

# *the Bullhorn!*

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

Volume 63, Issue 2

February 2024

## The Bridge

### Commander:

Cdr Frank Timpano, SN-CN  
Ftimpano@infinonline.net  
804-240-8591

### Executive Office

Lt/C William Simpson, JN  
bcsimpson1@aol.com  
(804) 966-2998

### Educational Officer

Lt/C Jim Paul Juritsch  
mauijim04@gmail.com  
(804) 338-0873

### Administrative Officer

Lt/C Susan Haberstroh-Timpano  
Susan.timpano@earthlink.net  
804-512-1298

### Secretary

Lt/C Jim Zeigler, SN-CN  
Jim@jpzeigler.com  
804-347-5239

### Treasurer

Lt/C Marlene Zeigler  
marlenekzeigler@gmail.com  
804-347-4532

## Wine & Dine Luncheon

Brickshire Clubhouse, New Kent

Saturday, February 10, 2024

1130 to 1500

## Tides & Currents Seminar

March 12, 7:00 PM

Zoom

## Marine Navigation

Starting March 13, 7:00 PM

On-Line

## April Membership Meeting

April 9, 6:00 PM

Anna's, Mechanicsville

## Commander's Message

I went down to the dock the other day to check on the boat.

It was 28 degrees (Fahrenheit). Bundled up, I was met with a brisk Northern breeze, yielding an 18° F wind chill. Brrrr! Down the dock I ventured, watching my footing. The dock boards were dry as any ice had long since sublimated in the wind. I noted a floating ice sheet along the shore, braced by the shore-line's riprap and jostled by the wind, piling up thin sheets of crystals as the wavelets danced by. The water was very clear, (by Bay standards), the bottom visible to three to four feet deep.

Down the dock I hustled, hitting the lift control's power, and then the "down" button. I was just a bit relieved as the four lift motors came to life. Slowly, so slowly, the cable drums unwound--too slowly I thought as the wind began to penetrate both my down jacket and the scarf around my neck. "Why couldn't this wait until next week?" I asked myself. No logical answer materialized. "It's been two months since I've been on the boat." I convinced myself of the necessary nature of my visit.

"I need to check the dock power and make sure the battery chargers are keeping the battery banks topped off. I don't want to find out next month (or week) that they've discharged because, for some unknown reason, the shore power breaker had tripped." Again, reinforcing my somewhat ill-conceived decision to venture down the dock. (Ignoring the fact that, in 10 years, I have never had an unexpected breaker trip here on the dock.)

As the swim step lined up with the dock, I stopped the lift. Brrr! Stepping gingerly, eyeing the icy water below, across the swim platform, I checked the cockpit cover snaps, and noted a few had come loose. "High winds last week must have dislodged these," I figured, noting which snaps will need to be firmly closed when I am done.

Holding on carefully (remember the icy water below) I unsnapped the cover from the starboard side of the transom, opened the transom gate and stepped into the cockpit with a bit of relief, now securely aboard. "Everything looks ship-shape here," I noted, stepping up to the bridge deck.

**MORE** →

## Commander's Message (cont'd)

Sliding the companionway door aside, I stepped down into the cabin and checked the breaker panel. "Great!" I thought, "power's still on." I switched each battery bank to the voltage meter, noting all three banks were well over 12 volts. "Check!"

A quick survey of the rest of the panel confirmed the correct lay-up breaker alignment--everything looked good. A brief glance around the cabin showed nothing of concern. I headed back up to the bridge deck, closed the companionway door behind me and headed toward the stern. Again, onto the swim platform, zipping and snapping the canvas as I departed, carefully re-seating all the recalcitrant snaps. "This canvas doesn't stretch as much at 28 degrees as it did at 68 degrees," I thought to myself.

Back on the dock, I lean over to check the running gear and the shaft zinc. "Looks good," I thought.

