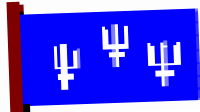


The Potomac Ribber



Newsletter of the Potomac River Power Squadron, Washington, D.C.
Established in 1915. A District 5 unit of United States Power Squadrons. Sail and power boating.

March 2011



“If I have seen further, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants.”

Those words spoken by Sir Isaac Newton captures perfectly my feelings as I step away from command of Potomac River Power Squadron. Any success I have enjoyed came because so many others plotted the course for me. How fortunately we are to have so many committed members and past commanders whose body of knowledge embodies most of our history.

In the past two years, our squadron scheduled on-water activities on both our bodies of water, the Chesapeake Bay and our namesake Potomac River. We provided hands-on training for handling safety flairs and for CPR. We made the effort, not always successful, to promote our value in new electronic media to expand our reach. Our guest of honor at our squadron N.E.R.V.E. Rendezvous keeps getting bigger and bigger. we've honored members who achieved their 25 Merit Marks and 50th year of membership.

The best part is that I didn't do most of the work. I was standing on the shoulders of giants.

We are hearing reports that boat sales are on the uptick once again. The economy is thawing. New people are getting in the hobby. They will be looking for us so don't be shy about the Power Squadron. An active boater can recover the cost of membership in savings through the Power Squadron. What we teach saves lives and expensive boat repairs. So push them towards us and, if needed, push us towards them.

Thank you for all you do for the Power Squadrons. May all your journeys be in fair weather!

Commander: Anthony G. Brown, P

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REQUEST

Currently we are sending the RIBBER both via e-mail and U.S. Postal Service. We find that we only have e-mail addresses for about one-half of our members and would like to be able to contact all members who have internet access. While we anticipate we will continue to publish in both forms in order to encourage all to participate in our mission to the fullest, we would like to offer the opportunity to each of you to opt-out of receipt of the paper edition if you should so desire. Kindly complete the form below and either e-mail the information to P/C Tom Dillon, AP at etdillon@aol.com or mail it to; P/C Tom Dillon, 4417 Westbrook Lane, Kensington, MD 20895. Sincere thanks for your cooperation.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

_____ I wish to continue to receive the Potomac Ribber both electronically and by mail.

_____ I wish to receive the Potomac Ribber only electronically at e-mail address above.

_____ I do not have internet access and wish to receive my copy by U.S. Mail.



Celebrating Our 96th Anniversary!

Executive Officer's Report
By Lt/C Bonnie Gaskins

Squadron and Committee Members,
Thank you so much for stepping up to the plate leading the committees and taking on extra responsibilities on behalf of Potomac River Power Squadron. The entire Squadron owes you a debt of gratitude.

I know how busy you are, and for you to have taken this responsibility on really speaks to your character and dedication.

As we close this Squadron year 2010-2011 and have selected members to fill your positions, I feel very confident that we have found a great match for each committee. I look forward to supporting our new bridge and committee chairs and again thanks for all of your hard work.

I would like to close with a reminder of two great big fun events you should NOT miss:

On Saturday 5 March our 96th Annual Change of Watch – Fort McNair Officer's Club, Washington, DC 20319.

District 5 hosts its Spring Conference in Ocean City, Maryland 25-27 March. The weekend is an educational event for squadron officers, but those fabulous hospitality suites are Friday night 25 March and the district banquet is Saturday 26 March. Hope to see you at both events!

Appreciated,
Executive Officer
P/C Bonnie Gaskins, S

CCA'S April Affair



Fleet Captain John Wilmot has announced a "get acquainted meeting to welcome Spring" meeting at Pirate's Cove Restaurant, Galesville, MD, on Sunday, April 10, 2011 at 1300.

Contact John no later than April 4th for reservations. Advance reservations only will be accepted.

Time to Begin Work

Ahoy, All Vessel Safety Examiners. Please contact me by e-mail: clalegg@verizon.net or by telephone: (202) 526-0289 ASAP.



