

# THE BALL



**A PUBLICATION OF THE VERMILION SAIL & POWER SQUADRON**

**December, 2025—January, 2026**



**RICH BARZYK, SN  
COMMANDER**



Fellow squadron members,

The November membership meeting at the Paper Moon Winery was attended by 11 members, which resulted in a quorum. Patti & Bruce Barnhart were in attendance, as Patti is doing quite well convalescing from a heart-breaking accident. Mary Anne did recap some plans for the Christmas meeting, and had flyers created which she will distribute to District squadrons. The tabled motion on whether Vermilion should allow USPS National to assign our squadron Cyber members was again discussed, and under a new motion, which was approved, the 'call for the vote,' is now 'postponed indefinitely.' Consensus seemed to be, "there is soft support to pursue this initiative quickly."

Cathe requested that we combine the December & January editions of THE BALL, which was approved. This will provide those contributing to producing THE BALL a well-deserved holiday break. The January meeting will be hybrid, as I'll be chairing from Florida. The physical location is AGAVES Mexican Grill, 4340 N. Leavitt Rd, Lorain. (By Home Depot) The date is the 15th. and the time is 5:30. The February meeting will be at Martino's Intl. Café in Vermilion on the 19th. This will be our traditional "SOS." Celebration, and it will also be hybrid. The meeting was adjourned at 1830.

Our historically successful annual Christmas meeting/party will be on December 18th at 5:30 in the Carriage Barn at Mill Hollow, in the Vermilion reservation. I do hope you'll consider joining us, for it's truly a beautiful venue, and I know there'll be a delightful fire for hearthside warmth and casual conversation. Mary Anne has a festive evening in store for us, as the itinerary will include: complimentary dinner for ALL attending; a non-perishable food collection; a tree ornament exchange; and a cookie exchange. Participation is voluntary, for each or all. Greater specifics are in this newsletter.

The District 7 Fall Conference was on November 8th. and Cathe, Dave B. & I attended along with 50+ fellow District members. We received a very informative iMAS 'hands-on' demonstration, along with an intriguing presentation from Christopher Gillcrest, Director Emeritus of the National Museum of the Great Lakes, titled THE EDMOND FITZGERALD; WHAT REALLY HAPPENED. The afternoon business portion of the conference was devoted to education & associated awards.

**Continued on Page 7**





## **VERMILION BRIDGE**

### **COMMANDER**

**Cdr Rich Barzyk, SN**  
130 East Street  
Wellington, OH 44090-1127  
440-289-5243  
morningstar7744@gmail.com

### **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**P/C Cathe Radabaugh, N**  
73 King Street  
Oberlin, OH 44074  
440-223-8295  
ceradabaugh@gmail.com

### **SECRETARY / TREASURER**

**P/C Ralph Schaefer, SN**  
103 Haydens Arbor  
Elyria, Ohio 44035  
440-319-2341  
captralph555@gmail.com

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

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

### **EDUCATION OFFICER**

**P/D/C David Bialorucki, SN**  
2548 W. 37th Street  
Lorain, Ohio 44053  
440-282-2282  
taxi60@hotmail.com

### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**P/C Mary Anne Kastl, P**  
1327 Narragansett Blvd  
Lorain, OH 44053-3414  
440-282-7023  
dakmak@roadrunner.com

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**P/C Larry Barber, P**  
**P/C Dave Kastl, P**  
**P/C Tim Smith, S**

### **AUDIT CHAIR**

**P/C Jean Verlotti, P**

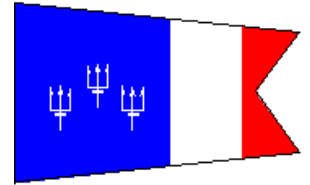
### **RULES CHAIR**

**Lt. Brian Sams, S**

“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



I hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving celebrations with your loved ones. Wasn't that OSU game on Small Business Saturday absolutely FANTABULOUS!!! I cannot believe I graduated from there over 50 years ago and when Archie Griffin was playing at his prime!

The November Paper Moon meeting was lovely and it was heartwarming to see so many people attend. Our holiday dinner is Thursday, December 18 at 5:30PM! Details below and take note of what to bring. I also suggest bringing a flashlight or your cell and cold weather clothing and footwear as we'll go out and enjoy the beautiful night.

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

#### **Business Meeting Merry Christmas Dinner**

- o Appetizers
- o Half Oven Roasted Chicken
- o Roasted Rosemary Pork Tenderloin
- o Chantilly Potatoes
- o Mixed Vegetables
- o Tossed Salad
- o Rolls & Butter
- o Christmas Cookies
- o Soft drinks & water

#### **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 2-3 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 [dakmak@roadrunner.com](mailto:dakmak@roadrunner.com) IT IS CRITICAL I HAVE YOUR RSVP and thank you to all who have confirmed they are coming thus far.

