

# Anchor



# Watch



Official publication of the Annapolis Sail and Power Squadron  
District 5, a unit of United States Power Squadrons®



Mar 2026

Annapolis, Maryland

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## Commander's Message

Cdr Jeff Short, JN-IN

Lorrie and I recently attended the USPS Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach. We had a fantastic time renewing friendships, attending excellent seminars and participating in the functioning of USPS. The setting was beautiful. We were right on the beach with amazing views. Though it was a tad cool, the sun was shining and there was no "snowcrete" on the ground!

"National" has not raised dues in many years, and cost increases are taking a toll on the USPS budget and financial reserves. A motion was brought before the voting delegates to raise dues in order to keep up with increasing costs. A lengthy, and frankly quite interesting, discussion ensued with many proposals that resulted in amendment to the amendment to the original motion. The original motion proposed a \$2 increase each year for the next three years. This was felt by the assembled USPS members to be tantamount to spitting into the wind. We were barely making up for the past year's deficit and certainly were not going to cover future cost increases. An amendment was made to increase dues in one fell swoop by \$20 for family memberships, \$10 for individuals, and starting now, charging Life Members \$10 per year. The majority felt it was better to rip the bandaid off rather than pull it off slowly. This amendment was passed by the membership. Expect to see this increase on your dues invoices. Keep in mind that \$20 is only 1/50th of a "boat buck" and nothing in boating costs less than several boat bucks.

Much of the discussion had to do with the value of a USPS membership. During one of the many long pauses in the meeting required to count votes from the delegates participating in online voting, Past Chief Commander Luis Ojeda kept the audience entertained and motivated with some stories. He recalled that when he was newly married, he bought a yellow 1951 Plymouth for \$25 in order to commute to work. Four years later he decided to move out of state and wanted to sell his yellow '51 Plymouth. He had gotten 4 good years out of it but he wanted to get his money back so he advertised it for \$25. Two weeks went by and not a single bite on the \$25 Plymouth. He decided to advertise it again, this time for \$150. In one day he had 7 people wanting to buy it!

Obviously, that is an example of perceived value. Membership in USPS provides incredible actual value as well. Members just have to make use of their membership in order to cash in on its value. This value includes the

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best boating education available anywhere (now available online or by Zoom in the comfort of your own home, free inspection of your boat to ensure it is safe for your family and friends, excellent publications such as the Ensign and this Anchor Watch, the ASPS website - a one-stop location to find every bit of boating information you could possibly need, access to America's Boating Channel chock full of excellent brief boating education videos, multiple club activities to participate in, on and off the water, and in the company of like-minded friends, a long list of other benefits found on the USPS website, and the list goes on.

The national bridge and committees can't make members cash in on the incredible value available for their dues dollar. ASPS can not do it. Members themselves have to take advantage of what is available to them. Take classes, get your boat inspected, attend meetings and activities, go to the ASPS website and explore what it has to offer. Do not waste your dues!

I want to thank the current ASPS Bridge, Executive Committee, and all of the elected and appointed, volunteer leadership of ASPS (their names are listed on the back page of this wonderful Anchor Watch newsletter) for their support over the past year. They are the ones who provide value for your membership dues. Take advantage of what we have to offer.

I am off to splice the mainbrace. Stay healthy and be safe.



### **Administrative Officer**

**Lt/C Bruce Arey, JN**

As I step down from my role as Administrative Officer, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for the opportunity to serve this remarkable organization.

It has been a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated and knowledgeable group of members who care deeply about boating education, safety, and fellowship. I have truly appreciated the teamwork, camaraderie, and shared commitment that make our squadron such a strong and welcoming community.

During my time in this position, I have been continually impressed by the generosity of volunteers who give their time and energy to support our programs and activities. The success of our squadron comes from your willingness to contribute, collaborate, and help one another — both on and off the water.

While I am stepping away from this particular role, I remain proud to be part of this organization and look forward to continuing to participate and support our mission in new ways. I am confident that the leadership team moving forward will continue to guide the squadron with dedication and vision.

## Slate of ASPS Officers Elected for the 2026-2027 Year

Please join us at the Change of Watch.