Part way up the dock, I switched the lift on again and hit "UP." The cable drums came to life, this time hefting the boat's 25,000 lbs. up, out of harm's way. Brrr! I turned my collar up and tucked my scarf inside the jacket again and turned my back to the wind. Slowly, oh so slowly, the boat raised up, rocked by a sudden wind gust, but swinging only gently in the cradle. It finally reached the upper limit switch and shut off. I quickly shut down the lift control's power, closed and latched the cover and hustled back up the dock.

More ice had piled up on the north side of the dock, against that shoreline. The wind was picking up a bit, I figured, taking quick strides. Finally, on solid land, I glanced back down the dock, satisfied that I had fulfilled my mission as caretaker of this worthy craft. Across the yard, and through the back gate, I gained elevation to the back deck, and was greeted by two happy German Shepherds, tails wagging, engaged in spirited play. Up the steps, and back into the kitchen door I trounced. "Brrr!" I announced, as I peeled off my overcoat and scarf. "It's cold out there!"

"Where have you been?" she asked.



***Richmond Sail & Power Squadron is  
America's Boating Club of Richmond***

# **Wine & Dine Luncheon**

## **At the Brickshire Clubhouse**

**11000 Kentland Trail  
Providence Forge, VA  
10 February, 2024**

**1130-1500**

***Here's an easy way to shake off those Wintertime blues!*** Join your fellow boating enthusiasts at a festive luncheon at the very comfortable Brickshire Clubhouse in nearby New Kent. (Hint: Take the Colonial Downs exit 214 South off I-64. That's about 15 miles east of I-295.)

We are planning a *totally* **POTLUCK** style lunch with a *totally* bonus wine-tasting session that will feature your *totally* favorite wines. How do I know they will be your *totally* favorite wines? Because, of course, you are bringing them with you!

Please also bring a heavy hors d'oeuvre or other luncheon fare—enough to share with 20 to 25 people. Side dishes and desserts are always welcome, too! Don't forget to bring along a wine (or other favorite refreshment) to share, as well.

The cost is Zilch. Nada. Zero. It's Free even. (Well, gas is on you though.)

Please RSVP to Susan Timpano ([susan.timpano@earthlink.net](mailto:susan.timpano@earthlink.net) or 804.512.1298)

**Directions:** After exiting I-64, go south on SR 155 (Courthouse Road) a short distance to a new traffic circle and get off on Kentland Trail. Bare right to pass the Colonial Downs entrance and proceed for 1.8 mile to the Brickshire gate. Take the first left on Colonial Trail and an immediate right into the owner's complex. The clubhouse is on your left as you enter.

## Executive Officer's Report

### Boat Show and Membership Recruiting

Cheryl and I had a good time manning the RSPS booth at the Richmond Boat Show. Even though the crowd was small at the Saturday opening, the foot traffic increased nicely and by noon, we were engaging with several folks that gathered around our display.

Many thanks to Jim Zeigler and Jim Juritsch for all the preparation man-hours they spent and in making the Boat Show a success for all of us. Also, a big thanks to all the members that volunteered to man the booth throughout the three days of the show.

With regards to membership recruiting, we were able to accumulate the names of several interested individuals from the various signup sheets available during the show. Our next step is to send a follow-up packet to these folks to tell them who we are, what we offer and invite them to consider becoming members.

The Richmond Boat Show and the upcoming RIR Boat Show is a market for small trailering boats that are used for lake/river cruising, water sports and fishing. As expected, these boaters are mainly interested in basic seamanship education and achieving their state boating certification. Several showed an interest in the trailering seminar and getting a vessel safety check.

Overall, the boat shows have good potential as a recruiting market and it will be interesting to see if we can attract any new members from this boating group.

### District Five Spring Conference

The District Five Spring Conference is scheduled for the weekend of March 22-24, 2024, at Ocean City, Maryland. So, why should you be interested in attending?