Here are meeting venues to come. If you are unable to attend in person for the Jan, Feb. or March meetings, there are two options to join: Connect with the Zoom link that is sent to you, or give your cell phone number to Mary Anne Kastl and we will dial you in for the meeting.

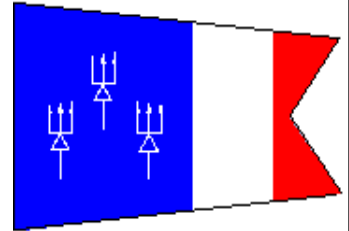
1/15/2026	January Membership Meeting	Agaves Mexican Grill, Lorain (by Home Depot), 5:30PM
2/19/2026	February SOS Meeting	Martino's Intl. Café, 4415 Liberty Ave, Vermilion, 5:30 - 7:30
3/19/2026	March Membership Meeting	ESP Brewing, Amherst or Cathe home, 5:30PM
4/16/2026	April Membership Meeting,	Change of Watch Beaver Park Yacht Club, Lorain, 6:00PM
5/21/2026	May Membership Meeting	Vermilion River Reservation, reserved shelter, 5:30PM to sunset

Respectfully submitted,

P/c Mary Anne Kastl, P Administrative Officer



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



### **SEO REPORT**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, this newsletter is for December and January because of the Holidays.

Our meeting for December will be at the Carriage Barn in the Metro Park in Vermilion, with all the Holiday events at the meeting .

The January meeting is at Agaves Mexican Grill, on the 15th.

**BIRTHDAYS FOR DECEMBER :**  
STEVE FENIK, JR,  
HEATHER SUMP,  
KERRY McCULLOUGH

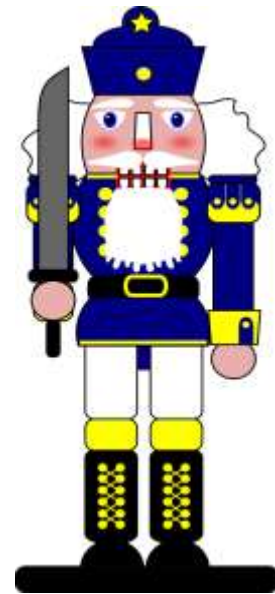
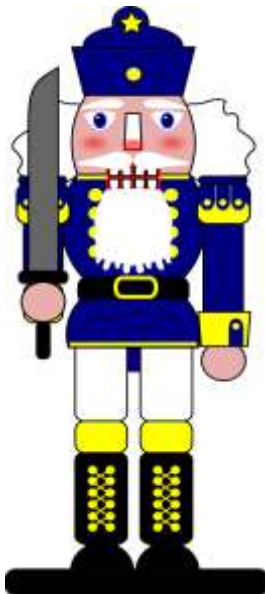
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALL**

There are no Birthdays for January.

### **MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT**

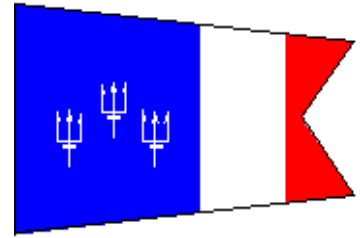
Nothing to report at this writing although I am planning to have an ABC class and Boat Handling class after the Cleveland Boat Show.

At the D7 Conference, the DEO said he could put on a Battery Seminar for the Squadron. This would be a two-hour Seminar and probably be on a Saturday morning time frame. I will get more information from Ken Leque about when he is able to put this on for us. I sat in on this Seminar at the Governing Board meeting, and it was a very Interesting seminar. I feel that this would be a good idea to sit in for this and get all the facts about your battery system in your boats.





**P/C CATHE RADABAUGH, N  
Executive Officer**



I don't think I'll ever eat again. Thanksgiving meals with different parts of the family, lasting over the whole holiday weekend, have (temporarily) spoiled my appetite. I really enjoy going to homes with big kitchens, where we can all crowd in and help while savoring all those good-food aromas.

And now I'm remembering my friends' really old, 1950, 48' wooden boat. They owned that for a couple years. Not sure if stuffing oakum and caulking a million planks (40+ feet for each seam!) put an end to it; or maybe it was buying fuel. Or maybe it was that there were no docks big enough when we finally got to one of islands. But while they had that boat, we stared in wonder at the galley. It had an oven, which seemed like a very bad idea in the summer. There was a range, coolers and cupboards; and very little counter space. The previous owners said they hosted Thanksgiving dinners on that boat. I keep wondering how. And who climbed the ladder from the galley up to the salon with platters of food? Nope, set me up with a big kitchen in someone else's house, and I'm good.

So my question for you—what are your stories about the biggest meal you prepared in your boat? Let me know, and with your permission, these stories can be in future issues of The Ball. Disaster stories welcome.

