

THE LUBBER'S LINE

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A presentation on USS Monitor by Dr. John Broadwater





Social & Events scheduled or considered



June Cruise Plans



Some Winter Thoughts





SS Monitor Bridge Officers

Commander Cdr Richard Butler, JN Commander@abc-wilmington.com

Administrative Officer P/C Carol Hanson, P jchanson@comcast.net

Education Officer Lt/C William E. Barber, AP education@abc-wilmington.com

Treasurer Lt/C William E. Barber, AP treasurer@abc-wilmington.com

Secretary Lt/C Chris Atkinson, AP 108atkin@gmail.com

Executive Committee

P/C Mark C Atkinson, AP Lt John H Bailey, AP Laura L Hackell, P F/Lt Lynn A Mahaffy, AP Lt John E. Schleicher,P

Webmaster Lt John E. Schleicher, P webmaster@abc-wilmington.com

Lubber's Line Editor Lt Vicky Lai newsletter@abc-wilmington.com



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr Richard Butler, JN

I could say that Spring is just around the corner, but although March can still bring some surprises it's unlikely that it could bring enough snow, ice or cold weather to make this much of a Winter. A new year for America's Boating Club Wilmington (ABCW) is before us!

We have enjoyed both virtual Socials and productive Executive Committee meetings in addition to the highly enjoyable IN PERSON November Social and December Holiday Party! Our goal of providing increasing value for our members continues, regardless of the challenges!

We welcomed new members: Justin and Dana Doheny, Matt and Kim White, Laura Hackell, David Vaughn, Beth Stevenson. We're happy to have you aboard!

Thank you to those who made this past year so successful, including our excellent and experienced Executive Committee, Educational Officer Bill Barber, Social Committee Co-Chairs FI/Lt Lynn Mahaffy, AP and Lt Joan Barber, P. P/Lt/C John Ross, AP, our talented Treasurer and Webmaster, served us well from his new home in Florida before Bill Barber and Lt John Schleicher, P stepped in recently to relieve him of those duties. Our Lubber's Line editor, P/C Don Engler AP, also continued to serve from a new home in Florida up until November. Thanks also go to Chris Atkinson who handles Merit Marks, and the membership roster in addition to being our full-time Secretary. Lt John Bailey, AP and J.T. Walton are recognized for over 40 Vessel Safety Checks. P/C Donna Zimmerman, JN once again co-chaired the 2022 Annual Cruise and Bill Zimmerman, N provided substantial support to keep us on course. Lt Scott Mayhue coordinated our two summer raft ups, and Lt Colleen Schleicher, P coordinated the Photo Contest. Our Marketing Committee and Club members supported the North Point Marina event in Rock Hall, MD which showcased the benefits of membership and provided numerous Vessel Safety Checks to the general public. Our Program Committee used their creative thinking to find interesting speakers for our winter Social Programs. Thank you again Joan Barber, Terry Butler, Kathy Hauty, Betty Ingram and Lynn Mahaffy! I appreciate the good work and support of those rotating off the Executive Committee, Don Engler, John Ingram, Betty Ingram and Barbara Sharpless.

A special commendation goes to John Schleicher and Laura Hackell, P for adding new ideas and contributions to our Club by joining the Executive Committee. Lt Vicky Lai has agreed to be our Lubber's Line editor; great first edition, Vicky! All of this new help is a great addition to the strength of our Club. We still have some positions that could use the support of other members. Please consider offering any time or skills that you have. If you have any doubts as to how you can help, just talk with myself or any of our other Club leaders.



I want to thank P/Lt/C Barbara Sharpless, P for her 27+ years as Secretary and Assistant Secretary. She has served to make our Club better: improved the readability of our yearbook and ensured accuracy; supported our Public Boating Program as grader; organized the Change of Watch for many, many years, and made sure everyone got their yearbook.

Finally, I especially want to thank my predecessor, Carol Hanson who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in supporting me in my transition back into Club leadership and who has personally led the committees and activities of both Administration and Executive Offices over the past year. Her support, experience and hard work have made me look good and kept things running smoothly and in a positive direction.



Administrative Department

P/C Carol Hanson, P

February's Annual Meeting and Founders' Day Social Had a Full Agenda!

