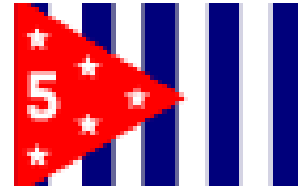




AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB MID-ATLANTIC MARK 5



VOLUME 75 No. 1

WINTER 2024 ELECTRONIC ISSUE

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2024 Spring Conference

The Spring Conference is closer than you think!

District 5's Spring Conference and Change of Watch will be held at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront in Ocean City, MD from 21-24 March 2024. This venue is new to us, located at 6600 Coastal Highway, about two blocks north of the MD Route 90 causeway. Please read those reservation forms closely as the venue is different. Each room is equipped with a kitchenette. Room reservations must be made for two nights to get the special rate.

The conference includes important training for the new squadron/club bridge officers coming aboard. Old and new officers should take advantage of this as it will give you a good foundation for leading your groups and understanding what you are expected to do in your bridge position, resulting in a successful year.

Friday evening includes the always popular hospitality suites. This year, all hospitality suites will be located on the 2nd floor immediately adjacent to the banquet facility. There is a block of six rooms available. Do not contact the hotel; all reservations for the hospitality suites are being handled by Gene Danko. The Conference and Hospitality Suite reservation forms are located on pages 3 and 4. On the suite form you will notice that hospitality rooms are only for that purpose (the hotel will remove the beds to accommodate the crowd), so you must make separate arrangements for lodging. Additional information will be made available online in the coming weeks at www.abc-midatlantic.org. It is hoped many of our D/5 Squadrons will participate by hosting a suite.

Friday and Saturday feature a number of seminars along with the Council & Conference meetings. The evening Change of Watch and Awards banquet is the big event.

We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Cdr Gene Danko, Rockville
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Commander's Message

D/C Joseph P. Gibson, AP

Build for the Future

It's natural during the holiday season we pause and look at what we've accomplished. At this point we know our squadrons completed 228 events this year consisting of six Piloting, two Advanced Piloting, thirty ABC III or state boating safety and six Boat Handling classes. They have already scheduled seven ABC III classes along with several advanced classes or seminars in 2024. I expect additional events will be added to those announced on <https://abc-midatlantic.org> by the time you read this article.

Along with our classes to the public, we also have completed classes to prepare our officers and members to teach the public and manage ongoing United States Power Squadrons® activities. Eleven members have completed the district wide Instructor Development (ID) class and will soon become USPS Certified Instructors who can teach ABC III classes to the public, and seven members completed the Operations Training class conducted during the November Fall Educational Conference. Our thanks to ADEO Mike Maszczenski and AO Bill Hammett for conducting these classes.

We also completed three District conferences. Previous newsletter editions reported on the Spring and Summer events and a companion article provides data on the recent Fall Educational Conference. 64 members attend the conference on Friday and 70 on Saturday. On Friday about 50 members participated on a tour of a Ship Bridge Simulator (there are several ship bridge simulators in the Linthicum Heights, MD Maritime Center) where we cruised through Baltimore harbor and encountered serious weather. We were permitted backstage to view how the simulator projectors and screen function. A tour highlight.

A new cooperative charting initiative is being considered and pilot projects are planned for 2024. A companion article provides information on the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) "National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)" contract to study and collect data on Chesapeake Bay recreational water depths. Dundalk and Northern Neck squadrons are participating in the pilot programs to further investigate detail and better understand benefits. Additional information will be presented during the 2024 Spring Conference in March 2024.

Rosa and I, along with several other D/5 officers, are headed to Orlando in February to attend the USPS Annual Meeting and Change of Watch to be present when V/C Ralph Bernard will become Chief Commander of United States Power Squadrons®. We are planning hospitality suites: all annual meeting attendees on February 9th and District 5 attendees on February 10th. We sincerely hope to see many of you there with us to congratulate Ralph on the 10th when he takes on this new position.

