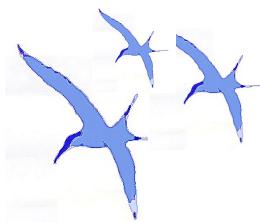




of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLVII Number 3

April 2012

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Mark your calendars and come join us.

April

11 General Membership Meeting

25 ExCom meeting

May

04 Co-op Charting Workshop

09 General Membership Meeting

23 ExCom Meeting

19 D5 Chesapeake Bay Clean-up Project

25 Memorial Weekend Cruise to Cambridge

June

13 General Membership Meeting

27 ExCom Meeting

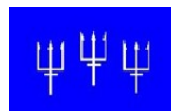


Please note: a complete calendar listing, including education courses, can be found on our squadron website at www.nvsps.org.



Northern Virginia
Sail and Power Squadron
District 5

A unit of the
United States Power Squadrons®
Sail and Power Boating
www.nvsps.org



Commander's Report

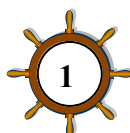
Cdr G. Jay Nelson, AP

Let me begin by saying that I am again honored to be the Commander of the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron. I look forward to working with the new Bridge and the Executive Committee to continue the excellent work of our predecessors. I congratulate P/C John Karjala and the entire 2011-2012 Bridge on a job well done.

As I consider the coming year for NVSPS I am mindful of several challenges the Squadron must address to remain viable. The current economic environment and changing lifestyles of boaters in Northern Virginia is altering the nature of recreational boating in our area. New boaters are trending to smaller boats and escalating fuel costs and competing demands on personal time result in seasoned boaters reducing their time on the water. It is becoming apparent that many boaters are modifying their boating habits as they strive for a better balance between their passion for boating and the pragmatics of expense and lifestyle choices.

This reality is evidenced in the significant decline in our public boating safety courses and participation in our advanced courses. We are facing aggressive competition for new boater education from Internet-based courses that provide National Association of State Boating Law Administrators certified boating safety certificates free of charge, or at a cost that is considerably lower than our classroom instruction. While arguably the classroom instruction provided by the USPS is far superior, and considerably more beneficial to the new boater than an Internet alternative, the

cont. on page 19



Bridge Officers



COMMANDER

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MEMBERS AT LARGE

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P/C George Nartsissov, AP	703-425-7044
Lt. Frank R. Shults, S	703-893-2928
P/C Francis Williamson, AP	703-440-9074
Lt. Frederick D. Zugay, JN	703-815-1954

Scheduled Meetings:

Unless otherwise noted the General Membership Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at the BoatUS Headquarters* facility at 7:00 pm. Any changes will be posted in this newsletter or in the NVSPS website.

*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) 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 left at the "BoatUS" sign. Go to the lighted parking lot in the rear. Proceed to the entrance.

SAVE THE DATE

NVSPS Memorial Weekend

Cruise to Cambridge, MD

(see page 7 of this issue)



*Do you or one of your friends
need a vessel checked?
Or want to become an examiner yourself?
George Nartsissov, AP
ganh@verizon.net*





D5 Newsletter is going “paperless”.

The District 5 newsletter, “Mark 5,” is going paperless! However, a paper copy of “Mark 5” may be purchased from District 5.

See page 17 for details.



While “of Tars and Terns” will continue to be printed and mailed to members, did you know you may see a full color version of the newsletter at our website? Just go to www.nvsp.org and click on “newsletter”. From there you may see the current and archived issues.



of Tars and Terns
The Official Publication of the
Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron
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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Executive Officer's Report:

by Lt/C Steve Hall, AP

As Commander Nelson noted at the Change of Watch, a key focus for the coming year will be attracting new members. For serious boaters, NVSPS has a lot to offer with our wide range of educational courses and social events. Getting that message out to the boating public is the primary job of the Squadron Public Relations Officer (PRO). If you've got any interest in journalism, please come forward and volunteer for the open PRO position. Our former PRO, Frank Shults, has opened the door to many boating and community newspapers, and I'm sure would be more than willing to get you established as a newly appointed PRO. So give it some thought. Don't be shy. We've got a lot of talent in our organization, and we need you to get involved.

The other open position is that of Squadron Chaplain. Here again the way has been paved by our former Chaplain, P/C John Shivik. He has access to many boating oriented prayers and inspirational messages that he would be glad to share. All we need is someone to show up at our meetings and get things started with an opening prayer. Those of you who regularly attend our meetings, please give this position some serious thought.

