

THE LUBBER'S LINE

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January-February 2025

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Photo by Dennis Wallace

In This Issue

See page 4 for the list of members who have agreed to be nominated for positions on the 2025-2026 Bridge and Elected Committees. These positions are critical to keeping us together as a branch of America's Boating Club/United States Power Squadrons and supporting our education programs and social activities.

Also there is a list of Member Benefits you may not be aware of on page 7.

And statistics on boating safety from the latest US Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics can be found on page 8.



Bridge Officers

Commander

Cdr John H. Bailey, AP
Commander@abc-wilmington.com

Administrative Officer

P/C Carol J. Hanson, AP
admin@abc-wilmington.com

Education Officer

Lt/C William E. Barber, AP
education@abc-wilmington.com

Treasurer

Lt/C William E. Barber, AP
treasurer@abc-wilmington.com

Secretary

P/C Richard A. Butler, JN
secretary@abc-wilmington.com

Executive Committee

F/Lt Lynn A. Mahaffy, AP
 Lt John E. Schleicher, AP
 Bart Wilson
 Lt Justin Doheny, S
 Peter Weintraub

Webmaster

Lt John E. Schleicher, AP
webmaster@abc-wilmington.com

Lubber's Line Editor

P/C Richard Butler, JN
newsletter@abc-wilmington.com
**Volunteer Needed. Please
 Contact Richard if you can help.**





COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr John H. Bailey, AP



Winter is here and our boats have been winterized and put away. Let's also not forget the few of us continuing to boat in warmer waters. I must admit I am a little jealous of them and wish them all a safe and enjoyable winter and look forward to tales of their adventures when they all return. Since we have settled in for the winter, we can still stay connected to our boating life. In these off-months from boating, it is the perfect opportunity to take a boater education class and/or seminar. I also recommend taking a First Aid class. It is comforting to know that the captain or one of the crew has a first aid class under their belt. Accidents and injuries are not planned, but you can be prepared for them. I encourage everyone to keep up with our squadron's activities by checking our calendar for events and emails for any learning opportunities. Let's not forget we are part of a large community, and you can also check our District 5 website at uspsd5.org for other educational opportunities and events.

Speaking of events and activities, our social committee is working hard to keep us engaged and connected this winter. We have another interesting speaker for this January's social. Check your email for **Punchbowl** invitations for our social events. We are continuing to grow the squadron in the coming year. We plan to update our website and Facebook page with the goal of getting a fresher look in order to aid with new membership. Thank you to those making that happen.

In this past year, our education officer and instructors continue to win awards. America's Boating Club Wilmington was presented the Electives Award, thanks to the efforts of Bill Barber and Randy Williamson. If you are looking for a certain class you may be interested in, there is a list in your yearbook of courses and seminars we could provide if there is enough interest.

I am looking forward to what this year will bring.

Cdr John Bailey AP



Administrative Department

P/C Carol J. Hanson, AP

A Most Festive Holiday Social

Twenty-four ABCW members started their holidays with a warm and wonderful December **Holiday Social**. Hosted at the lovely Chester Springs, PA home of Carol Hanson and Dennis Wallace, we enjoyed an afternoon of socializing, libations, and the always entertaining **Holiday Swap** gift exchange. Thoughtful gift varieties led to some lively gift swapping, where some gifts were swapped several times and not without some pouts, smiles and laughter alike!



District Education Officer John O'Reilly brought the most entertaining gift! (Not printable!) Additionally, he used the gathering as an opportunity to present ABCW with two education recognitions and a plaque for classes taught and taken by members this year! Please see page 5 for a detailed description of the awards.

Also recognized were the Photo Contest winners for their creative photos featured in the November/December Lubber's Line. Richard Butler, Gail Weintraub, and Jeff and Gail Russell selected the very best of many submitted!

Once again, our members donated gift-wrapped **Holiday ditty boxes** to the **Port of Wilmington Seamen's Center, delivered by John and Betty Ingram and Carol Hanson**. Full of knitted hats, gloves, toiletries, candy, and other goodies, the shoe box-sized ditty boxes are highly appreciated by freighter sailors who are stationed in Wilmington over the holidays. Office Administrator, Shivana, says the Seamen's Center received approximately 1,100 ditty boxes from various Marine, Church, and 4H Club organizations. ABCW member participation is highly appreciated!



