



MARK 5

District 5
a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®

Volume 58 No. 1

Sail and Power Boating®

Summer 2008

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FORT MCHENRY NATIONAL MONUMENT AND HISTORIC PLACE HOSTS DISTRICT 5

Fort McHenry National Shrine and Historic Place will be the site of the District 5 Summer Council flag raising ceremony on Saturday, 19 July 2008 at 0930. This flag raising ceremony is open to all power squadron members and to the public and we expect to have local news coverage. Weather permitting, the garrison flag (40 x 30 feet) will be unfurled and held by D/5 squadron commanders. If there is significant wind, then the conventional 3 x 5-foot flag will be raised. The flag pole is a replica of a Baltimore clipper mast - made of wood too fragile to bear the weight of the garrison flag in a high wind. After the flag is raised the National Anthem will be sung by Jimmy Solesky.

On the registration form there is a charge for round trip bus transportation to the fort. There will be no additional entry fee to the fort for those riding the buses. There will be two buses to shuttle participants to and from the ceremony and the fee will be used to pay the cost of the bus transportation.

Schedule:

0635 to 0830 - Breakfast A brief Captains' Meeting will be held during breakfast for those who plan to participate in the Navigation Contest.

0730 - The first buses will load to arrive at the fort around 0800, where guests will see a 20-minute movie about the defense of Baltimore and the composition of the Star Spangled Banner, a poem set to music and the National Anthem of the United States.

0830 - All squadron commanders, followed by the Past District Commanders, the District Bridge and the Honor Guard will board the last two buses. This order will allow the Honor Guard to disembark and proceed to the Fort, followed by the District Bridge, P/D/C's and the squadron commanders. **All others must travel on the earlier buses.**

Your cooperation will ensure a timely arrival with everyone returning to the marina by 1130. The slower boaters will need almost two hours to reach the site of the Navigation Contest, so preference should be given to those crews for the return trip to the marina. The first guests to arrive are requested to take the first buses back to the Inner Harbor Marine Center. This will allow those arriving on the later buses to see the movie and tour the fort. In short: first in, first out!



Proud to be District 5

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Welcome Aboard the “*Pride of D/5*”. The *Pride* is a well-maintained, legally operated recreational vessel that home ports somewhere in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, the Delaware Bay, or the lakes and tributaries of the mid-Atlantic region of the United States of America. Depending on you - the Captain - she is either a sailing vessel, a power boat, or a paddlecraft. Regardless of her beam and draw, the *Pride* has one purpose – the advancement of boating safety through self education, civic service, and camaraderie.

I am honored to be elected as your 59th District Commander. During my term of office, our district will celebrate 70 of years of service. I pledge you my best to lead and coordinate the efforts of the volunteer members of our bridges and committees. The time is short. We must put aside personal differences and concentrate on the mission at hand as one body. We all have a common interest. I suggest we add a common respect for each other.

Our task at hand is to preserve the squadrons and District through membership involvement and growth. This sounds simple enough, but we have yet to find the key that unlocks success. Thus, the *Pride* is launched.

She is going to be busy. Cruises to the Great Lakes and the Pacific coast will keep her engaged in national campaigns. Local cruises to Norfolk, Baltimore, Rock Hall, Solomons and Ocean City will provide exceptional venues for fun, for learning, for sharing, and for involvement. Fun is the operative word. My observation is that those who are active in our events **enjoy** our events. It is therefore only natural that **if** we have more people who enjoy our events, that could lead to even more people sharing in the excitement of “what we do”.

My direction to your new District Bridge was not complicated – what we do must be worthwhile, professional, and **fun**. So, fly your squadron burgee with pride; fly the District burgee with pride.

Cast off – anchors aweigh. Keep an eye on the weather. Watch for eagles as they soar. Enjoy; ask a fellow member to join in; ask a friend to join — One **team** effort.



~Cdr J. Brian Becker, AP



MEET OUR NEW DAAO: D/1ST/LT BERNIE KARPERS, N

Our new Assistant Administration Officer has been boating for 60 years, having grown up on Bodkin Creek across from Pleasure Cove Marina. He took his first course in 1948 with his father who was a member of Patapsco River Squadron. In 1972 he and his wife Kathy joined Dundalk Sail and Power Squadron where he served as SEO and has taught Navigation since 1991. He was commander in 2002 and has served as membership chair. His strong interest is in using education as a recruiting tool, and he has been instrumental in developing the Top Gun Cruise program and promoting good navigation skills within the squadron. He also helped produce a video about group cruising that the squadron uses.

