

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
VALLEY FORGE



The Pilot

January 2024

Happy New Year!

Change of Watch

March 10, 2024

Downingtown Country Club

Luncheon meeting

1:00 to 4:00

93 Country Club Drive

Downingtown, PA 19335

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It's not too late

D-5 Conference and Change of Watch

March 21-24, 2024



Commander's Message

ABC Valley Forge

Happy new year. We bring in the new year of 2024 with a great deal of hope and optimism of what's to come in our boating season.

In 2023 we brought in 12 new members of which five were sea scouts. We've aligned ourselves with the sea scouts and the five new members are just the beginning. We are scheduled to teach approximately 30 more sea scouts between January and March. I believe that we have a good shot of getting most of those sea scouts as new members as well as maybe a few of their parents as well.

At the November 2023 XCOM we had Russ Jones and Meredith Barrett brainstorm and really set the tone for putting together a great 2024 boating season. It is through their words of inspiration that we have a number of on the water events coming up for 2024 including kayaking crabbing, and new on the water events. The other thing that came out of the November 2023 XCOM meeting was that we were going to adopt A two year planning effort in order to take the pressure off of incoming commanders of

having to develop an entire boating season in just a month or so. It also gives us time to start looking for as a whole XCOM for speakers that will bring a great deal of interest to the squadron.

In December we were honored to be able to once again serve 50 veterans Christmas dinner and also provide them with a pie of their choice to take back to their apartments. We are grateful Friday donation from the Saartee company for sponsoring this year's veteran Christmas party.

Just a few days after that party Grove Lance and Jimmy Perry hosted the America's Boating Club Valley Forge, I knew Christmas party at their home it was a tremendous event where everyone was in a cheery mood for the holiday season. Great food and great company Provide the setting remembers can share their stories from the year.

I'm happy to report that we have a full bridge for the incoming year another well underway for building the squadron up. I'm looking forward to working with the number of members to keep this momentum moving forward and make our squadron one of the strongest in the country. If you have any ideas to make this upcoming year even more special, please do not hesitate to bring your ideas forward knowing that you will not be doing all the work but rather we'll put a team around you and help make those ideas come to life.

- Ed White

Holiday Party 2023

ABC Valley Forge members ARE definitely party people!

A total of 36 folks turned out for our holiday party on Dec. 16 at the home of Lance and Ginny Parry. Two more planned to come, but did not attend. That's nearly half of our active members, and the largest turnout of any event in 2023!

Guests brought appetizers, desserts and drinks, which vastly augmented the food, wine and beer provided by the party committee – Meredith Barrett, Rosemary Montalto and Ginny Parry – and paid for from the \$20 fee. Thanks for everyone for your delicious contributions! They created a bountiful buffet. The guests included several new members and people who had taken a class in 2023.

The evening was largely an opportunity for everyone to roam through several rooms joining one conversation group after another. Rich McLaughlin and Emily Singer provided a seasonal finale, as Rich played a song he had written, and everyone joined in singing holiday tunes.

"Thanks to our members and the party committee, that was about the easiest party I've ever hosted," said Ginny Parry afterward. "It was a delight to see so many people and be able to spend time getting to know them better."

D-5 Spring Conference and CoW

Join us in Ocean City, MD for our conference March 21-24, 2024. Our registration form can be found in this newsletter or on <https://www.uspsd5.org>



Let's Go Crabbing



The Chesapeake is famous for its blue crabs — they are really tasty! Yes, they are a bit of work to pick, but worth it. We will begin our outing in Pasadena, MD at Ventnor Marina about a 2 1/2 hour drive from Valley Forge. If you are thinking about it, email John Juzbasich juzbasich@msn.com to reserve a spot.

