AMERICA'S BWATING CLUB





The Pilot

December 2020 January 2021

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Think warm summer days; think Cruise 2021

Commander Cdr Patty Pezely, AP



Let's cruise in 2021!

I can see the light at the end of the tunnel and I truly believe we will be together in some way in the Summer of 2021.

I am already dreaming about next summer's Commander's Cruise. Mark your calendars for July 9 to 17. As a teaser, I will just say we are going south.

Russ and Barb Jones have it mapped out — and you can find the full itinerary on Page 8. Do you know they start planning the cruise before many of you put your boats away for the winter?

But Barb and Russ have not stopped there. They are also planning a fabulous holiday party on Dec. 11 which you should not miss. I know part of what to expect and I am looking forward to celebrating with friends. Party details are on Page 6.

Russ also was the course chair and instructor of the recent Virtual Piloting Course with the assistance of Nick Montalto. Nick gave an excellent presentation on using OpenCPN. I took the Piloting course a few years ago and really enjoyed the Jones and Montalto team.

Meanwhile, the nominating committee—Frank Visich, Susan Woron, Joe Pezely, Lance Parry and Sue Friedrichs—is working hard to gather volunteers for the 2021 Bridge and ExCom. I commend their great efforts.





2020 - 2021 Bridge

Commander

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Asterisk (*) means the person has completed three or more courses after achieving AP grade.

Click **here** to access us on Facebook.



Commander's column

Continued from Page 1

We are all volunteers working to promote boating safety and to have fun on the water. If you are a member of our organization and have not been on the ExCom, you are really missing out on many great friendships. If you want to hear more, please reach out to me.

Meanwhile, Frank Visich and Ed White have been working on buying pies for the veterans for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. They are delivering these pies to the veterans at the Whitehall Apartments for both holidays. See more on Page 9.

Ginny Parry and Barb Jones have created a virtual food drive to direct our holiday donations to go directly to the Chester County Food Bank though online donations. Our goal is \$2,500. Invite your relatives, neighbors and social media friends to join us in helping provide food to an increasing number of people in need in Chester County. You should have received a copy of the flyer in your email. Or turn to Page 10 and click on the link to make your donation.

I hope you were able to attend the District 5 Virtual Fall Conference. If not, see Page 13. I know Bill McManimen, Nick Montalto and Jim Heckman put a lot of effort into this conference. Bill also just completed the Merit Mark submission for the year.

Megan Weber continues to boost our social media presence. And I believe I speak for everyone in saying this newsletter is amazing! Ginny and Lance Parry continue to amaze me with each edition. The Parry team puts many hours into each Pilot.

I know I have missed recognizing some people and I apologize. I am so proud to be a member of this fabulous organization of such talented volunteers.

We will be starting 2021 virtually, but we will plan to get back together in person in the summer. Please get your vaccination as soon as it is available for you.

And perhaps most importantly, we as a squadron thank the many health care workers, teachers and first responders, farm workers, drivers, restaurant owners and staff — everyone who makes it possible for us to live our lives in these difficult times.

Stay safe and have a wonderful holiday!

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Educational Officer Stf/C James Heckman, SN

Our fall teaching season is concluding. This week Nick Montalto is presenting the last lecture in our Virtual Piloting Course. Four of the initial five students will be taking the exam. We expect to get the results from National in January.

The open book exam challenges the students to deal with common problems that boaters have while navigating in our bays and rivers. The students gave high praise to Russ Jones and Nick Montalto for having presented a wonderful course.

The last online lecture of our Virtual Navigation Course will finish before Christmas. The students in this course come from squadrons



Davis Instruments/Boats.com

The use of a hand-bearing compass is a valuable navigational skill for any age, and it's taught in the Piloting course.



Asst. Educational Officer Lt Joe Gibbons, JN

located from South Carolina to Southeast Pennsylvania. Members of ABC-VF, Bill McManimen, Sam Lyness and I have worked with five additional instructors from our D/5.

A requirement for the N course completion is that the students need to use sextants (and a watch) to make observations (take sights) of stars and planets at sunrise and sunset.

The information gathered during those sight-taking sessions must be used in calculations

which are reported in a document called the "sight folder." The sight folder is reviewed locally and when satisfactory, is submitted to National for review and approval.

