

Anchor



Watch



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District 5, a unit of United States Power Squadrons®



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Commander's Message

Cdr Jeff Short, JN-IN

Lorrie and I attended the 2025 USPS/America's Boating Club Annual Meeting held at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, FL, followed by a Caribbean cruise. We make these annual meetings into vacations by mixing seminar time with pool time and sightseeing. We always have a blast.

We arrived on Tuesday, 4 Feb, and after picking up some discounted tickets at the military recreation desk at the Shades of Green Resort, we headed straight to EPCOT. Evening is a great time to visit EPCOT. The weather was perfect and the crowds were gone. I tried to have a taste of beer from each country represented around the lake.

On Wednesday, I attended a few USPS sessions. Lorrie and I got in a workout in the gym and then hung out at the pool and tiki bar. That evening we went to Disney Springs and took a cheesy tourist ride on the tethered helium balloon over the lake. Now that was a blast! We stood by the "pilot" as he pointed out to us all the landmarks in Orlando and Disney World. He's been going up in that balloon 6 times per day for 13 years! I asked about the wind limit, and he said 29 mph, which seemed a bit high for my liking. He said he was once caught in a 55 mph gust! We were swaying back and forth quite a bit at the time and there was barely a breeze. We both agreed it was definitely worth it.

Thursday, I spent all day in meetings learning more about iMIS, SEO Marine, Core Insurance and other items of current interest. The afternoon session, lead by the National Admin Officer, was entirely devoted to squadron commanders. I wrote down the recommendations that particularly struck me. We need to re-do our bylaws to keep up with the times. We need to start poaching members out of the cyber squadron, and we need to "Keep Doing Stuff!"

We barely survived Thursday evening at Magic Kingdom. The weather was great but the crowds were thick. That park is not well lit at night and navigating through crowds of strollers and baby carriages in the dark cured me of ever contemplating going back to Magic Kingdom again. Unfortunately, at Magic Kingdom you can't just leave. No! Once you decide that you've sustained all the shin and ankle stroller wounds that you

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can take, you have several more long lines to stand in just to get to your car in the parking lot. There's a line for the ferry, a line for the monorail, a line for the parking lot tram. In each of these lines, you sustain more stroller wounds. You are fortunate if you have not bled out by the time you get to your car.

Friday was Lorrie's birthday. So, we spent a challenging day in the gym and at the pool drinking mudslides and bay breezes. That night we had dinner with my Orlando-based cousin. We were so sorry to miss the D5 Cocktail party. Each year D5 puts on the best hospitality suite, and this year, D5 Commander Bob Blevins and D5 Chief Aide Lenore Blevins raised the bar. The hospitality rooms are tiny, but they managed to serve and entertain over 160 fellow USPS members! Great job, D5!

Saturday is the National Conference at which the National Bridge Officers give their reports and present awards. The ballroom is packed with hundreds of voting delegates and interested USPS members. I always enjoy these meetings. I learn a lot about the workings of National USPS. I learn a lot about the culture of the organization, and I get to know our elected leadership. Lorrie's been to these meetings with me in the past, but for some reason I couldn't get her out of the pool to join me this time. She missed the whole meeting! Really?



Saturday night we attended the Annual Ball. This is the night everyone gets dressed to the nines. We followed suit and I put on my best Austin Powers/Prince/Jimi Hendrix duds and some cool Maryland shades. It was 70's night and it was a blast!

Sunday morning, we hopped on a chartered bus for the 3-hour transfer to Port Everglades in Ft Lauderdale to catch our cruise ship, Celebrity Ascent. This cruise was attended by over 70 USPS members. Some 20 of us rode the chartered bus and enjoyed Mimosas and Bloody Mary's provided by USPS member and travel agent Dawn Eckhart. Lorrie and Pam Booth served as hostesses and we all had a great time.

ASPS members joining us on the cruise were Ralph and Diane Leasure, and John and Betty Wilmot. ASPS Associate members included Pam Booth and John Linsenmeyer from Patapsco, Jim and Nancy Gorman from Potomac, Randy and Judy Stow from Smith Mt Lake and our Chief Commander, Ralph and Nance Bernard from Absecon.

Last year when we did this cruise, it was the ship's third week out, essentially brand new. So, this year it's just a year old. Despite carrying 3400 guests and 1400 crew, it is surprisingly uncrowded. Walking around the ship at any time of day or night, I was amazed at how I could always find a secluded area to sit and watch the sunset or hang out in a pool. Certainly some places are busy at certain times, and you usually have to show up early to get a seat at the shows, but all in all, it's a very uncrowded cruise.