Reserve the dates
July 20, 2024
August 17, 2024





Nominees for 2024-2025 offices



The Nominating Committee of America’s Boating Club Valley Forge is pleased to present the names of candidates for the Bridge, Executive Committee and elected committees for the 2024-25 year. Club members will vote on the nominees at the February 15, 2024 Annual Meeting. They are:

Bridge Officers

Office	Nominee
Commander	John (JJ) Juzbasich
Executive Officer	Ed White
Administrative Officer	Megan Weber
Educational Officer	Wayne Barrett -- year 2 of 3-year term
Assistant Educational Officer	Meridith Barrett
Secretary	John Beardsley
Treasurer	Emily Singer

Executive Committee (Includes Bridge Officers)

Meridith Barrett	James Friedrichs	John (JJ) Juzbasich	Joe Pezely
Wayne Barrett	Susan Friedrichs	Rich McLaughlin	Patty Pezely
John Beardsley	Mike Gibson	William McManimen	Charles Rossi
Susan Beardsley	Cindy Gorge	Nicholas Montalto	Emily Singer
Maryanne Boettjer	Jim Heckman	Rosemary Montalto	Rory Tucker
Clarence Cramer	Barbara Jones	Ginny Parry	Megan Weber
Chris Dome	Russ Jones	Lance Parry	Ed White

Lisa Fegan*

* Pending update of bylaws (to permit being on ExCom and Audit Committee simultaneously. A member of the Squadron Executive Committee also acting as a member of the Audit Committee shall recuse themselves from voting on any matter regarding the expenditure of Squadron Funds.)

Audit Committee: (2-year terms, alternating) James Herron (being re-elected in 2024) and Lisa Fegan, continuing in office

Rules Committee: (3-year terms, staggered) George Painter, being re-elected in 2024; Nicholas Montalto, entering 3rd year in office; Russ Jones, entering 2nd year in office

Procedure

Additional nominations for elective offices may be made by petition in writing signed by at least five active members in good standing and filed with the secretary at least 15 days before the date of the election. Nominees for vacant positions may also be made from the floor at the annual meeting. If elected, candidates will assume their respective offices at the club’s Change of Watch scheduled for March 2024.

Nominating Committee: Elect 5 of 7 nominees

At the regular meeting on January 18, 2024, members will nominate seven persons to the 2024-2025 Nominating Committee. Club members will vote for five of them at the Annual Meeting in February. The five candidates with the most votes will constitute the next Nominating Committee.

Presented by the 2023 Nominating Committee: Ginny Parry, chair; Meridith Barrett, Sam Lyness, Rich McLaughlin, Patty Pezely.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, December 15, 2023



Contact: Becky Lang Staffieri
Cell: (215) 651-4858
rstaffieri@missionfirsthousing.org

America's Boating Club Valley Forge and Saarthee Host Holiday Party for Veterans in Chester County

Spring City, PA – On Thursday December 14th, America's Boating Club Valley Forge in partnership with the Saarthee company hosted a holiday party for the veterans and their families living at The Whitehall Apartments at 3795 Schuylkill Road.

"We are proud to provide the veterans at The Whitehall Apartments with a Christmas party," said Ed White, Commander of the America's Boating Club Valley Forge. "We like to give back to the community and we have chosen to give back to our great veterans. We have been hosting events for veterans and disabled veterans for over 15 years."

The Whitehall Apartments is a permanent supportive housing residence providing affordable apartments for veterans in need. This unique residence features 48 apartments for veterans and their family members. A resident services office coordinates a robust support program through onsite services and linkages to community-based supports and resources.

America's Boating Club Valley Forge has been a partner of The Whitehall Apartments for the past four years hosting summer cookouts and holiday parties for its residents.

This year's Christmas Party is sponsored by Saarthee, a data analytics company based in Lower Gwynedd Township. Cofounders Shikha Miglani and Mrinal Prasad helped serve the meal of baked ham, mashed potatoes and vegetables. Residents also enjoyed holiday music.

"I am very grateful and appreciative with tonight's dinner, delicious desserts and overall generosity provided by our guests," said Margot Giron, U.S. Navy veteran and resident of The Whitehall Apartments. "I am also thankful that I didn't have to cook!"

In addition to a holiday feast, America's Boating Club Valley Forge and Saarthee gave each of the veterans a delicious pie to enjoy in their homes, accompanied by a special Christmas card.

"Our partnership with Ed and his team at America's Boating Club Valley Forge has brought many opportunities to our residents," said Christian Hobson, Regional Director of Resident Services for Mission First Housing Group, owner of The Whitehall Apartments. "We thank them for coming back year after year to support our veterans and their families."

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About Mission First Housing Group

Mission First Housing Group develops and manages affordable, safe and sustainable homes for people in need, with a non-profit, mission-driven focus on the most vulnerable. Mission First currently provides affordable housing and services to more than 6,000 people in nearly 4,000 apartments, serving populations in need, such as veterans, survivors of domestic violence, seniors and the disabled. www.missionfirsthousing.org.