Joe
USPS District 5 Commander



RESERVATION FORM
America's Boating Club – Mid-Atlantic
United States Power Squadrons® D/5 Spring Conference
21 – 24 March 2024
Holiday Inn Oceanfront, Ocean City, Maryland



MEMBER: Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
SQUADRON _____ POSITION _____ FIRST TIMER? _____
E-mail _____ PHONE _____

SPOUSE/OTHER ATTENDEES:

Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____ First Timer? _____
Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____ First Timer? _____

MENU SELECTIONS

SATURDAY LUNCH:

Chicken Marsala: served with seasonal vegetables and rice pilaf. # ___ @ \$35.00 = \$ ____
Vegetable Lasagna: served with seasonal vegetables and rice pilaf. # ___ @ \$35.00 = \$ ____

Selections served with: House Salad, Regular and Decaf Coffee and Tea

SATURDAY BANQUET ENTREE CHOICES:

Atlantic Salmon: Marinated in soy sauce and ginger. # ___ @ \$47.00 = \$ ____
Tri Tip Steak: Served with red wine demi-glaze. # ___ @ \$47.00 = \$ ____
Vegetarian Spinach Ravioli: Served with roasted wild mushrooms, vodka sauce, and shaved pecorino cheese. # ___ @ \$47.00 = \$ ____

Selections Served with: House Salad, Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls & Butter, Apple Pie, Regular and Decaf Coffee and Tea.

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Children: Chicken Tenders with honey mustard or BBQ sauce, milk or chocolate milk, caffeine-free soda, cookies and brownies # ___ @ \$20.00 = \$ ____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: **Rockville Sail & Power Squadron**

SEND TO: D/Lt/C Gene Danko
24892 Magnolia Circle
Millsboro, DE 19966
(860-214-4779) (gene.danko@snet.net)

MEAL RESERVATIONS must be received by 1 March 2024

Recommended Dress for Banquet: Uniform A with bowtie or appropriate civilian attire. Dress Code for other portions of the Spring Conference will be published separately.

MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY WITH HOTEL - Call Reservations Department at 410-524-1600

Use the Reservation Group Code: US Power Squadron Spring Conference 2024

Holiday Inn Oceanfront Hotel 6600 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842

- Non-Smoking Venue - Handicapped Rooms available upon request
- Baggage handling, if applicable, is \$8.00 per person, round trip.
- Check-in 1600 hours, checkout 1100 hours.

Rates: Thursday 21 March: \$69.00. Friday 22 March: \$134.00. Saturday 23 March: \$134.00.

- Reservations will automatically be billed for one night
- Rates listed do **not** include taxes.

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 20 FEBRUARY 2024 TO ENSURE USPS® RATES



HOSPITALITY SUITE RESERVATION FORM

USPS D/5 Spring Conference

21 – 24 March 2024



Holiday Inn Oceanfront Hotel & Suites
6600 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842

Hospitality Suites MUST be reserved for both Friday 22 March & Saturday 23 March 2023

RESERVATION DEADLINE Friday 24 February 2024

Rooms assigned on a first come first served basis!

Important Note: hospitality suites are strictly for that purpose.

Lodging must be booked separately.

Normal check-in time is after 1600

Check-out time before 1100

Cost: Cost for Suites \$268.00 (\$134.00 night plus tax) \$ _____

Additions: the hotel has agreed to work with us on additional requirements.
Setup fees are waived, including bed removal, extra chairs, etc. Additional
setup such as ice tubs must be done by the individual groups.

TOTAL: \$ _____

HOSPITALITY SUITE PREFERENCE

Please do not contact hotel directly regarding the Hospitality Suites

Suite locations are on the 2nd floor and will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

Squadron: _____

Name of Responsible Party: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Credit Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV _____

Type of Card: MC VISA DISCOVER AMEX

You may call with the credit card information if you are uncomfortable mailing it.

**This year the suites will be located on the 2nd floor Eastern Oceanfront, directly across from the banquet facility. All
suites will be in the same general location with pool view.**

Mail or Email Form To: Cdr Gene Danko, SN
24892 Magnolia Circle
Millsboro, DE 19966
860-214-4779
gene.danko@snet.net





ABClub Annual Meeting
February 6-11, 2024
Orlando, Florida

As many of you are aware, this February at the Annual Meeting, our own Ralph Bernard will become the Chief Commander of the United States Power Squadrons. This is quite an achievement and honor. This is an open invitation to all D/5 members to travel to Orlando, FL at the Rosen Plaza Hotel to support Ralph & Nance as they lead the USPS for the next two years.

