And just like that, everyone has 2020 vision. What is your vision for 2020? Is it more time on the lake? More time with family and friends? Everyone is looking forward to boating season I'm sure with the New Year and New Decade!

My wish is to take Vermilion Roaring into the 20s with some great events and keeping our small, but mighty squadron active and growing.

Events like our Christmas Party, which was a HUGE success! Thanks to our Admin Officer Mary Anne Kastl and our Newest Member Dave Ferry, dinner was a huge success and the pine cones that Jackie Covert went out and made were tremendous. We're excited to see ours grow up over the next few months. It is always a great time to have fellowship with such wonderful people. Karen and I always marvel at how these events are just so memorable.

I'd like to give a HUGE SHOUT OUT to Larry Barber, he built or assisted in building 9 beds on Saturday before Christmas in the SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE build. Over 100 beds were delivered and built for children who have been sleeping on the floor. 75 volunteers and Larry was a machine. He even built a set of bunk beds in a room so small, that I think he had to use a shoe horn to put them together, but experience always wins out, right?

When this newsletter is published, Karen and I will be in the Western Caribbean on a cruise with a group of people from Kelleys Island. We spent the New Year in Florida with our grandson Kyle (who just turned 2 on December 17th).

Over the Holidays, Karen and I organized all of our items for the new boat. Changing basically from a deck and a cabin to 5 levels means you need to get organized BEFORE the shrink wrap comes off. So, having itchy feet, we organized and made containers up for the Bridge, Aft Deck & Wet Bar, Salon, Forward and aft Cabins, Galley, 2 heads and an engine room tub. (Installing lights and cameras in engine room).

A follow up from my last musings, we have purchased a CO system for the boat that includes an automatic shut off if the generator is running. We went with the one from West Marine with 4 different zones, both cabins, the salon and one in the engine room. Seeing we will be spending a lot of time on the boat, it makes the most sense to be ultra vigilant on items such as this.

Looking for ideas to help make 2020 the best year yet!

Yours in boating!
Cmd Kerry J. McCullough, AP
“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.”
Dear members of Vermilion S&PS

I hope that you had a wonderful Xmas and a good start for 2020. I wish all of you the best, but our age I rather wishes good health.

I just came back from the US Virgin Island in St Croix where the temperature was almost perfect.

A few words about it; warm water for the beach, winter wind cooling during the day, beautiful palm trees etc. But after a few days I realized that the cost of the vacation was going to be astronomical. Food is very expensive; so are hotels drinks and restaurants.

The east side of the Island was spared from Hurricane Maria, East is mostly expensive hurricane build condos. Visiting the west side made me sad because that is were the locals Crucian population is concentrated and where the hit got very bad. They still have blue tarps on the poor homes.

One interesting encounter was at the GOAT restaurant, where we met 3 restaurant servers from “PUT In Bay”. It’s the same owner in the two locations.

Spring is coming faster than we think and my great loop departure is in within the next 6 months.

Three pictures, 1) Sunrise on the east side of St Croix
2) A beautiful Iguana
3) St Croix Yatch Club. The sail boat at the center belong to a ASPS couple who sailed there and now are living in USVI

Lt/C Gilbert Lorenzo AP
Happy New Year to VSPS and your family and friends!

We enjoy great fellowship at every meeting and our December meeting was certainly a true celebration of Christmas which was the best attended. Again we thank our newer member Dave Ferry for his excellently-prepared brisket, smoked ham and the beans which were out of this world! Even though we did not have an organized fund raiser in 2019, this dinner did render a much needed and substantial profit for our squadron. Thank you to everyone including Joan and Tom Hancock from Stark for being there. We also congratulate and support Craig Fraser and Liana Mihalca for Craig’s upcoming position in National!

January meeting will be held at Wood and Wine, 38790 Chester Rd, Avon (at the Rt. 611 exit off I-90) Thursday, 16 January 2020. Board meeting at 1800; meeting at 1830. Order from menu.

February meeting is Save our Sweethearts to be celebrated 20 February 2020 at Paper Moon Winery in Vermilion. More info to follow.

