



Wilmington Sail and Power Squadron

DISTRICT 5

A Unit of United States Power Squadrons®



# THE LUBBER'S LINE

VOLUME 78, ISSUE 1

January - February 2017

*13 January 2017 WSPS Assembly*

**Grant Walker will be our guest speaker from the Rogers Museum at the U.S. Naval Academy. The Rogers Museum is well known for its large collection of ships models.**

In 1845, the Museum began as the Naval School Lyceum, established under the Academy's first chaplain. The Lyceum brought together a collection of historic and natural objects, scientific equipment and models, and works of art for study and discussion. In 1849, President James K. Polk directed that the Navy's collection of historic flags be sent to the new Naval School at Annapolis for care and display. After the Civil War, the Navy Department forwarded trophies of war, items from exploration and survey expeditions, as well as diplomatic missions, and works of art donated by naval officers. The Academy's Gunnery and Seamanship Departments used the Lyceum's early collections of ordnance and ship models as teaching aids.



Over the next sixty years, the Lyceum and its collection grew significantly. This was primarily due to the transfer of the collections of the U. S. Naval Lyceum at the New York Navy Yard in 1892 and the receipt of the extensive collection of the Boston Naval Library and Institute in 1922. Since 1939, many private individuals and groups have contributed important and valuable historic objects.

From 2007-2008, Preble Hall underwent a complete renovation to turn the building into a modern museum. New exhibits, improved collections storage areas, and upgraded office space were some of the updates made to the space. The museum officially reopened in the summer of 2009.



## Wilmington Sail and Power Squadron 2016-2017

### Commander

Cdr. John G. Ingram, AP  
8 Tarragon Court  
Wilmington, DE19803-3360  
302.633.1733  
cmdrjgi@verizon.net

### Administrative Officer

Lt/C Bruce Wyngaard, AP  
28 Servan Court  
Wilmington, DE 19805  
614.309.2325  
browynfam@aol.com

### Education Officer

P/C Mark Atkinson, AP  
108 Tall Pines Road  
Newark, DE 19713  
302.300.7826  
108atkin@gmail.com

### Secretary

Lt/C Barbara L. Sharpless, P  
2 Hailey's Trail  
Newark, DE 19711-3006  
302-239-7995  
bdsharpless@verizon.net

### Treasurer

Lt/C John Ross, AP  
234 North Star Road  
Newark, DE 19711-2937  
302.235.5856  
johnross3@gmail.com

### Lubber's Line Editor

P/C Donald R. Engler, AP  
919 Moores Lane  
New Castle, DE 19720-2040  
302.426.9000  
don@englers.com

### Visit us on the web at:

[www.wspsoaters.com](http://www.wspsoaters.com)

The Lubber's Line is a publication of the Wilmington Sail and Power Squadron published the first week of January, March, May, August, and October.

## OUR COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



The active boating season for our area of the East Coast is over for the year. The boats have been sadly and lovingly put away for the winter... or pointed south and moved to warmer climates.

What a season we had. In May, we had four boats (the Williamson's on *Windward Passage*, the Butler's on *Eau de Vie*, the Zimmerman's on *Mystic Star*, and the Ingram's on *Gypsy II*) sailing in the southern Bay. The Squadron Spring Picnic and Annual Cruise were held in the month of June. We only had nine boats this year for the cruise but a good time was had by all. In July, we had the Crab Feast with a great turn-out at a new location, indoors at the American Legion Hall in Rock Hall, with air conditioning (Yeah!!). The first raft-up of the summer was at the Corsica River in August with the second one taking place on Eagle Cove in September. In October, we held the 4th Annual Oyster, Ham and Chicken Dinner at the Wellwood Restaurant in Charlestown. November found three members, P/C Richard Butler, JN, Cdr John Ingram, AP and Lt Randy Williamson, JN, helping Lt Bill Zimmerman, JN move his boat, *Mystic Star*, to the Bahamas (7 days on the ocean). P/C Donna Zimmerman, JN arrived by plane and relieved us. All in all, it was another great season of 'Friends, Fun, and Better Boating'. See page 11 in this newsletter.

