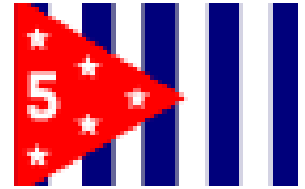




AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB MID-ATLANTIC MARK 5



VOLUME 75 No. 2

SPRING 2024 ELECTRONIC ISSUE

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2024 Annual Meeting

Ralph A. Bernard, AP installed as Chief Commander



On 10 February Ralph Bernard became the 8th Chief Commander from District 5 and the 2nd from Absecon Island. Ralph has been a United States Power Squadron, America's

Boating Club member for over 45 years and is currently serving as the Chief Commander. When not working with USPS/ABC, Ralph and his wife Nance are boating on the Chesapeake Bay in their 40' Silverton, Four Play.

Ralph has been boating for as long as he can remember. As the son of a USPS® member, his father's first boat was a World War II Admiral's barge, and they moved up from there. Ralph's family made the trip from South Jersey to the New York World's Fair in 1964 by boat. Since coming home from the United States Air Force, Ralph and Nance bought a 25' Chris Craft and since that time have graduated to a 40' Silverton with four boats in between.

Ralph has taught the basic boating course, seamanship and cruise planning.

Ralph has served in all squadron bridge positions, all District 5 bridge positions, Chair of the Rules Committee, and is now serving as the Chief Commander. He continues to be very active in his squadron and district and has directed over twenty District 5 cruises in the Chesapeake Bay, from Delaware all the way to Virginia.

Ralph is a retired New Jersey State Trooper, 27 years, then spent 5 years teaching 10th grade students United States History at Egg Harbor Township High School, where he continues to coach girls varsity softball. He is now working part-time teaching police recruits at the Atlantic County Police Academy.



2023- 2024 District 5 Bridge

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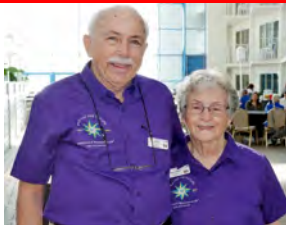
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Commander's Message

D/C Joseph P. Gibson, AP

Build for the Future

Rosa and I look forward to greeting each of you during the March 21-24, 2024 Spring Conference in Ocean City. This is our last meeting where I will serve as the D/5 Commander. Yes, this job will be complete on March 23. It's been a great year and I sincerely thank you for this honor. I've been proud to write several newsletter articles that describe district and squadron accomplishments. They include increased attendance at district events; an increase to the number of classes and events conducted by D/5 squadrons and the special district wide 'Instructor Development' and 'Operations Training' classes we completed.

As we look forward, I'm especially encouraged by the plans established for the future. Our district educational department just started a second online Instructor Development class with seven students. And our <https://abc-midatlantic.org> web site already lists over 70 future squadron events and classes. I'm optimistic others will be scheduled to make this coming year an even greater success. This includes the new Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) "National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)" chart data collection initiative. Details will be presented during the conference.

I've sincerely enjoyed the good times we have experienced this year. We've shared the heat and sometimes breezes during the July Summer Council and Rendezvous. Thanks to the Annapolis S&P team. We shared the Maritime Center's open dining room and their nautical bridge simulator. Thanks to the District 5 M&R Committee. And we will meet to share the Friday hospitality suites and the banquet at the Holiday Inn in March. Thanks in advance to the Rockville S&P team.

There are many members who have made this year special. Thanks to the District 5 bridge members. Thanks to the commander's aides. I look forward to meeting personally to thank each of you during the conference.

Sincerely,
Joe

The Power Squadron has always been a family affair. His father joined Absecon Island Power Squadron in 1963 and as soon as it was allowed, his mother also joined. When he was discharged from the Air Force, Ralph also joined the squadron.

At the present time, his brother David has been a member for 46 years and is a life member; his wife Nance, sister Apryl are also life members, his daughter, Jacki and her husband, Tony, daughter Kristin along with grandchildren Matt, Ralphie and Briana are all members of United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club.