### BRIDGE

Commander - Jeff Short

Executive Officer - open

Secretary - Carol Rechner

Assistant Secretary - Linda Sweeting

Treasurer - Lorrie Short

Education Officer- Michael Maszczenski

Assistant SEO - John Locke

Admin Officer - Kathy Burke

Assistant Admin Officers - Georgiana Maszczenski & Peggy Slattery

### AUDIT

William Klepczynski

Rich Hughes

### NOMINATING

Ralph Leasure

Bruce Arey

Peggy Slattery

John Wilmont

Diana Leasure

### RULES

Stu Myers

Diana Leasuer

Jeff Short

### BUDGET

Jeff Short

Lorrie Short

Ralph Leasure

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Susan Gilbert

Diane Leasure

John Locke

Larry Miller

John Wesley Nash

Peggy Slattery

Edwin Sunderland

John Wilmont

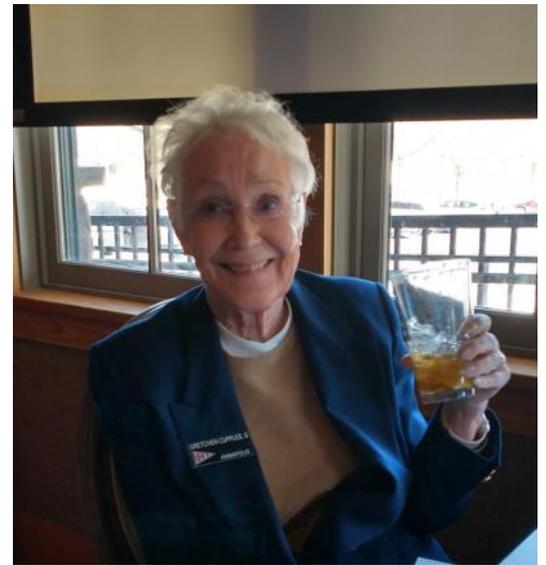


# Golf Club at South River

## Saturday, February 7, 2026









**Join Us As We Celebrate  
Founders Day and our Change of Watch**

**Sunday Buffet  
11:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
Sunday, March 8, 2026  
Carrol's Creek Café  
410 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403**

**Menu**

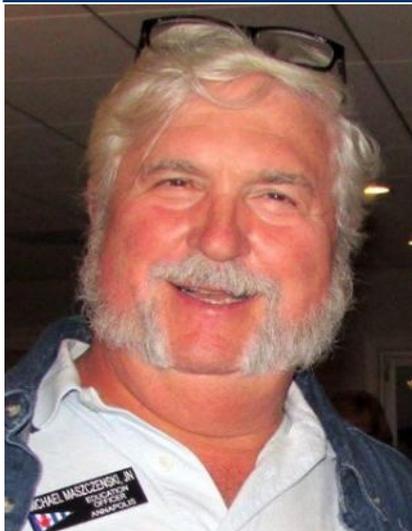
**Egg Casserole, Scrambled Eggs,  
French Toast Casserole,  
Bacon, Sausage, Sausage & Gravy, Home Fries,  
Seasonal Fruit Bowl, Fresh Baked Muffins & Biscuits,  
Orange Juice, Cranberry Juice, Coffee, Hot Tea**

**RSVP by Wednesday, 4 March, 4 PM to  
[aspsdinnerreservations@gmail.com](mailto:aspsdinnerreservations@gmail.com)  
Limit - 45 people**

**\$20.00 per member and guest,  
by cash or check at the door.  
Make checks payable to ASPS.**

**Note: All no-show reservations will be charged \$20.00.**

**Please bring your parking stub into the café with you.  
When you depart, the hostess will validate it  
for up to 3.5 hours of free parking.**



## Educational Officer

Lt/C Michael Maszczenski, Jr., N

ASPS is offering 3 opportunities to take The America's Boating Course (ABC III). The first is a virtual ABC course on March 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026. The classes will be over Zoom you must be able to attend all 4 classes.

The second offering is at Bosun's Marine in Grasonville, MD in their showroom. The classes are on two Saturdays, 9 AM to 3 PM, April 4 and 11, 2026. Again, attendance at both classes is required.

