

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

VALLEY FORGE



The Pilot

June-July 2021

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Commander

Cdr Patty Pezely, AP

Summer's Here!

Vaccine shots are available for anyone who wants them, mask restrictions are being lifted, the weather

is getting warmer – IT'S BOATING TIME!!

This is the first article of my second term as Commander. I expect this year to be quite different than the last. I am looking forward to seeing many of you, in person, on the cruise. The cruise is scheduled for July 9-18 and we will be visiting The Yacht Basin in Annapolis, Herrington Harbour South in Herring Bay, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Marina in St Michaels and Haven Harbor Marina in Rock Hall. I am excited for the tour of the Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse. Having passed it several times on the water I often what it was like inside. I am also looking forward to the return of the Eastport Oyster boys. Stories and pictures will follow in the next Pilot.

(Continued on page 2)

2021-2022 Bridge

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Asterisk (*) means the member has completed three or more courses after achieving AP

(Continued from page 1) Year in Review

It will be so nice to see your smiling faces without a computer between us. We will still have a virtual ExCom in June and there will be no ExCom in July. The August ExCom will be led by Ginny Parry on Aug 4 th and I will have the Commander Picnic on Aug 11 th . If all the stars align, we might have an in-person meeting / virtual meetings in September. Paoli Pres is discussing their plans.

There are many new boat owners in the past year. I understand it is difficult to get a new or used boat.

This is an opportunity for us to get more boaters in our America's Boating Course (ABC). If you meet any new boaters, please tell them about our ABC basic education course. Frank Visich, Lance & Ginny Parry worked swiftly to distribute flyers about this class to local boat dealers for our virtual ABC course in June. Hopefully we can get back in the classroom soon for these new boaters.

Frank Visich has contacted the management at Whitehall Apartments in Spring City about the veteran's picnic. He will be coordinating a picnic on September 18th , 2021. Please keep the date open and let Frank know if you can assist.

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing everyone this summer!

Cdr Patty Pezely, AP



Executive Officer

Lt Cdr Ginny Parry, S

How have the recent CDC advisories on loosened restrictions for vaccinated people impacted you? If you've had your shot(s), are you planning more activities? If you or family members have not had the doses, how does the news affect you?

For our ABC Valley Forge squadron, the changes mean we'll be engaging in more events as summer unfolds. Our next major undertaking is a virtual ABC class for new boaters, to be held in June. Details appear in Jim Heckman's Education column. Encourage your friends or neighbors who recently began boating to sign up. Additionally, look for information on vessel safety checks, our veterans' picnic and more in your emails and on our website and Facebook page. In the meantime, keep wearing masks when appropriate!

Navigation reminders: Will you use OpenCPN or Argo to plot your courses and find local information this season? Both apps are free and provide a wealth of information. Find details at <https://www.argonav.io/> and <https://opencpn.org/>.

The Cruise is Coming, the Cruise is Coming! If you've taken the United States Power Squadrons Cruise Planning course, you know there

are critical things to prepare for – plotting your itinerary, selecting and briefing your crew on their responsibilities, following weather forecasts and making contingency plans. These are among the foundational matters to resolve.

But those of us who are chartering a 42-foot catamaran for this summer's Commander's Cruise (July 9-17) are facing other vital questions.

- Does each cabin have its own head?
- What kind of coffee maker is aboard?
- Are there nice unbreakable wineglasses with stems?
- Does the toaster accommodate bagels?
- Are there enough outlets for multiple people with laptops and iPads?

Captain Lance Parry has been assigned to ferret out the answers from the charter company.

Whew.

During a recent planning meeting our crew members hammered out answers to crucial issues from peanut butter (creamy vs. chunky, natural vs. traditional), to the preferred fat content of milk, and the ideal texture of pretzels (thin sticks vs. chunks that can crack molars).

Answering

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3) Executive Officer

these questions – and shopping accordingly -- will affect the relational dynamics on board. Fortunately, PCs Barb and Russ Jones have again done the heavy lifting of planning by preparing a detailed manual with information on each marina, nearby amenities, activities, charts and tips. Fleet Captain PC Jim Friedrichs has calculated the route for each leg. We are in good hands.

When I joined the squadron about 15 years ago I did not understand members' enthusiasm for the cruise. Games? Movie night? Boat crawls? Wait – these are all with the same people I see at meetings.

