

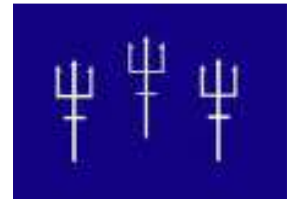
THE BALL



A PUBLICATION OF THE VERMILION SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

February, 2026

RICH BARZYK, SN
COMMANDER



The December Christmas meeting was truly a beautiful success, thanks to our creative Administrative Officer, Mary Anne. Thirty-five guests from Vermilion and other District 7 squadrons enjoyed a buffet dinner, complemented with appetizers, beverages and cookies. Mary Anne provided her personalized traditional poem, "T'was the night before Christmas," along with her popular Saran Wrap exercise & some robust Christmas caroling. Members also enjoyed a cookie exchange, and a gift exchange. I'm pleased to report that we received a **thunderously** generous contribution of 119 pounds of non-perishable items, which were delivered to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Lorain, Erie, Crawford & Huron counties. They partner with 130 charities and 10 school districts to provide food for those in need. Hundreds of items, from 'beans to waffle mix' were received; your generosity was over-whelming! THANK YOU. The official business portion of our meeting was intentionally cut quite short, however a petition was delivered to the secretary nominating Paul Hammel to be added to the slate for the open position on the Executive Committee.

The January meeting, on the 15th, initially scheduled to be hybrid, was held on Zoom only, as an unexpected snow storm took control of the Lorain County roads for the evening. Nine members participated, which resulted in a quorum. (Two from Florida, and 7 snow-bound in Ohio). Business discussed, but not limited to, was: the National Annual meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on February 14th, which will be available to view via live stream, and is the Change-of-Watch for the National Bridge; our own up-coming elections at the February 19th membership meeting, which will hybrid; a discussion to change the month of our annual Save-Our-Sweethearts recognition program; and we concluded with a lively chat on the 'Jump-Start,' program, and its connection to possible new members. The meeting was adjourned at 1910.

As a lame-duck commander, I encourage you to consider viewing the National meeting via stream, you will be subsequently surprised. (Please refer to my comments below.)* As for any discussion on the S-O-S program, do share your ideas with any member of the bridge; the initial concern is changing the month from February; and finally, In recognizing that gaining new members should be a critical priority for all squadrons. Then remember, too, we do have a pool of Cyber members available for invitation.

Eight Bells: The Vermilion Sail & Power Squadron extends its deepest sympathies to the family and friends of William Herbert Kaatz. Bill, to most who knew him, died December 9th, 2025 and was 83 years young. Bill was a loyal member of our squadron and was a very proud owner of his Lyman boat. His life long contributions to community will be sorely missed. Celestially speaking; February is a very tranquil month, but the planets, sun, stars and especially the moon, will not be 'spinning' idly by, for without their perpetual motion, we earthlings wouldn't have vernal equinox or summer solstice, lunar or solar eclipses, or a Super or Harvest moon, and possibly most important, we'd never once have a **BLUE MOON**.

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VERMILION BRIDGE

COMMANDER

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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captralph555@gmail.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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P/C Paul Hammel, S

EDUCATION OFFICER

P/D/C David Bialorucki, SN
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taxi60@hotmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

P/C Mary Anne Kastl, P
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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

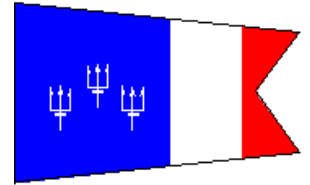
RULES CHAIR

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



HAPPY WINTER! It certainly is here and present!

The Carriage Barn Christmas dinner meeting party was a great time and so nice to see so many attend.

The January Zoom meeting was quite enjoyable and beverages were free!

February 19, 2026, 5:30PM meeting will be held at Cathe Radabaugh's house, and on Zoom. This meeting was originally scheduled to be at Martino's in Vermilion, but they have closed down. Cathe's address is 73 King Street in Oberlin, phone 440-223-8295. Annual voting will take place and Cathe will set up a ZOOM meeting and email a link a few days before so that those who cannot attend in person can join in. Lorenzo's Pizza will be provided; please let Cathe know what toppings you like. This is an enticement to attend in person. We will move VSPS' Save our Sweetheart program from this and future February meetings to the October meetings. Please keep all the squadron sweethearts with us, and those who have passed, in your thoughts and prayers.

March 19, 2026 meeting will be at ESP Brewing on Rt. 58 in Amherst at 5:30PM, and also available on ZOOM for those who cannot attend. Look for Cathe's email link a few days before to join up. ESP has trivial pursuit games starting at 7:00 and you are more than welcome to stay for that.

Change of Watch will be April 16, 2026 at 6:00PM and the venue has changed from BPYC to a location yet to be determined. Yet another casualty of Martino's going out of business. Please RSVP to Mary Anne Kastl, leave message or text: 440 724 951 or e-mail dakmak@roadrunner.com.

The last meeting before summer break is May 21, 2026 and will be a picnic at the Vermilion River Reservation in a reserved shelter, 5:30PM to sunset.