Our first stop was Bimini in the Bahamas, a short 50 miles east of Port Everglades. I could have gotten there in my little motorboat in a few hours. We had to leave the port at 5 PM, but couldn't arrive in Bimini until 7AM. In order to kill time, the ship sailed all night, first south beyond the tip of Florida, took a left and went east for 50 miles, then turned north all the way back up to Bimini. Lorrie and I spent the day with Pam and John at a resort beach. Those who spent time searching for shells were disappointed to have them all confiscated upon returning to the ship. There was a table at ship's security checkpoint overflowing with conch shells and other beach contraband.

After a day at sea we pulled into Cozumel. Lorrie and I did an open air bus tour that included a stop at a Mexican market. The black coral jewelry and leather backpacks were very nice. It cost 50 cents to take a leak, so for a dollar both Lorrie and I got to use the head. Next stop was a "family owned" tequila tasting. (Everything seemed to be "family owned" on our tour.) We tasted at least 4 different tequilas, but I

actually lost count. Both Lorrie and I found them delicious, so we bought a bottle of each, six bottles in all, and they threw in 2 Cuban cigars! The tour may have taken us to another stop, but I can't recall.

Alcohol is not allowed to be brought aboard the ship. Everybody knows that. They take the alcohol from you as you board and keep it for you until departing on the last day of the cruise. Lorrie and I struggled through the security checkpoint laden with 6 clanking bottles of tequila and blood shot eyes! I always set off the metal detector with my titanium knee. So after they patted me down and searched my pockets for sea shells, we gathered up our loudly clanking bottles of tequila, walked past the table of confiscated sea shells, right up to our stateroom without a word said.

Another day at sea was spent in the gym, the pools, the bars and eating wonderful food with wonderful friends. We dropped anchor off of Grand Caymen for our last port of call, Georgetown. The shore excursion I had reserved was an air-conditioned bus tour of the island of Grand Cayman. We learned that 10 British ships, in an 18th century convoy, all wrecked on the same reef on the same night. Because the Caymanees rescued the crews, the British King granted the Cayman Islands tax-free status, which remains to this day. There are more companies registered in Cayman than there are people living there. There are 550 banks just in the capital city of Georgetown. There are entire neighborhoods of foreign BILLIONAIRES (with a B.) Foreign billionaires own 70% of the waterfront in Georgetown. The minimum wage has been \$6 for over three decades. At one point, there was a proposition to raise the minimum wage. It was big news, and everyone was excited. Then, there was silence. The billionaires own all the businesses in the Caymans. The billionaires paid off the politicians rather than allow a higher minimum wage.

There was one more day at sea. We had to travel all the way from the Caymans back to Ft Lauderdale. That Saturday evening, ASPS members all gathered for dinner to celebrate Jim Gorman's 80th birthday. There is no better way to end a great vacation with great friends than to celebrate with a wonderful meal while at sea. Happy birthday, Jim!

I knew that misery was coming the next morning though. Every Sunday morning, 8 ships carrying 3500 folks dock at Port Everglades and all those people head to the Ft Lauderdale airport at the same time! Last year when we arrived at the airport, it was like a refugee camp. We were all deposited there from the cruise ships between 9 and 10 AM. You couldn't check bags until 2 hrs before your flight so the entire ticketing area was packed with "refugees" camping out on the floor, waiting to check their bags. As the afternoon approached, the usual Florida thunderstorms started to roll in. Before they struck, there was a tiny window of time that planes were able to leave, and thankfully Lorrie and I were on the last plane out. Many of our friends were stuck in the airport overnight. Lesson learned!

This year, we reserved an 11 AM flight. We caught the cruise ship transfer shuttle at 8 AM. We beat the onslaught of cruise ship refugees to the airport. Checked bags at the curb. No lines. Waited an hour to board and made it to BWI just before the high winds arrived that eventually closed the Bay Bridge and caused flights from FLL to be delayed or cancelled. I don't know how many times Lorrie said, "Thank you, Jeff, for your foresight in planning!" (The answer is zero.)

We really had a great time at the annual meeting and on the cruise hanging out with good ASPS friends. Our travel agent and fellow USPS member, Dawn Eckhart of Dawn's Travel Deals, does a fantastic job setting up these trips. She has worked with us for the past year on every detail. She kept us informed, gave recommendations, and unlike me, answered our inquiries within minutes. She even set up the wonderful Mimosa party on the transfer bus! Think about going next year.