After joining the cruise I have come to under-

stand its appeal. Days on board allowed me to get to know people better. Cruising helped me improve my boating skills. Group events created shared memories. Weather and technical issues became -- in time -- highlights that I recall fondly.

If you are joining this year's cruise, enjoy the planning and the anticipation. If you have not cruised with the squadron, consider joining for a day, a weekend or longer. If you are not currently boating, you can join the contingent of members who are following the cruise on land. Find the itinerary elsewhere in the Pilot, and see where you fit in.

LtC Ginny Parry, S

















[Upcoming Boat Shows](#)


[Antique and Classic Boat Festival, St Michaels—June 18-20](#)


[Annapolis Power – October 7-10](#)


[Annapolis Sail—October 14-18](#)




















Educational Officer
Stf/C James Heckman, SN



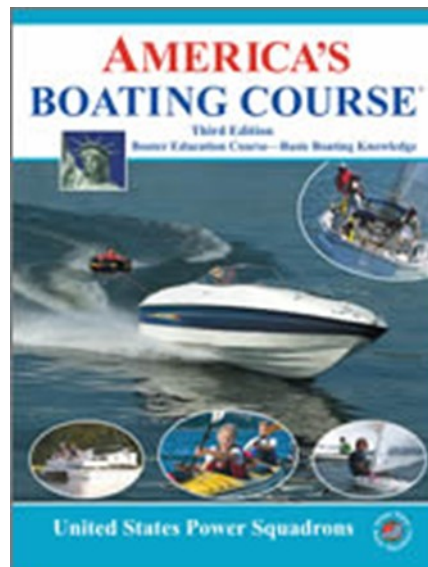
Asst. Educational Officer
Lt Wayne Barrett, JN

VIRTUAL AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE®

ABC Valley Forge will present the Virtual America's Boating Course beginning June 15th. We ask that you help us advertise it to your friends and family. You are an important part of our advertising efforts! Here is information about the course which will help you recruit students.

The Virtual America's Boat Course is designed for all boaters including paddle boaters, sail boaters, power boaters, those who fish and those who enjoy personal watercraft. The course is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and recognized by the United States Coast Guard. It meets Pennsylvania's requirements to obtain a Pennsylvania Boating Safety Education Certificate.

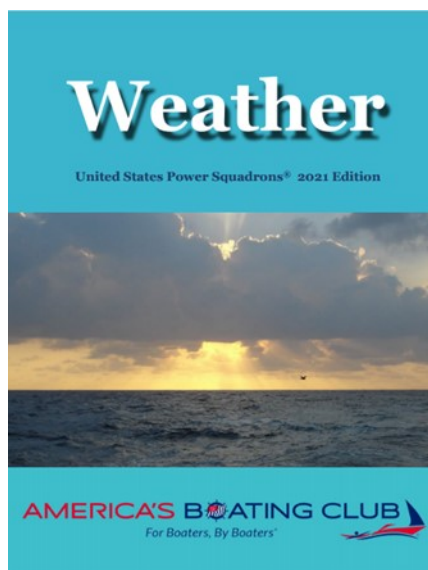
[The course will be presented online by America's Boating Club Valley Forge. For more information go to www.ABCValleyForge.org, at which you can get more information and enroll.](http://www.ABCValleyForge.org)



VIRTUAL 2021 WEATHER COURSE

America's Boat Club Valley Forge (ABC VF) is offering the 2021 Weather Course virtually to members and non-members of the United States Power Squadrons (America's Boating Club). Now that the course materials are available we have scheduled the course to begin on July ?, 2021 (Gary, I am waiting on Nick to give me this date). You are encouraged to enroll in this course. In addition, we ask for you help in advertising it to your friends and family. We believe that it will give you essential information for boating.

The first seven lectures of the 2021 Weather Course will present important principles of meteorology which are required to understand phenomena commonly encountered



(Continued on page 8)

The Paddler and the Engine Maintenance Course

Megan Weber, Safety Officer

One goal I made for myself when I used to see the course listed way back when I lived in NJ was to take and finish the boating engine maintenance class.

