

# TRUE READINGS

NOVEMBER

Patuxent River Sail and Power Squadron  
*A Unit of District 5 of United States Power Squadrons®*

2009

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### Next Meeting

Vessel safety and tips from  
 St. Inigoes Coast Guard Station  
 Representatives

Thursday, 12 November 2009  
 Dinner at 1730 (5:30 pm)  
 Program at 1900 (7:00 pm)

The Mixing Bowl  
 Lexington Park, MD

## Patuxent Pride 'I'll Do It!'

Cdr Ken Perigo, JN

"Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid...." Oh! Excuse me, wrong speech. But while we are talking about aid, I would



like to point to the United States Power Squadrons® Triangle. The three sides are Self Education, Civic Service, and Fraternal Boating Club. The left side, "Self Education," is in the capable hands of our Educational

Department, with superb instructors, including two "Charles F. Chapman Award for Excellence



in Teaching" winning instructors. The bottom of the triangle is "Fraternal Boating Club," which we do extremely well. Patuxent River is known District-wide for our Picnics. We do know how to have a good time. Finally, is the right side, "Civic Service." The one thing that everyone thinks about is the Public Boating Classes. This is only one of the many programs we are involved with. A few of the others are the Hollywood Boat Show, the Leonardtown Maritime Festival,

TrawlerFest, and Patuxent River Appreciation Days. The importance of these events is to bring awareness to the public on the necessity of safer boating through education. Think about it for a minute: the greater the number of Educated Boaters means the fewer Uneducated Boaters. This doesn't just magically happen; it takes time and effort from squadron members to help work the tables at these events. There are a few members who are always there to help out, but what about the others?

I consider myself fortunate to be the Commander of Patuxent River Sail and Power Squadron, one of the Premier Squadrons in USPS®, and to serve the Membership in any way I can, but, my bridge and I could sure use some help at times. We include the events in our *True Readings* articles and send our e-mail reminders asking for individuals to volunteer their time, not a great deal of time, just three or four hours. The response has become less and less. So, please, when a call comes for assistance at one of our exterior events, let's reply with an "I'll do it"!



Lt/C Laura Magdeburger, AP (in green) and Lt/C Wendy Headrick, AP, (in red) take the oars of a shallop during the Patuxent River Appreciation Days festival, held in Solomons at the Calvert Marine Museum 10-11 October.

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# Executive Officer's Report: 'An Honor to Serve These Fine Americans'

Lt/C Randy Headrick, AP

Where did the summer go? In fact, where has the year gone? Seems like we just got the season started and now it looks like it's over for another year. We had a great year; lots of on and off the water events, and finally this year the Headrick/Burris clan got to participate in many of the trips and raft ups.



October saw the TrawlerFest come to town, lots of beautiful trawlers, and also several very good seminars. It was a good festival and we had the District trailer there to show off the squadron and District.

Also in October was the Patuxent River Appreciation Days (PRAD) festival and it was bigger and better than ever. Cdr Ken Perigo, JN, held down the fort on Saturday (thank you Commander) and the weather was pretty marginal, but it cleared up nicely on Sunday and several squadron members came out to help staff the table. We had a great spot on Sunday and talked to a lot of folks about boats and the squadron, and gave away a LOT of USPS®-branded goodies. We also handed out several of our PRAD bags to those people who had a boat. All in all it was a very good outing and I appreciate Lt Larry Whitbeck, JN; Lt Debra Hughes, AP; P/C Don Kilpatrick, SN; and Lt/C Wendy Headrick, AP, for their willingness to come out and help. This was a very good venue to show the public who we are and what we do. Special thanks to Lt/C Laura Magdeburger, AP, for helping get us moved outside and getting us set up on a great spot.

The Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron (NVSPS) asked for our help in hosting a cruise in support of the Wounded Warrior Project. It turned out to be the same weekend as PRAD, so we divided up our available manpower and made both projects successful. *RDREAM* with Jim Brueggemann, JN; Wendy Headrick and Lt Dave Williams, P, aboard was our squadron's representative boat, along with several NVSPS member boats, all of whom participated in taking several Wounded Warriors out for a cruise and lunch. *True Readings* Editor, Debra Hughes, is writing an article on the Wounded Warrior cruise for this issue (see below) so I won't duplicate it here, but I will say that it was one of the most important and rewarding public service events I have ever participated in. Our guests were all Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and had some very interesting stories to tell. It was an honor to serve these fine Americans and give them a day out of the hospital, and hopefully we will be able to do it again next summer.

