

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB VALLEY FORGE



The Pilot

Apr-May 2022

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Commander

Cdr Ginny Parry, S

Commander's Report

Greetings from your new commander, from the helm of my kitchen island. Thank you for electing me to this position.

I'm looking forward to riding in Patty Pezely's wake, after her two-year term as commander. Thank you, Patty, for so capably guiding us through the uncharted waters of pandemic and more pandemic, and -- we hope -- recovery to a new normal.

This year Executive Officer Mike Gibson and I will share the duties of both offices, each of us tackling the tasks we feel most suited for. Some months he'll chair the Executive Committee meeting, for example, while I work with members on an upcoming activity. It's a work in progress; stay tuned. There's a lot I want to share with you, and it won't fit neatly into one column, so look for other articles in this issue that address several topics, including:

- Updates to our website, and the addition of a QR code
- Vacancies in various posts in ABC Valley Forge

(Continued on page 2)

2021-2022 Bridge

Commander

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Open

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

(Continued from page 1) *Commander's Report*

-Very critical changes that our National ABC organization is considering in the structure of the entire America's Boating Club, along with a critical report by the national Finance Committee. You really need to read these reports!

-Our recent informational booth at the weeklong boat sale at Highway Marine

-The need for a new Pilot editor to succeed Gary Armstrong, who's stepping down after this issue. Thanks, Gary! Whew!

Instead, I'll tell you a little about my boating history. It ranges from early days canoeing in Girl Scout camp, to at one point trying to build a raft for the pond behind our farmhouse. What I didn't understand as 6th or 7th grade kid was the basic concept of floatation, because I tried tying old tires to some pieces of wood, rather than using inner tubes (which we didn't have handy). Fortunately, the pond was shallow.

Later adventures included whitewater canoeing, sailing schools, windsurfing lessons, kayaking on lakes, a quarry and in the ocean, paddleboarding and power boating.

The constant was taking lessons – and my pretty dubious sense of balance, especially when windsurfing. Even with the lessons, however, there was the day on Worton Creek when I was at the helm of our Whaler as Lance went ashore to retrieve the car and back the trailer down the ramp. While I waited, I somehow edged too close to a moored sailboat.

Ignoring all lessons and common sense, I tried pushing the boats away from each other, and in a slow-motion action, stretched too far, and ended up hanging onto the bow of the sailboat. I felt like

(Continued on page 4)



Executive Officer

Lt Cdr Mike Gibson, JN
















As I write this on the eve of Change of Watch, and the start of a new Squadron year, a lot of work has already occurred preparing for the year ahead. But there is undoubtedly much more to do.


USPS is in the throes of a major reorganization, the effects of which to D5 and the Squadron remain to be seen. Squadrons around us are losing membership or closing, and I think we are in the same boat.


Attracting new members is a top priority, but is very challenging for a number of reasons. Putting on my Treasurer's hat, we have a tight operating budget, and will need to spend our money wisely. We are fortunate to have some long-term investments at our disposal, but need a thoughtful plan for using that money. Ginny and I have already had several discussions about the trajectory of the Squadron, what the future holds, and what we can do to shape it. In that light, we have some new things in mind to try, or do differently than in the past.


I look forward to working with Ginny and members of the Squadron, and getting input and ideas from everyone, to address these challenges in the coming year.


Lt Cdr Mike Gibson, JN




















Fire Extinguisher Updates



Megan Weber—Safety Officer



New federal regulations concerning fire



extinguishers on board recreational



boats will take effect April 20 2022.


Some of the new rules include:


-If you own a boat that is model year


2018 or newer, you may need to replace


your fire extinguishers.


-The expiration date of a fire extinguish-

(Continued from page 2) Commander

Harold Lloyd dangling from the clock hands in the silent film

Safety Last! ([Shown Here](#)). This was ridiculous, even to me, and eventually I fell off the boat into maybe 6 feet of bathtub-warm water.

A nearby boater asked permission to come aboard the Whaler. I scrambled back on deck, and we got things squared away. Meanwhile, Lance had watched the whole sorry mess "with great fascination" from the boat ramp. I ultimately guided the boat onto the trailer, connected it to the winch, and we got it secured. Then, dripping wet, I climbed

into the car, AND LANCE DIDN'T SAY A WORD! No questions, no comments. We pulled the boat out of the water, drove away and then we laughed a lot. He said later it reminded him of a Bugs Bunny movie, down to the nearby boat-er looking down at me and imagining him asking, "Eh, what's up, doc?"

