



of TARS & TERNS



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Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron

www.usps.org/localusps/nva/ott/ott.htm

April 2008



Commander Sends . . .

The Power Squadron became part of my life some 15 years ago. During the first half of those years I was simply a participant being informed, one who took the classes during the winter and was entertained by the cruises in the summers. After a while Marge got involved helping with Ship Store and later serving as Boating Course Chair, and my role was one of support and assistance to her. That provided a taste for volunteering and I became a performing member, completed instructor training and had the opportunity to do some teaching; and got involved as a vessel safety examiner which further fueled my interest in Squadron activities. Being active has been a wonderful experience and far more rewarding than just absorbing all the Squadron had to offer. Recently I was humbled by the request to serve as your commander—apparently someone thought I was enjoying the perks of membership too much! I will do my best to serve the Squadron well in this coming year and I thank all of you for this opportunity.

The Squadron has a terrific team on the Bridge this year, one with enthusiasm and skill levels that are the envy of any commander.

The relative newness of the Bridge is balanced nicely by a team of extraordinarily seasoned At-Large Executive Committee members who have served in all capacities of leadership over the years. I feel so fortunate to be in this position and from our few organizational meetings in preparation for getting under way, I have already appreciated that I can lead by suggestion. On several occasions now I have made a comment or suggestion in a conversation or at a meeting, only to find days or weeks later a completed report of a task accomplished. This is going to be a great year for NVSPS!

For members not actively involved in the Squadron, there are some tremendous opportunities for getting involved and having fun within this wonderful community of boaters, and it is your loss if you do not come on out and get active! We are all so busy and often overextended with

gain a tremendous sense of fulfillment, you will create some wonderful friendships, and you will personally benefit greatly from your involvement. It is in giving that we receive!

This past winter I had adopted the notion that those of us living here in the Washington DC area might have a unique opportunity to do something for our soldiers who have been injured while in service to our nation in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many of these soldiers are at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Hospital for long term care and some have families staying in the area to be nearby.

Their lives have been turned upside down by the scars of war and I just wondered if there was something we could do as a community to put a smile on their faces. I developed a concept paper on the Squadron hosting these soldiers and their families to boat rides and said, "Count me in, I'd love to help." (continued)

NVSPS BRIDGE

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So the paper got revised with many of the good comments from Squadron members and other friends. It was presented to the Department of the Army earlier this year. Preparatory work continued with contacting officials at USPS to be sure this was something we could do under Power Squadron aegis. It was encouraging the support National has provided. Liability was one of the major concerns, and USPS has assured that we are covered for participation under their liability policy.

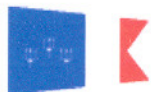
We drafted a liability release form and now we are putting together criteria for vessel participation, one being the display of a current Vessel Safety Check decal. Most recently I had been advised that the Army Judge Advocate General Office was reviewing our plan and that we should hear shortly if they have decided that this might be an approved activity for soldier-patients at Walter Reed. In the meantime, we are assembling a team to work on coordination and logistics for the program this summer. We will need to do some planning to have tip sheets on how to be a host, we need

drivers to bring soldiers from the hospital to the boats and back again, we need captains to offer their vessels for this recreational activity, we need folks to help coordinate these activities with the hospital staff; plain and simple we need volunteers. We need you and I invite each member to get involved.

Watch for further details on becoming a participant, hosting a few soldiers or a family on your boat for a day this summer, whether for a fishing trip or a simple cruise on the river or bay. And remember one of the truisms of life: it is in giving that we receive—and who has given more of themselves to assure that we can continue boating in freedom than these brave young men and women and their families. Now its our turn, and I need your help.

Come on out to the next General Membership meeting on Wednesday April 9. There will be a terrific program and ideally we will have heard from the Army on their acceptance of our offer to help. Best wishes and calm seas.