Bernie and Kathy both come from boating backgrounds. She grew up fishing for rock fish with her dad, while he was busy watching the high performance boats race on Stony Creek. They have owned a Trojan 32 for 31 years and 7200 hours of operation, as well as Kathy's 53-year old boat.

Bernie is Baltimore born and reared. He attended Loyola College of Baltimore and the University of Maryland Medical School in Baltimore where he had a fellowship in Biochemistry. He completed a residency there in Internal Medical, specializing in Pulmonary Disease, with a special interest in Tuberculosis and Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease, and he has practiced his specialty since 1968. He served in the Second Infantry Division as a Battalion Surgeon for two years. He and Kathy, who is a teacher, have been married for 45 years.

Kathy and Bernie have a special interest in Lithuania. Over the past 15 years they have worked with students at St. Mary's Seminary, hosted the Lithuanian Ambassador and met the President of Lithuania. In their travels to Lithuania, they have visited the Parliament and helped to create opportunities for Lithuanians to come to the U.S. to study. He made teaching rounds in hospitals there and gave a lecture at a medical school. Bernie has arranged a number of tours of U.S. medical facilities for their touring physicians.



Fortunately, over the years Bernie has had several chances to help D/5 members with medical problems. On one summer cruise he treated 45 people with heat related injuries, and since then has treated 10 people for medical emergencies. At least four people have had heart bypass surgery as a result of his referrals during or right after summer cruises.

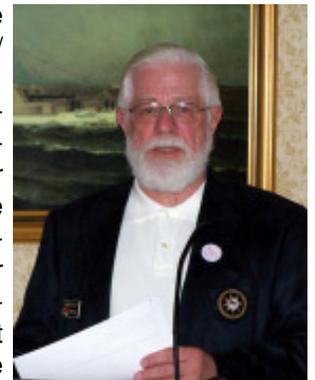
As DAAO Bernie first hopes to learn more about the members and squadrons of D/5. He wants to explore the potential of various squadrons networking at the department and committee levels in order to advance the cause of education and membership. He hopes to establish a more personal involvement of members with the district and national organizations. He wants to help all members continue their interest in their squadron, our district and the national organization.

~ D/Lt Win Whitehurst
Editor

IN MEMORIAM

P/D/C CHARLES TULIP, JR., JN

Cdr Charles Tulip, Jr., JN, of Annapolis S&PS died on Monday 17 March 2008. Charlie was a Stf/C serving USPS as a member of the Budget Committee, a Staff member for our Chief Commander, and was District Commander in 1998-99. In addition to his active involvement with Annapolis, and his national duties, Charlie currently served as a member of the D/5 Henry Sweet Fund, and was mentor to many current and past bridge officers of D/5.



A retired Comptroller for NASA, he was an active member of Kent Island Yacht Club and the Marine Trawler Owner's Association, and maintained a lifelong relationship with Boy Scouts.

Charlie was not a passive participant in life. He was a true "people person" and surrounded himself with friends and family. He enjoyed telling children he was Santa Claus' brother and was well known for the madness and mayhem at the District Change-of-Watch roast of outgoing D/C's. He could often be found reading Nero Wolfe, watching his vast collection of bad old movies, and working crossword puzzles - all while busy on his computer.

Charlie and his wife D/Lt/C Carole Tulip, JN, could be seen cruising from Florida to Canada and on his beloved Chesapeake Bay on their trawler **SeaTulip**. He is survived by three children - Charles, Catherine and Christopher - and their spouses, three grandchildren and a brother.

He will be missed by all. May he rest in peace.



KENT NARROWS WINS SNYDER AWARD

First place in the Snyder Award competition among squadron newsletters went to Kent Narrows Power Squadron. Ocean City was in second place and Richmond came in third.

The most improved newsletter during 2007 was Kingsway's. Miles River was judged to have the best black and white pictures and Cambridge had the best color pictures.

A special Snyder Committee award was given to Cambridge, Miles River, Potomac River, Virginia Beach and Wilmington for having a safety article in every issue. Another Special Award was presented to Delhigh for its superior Commander's messages in June and August.

Others in the top ten, in alphabetical order, are: Delaware River, Dundalk, Miles River, Patapsco River, Patuxent River, Virginia Beach and Wilmington.

Squadrons are urged to follow the guidelines which have been given to the editors at the meetings during Spring Conference. Further information can be obtained from the Publications Chairman.



