

THE BALL

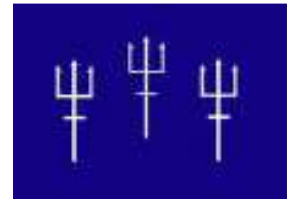


A PUBLICATION OF THE VERMILION SAIL & POWER SQUADRON



December, 2024

**RICH BARZYK, SN
COMMANDER**



Fellow squadron members,

Our November meeting was quite the success, with 14 members attending. "Thank you all" for supporting our squadron. I share here some notes of our meeting. The highlight of the meeting was our squadron receiving a check from the Wellington Eagles, for \$1200.00 to be used for new computer equipment for our education programs. Thanks to Tim Smith, Paul Hammel & Mary Anne Kastl for their 'follow-through,' on this project. I showcased our travelling plaque from District 7, that we received at the Fall conference, the Jack T. Rehberg Memorial Trophy for Advanced Grades for 2024. CONGRATULATIONS Vermilion!

There has been no appreciable progress on the USPS liability insurance for squadrons, nor any progress on the MARINSEC marketing initiative. I closed the meeting with a discussion on our membership numbers, and they are "concerning." In the past 19 months Vermilion has lost 12 members, and our current count is 29. We are following up on those most recently dropped. Remember, always be prepared to be an ambassador for membership in the USPS/ America's Boating Club!

The annual Christmas dinner meeting will be held on December 19th. at the Mill Hollow Carriage Barn, in Vermilion, from 1730-2000. This venue always provides a festive and memorable touch to our December meeting, and this year should be no exception, as our Administrative Officer, Mary Anne, has once again prepared some unique & surely entertaining surprises for us. I encourage everyone to consider attending this gala dinner meeting, especially since this year the event is cost-free, for ALL attendees. We have several changes for our Christmas dinner this year;

- #1- All attendees are encouraged to bring and donate 1 or 2 non-perishable food items, which will be delivered to a Lorain County food pantry or cupboard. (Take comfort in knowing your generosity will brighten someone's Christmas). Participation is strictly voluntary and no tallies will be taken.
- #2- Please consider bringing 2 dozen cookies, for a cookie-exchange. Again, participation is voluntary; and
- #3- As always, there will be a tree ornament exchange, for those wishing to participate. Be sure to read Mary Anne's report in this newsletter, for greater details.

I would also ask you to consider attending our future meetings as well. The Jan., Feb. & Mar. meetings will all be hybrid, being available both "in person & in Zoom," as I will be in Florida. Zoom, while not ideal, does provide the opportunity to attend our meetings without leaving your home, but please keep in mind, Zoom should not be used as an easy excuse for not personally attending, as your physical presence helps to insure our squadron's self sustainability. Our first hybrid meeting for 2025 will be January 16, at 1730 at Martino's in Vermilion. Cathe will host the Zoom call of the meeting.

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VERMILION BRIDGE

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P/C Tim Smith, S
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P/C Dave Kastl, P
P/C Tim Smith, S

AUDIT CHAIR

P/C Jean Verlotti, P

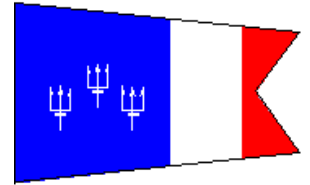
RULES CHAIR

P/C Larry Barber, P

“America’s Boating Club is a nation-wide boating organization. We learn together, boat together, and help each other and other boaters on the water and on land. Our members learn boating skills, engage with boating friends, and connect with the boating community.”



**P/C MARY ANNE KASTL, P
Administrative Officer**



Thursday December 19, 2024, we meet at the Carriage Barn, Vermilion at 5:30 for a catered dinner, optional gift exchange and fun holiday shenanigans, cookie exchange and donation of non-perishable food items to be given to a local good cause. Dinner is the squadron's gift to you, so PLEASE attend, bring a guest, join in the fun and RSVP either way to me .

January 16, 2025 we will meet in the front, private room at Martino's Intl. Café, 4415 Liberty Ave, Vermilion, 5:30 - 7:30. I would be happy to call you, if you are out of town, to listen-in to our meeting. Just let me know your phone number.

February 20, 2025 is Save our Sweethearts meeting with annual voting taking place. Meet at 5:30 PM at Cathe Radabaugh's home, 73 King Street, Oberlin. The March 20, 2025 meeting, starting at 5:30, will also be at Cathe's home. NOTE FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 2025 MEETINGS: There will also be a Zoom/Webex meeting or conference call available to all those who are unable to attend the in-person meetings. A link to access the meetings or conference call instructions will be sent a few days prior to the meeting.

A formal Change of Watch (April 17, 2025) invitation will be sent, and details of the May 2025 meeting will be announced.

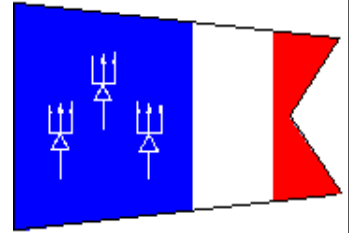
Respectfully submitted,

P/c Mary Anne Kastl, P
Administrative Officer





**P/D/C DAVID A. BIALORUCKI, SN
SEO and Membership Chair**



**SEO REPORT
MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT**

Merry Christmas to everyone, enjoy the season.

Birthdays for December:

STEVE FENIK, JR,
P/C KERRY McCULLOUGH, and
HEATHER SUMP
Happy Birthday to all.

Our December meeting will be at the Carriage Barn in the Lorain County Metro Park in Vermilion; check elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

Not a lot to report, but the new program at National is slowly coming online. There was a problem with the Dues notices not being sent out, so watch your email and snail mail for your dues.

