It’s that crazy season again! Weather looks like it’s finally going to break, even with the COVID-19, which I am totally over right now (no, I didn’t get sick, just sick of the different stories that come out on either side of the argument), boat yards and marinas are opening up with physical precautions (I hate that phrase, SOCIAL DISTANCING), I am a social person, by nature, most boaters are and we are smart enough to know what to do, heck, we can land a boat in 30 knot crosswinds on a floating dock that a current is moving in the opposite direction, but we’re not smart enough to keep a little distance? BUT, I digress back to the subject of this month’s musings.

I have always respected and appreciated spiders on a boat (well on the decks). They keep all of the mayflies captured so you’re not stepping on them so much when they expire which definitely makes for an easier clean up. However, the Admiral of our vessel doesn’t like them so it has become evident I need to have a plan for the summer. With this pressing need, I reached out to the boating community across our Great Lake Erie to see what others have used and what works and doesn’t work. As you will read, like anything else, EVERYONE HAS AN OPINION (as this article is just an opinion as well)

The first step was going to be to BOMB the boat, yep, set off some bug bombs and kill off any nests that may be lurking in a crevice that is just not obvious to us on a new to us vessel. Then, what to do next? I have read dryer sheets are good, stuff them in all of the cabinets and storage areas. Well, that’s quite a few dryer sheets to have on a boat and who can agree between “Bounce” and “Snuggle”? Sorry, but I am not stuffing dryer sheets and explained in all of the compartments of the boat. (We bought a live-a-board, the cost would be TREMENDOUS). Also, the thought of setting off a BUG BOMB and getting that residue all over everything in the boat is also not something that I want to deal with when we have dogs and also grandchildren, so that option is out.

Next, buy Spider Kill defense spray. Great idea. A 32oz bottle is about $10. So, 8 of them would do what I need ($80). Well, the problem? They have more ingredients than a Hostess Twinkie and nothing is good for the environment nor the pets or children. Now, you also have 8 bottles that you have to throw away at the marina and have to keep a few on board for the summer, so that’s not a good option either.

I’ve heard COFFEE in the FILTER PACKETS. Sounds great but I only want to smell coffee BREWING and not in my clothes or on my boat 24/7. Plus, not even going to look into the cost. Imagine reaching into a compartment and one of those had gotten wet and then opened? Yeah, again, not a viable option at this point. So, what to do about the spiders without being so expensive and messy? Well, a couple of things we found that had rave reviews and people I know have actually used the products.

First, D-FENSE™ SC, Deltamethrin Insecticide in the pint ($39.99 from Amazon). Perfect solution, makes 32 gallons of solution that lasts on the average 3 months. Leaves no residue, safe for Pets and Children and is active when it dries. Works for a myriad of different insects including Mosquitos, Flies, Gnats, Ants and

—Continued on page 6.—
“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 the Vermilion Sail and Power Squadron.

Yes! we are in May, still confined, wishing for warmer weather, and wondering what will happen this boating season? I haven’t seen anyone from VSPS since last year. We had no Change of Watch yet, all events at D7 are postponed, the Virus is like a ghost turning above our heads.

I might not describe all, but we all think the same way.

I have decided not to let the C.V. disturb my life, but rather take the opportunity to enjoy it to the max.

Old Goat is in the water, I will be sailing and navigating the Great Lakes because we are finally lucky to live close to Lake Erie. We have an exceptionally low rate of CV case in Lorain and Erie county. My point being that living in smaller cities is certainly better. The Marinas have published a CV directive, including distancing and face masks.

Meeting the Akron SPS at Battery Park marina was fun, and even taking a distancing approach it feels good to talk to them and help docking their boats or waving at them.

It is amazing how a shared boating passion brings people close and builds a strong friendship.

Water is High again this year, the biggest challenges this season at the marina are Toilets and Shower cleaning and enforced distancing. They need to clean the facility every two hours. I assume that if everybody helps and respect the distancing, we should end up with a nice boating season.
Dear Squadron.

We are tentatively planning a live, not virtual change of watch for June once we determine a safe venue where all attendees will also feel the same. More info to follow.

Our June 7th event at Beaver is still on schedule as it will be held outside and typically only one person is in a kayak or SUP. We encourage all members to extend the invitation to everyone interested!

**Sunday June 7, 2020**

Beaver Creek will be navigated commencing at Beaver Park North Marina, 6000 West Erie Avenue.

**10:00 AM** Launch small crafts off the marina bulkheads or from either of the beaches located in front of the Beaver Park Yacht Club or “Hole in the Wall”

**Creek cruise 10:30 to noon.**

**Noon - Picnic lunch** prepared/provided at R-Boat dock

Please bring your own water and beverages, small craft and gear, all safety gear and dress appropriately for weather.

**Please reply to Mary Anne Kastl:** text 440 724 9511 or email dakmak@roadrunner.com if you are interested to attend the June 7 Kayakathon/small craft event

Other upcoming events to be reconfirmed or rescheduled:

**July 10 – 12** Rendezvous at Beaver Park North Marina Beach Party, Saturday, July 11.

**August 14-16** - Scudders, Pelee Island. More info to follow and there are some very fine bed and breakfasts and travel by ferry to the island is very easy.

