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Last Month:



We lobster feasted, we learned what is on the horizon federally for the boating community, and we partied. Sure hope you don't miss our next event!

RSPS Web Site:

<http://www.rspsonline.org>

RSPS Facebook Page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/RSPS>

Come for the Boating Education.....

Stay for the FriendsSM

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

The SKIPJACK newsletter is published monthly except the combined July/August issue. Deadline for articles is the 20th day of the month for the following month's issue. The SKIPJACK is written by and published for the members of the Rockville Sail and Power Squadron (RSPS) Inc, a squadron and unit of District 5 of the United States Power Squadrons®.

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Commander's Corner

Cdr Brian Reed, JN

Today is the day of the ABC-R/RSPS Holiday party. By the time you read this, it was an excellent party. But running errands for the party this morning, I realized I forgot to write this article. I'm sure I am holding up the entire December Skipjack issue. And this is how the year has gone. You are working hard on one project and realize you completely dropped the ball on another. It is the old one step forward-one step back analogy. Luckily, the Executive Committee this year has been a great group of people who seem to fill in when a gap arises. Certainly they have come to my rescue many times. And also fortunately, they are fun to work with. Nobody wants to do a volunteer job that isn't fun. So at the holiday season and the end of the year when we look back at things to be thankful for, I am thankful for a great group of people who I get to work with. And with the clarity of hindsight, I realize we are doing better than one step forward and one step back. We have made progress this year. We've gained five or six new members which more than



2017-2018 RSPS Executive Committee

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offsets our normal attrition. We had a couple of great on the water events which had been a challenge for us in past years. We had a live firefighting demonstration this year which hasn't been done in probably four years. We've hosted seven seminars at a new location. And we're working hard at squadron renaming--we can officially DBA (do business as) America's Boating Club Rockville in the state of Maryland. Plus we maintained status quo. This is harder than it sounds. Put on six general meetings with speakers, a change of watch, picnic and safety demonstration, holiday party, pancake breakfast, and four education courses and you are just at status quo. All while staying within budget. So I am also thankful that we made progress this year as an organization, and kept up the standard programs and functions that you know and love.

And finally, elsewhere in this issue you will find the nominations for next year's executive committee. I am thankful that these people have stepped up to carry us forward another year. For those on the list who are staying in their role or moving forward to a new position, you know what you are getting into and you volunteered again anyway! You're awesome. For those coming onto the executive committee new this year, whatever we promised you—we lied. There's a reason nothing is done in writing. Just kidding, it will be fun. And if you fall, I guarantee somebody will step in with a hand before you know it. So for all ABC-R members, please come to the pancake breakfast and elections on Saturday, January 20th to support your new executive committee. And of course enjoy being cooked for and served by your current Executive Committee.

Thanks to everybody who has helped us as an organization this year, and thanks for the friendships. And of course a happy holidays to all and best wished for the New Year.

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NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

In accordance with our squadron By-laws, the Nominations Committee recommends the following names for election by the membership at the January 20, 2018 member meeting and Pancake Breakfast.

POSITION	CANDIDATE
Commander	Gil Rose
Executive Officer (XO)	Chris Smith
Education Officer (SEO)	Jon Griffin
ASEO	Brian Reed
Administrative Officer (AO)	TBD
Secretary	Bill Stuart
Treasurer	Jeff Cornish
Member At Large	Paula Sind-Prunier
Member At Large	Sam Snow
Member At Large	Richard McKee
Immediate Past Commander	Brian Reed

Rules Committee	Jeff McKinney
	Alan Karpas
	Harleigh Ewell

Audit Committee	Paul Ostrye
	Barbara Boykin
	Mary Ferrante

Nominating Committee	Steve Permison
	Julien Hofberg
	Brian Reed

At this point the Administrative Officer position remains open. It may be filled by the nominations from the floor during the election.

Squadrons depend upon members to grow and thrive. Please consider volunteering to help our Executive Committee by supporting any area of interest. There are many tasks that need helping hands. Contact any member of our committee or a currently serving squadron officer for additional information.

