Anchor







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Commander's Message Cdr Jeff Short, JN-IN

My new Ranger Tug R29CB, aptly named "Boat Show Special," is safe and sound on the hard, tucked away for the winter. My boating equipment is piled up in the basement waiting for a nasty winter day so that I may sort through it and get rid of the accumulated junk that seemed so necessary when I lugged it down to the boat in the Spring, but didn't seem as important when I had to haul it all back up the hill, unused, at the end of boating season.

It is that time of year again. I do not mean holiday time with pies, gifts and bright decorations. I mean merit mark season. This is the time of year that we make a tally of all the efforts that ASPS members have made in supporting

ASPS and furthering our missions of boating education, civic service and fraternity. Aside from the satisfaction of serving our squadron in those missions, the only payback we get is a merit mark. Receiving a merit mark is an indication of our appreciation for all that you do.

Merit marks do not come easy. You do not get one just for being a member and attending dinner meetings. Merit marks have specific requirements, such as at least 10 vessel safety inspections or 12 hours of volunteer service or a certain number of courses taught. On the other hand, a merit mark rarely accounts for ALL of the effort many of our active members actually put into keeping ASPS a vibrant organization. Whether a member puts in 12 hours or 120 hours, they get one single merit mark.

What goes into actually getting a merit mark? Each merit mark requires a written account of all the effort each member has put in over the year. This account is written by our merit mark coordinator. The lady behind every merit mark you receive is Lee Myers. Lee Myers has been the ASPS Merit Mark Coordinator for the past 25 years! For 25 years she has worked tirelessly throughout the year to track who has done what for ASPS, write a glowing account of it and submit it up the chain, ultimately to the Chief Commander, for approval.

Every year she has to cajole Bridge Officers, department heads and committee chairs to recount the efforts of their volunteers. She then submits, via a database on the USPS website, a succinct write-up extolling these efforts. A great deal of creative writing skill is required, particularly if

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she is not given a lot to work with. The current merit mark database is fairly easy to manage with drop downs and fill-in-the-blanks. Yet this still takes considerable effort and time on her part. She remembers when there was no internet and she had to submit hand written paragraphs for each merit mark.

Every submission goes to a Merit Mark Area Monitor who accepts them as written or sends them back for further embellishment. Accepted merit mark submissions are then passed on to the USPS Chief Commander who has to approve every single one of them. ASPS has a very active membership and Lee submits nearly 50 MM proposals per year and, to her credit, almost none are ever rejected.

Lee became a member of ASPS in 1996, the year after marrying Stu Myers. Stu had been a member since the 1970's! Stu and Lee remember when the ASPS meetings and classes were held at the Annapolis Yacht Club, and each ASPS member had to be escorted by an AYC member. Lee was the SEO and XO and became our commander in 2003. She served many years as the Chair of the Membership Committee at both squadron and district level. For many years, Lee and Stu were program chairs in charge of special events such as Founders Day, the Holiday Party, hospitality suite, etc. Back in the day, ASPS always had an entry in the EYC Lighted Boat Parade each December, and their boat, Moonshadow, took first place!

Stu went up the Bridge and became CDR in 2000. Stu has been an avid instructor for decades. He used to receive thank you cards from his appreciative students. When jet skis became popular, Stu instructed some of the first jet ski safety courses for DNR. I can remember taking several Operations Training courses from Stu. Stu also led the ASPS summer cruises for many years. Back then, it took months of preparation to pull off a cruise. He and Lee would travel all around the bay, scoping out marinas and talking with nearby restaurants and shop owners to ensure that everything would go off without a hitch come cruise time. Stu served as Chair of the District 5 Rules Committee and continues to this day as chair of the ASPS Rules Committee. Stu has served many times as squadron Flag Lt. He was my Flag Lt during my first command in 2018.

Both Lee and Stu have been very active at USPS National level having served for years on the National Historian Committee. Lee was on the National Membership Committee and Stu on the Tech and Pubs Committee. Both were on the committee for the 2000 National Conference in Baltimore. During that conference, Stu and Carole Tulip arranged and conducted all aspects of the cruise to Fort McHenry, which included fireworks!

