

# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

## VALLEY FORGE



## The Pilot

August-September  
2020

### In this issue:

Bridge officers' columns	1-4
Bridge members	2
Fleet captain's report	5
Safety report	6
Covid-19 and kayaks	7
Aids to navigation update	7
Membership renewals	7
Season kickoff gathering	8
Summertime - Pellegrini	9
Summertime - Gorge	10
Summertime - Visich	11
VSC update	12
ExCom meeting highlights	13
Briefly noted	13
Archive update	14
D/5 and national news	15
Members' birthdays	16
Calendar	18-19
Ship's Store	19

### **Informal reader poll:**

**Are you seeing more boats and watercraft in the water this summer, possibly a result of covid cabin-fever? Is your marina busier?**

**This may be a great opportunity to introduce folks to ABC-VF and our array of boating courses and videos.**

**Let us know what you see!**

**Commander**  
**Cdr Patty Pezely, AP**



## The 2020 cruise was a dream one

*It's mid-July, and Joe and I just returned from our annual summer cruise on the Chesapeake. The weather could not have been better. The temperatures were in the low 80's, and the winds were a fair 5 to 12 knots. We spent our first two nights at the Baltimore Yacht Club on Sue Island. We met up with our friends and enjoyed all-you-can-eat crabs at the Sue Island Grill. Barb and I enjoyed a couple Painkillers as Nick and Joe drank something blue.*

*Sunday, we sailed off to Lighthouse Point. I hosted the Commander's Cocktail party on Sunday night. Ginny - thank you for all your help setting up. Our charter safely fit everyone comfortably. Susie brought her meatballs and John brought his Foxy Ladys. Wayne told stories of the day's adventures while Lance and Meridith took memorable pictures of the sunset and compared notes. Our squadron's canine crew, Gus, Captain and Waldi, reminisced about the fragrances of the day. Laughter went on well into the evening.*

*Tuesday we sailed onto Castle Harbor Marina on Kent Island. Wednesday night the Eastport Oyster Boys provided truly unique Chesapeake-infused music and mirth. Russ and Nick got up and sang a few verses with the boys. I didn't know Chas could play banjo so well, or Harris the trumpet. Patti and Frank danced to Rock Around the Eastport Docks Tonight while Jon and Lynn followed up with a swing dance. What a fun night.*

*Thursday we sailed up the beautiful Chester River. What a journey. I heard Maryanne and Nick sailed the whole way while George and Jan had some trouble with their sails. We walked around the historic town of*

*Continued on Page 2*

## 2020 - 2021 Bridge

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

Click [here](#) to  
access us on  
Facebook.



## Staying in touch *continued from Page 1*

*Chestertown. Before sunset, Bruce and Lisa took a side trip up the Corsica River to check out the anchorages. There were so many gems at the farmers market. Terri and Rita both bought cool Aromatherapy Lava bracelets.*

*Saturday afternoon, Chuck and Debbie hosted a wonderful cocktail party in Rock Hall. The shrimp were to die for. Patty and Cliff brought those iconic Berger's cookies from Lexington Market. Yum! Later we met at The Bay Wolf Restaurant where Chuck and Gary presented the annual Forward Throttle Award. I could not believe who won and with that boat!?*

Yes, this was the dream I had last night.

In reality, we have been staying safe and wearing masks until it is safe to move about the country again. I was hoping to have the commander's picnic in August but with the trends still being high, I'm going to err on the side of caution and keep the August meeting as a virtual ExCom.

I will email a virtual meeting invite prior to the call.

I would really like to thank SEO Jim Heckman for rallying the instructors to teach our first virtual ABC course. I would also like to thank the other folks who helped him with marketing and means for payment. I hope not to miss anyone, but many thanks go out to Jim Heckman, ASEO Joe Gibbons, Russ Jones, Nick Montalto, Gary Armstrong, Lance Parry, George Painter, Sue Friedrichs, Wayne Barrett, Megan Weber and Joe Pezely for helping make this course a success.

I would like to reach out to all members of America's Boating Club® - Valley Forge. Many of our members meet about twice a month for our regular executive committee (ExCom) meeting and for dinner meetings. We really have a lot of fun, even virtually.

If you only see squadron members while taking classes or on the water, consider joining a meeting or a dinner. If you want to connect or reconnect with boating partners, be in touch. (As an example, read Chuck Pellegrini's article on Page 9.) If you are interested in learning more, please contact me.

Other news: The 2020-2021 roster was emailed on June 27. If you don't have it, please check your email on that date. The roster will not be printed.