**MORE →**



### Executive Officer's Report (cont'd)

Well, the first day, Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, is focused on individual job training. All officers, assistant officers, committee chairs/members and any other members will have the following training opportunities:

- Instructor Recertification Seminar (four-year renewal)
- CPR and First Aid for Boaters (card renewal)
- Educational Officer and Assistant training
- Administrative Officer and Assistant training
- Secretary Officer training
- Treasurer Officer training
- Commander and Executive Officer training

If you are new in a squadron leadership position, this is an opportunity to receive training in your job description and get updated on current policies and procedures.

For those who are interested, Friday evening is "dinner on your own" and could be planned as a RSPS group dinner at a local eating establishment.

Saturday 23 March offers various seminars/meetings such as:

- Chief Commander's Town hall
- VIMS Depth and Recovery Program
- BOC and OTW Programs
- Marketing and Recruiting Meeting
- Navigating the USPS Website
- Newsletter Editors Meeting

**More →**

## Executive Officer's Report (cont'd)

In the afternoon, the District Five Spring Conference Meeting is scheduled and, in the evening, the District Five Banquet and Change of Watch will occur. These two events are by reservation and forms will be provided in the next message if you plan to attend.

Depending on how you want to schedule your time, this could be a day of exploring and dining in the Ocean City area. A more detailed list of attractions/things to do will follow in the next email.

This conference event can be a good winter weekend get away with a squadron of friends or on your own. The training events are there for your choosing and you can make your own schedule to meet your needs. More to come....

### Vessel Safety Checks (VSC)

Vessel Safety Checks are a great benefit the squadron performs for the general boating community. The VSC program is regulated by the USCG and performed by USPS and our partner, the USCG Auxiliary.



Each VSC Examiner is required to attend a designated training session, successfully complete a written exam and perform an evaluation in the field. RSPS currently has four examiners with another coming onboard by spring. Dave Teets is the VSC Committee Chair. Dave sets the goals and plans for the VSC annual program. He also provides examiner training and logistical support for the examiners. Last year RSPS performed 94 VSCs and has set a goal of 120+ VSCs for 2024.

Think you might want to qualify to be a VSC Examiner? Contact Dave Teets at [dave@ashcraftinsurance.com](mailto:dave@ashcraftinsurance.com) or 804 370-7061. Also, if you need a VSC for the 2024 boating season, let Dave know.

Lt/C Bill Simpson  
Executive Officer

# Education

We have had a busy start to the year and are excited about offering a robust training curriculum for 2024. First let us start with our current offerings – below is our current 2024 education calendar:

 		
America's Boating Club - Richmond - Education Calendar 2024		
Title	Status	Dates
Engine Maintenance Course (virtual)	<i>Class In Progress</i>	Thursdays, January 18 - March 21
Virginia Boating Safety - Deltaville Yachting Center	<i>Full class</i>	Saturday, February 24, 2024
America's Boating Course - Chesterfield County	<i>Enrollment open at County website</i>	Saturdays, March 2, March 16
Tides and Currents Seminar (virtual)	<i>Enrollment open</i>	Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Marine Navigation (virtual)	<i>Enrollment open</i>	Wednesdays, March 13 - May 1
Boat Virginia - Olverson's Marina, Callao	<i>In Planning</i>	Saturday, June 15
Boat Handling for New Boaters	<i>In Planning</i>	May/June TBD

Enrollment is open for **America's Boating Course**, held on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. New for this year, we are partnering with Chesterfield County Parks & Recreation and teaching the course at their facility. They are also overseeing enrollment. See more information and enroll at [Chesterfield County's website](#).

Enrollment is open for the **Marine Navigation** course. Marine Navigation covers the basics of coastal and inland navigation. This course focuses on navigation as it is done on recreational boats today and embraces GPS as a primary navigation tool while

**MORE →**



## Education (cont'd)

covering enough of traditional techniques so the student will be able to find his/her way even if their GPS fails. The course includes many in-class exercises, developing the student's skills through hands-on practice and learning. Eight classes of two hours each normally are scheduled for presentation of this course. In addition, the students have seven days to complete the open book exam. Weekly from March 13 to May 1st, 7:00 to 9:00 PM. [Sign up here](#), or contact Jim Zeigler at 804-347-5239 or [jim@jpzeigler.com](mailto:jim@jpzeigler.com) for additional information.

