

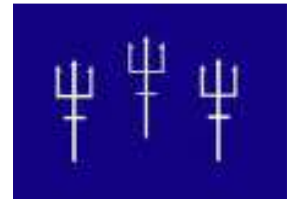
THE BALL



A PUBLICATION OF THE VERMILION SAIL & POWER SQUADRON



November, 2025
RICH BARZYK, SN
COMMANDER



Fellow squadron members,

Our October meeting, at Jim's Pizza Box in Vermilion, was attended by 9 members, and 2 guests, which resulted in a quorum. The following business was moved & approved: A check for \$28.00 was sent to National to support the Education Fund, this represents one dollar per member; we will not charge members or guests for the dinner at the December Christmas meeting as the cost will be bore by the squadron; and the tabled motion, whether to support National's option to assign cyber members, has again been tabled, pending deeper investigation. The meeting was adjourned at 1818.

Our November meeting will be at the Paper Moon Winery in Vermilion, on the 20th. They have a nice assortment of lite plates, with beer & wine. They also provide "corking," so bottles can be purchased and un-enjoyed portions may be taken home. Why not join us for a fun evening while tasting their local wine selection.

A short note on our December Christmas meeting, which will be on the 18th. in the Carriage Barn, at Mill Hollow, in Vermilion. We will again be collecting non-perishable food items, to be distributed to a local charity, along with a cookie exchange, & a tree ornament exchange. Participation in each is voluntary and more information will forthcoming in the December newsletter. please note pre-registration will be critical.

If you are considering attending the Cleveland Boat Show this year, it will be at the IX-Centre, for the final time, January 15 thru 18th. District is requesting help in setting up & dismantling their booth on Wednesday AM and Sunday PM. Attendance for volunteers will be free, but the parking cost will not be covered. If you're interested, please connect with me.

On October 14th, I participated in the District7 Council virtual meeting, where I joined 15 other District7 squadron members, as Commander Barnes chaired. Business was somewhat routine and most was addressed with a consent agenda, which was approved without dissent. However, the most shocking news was that Pittsburgh is dissolving their squadron. This is "crushing," as Pittsburgh had, at last count, 42 members.

Continued on Page 7



VERMILION BRIDGE

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P/C Dave Kastl, P
P/C Tim Smith, S

AUDIT CHAIR

P/C Jean Verlotti, P

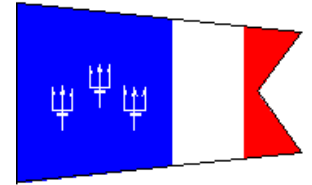
RULES CHAIR

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 Halloween and Thanksgiving to come! November meeting is on the 20th at Paper Moon Winery at 1730/5:30 PM. We have a reserved area for us and will order from the menu. Address for the winery is 2008 State Road, Vermilion. (Route 60).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for VSPS' holiday dinner at the Carriage Barn in the Vermilion River Reservation December 18 at 5:30PM. It is critical I have your RSVP. The squadron will provide a catered dinner and we ask that you bring:

- non-perishable items to be given to local charity
- 3 dozen Christmas cookies or treats of which 1 dozen to be shared as dessert and every donor will take home a variety of treats.
- optional holiday ornament or Christmas item exchange

Here are meeting venues to come:

11/20/2025	November Membership Meeting	Paper Moon Winery, 5:30PM
12/18/2025	December Membership Meeting and Holiday Party	Carriage Barn, Mill Hollow, Vermilion, 5:30 - 8:00
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's 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

- Note that I need your reservation 5 days before all the stated meetings
 - (please contact me so I don't have to contact you) 😊
 - Bring a guest with you to the meetings – we would love to share our friendship and boating knowledge with them and interest them in joining VSPS (no pressure of course)
 - If you would like a speaker or activity at the meeting, let me know and I will set it up.
- If you want to share a recent trip or adventure , we would love to hear about it.

Respectfully submitted,

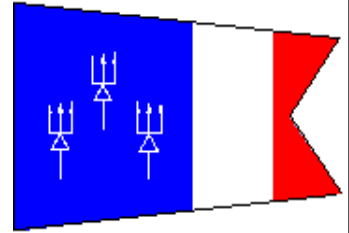
P/C Mary Anne Kastl, P
Administrative Officer

PS, This photo was taken at the Annapolis Boat Show early in October.





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



SEO REPORT

There are no classes scheduled for the Fall. I will have classes after the Boat Show. Planning on having an ABC Class, and also a Boat Handling class. Will have all information in the January Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

Our membership meeting for November will be at the Paper Moon Winery in Vermilion. Check in this Newsletter for all the information.

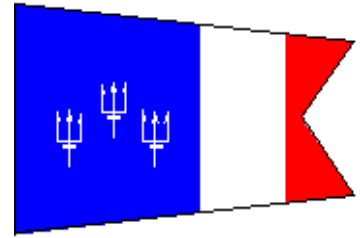
Our District 7 Fall Conference will be in Wilmot, Ohio at the Inn at the Amish Door on Saturday, November 8th. This will be a one-day Conference. Contact Tom Hancock if you would like to attend. His phone number is 330 499 3660.

We have no Birthdays for this month .





P/C CATHE RADABAUGH, N
Executive Officer



I've just returned from a week in Newport, Rhode Island. Somehow, it hadn't dawned on me that we'd be on Narragansett Bay, the same waters where our charting homework was done. Remember those 1210TR charts? They are for that bay. I really wanted to take one of those 'See Newport from the Water' cruises.

