

Anchor



Watch



Official publication of the Annapolis Sail and Power Squadron
District 5, a unit of United States Power Squadrons®



December 2022

Annapolis, Maryland

Volume 81, Number 12



Commander's Message Cdr Ralph Leasure, S

It's hard to believe, but the Holiday Season is upon us. I still can't get used to seeing Christmas decorations out before Thanksgiving, but it has happened. I'm looking forward to our December meeting and the always fun gift exchange. I hope you're planning to be there...maybe with an ugly Christmas sweater.

We've had a good year, and I'm anticipating even more activities and get-togethers for next year. I want to give a special thank you to Mike and Georgiana Maszczenski for planning, organizing and executing a great Octoberfest picnic complete with authentic German music, food and games. It was nice that the weather cooperated. Thanks also to all the volunteers that

helped make the day special. Thanks to P/C Ron Ricketts for helping to acquire the venue. When you see him, congratulate Ron on earning his Captain's license.

Thanks to Terry Slattery for his WiFi presentation at the November dinner meeting. It was very informative and helpful. Who knew that the WIFI we use everyday was so complicated and had so many gotchas? It is nice to now know some of the things to look for, especially at a marina, if you want to use their WIFI.

The winter is a great time of year to improve your boating knowledge. I know Mike is planning a new Navigation course starting in January. You can also take courses from other squadrons or from National's Website. If you haven't seen the videos from America's Boating Channel, try going to You Tube and searching for all their content. They even have drone coverage of some of the country's more hazardous inlets.

The Ft. Lauderdale International Boat Show was everything we thought it would be and more. We parked at The Convention Center and took a water taxi to the different venues. That was fun because the crew knew and talked about famous people and their houses and yachts as we passed. It was located over six areas of the City. Show central was located at Bahia Mar. We were caught up in the excitement of the whole thing and decided to replace Kokomo with Kokomo II. More on that another time.

Happy Holidays!!

Ralph Leasure, Commander



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Fall Festival







Administrative Officer Lt/C Susan Gilbert, S

As we prepare to publish, I am weather watching again. The rain outside is from our second brush with hurricane remnants this year. We are also being warned of possible snow in the next few days.

These weather patterns are truly reminding us that the boating season is on hold for several months until spring, and that it is time to winterize the boat. It is also time to think of and plan for next season's boating adventures.

Meanwhile, we're still keeping in touch! We had a great crowd for the Fall Fun Fest. Everyone there enjoyed the food and the conversation. Even better, we were joined by several members of the Back Creek Yacht Club. When we have activities, don't forget that you can invite others. There's no better way to spread the news about what a great group we are than to join in.



Our December meeting comes fast this year – it's on December 1st! We're hoping you are planning to join in on the annual holiday fun. We will be having a **holiday attire contest**. You might win for Most Tacky or Best Overall! You might even win Most Festive! We'll also have the **annual gift exchange**. If you want to participate, be sure to bring a gift worth no more than \$20. There will also be games and other fun activities. This is one meeting that you do not want to miss.

We'll also be collecting for **Toys for Tots**. This year, we are collecting just money. The Toys for Tots organization finds cash to be a very effective donation. They can use it to make sure they have gifts for all children – regardless of age. They also have resources that allow them to buy in bulk and at a discount. So, bring a check made out to Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, and help us help others. If you can't attend this meeting, you can still donate. Use this link to find ways to help: <https://www.toysfortots.org/donate/Default.aspx>. If you do donate, let us know. We use the data as part of our yearly report to our national organization.





Holiday Party

Thursday, 1 December 2022
 Elks Lodge 2 Pythian Drive
 Edgewater, MD 21037

6:00 PM - Social Hour
 Cheese & Veggie Platter

7:00 PM - Dinner Buffet
 Salad, Italian Meat Lasagna,
 Chicken Parmesan with Spaghetti & Sauce
 Garlic Bread, Green Beans, Desserts
 If you want the vegetarian choice,
 (Pasta Primavera with red sauce),
 please so indicate when
 making your reservation.