Cdr G Degnon, P



Exec Officer's Report

Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron has a long history filled with awards, memorable events and fellowship. As the new Executive Officer, I support the new Commander George Degnon, AP and all tasks that are required to carry on and enhance NVSPS as the best Squadron in the country. With this said let me introduce myself.

My name is Ron Larson and I have been a member of NVSPS for a number of years, have held a number of positions in the Squadron and am looking forward to a great year for the organization.

The Executive Office is supported by a number of committees that will be working hard to support squadron activities. These committees and the Chairs are:

Boat Show led by Lt Francis Williamson, AP
 Youth Programs led by Lt Tom Ballew, S
 CO-OP Charting led by Lt Ed Phillips, AP
 Legislative Liaison led by Lt Tom Martin, AP
 Public Relations led by Lt Frank Shults, S
 Radio Technical led by Lt Ralph Young, AP
 Vessel Exam/Safety Check led by Lt John Von Senden, P

All these committee Chairs have areas of prime importance that support NVSPS. As the year progresses we will be reporting on activities and seeking assistance from fellow squadron members.

The next issue of his publication will explain the programs of each of the committees.

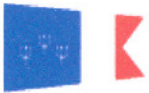
Lt/C Ron Larson, P
 NVSPS Executive Officer

NVSPS Calendar

Apr-08		
Events		
9	All Hand's Meeting at Boat US First segment of Skipper Saver	
14	Sail Trim and Rig Tuning Seminar - GMU	R. Unis
23	EXCOM Meeting	
30	Traditional Squadron dues notices for the period of 1 June 2008 - 31 March 2009 will be mailed from HQ	

May-08		
Events		
14	NVSPS All Hands Meeting - Boat US	
17 - 23	Safe Boating Week	
20	GPS Seminar - GMU Offices	
28	EXCOM Meeting	

WEAR YOUR NVSPS NAME TAG TO ALL EVENTS AND CLASSROOM SESSIONS



Admin Officer's Report

"I'd rather be boating." We have all seen the thought on a bumper sticker. Yet, here we are doing other activities. We belong to a great organization which facilitates that boating theme. Many of us take training courses to be better prepared for those times when we will be sailing. But, before we get out on the water, we keep our organization afloat so that we might continue to take those courses and enjoy social activities the Power Squadron has to offer. It is a volunteer organization and it continues because people are willing to help. Positions are open to the willing to learn more about the Squadron and its customs as well as its membership. For example, the Boating Activities/ Cruise Planning Chair is available to that intrepid person who enjoys sailing as well as creating an organized cruise for fellow sailors. To learn more about that position, interested parties are urged to contact any member of the new bridge and ask him how to sign up.

Chair positions are challenging. That precious commodity --time-- is involved. In addition to assuring your Chair duties are accomplished, Chair persons are encouraged to write a note regarding their position activities for the *Tars and Terns*. In some instances, event planning skills will be expanded, whether for a cruise or a party. But, in all situations you will have a sense of accomplishment and, upon completion, your knowledge of a job well done.

The Saturday March 15, 2008, Change of Watch and Founder's Day brunch was a grand event enjoyed by all. It gave the participants an opportunity to exchange ideas and share experiences in an atmosphere of camaraderie.

Guest speakers were District 5, United States Power Squadrons' D/1st/ Lt. Chris Brown, JN, Assistant Administrative Officer and D/1st Lt. Virginia Brown, P, Assistant Secretary. An open invitation was extended to the members of the NVSPS by D/1st / C. Brown to both the D5 Spring Conference at the

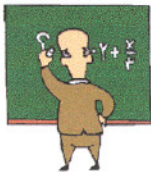
Princess Royale Hotel, Ocean City, Maryland, and to D5's Summer Rendezvous and Council at Baltimore Inner Harbor Marine Center, Thursday 17 July through Sunday 20 July 2008. Lt. V. Brown lauded the NVSPS for winning awards in membership, life membership, and national Sea Scout awards. Lt.V. Brown promoted the D5 Squadron Activity Bulletin Board and the Mark 5 newsletter. Those items can be found on-line at the D5 website (www.uspsd5.org). In closing, she pointed out that boating and boating-related activities are more fun when done together.

