

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

Ahoy Mates,

The cool weather is upon us and the winds are starting to have an edge. Where did our cruising weather go? PRPS's Day on the Bay Cruise was cancelled due to the threat of gusting winds, 20 plus MPH, and intermittent rain. Yes, we chickened out. We know HOW to dock in high winds, just don't WANT TO. But the worst thing about cancelling the cruise was not being with our friends who were planning to attend. I hope we can make this up with our River Cruise and our next All Hands Meeting. Look for details in this newsletter. The Power Squadron is about fraternity and boating safety through education. Both of these can be achieved by taking a course or seminar offered by our Squadron. Check out P/C Howard Gasaway's article on what is coming up and join us for the education and fun.

While the activities of PRPS are fun and informative, they happen only with planning and work by people who care about the success of the Squadron. I thank all who have been involved in this endeavor. The question for all members should not be "Are you on a committee?" The question should be "What committee are you on?" Those of you who are not on a committee, check your PRPS Yearbook and find a committee you are interested in and let the chairman know you want to help. Become a part of the engine that runs this organization.

We're on the Web
www.usps.org/localusps/potomac



October 2015

I encourage you to attend the D/5 Education Conference in New Jersey. Make new friends and meet old friends from around the District (Atlantic City to Virginia Beach to Smith Mountain Lake). This conference looks to be full of both education and fun.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Cdr Jim

October Meeting
Tuesday, October 20th
7:00 p.m.

Capital Yacht Club
660 Water Street, SW
Washington, DC

Our speaker will be Dr. Susan Langley
Maryland State Underwater Archaeologist
She will speak about Piracy on the Chesapeake.

Dinner Provided by Famous Dave's
We will continue to charge just \$5.00 a person.

2015-2016 PRPS BRIDGE

• Commander	Jim Gorman	240-308-0389
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Executive Officer's Report

By Scott McLellan, P

With fall now here, I have been trying to squeeze out those last few nice weekends before wrapping the boat up for the winter. I know that the winter is just a break in the cruising schedule; a time to plan and prepare for the next set of boating adventures when the long, warm days return, but occasionally I still find myself fighting a case of the "boater's blues".

If you too feel a case of "boater's blues" coming on, whether mild or severe, your Squadron has the cure, and the October calendar is filled with these "therapeutic activities"!

- There is no better cure for boater's blues than comradely, and there is no better place to find boater comradely than a PRPS monthly meeting. Lt. Travis Johnson has secured interesting and informative meeting programs for the months to come, so we look forward to seeing you at Capitol Yacht Club!
- Exercise will give you the strength to overcome boater's blues, and what better place to stretch your legs than the Annapolis boat shows on the weekends of the 11th and 17th. Both shows will be represented by Squadrons throughout the District.
- Maybe you just need to get away from it all. The District Fall Conference takes place in Cherry Hill, New Jersey from October 29 through November 1.
- Finally, Education is the key to preventing a relapse, so attend one of the Squadron's education offerings! P/C Gasaway has already scheduled a Piloting Course to hone your navigation skills.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the October meeting and encourage you make the most of your membership with Potomac River Power Squadron!

Yours in Boating,
P/C Scott McLellan, P

Administration Officer Report

By Justin Chambers, S

Greetings fellow PRPS friends and welcome to fall! I know a lot of you are winding down the cruising season and getting ready to de-commission your boats for winter but there are still at least a few good weeks of cruise-worthy weather yet! Speaking of, don't forget about our cruise on the Upper Potomac this Saturday, October 3. We'll leave from the marina at National Harbor at 1000 to see views of Old Town Alexandria and Washington DC from the water. If you'd like to join me on my boat, please send me a message at birddream9@gmail.com. Keep you fingers crossed for nice weather!

I wanted to take a moment to mention a great boater's resource that I've been taking advantage of for the last several years, called "Active Captain." It's a free, web-based application where boaters can share information like marina reviews and recent fuel prices, local knowledge, hazards that may not be current or noted on charts, and reviews of anchorages. On their website, this takes the form of an "Interactive Cruising Guidebook" where you can click on and expand representative icons, overlaid on an electronic chart, to learn about places you may (or may not) want to visit by boat. Since its crowd-sourced, this information is always up-to-date which can be very helpful, say, for example, in areas where shoals can move around. Its very well organized and if you sign up for an account, you can opt in for a weekly newsletter with recent updates. The newsletters also includes a link to a special sale at Defender that is exclusive to Active Captain users! In addition to their website, they have partnered with several mobile app developers, specializing in GPS chartplotting, to include Active Captain data in their app. Its definitely worth checking out. Here's their link <https://activecaptain.com/index.php>

Hopefully, some of you might find this as useful as I have. And, you can't beat the price!

-Justin

Educational Department

By P/C Howard Gasaway, Sr., P

Piloting—PRPS's first of our four fall and winter courses started on Saturday, September 26, 2015 at the Capital Yacht Club, 650 Water Street, SW, Washington, DC. Seven members will be taking the three sessions of eight hours. We are taking a new approach by shorting the time of the courses. P/C John Wilmot, JN is the instructor and assisting him is Cdr James Gorman, Jr., AP.

