

Anchor



Watch



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District 5, a unit of United States Power Squadrons®



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Commander's Message Cdr Ralph Leasure, S

It finally happened! We've been waiting for delivery of Kokomo II ever since the Ft. Lauderdale International Boat Show. Not an ideal day for delivery, with small craft advisories, 3 foot plus waves and winds gusting to 30 knots; Kokomo II made her way from Shady Side (Clarks's Landing Yacht Sales) to our dock in Edgewater. She didn't seem to be phased by the conditions as much as we were. To say we are happy with the new boat would be an understatement. Hopefully, you'll get to meet her soon. There are many upcoming events to look forward to.

Main Line is offering a summer cruise starting with the Yacht Basin in Annapolis as the first stop on June 3 and 4. Then, to Herrington Harbor South for June 5 and 6. Next, they will travel to The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels for June 7 and 8 and finally visit Haven Harbor in Rock Hall on June 9 and 10. See details in the Anchor Watch on page 20.

Look for details of an ASPS raft up coming on July 8th or 13th. Also, Bill Museler is sponsoring a raft-up for August 5th. More to come on that location.

August 11 through the 13th is Wilmot's Water World at Deep Creek Lake. This is sure to be a good time and we can promise there will be some singing involved. With the boat shows behind us, I do have list of names to follow up with regarding classes, vessel safety checks and some interested in membership. Unfortunately, the Spring Sailboat Show was pretty much a washout with heavy rain Friday and Sunday. I helped with the booth that we shared with other district 5 members for The Welcome to Boating and Fishing Show at Sandy Point State Park. The booth wasn't well attended, but there was a lot of interest in Vessel Safety checks and our very own Bill Eldridge did the most. Thank you, Bill. This is the time of year that interest in boating is the highest. Let's get creative at introducing people to our squadron and what we do. There are flyers in the shed. If you have contacts, let's get those flyers out there so people will see them. It could be flea markets, farmer's markets, grocery stores, barber shops, gas stations, marinas,well you know...anywhere they will be seen.

Good Luck. Safe Boating,
Ralph Leasure, P, Commander

Table of Contents

Commander's Message	1
Executive Officer	2
Admin Officer's Report	3
June Dinner Ad	5
May Dinner Pics	6
America's Boating Channel	7
Boating Links	9
Educational Officers Report	10
Safety	11
Member News	12
VSCs	13
Dinner Delights	14
Wilmots' Water World	15
Bananas on the Boat	16
D/5 Summer Cruise	19
Valley Forge Summer Cruise	20
Calendar of Events	21
Leadership	22



Executive Officer
Lt/C Diane Leasure

The Annapolis Spring Sailboat Show, held April 28-30, 2023, was, unfortunately, a bit of a washout as the weather definitely did not cooperate that weekend. I would like to thank those who volunteered to work our booth, bad weather notwithstanding: Jeff and Lorrie Short, Ed Sunderland, Bruce Avery, and John Locke from the Kent Narrows squadron. I also want to express my enormous gratitude to Ralph, my wonderful husband and our Commander, for single-handedly setting up and breaking down our booth, both of which occurred in the driving rain.



Looking ahead to the fall sailboat and powerboat shows in Annapolis, I would welcome any suggestions anyone has regarding how we can “up our game” with our booth to attract interest by boat show attendees. We usually have a bucket of candy that draws people in, but we want to keep them there so we can wax eloquent about the benefits of being a member of ASPS. Any and all suggestions will be considered, so please let me know your thoughts. We will, of course, also be looking for volunteers to work the booth at both shows. The Annapolis Powerboat Show is October 5-8, 2023 and the Annapolis Sailboat Show is October 12-15, 2023. An added benefit is that volunteering at the booth also gives you admission to the boat show. Thank you in advance for assisting with this effort.



Jeff and Lorrie Short went to the West Coast to take their new Ranger tug out for sea trials.

**Administrative Officer****Lt/C Peggy Slattery S**

Ah, June! Did you know that June is Great Outdoors Month? It's the perfect beginning to our summer on the waters of the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. Please take every opportunity to get near or on the water. We won't officially meet again until September, but there are plenty of activities where you can meet up with fellow squadron members.

Right after our dinner meeting, ABC Valley Forge will be on their annual cruise. If you are in the area, stop by and say hi! They will be at Herrington Harbour South on 5-6 June. On 7-8 June, they are at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. On 9-10 June, they end up at Rock Hall where they will stay at Haven harbor Marina. The LUX crew plans to sail along with them. See the ad on Page 20 if you wish to participate.

We're still working on potential cruises, rendezvous, and raft ups for Annapolis. If you are interested in setting up a boating event, please contact me. I would love to work with fellow squadron members to plan some fun events.

In August, we will have a raft up led by Bill Museler. Bill is still in the planning stages for this one, so more information will be available later this summer. You can also plan to head to the mountains. The Wilmots will be holding Wilmots' Water World at their home on the banks of Deep Creek Lake. It's still not too late to think about attending a different kind of rendezvous. Also, in August, plan on attending the ever popular ice cream social.