Finally, enrollment is open for a very popular **Tides & Currents** seminar on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Cruise confidently in coastal waters, secure in your knowledge of tidal conditions. Even if you are an inland boater, you may travel to an area where knowing about tides and tidal currents is important. Discover what causes the tides to rise and fall and what causes the currents to flow. Learn where to find sources of information about tides and tidal currents, simple ways to predict height of tide and speed of current flow and how to use both print and electronic tide tables. Learn about how tides and currents affect your boat's performance from experienced coastal boaters. [Sign up here](#), or contact Jim Zeigler at 804-347-5239 or [jim@jpzeigler.com](mailto:jim@jpzeigler.com) for additional information.

For the rest of our 2024 education curriculum, we are leveraging an **Education Survey** conducted at the Richmond Boat Show (Jan 26-28) to help shape our upcoming offerings. We received 13 individual responses. We input the results into our Squadron Enigma machine and here are the results:

COURSES	
Engine Maintenance	10
Marine Communications Systems	7
Navigation – Lakes and Bays	7
Weather	7
Near Shore Navigation	6
Boat Handling	6
Cruising & Cruise Planning	5
Electronic Navigation	5
Marine Electrical Systems	5
Offshore Navigation	5

**MORE** →

## Education (cont'd)

Seminars			
Boating Handling Underway	7	Emergencies on Board	7
Tides and Currents	7	All About VHF/DSC Marine Radio	6
Anchoring with Assurance	6	Rules of the Road	6
Trailing your Boat	6	Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes	5
Docking/Undocking	5	Man Overboard	5
Weather for Boaters	5	AIS Electronics for Boaters	4
Intro to Electronic Navigation	4	Knots and Line Handling	4
Radar for Boaters	4	Fuel and Boating	3
Boat Hurricane Preparation	3	Partner in Command	3
Crossing Borders	2	Propane Systems in your Boat	2

As you can see, we have ample interest from the public in providing these courses/seminars. We optionally collected email addresses from respondents so we can provide more information as we firm up our Education Calendar. We will use this information to inform our Education Calendar.

Finally, we polled to find out if there is interest in the 'Jump Start' program. What is the Jump Start program, you ask?

The **Jump Start** program is a FREE hands-on training program from the Boat Operator Certification Committee of the United States Power Squadrons. It provides a framework for teaching a one-on-one training session with a student on their own boat. The content of the training is customized to fit the needs of the individual student. The goal is to help the new boat owner develop essential skills for safe operation of their boat, and to break through any barriers that may limit their boating enjoyment. The Jump Start Program provides a personalized, high-quality training experience for the student. It also helps the student bond with the squadron and encourages participation in additional squadron training and activities.

**MORE** →

---

## Education (cont'd)

We have not offered the Jump Start program recently in our Squadron, but based on the 7 respondents who were interested, it may be coming in 2024. Stay tuned!

Our education survey link will remain active. Feel free to take it – we would love to hear your feedback. Here is the link to the survey: [Survey link here.](#)

So....as a Squadron member, are you excited or enthusiastic about any of these courses or seminars? Do you feel like you have experience in some of these areas? Great!

**We are in need of instructors.** If you are interested in teaching a seminar, we will set you up for success and support you from beginning to end. We have prepared slide decks, and if you would like, we can partner you up with an experienced instructor. Think about it – teaching a 2-hour seminar is rewarding, and it is more about having a quality conversation with participants than feeling like you need to know everything about a particular topic.

If you are interested, Contact SEO Jim Juritsch to talk about it – c 804-338-0873 or [mauijim04@gmail.com](mailto:mauijim04@gmail.com)

---

## Electronic Plotting Tools

New member Jeff Dodge shared an interesting article on the evolution of electronic plotting tools.

