

# TRUE READINGS

SEPTEMBER

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

2009

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2009-2010

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## Patuxent River Sail and Power Squadron

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### Next Meeting

Capt. Michael Smith of Maritime  
Training Resources on  
the Maritime Industry

Thursday, 10 September 2009  
Dinner at 1730 (5:30 pm)  
Program at 1900 (7:00 pm)

The Mixing Bowl  
Lexington Park, MD

### Patuxent Pride

## Don't Miss the D/5 Regatta

Cdr Ken Perigo, JN

I should have never ended last month's article with the statement,



"Hopefully, all are enjoying the milder than usual summer." What a difference a month makes. The temperatures are in the 90s with dew

points in the 70s. Fortunately, it is now September, which means fall is nearly here.

As you read this month's *True Readings*, Mary Jane and I are enjoying a long-awaited trip to the Rocky Mountains. It has been 8 years since our last visit to my birthplace and all my brothers and sisters will also be there for a Labor Day Weekend Family Reunion. Then we will be off to the USPS® Governing Board Meeting in Kansas City, MO.

There will be two District events the weekend of 2-4 October. One is the D/5 Sail Regatta and Fall Festival at Herrington Harbor South. Details and application forms are available on the D/5 Web site or contact P/C Barbara Walter, AP.

The other event is Trawler Fest at Calvert Marina. Sea Vester and the D/5 Exhibition Trailer will be there to exhibit the USPS® Educational program. We are looking for a few volunteers to help work the exhibit. If you are able to assist on Friday afternoon, 2 October, from 1400-1700, please contact me. If you are able to assist on Saturday, 3 October, from 1000-1400, please contact P/C Kay Simkins, AP. We need your names as soon as possible to obtain your Exhibitor name card and FREE Pass to the Trawler Fest.

Just a little advance notice: Fall Conference will be held 6-8 November in Rockville. There will be more information on that next month.



Photo by Ken Perigo

Dozens of members, relatives, and guests turned out for the Annual Squadron Picnic on Thursday, 13 August, at Spring Cove Marina in Solomons. The weather was temperate and the food, as always, sublime. D/5 Cdr Ralph A. Bernard, AP, and several of his family members paid us a surprise visit on their way from Virginia to Baltimore.

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# Executive Officer's Report: Climate Change Focus of PRAD Festival

Lt/C Randy Headrick, AP

**M**ini-Report on the Mini-Raft-up. When Capt Dan cancelled the August raft-up on Saturday at Battle Creek due to inclement weather, we decided to take *RDREAM* out for a shorter trip and just go as far as Mill Cove. We had heard that *FIREFLY IV* was anchored there, and we thought it might be fun to go that far for a mini-raft-up.



*RDREAM* had the usual Headrick/Burris crew aboard, and we were joined by Lt Larry Whitbeck, JN, and Clare Whitbeck, AP, for the ride over and back. Larry did a superb job of piloting *RDREAM* and I just goofed off.

We got to Mill Cove about 1230 and found *FIREFLY IV* with P/Lt/C Bob Stammerjohn, SN, and Bob Rose aboard, and with just a little maneuvering, I managed to drop an anchor and pull alongside. No fiberglass or wood left either vessel, so it was declared a successful raft-up. We all enjoyed a pot-luck lunch aboard *RDREAM* and were relaxing while keeping an eye on the weather. About 1430, the NOAA and NWS internet sites were showing the storm approach Virginia and on a collision course with our location, so being the fair weather sailor I am, we pulled anchor and headed for West Basin, leaving *FIREFLY IV* to batten down and ride out the thunderstorm.

We got back to West Basin in plenty of time and made it home before the heavy rain hit. Thanks to all those brave souls who made it to our mini-raft-up. We are looking forward to another outing very soon.

*(Editor's Note: See the rest of the story on page 5!)*

## PATUXENT RIVER APPRECIATION DAYS (PRAD) 10-11 OCTOBER 2009, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM (FREE!)

Patuxent River Appreciation Days is one of our opportunities to set up a squadron display and interact with the boating public. This year's theme is "Climate Change and its Impacts on the Patuxent River Chesapeake." There will be several interesting displays and events and I encourage you to participate. The squadron will have a table with some of our literature and our "PRAD Packets" that we have been giving away to local boaters.