It could have been a lot more serious, and underscores the need to teach – and reteach – both the fundamentals and fine points of boating. I look forward to hearing some of your boating stories in the coming year.

Commander Ginny Parry, S

[Upcoming Boat Shows](#)

As of the date of publication, the Philadelphia Boat Show in Oaks, PA is cancelled.

[Bay Bridge Boat Show](#)—April 21-24, 2022





Educational Officer
Stf/C James Heckman, SN



Asst. Educational Officer
Lt Wayne Barrett, JN

"Knowledgeable boaters have more fun."

Communicating with QR Codes

Recently ABC VF was asked to participate in a spring kickoff at Highway Marine located near Quakertown, Pa. In addition to handouts, we developed two posters, one is shown here. You will see that it has QR codes. The QR codes allow the viewer of the poster to quickly see the content to which the QR codes link.

By using their smart phone, the attendees were able to view our ABC Valley Forge website and review the descriptions and schedule of our courses as well as learn about our Vessel Safety Check program. In addition, they could look at selected America's Boating Channel videos.

The use of the QR codes helped us provide an interactive experience. Not only could the attendees speak with our members who manned the table display but at their leisure they could view the content on their cell phone. We intend to use QR codes in the future to advertise our courses. They greatly extend the usefulness of brochures, handouts, and posters. Please let us know where we could place our posters and brochures to best reach out to boaters.

Many thanks to Lance Parry who beautifully formatted the posters and the brochures and to Joe Pezely who updated the ABC VF website including making it easier to be viewed on a smart phone.

If you would like to see how a QR code can be used, point your smartphone camera at the QR code seen below and you will be able to view our new website.

Get your Pa. Boating Safety Certificate

Do you need a Pa. Boating Safety Certificate?

YES, if you...
—want to operate a personal watercraft (jet ski).
Or
—if you were born after Jan. 1, 1982, and want to operate a boat with greater than 25 horsepower.

To get your boating safety certificate, scan this QR code to get more information or to register for a class.

Take our America's Boating Course.
For more information, go to ABCValleyForge.org

Scan this code to learn more about Vessel Safety Checks. They're offered free by America's Boating Club Valley Forge.

FREE BOATING VIDEOS

Local Rules from Quakertown
America's Boating Channel
Navigation rules
Boating
ATCNP
Boat to Boat Collision
Law: 101
Marine
Crewed Boats
Crewed Boats

America's Boating Club is a registered trademark of the United States Coast Guard.

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Change of Watch 2022



Riddell Award Winner
Frank Visich



D/Lt/C Nick Montalto



Executive Officer Mike
Gibson



P/C Russ Jones



Commander Ginny Parry
2022-2023



Assistant SEO Wayne



Past Commander Patty Pezely and Friends



Fleet Captain's Report

P/C Lt. Jim Friedrichs, JN



Dredging the approaches to and within Baltimore Harbor will continue until July 20, 2022. Specifically the areas are:

- Baltimore Harbor Channels
- Craighill Entrance Channel Cutoff Angle
- Fort McHenry Channel
- Northwest Harbor East Channel

Loaded scows will be transporting to Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility in Baltimore Harbor and the Northern Access Channel

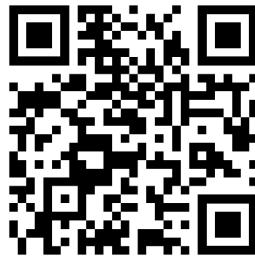
turning basin at Poplar Island. Operations are underway 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. While work on the main waterways described above continues other non-commercial places of shoaling are in need of dredging and should be noted by us pleasure boaters. Those areas that have been reported are listed below.

- Chester River Kent Island Narrows North Approach between Light 2KN and Light 8. Four feet depth.
- Chester River Queenstown Creek Buoy 3 to Buoy 5. Three to four feet depth.
- Harts Island Channel Day Beacon 3 depths of 2 to 4 feet.
- Sassafras River Daybeacon 8 to Light 10 depths of seven feet.
- Northeast River Lighted Buoy 7 and 8 depths to 4.2 feet.
- Flag Harbor Light 1 and 2 depths less than 5 feet.
- St. Jerome Creek depths to 3 feet between DBN 3 to Buoy 6.
- Chesapeake Beach Light 2 to Light 3 feet at MLW.
- Slaughter Creek Light 2SC Shoaling to 3 feet and shoaling to 5 feet between Buoy 6 and 8.
- Farm Creek shoaling to 3 feet between Daybeacon 2 and 7.

