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2026 Spring Conference

What can you expect to happen at the 2026-2027 Spring Conference and Change-of-Watch, and why is it normally held in Ocean City, Maryland? Beginning with Ocean City, it's all about geographic location and proximity for the member squadrons. In addition the scenery of the Atlantic Ocean is one to behold, especially the sunrises.

Expect training opportunities, hospitality rooms including complimentary beverages and snacks, fun events such as some squadrons hosting programs they put together, ship's store, raffle table and a 50/50. Not unlike any other district or national event, there is an opportunity to meet other members from other squadrons. The business portion includes individual, district bridge in addition to committee chair reports, award presentations, nominations for the 2026-2027 bridge, elected committee chairs, and voting for the same.

During the Saturday evening banquet, the new bridge is sworn in. The outgoing and incoming district commanders are provided the opportunity to make remarks and any presentations. The event concludes on Sunday morning with the new D/5 Commander's reception giving all attendees the opportunity to meet the new district bridge and wishing everyone a safe trip home.

The squadron commander's participation at this event is important. It provides attending commanders more insight of how our organization functions and add to any commander's ability to

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2025- 2026 District 5 Bridge

Commander

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3312 Shakespeare Court
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Fredericksburg, VA 22407

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46135 River Hill Road
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Commander's Message

D/C William Hammett, JN

As we celebrate the holiday season it is time to look ahead to 2026. The squadrons and the district will soon be having their Changes-of-Watch, one as early as the first weekend in December. National's Annual Meeting takes place in Myrtle Beach, SC 9-14 February 2026 which will mark the completion of D/5's own Ralph Bernard's tenure as Chief Commander. Please make a concerted effort to support him by attending this meeting.

My year as your District 5 Commander has been a good one. Looking ahead, I have the 2026 Spring Conference to arrange that ends my year and to pass the gavel to the 2026-2027 Commander. We currently have many dedicated and knowledgeable members on the district bridge and committees working as a team that make the district events happen and stay abreast of the initiatives taking place at our national level. Squadron commanders and their bridges are part of this process.

Looking further ahead, we all know the many challenges we face. In my previous profession, the term *externalities* was often used. So exactly what does this mean? Examples include, but are not limited to outside economic issues, market trends, geographic or other outside issues affecting any organization or profession. At the squadron level, how closely have we looked at the type of boating taking place within your area. For example, is it day boaters that want to spend a relaxing day on the water, those who boat for the sole purpose of fishing, water sports or are there more sail than power boats. We now have an inland boating course. Does the geographic area within your squadron offer inland boating opportunities. How many are paddle boaters such as kayakers? Our ABC3 course addresses hazards affecting paddle boaters or other inland boaters such as low head dams. Do your certified examiners perform VSEs on kayaks. (I have seen VSE stickers on kayaks.) What is being done within your squadrons to get the word out. How can we as members be more visible and proactive with the boating community in our geographic area.

District 5 commanders normally hold a monthly meeting with their member squadron commanders. That is an excellent opportunity for sharing ideas on ways to promote participation and membership. If a commander cannot be present, have another member represent you. Please participate and be encouraged to share your ideas. Districts are not governing bodies. They are support organizations which assist and advise the member squadrons as needed. They also build bridges to bring the squadron members together by planning events such as district rendezvous or educational conferences. Please attend both district and national events to the extent possible. Squadron commanders and their bridges are encouraged to take advantage of what your district offers.

I wish all of you, along with my wife Ann, a safe and happy holiday season.



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better manage their squadrons.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there. Look for the reservation form for meals and information for hotel reservations on page 4 of the Mark 5.

Fall Conference Wrap-up

Thank you to everyone for attending the 2025 Fall Educational conference in Lancaster, PA. From the feedback that I have heard, everyone seemed to have a good stay, and there was plenty of food and it was delicious. I also wish to thank the hotel staff for being very flexible with our various requests. More thanks go out to Apryl Bernard for coordinating the meals and reservation forms. It is a very important task and doesn't get the recognition it deserves.

One of the highlights of the conference is the presentation from Portuguese representative. This wouldn't have been possible without the efforts of Karl Hellinger and his understudy Gene Danko, who coordinated the attendance with the embassy and arranged the representative's visit.

