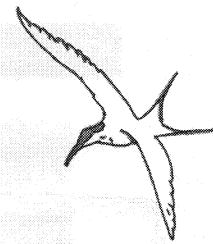




# of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLIII Number 3

Apr 2009

## BRIDGE OFFICERS



**COMMANDER**  
CDR Francis T. Williamson, AP



**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
Lt/C George Nartsissov, P



**EDUCATION OFFICER**  
Lt/C Richard E. Unis, JN



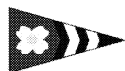
**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**  
Lt/C John G. Karjala, P



**SECRETARY**  
Lt/C Ralph R. Young, AP



**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.nvsps.org](http://www.nvsps.org)  
[www.uspsd5.org](http://www.uspsd5.org)

## Calendar of NVSPS Meetings and Events

### April

- 8 All Hands Meeting
- 22 EXCOM Meeting

### May

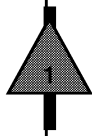
- 13 All Hands Meeting
- 14 EXCOM Operations Training
- 16 Spring Family Picnic
- 16-23 Safe Boating Week Activities
- 22-25 Squadron Rendezvous
- 27 EXCOM Meeting

### June

- 10 All Hands Meeting
- 24 EXCOM Meeting

### July

- 8 All Hands Meeting
- 14-16 Squadron Cruise – Travel as a Group
- 17-23 District 5 Cruise
- 13-26 District 5 Summer Rendezvous and Council
- 22 EXCOM Meeting



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**MEMBERS AT LARGE**

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P/C George K. Degnon P	703-448-8766
Russell S. Grasso, P	703-499-8557
P/C John Shivik, AP	703-273-3351
P/LtC Cathleen Sheffield, AP	703-370-4331
Frederick D. Zugay, JN	703-815-1954

**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:**

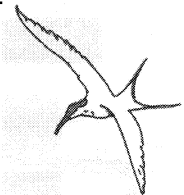
880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA. From the Capital Beltway, take the VA-613/ Van Dorn Street exit, exit number 173 (aka exit 3), towards Franconia. Turn left onto South Van Dorn Street / VA-613 North. Turn left onto South Pickett Street. Go less than .5 miles and turn in at the BoatUS sign and 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. von 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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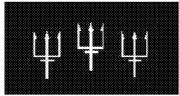
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## *Commander Sends . . .*

Cdr Francis Williamson, AP

It is an honor and a pleasure to serve as the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron Commander for the 2009-2010 Bridge. The squadron is dynamic, proactive and effective as a social and service organization. Our strength is in our members and their willingness to help NVSPS remain a vibrant, active organization through participation in shared activities. I encourage you to seek out the new leadership, get to know them and help us continue to build the squadron in the coming year. I have always been impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of the squadron in taking on tasks.

March 2009 rolled in with both the Chantilly Boat Show and the NVSPS Change of Watch (COW) landing on the same weekend. The Squadron's first opportunity to present to the boating public was the NVSPS Booth at the Chantilly Dulles Expo Center. The U.S. Power Squadron (USPS) Theme this year is "Boating is fun...let me show you how!" Squadron volunteers supported by the Sea Scouts of Ship 1942 manned all the watches and presented Squadron Courses, activities and for the first time direct registration for NVSPS Membership with no prior education requirements. Most importantly for Personal Water Craft (PWC) operators this year is the new Virginia requirement for operators 20 years old and younger (1 July 2009) to have taken and passed a squadron boating course. This requirement will encourage many younger PWC operators to take qualifying courses – NVSPS will be there to help.

Simultaneously, both the old bridge and the new bridge coordinated all the numerous tasks, participation and the scripts for the Change of Watch. This formal squadron event was the transition of leadership to the new bridge and our opportunity for heartfelt thanks to the outgoing bridge for an outstanding job over the past year. Well done! While George and Marge are "getting ready for a cruise off into the sunset" we hope that the Squadron Gift – "Binoculars for Irish Ayes" will serve him well and that many of us can join him on the Bay representing NVSPS at the events we have planned.

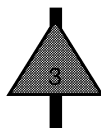
For those able to make the D5 Spring Conference, our "Hospitality Toot Suite" and the D5 Banquet was a "Toot"al success. NVSPS had twenty members that attended the D5 Training and for the Banquet Saturday evening. The "Hospitality Toot Suite" committee had Sound Signal Posters, noise making devices, decorations and refreshments for all attendees. Boat Smart includes proper sound signals and the "Hospitality Toot Suite" was professionally done.