Jim Friedrichs

Fleet Captain

(Continued from page 5) Education



Course Schedule

Below is an updated schedule for our ABC Valley Forge courses. Please help us advertise them to your family and friends! For more information go to our new updated website (<https://abcvalleyforge.org/>).

Course Title	Location	Dates	Times	Cost
America's Boating Course (ABC)	Downingtown M.S.	Tuesdays, April 5 - May 24, 2022	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	\$70
Marine Navigation	Downingtown M.S.	Tuesdays, April 5 - May 24, 2022	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	\$115
Essential Knowledge for Boaters	E. N. Peirce Middle School	Wednesdays, April 6 -27, 2022	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	\$40
America's Boating Course (ABC)	Clews and Strawbridge	Saturday, April 30, 2022	8 AM – 4 PM	\$45
America's Boating Course (ABC)	Clews and Strawbridge	Saturday, May 21, 2022	8 AM – 4 PM	\$45
America's Boating Course (ABC)	Stoltzfus RV's & Marine, 1	TBA	8 AM – 4 PM	\$45

Quick Details-

- **Complement:** 12 officers, 10 war-rants, 56 seamen
 - **Operating Depth:** 246–296 m (807–971 ft)
 - **Size:** Length- 92 m (302 ft); Beam- 7.5 m (25 ft); Draft- 5.1 m (17 ft)
 - **Endurance:** 3-5 days submerged
 - **Armament:** 10 torpedo tubes (6 bow, 4 stern) Up to 22 torpedoes
- Support:** Complete start-up support will be provided on request

[Click for Details](#)

Classifieds



News from National – Rethinking ABC

By Cdr. Ginny Parry, S

The Board of Directors of America's Boating Club has approved in principle a reorganization plan that will make sweeping changes to its structure and operation. The goal is to stem the loss of membership and to make our organization more effective and appealing to current and potential members. The Governing Board is scheduled to vote on it in September.

To fully understand what's in the works, use this [link](#).

You still have a chance to weigh in. ABC plans to hold three virtual Town Hall meetings this spring. The first one is 8 pm March 29. These sessions would be your opportunity to voice your questions and concerns. Use the link above to find out more.

The 18-page plan details the decline in membership and revenue along with the dwindling and dissolution of some clubs. It describes some of the dissatisfactions of new members and those who have left ABC. Among their issues are the lack of boating opportunities. Among the challenges at all levels is finding enough volunteers to fill critical roles.

The plan considered four options for organizing ABC, and recommended establishing a National level of services that would provide coordinated, centralized support directly to Clubs and members. This would replace the current collection of districts that each serve local clubs.

More news from National – a report by the Finance Committee If you have not read the Fi-

nance Committee's report at the annual meeting, you should. This report examines 14 areas, and provides conclusions for each one; many are highly critical.

You can read this in a pdf on our website, at ABCValleyForge.org.

Many of the issues echo the concerns of the National report on reorganization, citing declining membership and revenues, with forecasts of those issues continuing without major changes. Among its conclusions:

- No organizational strategic plan is being prepared or implemented.
- No financial and organization planning collaboration is taking place, and leadership will not discuss financial issues with the Committee.
- The overall financial condition of USPS is threatened and getting worse, but there is an opportunity to right the ship.
- We need a collaborative action plan to save our organization.

Both reports give us the opportunity – the strong nudge – to determine what kind of club we want to be, and to plan for our future. Please read them.

Commander Ginny Parry, S

2022 ABC Valley Forge Summer Cruise

Our Main Line Sail & Power Squadron **2022** summer cruise itinerary is set. This year we sent a questionnaire to the members who attended the 2021 Summer Cruise asking which marinas they prefer. There were four marinas and a yacht club chosen by our cruisers. The top five are listed below and we plan to go to all of them. We are estimating that between **10 and 15 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, dinner at great restaurants, 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 May 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.

