

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
VALLEY FORGE



The Pilot

January 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Change of Watch
March 12, 2023
Downingtown Country Club
Luncheon meeting
1:00 to 4:00
93 Country Club Drive
Downingtown, PA 19335

Upcoming Events - Reserve the dates!

Oaks Boat Show January 27-29
New Member Pot Luck Dinner: February 11
ABC-VF Election February 16
Change of Watch luncheon: March 12th
D5 Spring Conference March 30-April 2, Ocean
City, MD
See full calendar below for details

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Commander's Report

Happy New Year



I was all set to have ChatGPT write this column—my last as commander/chairperson/honcho of ABC Valley Forge, but the website has crashed from too much demand. I guess a lot of folks are looking for help with their assignments. So it's the in-person me who's typing.*

Moving on...

Like several previous outgoing commanders, I'm struck by how quickly the year has passed. Didn't we just have a hybrid Change of Watch, a feat of technology that Patty Pezely made look easy? Didn't Russ and Barb Jones just introduce us to the marinas and activities on the annual cruise? Didn't Ed White swim through the streets of Skippack dressed as a shark as part of a July 4 float?

We changed some ways of doing things: XO Mike Gibson and I shared many of the duties of commander (I'm still thinking of a new term for that role).

We launched some Happy Hours in lieu of regular monthly meetings.

We updated our bylaws to be more flexible.

We (Joe Pezely) updated our website to be more user friendly and optimize it for search engines

We (Lance Parry) updated several brochures and flyers

During the last year several of our members have contributed to the work of our national USPS organization. This February Bill McManimen will end his three-year term as our National Educational Officer. Kudos to Bill for his great leadership. Russ

Jones contributed to the review of the new Marine Navigation Course which will begin a beta test at the end of January. Jim Heckman has contributed a number of animations to America's Boating Channel, including those in the recently published Inlet Drone Videos.

But one thing that remains constant is the commitment and dedication of so many of our members. I can't thank you enough for saying Yes to the many requests to keep making our club relevant and interesting.

Thanks, Rich McLaughlin, for developing so much of our educational display at last spring's D5 conference. Thank you, Frank Visich, for not only launching but spearheading our presence at the Patriot Days encampment, summer Vessel Safety Checks and veterans' events. Thank you, VSC team, for committing time and energy to perform more than 80 checks last year. Thank you, Education Department, for teaching basic and advanced courses in a challenging COVID environment. Thank you, Rita Rossi and Rosemary Montalto, for arranging several meetings. Thank you, Joe and Patty Pezely, for so much technical help at our hybrid Executive Committee meetings and in maintaining our website. And thank you, Lance, for untiring help in technical areas, creating marketing material, and invaluable personal support. And profound thanks to our Strategic Planning Committee under John Juzbasich's leadership that is helping envision our future. I should add more names; we accomplished a lot. And I would like to expand our list of names of members as well as people who are attending or managing an event.

Ed White, who has been nominated to be the next commander/chairperson/honcho of ABC-VF, is brimming with enthusiasm to launch his own agenda. Our Annual Meeting

is Feb. 16, when we formally elect officers. Please attend, vote, and support all the new officers in making the 2023-24 year of America's Boating Club – Valley Forge an outstanding one.

Then please welcome the new officials at our Change of Watch on March 12 at Downingtown Country Club. They need your presence and participation so we can get more boats on the water, have more adventures, and solidify our friendships.

*ChatGPT is a free program that uses AI (artificial intelligence) to answer questions and write results. Since this free program was released, it has helped some users and consternated others – especially the teachers who have discovered students using the program to complete homework assignments. Now a Princeton student has created an app to detect whether a text was written by a human or with the help of ChatGPT. His creation is Chat Zero gptzero.me. Both GPT and Zero are free for the moment. Try them if you can!

P.S. You can try ChatGPT yourself at <http://chat.openai.com/> Or investigate the newer app, Chat Zero, that claims to be able to detect text written by robot: <https://gptzero.me/>

-Ginny Parry

Fleet Captain's Report

The Coast Guard advises that range lines on NOAA Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC) may not show the accurate position of the range line. Also the USCG advises that ENCs used on an Electronic Chart Display And Information System (ECDIS) are not displayed on ENC due to limitations of the display specification.

Mariners should refer to the Light List for complete information.

