

the Bullhorn!

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

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The Bridge

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Engine Maintenance

Starting January 18th, 7:00 PM

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

Commander:

Cdr Frank Timpano, SN-CN

Ftimpano@infinonline.net

804-240-8591

Happy New Year!

To all my fellow boating aficionados, the new year has arrived and brought with it many new opportunities to enjoy the benefits of membership in Richmond Sail and Power Squadron. Be sure to check out this issue of the Bullhorn for upcoming activities.

If you are looking for some Winter fun, check out the planned Boat Show exhibits we will sponsor. You can even sign up as an exhibitor, get free admission to the boat show, and help our club advertise our training programs while working in our booth. More info is included in this issue of the Bullhorn.

As some of you may have already heard, the club's National headquarters has been working on brand management and has been tweaking our name and messaging a bit. The outcome of these changes is a recognition that United States Power Squadrons, USPS, (despite the occasional confusion with United States Postal Service, USPS,) has over one hundred years of history as a unique and respected boater education, civic service and fraternal organization. The adoption of the "America's Boating Club" (ABC) has created some challenges in branding as it has none of the storied history that the Power Squadron has, and many boating-oriented industries and businesses have never heard of ABC and do not connect it to the Power Squadrons. Yet they retain a respected opinion of the Power Squadrons organization, earned over many decades of high-quality training and promoting boater safety.

MORE →

Commander's Message (cont'd)

There is another side to the story, of course. The United States Power Squadrons is not a routinely recognized name by non- or new boaters. Ironically, neither is ABC! So new boaters need to learn about us either way--discovering USPS or ABC takes the same effort. Once learned, which name carries more gravitas?

With all this being realized, we are refocusing on a more pragmatic approach--United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club. Allowing retention of the well-deserved name recognition of USPS while creating a tie to the more explanatory and descriptive terminology of ABC. It will take decades to make a complete transition to ABC. Meanwhile, you will see both names in our communications and marketing materials. Rest assured; it is the same organization. And, fortunately, it will not affect our ability to have fun and help others stay safe on the water.

Frank

January and February Richmond Boat Shows

There will be two boat shows this winter – January 26 to 28 at the Richmond Convention Center and February 16 to 18 at Richmond International Raceway. We will be promoting our spring educational classes and membership in Richmond Sail & Power Squadron – Americas Boating Club of Richmond.

We can always use help with these shows. The advantage is free admission to the boat show for a couple of hours while meeting and greeting the public. If you and your companion are interested in helping out, please contact Jim Zeigler at 804-347-5239 (jim@jpzeigler.com) or Jim Juritsch at 804-338-0873 (mauijim04@gmail.com).

We are also looking for help setting up and tearing down the booth on Thursday, January 25, Sunday, January 28, Thursday, February 15 and Sunday, February 18.

Richmond Convention Center

Friday, 1/26	1200 to 2000
Saturday, 1/27	1000 to 1900
Sunday, 1/28	1000 to 1700

Richmond International Raceway

Friday, 1/16	1000 to 1900
Saturday, 1/17	0900 to 1800
Sunday, 1/18	1000 to 1700

Executive Officer

This year I am taking on a new role as your Squadron Executive Officer. Along with assisting the Commander, I will be working closely with some of the committee chairs to help when needed and to keep the Executive Committee informed of the current status of projects in progress.

As an additional duty, I will also be chairing the Membership Recruiting Committee. In the last ten years, membership for our squadron, like most other squadrons nationwide, has been in a major decline. Did you know that in 2012 our squadron reported over 150 total members? At the end of November 2023, Richmond Sail and Power Squadron reported 76 total members. So, this tells me that whatever recruiting methods we have had in the past are not working today.

Although challenging, the committee must develop a recruiting strategy that will increase membership and sustain the members we have gained. Fortunately, we have a great team that has volunteered for our Membership Recruiting Committee. They are Paul Brooks, Jim Juritsch, Bill Schwieder and Ruth Turman. As soon as the holidays are over, we will assemble and begin work to turn our squadron membership numbers around.

The greatest asset we have in a recruiting program is the membership as a whole. For the most part, people want to be invited to join an organization and the best inviters are the current members of the group. It is the leadership's responsibility to ensure you, as a member, are knowledgeable about dues, social events, educational offerings, cruising schedules and civic events we perform annually. And if the situation should occur, this knowledge makes it easier to converse with folks that take an interest in the organization. We will talk more about this later as we continue to develop a recruiting plan.

Some other considerations will be to create a better squadron "Welcoming Appearance", develop effective outreach methods (especially on social media) and to define or create additional membership values within the organization. We have a lot to do, so stay tuned for more information from the recruiting team.

Lt/C Bill Simpson
Executive Officer

Education

2024 Spring Calendar

Title	Dates
Engine Maintenance Course (virtual) ** enrollment open	Thursdays, January 18 - March 21
Virginia Boating Safety - Deltaville Yachting Center **enrollment open	Saturday, February 24, 2024
America's Boating Course - Chesterfield County	Saturdays, March 2, March 16
Tides and Currents Seminar (virtual) **enrollment open	Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Marine Navigation (virtual) **enrollment open	Wednesdays, March 13 - May 1
Boat Virginia - Olverson's Marina, Callao	Saturday, June 15
Boat Handling for New Boaters	May/June TBD

Upcoming Classes

We currently have 8 students enrolled for the virtual **Engine Maintenance** course. Registration is open until Monday, January 8th. Details are given on the enclosed flyer.