RSVP by 4:00 PM
 on Sunday, 28 November 2022
 by email to
aspsdinnerreservations@gmail.com

Dinner Cost: \$25 per person
 Payable at the door by cash or
 check made to Annapolis Elks.

Holiday Apparel Contest:
 Most Tacky, Most Festive,
 Best All-Around

Please bring a check for the
 Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive.



If you wish to participate in the gift
 exchange, please bring a wrapped gift
 whose value does not exceed \$20.



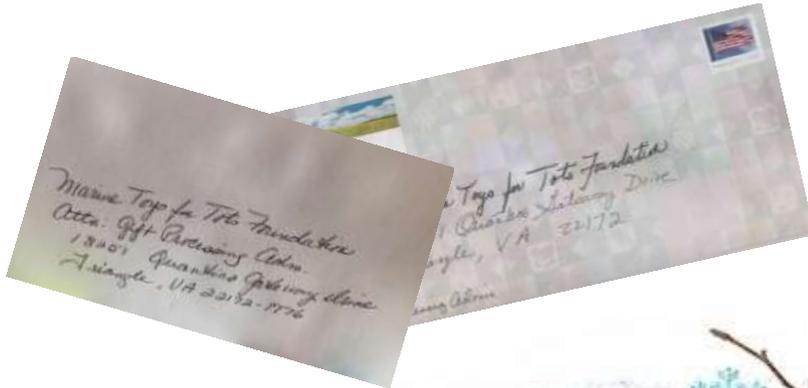
Marine Corps Toys for Tots Drive

This year we are doing a virtual **Toys For Tots** drive. The link below will take you to a printable mailable form.

<https://www.toysfortots.org/donate/donation-docs/mail-in-donation-form.pdf>

More information: www.toysfortots.org

Online Donations:
<https://www.toysfortots.org/donate/Default.aspx>





Marine Toys for Tots Foundation

18251 Quantico Gateway Drive | Triangle, VA 22172 | 703-840-9427 | www.toysfortots.org

DONOR INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 and/or
 Organization/Company Name: Annapolis Sail & Power Squadron
 Address 1: _____ Apt/Unit/Suite: _____
 Address 2: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email Address: _____ Telephone: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

VISA Credit Card # _____
 Expiration Date: _____ (MM/YY)

Donation Type: Individual Company or Group Donation

Cardholder Name: _____ Donation Amount: \$ _____
 CC Billing Address: _____ Check Number: _____
(Must Use Credit Card Billing Address for processing)
 Signature: _____ **Make Checks Payable to:**
"Marine Toys for Tots Foundation"

Honor/Memory (Please send acknowledgement card to):

Honor (living person) / Memorial (deceased person)

of: _____
 No card requested

Recipient Name/Organization: _____
 Address 1: _____
 Address 2: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Message to recipient: _____

Request to add my name/address to: Mailing List TFT Email or Both

Mail completed form to:
 Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, Attn: Gift Processing Administrator, 18251 Quantico Gateway Drive, Triangle, VA 22172-1776
 Questions: info@ToysforTots.org



Monkey's Fist

The actual purpose of the Monkey's Fist is to put a little weight at the end of a lightweight heaving line. The fist is swung and tossed onto a pier. Then, a heavy line is attached to the light line and hauled ashore to tie up the ship. Watch the deckhands go through this procedure the next time you take a cruise. These knots are very ornamental and now also show up as zipper pulls, dog toys, key chains, etc.



The picture shows a monkey's fist with three wraps and one with five wraps.

The number of wraps is determined by the thickness of the rope and the size of the sphere in the center.

For the crafter who wants to make a nautical looking ornament or key chain as a gift for the holidays, watch the construction of an monkey's fist made with a ping pong ball and ten feet of 5/16" rope

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_YgUGA9Vhc

Here's another rendition of a monkey's fist as a keychain

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRNMUYnZMU8>.

