

# The *BEACON*

Boating in Colorado and the Mountain West



Volume 50 Number 5

Heartland - District 30

May 2025



Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse

Operated by the Loxahatchee River Historical Society, the waterfront lighthouse, and grounds exhibits feature over 5,000 years of regional history. In addition to offering climbing tours of the landmark 1860 lighthouse, the society is proud of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse outstanding Natural Area, National Conservation Lands on the eastern Florida shore.

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## Commander's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy *Cinco de Mayo*! I hope you are enjoying the warm weather and preparing for your upcoming adventures both on land and on water over the coming months. I will be leaving for a “tune-up” voyage mid-May on our boat *Why Knot*, preparing for an extended stay this summer with family and friends in the Pacific Northwest. Anacortes is awaiting our presence with a clean and tuned up boat at the Trawlerfest beginning May 15th.



As you have read in previous Beacon articles, our club is feverishly working on preparing for our Charter party on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> (see page 3), a cooperative Dillon Sail beginning on Friday June 20<sup>th</sup> with the Salty Dogs sailing club (see page 8) and hopefully another couple of sailing events over the summer months of July and August. Stay tuned! Please help by way of volunteering to crew on a boat, hand out flyers to local marinas or boat stores as ambassadors of the club or simply sign up to attend these events and enjoy all the hard work that goes into them. Either way, the club membership benefits from your presence and above all your participation. Isn't that what being a club member is all about?

Harry Hammond, our educational officer, is seeking new students that are eager to attend upcoming boater education courses (see page 4). With that said, we are all looking forward to seeing you at these upcoming events and above all, please be safe. Thank you all!

Arnie Strasser, Cdr, JN

## *The Beacon*

The Official Publication of America's Boating Club - Colorado



## Club Events 2025

Date	Time	Event	Location	Notes
5/17/2025 Saturday	10:00 - 3:00 PM	Charter Party at Gaynor Lake: Potluck food and on-the-water events	Gaynor Lake: Home of Bob and Sue Hicks, 10450 Mooring Rd., Longmont	Various watercraft available or bring your own. Bring a dish to share and your beverages.
6/5/2025 Thursday	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Executive Committee	ZOOM only	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82011429860">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82011429860</a>
June 20 - 22, 2025 Weekend	11:00 AM Fri 2:00 PM Sun	On-the-Water Sail in Cooperation with the Salty Dog Club	Lake Dillon - Exact location to be determined	For further information, see page 11 and/or contact Mike Cranna at 303-518-3832 or Diana Bliss at 303-424-7841
July, & August Weekends to be selected	To be determined	On-the-Water events	Dillon Reservoir jointly with the Salty Dog Sailing Club	These are member organized events lasting 2 or 3 days. Boats are being secured with the Dogs.
7/3/2025 Thursday	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Executive Committee	ZOOM only	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82011429860">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82011429860</a>
8/7/2025 Thursday	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Executive Committee	ZOOM only	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82011429860">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82011429860</a>
9/4/2025 Thursday	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Executive Committee	ZOOM only	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82011429860">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82011429860</a>
9/6/2025 Saturday	11:00 - 3:00 PM	Haul Out Party and Social Event	Food, music, band, hikes	Hosts are Rick and Kay Gulick at Hall Ranch near Lyons.
12/13/2025 Saturday	11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Holiday Party Save the Date	Westview Church 6710 Arapaho Road Boulder, CO 80303	Food to share, live music, fun times for the whole family.



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## The 2025 Charter Party

Join at the palatial home of Bob and Sue Hicks

**Gaynor Lake**

**10450 Moorings Road**

**Longmont, CO 80504**

[Click Here for Map Link](#)

**Saturday, May 17, 2024**

**10:00 am - 3:00 pm**



- Water craft available or bring yours
- Great food
- Games and prizes
- ABC History
- Boating Friends
- Swimming?



**Valerie Buffum, Asst. SAO**

**(409)256-7808**

**or**

**vjbuffum@gmail.com**

**Bring a Dish to Share**

**"Looking Back  
Moving Forward, Having Fun!"**

**Guests & Former Members  
Welcome**

**Come for the Boating Education, Fun and Friendship**



## Signup for Courses Today

By Harry Hammond, SEO

**Prospective Classes** - *All courses are offered virtually on-line.*

### America's Boating Course

Sessions are started but you may be able to register late. This great introductory course is taught by a pro instructor.

### Boat Handling

We have had a number of students that have taken America's Boating Course (ABC3) over the past months. "Boat Handling" is the next logical follow-up class for those students and anyone who wishes to sharpen their safe boating knowledge.

