

THE LUBBER'S LINE

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May-June-July 2025

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

See page 7 for an article by Sandy Netting on their first WPS cruise in 1967

Page 9 has information on a potentially interesting new Member Benefit



29 Members attended ABC-Wilmington's 85th Change of Watch



Photos provided by ABCW Members

Bridge Officers

Commander

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

Executive Officer

Lt/C Justin E. Doheny, S
xo@abc-wilmington.com

Administrative Officer

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

Education Officer

Lt/C John E. Schleicher, AP
education@abc-wilmington.com

Treasurer

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

Secretary

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

Executive Committee

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

Webmaster

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

Lubber's Line Editor

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

Volunteer Needed.





COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr John H. Bailey, AP

As the new boating season begins, I extend my gratitude to everyone for allowing me to serve as your commander for one more year. As we embark on this new year, I want to ensure that our members feel heard. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with your suggestions or concerns.

I attended this year's Spring Conference for District 5 to learn about the plans other squadrons have for the new year. It is no secret that our numbers are low, but I believe that we will continue to grow as an organization. To attract new members America's Boating Club is putting renewed effort into America's Boating Channel. Check out the channel on YouTube. These videos promote boating education and safety. I also want to point out that these videos are produced by and include members of America's Boating Club. The team running the channel welcomes ideas for the next group of videos and will put out casting calls for volunteers to be in the next video, if you are interested. I have told them to let me know when they are looking for volunteers, and I will send out a broadcast email to find interested people. At the conference, I had the opportunity to meet Jeff Foulk, a member of ABC-Dundalk Md and the founder of the Argo App. It is a navigation app like Navionics, but with more features. I am switching from Navionics to Argo. The brochure points out that with Argo you get navigation & routing, local boating knowledge and social boating features, all in one app. You can get it from the Apple app store or Google Play. Look into it before you renew your Navionics subscription. Jeff told me he is hoping to provide a discount for ABC members in the future. Here is a link to the Argo web site. <https://argonav.io/>

Let us not forget what our club is doing; we are still looking for those interested in joining us on our annual summer cruise. Several emails have gone out, so please let the cruise committee know if you are interested in meeting up.

Also at the conference, ABC-Wilmington received a few awards. One of the awards was for this local newsletter we put out, The Lubber's Line. A special thanks goes to the person putting it together, Richard Butler. Thank you, Richard, for your hard work. It is great to see it being recognized. Another award was given for our website performance.

At the conference, one of our own members was recognized for 50 years of membership in our organization. That honor goes to Joseph Donia, S. Thank you; we appreciate your membership. I hope to see you all soon on the water. Stay safe and have fun.

Thank you,

John Bailey

Commander



Administrative Department

P/C Carol J. Hanson, AP

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

In March, twenty-nine club members celebrated our 85th annual "Change of Watch" where new 2025 Commander, Bridge Officers and Executive Committee leadership was inducted by John O'Reilly, Mid Atlantic Regional Education Officer. 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 pleased that Cmdr John Bailey will serve another year as our Commander and are delighted that Lt/C Justin Doheny has agreed to serve as the Executive Officer, and that Lt/C John Schleicher as the Education Officer. Bridge Officers who have also 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. F/Lt Lynn Mahaffy, Social Committee Co-Chair and Flag Officer, also continues to serve on the Executive Committee. A warm welcome was given to new members of the Executive Committee: Webmaster P/C Jeff Russell, Leslie Brower, Jeff Capaldi and Beth Stevenson. We are thankful for the service of those rotating off the committee: Peter Weintraub and Bart Wilson.



John Bailey is sworn in for his second term as Commander, by District SEO John O'Reilly

At the start of the program, DEO John O'Reilly awarded Lt/Cs Carol Hanson and John Schleicher the Education Proficiency Award, which recognizes those club members who have completed advanced grades through Advanced Piloting or higher and at least three of the elective courses.



