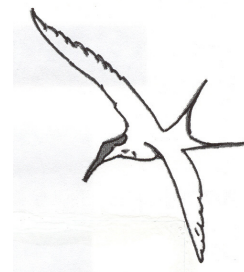




# of TARS & TERNS



## BRIDGE OFFICERS



### COMMANDER

Cdr George K. Degnon, P



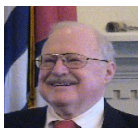
### EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Ronald H. Larson, P



### EDUCATION OFFICER

Lt/C Richard E. Unis, JN



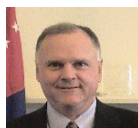
### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C John G. Karjala, P



### SECRETARY

Lt/C George Nartsissov, P



### TREASURER

Lt/C Steven Hall, AP



Northern Virginia  
Sail and Power Squadron  
District 5

A unit of the  
United States Power Squadrons®  
Sail and Power Boating

[www.nvps.org](http://www.nvps.org)  
[www.uspsd5.org](http://www.uspsd5.org)



## Calendar of NVSPS Meetings and Events

### February

- 11 All Hands Meeting
- 14 **Valentine's Day**
- 15 *Inputs due to oT&T*
- 17 – 22 USPS Annual Meeting

### March

- 7 District 5 Operations Training Course –  
*at Hampton Roads SPS*
- 11 All Hands Meeting
- 14 NVSPS Change of Watch
- 13 -15 Chantilly Boat Show
- 15 *Inputs due to oT&T*
- 25 NVSPS EXCOM Meeting
- 26-29 D/5 Spring Conference and Change of Watch  
*at Ocean City, MD*



**COMMANDER**

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[boater@degnon.org](mailto:boater@degnon.org)

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

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703-242-8566  
[sdhall01@verizon.net](mailto:sdhall01@verizon.net)

**MEMBERS AT LARGE**

P/C G. J. Nelson, AP	703-437-0064
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
P/C Richard J. Durgin, JN	703-560-9106

**Scheduled Meetings**

Unless otherwise noted, the General Membership Meetings will be held at the BoatUS\* Headquarters facility at 1900. Any changes will be posted in this newsletter or on the Squadron web site.

**BoatUS Headquarters and meeting location:**

880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA. From the Capital Beltway, take the VA-613/ Van Dorn Street exit, exit number 173 (aka exit 3), towards Franconia. Turn left onto South Van Dorn Street / VA-613 North. Turn left onto South Pickett Street. Go less than .5 miles and turn in at the BoatUS sign and go to the lighted parking lot in the rear. Proceed to the entrance.



*Do you or one of your friends  
need a vessel checked?  
Or want to become an examiner yourself?  
J. Van Senden, [John@Southerngirl.net](mailto:John@Southerngirl.net)*



**of TARS & TERNS**  
Official Publication of  
**Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron**  
<http://www.nvsp.org>



*Articles, opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect USPS policy or endorsement unless so designated*

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**Volume XLIII, No. 1; Feb, 2009**

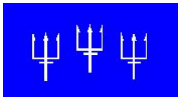
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## *Commander Sends . . .*

Reflecting on the spirit of Christmas over the holidays was especially gratifying this year, thanks to the tremendous spirit and goodwill among the members of NVSPS. It was an absolute delight, following short notice of about three weeks, for Marge and me to drive a rented van full of toys, games, dolls, and children's books down to Sylvania, GA to meet the needs of a community particularly hard hit by factory closings and economic hard times.

Approximately 80 members of NVSPS participated in donating the toys and other Christmas gifts for the community. Most members brought these gifts to our Christmas party and presented them to Santa for his ride south. Many also brought gifts to our home and others mailed checks following our announcement of this Squadron Community Service program. It was wonderful each evening to arrive home and find games and dolls sitting on our doorstep along with cases of soups, beans, vegetables. Employees of our office at Degnon Associates contributed initially and we also had the most generous support from members of the Chesapeake Yacht Club where we keep our boat. When all was compiled, we collected well over 200 games, dolls, and toys, a case of children books, as well as canned goods and dried foods such as pastas and cereal which were packed into about a dozen shipping cartons. And to top it off, we received a number of checks from NVSPS members totaling almost \$1,000 for the food pantry and food voucher programs in Sylvania so families might have food over the Christmas holidays. Thanks to each of you for your generosity.

