



The Pilot

October 2025

Time to Winterize Your Boat!

It's time to step up!

The nominating committee is looking for leaders — volunteer!

Contact Russ Jones at wjones3@verizon.net

Upcoming Events

October

Merit Mark recommendations due
Monthly Dinner Meeting
with guest speaker

November

Hybrid ExCom
Thanksgiving Break

December

Veterans Holiday Party
ABC-VF Holiday Party

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Commander's Message

It has been a busy summer, and now autumn is upon us. The 2025 cruise was a great success—ten boats participated. We started in Baltimore at the recently remodeled Lighthouse Point Marina, then headed to Annapolis.

On the way we took awesome photos of the former Francis Scott Key Bridge (see page 10). Annapolis is always fun, and this year's visit didn't disappoint. Then we headed across the bay to the Maritime Museum in St. Michaels. From there we went on to Rock Hall via Kent Narrows—always exciting—for our grand finale BBQ.

Other events this summer included the Commander's picnic, the September Potluck picnic, and the Kalmar Nyckel outing. We have a few more

activities this year and in the spring; be sure to take advantage of them. These outings would not have happened without leadership and I thank all of you that lead these and upcoming events.

Merit Mark submissions are due October 15th, Please send your recommendations to Bill McManimen at wjmcmamanen@gmail.com and he will compile the squadron report and sent it to National for approval.

Our Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers for the 2026 bridge. Now is the time to pick up the baton and lead the way. If you want to volunteer, contact Russ Jones at wrjones3@verizon.net .

Please feel free to attend an Executive Committee meeting, in person or online — all are welcome.

- John Juzbasich, AP



ExCom Meeting information

Our policy is to hold our Executive Committee meetings in person and online via Zoom, thus more people can attend. Non-ExCom members may participate in the meeting discussions, however, as per our bylaws, they cannot vote.

In person meetings are held at: Paoli Presbyterian Church, 225 S Valley Rd, Paoli, PA 19301. The Zoom link can be found in the Monthly ExCom Agenda. If you need the agenda contact Barb Jones at bjonesann@verizon.net. The Zoom session begins at 6:30 (because it always takes some time to actually set up that connection). Social time begins at 6:45, and the meeting at 7:00.

Please keep phones and microphones on mute when not presenting.

Administrator News

Susan Woron Beardsley



A lot has happened since the last Pilot. For starters, we went to a new restaurant in April, the Valley House, which was well received by members who ordered from the menu and learned a great deal about Chester County waterways and open space from our speaker, Ellen Endslow. Ellen is the Director of Collections at the Chester County History Center and, in addition to her lecture on open space, she also discussed the history of some bridges and waterways. The meeting was well attended, and everyone had an enjoyable time.

In August, I was asked to organize the Commander's Picnic, due to emergency conditions at JJ's home. I was able to book the Hershey's Mill pool and arrange a catered meal from Arianna's Café in West Chester. Although there was light attendance, everyone appreciated the cool weather and the fact that no one had to cook. We all got to take some leftovers home too!

In September we had a Potluck Picnic at Perkiomen Valley Park. The picnic was very well attended and there was, as always, too much food. We enjoyed good discussions and games.

I am working on a few other things, so I'll give you a

heads-up about those. In October we will be having dinner at the Lock 29 in Phoenixville and ordering from the menu. I have engaged Shawn Lewis of the Captain's Travel Club to speak about lovely things to do on the water (cruises, boats, nature trips). Maybe we can go together if we save our money and Shawn finds us some good deals!

For our Holiday party we will be meeting at the Phoenixville Country Club on SUNDAY, December 14 from 3:00- 7:00. Please mark this date down since it is on a Sunday afternoon and a change from the past. I have found it is easier to find reservations during the holidays on Sundays, and at an earlier time, with no fee. It is almost impossible to find a decent restaurant on a Saturday night during the holidays with no fee. Speaking of fees, I have been successful so far finding places to go with no fees by being flexible and shopping around. Thanks to those who have made suggestions—that helps too.

In my last newsletter I asked for help. Although the Administrator's job is a lot of fun...I love a party... we still need to think about next year. I would love to have an assistant who could take over and learn the ropes. The job is easier if you have some background and connections. Also, if we are interested in building the membership, a membership assistant chair would also be helpful. This job involves introducing new members, signing them up for our Orientation Program, and making sure they are informed about our traditions and meetings. Also, a fun job! Contact me to talk about any of these things when you get a chance.

