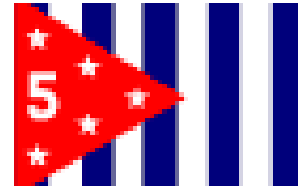




AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB MID-ATLANTIC MARK 5



VOLUME 76 No. 1

WINTER 2025 ELECTRONIC ISSUE

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2025 Spring Conference

The 2025 Spring Conference is soon approaching!

District 5 Spring Conference and Change of Watch will be held at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront in Ocean City, MD 27-30 March 2025. Each room is equipped with a kitchenette.

The conference includes important training for the new squadron/club bridge officers coming aboard. Old and new officers should take advantage of this as this training will give you a good foundation for teaching your groups and understanding what you are expected to do in your bridge position, resulting in a successful year.

Friday evening includes the popular Hospitality Suites. All Hospitality Suites will be located on the 2nd Floor. If your Squadron wants to have a Hospitality Room, you must contact Renee Seiden at 410-520-0107 or e-mail rseiden@harrisonsqp.com to officially reserve your room. Each room must be reserved for two nights. This must be done as of this writing or as soon as possible.

Please make your reservations for lodging with the number listed on the reservation form on page 3 of this issue along with the meal reservations. The form will also be available on the website. If you are not partaking in any meals, please submit the reservation form so that we know how many will attend the conference. Kenny Perigo from Patuxent River Sail and Power Squadron will assist with any questions concerning this.

Friday and Saturday features a number of seminars along with Council and Conference meetings.

The evening Change of Watch and Awards Banquet is the big event!

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Cdr Lenore Blevins

2024- 2025 District 5 Bridge

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Commander's Message

D/C Robert S. Blevins, AP

The Winter season is here and have you winterized your boat? I'm almost finished with mine. This last year was a good one. We enjoyed a great Summer Council and Rendezvous hosted by Patuxent River Sail and Power Squadron, a fantastic Fall Conference in Linthicum, Md. hosted by Dundalk Sail and Power Squadron with lots of squadrons and members receiving educational awards.

The new National iMIS system was launched to facilitate all of the District and Squadron records at your fingertips. It has growing pains as any new system will, but National is working through them as members report them. We have our own P/D/C Joe Gibson, AP who has volunteered to be our local expert on iMIS and he has conducted classes on how to maneuver the system at the Fall Conference. If you have concerns, please contact Joe for help.

National has also launched a new system called Marine SEO to support squadrons in gaining membership. Marine SEO's main push is to make all squadron Facebook front pages look similar in nature, so when a outsider calls up USPS, it will auto link that person to local squadrons within 100 or so miles. They will also help you update your Facebook pages if desired and offer grants for you to advertise local/regional events. This is a volunteer program to all squadrons, but those squadrons that have signed up for Marine SEO help have seen an increase in visibility and membership. Our District Executive Officer Bill Hammett, JN is the person who can put you in touch with Marine SEO for them to work with you and your Facebook page(s).

Three months ago USPS® National informed all districts and squadrons that the National insurance policy have been cancelled as of 1 Dec 2024 for all squadrons and district events. On 30 Nov 2024, National informed all districts and squadrons that they have acquired a new insurance policy to replicate the one cancelled for all districts and squadrons starting 1 December 2024. This policy also includes on-the-water training, VSE/VSCs and other on-the-water events. The on-the-water part is presently being written with the carrier and will be available in January 2025. As per the Chief Commander's letter in August many squadrons have acquired their own insurance for D&O and casualty. These individual squadron policies are the squadron's responsibility to decide to cancel or retain depending on the coverage desired. However, the new National policy will cover D&O and casualty as before. More on the new policy shortly.

Fair winds and Following Seas
Bob Blevins, AP



RESERVATION FORM
 America's Boating Club – Mid-Atlantic
 United States Power Squadrons® D/5 Spring Conference
 27 – 30 March 2025
 Holiday Inn Oceanfront, Ocean City, Maryland



MEMBER: Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 SQUADRON _____ POSITION _____ FIRST TIMER? _____
 E-mail _____ PHONE _____

SPOUSE/OTHER ATTENDEES:

Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____ First Timer? _____
 Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____ First Timer? _____

MENU SELECTIONS

SATURDAY LUNCH:

Chicken Marsala: served with seasonal vegetables and rice pilaf. # ___ @ \$39.00 = \$ _____

Selections served with: House Salad, Regular and Decaf Coffee and Tea

SATURDAY BANQUET ENTREE CHOICES:

