AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
MID-ATLANTIC

MARK 5

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2025 DISTINCTIVE COMMUNICATOR AWARD NEWSLETTER

Fall Educational Conference

This year's Fall Educational Conference is being held at the Lancaster Doubletree Hotel in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on 12 – 15 November 2026. 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 and a little drive is the Herr's Snack Factory Tour. 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 is a focus 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 led by D/E/O Zeigler. The remainder of Saturday will be filled with important and interesting topics for our squadron educational programs followed by the awards banquet on Saturday evening. We will dual track the schedule to allow you to pick the topics in which you are most interested.

Sunday is about District 5 business. The schedule starts off with a town hall meeting. This is your time to ask questions and comment on the USPS® | America's Boating Club® activities. Following that session, we will have the 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.

2025- 2026 District 5 Bridge

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Commander's Message

D/C Ralph Leasure, S

It's been a hot July and if you're like me, you don't feel like doing anything outside if the temperatures are soaring near 100 degrees.

Fortunately, lately, we've had some really nice summer days so we have been able to get out and do some boating, golfing and just enjoying the outdoors.

I want to thank everyone that has been involved with our D/5 calls. We used to have two calls a month; one with just the district squadron commanders and the other for the D/5 Bridge. I think it was Lance who suggested that we combine the calls. It turned out to be a good idea as it eliminates one call per month and it solves the problem (perceived by some) of a lack of transparency. As the commanders can stay on the call for the bridge meeting they are exposed to all the District's business.

Special thanks also to John O'Reilly and Lance Blevins for setting up the meetings that have led to a new venue for our Spring Conference. You will hear more about this later, but for now I'm sure you will enjoy the venue. It has everything we need for the meetings as well as great local amenities including tax free shopping and super local restaurants.

I have contacted the folks who run the Fall Boat Shows and have asked about changing our booth to a large seminar tent. There are space issues this year due to construction, but they have agreed to get back to me soon. Hopefully, we'll have some good news on this front.

Happy Boating…WelcomeAboard!

Ralph L. Leasure, AP D/5 Commander

2026 America's Boating Club Mid-Atlantic
District 5 Fall Conference
12-15 November 2026
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

Chicken Cordon Bleu filled with prosciutto & gruyere #_____@ $40.00 $ _____

Grilled Salmon Filet over baby greens with tomatoes, red onion, olives & avocado #_____@ $40.00 $ _____

Seasonal Squash Filled with vegetable-grain blend #_____@ $40.00 $ _____

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 #_____@ $50.00 $ _____

Herb Roasted Pork Tenderloin with bacon, caramelized onions, & cider demi-glace #_____@ $60.00 $ _____

Grilled Vegetable & Pecorino Cheese Ravioli #_____@ $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 #_____@ $35.00 $ _____

Meal Reservations must be submitted by 3 October 2026 Total Enclosed _____
Hotel Reservations: By 10 October

Make checks payable to: United States Power Squadron-District 5
PLEASE SEND RESERVATIONS WITH CHECKS TO:
Kathleen Nowroozani, 6951 Sunflower Ln, Macungie PA 18062
(610) 351-5192 k.now@mac.com
Doubletree Resort by Hilton Lancaster, 2400 Willow Street Pike, Lancaster, PA, (717) 464-2711
https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/lnswvdt-962-db08b46f-dd8f-415c-8427-6d2285262d4e/

2026 Educational Cruise

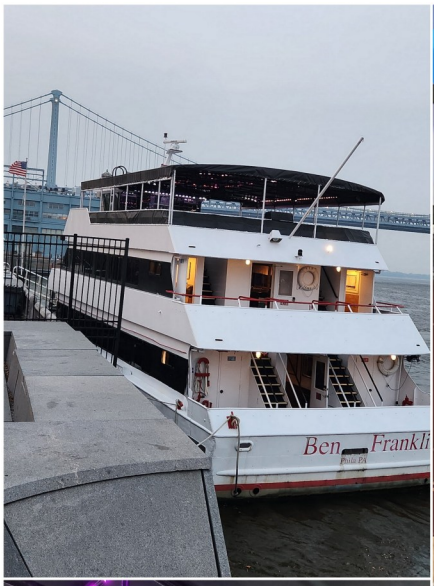
On July 15th , Delaware River Sail and Power Squadron was excited to host 84 people on the Benjamin Franklin Yacht for our annual Educational Cruise. This included 40 Sea Scouts, who represent the future of safe boating! Thanks to the support of the Henry Sweet Trust, we were able to provide this event at no cost to the participants.

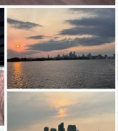
After enjoying a buffet dinner, we started the cruise north on the Delaware River past Northern Liberties and then turned South under the Ben Franklin Bridge with the city skyline on our right, past the Battleship New Jersey and down to the prior berth of the SS United States.

P/DEO Jim Heckman provided an excellent narration along with fun and interesting stories of his adventures at sea. He also put together a handout of valuable information for each participant. There was a great Q&A session as well addressing topics such as "What is the difference between driving a car along I-95 or piloting a boat on the Delaware River from the Ben Franklin Bridge to the Walt Whitman Bridge?"

We were very lucky to have Jim's expertise as well as the support and participation of P/DEO John O'Reilly. They both made sure to make everyone aware of America's Boating Channel! Hopefully some of the Sea Scouts who attended will join our organization.

2026 Educational Cruise





Spring Conference 2026

New and exciting things are in store for the 2027 Spring Conference! We will be moving to a new hotel, the Hilton in Christiana, DE near Wilmington. This hotel has the feel of the Hyatt in Cambridge, but is centrally located to District 5.

There is tax free shopping at the Christiana Mall, about 2 miles away, along with multiple food options at the mall and surrounding area. The hotel is excited to have us as a new group and they have given us lots of space to hold our meetings and events.

More details to come, but we hope to see you there 18-21 March!

Events Around the District

September 13, 2026	Wilmington	BYO Everything Picnic at ABCW member's lovely home on the Elk River.
November 14, 2026	Wilmington	November Social, Country House Performing Arts Center (PAC). Supper will be served, Presentation by members of the Elk Landing Foundation and Elk River Landing's role in the American Revolution.
October 21, 2025	Absecon Island	G.W.I.E Dinner
December 6, 2026	Wilmington	Holiday Social 3:00 pm Holiday Social at a lovely home of ABCW members in Newark, Delaware

View along the Delaware River during the Educational Cruise on 15 July

UPCOMING EVENTS

2026 Events

AC In-Water Boat Show	Atlantic City, NJ	10-13 Sep
USPS Governing Board	Cary, NC Embassy Suites	21-26 Sep
Annapolis Fall Powerboat	Annapolis, MD	8-11 Oct
Annapolis Sailboat	Annapolis, MD	15-18 Oct
D/5 Fall Conference	Lancaster, PA Lancaster Doubletree	13-15 Nov

2027

USPS Annual Meeting	Tampa, FL	8-13 Feb
USPS Governing Board	Cary, NC	13-18 Sep
D/5 Spring Conference	Christiania, DE	19-21 Mar

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