

Administrative Officer's Report

Lt/C Bob Fino, AP



Hello Power Squadron Friends,

Here we are in the middle of April, and boating season has begun. The weather is starting to improve, and Kim and I are looking forward to getting back on the water. We will be giving a little more thought about where and how far we might cruise with the current fuel prices. Our thoughts are that we love boating, we love going places, and we own the boat to use it. I am still holding hope the fuel price will change soon. However, we should not let that stop us from getting our boats ready and in good shape. One of the many questions I get asked while I am doing the vessel inspections is "what can we do with expired flares." I have heard everything from giving them to the fire department, and breaking them in half to soak in water for a day or two then dispose of them. Recently I heard two other remedies that I cannot confirm, but I thought I would pass them on. One was the city hazard waste disposal sites will take them, and the other was VDOT will take them and use as hazard flares on the street for traffic control

On to what we can do for boat maintenance. Time to check the following to get ready:
Filters * Fuel lines * Thru hulls * Safety Equipment
Dock Lines * Running lights

And I am sure there are many other items pertaining to your specific boat that can be checked. Another little trick I heard was to put your dock lines in a pillowcase and put them in your washing machine with fabric softener. This will make them soft and more flexible. This is one I will try and pass on the results; my lines need it. Hopefully by the next newsletter, we can talk about some cruising on the water.

On a lighter note... What do you do with a sick boat?

Take it to the doc.

How many boaters does it take to change a light-bulb?

None, because the right size bulb isn't on board, the local marine-supply store doesn't carry that brand, and the mail-order house has them on back-order.

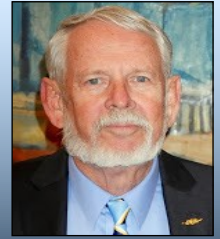
A very nervous first-time crew member says to the skipper, "Do boats like this sink very often?"

Not too often, replied the skipper. Usually, it's only once.

Bob (757) 620-4992 or email: finobob@yahoo.com.

Educational Officer's Report

Lt/C Carl Smith, SN



NRPS April/May 2022 Education Notes

There is a Boat Operator Certification Program available which is a hands on program that can be done on your boat. It starts with an Inland Navigator check out and goes up through Coastal Navigator, Advanced Coastal Navigation, and Offshore Navigator. We can do the check out on your boat or a friend's boat if you don't have one at the moment.

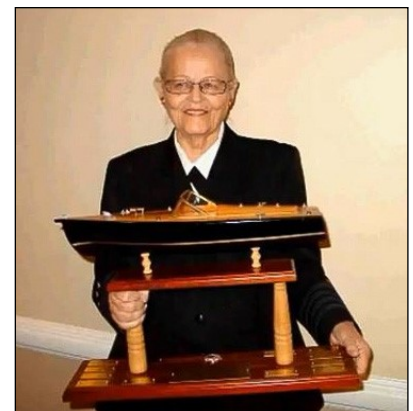
The ABC national web site offers access to several videos. One of them features an unsuccessful attempt a couple of summers ago to drown Norman Fisher. There are many subjects available and it would be a good way to spend a rainy afternoon.

This is also a good time to review anchoring procedures and actually test your anchor gear. Many people operate their boats as marina hoppers and rarely use their anchor gear. If you need your anchor when something goes wrong with your engine, you don't want to find out something isn't working then. Things tend to work better when they are actually used so use that key system occasionally.

If you have any Educational concerns or ideas, please contact me at captcrs@reagan.com or by cell 757-672-5893.

- In Memoriam -

**Past
Commander
Lily T. Stone,
JN**



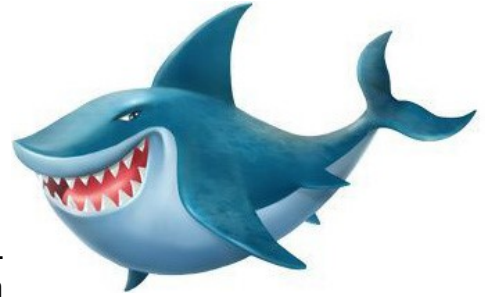
America' Boating Club Nansemond River regrets to announce that Past Commander Lilly T. Stone, JN, Life Member (25 merit marks) and 861 Vessel

Safety Examinations, Crossed the Bar on Friday morning, 1 April 2022. A celebration of her life will be held April 30 at 1500 hours (3 PM) at Sturtevant Funeral Home in Portsmouth VA. . Lilly led our Education program for many years, leading NRPS to multiple award recognition. RIP. Lily.

