
**Northern Virginia
Sail and Power Squadron**



Chartered 14 May 1967



**Continuing The Journey
2007 – 2017**

Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron

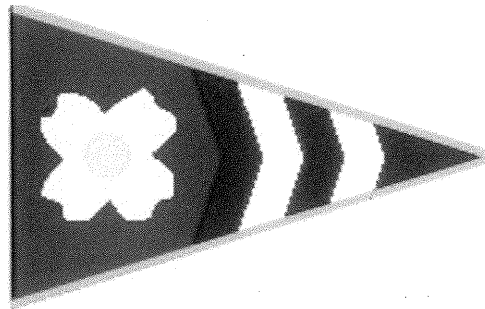


Chartered 14 May 1967



50th Anniversary Celebration

7 May 2017



**A unit of
United States Power Squadrons ®**

This 50th anniversary yearbook

Continuing The Journey 2007 - 2017

is an updated companion to

Celebrating The Journey 1967 – 2007

the squadron's 40th anniversary yearbook

which can be downloaded from

NVSPS.org

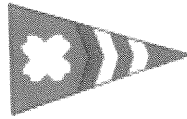


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The United States Power Squadrons ®

PLEDGE

I do solemnly pledge to:

Abide by the Bylaws of the United States Power Squadrons;

Promote high standards of navigation and seamanship;

Maintain my boat and operate it legally;

Render assistance whenever possible;

And conduct myself in a manner
that will add prestige, honor and respect
to the United States Power Squadrons.

United States Power Squadrons



Local Squadron Charter

Be It Known that upon application duly made and pursuant to resolution of the Governing Board of the United States Power Squadrons, a Local Squadron has been constituted, known as the

Northern Virginia Power Squadron

to consist of William W. Abbott, Jr., M, Gale Alls, Thomas W. Barnes, S, Norman E. Barron, Ronald E. Beckman, AP, Leroy S. Bendheim, Joseph T. Bernard, AP, Donald R. Berry, William R. Black, Stanley F. Bolin, S, Joseph S. Campbell, AP, Roy E. Carlson, AP, James D. Carroll, AP, John G. Chambers, James W. Christian, Joseph D. Coker, AP, Ralph W. Crain, Jr., Charles R. Criss, John H. Crowe, AP, Thomas D. Culbertson, AP, Lee D. DeArmond, Herbert R. Dichtenmueller, S, Guy W. Dwyer, Harry J. Eby, S, William C. Elbridge, AP, Clifford W. Ford, N, Burton J. Goodyear, S, Ralph H. Graham, Jr., S, Hubert L. Hall, Alan R. Hart, E. Ross Hart, Russell D. Hartz, N, James F. Head, Ronald C. Horn, Alan Isicson, Jack Isicson, AP, Herbert Jacobs, Ellsworth M. Jennison, Sr., AP, Joseph L. Jones, Kenneth L. Jones, Edward Katz, James P. Ketter, S, William M. Kelly, M, Harry L. Keneman, S, William W. Kennedy, S, Robert E. Kloske, AP, Earl L. Koberg, N, George R. Kraft, Frederick H. Kruck, Myron A. Loewinger, AP, Robert B. Malone, AP, Thomas J. Martin, AP, James D. McClanahan, Elmore P. Mudd, Virgil H. Muus, S, Benjamin Noble, Joseph J. O'Meara, N, William W. Pinkerton, S, William C. Redfearn, Jr., AP, Richard E. Reedy, S, Clyde P. Reeves, Alfred H. Reynolds, Sr., AP, Anthony Rizzo, Milton E. Rome, AP, Stephen I. Rome, Irving H. Rosen, Arthur Schintzel, Wayne L. Shedd, S, Yve L. Smith, Edward H. Spearman, George M. Stone, S, Charles M. Stratton, Paul J. Temples, William R. Warren, John C. Watson, Walter E. Weaver, Robert M. Whiting, AP, Roy E. Williams, Archer M. Wilson, AP, Claude R. Yates, III

and such other members of the United States Power Squadrons, as may be elected to membership therein.

This Charter is granted subject to the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the United States Power Squadrons, now or hereafter in force.

In Witness Whereof, this Charter is issued under the hand of the Chief Commander and Secretary

this day of 14 May 1967

Stanley Zoltz, Jr.
Secretary

Hugh Hutchings, N
Chief Command

2007 – 2017
Ten Years of Squadron History
Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron

2007-2008: 40th Anniversary Celebration

Commander: Cdr G. Jay Nelson, AP
Executive Officer: Lt/C William Blanding, AP
Educational Officer: Lt/C Richard Baker, AP
Administrative Officer: Lt/C John Shivik, AP
Secretary: Lt/C Clara Blanding, AP
Treasurer: Lt/C Steven Hall, P
Members at Large: Lt George Degnon, P
 Lt Tom Martin, AP
 D/Lt Walter Lazear, AP
 Lt John Karjala, P
 Lt Francis Williamson, AP
 P/C Keith Segerson, P

On 24 March 2007 the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron celebrated 40 years of promoting and practicing safe boating with a festive banquet, Founders Day and Change of Watch ceremonies at American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax.

Ninety-five active and former members from as far away as Canada and Florida gathered to renew friendships and honor the squadron's many accomplishments that began on 14 May 1967 when the squadron was chartered. With so many of NVSPS's distinguished leaders in one room, it was easy to see why the squadron has had a huge impact on safe boating.

The excitement and laughter in the ballroom grew and grew as old friends found each other. It took a while for everyone to be seated so that invited guests and past commanders could be piped aboard by Sea Scouts from Ship 1942.

Master of Ceremonies P/C Robert Fitton kicked off the anniversary celebration by introducing three charter members, Tom Martin, P/C Bob Malone and P/C Bill Eldridge, who spoke about the challenges and successes of the squadron's earliest days.

Commander G. Jay Nelson presented numerous Founder's Day awards in recognition of the untiring service of current members. District 5 Commander Kathryn Simkins presided over the Change of Watch ceremonies, swearing in the 2007-08 bridge, with Cdr. Nelson as commander for a second year.

Soprano Janie Meneely and baritone Paul DiBlasi, a costumed folk duo known as *Calico Jack*, provided music and songs of the sea throughout the evening. Artist Paul Harrington set up an easel and sketched many delightful pen-and-ink caricatures of members as souvenirs of the occasion.

The memorabilia table was piled high with examples of the serious work and the silly fun from 40 years of squadron life. Among them were letters of congratulations from Governor Timothy Kaine of Virginia and Congressman Tom Davis. There was a framed proclamation by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors declaring 24 March 2007 to be "Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron Day." It was presented to Cdr. G. Jay Nelson by Vice Chairman Sharon Bulova earlier in the week.

Everyone attending the celebration took home a copy of *Celebrating the Journey 1967 – 2007*, a keepsake yearbook containing a history of USPS and NVSPS and reminiscences of many past commanders.

The 40th anniversary was a tough act to follow but Sea Scouts of Ship 1942 rose to the occasion later in the year by receiving the 2007 National Flagship Award for the best ship in the United States. Under the leadership of Skipper Tom Ballew, they were the only unit in the country authorized to affix a fourth star to its flag.

Other squadron social occasions included a picnic in May and an international pot luck dinner in October both at Fairfax Yacht Club. The annual Holiday Dinner Dance was held at the American Legion Post in Fairfax.

The newsletter of Tars & Terns featured many detailed articles by Cdr. Jay Nelson on buying a compass, shore power, marine batteries, wiring and spring commissioning.

2008-2009: Wounded Warrior Cruise

Commander: Cdr George K. Degnon, P
Executive Officer: Lt/C Ronald H. Larson, P
Educational Officer: Lt/C Richard E. Unis, JN
Administrative Officer: Lt/C John G. Karjala, P
Secretary: Lt/C George Nartsissov, P
Treasurer: Lt/C Steven Hall, AP
Members at Large: P/C G. Jay Nelson, AP
 Lt Francis Williamson, AP
 P/C Gale Alls, SN
 P/C John Shivik, AP
 P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP
 P/C Richard J. Durgin, JN

Cdr. G. Jay Nelson completed his two years at the helm and handed the job over to George Degnon and his able crew at Change of Watch. Before Jay departed he laughingly suggested an unusual theme for our hospitality suite at the D5 Spring Conference in Ocean City. The organizing committee decided "Why not?" and so was born the question What's in Your Bilge? D5 members who visited the suite on Friday night were invited to record their answers on newsprint. Some items listed were: Elvis, bed bugs, Jimmy Hoffa, thigh master, ex-husband, head key, UFO, IRS Form. To see the X-rated answers, you had to be there. All visitors were required to recite the Bilge Pledge:

Gas tanks are red,
Sea water's blue,
My bilge is clean,
I promise you.

From that hilarious beginning, members moved on an ambitious project that became rewarding for everyone involved: NVSPS's first Wounded Warrior Cruise. It was held at the Chesapeake Yacht Club for soldiers being treated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Eighteen soldiers and their families came to

the yacht club by bus and boarded a dozen boats for a day of cruising West River and the Chesapeake Bay. As the sun set, everyone gathered for dinner at the yacht club. The soldiers and squadron members may have started the day as strangers but by evening there were hugs all around. The following spring D5 Cdr. J. Brian Becker presented NVSPS with the District Commander's Award for Excellence in Community Service in recognition of the Wounded Warrior Cruise and the holiday collection of food and toys for deserving families in Georgia.

The squadron received several other awards in 2008:

- D5 Commander's Trophy for greatest percentage increase in completion of elective courses
- Second place for D5 Commander's recognition to the squadron showing successful teaching of advanced grade courses
- Robert E. Cox Jr. received the Charles Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching
- MIRA Award from National Membership Committee for yearbook prepared for 40th anniversary

Walt Lazear enhanced the squadron web site by moving it to a commercial server under the name nvsp.org. The expanded content made it more useful to members and the public. He added an archive section including back issues of the newsletter, minutes of meetings and the 40th anniversary yearbook.

2009-2010: Improvement Initiative

Commander: Cdr Francis T. Williamson, AP
Executive Officer: Lt/C George Nartsissov, P
Educational Officer: Lt/C Richard E. Unis, JN
Administrative Officer: Lt/C John G. Karjala, P
Secretary: Lt/C Ralph R. Young, AP
Treasurer: Lt/C Steven Hall, AP
Members at Large: P/C G. Jay Nelson, AP
P/C George K. Degnon, P
P/C John Shivik, AP
P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP
Lt Frederick D. Zugay, JN

Change of Watch ceremonies installed Francis Williamson as Commander. A week later the NVSPS crew presented sound signals as the theme for the D5 Spring Conference hospitality suite. Visitors were tested on their knowledge of audible signals in various boating situations and rewarded with a whistle and a sticker saying, "I tooted with NVSPS."

Around the time that USPS launched a new approach to marketing education programs, Cdr. Williamson formed an Improvement Initiative Working Group of eight members who pursued three goals: increase membership; increase member involvement; and make squadron work more efficiently. The group developed several new systems to reach the goals. In 2009 NVSPS also adopted the USPS Anniversary Billing System to simplify dues collection.

The 2nd Wounded Warrior Cruise was held at the Patuxent Naval Air Station near Solomons. Seventeen warriors and family members from Walter Reed Army Medical Center were transported to the West Basin Marina. There they boarded power and sailboats from both NVSPS and Patuxent River Sail and Power Squadron for a fun-filled cruise up the Patuxent under drizzly skies. No one minded the weather. After the cruise everyone enjoyed a delicious barbeque dinner at the Yacht Club which had been decorated with red, white and blue balloons. Both boaters and warriors had a marvelous and relaxing day together and parted as new friends.

Sea Scout Andrew Scheuerman of Ship 1942 made NVSPS proud by becoming one of the most decorated scouts in the U.S. His achievements include Quartermaster Sea Scout, Eagle Scout, Venture Silver Award, USPS's Educational Proficiency Award and more.

At the International Pot Luck Dinner in October members gathered at tables decorated with eight national flags which everyone was challenged to identify. Robert Hutton won the challenge and a bottle of German wine as first prize. The annual Holiday Dinner Dance was held at the American Legion Post. Members collected a carload of toys, canned goods and donations for families at Fisher House. Santa and Mrs. Claus distributed ho-ho-ho's and gifts to party goers.

2010-2011: Rewards of Service

Commander: Cdr George Nartsissov, P
Executive Officer: Lt/C John G. Karjala, P
Educational Officer: Lt/C Richard E. Unis, JN
Secretary: Lt/C Sue Karjala, P
Treasurer: Lt/C Steven Hall, AP
Members at Large: P/C G. Jay Nelson, AP
 P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP
 Lt Steve Wanbaugh, S
 P/C Francis Williamson, AP
 Lt Frederick D. Zugay, JN

Squadron members who were privileged to participate in the first and second Wounded Warrior Cruises developed a passion for and commitment to giving the men and women of our armed forces a well-deserved day of relaxation on the water. To encourage other squadrons to have the same fulfilling experience, Cdr. George Nartsissov and his wife Ann formed a committee to plan a how-to display for our hospitality suite at the D5 Spring Conference in Ocean City in March. Special emphasis was placed on being sensitive to the physical and emotional needs of the warriors and creating a welcoming “family feel” onboard. The idea and message were very well received by other squadrons and NVSPS was awarded special recognition from D5.

Our third annual Wounded Warrior Cruise was held in August for a group of 42 warriors and their families from Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Fort Belvoir Medical Center. The fleet of eleven power and sailboats came from three squadrons: Northern Virginia, Patuxent River and Rockville. It was a beautiful day and as far from Iraq and Afghanistan as anyone could be – both physically and emotionally. The warriors could forget their troubles and enjoy the delights of the Chesapeake Bay. After the barbeque dinner as our guests were leaving, they thanked squadron members for a great day and members thanked them for their service to our country.

Squadron Education Officer Richard Unis announced the arrival of ABC3, America’s Boating Course (3rd ed.) which replaced the old Squadron Boating Course. It could be taught in either 8 hour or 12 hour format and incorporated Virginia-specific regulations. In the next couple of years many new boaters were

drawn to online basic boating courses, making it more difficult to attract students to the traditional classroom courses in our traffic-congested region.

Advanced and elective courses continued to be popular with members. One such class was Weather taught by P/C John Shivik. Weather students enjoyed not only John's corny weather jokes but also a tour of the National Weather Service Facility in Sterling, VA. They witnessed the launch of a radiosonde balloon and received a comprehensive briefing from Brandon Peloquin, Senior Forecaster, on marine weather and NWS/NOAA products available for boaters.

At the annual Holiday Party Cdr. Nartsissov surprised seven men who had been active members of USPS/NVSPS for more than 40 years with a commemorative gift – an engraved Weems and Plath clock chart weight. The seven so honored were: P/C Gale Alls (44 yrs.), P/C Alan Hart (45 yrs.), Robert Hutton (40 yrs.), Ronald Larson (42 yrs.), Richard Cohen (46 yrs.), Thomas Martin (48 yrs.) and Robert Stickell (57 yrs.)

2011-2012: We won!

Commander: Cdr John G. Karjala, P
Executive Officer: Lt/C Frank R. Shults, S
Educational Officer: Lt/C Sean P. Gallagher, AP
Administrative Officer: P/C G. Jay Nelson, AP
Secretary: Lt/C Michelle C. Dufay, S
Treasurer: Lt/C Robyn Stewart
Members at Large: P/C George Nartsissov, P
P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP
Lt Steve Wanbaugh, S
P/C Francis Williamson, AP
Lt Frederick D. Zugay, JN

John Karjala became commander at Change of Watch in March and first lady Sue Karjala created an award-winning theme for our hospitality suite at D5 Spring Conference. The welcoming sign featured a clock and read "It's Time . . . to Inspect Your First Aid Kit." Posters and displays reminded visitors of the importance of being prepared for medical emergencies onboard. They included important items for any mariner's first aid kit, when cruising near shore or at a great distance from emergency medical services. Twelve Q&A posters had

information about treating heat stroke, sea sickness, carbon monoxide poisoning, sunburn, hypothermia, etc. Visitors to the hospitality suite took home free thermometers. In a big surprise, 2011 turned out to be the year NVSPS finally won the award for the Best Hospitality Room of the Year at the D5 Spring Conference after 20 years of trying.