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

**Asst. Educational Officer**  
Lt Joe Gibbons, JN

## ABC-VF presents online ABC course, plans more

In June and July, for the first time, ABC-VF presented a virtual version of America's Boating Course. Four students took part.

This followed approval in June of our on-line course from the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In short order we organized the course, which consisted of four two-hour online sessions as well as a proctored online exam.

The students could enroll in the class by submitting an interactive online form, and pay for the course online by using PayPal. Two of the students passed the exam, each missing only one question. One couple had a family emergency and expects to take the exam in a week or so.

Thanks to the following ABC-VF instructors who participated in the course by presenting wonderful lectures: Nick Montalto, Wayne Barrett, Gary Armstrong, Russ Jones, Lance Parry, Bill McManimen and George Painter.

Joe Pezley helped tremendously by creating a web page on our ABC-VF web site which gave the students access to the online form and to PayPal.

Giving this course was rewarding for all of us though we needed to make some adjustments to present it online rather than in a brick-and-mortar classroom. Several of the students are interested in becoming members of our club.

To make best use of the Virtual ABC<sub>3</sub>

course video recordings we will be extracting the video segments representing each section of the course and will be presenting some of them for free to groups such as our ABC Valley Forge Meetup group.

We need to offer such groups free access to some of our educational resources, so they learn the value of being knowledgeable about boating. They also need to learn to know us. This Meetup group now has 29 members. Megan Weber has agreed to help with that group.

The final plans have been made to present online versions of the Piloting course, the AIS Seminar and the Navigation course.

Tentative plans are under way for an on-line version of the Instructor Development course. All four offerings are described below.

### **Piloting Course (Online)**

Piloting is a 9-week course that introduces coastal navigation.

#### **PILOTING COURSE**

##### **(ONLINE)**

**Start Date, Time:** Sept. 22, 2020, 7:30 pm- 9:30 (EDT)

**Prerequisites:** None

**Cost:** TBD

**Location:** Online using  
FreeConferenceCall.com

**Contact:** Russ Jones ([wr-jones3@verizon.net](mailto:wr-jones3@verizon.net))

The course, useful to all boaters, explains the basic principles and techniques of marine navigation. These include the use of the compass, GPS and the marine chart plotter. It demonstrates how to lay out safe courses and find your location while on the water.

*Continued on Page 4*

Next week!

# Piloting, other courses on offer - online *continued from Page 3*

## AIS Electronics for Boaters Seminar

(Online)

Automatic Identification System (AIS) electronics can help you navigate waterways more easily and safely in conditions of high traffic and restricted visibility.

Required for most commercial vessels,

AIS electronics are becoming increasingly popular for use by recreational boaters who want to see and be seen on the water. With AIS marine electronics onboard, you can identify potential dangers and quickly make decisions. Many systems share your boat's information with other boats so they can also make better, safer boating decisions.

*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.

## Navigation (N) (Online)

This course covers how to make observations of the moon, stars and planets using a sex-

tant to determine your position.

The first class will be held on Aug. 4. No other classes will be held during the summer to give the students time to take their required sights and complete the required sight folder. The N classes will resume in mid-September for 10 more sessions. We will use a learning management system, called Moodle, to give the students

and instructors access to many online resources, some of which are unique. The N course has been advertised throughout USPS District 5. So far, 16 people have registered, including three from ABC-VF.

Free access will be given to the N course to any ABC-VF member who has already completed N, and who may wish to review part or all of the course. You will be able to log on and come and go as you

please. No long drives or need to dress up! Let Jim Heckman know if you plan to attend so that he can give you access to the online sessions and the extensive educational resources.

## Instructor Development (ID) (Online)

Tentative plans are being made to offer the Instructor Development course.

Instructor certification is mandatory for those instructors teaching in the NASBLA ap-

### AIS ELECTRONICS FOR BOATERS SEMINAR (ONLINE)

**Start Date, Time:** Tuesday,  
Aug. 11, 2020, 7:00 pm -  
9:00 (EDT)

**Cost:** \$25 / per person

Location: Online using  
FreeConferenceCall.com

**Contact:** Jim Heckman  
([JLHECKMAN4929@gmail.com](mailto:JLHECKMAN4929@gmail.com))

**Deadline to Enroll:** Tuesday,  
Aug. 4, 2020

**To enroll, go to:** [http://  
abcvalleyforge.org/  
ais\\_seminar.aspx](http://abcvalleyforge.org/ais_seminar.aspx)

### NAVIGATION COURSE (ONLINE)

**Start Date, Time:** Tuesday,  
Aug. 4, 2020, 7:30 pm  
- 9:30 (EDT)

**Prerequisites:** Successful  
completion of the Ad-  
vanced Piloting Course and  
the Junior Navigation  
Course

**Cost:** \$150 In addition the  
students will be required to  
have access to the 2020  
Nautical Almanac

**Location:** Online using  
FreeConferenceCall.com

**Contact:** Jim Heckman  
([JLHECKMAN4929@gmail.com](mailto:JLHECKMAN4929@gmail.com))

Next week!