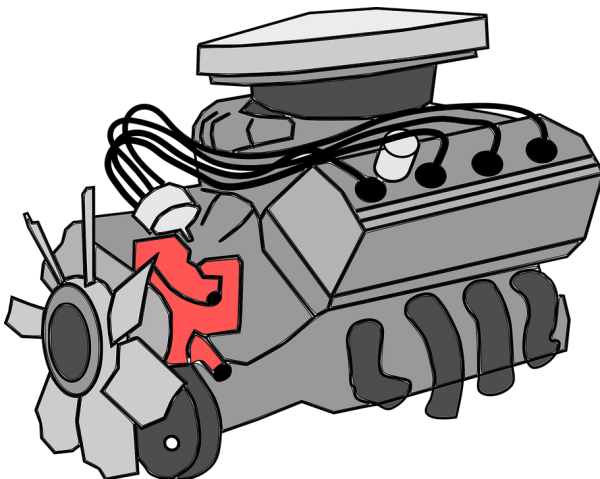
2021 was the year that came to pass. So what business do I have taking this course, when I only own a kayak?

For one thing I never took any machine maintenance course previously. I'm wiser now from knowing the why of things.

This course offered live instructors, it's affordable though the Annapolis Power Squadron, and taught on a subject I ad-

mire. I must say the instructors delivered and then some.


Live instructors didn't just go through the text in the book. They put so much of their own time and experience in teaching this course. Besides the course material, we had personal presentations of their own boat motors plus many add-on side notes I put in my text book.



One of those notes was to buy Anti-Seize to put on fastener threads. I'd never heard of this product until the instructor mentioned it. I even got to be more familiar with my own car. It turned out it's a pancake motor model.

I'm thrilled to report I passed the exam! While still not an expert now, I'm more an appreciator of machines and how things work.

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Fleet Captain's Report

P/C Lt. Jim Friedrichs, JN

June-July 2021 Fleet Captain's Report

As the cruising directions for this year's Commander's Cruise have been delivered by mail rather than in person due to the pandemic I took the opportunity to determine the delivery efficiency of ordinary first class mail between my local post office in Kulpsville, PA and the post office of the participating captains as I have heard that not all post offices in our area are as efficient as others. The results of the information supplied by most of the participating boat captains is shown below.

ROUTE	MILES	TRANSIT TIME
Kulpsville to Stevensville, MD.	130.	3 Days
Kulpsville to Elton, MD.	70.	4 Days
Kulpsville to Downingtown, PA	43.	4 Days
Kulpsville to Malvern, PA	31.	6 Days
Kulpsville to Berwyn, PA.	29.	7 Days
Kulpsville to Paradise, PA.	64.	7 Days
Kulpsville to Devon, PA.	27.	11 Days

Returning to the business of safe boating there are a number of new problems to deal with. Regarding the important navigating technique of using range lights it has been reported that Shad Battery Shoal range rear light is extinguished as well as Elk River Channel South range light.

If you are looking for a place to anchor for a pleasant afternoon or evening choose another place than Sandy Point State Park unless you wish to practice your dead reckoning navigational skills due to nav aid problems listed below.

Daybeacon 1 Daymk Missing

Daybeacon 3 Msld Sig

Buoy 5 Msld Sig/Buoy Dmgd

Danger Marker C Daymk Missing

North Beach Buoy 7 Missing

North Beach Buoy 8 Missing

It is reported that at approximate position 38-58-59N, 076-14-35W, approximately 60 to 80 yards

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7) Fleet Captain

south of Kent Island Narrows North Approach Light 3 there is a submerged metallic object East of center of the channel. (Editors Note: Later reports from the local BOAT/US operator and others state that there is no object in the channel based on multiple sweeps in the area using sonar. The original report is believed to have come from a boater that strayed outside the marked channel. Nonetheless, as always, use caution when transiting this area.)

Also in the Kent Island North Approach Channel, shoaling to a depth of four feet between North Approach Light 2KN and Light 8 has been reported.

Shoaling has been reported in the Choptank River's Slaughter Creek in two locations. One location in the channel bordered by Light 2SC and a point 50 to 100 yards east. Depths of 3-4 feet have been reported. Shoaling to 5 feet MLW has been observed on the red side of the channel between Buoy 6 and 8.

● Jim Friedrichs JN*
● Fleet Captain

(Continued from page 5) Education

by boaters. Chapter 8, a significant part of which is new, describes how boaters can use information from the US Weather Service and local observations to create real-time local weather forecasts. These up-to-date local forecasts can greatly supplement the wide area forecasts offered by the Weather Service. Knowledge of the local weather is essential for all boaters. For more information contact Nick Montalto (nick.montalto.usps@gmail.com), the course chair, or go to www.ABCValleyForge.org, at which you can get detailed information and enroll.

