

the Bullhorn!

The official newsletter of the America's Boating Club - Richmond, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons

Volume 62, Issue 2

February 2023

The Bridge

Commander:

Cdr Mary Palmer, P
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804-447-4648

Educational Officer

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Treasurer

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NEXT EVENT

Wine & Cheese Party, February 18

UPCOMING CLASSES

Cruising & Cruise Planning Course

Marine Navigation Course

Boat Virginia Course

Vessel Safety Examiner

Annual Meeting & Elections

Tuesday, March 7, 6:30 PM
Grapevine Restaurant

Commander's Message

Commander:

Cdr Mary Palmer, P
r2pmhp@mindspring.com
804-447-4648

Dear friends of Richmond Squadron.

February is going to be a busy month.

You will see that planning is well underway for our 2023 Squadron Year. Besides a number of classes we are planning to start having face-to-face meetings around the Richmond area. Please look over the schedule of upcoming events and give your comments to Frank Timpano (ftimpano@infionline.net).

Our next face-to-face event is the Wine & Cheese party at the Dibble's on February 18th. We look forward to seeing you there. See the enclosed flyer.

Frank Timpano has started the Cruising & Cruise Planning Course, Dave Teets will be holding a Vessel Safety Check seminar on February 21. Dave and Bill Simpson will be conducting a Boat Virginia course at the Deltaville Yachting Center on February 25. Jim Zeigler will start the Marine Navigation Course on April 13. Thanks to Bill Simpson for facilitating all these educational opportunities.

Our Annual Meeting. Elections and Change of Watch is scheduled for 6:30 PM, Tuesday, March 7 at the Grapevine Restaurant. The proposed slate of officer is enclosed. Thanks and we will see you real soon.

Commander Mary Palmer

r2pmhp@mindspring.com or 804-447-4648

Education

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804-338-0873

Ahoy Members,

Current Schedule of Courses and Seminars.

Cruising and Cruise

Planning This course begins Thursday evening, February 9th and goes through March 30, 7-9 PM. This will be a Zoom presentation given by Frank Timpano and Jim Zeigler. As of this writing, we have 14 students signed up.

Vessel Safety Checks If you have an interest in becoming a Vessel Safety Check Examiner, this one evening class is for you. To be presented by Dave Teets in Richmond, this class invites current VSC examiners for refresher training and new candidates to begin training. Class is scheduled for February 21st, 6-8 PM. As of this writing we have two new candidates signed up.

Virginia Safe Boating Course

Hosted by our friends at the Deltaville Yachting Center and presented by Dave Teets and Bill Simpson on February 25th at the DYC classroom.

Registration has closed out with 15 students.

Also, on May 27, we will offer the same course at Olverson's Marina.

Marine Navigation Course

This is the new USPS navigation course that replaces the former Piloting Course. It will be in a combination Zoom and in-class format beginning on Thursday April 13th through June 1st, 6:45PM to 9:00 PM. In-class sessions will be May 11th and May 18th, in Richmond at Ashcraft Insurance Agency.

Trailer Your Boat Planned for early spring and presented by Dave Childress and Jim Juritsch. Time and place to be announced soon.

(More....)

Education (cont'd)

Member Input for Educational Classes.

We are always open to suggestions for future educational classes whether it be a full course or a short seminar. Is there something in your boating experience that you would like to know more about? Give us what you want and we will try to provide the educational support you need. You never know, there may be a lot more boaters with the same issues.

Contacts are Bill Simpson, SEO bcsimpson1@aol.com or Jim Juritsch, ASEO mauijim04@gmail.com.

Lt/C Bill Simpson

SEO

Moon Phases:

Waning Quarter: February 13,

New Moon: February 20

Waxing Quarter: February 27

Full Moon: March 7

In the Evening Sky

If you have been looking west in the evening just after sunset you have been treated with a show by Venus, Saturn, Jupiter and Mars. In early January, Saturn and Venus were close to horizon. Saturn dropped closer to the horizon each night at sunset and is now too close to the sun's glare to see.

Venus is the brightest of the visible planets. And, at the beginning of February, it appears low in the west shortly after sunset. Meanwhile, Jupiter – 2nd-brightest planet – shines above Venus. As the month proceeds, Jupiter will drop lower, while Venus will climb higher. By February's end, these 2 bright worlds will be very close to each other. They'll appear closest on the evening of March 1, 2023. Afterwards, Venus will remain in our evening twilight sky for some months. It'll reach its greatest apparent distance from the sunset – on June 4, 2023. But Jupiter will drop into the sunset glare sometime in March.