About America's Boating Club Valley Forge

America's Boating Club Valley Forge, formerly known as The Main Line Sail and Power Squadron, is a unit of the United States Power Squadrons. Located in the western suburbs of Philadelphia, PA, we are a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to making boating safer and more enjoyable by teaching classes in seamanship, navigation, and related subjects. www.abcvallyforge.org

About Saarthee Company

Saarthee is a woman-owned global analytics consulting firm unlike any other, where our passion for helping others fuels our approach, our products and our solutions. www.saarthee.com

FISH ON!!!

Let's go fishing aboard the Miss Chris out of Cape May!

A 4-hour afternoon trip will cost \$60 per, including rig and bait. We leave the dock at 1 p.m. on Thursday, May 30, and get back around 5 p.m.

- \$55.00 per adult
- \$40.00 per child (aged 12 and under)
- \$45.00 senior discount (aged 65 and over with ID)
- \$45.00 active military duty (ID required)
- \$20.00 toddler riding the boat, no fishing
- \$5.00 rod rental

Ticket includes bait, parking, and a rig. No Surprises.

Contact P/C Lance Parry for more information or to reserve a slot:

lapnews@gmail.com

610-247-3904



Educational Officer
Lt/C Wayne Barrett, JN

Knowledgeable boaters have more fun

Congratulations to the members of ABC VF who attended the Marine Navigation, Seminars and ABC courses that were held in the fall. Many thanks to Russ Jones and Nick Montalto who taught the navigation courses and seminars. Also, many thanks to Meridith Barrett who helped teach the ABC course at Chester County Night School (CCLL). We had a good turnout for the courses with a total of 19 students completing the various courses and seminars.

We have a full slate of courses set up to start at CCLL in the spring and we will be offering the Sea Scouts several ABC courses in the winter starting with one on Saturday Jan 13 2024. We need help and are looking for volunteers for the day to teach or help with paperwork. All are welcome to help.

We are always looking for help with the various courses. Even if you aren't a certified instructor, there are many ways to help with the courses and learn how to instruct alongside a certified instructor. If you are interested in becoming a certified instructor let me know and we can arrange an Instructor Development Course. Those who successfully complete the course will become certified instructors, which is required for all of those who teach during any of the public America's Boating Courses. Not only will the Instructor Development Course help you in teaching, but it will also help you in giving any type of presentation. If you have previously held an instructor certificate; which has lapsed, there is a short, one session refresher course which can be held for recertification. Becoming a certified instructor and helping teach, any of our boating courses and seminars, is a tangible way to contribute to the health and growth of the USPS organization.

Boating club offering classes this spring 2024

Whether you're new to boating or jet-skiing, or you're a sunburned, long-time sailor, America's Boating Club Valley Forge (ABCVF) is offering a course or seminar of interest to you. Courses this spring range from the basic boating course, including the state-required America's Boating Course, to a Marine Navigation course and Marine Electrical Systems. We also have various 1-night seminars including Marine Radio, Rules of the Road, GPS Apps and Docking/Undocking. We are going to offer more seminars going forward. They are a good way to get acquainted with important boating subjects without all of the details included in the full courses.

Please help us advertise them to your family and friends! For more information go to our website (<https://abcvalleyforge.org/>). These courses are being offered in conjunction with Chester County Lifelong Learning (CCLL) during the spring. You can register for the courses listed below at www.cclifelearn.org (CCLL).

- 1) Marine Navigation Course - Stetson MS, West Chester School District - Thursdays, March 14 to May 2; \$40 (an additional \$45 for materials at the first class)
- 2) ABC Boating Certification Course - Peirce MS, West Chester School District - Wednesdays starting March 13 to May 1; \$40
- 3) Marine Electrical Systems Downingtown MS; Downingtown School District, Tuesdays, March 12 to May 7; \$40
- 4) Rules of the Road Seminar- Stetson MS, WC School District - Thursday, April 4; \$20
- 5) Marine Radio Seminar - Stetson MS, WC School District - Thursday, April 11; \$20
- 6) GPS Navigation Apps Seminar - Stetson MS, WC School District - Thursday, April 25; \$20
- 7) Docking and Undocking Seminar - Stetson MS, WC School District - Thursday, May 9; \$20

All classes and seminars begin at 6:30 pm and end at 8:30pm

For further information, contact Wayne R F Barrett at wrfbarrett@comcast.net, or 484-678-5137.



