



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB MID-ATLANTIC MARK 5



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FALL 2025 ELECTRONIC ISSUE

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2025 Fall Conference

This year's Fall Educational Conference is being held at the Lancaster Doubletree Hotel in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on 7 – 9 November 2025. The hotel has a nine-hole golf course, indoor pool and water playground. Located nearby is The Amish Farm And House where you can learn about the Amish and how they live. This 15-acre farm has guided house and bus tours available. Located in Lancaster is Wheatland, the home of President James Buchanan. Another local attraction is the Turkey Hill Ice Cream Factory. It's a must visit. Don't forget about all of the great shops and outlets in the area and Hershey Park isn't too far away.

The Fall Conference schedule is new. It has been changed to facilitate participation by members who are still working. Saturday will be focused on Education with Sunday on D/5 business. Friday evening is kicked off with a social reception by the District Commander. Saturday night is our awards banquet to celebrate our accomplishments. There is added time to get to know members of other squadrons and share experiences, tips, and techniques.

The full schedule and registration forms will be available on the D/5 website by mid-September at uspsd5.org.

The Friday night reception allows us to socialize, get to know each other better and celebrate a successful boating season. Saturday the conference starts off with an overview of the current USPS® Educational activities with Chuck Wells, National Educational Officer and member of Annapolis Squadron.

The remainder of Saturday will be filled with important and interesting topics for our squadron educational programs. We will dual track the schedule to allow you to pick the topics in which you are most interested. We are still shuffling the times, but the topics include:

- Instructor Re-Certification
- Effective Online Teaching Tips and Techniques
- New Visual Distress Signal (non-pyrotechnic) & Fire Extinguisher Training

(Continued on page 3)

2025- 2026 District 5 Bridge

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Commander's Message

D/C William Hammett, JN

The Summer Council and Rendezvous was a success and to the best of my knowledge a possible historic first for District Five – a houseboat cruise. Simply put, it was a lot of fun, and everyone seemed to have a good time. My original plan was to return to Solomons Island; however, it was mentioned to me to consider Smith Mountain Lake. That same squadron had planned a Summer Council and Rendezvous in 2000, but COVID happened. Long story short, I asked, and the Smith Mountain Squadron agreed to support our event and support it they did. N/FI/Lt Randy Stow, Cdr Rich Faga and their squadron members did an outstanding job.

During my week at Smith Mountain Lake I observed how well the houseboat crews interacted and this carried over through the coffee, donut, and bagel reception Ann and I hosted on Sunday morning. Personally, it has been a long time since I have had such a good time. It occurred to me that perhaps I stumbled across what I refer to as unwritten benefits of membership. Before I go on, what we offer in boating education, membership discounts, and the like are all positives. However, how often does the public see us relaxing and having a good time? Rendezvous and other outside events help. Last summer I invited my squadron's EXCOM for a cookout at my home that included a brainstorming session on ways to increase membership and some good ideas surfaced. How well are we utilizing social media? Are we making it easy for the public to reach us? America's Boating Channel, is it being brought to the public's attention? At the squadron level how often do members attend public events as a group wearing squadron apparel while at the same time having a good time? One might want to consider a sporting event such as a baseball game and whenever possible, sit as a group.

Let's take a closer look at social media and America's Boating Channel. Marine SEO continues to assist us with promoting our Facebook pages. Upon returning from Smith Mountain Lake, I posted photos of the rendezvous and as a result views, likes, and comments increased. The photos showed our members enjoying one another's company. When teaching ABC3 or working at boat shows, promote America's Boating Channel. For example, use business card stock or similar media make handouts about America's Boating Channel and don't forget that all important QR code. The public has become used to QR codes, and one already exists for America's Boating Channel. By simply scanning that code, it takes you to YouTube where the videos reside listing all of them. All that I mentioned are some ideas on how we can better promote ourselves. I encourage all members to come up with some of your own ideas to promote membership and please share them.

(Continued from page 1)

- Revisions to the ABC/3 Course & Recent Updates to Required Safety Equipment
- Effective Squadron Programs for Recruiting Students and Members
- On-the-Water Training Update - Customization and Insurance
- Introduction to the New and Popular Battery Seminar
- New Online SEO and Website Tools
- How the Henry Sweet Foundation Can Help Fund Your Educational Program
- How Can We Enhance Your Educational Program?