Now you try it. Although it looks complicated, it is not that hard, just time consuming. It is something to do with your grandkids over the holidays.



Boating Links to Browse



Here we are in the gift-giving season. Practical Sailor has some suggestions about [what you need in your on-board tool kit](#).

Celestial Tools - Download the latest version of this application to gain access to the new features and ensure the most accurate results. A description of the code, including download instructions, can be found on the USPS website. Log in at www.usps.org/member-s-log-in and go to the Navigation Committee Page. Click on "Offshore Navigation" and then click on "[ONCom Software and Tools](#)". For those familiar with the application, you can download it directly from <https://github.com/unitedstatespowersquadrons/celestial-tools/archive/master.zip>. Email: Mike Guler

This one will give you a few bad moments. Make sure you leave your blowers on long enough after you fuel up before you start the engines.

<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/powerboat-engulfed-in-flames-at-marina-fuel-dock/>

Now that we have your attention, to avoid having a really bad day, America's Boating Compass has [some guidelines to follow when fueling](#).

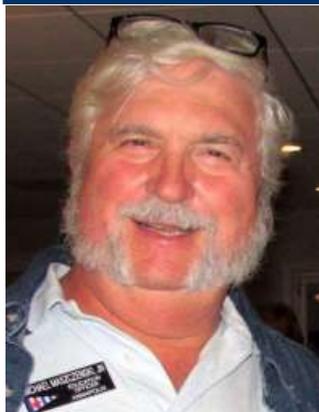
From Practical Sailor, an article about [treatment for ropes and lines](#).

For trip ideas in the Chesapeake Bay area: <https://www.findyourchesapeake.com/trip-ideas/article/featured-tips-this-week>

This site changes frequently. Bookmark it and return on a regular basis for all sorts of activities in the area.

For more nautical-related links, see the "Links Page" on the ASPS website: <http://aspsmd.org/wrappers/pages.php>





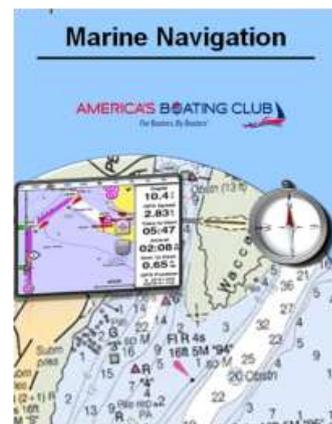
Educational Officer

Lt/C Michael Maszczenski, Jr., N

If you plan to or have traveled the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, the Americas Boating Channel is doing something exciting: “**INLET DRONE VIDEOS.**” The offering will feature narrated aerial coverage to help recreational boaters prepare for their first excursions through specific U.S. high-traffic waterway entrances. The first three inlets to be covered in the new series will be Cape Fear, NC; Haulover Inlet, FL; and Columbia River Bar, OR/WA. The series will launch Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of Thanksgiving Weekend.

<https://americasboatingchannel.com/>

ASPS will be offering the trial version of the new **Marine Navigation** course. It is taking the place of Piloting. It has been updated with the use of electronic charting (OpenCPN) and paper charting. For this course we will be doing a beta version, and your feedback on the course materials and your reactions to the course is very important. This will help in editing the final version. The first group who did this had a large impact on the organization of the course material. To help with this, please register today.



Title: **Marine Navigation** - New Piloting Replacement

Where: Zoom

Cost: ASPS Members Free, Non-Members \$10.00, Book \$55.00 printed or E-book

Dates: January 10, 2023 to March 21, 2023

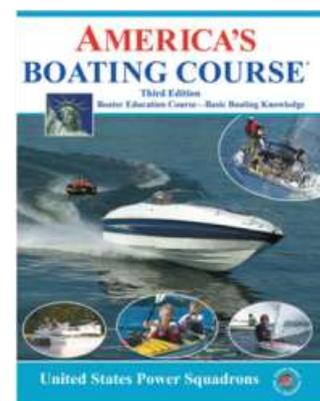
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Instructor: Michael Maszczenski & Rich Hughes

Marine Navigation is the first course in using charts to plan, navigate and check your progress when navigating your boat. In the nine-week course, OpenCPN navigation software and paper charts are used. We will practice the skills needed to use a chartplotter and paper chart navigation. The course covers: chart nomenclature, electronic charts, how constant-fix and dead-reckoning navigation works, and planning routes on coastal rivers and lakes.

