



# of TARS & TERNS

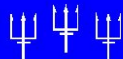


Vol XLII, No.4

*Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron*

May 2008

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



## *Commander Sends . . .*

It was especially exhilarating to chair the general membership meeting in April and watch the Training Room at BoatUS fill to standing room capacity as the new bridge prepared for its first meeting. I was so proud of our bridge that we were able to get all reports and all business done within 20 minutes, thereby leaving most of the evening for our speaker. Whether it was the speaker or the content, Skipper Saver, or the letter from the commander to the membership a week earlier urging that members attend this meeting, or all three; it was most gratifying to have one of the largest attendance records of over 50 for our monthly meetings. Thanks to all who came; and to those who missed it, you have another opportunity on Wed May 14 to commence a new habit to manifest your commitment to NVSPS; come on out to the monthly meeting! These are really terrific programs offered for your information. P/C Gale Alls is our Program Chair and he has an extraordinary track record of planning meeting speakers who are informative, fun to listen to, interesting for the new dimensions they bring to our understanding of a topic. Our meetings are always supplemented with the camaraderie of fellow boaters interested in fun and safe boating, which makes for delightful evenings. As they say about the Washington Post, "If you don't get it, you don't get it." Come on out May 14 at 1900 hours at BoatUS in Alexandria, you will benefit. The program will be informative and offer ideas and insights for great cruise destinations on the Bay, or you can think of it as finding quaint little towns for a winter weekend get-away with your first mate which you might not otherwise know of.

Last month I mentioned how Marge and I got active in Squadron activities and this month I will expand a bit further. One of the things we did for several years was grade basic boating course exams and/or talk with graduates on the value of membership in NVSPS and the US Power Squadrons. It was always fun talking to young boaters and old salts about the activities of the squadron, our cruises and the topics of our monthly meeting, the newsletters and USPS magazines chuck full of valuable information, our parties and our vessel safety checks and cooperative charting activities, our advanced courses and the fun we all have as a community of boaters. But the highlights of those evenings was going out for drinks and/or dinner with the entire crew once the evening work was completed. These were always fun filled evenings and the discussions were either entertaining, informative or outright hilarious. Grading exams is a wonderful way for members to break into involvement with the squadron, and an easy means of getting to know other members.

From experience over the years I have noted that those who joined and went on with advanced courses and who got involved with a project or a committee were active members many years later. Living the NVSPS experience and actively enjoying the benefits of membership is to live the present to the fullest, and what better comment can be made about making the most of what life has to offer. If you have not been to a membership meeting for a while, I invite you to come on out and say hello to some terrific fellow boaters, you will thank yourself that you did.

Your bridge officers are all busy getting committee activities underway as you will see in their enclosed reports.

For the future, we have the first of our cruises plans for this summer, and if we get a good response we can plan additional activities for late summer and fall. If your boat is not on the Bay or if you don't currently have a vessel, do plan to get away for a weekend and join us overnight. Most destinations (continued on page 3)



## NVSPS BRIDGE

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[runis\\_320@yahoo.com](mailto:runis_320@yahoo.com)

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Lt Francis Williamson AP 703-440-9074  
P/C Gale Alls SN 703-569-1511  
P/C John Shivik, AP 703-273-3351  
P/LtC Cathleen Sheffield AP 703-370-4331

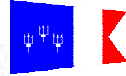
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**The oT&T is a newsletter of the NVSPS and does not reflect the policies or opinions of the USPS.**



## A Note From The Secretary

One of the secretary's responsibilities in the Squadron is that of a Historian. Currently we do not have a historian on staff. I am looking for someone that would be interested in the position of The Squadron Historian. The duties would be to act as the keeper of Squadron major events and statistics such as number of education class attendees, awards to members, social and special activities, etc.. There is a form to compile this information and send it to District 5 and National headquarters at the end of the year.

Also, the position of Assistant Secretary is open. That position would be primarily to act as the recording secretary for the Squadron.

Please contact me if you are interested or would like more information.