Remember, the D/5 Fall Conference is coming up 6-8 November at the Rockville Hilton. You can get more information and register for this great educational event at

## Wounded Warrior Project

Lt Debra Hughes, AP

The weather on Saturday, 20 October, was overcast and threatening to rain as P/C Keith Segerson, P, of the Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron (NVSPS) left his slip at Calvert Marina in his powerboat, *SERENITY*, with a crew of three: his son, Mitch; Peter Hughes, JN; and me.

After a brief voyage across the Patuxent River, we met other members of the NVSPS on their boats at the West Basin who were participating in the cruise for the Wounded Warriors that day, as well as Lt/C Randy Headrick, AP, of our squadron, and his crew on *RDREAM*.

Cdr Francis Williamson, AP; Lt/C George Nartissov, P; and other members of the NVSPS began plans for the cruise in January 2009. As Randy mentioned, all of our guests are "Wounded Warriors," men and women who had served in Iraq and Afghanistan and are currently undergoing treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. They boarded a bus at 0800 for the trip to the Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

Our 18 guests were assigned to either a powerboat or a sailboat based on preferences (and physical limitations). We were honored to share the day with Matt, a 22-year-

*Continued on page 3*



### TRUE READINGS

The monthly newsletter of the Patuxent River Sail and Power Squadron, A Unit of District 5 of United States Power Squadrons®

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Send all articles, ideas, and comments to dah@dahughes.com

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# Administrative Officer's Report: Don't Forget to RSVP for the Fish Fry!

Lt/C Laura Magdeburger, AP

Our 12 November dinner meeting will be held at the Mixing Bowl in Lexington Park. Dinner is between 5:30 and 7:00 pm and the meeting starts promptly at 7:00 pm (1900). Our speakers for this meeting will be Coast Guard Representatives Master Chief Daniel Kilbourne and BM2 Rudnickas of the St. Inigoes Coast Guard Station. They will talk about the Mission of the USCG, with special emphasis on



the local station here at St Inigoes. They will also discuss vessel safety and tips when being boarded.

For our October dinner meeting, Dr. Kent Mountford, an ecologist, Chesapeake historian, and licensed Captain, spoke about his travels aboard the five-masted full-rigged ship, *ROYAL CLIPPER*. Mountford navigated using replica instruments from the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries (although electronic instruments were also aboard). He attempted to reckon position with relatively crude instruments on a rolling deck from Lisbon to Barbados.

old from Connecticut, and his mother. Matt had just completed a year of treatment for his injuries resulting from driving over an explosive device in his Humvee 60 miles south of Baghdad. After numerous surgeries to repair his extensively damaged right arm and leg, his mother told me he would need at least another year at the hospital for additional surgeries and therapy that would allow him to regain as much use of his right hand as possible and to continue to re-fashion his missing elbow.

A day on the water was a welcome respite from structured days of hospitals appointments and therapy; a word heard often that day was "relaxing."

The national Wounded Warriors Project ([www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org)) is a nonprofit organization created by wounded warriors for other wounded warriors that provides programs and services to severely injured service members during the time between active duty and transition to civilian life.

Plans are underway for another Wounded Warriors cruise next year. I would like to thank Keith for inviting me and Peter along. As the daughter of an Air Force flight nurse who served our country in Vietnam (and in the Army in Germany during the Korean War), I couldn't be prouder of our military servicemen and women. Special thanks to the Commander of Patuxent River Naval Air Station, who provided lunch and dinner for all.

It was a very interesting talk and he brought along the instruments he used to navigate to show everyone.

Our next BIG event is our Annual Fish Fry at the F.O.P. Lodge #7 on Chancellors Run Road, just off Great Mills Road, 14 November at 1300 (1:00 pm). P/C Hal Willard, SN, and Leahrae Willard will be frying up their world-famous catfish and hush puppies. There will also be coleslaw, potato salad, hot dogs, chips, and dessert along with sodas, beer and wine. The fee will be \$10.00.

I NEED AN RSVP FROM EVERYONE ASAP SO HAL KNOWS HOW MUCH FISH AND HUSH PUPPIES TO GET.

Please Do Not wait until the last minute to RSVP... We need a good head count so we don't run out of the World Famous Fish and Hush puppies!!!

