

# United States Power Squadrons



Sail &  
Power  
Boating

*The Potomac*

# Ribber



America's  
Boating  
Club

Newsletter of the Potomac River Power Squadron, Washington, DC  
Established in 1915. A District 5 Unit of the United States Power Squadrons

## Commander's Report

By Jim Gorman, AP

Greetings,  
Boating season may be slowing down but life is busy, especially life at Potomac River Power Squadron. Check out the Squadron calendar and add the dates to your calendar so you can be a part of the action.

Nancy and I will be attending the D-5 Fall Education Conference in New Jersey on Friday 30 October thru 1 November. Even though we will be participating in the Friday night Halloween Party, the Saturday Night Banquet, and "helping out" at the District Commander's Hospitality Room, we still hope to be educated at one or more of the many seminars offered. I will give a report on the conference at our next All Hands Meeting. I will tell you all I remember.

Thanks go to P/C John Wilmot and Lt/C Justin Chambers for trying to put together the Bay Cruise and the River Cruise. Unfortunately, the weather gods were against us and we were blown out of the Bay Cruise and rained out of the River Cruise. But, being good USPS members, we learned something. We learned to plan cruises earlier in the year so if they must be cancelled we have time to reschedule.

Nancy and I are looking forward to heading down the Intracoastal Waterway with John and Betty Wilmot the first part of November. With the probability of freezing weather coming soon, I must winterize the top end of our boat, the Nansea Gale, and put a Coast Guard approved engine compartment heater in the engine room. This will leave open the possibility of a late fall cruise. Want to come? Give me a call.

I hope to see you at Potomac River's November Meeting on

We're on the Web  
[www.usps.org/localusps/potomac](http://www.usps.org/localusps/potomac)



## Commander's Report-Cont

November 2015

the 17<sup>th</sup> at Capital Yacht Club. We will have a special "Thanksgiving" dinner with pumpkin pie and whipped cream for dessert. Your cost for this upgrade dinner is only \$10.00. Following that, on 15 December we will celebrate our Annual Holiday Meeting which will be held at Fort McNair. Look for your special invitation coming soon.

I look forward to seeing you at these PRPS events. If you are not there, it will not be as much fun for the rest of us.  
Cdr Jim

**November Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 17th**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Capital Yacht Club**  
**660 Water Street, SW**  
**Washington, DC**



**Dinner Provided by Famous Dave's**  
**Thanksgiving Dinner**  
**\$10.00 a person**



## 2015-2016 PRPS BRIDGE

• Commander	Jim Gorman	240-308-0389
• Executive Officer	Scott McLellan	301-252-7220
• Education Officer	Howard Gasaway	202-583-7121
• Admin. Officer	Justin Chambers	919-602-7607
• Secretary	Janett Gasaway	202-583-7121
• Treasurer	Chris Pickwick	301-422-8388
• Asst. Secretary	Nancy Gorman	301-253-5050
• Asst. Treasurer	Lorraine Roberson	301-262-5609
• Asst. Admin. Officer	Edwin Gasaway	205-526-2428
• Ribber Editor	Nancy Gorman	301-325-9010

## Executive Officer's Report

**By Scott McLellan, P**

November marks the beginning of the Holiday Season. It is also that time of year where we recognize our fellow members with that coveted USPS award, the Merit Mark, and what better time, with Thanksgiving just around the corner!

More about Merit Marks in a bit. For now, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to those members who heading up one of the Executive Office Committees:

Meeting Programs: Lt. Travis Johnson, we appreciate your creative thinking and for scheduling some of the most original and interesting programs that our squadron has seen. I especially enjoyed October's presentation on shipwrecks on the Potomac.

Vessel Safety Checks: Lt. Cleveland Leggett, we are grateful for your efforts, one vessel at a time, toward safer boating and waters.

CCA (Chesapeake Cruisers Association) Liaison: Many of the CCA members are active members in our Squadron and P/C Chip Hoiler keeps us informed of their planned activities on our waters.