For the Founders' Day Social on 10 FEB, we enjoyed some socializing and some friendly Super Bowl posturing. A highlight of the gathering included a special presentation by Dr. John Broadwater on the background, history, and ultimate recovery of the USS *Monitor*, one of the civil war ironclads that changed the nature of naval warfare. Dr. Broadwater opened with a brief history of the design and background of the *Monitor* and her battle with the South's *Merrimack* (CSS *Virginia*) and the ultimate loss of both ships.

Then he picked up with the discovery of the wreck of the *Monitor* in the Atlantic. The recovery of key parts of the ship was explained in detail by Dr. Broadwater who was intimately connected with that effort. This included a description of the condition of the wreck and explanations of several of the methods developed and used (many for the first time) in the recovery of the artifacts, such as saturation diving and the use of grout bags and some REALLY big cranes. He finished with a description of the steps of conservation and the current state of the artifacts, and where you can see them at the USS *Monitor* Center at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, VA.

Dr. Broadwater is also the author of USS *Monitor: A Historic Ship Completes its Final Voyage* which goes into much more detail of the story. He provided us a tempting taste of this during his presentation. Randy Williamson and Lynn Mahaffy reinforced that it was a great read! Dr. Broadwater requests that anyone who reads and enjoys the book please leave a review on Amazon or GoodReads. The link to the review page is https://smile.amazon.com/review/create-review/?ie=UTF8&channel=glance-detail&asin=1603444734



The Business Meeting was opened by Richard Butler where he discussed upcoming events. As Nominating Committee Chair I reviewed the Slate of Officers. Given that the slate was uncontested, Mark Atkinson made the motion for Secretary Chris Atkinson to cast the ballot for the election of officers. Congratulations to our officers and Executive Committee and Chairs of the Rules and Nominating Committee!

America's Boating Club Wilmington Change of Watch, Sunday, 12 MAR, 2023

Please join us for the ABCW Change of Watch ceremony on Sunday, 12 MAR at 1200 at Schaefer's Canal House. Shaefer's offers an enjoyable on the water atmosphere, and the food is delicious. A cash bar will be available. The everentertaining P/C Dennis Wallace,P has agreed to be our Master of Ceremonies! Additionally, we are fortunate to have D/Lt/C John O'Reilly JN-CN, District Education Officer of America's Boating Club Mid-Atlantic to officiate the induction of the 2023 – 2024 Bridge.

We are delighted that ABCW Bridge Officers have agreed to continue to serve - Richard Butler as Commander, Carol Hanson as Administrative Officer, Bill Barber as Squadron Education Officer and, more recently, Treasurer, and Chris Atkinson as Secretary. Additionally, we are pleased to welcome Laura Hackell and John Schleicher to the Executive Committee. John has taken on the challenging role of Webmaster! New member Justin Doheny has graciously agreed to chair the Audit Committee.

We sincerely appreciate the dedication and commitment of those rotating off the Executive Committee: John Ross, Treasurer, Webmaster and IT guru, Betty and P/C John Ingram, and Assistant Secretary Barbara Sharpless, who has served on the Club for over 27 years. Thankfully, Betty will continue to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee. We ALL promise to support her in that effort!

Our dedicated Secretary, Chris Atkinson, has arranged for all of us to receive updated ABCW name tags. Barbara Sharpless has worked tirelessly to provide us with the 2023-2024 ABCW Yearbooks at the Change of Watch and by mail.

Special thanks to Betty Ingram for coordinating the Punch Bowl invitation, to Barbara Sharpless for her creative, detailed work on the Yearbook, and her support in coordinating the Change of Watch for many years. Please join us for an important and entertaining induction and social! We look forward to seeing you then!

Socials and Events Scheduled or Under Consideration by the Social Committee



Friday, 14 APRIL -- The Social Committee is planning a deck tour of the *Kalmar Nyckel* and the Copeland Maritime Center Museum in the afternoon. Participants can meet for lunch on your own at the nearby Iron Hill Brewery and Restaurant before the tour. Stay tuned for details.



Saturday, 20 MAY 1000 to 1500 -- Beginning of Safe Boating Week, Carol and the Marketing Committee is once again planning our ABCW Marketing Event with educational information available, and Vessel Safety Checks offered at North Point Marina, Bayside Landing and Osprey Point Marina. To attract attendees, we are planning a boater's Flea Market with the marina.



