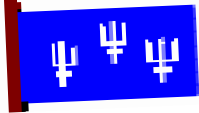


The Potomac Ribber

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.

Sept/Oct 2011



Commander's Report

By Cdr Howard Gasaway, Sr., P

It is so hard to believe that our summer season is just about over. I really enjoyed myself over the past months. The raft ups and the mini cruises were very relaxing. We are looking forward to having a great fall program and to have our new members become more involved. I can't wait for October, when we are planning an "Octoberfest." PRPS was able to bring in one new Vessel Safety Examiner: P/C Bonnie Gaskins, S, she handled her new position like a pro.

D/5 Summer Cruise – The weather was great and the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay was laid out so smooth I thought I was dreaming. The Richmond Power Squadron made every moment so special at Somers Cove Marina in Crisfield, MD. They welcomed us with Bloody Marys and Margaritas and they bought them right up to our boats. The food was great. Thanks goes out to all of the PRPS members who attended.

Potomac River Day – Even though "My Sweet J" did not leave the slip we still managed to have a pleasant dock cruise with members: Lt Cheryl and P/C Chip Hoiler, S, 1st Lt Lorraine Roberson, S, Lt Eugene Roberson, S and Lt LaVerne Glascoe with Lunch and Dinner at the Proud Mary's Restaurant, Ft Washington, MD and ending with spirits on "My Sweet J" with Janett and me. Thanks to all that were able to come out.

Potomac River and Seafarers Yacht Club Crab Feast – Another successful joint event, what can I say, congratulations to Lt/C Cheryl Fellenz, S. She did an outstanding job organizing this event. Hats off to her! Also, thanks to all who assisted and participated. It was great to see all the bridge members there.

You all know that getting new members to join Potomac River Power Squadron and to have advanced educational courses offered to our members to improve safety on the water is my number one goal. It is with great pleasure to congratulate Jo Chang and Judith Sutter for receiving their Piloting Certificates.



D/5 Summer Cruise, Crisfield, MD.

2011-2012 Bridge

Potomac River Power Squadron

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Special Moments from the D/5 Summer Cruise – at Somers Cove Marina in Crisfield, MD.





*Executive Officer's Report
Lt/C Arline Leggett, P*

What a week we had! Thunder storms Sunday (8/21/11) and Earthquake Tuesday (8/23/11). We watched a tropical depression develop into Hurricane Irene that hit the east coast Friday, Saturday and Sunday. A tornado watch was in effect in South Carolina, where we were.

Boaters did what we have rehearsed many times. We battened down the hatches, secured the lines with extra lines and hoped for the best. Landlubbers secured their domains and moved all projectiles and also hoped for the best. After it's over, we say "it could have been worse". Sometimes that can be a good thing.

This summer was great. It was hot like it's supposed to be. We enjoyed many Squadron and District/5 activities. How much fun you can have when socializing with good friends and boaters. If you didn't join us for the crab feast, you missed a good one. Summer is almost gone and we must get ready for boating courses; Governing Board; and Fall Conference (Gettysburg, PA.) Mark your calendars, 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. (1930) and plan to join us at the All Hands Meeting.

Cdr. Howard Gasaway, Sr., P reported in the Washington Informer, 8/31/11, Fishing on the Anacostia River/ Recipe for Toxic Soup? The condition of the Anacostia doesn't surprise him. "This river has had its share of contamination". There was coal from

a CSX train and a big oil slick from the Navy Yard several years ago. The fish are contaminated and he doesn't recommend eating the catfish or cod from this river. The Anacostia is a toxic soup of PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls), PAH (polyaromatic hydrocarbon) and other chemicals which enter the food system.

Former Mayor Adrian Fenty signed the landmark Anacostia River Protection and Clean Up Act of 2009, which requires stores that sell food to charge five cents for each plastic or paper bag distributed at the point of purchase. The store keeps one-to two cents of the fee and the remainder goes to a special fund aimed at new efforts to restore and protect the Anacostia River. The Seafarers Yacht Club and PRPS members join in the annual cleanup in April every year. The date coincides with Earth Day. Come out and join us.

Cdr. Gasaway said "he hopes the bag tax will be used to clean up the river, but we have a long way to go".

A Boater's Thought For The Month

By P/C Carl Muhlbauer, SN

Keep your hand on the helm, your eyes
on the water, and your mind on the Rules.

(September 2011)

WELCOME TO THE POTOMAC RIVER SQUADRON

Betty M. Rouse

Dianne & Kenneth Hartenstein

Travis Johnson and Jessica Dankert

John & Laura McLaughlin



OLD SALTS' QUIZ

A swimming pool (deep end) has an actual depth of 6 feet 7 inches. How deep does the floor drain of this pool appear to be to a poolside observer?

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| a. 6 feet 7 inches | c. 4 feet 11 inches |
| b. 7 feet 7 inches | d. 5 feet 11 inches |

(Answers can be found on page 6.)

Important Information

Internet Sites:

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

District 5

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

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.

"THE GOOD OLD DAYS"

(From the March 1973 Ribber)

By Sam Rosenberg

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Chesapeake Bay has been described as the crown jewel of the 850 estuaries and bays along the several coasts of the United States. Potomac River Squadronites will have no disagreement with that description.

