

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!

September is upon us so it is time to try to get in those weekend cruises we have been meaning to take and to start attending our monthly meetings. We are trying very hard to make the meetings even more enjoyable by stressing the social part of the meeting and downplaying the business part. We are also in the process of getting some very interesting speakers. So please try to attend. We miss you!

Keep your eye on our calendar for the latest in USPS courses and PRPS cruises. P/C Howard Gasaway is planning to offer some terrific classes for members and the public. We can all benefit from some higher boating education. Lt/C Justin Chambers is working on putting together some late Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay Cruises. These should be a lot of fun. If your boat is in the opposite body of water than the cruise, or if you are currently boatless, ask to ride on someone else's boat. I am sure you will be welcomed. The more the merrier – to a point of course.

Thanks go to P/C Tony Brown for arranging for a place to meet for the Executive Meeting in August. He found a very suitable place in a very short time.

It was nice to see so many of you at our picnic at Maryland Yacht Club. The food was good and the flare demo was very informative. It was exciting when the wind blew the orange flare smoke all over MYC's swimming pool! Orange does wash off doesn't it? After all had shot or burned their flares we went for a boat ride to Baltimore's Inner Harbor and then to Curtis Bay Coast Guard Station. When we returned to MYC many stayed for a delicious dinner at the Club. If you could not make it, we missed you and you missed a good one.

I hope to see you soon at the District 5 Sail Regatta and

September 2015

fishing tournament the weekend of September 12th. This year it will be held at the Maryland Yacht Club. See the D5 Website for details.

Smooth Sailing,
Cdr Jim



September Meeting
Tuesday, September 15th
7:00 p.m.

Capital Yacht Club
660 Water Street, SW
Washington, DC

(Formerly the Channel Inn.
Come to the back of this building.
Capital Yacht Club Entrance faces the water.)

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

Our speaker will be Bethany Bezak with DC Water & Sewer Authority speaking on the DC Water projects including Clean Rivers Project.

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

United States Power Squadrons - PRPS - The Ribber

Executive Officer's Report

By Scott McLellan, P

It's amazing how fast the summer slips by! It seems like just a blink of the eye, and July and August are gone. Since our last meeting, there has been a lot of on-the-water fun, starting with the Flag Raising and the H.A.P.P.Y. , several CCA events, PRPS Fun Day at Maryland Yacht Club, not to mention the D5 Summer Cruise and Rendezvous. Keeping true to our mission, I congratulate Commander Gorman for making it point to include a special emphasis on boating safety at each activity.

Those of you who have known me for a while know that my calendar revolves around boating season. I was a little down on my luck this season, and our boat was out of service through the D5 activities. I understand from Commander Gorman and Past Commander Wilmot that it was a fun-filled week. Missing the month of July, waiting for an injector pump could have been a real downer. Instead, I was reminded that while education and boater safety are our primary callings, Potomac River Power Squadron is a fraternal organization, and thanks to hospitality of my fellow members and friends, I was still able to enjoy comradery at the docks, as well as a couple of day trips! But more importantly, I was reminded that boating education is not limited to the classroom, and the fraternal aspect of our organization does more than fosters food and cocktail parties. It gives us the opportunity to share our experience, put our skills and knowledge into action and encourages us to learn from each other.

Fall brings a new perspective to our bay and rivers. Although the days may be shorter, the weather is fair and the leaves take on color. This is some of the best cruising of the year! It is also time to bring a new perspective with our Squadron. Meetings reconvene with programs and discussion, as fall educational offerings commence. This is the perfect time to invigorate your membership by attending our meetings, chairing a committing or taking part in educational programs!

Yours in Boating,
P/C Scott McLellan, P

Administration Officer Report

By Justin Chambers, S

Welcome back fellow Ribber Readers!