Atlantic Salmon: Marinated in soy sauce and ginger. # ___ @ \$49.00 = \$ _____

Baked Rigatoni: # ___ @ \$49.00 = \$ _____

Vegetarian Spinach Ravioli: Served with roasted wild mushrooms, vodka sauce, and shaved pecorino cheese. # ___ @ \$49.00 = \$ _____

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

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: Patuxent River Sail & Power Squadron

SEND TO: Cdr Lenore Blevins
 46135 River Hill Rd
 Lexington Park, MD 20653
 (240) 434-3178 ljblevins@corpemail.biz

MEAL RESERVATIONS must be received by 8 March 2025

Recommended Dress for Banquet: Uniform A with bowtie or appropriate civilian attire. Dress Code for other portions of the Spring Conference will be published separately.

MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY WITH HOTEL - Call Reservations Department at 410-524-1600

Use the Reservation Group Code: US Power Squadron Spring Conference 2025

<https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=OCEMD&checkInDate=27&checkInMonthYear=022025&checkOutDate=30&checkOutMonthYear=022025&PMID=99801505&GPC=USP&cn=no&viewfullsite=true>

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

- Non-Smoking Venue - Handicapped Rooms available upon request
- Baggage handling, if applicable, is \$8.00 per person, round trip.
- Check-in 1600 hours, checkout 1100 hours.

Rates: Thursday 21 March: \$74.00. Friday 22 March: \$139.00. Saturday 23 March: \$139.00.

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

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 20 FEBRUARY 2025 TO ENSURE USPS® RATES

That's a Wrap!

The D/5 Fall Educational Conference was a huge success.

Thank you to everyone who donated items, helped to set up and break down the raffle room and for manning the registration, raffle, and 50/50 sales tables. We had over 50 raffle items!

No donation, no matter the size, or the time spent helping, no matter how short, was overlooked. Dundalk Sail & Power Squadron could not have done it without the help of all who stepped up!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable time, that you were able to learn something new, and that you enjoyed meeting with past friends and making new ones. Although I enjoy the classes and learning, my favorite take away always seems to be our discussions over meals and getting to know everyone better. What a great time we had.

Thank you, John O'Reilly, for the diverse class selections. A lot of time and effort goes into making the schedule and booking classes that are interesting for all of us. John, we appreciate all your effort in putting together an awesome Educational Conference and especially your persistent inquiries that led to the fantastic experience on the ship simulator.

Thank you to all our instructors and presenters for putting in all the hours necessary to produce and give informative classes.

Congratulations to all squadrons who took home awards for your excellent squadron educational programs! Keep up the good work!

Again, I hope everyone had a great time and I hope to see you all at the Spring Conference in Ocean City!

Barbara Lash, AP
Commander
Dundalk Sail & PS



2024 Fall Conference Friday



2024 Fall Conference Saturday



2024 Fall Conference Cocktails



2024 Fall Conference Saturday Banquet



2024 Fall Conference Awards

Ken Smith Seamanship

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place

- Cambridge
- Northern Neck
- Northern Virginia



Prince Henry (Traditional) 1st Place

Smith Mtn Lake



Caravelle (Traditional)

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place

- Cambridge
- Northern Neck
- Patapsco River



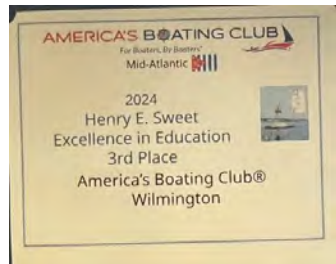
(Continued on page 10)

2024 Fall Conference Awards

Henry Sweet Excellence (Traditional)

1st Place
2nd Place
3rd Place

Northern Neck
Cambridge
Wilmington



Commanders Trophy Advanced Grades (Traditional)

1st Place
2nd Place
3rd Place

Patapsco River
Dundalk
Cambridge



2024 Fall Conference Awards

Commanders Trophy Electives (Traditional)

1st Place
2nd Place
3rd Place

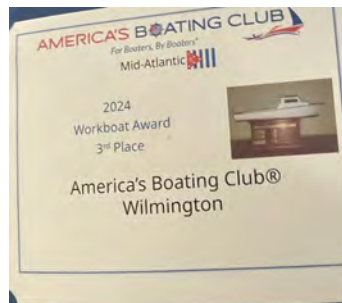
Wilmington
Richmond
Annapolis



WorkBoat

1st Place
2nd Place
3rd Place

Northern Neck
Dundalk
Wilmington



2024 Governing Board

America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons held its Fall Governing Board in Pittsburgh from 24-28 September 2024. A good time was had by all at the Friends' Night with the attendees answering the history questions based on the Billy Joel song, "We didn't Start the Fire." It really developed into a very competitive situation with the members thinking back to our younger years.