Sadly, I'm the only one in the group that enjoys boating; the rest of my family are landlubbers. It didn't help that the weather was mostly overcast and in the breezy 50's. A couple of us walked over to the nearby boatyard, and peeked over the fence as a 'small' sailboat was positioned by a MarineLift onto jack stands. It was a beautiful boat; perhaps 50 foot long. One of the yard workers said these boats were too small to join the others in sailing over to the Caribbean or the Mediterranean to spend the winter.

Newport, where the New York Yacht Club hosted over 50 years of America's Cup races, and I was with folks who thought water was only for drinking. Aarrgh!

VSPS PATRONS—2025

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

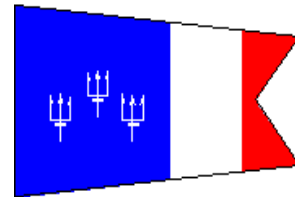
ADD YOUR NAME TO THIS PAGE & HELP SUPPORT YOUR SQUADRON.

**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

I feel that this boating season is over too soon. It seems like we just installed the screen door for Summer and today I reinstalled the storm door. I also turned off my sprinkler system and put away my outside chairs. The October meeting was not well attended, and we did cover some important news from National. They have list of 800 cyber members that may want to join a squadron. The list covers the cyber members throughout the country, but it can be broken down by mileage from your area. We looked at a 200-mile radius and found several people that may be interested in joining us. Tom and Joanne Hancock were nice enough to join our meeting and helped us find those members. I e-mailed our Commander Rich Barzyk noting we may have to change our bylaws if we want to go this way. A reminder for our 1 day Fall Conference on November 8, so check the D-7 website for info.

The Squadron money is doing well enough that the Christmas Meeting will be free for all members and guests.

Treasurer/ Secretary
P/C Ralph Schaefer, SN



Commander's Report—Continued from Page 1 –

Losing a squadron is truly a catastrophic loss, and should be of deep concern to all squadrons of the USPS. This caused me to peruse our District squadron membership numbers, and I discovered that “Ten Mile” has 8 members, and Vermilion & Mosquito Lake, each have 28. Unfortunately these are the lowest membership numbers of the remaining squadrons. Increasing our membership should be our primary focus, for any unforeseen further slide, we will not be able to adequately sustain our promising future! The biggest reason for squadrons folding is a lack of willing members to accept a bridge position. If you've never served on the bridge, it's time to reconsider, you won't “go-it” alone!

It's not too late to consider joining us for the District 7 Fall conference on the 8th. at the Amish Door Conference Centre, in Wilmot, Ohio. It's a one-day event, ‘fairly’ close to home, and the home-style cooking is worth the drive. Our District conferences, both Spring & Fall, create opportunities for squadrons to ‘network’ with each other, in a very relaxed environment, and share what's working, and possibly, what isn't. Maybe even more valuable, is the social participation, which helps bond ‘inter-squadron’ friendships and hopefully helps cultivate new ones. Furthermore, at this conference, our guest speaker promises an intriguing presentation on the demise of the laker, SS Edmond Fitzgerald, which I've extensively covered later in this report. If you've never been to a District conference you owe it to yourself to attend this one; please consider joining us.

Celestially speaking, November is rather quiet. On the fifth we'll have our 2nd. Supermoon & Full moon for this final quarter and it's called a Beaver moon, Frosty Moon or a Dark Moon. Remember, a Supermoon only appears to be larger, as it is at perigee in its earthly orbit.

November 10th will mark the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the SS Edmond Fitzgerald, off the coast of Whitefish Point, Michigan in 1975. The Fitzgerald, christened in 1958, (at a cost of \$8 million,) departed Silver Bay, MN and was enroute to Toledo, for the 748th and last time, when the “gales of November came early.” She was 729' long, had a beam of 75 feet and routinely carried 27,000 long tons of ore. In the face of 70+ knot winds and waves of 30-35 feet, 29 sailors lost their lives when she disappeared off the radar of the SS Arthur Anderson at 7:15 PM, as the Anderson was, “some 15 miles behind her.” There are 4 hypotheses* as to her demise, but not one ever officially accepted. It was and still is argued that she either; bottomed on a shoal, had faulty hatch covers, suffered structural failure, or succumbed to rogue waves.

She lies in Canadian water of Lake Superior, now designated a memorial grave site, which is protected from being dove on. However, an expedition was authorized in July of 1995 to recover the ship's bell, which is on display at the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum in Whitefish Point, Michigan. I have been to the museum, it's a ‘chilling’ experience to see the Fitzgerald's bell, knowing all her 29 sailors are still on board.

November has several other significant days to remember. On the 2nd it's time to “fallback” your clocks 1 hour. The 4th is Election Tuesday, and on the 11th. we celebrate VETERANS DAY, “celebrating the service of all U.S. veterans, both living and deceased, and honor them for their patriotism.”

Patti & I wish you all a very, “Bountiful & Happy Thanksgiving “

Safe seas,

Rich

*Wikipedia.org-SS Edmond Fitzgerald



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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

**Vermilion Sail and Power Squadron
November Membership Meeting**

**Paper Moon Vinyards & Winery—1730
2008 State Rd (SR 60)
Vermilion, OH**

November 20, 2025

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