A great thanks goes to Georgiana Maszczenski for coordinating the raffle and 50/50, which is months of emails and calls to gather a great assortment of items for people to bid on. She was assisted by Carol Rechner, Nance Bernard and even Mike Maszczenski. Due to their efforts, it seems that the conference will make a small profit!

Lastly, thank you to Jim Zeigler and Mike Maszczenski for coordinating the schedule and having engaging topics for us to discuss. If you have any complements or constructive feedback please contact me; any negative comments send to D/C Hammett (just kidding).

Happy Holidays!

John O'Reilly
Chair, D/5 M&R committee





RESERVATION FORM
America's Boating Club – Mid-Atlantic
United States Power Squadrons® D/5 Spring Conference
26 – 29 March 2026
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:

Roast Beef and Gravy: Served with house salad, mashed potatoes, carrots, regular and decaf coffee and tea, cheese cake # ____ @ \$46.00 = \$ ____

SATURDAY BANQUET ENTREE CHOICES:

Shrimp Alfredo: # ____ @ \$68.00 = \$ ____

Flounder Imperial: # ____ @ \$68.00 = \$ ____

Baked Chicken: # ____ @ \$68.00 = \$ ____

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

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: Virginia Beach Sail & Power Squadron or (VBSPS)

SEND TO: D/1st/Lt Leanne Nitschke 211
Oxford Street
Norfolk, VA 23505
Tel: 361-774-0905
dragon-lady324@hotmail.com

**MEAL RESERVATIONS must
be received by 1 March 2026**

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 2026

<https://www.ihg.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=OCFMD&checkInDate=26&checkInMonthYear=022026&checkOutDate=29&checkOutMonthYear=022026&PMID=99801505&GPC=USP&cn=no&adjustMonth=false&showApp=true&monthIndex=00>

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

- Non-Smoking Venue - Handicapped Rooms available upon request
- Parking \$10.00 per day
- Check-in 1600 hours, checkout 1100 hours.

Rates: Thursday 26 March: \$79.00 Friday 28 March: \$144.00. Saturday 29 March: \$144.00.

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



Raffle & 50/50 Report

Recently, the district membership had the opportunity to gather in Lancaster, PA for our annual Fall Educational Conference. This conference is always a great place to refresh old skills and knowledge as well as the opportunity to learn new ideas and information. It is also just a great time to renew old friendships and make new acquaintances. One activity that is always fun is our raffle. Members love taking the chance to pick up a few new things while supporting our district activities.

The raffle is only successful through the help of generous members. We thank the following who helped make this one great!

Squadrons

Annapolis Sail & Power Squadron
Dundalk Sail & Power Squadron
Northern Neck Sail & Power Squadron
Ocean City Power Squadron
Patapsco River Power Squadron
Patuxent River Sail & Power Squadron
Smith Mountain Lake Sail & Power Squadron

Individuals

Past District Commanders
Apyrl Bernard – Absecon Island
Nance Bernard & Judy Stow - Absecon Island & Smith Mountain Lake
Joe & Rosa Gibson - Patapsco
Penn & Linda Hess - Absecon Island

Linda Sweeting & Tom Campbell – Annapolis
Lauretta Martin – friend of Annapolis
Rich & Toni Hughes – Annapolis
Kathleen Nowroozani- Delhigh

Notes from the Fall District 5 Educational Meeting

EDUCATIONAL AWARDS - See the award winners on pages 7-8 of this issue.

START PLANNING FOR YOUR CHAPMAN AND POLARIS AWARD SUBMISSIONS - We have many fine instructors. Their skill and dedication should be recognized. It is not too early to start planning your nominations for the Chapman Award for individual excellence in teaching and the Polaris Award for excellence in team teaching. The nomination forms can be found on the National Educational Department site index at <https://www.usps.org/departments/13000/eddept-site-index-new>. Key to successful nominations are testimonials from students and peers on the impact of the training on the students' learning and success. Start gathering these as the educational year progresses.