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, October 15th Merit Mark recommendations are due to Bill McManimen, send them to wjmcmamanen@gmail.com

Thursday, October 16 Dinner Meeting at Lock 29, 127 Bridge Street, Mont Clare, PA 19453, 6:30 cocktails 7:00 dinner. Speaker: Shawn Lewis of Captain's Travel Club. See flyer in this issue for more information.

Wednesday, December 10 Veterans' Dinner Party organized by Ed White. He needs volunteers to help out, contact Ed at edwhite2004@gmail.com

Sunday, December 14 Holiday Dinner at Phoenixville Country Club, 3:00-7:00. See flyer in this issue for more information.

Educational Officer Report

Lt/C Wayne Barrett, JN

"Knowledgeable boaters have more fun."

We had a good turnout for The Americas Boating Course in the spring at Chester County Night School. We had a good turnout for the ABC course, with 9 students. Three of those students were acquired from the Oaks boat show.

The MN (Marine Navigation) course was also held in the spring. Many thanks to Russ Jones for heading up the course with help from Nick Montalto, Dana Hummel and Vanessa Hummel. The new MN now includes instructions on how to use electronic chart plotting. The free software OpenCPN is used to complete some homework assignments. This can be used onboard your boat for actual navigation. Knowledge of OpenCPN can help with the use of chart plotters and multifunction displays that you might already have on your boats.

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 have previously held an instructor certificate but it has lapsed, there is a short, one session refresher course which can be held for recertification. If you are attending the November 7-9 D5 Educational Conference in Lancaster PA, they will be giving the recertification seminar. 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 coming fall 2025

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 coming fall range from the America's Boating Course (allows you to qualify for the State required Boating certificate), the Marine navigation course, and the Marine Electrical Systems course.

We also have various 1-night seminars that we will be offering at CCLL (Chester County Lifelong Learning) and DARC (Downingtown Area Recreational Consortium), such as Boat Docking & Maneuvering, Marine Knots, Paddle Smart and Crew at the helm. 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 learned in the full courses.

We will be offering these courses at CCLL (Chester County Lifelong Learning) and DARC (Downingtown Area Recreational Consortium). You can register for the courses listed below at www.cclifelearn.org (CCLL) fall 2025 or at <https://downingtownpa.myrec.com> (DARC).

- 1) Marine Navigation Course (CCLL and DARC)
- 2) ABC Boating Certification Course (CCLL and DARC)
- 3) Marine Electrical Systems (CCLL only)
- 4) Boat Docking & Maneuvering Seminar (CCLL only)
- 5) Marine Knots Seminar (CCLL and DARC)
- 6) Crew at the Helm Seminar (CCLL and DARC)
- 7) Paddle Smart Seminar (CCLL and DARC)
- 8) Weather for Boaters (DARC only)
- 9) AIS for Boaters (DARC only)

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.

Please help us advertise them to your family and friends! For more information go to our website <https://abcvalleyforge.org/>.





Dinner meeting

Thursday, October 16

6:30 Cocktails

7:00 Dinner

8:00 Speaker



SPEAKER: Shawn Lewis
Captain's Travel Club



127 Bridge Street
Mont Clare, PA 19453
484-927-4312

TOPIC: Traveling on, with,
or beside BOATS!

RSVP to Susan

484-467-6705

sworon54@gmail.com

Order from the menu
Pay at the restaurant



Vessel Safety Examinations

In 2025 we made our goal and completed over 100 Vessel Safety Checks. We could use your help in 2026. To become a VSE you need to read a manual and take the online test. After performing five vessel safety exams with a certified examiner, you will become a Certified Vessel Safety Examiner!

Many thanks to the ABC-Valley ForgeVSE team:

Bill McManimen
Wayne Barrett
Nick Montalto
Chris Dome

Meridith Barrett
Russ Jones
Maryanne Boettjer
John Juzbasich



JOIN US, Become a VSE!

Fishing Report

One aspect of boating that I love is fishing. I am a member of the Fisheye Club, which holds semiannual fishing events one week in the spring and one week in the fall, for the grand prize of a very “prestigious” (but decidedly tacky and ostentatious) “Fisherman of the Year” trophy.

I wish I could say that I am the best fisherman of 2025. I want to say that I am the best fisherman of 2025. That would be a lie. In a previous edition of The Pilot, I reported on the outcome of the spring fishing trip (where I was in the lead having caught 78 Bullhead). This fall, the race to bring home the coveted “Fisherman of the Year” trophy was nail-bitingly close.

The club members caught a great number of walleye trolling, as evidenced by the associated photo. While our boat Juz 4 Fun encountered an engine problem, which took us out of the contest for two days, I made up ground catching small-mouth bass ranging from 15 to 19 inches tagging along with another boat.