*Continued on Page 14*





## Fleet Captain

P/C James Friedrichs, JN\*

# Mind the fish trap — and live ammo!

Terri Drumel and Gary Armstrong report that a fisherman has constructed a fish trap in the north side of the Sassafras River across from a flashing 4-second red light (Fl R 4s) 18ft 3M "10". They report that the recommended passageway is between the fish trap and the mark. Caution should be used when passing through the area.

One of my alma maters, Aberdeen Proving Ground, APG, reports that it will conclude live fire operations for the current testing period on Aug. 5. As always, boating in APG waters should be done with care and within the rules of the APG patrol boats as they deal with live ammunition of numerous sizes, including artillery.

As reported previously, the Elk River continues to silt in. The Coast Guard advises that they are activating the previously reported buoyage changes. The changes are as listed below.

- Discontinue Elk River Junction Buoy ER.
- Convert Susquehanna River Junction Lighted Buoy A Susquehanna River SN to JG dayboards on a multi-pile structure.
- Convert Northeast River Lighted Buoy 2 to Northeast River Light 2 with a FL R 2.5s and TR dayboards.
- Convert Northeast River Buoy 4 to Northeast Light 4 with a Fl R 4s with TR dayboards.
- Convert Northeast River Buoy 5 to Northeast River Buoy 5 with a FL G, maintained from March 15 to Dec. 1.
- Relocate Northeast River Lighted Buoy 6 to

39 36.4N 76 58 22.28W,  
maintained from  
March 15 to Dec. 1.

- Relocate Northeast River Buoy 7 to 39 33 10.414N 76 58 30.304W, maintained from March 15 to Dec. 1.
- Convert Northeast River Light 8 to Northeast River Lighted Buoy 8 with FL R 2.5s, maintained from March 15 to Dec. 1.
- Discontinue Northeast River Buoy 9.
- Convert Northeast River Light 10 to Northeast River Lighted Buoy 10, maintained from March 15 to Dec. 1.
- Discontinue Northeast River Daybeacon 12.
- Discontinue Northeast River Light 14.
- Discontinue Northeast River Buoy 16.
- Discontinue Northeast River Light 17.

In the Choptank River, due to structural failure, the Hambrooks Warning Light will be replaced by Hambrooks Bar Warning Daybeacon.

You'll find other changes to the navigation aids in the Upper Chesapeake Bay on **Page 7**.



*OK, maybe no T-12 Cloud-makers like this one will be active on the proving grounds, but you should still be alert for live fire.*

## Stay hydrated — don't wait until you're thirsty to drink

*Editor's note: This timely safety article is excerpted and used with permission from the Anchor Watch newsletter of the Annapolis Sail and Power Squadron.*

By P/C Rich Hughes, SN-IN

Dehydration occurs when the body loses more fluid than it takes in. For a boater, this condition can result from prolonged exposure to sun or high temperatures; not drinking enough water; and overuse of diuretics or other medications that increase urination. Dehydration can upset the delicate fluid-salt balance needed to maintain healthy cells and tissues.

Adults, especially over the age of 60, who drink only when they are thirsty, may get only about 90% of the fluid they need, raising the risk of dehydration.

Mild dehydration is the loss of no more than 5% of the body's fluid. Loss of 5-10% is considered moderate dehydration. Severe dehydration (loss of 10-15% of body fluids) is life-threatening, and requires immediate medical care.

### Symptoms

- Muscle fatigue
- Reduced cognitive processing
- Dizziness
- Confused or dazed states of awareness
- Thirst
- Infrequent urination and dark-colored urine
- Dry mouth

For a mild case, it should be enough just to drink plenty of fluids. Water is your first choice, but many special drinks on the market



will help you replace your body's lost water and electrolytes. Avoid coffee, tea, soda and alcoholic drinks; they are diuretic, which means they can dehydrate you more because they all pull water from your body.

Severe dehydration calls for immediate medical treatment due to the extreme low levels of water and oxygen in the bloodstream. Contact medical personnel to avoid damaging tissues or vital

organs.