NAVIGATION COURSE SUNSET - N Exams will not be graded after 2026. There is still a chance for the members in your squadron with the JN grade to complete the N course. Buzzard Bay and Cape Cod squadrons are conducting virtual N courses starting on 23 February 2026. Members must obtain the course materials through their local squadron and we will provide assistance with sight folders. The contact for Buzzards Bay is Richard G. Moore. 508-888-8238, chmbrck@live.com and at Cape Code it is Dave Atwood, 508-737-5374 yankeepeddlar@hotmail.com. The JN holders in District 5 will be contacted directly.

ONLINE COURSE EXAMS - The new USPS Exam system now allows students to take exams in person or for most courses on-line or on paper. The advantage of on-line exams is no mailing expense, no additional costs

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for shipping and the exam results are provided to the student immediately after they submit their answers. Paper Exams are still available and use the same ordering system. On-line exams are not available for Instructor Development, Advanced Piloting, Junior Navigation and Navigation. You can access the new ordering system from the Educational Department Site Index under the CURRICULUM heading. There is also a training video available on the Educational Site Index at this link: <https://uspowersquadrons.sharefile.com/share/getinfo/s0a84d2a6d9e84885a36458564d5ca51f>

HOW TO ACCESS AND DOWNLOAD VIDEOS FROM AMERICA'S BOATING CHANNEL – The video library developed by America's Boating Channel provides a wealth of useful teaching materials for our classes.

INSTRUCTOR RECERTIFICATION - Mike Maszczenski recertified 8 instructors at the recent District 5 Fall Educational Conference in Lancaster. There were Samuel Lyons (Valley Forge), Denise Robinson Hart (Northern Virginia), Julie Rigby (Cambridge), Daniel Patke, (Patuxent River), Rich Faga (Smith Mountain Lake), Nancy Cheris (York), Lou Kates (Patapsco River) and Michael Maszczenski (Annapolis). It is likely this seminar will be offered at the Spring Conference in Ocean City the last weekend in March.

NEW SNS - With the revised qualifications for SN, 22 additional District 5 members were awarded that grade recently.

James R. Goldsberry	Annapolis	Joe Pezely	Main Line
Anthony D. Martin	Annapolis	Fred W. Bowen	Nansemond River
Michael J. Maszczenski Jr.	Annapolis	Gerald L. Cramblett	Patapsco River
Jeff McKinney	Annapolis	Cheryl S. Budd	Patuxent River
Jeffrey E. Short	Annapolis	Peter A. Hughes	Patuxent River
Carole Tulip	Annapolis	Bob Prior	Patuxent River
John W. O'Reilly	Cambridge	Albert E. Simkins	Patuxent River
Tim J. Bultman	Delaware River	David L. Benfer	Wilmington
Jeff Stevens	Delaware River	Richard Alan Butler	Wilmington
Alexi Zuk	Dundalk	David I. Netting	Wilmington
Wayne R. Barrett	Main Line	Sandy Barends	York

SLIDES FROM FALL CONFERENCE – The power point slides from the Fall Conference on Educational Department Update, Revised ABC Course and an updated on On-The-Water training have been sent to all SEOs and Squadron Commanders.

D/Lt/C James P. Zeigler, SN-CN, District Educational Officer
D/1st/Lt Michael Maszczenski, SN – Assistant District Educational Officer

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you that Howard Gasaway, Sr. passed away. There are so many things we could say about him, but the sum total is this: he truly enjoyed life. He brought joy, wisdom, laughter, and leadership into every space he entered, and he loved his family just as deeply as he loved each and every one of us. We pray for comfort and strength for his family during this difficult time. While he will be profoundly missed, the lessons he taught us and the love he shared will live on through eternity.

Boating has lost a pioneer, and heaven has gained a leader. Let us stay strong—just as he would want us to.

Cdr Carl Allen, Potomac River



2025 D/5 Fall Conference Awards

The **Ken Smith Seamanship Award** is presented to that Squadron in District 5 with the highest percentage of eligible members completing the Seamanship course during the year. Pat Smith created the Award in memory of her husband, P/R/C Kenneth G. Smith, SN and in support of the District 5 Educational Program.

Ken Smith was a devoted member and former Educational Officer of District 5. It reflects his love for the Seamanship Course, offered to our members as a starting point for their advanced grades education and experiences; it recognizes Ken's contributions to that program as a Rear Commander of the USPS® National Committee charged with developing and maintaining the appropriate level of accuracy, currency, and user friendliness of the Seamanship course.