At the spring picnic at Fairfax Yacht Club, P/C George Nartsissov and our vessel examiners performed 24 vessel safety checks in one day. They may have had to rush through their lunches but a lot of FYC boaters had a safe summer of boating thanks to their efforts. By the end of the summer the seven NVSPS vessel examiners had performed an impressive 132 vessel safety checks at Old Dominion Boat Club, Alexandria public docks, Herrington Harbour North as well as Fairfax Yacht Club.

The summer months were filled with on-the-water fun. On Memorial Day weekend the NVSPS crew cruised to a favorite destination - Mears Yacht Haven in Oxford, MD. It's a great place for a weekend of fun and companionship on the Tred Avon.

Executive Officer Frank Shults lead a group of four power boats to Tilghman on the Chesapeake over Independence Day. His squadron training came in handy when one cruiser had to turn back with engine trouble and the other three were hit while in safe harbor by a sudden rain and wind storm. Frank's knowledge and preparation resulted in a safe trip for all.

The Chesapeake Yacht Club on the West River was the site of the Labor Day rendezvous planned and directed by P/C George and Marge Degnon. They even organized a field trip to the nearby Smithsonian Environmental Research Center which included a tour and lecture about marine life in the Bay. By evening most cruisers gathered around the fire pit for quality time with squadron friends.

2012-2013: Smaller but Vibrant

Commander: Cdr G. Jay Nelson, AP
Executive Officer: Lt/C Steven Hall, AP
Educational Officer: Lt/C Sean P. Gallagher, AP
Administrative Officer: Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP
Secretary: Lt/C Mary Jane Hinkins
Treasurer: Lt/C Ann Nartsissov, P
Members at Large: P/C John G. Karjala, P
P/C George Nartsissov, AP
Lt Frank R. Shults, S
P/C Francis Williamson, AP
Lt Frederick D. Zugay, JN

In 2012 G. Jay Nelson went above and beyond the call of duty by becoming Commander for the third time. During the year he and his bridge studied ways to address the dual challenges of declining membership and new member recruitment. Membership had dropped 23% from 245 in 2010 to 189 in 2012. Opportunities to attract new members also declined as more and more new boaters took free online courses instead of signing up for USPS classroom courses. Rising costs for student materials and classroom space made matters worse. The Executive Committee devised several techniques to overcome these issues.

Our theme for the D5 Spring Conference hospitality suite was “Give a Hoot – Don’t Pollute.” It focused on keeping the Chesapeake Bay as beautiful as it can be by having a Waste Management Plan; reducing waste by reusing and recycling; using environmentally friendly cleaning products; preventing oil and fuel spills; recycling monofilament fishing line; and helping to keep invasive species out of the bay.

The year rolled by and squadron life remained rich with opportunities for education, service and friendship. There were courses to take, boating adventures, picnics and pot luck dinners. Our nine Vessel Examiners performed 156 Vessel Safety Checks. General meetings featured interesting and informative speakers. One example is the April general meeting at which Cdr. Nelson showed a 15-minute video prepared by John Konrad about the sinking of the Italian cruise liner Costa Concordia followed by slides and photos. At the September meeting Rich Unis presented “Sailing at Night.” At the November meeting Dr. John Walter presented “A Sail-by View of Greece.”

NVSPS hosted its Fourth annual Wounded Warrior Cruise for 41 warriors and their families at the Patuxent Naval Air Station in September. Ten skippers invited passengers onboard their power or sailboats under clear blue skies while the shore party decorated an outdoor pavilion for the evening meal. A special highlight was the Chesapeake Bay Off-Shore Racer Grand Prix which ran speed trials exceeding 100 knots in the river from 1100 to 1500. It was quite a sight on a special day! As the sun set, warriors and squadron members hated to say goodbye.

The Squadron Rules Committee scored a success after months of work with the approval of updated NVSPS bylaws on 5 May 2012.

2013-2014: Distinguished Visitor

Commander: Cdr Richard P. Davis, AP
Executive Officer: Lt/C Richard Unis, JN
Educational Officer: Lt/C Sean Gallagher, JN
Secretary: Lt/C Mary Jane Hinkins, S
Treasurer: Lt/C David Hinkins, S
Members at Large: P/C G. Jay Nelson, AP
P/C John G. Karjala, P
P/C Francis Williamson, AP
P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP
Lt Frederick D. Zugay, JN

Newly sworn Cdr. Richard Davis had the distinct honor of welcoming Richard Schwartz to our May general meeting. Mr. Schwartz described how he and his partner, Mr. Ellison, founded BoatUS in the mid-1960's and how it has evolved from their original business plan to the largest organization of recreational boat owners in the country with a membership exceeding 500,000. For 47 years Mr. Schwartz had been a leading consumer advocate and representative of the recreational boating public. NVSPS was honored to have had Mr. Schwartz as a member for many years.

NVSPS won Best Hospitality Room for the second time at the D5 Spring Conference. The theme was "Get Knotty" with mariner's knots displayed on posters and demonstrated by the crew.

The fifth annual Wounded Warrior Cruise was held at Patuxent Naval Air Station in September under the skilled direction of P/C Francis Williamson. A large and lively group of warriors and their families bonded with an equally large group of squadron members for a beautiful day of cruising the Chesapeake Bay. Executive Officer Rich Unis wrote a touching newsletter article describing his experience of hosting an Army Sergeant and her family on their first sailing experience.

In the fall the Executive Committee decided to try publishing six issues of the squadron newsletter, *of Tars & Terns*, electronically on the web site with four issues printed and mailed. The November and December 2013 newsletters were the first electronic issues in color on the web site.

Nine NVSPS Vessel Examiners performed 134 Vessel Safety Checks at four organized events (Herrington Harbour North and South, Fairfax Yacht Club, Old Dominion Yacht Club, Alexandria City docks) and at other marinas during the boating season.

The Holiday Party was held at American Legion Post 177. In addition to a good meal, good company and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, the event produced a large quantity of children's toys which were delivered to Fisher House.

2014-2015: 100 Years Young

Commander: Cdr Richard Unis, JN
Educational Officer: Lt/C Edward Phillips, AP
Administrative Officer: Lt/C Kim-Kwok Chu, S
Secretary: Lt/C Mary Jane Hinkins, S
Treasurer: Lt/C David Hinkins, S
Asst. Treasurer: 1st Lt Ann Narsissov, P
Members at Large: P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP
Lt Richard Cohen, P
P/C Francis Williamson, AP
P/C G. Jay Nelson, AP

Richard Unis became Commander of NVSPS in time to kick off the celebration of the United States Power Squadrons 100th anniversary. We may have reached the century mark but we are modern boaters and proved it in our hospitality suite at the

D5 Spring Conference. The theme was “Don’t Worry – Be Appy.” NVSPS members displayed and demonstrated various boating software applications available today. These devices make boating safer for the beginner and experienced boater. One popular application is the *DragQueen Anchor Alarm & GPS Monitor* which can awaken boaters at night if it detects the anchor dragging. *Skipper – NOAA Marine Charts, Nautical Weather and Tides* is an app for the iPhone and iPad that is a mobile, seamless chart plotter.

P/C Francis Williamson orchestrated the sixth annual Wounded Warrior Cruise at Patuxent Naval Air Station in September. Transportation for our warriors and their families to Solomons Island was provided by the Messiah Methodist Church of Springfield, VA. Guests and squadron members gathered for a safety briefing, grabbed their box lunches and headed for the boats and a nice cruise up the Patuxent and out to the Chesapeake Bay. Sea Scouts from Ship 1942 helped with shore party duties and preparation for the evening meal for all. It was another enjoyable day and once again everyone hated to see it end.

In October NVSPS members took a field trip to Solomons Island, MD to tour the 81 foot research vessel, *Rachel Carson*. In use since 2008 by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, it is specifically designed for conducting research in the Chesapeake Bay. It has been used to collect water quality samples, tow plankton nets, conduct box coring operations, deploy a data buoy and more. Standing on the deck was a fascinating and educational experience for all.

Sea Scout Ship 1942 *Dragonlady* was honored with the 2014 BSA National Flagship Award in recognition of excellence in program quality, youth achievement and adult commitment. This was only the latest of many awards won by Ship 1942 which averaged between 30 and 40 male and female teen youth members who were also NVSPS members and took squadron courses, ABC3, Seamanship and Piloting at a minimum. Over the years Ship 1942 had sent nine graduating seniors off to military service academies (1 to West Point, 3 to U.S. Naval Academy, 3 to U.S. Air Force Academy, 1 to U.S. Coast Guard Academy and 1 to U.S. Merchant Marine Academy).

2015-2016: Field Trips

Commander: Cdr Richard Unis, JN
Executive Officer: Lt/C Frederick D. Zugay, JN
Educational Officer: Lt/C Edward Phillips, AP
Administrative Officer: Lt/C Kim-Kwok Chu, S
Secretary: Lt/C Mary Jane Hinkins, S
Treasurer: Lt/C David Hinkins, S
Members at Large: Lt Richard Cohen, P
P/C Alan Hart, AP
P/C Keith Segerson, P
P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP
P/C Francis Williamson, AP

Cdr. Rich Unis kicked off his second year as commander by planning an outstanding theme for our hospitality suite at the D5 Spring Conference. It was called “The Ditch Pitch” and our displays taught important lessons for boaters about preparing to abandon ship in an emergency. In addition to a life raft and abandon ship bag, we displayed:

- Electronic survival equipment: EPIRB, Personal Locator Beacon, VHF radio, GPS, cell phone, SAT phone, etc.
- Safety gear: Visual distress signals, strobe light, signal mirror and horn, binoculars, LED headlamps and flashlights, whistle, first aid kit, etc.
- Personal gear: Fresh water, rations, hat, sunglasses, goggles, sunscreen, prescription medicines, ID and passport, etc.
- Other recommended gear: Portable water desalinator, fishing kit, duct tape, knives, compass, watch, charts, etc.

The NVSPS booth at the National Capital Boat Show attracted many visitors with the Boating Skills Virtual Trainer. This interactive simulator allows students to experience maneuvering a Boston Whaler in a virtual lake. With hands on a steering wheel and throttle, they have full view of the water on three screens. Instructors can vary the exercises by adjusting wind and current direction and strength. Squadron Educational Officer Ed Phillips demonstrated the trainer for our boat show volunteers at the general meeting.

P/C Gale Alls arranged a tour for squadron members at the U.S. Coast Guard’s Navigation Center (NAVCEN), the nation’s premier civil-focused maritime information center in Alexandria, VA. All were impressed with its missions which

include the Global Positioning System (GPS), the Nationwide Differential GPS (NDGPS), the Nationwide Automatic Identification System (NAIS) and much more. The center is a valuable resource for all boaters. Through its web site (www.navcen.uscg.gov) boaters can easily find up-to-date navigational information, U.S. Light Lists and Local Notice to Mariners.

On another field trip members toured the David Taylor Model Basin (DTMB) located in the Carderock Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in West Bethesda, MD. The basin was built in 1939 and contains multiple test basins (shallow water, deep water and high speed) designed for a variety of test capabilities. Research conducted at DTMB has influenced naval architecture for more than 70 years.

A third field trip took us to UK Sailmakers in Annapolis, MD where we learned how world class cruising and racing sails are made. We saw space-age materials that are used and videos of construction techniques.

2016-2017: Planning the 50th Anniversary

Commander: Cdr Frederick D. Zugay, JN
Executive Officer: Lt/C Sean Gallagher, JN
Educational Officer: Lt/C Edward Phillips, AP
Administrative Officer: Lt/C Kim-Kwok Chu, S
Secretary: Lt/C Mary Jane Hinkins, S
Treasurer: Lt/C David Hinkins, S
Members at Large: P/C Alan Hart, AP
P/C John Karjala, P
P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP
P/C Richard E. Unis, JN
P/C Francis Williamson, AP

Fred Zugay became Commander at Change of Watch held at the American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax. He promptly formed a committee to begin planning the celebration in May 2017 of the squadron's 50th anniversary.

In March a dozen squadron members toured the U.S. Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, MD. Decked out in hard hats and safety glasses, we were escorted by Mr. Bob Byrd, a recent yard retiree, who shared his wealth of information about the important work of the yard. We also learned about the mission of the Coast Guard Station Curtis Bay for homeland security, search and rescue. We enjoyed a St. Patrick's Day lunch in the yard cafeteria.

In the spring Squadron Education Officer Ed Phillips resumed the free seminars at West Marine in Alexandria taught by NVSPS members. The seminars were held twice per month from 9:30 am to noon and covered many safe boating topics: Anchoring, Marine Radar, Using GPS, Man Overboard, Knots, Bends and Hitches, Emergencies Onboard, etc.

In September Mary Jane and Dave Hinkins invited members to their waterfront home in Farnham, VA for a day of late summer fun. About a dozen members made the trip to Northern Neck. The weather was perfect and there was plenty of good food and conversation for all under the huge shade trees on the bank of the creek.

Around the time of the annual Oktoberfest at Fairfax Yacht Club, P/C Gale Alls presented the new 50th anniversary NVSPS burgee which has a gold band on each side of the fly. He began taking orders for burgees to be delivered in the spring 2017. Squadron boats will be flying them before summer 2017.

The holiday party held at P.J. Skidoos in Fairfax was an especially festive affair with DJ music which enticed many members to show off their agility on the dance floor. Cdr. Fred Claus and first lady Cindy Claus distributed hand-crafted ornaments to everyone amid cheers of ho-ho-ho!

The squadron's booth at the 2017 National Capital Boat Show in Chantilly once again featured the Boating Skills Virtual Trainer with a new single wide screen. Members who stood watch had as much fun operating it as the boat show visitors did.

2017-2018: From 50 to the Future

Commander: Cdr Frederick D. Zugay, JN
Executive Officer: Lt/C Sean Gallagher, JN
Educational Officer: Lt/C Edward Phillips, AP
Administrative Officer: Lt/C Kim-Kwok Chu, S
Secretary: Lt/C Mary Jane Hinkins, S
Treasurer: Lt/C David Hinkins, S
Members at Large: P/C Alan Hart, AP
P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP
P/C Richard E. Unis, JN
Lt. Richard E. Cohen, P
Lt. Claire A. Wyngaard

The 2017 Change of Watch was held on 18 March, a cold and sunny day, at American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax. P/D/C Jim Colston swore in Frederick D. Zugay, JN for a second term as the Commander. Fred will lead the squadron's 107 members through its 50th anniversary celebration and into the future with the help of an experienced Executive Committee. Among the 20 members attending were two charter members: P/C Gale Alls, JN who has earned 50 merit marks and P/C Alan Hart, AP who has earned 51 merit marks.

NVSPS's 50th anniversary is the theme for the 2017 hospitality suite at the D5 Spring Conference in Ocean City, MD on 31 March. The password is, "Nifty, Nifty, Look Who's Fifty!" The suite will feature a birthday party atmosphere with displays, games, balloons, cake and punch.

A gala celebration will be held on 7 May 2017 at Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA. Active and former members will gather to renew old friendships and make new ones while enjoying a delicious buffet banquet. It promises to be a festive occasion.

