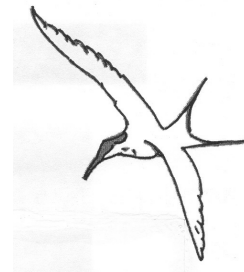




of TARS & TERNS



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



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Sail and Power Boating

www.nvsp.org
www.uspsd5.org



Calendar of NVSPS Meetings and Events

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

April

- 8 All Hands Meeting
- 22 EXCOM Meeting

May

- 11 EXCOM OT Training
- 13 All Hands Meeting
- 17 Spring Family Picnic
- 17-23 Safe Boating Week Activities
- 24-26 Squadron "On Your Own" Cruise
- 27 EXCOM Meeting

June

- 7 Vessel Safety Checks
- 10 All Hands Meeting
- 24 EXCOM Meeting

July

- 8 All Hands Meeting
- 14-16 Squadron Cruise – Travel as a Group
- 11-16 District 5 Cruise
- 17-20 District 5 Summer Rendezvous and Council
- 22 EXCOM Meeting

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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*



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Commander Sends . . .

Dear Members,

Well, your commander is now getting ready for a cruise off into the sunset along with his first mate, and we both want to thank each and every member of the squadron for making this such a wonderfully joyous and fun experience. We have had an outstanding year, the squadron is more stable and accomplished, we exceed expectations for membership retention, we were honored this past year with numerous awards and we excelled in the number of elective courses offered and in the number of advanced grades awarded to members. So much was accomplished by so many! I had said in my first commanders column that I was impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment of the leadership of the Squadron, and this year they backed up that accolade with their extraordinarily generous service. Our Bridge Officers, Executive Committee, Committee Chairs and Members have all done a remarkable job fulfilling their responsibilities. All their talent and time gave us a mechanical advantage that no task was too daunting, no challenge was unwelcomed, and this ole teacher is happy to award straight 'A's for the excellence of our educational programs, the resounding success of our community service activities, for the fun we had doing it, and mostly because we enjoyed each other's companionship along the way.

Think a minute about all of our activities: the spring picnic, the summer cruises, the Vessel safety checks, the courses offered for new boaters, the exam grading sessions and the membership recruitment of boating course graduates, the Oktoberfest party with German beer and wine, the wonderful schedule of speakers year long at our monthly meetings, our newly revised website which won a district award in its first year, our monthly newsletter chuck full of solid information which also has been nationally recognized, the work of our rules (bylaws) committee, our elective courses, our Boat Rides for Wounded Warriors from Walter Reed, our advanced courses, our seminars, our Christmas Party – fun in itself but also all the gifts we collected so that families down on the luck and without work could provide their children with Christmas gifts, our ship store which can secure the most basic and also the most unique needs for your boat, the Change of Watch and the socialization we enjoyed, the new ideas shared at the membership meetings, the old tales about running aground, the memories of our dockside parties on the summer cruises, our presence at the Boat Show in Chantilly annually, the Operations Training offered each spring on how to lead a squadron which is open to all members, the District 5 socials and educational programs each Spring and each Fall, the District Cruises to which we are all invited to participate and the fun there meeting fellow boaters, our support of the Youth Program for the Sea Scouts which is nationally acclaimed, the newly formed Sea Scout program we will be supporting (most squadrons do not have a Sea Scout program affiliated with them and we have two), our legislative activity and this year's success in having Congress intervene so that regulations adversely affecting recreational boating were blocked, the safety tips we provide to new boaters and when we do our vessel safety checks, our hospitality suite and party in Ocean City each spring at the D5 meeting planned and executed with fun in mind, our monthly governing meetings to keep our focus on our goals and strategic outcomes, our extensive public relations activity not only including marketing of new boater classes but also the publicity afforded our programs and community services, our blown-out cruise that was cancelled in September because of Hanna and all the fun that had gone into preparations for it, the collecting of dues from almost 300 members and managing our finances, the wonderful invocations from our Chaplain at each monthly meeting, our Merit Mark program and the tremendous success we had this year, oh I could go on for a few more pages but our editor is already sharpening his blue pencil, so I must move on.



Continued:

In each of my articles this past year, I have exhorted the membership to come on out to a meeting, get involved with a committee; my point has been that with your help we can do even more and you will find so much more value to your NVSPS membership. Any member who contributed to any of the above activities and accomplishments can tell you that being involved in NVSPS is rewarding, it's fun, and it expands one's definition of boating. If you were not involved this past year, do call one of the officers or committee chairs and get more out of your membership in the coming season. And lastly my apology to the members who have served in other capacities which I neglected to mention above, I am truly sorry for the omissions, and grateful for your service.