Mars is high in the evening sky, noticeably red in color, setting several hours after midnight. Mars is still brighter than *most* stars, even though it's shrinking and fading since its recent opposition on December 8, 2022. Earth flew between Mars and the sun in December. Now Earth is fleeing ahead of Mars in our smaller, faster orbit around the sun. And as a result, Mars is fading in brightness. The moon will sweep past Mars around February 27 and 28. Mars appears above the prominent winter constellation, Orion. Look for the stars of Orion's belt and his sword. (earthsky.org)

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UPCOMING CLASSES

Cruising and Cruise Planning

Thursdays, Feb. 9 to Mar. 30
7-9 PM on Zoom - bcsimpson1@aol.com

Vessel Safety Checks

Tuesday, February 21 6 - 8 PM
Ashcraft Insurance dave@ashcraftinsurance.com

Virginia Safe Boating Course

Saturday, February 25 Deltaville Yachting Center
bcsimpson1@aol.com

Trailer Your Boat Seminar

Spring 2023
Jim Juritsch, mauijim04@gmail.com

Marine Navigation Course

Thursdays, April 13 to June 1, 7- 9 PM ZOOM
jim@jpzeigler.com

Virginia Safe Boating Course

Saturday, June 3 - Olverson's Marina, Callao

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Presents

Cruising and Cruise Planning

*The planning and preparation for safe and enjoyable
extended cruises on inland and coastal waters*

General Planning

Crew & Provisioning

Boat & Equipment

Voyage Management

Anchors & Anchoring

Communications

Security

Navigation

Chartering

Weather

Cruising Outside US Waters

Emergencies

When: February 9, 2023 to March 30, 2023, Thursday Evenings, 7 PM to 9 PM

Where: Zoom Platform

Cost: \$107.00 (Text, Exam and Shipping)

To Register: Bill Simpson bcsimpson1@aol.com or 804 909-2655 (C)

Deadline: January 28, 2023

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Marine Navigation

IT IS FINALLY HERE!!

Our legacy Piloting Course has been replaced with Marine Navigation, oriented to navigation with chartplotters.

The course will be offered for 8 weeks, Thursday, April 13 and each Thursday evening thru June 1 from 7:00 to 9:00. The course will be taught on Zoom except for 2 nights (5/11 & 5/18) when it will be held in person at Ashcraft Insurance.

Marine Navigation is the first of the America's Boating Club navigational classes focusing on techniques for piloting a boat in coastal and inland conditions. The course emphasizes planning and checking along with the use of chartplotters for determining position, and introduces digital charting along with traditional charting, compass and dead reckoning skills.

Plotting, use of the compass, aids to navigation, electronic tools and a host of related topics are included in this all-new approach to coastal, inland and river piloting. Students will require a computer,

either Windows or Apple, and network access to view Zoom classes and download course materials. The course introduces students to both electronic charting software and manual chart plotting.

Cost will be \$100 which includes access to the electronic textbook, plotter, divider and supplemental materials to download the free plotting software.

Contact Bill Simpson at bcsimpson1@aol.com to sign up.

MEETING LOCATIONS

We need your help!

We need your help identifying a place or places to hold membership meetings. Are you aware of a restaurant that has detached meeting space or a convenient community center? We are willing to pay a reasonable rent. If you have you attended a group meeting of less than 50 people at a venue in the Richmond area, please share that information with Susan.Timpano@earthlink.net

Spring Weather Forecast

For the third winter in a row, La Niña had a significant influence on the storm track and overall weather across North America. But the "triple-dip La Niña" may soon come to an end. La Niña is part of a regular climate pattern called ENSO that occurs when the [water temperatures near the equator in the eastern Pacific Ocean are lower than average](#). The cool waters can alter the jet stream patterns on a global scale and are a major factor when forecasters make long-term predictions.

This winter we have seen a consistent track of strong storms from Texas northeast into the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes. The eastern side of the Appalachians have been spared significant winter storms.

The La Niña pattern is weakening. Whether it develops into a more normal temperature distribution across the tropical Pacific and develops into a strong El Niño pattern will not be obvious until later in the spring. They will have a better forecast later in the spring. A strong El Niño can suppress hurricane development in the Atlantic. It also changes where storms track across the U.S.

In the meantime, the forecast calls for slightly warmer temperatures in Virginia

through April, about average precipitation and no frost after April 15.

Remember, that weather forecasting is a Godly science....only God knows what will really happen!

(<https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-forecasts/2023-us-spring-weather-forecast/1475920>)



VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

Interested in meeting more boaters, seeing many types of boats and providing an important public service? Then read on:

A Vessel Safety Check is a courtesy examination of a fellow recreational boaters' vessel to verify the presence and condition of certain safety equipment required by State and the Federal regulations. The Vessel Examiner is a trained specialist and is a member of the United States Power Squadrons or the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. They will also make certain recommendations and discuss certain safety issues that will make you a safer boater.

This is not a law enforcement activity. No citations will be issued. We supply the boater with a copy of our evaluation so that they may follow some of the suggestions given. Vessels that pass will be able to display our distinctive VSC decal. This does not exempt them from law enforcement boarding, but they can be prepared to make this a positive encounter.

