The time is upon us, at the publishing of this article, we will be less than 12 weeks from Memorial Day and that means most of those who stay at Marinas will be there for the first official weekend of the season. Time is upon us to start getting ready to wax, spring clean, pull off shrink wrap and have the mad dash of getting ready to launch.

So, the checklist to follow (although, if I do everything, maybe I'll have it done next year)

Do a general cleaning of hull, deck and topsides using a mild detergent; Make sure drains and scuppers are clear; Put on a good coat of wax; Clean and polish metal with a good metal polish; Clean teak and oil; Clean windows and hatches; Clean canvas, bimini and dodger; Clean interior including bilges; Check spare parts and tools and replace as necessary; Make sure registration is current and onboard; Check and replace wiper blades if necessary

HULL -- Check for hull abrasions, scratches, gouges, etc. and repair; Check and replace zincs; Check for blisters and refinish is necessary; Check rub rails; Check swim platform and/or ladder; Inspect and test trim tabs; Check shaft, cutlass bearing, strut and prop; Check rudder and fittings; Touch up or replace antifouling paint

DECK, FITTINGS, SAFETY EQUIPMENT: -- Check stanchion, pulpits and lifelines for integrity; Check ground tackle, lines, fenders, etc.; Check chainplates and cleats; Check hull/deck joint; Check deck, windows, and port lights for leaks; Inspect anchor windlass and lubricate; Clean and grease winches; Check and lubricate blocks, pad eyes, etc.; Check dinghy, and life raft

BELOW DECKS: -- Check, test and lubricate seacocks; Check condition of hoses and clamps; Make sure below waterline hoses are double clamped; Check bilges pumps for automatic and manual operation; Check for oil in bilges; Check bilge holes and make sure they are clean of debris

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM AND COMPONENTS: -- Check battery water level; Check/recharge batteries; Check terminals for corrosion, clean and lubricate; Check bonding system; Inspect all wiring for wear and chafe; Test all gauges for operability; Check shore power and charger; Check for spare fuses; Check all lighting fixtures (including navigation lights) and make sure you have spare bulbs; Check all electronics for proper operation; Inspect antennas

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT: -- Sound signaling device; Check distress signals and expiration date; Check PFDs; Inspect life rings and cushions; Check fire extinguishers and recharge if necessary; Check and adjust compass; Check navigation lights; Check charts and replace as necessary; Check radar reflector; Check and replace first aid supplies; Check bailer and hand pump

INBOARD ENGINE(S): -- Change oil & filters - have spare onboard; Check and change fuel filters - have spares onboard; Check and change engine zins; Check cooling system change coolant as necessary - have extra onboard; Record engine maintenance log, especially date & hours of last oil changes; Check belts for tension; Check transmission fluid; check and clean backfire flame arrestor; Check impeller; Check clean water strainer; Check bilge blower

HEAD SYSTEM: -- Checked for smooth operation - lubricate and clean as necessary; If equipped with treatment system, have chemicals on hand; Y-valve operation checked, valve labeled & secured

WATER SYSTEM: -- Flush water tank; Check water system and pump for leaks and proper operation; Check hot water tank working on both AC and engines; Check for tank cap keys on board; Check and clean shower sump pump screens

GALLEY: -- Fill propane tank, check electric & manual valves, check storage box vent to make sure it is clear; Check refrigerator, clean and freshen, operate on AC and DC; Clean stove, check that all burners and oven are working; Check microwave, if fitted

OUTBOARD MOTOR: -- Replace spark plugs; Check plug wires for wear; Check prop for nicks and bends; Change/fill gear lube; Inspect fuel lines, primer bulb and tank for leaks; Lubricate and spray moveable parts
VERMILION BRIDGE

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P/C Paul Hammel, S
P/C David Kastl, P
P/C Tim Smith, S
P/C Cathe Radabaugh, N

www.usps.org/vermilion

“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.”
Spring is almost here!
Well, on February 27 it was still winter. I spent a few days lately taking pictures in Maggie Marsh, and to my surprise birds are showing in bigger number and that made me happy because we are coming closer to boating season, nasty spring weather, and Our Lake Erie eclectic behavior.

Americas Boating Club VSPS is entering another year of activities, change of watch, summer event and maintaining that great friendship that make our squadron special.
I am looking with a bit of concern about that Chinese Virus, and how it will affect our life in the next months ahead. I might need to cancel my Great Loop trip! Who knows.
I am looking forward to the 2020 summer season, and like to wish all of you a great Spring and a fantastic boating season.

2 ft of snow in Montreal

US Virgin Island

River St Laurence
Thousand Island

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
P/C Cathe Radabaugh, N
Barb and P/C Ralph Schaefer, SN
Karen and P/C Tim Smith, S
Jean Verlotti, P
We are finishing our 2019 to 2020 year with Change of Watch to be held at Beaver Park Yacht Club on the Lake.
CHANGE OF WATCH to honor our Commander and Bridge will be held March 19, 2020 at Beaver Park Yacht Club, 5980 West Erie Avenue, Lorain. We are excited for our new/reinstated bridge to be installed by Officer D/Lt/C Liana F. Mihalca, SN. Formal invitation is being extended to all of District and also included in this publication. 1800 hours – cash bar with catered dinner at 1830 for $20 per person. I do need your prompt reservation by text to 440 724 9511, land line 440 282 7023 or email dakmak@roadrunner.com by March 13. Menu to include: Appetizers, Chicken Marsala, Sirloin Roast Beef Au Jus, garlic mashed, veggie medley, salad, rolls/butter and dessert.