A large display of memorabilia will include countless photographs of 50 years of squadron meetings, ceremonies, cruises, parties and more. Evelyn Alls's collection of squadron Christmas ornaments will hang on a miniature tree. Some souvenirs from D5 hospitality rooms have been refreshed for display as well.

When the celebration is complete, members of the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron will begin a 51st year with renewed enthusiasm but the same love of boating and desire to teach others how to boat safely and well.

So, come aboard! The story continues and you are part of it. Participate, learn and enjoy!

Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron

Active Life Members*

- Gale Alls (1992)
- Evelyn Alls (2016)
- Dwight Bues (2012)
- Richard Durgin (2011)
- Ben W. Fulton III (2002)
- Alan Hart (1991)
- Walter Lazear (2012)
- Manette Lazear (2014)
- Thomas Martin (2008)

*** Life members have paid dues at least 25 years
as active members and received 25 active merit marks.**

Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron Awards and Trophies

For 2006-2007:

- Charles S. Kent Perpetual Memorial Award to Charles Olin
- NVSPS Educational Award to Richard Baker
- NVSPS Newer Member Award to Robert Van Buskirk
- Outstanding Instructor Boating Safety to Francis Williamson
- Past Commander's Award to Gale Alls
- Commander's Discretionary Awards to Evelyn & Gale Alls; Tom Ballew; Clara Blanding; Marge Degnon; Jean & Richard Durgin; Robin & Jim Roberts; John Shivik; Francis Williamson

For 2007-2008:

- NVSPS Educational Award to Robert Van Buskirk
- NVSPS Newer Member Award to Robert A. Donahue, Jr.
- Past Commander's Award to Richard Durgin
- Commander's Discretionary Awards to Ben W. Fulton III; Walter D. Lazear; Peter W. Soballe; Judy K. Soballe.

For 2008-2009:

- Charles S. Kent Perpetual Memorial Award to Sue & John Karjala
- Commander's Appreciation Award to Evelyn and Gale Alls
- NVSPS Newer Member Award to Frank Shults
- NVSPS Seasoned Salt Award to Jean Durgin
- NVSPS Educational Award to J.J. Fitzgerald
- Outstanding Instructor Boating Safety to Brian Choate; Norbert Hymel
- Past Commander's Award to Richard Durgin
- Mentor of the Year Award to John Shivik
- Commander's Discretionary Awards to Paula Bailey; Joel Bailey; Tom Ballew; Manette Lazear; Walter Lazear, Richard Unis; Francis Williamson.
- Commander's Recognition Certificates to Lindsey Belian; Mike Card; Richard Davis; Steve & Ann Hall; Alan & Mary Hart; Ron & Donna Larson; Tom Martin; George & Ann Nartsissov; G. Jay & Chris Nelson; William Petersen; Ming & Jie (Chen) Sheu; John Van Senden; Cathy Sheffield; Fred Zugay

For 2009-2010:

- Charles S. Kent Perpetual Memorial Award to Sue & John Karjala
- Commander's Appreciation Award to John Shivik
- NVSPS Newer Member Award to Sean Gallagher
- NVSPS Seasoned Salt Award to Jay Nelson
- NVSPS Educational Award to Richard Unis
- Outstanding Instructor Boating Safety to Robert Cox
- Past Commander's Award to Gale Alls
- Mentor of the Year Award to Gale Alls
- Commander's Discretionary Awards to Joel Bailey; Tom Ballew; Richard & Jean Durgin; Erin Gallagher; Manette & Walt Lazear; George & Ann Nartsissov; Frank Shults; John Van Senden; Frederick Zugay
- Commander's Recognition Certificates to Dwight Bues; Richard Davis; Robert Donahue; J.J. Fitzgerald; Tom Martin; Keith Segerson; Cathy Sheffield; Tom Trumbauer; Georgia Williamson; Ralph Young.

For 2010-2011:

- Charles S. Kent Perpetual Memorial Award to John van Senden
- Commander's Appreciation Award to Frank Shults
- NVSPS Newer Member Award to Robyn Stewart
- NVSPS Seasoned Salt Award to Gale Alls
- NVSPS Educational Award to Richard Unis
- Past Commander's Award to John Shivik
- Mentor of the Year Award to Jean & Richard Durgin; Francis Williamson
- Commander's Discretionary Awards to Tom Ballew; Steve Hall; Sue & John Karjala; Manette & Walt Lazear; Ann Nartsissov; Keith Segerson; Robert Van Buskirk
- Commander's Recognition Certificates to Richard Davis; Robert Donahue; J.J. Fitzgerald; Sean Gallagher; Alex Lieberman; Ed Phillips; Cathleen Sheffield; Steven Wanbaugh; Frederick Zugay

For 2011-2012:

- Charles S. Kent Perpetual Memorial Award to Michael Card
- Commander's Appreciation Award to George Nartsissov
- NVSPS Newer Member Award to MaryJane Hinkins
- NVSPS Seasoned Salt Award to Gale Alls
- NVSPS Educational Award to Sean Gallagher

- Outstanding Instructor Boating Safety to Jay Nelson
- Past Commander's Award to George Degnon
- Mentor of the Year Award to Jean & Richard Durgin
- NVSPS Fidelity Award to Frank Shults
- Commander's Discretionary Awards to Thomas Ballew; Robert Donahue, J.J. Fitzgerald; Steve Hall; Sue Karjala; Manette Lazear; Walter Lazear; Ed Phillips; Keith Segerson; Cathleen Sheffield; John Shivik; Robert Van Buskirk; Francis Williamson; Fred Zugay
- Commander's Recognition Certificates to Evelyn Alls; Manette Lazear; Walter Lazear; Ann Nartsissov; Steven Wanbaugh

For 2012-2013:

- Commander's Appreciation Award to Steve Hall
- NVSPS Seasoned Salt Award to Alan Hart
- NVSPS Educational Award to J.J. Fitzgerald
- Past Commander's Award to John Karjala
- Commander's recognition Certificates to Evelyn Alls; Jean Durgin; John Karjala; Sue Karjala; Walter Lazear; Francis Williamson

For 2013-2014:

- NVSPS Educational Award to Sean Gallagher
- Outstanding Instructor Boating Safety to J.J. Fitzgerald
- Commander's Appreciation Award to George Nartsissov
- Charles S. Kent Perpetual Memorial Award to Tom Ballew
- Commander's Recognition Certificates to John Shivik; Jean Durgin

For 2014-2015:

- NVSPS Newer Member Award to Kim Kwok-Chu
- Past Commander's Award to Gale Alls; Richard Durgin
- NVSPS Educational Award to Edward Phillips
- Commander's Discretionary Awards to Francis Williamson; MaryJane Hinkins; Alan Hart; Jean Durgin; Tom Ballew; Walter Lazear; George Nartsissov; David Hinkins

For 2015-2016:

- NVSPS Educational Award to Ed Phillips
- Past Commander's Award to Alan Hart
- Commander's Recognition Certificates to Gale Alls; Richard Durgin; Tom Ballew; Jean Durgin; David & MaryJane Hinkins; Sue Karjala; Alan Hart; Francis Williamson; Cathleen Sheffield; Keith Segerson; Richard Cohen

For 2016-2017:

- NVSPS Educational Award to Ed Phillips
- Past Commander's Award to Richard Unis
- Commander's Recognition Certificates to Gale Alls; Richard Durgin; Jean Durgin; John Karjala; Sue Karjala; Claire Wyngaard; Jay Nelson; MaryJane Hinkins; David Hinkins; Alan Hart; Cathleen Sheffield

Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron Past Commanders

1967-68	Leroy S. Bendheim, S *	1996-97	Jere D. Dando, AP
1968-69	William C. Redfearn Jr., AP	1997-98	William M. Russell, III, SN
1969-70	Robert B. Malone, N	1998-99	Richard J. Durgin, JN
1970-71	Robert E. Kloske, AP *	1999-00	Edward J. Dodd, JN *
1971-72	William C. Eldridge, N	2000-01	Robert L. Fitton, AP
1972-73	William M. Kelly, N	2001-02	Paula D. Bailey, AP
1973-74	Claude R. Yates, III, JN *	2002-03	John Shivik, AP
1974-75	James F. Head, AP *	2003-04	Elwood P. Sheetz, AP *
1975-76	George M. Stone, AP *	2004-05	Keith B. Segerson, P
1976-77	Ronald J. Sowers, JN	2005-06	Keith B. Segerson, P
1977-78	Richard K. Murphy, N *	2006-07	G. Jay Nelson, AP
1978-79	James A. Settle, Jr., AP *	2007-08	G. Jay Nelson, AP
1979-80	William P. Steeper, SN *	2008-09	George K. Degnon, P
1980	Robert A. Simmons, N *	2009-10	Francis T. Williamson, AP
1980-81	H.H.D. Heilberg, Jr., AP *	2010-11	George Nartsissov, AP
1981-82	H.H.D. Heilberg, Jr., AP *	2011-12	John G. Karjala, P
1982-83	Robert M. Myers, S	2012-13	G. Jay Nelson, AP
1983-84	William S. Alberts, SN *	2013-14	Richard P. Davis, AP *
1984-85	Derek R. Scorer, N	2014-15	Richard E. Unis, JN
1985-86	William I. Jones, P	2015-16	Richard E. Unis, JN
1986-87	Gale Alls, SN	2016-17	Frederick D. Zugay, JN
1987-88	Charles J. Eby, SN *	2017-18	Frederick D. Zugay, JN
1988-89	Dennis S. Jezierski, P *		
1989-90	Thomas G. Harvey, JN		
1990-91	Alan R. Hart, AP		
1991-92	Henry J. Trochesset, JN *		
1992-93	Ronald J. Sowers, JN		
1993-94	Michael J. Foster, AP		
1994-95	William S. Henderson, P		
1995-96	M. Cathleen Henderson, P *		Deceased *

Past Commanders 2007 – 2017



P/C G. Jay Nelson, AP – 2007-08 & 2012-13



P/C George K. Degnon, P – 2008-09



P/C Francis T. Williamson, AP – 2009-10



P/C George Nartsissov, AP – 2010-11



P/C John G. Karjala, P – 2011-12



P/C Richard P. Davis, AP* - 2013-14



P/C Richard E. Unis, JN – 2014-15 & 2015-16



Cdr. Frederick D. Zugay, JN – 2016 to present

1967-1977

The first Ten Years of Squadron History

(Author Unknown)

1967-1968

Commander: Cdr Leroy Bendheim, S
Executive Officer: Lt/C William C. Redfearn, Jr., AP
Educational Officer: Lt/C Russell D. Hartz, N
Administrative Officer: Lt/C Robert B. Malone, AP
Assistant Administrative Officer: 1st Lt Robert E. Kloske, AP
Secretary: 1st Lt William C. Eldridge, AP
Treasurer: 1st Lt Jack Isieson, AP
Members at Large: Lt H. R. Dichtenmeuller, S
Lt E. Ross Hart, S
Lt William M. Kelly, JN

1967 was the year. It was the end. It was the beginning. Above all it was a continuation. February 15, 1967 marked the end of Potomac River Power Squadron's responsibility for the Northern Virginia area. It marked the beginning of the best squadron in the country, Northern Virginia Power Squadron. Most of all, it marked the continuation of the United States Power Squadron's motto "Safe Boating Through Education."

Things happened fast during the first few months. From the 19 men who met on February 15 as the Northern Virginia Division of the Potomac River Power Squadron, the group grew to the first general meeting in April and on to Charter Night on July 11. There were 80 charter members to sign the document, but membership had already grown to 88!

Even before the charter was signed Northern Virginia graduated 11 out of a class of 18 in Instructor's Training on June 22.

Two NVPS boats participated in the July 18 Potomac River Power Squadron rendezvous at Northeast Yacht Sales. Jara (Jack Isicson) came in fourth and Alma (Russ Hartz) came in ninth, out of a field of 24. Bo Nan Do (Bob Malone), Kathy El (Bill Eldridge), and Paulinda (Al Reynolds) attended but didn't participate.

The installation of officers was held at a dinner dance on Friday, July 21 at Hospitality House in Arlington. It cost \$9.50 per person, BYOL (before liquor by the drink). The contest to name the squadron's publication was won by Lillian Rizzo whose winning name "Of Tars and Terns" was announced at the installation. The first treasurer's report showed a bank balance of \$253.98. Uniforms were available from Levinsons on King Street for \$63.50 each! Turn back, o time in thy flight!

Northern Virginia was different from the start. One of the earliest major decisions was a vote to invite wives to attend the monthly meetings "pending the establishment of a ladies auxiliary." To date no ladies auxiliary has been established. Much of the special flavor of Northern Virginia Power Squadron has been a result of its refusal to put the ladies in a separate group.

The Flower Power pennant was approved September 16 at the Governing Board meeting, and a full slate of classes started in the fall at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria.

Northern Virginia's first graduation and Founder's Day took place on February 2, 1968 at the Alexandria Sheraton Motor Inn. The menu was too good to miss:
(n.b.: check the bridge first)

Jus Pomme d'Amour George
Salade de Jacque
Premier Boef Roti LeRoi
Haricort Vert des Roberts
Pomme de Terre Au Gratin Russell
Petit Pains et Beurre des Etudiants
Sorbet Limon William
Café de Claude

There were 109 men and 23 women graduates from the piloting courses.

Prediction of the year from Russell Hartz: "In three to five years Northern Virginia will have a thousand members and teach piloting to 400 to 800 people."

Our Virginia flag was presented by the Adjutant General of Virginia, Major General Paul M. Booth, after it had flown over the Virginia Capitol. Our United States flag was presented by Congressman Joel T. Broyhill after it had flown over the United States Capitol.

1968-1969

Commander: Cdr William C. Redfearn, Jr., AP
Executive Officer: Lt/C Robert B. Malone
Educational Officer: Lt/C Russell D. Hartz, N
Administrative Officer: Lt/C Robert E. Kloske, N
Assistant Administrative Officer: 1st Lt Thomas J. Martin, AP
Secretary: 1st Lt William C. Eldridge, AP
Treasurer: 1st Lt Jack Isicson, AP
Members at Large: Lt William M. Kelly, N
Lt George M. Stone, S
Lt Claude R. Yates, III, AP

Northern Virginia's first change of watch took place on April 26 at the Country Club of Fairfax -- \$12.50 each! One of the first efforts of the new commander was to donate our first trophy, the Commander's Trophy, for the leading boat in NVPS contests.

An article in June 1968 "Of Tars and Terns" gave a proposal for finding a suitable building for the squadron. No further mention has been found of that proposal. Someone must have realized what real estate in Northern Virginia costs. 1968 found a 100% renewal among members!

The piloting course expanded in the fall to include classes at George C. Marshall High School in Falls Church in addition to the classes at T. C. Williams High School in Alexandria. Two Northern Virginia rendezvous were held in 1968. The first was at Claytons on July 13-14 with Russell Hartz winning in Alma. The

second was held at Selby Bay on August 10-11, and Jamie Cantrell in Kitten and Ed Lloyd in Blue Chip won – our first dual win!

Bad news – dues were raised to \$15 for 1969.

Humor in “Of tars and Terns” leaves something to be desired:

Customer complaining to mail-order plans firm: “I built a birdhouse according to your plans. Not only is it too big, it keeps blowing out of the tree!” . . . “Sorry – we sent you sailboat plans by mistake. If you think you’re unhappy, you should see the guy who came in last in the regatta in a leaky birdhouse!”