First place for 2024-2025 was awarded to Smith Mountain Lake Sail & Power Squadron, Runner-ups were Patuxent River Sail & Power Squadron and Virginia Beach Sail & Power Squadron.

The **Henry E. Sweet Excellence in Education** award is presented to that Squadron which has shown the greatest percentage increase in completion of the Advanced Grades and Elective Courses over the previous year.

Henry E. Sweet, a former District 5 Educational Officer, desired to promote educational excellence in District 5. He created a number of the awards we are recognizing this evening. The award recognizes his overall contributions and dedication to education in District 5.

First place for 2024-2025 was awarded to Northern Neck Sail Power Squadron. Runner-ups were Patuxent River Sail & Power Squadron and Smith Mountain Lake Sail & Power Squadron



&



The **District 5 Commander's Award for Advanced Grades** recognizes those squadrons that have been successful in teaching Advanced Grade courses: Boat Handling, Marine Navigation, Advanced Piloting, Junior Navigation, and Navigation. The award is presented to that Squadron which has shown the greatest percentage increase in completions of the Advanced Grades over the previous year.

First place for 2024-2025 was awarded to Dundalk Sail & Power Squadron. Runners-up were Virginia Beach Sail & Power Squadron and Patuxent River Sail & Power Squadron.

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The **District 5 Commander's Award for Elective Grades** is presented to that Squadron showing the greatest percentage increase in completion of the Elective Courses taught during the previous year. Those courses include Weather, Sail, Engine Maintenance, Marine Electronics, Cruising and Cruise Planning, and Instructor Development.

First place for 2024-2025 was awarded to Delhigh Power Squadron. Runner-ups were Richmond Sail & Power Squadron and Wilmington Power Squadron.



The **Workboat** award recognizes squadrons that have done the most work in teaching members in both elective and advanced courses. It is based on the total number of members that have completed these courses.

First place for 2024-2025 was awarded to Smith Mountain Lake Sail & Power Squadron. Runner-ups were Northern Neck Sail & Power Squadron and Patuxent River Sail & Power Squadron.

The **Prince Henry Award** is presented to a District 5 Squadron which has done the best work in teaching JN and N in Celestial Navigation. Prince Henry was the pioneer in the systematic study of navigation and development of ocean navigation and understanding the trade winds. The work of his team was the foundation for the epic voyages of Columbus, Magellan, Drake and the explosion in global exploration. Ocean Navigation and Celestial Navigation, which have evolved from our JN and N courses, are our highest level of skill and accomplishment.

In 1960, the Portuguese government commemorated the 500th Anniversary of the death of Prince Henry the Navigator. Sixteen USPS Districts including District 5 joined in by arranging appropriate ceremonies at their Fall Educational Conference that year. District 5 did not stop there. The District 5 Council voted to establish

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the Prince Henry Award. A portrait of Prince Henry was annually presented to a District 5 Squadron which has done the best work in teaching JN and N in Celestial Navigation. This was presented by a representative from the Portuguese Embassy. The Portuguese, impressed with this action by District 5, presented a gold medal to the District 5 and an album of historic maps and charts from the 15th and 16th Centuries. In 1963, a ceramic bust of Prince Henry the Navigator was made available at the Fall Conference by Portuguese Ambassador Jose Cabral for the Prince Henry Award in JN and N.

For 2024-2025, Smith Mountain Lake Sail & Power Squadron achieved the Prince Henry Award.



The **Caravel Award** recognizes the squadron with the largest percentage increase in completion of the Seamanship, Marine Navigation, and Advanced Piloting courses during this past education year. The trophy was given to District 5 by the Portuguese naval attaché as further recognition of District 5 contribution to nautical training. It consists of a perpetual award of a model Portuguese caravel. These were small Portuguese sailing ships known for agility, speed and ability to sailing upwind. Caravels were used for the voyages of exploration during the 15th and 16th centuries.

First place for 2024-2025 was awarded to Patuxent River Sail & Power Squadron. Runner-ups were Northern Neck Sail & Power Squadron and Smith Mountain Lake Sail & Power Squadron.