Thanks.

Lt. Cleveland Leggett, S
Chairman, Vessel Safety Examiner

Lt/C Arline Leggett P
Administrative Officer Report

As you know, Bridge Officers were elected at the Annual Meeting 16 February 2011. Installation will be 5 March 2011 at Ft. Leslie J. McNair Officer's Club. Lt/C Cheryl Fellenz, S will be the incoming Administrative Officer for fiscal year 2011-12. I will move to the Executive Officer position.

Membership/Member Involvement, chaired by P/C Howard Gasaway, Sr., P is finding jobs and putting the new members to work.

The "Ribber" newsletter will be overseen by P/C Tom Dillon, AP, with Katie Lemen as the editor. Lt. Cheryl Hoiler, Chairperson of our Ship's Store will be ordering new supplies. Contact her for any of your squadron attire needs. Don't forget our summer activities and Flag Raising, May 2011 (TBD).

1stLt Nancy Gorman, S is already working on our yearbook and roster. Contact her regarding corrections or changes ASAP.

Mark your calendar: National Safe Boating Week is May 21 – 27, 2011. Look for further details.

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 Ribber is published bi-monthly. Articles and submissions are appreciated and are due by the 15th of the prior month.

Potomac River Power Squadron

2010 Merit Marks

The following members earned USPS Merit Marks for civic service in the 2010 membership year. Total Merit Marks are shown.

Congratulations and thank you, from the 2010 bridge officers, Potomac River Power Squadron.

Anthony Brown, P	6	Allen M. Jox, S	7
Edward T. Dillon	44	Arline Leggett, P	18
Patricia M. Dillon	22	Cleveland, Leggett	22
Cheryl M. Fellenz	1	Carl E. Muhlbauer, SN	19
Janett P. Gasaway	9	Christopher Pickwick, AP	24
Howard Gasaway, Sr., P	9	Charles Allen Poplinger, P	13
Collesta (Bonnie) Gaskins	12	Beverly B. Pratt	26
Laverne S. Glascoe, S	7	Mary Lorraine Roberson	7
James A. Gorman, Jr., AP	9	Eugene Roberson, Jr.	7
Nancy Gail Gorman, S	8	Harry P. Seeback, SN	41
Richard Heckhaus, AP	27	Betty J. Wedler, AP	23
Virginia C. Heckhaus	19	James D. Williams, P	25
Cheryl Hoiler	2	John C. Wilmot	21
Edward A. Hoiler, Jr., S	14		

P/C Howard Gasaway, Sr., P
SEO Report

Thanks to Potomac River Power Squadron members for allowing me to serve as the SEO for the last two years.

Our mission was to get as many of our members as possible to take an advanced course. As of today, PRPS has ten members who have achieved the Seamanship grade. We have completed four Boating Classes for 68 students and recruited 12 new members. Also PRPS is hoping that we will have a boat show here in Washington, DC in 2012, after an absence of two years. As I leave the post to become your Commander, please give our new SEO your support as you have given me.

I would like to thank our instructors: P/C Christopher Pickwick, AP and P/C John Wilmot, JN for their outstanding service to our Squadron.

Thanks again, it's been a Blast!

OLD SALTS' QUIZ

In the Rules of the Road, the General Prudential Rule:

- a.** Requires you to break any other Rule if necessary to prevent collision.
- b.** Permits you to break any other Rule if necessary to prevent collision.
- c.** Requires you to render assistance to any other vessel in distress if you can do so without endangering your own vessel, passengers or crew.
- d.** Permits you to render assistance to any other vessel in distress without having to worry about a lawsuit if something goes wrong.

(Answers can be found on page 7.)