Carol Hanson and John Schleicher were given their Educational Proficiency awards by District SEO John O'Reilly



The 10 members of the new ABC-Wilmington Executive Committee were sworn in by DSEO John O'Reilly

Special thanks to Randy Williamson who was instrumental in helping to coordinate the brunch and room reservations at Country House.

Additional thanks to the Change of Watch Committee Lt/C Carol Hanson, Chair, Cmdr John Bailey, Lt Betty Ingram, Lt/C Richard Butler, Lt Terry Butler, F/Lt Lynn Mahaffy, and P/C Dennis Wallace.



29 Members attended ABC-Wilmington's 85th Change of Watch



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!

ABCW Member's Friendly and Fun Summer Festivities!

Nautical Flea Market-North Point Marina, Rock Hall MD on Saturday, July 19, 2025, 10 AM to 1 PM.

Hosted by **North Point Marina** Slip Holders and America's Boating Club Wilmington.

July will be coming sooner than we realize! Start searching your garage, basement, and attic for nautical items that you just don't need anymore. Your unused items are someone's treasure! Picnic tables will be available at the North Point Marina pavilion. Set up starts at 9:00 am. Please let Carol Hanson know if you are interested!



Crab/Chicken Feast – North Point Marina, Rock Hall, MD July 19, 2025, 4:00 to 7:00 PM.



ABCW will once again be celebrating summer with a friendly Crab/Chicken Feast, July 19, 2025, 4:00 to 7:00 PM. A Punchbowl Invitation will be sent out in June that will request your order. Hope to see you there!

We will also raffle a **Summer Gift Basket** at the Flea Market & Crab/Chicken Feast. Proceeds will fund ABCW education activities, seminars and field trips. You can help by donating an item for the gift basket or by buying raffle tickets. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Many thanks to those who brought items to the Change of Watch.



BYO Everything Picnic September 21, 2025

Beth and John Stevenson's 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!

Volunteers are needed to make these events successful. Many hands make light work! Please contact Joan Barber, Lynn Mahaffy or Carol Hanson , (their contact information is in the ABCW Yearbook), if you can help with any of these events."

2025 ABCW Photo Contest

The Photo Contest is on for this 2024 Year! When you are on The Chesapeake Bay don't forget to capture your favorite images of

PEOPLE



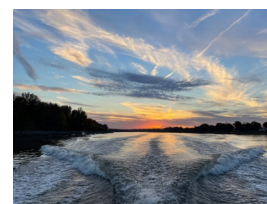
BOATS



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, 2023 through September 31, 2024.

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 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!

2025 Annual Cruise Uses Proven Formula, Adds New Activities

We are gearing up for our annual Cruise that starts in Rock Hall June 7, ends in Baltimore MD June 14 and returns to Rock Hall on June 15. We have a mix of familiar locations and new: we added the South River (Almshouse Creek) and western Magothy (Dividing Creek) as anchorages on the Cruise.

As with past cruises, the Cruise Committee reviews the questionnaires filled out by the cruisers the previous year. Members liked the two-night stay at a location and the educational focus about Chesapeake Bay history. Respondents also said less food - no need to add ballast. They also want to participate again in a trivia contest about the Bay.

So here are some of the additions:

Colleen Schleicher has organized a "pre-cruise itinerary" that includes Friday night music at the Mainstay, Rock Hall's unique music hall. In addition, prior to the Commander's Kickoff Colleen has enlisted the Selkie Book Store to hold a mystery book event that will include the authors and the scavenger hunt that will start at 1:00pm. It should be a fine warm up to the cruise start!



- * We kept the traditional shared dinner hosted by the anchor boat on the first night out, without a land-based event. All other days have a formal or informal land activity. An email has been sent to every member providing the details of what is planned.

- * We have three scheduled tours. At the Historic London Gardens, we have a tour which is followed by a presentation by Elle Bassett, the Riverkeeper for the South River. She will also contribute a few questions for the trivia contest.