American Boating Course— will be offered in four sessions, two hour each: October 6,8,13, and 15 (6:30 pm-8:30 pm) at the Seafarers Yacht Club, 1950 M Street, SE, Washington, DC. The instructor will be P/C Christopher Pickwick, AP.

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. Check out our site for updates and notify me with your choices.

Safety Officer's Report

By Lt Eugene Roberson, Jr., S

Most boats in our area are winterized and laid up for the winter. There are four important parts on our marine engine that require maintenance. Ninety percent of boaters fail to maintain this equipment.

Flame Arrester—Clean it. If it is dirty then you will have poor engine performance and poor fuel economy results. Remember to check the flame arrester on your generator, if you have one.

Crank Case Ventilation Valve (PCV) - If it is dirty you will have poor idling and poor fuel economy results.

Zincs (anode) - There is one on the expansion tank (heat exchanger) and one on the oil cooler. If you have a generator on your boat, you will also have a zinc in your heat exchanger and some generators may have a PCV valve that should be cleaned or replaced.

Rubber Impellers—If the rubber impellers are allowed to stay in the raw water pump during the lay up period, they will become set and will not function properly in further use. It is recommended that the impellers be removed from the pump.

Always remember that your generator needs the same maintenance as your marine engine.



Annapolis Boat Shows

Come out and support our District @ the Power Squadron Booth. See you there.

Oct. 8 – 12 U.S. Sailboat Show

Oct. 15 – 18 U.S. Powerboat Show



Mark Your Calendars



Activities for All

Come and Join Us and Invite a Friend

Oct. 3 PRPS River Cruise

Oct. 1 – 4 Trawler Fest in Baltimore

Oct. 6, 8, 13, 15 American Boating Course

Oct. 8 – 12 U.S. Sailboat Show

Oct. 15 – 18 U.S. Powerboat Show

Oct. 20 PRPS Monthly Meeting

Oct. 30 – Nov. 1 D/5 Fall Conference

Nov. 17 PRPS Monthly Meeting

Dec. 15 PRPS Monthly Meeting



2015 D/5 Fall Conference

29 October through 1 November



Be prepared for a Spooktacular Fall Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cherry Hill, NJ. Absecon Island Power Squadron has a great event planned for you. District Education Officer Chuck Well, SN, has two days of seminars, some familiar and a lot new ones. See below for a list. Friday night brings the Halloween Costume Party with party snacks, non-stop music and prizes for Best Costume, Most Original, Best Couple and maybe a few surprises. For those non attending seminars and who want something to do, there is a special deal with the Adventure Aquarium and the Battleship New Jersey. You can visit both attractions for the low price of \$36.50. They are located in nearby Camden, NJ.

There will be a speaker, Dan Lieb, President of the New Jersey Historical Divers Association, Inc., for Saturday's luncheon who will speak about the Robert J. Walker ship sunk off the coast of New Jersey in 1860. Hopefully, you read the article that was published in the Fall issue of the Mark 5. While editing this article, it sparked my interest and I am certainly interested in learning more about this ship.

Saturday's dinner caps off the day with our ever so important Educational Awards. Many squadrons work hard and will deservedly reap the rewards of their hard work.

Sunday will bring the Fall Conference meeting where additional awards will be given out along with the usual District business.

Come on up to South Jersey, join us for the Fall Conference. We can't wait to see all of you
29 October through 1 November.



2015 Fall Educational Conference Schedule

DAY DATE TIMES SESSION TITLE

Thursday 10/29/2015

1400-1600 Registration/Raffle Sales
1400-1600 Conference Information

Friday 10/30/2015

0800-1600 Registration Desk/Raffle Sales
0800-1600 Secretaries Table
See Desk Boating Simulator Virtual Trainer Exhibit
New! 0900-1000 First Timers/New Members to Conf.
New! 1000-1145 IPAD Apps for Boaters
1200-1330 **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**
New! 1330-1430 Teaching Seminars
1430-1630 Instructor Recertification Seminar
New! 1430-1600 AIS Seminar
1630-1730 Jewish Services
1730-1900 **DINNER ON YOUR OWN**
1900-2200 Cash Bar
1900-2200 **Halloween Costume Party**

Saturday 10/31/2015

0800-1200 Registration Desk/Raffle Sales
0730-1200 Secretaries Table
1000-1700 Teaching Aids Exhibit
0800-0830 Fall Council Convenes - ALL HANDS
0830-1030 Education Department Update
1000-1200 Spouse Crafts and Social Time
New! 1030-1130 Marketing Your Courses
1145-1300 Cash Bar
1200-1315 **MEMBER'S LUNCHEON**
New! 1330-1430 Improving Squadron's Summer Cruise
1330-1430 Sea Scouts
1430-1530 Open Discussion on Education: Q&A
New! 1530-1630 Brainstorming: Teaching Aids
1630-1730 Catholic Services
1645-1745 Protestant Services
1730-1830 District Commanders Reception
1900-2200 Cash Bar
1900-2200 **Banquet and Awards Ceremony**

Sunday 11/1/2015

0900-1130 Fall Conference convenes - ALL HANDS
1130 Safe Trip Home