A sure sign of spring in Ocean City was the return of District 5 for the Spring Conference and Council meeting 2008, with the District 5 Commander Arlene M. Anderson, AP presiding. Each department of the bridge presented training sessions for squadron officers. The break out sessions stressed the importance of communication between squadrons of D/5 and the D/5 Bridge as well as with the national publication, *The Ensign*. Mark Tew of the National Weather Service delivered a description of the services available from the NOAA weather program. There was standing room only at his presentation. He learned from D/5 that the area covered by NOAA was much smaller than that used regularly by members of D/5. There were sessions discussing the navigation contest as well as other on-the-water boating activities. The American Canoe Association told us of their 53 million members who operate canoes and kayaks. Last year 493 million of these small vessels were purchased!



P/D/C Arlene Anderson, AP, receives her flag.

Friday evening featured the traditional hospitality suites presented by eighteen squadrons. Judges from Richmond Sail and Power Squadron awarded first place to Northern Neck Power Squadron and second place to Main Line Power Squadron. However, most agreed that the margaritas, hot dogs, crab soups, and pastas took first place in the culinary arts department. The Berger Cookies - only available in Baltimore - were a special treat!

On Saturday the conference featured the remarks of our retiring Cdr Arlene M. Anderson, AP. The National Representative R/C Robert A. Keller, SN, expressed greetings from the Chief Commander and conducted the retirement ceremony of the bridge. He took charge of the District while conducting the election of the 2008 Bridge. That evening R/C Keller installed Cdr J. Brian Becker, AP, and the 2008 Bridge at the Change-of-Watch ceremony. P/D/C Arlene M. Anderson, AP, was quickly inducted into the organization of Past District Commanders. Many awards were distributed during the evening.

Sunday morning Cdr Becker and the new bridge hosted a lovely reception, prepared by members of Patapsco River Sail and Power Squadron.

Cdr Thomas E. Reichard, AP, and the Hampton Roads Power Squadron did an excellent job arranging this weekend for D/5.

~D/1st/Lt Bernard S. Karpers, N



Scene at Spring Conference



2008 District Bridge



93-Year Old Edna Stang enjoys the banquet



Cdr James Gorman, AP accepts the VSC Individual Award from Cdr Arlene Anderson, AP, P/R/C Robert Keller, SN, and D/Lt Michael Lebeduik, III, P, on behalf of Harry Seaback.



P/D/C Arlene Anderson, AP, aka Ariel



Dundalk Marching Band invites everyone to come to Baltimore, Hon!

(Cont. page 10)

Boating is fun... we'll show you how!

SLIP RESERVATIONS
(on your own)

Baltimore Inner Harbor Marine Center (410) 837-5339
Slip fee: \$2.50/ft.
Elec.: \$17/day. incl. cable TV, Wi-Fi, pump-out at each slip, health club, pool

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Best Western Baltimore Travel Plaza
1 (800) 633-9511 (mention U.S.P.S.)
\$109/day – free parking & shuttle

Holiday Inn (410) 727-1818
\$109/day - \$10 parking

ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE
(\$ indicates fee)

Tour Harbor Place

\$ Water Taxi to:

- \$ Constellation
- \$ National Aquarium
- \$ Torsk/Tawney
- Fells Point

Walk to:

- Federal Hill
- Cross Street Market
- \$ Baseball Game - Camden Yards
- \$ B & O Railroad Museum

Swimming Pool at Intercontinental Hotel

2008 D/5 SUMMER RENDEZVOUS AND COUNCIL
BALTIMORE INNER HARBOR MARINE CENTER

17 - 20 July 2008
Monitor VHF Channel 09/16

Tentative Schedule of Events and Activities

THURSDAY 17 JULY

0700 to 0900	Breakfast on your own
1200 to 1700	\$ Registration Dockside
1930	Dinner on your own

FRIDAY 18 JULY

0700 to 0900	Breakfast on your own
0900 to 1700	\$ Registration at Tent
0900 to 1800	Tour Baltimore Inner Harbor
1700	Captains' Meeting
1800 to 1900	Commander's Reception
1930	Pier Party – Pitch-in Dinner
	Pull out your grills, hon!
	Boat to Boat – Pier "C"

(your option)
(your option)