1969-1970

Commander: Cdr Robert B. Malone, AP
 Executive Officer: Lt/C Robert E. Kloske, AP
 Educational Officer: Lt/C Russell D. Hartz, N
 Administrative Officer: Lt/C William C. Eldridge, AP
 Assistant Administrative Officer: 1st Lt William M. Kelly, N
 Secretary: 1st Lt Joseph D. Coker, AP
 Treasurer: 1st Lt George M. Stone, S
 Members at Large: Lt Virgil H. Muus, S (to Nov.)
 Lt Robert C. Whitfield, S (from Nov.)
 Lt James A. Padgett, AP
 Lt Alfred H. Reynolds, AP

Summer activities included a rendezvous at Selby Bay on 14-15 June, with Clinton Newby in Volare winning the navigation contest, and a second at Claytons on 19-20 July, with Bill Chambers winning in Coloneh. Something new – Bill Kelly entered his sailboat Lively – and came in fourth! The Commander’s Trophy for the best boat went to Bo Nan Do skippered by Commander Bob Malone. One thing to remember – During the early years Northern Virginia participated in Potomac River Power Squadron contests so the summers were not as lonely as they might have seemed.

The fall boating courses caused more problems – more students! There were at least 171 at T. C. Williams and 209 at G. C. Marshall – a total of 380, and a cry for help went out for more instructors. On February 8, 1970, Northern Virginia hosted the D/5 Council Meeting at the Hospitality House in Arlington.

1970-1971

Commander: Cdr Robert E. Kloske, AP
Executive Officer: Lt/C William C. Eldridge, AP
Educational Officer: Lt/C Russell D. Hartz, N
Administrative Officer: Lt/C William M. Kelly, N
Assistant Administrative Officer: 1st Lt Claude R. Yates, III, JN
Secretary: 1st Lt Joseph D. Coker, AP
Treasurer: 1st Lt George M. Stone, S
Members at Large: Lt Joseph L. Jones, S
Lt Virgil H. Redwine, S
Lt Robert C. Whitfield, S

During the early part of 1970 the ladies decided that they definitely would not organize a separate auxiliary.

The following appeared in “Of Tars and Terns”: “The nudibranch (a snail) may be the answer to the sea nettle problem – one of them eats 500 sea nettles a day.”

A full rendezvous schedule was put on during the summer. Tall Timbers – May 16-17 (it rained); Solomons Yacht Club – June 13-14, and again August 29; Selby Bay – July 11-12; Holiday Point – July 18-19; Windmill Point – August 15-16; and a coop charting rendezvous at Great Oak Yacht Club on September 5-7. Bay Quest with Bill Abbott as skipper brought home the Commanders Trophy. Cliff Ford donated a new award, the Last Chance Trophy, given to the winner of the final contest of the season.

Membership statistics for 1970: Alexandria, 82; Arlington, 59; Falls Church, 36; Maryland, 82; Vienna, 9; McLean, 24; Fairfax, 14; Springfield, 27; Annandale, 21; Washington, 15; Other Virginia, 27; Other states, 21.

Another dues increase – to \$17.50 for 1971.

“Of Tars and Terns” is at it again:

A man out in his boat had two cigarettes and no matches. He threw one cigarette overboard making the boat a cigarette lighter.

Now we are four! Courses were increased to four schools when Woodson High School and Hayfield High School were added to the fold in the fall of 1970.

1971-1972

Commander: Cdr William C. Eldridge, AP
 Executive Officer: Lt/C William M. Kelly, N
 Educational Officer: Lt/C Russell D. Hartz, N
 Administrative Officer: Lt/C Claude R. Yates, III, JN
 Assistant Administrative Officer: 1st Lt William W. Abbott, Jr., N
 Secretary: 1st Lt Curtis L. Wagner, S
 Treasurer: 1st Lt George M. Stone, S
 Members at Large: Lt Victor N. Coleman, AP (to July)
 Lt Andrew J. McGehee, Jr, AP (from July)
 Lt James A. Padgett, AP
 Lt Robert C. Whitfield, Jr., S

During 1971 the first squadron cruise was arranged, from Alexandria to Baltimore via Kinsale, Crisfield, Oxford and St. Michaels.

What had been unusual in earlier years became the normal thing in 1971 – a full summer program was in effect.

June 5-6	Shepherds
June 19-20	Holiday Point
June 26-27	Placid Harbor
July 17-18	Kinsale
August 21-22	Windmill Point

Notice in “Of Tars and Terns”: “The N Club of Potomac River Power Squadron has invited Northern Virginia Power Squadron members to a meeting May 6, 1971.

Education keeps on expanding with the addition of Garfield High School to our teaching locations.

Our first non-citizen certificate was awarded to Derek Scorer, who was the subject of the following article in "Of Tars and Terns," July 1971:

"Mr. Scorer has been an active yachtsman all his life. He is in his 38th year of membership in the Little Ship Club of London, a member of Kena Temple Yacht Club, and maintains a Cape Cod cat boat at the Washington Sailing Marina. Mr. Scorer passed basic piloting at Sound Beach Power Squadron of Riverside, Connecticut, and audited Seamanship. He was ineligible to take the exam at the time. SEO Hartz sent for a Seamanship exam for our newest associate. Mr. Scorer intends to participate actively in squadron affairs and ultimately to become a full member as he has acquired permanent residence status in the United States and is eligible for citizenship in approximately three years."

1972-1973

Commander: Cdr William M. Kelly, N
Executive Officer: Lt/C Claude R. Yates, III, JN
Educational Officer: Lt/C William W. Abbott, Jr., N
Administrative Officer: Lt/C James F. Head, AP
Assistant Administrative Officer: 1st Lt Curtis L. Wagner, S (to Sept.)
1st Lt Alfred H. Reynolds, JN (from Sept.)
Secretary: 1st Lt Ronald J. Sowers, JN
Treasurer: 1st Lt George M. Stone, S
Members at Large: Lt James S. Fitzgerald
Lt Andrew J. McGehee, Jr., S
Lt Richard K. Murphy, AP

1972 started with Northern Virginia helping out a benefit lecture by Jean Gau, the famous single handed sailor. The lecture was given at T.C. Williams High School on February 25 and was to raise money to repair his boat "Atom" which had been

damaged the previous October when it had made an unexpected landing on Assateague Island.

Membership as of April 1972 was 440.

Our 1972 Commander made sail legitimate with Lively as the squadron flagship. One of the high points of the summer was the coop charting rendezvous held at Commander Kelly's waterside retreat at Maddox Creek late in August. It was something extra after a full summer schedule:

June 13-14	Claytons
June 17-18	Placid Harbor
July 1-3	Shepherds
July 15	Castle Marina
August 19	Windmill Point

The 1972 squadron cruise to the upper bay started after the Castle Marina rendezvous and went up the Chester River and on to the Sassafras River.

Education spread to yet another school – Joyce Kilmer School in Vienna. By now the Alexandria classes had been switched from T. C. Williams High School to Minnie Howard School.

Northern Virginia Power Squadron won the Prince Henry the Navigator Award for the second time in 1972. The award was given by the Portuguese Navy to District 5 to be awarded to the squadron having the largest percentage of members holding the grade of JN or N.

1973-1974

Commander: Cdr Claude R. Yates, III, JN
Executive Officer: Lt/C James F. Head, AP
Educational Officer: Lt/C William W. Abbott, Jr., N
Administrative Officer: Lt/C Alfred H. Reynolds, JN
Assistant Administrative Officer: 1st Lt George M. Stone, S
Secretary: 1st Lt Ronald J. Sowers, JN

Treasurer: 1st Lt Richard K. Murphy, AP
Members at Large: Lt Harold W. Breedlove, JN
Lt David L. Dobyns, S
Lt Marshall J. Waple, Jr., S

During 1973 our own Dick Murphy gained quite a bit of publicity for Northern Virginia Power Squadron by presenting Jackson Weaver with his membership certificate live on his radio show (along with Frank Hardin) – a gesture which was repaid with about a half hour of plugs for the boating safety program.

New in 1973 – Flower Power patches were introduced for informal use in identifying squadron members.

The 1973 cruise was to the lower bay from Windmill Point to Norfolk and returning to Gwynne Island.

After a fire at the Old Dominion Boat Club we wandered from meeting place to meeting place until we settled in at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Arlington.

Our 1973 Commander's Cup entry, a description of a squadron cruise, won first place in national competition.

The summer of 1973:

June 9-10	Castle Marina
June 23-24	Claytons
July 7-8	Calvert
July 14-15	Yeocomico Marina
August 11-12	Windmill Point

1973 was the year when the civil rights/public accommodation began. Northern Virginia's first reaction was to poll the membership on whether to keep our status as a private club or to become a public accommodation. The opinion of the membership was overwhelmingly on the side of a private club.

1974-75

Commander: Cdr James F. Head, AP
 Executive Officer: Lt/C Alfred H. Reynolds, JN
 Educational Officer: Lt/C William P. Steeper, N
 Administrative Officer: Lt/C George M. Stone, S
 Assistant Administrative Officer: 1st Lt Ronald J. Sowers, JN
 Secretary: 1st Lt Andrew J. McGehee, Jr., S
 Treasurer: 1st Lt Richard K. Murphy, AP
 Members at Large: Lt E. Ross Hart, AP
 Lt J. David Newell, S
 Lt Horst W. Wuestenhagen, S

During 1974 Derek Scorer started to organize the rag haulers. We gained a new trophy, the Spirit of Flower Power, to be awarded to the member who "most represents the ideals of Northern Virginia Power Squadron."

With the usual full summer schedule, the fuel crisis gave us a new wrinkle for a summer cruise --- a cruise in place -- with a full week spent at Gwynne Island. Roland Tiede, N, wrote a most informative article in "Of Tars and Terns" describing his delivery cruise from Maine to Chesapeake Bay in Julia T, and how the various squadron courses were put to good use during the cruise.

The first squadron picnic was held in September, sponsored by the trailer boaters at Sweden Point.

Membership requirements were tightened in 1974 as a result of the various public accommodation suits; membership was not offered as a result of passing the boating course, and advanced grades could not be taught in public buildings.

The summer of 1974:

June 1-2	Calvert
June 8-9	Gwynne Island – Trailer boats
June 22-23	Tall Timbers
June 29-30	Sweden Point – Trailer boats
July 13-14	Gwynne Island

July 15-19 Cruise
 August 24-25 Last Chance – Pier 1

“Of Tars and Terns” may have improved somewhat over the years – but not by much by 1974:

A little boy was lost at a rendezvous and was asked “What’s your father like?” . . . “Boats, beer, and women.”

1974 was noted by one of our first breaks in the continuity of the bridge. Executive Officer Al Reynolds withdrew from the running for Commander during the following year, citing business reasons.

1975-1976

Commander: Cdr George M. Stone, S
 Executive Officer: Lt/C Ronald J. Sowers, JN
 Educational Officer: Lt/C William P. Steeper, N
 Administrative Officer: Lt/C Richard K. Murphy, AP
 Secretary: 1st Lt Andrew J. McGehee, Jr., AP
 Treasurer: 1st Lt Horst W. Wuestenhagen, AP
 Members at Large: Lt Curtis Clayton, AP
 Lt Fred H. Felton, S
 Lt Harry D. Wilson, AP

1975 was the year for nametags. Forgetting your nametag meant 25 cents into the Education fund. Past Commander Bill Kelly gave a stirring tale of navigating a delivery (almost) voyage from Plymouth, England to a Virgin Islands reef just shy of the destination. (Bill was navigator; he was overruled by the owner and the boat ended up on the reef!)

A new, much fancier sourpuss award was devised during the summer; the award was almost as fancy as the first place trophies. The sailors came into their own when Derek Scorer presented a trophy for the Northern Virginia Power Squadron member with the highest score in the District 5 sail regatta.

The summer of 1975:

May 31	Placid Harbor
June 14-15	Indian Creek Yacht Club – Kilmarnock
June 28-29	Kopels Marina – Colton Point
July 12-13	Calvert Marina
August 2-10	Cruise
August 23-24	Windmill Point

The 1975 cruise was in the lower bay, from Crisfield to Pocomoke, Gwynne Island, York River and Windmill Point.

District 5 honors for the year were 2nd place for the Commanders Cup and 3rd place for the Public Relations Officer's scrapbook.

In January 1976 "Of Tars and Terns": "Lieutenant Derek R. Scorer (N) turned into Lieutenant Derek R. Scorer (N)" as a result of becoming a citizen of the United States on 12 December 1975 and after becoming a full certificate holder in August 1975.

The first annual Fitting Out Party sponsored by the squadron sailors was held on March 15.

Another novelty for 1975 was awarding "useful" trophies for the navigation contests. Dick Murphy won a portable bar set and Dave Newall won a barometer/thermometer set.

1976-1977

Commander: Cdr Ronald J. Sowers, JN*

Executive Officer: Lt/C Richard K. Murphy, JN

Educational Officer: Lt/C William P. Steeper, N

Administrative Officer: Lt/C James M. Settle, AP

Secretary: Lt/C Andrew J. McGehee, Jr., AP (to August)

Lt/C Gale Alls, AP (from August)

Treasurer: Lt/C Horst W. Wuestenhagen, AP

Members at Large: Lt Gale Alls, AP (to August)
 Lt Robert Myers (from August)
 Lt Curtis Clayton, AP
 Lt Arthur Tiemann, AP

*Cdr Sowers – first commander who was not a charter member.

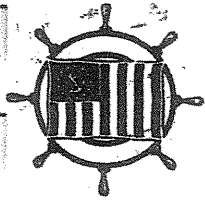
1976 was the year when United States Power Squadrons headquarters moved to North Carolina and the year we lost a long time member. Dean Lindquist, JN, died April 26, 1976. In his memory, his friends donated a trophy for the best navigator in the season's contests.

The sailors sponsored a rendezvous at Oxford based on the idea that it would be easier to get to the east side of the bay from most points on the west side than it would be to get to one point on the west side from any other point on the west side.

The summer cruise was another one-week-in-Gwynne-Island, but not because of any fuel problems. It seemed that our cruises had grown so large by 1976 that there weren't any marinas which could handle such a large group!