We were warmly greeted by the Executive Director of the Port Of Wilmington Seamen's Center, Kathryn Bradley, who was thrilled with our Club's thoughtful donation of Ditty Boxes

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, January 10, 2025, 1830. On Zoom- ABCW January meeting - The Bridge to France: The Life of One of the Mallows Bay Ghost Fleet Vessels will be presented by maritime archaeologist Allyson Ropp. Ms. Ropp's research focuses on wooden shipwreck degradation factors such as microbial communities, water chemistry, historical uses, and archaeological depositional activities. She has worked on submerged archaeological sites around the world, including the South Pacific, Florida, and Great Lakes. Please see the **Punchbowl Invitation** for additional information, and then respond. Hope to see you on Zoom in January!

Friday, February 7, 2025, 1830. On Zoom – ABCW Annual Meeting & Founder's Social Program

→ **The Last Days of The Schooner America** by author David Gendell. Mr. Gendell is the co-founder of *SpinSheet*, the Annapolis based sailing magazine, and author of two nonfiction books focused on Annapolis and the Chesapeake. Mr. Gendell will talk about the Schooner *America*, first winner of the "America's Cup" race.

→ **Election of Bridge Officers and Committees** – After Mr. Gendell's presentation ABCW members will be asked to vote on the nominations for the Bridge Officers and Executive, Auditing and Nominating Committees. Deep appreciation for, and thanks, to the members who have agreed to serve! Please see page 4 for the Slate of Officers nominated. Additional thanks to the Nominating Committee members, Chairperson Betty Ingram, Carol Hanson and Bart Wilson, for their good work on this important committee.

Sunday, March 16, 2025, 1100. March Change of Watch – Carol Hanson and Randy Williamson have been in touch with the Dining Services Director at Country House, Wilmington DE, to arrange Brunch at Country House for our Change of Watch. Formal planning will begin after the New Year's Holiday.

Many thanks to the ABCW Social Committee members who continue to plan and provide enjoyable, entertaining and educational events for members during most months of the year. They include Co-Chairs Joan Barber and Lynn Mahaffy, Terry Butler, Carol Hanson, and Gail Weintraub.

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB WILMINGTON 2025 - 2026 Nominations

The following is a listing of fellow members and the respective responsibilities each has agreed to assume for Bridge Year 2024 – 2025, if elected.*

Bridge Officers

Commander.....	Cdr John H. Bailey, AP
Executive Officer.....	Lt Justin Doheny, S
Administrative Officer.....	P/C J. Carol Hanson, AP
Education Officer.....	Lt John E. Schleicher, AP
Assistant Education Officer	Lt W. Randy Williamson, SN
Secretary	P/C Richard A. Butler, JN
Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer.....	Lt/C William E. Barber, AP
Assistant Treasurer	P/C Richard A. Butler, JN

Executive Committee Members-at-large

F/Lt Lynn A. Mahaffy, AP
P/C D. Jeffrey Russell, AP
Elizabeth Stevenson
Jeff Capaldi

Audit Committee

Chair – Lt Justin Doheny, S
Members - Lt W. Randy Williamson, SN
Lt William T. Zimmerman, N

Nominating Committee

Chair - Lt Betty K. Ingram, P
Members - Bart H. Wilson
P/C J. Carol Hanson, AP

Rules Committee

Chair - P/C Richard A. Butler, JN
Member - P/C Donna F. Zimmerman, JN

The ratifying vote by General Membership will take place at the FOUNDERS' DAY SOCIAL AND ANNUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM ON FEBRUARY 7, 2024 @ 1830.

Respectfully submitted for membership consideration by the 2023-2024 Nominating Committee.

****Any member who would like to be considered for election to one of these offices is encouraged to contact a member of the Bridge. In particular we are looking for one more Member-at-large for the Executive Committee.***



Education Department

Lt/C Bill Barber

Our District 5 Education Officer (Cdr John W. O'Reilly, JN-CN) attended our Holiday Social on Sunday, December 8th. He presented our Club with three District 5 Education Awards for the past year.

