



Miles Lines

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WISH YOUR FRIENDS HAPPY NEW YEAR

**At Our
JANUARY DINNER MEETING**

Wednesday, January 11

**Guest Speaker from National Weather
Service**

Good Food, Great Price

See Menu on Page 9

**VOLUNTEER TO WORK AT
THE BALTIMORE BOAT SHOW**

See Page 2

TAKE A USPS CLASS THIS YEAR

**Class List on
Page 6**



Christmas Party Pictures



District 5 Commander Bernard Karpers and wife Kathleen anchored the head table with Cdr Rich Wright and world traveler wife Elaine. See pictures of the rest of us on the following pages. If you don't see your happy face, it will appear in the February issue. We filled this one up!



COMMANDER'S VIEW**"RESOLUTIONS"****Cdr Richard W. Wright, AP**

As we approach the end of the year, I am naturally thinking about the year to come. With each new year comes the opportunity to improve ourselves by learning new skills and taking on new challenges. For most of us these improvements come in the form of resolutions. So, after much thought I've prepared my boating resolutions for the new year:



First, I resolve to hold man-overboard drills a number of times during the upcoming boating season. I have never been in a position requiring the recovery of an individual who has fallen overboard and I certainly don't want to try to learn that skill in a life or death situation. This is especially important for those of us who typically cruise as a couple. Ask yourself this: if your partner falls overboard, do you know what steps to take to get them back aboard? Are both members of your boating team sufficiently skilled at the helm to even be able to attempt such a solo recovery? If not, what is the less skilled partner going to do on the day that that a man overboard incident becomes a reality?

Next, I resolve to recognize the possibility that one member of our boating team could experience a medical emergency while underway. Both members of a boating team must be capable of at least bringing their boat alongside a pier and securing a line. One member of our boating team has never attempted to dock our trawler. Next year we will rehearse simple docking maneuvers to be prepared for the unexpected.

Now, while the above two resolutions are important, relevant, (and real), there are a few other less serious resolutions I will plan to pursue as well:

I resolve to learn how to dinghy our two dogs ashore at night while we are at anchor. Further, I resolve not to seek retribution when my wife posts videos of that effort on YouTube.

I also resolve to continue to shop for a 53' Hatteras Motoryacht while being truthful with my wife about that search - - even if such conversations have in the past caused speculations about the names of good divorce attorneys.

Finally, next year I resolve to be honest with my kids about the potential impact of my boating addiction on their future inheritances. I trust that they will continue to support my retirement hobby even after that conversation!

But, most importantly, I resolve to wish you and your family the very merriest Christmas and the happiest of New Years!

BALTIMORE BOAT SHOW — VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The annual Baltimore Boat Show will be held on January 19-22, 2012 at the Baltimore Convention Center.
<<http://www.baltimoreboatshow.com>>

As in past years, District 5 will have a booth there to help spread the message of USPS, our courses, and to help find potential new members for a squadron near their homes to join. Dundalk is the lead squadron for this effort, but we need your help to make it a big success.

I realize this is right before many of you will be heading to the Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, but please consider signing up to staff the booth for one or more 4-hour shifts. Not only will you get a chance to meet new people and help out your fellow members, but you will get **free admission** to the show (a \$10 value).

If you want to sign up or have questions, please contact **P/C Tracey Stuenes** as soon as possible. You can reach her at 410-282-0790 or <Webelieve2@comcast.net>

Thank you in advance for your help, and Happy Holidays.

D/Lt/C Jeff McKinney, JN
D/5 Executive Officer

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

Another year has passed and the members of MRSPS have done their usual outstanding job in providing safety and boating information for the community and especially for the young people in our school system. Congratulations to all and especially Marian Franck and Don Cook for their leadership.

I would be amiss if I did not thank the Vessel Safety Examiners for the work they did this last year. I hope next year all the Examiners will be well and we can increase our inspection numbers, including a special effort for paddlecraft. A special thanks to Elaine Wright for her efforts in Public Relations and to Norm Franck for his monthly contribution of safety articles for the Miles Line.



This last month, the Squadron reached a new milestone. A group of volunteers from our squadron actually cleaned and straightened up our storage shed. These pictures attest to the work they did. 360 lbs. of trash from the storage shed went to the dump. Thank you, Steffens Smith, Kevin Digan, Peter Gregory, Richard Wright and Fred Kieser for your efforts.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and I wish you a safe ,healthy and prosperous New Year.



Like an old attic, the first job was to clean it out.



Then sort, select, and put everything away - Nice job!



To do a great job, you need a great crew - Admin Officer Steffens Smith, P/C Kevin Digan, P/C Pete Gregory, P/C Fred Kieser, Cdr Rich Wright.