Potomac River Power Squadron

COMMANDER

Anthony (Tony) Brown, P
 Skipper of the M-Pulse
 dyskokyd@verizon.net
 301-649-9643

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Bonnie Gaskins, S
 Skipper of the Meme's Ark
 bonnie.gaskins@chronicle.com

EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

Lt/C Howard Gasaway, P
 Skipper of the My Sweet J
 gasawaysr@aol.com

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Arline Leggett, P
 Admiral of the Lady Legg III
 clalegg@verizon.net

SECRETARY

Lt/C Janett Gasaway, S
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 email: JGasaway@aarp.org

TREASURER

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 Skipper of the KEEKEE II
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ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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 JAGNG4@aol.com

ASSISTANT TREASURER

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 Admiral of the SWEET LORRAINE TOO
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State License/Certificate Requirements

Several people have asked me about the requirements for a Boating Certificate, so I decided to publish a list. I believe this is the current information. The Boating Certificate we issue after you pass the exam will be good in any state.

Virginia: Beginning July 1, 2013 if you are 40 years old or younger you must have completed an NASBLA course. By 2016, all boaters of any age, must have passed an NASBLA course.

West Virginia: All persons born after December 31, 1986 must complete the approved course to operate a motorboat or PWC.

Maryland: All persons born after July 1, 1972, must have a Certificate of Boating Safety Education.

Delaware: All operators born after January 1, 1978 must have completed a boating course and carry their NASBLA approved Certificate. Specific age restrictions apply to operation of PWC's.

Pennsylvania: Anyone born after January 1, 1982 operating a vessel powered with greater than 25 HP needs a Pennsylvania Boating Safety Education Certificate. If you are operating a PWC you need one no matter what your age. (Our Certificate is NASBLA approved and is good in PA)

New Jersey: As of June 1, 2009 all persons operating a motorized vessel or PWC must possess a Boating Safety Education Certificate.

Washington D.C.: All persons operating a motorized vessel or PWC must possess a Boating Safety Education Certificate.

Based on the above information, I feel that every boater should take this basic course and learn the basic information and how to be safe on the water.

P/C John C. Wilmot, JN

Congratulations to All



NEWLY ELECTED BRIDGE AND COMMITTEES FOR 2011 - 2012

BRIDGE OFFICERS

Commander	Cdr Howard Gasaway, Sr., P
Executive Officer	Lt/C Arline Leggett, P
Educational Officer	P/C Anthony Brown, P
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Cheryl Fellenz, S
Secretary	Lt/C Janett P. Gasaway, S
Treasurer	P/C James D. Williams, P
Asst. Secretary	1 st /Lt Nancy Gorman, S
Asst. SEO	1 st /Lt Judith Sutter
Asst. Treasurer	1 st /Lt Lorraine Roberson
Asst. Administrative Officer	1 st /Lt Maria Powell

STANDING COMMITTEES

Executive Committee (Members at Large 2011)

Edward T. Dillon	Bonnie Gaskins
Pat Dillon	James Gorman
Allen Jox	Laurin Knutson
John Wilmot	Scott McLellan

Nominating Committee

Jim Gorman	2012 Chair	Christopher Pickwick	2013
Cleveland Leggett	2013	Anthony Brown	2014
		_____	2014

Rules Committee

J.D. Williams	2012 Chair	Allen Jox	2014
Howard Gasaway	2013	Bonnie Gaskins	2015
		_____	2016

Finance Committee

Daniel Parker	2013	Richard Jansen	2012
Edward Dillon	2014 Chair		

Auditing Committee

Richard Heckhaus	2013 Chair	Scott McLellan	2012
Laurin A. Knutson	2014		

Note: Dates indicate the year that terms end.

A Boater's Thought for the Month

By P/C Carl Muhlbauer, SN

There are many ways to do something wrong, but only a few to do it right. Resolve to take a few courses this year.

(March 2011)

SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT

Lt Eugene Roberson, Jr.

Starting a Cold Engine after a Long Cold Winter

Properly starting your engine after a winter lay up is very important. We have had two cold winters in a row. Spring is not far away, and damage can be done to an engine when starting it up after the boat has been laid up over the winter months.

