

the Bullhorn!

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

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July 2023

The Bridge

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July Events

(see articles inside)

Summer Picnic

Saturday, July 29, 12:00 Noon

Olverson's Marina

Brats & Fixin's

Fire Extinguisher & Flare Training

Onancock Cruise

August 11-13
Onancock, MD

Next Squadron Meeting

September 12, 1800 (6:00 PM)
Anna's Restaurant
7009 Mechanicsville Turnpike

Commander:

Cdr Frank Timpano, SN-CN

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804-240-8591

Commander's Message

As I cross the White Stone bridge (the Opie Norris Bridge) over the Rappahannock, as I do several times a week, I usually try to catch a glimpse of the boats down below, looking both up and down river. But just for a second! You can only get a momentary glance if you want to remain safely in your lane. Looking at boats is fun. For some, it's an irresistible urge.

Whenever I find myself in or near a marina, either by boat or by car, I take time to walk the docks, looking at the boats. Not that I'm looking for a different boat for us, but just to look at the boats. "Is that a Downeast?" "Look, a new Deadrise!" "I wonder if that's a semi-displacement or full displacement trawler?" "What's up with all the trips, quads and quints on these big center consoles?" "Seems outboards are the new "Pod Drives." "Is that a ketch or a yawl, you'all?"

And it's fascinating to see how owners' have outfitted their boats. Dinghies, fenders, lines, enclosures. Anchors, dock lines, power cord management, condition of the gel coat. Is it lovingly pampered or forlorn and neglected at the dock? Is it for sale??? Just kidding, not shopping.

The best explanation I can come up with for this behavior is an appreciation of fine workmanship and stylish lines. A graceful sheer, tumblehome at the transom, the Carolina flair at the bow. The hearty Tug style that just reeks, "stout." From Picnic Boats to passage makers, each has its appeal. Much of this fascination with boats must somehow be ingrained in our DNA or at least imprinted in our nature through millennia of seafaring history.

(more →)

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Commander's Message (cont'd)

It's this mutual love of boats and of being on the water that is the central force behind our organization. For over a century, United States Power Squadrons has supported the hearts and minds of men and women smitten with the "boat bug." It's the glue that holds USPS and America's Boating Clubs together. It's the central theme of our activities. Why? Because boats are fun! With your participation, we can make America's Boating Club-Richmond fun, too!

Frank

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS

GWYNN'S ISLAND BRIDGE - Openings restricted to 2 a.m., 5 a.m., 8 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. through October 12, 2023. The vertical clearance of the drawbridge in the closed-to-navigation position is 12 feet above mean high water.

PIANKATANK RIVER – Until August 5, 2023, oyster reef rehabilitation project at the mouth of the Piankatank River.

RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER - Oyster Reef Construction in Rappahannock River from Windmill Point to above Urbanna

GREAT WICOMICO RIVER - Oyster Reef Construction from entrance to above Sandy Point (beacon "9")

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES - Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel, Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and the Route 301 bridge at Dahlgren.

Education

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Ahoy Members,

Marine Navigation Course The class has been completed and the students have taken their exams. The exams are at Headquarters for grading and we should be getting the results soon.

If you missed this class, We are planning another virtual Marine Navigation class in the September – November time frame. Contact Jim Zeigler, jim@jpzeigler.com or 804-347-5239, if you are interested

Visual Distress Signals Practical Skills (hands-on) event is scheduled for July 29th as part of the Club Lunch planned at Olversons Marina. Look for the flyer in this newsletter and read the information below for more details.

On the Horizon:

Here is what we are planning for the upcoming fall:

Marine Navigation September-November

Partner in Command Seminar October – December

Tides and Currents Seminar October – December

Looking to 2024:

Engine Maintenance January – February

America's Boating Course March

Boat Handling for New Boaters May – June

Lt/C Bill Simpson, SEO

All About Visual Distress Signals:

(from Bill Simpson)

Remember the first small cruising boat you bought? If you were lucky, you might have had a broker that included a mini safety package which included some of the less expensive basic federal requirements for recreational vessels: a couple of life jackets, usually one fire extinguisher and a couple of whistles. Usually not included was an MSD and certainly, no visual distress signals (VDS).

Generally, the recreational boater purchases pyrotechnical VDS which includes hand held flares, aerial meteor flares, smoke and maybe a parachute flare. The non-pyrotechnical VDS, electric distress light and 3'x7' orange flag with Black Square and ball that were not in vogue early on but they seem to be drawing an interest in boaters today. Here's what you should know about VDS:

Federal Requirement: (Virginia law follows the Federal requirements) You must be equipped with US Coast Guard approved VDS when operating on coastal waters, Great Lakes, US territorial waters and inland waters to a point where those waterways narrow to less than two (2) nautical miles wide.

