



# of TARS & TERNS

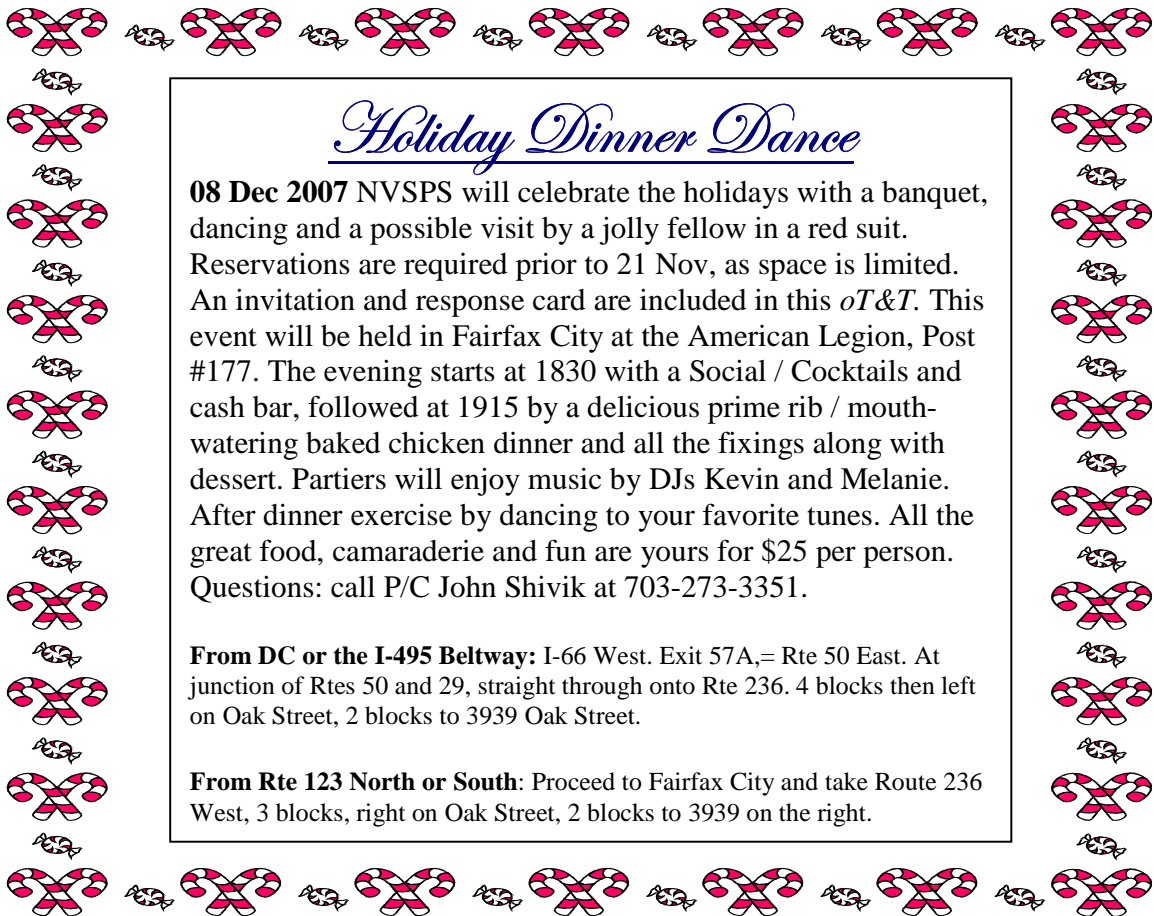
Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron

[www.usps.org/localusps/nva/ott/ott.htm](http://www.usps.org/localusps/nva/ott/ott.htm)



Vol XLI, No.9

November, 2007



## Holiday Dinner Dance

**08 Dec 2007** NVSPS will celebrate the holidays with a banquet, dancing and a possible visit by a jolly fellow in a red suit. Reservations are required prior to 21 Nov, as space is limited. An invitation and response card are included in this *oT&T*. This event will be held in Fairfax City at the American Legion, Post #177. The evening starts at 1830 with a Social / Cocktails and cash bar, followed at 1915 by a delicious prime rib / mouth-watering baked chicken dinner and all the fixings along with dessert. Partiers will enjoy music by DJs Kevin and Melanie. After dinner exercise by dancing to your favorite tunes. All the great food, camaraderie and fun are yours for \$25 per person. Questions: call P/C John Shivik at 703-273-3351.

**From DC or the I-495 Beltway:** I-66 West. Exit 57A, = Rte 50 East. At junction of Rtes 50 and 29, straight through onto Rte 236. 4 blocks then left on Oak Street, 2 blocks to 3939 Oak Street.