Just because we put the boats away, doesn't mean we are done. The Assemblies Committee has put together a program of fun and interesting events. The November Social had a great presentation on the history and current status of the River Pilots of the Chesapeake and the Delaware. We all enjoyed the WSPS Holiday Social in December hosted by P/C Mike King, AP and Wendy Shipman at their home. In January, we will hear a presentation by Grant Walker from the Rogers Museum at the U.S. Naval Academy. In February Jim Falk will speak about the Delaware Sea Grant Program: "Putting Science to Work for America's Coastal Communities". Our annual meeting and election will be in February followed by the Change of Watch in March. Winter projects and preparation for launching of the boats for the upcoming boating season starts for most of us in the month of April.

At the Holiday social, we collected many shoe boxes filled with gifts for the Seaman's Center of the Port of Wilmington. These gift boxes have been distributed to seamen aboard the ships visiting the Port of Wilmington during the Holiday Season. I have personally delivered some of these boxes to the seamen and I can tell you that they are greatly appreciated by the men far from home. Thank you to all who participated.

Each year we recognize Squadron members who have contributed their time and service to make this organization run. This year, we submitted over 30 Merit Mark recommendations for WSPS members who contributed to our successful 78th year and all were approved by D/5 and National. A special thanks to P/Lt/C Jack Bryson, AP who coordinated the effort of collecting and submitting the required data.

Sadly, I report that we lost P/C Jim Robinson, AP this month, after a bout with cancer. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Zelma and his sons Jimmy and Charlie.

Commander John G. Ingram, AP

***The Assemblies Committee 2016-2017***

***17 February 2017 WSPS Founder's Day  
and Annual Meeting***

Jim Falk, Acting Director from the University of Delaware, will be joining us to speak about the Delaware Sea Grant Program.

The mission of the University of Delaware Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service (MAS) is to foster the wise use, conservation, and development of marine resources by acting as a conduit between university researchers and a variety of citizen users, from coastal resource managers to business owners.

***Wilmington Sail and Power Squadron 2017-2018 Slate of Officers***

**Bridge Officers**

- Commander .....Cdr. Bruce A. Wyngaard, AP
- Administrative Officers .....P/C John G. Ingram, AP and P/C C. David Sharpless, AP
- Education Officer .....P/C Mark C. Atkinson, AP
- Secretary .....Lt/C Barbara L. Sharpless, P
- Assistant Secretary .....Lt Susan F. Engler, P
- Treasurer .....Lt/C John S. Ross, AP

**Executive Committee General Members**

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Chris A. Atkinson, AP | P/C Donald R. Engler, AP |
| John Bailey, AP       | John Koval, P            |
| Lt David Benfer, JN   | P/C W. Michael King, AP  |
|                       | One Appointment Pending  |

## *The Assemblies Committee 2016-2017*

# *WSPS NOVEMBER 11, 2016 ASSEMBLY*

Our first 2016 assembly was held on Veteran's Day.

Flag Officer Lt John Goon, AP led us in a moment of silence for those who have served our country.

This evening's speaker was Captain Colleen L. Moran. Captain Moran is an active member of the Pilots' Association for the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware River. She began her career with the Pilots' in 1994 as the Association's first female Pilot since its incorporation in 1896. She is dually licensed as an Unlimited First Class Pilot by the state of Delaware as well as the USCG for the Bay and Delaware River, its tributaries, and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Captain Moran shared the organization's history and delighted us with many stories as an apprentice and captain with over 20 years of experience. Her association is located in Lewes, Delaware where the Pilots board the vessels headed north.



Lt/C Bruce Wyngaard, AP led the business meeting. He shared comments from Commander John Ingram, AP in absentia about the 2016 cruise, raft ups and other events throughout the year. There was also an update about membership recruitment.

P/C Mark Atkinson, AP commented on the education program.