Friday, 9 JUNE – Friday, 16 JUNE – ABCW Annual Summer Cruise. Please register by email to cruise@abc-wilmington.com. Additionally, if attending the dinner on Friday 17 JUNE at Port Annapolis, the charge is \$40/person. Please send your check to Bill Barber, 11 Hill Crest Dr., Landenberg, PA 19350 or for credit card payment, request an invoice from Bill Barber at treasurer@abc-wilmington.com



Saturday, 22 JULY -- A combined North Point Marina & ABCW Boater's Flea Market and Burger & Brat Cookout is scheduled for all ABCW members at North Point Marina. More to come on this event.



Education Department

Lt/C William E. Barber, AP

Advanced Piloting / Navigation

Two weeks ago, six members started our winter-spring class on Advanced Piloting / Navigation which will continue on Tuesday evenings via Zoom through April 11th. So far, there has been a short review of some key chart plotting concepts and examples of piloting in limited visibility (fog, night) with electronic navigation tools such as GPS, chart plotters, radar and depth sounders / sonar.

Computer navigation programs are highlighted as a very useful tool for planning a long or short cruise.

The class really enjoyed the section on how radar works and how to best use the radar features that are available to help interpret what is observed on the radar display. Up next are the more advanced ways to establish positions, fixes, and hazard avoidance.

Lt Randy Williamson, N has done a super job of preparing for these lectures. He has put in a tremendous amount of time working out how to use and present a free navigation software system called OpenCPN to electronically work out many of the same exercises and practice cruise problems that the students are being taught to do manually. Although the final exam is all performed manually, National is encouraging the use of OpenCPN, and it can be used to check manual work for accuracy, even for the exam!

Spring Boater Certification Classes Set

P/C Mark Atkinson, Chairman, Local Board for Basic Boating



Three courses of the Delaware Boater Certification Course are on the calendar for this Spring. Each course consists of three three-hour sessions with a proctored exam at the end of the last session.

We will be cooperating with the Delaware Safety Council again this year to use their classroom and be listed on their calendar of classes to extend our reach for promoting them. One of the three courses will be for members of the Delaware National Guard and their families. This will be our third year cooperating with their safety officer to bring the message of safe boating to their regular workplace safety program.

SCHEDULES	 The first public course. will begin on Saturday 18 FEB and continue for the next two Saturdays From 1300 to 1600 The second public course. will begin on Saturday 22 APR and continue for the next two Saturdays From 0900 to 1200 The course for the National Guard. will be on Tues evenings starting 21 MAR and continue for the next two Tuesdays From 1800 to 2100
INSTRUCTORS & TOPICS	The principal instructor is P/C C. David Sharpless, AP; P/C Atkinson will manage course registration and participate in the class presentation, including a quick introduction to knots and cleats . "Knots are not included in the course curriculum, but we think they are a vital part of successful boating. So we take a few minutes to try a few knots and hitches and take a break from the lecture." P/C John E. Koval Jr, P will assist in instruction. The course is an introduction to a wide range of essential boating knowledge and rules. Topics include rules of the road, lights, aids to navigation, docking, handling emergencies and more. It is offered in a classroom setting with opportunities for discussion and practical experiences.
CERTIFICATION	Although it is the Delaware Certification Course, it is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and therefore meets the requirements of states requiring boater education and certification.
LOCATION	Classes are offered at the Delaware Safety Council offices located in the Justice of the Peace Building at 2 Penn's Way, New Castle, DE.

Members of the club are encouraged to bring upcoming classes to the attention of friends and relatives as well as to attend.

For more information, call or text Mark at (518) 441-9581 or send an e-mail to matkinsonseo@gmail.com.



District & National News

News From The Annual Meeting of the Governing Board of America's Boating Club

The Governing Board (GB) of America's Boating Club (ABC) serves the members (shareholders) of USPS / ABC. As provided in the bylaws, it reviews the policies and management of USPS, and approves changes to the dues and bylaws. Members include the chief commander, vice commanders, rear commanders, district commanders, district educational officers, members of the national general committees, club commanders, past chief commanders and past vice commanders who have served a minimum of two full elected terms as such. Of approximately 1000 voting members of the current board, around 690 are members of our 325 clubs.