I look forward to seeing you at the ASPS Change of Watch.




Be safe and stay healthy.



Bay Bridge Boat Show at Safe Harbor Narrows Point

Friday, 11 April - Sunday, 13 April
Volunteer at the booth
sponsored by ASPS.

[Sign up here](#)




Note: When you get to the sign-up page,
above calendar at the right you see  
Click  LIST VIEW and then select a slot.

For more information, see the
[Official website](#)

Annapolis Spring Sailboat Show

Friday, 25 April - Sunday, 27 April
Volunteer at the booth
sponsored by ASPS

[Sign up here](#)

Note: When you get to the sign-up page,
above calendar at the right you see  
Click  LIST VIEW and then select a slot.



Executive Officer
Lt/C Ralph Leasure, AP

In an attempt to avoid the weather in Maryland, we attended the National meeting in Orlando. Fortunately, the weather was excellent all week in Florida. The conference was full of interesting meetings.

One of the first sessions we attended was the one put on by our new insurance company. The rep, Jeff, was very thorough and informative about what the new insurance covered and what it didn't. There were many questions asked and answered, sometimes not with expected results. Many things assumed to be covered are not, and others may be with prior permission. The lesson learned is that if you are in doubt, call for verification. In our case, there is a form to fill out to cover the boat shows specifically.

The District 5 reception was well attended and folks came through until it ended. Thanks to all the people from District 5 that made this event happen and made it the success that it was. I think that our choice of beverages and snacks was well received. Some had more limited menus that made our selections more desirable.

After the meeting, a number of us went on the USPS cruise line ship, *Celebrity Ascent*. The ship was huge, and offered 15 decks of various experiences. Being relatively new, she offered amenities like a fine hotel. The elevators were beautifully decorated and they operated silently and swiftly. The individual rooms rivaled a fine hotel. They were extremely comfortable and well maintained.

The first day on the ship we had the opportunity to watch the Super Bowl in the theatre. It was a first-class experience, like being in a movie theatre. The food service was superb with multiple places to eat, but in the main dining area, a wide variety of food was available almost all day long. Also, for dinner, multiple restaurants offered a variety of offerings. Most were included in the standard package, but a few had a slight up-charge for different options. All were superb.

Every evening offered two different shows in the theatre with Broadway quality acts and a variety of entertainment. Different venues on the ship offered other entertainment options and all were excellent. There was a casino where slots and table games were available. Many shops lined the halls and a great selection of art was available for purchase.

Activities abounded and gave you the option to indulge or just sit back and watch the ocean drift by. If you have never experienced a cruise like this, I can recommend it. We visited Bimini, Cozumel and Cayman, and were back in Fort Lauderdale on Sunday morning. Next year the cruise will be slightly different, since the meeting will be in Myrtle Beach. Please check the listings. I'm sure you will enjoy it.

All the best, Ralph Leasure, AP Exec. Officer





Administrative Officer

Lt/C Bruce Arey, JN

In the past, Founders Day has been celebrated in February, but this year we observe the occasion in March. Founders Day is significant as it marks our organization's establishment and celebrates its rich history and ongoing mission. The USPS was officially founded on February 2, 1914, in Boston, Massachusetts. Founders Day serves as an opportunity to honor the organization's founders, reflect on its achievements, and renew its commitment to promoting boating safety, education, and fellowship among recreational boaters.

Key aspects of its significance include:

Honoring Heritage: It recognizes the efforts of the USPS's founders and the organization's evolution as a cornerstone of boating education and safety.

Community Engagement: It serves as a time for members to gather, strengthen bonds, and promote awareness of the organization's contributions to boating culture.

Advocacy for Safety: Founders Day underscores the USPS's role in advancing boating safety, with programs that teach navigation, seamanship, and marine maintenance.

Recognition of Achievements: It provides an occasion to celebrate milestones, achievements, and the impact USPS has had on boating education and public safety over the years.

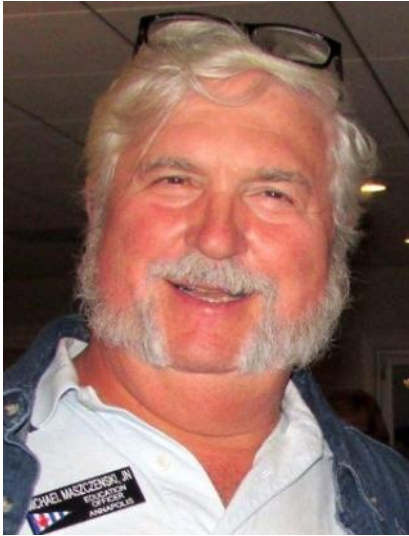
The USPS's commitment to safe and enjoyable boating has influenced recreational boating practices and maritime education for over a century. Founders Day symbolizes the enduring legacy of this mission.