- * We have extended invitations to other Squadrons to join us. John Bailey and John Schleicher shared our cruise plans at the District 5 Conference in Ocean City MD. Last year, John O'Reilly joined us from the Cambridge Squadron. He plans on coming again and he has spoken to others about joining us.

We have made a major effort to invite members without a boat to join the cruise by participating in scheduled land-based activities. Every member has been sent a detailed itinerary of all our land-based activities with the hope that many will join. There are several choices - many of them would stand out even without the benefit of connecting with other fellow members. **We hope to see as many of you as possible.**

The cruise is our signature event. Why not have many more members join and be a part of it?

More details about the cruise can be found on the ABC Wilmington website.

Many thanks to the 2025 Cruise Committee: Carol Hanson, John Bailey, Colleen and John Schleicher, Leslie Brower and Bruce Wyngaard.



Photos provided by ABCW Members



Secretary's Department

P/C Richard Butler, JN

A member recently contacted me asking if National was still sending out paper invoices for dues. The IMIS website where we can see if we have dues to pay, does not give any information on how to pay them, except online via the IMIS Portal. Members who prefer to mail a check are left in the dark as to how to do that. I've emailed National and asked them for clarification on this issue and will let you know as soon as I get a response. In the meantime, as I reported in our April Executive Committee meeting, 37 members will need to pay dues by the end of May and another 10 by the end of June. Although I've presented these instructions in the past, for the benefit of those whose dues will need to be paid soon I present the following instructions:

Log in to your member account - your email address of record is your username. Locate the "Membership Portal" link under the "Login" at the top of <http://www.USPS.org> and click on it. Click on "My Account" in the upper right corner. Enter your email address of record as your username. If this is your first time logging in, click on the "Forgot Password" to create your password. Note that you can use the same password that you use on USPS.org, but you cannot use your membership number as your username as you do on USPS.org. If you have already created a password, just enter that password along with your email as your username.

Renew your dues - log in to the [membership portal](#) and go to "My account" under your name in the top bar. You will either see a button or hyperlink to renew dues. If your dues are Past Due (Lapsed) click on the "[\(your family name\) Family](#)" link under your name. This will take you to a page for your family. Click on the "Transactions" tab to reach a page with your dues invoice. Click on the link with your invoice number. This will bring you to a page with a "Pay Invoice" button that will take you to a page where you can pay your dues online. Email hilly@hq.usps.org if you don't have a log in or if you don't see a link to renew. You can also call headquarters at 888-367-8777 ext. 219 or 229 and our membership staff will renew your dues over the phone. Invoices will go out soon, but renewing online or by phone is the easiest way to pay dues.



District News

D5 Rendezvous - Smith Mountain Lake

14-20 July 2025



Thursday, 17 July to Sunday, 20 July.

Mariner's Landing, 1217 Graves Harbor Trail, Huddleston, Va 24104 Call 540-297-4100 + option 1 or use AirBnB or VRBO. www.marinerslanding.com

Mariner's Landing is a condo community. Our main activities will occur in the main condo building. Lodging can be arranged, as available, in the condos, houses in the community, or nearby rental properties.

In general, there are a number of facilities on site that may be of interest: 18 Hole Golf Course – Tennis & Pickle Ball Courts – Fitness Facilities – Indoor/Outdoor Pools Food Services – Beach and Swim Area – Rental Boats

Additionally... There are a number of attractions in the area that may be of interest throughout the weekend. But rest assured the SML Committee is planning an array of activities, a banquet, entertainment and more to ensure this a fun and memorable weekend.

There will be an official flag raising at the D-Day Memorial in Bedford on Saturday morning. Afterward there will be guided tours of the memorial followed by our D5 Rendezvous Meeting on-site. This is a not-to-be-missed event. Saturday evening we'll gather for a buffet banquet and entertainment.

If you have questions, please call Randy Stow at 540-588-0270.