Having taught this course for more than 30 years, I always have some



(c)The COMET Program

Using a sextant to determine one's location is an advanced navigational technique, taught in the Virtual Navigation Course.

trepidation because of the challenge of encouraging students to finish their sight folders. I am pleased this year because the students are making great progress with their sight folders. Already, a number have been approved by National. In large part, this is because of the hard work (many

Continued on Page 4







Fleet Captain P/C James Friedrichs, JN*

The lights are out, but the dredging continues

The Eastport Yacht Club has canceled its annual lighted boat parade scheduled for Dec. 12 due to Covid-19 concerns. There is, however, a lighted boat parade in the harbor of St. Michaels at 6 pm Dec. 12.

As usual the dredging season has begun that will make some our favorite channels and anchorages more easily accessible for the 2021 boating season. Here are some of the projects on the Bay:

• The much-needed dredging of the Elk River is in progress. Thanks to all who made their thoughts known to the "powers that be" in District 5 Coast Guard headquarters! The dredging started just south of Red Point at 39° 31' 32.36" N, 75° 52' 21.54" W to 39° 6' 13.71" N,

76° 17' 48.08" W that is just south of Pooles Island.

- The entering channel to Lake Ogelton was dredged between Oct. 15 and Nov. 15.
- Dredging has begun and is expected to continue until Jan. 11 at Brady and Old Glory coves in Stoney Creek in Anne Arundel County.
- Dredging is being conducted in the Bush River north of the railroad bridge near the mouth of Otter Point Creek. The dredging is expected to be completed by March 1, 2021.

Looking for a good walk? A walking trail and bridge are planned for the eastern bank of the Schuylkill River between mile 6.3 and 6.4 of the Schuylkill River Trail.

Education Dept. Continued from Page 3

hours) of the select group of instructors called "sight reviewers."

Adapting to Covid — The virus has required us to make big changes in the methods of delivery of our courses and seminars. In other words, we and our students have been forced to adapt.

We, the instructors, are both learning and developing new ways to deliver online classes. Our students are learning that an online course can meet their needs to learn about boating. As your SEO I need to plan to be sure our club's educational programs continue to meet our students' needs and expectations.

My opinion is that education of all types (public school, college and boating) will be forever changed as a result of Covid-19. The "new" education will incorporate the best approaches from brick and mortar classrooms and virtual classrooms. I think our students will demand this!

I am interested in hearing your comments. Emails and phone calls are welcome. I can be reached at <u>JLHeckman4929@gmail.com</u>, or at 215-219-6603.

Even better, consider attending our executive committee and our dinner meetings and offer your suggestions and opinions!





Argo Nav app: Brand new, full-featured, and FREE

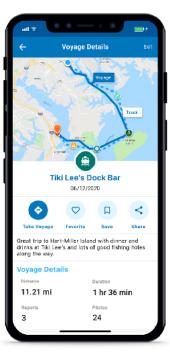
By Lance Parry Past Commander

Everybody likes free stuff, and especially when it's useful. In this case, ABCVF members found a lot to like during a Zoom presentation in October of an evolving navigation software called Argo.

The brainchild of Jeff Foulkes of Maryland, Argo is a full-featured app for iOS and Android (no laptop version yet) that offers many of the navigational tools sought by recreational boaters, plus integration with social networking platforms.

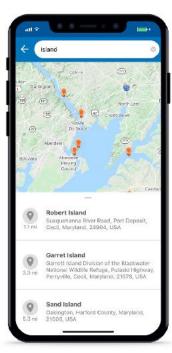
It is described on the company website as "a free boating app that helps you find and route to new destinations, share local knowledge, and connect with other boaters. Think of Argo as having a first mate and the local boating community right in your pocket."

We haven't had a chance to do a full review of the software, but first impressions are very favorable. Argo is available from the Apple App Store, and on Google Play.













Screenshots of Argo's main features, clockwise from top left: Captain's Log, Create Route, NOAA Charts, Chart Search, Find Friends, and Messaging. For more information, go to the Argo website at https://www.argonav.io/





It's a No-Mask Event! Put on your party clothes or come in casual wear, and join your squadron friends at our annual holiday party on Dec. 11.

Will Santa appear? Will we see pictures from parties past? What's the grand finale? You'll find camaraderie and good times at

an attractive price (FREE!). Be your own mixologist. And there's no challenging

nighttime driving – or bad weather – to worry about at the end of the evening.