At the Squadron meeting on 19 December, Mr. Sam Ridgeway, a speaker from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, sounded a warning that parts of this beautiful body of water are already dying and that the life of the entire bay is threatened. This is alarming news to the millions of people who use Chesapeake Bay for recreational purposes. As the representative of an organization dedicated to preserving the bay, he sounded a call to action.

(Note: How true the warning proved)

Safety Report

Reading the Waves

Handling your boat on the open ocean

When you can read the waves, you have a better chance of navigating them safely.

At the helm, your job is to pick a path between and around steeper waves to minimize their impact on your vessel. As seas build, use steering and throttle to work around them.

Head seas

Taking seas head on can be harmful to the boat and crew. Instead, take steep waves at a 30 to 45 degree angle off the bow. This minimizes the chances of burying the bow at the base of the next wave. By taking a path across the wave fronts, you spread out the peaks and flatten the slope the boat encounters.

If the seas are high enough, you may be forced to take them head on. When this happens, slow down as you meet the wave. Use throttle to meet and go over the top. As your bow clears the peak, throttle down so you don't accelerate down the wave's back side.



Beam waves

Beam waves come at the side of the boat and can lead to excessive rolling or yawing depending on their size. They can also cause you to lose control. The best method for handling a beam sea is to take the waves at a 45 degree angle, which means you may have to run a zigzag course to reach your destination.

Following seas

Waves coming from the stern are called following seas. This situation appears more benign than heading into the waves because you are moving with the wind and riding on the smooth side, rather than the steep side, of the waves; however, if the boat goes over the wave, a steep drop could cause the bow to dig in the trough and the following wave to push the stern sideways, in turn creating a broach.

In following seas, it's best to ride on the back of a wave, moderating your speed to stay there. If you can't maintain position, let the wave break behind you and flow under the boat. Be careful if your boat has a low transom; the following wave might overtake and swamp the boat.

Learn more about boat handling by taking the Seamanship course at a squadron near you.

reprinted from: USPS Compass

N.E.R.V.E

Fifty-six happy PRPS members and guests gathered at the N.E.R.V.E. celebration and Flag Raising held at the Wilmot estate on Glebe Bay. We were happy to meet seven of Betty Rouse's best friends from Deep Creek and the day was a delightful one. Many pitched in to help and all brought delicious appetizers or desserts to accompany the succulent pig, salads and beans. Ginny (valiantly trying to fill in for Patsy) had many willing hands and especially thanks Bonnie, Angie, Nancy, Betty and many others for all their help.



Gangplank Marina

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tues 13 September	Executive Committee Meeting	7:30 PM Rosensteel K of C
Mon/Sat 12 – 17 Sept.	USPS Governing Board Meeting	Greensboro, NC
Wed 21 September	All Hands Meeting	7:30 PM Rosensteel K of C
Fri/Sat/Sun 23/25 Sept.	CCA Rendezvous	Annapolis Yacht Basin
Fri/Sat/Sun 30 Sept – 2 Oct	D/5 Sail Regatta/Fall Festival	Herrington Harbour South
Tues 11 October	Executive Committee Meeting	7:30 PM Rosensteel K of C
Sat 29 October 	Octoberfest & All Hands Mtg.	2:00 to 5:00 PM Rosensteel K of C
Fri/Sat/Sun 4 – 6 Nov.	D/5 Fall Conference	Wyndham Hotel, Gettysburg, PA
Tues 8 November	Executive Committee Meeting	7:30 PM Rosensteel K of C
Date TBA - November	"Dinner Out" Meeting	Time & Place TBA

D/5 SAIL REGATTA & FALL FESTIVAL 2011 30 SEPTEMBER – 2 OCTOBER 2011



Herrington Harbor South
Reservations – Lt/C Marianne
Ponzio, P

1253 Still Woods Way
Annapolis, MD 21403
410 990 0291

OLD SALTS' ANSWER:

(c.) A miscalculation of this pool depth could be a disastrous oversight for 6 ft non-swimmer. Swim with care this year in your pool, and make sure others in your group do as well.

REST IN PEACE

P/C James C. Cantrell, JN

P/C Ramsay Wood, SN

Gerald Raine, S

P/C "Jamie" Cantrell, JN was Commander in 1968-69 and served for a number of years as Membership Chairman. He was well known for his participation in Squadron Navigator Contests. In recent years, he spent much of his time on his yacht, "Kitten".

P/C Ramsay Wood, SN was Commander in 1983-84 and served as SEO prior to being elected Commander. He was a life member, earning 29 Merit Marks and a member of the Potomac "N" Club. Ramsay lived to be 97 years old.

Crab Feast



2011 NERVE



OCTOBERFEST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2011, 1400 TO 1700 (2:00 TO 5:00 PM)
Rosensteel Knights of Columbus, Silver Spring, MD

Number Attending _____ @ \$5.00 each = \$ _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Mail check payable to "RPS" no later than 20 October 2011 to:

P/C Tom Dillon, AP, 4417 Westbrook Lane, Kensington, MD 20895

Telephone – 301 564 0372 • e-mail – etdillon@aol.com



The Potomac
 **Ribber**