

# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

## VALLEY FORGE



## The Pilot

April-May 2020

### **Uncharted Waters**

Navigating life in the time of Covid-19 is new for all of us. As you read this issue, use the links to connect to virtual meetings, and check your email for updates about activities. If you haven't been to an Executive Committee or monthly meeting in a while, the links will help you reconnect or stay in touch.

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Commander  
Cdr Patty Pezely, AP



## Join our virtual world

We just finished our first virtual Change of Watch. If you missed it, you can see it here <https://fccdl.in/OL4EUitFiJ>. Thank you to everyone who took time out of their pandemic self-quarantine to join the virtual ceremony. It was great hearing everyone's voice. And thanks for sending selfies — they're on Page 10.

I also want to thank P/C Frank Visich for all his accomplishments over the past year. Because of him we are doing business as American's Boating Club® Valley Forge and we have all the marketing materials to celebrate our new name. We will have a celebration of Frank's accomplishments at a later time.

I had big plans for my year as Commander. My goal was to bring on new members, recover members who have left us, attract more folks from the paddling sport, promote paddling and so on.

Now my goals are to keep everyone in touch virtually, help us all continue to learn about safe boating and keep up the comradery we enjoy with each other. So, let's do that.

We will have virtual ExCom meetings, virtual dinner meetings (BYO everything) where we will supply the speaker and we will have virtual chats. When we feel comfortable to meet in person again, we will have a nice celebration.

So, what should you do during this Stay at Home period?

- Work on those gardens
- Pick up that instrument in the back of the closet
- Clean out those closets and donate to GreenDrop or another nonprofit

*Continued on Page 2*

## 2020 - 2021 Bridge

### Commander

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Asterisk (\*) means the person has completed three or more courses after achieving AP

Click **here** to  
access us on  
Facebook.



## *Join our virtual world* continued from Page 1

- If you're suddenly out of work, learn some new skills
- Phone some friends and see how they are doing
- Have virtual meetings with friends and family
- Read a book and present it virtually to kids home from school
- Ask SEO Jim Heckman how you can help with boating courses

- Watch some boating videos on our national website

With the spread of Covid-19, the D/5 Spring Conference was cancelled. We had big plans for the conference. I was determined to win the hospitality suite prize this year. Maybe next year. Perhaps we will convert a few of the hospitality suite ideas into virtual meetings.

I look forward to my first virtual ExCom meeting as Commander at 7:30pm April 1. I will send the agenda to the ExCom before the meeting. All members are welcome to join the call. Please join me on Free Conference Call! Here is how to do it.

**From your phone:** Dial-in number: (425) 436-6375

Access code: 864678#

Online meeting ID: pattypezely

**From your laptop:** Join the online meeting: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/pattypezely>

We look forward to many events throughout the year. This year instead of having an Admin Officer, this role will be shared.

- Susan Woron will host the April virtual dinner meeting, with Jim Heckman as guest speaker. The menu will be anything you have in your house and it is BYOB - see the flyer on Page 12.
- Barb and Russ Jones will host the May dinner meeting. This will be the pre-cruise dinner. See the flyer on Page 13.
- In June, Frank Visich will coordinate our booth at the Patriot Days Encampment and Gary Armstrong will host a summer kickoff at Sassafra Harbor Marina. See Gary's flyer on Page 18.

So, stay safe and keep your social distance, we will get together on the other side of this challenging time.

## Immediate Past Commander *P/C Frank Visich, S*



# Eight Bells — End of watch and all is well

I can hardly believe my year as Commander is up; it went really fast. It is true that “Time flies when you are having fun!” Although there were times when I thought I had too many things that had to get done, I did have fun and I hope you all did too.

First, let’s all warmly welcome Patty Pezely as our new Commander. She assumed her role Sunday, March 22 in her home instead of at the Downingtown Country Club. We had to cancel our traditional Change of Watch so we could maintain social distancing and performed the ceremony over the phone. Our own NEO Bill McManimen presided. He also officiated via phone at the Kent Narrows Change of Watch at their virtual event.

I will work with Patty to find a time after the Covid-19 crisis passes to present the Commander’s Award at an ExCom or a future dinner meeting.

Since this is my last article as Commander, I would like to share some highlights from this past year that I thought were notable.

The year started off with a bang when we changed our name to America’s Boating Club® Valley Forge. I remember that ExCom meeting well. As we bantered about ideas for a squadron name, Jim Heckman suggested Valley Forge, and everyone said, “That’s it!”

We also discussed and started to incorporate items of the new national transition plan.

We approved the use of interest from one of our Vanguard funds to supplement our squadron activities. The Henry Sweet Fund approved funding toward several educational items.