Sunday is about District 5 business. The schedule starts off with a roundtable of National officers. District 5 is fortunate to have several National officers in our district including Chief Commander Ralph Bernard and National Educational Officer Chuck Wells. This is your time to ask questions and comment on the USPS® | America's Boating Club® activities. Following that session, we will have a Council meeting followed by a District Conference. An important topic for each fall meeting is approval of the budget and consideration of the squadron assessment. Dates and location of future meetings will also be discussed along with any other important district business. Our goal is to finish early to allow you to travel home mainly in daylight.

Please attend the 2025 Fall educational conference to Learn, Connect and Engage with your fellow members! The Fall Conference registration form is located on page four of this issue.

John O'Reilly
Meetings & Rendezvous Chairperson

Jim Ziegler
D/5 Educational Officer



United States Power Squadrons®



2025 America's Boating Club Mid-Atlantic

District 5 Fall Conference

7-9 November 2025

Doubletree Resort by Hilton Lancaster, Lancaster, PA

Rank _____ Name _____
Grade _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____ Squadron _____

OTHER ATTENDEES

Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____
Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____

SATURDAY LUNCHEON

Meals include fresh rolls with butter, sides of Herb Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Roasted Vegetables, and Crumb Topped Apple Pie with whipped cream

Mixed Greens Salad

Sun-dried cranberries, garden vegetables, & balsamic vinaigrette

Buttermilk Fried Chicken with honey-pepper glaze # _____ @ \$38.00 \$ _____

Herb Crusted Tilapia with French Baguette, Butter, Fresh herbs and lemon # _____ @ \$38.00 \$ _____

Grilled Vegetable & Pecorino Cheese Ravioli # _____ @ \$38.00 \$ _____

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER

Meals include fresh rolls with butter, sides of Wild Rice Blend, Red Skinned Mashed Potatoes with garlic, and Cheesecake with fresh berries

Mixed Green Garden Salad (V, GF) | Spring mix with English cucumber, cherry tomatoes and carrots

Chicken Picatta with lemon cream sauce # _____ @ \$45.00 \$ _____

Home Style Pot Roast | Slow roasted beef with carrots, potatoes, onions and celery in a light beef gravy # _____ @ \$55.00 \$ _____

Eggplant Parmesan with fire-roasted marinara # _____ @ \$45.00 \$ _____

SUNDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET:

House-Baked Muffins, Variety of Individual Yogurts, Seasonal Fruit, Scrambled Eggs w/Cheese, Bacon or Sausage, French Toast or Buttermilk Pancakes with warm syrup

_____ @ \$30.00 \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Meal Reservations must be submitted by 22 October 2025

Hotel Reservations: By 3 October (717) 464-2711

Doubletree Resort by Hilton Lancaster, 2400 Willow Street Pike, Lancaster, PA

Use US Power Squadrons District 5 Fall Conference. To get discounted rate.

Make checks payable to: United States Power Squadron-District 5

PLEASE SEND RESERVATIONS WITH CHECKS TO:

Apryl Bernard, 1127 Riverside Drive, Mays Landing, NJ 08330 (609) 432-7449 aprylber@msn.com



D/5 Summer Rendezvous and Council at Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia, 14-19 July 2025

This year's cruise was an all new event. Nineteen intrepid mariners boarded Houseboats to cruise the waters of Smith Mountain Lake in Virginia. Known as the "Jewel of the Blue Ridge," it sits at 790 feet above sea level and covers 20,000 acres with 500 miles of shoreline with beautiful vistas.

Our fleet of five houseboats and their eager crews got underway on Tuesday morning and proceeded smartly toward our first anchorage nestled in a mountain cove. The well-appointed boats, ranging from 39' to 53', roared to life powered by 115 hp outboards and quickly attained a maximum cruising speed of 6 knots. This was perfect for easing down the lake while relaxing and enjoying the sights. Around noon we nosed into a quiet cove and dropped anchor. While three boats rafted up, the other two took advantage of a fine day for further exploration. Swim Call! Nothing like accelerating down the sliding board into clean fresh water.

Wednesday's plan was to dine at a new restaurant at the Crazy Horse Marina. While we did arrive smartly at the marina, the restaurant did not exist (the grand opening was delayed as we had been previously warned). However, members of the Smith Mountain Lake Squadron met us at the Marina for a social evening. The squadron's Administrative Officer, Michele Paré, had prepared sandwiches and a strawberry/rhubarb cake. There was also ice cream from the local creamery. A great evening for all.

The boats proceeded, again at 6 knots, on Thursday to their home port at Parrot Cove Marina. As we eased up the lake there was suddenly music in the air – sounded like a Good Humor truck. Alas! It was the Ice Cream Boat. We powered down, gave a toot on the horn and stood by while the Ice Cream Boat made the rounds and provided all a summer treat.