Respectfully submitted:
R/C Paul Mermelstein
P/C Stephen Permison
P/C Julien Hofberg



December



2017



Treasury Notes

Lt/C Jeff Cornish, AP

Amazon Smile sent \$8.31 to RSPS last month. You can select Rockville Sail & Power Squadron at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will make a small contribution on your regular Amazon orders.

Twenty-seven RSPS members and friends came for our annual Lobsterfest at Nantucket's Reef 8 November and heard Ryck Lydecker from BoatUS discuss the future for boating regulation and government services. Dennis Krizek held the winning 50/50 ticket, but generously donated his share to the RSPS education program.

When I saw the report about the Kidde fire extinguisher recall in the October Skipjack, I found my kitchen fire extinguisher was covered. The replacement hasn't arrived as of this writing. Read the safety article here for instructions for replacement.

Questions (and volunteers) are always welcome at treasurer@rspsonline.org.

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NEW 2018-2019

MARYLAND/VIRGINIA CRUISING GUIDES

Williams & Heintz Maryland and Virginia Cruising Guides available at \$35 each or the set for \$68 at RSPS events or treasurer@rspsonline.org.

RSPS SHIP'S STORE

It's that time of year again. Christmas gift ideas abound at the RSPS Ship's Store. There are several items on Clearance, some good ideas for stocking stuffers!



Fly an RSPS burgee on your vessel! You can get one for \$30 at RSPS dinners or through Jeff Cornish at jeffcornish301@gmail.com



Do you shop at Amazon.com? You can designate the **Rockville Sail and Power Squadron** as your Amazon Smile charity. Click the Amazon Smile button in the left column at www.rspsonline.org for details.

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Executive View

Lt/C Gilbert Rose, P

I love sailing this time of year! The air is brisk and the winds are often strong, and there is a palpable sense of urgency about it all. It's a race really, to get those last sailing days in before I am overcome with ice, shorter days, and holiday family obligations that take me far away from the marina. It's also a time of reflection about the fun of the season, lessons learned, thinking about the next season - and counting my blessings.

I often feel that fall sailing is my reward for enduring the lazy winds of August, and having friends aboard in the fall to share my excitement as I marvel at the power and beauty of nature is especially nice. It makes me feel like a child again!

Winter CPR/First Aid Class-February 10: Who is interested? Second Notice!

Alan Karpas will be conducting another one of his famous CPR/First Aid Classes for Boaters, on February 10 and the cost is \$85. We need to know who in our squadron would like to attend, as there will also be up to seven other participants from the Northern Virginia Power Squadron taking advantage of this. Once we get a count we will determine the location. Please let me know quickly if you are interested, via email at GPRosePHS@aol.com.

As this boating season draws to a close, one of my

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December



2017

blessings has been the friendship and camaraderie I have shared with many of you. All of you have enriched Deb's and my life and we look forward to the year to come! Have a joyous and safe holiday season.



First Aid Support Team

Stf/C Jeff McKinney, RN, JN
Medical Officer, RSPS

Can You Feel the Burn?

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Vessel Safety Checks

Stf/C Jeff McKinney, JN-CN
Finished for the year!

Looking to the next season: Does your re-commissioning plan include requesting a VSC for the spring? If not, please add it to the list. Don't forget to contact me or one of the team to get it done as soon as you are ready.

Members: If you want to learn how to become a Vessel Safety Examiner this year please let me know so I can talk with you about the training and certification requirements.

Current Examiners: At this time I am not aware of any changes to the procedures or checklist items. If I hear of anything new I will send out updates to you. New 2018 stickers should be arriving soon, and I will distribute them to you once I have them. The quantity we get will be based on our totals for the past year, and we should have plenty on hand. If you need other supplies (forms, literature, placards, etc.) please let me know so I can get everything to you at one time.

If you have any questions I'm just an email away.
jmckinney2606@gmail.com

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Many of us are fond of spicy foods, especially during the summer when it's harder to make things taste as appetizing. As the weather outside cools down, you can kick up the heat this fall season with spicy foods. Don't you just love a comforting, spicy chili on a cold day? Did you know that heat can be good for you? If you did not, read on.

