

District 5 Commanders Message:

Thank you for letting me lead District 5 this last year. It's been great and a lot of fun, and I've gotten to know you ! Spring is around the corner and can't come fast enough for us.

National has launched the iMIST system which when fully operational, will give you access to National, District, Squadron information at your finger tips. As with all new products, there are some growing pains, thus when something doesn't work right, please contact Yvonne Hill at National 888-367-9777 ext 226 for resolution.

National has also launched another program with MARINE SEO to standardize all Squadron Facebook pages and eventually websites. Squadrons that have taken advantage of the MARINE SEO standardization have reported increases in memberships because of their type advertising and connecting site visitors to their closest squadron. If you want your Squadron to take advantage of MARINE SEO's help for your Facebook, please contact Tammy Brown [brownt@hq.usps.org](mailto:brownt@hq.usps.org) at National and she will work with you to get your Facebook up and running.

As you all know, National's insurance company cancelled all District and Squadron insurance within National. A new policy for all Districts and Squadrons is now in effect similar to our last policy. A new on-the-water policy has also recently been put in effect allowing VSC's, on the water events, cruising, etc. If you plan on a one time event, contact Shirley Heald [shirleyheald@verizon.net](mailto:shirleyheald@verizon.net) at National and she will help plan coverage with you.

District 5 is now opening up the VIMS/SHOAL water data gathering project to all Squadrons and their members. VIMS (part of William & Mary College) has partnered with District 5 to gather data using your depth finder and GPS plot recorders, and via the SD cards in your plot recorder, send this data to VIMS via a computer portal for their use for storm surge predictions for the Bay and they transfer the data to NOAA for inclusion into their charts. This way, we are helping to chart the Bay. This is open to all boaters when you go boating. We just need to give them Bay depth data. Please find attached the instructions for registering, downloading and submitting data for the SHOAL Project, as well as the link to the registration form

V/R

Bob Blevins, AP

District 5 Commander