

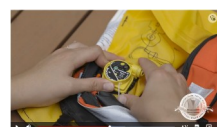
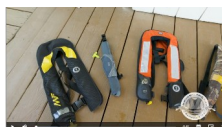
THE LUBBER'S LINE

VOLUME 86, ISSUE 1

January - February 2024

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Photos provided by members

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr Richard A. Butler, JN

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Well, 2023 is over and gone. 2024 is off to a running start as is your ABCW Nominating Committee. A slate of nominees for each of the Club's elected positions has been developed by the Nominating Committee. The list can be found on page 4. Many of the names are familiar, but several of our new members have stepped up and offered to use their valuable time and skills to help manage the administrative side of the Club. In particular I want to thank Lt John Bailey who has volunteered to serve as our Commander for the 2024-2025 Club year.



Photo provided by John Bailey

Bringing new members into Club leadership and moving others around to other positions can bring in new ideas and keep the organization fresh and engaged. This is particularly true since many of our leaders have reached a point in their lives where they may be moving on, physically and/or to new activities, as have a number of our past leaders over recent years.

I am pleased that Justin Doheny, Peter Weintraub and Bart Wilson have volunteered to serve as Members of the Executive Committee. This is an excellent way for members to gain experience and insight into the Club's activities and operation without the need for previous experience or a great expenditure of time. Required time for committee members is attendance at nine, one-to-two-hour meetings per year conducted via Zoom. Additional contributions of time for tasks or activities generated by the committee are voluntary.

Formal election of our elected positions will be held at our Annual Meeting after the presentation at our February Founders' Day Social. Installation of those elected will be at our Change of Watch ceremony at the North East Yacht Club on Sunday, 10 March. This will be our first (of hopefully many) face to face get-togethers of 2024. It would be a pleasure to see as many of you there as possible.

On 3-5 November Bill Barber and I attended the ABC Mid-Atlantic Region Fall Conference. There we made contact with fellow commanders and education officers to exchange information and ideas. A certificate and pin was awarded to P/C Alan G. Cropper, AP for 50 years of membership in USPS. Alan was Commander of Wilmington Power Squadron in 1987-1988. ABC Wilmington was presented the Caravelle Award, a model of a Caravelle which was given by the Portuguese Government for presentation to the Squadron in District 5 that has done the best in teaching Seamanship, Piloting and Advanced Piloting. Several additional awards based on educational achievement were received which are described in greater detail in the SEO's column. I congratulate everyone involved in these activities for their hard work and achievement.



Administrative Department

P/C Carol J. Hanson, AP

A most fun Holiday Social was thoroughly enjoyed by thirty-five members of ABCW. Held in early December at the lovely home of Leslie Brower and P/C Bruce Wyngaard in Middletown, DE. Members gathered to enjoy an afternoon of socializing, libations, and the always entertaining Holiday Swap gift exchange. Due to thoughtful purchasing and the variety of items, some gifts were swapped more than once after opening. Many thanks to Leslie and Bruce for their marvelous hospitality! The social was a warm and wonderful start to the Holidays with like-minded friends!



Photo provided by Dennis Wallace

Invitations are out for the ABCW Zoom Social scheduled for 5 January 2024. The program will feature Kathy Bergren Smith, maritime reporter, and photojournalist. Ms. Smith will discuss the tragic story of the schooner, *Levin J. Marvel*, which capsized in the Chesapeake Bay during Hurricane Connie in 1955. Smith will construct her compelling story from the eye-witness accounts of survivors and rescuers, a miraculously recovered diary, newspaper coverage and trial records. Please respond to the Punch Bowl Invitation!

On 9 February, we look forward to a Zoom presentation by Jack “Wildlife” Turner, who is committed to bringing us closer to the natural world, through wildlife photography and original memes. Mr. Turner will promote an elevation of our natural world, and encourage environmental stewardship through a lens of education, photos, and humor. At this event, we will celebrate Founders’ Day, and conduct our Annual Meeting where we will elect our leaders for 2024-2025. Keep an eye out for the Punch Bowl invitation!