The third offering is at Bay Ridge Pool Association, 2 Herndon Ave, Annapolis, MD, 21403., The classes are on two Saturdays 9 AM to 3 PM, May 2 and 16, 2026. Again, attendance at both classes is required.

Please see the listing for all three classes below.

There is also the D/5 conference in Ocean City, coming up on March 27 to 29th.

### **Title: America's Boating Course (ABC III)**

This course, when passed, earns the participant 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:** Non-members 18+ of age - \$35.00. Free for ASPS members and associates, and those under 18.

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

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

**Instructors:** Mike Maszczenski

<https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?C-22918>

You can try the link here: [go to registration page](#). Or scan QR Code



### **Title: America's Boating Course (ABC III)**

**Where:** Bosun's Marine, 411 Winchester Creek Rd, Grasonville, MD 21638

**Cost:** Non-members 18+ of age - \$35.00. Free for ASPS members and associates, and those under 18.

**Dates:** Saturday – April 4 & 11, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Instructors:** Joe Burke, John Locke

<https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?C-22917>

You can try the link here: [go to registration page](#). Or Scan QR code



**Title: America's Boating Course (ABC III)**

**Where:** Bay Ridge Pool Association, 2 Herndon Ave, Annapolis, MD, 21403, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference room.

**Cost:** Non-members 18+ of age - \$35.00. Free for ASPS members and associates, Bay Ridge Community Members, and those under 18.

**Dates:** Saturday – May 2 and May 16, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Instructors:** Ron Ricketts, Mike Maszczenski

<https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin/nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?C-14670>

You can try the link here: [go to registration page](#). Or scan QR Code

**Registration for All ASPS-Sponsored Courses**

For all official USPS courses and seminars, we now can register directly at USPS.

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 virtual classes will be using an E-book you will download. Email [seo@aspsmd.org](mailto:seo@aspsmd.org), or call 410-739-7800 if you have a problem or question. 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 a limit of 20 participants. However, we would like at least 5 to run the course. So, please let us know you would like to participate soon! Don't put off registration.

**Educational news from D/5****ABC-Midatlantic / D5 Spring Conference 2026**

Holiday Inn Ocean City, MD

March 27 to March 29, 2026

The registration form and the schedule have been posted on the web site.

If you need to have your teaching certificate renewed, there will be a recertification seminar on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, from 3PM to 5 PM.

If you are attending, and want to reserve a room at the conference hotel, the discount for rooms ends on March 6, 2026.

The Mark 5 is also available for download at the D/5 site also.

For more information and events go to

<https://Abc-midatlantic.org>



## Executive Officer Lt/C Ralph Leasure, AP

What a Schlog! I'm not sure if that is a word, but it sure describes the ride home from the national meeting in Myrtle Beach. It rained for the entire trip, at times heavily. The visibility was poor with low ceilings, and the traffic was incredible. On top of that, we were stopped for one hour on Rt. 95 in North Carolina. We still haven't figured out the reason for that. There was no accident. I guess we should be glad that it wasn't snow and/or ice.

The meeting was very interesting, and if you are interested, I'm sure you can review most of it from the website recordings. It was fun to have so many of our Annapolis members at the meeting. There were a number of important issues voted on and passed. One of the most important was a vote to nominally increase dues for members. You will see this on your next statement. It is necessary to help with deficits at National and to support the organization.

The good news is that the Orioles have started Spring training and that means that better weather is not far behind. We will actually be visiting friends in Sarasota, so hopefully we'll get to take in a Spring training game and maybe even see the sun.

Don't forget to register for the D/5 Spring Conference and meeting in Ocean City. The deadline is March 6. Please get on the D/5 website and download the form for dinner for Saturday evening. Then send that in with a check so they can have accurate records. You can make your reservations for the hotel directly with the hotel. Don't forget to mention that you are part of the meeting to get the discount.

I thank you all for the support you have given me while I was the Executive Officer. I will be able to help whoever ends up in that role after the Change of Watch. I expect to help especially with the boat shows if you decide to go that way.

Lookin for Spring!