Thursday evening the "cruisers" were joined by more D/5 members who had just arrived. We boarded the Virginia Dare, a simulated side wheeler, for a dinner cruise. Piloting and narration was provided by Captain Barry Bridges, another proud squadron member. A very pleasant couple of hours cruising the lake with food, drink and, most of all, friends.

The weekend was a time to explore the area, lounge at the pool and enjoy the facilities at Mariners Landing. Members of the local Antique and Classic Boat Society

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came by to let us admire their lovingly restored and maintained crafts. Not to be outdone, David and Nancy Bernard had trailed their woodie "Mr. Breeze" to SML and when the ACBS folks left, Mr. Breeze was in their midst. Friday evening D/C Bill Hammett provided a delightful reception with the able assistance of his boat crew. Everyone enjoyed the abundance of munchies and treats plus the free flowing bar.

The high point on Saturday morning was the flag raising at the D-Day Memorial in Bedford. The memorial itself is an extensive site commemorating Operation Overlord and the success and sacrifice of D-Day on June 6, 1944. Amidst the flags of Allied Nations, we were honored to raise our National Flag. Afterward, a docent provided an enlightening description of the memorial's vast array of symbolic features and displays.

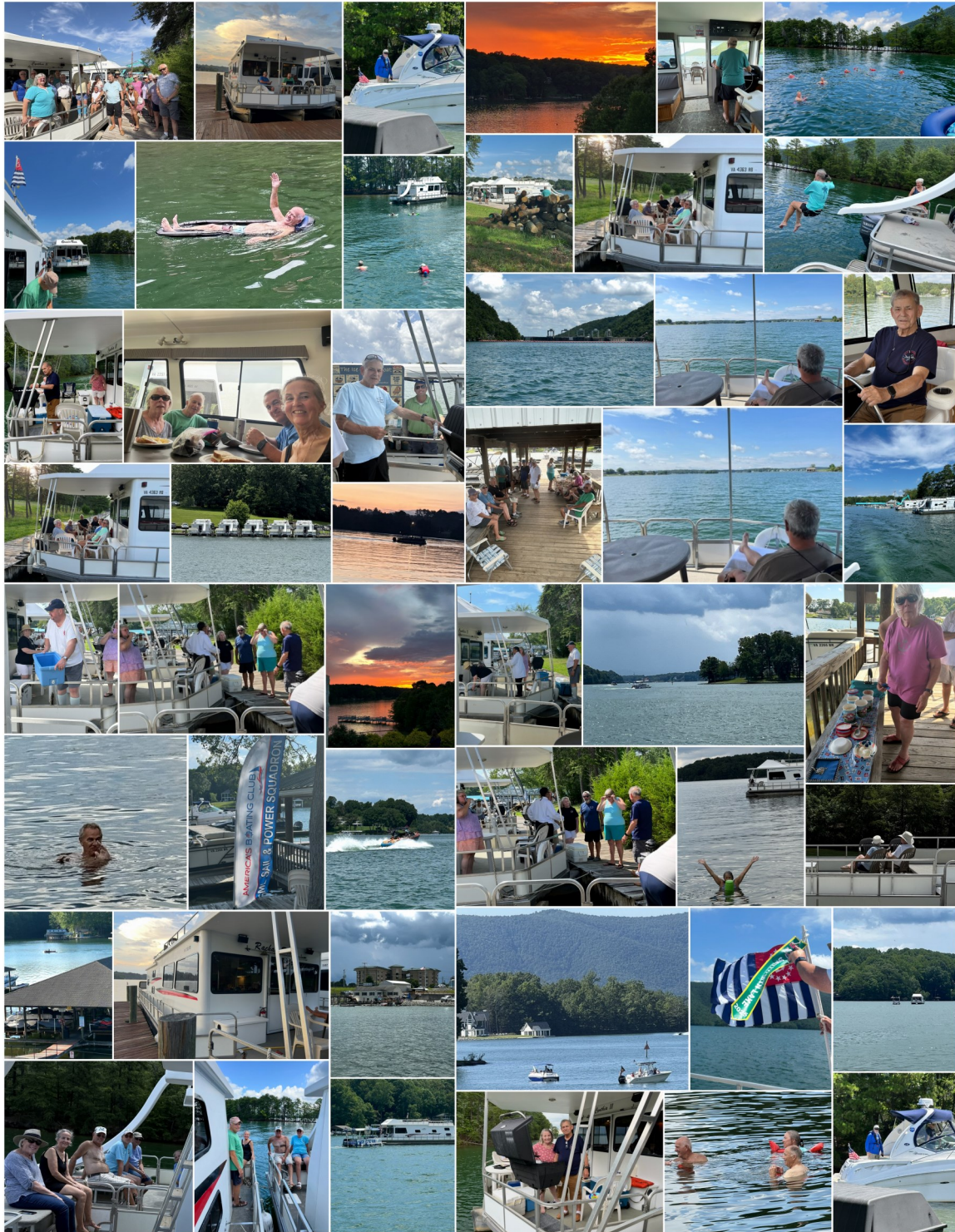
Capping the evening was a resort buffet. Again time for food and friends. Our evening was completed with a viewing of the Hallmark Mystery movie "Lake Effects", filmed at Smith Mountain Lake and seemingly featuring the entire lake population as extras. We were privileged to have color commentary provided by Chinah Jewel, the movie's production assistant and ex-Miss Virginia.