Congratulations to all the recipients of Merit Marks this past year, these are the folks who supported all of the above activities: Evelyn Alls, Gale Alls, Joel Bailey, Paula Bailey, Rick Baker, Tom Ballew, Clara Blanding, Bill Blanding, Dwight Bues, Brian Choate, Bob Cox, Irina Davis, Richard Davis, Marge Degnon, Bob Donahue, Jean Durgin, Dick Durgin, Glenn Fahey, JJ Fitzgerald, Russ Grasso, Evan Gray, Steve Hall, Alan Hart, Norbert Hymel, Sue Karjala, John Karjala, Ron Larson, Manette Lazear, Walt Lazear, Robert Manning, Tom Martin, Lew Miller, George Nartsissov, Jay Nelson, Jerry O'Connor, Bill Petersen, Ed Phillips, Jim Roberts, Robin Roberts, Will Russell, Susan Sams-Grohoski, Keith Segerson, Cathy Sheffield, John Shivik, Frank Shults, Steve Shupack, Judy Soballe, Peter Soballe, Rich Unis, Robert VanBuskirk, John VonSenden, Francis Williamson, Fred Zugay and George Degnon.

If I was asked what the best program or the most favorable experience I had this past year as your Commander, I would be hard pressed to pick out a single event, we had so many wonderful experiences; I could not pick out one program nor any committee activity as my favorite, they all contributed in their own way to our overall success; and we had some wonderful community service programs this past year with the Boat Rides for Wounded Warriors and the Toys for Sylvania Christmas Program. In the end I must say that it was the smiles on a members faces that I will remember most. And so I cruise off into the sunset with one last message: a heartfelt thank you for this extraordinarily wonderful experience of being Commander of NVSPS. May fair winds and calm seas accompany you during this upcoming boating season.

George K Degnon

commissioning?

The winter doldrums are rapidly coming to a close and it will only be a matter of weeks before spring ushers in the new boating season. Most boaters believe that spring commissioning consists of little more than opening the seacock and starting the engines. The truth of the matter is that, whatever the size, your boat represents a significant investment. Proper care of your boat during the spring will prolong its life and reduce its maintenance costs.

At our March General Membership meeting we will provide a presentation on using a spring commissioning checklist to ensure your boat is properly cared for. This presentation will address procedures for commissioning your engines, air conditioning systems, heads, water systems, hull and topsides, cabin and galley, trailer and safety equipment. We will also provide a generic spring checklist that can be modified to suit your boat. Dozens of experienced Squadron boaters will be present at this meeting to answer virtually any question you might have. Hope to see you there.



Education Officer - Richard E. Unis

Has it been a long time since you have taken a safe boating course? If so, now is an excellent time to refresh your knowledge by taking the Squadron Boating Course. For a small investment in your safety and to enhance your enjoyment on the water, you will review the latest government regulations and equipment requirements, learn how to handle emergency situations and review how to plot a course and find your way, plus review a host of other safe boating topics. Do you remember all of the navigation rules? If not, here is your chance to brush up before the boating season is upon us and in full swing.

We have four separate classes scheduled to start between the end of March and mid-May. Please check our website at www.nvpsps.org for the classes and to register. Remember to tell your boating friends or better yet, bring them along!

Congratulations to Robert (Bob) Donahue for earning the prestigious Educational Proficiency Award! Bob achieved this milestone while juggling all of the Educational Department's laptop computers and projectors between the various classes. Thanks Bob!

The Seamanship course will start on April 20th at Fairfax High School. The course will run through June 8th. See below for the details. Note - Piloting will be offered again in the fall, followed by Advanced Piloting in spring 2010.

Sign up **now** for the following Advanced Grade course:

Course: **SEAMANSHIP (S)** (Mondays)

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: **20 April 2009** **Time:** **7 – 9 PM**

End Date: **8 June 2009**

Location: Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax, VA 22030

Instructor: TBD

Register by: 24 March 2009 so books can be ordered!

Contact SEO Rich Unis at runis_320@yahoo.com or 703-777-8378.





**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. 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.

All Executive Office Committees are gearing up for the new boating season. The Spring Boat Show, scheduled for March 13-15, 2009 at The Dulles Expo Center is a major event to get the public thinking about Spring and recreational activities. This allows NVSPS to get our message of safe boating and boating education out to a large audience. Our Boat Show, PRO, Vessel Exam, Youth Activities, and all the Executive Committees participated in preparing for this event.

Coming up, are the Vessel Exam Days, that the VEO will be announcing soon.

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

Congratulations to 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

Remember! Saturday 14 March 2009 for the annual Founder's Day celebration and 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 may be made by calling me at (703) 818-8676. 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, potatoes Au Gratin 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.

