

Anchor



Watch



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District 5, a unit of United States Power Squadrons®*



Jan 2026

Annapolis, Maryland

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Commander's Message

Cdr Jeff Short, JN-IN

Bah Humbug! It certainly is hard to be a Scrooge this time of year, particularly when we have the opportunity to join our fellow ASPS members and guests at our annual holiday party. Once again it was held at Pirate's Cove, overlooking the water in Galesville. The staff was extremely attentive and the food was excellent. Thank you to all the members who attended. We were over capacity, which is a good thing. Our members donated \$1100 for Toys for Tots. ASPS will match that amount. We had a gift exchange, that turned contentious at times, a holiday attire contest and continuous holiday trivia, so there was absolutely no dull moments. Carol Rechner made each of us with a beautifully designed, high-end shopping bag in an effort to reduce plastic in our bay. The highlight of the event was when Gene Danko presented Georgiana with a beautiful pair of batman crocs. Just beautiful!

plastic in our bay. The highlight of the event was when Gene Danko presented Georgiana with a beautiful pair of batman crocs. Just beautiful!

Our new policy to have the monthly membership meetings on the weekends, during the day, at various venues around that region, has been working out extremely well. If you want to attend a meeting, it's a good idea to get your reservation in early.

I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to the dedicated volunteers who have been instrumental in planning and executing all our membership meetings. The success of these gatherings is a direct result of their hard work, time, and commitment.

Peggy Slattery and Georgiana "Batman" Maszczenki lead the team, each investing over 20 hours thus far, serving as the primary points of contact for all meeting logistics. They travel to and vet multiple potential venues and interact extensively with the managers and banquet staff.

Peggy and Georgiana could not do it alone. They have a dedicated support team. Mike Maszczenki, Carol Rechner, and Terry Slattery have each dedicated over 10 hours so far, reviewing contracts, testing food options, and evaluating venues. Lorrie Short has been an essential sounding board and provided crucial financial support (from her own pocket !?) spending at least 10 hours tracking down details and managing logistics, particularly regarding the Carroll's Creek venue which will host our Change of Watch in March.

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Linda Sweeting and Tom Campbell were instrumental in hosting us at the Selby Bay Yacht Club in October. They spent at least 10 hours on extensive prep work and stayed afterward to ensure a smooth cleanup, making sure everything ran perfectly. Ralph Leasure did much the same, dedicating many valuable hours to securing his beautiful club, the Golf Club at South River, and finalizing the details.

Other members have worked tirelessly "around the edges" during the meetings themselves to ensure everything runs smoothly. We are grateful for their help whenever they can contribute. Susan Gilbert assists with setup and manages the 50/50 raffle. Priscilla Travis sends out our important Constant Contact communications. Susan Miller helps with both setup and cleanup duties.

These dedicated individuals make our association run smoothly and allow us to enjoy successful, well-organized events. Please make an effort to thank them for their time, energy, and commitment to the ASPS!

Now, it's time to splice the mainbrace. Be safe and stay healthy.



John Wilmot sent us a lovely picture of Deep Creek.





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.
Make checks payable to ASPS

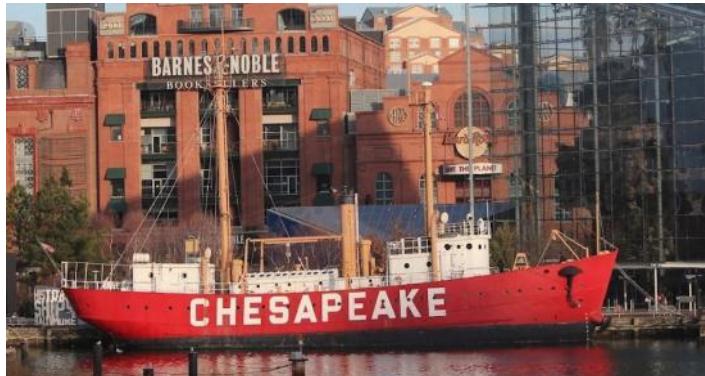
**Note: All no-show reservations
are responsible for the cost of the luncheon**



**Administrative Officer****Lt/C Bruce Arey, JN**

Our January meeting speaker will be Captain Rob Chichester. His presentation is titled “The Chesapeake Lightship, Her History...and Mine”.

A lightship is a ship that acts like a floating lighthouse. Instead of being built on land or rocks, it stays anchored in deep or dangerous water to warn ships about hazards and help them navigate.

