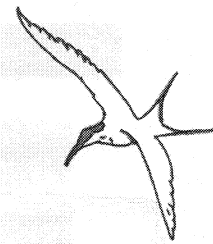




# of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLIII Number 7

September 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

## "Mark" Your Calendar NVSPS Meetings and Events

### September

- 8 - 13 USPS National Fall Conference
- 9 All Hands Meeting
- 23 ExCom Meeting

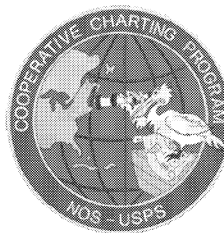
### October

- 14 Oktoberfest/International Pot Luck
- 2 - 4 D-5 Sail Regatta
- 28 ExCom Meeting

### November

- 5-8 District 5 Fall Conference
- 11 All Hands Meeting
- 25 ExCom Meeting

For Course Dates see Pages 4 & 5



Happy Boating

See you in September



**COMMANDER**

Cdr Francis T. Williamson, AP  
703-440-9074

[willyjhu@verizon.net](mailto:willyjhu@verizon.net)  
[Francis.Williamson@jhuapl.edu](mailto:Francis.Williamson@jhuapl.edu)

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Lt/C George Nartsissov, P  
703-425-7044  
ganh@verizon.net

**EDUCATION OFFICER**

Lt/C Richard E. Unis, JN  
703-777-8378  
runis\_320@yahoo.com

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Lt/C John G. Karjala, P  
703-818-8676  
jgkarjala@verizon.net

**SECRETARY**

Lt/c Ralph R. Young, AP  
703938-3562  
rryoung@mitre.org

**TREASURER**

Lt/C Steven Hall, AP  
703-242-8566  
sdhall01@verizon.net

**MEMBERS AT LARGE**

P/C G. J. Nelson, AP                   703-437-0064  
P/C George K. Degnon P           703-448-8766  
P/C John Shivik, AP                 703-273-3351  
P/LtC Cathleen Sheffield, AP   703-370-4331  
Lt 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:**

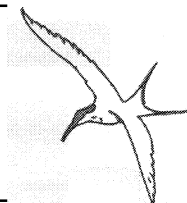
880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA. From the Capital Beltway, take the VA-613/ Van Dorn Street exit, exit number 173 (aka exit 3), towards Franconia. Turn left onto South Van Dorn Street / VA-613 North. Turn left onto South Pickett Street. Go less than .5 miles and turn in at the BoatUS sign and 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. Van Senden,  
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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July/August and January / February issues are combined  
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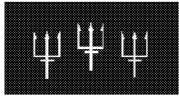
**EDITOR**

Stf/C Richard Davis, AP  
(703) 444-2772  
rpdavis1702@comcast.net

**DISTRIBUTION**

Lt Manette B. Lazear, AP  
(703) 620-1821  
lakematesm@comcast.net

D/Lt Walter D. Lazear, AP  
(703) 620-1821  
lakematesw@comcast.net



## *Commander Sends . . .*

Cdr Francis T. Williamson, AP

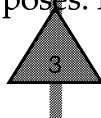
August always seems to pass so quickly while trying to balance summer boating with all the events and activities that are ongoing. While the squadron has no general meetings or EXCOM's in August, we are still pursuing our primary goals for membership, improving the squadron, and providing detailed planning for upcoming events that you will see in our schedule and articles for this month.

Many of you have received calls from the bridge officers and me concerning USPS renewal this year. Active members are the heart of the squadron and the means by which we achieve our boating education, community service, and camaraderie objectives. I encourage any past due members to renew now and continue to leverage from USPS. Savings up to 23% can be achieved through USPS on boat insurance and our quality education is "priceless"! In calls to 80+ members, the #1 reason for joining and renewing is the "quality" of NVSPS courses and the members - your renewal and participation keep us the best of the best. We save lives!