Here's the Zoom link for the party. Look for it again in your email before Dec. 11:

ZOOM: ABCVF Holiday Party

And please, in lieu of a gift, make a donation to the Chester County Food Bank during our virtual food drive at:

Chester County Food Bank -ABCVF

Let it snow!

No need to bundle up or wait for flakes to fall; you can watch them grow from the comfort of your living room. This site has short videos of growing flakes: http://www.snow-crystals.com/ and this one has more images of individual flakes, along with tips on taking the photos: https://www.thephotoargus.com/20-majestic-close-pictures-snowflakes/.







New ABC phone and tablet app offers improved options

By Frank Visich Past Commander

The other day while looking up something on the USPS.org main site I came across a link that took me to the ABC app site. It seems that this new app has had a major update from the one I had loaded last year. The new app has added many new worthwhile features and is available for Apple and Android operating systems. Plus, it's free.

The main screen has six major folders:

1- MY LOCATION

This will pinpoint exactly where you are and will display your latitude and longitude coordinates (and speed if you are moving). It also allows you to send your coordinates to someone else as a text message or as an e-mail.

2- <u>MY LOG/</u> <u>FLOAT PLAN**</u>

Here you can store all sorts of information about yourself and boat, like an emergency contact, your DAN number, boat insurance policy and MMSI number. You also can pay your annual dues from here.

Ø

** What I really liked about this is that

you can create a FLOAT PLAN and send it to somebody who will be aware of your boating plans, so they would know where you plan to be and when you are expected to return. This information could be extremely important if you run into trouble and do not appear when you indicated you would. You also can log your past trips here.

3- ONLINE INFORMATION

Here you can store your membership information and USPS benefits. You can shop the Ship's Store. Also, you can store upcoming boating events, meetings and class dates here, along with contact information of local squadrons.

4- EMERGENCY

This gives you information on how to call for help on your VHF and information on First Aid and Distress signals.

5- REFERENCES

Here's a good place to find live tide charts, weather radar information and marine safety topics. You can even request a VSC here. You can access the ABC Boating Channel videos.

6-BIENVENIDO

This is the Spanish USPS site.

Here is the link to load: https://americasboating-club.org/app. Give it a try!

Feeling at loose ends?

Dee Caffari, a British sailor and the first woman to sail solo, nonstop, around the world in both directions, said structure was imperative to fight back loneliness and monotony. Then she built her day around the twice-daily weather forecasts. Now, under quarantine, she's staying moored by gardening.

"You need to get up in the morning knowing you're going to make something happen," she said.





Who can't wait to cruise, put 2020 in rear view mirror?

By Russ Jones
Past Commander

Let's get back on the water! Our America's Boating Club Valley Forge 2021 summer cruise itinerary is set for July 9-17. As you probably know, we call this the **Commander's**Cruise since the commander decides which ports of call we will visit. Cdr Patty Pezely has chosen five ports. We estimate that between 15 and 20 boats will participate.

If you would like to crew on a boat, let me know. If you're new to boating, we can team you with another boat.

There will be many interesting optional activities on the cruise. Look for details about them in a subsequent article. Hopefully reading about them will influence your decision to join us. They will include a performance by the renowned Eastport Oyster Boys, a beach party, dinner at great restaurants, our celebrated boat crawls, the infamous "forward throttle award" ceremony of course, and others still in development. You can sign up for them at our pre-cruise dinner on May 20.

Don't miss this annual cruise! Something exciting always provides wonderful memories.

July 9 &10	The Yacht Basin, Annapolis
July 11 & 12	Herrington Harbour South, Herring Bay
July 13 & 14	Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Marina, St. Michaels
July 15 & 16	Castle Harbor Marina, Kent Island
July 17	Haven Harbor Marina, Rock Hall

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. Send the completed form to P/C Russ Jones, 115 Oak Street, Downingtown, PA 19335. No deposit required.