2023 ABC CLUB ANNUAL MEETING



The 2023 ANNUAL MEETING was held on 25 FEB at the Rosen Plaza, Orlando, Florida and via YouTube

Livestream for members not attending in person. Matters considered by the GB were:

I) To receive and act upon reports of officers and committees;

II) To elect or appoint Board of Directors, national officers, the general and standing committees chairs and members of the general committees, the chairs and assistant chairs of the departmental committees, and general members of the Governing Board;

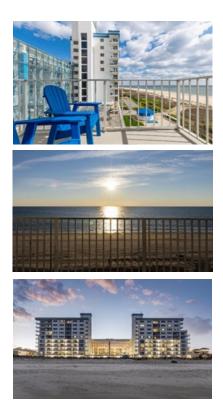
III) To consider and act upon any other business that may properly come before this meeting. In an attempt to get more engagement from members not able to attend National meetings in person the GB is moving to voting by electronic means. This year's meeting started at 0900 (with an approximately 30-minute delay before the Livestream started), broke for a 2-hour lunch from 1200 to 1400 and then continued until 1650.

New matters brought before the GB included:

1) Modifications to the existing Bylaws to allow for electronic voting: This passed with the greater than 2/3 majority required for a change to the Bylaws.

2) A proposal to modify the Bylaws to allow a minimum of three members to the Finance committee. The current minimum is five members. This motion did not achieve the necessary two-thirds votes in favor and so was not passed.

3) A motion to provide electronic instructors' material to clubs free of charge which passed after a lively discussion.



ABC MID-ATLANTIC REGION (formerly District 5)

Our regional organization also holds conferences with meetings of the regional governing board members. These are the District officers and Club Commanders.

Our next regional meeting will be held the end of March in Ocean City MD. Conference activities will be concentrated on educating new club officers. As Commander, I will be attending the March conference to collect as much information and support for club activities as I can. I'll also be reporting on what I learn in the next Lubber's Line.



Secretary's Department

Lt/C Chris Atkinson, AP

WANTED: A non-AI willing to work for free for ~4 hours a year – compensation: a grateful ABCW!

Our Club is looking for a person who wants to do an easy task that starts on November first and ends on November 15th (generally) – Submittal of the Club member Merit Marks. The results yield a Merit Mark for each person who volunteers 16 hours or more a year on Club activities. After 5 Merit Marks, a person is considered a senior member of the Club. At 25 Merit Marks, yay! NO DUES! So there is an incentive for each and every dues paying member to earn at least 16 hours a year to get a Merit Mark. And these easy four hours may just put you over the top!

What does it take to be the Merit Marks Chair?

One: you need a computer and the internet to access USPS.org. to access the Merit Marks Program.

Two: the cooperation of Club members to provide you with a description of what they have done and how many hours for each activity during the January to October 2023 time frame.

Three: the ability to condense the information into a write-up that is concise and will fit in the space provided in the USPS Merit Mark called "Valuable Service Performed" (limited to 512 characters (letters, numbers, punctuation, spaces – don't worry, the program will count it for you).

But of course, each person who wants a Merit Mark is motivated to do that for you....at least they really try. So, you need to be able to consolidate their submittal to fit in that space. But it isn't hard.

Here is an excerpt of my Merit Mark submittal... Attended ExComm 8 mtgs, 15 hrs; 2 articles for newsletter, 4 hrs; prepared Merit Marks for Cdr review and submittal to HQ, 4 hrs....

The good news is that I am there to help you the whole way!

- Once you have entered the information into the USPS program (it even has "spell check"), you send a copy to Cdr Butler for review and approval. He says, "looks good" and you press the button SUBMIT!
- And it goes to our D5 reviewer, who hopefully says "good job!" and they hit the button SUBMIT!
- And off it goes to the USPS HQ commander who says, "looks great" and hits the button, "SEND THAT WORTHY PERSON A MERIT MARK!" The Program will tell you who was approved.
- You inform the Secretary who received a Merit Mark so it is recorded in the 2024-2025 Yearbook and let the members know how many Merit Marks were awarded in the January / February newsletter by writing an article. DONE!
- From time to time, you have the Secretary send an email to remind members that they should be keeping up their logs. Nothing fancy here!

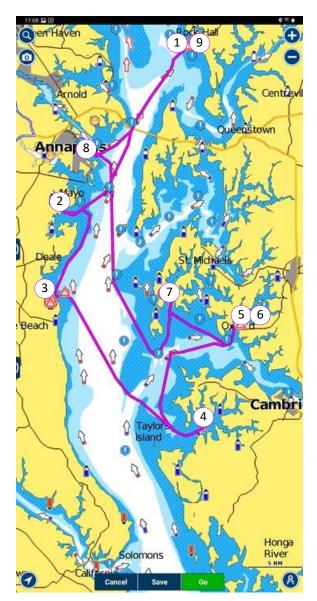
This is an easy, stay-at-home (or boat) activity that will be made even easier because I will be there to help you. So, please, volunteer your time to help yourself, your Club, and your Club friends.