During PRAD, a "Green Village" will feature score of groups that celebrate the river. Activities also include pony rides (for a fee), an arts and crafts show, a food court, musical performances, an open house at the Calvert Marine Museum, and a Parade at 2:00 pm Sunday. Free harbor cruises will be offered on board 2 historic vessels: the 110-year-old bugeye, Wm. B. Tennison, and the sailing skipjack, the Nathan of Dorchester.

If you would be willing to help out at the squadron table for a day or at least a few hours please send me a note or give me a call.

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## Calling All Volunteers to Assist with the D/5 Sail Regatta on 3 October

**R**ockville Sail & Power Squadron is in charge of this year's D/5 Sail Regatta. The event is being held at Herrington Harbor South on 3 October as part of the Fall Festival. If you are a sailor and intend to participate in the race, please get your registration in as soon as possible. The form is available on the D/5 Web site. There are a limited number of slips, so contact the marina early.

If you do not plan to race or crew for someone else and are available, we could use a little help on the day of the race. You do not need to own or operate a boat for these jobs.

We need a few folks to serve as observers & recorders on the race committee boat. This would be on the start-finish line for the duration of the race (~0900-1530). Lunch and refreshments will be provided. If being on the water does not suit you, how about helping ashore? We have a Captain's Briefing at 0800, and need assistance with set-up and minor administrative tasks. Please let me know if you are able to help in any capacity. Additional information will be provided when you sign up. Thanks in advance, P/C Jeff McKinney, JN, Public Relations Officer, Rockville Sail & Power Squadron (jmckinney10@verizon.net).



### 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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# Administrative Officer's Report: Where Did the Summer Go??

Lt/C Laura Magdeburger, AP

Our 10 September dinner meeting will be 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). The speaker will be Capt. Michael Smith of Maritime Training Resources. He will speak about the commercial shipping industry license structure, the shared use of waterways between commercial and recreational vessels, and what it takes



to get your captain's license, among other topics. His webpage is <http://www.maritimetrainingresources.com/index.html>

Our Annual Squadron Picnic at Spring Cove Marina on 13 August had a great turn out. There were about 65 people who attended... including a surprise visit from our District Commander Ralph A. Bernard, AP, and his family. He was impressed with our little get together (see photo of just one of the many tables full of picnickers, right. I think everyone had a great time and



enjoyed all of the great food! A big thank you goes out to P/C Joe Hultman, AP, for cooking up some great BBQ sandwiches and London broil...that everyone devoured! And thank you to everyone who brought great side dishes to complete a wonderful picnic. This picnic could not have been such a success without the tremendous help from P/C Pat Farrar, AP. I would like to also thank Pat Barr for helping me set up and thanks to everyone who helped me clean up. What a great group of people we have in this squadron!!!

At the Summer Rendezvous and Council meeting in Cape Charles, VA, the children's posters were judged. Our 1<sup>st</sup> place poster contest winner for our squadron in the 6-to-8 year old group, Abby, received third place at District and now her poster goes on to the National level for judging in the fall.

Be sure to check the squadron calendar on our Web site for all of the great upcoming events.

**See you at the Dinner Meeting, 10 September at 5:30pm!!!!**

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## Getting Involved in USPS® Beyond the Squadron Level

A recent issue of *DELHIGHLIGHTS*, the newsletter of the Delhigh Power Squadron, Allentown, PA, had an interesting article: it included all of its members who were serving at the District level. P/C Kay Simkins, AP, a Past Commander of District 5, provided the following list of Patuxent River Sail & Power Squadron members holding District 5 (and National) positions.

Why get involved in volunteering at the District level? Ask any of the following people and they will be happy to share their experiences with you.

Cdr Kenneth T. Perigo, JN  
P/D/C Kathryn J. Simkins, AP

Chairman, Auditing\*  
Chairman, Nominating\*  
Chairman, Squadron  
Development Committee

### *Aides to the District Commander*

Cdr Kenneth T. Perigo, JN  
D/Lt Mary Jane Perigo, S  
D/Lt Barbara Walter, AP  
D/Lt Michael Walter, AP

### *Members of Committees*

#### EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

*Cooperative Charting:* D/Lt Dan Patke, SN  
*Public Relations:* D/Lt Barbara Walter, AP

#### EDUCATION DEPT.

*Educational Property Officer:* D/Lt Harold L. Willard, SN  
*Boat Handling:* D/Lt Dan Patke  
*Chairman Seamanship:* D/LT Bill Rose, AP†  
*Chairman/Weather:* D/Lt Bob Stammerjohn, SN  
*Asst Chair Marine Electronics:* D/LT Robert L. Connelly, SN

#### ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

*Meetings/Rendezvous*  
D/Lt Barbara Walter AP; D/Lt Albert Simkins, AP;  
D/Lt Kenneth T. Perigo, JN

#### NATIONAL

*National Planning Committee/Aide to Chief Commander*  
P/D/C Kay Simkins, AP

\*elected position  
†deceased

# Educational Officer: Reserve Your Place Now for Fall Classes

Lt/C Steve Speer, JN, SEO

It is the end of August and that means the days are getting



shorter and it must be time for our fall USPS classes to begin. And it all begins with YOU

signing up. So let's recap what is coming up very quickly.

Our public boating course, **ABC-3<sup>rd</sup> Edition** is set to begin on 8 September at the Trinity Church in Lexington Park. Hal has loads of candidates and will need the usual help getting them all through the 8-week course. Contact Hal Willard (HWillard@md.metrocast.net) for details.

Next up is the **Navigation** course, the last major hurdle for the advanced grades. Finding your way by using the heavenly bodies is hundreds of years old (and no, Bob wasn't teaching this course back then). The class starts the week of 23 September and we have submitted our request for space at the Higher Education Center adjacent to the St Mary's County Airport. We have 7 students already signed up and books have arrived. Some of our students are trying to get ahead by getting their sights out of the way early. So go for the gold and learn this fascinating skill.

Next up at bat is the **Marine Communications Systems** course (the second in the new series of Marine Electronics – each now being a separate course) starting the week of 28 September and also being held at the Higher Ed Center. P/C Kip Hine, AP, is our Instructor once again. We have 12 students already signed up and this is a plea for those yet to sign up to let me know so I can get the books ordered. This course covers the various communication systems from VHF (and DSC) to

## SQUADRON FALL CLASS LINE UP

ABC Course (Public Boating Course)  
begins 8 September, Lexington Park

Advanced Piloting  
begins first week of October  
(instructor: P/C Pat Farrar, AP)

Navigation  
begins week of 23 September  
(instructor: P/Lt/C Bob Stammerjohn, SN)

Seamanship  
begins in November

Engine Maintenance  
begins week of 13 October

Marine Communications Systems (module 2 of 3):  
begins the week of 28 September  
(instructor: P/C Kip Hine, AP)

Cruise Planning:  
anyone interested?

Instructor Development:  
anyone interested?

MF/HF and Satellite systems. Included is trouble-shooting your various communication systems and understanding the various radio spectrums. My guess this course is still somewhat in BETA testing but discussions with National tell me the tests are complete and it is ready to go (we'll make it work).

Starting the first week of October is **Advanced Piloting** and we have two students so far and looking for a few more. This is a good challenging course and helps pull all the items you learned from Seamanship and Piloting together. P/C Pat Farrar, AP, is the teacher once again. Location has not been determined but rumor has it in Spring Cove.

Rounding out our first in the fall series of courses is **Engine Maintenance** starting the week of 13 October (awaiting a classroom assignment and day of week). We had a good class almost two years ago.

Here is another opportunity. Come and learn from some who've been there and done that. Tips on winterizing and trouble-shooting too. Just drop me a line to sign up (csolo99@aol.com).

The District is offering several seminars at Trawler Fest to include DSC radios (taught by our own Wayne Rogers). Drop April Majni, our Asst SEO a note and let her know you're interested. Trawler Fest also has its own seminars and I

highly recommend them from past years' experience.

Okay, time to close. What else do we want to offer this fall? Another Captains study group or a workshop on repairs or ?? You tell us and let's see if we can make it happen. Have a great September of boating and study.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO RECENT GRADUATES OF THE PILOTING CLASS (and thanks to Instructor P/C Pat Farrar, AP)

Frank Crow, P  
Sherrie Hamilton, P  
Chuck Latyak, P  
Lt April Majni, P  
Robert Prior, P  
Cheryl Speer, P



# 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.*

# 2009 'Patuxent Pride' Boating Activities

## Battle Creek Raft-Up, 22 August

P/ C Dan Patke, SN

It was a fragmented boating activity, but 6 boats took part even if they were separated by 20 miles and 24 hours. Predicted rain on Saturday 22 August kept most boats in port except *FIREFLY IV* and *RDREAM* (see page 2). Much better weather allowed *ANNIE M*, *UTOPIA*, *PHANTOM MOON* and *CITIZEN AIRMAN* to meet on Sunday.