We will offer the **America's Boating Course** for all needing the certification card for operating a recreational vessel in the spring. We are trying to do this as a live class. If you know you want any of these courses, registration is open. Don't forget to check out the offering from our neighboring squadrons.

Remember to spread the word to all your friends, and [Register Here](#) or at the <http://www.aspsmd.org> so I know how to order materials.



Title: **America's Boating Course** (ABC III)

Where: TBA- 5 sessions

Cost: non-members \$10.00, Members Free,
Books: \$28.00 for printed or E-Book

Dates: Tuesdays - April 4, 2023 to May 2, 2023

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Instructors: Patrick McGeehan & Michael Maszczenski

Taking a boating class reduces your risk of accidents and injuries, saves you money on boat insurance, and qualifies you for a state boat license or operator certificate in most states.

America's Boating Course is the most comprehensive, single source, in-person boating course available to give you the skills you need to enjoy your time on the water and boat with confidence.

What You'll Learn:

- ★ Information about your State Boating Laws, regulations, boat registration, and licensing
- ★ Required boating safety equipment
- ★ Do's and Don'ts of boating safely
- ★ Practical knowledge of navigation and rules of the road
- ★ How to handle medical emergencies onboard and mechanical problems on the water
- ★ The basics of towing and trailering
- ★ Special important information for hunters, anglers, and sports enthusiasts

Upon passing, receive your Boating Safety Card allowing legal operation of a recreational vessel.



Registration for All ASPS Sponsored Courses

ASPS needs 10 participants to present a course or seminar. Please register as soon as possible. Materials must be ordered, and materials pick-up arranged. [Click Here to Register](#) or email seo@aspsmd.org, or call 410-739-7800. If you do not get an answer, please leave voice mail with contact information. When registered, you will receive an email confirmation. Other information and directions will be emailed as the start date for the course or seminar approaches.

Course and seminars from our neighbors:

America's Boating Club Kent Narrows - Schedule of tentative courses and seminars

- ★ Introduction to Navigation -January 3, 2023 - Zoom
- ★ ABC Class - February 25 & March 11, 2023 -Bosun's Marine Grasonville
- ★ Crew at the Helm - February, 2023
- ★ Man Overboard - March 14, 2023

Download their newsletter for latest info and registration information:

Website and Newsletter: [America's Boating Club of Kent Narrows](#)

To register for ABC Kent Narrows courses, email Patty Eney at ABCKN.edu@gmail.com, or call 773-351-2403.

Rockville Sail and Power Squadron: www.abcrockville.org

America's Boating Club Baltimore: https://abc-midatlantic.org/d5-squadron-data?squad_no=1560





Develop a Sense for When to Change Plans Lord of the Electrons, Terry Slattery, Safety Officer

We frequently tell guests that we can tell you when **or** where we can meet you, but we can't commit to both when **and** where because plans may have to change. There are many things that can affect your intended plans and it's essential to develop a sense of when you should change plans.

A frequent situation is when docking, even when it's where you normally keep your boat. Is the wind different? Is there another vessel nearby that dictates a different approach? It's a good idea to look over a docking situation, stand off in safe water, plan the approach, and agree with the crew how the docking will be handled. Attach lines and fenders before beginning the approach. If you encounter adverse conditions, then back off and determine how to change your plan. You may need to wait for slack water or for the wind to die or change direction. More than once, we've had to try an approach multiple times in order to safely dock our boat.