The summer of 1976:

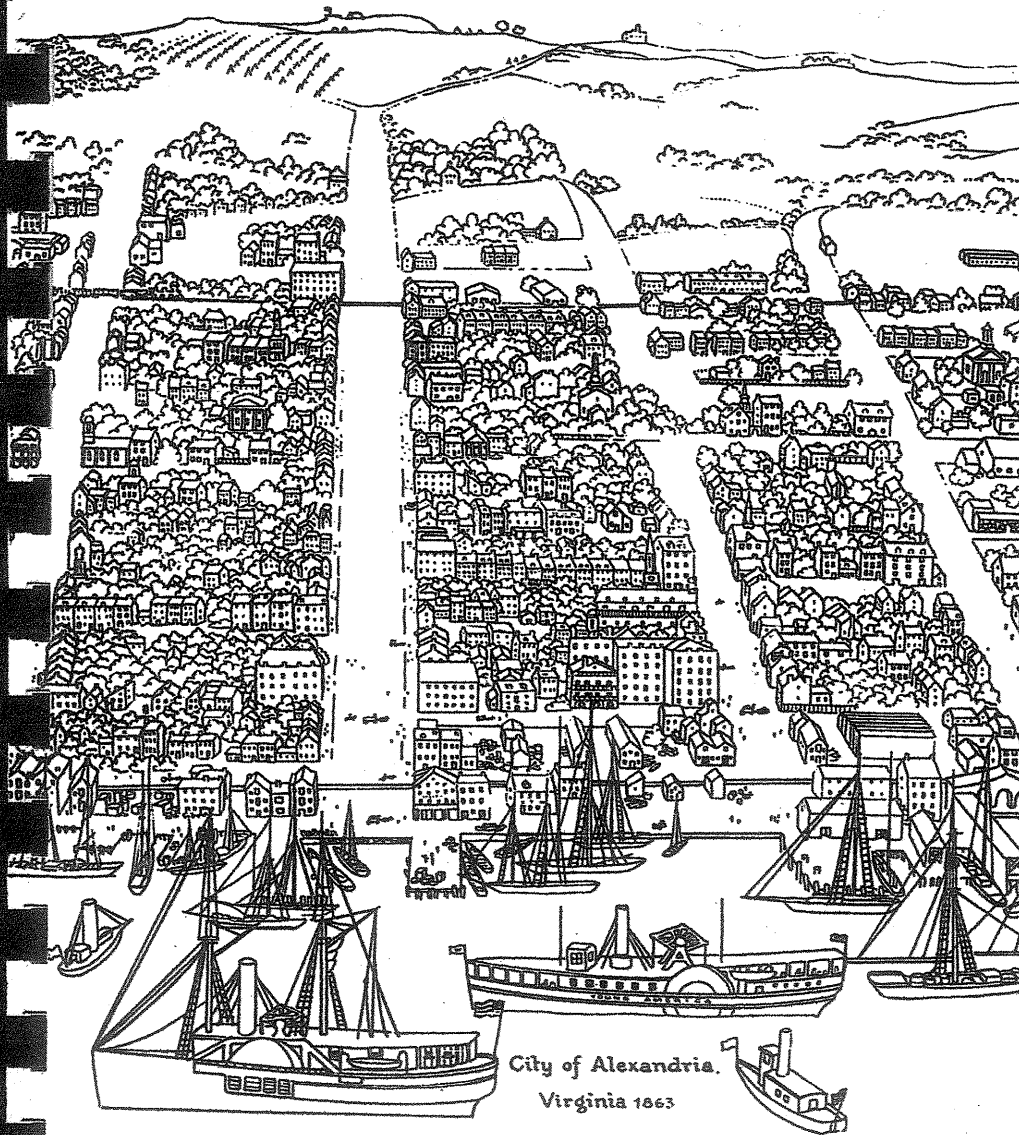
June 5-6	Calvert
June 19-20	Olversons
June 26-27	Sail at Oxford
July 3-5	Claytons
July 17-18	Cobb Island – Trailer boaters
August 2-8	Gwynne Island Cruise
August 7-8	Gwynne Island
August 21-22	Placid Harbor
September 18-19	Sweden Point Squadron Picnic



**OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
NORTHERN VIRGINIA POWER SQUADRON**

Volume 1, Number 1

JULY 1967



City of Alexandria,
Virginia 1663

? NAME NVPS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION ?
(See Contest information on Page 6)



GENERAL MEETING

Date — Tuesday, July 11, 1967

Time — 2000

Location — Old Dominion Boat Club
King Street at the Potomac
River, Alexandria, Va.

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Washington, D.C. 20037
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Commander's Message

Northern Virginia is at last finally launched! As she majestically slides down the ways, with the blessing of National, District and Potomac, we find ourselves with a present total membership of 86, 80 of which are charter members. This is indeed a goodly number for a starter. I would suggest, however, that all Squadron members make some effort to let other Power Squadron members in the area, who have not as yet applied for membership in our Squadron, know that we have organized and are operating so that they may apply for transfer if they so desire.

D/Lt/C. W.W. Chambers has presented us with a temporary charter and we look forward to Friday, July 21, 1967, when our bridge will be finally installed and our permanent charter presented. Administrative Officer Lt/C. Bob Malone informs me that this will be a "Big Night" with a buffet dinner, installation and dance, and I am hopeful that as many as possible of our members will attend. More definite information as to the program, place and time is on tear out page in this Newsletter.

Our Educational Program, under the leadership of Lt/C. Russell Hartz, (SEO) is progressing splendidly. All instructors for all grades and classes have been approved and we will be ready to go on September 6th with our basic pilot registration again at T. C. Williams High School in Alexandria. In fact, all of our classes, including advanced and elective courses, will be conducted at this fine High School facility. Lt/C. Hartz and myself have been assured by the Alexandria school authorities of full

and complete cooperation in furnishing us all the necessary space and classrooms required. In fact, I am indeed grateful to the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Schools and to the Director of Adult Education courses for their assistance and cooperation in enabling us to set up what I believe will be one of the finest educational programs within the curricular of the United States Power Squadrons.

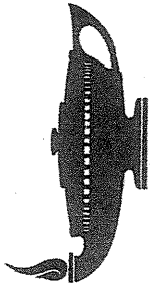
Please remember and observe safe boating week July 2-8. This is a particular time when we as Power Squadron members can demonstrate safety and efficiency in boat handling. Since safety is a prime objective in the basic underlying principal precept of the United States Power Squadrons, I sincerely hope that we will observe all navigational precautions at all times so that all of us may enjoy a great boating season ahead.

Let me say in conclusion that I am deeply honored that you have elected me your Commander. But irrespective of who your Bridge Officers may be, including the Commander, there is little that can be accomplished without the aid, assistance and counsel of each and every member of the organization. It is, however, a distinct pleasure to work with an enthusiastic Squadron such as ours, and I look forward with great anticipation to the progressive advancement of Northern Virginia Power Squadron through our mutual efforts.

Sincerely yours,
Leroy S. Bendheim (S)
Commander

Education

Department



At this time I would like to take the liberty of making a few predictions. In as little as three years and surely not more than five years, the Northern Virginia Power Squadron will have a thousand members and be one of the largest Squadrons in the United States. At that time it will annually teach the basic piloting course to four to eight hundred people.

Over a hundred people will take seamanship and another seventy-five will be engaged in the advanced grades of Advanced Piloting, Junior Navigation, and Navigation.

At least one hundred people a year will benefit from the very useful elective courses on Engine Maintenance, Marine Electronics, Weather, and Sail. Every year potential instructors will be sharpening their classroom manner by mastering Instruction Techniques.

It will be conducting a total of ten different classes enabling members to receive the coveted grade of Navigator as well as the useful and informative elective subjects. Several hundred members will be engaged in the educational program alone in addition to the many other Squadron activities.

The Squadron will benefit from a large influx of youthful and ambitious members and many of the new members in the Squadron right now will be performing many of the important committee tasks and will occupy a number of the elective officer positions.

I believe that the Northern Virginia Power Squadron has a bright future and will very rapidly earn a respected place in the United States Power Squadrons.

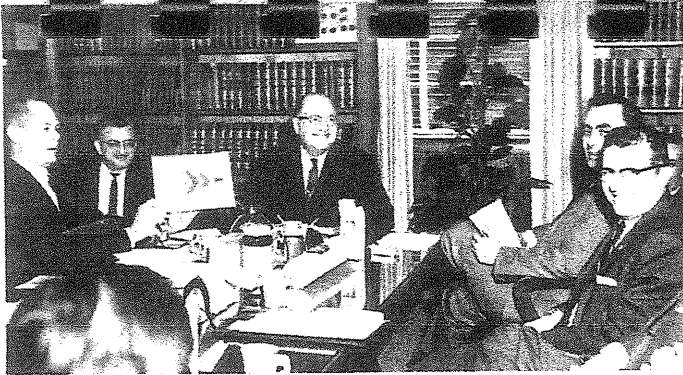
Squadron Educational Officer
Russell D. Hartz, N

Just a little over a month ago, the U. S. Power Squadrons chartered a new Power Squadron based in Alexandria, Virginia. The name of the new Squadron is the Northern Virginia Power Squadron and it is the thirtieth Squadron of District 5. Charter membership consisted of approximately 80 members.

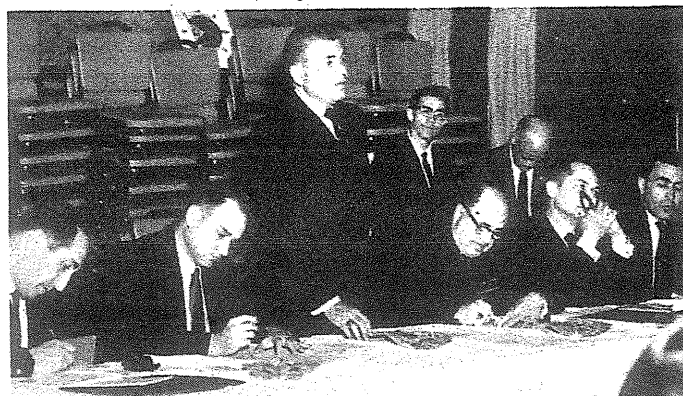
On 22 June 1967, history was made by the enrollment of 18 students in a course of Instructor Training, the first course to be offered by the new Squadron. The purpose in starting this course at an early date is to improve the teaching ability of a number of our members who will be instructing courses in our massive teaching program which will start immediately after Labor Day.



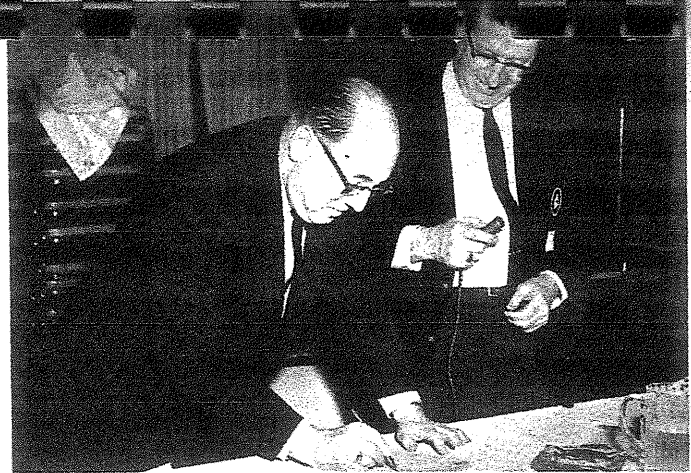
JULY 2nd to JULY 8th



PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING of proposed Northern Virginia Power Squadron. Left to Right are: Bill Redfearn, holding proposed NVPS pennant, Milt Rome, Leroy Bendheim, Bob Malone and Bob Kloska, and in background Ross Hart.



D/Lt/C W. W. Chambers addressing the general membership at the first general meeting of the then proposed Northern Virginia Power Squadron, April 11, 1967. Members of the bridge from left to right: Treasurer—Jack Isicson; Secretary—Bill Eldridge; Commander—Leroy Bendheim; Executive Officer—Bill Redfearn; Administrative Officer—Bob Malone, Bill Abbott and Joe O'Meara in background.



CHARTER MEETING: Cdr. Bendheim signing charter with Assistant Administrative Officer Lt. Kloska waiting his turn.

OUR CHARTER MEMBERS

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| WILLIAM W. ABBOTT, JR. JN | HUBERT L. HALL | ELMORE P. MUDD |
| GALE ALLS | ALAN R. HART | IRVING H. MUUS, S |
| THOMAS W. BARNES, S | E. ROSS HART | BENJAMIN NOBLE |
| NORMAN E. BARRON | RUSSELL D. HARTZ, N | JOSEPH J. O'MEARA, N |
| RONALD E. BECKMAN, AP | JAMES F. HEAD | WILLIAM W. PINKERTON, S |
| LEROY S. BENDHEIM | RONALD C. HORN | WILLIAM C. REDFEARN, JR. AP |
| JOSEPH T. BERNARD, AP | ALAN ISICSON | RICHARD E. REEDY, S |
| DONALD R. BERRY | JACK ISICSON, AP | CLYDE P. REEVES |
| WILLIAM R. BLACK | HERBERT JACOBS | ALFRED H. REYNOLDS, SR., AP |
| STANLEY F. BOLIN, S | ELLSWORTH M. JENNISON, SR., AP | ANTHONY RIZZO |
| JOSEPH S. CAMPBELL, AP | JOSEPH L. JONES | MILTON E. ROME, AP |
| ROY E. CARLSON, AP | KENNETH L. JONES | STEPHEN I. ROME |
| JAMES D. CARROLL, AP | EDWARD KATZ | IRVING H. ROSEN |
| JOHN G. CHAMBERS | JAMES P. KELLER, S | ARTHUR SCHINTZEL |
| JAMES W. CHRISTIAN | WILLIAM M. KELLY, JN | WAYNE L. SHEDD, S |
| JOSEPH D. COXER, AP | HARRY L. KEMMAN, S | YVE L. SMITH |
| RALPH W. CRAIN, JR. | WILLIAM W. KENNEDY, S | EDWARD H. SPEARMAN |
| CHARLES R. CRISS | ROBERT E. KLOSKE, N | GEORGE M. STONE, S |
| JOHN H. CROWE, AP | EARL L. KOBERG, N | CHARLES M. STRATTON |
| THOMAS D. CULBERTSON, AP | GEORGE R. KRAFT | PAUL J. TEMPLER |
| LEE D. DE ARMOND | FREDERICK H. KRUCK | WILLIAM R. WARREN |
| HERBERT R. DICHTENMEULLER, S | MYRON A. LOEWINGER, AP | JOHN C. WATSON |
| GUY W. DWYER | ROBERT B. MALONE, AP | WALTER E. WEAVER |
| HARRY J. EBY, S | THOMAS J. MARTIN, AP | ROBERT M. WHITING, AP |
| WILLIAM C. ELDRIDGE, AP | JAMES D. McCLANAHAN | ROY E. WILLIAMS |
| CLIFFORD W. FORD, N | | ARCHER M. WILSON, AP |
| BURTON J. GOODYEAR, S | | CLAUDE R. YATES, III |

SUPPORT YOUR SQUADRON — ENJOY YOURSELF

attend

NORTHERN VIRGINIA POWER SQUADRON'S
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & CHARTER PRESENTATION

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FRIDAY, 21 JULY, 1967

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 Dinner - - - - - 2000 Hospitality House Motor Inn
 Program - - - - - 2100 2000 Jefferson Davis Highway
 Dancing - - - - - 2200 - 0100 Arlington, Virginia 22202

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Please fill in, clip and mail coupon with your check to:

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Send me _____ tickets @ \$9.50 = _____
 Check enclosed Seating — 10 persons to table — Attach sheet with names you desire to sit with.

Name _____ Rank _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____

Guests' names 1. _____ 2. _____
 3. _____ 4. _____
 5. _____ 6. _____

Bitts & Cleats

The "Name the Publication Contest" winds up at our next general meeting, 11 July 1967. All entries must be in by that time! Exercise your noodle on a good name, but please don't saddle us with something like "The Bilgewater Gazette". Winner and his prize will be announced in the next issue of this publication, or if possible, at the installation dinner dance.

A salute to Capt. Robert Pumphrey, National Training Officer, Coast Guard Auxiliary, for his interesting and informative lecture on ventilation.

Understatement of the Month Department: "We didn't run a ground—just churned up a little mud, that's all!" Would it be dirty pool to mention in this context that National Safe Boating Week is 2-8 July?

Anyone who has not paid his \$5.00 assessment is urged to contact Squadron Treasurer, Jack Isicson.

Rendezvous in July:
 Selby Bay July 15-16 PRPS
 Sue Island July 28-30 D-5

Two NVPS boats placed in Potomac River's first rendezvous of the year, Sunday 18 July at Northeast Yacht Sales. Congratulations to the Jara (Jack Isicson) and to the Alma (Russ Hartz). Jara placed fourth with a 30 second error; Alma made fifth place (out of a field of 24) with a 58 second error.

Other NVPS boats attending, but not participating, were Bonando (Bob Malone), Kathy El (Bill Eldridge), and Paulinda (Al Reynolds). The Bridge of NVPS hosted a cocktail party for all at the rendezvous aboard the Alma the evening before the contest. And it's said that they all came. Russ Hartz is considering raising his boot topping.

Hats off to Tony Rizzo! Tony had never attended a rendezvous before, and had never observed a so naturally he was assigned as Observer on Ne-Pa-Le (Al Turner, APS). Know which was first boat? Ne-Pa-Le, of course. Tony's proud, Al's proud, and so are we.