The extent of our homeports is greater than desired for Rendezvous but close enough for the Squadron to identify several events that members will be interested in participating in.

First opportunity for the Squadron is a Memorial Day RDVU at Cambridge, MD at the end of May. This will get our Chesapeake Sea Legs back and be a good early shakedown for our recently de-winterized vessels. Check the cruise article for details.

The D5/D27 Summer Council and Rendezvous at Cape Charles at the end of July is particularly appealing. The Bay Creek Marina is fairly new, spacious and has excellent facilities. Early liaison indicates that NVSPS could have adjacent slip assignments for all squadron cruise members. (See Mark 5)

The Squadron will also sponsor "Wounded Warriors Cruise" 2009. This very worthwhile cruise touches many and is at the heart of contributing to soldiers who have given so much. The 2009 Bridge and Executive Committee (EXCOM) are working the details now. For those desiring to participate please contact P/C George Degnon, a Bridge Officer or any EXCOM member.



The 2009 Squadron Schedule includes a Spring Picnic, Oktoberfest and the Squadron Holiday Party to meet our "Boating is fun...let me show you how" objective. The Squadron Courses and Seminars are planned to meet our boating education charter.

The 2009 Bridge, EXCOM and Committee Chairs invite you to join us in achieving our leadership objectives for the Squadron.

Thanks for your enthusiasm and contributions to NVSPS. I look forward to working with you towards these worthy goals.

Cdr Francis T. Williamson, AP

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## LET'S GO FISHIN'



April's speaker is Phil Gilbert, a licensed charter boat captain who takes groups on bay fishing trips out of Hollywood, MD. The catches include Rockfish, Bluefish, Trout, and Spanish Mackerel. His boat "The PJJ" is a custom built 36 ft. sport fish with twin diesel engines. Phil will tell us what is required of a charter boat captain and will take us through all of the seasons from trophy Rockfish in mid-May until cold weather fishing in December.

Come and learn the secrets of catching fish from a charter boat captain.

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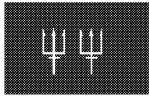
## **Memorial Day Rendezvous – by P/C George Degnon**

Joel Bailey and George Degnon are beginning to make plans for a Memorial Day Rendezvous to the Municipal Docks at Cambridge which should be a convenient location for most folks on the Bay. Please put May 22-25 on hold, it is Memorial Day weekend so it gives us a 3 day weekend for our festivities. Arrivals can be planned for Friday afternoon or Saturday depending upon work schedules, and we will have Monday (national holiday) for the cruise back to home ports.

I did speak with Cambridge Municipal Dock and have placed a hold on a group of slips until we will eventually finalize arrangements for reserving a slip for each of you who will be coming. Details will follow as we get the details of our weekend outlined. Joel Bailey and I are working on the Cruise Planning this season and we invite others to join our committee. We are going to do some boating this season and enjoy the heck out of the Bay. Everyone is invited to join us as committee members or active participants on the cruises.

Cambridge Municipal Docks are right in downtown Cambridge, in earlier years a thriving town with a railroad terminal, a busy fishing industry, and antebellum homes now undergoing some amazing rehabilitation. The town is one of those sleepy places that is fun to walk around, always interesting things to see in shops and on the streets, there are several superb restaurants only 2-3 blocks from the docks, and there is a crab packing plant just 2 blocks from docks—we will check out if they are open on weekends for a tour. We will have our traditional receptions each evening with the Commanders Locker and I suspect if we treat our first mates right, they will share some of those delicious things they all know how to whip up so easily.

Do let us know if you may be interested (even if it's tentative) so that we might put you on a list for updates, get your input on some plans for the weekend, and watch oT&T for further details.



## Education Officer - Richard E. Unis

Educational seminar season is upon us! The new Anchoring seminar will be held on Saturday, April 25th. See below for specific information about this seminar. This is the very first time we have offered this seminar. It will be a comprehensive and focused short course just on anchoring. You too can master the art of anchoring. Come learn how and earn credit towards the on-the-water Boat Operator Certification. This seminar promises to be very informative and a lot of fun!

The Boat Handling under Power seminar will be held in May. The specific date is currently TBD. Please check the website to find out the exact date and time. The date should be set by the time the newsletter is published. This seminar will teach you how to handle your boat with skill and confidence. It focuses on docking and the effects of wind and current, departing a slip, using helm and engine throttles for slow-speed maneuvers, trimming the drive and/or trim tabs to match speed and sea state. A waterproof Quick Guide is included. The instructor will offer tips based on lots of experience. If you are relatively new to boating this seminar is definitely for you!