Change of Watch took place in a naval maritime fashion with appropriate lowering of flags for the 2007-2008 Bridge and raising the flags for the 2008-2009 Bridge. The oath of office was given to the incoming officers and the change of watch occurred.

The incoming Commander presented goals for the Bridge and Squadron. He urged that more members become "performing participants" rather than simply "informed participants." One project where help will be needed is what may be called the Squadron's Wounded Warriors on the Water (WWOW) Project. The Project envisions members of the Squadron and wounded soldiers from Walter Reed Army Medical Center brought together for time on the Bay sailing or power boating in members boats. A picnic or Bar-B-Que might be combined with the sailing experience. Project approval is well underway with the Squadron's proposal pending review in The Judge Advocate General's Office prior to referral to Walter Reed Staff. Members' help will be needed to make the Project work.

Remember the next EX COM meeting Wednesday 26 March 2008. That will be followed by the District 5 Conference at Ocean City, Maryland, 28 and 29 March 2008.

Lt/C John G. Karjala, P JGKarjala@verizon.net



"Chalk Talk"

Education Officer Lt/C Rick Unis
703 318-5899 rickbaker2006@verizon.net

CHALK TALK

Rich Unis, SEO

I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thanks to Rick Baker, the outgoing SEO. I had the privilege of serving as Rick's Assistant this past year prior to being elected as your new SEO. Rick did an outstanding job with the Squadron's education program! He was driven to ensure the program met the needs of the boating public and you - the members of NVSPS. He also prepared me well to assume my new role as the SEO. Thanks Rick for your dedicated service to NVSPS. Now, you are hereby appointed as a Special Advisor to me!

I will address the goals for this year's education program in next month's newsletter. Please feel free to contact me at runis_320@yahoo.com if you have specific educational needs or recommendations. We have a pretty full slate of Advanced courses and seminars already scheduled. I am looking at windows of opportunities to schedule one or two more seminars.

Here's a look at upcoming courses and seminars that are on the schedule. Note - You won't want to miss the Skipper Saver Program at our April member meeting.

Course: SKIPPER SAVER PROGRAM

(1 session, Wednesday Evening, at Monthly Member Meeting – Open to Public)

Description: Take the first step in learning to save the skipper and yourself! Learn procedures for the whole family to use in an emergency. Earn a Skipper Saver certificate and patch with completion of an on-the-water segment. Refreshments provided.

NEW DATE: 9 April 2008 Member Meeting Time: 7-9 PM

Location: April NVSPS Monthly Member Meeting, BoatUS HQ, Training Conference Room, 880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA 22304 **Registration: None**

Course: SAIL TRIM AND RIG TUNING SEMINAR (1 session)

Description: This seminar shows in clear and simple terms how to use and adjust sails for optimum performance under a wide range of conditions. The seminar comes with prepared "Student Notes" and with a waterproof USPS Captain's Quick Guide written by North Sails. This is a new Seminar for 2008! Cost is \$35; family members and significant others may share materials for a discount.

Start Date: 14 April 2008 (Mon) Time: 7:00 - 9:30 PM

Location: GMU Offices, 4031 University Dr, 2nd Floor Conf Room, Fairfax, VA 22030

Instructor: Bob Cox, JN, and Bob Manning, AP

Register by: Closed – books have been ordered

Course: GPS SEMINAR (1 session – Open to the Public)

Description: Learn to use your GPS in detail. New Seminar in 2007. Cost is \$35; family members and significant others may share the materials for a discount.

Date: 20 May 2008 (Tues) Time: 7:00 - 9:30 PM

Location: GMU Offices, 4031 University Dr, 2nd Floor Conf Room, Fairfax, VA 22030

Instructor: Bob Cox, JN, and Bob Donahue, AP

Register by: 10 April 2008

Contact: SEO Rich Unis at runis_320@yahoo.com

Course: NAVIGATION (N)

(~25 sessions – Tue 7 Oct 2008 – 31 Mar 2009, 1900-2100)

Description: Learn celestial navigation and piloting techniques for offshore navigation anywhere in the world using the moon, planets and stars. This course builds on the sun-sight technique learned in the new Junior Navigation (JN) course, which is a prerequisite.

