

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB VALLEY FORGE



The Pilot

June 2022

Successful VSC Day in Rock Hall



America's Boating Club Valley Forge held its annual Rock Hall VSC day on June 4, 2022. As usual, it was a huge success. Our four Vessel Safety Check examiners did a total of 34 safety checks that weekend. We are off to an excellent start this year, since it is only early June and as a group we have completed 39 inspections. Thanks to the four examiners who participated that day—John Juzbasich, Chris Dome, Bill McManimen and Maryanne Boettjer!!

A big thank you to Frank Visich who brought down our tent, table and chairs, and tons of information about safe boating. Frank manned the display at the Haven Harbour site while our VSC team did inspections at both Haven Harbour and Osprey Point marinas.

If you would like to become a Vessel Safety Examiner contact Maryanne Boettjer at mboettj@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed

ABC-VF will have a float in the 4th of July parade in Skippack, PA. Ed White made the arrangements and we will use Juz-4-Fun (John Juzbasich's power boat) as our float. It will be highly decorated using ABC-VF banners and other patriotic decorations.

Volunteers are needed to ride in the float and truck, and to walk alongside our exhibit to distribute information on our club. The parade starts at 9:30 and ends at 11:30, The parade is in the morning, but festivities go all day, concluding with fireworks. Or you can leave after the parade and you will have plenty of time for your personal events. To volunteer contact Ed White at edwhite2004@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events - Reserve the dates!

Summer Cruise: June 17th to 26th

Skippack Parade: July 4th from 9:30 to 11:30

Happy Hour: July 21 from 6 to 8pm at Pizzeria Uno in Oaks

Delaware River Educational Cruise: Aug. 17

Commander's Picnic: Aug. 18th, 5:30-8:30

Potluck Picnic: Sept. 17th at 2:00-6:00 at Lower Perkiomen Valley Park in Oaks

Veteran's Picnic: Sept 24th at 12:00

Commander's Report



We're starting the boating season with a combination of can't-be-beat weather and an array of activities. Here is a quick rundown of them.

Look through this issue for photos, articles and flyers with more information. Then mark your calendar to join us for as many events as you can.

And if you're planning to be on the water and want company, contact me with details, and I'll pass on the information to our members. Let's be boating!

Happy Hour! We're having an informal gathering in July rather than a dinner meeting. Join us on July 21 from 6 to 8 PM at Pizzeria Uno in Oaks. Cost is \$10 per person, which includes appetizers and pizza. You buy your own beverages. We'll have our own room and space to be outside as well. RSVP by July 14 to [Rosemary Montalto](mailto:rpmontalto@gmail.com) at rpmontalto@gmail.com.

The Delaware River Educational Cruise, initially scheduled for May 25, has been postponed until

Aug. 17. It's a fine opportunity to join members of other squadrons for a narrated tour of the river, both during the day and using navigation lights at night. Check the [District 5](#) website for updates.

We were sorry to hear of the passing of ABCVF member Dr. Stuart Kaplan of Avondale. He and his wife, Joan, were enthusiastic sailors, and had been members since 2013. Stuart was a member of our Executive Committee and Safety Officer for several years. Click here for [obituary information](#).

The USPS Reorganization Plan continues to evolve. There have been 2 Town Hall meetings on Free Conference Call; a third may be planned. Here's a link to the [May 4 meeting](#). Meanwhile, the Ad Hoc Committee shepherding the plan is seeking people to join a Club Advisory Group to help review and provide feedback on the committee's implementation plans. Each group member would focus on one of four areas: education, membership, boating and social, communication. For more information or to apply, contact Myles Gee.

And a final note: Patty and Joe Pezely have just completed a 150-mile Susquehanna River Sojourn via kayak. CONGRATULATIONS PATTY AND JOE!!!

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Join the Summer Cruise by Land or Sea

Cruisin' – Our 2022 Summer Cruise launches June 17 at Baltimore Yacht Club – with a cocktail party in the pavilion. Russ and Barb Jones, who have masterminded the planning of the cruise for 15 years, will host the party. Rumor has it that their famous Goombay Smash will appear on the drink menu. The 10-day cruise continues to Baltimore, Annapolis, Herrington Harbour South and across the Bay to Rock Hall, with events in every port and boat crawls in several. You can still join by car at one or more locations.

June 17-18: Baltimore Yacht Club, Sue Island

June 19-20: Harbor East Marina, Baltimore

June 21-22: The Yacht Basin, Annapolis

June 23-24: Herrington Harbour South, Herring Bay

June 25: Haven Harbor Marina, Rock Hall



New Fire Extinguisher Regulations

The U.S. Coast Guard has issued new fire extinguisher regulations for motorized recreational boats that are effective starting April 20, 2022.

The new rules do not include changes for when and how many fire extinguishers are required on boats. If your boat was required to carry a fire extinguisher(s), those requirements still remain in effect.

USCG now uses the Underwriters Laboratory, UL, performance-based classification system for portable fire extinguishers. Most extinguishers already have USCG and UL rating classifications, and all approved extinguishers installed before August 22, 2016, can remain on recreational vessels as long as they are serviceable and less than 12 years old.

The new classification system requires portable and semi-portable extinguishers to be marked with a combined number and letter designation. The letter designates the class of fire the extinguisher is suitable for, and the number indicates the extinguishing potential.

Fishing the St. Lawrence

The St. Lawrence separates Canada and the USA. It is known for great fishing and it lived up to its reputation this spring. The St. Lawrence is deep, over 200 feet, however a large rock may be lurking beneath the surface at one foot. Many boaters have sacrificed their lower units to the river.



In early May the Juzbasich fishing team headed north to this treacherous waterway. During the winter they prepared in advance, mapping out courses, probable fishing holes, and dangerous passages on their Lowrance navigation system.