Stf/C James Heckman, SN

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New Federal Safety Requirement

Under a new federal law effective April 1, 2021, those piloting boats less than 26 feet in length are required to use their engine cut-off switches (ECOS) much of the time. That means wearing a lanyard—aka ECOS link—while at the wheel. (Formerly referred to as, “kill switches,” the term engine cut-off switch, or ECOS, is the preferred nomenclature, whether referring to engine-cut-off switches operated by a physical lanyard or any of several electronic solutions.)

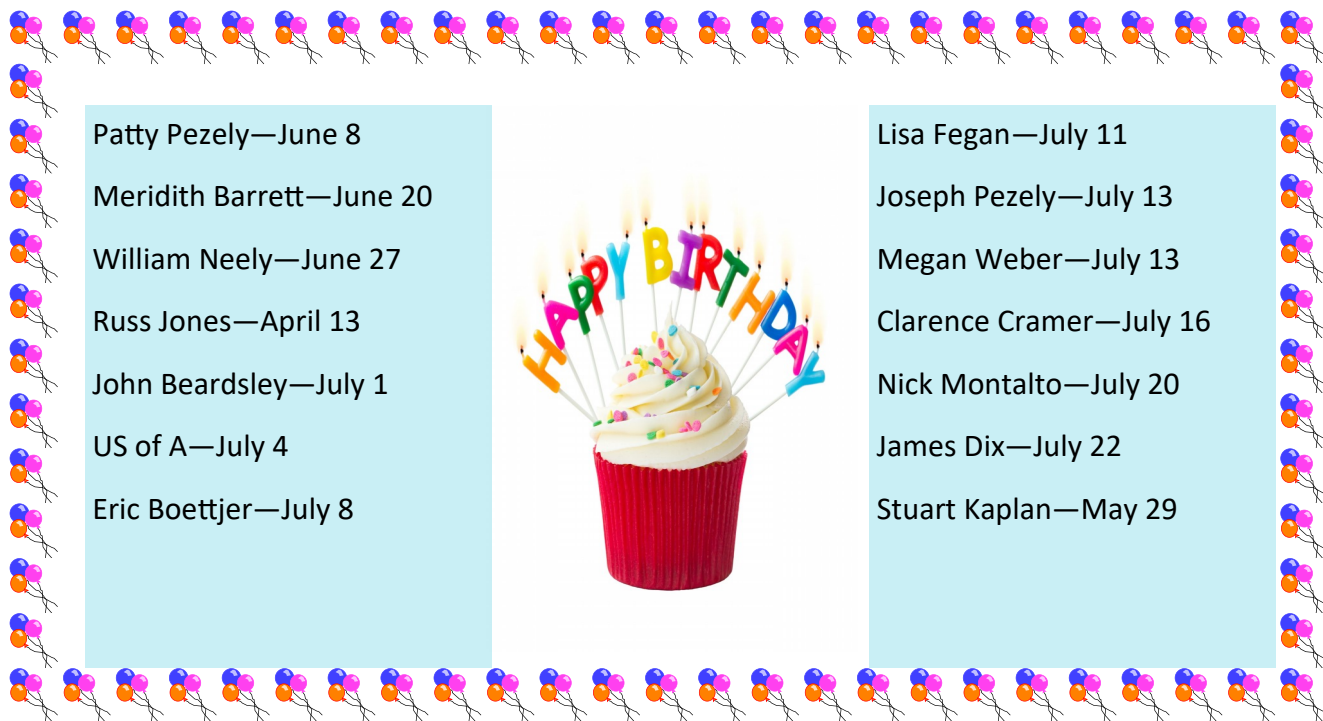


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From the United State Coast Guard

Sea Tow Automated Radio Check System no longer available:

For several years, Sea Tow operated an Automated Radio Check System, which was available on VHF Channels 24 to 28 for the benefit of mariners in over 130 locations. However, on October 2nd, 2020 that service was discontinued.

How to test a VHF Radio using Rescue 21:

The U.S. Coast Guard continues to offer an automated Digital Selective Calling (DSC) Test Call capability from each of its Rescue 21 coastal stations. All fixed mount marine radios certified by the Federal Communications Commission since 1999 are required to have a DSC capability. All such radios sold since 2011 must also have a DSC test call capability. Marine radios transmitting and successfully receiving a response from a DSC test call can be expected to operate acceptably in the voice mode as well.