Chili Pepper is probably the world's most widely consumed spice. The active ingredient that produces the "heat" is capsaicin (cap-say-sin). If you have ever eaten a hot pepper or some salsa you have experienced the effects of this compound. Capsaicin is also used in medications such as pain relief ointments.

A new study* is now giving us even more reasons to enjoy spicy foods. Scientists have found that people who enjoy spicy foods appear to eat less salt and have lower blood pressure. How is this possible? Spicy foods may increase people's sensitivity to salt, which may lower the amount of salt they choose to eat.

Compared to those people who least enjoyed spicy foods, study participants who preferred spicy food:

- had 8 points lower systolic (upper) and 5 points lower diastolic (bottom) blood pressure numbers
- consumed 2.5 grams less salt a day (that's about ½ teaspoon less!)

Before you go wild and plan a pepper eating contest or stock up on those blazing-hot sauces, a few words of caution:

1. This was only one study, and the results were obtained using mice. There are no comparable studies in humans yet. More research is needed.
2. There are any number of studies that either contradict the findings, do not find any benefit, and in a few cases caution against over-doing it.

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3. Consumption of extra spicy foods can be harmful if you have certain medical conditions. Ulcers and high blood pressure are two examples. If unsure, check with your medical provider first.

Are you feeling brave yet? If so, go ahead and enjoy those spicy fall foods, but be careful.

*Qiang Li, Yuanting Cui, Rongbing Jin. Enjoyment of Spicy Flavor Enhances Central Salty-Taste Perception and Reduces Salt Intake and Blood Pressure. Hypertension. 2017;70:1291-1299. doi: 10.1161/HYPERTENSIONAHA.117.09950

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Boating Safety Tip

Jim Brown, JN-IN, VE

ATTENTION BOATERS: Do you have one or more Kidde Dry Chemical fire extinguishers on your boat? If so, please be aware that on November 2, 2017, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission announced a recall of literally millions of plastic handle Kidde fire extinguishers due to the following defects:

1. Complete failure to activate.
2. Potential to become clogged before fully discharged.
3. Nozzle detachment with force sufficient to pose an impact hazard.

This recall extends to MANY, BUT NOT ALL plastic handle Kidde and plastic push button extinguishers manufactured between January 1, 1973 and August 15, 2017. While both the CPSC and Kidde have published tables of the recalled extinguishers on their respective web sites: www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/Kidde-recalls-fire-extinguishers and www.kidde.com. You may find these tables difficult to interpret when you try to determine if your particular units have been recalled.

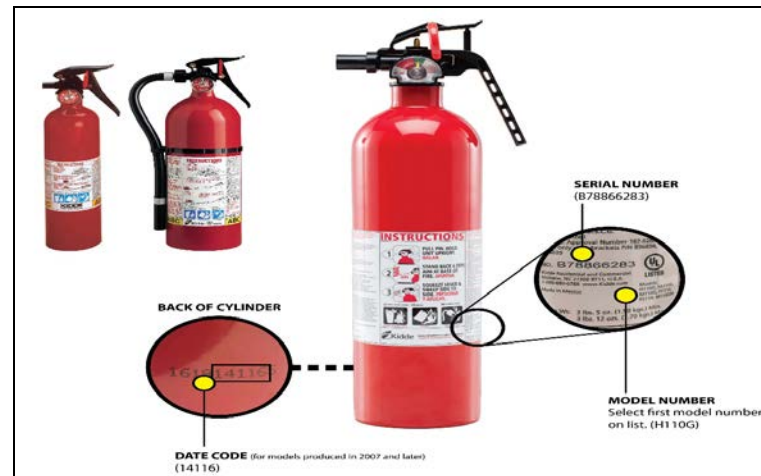
After struggling with the published tables, I ended up calling the Kidde Recall Center for clarification. They were most helpful. It turned out that of my 5 on-board

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Kidde plastic handle extinguishers, purchased at various times between 2007 and 2016, 3 were in the recall and 2 were not. **THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN BE CERTAIN** if your plastic handle Kidde extinguishers are included in the recall is to proceed as follows:

1. Pull each of your plastic handle Kidde extinguishers and record its MODEL NUMBER, SERIAL NUMBER, and DATE OF MANUFACTURE (where-to-locate diagrams are on the CPSC and Kidde web sites).
2. Phone this information to the Kidde Recall Center @ 855-271-0773 (line open M-F 0830 to 1900, S-S 0900 to 1500). They will check their computer listings and within a few minutes let you know which, if any, of your units have been recalled.
3. Furnish the Recall Center with your mailing address and they will send you new replacement extinguishers within 10 to 15 business days as well as postage paid mailers so you can return the defective units directly to them (no disposal problems for you).