**What a lightship does**

- Displays a bright beacon light at night
- Sounds fog horns in poor visibility
- Sends radio signals to ships
- Marks dangerous areas like shoals, sandbars, or reef edges

Why they were used

Lightships were placed where:

- Water was too deep to build a lighthouse
- The seabed was too soft or unstable
- The danger was far offshore

Today

Most lightships have been retired and replaced by automated buoys and modern navigation systems, but many are preserved as museum ships.

Meeting Plans for 2026

- ★ 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.
- ★ Sunday March 8— our Change of Watch. We are returning to Carroll'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.





Ladies! Let's Do Lunch!

JANUARY

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

11:30 AM

The Dock House

110 Piney Narrows Road

Chester, MD 21619

R.S.V.P. to Georgiana Maszczenki at
gmaszczenki@hotmail.com or (410) 739-7799
by Monday, January 19, at 4pm.

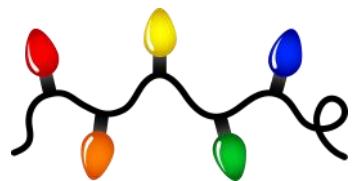
SAVE THE DATE for the next lunch:

Tuesday, February 10, 2026



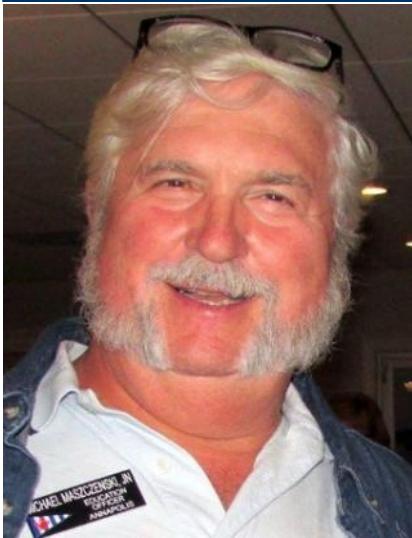












Educational Officer

Lt/C Michael Maszczenki, Jr., N

Happy New Year !

Check out the GPS seminar and the virtual ABC course coming up. There are also the national conference and the D5 conference coming up.

How to Use GPS

Where: Zoom

Cost: Free

Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Time: 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 national registration system.

USPS registration link [USPS 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, Members ASPS and 17 and under - Free

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

Time: 4 Wednesdays Via Zoom 6:30 to 9:00 PM, EST - Login info emailed after registration.

Instructors: Mike Maszczenki

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, we now can register directly at USPS eventually you will also be able to pay any fees. 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 materials pick-up arranged for the virtual classes. [Click Here to Register](#) or email seo@aspemd.org, 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 times





are for Eastern US time, our instructors are on the east coast.

There is also a limit of 20 participants, and we would like no less than 5 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, and used by America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons for teaching courses. A free OpenCPN online seminar is now available at the [online education store](#). 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. [-Barbara Herrmann](#)

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 ►](#)

ABC-Midatlantic / D5 Spring Conference 2026

Holiday Inn Ocean City, MD

March 26 to March 29, 2026

For more information and events go to

<https://Abc-midatlantic.org>

Or

<https://www.uspsd5.org/>





When Should You Replace a Chain Rode?

Terry Slattery, Lord of the Electrons

I was at a boating event recently when someone asked “Do you know anything about when I should replace my all-chain anchor rode?” My short answer was “Yes,” having researched the subject several years ago when I began to question the integrity of our rusty anchor chain.

A good anchor system should be tailored to the expected anchoring environment. Boats that are expected to anchor in deep or abrasive environments like rocks or coral should use all chain rodes. However, in the soft environment of the Chesapeake Bay, an anchor + chain + rope rode will work. Note: I think that the only anchoring system that doesn’t have to include chain is a dinghy shore anchor.