RSVP Laura Magdeburger at [lauramaggie@comcast.net](mailto:lauramaggie@comcast.net) or call me at 410-326-4222.

See you there!!!



NVSPS Cdr Francis Williamson, AP, and his crew was one of several squadron boats participating in the Wounded Warriors cruise.



*RDREAM* leaving the West Basin with crew and Wounded Warriors from the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

# Cooperative Charting: Depths Confirmed of Popular Mill Creek Anchorage

P/C Dan Patke, SN

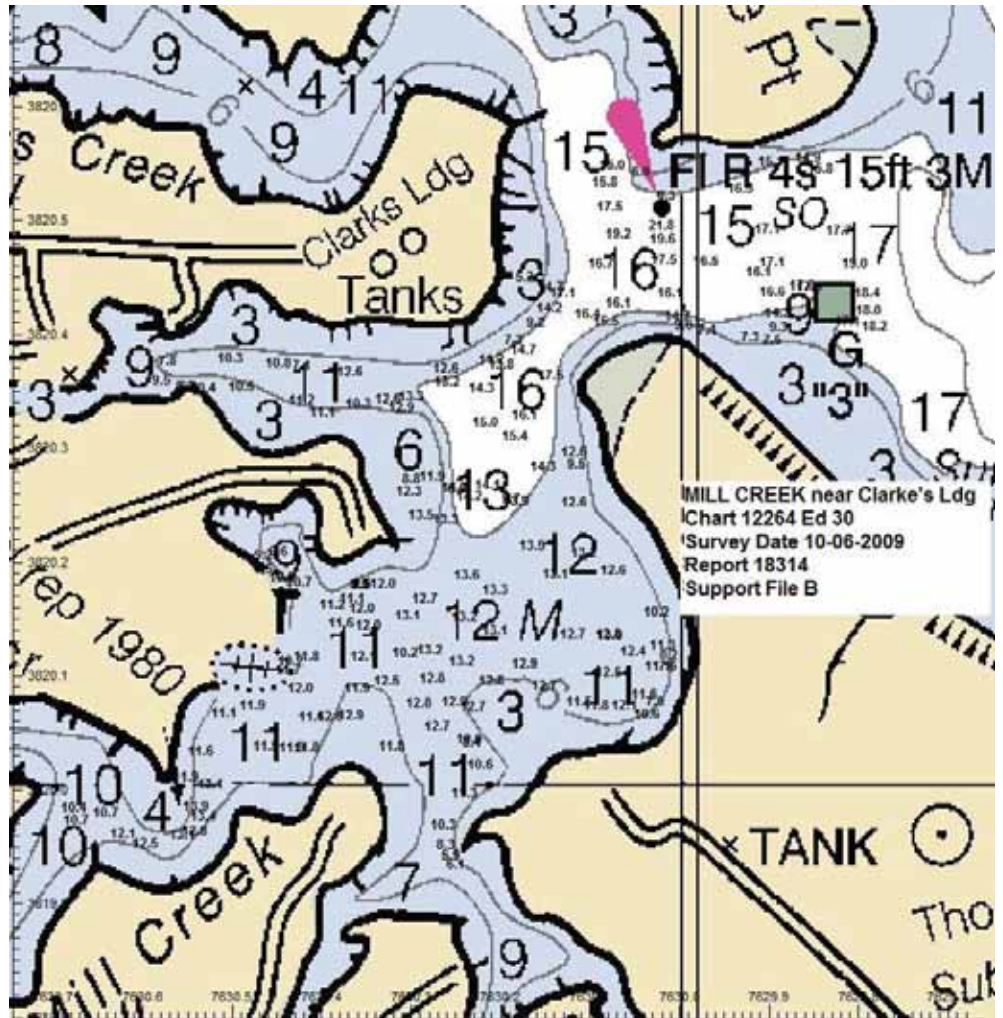
We completed two Cooperative Charting Depth Surveys this October. On 6 October, four squadron members onboard *PHANTOM MOON* surveyed the popular anchorage in Mill Creek near Clarke's Landing. On 21 October, *RDREAM* completed a re-survey of some relatively deep areas near the West Basin to look for some possible shallowing in the area. The latter outing was a first in my Cooperative Charting experience in that we completed the run in the dark. This is a dedicated crew.