Many thanks to our other XO portfolio chairs who have agreed to continue in their positions: Ed Phillips for Boat Show and COOP Charting; Tom Ballew for Youth Programs; Tom Martin for Legislative Liaison; Jay Nelson for Safety; and George Nartsissov for Vessel Safety Check. We're looking forward to an outstanding year.

This brings me back to where we started. We've got to get better at attracting new members. For all of you with boats don't be afraid to talk up NVSPS with your slip mates. Take a copy of our course schedule and post it on your marina bulletin board. We've got a group of excellent instructors. We just need to get the word out.

*A Co-op Charting Workshop is scheduled for May 4-6, 2012 in Norfolk, VA. See Registration on page 12 of this issue. Contact Lt. Ed Phillips for more information.
703-771-7096 / potter339@earthlink.net*





Administrative Officer's Report

Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP

Everyone had a great time at the Change of Watch on 24 March 2011. The food was great and visiting with friends always makes this a special occasion. This event was a joint Change of Watch and Founder's Day. Many awards were given out for Founder's Day.

We are planning our Spring picnic at Fairfax Yacht Club in May on either the 12th or 19th. This will be a pot luck lunch and there will be more information later.

P/C George Degnon is planning a Memorial Day Cruise. If anyone is interested please let George know at george@degnon.org.



Treasurer's Report

Lt/C Ann Nartsissov, P

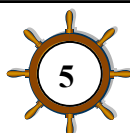
My name is Ann Nartsissov. I am the Treasurer for this year. Dave Hinkins is my able Assistant Treasurer. My 1st assignment is to inform you that some membership dues have gone up – about the price of 2 cups of coffee.

- For an Active Member w/o Family: from \$88 to \$92, an increase of \$4 (\$2 for National and \$2 for our Squadron).
- For an Active Member with Sea Scout or additional Family: from \$132 to \$137, an increase of \$5 (\$3 for National and \$2 for our Squadron).
- Dues stay the same for Sea Scouts w/o Active Family Member, and for an Associate Member (\$20).

Raising our Squadron dues was one of the steps in balancing this year's budget. I will be able to give more information as I become familiar with my position.

That done, let me tell you that we put our boat in the water at the end of March. We were the 37th boat to be launched at our marina at Solomon's Island. The day was sunny and cool with a slight wind. The trees & flowers were blooming, ducks were quacking, the water was sparkling, and the bay was beckoning. Refreshing!

George and I are looking forward to another year of good boating and socializing with you, our friends of the waters.





Education Officer's Report

by Lt/C Sean Gallagher, AP

Here are the courses being scheduled for the next few months. Locations will be determined based on enrollment. If you are interested, get in touch with me.

Course Name	Date
ABC	22 May 2012
ABC	24 Jul 2012
ABC	25 Sep 2012
Marine Comm. Sys.	03 May 2012
Seamanship	05 May 2012
Cruise Planning	09 Jun 2012
Piloting	12 Jul 2012
Engine Maintenance	08 Sep 2012
Advanced Piloting	27 Sep 2012
Marine Electrical Sys.	06 Oct 2012

Seminar Name	Date
Rules of the Road	30 Jun 2012
VHF / DSC	30 Jun 2012
Anchoring	07 Jul 2012
GPS	07 Jul 2012
Knots, Lines and Cleats	21 Jul 2012
Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes	21 Jul 2012
Basic Weather Forecasting	04 Aug 2012
Emergencies Onboard	04 Aug 2012
Radar	01 Sep 2012
How to use a chart	03 Nov 2012
Mariners Compass	10 Nov 2012
Tides and Currents	17 Nov 2012
Partner in Command	01 Dec 2012



Secretary's Report

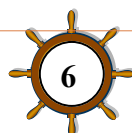
Lt/C MaryJane Hinkins

It's been a wild ride for me from non-boat owner, to boat owner, to Squadron Secretary. Just as wild a ride as was having been a landlocked geek in Colorado, to a wetter geek in Virginia. How a few short years can change a person! In the blink of an eye so to speak

Dave and my lives changed. We moved to Virginia then bought a power boat, and finally met such a wonderful group of people here at the Squadron. We were adrift here in some ways when we joined. Our family and friends were back in Colorado and we missed them.

In the past year, though, that we have been a member of this organization, the seasoned members of the Squadron have made us feel as if we belonged. They have given us countless words of encouragement, advice, and friendship. We are now blessed to have met these folks and to have had the pleasure of being part of this organization.