The following vessels are not required to carry day signals but must have night signals when operating between sunset and sunrise:

- a. Recreational boats less than 16' in length.
- b. Vessels participating in any organizational parade, regatta, race or similar.
- c. A manually propelled boat.
- d. Sailboats less than 26', a completely open design and not propelled by machinery.

General requirements for VDS:

All About Visual Distress Signals:

(cont'd)

General requirements for VDS:

- a. Should be properly stowed but readily accessible.
- b. Must be in serviceable condition but not past the expiration dates.
- c. No VDS may be activated unless a situation exists where assistance is needed because of immediate or potential danger to vessel or persons onboard.
- d. Training events using activated VDS must be approved by the US Coast Guard, local law enforcement which includes the State Conservation Officers.
- e. Devices should be stored in a water tight container and properly labeled.
- f. Types of VDS Devices

(Pyrotechnical Minimum 3 ea. Day and 3 ea. Night)

(Only 1 day and 1 night non-pyrotechnical required)



All About Visual Distress Signals:

(cont'd)

Because pyrotechnical devices are recognized as excellent distress signals but can have the potential for injury and property damage, the Club is offering you an opportunity to operate these devices in a safe and supervised environment. At the planned lunch event scheduled on July 29th at Olversons Marina, Dave Teets and Jim Zeigler are presenting a structured VDS event which will allow first timers to use these devices and experienced boaters to renew their skills in using VDS.

In addition, a Fire Extinguisher Skill event will be held in conjunction with the VDS event where one can train and demonstrate the use of a hand held fire extinguisher. Again, this will be structured and supervised by the instructors for all that participate.

All attending and participating will be documented on their individual USPS Training Record which can be applied to future Inland Navigator or Coastal Navigator certifications. These events are not offered often so this is a great opportunity to get certified not only for your personal safety but for future boat operator's ratings.



How to Join America's Boating Club of Richmond

America's Boating Club of Richmond always needs new members. We need to all be actively recruiting. Here is how to join.

METHOD ONE

Download an application and fill out an application from one of the links below. Then submit it with a check, payable *America's Boating Club of Richmond*, and send to either the Squadron Secretary or Squadron Treasurer:

Jim Zeigler, Secretary or Marlene Zeigler, Treasurer
5130 Keitts Corner Road
Richmond, VA 23111

Annual dues for an individual member are \$92 per year plus a one-time administrative fee of \$20 (total for new Individual member is \$112). Annual dues for family membership is \$137 per year plus the one time \$20 administrative fee (total \$157 for new Family membership). Family membership includes the primary member and any other individuals residing at the same address. Our bylaws require Executive Committee approval of new members applications

To download an application, go to the Richmond homepage (<http://www.usps.org/richmond> or <http://www.richmondboatclub.com>) and put your cursor on "Join US" and click on Membership Application. Direct link is <https://www.usps.org/national/hq/forms/MemCom1.pdf>.

(More →)



How to join America's Boating Club Richmond

(cont'd)

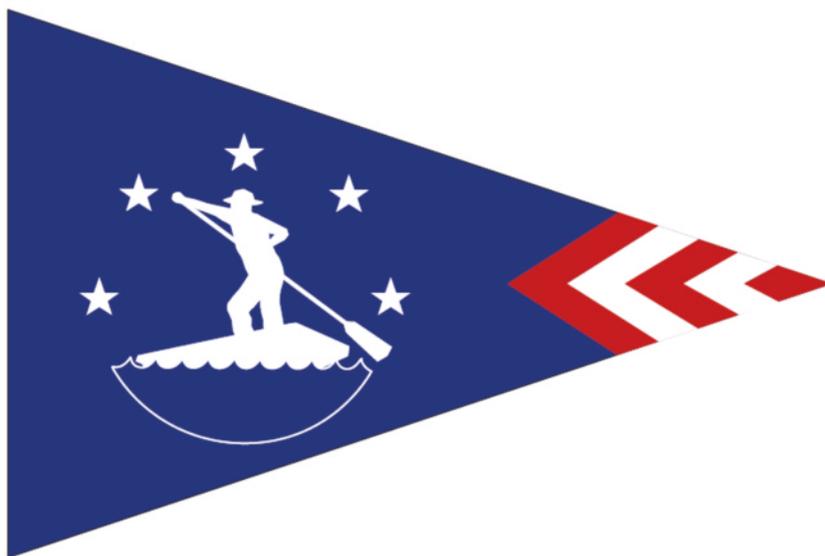
METHOD TWO

Go to the America's Boating Club website at <https://www.americasboatingclub.org/>.