We're already planning our speaker lineup for the fall. If you have any ideas, don't hesitate to contact me. We're always looking for great speakers on topics of interest to our members.

I look forward to seeing you out on the bay!

**You need an
ASPS Logo Jacket**
<http://asps.qbstores.com>





ASPS Dinner Meeting
Summer Fun Game Night
Thursday, June 1, 2023



Elks Lodge
2 Pythian Drive, Edgewater, MD 21037

6:00 PM - Social Hour
7:00 PM - Dinner

Meal will include: Salad, Fried Chicken, BBQ Ribs,
Red Bliss Potatoes, Green Beans,
Dinner Rolls & Butter, Desserts



Vegetarian meals will be plated and served.
Vegetarian Option: Pasta Primavera and red sauce.
Please indicate vegetarian when sending your response.

RSVP by Tuesday, May 30, 9AM to
aspsdinnerreservations@gmail.com
or call Lorrie at 410-305-0232



\$25.00 per person by cash or check at the door.
Make checks payable to Annapolis Elks.

Note: All no-show reservations
are responsible for the cost of the dinner.

We hope to celebrate the arrival of warm weather with a splash.
You can join in by wearing the appropriate attire - shorts, flip
flops, Hawaiian shirts - anything that clearly demonstrates that
summer vibe is encouraged. Be rewarded - win a prize!

No speaker! It's all fun and games. We'll have a trivia contest -
all about boating and Maryland! There will be prizes.
It's a party! There will be popcorn. There will be ice cream.



SUMMER
FUN!





Dinner Meeting May 4, 2023



May the 4th be with you!







America's Boating Channel Update

**P/D/C Marty Lafferty, AP
Grant Project Manager
America's Boating Channel™**

It was great to be back in Annapolis to present America's Boating Channel's new smart TV offerings at the National Boating Safety Advisory Committee (NBSAC) Meeting held May 10-12 at the American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) in Edgewater, and especially to be hosted by our good friends ASPS Members Lee & Stu Myers in their lovely home.

Heading home to Massachusetts after a month on-the-road that started with the public launch of America's Boating Channel on smart TV at the International Boating & Water Safety Summit (IBWSS) in Little Rock, AR followed by field production for Season Seven at Lake Murray, SC and Savannah, GA, Sari and I enjoyed returning to a familiar setting. We even availed ourselves of Lobster Night at Rams Head Shore House on Kent Island with several ABCKN member friends.

Here's what we'd like you to know about our smart TV initiative, by far the largest undertaking in America's Boating Channel's history. Since 2016, America's Boating Channel has been the boating safety and boater education video service of USPS-ABC, garnering nearly one-and-a-half million views of its safe-boating videos on YouTube.

Now with the addition of its ad-supported video-on demand smart TV app and its free ad-supported television channel, the service is poised for much greater growth. The new smart TV offerings are truly historic in a couple of ways.

First, they mark an incredible collaboration of boating safety advocacy organizations who share financial support of the U.S. Coast Guard for video production. American Canoe Association (The ACA), American Whitewater, the Corps Foundation, NASBLA (National Association of State Boating Law Administrators), Safe Kids Worldwide, the Sea Tow Foundation, Water Solutions Group, National Safe Boating Council, and Water Sports Foundation have all joined with America's Boating Channel in contributing more than five hundred boating safety and boater education videos to the new smart TV offerings.

And second, from the perspective of the media industry, the new smart TV offerings represent the first full-time television destination for boating. While there already are a golf channel, tennis channel, and ski channel – among the many other channels focused on sports – never before has there been a channel or app totally focused on boating.

To attract the largest possible television audience, America's Boating Channel's smart TV offerings feature – in addition to the country's best boating safety and boater education videos – Boat Fails, Boating News, US Sailing Team, Boat Races, Boating TV Programs, Movies for Boaters, Cooking on Board, Boating Cartoons, as well as U.S. Coast Guard and Naval Films.

Whether viewers are new to boating and water sports or seasoned boat operators, they'll find an appealing mix of entertainment shows and informational videos on all things boating – with the emphasis on boating safely. No matter whether viewers prefer boating on yachts, speedboats, sailboats, personal watercraft, kayaks, canoes, or stand-up paddleboards, their interests will be covered.

As Anchor Watch readers already know, the safe boating lifestyle is all about celebrating on-the-water experiences in a variety of recreational vessels on many different waterways. And now, at last, there's a full-time presence on TV totally dedicated to doing that.

You can subscribe now for free to the on-demand app on Roku or FireTV and tune-in to the continuously playing live channel on Sports.TV.

To get the app, on Roku, select Store using your Roku remote, select Channels and search for Americas Boating Channel, select Add Channel. On FireTV, go to Apps on your Fire TV Main Menu, search for

Americas Boating Channel, select Get to download the app. For the channel, add the Sports.TV app on Roku or Fire TV, select Live Channels and scroll down to America's Boating Channel, click the program grid to watch now.

