



DISTRICT 5 MARK 5

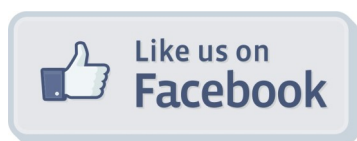


VOLUME 71 No. 1

2021 WINTER ELECTRONIC ISSUE

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2021 D/5

The 2021 District 5 Spring Conference and Change of Watch will be conducted virtually, 5-8 April 2021.

Tentative Schedule is as follows:

Monday 5 April	Publications Committee	1800
	Commanders' Meeting	1930
Wednesday 7 April	Instruction Recert.	1500
	M&R Committee	1800
Thursday 8 April	D/5 Web Overview	1600
	Conference Meeting	1800
	Change of Watch	1900*
Friday 9 April	SEO Training/Meeting	1600

*Or immediately following the Conference Meeting

There are other meetings and seminars that have not yet been scheduled. Check the website or look for emails for additional information.



2020- 2021 District 5 Bridge

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Commander's Message

D/C Jeffrey E. Short, JN



As the District 5 Commander, my slogan for this past year was "Foresight in 2020." Did I see this pandemic coming? No. Could I even imagine the trauma and disruption to our lives and our organization over the past year due to COVID-19 restrictions? No. But my vision for 2020 regarding our organization was spot on.

Foresight in 2020 meant that I believed that as a club focused on boating safety, boating education and the pursuit of camaraderie among boaters, we should spend the year determining a vision for our brightest future and then take aggressive steps to move us in that direction. Lo and behold, despite the pandemic and, in fact because of the pandemic, that is exactly what we did. We set our Squadrons, District 5 and USPS/America's Boating Club up for a successful future, a new beginning.

I acknowledge that 2020 was a horrible year for ABC members. We were suddenly cut off from each other and forced to stop doing the things we were so very used to doing year after year for decades. We were forced to stop socializing as we knew it, gathering in person at conferences, meetings, cocktail parties and rendezvous. That was devastating to each of us personally.

It is hard to say anything good about 2020, but I encourage you to look for the silver lining. The COVID-19 pandemic restrictions have provided USPS/America's Boating Club with the wake-up call that we needed to move into the future. For years, the trend for USPS/ABC was rapidly declining membership, an outdated IT infrastructure and an old-school education system. ALL of our social events required the ability to travel and this excluded significant portions of our membership.

Our opportunities to execute our three-fold mission have actually benefited from the pandemic! Remember our mission: boating safety, boating education and camaraderie among boaters. The pandemic restrictions have helped us greatly improve on all of these.

During the pandemic, recreational boating has increased substantially. There are no boats left to be had on the showroom floor! There is a huge influx of new boaters in need of boating education and boating safety awareness. USPS/ABC has stepped up and is meeting the demand. Boating courses are now online and virtual. Where we used to have 4-5 students per in-person course we may now have 20-30 students drawing from outside the squadron and even from across the country and around the world.

Most surprisingly, even opportunities to socialize have increased due to the innovations we have made in response to pandemic restrictions. We can socialize virtually within our squadron and with other squadrons without long drives at night in the rain or snow. There are no travel costs to attend far off district or national events. No time is wasted on the roads before and after meetings, courses, or social events.

We all certainly miss seeing each other. I am eager to get back to our boating and social events and once again celebrating with tradition and ceremony.

(Continued on page 3)

But this pandemic has forced us, kicking and screaming at times, to adapt, to learn to use the 21st Century technology and to innovate new and exciting ways to have fun together as boaters and improve boating safety.

Foresight in 2020. Maybe I didn't see it happening just this way, but I did see a brighter future. I am proud of how we have risen up to the challenge and in the process have set ourselves up for success. We have created a new beginning.

Despite the tremendous challenges, District 5 remained busy in 2020. Conferences and events were planned; then cancelled; then adapted for the virtual environment. Communication efforts had to be redoubled and re-invented. We could no longer rely on the old ways of doing things. Most of us had to learn new skills. There were no scripts or templates. All of this took a tremendous effort by the district and squadron leadership. I want to thank all of you who stepped up to make this past year a successful year of transition.

Thank you to Nancy Cheris, ABC of Central PA, who worked with me for over half a year in designing and creating the District shirts for 2020. Thank you to the members of Smith Mountain Lake SPS, especially Randy and Judy Stow, Wheeler Baker, and Michelle Pare for the huge effort they put into planning the 2020 District 5 Olympic Celebration, Rendezvous and Council on Smith Mountain Lake. Thank you Marty Lafferty for the inspiration and fantastic marketing effort put into this event. If not for the pandemic, it would have been the highlight of the decade and I thank you for your efforts.

