

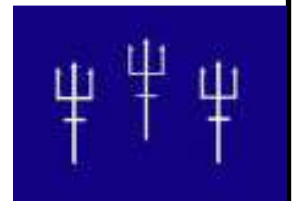
THE BALL



A PUBLICATION OF THE VERMILION SAIL & POWER SQUADRON



November, 2024
RICH BARZYK, SN
COMMANDER



Fellow squadron members,

Vermilion's monthly membership meeting was held October 17th, at Fort's Tavern in Wellington with 7 members in attendance. The Kastl's reported that they have submitted our grant request to the Wellington Eagles Aerie #2051 for 1 or 2 new lap tops to be used for our training program. We're awaiting their reply.

The bridge unanimously approved that we, Vermilion Sail & Power Squadron, OPT-IN to National's latest marketing & promotion initiative. This plan is to have Marine SEO, a private marketing & advertising firm, develop tools & strategy to increase USPS exposure & brand recognition. The goal is to increase membership! There isn't any cost or risk in our participation.

A side note on "increasing membership." Our Membership Chair, P/D/C Dave Bialorucki SN, reminds us that, "Increasing USPS membership is the responsibility of ALL of us." We are members of USPS because we believe in its mission, its purpose, which carries the inherent obligation to help promote membership. What are you doing to encourage membership? I intend to keep asking myself that question, from now on!

The November meeting will be at the Paper Moon Winery, in Vermilion, on the 21st. Look for details in this newsletter from Administrative Officer Mary Anne Kastl.

I'm pleased to report that after a robust discussion on this years Christmas Party in the Mill Hollow Carriage Barn, the bridge agreed to absorb the cost for ALL those attending. It's truly a beautiful location for a winter meeting, and hopefully this will encourage greater attendance. Specific details will soon be forthcoming.

"Lest we forget," November 11th. is Veterans Day. November 11th. 1918 is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars," so today Veterans Day is always observed on November 11th. regardless of the day of the week on which it falls. On Memorial Day we Honor the fallen veterans, and on Veterans Day we Honor our living veterans!

In closing, I, along with my wife Patti, welcome this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving. We trust you'll enjoy the warmth of family and friends as you savor your holiday feast.

Following seas always,
Rich



VERMILION BRIDGE

COMMANDER
 Cdr Rich Barzyk, SN
 130 East Street
 Wellington, OH 44090-1127
 440-289-5243
 morningstar7744@gmail.com

EDUCATION OFFICER
 P/D/C David Bialorucki, SN
 2548 W. 37th Street
 Lorain, Ohio 44053
 440-282-2282
 taxi60@hotmail.com

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 P/C Cathe Radabaugh, N
 73 King Street
 Oberlin, OH 44074
 440-223-8295
 ceradabaugh@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
 P/C Mary Anne Kastl, P
 1327 Narragansett Blvd
 Lorain, OH 44053-3414
 440-282-7023
 dakmak@roadrunner.com

SECRETARY / TREASURER
 P/C Ralph Schaefer, SN
 103 Haydens Arbor
 Elyria, Ohio 44035
 440-319-2341
 captralph555@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
 P/C Paul Hammel, S
 P/C Dave Kastl, P
 P/C Tim Smith, S

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
 P/C Kerry McCullough, AP
 P/C Tim Smith, S
 P/C Paul Hammel, S

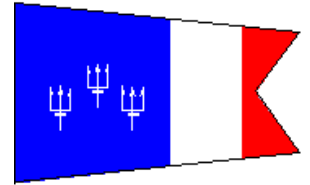
AUDIT CHAIR
 P/C Jean Verlotti, P

RULES CHAIR
 P/C Larry Barber, P

“America’s Boating Club is a nation-wide boating organization. We learn together, boat together, and help each other and other boaters on the water and on land. Our members learn boating skills, engage with boating friends, and connect with the boating community.”



P/C MARY ANNE KASTL, P Administrative Officer



Our October 17 meeting was moved to Fort's Tavern, Wellington. We so appreciate Wellington Eagles' support for our meetings and events, and we will use them in the future when dinner items are available.

November 21 meeting will be at Paper Moon Winery, 2008 State Road (Route 60), Vermilion at 5:30. They serve nice sandwiches/paninis and salads.