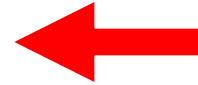
We hope you'll enjoy the new smart TV offerings and help spread the word. We're all about subscriber acquisition and tune-in viewership, so please tell your friends about America's Boating Channel, the next best thing to being on the water.

P/D/C Marty Lafferty, AP
Grant Project Manager
America's Boating Channel™
Phone 410-725-7820
Past District 5 Commander
United States Power Squadrons®

America's Boating Channel is a registered trademark of United States Power Squadrons



Click



Check out our web site at

<http://aspsmd.org/>



Boating Links to Browse

From Chesapeake Bay Magazine - <https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/feedback-wanted-on-navys-plan-to-build-new-rv-park-at-severn-rivers-greenbury-point/>

Here we go again. It seems that the golf course idea and the shooting range were a no-go. Now the navy wants to put in a new RV park on Greenbury point in a different location from the old one. Public comment is invited. Please look at the proposal and comment.

From Practical Sailor: a nice article on sailing gear to control tension on a sheet - namely, [low friction rings](#).

From Practical Sailor: Yet another article full of tips to help with a constant problem: [stopping boat stick from the head](#)

For trip ideas in the Chesapeake Bay area:

<https://www.findyourchesapeake.com/trip-ideas/article/featured-tips-this-week>

This site changes frequently. Bookmark it and return on a regular basis for all sorts of activities in the area.

From Chesapeake Bay Magazine for all of the fishermen out there: New Rockfish limits <https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/md-rockfish-season-begins-but-east-coast-fishery-managers-want-to-curb-trophy-size/>

Celestial Tools - Download the latest version of this application to gain access to the new features and ensure the most accurate results. A description of the code, including download instructions, can be found on the USPS website. Log in at www.usps.org/member-s-log-in and go to the Navigation Committee Page. Click on "Offshore Navigation" and then click on Celestial Tools. For those familiar with the application, you can download it directly from <https://github.com/UnitedStatesPowerSquadrons/celestial-tools/archive/master.zip>. Email: [Mike Guler](mailto:Mike.Guler@usps.org)

From Chesapeake Bay Magazine: exploring the Choptank River by kayak - <https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/exploring-the-choptank-river/>

From Chesapeake Bay Magazine
"Ol' man river, That ol' man river, He must know sumpin', But don't say nothing. He just keeps rollin', He keeps on rollin' along."
 The next time you go to Solomon's Island, by land or by sea, there is a new exhibit for you to see at the Calvert Marine Museum: the [James Adams Floating Theatre](#)

From Practical sailor: a lengthy [pre-launch checklist](#).

From Chesapeake Bay Magazine - The bay bridge is to have new decking. For an extended period of time, there is to be a 6-knot speed limit near the bridge Does that include freighters too? Hmmm. <https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/weigh-in-on-proposed-6-knot-speed-limit-around-bay-bridge/>

For more nautical-related links, see the "Links Page" on the ASPS website: <http://aspsmd.org/wrappers/pages.php>



Educational Officer

Lt/C Michael Maszczenski, Jr., N



Congratulation to Ralph Leasure, Barbara Hirsch, Martin Lutsky, and Bill Hammett, members of the new Marine Navigation Course, for being the first students to take and pass the test. They were participants in the Beta version of the Marine Navigation course that is replacing the Piloting course. So, they are the first to receive credit for Marine Navigation. Congratulations and thanks goes out to them.



If you are interested in being a certified instructor, there is a nine-class course to become certified. This certification allows you to teach the ABC course and award the certificates that everyone needs to operate a recreational vessel in Maryland. A class will be forming soon. Please let me know if you are interested. Contact Edofficer@aspsmd.org or michaelm_aacps@hotmail.com.

Apps for Boaters

If you are planning to attend the ABC-Midatlantic (D/5) Summer Council at Langford Bay Marina on July 28th we are offering Apps for Boaters. See and test some apps that make your phone or tablet a super boating tool. Bring your phone or tablet - Apple or Android. Explore some of the apps used by boaters. We will present Charts, Weather, Tides, Marinas, Fishing and more!

Show and Share: Friday, July 28th, 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Lankford Bay Marina pavilion.

Part of the America's Boating Club Mid-Atlantic summer rendezvous and council.

Register for this seminar: [Register Here](#)

Registration for All ASPSP Sponsored Courses

ASPS needs 10 participants to present a course or seminar. Please register as soon as possible. Materials must be ordered, and materials pick-up arranged for the virtual classes. [Click Here to Register](#) or email seo@aspsmd.org, or call 410-739-7800. If you do not get an answer, please leave voice mail with contact information. When registered, you will receive an email confirmation. Other information and directions will be emailed as the start date for the course or seminar approaches.