### Prevention

- Aim to drink four to six cups a day on days without heavy exercise or sun/heat exposure. However, this amount may vary based on the individual. When exercising, drink more.
- Use a refillable and reusable water bottle so you can keep track of the amount you drink.
- When water tastes good, you'll drink more of it. Consider drinking infused water or making lemon water.
- Eat your water! Apples, cantaloupe, watermelon, cherry tomatoes, oranges, celery and carrots all contain high percentages of water.
- Don't overdo it! Although unusual, it is possible to become ill by drinking too many fluids.
- Start each day with a glass of water (no ice) before you have coffee, tea or juice. It will help replace fluids lost overnight.
- Cook with high-quality sea salt, which has trace minerals that aid cell health and hydration.

To sum up: stay hydrated and stay safe!

The full newsletter is at [https://www.aspsmd.org/AnchorWatchArchive/AW\\_aug2020.pdf](https://www.aspsmd.org/AnchorWatchArchive/AW_aug2020.pdf)

## Looking for a kayak? Coronavirus making them harder to find

The coronavirus pandemic has made kayaks tough to find, at least if you want to buy one, reports Frank Kummer in the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Steve Wanger, manager of Marsh Creek Watersports in Downingtown, confirmed to the Inquirer that the shortage is real.

"We were fortunate enough that we did get a shipment of kayaks in," said Wanger. "I know a lot of people weren't that fortunate."

The business rents kayaks for use in Marsh Creek State Park, but also sells them. Wanger said all of Marsh Creek's new kayaks are sold out, leaving only two used ones for sale as of last week.

Wanger put in a bulk order for kayaks last October, months before the pandemic broke out. But after coronavirus restrictions took hold, more

people than ever seemed to want to be outdoors just as the shipment arrived in May, leading to a demand that exceeded supply.

"With a pandemic general lockdown in place, cabin fever running rampant, spare time on people's hands, and a record summer heat wave, many folks have been trying to get outdoors at any and every opportunity," said Manny Ayala, with the Philadelphia Canoe Club, off Ridge Avenue. "Being out on the water, paddling, has turned out to be a great recreational and stress-relieving activity."

But the club was forced to put its paddling programs and lessons on hold, he said, because of social distancing. That means many first-timer kayakers are on their own when it comes to learning correct technique and safety.

## Membership renewals are high

*By P/C Sue Friedrichs, SN  
Membership Chair*

I just went through the dues reports for our squadron, and learned that all but two members have renewed. Thank you!

That says a lot for the loyalty that our members have for ABC Valley Forge and USPS nationally. We continue to support safe boating and education with our memberships and activities.

It also helps that we enjoy being out on boats.

ABC-VF is going to need the help of all our members to further our purpose.

Eventually we will be able to meet together in person and I hope to see all of you then.

## Nav aid changes in the Bay

*Continued from Page 5*

**Looking for a light?** It may not be working. Here are changes to the navigation aids in the Upper Chesapeake Bay.

- Solomon's Island Approach Light 3 is extinguished
- Patuxent River Light 6A is extinguished.
- Patuxent River Light 11 is extinguished.
- Lake Ogleton Entrance Light 1L is extinguished.
- Magothy River Light 9 has structure damage.
- Swan Point Lights B, C, and D have Daymark missing.
- Crab Alley Bay Buoy 6 is off station

Also, Delaware River Channel Lights 48, 52, 53 and 80 are extinguished.





Terri Drumel and Rich McLaughlin at his car



Chuck and Deb Pellegrini, Lisa Fegan, Ginny Parry and Harris Brody



Terri Drumel and Gary Armstrong who organized the event



Maureen McDonald and Wayne DeFrancesco

Photos by Meridith Barrett and Lance Parry

Summer rolled in early on June 13 with a picnic gathering at Sas-safras Harbor Marina. Among the highlights: Rich McLaughlin drove the T-bird he had restored; Wayne DeFrancesco did a quick count and determined he owns 13 watercraft. "Boats are so easy to acquire and difficult to part with," he said. Harris Brody has a NY state trooper surgeon badge. What's your summer story – on or off the water?



## Weeklong minicruise featured friends, favorite spots

*By P/C Chuck Pellegrini, AP\**

Debbie and I enjoyed a wonderful mid-summer week on the water recently. We left Rock Hall on July 12, destination Annapolis. We travelled with four other boats — some neighbors from Rock Hall, Joe and Kathy Gibbons from the squadron, and a friend of Joe's.

