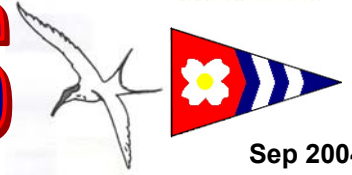




of TARS & TERNS



Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron

Sep 2004
Vol XXXVIII No 8

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

NVSPS BRIDGE Officers & Chairs



COMMANDER
Cdr Keith B. Segerson, P
(703) 670-2270



EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Lt/C Richard P. Davis, AP
(571) 436-7607



ADMIN OFFICER
Lt/C Glenn A. Fahey, S
(703) 421-0662
ASST: 1/Lt Yean-Ming Sheu, AP
(301) 277-5035



EDUCATION OFFICER
Lt/C G. Jay Nelson, AP
(703) 437-0064
ASST: P/C Dick Durgin, JN
(703) 560-9106



TREASURER
Lt/C Joel P. Bailey, AP
(703) 444-5169
ASST: 1/ Lt Judy Soballe, AP
(202) 337-0960



SECRETARY
Lt/C Cathy F. Sheffield, AP
(703) 370-4331

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

D/Lt Martha J. Dodd, P (703) 239- 0551

AT LARGE

D/Lt Walt Lazear, AP (703) 620-1821
Lt Russell Grasso, P (703) 499-8557
D/Lt Martha J. Dodd, P (703) 239-0551
Lt Ron Larson, P (703) 922-7094
P/C John Shivik, AP (703) 273-3351



SQUADRON CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 4 – 6 Labor-day Rendezvous, Town Dock Marina
St. Michael's Maryland
- 4 – 6 D5 Sail Regatta, Inner Harbor
Baltimore, MD
- 8 NVSPS Executive Committee &
All-Hands Meeting, *BoatUS Headquarters*
- 8-12 **USPS® National Governing Board**
Adams Mark Hotel, Jacksonville FL
- 15 Inputs due: *of Tars & Terns*
- ? Lunch Cruise (car or boat)
Chesapeake Bay somewhere

OCTOBER

- 13 NVSPS International Potluck Dinner
TBA
- ? Seaport Day, NVSPS Booth
Alexandria VA
- ? Weekend Cruise (car or boat)
TBA

NVSPS All-Hands Meetings

Monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 1930. **Changes** will be posted here and on our web site.

At BoatUS 880 S. Pickett St., Alexandria VA.

From I-495 take Van Dorn St. exit #173 (old #3). North to S. Pickett. Turn left.

Or...

From I-395 take Duke St. exit #3. East to Van Dorn, turn right. South to S. Pickett, turn right.

Then...

Go less than 1/2 mile and turn in at the BoatUS sign. Enter lighted parking lot behind building.



of TARS & TERNS

Official Publication of

Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron

In District 5 of

The United States Power Squadrons®

www.usps.org/localusps/nva

www.usps.org/localusps/d5

Articles, opinions and advertisements do not reflect USPS policy or endorsement unless so designated. Published ten months per year. July & August, October & November are combined

EDITOR

Lt Peter Soballe, AP

(202) 337-0960

peter.soballe@verizon.net

DISTRIBUTION

Lt Manette B. Lazear, AP

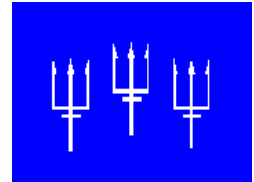
D/Lt Walter D. Lazear, AP

(703) 620-1821

lakematesw@comcast.net



From the Commander



Cdr Keith B. Segerson, P

Where has the summer gone? If you followed my saga of being late to get my boat into the water, you know that I'm not really interested in thinking about winterizing in a few months!

One exciting part of this season has been the advent of new classes from basic to advanced. It's great to see such enthusiasm for this fundamental mission of our Squadron. I'm sure that many of you had an experience this summer when you dug into your class learning and knew exactly what to do. You'll be seeing many material and delivery improvements this year. Check out the education officer's column; Jay's been working extensively with national to implement new programs.

FOR NEW MEMBERS ONLY (If you've been a member more than 1 year, please turn the page!) I want to hear personally from each of you about your goals and objectives as new members. As Commander, it's up to me and the Executive Committee to plan activities to meet EVERY member's needs and interests. However, if we don't know what you want, it's certainly hard to get it right. Toward that end, I pose four questions:

Why did you join the NVSPS?