Shoe boxes were made available for the members to fill for the Christmas At Sea Program for the mariners at the Seaman Center of which WSPS is a sponsor. The filled gift wrapped shoe boxes were to be taken to the Holiday Social being held at the home of P/C Mike King, AP and Wendy Shipman on December 4<sup>th</sup> where they would be picked up and delivered to the Seamen Center.

Lt Betty Ingram  
Assemblies Committee Chairperson

*Educational Department**A Look Back and a Look Ahead*

Wilmington Sail & Power Squadron was able to offer another boater certification class as the year came to a close. It was offered at the Cabela's store in Christiana Mall again, where we can use their very comfortable classroom. There were only six students in the class and all of them are trailer boaters. But they were enthusiastic and involved students. All six passed the exam, with a lowest grade of 87%. P/C Dave Sharpless and Lt. John Koval instructed. My thanks to all who helped with the education program this year.

With the eleven students in the Spring class, we had a total of seventeen students for the year. That is not an impressive education achievement, but it was something and not for lack of effort.

One bright spot was that for the boating information table two days in August at Cabela's, we gained three students for this class. Actually, only one man who stopped at the table was interested in a certification class because he had tried to do an on-line class and found it so boring he could not finish it. But he was also interested in the class for his son who is of an age that requires him to have the certificate, but had never taken a course. And he also brought a co-worker who needed a certificate.

So that is my look back at the past year. In the coming year we are hoping to offer a seminar or two at Cabela's. There seemed to be some interest among the students in this last class, and if we are an education organization, we should be offering classes.

It will be at least a long four months before our boats come out again for most of us, so we might use some of that time to grow our knowledge bases. I have the instructors who have expressed an interest in teaching, but I need students. Give me a call or send me an e-mail if there are classes or seminars you want to take.

I know of one member who would like to complete the Advanced Piloting course she started a few years ago. AP is a good course and ties together the important strands of compass bearings and course plotting with winds and tides and how to apply the information from the radar and GPS devices. Many members say bad things about the difficulty of the class, but it really isn't so. Additionally, it is much easier since the revision in 2005 when the electronic navigation tools were added.

So if you are interested in some off season boating adventures, let me know what you would like to learn—advanced grades, electives, or seminars. Call me at (302) 368-7857 or e-mail me at [matkinsonseo@gmail.com](mailto:matkinsonseo@gmail.com). As we take a moment to look back and then look forward, I wish for you all a happy, healthy and safe new year.

P/C Mark Atkinson, AP  
Squadron Education Officer



## *Administrative Department*

# *Building Our Squadron*

The WSPS Executive Committee has had several conversations about the future of the Squadron - assuring it's a valued experience for existing members and recruiting new members. In ( year?) \_\_\_ the WPS had ( # )\_\_\_ members - now we have \_(#)\_ members with an average age of 71. Many things have changed. We have the internet, social media, millennials, gen Xers, disruptions to the middle class and more organizations competing for our time.

On July 6 Wendy and Mike King hosted the Executive Committee and their spouses for a dinner and meeting to discuss growing the Squadron. The group listed and prioritized their ideas around two questions. The issues that got the most support are as follows:

**Question:** What are the barriers/problems with getting new members/retaining existing members?

- Affordability for new members.
- Lack of awareness of the Squadron in our communities
- Younger people are buying fewer boats
- Younger people don't want to join groups of senior citizens
- Power Squadrons need to redefine their goals
- The Squadron needs awareness of different age groups.

**Question:** What do we do to increase membership?

- \* Provide WSPS business cards for all members to facilitate introductions and engagement
- Marketing with Cabela's for exposure and offering seminars
- Use Power of One - personal relationships to engage others
- Increase education courses to be offered.
- Reach out to private boating groups and explore partnerships

The group acknowledged that the causes of declining membership are not simple and solutions to address our problems are not simple and will require a broad strategy.

The summary of our first discussion is not exhaustive. We would value feedback, ideas and recommendations from all Squadron members. If you are interested we can provide the full work product of the first meeting. Our success involves engaging existing, new and prospective boaters. We believe our success also needs to be rooted in the involvement of the whole Squadron.

