

The Potomac Ribber

Newsletter of the Potomac River Power Squadron Sail & Power Boating
A District 5 unit of United States Power Squadrons®. Established 1915.

Washington, DC
April-May 2007

Commander's Report

by Cdr Howard Gasaway, P



Conference Photo Album

Ole'! Fun time is with PRPS. Congratulations to all of our members who attended the D/5 Spring Council held in Ocean City, Maryland.

The hard work paid off. Potomac River took third place in the Hospitality Room competition. The margaritas drew a huge crowd and long lines. Special thanks to Lauren Knutson, A/P, and his wife, Dolores, for having a few members over to their summer place on Thursday night. Their hospitality was outstanding.

PRPS' web page is back up and active again, thanks to our webmaster, Lt. Eric Mendelshon.

We have a few new activities planned for 2007, and hope that some of the old along with new members will come out and visit with us.



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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District 5 Spring Conference, 28 March—1 April 2007
Ocean City, MD

2007-2008 Bridge

Potomac River Power Squadron

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APRIL & MAY 2007 ALL-HANDS MEETING PROGRAMS

“First Aid From A First Responder”

Wednesday 18 April 2007

Boaters have special needs when it comes to first aid. It is imperative that they know how to provide limited assistance in the event of an emergency while waiting for a first responder. Officers will engage in a panel discussion on boaters' first aid, especially for hypothermia.

“Navigation, Then and Now”

Wednesday 16 May 2007

Peter Trogdon, of Weems & Plath, will provide a perspective of the historical evolution of navigation by traders, explorers and ocean-going captains. Enlightening for the novice and experienced navigators.

The Program will start at 8:00 p.m. Refreshments (sandwiches, hors d'oeuvres, cash bar) will be available at 1930 (7:30 p.m.) Meetings are held at the Rosensteel Knights of Columbus.

SQUADRON MEETINGS

The Squadron meets on the
2nd Tuesday and 3rd Wednesday of
each month except in July and August.

The **Executive Committee** meets on
the **2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm;**
Rosensteel Knights of Columbus
Members are welcome.

Membership Meetings are held on
the **3rd Wednesday at 7:30 pm;**
Members and guests are welcome.

All Meetings are held at the
Rosensteel Knights of Columbus
9707 Rosensteel Avenue, Silver Spring

For directions - visit the Potomac
River website at
www.usps.org/localusps/potomac

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

The “*Potomac Ribber*” is the official publication of the Potomac River Power Squadron (PRPS). Its goal is to inform members of activities and developments at PRPS and the national and District 5 level of the United States Power Squadrons (USPS) and to carry other information useful to the members.

PRPS, District 5 and USPS are non-profit organizations dedicated to the promotion of safety on the water through boaters education.

The Potomac River is published every month except for a combined July-August issue. Articles and submissions are appreciated and are due by the 15th of the month.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Internet Sites:

Potomac River

<http://www.usps.org/localusps/potomac>

District 5

<http://www.sb.usps.org/d5/index.html>

USPS <http://www.usps.org>

Phone Numbers:

For information on USPS, its Squadrons and the public courses:
1-888-FOR-USPS (367-8777)

Boat/US Information Service on available boating course:
1-800-336-BOAT (2628)

PRPS Cooperating Group # at Boat/US
GA 80130P

Get 1/2 price on your Boat/US membership!



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

By Lt/C Allen Jox

D5's Spring Conference, held from 29 March to 1 April 2007 at the Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City, MD, was delightful and educational. Based on the seminars I attended, the presenters from D5 did excellent jobs. The social activities were without compare, especially those of the PRPS Hospitality Suite. Many members of the Executive Committee, under the guiding eyes of P/C Tom Dillon and his wife Pat, worked tirelessly readying the Suite for the Friday night festivities. The Suite was decorated in a festive Mexican motif and highlighted margaritas along with great food and other libation. I firmly believe that all conference attendees visited the Suite at least once. It must have been those terrific margaritas P/C John Wilmot was pouring up. Everyone had a great time.