**From Rte 123 North or South:** Proceed to Fairfax City and take Route 236 West, 3 blocks, right on Oak Street, 2 blocks to 3939 on the right.

### IN THIS EDITION

- Holiday Party ..... 1
- NVSPS Bridge..... 2
- Executive Officer..... 2
- On Deck .....2
- Flower Power..... 2
- Admin Officer..... 3
- SEO “Chalk Talk” ..... 4
- Commander Sends..... 5
- NVSPS Calendar ..... 5 –6
- Holiday Party Reservation .....7



## NVSPS BRIDGE



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## "EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE"

**Executive Officer: Lt/C Bill Blanding, AP**

Clara and I attended the Krogen rendezvous several weeks ago. Besides being a great event, it was memorable in another way -- teamwork and getting involved. There were over 60 Krogen boats at the rendezvous in Solomons MD, and P/C Al and Elaine Sheetz had volunteered to do Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) for the group. With it being relatively late in the season there was no reason to expect more than just a handful of boats needing a VSC -- well, there were close to 40, a daunting task for two folks to share alone. Clara made a call to Cdr Jay Nelson, who called the Pax River Commander and within 1 hour, I had a call from the Pax River folks volunteering to show up with 5 examiners. What a great response! With that kind of teamwork all the Krogen owners were accommodated and it made my heart feel good to see the folks getting involved and volunteering. As a matter of record our VSC examiners have completed 58 VSCs this year (not counting the Krogen event, yet).

I report to work in Annapolis on 10 Nov and will miss the NVSPS and all the great folks I have met. Keep getting involved and keep volunteering -- that's the only way to keep the squadron viable.

Thanks, Bill

## All Hands... On Deck !

**14 November @ 1900** Samuel Barr, an NVSPS member, will speak at our November meeting about the Titanic. Sam gave this presentation 4 - 5 years ago and it was very well received. The program with slides runs about forty five minutes. This is a very entertaining and informative presentation. See you there!

## Launch Your Holiday Greetings !

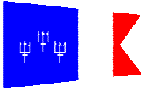
It's easy to send holiday greetings in the December *of Tars & Terns* to all your Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron friends with a tax-deductible donation to NVSPS Flower Power Fund.

Just mail your check payable to NVSPS Flower Power Fund no later than 10 Nov 2007 to P/C Dick Durgin, Please include your 3-line message (example: "Best wishes for a great holiday and happy new year from John & Jane Doe.")

Do it today!

**P/C Dick Durgin, JN, Chair, Flower Power Fund**  
703 560-9106 [ridurgin@aol.com](mailto:ridurgin@aol.com)  
308 George St. SW, Vienna, VA 22180





## Admin Officer's Report

**Lt/C John Shivik, AP**

The International Pot luck at Fairfax Yacht Club on 10 October was an enjoyable time with picture perfect weather. Only challenge was significant traffic due to a fatal accident that occurred at Route 123 and I-95 Interchange. But that didn't dissuade those members who ventured forth to enjoy the many culinary presentations. The delicious entrées and scrumptious desserts really displayed the superb "Chef" abilities of our members! I understand that one member popped a button after the meal. Several of us may have come close to that!

A special thanks is extended to P/C Ed and P/D/Lt Martha Jane Dodd for arranging use of the Fairfax Yacht Club Clubhouse. A great debt of gratitude to all those who helped with set-up and clean-up including Gale and Evelyn Alls, Dick and Jean Durgin, Dave McNerney, John and Sue Karjala, Cdr Jay Nelson and Chris Vasco, Jere and Nancy Dando, Keith and Kathie Clark, Pete and Judy Soballe, Russ and Ruth Grasso (door prize tickets) and the list goes on! Thanks everyone for pitching in and making our time together an outstanding event!

It is hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us. Robie and I wish you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving! The Annual Squadron Holiday Dinner and Dance is next in line for Saturday, 8 Dec 07. Look forward to seeing you there!

Weatherwise – If we don't have some rain soon, we'll need to have wheels installed on our boats. Keep a weather-eye on the changes that are coming. Also, watch out for those gusty northwesterly winds after a cold front passes the area and high pressure builds.



*Happy pot-luckers load up at Fairfax Yacht Club*



*Cdr Jay Nelson & Chris Vasco arrived with the "Commander's locker" to save the day*

## "Chalk Talk"

**Education Officer Lt/C Rick Baker, AP**  
703 318-5899 [rickbaker2006@verizon.net](mailto:rickbaker2006@verizon.net)

**How do I get my message across?** Newsletter articles and emails don't appear to be reaching you. We have about 50 new members since last year's round of advanced courses, but registration for *Seamanship* and *Piloting* has been, well, lackluster.