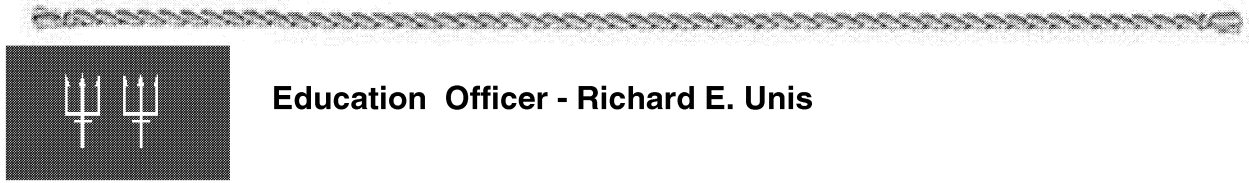
Administratively, national has updated our online Squadron BY-LAWS incorporating the changes of last year. Today and going forward, the quorum for the Squadron is 7 ½%. Refined definitions and corrections to the BY-LAWS make it a better document and management tool. Squadron improvements are in the final stages of approval and many of the website upgrades are being implemented to enhance content and provide new services to membership. Please visit [www.NVSPS.org](http://www.NVSPS.org) and provide us your comments – we welcome inputs and suggestions. A direct link to the Commander is available for any squadron actions you wish to request. We need pictures of squadron events and membership activities for both the website and our annual history. I ask that you submit any pictures related to family boating, squadron events, and boat safety exams to the squadron (website, commander, or any bridge officer).

We are planning the Wounded Warrior Cruise (WWC) for the Solomons, MD in the first two weeks in October, after the TrawlerFest Oct 2-4 and before our Oktoberfest and International Potluck Supper/General Meeting on October 14th. I have requested that the NVSPS be permitted to use the marina at the Naval Air Station Patuxent River, MD for embarkation and debarkation of wounded warriors. This location is across the river from the Solomons, MD, provides a convenient location for transport, safety, and for those offering to host warriors for the cruise. We look forward to serving our warriors and thanking them for their sacrifice.

National is pleased to announce a new service capability on the National Website - "SailAngle". This service is free and is a USPS nautical facebook directory for USPS. For those interested, I encourage you to look at the capability and enroll for access and use. While free, members must enroll voluntarily and some of the information posted may be used for business or marketing purposes. Read the disclaimer carefully before registering.



Join us for the Sep. 9th General Meeting for some refreshments, a short business meeting, and a great guest speaker program. Come to welcome new members, catch up of sea stories, and keep the squadron vibrant. Make the most of the remaining boating season and boat safely!



**Education Officer - Richard E. Unis**

I hope you were able to spend some quality time on the water this summer and practice those skills you learned in the classroom during the past education year. Summer has come and gone and that means it's time for our fall education program. We have a full slate of advanced courses and seminars planned between this fall and next spring. I can't stress enough the importance of your continuing boater education. There is always something new to learn! I highly recommend Piloting if you haven't taken it yet. It's a fun class and you will learn some very valuable skills that you can put into practice on the water. Class starts on September 17th so contact me now to sign up. I have some extra books and materials so it's not too late for you to register. The seminar dates for October and November are TBD. Check our website at [www.nvsps.org](http://www.nvsps.org) for the latest schedule. (Seminar schedules are posted under the Basic Boating Courses schedule on the website since they too are open to the public).

Here is the current schedule of advanced courses, electives and seminars starting in the fall and winter that are open for registration.

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

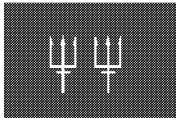
COURSE	Start Date	End Date	Description	Cost & Location	Instructor
Piloting (P)	17-Sep-09	5-Nov-09	Piloting is the first course of a two-part series studying inland and coastal navigation. Piloting focuses on the fundamentals – determining position, keeping track of a boat's movement, charting courses, etc. Topics covered include charts and their use, aids to navigation, the mariner's compass, magnetic variation and deviation of the compass, plotting and steering courses, dead reckoning (calculating time, speed, and distance), plotting and labeling charts, the use of electronic navigation (GPS) and digital charting.	\$95; family members may share books for a discount. Class will be held at BoatUS Headquarters in Alexandria	Bob Cox, JN

To Register

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

COURSE	Start Date	End Date	Description	Cost & Location	Instructor
Navigation (N)	22-Sep-09	TBD	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. Seminar style – each participant teaches at least one chapter	\$200; family members may share books and course materials for a discount. Class will be held at GMU Offices in Fairfax.	SEO R. Unis, JN and R. Baker, JN
Weather (W)	Jan-10	TBD	This course teaches you how to make weather observations and predictions. Topics include awareness of weather phenomena, how to read weather maps, how to read the sky and anticipate weather developments, characteristics of the atmosphere, using forecasts and weather instruments. This course may also include a visit to the National Weather Service Office at Dulles Airport. This is an outstanding course that was newly revised last year. This course is back this year by popular demand! Don't miss it.	\$75 and worth every penny. Family members may share materials for a discount. Location: Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax, VA	John Shivik, AP
Marine Radar	Oct 2009, Date TBD1 Session		Learn how to use marine radar. New Seminar!	Cost is \$35; family members may share the materials for a discount. Location: GMU Offices, Fairfax, VA	Jay Nelson, AP
Using GPS	Oct 2009, Date TBD1 Session		Learn how to use GPS to determine your position and to navigate on the water.	Cost is \$35; family members may share the materials for a discount. Location: GMU Offices, Fairfax, VA	TBD
Using VHF and VHF/DSC Marine Raio	Nov 2009, Date TBD1 Session		Learn how to properly use the Marine VHF and VHF radio with Digital Selective Calling (SSC). This seminar could save your life.	Cost is \$35; family members may share the materials for a discount. Location; GMU Offices, Fairfax, VA	TBD