Please send your comments to:

Lt/C Bruce Wyngaard, AP  
Administrative Officer

e-mail: [browynfam@aol.com](mailto:browynfam@aol.com)

I will compile your remarks and present them to the Squadron Executive Committee.



## *Administrative Department*

# *September Raft-up at Eagle Cove*

Nine sailboats and three powerboats converged, meeting at Eagle Cove off the Magothy River on a beautiful, but cool September 24-25 weekend. This was one of the larger WSPS groups, other than the Summer Cruise. Those boats were: Mystic Star, Star Reacher, Pleasure's Mine and Lady L in the first raft; Journey and Our Joy together; Gypsy, Brio, and Eau de Vie; with Weatherly, Northern Express and Jubilee arriving last.



*Administrative Department*

***WILMINGTON SAIL and POWER SQUADRON  
CHANGE OF WATCH on Sunday, 12 March 2017***

***Schaefers Canal House***

*208 Bank Street, Chesapeake City, MD 21915*

**BUFFET – 1230**

**CHANGE OF WATCH CEREMONY – 1330**

**Please forward your reservation slip and check for \$25 each  
payable to WSPS to:**

Barbara Sharpless, 2 Hailey's Trail, Newark, DE 19711

**by Monday, 6 March 2017  
(Please don't be late.)**

*The Last Lunch Bunch at Season's Pizza of 2016*



Clockwise from the left: Ann Benfer, Sue Engler, Don Engler, Dave Benfer, Dennis Wallace, Cdr. John Ingram, Bruce Wyngaard's Son, Bruce, Leslie Brower and Geri Walker.



## *Administrative Department*



We had a fine turnout for our annual oyster dinner held at the Wellwood Restaurant in Charlestown MD. We had 46 people show up. You can see some additional photos of the event on the following page.

Commander John G. Ingram recognized P/C Don Engler, AP and P/C C. David Sharpless, AP who have reached the milestone of 25 merit marks making them life members.

The dinner was also attended for the first time by new members Wayne and Laura Hepting.

As in the past we were organized around small tables which permitted good conversation about our year of boating - some had already taken their boat out of the water - others still planning a new trip.

We all enjoyed a fine meal. The oysters were great as was the ham and chicken. The best of course is we enjoyed each other.

Lt/C Bruce Wyngaard, AP  
Administrative Officer

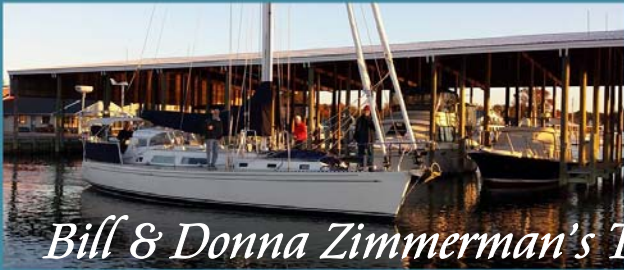


*Administrative Department*



**Wellwood Oyster Dinner  
23 October, 2016**





*Bill & Donna Zimmerman's Trip to the Bahamas*



*Arrived in Georgetown  
November 12*



## *Boating Safety News*

# *"Pyrotechnics"*

The Coast Guard requires we have aboard approved visual distress signals, either pyrotechnic devices (flares) or non –pyrotechnic devices such as distress flags or signal lights; at least three daytime and three for night or three that are approved for both day and night.

Pyrotechnic signaling devices (including aerial flares and hand held signals) expire 42 months after the date of manufacture in accordance with the Coast Guard requirements. Eventually, as many of you know, proper disposal becomes a problem. Recently the Coast Guard approved a visual electronic distress signal device for night, accompanied by a distress flag for daytime purposes.