The **Polaris Award for Excellence in Team Teaching** was introduced in 2024 to recognize outstanding instructional teams. These teams follow the tradition of teamwork in the development of nautical skills exhibited by the teams that Prince Henry gathered to develop the science of navigation.

For 2024-2025 the teams from both Northern Neck Sail & Power Squadron and Smith Mountain Lake Sail & Power Squadron were recognized for the Polaris Award in District 5. The entry from Northern Neck Sail & Power Squadron has been forwarded to the USPS Educational Department for judging across all USPS districts. That award will be announced at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

2025 D/5 Commander Reception



2025 D/5 Fall Conference Saturday



2025 Fall Conference Saturday Cocktails



2025 Fall Conference Saturday Banquet



2025 Fall Conference Saturday Awards





AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®
2026 USPS ANNUAL
 Embassy Suites by Hilton Myrtle Beach
 Oceanfront Resort
 8 - 16 February 2025
 Agenda Last Edited November 20 2025



Legend:

*Business - Closed to public

* Open - Everyone is welcome

* Pre-Registration/Invitation - Needs advance reservation/invitation to attend

Registration is open through the Membership Portal.

Please note the schedule is subject to change.

FEBRUARY 9, MONDAY

Meeting Type	Time	Location	Name/Description
Open	7 a.m. to 10 a.m.	Coastal Grill	Wake Up to the Smell of Breakfast! The Coastal Grill & Bar will start your day with a complimentary* Full American Breakfast Buffet. Not a breakfast person? You may just turn into one! Stop in at the Coastal, if not for breakfast, for the ocean view! *Only for those staying at the Embassy Suites hotel.
Open	5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Coastal Grill	Evening Reception at the Coastal Grill & Bar. The Coastal Grill & Bar is a gathering place for not only the stunning view of the water, but a complimentary* glass of wine/nibbles awaits you. This is also an opportunity to socialize with your ABCJUSPS friends or find boaters amongst the other guests of the resort before dinner. *Only for those staying at the Embassy Suites hotel.

FEBRUARY 10, TUESDAY Attire: Squadron Shirts or appropriate attire

Meeting Type	Time	Location	Name/Description
Open	7 a.m. to 10 a.m.	Coastal Grill	Wake Up to the Smell of Breakfast! The Coastal Grill & Bar will start your day with a complimentary* Full American Breakfast Buffet. Not a breakfast person? You may just turn into one! Stop in at the Coastal, if not for breakfast, for the ocean view! *Only for those staying at the Embassy Suites hotel.
Open	5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Coastal Grill	Evening Reception at the Coastal Grill & Bar. The Coastal Grill & Bar is a gathering place for not only the stunning view of the water, but a complimentary* glass of wine/nibbles awaits you. This is also an opportunity to socialize with your ABCJUSPS friends or find boaters amongst the other guests of the resort before dinner. *Only for those staying at the Embassy Suites hotel.

FEBRUARY 11, WEDNESDAY Attire: Squadron shirts | Friends Dinner - Blazer or other appropriate attire

Meeting Type	Time	Location	Name/Description
Open	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Harrow Foyer	Activities Registration Opens
Open	2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Harrow Foyer	HQ and Voter Information
Open	11 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Cambridge Hall	Table Exhibits
Open	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Pembroke	Ship's Store Open for Sales
Open	7 a.m. to 10 a.m.	Coastal Grill	Wake Up to the Smell of Breakfast! The Coastal Grill & Bar will start your day with a complimentary* Full American Breakfast Buffet. Not a breakfast person? You may just turn into one! Stop in at the Coastal, if not for breakfast, for the ocean view! *Only for those staying at the Embassy Suites hotel.
Open	7:30 a.m. to 7:50 a.m.		Morning Beach Walk With Apryl. Join Apryl Bernard this morning for a brisk but short group morning walk on the beach right outside our hotel. Whether you wear your favorite walking shoes or you go barefoot to feel that fine South Carolina sand between your toes, this will be a great way to begin your day!
Open	9 a.m. to noon	Eton	SECRETARY DEPT. Information Technology Meeting
Open	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Hampton	ADMIN DEPT. National Social Activities Committee Meeting
By Invitation	4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	TBD	1st Timers Reception