[Boat Navigation: Should You Use Chartplotters, Apps, or Both? | PropTalk](#)

We are now using OpenCPN, a free, versatile electronic plotting tool in our Marine Navigation class. If you would like to learn how to use OpenCPN, you can join the OpenCPN lessons in the upcoming Marine Navigation Class starting March 13 by contacting Jim Zeigler at 804-347-5239 or [jim@jpzeigler.com](mailto:jim@jpzeigler.com).

# Marine Navigation Course

## *Learn how to use your GPS and Chartplotter*

### What you will learn:

- How to read a nautical chart
- Understanding buoys and markers
- Latitude and Longitude - locating yourself on the surface of the earth.
- Waypoints and Routes
- Free, OpenCPN navigation software – turn your PC into a chartplotter.
- Free access to electronic and printed charts
- Traditional navigation using printed charts.
- Coastal and inland navigation
- A hands-on practical cruise using both manual and electronic navigation.

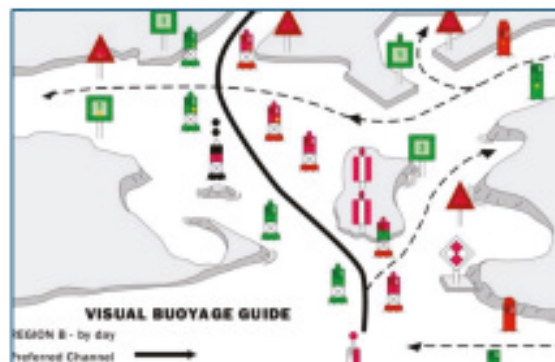


Marine Navigation covers the basics of coastal and inland navigation. This course focuses on navigation as it is done on recreational boats today and embraces GPS and chartplotters as the primary navigation tool. Traditional, manual navigation is taught so the student will be able to find the way home when the electronics fails. The course develops students' skills through hands-on practice and learning. Eight classes of two hours each normally are scheduled for presentation of this course. In addition, the students have seven days to complete the open book exam. The classes will be presented on Zoom weekly, starting on Wednesday night, March 13 through May 1st, 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

Costs are \$110 for members and \$135 for non-members. This includes a student manual (e-book), navigation plotting tools, test, student charts, access to online help files.

Contact: Jim Zeigler at 804-347-5239 or jim@jpzeigler.com

*The course will utilize OpenCPN navigation software that turns your PC into a chartplotter and provides free access to NOAA nautical charts. That software runs on all platforms including Apple Macintosh except Apple IOS (iPad and iPhones).*





## Time to Start Thinking about Spring.

Well, Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow this February 2, so we should expect an early spring. Having grown up in Western Pennsylvania, I can tell you that Phil and his ancestors have always been right.



This is a good time to check your “dated” safety equipment. Starting last year, portable, disposable fire extinguishers have a 12 year shelf life. If they are approved marine grade fire extinguishers, look for a date on the label or stamped in the bottom. Don't forget your jet ski.

Likewise, check your flares. If you have invested in one of the new strobe flares, check the batteries and make sure you have the daytime flag within the unit.

First aid kits are often overlooked. What are the conditions of the bandages? If you have a bottle of hydrogen peroxide on board, it should be replaced yearly. Same with antibiotic cream and liquid skin. They do not last as long when stored in variable temperature conditions. Also, a good time to check your sunscreen, bug spray and anti-itch medicines.

How is your spare parts supply? Fan belts, cooling system impellers, and extra oil are important to have on board. Do you have enough oil on board in case your oil pan plug, oil filter or oil line detach while you are on the water? What about oil absorbing pads in case you do have an oil leak?

Have you replaced your zinc (sacrificial anodes) and checked your spares?

The boat yards will be getting busy as soon as the weather warms – have you scheduled to haul out?