**What is the problem?** Time of day, the day of the week, the hours in class, the instructors, the material, the slides, your lack of understanding about the value of our courses, media for reaching you, course locations, my attitude, just what? At least do me the courtesy of e-mailing me why you aren't registering for *Seamanship* or *Piloting* if you haven't taken them yet. Give me your feedback.

***Seamanship* and *Piloting* are the first member courses** in the USPS. *Seamanship* gets you on the water to practice better boat handling, anchoring, planning, and reactions to adverse conditions. *Piloting* and *Advanced Piloting* in the fall and winter, respectively, take you to the next levels of navigation so you can cross the Chesapeake or take an offshore voyage confidently, using your chart, compass, and electronic navigation equipment. The new *Piloting* slides are exceptional! I now term this "the best, first-course in navigation" that I've seen in 25 years—it's more than a "how-to", because we now explain in great detail how the "system" works together to help you plan and execute safe navigation and piloting—now "THE Foundation Course in Navigation."

**Please register on time so I can order the right number of books.** A few seats and books are still open for *Piloting* starting 3 Nov. For all NVSPS courses and seminars, family members and significant others may share books for a big discount, and at least 10 registered, in-class participating members are required to make any offering a GO! Register with me at: [rickbaker2006@verizon.net](mailto:rickbaker2006@verizon.net)

### **PILOTING (P)** (6 sessions, Saturdays)

Start: 3 Nov 07, 1200-1600 End: 15 Dec 07  
Location: St. George's Episcopal Church, 915 N Oakland St Room 114, Arlington VA 22203  
Instructor: Lt Tom Ballew, AP  
Cost: \$95. *A few seats are still open, so email me now!*

### **SEAMANSHIP (S)** (4 sessions, Saturdays)

Learn seamanship, boat handling, reaction to adverse conditions, and review the rules of the road. This is the updated Seamanship Course new in 2007!  
Start: 12 Jan 08, 0800 - 1200 End: 9 Feb 08  
Location: St. George's Episcopal Church, 915 N Oakland

St Room 114, Arlington VA 22203  
Instructor: Bob Manning, P.  
Cost: \$80. **Register by: 1 Dec 07**

### **INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT (ID)** (10 sessions, Mondays). Earn both USPS Instructor and Virginia Safe Boating Instructor Certificates.

Start: 7 Jan 08 @1900 End: 17 Mar 08  
Location: TBD, Fairfax.  
Instructor: CDR Jay Nelson, AP.  
Cost: Free. **Register by: 1 December 2007**

### **CRUISE PLANNING (CP)** (5 sessions, Saturdays)

Designed for members who plan to cruise for just a day or for a year.

Start Date: 12 Jan 08 1200 – 1600 End: 9 Feb 08  
Location: St. George's Episcopal Church, 915 N Oakland St Room 114, Arlington VA 22203  
Instructors: Lt/C Bill Blanding, AP, and Lt/C Clara Blanding, AP  
Cost: \$65. **Register by: 1 December 2007**



*Editor, his brother, and friends  
Abe & Tom  
Vicksburg MS, 9/07*





## Commander Sends...

Before I get into this month's topic, a bit of follow-up from last month's article. I've had several requests for recommendations on the best surge suppressor to buy to protect boats from lightening. The problem is that there are so many power service configurations and dock power boxes it's impossible to recommend a single product. I suggest that you first determine your AC power and dock box configurations (e.g., 120 volt split 30/50 amp service) and then search the internet and/or consult an electrician for the best solution. Sorry I can't be more help.

We've all been on the water when a thunderstorm seems to appear from nowhere. Actually there were probably several indications that the storm was approaching, but few of us seem to know how to read the weather. By simply observing the wind, watching the clouds, and monitoring barometric pressure, you can avoid heavy weather that will ruin your weekend.

First of all, most of the weather in our area is from west to east, so watch the western skies. Watch for a sudden change in wind direction or temperature, these could indicate that a cold front is approaching and it's a good time to head to the marina. Cold fronts cause squalls and thunderstorms. Initially, due to low pressure at the front, the wind blows towards the approaching storm. As it passes, the wind subsides, shifts 180° and, of course, gets colder. Look for the storm and head for port.

As a rule, gathering clouds indicate an approaching storm. Certain formations are sure indicators. A cloud ceiling that's getting lower and lower is caused by an approaching warm front. More importantly, puffy cumulus clouds that grow vertically and especially with flat "anvil" tops indicate an imminent thunderstorm. There are many charts available to aid in recognizing cloud formations, but you might want to look at the laminated one at [www.cloudchart.com](http://www.cloudchart.com).