A highlight of the evening actually occurred between dinner and the movie. In remembrance of the special ceremony we had earlier at the D-Day Memorial, the flag that was reverently hoisted that morning was presented by the Smith Mountain Lake Sail and Power Squadron to D/C William Hammett.

N/FI/Lt Randy Stow



2025 D/5 Summer Cruise



2025 D/5 Summer Thursday/Friday



2025 D/5 Commander Reception



2025 D/5 Summer Council Flag Raising



2025 D/5 Summer Council Meeting



2025 D/5 Saturday Banquet



Raymond A. Finley, Jr., Sea Scout Service Award

BRAVO ZULU (congratulations) to Sea Scout Quinn Laffey for being awarded the United States Power Squadrons' (USPS®) Raymond A. Finley, Jr., Sea Scout Service Award!

Quinn earned this prestigious Sea Scout Award in December of 2024 as a registered Sea Scout and is the sixth Sea Scout in Ship 1942 to earn the award.

Quinn recently attended the USPS® Summer Rendezvous banquet on July 19, 2025. The banquet was organized by the District 5 US Power Squadrons at Smith Mountain Lake, VA (near Roanoke), where Quinn was presented the award by the USPS Chief Commander Ralph Bernard. Quinn was one of only three Sea Scouts to receive the Sea Scout Finley Award in 2024, out of 4,103 total registered Sea Scouts in BSA/Scouting America!

This prestigious award culminates Quinn's BSA Scouting career, where he had previously earned the following awards:

- Eagle Scout Award
- Quartermaster Sea Scout Award
- Venturing's Summit Award
- *William T. Hornaday* BSA Conservation Badge Award
- BSA Distinguished Conservation Award

SUMMARY OF THE USPS FINLEY SEA SCOUT SERVICE AWARD:

The USPS® Finley Sea Scout Service Award recognizes those members and honorees of the United States Power Squadrons who are also youth or adult Sea Scout leaders, and who have provided outstanding civic, educational, and fraternal leadership to both the Sea Scouts and the United States Power Squadrons through civic involvement, educational achievement, and active participation in both programs.

The service award is named for Past Chief Commander Raymond A. Finley, Jr., SN who became a Sea Scout in 1935 and earned the highest achievement recognition in Sea Scouting, the Quartermaster Award, in 1939. Upon entering the Navy during World War II, Finley's Sea Scouting background and his engineering training at Rutgers University helped him become an instructor at Midshipman School, teaching engineering, knots, and basic seamanship. During 1982-1983 he served as Chief Commander of the United States Power Squadrons.

Below are two pictures of Quinn at the US Power Squadron Awards dinner, receiving the Finley award from Commander Ralph Bernard, along with a picture of the USPS® Raymond A. Finley, Jr. Sea Scout Service Award.



UPCOMING EVENTS

2025 Events

USPS Fall Governing Board	Grand Rapids, MI	1-7 Sept
AC IN-Water Boat Show	Farley State Marina	4-7 Sept
Annapolis Boat Show	Annapolis, MD	2-5 Oct
Annapolis Sailboat Show	Annapolis, MD	9-12 Oct
D/5 Fall Conference	Lancaster, PA	7-9 Nov

2026 Events

USPS Annual Meeting	Myrtle Beach, SC	9-15 Feb
AC Boat Show	AC Convention Ctr, NJ	26 Feb-1 Mar
D/5 Spring Conference	Ocean City, MD	26-29 Mar



Beautiful view of Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia

Mark 5

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