A new chapter begins for me this month as the Squadron Secretary. I hope that I can live up to past secretaries and their accomplishments. And perhaps keep you all posted on our exploration of the area by boat. The adventures for two who are new to the area and new to the Maryland-Virginia experience.





Wounded Warriors 2012

by P/C Francis Williamson

NVSPS desires to have a Wounded Warriors 2012 Cruise this fall. This civic service event has been well attended and very rewarding for all involved especially the Wounded Warriors.

NVSPS is soliciting donations to WW12 to offset the funding not available in the general budget. Those interested in making a donation, please send checks to P/C Francis Williamson, AP.

Mailing Address : 7710 Bertito Lane, Springfield, VA 22153.

Pledges to be submitted later are all also welcome.

Let's make NVSPS WW 2012 as rewarding as WW 2010.

P/C Francis Williamson, AP

Squadron Rendezvous Memorial Day Weekend May 26-28, 2012 Cambridge City Dock

by P/C George Degnon

The NVSPS will be holding its Spring Rendezvous at Cambridge City Dock from Saturday to Monday, May 26-28, and all members are invited to join us either by boat or car. If you are planning to join us, or you just want more information on the weekend, please contact PC George Degnon at george@degnon.org for more boat slip information and for details of the weekend.

The Squadron has historically had fantastic cruises and this weekend will be fun filled. We will explore this historic city which once was a major hub of commerce on the Bay from colonial time until the 20th Century. Rumor has it that a team is already exploring an array of fantastic restaurants known for local cooking and of course our pot luck dinner is always an epicurean delight that pleases even the most particular gastronome in our midst. Join us for a weekend of great boating, historical explorations, and wonderful eating with your NVSPS friends, those you already know and those you will meet. Do come and join us for this fantastic opportunity!





NVSPS Bylaws Updated

by P/C Richard Durgin, JN

The 2008 NVSPS bylaws have been updated by the Rules Committee to comply with USPS 2012 model bylaws. The updated bylaws have received preliminary approval from National and approval from the NVSPS Executive Committee. The next step in the approval process is consideration and approval by our members.

The Rules Committee invites all members to review the updated bylaws on the NVSPS website or in hard copy format at the next general membership meeting. Changes are indicated in red in the text of the bylaws. If you have any questions, please contact either P/C Richard Durgin or P/C John Shivik. Members will vote on the bylaws at the April 2012 meeting.

There are major changes primarily in four areas:

(1) Article 3 – Membership

There are now only four classes of membership: active members, apprentice members, associate members and honorary members (Section 3.2). The category called Family Member has been eliminated. Individuals who reside with an active member may now be admitted as members in the same manner as any other such member (Section 3.5). There are new details on apprentice membership (Section 3.6).

(2) Sections 6.6 and 7.4 -- Dues

The duties of the treasurer have been revised to reflect annual dues billing by headquarters, a job previously handled by the treasurer (Sections 6.6.5, 6.6.6). New members no longer pay a prorated fee but go immediately into anniversary billing (Section 7.4).

(3) Section 6.7.6 – Executive Committee – Operating & Investment Funds

Section 6.7.6 has been expanded to require squadron operating funds to approximate 150% of the squadron's annual operating budget for planning purposes. Operating funds must be insured by an agency of the U.S. government. For investment funds, the Executive Committee may seek higher yield investments which have been recommended by a qualified professional.

(4) Section 9.9.3 – Voting by Presiding Officer

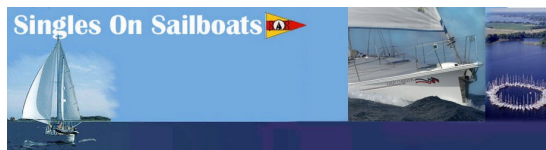
As was mentioned at the March membership meeting, Section 9.9.3 is not fully in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*. Therefore, while national corrects the model bylaws, NVSPS has received permission to substitute the following sentence:

Section 9.9.3 The presiding officer shall vote in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.



NVSPS responds to the SOS!