Observers at the rendezvous are desperately needed. The job is interesting, challenging, and fun—and besides, if you don't have a boat, you get this great boat ride, see?

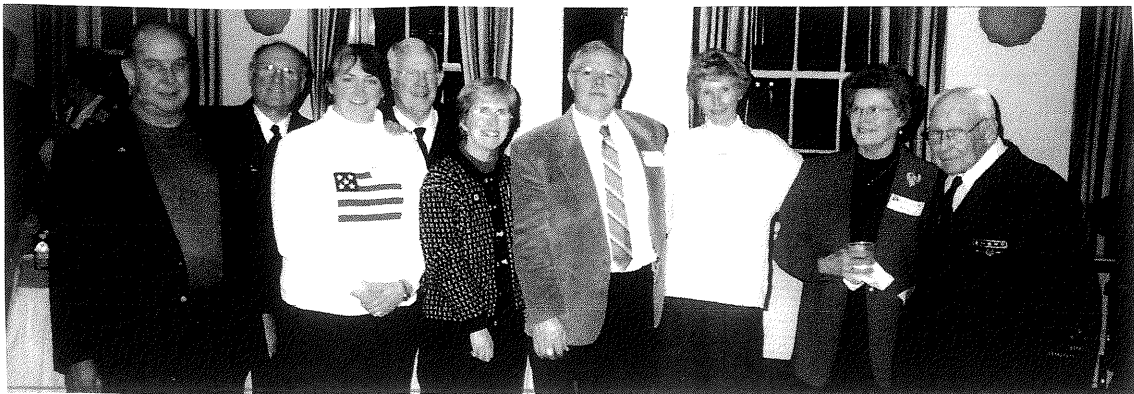
On the way home Kathy El (Bill Eldridge), Alma (Russ Hartz), and two PRPS boats were off Poplar Island enroute to Solomon's when Kathy El blew a water hose. For dramatic effect, throw in a fine, slashing thunderstorm. And the beautiful ironic twist? Easy. Out of the raft of spare parts aboard, that particular hose clamp was not. There's a moral here, but we won't beat you over the head with it.

We are proud to list the names of our charter members. NVPS began life with eighty people. Since the organization meeting, we have gained another six. The names of these new members will appear next month.



The Voices Of Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron

Stories told by members
about what the squadron
has meant to them.



A boating course can change your life!

Around 1960 my parents purchased a 24' Owens which was docked in Deale, MD. On weekends, weather permitting, we would pack a lunch and head for the boat for a fishing outing. Shortly after leaving the dock, I would adjourn to the cabin and would return above when we reached our destination. I loved fishing, but not so much the getting there and returning to the dock, so once again I would adjourn to what I thought of as my secure place.

This was continued until we had our firstborn in 1962 and we didn't boat as much. In 1965 Gale and I purchased a 26' Owens which we docked at Hoffmaster's Marina in Woodbridge on the Occoquan River. In 1966 Gale joined the Power Squadron. We began taking the Basic Boating Course.

The boat was taken to Windmill Point Marina on the Rappahannock River, in the Northern Neck. In 1967 our second daughter was born. We then took the Seamanship class, then on to Piloting. Gale finished all the courses and is a full certificate SN. I finished the Piloting class.

Meanwhile we visited Windmill Point Marina quite often where Gale and I would go out and I learned to helm and back the 26 footer, single engine, into the slip, along with other maneuvers.

I overcame my fear of boating due mainly to the courses I have taken through NVSPS and the great patience my wonderful husband bestowed upon me.

Through the Squadron, we have traveled to other states and have met and kept wonderful friends.

That is why I sincerely endorse anyone who has the least bit of fear to give our great Squadron a chance. Take courses. You will meet and make great friends, plus have fun attending our many functions.

Evelyn S. Alls, P

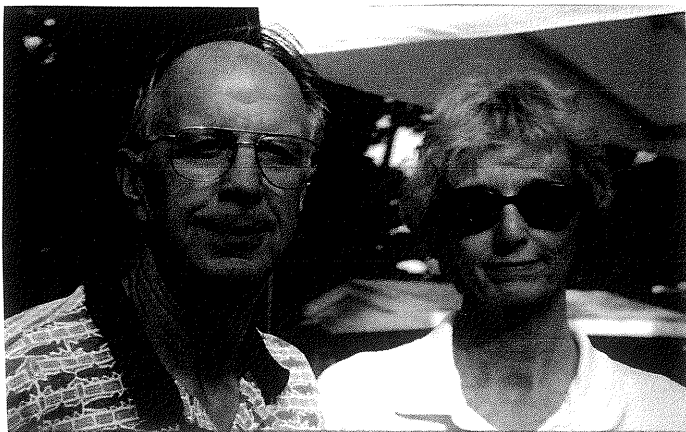


My Personal Reward

During fifty years as a member of the Northern Virginia Power Squadron and later the Northern Virginia Power Sail and Power Squadron, I have been amazed by the diversity of the members I have met. Some were at the top of their careers: doctor, surgeon, Air Force general, astrophysicist, astronomer, engineer, government employee, small business owner, auto mechanic, photographer, printer, and the young adults just getting started in their careers. Everyone was a dedicated boater who wished to share his/her experiences and get more boating knowledge. No one really cared what your station in life was, only that we all had a love for the water and boating.

I have been blessed with an untold number of friends who have remained close all through the years. After fifty years, five or six charter members of the Northern Sail and Power Squadron remain as close friends.

The greatest benefit of my Power Squadron membership is the treasured friendships that I have enjoyed through the years.



P/C Gale Alls, SN

I found my experience as Commander of NVSPS to be a very rewarding gig. We did a lot and we all had fun. We worked hard on committee projects. We all participated in various squadron activities, such as the exam evening trolling for new members as we graded exams and interviewed the students about becoming members. We enjoyed welcoming many to our ranks, members serving as faculty for the boating courses, and so many faithfully attending Squadron meetings which was our lifeblood as an organization and kept us all in constant contact.

I was especially fortunate to have such a dedicated bridge, members all of whom worked hard to advance the Squadron. Any leader can tell you, the success of our Squadron is directly proportionate to the number of members who volunteer for activity. I was especially pleased that there was an outpouring of wonderful support from members which made my year a most delightful experience.

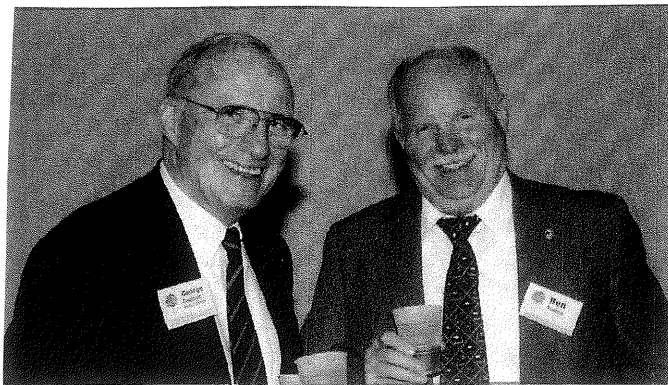
Reflecting back on my very enjoyable experience as Commander of NVSPS, the highlight that provides so much satisfaction was the creation of the Wounded Warrior Cruises that I initiated. It was heart-warming to see the response of boaters who were willing to take wounded veterans from Walter Reed Hospital out for a day on the Bay.

There was much to do in preparation and so many rules that were established by Walter Reed in order for veterans to be released for the day. First was the need to secure approved transportation since our initial plan was to have a team of members who would drive their automobiles to Walter Reed. Walter Reed had a charter bus service that they had preapproved. Next was getting the men and women to sign up for the trip. There were sign-up sheets at Walter Reed for our boat ride, but there were dozens of other opportunities on the same weekend day, such as multiple golf trips, baseball games to attend, picnics being held by veteran organizations and so on. The veterans signed up and, on the basis of the number registered, arrangements were made for the bus. However, another requirement was to have an officer and an NCO on the trip who would serve as chaperones since the veterans had strict rules to follow, not the least of which was that no alcohol could be involved in the event. So if there was not the proper transportation and not the proper number of chaperones, regardless of how many signed for the day on the water, there could be no boat trip.

Fortunately for us the bus arrived with the veterans and their family members, and a great day on the water was had by all. We held our function at the Chesapeake Yacht Club. Members of the club hosted a dinner at the end of the day, and that was enjoyed immensely by our guests. Deep friendships were established that day and new respect was created by all of us for that amazing group of young Americans who shared their day with us on the Bay. Our first NVSPS Wounded Warriors Cruise was a great success.

Another highlight of my year as Commander was planning the Squadron cruises, and in my year of command we decided to plan two cruises. How fortunate that was because our first planned event was weathered out -- cancelled because one of the east coast hurricanes whacked us in 2008. For our end-of-summer cruise, we had about a dozen boats and about three dozen members participate in our cruise to Chesapeake Yacht Club in Shady Side, MD. About a dozen members came by automobile (which was one of the evolving traditions for many members who were selling their boats as the economic crisis hit us directly) for the afternoon party and evening barbeque cookout dinner. It was one of the truly great memories of our annual summer cruises.

As Commander, I was overwhelmed by the tremendous creativity of our members and the number of very enthusiastic members who volunteered to work on the annual D5 Hospitality Suite in Ocean City, MD. What fun setting up the display in our hospitality suite and what a great sense of satisfaction we all had with how well our themed presentation was received by the members of D5. Those annual hospitality suite displays were amazing, given the enthusiasm of so many members: past commanders and spouses and also new, younger members of the Squadron who still had a spring in their step. They all pitched in to make the displays a success.



P/C George K. Degnon, P

P/C Richard Durgin, JN & Jean Durgin, AP

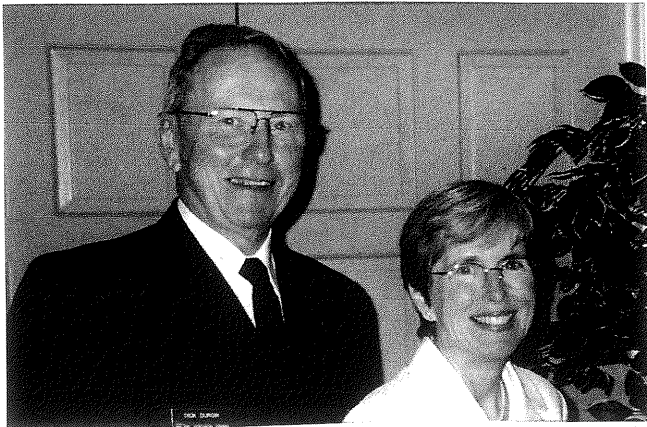
Joining the Richmond Power Squadron in 1964 as newlyweds was a perfect next step in our lifelong love for boating. Dick's Dad was a career U.S. Coast Guard officer and his family lived on Coast Guard bases all over the U.S. Jean's Dad was a Pharmacist's Mate in the Merchant Marine during WWII and her grandfather was a Chesapeake Bay waterman. These three men taught us how to enjoy boating and do it safely.

We remember hundreds of highlights over many years:

- * Richmond Power Squadron for its zany parties;
- * Potomac River Power Squadron for its exciting navigation contests;
- * Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron for everything: education, service and friendships.

Every element came together during week-long squadron cruises all over the Chesapeake Bay when true friendships were cemented during shared meals and long talks while watching the sun set over the docks. We kayaked in tiny creeks, explored eastern shore towns, shopped St. Michael's boutiques and ruined our diets in Rock Hall's ice cream parlor. We aced scavenger contests by finding green golf balls, yellow life savers and three foot pieces of bamboo. We celebrated birthdays and anniversaries with water balloons and TP pranks. We held Spam contests and swapped recipes for crab dip. We helped each other out when weather or mechanical problems came along. During those weeks, we were NVSPS family.

We did it all in the company of the best boaters in the world.



Thank you, USPS.
Dick & Jean Durgin

When my father and I joined Potomac River Power Squadron, a year or so before Northern Virginia was founded, I was fresh out of college, new to Virginia and just beginning a career in professional photography. During that first year in Potomac, I got a lot of help and encouragement from Potomac's Photographer, Ross Lunsford and also Lee Parsons, Bill Chambers, Paul May and many others. When Northern Virginia was founded, I became the Squadron Photographer and was further helped and encouraged by almost everyone in the squadron, especially Bill Eldridge, who was the Squadron Secretary and Newsletter Editor. I got a lot of experience and practice at their expense. Along the way I photographed the weddings of about a dozen members and members' children. The squadron and its members helped me to overcome my extreme shyness, feelings of inadequacy and lack of self-worth.

In 1978, when I applied for a position as a Photographer at the Smithsonian Institution, I listed P/C Bill Eldridge as a reference. I did not know it at the time, but the decision to hire me was made by Prince Georges Squadron's Past Commander, Joe Kennedy (now a Past Chief Commander). He called Bill Eldridge, whom he knew, and the rest is history. I worked for the Smithsonian for nearly 25 years and met and photographed four Presidents, two Chief Justices, many Senators and Congressmen and even a few movie stars. Candice Bergen and I had both been students at the University of Pennsylvania in the early 1960's but we only met and talked at the Smithsonian.

When Mary and I married in 2004, P/C's Gale Alls and Dick Durgin photographed our wedding and Evelyn Alls was Mary's Matron of Honor. Northern Virginia and United States Power Squadrons have been a very important part of my life for over fifty years. Without it my life would have been very different, if I even had a life at all.

For the first several years, there were more members interested in serving as officers than there were positions. In recent years it has been just the reverse. Some positions have gone unfilled and some members have served more than one year in the same position. We used to wear our uniforms proudly. The Bridge, and some others wore uniforms to meetings, rendezvous and changes of watch. Instructors wore uniforms while teaching classes. Others wore the

squadron blazer. Now we see a few blazers but rarely a uniform. Also, we used to dress a bit more formally for meetings, etc. Those who did not wear a uniform or blazer wore a suit or sport coat and tie.

We used to have several on-the-water gatherings every summer, for cruisers, trailer boats, etc. which were well attended. Now we have few, if any, on-the-water activities and few, if any of our members participate in District Five activities. We used to teach every advanced and elective course and we did well, compared to other squadrons, in district and national competitions. Now we teach very few classes and don't compete very much. This is unfortunately negative, but many other squadrons have the same problems and several squadrons no longer exist.

On the brighter side, in recent years we have had Spring Flings and Oktoberfests, are doing Vessel Safety Checks, and got good responses to our Wounded Warrior events.

P/C Alan R. Hart, AP



- **A Day at the Creek, followed by**
- **Miracle on Moratico Creek, and lastly,**
- **Cruise to remember or accidents happen and crabs are cracked.**

I want to thank everyone who came to our 2015 Day at the Creek. Except for the traffic, I think everyone had a great time. It was a true Power Squadron day. Nearly everyone arrived late due to I-95. It was a bottleneck. But thankfully no one turned around. All gritted their teeth and made the 124 mile trek. Early arrivals, Gale and Evelyn, were gracious enough to assist in setting up and helping us make last minute adjustments. Thanks so much! I still remember the flowers.

The weather was so perfect, we were able to turn off the air and open the windows. There was a nice breeze, so pleasant and the air so sweet. Not too humid and enough sun and shade that the party stayed outside. There were so many good eats. I am sure I gained back everything I had been trying to lose those last few weeks. There were charcoal flamed hamburgers and dogs expertly grilled by Dave, salads with cactus and some with black beans. Alan Hart's Coca Cola salad, always a crowd pleaser, was wonderful. There were delicious pickles that showed up late but, boy, were they great. There were pasta salads and baked beans. And desserts: apple pie, petit fours, irresistible homemade sour cherry cobbler (I don't think one bite was left) and a watermelon we never even got to try! We also had a wide assortment of IPAs and other beers, red and white wines, wonderful Pina Coladas by our own Sue Karjala, and various other spirits. Also, homemade lemonade. We dined and drank with the hummingbirds. The tide was against us though. Low tide was between 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. And there was just slightly too much wind for our smaller, lighter boat. We waited for a higher tide.

