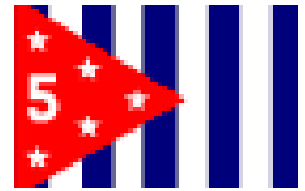




DISTRICT 5 MARK 5



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2021 WINTER ELECTRONIC ISSUE

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2021 D/5

Due to the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 District 5 Spring Conference and Change of Watch will be conducted virtually, 5-8 April 2021.

Monday evening will be the usual Squadron Commanders' meeting. Officers and Committee Chairs will conduct their training and committee meetings at their discretion throughout the week. Stay tuned for a final schedule during the month of March.

The event will culminate with the Change of Watch ceremony Thursday evening, 8 April at 1900.

Keep an eye on an upcoming Mark 5 for the list of the 2021 District awards and certificates.

The America's Boating Club Annual Meeting will be virtual beginning 16 February.

D/C Jeffrey E. Short, JN



2020- 2021 District 5 Bridge

Commander

D/C Jeffrey E. Short, JN
jeshortmd@gmail.com
(Annapolis) (443) 756-6784
1630 Stream Valley Overlook
Severn, MD 21144

Executive Officer

D/Lt/C Michael Payne, AP
Payne.michael@dol.gov
(Kent Narrows) (615) 478-6239
136 Bay Avenue
Stevensville, MD 21666-2922

Educational Officer

D/Lt/C Joseph P. Gibson, AP
Joesboat.jg@gmail.com
(Rockville) (301) 503-3206
19365 Cypress Ridge Terrace
Leesburg, VA 20176

Administrative Officer

D/Lt /C Stephanie J. Ward, AP
wardleap@comcast.net
(Delaware River) (484) 684-4837
120 E Wilmont Avenue
Somers Point, NJ 08244

Secretary

D/Lt/C Penn Hess, AP
p_hess@msn.com
(Kingsway) (609) 605-5909
1763 Dewberry Lane
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-3317

Treasurer

D/Lt/C Nick Montalto, SN
Nickmontalto.usps@gmail.com
(Main Line) (610) 308-1235
2742 Apple Valley Lane
Audubon, PA 19403-2202

Asst. Educational Officer

D/F/Lt Robert S. Blevins, AP
Bob.blevins@corpmail.biz
(Patuxent River) (301) 481-1408
46135 Rover Hill
Lexington Park, MD 20653

Asst. Administrative Officer

D/1st/Lt Anthony D. Martin, JN
admartinesq@gmail.com
(Annapolis) (301) 928-2621
907 William Meade Court
Davidson, MD 21035

Asst. Secretary

D/1st/Lt Apryl Bernard, P
aprylber@msn.com
(Absecon Island) (609) 432-7449
1127 Riverside Drive
Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Asst. Treasurer

D/1st/Lt Frank Hudson, Jr., P
fhudson@cruisincajun.com
(Colonial) (757) 870-3023
105 N Fern Cove Court
Yorktown, VA 23693-3728



Commander's Message

D/C Jeffrey E. Short, JN



I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. If you look with me you will see it also. This has been a challenging year. I have enjoyed being outdoors as a way to outsmart "the COVID." But winter approaches and the challenges pile up. Yet, a vaccine is on its way! Spring is just around the corner. With great hope and optimism, I see a light at the end of this dark tunnel.

More good news... District 5 will not charge dues for the next two years! That's right! Due to an extremely generous donation from the Henry Sweet Fund, you will not be charged for the District 5 portion of your USPS dues for 2021 and 2022. This discount will be automatically calculated into your annual USPS dues renewal notice. There is nothing extra that you have to do except enjoy your windfall. Please thank the Henry Sweet Fund trustees, Warren Stevens, Bill Selden, and Bill McManimen for their generosity in giving back to each and every District 5 member. Thank you Henry Sweet Fund!

