

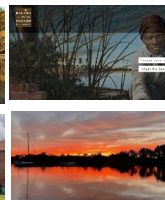
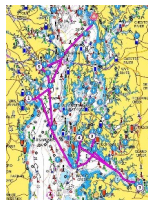
THE LUBBER'S LINE

VOLUME 86, ISSUE 2

March - April 2024

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Photos provided by members

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr Richard A. Butler, JN

A new year for America's Boating Club Wilmington (ABCW) is before us! We have successfully enjoyed both virtual Socials and productive Executive Committee meetings in addition to highly enjoyable in person Nov. Social and December Holiday Party!! We welcomed 16 new members: John Stevenson, Perry Willis, Mae Alfree, Ralph Onesti, Gretchen Raichle, Amy Whiteluke, Eric Taggert, Rollyn Trueblood, Connie Mitchell, Sheri Trueblood, Tom Gotthold, Ken Ede, Jeff Capaldi, Mark Cofone, Karin Sorenmo, and Lukas Cofone. We're happy to have you aboard!

As I pass the Commander's title (and responsibilities) on to our new Commander, John Bailey, I want to take the time to thank many of those who have provided the time, effort and skills to move us from "Covid-19 Times" to the current more "Normal" environment that we now live in.

Bill Barber, with the able assistance of Mark Atkinson and Randy Williamson, provided our members and the general public with educational programs that won us several awards at our District Fall Conference including the prestigious Caravelle Award.

I want to thank those who made this past year so successful, including our excellent and experienced Executive Committee, Educational Officer Bill Barber, Socials Coordinators Lynn Mahaffy and Joan Barber. While doing double duty, Bill Barber is bringing our financial systems into the 21st century with capabilities such as online payment for Club activities. John Schleicher has also been bringing our website up-to-date and truly useful. Vicky Lai has stepped in and done a fantastic job of upgrading the look and feel of this newsletter. Thanks also go to Chris Atkinson who done a heroic job improving the systems and processes that support our Secretary Department functions. John Bailey, J.T. Walton, and Gail Weintraub have provided Vessel Safety Checks for the Chesapeake boating community. The Wyngaard-Browers and the Schleichers co-chaired the very enjoyable 2023 Annual Cruise. Scott Mayhue for coordinated summer raft ups, and Colleen Schleicher coordinated the Photo Contest. Our Marketing Committee and Club members supported an event at North Point Marina showcasing the benefits of membership and completed numerous Vessel Safety Checks. Our Program Committee used their creative thinking to find interesting speakers for our winter Social Programs. Thanks to Joan Barber, Terry Butler, Kathy Hauty, Betty Ingram, Gretchen Raichle and Lynn Mahaffy.

I have appreciated the good work and support of those rotating off the Executive Committee, Mark Atkinson and Laura Hackell. And a special commendation to Justin Doheny, Peter Weintraub and Bart Wilson for agreeing to add some new blood to the committee. We still have some positions that could use the support of other members. Please consider offering any time or skills that you have. If you have any doubts as to how you can help, just talk with Commander Bailey or any of our other Club leaders.

Finally, I need to thank Past Commander Carol Hanson, who has provided unparalleled support for the Administrative and Executive club functions, leading the Marketing, Membership, Social and other committees and providing valuable advice and counseling to yours truly and others. I'm sure that she will continue to provide these supports to our incoming Commander.

I have enjoyed the past two years as Commander and look forward to the coming year's opportunities to learn new skills and capabilities as I transition into the Secretary role.



Photos provided by Richard Butler



Administrative Department

P/C Carol J. Hanson, AP

February's Annual Meeting and Founder's Day Social Had a Full Agenda!

The Founder's Day Social on 9 FEB was thoroughly enjoyed by ABCW members via Zoom. The highlight of the gathering of 26 ABCW members included **a special presentation by Jack Turner, an Environmental Scientist and Wildlife Photographer.** Growing up near the Severn River in Annapolis MD, Jack has been documenting local wildlife for over six years, sharing his images and videos along with facts and information about some of the most iconic Chesapeake Bay species to drive a conversation around wildlife conservation and environmental stewardship. Jack's work has been featured in local exhibits, publications, and, most recently, was selected as the 'Fan Favorite' in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Annual Photo Contest.

