

Anchor



Watch



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Commander's Message

Cdr Jeff Short, JN-IN

“Somebody’s got a hot mike!”

Don’t you just hate that constant, annoying static or the ridiculous jibber jabber coming out of your VHF radio when somebody has the transmit button pushed (a hot mike?). Not only is it annoying, but it is dangerous, since nobody else can transmit a true emergency when there is a hot mike in the vicinity. Some of us are even tempted to turn the darn VHF off to escape a hot mike. All these years of boating, and I thought that it was mandatory to always have a VHF radio monitoring channel 16. I have two radios, so that I can monitor 16 continuously on one radio and use the other to conduct business

with marinas, race committee, etc.

But for standard recreational boats under 65.5 feet, having a VHF radio is generally not legally mandatory, meaning it is also **not mandatory to have it turned on**. However, if you *do* choose to install and turn on a VHF radio, the [United States Coast Guard](#) requires you to maintain a listening watch on **Channel 16 or Channel 9** when you are not communicating with another station.

I bring this up because Georgiana pointed me to a news article about Mark Zuckerberg’s 387-foot mega-yacht, *Launchpad*, valued at \$300 million. Zuckerberg is the CEO and founder of Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook, the world’s largest social network. He co-founded Facebook in his Harvard dorm room in 2004 but he never actually graduated. Who needs a Harvard degree? His net worth is \$204.3 billion! His nearly 400-foot yacht amounts to pocket dust.

On August 3rd, 2026, near Juneau, AK, a small skiff carrying two women, a child and a dog ran out of fuel and called on VHF 16 for some assistance. *Launchpad* was reportedly closer than other vessels, but its crew did not hear the distress call until after help was underway. Apparently, the *Launchpad* crew was monitoring a different channel, which would be perfectly legit if it was channel 9, although you might figure that a yacht that large would be monitoring both 9 and 16 and probably several other channels simultaneously with multiple radios or a scanning radio.

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In any event, Zuckerberg and his family were not on-board *Launchpad*. The skiff was assisted by a cruise ship! Who needs Zuckerberg's 400 ft yacht when you can get a cruise ship to bring you 5 gallons of gas?

Remember, under federal law ([46 U.S. Code § 2304](#)) and state regulations, boat operators who encounter someone in distress must stop and render immediate assistance, provided they can do so without causing serious danger to their own vessel, crew, or passengers.

The VHF radio is a critical piece of safety equipment, and the skipper should have one, have it on, and have it monitoring channel 16 or 9. ASPS members should always be prepared to render assistance when safe to do so.

Two important events are coming up. November 13-15 is the District 5 Educational Conference. It will be held in Lancaster again. Same place as last year.

Secondly, the Change of Watch occurs in just 6 months. We need volunteers to step up and take on some leadership positions. You are free to take any position that fits your skill set or personality.

“Splice the Main brace”

Boating Links to Browse

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

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

Practical Sailor has a video on which upgrades you should do for your enjoyment and comfort.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q97F-lfBMeY>

From the Boat Galley: How to organize first-aid supplies:

https://theboatgalley.com/organizing-the-first-aid-supplies/?ml_recipient=196231432546289215&ml_link=196231381946205763

From the Boat Galley:

How to clean your dinghy bottom more easily:

https://theboatgalley.com/clean-your-dinghy-bottom-more-easily/?ml_recipient=196231432546289215&ml_link=196231381883291147

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.





Kathy Burke SN-IN
Administrative Officer

Looking Ahead to Fall On the Bay

As summer winds down, I hope everyone had a fantastic season out on the water! While the peak summer days are behind us, fall is often one of the absolute best times to be on the Chesapeake Bay. With cooler temperatures and comfortable breezes, it is a wonderful season for cruising.

We have some exciting events lined up for the coming months:

September Night Meeting: Join us for an evening meeting at Maggiano's featuring our guest speaker, Captain Elizabeth Fortunato. She will be speaking on a fascinating topic: *The Future of Navigation Using AI*.

October Picnic: Mark your calendars for our annual autumn picnic at the Selby Bay Yacht Club - it's always a highlight of the season!