Boat Name:	Captain:	C	ell number: _			
Boat Make:	Boat Model:	Length:	Beam:	Draft:		
Type: [] Power; [] Sai	l Electric :[]	Single 30; []]	Dual 30; [] S	Single 50; [] Dual 50		
[] Friday, July 9 – The Y	Yacht Basin, Anna	apolis				
[] Saturday, July 10 – Tl	ne Yacht Basin, A	nnapolis				
[] Sunday, July 11 – Herrington Harbour South, Herring Bay						
[] Monday, July 12 – He	rrington Harbou	r South, Herrii	ng Bay			
[] Tuesday, July 13 – Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Marina, St. Michaels						
[] Wednesday, July 14 -	Chesapeake Bay	Maritime Mus	eum Marina,	St. Michaels		
[] Thursday, July 15 – Castle Harbor Marina, Kent Island						
[] Friday, July 16 – Cast	le Harbor Marina	a, Kent Island				
[] Saturday, July 17 – Ha	aven Harbor Mar	ina, Rock Hall				





Pie men deliver the goods to veterans' families

Ed White and Frank Visich delivered 50 pies and many more smiles to the families at Whitehall Apartments in Spring City for Thanksgiving recently.

Ed arranged through the Giant supermarket in Gilbertsville to buy the pies at a discounted price. Giant also provided a \$50 gift card, which reduced the total price to \$200. That was paid from the \$800 the squadron had budgeted for the veterans' picnic in September that was cancelled because of the pandemic.

Frank said the pies arrived the day after Chester County Food Bank had delivered food for a Thanksgiving main course, so our donation capped off the holiday meal.

"Kim Wilkinson, the resident manager, was so happy we thought of them for Thanksgiving," said Frank. "I ran into a couple of veterans that remembered me from the picnic (in 2019) and they made a point to thank us for our generosity.

"I would like especially like to thank Ed White who really did all the legwork arranging the purchase of the pies and getting the bows and making the stickers that we put on each pie."

Ed said, "We handed out the pies to the veterans; it was great to see the veterans' faces light up when they received the pies even though they were behind masks. Everyone was very thankful for them."

The two men are arranging to provide the pies again at Christmas.



Photo by Frank Visich

Ed White and Kim Wilkinson (resident services coordinator) with just some of the 50 fruit pies donated by our squadron to the veterans' families at Whitehall Apartments in Spring City for Thanksgiving. Last year our squadron members shared a summer picnic with veterans and their families at the facility.





Hunger is hurting more Chester County families this year; you can help



Our squadron goal is \$2,500. Can you help us reach it?



Members of America's Boating Club Valley Forge have a tradition of giving back to our community during the holidays by making a donation when we pay for our Holiday Party tickets.

This year our Holiday Party will be a Zoom event. Our donations will go to a virtual food drive to help address hunger in Chester County. (No shopping!) With a virtual drive you make your donation online, and select the items you want to pay for.

This year we have chosen the CHESTER COUNTY FOOD BANK. Our virtual food drive is starting now and will end on Dec. 31.

Follow the link below to make your donation, and invite your family members, friends and neighbors to join us as well! Together we can make a difference!

Chester County Food Bank - ABCVF

Did you know? — All kinds of things to learn more about

- <u>FishTalk Online</u> Weekly fishing reports for the Bay, Mid-Atlantic and surrounding region
- <u>Local Notice to Mariners</u> Updated weekly and available for download in pdf format
- Marine Traffic Track the movements of any ship in the world transmitting an AIS signal
- <u>Maritime Safety Office</u> Global maritime geospatial intelligence, Safety of Navigation, Nautical Calculators, Marine Pilot Charts
- <u>Mastering Marlinespike</u> Learn to tie knots, bends, hitches and more

- <u>Nautical Charts and Publications</u> NOAA Office of Coast Survey - Download: Navigational Charts, United States Coast Pilot, U.S. Chart No. 1 (Chart Symbols)
- Stormsurf Wave models, surf forecasts, buoys reports and much more. For example, the maximum near-shore surf height forecast for Nov. 28-Dec. 6 is 52.8 feet near South Tasmania
- <u>Mother of All Maritime Links</u> Links to almost everything nautical





Carbon monoxide — a danger aboard and at home

This article is reprinted from the November 2020 issue of Compass, the America's Boating Club magazine. Find it at https://boatingcompass.org/prevent-carbon-monoxide-poisoning/

For more information on reducing the CO risk in your home, go to https://www.cdc.gov/dotw/carbon-monoxide/index.html

Odorless, colorless and tasteless, carbon monoxide gas is often called the "silent killer" because it effectively blocks oxygen delivery to the body, causing a startling number of <u>fatalities each year</u>. Carbon monoxide poisoning deaths can also happen aboard your vessel. Learning how to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning will help keep you safe on the water and at home year round.