Do not hesitate to change plans when under way, especially when conditions aren't what you expect. In one instance aboard Lux, we had planned to attend the Sultana Downrigging in Chestertown. Winds were forecast to be northwest at up to 20kt, so we set one reef in both the main and jib. However, the winds freshened above 35kt as we approached Love Point. It was too risky to send someone to the mast to do a second reef in the main. The jib was completely furled and we were still over-canvassed. We couldn't jibe at Love Pt without significant risk. Rock Hall was right in front of us, so we changed plans. We went into Swan Creek, anchored for lunch, and continued to Chestertown after the wind abated. It turned a tense situation into a pleasurable outing.

Equipment failures often dictate a change in plans. We've had a water pump bearing seize in a restricted channel, causing us to quickly shift to sails and ultimately change our planned destination. In another case, an alternator belt broke while preparing to sail upwind. A quick change in plans had us turning around and returning to harbor where the belt could be safely replaced. The wind changed direction by the next day and we had a much nicer sail back to Annapolis.

Problems can often multiply in a cascade of failures and poor decisions. For example, a blown out sail can cause the apparent wind to increase for the remaining sails, causing them to ultimately fail. The boat's motion mixes fuel tank gunk, causing the engine filters to clog. Without propulsion of any sort, the vessel and crew is then in jeopardy.

Crew condition is also a critical element. A tired, hungry, seasick, and sleep deprived crew tends to make poor decisions. It's often a good choice to take some time to think and discuss alternatives. In adverse conditions is it better to approach a safe harbor or is it better to stand off and wait for better conditions or until daylight?

Changing plans applies to any water activities, including paddling (kayaks and SUPs). Are conditions suitable? Do you have the necessary clothing or sunscreen? Are you familiar with the area and its currents? Is your experience level appropriate for the planned activity? All these factors go into whether your initial plan should be modified.

Sharing stories about good and bad decisions to change plans gives you a chance to learn from the mistakes of others. A useful mental exercise is thinking about alternatives to your primary plan before you need them. The proper mental preparation and a mind open to changing plans can make your boating day more safe and enjoyable.



Need a gift idea?
ASPS logo jacket from
<http://asps.qbstores.com>



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
FOOD BANK

Thank you to all the members who donated to our drive for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. Through your generosity, we were able to send **\$570** to make a difference for people in our county.

It's official! P/C Ron Ricketts has earned his Captain's License. Congratulate him for his achievement the next time you see him!



Check out our web site at
<http://aspsmd.org/>



Changes to your phone number, address, e-mail?
 Please contact P/C Gary Budesheim, SN
 at roster@aspsmd.org or (302) 538-5276.



Vessel Safety Check

1st/Lt Patrick McGeehan, P

To arrange for a VSC for your boat,
 contact Patrick at vsc@aspsmd.org.



**LOST &
 FOUND**

We found a pair of Foster Grant reading glasses -
 black square frame - at the Fall Fun Fest.

Is anyone missing a pair?