Assuring that your fire extinguishers will not fail if ever you needed them is an excellent boating project for the winter months. Have at it!



Kidde plastic handle fire extinguishers

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Kidde push-button Pindicator fire extinguishers

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Education Log

P/C Dennis Krizek, AP

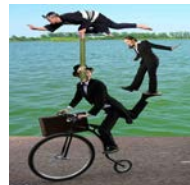
The winter and spring Education Log has many entries, but they all have an ETA of TBD. On the horizon Seamanship is planned for the winter and possibly Sail may leave the slip, after the winter covers are removed. I would welcome some input from the membership on an elective course or any other course the membership would like to see scheduled. To the soon to be graduates of Mike Collin's Advanced Piloting course; consider abandoning dependence on objects on planet Earth to plot positions and looking to the heavens. If enough interest is shown a Junior Navigation course is a possibility.

Mike Collins reports that Chris Smith and Pat Talbert Smith have recently completed the Piloting course. This brings a total of six new Pilots for 2017. All the students should be congratulated.

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For more information about the Education Department or to offer suggestions/comments, contact Dennis Krizek at: seo@rspsonline.org.

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Administratively Speaking

Lt Paula Sind-Prunier

Thanksgiving Day is past and we're now coming up on that end-of-year holiday that everyone celebrates, one way or another. If you're a member of the Rockville Sail & Power Squadron (RSPS), we hope you planned to celebrate with us at our annual December holiday party, where we gather among friends with food, libations, and merriment, so we can forget that the boats are on the hard, we have a to-do list of winter chores, and we can expect a few months of shuffling and sliding through the snow and slush on the roadways instead of enjoying the fresh air and sunshine aboard. Thank you, Sam Snow, for hosting this year's event.

Although Thanksgiving Day is past, I have a lot that I continue to be thankful for. Over the past year, I've made new friends at the marina, and have gotten to really know more RSPS members, too. If you think about it, it's wonderful to belong to an organization where it might take months or years to get to know ALL its members - THAT is an organization full of knowledge, experience, stories, memories, and people who always have something new and interesting to talk about. USPS says its members "join for the education and stay for the friends." I second that.

Beyond that, the support the other members of the ExCom have provided in mentoring me and assisting me in my role has been incredible! I think one of the reasons I've had such a superb opportunity to meet members is because I became actively involved in the Squadron. If I have any regrets it's that I didn't get actively involved sooner.

But wait - there's more. The support and encouragement RSPS's members have provided me both as a sailor/boater and as a Sea Scout Skipper has been

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fabulous, and something for which I'm truly grateful.

Early in the year, Alan Karpas contacted me and said he and Arlene had purchased a new dinghy and were wondering if the Sea Scouts could use the fully serviceable RHIB they were replacing. Are you kidding? So I arranged to meet him at Nabb's Creek to pick up the dinghy, and when I arrived, he and Jeff McKinney were getting ready to bend the sails on *Hideaway*, and so I pitched in, and then Jeff helped Alan and I load the dinghy on the truck for its journey to its new home. Many hands make light work. Then, the Sea Scouts used the RHIB to complete their small boat handling requirements during their June cruise on the Chesapeake. There was also the neighbor we met through happenstance. My husband Greg and I were hoping to replace the muddy path to the lighthouse that serves as a "landship" for the Sea Scouts and a classroom for the Squadron, the Red Cross, and others. He approached a neighbor who had a stack of bricks that seemed to be unneeded, got the bricks, and in the process, discovered that our neighbor was a recognized authority in the boating community. And that's the short story on our November *Dine and Learn* presenter, Ryck Lydecker. (Unfortunately, I had to fly down to Florida to deal with post-Irma remediation, so I had to miss Ryck's presentation - which was accompanied by a lobster feast. If I had to miss a meeting, why did it have to be that one?)

