



ABSECON ISLAND POWER SQUADRON

Absecon
Light



January/February 2021



Commander Apryl J. Bernard, P

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Commander's Message

This past year has proven to be a challenging one for all of us. We had to cancel all of our events held in person. The Change of Watch was held virtually, probably the most casual I have ever dressed for this event. National meetings, District meetings were all cancelled for in-person events. The Fall Governing Board was held virtually and we all persevered through it. The District Fall Conference was held virtually and was very well run by all the presenters. The Annual meeting is also virtual and was very successful. There was a way found for all voting members to vote on bylaw changes.

Despite all the adversity we have faced this year, America's Boating Club is still going strong. Nationally we have gained members. Locally we welcomed back some old members and gained two apprentices. Sadly, we have lost one of favorites, Charlie McGinnis. (See the article on page). Rest in peace Charlie. You will be sorely missed.

Thinking optimistically, 2021 should be a much better year. There are several vaccines available and the response is slow but steady.

Let's hope we can all meet again in person and celebrate our 80 years of Absecon Island Power Squadron. I will keep you informed of any national, district and local developments.

Apryl

Absecon Island Power Squadron
 2020-21 Bridge

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AIPS CALENDAR

March 2021
 AIPS Regular Meeting
 TBA

April 2021
 4-8 April
 District 5 Virtual Spring
 Conference & Change of Watch

16 April
 Absecon Island Change of
 Watch

May 2021
 AIPS Regular Meeting
 TBA

June 2021
 AIPS Regular Meeting
 TBA

August 2021
 AIPS Regular Meeting
 TBA

America's Boating Club Govern-
 ing Board
 29 August - 5 September
 Raleigh, NC



January

14 Tony Carugno
 24 Tom Dougherty

February

4 Ashle Cocca
 4 Britne Field
 5 Charlie Heuer
 23 Keith Boakes

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Administrative Officer Report

Unfortunately due to the current Covid-19 situation all regular activities had to be cancelled. We were, however able to hold regular meetings throughout the year. I guess this is when it is good to be a small squadron.

We are anticipating having a physical Change of Watch in mid-April. Look for emails for further information as the time approaches.

We are hopeful to be able to resume regular activities during the summer months. All events will either be published in the Light or emailed to you with more information.

We now have a new website and webmasters. Our sincere thanks to Tom Dougherty for all his efforts in the past years. He did a spectacular job. Our new webmasters, Ashle Cocca and Britne Field are excited for this new chapter. Check out the site: www.usps.org/localusps/sss-ai. Remember we are also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Lt/C Dave Bernard, AP

Nautical

A	A	N	I	R	A	M	M	O	R	H	E	SAILBOAT
H	D	O	C	K	R	O	B	L	A	O	B	BINOCULARS
U	G	L	A	O	T	P	I	M	E	R	L	LAKE
L	O	A	A	O	I	N	N	T	T	N	S	FIRSTMATE
L	F	K	R	H	N	D	O	A	A	R	R	POWERBOAT
W	M	E	S	F	M	G	C	O	E	F	O	MARINA
W	R	R	E	I	J	N	U	B	L	S	H	ANCHOR
S	L	O	P	R	I	I	L	R	C	A	C	DOCK
T	E	L	O	S	B	M	A	E	N	I	N	WHEEL
E	E	I	R	T	O	M	R	W	A	L	A	BOW
R	H	A	T	M	W	I	S	O	E	B	K	MAST
N	W	S	S	A	A	W	S	P	C	O	E	CLEAT
O	A	S	D	T	I	S	B	O	O	A	E	STERN
M	D	I	V	E	R	Y	A	W	L	T	L	MOTOR
												SWIMMING
												HULL
												ROPES
												OCEAN
												OARS
												FOG
												HORN
												SAILOR
												DIVER
												SHIP
												JIB

**Education Department
Lt/C Ashle Cocca, P**

Due to COVID 19, we have not held, nor do we have plans to hold a boating safety class. We hope springtime will bring better opportunity to do so. If you know anyone who maybe interested in taking the class in the future, please contact me at coccamo13@comcast.net.

Educationally yours,
Ashle Cocca, SEO

The Mainline Sail and Power Squadron (America's Boating Club Valley Forge) is planning to offer the Advanced Piloting (AP) Course as a virtual course starting March 2, 2021. The last day to register online is February 28th. The prerequisite to take AP is to have successfully completed the Piloting Course. You are cordially invited to enroll in it. To get more information about the course, to enroll and to pay for the course go to:

www.ABCValleyForge.org.

Help us keep up to date:

If you have an address, phone number or e-mail change, please contact Lynn Graiser at the following e-mail: lynn39@live.net or (609) 625-1536 with changes that are to be made.



Check out the Facebook page for ABC-Absecon Island. Take a stroll down memory lane. Photos from years past have been posted beginning in the 70s.

If anyone has any old photos you would like to lend me, I will scan them and put them on the Facebook page also. If you have not already visited this page, this is the time to do so. Take a look and like the page.