Lee and Stu Myers have been great friends of Lorrie and me, and have always been there to support us over the years. I truly appreciate their dedication to ASPS and their friendship. When you see Stu and Lee Myers, be sure to thank them for all they have done for ASPS.







Holiday Brunch Buffet

Saturday, December 6, 2025 10:30 AM Pirates Cove Restaurant

Galesville, Maryland

Link Sausage, Pecan Smoked Bacon,
Potatoes w/ Onions & Peppers,
Scrambled Eggs, Egg Strata Bake,
French Toast, Fresh Fruit,
Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks, + Cash Bar

RSVP by 4:00 PM
on Monday, December 1, 2025
by email to
aspsdinnerreservations@gmail.com
Reserve Early - Limit of 50

Brunch Cost: \$20 per person

Payable at the door by cash or

check made to <u>ASPS</u>

Holiday Apparel Contest:
Most Festive, Most Tacky,
Best All-Around

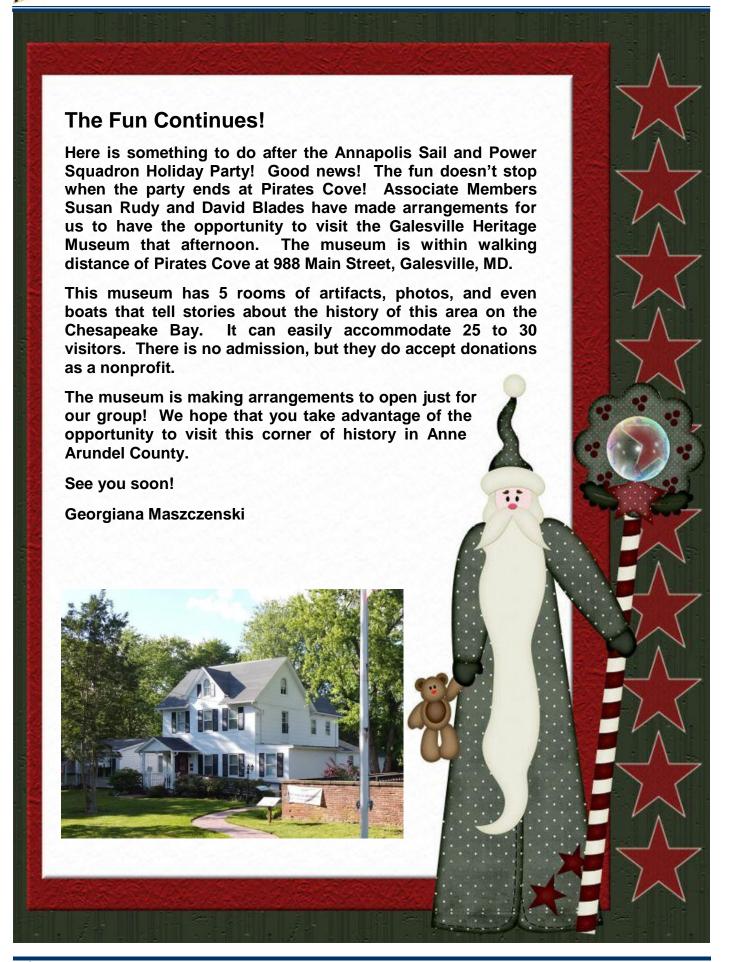
Please bring a check for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive.



If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift whose value does not exceed \$20.











Executive Officer Lt/C Ralph Leasure, AP

After just returning from Florida, we are instantly reminded that it is not still boating weather here. Unfortunately, we were not able to get the boat into the dealer for winterization and storage before now. So now we have to deal with the conditions as they are. Hopefully, it will get done this week. We also got a taste of the cooler weather early last week when the jet stream dropped down from Canada and brought temps in the low 40s to South Florida. Fortunately, it didn't last and the rest of the week improved to what you would expect.

I'm sorry we missed the Fall Conference meeting. It looks like it was a fun and educational get together. Some of the changes that have been made appear to be for the better.

Congratulations to the new Senior Navigators, many from our squadron. The new exam guidelines look to be a welcome addition to many who can take advantage of an online option. It was nice to see a new line-up of on-the-water courses and how they fit together. It was an area that was never discussed much and the charts make it more clear. The same applies to the requirements for all the ranks, I'm sure, put together by Mike Maszczenski. Thanks for all the hard work, Mike.