Baltimore vs. Detroit baseball
Dinner Cruise Bay Lady

SATURDAY 19 JULY

0700 to 0830	\$ Breakfast at the Tent
0800 to 0900	\$ Board bus for Flag
	Raising at Ft. McHenry
0845 to:	Last bus-Sqd. Cdrs./Guests
1100 to 1200	Return from ceremony
1200	Depart Navigation Event
1300	\$ Navigation Contest Starts
1500	Pass in Review Event Boats
1700	Catholic/Protestant Services
TBA	Jewish Services
1800 to 2100	\$ Bull Roast & Awards

SUNDAY 20 JULY

0700 to 0830	\$ "Mr. Omelette" Buffet
0900 to 1200	Summer Council
1200	Depart for home



USPS D/5 Summer Rendezvous Reservation Form

Baltimore Inner Harbor Marine Center

Baltimore, Maryland 17 - 20 July 2008

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? _____

Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____ First Timer? _____

ACTIVITIES SELECTION

Registration Fee Per Person # _____ @ \$10.00 _____

Event Tee Shirt (circle size) S M L XL XXL # _____ @ \$15.00 _____

Saturday morning Continental Breakfast # _____ @ \$8.00 _____

Round trip transportation to Ft. McHenry # _____ @ \$5.00 _____

Saturday Evening Awards Dinner
Adult # _____ @ \$35.00 _____

Children 12 and under # _____ @ \$10.00 _____

Navigation contest per boat \$10.00 _____

Sunday Mr. Omelette breakfast buffet # _____ @ \$15.00 _____

50/50 Tickets (\$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00) # _____ @ \$1.00 _____

TOTAL _____

Make Checks Payable to : D/5 SUMMER RENDEZVOUS

Send To: P/Lt/C Barbara A. Blaker, AP
91 Blondell Court, Timonium, MD 21093
Phone: (410) 308-2148

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 10 JULY 2008

Boating is fun... we'll show you how!



Marinas

All slip reservations are on your own and must be made with the following marinas by 13 June 2008. Use the Group Name - USPS D/5

Great Oak Landing Marina & Lodging (Mears)

www.mearsgreatoaklanding.com

- Monitors VHF channel 09
- Lat 39°16'21" N
- Lo 76° 12'45" W
- (410) 778-5007,
1-(800)-Landing
- 22170 Great Oak Landing Rd
Chestertown, MD 21620
- Slip fee: \$2.75/ft
- Electric: \$6-30A, \$12 - 50 A

Annapolis Yacht Basin

www.yachtbasin.com

- Monitors VHF channel 09
- Lat 38° 58'43" N
- Lo 76° 29'13" W
- (410) 263-3544 Steve Pizzi
- 2 Compromise Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
- Slip fee: \$3/ft

or

Annapolis Town Dock (410) 263-7973

Pleasure Cove Marina

www.pleasurecovemarina.com

- Monitors VHF channel 69
- Lat 39° 07'33" N
- Lo 76° 28'21" W
- Slip fee: \$1.50/ft
- Electric: \$10 single 30A - \$20
for two
- \$15 for 50A

2008 D/5 Southbound Cruise Schedule of Events and Activities

Saturday, 12 July

Arrive: Great Oak Landing Marina or anchor out/raft up in Fairlee Creek
1800 "Anchors Aweigh" cocktail party - BYOB - raft up area

Sunday, 13 July

1700 Cocktails on the Great Oak beach
1800 Cookout on the Great Oak beach
\$5.00 dinner (hamburgers and hot dogs provided) BYOB and a dish to share.

Activities available: restaurant, lounge, Jellyfish Joel's Tiki Bar, snack bar, live music, dancing, swimming at Great Oak beach, tennis, 9-hole golf course, basketball, picnic area with grills, lounging and a lot more!

Monday, 14 July

Travel to Annapolis. Stay in one of the marinas or moor in Spa Creek (up to 45' boats) or St. Mary's Cove (up to 35' boats) - fee \$25.

2100 After-dinner cocktails on the dock, BYOB.

Activities available: Walk to Historic Annapolis, shopping, restaurants, sight-seeing, Naval Academy, Bonneker-Douglas Museum, walking tours.

Tuesday, 15 July

Travel to Pleasure Cove Marina.

1800 Cocktails and BYOB and hors d'oeuvres at the picnic area or on the docks
Dinner on your own

Wednesday, 16 July

TBA Snow Crab Feast - Props Restaurant
\$25.99/person, sit down dinner, includes soft drinks, Maryland crab soup, cole slaw, corn, corn fitters, all-you-can-eat snow crab clusters. Gratuity not included.
Menu items also available, extras not included.
Cash bar available.