Thank you to Lou Kates and Brian Becker of Patapsco River Power Squadron; Lou for his efforts on the D/5 budget and Brian for his skills and time spent in auditing our finances. Thank you Karl Hellinger, Smith Mountain Lake SPS, for working with the Portuguese Embassy in order to have Col Carita attend the 2020 virtual Fall Conference. Thank you John O'Reilly, ABC Cambridge, Kay Simpkins, Patuxent River, SPS, Ralph Bernard, Absecon Island; and all of you who provided me with advice and encouragement over the past year. Thank you Randy Stow for not only your extra year chairing the nominating committees, but for your continued service as the district merit mark coordinator, learning the new merit mark system and teaching it to the squadron leaders.

Finally I would like to thank all of the District 5 Bridge officers and committee members for all of their hard work this past year. In particular thank you Treasurer Nick Montalto, ABC Valley Forge, Secretary Penn Hess, Kingsway, Administrative Officer Stephanie Ward, ABC Delaware Valley and Assistant Secretary and Meetings and Rendezvous Committee Chair, Apryl Bernard of ABC Absecon Island for keeping me straight and providing sage advice and institutional knowledge.

If there is such a thing, the District 5 Commander's award for member of the year goes to Joe Gibson, DEO and District Webmaster. Joe has put his heart and soul and an incredible amount of time into the District this year. His effort on the wonderfully successful Fall Conference cannot be over emphasized. He put together a talented team, to plan, market and execute the first virtual conference for District 5. In addition, he worked endlessly revamping and improving the District website. Our District website sets the example for district and squadron websites across the nation. In fact, the national committee requested Joe to provide them a presentation of his District 5 website in their effort to export his best practices to other districts and squadrons. In addition to all of this, Joe has been spearheading several initiatives on behalf of the squadrons to improve their ability to maintain instructor certification and to expand the ability of squadrons to provide boating education in their communities.

Thank you to all District 5 members for your willingness to meet a most formidable challenge. Your efforts have set us all up for a brighter future. This is our new beginning.

Jeff E. Short, JN
District Commander

2021 Spring Conference Awards

2020 Distinctive Communicator Awards for Newsletters and Website.

Newsletters

District 5	Mark 5
Annapolis	Anchor Watch
Cambridge	Choptank Currents
Delaware River	The Barometer
Delhigh	DELHIGHLIGHTS
Kent Narrows	TIDELINES
Main Line	The Pilot
Nansemond River	Nansemond Light
Northern Neck	The Lighthouse
Northern Virginia	of TARS & TERNS
Patapsco River	The Bilgewater
Richmond	The Bullhorn
Smith Mountain Lake	The Signal
Virginia Beach	Cape Henry Flashes
Wilmington	THE LUBBER'S LINE

Websites

District 5	
Annapolis	Rockville
Cambridge	Smith Mountain Lake
Colonial	Susquehannock
Delaware River	Virginia Beach
Delhigh	Wilmington
Dundalk	York
Kent Narrows	
Nansemond River	
Nanticoke River	
Northern Neck	
Northern Virginia	
Patuxent River	
Richmond	



Snyder Award

1st Place	Delhighlights ABC Lehigh Valley (Delhigh)
2nd Place	The Pilot ABC Valley Forge (Main Line)
3rd Place	Signals ABC Smith Mountain Lake (Smith Mountain Lake)

Membership Growth and Retention

2nd Place	Potomac River (Division 3) 9% Growth
Honorable Men.	Nanticoke River (Division 4) 7% Growth

Cooperative Charting Honor Roll

Ron Rickets	Annapolis
John Wesley Nash	Annapolis
Kathy Nash	Annapolis
Gilbert Rose	Rockville
Michael Joyce	Rockville

Life Members (25 Merit Marks)

David Benfer, JN	Wilmington
Bernard Boos, SN	Kent Narrows
Bonnie Brown-Murphy, AP	Northern Neck
Daniel Cada, AP	Cambridge
Gene Danko, SN	Rockville
Karl Hellinger, SN	Smith Mountain Lake
Michael Murray, P	Ocean City
Leona Myers, AP	Annapolis
F. Stewart Myers, AP	Annapolis
Daniel Parker	Potomac River
Lily Stone, JN	Nansemond River
Frank Timpano, SN	Richmond

Governing Board Emeritus Members (50 Merit Marks)

Benjamin Sooy, AP	Absecon Island
Francis Montouri, SN	Delhigh

2021 Annual Meeting of United States Power Squadrons/America's Boating Club

The 2021 Annual Meeting which was originally scheduled for Marriott Sawgrass at Ponte Vedra, Florida was changed to a virtual meeting due to the continuing pandemic of COVID 19. Rather than having the seminars/presentations over the span of 3 days wherein many overlapped each other, they were presented over a two-week period beginning 14 February and finishing on 26 February. The subjects ranged from membership, public relations and educational opportunities. There was even an instructor's recertification, which was also virtually held. All of the seminars/presentations can be viewed by visiting to the National website, click the 2021 National Meeting, and on the left side there will be a link for recorded meetings. From there you can choose whatever meeting desired.

