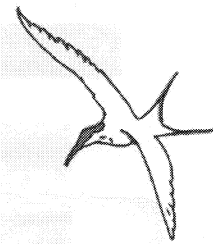




# of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLIV Number 9

November 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



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Sail and Power Squadron  
District 5  
A unit of the  
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Sail and Power Boating

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

## "Mark" Your Calendar NVSPS Meetings and Events

### November

- 5-8 District 5 Fall Conference
- 11 All Hands Meeting
- 18 EXCOM Meeting

### December

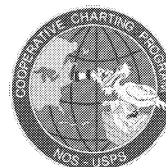
- 5 Christmas Party
- 9 EXCOM Meeting

### January 2010

- 13 All Hands Meeting
- 25 EXCOM Meeting

### February 2010

- 10 All Hands Meeting
- 17-22 USPS National Conference



Happy Boating

See you in November



**COMMANDER**

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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:**

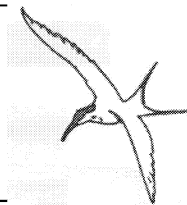
880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA. From the Capital Beltway, take the VA-613/ Van Dorn Street exit, exit number 173 (aka exit 3), towards Franconia. Turn left onto South Van Dorn Street / VA-613 North. Turn left onto South Pickett Street. Go less than .5 miles and turn in at the BoatUS sign and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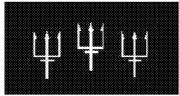
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## *Commander Sends . . .*

Cdr Francis T. Williamson, AP

The Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron, Sea Scout Ship 1942, and the Patuxent River Sail & Power Squadron joined together on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> to host 17 wounded warriors, family and escorts from Walter Reed to a Wounded Warrior Cruise (WWC) on the Patuxent River. The collage of pictures in this issue expresses it best – community service is very rewarding and a primary function of the squadron in addition to our quality education. The “Home of the Brave” and the “USA” balloons created a patriotic and welcoming atmosphere for the wounded warrior participants. The complete set of WWC pictures including the skippers, boats and picnic are available on the squadron website @ [www.nvsp.org](http://www.nvsp.org). I thank Captain Macyko, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Patuxent River; Naval Air Station Patuxent River staff, the skippers, crew members and the shore party for contributing their time and effort to this immensely successful cruise. This is the first District 5 joint squadron WWC and will hopefully continue as an annual NVSPS community service event. The Executive Officer’s article provides additional detail.

The USPS 2009 Governing Board at Kansas City approved the following By-Laws Revisions: This reduces the number of board officers from 12 to 7.

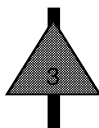
- Make the earning of merit marks and their significance equivalent across all classes of membership.
- Transfer of responsibilities of the Operating Committee to the Board of Directors and remove the Operating Committee from the By Laws.
- This means the same “significant contribution” is required by active, family, and apprentice members to receive a merit mark. NVSPS already meets this criterion – thanks to Jean Durgin.
- Clarify the procedures used in the collection of dues by USPS HQ.
- New members are billed by the squadron and renewals are billed by USPS HQ.
- Extend the educational requirement exemption for membership until December 2012. The program has been successful but needs more time for better evaluation.
- Approve the provision requested by a Resolution from District 3. This provision allows any family member with 5 merit marks to become a senior member.
- Editorial corrections to several provisions of the By Laws will be posted on the NVSPS website for those interested. .

Take an advanced squadron course; enjoy our social functions; and contribute to community service events. Participation increases individual skills, improves squadron camaraderie and our contribution to safe boating.

The squadron will accept Toys and Holiday donations starting after Thanksgiving until the close of the Holiday Party. Boxes will be available at the Holiday Party for collection of wrapped toys. Toys and donations will be distributed to those in need this Christmas.

NVSPS saves lives.