Jim Friedrichs
1/8/23



America's Boating Club
Valley Forge

**2023 New Member
Pot Luck Dinner**

Join Us TO HONOR our New Members

When:

Saturday February 11, 2023

Time:

4:00 pm

Location:

**Bruce & Lisa Fegan's House
579 Powderhorn Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406
610-496-4301**

**I will be making a Spiral Ham
Mojitos – "My Specialty"**

Please RSVP and let me know what you will be bringing.

We need:

**Appetizers
Side Dishes
Desserts**

2023 Bridge and Ex-Comm Nominees

The 2022 Nominating Committee is pleased to announce its slate of nominees for the 2023 Bridges and Executive Committee of America's Boating Club/Valley Forge.

Commander – Ed White

Executive Officer – John Juzbasich

Administrative Officer – Megan Weber

Secretary – Cindy Gorge

Treasurer – Mike Gibson

SEO – Wayne Barrett

ASEO – open

Executive Committee:

John Beardsley	Nick Montalto	Patti Pezely	Maryanne Boettjer
James Friedrichs	Barbara Jones	Clarence Cramer	Betty Corbin
Lance Parry	Rich McLaughlin	Lisa Fegan	Robert Long
Susan Woron	William McManimen	Rita Rossi	Meridith Barrett
Sue Friedrichs	Joe Pezely	Chris Dome	
Ginny Parry	Rory Tucker	Sam Lyness	
Russ Jones	James Heckman	Charles Rossi	

2023 Rules Committee:

Russ Jones
Nick Montalto
George Painter

2023 Audit Committee:

Jim Herron
Jan Painter

2023 Nominating Committee Candidates:

Patty Pezely
Rita Rossi
Jim Friedrichs
Meridith Barrett
Rich McLaughlin
Sam Lyness
Ginny Parry
Barb Jones

This year's Nominating Committee was unable to find a nominee for the position of Assistant Squadron Educational Officer. That being the case, we will happily accept a volunteer for that position and will add them to the slate of candidates. The volunteer would not be required to move "up" to another position at the end of his or her term of office.

If you are interested in volunteering to be the Squadron ASEO next year, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee.

Respectfully submitted, John Beardsley, George Painter, Wayne Barrett, Sam Lyness, Charles Rossi

America's Boating Club Valley Forge Calendar 2023

JANUARY	
27-29	Greater Philadelphia Boat Show, Oaks, volunteers needed; contact John Beardsley at jbeardsley71@gmail.com Sign up at: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b48adad22a6fc1-abcboat
FEBRUARY	
1	Executive Committee meeting, Churchill Room at Paoli Presbyterian Church, 225 S. Valley Rd., Paoli, and via Zoom
11	New Member Pot Luck Dinner
16	Annual meeting and election of officers at Uno Pizzeria, 106 Black Rock Road Oaks, PA
18	2023 ABC Annual Meeting, February 18, 2023 - February 27, 2023, Orlando, FL https://www.usps.org/php/reservations/meetinginfo.php?mtg_id=44
MARCH	
1	Executive Committee meeting, Churchill Room at Paoli Presbyterian Church, 225 S. Valley Rd., Paoli, and via Zoom, 7:00
12	Change of Watch Luncheon at Downingtown Country Club
16	ABC-VF monthly meeting, time and place TBD.
20	3 seminars on 3 Monday evenings: How to effectively use GPS, AIS, and Radar; Stetson Middle School, WC School District. Register at www.cclifelearn.org .
21	ABC Course, 5 weeks, Downingtown Middle School, Downingtown Area School District. Register at www.cclifelearn.org .
21	Marine Navigation, 7 weeks, Downingtown Middle School, Downingtown Area School District. Register at www.cclifelearn.org .
29	Marine Electrical Systems, 7 weeks, Peirce Middle School, WC School District. Register at www.cclifelearn.org
30	D5 Spring Conference March 30-April 2, 2023
APRIL	
1-2	D5 Spring Conference March 30-April 2, 2023
5	Executive Committee meeting, Churchill Room at Paoli Presbyterian Church, 225 S. Valley Rd., Paoli, and via Zoom, 7:00
20	ABC-VF monthly meeting, time and place TBD.
MAY	
3	Executive Committee meeting, Churchill Room at Paoli Presbyterian Church, 225 S. Valley Rd., Paoli, and via Zoom, 7:00
18	ABC-VF monthly meeting, time and place TBD.
JUNE	
2-11	Annual Summer Cruise! 9 days, 8 nights, 4 marinas, untold fun around the Bay



Contact: Lance Parry, lapnews@gmail.com or 610-247-3904

Nov. 18, 2022

Boating club offering classes this spring

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 basic boating, including the state-required America's Boating Course, through using GPS, AIS and radar, marine navigation, and marine electronics.