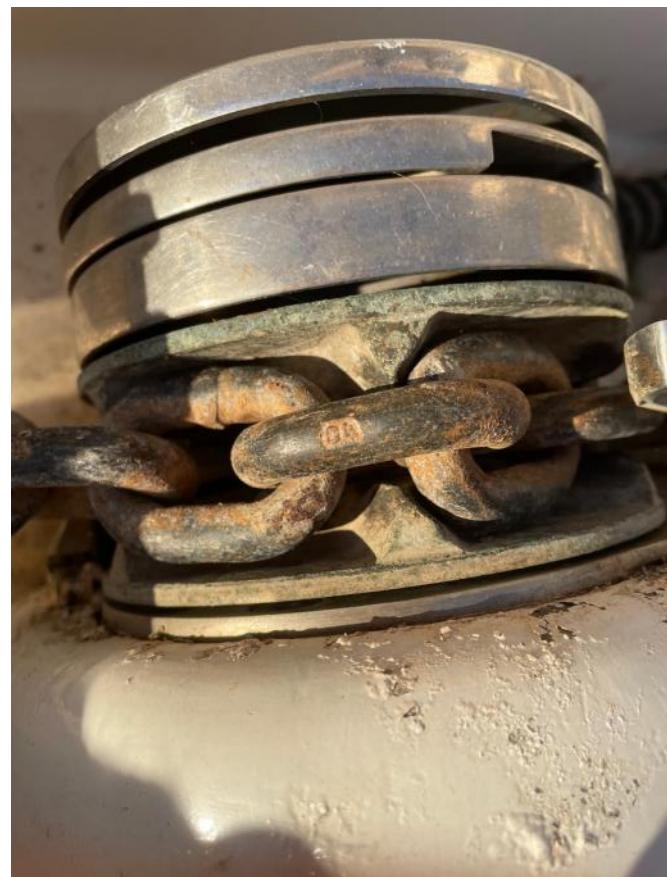
There are multiple sizes and types of anchor chain. The links in quality chain will have a grade number stamped into the side of each link. The most common for use on boats is G4 (Grade 40), which is a high-carbon steel that is suitable for use in a windlass due to strength and durability. You should avoid the use of less expensive grades like G3 (Grade 30), which is made from low-carbon steel for lighter applications. By the way, stainless steel chain exists but is not as strong as the high-carbon steel of G4 (yes, that’s a ‘G4’ stamp on the link in the picture).

Carbon steel chains are galvanized to help protect them from corrosion. Galvanizing will eventually wear away, leaving the carbon steel subject to salt water corrosion. When that happens, you’ll start to see flakes of rusty steel deposited on deck as the chain comes aboard after anchoring. When that happens, the chain’s lifetime becomes questionable. You can slow the start of corrosion by having the chain re-galvanized from time to time, but that’s an expensive step that rarely works for very long. A better approach is to replace the chain. You can also periodically swap the chain end-for end, provided that the chain is of sufficient length. Regularly washing the chain with fresh water will also extend its life.

Ok, so you’ve decided that re-galvanizing or swapping the chain end-for-end isn’t an option, at what point should the chain be replaced? It took me a while to find an answer to this question. The short answer is that I decided that 11% erosion was my threshold for replacing the chain. A 10mm (3/8 inch) chain’s nominal link diameter of .394 means that the minimum link diameter should be .350 inches. The long answer, which includes my analysis and references, can be found at our LUX blog:

<https://svlux.blogspot.com/2015/09/when-to-replace-anchor-chain.html>

I quickly found several chain links that were at my threshold for replacement, causing us to replace our anchor chain. If you’re faced with a similar decision, I’d recommend a threshold of no more than 15% erosion. I recommend using the





same rule to the shackles and to shorter lengths of chain in an anchor rode that's used in the Chesapeake Bay.

We anchor in depths less than 30 feet, so we purchased 200 feet of chain and took the old chain to a metal recycling facility. The new chain is working out well for us. We wash it on a regular basis to help reduce corrosion. We also periodically replace the galvanized shackle that connects the anchor to the chain allowing us to sleep soundly on anchor at night, even when it's windy.



Ladies Lunch
Dec 16, 2025
Red Hot and Blue





**Executive Officer
Lt/C Ralph Leasure, AP**

For all the time that we lived in New Jersey and the many times we've visited Pennsylvania, we never made it to Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square. Of course, we had heard of it as a legacy to Pierre DuPont, but we had never visited until last Monday. Diane wanted to do some photography there, so I went along to be a team

player; and am I glad I did. She had bought tickets online that we had to honor entry at a certain time. The need for that became apparent as the day went on and the crowds grew. There are many buildings on the property which is 1100 acres. There is so much to see. Bought as a farm by Mr. Dupont in the early 20th century, it has become an amazing collection of horticultural displays featuring over 10,000 species and varieties of plants, fountain shows, woodlands and meadows.