Activities available: Pool and jacuzzi, Props Hi-Octane Restaurant, golf next door, full gym, picnic area with grills, sun deck.

Contact:

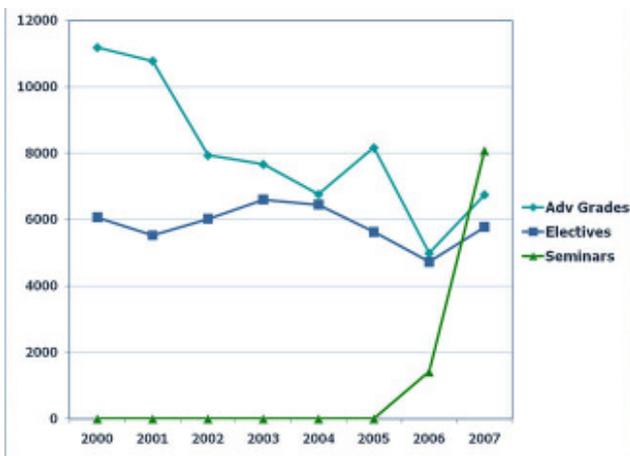
Tony Carugno	jtcarugno@comcast.net	(609) 625-2374
Russ Fontana	russfontana@verizon.net	(908) 619-7432
Bob Hannabery	bob.hannabery@verizon.net	(610) 442-0889



Cruisin' With Education

USPS University – New/ Updated Offerings Continue

Members are excited about the seminars and updated courses now being presented as part of the USPS University approach to our educational offerings. The following chart shows the results of shipments through the end of 2007. Although 2007 was a great year for both Advanced Grades and Electives, the real strength of this change was in the new two-hour seminars. There were only four available for most of 2007, but today there are ten choices on the shelves at National just waiting for you to try. Additional topics will likely be ready by the time you read this. These seminars are supported by great instructor aids and there is no exam – better yet, they are also to be taught to the public. Just looking at the slope of the lines, these USPS University enhancements to your educational program will surely translate to additional members who are looking for both education and fun.



Thanks to an increasing trend of squadrons sharing teaching duties with each other, many more members will be able to complete some of these newer courses where skilled instructors and widespread students may be connected. I hope you can find a shared course you'd like to join to get the latest information and keep the usage trending upward. Ask your SEO or check the D/5 webpage for more information

Have You Heard?

The Squadron Boating Course has long been the standard by which other basic courses are compared. Last year teaching materials for the eight-hour and the twelve-hour courses were combined into a single book. This summer,

America's Boating Course, 3rd Edition will replace it. When the USCG decided to withdraw support for the ABC program, USPS retained all rights to the familiar name and is promoting it with this refreshed and updated single course book emphasizing quality and value. This use of a consistent name should help with our public recognition along with USPS being called "America's Boating Club" and as an additional identification of who we are. This same text will be used to replace the current Internet course when current supplies and approvals are exhausted.

This new course has been extensively reorganized to present both eight-hour and twelve-hour course materials more effectively. It still will include the added bonus of digital charting tools and techniques – which is a unique offering available only from USPS. Although course completion is not a USPS requirement for membership today, we are still supporting the needs of the various D/5 states for educating vessel operators, and this new course will meet those requirements and more.

Putting It On For Show?

We know life jackets save lives! USPS is promoting the National Safe Boating Week Theme of "WEAR IT!" As you go cruising around the Bay, demonstrate to other boaters how important it is to wear a life jacket by donning yours to educate by setting the example. We all want the injury/fatality trend line to go down. I'll be looking for you in yours when we dock at Baltimore's Inner Harbor for the summer rendezvous.

Still Cruisin' with Education,

~ D/Lt/C Robert H. Palmer, SN
District Educational Officer



Kent Narrows wins the Membership Award for Small Squadrons



Patuxent River wins the Membership Award for Medium Squadrons



Northern Virginia wins the Membership Award for large squadrons



Cocktails on Saturday night



Hospitality on Friday night



SeaVester shops at the Ship's Store



The stalwart crew from Patapsco River put on a great breakfast.

Annual Meeting in Dallas – 19-24 February 2008

The 94th annual USPS meeting was held at the Hyatt Regency in Dallas, Texas. D/5 members arrived in Dallas by air, by car, and by RV, with attendees including a cloned SeaVester from Robotronics, and SeaVester's father hoping to sell other districts our nationally famous PR tool.