What do you expect of the organization?

What activity, class, event, social, etc. would interest you enough to participate?

What one change or improvement would you recommend to me?

Call me: W (703) 277-7724. H (703) 670-2270.

Or e-mail me: segerson@gmu.edu.

I look forward to hearing from you and commit to addressing your responses as best I can.



Exec's Moment

D/Lt/C Richard Davis, AP

Are you interested in how the US Power Squadrons work, or their origin? Maybe you'd like to hold a bridge position someday. Or maybe you're interested in squadron customs. Or what's that thing referred to as "National"?

On 13 November (0830 – 1630) there'll be an Operations Training and a Leadership Development Program (you get credit for both) at BoatUS. Bring your "brown bag" lunch and learn all the above and much more.



They're required courses for bridge officers and for achievement of a full certificate. The price is only \$50.00 per person to cover the course materials.

Submit the enrollment slip before 31 October to insure time for the course materials to arrive.

Finally, a note of caution – hurricane season is here. Be sure you have all your plans in place. Isabel did us no favors last year, and who is to say she doesn't have a sibling coming behind her this year.

Join the fun, share the knowledge.



Richard, please sign me up for the 13 November programs at BoatUS

NAME(s): _____ Member # _____

Enclosed is a check for \$50 per person

Mail to: Lt/C Richard Davis, AP
11654 Gilman Lane
Herndon, VA 20170

rpdavis1702@comcast.net

(571) 436-7607



Education

Lt/C G. Jay Nelson, AP

It's that time of year. Although the season is still far from over, our education program is ready to go. We'll offer Engine Maintenance and the new Piloting course in the fall. Winter will have Seamanship, Marine Electronics, Advanced Piloting and Weather. We're considering a Cruise Planning course for spring if we develop sufficient interest.

We have the new Piloting course and are familiarizing our instructors with it. It's a two-part program that's more in tune with today's boater and focuses on electronic navigation. It's professionally done, and uses commercial software, electronic charts, and other teaching aids. This will be a hit!

We're also running four Basic Boating Courses and we're looking for help. Some members have already offered, but more are needed. Instructing the Boating Course is a lot of fun and rewarding. But if you're not sure about taking on teaching, consider being an assistant. Send me an e-mail gjaynelson@aol.com – or call (703) 818-5364 (day) or 703 437-0064 (evenings).

Please contact the instructor for reservations:

- *Engine Maintenance* Mondays @ 7:00 PM
13 Sep - 27 Dec 2004. Loudin County Library
Instructor: Dwight Bues AP
dbues@aol.com (703) 404-8728
- *Piloting* Thursdays @ 7:00 PM
14 Sep - 30 Nov 2004. Site: TBA
Instructor: Jay Nelson, AP
gjaynelson@aol.com (703) 437-0064
- *Marine Electronics* Tuesdays @ 7:00 PM
06 Jan - 24 Mar 2005. Loudin County Library
Instructor: Dwight Bues AP
dbues@aol.com (703) 404-8728
- *Weather* Tuesdays @ 7:00 PM
08 Feb - 25 Apr 2005 – Robinson 2^o School
Instructor: John Shivik, AP
jshivik@cox.net (703) 273-3351
- *Seamanship* Mondays @ 7:00 PM
13 Jan - 30 Mar 2005. Fairfax High School
Instructor: Rick Baker, AP –
20rjbaker04@cox.net (703) 318-5899



Administration

Lt/C Glenn A. Fahey, S

I hope you're having a great boating season. The best weather, barring any storms like last year's hurricane Isabel, is yet to come in September and October.

In the last *oT&T* issue I put forth the idea of taking cruises beyond the Chesapeake. These could include anything from larger boats taking extended cruises to trailerable boats exploring new areas. If anyone has any interest or suggestions regarding this, please let us know. It would be great if several members could get together in an informal manner, and go explore new areas. This would not replace the other NVSPS cruises, but would be in addition to them.

The **International Pot Luck** Supper and General Meeting will be held on October 13, 2004 at 1830. More details, including the location, will be given in the October issue of *oT&T*.

Safe Boating!



Weatherman

Grey Eagle, P/C John Shivik AP demonstrates his navy captain style & some whiz-bang technology at this summer's rendezvous. Want to be this smart? Sign up for the Weather course!

08 Feb – 25 Apr 2005.

Details on page 3.