One of the seminars worth highlighting was titled, "Boat Operator Certification". So as not to be confused with legislative debates on boat operator licensing, this program is strictly a USPS initiative and focuses on recreational boat operator proficiency. It should be noted that this is an evolving program with each squadron needing to determine its own level of involvement. Benefits to those certified will include such things as enhancing boat operating skills, obtaining lower boat insurance rates, making it easier to rent boats, and being better prepared for the day we will need to become licensed boat operators.

There are four proficiency levels being offered. From the least to the most demanding, they are Inland Navigator (IN), Coastal Navigator (CN), Advanced Coastal Navigator (ACN), and Offshore Navigator (ON). The USPS hopes to have the first two up and running during 2007 while the final two will become operational during 2008 and 2009. Certification will be based on written exams and demonstrated in-water proficiency. As these four levels increase, the waters included will range from somewhat protected to open ocean, boat size will increase, and weather conditions will become more severe as will the water conditions (wave height, etc.).

As the program matures, we will share any changes with you. This should provide an exciting new dimension to the

SALE

50% OFF all in-stock PRPS-logo merchandise.
Come to APRIL Member meeting!
While supplies last.



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

By Lt/C Tony Brown, P



Poster from the District 5 Spring Conference.

The executive committee voted to approve the membership application of **Larry Manning**, Arlington, VA, and **Brian Horney**, Takoma Park, MD. WELCOME!

OLD SALT'S QUIZ:

WHAT AM I?

I require fuel. I can be weak or strong, especially in the eyes of the maker. I start conversations, open minds, seal relationships. I come in handy either early or late in the day. Although not kept in a first aid kit, I can combat hypothermia. The Navy will not leave port without me.

Answer: Coffee. Time to wake up the boat for a new season on the water.



A BOATER'S THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

By P/C Carl Muhlbauer, SN

RIBBER VIA E-MAIL



The Ribber will be e-mailed to all members we have correct e-mail addresses for and we will have it attached to our Web Page. **Please e-mail dyskokyd@verizon.net to update your e-mail address.** Please put Ribber in the subject column. We will continue to bulk mail the Ribber to all members.

Good-bye snowshoes. Hello flip-flops.

EDUCATIONAL REPORT

David Howe has resigned as SEO to pursue a career opportunity. Best wishes, Dave.

United States Power Squadrons is near completion of its revamp of the education curriculum. USPS UNIVERSITY is a two-tiered approach for today's boater. A seminar series will offer focused topics for boaters to supplement basic skills. It is not intended to replace Basic Boating, but can be used to reach those who have not taken basic boating courses.

The seminars will be about two hours covering a single topic. Initial topics will be: ON BOARD WEATHER FORECASTING; HOW TO USE A CHART; USING A MARINE RADIO, and USING GPS.

The seminar series will be open to members and the public. USPS hopes the Seminars will attract members. The series will rollout in 2007.

Boat Operator Certification is aimed at members serious about in depth skills. Lt/C Jox describes this level in his XO letter.



The Commander wishes to recognize the members of the Potomac River Entertainment Committee and volunteers at the D/5 Spring Conference:

P/C E. Tom Dillon, AP, Lt Patricia Dillon, P/C John Wilmot, JN, Alicia Wilmot, P/C James A. Gorman, AP, Lt Nancy Gorman, P/C C. Bonnie Gaskins, Marilyn Crabbe (Bonnie's Sister) Lt/C Allen Jox, Lt/C Anthony Brown, Lt/C Janett Gasaway, P/Lt/C Arline Leggett, P, P/D/Lt Richard Jansen, AP, Roberta Jansen, Betty Wedler, Beverly Pratt.

Thank you,
Howard

SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT by Lt. Eugene Roberson



Before taking your first boating trip start by giving your vessel an on water safety check. First make a check off list. This list should always be checked before leaving the dock.

