

THE LUBBER'S LINE

VOLUME 87, ISSUE 2

March - April 2025

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2024 Change of Watch

In This Issue

See pages 3 and 5 for information on ABCW's 87th Change of Watch.

Also there is a list of Member Benefits you may not be aware of on page 8.

See our Commander's Message on page 2 for important information on boating education and safety.

Detailed information on plans for our annual June Cruise can be found on page 7.



2004 Cruise Banquet Photo provided by W. Randy Williamson

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 Lt John E. Schleicher, AP
 Bart Wilson
 Lt Justin Doheny, S
 Peter Weintraub

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Lubber's Line Editor

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Volunteer Needed. Please Contact Richard if you can help.



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr John H. Bailey, AP

Let's forget what the ground hog predicted for 6 more weeks of winter and hope warm weather is just around the corner. To me this time of year is the right time to focus on the twin pillars of boating, education and safety. Our shared passion for being on the water brings us joy and adventure, but with it comes the responsibility to ensure that our experiences are as safe as they are enjoyable.

Boating Education

Boating education is the cornerstone of responsible boating. Whether you are a seasoned sailor or a newcomer to boating, continuous learning is vital. Our forthcoming educational sessions will cover a range of topics to enhance your knowledge and skills:

- **Navigational Skills:** Learn the intricacies of chart reading, using a compass, and GPS navigation.
- **Weather Awareness:** Understand how to interpret weather forecasts and recognize the signs of changing conditions on the water.
- **Boat Handling:** Master the techniques of maneuvering your boat in various conditions, including docking, anchoring, and responding to emergencies.

Boating Safety

Safety on the water is paramount, and it is essential to always be prepared and vigilant. Here are some key safety practices we must all adhere to:

- **Life Jackets:** Ensure that every person on board is equipped with a properly fitting life jacket (PFD). Remember, it only works if you wear it.
- **Safety Equipment:** Regularly check and maintain your safety equipment, including fire extinguishers, flares, and first aid kits.
- **Communication:** Always have a reliable means of communication, such as a VHF radio, and know the distress signals.
- **Alcohol Consumption:** Avoid alcohol while operating a boat. It impairs judgment and reaction times, increasing the risk of accidents.
- **Weather Conditions:** Never underestimate the power of nature. Respect the weather and avoid heading out in unsafe conditions.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Familiarize yourself with emergency procedures and drills. Know how to handle man-overboard situations and other emergencies.

In conclusion, our commitment to boating education and safety ensures that we can all enjoy our time on the water while safeguarding ourselves, our passengers, and other boaters. Let's continue to support one another, share our knowledge, and uphold the highest standards of safety and responsibility.

Wishing you all fair winds and safe voyages!

Warm regards,

Cdr. John Bailey AP



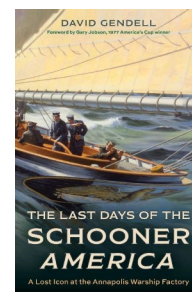
Administrative Department

P/C Carol J. Hanson, AP

Winter Social Activities

January Zoom Social - Twenty-Three members of ABCW enjoyed camaraderie online, while avoiding the need to travel in cold snowy weather! Speaker Allison Robb, maritime archaeologist, spoke on *The Bridge to France: Life of One of the Mallows Bay Ghost Fleet Vessels*. Compelling and thought-provoking, Ph.D. candidate Robb discussed the history of *Aowa* and its life, from conception with the wooden shipbuilding program, to its final abandonment in Mallows Bay. She explained that her research focuses on the relationship between factors influencing wooden shipwreck degradation, microbial communities, water chemistry, historical uses and archaeological depositional activities. She has worked on submerged archaeological sites around the world, including the South Pacific, Florida, and the Great Lakes. Our members thoroughly enjoyed the presentation!

February Zoom Social - Members of **America's Boating Club Wilmington** enjoyed warm winter socializing and a fascinating presentation by David Gendell during their February Founder's Day Zoom Social. Among the twenty-seven members present, joining us from afar were Sandy and Dave Netting in North Carolina, as well as Joan and Bill Barber, and Donna and Bill Zimmerman from their boats in the sunny Bahamas. Our speaker, Mr. Gendell, presented a slide show reviewing his new book, "The Last Days of the Schooner *AMERICA*: A Lost Icon at the Annapolis Warship Factory" (Lyons Press, 2024). He explained how *AMERICA* was an 1850's technological marvel. In the summer of 1851, just weeks after a New York launch, she crossed the Atlantic to an upset victory against a fleet of champions. To this day the silver America's Cup, named after her, is still coveted by sportsmen. His book traces *AMERICA*'s history from design, build, and early racing career through her lesser-known Civil War service and the never-before-told story of her final days in Annapolis. Mr. Gendell is an Annapolis native with extensive sailboat racing and passage making experience. In 1995, he co-founded *SpinSheet* and served as editor for twelve years. In 2004, he co-founded *Prop Talk*, a Chesapeake Bay power boating magazine. He also authored the first and only book devoted to the 1875 Thomas Point Lighthouse, "Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse: A Chesapeake Bay Icon" (The History Press, 2020). An excellent presenter, we hope to have him back again!