Open	5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Coastal Grill	Evening Reception at the Coastal Grill & Bar. The Coastal Grill & Bar is a gathering place for not only the stunning view of the water, but a complimentary* glass of wine/nibbles awaits you. This is also an opportunity to socialize with your ABCUSPS friends or find boaters amongst the other guests of the resort before dinner. *Only for those staying at the Embassy Suites hotel.
Open	6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Seaside Vista	Pre-dinner Reception. The bar will be open, so come join your friends, old and new, for a bit of pre-dinner socializing.
Pre-Registration Required	7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	Seaside Vista	Welcome Back! What better way is there to begin our conference week and reconnect with friends than with the Welcome Back dinner? This will be a great evening to relax and enjoy each other's company while being challenged and entertained with group activities. Oh, and don't forget the excellent meal - Firefly Grill Out - being served.
FEBRUARY 12, THURSDAY Attire: Squadron shirts Awards Dinner - Blazer or other appropriate attire			
Meeting Type	Time	Location	Name/Description
Open	9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Harrow Foyer	HQ and Voter Information
Open	7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Harrow Foyer	Activities Registration Opens
Open	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Cambridge Hall	Table Exhibits
Open	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Pembroke	Ship's Store Open for Sales
Open	7 a.m. to 10 a.m.	Coastal Grill	Wake Up to the Smell of Breakfast! The Coastal Grill & Bar will start your day with a complimentary* Full American Breakfast Buffet. Not a breakfast person? You may just turn into one! Stop in at the Coastal, if not for breakfast, for the ocean view! *Only for those staying at the Embassy Suites hotel.
Pre-Registration Required. Contact Ann Peltier at Peltier.abc@gmail.com to reserve a seat.	8 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.	Winchester	ED DEPT. Instructor Recertification Seminar. Educational Department Certified Instructors can renew their Instructor Certification during our updated in-person Recertification Seminar. Join other instructors as we explore effective teaching strategies, ways to involve your students through questions and activities, and how to encourage fellow squadron members to join the educational team. We will share and exchange teaching experiences while learning about the teaching styles that researchers have proven to be effective for today's boaters. Enjoy a stimulating learning experience while renewing your Certification.
Open	8:30 a.m. to 9:20 a.m.	Kensington C	ED DEPT. Online Education Committee
Open	8:30 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.	Oxford	ED DEPT. Basic Public Education Committee
Open	9:30 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.	Kensington C	ED DEPT. Publishing Committee
Business	9 a.m. to Noon	Kensington F	Budget Committee Meeting
Business	9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Kensington E	Planning Committee Meeting
Business	9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Suite	Law Committee Meeting
Open	10:15 a.m. to Noon	Kingston B	EXEC DEPT. Public Affairs/Marketing Meeting. Building a Local Public Relations Campaign. Description requested
Open	10:30 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.	Winchester	ED DEPT. Navigation; Paddling Seminar. Preview a chapter from the new Inland Boating Course titled "Human-powered Boating." Topics include types of paddlecraft, appropriate waterways, weather conditions, recommended attire, training, and transport.
Open	10:30 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.	Oxford	ED DEPT. On-Water Training & Certification Committee
Open	10:30 a.m. to Noon	Kensington D	Member Portal Workshop for Districts. In this session, we'll show you how your district bridge members and other district administrators can take full advantage of the Member Portal. We'll cover updating your OD in iMIS as well as creating events, emailing members, and working with reports. We'll leave plenty of time at the end for questions and feature requests.
Open	11 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.	Kensington C	ED DEPT. Instructor Development Committee
Pre-Registration Required	Noon to 1:30 p.m.	Kensington G	Keynote Speaker Luncheon. America's Boating Club, the Go-To Boating Resource! Marjorie Young, author of Reputation Matrix™, shares how PR – "the mega word of mouth" – can amplify your squadron or district's message far beyond the reach of traditional advertising. With the right PR strategy, your good news can ripple through your community and attract new members, partners, and visibility. Digital Marketing.
Business	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Kensington F	Finance Committee Meeting