We may offer this class as a series of 6 seminars whereby you can pick and choose the sessions you would like to attend. The 6 seminars include are:

- Rules of the Road
- Confidence In Docking
- Boating With Confidence
- Anchoring With Assurance
- Emergencies On Board
- Knots and Line Handling

### Marine Navigation

Marine Navigation is a new class that has replaced the Piloting class. You won't ever get lost or run aground when you know marine navigation, whether for short day trips or long multi-day cruises.

Learn the essentials of safe coastal and inland navigation using basic GPS in conjunction with charts and other marine data. The *Marine Navigation* course teaches you how to use the GPS along with traditional dead reckoning techniques for planning and laying out safe routes, as well

as ensuring that you are on-course while underway.

### How to Register for a Class

Reach out to us, Vince Comella or Harry Hammond, at [Education@ABC-CO.org](mailto:Education@ABC-CO.org) if you have an interest in these classes or classes of any other topic. We would very much like to hear from you.

### New Classes Being Developed by ABC National Headquarters

America's Boating Club National is working on several new and updated classes.

- Offshore Navigation. Available in Beta phase
- Cruising Under Power and Sail. Available in Beta phase.
- Inland Boating (used to be called Boating on Rivers, Lakes and Locks).
- Celestial Navigation. Close to completion.

### Your Input Is Imperative

The list of classes we can offer is extensive. In addition to the typical 8 week courses there are a number of short seminars that we can provide.

Please reach out to let us know the courses or seminars you would like us to put on the calendar.

***We need to hear from you so we can prepare courses that best suit your needs.***

Contact Vince or Harry at [Education@ABC-CO.org](mailto:Education@ABC-CO.org) if you have any questions or would like to inquire about course offerings. Round up your boating buddies and friends and take the course together and get ready for safe boating! In fact, you can save money by taking a course with a friend or family member by sharing textbooks.

Come for the Boating Education, Fun and Friendship

## Boating Recipes by Valerie Buffum: A Italian Sandwich Option



While sandwiches of all sorts are a staple on boating menus, the following version elevates the sandwich to a new level, thanks to the magic of Italian cooking.

The following recipe comes from "*The Yachting Cook-book*" by Elizabeth Wheeler and Jennifer Trainer. The book is filled with great recipes for both on the water and on shore. This sandwich can be prepared at home and packed up for a picnic lunch; or the ingredients can be assembled on board soon after breakfast and ready for lunch. The proportions are for four people, so double the ingredients for your larger crew.

### **Tomato and Mozzarella Sandwiches on Italian Bread**

- One-pound fresh mozzarella cheese, thinly sliced; or substitute Brie, goat cheese, Havarti, or other soft cheese
- 4-6 tablespoons Garlic Vinaigrette (see recipe below)
- Freshly ground pepper
- Crushed red pepper
- One-pound loaf long Italian or French bread
- 2-3 firm ripe red tomatoes
- Lettuce, arugula, or basil leaves, washed and dried

Layer the sliced cheese in a bowl with 2-3 tablespoons vinaigrette and season with pepper and crushed red pepper

Slice the loaf of bread lengthwise, without cutting through, so that it is hinged. Pull out the soft inner crumbs from the loaf to make a slight hollow and brush the insides generously with the vinaigrette.

Slice the tomatoes into 1/8-inch-thick rounds. Place overlapping slices of the tomatoes and cheese on one half of the bread, and sprinkle with a little vinaigrette. Cover with lettuce. Close the sandwich and wrap tightly in waxed paper or aluminum foil. Put the sandwich under 10 pounds or so of weight for about an hour to distribute the flavors and moisture through the bread.

To serve, cut the loaf crosswise into manageable slices.

Variations: In addition to the tomatoes, layer the cheese with any of the following: slices of marinated olives, artichoke hearts, anchovies, slivers of red onion, or thin slices of ham, salami, or prosciutto.

### **Garlic Vinaigrette**

- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup red wine vinegar
- 1-2 large garlic cloves, peeled and lightly crushed
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped onion or shallot
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon dried oregano or marjoram
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh parsley
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup olive oil

Combine the ingredients in a container with a tight-fitting lid and let stand for at least 2 hours. When the vinaigrette has the desired garlic flavor, fish out the garlic cloves.



**Watch for Recipes from  
Valerie Each and Every Month.**

## More About the Spanish Virgin Islands

### Footnotes from Mike Cranna

This is a follow-up to the March *Beacon* article and the April membership meeting presentation (it wasn't recorded) to capture some additional highlights and observations from the trip. The group had not sailed together before, but settled in well, each contributing their experience and skills, not necessarily related to sailing.



Pre-sail planning helped a lot when it came to provisioning. The boat briefing had been

arranged for the evening we arrived, thus allowing an early departure the next morning from St. John, BVI.