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

The following article is contributed by Sandy Netting, who with husband Dave has been a WPS/WSPS/ABCW member since 1963.

FIRST WPS CRUISE, 1967

I thought it might be interesting to tell our story of our first cruise with WPS. We joined WPS (WSPS) in 1963. We took boating classes for a few years before we went on a cruise. There was no Loran, no GPS, no cell phone, no electronics at all. The biggest boat was 32 feet. There were 15 boats on the cruise, mostly small power boats. I think we had the smallest sailboat on any cruise, ever.

The year was 1967.

Our sailboat was a wooden, beamy, 18-foot black sailboat. It sailed like a bathtub, and only on a broad reach. We had a hard time just getting to the start (Worton creek) and wondered how we would ever keep up with the group for the rest of the week. We decided if we left at the crack of dawn each day maybe we might get there before dark. The average miles per day was 24 and that is in a straight line, which sailboat never go! Our first anchorage was to be on the Corsica River, a huge distance of 27 miles. We were to raft (what was that?) We found out that a raft means to "tie" together in the sunny afternoon, and then at 4AM, in a squall, to all break off the raft and find a place to anchor in the dark.

Anyway, back to our first day. It was foggy, raining and the wind was right on the nose. Our engine did not cooperate, and Dave had to keep cranking it by hand as we tried to sail our bathtub. This was our first day and we had a whole week of this to face? Why were we doing this?

We arrived in the dark, long after everyone else, in the middle of a terrible thunderstorm. We were wet, tired and completely discouraged to find that all our bedding and everything else was soaked. The seam where the deck met the cabin leaked badly on the bunks. A powerboat from our group saw us coming in and beckoned us to come and tie alongside them. Gratefully we huddled to the side of their boat like a baby to its mother.

I went below to see if I could make us a hot drink as we were both shivering. Everything was wet and it was very depressing. Soon a light came on in the power boat and Betty said come on over I have hot chocolate and popcorn ready. We scrambled aboard their boat with a huge lump of gratitude for their thoughtfulness. They assured us we could stay rafted for the night, which was a great relief to us. They even offered us a dry bunk, but like stubborn boaters we felt we had to stay with our little boat. The wind was howling and the rain was relentless. I kept thinking of the 23 miles for the next day and how were we ever going to be able to do it.

Back on our boat everything was pure disaster. We took everything wet and shoved it in the bow and hoped to be able to dry it in St Michael's the next day. We got the bright idea that maybe we could hang plastic baggies along the leaky seam so we could use the bunks. We taped the bags with masking tape along the seam and hoped they would not fall on us during the night. As I lay there that night in the wind and rain, I vowed I would never sail without cocoa and popcorn, and I never have been without them since then. Our boat was so small and the Bay seemed so big, we slept from sheer exhaustion.

I awakened to the slight sway of the boat and when I opened my eyes and looked above me all the baggies were full of water, gently swaying back and forth waiting to fall on us! It was barely light but Dave and I looked at each other and burst out laughing. We gently collected all the bags and emptied them into the pail.

We could hear the wind slapping on the rigging on the mast and knew it was not going to be an easy run to St Michael's. It was a sobering thought to get ready to leave for the day. Stay tuned for the next day chapter adventure in the next Lubber's Line!





Boating Safety: What Is a Vessel Safety Check?



Ensuring that your boat is safe and ready for a day on the water is crucial for a stress-free boating experience. A vessel safety check is a free voluntary inspection of your boat which can be conducted by a certified member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or by [Americas Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons](#). This procedure can help to identify that your vessel meets both state and federal safety regulations. America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons will guide you through the safety equipment required on your boat as well as other safe boating tips.

What Is a Vessel Safety Check?

A vessel safety check (VSC) is a crucial step that promotes boating safety. During a VSC, a qualified examiner will review your boat to ensure that it meets all the required safety standards. This can include inspecting life jackets, navigation lights, fire extinguishers, and other boater safety equipment. The examiner will also review a vessel safety check checklist to ensure you have all the required items onboard and in good working condition.