We hosted more than 80 formerly homeless veterans, their families and staff members at our annual veterans’ picnic, held at Whitehall Apartments in Spring City. Our efforts had to be one of the most rewarding experiences for the squadron members who attended. We have committed to doing this again this year.

Congratulations to our vessel inspectors for having a record year, making over 125 VSC inspections. Their presence helps us promote boating safety, gives us more visibility in the boating world, and will help attract new members.

In addition, I thought we had a lot of fun. We had great dinner meetings, an ice cream social and a fine summer cruise with a Gilligan’s Island theme. I still get a chuckle thinking about those with the guts to grab the karaoke microphone, (Some of us better not quit our daytime jobs!)

In closing I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to have been your Commander. We have a lot of momentum going into the new year. I also would like to thank all who helped me with events and guidance and those who let me bounce ideas off with them about things. Please continue your support for our new commander. I’m sure she will welcome it.

Blue Skies and Fair Winds!



**Educational Officer**  
**Stf/C James Heckman, SN**

## Covid-19 postpones some classes; stay tuned

"Hello" from me, Jim Heckman, your new SEO, and Joe Gibbons, your new ASEO.

This is our first report in our new roles, and we look forward to our three-year terms of office. During that time our primary goal is to support ABC/VF in educating its members and the public. Our focus will be on advertising, organizing and facilitating the delivery of our public boating courses and our membership courses (advanced, elective, seminars).

We need to decide which courses to offer, out of the many courses available to us from our national ABC organization.

To see ABC's full list of courses, click [here](https://uspowersquadrons.sharefile.com/d-s55d6707148d45ca8) (https://uspowersquadrons.sharefile.com/d-

s55d6707148d45ca8). To see the ABC's full list of online courses, click [here](https://uspowersquadrons.sharefile.com/d-s8ba477b31a34275a) (https://uspowersquadrons.sharefile.com/d-s8ba477b31a34275a).

For security reasons, the internal links on these documents have been disabled, but if you wish to follow those links, log onto the USPS national website (USPS.org) where they should be active.

Please look at the courses and seminars and let us know your opinion on what courses and seminars we should offer to our members.

Please especially pay attention to the seminars. We will promote them heavily because they will help our members quickly update their boating knowledge. We will of-

*Continued on Page 5*

## Brand New! Online chats with your SEO!!

Because we will not be able to conduct classroom courses for some time, we will offer a fun opportunity to our members. These will be 45-minute, online sessions each month, starting with the presentation of a short America's Boating Channel™ video followed by a discussion.

We will encourage those attending to ask questions,

**Online Chats** – Start time 7:45 pm (log on at 7:30 pm), Duration 45 minutes, date of first session TBA

contribute their own experiences and discuss the video. We cordially invite new members and those who do not regularly attend club meetings to participate in these chats.

Just listening will be fine. You can even bring your own snacks! Everyone's comments will be wel-

comed. You do not need to register for these sessions. Just log in a few minutes before it begins. Contact Jim Heckman if you have any questions.

Click to see the latest animation – What is wrong here?

(MP4) click [here](https://uspowersquadrons.sharefile.com/d-s3c4d2fcd93c41719) (https://uspowersquadrons.sharefile.com/d-s3c4d2fcd93c41719)

# Navigation course offered online

For the first time, ABC/VF will offer the Navigation course (mostly) online, and to a national audience.

This is the second of two courses in celestial navigation. The N course will be offered to members who have successfully completed the Junior Navigation Course (JN).

Once registered for the course students will be given access to extensive materials to review the JN course. The course will require the students to take celestial sights.

To prepare students to

**Instructors:** Jim Heckman,  
Bill McManimen

**Course start:** 7:15 pm, Tuesday, May 18, 2020

do this there will be one online session to give an overview of the course and to review the sight taking requirements.

Online videos will be available that show how to use the sextant to meet the sight requirements. The students will be required to take their sights during the summer, complete their sight reduc-

tions, and submit their sight folder before the didactic online course begins again in September. No supervision of their sight taking will be necessary, as it was during the JN course.

There are already six students enrolled in N. Please note that this course may be the first USPS course which is open to any qualified student in the nation.

We will limit the enrollment to 20 students. Please let Jim Heckman know if you are interested in taking this course.

## *Courses Continued from Page 4*

fer some courses and seminars in classrooms and others online.

