



Miles Lines

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COMMANDER'S VIEW

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Cdr Richard W. Wright, AP

We all remember the funny little guy in the Verizon commercials asking the question: "Can you hear me now?" as he wanders around checking cell phone service. Clearly, his job of assuring good cell phone service is an important one since we have now all become addicted to the little devices. I fully expect that my older daughter will one day need to be rushed to the emergency room to have her iPhone surgically removed from her left hand.

While communication certainly seems to be more important than ever in all aspects of our lives, nowhere is it as important as it is on a boat. For instance, while underway we are all required to monitor Channel 16 as a safety measure. Unfortunately, the very nature of VHF radios guarantees that after several hours you will have a headache from listening to the hissing, crackling and disjointed bits of conversation pouring out of a cheap four inch speaker. As a matter of fact, one of the few times my VHF radio doesn't give me a headache is when I forget to reset it to Channel 16 after conversing with someone on one of the working channels!

There is, however, one other way to inadvertently avoid the dreaded VHF headache. It generally always occurs the first time I take the boat out after not using it for a while. The key to the headache relief is forgetting to raise the antenna when getting underway. The result of this error is that you will receive some radio traffic - - just not much of it (because your line-of-sight radio reception is dramatically reduced by the lack of antenna height). I generally discover this error the first time I try to raise someone on Channel 16 and fail to get a response (after which the antenna is immediately raised along with the ambient noise level on the boat).

Of course, many of us have discovered that our cell phones are a terrific (and very private) substitute for VHF radio while underway. Unfortunately, there's a better than even chance that the individual you are calling will not be able to hear the phone ring over the din of his engines. Better yet, when you do connect it is almost impossible to hear a voice on a cell phone while underway. And, best of all, if you are traveling in the southern Bay you are very likely to discover that all of those miles of open water you see will very often mean that you will have no cell phone service at all.

By far, however, the worst communication issues I have discovered on a boat involve just trying to talk to with your partner while under way. For one reason or another, sometimes I need to talk to my wife while she is in the galley or the salon and I am piloting the boat from above. In that circumstance, when I need to communicate I use the old standby method and simply stomp on the upper deck. Not surprisingly, that approach is not always received positively. To alleviate that problem, a few years ago (while we were still new to boating) I bought a pair of radio headphones so we could remain in contact when separated on the boat. Not only did they eliminate the ongoing communication problems while underway, they were also excellent for docking.

In our early boating days we, like many other couples, had a history of yelling at each other while learning how to work together to efficiently dock the boat. The addition of the headphones meant that yelling was no longer necessary (however, sarcasm still occasionally seemed to have its place).

On one particularly windy day we were docking the boat after a long day on the water. I was having one of those days when I just could not seem to get the right combination of direction and speed to compensate for the wind and, as a result, had glanced off a couple of pilings. Using the private communication channel of our headphones, Elaine used the occasion to ask "just how many pilings do you plan to hit before you get the boat into the slip?" My answer was the only appropriate thing I could think to say at the time: "I don't know - - I'm not done yet!"

As it turns out, while that response was certainly offered in the true spirit of humor, to the individual struggling below with the lines there was nothing funny about it. Not surprisingly, we now no longer use the headphones.....



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

I understand that the rendezvous held on Sept. 11th was a great success. Many thanks to Bob and Dot Frenz for allowing us to use their beautiful property, to Norman Franck and Commander Rich Wright for a very moving 9/11 ceremony and to Chivy and Sandy Wieland for their bar expertise. I am sorry that I was unable to attend but I was in the throes of a summer cold and did not want to share it with others. I do understand that the much anticipated arrival of Kevin Digan and his tug, Gertrude B. did not occur. It wasn't that Gertrude B was beached, but that Kevin was beached during a recent trip to the ocean.



Vessel Safety check has not been as successful as in years past. We have had two examiners that have had physical problems and have been unable to inspect as usual. I have also had problems getting in contact with D-5 Vessel Safety Check Committee chairman to get clarification on the new program for canoes and kayaks. Phone calls and e-mails have proven fruitless.