Cost is \$125; family members and significant others may share books for a discount.

Location: TBD, Fairfax

Instructor: Seminar style – each participant teaches at least one chapter

Class Leaders: SEO Rich Unis, JN and Rick Baker, JN

Register by: 1 Aug 2008

Contact: SEO Rich Unis at runis_320@yahoo.com

Course: MARINE ELECTRONICS (ME 101, 102 & 103)

(~18 sessions – Thu, 11 Sep 2008 – 29 Jan 2009, 1900-2100)

Description: Learn essential knowledge about a boat's electrical and electronic systems including; grounding, corrosion and electrolysis control, batteries and their maintenance, depth finders, marine radiotelephones, radar, LORAN, GPS and other electronic position systems.

Cost is TBD (may be completely new materials)

Location: TBD, Fairfax

Instructor: Seminar style – each participant teaches at least one chapter

Class Leaders: Dwight Bues, AP

Register by: 1 Aug 2008

Contact: SEO Rich Unis at runis_320@yahoo.com

Course: HOW TO USE A CHART SEMINAR (1 session – Open to the Public)

Description: Learn to use marine navigation charts in detail. New Seminar! **Cost** is \$35; family members and significant others may share the materials for a discount.

Date: 28 Oct 2008 (Tues) **Time:** 7:00 – 9:30 PM

Location: TBD

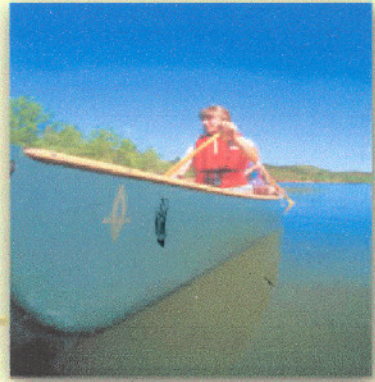
Instructor: SEO Rich Unis, JN and Bob Cox, JN

Register by: 15 Sep 2008

Contact: SEO Rich Unis at runis_320@yahoo.com

OT&T Online

Reminder: The latest issue of *of Tars & Terns* is always available for downloading on the squadron web site (www.usps.org/localusps/nva) as soon as it's complete. It's mailed to members by third-class bulk mail because the rate is approximately 60% less than first class mail. But they're delivered on a space-available basis and may be delayed.



Are you interested in fulfilling that fantasy trip – you know the one where you could go quietly down stream with friends and photograph wild life, fish, and stop along the way for a camp fire lunch?

We are exploring putting together a canoeing event for everyone, from novice to whitewater champ, and from fisherman to excursions (we may even do some coop charting along the way). We would like to put-in at an established canoe rental/excursion center (this will allow those who do not have a canoe to rent one) and pull out at a recovery center, then have an enjoyable casual dinner together. All other ideas are more than welcome!!

As you know USPS has a memorandum of agreement with the National Canoeing Association, whom we will work with on this event. It is also our planning to have at least a couple of planning – instruction meeting ahead of the event.

So, whether you want the relaxation of slow, lazy paddling, whether you're looking for game fish (fly or spin) or beautiful scenery, we want to plan an NVSPS outing for you

We are going to try to get some sponsorship for this event. If you are interested – and or willing to help, please contact Richard Davis at:
rpddavis1702@comcast.net. *We will be building a data base for automatic notification of events.*



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OF TARS & TERNS



2nd Wednesdays at 1930 (any changes posted herein and on the web)
at Boat/S 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/S sign.
Enter from the righted parking lot behind the building.

MONTHLY ALL-HANDS MEETING



America's Boating Club

OF TARS & TERNS

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