On Friday, 19 February, there was a virtual awards ceremony to present all the awards that would be on the agenda at a "normal" annual meeting. It included the pictures of all the awardees and you may have noticed our own District 5 Parliamentarian, Ben Sooy, was awarded Governing Board Emeritus.

The Governing Board met on Saturday, 20 February, with committee reports from the various departments. There were no proposed by-law changes and the main order of business was to vote for the slate put forth by the Nominating Committee, which was passed electronically. This is the first time USPS/ABC has voted electronically and it was a resounding success. Two members of District 5 returned to the National Bridge; V/C William McManimen, Educational Officer and V/C Ralph Bernard, Administrative Officer.

Although we had a virtual meeting last fall instead of a face-to face this meeting was completed in a more professional manner with the tremendous assistance of P/D/C Marty Lafferty.

Hopefully, the next meeting will enable the members to get together and experience the fantastic fellowship this organization has to offer which will be in the fall, 29 August to 5 September 2021, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Make every effort to attend as it will be the first time in over a year we will be able to get together, pandemic notwithstanding.

V/C Ralph A. Bernard, AP

National Administrative Officer

Squadron Commanders

If you have not already done so, please submit your four delegates to D/1st/Lt Apryl Bernard so that they may vote during the Spring Conference meeting on 8 April 2021. Send them her email aprylber@msn.com

Also, please either submit your new slate of officers and committee chairs or indicate that they are the same as last year or update your committees on the district web page.

Thanks so much.

Apryl Bernard, P
Assistant Secretary
District 5



Pictures from Spring Conferences past! 2013



Pictures from Fall Conferences past! 2014



Pictures from Fall Conferences past! 2017



Safety Quiz

True or False

1. If my boat doesn't contain any fire hazards from the motor or fuel system, then according to Federal requirements, I don't need to bring a fire extinguisher along.
2. Children younger than 13 years old should wear a Lifejacket while underway.
3. If someone falls overboard, the first thing you should do is jump in right away to assist them.
4. A dock or slip should be always approached at clutch speed.
5. 25% of all boating accidents involve a personal watercraft that was borrowed.
6. Boats that are 16 feet and over must also carry one USCG-approved throwable Lifejacket (Type IV).
7. If a boat is overturned or swamped, abandon the boat and use your Lifejacket for flotation.
8. I have family visiting and we will be going over recommended capacity by just one person. This shouldn't be a problem for safe boating, right?
9. It's okay if others drink when onboard, as long as there is one responsible safe boater onboard to safely handle the watercraft.
10. The S.A.F.E. Boating principles stand for: Sober Boating, Alertness, Fasten Lifejackets, and Education.

See the answers on the next page.

Where the Keel Meets the Water

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How many of us have taken boating courses but have not had the chance to actually apply the knowledge learned? Our Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting, Junior Navigation, Navigation and Cruise Planning courses all progressively get into advanced electronics and navigation.

Many topics we address in our classes come to life when you put them in play out on the water. On Friday, 20 August at 1700, we will set sail from Annapolis to circumnavigate the Delmarva Peninsula. Our plan is to complete the voyage nonstop, arriving back in Annapolis at approximately 1400 on Monday, 23 August. Fuel stops will be made as needed.

Here are some of the experiences you could have on our upcoming sail around the Delmarva Peninsula:

(Continued on page 11)



- Planning and plotting a cruise that includes overnight offshore sailing,
- Logging your GPS position and forecasting your DR position on paper charts.
- Using Radar and AIS to cruise safely in heavy traffic.
- Communicating with commercial vessels to arrange safe passage.
- Addressing situations with ocean currents.
- Utilizing advanced software for offshore cruise planning.
- Want to get your BOC ACN or ON skill checked off? This can be your opportunity to do so*.

This three-night sail will include all of the above procedures to assure a safe cruise. All crew members will be able to learn about and use the various safety and navigation equipment aboard the vessels. Each participating vessel will need to be equipped with the following equipment:

- Paper Charts
- At least one DSC enabled VHF radio connected to a GPS and programmed with your MMSI number
- A backup VHF radio
- A chart plotter/Multi-functional Device (MFD) at the helm
- A computer or smart pad navigation system
- A backup GPS
- Radar (optional)
- AIS (optional)

If you want to expand your sailing experience by serving as crew, let me know so I can put you on the list. I will need to know your sailing experiences and the classes you have taken. If you decide to sign up, remember that you will be standing watch at night, possibly by yourself.

Each participating boat should have a minimum of four aboard. Captains needing crew will be given the list of volunteers. It will be up to the captains to pick their crew.