Finally, there is a wonderful source of free videos about boating created by the America's Boating Channel™ (ABC). Click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWcwXxvip2w&feature=youtu.be) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWcwXxvip2w&feature=youtu.be>) to see the website and [here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Dvy-P2udbEEsImQNaoq8ZUxGwvY7V694C) (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Dvy-P2udbEEsImQNaoq8ZUxGwvY7V694C>) to view either a print version or an interactive, online version of a colorful, interactive poster showing the titles of the ABC videos.

We need your help to meet our goals. Though we have a great group of talented instructors, we need more. If you have not previ-

ously helped with our courses, we ask for you to volunteer. New members are most welcome! No previous teaching experience is required. We need all types of help, including advertising courses and seminars, greeting students as they arrive in the classroom, handing out course materials, answering student questions, giving a part or all of a lecture, leading discussions, relating pertinent personal experiences which will promote student learning, and critiquing our educational programs for the purpose of improving them.

**The Instructor Development Course** (ID) will be presented as soon as circumstances allow. It will help you learn effective instructional techniques. We will

*Continued on Page 6*



## *Courses Continued from Page 5*

use a questionnaire to gather your opinions and enlist your help. Of course, you are always welcome to contact us directly about helping us with our club's educational efforts.

Our educational programs have been dramatically affected by the Coronavirus. All the classroom courses have been postponed. We will alert you as soon as we know when they will start.

### **Using FreeConferenceCall.com for our meetings, courses and seminars**

Our club will use FreeConferenceCall.com (it really is free) to present meetings, courses and seminars. Please go to this web page (<https://www.freeconferencecall.com/pdf/us/freeconferencecall-us-participant-reference-guide.pdf>) to view instructions on how to install it.

When attending any online meeting, course or seminar it is highly recommended that you log in 15 minutes before its scheduled start time, especially if this is the first time you have logged into the session. In this way we can deal with any technical issues you might have. Experience has shown that those who log in late will disrupt the session.

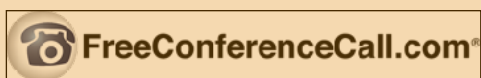
### **Login Links and Meeting IDs**

The login link and meeting ID will vary

depending on who is running the meeting/course. Most of the educational meetings/courses/seminars will use the information in the boxes below.

### **Online Etiquette**

Log into the meeting 15 minutes before the scheduled start time.



### **Online Access**

This is the preferred way to access the meeting/course because you will be able to see the presenter's computer screen.

**Join the online meeting:** <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/jlheckman4929>

**Online meeting ID:** jlheckman4929

**Customer Care, 24/7,** (844) 844-1322

### **Telephone Access**

You will not be able to see the presenter's computer screen.

**Dial-in number (US):** (712) 451-0200

**Access code:** 902580#

Keep your microphone muted unless you wish to speak.

Try to keep the background noise to an absolute minimum. Make sure that if the TV is on, the volume is turned all the way down and that there is no one talking in the room.

Do not show the video from your web cam unless the instructor has given you permission.

Do not speak while someone else is speaking. If two or more people are speaking at the same time the result is unintelligible.

If possible, when you wish to ask a question, send a message using the Chat function in FreeConferenceCall.com. If the instructor does not respond, just unmute your microphone and say "question".

During discussions, wait until the speaker has finished to ask your question or contribute an answer or a comment.



**Fleet Captain**  
**P/C Jim Friedrichs, JN\***

## Look for some new Sassafras River navigation aids

Note: The spread of the coronavirus disease has interrupted many projects. It was not immediately apparent whether the two construction projects listed below are affected. Consult the agencies involved for pertinent updates.

Marine construction continues on Poplar Island with barges continuing to transport dredged fill from the Baltimore area.

Marine construction at the Cambridge Marine Terminal in Cambridge Creek is scheduled to continue until November 30, 2020.

### **Sassafras River aids updates**

The Coast Guard has made changes in the aids marking the Sassafras River. The changes are listed below.

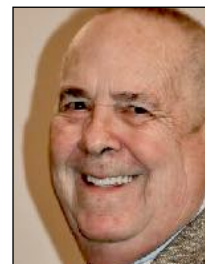
- Sassafras River Channel Lighted Buoy 2 has been converted to Sassafras River Light 2SR in approximate position 39 22 19.700N, 75 59 02.250W with SG dayboards.
- Convert Sassafras River Channel Buoy 3 to Sassafras River Daybeacon 3 in approximate position 39 22 19.700N, 75 59 02.250W with SG dayboards.
- Establish Sassafras Daybeacon 4 in approximate position 39 22 02.890N, 75 58 46.770W with TR dayboards.