Courses and seminars from our neighbors:**America's Boating Club Kent Narrows**

Tentative schedule of courses and seminars:

- ★ June 6, 2023 - Emergencies on Board
- ★ June 13, 2023 - Knots & Lines Handling
- ★ June 20, 2023 - Rules of the Road

Seminars are \$33.00 each Via Zoom

To register for ABC Kent Narrows courses, contact Joe Burke at 410-279-0862 or send an email to burkeJr2@atlanticbb.net

Rockville Sail and Power Squadron: www.abckrockville.org

America's Boating Club Baltimore:

Cruising and Cruise Planning June 6, 2023

For any questions and registration, contact SEO@USPSdundalk.org

https://abc-midatlantic.org/d5-squadron-data?squad_no=1560





It's Vessel safety Check Time

Lord of the Electrons, Terry Slattery, Safety Officer

Spring vessel commissioning time is a good opportunity to get a vessel safety check done and to review your vessel's safety systems. If you've never had a vessel safety check done, you should review the checklist used by the US Power Squadrons:

https://www.usps.org/national/vsc/formtool_files/a7012.pdf

The instructions part of the VSC document includes a description of each requirement. The form also includes recommendations and discussion items like bilge pumps, first aid kits, marine radio, and anchoring equipment.

Preparing for the VSC is an opportunity to review things like having a good throwable flotation device. For instance, this spring I found that our Lifesling's tether needed to have the ultraviolet protective cover replaced. The line just seemed to be dingy and dirty during a casual inspection, but a closer look found that the outer cover had disintegrated to the point that the inner poly line was not being protected. I replaced the cover and cut back the damaged line. During this servicing I repacked it to verify that there was no other damage to the line or the flotation yoke that would jeopardize its use in an emergency.

The VSC's first two checklist items verify that the vessel is properly registered. Then begins the list of required safety equipment.

Personal flotation devices

Do you have a sufficient number of PFDs on board and are they in good condition? This last point is critical. Inflatable PFDs need to be periodically serviced. Make sure that critters like mice haven't made a nest in your PFDs, compromising their usefulness.

Visual distress signals

You have a choice between pyrotechnic flares and the new electronic flares. Pyrotechnics need to be within the date stamped on them while electronic flares need to be checked for battery age and that they work. The electronic flares need to be accompanied by a signal flag in order to qualify. Personally, I prefer to have both. There's nothing like a smoke flare for pinpoint visual identification during the day. Experience on our flare demonstration/training days has shown that old pyrotechnics are frequently viable many years after their expiration date, so we keep a collection on board.

Fire extinguishers

The VSC checklist describes the requirements for each size vessel but doesn't yet include the recent change requiring fire extinguishers be less than 12 years old. We replaced our old fire extinguishers last year when we found that they were getting old.

<https://www.boatus.com/expert-advice/expert-advice-archive/2022/april/us-coast-guard-updates-fire-extinguisher-requirements>

Ventilation and backfire flame control

Gasoline powered craft with enclosed engine or fuel tank compartments must have a means of ventilating those compartments. A great addition for improved safety is an explosive gas detector, which is useful for detecting explosive gasses like gasoline fumes, propane, butane, etc. Best practice is to run the ventilation system for several minutes before starting an engine. Gasoline engines must also be equipped with an approved backfire flame control device, which is mounted on the carburetor air intake to prevent a backfire from creating an explosion or fire in the engine compartment.

Sound producing devices and navigation lights (if applicable)

All vessels need to have a sound producing device like a whistle or horn and a bell for larger vessels. There are some lung-powered devices that are small, simple, and quite loud. Paddle craft in particular



should be equipped with a whistle, ideally attached to the paddler. Navigation lights are applicable to vessels over 16 ft. Smaller vessels should have a flashlight for operation after dusk, or, avoid operating at that time of day.

For more information, check out a nice summary of safety equipment by BoatUS:

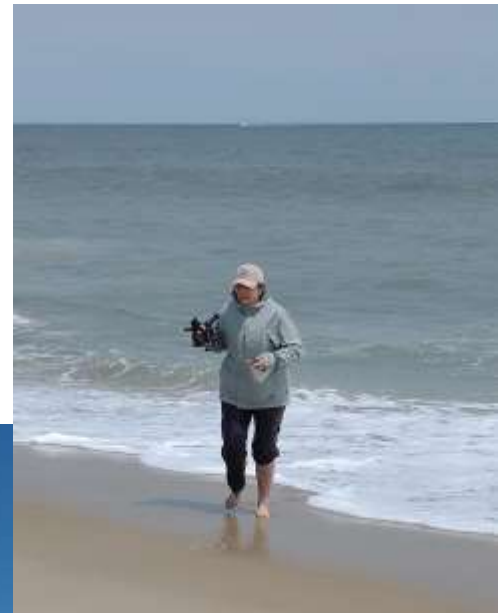
<https://www.boatus.org/study-guide/equipment/required/>



Class Reunion!

Several members of the Celestial Navigation Class taught by Sam Lyness met in Ocean City on May 5 - 7 for a weekend of fun, food and sight taking - including a prime vertical. We had any number of curious on-lookers.