As Jack demonstrated throughout his presentation, Chesapeake Bay is home to hundreds of species of birds; some year-round, others passing through on their migrations north or south. Although bird populations have declined dramatically in the past 50 years, there are still abundant opportunities to observe birds in the Chesapeake and beyond. Jack explored the stunning diversity of our local feathered friends, and **we learned how we can help birds in our area.** The presentation covered local birds, birds across the world, the importance of birds, the threats to birds, and what is being done to help birds. **His photographs of various activities of birds in the bay area and in Costa Rica were breathtaking!** His dedication to promoting environmental stewardship was obvious. After the presentation Jack shared that "the majority of my professional work is custom printing and framing - if anyone from the Club has a favorite bird, I probably have a wonderful image of it, and can work with them to print it at a size they would like. I have created everything from small, wallet sized prints to huge 4' x 4' canvas prints for large walls." To view some of his amazing work, visit his website at <https://jackwildlife.square.site/>. Many thanks to Lynn Mahaffy for her research in scheduling such an interesting speaker for our Club members!

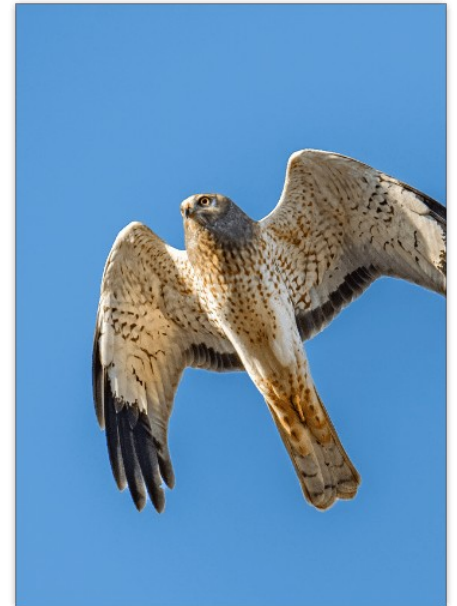


Photo provided by Jack Turner

The Founder's Day Annual Business Meeting was opened by Commander Butler where he discussed upcoming Social events. John Schleicher shared information about the upcoming Summer Cruise. Nominating Committee Chair Betty Ingram reviewed the Slate of Officers. Given that the Slate was uncontested, Mark Atkinson made the motion for Secretary Chris Atkinson to cast the ballot for the election of Officers. Congratulations to our incoming Officers and Committee members! Special appreciation goes to our incoming Commander John Bailey, and New Executive Committee Members Justin Doheny, Peter Weintraub, and Bart Wilson! Additional thanks go to Betty Ingram, and the Nominating Committee. Chris and Mark Atkinson, who are rotating out of ABCW, were recognized for their many years of exceptional service to America's Boating Club Wilmington.

Come, Enjoy the Camaraderie and Support Your Incoming Officers! America's Change of Watch, Sunday, March 10, 2024, 1100 am DST

Please join us for the ABCW Change of Watch ceremony on Sunday, 10 MARCH at 1100 Daylight Saving Time, at Schaefer's Canal House. Schaefer's offers an enjoyable on the water atmosphere, and the food is delicious! The ever-entertaining Dennis Wallace has agreed to be our Master of Ceremonies! Additionally, we are fortunate to have Michael Maszczenski, Assistant Education Officer for District 5 and his lovely wife Georgiana, who will join us to officiate the induction of Officers for the 2024 – 2025 Bridge Year.

We are delighted that Lt John H. Bailey, AP, has agreed to serve as our incoming Commander. Additionally, other ABCW Bridge Officers have agreed to continue to serve - Richard Butler as Secretary, Carol Hanson as Administrative Officer, and Bill Barber as Squadron Education Officer and Treasurer. Webmaster John Schleicher and Co-chair of the Social Committee, Lynn Mahaffy, will continue to serve on the Committee. Additionally, we are pleased to welcome Justin Doheny, Peter Weintraub, and Bart Wilson to the Executive Committee. Justin Doheny has graciously agreed to continue to serve as Chair of the Audit Committee. He will be joined on the Audit Committee by Peter Weintraub and Bill Zimmerman. We sincerely appreciate their willingness to serve!