Thursday was an excellent meeting with District Commanders and District Executive Officers sharing information with each other. At this meeting, Yvonne Hill, Headquarters Staff, briefed the attendees on our new management system iMIS which allowed "hands-on" participation. This enhanced the learning process for this system. Marine SEO, a marketing company, also made a presentation in a seminar which was well received. They are using Facebook and Google, which could allow up to \$10,000 of Google advertising if the squadron wanted to participate in the program. Many squadrons opted to allow changes to their Facebook account and this would have continuity of the brand which would allow easier access when someone is searching for our organization.

On Saturday's business meeting, it was discussed our present insurance company was cancelling our policy as of 30 November 2024. This was the result of a significant payout by the company. Districts and Squadrons were advised to seek insurance just in case National could not find another carrier. Chubb insurance just cancelled our coverage and it had nothing to do with the premium; however, we have secured a new insurance policy which will cover the District/Squadron Officers, events directly connected to our mission; and within the month, we will have coverage for the on-the-water activities. More information will be forthcoming from the National Headquarters.

Saturday night was great fun with the attendees dressed as if they were getting their boats ready for the season. There were some different types of outfits, but all in all everyone had a great time.

Please make plans to attend the Annual Meeting at the Rosen Plaza, Orlando, Florida and greet friends and make new ones. The learning experience is always better in a face-to-face situation and it is a "load" of fun. See you there.

C/C Ralph Bernard, AP



2024 Governing Board





Annual Meeting
February 5-9, 2025
Orlando, Florida

Rosen Plaza
9700 International Drive, Orlando FL 32819
Group Room Rate is \$189 - Feb 2 to Feb 9, 2025

If you need to add dates on either end, we can get you the \$189 price. Please contact Kristi Anderson at kayakladyfl@gmail.com to add the dates.

We Need Your Help!

Staying at the hotel and eating at group dinners at the hotel helps us be able to have meetings at a decent hotel. Because of all the meeting space we require, your eating at group meals and staying there SAVES USPS MONEY. We appreciate your support in order to keep the expenses down and the communication high!

1-800-627-8258 and reference the Group Code: GRPUSPowersquadron25

TENTATIVE AGENDA (Subject to Change)

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB® 2025 USPS ANNUAL MEETING

ROSEN PLAZA
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

1 - 7 February 2025
Online Agenda V1



Legend:

- *Business - Closed to public
- * Open - Everyone is welcome
- * Pre-Registration/Invitation - Needs advance reservation/invitation to enter with ticket.

Issued November 22 2024

FEBRUARY 5, WEDNESDAY Attire: TBD

Meeting Type	Time	Location	Name/Description
Open	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.		Ship's Store Open for Sales
Open	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.		Activities Registration Opens
Open	9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.		HQ and Voter Information
Open	9 a.m. to noon		Information Technology Committee Meeting
Open	1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.		Take 2: Lights, Cameras, Action!
Open	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.		National Social Activities Committee Meeting
Open	6 p.m. to 7 p.m.		Welcome Friends Reception & Cash Bar
Pre-Registration Required	7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.		Friends Dinner: "Family Feud--THE Game Show for Boaters!"

FEBRUARY 6, THURSDAY Attire: TBD

Meeting Type	Time	Location	Name/Description
Open	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.		Ship's Store Open for Sales
Open	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.		Activities Registration Opens
Open	9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.		HQ and Voter Information
Pre-Registration Required	7:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.		Keynote Speaker Breakfast: A special morning hour to enjoy a delicious breakfast and in the company of friends; learn something new.