BLEVINS BOATERS

Plans have been made for the D/5 Cruise for 2024. The cruise will end at Safe Harbor Zahniser's Marina in the Solomons. For any overflow of boats, nearby Spring Cove will handle the extras.

The tentative southbound cruise will begin in Baltimore and will slowly go down the bay to the Solomons Islands. Below are the areas where we will stop. No reservations have been made as of yet.

20 July Saturday	Anchorage Marina, Baltimore Boats coming from the north can meet at the Anchorage where we will have a cocktail party and if possible, attend a Baltimore Orioles baseball game.
21-22 July Sunday-Monday	Rock Hall, MD Stay at Rock Hall Landing Marina. There is a pool and restaurants nearby
23-24 July Tuesday-Wednesday	Herrington Harbor They have a fantastic pool. The journey is not a long distance from Rock Hall and is close to our next destination.
25-27 July	Solomons District 5 Summer Rendezvous and Council Meeting
28-29 July	Annapolis. Great place and the distance is not far.
30 July	Baltimore Last stop of the cruise.

2024 Summer Council/Rendezvous

The upcoming Summer Council/Rendezvous at Solomon Island is 25 -28 July. We are working with two marinas and one hotel. Safe Harbors Zahnisers (410-326-2166) is our host marina with Spring Cove (410-326-2161) contributing. Slips are going fast as well as the block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Express (240-237-1463).

On all reservations, mention you are with the United States Power Squadron Summer Rendezvous for the discounted rate).. Plans are underway for on-the-water training for the IN course, First Aid Course, Sail Regatta and Power Boat navigation contests, land Geo locations and scavenger hunts, games on Friday night with prizes given out at the Saturday banquet.

Chief Commander Ralph Benard is leading a southbound cruise to Solomon's and Jim Zeigler from ABC Richmond is leading a northbound cruise from the lower parts of the Bay to Solomons. Contact them to join the cruises. Lets get together as Squadrons, get on the water, and have a good time.



TO: All District 5 Members
From: P/D/C Jeffrey Short - Chair, Nominating Committee
SUBJECT: Report of the 2023-24 District 5 Nominating Committee
DATE: 7 Feb 2024

In accordance with Article VI, Section 6.1 of the District 5 By-Laws, the following USPS members have been nominated by the District 5 Nominating Committee to serve in the positions listed below for the coming year.

D5 BRIDGE OFFICERS

2024

Commander	D/C Robert S. Blevins, AP
Executive Officer	D/Lt/C William J. Hammett, JN
Educational Officer	D/Lt/C John W. O'Reilly, JN-CN
Administrative Officer	D/Lt/C Ralph Leasure, S
Secretary	D/Lt/C Pennington J. Hess, AP
Treasurer	D/Lt/C Gene Danko, SN
Assist Admin Officer	D/Lt/C Denise Robinson
Assist Educational Officer	Stf/C Michael J. Maszczenski, N
Assist Secretary	D/1st/Lt Apryl J. Bernard, P
Assist Treasurer	D/1st/Lt Frank Hudson, Jr., P
Rules Committee	P/D/C Brian Becker, Chair D/Lt Mary H. Palmer, P D/Lt Peggy Slattery, S
Auditing Committee	D/Lt Louis M. Kates, AP, Chair D/Lt Nick Montalto, SN D/Lt Homer M. Sandridge, N
Nominating Committee	P/D/C Michael E. Payne, AP, Chair P/D/C Stephanie J. Ward, AP P/ D/C Joseph P. Gibson, AP (OPEN) (OPEN) (OPEN)

Respectfully Submitted,

P/D/C Jeffrey E. Short, JN-IN
P/D/C Michael E. Payne, AP
P/D/C Stephanie J. Ward, AP
D/Lt Lorrie A. Short

2024 United States Power Squadrons/America's Boating Club Annual Meeting

The United States Power Squadrons/America's Boating Club annual meeting was held at the Rosen Plaza in Orlando, FL on February 7-10, 2024. During the conference many different seminars/presentations were held in all areas of concern to our membership. Our own National Educational Officer, Chuck Wells, has a plethora of educational opportunities for attendees which were well attended. D/C Joe Gibson attended the District Commander's seminar which lasted all day on Thursday. He was able to interact with district commanders from throughout the country, share ideas and ask questions of the presenters.