I had a good sense that these gifts would be appreciated but had no idea of the extent. When we arrived and met with the community workers in Sylvania, they shared with us that they had received their distribution of toys for the community from Toys for Tots and on the day prior to our arrival they notified 79 families that their requests for toys could not be fulfilled. When we opened up the van which was packed from floor to ceiling, they began to cry. I knew then that this was a good thing NVSPS was doing, maybe the best thing we could do at Christmas time as a community of boaters helping families whom we did not know but with whom we share a human bond.

More than 100 families were helped by our efforts this year. So that our members might know a bit more about Sylvania, the poverty level in this once thriving small, rural community is so low that every child attending the public elementary schools in the county receives a free breakfast and a free lunch, things are so poor there that there is no testing to preclude the few students whose families are not living in poverty. Thanks to all who participated in the Squadron Christmas Program and for making this such a successful activity.

Well, the next big item is our slate of Nominations which has been announced. Congratulations to all who have been nominated for leadership positions

Continued on page 8





## Education Officer - Richard E. Unis

One of the key concepts of the United States Power Squadrons is the self-education of its members, meaning that successful students go on to teach other students to perpetuate boating knowledge. First though, one needs to gain the proper boating knowledge that can be shared with others. The Seamanship course is the first step in the Advanced Grade courses that builds on the basics of recreational boating presented in the Squadron Boating Course. In a nutshell, Seamanship adds foundational information for continuing boater education. The course content facilitates knowledge development for increased safe operation of recreational boats. Emphasis within the course is placed on higher level boating skills, rules of the road, anchoring, basic boat care and maintenance, nautical and USPS etiquette, and marlinspike (line handling and knots).

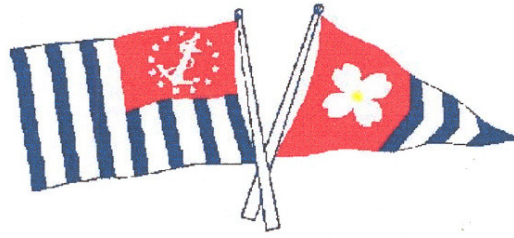
The Advanced Grade courses typically follow a sequence with Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting, Junior Navigation and Navigation taken in series. To earn a grade at a higher level, one must complete the previous lower-level grade(s). So, it's very important to start with the Seamanship course. All Squadron Boating Course graduates should take Seamanship as soon as practicable to expand your own boating knowledge and to enable you to share your boating expertise with others. You will become a significant part of a USPS community that is dedicated to enhancing boating knowledge.

I am currently planning a Seamanship course to start in late April (after spring break). The course will be held at Fairfax High School and I am in the process of finalizing the dates with the school. I will post the course listing on our web page as soon as I can confirm the dates. Please check our web page and notify me if you would like to sign up. Completion of this course will enable you to take the Piloting course in the fall. Are you too busy to attend the Seamanship course in person? In partnership with the University of West Florida (UWF), the Seamanship course has been made available to those USPS members needing an alternative method of effective boating education. You can go to the [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org) web page to register. I only recommend this option as a last resort in the event you cannot attend the course in person.

Please remember to tell your boating friends that we will be offering several Squadron Boating Courses this spring and early summer. Send them to our website at [www.nvsps.org](http://www.nvsps.org) for more info on those course offerings. Sign up now for the following Advanced Grade courses:

Continued on page 8





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Sail and Power Boating  
[www.usps.org/localusps/nva](http://www.usps.org/localusps/nva)

*ALL Members and their Guests are cordially invited to:*

## **NVSPS Change of Watch**

### **Reservation**

**1830 to 2200, 14 March 2009**

**at The American Legion Post 177**

3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA 22030 (Located in Fairfax City)

***Dinner Choice of London Broil or Chicken Cordon Bleu with vegetables and sides; Appetizers; and the Commanders Liquor Locker will be open for the Social Hour. Beer, wine, set-ups and soft drinks will be available from the American Legion for a charge.***

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

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

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

**YES!** I will attend the Change of Watch on **14 March 2009**.

# \_\_\_\_\_ persons X \$20.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_ Total

**Special Needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Please make your check payable to NVSPS and mail it with this half of the form **prior to 5 March 2009** to:

John Karjala, 13811 Lowry Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151-2815.