### **Sassafras River Facts**

- The river is 22 miles long
- Its watershed area is 97 miles, of which 14% is water.
- Several rare and endangered species live in the watershed.
- Study an aerial map of the river in detail: <https://www.terrain360.com/map/sassafras-river/visual#11.35/39.375/-75.9679>

- Discontinue Sassafras River Channel Buoy 5.
- Discontinue Sassafras River Channel Buoy 6.
- Relocate Sassafras River Channel Light 7 to 39 22 38.680N, 75 57 50.520W and rename to Sassafras River Light 5.
- Convert Sassafras River Channel Buoy 8 to Sassafras River Daybeacon 6 in approximate position 39 22 29.650N, 75 57 22.210W with TR dayboards.
- Relocate Sassafras River Channel Light 9 to approximate position 39 22 11.230N, 75 56 33.310W with a flashing 2.5s green light and rename to Sassafras River Light 7.
- Convert Sassafras River Channel Light 10 to Sassafras River Daybeacon 8 in approximate position 39 22 14.010N, 75 55 45.880W.
- Convert Sassafras River Channel Buoy 12 to Sassafras River Light 10 in approximate position 39 21 50.690N, 75 54 43.900W with a flashing 2.5 second red light and TR dayboards.
- Convert Sassafras River Channel Buoy 14 to Sassafras River Daybeacon 12 in approximate position 39 21 54.950N, 75 53 44.670W with TR dayboards.

## Safety Officers *Deborah and Bill Northey*



### *Emergency!* Here's how to call

When using your VHF radio to request help, you need to assess the problem. If it is life threatening or your boat is sinking or on fire, you would use “Mayday, Mayday, Mayday” and your vessel’s name. This is the same as an SOS.

For other less severe problems, such as you have lost your engine and are adrift in the channel, or a crew member has a broken arm, use “Pan-Pan” three times followed by the vessel name. (Both Mayday and Pan-Pan calls on VHF would alert other boaters nearby as to your problem, allowing them to offer assistance if needed.)

If using DSC (Digital Selective Calling) on your VHF, you should announce whether the problem is a Mayday or Pan-Pan. Remember, if you want to use the DSC feature you need to have registered your radio and received a 9-digit MMSI number identifying you and your vessel.

While you can register for a MMSI number at West Marine, be aware that in that case, your number is limited to the US. I prefer to register with NOAA, which makes it international.

Remember also that when you receive your number, it has to be entered into your radio.

Follow carefully the instructions in your radio manual. If you screw things up, you may have to return to the dealer to get things fixed.

DSC is a great feature that can be used for other things so, again, check your manual. Don't forget to connect the radio to your GPS also, so that if you broadcast an emergency, your location will be broadcast as well.

A little history on emergency calling. The Morse code signal was originally CQD. Some sources say CQD meant “come quick disaster,” but others note that in early radio transmissions, CQ was simply a general call, and the D was added for “Distress.”

CQD was changed in 1908 to SOS to make the transmission more efficient in Morse code, because . . . - - - . . . is easier to send and decode than - . - . - . - . . .

The first recorded emergency use of SOS sent in Morse code was from the Titanic, whose radio operator sent not only CQD but also SOS. This puts SOS in the same category as Mayday — immediate and serious danger. If a less urgent Morse code call is needed, say for ship safety or safety of a person, XXX ( - . . - - . . - - . . - ) would be sent, equivalent to a Pan-Pan.

I know toilet paper is in demand now and supplies are short, but remember to get marine grade or you could have a big emergency and a big cleaning problem.







Squadron members turned out to promote America's Boating Club® Valley Forge at the Greater Philadelphia Boat Show in March. Top left, Joe and Patty Pezely, Lisa Fegan and Rita Rossi preside over an array of informational materials. Top right, ABC/VF member Bruce Fegan explains the Virtual Trainer to two interested onlookers. At left, Tom Payne and Wayne Barrett are ready to greet visitors. Below, Frank Visich, Gary Armstrong, Wayne Barrett, Nick Montalto and Jim Heckman share a joke.



Photos by  
Meridith  
Barrett

## New members join ABC Valley Forge



Please welcome Jake and Cathy Reardon as new members in our squadron. They have a 25-foot Yamaha jet boat, and had been cyber members of America's Boating Club. You can reach them at:

309 Gypsy Lane  
Wynnewood, PA 19096  
610-547-3606  
jreardon@bcgsecurities.com



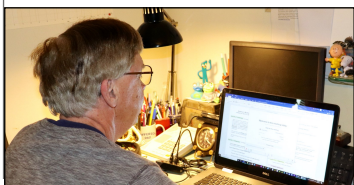
# Cdr. Pezely installed at virtual CoW



Attending in spirit were Mike and Karen Gibson (above left), Jim and Sue Friedrichs (above center), and Lance and Ginny Parry (right).