Listed below are the options for events and meals available for purchase. A detailed agenda is listed on the National Meetings page along with hotel and event information. To make your event and hotel reservations, go to https://www.usps.org/php/reservations_new/meetings.php?mtg_id=46.

Registration Fee Cost: \$35.00 **ALL ATTENDEES**

The registration fee is to subsidize incidental expenses such as audio visual, printing and shipping. If you attend 1 or more events, meetings, seminars or meals, there are hidden costs that we are not charging attendees, but the hotel charges the organization. Our meal prices reflect the price the hotel charges (including applicable taxes, service charges, etc.) so this fee helps the organization recover some of the additional costs required to make the meeting more enjoyable/accessible. Your support is appreciated.

Sea World Orlando Tickets Cost: \$78.00 **Price until 10 January 2024 \$78.00 ANY DAY DURING WEEK**

Sea World - Why not visit Sea World? Let us know and we can make the arrangements. You must attend during the ABC meeting dates. The group rate will only apply if we get enough people. More details: Minimum number of tickets for group rate is 15. The 2024 estimated group rate is \$78.00/person. Public online ticket purchase including taxes and fees for this week is \$117.00-\$128.00 and at the gate is \$150.00. Contact Denise Filios at uspsnmctours@gmail.com for information.

Monday, February 05, 2024

Polynesian Fire Luau Dinner Show Time: 1715-2100 Cost: \$78.00 **Price until 6 January 2024 \$65.00** Evening Activity. This **Polynesian Fire Luau** is an authentic Polynesian dinner show happening in Orlando. You will start the evening off with a flower lei, then enjoy a Polynesian "all you care to eat" buffet, then guided by the Samoan family, the performers of Polynesian Fire will captivate you with live Polynesian music, songs and dances from different Polynesian cultures and ending with the exciting and dangerous Samoan fire knife performance.

Tuesday, February 06, 2024

The Art of Origami Time: 1100-1200 Cost: \$20.00 **Price until 10 January 2024 \$15.00**
The National Social Activities Committee is offering another pre-conference craft event. **The Art of Origami**. Come fold with us. Jim Amos from FOLD (Florida Origami Learners and Devotees) will be demonstrating the art of origami. Origami is the Japanese art of folding paper into decorative shapes and figures.

Pirates Adventure Dinner Show Time: 1745-2130 Cost: \$71.00 **Price until 10 January 2024 \$59.00**
Pirates Adventure Dinner Show is set aboard an 18th-century Spanish galleon with 40-foot masts anchored in a 300,000-gallon indoor lagoon, the ship has been authentically replicated, with night sky lighting. The 90-minute show features action, romance, music, and breathtaking aerial stunts. Audience participation, pirates, cannon blasts, pyrotechnics, and plenty of laughs... this is the world's largest interactive dinner show!

Escape Rooms Adventure Time: TBD Cost: \$51.00 **Price until 10 January 2024 \$42.00**
America's Escape Game: Asylum Escape Room. Have we piqued your fancy? Escape rooms are a whole new way of experiencing storytelling. The Asylum Escape Room's your opportunity to enter the remains of the fire ravaged Oakridge Lunatic Asylum and unlock the secrets of Dr. Rutger's horrifying deeds. Who is Dr. Rutger? He was a doctor at Oakridge Asylum who had five patients who were presumed killed and their bodies were never recovered. His wife made a deathbed confession that her husband had a special room where he performed his darkest and unspeakable works... Will you be the one to solve this mystery?

Wednesday, February 07, 2024

Mary Catherine Berube Retirement Party - CHICKEN or SALMON
Time: 1800-2130 Cost: \$99.00 **Price until 10 January 2024 \$51.00 for chicken; \$52.00 for Salmon.**
*****NOTE: Price is intentionally low and will go up to normal price when the Discount Date expires. BUY NOW!**
Join us as we celebrate "The Next Chapter..." as Mary Catherine Berube, our headquarters Executive Director, retires from 46 years of service with the United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club! This is your chance to wish her well as she enters The Next Chapter of her life! The evening starts with 45 minutes of a hospitality party followed by some presentations, activities and a look into the many years of Mary Catherine and her association with USPS/ABC. Everyone is invited.