We're looking forward to the squadron's Christmas / Holiday Party. If last year's was any indication, it will be a blast. I can't wait to see what Jeff and Lorrie come up with for attire this time around.

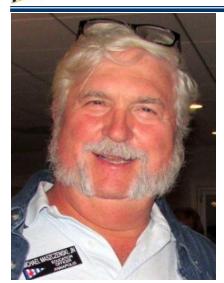
It's not too early to start thinking about the National Meeting. This year it will be held at The Embassy Suites Kinston, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. It runs from February 8, 2026, through February 15th. Please note that every room has an Ocean View. Every room is a suite and there is a complimentary breakfast. I hope to see you there. There is a cruise to the Caribbean after the meeting for those so inclined.

Happy Holidays! Ralph Leasure, XO









Educational Officer

Lt/C Michael Maszczenski, Jr., N

The grade requirements for S, P, AP, JN, N, SN have been revised to reflect new and older course requirements. See the new grades and requirements on the HQ Education site where it is all defined.

 $\frac{https://www.usps.org/departments/13000/13000-awards/13000-achievement-recognition-awards}{achievement-recognition-awards}$

This revision has upgraded the grades of the following members:

- ★ James R. Goldsberry, SN
- * Anthony D. Martin, SN
- * Michael J. Maszczenski Jr., SN
- ★ Jeff McKinney, SN
- ★ Jeffrey Short, SN
- **★** Carol Tulip, SN

Congratulations to all for the recognition of educational proficiency.



There are one course and two seminars being offered. Please check out the ads for details. There are also seminars and courses being offered by the Online Education committee of USPS. Check out the listing at the end of this article. We also have a national conference coming up in February at Myrtle Beach, SC. If you have never attended a national event, this one is within driving distance from Annapolis. Give it a look! D5 will have a Spring conference in March at Ocean City, March 26 - 29, 2026 at the Holiday Inn. The conference info is at the D5 website Link and will be updated as plans are finalized.

We will soon do registrations for official USPS courses directly at USPS HQ. This will allow any fees to be paid at registration. You may try it now, and you will be kept informed of changes. ASPS will still have its older registration system for non-USPS seminars and courses available for all offered classes for now. You only need to use one of them!

Instructor Recertification

Where: Zoom Cost: Free

Date: Thursday, December 11, 2025

Time: Zoom 7-9 PM, EST, Login info emailed after registration.

Instructor: Mike Maszczenski



Instructors wishing to teach ABC require NASBLA certification (USPS instructor certification). This must be renewed every 4 years. If you are, or have been, a USPS certified instructor, this seminar renews your certificate for 4 years. If you are not a USPS certified instructor and you are teaching USPS courses, this seminar will not renew nor grant a certificate, but it will provide you with a good review or introduction to good instructional tool and techniques. This course is open to all USPS instructors.

ASPS registration link - Click Here to Register

Or, you may go directly to the nation registration system.

USPS registration link - USPS registration page.



How to Use GPS

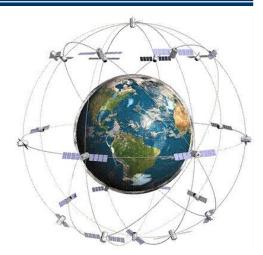
Where: Zoom Cost: Free

Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026

<u>Time:</u> Zoom 7-9 PM, EST, Login info emailed after registration.

Instructor: John Locke

Nearly everybody uses GPS in the car or on a smartphone. But, your marine GPS is a different animal. In this seminar, you'll learn how to choose a suitable GPS chartplotter if your boat doesn't already have one. More importantly, you'll learn how to make the best use of it: how to create waypoints, build and execute routes, and monitor your progress along the way. And, there's more! The



seminar will explain how modern GPS chartplotters integrate with other electronic systems onboard, including VHF marine radio, radar, and autopilot. Your GPS will tell you where you are and how to find your destination. Start learning how to use your GPS today!

ASPS registration link - Click Here to Register

Or, you may go directly to the nation registration system.

USPS registration link.- **UPSP registration page**

Title: America's Boating Course (ABC III)

This course, when passed, earns you the Boaters Safety Course Card needed to legally operate recreational vessels in the state of Maryland. It covers the basic information needed for safe boating. It is a great review for boaters already with a card, or who were grandfathered in, as well as new boaters.