The destination for the first day was the island of Culebra, approximately 30 miles. Arriving late in the afternoon, we anchored on a grassy bottom in Ensenada Honda, a well-known hurricane hole, just off the small town of Dewey. Customs & Immigration check-in was handled via the ROAM app. We spent a day lounging on Playa Flamenco, a world-renowned beach, and checking out the Sherman tank, a relic from the naval training on Culebra.

Our next destination was Isla de Vieques, with its wild horses roaming the island. We enjoyed the local fare at Bananas, near where we anchored off the quaint town of Esperanza. That evening we took a very memorable guided kayak tour of Mosquito Bay, where we experienced the famous bioluminescence. The effect would have been more brilliant had the moon not been nearly full that night.

Vieques is living with the legacy of decades-long naval gunnery practice, with lingering and unknown risk of unexploded ordinance. This is perhaps a reason why

these beautiful islands have been slow to develop as travel destinations. Vieques is a Superfund site, with an estimated 57% reclamation complete.

The island has a reputation for good fishing along the south coast, particularly with the sea floor dropping off to over 1,000 ft less than 2 miles offshore. We tried our luck during most of our charter. We caught and released 2 barracuda; and kept 1 False Albacore, which was very tasty seared on the grill. We returned to Culebra for a final relaxing night in its Mosquito Bay on the south side of the island.

The return to St Thomas was very uncomfortable, with 20 plus knot winds and choppy seas, and a small craft warning. The high winds were reportedly unseasonal, and locals compared the condition to "Christmas winds" that are common in late December.

These are beautiful islands, remote, and uncrowded, although reputed to be a busy weekend destination for Puerto Rico residents in the summer. They are "undiscovered" and have been compared by some to the BVI of 25 years ago. Consider leaving a person on the boat when anchored in high winds. We sailed both a monohull and catamaran during this charter. Consider a catamaran even for sailing – they are very spacious, and comfortable. Remember, "stuff" will happen, so a plan B (maybe even plan C) is good to have in your pocket.



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Thanks to our friend, **Marty Howard**, owner of **Custom Printing** in Longmont, Colorado, we now have a great array of products that we can order with the ABC-CO logo displayed. Sample items may be seen on their web site:

<https://customprinting.xyz/store-1/ols/categories/abc>

Notice the great prices that include taxes and shipping! Many more items will be available at your request. Products are all quality and are available in your favorite colors.

**Thanks to the Phoenix Sail & Power Squadron, Bill and Connie Johnson, for their donations to ABC-Colorado!**

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<b>19 Handbooks - America's Boating Course</b>
<b>Handbooks - Float Plans</b>
<b>Handbooks - Chart Plotters</b>
<b>3 Boxes of Nautical Books</b>
<b>3 USPS Ensigns</b>
<b>9 Simex plastic sextants</b>
<b>1 Universal Sun Compass</b>
<b>1 Black Case Bubble Type w Altitude in Wooden Box</b>
<b>1 Simex MK1 Serial # 776779 In Wooden Box</b>
<b>1 Navy B/U Nav Mark II Serial # 16383-43 In Wooden Box</b>
<b>1 Navy B/U Nav Mark II Serial # 16173-43 In Wooden Box</b>
<b>Husun MK II - Serial # 41012 in Wooden Box</b>
<b>Navy B/U Nav - Mark II Serial 9760-1941 in Wooden Box</b>
<b>1 Epson Projector</b>
<b>1 Toshiba Projector</b>
<b>2 Infocus Projectors</b>

## The Kick-Off of Sailing Season Lake Dillon On June 20th - 22nd



Come sail the beautiful mountain waters of Lake Dillon where you can experience calm waters with light winds and 20 plus knots in the same afternoon a true test of your sailing skills with views to take your breath away. This event is a collaboration between the Salty Dogs and America's Boating Club - Colorado.

Boats will be available from Friday at 11:00 AM through Sunday 2:00 PM. The cost for each day of sailing will be \$25.00 per person. Please specify which days of sailing for which you requesting. This can be done by email or at the Charter Party on May 17th. Price: 1 day= \$25, 2 days= \$50, and 3 days= \$75. Your payment is your reservation.

Members of ABC-CO should go to the Membership page on the SDSC website: [saltydog.org/membership/](http://saltydog.org/membership/) to complete page 2 of the Application/Waiver form. The link on the membership page is displayed as Salty Dog Sailing Club Membership Application and Waiver. ABC Club members do not need to complete page 1. After completing and signing the waiver, please either scan or take a photo of it and email it to [dbliss5030@gmail.com](mailto:dbliss5030@gmail.com), or bring a hard copy to either the May 17th Charter Party or bring it to the Dillon Sail.