(Continued on page 6)

Thursday, February 08, 2024

Keynote Speaker Breakfast Time: 0715-0845 Cost: \$56.00 **Price until 10 January 2024 \$46.00**

Keynote Speaker Breakfast: Captain Cliff Schmidt, AMS. Captain Schmidt is a recognized Marine Surveyor and investigator with information and "war" stories to share. Everyone is invited.

PLAZA BREAKFAST: Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Applewood Bacon, Breakfast Potatoes, Florida Fresh Orange Juice, Fresh Fruit Cup, Bakery Basket, Tea, Coffee.

D/C XO Squadron Commanders, Exec Officers & Dept. Chairs Time: 1200-1330

Chicken with Marsala Sauce Cost: \$69.00 **Price until 10 January 2024 \$57.00**

Join the National Executive Officer, Ralph Bernard, and fellow District Commanders and Executive Officers for lunch. We encourage squadron/district commanders, bridge officers and leadership of all levels to join us.

Educational Team Luncheon Time: 1200-1330

Chicken with Marsala Sauce Cost: \$69.00 **Price until 10 January 2024 \$57.00**

AWARD'S DINNER AND LIFE MEMBER RECOGNITION Time: 1800-2200

Rosemary Mojito Chicken: Cost: \$90.00 **Price until 10 January 2024 \$75.00**

Pan-Seared Red Snapper Cost: \$98.00 **Price until 10 January 2024 \$81.00**

Life Member and Awards Dinner. This is an opportunity for those receiving their Life Member Award to be acknowledged as well as for the membership to congratulate them! Come enjoy the delicious meal and then be ready to congratulate those who have served their squadron, district, and national earning 25 Merit Marks!

Friday, February 09, 2024

FUN LUNCH FOR EVERYONE - Time: 1200-1400

Mediterranean Salad with Chicken Cost: \$60.00 **Price until 10 January 2024 \$50.00**

Turkey Sandwich Cost: **\$62.00** **Price until 10 January \$52.00**

Let's Have Some Fun! Come join a group of folks that like to play pub style games while meeting new members and meeting guests. This is an informal lunch and is offered to everyone who likes trivia, puzzles or other games. Some or all will be offered.

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Social Luncheon Time: 1145-1400 Vesuvius Pasta with Shrimp Cost: \$70.00 **Price until 10 January 2024 \$58.00**

A Lump of Clay... Jennifer Lyn Olsen's Creations will be doing a live presentation on how to make pottery from a lump of clay to the finished item. Jennifer's expertise is with bowls, stands, and planters. A lucky attendee may even receive one of her creations in the raffle.

Members Luncheon Time: 1200-1400 Vesuvius Pasta with Shrimp Cost: \$70.00 **Price until 10 January 2024 \$58.00**

Luncheon Wrap: Cost: \$65.00 **Price until 10 January \$54.00**

Come join the members at this time to enjoy lunch, visit with friends and new friends, as you share the learnings you have gained from this National Meeting! Everyone is Welcome!

Change of Watch Dinner Dance - Time: 1800-2130

Salmon: Cost: \$106.00 **Price until 10 January 2024 \$88.00**

Rib Eye Steak: Cost: \$115.00 **Price until 10 January 2024 \$96.00**

Annual Meeting Dinner and Change of Watch. This is the time when the entire membership sends a Thank You to our current bridge and welcomes in the new bridge. Lighthouses for years have been the beacon to guide sailors to safety. Our tables this night are decorated with a variety of lighthouses to guide you toward an evening of celebration! Everyone is invited.

Again, to make your reservations, go to https://www.usps.org/php/reservations_new/meetings.php?mtg_id=46.



2023 Fall Conference

Thank you to everyone for attending the 2023 Fall Educational Conference. Beginning with the attendee dinner together on Thursday evening and two days of a very busy schedule of presentations including Operations Training, Diesel Engine Seminar and everything in between! There were several technical presentations and an introduction to a new program from V.I.M.S. for charting shallow waters in the Chesapeake Bay. In addition to all of these great sessions, we were very lucky to be able to get a tour of the facilities' massive two-story simulator. Many people were amazed at the configuration and realism of the simulator, and said it was the highlight of the weekend.