Lt/C George Nartsissov P  
Secretary



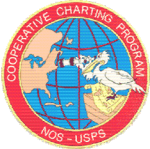
## Exec Report:

Things have been getting off to a good start with the Opening Day Festivities at Prince William Marina on April 5 and continuing April 6.. This included Vessel Safety Checks performed by NVSPS (many of whom re-qualified) and USCGAux Examiners. The Vessel Safety Checks continued on April 12 & 13 and April 19 & 20. John von Senden, NVSPS Vessel Exam/Safety Check Officer did a great job in making sure things went according to plan and getting those that needed it, re-qualified. Our PRO, Frank Shults coordinated with the Vessel Safety Officer and got supplies to the events for handout. NVSPS participated with the USCGAux in conducting Vessel Examinations at Prince William Marina on three weekends in April - 4/5-6, 4/12-13 and 4/19-20. NVSPS was well represented by members Gale Alls, George Degnon, Russ Grasso, Ron Larson, John von Senden, John Shivik, Steve Shupack and Francis Williamson. Over the three weekends over 90 VSEs were performed by NVSPS and USCGAux examiners. This included a lot of Public Relations time and overall the events were a big success. Our VEO, John von Senden has other VE events planned and will be presenting them as the planning progresses. Look for Ed Phillips article in this issue for more happenings in the CoCh area. More as the programs develop.

Lt/C Ron Larson, P  
Executive Officer

**Commander Sends Cont'd.** . . .have local hotels. We generally have a few members who drive over to wherever we are to join us for evening cocktails and dinner, and treating spouses or first mates to a wonderful change of pace for the weekend. Our VSC team has been out the last several weekends conducting vessel safety checks and we have several more days planned as a team throughout the summer. Our party agenda is beginning to take shape and plans are announced inside for our first get together of the season, don't miss it!

**George Degnon  
Commander , NVSPS**



## Cooperative Charting

By the time you have received this issue of oT&T, the 2008 Cooperative Charting (CoCh) workshop will have made history. It was held on May 2-3 at NOAA's Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk, VA. For those interesting in attending next year, to date, it is always held on the first weekend in May at in Norfolk at NOAA's Atlantic Marine Center. The annual information is published in the winter edition of the D/5 newsletter "Mark 5" and on the D/5 website.

What is Cooperative Charting (CoCh)? It is one of the Power Squadrons most interesting and beneficial activities. It consists of depth surveys, range line surveys, current surveys, small craft facility (marina) surveys and the Adopt a Chart program. Are you interested in messing around with charts, applying your navigation skills and helping the boating community? The CoCh program is for you! Have a look at the National CoCh website located at <http://www.usps.org/national/coch/index.htm> for more details on each part of the CoCh program.

Is anyone interested in doing a depth survey? Or know of good candidate location? Perhaps the channel and surrounding waters to your marina haven't been surveyed in many years. Let me know what you would consider a worthy location for a depth survey and I'll get the planning underway. We are also looking for a small (16-18'), maneuverable, shallow draft runabout to conduct the survey from. If you are interested in participating in the CoCh program, contact me at the address below.  
Smooth seas and fair winds!

Ed Phillips, AP  
CoCh Committee Chair



## WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE DESTINATION ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY?

Attend the May 14 All Hands meeting and learn about the best of Chesapeake Bay from your fellow squadron members as they present a Power Point show of their favorite locations. You will hear from seasoned sailors and power boat cruisers about the places they have been and return to each year. Do you like to anchor out? Do like a marina complete with swimming pool and nice restaurant? Do you like to tour the local town shops? Come to the meeting and learn, ask questions, and enjoy exchange



## Education Officer - CHALK TALK

The mission of the United States Power Squadrons is to maintain, enhance and promote USPS as the premier boating organization dedicated to "Safe Boating through Education." The USPS seeks to be recognized as the most recognized and respected provider of boater education and training in America. Recreational boaters, to include the boating public and members, are a diverse group made up of individuals with varying degrees of interests, boater education and experience. The NVSPS education program is tasked with meeting the educational needs of all recreational boaters...no small task! To meet those needs, we will continue to offer the Squadron Boating Course to the general public, as well as a variety of advanced courses for members and seminars for everyone. Safe and successful boating requires continuous education. My goal is to meet your educational needs by offering courses that provide value and enhance your safety and enjoyment on the water. In the interim, I recommend that you dust off the books on your bookshelf and prepare for the upcoming boating season. Do what I do and conduct a thorough review of your books, materials, and references during the winter and spring. There is a lot to learn and remember!