FEBRUARY 6, THURSDAY Continued

Meeting Type	Time	Location	Name/Description
Open	9 a.m. to Noon.		Budget Committee
Business	9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.		Planning Committee
Business	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.		DC/DXO Meeting. Update and business meeting for District Commanders and Executive Officers
Business	9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.		Joint Leadership and DEO Meeting.
Open	9:30a.m.-10:30a.m.		Orientation to IMIS. Interested in learning about our new member portal, IMIS? Join members of the IMIS implementation team for this hands-on user workshop. Bring your laptop and IMIS login credentials for a live tour of the new system. Learn how to get your personal data shipshape and Bristol fashion. If you're a squadron or district leader, we'll demonstrate some additional features to help you manage and communicate with members. During the meeting, we'll also run through additional functions coming online soon.
Business	9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.		Law Committee Meeting
Business	10 a.m. to 11 a.m.		Public Affairs/Partners Meeting
Open	10 a.m. to Noon		Environmental Committee
Pre-Registration Required	Noon to 1:30 p.m.		Squadron Commanders Luncheon
Pre-Registration Required	Noon to 1:30 p.m.		Educational Department Luncheon.
Pre-Registration Required	Noon to 1:30 p.m.		DC/DXO Luncheon
Open	1 p.m. to 2 p.m.		Communications Committee
Business	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.		Finance Committee
Business	1:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.		Educational Leadership Break-out Session
Open	1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.		Squadron Commander / Leadership Meeting
Business	1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.		Rules Committee Meeting
Open	2 p.m. to 3 p.m.		Orientation to IMIS. interested in learning about our new member portal, IMIS? Join members of the IMIS implementation team for this hands-on user workshop. Bring your laptop and IMIS login credentials for a live tour of the new system. Learn how to get your personal data shipshape and Bristol fashion. If you're a squadron or district leader, we'll demonstrate some additional features to help you manage and communicate with members. During the meeting, we'll also run through additional functions coming online soon.
Open	2 p.m. to 3 p.m.		Information Technology Meeting.
Open	2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.		National Meetings Committee Meeting.
Business	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.		Endowment Committee Business Meeting
Business	2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.		Educational Fund Business Meeting
Open	3 p.m. to 4 p.m.		Heritage and Documents Committee Meeting. Come join us as we stroll down Memory Lane, reviewing the first three year's of accomplishments! Learn about our in-progress projects and those that are still on the drawing board. Here is your chance to ask us about a variety of topics related to Flags & Etiquette, Historians, and the <i>Operations Manual Suite</i> .
Open	6 p.m. to 7 p.m.		Life Member and Awards Reception & Cash Bar
Pre-Registration Required	7 p.m. to 10 p.m.		Life Member and Awards Dinner. This is an opportunity to recognize members receiving their Life Membership Awards as well outstanding achievements within the organization.
FEBRUARY 7, FRIDAY Attire: TBD			
Meeting Type	Time	Location	Name/Description
Open	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.		Ship's Store Open for Sales
Open	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.		Activities Registration Opens
Open	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.		Voter Registration
Open	8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.		Co-Operative Charting Committee.
Open	8:30 a.m. to 9:20 a.m.		Online Education Committee
Open	8:30 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.		Basic Public Education Committee.
Open	8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.		Safety Committee.
Open	9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.		Squadrons at Risk - Peering through the Looking Glass Members of the Membership and the Squadron Support and Development Committees will offer tools and suggestions to help see where your squadron is at and ways that might help to improve your group. We will provide time to do a self inventory, to share thoughts, and to prioritize essentials for squadrons.
Open	9:30 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.		Publishing Committee.

FEBRUARY 7, FRIDAY Continued			
Meeting Type	Time	Location	Name/Description
Open	9:30 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.		Boat Handling Committee.
Open	9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.		Public Affairs Committee.
Open	10:00 a.m. to Noon		Environmental Seminar. Title and description to come.
Open	10:30 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.		MuVIT Laptop Simulator
Open	10:30 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.		Navigation Committee.
Open	10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.		Marketing Committee.
Pre-Registration Required	Noon to 2 p.m.		Fun Lunch for Everyone.
Open	1:30 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.		Instructor Development Committee.
Business	1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.		Planning Committee
Open	1:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.		Boat Systems: Batteries Seminar
To pre-register, please contact Ann	1:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.		Instructor Recertification Seminar.
Open	1:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.		On-Water Training & Certification Programs
By Invitation	4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.		1 st Timers Reception. A space to welcome and meet members who are attending their first national meeting.
Open	6 p.m. to 8 p.m.		District Meet and Greet.
FEBRUARY 8, SATURDAY Attire: TBD			
Meeting Type	Time	Location	Name/Description
Open	8 a.m. to 10 a.m.		Ship's Store Open for Sales
Open	8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.		Voter Registration
Open	8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.		Activities Registration
Open	9 a.m. to Noon		Annual Meeting
Open	11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.		Combined Social and Member Reception
Pre-Registration Required	11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.		Social Activities Luncheon. Socialization, a good meal, Great Guest Speakers, and renewing and making friends just sort of happens with Social Activities.
Pre-Registration Required	Noon to 2 p.m.		Members Luncheon.
Open	2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.		Annual Meeting Change of Watch Re-convenes
Open	5 p.m. to 6 p.m.		Ecumenical Service
Open	6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.		Reception & Cash Bar
Pre-Registration Required	7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.		Annual Meeting themed dinner.