Where: Zoom

Cost: all non-members 18+ of age - \$35.00, ASPS Members and students 17 and under - Free

Dates: March 4,11,18 and 25, 2026

<u>Time:</u> Four Wednesdays Via Zoom 6:30 to 9:00 PM, EST. Login info emailed after registration.

Instructors: Mike Maszczenski

ASPS registration link **Click Here to Register**

Or you may go directly to the nation registration system

USPS registration link USPS registration page

Registration for All ASPS-Sponsored Courses

For all official USPS courses and seminars, you can register directly at USPS. Eventually, you will also be able to pay any fees online. As of now, it is just registration. You may use either system for now.

Please register as soon as possible. If you are planning to have a printed text, shipping time is 4 weeks. So, early registration is mandatory to have your book in time. Materials must be ordered, and printed, and materials pick-up arranged for the virtual classes.

<u>Click Here to Register</u> or email <u>seo@aspsmd.org</u>, or call 410-739-7800. If you do not get an answer, please leave voice mail with contact information. When registered, you will receive an email confirmation. Other information and directions for prep and fee payment will be emailed as the start date for the course or seminar approaches. All zoom class start time are for Eastern US time; our instructors are on the east coast.



There is also a limit of 20 participants per online course, and we would like no less than 5 participants to run the course. So, please let us know you would like to participate soon! Don't put off registration.

Educational news from National and D5

Free OpenCPN Online Seminar

OpenCPN is free chart plotting software, popular with boaters worldwide. It is used by America's Boating Club / United States Power Squadrons for teaching courses. A free OpenCPN online seminar is now available at the <u>online education store</u>. To access it, simply browse the list of online courses and select "Introduction to OpenCPN" (the second-to-last course). Add it to your cart, then proceed to checkout. If you already have an account, just log in and complete your purchase. If you don't have an account, follow the prompts to create one. This seminar covers how to install OpenCPN, download and update charts, configure chart displays, create waypoints and routes, and integrate OpenCPN with GPS for live navigation. It's a great resource for students taking Marine Navigation or anyone interested in learning OpenCPN. <u>Barbara Herrmann</u>

2026 Annual Meeting at Myrtle Beach

The clock has begun ticking for our 2026 Annual Meeting and Change of Watch at Myrtle Beach. Make your hotel reservations for your stay at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Myrtle Beach Oceanfront Resort now for Feb. 9–15. The logistics around this meeting are vastly different! Every room is a suite with an ocean view; the hotel is right on the beach. You will wake up to a free daily breakfast and end the evening with a free nightly reception, which America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons will take advantage of! The agenda, the tours, and registration in general are being readied as I type. Keep checking the National Meetings website for updates. We look forward to seeing you in Myrtle Beach! —Kristi Anderson

READ MORE ►







Administrative Officer

Lt/C Bruce Arey, JN

Now that you have winterized your boat but still have the sailing itch, here are **five excellent destinations** for bareboat sailing charters — each with unique appeal, conditions, and suitability depending on your experience level.

1. British Virgin Islands (Caribbean)

Frequently cited as the go-to bareboat destination.

Blue Life Charters+3moorings.com+3Nautilus Yachting+3

Relatively short passages between islands, good anchorage depth, reliable trade winds. moorings.com+1

Ideal for mixed experience levels and those wanting a somewhat relaxed

but well-equipped charter. Virgin Island Sailing®+1

Keep in mind:

Peak season can be busy, moorings and anchorages may fill early.

You'll want to check with the charter operator for specifics (insurance, qualifications, etc).

2. Croatia – Dalmatian Coast & Islands

Beautiful Mediterranean sailing: many islands, historic towns, scenic coastlines.

Nautilus Yachting+2modernsailing.com+2

Best time: late May through September. modernsailing.com

Considerations:

Requires a bit more experience: med-type mooring (med-style berths), potentially busier harbors. modernsailing.com+1

Check licensing/qualification requirements (e.g., VHF license in Croatia). SailChecker

3. Greece – Ionian & Aegean

Vast number of islands, rich sailing culture, good infrastructure for charter. sailyachts.com+1

Good for moderate experience level, especially in more sheltered parts like the Ionian Sea.