Ralph Leasure, XO

### *Editor's Note:*

*We thank Ralph for running boat shows for ASPS for so many years.*

*Ralph will become D/5 commander in March at the Spring Conference at Ocean City. His time will be filled with activities for the benefit of the district.*

*At the present time the office of Exec Officer is vacant. For ASPS, that is the person responsible for running boat shows.*

*This is a call to all members for someone to volunteer to step up and take the office of exec officer and run boat shows. Please let Jeff Short know if you can commit to helping ASPS with this.*

*Also, we still need folks to distribute ASPS materials. Contact David Tower to get packets to distribute.*





## Updated Marina Electrical Requirements Terry Slattery, Lord of the Electrons

The National Electrical Code (NEC) has been enhanced to improve the electrical safety around marina docks, effective Jan 1, 2026. Revisions NEC 555.35 and 555.36 require that marinas with more than three shore power receptacles employ an Electrical Leakage Current Interrupter (ELCI) for shore power connections. It's like a ground fault interrupter (GFI) in your kitchen and bath at home. It trips if it detects current leaking from the shore power circuit. Any unbalance between the current flowing to the boat and the current returning from the boat means that there's a leakage current taking an undesirable and potentially hazardous path back to the shore power distribution system.

In a marina, the undesirable path is typically through the water. Or, it may energize onboard equipment cases, creating electrocution hazards. An ELCI that trips is keeping the water around your boat and appliance cases from becoming electrified, making it safer for anyone in the water (swimmers and accidental falls) or anyone working on electrical appliances onboard. The new standards require that your vessel be denied the use of shore power if it repeatedly causes the shore power ELCI to trip.

### Why It's Important

It can be a hassle to diagnose, so it is important to understand why you need to take corrective action. The imbalance in current between the "hot" (supply) wire and the "neutral" (return) wire means that there is a wiring problem somewhere. The failure may not have existed last year, so it's not necessarily a problem that only occurs with older boats. It may be that a wire's insulation has finally worn through where it's rubbing on something. Or, perhaps a connector in the "neutral" return wire has failed due to vibration or corrosion from water that accidentally found its way to the connector. A failure in the "neutral" wire causes the return current to transit the ground wire. Another common source is a crack in a hot water heating element. Whatever the cause, you have a situation where there's the potential for an electrical shock hazard.

Shore power systems use voltages and have high current capabilities that can make muscles contract and refuse to release when an electrified piece of equipment is touched. This is also why electric shock drowning occurs—victims are immobilized and can't swim away from the area that's energized. It only takes a small amount of current to stop a heart if you happen to bridge a "hot" component to a ground point (metal or salt water).

### How to Remedy

It can often be difficult to identify the source of ELCI tripping. The first step is to turn off all breakers and any appliances that use shore power. If there's a master shore power breaker, start with it off, too. Then, turn on the master breaker, followed by each appliance and branch circuit breaker. You may find one branch or appliance that causes the ELCI to trip. Then, it becomes a spelunking exercise to trace that circuit and identify where the failure exists.

In one case, we identified a hot water heater that had been wired backwards. The color codes were European, leading to a wiring error. Another common wiring problem exists with dual shore power connections where the "neutral" wires are connected to a common buss. Return current is always shared by both neutral wires, causing an imbalance that trips the ELCI. These are the easy cases—a simple wiring change.

Many examples exist of a wire rubbing on a metal bracket or the edge of an enclosure until it wears through due to the vibration present in boats. Vibration and the marine environment is tough on connectors, which may result in a loose “hot” wire that touches something nearby and creates a shock hazard. In one case, a marine technician was electrocuted because he was working on a properly grounded engine and his head touched the energized metal case of an appliance that had an internal fault. Vessels with onboard inverters and generators create additional sources of potentially hazardous voltages. These can be challenging to diagnose.

To summarize, working with shore power circuits can be dangerous, and the more challenging cases require experienced ABYC (American Boat & Yacht Council) marine electricians. They will have the knowledge, the tools, and the experience of finding and fixing problems. Most importantly, they will know how to go about creating a safe shore power system.

#### To Learn More

Peter Kennedy at PKYS Inc., an Annapolis-based marine and RV electrical service company, has an excellent article about shore power safety systems.

<https://shop.pkys.com/dock-ground-fault-breaker-trip-issues.html>

The [April 2024 Anchor Watch](#) reprinted the Electric Shock Drowning (ESD) article from the USPS magazine, *The Ensign*.

