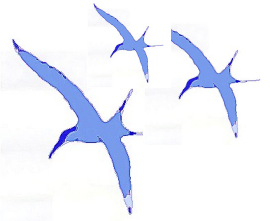




of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLVII Number 4

May 2012

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Mark your calendars and come join us.

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

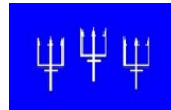
- 13 General Membership Meeting
- 27 ExCom Meeting



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

Well at long last boating season is upon us. A befitting start to the season is to join the comradery of our fellow Squadron members at the **NVSPS Annual Spring Picnic**. Again this year we will be holding the event at the **Fairfax Yacht Club on 19 May 2012 from 1130 to 1600**. See the Administration Officer's report for more details, but mark your calendar and join the fun.

I wanted to update the Squadron as to the progress on the goals I outline as your new Commander in last month's newsletter. I offered my suggestions as to what I believe the priorities for this year's Bridge should be, and I am pleased to say that the NVSPS Executive Committee is generally in accord with those suggestions, and at our Executive Committee meeting this past Wednesday we established initial action items needed to achieve these goals. Below is a quick recap of our progress.

Declining membership; new member recruitment:

We recognize that the primary source for our new members is the public education courses we offer. Over the past three years, our public course attendance has dropped dramatically in light of the free internet courses that offer the NASBLA State Boating Certificate now required by Virginia, Maryland and the District. We established a working committee to explore alternative means of making the public aware of the value of USPS membership. Initial thoughts in this area are: 1) a closer participation with local marinas; 2) direct mailing to the registered boaters in the Northern Virginia counties our Squadron serves; 3) free NVSPS developed courses offered in public venues where we can expose the public to our educational capabilities (currently considering a course on "How to Buy a Boat") and other ideas.

continued on page 9



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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 11 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
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Articles, opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect USPS policy or endorsement unless so designated.

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Executive Officer's Report:

by Lt/C Steve Hall, AP

The squadron year (April – March) got off to a good start with fifteen squadron members attending the District 5 Spring Conference in Ocean City, MD (see summary article). The event provides a good mixture of serious training sessions, fun social events, awards presentations for the past year's achievements, and a formal Change of Watch ceremony where the new D/5 officers are inducted. This year Northern Virginia received five squadron awards plus Life Member plaques for Walt Lazear and Dwight Bues. Well done! Next year let's see if we can get all the new officers to attend for the training sessions in addition to the core group of enthusiasts who come for the fun. It's well worthwhile.

This year's boating season on the Chesapeake is nearly upon us. As you plan the re-commissioning of your boat, give some thought to sharpening up your own boating skills. Think about retaking our Seamanship or Piloting course just to brush up on those hazy rules of the road, basic navigation, or just to relearn how to tie a bowline and the other useful knots handy for securing fenders, etc. It's probably been years since you took these courses and you've probably forgotten 80% of what you learned. For your own and your family's safety, sign up for a refresher course. Then when you return to the water, you'll have renewed confidence in operating your boat.

Another good way to refresh your knowledge of the safety requirements aboard your boat is to sign up and get trained as a Vessel Safety Checker. It's a good skill to have and you can participate at your convenience. Contact George Nartsissov and he'll get you started in the program.

Let's have a safe and fun boating season.



Administrative Officer's Report

Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP

Everyone had a great time in Ocean City, MD at the D 5 conference. Our hospitality room was a great success. The sludge punch was powerful and enjoyed by many. We gave out bilge pillows and had a lot of written material.

The date of our picnic is Saturday 19 May 2012 at Fairfax Yacht Club. It will be a pot luck. The cost is \$5 per person. Let me know if you plan to attend and what you plan to bring. Email me at carney1227@aol.com.

Hope everyone has a safe boating season. I know many of you are getting your boats ready to take out on the water.





Secretary's Report

Lt/C MaryJane Hinkins

The month of April, so many things have happened this month.. The start of boating season!. Or the start of much work to do before the boat is ready to go, or I'll never get the house cleaned until December. But I digress back to the boat...Sand, paint wax, clean, repair the list is never ending. What to write about? Do I write about touching the bottom paint up, waxing, and getting the boat in the water? Do I write about Dave putting in a new depth gauge and the trials and tribulations of that, hmm, no not this month. I'll get to that in May maybe. Shall I write about being Secretary? I think I'll give that a few more months and find out what it's all about first to give that report! Instead I'll write about Puck.