Nick and Rosemary Montalto (above), Chas and Rita Rossi (below) and Wayne Barrett took part.



Patty Pezely was installed as commander at a virtual Change of Watch, necessitated by the Coronavirus. Bill McManimen was officiant; Gary Armstrong was emcee.



Fittingly, Jim Heckman (left) brought along a virtual friend (right), who helped animate things.



Megan Weber (above) and Cindy Gorge (below) made the virtual scene.





## Who We Are – Your Squadron Officers

ABC Valley Forge squadron members do some heavy lifting to keep our organization running. Here are the 2020-2021 elected officers and appointed committee chairs.

We need your help too! To get involved, contact the person who oversees that area.

### Elected Bridge Officers

<b>Commander</b>	Patty Pezely	<b>Treasurer</b>	Wayne Barrett
<b>Educational Officer</b>	Jim Heckman	<b>Asst. Educational Officer</b>	Joe Gibbons
<b>Secretary</b>	Cindy Gorge		

### Nominating Committee

Frank Visich	Joseph Pezely	Lance Parry
Susan Woron	Susan Friedrichs	

### Executive Committee

Gary Armstrong	Lisa Fegan	Jim Heckman	Bill Northey	Charles Rossi
Meridith Barrett	Jim Friedrichs	Barbara Jones	Deb Northey	Rita Rossi
Wayne Barrett	Sue Friedrichs	Russ Jones	George Painter	Frank Visich
John Beardsley	Joe Gibbons	John Juzbasich	Ginny Parry	Patti Visich
Maryanne Boettjer	Kathy Gibbons	Bob Long	Lance Parry	Megan Weber
Betty Corbin	Mike Gibson	Bill McManimen	Joe Pezely	Susan Woron
Bruce Fegan	Cindy Gorge	Nick Montalto	Patty Pezely	

### Appointed Officers

<b>Fleet Captain</b>	Jim Friedrichs	<b>Flag Lieutenant</b>	Meridith Barrett
<b>Law/Legislative Officer</b>	Nick Montalto	<b>Chaplain</b>	Betty Corbin
<b>D/5 Liaison Officer</b>	Nick Montalto	<b>Merit Mark Chairperson</b>	Bill McManimen
<b>Safety Officers</b>	Deb and Bill Northey	<b>Rules</b>	George Painter, Nick Montalto, Russ Jones
<b>Vessel Safety Check</b>	John Juzbasich	<b>Boat Shows</b>	Joe Gibbons
<b>Boating Activities</b>	Joe Gibbons	<b>Auditing</b>	Jan Painter, Jim Herron
<b>Membership</b>	Sue Friedrichs	<b>Ensign and Mark 5</b>	Wayne Barrett
<b>Operations Training</b>	Susan Woron	<b>Historian</b>	Bob Long
<b>New Member Involvement</b>	Lisa Fegan	<b>Communications</b>	Barbara Jones
<b>Publications/Newsletter</b>	Virginia Parry	<b>USPS Educational Fund</b>	Bob Long
<b>Supply Officer</b>	Mike Gibson	<b>Property</b>	Cindy Gorge
<b>IT Contact</b>	Joe Pezely	<b>Fund Committee</b>	Lisa Fegan, Russ Jones, Jim Friedrichs, Bob Long
<b>Roster/Personnel Officer</b>	Patty Pezely	<b>Public Relations/Advertising</b>	Frank Visich
<b>Webmaster</b>	Joe Pezely	<b>Social Media</b>	Megan Weber, Joe Pezely
<b>Public Education</b>	Jim Heckman	<b>Veterans' Events</b>	Frank Visich
<b>USCG Auxiliary Liaison</b>	Gary Armstrong		
<b>Archives</b>	Susan Woron		

Our regular dinner meeting will be virtual this month with an interesting topic presented by our SEO, Jim Heckman.

If you've never tried an online meeting, try this one. It's fun and informative and may be the way we do things for the near future.

No need to RSVP. Just make sure you understand how to use "Free Conference Call.com" before the meeting.

**Online access (preferred):**

Join the online meeting:  
<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/pattypezely>  
Online meeting ID: pattypezely

**Telephone Access:** (you will not be able to see the animations!)

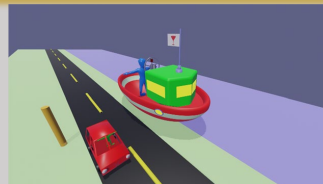
Dial-in number: (425) 436-6375  
Access code: 864678#

**More info:**

<https://www.freeconferencecall.com/pdf/us/freeconferencecall-us-participant-reference-guide.pdf>

## America's Boating Club® Valley Forge

# April Speaker's Meeting Thursday, April 16 Log on before 7:30 pm



### "Animating Boating Education"

Presentation by  
Jim Heckman

This is a chance to see how our ABC national organization is modernizing its approach to educating boaters. Jim will show more than a dozen animations he has created to support our ABC educational programs. These novel, state-of-the-art animations are based on 3-D computer models he has created.

