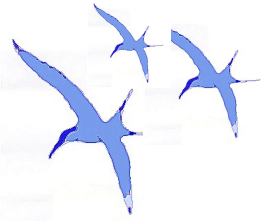




# of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLVII Number 7

September 2012

## *Upcoming Meetings & Events*

*Mark your calendars and come join us.*

*September 12—General Membership Meeting*

*September 15—Wounded Warrior Cruise—  
see page 8 for details.*

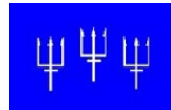
*October 13—International Pot Luck - de-  
tails to follow*



*Please note: a complete calendar listing, including education courses, can be found on our squadron website at [www.nvsp.org](http://www.nvsp.org).*



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)



## *Commander's Report*

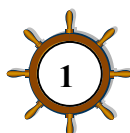
*Cdr G. Jay Nelson, AP*

As Sirius slips lower into the southern sky, the Dog Days of summer are drawing to a close. This past summer has seen brutal heat and violent thunderstorms that have caused many to forgo several weekends on the water in favor of air conditioned comfort. But with the onset of Fall comes what I believe is the most pleasurable boating weather of the entire season. The next two months will offer warm days with gentle breezes that give way to cool clear evenings. For me, there is no better time on the water, and evenings spent anchored in a quiet cove with friends are memorable. Don't let the remainder of the season slip away.

There are several Squadron and District events on the horizon that I urge you to consider. NVSPS is hosting our Wounded Warrior Cruise on September 15, our International Pot Luck luncheon on October 13, and our Holiday Party planned for early December. District 5 is hosting their Fall Festival from September 21 through 23 that includes a sailing regatta and fishing tournament.

I would also remind you that the NVSPS education program is ramping up with fall and winter seminars and courses. Seminars on Radar, Using a Chart, Mariner's Compass and Partners in Command, and advanced courses for Advanced Piloting and Marine Electronics, are all scheduled within the next couple of months.

I encourage all of our members to make the most of your US Power Squadron membership by taking advantage of these social events and educational opportunities. Visit our Squadron website at [nvsp.org](http://nvsp.org), and the District 5 website at [usps5.org](http://usps5.org) for more details.



# Bridge Officers



## COMMANDER

G. Jay Nelson, AP  
703-437-0064  
gjaynelson@aol.com



## EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Steve Hall, AP  
703-242-8566  
sdhall02@verizon.net



## EDUCATION OFFICER

Lt/C Sean P. Gallagher, AP  
703-548-5851  
education@nvsp.org



## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP  
703-370-4331  
carney1227@aol.com



## SECRETARY

Lt/C MaryJane Hinkins  
703-435-0650  
mjhinkins@msn.com



## TREASURER

Lt/C Ann Nartsissov, P  
703-425-7044  
ganh@verizon.net

## MEMBERS AT LARGE

P/C John G. Karjala, P	703-818-8676
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.

## CHECK IT OUT

*The NVSPS calendar has been updated and is available at [www.nvsp.org](http://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](mailto:ganh@verizon.net)*



***Mark your calendar:***  
**Wounded Warrior Cruise**

***September 15, 2012***

***See page 8 for details.***



**MILESTONES**

**Be sure to wish Happy 80th Birthday to NVSPS Member Bob Hutton on September 19th.**

**Happy Birthday, Bob, from all your friends in the Squadron!**



**of Tars and Terns**  
The Official Publication of the  
Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron  
[www.nvsp.org](http://www.nvsp.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 XLVII Number 7—September 2012

**EDITOR:**  
Lt. Frank R. Shults, S  
(703) 893-2928  
[frankrshults@hotmail.com](mailto:frankrshults@hotmail.com)

**DISTRIBUTION**  
Lt. Manette B. Lazear, AP  
(703) 620-1821  
[lakematesm@comcast.net](mailto:lakematesm@comcast.net)

D/Lt Walter D. Lazear, AP  
(703) 620-1821  
[lakematesw@comcast.net](mailto:lakematesw@comcast.net)





## Executive Officer's Report:

by Lt/C Steve Hall, AP

I feel like I'm preaching to the choir writing this to the Power Squadron, but the frequency of stupid boating accidents is appalling. Driving a power or sailboat safely is not intuitive. It's something that has to be learned and taken seriously. It's not just like driving a car. There aren't any lines painted on the road to tell you where you should be. There isn't a warning to tell you when you're about to run out of road or run aground. At night you don't have headlights to show the way, and other boats may only show up as a single red or green light. And bad weather can play havoc with your cruise. The only similarity with driving a car is if you're intoxicated driving either one, then you and the boats or cars around you are in danger of serious accidents.

And yet we hear all the time of accidents caused by stupid boaters. And these aren't stupid people. The Maryland state delegate who collided with another boat and seriously injured a young girl admitted to a 0.2 blood alcohol reading. He wasn't stupid, but he was drunk out speeding in his Go-Fast boat. The Long Island skipper who put 27 people on his 34 foot cruiser and then let his friend drive the boat at night ended up killing three kids who were trapped in the cabin when the boat capsized after hitting a large wake. That was stupid. The list of these kinds of accidents goes on and on. Sean Gallagher in his column last month listed several recent accidents that could have been avoided.