- 01 check oil level
- 02 check reduction gear/transmission oil
- 03 check fuel system (inc. valves)
- 04 check ventilation system
- 05 open raw water sea cocks
- 06 ventilate engine compartment
- 07 test electrical equipment
- 08 test engine controls (while tied)
- 09 disconnect shore power etc.
- 10 secure boat for sea trials; that is, tie all unsecured articles down before leaving dock to prevent injuries.
- 11 check weather and sea conditions
- 12 always let someone know your departure date, time, number of people on board, and return date
- 13 have your vessel safety check once a year
- 14 spare parts
 - a. belts
 - b. hoses
 - c. filters
 - d. clamps
 - e. electric tape
 - f. duct tape
 - g. check zincs
 - h. tools

After you have made your safety run and everything is ok, or you have made the necessary repairs, you are ready for the boating season.

Boat Safety Week is 22-26 May 2007

The SOUTHBOUND D/5 Summer Cruise
to Crisfield
is being chaired by Potomac River's own
P/C John Wilmot, JN

14-19 July 2007, Return 22 July 2007

Information concerning the Southbound Summer
Cruise can be found at

http://members.cox.net/commanders_cruise_2007/southbound.htm

-or-

you may contact the Southbound Cruise Chairman at
johnwilmot@msn.com

410-798-5102

SAVE THESE DATES

APRIL 2007

| | | |
|----|------|-----------------------------------|
| 18 | 1930 | All Hands Meeting |
| 21 | 1200 | Anacostia River Clean-Up, |
| 26 | 1200 | Seavester, USPS Trailer @ USGC HQ |

MAY 2007

| | | |
|-------|------|--|
| 4-6 | | USPS Cooperative Charting, Norfolk |
| 8 | 1930 | Exec Committee Meeting |
| 12 | 1200 | Flag Raising, Podickory Point, Annapolis |
| 16 | 1930 | All Hands Meeting |
| 22-26 | | Safe Boating Week |

JUNE 2007

| | | |
|----|------|------------------------------|
| 9 | 1200 | N.E.R.V.E, The Wilmot Estate |
| 12 | 1930 | Exec Committee Meeting |
| 20 | 1930 | All Hands Meeting |

JULY 2007

| | | |
|-------|--|----------------------------------|
| 4 | | West River Raft Up |
| 14-22 | | D/5 Summer Cruise, Crisfield, MD |

AUGUST 2007

| | | |
|----|-----|--------------------|
| 18 | tbd | Crab fest & Picnic |
|----|-----|--------------------|

SEPTEMBER 2007

| | | |
|-----|------|-----------------------------|
| 5-9 | USPS | Board of Governors Meeting |
| 11 | 1930 | Exec Committee Meeting |
| 19 | 1930 | All-Hands Meeting |
| 22 | tbd | All-Hands Boat Outing (New) |

OCTOBER 2007

| | | |
|----|------|--------------------------|
| 7 | | USPS D/5 Sailing Regatta |
| 9 | 1930 | Exec Committee Meeting |
| 17 | 1930 | All-Hands Meeting |

NOVEMBER 2007

| | | |
|-----|------|------------------------|
| 1-4 | | D/5 Fall Conference |
| 10 | | Commander's Ball (New) |
| 14 | 1930 | Exec Committee Meeting |

DECEMBER 2007

| | | |
|----|------|---------------------------|
| 12 | 1930 | Exec Committee Meeting |
| 19 | 1930 | All-Hands Christmas Party |

News Bites

Anacostia River Clean-Up, April 21
Potomac River Power Squadron is one of several civic organizations joining to remove litter and debris from the Anacostia River watershed on Saturday 21 April. Join us for this activity. Call Cdr Howard Gasaway, P, for details. 202-583-7121.