Stay safe and have your shore power system reviewed by a qualified ABYC electrician.



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



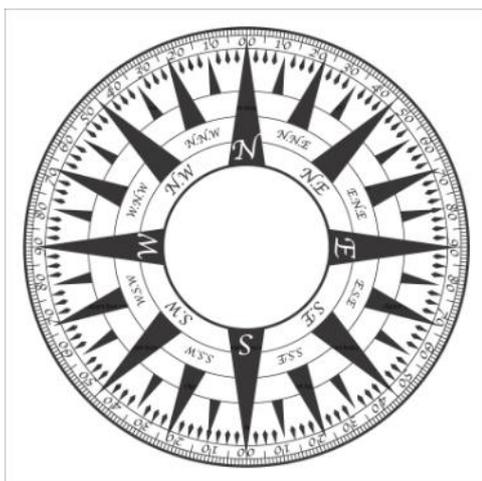
## Dinner Delights

### Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S

Couldn't make our February meeting? You missed a very informative presentation – *Taking the Voodoo Out of Compass Headings*, presented by our guest speaker, Seamus Duffy. Mr. Duffy is the owner of Annapolis Compass. Annapolis Compass specializes in magnetic compass calibration for boats of any size.

Mr. Duffy was a veritable font of wisdom about compasses! Here are some of the interesting facts he shared at our meeting:

- ★ The magnetic compass is the oldest and most reliable navigation tool ever invented.
- ★ The compass dates back 4,000 years to Magnesia in Ancient Greece. It was there that a shepherd's metal crook kept being attracted to local rocks.
- ★ Those rocks were lodestone. Today we know that lodestone is found throughout the world.
- ★ The history of the compass goes next to China. Over 2,000 years ago, Asian astronomers learned to chart and measure time.
- ★ The Chinese drew a celestial map of 13 constellations. Each constellation appears for a period of 28 days. Yes – original calendars had 13 months of 28 days each! This was the standard until the Gregorian calendar came into being.



- ★ The Chinese used a piece of lodestone floating on a piece of wood in a small vessel. The lodestone always pointed to the North Star.
- ★ As it became more popular in use, sailors would carve the lodestone into the shape of a fish. They would float the fish on a piece of cork.
- ★ In the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Marco Polo brought the compass from the Far East to Europe. The Europeans took the Chinese form and changed it to the compass rose we know today.
- ★ Large cargo ships put the compass on the roof of the bridge to keep it from being affected by all the metal cargo containers.

If you were unable to join us, you missed a presentation packed with great information. As always, we are able to offer meetings that bring together friends who love boating. We also offer informative speakers so you can learn something interesting about boating on the Chesapeake Bay and beyond. We look forward to seeing you soon.



# Ladies! Let's Do Lunch!



Tuesday, March 10, 2026

11:30 AM

The Dock House  
110 Piney Narrows Road  
Chester, MD 21619

R.S.V.P. to Kathy Burke at  
[kab2016dec@gmail.com](mailto:kab2016dec@gmail.com) or (410) 279-0818

by Monday, March 9, at 4pm.

SAVE THE DATE for the next lunch:  
Tuesday, April 14, 2026

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



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



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Forward information and comments to  
[facebook@aspsmd.org](mailto: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](mailto:vsc@aspsmd.org).





[www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)



[www.uspsd5.org](http://www.uspsd5.org)



[www.aspsmd.org](http://www.aspsmd.org)



America's  
Boating Club/  
Baltimore/  
Dundalk  
[Web Page](#)

## Calendar of Coming Events

### United States Power Squadrons® Events

#### District 5 Events

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

#### Squadron Events for Annapolis

08 Mar Brunch for Change of Watch at Carrol's Creek Café  
10 Mar Ladies Lunch - Dock House  
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](mailto: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 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, AP-IN

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- IN

P/C John Wesley Nash, SN-IN



**Anchor Watch  
Deadline for April Newsletter:  
Thursday, March 19, 2026**

**Direct all material to:  
Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S  
[anchorwatch@aspsmd.org](mailto:anchorwatch@aspsmd.org)**