**ABC Nansemond River Boating Experiences
(or in this case, Experiences of a Boat Owner!!)**

SHARKS IN THE WATERS

By P/D/C Drex Bradshaw, AP



I am using this catchy phrase to highlight what is happening in the area of boat documentation. Some of us have our boats documented with the USCG while others are registered with their states. In the case of USCG documentation there is a yearly renewal now changing to several years as a possibility. The SHARKS in the waters as my title alludes to is about a company know as Marine Documentation Center (MDC). They are a 3rd party that will act for you to document and/or recertify your **USCG Documentation** but are not affiliated at all with the USCG. Their prices are out of sight and downright untenable when compared to what USCG charges. The major problem is that on the internet if you simply type in **USCG Documentation** it will give you several sites which direct you to MDC or other sites but not USCG even though you have that in your request. You will need to scroll down past several selections to find one that is USCG only or call the number to USCG in Falling Waters West Virginia. I am sure MDC has paid Google to ensure that they are always first in line for anyone who happens to log on looking for documentation services. This is not illegal, but immoral, in that several of the links all lead you to MDC.



As a 3rd party they have direct access to your documentation number and data associated with it, which somewhat confirms that you have USCG on the phone. Such is not the case and after a few questions you arrive at one that tweaks your interest when they want the SSN of the owner and co-owner. I should have known right then that I was not talking to USCG (but in the heat of battle, my certification had expired over a month previously while I was in the hospital), but confused I continued. They are quick to respond and will take advantage of the situation allowing you to think you have USCG on the phone should you be calling rather than surfing the net for USCG which I should have done. Then comes the comments that all payments are non-refundable (that should have been another tweet but still thinking

I am talking to USCG I continued) and confirmed a charge of \$750 for recertification and 5 years renewal.

That in itself should have been an electric charge to my system as to exactly whom I was speaking with. But I continued and immediately confirmed with my co-owner that in 2018 she had received a letter from them and she had signed on for 3 years of renewal all the while I am paying my yearly renewal with USCG receiving my renewal notice at least a month ahead of my expiration date. Covid could have disrupted the snail mail, along with receiving mail only once or twice a week. Thus my expiration date passed, and now I needed to be legal. An immediate recall to MDC as to my request for cancellation where upon the same individual said all I needed to do was send an email that "I thought I was talking with USCG" and it would be canceled. True but that non-refundable issue did not rear its head until several emails later when I asked for clarification of my cancellation and a refund to my credit card. I then called USCG in Falling Waters West Va. I was informed that they had no affiliation with MDC and spend hours talking with members such as myself about the excessive expense they charge and to be honest leave you hanging with items like it take 8-12 weeks to get your results. While on the phone, I gave my email to USCG and paid my \$81 for recertification. I got it in the mail within a week. I immediately called my Credit Card Company and complained about the charge, ultimately they helped me get a rebate, but even that took time. Lesson? Don't be duped by MDS.!

Quotable "On the Water" Quotes...

"When I get a chance to play golf or go on a boat with good people, take the boat out and put some lobsters on the grill, get the ice-cold beer and the cigars - that's heaven here on earth"
-Bernie Mac

"Being on a boat that's moving through the water, it's so clear. Everything falls into place in terms of what's important and what's not."
- James Taylor

USPS® Member Benefits

by Lt Cheryl Hanbury



Our members benefit this month is called BOAT FIX which tracks your boat for security and peace of mind. **America's Boating Club Members receive a 20% discount on the membership fee.**

The Boat Fix App: The free Boat Fix app allows you to set alarms and geo fences as well as GPS track your boat in real time. Loaded with essential information with weather radar, tides, hurricane warnings to GPS playback and safety features. Full control is at your fingertips – wherever you are – including a speed dial connection to the 24/7 Boat Fix team.



24/7 Mechanical Support: You can speak directly to an experienced marine engineer any time of the day or night. They have an over 90% fix rate over the phone.