The Knots, Bends & Hitches for Mariners seminar will also be held in May. The date is TBD so please check the website to find out the exact date and time. I am really excited about this new seminar. It comes with a USPS Guide book that covers 58 different knots, bends, hitches and splices. To top it off, you get your very own personal dock complete with a cleat, ring, piling and two lines, each a different color for ease of instruction. You have to see it to believe it! (Yes, I've been monkeying around with it). Come learn and/or practice your marlinspike.

Lastly, we will be offering a Paddle Smart seminar in June. I will be taking this seminar myself at the D5 Spring Conference. (I probably should have taken a seminar like this before I cruised around the Azores Islands in Portugal in my sea kayak a few years back). This will be a seminar that we will want to involve the public in a big way. If you know someone who has a canoe or kayak, or someone who is interested in paddling, please let them know that we will be offering the Paddle Smart seminar. Contact me for more info.

Remember to check our website at [www.nvsps.org](http://www.nvsps.org) for the current roster of classes and to register. Sign up now for the following seminar:

**Seminar: Anchoring** (One Session - Saturday)

**Description:** Learn about anchor types, proper anchor size, anchor rode, scope, anchoring techniques and tips and tricks. This seminar will also cover advanced topics such as matching an anchor to your boat, anchor holding power, chain and rode sizes and strengths, etc. Come share your lessons-learned about anchoring and learn proper techniques for hassle-free anchoring. The seminar includes a very handy waterproof Quick Guide for you to carry on your boat. Cost is only \$35; family members and significant others may share materials for a discount.

**Prerequisite:** None – this seminar is open to everyone, including the public.

**Date:** 25 April 2009 **Time:** 9 AM to Noon

**Location:** George Mason University Offices, 4031 University Dr, 1st floor conference room, Fairfax City, VA

**Instructor:** Bob Cox

**Register ASAP** so materials can be ordered!

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

## SIX BELLS

**DONALD R. BERRY, P**

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Donald R. Berry, P, who passed away January 22, 2009. Don was a member of USPS for more than forty years and a charter member of NVSPS. He served the Squadron in many capacities, mainly in education, earning twenty three merit marks. He is survived by his wife, Jean H. Berry.



**Executive Officer –  
George Nartsissov, P**

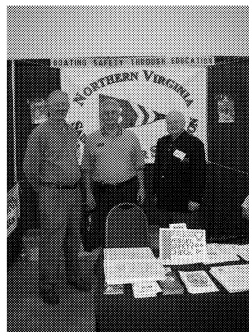
The 2009 Boat Show at the Dulles Expo Center was on track and extensively advertised by the show producer. Our Boat Show Chair, now Cdr Francis Williamson, AP prepared for a big turnout and thanks to those who volunteered to serve watches at the NVSPS booth.

Public Relations Chair Lt Frank Shults, S was very active in promoting the show and also the education classes.

All Executive Office Committees are gearing up for the new boating season. . 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.

The Vessel Exam Days, are announced in the next column.

George



*Do you or one of your friends  
need a vessel checked?  
Or want to become an examiner  
yourself?*

*J. von Senden, John@Southerngirl.net*

*Scheduled VSC Days and locations:*

### *April*

- 11 -12 Prince William Marina
- 18-19 Tim's River shore
- 25 Old Town West Marine
- 26 Prince William Marina

### *May*

- 2 Herrington Harbor North
- 3 Prince William Marina
- 9 West River Sailing Club
- 16 Fairfax Yacht Club





**Administrative Officer – John Karjala, P**

Saturday 14 March 2009 was the annual **Founder's Day celebration and Squadron Change of Watch** which commenced 1830 hours at American Legion Post #177, in Fairfax City. Representatives were in attendance from USPS District 5. Those representatives were P/D/C Richard Nitschke, SN and D/Lt Myra L. Nitschke, P. District 5 representative P/D/C Richard Nitschke, SN, awarded District 5 honors to our own *Tars and Terns* editor Stf/C Richard Davis, AP, and his staff. In addition, P/D/C Richard Nitschke awarded District 5 honors to the NVSPS Webmaster D/Lt Walter D. Lazear, AP. Thereafter, Commander Degnon made Squadron level awards. The old bridge was relieved and the new bridge was sworn in. All attendees enjoyed the event and the spirited camaraderie!