**Questions? Call 703-818-8676.**





## Executive Officer - Ron Larson

The Executive Officer and staff have been operating in a winter mode but, that does not mean that we have not been active. All committees are alive and performing their assigned tasks.

The 2009 Boat Show at the Dulles Expo Center is on track and is being extensively advertised by the show producer. NVSPS also is promoting this event. Our Boat Show Chair, Lt Francis Williamson, AP has been preparing for a big turnout and has been getting volunteers to serve watches at the NVSPS booth. Public Relations Chair Lt Frank Shults, S has been active in promoting the show and also the education classes.

Our Vessel Exam Chair, Lt John von Senden, AP is busy preparing for the coming 2009 Vessel Exam and Safety activities.

Lt Tom Ballew, AP, Youth Program Chair, COOP Chair Lt Ed Phillips, AP, Legislative Liaison Lt Tom Martin, AP and Radio Technical Chair Lt Ralph Young, AP have all been engaged in making NVSPS the best Squadron yet.

I would like to thank all the individuals that have helped attain the goals that were set out for our Squadron last year.

Congratulations to our New Bridge and Executive Committee.

Best wishes and safe boating to all in the new year.

LT/C Ronald H. Larson, P  
NVSPS Executive Officer





## Administrative Officer – John Karjala

Thanks all around for the interest, participation, and reservations made for the Squadron's 13 December 2008 Annual Holiday Party at American Legion Post #177 in Fairfax City. We had a total turn out of 70 reservations and guests. Food was plentiful and a spirited time was had by all. The table wreaths were won by 12 lucky members or guests who were able to bring them home for the holidays.

Let's keep up the spirit and place on your calendars Saturday 14 March 2009 for the Squadron Change of Watch commencing at 1830 hours (6:30 pm) to be held again at American Legion Post #177, in Fairfax City. A reservation form is enclosed with this of *Tars and Terns*. All members and guests are invited to attend. Dinner choices are London Broil or Chicken Cordon Bleu with vegetables: green beans almandine and baby carrots; and potatoes AuGratin and penne pasta in a light cream sauce. Appetizers will be available during social hour and the Commander's liquor locker will be open. Liquor is provided by the Squadron, so, for example, martinis and manhattans are free, but beer, wine sodas and set-ups are furnished by the American Legion so those carry a charge. Beer is \$3 and \$4, set-ups and sodas are \$1.

This Change of Watch is combined with Founders Day. Awards will be issued and a new Bridge will be sworn in. Send your reservation form in now at the economical price of \$20.00 per person. We will be looking for you and your guest at this cordial event. Enjoy the camaraderie.

Make a New Year's resolution now to attend more great NVSPS events.

Remember the D5 Spring Conference and Training sessions are scheduled for Thursday to Sunday 26-29 March 2009 in Ocean City Maryland. This is a fun rendezvous at one of Ocean City's seaside hotels. We expect to be sponsoring a complete hospitality suite where we expect there will be refreshments for members and guests. Details will be distributed at the Squadron's February "All Hands Meeting" and via e-mail as they become available.

It's not too early to think about the Annual Spring Picnic. Think Spring. Last year the Squadron annual picnic was held at the Fairfax Yacht Club on a sunny and warm Saturday 17 May 08. Bar-B-Que pork and chicken were the entrees. Sodas, water, beer, and wine were available. It was free to the attendees. Compliments were received from the Fairfax Yacht Club Commodore regarding assisting turn-out for their Clean-up day and the Squadron's Vessel Safety Checks of the Yacht Club's ships.