The Honcho was Exec Officer Mike Newnam (who took the pictures). He also obtained some new shelf units, which came in handy, and everything is now in its place.

Note: The combination for the storage shed lock has been changed. Contact Cdr Rich if you need access.

EDUCATION**P/C Fred K. Kieser, AP**

As I sit to write this article, the students of the Weather class are anxiously waiting for the results of their test. In a previous article I had mentioned that years ago (in 1976 to be exact) I had taken and passed the weather course, but planned on again taking this very practical course as a review. Unfortunately, the first 2 weeks of class I was away on a cruise so couldn't attend, but did take the course material with me and read over the material.

What I soon discovered in class is that although our weather hasn't changed since 1976, our technology for accurately predicting the weather has made great strides. The course material does bring us up to date with this new technology.

For those of you who have never taken the Weather Course with instructor Bill Rowan, you are missing a great experience. Bill is a true professional when teaching the course. Every week he starts the class with current copies of the weather map from the Washington Post, where he discusses and helps us predict what our weather will be in the next day or so. He also discusses the current days weather and sometimes the previous day, discussing the type of fog we had in the morning, progression of cloud types during the day to help us in predicting our local weather. Following a review of the homework, Bill uses the USPS power point presentation to cover the current chapter, but he adds so much more into the presentation from his own expertise.

Frequently we hear weather forecasters referred to as "weather guessers", and to some extent that might be correct, but Bill went over with us all the data that is collected before making a forecast. This includes weather balloons, weather sea buoys, manned and unmanned weather stations, upper air currents, the Jet and Gulf streams, etc. All this data is collected, analyzed and compared with previous data before making a forecast. Today, computer modeling plays an important role in predicting weather. Due to so many variables, even with the best forecasts, sometimes the forecast is off.

As Bill explained, any forecast more than 24 to 48 hours in advance can change, but with the knowledge of this course and using the services of NOAA weather predictions either from the internet, the newspaper or channels WX 1, 2, or 3 on the VHF, we will be in a much better position to predict the weather around our boat within the next few hours.

NOAA weather predicts weather for a regional area. Often during the summer a thunderstorm pops up unannounced on the bay, but with the knowledge received from Bill Rowan and the Weather Course, by keeping your eye on the sky and the direction of wind patterns, we will be more educated and saferboaters.

Again, I want to personally thank Bill for doing an excellent job of teaching the Weather Class and to say it was a pleasure to be in his class. Hopefully, the next time Bill offers the Weather Class, our squadron will pack the class with enthusiastic students to experience a terrific instructor.

P.S., I just received an e-mail that USPS National is coming out with a revised edition of Weather sometime in January.



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

I believe that our Christmas party was a great success. We had a turnout of 55 people, a very good menu choice, and music including the bridge singing along with BJ Doyle on the keyboard. Kudos to Commander Rich Wright for keeping the program right on schedule and a special thanks to our District 5 Commander Bernard Karpers and his wife for traveling from Towson to be our guest and presenting a gift to the MRSPS Youth Program, as well as for making a great presentation.



While it is normally the Administrative Department's duty to schedule dinner meetings and menus, sometimes the real "worker-bees" go unrecognized, so I would like to pay special tribute to some of the people behind the scenes that really made this party a success. Pat Smith, no relation, and Elise Beacham did their usual fine job with the decorations and floral arrangements, and the grab bag assembly. Arnie Peterson and his wife Elinor made sure that each member got the correct menu entry nametag. Thanks to Isobel Krouse and P/C Ruth Buescher for making sure that the squadrons' new members, Don and Helene Butte, were introduced to the membership. Last but not least, Al Holmes for all of the pictures for the Miles Line.

The January dinner meeting will be on Wednesday, January 11, at the Miles River Yacht Club. This will be a change of pace and cost with a "Winter Comfort Food Buffet". The guest speaker will be from the National Weather Service, which will be timely since nine of the members will have just completed their weather course test. Check out the menu on page 9, and send in your reservations.

The February dinner meeting will be on Wednesday, February 8 at the Miles River Yacht Club. This will be Founders Day Dinner.

The March dinner meeting, Change of Watch, will be Wednesday, March 14.

SAFE BOATING FOR KIDS PROGRAM**Don Cook
Marian Franck**

All squadron members and boating friends, new and old, are invited to sign up to help with this important community activity. Even if you have never helped with this program before, we will train you. Save the dates! We will be contacting everyone after the first of the year.

***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***

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

A Safe and Happy New Year to All!

Hope at least a couple of your New Year Resolutions include boating. Here are a few suggestions (USPS Compass, October, 2011).

- *Upgrade safety items on your boat
- *Clean out and sort all the lockers on the boat
- *Plan to join the squadron on some of the cruising trips
- *Take a USPS course or seminar.