Our squadron has so much to offer to fellow boaters – continuing education, safe boating surveys, community service, and great socializing! It takes all of us to spread the word about our organization!

Your executive board is developing ways for all members to assist in distributing promotional material to over 100 marinas and boating businesses in the greater Annapolis area. Members will have the opportunity to visit 3-4 sites in the early spring to drop off brochures and posters. The commitment is for no more than an hour.

Stay tuned for more information as we all pitch in to grow our exciting squadron!



Educational Officer

Lt/C Michael Maszczenski, Jr., N

The education group has been busy creating a schedule of offerings through December. Please look over the seminars and courses listed, and sign up!

Title: America's Boating Course (ABC III)

This course, when passed, earns you the Boaters Safety Course Card needed to legally operate recreational vessels. It covers the basic information needed for safe boating. It is a great review for all boaters already with a card, or who were grandfathered in, as well as new boaters.

Where: Bosun's Marine, 411 Winchester Creek Rd, Grasonville, MD 21638

Cost: all non-members 18+ of age - \$35.00, Members and 17 and under- Free

Dates: Saturday - March 15, 2025 and March 22, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Instructors: Joe Burke, John Locke, Chuck Wells

[Click Here to Register](#)

Title: Visual Distress Signals and Flare Practice

This seminar will review and demonstrate how to send a distress signal. It will cover non-pyrotechnic and pyrotechnic signals. Electronic flares and pyrotechnic flares will be demonstrated and available for participants to practice using them. Please see the ad on page 12.

Where: Mayo Beach Park, Car Top Launch Area, 4150 Honeysuckle Dr, Edgewater, MD 21037

Cost: Free, but pre-registration is required

Dates: April 5, 2025 - Rain date April 6, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM until Noon

Instructors: Mike Maszczenski, Linda Sweeting

Click Here to [Register](#)

Title: America's Boating Course (ABC III)

This course, when passed, earns you the Boaters Safety Course Card needed to legally operate recreational vessels in the state of Maryland. It covers the basic information needed for safe boating. It is a great review for boaters already with a card, or who were grandfathered in, as well as new boaters.

Where: Bosun's Marine, 411 Winchester Creek Rd, Grasonville, MD 21638

Cost: all non-members 18+ of age - \$35.00, Members and 17 and under - Free

Dates: Saturday - April 19, 2025 and April 26, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Instructors: Joe Burke, John Locke, Chuck Wells

[Click Here to Register](#)

Title: AIS Electronics for Boaters

AIS Electronics for Boaters can help you decide if AIS is right for you. In this seminar, you will learn what AIS does, how it works, whether you need an AIS system (and, if so, with what capacity), how AIS differs from radar, how to use AIS to navigate more safely, and what to consider when integrating AIS with your existing electronics.

Where: Zoom

Cost: Non-ASPS members \$35.00, ASPS members \$10.00 or \$25.00 if you want it listed in your Education certificate.

Date: April 10, 2025 Thursday

Time: 6:45 PM to 9:00 PM EDT

Instructor: John W. Nash

[Click Here to Register](#)

Title: Hurricane Preparations

In this short seminar, you'll learn how to select a location from which to weather the storm and prepare your boat for a hurricane.

Where: Zoom

Cost: Non-ASPS members \$35.00, ASPS members \$10.00 or \$25.00 if you want it listed in your Education certificate.

Date: May 15, 2025 Thursday

Time: 6:45 PM to 9:00 PM EDT

Instructor: John W. Nash

[Click Here to Register](#)

Title: Instructor Certification

This course gives instructors the tools needed for good instruction. It is required for instructors of ABC III. Planning and lesson presentations are critical, using best teaching practices.

Where: Zoom

Cost: Free for USPS members

Date: Wednesdays, March 26, 2025 to May 14, 2025

Time: 6:45 PM to 9:00 PM

Instructors: Lee Silverman, Michael Maszczenski

[Click Here to Register](#)

Courses and seminars from our neighbors:

Remember, you can also go to <https://www.abc-midatlantic.org> to find course listings from all the squadrons in the district.

