

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
VALLEY FORGE



The Pilot

December 2024

Sailing the Kalmar Nyckel was
great fun!

It's time to step up!
*The nominating committee is looking for leaders, volunteer. Contact
Russ Jones at wrjones3@verizon.net*

Upcoming Events

December

11 Veterans Dinner

January

16 Membership Meeting

February

2-9 USPS Annual Meeting

20 Membership Meeting

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Commander's Message

As many of you know, the national organization has been working very diligently to find a new insurance carrier, and I am happy to report that they accomplished their mission. Unfortunately the cost of the policy is higher, however the officers believe that the national dues will not increase in 2025.

Our past events were very successful. The August crabbing outing went well—we caught 24 crabs, of which 17 were nice sized keepers. The sailing event on the Kalmar Nyckel in October was a great success; everyone enjoyed it.

The Education Team has been working very hard to put together the Spring classes and seminars schedule (see below). In addition to

the Chester County Lifelong Learning, CCLL, program, they expanded our program to include the Downingtown Area Recreation Consortium, DARC. Improve your seamanship, take a class or attend a seminar.

USPS Annual meeting will be in Orlando, FL in early February and our District 5 has scheduled the Spring Conference in March, and Summer Rendezvous in July. More information on these events below.

As you can see from the following articles and the log ahead, we have events scheduled over the next few months. We all need to enjoy our club and participate in at least one event per month.

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

- John Juzbasich, AP

ExCom Meeting information

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

In person meetings are held at:
Paoli Presbyterian Church, 225 S Valley Rd, Paoli, PA 19301

The Zoom link can be found in the Monthly ExCom Agenda.

The Zoom session begins at 6:30 (because it always takes some time to actually set up that connection). Social time begins at 6:45, and the meeting at 7:00.

Please keep phones and mics on mute when not presenting

Strengthen your boating skills!

Educational Officer's Report
Lt/C Wayne Barrett, JN

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

Spring Class Schedule

We have finalized the schedule with Chester County Lifelong Learning (CCLL) and Downingtown Area Recreational Consortium (DARC). We will be offering the courses at CCLL, or at DARC, based upon enrollment. If there are more enrolled at one or the other, the course will move to the one with the greater enrollment. You can register for the courses listed below at www.cclifelearn.org (CCLL) or at <https://downingtowntpa.myrec.com> (DARC).

Courses

Sponsor	Course	Location	Day & Date
CCLL	ABC Boating Certification	Downingtownt Middle School	Tuesday, 3/18
CCLL	Marine Navigation	Peirce Middle School	Wednesday, 3/19
CCLL	Marine Weather	Stetson Middle School	Thursday, 3/20
DARC	ABC Boating Certification	Downingtownt Middle School	Monday, 4/7
DARC	Marine Navigation	Downingtownt Middle School	Thursday, 4/10
DARC	Marine Weather	Downingtownt Middle School	Wednesday, 4/16

Seminars

CCLL	AIS Seminar	Stetson Middle School	Thursday, 3/27
CCLL	Suddenly at the Helm Seminar	Stetson Middle School	Thursday, 4/10
DARC	Knots Seminar	Downingtownt Middle School	Monday, 4/21
CCLL	Paddle Smart Seminar	Stetson Middle School	Thursday, 4/24
DARC	AIS Seminar	Downingtownt Middle School	Monday, 4/28
CCLL	Knots Seminar	Stetson Middle School	Thursday, 5/1
DARC	Suddenly at the Helm Seminar	Downingtownt Middle School	Monday, 5/5
DARC	Paddle Smart Seminar	Downingtownt Middle School	Monday, 5/12

All classes and seminars begin at 6:30 PM and end at 8:30 PM.

For further information, contact Wayne R. F. Barrett at wrfbarrett@comcast.net, or 484-678-5137. Please help us advertise them to your family and friends! For more information go to our website <https://abcvalleyforge.org/>.

D5 2025 Summer Rendezvous

Smith Mountain Lake

July 14 – 20, 2025

**Houseboat Cruising
Monday - Thursday**



**Mariner's Landing
Resort
Thursday Night -
Sunday**

**Saturday Council
Meeting and Tour
D-Day Memorial,
Bedford**

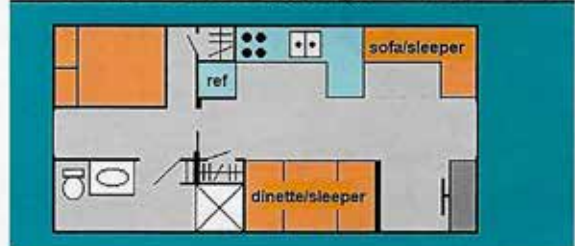
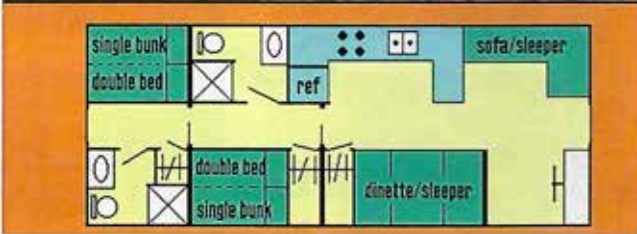


Peak season so early reservations are a priority. We ask that you make arrangements for boats and rooms before the end of the year.