The bottom line is, if you're going to drive a boat, take some lessons, learn the rules of the road, and get a Basic Boating Certificate. Even this won't prevent you from doing something stupid, but at least you'll know what you should be doing. The Power Squadron's whole reason for being is to promote boating safety so people can have fun on the water and not endanger others. So spread the word down at your marina that the Power Squadron offers a wide variety of classes designed to make people better boaters. We have experienced instructors who can pass along tips they have learned and answer questions. Far superior to online courses which seem to be the way things are going.



## Secretary's Report:

by Lt/C MaryJane Hinkins

### The Tale of Two Bites

Some people get hit by lightning, some people get the force of a storm so great that it rocks the boat to the point of man over board, and some people get Egregious the Raccoon or as we call him ER short for Emergency Room.

ER the raccoon was walking one day upon the dock and pier about 4:00 am. It spied the cruiser Lord Stanley, so nice and dark it thought why not visit for a while. ER entered through a snapped canvas, over a transom door, across the deck, down a step, to the screen curtain that covered the door. The ever resourceful raccoon, then went down two steps, took a turn to the left, jumped upon the back bunk. But who lay there but Dave and I, so sound a sleep, that ER thought how nice, a nice warm leg to sharpen ones teeth. ER began to chew and chew that is when Dave awoke and in the dark thought a cat had wandered onto the boat and into our bed to feast upon his leg. He began to kick and kick and scream so violently that I thought Dave was having a bad dream, for he was kicking and screaming faster than Lance Armstrong peddling the Tour De France. A flip of the switch turned the lights on. Off ran the cat which now turned out to be no cat but ER the raccoon. ER was now running across the galley cupboards to the front bunk. We threw on our robes and ran out of the cabin opening the screen and unzipping the canvas. A backward glance revealed the vicious ER on the front bunk crouching, staring at us. Once we were out in the open here comes ER.... I hissed at it and tried to appear bigger than life hoping that the raccoon would jump in the water where we could scoop it up in the fishnet, but ER would have none of it.

ER ran down the finger dock, then made a u-turn, ran past us, ran down the other end towards the river, left the dock and off it ran to the woods. Limping and hobbling Dave got back on the boat. I called 911 and they advised that Animal control doesn't work at night. Odd, since that is when the animals are out! They offered to send an ambulance or police car, but I said no, "just directions to drive to the nearest hospital."



Continued on page 7



## *Administrative Officer's Report*

Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP

We are planning to have our International Pot Luck on 13 October 2012 or 20 October, hopefully at the Fairfax Yacht Club. There will be a \$5 charge per person. When I have the final date I will let everyone know. Stay tuned.

I am also working on the Holiday Party for December. Will let you all know the date as soon as possible so everyone can mark their calendar.

Both of these events are a lot of fun so plan to attend.

We are near the end of boating season. Have fun and be safe during the next month out on the water.



## *Treasurer's Report*

Lt/C Ann Nartsissov, P

The Wounded Warrior Cruise is approaching. George & I have been getting L'Attitudes ready for the guests. We just spent a rainy weekend at our marina at Solomons Island, MD (unofficial measurement of 5" of rain). Still, we managed to accomplish much.

Thanks to your generosity, the WWC Fund has \$2045 to use for the Wounded Warrior Cruise! Thanks to the Flower Power Fund, the Squadron now has a dedicated Treasurer's computer! Dave Hinkins (Assistant Treasurer) and I are planning to enter the current year data by the September Squadron meeting.

### **Operations Fund Status**

Income for July, 2012: \$1984 (Membership dues from National - \$250, Education courses \$152, WWC contributions - \$1580, Interest - \$2).

Expenses for July 2012: \$1507 [National & District Dues - \$102, Educational material - \$1207, (delayed invoices due to mailing address mix-up) T&T labels - \$27, Corporate Annual Registration - \$25, Storage Unit -\$146].

Checking Balance as of July 31, 2012: \$6643.





Chalk Talk – September 2012

Greetings Shipmates! Hope you all have had a fulfilling summer and avoided most of the intense heat. We're entering the second half of the 2012 season and by the time you read this, the course list for the period October 2012 through April 2013 will be posted to the national site ([usps.org](http://usps.org)) and the squadron calendar on the website. Then, it will be up to you to register and attend the classes. If you have a desire for specific courses, please let us know and we'll try to substitute. Remember, we'll need a minimum of 8 students to conduct any of the courses so as we now offer all of our courses to the public (for a slightly increased price), bring all of your family and friends so they'll be as smart as you and be able to take over in the event you become disabled. Even at non-member prices, the courses, texts and handouts are well worth the price. With fall coming on, you may be interested in taking the engine maintenance course so you'll be ready to winterize and clean up your boat for winter. Fall and Winter seasons are also a perfect time to participate in one of the USPS seminars to brush up on your GPS or VHF radio skills. The seminar instruction finishes in two to three hours with plenty of time left to ask questions.