Friday evening brought the fabulous après dinner cocktail party in the commander's suite. Thanks to Rosa Gibson and her aides for the perfect after dinner eats. Saturday morning greeted us with an informative Town Hall, led by our own National Executive Officer V/C Ralph Bernard. After the Chief Commander's message, Ralph was on hand to answer the many questions the members had.

Saturday evening brought the cocktail party in the lounge followed by a delicious buffet dinner provided by the Institute. Many awards were given to very deserving squadrons in recognition of their hard work. Special thanks to P/D/C Chris Brown who compiles the statistics and award information that determines the winners of the awards. Another special thanks to Nance Bernard who once again organized the raffle and 50/50. Nance and her committee did a spectacular job.

Thank you to everyone who presented and participated in the conference. We look forward to next year. Check out the pictures on the following pages taken by Sari Lafferty.

D/Lt/C John O'Reilly
D/Lt Apryl Bernard



2023 Fall Conference Friday



2023 Fall Conference Friday Cocktails



2023 Fall Conference Meetings



2023 Fall Conference Cocktails



2023 Fall Conference Dinner



2023 Fall Conference Awards



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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[To start saving, use the link here to access UPS.](#)

The above link has been fixed as of 17 Oct 2023

Program details:

Flat Discounts on Shipping
Members now save up to 50% every time you ship.

US Power Squadrons / America's Boating Club and UPS® took the guesswork out, and put the easy in.

Members now have access to new flat discounts that include savings of 50% on Domestic Next Day/Deferred, 30% on Ground Commercial / Residential, up to 50% on additional services and the UPS Smart Pickup® service for free.

Open a new account, or if you are already taking advantage of our UPS savings program, re-enroll and apply the new discounts to your existing account by visiting * or call 1-800-MEMBERS (1-800-636-2377), M-F 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., ET.

*Visit https://www.ups.com/mrd/promodiscount?loc=en_US&promoCd=CE41XML78 for specific services and discounts.

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 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. Look for complete information in the Summer 2024 issue of the Mark 5.

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

Plans are under way for the 2024 Summer Council & Rendezvous at Solomon Island 25-28 July 2024. The host marina is Safe Harbors Zahniser's Marina with Spring Cove Marina and Solomon's Yachting Center as overflows. Spring Cove now incorporates the slips at the old Holiday Inn for overflow, thus plenty of slips are available. V/C Ralph Bernard will lead a fleet of boats from the northern part of the Bay to Solomons Island and Stf/C Jim Zeigler will lead a southern fleet up the Bay. We're planning a sail regatta and power boat navigation contest as well as raffles, walkabout games, etc. A busy and fun time with plenty to do for all.

District 5 is currently working with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science Foundation (VIMS) for a pilot shallow water survey to be conducted with Northern Neck and Dundalk Sail & Power Squadrons for creating processes/procedures, prior to opening the project to the rest of District 5 Squadrons.

This program is a draw for trailer boaters up to 30 ft. to gather data in depths 6 ft or less tributaries, creeks, etc. This data when sent to VIMS will be used for soil management, hurricane erosion predictions, etc. and incorporated into NOAA graphs. See the VIMS article by Squadron member Richard Lafferty below.

THE COASTAL RESILIENCE "PILOT PROJECT"

A Collaboration with (1) *Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)*– Center for Coastal Resources Management (CCRM) & (2) *Virginia Institute of Marine Science Foundation*

Collect "SHALLOW WATER" depth data for: Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model Phase 7
By Richard Lafferty, Member; Delaware River Power Squadron,
Treasurer; Virginia Institute of Marine Science Foundation

Two District 5 Squadrons have requested to conduct the "pilot" program for shallow water depth surveys in their local areas to collaborate data gathering/transferring to **VIMS**. Volunteers of these two squadrons in their own trailer/small boats equipped with various brands of GPS/chart plotters will cruise in shallow water areas (less than six feet deep) to create "track lines", while their transducer "pings" for depth to get accurate depth readings along coasts, bays, and tributary rivers of the Chesapeake Bay. The sonar systems creating the track lines are estimated to collect depth data over a track that is approximately 150 feet wide each. As this project entails transiting shallow water, where there could be hazards to navigation, each survey vessel will need to exercise extreme care to operate at safe speeds at all times.