These courses are offered in conjunction with Chester County Lifelong Learning (CCLL), and Clews and Strawbridge Marine.

You can register for the ABC course listed below at www.cclifelearn.org (CCLL), or www.ABCvalleyforge.org (ABCVF/Main Line Sail & Power) website. Registration for the other courses will be available after Jan. 1, 2023.

ABC Course (safe boating course) January 4 – Five Wednesday evenings; Peirce Middle School, West Chester School District; register through CCLL

March 21 – Five Tuesday evenings; Downingtown Middle School, DASD; register through CCLL

April/May (dates TBD) – one Saturday (8 hours); Clews Marine; register through ABCVF.

Marine Navigation March 21 – Seven Tuesday evenings; Downingtown Middle School, DASD; register through CCLL

Marine Electrical Systems March 29 – Seven Wednesday evenings; Peirce Middle School, WC School District; register through CCLL

How to Effectively Use GPS, AIS and RADAR March 20 – Three Monday evenings; Stetson Middle School; WC School District; register through CCLL

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

Marine Electrical Systems

This course covers boat electrical wiring, lightning protection, galvanic and stray current corrosion and boat electrical system troubleshooting. Properties of electricity AC and DC power, boat wiring circuits and multi-meter usage will be explored. This course is designed to help boaters understand their boat electrical systems and to properly maintain these systems.

Don't get short circuited; learn how boat electrical systems work, how to diagnose problems, and how to do simple repairs and upgrades.

Boat electrical systems are increasingly under load with power demands for electronic navigation, radar, powered windlasses and winches, interior and exterior lighting, personal electronic devices, and more. Most boats have both DC and AC power. Learn about voltage drops, current demands, wiring, and so on. This course covers the topics you need and want to know.

What's included?

- Boat electrical wiring practices
- Direct current (DC) power
- Alternating current (AC) power
- Galvanic and stray current corrosion
- Lightning protection
- How to use a multi-meter
- How to solder and crimp
- How to read electrical wiring diagrams



Rugged water ahead – three fearsome inlets

If you're looking to see boats in some rough water, tune into America's Boating Channel's newest offerings – inlet drone videos. Each video is about 5-8 minutes long, and narrates the basics of navigating both into and out of some famously stomach-churning inlets – all from a low-altitude aerial perspective. (And no, these are not boating fail videos.)

The first three videos in the series are of Cape Fear, NC, Haulover, FL and Columbia River Bar, OR. You can watch them now with this link: bit.ly/InletDroneVideos. Additional inlet drone videos will be released over the next year.

A helpful feature of the videos is animations by our own SEO Jim Heckman, that show a boat maneuvering through each of the inlets on a navigation chart. Nice work, Jim!

Another useful feature is being able to see both entering and leaving each inlet.

The full – and expanding – library of America's Boating Channel videos is available at americasboatingchannel.com. Tune in! https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgIbejLMU2Hd_IYJGtyK6udYt4t-4zFSz

How to use GPS, AIS and RADAR

This course is designed to teach boaters how to effectively use the following three marine electronic systems and the differences, strengths and weaknesses:

Global Positioning System (GPS) provides users with positioning, navigation, and timing services. How to specify waypoints, build routes and backup/accuracy issues will be presented. Boaters need the most reliable location and position information available, which makes getting the most out of your Global Positioning System pretty important. Learn how to use waypoints, build and execute routes, and monitor progress. Learn to interpret location information and tracking data, and get an overview of how GPS integrates with your boat's electronic systems. Explore what features you need and how to arrange your display. Also get tips on connecting your GPS to your VHF marine radio, which opens up a new world of digital hailing and distress signaling.

Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponders are designed to be capable of providing position, identification and other information about the ship to other ships and to coastal authorities automatically. AIS provides tracking of targets including course, speed and closest point of approach of boats and ships. With the Automated Identification System (AIS) for marine vessels, you can avoid collisions in crowded waters by knowing the name and locations of other boats and ships, how close they will come, and when to act. Many AIS systems also broadcast your boat's information to other boats so they can also make better, safer boating decisions.