On Wednesday night and Thursday morning D/5 had meetings for outgoing and incoming bridge members. On Thursday we viewed exhibits and attended Sea Scout, Membership and Leadership Developments meetings. Thursday night we were bused to "Gilly's" for a barbecue dinner, armadillo racing, bull riding, and dancing. It was a real taste of Texas.

Friday meetings brought us up-to-date in the educational, executive, administrative and secretary departments. It was reported that since inception USPS has done 205,467 VSC's. The D/5 cocktail party was the destination for everyone on Friday night. We hosted hordes of USPS guests with our usual D/5 bountiful array of food and drink. And, as usual, there were the many D/5 Aides faithfully preparing, dishing up, cleaning up and still smiling with their unique aprons throughout the night.

The Annual Meeting and the member's luncheon were held on Saturday with more than 600 attending the meeting. The keynote speaker addressed "Safety and Security on the Water." D/5 was recognized many times, including:

- D/Lt Tim Gusler, P, Elizabeth River, received a Finley award for his work with the Sea Scouts.
- P/D/C Drex Bradshaw, AP, Nansemond River, received a huge plaque and a "first off the press" copy of Water Smart from the Start, in recognition for creating, developing, and maintaining this interactive computer learning program for children.



D/5 Sea Scouts

- P/D/Lt/C Harold Willard, SN, Patuxent River, received a National Chapman Award for excellence in teaching.
- Absecon Island won third place nationally for the Boat US, distinguished Civic Service award.
- P/C Edison Gessner, SN, of Sue Island was awarded his Member Emeritus Award for 50 years of membership.
- Twenty-three D/5 members received the 25-year life membership certificates.



P/D/Lt/C Hal Willard, SN, receives his Chapman Award from C/C Ernie Marshburn, SN

On the annual meeting agenda were several new issues being discussed for future consideration: Online Internet memberships and one-year complimentary membership with completion of the boating course.

A motion was passed that the USPS mission and educational goals include development of boating skills and that USPS bylaws include instruction of boating safety as one of the objects of USPS and that USPS publications will include the development of boating skills and boating safety.

Saturday night we attended the USPS Change-of-Watch ceremony, where D/5 provided an honor guard to recognize the outgoing and incoming USPS Bridges. That evening we bid a very fond farewell to P/C/C Ernie Marshburn, SN, and extended our best wishes to incoming C/C Creighton Maynard, SN. His theme is going to include reminding everyone that boating is "fun."



Special Award for Water Smart

And fun we had in Dallas – and wherever D/5 goes. Come join us in Detroit in September.

Something old and something new

D/5 Sail Regatta and Fall Festival
10-12 October 2008
At Haven Harbor— Rock Hall, Maryland

Come try something old and something new in D/5 this year. This will be our last fling of the summer with or without our boats. You can attend by sailboat, power boat, trailer boat, RV, or by car. It is open for everyone!

Activities include:

1. The D/5 Sail Regatta
2. Our first fishing tournament
3. Food
4. Camaraderie
5. Many other fall activities

Watch the next issue of the Mark 5 for more information!!!! Plan to be there and we will see you then!

~D/Lt Gary K. Kirts, AP
Chairman

Feather Your Nest –D/5 Fall Conference

The eagle has landed and he wants **you** to Feather Your Nest with new ideas, new seminars, new marketing techniques and **more**.

Come to The Holiday Inn, Solomons, Maryland 7-9 November 2008 – the D/5 Fall Conference - and gather materials to feather your squadron's nest with the exciting new seminars, teaching methods, marketing and membership ideas and more.

The work begins on Friday afternoon with some very specialized workshops, Then....fun! Friday night promises to be **unique** – dazzling, amazing - a rollicking good time, but don't stay up too late. There is a lot of work to be done on Saturday.

Education is the base of the nest – but it takes a lot of material to build a strong nest so the weekend is not limited to course material. Learn new ways to increase membership, and member participation in programs such as co-op charting and VSC's. The Auxiliary committee will host a special session on fun crafts for all ages. There is something for all members of your squadron.

The dinner Saturday evening will be special. Meet our special representative from the Portuguese government and have the chance to take home a great raffle prize.