Meteorologists say that low-pressure systems have a tendency to generate strong, dangerous storms. Extremely low pressure systems are almost always accompanied by violent weather. So when the atmospheric pressure begins to rapidly drop, it's time to get off the water. Since you can't feel or see barometric pressure, you need to have a barometer onboard.

If you're not going to watch the weather, you should at least have a weather radio and check it every 4 hrs. Most VHF marine radios sold in the past 20 yrs have weather frequencies. A good one can be bought for about \$25. If it's a portable, be sure to check the batteries each year as part of spring commissioning.

And consider taking the USPS weather course. You'll be amazed at how much you can learn about weather!

**Cdr G. Jay Nelson, AP**  
[gjaynelson@aol.com](mailto:gjaynelson@aol.com)

### NVSPS Calendar

| November 2007  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 2-4<br>Fri-Sun   | <b>D/5 Fall Education Conference. See Mark 5 Newsletter</b>  | See Mark 5   |
| 3<br>Saturdays<br>1200-1600  | <b>Piloting Course (P)</b><br>Location: St. George's Episcopal Church Instructor: Tom Ballew<br>\$95, 6 sessions   | Rick Baker<br><a href="mailto:rickbaker2006@verizon.net">rickbaker2006@verizon.net</a><br>703-318-5899 |
| 14<br>Wednesday<br>1900: Social<br>1930: Meeting                             | <b>All Hands' Meeting at Boat US</b><br>Refreshments: Evelyn and Gale Alls<br><br>Guest Speaker: Samuel Barr   | Clara Blanding<br><a href="mailto:claralee@comcast.net">claralee@comcast.net</a>                       |
| 28<br>Wed 1900   | <b>Excom Meeting</b><br>GMU Conference Room, Fairfax   | Jay Nelson<br><a href="mailto:gjaynelson@aol.com">gjaynelson@aol.com</a>                               |
| December 2007  |  |  |
| 1<br>Saturday  | <b>Alexandria Holiday Lighted Boat Parade</b><br>Join us aboard P/C Keith Segerson's boat and in the lighted parade on the Potomac. Come early to decorate his boat! Warm boating attire | Keith Segerson<br><a href="mailto:segerson@gmu.edu">segerson@gmu.edu</a>                               |
| 8<br>Saturday  | <b>Squadron Holiday Party and Buffet Dinner</b><br>Location: American Legion, Fairfax<br>Join your fellow squadron members in welcoming in the holidays.                                 | John Shivik<br><a href="mailto:jshivik@cox.net">jshivik@cox.net</a>                                    |
| <b>No All Hands' nor Excom meeting scheduled for December - winter break</b> |  |  |
| <b>WEAR YOUR NVSPS NAME TAG TO ALL EVENTS AND CLASSROOM SESSIONS</b>         |  |  |