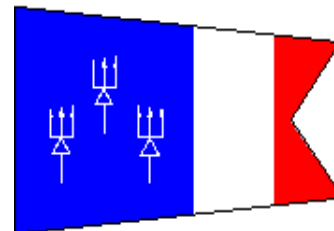
Respectfully submitted,

P/c Mary Anne Kastl, P Administrative Officer





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



SEO REPORT

We're planning an ABC Class at the Power Boats Marina, for three Saturdays, starting March 14th, then the 21st , and the 28th will be the test day, Class time 10:00AM to 2:00PM. The location is 5054 Liberty Ave. Vermilion, OH

We are also planning an ABC class in April at Beaver Park Marina. The time and date have yet to be determined.

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

Birthday list for February

P/D/Lt BEV SAMS, P
1st Lt BRIAN SAMS, S and
JEFF SCOTT.

Happy birthday!.

Our February meeting is also our Annual Meeting, when we vote on the new Bridge Members. Please plan to attend this meeting.

VSPS PATRONS—2025

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

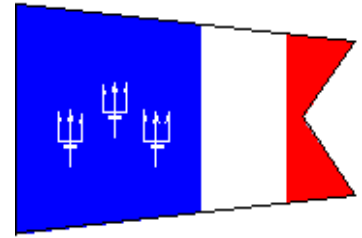
ADD YOUR NAME TO THIS PAGE & HELP SUPPORT YOUR SQUADRON.

**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 CATHE RADABAUGH, N
Executive Officer



Well, it looks like we're having a good old-fashioned winter, where the ice formed on Lake Erie in record time in the last couple weeks. There's a pretty neat website from NOAA that gives you a set of graphical images to check for ice coverage—weather.gov/cle/GreatLakesIce_Analysis. From there, you can see that much of Lake Erie has 6-12 inch ice thicknesses. Of course, that may be riddled with thin patches, so don't go out on my say-so.

I recall crossing the old Sandusky Bay bridge, and traveling thru Port Clinton in the early 60's, when it was common in the winter to see ice shacks on the Bay and Lake. Ice taxis parked on the beach west of Port Clinton, ready to take folks out to their fishing hole. Wonder how many warm winters passed before people busted up those shacks. I also wonder how many snowmobiles are on the bottom of the lake.

This cold will pass, and it's a sure bet we'll be complaining about the heat in July. Can't wait.

In the meanwhile, we have a District 7 Spring Conference, March 20 thru 22, at Belden Village. A flyer for that is on page 7. If nothing else, come for Friday evening's social; it's low key and a very nice evening. There are some interesting programs Saturday morning, a good luncheon planned, and a 'boring' business meeting in the afternoon, and then the District Change of Watch Saturday evening. The different events are a la carte, so pick one or two and join in!

Cathe

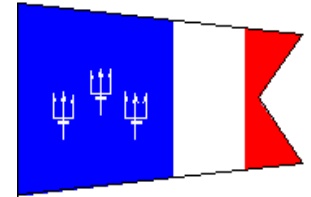
Commander's Report—Continued from Page 1 –

*Did you know that National USPS meetings can be attended via "live stream" and are recorded so they are available afterwards to "stream" on You-Tube? I recently watched the recording of the "live-stream" of P/C/C Craig Fraiser's final Annual Meeting, which I found most refreshing. I also, selectively "streamed" the current Chief Commander, Ralph Bernard's, inaugural address, where his commitment to membership growth, member involvement, including Cyber members, was undeniably evident. Contrary to some, the National Bridge and Governing Board are clearly focused on member growth, thusly insuring their own sustainability. At a recent Zoom Governing Board meeting, attended by 270+ members, I witnessed the Chief Commander cancel a procedural vote, even as he had the required count of bridge, Executive Board, and District Commanders, but lacked the mandated number of Squadron Delegates. It's glaringly obvious to me, National expects, values and encourages squadron member participation. I also suspect National clearly accepts that the fragile future of the United States Power Squadron surely lies within the confident voices of its squadron members!

I look forward to visiting with you all on the 19th of February, for Vermilion's hallowed squadron elections. It's your bridge, you should participate in its creation! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to connect with me.
Safe seas always,
Rich



P/C RALPH SCHAEFER, SN
Secretary/Treasurer



FROM THE DESK OF YOUR TREASURER/ SECRETARY

Today is January 20th, 2026, and it is – 20 below zero wind chill. No school for grandkids. Back in the day we never knew about wind chills, so we went to school no matter what. Growing up on Lake Erie, I always enjoyed cold snowy days as the Lake was always frozen. We had sleds pulled by our Labrador retrievers and skated on the ice.

When I was boating, I took a newspaper article from January 19th, 1994. That day it was -19 degrees below zero, actual, no wind chill. That summer I took that article and displayed it on my boat at Put-In- Bay. Just a reminder of that winter. I'm sorry I missed the January Meeting but the roads were not good for my driving. Our Bridge is set for the upcoming year, and many thanks to Commander Rich Barzyk for the 2 years he was Commander.

Dave Kastl has stepped up to be Commander.

Treasurer/ Secretary

Ralph Schaefer S.N.

Vermilion Sail and Power Squadron
Nominating Committee Report for 2025-2026
(Originally posted in the December/January issue of The Ball)

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

SAVE THE DATE

"BOOGIE INTO THE FUTURE WITH USPS, D/7"

MARCH 20-22, 2026

Holiday Inn - Belden Village
4520 Everhard Rd NW,
Canton, OH 44718

Check D7 website or
future emails
for more information