Most of the older engines use W-30 engine oil. This oil is too thick to use when starting a cold engine. By the time cold W-30 oil has worked through the cold engine, damage may have already been done. Newer boats use multi-grade engine oil, which is better for starting cold engines.

One way to avoid damage to your engine is to remove the spark plugs from the engine and spray oil into the cylinders and then turn the engine over. This is the best way to stop damage to the pistons and cylinders. Another way is to warm the oil in the engine in order for the oil to circulate through the engine as fast as possible. On some engines, an electric oil dipstick can be used to warm the oil. There are a few other ways, such as using an electric heater or heat lamps in the bilge, but I do not recommend them. Whatever maintenance you perform on your boat, remember, **SAFETY COMES FIRST.**

Important Information

Internet Sites:

Potomac River
<http://www.usps.org>

District 5

<http://www.uspsd5.org/>
 USPS National <http://www.usps.org>

IN MEMORIAM P/C CHARLES A. POPLINGER, P

Cdr Anthony Brown wrote, "It is with profound regret that I inform Potomac River Power Squadron members of the loss of Past Commander Charles A. Poplinger, P, 12 Merit Marks, this morning, January 24, 2011." Charles was PRPS Commander in 2001-02 and continued to volunteer his time as Merit Mark Chair after his move to California and in the face of his long illness.

His wife, Pat, may be reached at:
 44841 Meadow Circle, Mendocino, CA 95460

JD Williams - 25th Merit Mark 2011



JD received his 25th year of membership and 25th merit mark in February, 2011 at the National Annual meeting in Orlando, Florida.

The accomplishment comes with a Life Member designation by USPS.

Also, District 5 will present Williams with a Certificate of Appreciation at the Spring Conference on March 25th in Ocean City, MD. JD Williams now serves as squadron Treasurer.

Congratulations JD

P/C Francis L. Mann, JN PRPS Commander 1980 – 1981

With sadness, we have received word that Past Commander Frank Mann crossed the bar on Sunday, 27 February 2011. Frank's Birthday was on February 29th, so he could only celebrate once every four years. In recent years, Frank was a member of Rockville Power Squadron and split his time between his home in Potomac (later Gaithersburg) and Ft. Myers, Florida. Potomac River "old timers" remember seeing Frank and wife Jean on board their cruiser Jeanne IV plying the Bay and partaking of Navigation Contests.

COMING EVENTS

Photo courtesy of Town of Ocean City Tourism Office



- 5 March - Change of Watch
- 8 March - Executive Committee Meeting
- 16 March – All Hands Meeting
- 24-27 March – D/5 Spring Conference
Ocean City, Maryland
- 10 April – CCA Meeting, Pirate’s Cove
- 12 April – Executive Committee Meeting
- 20 April – All Hands Meeting
- 11 June – NERVE Rendezvous

Terry Ann Boat Renaming Ceremony

Grant Woodside was SEO of Potomac River before transferring to Rockville Power Squadron. Terry was his late wife.

Our boat will be renamed the Terry Ann in loving memory of Terry Woodside

Please join us for the renaming ceremony and reception on Saturday May 14, 2011, from Noon to 5pm

West River Sailing Club
4800 Riverside Drive
Galesville, MD 20765
<http://www.westriveresc.org/>

RSVP by April 15
Grant Woodside
gewoods3@gmail.com
410-461-6294

"The Good Old Days"

From The Potomac Ribber October 1981

Martha Bruegger, President of the Potomac Gulls says, "Y'all Come" to the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Gulls on November 14th, 1981. Entertainment will feature the Ralph Case Cloggers and "Dancin Music" by Sherm Everly and his band. Western attire is recommended and refreshments will be served. A cash bar will be available. Admission \$5.00.

OLD SALTS' ANSWER: (a.) This is not a discretionary matter, as would be implied by (b.). Also, both (c.) and (d.) are covered by other Federal laws, but not by the General Prudential Rule.

The Potomac  **Ribber**