As we enjoyed the beautiful weather, wonderful food, great company, and the slight current on the creek, we noticed that the center console boat on the next dock appeared to be moving out to the middle of the creek, not under power mind you, but of its own volition, without captain or passenger. We had thought her anchored, but I guess not! For a moment, we all stood on our dock transfixed, as we realized that the boat was unmanned or at least without a living captain (perhaps a ghost captain).

Then I ran over to the neighbor's and banged on their door; no answer. I opened the door and yelled inside, "Your boat is adrift." The answer was rather an expletive, basically, "Oh my gosh." I, of course, paraphrased for polite company. "I wanted to go for a swim today #0%?!" The boat was drifting slowly up the creek (without a paddle). We waited, wondering what to do now, but our neighbor finally appeared and had his paddle board and gingerly climbed down his swim ladder attached to his dock. Although we offered to take out our boat Stanley, he set off to catch his drift-away vessel. We watched in true amazement as this 58 year old man took to a paddle board and swam off to try and rescue his craft. We were ready to rescue the rescuer if need be. We were mesmerized. In pure NVSPS fashion we waited transfixed, all ready to lend a hand.

The swimmer slowed and the vessel slowed. We held our breath and gritted our teeth, but at last he gained on the runaway. The neighbor must have gotten his second wind. We cheered as he made headway. We hollered our support as he made the swim platform. Most of us wondered if it were possible for any of us to push ourselves up from the water onto the platform. I think a sigh of relief went up just before we burst into applause as he finally got onboard. The boat was safe, the captain, safe and aboard his craft making ready to be under power. It was then, someone said, "Wonder if he has keys?" But we heard the engine spin to life. I don't think any of us could take our eyes off the boat until it was safely docked at its home dock more securely now, I am sure.

As the day progressed, the tide began to move higher and in true form Stanley was floating. We gathered the young one and fitted him with a life jacket. We gathered enough life jackets for a crew of eight and they boarded the vessel. They cast off and waved a fond farewell as they made their way out to the Tappahannock River. But a long cruise was not meant to be. As they approached the mouth of the river, an unflagged crab pot struck Stanley's starboard propeller and though Capt. Dave tried everything to be rid of the pot, even reverse, it wrapped itself as tightly as a leather glove on a sweaty hand. You all know the hand I mean. If the pot don't fit . . . oh well, I digress.

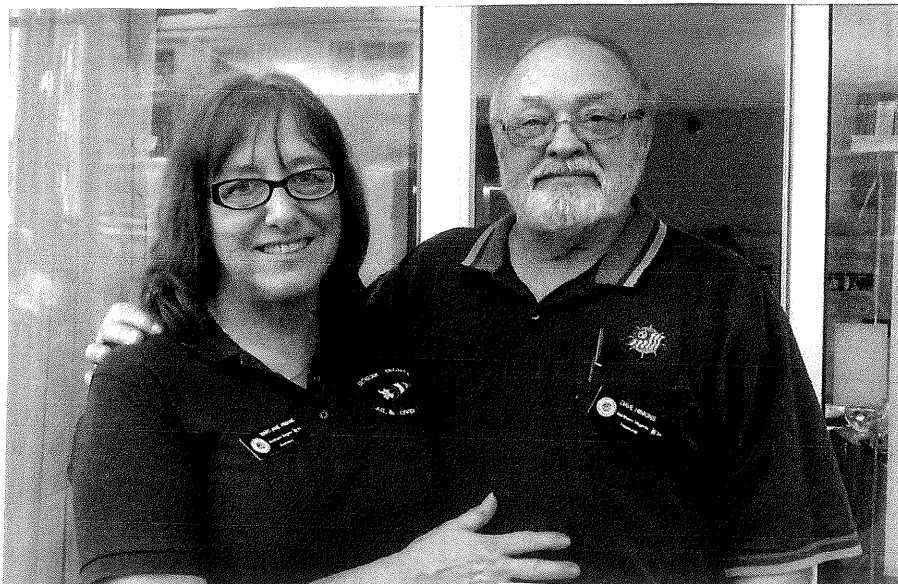
Dave turned off the starboard engine. He made it out to the Rappahannock, but the boat did not have it in her to get up on plane with the crab pot holding back one engine; tried as it might, to no avail. They came back slowly on the port engine. The Captain had to make a second approach to the dock with only one engine and the current against him, but he brought all back safe and sound.

Commander Unis took the bull, or in this case the chicken wire, by the horns and offered to take to the salt water and check out the damage. Boy, were we thankful he did! He got in the water, wire cutters in hand, now the water about 3.5 feet deep, and observed that it was the pot wrapped about the propeller. With wire cutters and fish and/or crabs pecking at his back, he aptly removed each wire to free the mess from the prop. Just a few wiggles as the crabs tasted our Commander, but in about 30 minutes he had the wreck on the dock along with 4 or 5 badly broken crabs. The loss of crabs and a good cruise was mourned by all. But the boat seemed no less cruise worthy as we took Stanley out the next day for a short cruise on the Rappahannock. Thanks, Commander Rich!

The day went on for a few hours more and eventually all but three left. It was a great weekend! We are so grateful that we found such a wonderful group to be part of and want to thank everyone for helping us celebrate our new home and our creek. We would love to have everyone visit us again.

This was followed by another Day at the Creek the following year. It was without drama, but still a lovely day. We did have a neighborhood dog who thought he had to stay and entertain all of our guests. He could not be persuaded to leave. We are so grateful to the NVSPS for being there to enjoy our home and lovely creek. I hope that everyone comes again next September.

Lt/C Mary-Jane Hinkins, S



**My 2011-2012 Time on Watch as Commander
Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron (NVSPS)**

An analogy to a mystery story might describe my tour of duty as Commander of the NVSPS in 2011-2012. While to some it might have been “a dark and stormy night,” to me it was a fine and invigorating sail on a balmy sea. Like all sailing excursions there are routines, such as the monthly All Hands meetings at the BoatUS in Alexandria, Virginia and the monthly Executive Committee Meetings at George Mason Enterprise Center in Fairfax, Virginia, furnished with thanks to the good graces of P/C Keith Segerson, P. As well as the less frequent routines such as the D5 Spring Conference at Ocean City, Maryland, where as a new Commander I received my Commander’s Manual, which provided solutions to a multitude of issues that arose in my tenure as Commander. Those duty requirements too are often routine, but can lead to surprises both positive and negative before the tour of duty is over.

A positive surprise occurred very early in my tour following the question “What to do regarding the D5 Hospitality Suite.” Fortunately, a large, experienced, and talented team had formed to prepare the way for the chosen theme for the NVSPS hospitality suite. The theme was generally, “It’s time to update your boat’s first aid kit.” P/C George Nartsissov AP, hosted the team at his home. Jean Durgin, AP, prepared highly professional posters and charts for the D5 NVSPS hospitality suite event.

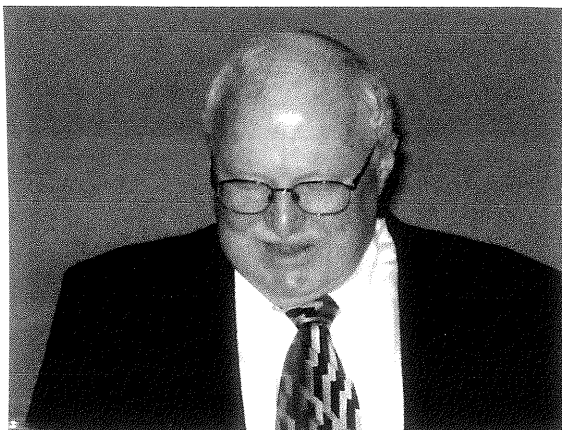
Friday night, at the D5 Conference, a rotating beverage team was formed for dispensing liquid refreshment. All Squadron members assisted the guests who visited our hospitality suite. In preparation for the event, I had contacted Kaiser-Permanente for a donation. That corporation graciously donated digital thermometers for distribution to all guests visiting our hospitality suite. Over 100 thermometers were delivered to all hospitality suite visitors. Later at the conference, the NVSPS was awarded D5’s Outstanding Hospitality Suite Award with accompanying wooden plaque with brass motif. This award was a grand positive surprise and signature achievement for NVSPS.

Negative surprises occurred when attempting to sail to the 2011 NVSPS Memorial Day Cruise to Oxford Maryland without a prior “shake-down” sail that spring. When warming up the Perkins diesel engine in my 37.5 Endeavour sloop for departure to Oxford, I noticed that the salon smelled exceptionally hot. Firmly believing the boat was telling me something, I found that the bunk in the aft berth area was inordinately warm. Examination disclosed the bottom of the berth which served as the top of the wood over the battery box was untouchably hot. Removal of the wood cover disclosed very hot batteries beneath. The engine was turned off. A mechanic from Spring Cove was engaged resulting in a new voltage regulator and two new batteries.

We were delayed a day in our departure to Oxford, Maryland, from Solomons Maryland, but fortunately had planned an early arrival in Oxford. We sailed across the Bay and anchored in the Little Chop Tank River. The next day was Friday when we sailed to Oxford’s Mears Marina and docked in a timely manner with the bulk of the squadron boats arriving the next day, Saturday. The Commander’s Locker was opened for all rendezvous participants’ enjoyment.

First Mate, Sue Karjala, mixed “Dark and Stormys ” on Saturday evening, while appetizers were brought in by all members present. Exploration of Oxford followed each day by foot or rental bicycle. A potluck dinner was garnered on Saturday night for the enjoyment of those present. The rendezvous boats left on Sunday and Monday with a good time had by all.

The negatives, caused by my boat’s unexpected maintenance delay, evolved to positives upon our arrival at the rendezvous. Thereafter, it became a carefree time resulting from good camaraderie. My memory of the Oxford rendezvous is recalled as a time of enjoyment of my life. Thus, my tour as Commander disclosed through time both positive and negative vicissitudes of the life spent on duty as NVSPS Commander, 2011-2012.



P/C John G. Karjala, P

A Year That Went by So Fast.

Congratulations to the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron on their 50th Anniversary! It was a privilege to serve as the NVSPS Commander during the period 2010 – 2011.

It was a challenge then, it still is, and I am sure it will be, to convince potential members on the value of belonging to the squadron. As probably others have said, after they joined, “why didn’t we join sooner?” It was a great positive experience for Ann and me not only of receiving but also of giving. We thank Jean and P/C Dick Durgin for getting us started. It was the “low pressure friendly persuasion” sales pitch by them after the completion of the basic boating class that got us to join! You had to pass by their marketing table to exit the room!

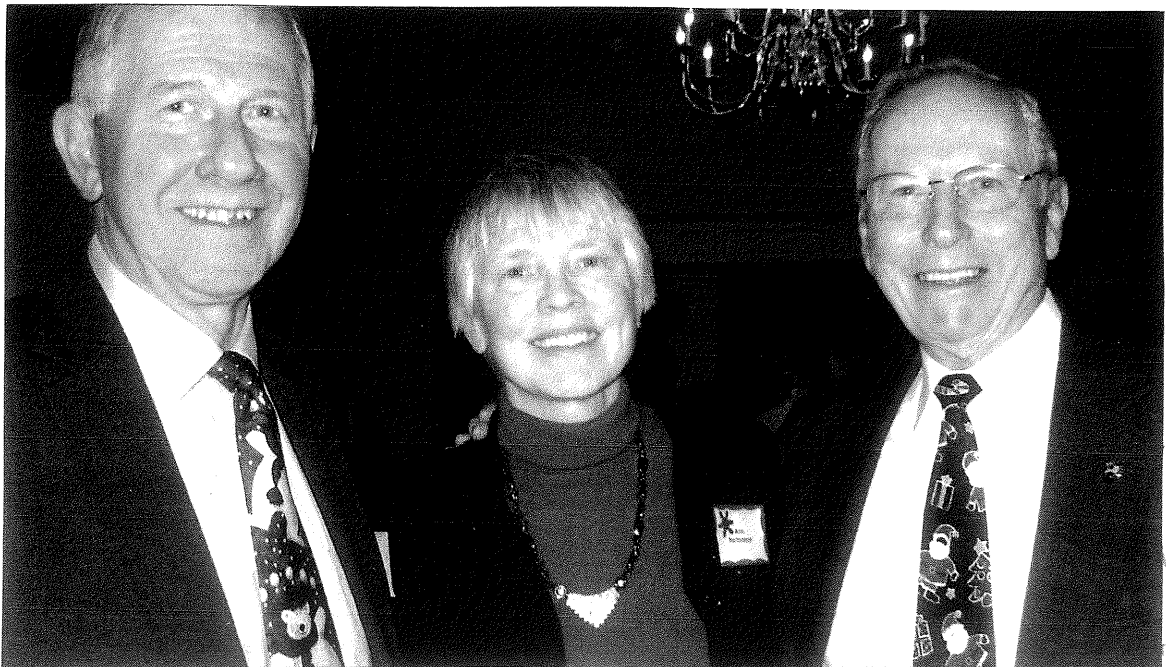
The year went by fast with meetings, guest speakers, social events, classes, vessel safety checks, Wounded Warrior Cruise (WWC), D-5 conferences! The Wounded Warrior Cruise, started the previous year by P/C Francis Williamson, was one of the significant outreach events to the community. The visible ability to relax by the warriors and their families, even though for a few hours, and their expression of gratitude was at the essence of one of the squadron missions –service to the community. This following example is but one of many that illustrates the positive impact of the squadron event.

We had three wounded warriors aboard “*L’Attitudes*”. One was a young lady. As we slowly motored up the Patuxent River she went back to the transom and stood silently watching the boat wake. When she boarded the ship she hardly spoke and appeared absorbed in thought. After a while Ann and I exchanged glances and Ann moved slowly to the rear; our simultaneous thought was that she may jump! After a while she asked Ann if she could lie down. She soon fell asleep and slept for almost two hours. After she woke up the transformation in her personality was amazing – she became a different person. She became talkative and said that this was the most restful sleep she has had in weeks! I am sure that none of us could have predicted the extent of the positive impact that the afternoon cruise would have on the guests!

The squadron Vessel Safety Check program was another outreach to increase boating safety awareness to the boating community. This program also required an investment in time by the Vessel Examiner team. However, I am sure that we were able to promote a better awareness of boating safety to the captains of the boats we checked. I hope that the squadron association and sponsorship of Sea Scout Ship 1942 will continue for years to come. It is a win-win association. The squadron benefits from the participation of the sea scouts in the squadron social, formal, boat show and conference events and the Sea Scouts benefit from the practical application of their skills and hopefully in the future joining a Power Squadron someplace.

A lasting memory are the friends we made and the good times and laughs we had at the various gatherings. The D-5 Spring Conference was always a blast! Although Ann and I have now moved to Bradenton, FL, we hope that we will see and hear from you from time to time! We transferred our membership to the Manatee Squadron (D-22)

P/C George Nartsissov, AP
4202 Oak Lane
Bradenton, FL 34208



What the Power Squadron means to me

When Lin and I joined the NVSPS, we took a lot of boating classes. Then we started teaching and bantering back and forth about boating. We talked about taking our bird Sammy on the boat with us. This was something we enjoyed doing and we taught about 2-3 times a year for about 5-6 years.

Lin and I (plus Sammy) also went on several week-long summer cruises with the NVSPS which we really enjoyed.