Contact gmaszczenski@hotmail.com

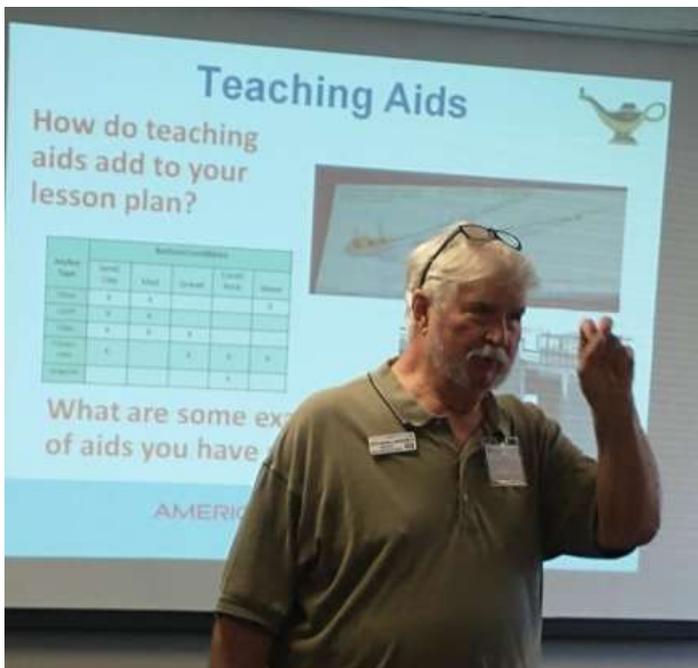


Dinner Meeting
November 3, 2022



Mid-Atlantic Fall Conference

America's Boating Club Mid-Atlantic (known by all of us locally as District 5 or D/5) held the Fall Conference at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum on 4-6 November. Squadron Educational Officers, Commanders, and others interested in our education offerings gathered to learn in seminars and enjoy fellowship.



Our own SEO, Michael Maszczenski, was a featured speaker! He offered a two-part course on Open CPN, a class in teaching aids and methods for virtual instruction, and a seminar on Instructor Recertification. He also participated in a round table with other SEO attendees.

Marty and Sari Lafferty, currently in charge of America's Boating Channel, were present to premier the latest video for the YouTube channel- Inlet Drone Videos. They also had the drone operator present to demonstrate how to fly a drone.



Awards were given out at both the Saturday night dinner and the Sunday meeting. Although Annapolis did not win any awards this time, we were mentioned for our outstanding efforts with Cooperative Charting and Vessel Safety Checks.

At the end, everyone agreed that the classes and seminars were full of good information. Members also enjoyed the opportunity to spend time together.





November Dinner Delights

Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S

Our November dinner meeting featured our own Terry Slattery presenting Marina WiFi Woes. Terry is very knowledgeable about internet, networks, and how it all works together. He shared lots of great information. Here's some of the points he made:

- Always remember that WiFi is **not** the same as cellular. Sometimes, it's actually better in a marina to rely on your cell phone rather than trying the marina's WiFi.
- WiFi has 3 main frequency bands, but most marinas use the 2.4 GHz band. However, that band only has 3 channels.
- Remember that WiFi is a polite protocol. It won't transmit when another device is transmitting on the same channel. In unmanaged WiFi environments, congestion is common.
- In today's world, you need to remember that lots of devices use WiFi! Your effort to use the internet may be competing with tvs, chart plotters, and other devices.
- You can also have interference from non-WiFi devices such as wireless security cameras, microwaves, baby monitors, and some cordless phones.
- Again, WiFi is very polite. It adapts to slow devices – and those devices use more transmit time. The slowest device becomes the limiting factor.
- Your signal can also be affected by building materials that reduce signal strength – insulation metal foil, low-E glass, and concrete structures (especially if reinforced with wire or rebar).
- You can improve your internet connection by making sure that the auto update is disabled. Also, be sure to disable automatic video playing on social media sites.

Terry shared lots of information in this meeting. He provided the links which he presented in his talk for those who wish to pursue this topic:

The links from the presentation:Articles and Hardware:

<https://slowboat.com/2016/10/wifi-in-the-wilderness/>

<https://seabits.com/marina-wifi-hard/>

<https://ccrane.com/cc-vector-rv-long-range-wifi-receiver-system-2-4-ghz/>

<https://seatech.systems/product/redport-halo-long-range-wifi-extender-system/>

Wi-Fi Analysis ToolsMac: <https://www.intuitibits.com/products/wifiexplorer/>

Windows: <https://www.acrylicwifi.com/en/wifi-analyzer/>

If you were unable to join us, you missed lots of great information about WiFi in marinas and at home. As always, we are able to offer dinner meetings that give you the opportunity to spend time with like-minded people. We also always offer an informative speaker, so you can learn something interesting about boating on the Chesapeake Bay and beyond. We look forward to seeing you soon.