Our AIS Electronics for Boaters seminar can help you decide if an Automatic Identification System is right for you and show you how AIS and Radar differ. AIS electronics are not just for commercial vessels and more recreational vessels are employing this technology for safer cruising.

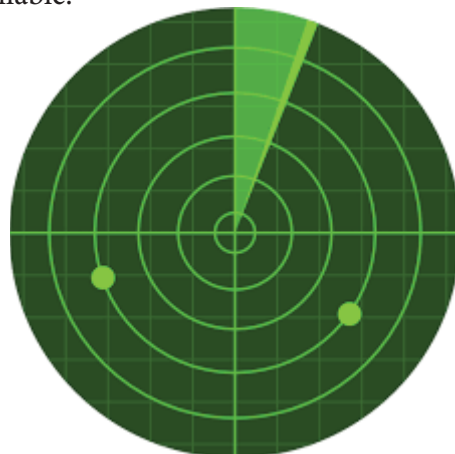
What You Will Learn:

- What does AIS do and how does it work?
- Do I need an AIS System?
- How is AIS different from Radar?
- How do I use AIS to navigate more safely?
- How do I integrate AIS with my existing electronics?

Radio Detection and Ranging Systems (RADAR) uses radio waves to determine the distance, angle, and velocity of objects relative to your boat. It can be used to detect other vessels, aids to navigation, weather formations, and terrain. Don't get lost in the fog. Whether you want to navigate safely or decide what equipment to purchase, this seminar provides clear advice. Learn how RADAR works, how to use it effectively, and its limitations as a piloting aid. You'll receive a copy of the Student Notes that has copies of the slides used in the seminar. The RADAR Book by Kevin Monahan is optionally available.

What's Included?

- RADAR basics
- Operator controls
- Operator aids
- Collision avoidance
- Navigation
- RADAR display
- Target identification
- Headings
- Ranges
- Rain and snow effects



2023 ABC Valley Forge Summer Cruise

Our Main Line Sail & Power Squadron **2023 Summer Cruise** itinerary is set. This year we sent a questionnaire to the members who participated in the 2022 and 2021 Summer Cruises asking which month and which marinas they prefer. The month and four marinas were overwhelmingly chosen by our cruisers. The top four vote getters are listed below and we plan to go to all of them. We are estimating that about **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 May 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.

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

- [] Saturday, June 3 – The Yacht Basin, Annapolis
- [] Sunday, June 4 – The Yacht Basin, Annapolis
- [] Monday, June 5 – Herrington Harbour South, Herring Bay
- [] Tuesday, June 6 – Herrington Harbour South, Herring Bay
- [] Wednesday, June 7 – CB Maritime Museum, St. Michaels
- [] Thursday, June 8 – CB Maritime Museum, St. Michaels
- [] Friday, June 9 – Haven Harbor Marina, Rock Hall
- [] Saturday, June 10 – Haven Harbor Marina, Rock Hall

We will be in Annapolis on Saturday, June 3 and Sunday, June 4, departing the following day. . We have toured the Lighthouse on a Main Line cruise previously and it was well worth the cost. We just received notification that the Thomas Point tickets are for sale now. To buy tickets go to: <https://uslhs.org/about/thomas-point-shoal-lighthouse/tour-calendar>



RESERVATION FORM
America's Boating Club – Mid-Atlantic
 United States Power Squadrons D/5 Spring
 Conference 30 March – 2 April 2023
 Princess Royale Hotel, 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:

Maryland Fried Chicken: served with whipped potatoes # ____ @ \$27.00 = \$ ____

Vegetable Lasagna: served with sauteed zucchini and squash # ____ @ \$26.00 = \$ ____

Selections served with: Garden Salad, Coffee, Tea, Decaf Coffee & Iced Tea

SATURDAY BANQUET ENTREE CHOICES:

Shrimp Scampi: Sauteed shrimp in garlic and butter, served with whipped potatoes and green beans almondine. # ____ @ \$39.00 = \$ ____

Chicken Marsala: Sauteed chicken breast in a mushroom marsala wine sauce served with au gratin potatoes and sauteed seasonal vegetables. # ____ @ \$42.00 = \$ ____