To perform a DSC Test Call, enter the U.S. Coast Guard's coast station group identity "003669999" into the radio's DSC memory. Once entered and stored, a DSC test call can be made by executing the following three steps:

(Continued on page 11)

Spreading the Word about Boating Safety

ABC Valley Forge is presenting an online ABC course for new boaters in June, and you can help spread the word.

PC Frank Visich, who is our public relations and advertising officer, has been working to publicize the upcoming America's Boating Club basic boating course by delivering posters and informational flyers to several area businesses and clubs.

We need your help too: If you know new boaters or paddle boarders, you can tell them about the course as well. Details are in Jim Heckman's Squadron Educational Officer column and in the small poster in this issue of The Pilot, on our website and our Facebook page.

Don't wait to tell your friends and neighbors: The registration deadline is June 11; classes will be held 7-9 pm June 15, 17, 22 and 24, with the final exam on June 29.

Each session will have a live moderator to introduce the topic and answer questions.

Here's the link to our website with more information:

http://abcvalleyforge.org/abc_online.aspx

Frank delivered the information to: Clews & Strawbridge, Frazer; Stoltzfus RVs and Marine, West Chester; West Marine, Bensalem; Highway Marine Service, Quakertown; Ridley Township Municipal Marina, Ridley Park; REI, King of Prussia and Plymouth Meeting; Dick's Sporting Goods, Downingtown and Plymouth Meeting; Orvis, Plymouth Meeting; Philadelphia Canoe Club, Philadelphia, and the Wawa Community Board - Great Valley.

Can you tell two people?

(Continued from page 10) Coast Guard

1. Select "Test Call" from the radio's DSC menu,
2. Select the USCG number entered into memory, and
3. Transmit the call.

The radio display should indicate when that test call is acknowledged and display the acknowledging station's nine-digit identity. That identity may be different than the group identity previously entered into memory.

Please use VHF Channel 09 and do not use VHF Channel 16: VHF Channel 16 is not for the purpose of radio checks. Please use VHF Channel 09, which has been designated by the FCC as a boater's calling channel.

2021 Summer Cruise Signup

By PC Russ Jones, SN

Let's get back on the water! Our America's Boating Club Valley Forge 2021 summer cruise itinerary is set for July 9-18. 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 four ports. We estimate that between 10 and 15 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.

You can choose from 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—17	Haven Harbor Marina, Rock Hall (revised)

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: _____ Cell number: _____

Boat Make: _____ Boat Model: _____ Length: _____ Beam: _____ Draft: _____

Type: ☐ Power; ☐ Sail Electric: ☐ Single 30; ☐ Dual 30; ☐ Single 50; ☐ Dual 50

- ☐ Friday, July 9 – The Yacht Basin, Annapolis
- ☐ Saturday, July 10 – The Yacht Basin, Annapolis
- ☐ Sunday, July 11 – Herrington Harbour South, Herring Bay
- ☐ Monday, July 12 – Herrington Harbour South, Herring Bay
- ☐ Tuesday, July 13 – Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Marina, St. Michaels
- ☐ Wednesday, July 14 – Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Marina, St. Michaels
- ☐ Thursday, July 15 – Haven Harbor Marina, Rock Hall
- ☐ Friday, July 16 – Haven Harbor Marina, Rock Hall
- ☐ Saturday, July 17 – Haven Harbor Marina, Rock Hall

Blasts from Past Summer Cruises





A FISH TALE

The IRS suspected the charter boat owner was not paying his employees properly so they sent an auditor to investigate.

Auditor: I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them.

Boat Owner: Well, there's Clarence, my deck-hand. He's been with me three years. I pay him \$1,000 a week plus free room and board.

Then there's the mentally challenged guy. He works about 80 hours a week and does 90% of the work around here. He makes about \$10.00 a week, pays his own room and board and I buy him a bottle of Bacardi rum and a dozen Budweiser's every Saturday night so he can cope with life. He also gets to sleep with my wife occasionally.

Auditor: That's the guy I want to talk to. The mentally challenged one.

Boat Owner: That would be me. What would you like to know?

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Jack Smith

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Did You Know?

High-performance stalwart **Cigarette Racing** has been acquired in a deal brokered by investment firm [Lionheart Capital](#) and entrepreneur John H. Ruiz.

White River Marine Group, a boatbuilder affiliate of Springfield, Mo.-based Bass Pro Shops, has acquired Hatteras Yachts. North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper made the announcement in New Bern, NC.