Photo provided by members

We are grateful for the dedication and commitment of those rotating off the Executive Committee: Chris Atkinson, who has been on the Executive Committee for six years, has served as our excellent Secretary the past two years, and was Assistant Secretary for two years prior. She has been extremely thoughtful and thorough in her duties. Mark Atkinson, former Squadron Education Officer for two years, has also been on the Executive Committee for six years. He has done fantastic work coordinating the Basic Boating Course. Most recently, with the help of Kathy Hauty, he has successfully partnered with the New Castle Sailing Club as the new location for the Basic Boating Course. Chris and Mark have been members of USPS for 23 years. We will miss them. Thankfully, Betty Ingram will continue to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee. We ALL promise to support her in that effort!

Chris Atkinson has worked tirelessly to provide us with up-to-date ABCW Yearbooks at the Change of Watch. Hard copies for those attending will be available for pick-up at the door. Remember to wear your plastic name tags, if you have them! For new members, stick on ones will be available at the door. If you want to order a plastic name tag, see Lynn Mahaffy to place your order.

The brunch promises to be as scrumptious as ever! Doors open at 1100 and brunch begins at 1130. So don't be late! A Mimosa greeting beverage will be waiting for you. This will be followed by: Fresh Fruit Bowl, Breakfast Breads, Scrambled Eggs with Cheddar Jack Cheese, Vanilla Cinnamon French Toast with Warm Syrup, Herb Breakfast Potatoes, Crisp Bacon & Pork Sausage, Schaefer's Waldorf Chicken Salad on Mini Croissants, Baked Ziti & Meatballs, and Seasonal Vegetables. Is your mouth watering yet?

Special thanks to Betty Ingram for coordinating the Punch Bowl invitation. Please respond by 1 MARCH. Send \$40/person made out to WSPS to Richard Butler, whose address is in the Punchbowl Invite. Please join us for an important and entertaining induction and social! We look forward to seeing you then!

Socials and Events Scheduled or Under Consideration by the Social Committee

Sunday 10 MAR – Change of Watch at 11:00 am, DST, Schaefer's Canal House.

Lovely location, delicious brunch, Installation of our esteemed Commander and the Bridge Officers by a District Representative. Join us for the camaraderie. Please respond to the Punchbowl Invitation!

Friday 19 APR - Nurdle Search at Noon at New Castle Sailing Club - Join us for a Lunch and *Learn about Nurdles* at the New Castle Sailing Club, as taught by our very own Biology Professor, Lynn Mahaffy, PhD. A Nurdle search will be included after lunch. Stay tuned for details.

Saturday 1 JUNE – ABCW Annual Summer Cruise. Please see details in Lubber's Line, page 8.

Saturday 20 JULY – A combined North Point Marina & ABCW Boater's Flea Market and Cookout is scheduled for all ABCW members at North Point Marina. More to come on this event.



Education Department

P/C Mark C. Atkinson

A New Partner for 2024 Basic Boater Classes

America's Boating Club Wilmington (ABCW) has a new partner for its Boater Certification Classes for 2024 and hopefully beyond. Classes will be offered in March and May at the New Castle Sailing Club (NCSC). The prior partnership with the Delaware Safety Council fell apart following a dispute over fees for the use of the classroom when staff and management changed.

Classes will be on Saturday afternoons from 1300 to 1600 at the NCSC clubhouse at 614 South Street, New Castle, DE. The first class begins 24 FEB and continues on 2 MARCH and 9 MARCH. The second class begins 4 MAY and continues on 11 MAY and 18 MAY. The agreement with the New Castle Sailing Club developed as it was looking to expand education opportunities for its members and ABCW needed a space for classes. Kathleen Hauty, a member of the NCSC as well as ABCW, initiated a conversation between the Commodore and Director of Safety and Education of NCSC and Local Board for Basic Boating Chairman Mark Atkinson, AP and Education Officer Bill Barber, AP of ABCW.