ABC-Midatlantic (District 5) also has a Facebook page filled with photos from all district and national events. There are also photos from squadron events throughout the district.

You can also follow AIPS & District 5 on twitter!

AIPS SAFETY FIRST

Recreational Boating: Stay Safe on the Water

With more than [11 million recreational](#) vessels registered in the U.S., millions of Americans are enjoying time on and in the water.

In 2017, the [U.S. Coast Guard](#) reported 4,291 boating incidents that resulted in 658 deaths, 2,629 injuries and about \$46 million in property damage. Stay safe by being prepared and using the appropriate equipment, whether enjoying a ride on a motorized boat, paddling a kayak or wakeboarding.

Life Jackets Are Essential

Life jackets are at the core of safe boating, whether using a motorized or non-motorized vessel. The U.S. Coast Guard reports 76% of boating deaths in 2017 were due to drowning, and 84% of the victims were not wearing a life jacket.

While regulations on life jacket use [vary from state to state](#), the [Wear It](#) program of the National Safe Boating Council promotes boating safety by encouraging boaters to wear life jackets any time they are on a boat, motorized or non-motorized.

Good swimmers still need life jackets. When people fall off a boat, they may become disoriented, injured or unconscious. Life jackets can keep victims' heads above water so they can breathe and be rescued more easily. Every child should wear a life jacket at all times when boating.

[Choose the right life jacket](#) for the activities you will be doing. Double check to make sure the life jackets are U.S. Coast Guard approved and [fit correctly](#):

- Make sure the jacket is a proper fit for your size and weight
- Make sure the jacket is properly fastened

Hold your arms straight up over your head, ask a friend to grasp the tops of the arm openings and gently pull up; make sure there is no excess room above the openings and that the jacket does not ride up over your chin or face

Get Educated, Reduce Risks

The National Safe Boating Council encourages following these [boating safety tips](#) to help minimize risks:

Take a [National Association of Boating Law Administrators safety course](#)
Be familiar with the [boating state laws](#)

Know the ["Rules of the Road"](#)



(Continued from page 5)

When operating a motorized boat, [know about carbon monoxide](#); this odorless, colorless poisonous gas is emitted by all combustion engines and onboard motor generators.

Be Prepared

Before setting out:

Check that your equipment is in good working order; get a [free vessel safety check](#) with your local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons.

Review a [pre-departure checklist](#) to ensure you have everything you need in your boat, including a tool kit and first-aid kit.

Before you leave, always file a [float plan](#) with someone you trust

- Dress properly and bring an extra set of clothes in case you get wet

Don't forget the sunscreen and know the [signs of heat illnesses](#)

Exercise Good Judgment

- Respect your limits and keep within your limits to avoid injury. [Don't drink and drive a boat](#); alcohol affects judgment, vision, balance and coordination
- Once on the water, use common sense; in a split second, a situation can arise or the weather can turn. If you notice storm clouds, a sudden temperature drop or wind speed increasing, play it safe and get off the water





D/Lt/C Penn Hess, AP
D/5 Secretary

CALL TO THE DISTRICT SPRING COUNCIL & CONFERENCE MEETING

Monday 5 April – Thursday 8 April 2021

Virtual

FreeConferenceCall.COM

AGENDA:

- Report of Bridge Officers and Committee Chairs (as selected/necessary)
- Consideration of Squadron Factious Name Requests
- Consideration of Squadron requests to dissolve
- Election of District Officers for 2021– 2022 year
- Consideration of any other matter which may properly come before the meeting

The District 5 Change of Watch and Spring Conference will be virtual this year. The actual Spring Conference meeting and Change of Watch will be on 8 April 2021 beginning at 1800. There will be a vote on the items listed above. Check out the district website for more information as it becomes available.

We are still waiting to determine if it is feasible to have a Summer Council meeting in July. At the present time, there are no plans for one.

Fall Conference will be held on 11-14 November in Lancaster, PA. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.



Governing Board Emeritus



Benjamin H. Sooy III,
AP

Absecon Island
Power Squadron

District 5



Congratulations to Benjamin Sooy on earning 50 merit marks and earning the title of Governing Board Emeritus. This is quite an achievement as it signifies 50 years of earning merit marks, not just 50 years of membership. Ben joins a select group of members in our squadron.

Also at the Virtual Annual ABC-USPS meeting, V/C Ralph Bernard, AP took the pledge for another year as National Administrative Officer. Congratulations to Ralph and Nance.

The virtual meeting was jam-packed full of informational presentations along with the awards ceremony and annual meeting. Recorded sessions will be posted to the appropriate national web page.

Hopefully, we will have the Fall Governing Board beginning in August of 2021 in Raleigh, North Carolina.



Ghosts of Events Past 2016 Change of Watch





Ghosts of Events Past

2003 Lawn Party





Ghosts of Events Past

2016 Canoe/Kayak River Clean-up