I am still in need of a Chairman for the Squadron Boating Course. The Chairman handles the administration, distributes course materials and is the focal point for the Squadron Boating Course. It's an important job, especially since you will make a lasting first impression of the USPS on the public. If you are interested in supporting the education program in this role, please contact me at [runis\\_320@yahoo.com](mailto:runis_320@yahoo.com).

Here's a look at upcoming advanced courses and seminars that are on the schedule. Please sign up by the deadline so books can be ordered in time for the course. I will be working on the schedule for this fall and winter over the next several months. I just received word from the District SEO that three new seminars have just been released. They are Anchoring, Marine Radar and a mini-seminar on Hurricanes and Boats. I will review them and assess the interest for those topics.

### 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

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

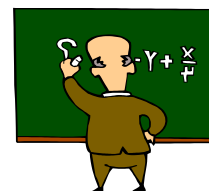
Contact: SEO Rich Unis at: [runis\\_320@yahoo.com](mailto:runis_320@yahoo.com)

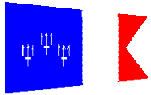
### Course: MARINE ELECTRONICS (ME 101, 102 & 103)

(~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.

Continued on page 5





## ***Admin Officer's Report***

Our Squadron was well represented at the District 5 (D5) Spring Conference at Ocean City, Maryland. A good time was had by all. To put it another way, it was just great fun. The Conference includes a selection of interesting seminars supplemented by a variety of social events. I highly suggest that every Squadron member put the event on their calendar next year. It is scheduled for March 28 and 29, 2009, in Ocean City, Md.

On the Squadron's upcoming agenda particular attention is drawn to the Spring Family Picnic at the Fairfax Yacht Club on May 17, 2008, from 1200-1700 hrs. It is free for all members and family. See attached information sheet, directions, and, most importantly, the Picnic Reservation Sheet. Put May 17th on your calendar now and send or otherwise inform me of your reservations.

A Memorial Day Weekend Cruise/Rendezvous is also being floated with an Sign-Up Sheet. Initially, for this cruise to Oxford has availability for our cruisers and the number of cruisers that will be in the flotilla. We will update interested cruisers when more information is available. Please e-mail me or call, and leave a message if I am not in, expressing your interest in the cruise and preference, if any.

The Squadron is also forming a cruise from about Monday July 12 when we will assemble at Oxford to later join the D5 Summer Cruise and Rendezvous in Baltimore, Maryland, on July 18-20, 2008. Please let me know if you might be interested in the Squadron cruise or the later D5 Cruise and Rendezvous on July 18-20, 2008.

John G. Karjala  
Administrative Officer

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### **Chalk Talk Continued: NVSPS Members,**

Course: Marine Electronics Continued

Cost is TBD (may be completely new materials)

Location: TBD, Fairfax

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

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

Register by: 15 Sep 2008

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

Class Leaders: Dwight Bues, AP

Register by: 1 Aug 2008

Contact: SEO Rich Unis at: runis\_320@yahoo.com

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

Rich  
Rich Unis, JN  
Education Officer





**Registration  
FOR  
24 – 26 May 2008  
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND  
CRUISE / RENDEZVOUS**

**Memorial Day Cruise** destination is set for Mears Yacht Haven, 210 Strand, Oxford, Maryland, and a gathering of participants May 24 and 25 May 08, departing on the 26th. Make your reservations now at Mears (1) (410) 226-5450. Rates are \$2.25 a foot plus \$7.00 for 30 amp and \$14.00 for 50 amp power. Say you are with the Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron.

. However, preferences cannot be honored other than as a secondary factor because availability of slips for all cruisers will be the driving factor. Please provide E-mail address if different than in NVSPS Directory



Boat size-- Marina

Name            Telephone 2007-2008            Power/Sail    Pref.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have an interest in the July 12-17, 2008 Squadron Cruise. Please contact me by telephone or e-mail with latest details.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have an interest in the July 18 -20, 2008, District 5 cruise/rendezvous in Baltimore Maryland. Please contact me by telephone or e-mail with latest details.

Contact: John G. Karjala  
(703) 818-8676  
jgkarjala@verizon.net



**SAFETY - Welcome to our Bilge**

Who knew that the bilge could be the source of so much zany fun? On March 28 in Ocean City about 20 NVSPS members welcomed all District 5 Spring Conference attendees to our hospitality suite for some fun and refreshment. Visitors first viewed a display of standard items and substances that are best kept out of the bilge: gas, fire, water, wildlife, tools, chemicals, etc.