Sea Vester is Coming to DC
Sea Vester, United States Power Squadron, District 5's teaching aid to show children of all ages boating safety, will be on display at the United States Coast Guard headquarters building, 2100 Second Street, SW Washington, DC 20593, on Thursday, 26 April 2007. Sea Vester will be accompanied by USPS safety display.

The Commander has commanded
In keeping with maritime tradition, the general member meeting will now be referred to as the *All Hands Meeting*. This is "all hands," as in "all hands on deck," not like your high school date.

Door Prizes will awarded at All Hands Meetings. You must be present to win. So, see you at the All-Hands Meeting on the Third Wednesday each month, except July and August. That's for boating.

The executive committee agreed to two new All-Hands events: a Luncheon Cruise on the Potomac in September, and the Commander's Ball in November. Come to the All-Hands Meetings, or check The Ribber newsletter, for updates.

Flag Raising:
ONE if by land.
TWO if by sea.

EASY LAND ACCESS: Take Route 50 East towards the Bay Bridge. Take Exit #32 toward Sandy Point State Park. Turn left at the stop sign, then left again onto College Parkway East. Go left on College Parkway East for approximately 1/4 mile to Log Inn Road. Turn right on to Log Inn Road. At about 1/2 mile Log Inn Road splits to the right. Stay straight on Tydings Dr. (left) for a 1/4 mile, turn right on to Bay Front Terrace, paying close attention to the speed limit. Our gate is 1 1/2 blocks down on the right.

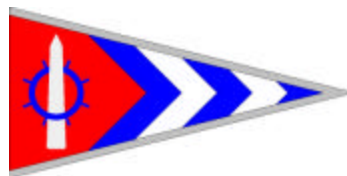
ACCESS BY SEA: Podickory Point can accommodate *a few* vessels for those traveling by boat to the Flag Raising. To get on the wait list for slips, you must contact **Lt/C Anthony Brown, P, 301-649-9643**. The list will be ordered on a first come-first served priority. Podickory will advise on May 10 the number of vessels they can accommodate for the day. Lt/C Tony will then call you with your status. *No overnight accommodations. No power. \$1.00/ft.*

DO NOT CALL PODICKORY POINT FOR ACCOMODATIONS.

Podickory Point is located on the Chesapeake Bay two nautical miles northwest of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge near the mouth of the Magothy River at:

Lat 39° 02.1N
Lon 76° 24.5W

Depth: 6' MLW



AN INVITATION

Potomac River Power Squadron Flag Raising

*Our formal kick-off to the boating season!
It's Mother's Day weekend. Bring that special someone!*

Saturday, 12 May 2007

Podickory Point Yacht & Beach Club

2116 Bay Front Terrace
Annapolis, Maryland 21409

\$10.00 per person members & guests, \$5.00 per person under 12 years old Five years old and younger FREE (includes picnic lunch & refreshments)

1200 — Picnic Lunch 1330 — Flag Raising Ceremony
1600 — Depart for home or dinner
Uniform D, or Appropriate Civilian Attire

Reservation Deadline 4 May 2007
No Refunds Thereafter

Coming by boat? Make your reservation through Potomac River Power Squadron by 4 May 2006. Do not call the yacht club. Special rate: \$1.00 per foot plus \$5.00 per night for 30 amp electrical connection. Space is limited.

See the directions on this page, or visit the Podickory Point web page at <http://www.podickorypoint.com/>.

The courtesy of a reply is appreciated!

2007 PRPS FLAG RAISING RESERVATION FORM

Make Check Payable to PRPS and mail prior to 4 May 2007 to:
P/C Tom Dillon, AP, 4417 Westbrook Lane, Kensington, MD 20895
(301) 564-0372

Name _____ Guest(s) Name(s) _____

Telephone _____ Check Enclosed:\$ _____



N.E.R.V.E.