Then Craig Floyd contacted me and I had to pinch myself to make sure I wasn't dreaming, as he and Lori offered to donate *Bel Gilly* to the Sea Scouts. This was an immense blessing, but one that took quite a bit of choreography. I'm grateful to Julien Hofberg for negotiating a temporary slip (that was a little longer than planned) at Selby Bay Yacht Club, while I and a fellow Bowley's Marina owner (and former USPS member, Ron Harbin) worked with the marina to secure a more long-term berth. I write this just hours after *Bel Gilly* and *Sark* were hauled for the winter. As sad as that was, I made another new friend at the marina today. We got to talking, he asked about my boat and I told him I'd had 2 hauled today, and I pointed them out. "Oh, wow, is that an S2?" he asked. "Sure is," I said. "What is that, a 30'?" "Uh-huh." And from there he launched into accolades and compliments on *Bel Gilly* and S2s. As we

said goodbye, he reminded me of his name and said he was a Board Member of the marina. I reminded him of my name and said I was the Sea Scout Skipper, to which he said, "We gave you a slip, right?" and I pointed to *Bel Gilly*, and smiled and said, "for her." I left him with a smile as big as mine. (Side note: *Bel Gilly* will be getting a new name in the spring, at a recommissioning ceremony commemorating her new purpose. You're all invited)

Why I was only hauling the boats at the end of November was because the Sea Scouts wanted to participate in the Middle River parade of lights, November 25th. They were one of 90+ boats that entertained parade-goers along the river and in the navigable creeks and coves - that's another story for another day.

We have so many things to be thankful for, but mostly each other and our shared interests in sailing, boating, and just being on or around the water, and talking about our shared interests while we await spring!

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Make sure to put these very important dates on your calendars. Some of the best times and greatest memories are made during these events!

Pancake Breakfast: Saturday, 20 January, 1000 until 1200 hrs at the Casey Barn in Gaithersburg

D5 Spring Conference and Change of Watch:
6 – 8 April
Princess Royale Hotel
Ocean City, MD

Day-On-The-Bay: Sunday, 20 May, details to follow, meet at the Smokehouse in Eastport afterwards.

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RSPS Food and Fun

Gen McGlothlin Peterson, Editor
New Year's Day Menu

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What do you eat on New Year's Day? Southern Tradition calls for a menu of Black-Eyed Peas, Greens, and Cornbread. Luck factor: Folk lore says it is high. Even folks who aren't from the Southern United States go all in on eating black-eyed peas and leafy greens for good luck on New Year's Day. Or at least they'll pick you up after hard-partying the night before.

Black Eyed Peas

- 1 pound dried black-eyed peas, sorted and rinsed
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 ounces sliced salt pork belly, chopped
- 6 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 32 ounces homemade chicken broth

Directions

1. Sort and rinse dry beans. Cover with water in a glass bowl and leave overnight.
2. In pot, render the salt pork belly. Cook for 5 minutes till fat is rendered
3. Combine the black-eyed peas with enough water to cover the peas in pot with pork.
4. Add the ham hock, garlic, black pepper and red pepper.
5. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to medium-high.
6. Cook until water is reduced to a broth.
7. Add chicken stock, cook for 2 – 3 hours, until peas are tender. Add water if needed.

Greens

- 1 ham bone or 8 oz of fat back, or bacon
- 32 oz homemade chicken stock
- 2 lbs fresh collard greens, washed and cut. OR
- 2 (1-lb.) pkg. prewashed chopped fresh collard greens
- 1/2 cup chopped sweet onion (from 1 onion)
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Directions

1. Render pork (or bacon) in stock pot until fat is rendered and meat is browned.
2. Chop onion and sauté in pot till translucent.
3. Combine stock, greens, and vinegar, salt, pepper in stock pot.
4. Stir to mix, bring to a rolling boil, and reduce to medium.
5. Cook for 2 hours, adding water if needed, until greens are tender.