Attendees of 2024 Change of Watch

Change of Watch – Sunday March 16th, 2025, at 1100 for Brunch. For 87 years, ABCW members have been proudly serving Northeastern Chesapeake Bay boaters! Our pride is second only to appreciation for our strong and enabling helm leadership. Year-over-year, ABCW Nominating Committees, led by Betty Ingram for the past two years, ensure leadership continuity by recommending exceptional Bridge and Executive Committee officers. Their 2025-2026 nominations were no exception. At the January Social, members unanimously approved all nominees! At the Change of Watch, ABCW members will witness the swearing-in of officers by the District Education Officer, John O'Reilly, while enjoying a delicious brunch. Please respond to the Punchbowl Invite and join in on the fun! Also, additional details on page 5.



District & National News

District 5's Spring Conference and Change of Watch

District 5's Spring Conference and Change of Watch will be held at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront in Ocean City, MD on 28-30 March 2025. Each room is equipped with a kitchenette.

The conference includes important training for the new squadron/club bridge officers coming aboard. Old and new officers should take advantage of this as this training will give you a good foundation for leading your groups and understanding what you are expected to do in your bridge position, resulting in a successful year.

Friday evening includes the popular Hospitality Suites. All Hospitality Suites will be located on the 2nd Floor.

Please make your reservations for lodging directly with the hotel at: 410-524-1600. A meeting registration form is available on the district website (<https://abc-midatlantic.org>). If you are not partaking in any meals, please submit the reservation form so that we know how many will attend the conference. Kenny Perigo from Patuxent River Sail and Power Squadron will assist with any questions concerning this.

Friday and Saturday features a number of seminars along with Council and Conference meetings. The evening Change of Watch and Awards Banquet is the big event! Looking forward to seeing you there!

Any Club member is welcome to attend this conference. If interested please contact Richard Butler for more information (secretary@abc-wilmington.com)



Photos from 2024 Spring Conference from D5 Newsletter Mark 5

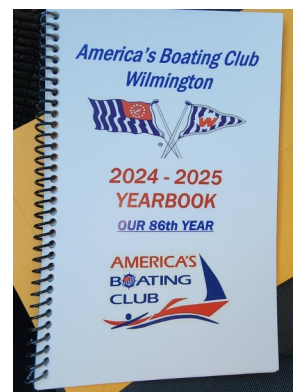


Secretary's Department

Lt/C Richard Butler, JN

It's almost time to get your 2025-2026 yearbook! I hope many of you can attend the Change of Watch. Besides great food and camaraderie, you will be able to pick up your yearbook, buy a club burgee or order a name tag and some excellent apparel from Lynn Mahaffy. Extra yearbooks (you get one free per household) will also be available for purchase (\$10 each). Bring your check book or cash!

For those at the Change of Watch, please pick up your yearbook at the entry to our meeting room. For those that can't make ABCW's premier event, yearbooks can be brought to the Wednesday luncheons if you give me a heads-up. For some folks, I know you can't do either, so they will be mailed to you after March 16.



2024 photo provided by Chris Atkinson

ABC Wilmington Change of Watch

Please join America's Boating Club Wilmington's Change of Watch Brunch on Sunday, March 16, 2025.

Our event will be held in the performing arts center at Country House, 4830 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE.

Doors open at 1100 DST to socialize with friends. **Please NOTE: Time changes from EST to DST that Sunday morning @ 0200.**

BUFFET – 1130

CHANGE OF WATCH CEREMONY – 1230

PAYMENT OF \$25 PER PERSON IS DUE BY MARCH 12, 2025

Please make your reservation on **Punchbowl** and send your check payable to WSPS with names of attendees to:

Richard Butler
8 Sebastian Drive
Newark, Delaware 19711

If you would like to use a credit card for your payment, please send an email to treasurer@abc-wilmington.com

Brunch Buffet Menu

- Plain Scrambled Eggs
- Cheesy Scrambled Eggs
- Sausage, Bacon
- Breakfast Potatoes, Cinnamon Rolls
- Fresh Fruit
- Beverages Included in Brunch: Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea & Soda



2024 Change of Watch

We can bring our own alcoholic beverages. All other food and drink will be provided.

