



Miles Lines

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COMMANDER'S VIEW

"All in a Day's Work"

Cdr Richard W. Wright,

Over the past year, I have mentioned various issues related to marine communications in these articles. Being able to effectively communicate with the outside world is a critical element of boating safety. While out on the water, each boat is effectively an island cut off from the rest of civilization. That is exactly why many of us love boating. Nevertheless, knowing that you can still be in touch with civilization while reveling in the isolation of a day on the water does make boating a lot more enjoyable.

At the center of the marine communications issue is the use of VHF Channel 16. As I have previously mentioned, monitoring Channel 16 is not my favorite pastime. However, I understand its importance to boating safety and, except when I am communicating on one of the working channels, I always leave my radio tuned to Channel 16.

Most of the traffic on Channel 16 is benign. Boaters understand and respect the appropriate use of the channel as a hailing and emergency frequency and use it accordingly. As the amount of chatter on Channel 16 increases, however, the attention to each individual message diminishes accordingly. By my experience, two factors are the primary contributors to the occasional misuse and overuse of Channel 16: boating congestion and weekend sailors. Unfortunately, both of these factors were in play on a recent boating trip to Annapolis.

As we came within range of Annapolis VHF radio traffic, the peaceful bliss of cruising the open Bay came to sudden stop with a shrill and inexperienced male voice on my radio repeatedly yelling, "Coast Guard - - I want to report a log!". Coast Guard Baltimore Station immediately answered the call and requested that the caller move to Channel 22-Alpha. The response, as you might expect, was not a good one, "I don't understand you Coast Guard, I just want to report a log!" After repeatedly seeking to get the caller to change channels, the Coast Guard ultimately sought to simply get the caller's cell phone number. Unfortunately, the caller no longer answered. After a break of a few minutes, the Coast Guard successfully re-established contact with the caller only to be informed that he had been unable to hear them because he was "vacuuming". Then, in answer to a question related to the log's size and position, the caller indicated that he was unaware of the log's position since he was also unaware of his own position. All in a day's work for the Coast Guard, I suppose.

As we drew nearer to Annapolis, the radio chatter became even more entertaining. A call from a Coast Guard patrol boat advised all traffic that there was a submarine exiting Annapolis harbor and that a 500 yard exclusion zone was in effect. Clearly, this was not going to go well.

Sure enough, the next call (from that same patrol boat) was addressed to a fishing boat intent upon getting a good look at the sub, "Fishing boat 200 yards off my bow, this is the Coast Guard patrol boat with blue flashing lights. How do you copy?" No answer, then: "Fishing boat 50 yards off my bow, this is the Coast Guard patrol boat with blue flashing lights. How do you copy?" Still no answer, then "Fishing boat immediately on my starboard side, this is the Coast Guard patrol boat with blue flashing lights. I am coming alongside". Like I said, clearly for this boater this was not going to go well. I suspect that failing to monitor Channel 16 was the least of his problems.

Now, not to miss an opportunity, many of those who were monitoring Channel 16 were happy to add their commentary to the encounter: "Shoot a burst across his bow to wake him up!"; "Nah - - just sink the idiot!"; "Get him quick before he damages that sub with his fishing rod!" Once again I thought, all in a day's work for the Coast Guard.

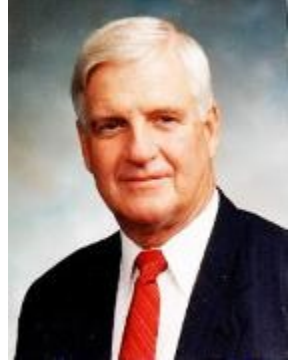
We had a nice time in Annapolis that night. It really is a wonderful town with so much to offer - - great sights and great restaurants. As nice a place as it is to visit, however, nothing is quite as nice as getting a few miles off shore to once again enjoy a little peace and quiet on Channel 16.



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**Lt/C Mike Newnam, AP**

As I am writing this, I am looking out of the window to see rain falling as well as the temperature. I guess it is time to admit that the boating season for this year is about over and it is time to put the boat to bed for this year. I hope to take mine to the boatyard to be hauled tomorrow. It is amazing the amount of stuff that you have put on the boat during the year and it is now time to take off.

Thinking about the weather, there are a number of us taking the Weather Course with Bill Rowan doing an excellent job as instructor. I never stopped to think how complicated weather is and would just complain when the weather man missed the forecast. Now I appreciate their efforts. I never thought I would be dreaming about conduction, convection, radiation, fog, dew points, katabatic wind, foehn wind, hydrological cycles, orographic lifting, etc. It is a great course. You should try it in the future. You never know when knowledge of fronts and clouds may save you when you are boating.



It is funny how when you are thinking about one thing, another will pop up. I referenced wind in the above paragraph and it reminded me that our storage shed looks like a tornado struck it sometime in the past. I would like to schedule a shed clean-up day on Thursday, Dec. 1st with a rain date of Friday, Dec. 2nd. If the various committee chairpersons have anything of value in the shed, please show up that day to help us sort out what is good and what needs to be trashed. We have a donation of some new storage racks to help in this effort and I just need people to help. It won't take long. The address is 8591 Commerce Drive, Easton.