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Bud Haly - President

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB VALLEY FORGE

Safety at Sea *Our June Monthly meeting will be virtual*



Date: *Thursday, June 17, 2021*

Member Chat Time: *6:30 pm*

Program Presentation: *7:00 pm*

Guest Speaker will be:

Bruce Brown, Owner of Bruce Brown and Associates – A Manufacturer's Representative Agency selling products into the recreational and commercial marine industry for over 40 years

US Sailing Safety at Sea Moderator

Chair of the US Sailing Safety at Sea Committee Working Group on Training and Moderators

Instructor for USCG 100Ton Captain's Licenses at Orange Coast College School of Sailing and Seamanship

Instructor for USCG Commercial Fishing Drill Conductors

Instructor for USCG STCW Training

Co Skipper of a Nelson/Marek 55 Transpac Race (Los Angeles to Honolulu)

Safety Officer - Farr 57 Transpac Race (Los Angeles to Honolulu)

Raced in 21 races from CA to Mexico

Raced in the 6 Meter World Cup

Cruised Mexico, Turkey, Greece and California Channel Islands

ZOOM information: Join Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89236628358?pwd=SGtSZlJKaFhXZzd1TTYvdm5PaFpYQT09>

Meeting ID: 892 3662 8358

Passcode: Dinner

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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
12	Pilot articles deadline
9-17	Commander's Annual Summer Cruise
August	
4	Virtual ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, (7:30 pm if we're meeting in person)
11	Commander's Picnic and ExCom meeting, details to come
29-9/5	2021 USPS Fall Governing Board Meeting – Raleigh, NC
September	
1	ExCom Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm
9-12	Atlantic City In-Water Boat Show, Frank S. Farley State Marina at the Golden Nugget
12	Pilot articles deadline
16	Dinner or picnic
18	Veteran Picnic, RSVP Frank Visich
October	
7-10	Annapolis Powerboat Show
6	Ex Com Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm
<i>tbd</i>	Submit all Merit Marks to Bill McManimen
14-18	Annapolis Sailboat Show
21	Monthly Dinner Meeting
November	
3	Ex Com Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm
11-14	<i>D/5 Fall Educational Conference, Hilton Doubletree, Lancaster PA</i>
	No dinner meeting
12	<i>Pilot</i> articles deadline
December	
1	Ex Com Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm
<i>tbd</i>	Holiday Party,
January 2022	
5	Virtual ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, (7:30 pm if we're meeting in person)
<i>tbd</i>	D/5 Spring Conference Hospitality Planning Meeting
<i>tbd</i>	2020 Budget meeting
<i>tbd</i>	New Members party at the Fegans' house
<i>tbd</i>	Change of Watch planning meeting at the Pezelys' house
20	Dinner Meeting – Founder's Day

November	
3	Ex Com Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm
11-14	<i>D/5 Fall Educational Conference, Hilton Doubletree, Lancaster PA</i>
	No dinner meeting
12	<i>Pilot</i> articles deadline
December	
1	Ex Com Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm
<i>tbd</i>	Holiday Party,
January 2022	
5	Virtual ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, (7:30 pm if we're meeting in person)
<i>tbd</i>	D/5 Spring Conference Hospitality Planning Meeting
<i>tbd</i>	2020 Budget meeting
<i>tbd</i>	New Members party at the Fegans' house
<i>tbd</i>	Change of Watch planning meeting at the Pezelys' house
20	Dinner Meeting – Founder's Day
12	<i>Pilot</i> articles deadline
February	
2	Virtual ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, (7:30 pm if we're meeting in person)
19-27	America's Boating Club® (USPS) Annual Meeting, Ponte Vedra, FL
17	Dinner Meeting – Officer elections
March	
2	Virtual ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, (7:30 pm if we're meeting in person)
12-14	Greater Philadelphia Boat Show, Oaks, Pa.
?20?	Change of Watch
12	<i>Pilot</i> articles deadline



Masked Bandits Raid REI?

No, that's Megan Weber, Jim Heckman and Patty Pezely manning the information table at the REI in King of Prussia. They were there to hand out safety information to paddlers and drum up interest in America's Boating Club—Valley Forge. Nice work!



The Pilot

June-July 2021



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First Class Mail

Return Service Requested



The Pilot

Editor: Gary Armstrong (garmstro55@gmail.com)



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The August-September Pilot Deadline is July 12th