The hard work paid off, no contact with unfriendly rocks and very successful fishing. On their first day they caught over 200 fish and about 100 were "keepers". At times they were hauling them in two at a time!

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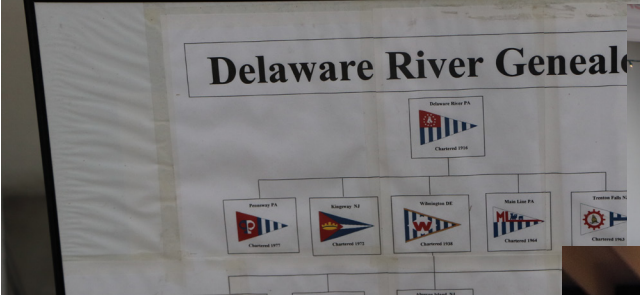


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ABC-Valley Forge at the D 5 Conference



PATRIOT DAYS IS BACK



This was our 3rd time attending this event after a 2-year pandemic break. We arrived at 8:00 am to set up our display with the ABC VF tent and had the Virtual Trainer shipped in, which we ran off a generator. We had many scouts visit our tent to learn boat skills and try their hand at the steering wheel. We also handed out safety brochures and ABC VF whistles. This was the 53rd gathering. Since 1967 thousands of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire, and other youth groups have gathered together for one week-end in June at the Daniel Boone Homestead in Birdsboro, Pennsylvania, to meet new friends and share in a unique fellowship experience. As we packed up late in the afternoon, Jim White one of the event coordinators thanked us, telling us the kids told him our booth is always one

of their favorites! Big thanks to Rich McLaughlin and Patti for the help!
(A lot of planning... a lot of work... a lot of satisfaction!)

- Frank Visich

Knowledgeable boaters have more FUN

Boating Courses

ABC VF recently presented boating courses (America's Boating Course) to two groups of students. The first was given in association with the Chester County Life Long Learning (CCLLL) group (<http://chestercounty-nightschool.org/>). We thank CCLLL for helping to advertise our course and providing the classroom. Three students successfully completed the course by passing the exam. The second course was presented at Clews and Strawbridge (<https://www.clewsboats.com/>). Again, three students successfully completed the course. We thank Mr. Jack Ott, the owner of Clews and Strawbridge, for advertising the course and for providing the excellent teaching space. We congratulate the six students and wish them good times boating. The help of a number of our members including Meridith Barrett, Russ Jones, Nick Montalto and Joe Pezely is greatly appreciated.

Fall Courses

We are already planning our fall courses. We plan to present the Piloting Course (Marine Navigation). It is an introduction to coastal navigation. If you have a recommendation for the presentation of any of the other USPS courses or seminars please let us know.

On-the-Water Training & Certification - Introduction

USPS's on-the water training and certification programs include both on-water training and the certification of boating skills. Our on-the-water training provides hands-on skill development for new boaters. It also provides a practical extension to the USPS's classroom instruction. Our Boat Operator Certification program provides credentials that certify the boating skills and educational achievements of USPS members.

Education Department Report to the Squadron
Jim Heckman, Squadron Educational Officer (SEO)
Wayne Barrett, Assistant Educational Officer (ASEO)

Sound Waves

This article stems from a news report about the Frankford Boat Launch being closed for the season due to noise pollution. Fox 29 Philadelphia reported that both Pennsylvania and New Jersey residents are disturbed by the excessive noise levels caused not only by power boats, but also motorcycles, ATVs, and boom parties. Keep in mind that water helps noise travel.

During my research on the marine noise laws I was surprised that most seas are unregulated when it comes to ocean noise. Comparing four states frequently used for water activities by our members, Pennsylvania has one of the highest boating noise regulations. Pennsylvania has a maximum noise level for motorboats and muffler laws between 88 dB(a) and 90 dB(a) depending on what year your boat/motor was manufactured. Where Delaware had the least. Delaware has no maximum noise level for motorboats and that's where it ends. (Source: <https://www.uscgboating.org/regulations/state-boating-laws-details.php?id=19&title>)

The United States Coast Guard does have recommended guidelines to the U.S. maritime industry for addressing conditions of high noise. You can find them here but keep in mind they are guidelines. <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/5ps/NVIC/1982/n12-82.pdf>. These recommendations are put in place to protect people from hearing loss, to help them safely function on the vessels, and to not be blocked from hearing audible alarms and warnings.

What you can do now is keep a well maintained engine, use personal audio devices at tolerable level, and drive slower, especially where your boat can cause a lot of noise disturbance.

In the future, electric power boats may be a welcome alternative solution to controlling sound levels. But in the meantime, I'll leave you with this: quieter seas are healthier seas.

By Megan Weber



Sail a Tall Ship

The [Kalmar Nyckel](#) is a replica of a Swedish Colonial three-masted sailing ship that offers rides on the Delaware River. One not only sails, but can be involved in hoisting the various sails as they get under way. Spend the afternoon sailing the Delaware, then finish off the day in historic New Castle with a dinner at Jessop's Tavern. Nice way to spend time with a friend!

Rich McLaughlin



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2022-2023 Bridge

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Publications and Articles of Interest

Chesapeake Bay Magazine <https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/>

Schoolchildren Rescued from Norfolk Tour Boat Fire

Powerboat Crash Claims Young Man's Life

Video: Cownose Rays Back in Bay, Swimmers Warned

Annapolis to Hampton Boater Search Called Off

Salvage of Burned Barge in Delaware Bay is Complete

Meteorology Trailblazer to Lead Ches. Bay Program

Annapolis to Bermuda Race Underway after Storm Delay



MD Department of Natural Resources <https://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Has a wide variety of articles that may be of interest



The Pilot

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