Enrollment is also open for the **Marine Navigation** course. (See flyer) 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 a primary navigation tool while covering enough of traditional techniques so the student will be able to get home if the electronics fail. 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. Contact: Jim Zeigler at 804-347-5237 or jim@jpzeigler.com.

The **Tides & Currents** seminar builds 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. Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00 PM. Contact Jim Zeigler at 804-347-5239 (jim @jpzeigler.com)



ABC Richmond

Marine Engine Maintenance

The Basics of Modern Engine Layout and Operation No Mechanical Experience Required

- Gasoline inboards, gasoline outboards and diesel engines
- Repairs that "do it yourselfers" can still perform
- Diagnose problems and how to share information with your mechanic
- Covers drive systems (props), steering systems and engine controls
- Learn about engine functions so you can better understand how various marine engines work.

Cost: \$125.00 per person

Zoom Presentation

Thursday Nights

January 18th-March 21st
2024

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Deadline to register
January 8, 2024

Register with:

Jim Juritsch

mauijim04@gmail.com
804 338-0873



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 \$100 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 804-347-5237 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).



Tides & Current Seminar

Tuesday, March 12, 7:00 PM

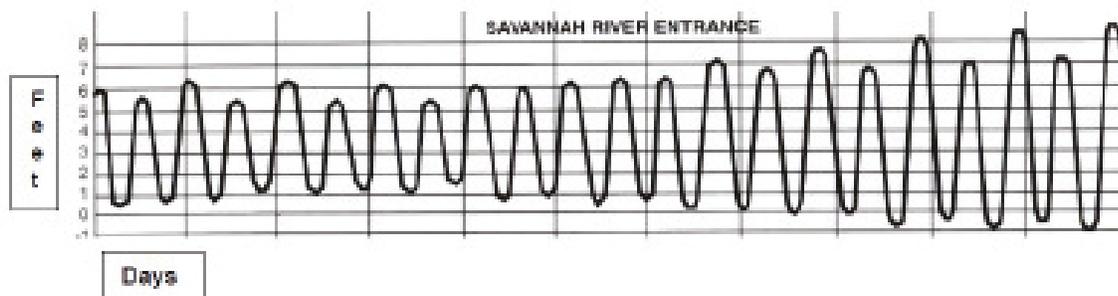
on Zoom

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. contact Jim Zeigler at 804-347-52. (jjim@jpzeigler.com) or register on-line at <https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin/nat/eddept/800/cfindx.cgi?C> (click on Seminars)





— Captain Henry Marx Memorial —

SAFETY AT SEA

Saturday, March 2, 2024

8 AM - 5 PM (ET)

LOCATIONS

The Mariners' Museum and Park
and Brittingham-Midtown Aquatic Center,
Newport News, Virginia

COURSE DESIGNED FOR

Crew members of offshore races, long-distance
cruisers, commercial mariners, and any sailors
wanting to improve their sailing safety skills.

FEE

\$310 Early Bird
\$305 Museum Member
\$325 after January 1

REGISTRATION

Online: MarinersMuseum.org/SafetyatSea
Space is limited to 50 participants.

LAST CALL TO SIGN UP - February 20!

Moderator
Mark Lenci



WHAT YOU GET

- US Sailing's *Safety at Sea: A Guide to Safety Under Sail and Personal Survival*
- Course materials
- Lectures and demonstrations
- Lunch
- Round-trip transportation from Museum to pool
- Display of personal and boat safety equipment from Landfall Navigation; discount on purchases.
- US Sailing International Safety at Sea Certificate (meets World Sailing Guidelines for Safety and Personal Survival)
- Museum Docent tour on Friday, March 1 from 1 - 3 p.m.



Captain Henry Marx Memorial International Safety at Sea with Hands-on Training course returns to The Mariners' Museum and Park on Saturday, March 2, 2024! Participants will have the opportunity to earn the International Offshore Certificate that complies with World Sailing guidelines for Personal Safety from US Sailing. This day-long course, co-sponsored by Landfall Navigation, will take place at The Mariners' and Brittingham-Midtown Aquatic Center in Newport News.

The Early Bird registration fee for the hands-on training is \$310 for non-museum members and \$305 for Museum Members until January 1st. **Starting January 2nd, 2024, all tickets will cost \$325.**

This course is designed for crew members of offshore races, long-distance cruisers, commercial mariners, and racing sailors who want to improve their sailing skills. This hands-on course will focus on survival offshore in demanding situations and emergencies. Because of this, I thought it would be a beneficial course to share with you and your colleagues.