The weather could not have been better for the Mill Creek survey. Please note that the day was chosen by P/C Dan Patke, SN. Calm and warm, with almost no other boat traffic. The picture (at right) is what was sent to NOAA for their consideration, but it shows what we knew already, this is a marvelous place to anchor. Perhaps the most surprising to me was how close to shore the 12 foot depth holds. We were usually well past the 6-foot contour line on the chart plotter before the depth came down.

Lt/C Abdel Ismael, AP (right in photo), was at the helm for this trip, and his crew included Cdr Ken Perigo, JN; P/C Dan Patke, SN; and Lt Pacita Ismael, AP (left in photo). While we were pleasantly surprised as a whole about the depth findings, it is not prudent to assume this holds throughout the basin. Abdel knows this to be true absolutely. I'll leave it at that.

Our previous survey near the Naval Base's West Basin turned up some areas that might be shallower than indicated on the charts. Even though these were in 45 to 70 feet of water, our National representative asked that we re-survey a few spots. This was accomplished aboard *RDREAM* on 21 October. I don't have the final data computed yet, but a preliminary look indicates our vessels will be safe in these waters.

Lt/C Randy Headrick, AP, was at the helm for this trip, and the crew was Lt/C Wendy Headrick, AP, and Dan Patke.



Some technical difficulties were overcome to capture the data for this event, and we did not think about taking pictures. The evening outing was certainly worth the effort.

There may still be time to complete another depth survey or two if the weather cooperates. We will keep our eyes out for an opportunity.

# Educational Officer: Take a Course or Teach a Course

Lt/C Steve Speer, JN, SEO

A busy fall training schedule is underway, with many of you taking multiple classes. And we've got one more class scheduled prior to the holiday season. Here is a recap (and you can look ahead and see what we have coming up on the PRSPS web site) on what we're offering:



- ABC3 has been completed and hopefully some of those students will partake in Seamanship, to be offered the week of 12 November (time and place still being scheduled). This is a great entry course so for our newer members, this one is a great start on your learning curve.
- Navigation is plotting along (no pun) with P/Lt/C Bob Stammerjohn, SN, at the helm and six students. If we maintain course and direction, we'll finish up about mid January.
- Marine Communications with 17 students with P/C Kip Hine, AP, at the helm as instructor is on track to also finish up immediately after the holidays. There is a lot to this new course.
- Advanced Piloting has three students with P/C Pat Farrar, AP, at the wheel. They will definitely finish up in the New Year.
- Engine Maintenance has just kicked off and Jim Reardon, P, is leading his first class (great background in all things mechanical). Four students are taking part and sharing experiences and tips on boat maintenance. This also is a newly updated course.

Lt April Majni, P, our Assistant Squadron Educational Officer (SEO), and I, handed out a "fun quiz" last meeting on some Rules of the Road. We're a learning organization and all of us get rusty on the rules. So we plan to continue it at our meetings. I noted several of our members asking each other questions. Good. That was the intent.

We have our District meeting coming up, with a special emphasis on Education. The meeting is open to all and is close by in Rockville. I encourage our instructors to attend. It is always a learning experience.

Finally, Instructor Development, Partners at the Helm, Vessel Safety Examiner Training (a reminder that our local Coast Guard will be our featured speakers this coming month and this is a good time to ask them questions as well), and a seminar schedule will all be offered just after the new year starts. This is in addition to our ABC3 course

in February. Come on out and look into either teaching a course or taking one. We need your help. And it is fun as well.  
Happy Thanksgiving.

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## USPS® Boat Operators Certification Program

### Background and Overview

With the Boat Operator's Certification Program, USPS will certify USPS members at various levels of recreational boating proficiency. We expect that these certifications will be recognized across the boating community, both domestically and internationally. In the United States, The United States Coast Guard (USCG) has asked congress to authorize the Transportation Secretary to establish requirements for standards of proficiency for recreational boaters. We intend to have USPS certification accepted as the above proof and be accepted as the national certificate for the USA.

Regarding international recognition, we plan to have *certain* USPS certifications meet or exceed the requirements of UN Resolution 40, *International Certificate for the Operation of Pleasure Craft*. Under this resolution, boaters holding national certificates will be able to obtain international certification, much like licensed drivers can obtain international drivers licenses.