There was good news at the recent Exec Meeting when it was reported that our new members equal the number of lost members so far this year. Many thanks to Isobel Krouse for all her efforts in making this happen.

I do not want to be the Doom and Gloom man for the year, but I cannot help but think about how lucky that we are in not having the floods and fires that have plagued so many folks this year. Along that same line, have you made preparation for any such event? Have you had a fire drill in your home and established an exit route and a place to meet after exiting? Have you taken pictures or videotaped all your rooms in your house and all your possessions for insurance reasons? Are all of your important documents in a safe place and could they be retrieved in a short time? These are just some of the many things that we need to be prepared for, just in case. Last month, I talked about hurricanes and then we had one. I hope none of the above events happen to any of us.

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

Last month I presented a description of "What are the signs of a healthy squadron" that was sent to me by the D/5 Admin Officer. The very first item on the list was Stability in Membership and the measure is the ability of the squadron to retain and grow its membership. Commander Wright announced at the last rendezvous that it appears that this year we will break even in membership – we will have gained as many members as we will lose, which is an improvement over our past records of a 14% loss in overall membership. I would like to thank our Membership chairperson, Isobel Krouse for the excellent job she and all that have worked with her to attract new members to this organization. Think what the squadron membership might look like if we all tried to get a least one name as potential members.



Also, I would like to thank Chivy and Sandy Wieland for the great job they have done especially with the summer rendezvous this summer under some very unusual conditions. I have received many comments about the arrangements at the last rendezvous, including suggestions on how we could improve on next's year's events.

Starting with the October meeting we are back inside at the Miles River Yacht Club which will be on October 12 with Langley Shook, President of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum as the guest speaker. November 9th dinner meeting we are working on a representative from NOAA which would be good timing to for our weather course starting in October. The December meeting which has normally been our Christmas party we are working on a date that does not conflict with Christmas in Saint Michaels event which has created low turnout for us in the past years.

Do not forget to sign up for the October dinner meeting on page 7.

SEE YOU THERE

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

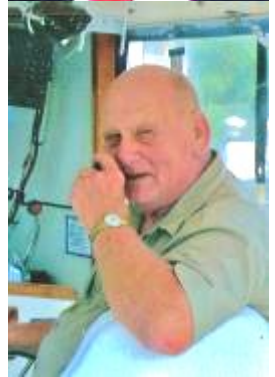
Good News and Bad News

Bad news first. Tim Hanlon had a list of ten people that said they were interested in taking seamanship. None of the ten were available to take the course. Only one, not one of the 10 and who would have missed three classes was finally available. So the course was cancelled.

Education is one side of the USPS triangle so it is troubling to the squadron education staff not to be able to have this basic boating course which is the foundation of future USPS courses.

The Good News:

- Bus Brown has started the "N" course with 3 students.
- The exams for the AP class have arrived. Review carefully. Good luck to all.
- The weather course with Bill Rowan will start Tuesday, October 18, At the Miles River Yacht Club. Several students are signed up, but there is still room for more. Sign up or get more information by contacting Bill at abrowan@atlanticbb.net or 410-819-6849.
- Fred Kieser will be offering the ABC3, the basic boating course, for the public in conjunction with the Talbot County Department of Parks and Recreation. Look for the date in the near future. Invite your boating friends to take advantage of this opportunity.

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

Our squadron people here dodged Hurricane Irene with minimal tree damage and limited power outages. Others were not so lucky. On Saturday, August 27, the American Red Cross had 500 shelters open from North Carolina to Maine with more than 27,000 residents.

On Delmarva Peninsula the American Red Cross operated or supported 27 shelters. 8 in Delaware, 19 in Maryland and Virginia with over 8,000 residents. A total of 9,635 meals were served on Saturday, Aug 27 throughout the peninsula.

POTENTIAL HAZARD CDR Wright relayed this reminder of lingering danger from potential hazards of this storm.

"... a very good point about some potential hazards on the Bay that may result from the large amount of flood water currently entering the Bay.