As of this writing, **the D5 Spring Conference and Training Sessions** are to take place as scheduled on Thursday to Sunday 26-29 March 2009 in Ocean City Maryland. This is a fun rendezvous at Princess Royale Hotel, 9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland. It is one of Ocean's City's grand 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 have been distributed at the Squadron's March "All Hands Meeting," while the reservation form was found through [www.uspsd5.org](http://www.uspsd5.org).

It's not too early to think about the **Annual Spring Picnic**. We have confirmed the date time and place to be Saturday, 16 May 2009, from 12:00 to 17:00 hours and Vessel Safety Checks from 12:00 to 16:30 hours, at Fairfax Yacht Club, in Virginia. Details will be provided to all members in the 8 April 2009, "All Hands" meeting in the training room at the rear of BoatU.S.® 880 S. Pickett Street, Alexandria, Virginia, and by e-mail distribution as well as by personal letter.

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.

On the membership front, Lt. Fred Zugay, Squadron Membership Chairman, has submitted two new new member's applications to National since the end of January 2009.

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#### **CURMUDGEON'S BOAT OBSERVATION**

- ❖ If it's unattractive, it's British.
- ❖ If it's unusual, it's French.
- ❖ If it's unattractive and unusual, it's Russian.
- ❖ If it's Italian, 'voilà'.

# Dock Talk



## **Kidde Recalls to Replace Fire Extinguishers Due to Failure to Operate**

Kidde has announced a voluntary recall of approximately 167,000 Kidde XL Fire Extinguishers, which is a fire extinguisher that is popular with the boating community. The pressurized cylinders in these fire extinguishers could lose pressure and fail to operate. In the event of a fire, this failure could put you and your boat at risk.

The specific units involved in this recall are the Kidde XL Fire Extinguishers with model numbers FX340SC, FX340H, FX340GW, XL5MR, FX210R, FX340SC-2, FX210W, XL2.5TCZ-4, E-340-3 and with manufacture dates between October 2007 and April 2008. These units were sold at department, home, and hardware stores nationwide from October 2007 through April 2008 for about \$35.

You should always inspect the pressure gauge on your fire extinguishers and shake them at least twice a season (e.g., at commissioning and the Fourth of July weekend) to ensure they are in good working order. However, if you purchased fire extinguishers in the past two years you be extra cautious. If the pressure gauge points to the red zone, contact Kidde to receive a free replacement extinguisher. If the gauge is not in the red zone, but you have questions about an extinguisher within the listed model numbers, contact Kidde for additional information at (888) 345-4407 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit their web site at [www.Kidde.com](http://www.Kidde.com). "Kidde" and the model number can be found on the label on the front of the extinguisher. The manufacture year is on the bottom of the extinguisher. If your extinguisher is one of the listed model numbers and is marked with the year 07 or 08, you should contact Kidde to determine if you have a recalled extinguisher.

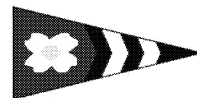
### **CURMUDGEON'S OBSERVATION**

"You live and learn. Or you don't live long." - Robert A. Heinlein

You're getting old when you wake up with that morning-after feeling, and you didn't do anything the night before.

The two most power-filled words....."I Can"

### **SHIP'S STORE**

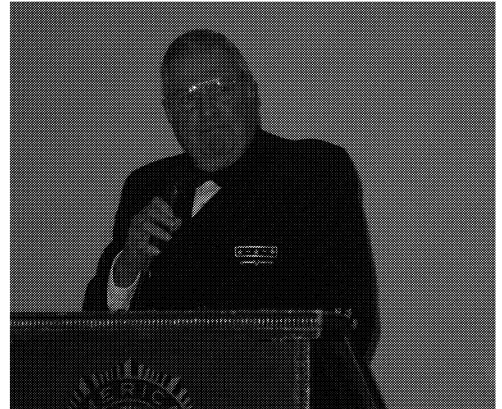


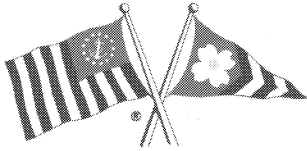
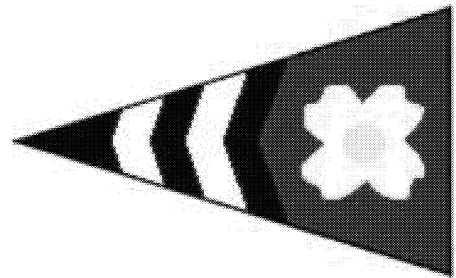
**Need a new burgee for your boat? How about a tote bag or sports shirt?**

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



# NVSPS - Photo Album 2009 Change of Watch





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