Over the weekend of March 17th, members of the NVSPS participated in the Annapolis based “Singles on Sailboats” (SOS) annual training conference. This is a huge function with over 300 participants. SEO Sean Gallagher worked with several other NVSPS members to bring a variety of boating expertise to the conferees. As a result, NVSPS Commander received a heartfelt letter of gratitude from the Commodore of the SOS. We thank all the NVSPS members who participated in this important program and re-print the Commodore’s letter here for your perusal:



To: Commander, Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron
From: Commodore, Singles on Sailboats, PO Box 5708, Annapolis, MD 21403
Subject: Letter of Appreciation

I wish to extend my sincere thanks for the voluntary efforts of your squadron in support our recent Spring Training event. Your instructors provided five excellent seminars on nautical topics including Methods and Types of Anchoring, Rules of the Road for Marine Navigation, Night Sailing - Recommended Approaches, Weather Systems and their impact on nautical activities and the Art and Science of Knots, Lines and Cleats. Your training materials were excellent in conveying the information and focused to the largest extent possible on the Chesapeake Bay, the main body of water sailed by our members. Additionally, your instructors’ depth of knowledge on the subject area was remarkable and very engaging. I hope that your staff enjoyed the day as much as our members enjoyed the presentations.

Specifically, I would like to acknowledge, **Mr Rick Robey, Mr Richard Unis, Mr Robert Manning, Mr Ed Phillips, Mr Francis Williamson, Mr Sean Gallagher and Ms Robyn Stewart.**

We hope that the working relationship now established between our two organizations will endure for many years to come and hope that you will continue to support us in our club training endeavors. Please do not hesitate to call on us if we can assist you in your Squadron mission.

Sincerely,
Ed Menegeaux

P/C Francis Williamson demonstrates some of his “line magic” at the Singles on Sailboats annual conference.





Vessel safety checks

by P/C George Nartsissov

Spring is here early this year and it is time to think about getting our boats in shape for cruising. Ann and I had “**L’Attitudes**” launched from winter storage just prior to the D-5 Spring Conference. As soon as we get back from the conference we will start going over our check list for getting under way on the bay. Included on the list are the **safety items** such as:

personal flotation devices (PFDs), throw cushion(s), flares and signaling devices (horn, whistle), fire extinguishers, navigation lights, engine compartment ventilation, marine radio, first aid kit, dewatering device, boat registration and display of numbers.

If you have the above in order you are well on the way to receiving a **Vessel Safety Check decal!**

Since one of the Power Squadron’s main objectives is boating safety, let us be an example to the “other” boaters **and proudly display the VSC decal on our boats!**

You can get more information from me at vsc@nvpsps.org and 703-425-7044.



April 11 Membership Meeting Program

by P/C Gale Alls

In place of our guest speaker we will show a 15 minute video prepared by John Konrad, USCG Licensed Master Mariner Unlimited, in which he re-constructs the circumstances around the sinking of the Italian Cruise Liner Costa Concordia. The video will be followed by a slide show of the interior of this splendid cruise ship and some pictures of its sinking.





Cooperative Charting

by Lt. Ed Phillips

As our seasoned members know and all of our newer members are finding out, there are many opportunities in the Power Squadron to help your fellow squadron members and boaters. More importantly, there are also opportunities that grow your own boating and navigation skills. In particular, one activity stands out as fun, challenging, skill building and is a public service to all boaters. Were you thinking of Vessel Safety Checks? VSC's are a vital way we serve the boating public. But there is another, less well known way we can serve the boating public. That is cooperative charting or "CoCh" for short.

What is CoCh? It consists of depth surveys, range line surveys, current surveys, small craft facility (marina) surveys and the Adopt a Chart program. Do you enjoy working with charts, charting information, applying your navigation skills and helping the boating community? If the answer is yes to any of the above, the CoCh program is an activity to consider getting involved in. Have a look at the National CoCh website located at <http://www.usps.org/national/coch/index.htm> and the District 5 CoCh website located at http://www.uspsd5.org/co_ch.php for more details on each part of the CoCh program.

The 2012 CoCh workshop will be held on May 5th at NOAA's Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk, VA. If you are considering getting involved in CoCh, this workshop is for you. The training sessions address all the aspects of CoCh. NOAA equipment is generally available for demonstrations, depending on NOAA's operational schedule. It is always an informative and enjoyable day in a coastal environment. The registration form with the information is posted on the District 5 website.

As we look to the 2012 season, is anyone interested in doing a depth survey? Or know of good candidate location? Perhaps the channel and surrounding waters to your marina haven't been surveyed in many years. Let me know what you would consider a worthy location for a depth survey and we'll plan a depth survey for this season.

If you are interested in participating in the CoCh program, contact me at the address below.

Smooth seas and fair winds!