I wish you and your family a Happy, Thankful Thanksgiving.

**STORAGE SHED CLEAN-UP
THURSDAY, DEC 1 — 10 AM
8591 Commerce Drive, Easton**



COME TO THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Please join us at the Miles River Yacht Club
for the Power Squadron's Biggest Bash of the Year!
Great Food, Great Entertainment,
Great Friends.**

BRING A GIFT FOR THE CHRISTMAS-BAG RAFFLE

Bring anything that can be used for Holiday entertaining such as candy, cookies, crackers, nuts, napkins, wine, etc

**The bags are filled with the small gifts we bring to the Christmas Party.
Please bring your gifts early so they may be wrapped during the cocktail hour.**

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT**Lt/C N. Steffens Smith, AP**

Please check out the details of our Christmas Party on page 7 and sign up. We have planned a great party with a very good menu, good Christmas entertainment, and guest from D/5. Do not forget to bring a small gift as we usually do for the grab bag raffle. Remember, we have moved the Christmas party this year so that it will not conflict with Christmas in St. Michaels. The Date is Friday, December 16 at the Miles River Yacht Club.

We are working on a speaker from National Weather Service to for January dinner meeting which will be timely especially for the nine members that enrolled in the Weather Course. We are planning a burger-bash dinner that we all seemed to enjoy this past year.

February will bring the Founders Day Dinner with March brings in the Change of Watch. Where has the year gone! See you at the Christmas party.

Steve Soherr, our guest speaker last month sent me a very nice email thanking the squadron for the great hospitality for he and his wife. He asked that I pass on his contact information as well as a list of internet addresses for downloading charts, booklet of maps and other information that may be useful to our members.

The Contact Information for NOAA and Steve is:

Steve Soherr, Cartographic Advisor, Navigation Services, Division Office of Coast Survey, Phone 301-713-2730
 Office of Coast Survey Homepage: <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/>
 NOAA Online Chart Viewer: <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/OnLineViewer.html>
 NOAA Raster Chart (RNC) Downloads: http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/Raster/download_agreement.htm
 NOAA Vector Chart (ENC) Downloads: http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/enc/download_agreement.htm
 NOAA Print on Demand Charts: <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/pod/POD.htm>
 NOAA Booklet Charts: <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/BookletChart.html>
 Coast Pilots Online: <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/coastpilot.htm>
 Critical Updates: http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/updates/LNM_NM.html
 Local Notice to Mariners Online: <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/lnm/default.htm>
 Submit an Inquiry: <http://ocsddata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/inquiry.aspx>
 Submit a Discrepancy: <http://ocsddata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/discrepancy.aspx>
 Upcoming New Editions: <http://www.charts.noaa.gov/MCD/son.shtml>
 NOS Survey Locator: http://maps.ngdc.noaa.gov/viewers/nos_hydro/
 Geographic Names Information and Search: <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/>
 Bathymetric and Fishing Maps: http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/bathymetry/maps/nos_intro.html
 Office of Coast Survey Historical Maps Collection: <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/csdl/ctp/abstract.htm>
 NOAA Teaching Resources: <http://www.education.noaa.gov/>
 Print on Demand Charts from Ocean Grafix: <http://www.oceangrafix.com/o.g/index.html>
 Tides and Currents Info: <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ports.html>
 NOAA Directory: <https://nsd.rdc.noaa.gov/nsd/moreinfo>
 National Weather Service Marine Forecasts: <http://www.weather.gov/marine>
 U.S. Coast Guard's Navigation Center: <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/>
 National Geodetic Survey's Home Page: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/>
 Government Printing Office Bookstore: <http://bookstore.gpo.gov/>
 NOS Publications: <http://www.oceanservice.noaa.gov/pubs/welcome.html>
 Library of Congress Historical Map Collections: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html>
 Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking: www.sarsat.noaa.gov
 Chart No. 1 – Nautical Chart Symbols, Abbreviations, and Terms: <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/chartno1.htm>
 Now Coast: <http://nowcoast.noaa.gov/>
 Gulf of Mexico Marine Debris Homepage: <http://gulfofmexico.marinedebris.noaa.gov/>
 Public AWOIS – Automated Wreck and Obstruction Information System: <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsd/awois.html>



EDUCATION**P/D/C W. Norman Franck, SN
P/C Fred K. Kieser, AP**

Congratulations to our three new squadron Advanced Pilots:

Peter Gregory
Mary Carol Shannahan
Steffens Smith

The weather Class , being taught by Bill Rowan at the MRYC , is progressing with 9 students.

The Navigation Class's 3 students are working hard with Bus Brown.

At the Christmas party/dinner there will be a sign up sheet listing all of the squadron advanced courses as well as a list of all the seminars and their prices. Start thinking about which classes you are going to sign up for this spring. Here's a list of the seminars—Look it over and come prepared to sign up at the Christmas Party/ Dinner.