Considerations:

Some areas may require more advanced skills (narrow straits, med-style docking, variable winds). modernsailing.com

Picking the right base/region within Greece is key (some islands are more remote).

4. The Bahamas – especially the Abacos

Stunning water colors, many cays and islands to explore, classic "island-hop" sailing.

Outbound Sailing+1

Shallow, protected waters in many places – relaxing for cruising.

Considerations:

Navigation around shallow reefs/bottoms requires attention (especially if you're used to deeper water). Seasonality matters (hurricane season in the Caribbean/Bahamas region).

5. Thailand – Andaman Sea & surrounding islands

Exotic scenery, dramatic islands, less congested in terms of charter compared to Europe/Caribbean. modernsailing.com+1

Good "level 1" bareboat choices for those wanting something a bit different. modernsailing.com



Considerations:

Logistics (flights, provisioning, supplies) may be more involved depending on how remote your route is

Weather patterns (monsoon, seasonal winds) are important to check.

☐ Things to consider when choosing a bareboat destination

Season & weather: Every region has a "best time" for sailing. E.g., Mediterranean: late spring to early autumn. Caribbean: winter/spring peak. modernsailing.com+1

Skill & qualifications required: Many charter operators will require proof of experience, or specific licenses (e.g., VHF, ICC). SailChecker+1

Type of sailing you want: Short hops between islands? Open sea passages? Remote anchorages vs busy marinas?

Logistics & charter base: How easy to reach, provisioning, local regulations, what's included in charter.

Budget & group size: Costs vary widely by destination, season, boat size.

Experience level of your crew: If some are novice, choosing a more sheltered region or chartering with a skipper for part of the trip might help.



- ⇒ December 6 our holiday brunch party will be at Pirates Cove 10:30 am
- □ January 10 Saturday the 10th—a lunch meeting at Maggiano's restaurant at the Annapolis Mall.
- ⇒ February 7 A brunch meeting on the 7th at the Golf Club at South River.
- ☆ March our Change of Watch. We are returning to Carrol's Creek Café,
- ☆ April We're still thinking about this one! Send in your suggestions!
- ⇒ May We're still thinking about this one! Send in your suggestions!
- □ June Our bylaws do not require a formal June meeting. No decision has been made about a meeting or activity in June.

































Boating Links to Browse

For more nautical-related links, see the "Links Page" on the ASPS website:

http://aspsmd.org/wrappers/pages.php

We have all seen Mr. Trash Wheel in the Baltimore harbor. Folks are sorting through and collecting data. What a help to clean up our beloved Chesapeake!

https://www.chesapeakebaymagazine.com/mr-trash-wheels-dumpster-divegathers-pollution-data-evidence-for-a-bottle-trade-in-program/

Spinsheet Magazine has a calendar with links to all sorts of things to see and do in December

https://www.spinsheet.com/calendar

Thinking about getting a Captain's License? Here are some things to consider.

https://www.spinsheet.com/news/why-get-captains-license

For trip ideas in the Chesapeake Bay area:

https://www.visitmaryland.org/unique-experiences/ chesapeake-bay-loop This site changes frequently. Bookmark it and return on a regular basis for all sorts of activities in the area. You can help clean up the bay! When you are out on the water and see an abandoned vessel, you can now report it so that it can be put on a list for removal.

https://www.chesapeakebaymagazine.com/report-abandoned-boats-in-national-database-created-by-boatus-foundation/







ASPS Logo apparel http://asps.qbstores.com





ASPS Luncheon Meeting Saturday, January 10, 2026

Maggiano's Restaurant Annapolis Mall

> 11:30 - Luncheon 1:00 - Speaker



First Course:

Parmesan Stuffed Mushrooms
Tomato Bruschetta
Maggiano's Salad

Second Course:

The Finest Fettuccine Alfredo Parmesan-Crusted Chicken
Mushroom Ravioli
Simply Grilled Salmon

Dessert:

Warm Apple Crostada Chocolate Layered Cake



RSVP by Wednesday, January 7, at 4 PM to aspsdinnerreservations@gmail.com or call Lorrie at 410-305-0232

\$20.00 per person by cash or check at the door.