Over the course of the week, our club caught over a dozen walleye, ranging from 22 to 28 inches, and over eighteen small smallmouth bass ranging from



14 to 19 inches. While no single day was a blowout, I demonstrated consistent upwards improvement, catching at least one worthwhile fish every day. My total score for the fall fishing trip was six smallmouth bass, over fifty goby fish (a freshwater invasive species) – the smallest being measured at 1 and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, two sheepshead (one being 28 inches), and two cisco.

While I didn’t take the trophy this year, the point was that many fish were caught, and fun was had by all. Camaraderie on the water, however you enjoy it. See you on the water.

- John M. Juzbasich

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Holiday Party

Sunday, December 14, 2025

3:00-7:00 PM

Make merry with friends, enjoy dinner, songs, and Santa at



Menu

Butternut squash soup
Roast Pork Loin
Glazed Salmon
Potato Gnocchi
Cheesecake



Phoenixville Country Club
355 Country Club Road
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Dinner is \$40. per person
Send check and RSVP to Susan
207 Chandler Drive
West Chester, PA
sworon54@gmail.com



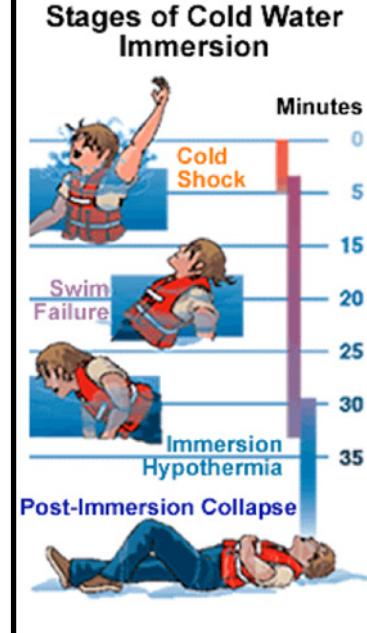
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Immersion in Cold Water Education

It is getting to be the time of year when we are entering cold weather. The danger of immersion in cold water during boating activities needs to be emphasized. There is a significant risk in entering the water during the colder months. Although the air temperature may be in the seventies, the water temperature may be in the fifties or lower. Hypothermia, the abnormal lowering of body temperature, can be a danger. Heat leaves the body approximately 25 times faster in the water than in the air. Our America's Boating Course and Boat Handling courses cover this topic in greater detail.



Cold water immersion is dangerous and may kill you quickly before hypothermia sets in.

Stage 1: Initial cold shock occurs in the first 3 to 5 minutes.

Your risk is an automatic gasp reflex action as soon as immersed in water under 50°F.

Stage 2: Short-term swim failure occurs 3 to 30 minutes following immersion in cold water.

Stage 3: Long-term immersion hypothermia sets in after 30 minutes, at a rate depending Cold water robs the body of heat 25 times faster than cold air.

Stage 4: Post-immersion collapse occurs during or after rescue. Once rescued, if you have been immersed in cold water you are still in danger cardiac arrest.

We encourage everyone to be careful during cold weather boating activities and beware of the dangers of cold-water immersion. You can learn more about cold water immersion by taking one of our classes. You can also follow this link to the NOAA weather site which has a lot of good information on the subject:

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/coldwater>



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Fleet Captain's Report

Bodkin Creek Daybeacon 1 to be lighted 9/24.
Broadcreek Daybeacon 2 shoaling.
Chester River Route 213 bridge inspection Sept. 15-25.
Cambridge Choptank River 9/2-22 swim meet.
Eastern Bay, Crab Alley Bay buoy 6 and Daybeacon shoaling reported.
Patapsco River, Fort McHenry fireworks Sept. 14.
Choptank River buoys 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are all off station.
Alligator River Light 26, day beacons 3, 5, 45, 9, 35, 45 and light 26 are all off station.

P/C Jim Friedrichs, SN



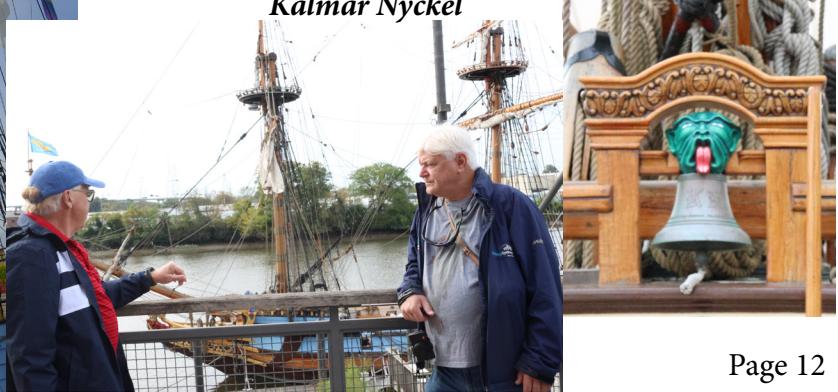
2025 ABC Valley Forge Cruise - A Great Success



September Potluck

The fall potluck picnic was very well attended and, as usual, we had way too much food. We gave it our best shot and tried to eat it all.