Ed Phillips, AP
CoCh Committee Chair
potter339@earthlink.net





Co-op Charting Workshop National Ocean Service Atlantic Marine Center 439 West York Street Norfolk, VA 23510		Date: 4May – 6 May 2012 Registration (PLEASE PRINT) Deadline: registration - 25 April 2012,
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Rank/Name	Certificate #	Squadron
Spouse	Certificate #	Squadron
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
E-Mail:	Home Telephone:	

Special Dietary Needs

Activity:	Number	Cost	Subtotal
Workshop & Cocktail Parties (Fri&Sat)		@ \$ 8.00	\$
Saturday Lunch at AMC		@ \$11.00	\$
Saturday Dinner Buffet at hotel		@ \$31.00	\$
Payable to D/5 Cooperative Charting:		Total	\$

NEW – GEODETICS TRAINING SESSION – I WILL ATTEND YES___ NO___

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO P/R/C NORMA J. PARRISH

Mail to: P/R/C Norma J. Parrish, AP, 1024 Porte Harbour Arch, #201, Hampton VA 23664
 Phone: 757-224-4302 e-mail normaparrish@cox.net

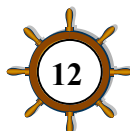
Schedule: (Tear off at above line and keep)

Friday 1400 – 1700 – CHECK-IN & REGISTRATION – HOTEL LOBBY
 4 May 2012 1730 – 1830 – COCKTAIL HOUR (included in Workshop registration)

Saturday 0745 – 0810 – COFFEE & DONUTS AT AMC
 5 May 2012 0830 – 0830 – INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
 0830 – 1200 – WORKSHOP
 1200 – 1230 – LUNCH
 1230 – 1600 – WORKSHOP
 1800 – 1900 – COCKTAIL HOUR AT HOTEL (included in Workshop registration)
 1915 – 2115 - DINING ROOM (CASH BAR)
 1930 DINNER

HOTEL RESERVATIONS; Governor Dinwiddie Hotel, 506 Dinwiddie St. PORTSMOUTH, VA 23704
 TELEPHONE: 757-392-1330 (SPECIFY GROUP: D/5, USPS) **DEADLINE 4/25**
 HOTEL ROOM RATES: \$87.00 SINGLE OR DOUBLE PLUS TAX
 RESERVATIONS AFTER 25 APRIL ON SPACE AVAILABLE

ACTIVITY REGISTRTRION DEADLINE IS 25 APRIL 2012 – NO ACTIVITY REFUNDS ATER THAT DATE





Photos from the March 2012 General Membership and Chantilly Boat Show



Cdr Karjala thanks our speaker, David Gross, production manager/designer at UK-Halsey Sailmakers of Annapolis, Maryland



First Lady Sue Karjala talks about the NVSPS Hospitality Room theme for the upcoming D5 Conference titled "Give a Hoot/ Don't Pollute."



Turn out for the Annual Membership meeting was very good, the result of a good speaker and, of course, PIZZA night!



Lt. Ed Phillips briefs the Annual Membership meeting on the success of our exhibit at the Chantilly Boat Show



P/C Francis Williamson, Boat Show Chair Lt. Ed Phillips and Cdr John Karjala greet guests at our display at the Chantilly Boat Show.



Change of Watch Ceremony—March 24, 2012

It was a lot of fun and a great time. Here are the pictures to prove it! Many thanks to AO, now Cdr Jay Nelson for pulling this event together. See more photos on our website www.nvpsps.org.



Cdr John Karjala and Mariner Girl Scout Rachel Lorge at the flag tree



P/C John Shivik with newly appointed Asst Treasurer Dave Hinkins and Secretary MaryJane Hinkins.



Cdr Karjala presents the Commander's Appreciation Award to P/C George Nartsissov and the Commander's Appreciation Certificate to Ann Nartsissov.



Cdr Karjala presents the Mentor of the Year award to Jean and P/C Richard Durgin.



Cdr Karjala presents Past Commander Award to P/C George Degnon.



Cdr Karjala presents the Charles S. Kent Perpetual Memorial Award to Mike Card.



District 1st Lt. James Colston addresses the Change of Watch gathering.



Outgoing First Lady Sue Karjala chats with Rich Unis and Mike Card.



Cdr G. Jay Nelson takes the oath of Commander from D51st Lt Colston



Tom Martin and P/C Francis Williamson



It was determined that immediate Past Commander Karjala was "out of uniform" until he donned the appropriate head dress of a proper Barrister



Outgoing Secretary Michelle Dufay has an adult beverage with our new Commander.



MaryEllen and Jim Colston have a word with our new XO, Steve Hall.



P/C Karjala receives a Past Commander flag from Cdr G. Jay Nelson.