<u>Make checks payable to ASPS</u>

Note: All no-show reservations are responsible for the cost of the luncheon



Changes to your phone number, address, e-mail? Please contact P/C Kathy Nash, AP-IN at roster@aspsmd.org or 410-703-9559



Check out our website at http://aspsmd.org/





Follow the ASPS facebook page at www.facebook.com/aspsmd.org.

Forward information and comments to facebook@aspsmd.org.



P/R/C Bill Eldridge, SN

Vessel Safety Check

To arrange for a VSC for your boat, contact Bill at vsc@aspsmd.org.





www.usps.org





www.aspsmd.org





America's Boating Club/ Baltimore/ Dundalk Web Page

Calendar of Coming Events

United States Power Squadrons® Events

USPS Annual Meeting - Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 8-15 Feb

District 5 Events

26-29 Mar D/5 Spring Conference - Ocean City, Maryland

Squadron Events for Annapolis

06 Dec	Brunch - Pirates Cove
11 Dec	Instructor Recertification Course
16 Dec	Ladies' Lunch
18 Dec	ASPS Exec Board Meeting
10 Jan	ASPS Lunch - Maggiano's at the Annapolis Mall.
13 Jan	Ladies' Lunch
20 Jan	GPS Seminar
22 Jan	ASPS Exec Board Meeting

For a complete list of ASPS Squadron Events, see:

http://www.aspsmd.org/calendar/month.php

SUNSHINE LADY

If you know of anyone sick or in the hospital, please contact our sunshine lady.

> Betty Rouse Wilmot sunshine@aspsmd.org





Bridge

ASPS Squadron Leadership 2025 -2026

Commander: P/D/C Jeff Short, SN-IN Chaplain: Phyllis Radlinski, AP

Flag Lieutenant: P/C Stu Myers, AP

Merit Mark Chairman: P/C Lee Myers, AP

Law Officer: P/C Anthony Martin, SN **Executive Officer:** P/C Ralph Leasure, AP

Vessel Safety Chair: P/R/C Bill Eldridge, SN

Safety Officer: 1st/Lt Terry Slattery

Communications Chair: P/C Anthony Martin, SN

Coop. Charting Chair: P/C Ron Ricketts, AP

Administrative Officer: P/C Bruce Arey, JN

Asst Admin Officer:

Membership Chair: Lt/C Lorrie Short

Boating Activities Chair:

Educational Officer: St/C Michael Maszczenski, Jr., SN

Asst Educ Officer: 1st/Lt John Locke, SN-ACN

BOC: 1st/Lt John Locke, SN-ACN **Operations Training:** P/C Stu Myers, AP

Secretary: Lt/C Carol Rechner, SN

Asst Secretary: 1st/Lt Linda Sweeting

Webmaster: P/C John Wesley Nash, SN-IN

Historian: P/C Peggy Slattery, S

Newsletter Editor: P/Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S

Treasurer: Lt/C Lorrie Short

Asst Treasurer:

Executive Committee:

Susan Gilbert, S.

P/Lt/C Diane Leasure

P/C Anthony Martin, SN

P/C John Wesley Nash, SN-IN

P/C Kathy Nash,

P/C Peggy Slattery, S

Edwin Sunderland, JN

David Tower, AP

P/C John Wilmot, JN-IN

Immediate Past Commander:

P/C Ralph Leasure, P

Audit Committee:

William Klepczynski, JN

Homer Sandridge, N

Nominating Committee:

P/C Ralph Leasure, AP, Chair

P/C Bruce Arey, JN

Diane Leasure

P/C Peggy Slattery, S

P/C John Wilmot, JN-IN

Rules Committee:

P/C Stu Myers, AP, Chair P/D/C Jeff Short, SN-IN P/Lt/C Diane Leasure

Budget Committee:

P/D/C Jeff Short, SN-IN, Chair

Lt/C Lorrie Short

P/C Ralph Leasure, P

Roster Contact:

P/C Kathy Nash, AP-IN

Information Technology Contact:

P/C John Wesley Nash, SN-IN

ASPS Facebook Editors:

P/C Kathy Nash, AP

P/C John Wesley Nash, SN-IN

Anchor Watch Deadline for January Newsletter: Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Direct all material to: Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S anchorwatch@aspsmd.org