Cdr Francis Williamson, AP





**Executive Officer – George Nartsissov**

**Wounded Warrior Cruise – Patuxent River Naval Air Station, October 10, 2009**

When we were discussing a possible location for the Wounded Warrior Cruise, CDR Francis Williamson suggested we consider the Naval Air Station (NAS). Two NVSPS boats, that were planning to participate in the cruise, were located at Solomons, MD, (Keith Segerson & Lt/C George Nartsissov) across from the NAS, and CDR Williamson was planning to bring his boat up from the Yorktown area. The NAS has a sizable marina so we decided to investigate. CDR Williamson sent a message to the Commander, CPT Macyko, and received an immediate reply that indicated the NAS would fully support the WW Cruise.

What followed was a series of coordination messages and visits to the NAS. Every office that we went to had a copy of CPT Macyko's message to support the cruise. The Dock Master at the West Patuxent Basin Marina, Frank Pace, provided docking space and "no fee" slips for those boats that would stay overnight. The marina, on the Patuxent River, is a large basin protected by rock jetties. Lunches and the evening meal were catered by the station Morale, Welfare and Recreation Office (for a very reasonable fee). Lunches were taken on board and the evening meal, a barbeque, was served in the Yacht Club building that was beautifully decorated by the "Shore Party" (P/C Gale Alls, P/C Richard Durgin, P/C John Shivik, Georgia Williamson).

Walter Reed Army Medical Center approved our request for the event and provided a bus that brought 17 WW and escorts to the marina. We had a total of four power boats, to include a 55' "Blue Water" provided by Lt/C Randy Headrick, from the Patuxent River Sail & Power Squadron, and two 27' sloops provided by the Sea Scout Ship 1942. Morning weather was "breezy", with white caps on the Patuxent, and a light drizzle. We got underway at approximately 1130 and after cruising up the Patuxent and Solomons returned to the marina for the barbeque (weather got better as the day went on).

The comments from the WW were that this was a pleasant and relaxing outing and many wanted to do it again. A Warrior on our boat took a nap – after waking she said that this was the first time in weeks that she was able to have a restful sleep. Without a doubt this was a most uplifting experience for all participants! We will plan a repeat for 2010.

Lt/C George Nartsissov  
Executive Officer

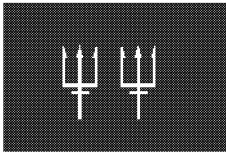
# Photo Album

## Wounded Warriors 2009



# Photo Album Continued





## Education Officer - Richard E. Unis

Have you ever complained about the Weatherman's forecast and how inaccurate it was? If so, don't feel "under the weather." All you have to do is sign up for the Weather course. Although it is not meant to be a forecasting course, you will learn enough about weather phenomenon (high and low pressure systems, winds, thunderstorms, etc), how to spot signs of forthcoming weather changes, and how to interpret weather maps to make your own weather predictions. You will be amazed at how well you will be able to read the signs if you just pay attention to the sky. That is a very important skill to have as a boater since your enjoyment of boating and safety are dependent on the weather. The Weather course starts on Thursday night, January 21st, at Fairfax High School. To reserve your space, please contact me by December 15<sup>th</sup> so I can order the books. Also, 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). I am currently planning advanced and elective courses, as well as basic boating safety courses, for the spring.

Here is the current schedule of advanced courses, electives and seminars that have not yet started but are open for registration.

COURSE	Start Date	End Date	Description	Cost & Location	Instructor
Weather (W)	21-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. You may win a barometer in the USPS drawing.	\$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
Using GPS	Nov 2009, Date TBD 1 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, 4031 University Drive, Fairfax, VA	TBD
Using VHF and VHF/DSC Marine Radio	Nov 2009, Date TBD 1 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, 4031 University Drive, Fairfax, VA	Dwight Bues, AP

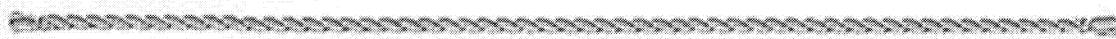
## Holiday Greetings Benefit You & NVSPS!