(If you did not sign up at the December dinner meeting it is not too late. See page 8 of this edition of the Miles Lines, and then go to www.mrsps.org and fill out the "course" sheet.)



During the next couple of months as you check on your boat, be careful to take precautions against the cold...it's winter out there!

If your boat is being kept in the water, it is a good idea to wear a PFD when checking on it. One slip on the dock or boat deck may create a BIG problem. Be prepared for unexpected cold water immersion.

Icy water can trigger an involuntary gasping reflex, causing a person who takes an unexpected plunge to inhale water and drown. Frigid temperatures can also cause cold-water shock—a sudden increase in heart rate and blood pressure—that can bring about cardiac arrest in those with heart conditions.

If you survive the initial immersion you may quickly become too numb to aid in your own rescue. Fingers may no longer work; you might not be able to grab a rope, fire a flare or climb into a life raft.

Physical activity, such as thrashing in the water or trying to swim, may only speed up the heat loss and raise the possibility of cold water immersion hypothermia.

If you do fall into cold water and can't get out, stay with the boat. Fold your arms across your chest and cross your legs in the Heat Escape Lessening Position (HELP) to minimize heat loss. If another person is in the water with you, put your arms around each other. Float quietly with minimal exertion until help arrives.

Mount a boarding ladder or swim step on the boat or purchase a sling and practice using it to get another person back on board. Getting a partially incapacitated person into a boat can be difficult, even with training.

Plan to come to the District 5 Spring conference, March 30 through April 1, 2012 in Ocean City, MD. Come not only for the Friday night hospitality rooms which are full of safety tips and lots of fun, but also for the workshops on Saturday.

Be Safe out there.





USPS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The USPS Courses and Seminars with prices are listed below by number. We will be scheduling the 2012 classes soon so please send your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices to wnfranck@atlanticbb.net or call 410-745-9521 to let us know of classes you are interested in taking. Check the 2011 Squadron Yearbook for descriptions of these programs. Even if you may have taken some of these courses in the past, technology is rapidly changing boating. Consider a refresher.

COURSES

1. Seamanship \$45.00
2. Piloting \$85.00
3. Advanced Piloting \$45.00
4. Junior Navigation \$85.00
5. Navigation \$145.00
6. Cruise Planning \$37.00
7. Engine Maintenance \$55.00
8. Sail \$55.00
9. Marine Electronics \$60.00
10. Weather \$65.00
11. Partner In Command \$30.00
12. Instructor Development \$30.00

SEMINARS

13. Advanced Powerboat Handling \$48.00
14. Anchoring \$26.00
15. Basic Coastal Navigation \$38.00
16. Basic Weather and Forecasting \$34.00
17. Boat Handling Under Power \$26.00
18. Boating on Rivers , Locks and Lakes \$26.00
19. Emergencies on Board \$32.00
20. Fuel and Boating \$25.00
21. How To Use A Chart \$30.00
22. Hurricanes and Boats \$15.00
23. Knots , Bends and Hitches \$34.00
24. Marine RADAR \$35.00
25. Mariner's Compass \$26.00
26. Mastering the Rules of the Road \$38.00
27. Paddle Smart \$32.00
28. Sail Trim \$26.00
29. Tides and Currents \$30.00
30. Trailering \$32.00
31. Using GPS \$26.00
32. Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio \$30.00
- Boat Operator Certifications (BOC)
33. IN (Inland Navigator) \$45.00
34. CN (Coastal Navigator) \$45.00



January Dinner Meeting—Wednesday, Jan. 11

**Miles River Yacht Club
1800 Cocktails, 1900 Dinner**

Guest Speaker: National Weather Service Representative

“Winter Comfort Food Buffet”

Menu:

Served Garden Salad

Fried Chicken, Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes w/gravy, Green Beans, Sugar Snap Peas,

Warm Biscuits w/ Honey Butter

Dessert: Warm Cherry Cobbler w/Vanilla Ice Cream

Ice Tea, Coffee, DeCaf included

PRICE PER PERSON.....\$19.00

RESERVATIONS DUE BY JAN 8

**Email, your reservation to Arnold Peterson apeterson@atlanticbb.net;
For mail and phone reservations, please send to Elise Beacham,
100 Wye River Dr., Queenstown, MD 21658, Phone 410-827-7325**

Name: _____

Number attending _____ Total Amount _____

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YEARBOOK UPDATE**Marian Franck, SN**

Work on the 2012 MRSPS Yearbook will begin in January. Everyone (members, spouses, former auxiliary members, associate members) is asked to check the 2011 Yearbook to determine if any changes in contact information that needs to be made. Please check all pages where your name appears. Be sure to include courses taken, cell phone numbers, boat names, etc.

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**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