Boat engines, cabin heaters, generators and galley stoves can all produce carbon monoxide, with engine and generator exhaust being the most prevalent source. CO fumes can also accumulate in areas away from the exhaust source.

In the absence of a breeze, high CO levels can cause unconsciousness in minutes. Without a carbon monoxide detector onboard, CO is often impossible to detect before it overcomes a victim, who is then too weak to escape or summon help.

Early symptoms

cause

The symptoms of mild CO poisoning can mimic seasickness, colds and flu:

- Nausea, weakness, dizziness or headache
- Ringing ears and watering eyes
- Cherry-red coloring to the skin

Moderate carbon monoxide poisoning can

· Lightheadedness or headache

- Drowsiness
- Unconsciousness
- Death

Severe CO poisoning can result in damage to the brain or heart followed by death.

Preventing carbon monoxide poisoning

Prevent CO buildup by regularly checking for leaks in your engine and generator exhaust systems and in the seals around your hatches and portholes. Take the following precautions:

- Check the ventilation of your alcohol stove.
 - Maintain your generators meticulously.
- Run your exhaust blowers while using generators.
- Ensure that airs flows freely from front to back on a moving boat; avoid the station wagon effect.
- Keep passengers clear of the platform over engine or generator exhaust when running unless there's a strong airflow.
- Be cautious about running engines or generators when anchored, moored, or docked unless there's a substantial breeze; do not run generators overnight when stopped.
- Don't allow anyone in the water to approach within 10 to 20 feet of the engines or generator exhaust.
- Don't tow anyone close to the boat while underway.
 - Check stove and other fuel burning de-

Continued on Page 12





Highlights from October and November ExCom meetings

October

- The Nominating Committee will provide names by December of nominees for next year's Bridge positions.
- The audit should be completed by February 2021. P/C Wayne Barrett will assist in organizing the audit process for this year.
- Cdr Patty Pezely discussed the idea of combining in-person and virtual meetings even after the pandemic. The format would be inclusive and could attract a wider audience. It was suggested that the squadron contact P/C George Painter to check if the bylaws allow for combined meetings.

November

- The safety officer's position is open, Cdr Patty Pezely announced, as Bill and Deb Northey have sold their boat and are giving up their position. Anyone interested should contact Patty.
- About 35 members are being considered for Merit Marks, said Bill McManimen.
- The Ensign has received permission to use Jim Heckman's article in the last Pilot about the online Piloting course, and the accompanying photo of lead instructor Russ Jones.

• Pilot Editor Ginny Parry reported that members' photos used in the October/November Pilot, along with Gary Armstrong's article about repairing an old boat, and changes in navigation aids were all cited at the newsletter editors' session at the D/5 Fall Conference.



CO poisoning can occur on a boat or at home

Continued from Page 11

vice vents for leaks; keep vents clear.

• Beware of nearby boats with engines or generators running; stay clear or move away.

Install CO alarms in your boat's cockpit, cabin and sleeping areas, and test the alarms regularly. If you already have a CO detector installed, it might be time to update it to a newer model.







How to find videos from the D/5 Fall Conference

The recent D/5 Fall Conference was a great success. If you missed it, you can still tune into any of the 20 sessions. They were all recorded.

Among the presenters and producers were three from our squadron — Bill Mc-Manimen, Jim Heckman and Nick Montalto.

Follow these steps to access the USPS D/5 2020 Virtual Fall Educational Conference videos:



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- Click here to Login: https://abc-midat-lantic.org/member-login
- Enter your email and D/5 password
- Select the Resources menu and choose 2020
 Fall Conference Videos
- You will end up here: https://abc-midat-lantic.org/resources/2020-fall-conference-videos
- Choose the video(s) you wish to view



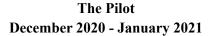




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Members' Birthdays

DECEMBER JANUARY Michael Gibson Robert Alexander 12/10 01/01Richard Kennedy Jr. 12/12 Katherine Dix 01/01Robert Long Tom Payne o_{1}/o_{1} 12/1801/16 Virginia Parry 12/25Marjorie Peterson Barbara Jones Gary Armstrong OI/I712/31John Sheldrake 01/19 Wayne DiFrancesco 01/22 Patricia Visich 01/22



For Sale

Dock Box —West Marine model 67880553. Price: \$250 picked up in Chestertown, Md. or \$300 delivered.

