



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB® — DELAWARE VALLEY™

Boating Fun • Courses & Seminars • Civic Service
For Boaters By Boaters® Club founded in 1916



THE BAROMETER

January 2022

Commander's Message

We made it to 2022. Looking back on the past year we had some great times and some that were somewhat difficult. We had to resolve to face those issues that were problematic and to get them behind us. Now as we enter the new year, let's hope that it is smooth sailing.

In my last message I mentioned that Rhoda had been in the hospital for a brief period. It seems that she had picked up a serious infection while in the hospital. This led to an extended hospitalization, but thankfully she is back at home and making a fantastic recovery. I want to thank all who prayed for her recovery and sent their well wishes. Rhoda and I missed attending the Holiday Party. It is one of our favorite activities. We heard that the food was fantastic and all was festive. We have next year to look forward to.

We have some more fun activities to look forward to. There is Founder's Day, Change-Of-Watch, the spring picnic, a day at Somers Point with Stephanie and Paul, the fall picnic and the holiday party. I urge all of you to attend these activities as it is a time for us to get together informally and enjoy each other's company.

Please also feel free to attend our online virtual meetings. We welcome your suggestions and ideas to make your Club fulfill your needs and wants.

Cdr Matt Refsin, S





Administrative Officer's Message

Our Holiday Party was a rousing success! It was held on December 12 at the beautiful Southampton Estates. The facility was decorated beautifully as always with themed trees at every turn, and the food was outstanding. Many thanks to John and Judy Gill for all of their work to make this event such a success.

Also, a reminder to mark your calendars for the Spring Conference being held at the Princess Royale in Ocean City, Maryland March 31st to April 3rd. Please plan on attending this event and support our incoming District Commander, our own Stephanie Ward. This is a huge undertaking and I know that Stephanie would appreciate all of the help and assistance that we can give her!

Lt/C Bill Muehlberger, AP

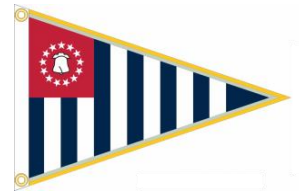


A good time was had by all – check out that Prime Rib! John Gill is enjoying the bountiful hors d'oeuvres table while Dick and Lee Fuse chat with Carole Reilley, the Cunninghams and Ted Whitney. It was so nice to see everyone again!



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Educational Officer's Message

America's Boating Club – Richmond Presents the Virtual Course Weather 2021

A Modern Weather Course for Today's Recreational Boater

The Safety and Comfort of Those on Board Depends on the Weather.

- Basic Principles of Meteorology and Analyzing your Observations .
- Weather System Formation, Movements and Interactions.
- Modern Production of Weather Forecasts and How They are Disseminated .
- Weather Reports and Forecasts Available from the Web.

When: Meeting on Tuesday evenings: January 11th through March 15th, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Where: zoom platform

Cost: \$105.00 **Materials:** This is an eCourse which will require download of one of the following student choices:

1. Student Hybrid Kit with a hard copy text and weather map and downloads of new Chapter 8, errata sheet and cloud chart, Or
2. Student Manual ebook. A 2021 digital manual that includes all of the above.

Register as soon as possible at the email below:

Include the following: Full name, postal mailing address, telephone number, membership number*, email address and which Student Kit you prefer (see above) *Nonmembers will receive a number.

Contact: Bill Simpson, SEO, ABC Richmond

Email: bcsimpson1@aol.com

Lt/C Erik Williams, S



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ABC-DV BRIDGE 2021-2022

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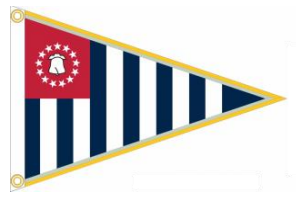
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BLESS OUR VOLUNTEERS

Many will be shocked to find when the day of judgement nears,
That there is a special place in heaven, set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners, satin couches and footstools,
Where there is no committee chairman, no group leaders or carpools.

No forms to fill out, signs to make, no bazaar or bake sale.
Not a thing to staple or tape, nothing to fold or mail.

Telephone lists will be outlawed, but a finger snap will bring,
Cold drinks and gourmet dinners, and treats fit for a king.

You ask, "who'll serve these privileged few, and work for all their worth?"
Why, all those who reaped the benefits, and not once volunteered on Earth.

Author Unknown

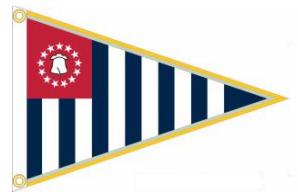
IMPORTANT!!

Speaking of volunteers, we are still looking for a few good people who are willing to step up and help our Club! Cdr Refsin has done an outstanding job of leading us, which has been quite a challenge during the last 18 months. We would love to be able to give him a well deserved rest!

If you are willing to take on either the Commander or Executive Officer job, it would be greatly appreciated. Please reach out to either Cdr Refsin or myself and we can provide more details on responsibilities. We promise that it will be both fun and rewarding!