The VIMS Center for Coastal Resource Management (CCRM) has been asked to explain how volunteer crews are to conduct their survey, presently only general guidance can be given. Each squadron will select a survey area of their own choosing. Each squadron should contribute a maximum of up to five boats, each boat manned by at least one observer who communicates by marine radio with the entire survey group, while the captain concentrates on navigation. It would be helpful in the survey of a tributary river, for the survey team to survey to the "head of navigable water" (depending on the draft of the survey vessel) probably to a depth of no less than three (3) feet. Logically, going "UP RIVER," teams should hug the starboard side of the river, and the port side on their "DOWN RIVER" track. If charts of the river suggest that the shallow depth area of less than six feet is broad, then pairs of boats abeam is more ideal area coverage than a "follow the leader" strategy. When transiting along the shallow water coastline of a major river, to maximize the coverage area it would be important for the group to cruise in "line abreast" formation where all of the boats are on each other's beam. If four survey vessels are in this formation the combination of transpond, when a specific hazard to navigation has been discovered to more completely document the rack widths could fully cover a width of approximately 600 feet. The fifth vessel can trail behind to exact geographic position and nature of the hazard.

Surveying an expanse of shallow water adjacent to a shoreline is more valuable than transiting an area of equal depth further out in the middle of the river - but the ideal is to accurately identify bottom depths in all survey zone areas that are less than six feet deep. The group effort will result in comprehensive depth data in the minimum amount of time for the area that the survey teams covered. (**Don't break formation**). Each team should also compose an "after action report" to help inform future effort.

There will need to be coordination between the volunteer teams and **VIMS CCRM**. Specifically, each survey vessel's unique configuration of the distance between the transducer, it's depth location and the GPS unit needs to be meas-

(Continued from page 16)

ured and that data given to **VIMS Center for Coastal Resource Management (CCRS)**. Volunteers will be able to download track data from their SD CARD in the GPS unit directly to **VIMS** and able to see their TRACKS at a **VIMS** web address. **VIMS** will have the underlying depth data and which will enhance the effectiveness of the **VIMS SCHISM MODEL** already selected by the **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY** as the NEW standard hydrographic model of the Chesapeake Bay starting 2025.

To learn about the SCHISM MODEL:

<https://www.vims.edu/newsandevents/topstories>

(EPA selects VIMS model as bell weather for Bay health (Jan 18, 2022).

In addition to enhancing the effectiveness of the SCHISM model **VIMS** is a "trusted (data) node" to NOAA (National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration) If the Pilot Program succeeds and subsequently District 5 conducts a broad depth data gathering project throughout the Bay, **VIMS** will be sending this data to (1) NOAA INTEGRATED OCEAN & COASTAL MAPPING PROGRAM; (2) NOAA NATIONAL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION and; (3) INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION DATA CENTER FOR DIGITAL BATHYMETRY. For instance, parts of the Potomac River were last surveyed in 1910.

The shallow water depth data project is potentially, a major multi-year public service project for all **District 5** Squadrons on the Chesapeake Bay. We hope to publicize the project - to encourage greater "on the water" member involvement for trailer/small boats. Any individual member, armed with the right GPS/chart plotter equipment could submit their own home creek track data to the **VIMS** website, not from just a single track in and out, but from numerous trips over a period of time, the same result a team effort could produce in hours. Volunteer teams are needed to cover areas that are more remote, to rapidly do a proper survey. The member squadrons of District 5 are the ideal source of volunteer teams, equipped with their own boats, using their boating experience and local knowledge, distributed around the bay, with the sonar gear to complete this essential data collection effort.

It is planned that District 5 Squadrons will begin this project in summer 2024. This data would:

- * Enhance the resilience of communities, making them safer from storm water surge and is a worthwhile public service project.
- * Shallow water depth data is critically important for (a) Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model Phase 7; (b) shoreline erosion studies (c) wave attenuation programs (d) more accurate computation of sea level changes and computations for storm surge.



UPCOMING EVENTS

2024

USPS Annual Meeting	Rosen Plaza, Orlando, FL	4-10 Feb
AC Boat Show	AC Conv. Ctr, AC, NJ	29 Feb-3 Mar
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



Mark 5

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