No Excuse RendezVous Extravaganza

9 June 2007, 1300 - Until

Mariners: The Wilmot Estate, Glebe Bay, South River

Landlubbers: 3301 Leritz Lane, Edgewater, MD 21037 (410)798-5102

Steaks, Grilled Chicken, Beer and soft drinks, paper plates & utensils will be provided. Each boat or group is asked to bring a salad or desert to share, enough for four adults. Salad suggestions: potato, macaroni, cole slaw, green, baked beans. Desert suggestions: Something tasty, not too messy and easy to serve at an outdoor BBQ.

In case of serious inclement weather, call P/C Rich Heckhaus, AP (410)263-4446 or cell (301)529-6564, not later than 1000, 9 June.

As all food items must be ordered five days ahead of the event, the following schedule will be adhered to: ALL monies are to be received by P/C Heckhaus no later than the close of business, Monday, 4 June.

Adults & Near Adults (14 & older) - \$10.00 per person
Children (5 to 13) - \$5.00 per person
Under 7 - No charge

Monies received after 4 Jun - \$15.00 adults, \$7.50 children

Yes, I expect to attend the N.E.R.V.E. and to ensure that there will be food for me and my guests, my check and this form was placed in the US mail system not later than Friday 1 June. Otherwise, I have included the additional fee listed above and I will call P/C Heckhaus at the earliest to ensure that he is aware of my party.

Number of adults, 14 & older: _____ @\$10.00 = \$ _____

Number of children, 5 to 13: _____ @ \$5.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

NAME _____

Telephone # _____

Make check payable to "PRPS" and mail to:

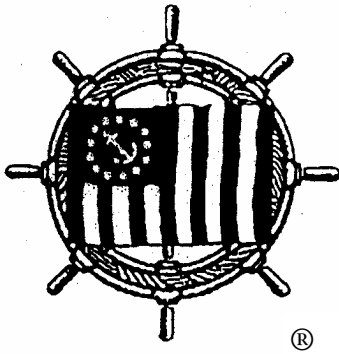
P/C Rich Heckhaus, AP
769B Fairview Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21403



David Purltel, PEPCO, offered power safety rules at the March 2007 All Hands Meeting.



Electrical safety rules for boaters.

- Ground all around (the boat).
Don't hide power cords under carpets. You can't see the condition of the cord.
Check the condition of your cords. Do not use if frayed.
Always use marine rated lines.
Always use 3-prong ac outlets
If the outlet is warm to the touch, call an electrician to investigate.
Use smoke alarms aboard your vessel. Change the battery every year. Change the smoke alarm approximately every eight years. (Good idea to use a CO detector, too.)
Try to set your heater to 68°. Keep space heaters away from flammables.
Drop an appliance or power tool in the water? Trip the circuit breaker, or shut off power, before retrieving.
If the breaker trips continuously, call an electrician to investigate.
Do not swim around boat slips because of the prevalence of direct current.
Ain breaker to OFF before connecting shore power.
Always connect the female end of the power cord to the boat before connecting the male end to shore power. Disconnect the male end from shore power before disconnecting the female end from the boat.



THE POTOMAC RIVER POWER SQUADRON NEWSLETTER APRIL-MAY 2007 ISSUE



| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">APRIL</p> <p>18 APR ALL HANDS MEETING 21 APR ANACOSTIA RIVER CLEAN-UP 26 APR SEA VESTER VISITS USCG HQ WASHINGTON, DC</p> | <p>Mark Your Calendar!</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;">JUNE</p> <p>9 JUN N.E.R.V.E. RAFT UP 12 JUN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 20 JUN ALL HANDS MEETING</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">MAY</p> <p>4-6 MAY CO-OP CHARTING, NORFOLK 8 MAY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 12 MAY FLAG RAISING, PODICKORY POINT 16 MAY ALL HANDS MEETING</p> |  | <p style="text-align: center;">JULY</p> <p>4 JUL WEST RIVER RAFT UP 14-22 JUL D/5 SUMMER CRUISE, CHRISFIELD, MD</p> |

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**Sail & Power Boating
Fly your Ensign and Squadron
Pennant Proudly!**

