



**NORTHERN VIRGINIA SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2009**

The General Meeting was held at the Boat US conference room. The meeting was called to order at 1930. A quorum was present.

In attendance:

BRIDGE:

Commander, CDR Francis T. Williamson, AP
Executive Officer, Lt/C George Nartsissov, P
Administrative Officer, Lt/C John G. Karjala, P
Education Officer, Lt/C Richard E. Unis, JN
Treasurer, Lt/C Steven Hall, AP
Secretary, Lt/C Ralph R. Young, AP
Webmaster, D/Lt Walter Lazear, AP

Members at Large:

P/C Gale Alls, SN	P/C Richard Durgin, JN
P/C G. J. Nelson, AP	P/Lt/C Cathleen F. Sheffield
P/C John A. Shivik, AP	Frederick D. Zugay, JN

Absent:

Members at Large:

P/C George K. Degnon

INTRODUCTIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CDR Williamson introduced former Squadron Commanders who were present:

Dick Durgin
Bob Malone
Gale Alls
Jay Nelson
John Shivik

CDR Williamson acknowledged his wife for providing the refreshments for tonight's meeting.

CDR Williamson advised that the Squadron has 15 new members so far this year. No new members were present.

PRESENTATIONS:

CDR Williamson presented the USPS National Educational Proficiency Award, signed by the National Education Officer, to Sea Scout Andrew Scheuermann and John J. Fitzgerald.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

CDR Williamson advised that the minutes of the 8 April 2009 General Membership Meeting are accepted.

REPORTS IN THE ORDER OF DISCUSSION:

Treasurer: No report.

XO Lt/C George Nartsissov reporting for:

Vessel Safety Check Chair, Lt John von Senden, AP

There has been a lot of activity (many vessel safety checks have been performed).

Public Relations, Frank Shulz

The Squadron has provided information concerning our educational offerings in local boating magazines.

Administrative Officer, Lt/C John G. Karjala, P:

Picnic, 16 May, Fairfax Yacht Club

George advised that the Squadron will be performing Vessel Safety Checks at the picnic; and also that the Squadron needs additional examiners—please volunteer to Lt John von Senden.

Please sign up for providing refreshments at All-hands Meetings (sign-up sheet is available in the back of the room).

Education Officer, Lt/C Rich Unis, JN:

-28 students are enrolled in the two ongoing Squadron Boating courses. Two seminars will be provided on May 30.

-Piloting and Navigation courses will be provided in September; Weather in Jan.

CDR Williamson reported that he spoke with Tom Grant concerning new requirements as of July 1 and also the Dockside Safety Checklist:

Secretary, Lt/C Ralph Young, AP:

Secretary Young advised that he is coordinating an initiative requested by CDR Williamson to identify, prioritize, and implement improvement ideas for the Squadron. CDR Williamson has provided a vision for the improvement initiative that has been documented in a draft "Vision and Scope Document" that is evolving as it is reviewed by Squadron members. Secretary Young advised that a newly formed committee, the "NVSPS Automation Working Group (NAWG)" has been formed to identify real requirements for Squadron improvement ideas, and has been provided a draft of the Vision and Scope Document. Leads of a set of

improvement areas have been identified and requested to provide suggested ideas by May 17th.

CDR Williamson amplified that the USPS National organization believes that efforts to attract new members need to be modernized. The Squadron needs to become more “digital” in order to reach out to the younger generation. In addition, the Squadron needs to be more efficient and effective in its operations, for example, record-keeping; website; membership; administrative activities; communications; educational activities; interaction with District 5; etc. Squadron member Manette Lazier commented that every new bridge over the past twenty years has set out to improve operations, however, nothing has really been accomplished—why would this improvement initiative be any different? She feels that there has always been difficulty in passing on the Squadron’s procedures from one Bridge to another, and each year, we seem to reinvent the wheel. A discussion followed that tried to express the hopes of the new Bridge to have a positive impact as a result of the improvement initiative. The support of all members is requested; everyone should feel free to suggest ideas, concerns, suggestions, and recommendations through any member of the NAWG.

P/C John A. Shivik, AP:

P/C Shivik noted that items are available from the Ship’s Store, and that members should advise of anything they need.

Past CDR Bob Malone:

Previous CDR Malone introduced his son, Bill, and Sandy Wills.

There being no further business the general business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 2000 hrs.

Guest Speaker: P/C Ails introduced Jim Seith, who gave a very enjoyable and interesting presentation concerning his trip to Antarctica. Jim’s experience reinforced the need for good knowledge of boating and the role of the USPS in encouraging safe boating.

Respectfully submitted

Lt/C Ralph R. Young, AP
Secretary