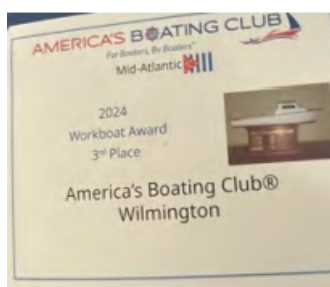
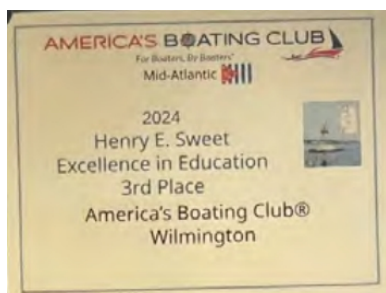


The **Commander's (Electives) Award – First Place** is presented to that Club showing the greatest percentage increase in completion of the Elective Courses taught during the previous year. The picture to the left shows John O'Reilly presenting this award to our Commander John Bailey, AP and Assistant SEO 1st/Lt Randy Williamson, SN. Congratulations to all members who completed Marine Electrical Systems, Sail, Cruise Planning and Instructor Development during the past year! Your achievements contributed to our Club receiving this award as well as the next two awards. **A special Thank You to 1st/Lt W. Randy Williamson, SN and William T. Zimmerman, N** for all their time and hard work preparing and presenting the Marine Electrical Systems and Sail courses, respectively. We would not have earned these awards this year and in prior years without instructors willing to teach both advanced and elective courses!

Henry E. Sweet Excellence in Education Trophy – Third Place is presented to that Club which has shown the greatest percentage increase in completion of the Advanced Grades and Elective Courses. Congratulations to those members who completed Seamanship as well as all the electives mentioned above!

Workboat Award – Third Place is presented to that Club that has done the most work in teaching members both elective and advanced courses. It is based on the total number of members that have completed these courses.

In addition to the three Club awards above, **two of our members achieved Educational Proficiency** recognition. This is awarded to anyone who has achieved a grade level of at least Advanced Piloting (AP) and completed at least three Elective Courses. Congratulations to **Lt/C Carol Hanson, AP and Lt John E. Schleicher, AP** for completing all the requirements for this recognition.





District & National News

D5 2025 Spring Conference

The 2025 Spring Conference is soon approaching!

District 5 Spring Conference and Change of Watch will be held at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront in Ocean City, MD 27-30 March 2025. Each room is equipped with a kitchenette.

The conference includes important training for the new squadron/club bridge officers coming aboard. Old and new officers should take advantage as this training will give you a good foundation for teaching your groups and understanding what you are expected to do in your bridge position, resulting in a successful year.



Additional information is available on the District [website](#). Or by contacting [Richard Butler](#).



Annual Meeting
February 5-9, 2025
Orlando, Florida

America's Boating Club United States Power Squadrons Annual Meeting 2025 Reservations Are Now Open!



Join us in Orlando, FL February 2-9, 2025 for a week of informative sessions, learning, sharing, meeting new people, and reuniting with friends.

Hurry! Discount Deadline Date is January 3, 2025! [Click Here](#)



Secretary's Department

P/C Richard Butler, JN

Our benefit package is growing rapidly.

The benefits are structured to the USPS MEMBER, and can only be obtained by a person with a current membership card. Below is a list of benefits, categorized and in alphabetical order. Click on each benefit for more details.

Insurance Benefits

- BoatUS
- Farmers Insurance Discount
- LTC Global, Long Term Care Insurance Program
- LTCR Long Term Care Insurance Program
- America's Boating Club Boat Insurance Program
- Travelers Auto and Home Ins. Program
- VPI Pet Insurance
- VSP Individual Vision Insurance

Marine Benefits

- Boatfix
- Coastal Explorer from Rose Point.
- GPS for Mariners
- Hamilton Marine
- McGraw Hill
- Sea Tow
- Soundings
- Weems & Plath
- Wow Training Aids



Navigating the USPS Websites

#2 – How do I update my personal information?

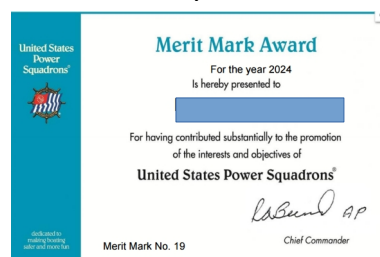


The ICom PowerPoint Presentation "Navigating the USPS Websites" (32Mb .ppt) which was presented at the 2024 Annual Meeting in Orlando is now available for download at https://www.usps.org/images/secretary/itcom/Navigating_the_USPS_Website.pptx

Merit Marks Submission for 2024

Thank you to everyone who submitted a record of their ABCW service activities for consideration to be awarded a 2024 Merit Mark. I was impressed to see the wide variety of activities and roles within our club. Your passion for boating and the organization is revealed by the incredible number of hours that are put in during the course of the year. Our club members devoted 562.4 hours of service collectively with an additional 29 completed Vessel Safety Checks. I am pleased to share that 12 of our members were awarded a Merit Mark by National. Congratulations to all of our recipients!