Department of Natural Resources Boat Safety Course

Three sessions via Zoom: March 10, 12, and 18 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM . The fourth session is March 22 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, live in-person at a location in the Rockville/Gaithersburg, MD area, TBA. This session will conclude with the open book 65-question multiple choice exam. Attendance at all four sessions is mandatory for passing, as well as passing grade on the exam.

For additional information contact, Lee R. Silverman at 240-801-6827 or by email: cprbylee@gmail.com .

Sponsor: CERT of Montgomery County

Instructor: Lee Silverman

Cost: \$20.00

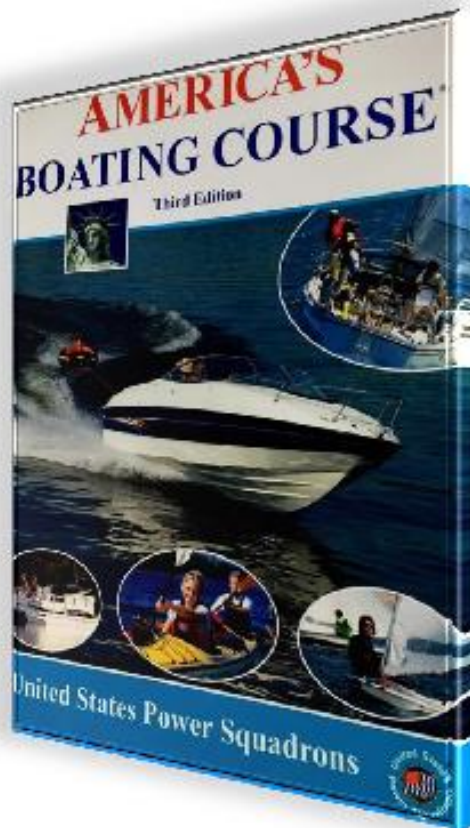
AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

For Boaters, By Boaters™



Annapolis Sail & Power Squadron (ASPSMD.org)

GET YOUR BOATING SAFETY CERTIFICATE



America's Boating Course is the most comprehensive, single source, in-person boating course available to give you the skills you need to enjoy your time on the water and boat with confidence. Taking this boating class reduces your risk of accidents and injuries, saves you money on boat insurance, and meets the Maryland Boating Safety requirement for those born after July 1, 1972.

Please register on ASPSMD.org, Click on link or by calling or emailing Joe Burke at 410-279-0862 or jrburke1976@gmail.com.

Information will be sent after registration.



WHEN

Sat Mar 15 & Sat Mar 22
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

WHAT

America's
Boating
Course

Non-Members
\$35 Adults 18+
No Charge 17 & Under
Members FREE

To Register Visit
ASPSMD.org or use
link below

For More Info
Please Contact
Joe Burke

410-279-0862 or
jrburke1976@gmail.com
DON'T MISS IT!

WHERE

Two Saturday sessions from
9 AM to 3 PM March 15
& March 22 at
Bosun's Marine

411 Winchester Creek Rd
Grasonville, MD 21638

YOU MUST ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS

[Click Here to register](#)

Seminar: Using Visual Distress Signals Pyrotechnic and Non-Pyrotechnic



Seminar: Safety on the Water: Emergency Visual Distress Signals & Flare Demonstration
A joint training by Annapolis Sail & Power Squadron and Selby Bay Yacht Club

Date: April 5 (rain date April 6). **Time:** 9:00 am - Noon

Location: Mayo Beach Park, Car Top Launch Area
4150 Honeysuckle Dr, Edgewater, MD 21037

Cost: No charge

Demonstration of how to use visual distress signals, along with hands-on practice of flare use, both Non-Pyrotechnic and Pyrotechnic. Everyone will have several practice opportunities with real flares. Flares will be provided. However, please bring any expired flares you own for use at the demonstration.

At home, you are encouraged to view: [Visual Distress Signals Video](#) from the America's Boating Channel.

Participants are encouraged to bring:

- ★ Goggles or full safety glasses
- ★ Fire retardant gloves
- ★ Expired flares to use for the practice.

Please indicate on the registration doc if you will need goggles, gloves or flares to be provided for you.

Registration limited to 40 participants and is open only to ASPS or SBYC members.
You must be pre-registered to attend.

Click here to [Register](#)

Questions: Please contact Linda Sweeting, linda_sweeting@yahoo.com

**Start out the boating season
with some new duds.**

**ASPS Logo apparel
<http://asps.qbstores.com>**

**Click on the Products menu
and select the type of
clothing or accessory that you
are interested in.**



Ladies! Let's Do Lunch!