D5 2025 Summer Rendezvous

Smith Mountain Lake

July 14 – 20, 2025

Houseboat Cruising
Monday - Thursday



Mariners Landing
Resort
Thursday Night -
Sunday

Saturday Council
Meeting and Tour
D-Day Memorial,
Bedford

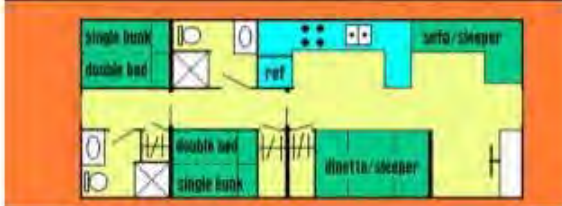


Peak season so early reservations are a priority. We ask that you make arrangements for boats and rooms before the end of the year.



Parrot Cove Boat Rentals
16441 Booker T. Washington Hwy
Moneta, Virginia
(540) 721-5363
www.parrotcove.com

Deluxe 53 ft Sleeps 10 @ \$1980 Mon-Thu
Deluxe 39 ft Sleeps 6 @ \$1500 Mon-Thu
 (note – 2024 rates)



Mariners Landing
12263 Smith Mountain Lake Pkwy
Huddleston, VA
marinerslanding.com

On site activities include golf, pickleball & tennis courts, pools, game room, fitness center. Check their website. For the most economical reservations use AirBnB or VRBO. Make sure to search under Mariners Landing, Huddleston, VA. Rooming with friends (perhaps your houseboat crew) will help manage the rates.

America's Boating Club Member Benefits



The America's Boating Club Boat Insurance Program - created to meet the unique needs of America's Boating Club members with discounts up to 38%.

America's Boating Club® Boat Insurance Program

Created for Members, by Members

One of the many benefits of membership in America's Boating Club is the exclusive America's Boating Club Boat Insurance Program (formerly USPS Boat Insurance Program). This program is available to most America's Boating Club members and is based on the premise that America's Boating Club members represent a class of "preferred risk" boaters by the virtue of their formal education in the care and operation of boats.

Since 1988, the America's Boating Club Boat Insurance Program has been providing America's Boating Club members the best service, reliability and coverage in the industry. The America's Boating Club Boat Insurance Program was created exclusively for members of America's Boating Club. It is administered by McGriff, Seibels, & Williams, Inc. and underwritten by the Travelers Companies, Inc.

Visit the America's Boating Club Boat Insurance Program Web Site for program highlights, quotes, and more information at ABCBoatInsurance.com or call toll free at 1 800 763 USPS (8777).



Solude Coffee, founded and staffed by avid boaters and located in Norwalk, Ct., roasts and blends the finest of coffee beans. Unique air-roasting only adds to their sophisticated flavors and aromas; a **20% discount** is applied to each purchase.

Solude Coffee Roasts the Finest of Coffee Beans

A large selection of quality coffees in various sizes is available on-line, and purchases typically reach the buyer within 3 days of roasting, as they are individually roasted to order.

Solude has extensive experience in working with many prominent, non-profit, educational organizations, such as America's Boating Club and its members.

Solude's proven program provides for the automatic **discount of 20%** of the total charge (not including shipping) for the coffee ordered by any Member, or by any of his or her family members and friends! Just remember to enter "**ABC20**" in the Discount Code box.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2025 Events

USPS Annual Meeting	Rosen Plaza, Orlando, FL	5-8 Feb
AC Indoor Boat Show	AC Convention Center	26-Feb-2 Mar
D/5 Spring Conference	Holiday Inn, Ocean City, MD	27-30 Mar
D/5 Summer Council/Rendezvous	Smith Mountain Lake	14-20 July
USPS Fall Governing Board	Grand Rapids, MI	1-7 Sept
D/5 Fall Conference	Lancaster, PA	6-7 Nov

A SAILOR'S CHRISTMAS



Mark 5

Official Publication of District 5
United States Power Squadrons®



Published Four Times Annually

Articles, opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect USPS® policy or endorsement unless so designated.

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