

THE LUBBER'S LINE

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May-June-July 2026

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See page 5 for the latest information on ABC Wilmington's 2025 June Cruise.

Page 4 lists fun summer activities scheduled for the next 3 months.

Page 10 shares information on a member benefit that you didn't know was available.



John Bailey Receiving Award At Spring Conference



John and Jean-Marie at District Cdr's Reception with Mike Maszczeni



ABCW Members Prepare to Watch 2026 Change of Watch Ceremony

Photos provided by ABCW Members

Bridge Officers

Commander

Cdr Justin E. Doheny, S
Commander@abc-wilmington.com

Executive Officer

Lt/C Leslie A. Brower
xo@abc-wilmington.com

Administrative Officer

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

Education Officer

Lt/C John H. Bailey, AP
education@abc-wilmington.com

Treasurer

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

Secretary

Lt/C Richard A. Butler, SN
secretary@abc-wilmington.com

Executive Committee

Lt Lynn A. Mahaffy, AP
 P/C D. Jeffrey Russell, AP
 Elizabeth Stevenson
 Lt Joan I. Barber, AP
 James T. Walton

Webmaster

P/C D. Jeffrey Russell, AP
webmaster@abc-wilmington.com

Lubber's Line Editor

P/C Richard Butler, SN
newsletter@abc-wilmington.com
Volunteer Greatly Desired.





COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr Justin E. Doheny, S

Let me begin by thanking John Bailey for his past service as Commander. John handed off the gavel to me at our March 15, Change of Watch. He will continue to be actively involved in the Squadron, as well as the District, taking on a role as District Assistant Administration Officer which is a position on the District Bridge. My thanks and congratulations to John for both a job well done in our Squadron, as well as his willingness to take on new responsibilities at District 5.



The first weeks of my tenure have been challenging and insightful. As I learned at the Spring Conference, we are the third largest Squadron in District 5. This carries with it a Leadership role, as we navigate the future. ABC-USPS (National) faces a challenge to grow its membership and our Wilmington Squadron is no exception. Growth is an indicator of success and financial stability. We are fortunate in that we have had 8 new members join our Club in the past few months. In the face of declining membership nationwide this is an accomplishment.

In addition to a growth problem, National also faces a financial problem; they have faced operating deficits for several years. While they do appear to be reducing the deficit, Operating Costs still outpace Operating Revenue, but less so each year. They are making progress, but there is much more work to be done. The upcoming dues increase from National, by itself, will not fix this problem.

Our Squadron also faces on-going financial challenges, our budget this year is balanced, and we have adequate cash reserves. This favorable position cannot be guaranteed in the future. It has been a number of years since we last increased our Squadron dues, and the Squadron faces inflation just as each of our households do. So, your Bridge has begun an analysis to determine the appropriateness of putting in place a new dues schedule. More on this as information becomes available.

Enough with the gloomy news! We are in the process of outfitting our boats for a new season, and we have had several gorgeous days. I hope you have been able to capitalize on the good weather, and get your vessel in tip-top shape. Don't forget, there are still spots available for our Summer Cruise which sets sail on May 31.

Enjoy the Summer! Have fun and stay safe out there!

Justin Doheny

Commander



Lady Jane



Administrative Department

P/C Carol J. Hanson, AP

Strong Leadership Celebrated by America's Boating Club Wilmington (ABCW)

In March, twenty-seven club members celebrated our 86th annual "Change of Watch" where new 2026 Commander, Bridge Officers and Executive Committee leadership was inducted by Commander John O'Reilly, member of the Mid Atlantic Boating Club Executive Committee. The celebration, led by Master of Ceremonies P/C Dennis Wallace, was held after an enjoyable brunch at The Country House in Wilmington, Delaware.

We are delighted that Lt/C Justin Doheny has agreed to serve as our new Commander. Additionally, we are pleased that Leslie Brower will serve as Executive Officer, and that our outgoing Commander, John Bailey, will be Education Officer. Bridge Officers who have agreed to continue to serve are Lt/C Carol Hanson as Administrative Officer, Lt/C Richard Butler as Secretary and Lt/C Bill Barber as Treasurer. Lt Lynn Mahaffy, Social Committee Co-Chair and Flag Officer, Webmaster P/C Jeff Russell, and Elizabeth Stevenson also continue to serve on the Executive Committee. A warm welcome was given to new members of the Executive Committee: Joan Barber, Co-Chair of the Social Committee and James T. Walton. We are thankful for the services of those rotating off the executive committee: John Schleicher, and Jeff Capaldi.