**When: Tuesday, March 11, 2025
11:30 AM**

**Where: Maggiano's Little Italy
Annapolis Mall
2100 Annapolis Mall Rd., Annapolis, MD, 21401**

**R.S.V.P. to Georgiana Maszczenski
at gmaszczenski@hotmail.com or (410) 739-7799
by Monday, March 10 at 4pm.**

SAVE THE DATE for next lunch: Tuesday, April 8, 2025





Critical Emergency: Crew Overboard! Terry Slattery, Lord of the Electrons

There are few things as serious as a crew member going overboard. Capn Fred, who taught me a lot about big powerboats, says that the cardinal rule of boating is “Keep the water on the outside and the crew inside.” Regardless of the safety protocols, a crew member may go overboard, and being prepared for the situation is paramount. Let’s talk about some options for tracking an overboard crew member (historically called a Man OverBoard, or MOB), for those cases where there is no tether to the boat.

Let’s say that the boat is making 5 knots. That’s 8.4 feet per second. Getting notification of the crew overboard and starting to take action could take at least a minute, and often more. That 60 seconds separates the crew member and boat by 504 feet. The head of the crew member, hopefully with a PFD, may not be obvious from that far away. This is why another crew member should always point to the last known position of the MOB. But, that’s typically a problem for short-handed boating. Flags, whistles, and lights have been the main methods of tracking a MOB for generations.

It should be obvious, but worth pointing out, that the best chance for a rescue is by the vessel that the crew member was on, because it’s the closest. This assumes that the remaining crew is capable of running the boat and returning to pick up the MOB. I’ll discuss recovery by other boats in another safety article.

Still, finding the MOB is challenging, even in the best of conditions. The latest approach is to use some modern technology. Several companies have created wearable beacons that, when paired with a Bluetooth enabled phone or tablet, can set off alarms when a crew member goes overboard. See: <https://www.boatus.com/expert-advice/expert-advice-archive/2020/april/5-man-overboard-safety-devices-tested>



CrewWatcher MOB System

Some devices are water activated, but most are triggered when the beacon’s signal goes out of range of the phone/tablet, typically on the order of 50 feet. When this occurs, the phone/tablet records its GPS position and sounds the alert. The wearable devices tend to be relatively inexpensive, typically under \$100 each, and multiple devices can be paired with a single phone/tablet. These are great for tracking pets as well as crew. But there are many caveats to these devices that you should be aware of and be prepared to mitigate.

The phone/tablet that the device is paired with needs to be turned on, located where the alarm can be heard, and the app needs to be running. This implies that the phone/tablet needs to be plugged into a power supply that will allow the app to run when you want the system active.

Consider how much you intend to use it and whether you’ll want your phone/tablet connected to a power source. For example, do you want to attach a beacon to a pet collar or child’s clothing to monitor it while at anchor or in a marina? Does the beacon need to be regularly charged or have batteries replaced? Does the app show beacon battery status so you know when to replace or charge them?

Can the beacons be paired with more than one phone/tablet at a time, or is it easy to change the pairing? You’ll need a way to switch the alarm phone/tablet before you forget about the app and hop off the boat in a marina, only to have the alarm go off as you walk down the dock.

There's another situation out on the water: the only alarm is on your phone/tablet on the boat. Other vessels in the area won't be automatically notified; you'll need to make a MayDay call on VHF if you need assistance.

Most of these low-cost systems only report on water detection or loss of connectivity. They report the GPS coordinates where the alarm occurred and do not continuously update the MOB's position. The MOB could be swept away from the alarm point in areas with high currents, like inlets and rivers, greatly expanding the search area. Remember, a five knot current would move the MOB 504 feet every minute. If this is your typical boating environment, you may prefer the AIS/DSC personal locator beacons, which I'll discuss next month.

As always, stay safe!

Boating Links to Browse

Think it has been a bit cold lately? Chesapeake Bay Magazine has an article about Cane Garden Bay on Tortola in the BVIs. Just the thing to read when it is snowing outside.
<https://www.chesapeakebaymagazine.com/beyond-the-bay-bvis-cane-garden-bay/>

Chesapeake Bay Magazine reports that the Oxford/Belleview ferry has a new owner and will open again in the spring.

<https://www.chesapeakebaymagazine.com/nations-oldest-privately-owned-ferry-gets-new-owner-in-time-for-2025-season/>

If you are looking for an activity, try this: dinner at the Robert Morris Inn, then a roundtrip pedestrian ride on the ferry.