Photo provided by Kathy Hauty

It was a very brief and positive meeting on Zoom that cemented the clubs' mutual interests in giving the boater certification classes to their members and having a classroom to offer the classes to the public and our standing partner, the Safety Officer of the Delaware Army Reserve National Guard. The understanding reached in that meeting were distilled into a written agreement between the two clubs approved by the governing committees of both clubs for this year and continuing as long as dates for classes are mutually acceptable.

Classes will consist of three, 3-hour sessions and conclude with a closed-book, proctored multiple-choice exam. Topics of the course include vessel and hull types, propulsion, close quarters maneuvering and docking, rules of the road, horn signals, and handling emergencies, effects of alcohol on operation, hypothermia, and more. The course serves as an introduction so boaters will be aware of what they need to know, and hopefully be inspired to pursue further education.

Providing basic boater education has been a staple for the United States Power Squadron throughout its history. Until the past few years, clubs were required to offer a course to the public at least once a year. ABCW offers the Delaware Safe Boater Certification Course, a course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) which meets US Coast Guard standards. As such, it is valid in all states requiring boater certification. In Delaware waters it is required for any person born after 1 JAN 1978 operating a mechanically propelled vessel. In Maryland waters it is required for any person born after 1 JULY 1975.

Beyond the legal requirement, basic education is a good idea to understanding the risks of boating and the legal requirements governing vessel operation to avoid accidents. More importantly, understanding safe boating practices is the key to have a good day on the water.



District & National News

District 5's Spring Conference and Change of Watch

District 5's Spring Conference and Change of Watch will be held at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront in Ocean City, MD from 20-24 March 2024. This venue is new to us, located at 6600 Coastal Highway, about two blocks north of the MD Route 90 causeway. The conference includes important training for the new club bridge officers coming aboard. Old and new officers should take advantage of this as it will give you a good foundation for leading your groups and understanding what you are expected to do in your bridge position. Registration forms with hotel and other conference details are available for download from the District 5 website (site addresses listed below). Also, a CPR & First Aid training class is available on Friday 22 March. Separate registration is required. Registration deadline is 22 February.

Friday and Saturday feature a number of seminars along with the Council and Conference meetings. The evening Change of Watch and Awards banquet is the big event.

Any Club member is welcome to attend this conference. If interested please contact Richard Butler for more information (commander@abc-wilmington.com)

District 5 Websites –

<https://abc-midatlantic.org>

<https://uspsd5.org>



Secretary's Department

Lt/C Chris A. Atkinson, AP

It's almost time....to get your 2024-2025 yearbook! I hope many of you can attend the Change of Watch at Schaeffer's Canal House on 10 MAR (see Carol Hanson's column). Besides great food and camaraderie, you will be able to pick up your yearbook, buy a club burgee or order a name tag and some excellent apparel from Lynn Mahaffy. Extra yearbooks (you only get one free per household) will also be available for purchase (\$10 each). Bring your check book or cash!

For those at the Change of Watch, please pick up your yearbook at the entry to our meeting room. For those that can't make ABCW's premier event, yearbooks can be brought to the Wednesday luncheons if you give me or new Secretary Richard a heads-up. For some folks, I know you can't do either, so they will be mailed to you after 10 MAR.

Be kind to the new secretary, it's a big job! And help him out if you can.

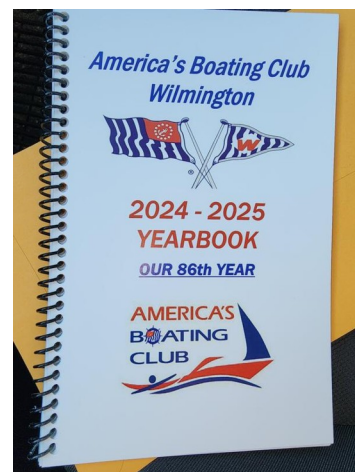


Photo provided by Chris Atkinson

Meet our New Members

Mark Cofone and Karin Sorenmo, along with their son Lukas transferred their membership from Kent Narrows to Wilmington in January. Mark and Karin live in Glen Mills, PA; Lukas is in his last semester at U.D. studying Marine Science. Both Mark and Karin are semi-retired veterinarians who currently run a nonprofit foundation to treat homeless dogs with mammary tumors. They have not been boating for that long, although Karin grew up on a small island in Norway where the primary way to get anywhere was in a small skiff. In 2018 they bought Froya, a 37-foot Beneteau Swift Trawler and started to learn, sometimes the hard way, about boats and boat systems. Initially they were docked on the Sassafras River, but in 2020 they moved to Rock Hall, MD at North Point Marina.