2024 ABC Valley Forge Summer Cruise

Our ABC Valley Forge (aka Main Line Sail & Power Squadron) 2024 Summer Cruise itinerary is set. The dates and the four marinas were chosen by our cruisers. We are estimating that about 5-10 boats will join us this summer. If you would like to crew on a boat, please let me know.

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

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

The marinas have requested a list of the boats that will require slips. Please complete this form indicating the marinas for which you will require a slip. The list of boats that we will provide to the marinas is NOT official. You will need to reserve a slip directly with each marina.

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

Boat Name: _____ Captain: _____ Cell number: _____
Boat Make: _____ Boat Model: _____ Length: _____ Beam: _____ Draft: _____
Type: [] Power; [] Sail Electric: [] Single 30; [] Dual 30; [] Single 50; [] Dual 50

- [] Friday, June 21 – The Yacht Basin OR on a mooring, Annapolis
- [] Saturday, June 22 – Chesapeake Yacht Club, Shady Side
- [] Sunday, June 23 – Chesapeake Yacht Club, Shady Side
- [] Monday, June 24 – The Yacht Basin OR on a mooring, Annapolis
- [] Tuesday, June 25 – The Yacht Basin OR on a mooring, Annapolis
- [] Wednesday, June 26 – Harbour East Marina, Baltimore
- [] Thursday, June 27 – Harbour East Marina, Baltimore
- [] Friday, June 28 – Haven Harbor Marina, Rock Hall
- [] Saturday, June 29 – Haven Harbor Marina, Rock Hall

Fishing For Membership

Report from the Annapolis Boat Show

Membership is the lifeblood of an organization. Members create and sustain the vitality and personality of any organization, and ABC Valley Forge is no exception. The past year has seen a significant focus for increasing our membership and inclusion of all that water-based activities have to offer. As a result of that effort, we decided to attend the Annapolis Powerboat and Sailboat shows on October 3-6 and 10-14 respectively in an attempt to increase our public profile and garner new members.

The idea was not by any means a new idea. We have been participating as a boating club in the Oaks Boat Show for several years now, but what was new was our approach going into the Annapolis shows, and I'd like to share about that perspective and what we learned for moving forward, as I believe it should be a mainstay pillar of our overall recruitment strategy moving forward.

The conversation originally began in a car ride to Pittsburgh to visit my grandmother. With five hours in the car each way, what better way to pass the time by talking about boats, boating clubs, problems and solutions with my father, P/C John Juzbasich. In the course of our discussion, we came to the conclusion that, from a marketing perspective, where people live geographically, is not necessarily where they boat. Simple enough.

However, arriving at the conclusion was not as simple as it appears at first blush. One of the reasons why is because of the history and structure of the USPS organization. Back when it was founded, and in its heyday, squadrons were grouped around where people lived, and the assumption at the time, which was sound, was that where people live is generally where they go boating. This makes sense that Severn River Power Squadron would comprise people who live in and around the Annapolis area, who also boat on the Chesapeake. Same with Patuxent River, various Jersey Shore squadrons, and so on and so forth. But not for Valley Forge and the greater Main Line area.

Most of us who own boats in ABC Valley Forge keep them on the Chesapeake, from the Sassafras to the greater Baltimore and surrounding area. Thus, from a target audience perspective of capturing members we have a simultaneous strategic strength and weakness. The strength is that we can recruit from where people reside and where people boat.

The weakness is that our marketing area is so large that implementation can be prohibitively exorbitant in terms of time and cost. Part of the problem with our marketing and outreach program has been that we have always been focused on where our members geographically live, rather than where they do their boating activities. Thus, we were violating the first rule of fishing. Fish where the fish are.

This led us to consider the question: what type of fish are we fishing for? The fish are people who own and keep boats on the Chesapeake Bay, but live in a geographic area encompassing Chambersburg, PA to Hoboken, NJ. Target species now acquired.

Our next problem was how to find the fish. Ed White really has had a spectacular idea in promoting our boating club in 4th of July parades. The idea is about reaching thousands of people in a short amount of time and creating high-profile public exposure to people who probably don't know our organization exists. By combining this idea with an event where boaters *specifically* congregate to the body of water where our club does most of its activities, now we can reach the right people. The Annapolis Powerboat and Sailboat shows.