Vegetable Stir Fry: Fresh Pea Pods, Onions, Julienned Carrots, Broccoli, Red Pepper and Water Chestnuts in a Teriyaki Sauce With Sherry # ____ @ \$34.00 = \$ ____

Selections Served with: Garden Salad: Fresh Garden Greens and Vegetables, Sauteed seasonal vegetables, Au Gratin Potatoes, Rolls & Butter, Cookies and Cream Smith Island Cake, Coffee, Tea, Decaf Coffee, & Iced Tea

Dietary Restrictions: _____
 (Gluten Free Option Available)

Children: Chicken Tender and Fries # ____ @ \$18.00 = \$ ____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: Absecon Island Power Squadron

SEND TO: D/1st/Lt Apryl Bernard
 1127 Riverside Dr.
 Mays Landing, NJ 08330 (609-432-7449) (aprylber@msn.com)

**MEAL RESERVATIONS must
 be received by 8 March 2023**

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

MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY WITH HOTEL - Call Reservations Dept. at 800-476-9253
Use the Reservation Group Code: United States District 5 and Block Code 23UNITED
The hotel requires a \$100 incidentals hold upon check in and it will be released at check out if not used.
Princess Royale Hotel 9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland
 Non-Smoking Venue - Handicapped Rooms available on a request basis
Rates: Ocean view/pool view Suite: \$129.00 per night Ocean Suite: \$169.00 per night
 2BR/2BA Oceanfront Condo: \$279.00 per night, 3BR: \$359.00 per night
 (Rates listed do **not** include taxes)



Beached Whale in New Jersey

Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Events

The news has been reporting several dead whales washed up on the Jersey Shore during December 2022 and January 2023. Even though it is not a heavy boat traffic time of year. Even odder is a 20 foot long killer whale had beached itself in Palm Coast, Florida early Wednesday January 11, 2023.

Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, an unusual mortality event (UME) is defined as “a stranding that is unexpected; involves a significant die-off of any marine mammal population; and demands immediate response.” Understanding and investigating marine mammal UMEs is crucial because they can be indicators of ocean health, giving insight into larger environmental issues which may also have implications for human health.

As far as the New Jersey and New York fatalities numbers go, this is considered by the NOAA a Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event.

The nonprofit Save Coastal Wildlife provides an email that gave the preliminary necropsy results

of the deceased whales. Preliminary results based on observations during the necropsy suggest the whales suffered blunt trauma injuries consistent with those from a vessel strike.

To help preserve the lives of whales, NOAA Fisheries is proposing measures to expand a current 10-knot [11.5 mph] speed limit to include boats 35 feet and longer. The current threshold includes boats 65 feet and longer. It would also expand existing “slow zones” in the Atlantic Ocean to as far as 100 miles offshore. The zones cover almost the entire length of the Atlantic seaboard, from Massachusetts to Florida, the migration and feeding areas for whales commonly seen along the Jersey Shore.

The current law: if you see a whale, remember that approaching a whale closer than 500 yards is a violation of both federal and state laws. There are maps to show whale migration times and routes that can be looked at before your next boating excursion.

2022-2023 Bridge

Commander

Cdr Ginny Parry, S
16 Salisbury Ln, Malvern, PA 19355
C: 610-220-6827
ginnyparry@gmail.com

Executive Officer

Lt/C Mike Gibson, JN
789 Jefferson Way, West Chester, PA 19380
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Gibson_michael@comcast.net

Administrative Officer

Open

Educational Officer

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JLHeckman4929@gmail.com

Asst. Education Officer

P/C Wayne Barrett, JN*
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H: 610 384-0744
C: 484-678-5137
wrfbarrett@comcast.net

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16 Richard Lee Lane, Phoenixville, PA 19460
C: 610-864-6581
aceclg@gorgefamily.com

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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

Update Your Profile

Please review your information by going to <https://www.usps.org/member-s-log-in>. Enter your USPS Certificate number and password.

On the right-hand side of the page, you will see your member Profile. Click on Manage Profile. Here you can change your address, phone number, email address, MMSI and more.

If you forgot your password, click on the forgot password link.

If you need a name change please email me at patty.pezely@gmail.com.



- 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**

www.rossiautoparts.com

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

Editor: John Juzbasich (juzbasich@msn.com)

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.