Sunday morning is the Conference – an important voting opportunity for your squadron to express its opinions on considerations at the district and national levels; awards and some **short** reports. Further details in the next edition of Mark 5 and are posted on the D/5 website www.uspsd5.org

Safety Alert – Replace Older EPIRB's

The USCG has issued a reminder that older EPIRB's (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons) transmitting on 121.5MHz will not be monitored by satellites after 1 Feb 2009, and those signals will likely to go completely undetected in an emergency. Recreational boaters are not required to carry EPIRB's, but many have them. After 1 Feb 2009, only distress alerts from 406 MHz beacons will continue to be detected and processed by search and rescue satellites worldwide. Mariners disposing of their old EPIRB are urged to first remove the battery.

For more information go to <http://www.uscglosangeles.com/go/doc/830/198867/>.



ECONOMY PRINTING

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Delaware River Power Squadron 92ND Founders' Day Celebration

Delaware River Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®, celebrated its 92nd Founders' Day on February 9, 2008. Delaware River is one of the oldest squadrons in USPS, having been founded in 1914 and chartered by USPS in 1916.

Pictured below are, from left to right, D/C J. Brian Becker, AP, Lt Fred M. Shallcross, Cdr M. Melvin Shralow, P, P/C Andrew J. Petruska, P, and P/C Alexander M. Reilley, AP, of Delaware River, with the many trophies and awards won by Delaware River Power Squadron and its members in district and squadron navigation contests during the 2007-08 boating year.



PARTNERS AT THE HELM: A FORUM FOR WOMEN, TAUGHT BY WOMEN

Patuxent River Sail and Power Squadron is well on its way to completing a unique program – one which has been designed to meet the needs of the women in our squadron. After many conversations about the best way to attract some of the more hesitant members of our squadron, we conducted a forum for our women members – particularly those who have traditionally hesitated to take the traditional courses that we teach.

We set out to develop a program that would teach some basic boating skills in a friendly, relaxed, learning environment, without having the worry of taking and passing a final test. By improving the level of confidence of members who would otherwise not take standard boating courses, we could teach basic boating knowledge and improve safety and fun on the water for more individuals in our squadron. Ultimately we hope that the participants of this forum will achieve a level of confidence that will both enable them to take the regular USPS courses and to also look forward to their next boating adventure with enthusiasm.

Six women of our squadron formed a team and each chose a subject, developing a lesson plan using material from Skipper Saver and Second in Command programs, as well as other sources that were appropriate for the audience. The team then became the teachers, covering Naming the Parts of the Boat, Charts Symbols and Basic Chart Reading, Basic Rules of the Road, Safety Equipment On-board, VHF Radio/Communications, Knots, and Emergencies.

The first meeting was designed as a coffee and dessert social for squadron women. This allowed participants to get to know one another and “break the ice.” A display table had been prepared with a few training aids that the participants would see again in future presentations.

The six forum sessions have been completed. The series will conclude with a practical on-the-water session. One of our very own women is a Coast Guard rated captain and will be skipper. During this trip our women will apply the lessons covered in the forum by relating the chart symbols to the features seen on the water. They will practice rules of the road, using the radio, will review safety equipment, will practice tying knots, and complete docking exercises.

~1st/Lt Cheryl Budd, AP
Lt/C Wendy Headrick, AP
Patuxent River Sail and Power

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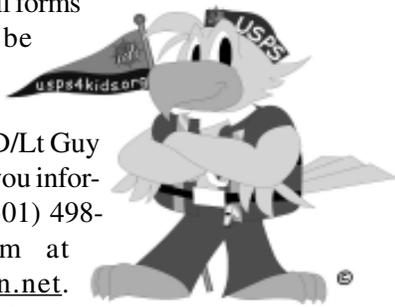
Kids' Korner

It's Youth Poster Time!

Boat Safety – Keep Our Waters Clean: that's the theme for this year's contest. All forms and instructions can be downloaded from the national website

(www.usps.org) or ask D/Lt Guy Thompson, AP, to send you information. Call Guy at (301) 498-6653 or e-mail him at gbthompson@verizon.net.

Each squadron should bring their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each of the three age categories to Summer Rendezvous in Baltimore in July for judging at the district level.



NATIONAL SAFE BOATING COUNCIL AWARD

The National Safe Boating Council selected Miles River Sail and Power Squadron as their Safety Youth Program Award winner for 2008. Marian Franck, SN, was in San Diego, California, on 19 April to receive the distinguished award which includes a cash prize of \$2500 given by Boat U.S. The prize winning program, "Safe Boating For Kids", is a hands-on project designed for all of the 320 7th grade students in Talbot County, Maryland.