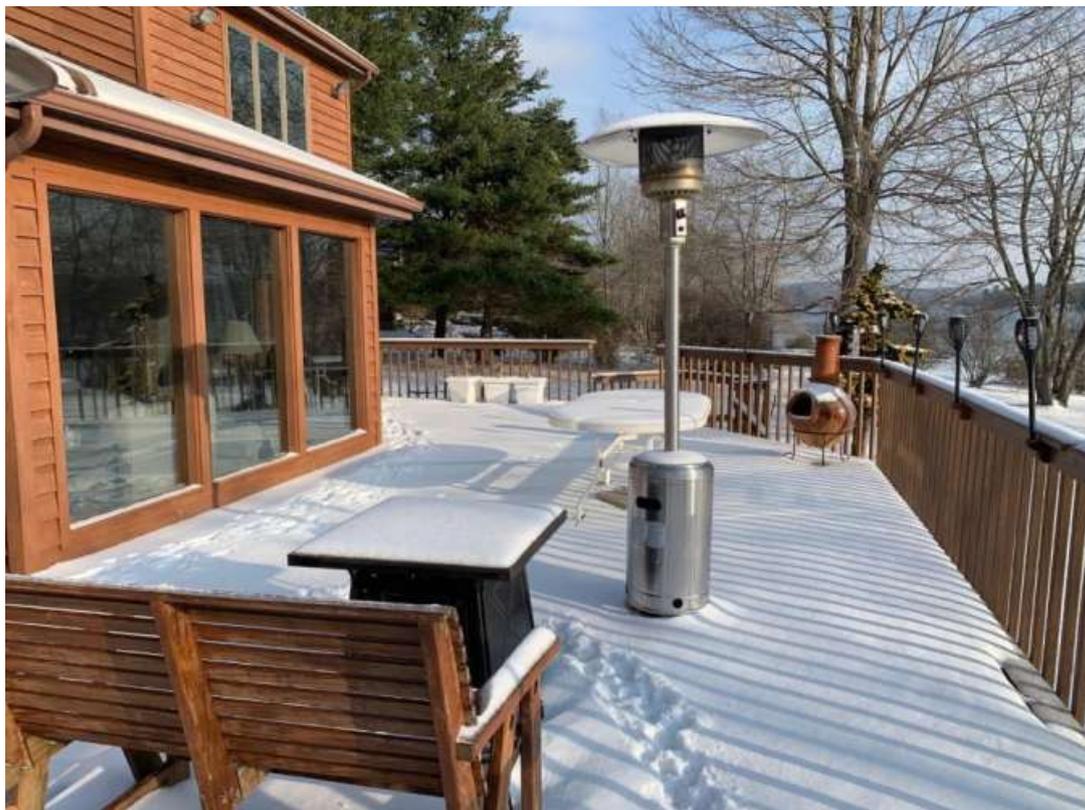
Our Members – Out and About



We always like to know what everyone is doing – especially if it is involved in the boating community. This month, we highlight Terry Slattery. As you've read in this issue, Terry has a great presentation on WiFi. We are not the only group to benefit from his knowledge! He was invited by ABC Valley Forge to share this presentation. The squadron there reported back that Terry did a great job. We're always happy to share squadron talents.

On that note, please remember to share what you are up to! Also, don't hesitate to let us know if you have a topic or presentation that you would like to share with our squadron. It can either be an article in the Anchor Watch, or we'll set you up as a speaker at one of our meetings. We love to hear from our members!





John Wilmot sent us these pictures from their home in Garrett County. Good thing he and Betty do not live in Buffalo where they accumulated 4 feet of the stuff. He says there is only an inch or two, but more is on the way.