We encourage all members to attend, particularly those who have not previously attended one of our dinner meetings. You will find yourself among a friendly group who look forward to chatting with you!  
**Good News! This one is free!**

## MENU

That's entirely up to you! Make yourself comfortable. Pour your favorite beverage, prepare your snacks, and relax. Jim is doing all the work!







## Pre-Cruise Dinner Meeting Thursday, May 21, 2020

Please join us at **Peppers Restaurant** for dinner and to review the plans for the 2020 Commander's Cruise on the Chesapeake.

Our America's Boating Club® Valley Forge Squadron's annual cruise is always a highlight of the year. Everyone who has been it will tell you what a great time they had. You can join us for all or part of the cruise that covers two weekends and the week in between. This year it will be from **Friday, July 10 through Sunday, July 19**, and will include marinas in Baltimore, Kent Island and Chestertown that have not been on the itinerary before.

**ALL members** are invited to the dinner meeting. You don't need to be going on the cruise to attend the dinner to have fun and enjoy the company. Come and learn about the cruise. You may find ports / activities of interest and decide to drive to various sites.

And, don't feel anxious about joining the cruise. If you are a **new boater**, we will have other similar boats accompany you on the trip. Bring your children and friends.

**Date: Thursday, May 21, 2020**

Cocktails, 6 pm; Dinner, 7 pm; Cruise Presentation, 8 pm

**Place: Peppers Restaurant, 175 Town Center Road, Route 202, King of Prussia**

**RSVP: P/C Russ Jones**

115 Oak Street, Downingtown, PA 19335

610-873-1576 [wrjones3@verizon.net](mailto:wrjones3@verizon.net)

*All are invited... Skippers, Mates, Crew, Guests...*

**Please RSVP and mail a check to Russ, made out to MLSPS, no later than Thursday, May 14**

**America's Boating Club® Valley Forge Dinner Reservation**

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Menu: Peppers, bruschetta, grilled salmon, chicken marsala, veal parmesan, ice cream**

**Check amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$37 per adult; \$15 per child age 12 or under)**

**NOTE: Stay tuned** for further information regarding the cruise, pre-cruise dinner and the Coronavirus. We plan to make a decision at the beginning of May.



## Three new ports are in this year's cruise

By P/C Russ Jones, SN

Our America's Boating Club® Valley Forge 2020 Summer Cruise itinerary is set. As you know, the commander decides which ports of call we will visit. Commander Patty Pezely has included three marinas — in Baltimore, Kent Island and Chestertown — for the first time in this year's itinerary. We estimate that 12 to 18 boats will join us this summer between July 10 and 19.

The cruise will feature many interesting activities, all of which are optional. Look for details about them in a subsequent article. We always have fun activities, and hopefully that will influence your decision to join us. They include a catered cookout, dinner at several great restaurants, more of our celebrated boat crawls, the infamous "forward throttle award" ceremony, and others still in development. You will be able to sign up for them at our pre-cruise dinner meeting on May 21.

Don't miss this annual cruise! Something exciting always provides wonderful memories. If you are new to boating, please join us for all or part of the cruise. We can team you with another similar boat if desired.

**Also, we have engaged The Eastport Oyster Boys to entertain us at Castle Harbor Marina on Kent Island on Wednesday, July 15.** If you are not familiar with them, go to their website <https://oysterboys.com/> and also see <https://chesapeakebay-magazine.com/we-like-it-this-way/>. **You DO NOT want to miss these guys. They are great!** We had them perform exactly 10 years ago on a cruise.

If you cannot make the cruise, be sure to sign up for the cookout and entertainment (\$35).

Contact Russ at [wrjones3@verizon.net](mailto:wrjones3@verizon.net) or 610-873-1576.