The Weems & Plath Distress Light is compliant for day and night with the daytime distress signal flag and has the following features:

- . **Shines a horizontal and vertical beam visible up to 10 miles**
- . **LED light flashes SOS up to 60 hrs. on three "C" cell batteries**
- . **Floats if dropped overboard**
- . **Can be handheld, hoisted or fits rod holder**
- . **Weights 13.6 ounces, 4x4x8.5"**

***Could this be the end of flares?***

Lt Dave Benfer, JN  
Safety Officer



## *In Memoriam*

P/C James (Jim) Robinson, AP passed quietly, Sunday, 12//18/2016, after a year plus battle with stomach cancer. Jim earned a Merit Mark for each of his 15 years of affiliation with WSPS. He was the consummate volunteer, Commander, Squadron Education Officer, Executive Committee Member, in addition to numerous recurring committee assignments (Crab Feast Co-Chair, Cruise/Picnic Chair, Spring Picnics, etc.) throughout the years.

The number of members willing to contribute both time and energy for organizational benefit has been waning for a long time. Jim certainly was one of those people who, understanding the situation, made the successful planning/production of many of our events a personal priority by his involvement. Wife Zelma and sons Jimmy and Charlie were ever supporting.

We are a better organization because of his and his family's commitment to WSPS.

Heartfelt condolences to the Robinson family.

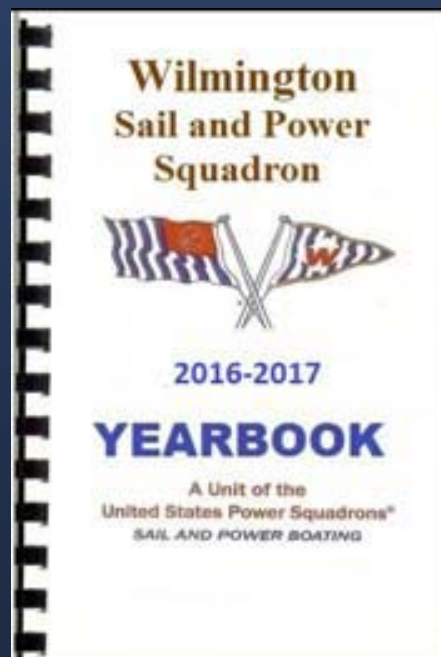
Thank you all for the good years!



### *2017-2018 Yearbook Notice*

It's getting close to the time for our 2017-2018 yearbook to be assembled and printed.

If you have any changes to your listing in the members roster from the 2016-2017 yearbook, please e-mail your changes to Barbara Sharpless at [bdsharpless@verizon.net](mailto:bdsharpless@verizon.net).



## *WSPS Birthdays*

Robert V. A. Harra, Jr.	Jan 02	Pierce W. Johnston, Jr.	Jan 29
Lois B. Radcliff	Jan 02	George C. Bentley	Jan 30
Irene duPont, Jr.	Jan 08	Sue F. Engler	Feb 11
David I. Netting	Jan 21	Francis Richardson, Jr.	Feb 12
Mike Minard	Jan 22	D. Jeffrey Russell	Feb 12
Robert G. Danehower.	Jan 27	Paul David Ehrlichman	Feb 13
Patricia S. Maher	Jan 28	Pat Esterle	Feb 17

### Calendar of Events for the next three months [www.wspsoaters.com](http://www.wspsoaters.com)

Join us for our weekly luncheons at:  
Season's Pizza on Concord Pike  
each Wednesday: 1130-1300

<u>2017 Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event and Location</u>
13 Jan	1830	WSPS Social Brandywine Community Center
18 Jan.	1930	WSPS Executive Committee Meeting Conectiv Energy & Technology Center, Newark, DE
01 Feb.		Deadline for March/April Lubber's Line Material
15 Feb.	1930	WSPS Executive Committee Meeting Conectiv Energy & Technology Center, Newark, DE
17 Feb.	1830	WSPS Annual Meeting & Founders' Day Social Brandywine Community Center
19-26 Feb.		USPS Annual Meeting Rosen Center, Orlando, FL
12 Mar.	1200	WSPS Change of Watch Schaefer's Canal House 208 Bank Street, Chesapeake City, MD 21915
15 Mar.	1930	WSPS Executive Committee Meeting Conectiv Energy & Technology Center, Newark, DE