Members of the NVSPS 2012-13 Bridge:



Meet members of the 2012-13 NVSPS Bridge. From left to right: Cdr. G. Jay Nelson, Assistant Treasurer Dave Hinkins, Treasurer Ann Nartsissov, Secretary MaryJane Hinkins, (in the background P/C John Karjala), Member at Large P/C Francis Williamson, Administrative Officer Cathleen Sheffield and Executive Officer Steve Hall.



Mark 5 Print Edition

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR THOSE WITHOUT E-MAIL OR COMPUTER ACCESS: Please ask your Squadron Commander to request a complimentary print subscription of Mark 5 to be continued to be mailed to you.

For those who wish to order a print subscription in addition to receiving their electronic version of Mark 5, please check the appropriate box below.

Annual Subscription. Enclosed is my check for \$6.00 payable to "Mark 5" for an annual hard-copy subscription to Mark 5, the USPS District 5 newsletter. I understand that I will continue to receive the online version at no charge, and that the fee for paper copies is to help defray printing and postage costs.

Single Copy. Enclosed is my check for \$1.00 payable to "Mark 5" for a single hard-copy of the following issue of Mark 5 (please circle one: Spring, Spring/Summer, Summer, Fall, Fall/Winter, Winter and enter the year of the requested edition: _____).

Shipping Information

Please print.

Name _____

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City, ST _____

Zip Code _____

Order Confirmation

Date _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Squadron _____

Signature _____

Please Remit Order Form & Check Payable to "Mark 5" to This Address

Katherine J. "Fuzzy" Jones
Asst. Administrative Officer
USPS District 5
c/o Blue Heron Mailing Services, Inc
314 N Aurora St. Ste. C
Easton, MD 21801-3809

Please note: this order form is valid from 1 April 2012 through 31 March 2013.





Tribute to LeRoy E. Batchelor, AP

Wow, we'll miss LeRoy . . .

Everybody loved LeRoy . . .

He was strong, firm and friendly. He was smart, He was compassionate.

He was a loving husband, He was a good, strong father,

He was a faithful and FUN friend.

He was as "generous" to us as he was *catered to* by his loving wife.

He NAVIGATED the seas, getting him and his craft safely to many near and far ports. And won a few Navigation contests.

He led the cruises, he led talent shows, he took us to the Boat Shows.

Reflect back on his guidance, decisions and judgment. Wow! Wasn't he RIGHT?

I recall times when he smoothed the waters

when we mortals would ruffle each other's feathers.

He could smooth waters—calm dispositions and finalize judgments.

You definitely wanted him on your side.

He had sincere "wisdom" and shared it at the right times.

Wow, he was compassionate as well as *responsible*.

To family: miss your dad and husband but cherish the loving memories forever . . .

To friends: Thank the Lord and LeRoy for having him as a friend.

To LeRoy: You left us all richer in life because you were here with us . . .

Rest in everlasting peace . . . from a friend, Bill

(Written by P/C Bill Eldridge)



Commander's Report continued...

reality is that the nascent boater does not appreciate this value and consistently opts for these lower priced alternatives. This reality directly impacts our ability to recruit new members, which is the lifeblood of our Squadron. Means to address how we demonstrate the value of USPS boating safety courses to the public will be a priority of mine in the coming year.

I also want to make the issue of our declining membership a priority for this year. Over the past few years we have been losing NVSPS members at a rate of about 15-20% each year. While there are likely a lot of reasons for this, I suspect that one of the more significant motivations for our members to leave the Squadron is the likelihood that we are not meeting the needs of our membership. In the next few weeks I would like to survey our membership to determine what we might be able to do to make our general membership meetings, Squadron activities and educational programs more aligned with our membership's interests.

Finally, our declining membership base is presenting some budget concerns that we will need to address. We are considering moving to electronic distribution of our newsletter for some portion of our membership, allowing members who prefer the traditional hard copy to continue receiving such, as a means of reducing our monthly publication and mailing costs. There have been suggestions to make the "of Tars and Terns" newsletter a bimonthly publication and update the Squadron Directory on a biannual basis to similarly reduce costs. There are other suggestions as to reducing Squadron costs that we will be considering as well. For all of these considerations we would like to solicit the membership's opinion

We are in the midst of interesting times for our Squadron. But, I believe that the dedication of our Squadron leadership, along with the boating passion of our general membership, will enable us to address these challenges head-on to the betterment of the Squadron. I look forward to these challenges and invite all to join me in the journey.

of TARS & TERNS

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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 the BoatUS sign.

Enter from the lighted parking lot behind the building.