Puck is our latest acquisition. Puck was actually purchased or at least put on lay away about 6-months ago. Dave changed his mind 3 or 4 times before the sale was finalized. We even argued about the decision to upgrade to hypalon and the size of the boat. First Puck was a 240 Airdeck PVC boat and then he was a 270 PVC boat now he is a 270 Airdeck Hypalon. At the time of purchase he ordered a motor but we have an old motor in Denver. A 40-years old 9.5 Evinrude outboard, so naturally it seemed silly to get a new one. When we went home over Christmas we packed it up and mailed it to ourselves. \$100 seemed like a drop in the bucket to ship it vs. the \$2215 to order a new one. When it arrived, Dave replaced the high altitude jets with the low altitude jets we use when we took the car top boat to Lake McCaughy. Dave overhauled it with new o-rings and gaskets. And thank goodness it still runs!

Off we went this weekend on Puck's maiden voyage. Up the Occoquan and back down. (I have the red face to prove it!). I kept telling myself its okay Puck uses less gas and can get closer to shore if we anchor out when we are cruising. Now we just need to figure out how to carry Puck on Lord Stanley. Ah the joy of boating. One acquisition leads to another. Just a few more thousands down the river.



Treasurer's Report

Lt/C Ann Nartsissov, P

Treasurer's Report for April 2012

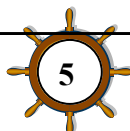
Below is a report on the current status of the NVSPS accounts.

General Fund : Balance in the Operating Checking Account as of 4-24-2012_was \$2913. In May, a large portion of the Squadron's yearly dues should arrive. In May 2011 we received \$2860.

Flower Power Fund: The Money Market Savings Account (spendable) as of 3-30-2011 was \$1005. An additional amount of \$3373 (cumulative interest on Principal of \$20,640)) will be available when the next Flower Power Certificate of Deposit (CD) on the ladder matures, on August 3, 2012. The spendable amount is allocated for Education Department Equipment and for a computer for the Squadron Treasurer.

Reserve: General Fund. \$25,000 in CD's. Flower Power: \$20,640 in CD's (Principal – non spendable).

Over all NVSPS is in good shape financially. However, we need to balance expenses with income. If you have not already paid them, PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES.





Chalk Talk: *News you can use.*

Another boating season is upon us and its time to brush off the cobwebs and get going. Go check out the Education Department page on the National website (USPS.ORG), select the course or courses you're interested in, plug in your zip code and see what's available. We currently have a selection of courses and seminars available for signup. If you don't see what you're looking for, please ask and we'll get it scheduled!! Just remember that we need a minimum of 6-8 students signed up for a course before its effective to teach it.

The National staff has also been busy of late and has informed us of some new items that will benefit all. One of these enhancements is a network of radio stations that allow boaters to do radio checks without using VHF Ch. 16.

This capability was developed by Sea Tow and USPS has received a FREE stock of Sea Tow stickers with the details.

NVSPS will make these available at the General Membership meetings as soon as they're received from National.

Check out the spring edition of the Ensign online as it contains great articles on boat apps for your smart phone, working with your VHF – DSC radio, docking with spring lines and maintaining your boat's electrical system.

Ever thought about teaching? Maybe now's the time. NVSPS is always looking for new instructors to carry the education torch. It's really a rewarding experience to "see the light come on" when you're instructing a group of students and begin to understand the content of your delivery. Please submit your name to the SEO so we can begin to build our list of future instructors. Never instructed before? Don't worry, we have an instructor course which will get you up to speed quickly.





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!





**D/5 Spring Conference
Princess Royale Hotel, Ocean City, MD
29 March – 1 April, 2012**

Attendees:

John and Sue Karjala
George and Ann Nartsissov
Dave and Mary Jane Hinkins
Dick and Jean Durgin
Keith and Janet Segerson
Alan and Mary Hart
Cathy Sheffield
Steve Hall
Dwight Bues as District PRO but limited participation with Squadron

Thirty of the thirty-three D5 Squadrons were in attendance. NVSPS is still listed as the largest D5 Squadron with 176 members, but Annapolis is right behind with 170 and Richmond with 167. All told, D5 has 2917 members.

NVSPS received several awards:

Walter Lazear – 25 Year Award and Life Member plaque
Dwight Bues - 25 Year Award and Life Member plaque
Vessel Safety Check – 2nd Place Certificate, Large Squadron
Do It Right Award – Certificate
Social Media and Networking Award - Certificate
Website Distinctive Communicator Performance Award – 2011 Certificate
of Tars and Terns Distinctive Communicator Performance Award – 2011 Certificate

Plus, we won three of the raffle prizes:

Janet Segerson won an Afghan with a sailboat design, donor unknown.
Steve Hall won a brass Weems and Plath Ship's Clock donated by Annapolis and the "Mystery Box" prize, which was a West Marine pair of 7X50 binoculars donated by Bernie and Cathy Karpers, the outgoing District Commander.