Pre-Registration Required	2:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Kensington G	"Reputations Matrix" Workshop with Keynote Speaker Marjorie Young. During this interactive session, participants will: Learn 5 proven PR strategies for boosting visibility, credibility, and positive word of mouth. 1. Develop a tailored PR plan for their club. 2. Learn how to form a visibility team to sustain momentum. 3. Write a press release using AI. 4. Create a local media list. 5. Tips on media relations. By the end of the workshop, each participant will have the basics of being their club's publicist, equipped with a clear, actionable strategy — and the confidence to use it. Please bring your fully charged laptop.
Business	1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Kingston A	Endowment Committee Meeting
Business	1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Kensington E	Rules Committee Meeting
Open	2 p.m. to 2:50 p.m.	Oxford	ED DEPT. Boat Handling Committee
Open	2 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Kensington D	SECRETARY DEPT. Information Technology Committee Meeting.
Open	2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	War Room	National Meetings Committee Meeting
Open	2 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.	Winchester	ED DEPT. Boat Systems: Direct Current Wiring and Circuits Seminar. This seminar will provide practical knowledge and skills for maintaining and upgrading a marine 12-volt DC electrical system. Topics include: · Wire type and size · Fuses and breakers · Making good terminations and connections · Troubleshooting
Open	4 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Kensington D	SECRETARY DEPT. Heritage and Documents Committee Meeting.
Business	3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Kensington A	Educational Fund Meeting
Open	3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Oxford	ED DEPT. Navigation Committee
Open	5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Coastal Grill	Evening Reception at the Coastal Grill & Bar. The Coastal Grill & Bar is a gathering place for not only the stunning view of the water, but a complimentary* glass of wine/nibbles awaits you. This is also an opportunity to socialize with your ABC/USPS friends or find boaters amongst the other guests of the resort before dinner. *Only for those staying at the Embassy Suites hotel.
Open	6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Kensington G Foyer	Pre-dinner Reception. The bar will be open, so come join your friends, old and new, for a bit of pre-dinner socializing.
Pre-Registration Required	7 p.m. to 10 p.m.	Kensington G	Life Member and Awards Dinner. Join us to celebrate the accomplishments of all being honored this evening. We celebrate members who have earned 25 Merit Marks and acknowledge winners of the various department awards.

FEBRUARY 13, FRIDAY Attire: Patriotic (Olympics) or other appropriate attire

Meeting Type	Time	Location	Name/Description
Open	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Harrow Foyer	HQ and Voter Information
Open	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Harrow Foyer	Activities Registration Opens
Open	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Cambridge Hall	Table Exhibits
Open	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Pembroke	Ship's Store Open for Sales
Open	7 a.m. to 10 a.m.	Coastal Grill	Wake Up to the Smell of Breakfast! The Coastal Grill & Bar will start your day with a complimentary* Full American Breakfast Buffet. Not a breakfast person? You may just turn into one! Stop in at the Coastal, if not for breakfast, for the ocean view! *Only for those staying at the Embassy Suites hotel.
Open	7:30 a.m. to 7:50 a.m.		Morning Beach Walk With Apryl. Join Apryl Bernard this morning for a brisk but short group morning walk on the beach right outside our hotel. Whether you wear your favorite walking shoes or you go barefoot to feel that fine South Carolina sand between your toes, this will be a great way to begin your day!
Open	8:30 a.m. to 11:50 p.m.	Kensington F	Educational Department