Remember, we are always looking for fresh ideas for future meeting locations and guest speakers. If you have a suggestion or a contact you'd like to share, please reach out and let us know!

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





ASPS Dinner Meeting Thursday, September 10, 2026

Maggiano's Restaurant - Annapolis Mall

6:00 - Meet & Greet

6:30 - Dinner

7:30 - Speaker - Elizabeth Fortunato -
Boating Into the Future With
Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Captain Elizabeth Fortunato will share trends
and insights into how the fast-moving world
of AI and technology can change boating.

Menu

Salad

Appetizers

Tomato Bruschetta
Parmesan Stuffed Mushrooms

Main Course

Mushroom Ravioli
Fettuccine Alfredo with Chicken
Mom's Lasagna
Shrimp Scampi

Dessert

New York Style Cheesecake
Warm Apple Crostada
Chocolate Layer Cake

RSVP by

Monday, September 7, at 4 PM to
aspsdinnerreservations@gmail.com

\$20.00 per member
by cash or check at the door
\$30.00 per nonmember guest
Make checks payable to ASPS

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





Captain Elizabeth Fortunato

Captain Fortunato retired from a successful career in technology and government. She also had a love of boating that started when she was very young.

Upon retirement, Elizabeth began the process of combining her career and her love of boating. She took classes in boating and navigation that led to her captain's license from the U.S. Coast Guard. Her love of technology led to a serious interest in artificial intelligence (AI). Naturally, she decided to see if these two passions intersected. They did!

Elizabeth saw that AI could play a large role in the future of boating navigation. To help boaters keep up with what's of value, Elizabeth has launched both the AI Captains Log Podcast and the AI Captains Log Newsletter. [AI Captains Log | Substack](#) Both aim to help boaters track how AI and emerging tech are changing maritime navigation, safety, and operations.

Presentation Title

Boating Into the Future With Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Captain Elizabeth Fortunato will share trends and insights into how the fast-moving world of AI and technology can change boating.





ASPS Picnic

Saturday, October 10, 2026,

Starting at Noon

Selby Bay Yacht Club

1116 Turkey Point Road

Edgewater, Maryland



Menu - Catered by Bayside Bull:
Open Pit Sliced Top Round of Beef
Slow Smoked Pulled Pork BBQ
Seasoned Chicken Pieces

Steakhouse Tossed Salad w/ Parmesan Peppercorn & Balsamic Vinaigrette

Western Style Baked Beans

Home Style Potato Salad

Crisp Creamy Cole Slaw

Fresh Baked Kaiser Rolls

Condiments

Cookies

Iced Tea & Water

(Guests may bring other beverages of their choice.)

RSVP by Monday, October 5, 4 PM to
aspsdinnerreservations@gmail.com

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

\$25.00 for non-members

\$10.00 for children under 12

Make checks payable to ASPS.

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



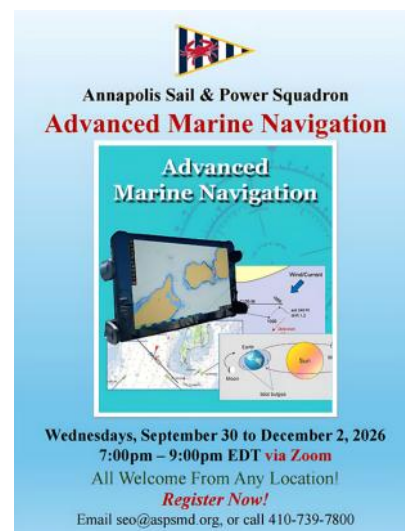


Educational Officer

Lt/C Michael Maszczenski, Jr., N

With the release of Advanced Marine Navigation, we will test drive the course starting in September. ASPS will offer it via Zoom on Wednesday nights starting September 30, 2026, from 7 to 9 PM EST. I am reserving 9 weeks for the course - Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18, with possibly Dec. 2 being the last day. The course covers GPS-driven chartplotters and apps. It will use OpenCPN as the demonstration and practice application. Electronic

tools and their use will be covered. Position location and confirmation will be covered, as well as avoidance of dangers and working with tide, wind, and currents. A practice cruise will allow students to put the concepts to use. A take home test is also part of the course. The course will be open to ASPS and Instructors who want to take the course before presenting it.



