



# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB MID-ATLANTIC MARK 5



VOLUME 77 No. 2

SPRING 2026 ELECTRONIC ISSUE

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## 2026 Summer Rendezvous & Council

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
America's Boating Club  
Mid-Atlantic Summer Council

Start planning now to join us on 28 – 30 August in Rock Hall, Maryland. We'll be staying at Lankford Bay Marina. It's located at the mouth of Davis Creek off Lankford Creek and the Chester River. It's a tranquil spot located close to Rock Hall and Chestertown. Although not close enough to walk into town, a shuttle is available to take you back and forth!

Want to get your slip now? Contact the marina at 410.778.1414. Be sure to say that you are with the D/5 Summer Cruise.

We are planning a fun weekend. There will be games as well as multiple social gatherings. Need down time from all this fun? The marina has a great pool overlooking the bay!

If you are not planning to boat in, you can find accommodations in Rock Hall. It's only 10 minutes away by car. Feeling somewhat adventurous? Plan to stay in Chestertown. It's only 30 minutes away. Both towns have that Eastern Shore vibe – great restaurants and interesting small stores.

We're still finalizing the plans for the weekend. We welcome all ideas for activities! We encourage you to think about getting involved by volunteering to help. We look forward to hearing from you soon. We hope to see you in Rock Hall the last weekend in August!

Georgiana Maszczenski  
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**Commander's Message**

D/C William Hammett, JN

I pay dues but what's in it for me! There have been a few occasions I have heard this argument, or if you prefer question. A simple rule of thumb is what one gets out of any organization such as ours, is what they put into it. Although a true statement, it is broad in nature, so let's get more specific breaking it down to the theme I chose for the 2025-2026 District 5 year, "Learn, Connect, Engage."

Beginning with *Learn* let's first look at America's Boating Course. I have said many times, to include professional educators, that there is enough valuable boating information in that book that to properly teach it would take a one, three-hour college level semester course. All have agreed. We are constrained by our own limited resources to properly teach this course, but this is not the overriding reason. Will the new recreational boater be willing to commit to this?

Another *learn* consideration is our seminars. I taught a variety of ABC/USPS Seminars at the Norfolk, VA Country and Yacht Club without any compensation. I did this to give our organization exposure and improve my instructor skills. My favorite boat show is the Annapolis Sailboat Show. I have seen identical seminars offered at that boat show, to what I gave at the Norfolk Yacht Club, starting at \$300.00.

How do we connect? One of the reasons we have districts is to build bridges between their member squadrons. District events bring members together. For instance, let's look at district rendezvous where events such as navigation contests, geodetic survey marker hunts, scavenger hunts, and sailing regattas take place.

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These are fun and educational.

What is meant by *engage*? We get involved as instructors, become bridge members, volunteer at boat shows, participate in rendezvous, or perform civic service such as river cleanups. The point is get involved.

It's time for me to get personal and address what is in it for me. The 2025 Summer Council and Rendezvous, to the best of my knowledge, was one of a kind that started as an all-houseboat event at Smith Mountain Lake, VA. After the rendezvous the Summer Council was held at the only D-Day memorial in the United States in Bedford, VA. It began with our traditional flag raising ceremony. That evening we gathered for dinner that included several activities. Later I was directed to approach Chief Commander Bernard who presented me with the same American flag that was raised at the D-Day Memorial. I was so overcome with emotion I could barely say thank you. As a Vietnam War veteran who faced many years of scorn, the gift of that flag was powerful. It motivated me to do something I thought I would never do. I had a shadow box made that includes my military medals and that same flag.

What I get back for my dues is priceless. Being your District 5 Commander has been both an honor and privilege. I thank all of you for your participation and support.

Bill



# 2026-27 D/5 Nominations

## Bridge Position

Commander	Ralph Leasure, AP
Executive Officer	Denise L. Robinson-Hart, S
Administrative Officer	Robert Lance Blevins, P
Assistant Admin Officer	John H. Bailey, AP
Educational Officer	James P. Zeigler, SN-CN
Asst. Educational Officer	Michael J. Maszczenski, N
Secretary	Alan R. Hart, AP
Assistant Secretary	Apryl J. Bernard, P
Treasurer	Leanne R. Nitschke, AP
Assistant Treasurer	Gene A. Danko, SN