Carol Rechner



**National Safe Boating Week
ASPS Support to the Annapolis Yacht Club
Completes 22 VSCs in One Day!**

Each year the Annapolis Yacht Club has an early season cruise raft-up at Eagle Cove which is located near Gibson Island. This year it was held on the weekend of May 20th which coincided with National Safe Boating Week (May 20-26).



Homer Sandridge performing a VSC aboard Gallivant with AYC member John Murray.



Bill Eldridge in front of the AYC Cruise Committee Boat

As part of this activity, AYC coordinates to have VSCs available to those participating in the weekend raft up. This year, ASAP members, Bill Eldridge and Homer Sandridge, along with USCG Aux Member, Stan Samorajczyk, managed to perform 22 VSCs on Saturday, May 20th. In total, there were over 27 boats participating in the cruise.

A big shout out and thanks to Bill, Homer and Stan! A perfect way to kick off NSBW.

P/C Ron Ricketts, P, COOP Charting ...



P/R/C William C. Eldridge, SN

Vessel Safety Check

To arrange for a VSC for your boat, contact Bill at vsc@aspsmd.org .





MayDinner Delights

Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S

If you missed our May dinner meeting, you missed a very interesting presentation by John Gallagher. Mr. Gallagher is the Director of Fishing and Boating Services/Hydrographic Operations for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDDNR). Here are some of the things he shared.



John Gallagher
 Director Boating Services
 Fishing and Boating Services
 Maryland Department of
 Natural Resources
 Matapeake DNR Terminal

- This unit has been around since 1906. It was formed out of the annual oyster surveys.
- In 1964, the unit received the first vessel that was ice capable.
- The newest vessel in their fleet is the M/V Eddie Sommers. It is stationed in Crisfield. Its purpose is to carry out icebreaking operations between Smith Island and Crisfield. MDDNR also offers help to Tangier Island, Virginia, when needed.
- This particular icebreaking operation is necessary not only to support mail service and children needing to go to school on the mainland. Fuel for the Eastern Shore actually comes up the bay and through the Wicomico River.
- M/V Eddie Sommers was built in 2022. It can break ice up to 18 inches thick.
- There are 3 other icebreakers in the fleet. M/V John C. Widener covers the area around the Choptank, the Little Choptank, and Deale. M/V Sandusky is stationed at Matapeake, and it spends the winter at Kent Narrows. M/V Elser serves the Cambridge area.
- All the captains in the fleet have been with MDDNR for years. They are beginning to age out. Hiring is difficult. Mr. Gallagher is working on developing apprenticeships to encourage people to join.
- This department also deals with abandoned boats and debris. On average, the department removed 25 to 50 boats a year. Most are pumped out and then scrapped out. Leftovers go to the landfill.
- Debris also has to be removed. In 2018, the opening of Conowingo Dam caused the agency to remove 20,000 tons of debris.
- This group also is in charge of maintaining unlit buoys.
- Be sure to visit the Department of Natural Resources if you want further information.

Mr. Gallagher also took questions from the group. Many of the questions were about enforcement. Mr. Gallagher reminded the group that an officer has to see the infraction in order to address it. Be sure to contact them if you have a buoy out of place!



If you were unable to join us, you missed a great presentation about the role the Department of Natural Resources plays in making our days out on the water safer as well as easier! As always, we are able to offer dinner meetings that bring together friends who love boating. We also always offer informative speakers, so you can learn something interesting about boating on the Chesapeake Bay and beyond. We look forward to seeing you soon.



Annapolis Sail and Power Squadron – America’s Boating Club Wilmot’s Water World - Aug 11 - 13, 2023

Join Betty Rouse Wilmot and John Wilmot for a fun weekend at Deep Creek Lake, 104 Hawthorne Lane, Oakland, MD 21550



Friday, August 11

- ★ Drive to Deep Creek Lake (about 200 miles from Annapolis)
- ★ Arrive in the area by noon if you would like to try WHITE WATER RAFTING
Call **1-877-300-2724** to arrange a reservation. For details, call **Betty @ 301-616-6609**
- ★ Come to Betty’s house by 5 pm for lasagna, salad, and drinks on the back deck

Dinner- # _____ @\$20.00=\$ _____

Saturday, August 12

- ★ Morning - Arrive at Betty’s house about 11 am
- ★ Try the paddle boards or kayak if you like
- ★ Afternoon – water skiing, boat rides, and yard games
- ★ If you would like a water ski lesson, call **Greg Rouse at 301-616-0867** or
- ★ Betty will take you for a ski ride behind her Malibu ski boat or
- ★ John will take you for a tour of Deep Creek Lake on the new pontoon boat
- ★ Evening: Barbecue with drinks and all the trimmings

Dinner- # _____ @\$20.00=\$ _____

Sunday, August 13

- ★ Coffee and Donuts on the deck – Coffee & Donuts – by the Host
- ★ Hike at Swallow Falls State Park or leave for home

Motel Reservations going fast- Garrett Inn is full- 3 options-Reserve now

- 1.Oak Mar Motel, 208 N 3rd St, Oakland, MD 21550. (301-334-3965) \$119/day – 2 day minimum
 - 2.Inn at Deep Creek, 19638 Garrett Highway, Oakland, MD (877-853-6932) \$189/day- 2 day min.
 - 3.Will O’ The Wisp, 20160 Garrett Highway, Oakland, MD (855-508-0765) \$665 for 2 days
- We suggest you make your reservations NOW- Deep Creek will be busy this summer!