**Administrative Officer – John Karjala**

### ***International Pot Luck & All Hands Meeting –***

Meeting topic: Good Food & Fun.

Our Annual International Pot Dinner is scheduled for 1900 hours or 7:00 P.M. Wednesday, 14 October 09, at the Fairfax Yacht Club, 10721 Colchester Road, Mason Neck, VA.. This is always a spirited occasion. Don't be left out.

We ask that every one bring a hot dish, vegetables, cold platter, salad, or dessert. German beer, spirits, wine, sodas, and water are included in the reservation fee

Send the reservation form enclosed with this *Tars & Terms*; E-mail me at [jgkarjala@verizon.net](mailto:jgkarjala@verizon.net); or call me at (703) 818-8676,. Make your reservation now to inform me which dish you are bringing so we may assure there is good variety in the menu. Reservations are \$5 per couple and \$2.50 for singles. Children under 13 are free. Please RSVP by 11 October 09.

Directions to the Fairfax Yacht Club from the Beltway are given on the Reservation form.

***Holiday Dinner Dance*** - Reminder to put the Christmas Party on your calendars now. It is on Saturday, 5 December 2009 starting at 1830 hours or 6:30 P.M. at The American Legion Post #144 in 3939 Oak Street in Fairfax City.

The menu follows last year's super dinner. Two entrees (Prime Rib and Baked Chicken Breast) will be served with abundant sides. Kevin & Melanie, the DJ's, will play your favorite songs and the Commander's liquor locker will be open. Beer wine and set-ups will be available from the American Legion at good prices. Rumor has it that Santa might also attend with Ms Claus. All details and price will follow in further mailings and meetings.

Members please remember to invite friends for this great Dinner Dance. Advanced bookings accepted by e-mail to me at [jgkarjala@verizon.net](mailto:jgkarjala@verizon.net) or call me at (703) 818-8676 to make your reservation now at last year's prices of \$25.00 per person. This early bird price offer is only good through September 2009.

**NVSPS International Pot Luck Dinner**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**14 October 2009**  
**Fairfax Yacht Club**  
**10721 Colchester Road**  
**Mason Neck, VA 22079**

**Reservation Deadline: 11 Oct**

Send your check and reservation form below to:

LT/C John Karjala, P  
13811 Lowry Drive  
Chantilly, VA 20151-2815

**Directions To Fairfax Yacht Club**

**From the Beltway:**

Travel south on I95 from the Beltway and take the exit for Woodbridge via US Rt. 1 south. Turn left at Furnace Road, which is at the first traffic light. This is just prior to the Occoquan River Bridge. Follow Furnace Road through the railroad underpass (Caution-one car wide and a blind turn, sound your horn before entering). Continue about another 75-100 yards where Furnace Road bears to the left and joins Old Colchester Road. Do not bear to the left but proceed straight across. This is a private lane, which leads into the Fairfax Yacht Club. Follow this lane through the gate (it will be open) and park at any open space.



-----  
Enclosed is my check made payable to NVSPS for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations @ \$5.00 per couple, \$2.50 per single, Children under 13 FREE, for the 14 October 2009 **International Pot Luck** at the Fairfax Yacht Club.

Please bring your favorite ethnic, foreign or whatever special dish or dessert to share!

**Member Name(s)**

**Guest(s)**

**Dish/Dessert/Salad**

Yes, I will help with Setup \_\_\_ and / or Cleanup \_\_\_



# Dock Talk



## Merit Mark Recommendations Due

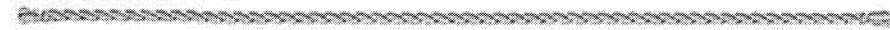
USPS recognizes the contributions of its members' time and talents and says "thank you" by awarding one merit mark annually. To learn more about merit marks, see your USPS Operations Manual. Each fall squadron leaders submit the names of those members who have performed substantial service during the year to the Merit Mark Chair who compiles a report to USPS for Cdr. Williamson's signature. National reviews the recommendations.