Of course, these are just a few of the many dedicated individuals who contribute and make our Squadron work. There are many others who help set up meetings, plan events and activities, or set up and teach Squadron educational offerings. We need to recognize all of these people, which is where the Merit Mark comes into play.

As the name implies a United States Power Squadron Merit Mark, is awarded for an individual's time and effort. What is unique about this award is that it is based on your recommendations submitted. Each Squadron compiles member recommendations, which are submitted to National by the Merit Marks Chairman. P/C Anthony Brown chairs this committee for Potomac River Power Squadron.

Please take the opportunity to write down the names of those individuals who you know have contributed to the Squadron this year. Include

## Executive Officer's Report—Cont.

their name, what they did and the time estimate the time that you think they put into the project. E-mail your list to P/C Brown, or better yet, bring it with you to the November meeting where I look forward to seeing you.

Yours in Boating,  
P/C Scott McLellan, P

## Administration Officer Report

**By Justin Chambers, S**

### **Tow, Tow, Tow your boat**

I'll start off by saying that I'm really bummed out that once again, the weather has not cooperated to allow us to commence with our last few planned PRPS cruises on the Bay and Potomac. We'll keep planning for future cruises, however. We may try for a post-New Year's dinner cruise on one of the Spirit/Odyssey boats. Stay tuned...

I thought for this submittal, I would briefly recount a recent nautical mission that I, along with fellow PRPS squadron members, Travis Johnson and Jess Dankert, as well as several friends and boat neighbors embarked on a few Saturdays ago. Our good friend Kate, who lives on a 42' houseboat whose engines are not currently operable, had a need to get her boat home to Ft. Washington Marina for a haul out. Most folks in her situation would probably look to a towing service but with all the boating resources at our disposal, we decided to take on the challenge!

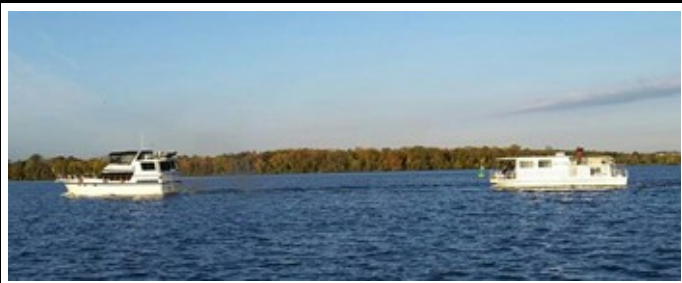
We settled on a plan that involved two tow boats – a smaller runabout for close-in maneuvering and Travis and Jess's motor yacht for the long-haul downriver. Well, the smallest runabout available at the time was about 30' LOA which was not exactly nimble when hip-tied to a 42' houseboat, but we made it work. We planned the details a few days ahead of time at which point we realized that we had a narrow weather window that Saturday morning to avoid an incoming cold front and the winds that come with it. To get a jump on the weather, we started just before dawn and put the plan in motion. About 4 hours later, we

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### Administration Officer Report—Cont.

put Kate's boat, This Side Up!, safely in the slip at Ft. Washington Marina! Thanks to good planning and lots of friends who were up to the task, everything went very well.

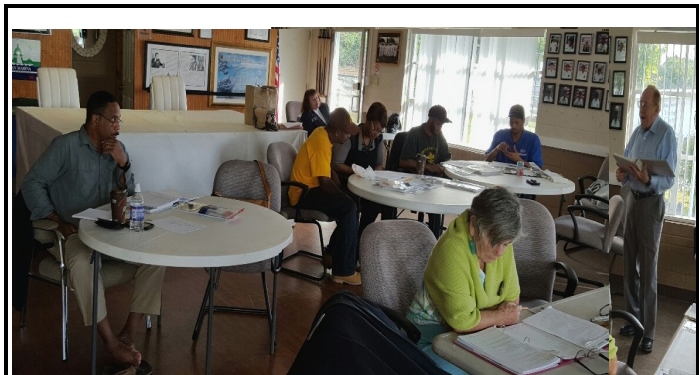
-Justin



These photos show Travis and Jess towing with their boat Grace O'Malley, and the hip-tie operation with yours truly piloting the run-about, made available by our friends Kelly and Tashia.