At Christmas time the wandering paths are all decorated for the holidays and the buildings house incredible displays of water and decorations for the holidays. It is hard to imagine how it is all maintained with such proficiency. They offer a number of entertainment venues and even a fine dining restaurant. There are different building with different themes. You can stroll through a rain forest, and then find the music room with many decorated trees, or the larger one with a great organ and a solid walnut Steinway piano ordered by Mr. Dupont in 1923 for \$ 3100. (He ordered two.) A nice feature is that all the plants and horticultural examples from around the world are labeled so that you can readily identify them. There is one room entirely for orchids. Unfortunately, we didn't get to see any fountain shows because the temperatures were so low. That also kept us in the buildings and not wandering the grounds that you might do on a better day. It was a very special surprise and one we will return to see again and again. It's less than a three hour drive from our area. They also offer a wide variety of programs throughout the year from instructional to entertainment. If you haven't had your fill of Christmas joy, it's not too late to make a short trip to Pennsylvania to experience this overwhelming spectacle.

Happy Winter! Ralph Leasure, XO





The Boat Galley

Our goal here at the Anchor Watch is to continue to grow a newsletter that appeals to our membership. To achieve that goal, we often ask members what they would like to see in our newsletter. Several responses included a request to include interesting recipes from our members! We'll give it a try this month by featuring a recipe from Toni Hughes.

Several years ago, Annapolis was in charge of the District 5 Summer Rendezvous. We featured a pitch-in breakfast on the last day. We asked everyone to send us their recipes so that we could publish them. Toni was one of the few that submitted. The number was too small to publish then, but we saved the few we did receive. Toni learned about this recipe on a Zoom cooking class from the Anne Arundel County South County Senior Center during CoVid.

Crustless Mini Quiche

Ingredients

- 1 cup chopped fresh broccoli (optional)
- 1 cup shredded cheese (your choice)
- 6 large eggs, lightly beaten
- ¾ cup heavy whipping cream
- ½ cup bacon bits
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- ½ teaspoon garlic
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

Directions

Preheat your oven to 350°.

Divide the broccoli and cheese among 12 greased muffin cups (or 24 mini muffin cups).

Whisk together the remaining ingredients. Pour into the cups.

Bake until set, 15-20 minutes.





January

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

pageborders.org

United States Power Squadrons®, we are America's Boating Club®

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Boating Links to Browse

Everybody got flares! How about yours? There is a recall on Skyblazer Aerial Signals. Better check the ones on your boat.

<https://www.glcclub.com/urgent-safety-recall-skyblazers>

Something else to do in St Michaels:

<https://www.chesapeakebaymagazine.com/historic-md-sailing-yacht-returns-to-bay-to-offer-charters-in-st-michaels/>

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.

A large cargo ship that gets most of its power from...SAILS!

<https://www.chesapeakebaymagazine.com/cbm-goes-inside-worlds-largest-sailing-cargo-ship-on-its-second-visit-to-baltimore/>

The 2026 issue of the Mark 5 has been posted to the website. Read the D/5 newsletter!

<https://www.uspsd5.org/squadrons/6243/2026-Winter%20Electronic%20Issue-mark5.pdf>

Thomas Point lighthouse gets its Fresnel lens back!

<https://www.chesapeakebaymagazine.com/thomas-point-lights-historic-fresnel-lens-to-return-to-anapolis-after-40-years-away/>

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

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

Charging your lithium battery safely with a Wakespeed Alternator

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HKWCItTMuE>

DO NOT SINK! Thru -hulls and seacocks:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ucd2-jtx_UU

Personal Dejavu! Moorings sails the BVI's

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwJLHD5-Tyc>





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.orgwww.uspsd5.orgwww.aspsmd.org

America's
Boating Club/
Baltimore/
Dundalk
[Web Page](http://www.uspsd5.org)

Calendar of Coming Events

United States Power Squadrons® Events

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

District 5 Events

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

Squadron Events for Annapolis

10 Jan	ASPS Lunch - Maggiano's at the Annapolis Mall.
20 Jan	Ladies' Lunch
20 Jan	GPS Seminar
22 Jan	ASPS Exec Board Meeting
07 Feb	ASPS Brunch at South River Golf Club
26 Feb	ASPS Exec Board Meeting
08 Mar	Brunch for Change of Watch at Carroll's Creek Café
19 Mar	ASPS Exec Board Meeting (date tentative)

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





ASPS Squadron Leadership 2025 -2026

Bridge

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 Maszczenki, 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 Maszczenki, S

Treasurer: Lt/C Lorrie Short

Asst Treasurer:

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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



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P/C Ralph Leasure, P

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William Klepczynski, JN

Homer Sandridge, N

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P/C Bruce Arey, JN

Diane Leasure

P/C Peggy Slattery, S

P/C John Wilmot, JN-IN

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P/D/C Jeff Short, SN-IN

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Budget Committee:

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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 February Newsletter:

Monday, January 19, 2026

Direct all material to:

Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenki, S
anchorwatch@aspssmd.org