*FIREFLY IV*, with P/Lt/C Bob Stammerjohn, SN, and Robert Rose, set off from the St. Mary's River on Friday and made it to Mill Creek in Calvert County under excellent sailing conditions. They were pounded by rain after setting the anchor, and then informed that we had canceled the boating activity for the next day in Battle Creek. Given the forecast, Bob determined he would hunker down Saturday and head home on Sunday. *RDREAM*, with members Lt/C Randy Headrick, AP, Lt/C Wendy Headrick, AP, and Aide Barry Burris, along with Wendy's mother, joined *FIREFLY IV* on Saturday in Mill Creek, but the day was cut short in order for *RDREAM* to beat the heavy rains home.

We rescheduled the raft-up for Sunday in Battle Creek and *ANNIE M* was on-site to anchor before 1300. Unfortunately, it took much longer than expected to get the hook to set. Eventually, and with some degree of exertion, it was properly set and the boats began arriving.

*PHANTOM MOON*, with Lt/C Abdel Ismael, AP, and Lt Pacita Ismael, AP, were first, followed shortly by *CITIZEN AIRMAN* with Lt/C Steve Speer, JN, and Lt Cheryl Speer, P. *UTOPIA*, with P/C Pat Farrar, AP, Sue Waters, Lt/C Laura Magdeburger, AP, and Jim Dawson, AP, completed the raft. And food and refreshment soon followed. The squadron does very well at feeding ourselves, and this was no exception. The plan had been to serve a pot luck dinner

around 1600, but the hors d'oeuvres proved more than enough. Pacita had made special burritos to share for dinner, but that dish will have to wait for the next event. Our loss, without a doubt.



Photo by Steve Speer

P/C Pat Farrar, AP; Lt/C Laura Magdeburger, AP, Lt Cheryl Speer, P; Annie Patke, AP; Lt Jim Dawson, AP; P/C Dan Patke, SN; Sue Waters, and Lt/C Abdel Ismael, AP, gathered in Battle Creek for the raft-up on Sunday, 23 August. Also in attendance were Lt Pacita Ismael, AP, and Lt/C Steve Speer, JN (behind the camera).



Photo by Cheryl Burd

Lt/C Laura Magdeburger, AP, was observed rowing away (second from bow) during an all-day training session on the Patuxent River this summer aboard the John Smith Shallot reproduction, which sailed around the Bay.

DATE	EVENT	POINT OF CONTACT
5-7 Sep	Labor Day Weekend Southern Bay Cruise	Jim Brueggemann, JN
26 Sep	Dual Raft-Ups on the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers	TBD
23-25 Oct	End of the Season Cruise	P/C Pat Farrar, AP

## News & Notes

### Welcome New Members

Please welcome new members **Craig Bretz** and **Betsy Bretz** of Silver Spring, MD.

### More From Safety Sam, An Environmental Man

An e-mail from Coast Guard Rear Admiral Kevin Cook, addressing prevention as a safety approach, provided the following 2008 statistics:

- Only 10% of boating related deaths occurred on boats where the operator had received boating safety education; and the operator was much less likely to be involved in any kind of boating accident.
- In two-thirds of all fatal boating accidents, the victims drowned; and 90% of those victims were not wearing a life jacket.
- The Coast Guard recorded 709 deaths, 3,331 injuries and approximately \$53 million in damages to property, associated from recreational boating accidents.
- Operator inattention, careless or reckless operation, **no proper lookout**, and operator inexperience headed the list. Alcohol was a contributing factor 17% of the time.

Captain Grant's article in the May 17-21 *Bay Weekly* presents some thoughts for fellow cruising Captains that I have attempted to paraphrase:

- Do you know your crew's personal limitations and capabilities?
- Do you have a qualified member who could run the boat and find the way home?
- Does the crew know how to safely anchor your boat with your equipment?
- Does the crew know where the emergency equipment is and what to do with it, and are the procedures posted?
- Does the crew know the locations of the fire extinguishers, bilge pumps & controls, fuel shut shutoff valves, battery switches, and through-hull plugs?
- In the event of a "man overboard" does the crew know what to do, and is the proper equipment available?

### Recall Notice

Raymarine initiated a recall notice for Raymarine SPX5 Sport Drive Pilot sold between February and July 2009. The device's mechanical clutch assembly may fail and lock the steering of the vessel in one direction. Search "Raymarine Recall" for more information. Search "Recalls.gov" for recalls in many categories!