**Look for available lodging ASAP since it's a weekend.** Check these:

Dillon Inn—970-262-0801  
Snowshoe Motel-Frisco—970-688-3444  
New Summit Inn-Silverthorn-970-668-3220  
The Luxury Hotel- Silverthorne- 800-742-1972  
The Three Peaks Lodge—Keystone 970-513-9009

The tentative itinerary is to have Friday night dinner at a local restaurant. The Saturday night Pot Luck dinner is at 6:00 PM at Jim Watson's condo with everyone bringing either side dish, salad, appetizer, or dessert, and your own drinks. Paper products will be provided by the club. Please plan to carpool since there is limited parking available.

If you have questions about the event, please contact Diana Bliss at [dbliss5030@gmail.com](mailto:dbliss5030@gmail.com) or call (303) 424-7841.

Mike Cranna, P  
Membership Chair



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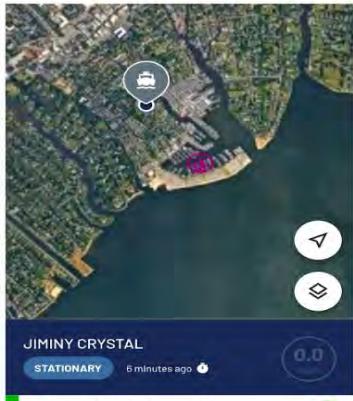
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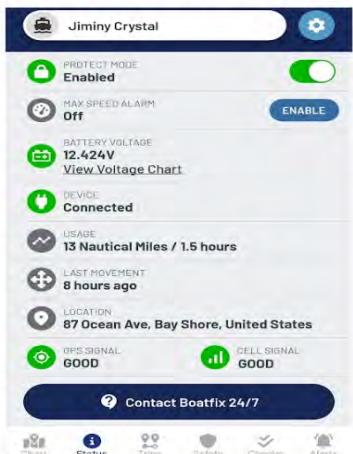
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Screenshots from a real USPS member's boat using BoatFix



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### Discount for USPS/ABC Members

Visit the Member Benefits page on [USPS.org](http://USPS.org) to learn more!

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**Squadron Commanders: Please share the information below with your membership**

As you get ready for the season, we're excited to share that our partner **BoatFix** - the 24/7 smart boat monitoring solution is offering a limited-time spring commissioning offer just for America's Boating Club members.

**For just \$249, you'll receive:**

- The BoatFix Monitoring Device (**a \$300 value**)
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- Built-in backup battery keeps the device online even if power is cut
- Get a push alert, phone call, and text if the device is disconnected
- In the event of theft, BoatFix can provide law enforcement with live tracking to help recover your boat quickly
- All features managed through an easy-to-use mobile app — with a lifetime warranty.

Whether your boat is docked at a marina, out on a mooring, or left unattended during the week, BoatFix lets you keep tabs on it remotely — giving you confidence that everything's working the way it should.

After your first year, the ongoing monitoring cost is just \$168/year. Less than \$15/month.

Now's the perfect time to equip your boat for the season — with a tool that protects your investment, gives you peace of mind, and keeps you connected to your vessel from anywhere.

Get started today: <https://www.boatfix.com/americas-boating-club-checkout/>

Contact: R/C James M. Milton, JN – Membership Committee

631-681-7650 JMilton040@gmail.com



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## Officers and Contacts for 2025

<b>Executive Committee</b>		
Commander	Cdr Arnie Strasser, JN	Commander.abc.co@gmail.com
Executive Officer	Open	
Administrative Officer	Kathy Zarini, S	
Assist. Admin. Officer	Valerie Buffum	
Educational Officer	Harry Hammond, SN	Education@ABC-CO.ORG
Asst. Educational Officer	Ron Schwiesow, JN	VSC@ABC-CO.ORG
Secretary	Chris Pierce, JN	
Treasurer/Property Manager	Todd Berryman, AP	
Members at Large	David Niles Lynn Johnson, S Mary Anne Strasser, P	
<b>Elected Committee Chairs and Members</b>		
Auditing Chair	Mary Anne Strasser, P	
Auditing Member	Norm Brown, SN	
Auditing Member	Bob Hicks	
Nominating Committee Chair	Open	
Nominating Member	Kathy Zarini, S	
Nominating Member	Bill Buffum, D/Lt/C	
Rules Committee Chair	Norm Brown, P/Lt/C	
Rules Member	Open	
Rules Member	Open	
<b>Appointed Members</b>		
The Beacon, Editor	Bill Buffum, D/Lt/C	Editor.abc.co@gmail.com
Web Master	Brian Jones, AP	Webmaster@ABC-CO.ORG
Membership/Roster Chair	Bob Cutter, P	Membership.abc.co@gmail.com
Public Contact	Bob Cutter, P	Membership.abc.co@gmail.com
Merit Marks Chair	Lynn Johnson, S	
MM Member	Ron Schwiesow, JN	
MM Member	Open	
Vessel Safety Check Chair	Ron Schwiesow, JN	VSC@ABC-CO.ORG



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