USPS currently plans four levels of Boat Operator Certification:

- Inland Navigator
- Coastal Navigator
- Advanced Coastal Navigator
- Offshore Navigator

### Passports

Members pursuing certification will have a "BOC Passport" to record their progress. Passports will be issued to SEOs soon. These will be signed by certifiers and instructors. For courses, seminars and skill demonstrations completed before the issuing of the passport, the SEO or certifier can sign the appropriate spaces based on national or squadron records. It is important for the member to keep a passport and for squadron certifiers to keep back-up records of these events.

For more information, visit the home page for the source of this article, <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/boc/main.htm>, or speak with SEO Steve Speer or Assistant SEO April Majni.



# WIN!

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yourself and  
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## *Win Valuable Prizes!*

Take and complete a USPS Course  
between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010!

*United States Power Squadron members can take any one or more of the following courses between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010 to be eligible for the following prizes:*

<b>Seamanship:</b>	<b>WIN A HANDHELD VHF RADIO</b>
<b>Piloting:</b>	<b>WIN A HANDHELD GPS</b>
<b>Advanced Piloting:</b>	<b>WIN A SET OF NAVIGATIONAL SOFTWARE</b>
<b>JN:</b>	<b>WIN A CHARTPLOTTER</b>
<b>Weather:</b>	<b>WIN A BAROMETER</b>
<b>Marine Electrical Systems:</b>	<b>WIN A MULTIMETER</b>
<b>Engine Maintenance:</b>	<b>WIN A MULTIMETER</b>

*To enter the drawing, all you need to do is the following:*

1. Take and complete the qualifying course or courses between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010
2. Successfully pass the examination before June 30, 2010
3. You will be automatically entered in the drawing

*The Available Prizes:*

- |                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. For Seamanship                | (3) Handheld VHF Radios           |
| 2. For Piloting                  | (3) Handheld GPS                  |
| 3. For Advanced Piloting         | (3) Sets of Navigational Software |
| 4. For JN                        | (1) Chart Plotter                 |
| 5. For Weather                   | (3) Barometers                    |
| 6. For Marine Electrical Systems | (3) Multimeters                   |
| 7. For Engine Maintenance        | (3) Multimeters                   |

*The winner's names will be drawn at the 2010 Governing Board held in Seattle from August 30th through September 4th, 2010.*

## News & Notes

### Squadron Sell/Swap/Giveaway to Begin

The Patuxent River Sail and Power Squadron would like to announce that beginning in the next issue of *True Readings* (December 2009), any member who wishes to sell, swap, or give away a boating-related item can list it free-of-charge on a first-come, space-available basis. Please send all listings to Debra Hughes (dah@dahughes.com) no later than Wednesday, November 25, 2009, to be included in the next issue.

### Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI)

Modern marine radios now feature Digital Selective Calling (DSC) for routine operations and for automated distress hailing. These features can only be used if your radio is programmed with a unique code called a Maritime Mobile Service Identity, or MMSI. The United States Power Squadrons is authorized by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the US Coast Guard to issue MMSIs to US flagged vessels not subject to Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention requirements. This includes almost all recreational boats. (Source: [www.usps.org/php/mmsi/home.php](http://www.usps.org/php/mmsi/home.php))

Patuxent River Sail and Power Squadron has obtained a group MMSI number. If you do not yet have a MMSI number, contact Wayne Rogers, JN, for the group number. There is no fee to obtain a MMSI; the number issued will be unique to your boat and must be programmed into all equipment capable of transmitting and receiving digital signals.

If you already have a MMSI number, send it to Debra Hughes (dah@dahughes.com) and she will include in an existing directory of MMSI numbers and publish it in an upcoming issue of *True Readings*. If you had an occasion to use your MMSI number this past boating season and would like to share your thoughts about its utility for those who may not yet have one, send an e-mail to Debra.

### Volunteers Needed for National Boy Scouts 100th Anniversary Jamboree

USPS® District 5 will be involved with the Boy Scouts of America 2010 National 100th ANNIVERSARY JAMBOREE at Fort AP Hill, VA, from 26 July–4 August 2010. More than 43,000 scouts and their leaders are expected to attend. This will be the last year the Jamboree will be held at the Fort. If you are interested in volunteering, please mark your calendars now to save the dates and contact J. Brian Becker at 410 442-1230 or [jbrianbecker@verizon.net](mailto:jbrianbecker@verizon.net). There is an application form on the USPS District 5 Web site ([www.uspsd5.org](http://www.uspsd5.org)).