Hopefully everyone has enjoyed a lot of summer fun with friends and family – maybe even some time on the water. Special thanks to Commander Gorman and Nancy for a splendid cruise into Baltimore's Inner Harbor after a fun day of cooking out and a flare safety demonstration at

Maryland Yacht Club a few weeks ago on Aug. 1. It was a great way to spend a summer Saturday! And, even though Summer is winding down, we still have some fun events planned, including an upper Potomac cruise on October 3rd and a Bay cruise on September 27th. Be sure to join us at the September All-hands meeting on Tuesday, September 15th to get the latest news and catch up with friends after the summer break.

Here are a few other September events that might be of interest:

5-7 – Skipjack Race and Festival - Chance, Md.

<http://dealislandchancelionsclub.org/skipjack-festival/>

11-13-D5 Sail Regatta & Fall Festival

<https://www.uspsd5.org/events/2015/SailRegattaFlyer.pdf>

12 – National Capital Leukemia Cup Regatta – Alexandria, Va.

<http://www.leukemiacup.org/nca/>

14 – History Cruise: The Golden Age of Annapolis on the Schooner *Woodwind* – Annapolis

<http://www.schoonerwoodwind.com/public-sailing-cruises-annapolis-maryland/history-monday-sunset-sails/>

19 – Boatyard Beach Bash – Annapolis Maritime Museum, Annapolis

<http://www.amaritime.org/events/calendar/event/227-boatyard-beach-bash>

20 – Calvert County Watermen's Festival (docking competition!!) – Watermen's Wharf, Solomon's Md.

<http://www.calvertwatermen.org/events.htm>

26 – Run What You Brung Regatta – Mear's Point Marina, Kent Narrows, MD

<http://kentislandsailing.org/>

27—PRPS Bay Cruise—More details to follow

Justin

PRPS Cookout & Flare Demonstration



United States Power Squadrons - PRPS - The Ribber

Educational Department

By P/C Howard Gasaway, Sr., P

The Education Department has several advanced courses coming up this fall and winter. For those of you that just completed the Seamanship course this is the best time to jump on the Piloting course. This is scheduled to start on September 19, 2015 at the Capital Yacht Club, Washington, DC. (See P/C John Wilmot, JN's statement on this course.) This date may not fit some of you because of other activities on that same date. If you are interested in taking this Piloting course, we may be able to do a catch up date for you. Please notify me by September 1st. The cost for materials will be \$52.00 each.

American Boating Course will be offered in four sessions, two hours each: October 6, 8, 13, and 15 (6:30 pm - 8:30 pm) at the Seafarers Yacht Club, Washington, DC. If you know of someone who needs this course, please inform them with details.

Additional courses are being offered by Potomac River Power Squadron: Seamanship is scheduled start on November 7th at Fort Washington, MD (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.

The Piloting Course

By John Wilmot, JN

We were out on the Bay in our 29' Cabin Cruiser just enjoying the beautiful Sunday afternoon. But wait a minute, I just noticed that big black cloud forming behind us. Can we beat this storm to our dock? Now the wind is really starting to blow. Grab the chart and let's figure out where we are, so we can figure a course to the Marina. As we turned on the chart plotter, it came on twice, just enough to give us the Low Battery Message. Wow! What a tough spot to be in.

This sounds like a wild story, but it happens all the time. That is why I would urge all serious boater's to take the USPS Piloting Course. We will cover how to read a chart, how to plot a course, what to do in an emergency, and all the things you should know to keep you and your passengers safe.

We plan to start the Piloting Course on **Saturday, September 19 with a 9 am to 4 pm** work session. The last day of the course will be **Saturday Oct 24, from 9 am to 4 pm**, with two intermediate evening sessions,

time and place to be determined by the class. The first and the last classes will be held in the library at the Capital Yacht Club, 500 Water St, SW Washington, DC. If you are interested, call **Howard Gasaway, 202-583-7121**, so he can order a book for you. We will have great fun.



Safety Report

With all the accidents on the Chesapeake Bay this summer, we really need to convey the importance of Life Jackets. As a Captain, you need to find out who cannot swim and hand them a life jacket. They need to wear it or keep one close just in case things go bad. The U.S. Coast Guard's rule requires children under 13 on moving boats to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket that fits. These laws provide boaters with the minimum age that a child is required to wear a life jacket. It is still a parent's responsibility to decide if a child should wear a life jacket, even in situations where the law does not require it. When the waves and/or weather get bad, it's good to have your life jackets out and available to everyone to put on and wear. Life jackets save lives only when they are on the person who falls overboard. Wear one today.



