

## News Flash from the D5 Fall Conference!

### ABC Wilmington Receives the Caravelle Award and Places in Three Other Awards

Awards were presented to clubs during the District 5 Fall Conference this past weekend. **ABC Wilmington was honored with the Caravelle Award, 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the Prince Henry Award and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for both the Henry E. Sweet and Workboat Awards. In addition, Joan Barber was recognized by D5 as the only D5 member to achieve the Education Proficiency Award this year.** Descriptions of these awards are given below. Colonel Luis Miguel Cordoso (Portuguese attache') spoke about the special relationship between USPS® and the country of Portugal at this year's Awards Banquet. He then assisted D/Lt/C John O'Reilly, JN-CN (District Education Officer) in giving out the Prince Henry and the Caravelle awards.



**Prince Henry Award:** In 1960, the 500th Anniversary of the death of Prince Henry the Navigator, the Portuguese held an elaborate program of commemoration. Sixteen USPS Districts, including District 5, joined in the festivities by arranging ceremonies at their Fall Educational Conferences that year. District 5 did not stop there. The District 5 Council voted to have a portrait of Prince Henry used as an annual presentation to the club in District 5 which had done the best work in teaching celestial navigation: JN and N. This award was presented by a representative from the Portuguese Embassy. The Portuguese, impressed with this action by District 5, presented a gold medal to the District as well as an album of historic maps and charts from the 15th and 16th centuries. In 1963, a ceramic bust of Prince Henry the Navigator was made available at the Fall Conference by Portuguese Ambassador Jose Cabral for the Prince Henry Award in JN and N.

**Caravelle Award:** Later, a model of a Caravelle was given by the Portuguese government for presentation to the club in District 5 which had done the best in teaching Seamanship and Advanced Piloting. A Caravelle was a light sailing ship of the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries in Europe, much-used by the Spanish and Portuguese for long voyages. Apparently developed by the Portuguese for exploring the coast of Africa, the Caravelle's chief excellence lay in its capacity for sailing to windward.

**Henry E. Sweet Excellence in Education Trophy:** This award is presented to the club which has shown the greatest percentage increase in completion of the Advanced Grades and Elective Courses over the previous year.

**Workboat Award:** This award recognizes the club that has done the most work in teaching members in both elective and advanced courses. It is based on the total number of members that have completed these courses.

**Education Proficiency Award:** This award is earned by a member that has successfully completed all the advanced courses to achieve the AP grade and has also completed at least three of the elective courses.

I want to extend my heartiest congratulations and thanks to the instructors that have recently been teaching our advanced and elective courses:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Randy Williamson, SN (ASEO) who has taught Piloting (2022) and Advanced Piloting (2023) and is currently teaching Marine Electrical Systems.
- Lt Scott Mayhue who taught Engine Maintenance (2022).
- Lt Bill Zimmerman, N who is currently teaching Sail.

**These instructors put in a lot of time and effort to prepare and deliver lectures. It is their dedication that has made these awards to ABCW possible.** In addition, I want to thank all the members (too many to name) who have taken these courses and successfully completed their final exams – in fact, all who have taken final exams have passed them!

In addition, some members have taken new **online courses** to achieve a higher grade. For example, several ABCW members have successfully completed Seamanship (now called Boat Handling) online. Furthermore, some members have taken **courses with other clubs** (e.g., JN, N and Weather) to achieve higher grades and take electives that ABCW was not offering. **All of these have had an impact on ABCW receiving the awards mentioned and detailed above.**

Cheers,  
Lt/C William Barber, AP  
ABCW Education Officer