For a house rental, call **Railey 866-544-3223**, or **Taylor-Made at 301-387-5999**.
Some houses have 5 bedrooms, rent for 3 days only and cost between \$1700 and \$2100

Name _____ Email _____ Cell _____
.....

I’ve made my reservations for _____ people for 2 or 3 days at _____

Mail check for **diners** to Betty Rouse, 104 Hawthorne Lane, Oakland, MD 21550

Bananas on Board – Bad Luck or Good Luck?

By Susan Rudy, SN, SEO, ABC Baltimore, aka Dundalk Sail & Power Squadron
February 2023



For centuries, sailors of tall ships regarded this delicious fruit as a bad omen to have aboard their vessels. Several cause and effect observations supported this belief:

- ★ Bananas ripen faster in the stagnant hold of a ship and lose value; meanwhile the rotten bananas ferment and release fumes believed to be toxic to sicken the crew.
- ★ A speedy voyage may solve these problems but brings on more dire consequences. Many ships trying to make speed run aground, or disappear altogether, taking the crew down with them.

★ Sometimes sailors mysteriously fall ill and die just carrying the bananas onboard.

Today, the sickness is attributed to the bite of the poisonous Banana Spider that makes its home in South American banana trees. Sometimes found in the fruit itself, the species *Phoneutria* are large and intimidating arachnids. Once onboard, the spiders, bugs and even snakes freely roam the ship, multiplying and wreaking havoc on the crew!

But for the Tall Ship Elissa, the load of bananas she carried from Mexico to Galveston in 1883 brought a stroke of great good luck.



Launched in 1877 in Aberdeen Scotland, Elissa was hull No. 294 built by Alexander Hall and Co. The construction of her iron hull and three-masted barque rig was meticulously inspected and carefully recorded with Lloyds of London, reflecting the owner's investment and perfectionist approach. At only 150 feet long she was able to operate efficiently with minimal crew and travel fast due to attention to speed by the ship's designer. Her relatively small size, shallow draft, and maneuverability enabled her to service smaller ports. After launch, she operated successfully as a small tramp sailing ship carrying general cargoes: coal and manufactured goods from Britain outbound, and raw materials inbound, travelling between Europe and the Americas and visiting numerous exotic ports along the way.

In late 1883, Elissa departed Tampico, Mexico with a hold full of bananas. After a quick trip across the



Gulf of Mexico, she arrived in Galveston, Texas on December 26, in time for the holiday celebrations in that thriving Victorian city and bustling island port. *The Galveston Daily News* announced **“Bananas for sale: The British bark *Elissa* having just arrived from Tampico with a small cargo of choice bananas, the same will be sold at Labadie Wharf this day, in lots to suit purchaser. Call early and secure a bargain.”** *Elissa* laid over a month, loaded on 710,344 pounds of cotton, and returned to Liverpool, England in March of 1884. This chance visit to Galveston with a load of bananas was providential in her rescue and restoration by the Galveston Historical Foundation nearly 100-years later.

In the intervening century, *Elissa* passed through several owners, refits and name changes. Eventually, she was residing in a scrap yard in Greece awaiting salvage for 190 tons of iron, when marine surveyors recognized her lines and appointments as a graceful sailing ship. Around this time, Galveston Historical Foundation (GHF) had interest in bringing a historical ship to the city to complement the majestic restorations of Victorian Era mansions and marketplaces of the downtown and port areas.



It was by no means a done deal, but finding that firm historical connection due to a single load of bananas in 1883 tipped the scales. In 1977, GHF made the long-term commitment to purchase and fund the restoration to *Elissa*'s former sailing glory. After five years and countless hours by volunteers and skilled craftspeople, as well as businesspeople and fund raisers, *Elissa* was inspected, repaired, refitted and restored to her original configuration as a three-masted barque rigged to carry 20 sails.

I was in Galveston in the summer of 1982 and participated as a volunteer in the last weeks of *Elissa*'s restoration. Always a climber, it was no big stretch to be outfitted as a rigger and climb to far corners of the rig to run the lines, make and install baggy wrinkle, mouse the shackles, and tar the ratlines, among the more memorable tasks that bought my ticket to sail training. Late afternoons, the crew ascended up the mast and out along the footropes of the spar arms to learn to set and furl the sails and keep ourselves safe in the process. No harness, but only a line with a loop was worn around the waist and used to clip in as we moved aloft. This was early in the revival of tall ships for sail training, and the Coast Guard had not yet developed the detailed regulations that exist today for training ships and crew safety.