**For marina slips, please complete this form and send it to:**

**P/C Russ Jones, 115 Oak Street, Downingtown, PA 19335**

Boat Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Captain: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell number: \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Boat Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Beam: \_\_\_\_\_ Draft: \_\_\_\_\_

Type: ☐ Power; ☐ Sail Electric: ☐ Single 30; ☐ Dual 30; ☐ Single 50; ☐ Dual 50

☐ Friday, July 10 – Baltimore Yacht Club – Sue Island

☐ Saturday, July 11 – Baltimore Yacht Club – Sue Island

☐ Sunday, July 12 – Lighthouse Point Marina – Baltimore **new on cruise!**

☐ Monday, July 13 – Lighthouse Point Marina – Baltimore

☐ Tuesday, July 14 – Castle Harbor Marina – Kent Island **new on cruise!**

☐ Wednesday, July 15 – Castle Harbor Marina – Kent Island

☐ Thursday, July 16 – Chestertown Marina – Chestertown **new on cruise!**

☐ Friday, July 17 – Chestertown Marina – Chestertown

☐ Saturday, July 18 – Haven Harbour Marina, Rock Hall



**NOTE: Stay tuned** for further information regarding the cruise, the pre-cruise dinner and the Coronavirus. We plan to make a decision at the beginning of May.



## PRETTY

### In PINK

A roseate spoonbill displays, at left, apparently catching the eye of a cormorant and an anhinga on Sanibel Island, FL.

Photos by  
Lance Parry

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## Update your roster info now

Have you changed your email address, ditched your land line, gotten a new cell phone number? Bought or sold a boat? Registered a MMSI?

If any of these things are true, contact Patty Pezely by April 15 at [pattypezely@gmail.com](mailto:pattypezely@gmail.com) to update your info.

## Get Noticed in The Pilot


Place your ad where boaters will see it — in the newsletter of America's Boating Club® Valley Forge.

- Advertise in 1 issue or all 6. Your ad can start in any issue — February, April, June, August, October or December. Change the design between issues to feature seasonal specials or events.
- Choose a size: 1/8 page — \$10 per issue or \$50 for a year; 1/4 page — \$20 per issue or \$100 per year; 1/2 page — \$40 per issue or \$200 per year.
- Contact [pilot@mainlinesps.org](mailto:pilot@mainlinesps.org) for more information.

## Briefly Noted

**Got time on your hands?** — You can prepare for a Vessel Safety Check later this spring by visiting the VSC web page <https://bit.ly/2EiAnVS> where you can complete a virtual self-evaluation of your vessel. When it's time to get ready to boat, contact our Vessel Safety Examiner coordinator, John Juzbasich, to find an examiner or a VSC event near your boat or marina. And don't forget to check your paddle craft as well!


**File Smart** — Look for an update on the Archive Committee's progress from P/C Susan Woron at the April 1 ExCom meeting. Our squadron's system will be modeled on the one used by D/5, she said.



Operations Training

**Congratulations to Megan Weber and Joe Gibbons, who completed Operations Training on Sunday, February 2, 2020.**

Contact P/C Susan Woron for information about future training or general information about Operations Training (sworon54@gmail.com)





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## Highlights from minutes of Feb. and March ExComs

**February** — The squadron has received new name tags for all members. Members should contact Cdr. Frank Visich to get them.

P/C Susan Woron reported the archiving committee is developing a system for storing squadron documents and photos. Only some officers will be able to archive documents, but members will be able to access and read them.

Lt/C Patty Pezely reported that planning for our hospitality suite at the D/5 spring conference is well under way, focusing on kayaking and the ABC Jump Start program.

D/Lt Jim Heckman introduced Lois Hillman, a certified kayak instructor, as a resource as the squadron considers developing safety classes and possible on-the-water training for novice kayakers. More investigation is needed before any programs are launched.

**March** — Cdr Frank Visich reported that P/D/C Fuzzy Jones, former commander of the Dundalk squadron (now ABC Baltimore) and D/5, and an active member of the national ABC organization, has passed away. Our squadron has sent flowers.

Visich also reported that plans are in place to again hold our veterans' picnic on Sunday, Sept. 20 at the Whitehall Apartments in Spring City. Last year about 80 veterans, their families and staff members attended as our squadron provided the food.

Lt/C Patty Pezely said plans for our D/5 hospitality activity continue, will include four stations of activities. *[Note: The conference has since been canceled.]*

Reminder: Our Change of Watch will be Sunday, March 22 at Downingtown Country Club. *[Note: This became our first virtual meeting.]*

Submit updates to your roster information to Patty Pezely as soon as possible. If you only use a cell phone, for example, remove the landline number from your listing.