AND A REMINDER, EVERYONE...MERIT MARKS ARE DUE TO THE CHAIR BY NOVEMBER 1!

Annual June Cruise Plans Coming Together

ABCW's annual cruise starts with the Commander's Kick-off on 9 JUNE at the North Point Marina in Rock Hall MD. So far 9 boats have registered. There is room for more cruisers if you are considering participation.

Based on feedback, the itinerary has changed since our original notice. Here is the basic schedule:



Day 1, 9 JUNE North Point Marina The Commander's Kick-off - Luau theme

Day 2, 10 JUNE Rhode River (23nm) Assigned Raft-ups with a shared menu

Day 3, 11 JUNE Herrington Harbour South Marina (13nm) Dinner on your own Pavilion breakfast the next day

Day 4, 12 JUNE Hudson Creek, Little Choptank River (22nm) Assigned Raft-ups with shared appetizers

Day 5/6, 13-14 JUNE Safe Harbor Oxford Marina (20nm) Planned organized activities

Day 7, 15 JUNE Dun Cove, Harris Creek (12nm) Assigned Raft-ups with activities TBD

Day 8, 16 JUNE Port Annapolis Marina (29nm) Wrap-Up Banquet

Day 9, 17 JUNE Rock Hall (15nm) End of Cruise

As in the past we will have organized activities such as raft-ups, dinghy adventures and other social activities for each day. Spending two days at Oxford will permit us to organize several activities and spend more time in town.

We hope that Club members not part of the cruise will come visit us at the Commander's Kick-off or at the Oxford Marina. We would consider such a visit as another highlight of the cruise.

Boats that have registered have directions to make their reservations for the marinas If you are not registered but are thinking of joining the cruise, it is not too late. If you have any questions about the cruise please contact any of the Cruise Committee members: Bart and Beverly Wilson, Wayne and Laura Hepting, Co-Chairs Colleen and John Schleicher, Leslie Brower or Bruce Wyngaard, or email us at cruise@abc-wilmington.com.

We look forward to seeing all of you!

March-April 2023



"You can't buy happiness. But you can buy a boat and that's pretty much the same thing."

Do you love those inspirational posters? You know, the kind with the the catchy saying and the gorgeous photograph. Maybe you've already got one hanging in your office. But just in case you need a new slogan, here's a few boating related quotes for your consideration.

All in favor say "Aye"!

"There is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats." -- Kenneth Grahame, author of "The Wind in the Willows"

"I want a boat that drinks six, eats four, and sleeps two." -- Ernest K. Gann, author of "The Aviator"

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." -- Mark Twain (pen name for Samuel Langhorne Clemens)

"On a day when the wind is perfect, the sail just needs to open and the world is full of beauty." -- Rumi

"Shells sink, dreams float. Life's good on our boat." -- Jimmy Buffett

"If a man must be obsessed by something, I suppose a boat is as good as anything, perhaps a bit better than most." -- E.B. White

Those opposed?

"There are a lot of mysterious things about boats, such as why anyone would get on one voluntarily." -- P. J. O'Rourke

"Sailing – The fine art of slowly going nowhere at great expense while being cold, wet and miserable." -- Irv Heller

"I hate every wave of the ocean, with a fervor, which you, who have only seen the green waters of the shore, can never understand."-- Charles Darwin

"This zig-zag manner of proceeding is very grievous; it has put the finishing stroke to my feelings. I loathe, I abhor the sea, & all ships which sail on it. " -- Charles Darwin

"I have my own boat, but when I first thought about taking a cruise, I thought, 'You're going to trap me on a boat, and I'm going to walk in circles and go crazy,' but it's awesome." -- Guy Fieri

The "Ayes" have it!

Finally, some last thoughts: "I've always believed that a goal in life is not to own a boat but have a friend with a boat." -- Christie Hefner And my personal favorite: "Sailors, with their built-in sense of order, service, and discipline, should really be running the world." -- Nicholas Monsarrat

Here's wishing you fair winds and following seas.