24/7 Monitoring: Plugged into your boat, the Boat Fix device monitors your vessel's vital systems every 60 seconds. Bilge pump problems, flat batteries, you name it...Don't let small unattended problems become expensive nightmares.

24/7 Security: Today, unauthorized use and theft of boats are a big problem. 73% of boat thefts are from trailered boats. Enjoy the peace of mind of knowing that Boat Fix is watching your boat 24/7.

Device Specifications:

- Less than half the size of a cell phone
- 4G data – will work up to 10-20 miles offshore
- Device collects and buffers information when out of range
- Minimal electrical draw: 30 milliamps (25+ 5) – 4 months
- Internal back-up battery, built-in GPS and antenna
- Monitors battery, bilge pump use, shore power dis-connect, engine hours, outboard engine
- GPS tracks in real time and with customized playback
- Anti-theft /unauthorized use geo-fence – default and custom / multiple

For more info visit <https://boatfix.com> or call (844) 340-3500.

NOTE: You can log on to <https://americasboatingclub.org> and click on the member benefits button to learn more about these and other benefits!!



Members Corner

**April & May Birthdays
of our members!**

Mike Brinn, S	April 4
Linda Chapman	April 9
Bill Darden	April 15
P/C Mary Fisher, AP	May 4
P/C Art Aikin, SN	May 29
Theresa Abercrombie, S	May 31

Safety Officer's Corner

Lt/C Carl Smith, SN



**It's Time to
"SPRING"
For
Boat Safety!**



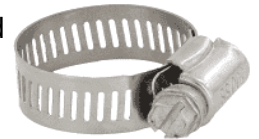
Spring has arrived, and P/C Frank Brown, AP-IN and his merry band of vessel inspectors are stirring from their winter hibernation and going in search of boats with expired stickers.

Checking your safety equipment is always a good practice and having another set of eyes looking at your gear increases the thoroughness of the inspection. There are some new fire extinguisher rules in effect now, and you want to make sure you are in compliance. It never hurts to put your hands on the equipment so your memory is refreshed on the location of your kit.



Flares have an expiration date for a reason. When they over age, the failure rate goes up considerably. Some expiration dates are sales tools, in this case that is not true. Also remember that if you have a electric flare, you still need a day time signal like an orange flag or smoke flares. Smoke is not effective in winds over 20 knots because it dissipates too quickly, so having the orange flag is still a good idea.

Give your hose clamps a twist and make sure they are solid and tight, and exercise your seacocks while you are at it!



It is time to get back on the water. Be safe out there.

If you would like to see specific boat safety issues addressed, call or email me: captcrs@reagan.com or by cell 757-672-5893.

ABC Nansemond River Plans to Give Back to the Community for National Boat Safety Week, May 21-27, 2022...

***Come Join Us by the Water at
Bennett's Creek Park, Suffolk
Saturday May 21!***



We will meet at 10 AM (as low tide will be at 9:16!)

We will be conducting Vessel Safety Checks for any and all boats coming in and out of the boat landing there, so we will need our "crew" of VSC Examiners on site!



*We will be then serving Hamburgers, Hots Dogs, Chips and Sodas!!

*And SeaVester will be on hand, with his van full of boating info and goodies, to greet all who come to visit!

So make plans to attend, it will be a great day!!

(AND...we will meet at SeaVester's "home" (and that of P/D/C Drex Bradshaw, AP) on Saturday May 15, to wash the van, and organize everything inside for the event!)



Nansemond River Proudly Sponsors Oyster Roast!

Chuckatuck Ruritan Club Oyster Roast * Saturday, March 19, 2022

Nansemond River was a proud sponsor of the recent Oyster Roast conducted by the Chuckatuck Ruritan club, aided by the Possum Hollow Ruritan Club. As a sponsor, we were able to fly our large new banner, and let everyone know we were there as sponsors! What makes this oyster roast so special is the fact that the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Save Oyster Shells Recycling Program receives 100 bushels of shells from this roast. These shells are destined for a Lynnhaven project, and is supported by a great group of volunteers who collected, removed the shells, then delivered them to the foundation! In attendance on Saturday was our current Squadron Commander Mark Barnes and his wife, (and our treasurer!) Linda. Along with P/C Lin Hanbury, AP and his wife Lt Cheryl,; P/C Bob Wallace, SN and his wife Brenda, JN; P/C Art Aikin, SN and his wife Gail, S. P/D/C Drex Bradshaw, AP as a member of the Ruritans, worked the event!