PRPS Classes being taught @ Capital Yacht Club.



PRPS P/C John Wilmot, JN teaching Piloting Course.

### Educational Department

By P/C Howard Gasaway, Sr., P

If you are not taking advantage of one of the elective courses like "Piloting" offered by our educational department, you are missing a great opportunity to expand your boating experience. Exams for the Piloting and the ABC courses are in progress.

Join me in extending a sincere appreciation to P/C John Wilmot, JN and P/C Christopher Pickwick, AP, Instructors for PRPS.

Additional courses are being offered by Potomac River Power Squadron: one will be the Seamanship Course (TBA). Several seminars will be offered during the winter months: Radio, Chart Reading, Radar and Engine Maintenance. Another ABC class will be given in February 2016. Check out our site for updates and notify me with your choices.



### Mark Your Calendars



Activities for All  
Come and Join Us and Invite a Friend

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Nov. 14   | Delhigh PS Navigation Contest<br>Allentown, Pa                    |
| Nov. 17   | PRPS Monthly Meeting<br>Thanksgiving Dinner<br>Capital Yacht Club |
| Dec. 15   | PRPS Holiday Meeting<br>Ft. McNair                                |
| Feb 14-21 | USPS Annual Meeting<br>Orlando, FL                                |



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## Safety Officer's Report

By Lt Eugene Roberson, Jr., S

A clean boat will weather the winter better than one left dirty, washing and waxing your boat for winter storage will Protect Your Investment. It will slow rusting on exposed metals, prevent clogged cockpit drains, and repel water and snow better. Shrink wrapping is an excellent way to maintain your investment for years to come.

If you own a sail boat the Mast should be removed every 5 years or so to inspect mast and rigging fittings that cannot be inspected with the Mast up. You have to check the Keel stepped and deck stepped Mast they can fill with rain water internally, which freezes over the winter and splits the mast. Chain plates or deck fittings that are or might be leaking should be repaired before the winter rain, snow, and arrive. These areas can cause further damage and freeze cracking decks.

## Merit Marks Report

By P/C Tony Brown, P

*We got your Merit Marks right here.*

You put in the time. Now it is time for your reward. Power Squadron members who give their time and effort are eligible to receive a highly coveted Merit Mark achievement. United States Power Squadrons permanently recognize Merit Marks, often by citing them in the formal title of each member. Example: Past Commander Edward Dillon, AP, 48 Merit Marks. Your status in the Power Squadrons rises with Merit Marks. Senior Members are those with five or more Merit Marks. Life Members are those with 25 or more Merit Marks.

Twenty-nine members contributed 1,382 volunteer hours to the boating civic community last year. Any amount of time, including commuting time, you contributed to the mission of boating safety, education and fun counts towards Merit Mark credit. Attending meetings does not count, but providing a *reason* to meet is vital. Here is an example:  
*"Served as the Flag Lt. He led the planning and did most of the arranging for the Flag Raising Ceremony. This included a raft-up. Additionally, he planned the squadron's Day on the Bay Cruise that included a D5 Party. 30 Hours."*

Squadron Commanders are required to submit Merit

## Merit Marks Report-Cont.

Mark reports to the National by mid-November. P/C Tony Brown is the Merit Mark captain this year. Send a paragraph of your work, with hours, directly to him, "disco kid," by email, to: [dyskokyd@yahoo.com](mailto:dyskokyd@yahoo.com). Please do so by 8 November to allow time to prepare the report for the commander. For questions email or call 301-467-6569.

Our speaker, Bethany Bezak showing reasons for Mallows Bay National Marine Sanctuary.



Cdr Jim Gorman presenting Bethany Bezak with a Certificate of Appreciation.



Our audience paying close attention in our comfortable meeting room.



## Should I have taken a USPS Navigation Course???



*"I think there's something wrong with our navigational system, because judging by the icebergs, I don't think we're in the Caribbean."*