Kudos go to Sue Karjala and her committee for the Squadron Hospitality Suite with the "Give a Hoot. Don't Pollute" theme. It was well attended and the sludge punch was a potent big hit. Coffee and sodas were served all day long with a large array of hors d'oeuvres and fruit plus the Commander's Locker.

It was a fun and worthwhile event with all the training sessions well attended.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Hall
Executive Officer





Commander's Report continued:

Declining membership; member retention:

We believe it is apparent that our Squadron is not properly addressing the boating interests/needs of many of our Squadron members. In an effort to better focus our Squadron activities and programs that would appeal to a larger percentage of our membership we are going to conduct a formal survey of each member family that will solicit each member's opinions, thoughts and ideas on what the NVSPS Squadron should be and how it should operate. We are currently collecting, culling and editing questions for this survey. We envision this survey would take about fifteen minutes to complete and include a stamped return envelope for member convenience. We are attempting to have a first draft of this survey for member review at our next General Membership meeting.

Squadron budget: Our Squadron budget is more of a significant concern as our membership declines, the budget pressures are

obviously alleviated if our membership stabilizes or increases. Our current membership base is 189 members, which is a 23% reduction from our membership of 245 just two years ago. While much of this decline can be directly related to our present economy, we need to look at ways to reduce our expenses. However, the obvious targets for cost reduction such as the publication of the monthly newsletter and annual directory are considered valuable aspects of the Squadron by many members. We are looking at ways to address these issues without impacting our members. This is a work in progress and I will have more on this in future articles.

There are other items we are working on and I will provide updates on those in the coming months as they develop. The NVSPS is defined by its members. This is your Squadron, and it should reflect your lifestyle and support your boating interests. I welcome any thoughts, comments, criticisms and/or suggestions that better our Squadron. Just shoot me a note at gjaynelson@aol.com, or call me at 703 437-0064.



Vessel safety checks

by P/C George Nartsissov

Safety and Vessel Safety Checks (VSC): Safety on the water can be several things, checking the weather, knowing the “rules of the road” and having the basic safety equipment on board.

If you go through the VSC, and satisfy the minimum requirements, you will have the means to react positively, if an emergency occurs, and avoid penalties if boarded by the US Coast Guard or local water police.

The minimum requirements are:

*Registration documents *Display of registration numbers *Fire extinguishers
*Personal Flotation Devices *Visual distress signals *Ventilation (gasoline engines)
*Backfire flame control (gasoline engines) *Sound producing device (horn, bell, whistle)
*Navigation lights *Pollution placard *MARPOL Trash placard *Navigation rules (boats over 40')
*State and/or local boating requirements booklet *Vessel conditions: Deck free of hazards, safe Electrical & Fuel systems, Galley/Heating systems. *Marine sanitation system – overboard discharge valve turned OFF & secured.

Please contact one of the Squadron Vessel Examiners, or your local Squadron or US Coast Guard Auxiliary. The NVSPS Examiners are: **Gale Alls, John Shivik, John von Senden, George Degnon, Francis Williamson, Robin Roberts (presently somewhere in the Caribbean), George Nartsissov.**

P/C George Nartsissov, AP

VSC Chair

vsc@usps.org

703-425-7044(H)



May 9 Membership Meeting Program

by P/C Gale Alls

IS YOUR BOATING BUDGET FEELING LOW?

An alternative to a big boat / big expense might be a trailer boat, power or sail. Trailering offers many advantages to the owner; lower initial cost, lower operating costs, lower storage cost, lower insurance costs and lower upkeep. A whole new world of cruising possibilities opens up to the trailer boater. He/she is free to explore new nautical adventures.

Our May speaker will be, Pat Piper, **BoatU.S. Trailering magazine** editor. Pat is a lifetime boater. He learned how to waterski along the southern Lake Michigan shoreline, crewed the 333-mile Chicago-Mackinac race and restored a classic Alberg Kittiwake sloop that he sailed on the Chesapeake Bay. He has written four books including Chapman's Boating Etiquette, Chapman's Trailering, Chapman's 101 Things Every Boater Needs To Know and the Chapman Deck of Essential Knots.

BoatU.S. Trailering magazine website <<http://www.boatus.com/trailerclub/magazine>>





Mark 5 Print Edition

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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.

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Visit us at: www.usps.org/localusps/nva

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.