I'll be seeing you at the next NVSPS events. If you have any questions regarding status or details of any event please call me at (703) 818-8676. 🎵 📧



### CURMUDGEON'S OBSERVATION

1. It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffeemaker.
2. The difference between a pigeon and a London investment banker? The pigeon can still make a deposit on a BMW.



*Commander's Report Continued:*

next year. It is a terrific team which will serve our squadron well in the coming year. Special thanks to each of you for sharing your time and talents with NVSPS and best wishes in the coming year.

The new Executive Committee and Committee chairs are encouraged to attend the District 5 training program in Ocean City in March for training of squadron officers and committee positions. Members and others are needed to participate in this weekend at which NVSPS will host a hospitality suite among all the other squadrons in D5 who do likewise. These hospitality suites are informative, educational, and lots of fun and the weekend has no registration fee for squadron members who wish to attend. It's also a great weekend to treat your first mate to a few days away on the ocean in a relaxed atmosphere among boating friends. I would urge any members who think that they may be interested in future service on a committee to consider attending this Spring Conference in Ocean City on March 27-29. Best wishes for a wonderful new year to all.

George K. Degnon  
Commander, NVSPS

*Education Officer's Report Continued:*

**Course:** **NAVIGATION (N)** (Tuesdays)

**Description:** Learn celestial navigation and piloting techniques suitable 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. Cost is \$125; family members and significant others may share books for a discount.

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of **USPS Junior Navigation (JN) Course**

**Start Date:** **February 2009** **Time:** **7 – 9 PM**

**End Date:** **TBD**

**Location:** GMU Offices, 4031 University Drive, Fairfax, VA

**Instructor:** Seminar Style – Each Participant Teaches At Least One Chapter

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

**Register by:** Now so books can be ordered! (No need to notify me again if you have already registered).

The new edition is now scheduled for release in early February. Contact SEO Rich Unis at [runis\\_320@yahoo.com](mailto:runis_320@yahoo.com) or 703-777-8378.

**Course:** **SEAMANSHIP (S)** (Tuesdays)

**Description:** Learn basic deck seamanship, marlinspike (knots and ropes), anchoring and rafting, basic boat care and maintenance, nautical and USPS customs and etiquette. Cost is \$80; family members and significant others may share books for a discount.

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of the Squadron Boating Course is preferred

**Start Date:** **April 2009** **Time:** **7 – 9 PM**

**End Date:** **TBD**

**Location:** Fairfax High School, Fairfax, VA

**Instructor:** TBD

**Register by:** 15 Mar 2009 so books can be ordered!

Contact SEO Rich Unis at [runis\\_320@yahoo.com](mailto:runis_320@yahoo.com) or 703-777-8378.



# Dock Talk



## The new Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron (NVSPS) website

... is now operational at [www.nvpsps.org](http://www.nvpsps.org). It can also be reached via the old address for a while, to allow pointers in printed material to still be relevant. At some point National will stop hosting our old stuff (including the redirection file) and we'll have just the new address ([www.nvpsps.org](http://www.nvpsps.org)). But for now we're flexible.



### NVSPS Squadron Boat Show Volunteers,

The 2009 Chantilly BOAT SHOW is a great time to reach new boaters and to proudly present the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron.

The USPS theme for next year is "Boating is fun...let me show you how".

Plan to support NVSPS at the show on 13 – 15 March 2009.

New NVSPS members are encouraged to stand a watch with experienced NVSPS members. This is the best time to enjoy the camaraderie and to outreach to future members and boaters. Starting this year, the Squadron Boating Course is not required prior to membership as in the past. The Squadron will actively pursue direct sign-up for squadron membership at the show.

For squadron members the benefits are (1) open access to the entire Boat Show free (2) watch hours are accredited to your VDGIF boating safety instruction record and (3) earn credit for NVSPS Merit Marks.

Volunteers are also welcome to assist in any area of preparation for the show. Please pass this on to anyone who can help with the show. Contact me for any questions, comments and ideas.