**VSPS PATRONS—2025**

- David Bialorucki
- Fran Cooper
- Cathe Radabaugh
- Beverly and Jared Sams
- Brian and Reyna Sams
- Ralph Schaefer
- Tim Smith
- Jean Verlotti

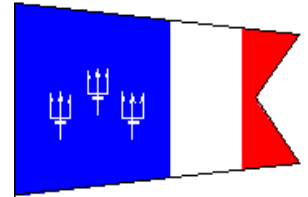
**ADD YOUR NAME TO THIS PAGE & HELP SUPPORT YOUR SQUADRON.**

**New Sponsor and Patron ads are always welcome.  
Please contact Cathe Radabaugh  
or Ralph Schaefer.**

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



## P/C RALPH SCHAEFER, SN Secretary/Treasurer



### FROM THE DESK OF YOUR TREASURER/ SECRETARY

This article will be for December 25 and January 26. We have decided to put on hold our participation in the automatic assignment of members from the National list of CyberMembers. We know that to accept these members we will have to change our bylaws. We would like to have a full membership vote on this next Spring. It's not a do or die item, but it just might bring in new members. Thinking along these lines it would be nice to get more than 11 members to a meeting.

*Paul Hammel is asking for bridge members this coming year. Please consider volunteering for a post.*

The D7 Boat Show committee is asking for help setting up and tearing down the exhibit. Check the District 7 website for info.

There is news that Pittsburgh Power Squadron is dissolving. This is happening too often, so we need to support D7 and Vermilion Sail and Power Squadron. Happy Holidays and New Year, see you at the Christmas Party.

Treasurer/ Secretary  
Ralph Schaefer S.N.

### Vermilion Sail and Power Squadron 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, 2026:

#### Bridge Officers:

Commander P/C David Kastl, P  
Executive Officer Marie Chandler, S  
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 Larry Barber, P  
Open

#### Nominating Committee:

P/C Rich Barzyk, SN  
P/C Paul Hammel, P – 1 yr remaining  
P/C Tim Smith, S Continuing; 2 yrs remaining

#### Rules Committee:

Lt. Brian Sams, S

#### Audit Committee:

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

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

11/30/2025

## Commander's Report—Continued from Page 1 –

The Cleveland Boat Show runs from January 15th-18th, and District is seeking volunteers to staff their booth. Admission will be free but parking is not covered. On Wednesday (the 14th) they set-up at 0900. Call Commander Harry Barnes if you're interested in helping @ 440-653-1445.

I also just participated (via Zoom) in a National presentation on the USPS on the USPS OPERATIONS MANUAL. A very thorough & comprehensive review of the "Modus Operani," of the United States Power Squadron. I confess, I came away enlightened and suggest anyone interested in learning more about "HOW" National USPS functions, to give it a try. I will attend a special Governing Board meeting, on December 2nd via Zoom. The crux of the meeting is to amend a USPS National bylaw, "...allowing for 1 squadron delegate per every 50 squadron members as opposed to currently 1 squadron delegate per every 100 members."

On a solemn note, Vermilion Sail & Power Squadron extends its deepest sympathies to Jean Verlotti & her family, on the recent loss of her dear brother, Rich Jackson. Rich was 62 years young, lived in South Carolina, and was a Navy veteran. Rich's legacy will live on in the hearts of all those who knew and loved him. May he rest in peace.

Celestially speaking for December; we have the Winter Solstice on December 21st @ 1503 UTC. During the winter solstice the earth's Northern hemisphere is tilted the farthest away from the Sun, resulting in the shortest day and longest night of the year. Solstice is derived from Latin meaning "sun standing still". A 'welcoming' note, our daylight will start getting longer after the winter solstice. On December 4th we'll have our third and final Supermoon & Full moon of the 4th quarter for 2025. This moon is a.k.a. the Cold Moon. On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 we'll have our first Supermoon of the new year, and on the 10th the planet Jupiter will be at Opposition (the closest to earth all year), and will be fully illuminated by the sun. Common binoculars can be used to see Jupiter at its brightest, along with its 4 moons, which will be visible all night long.

The most historically important date this month is December 7<sup>th</sup>, which will be the 84th. anniversary of the ".....date that will live in infamy", the attack by Japan at Pearl Harbor. Here are a few shocking statistics; the Japanese launched 353 fighters, in 2 waves from 6 carriers. They sank or damaged 8 battleships, 3 cruisers, 3 destroyers, a training ship, a mine layer, and 180 aircraft. Americans lost totalled 2403, and 1178 were wounded.

Japan's losses were 29 aircraft and 130 men. One battleship was never raised, and remains as a hallowed memorial to its 1177 crewmen killed, the USS Arizona, BB-39.

From our house to yours, "May the true spirit of Christmas shine in your hearts and forever light your way." MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wishing you a HAPPY NEW YEAR filled with peace.

Rich & Patti



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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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**Vermilion Sail and Power Squadron**

**December Membership Meeting**  
**Mill Hollow Carriage Barn—1730**  
**51300 N. Ridge Rd, Vermilion, OH**

**January Membership Meeting**  
**Agaves Mexican Grill**  
**4340 N Leavitt Rd, Lorain, OH**

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