How Often Should You Take Advantage of the Vessel Safety Check?

It's recommended that boaters take advantage of the vessel safety check at least once a year if possible. Regular checks will ensure that your boat safety kit and other safety equipment remain up-to-date and are compliant with safety regulations. If you have made any modifications to your vessel or the equipment, it's wise to have a vessel safety check done to confirm that your boating safety measures are intact and ready for emergencies.

Preparing for a Vessel Safety Check

Before you schedule your VSC, it's important that you prepare by reviewing the vessel safety check checklist. This checklist typically includes the following items:

- Personal flotation devices (PFDs) that are accessible and in good condition
- Working navigation lights
- Fire extinguishers that are accessible
- Visual distress signals (flares)
- Sound-producing devices (horns, whistles)
- Boat safety placards
- Ventilations & backfire flame control (if applicable)



Having these items ready and in good condition will streamline the VSC process and increase the likelihood of passing the check.

The Importance of a Vessel Safety Check

Regular vessel safety checks not only help you to comply with safety regulations but also will give you a peace of mind when out on the water. Knowing that your boat safety measures up to the required standards will help to prevent any accidents and ensure that you will be prepared in any emergency that may arise. By maintaining a comprehensive boat safety kit and conducting regular vessel safety checks, you can contribute to a safer boating community overall. Make vessel safety checks a priority before every boating season or major trip, to ensure a safe and enjoyable time on the water. To learn more about how to stay safe on the water, visit America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons and explore our extensive range of resources. To schedule a Vessel Safety Check contact John Bailey at commander@abc-wilmington.com.

Your Member Benefits

INTERESTING NEWLY ADDED MEMBER BENEFIT

Ditch Navigation | AI-Powered Navigation App

(Use promo code BOAT2025 to activate your FREE 1-year subscription)

Taken from a link on the ABC/USPS website to the Ditch Navigation website.
<https://ditchnavigation.com/americasboatingclub>

Thank You for Being a Member of America's Boating Club®

You've taken an important step towards safe and responsible boating. Now, take your skills to the next level with Ditch, the AI-powered navigation app that helps you explore with confidence.

As a United States Power Squadron® member, you're eligible for a one year subscription, completely free!



Ditch uses advanced technology and recent data to provide you with the safest and most efficient routes, helping you navigate unfamiliar waters.

To get started, download our app and create an account. Detailed instructions are below on this page (<https://ditchnavigation.com/americasboatingclub><https://ditchnavigation.com/americasboatingclub>) should you need more information.

Let's Celebrate the May/June/July Birthdays

MAY

Carol Hanson	May 03
Thomas Minshall	May 12
Mae Alfree	May 12
Richard Butler	May 14
Bruce Wyngaard	May 16
Paul Bosco	May 18
Laura Hackell	May 20
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
Robert David	June 12
Jane Drummond	June 21

JULY

Lynda Hastings	July 07
Tex Houston	July 15
Kathleen Hauty	July 19
John Ingram	July 24
Lorraine Fleming	July 29

Calendar of Events May/June/July 2025

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

May 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

May Events

21 MAY 1900

ABC Wilmington Executive Committee Meeting
Via Zoom

17-23 MAY

National Safe Boating Week

June 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					

June Events

07 JUN

Cdr's Kick-off Spring Picnic
North Point Marina, Rock Hall, MD

08-15 JUN

ABC Wilmington Annual Cruise

July 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		

July Events

12-13 JUL 1900

ABC Wilmington Raftup: More details to come via email.

14-20 JUL

Mid-Atlantic Region Summer Council & Rendezvous, Smith Mountain Lake VA
(see Mark V or D5 Website for details)

15 JUL

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

19 JUL

ABC Wilmington Crab/Chicken Feast plus Nautical Flea Market - North Point Marina, Rock Hall, MD
(see Lubber's Line for details)



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/>