December 19, again we meet at the Carriage Barn, Mill Hollow at 5:30 for a catered dinner, optional gift exchange and fun holiday shenanigans (and I already have RSVP's!!)

January 16, 2025 we will meet in the front, private room at Martino's Intl. Café, 4415 Liberty Ave, Vermilion, 5:30 - 7:30.

February 20, 2025 is Save our Sweethearts meeting with annual voting taking place. Meet at 5:30 PM at Cathe Radabaugh's home, 73 King Street, Oberlin.

March 20, 2025 meeting starting at 5:30 will also be at Cathe's home.

NOTE FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 2025 MEETINGS: There will also be a Zoom/Webex meeting or conference call available to all those who are unable to attend the in-person meetings. A link to access the meetings or conference call instructions will be sent a few days prior the meeting. A formal Change of Watch (April 17, 2025) invitation will be sent, and details of the May 2025 meeting will be announced.

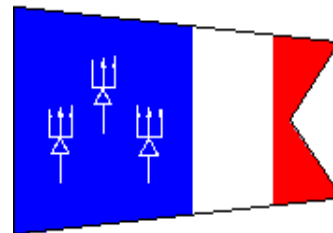
- Please note: I need your reservation 5 days before all the stated meetings. 😊
- Bring a guest with you to the meetings – we would love to share our friendship and boating knowledge with them and interest them in joining VSPS (no pressure of course).
- If you would like a speaker or activity at the meeting, let me know and I will set it up.
- If you want to share a recent trip or adventure, we would love to hear about it.

Respectfully submitted,
P/C Mary Anne Kastl, P
Administrative Officer





P/D/C DAVID A. BIALORUCKI, SN
SEO and Membership Chair



SEO REPORT

No classes are scheduled at this time. We are looking to hold classes in February after the Cleveland Boat Show.

If you have a class that you would like to take, call me at 440 282 2282.

See you at the meeting at Paper Moon this month.

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone: and I hope you have a great Holiday. No birthdays to report for November.

Hopefully we will get an update from the D7 Conference at the November meeting. I was unable to attend since I attended the National Canadian Change of Watch. We had a nice time, weather was warm with a little rain. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

.... More from Cdr Barzyk....

District7 Fall Conference Report

The District7 Fall Conference was held on October 26th in Talmadge, Ohio, where Cathe & I attended the day long event. I've gathered several notes of interest to share with you.

About 60 members of our 10 squadrons showed up. The conference was devoted primarily to education and what District and National are doing for us, along these lines. National is going through 'growing pains,' as it converts its software programs, and ask for patience as they work out the "glitches." The same message applies to the new iMIS system, which is the new membership-based system designed to help members manage their own personal account within National.

A lively presentation by Port of Cleveland, US Customs & Border Patrol Officer, Tim Bishop, whose presentation on boarder activities rivalled any FBI stories for drama.

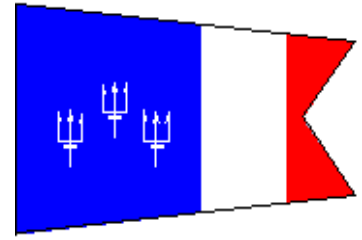
The Spring District7 Conference/Change-of-Watch will be on March 28th-30th, 2025 in North Akron.

And saving the best for last; I had the honour of accepting, on behalf of Vermilion Sail & Power Squadron, the Jack T. Rehberg Memorial Trophy for Advanced Grades, for 2024. This award is for the squadron with the highest percentage of membership, completing advanced grades based on National membership records. The percentage is calculated from the total number of advanced grades courses completed divided by the total number of members in the squadron. Vermilion may be small in numbers but we're sizeable in success!

Congratulations Vermilion!



P/C CATHE RADABAUGH, N
Executive Officer



Our District 7 Fall Conference was held on October 26, on a gorgeous don't-wanna-be-indoors day. It's a good thing the presentations were interesting. As Rich mentioned in his report, the Customs and Border Patrol officer was a great speaker, and had many stories to tell. He also mentioned an app call CBP ROAM, which small vessel travelers can use to report their US entry. Much better than those old video phones (even he didn't like those old things).

District Commander Joe Jonhenry announced the location and dates for the Spring 2025 Conference. It will be held at the Quality Inn at Richfield, where I-77 and I-80 meet. The dates are March 28 thru 30.

The theme of the conference was ABC's education programs, with rewrites of some of the standard courses coming out soon.