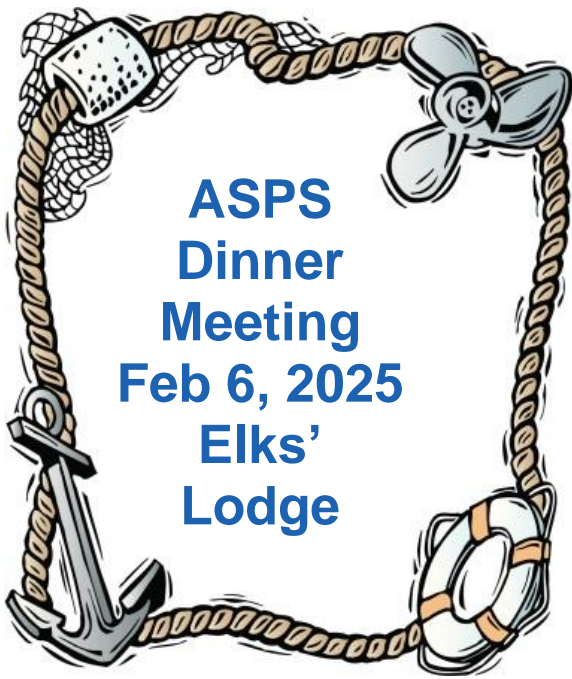
Practical Sailor via YouTube gives us a video on how to secure your dinghy, and find it when it is lost or stolen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oG2qaC4u3j8>

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

For trip ideas in the Chesapeake Bay area:
<https://www.visitmaryland.org/unique-experiences/chesapeake-bay-loop> This site changes frequently. Bookmark it and return on a regular basis for all sorts of activities in the area.

Celestial Tools - Download the latest version of this application to gain access to the new features and ensure the most accurate results. For those familiar with the application, you can [download](#) it directly. You will need to log into the national website.







Dinner Delights

Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S

Couldn't make our February meeting? You missed a very informative presentation – *How Can Humans and the Waters Have a Healthy Relationship?* Our guest speaker was Dr. Lora Harris, Estuarine Ecologist at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory located in Solomons. This center, a part of the University of Maryland system, is the oldest state-supported marine laboratory on the East Coast of the United States.

Here are some of the interesting facts from that meeting:

- ★ Dr. Harris and her team develop numerical models on ways to restore the bay and its tributaries.
- ★ These numerical models allow the team to see what could happen when different factors are changed.
- ★ Dr. Harris has learned that the best change happens at small levels. Implementation of a change happens at 5 square kilometers or less. In other words, change works best when we focus on problem solving at the community level.
- ★ One of the most important chemical elements affecting water quality is nitrogen.
- ★ Her work includes continual sampling of the waters around Solomons. They look for algae growth as well as decreases in oxygen levels.
- ★ Dr. Harris received funding to look at fishing in the Baltimore Harbor. The study looked at urban fishing and the contaminant risks to eating the fish.
- ★ Her work in the Patapsco River led to a finding of increased total mercury in adult perch.
- ★ Dr. Harris and her team work to interact with the community to encourage involvement in efforts to improve water quality. One approach has been to explain how environmental problems impact economies in the region.



If you were unable to join us, you missed a presentation packed with great information and lots of data about the water quality of our bay. 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.



2025 D/5 Cruise and Rendezvous - Smith Mountain Lake Details and Reservation Information

You are invited to join us at Smith Mountain Lake for a two-part event this summer during the week of July 14-20, 2025.

Part 1 - The Cruise

Join us as we cruise the 20,000 acres of SML on house boats. Enjoy the live-aboard life in fully equipped boats as we take in the sites and rendezvous locations around the lake. We'll board the rented boats on Monday, 14 July, and cruise together for 4 days and return ashore Thursday, the 17th. If house boats are not your thing, bring your boat, or rent a runabout of your choice, and sleep ashore.

Part 2 - The Rendezvous

On Thursday, 17 July, our activities will move to Mariner's Landing in Huddleston, Va. This will be the center of our activities, hospitality and banquet. Mariner's Landing is a lake front condo and residential community that includes swimming and fishing areas, docks, tennis & pickle ball courts, fitness and game rooms, indoor and outdoor pools, eateries, golf and more.

The Call to Action

July is a busy season on SML. Vacationers will soon be booking home and boat rentals and we need to get there before them. So, make the decision to join us for this event now. Then, book reservations for your choice of boats and rooms before availability becomes difficult. **Sooner is better.** Details of activities are still being developed and will be communicated as they come together. Rendezvous registration will also follow later. Sharing of boats and condo / housing is encouraged.