Then they raised their hands and took the Bilge Pledge:

*Gas tanks are red.  
Sea water's blue.  
My bilge is clean,  
I promise you!*

At the next table visitors were invited to add to a list of the Top Ten Items we don't want to find in our bilge. They were encouraged to let their imaginations soar and here are a few of the G rated items they listed. To view the X rated items, you had to be there.

*head key  
bed bugs  
ex-husband  
Elvis  
phlegm  
UFO (unidentified floating object)  
Jimmy Hoffa  
IRS Form 1040  
thigh master  
a hole*

Visitors then dined on Bilge Water, colorful fish crackers and gummy worms. NVSPS members and visitors shared howls of laughter for three hours. Does this sound like fun? It was, so mark your calendar now to join us in Ocean City for the next spring conference in March 2009.



*The Bilge Rats Alls, Durgin and Shivik*

# ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC

ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC

## Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron

**When: 17 MAY 2008**

**Where: Fairfax Yacht Club**

10721 Colchester Road  
Mason Neck, Virginia 22079



### AGENDA:

1200 – 1245 Preliminary Preparations. Set up tables, food, drinks, games.

1200 – 1630 Vessel Safety Checks at FYC.

1245 – 1400 **Time to eat!!** BBQ pulled Pork and BBQ Pulled Chicken, BBQ Beans, Rolls, BBQ Sauces + Please bring a salad, chips and dips or dessert to share!

1245 – 1500 See John Karjala for 50 – 50 Tickets (Donation: \$1.00 for 2 tickets)  
Drawing at 1630.

1400 – 1500 **Seamanship Rodeo!**

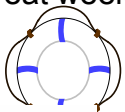
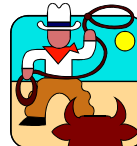
1400 – 1420 Lifeline Toss

1420 – 1440 Lifejacket Race

1440 – 1500 Water Balloon Toss

1600 - 1700 Munch on leftovers, 50-50 Drawing, Clean up.

1700 + Be careful driving, ashore and afloat. Have a great week!



**Be a winner. Be a safe boater.**



### Reservation Form

Enclosed is my reservation for \_\_\_ persons for the May 17<sup>th</sup> Spring Picnic and Rendezvous. **FREE FOR MEMBERS AND FAMILY.** Send to Lt/C John G. Karjala, P at 113811 Lowry Drive, Chantilly VA 20151-2815 or e-mail: [jgkarjala@verizon.net](mailto:jgkarjala@verizon.net), tele 703-818-8676

Main course : BBQ Pork and Chicken  
Please RSVP by 11 May 2007

Members Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Will bring salad, chips and dips, or desert \_\_\_\_\_  
Yes I can help with set-up Games, or Cleanup \_\_\_\_\_

# Heads - UP

Annual Dues will be mailed out at the end of this month – please plan ahead - we want you to be with us next year for more of everything that USPS offers.

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!!



We are going to try to get some sponsorship for this event. If you are interested – please contact Richard Davis at: [rpdavis1702@comcast.net](mailto:rpdavis1702@comcast.net)



There are two major events upcoming with in District 5 this Summer, The 2008 Summer Rendezvous and the Cruise. See your Mark 5 for the details and registration forms.

**SAFETY - EPIRB** - The US Coast Guard issued a press release <http://www.uscglosangeles.com/go/doc/830/198867/> reminding mariners that older model Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) that broadcast on 121.5 MHz or 243 MHz will not be monitored by satellite as of February 1, 2009. Effective that date, the satellites will only monitor for radio beacons broadcasting on 406 MHz. Some of the newer EPIRBs are equipped with embedded GPS, which will automatically signal the location of the distress. (4/18/08).