Summer Cruise

A rendezvous and Nav contest at Solomons led off the NVSPS summer cruise this June. A couple days in the Potomac at Point Lookout marina and then on to Crisfield for the grand finale and the end of a terrific week.

A "Cruz Nuz" was occasionally published and we're able to bring you this year's cruise song in all it's glory, pomp and splendor (see pg 7).



Adventures

Rounds point lookout



Blue Skies

USPS ensign & our burgee on proud display



“CAPTAIN’S CORNER”

How much do you know about tides? This month we’ll review some of the basics.

1. Tides are caused primarily by ___?
 - a. the gravitation pull of the sun
 - b. surface winds and ocean currents
 - c. the gravitational pull of the moon
 - d. the Coreolis Effect of the earth’s rotation
 - e. the centrifugal force of the earth’s rotation
2. A neap tide’s range is ___?
 - a. about average
 - b. greater than average
 - c. less than an average
3. The “Rule of Twelfths” refers to ___?
 - a. tidal volume and height
 - b. tidal height and current
 - c. tidal current and volume
 - d. tidal range and timing
 - e. tidal range and volume

answers on page 7

Merit Marks !

Officers & Chairs: your recommendations are due to Jean Durgin by 15 Oct 2004.

rjdurgin@aol.com

Members: after 25 merit marks you no longer pay national dues (you pay only local).

Life Jackets? Why Not?

Two focus groups commissioned by the BoatUS Foundation reveal the top three reasons sportsmen don't wear life jackets - and why some do.

"**The number one** reason for not wearing a life jacket was lack of comfort," said Chris Edmonston, Director of Boating Safety Programs at the Foundation. "What is surprising, however, is their low awareness of the new class of lightweight, comfortable inflatable life jackets that have been on the market for several years now.

The second most common reason for not wearing a jacket was that this group rarely sees professionals on TV wearing life jackets. "Unfortunately, hunting and fishing shows don't treat life jackets the same as, for example, home improvement shows which routinely depict eye or ear protection."

The third most common reason for not wearing a life jacket was that sportsmen feel comfortable with their swimming ability, "A dangerous mistake which has led to deaths,"

So why do some hunters and anglers choose to wear a jacket? A close call on the water was number one.

The second was to present a positive role model for children.

The third reason given was that it's simply a common sense precaution.

The full reports of such studies and boating tips for hunters and anglers, are available as a free CD from

BoatingSafety@BoatUS.com

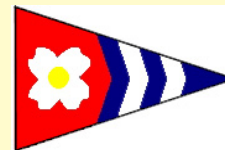


Welcome
Aboard!



Steve Shupack
(Herrington North)

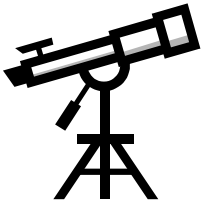
SHIP'S STORE



Need a new burgee, tote bag, or sport shirt? How about a squadron name tag?

Contact P/C Paula Bailey, AP
(703) 444-5169

Show off! You're NVSPS!



The Sailor's Night Sky

D/Lt Charles H. Olin, AP

Part three: ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION

All our knowledge, even our awareness of the universe, comes via radiation from space. All life on this planet responds to radiation that penetrates the atmosphere. Fortunately shorter wavelength, high-energy radiation like ultraviolet (3800 – 100 Angstroms), x-rays, and gamma-rays, do not penetrate our atmosphere well. If they did there would not be life on Earth as we know it. The outer atmosphere, (stratosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere, ionosphere) protects us from X-rays and from far ultra-violet. These rays are absorbed by oxygen, nitrogen, and especially ozone (O₃), a layer 15 – 25 miles up. These high-energy rays dissociate molecules and ionize atoms. The limited regions of atmospheric transparency through which we have been able to study the stars and discover distant galaxies for the past century are here described:

Visible light (wavelengths 3800-7600 angstroms) does penetrate the atmosphere, of course, and our eyes are most sensitive to these rays. Longer wavelengths are red and penetrate best. Shorter wavelengths are blue and near-ultraviolet. Though they reach the surface, they greatly scatter as they hit particles in the air, resulting in a blue sky and a sunburn even on cloudy days.

Near ultraviolet (3100 to 3800 angstroms) penetrates and is responsible for suntan. Because it readily scatters, it is present, just as light is, throughout the atmosphere even on cloudy days.

