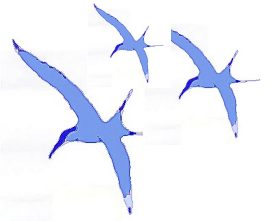




of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLVII Number 5

June 2012

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Mark your calendars and come join us.

June

- 13 General Membership Meeting
- 27 ExCom Meeting

July

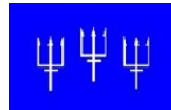
- 11 General Membership Meeting
- 25 ExCom Meeting



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



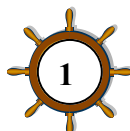
Commander's Report

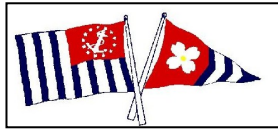
Cdr G. Jay Nelson, AP

We continue to make progress on the issues that are plaguing our Squadron. At our last Excom Meeting we discussed our educational programs at length. I mentioned in last month's newsletter that over the past three years, our public course attendance has dropped dramatically in light of the free internet courses that offer the NASBLA Safe Boating Certificate now required by Virginia, Maryland and the District. This is a significant issue for the Squadron in that the way we have traditionally exposed new boaters to the value of the United States Power Squadrons is through our boating safety courses. We have scheduled several America's Boating Course (ABC) courses, which is the current version of the Boating Safety Course, only to have had to cancel them due to lack of attendance. This presents us with two issues we need to address: exposing the boating public to the value of a USPS instructor-led course with proctored exam versus an Internet-based exam, and the cost of our ABC course compared to the free Internet courses.

We have issues in that our total ABC course price of up to \$65.00 is largely the cost of USPS materials (\$38.00) and the cost of our classroom venues (\$17.00 - \$25.00). Even when a family of four shares the USPS materials (i.e., purchases only one set of materials) our course will cost that family \$140.00. That same family can go to the BoatUS website and take a similar course that is fully certified for free. The interesting aspect of this situation is that our surveys of people attending our ABC course are very positive and our students generally believe the stand-up instruction is far more beneficial for them. Our other USPS courses (Seamanship, Piloting, Navigation, etc.) are all very competitive with the other boating educational providers. We believe the only barrier we have in demonstrating the value of USPS education is getting by the initial basic course.

...continued on page 4





Congratulations, Commander

Nuptials Exchanged!

Congratulations to our Commander G. Jay Nelson and his lovely bride, Chris as they were married on June 2nd. Congratulations Commander and our new First Lady.



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.nvsps.org and click on “newsletter”. From there you may see the current and archived issues.



of Tars and Terns
The Official Publication of the
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www.nvsps.org



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Volume XLVII Number 5—June 2012

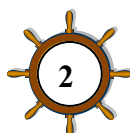
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P/C Francis Williamson, AP	703-440-9074
Lt. Frederick D. Zugay, JN	703-815-1954

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

CHECK IT OUT

The NVSPS calendar has been updated and is available at www.nvsp.org



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



Executive Officer's Report:

by Lt/C Steve Hall, AP

It's membership renewal time for most of us. If you joined before 2009 you were assigned a June anniversary date when National went to Anniversary Billing. Since that date new members' renewal date is the date they joined the Power Squadron. So, as you consider whether or not to re-up for another year, take a minute to reflect on why you joined in the first place.

Most likely you were new to boating and were looking to increase your knowledge of basic boating skills and practices to operate your boat in a safe and comfortable manner on the water. The Power Squadron had just what you needed. The Basic Boating Course gave you the certificate you needed to operate legally in DC waters, and the multitude of advanced courses offered kept you coming back for more.

But now we've reached the stage where most of us have been through Seamanship, Piloting, and Advanced Piloting and probably some electives such as Engine Maintenance, Electronics, Weather, or Cruise Planning. As I mentioned last month, it may be time to take some refresher courses to focus on the fine points you have probably forgotten over the years. That in itself is a good reason to sustain your membership, but there are others.