Annapolis was bustling. Arrows on the sidewalk encouraged social distancing. West Street was closed to traffic, allowing restaurants to place tables and chairs in the street. We chose an Italian restaurant, and enjoyed both the dinner and an entertainer who played and sang all evening.

Monday and Tuesday we went to Herrington Harbor South, our favorite marina on the Bay. We lazed by the pool, dined at the marina's outdoor restaurant Monday evening and feasted at a beach cookout on Tuesday.

As we sat on the beach after the cookout, we were treated to a flyover of the International Space Station, which was visible for more than six minutes in the cloudless sky.

Wednesday and Thursday brought us to St. Michaels Marina, and its inviting pool. Masks are required in Maryland's public spaces and we all complied dutifully. We had dinner outdoors at a nice restaurant in town, then sat at picnic tables set up by the marina, enjoying each other's conversation. Thursday we ate lunch and dinner on the outdoor deck at the marina restaurant. It was great to have dinner with a waterfront view.

Friday, after clear weather and calm seas all week, we departed for our home ports. Three boats left for Rock Hall and two to Bay Bridge



***Fat Chance leaves Annapolis Harbor***

Marina. Although the trip was shortened from our usual squadron cruise, we all had a great time in spite of the virus precautions.

When we arrived in Rock Hall we ran into Jon and Lynn Fowler and Cliff and Patty Shaw, who were visiting Rock Hall by boat. We quickly arranged a cocktail party for later that afternoon on the deck at our home on Beach Road. At five o'clock we all gathered along with our neighbors, JJ and Jacquelynn Simon, who are also squadron members, for drinks and snacks. It was a great way to end a minicruise with longtime friends and fellow members.

P.S. Our boat, Fat Chance, won an informal Forward Throttle Award at the end of the trip. You can ask me for the details.

## Chester River boat traffic is up, with plenty of wildlife to see

By Lt/C Cynthia Gorge, JN\*

The Chester River has had some busy weekends. This past weekend (July 25-26) the local gas dock at Rolph's Wharf was very busy, a continuous stream of four or more boats waiting for gas in the afternoon. The gas dock attendant told us that the ramp is busy with 15-20 boats each day.

The newly improved Chestertown Marina has had several transient boats each weekend.

The antics of some boaters never change, even in (or maybe especially in) the pandemic.

Today, (July 27) Dan and I were cruising one of our favorite beaches for wildlife and watched a guy trying to anchor on the beach. One of his attempts included throwing the anchor when the line detached from the

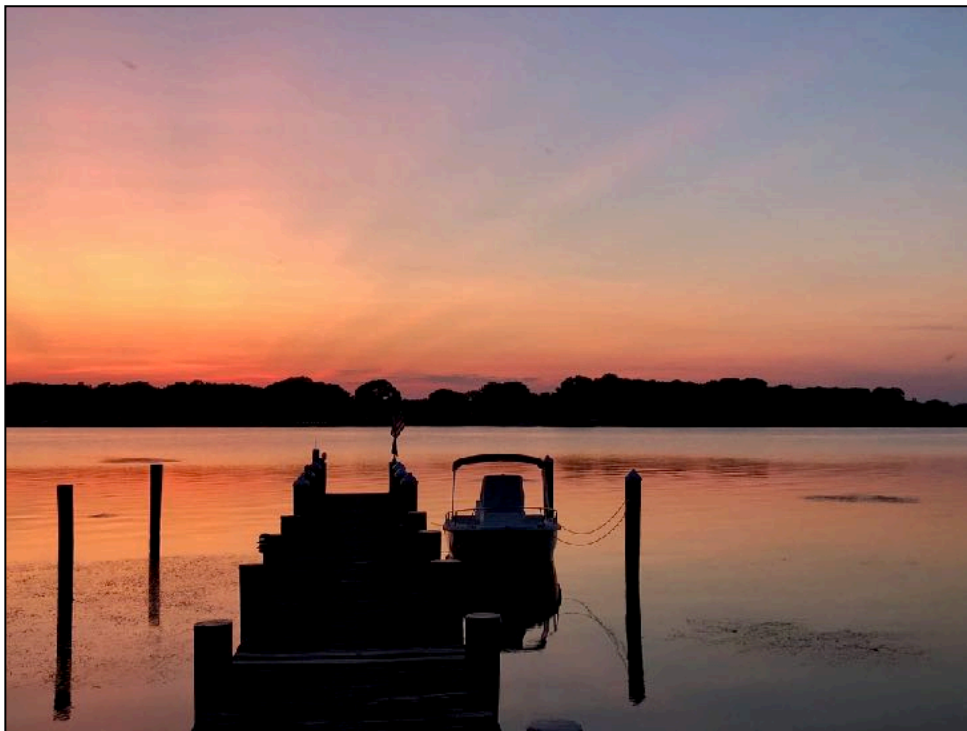


Photo by Cindy Gorge

*Sunset over the Gorges' dock on the Chester River near Chestertown*

bow, sending the entire anchor and line flying into the water.