There is a guard house that we will need to stop at on the way in. We are coming for the **“ABC Wilmington Boat Club event”**.

The main drive leads to a circular driveway. The main building with the Performing Arts Center is prominently placed on the circular drive. There are parking lots on either side before you reach the circular drive.

There is a reception desk just inside the main entrance that will assist in directing visitors to the Performing Arts Center.

The ABC Wilmington Annual Cruise is Scheduled For 7 June, Saturday to 15 June, Sunday

It's not too early to begin thinking of the June Cruise.

The 2025 ABCW Cruise Committee has laid out an itinerary that is based on 2024 cruise questionnaire feedback. The cruise will be a little shorter in overall distance. We will explore a few local educational venues. The feature destination will be a two-day stop in Baltimore.

Here are some details:

6/6. Pre-cruise live entertainment at the Mainstay (Optional)

6/7. Mystery Book Event (Optional) and Commander's Kickoff at North Point Marina.



6/8. Shaw Bay - Wye River. At anchor. Assigned Raft-ups, shared menu.

6/9. Almshouse Creek - South River. At anchor. Assigned raft-ups with a tour of London Town and Gardens and a presentation by the South River River-keeper

6/10. Port Annapolis Marina. Tour of Annapolis Maritime Museum and Dinner on our own.

6/11. Dividing Creek - Magothy River. At anchor with optional dinner at The Point Restaurant.

6/12. Bodkin Creek - Patapsco River. At anchor. Tour of Hancock Resolution Plantation.

6/13-14. Harbor East Marina - Baltimore. Banquet and other activities TBA.

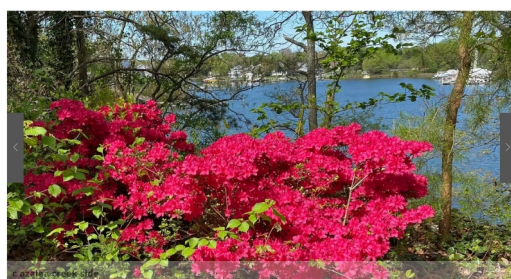
6/15. Return to Rock Hall MD

The Cruise Committee wants to underscore its hope that those who cannot join us on a boat will meet up with us at the Pre-Cruise Entertainment, Kickoff Picnic, London Town & Gardens, Hancock Resolution Plantation, and in Baltimore. No boat is necessary!

This year, we will continue the Chesapeake Bay Trivia Contest, albeit in a more condensed format, and we will again reach out to neighboring Squadrons located on the cruise route asking if they want to join us.

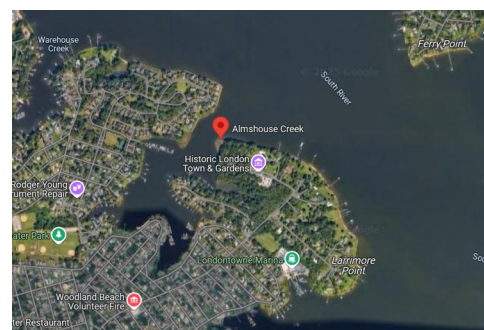
Camaraderie, just fun boating and on-shore discoveries promise to make the cruise very special. Remember - boat or no boat - we want you to join us.

Many thanks to the 2025 Cruise Committee: John Bailey, Carol Hanson, and Co-Chairs Colleen and John Schleicher, Leslie Brower and Bruce Wyngaard. Do not hesitate to contact any one of them if you have questions.



The Gardens at London Town

Historic London Town and Gardens offers a diverse horticultural experience and has been certified a **Level II Arboretum** by ArbNet.



America's Boating Club Member Benefits

The America's Boating Club Boat Insurance Program - created to meet the unique needs of America's Boating Club members with discounts up to 38%.

America's Boating Club[®] Boat Insurance Program

Created for Members, by Members

One of the many benefits of membership in America's Boating Club is the exclusive America's Boating Club Boat Insurance Program (formerly USPS Boat Insurance Program). This program is available to most America's Boating Club members and is based on the premise that America's Boating Club members represent a class of "preferred risk" boaters by the virtue of their formal education in the care and operation of boats.