| January 2008   |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 7<br>Mondays<br>1900   | <b>Instructor Development Course</b><br>Location: TBD, Falls Church. Instructor: Cdr Nelson<br><i>Register by 01 Dec</i><br>10 Sessions. Free.  | Rick Baker<br><a href="mailto:rickbaker2006@verizon.net">rickbaker2006@verizon.net</a><br>703-318-5899 |
| 9<br>Wednesday<br>1900: Social<br>1930: Meeting                      | <b>All Hands' Meeting at Boat US</b><br>Bridge nominations for 2007-08 announced<br><b>Member/New Member Mixer</b><br>Presentations by Committee and Event Chairman on areas for member involvement and participation. Heavier than usual refreshments at this special meeting. Refreshments: Bill and Clara Blanding | Clara Blanding<br><a href="mailto:claralee@comcast.net">claralee@comcast.net</a>                       |
| 12<br>Saturdays<br>0800-1200   | <b>Seamanship Course (S)</b><br>Location: St. George's Episcopal Church Instructor: Bob Manning<br><i>Register by 01 Dec</i><br>4 Sessions. \$80.   | Rick Baker<br><a href="mailto:rickbaker2006@verizon.net">rickbaker2006@verizon.net</a><br>703-318-5899 |
| 12<br>Saturdays<br>1200-1600   | <b>Cruise Planning Course</b><br>Location: St George's Episcopal Church Instructor: Bill and Clara Blanding, AP<br><i>Register by 01 Dec</i><br>5 Sessions. \$65.   | Rick Baker<br><a href="mailto:rickbaker2006@verizon.net">rickbaker2006@verizon.net</a><br>703-318-5899 |
| 23<br>Wed 1830   | <b>Excom Meeting and Planning Meeting</b><br>GMU Conference Room, Fairfax   | Jay Nelson<br><a href="mailto:gjaynelson@aol.com">gjaynelson@aol.com</a>                               |
| February 2008  |   |  |
| 13<br>Wednesday<br>1900: Social<br>1930: Meeting                     | <b>All Hands' Meeting at Boat US</b><br>Refreshments: TBD<br>Meeting Topic: Skipper Saver Course for Sweethearts  | Clara Blanding<br><a href="mailto:claralee@comcast.net">claralee@comcast.net</a>                       |
| 19-23<br>Wed-Sun   | <b>USPS Annual Meeting</b><br>Dallas, TX  | Details in<br>the <i>Ensign</i>  |
| 28<br>Thursdays<br>1900  | <b>Advanced Piloting Course (AP)</b><br>Location: TBD. Instructor: TBD <i>Register by 15 Jan</i><br>12 Sessions. \$95.  | Rick Baker<br><a href="mailto:rickbaker2006@verizon.net">rickbaker2006@verizon.net</a><br>703-318-5899 |
| March 2008   |   |  |
| 12<br>Wednesday<br>1900: Social<br>1930: Meeting                     | <b>All Hands' Meeting at Boat US</b><br>Annual Membership and Elections meeting. All Members should plan to attend.<br>Refreshments: TBD<br>Meeting Topic: Guest Speaker: TBD   | Clara Blanding<br><a href="mailto:claralee@comcast.net">claralee@comcast.net</a>                       |
| 13<br>Thursday<br>1900-2130  | <b>On-Board Weather Forecasting</b><br>Location: TBD, Fairfax. Instructor: Lt/C John Shivik, AP <i>Register by 01 Feb</i><br>\$45, One session  | Rick Baker<br><a href="mailto:rickbaker2006@verizon.net">rickbaker2006@verizon.net</a><br>703-318-5899 |
| 15<br>Saturday   | <b>NVSPS Founder's Day and Change of Watch Event</b><br>Location: American Legion, Fairfax  | John Shivik<br><a href="mailto:jshivik@cox.net">jshivik@cox.net</a>                                    |
| 26<br>Wed 1830   | <b>Excom Meeting</b><br>GMU Conference Room, Fairfax  | Jay Nelson<br><a href="mailto:gjaynelson@aol.com">gjaynelson@aol.com</a>                               |
| <b>WEAR YOUR NVSPS NAME TAG TO ALL EVENTS AND CLASSROOM SESSIONS</b> |   |  |



Please Join us at the  
Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron's

# Holiday Dinner Dance

**When: Saturday, 8 December 2007**

**Where: The American Legion**

3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA 22030 (Located in Fairfax City)  
(Directions: [NVSPS WEBSITE](#); [of Tars & Terns](#))

**6:30 pm: Social / Cocktails (cash bar)**

Soda / setups: \$1.00 per alcoholic / non-alcoholic; Beer: \$2.00 per beer; Wine: \$2.00 per glass

**7:15 pm: Dinner**

Delicious prime pib / baked chicken, salad, corn, green beans, scalloped potatoes, rolls, dessert

**8:15 to 11:30 pm: Dancing**

Music by DJs Kevin & Melanie; Santa and Mrs. Santa – FUN!

**\$25.00 per person for an evening of Holiday celebration**

*Bring your friends and relatives – all are invited!*

**Note: Limited space - sign up early!**

----- cut here -----

## NVSPS Holiday Dinner Dance Reservation

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name Spouse / Guests:** \_\_\_\_\_

**YES!** I will attend the Holiday Dinner Dance on **8 December 2007**

# \_\_\_\_\_ persons X \$25.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

Please make your check payable to NVSPS and mail it with this form **prior to**  
**21 November 2007** to :

P/C John Shivik, 10815 Colton Street, Fairfax, VA 22032.

**Questions? Call 703-273-3351.**

*Happy Holidays!!!*

Lt W. Lazear, AP  
2014 Lakebreeze Way  
Reston VA 20191

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT 6586  
RESTON, VA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays at 1930 (any changes posted herein and on the web)  
at Boat/US 880 S. Pickett St., Alexandria

From I-495 take Van Dorn Exit #173 (old #3) north.  
Turn Left on S. Pickett

Or.. From I-395 take Duke St. Exit #3 east, turn right on Van Dorn.  
Turn right on S. Pickett.

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

**MONTHLY ALL-HANDS MEETING**



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**OF TARS & TERNS**

**America's Boating Club**