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

☐ Friday, June 17 – Baltimore Yacht Club, Sue Island

☐ Saturday, June 18 – Baltimore Yacht Club, Sue Island

☐ Sunday, June 19 – Harbor East Marina, Baltimore

☐ Monday, June 20 – Harbor East Marina, Baltimore

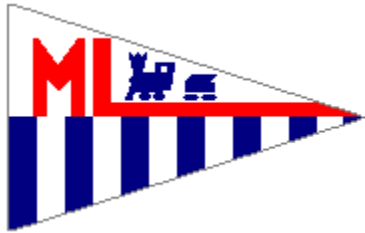
☐ Tuesday, June 21 – The Yacht Basin, Annapolis

☐ Wednesday, June 22 – The Yacht Basin, Annapolis

☐ Thursday, June 23 – Herrington Harbour South, Herring Bay

☐ Friday, June 24 – Herrington Harbour South, Herring Bay

☐ Saturday, June 25 – Haven Harbor Marina, Rock Hall



Thursday, May 19, 2022

Pre-Cruise Dinner Meeting

The Main Line Sail & Power Squadron's annual summer cruise is always a highlight of the year. Everyone who has been on the cruise will tell you what a great time they had. You can join us for all or part of the cruise that covers two weekends and the week in between. The summer cruise this year will be from **Friday, June 17 through Sunday, June 26.**

Please join us at the **Uno Restaurant** for dinner and to review the planning and activities for Main Line Sail & Power Squadron's summer cruise on the Chesapeake.

ALL members are invited to our monthly dinner meeting. You don't need to be going on the cruise to attend the dinner to have fun and enjoy the company. Come and learn about the cruise. You may find ports / activities of interest and decide to drive to various sites.

And, you don't need to feel anxious about joining us on the cruise. If you are a **new boater**, we will have other similar boats accompany you on the trip. Bring your children and friends.

Date: Thursday, May 19, 2022

1830 Cocktails; 1930 Dinner; 2030 Cruise Presentation

Place: Uno Grill, 8 N Pottstown Pike, Exton, PA 19341

RSVP: P/C Russ Jones

610-873-1576 wrjones3@verizon.net

Please RSVP via email no later than Thursday, May 12



Past Commander (finally)

P/C Patty Pezely, AP

My second year as Commander has come to an end and I have joined the rank of Past Commander. I am very happy to report that we were able to meet in person for this year's Change of Watch on March 27th. and I want to thank D5 Treasurer D/Lt/C Nick Montalto for conducting the Change of Watch ceremony.

Before we transitioned to the new bridge, I present the following awards:

The RIDDELL AWARD awarded to the person who has made the greatest contribution to the Squadron was presented to P/C Frank Visich, S. Despite the Pandemic, Frank kept up our civic duty by coordinating the distributing of pie for the veteran during their holiday party and coordinating Patriot Day. Frank has also spent quite a bit of time on the marketed materials for boat shows and VSC.

The SMALL RIDDELL BOWL was presented to last year's recipient Stf/C James L. Heckman, SN.

The EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING award is given to the member in education who exemplifies the qualities of an excellent teacher. Jim Heckman awarded P/C Gary Armstrong SN, the Excellence in Teaching Award for his teaching during the America's Boating Course. Gary presented several excellent, well-prepared lec-

tures.