It was funny to view from a distance. Our wildlife search was far more rewarding. Several large white egrets were on the beach and perched in the trees. Two eagles flew into the nearby trees on the water's edge and had quite the conversation.

We had a pleasant cruise on the Chester River today even though it was very hot. The air temperature was about 91 degrees and the feel-like temperature was about 101.

The water temperature was about 82-83 degrees.



Ooops. On a commercial ship the consequences are more severe. Here's one example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILLBhIJbVFs>.

## Guess who won: Beautiful swimmers or weekend watermen?

*By P/C Frank Visich, S*

As I was looking for an idea for an article this month, I realized that July 10-19 would have been this summer's squadron cruise. As we had agreed to cancel it due to the Covid-19 coronavirus, it may have been a blessing: That week had to have been the hottest week this year!

Patti and I have been going down to our boat in Rock Hall almost every weekend. Things have reached a new normal. Everyone must wear a mask in all public places. Most restaurants are not offering any indoor dining. They have mostly takeout, and some have tables outside for outdoor meals.

The crowds that you usually see this time of year are absent, and all major events in Rock Hall have been canceled this summer.

This pandemic has taken a personal toll on us as well.

Normally by this time of year Patti has put a small dent in the steamed crab population. Driving down to our boat recently, she said she had not had any crabs this year and thought we could order some to enjoy at the marina's picnic area.

She called our favorite crab seller for a price of a dozen jumbos. I heard them respond with the price of \$100! I think she sensed my dismay and politely said she would call them back later to order. Wow, I said, \$100 for a dozen – that's nuts! Why don't we catch our own?

We have a brand-new trap, I had bought a crab license this year, and every morning we watch the crabbers haul in full pots of crabs less



than 50 yards behind our boat.

It has to be easy to catch our own, I reasoned. All I needed was some bait and I could catch a dozen in no time.

In addition, I had read the book "Beautiful Swimmers" by William Warner that Sue Friedrichs gave me two years ago (if you would really want a very descriptive explanation of a blue crab sex life, this is the book to read).

So off to the bait shop I went and said, "I need some crab bait. What is everyone using this time of year?"

I guess the guy thought I was a seasoned waterman and brought out a gallon of razor clams. Not wanting to tell him I just had one trap, I handed over a \$20 bill and off I went.

Anticipating a successful bounty, I put my trap together, loaded it with the bait and threw it over the side of my boat Friday night. Getting up

*Continued on Page 12*



## Beautiful swimmers, I; weekend watermen, o

*Continued from previous page*

early Saturday, I pulled up my trap — and had not a single crab!

Of course, I heard Patti yell, “How many did you catch?”

Embarrassed, I told her none and that I needed to move the trap to another spot on the dock. Unfortunately, my luck did not change the rest of the day. Not wanting to give up, I loaded fresh bait and put it out again Saturday night.

Sunday morning, I was sure my luck would have changed, and sure enough when I pulled up the trap a single crab was inside.



*A solitary crab*

Knowing that we needed to head home soon and that a lone crab was certainly not going to make a dinner, I returned it to the Bay. (Guess it was the crab's lucky day.) Then I threw all the leftover bait over the side as well. I'm sure the crabs had a feast under my boat that night!

To end this sad saga, Patti ordered her dozen and we picked it up on our way out of town, which ended up costing \$120, if you include the bait.

I still remember the stinging words of my dock mate who had watched my activities all weekend as he said, “**Better luck next time!**”

## Vessel Safety Checks resume, but with caution; a DIY option is available

As of July 6, 2020, the United States Coast Guard repealed the Stand Down Order for Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) in District 5.

Since then our squadron's VSC inspectors have begun making VSCs, using best practices for social distancing, including wearing masks and hand washing.

Currently Chris Dome is doing checks at Haven Harbour Marina, and Maryanne Boettjer is doing them at Osprey Point Marina. They would be willing to inspect boats in other marinas in Rock Hall as well.

If you would like a Vessel Safety Check this summer, please send Maryanne an email ([mboettj@gmail.com](mailto:mboettj@gmail.com)).



She'll do her best to schedule you.

Remember, the safety checks are free, and if your boat does not pass, you can make the suggested changes and schedule another exam.