Please keep in your prayers P/Dt/C Bev Sams who has had surgery and is in rehab at this time.

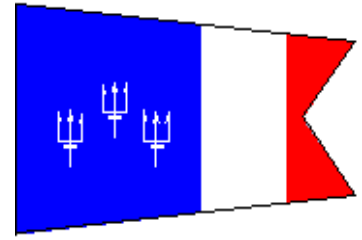
Hope to see you at the meeting at the Carriage Barn in Vermilion on the 19th.

Dave





P/C CATHE RADABAUGH, N
Executive Officer



I'll jump ahead to thoughts of the new year. If you're like most folks, you didn't get in enough boating in 2024; so make every other one of your resolutions for 2025 be about getting to the water. There's nothing like watching the waves, or the sun reflected on a calm surface to make life feel better. (I didn't say it *would* be better, but it helps).

Many of us have or had boats. If you still have one, resolve to get to it even on those 'iffy' days. You know you could always wash the deck. And the weather might actually clear up so you can go out for a ride. Or bum a ride. Or get to the beach. In fact, one affordable form of entertainment is going to a launch ramp and watching rookies launch or retrieve their boats.

Or let me know sometime if you'd like to join me on the water in one of my spare kayaks. There's minimal setup, and we can explore the Vermilion, Huron, Black or Rocky rivers; Findley lake, or Lake Erie if it's pretty calm. Just get to the water.

Continued from Cdr Barzyk's article on Page 1

Celestially speaking for December; The winter solstice will be on December 21st. at 4:21 EST. This is significant for several reasons; it's the first day of Winter, it's the shortest sunlight day of the year, and believe it or not, the days will now start getting longer! Sunlight is expected to be 7 hours & 50 minutes and in comparison, sunlight at this year's summer solstice was 16 hours and 38 minutes. The solstice is not a day, but instead an actual moment, the exact moment a hemisphere is tilted as far away from the sun as possible. Are you interested in observing the effects of solstice yourself? On December 21st. precisely at noon, stand outside and look at your shadow, it will be the longest you'll cast all year. Now, this summer, on the summer solstice, (June 21st.) stand outside again, at noon, and observe your shadow, you'll hardly even have one! Both polar regions will experience continuous darkness simultaneously around the winter solstice.

It was 83 years ago, on December 7th. 1941 that Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, and in that surprise attack, sunk 19 US ships, damaged 300+ aircraft, and killed over 2400 service men & women. It would be the catapulting event that sent the United States into WWII. A date that shall always remain in "infamy."

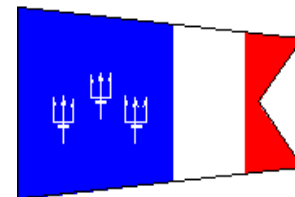
In closing, from our house to yours, Patti & I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, or if you prefer, a Happy Holiday Season. May your New Year be filled with "good health & unending happiness."

Fair winds and following seas always,

Rich



P/C RALPH SCHAEFER, SN
Secretary/Treasurer



The annual Christmas party is at the Mill Hollow Carriage Barn on December 19th at 17:30. There is no charge for the meal to any who attend, but we ask you to bring some non-perishable food, so we can donate it to a Lorain County food shelter. If you want to get into the gift exchange, please bring a small gift. We will also have a cookie exchange, so bring two dozen of your favorite Cookies.

Commander Rich did receive a trophy for the Squadron in the form of most percentage of advanced grades. This was presented at the District 7 Fall Conference.

Nominations for the new bridge are ongoing so please volunteer if you are asked.

Your Secretary and Treasurer
P/C Ralph Schaefer S.N.

ADD YOUR NAME TO THIS PAGE & HELP SUPPORT YOUR SQUADRON.

VSPS PATRONS—2024

- Dave Bialorucki
- Paul Hammel
- Dave & Mary Anne Kastl
- Cathe Radabaugh
- Bev Sams
- Brian Sams
- Ralph & Barb Schaefer
- Tim Smith

Patron ads are \$10 per year. Sponsor ads are \$30 per year. Please contact P/C Ralph Schaefer, SN to add your name or business card.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Your membership is your ticket to savings.

SAVE WITH OUR PARTNERS

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- ✓ Members Only Boating Courses
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- ✓ Boat Financing
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- ✓ 24/7 Boat Monitoring
- ✓ On-Water Towing
- ✓ Rental Cars
- ✓ Prescription Discounts
- ✓ Pet Insurance

and much much more!



For more information, visit our website
AmericasBoatingClub.org/Benefits

VERMILION SAIL & POWER SQUADRON
DISTRICT 7
P/C Ralph Schaefer, SN
103 Haydens Arbor
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

VERMILION SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON HOLIDAY PARTY



Thursday, December 19, 2024, 5:30PM

Carriage Barn, Vermilion River Reservation
51211 N Ridge Rd., Vermilion

- Business Meeting
- Merry Christmas Dinner
 - Fried Chicken and Roast Beef
 - Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Green Beans
 - Salad, Rolls/Butter
 - Christmas Cookies
- Optional Gift Exchange
 - Bring a wrapped gift (tree ornament or other)
- Holiday Games
- Non-perishable food item
 - Bring item(s) to be donated to a local food bank/charitable cause
- Cookie Exchange
 - Bring two dozen cookies. The elves will serve some of your cookies as dessert and divide the remainder into containers for everyone to take home an assortment.

RSVP to: Mary Anne Kastl, leave message or text: 440.724.9511
or e-mail dkastl@roadrunner.com