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Deluxe 39 ft Sleeps 6 @ \$1500 Mon-Thu
(note – 2024 rates)



Mariner's Landing
12263 Smith Mountain Lake Pkwy
Huddleston, VA
marinerslanding.com

On site activities include golf, pickleball & tennis courts, pools, game room, fitness center. Check their website. For the most economical reservations use AirBnB or VRBO. Make sure to search under Mariner's Landing, Huddleston, VA. Rooming with friends (perhaps your houseboat crew) will help manage the rates.



Fleet Captain's Report

The Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse was a great surprise and has created navigation difficulties on the Potapasco river. The contractors are still in the process of disassembling the bridge. Plans for a new bridge have been created and are now out for review.

P/C Jim Friedrichs, SN

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ABC Valley Forge members sail on the Kalmar Nyckel



**View from inside
the Kalmar Nyckel,**

The Pezelys and Beardsleys learned a lot about sailing after touring the museum which included a history of sailing and the creative types of vessels people invented to journey across the water centuries ago. Afterwards, they warmed up with dinner at the Fish Market in Wilmington.



It was a beautiful day on the Christina River in Wilmington when squadron members went sailing on the Kalmar Nyckel on October 26. Patty and Joe Pezely were joined by John and Susan Beardsley as they visited the museum in the Copeland Maritime Center and then sailed up the river.

The cruise took one and a half hours on a full-scale replica of the ship that brought colonists to Wilmington from Sweden in 1638. Watching the crew hoist the sails and steer the boat took passengers on a journey back in time that they could never have experienced today without this replica. It must have been very scary and lots of work for sailors to cross the ocean in the seventeenth century!



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To the Bottom of the Chesapeake and Back
By Gary Armstrong

After acquiring my Mainship trawler in 2019 I had always planned to take a long boat trip with it. It looked like 2022 was the year that we were going to take a planned 6-week trip on what some call “The Triangle Loop” This voyage would have taken us through the C&D Canal and eventually out to the Atlantic Ocean, up the Hudson River to Waterford, NY where the New York State Erie Canal begins. The Canal would take us to Lake Ontario, Kingston Ontario, Canada and up the various lakes and rivers in Canada to Ottawa, down the Ottawa River to Montreal and thence to the Chambly Canal, Lake Champlain and again into the Hudson and, ultimately, home.

We did a lot of planning and budgeting for this trip but when the summer of 2022 diesel prices soared to over \$7.00 a gallon, we decided to postpone that trip. Finally, in the summer of 2024 we had the chance to plan a long trip, not 6 weeks but a more modest 2 weeks on the Chesapeake Bay.



Terri learning how to shoot

Our boat is most efficient at 8.3 knots, based on the formula to calculate hull speed, which is: the square root of the waterline length times 1.34. However, to us, 8.3 knots seems too slow at times. We can actually hit 16 or 17 knots if we want to throttle up, but we are trading in dollars for hours by doing so. As a compromise between efficiency and hours of travel, we usually go 9-10 knots.

We had two weeks to work with to get “there and back” for this sojourn. We tried to keep the travel time each day to 5 hours or less, so this dictated how far we could go in a day. It turns out you can get pretty far on the Chesapeake in two weeks, even in a slow-ish trawler.



General Washington, Captain, Major General LaFayette, Captain Gary, Lieutenant General Rochambeau, Admiral DeGrasse

I had made friends with a fellow Mainship owner on www.trawlerforum.com, who lives in Williamsburg, Virginia. He recommended that we get to Yorktown, Virginia, on the York River, and stay at the municipal marina Riverwalk Landing. This is the destination we set as the furthest south and our turn-around spot. Now it was a matter of finding marinas along the way there and back with distances between at 50 miles or less. We ended up with this plan:

Depart August 18 from Sassafras Harbor Marina to Rock Hall Landing Marina (floating docks, pool, restaurants nearby)

August 19 and 20 - Herrington Harbour South (great pool, great landscaping, expensive)

August 21 - Solomons Yachting Center (convenient, walking distance to downtown, looks like a boat junkyard)

August 22 - Chesapeake Yacht Basin at Kilmarnock, Virginia (very clean, floaters, amazing bathrooms and showers, loaner car)

August 23 and 24 - Riverwalk Landing, Yorktown, Virginia (dicey docking in a flood tide, decent bathrooms a long walk away, terrific American Revolution Museum, restaurants nearby)

August 25 and 26 - Cape Charles Town Marina, Cape Charles Virginia (nice restaurant, very nice public beach, cute downtown area, nice facilities, floaters)

August 27 - Onancock Wharf, Onancock, Virginia (sleepy town, good restaurant at the marina, golf carts for rent, loaner car, free laundry)



The Tiki Bar in Solomons, MD

August 28 - Somers Cove Marina, Crisfield, Maryland (huge, 500 slip marina, pool, floating and fixed docks, isolated)

August 29 - Calvert Marina, Solomons, Maryland (newer floaters, nice pool, restaurant, bathrooms not great, cheap)

August 30 - Bay Bridge Marina, Kent Island, Maryland (floaters, nice pool, restaurant, one of the best in the northern bay)

August 31 - Home to Sassafras Harbor Marina

We arrived at our home marina on Labor Day Weekend, which was a nice way to end our trip.