Anchoring	Boat Knots, Bends and Hitches
Advanced Powerboat Handling	Mariner's Compass
Basic Coastal Navigation	Mastering the Rules of the Road
Basic Weather and Forecasting	Paddle Smart
Boat Handling under Power	Partner in Command Practical On the Water Training
Boating on Rivers , Locks and Lakes	Sail Trim and Rig Tuning
Emergencies on Board Fuel and Boating	Tides and Currents
How to use a Chart	Trailer Your Boat
Hurricanes	Using GPS

Betty Doolittle

Betty was a long time member of the Half Miles,
and great supporter of the Miles River Sail and Power Squadron.

Her many friends will miss her, and remember her with love.



Mark your calendar

2012 Safe Boating for Kids Program

St Michaels Middle School: Friday, May 4

(Rain Date: Mon, May 7)

Easton Middle School:

Tues – Fri, May 8, 9, 10, 11

PLAN AHEAD & SIGN UP TO HELP

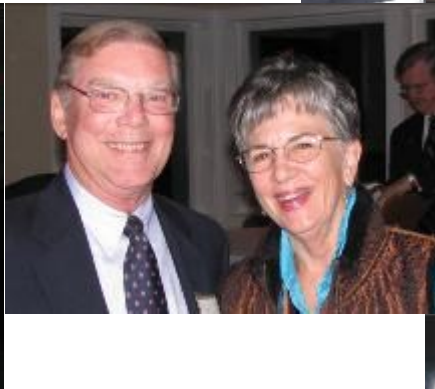
NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING PICTURES



NOAA's Steve Soherr told us all about nautical charts, how to get them, and how they can be used. See much more on page 3.



The rest of us had a great time, talked, and rejoiced that the weather has held so well into November. Here's some pictures of us enjoying the evening.



SAFETY**P/D/C W. Norman Franck, SN****Attention!****Attention!****Attention!**

Mustang Survival has issued a recall notice on MD2010 and MD2012 model 22 pound inflatable personal floatation devices.

There is a possible "inflator" problem on only these Mustang models. You will find the model number right above the UL logo on the back. If you have a model MD2010 or MD2012 go to the website www.mustangsurvival.com/22lb-product-notice

Winterizing Don'ts

- *Failure to winterize the engine
- *Failure to drain water from sea strainer
- *Failure to close sea cocks
- *Clogged petcocks (when draining engine) use a coat hanger to clear blockage
- *Leaving open boats (without cover) in the water
- *Using Biminis or dodgers as winter storage covers

See www.theensign.org/uspscompass/v5n10_winterize.htm for more details.

Be Safe out there.

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1st, 12 o'clock
THE ROBERT MORRIS INN
OXFORD**

Come, join the alumni of the Half Miles Auxiliary at The Robert Morris Inn to enjoy good food, good friends. This is a pleasant way, in this historic setting with festive holiday decorations to prepare for the joys of Christmas. Separate checks.

Reservations are required as we need an attendance count for the restaurant. Call Ruth Buescher – 410 822 8490 or rbuescher@goeaston.net



MRSPS Christmas Party – Friday, December 16
Miles River Yacht Club
 1800 Cocktails, 1900 Dinner

Bring a gift for the gift bag raffle

Piano Christmas music by B J Doyle

Menu:

Served Garden Salad and Rolls with Whipped Butter

Choice of:

Rockfish with Parmesan Sauce/Capers

Or

6 oz Filet of Beef with Bourbon Butter

Scalloped Potatoes and Broccoli Babe with lemon butter

Desert:

Warm Chocolate Bread Pudding w/ Warm Rum Sauce

Price per Person.....\$37.00

Reservation Deadline – Monday, December 12

Email, phone or mail your reservation to Arnie Peterson
 apeterson@atlanticbb.net, 410-745-3466 or
 Snail mail: 22440 Indian Pt. Rd.
 Bozman, MD 21612

Name: _____

Number attending _____ Fillet Mignon _____ Rockfish _____

Total Amount _____

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www.mrsps.org

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Public Relations / Publicity	Lt Elaine Wright, AP	410.901.2454	elwright@sas.upenn.edu

YEARBOOK UPDATE**Marian Franck, SN**

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS.CORRECTIONS TO YOUR 2011 Yearbook:

Tom and Gail O'Donnell have new email addresses:**Tom—tjodonnell@atlanticbb.net****Gail—gmodonnell@atlanticbb.net**

Please contact the Yearbook Editor with any changes in your contact information. Send to:
 Marian Franck, 24872 Swan Rd, St Michaels MD 21663 OR dmfranck@atlanticbb.net

CALENDAR**Dec**

- 1 Cleanup day at the MRSPS Storage Locker
10 AM—See Exec Officer's Article
- 7 Excom—1900—MEBA
- 16 Christmas Party — MRYC

Jan

- 4 Excom—1900—MEBA
- 11 Dinner Meeting — MRYC
- 25-29 USPS Annual Meeting—Jacksonville, FL

Feb

- 1 Excom—1900—MEBA
- 8 Founders' Day Dinner — MRYC

Mar

- 7 Excom—1900—MEBA
- 14 Change of Watch Dinner — MRYC
- 30-31 D/5 Spring Conference & Officer Training
&Apr 1 Ocean City, MD