Thanks!

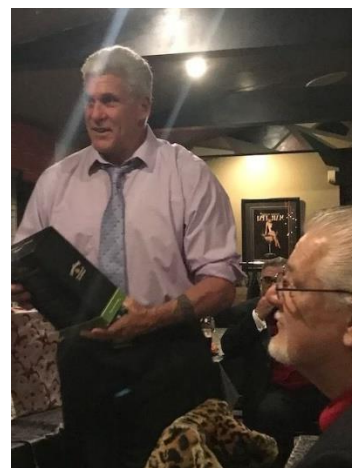
D/Lt/C Stephanie Ward, AP



From the ABC-MidAtlantic Bridge

I was thrilled to represent the District at ABC-Lehigh Valley's holiday party on December 11th. They had a great turnout and a hilarious gift exchange where we were able to "steal" a previously opened gift! While I kept trying to steer Paul towards gifts of my choice, he kept going for the booze!

This year was especially meaningful for me. As you may have heard, D/FI/Lt Michael Lebeduik, III, JN passed away Christmas Day. Mike was the Flag Lt to our current District Commander Michael Payne, AP and has been an active member for many years. I was so glad to be able to spend some time with Mike at their party.





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America's Boating Club Organizational Restructuring

Our current organizational structure of Squadrons, Districts, and national leadership was created decades ago when we were a much larger organization and we needed a hierarchical configuration for communication and coordination.

Today, however, total membership is much smaller, there are fewer Squadrons/Clubs and Districts, and telecommunications is far more advanced. Some Districts are no larger than Squadrons, Districts are consolidating, and too many Squadrons/Clubs dissolve each year.

Commensurately, the number of educational courses completed continues to erode. A contributing factor is that our modus operandi has not kept pace with how today's boater learns, interacts with others, and depends on technology. As a result, we are challenged to recruit and retain members.

The Board of Directors has created a geographically diverse ad hoc group under the leadership of NXO Craig Fraser including David Allen, Allan Bombard, John Crawford, Bob David, Myles Gee, Paul Mermelstein, and Ralph Ziegler. This committee presented ideas for restructuring America's Boating Club at the Virtual Annual Meeting in February, the Governing Board meeting in September, the DEO online meeting in October, and at various District conferences this Fall. As a work in progress, feedback was solicited and continues to roll in.

Predictably, there is some concern from members who enjoy participating in District and/or national activities and worry that we will lose that social interaction. Committee members understand; we have the same experiences and have made friends in our own Districts and at national events. It pains us to contemplate major organizational change, but we also recognize the following facts:

- Over 90% of our members have no relationship with, or interest in, District or national activities. They are served by their Squadrons/Clubs and want localized education, boating activities, and social interaction.
- It is from this 90%+ that we continue to lose most members. In fact, over half of all new Squadron/Club members leave within two years of joining.

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- Every District has seen significant declines in both membership and courses taught.
- Very few Districts have the resources to help squadrons/clubs stem the losses.
- Over 25% of squadrons/clubs have less than 25 members and do not have robust programs.

We are carefully considering a range of major organizational and functional changes to improve the delivery of services in order to attract and keep members. We recognize that changing the organizational structure alone will not suffice. We also need to increase the volume, efficiency, quality, and communication of educational, boating, and social programs that we provide to our members. Our goals are to:

- Increase the attraction of America's Boating Club for both member recruitment and retention
- Meet the needs of members to keep them satisfied and engaged
- Preserve and strengthen squadron/club capabilities to serve their members
- Bolster the capabilities of local squadrons/clubs to market and teach boating education
- Where necessary, directly provide education to individual members such as cyber-members and squadron/club members who do not get adequate education locally
- Increase opportunities for members to participate in boating events and social activities
- Reduce red-tape and bureaucracy to streamline services, administration, and coordination
- Improve communication to squadrons/clubs and to all members

We recognize that, by definition, boating events and social activities must be localized. Active squadrons/clubs should be free to offer what they and their members want. However, many squadrons/clubs do not boat much anymore and social activities are often limited to dinners and other gatherings. From our market research, member exit surveys, and common sense, we know that we need to have a much higher level of boating events and social activities to attract and keep members satisfied.

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Consequently, any organizational change must supplement local squadron/club event planning and the conduct of boating and social activities in locales that conveniently interest participants.

There is a range of options for addressing reorganization potentials, each with their pros and cons, including:

- Do nothing.
- Rely on Districts, but allow more freedom.
- Eliminate Districts and provide services directly from National to local squadrons/clubs and to individual members.
- Consolidate Districts into about a half dozen regions with new systems and procedures that will integrate and synergize both national resources and local Squadron/Club leadership.
- Some combination of the above.

The Reorganization Committee continues to work on this challenge and evaluating options. We have prepared a needs assessment survey that will be sent to all members in order to obtain direct input and better evaluate where we need to improve and what we need to change. We will incorporate this data along with feedback and suggestions that continue to arrive. Additionally, we will examine how we do business, current processes and systems, resources, and organizational functionality. Subsequently, we will determine and recommend the most appropriate course of action for review by the BOD and appropriate committees, before presenting to the Governing Board for approval. The work continues; stay tuned.