Submitted by
Lt Beth Stevenson
Merit Mark Chair





Boating Safety: 2023 Recreational Boating Statistics: U.S. Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety



2023 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In calendar year 2023, the Coast Guard counted 3,844 accidents that involved 564 deaths, 2,126 injuries and approximately \$63 million dollars of damage to property as a result of recreational boating accidents.
 - The fatality rate was 4.9 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. This rate represents a 9.3% decrease from the 2022 fatality rate of 5.4 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels.
 - Compared to 2022, the number of accidents decreased 4.9%, the number of deaths decreased 11.3%, and the number of injuries decreased 4.3%.
- Where cause of death was known, 75% of fatal boating accident victims drowned. Of those drowning victims with reported life jacket usage, 87% were not wearing a life jacket.
- Where length was known, 4 of every 5 boaters who drowned were using vessels less than 21 feet in length.
- Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; where the primary cause was known, it was listed as the leading factor in 17% of deaths.
- Where instruction was known, 75% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction. Only 15% percent of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had received a nationally-approved boating safety education certificate.
- There were 145 accidents in which at least one person was struck by a propeller. Collectively, these accidents resulted in 23 deaths and 133 injuries.
- Operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed, and machinery failure ranked as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.
- Where data was known, navigation rules violations were a contributing factor in 53% of accidents, 34% of deaths, and 60% of injuries.
- Collisions (with vessels, objects, groundings) were the most frequent first event in accidents, attributing to 56% of accidents, 24% of deaths, and 53% of injuries.
- Where data was known, the most common vessel types involved in reported accidents were open motorboats (45%), personal watercraft (19%), and cabin motorboats (13%).
- Where data was known, the vessel types with the highest percentage of deaths were open motorboats (44%), kayaks (17%), and personal watercraft (8%).
- The 11,546,512 recreational vessels registered by the states in 2023 represent a 1.9% decrease from last year when 11,770,383 recreational vessels were registered.



Good to see the smiling faces of our members who boated to Fort Pierce, FL and had the opportunity to visit with Vero Beach Squadron members, former ABCW members, Don and Sue Engler. The Barbers aboard *Skylark*, the Mayhues aboard *Star Reacher*, and the Zimmermans aboard *Mystic Star* plan to sail to and spend the winter in the Bahamas!

No wonder they're smiling!

Let's Celebrate the January & February Birthdays

January

Daniel Gorman	Jan 1
Jeanne Hertig	Jan 1
Robert Harra	Jan 2
Lois Radcliff	Jan 2
Kathy Mayhue	Jan 5
Eric Taggert	Jan 12
David Netting	Jan 21
Patricia Maher	Jan 28
Jeffrey Capaldi	Jan 31

February

Wayne Hepting	Feb 2
Francis Richardson	Feb 12
D. Jeffrey Russell	Feb 12
Paul Erlichman	Feb 13
Colleen Schleicher	Feb 17
James Walton	Feb 19
Laura Hepting	Feb 20
Tom Gotthold	Feb 25

Calendar of Events January/February 2026

<http://abc-wilmington.com/>

January					2025
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
		1	2	3	4/5
6	7	8	9	10	11/12
13	14	15	16	17	18/19
20	21	22	23	24	25/26
27	28	29	30	31	

January Events

10 JAN 1830
ABC Wilmington Social Via Zoom

15 JAN 1900
ABC Wilmington Executive Committee Meeting
Via Zoom

*All members are welcome to attend
- Email admin@abc-wilmington.com to get a Zoom invite!

February					2025
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
					1/2
3	4	5	6	7	8/9
10	11	12	13	14	15/16
17	18	19	20	21	22/23
24	25	26	27	28	

February Events

2-9 Feb
USPS Annual Meeting
Orlando, FL

7 Feb 1830
ABCW Annual Meeting & Founders' Day Social
Via Zoom

15 Feb
Deadline for March/April Lubber's Line Material

19 Feb 1900
ABC Wilmington Executive Committee Meeting *
Via Zoom

*All members are welcome to attend
- email admin@abc-wilmington.com to get a Zoom invite!



Join us for weekly luncheons

Each Wednesday @ 1200
Seasons Pizza 3901 Concord Pike
Wilmington, DE 19803



Visit us on the web at: <http://abc-wilmington.com/>

The Lubber's Line is a publication of America's Boating Club® Wilmington published the first week of January, March, May, August, and November.