Infrared radiation (wavelengths 7600 angstroms to about 20 μm) is absorbed by water vapor, carbon dioxide, ozone, and methane; only the short wavelengths, near visible light, can penetrate the atmosphere. The infrared range contains three important transparent regions: 2.2 μm , 3.5 μm , and 10 μm .

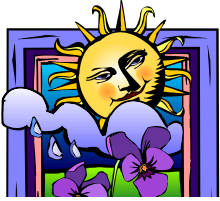
Radio waves from 2 cm to about 11 meters reach ground level, longer wavelengths (to beyond one kilometer!) are absorbed by water vapor or scattered in the ionosphere.

Microwaves (from about 0.1 - 10 cm) have two partially transparent windows at 0.7 & 1.0 cm.

With the gradual realization (after World War II) that other forms of radiation besides visible light can be used to portray a far more descriptive and enlightened universe, satellites and observatories were designed to detect radiation we cannot “see” on Earth. NASA, the European Space Agency, and now other countries, have placed sophisticated detectors beyond our limiting atmosphere. Even penetrating visible light has been studied with great success by the Hubble telescope. Here are four other detection systems: SWIFT (gamma rays), Chandra (X-Rays), MAP (microwaves), and Spitzer (infrared). Spitzer will detect radiation between 3 and 180 micrometers, gives a better understanding of galaxy formation and development, and better insights into star formation. Large clouds of dust hide these vast regions of space and visible light cannot penetrate. One photon of light gets through for every 10,000 trillion, trillion, trillion photons that do not. Spitzer, launched August 2003, uses infrared radiation in which to see these regions as if there were no dust!

I have received a request from our editor to “spread out your thoughts a little into slightly smaller monthly bites.” Many of my topics in these articles require a bit more space to complete the development of thought. Spreading a concept over several editions will lose its impact and continuity. I am afraid the quality of these articles, what ever is present, will suffer and I apologize now. Please bear with me as I try to make shorter articles meaningful.





HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*From P/C Chuck Eby
Flower Power Chairman*

I'm not kidding! The time is rapidly approaching to send in your season's greetings for the December **OT&T**

Our squadron's Flower Power trust fund was established in 1988 by a generous donation of \$5000 from Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hazelton, to support "optional" activities. Only the interest earned on this money may be spent each year. Last year we contributed \$1700 for Power Point® for our squadron education programs.

Send greetings & donations to:

Joel Bailey
20817 Waterbeach Pl
Sterling VA 20165-7409
By 01 November

To encourage donations, we've set up a program whereby you may send seasons greetings to fellow members through the Tars and Terns. Just send your greetings and a contribution to Joel Bailey, our treasurer, by NOVEMBER 1. Joel will credit your donation and forward your greetings to **OT&T** for the December issue.

The advantage to you is you can reach all our members without buying cards or stamps. **And Flower Power donations are even tax deductible !**

CAPTAIN'S CORNER ANSWERS

1. c. The moon's about twice as strong a gravitational pull as the sun
2. c. With the sun at a right angle, the moon's pull is offset and much less
3. b. When tides are semi-diurnal, 1/12 of the volume will change in hours 1&6, 2/12 in 2&5, and 3/12 in 3&4

♪ 2004 Cruise Song

Oh, we're a fun squadron 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 & a Prayer, & 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 leases, 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.



www.usps.org/localusps/nva

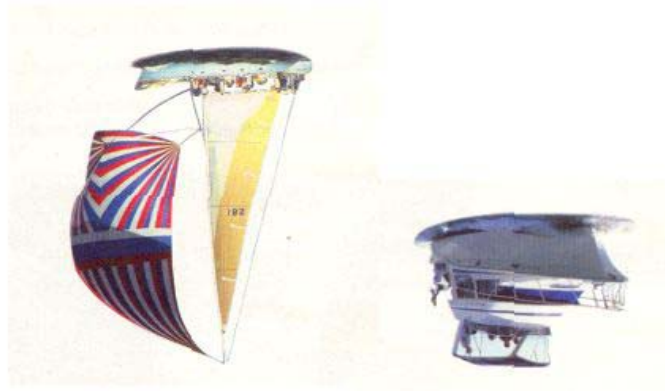
See us at:

Alexandria, VA

880 S. Pickett St.

BoatUS Headquarters

Northern Virginia
Sail & Power
Squadron



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

Lt W. Lazear, AP
2014 Lakebreeze Way
Reston, VA 20190

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
6586
RESTON, VA



of TARS & TERNS