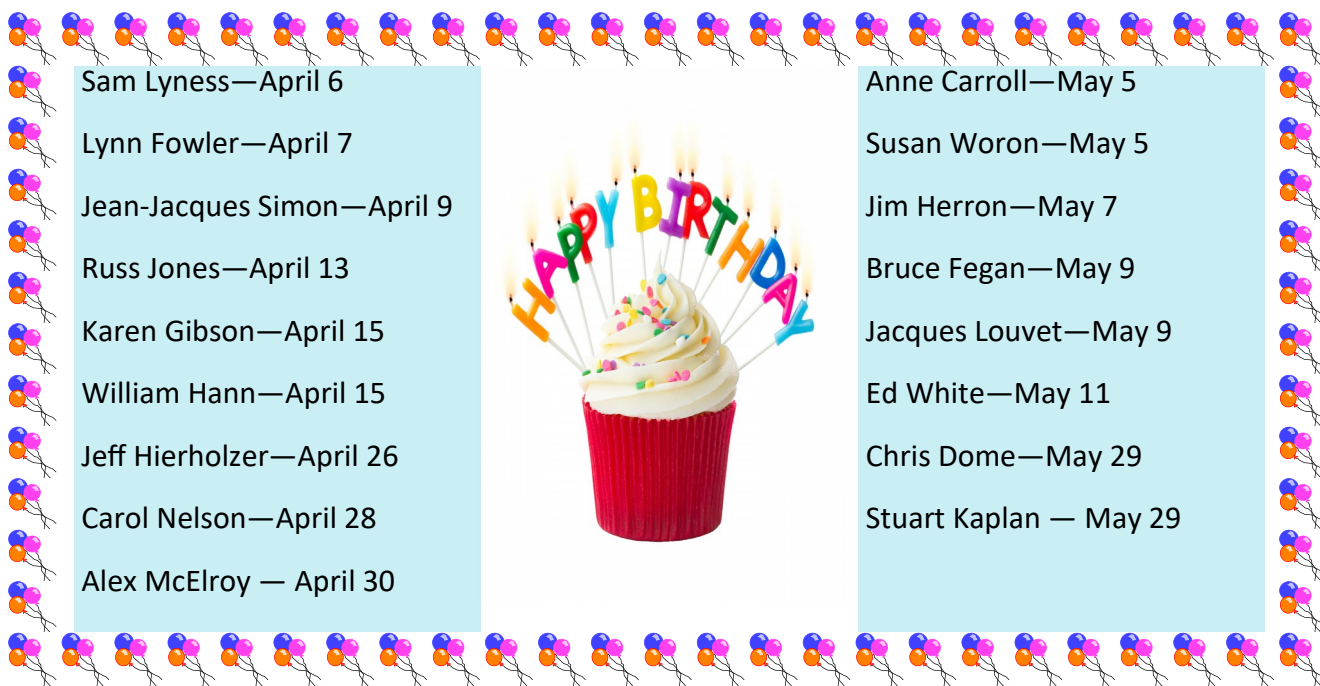
The SPENCER AWARD is given to the member of the Education Department who has made the greatest con-

tribution to the squadron. Jim Heckman awarded P/C Russ Jones, SN, for the Spencer Award. This is for is chairing and teaching the Piloting Course. In addition, Russ was extremely helpful to Jim in planning for the upcoming America's Boat Course to be held at Chester County Lifelong Learning (CCLLL).

THE FLORA A. PRICE AWARD is given to a member by the Sail club who has assisted in a significant manner in squadron activities. This award was presented to Lt/C Cindy Gorge, JN*. Although Cindy is not a Sailor, she spends a significant amount of her time in her role as secretary over the past 5 year.

The NEW MEMBER AWARD is presented to a new member, who has belonged to our squadron less than a year or so, has made the greatest contribution to the squadron. This award was presented to Rich McLaughlin. Rich is one of our newest members. He has recently started sharing many ideas and putting together plans to offer the education department. Rich helped with the Highway Marine boat show and D5 Spring Council.

The 110% AWARD is awarded to the person who has given 110% effort by contributing to not only the squadron but to District 5 and/or the National level of the USPS as well. This



(Continued from page 12) Past Commander

award was presented to P/C Susan Woron, P. Susan continues to conduct operations training, support the archives, and spent many hours on the nominating committee. Susan comes up with many suggestions and acts on them.

The PAST COMMANDER'S Award is presented to the member who has been active for less than five years and has not earned five merit marks has contributed a great deal to the squadron. This award was presented to Lt Chris Dome, SN. Chris is not a new member but has recently joined the Excom. Chris has been involved in the vessel safety exams for several years now. Chris shares ideas and concerns with the ExCom.

The Member Involvement Award presented to the person who has made the greatest contribution to the squadron promoting member involvement and activities. This award was presented to Lt Rita Rossi. In this very challenging year, Rita set up dinner meetings and picnics. These were the majority of our member gatherings.

I thank everyone who stayed involved in my past two years as a commander I look forward to being a Past Commander and supporting Commander Ginny Parry in the upcoming year.

Stay safe!

P/C Patty Pezely

Highway Marine Boat Show

ABCVF members spread the word about safe boating and our club at an informational table at Highway Marine boat sales near Quakertown in March.

Deciding to create the table meant deciding to update our website. It also meant creating and employing a QR code so people could click the code on their phones and connect to ABCValleyForge.org. and find our spring classes. Lance Parry, Frank Visich, and Joe Pezely worked with SEO Jim Heckman to make the plan work.



The white poster promotes our Vessel Safety Check program, while the blue one contains QR codes linking to our site, the National USPS site, and a selection of short videos on America's Boating Channel.