If you are not comfortable having an inspector on your boat, or are not convenient to a Rock Hall marina, you can do a Virtual Vessel Safety Check online at <https://bit.ly/3e4JitI>.

The link includes information for both power and paddle craft.

You won't get a decal for passing the online checklist, but you'll have the satisfaction of knowing your boat is safe!

## Highlights from the June ExCom

Cdr Patty Pezely cancelled the virtual June Executive Committee meeting when she lost power and cellular access during a storm. Here are some of her notes afterward:

**Archives** — Susan Woron reported progress setting up the squadron archive responsibility chart. See the update on Page 14.

**Social Media** — Megan Weber is working on changing our name on our Facebook pages to America's Boating Club® Valley Forge.

**Kickoff picnic** — Gary Armstrong and

Terri Drumel hosted a social distancing gathering in Georgetown June 13. It was a fun time for those who attended. Photos are on Page 8.

**Sea Scouts** — The new USPS National liaison for Sea Scouts, Louis McBride, would like to connect with Sea Scout reps in our squadrons. (Sea Scouts is a co-ed program of Boy Scouts of America for young people ages 14-20.) If you are interested in being our Sea Scout or Scouting/Youth Activities rep, or would like to assist with the youth activities mission, please let Patty Pezely know.

## Briefly noted...

**Captain Lucky** — Squadron members lost a familiar face earlier this summer with the death of Edward Verzella. Verzella, 60, who was known as Captain Lucky, was the owner and operator of the Ben Franklin Yacht, docked on the Delaware River.

Our members saw him on the popular annual Delaware River Educational Cruise, sponsored by ABC-VF, along with the Delaware River, Delhigh and Kingsway squadrons. He died after an accident in June.



**Want better photos?** — P/C Lance Parry gave an online presentation on finding better pictures in the pictures you take — by cropping, doing some color correction, and deciding what it is you want the final image to focus on. For a free copy of the recording of his 40-minute presentation, email Lance at [lapnews@gmail.com](mailto:lapnews@gmail.com). And yes, your smart-phone can produce some remarkable results.

**Stay safe out there** — Recreational boating accidents, including those involving personal watercraft, rose nationwide in the first six months of the year compared with the same period in 2019, according to the Coast Guard's National Office of Boating Safety.

Nationwide, fatal boating accidents were up 19 percent in the first six months of the year, the Coast Guard said.

## ABC-VF offering virtual courses, seminar

*Continued from Page 4*

proved America's Boating Course (ABC).

It is highly recommended that all instructors of United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) courses complete the Instructor Development Course and maintain their certification by completing the recertification seminar every four years.

### **INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT COURSE (ONLINE)**

**Start Date, Time:** September 2020, 7:30 pm-9:30 (EDT) Date TBD

**Prerequisites:** Interest in helping ABC-VF teach courses, no prior teaching experience needed

**Cost:** Free!

**Location:** Online using FreeConferenceCall.com

**Contact:** Jim Heckman ([JLHECKMAN4929@gmail.com](mailto:JLHECKMAN4929@gmail.com)) or Bill Mcmanimen ([wjmcmanimen@gmail.com](mailto:wjmcmanimen@gmail.com))

ID is designed for all course instructors, assistant instructors, and proctors. Additionally, this course will benefit any person making a presentation before a group.

Understanding how to present material effectively helps all types of instruction. Since proctors may be the first teachers of potential new members, it is important they also are well trained and prepared. We need more certified instructors.

In addition to the more formal sessions described above, below is a link to America's Boating Channel's YouTube videos, which allow you to self-educate. These videos were created by Marty Laferty and his team. The most recent one deals with Electric Shock Drowning. Well worth watching!

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIc\\_r-FytrfGqvdiSauAijAg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIc_r-FytrfGqvdiSauAijAg)

Happy Learning!

Jim and Joe

## Archiving Committee making progress

*By P/C Susan Woron, P*

The Archive Committee has tackled many issues and clarified how the archive will work in practice.

In addition, many documents have been added to the archive, and we have attracted a few volunteers.

The Committee addressed a lot of the questions that were brought up at the ExCom meeting on February 5. Some of these included how and where photographs would be stored, quality control issues, who is responsible for storing what documents, saving space, and many more.

The Committee created a list of archive responsibilities. Many officers have started adding files, and filling the folders.

After a reorganization, the archive now matches the "Archive Responsibilities" chart so that documents can be easily located.

The Archive will be a valuable way to pass information along to everyone who belongs to the squadron, as well as to preserve our work and memories. In addition, it can be used as training for those who are new to their positions.