Everyone please stay healthy and safe and hope to see you very soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Kastl, P
Administrative Officer

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**District 7 Dates to Remember for 2020**

**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

With all that is going on with this virus we may not be able to have any classroom ABC classes. I'm going to setup the Fall classes as usual with the hopes we will be able to proceed with them in the Fall. Nothing else to report at this time.

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

As May approaches we are planning to have our Change of Watch on Thursday May 21st at the Beaver Park Marina North, If you feel that this is too soon we are setting up so you can watch the meeting on the live stream.

(Editor’s Note – this has since been postponed)
Watch for details from our Commander. There will be a D/7 dinner in the near future so watch for details on this event.

Keep Esther Hammel in your prayers - she is having some surgery. Good luck on the upcoming surgery.

Hope to see everyone at the next Membership meeting

BIRTHDAY LIST FOR MAY:

JACKIE COVERT,

P/C PAUL HAMMEL,

KAREN McCULLOGH,

and

RUSSELL WILSON.

Happy Birthday to all.
FROM THE DESK OF YOUR SECRETARY, TREASURER:

There is not a whole lot to report. Governor DeWine is slowly opening the state. Last Sunday was our first Sunday Dinner with the Grandkids. Barb and I are trying to support our local business by purchasing curb side meals and products. My son Zach and I did manage to get his boat ready last Saturday, but we had to wait until Dutch Lane was clear of water. Gas for his boat was at $2.00 per gallon so we filled up and took a short bay ride. I really think Lake Erie is higher this year, but Sandusky did some road drain work and stopped First Avenue from flooding.

We received news that Kelly’s Island is still closed until Memorial Day or later. You can dock there but no restaurants are open. My oldest grand daughter will work if needed before the Island opens just to monitor docking. Both my sons have been working from home and my daughter-in-law says her beach body business is busy. Barb and I do Yoga and neighborhood walking to keep fit. My brother-law that is a United Airline pilot will return to work June 1st.

Vermilion Sail and Power Squadron is still planning on a full summer of events starting in June 6th for the Kayak event. Planning is in the works for a C.O.W perhaps in late May. Stay in contact with Squadron e-mails for updates.

This pandemic is not over yet so stay safe.

P/C Ralph Schaefer S.N.

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Commander’s Report—Continued

yes SPIDERS. So, spraying down the dock, under the dock, the lines, all of the interior of the boat as well as the Bimini and deck support poles. Spray the fender lines too (and inside the fenders that have a through hole) It is non-toxic, uses a refillable bottle and has rave reviews not only from Amazon but the people I know who have used it. Works inside and outside too.

Second, and this is a total game changer for a vessel that you spend a lot of time on, Kanberra Gel™. It is a natural air purifier gel and a 4 ounce container is $26.48 (3 are $79.44) through Amazon with a 16oz refill pouch running about $85. We have ordered 3 of them and here’s where it becomes a game changer. The Spiders HATE IT and with that ‘oh so hard to get rid of’ bilge odor, works on 2 problems at once. So, taking care of any musty bilge and boat smells are a problem I don’t have to deal with this summer (without using a few gallons of bleach and having that aroma hanging around).

Now, the snake problem? Well, we don’t have any teak this year for them to ‘SUN’ themselves on, so we shouldn’t have to worry about them.

BUT THOSE DARN ‘GULLS. Wonder how those owls work? Perhaps another day for that topic…

Items to think about when spraying for insects (Spiders): all dock lines; All cleats; Under your dock areas; Inside dock box; Under dock box; Any fixed poles (bimini, support, etc…); and any place on the outside of your boat that spiders are attracted to (especially the rub rails, the underside specifically)

**Commander’s Rendezvous at Maritime Weekend on Kelleys Island, Portside Marina June 19-21**

Join us for a great time on Kelleys Island at Portside Marina on Father’s Day Weekend. There are docks under Vermilion Sail and Power Squadron and I will need a count by June 1st. Make your reservation either through DOCKWA and use Vermilion Sail and Power Squadron in the notes or call the Marina Directly and leave a message if they don’t answer. Also follow up with an email to me directly so I know who is coming and how many guests we can accommodate after the 1st. YOU ARE ALLOWED TO INVITE GUESTS that are not members to this event, also THIS IS OPEN TO ALL OTHER SQUADRONS. Just make sure they are making their reservation under our name and let me know who it is and how many in their party. IF YOU’RE JUST COMING FOR SATURDAY via the Kelleys Islander or Jet Express, please let me know that as well. We have plenty of room on the boat for day trippers and also their guests. We will have a cart to move people that weekend so we just need a head count.

**Just in case you missed it!**

Our own Dave Bialorucki was featured in an article on Discover Vermilion’s website.

Looking forward to a GREAT SUMMER! Cannot wait for everything we have planned. Check out Mary Anne Kastl’s information on upcoming summer events!

Yours in Boating,

Commander Kerry McCullough, AP
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
P/C Cathe Radabaugh, N
Barb and P/C Ralph Schaefer, SN
Karen and P/C Tim Smith, S
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NOSHOK

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.
Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month
September thru May

The May Meeting is cancelled
(and we hope to meet twice in June)

Sunday June 7 for
Kayakathon and Small Craft, fol-
lowed by a picnic—see page 4 for
details

Another June date—to be determined -
for our 2020 Change of Watch