## Tides & Current Seminar

Tuesday, March 12, 7:00 PM

on Zoom

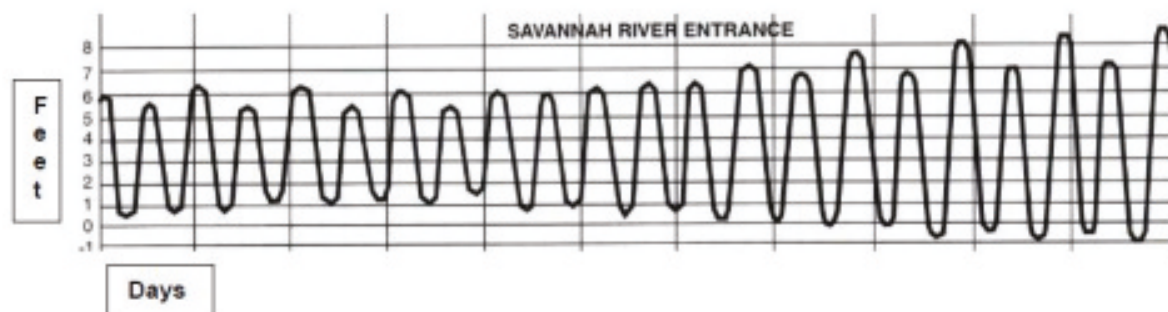
Cruise confidently in coastal waters, secure in your knowledge of tidal conditions. Even if you are an inland boater, you may travel to an area where knowing about tides and tidal currents is important. Discover what causes the tides to rise and fall and what causes the currents to flow. Learn where to find sources of information about tides and tidal currents, simple ways to predict height of tide and speed of current flow and how to use both print and electronic tide tables. Learn about how tides and currents affect your boat's performance from experienced coastal boaters.

### What's Included?

- Causes and effects of tides and currents.
- Predict the time of highest tide before it begins to fall.
- Predict the vertical movement of the water.
- Safely navigate low tide
- Determine the speed of the current and when it reaches maximum flood.
- Deal with mean high and low water
- Use NOAA charts and tables and electronic software.
- Factor in tides and currents when anchoring.

Offered by the Richmond Sail & Power Squadron - America's Boating Club of Richmond. The cost is \$25 for non-members and free to members.

Register on-line at [americasboatingclub.org](http://americasboatingclub.org), then select *Learn*, then *Classes near Me*, then fill in your zip code and press *Submit*. Or contact Jim Zeigler at 804-347-5239. ([jim@jpzeigler.com](mailto:jim@jpzeigler.com)).



## Richmond Boat Show – January 26-28

A big thank you to our enthusiastic volunteers who manned the booth at the 2024 Richmond Boat Show! It was a huge success! They are:

- Bill Schwieder · Bill Selden · Dave Preddy
- Bill Simpson · Dave Teets · Ruth Turman
- Frank Timpano · Chris/Linda Miele · Jim Juritsch

The show was well attended, and we had many contacts with individuals who are perspective, new, and experienced boat owners. Here's a summary of activity:

- We made countless contacts (i.e., friends) and handed out a number of new membership applications.
- We received approx. 13 filled out Education Surveys
- We received 9 VSC requests.

We directed numerous individuals to the ABC Class (March 2 and 16)

Lots of kids got to experience the boating simulator.

The next boat show is the RVA Boat Show Feb 16-18 at Richmond Raceway.



## Administrative Officer's Report

Hi All,

Our first event of 2024 is the Wine and Dine Luncheon which will be held at the Brickshire Clubhouse in Providence Forge, VA on February 10 at 1130-1500. The address is 11000 Kentland Trail, Providence Forge, VA. This is a very nice facility about 20 minutes from Richmond.

The event will consist of a "potluck" provided by the attendees. Each of us should plan to bring a "heavy" hors d'oeuvre or side dish large enough to share with 20-25 people. Desserts would also be welcomed. You should also plan to bring your favorite beverage—wine, beer, soda, etc. to share. In addition, Dave Teets will be bringing the squadron "bar." There will be no cost to you for use of the facility. Bill Simpson has volunteered to cover that cost. As members, we will supply all "the eats." The squadron will supply the paper products and utensils. Please contact Susan Timpano at [susan.timpano@earthlink.net](mailto:susan.timpano@earthlink.net) or at (804) 512-1298 to RSVP.