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

## Patuxent River Sail and Power Squadron Calendar 2009

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/)

### September 2009

- 5-7 Labor Day Weekend Southern Bay Cruise to Onancock
- 8 ABC Class begins, Lexington Park, MD; classes (Part 1 and 2) continue weekly through 27 October; proctors are always needed. Contact P/C Hal Willard, SN, for details
- 10 Dinner Meeting, 1730-2100
- 17 Bridge Meeting, 1930-2130
- 19 Fall Fish Fry
- 23 Navigation Course begins this week at the St. Mary's Higher Education Center, California, MD
- 26 Dual Raft-ups, Potomac and Patuxent Rivers
- 28 Marine Communications Course begins this week at the St. Mary's Higher Education Center, California, MD

### October 2009

- 8 Dinner Meeting, 1730-2100
- 9-12 Annapolis Sailboat Show
- 10-11 Patuxent River Appreciation Days (PRAD) Festival; Calvert Marine Museum, free
- 13 Engine Maintenance Course begins this week (location to be determined)
- 15 Bridge Meeting, 1930-2130
- 16-18 Annapolis Powerboat Show
- 23-25 End of the Season Cruise

### November 2009

- 12 Dinner Meeting, 1730-2100
- 19 Bridge Meeting, 1930-2130

### December 2009

- 12 Squadron Christmas Party (tentative)

### District 5 Activities

- 2-4 Oct D/5 Sail Regatta & Fall Festival, Herrington Harbor, MD
- 6-8 Nov D/5 Fall Conference, Rockville, MD

### National Activities

- 8-13 Sept USPS® Governing Board, Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City, MO
- 2-4 Oct Trawler Fest, Solomons, MD
- 8-12 Oct U.S. Sailboat Show, Annapolis, MD
- 15-18 Oct U.S. Powerboat Show, Annapolis, MD

# Safety Sam, An Environmental Man

Lt Andy Barr, JN

## Am I safe? Are you safe? Are we all safe?

Are we safety conscious at home, on the road, and on our boats? We should look from at least these three perspectives of safety for ourselves, our human family and our pets, our passengers and other travelers, and personal property we value. Each of these aspects will take a lot of time to evaluate the “first-time-around.” In doing so, we must take into account our actions and of those potentially impacting our safety considerations. Some obvious considerations might be:

- Changing batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Insuring that ground-fault detectors have protected all hazardous circuits and a polarity checker has been used on those circuits
- Maintaining proper grounding connections on extension cords, tools, and appliances
- Removing tripping hazardous and eliminating over-reaching conditions
- Personally perform VSC-type activities on your home, vehicles, and your boat
- Participate in Neighborhood Watch programs, and report suspicious activities at home and on the water
- Eliminate text-messaging, and at least reduce cell phone use while driving your vehicle
- Use your rear-view mirror as well as your windows, and maintain 3-4 seconds separation to help avoid auto accidents
- Properly maintain your vehicle(s) and your boat(s) to avoid being stranded or precipitating an accident
- Consult your veterinarian or other reliable source

for hot-spell precautions for your pets. Dogs cool themselves by panting and through their foot pads, and can suffer brain and organ damage if they overheat within 15 minutes (*Southern Calvert Gazette* 7/30/09)

- A boat ladder for a large dog may save your pet’s life
- Wear your seat belt and your life jacket, and put one on your boating pet
- Regardless of when they were born, encourage fellow boaters to take a boating safety course and follow the Rules of the Road

## Input for my article from other boaters

Thanks to an e-mail-chat between P/C Pat Farrar, AP, and Lt/C Steve Speer, JN, a couple of boating safety issues have been revisited:

- When using handheld flares, which holding method is best? Use special gloves to prevent burns when hand held; or strap them to a boat hook or mop handle to improve distance visibility? Why not prepare for both with duct tape, small bungee cords, heat & fire resistant gloves, and a designated pole?
- The importance of a handheld mirror for attracting attention in an emergency cannot be overstated. In sunlight, the reflection from the mirror can be seen for many miles (potentially much further than a locator or smoke flare). Mirrored metal won’t break; glass will; lacking either one, try a CD.

**REMEMBER TO THINK SAFETY,  
PROTECT OUR WATERS, AND HAVE FUN**

*(See more safety notes on page 7)*



**TRUE READINGS**  
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