So we set out to do just that. In conjunction with ABC Severn River, we set up a booth and volunteered to take a time-slot commitment to educate prospective members about our organization and what we offer. We learned some really exciting things which confirmed our proof-of-concept, as well as lessons we should implement moving forward.

From the start, it was immediately clear that we were fishing in the right place. On any given day at the boat show, foot traffic was upwards of 3,000 people. Obviously, we didn't get to talk to each and every person, but for those that we engaged with, they were willing to listen, and seemed genuinely interested. This proved that we were in the right place, and, that we were talking to the right people.

One of our biggest attractors, or "bait" was a sign showcasing wrecks and accidents that had actually happened on the Chesapeake Bay. This sign was awesome. People would look at it, say something to their buddy, and then allow us an opening to talk with them about boating, boating safely, and boating as part of a club. We made a conscious effort not to engage people with lines like: "Are you interested in boating education?" No one thinks of themselves as an unsafe boater, so in their mind, they don't need boating

education. But we all know the truth. Those that don't think they do are the ones who need it most. Instead, we would probe and say things such as: "That must've been a bad day, huh?," and then ask them what type of boating they do and where they're from. Overall, it was a great experience confirming our hypothesis: Fish where the fish are.

Some things we learned that could have gone better were person-power, engaging literature handouts, and more 'flash and sparkle.' First and foremost, if we want to come across as an active organization of boaters who do boat stuff, we need to demonstrate that we are 'all-in' on boating by having at least two, if not three persons in the booth to actively engage people at all times. Not just sitting in a chair behind the table, but actively moving around outside, in front of the booth, engaging with people about the best hobby on earth: messing about in boats. We need to have an active itinerary of activities we've done and are doing all year long so that people want to join a club about boating that actually boats where they boat, regardless of where they live geographically.

Secondly, having a one-page tri-fold pamphlet

explaining who we are, what we do, and our overall message to hand out to people would have been an absolute game-changer. We had business cards for our organization, but something additional would have been really nice to leave potential members with.

Thirdly, we were competing against other booths and vendors with serious panache. Our marketing materials are mostly a white-background, with some color splashed in amidst a wall of text. Something that grabs people's attention and makes them want to stay and talk, such as the simulator, and more pictures and less text would fit more in today's day and age.

Overall, it was a great experience. It cements the idea that recruiting at boat shows is, moving forward, going to be one of our best-bang-for-our-buck time commitments as an organization. We need to think of it not as an excuse to get a free ticket into the boat show (which it is), but as a serious all-hands on deck recruitment drive. I hope to see you there in the booth with me next year, reeling 'em in.

John M. Juzbasich

25th Annual Greater Philadelphia

BOAT SHOW

March 15 - 17, 2024

Expo Center at Oaks

Volunteer to take a shift at our booth





RESERVATION FORM
America's Boating Club – Mid-Atlantic
United States Power Squadrons® D/5 Spring Conference
21 – 24 March 2024
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. # ___ @ \$35.00 = \$ _____

Vegetable Lasagna: served with seasonal vegetables and rice pilaf. # ___ @ \$35.00 = \$ _____

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

SATURDAY BANQUET ENTREE CHOICES:

Atlantic Salmon: Marinated in soy sauce and ginger. # ___ @ \$47.00 = \$ _____

Tri Tip Steak: Served with red wine demi-glaze. # ___ @ \$47.00 = \$ _____

Vegetarian Spinach Ravioli: Served with roasted wild mushrooms, vodka sauce, and shaved pecorino cheese. # ___ @ \$47.00 = \$ _____

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

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Children: Chicken Tenders with honey mustard or BBQ sauce, milk or chocolate milk, caffeine-free soda, cookies and brownies # ___ @ \$20.00 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: Rockville Sail & Power Squadron

SEND TO: D/Lt/C Gene Danko
 24892 Magnolia Circle
 Millsboro, DE 19966
 (860-214-4779) (gene.danko@snet.net)

**MEAL RESERVATIONS must
 be received by 1 March 2024**

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 2024

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: \$69.00. Friday 22 March: \$134.00. Saturday 23 March: \$134.00.

