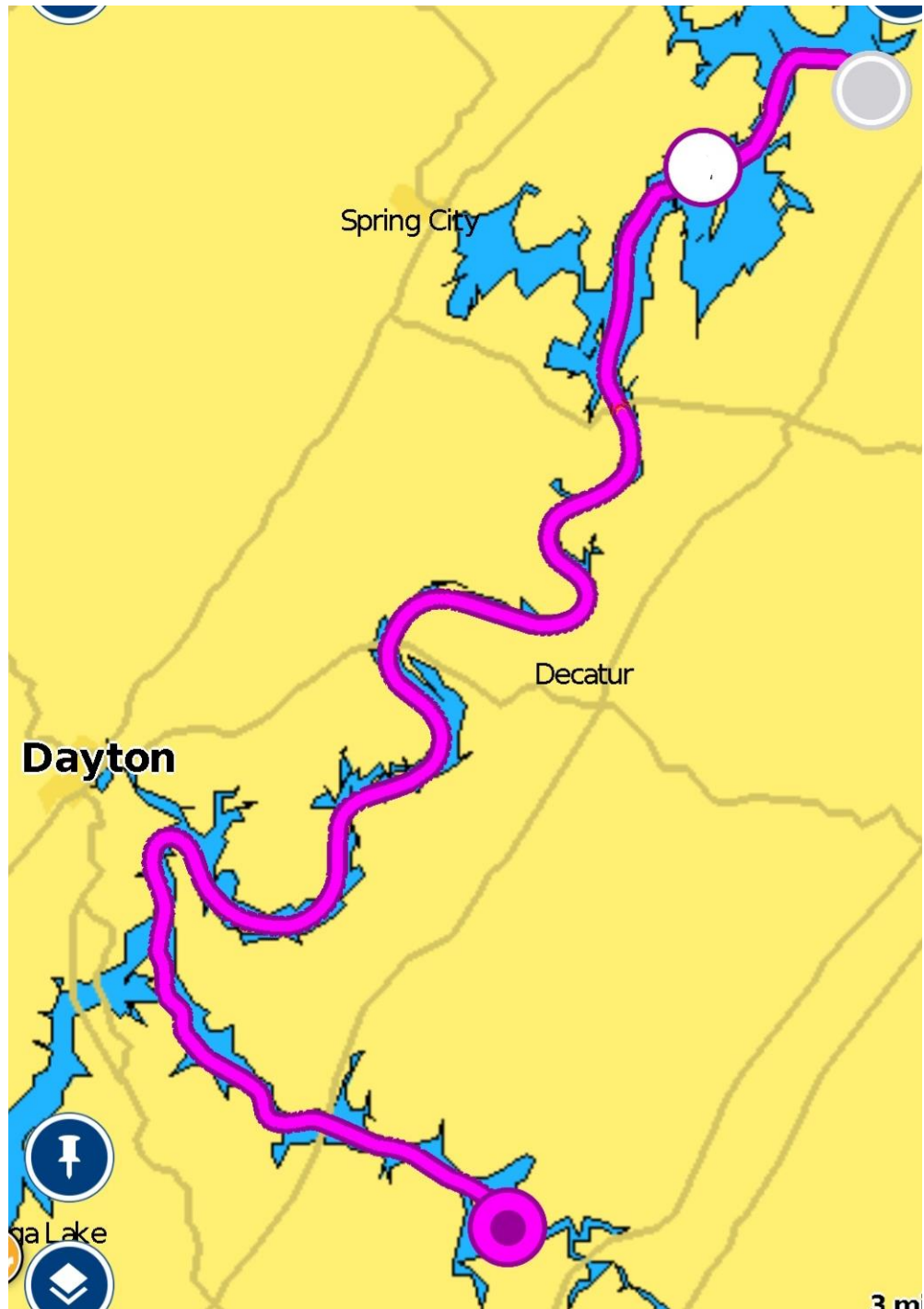
Those interested in this boat outing need to contact Ed Fendley to be invited to this private event. We do have limited slots.

Ed will need your name, your boat's overall length, your cell phone and email address.

During the weeks leading up to the event, a finalized plan will be made with the help of those invited.

If possible, we may have someone, who is going, help arrange a telephone-only or video conference for all the invitees to go over the plan.

Ed Fendley's email is edfendleyjr@yahoo.com.



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Event Calendar - 2025 Watch Year

Date	Time	Location	Event	Leader	Comments
February 25	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Bluetick Tavern in Maryville	Dinner, Election, Change of Watch, "Lessons Learned" Presentation by Schmitts	John Farmer	15 attended
March 1	9:30am - 12:00pm	Perrine's home	2025 Event Planning, Special Bridge Meeting	Don Perrine	12 attended
March 10	6:00pm -	Mimi's Café Turkey Creek	Dinner & "Our Caribbean Charters" Presentation by Farmers	John Farmer	Canceled
April 4-11	Weekend Outing	Knoxville Volunteer Landing	Rossini Festival, FRI docktails, SAT festival then docktails & dinner	Don Perrine	12 attended
May 24	Weekend Outing	Lenoir City Park Pavilion 1	Private Pot-luck Picnic	Jeff Schmitt	15 attended
June 20-27	Week-long Outing	Clinch & Emory River Cruise	Destinations might include Oak Ridge & Harriman	Jeff & Barbie Schmitt	canceled
July 3-5	Holiday overnight	Jackson Bend	7/3 pool party @ Perrine's home, then fireworks at Jackson Bend on 7/3	Don Perrine	10 attended
August 13-15	Weekday overnight	Lake Cumberland	Stay at cliff resort overlooking the lake & either trailer or rent boat(s)	Tom Dietrich	canceled
September 25-29	Extended weekend overnight	Watts Bar Lake & Hiwassee River Cruise	Explore tributaries taking advantage of cooler weather, fewer boats	Walt Hanson & Ed Fendley	Private Event, not sponsored by ABC-K
October 13-14	Weekday overnight	Ish Creek	Star Anchor	John Farmer & Tom Dietrich	Private Event, not sponsored by ABC-K
November					Nothing scheduled
Early December	Gathering	Hanson's home (Loudon)	Social and catered dinner	Walt & Robin Hanson	Private Event, not sponsored by ABC-K
January '26			Planning Meeting	John Farmer	All are welcomed
February 26, 2026	5-10pm	Kirkwood HOA Clubhouse (catered)	Change of Watch (address is 7860 Ellisville Lane, Knoxville, TN 37909)	John Farmer	All are welcomed



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