United States Power Squadrons®

Open	8:15 a.m. to 10 a.m.	Eton	EXEC DEPT. Safety Committee.
Open	8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Somerset	ADMIN DEPT. IS YOUR SQUADRON ON LIFE SUPPORT? Join the Squadron Support and Development team along with other members to share strategies to help your squadron have a stronger "heart beat". This round table session will include squadrons sharing actions that have been helpful along with a review of resources available through our national organization. All are welcome to attend.
Open	9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Kensington E	SECRETARY DEPT. Information Technology Committee Meeting. New Features in the USPS Member Website.
Business	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Kensington D	DC/DXO Meeting.
Open	10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.	Somerset	ADMIN DEPT. Seminar: Description requested
Open	10:15 a.m. to Noon	Eton	EXEC DEPT. Co-op Charting USPS/ABC Updates. Interested in learning more about what's coming up in the world of Co-Operative Charting? This is the best place to be to learn about new aspects of this activity!
Open	10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.	Kensington E	SECRETARY DEPT. Communications Committee Meeting.
Open	1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Somerset	Member Portal Workshop for Squadrons. This session will demonstrate how your squadron bridge and other chapter administrators can take full advantage of the Member Portal. We'll cover updating your OD in IMIS as well as adding new members, emailing members, creating events and working with reports. We'll leave plenty of time at the end for your questions.
Pre-Registration Required	Noon to 1:30 p.m.	Kensington A	DC/DXO Luncheon. Great opportunity to gather together to enjoy a delicious meal with the district commanders from other districts.
Pre-Registration Required	Noon to 1:15 p.m.	Kensington B	Educational Department Luncheon.
Pre-Registration Required	Noon to 1:15 p.m.	Kensington C	Everyone Lunch.
Open	1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Oxford	ADMIN DEPT. Sea Scouts
Open	1:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.	Kensington F	Educational Department - Breakout Session
Open	1:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.	Eton	Educational Department - Breakout Session
Business	1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Kensington E	Planning Committee
Open	2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Oxford	Governing Board Delegate Meeting
Open	4:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Kensington F	Educational Department - Administration and Close
Open	5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Coastal Grill	Evening Reception at the Coastal Grill & Bar. The Coastal Grill & Bar is a gathering place for not only the stunning view of the water, but a complimentary* glass of wine/nibbles awaits you. This is also an opportunity to socialize with your ABC/USPS friends or find boaters amongst the other guests of the resort before dinner. *Only for those staying at the Embassy Suites hotel.
Open	5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Coastal Grill	District Meet and Greet is different. Meet at the Coastal Grill & Bar for a joint meet and greet. No charge and no prep required.

FEBRUARY 14, SATURDAY Day Attire: Uniform G; Evening : Uniform A with Bow Tie, or Business Attire. Ladies Formal Evening Wear			
Meeting Type	Time	Location	Name/Description
Open	7 a.m. to 10 a.m.	Coastal Grill	Wake Up to the Smell of Breakfast! The Coastal Grill & Bar will start your day with a complimentary* Full American Breakfast Buffet. Not a breakfast person? You may just turn into one! Stop in at the Coastal, if not for breakfast, for the ocean view! *Only for those staying at the Embassy Suites hotel.
Open	9 a.m. to noon	Pembroke	Ship's Store Open for Sales
Open	8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Kensington ABCG	Activities Registration
Open	9 a.m. to noon	Kensington ABCG	Annual Meeting
Open	11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.	Seaside Vista	Whether your lunch plans are with the Social Activities or Members luncheons or you are off on your own, join us at this reception for a beverage with friends.
Pre-Registration Required	12:15 p.m. to 2 p.m. Bar.	Winchester	Social Activities Luncheon. The Reefs Beneath Your Keel. Saturday's Social Luncheon will feature a colorful and lively program of underwater photography presented by P/C Lee H. Ayers, SN-CN of America's Boating Club of Lake Murray who will share the wonders he has found beneath the sea. You will find Lee on the water every chance he gets. From captaining sunset dinner cruises on a 100-passenger tour boat to enjoying his lake cruiser to fishing from his center console, Lee has yet to find something he doesn't like about the water. And he doesn't limit that enjoyment to the top of the water – he's an enthusiastic diver and dive instructor.
Pre-Registration Required	12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Seaside Vista	Members Luncheon. Come and enjoy a deliciously prepared lunch. Take advantage of sitting with friends 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!
Open	1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Kensington ABCG	Annual Meeting Re-convenes
Open	5 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Oxford	Ecumenical Service
Open	5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Coastal Grill	Evening Reception at the Coastal Grill & Bar. The Coastal Grill & Bar is a gathering place for not only the stunning view of the water, but a complimentary* glass of wine/nibbles awaits you. This is also an opportunity to socialize with your ABC/USPS friends or find boaters amongst the other guests of the resort before dinner. *Only for those staying at the Embassy Suites hotel.
Open	6:30 to 7 pm	Seaside Vista	Pre-dinner Reception. The bar will be open, so come join your friends, old and new, for a bit of pre-dinner socializing.
Pre-Registration Required	7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Seaside Vista	Change of Watch Celebration for a New Bridge!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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
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

2027

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



Mark 5

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