The 2020 Fall Educational Conference was a huge success from start to finish. One of the biggest lessons learned was that WE CAN DO THIS! We can harness the internet and march on despite the pandemic. There was a steep learning curve in switching to an entirely virtual conference. But we did it and we did it well. The work required for putting on a virtual conference is magnitudes greater than when putting on an in-person conference, particularly when it's our first time. Preparation began in earnest MANY months before the conference took place. There were more than 30 talented district members who volunteered their time and technical expertise to ensure the conference came off without a hitch. For Joe Gibson, the District Educational Officer and Marty Lafferty, innovator of America's Boating Channel, this conference became a fulltime job. Thank you very much Joe and Marty. The 2021 Fall Educational Conference is already scheduled for November 10-14, 2021 at the Lancaster Doubletree, in Lancaster, PA.

Next up on our meeting agenda is the National USPS Governing Board and Conference in Ponte Vedra, FL, 15 - 22 Feb 2021. The District 5 Spring Conference and Change of Watch is 7-12 April, 2021. Put these on your calendar and stay tuned for updates in case changes have to be made.

In the meantime, stay active with your fellow squadrons the best that you can. Keep in touch with your fellow squadron and District 5 members. Over the winter, work on improving your newsletters, websites and social media presence. Come up with innovative ways to utilize the internet to provide value for members and further our missions of

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civic service and safe boating through education. Most importantly, please follow the COVID-19 prevention guidelines. Keep your eye on that light.

Jeff

2020 Virtual Fall Educational Conference A relaxed 4 Days of Seminars, Meetings and Conversations

It was a different fall conference. When we had to cancel the Gettysburg, PA meeting due to COVID, we instead formulated a series of seminars and meetings like those intended for Gettysburg. With no hotel bills or limitations, we were able to allocate times over a four-day period where there were minimum conflicts. With one exception it was possible for a member to attend every session.

Many sessions had 30 or more members attending. Some sessions focused on USPS administrative topics of HQ-800 and DB2000; others on boating safety topics such as CPR updates and a Captains License. Most focused on Educational Department programs: teaching Piloting on-line, an example of the mini-seminar program, an on-the-water program overview culminating with a session to thoroughly identify current Education Department curriculum.

Saturday afternoon consisted of a 'Town Hall' session followed by Awards Presentations. The Town Hall session had District Commander Jeff Short, National Educational Officer Bill McManimen and National Administrative Officer Ralph Bernard answering members questions. A separate article provides information on the Educational Department Awards session.

23 members contributed to this conference. Each meeting was conducted by a *Producer* and a *Presenter* team. The *Presenter* was responsible for the meeting's content. The *Producer* handled communications and any technical issue with the *FreeConferenceCall.com* internet communications tool. They worked as a team to make a session real.

Each conference session was recorded! The set of videos now form the foundation for the new District 5 Video Library. It's available to members on the <https://abc-midatlantic.org> web site. After login, the links to the video catalogs are available under the 'Resources' menu. It's a start. As we step forward we will add videos to improve communications with members.

We had four days where we could enjoy our morning coffee. Then put down the morning paper, turn on our computer or tablet and participate in a meeting with other members to hear new information, discuss ongoing topics, and chat with other members. Yes, I wore my best pajamas most days. And yes, sometimes I did move to a different chair. A pleasant four days. Now that it's over and we are beginning to think about Ocean City in April and Lancaster, PA next November, we do have time to look at what we accomplished.

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First, we can't yet say this was an improvement over our cancelled Gettysburg, PA conference plan. The total attendance did not equal our typical fall conference totals. But we can be very satisfied that during a pandemic our members stepped up to enthusiastically prepare and present 21 meetings to keep members aware of the ongoing America's Boating Club Mid-Atlantic mission and that those meetings were delivered through internet communications tools with near flawless performance. We thank everyone for a job done well.

D/Lt/C Joe Gibson, AP

Chapman Award Nominations

Each of the following members receive a Certificate of Congratulations as being nominated by their squadron for the yearly Chapman Award.

Brandon Bagwell from America's Boating Club® Coastal Virginia
John Brian Becker from Patapsco River Power Squadron
Joe Burke from America's Boating Club® Kent Narrows
Bing Higgins from America's Boating Club® Smith Mountain Lake
Richard Hughes from America's Boating Club® Annapolis
Patricia K. Lookner from Ocean City Power Squadron
John Wesley Nash from America's Boating Club® Annapolis

A small committee evaluated nomination packages to select:

John Wesley Nash from America's Boating Club® Annapolis as the District 5 nomination. The Annapolis package is now in Raleigh being considered for one of the five annual Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching awards.