When you first joined most likely you didn't know anyone in the squadron. But by attending classes, going to monthly meetings and attending some of the social functions you've gotten to know a group of like minded boating enthusiasts and have developed some lasting friendships. The monthly meetings provide an opportunity to socialize with your friends as well as hear a speaker discuss a topic of interest to boating.

Finally, there's the civic service element of Power Squadron membership. The Vessel Safety Checks our members perform are a worthwhile service to the community of boaters in the interest of safe operation on the water. All our instructor members volunteer their time to teach classes. And the annual Wounded Warriors Cruise is an opportunity to reach out to members of the Armed Forces and show our respect and appreciation.

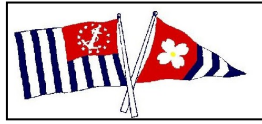
The Power Squadron is a worthwhile organization of all volunteers. But we need members to participate and support the organization. The next thing you can do to show your support is to renew your membership. Thanks for your help.

Commander's Report continued:

One of our first priorities is to find a way to reduce our ABC course cost. We are looking into using free or very low cost venues (e.g., public buildings/school, private marina facilities) which could reduce our course price to near \$40.00. However, there are costs associated with advertising these courses we need to consider. We are also exploring other methods of making the public aware of the value of USPS membership through closer participation with local marinas and direct mailing to registered boaters in Northern Virginia. We are also considering holding free seminars on boating topics of interest to nascent boaters where we can expose the public to our educational capabilities. These seminars cannot be any of the seminars developed by USPS Headquarters unless we charge the public to attend them, or we can develop seminars the USPS does not have that we could provide for free. There is more to come on this topic, but I would appreciate any thoughts and feedback you might have. Just shoot me a quick note at gjaynelson@aol.com.

The other aspect of our educational program is the membership courses. As a member of USPS, I encourage you to look at the USPS website (www.usps.org) and review the course outlines and various seminars that are available. If you have any interest in any of our courses, send our Squadron Education Officer a quick note at education@nvsp.org and tell him you would like to see a given course offered. Sean will do all he can to accommodate the wishes of our membership.





Administrative Officer's Report

Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP

Everyone had a great time at the picnic at Fairfax Yacht Club May 19, 2012. Vessel Safety Checks were completed during the day with great success. See the pictures below as proof!

Boating season is now upon us and everyone is probably getting their boat ready for the summer. I remember when I had a boat and it was so exciting to go the marina and get everything ready for the summer. Also to make sure everything was working properly.

Have fun getting your boats ready, also have a safe summer.



Having a good time at the Spring picnic.



Vessel Examiners are a critical part of our program.



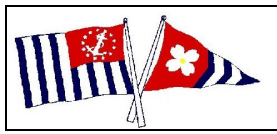
Treasurer's Report

Lt/C Ann Nartsissov, P

Thanks to all members who have sent in their dues. Thanks to the current Board for reviewing our budget in light of our anticipated income. Our income is dependent to a great extent upon membership dues, and our membership has been decreasing. We will make some adjustments (you will be receiving a questionnaire regarding your thoughts on squadron activities). We are solvent but must adjust to live within our income.

Lt/C Ann Nartsissov, P

Treasurer



Safety Day—June 1, 2012 . P/C John Karjala and P/C George Nartsissov represented our Squadron at the Safety Day event for soldiers at Ft. Myer, Virginia.



Secretary's Report

Lt/C MaryJane Hinkins

Here we are sitting on the boat looking up the river, beer in hand, observing nature and our fellow dock mates, when I begin to realize that there should be something said about the fishes and what is swimming with them. This then brought about M-J's top ten things that are swimming with the fishes, if you don't watch out. If it's on the boat, in the boat, or around the boat and not tied down it will be swimming with the fishes at some point in time.