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

Exploring Uncharted Waters,

by Gary Armstrong

Chapter 1: Setting Sail

The Valley Forge Boating Club was a close-knit group of friends who shared a deep love for adventure, the open water, and their trusty boats. Led by their commander, Ed, the club members included John J, Russ, Ginny, Meridith, Barb, Lance, Nick, and many others. Their favorite playground was the Middle Chesapeake Bay, a vast expanse of water offering endless possibilities for exploration.

One crisp summer morning, the members of the Valley Forge Boating Club gathered at their dock, the sun rising slowly over the horizon, casting a warm, golden hue on the water. It was time to set sail for their latest adventure, a journey into uncharted waters.

Chapter 2: The Quest for Hidden Treasures

As the group ventured further into the bay, they noticed a mysterious island that had never appeared on any of their charts. Their adventurous spirits were immediately ignited, and the decision was made to explore this uncharted territory. With Ed at the helm and the others ready to lend a hand, their boats cut through the gentle waves as they approached the island.

Once ashore, they discovered ancient ruins and a series of enigmatic symbols etched into the stones. The excitement in the air was palpable as they wondered about the island's history and the secrets it might hold. Together, they pieced together clues and began to unravel the island's past, forming a deep bond in the process.

Chapter 3: Bonding on the Bay

Days turned into weeks as the Valley Forge Boating Club continued their island explorations. They uncovered hidden caves, underwater caves filled with dazzling marine life, and the remains of a shipwreck that hinted at long-lost treasure. With each discovery, their camaraderie grew stronger, and their spirits were lifted by the thrill of adventure.

Between exploring, the club members enjoyed serene moments on their boats, basking in the sun's warm



embrace and sharing stories of their lives beyond the bay. Ed's leadership inspired them, and each member brought their unique talents to the group, forging lifelong friendships.

Chapter 4: Unearthing the Past

One fateful day, the group stumbled upon a map buried in a bottle that suggested the location of a hidden pirate treasure. The excitement was electrifying, and the group decided to follow the map's clues. With determination and unity, they embarked on a treasure hunt that would test their wits and teamwork to the limits.

They overcame numerous challenges, from deciphering cryptic riddles to navigating treacherous waters, all while forming an unbreakable bond. Their quest not only drew them closer together but also connected them with the rich history of the Chesapeake Bay.

Chapter 5: The Treasure of Friendship

After weeks of searching, the club members finally located the hidden treasure on a secluded island in the Chesapeake Bay. It wasn't a chest filled with gold and jewels, but instead, a trove of shared memories, newfound friendships, and the knowledge that their unity and unwavering spirit were the true treasures they had discovered along the way.

As they returned to Valley Forge, their boats laden with the intangible riches of friendship, they knew their boating adventures on the Middle Chesapeake Bay were far from over. The Valley Forge Boating Club had discovered that their greatest adventures

(Continued from page 14)

were those they experienced together, forging lifelong bonds that would withstand the test of time and tide.

And so, the Valley Forge Boating Club continued to explore the vast waters of the Chesapeake Bay, their hearts filled with gratitude for the treasures of friendship they had found on their unforgettable journey.

Kalmar Nyckel Adventure

The Kalmar Nyckel—the Tall Ship of Delaware—will be in its home berth in Wilmington Delaware in August and September and we are planning a cruise on the ship. Their schedule has not yet been finalized, so the exact date is unknown. However, to express interest in this outing email John Juzbasich at juzbasich@msn.com. For more information on the ship and the adjacent Copeland Maritime Center see <https://www.kalmarnyckel.org/> and <https://www.kalmarnyckel.org/copelandcenter>



2023-2024 Bridge

Commander

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Administrative Officer

Megan Weber

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Asst. Education Officer

Open

Secretary

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C: 610-864-6581
aceclg@gorgefamily.com

Treasurer

Lt/C Mike Gibson, JN
789 Jefferson Way, West Chester, PA 19380
H: 484-947-5221
C: 610 888-9380
Gibson_michael@comcast.net

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

New Members

Please welcome:

Darwin McMackin
Cormac Gartner
Stephen Hardnousky
Elizabeth Filoon
Ronin Simons
Glen Simons
John Paul & Joan Stalford
Dana C. Hummel
Vanessa S. Hummel

Vessel Safety Examinations

We completed 87 Vessel Safety Checks in 2023. The 2024 stickers have arrived - lets get more than 100 in 2024!

We need more examiners, if interested, please contact me.