Justin Doheny is sworn in as Commander, by Commander John O'Reilly



ABCW 2026 Executive Committee with Cdr O'Reilly



ABCW 2026 Bridge with Cdr O'Reilly



John O'Reilly Presents Plaque of Appreciation to P/C Bailey

Special thanks to Susan Williamson who was instrumental in helping to coordinate the brunch and room reservations at Country House, and Randy Williamson who supported the room set up and audio assistance. Additional thanks to the Change of Watch Committee Lt/C Carol Hanson, Chair, Lt Joan Barber, F/LT Lynn Mahaffy, Lt Betty Ingram, Elizabeth Stevenson, Susan Williamson and P/C Dennis Wallace.

We sincerely appreciate all the devoted service provided by our dedicated leadership and look forward to more camaraderie during the interesting and fun activities in the coming months!



P/C Bailey Presents Command Lecture to Cdr Doheny

ABCW Member's Friendly and Fun Summer Festivities!

Captain's BYO Everything: Join us on **Friday, May 30th, 2026** at 5 PM for the Captain's Pre-Cruise dinner at North Point Marina. Bring your preferred drink and food to help kick-off our first major summer event, the annual ABCW Cruise. All boaters and non-Boaters welcome!

Nautical Flea Market on Saturday, June 20, 2026, from 10 AM to 1 PM
Hosted by North Point Marina Slip Holders and America's Boating Club Wilmington. (Tentative Based on Interest)



2025 Nautical Flea Market



Stevensons' 2025 BYOB Picnic



BYO Everything Picnic Sunday, September 19, 2026

Beth and John Stevenson are graciously hosting us once again for a fun BYO Everything Picnic at their lovely cottage on the Elk River! The view is amazing! Keep an eye out for details as we get closer to the event!

2026 ABCW Photo Contest

The Photo Contest is on for this 2026 Year! When you are on The Chesapeake Bay don't forget to capture your favorite images of

PEOPLE



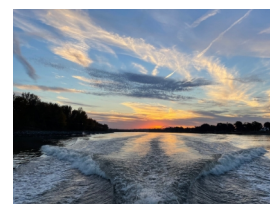
BOATS



SCENIC/WILDLIFE



SUNRISES/SUNSETS



Photos provided by ABCW Members

In past years, you have shown us your talented photographic expertise!

First, second and third place winners will be announced in the November/December Lubber's Line. Please submit up to three photos for each category. Winning photos will be featured on our website, Facebook page and potentially, in SpinSheet magazine. Images are to be about life on the Chesapeake Bay only, where we spend much of our time. Additionally, they should be taken since last year's contest ended: October 1, 2025 through September 31, 2026.

Please send medium-sized pictures. It's OK to send photos in more than one email if one email would be too large to send or receive.

By submitting your images to the Photo Contest Committee, you agree to have your pictures published in the Lubber's Line, on the ABCW Facebook page and Website and possibly, SpinSheet.

Send photo contest images by October 1st to: photocontest@abc-wilmington.com

Show off your photographic skills and impress your fellow ABCW members!

ABC Wilmington 2026 Annual Summer Cruise

Join Us for a Relaxed Boating Adventure to Solomons, MD – May 30 to June 5, 2026

Set sail with ABC Wilmington for our much-anticipated 2026 annual summer cruise! This year, we're embarking on a scenic journey to Solomons, MD, from May 30 to June 5, 2026. Whether you're a seasoned cruiser or new to our group, everyone is welcome to enjoy a week of fun, camaraderie, and exploration on the water.

We're still finalizing all the activities, but we're excited to share our planned destinations for this year's adventure:



Day 1 (May 30): Kick off at North Point Marina with a Captains' Meeting. We'll gather to review the trip itinerary, discuss anchorages, and go over expectations for the week.

Day 2 (May 31): Cruise to Hudson Creek, anchoring off the Little Choptank River for a peaceful overnight stay.

Day 3 (June 1): Head to Cuckold Creek, where we'll anchor off the Patuxent River in Solomons, MD.

Day 4 & 5 (June 2-3): Move to Zahniser's Marina for two days. We're working on shore activities for everyone to enjoy—details will be shared soon!

Day 6 (June 4): Set anchor in Broad Creek off the Choptank River, taking in the serene surroundings.

Final Day (June 5): Arrive at Knapp's Narrows Marina for a concluding get-together to review the cruise and celebrate the journey.

Our cruise committee is busy organizing group activities to enhance your experience, and we'll send email updates with more information as details are finalized. Please note, this year's cruise ends on a Friday to give participants the option of returning home at a relaxed pace.