In addition to the feast we had great conversation and games. Rich McLaughlin is the 2025 Cornhole Champion!



Why Drinking Alcohol While Boating Is a Really Bad Idea

Boating is a popular recreational activity enjoyed by millions each year, offering an escape into nature and the opportunity to relax on the water. However, combining boating with alcohol consumption can quickly turn a leisurely day into a tragic event. Just as drinking and driving is illegal and dangerous, boating under the influence (BUI) poses serious risks—not only to the operator but also to passengers, swimmers, and other boaters. Here's why drinking while boating is a really bad idea.

Impaired Judgment and Reaction Time

Alcohol impairs decision-making, coordination, and reaction time—all critical skills needed to operate a boat safely. Navigating waterways requires a high level of alertness and the ability to react quickly to unexpected obstacles, weather changes, or other vessels. Even a small amount of alcohol can dull senses and reduce cognitive functioning. The U.S. Coast Guard reports that alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents, accounting for over 20% of deaths on the water.

The Effects of “Boater’s Hypnosis”

Boating introduces environmental stressors that amplify alcohol’s effects. Factors such as sun exposure, wind, engine noise, motion, and vibration contribute to what’s known as “boater’s hypnosis,” a state of fatigue and slowed reaction time that mimics alcohol impairment. When alcohol is added to the mix, its intoxicating effects are intensified. A boater may become impaired much faster on the water than on land after consuming the same amount of alcohol.

Legal Consequences and Penalties

Boating under the influence is illegal in all 50 U.S. states and subject to strict penalties, including hefty fines, license suspension, and even jail time. In many jurisdictions, BUI laws mirror those of driving under the influence (DUI), with the legal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limit typically set at 0.08%. Convictions can have lasting effects on a person’s criminal record and may affect their ability to operate any motor vehicle, including a car or truck.

Increased Risk of Drowning

Alcohol significantly impairs balance and swimming ability, increasing the risk of falling overboard and drowning. Nearly 80% of boating deaths are caused by drowning, and the majority of those victims were not wearing life jackets. When under the influence, individuals are less likely to



take safety precautions and more likely to make risky decisions, such as not wearing a life vest or jumping into unsafe water.

Endangering Others

Boating while intoxicated doesn’t just put the operator at risk—it endangers everyone onboard and nearby. An impaired boater may struggle to avoid collisions, navigate narrow passages, or respond to emergencies. Passengers, too, are more likely to suffer injuries if the operator is impaired. In crowded or high-traffic waterways, the margin for error is small, and a single misjudgment can lead to catastrophic consequences.

A Safer Alternative

Enjoying a drink on land after the boat is docked is a much safer—and legal—alternative. Designating a sober skipper, much like a designated driver, is a simple and effective way to ensure everyone has a good time and gets home safely. Just as we’ve come to accept that drinking and driving don’t mix, the same standard should apply on the water.

In conclusion, drinking alcohol while boating is not only dangerous—it’s potentially deadly. The combination of environmental factors, legal consequences, and impaired judgment makes alcohol and boating a risky and irresponsible pairing. For the safety of yourself and others, save the drinks for after you’re back on shore.

2025-2026 Bridge

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Log Ahead

October 2025	
1	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
16	Monthly Membership Meeting, at Lock 29, 127 Bridge St., Mont Clare, PA; est. \$35/person
November 2025	
5	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
December 2025	
3	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
10	Veteran's Holiday party
14	Holiday Party Phoenixville Country club
January 2026	
7	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
15	Monthly Membership Meeting, TBD
February 2026	
4	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
19	Monthly Membership Meeting, TBD
March 2026	
4	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
22	COW and Monthly Membership Meeting, 3:00 PM at the Desmond in Malvern.



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Email Your Ad to Pilot Editor John Juzbasich at juzbasich@abcvalleyforge.org

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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



MD State Police heading out on patrol



The Pilot

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Assistant Editor: Ginny Parry

Photographers: Meridith Barrett, Rita Rossi and John Juzbasich

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