Maryanne Boettjer, John Juzbasich & Chris Dome



- Nationwide Shipping - Free under 75lbs
- 30 day Warranty on all Drive Line Components. (See Salesman for additional warranty on low mileage components.)
- Auto Glass Installation
- Salvage Vehicle Purchase
- Towing
- New Radiator Sales
- New Tail Lamp Sales

610-265-0930

**150 East Dekalb Pike
King of Prussia, PA 19406**

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Getting ready for the boating season with America's Boating Channel (ABC)

The United States Power Squadrons has been commissioned by the United States Coast Guard to develop, produce and post Boating Safety videos to assist boaters with short videos on the Americas Boating Channel. Each of us has our own level of boating skills. We should always be looking to build and / or refresh our boating skills. This is an easy to use and easy to learn platform to keep us ready for the unexpected or be better prepared use for our journeys through the boating season. We can also be good stewards of boating safety by promoting Americas Boating Channel to family, friends and boating enthusiast alike. There may be cases where our boating friends view a video and soon realize that taking a boating course might be the next step in the process after watching the video. Talk up ABC Valley Forge and Talk up the Americas Boating Channel this year.

Here are the names and links to some of the boating videos available.

#	ABC Video	Link to the video (click on link or copy to address bar)
1	ABC Smart TV Launch	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1c_rFy1fGqydiSauAiiAg
2	Life Jackets	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHG2OMo0SI
3	Navigation Rules	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jx9ELuSayM
4	Planning Ahead	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzx2NpdFM
5	Vessel Exams	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9BairWcM1M
6	Basic Marine Communications	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdxV00aVOY
7	Preparing for departure	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9tJ5vmdFFM
8	Distress Signals	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VR1An8LA6ow
9	Defensive Boating	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DMZKWDVUI9I
10	Boating Education	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVAcwX0vip2w

ABC Valley Forge prepares for the boating season with Americas Boating Channel.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1c_rFy1fGqydiSauAiiAg

Log Ahead

2024	
January	
18	Monthly Membership Meeting at McKenzie's (Speaker)
TBD	Budget Meeting
TBD	D5 Spring Conference Hospitality Planning Meeting
TBD	Change of Watch planning meeting
February	
2-12	USPS Annual Meeting (Orlando, FL)
7	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
15	Monthly Membership Meeting and Elections at McKenzie's (Speaker)
March	
6	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
15	Deadline to submit items for the next <i>Pilot</i>
TBD	New Members party
10 or 17	Change of Watch
20-24	D/5 Spring Conference; meetings, ABCVF hospitality event 7-9 pm
April	
3	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7:00 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
18	ABC_VF pre-cruise dinner
May	
1	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
15	Deadline to submit items for the next <i>Pilot</i>
16	Monthly Membership Meeting
30	Miss Chris Fishing Trip
June	
5	No ExCom meeting due to the cruise
21-30	Annual Summer Cruise! – several locations; come by boat or car
July	
3	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
15	Deadline to submit items for the next <i>Pilot</i>
18	Dinner meeting??
20	Crabbing outing Pasadena, MD
25-28	D5 Summer Rendezvous and Conference, Spring Cove Marina
August	
7	Commander's Picnic and ExCom meeting, details to come
17	Crabbing outing Pasadena, MD
27-9/4	USPS Fall Governing Board, Kansas City, MO

To the Staff of

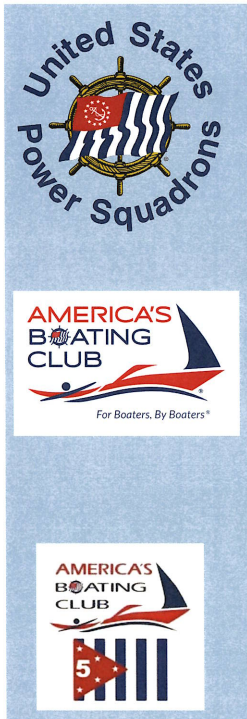
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Barbara Pearson
Communications Chair

12/21/2022
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Communications Chair

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Date

Publications and Articles of Interest

Chesapeake Bay Magazine
<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/>
MD Department of Natural Resources
<https://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
has a wide variety of articles that may be of interest



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 on various occasions throughout the year. It is on the web at www.mainlinesps.org and on Facebook at America's Boating Club-Valley Forge. Contact us at LetsGoBoating@abcvalleyforge.org with questions.