We look forward to another memorable summer cruise with ABC Wilmington! Stay tuned for updates, and don't hesitate to reach out with questions or suggestions. Let's make this journey unforgettable together!

If interested in joining send an email to: cruise@abc-wilmington.com



Photos From 2025 Cruise provided by ABCW Members



Secretary's Department

P/C Richard Butler, JN

I want to elaborate on Cdr Doheny's comments by welcoming Fran and Marianne Geatons who joined our club last November, James and Angela Smith joined us in January, Mike Hughes and Carol Donner joined us in March, and Phyllis Kacher and Rob Ulrey joined us just this month. Please look for these new members at upcoming activities and give them a warm ABCW welcome.

On March 28 and 29 I attended the ABC-USPS District 5 Spring Conference in Ocean City Maryland. The Spring Conference is focused on providing training to new club officers and committee members. Our new Commander, Justin and John Bailey as new to the Education Officer role also attended. Updated information is provided for those of us who have already served in our current roles in the club. I attended sessions for Secretaries, Newsletter Editors and those working to revise their current Bylaws. With all of the activity around re branding and reorganizing our National and District organizations, not to mention the technological changes since our ABCW-WSPS Bylaws were last revised and approved in **2013**, I have been working on revising them. To take into account: Internet technology for communications, meetings and events; the potential for having fewer elected positions, including officers and committees; procedures for completing tasks that used to be done by elected committees; allowing new members to join the club on-line without Executive Committee approval; etc. These revised Bylaws are being written to follow changes recommended by our National and District organizations as closely as reasonable. I will shortly be reviewing my work with my fellow Rules Committee member (P/C Donna Zimmerman, JN) and our Executive Committee. After being approved by them, these changes will be presented to you, our membership, for approval. I'll be providing more information on this initiative as it becomes available.



At the Conference a number of awards were presented including: Educational Achievement Awards to: David Benfer (posthumous), David Netting and Richard Butler; Distinguished Communicator awards for Newsletter (The Lubbers Line) and Website to ABCW (congratulations Jeff Russell).

I should add that the ABCW website has recently been totally revised with a great amount of effort by Jeff Russell. Please visit the website at <http://abc-wilmington.com/> and check it out.





District News

2026 Summer Cruise:

Various Points on Chesapeake Bay

22-30 Aug, 2026

Past Chief Commander Ralph Bernard will be leading a District wide cruise the week before the Summer Council in Lankford Bay marina. Detailed information on the cruise itinerary and contact information for additional details and joining the cruise can be found [HERE](#)



SAVE THE DATE!

America's Boating Club Mid-Atlantic Summer Council

Start planning now to join us on 28 – 30 August in Rock Hall, Maryland. We'll be staying at Lankford Bay Marina. It's located at the mouth of Davis Creek off Lankford Creek and the Chester River.

We are planning a fun weekend. There will be games as well as multiple social gatherings. Need down time from all this fun? The marina has a great pool overlooking the bay!

We're still finalizing the plans for the weekend. We welcome all ideas for activities! We encourage you to think about getting involved by volunteering to help. We look forward to hearing from you soon. We hope to see you in Rock Hall the last weekend in August!

Georgiana Maszczenski ABC of Annapolis: gmaszczenski@hotmail.com

For more information see our [District Website](#)



Education Department

Lt/C John H. Bailey, AP

Education

Hello Squadron Members,

I want to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your education officer. As I'm learning the ropes, I'm committed to supporting everyone's growth and keeping you informed.

We're currently working on getting the ABC3 class approved, and I'll keep you posted as that process moves forward. In the meantime, we have several upcoming classes, online electives, and Zoom offerings available for you to explore.

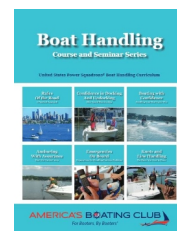
Boat Handling

Contact: Barbara A. Spraggins – 216-910-3508 - barb6195@cox.net

Berea Sail & Power Squadron

Start: Thursday, May 7, 2026 7:00 PM EST

Register [here](#) or contact instructor.