2020 Educational Awards to Squadrons

Kenneth Smith Seamanship Award

- 3rd Place: America's Boating Club® Valley Forge
- 2nd Place: America's Boating Club® Baltimore
- 1st Place: America's Boating Club® Lehigh Valley**

Henry E. Sweet Excellence in Education

- 3rd Place: America's Boating Club® Baltimore
- 2nd Place: America's Boating Club® Lehigh Valley
- 1st Place: Potomac River Power Squadron**

Commander's Trophy for Advanced Grades

- 3rd Place: America's Boating Club® Lehigh Valley
- 2nd Place: America's Boating Club® Mid-Potomac
- 1st Place: America's Boating Club® Northern Virginia**

Commander's Award for Elective Courses

- 3rd Place: America's Boating Club® Central Pennsylvania
- 2nd Place: Potomac River Power Squadron
- 1st Place: America's Boating Club® Southern Maryland**

Workboat Award

- 3rd Place: America's Boating Club® Annapolis
- 2nd Place: Potomac River Power Squadron
- 1st Place: America's Boating Club® Baltimore**

Caravelle Award

- 3rd Place: America's Boating Club® Coastal Virginia
- 2nd Place: America's Boating Club® Northern Virginia
- 1st Place: America's Boating Club® Lehigh Valley**

Prince Henry Award

- 3rd Place: America's Boating Club® Richmond
- 2nd Place: Wilmington Sail & Power Squadron
- 1st Place: America's Boating Club® Mid-Potomac**

Pictures from Fall Conferences past!

2015



Pictures from Fall Conferences past!

2016



Pictures from Fall Conferences past!

2017



Pictures from Fall Conferences past!

2018





CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. We all know that Rudolph has a red nose, but does Rudolph have antlers?
2. Round/Oval candies filled with fruit preserves or cream & covered with chocolate are called?
3. Which country created eggnog?
4. Who said, "God Bless Us, Every One!"?
5. What were Frosty's last words?
6. The most popular item to put on top of a Christmas tree is?
7. How many Wise Men were there according to the bible?
8. After Joseph, Mary and Jesus left Bethlehem, they went to which country?
9. What does "Advent" means?
10. McDonald's puts what holiday image on bags during the Christmas season?
11. December 24, 1814 ended what war?
12. In "Jingle Bell Rock" everyone is dancing and prancing. Where do they do it?
13. "Greensleeves" is another name for what Christmas song?
14. The custom of finding a button in the plum pudding means what to an unmarried man?
15. What was the most popular toy of 1984?
16. The average number of gifts an adult male gets for Christmas is?
17. What is the main ingredient in gingerbread cookies: Flour, Ginger or Molasses?
18. In It's A Wonderful Life, what did Clarence receive for accomplishing his mission?
19. What river did General Washington cross on December 25, 1776?
20. What song contains the line, "Lets be jolly, deck the halls with boughs of holly"?
21. What city name do the states Kentucky, Indiana, New Hampshire, Maryland, Connecticut and Georgia have in common?
22. This Florida town maintains a fully decorated tree year round?
23. After red and green, what are the two most poplar Christmas colors?
24. What popular children's cracker today was introduced in 1902 as a Christmas ornament?
25. Which U.S. President barred the Christmas Tree from being displayed in the White House?

UPCOMING EVENTS



Mark 5

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Mark 5 Staff

Editor

D/1st/Lt Apryl Bernard, P
aprylber@msn.com
(Absecon Island) (609) 432-7449
1127 Riverside Drive
Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Staff

Readers

D/Lt Gail Becker, S (Patapsco River)
D/Lt Walter Lazear, AP (No. Virginia)
P/C Judy Stow, S (SML)
D/Lt Nance Bernard (Absecon Island)
D/Lt Nancy Gorman, S (Potomac River)

Photographer:

D/Lt Sari Lafferty, AP (Kent Narrows)