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Boating Safety - Some Winter Thoughts -



About 20 years ago, Bev and I were in Oxford on the Chesapeake. As we were walking around, we happened to meet an older sailboat captain down by the Ferry dock. In our conversation we got into a discussion about winterizing our boats. He said, "I'll tell you a little trick that I use. I never buy those fancy dehumidifiers for mold control. I buy Kitty Litter, and it works fine." So that winter, we bought Kitty Litter and those tin foil plates. We put five of them with the litter around the inside of the boat. We have been doing this ever since and have never had a mold problem. You might want to try it.

That recollection got me to thinking about other boat issues I could encounter. I read a couple articles and discovered I should check the following – I needed to update my spare parts and tools. I know most of you do this, but I was lax in dong so. If you do a lot of cruising and overnight anchoring, you don't want to have a problem. A short list would consist of the following:

- Various kinds of tape
- Spare belts and hoses
- Raw water pump rebuild kit
- A spare bilge pump
- A set of filters
- Ball peen hammer
- Flashlights and batteries, miners type headlight
- Tape measure
- Voltage testing unit

I know most of you have these items on your boat. The size of your boat determines how long a list you will need. It is also suggested that you keep an updated list.

I thought winter time is a good time to check our supplies. If I do so, I can somewhat be prepared for an emergency during the boating season.

Submitted by Bart Wilson



In Memoriam



Irénée du Pont, Jr.

1920 - 2023

Irénée du Pont, Jr., age 103, passed on16 JAN 2023. Irénée joined the Wilmington Power Squadron in 1946 (coincidentally the same year he was hired by the du Pont Company). During his three-quarter century affiliation with our organization, he respectfully declined any operating responsibilities due to his incredibly busy personal/work commitments. He did find time to earn a JN grade from USPS and was regarded as a knowledgeable and competent sailor by his fellow boaters.

In the mid-1950's, he contracted for the construction of a custom 40' sailing craft that honored his wife by carrying her maiden name, the *Barbara Batchelder*. The boat, slipped exclusively on the Chester River in the later years, afforded the family quiet time afloat for over 65 years until its final decommissioning in 2020.

An individual of seemingly limitless energy, this dedicated family man successfully managed his involvement in a long and varied list of hobbies and business interests.

Our sincere condolences to Irénée's family members.

Interment is to be private. A memorial service will be planned in the future.

P/C C. David Sharpless, AP

Let's Celebrate the March & Apríl Bírthdays

March

William Barber	Mar. 05
Geraldine Walker	Mar. 08
Peter Weintraub	Mar. 11
Matt White	Mar. 13
Jeanmarie Bailey	Mar. 24
John Schleicher	Mar. 24
Dorothy Brabson	Mar. 26

"March brings breezes, loud and shrill, to stir the dancing daffodil." —Sara Coleridge



Ask ChatGPT Personality of people born in March

- Creative and imaginative
- Empathetic, compassionate towards others
- Often lost in thought and enjoy exploring their own minds
- Sensitive and emotional
- Adventurous and enjoy taking risks
- Value independence



William Parsons	Apr. 03
Beverly Melcher	Apr. 03
Alan Cropper	Apr. 04
John Bailey	Apr. 10
Kim White	Apr. 12
David Benfer	Apr. 13
William Zimmerman	Apr. 15
Kathleen Cropper	Apr. 30

"April has put a spirit of youth in everything." —William Shakespeare





Ask ChatGPT Personality of people born in April

- Confident and self-assured
- Independent and willing to take risks
- Driven and determined to succeed
- Loyal to their friends and family
- Impatient and easily frustrated
- Can be stubborn and set in their ways

March-April 2023

Calendar of Events March/April 2023

http://abc-wilmington.com/

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

March Events

12 MAR 1200 ABC Wilmington Change of Watch Schaefer's Canal House 208 Bank Street, Chesapeake City, MD 21915
15 MAR 1900 ABC Wilmington Executive Committee Meeting Via Zoom
30 MAR – 2 APR District 5 Annual Meeting / Spring Conference Princess Royale Hotel, Ocean City, MD

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
							1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Com All	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30						

April Events

14 APR	
Kalmar Nyckel Tour	
Copeland Maritime Center Museum	
15 APR Deadline for May/Jun/July Lubber's Line M	aterial
19 APR 1900 ABC Wilmington Executive Committee Mee Via Zoom	eting



Join us for weekly luncheons

Each Wednesday @ 1200 Seasons Pizza 3901 Concord Pike Wilmington, DE 19803



Visit us on the web at: http://abc-wilmington.com/

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