A few people have volunteered to help with archiving, so you may contact them with questions or documents. Thanks to Barb and Russ Jones (archiving) and Lance Parry (scanning).

Committee members are Cdr Patty Pezely, Barb Jones, Joe Pezely, Nick Montalto, Lance Parry, Russ Jones, Jim Heckman, Joe Gibson, and Susan Woron.



## News from America's Boating Club® and District 5

The ABC Fall Conference, scheduled for Sept. 8-13 in Raleigh, NC has been canceled. In a letter explaining the board's decision, Chief Commander Mary Paige Abbott indicated that logistics and health concerns made the conference untenable. State precautions bar hotels from allowing large gatherings, providing meals, or adequate accommodations. Find the full text at <https://www.usps.org/departments/HQ000/letters-from-the-chief>.

The District 5 Fall Educational Conference, scheduled for Nov 5-8, is still a possibility at the Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel. Stay tuned to the district website at <https://abc-midatlantic.org/>.

The district website also lists the online

Navigation course being taught by our own Jim Heckman and Bill McManimen. Take a look at other upcoming seminars and courses on the site's Upcoming Events list; you may find one you like.



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## Members' birthdays

### JULY

John Beardsley	07/01
David Thomas	07/01
Eric Boettjer	07/08
Lisa Fegan	07/11
Joseph Pezely	07/13
Megan Weber	07/13
Clarence Cramer	07/16
Nicholas Montalto	07/20
Ronald Nimitz	07/21
James Dix	07/22
Deborah Cummings	07/23

### AUGUST

Doris Petty	08/04
Rita Rossi	08/07
Jeanne Affleck	08/10
Edward Pellegrini Jr.	08/12
Elise Payne	08/13
Cynthia Gorge	08/14
Christina Hann	08/25
Rosemary Montalto	08/29
John Moore	08/30

### SEPTEMBER

Lance Parry	09/04
Susan Friedrichs	09/07
William McManimen III	09/09
Kevin Barrett	09/11
John Kinneman	09/16



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Brooks Atkinson, 1894-  
1984, New York  
Times drama critic

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# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

## VALLEY FORGE

### 2020-2021 Calendar

Events may be changed or cancelled as conditions warrant. Check your email regularly and stay in touch virtually if you can't join in person. Links for Zoom and Free Conference Call meetings will be emailed before each meeting.

#### August

- 4 Online Navigation Course begins; prerequisites apply; details on Page 4
- 4 Deadline to enroll in online Automatic Identification System (AIS) electronics seminar: [http://abcvalleyforge.org/ais\\_seminar.aspx](http://abcvalleyforge.org/ais_seminar.aspx); details on Page 4
- 7 Virtual ExCom Meeting, 7 pm; link to join the meeting will be emailed
- 11 Online AIS Boating Electronics seminar, 7-9 pm

#### September

- 2 ExCom Meeting, Virtual at 7 pm or at Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm
- TBD Dinner or picnic — RSVP to Chas Rossi to help organize: [charlesrossi@comcast.net](mailto:charlesrossi@comcast.net)
- 6-13 ABC Fall Conference, Raleigh, NC. **Cancelled**. Info at [usps.org](http://usps.org)
- TBD Instructor Development seminar; details on Page 14
- 20 Veterans' Picnic, Whitehall Apts., Spring City; contact Frank Visich: [frank.visich@verizon.net](mailto:frank.visich@verizon.net)
- 21 *Pilot* articles deadline
- 22 Piloting Course begins (9 weeks); details on Page 3; contact Russ Jones at [wrjones3@verizon.net](mailto:wrjones3@verizon.net)

#### October

- 1-4 U.S. Powerboat Show, Annapolis. Tickets and info at [www.AnnapolisBoatShows.com](http://www.AnnapolisBoatShows.com)
- 7 ExCom Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm
- TBD Deadline to submit Merit Mark recommendations to Bill McManimen. Send to [wjmcmanimen@gmail.com](mailto:wjmcmanimen@gmail.com)
- 8-12 U.S. Sailboat Show, Annapolis. Tickets and info at [www.AnnapolisBoatShows.com](http://www.AnnapolisBoatShows.com)
- 15 Monthly Dinner Meeting, details to come (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. Info at <https://bit.ly/2M59JDG>.
- 19 **No** dinner meeting

*Continued on next page*

## 2020-2021 Calendar, continued

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)

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

## Polo shirts with ABC - VF logo



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### ***The Pilot***

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**The October-November 2020 issue deadline is September 21.**