Education Events:

Course: Advanced Marine Navigation

Dates: Wednesdays, September 30 to December 2, 2026

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 PM EST

Tuition: free, Materials Cost: ASPS members \$55.00, Non-Members \$70.00

Where: Zoom

Registration: The URL to use is <https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?L-18698>

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

Description: This is the second course in navigation. This course covers additional techniques of navigation with GPS-driven tools. It uses OpenCPN as the application to demonstrate and practice chartplotting skills, as well as the computation under the software, DR navigation. It is being offered virtually via Zoom. The text will be E-book format only.



The Year Ahead

Seminars are 7 to 9 PM EST. Early login is at 6:45 PM.

Cost is Free to ASPS members and \$10.00 to all others. Fee mailed to ASPS.

Directions will be sent after Registration.

Location will be Zoom. Login will be emailed to registrants after registration.

Note each registration link is different for each course or seminar.

Thursday Nov. 19 Introduction to Marine Batteries – Instructor John Locke

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

<https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?S-10098>

Thursday, Dec 3, Emergencies On Board, Instructor Jeff McKinney

You can try the link here: [go to registration page](#) or paste

<https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?S-10099>





Tuesday, January 27th for All About VHF/DSC Marine Radios, Instructor - John Wesley Nash

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

<https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?S-10100>

Tuesday, February 24th for AIS Electronic for Boaters, Instructor - John Wesley Nash

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

<https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?S-10101>

D/5 Fall Conference at the Lancaster Doubletree Hotel in Lancaster, Pennsylvania _ Nov 13,14,15, 2026.

There will be a recertification Seminar offered for instructors, Education updates, as well as a business meeting. More information to come.

For full details go to: <https://Abc-midatlantic.org>.

USPS National Governing Board

The National Fall Governing Board meeting for United States Power Squadrons | America's Boating Club national organization is coming this fall.

When: September 20–27, 2026

Where: Cary, NC

Information on [Schedule Listing](#) & [2026 Governing Board Newsletter](#)

Don't let this happen to you.
Take Advanced Marine Navigation!
Tell your friends!





*Weekend at
Deep Creek
Hosted by
John and Betty
Wilmot
August 14, 15, 16*









**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.uspsd5.org



www.aspsmd.org



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

Calendar of Coming Events

United States Power Squadrons® Events

20-27 Sep National Governing Board -

District 5 Events

13-15 Nov D5 Fall Conference - Lexington, Pennsylvania

Squadron Events for Annapolis

10 Sep	ASPS Dinner Meeting - Maggiano's - Annapolis Mall
10 Oct	ASPS Picnic - Selby Bay Yacht Club
08 Nov	ASPS Luncheon meeting 1-3, The Lodge in Annapolis
05 Dec	ASPS Brunch - Pirates Cove - Galesville
07 Mar	Sunday Brunch - Change of Watch - Carrol's Creek

For a complete list of ASPS Squadron Events, see:

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

Note: The executive board meetings are open to all ASPS members. If you wish to join in, please email seo@aspsmd.org for the login info.

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: Vacant

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 Kathy Burke, SN-IN

Asst Admin Officer: 1st/Lt Georgiana Maszczenski, S,
& P/C Peggy Slattery, S

Membership Chair: Lt/C Lorrie Short

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

Asst Educ Officer: P/C John Locke, SN-ACN

BOC: 1st/Lt John Locke, SN-ACN

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 John Locke, SN-ACN

Larry Miller, S

P/C John Wesley Nash, SN-IN

P/C Peggy Slattery, S

Edwin Sunderland, JN

P/C John Wilmot, JN-IN

Immediate Past Commander:

P/D/C Jeff Short, SN-IN

Audit Committee:

William Klepczynski, JN

Homer Sandridge, N

P/C Rich Hughes, SN-IN

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

Deadline for October Newsletter: **Saturday, September 19, 2026**

Direct all material to: Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S

anchorwatch@aspsmd.org