More →

Captain Henry Marx Memorial International Safety at Sea (Cont'd)

The course will be moderated by Mark Lenci of Natick, MA. Lenci is a retired US Navy Captain. His Navy career was primarily in attack submarines and he commanded USS Houston (SSN 713). Mark has sailed primarily in New England and the Canadian Maritimes and has cruised in various areas around the world. He holds various professional certifications, including a USCG 100T Masters License and the RYA/MCA Yachtmaster Ocean Certificate of Competence. Mark has presented at multiple Safety at Sea Courses and is considered one of the best at sharing his leadership and seamanship insights.

We are limiting our course to 50 people, so make sure to share this flyer with your friends and colleagues so they can join in on the fun before it is too late! To register, visit MarinersMuseum.org/Safety-at-Sea.

Registration closes on February 20th, 2024.

Winter Viewing Opportunities

Getting bored with the choices on TV, try out America's Boating Channel at <https://americasboatingchannel.com>.

Or these videos from Virginia's Office of Boating Safety:

"Check the Weather to Stay Safe on the Water"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXzhH3_ucjM

"Rental Boats Safety Videos" <https://www.rentalboatsafety.com>

Introduction to Paddling <https://www.rei.com/learn/series/intro-to-kayaking>

Move Over Law <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXU0GkS9oSk>

American Canoe Association Videos <https://shorturl.at/cpvGO>

Administrative Officer's Report

Hi All,

Our last event for 2023 was our Christmas Luncheon at Westwood Club. It was very successful with 31 members in attendance, lots of fun, and good food. The great news is that we have our 2024 reservation in place now.

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 "pot luck" provided by the attendees. Each of us should plan on bringing 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. 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. (See the flyer in this issue of The Bullhorn.) Please contact Susan Timpano at 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. See you there.

I'm happy to say the Boating Activities Committee has completed the schedule of events for 2024. We are planning several weekend rendezvous, a couple of parties at local marinas and one or two longer cruises. The schedule is provided in this issue of The Bullhorn.

Schedule of On-the-Water Events

May 11 – Shakedown Party – Urby's Urbanna – Poker Run, VHF/DSC setup

June 7-9 – Onancock Wharf

July 28 to August 4 – Summer Cruise – Solomons, Annapolis, St. Michaels

September 6-8 – Cape Charles



***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 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.

In the Night Sky

Moon Phases

Last Quarter

Jan. 3

New Moon

Jan. 11

1st Quarter

Jan. 17

Full Moon

Jan. 25

“Wolf” Moon

Wolf Moon – January’s full moon is called the Wolf Moon after the howling of hungry wolves lamenting the scarcity of food in midwinter. Also called the ice moon or the old moon.



ORION – the Winter Constellation If you look to the south during mid-winter the three stars of Orion’s belt center that constellation which dominates our winter evening sky. Just as the easily recognized Big Dipper dominates our summer night sky, Orion serves as a reference point to locating stars during the winter. Follow the line of Orion’s belt to the southeast to find our brightest star Sirius (the second brightest – out Sun is our brightest star.). That star is the eye of Orion’s faithful canine companion and the anchor of the constellation Canis Major (“Big Dog”).

Betelgeuse, the bright red star above and to the top-left of Orion’s belt is under intense scrutiny. It is oscillating in color and brightness. It is red in color because it has exhausted all of hydrogen fuel and is now fusing helium. Overtime, it will exhaust the helium and start burning carbon. As it does, it will become brighter and eventually explodes into a

supernova as it collapses into a blackhole.

Most astronomers believe that it will last thousands of years. But a recent paper suggests that it will occur much sooner maybe within 50 years. Astronomers continue to watch the star for drastic changes. It is about 640 light-years away. When it does go supernova, it will have little if any impact on earth other than to give a spectacular celestial show.

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In the Night Sky (cont'd)

The Planets - January 2024

Jupiter dominates high in the southern night sky. **Saturn** is also visible in the evening for 3 or 4 hours, sitting farther to the west of Jupiter. Saturn will be gone by 7:30 by the end of the month.

Both **Mercury** and **Venus** are morning objects rising shortly before the Sun. **Mercury** is always a challenge to see close to the horizon. Venus will be slightly higher before going down this month and obviously very bright.

Mars rises out of the Sun's glow in late January. It is even closer to the morning horizon this month. Mercury and Mars close in on each other until Jan. 27 but you will need a telescope or binoculars. By then Venus will be 40° above the horizon.

The **Quadrantid meteor shower** peaks the morning of Jan. 4 and remains until January 12. It is best viewed in the hours before dawn. Expect about 25 to 30 meteors per hour, corresponding to a zenithal hourly rate of 80 meteors per hour (though this can vary quite a bit). Look also for the occasional fireball known to occur with this shower.



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
 Richmond Sail and Power Squadron



2023/2025 America's Boating Club-Richmond Calendar 12/11/23

Date		Day of Week	Time	Event	Location
Start	End				
2024 Events					
9-Jan	9-Jan	Tuesday	1900	Excom	Zoom
18-Jan	21-Mar	Thursday	1900	Engine Maintenance	Zoom
19-Jan	21-Jan	Fri-Sun	All Day	Richmond Boat Show	Convention Center
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	Sarah's Creek, Yorktown Yachting Center
10-Sep	10-Sep	Tuesday	1800	Membership Meeting	tbid
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

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