At this event awards will be issued and a new Bridge will be sworn in. Call me now at the above number for the dinner and drinks at the economical price of \$20.00 per person. We will be looking for you and your guest or guests at this cordial event. Enjoy the camaraderie! 7

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's City's seaside hotels. We will have a hospitality suite (#217) with open bar from Friday afternoon thru Sunday morning where there will be refreshments for members and guests. Details will be again distributed at the Squadron's March "All Hands Meeting." For those interested in attending, the reservation form is found through www.uspsd5.org.

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. 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. The 2009 date and details are yet to be determined.

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



THE WORLD'S STRANGEST YACHT CLUB TO SAIL AGAIN

They sail on pink oil, they fly from every corner of the world for the opportunity, they sail only catamarans, and they're delighted if they only get a sail every couple of years. It's the Lake Eyre Yacht Club, and they just might get a sail soon. The Commodore of Australia's Lake Eyre Yacht Club, Bob Blackway, is watching Lake Eyre for signs that he can raise the flag and declare race entries open for the next opportunity to sail on one of the driest and most isolated lakes on earth, Lake Eyre.

Water has just started pouring into the lake after an amazing seven week, 1300 kilometer journey. The deluge comes after the recent devastating floods in Queensland. The Diamantina and Georgina Rivers, that spend most of their lives dry, are rushing with water, heading inland for the lake which is 15 meters below sea level.



Changes Coming in Annual Billing

When your annual dues renewal notices come in May, they are going to look different. NVSPS has adopted the Headquarters Anniversary Billing System. In the new system National Headquarters will handle all the dues renewal process including collecting dues from the individual members. Instead of sending a check to the NVSPS Treasurer as you have in the past, you will have the option of sending the same check to Headquarters, paying by credit card, or paying on line. The additional payment options should help our member retention rate as members won't have to go through the effort to write a check and put it in the mail.

A second feature of the new system is that members will be billed annually on their anniversary date. All current members will be assigned a June 1 anniversary date, so we won't see any difference here. However, new members' anniversary dates will be the first of the month they join in, and they will pay a full year's dues upon joining. Under the current system new member's dues are prorated and then renewed annually in June. This has led to some aggravation when members join in January or February and then get a renewal notice just a few months later.

A third benefit of the new system is the reduced record keeping and paper shuffling required of the squadron Treasurer. Headquarters will send out the renewal notices, collect the dues and make direct deposits of the Squadron's share of the dues to the Squadron bank account, send out reminders to those who miss the return deadline, send out the new membership cards to the renewing members, and keep accurate records of who has paid and who has not. In the past this activity has occupied the Treasurer for most of the months of May and June. Needless to say, I welcome the change.

Anyone wishing to know more about the new system can go to the www.USPS.org web site and search on "Headquarters Anniversary Billing".

Dock Talk



NOT KNOWING THIS COULD RUIN YOU (SERIOUSLY)

By Doug Paine

A recent incident involving a junior parent towing a yacht club trailer caused a good deal of concern about the liability issues involved. As the parent advisor of our junior program I took the lead in researching this issue. What I found was not good news for the club junior program or the junior parents.

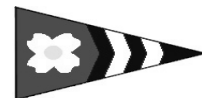
To resolve this issue I researched the internet, had multiple conversations with our yacht club insurance agent, brought the subject up at our area yacht club meeting, discussed it at our club parent meeting, read the contract language that came with our policies, talked to multiple agents from various companies, talked to lawyers, and finally went to the national level of my personal insurance company. I want to clearly state that I am not an expert in this area, but I do want to pass on the information I discovered to other junior parents who may be unknowingly exposing themselves to a huge liability. Each parent needs to check with their own insurance carriers to clarify their own situation.

BOARDING LADDERS & RESCUE

This month we are looking at boarding ladders. Whether you go swimming or fall overboard, getting back onboard is often harder than you think. The RNLI says that people falling overboard is on the rise, with numbers almost doubling in the last year. In the US 2/3 of boating deaths are from drowning and 90% were not wearing a PFD. With this in Mind we looked at many of the boarding ladder types and methods on the market. RSS feeds are available at <http://www.Myboatsgear.com>

* Boarding ladders: <http://myboatsgear.com/mbg/product.asp?prodID=1683>

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

Lt W. Lazear, AP
2014 Lakebreeze Way
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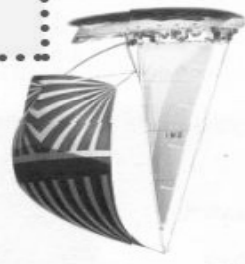
MONTHLY ALL-HANDS MEETING

2nd 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 theboatUS sign.
Enter from the lighted parking lot behind the building.



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