Since 1988, the America's Boating Club Boat Insurance Program has been providing America's Boating Club members the best service, reliability and coverage in the industry. The America's Boating Club Boat Insurance Program was created exclusively for members of America's Boating Club. It is administered by McGriff, Seibels, & Williams, Inc. and underwritten by the Travelers Companies, Inc.

Visit the America's Boating Club Boat Insurance Program Web Site for program highlights, quotes, and more information at ABCBoatInsurance.com or call toll free at 1 800 763 USPS (8777).



Solude Coffee, founded and staffed by avid boaters and located in Norwalk, Ct., roasts and blends the finest of coffee beans. Unique air-roasting only adds to their sophisticated flavors and aromas; a **20% discount** is applied to each purchase.

Solude Coffee Roasts the Finest of Coffee Beans

A large selection of quality coffees in various sizes is available on-line, and purchases typically reach the buyer within 3 days of roasting, as they are individually roasted to order.

Solude has extensive experience in working with many prominent, non-profit, educational organizations, such as America's Boating Club and its members.

Solude's proven program provides for the automatic **discount of 20%** of the total charge (not including shipping) for the coffee ordered by any Member, or by any of his or her family members and friends! Just remember to enter "**ABC20**" in the Discount Code box.

Environmental Best Practices for Boaters

Vessel Maintenance

- ☒ Wash boat regularly with fresh water to avoid frequent use of harsh detergents.
- ☒ Choose phosphate-free, biodegradable and non-toxic cleaners.
- ☒ Waxing & buffing requires less use of cleaning solutions – and your boat looks better!
- ☒ Try to do major cleaning and maintenance tasks when boat is out of the water.
- ☒ Conserve water by using a spray nozzle on the hose.
- ☒ Use drop cloth when sanding and scraping – collect all paint chips, dust and other residue, and dispose of properly.
- ☒ Share leftover paint and varnish.
- ☒ Dispose of solvents and waste gas at local hazardous waste collection sites.
- ☒ Use environmentally safe anti-fouling paints and follow manufacturer's instructions.
- ☒ Recycle used zincs.
- ☒ Keep engine(s) tuned: this reduces carbon monoxide emissions when moored, reduces hydrocarbon and soot emissions into the air, and saves fuel.
- ☒ Dispose of drained oil and any spent or spilled coolant at appropriate recycling centers when performing maintenance yourself.

Mariner's Environmental Awareness

- ☒ When fishing—keep only those fish you intend to eat – practice “catch and release” techniques to insure survival of those you throw back.
- ☒ Proceed slowly in shallow areas and do not disturb wildlife.
- ☒ Avoid stirring up bottom—suspended sediment limits light penetration and depletes oxygen.
- ☒ Sea otters, sea lions, manatees, whales and other sea mammals can be injured by impact with boats at higher speeds – avoid areas of high animal population or proceed slowly.
- ☒ Report any injured animal to local wildlife authorities—many times the life can be saved.
- ☒ Protect waters from nuisance, invasive species—remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting. Clean and dry anything that comes in contact with the water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.)
- ☒ Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came from that body of water. Bilge water can also transport invasive species.
- ☒ High wake causes shoreline erosion and destruction of habitat.

Let's Celebrate the March & April Birthdays

March

William Barber	Mar 5
Geraldine Walker	Mar 8
Peter Weintraub	Mar 11
Matt White	Mar 13
Jeanmarie Bailey	Mar 24
John Schleicher	Mar 24
Dorothy Brabson	Mar 26

April

Connie Mitchell	Apr 2
Alan Cropper	Apr 4
Perry Willis	Apr 7
John Bailey	Apr 10
Kim White	Apr 12
David Benfer	Apr 13
William Zimmerman	Apr 15
Daniel Gorman	Apr 25
Bob Borelli	Apr 26
Kathleen Cropper	Apr 30

Calendar of Events March/April 2025

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

March 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					

March Events

16 Mar 1100 DST

ABC Wilmington Change of Watch
Country House
208 Bank St., Chesapeake City, MD

19 Mar 1900

ABC Wilmington Executive Committee Meeting*
Via Zoom

*All members are welcome to attend
- email admin@abc-wilmington.com to get a Zoom invite!

28-30 Mar

Mid-Atlantic Region Change of Watch &
Spring Conference
Holiday Inn, Ocean City, MD

April 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			

April Events

15 Apr

Deadline for May/June/July Lubber's Line Material

16 Apr 1900

ABC Wilmington Executive Committee Meeting *
Via Zoom

*All members are welcome to attend
- email admin@abc-wilmington.com to get a Zoom invite!



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/>

The Lubber's Line is a publication of America's Boating Club® Wilmington
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