Select JOIN, then Application Form. Fill out the application form and provide your information and credit card information. However, you will need to notify one of the Executive Committee Members that you have joined on-line so we can be sure to have you assigned to the Richmond squadron after a "non-objection" from the squadron Executive Committee.

You can reach that on-line application form directly at:

<https://www.usps.org/national/hq/forms/MemCom1.pdf>



Administrative Officer's Report

Ahoy members!

Here are a few updates on our upcoming activities.

We had a successful rendezvous/party at the Urbanna Town Dock on June 9-11. Activities included a "poker run" and a pot luck lunch. We had three boats and 10 members participating in the poker run, and then we had 18 folks participate in the luncheon. (See pictures)

Following our Fourth of July cruise, we will have a lunch party at Olverson's Marina on July 29. This luncheon features brats and fixin's (\$5 per head). RSVP 804-347-5239

Our next member meeting and dinner will on September 12 at Anna's Restaurant Mechanicsville, 7009 Mechanicsville Turnpike. We will eat at 6 PM and have a short meeting and program on boat handling during difficult weather.

The commander has ordered hats with our new logo which will be available to purchase in a month or so. Prices will be available at a later date.



Urbanna Rendezvous & Poker Run



June Dinner Meeting - Anna's Midlothian



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

of Richmond 

Cook-Out

(Brats, Sides & Refreshments)



&



Safety Training

(Fire Extinguisher & Distress Signals)

12:00 Noon, Saturday, July 29

Olverson's Marina Clubhouse
1161 Melrose Road
Lottsburg, VA 22511

\$5 per person

RSVP 804-347-5239 by July 27





America's Boating Club of Richmond

Membership Meeting

Tuesday, September 12, 6:00 PM

Anna's Restaurant – Mechanicsville

7009 Mechanicsville Turnpike



Please join us for great fellowship, a short business discussion an interesting program along with a great food! The meeting program will cover boat handling in heavy weather.

Order from the Menu. Average dinner cost is \$20-\$25. Anna's offers gluten-free entrees on their regular menu if desired. You do not need to eat to attend the meeting.

Please RSVP Susan Timpano at susan.timpano@earthlink.net if you plan to attend and eat.



In the Morning and Evening Sky

<u>Full Moon</u>	<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>New Moon</u>	<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>Full Moon</u>
July 3 (Buck)	July 9 (waxing)	July 17	July 25 (waning)	August 1 (Sturgeon Moon)

All the full moons have names. Buck Moon seems to be the most common for July due to rapid antler growth in deer. Other names for the July full moon include Feather Molting Moon, Salmon Moon and native American names such as Thunder Moon, Berry Moon and Raspberry Moon. This full moon is a supermoon which makes it appear larger. We will also be treated with a full supermoon on August 1 and August 30

Head outside in the fading evening twilight to see Venus and red Mars near each other in the western sky and close to dazzling blue Regulus. They line up on July 4th for a red - white - blue show. Bright Venus will be at her brightest in 8 years through early July!

Before dawn in July, the gas giant planet Jupiter is to be seen high and bright over in the east in the constellation of Aries. The ringed planet Saturn, at the same time, is due south in the constellation of Aquarius.



Have you gotten your 2023 Vessel Safety Check ?

America's Boating Club of Richmond has FIVE Vessel Safety Examiners and they are all actively conducting Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) for anyone who is interested in obtaining one. Not just members. We are at the end of June and we have nearly passed the total number of VSCs that we did in the whole year of 2022!! Make sure you contact us if you are interested in getting your boat inspected and remember it's FREE!!

Dave Teets 804-370-7061



Summer Reading

Check out details in this weeks USPS mailings: The Ensign's [Summer 2023](#) is available online. Read the [digital flipbook](#), [download a PDF](#) to your favorite reader or [order a print copy from MagCloud](#).

And in the **Member News** from USPS:

West Marine Safety Equipment Coupons Are Back!

Electronics Seminars Are Online

And don't miss America's Boating Channel's Season Seven.



July 4th Fireworks in Portsmouth!

Here's a chance for a fun cruise to ports close to home in early July! What better way to beat the warm temps than getting out on the water and joining your fellow ABC members on a short cruise to a couple neat destinations?