Contact George Nelson at genelson98@yahoo.com or at 410-778-4449.

"We moved our boat to Long Cove Marina, and they do not allow dock boxes, " he said.



For Sale is an idea being tested for The Pilot. Sellers must be squadron members, but buyers can be any interested party.

To list an item, contact Ginny Parry at ginnypar-

Ginny Parry at ginnyparry@gmail.com before the deadline for the next issue.

Get Noticed in The Pilot

Place your ad where boaters will see it — in the newsletter of America's Boating Club® Valley Forge.

Robert Heyser

01/23

- Advertise in 1 issue or all 6. Your ad can start in any issue February, April, June, August, October or December. Change the design between issues to feature seasonal specials or events.
- Choose a size: 1/8 page \$10 per issue or \$50 for a year; 1/4 page \$20 per issue or \$100 per year;
 1/2 page \$40 per issue or \$200 per year.
- Contact Lisa Fegan at lbfegan@verizon.net, or pilot@mainlinesps.org for more information.





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Bud Haly - President



AMERICA'S B®ATING CLUB VALLEY FORGE

2020-2021 Calendar

Events may be changed or cancelled as conditions warrant. Check your email regularly and stay in touch virtually if you can't join in person. Links for Zoom and Free Conference Call meetings will be emailed before each meeting.

December

- 2 Virtual ExCom Meeting, 7 pm
- Virtual Holiday Party (being planned by Barb and Russ Jones), 6:30 pm; details on Page 6
- Deadline to contribute to the virtual food drive; details on Page 10

January

- 6 Virtual ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, (7:30 pm if we're meeting in person)
- Virtual Dinner Meeting Founders' Day (presented by Barb and Russ Jones)
- *Pilot* articles deadline

February

- Virtual ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, (7:30 pm if we're meeting in person)
- 14-21 America's Boating Club (USPS) Annual Meeting, Ponte Vedra, Fl.
- Virtual Dinner Meeting Officer elections (presented by Megan Weber)

March

- Wirtual ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, (7:30 pm if we're meeting in person)
- 12-14 Greater Philadelphia Boat Show, Oaks
- 21 Change of Watch, details to come
- 22 Pilot articles deadline

April

- 4-11 D/5 Spring Conference, Princess Royale Hotel, Ocean City, Md.
- 7 Virtual ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, (7:30 pm if we're meeting in person)
- Virtual Dinner Meeting, details to come

May

- Virtual ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, (7:30 pm if we're meeting in person)
- 20 Pre-Cruise Dinner Meeting, get cruise details; sign up for activities; details to come









2020-2021 Calendar, continued

June

2 Virtual ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, (7:30 pm if we're meeting in person)

17 Virtual Dinner Meeting, details to come

July

No ExCom meeting

9-17 Commander's Annual Summer Cruise, details and marina signup on Page 8
No monthly meeting

For more information on any calendar items, please contact Cdr Patty Pezely, AP, at patty.pezely@gmail.com.

Need a gift idea? How about a polo?

Take a selfie by the tree in a new shirt or another item from the ship's store. Contact Mike Gibson at michaelgibson0789@gmail.com to order.



Colors shown are (from left) eggplant, red, turquoise, light blue, Mediterranean blue, gray. Additional colors may also be available. Contact Lt/C Mike Gibson for more info, or to place an order. Men's and women's sizes and colors are available.



Long sleeve — \$49 XS, S, M, L, XL (2X and up to 8X, add \$2)

Short sleeve — \$42 XS, S, M, L, XL (2X and up to 8X, add \$2)



FIRST CLASS MAIL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



However you celebrate, enjoy!









The Pilot

Editor: Ginny Parry (ginnyparry@gmail.com)
Asst. Editor: Lance Parry (lapnews@gmail.com)

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www.mainlinesps.org and on Facebook at America's Boating Club - Valley
Forge. Contact us at either email address above or at pilot@MainLineSPS.org.

The February-March 2021 issue deadline is **January 25**.