Cast Iron Skillet Cornbread

- 1/2 C butter, melted
- 2 eggs, room temp
- 1 C buttermilk
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 C all-purpose flour
- 1 C cornmeal
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3 tbsp vegetable oil
- 10 inch cast iron skillet

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400
2. Mix the melted butter and egg, beat until blended. Add the buttermilk and baking soda and mix well. Add the cornmeal, flour and salt and mix until lumpy.
3. Add the vegetable oil to the cast iron skillet and put in the preheated oven for about 4 minutes. Remove and coat the pan (inner bottom and sides) using a paper towel. Pour any excess oil into the batter and mix well.
4. Add the batter into the cast iron skillet and bake on the middle rack for 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean and the top is golden brown.
5. Remove and allow to sit for a few minutes, run a knife around the outside edge to break free from the skillet. Turn out on a plate.

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December Birthdays

19	Claire	Ryberg
31	Daneen L.	Mermelstein

If your birthday does not appear in THE SKIPJACK in its proper month – please check if your personal data is up to date on the RSPS web site.

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New report states Chesapeake Bay Watershed exceeds allowable nitrogen pollution

A new report states that a number of wastewater treatment plants in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed exceeded the amount of nitrogen pollution allowed.

The report from the Environmental Integrity Project cited federal and state records and found 21 plants violated their permits. One of the worst offenders was the Patapsco River Wastewater Treatment Plant.

It discharged 2.3 million pounds of nitrogen pollution from January through August, which is more than twice the amount allowed for the whole year, the report said.

"We have problems not only with nitrogen pollution, which causes dead zones in the bay, but also high levels of bacteria and grease that are being routinely discharged into the river that's really making a health problem and a real ecological problem in the river and in the bay," said Tom Pelton, with the Environmental Integrity Project.

The group said upgrades at a number of treatment plants are behind schedule and should have increased state oversight.

"New report states Chesapeake Bay Watershed exceeds allowable nitrogen pollution." *Baltimore News, Weather and Sports - Maryland News - WBAL-TV 11 News.* WBAL TV 11 News, 1 Dec 2017. Web. 3 Dec 2017. <<http://www.wbal.com/article/new-report-finds-chesapeake-bay-watershed-exceeds-allowable-nitrogen-pollution/13999989>>.

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Membership Renewals

Received a renewal notice from National recently? Renew online with your certificate and invoice numbers. Your prompt renewal from the email saves trees, fuel, and the cost of mailing a renewal notice.

<http://www.usps.org/dues/>

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\$21 Million Available for Chesapeake Bay Restoration Projects

*Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust
Fund Focuses on Water Quality;
Local Governments and Nonprofits Encouraged to
Submit Letters by Jan. 19*

The [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) invites local governments and nonprofit organizations to apply for funding to help restore the Chesapeake Bay and improve water quality.

Through the [Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund](#), the department plans to allocate and award about \$21 million to local projects aimed at reducing nonpoint source pollution caused by excess nutrients and sediment.

Governor Larry Hogan has lauded the program and demonstrated his commitment to Chesapeake Bay restoration by becoming the first governor in Maryland history to fully fund the Trust Fund for two consecutive years.

"The Trust Fund focuses on shovel-ready projects that achieve the greatest environmental benefit at the best cost," Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton said. "The program works with our partners in local governments and nonprofits to maximize benefits, targeting funds geographically, engaging communities and holding everyone accountable to the results."

The Trust Fund helps the state accelerate bay restoration goals by focusing resources on specifically designed and implemented projects, and has directed over \$400

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million to over 2,100 projects while supporting 2, 200 jobs. It directs critical grant funding to the most cost-effective and efficient water quality improvement projects in the state that result in the highest level of pollution reduction as a return of the state's investment.

Interested applicants for funding in Fiscal Year 2019 are encouraged to [submit letters of intent](#) by Jan. 19, 2018, with full proposals due March 30, 2018. Awards will be announced by July 2018.