Implementing this program, designed by co-chairpersons, Marian Frank, SN, and Donald Cook, S, were 63 squadron members. The classes were conducted during five days in May 2007. Students were divided into groups of 12 and rotated among each of seven study groups.

This learning project was enthusiastically received by the school administration and plans are now being made to repeat the program in May 2008. Details of the program are available from the squadron web site: www.mrsps.org

~P/C Ruth Buescher, AP

Boating Safety - It's What We Do!

Each year thousands of lives are lost through preventable boating accidents. Most of the lives lost and the injuries incurred could have been prevented by proper boating safety. If proper boating safety is not observed, then a fun boating outing can turn into a tragic event. If you, as a boat owner or passenger, observe proper boating safety you can help protect the lives of both yourself and also those around you. There are a few basics of proper boating safety that can go a long way toward preventing accidents and injuries.

The first rule of proper boating safety is always wear a life jacket and make sure everyone on your boat does the same. An unexpected fall into the water can quickly result in drowning. Another major rule is to take a boating safety course. The majority of boating accidents occur due to operator error. All power squadron members should know proper boating safety including correct boat handling, gauging the weather conditions, navigational skills, and other important safety skills. Another very important rule of boating safety is to never operate your boat while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.



Research shows that more than one third of all recreational boating accidents are caused by not observing these proper boating safety rules. The legal penalties and the responsibility of causing someone's death or injury due to a boating accident is something you would have to live with the rest of your life.

If you know someone who is boating without having taken an approved boating safety course, please encourage him or her to take a squadron basic boating course.... and always observe proper boating safety yourself.

~D/Lt Dwain Rodman, AP
D/5 Safety Chair

Reflections

A few weeks ago I attended the memorial service for my good friend Charlie Tulip. It was a beautiful service paying tribute to a great man who had passed through all of life's travails and left a wonderful legacy of children and grandchildren. I arrived early the day before and stayed in a room overlooking Kent Narrows. As I sat on a quiet balcony overlooking the Narrows, I thought of many squadron members. What struck me was not that I remembered so many of those who had died, but that so many of them had given me gifts while they were alive – lasting, irreplaceable gifts. The faith of Joan Cooke, who showed me how deep faith could be. The quiet perseverance of my mother who taught me humility; and the love of family so well exemplified by my father whose example still stands for me as the measure of what it means to be a good man and parent. Ken Smith and Ginny Wampler who struggled with serious illness. Yet they taught me what it means to find joy in the midst of suffering. A squadron member of meager means who lived a life of abundance because he lived a life of love and service to USPS.

I sat there a long time feeling a mixture of sadness and gratitude. These folks were now gone, but they had blessed me and others and for that I was grateful. It made me wonder if we are conscious of the legacy we are leaving to others? Those whose lives are we blessing, changing, deepening, bettering? Are we setting examples that will help others along the journey of life even after we're gone? Do we realize our squadron members, our children, our grandchildren and friends watch us as we walk this life? They see how we handle adversity, pain, disappointment, stress, and even success. What are we teaching them?

My mom always said that actions speak louder than words, and she was right. What we tell people as squadron leaders is one thing, but those who know us learn by watching what we do. In this sense, it isn't just what we accomplish that matters the most. It's how we live in between our accomplishments.

In the weeks to come, I hope you will take a few minutes to think about the people who have most blessed you by their living. If they are still with us, I hope you will tell them how grateful you are for their example. If they are not, I hope you will give God thanks for their lives. Then recognize that you have the opportunity to be that kind of person in the life of another.

I really miss Charlie, but he will live in my life every time I laugh, wear a silly shirt, or volunteer to help my squadron.

Rest in peace my friend.

~P/D/C William D.Selden, V, AP

I have been overwhelmed with all your expressions of support-cards, prayers, and hugs. So much so that there is no way that I can possibly thank all of you individually, yet I want you to know how much it means to me during this not easiest of times. But keep those hugs coming.

~Carole Tulip

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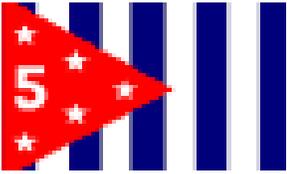
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17 - 20 July Summer Council
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10 - 13 Oct Sail Regatta and
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Rock Hall, Maryland

3 - 7 Sept Fall Govering Board
Detroit, Michigan

7 - 9 Nov Fall Conference
Solomons, Maryland
