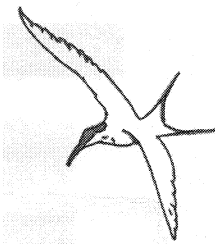




# of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLIV Number 8

October 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.nvsp.org](http://www.nvsp.org)

## "Mark" Your Calendar NVSPS Meetings and Events

### October

- 10 Wounded Warrior Cruise (WWC)
- 14 Oktoberfest/International Pot Luck
- 2 - 4 D-5 Sail Regatta
- 28 ExCom Meeting

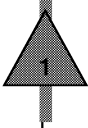
### November

- 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 October



**COMMANDER**

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

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**TREASURER**

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**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:**

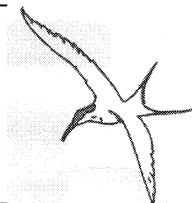
880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA. From the Capital Beltway, take the VA-613/ Van Dorn Street exit, exit number 173 (aka exit 3), towards Franconia. Turn left onto South Van Dorn Street / VA-613 North. Turn left onto South Pickett Street. Go less than .5 miles and turn in at the BoatUS sign and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



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

Published ten months of the year  
July/August and January / February issues are combined  
**Volume XLIV, No. 8; Oct, 2009**

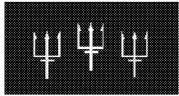
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## *Commander Sends . . .*

Cdr Francis T. Williamson, AP

**Wounded Warrior 2009** - I am very pleased to report that Captain Macyko U.S.N, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River, MD, approved the squadron's request to host the NVSPS 2009 Wounded Warrior Cruise from the base at the West Basin Marina on Saturday 10 October. George Nartsissov (XO) and I visited NAS Pax River yesterday, Friday 18 September, to meet base representatives and refine our joint plan for EXCOM approval next week. The NAS staff has been responsive and enthusiastic providing terrific support. George and I also walked the piers and find them adequate for our use. The Dock Master, Frank Pace, helped coordinate visits with base catering facilities and introductions to senior staff that will assist. The XO drafted an operations plan to help coordinate the five participating boats and skippers. Pax River Sail & Power Squadron (PRS&PS) Executive Officer, L/Cdr Randy Headrick, will join us with his 55' Blue Water Boat, "R Dream", capable of carrying 20+ warriors. PRS&PS will also support handling dock lines and shore activities including the picnic/dinner costs. Pax West Basin Marina is waiving any overnight slip fees for participating boats.

We are asking members to support our warriors on the water, on the shore and from home. George Nartsissov' article provides details for participating and joining this great squadron event.

**Education** - I urge all members to take one of the seven advanced courses scheduled this fall and winter by NVSPS. Last month, USPS announced that members taking advanced courses will be eligible to win handheld VHF radios and GPS', navigational software sets, barometers, multi-meters and chart plotters. Everyone who takes and passes an advanced course between July 2009 and June 2010 will automatically be entered to win a prize! Enhance your boating skills this winter through NVSPS quality courses.

**Participation** - Members are encouraged to attend the D5 Fall Conference in Rockville, MD 5-8 Nov. 2009 to learn about Boat Operator Certification, Best Squadron Practices, and updates from National Governor's Meeting in September. This is particularly important for future bridge officers and Excom members. Attend all or selected areas of interest and you will be surprised at how much you can learn. The conference is free. USPS now has classroom seminars to prepare boaters for their On the Water (OTW) experience. USPS is now an on the water training organization. I encourage experienced members to achieve this new BOC qualification to extend our squadron training on to the water. Contact me if you are interested. You must have a boat to achieve the certification.

### **Sea Notes –**

Sea Scout Andrew Scheuermann's and J.J. Fitzgerald 's OT&T Educational Proficiency Award article was profiled in the "Currents" section (p.7) of the ENSIGN (Sep/Oct 2009). **Congratulations shipmates! Well Done, PRO Frank Shults!**

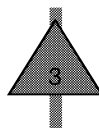
You can download up to date NOAA East Coast charts in PDF booklet form @ no cost from <http://ocsddata.ncd.noaa.gov/bookletchart/atlanticCoast/bookletcharts.htm>. Give it a try.

BOATUS also has up to 23% reduction in insurance based on additional courses that you take for boating safety. Save more, boat more!

I hope to see you at squadron events to enjoy the camaraderie and rewards of participating in NVSPS.

We save lives!

Cdr Francis T. Williamson AP





## Executive Officer – George Nartsissov

Our Squadron is planning a cruise for the Wounded Warriors from Walter Reed Army Medical center (WRAMC) on October 10, 2009. We have received approval from Walter Reed for the event and we are proceeding with planning the event.

CDR Francis Williamson contacted the base commander at Patuxent Naval Air Station, MD, just across the Patuxent River from Solomons, MD., and the base commander has approved the event and is giving us full support. The plan is to stage the cruise from the West Basin Marina at the Naval Air Station. So far we have three boats from our Squadron (CDR Williamson, P/CDR Segerson and Lt/C Nartsissov) and a boat from the Patuxent River Squadron. We need another boat or two from our Squadron. We indicated to WRAMC that we can accommodate 20 persons, however, if we have more boats we can possibly increase that number.

Walter Reed will provide transportation. Food for lunch and the end of the day meal is the responsibility of the Squadron. We need your help in this regard. We are looking at on post facilities where we may have the meal. The Dock Master at the West Basin Marina will provide transient slips at no fee for overnight stay.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Squadron members to be involved in a community event! Last year's Wounded Warrior cruise was a huge success. Please contact CDR Francis Williamson: 703-440-9074(H), 301-775-5120(C) or L/Cdr George Nartsissov: 703-425-7044(H), 703-395-8256(C) for more information and sign up for the cruise.