For the past three years they have enjoyed cruising on the Chesapeake in this area. They are planning on expanding their horizons and becoming a little more adventurous by exploring more of the Chesapeake.



Photos provided by Mark Cofone



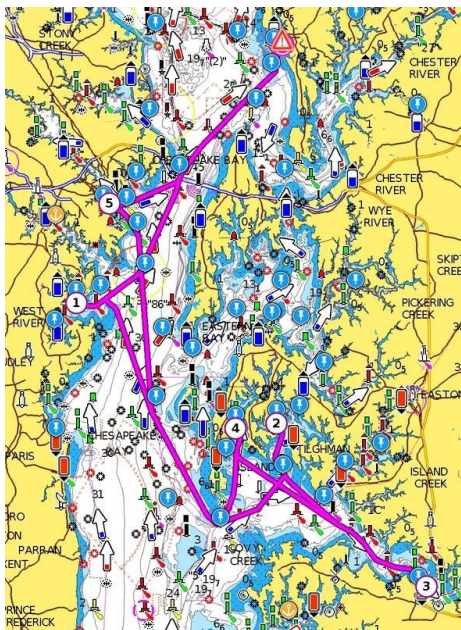
Pictures are of Karin, Mark, and their daughter Marta this past summer in Norway. Lukas driving our small skiff in Norway. And Froya at dock in North Point Marina.

The ABC Wilmington Annual Cruise is Scheduled For 1 June, Saturday to 9 June, Sunday

It's not too early to begin thinking of the June Cruise.

The 2024 ABCW Cruise Committee has laid out an itinerary that is based on 2023 cruise questionnaire feedback. The cruise will be shorter in overall distance; we have two stops of two days; and we have reduced the trip by one day as well.

Here are some details:



1 June Sat: Commander's Kickoff. North Point Marina, Rock Hall MD.

2-3 June, Sun-Mon: Rhode River. At anchor. Assigned Raft-ups, shared menu the first evening. Second day we will tour the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) and some dinghy activities.

4 June Tues: Leadenham Creek. At anchor. Assigned raft-ups with some dinghy activity.

5-6 June Wed-Thurs: Cambridge Municipal Yacht Basin, Cambridge MD. Dinner on our own, Richardson Maritime Museum, Harriet Tubman Museum and other activities TBA.

7 June Fri: Dun Cove. At anchor. Dinghy activity

8 June Sat: Port Annapolis Marina, Annapolis, MD. Banquet and other activities TBA.

9 June Sun: Return to Rock Hall MD

The Cruise Committee wants to underscore its hope that those who cannot join us on a boat meet up with us at the Kickoff, SERC or in Cambridge. No boat is necessary!

Each year the cruise morphs slightly. This time we will stop at two locations for two days each. For years many commented on wanting to visit the SERC on the Rhode River - now a two day stay makes it possible. For those who enjoyed Oxford last year we have more planned at Cambridge - we could have stopped for three days! Also we will reach out to neighboring Clubs located on the cruise route asking if they want to join us.

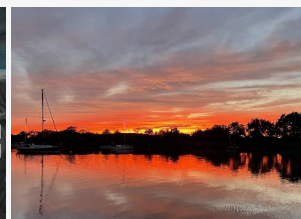
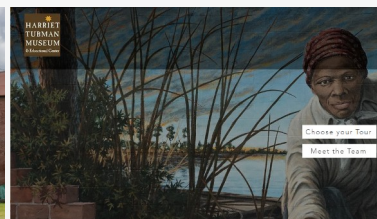
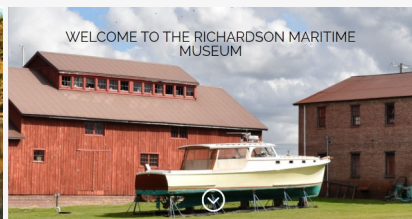
Camaraderie, just fun boating and on-shore discoveries promise to make the cruise very special. Remember - boat or no boat - we want you to join us.