It's easy to become a Vessel Safety Examiner, but it does require completing the certification process. Attending this class will bring you closer to becoming an Examiner! You will have the opportunity to meet new boaters, see interesting boats and provide a public safety service as well. You can even get a power squadron merit mark as well!!

Dave Teets is hosting a meeting of current and potential Vessel Safety Examiners on **Tuesday, February 21, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM** (1800 to 2000 to you salty dogs) , at Ashcraft Insurance, 7215 Enterprise Parkway #100, Richmond, VA, 23294. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

If you are interested in attending, please let Dave know by texting 804-370-7061 or email at DAVE@ASHCRAFTINSURANCE.COM so he can have the refreshments and materials ready. We look forward to seeing you at the seminar on February 21st!

WINE & CHEESE PARTY



Saturday, February 18, 4:00 to 8:00 PM

**Wayne & Sue Dibble
10299 Longest Road
Glen Allen, VA 23059**

**RSVP- 804-357-6438
suedibble@verizon.net**

Bring a heavy hors d'oeuvres and a bottle of your favorite wine to share while we take a break from winter doldrums.

We can debate the outcome of the Super Bowl the previous weekend or take wagers on the Daytona 500 occurring the next day.

Or just enjoy fellowship and conversation. And it will be a good time to plan for summer activities.

Please let Sue & Wayne know if you plan to attend.

2023/2024 ABC - Richmond Schedule (*TENTATIVE*)

Date		Day of Week	Time	Event
Start	End			
9-Feb	6-Apr	Tuesday	1900-2100	Cruise Planning -Zoom
18-Feb	18-Feb	Saturday	1600-2000	Wine & Cheese Party
21-Feb	21-Feb	Tuesday	1800-2000	VSC Trainig -Ashcraft Ins
25-Feb	25-Feb	Saturday	0800-1700	Boat/Virginia - DYC
7-Mar	7-Mar	Tuesday	1830	Annual Mtg & Elections
29-Mar	2-Apr	Wed-Sun		D5 Spring Conference
4-Apr	4-Apr	Tuesday	1900	Excom
11-Apr	11-Apr	Tuesday	1800	Squadron Dinner Meeting
13-Apr	1-Jun	Thursday	1900-2100	Marine Navigation Zoom
12-May	14-May	Fri-Sun		Shakedown Cruise - Rappahannock
16-May	16-May	Tuesday	1900	ExCom
27-May	27-May	Saturday	0800-1700	Boat/Virginia - Olverson's
9-Jun	11-Jun	Fri-Sun		Shakedown Alternate date
13-Jun	13-Jun	Tuesday	1800	Squadron Dinner Meeting
2-Jul	8-Jul	Sun-Sat		Fourth Of July Cruise
11-Jul	11-Jul	Tuesday	1800	Squadron Dinner Meeting
29-Jul	29-Jul	Saturday	1200	Lunch Party at Olversons
8-Aug	8-Aug	Tuesday	1200	Excom/lunch
11-Aug	13-Aug	Fri-Sun		Weekend cruise to Onancock
12-Sep	12-Sep	Tuesday	1800	Squadron Dinner Meeting
7-Oct	7-Oct	Saturday	1200	Eastern Branch Bash
10-Oct	10-Oct	Tuesday	1900	Excom
7-Nov	7-Nov	Tuesday	1800	Squadron Dinner Meeting
8-Dec	8-Dec	Friday	1900	Excom
9-Dec	9-Dec	Saturday	1100	Christmas Luncheon
12-Jan-23	12-Jan	Friday	1900	Excom
13-Jan-24	13-Jan	Saturday	1200	Wine And Cheese
9-Mar-24	9-Mar-24	Saturday	1100	Change of Watch

Annual Squadron Meeting, Elections & Change of Watch

**Tuesday, March 7, 6:30 PM,
Grapevine Restaurant
11055 Three Chopt Road, Richmond
(at Cox Road)**

**Dress- Business Attire
No Prepay - Order off Menu**

Report of the Nominating Committee

The following slate of officers is proposed for the 2023/2024 Operating Year of the Richmond Sail and Power Squadron:

Commander	P/C Frank H. Timpano, SN-CN
Executive Officer	Lt/C Robert R. Palmer, SN-IN
Education Officer	Lt/C William A. Simpson, JN
Administrative Officer	Susan Timpano
Secretary	Stf/C James P. Zeigler. SN-IN
Treasurer	Lt/C Marlene K. Zeigler
Assistant Education Officer	1 st /Lt Jim Paul Juritsch, P-IN

Additional nomination for these offices may be made by petition in writing signed by at least five active members in good standing and filed with the secretary by at least 15 days before the annual squadron meeting.



America's Boating Club is a nation-wide boating organization. We learn together, boat together, and help each other and other boaters on the water and land. Our Members learn boating skills, engage with boating friends, and connect with the boating community.



For more information, visit our website at:

richmondboatclub.com

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