Keep in mind, the 2020 Annual Meeting to be held at the Marriott Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, 9 – 15 February 2020. It's a great resort venue, just a short shuttle ride to the ocean with a beautiful private beach. The resort has lots to do and see, and it's a golfer’s dream with multiple courses nearby. Visit the National Meetings website and click "Hotel Reservation Site" to make your room reservations now.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Kastl, P
Administrative Officer
SEO REPORT

Happy New Year; hard to believe that 2020 is here already.

ABC classes are now set up.
- On Tuesday **February 4th**, the class will start at Ritter Public Library in the Endowment room, time 6:30 to 8:30 PM,
- On Saturday, **March 7th** at the Beaver Park Marina South time will be 10:00AM to 2:00PM for three weeks and
- Our final Spring class starts on **Monday April 6th** at the Joint Vocational School south of Oberlin. The Ritter and JVS classes are six weeks long.

Please refer anyone you know to me at 440-714-2311 for more info.

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

Happy New Year for 2020. The Squadron has been working on meetings for the upcoming months so check the newsletter for dates and times.

**Birthday list for January:**
MARIANNE COCHRANE, N
JUDY FERRY (NEW MEMBER),
P/C BOB MOSS, SN,
JOHN VANEK.

Happy Birthday to all.

If you know of any member that has been sick or has passed please let us know so we can get the information out to our members. Hope to see you at the next membership meeting.
FROM THE DESK OF YOUR TREASURER/SECRETARY

This is the last newsletter of the decade. Yes 2020 is upon us so say goodbye to the teens. Barb and I are truly sorry about missing the Mill Hollow Party but not wanting to spread the flu further we chose to stay home.

This has been an interesting year for V.S.P.S. as we reflect just how many of us are out of boating. I know myself I really appreciate the new Jump Start Program as it keeps me on the water, and I do enjoy the many boat inspections we do each year. So many people would love to boat as we did but many are not trained to even understand how a boat should be driven. I still believe we can get new members from these events.

I hope you have read the online copy of the Ensign. There is a form that shows the new members many Squadrons have gotten this year. I think we need to learn from these squadrons just what they are doing that we could do for our own squadron. I read that the Duluth Power Squadron gained 66 members last year. That tells me our short boating season is not the factor in getting new members.

We are running a rather large deficit this year so help us recoup the loses by reupping the patron ads and buying 50/50 tickets.

P/C Ralph Schaefer S.N.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

In accordance with the Bylaws, Article II, Article VI - Section 608 of Vermilion 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 2020-2021**

- For the office of Commander: Cdr. Kerry McCullough, AP
- For the office of Executive Officer: Lt/C Gilbert Lorenzo, AP
- For the office of Education Officer: P/C David Bialorucki, SN
- For the office of Administrative Officer: P/C Mary Anne Kastl, P
- For the office of Treasurer/Secretary: P/C Ralph Schaefer, SN

**Executive Committee**

1. P/C Tim Smith, S
2. P/C Paul Hammel, P
3. P/C David Kastl, P

**Rules Committee**

P/C Larry Barber, P

**Nominating Committee**

P/C Tim Smith, S for 3 years

To join:
- P/C Cathe Radabaugh, N - 2 years remaining
- P/C Paul Hammel, P - 1 year remaining

Respectfully Submitted,

P/C David Kastl, P
Nominating Chairperson
ADD YOUR NAME TO THIS PAGE & HELP SUPPORT YOUR SQUADRON.

VSPS PATRONS

Fran Cooper, P and Roger Cooper, P  
Esther and P/C Paul Hammel, S  
P/C Dave Kastl, AP and  
    P/C Mary Anne Kastl, AP  
Karen and P/C Tim Smith, S  
P/C Cathe Radabaugh, N  
Barb and P/C Ralph Schaefer, SN

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Patron ads are $10 per year. Sponsor ads are $30 per year. Please see P/C Ralph Schaefer, SN to add your name or business card.
January Membership Meeting
Thursday, 16 January, 2020—
Wood and Wine
38790 Chester Road, Avon
(at the Rt 611 exit off I-90)
Exec Meeting—1800
Membership Meeting –1830
www.thewoodnwine.com

Please RSVP to Mary Anne Kastl
Text 440-724-9511 or
Email dakmak@roadrunner.com