## Members' birthdays – how about a drum roll with those

### MARCH

Scott Borzell	03/02
Jan W. Painter	03/04
Kathleen M. Borzell	03/07
James Cummings	03/08
Deborah Northey	03/12
Harris B. Brody	03/20
Jonathan B. Fowler	03/25
Morris Disston	03/26
John Juzbasich	03/28



### APRIL

Lynn Fowler	04/07
Jean-Jacques Simon	04/09
William R. Jones	04/13
Karen Gibson	04/15
William M. Hann	04/15
Carol F. Nelson	04/28
Alex M. McElroy	04/30

Students, Members, and Friends, You are invited to  
**America's Boating Club – Valley Forge**  
**Summer Kick-Off**  
**June 13, 2020!**

Join us for a fun day  
on the water with  
swimming, socializing  
and boat tours



## **Schedule for the Day**

- **Meet at Sassafras Harbor Marina at 1:00**
- **Board Boats 1:15 – BYOB - Snacks and water provided**
- **Travel to a Nearby Anchorage and Raft-Up**
  - **Enjoy the Afternoon on the Water**
  - **Return to Marina ~5:00**
  - **Dinner at Kitty Knight House 6:00**  
(Order from Menu)
  - **Go Home with Great Memories**
- **RSVP by June 10 to [garmstro55@gmail.com](mailto:garmstro55@gmail.com)**

Sassafras Harbor Marina, 2 George St, Georgetown, MD  
Call [\(410\) 275-1144](tel:4102751144) for slip reservations

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# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

## VALLEY FORGE

### 2020-2021 Calendar

April dates include instructions for attending virtual events.

Events in May and beyond may be changed or cancelled as conditions warrant. Check your email regularly and stay in touch virtually if you can't join in person.

#### April

- I ExCom Virtual Meeting, 7:30 pm. To attend: plan to connect at 7:15 pm.  
**From your laptop:** <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/pattypezely>  
**From your phone:** (425) 436-6375; Access code: 864678#; Online meeting ID: pattypezely
- 15 Deadline to send roster updates to Patty Pezely: pattypezely@gmail.com
- 16 Virtual Dinner Meeting, SEO Jim Heckman presents animations. See flyer on Page 12. Log on before 7:30 pm.  
**From your laptop:** <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/pattypezely>  
**From your phone:** (425) 436-6375; Access code: 864678#; Online meeting ID: pattypezely

#### May

- 6 ExCom Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm.
- 16-22 Safe Boating Week
- 18 Navigation Course begins; **not postponed, and will be mostly online**, for students who qualify. Details on Page 5.
- 20 Educational Cruise on the Delaware, Philadelphia, status unknown
- 20 *Pilot* articles deadline
- 21 Pre-Cruise Dinner Meeting, Peppers Italian Restaurant & Bar, 175 Town Center Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406. See information on Page 13

#### June

- 3 ExCom Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm
- 10 Deadline to RSVP to Gary Armstrong for Summer Kickoff event
- 13 Patriot Days Encampment, Daniel Boone Homestead. Contact Frank Visich to volunteer
- 13 Summer Kickoff at Sassafra Harbor Marina; RSVP Gary Armstrong; bring your boats!

#### July

- I **No** ExCom meeting

*Continued on next page*



## 2020-2021 Calendar, continued

- 10-19 Commander's Summer Cruise; itinerary and marina signup on Page 14  
23 *Pilot* articles deadline  
23-26 D/5 Summer Council, Smith Mountain Lake, VA. See D/5 website for information

### August

- 5 Commander's Picnic and ExCom meeting

### September

- 2 ExCom Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm  
TBD Dinner or picnic — RSVP Chas Rossi to help organize  
20 Annual Veterans' Picnic, Whitehall Apartments, Spring City; RSVP Frank Visich  
21 *Pilot* articles deadline

### October

- 7 ExCom Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm  
TBD Deadline to submit all Merit Mark recommendations to Bill McManimen  
15 Monthly Dinner Meeting (being planned by John Beardsley)

### November

- 4 ExCom Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm  
5-8 D/5 Fall Educational Conference, Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel  
19 **No** dinner meeting  
20 *Pilot* articles deadline

### December

- 2 ExCom Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm  
11 Holiday Party, Downingtown Country Club (being planned by Barb and Russ Jones)

The America's Boating Course, Marine Navigation, and Instructor Development courses have been postponed until further notice. Look for updates as they are rescheduled.

For more information on any calendar items, please contact Cdr Patty Pezely, AP, at [pat-ty.pezely@gmail.com](mailto:pat-ty.pezely@gmail.com).



VALLEY FORGE

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### ***The Pilot***

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The Pilot is a publication of America's Boating Club® Valley Forge, a unit of United States Power Squadrons®. The Pilot is published in February, April, June, August, October and December. It is on the web at [www.mainlinesps.org](http://www.mainlinesps.org) and on Facebook at Main Line Sail & Power Squadron. Contact us at [pilot@MainLineSPS.org](mailto:pilot@MainLineSPS.org).

**The June-July 2020 issue deadline is May 20.**