1. See my new GPS it does all sorts of great things. Oops oh ##\$\$##
2. Wow love my new smart phone, I can even see the screen on deck. Oh darn. # \$ %
3. Have you seen my glasses? I laid them right.... splash ...there on the sink.
(swimming with the fishes)
4. Crap. I really needed that screw.
5. Just got a new BBQ. It sits right here on this handy dandy clamped on stand. I just slide it...
Splash.....*swimming with the fishes.*
6. Waking down the river splash ...
swimming with the fishes... should have checked the flag pole and tightened the screws a little better – darn another \$52.00 gone.
7. Holding the chart while riding on the boat Gone... gone ...
gone..*Swimming with the fishes*
8. We were near Tim's when a throwable went by. Here is hoping no one was really in need of that one.
9. Oops - Fish like beer Right?..
10. New rod and reel? Let me see.....
oh so sorry...swimming with the fishes.



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

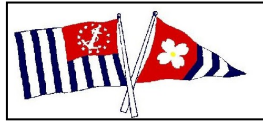
NVSPS Bylaws Updated

by P/C Richard Durgin, JN

On May 5, 2012, national approved the squadron's updated bylaws which were voted upon at the April membership meeting. Be sure to download a copy from nvsp.org or USPS.org.

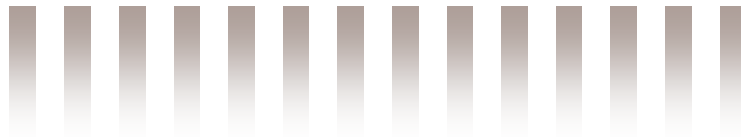
Thanks go to the members of the 2011 Rules Committee who worked diligently on the bylaws: John Shivik, Dick Durgin, Cathy Sheffield, Alan Hart, Marge Degnon and Richard Davis.





In Memory

It is with sadness that we learned this month of the passing of Diane Hutton, beloved wife of our fellow member, Robert Hutton. We extend our prayers and condolences to Robert and his family.



It is with sadness that we learned this month of the passing of Mary Shoaf, mother of Evelyn Alls. We extend our prayers and condolences to Gale and Ev Alls and their family.



Special Feature: Smart Boaters Know Their Magic Markers

Recent Florida news broadcasts have discussed frequent area groundings. Obviously poorly placed markers accompanied by shifting shoals can create a danger, but, for the most part, the use of charts and the observation of channel markers will keep a boater floating free of dangers.

All boaters should be familiar with the common red and green channel markers we so often see out on the water. These markers define the safe navigational waters as well as give us our location. Boaters should also be familiar with the old mnemonic “red right returning.” This simple phrase tells us that when within inland waters a boater should have the red markers on his right as he returns to port and conversely have the green markers on his right when leaving. In the Intracoastal System you are considered to be “going home” when cruising in a clockwise direction. Clockwise is defined as southerly along the East coast and northerly along the West coast.

If the markers on your sides are not those defined by red right returning, you are on the wrong side of the marker and outside of the channel. The marker system is in reality more complicated than red and green markers. There are markers for a fork in a channel to indicate the preferred channel, there are yellow markers in dual use waterways, and there are uniquely shaped markers with bands of black and red that indicate a danger area. The markers define a waterway for boaters much like a highway on the water.

Unfortunately, when boaters go off the highway, they can run aground or worse. To fully understand the marker system it is best to learn in a class room environment where the instructor can produce visual aids along with the explanation of all the various markers. This is just one more reason that every boater should take an ABC Boating Course from the United States Power Squadrons®.

Sometimes markers are too distant for us to discern the numbers or color. For this situation, I taught myself a simple mnemonic, “tear gas,” In reality it is “Ter Gos,” but pronouncing it “tear gas” always works for me. The “Ter” means “Triangles-Even-Red, and the “Gos” means Green-Odd-Square. So when I see a shape in the distance, I can quickly discern its color and whether its number is odd or even by its outline.

At night we can see those markers that have the blinking red or green lights, but here too, we cannot see the numbers. This is where your navigation chart comes into play. Every marker has a unique blinking sequence that is indicated on the chart. Next to the marker, it will show that marker’s sequence of slow and fast flashes and may also include an “off” period. When you check the sequence of a distant flashing marker and find the matching sequence on your chart; you will then know the number associated with that flashing light as well as your exact location.