The other upcoming event will be our first membership meeting for 2024. This meeting will be held at Anna's Restaurant in Mechanicsville, VA on April 9. (7009 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-7100.) We will have a short meeting and program and a great dinner. We will be ordering off the menu and each paying for our own tabs. We have always been treated well at Anna's, and the food is generous and tasty. Please contact Susan Timpano at [susan.timpano@earthlink.net](mailto:susan.timpano@earthlink.net) or at (804) 512-1298 to RSVP. See you there.

Our Boating Activities Committee has completed the schedule of events for 2024. **(Next Page)** Several events will be headed up by new members: Chris and Linda Miele will be running our Shakedown Cruise in May, Bill and Dawn Sizemore are in charge of the Onancock trip in June, Dave and Elaine Preddy will be hosting the Cape Charles trip in September.

If you plan to participate in the summer cruise, start making your reservations. Our cruise is scheduled for the busiest time of the boating season at some of the busiest locations.

## CRUISING EVENTS FOR 2024

Please let the contact know so we can plan for sufficient food, refreshments and accommodation.

May 11 – Shakedown Party – Urby’s Urbanna – Poker Run, VHF/DSC setup. Chris and Linda Miele – 804-338-3058 [lindashawmiele@gmail.com](mailto:lindashawmiele@gmail.com)

June 7-9 – Onancock Wharf –Bill and Dawn Sizemore - (804) 339-7435 [wesizemore@aol.com](mailto:wesizemore@aol.com)

July 28 to August 4 – Summer Cruise – Solomons, Annapolis, St. Michaels – Jim and Marlene Zeigler – 804-347-5239 [Jim@jpzeigler.com](mailto:Jim@jpzeigler.com)

SUMMER CRUISE ITINERARY				
		Departing	Arrival	Reservations
Saturday	July 27	From D/5 <a href="#">Rendezvous</a>	Spring Cove, Solomon’s Island	Dockwa
Sunday	July 28	Spring Cove, Solomon’s Island	Herrington Harbor South	Website
Monday	July 29	Herrington Harbor South	Annapolis Yacht Basin	Call 410-263-3544
Tuesday	July 30	At Annapolis		
Wednesday	July 31	Annapolis	St Michaels Marina	Call 410-745-2400
Thursday	August 1	At St. Michaels		
Friday	August 2	St Michaels	Herrington Harbor South	Website
Saturday	August 3	Herrington Harbor South	Spring Cove, Solomon’s Island	Dockwa
Sunday	August 4	Spring Cove	Home	

September 6-8 – Cape Charles – David Preddy – 804-357-8647 or [byekurman@gmail.com](mailto:byekurman@gmail.com)



# In the Night Sky

February 2024

## Moon Almanac

Last Quarter	New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon
February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
			“Snow Moon”

**Jupiter** starts out each night high in the southern sky at twilight falling. These moons are visible with binoculars and telescope and the image changes each night as the moon orbits about this large planet.

**Saturn** will be visible 45 minutes after sunset on Feb. 1, when it stands  $12^\circ$  high in the west. It is lost in twilight after the second week of the month. Your last view may be Feb. 10, when a the Moon stands just over  $2^\circ$  south of Saturn. The pair is  $6^\circ$  high 30 minutes after sunset and drops below the horizon about half an hour later. Saturn shines at magnitude 0.9 and can be spotted easily with binoculars.

**Saturn** is low at twilight and will be hard to see later in the month.

**Uranus** and **Neptune** are visible all evening with binoculars or telescopes, at the same angle but east of Jupiter. Uranus will be slightly south of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter moon on February 15. Look for a bluish dot.