The members were advised of the three different initiatives now facing the organization. Mary Catherine Berube, Executive Director, retired on December 31st, 2023 but is staying on until March 31st, 2024 to assist with the transition of a new director. A search committee has been convened to hire a new director and presently 28 people sent resumes to fill that position. Interviews will be conducted in the coming weeks.

USPS® now have a new management system which will assist in making communication better, make our system more secure, initiate recurring dues and assist squadrons/districts with social events. This system will be tested in March and hopefully be on line on April 1st.

USPS® is in the process of hiring a Marketing Firm to expand our brand and bring in new members to the organization. A contract is expected to be signed before March 1st. This should help boaters recognize our name and bring members to local squadrons.

There was also a seminar on Google Docs which is similar to Power Point but with more animations and designs to make a presentation much more interesting. Attendees had their laptops and were instructed by actually accomplishing a presentation. This was well attended by members.

The only by-laws change was taking the ratio between members and the number of rear commanders from the written by-laws.

A new slate of officers were sworn in by P/C/C Les Johnson which included D/5's Ralph Bernard as Chief Commander and Chuck Wells as National Educational Officer.

During the week, there were a number of social events but the highlight for D/5 was the fantastic District room on Friday night. D/C Joe Gibson and Rosa, along with the assistance of many members, had a phenomenal room which was visited by most attendees at the meeting. The Saturday night dinner dance was well attended by members from D/5....we had 5 tables.

It was a great time with both social and informative presentations. Attending a national meeting is important to share ideas and "steal" ones from others. Please plan to attend the Fall Governing Board in Pittsburgh in September.

Chief Commander Ralph A. Bernard, AP



2024 Annual Meeting



2024 Annual Meeting



2024 Annual Meeting



2024 Annual Meeting



The Coastal Resilience “Pilot Project”

A USPS/DISTRICT 5 COLLABORATION with *Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) Center for Coastal Resource Management (CCRM) & Virginia Institute of Marine Science Foundation*

By Richard Lafferty, Member Delaware River Sail & Power Squadron, Treasurer, VIMS Foundation

On Saturday, March 23 at 1100 hours, Dr. Kirk Havens of VIMS CCRM will speak at the District 5 Spring Conference immediately following the presentations by Chief Commander Ralph Bernard and Marty Lafferty reporting on America’s Boating Channel. Dr. Havens’ work at VIMS has been to translate science to practical solutions to protect tidal wetland areas, and for the active role VIMS can play in the removal of marine debris, biopolymers, derelict fishing gear and supporting indigenous populations knowledge of watershed issues. To attempt to avoid stealing any of his thunder, I would like to focus the two local squadrons who have agreed to participate in the pilot program on what they can best do now to prepare for the pilot.

First, each participant needs to know two key measurements on their own vessel.

- (1) DEPTH OFFSET MEASUREMENT – measure from the bottom of the transducer to the water surface.
- (2) LOCATION OFFSET MEASUREMENT – measure the horizontal distance from the GPS antenna to the transducer. Once each participant can submit this information along with their track data to the VIMS portal, they will be submitting data that can accurately measure the distance from the transducer to the bay/river/creek bottom.

Second – Select the specific survey area.

Over these last weeks, VIMS staff has been working to assure that the 15 million data points they have received over the last couple of years from Virginia watermen is properly formatted and vetted in their system and (2) setting up the data portal that USPS District 5 volunteers will submit their data to. The VIMS data portal will allow each participant to see their tracks.