My great fortune was to sail on her very first shake-down cruise under Captain Carl G. Bowman, retired captain of the U.S.C.G. *Eagle*, before returning to Baltimore for grad school.

There was another Baltimore connection of note. The mountains of blocks needed to outfit and maneuver 10 square sails and 10 fore and aft sails were no longer being manufactured. But the Baltimore purveyor of the South China Sea Marine Trader, an antique and junk shop in Fells Point, had managed to collect old gear from sailing ships as they went down over the years and provided them to GHF. It was the volunteer crews' job to refurbish and install them throughout the rig.

Thus, *Elissa* began her new life in a second century of sailing, as a part time sail training ship and living history museum. She has made long cruises over these years, including the trip to NYC in 1986 for the Statue of Liberty's 100th anniversary. She continues to hold sail training and conduct days sails every year in the spring. As of this writing, she is in dry dock at Todd Shipyard across bay from Galveston for routine maintenance.

End Note:

This past November 2022, we stayed with our nephew in Texas for Thanksgiving. Stefan Berg is a Paramedic for the City of Galveston. We visited the fire station where he works and then went to see *Elissa* at the dock. It is amazing to gaze up the masts and recall how nimbly I navigated those heights forty years ago and gratifying to see the Galveston Fire Department's incorporation of the Barque *Elissa* into its crest. *Elissa* is a Tall Ship for Texas.

Adapted from historical display boards onboard Elissa, Galveston Historical Foundation

Bellis Bexel, P., *Sailing Ship Elissa*, 1998, Texas A&M University Press, College Station



We are saddened to learn of the passing of P/R/C Louis O. Maassel, on May 18, 2023. He was a life member of United States Power Squadrons, and a long time member of both Price George's Power Squadron and Annapolis Sail and Power Squadron. He volunteered a great deal of his time working for both the district and national writing many of the national classes. He is survived by his wife, P/C Jean Maassel.

D5 Cruise - July 21 - July 27

It's spring time! Many squadron members are preparing boats for the upcoming season with the goal of participating in family and club on-the-water events. As you plan your summer, we hope you will set aside time to participate in our annual United States Power Squadrons® District 5 Summer Cruise and Rendezvous.

This year the cruise begins at Anchorage Marina in Baltimore Harbor on 21 July. Boats to arrive on 21st or 22nd. The marina is close to Baltimore's Inner Harbor with many restaurants and shopping areas nearby. An easy walk into Little Italy for fantastic Italian meals.

On July 23rd boats will depart for the Bay Bridge Marina, a 23 nautical mile journey. An easy cruise for both power and sail. Fantastic facilities. A pool and restaurant on site and a nearby hotel. This could be the location where boats coming from the south would join the main cruise.

On July 25th the cruise will depart for St. Michaels Maryland. This 24 nautical mile journey enters the Eastern Bay south of Bloody Point and near the man-made Popular Island to the south. A beautiful cruise! Once in the Eastern Bay the cruise will veer south on the Miles River to the quaint St. Michaels town's marinas and anchorages. A specific cruise marina will be identified for gatherings. This charming town has many shops and restaurants. Also, a nautical museum and working wooden boat yard for tours.

On July 27th the cruise will depart for Lankford Bay Marina. A 23 nautical mile journey through the Eastern Bay and Kent Narrows channel. Some may want to stop for lunch at one of the many boater friendly waterside restaurants before entering the Chester River. Langford Creek is on the river's western shore. The Lankford Bay Marina, located near the creek's entrance, is the site for our Summer Rendezvous and Conference.

A dockside cocktail party will be held each evening during the cruise.

V/C Ralph Bernard is cruise chair. Captains should contact Ralph at rb3513@comcast.net or 609.226.6773 to register. We will post additional cruise details to the description document at https://abc-midatlantic.org/events/2023/22593_description.pdf.

Changes to your phone number, address, e-mail?
Please contact P/C Gary Budesheim, SN
at roster@aspsmd.org or (302) 538-5276.



To ASPS members:

We have been invited to join Main Line AKA ABC Valley Forge, on their summer cruise in June. LUX crew, having participated in prior years, can attest to the fact that it is a fun time with lovely people. If you would like to join in this year, please read the ad below and respond to Russ Jones.

Editors

2023 ABC Valley Forge Summer Cruise

Our Main Line Sail & Power Squadron **2023 Summer Cruise** itinerary is set. This year we sent a questionnaire to the members who participated in the 2022 and 2021 Summer Cruises asking which month and which marinas they prefer. The month and four marinas were overwhelmingly chosen by our cruisers. The top four vote getters are listed below and we plan to go to all of them. We are estimating that about **10 boats will join us this summer**. If you would like to crew on a boat, please let me know.