ABCW Members Renew Their Support for the Seamen’s Center

Once again, members gifted thirteen wrapped holiday ditty boxes to the Port of Wilmington Seamen’s Center. Full of knitted hats and gloves, toiletries, other necessities and candy, the shoe box size ditty boxes are highly appreciated by sailors on freighters, who are stationed at the Port of Wilmington over the holidays. According to Shivana Berardesco, Office Administrator, the Seamen’s Center appreciates the support of marine organizations, churches, and 4H Clubs, who provided approximately 1100 ditty boxes to support the effort! Executive Director of the Seamen’s Center, Christine Lassiter, recalled the good work of former volunteers Dave Benfer and John Ingram, and exclaimed, “This is wonderful! Thank you so much!” Many thanks to all of you who so thoughtfully donated a ditty box!

**AMERICA’S BOATING CLUB WILMINGTON
2024 - 2025 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..... Lt John H. Bailey, AP
- Executive Officer..... Vacant
- Administrative Officer..... P/C J. Carol Hanson, AP
- Education Officer..... Lt/C William E. Barber, 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

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

Audit Committee

- Chair - Peter M. Weintraub
- Member - 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
- Members - 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 9 FEBRUARY 2024 1830 HRS.

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



Education Department

Lt/C William E. Barber, AP

Both of our two Fall 2023 classes, "Marine Electrical Systems" and "Sail", have concluded. The final exams have been completed, graded by National and results received. I am thrilled to announce that the members listed below have now completed these two courses. Congratulations to all!

Marine Electrical Systems: Lynn Mahaffy, Justin Doheny, John Schleicher, Joan Barber, Chris Atkinson, Carol Hanson, Bill Barber

Sail: Lynn Mahaffy, Leslie Brower, Kenneth Ede, John Schleicher, Joan Barber, Bill Barber

Additional kudos to Chris Atkinson and Lynn Mahaffy who, by completing one of the courses above, achieved their Educational Proficiency Awards. This award recognizes those members who have completed advanced grades through Advanced Piloting or higher and at least three of the elective courses. Congratulations to both!

Many thanks to both Randy Williamson (MES) and Bill Zimmerman (Sail) for all their time and effort to prepare and present these two courses to our members. They did a GREAT job! Additional thanks to Randy in his role as Assistant Education Officer for making the arrangements for administering the final exams, proctoring these exams, and then submitting the exams to National for grading in my absence.

In a separate email to all members on 7 November 2023, I reported on several educational awards that ABC Wilmington received at the Fall 2023 Conference. Specifically, we were honored with the Caravelle Award, 2nd place for the Prince Henry Award and 3rd place for both the Henry E. Sweet and Workboat Awards.

Details for each of these awards can be found in that email or by going to the "Boating Education" tab on the ABC Wilmington website(<http://www.wilmingtonpowersquadron.org/>) where you can find a link to these award details.



Photos are available on ABCW Facebook



District & National News

USPS 2024 Annual Meeting: Orlando FL

Mid-Atlantic Region's Past District Commander and very active ABC/USPS member Ralph Bernard, AP will become the Chief Commander of the United States Power Squadrons at the USPS 2-12 February 2024 Annual Meeting. This is quite an achievement and honor. There is an open invitation to all members to travel to Orlando, FL to the Rosen Plaza Hotel to support Ralph and his wife Nance as Ralph assumes leadership of the USPS for the next two years. A detailed agenda is listed on the National Meetings page along with hotel and event information. To make your event and hotel reservations, go to:

https://www.usps.org/php/reservations_new/meetings.php?mtg_id=46

2024 Mid-Atlantic Region District 5 Summer Council & Rendezvous

Plans are under way for the 2024 Summer Council and Rendezvous at Solomons Island MD 25-28 July 2024. The host marina is Safe Harbor Zahniser's Marina in Solomon's MD with Spring Cove Marina and Solomon's YC handling overflow. V/C Ralph Bernard will lead a fleet of boats from the northern part of the Bay to Solomons and Stf/C Jim Zeigler will lead a southern fleet up the Bay. We're planning a sail regatta and power boat navigation contest. A busy and fun time with plenty to do for all.

Tentative cruise plans are as follows:

20 July Sat	Anchorage Marina, Baltimore
21-22 July Sun-Mon	Rock Hall Landing Marina, Rock Hall, MD
23-24 July Tue-Wed	Herrington Harbor South
25-27 July Thurs-Sat	Solomons District 5 Summer Rendezvous
28-29 July Sun-Mon	Annapolis. Great place and the distance is not far.
30 July Tues	Baltimore. Last stop of the cruise.