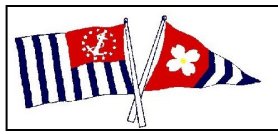
Navigational markers are a boater’s best friend. If you are a knowledgeable boater you will be able to identify distant markers by shape as well as navigate safely at night.

To learn more about competent boating, contact the boating experts of the United States Power Squadrons. Look for their local notices or go to the national website at www.USPS.org. You too can know all about the “magic markers” of boating.

As its members tell us: “Boating is fun... We’ll show you how.”

Lt. Bill Hempel
Senior Feature Writer
Marketing/Public relations Committee
United States Power Squadrons®





Vessel safety checks

by P/C George Nartsissov

The Northern Virginia Squadron has two new **Vessel Examiners!** We welcome Dave Hinkins and Norbert Hymel to the VE team! This gives us the added manpower to schedule and conduct vessel safety checks. The squadron now has nine (9) VEs. At our Squadron picnic we conducted over 23 vessel safety checks at the Fairfax Yacht Club. Dave and Norbert are now fully qualified, having conducted five VSCs under the supervision of one of our examiners. In addition they were able to conduct several VSCs on their own. The requirement is to conduct five VSCs annually to remain qualified as an examiner. Performing vessel safety checks is one of the Squadrons important public outreach programs that promotes safety on the water. Anyone wishing to become a Vessel Examiner please contact me.

P/C George Nartsissov, AP

Vessel safety Chair

vsc@nvsp.org

703-425-7044



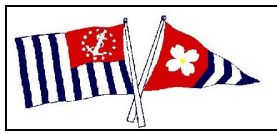
June 11 Membership Meeting Program

by P/C Gale Alls

THE POTOMAC RIVER: #1 MOST ENDANGERED RIVER

An environmental organization called American Rivers has named the Potomac the most endangered river in America partly because of its proximity to the nation's Capitol and also the high rate of farm runoff, acid mine drainage, and municipal sewage overflow. There are some indicators that say the river is improving some forty years after the Clean Water Act was passed, but more needs to be done.

Our guest speaker will be Whit Overstreet, communications and outreach manager of Potomac Riverkeeper, an environmental group dedicated to improving the health of the Potomac. Mr. Overstreet grew up on a farm in the shadows of the Blue Ridge Mountains where he and his brother spent their youth roaming the forests and rivers of the Virginia Piedmont. After graduating from the University of Virginia, Whit moved to Washington DC where he taught sailing for DC Sail. After interning for American Rivers, Whit was brought on board by Potomac Riverkeeper. Whit's home near Old Anglers Inn provides him easy access to the C&O Canal and the Potomac Gorge. He is often found on the river in one of his many canoes, kayaks, or sailboats.



NVSPS Weather Class Update

by PC John Shivik

The NVSPS Weather Class 2012, and others toured the National Weather Service Forecast Office at Sterling, Virginia on May 2, 2012. Lead and Marine Forecaster Brandon Peloquin provided a terrific brief on the National Weather Service and Marine forecasts followed by a tour that included the visual computer presentation of the live information transmitted by the balloon launch of a radiosonde at 1900. The 2012 class includes P/C John G. Karjala, Sue Karjala, David Cohen, Emily Fennell, Charles Fennell, Mark Anderson, Katherine Bergstrom, Dave Hinkins, MaryJane Hinkins Dinae Kendall, John von Senden and Instructors Ed Phillips and John Shivik.



Mary Jane Hinkins, Emily Fennel and Susan Fennel examine the pre launch preparation room.



Preparing balloon and radiosonde for launch



Question: what do you do when a weather balloon is launched?

Answer: LOOK UP!



Looking at the Skew-T of the downloading data from the radiosonde and briefed on the forecast center "hear t"

of TARS & TERNS

D/Lt. W. Lazear, AP

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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.