Parrot Cove Boat Rentals
16441 Booker T. Washington Hwy
(540) 721-5363

www.parrotcove.com

House Boats: 53' boats sleep up to 10. 39' boats sleep up to 6.

Mariner's Landing
12263 Smith Mountain Lake Pkwy
Huddleston, VA

marinerslanding.com

To make reservations: Use AirBnB or VRBO. In the search line, use the address for Mariner's Landing. This will return the condos that are available plus nearby houses.

Have questions or need additional information?

Contact Randy Stow, SMLstow@gmail.com or (540) 588- 0270.

Changes to your phone number, address, e-mail?
Please contact P/C Kathy Nash, AP-IN
at roster@aspsmd.org or 410-703-9559



Check out our website at <http://aspsmd.org/>



Follow the ASPS facebook page at
www.facebook.com/aspsmd.org.

Forward information and comments to
facebook@aspsmd.org.



P/R/C Bill Eldridge, SN

Vessel Safety Check

To arrange for a
VSC for your boat,
contact Bill at

vsc@aspsmd.org.



Calendar of Coming Events

United States Power Squadrons® Events

District 5 Events

- 27-30 Mar District 5 Spring Meeting in Ocean City, Maryland
 15-20 Jul Summer Rendezvous at Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia
 6-9 Nov Fall Educational Conference at the Doubletree Hilton in Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Squadron Events for Annapolis

- 02 Mar COW and Founders Day Celebration - Carrol's Creek Café
 10 Mar DNR Boat Safety Course - First Session - Zoom
 11 Mar Ladies Lunch
 15 & 22 Mar America's Boating Course - Bosun's Marine
 26 Mar Instructor Certification - First Session - Zoom
 27 Mar Exec Board Meeting
 03 Apr ASPS Dinner Meeting - Elks Lodge - Annapolis
 05 Apr Flare Shoot - Mayo Beach Park
 08 Apr Ladies Lunch
 10 Apr AIS Electronics for Boaters - Zoom
 11-13 Apr Bay Bridge Boat Show - Safe Harbor Marina
 19 & 26 Apr America's Boating Course - Bosun's Marine
 25-27 Apr Annapolis Spring Sailboat Show
 01 May ASPS Dinner Meeting - Elks Lodge - Annapolis
 15 May Hurricane Preparations - Zoom

For a complete list of ASPS Squadron Events, see:

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



www.usps.org



www.uspsd5.org



www.aspsmd.org



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

SUNSHINE LADY

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

Betty Rouse Wilmot
sunshine@aspsmd.org



HAPPY
ST PATRICK'S DAY



ASPS Squadron Leadership 2024 -2025

Bridge

Commander: P/D/C Jeff Short, JN-IN

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: P/C Ralph Leasure, AP

Vessel Safety Chair: P/R/C Bill 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: P/C Bruce Arey, JN

Asst Admin Officer:

Membership Chair: Lt/C Lorrie Short

Boating Activities Chair:

Educational Officer: St/C Michael Maszczenski, Jr., N

Asst Educ Officer: 1st/Lt Patrick McGeehan, P

BOC:

Operations Training: P/C Stu Myers, AP

Secretary: Lt/C Carol Rechner, SN

Asst Secretary: 1st/Lt Linda Sweeting

Webmaster: P/C John Wesley Nash, SN-IN

Historian: P/C Peggy Slattery, S

Newsletter Editor: P/Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S

Treasurer: Lt/C Lorrie Short

Asst Treasurer:

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Susan Gilbert, S

P/Lt/C Diane Leasure

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P/C John Wesley Nash, SN-IN

P/C Kathy Nash,

P/C Peggy Slattery, S

Edwin Sunderland, JN

David Tower, AP

P/C John Wilmot, JN-IN

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P/C Ralph Leasure, P

Audit Committee:

William Klepczynski, JN

Homer Sandridge, N

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P/C Ralph Leasure, AP, Chair

P/C Bruce Arey, JN

Diane Leasure

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

P/Lt/C Diane Leasure

Budget Committee:

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Lt/C Lorrie Short

P/C Ralph Leasure, P

Roster Contact:

P/C Kathy Nash, AP-IN

Information Technology Contact:

P/C John Wesley Nash, SN-IN

ASPS Facebook Editors:

P/C Kathy Nash, AP

P/C John Wesley Nash, SN-IN



Anchor Watch
Deadline for April Newsletter:
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Direct all material to:
 Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S
anchorwatch@aspsmd.org