Look for complete information in the Summer 2024 issue of the District Newsletter, *Mark V*.



Secretary's Department

Lt/C Chris A. Atkinson, AP

As we move to 2024 as a club, it is heartening to see how many new volunteers will be involved to support the new officers. This portends a rewarding club experience for all involved. As I move towards retiring as Secretary, I want to thank all those that worked with me to make the business of the club easier: the Membership Committee, who took on mentoring new members, following up on dues invoices and recognizing over 90 birthdays; Barbara Sharpless, our excellent former Secretary, who shepherded me on how to prepare the yearbook (I don't know how she could do that for 27 years, but she did it superbly); Vicky Lai, our wonderful *Lubber's Line* editor, and its proof reader Joan Barber, who is relentless in her hunt for incorrect grammar and typos: the quality of the publication you are reading is thanks to them. And our new Merit Mark Chair, Beth Stevenson, has done a great job in making sure our club members' efforts are recognized by USPS!

There are many aspects of the Secretary's position that are not apparent to the membership – but as if by magic, they are taken care of: the Historian Report, which reports the statistics of our club's accomplishments and documents the year for USPS; interacting with potential members, introducing them to our club, registering new members into the USPS system and providing members with their certificate numbers, so they can get access to their profile, USPS benefits, and update their personal information; each year, inputting the names of all the bridge, executive committee general members, and key committee leadership roles in the USPS and District 5 databases, so that information on their areas can be sent to the correct people; uploading the *Lubber's Line* into the District 5 website so that our fellow clubs can see what we are doing, and for the evaluator of the Distinguished Communicator Award for Publications, so she can review our newsletter and hopefully grant us that award for 2023; proofing the newsletter; writing / preparing the minutes of the Executive Committee for nine months of the year; posting the club calendar. I could go on, but I won't. Yes, it may be "just paperwork", but it is time consuming to say the least and difficult for one person. My time log shows over 200 hours for one year! If you are interested in assisting the new secretary with any of these responsibilities or more, let him know.

As for me, I am moving on to different activities and retiring from USPS. After serving as Education Officer and Secretary in an upstate NY club and Assistant Secretary and Secretary for our club, it is time to take down my USPS shingle (19 years). I plan to: compete in Rally Obedience and Agility with my two Australian Shepherds; travel both on the road and the Chesapeake Bay to see what my husband and I haven't seen yet; do some watercolor painting; practice my epoxy and gel coat skills on *Willow* (it just never ends); and I hope, alpine skiing if my new knee permits me. And that is just for starters. I wish the club members happiness in this new year, and I am in the yearbook, if you wish to contact me.

Thank you again to all the members who supported me over the past years.

Meet our New Members

Matt and Kim White joined our Boating Club in 2021. Starting with a power boat, they have enjoyed fishing on Chesapeake Bay for over 20 years, more recently on their 26' powerboat *McLovin*. Drawn to the water, they purchased a 46' sailboat, *We Got This* in 2021, and have sailed and boated out of North Point Marina in Rock Hall since 2020.

From a young age Matt, Founder and Owner of Heritage Metal Works was naturally gifted in art, design and craftsmanship. Since 1998, he has performed antique restoration and reproduction. In 2000 with a passion for high quality design, Matt began restoring decorative pieces, and in just a few short years, he opened Heritage Metalworks, an exclusive restoration shop in Downingtown, PA.

Kim, Director of Operations and Business Development, had worked at a mutual fund giant. After 24 years of providing crucial strategy and global vision, Kim decided to leave the corporate world and help grow the business she had also supported for many years.



Today Heritage Metalworks is a metal fabrication shop staffed with highly skilled experienced artists and craftspeople. A preferred partner of the nation's most knowledgeable architects, designers, and general contractors, HMW has worked on everything from high end homes to prestigious landmarks, such as the Capitol Building, Chrysler Museum, Valley Forge National Park, Winterthur Museum, and Fair Lane: Home of Clara and Henry Ford.

Their craftsmanship is in high demand, so they really enjoy the weekends sailing or fishing out of North Point Marina! We look forward to seeing them there, or on the water!

Merit Marks Submission

Thank you to everyone who submitted a record of their ABCW service activities for consideration to be awarded a 2023 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 devoted 1286 hours of service collectively and that does not include the 53 completed Vessel Safety Checks. I am pleased to share that 24 of our members were awarded a Merit Mark by National.

