

THE BALL

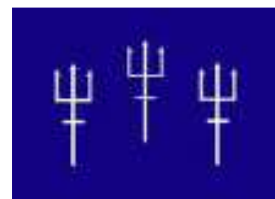


A PUBLICATION OF THE VERMILION SAIL & POWER SQUADRON



February & March, 2025

RICH BARZYK, SN
COMMANDER



Fellow squadron members,

First off, you'll notice this edition of our newsletter is labelled FEBRUARY/MARCH, and our following edition will be labelled APRIL/MAY. Please know these changes are only temporary, and there will be a "special" 1 page May newsletter announcing our summer schedule.

Our January meeting was held at Martino's in Vermilion, with 13 members attending, including 2 guests from Stark County Power Squadron, and 3 via Zoom. The following notes offer a condensed report. The 2025 USPS National meeting will take place in Orlando, FL. over the 2nd thru 9th of February. All conference information & schedules can be found on the National website. Our SEO Dave Bialorucki reported that we'll have 2 Safe Boating Classes this winter, one starting February 15th at Vermilion Power Boats, being taught by Brian Sams, and one starting April 5th. at the Beaver Park Yacht Club, under the tutelage of Dave & Mary Anne Kastl. Both classes are scheduled for 3-4 weeks. Please help Dave spread the word.

Administrative Officer Mary Anne Kastl reported that she is planning another Kayak-a-thon this summer, along with a possible cruise aboard the LADY CAROLINE, a dinner themed cruising yacht out of the port of Cleveland. Mary Anne also reported the 2025/2026 Change-of-Watch will be on April 17th at the Carriage Barn in Vermilion. Be sure to mark your calendar. Specific details to follow.

In closing, from my personal perspective, a ZOOM meeting, while not perfect, surely accomplishes what we need to do. It's a legal meeting, allows for everyone to participate, and is closely akin to a simple FaceTime phone call. Consider trying it in February (and March), you'll be pleasantly surprised!

As we celebrate "Save our Sweethearts" this February, let us remember the true reason we're doing so. First off; we recognize the contributions our 'significant others' have, and continue to have, in providing support to our squadron. Secondly; we remember ALL those who have served, but have long passed; may we always hold them dear in our hearts. And finally; we appreciate those whose creative minds initiated this observance, that being dedicated Vermilion Sail & Power Squadron members Patti Barnhart, Judy Moss & Jan Bialorucki. Vermilion recognizes and humbly "Thanks" all our 'sweethearts.

And please allow me to add, as we're reflecting on our 'sweethearts,' that we remember Cathe, Beverly & Ralph in our thoughts, hearts and prayers as they navigate some very serious health issues.

Our February & March meetings will BOTH be ZOOM only; this is a recent change so be sure to make note. February's meeting will be on the 20th @1730, and the link will be provided in advance. This meeting, by our charter, is our Annual Meeting, so**Continued on Page 5**



VERMILION BRIDGE

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P/C Tim Smith, S
P/C Paul Hammel, S

EDUCATION OFFICER

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440-282-7023
dakmak@roadrunner.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

AUDIT CHAIR

P/C Jean Verlotti, P

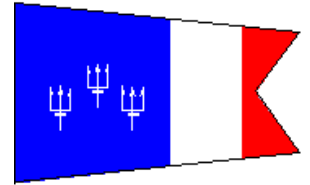
RULES CHAIR

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



Happy Valentines Day!

We had a wonderful adventure in Guatemala the second week of January, and Dave landed a ~350 lb. marlin. See pics below and if you notice, the marlin banner is held upside down to indicate it has been caught (but all bill fish are catch and release).!]

The January meeting at Martino's Intl. was very enjoyable, with lots of interactive conversation. Food was good and company better. So pleased the Hancocks joined us!

February 20, 2025 at 5:30PM EST is Save our Sweethearts meeting with annual voting taking place. This meeting is Zoom only and Cathe Radabaugh will be emailing all of us an invitation link to join the meeting. Wherever you may be, **PLEASE LOG IN**, your vote for the 2025 to 2026 officers and executive committee is very important.

March 20, 2025 at 5:30PM EST is also a Zoom meeting, and Cathe will again email us the invitation link. If you do not have access to Wi-Fi, you can simply call in on your cell phone or land-line. A formal Change of Watch (April 17, 2025) invitation will be sent. Don't miss a fully catered dinner, and the location will be the Carriage Barn, Vermilion River Reservation. It will be so nice to see the park in the springtime daylight.