Since Northern Neck and Dundalk will each develop their own strategies for sampling their shallow water areas, at this time we can only offer conjecture about the coastal distance that the pilot program will cover. According to GARMIN marine technical support (913-397-0872), the amount of transducer emitted pings is dependent upon the depth below the vessel, with more rapid ping frequency occurring in shallow water areas. If there were only one ping each 5 seconds each track submitted would produce 720 “data points” per hour. Assuming an average speed of 15 knots, participants could cover (15kts x 6076 ft/nm. = 91140 feet traversed) or a ping data point every 126 feet (approximately). If the 5 boats go “out and back” over the same ground, that would be potentially 7200 new depth readings for VIMS to work with. Since the bay supposedly has 11,684 miles of shoreline it will be a daunting task to sample the entire shoreline. Undoubtedly, some of that linear distance is unnavigable. If each bay area squadron “adopted” their local waters, and volunteered to collaborate, perhaps one day per month, four days in a year District 5 could submit an enormous amount of data to VIMS. VIMS collaborates with (1) NOAA INTEGRATED OCEAN & COASTAL MAPPING PROGRAM, (2) NOAA NATIONAL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (3) INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION FOR DIGITAL BATHYMETRY.

(Continued from page 11)

At USPS Annual Meeting the Environmental Committee chairman led two breakout sessions that I attended. Currently, the USPS environmental effort, has predominantly been to participate in coastal clean up efforts, which is certainly essential, but it is also just a mechanical effort to remove trash and debris thrown into our waters by careless people. This project in contrast would more durably enhance the resilience of coastal communities by enhancing VIMS SCHISM Model (see: <https://www.vims.edu/newsandevents/topstories>) reducing shoreline erosion, help introduce effective wave attenuation programs, give more accurate computation of sea level changes. One other final point, while volunteer squadron groups are patrolling their local areas, if you happen to discover an "abandoned derelict vessel" each squadron could then apply to the Boat US Foundation for a "grant" to "manage" the removal of the ADV. They currently have \$ 10,000,000 earmarked to that purpose. What are you doing, with your time on the water?

BOC SKILL TESTING OFFERED AT D/5 SUMMER RENDZVOUS

On-the-water skill evaluations for IN and CN will be available at the D/5 Summer Rendezvous on July 26 and July 27. You must schedule your time by July 1. You do not have to complete all the academic requirements for the IN or CN level to participate in the skill evaluation.

The Boat Operator Certification (BOC) programs recognizes members for both their academic and their on-the-water boating skills. There are four levels of boat operator certification. At each level, candidates must complete Advanced Grade courses, Elective courses and USPS Seminars relevant to that level. In addition, candidates must demonstrate their proficiency in a set of practical skill tests. The BOC program is described in detail under the Education Department section of the USPS website.

Many members have completed much of the course work but lack on-the-water skill certification. We will have certifiers available to conduct Inland Navigator and Coastal Navigator skill sessions to help you complete these requirements. but you must pre-register by July 1. Each participant will have pre-work and we must have time to schedule boats and certifiers.

If you are interested in completing you IN or CN boating skills demonstration, during Summer Rendezvous please contact Jim Zeigler at 804-347-5239 or jim@jpzeigler.com. We can also schedule skill evaluations at other times and locations subject to certifier availability.

R/C Jim Ziegler, SN-CN

America's Boating Club Member Benefits

There are many benefits to being a member of America's Boating Club. Each issue of the Mark 5 will list several benefits available to you as a member of USPS/America's Boating Club.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 Events		
D/5 Spring Conference	Holiday Inn, Ocean City, MD	21-24 Mar
D/5 Summer Cruise	Chesapeake Bay	19-25 Jul
D/5 Summer Rendezvous	Solomons, MD	26-28 Jul
USPS Gov. Board	Pittsburgh, PA	25-29 Sep
D/5 Fall Conference	Maritime Institute	7-10 Nov



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