Helping to plan and decorate the D5 hospitality rooms and meeting so many members from other Power Squadrons has been a lot of fun.

Being the Secretary for many years, holding other positions, helping when asked with events, and now being a Member at Large is what the NVSPS is about.

P/Lt/C Cathy Sheffield, AP



Wonderful Years -

As I ponder what to write, I think of all the great times we have had on cruises and ashore. It is hard to believe that it feels like we just celebrated our 40th Anniversary. Time flies by when you are having fun with great friends.

Once upon a time, my wife Robie and I purchased a 32 foot Silverton (christened Grey Eagle III) and placed the vessel in a slip at Herrington Harbor North. While we were on board learning more about the twin screw vessel, two couples came by and requested permission to come aboard. Immediate permission was granted and they brought a few nice gifts. Remember the saying: "beware of persons bearing gifts." Well, Dick and Jean Durgin with Jim and Robin Roberts were given a tour and we sat down inside to talk. They said we need to do a maiden cruise now. Whoa! Our previous boats were smaller and single screw. Robie and I have great respect for our good friends and their (in depth?) knowledge as skippers so I agreed. We prepared to get underway and in a short time we were in the Chesapeake Bay. Thought it was going to be short trip; however, Dick and Jim said we should go to Tilghman Island via Knapps Narrows. Then, Dick and Jim talked about the courses to take and giving me conflicting information as we moved along. I didn't know it at the time but the ladies were laughing and enjoying the banter between us guys. It was a great voyage and a learning experience for me particularly the close quarters of Knapps Narrows and having the bridge raised. We did get to Tilghman on the Chesapeake, saw another friend, Ben Fulton, and returned to Herrington Harbor just as the sun was setting and I was running out of fuel. Terrific memories!

We participated in several Squadron cruises and enjoyed each of them. Our good friends, Gale and Evelyn Alls, and others did a lot of work to pull off these successful events. Going to Crisfield; Baltimore Harbor; Spring Cove, Solomons Island; and other ports of call was very enjoyable. The camaraderie was very evident when other Squadron members helped those coming in to a slip. Thank you! After all vessels were secured it was time for Happy Hour! Superb food and beverages. To top it off, a scavenger hunt or carving spam, among other things. It seemed a cruise just started and then it was over too fast.

I would like to list all the friends that we made in the Squadron and with other Squadrons. To do so would not be practical and the Editor would be very upset with me. I know the Editor. ☺ Suffice to say I am honored and humbled. Having taught the Weather Course with Jim Roberts and Ed Phillips was an experience one can't forget. Their enthusiasm and creative abilities to help students understand our atmosphere and safety afloat (and ashore) were superb. It was good to have a live class interaction with Instructors since it gave the students an opportunity to ask questions and get answers. Being a member of the Marine User Committee, National Weather Service Baltimore / Washington (NWS), Sterling, Virginia, also provided for a unique interface that allowed for the NWS to focus on the needs of boaters. It has been very successful with NWS marine forecasts being adjusted for weather radio alerts, forecasts by zones and more improvements. Super friends at NWS and glad we could work together for boating safety.

I would be remiss if Vessel Safety Checks were not mentioned. It was great to make new friends and new potential members by performing a safety exam. Several have called me to examine their boat, PWC and other craft over many years. Most importantly, they recognized safety afloat. I had a fine person, Jay Wentzel, Coast Guard Auxiliary, that certified me. Jay has passed on but will always be remembered as a positive link between the USPS and USCGA. In addition, Virginia Division of Game and Inland Fisheries who we were privileged to support as Instructors for Virginia. Thanks to everyone that made these years so special, caring and treasured in our memories. Fair Winds, Following Seas, and BRAVO ZULU (well done) to all!

P/C John A. Shivik, AP
Commander 2002-03



I was extremely fortunate and honored to have served two years as the Commander of the Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron (NVSPS) – Bridge Years 2014/2015 and 2015/2016. I was first introduced to the United States Power Squadrons in 2005 by my instructor at the Pentagon Sailing Club. He was also a member of the NVSPS. He suggested that I should join USPS and take their boating education courses, starting with Seamanship. I did and the rest is history!

I was extremely impressed with the quality of the USPS boating education courses and it instilled in me an insatiable appetite to learn all I could about boating. I continued to take most all of the courses and seminars, culminating with my completion of the Junior Navigation course (I still plan to take the Navigation course someday). I also taught several of the courses including America's Boating Course, Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting and various seminars. I had so much fun teaching courses and helping others become better and safer boaters that I volunteered to serve as the Squadron Education Officer before assuming the role of Commander. Most importantly, I enjoy sharing my knowledge while also learning from others.

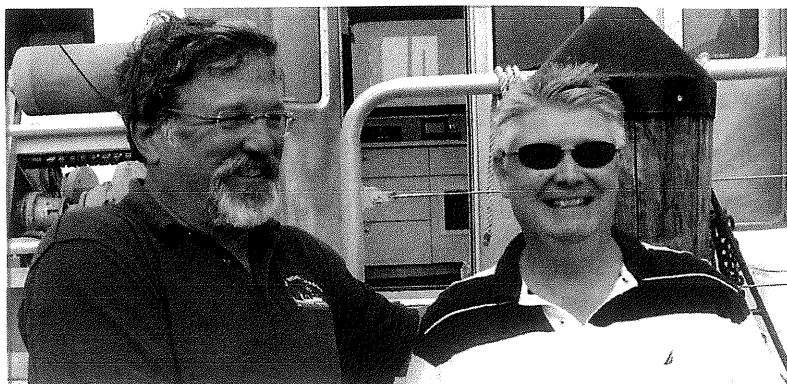
Completing the education courses gave me the confidence to jump into boat ownership and take longer sailing excursions. My friend and I purchased a new Jeanneau 379, "Windspiration" (37 feet), Sun Odyssey sailboat in 2013 and outfitted her with an array of electronics and gear for extended cruising. We sailed it around the Chesapeake Bay the first year and then from Annapolis to Fort Lauderdale in November 2014. That was by far the most fun I have ever had on a boat! That trip probably never would have happened if it were not for the knowledge I gained from the education courses. My friend and I sold "Windspiration" in July 2016 and we will charter in the near term until my retirement in ten years, at which point I will buy another sailboat to take more long excursions...this time without any pressing schedule to keep.

I have had so many memorable experiences in NVSPS and the USPS. The greatest benefit to being a member of the Squadron is that it is like being part of a family with a common interest – boating, comradery and social activities. I have learned so much about boating and maintaining boats from fellow Squadron members.

Those lessons are invaluable! We have held Wounded Warrior Cruises, picnics, holiday parties, hosted hospitality suites at the District Spring Conference, conducted Vessel Safety Checks and taught courses and seminars. We have had so many great guest speakers at our monthly meetings who have made various presentations on everything nautical. There is always something going on for everyone to participate in and contribute to.

Perhaps my greatest memory in the Squadron to date occurred during a Wounded Warrior Cruise at Pax River Naval Air Station, MD. I had the privilege of taking aboard "Windspiration" a young female soldier, her husband and son. The soldier was very skittish about going out on the boat and her husband mentioned that she hadn't really been outside of the house much over the last few years...she just wanted to remain isolated. Nevertheless, she mustered enough courage to step aboard. After providing a safety briefing we were on our way. She was still very uncertain about the experience until we turned the engine off and raised the mainsail, at which point her face came to life and she had the biggest smile on her face. She was hooked on sailing! She commented about the serenity and the wind, waves, birds and fish – things we ordinarily just take for granted. As it turns out, she taught me a lesson to appreciate my surroundings. She also taught me about the healing power of sailing. I never imagined that sailing would have such an impact on her. It was such an honor to take her out on the water and to see her come to life! I will never forget that day. It never would have happened if I hadn't joined NVSPS. Never let anyone tell you that "it's just a boat that you throw money into." Boating is a way of life.

Sadly, I will not be able to participate in the 50th anniversary celebration because my youngest daughter is graduating from college in Indiana the same day. I will be anxious to hear the many stories about the celebration and I will set my sights on the 75th anniversary!



P/C Richard Unis, JN

NVSPS Memories

I think the activity we most looked forward to all year were the Squadron's Summer Cruises. It was an opportunity to get the boat out and dock in a different place every day or two – which was great for improving boat handling, and it was a time to really get to know other people in the Squadron and to further cement friendships that we made along the way.

I remember watching some of the best boat handlers – Bill Alberts and Gale Alls in particular, studying their technique and hoping that one day I could handle my boat half as well as they did – poetry in motion! I remember silly scavenger hunts and picnics and just spending time with such marvelous people in lovely spots around the Bay.

I remember that a few of us were struggling with some parts of Advanced Piloting, and Bill Alberts graciously offered to help us out. A small group of us spent hours each week or two in John Shivik's dining room, with Bill helping each of us individually – he could explain the same concept in so many different ways to reach each of us! It was just another example of how people in the Squadron would do anything to help one another. In fact, we were constantly amazed at the generosity of so many of our members – giving freely of their time and talents. We forged friendships that will last for a lifetime with people in the Squadron, and our lives are richer for it.

I remember when John Shivik got his new boat, and we and the Durgins got him to take us out in it. John was a little nervous, and we wanted to encourage him... so the guys kept asking him to take us to that next buoy, or over this way a little, until finally we had journeyed from Herrington North to Knapps Narrows. Well John, we're already here so we might as well get that bridge to open and go on through. We stopped at Tilghman on Chesapeake Marina on the other side, and found Ben Fulton visiting his dockmaster friend there. We had a lot of laughs, John couldn't believe he had gone all that way, opened a bridge, negotiated the narrows, and docked in a strange place. It was a perfect confidence booster, and a grand afternoon all together!

There are too many memories and stories that we could tell. But the theme of all the tales is friendship, helpfulness, encouragement, kindness and joy. I'll close with the silly song Jean Durgin, her sister Nancy, and I wrote towards the end of the 2004 Summer Cruise. The photo is of our beloved friend Bill Alberts aboard his SEA AMIGO.

NVSPS 2004 Cruise Song

Oh, we're a fun squadron fleet out on a cruise.
We packed up our yachts, trawlers, rag-haulers, booze.
We sailed off to Solomons, Point Lookout too
And then off to Crisfield with our motley crew.

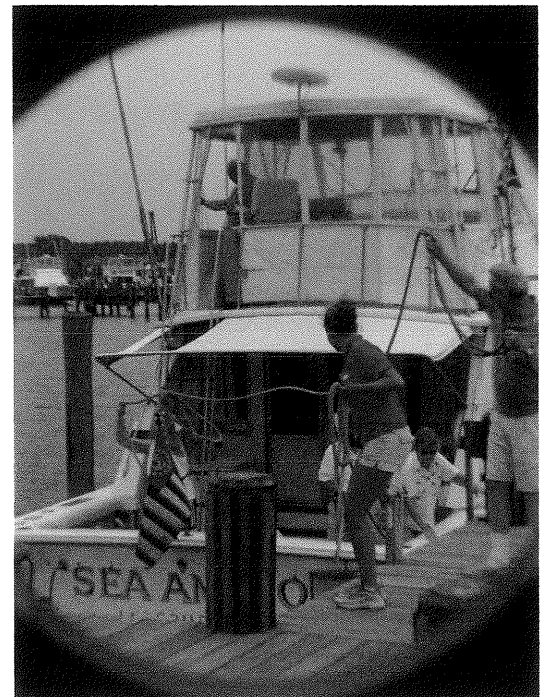
Blue Skies, the Kim, and Bay Leeway,
Adventures, Angela M, and Twyzark, they say,
Sheree Lynn, Loon and Grey Eagle too,
Sea Amigo, Wing and a Prayer, and Taylors came through.

First came the Coast Guard with bulletproof vest,
To put all the boats to the ultimate test.
Then came the storm, the wind and the rain,
That washed our scavenger hunt down the drain.

There's still one more boat to add to the rest,
On Wednesday Ed's Joy was put to the test.
The bravest of all is Sea Amigo
For they have had engine troubles you know.

Four little canines along on the cruise,
With leashes, bandanas and puppy dog chews,
Winnie, and Pasha, Lost Dog, M&M,
Watch where you step on the shore now and then.

Mile after mile and day after day,
For gallons of diesel or gas do we pay
To gather each night for the very same cheese
Can we have some new snacks for next year's cruise, please!



There'll be more tales as we cruise along,
Some will be right and some will be wrong,
Some will be short and some will be long,
But we'll all remember this stupid old song.

Robin Roberts, AP & Jim Roberts, AP



What NVSPS means to the Zugay Family

In October of 2001 we were not familiar with the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron (or the Northern Virginia Power Squadron (NVPS) as it was then called) when we ordered our 27 foot Sea Ray Sun Deck "Potomac Pleasure." After the events of September 11th we decided not to wait until retirement to buy a boat but, to help the economy as President Bush had suggested in the wake of the events of that fateful day.

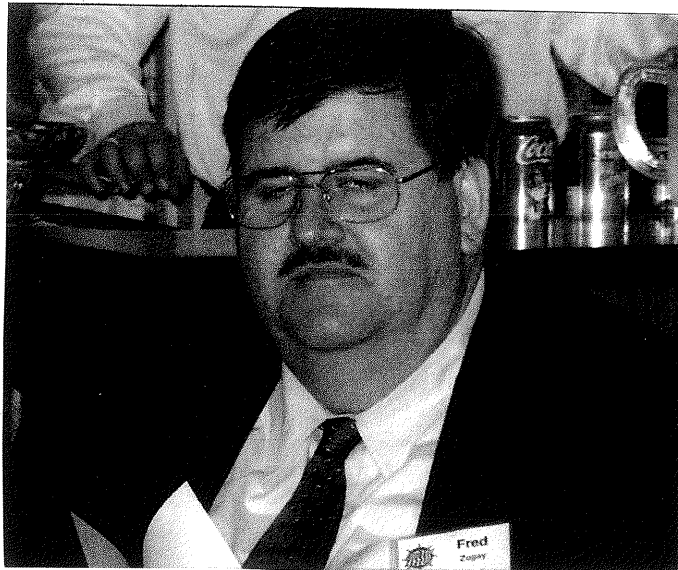
We then enrolled in a Boating Safety class being taught at South Lakes High School in Reston, VA. We joked that whichever one of us got the highest test score they would be the Captain and the other one would be the First Mate! As it turned out, we tied both getting two questions wrong on the test. So we are Co-Captains! It was during the class that we learned about the US Power Squadrons and the Northern Virginia Squadron in particular.

Impressed with the mission of the NVSPS and its emphasis on Boating Safety and education, Fred decided to join the squadron. In the 15 years since, Fred has completed classes to the grade of Junior Navigator (JN) and is currently working on Senior Navigator. These classes have been very interesting and added to our boating enjoyment.

On the day we took delivery of our boat, our salesman gave us an on water demonstration on the Potomac River. Upon returning to the Marina and being satisfied with how to operate the boat we decided to take her out for a run. I had a chart of the river and called out buoy marker numbers as we headed north. We went all the way up to Georgetown and back, a four hour round trip. If we had not taken the Boating Safety course from NVSPS we would not have had the knowledge and confidence to venture out on our own the very first time.

We have attended numerous COWs, picnics, and holiday parties and have enjoyed the fellowship with the squadron members. We participated in a tour of the NOAA Weather Station at Dulles Airport and visited the Coast Guard Navigation Facility in Springfield, VA. If Fred did not join NVSPS we would not have made the numerous good friends and had the experiences that we have had over these years. Fred is also enjoying and thankful for the privilege of leading the squadron as the Commander during this 50th Anniversary celebration year.

Cindy Zugay





**Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron
sails into the future with optimism and a love of the sea.**