Details of the May 2025 meeting will be announced.

Details of summer activities will also be announced, and note our December 2025 meeting will be again at the Carriage Barn as it has been in past years.

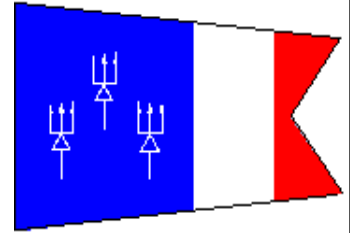
Harbortown Marine will be posting our April ABC Safe Boating class on their Facebook site. If you stop in their store for supplies, mention a thank you to Jody and Russ Imars, owners of Harbortown.

Respectfully submitted,
P/C Mary Anne Kastl, P
Administrative Officer





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



SEO REPORT

Two Safe Boating classes will be held this Winter/Spring.

The first one starts Saturday, February 15th, 10:00AM -2:00PM, and runs for three weeks at Power Boats Marina in Vermilion. The class will be held in the main building of the marina.

The second class starts Saturday, April 5th, and runs for three weeks from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at Beaver Park North. The class will be held upstairs in the Club House.

Contact me at 440 282 2282 for more information.

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

Membership meetings for February & March will be held on ZOOM; watch your email for Zoom meeting information.

Keep watching your newsletters and emails for upcoming DISTRICT CONFERENCE news.

Keep in your prayers Bev Sams and Cathe Radabaugh for their medical problems.

To help Cathe these next few months there will be one newsletter to cover February and March; and one newsletter to cover April and May.



FEBRUARY Birthdays:

P/D/Lt/C BEVERLY SAMS,
1st Lt BRIAN SAMS,
JEFF SCOTT, and
P/C TIM SMITH.



MARCH Birthdays:

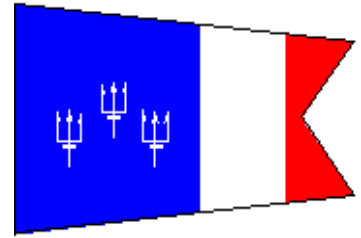
PATTI BARNHART,
P/C ROBERT SKLADAN,
DON WESSELL, and
PERRY HAMILTON



Happy birthday to all.



P/C CATHE RADABAUGH, N
Executive Officer



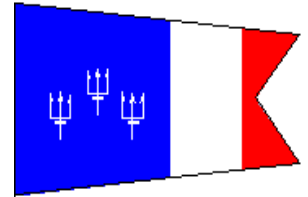
Hi all. This is just a quick note to say that the District 7 Spring Conference will be held on March 28 thru 30. The link to the Information and Registration form is :
<https://d7usps.org/images/Conference/2025Registration-SpringConference.pdf>
And many tanks to all of you for your well-wishes. I really appreciate it!

Continued from Page 1 –.....so voting will take place for the 2025-2026 bridge. If you have any questions about the submitted nominees, please contact Nominations chair Paul Hammel. The March Zoom meeting is scheduled for March 20th. @ 1730.
Celestially speaking; February is a bit dull, but lately there’s been great interest in the Northern Lights, or officially the Aurora Borealis. This atmospheric phenomenon, that displays a natural light show in the sky in the Northern hemisphere, is caused by magnetic storms that have been triggered by solar activity, such as a Solar flare (explosion on the sun), or Coronal mass ejections (ejected gas bubbles). Energetic charged particles from these events are carried from the sun by solar winds and are captured by the earth’s magnetic field, thus we have the Northern Lights, which are primarily seen in the darker skies of winter, and between latitudes 60N-75N. (Ohio lies between the 38N-42N latitudes.) The word aurora comes from the Latin name of the “goddess of dawn,” while borealis is Latin for “northern,” or “from the North.” Bear in mind, the best time for viewing the aurora is usually within an hour or two of midnight, and far away from any light source.
And another curiously interesting note for Celestial 2025; we’ll only have three Supermoons, BUT all 3 will be quite late: October 7th; November 5th & December 4th. This is, as you recall, where the moon is closest to the earth, its perigee, causing the illusioning appearance that the moon is ‘larger’ in size. Celestial speaking for March; we’ll have the March Equinox which will occur at 08:58 UTC on March 20th. The sun will shine directly on the equator and there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world. This is also the first day of Spring (vernal equinox) in the Northern Hemisphere. Good news, the days will continue to get longer and the temperatures will be slowly rising!!
Merit Marks for 2024 have been distributed from National via email. If you haven’t received one, however felt you deserved one, please notify me ASAP.
In closing, one notable event always takes place in February, on the second day of the month. It’s GROUNDHOG DAY! This furry marmot’s appearance tells believers what weather can be expected for the next 6 weeks, however his success is historically questionable, for he’s only been accurate 39% of the time since 1896. For those finding “mathematical and astronomical formulas” more trust worthy”, the Farmers Alamac this year shows we’ll have a late Spring. Additional worthy notable events for March include the return of DST on March 9th, and March 14th is National Pi Day. (3/14/2025)