A little nautical humor!

A novice yachtsman got into trouble in heavy swell had to call the Coast Guard for help. “Mayday, mayday, mayday!” he yelled. “This is yacht Corporate Junket, Corporate Junket, Corporate Junket, over.”

“Corporate Junket, this is Solent Coastguard,” came the reply. “Can you give me your position sir, over.”

“Solent Coastguard this is yacht Corporate Junket. I’m a director in a financial planning company, over.”



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Please mark your calendars for the 2022 Spring Conference when ABC-DV's Stephanie Ward, AP will be sworn in as our ABC-MidAtlantic District Commander.

All details are in the Winter edition of the Mark 5 but here are some details on how to register:

District 5 Spring Conference - Online Registration Instruction

Instructions: Click on Member Registration on the home page of abc-midatlantic.org.

You will have to give your membership number and password. This will then take you to the registration page.

Follow instructions below.

1. The Member section provides data from your membership record. See the Registration Instructions document linked below if there are issues.
2. Use the tools in the Spouse / Other Attendees section to add other members or guests.
 - a. Select name of an additional member from your squadron. Use the Add Additional Member button to add a select box.
 - b. Use the Add Guest Fields to add controls where you can type the names of other people who will attend.
3. Enter the number of entrees of each meal type you wish to purchase. Total cost will be automatically computed.
 - a. Click on the button Automatically submit form to conference organizers to save registration to conference database. Changes can be made to your registration as needed, up to the registration deadline of March 8, 2022. Of course this may change the amount you owe.

After submittal, send a check to John Locke, 806 Harmony Way, Centreville, MD 21617.

Use the hotel link or phone number on the registration form to reserve a room. Be sure the USPS code is visible in the reservation page, Promotional Code field or is used by the hotel's reservation agent.

FROM THE GALLEY!

BACCON WRAPPED CHICKEN THIGHS

A "taste of the south" BACON EVERYTHING.

Ingredients

- 8 skinless, boneless Chicken thighs
- 8 thick cut strips of bacon
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 2 small red onions (or 1 large) cut into wedges
- 3 cloves of garlic smashed
- 1 Tbsp molasses
- 1 tsp whole grain mustard
- 2 Tbsp all purpose flour
- 1&1/2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 1 Tbsp chopped fresh thyme
- Fresh thyme sprigs for garnish



Directons.

Preheat oven to 350F. After drying the chicken thighs season with salt and pepper. Wrap each thigh with a strip of bacon (as well as you can, use tooth pick if necessary). Heat a 12" cast iron pan and fry the thighs until bacon begins to crisp, turning thighs as needed.

Add onion and garlic; cook until almost tender, about 4 minutes. In a small bowl whisk together the molasses and mustard; spread over chicken. Bake this entire mixture until thermometer reads 165 degrees, about 20 minutes. Remove chicken, onions and garlic from skillet and save about 1/4 cup of reserved drippings; heat skillet over medium heat; whisk in flour, cook until bubbly, about 1 minute. re-duce to low, gradually whisk in cream until smooth; stir in thyme; return chicken, onion and garlic to skillet; Garnish with thyme if desired and serve.



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Check out all of the member benefits available to you as an ABC member on the USPS website! Here are just a few!



Red Roof Inn offers

USPS members receive a **15% discount on stays at all Red Roof Inn locations.**

Make reservations online through USPS's Red Roof Inn website by [CLICKING HERE](#), call 800-RED-ROOF (800-733-7663) or visit a Red Roof Inn location today, and use this **promo code: 615502** to receive your discount!



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USPS Members receive 10% off!



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The **USPS Vacation Center** has partnered with America's largest cruise agency, **CruisesOnly** to offer the lowest prices in the industry to US Power Squadron Members. Shop and compare thousands of cruises from 18 of the world's top fleets departing from 22 U.S. ports. Browse the latest in new promotions and last-minute offers or shop by category – weekend cruises, family cruises, honeymoon cruises, and more. Check out customer reviews and travel tips. Plus, trained cruise consultants are ready to answer your questions, help you choose the right cruise for your needs and even help arrange land excursions. Use this link for more information: <[CruisesOnly - 35 Years As America's Largest Cruise Agency](#)>



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To speak with an authorized LTC Specialist in your area, please contact LTCR Toll Free at **(800) 616-8759** or [visit us on the web](#).



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AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®
-- DELAWARE VALLEY

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 11	ABC-DV Meeting (Virtual)
February 8	ABC-DV Meeting (Virtual)
February (TBD)	ABC-DV Founders Day
February 20-26	USPS® Annual Meeting Ponte Verde, FL
March (TBD)	ABC-DV Change-Of-Watch
March 31-April 4	ABC-MidAtlantic Spring Conference
May (TBD)	Delaware River Educational Cruise