## Rules Committee

Walter K. Neese, SN  
William J. Hammett, JN  
Ralph A. Bernard, AP

## Nominating Committee

Robert S. Blevins, AP  
Joseph P. Gibson, AP  
William J. Hammett, JN

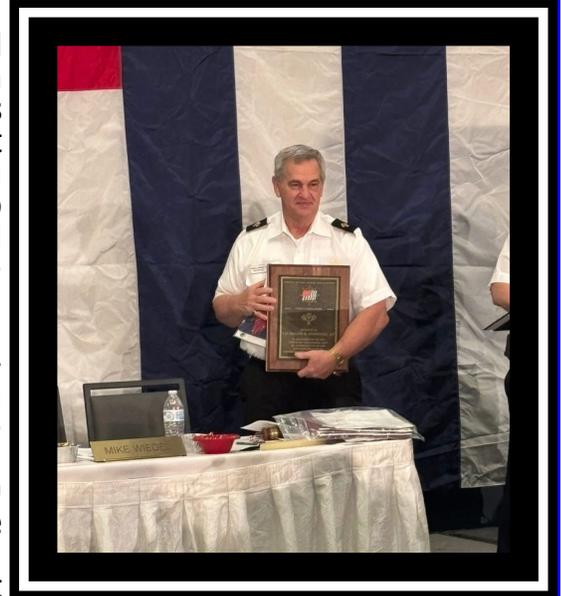
## Auditing Committee

Louis M. Kates, AP  
Nick Montalto, SN  
Beth Anne Thompson, JN

# 2026 USPS ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of America's Boating Club/United States Power Squadrons was held at the Embassy Suites in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on 14 February 2026. This was a change from the usual location of Florida, although it was a little chilly, the venue was fantastic. Every evening there was a cocktail party with snacks where members who stayed at the hotel received two free alcoholic drinks and the interaction was great. The view of the rooms was fantastic and each room was a suite.

There were some By-Laws changes, with the most significant being the number of delegates assigned to each squadron. It is now one delegate per fifty members instead of one per hundred. The Finance Committee made a motion to increase dues for the next three years \$2.00 each year and there was an amended motion to increase the dues to \$10.00 for individuals and \$20.00 for families. It was stated the \$2.00 a year for three years was not keeping up with current inflation and would not help with the current financial situation. After much discussion from the members present and also members on line, the amended motion passed.



This was also the meeting where the Governing Board elected new officers for the Board of Directors. A slate was presented by the Nominating Committee to the members and a motion was put forward to accept the slate as presented with the exception of the Executive Officer. The motion passed. Michael Wiedel, District 10, was elected as the new Chief Commander. District 5 members, Ralph Bernard and Chuck Wells, who were previously on the Bridge served their term and are no longer on the Bridge.

The meeting was well attended and a great time was had by all. Please make plans to attend the next meeting which will be held in Cary, North Carolina on 22-26 September 2026. It is a fantastic time to meet with other squadron members from all over the country to share successes and even failures.

P/C/C Ralph Bernard, AP

# 2026 USPS ANNUAL MEETING



## JOIN US FOR AN EDUCATIONAL CRUISE ON THE DELAWARE RIVER



Enjoy a Free Narrated Cruise and  
Buffet Dinner Aboard the Benjamin Franklin Yacht

Wednesday, July 15, 2026  
Boarding: 1800 (6:00 PM)  
Departure: 1830 (6:30 PM)  
Rain or Shine

Traditional and electronic methods of navigation will be presented.

During this trip you will enjoy a delightful dinner on the lower dining deck of the Ben Franklin. The informative and exciting narration will focus on aids to navigation, piloting, and chart work using a hand-held compass, GPS, and plotting our position on Delaware River Chart 12312. On the return trip you will see lighted aids, ranges and navigation lights on the big ships.

### **Bring your neighbors and friends**

DRSPS has made the decision to totally subsidize this important event so that everyone can attend. Please RSVP to P/D/C Stephanie Ward, 1202 Wilmont Ave, Somers Point, NJ, 08244 (484-684-4837) or [wardleap@comcast.net](mailto:wardleap@comcast.net) so we have a count and know you are attending. List the name of each guest and e-mail address.

Directions: The Ben Franklin departs from 101 S. Columbus Blvd. which is just south of the Ben Franklin Bridge. South on I-95: take exit 20 for S. Columbus Blvd and follow to Walnut Street. The yacht is docked slightly North of the Independence Seaport Museum.

**.Sponsored by Americas Boating Club --Delaware Valley**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 2026 Events

D/5 Spring Conference	Ocean City, MD	26-29 Mar
Bay Bridge Boat Show	Kent Narrows, MD	17-19 Apr
Annapolis Spring Sailboat	Annapolis, MD	24-26 Apr
USPS Governing Board	Cary, NC	21-26 Sep
Annapolis Fall Powerboat	Annapolis, MD	8-11 Oct
Annapolis Sailboat	Annapolis, MD	15-18 Oct
D/5 Fall Conference	Lancaster, PA	13-15 Nov

## 2027

USPS Annual Meeting	Tampa, FL	8-13 Feb
USPS Governing Board	Cary, NC	13-18 Sep



## Mark 5

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