## Education Officer - Richard E. Unis

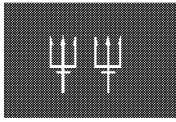
Here is yet another great reason to continue your boating education and earn higher grades. If you successfully complete an advanced or elective course between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009, you will automatically be entered into a United States Power Squadrons drawing to win valuable prizes. How valuable you might ask? Those members currently taking the Piloting course will have an opportunity to win a handheld GPS unit! Anyone successfully completing Advanced Piloting in the spring could win a set of navigational software. What about the Weather course in the winter? Yes, you could win a barometer. The Weather course will teach you how to put a barometer to good use. We may even offer an Engine Maintenance class for the Sea Scouts and other members (if space is available). That course is currently being planned. Successful completion of Engine Maintenance would qualify you for a drawing to win a multimeter. The winner's will be selected at the 2010 Governing Board meeting held in Seattle from August 30th through September 4th, 2010. Check our website at [www.nvsps.org](http://www.nvsps.org) for the latest course 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 that have not yet started but 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
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. Locatoion; 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 & Terns*; 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. Call me if you have any questions: (703) 818-8676.

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 #177 in 3939 Oak Street in Fairfax City.

The menu follows last year's super dinner. Two entrees (Prime Rib and Chicken Cordon Bleu) 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. Clause. 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

**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

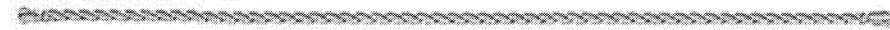
USPS recognizes the contributions of its members' time and talents and says "thank you" by awarding one merit mark annually. To learn more about merit marks, see your USPS Operations Manual. Each fall squadron leaders submit the names of those members who have performed substantial service during the 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



Ralph Young

9/26/2009

## 2009-2010 Squadron Improvement Initiative

In this issue of the Squadron's Newsletter, we take the opportunity to update the General Membership concerning the Commander's 2009-2010 Squadron Improvement Initiative. While this initiative initially was focused on automating and updating Squadron activities, we found that there are many other ideas concerning improvements we might make. **A critical objective of this initiative is to enable more members to be more active in Squadron activities—we need to hear from you—please contact any Improvement Area Lead with your thoughts, ideas, or a concern or suggestion for improvement (see contact information provided below).**

The most recent version of our "Vision and Scope (V&S) Document" concerning this initiative is available from Squadron Secretary Ralph Young—to get a copy, send an email to [ryoungrr@aol.com](mailto:ryoungrr@aol.com). This Document describes the purpose of the Initiative; summarizes current NVSPS capacities and capabilities; identifies Squadron "stakeholders" (those the Squadron is attempting to service); prioritizes 2009-2010 NVSPS objectives and activities; identifies Squadron success factors and measures; and describes a set of "Improvement Areas" and ideas.

*A theme of this Initiative is to reinforce an attitude and habit of "continuous improvement" throughout the Squadron.* We consider the V&S Document a "living document" that is updated as we learn of additional contributions and members who want to become involved. One area in which we have a current need is for a Squadron Historian—if you are interested, please contact CDR Williamson.

Provided below are brief summaries of some of our current improvement efforts.

NVSPS Website

Walt Lazear

Several enhancements to the website have been made. Recent squadron-related events (such as new members and awards) have been added to the Activities page. We are actively seeking other new content that members want to see and would find useful on the website. Finally, a password protected Bridge-Only section has been added where we will store important historical squadron documents not available to the public.

Squadron Secretary

Ralph Young

The Squadron Secretary is serving as advisor to the Squadron's Improvement Initiative and as coordinator of the V&S Document. He has developed a "Checklist for the Incoming Squadron Secretary" and a document, "Information for the Incoming NVSPS Secretary" to enable more effective transition of duties. We have an ongoing effort to dispose of documents that are more than two years old, except those that need to be kept, primarily on the Squadron's website.

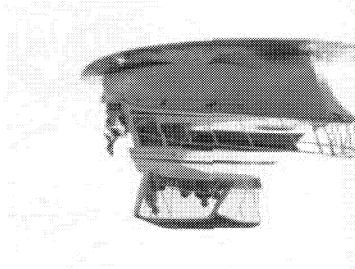
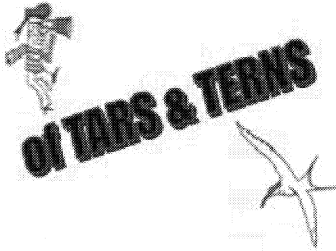
Lt W. Lazear, AP  
2014 Lakebreeze Way  
Reston, VA 20191



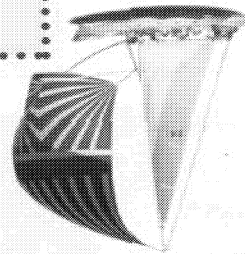
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MONTHLY ALL-HANDS MEETING  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays at 1930 (any changes posted herein and on the web)  
at Boat US 880 S. Pickett St., Alexandria  
From I-495 take Van Dorn Exit #173 (old #3) north.  
Turn Left on S. Pickett  
Or...From I-395 take 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 the Boat US sign.  
Enter from the lighted parking lot behind the building.



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Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron  
in District 5 of  
United States Power Squadron®  
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