You still have time to save postage and send holiday greetings to your NVSPS friends by posting your message in the December of Tars & Terns. The cost is a tax deductible contribution to support the work of the squadron.

Overview of OP Manual Guidance

The deadline is 12 November 2009. Send your 3-line message and a check of any amount payable to the Flower Power Fund to P/C Richard Durgin, 308 George Street SW, Vienna VA 22180. Dick will send you written confirmation of your tax deductible contribution.

Review of Squadron District and National By –Laws / Admin Officer  
The Flower Power Fund was recently used to purchase a sextant for use by students in the Navigation class. Happy holidays!



Now is the time! Looking for that special holiday gift? Look no further! The NVSPS Ship's store has polo shirts, burgees, caps and more. Order now to ensure prompt delivery! Questions or need help? Contact John and Robie Shivik at [jshivik@verizon.net](mailto:jshivik@verizon.net).



## **DO YOU HAVE THE PROPER MEDICAL INSURANCE?**

Not the kind of insurance congress is fighting over on Capitol Hill, but the kind of personal knowledge to treat medical emergencies on your boat and insure your crew a competent temporary medical response.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Karl H. R. Hellinger, SN, a former NVSPS member, and a retired pathologist. Karl now lives in southern Virginia, and is a past commander of Smith Mountain Lake Sail and Power Squadron. He will discuss the common accidents that happen on pleasure boats and offer suggestions for dealing with these injuries. He will also talk about the more serious situations such as stroke, and warning signs for heart attack.

Don't miss the chance to meet and talk to a doctor who is also a long time boater.



# Dock Talk



## Merit Mark Recommendations Due

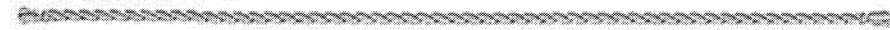
USPS recognizes the contributions of its members' time and talents and says "thank you" by awarding one merit mark annually. To learn more about merit marks, see your USPS Operations Manual. Each fall squadron leaders submit the names of those members who have performed substantial service during the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

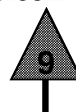


Each year squadron members are invited to post a personalized holiday message in the *December of Tars & Terns* in exchange for a contribution of any amount to the NVSPS Flower Power Fund. Send your 2009 season's greetings (maximum 3 lines) and check payable to the "NVSPS Flower Power Fund" to P/C Dick 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 - - -"

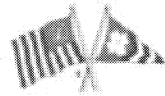
The Flower Power Fund was established in 1988 by Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hazelton to support NVSPS activities, primarily in education, and to advance the mission of USPS. Under its terms, all donations are held in an interest-bearing account and only the interest may be spent. Since 1988 this fund has grown 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



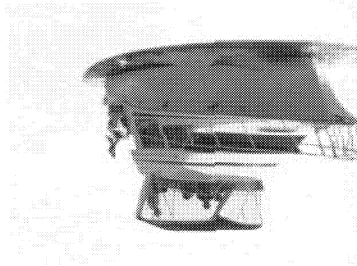
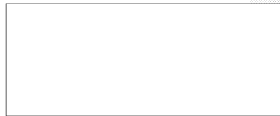
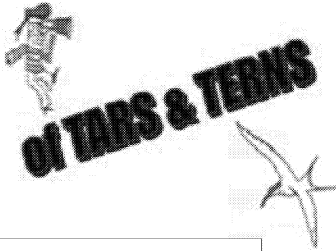
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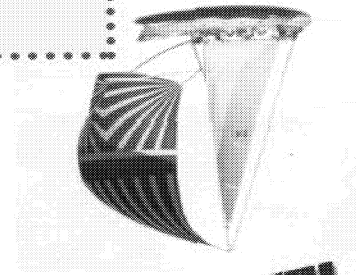
MONTHLY ALL-HANDS MEETING

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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