And a secondary theme was the aging computer systems used at National. Examgen is an old system that handles grading of the advanced courses. It runs on obsolete hardware and software, and will soon be replaced. Much was said by many about the new Membership system, iMIS. So many people are very frustrated with it since the transition to iMIS in July. At present, District officers can't see membership data across the district; the reporting only works (for now) at the squadron level. And those members who have paid membership dues recently are recorded properly, but the share of those dues that go to the squadrons and the districts have not been reported out, nor has the money been handed over. You can well imagine there was a lot of grumbling. So, it might be worth your while to check in as an individual to review your own membership record. That portion does work, and you can edit your own data, such as an address or phone number. I do encourage all to test it out, to be sure it's accurate.

Those of us who have had Instructor training will remember Susan Harris, who has been conducting that training for several years now. She was awarded the District Education Officer's Trophy for her work.

We were reminded of one of the invaluable services provided by our clubs—the Vessel Safety Checks. It's volunteer work, done for free. Our District regularly conducts more than a thousand every year. And you'd be right to think that Dave Bialorucki is a big part of that. I think he performs more than a 100 each year. Hats off to Dave!

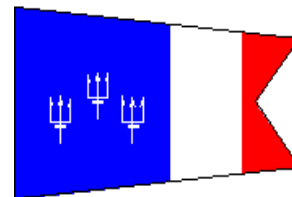
Hope you got to see some Trick or Treaters last week, and don't have too much leftover candy (like me). See you at Paper Moon on the 21st, and do let Mary Anne know you're coming.

Cathe





P/C RALPH SCHAEFER, SN
Secretary/Treasurer



My situation is I'm having my aorta valve replaced on October 28th. One day overnight and back home. Please wish me luck that all goes well. I'm hoping this is my last big medical issue and I can get back to rehab for my leg.

from P.C. Ralph Schaefer S.N.

ADD YOUR NAME TO THIS PAGE & HELP SUPPORT YOUR SQUADRON.

VSPS PATRONS—2024

Dave Bialorucki
Paul Hammel
Cathe Radabaugh
Bev Sams
Brian Sams
Ralph & Barb Schaefer
Tim Smith

Patron ads are \$10 per year. Sponsor ads are \$30 per year. Please contact P/C Ralph Schaefer, SN to add your name or business card.





America's Boating Channel™ Warns of Electric Shock Drowning

Electric Shock Drowning (ESD) is a little-known and often-unidentified killer, severely injuring and killing people every year. It occurs when faulty wiring sends electric current into water, which passes through the body and

causes muscle paralysis that can result in drowning.

Faulty wiring or the use of damaged electrical cords and other devices on docks and boats can cause the surrounding water to become "energized," with no visible warning. Avoid getting in the water within 150 feet of where AC power is in use and learn how to test if dangerous electrical currents are in the water around your boat.

To help boaters understand the danger of Electric Shock Drowning (ESD), Season Four of America's Boating Channel offers the video "[Electric Shock Drowning \(ESD\)](#)." The video shows how ESD causes deaths and injuries at marinas nationwide, including many undetected incidents. Viewers also will learn about ESD prevention and how to install ground protection on docks and boats. Also featured are differences between ESD dangers in saltwater and freshwater.



Follow the above link or visit <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel> to find these and other safe boating videos, which are an excellent tool to help recruit participants to our educational program and to membership. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like and subscribe to America's Boating Channel to introduce them to what our organization has to offer.

In addition to YouTube, these professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos are available via the America's Boating Channel free, on-demand app on Apple TV, Roku or FireTV. [America's Boating Channel](#)™ is produced by the United States Power

Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

You can find a variety of boating videos at americasboatingchannel.com. You might want to look up some boating fail videos this winter while dreaming about the next boating season.

**VERMILION SAIL & POWER SQUADRON
DISTRICT 7
P/C Ralph Schaefer, SN
103 Haydens Arbor
Elyria, Ohio 44035**



FIRST CLASS MAIL

**Vermilion Sail and Power Squadron
November Membership Meeting
Thursday, 21 November, 2024 — 1730**

**Location:
Paper Moon Winery
2008 State Road (St Rt 60)
Vermilion, OH**

**RSVP: Mary Anne Kastl
dakmak@roadrunner.com
or text 440-724-9511**