Cruising around the Delmarva is always exciting. The Chesapeake Bay always is crowded with both recreational and commercial traffic and at night the biggest challenge is differentiating the ATONs from shore lights and other vessels. In the Atlantic, you will be out of sight of land and hopefully have a sky full of beautiful stars. The Delaware Bay has its own challenges. Narrow channels require sharp lookout for freighters north bound for Wilmington and Philadelphia and south bound for the Atlantic. And then there is the C&D Canal with its currents, RR bridge (make sure it is open!) and dealing with the big freighters in a narrow canal.

Please let me know if you are interested in either sailing your boat or want to crew on someone's boat.

Each time I make this cruise I have a different learning experience. I look forward to another fabulous Delmarva cruise. Hope you can join us.

*Those wishing to get their BOC certifications should contact our ABC-MidAtlantic BOC Assistant Regional Director, John Locke, locke806@gmail.com - (443) 262- 6892 or our BOC Regional Director, Chuck Wells - wellsatsea@aol.com - (301) 325-8568, to arrange for a Certifier to sail with you.

Nominations for D5 Bridge Officers 2021/2022

Commander	D/C Michael E. Payne, AP
Educational Officer	D/Lt/C Joseph P. Gibson, AP
Executive Officer	D/Lt/Lt Stephanie J. Ward, AP
Secretary	D//Lt/C Pennington J. Hess, AP
Treasurer	D/Lt/C Nickolas R. Montalto, SN-IN
Administrative Officer	D/Lt/C Charles J. Wells, SN-CN
Assist Educational Officer	D/1 st /Lt Robert S. Blevins, AP
Assist Secretary	D/1 st /Lt Apryl J. Bernard, P
Assist Treasurer	D/1 st /Lt Frank Hudson, Jr., P
Assist Admin Officer	D/1 st /Lt Dwight F. Bues, AP
Immediate Past D/C	P/D/C Jeffrey E. Short, JN-IN

Safety Quiz Answers:

1. This is true. A fire extinguisher is only required on boats where elements such as a motor or fuel system create a distinct fire hazard. However, general safe boating guidelines will always suggest that you stow a fire extinguisher on the boat just in case.
2. True. This is now a legal requirement for all federal waterways and many states have also passed legislation to make this a requirement for non-federal waterways. Showing your kids the ropes for safe boating involves ensuring they're adequately protected in the event of any emergency.
3. False. Jumping overboard to rescue someone should only be used as a last resort. Safe boating requires that the first thing you do is to reach for the person, using either your arm or something nearby that they can grab onto. If you're more than an arm's length away, the next option is to throw them an inflatable, floatable device. If you aren't close enough to reach or throw something, the next step is to row closer until you are. Only go in after someone as a last resort, and only if you are a strong swimmer with experience in lifesaving. Otherwise, you could end up having two men overboard instead of just one.
4. True. A safe boater always operates at a reasonable speed at all times, especially in crowded waterways or near docks and slips. Safe boating requires you to always be in control of your watercraft, taking the time to perform all maneuvers with adequate precision.
5. False - the number is actually much higher, at over 50%. Before loaning your boat to anyone, make sure they are familiar with the all operational rules for safe handling of your boat in particular. You may even find it helpful to create a safe boating guide full of tips and instructions to keep onboard your watercraft.
6. True. Additionally, federal safe boating requirements maintain that all watercraft must contain at least one USCG (United States Coast Guard) approved, wearable Lifejacket (Types I-III) for every person onboard, but it's good to have a few extras on hand as well.
7. False. If a boat is overturned or swamped, but not sinking, you can still use it to support your body and save energy. Removing as much of your body from the water as possible can also help prevent hypothermia.
8. False. It can be a fatal mistake to overload your boat. To ensure boater safety for everyone on board, be sure to check your boat's capacity plate to see what the maximum number of people or carrying weight in pounds is.
9. False. Over half of all boating-related drowning incidents involve the use of alcohol, and many times the injured person is not the skipper or designated safe boater. Practice safe boating at all times by restricting use of alcohol to everyone on board- not just a few people.
10. True. A handy safe boating guide to keep in mind at all times, the four S.A.F.E Boating principles above help to ensure boater safety on a variety of levels. Always be sober, always be alert, always use lifejackets when required, and last but not least, be sure to take the time to invest in an educational boater safety course.

UPCOMING EVENTS

5-8 April	D/5 Virtual Spring Conference and Change of Watch	
TBA	D/5 Summer Council	
29 Aug - 5 Sep	USPS/ABC Governing Board	Raleigh, NJ
11-14 Nov	D/5 Fall Conference	Lancaster, PA



Mark 5

Official Publication of District 5
United States Power Squadrons®



Published Four Times Annually

Articles, opinions and advertisements
do not necessarily reflect USPS® policy
or endorsement unless so designated.

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