Calendar of Coming Events



www.usps.org



www.uspsd5.org



www.aspsmd.org



America's
Boating Club at
Kent Narrows
[Web Page](#)

America's
Boating Club/
Baltimore/
Dundalk
[Web Page](#)

United States Power Squadrons® Events

District 5 Events

Squadron Events for Annapolis and Nearby Squadrons

01 Dec	ASPS Holiday Party
15 Dec	Executive Committee Meeting - ZOOM
03 Jan	Introduction to Navigation - KNSPS
05 Jan	ASPS Dinner Meeting
10 Jan	Marine Navigation Course -ASPS
26 Jan	Executive Committee Meeting - ZOOM
02 Feb	ASPS Dinner Meeting
23 Feb	Executive Committee Meeting - ZOOM
25 Feb & 11Mar	ABC Class - Bosun's Marine Grasonville - KNSPS
?? Feb	Crew at the Helm - KNSPS

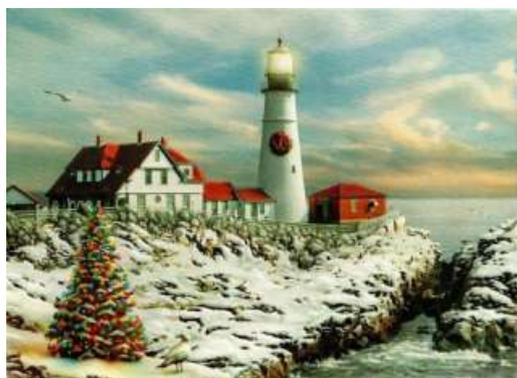
For a complete list of ASPS Squadron Events, see:

<http://www.aspsmd.org/calendar/month.php>

SUNSHINE LADY

If you know of anyone sick or in the hospital,
please contact our sunshine lady.

Betty Rouse Wilmot
sunshine@aspsmd.org



Happy
Holidays



ASPS Squadron Leadership

Bridge

Commander: Cdr Ralph Leasure, S

Chaplain: P/C Howard Cupples, JN

Flag Lieutenant: P/C Stu Myers, AP

Merit Mark Chairman: P/C Lee Myers, AP

Law Officer: P/C Anthony Martin, JN

Executive Officer: Vacant

Vessel Safety Chair: 1st/Lt Patrick McGeehan, P

Safety Officer: 1st/Lt Terry Slattery

Communications Chair: P/C Anthony Martin, JN

Coop. Charting Chair: P/C Ron Ricketts, AP

Administrative Officer: Lt/C Susan Gilbert, S

Asst Admin Officer: P/Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S

Membership Chair: Lt Kay Himmelmann

Boating Activities Chair:

Educational Officer: Lt/C Michael Maszczenski, Jr., N

Asst Educ Officer: 1st/Lt Patrick McGeehan, P

BOC Chair

Operations Training: P/C Stu Myers, AP

Secretary: Lt/C Carol Rechner, SN

Asst Secretary: 1st/Lt Linda Sweeting

Webmaster: Cdr Ralph Leasure, S

Historian: P/C Peggy Slattery, S

Newsletter Editor: P/Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S

Treasurer: Lt/C Lorrie Short

Asst Treasurer: 1st/Lt Terry Slattery

Executive Committee:

P/Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S

Kay Himmelmann

P/D/C Jeffrey Short, JN-IN

P/C Peggy Slattery, S

Edwin Sunderland, JN

P/C John Wilmot, JN-IN

Immediate Past Commander:

P/C Bruce Arey, JN

Audit Committee:

P/C Rich Hughes, SN-IN

William Klepczynski, JN

Homer Sandridge, N

Nominating Committee:

P/C Ron Ricketts, AP

P/C Bruce Arey, JN

P/C Peggy Slattery, S

P/C John Wilmot, JN-IN

Diane Leasure

Rules Committee:

P/C Stu Myers, AP, Chair

P/D/C Jeff Short JN-IN

Budget Committee:

P/D/C Jeff Short, Chair

**Anchor Watch
Deadline for January Newsletter:
Friday, December 16, 2022**

**Direct all material to:
Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S
anchorwatch@aspsmd.org**