Mark Your Calendars

Activities for All
Come and Join Us and Invite a Friend



Sept. 11 – 13	Sail Regatta & Fall Festival
Sept. 15	PRPS Monthly Meeting
Sept. 19	Piloting Course
Sept. 27	PRPS Bay Cruise
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. 7	Seamanship

United States Power Squadrons - PRPS - The Ribber

2015 D5 Southbound Cruise

By Betty Wilmot S

Fuzzy's Fantaseas became a reality on Friday, July 17th starting at Rock Hall. After Hours II, Bella Linda, Real Escape, Lady Jean, Nansea Gale, Reverie, and Westley Mae spent Friday and Saturday docked at the Sail Emporium Marina. It was great sampling tasty appetizers furnished by Fuzzy Jones and Andy Petruska on Friday and John and Kathy Nash, and Bernie and Kathy Karpers on Saturday night. We all look forward to the summer cruise and chatting with old friends, discussing boat engines, filters failures, electronics, and the good/bad things that happened on our boat since last year. On Friday and Saturday nights, we watched the beautiful setting sun on the Sunset Dock Deck.

On Sunday Lady J joined the group at Herrington South. Herrington Harbour South is BEAUTIFULLY landscaped, glowing with a rainbow of blooming flowers and crepe myrtle. In the midst of this beauty, they have a gazebo where weddings are held. There is also a nice sandy beach and you may rent paddle boards or kayaks--or, swim in the pool to cool off. Or you may want to belly up to the poolside bar. Restaurant and laundry are on site. As you have guessed, this is one of my favorite marinas. Warren Stevens and crew hosted Happy Hour on Real Escape. We were happy to escape out of the sun because Sunday was a HOT one.



Monday and Tuesday were spent at the Cambridge Yacht Club and Municipal Yacht Basin. Joining us there was Asclepius, Four Play, Grumpy Too, Lux, Rat Ark and Sans Souchi. Cambridge is such a charming historical town and we enjoyed a walking tour led by a very knowledgeable local guide. There are many restaurants and bars in town and we chose Snapper's Waterfront Cafe which offered great sea food. Tuesday was a very busy day. Our morning was spent touring a bay biology lab at the UM Center for Environmental Sciences. In the afternoon we toured Raurk Boat Works and Richardson Museum. We returned just in time to board the skipjack Nathan of Dorchester. The captain gave us a demonstration of oyster dredging--and yes, we did get a few.



Wednesday we stayed at Tilghman-on-the-Chesapeake Marina. This island is man-made and was formed by oyster shells which were discarded by the old Tilghman Packing Company. Nice pool and picnic area. Battlewagon joined us.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday were spent at Spring Cove Marina in the Solomons where we enjoyed absolutely beautiful weather. Joining us there were LaDolce Vita, My Sweet J, and Mystic Mood III. Thursday night our dock party was hosted by John and Betty Wilmot. We were entertained by Kathy Karper's kazoo group who performed a medley of songs and a Crazy Hat Contest. Nancy Gorman again was our "50/50 card dealer" and John and Kathy Nash won the pot. The Patuxent River



Power Squadron provided the group of about 70 with a delicious supper and thank you Bob and Jane Connelly for my birthday cake. Some of us toured Cove Point Lighthouse which was built in 1828 and is Maryland's oldest continuously operating lighthouse. At the same location is Calvert Marine Museum and many of us went on their guided tour.



Saturday was our flag raising ceremony followed by D5 meetings at the museum.

Unfortunately we did not have the navigational contest because we did not have enough participants. New technology seems to be competing with this traditional event. Saturday night we closed our summer cruise with dinner at the Holiday Inn Restaurant. What a wonderful summer cruise and beautiful weather. Thank you Bernie and Kathy for planning this wonderful summer cruise.



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