The USCG Navigation Center Team  
<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/>





# NVSPS Calendar of Events

## NVSPS Calendar

24 April, 2008

April 2008		
7 Monday 7:00 - 9:00 PM	<b>The Squadron Boating Course</b> 8 sessions, Mondays & Thursdays. End date: 8 May 2008 Annandale H.S. 4700 Medford Dr. Annandale, VA 22003	Register with Fairfax Co. Park Authority: 703-222-4664 <a href="http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes.htm">www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes.htm</a>
9 Wednesday 1900 Social 1930 Meeting	<b>All Hands' Meeting at Boat US</b> Meeting Topic: Skipper Saver Program Training conference room; enter rear of building	Lt/C Richard Unis, JN runis 320@yahoo.com
14 Monday 7:00 - 9:30 PM	<b>Sail Trim and Rig Tuning Seminar</b> One (1) session, open to public GMU Offices, 4031 University Dr., 2nd Floor Conf. Room, Fairfax, VA	Lt/C Rich Unis, JN 703-777-8378 <a href="mailto:runis_320@yahoo.com">runis_320@yahoo.com</a>
21 Monday 7:00 - 9:00 PM	<b>The Squadron Boating Course</b> 8 sessions, Mondays & Thursdays. End date: 15 May 2008 McLean Community Center 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101	Register with McLean Community Center 703-790-0123 <a href="http://www.mcleancenter.org">www.mcleancenter.org</a>
23 Wednesday; 6:30	<b>Excom meeting</b> Location: GMU Offices 4031 University Dr., 2nd floor Conf. Rm., Fairfax, VA 22030	Cdr George Degnon, P <a href="mailto:Boater@degnon.org">Boater@degnon.org</a>

May 2008		
2 -3	<b>D -5 Cooperative Charting Workshop</b> Location: National Ocean Service Atlantic Marine Center Norfolk, VA	Register by 25 April
14 Wednesday 1800 Hours	<b>Executive Committee Operations training</b> Location: Boat US Executive Conf. Rm.	Cdr George Degnon, P <a href="mailto:Boater@degnon.org">Boater@degnon.org</a>
14 Wednesday 1900 Social 1930 Meeting	<b>All Hands' Meeting at Boat US</b> Meeting topic: To be announced Training conference room; enter at rear of building	Lt/C John Karjala, P 703-818-8676 JGKarjala@verizon.net
17 Time: 1200-1700	<b>Spring Family Picnic</b> Location: Fairfax Yacht Club 10721 Colchester Road, Mason Neck, VA 22079	Lt/C John Karjala, P 703-818-8676 JGKarjala@verizon.net
17 -23	<b>Safe Boating Week Activities</b> Activities: Vessel Safety Checks	Contact: Lt/C Ron Larson, P 703-922-7094 Lt. John Von Senden, P 703-751-9674 <a href="mailto:john@southernngirl.net">john@southernngirl.net</a>
20 Tuesday 1900-2130	<b>GPS Seminar</b> Location: GMU Offices 4031 University Dr., 2nd floor Conf. Rm., Fairfax, VA 22030	Register by 10 April Contact: Lt/C Rich Unis, JN 703-777-8378 runis_320@yahoo.com
28 Wednesday 1830	<b>ExCom Meeting</b> Location: GMU Offices 4031 University Dr., 2nd floor Conf. Rm., Fairfax, VA 22030	Cdr George Degnon, P <a href="mailto:Boater@degnon.org">Boater@degnon.org</a>
24 - 26 Sat. - Mon.	<b>Squadron "On your Own" Cruise</b> Destination: Mears Yacht Center Oxford, MD Reservations: 410-226-5450	Lt/C John Karjala 703-818-8676 JGKarjala@verizon.net

Jun-08		
7 Saturday	<b>Vesel Safety Checks</b> Location: "West Marine" Parking lot, Alexandria Check schedule with Lt. John Von Sende	Contact: Lt/C Ron Larson, P 703-922-7094 Lt. John Von Senden, P 703-751-9674 <a href="mailto:john@southernngirl.net">john@southernngirl.net</a>
11 Wednesday 1900 Social 1930 Meeting	<b>All Hands Meeting at Bc Boat US</b> Meeting Topic: To Be Announced Training conference room; enter at rear of building	Lt/C John Karjala, P 703-818-8676 JGKarjala@verizon.net
25 Wednesday 1900	<b>ExCom Meeting</b> Location: GMU Offices 4031 University Dr., 2nd floor Conf. Rm., Fairfax, VA 22030	Cdr George Degnon, P <a href="mailto:Boater@degnon.org">Boater@degnon.org</a>

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**MONTHLY ALL-HANDS MEETING**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays at 1930 (any changes posted herein and on the web)  
at BoatUS 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 BoatUS sign.  
Enter from the lighted parking lot behind the building.



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**of TARS & TERNS**

**America's Boating Club**