## Patuxent River Sail and Power Squadron Calendar 2009-2010

Date/time correct as of press time; watch your E-mail for any changes or visit the squadron web site: [www.usps.org/localusps/patuxent/](http://www.usps.org/localusps/patuxent/)

### November 2009

- 12 Dinner Meeting, 1730-2100
- 14 Fall Fish Fry, 1300, FOP, Lexington Park, MD
- 19 Bridge Meeting, 1930-2130

### December 2009

- 5 Solomons Yacht Club Christmas Boat Light Parade, Solomons, MD
- 12 Squadron Christmas Party (tentative)
- 17 Bridge Meeting, 1930-2130

### January 2010

- 7 Dinner Meeting, 1730-2100
- 14 Bridge Meeting, 1930-2130

### February 2010

- 2 ABC Class begins, Lexington Park
- 11 Dinner Meeting, 1730-2100
- 13 Change of Watch (COW) Centerpiece Workshop
- 14 Founder's Day, 1300
- 18 Bridge Meeting, 1930-2130
- 20 Change of Watch (COW) Centerpiece Workshop
- 27 Change of Watch (COW) Centerpiece Workshop

### March 2010

- 6 Change of Watch
- 11 Dinner Meeting, 1730-2100
- 18 Bridge Meeting, 1930-2130

### April 2010

- 8 Dinner Meeting, 1730-2100
- 15 Bridge Meeting, 1930-2130

### May 2010

- 13 Dinner Meeting, 1730-2100
- 20 Bridge Meeting, 1930-2130

### District 5 Activities

- 6-8 Nov D/5 Fall Conference, Rockville, MD
- 26-28 Mar D/5 Spring Conference, Ocean City, MD

### National Activities

- 1-6 Feb 2010 USPS® Annual Meeting, Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, Disneyworld, Orlando, FL

Visit the squadron Web site:  
[www.usps.org/localusps/patuxent/](http://www.usps.org/localusps/patuxent/)

# Safety Sam, An Environmental Man

Lt Andy Barr, JN

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Thousands of Americans are killed each year by the seasonal flu. The number of seasonal flu cases usually peak in January and the recommendation for prevention is to obtain a vaccination as soon as the vaccine is available in September. For the current guidelines for vaccinations for both the seasonal and 2009 H1NI flu, consult your health professional. In addition, the [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) site provides useful information regarding symptoms, vaccination clinics, prevention, treatments, and the number of cases to-date by region and state. The impact of the 2009 H1NI virus is yet to be determined
- Leaves are falling on the roadways and are nearly as slippery as ice when wet
- Review your boating survival procedures with your crew. When the air plus water temperature combined lowers to 100°F it is recommended that boaters wear a wet suit; it is also more critical then that all onboard wear their PFDs
- Protection from the sun's rays is as important in the fall/winter as it is in the summer
- The wasps are still active on warm days so be watchful for hidden nests
- Plan ahead for seasonal gift-giving, and watch for sales on inflatable PFDs, lighted plug-in circuit polarity checkers, and other items to make boating safer

## BOATING STUFF

- It is not too early to start planning for improving the safety aspects of winter storage:

1. Replace the worn/corroded extension cord used to power the boat or provide a supply for the heater that will be left onboard
  2. Make sure the connections for it on the dock and boat are corrosion free
  3. Confirm that the heater turns off if turned over and has no visible filaments to cause a fire
  4. Check that all the fire extinguishers will pass the VSC-type tests
  5. Remove paint and associated flammable liquids, rags, aerosol cans with flammable propellants, and propane cylinders. If a fire does start, you don't want to deal with the problems those items could cause
  6. Check that the polarity of the AC receptacles is correct
  7. Properly lay lines on the deck to eliminate tripping hazards
  8. Restore stowage to everything needed in its place and everything not needed removed
- It is also not too early to start collecting the materials necessary to winterize your vessel if you plan to do it yourself. Later in the season, the materials may be out of stock on the day you have chosen to complete the task. Somebody's rule says that "if things can go wrong, they will."

Thanksgiving will be here before the next *True Readings*, so I will take this opportunity to thank all those who lead our squadron and make it function. Please thank all those who make it happen—and join them!!

**THINK SAFETY, PROTECT OUR WATERS, HAVE FUN!**



*TRUE READINGS*

PATUXENT RIVER SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

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