Fair winds and following seas always,
Rich



P/C RALPH SCHAEFER, SN
Secretary/Treasurer



As of January 14, I'm home from 2 rehabs; my first operation had to be redone. Broken hips take 12 weeks to heal and I am only 4 weeks into it. I will not be able to attend meetings, but the treasurer's job I can do. We have \$5067 in checking at year's end, and total funds of \$9273. I have filed our state exempt status and have been working on the federal side. Thank you all for the nice card.

P/C Ralph Schaefer SN

VSPS PATRONS—2024

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

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

New Sponsor and Patron ads are needed for the 2025 year. Please contact Cathe Radabaugh or Ralph Schaefer.

Patron ads are \$10 per year. Sponsor ads are \$30 per year.

Nominating Committee Report for 2025-2026

In accordance with our Bylaws, Article 11, & Article 6 – Section 6.8, of Vermilion Sail and Power Squadron, a unit of United States Power Squadrons, the Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers for election at the Annual Meeting in February:

Bridge Officers:

Commander P/C Rich Barzyk, SN
Executive Officer P/C Cathe Radabaugh, N
Admin. Officer P/C Mary Anne Kastl, P
SEO P/D/C David Bialorucki, SN
Treasurer/Sec'y P/C Ralph Schaefer, SN

Executive Committee:

P/C Tim Smith, S
P/C David Kastl, P
Open

Nominating Committee:

P/C Tim Smith, S
P/C Paul Hammel, P – Continuing; 1 yrs remaining
P/C Kerry McCullough, AP Continuing; 2 yrs remaining

Rules Committee:

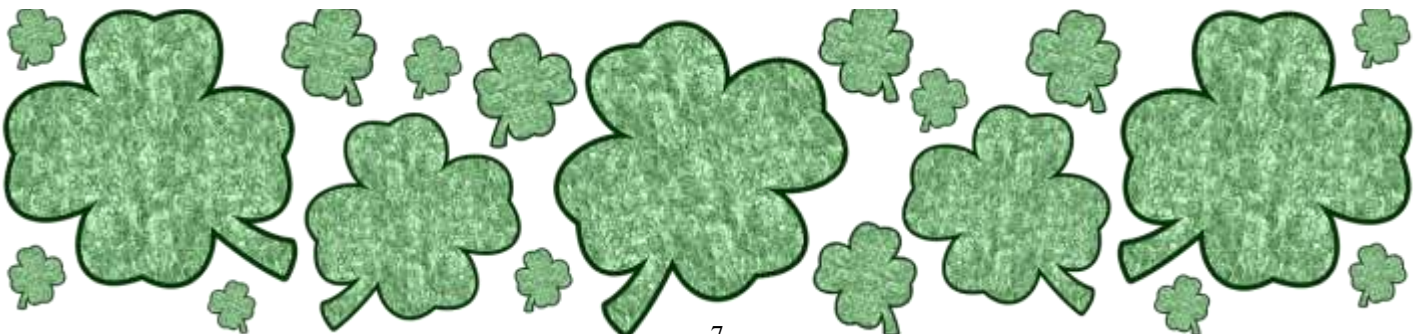
P/C Larry Barber, P

Audit Committee:

Patti Barnhart, S – Chair
P/C Jean Verlotti, P – Continuing; 1 yr remaining

Respectfully submitted,
P/C Paul Hammel, S
Nominating Chairperson

Note: This slate was originally published in the January, 2025 edition of The Ball.



VERMILION SAIL & POWER SQUADRON
DISTRICT 7
P/C Ralph Schaefer, SN
103 Haydens Arbor
Elyria, Ohio 44035



FIRST CLASS MAIL

**Vermilion Sail and Power Squadron
February & March Membership Meetings**

**February— Thursday the 20th
March — Thursday, the 20th
Start Time—1730**

**Location:
On Zoom only**

**RSVP: Mary Anne Kastl
dakmak@roadrunner.com
or text 440-724-9511**