The highlight of the journey was probably the weather. Except for one day, the leg from Calvert Marina to Bay Bridge, the seas were calm. Most days 0-1 footers, and at least two days with dead calm seas, even at the bottom of the Bay!

We stayed at seven marinas we have not been to before and met many new friends along the way. At Yorktown we were 178 miles from home. In all we were underway for a total of 53 hours. Out of the 53 hours of travel we had only about 4 hours with the winds over 5 miles per hour (they were 15-20 with 25 gusts from the east). We traveled a total of 461 statute miles which calculates out to an average speed of 7.5 knots.

The cheapest marina was Calvert Marina at \$1.00 per foot plus \$10.00 for power which added up to \$50 for us for one night. The most expensive was Herrington Harbour at \$3.50 per foot and \$15.00 for power.

Reflecting back, the trip was a lot of fun, a challenge and I am glad we did it. On the other hand we experienced many hours of uneventful and somewhat boring traveling. Mile after mile of a wide expanse of water with not much to look at, not even many other boats, made it somewhat dull. Don't get me wrong! I was not hoping for challenging conditions, but the lack of scenery got old after several hours. We'll see what trips are in store down the road...



Onancock Virginia at sunset

26th Annual Greater Philadelphia **BOAT SHOW**

March 14 - 16, 2025
Expo Center at Oaks



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2025 ABC Valley Forge Cruise

Our ABC Valley Forge (aka Main Line Sail & Power Squadron) 2025 Summer Cruise itinerary is finalized. The dates and the marinas were chosen by our cruisers and commander. We are estimating that about 5-10 boats will join us this summer. If you would like to crew on a boat, please let me know.

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

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

The marinas have requested a list of the boats that will require slips. **Please complete this form** indicating the marinas for which you will require a slip for our records. The list of boats that we will provide to the marinas is NOT official.

You need to reserve slips directly with each Marina AFTER January 6. Be sure to mention that you are with Main Line Sail & Power (ABCVF).

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 of boat: Power; Sail

Electricity needed: Single 30; Dual 30; Single 50; Dual 50

- Friday, June 20 – Lighthouse Point Marina, Baltimore
- Saturday, June 21 – Lighthouse Point Marina, Baltimore
- Sunday, June 22 – Lighthouse Point Marina, Baltimore
- Monday, June 23 – The Yacht Basin OR on a mooring, Annapolis
- Tuesday, June 24 – The Yacht Basin OR on a mooring, Annapolis
- Wednesday, June 25 – Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels
- Thursday, June 26 – Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels
- Friday, June 27 – Haven Harbor Marina, Rock Hall
- Saturday, June 28 – Haven Harbor Marina, Rock Hall



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December Holiday Meeting Photos



2024-2025 Bridge

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Many thanks to the VSE team:

Bill McManimen	Meridith Barrett
Wayne Barrett	Russ Jones
Nick Montalto	Maryanne Boettjer
Chris Dome	John Juzbasich

JOIN US, Become a VSE!



Maryland DNR visited Sanguine Odyssey

During the summer cruise, as we approached Chesapeake Yacht Club, we saw a flashing blue light approach our sailboat. The DNR came right next to us, saw our VSC decal on our mast, waved, and headed back out to the bay.

202 East King Street
Malvern, PA 19355

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FAX 610-296-9660
wrenches13@aol.com

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A small illustration of a red classic car, possibly a Volkswagen Beetle, positioned to the right of the text.

Log Ahead

December	
4	ExCom Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:00 pm
8	Holiday Party, Devon, PA
11	Veterans Dinner
January 2025	
8	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
16	Monthly Membership Meeting, TBD
February 2025	
2-9	Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL
5	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
20	Monthly Membership Meeting, TBD
March 2025	
5	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
9	Change of Watch, TBD
14-16	Philadelphia Boat Show, Oaks, PA
27-30	District Spring Conference
April 2025	
2	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
17	Monthly Membership Meeting, TBD
May 2025	
7	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
15	Monthly Membership Meeting, TBD
June 2025	
3	Fishing off Cape May, NJ
4	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
20-29	Annual Chesapeake Cruise
July 2025	
2	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom
12	Crabbing, Pasadena, MD
14-20	D5 Summer Cruise on Smith Mountain Lake
17	Monthly Membership Meeting, TBD
August 2025	
6	Commanders Picnic and ExCom
16	Crabbing, Pasadena, MD
21	Monthly Membership Meeting, TBD

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

Publications and Articles of Interest

Chesapeake Bay Magazine

<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/>

MD Department of Natural Resources

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

has a wide variety of articles that may be of interest



MD State Police heading out on patrol



The Pilot

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Photographers: Meridith Barrett and Rita Rossi

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