April meeting, we will host a guest speaker Bryan Schrock who formerly owned Shrock’s Marina and now is a surveyor. Most of us have been through marine surveys so I am sure we will enjoy listening to the information he will share with us. Venue to be advised.

May meeting, last of the year, will be a special venue again to be announced.

Upcoming events.
May 2nd – Black River Clean-up! Cathe will provide more information soon to all us.

KAYAKATHON/SMALL CRAFT BLAST on June 7 in the Beaver Creek/Beaver Park North Marina. Much relaxing enjoyment on the creek followed by a fine picnic repast prepared by our Captains.

Tentative Beach Party at Beaver Park North Marina and Yacht Club on July 11. Please let me know if you are interested in a dock for Friday and Saturday nights, July 10 and 11, and we will plan a rendezvous to include events on Friday, and before and after the beach party.

We had a bridge meeting and discussed some rendezvous -- potentially Father’s Day weekend, and another at Scudders on Pelee Island August 14-16. More info to follow, and there are some very fine bed and breakfasts and travel by ferry to the island is very easy.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Kastl, P

D7 Dates to Remember for 2020

Spring Conference
3-5 April
Crowne Plaza Cleveland South in Independence

D7 Rendezvous
31 July thru 2 August
Middle Bass Island and the MBIYC

Fall Penta Conference
5 Districts—7,9,11,24 and 29
2 –4 October
Kalahari Resort & Conference Center
SEO REPORT

Happy St Patty's day to everyone. At this writing we have one ABC class started in Vermilion. Test will be March 10th. At Beaver Park South, the ABC class starts March 7th at 10:00 AM – and runs to 2:00 PM, for three weeks. And on April 6th, the ABC class at the JVS south of Oberlin will begin. Our class at Beaver South looks very good this spring, and looks like parents are looking for boating education for their children. If anyone is interested in any Squadron classes let me know so I can get them set up.

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

Looks like the month of the Irish is upon us, so Happy St Patty's day and a glass of green beer to all. March brings us to the Vermilion Power & Sail Change of Watch. This year the Change of Watch will be at the Beaver Park Marina (North) side. We will have Liana Mihalca, SN as installing Officer from the District, as well as newly elected National Executive Officer Craig Fraser, SN.

There are many things to do in the upcoming months so keep your eye on your newsletter for all events this spring and summer. Looks like we have a full schedule ahead of us. Most of the events will be able to get to by land vehicle if you do not want to boat to the event. April 3,4,& 5, 2020 bring the District Change of Watch with new officers taking their new jobs. Let’s go and support them with the Change of Watch at the Crown Plaza.

BIRTHDAY LIST FOR MARCH:
PATTI BARNHART,
P/C ROBERT SKLADAN,
DON WESSELL,
PERRY HAMILTON,
happy birthday to all.

Keep in your prayers for Esther Hammel who recently fell and hurt her back.

Hope to see you at the March meeting.
All 16 members present at our Save Our Sweethearts meeting held on 2-20-2020 at the Paper Moon Winery accepted the slate of Bridge Officers for year 2020-2021. Thanks to all that continue to give support to our Squadron. Many members have given to our Patron fund so that alone will help our finances. This year we have a full list of events to promote the theme of Americas Boating Club. The list will be in the Ball so plan on attending at least 3 or 4 events. We kick off the year in early May helping at the Black River cleanup event. LoCoYaks and the Lorain County Metro Parks are the co-sponsors. They have planned a great 2-day event and we will man the booth at Cromwell Park as we have for the past 2 years. Contact Cathe Radabaugh so she can take down your name to volunteer.

Just a reminder of our own Change of Watch on March 19th at Beaver Park. A catered Dinner and Cash Bar will be provided. The District 7 C.O.W. is in April 3-5 at the Crown Plaza off Rt. 77. Let Commander Kerry know if you are attending.

P/C Ralph Schaefer, SN
The Spirit of Boating... Education, Friendship and Fun

Registration for D7 Spring Conference, April 3 - 5, 2020

Important Dates:
Registration form and payment must be received by March 24, 2020.
Hotel reservation must be made by March 24, 2020 to secure this rate.

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Address
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Is this your first conference? Yes No

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<td>Turkey &amp; Ham Croissant</td>
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<td>Chicken Salad Croissant</td>
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Total Amount Due $ 

Make your check payable to District 7 - USPS and mail with this form to:
Tom Hancock, 426 Emerson Ave., North Canton, OH 44720-2308.

Questions please contact:
Wayne Spragins at wgsboat@cox.net or Kathy Barber at kmckenna@bw.edu

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Crowne Plaza at 866-840-0582.
Please identify yourself as a member of D7-USPS to receive the special rate.
Room rate: $95/night + taxes.