See the itinerary below for details. Make your own marina reservations, noting that you are with the America's Boating Club-Richmond (aka Richmond Sail and Power Squadron) group.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Marina</u>	<u>Marina Contact</u>
Mon, Tues	7/3-4	Portsmouth, Tidewater Yacht	Dockwa.com
Wed, Thurs	7/5-6	Hampton, Safe Harbor Bluewater	Dockwa.com
Fri, Sat	7/7-8	Riverwalk Landing	757-890-3370
Sunday	7/9	Return to Home Port	



Please contact the cruise leader (Frank Timpano) via email (ftimpano@infionline.net) or 804-240-8591 if you are interested or have questions. For those that have not been on an ABC/Squadron cruise before, it is a relaxed, friendly time. Boats that run at similar speeds often "buddy up" for safety and make the runs between ports together. Again, that is optional and you are free to do as you please. Each skipper makes his/her own marina reservations well in advance

to be assured of a slip. The marinas have already been notified to expect individual boat reservations and will try to place us together on the docks.



**Portsmouth
Hampton
Yorktown
3-8 July 2023**

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
 Richmond Sail and Power Squadron 

2023/2024 America's Boating Club-Richmond Schedule

Date		Day of Week	Time	Event	Location
Start	End				
2-Jul	8-Jul	Sun-Sat		Fourth Of July Cruise	Portsmouth, Hampton and Yorktown
29-Jul	29-Jul	Saturday	1200	Lunch Party at Olversons	Olverson's Marina
8-Aug	8-Aug	Tuesday	1900	Excom	Zoom
11-Aug	13-Aug	Fri-Sun		Weekend cruise to Onancock	Onancock harbor
12-Sep	12-Sep	Tuesday	1800	Squadron Dinner Meeting	Anna's Mechanicsville
7-Oct	7-Oct	Saturday	1200	Eastern Branch Bash	Timpano's in Weems
10-Oct	10-Oct	Tuesday	1900	Excom	zoom
2-Nov	5-Nov	Thurs-Sunday		Df5 Fall Education Conference	Linthicum, MD
7-Nov	7-Nov	Tuesday	1800	Squadron Dinner Meeting	TBD
1-Dec	1-Dec	Friday	1900	Excom	zoom
2-Dec	2-Dec	Saturday	1100	Christmas Luncheon	Westwood Club

2024 Events

(For Planning Purposes)

9-Jan	9-Jan	Friday	1900	Excom	Zoom
3-Feb	3-Feb	Saturday	1200	Wine And Cheese	tbd
13-Feb	13-Feb	Tuesday	1900	Excom	Zoom
2-Mar-24	2-Mar-24	Saturday	1100	Change of Watch	TBD
3/19/2024	3/19/2024	Tuesday	1900	Excom	Zoom
4/6/2024	4/6/2024	Saturday	1800	Membership Meeting	TBD
5/7/2024	5/7/2024	Tuesday	1900	Excom	zoom
5/11/2024	5/12/2024	Sat-Sun		Shakedown Cruise	Chesapeake Boat Basin
6/1/2024	6/1/2024	Saturday	1800	Membership Meeting	TBD
6/8/2024	6/9/2024	Sat-Sun		Spring into Summer Cruise	Dennis Point Marina
6/11/2024	6/11/2024		1900	Excom	Zoom
6/29/2024	7/6/2024	Sat-Sat		Summer Cruise	Olversons/Solomons/St. Michaels
7/13/2024	7/20/2024	Sat-Sat		Summer Cruise alternate	Olversons/Solomons/St. Michaels
8/3/2024	8/3/2024	Sat	1800	Membership Meeting	TBD
8/6/2024	8/11/2024	Tues-Sunday		Eastern Shore Jaunt	Tangier, Crisfield, Onancock
8/13/2024	8/13/2024	Tuesday	1900	Excom	zoom
10/8/2024	10/8/2024	Tues	1900	Excom	zoom
10/11/2024	10/11/2024	Sat	1200	Eastern Branch Bash	Timpano's in Weems
11/2/2024	11/2/2024	Sat	1800	Membership Meeting	TBD
12/7/2024	12/7/2024	Sat	1200	Christmas Luncheon	Westwood Club
12/10/2024	12/10/2024	Tuesday	1900	Excom	zoom

2025 Events

2/1/2025	2/1/2025	Sat	1800	Wine And Cheese	TBD
2/11/2025	2/11/2025	Tues	1900	Excom	Zoom
3/8/2025	3/8/2025	Sat	1200	Change of Watch	TBD



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:

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

or our Facebook page at

America's Boating Club - Richmond

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