



**NORTHERN VIRGINIA SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON
GENERAL MEETING
March 14, 2007**

In attendance:

BRIDGE:

Commander, CDR G. Jay Nelson, AP
Education Officer, Lt/C Rick Baker, AP
Administrative Officer, Lt/C Bill Blanding, P
Secretary, Lt/C Clara L. Blanding, P
Treasurer, Lt/C Joel Bailey, AP

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

P/C John A. Shivik, AP
Lt. Jean Durgin, AP

The general meeting was held at BOAT US and called to order at 7:40 PM. The meeting was held in a different room due to a scheduling conflict at BOATUS causing some confusion and difficulty getting the meeting started. CDR Jay Nelson, AP led in the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was present and the minutes from the last meeting were approved and distributed.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS: CDR G. Jay Nelson, P

- Due to the meeting room confusion, the circumstances of meeting setting were not ideal for a long meeting. Therefore, every effort was made to keep the meeting as brief as possible.
- A big thank you to new members Frank and Sandy Tugwell for providing the tasty treats and refreshments this evening.

RECOGNITION OF PAST NVPS COMMANDERS:

Commander Nelson, AP recognized Past Commanders present as follows:

P/C Gale Alls, SN
P/C Richard Durgin, JN
P/C Keith Segerson, P
P/C John A. Shivik, AP
P/C Richard Davis, AP (of another squadron)

MEMBERSHIP: Bill Blanding, P

The following new members were sworn in:

Shawn and Bridgett Eland
Mike Card

Pam Young brought Bob and Jeannine Heckman as guests and possible new members.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

Commander, CDR G. Jay Nelson, AP:

- The first order of business was to vote on the proposed 2007-08 squadron budget. Copies were passed out at the last meeting. Our treasurer, Joel Bailey, passed out additional copies this evening. A motion was made to approve the budget, and a vote taken. The proposed budget for 2007-08 was approved.
- The second order of business was to vote on the slate of nominees for the 2007-08 Bridge and Executive Committee positions. The slate was reviewed and had also been previously published in the

newsletter, online and announced at the February and March meetings. A motion was made and a vote taken. The proposed slate of officers for 2007-08 was approved.

- It appears there will be a conflict with the meeting room availability at BOATUS both in April and May. We will notify members by newsletter and email of the location of the meetings for those two months. Hopefully, after that we will be back to our regular meeting space at the BOATUS Headquarters.

Education Officer, Lt/C Rick Baker, AP:

- (See notes under guest speaker on the new USPS University courses)
- Courses are now on the schedule for the summer and fall 2007 sessions. There will be a Seamanship course starting in June and part of it will be integrated with the new USPS University Seminar courses.
- Junior Navigator is starting up in May. This is the first time the course has been offered in several years and is the new revised course. This is the first of the advanced courses that deals with celestial navigation.
- Any member having an interest in signing up for any course should contact Rick Baker.

Administrative Officer, Lt/C Bill Blanding, P:

- Thanked all the squadron members who helped out this year with new member recruitment, both at basic boating classes and in other ways. This was a successful year with 83 new members joining the squadron. Several of our new members are already stepping in and becoming involved by volunteering to bring meeting refreshments and accepting committee positions. Without these volunteers we could have never been this successful.

Secretary, Lt/C Clara L. Blanding, P:

- Suggested that bringing multiple copies of the previous minutes to each meeting is a waste of paper since most of the copies are left on the chairs at the end of the meeting. Clara suggested putting the General Membership Meeting minutes on the website, at least one week prior to the next meeting, to be available to any squadron member, whether or not they attend a meeting. This may help to promote events and make members more aware of what programs are coming up even if they cannot regularly attend meetings.
- There was some discussion of this idea. It was decided not to include any financial information (Treasurer's Report) on the website version. A notice is to be placed in the newsletter informing members that the minutes will be available on line starting in April. Additionally, 5 copies of the newsletter will be printed and brought to the membership meeting in case anyone would like a copy or does not have computer access to the website. A motion was made to initiate this, as above, and to re-evaluate this in September or October for feedback. A vote was taken, motion passed, the newsletter will start to be available on the website starting in April.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Squadron Operations Training Course, P/C Richard Durgin, JN

- On Saturday, March 17th, a Squadron Operations Training course will be held. It is mandatory for bridge officers and good training for any interested member in the operations of the squadron. The course will be taught by Gale Alls and Dick Durgin. Any interested member please contact Dick Durgin.

Special Events Committee: P/C Dick Durgin, JN

- Plans are finalized for our Squadron 40th Anniversary Celebration for March 24th. This event will combine our Founder's Day events, Change of Watch and the celebration of our Squadron's 40th Anniversary into one gala evening. The cost per person includes dinner, open bar, professional entertainment, an artist present to do portraits, and a personal copy of the Squadron Scrapbook. This is the last chance to sign up to attend. Please see Gale Alls for tickets.

- On Monday, March 12th the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recognized the efforts of the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron by proclaiming March 24, 2007 to be NVSPS day in Fairfax County. Commander Jay Nelson accepted a plaque on behalf of the squadron and it will be on display at the

Legislative Liaison, Lt Tom Martin, AP

- The Virginia Legislature has passed a law requiring all boat operators to pass a safe boating course. This, obviously, will impact our boating course attendance as it is phased in. The state has until 2016 to implement the changes and it likely to be done in phases.

Ships Store;

- New items with the updated squadron logo are available for order. To see samples, find out about sizes and costs, please contact Judy Soballe.

GUEST SPEAKER: Lt./C Rick Baker, AP was our guest speaker for the evening. He had just received copies of the new USPS University courses and wanted to share them with members and explain the new program.

PRESENTATION:

- USPS is starting a new education program using a series of long and short courses and one-day seminars that will be part of an on the water certification in various areas of boating. The first of the new short courses and seminars are ready to be given. 7-8 new seminars in the planning.
- The new seminars are first rate in quality and value. So far seminars on Using GPS, Using VHF/SSB, Charts – how to use and plan a course, On Board Weather Forecasting are ready to be used. Each seminar will be 2 ½ hrs long and the cost will be between \$35 and \$45 per person.
- We will be offering the new GPS seminar on May 3rd at Robinson High School at 7 PM.
- We will be next offering the Weather seminar, date to be determined.
- If your schedules are too full to take one of the lengthier advanced courses, jump in by taking these short seminars and get a good basic knowledge of the various topics. Student materials are professional and suitable for use on your boat and for reference.

Unfinished and/or New Business: None

Good for the Order: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lt/C Clara Blanding, P

Lt/C Clara L. Blanding, P
Secretary