Many thanks to the 2024 Cruise Committee: Laura Hepting, Carol Hanson, and Co-Chairs Colleen and John Schleicher, Leslie Brower and Bruce Wyngaard. Do not hesitate to contact any one of them if you have questions.

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
<https://serc.si.edu/>

Richardson Maritime Museum
<https://richardsonmuseum.org/>

Harriet Tubman Museum
<https://www.harriettubmanmuseumcenter.org/>



Photos are available on the museums' websites

Photo provided by John Schleicher

Boating Safety: Maintain Your Bilge Pump

Maintain your bilge pump

Your bilge pump might be the most overlooked device on a boat—that is, until you need it. With proper planning and routine maintenance, your bilge pump will work when needed, and you won't be forced to man the bailing buckets to stay afloat.

What size bilge pump?

Make sure your pump has enough capacity for the job. What size pump do you need? In my view, to move water out of the boat, you need at least a 2,000-gallon-per-hour pump; bigger boats and those going offshore should have more. While that sounds like a lot, consider that a 1-inch hole (like a broken through hull) one foot below the waterline will flood at 12 gallons per minute—that's 720 gallons per hour. Once installed, however, a 1,000-gph pump may lose 15 to 30% capacity depending on hose type, head and filters. Assuming a 25% loss, a 1,000-gph pump will only evacuate 750 gallons per hour at best. That leaves a small 30-gph margin of error.

Bilge pump maintenance

Pumps themselves seldom fail, but putting an electric device in saltwater invites electrical issues. Check those connections as part of your routine maintenance and test the float-switch at the same time. I believe every pump should also have a manual switch in case it's needed.

While it costs a little extra, consider carrying a spare pump so you can replace a failed pump on the fly. If you store it with a battery clip pigtail and some hose, it can serve as an additional pump on your boat or someone else's. Mine came in handy late one night when my dock neighbors' boat was in danger of sinking because they had inadequate pumps. —
Scott Morris

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Let's Celebrate the March & April Birthdays



March

William Barber	Mar 5
Geraldine Walker	Mar 8
Peter Weintraub	Mar 11
Matt White	Mar 13
Jeanmarie Bailey	Mar 24
John Schleicher	Mar 24
Dorothy Brabson	Mar 26

April

Connie Mitchell	Apr 2
Beverly Melcher	Apr 3
Alan Cropper	Apr 4
Perry Willis	Apr 7
John Bailey	Apr 10
Kim White	Apr 12
David Benfer	Apr 13
William Zimmerman	Apr 15
Daniel Gorman	Apr 25
Kathleen Cropper	Apr 30

In March's embrace, a celebration unfolds,
A symphony of joy, as life's story molds.
Aries' fire, a passionate blaze,
March birthdays, in love's warm embrace.

April arrives with colors so bright,
Taurus strength, a steadfast light.
Born in the dance of spring's delight,
April birthdays, a radiant sight.

March's winds whisper a birthday tune,
April's showers, blessings to monsoon.
Together in celebration, hand in hand,
March and April birthdays, a magical band.

In the tapestry of time, another year's thread,
March and April birthdays, like flowers spread.
A cosmic dance, a jubilant cheer,
Happy birthdays to all, with joy sincere!

Generated by ChatGPT



Photos downloaded from www.pexels.com (free photos)

Calendar of Events March/April 2024

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					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						

March Events

10 Mar 1100 DST

ABC Wilmington Change of Watch
Schaeffer's Canal House
208 Bank St., Chesapeake City, MD

20 Mar 1900

ABC Wilmington Executive Committee Meeting*
Via Zoom

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

20-24 Mar

Mid-Atlantic Region Change of Watch &
Spring Conference
Holiday Inn, Ocean City, MD

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	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				

April Events

15 Apr

Deadline for May/June/July Lubber's Line Material

17 Apr 1900

ABC Wilmington Executive Committee Meeting *
Via Zoom

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

19 Apr 1200 noon, lunch

Nurdle information and Search
New Castle Sailing Club
614 South Street, New Castle, DE



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.