Left- Cdr Mark and Linda Barnes enjoying a cool one!



Left- Art and Gail Aikin looking quite happy (or maybe it was the beer?!?)



Above-Bob & Brenda Wallace, sporting their squadron shirts!



Above- Lin and Cheryl are clearly having a good time!



ABC Mid Atlantic (D5!) Spring Conference

Live Once Again in Ocean City MD * March 31-April 3, 2022



(See Report of Conference on Page 8 of this Publication)

Report of the ABC Mid Atlantic (D5) Spring Conference

D/Lt Grace, P and Stf/C Frank, AP-IN Brown were happy to join with P/D/C Drex Bradshaw, AP at the 2022 District 5 Spring Conference, held in Ocean City, MD April 1-3, 2022. This was the first in-person Spring Conference for District 5 since Spring, 2019.

The Spring Conference is the opportunity for newly elected officers to receive training from D5 leaders and elect District officers for the next year. Friday, April 1 was the time for officer training as well as the time for an Instructor Recertification class. Friday evening, the fun-night for Squadrons to host Suites by the pool, returned although the number of participating squadrons was smaller than usual. But, again, it was the first time held in 2 years.

Saturday morning we got an overview of season 6 of America's Boating Channel subjects. This project has been funded again for another season. We were remembered in the presentation as one of the "original participants". So many subjects have been addressed over the years, with many members of USPS participating across the USA.

Saturday afternoons' District Conference brought time of remembrance and recognition. We were able to have P/C Lily T. Stone, JN memorialized by District 5 with the other members who have crossed the bar since our last gathering. Recognition was given to our squadron for the following: Certificate of Achievement for Outstanding Newsletter, Grace Brown editor; Certificate of Achievement for Outstanding Website, Frank Brown webmaster; 2nd place, Squadron Vessel Safety Checks (VSC); 2nd place, Individual VSC Frank Brown (187); 8-time member, VSC Century Club (100 VSCs) for Frank Brown and Honor Roll recognition for Nansemond River for supporting the USPS Educational Fund.

The Summer Council meeting was announced to be held in Rock Hall, MD in July, 2022. D5 elected D/C Stephanie Ward, AP, from America's Boating Club Valley Forge, as District 5 Commander for the next year. Associate Member D/LtC Frank Hudson, AP was elected D5 Treasurer. The new Commander appointed Grace to the Nominating Committee and Frank as the Chair of the Educational Fund for this next year.

Grace kept the legacy alive for NRPS members winning a door prize at Conference as she won a wonderful "wine and read" basket, with wine, electric corkscrew, and books to enjoy in the wonderful duck basket.

Sunday morning, we gathered to congratulate new officers and have a wonderful brunch, then we bid adieu till this summer. It was wonderful seeing our many friends of NRPS after the 2-year break and we hope others of our squadron will consider attending a District 5 event. You'll be glad you did.

By Stf/C Frank Brown, AP-IN

NRPS 2022 Calendar of Upcoming Events



April 26	NRPS Bridge Meeting, ZOOM format, 7 PM
May 4	Squadron General Meeting, 6 PM Amici's Restaurant, 611 Airline Blvd., Portsmouth
May 21	Boat Safety Week Community Event, 10 AM Bennett's Creek Park, Suffolk
May 31	NRPS Bridge Meeting, Zoom format, 7 PM
June 1	Squadron General Meeting, 6 PM Amici's Restaurant, 611 Airline Blvd., Portsmouth



2022-2023 Bridge Officers

Commander	Cdr Mark Barnes
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Bob Fino, AP
Education Officer	Lt/C Carl Smith, SN
Secretary	P.C Butch Baxter, P
Treasurer	Lt/C Linda Barnes

Publisher's Statement

THE NANSEMOND LIGHT newsletter is published monthly. Deadline is the 24th day of each month for the following month. We welcome articles & photographs of interest to our members. THE NANSEMOND LIGHT is published for the members of America's Boating Club Nansemond River.

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