Marine Electrical Systems Course

Contact: Roger H. Runnels - 713-254-6615 - rogerhr@swbell.net

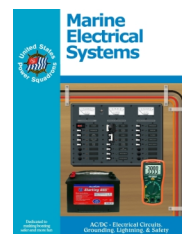
Houston Sail & Power Squadron

Start: Tuesday, 15 SEP 2026, 7:00 PM CST (This is a 7-session course)

Registration Date: Mon 02 NOV 26

Registration Time: 05:00PM

Cost: \$60 for USPS members, \$160 for non-members



For more information and to register by Monday, 02 Nov 2026, click on this link: [Marine Electrical Systems Course Info.](#)

Cruising Under Power and Sail Course

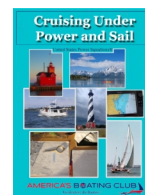
Contact: Stephen C. Sheward - 832-512-9582 - steve@sheward.com

Houston Sail & Power Squadron

Start: Tuesday, 03 NOV 2026, 7:00 PM CST (This is a 10-session course)

Cost: \$60 for USPS members, \$160 for non-members

For more information and to register by Monday, 02 Nov 2026, click on this link: [Cruising under Sail and Power Course Info](#)



I also encourage everyone to visit our national website and explore some of the online classes we offer. These courses are a great way to expand your knowledge and skills at your own pace, and there are options available for all levels of experience.

If you have ideas or suggestions for future classes or seminars, please let me know—I'd love to hear from you. Thank you again for trusting me with this role, and I look forward to helping our squadron learn and thrive together!

Thanks John Bailey SEO



Boating Safety: Vessel Safety Check

The 2026 boating season is here and it's time to get our boats ready for the water. One way to make sure your vessel is prepared is to get a Vessel Safety Check (VSC). A vessel safety check is a quick, casual look-over that can give you peace of mind, confirming your boat meets the safety requirements for safe operation for you and your crew.

Even if you're a veteran boater, you should have a vessel safety check. An annual VSC will alert you to any new boating regulations being rolled out for the season. For example, you no longer need pyrotechnic flares—an electric light now counts as a night signal. The Coast Guard is modernizing their requirements, and a VSC can help you stay up to date with these changes.

Before scheduling your VSC, you can follow [THIS LINK](#) to perform a self-check and make sure your boat meets all the requirements. Taking this step can help you ensure you get your sticker on the first try and avoid any surprises during the inspection.

So let's not put off your VSC for this year. Schedule yours now to ensure you're ready for a safe and enjoyable boating season. To do so, contact John Bailey at mpnwhat@gmail.com or J. T. Walton at zzz240jt@aol.com.

Thanks,

John Bailey VSC Chair



Another successful VSC experience



Your annual vessel safety check:

- Is a free service offered by America's Boating Club and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Is part of being a responsible boat operator
- Gives you peace of mind that your recreational boat has all required safety equipment

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

America's Boating Club
FREE Mobile App



Your single boating information source
for a great day on the water.

Includes the VSC checklist, float plan templates, weather radar, help for on-board emergency situations, America's Boating Channel videos, and more.



Download now at:
• AmericasBoatingClub.org
• Apple Store
• Google Play Store

Your Member Benefits



VPI Pet Insurance



USPS members can save 5% on VPI Pet Insurance and get additional discounts for multiple pets. Coverage includes accidents, illnesses, and more to help protect your furry family members. Visit <https://partnersolutions.nationwide.com/pet/usps> to learn more.

Welcome US Power Squadrons Members

Join more than a million pet owners who trust Nationwide® to protect their pets. US Power Squadrons members receive preferred pricing on Nationwide pet protection options through our partnership with Nationwide.

Let's Celebrate the May/June/July Birthdays

MAY

Carol Hanson	May 03
Fran Geatens	May 10
Thomas Minshall	May 12
Mae Alfree	May 12
Richard Butler	May 14
Bruce Wyngaard	May 16
Paul Bosco	May 18
Susan Clark	May 20
Sandy Netting	May 20
Leslie Brower	May 22

JUNE

John Gangone	June 01
Harold Marden	June 06
Bart Wilson	June 07
Donna Zimmerman	June 12
Jane Drummond	June 21

JULY

Marianne Geatens	July 03
Tex Houston	July 15
Kathleen Hauty	July 19
John Ingram	July 24
Lorraine Fleming	July 29

Calendar of Events May/June/July 2026

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

2026 MAY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27	28	29	30	01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May Events

12 MAY 1900

ABC Wilmington Executive Committee Meeting
Via Zoom

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

16-22 MAY

National Safe Boating Week

30 MAY 1900

ABC Wilmington Annual Cruise Captains' Meeting.

2026 JUNE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	01	02	03	04	05

June Events

31 May-05 JUN

ABC Wilmington Annual Cruise

20 JUN 1000 - 1300

ABC Wilmington Nautical Flea Market @ North
Point Marina, Rock Hall, MD

2026 JULY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29	30	01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	01	02

July Events

11-12 JUL

ABC Wilmington Raftup: More details to come via
email.

15 JUL

Deadline for Aug/Sep/Oct Lubber's Line Material



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/>