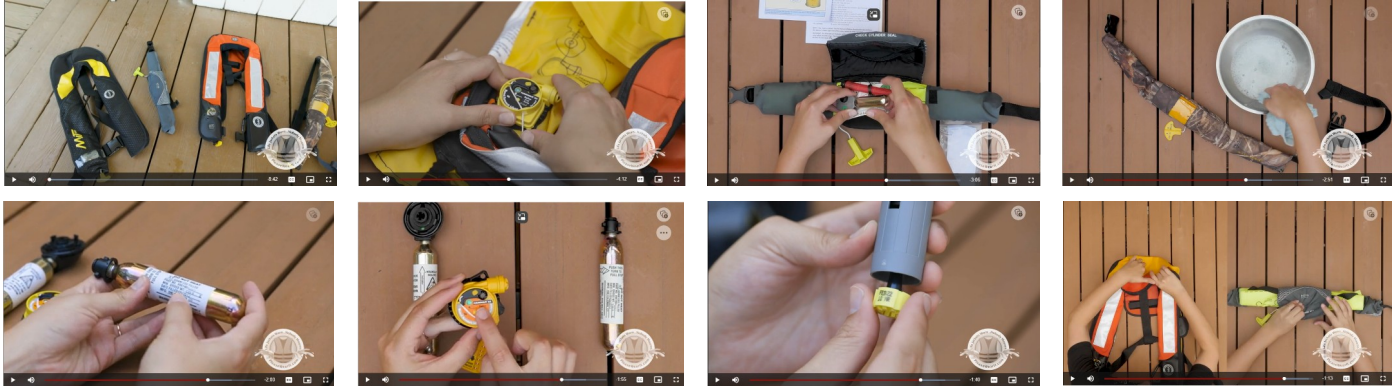
Congratulations to all of our recipients!

Submitted by
Lt. Beth Stevenson
Merit Mark Chair

Boating Safety: Important Information on Life Jackets

A new 9-minute video regarding inflatable life jackets has been released recently by The Corps Foundation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The video is titled "Inflatable Life Jackets: Everything You Need To Know" and is available at:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/714787/inflatable-life-jackets-everything-you-need-know-9-min>



Video vignettes from above website

Dates Set for 2024 Annual ABCW Cruise

Please mark your calendars for the 2024 Cruise. The cruise will start 1 June, Saturday at Rock Hall, MD and end there on 9 June, Sunday. We had an excellent 2023 cruise survey response. It will guide us as we plan the 2024 trip details. For example, we will start on Saturday - not Friday. There was significant support for another two-day stop at a marina and people want to have a full set of activities whether they are anchored or at a marina. Details will follow.

If you have any questions or comments please speak to any of the committee members. Committee members are Laura and Wayne Hepting, Carol Hanson, led by Co-Chairs John and Colleen Schleicher, Leslie Brower and Bruce Wyngaard.

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

In January's frost and February's hues,
A celebration of life in vibrant views.
For those born when winter winds play,
A colorful poem to brighten their day.

Mid-January gleams with radiant light,
As birthdays sparkle, a dazzling sight.
A dance of joy, in the winter's glow,
For souls like stars, in the January show.

February follows with a gentle breeze,
Soft whispers of love, a palette to please.
A shared celebration, a vibrant refrain,
In February's heart, joy paints the terrain.

So here's to those in Jan and Feb,
Whose birthdays bring colors, a lively web.
May your days be a canvas of laughter and cheer,
Happy birthdays to all, throughout the year

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Calendar of Events January/February 2024

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	January Events
	1	2	3	4	5	6	5 Jan 1830 ABC Wilmington Social Via Zoom
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	17 Jan 1900 ABC Wilmington Executive Committee Meeting* Via Zoom
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	*All members are welcome to attend - email admin@abc-wilmington.com to get a Zoom invite!
28	29	30	31				

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	February Events
				1	2	3	2-12 Feb USPS Annual Meeting Orlando, FL
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9 Feb 1830 ABCW Annual Meeting & Founders' Day Social Via Zoom
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15 Feb Deadline for March/April Lubber's Line Material
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	21 Feb 1900 ABC Wilmington Executive Committee Meeting * Via Zoom
25	26	27	28	29			*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.