**Mars, Venus** and **Mercury** are all visible in the southeast in the early morning before sunrise. They start out the month very close together. Mars and Mercury will be closest and Venus about 3 times further away. Find very bright Venus near the morning horizon and then look for red Mars. Mercury disappears early in the month. Venus continues to get closer to the morning horizon while Mars continues to climb. It will be more visible in the next few months.

**Meteors are rare** in February, with no major showers.



**AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB**  
 Richmond Sail and Power Squadron



**2023/2025 America's Boating Club-Richmond Calendar**

Date		Day of Week	Time	Event	Location
Start	End				
<b>2024 Events</b>					
8-Feb	11-Feb	Thur-Sat	All Day	USPS ABC Annual Meeting	Rosen Plaza, Orlando
10-Feb	10-Feb	Saturday	1130-1500	Wine and Dine Luncheon	Brickshire Clubhouse
13-Feb	13-Feb	Tuesday	1900	Excom	Zoom
16-Feb	18-Feb	Fri-Sun	All Day	RVA Family Boat Show	Raceway Complex
24-Feb	24-Feb	Saturday	All Day	Boat Virginia	Deltaville Yachting Center
2-Mar	2-Mar	Saturday	0900-1500	ABC Course Part 1	Beulah Rec Cntr, Chesterfield
9-Mar	9-Mar	Saturday	0900-1500	ABC Course Part 2	Beulah Rec Cntr, Chesterfield
12-Mar	12-Mar	Tuesday	1900	Tides & Currents Seminar	Zoom
13-Mar	1-May	Wednesday	1900	Marine Navigation Course	Zoom
19-Mar	19-Mar	Tuesday	1900	Excom	Zoom
20-Mar	24-Mar	Wed-Sun	All Day	D5 Spring Conference and COW	Ocean City, MD
9-Apr	9-Apr	Tuesday	1800	Membership Meeting	Anna's Mechanicsville
10-May	12-May	Sat-Sun	All Day	Shakedown Cruise	Urby's Marina
14-May	14-May	Tuesday	1900	Excom	Zoom
4-Jun	7-Jun	Tue-Thur	All Day	Tangier Crisfield	Option Before Onancock
7-Jun	9-Jun	Sat-Sun	All Day	Spring into Summer Rendezvous	Onancock harbor
11-Jun	11-Jun	Tuesday	1800	Membership Meeting	TBD
15-Jun	15-Jun	Saturday	All Day	Boat Virginia	Olverson's Marina
18-Jun	18-Jun	Tuesday	1900	Excom	Zoom
22-Jul	25-Jul	Mon-Fri	All Day	Southern D/5 Cruise	TBD
25-Jul	27-Jul	Sat-Sun	All Day	D5 Summer Council	Solomons, MD (Spring Cove, Zanheisers)
28-Jul	3-Aug	Mon-Sat	All Day	Summer Cruise	Annapolis, St. Michaels
20-Aug	20-Aug	Tuesday	1900	Excom	Zoom
6-Sep	8-Sep	Sat-Sun	All Day	Fall Cruise	Cape Charles Harbor
10-Sep	10-Sep	Tuesday	1800	Membership Meeting	tbd
24-Sep	28-Sep	Tues-Sat	All Day	USPS Fall Meeting	Pittsburgh
12-Oct	12-Oct	Sat	1200	Eastern Branch Bash	Timpano's in Weems
15-Oct	15-Oct	Tues	1900	Excom	Zoom
19-Nov	19-Nov	Tues	1900	Excom	zoom
7-Dec	7-Dec	Sat	1200	Christmas Luncheon, Election & Change of Watch	Westwood Club



***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**

The Bullhorn is published at least monthly by and for the members of Richmond Sail and Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons doing business as America's Boating Club - Richmond. Copyright 2024. No portion of this publication may be reprinted or reused without express written consent of the ABC-Richmond. Contact James P. Zeigler, 5130 Keitts Corner Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111 or richmondboatclub@yahoo.com

America's Boating Club® is a registered trademark of the United States Power Squadrons®