"\$21 Million Available for Chesapeake Bay Restoration Projects." *\$21 Million Available for Chesapeake Bay Restoration Projects*. Maryland department of natural resources, 27 Nov 2017. Web. 30 Nov 2017. <<http://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2017/11/27/21-million-available-for-chesapeake-bay-restoration-projects/>>.

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MMSI - Maritime Mobile Service Identity

Modern marine radios now feature Digital Selective Calling (DSC) for routine operations and for automated distress hailing. These features can only be used if your radio is programmed with a unique code called a Maritime Mobile Service Identity, or MMSI.

The United States Power Squadrons is authorized by the Federal Communications Commission and the US Coast Guard to issue MMSIs to US flagged vessels not subject to Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention requirements. This includes almost all recreational boats. Vessels required to have FCC ship station licenses, including US flagged pleasure craft making international voyages, must obtain their MMSIs directly from the Federal Communications Commission.

Do I qualify?

Marine vessels fall into two basic categories under GMDSS rules when it comes to the use of Maritime Mobile Service Identities: those vessels which must adhere to international regulations ("compulsory" vessels) and those that don't ("voluntary" or "non-compulsory" vessels). The legal language on the website spells this out in detail, but the short story is summarized here.

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Vessels used solely in domestic US waters may get a MMSI from this site, such as:

- recreational boats
- towboats and tugs under 600 horsepower
- state and local government vessels.

Under the terms of international treaty, the Federal Communications Commission has jurisdiction over US flagged vessels. The FCC has elected to maintain the issuing authority for MMSIs for all vessels subject to international law including commercial ships, and leisure craft operating in international waters (note that this includes Canada, the Bahamas, and Mexico!).

In summary, if you are traveling internationally, you need to file Form 605 with the FCC to obtain a Ship Station License, which comes with a MMSI. You do not qualify for registration under the program administered by USPS.

How many MMSIs should I get?

One. If you use any digital transceiving equipment on your boat, a MMSI is a vital part of the data stream.

The following list shows the typical equipment available to the recreational mariner. If you have any or all of the following devices on the same boat, all units must be programmed with the same MMSI:

- VHF-DSC (VHF with Digital Selective Calling)
- MF-DSC
- High frequency radio with digital capability
- AIS (Automatic Identification System)
- INMARSAT telephone system.

Also, if you register for and receive a MMSI through this web site, then obtain a Ship Station License later, the MMSI on that license becomes the governing number. You must delete the record in this database and program your transceivers with the FCC-issued number. The idea is simple: one boat, one MMSI.

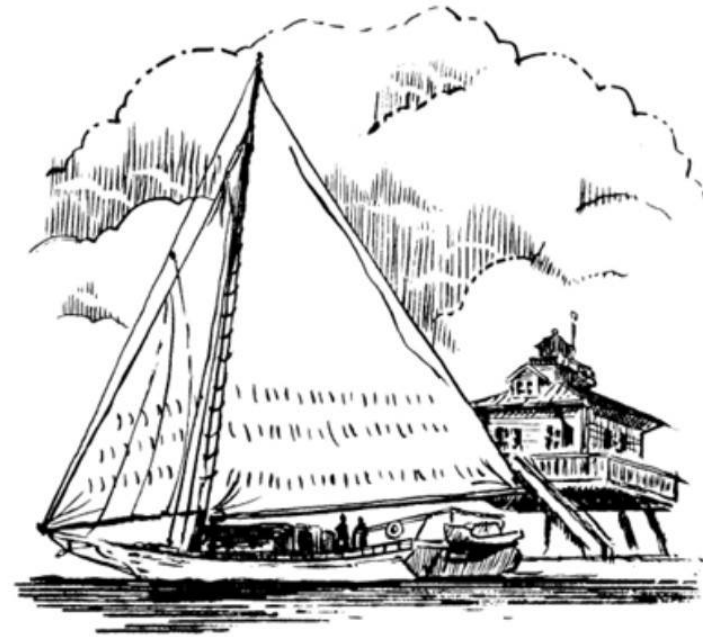
Log in here to fill out the application: http://www.usps.org/php/mmsi_new/mmsiLogin.php?ret_link=%2Fphp%2Fmmsi_new%2Fregistrations.php&ty pe=notLogged

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