There will be **many interesting activities** on the cruise, all of which are optional. Look for details about the cruise activities in a subsequent Pilot article. We always have fun activities, and hopefully that will influence your decision to join us this year. These will include a **beach party, a cookout, dinner at great restaurants, and several guest speakers, more of our celebrated boat crawls, the infamous "forward throttle award" ceremony of course, and other interesting activities still in development.** You can sign up for the activities at our May pre-cruise dinner meeting.

Don't miss this annual cruise! Something exciting always provides wonderful memories. **If you are new to boating, we can team you with another similar boat.**

The marinas have requested a list of the boats that will require slips. **Please complete this form** indicating the marinas for which you will require a slip.

Please email your response to wrjones3@verizon.net or send the completed form to P/C Russ Jones, 115 Oak Street, Downingtown, PA 19335. No deposit required.

Boat Name: _____ Captain: _____ Cell number: _____

Boat Make: _____ Boat Model: _____ Length: _____ Beam: _____ Draft: _____

Type: [] Power; [] Sail Electric: [] Single 30; [] Dual 30; [] Single 50; [] Dual 50

- [] Saturday, June 3 – The Yacht Basin, Annapolis
- [] Sunday, June 4 – The Yacht Basin, Annapolis
- [] Monday, June 5 – Herrington Harbour South, Herring Bay
- [] Tuesday, June 6 – Herrington Harbour South, Herring Bay
- [] Wednesday, June 7 – CB Maritime Museum, St. Michaels
- [] Thursday, June 8 – CB Maritime Museum, St. Michaels
- [] Friday, June 9 – Haven Harbor Marina, Rock Hall
- [] Saturday, June 10 – Haven Harbor Marina, Rock Hall



Calendar of Coming Events



www.usps.org



www.uspsd5.org



www.aspsmd.org



America's Boating Club at Kent Narrows
[Web Page](#)

America's Boating Club/ Baltimore/ Dundalk
[Web Page](#)

United States Power Squadrons® Events

District 5 Events

Squadron Events for Annapolis and Nearby Squadrons

- 01 Jun ASPS Dinner Meeting
- 06 Jun Cruising and Cruise Planning - ABC Baltimore
- 22 Jun ASPS Exec Bd meeting - ZOOM
- 08 or 13 July ASPS Raft-Up
- 05 Aug ASPS Raft-Up led by Bill Museler (Location TBA)
- 11-13 Aug Wilmots Water World - Deep Creek, Maryland
- 17 Aug Ice Cream Social - Slattery Pool House
- 24 Aug ASPS Exec Bd meeting - ZOOM

For a complete list of ASPS Squadron Events, see:

<http://www.aspsmd.org/calendar/month.php>

SUNSHINE LADY

If you know of anyone sick or in the hospital, please contact our sunshine lady.

Betty Rouse Wilmot
sunshine@aspsmd.org
(301) 616-6609



**ASPS Squadron Leadership 2023 -2024****Bridge****Commander:** Cdr Ralph Leasure, P**Chaplain:** P/C Howard Cupples, JN**Flag Lieutenant:** P/C Stu Myers, AP**Merit Mark Chairman:** P/C Lee Myers, AP**Law Officer:** P/C Anthony Martin, JN**Executive Officer:** Lt/C Diane Leasure**Vessel Safety Chair:** P/R/C William C. Eldridge, SN**Safety Officer:** 1st/Lt Terry Slattery**Communications Chair:** P/C Anthony Martin, JN**Coop. Charting Chair:** P/C Ron Ricketts, AP**Administrative Officer:** Lt/C Peggy Slattery, S**Asst Admin Officer:** P/Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S**Membership Chair:****Boating Activities Chair:****Educational Officer:** St/C Michael Maszczenski, Jr., N**Asst Educ Officer:** 1st/Lt Patrick McGeehan, P**BOC Chair****Operations Training:** P/C Stu Myers, AP**Secretary:** Lt/C Carol Rechner, SN**Asst Secretary:** 1st/Lt Linda Sweeting**Webmaster:** Cdr Ralph Leasure, S**Historian:** P/C Peggy Slattery, S**Newsletter Editor:** P/Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S**Treasurer:** Lt/C Lorrie Short**Asst Treasurer:****Executive Committee:**

P/Lt/C Susan Gilbert, S

P/Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S

P/D/C Jeffrey Short, JN-IN

Edwin Sunderland, JN

P/C John Wilmot, JN-IN

Immediate Past Commander:

P/C Bruce Arey, JN

Audit Committee:

William Klepczynski, JN

Homer Sandridge, JN

Nominating Committee:

P/C Bruce Arey, JN

Diane Leasure

Cdr Ralph Leasure, P

P/C Peggy Slattery, S

P/C John Wilmot, JN-IN

Rules Committee:

P/C Stu Myers, AP, Chair

P/D/C Jeff Short JN-IN

Budget Committee:

P/D/C Jeff Short, Chair

**Anchor Watch
Deadline for July Newsletter:
Monday June 19, 2023****Direct all material to:
Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S
anchorwatch@aspsmd.org**