"FYI, the floodgates on the Conowingo Dam were opened to release pressure from the Susquehanna River, which now has a 30' flood surge upstream. This will result in the release of a significant amount of debris flowing into the bay. Please be careful on the waters of the Bay and its tributaries. *The debris can linger for many weeks as it moves with the ebb and flow of the tide, working its way into creeks and rivers.*"

On other troubling news, boating deaths in Maryland have reached their highest level in more than a decade. As of August 21, twenty boating accident fatalities have occurred. Since 2001 Maryland has averaged around 13 per year.

One very important note: of the 20 deaths, 18 were NOT wearing PFD/s or life jackets.

Be Safe out there.

SEPTEMBER RENDEZVOUS PICTURES



Cdr Rich opened the event with reflections on the 10th anniversary of 9/11, which we all appreciated. Here, he is congratulating Membership Chairman Isobel Krouse on the positive membership results this year.



The hors d'oeuvre table was a big hit. It was a great focal point, and contained many sumptuous goodies! Let's do this again next summer. Hostess Dot Frenz was grateful for all the contributions

Here are some pictures of us enjoying the great food and friendly companionship.



As usual, Bruce Lee was surrounded by beautiful women.

For the record — Kevin Digan did not win any year-end liquor. Amid spirited bidding, Fred Pond went home with most of the liquid refreshments.

Em, Annie, and Pat shared Fred's victory moment.





Alan, Peter, and Peter enjoyed the good company. This time of year, they are probably planning some nice fall cruising.

What a gorgeous day!

These folks are enjoying the Frenz' kind hospitality.



MERIT MARK SUBMISSIONS

Each year the USPS recognizes the efforts of its members through the awarding of Merit Marks. Most of us have prepared and submitted merit mark information many times through the years. Those of you with previous Merit Mark reporting experience should submit your Merit Mark information for 2011 to your appropriate Committee Chairman or Squadron Officer now. Final reports from each reporting area must be compiled and submitted no later than October 15, 2011.

For our newer members, a Squadron Officer will be reaching out to you to assist you with the Merit Mark reporting process.

CIVIL SERVICE INITIATIVES

The USPS has recently implemented a second annual reporting process for the reporting of Civil Service (i.e., community service) work completed by its members. While many of the items reported on your Merit Mark submission may also be on your Civil Service initiative submission, the two reports serve entirely different purposes and it is important for us to complete both. Your Committee Chairman or Squadron Officer needs your Civil Service initiative information now in order to compile Squadron reports for submission by October 1, 2011.

YEARBOOK UPDATE

Marian Franck, SN

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

**Ruth Buescher has a new address -
700 Port Street #330
Easton MD, 21601
Same phone number—410-822-8490
New cell phone number—410-924-1939
We don't know about email address yet**

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



HALF MILES LUNCH BUNCH
LUNCHEON

Tuesday, October 25 at 12 o'clock Noon

THE EASTON CLUB

All women of MRSPS most welcome. Come join us for a pleasant luncheon. Separate Checks. Please call Ruth Buescher, 410 822 8490 for reservations. We need a count, so we can plan accordingly. Car pools encouraged.

October Dinner Meeting—Wednesday, Oct. 12

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

**Guest Speaker: Mr. Langley Shook,
President, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum**

Menu:

**Chicken Piccata
Or
Salmon with Dill Cream Sauce**

Served Wedge Salad with Bleu & Balsamic Dressings

**Dessert
Raspberry Fudge Pudding Cake w/ Whipped Cream**

Ice Tea, Coffee, DeCaf included

PRICE PER PERSON.....\$30.00

RESERVATIONS DUE BY OCT. 5TH

**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 _____ Chicken _____ Salmon _____

Total Amount _____

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CALENDAR

Oct		Dec	
5	Excom—1900—MEBA	7	Excom—1900—MEBA
12	Dinner Meeting — MRYC	TBA	Christmas Party
Nov			
2	Excom—1900—MEBA		
4-6	D/5 Fall Conference—Gettysburg PA		
9	Dinner Meeting — MRYC		