### Officers & Committee Chairs:

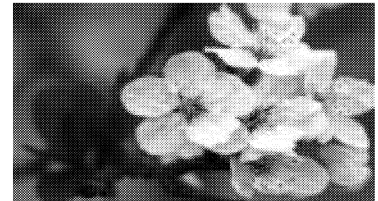
Please submit the names of members who have performed substantial service to NVSPS during calendar year 2009 to Merit Mark Chair Jean Durgin at [rjdurgin@aol.com](mailto:rjdurgin@aol.com) by 1 October 2009. Include a brief but specific description of the service performed (e.g., number of classes taught, number of vessel inspections performed, reports given, committee meetings attended, events planned, newsletter articles written, etc.).

### All Members:

Our goal is to recognize everyone's contributions to NVSPS. Feel free to submit a brief description of your service directly to Jean Durgin ([rjdurgin@aol.com](mailto:rjdurgin@aol.com)) by 1 October 2009.



## Keep Flower Power Fund Growing



Each year squadron members are invited to post a personalized holiday message in the December of *Tars & Terns* in exchange for a contribution of any amount to the NVSPS Flower Power Fund. Send your 2009 season's greetings (maximum 3 lines) and check payable to the "NVSPS Flower Power Fund" to P/C Dick Durgin (address below) **by 12 Nov. 2009**. Dick will send you written confirmation of your tax deductible contribution. Sample message: "Happy Holidays & Safe Voyages in 2010 from the crew of - - -"

The Flower Power Fund was established in 1988 by Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hazelton to support NVSPS activities, primarily in education, and to advance the mission of USPS. Under its terms, all donations are held in an interest-bearing account and only the interest may be spent. Since 1988 this fund has grown from \$5000 to over \$20,000. The commander and the executive committee must approve all expenditures. Items that have been purchased are educational materials for instructors, projectors, computers, etc.

The fund is named for the Virginia state flower, the Dogwood, which appears on the NVSPS burgee. Tax deductible contributions are welcomed at anytime.

P/C Dick Durgin, Chairman, Flower Power Fund  
308 George St. SW, Vienna, VA 22180



# More Dock Talk



## Weather Presentation by NWS

By P/C John Shivik, AP

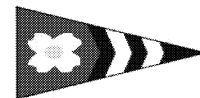
At our 10 June 2009 General Meeting, Senior Forecaster Brandon Peloquin of the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Sterling, Virginia presented an outstanding briefing on marine weather products that are available on the WEB. These products provide the boater with an in depth assessment of conditions that help make a Skipper's decision to venture forth beyond safe harbor. Here is one URL that you should readily seek: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/marine.htm>. Also, ensure you listen on your VHF radio to the local forecast before going out on the briny. These products are tailored to the various locations on the Chesapeake, Potomac and more that will enhance your safe boating. Think a minute about the impact of weather on your life. Sun, wind, rain, snow, thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, waves and fog are a few that can influence your safety afloat and ashore. Consider signing up for the USPS Weather course. Be safe! Contact Lt/C Rich Unis, SEO, for more information on the course.

## Classified



**Cedar and canvas canoe** 16 foot canoe with all accoutrements for sale. Custom built in Maine, can be seen in advertising or will provide photos. Like new. 703 444 2772. (rpdavis1702@comcast.net)

### **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**



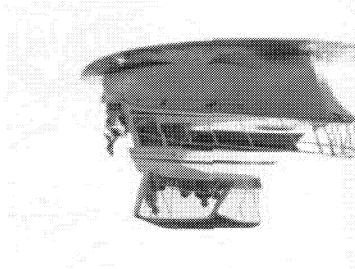
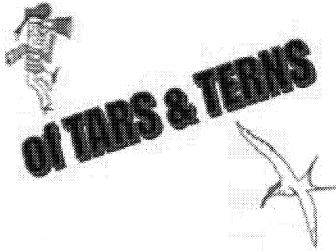
Lt W. Lazear, AP  
2014 Lakebreeze Way  
Reston, VA 20191



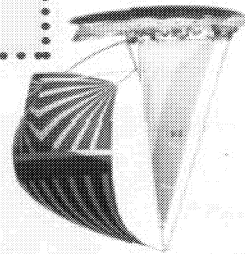
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MONTHLY ALL-HANDS MEETING  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays at 1930 (any changes posted herein and on the web)  
at BoatUS 880 S. Pickett St., Alexandria  
From I-495 take Van Dorn Exit #173 (old #3) north.  
Turn Left on S. Pickett  
Or...From I-395 take 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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OF TABS & TURNS

America's Boating Club