P/C Ed White hooked up his laptop to a monitor so folks could view the videos immediately, and talked them through the process of saving the links so they could watch the videos later.



Staffing the table were P/Cs Patty and Joe Pezely, Rich McLaughlin, Mike Gibson, Sam Lyness, P/C Lance Parry, Ginny Parry, P/C Chas Rossi and Rita Rossi, P/C Nick Montalto and Rosemary Montalto, P/Cs Wayne and Meridith Barrett, and two members of the Delhigh club,



Cdr Kathleen Nowroozani and Brent Rhoads.



Lance and Frank set up the table on Monday, March 7 with basic information and the posters. The additional members were there in person March 11-13.

We also held a drawing to offer a free ABC class at both clubs. Our winner was Stephen Hradnansky, who was visiting

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB VALLEY FORGE

April Dinner Meeting

Pepper's by Amedeo Restaurant and Bar



DATE: Thursday, April 21, 2022

COCKTAILS: 6:30 pm **DINNER:** 7:30 pm

PLACE: Pepper's by Amedeo Restaurant and Bar

ADDRESS: 239 Town Center Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406

COST: There will be a limited menu for you to pick from for your entree

RSVP: **BY April 15, 2022** To: Rita Rossi 610-533-0909 or rrossi2000@comcast.net

SPEAKER: Bill Bates, a 25 year veteran of the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays including ownership of a tug and barge operation, will talk about his experiences on the Bays

March 2022	
29	USPS Town Hall, 8-9 pm, via https://join.freeconferencecall.com/uspsabc
31-4/3	D/5 Spring Conference; meetings, ABCVF hospitality event 7-9 pm
April	
1-3	D/5 Spring Conference continues
6	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7:30 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom Here
21	Dinner Meeting, 6:30 pm, Peppers Restaurant, King of Prussia
May	
4	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7:30 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom Here
19	Pre-Cruise Dinner Meeting, Uno Pizzeria, 8 N Pottstown Pike, Exton
25	Delaware River Educational Cruise, 6:05pm from 401 North Delaware Avenue Philadelphia PA 19123. Details from Stephanie Ward at wardleap@comcast.net
June	
1	Hybrid ExCom Meeting, 7:30 pm, Paoli Presbyterian Church, and via Zoom Here
17-26	Annual Summer Cruise – several locations; come by boat or car
July	
	No ExCom meeting
August	
TBD	Commander's Picnic and ExCom meeting, details to come
September	
7	ExCom Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm
18-22	USPS Fall Governing Board – Raleigh, NC
TBD	Dinner or picnic
TBD	Veterans' Picnic, RSVP Frank Visich

October	
5	ExCom Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm
Early!	Submit all Merit Marks to Bill McManimen
20	Monthly Membership Meeting
November	
2	ExCom Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm
	No membership meeting
December	
7	ExCom Meeting, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, 7:30 pm
TBD	Holiday Party

Navigation Alert—Vessel Aground just outside the Craighill Channel at the mouth of the Patapsco River

The current position of **EVER FORWARD** is at US East Coast (coordinates 39.11099 N / 76.3919 W) reported 0 min ago by AIS. The vessel is en route to the port of **Norfolk, United States (USA)**, sailing at a speed of 0.1 knots and expected to arrive there on **Mar 17, 13:00**.

The vessel **EVER FORWARD** (IMO: 9850551, MMSI 477624800) is a Container Ship built in 2020 (2 years old) and currently sailing under the flag of **Hong Kong**.

POSITION & VOYAGE DATA




 Track on Map

 Add Photo

 Add to fleet

 **Norfolk, United States (USA)**

ETA: Mar 17, 13:00

Predicted ETA	-
Distance / Time	-
Course / Speed	5.5° / 0.1 kn
Current draught	13.0 m
Navigation Status	Aground
Position received	0 min ago 
IMO / MMSI	9850551 / 477624800
Callsign	VRTM7
Flag	Hong Kong
Length / Beam	334 / 48 m

 **Baltimore, USA, United States (USA)**
ATD: Mar 13, 22:33 UTC



The Pilot

April-May 2022



21 Ironwood Dr
Collegeville, PA 19426

First Class Mail

Return Service Requested



The Pilot

Editor: Gary Armstrong (garmstro55@gmail.com)



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The June-July Pilot Deadline is May 15th