NVSPS has booth #167 for "The March 2009 Chantilly BOAT SHOW" from \*\*\* March 13-15 2009 \*\*\*. This is the first Squadron public event for 2009 and more importantly a chance to sign up Boat Show visitors for courses. Starting this year - we can sign boating public directly into Squadron Membership without requiring the Safe Boating Course!

LT Francis Williamson, AP

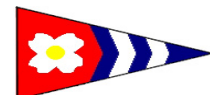
BOAT Show Chairman 2009

[willyjhu@verizon.net](mailto:willyjhu@verizon.net)

301-775-5120(M)



## **SHIP'S STORE**



**Need a new burgee for your boat? How about a tote bag or sports shirt?**

**Contact: Robie Shivik e-mail: [JSHIVIK@VERIZON.NET](mailto:JSHIVIK@VERIZON.NET)**



# Dock Talk



## Continued



### NVSPS will Toot its Horn in Ocean City!

Are you sick of winter weather and wishing for sandy beaches and ocean breezes? Your wish is granted! Join your NVSPS friends in Ocean City MD for the District 5 Spring Conference 27-29 March 2009 at the Princess Royale Hotel. In addition to long walks on the beach and opportunities for endless talk about boats and boating, you will be able to attend interesting workshops on many squadron topics. This weekend is a must for incoming bridge officers who will learn the nuts and bolts of their new jobs.

One of the highlights of the weekend is Friday's Squadron Hospitality Suite night. It's guaranteed to be a boatload of fun. From 1900 to 2200 all conference attendees will cruise into a dozen or more hospitality rooms full of zany fun and good eats provided by D/5 squadrons. NVSPS is busily planning a secret theme for its suite but here's a hint: "Toot!" The poolside hospitality suite will be a gathering place for the No. Va. crew throughout the weekend with snacks and continental breakfast served.

Check your [Mark 5](#) or [www.uspsd5.org](http://www.uspsd5.org) for all the details. Make your room reservations early (only \$99) and sign up for the Saturday night banquet by 5 March. Let's cheer on our new bridge by filling two or more banquet tables!

See you on the beach – surf's up!

### Analog EPIRB Units on 121.5/243 MHz to be Discontinued

Emergency Position Indicator Radio Beacons will no longer be monitored on 121.5/243 MHz. The new EPIRB units will broadcast on 406 MHz.

### Public Access to Waterways

With the threat of rising taxes and the use of eminent domain declarations on working waterfronts, public access to our waterways continues to decline in many areas. A Boating Access forum was held on this where many ideas and possible solutions were discussed. So it was very encouraging to see Maryland, Florida and North Carolina pass legislation this year requiring that waterfront facilities be taxed based on its actual use and not its potential value. This is a major step forward in preventing small marinas being taken over to build condominiums. It is hoped other coastal states will follow the same course.

### KEEP YOUR INSURANCE PAID UP

The technology of lightning protection hasn't changed significantly since Ben Franklin invented the lightning rod in 1752. The best way to protect boat and crew from this random force is still to provide the strike a straight, low-resistance path to ground. If the highest metal structure on the boat is properly grounded, the risk of structural damage or personal injury is extremely small.

Onboard electronics are, unfortunately, not protected. Lightning induces current to flow in any conductor it passes near, and a powerful strike even 100 yards away may induce currents that exceed the capacity of the low-current components inside most marine electronics. You can gain limited protection by twisting all electronics power leads so induced currents will tend to cancel. Electrical wiring should run perpendicular to bonding wires to minimize the inductive effect of current flowing to ground. Ground the chassis--the metal housing--to protect internal circuits and components from directly induced currents. A surge protector in the supply line may stop a limited range of lightning-induced power spikes.

But despite every protective effort, if lightning strikes your boat, your electronics have only one chance in two of not becoming toast--so keep your insurance paid up.

# NVSPS Photo Album



2008



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



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**MONTHLY ALL-HANDS MEETING**

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 theBoat/US sign.  
Enter from the lighted parking lot behind the building.



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**America's Boating Club**