Speaking of training, the weather course is now available online through the University of West Florida. While this course is no substitute for the classroom edition taught by our own Dr. WX, John Shivik, it would serve as a great opportunity to become acquainted with the dynamics of weather or a great review.

I want to remind all of you smart phone users that there is a source out there for boater apps for iPhone and Android phones. Access to these apps is available through the Education Department web page ([usps.org/eddept](http://usps.org/eddept)) on the left side navigation menu under Miscellany. A form is also available on the page for you to submit other boating-related apps you've found useful.

Ah yes, the benefits of completing USPS advanced courses. Successful completion of advanced courses results in significant insurance discounts for the member. The premise behind the USPS Boat Insurance Program is to reward members for their dedication and passion for on-the-water safety by providing reduced insurance premiums. On top of low base rates, USPS Boat Insurance customers can reduce their premium even further, *up to 23%*, through completion of various USPS advanced courses. And completing boat operator certification can add to these discounts as much as an additional 15%, for a *total discount of 38%*! See the USPS Boat Insurance web page for details.

Lastly, a reminder that we are also entering the 2012 hurricane season. Boat owners from Maine to Texas can be impacted by this severe weather. Each year, on average, two hurricanes come ashore somewhere along the Gulf or Atlantic coasts, destroying homes, sinking boats, and turning people's lives inside out for weeks, or even months at a time. Experts predict that in the next 20 years there will be much more hurricane activity than has been seen in the past 20 years. Experts also fear that after a number of storm-free years, people in some of the vulnerable areas will be less wary of a storm's potential fury. But to residents of Charleston, South Carolina, crippled by Hugo in 1989, and people in Dade County, Florida, ravaged by Andrew in 1993, the hurricane threat won't soon be forgotten. Check out <http://www.boatus.com/hurricanes/brochure.asp> for more information on what to do before, during and after the occurrence of a hurricane.

*Get Educated— Stay Safe*





## Merit Mark Recommendations Due

by Jean Durgin, AP

USPS recognizes the contributions of its members' time and talents and says "thank you" by awarding one merit mark annually. 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 the Commander's signature. National reviews and approves the recommendations. Your USPS Operations Manual describes merit marks in detail.

### Officers & Committee Chairs:

Please submit the names of members who have performed substantial service to NVSPS during calendar year 2012 to Merit Mark Chair Jean Durgin at [rjdurgin@aol.com](mailto:rjdurgin@aol.com) by 15 October 2012. 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 15 October 2012.

## Secretary's Report continued

Well needless to say Dave was bleeding and I was running around getting the first-aid kit, then pouring hydrogen peroxide over his wound. Off to the Potomac hospital we went. They were friendly enough, but what Dave thought was one bite turned out to be two bites; one on his right instep the other on his right ankle. Also numerous scratches were up and down his left leg. They cleaned it up a tad and band-aided the wounds (mind you they did not bandage) and sent us to the waiting room. Ah what a night/morning. Now 4:24 a.m. we are waiting. A nurse took a look and 4 hours later the doctor stopped by and agreed it was an animal bite and rabies shots were ordered. They say they average about two animal bites a day. A shot in each wound, a tetanus shot in the arm, and two rounds of rabies shots were little compared to the bite of ER, to Dave; another shot on Tuesday, a third on Friday, another in a week, plus a bill, we are told, of near \$7,000. I wonder who ER will chew on next weekend.... Maybe YOU... Close your doors at night when on the dock or ER might come for you. Fun times!!!



## Your Holiday Greetings Keep Flower Power Fund Growing

by P/C Dick Durgin

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. **Please mail your 2012 season's greetings (maximum 3 lines) and check payable to the "NVSPS Flower Power Fund" to P/C Dick Durgin by 12 November 2012.** Dick will forward your message to the editor and send you a written confirmation of your tax deductible contribution. Sample message: *Happy Holidays & Safe Voyages in 2013 from the crew of Blue Skies!*

The Flower Power Fund was established in 1988 by Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hazelton to support NVSPS activities, and it has grown from \$5,000 to over \$24,000. Under its terms, only the interest earned by the fund may be spent. The Executive Committee recently used it to purchase a computer for the squadron treasurer.

Your support for the Flower Power Fund advances the mission of NVSPS. Questions? Call 703-560-9106. Thanks!





## *Wounded Warriors 2012*

by P/C Francis Williamson

NVSPS is sponsoring a Wounded Warrior Cruise (WWC) on September 15, 2012 at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Lexington Park, MD.

Status: Four power boats are committed. Four sailboats are scheduled - Two from Squadron and two from our affiliated Sea Scouts Ship 1942.

Bethesda Warrior Family Coordination Center (WFCC) and Ft Belvoir Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB) have approved the cruise, transportation and 40 guests for the cruise.

We still need skippers, shore party and volunteers for the WWC team.

Our fundraising goal has been met. Most rewarding is that we achieved this goal through a very generous squadron and through donations by VSC skippers. Thank you.

Join us in this rewarding civic service event.

Contact P/C Francis Williamson

703-440-9074 (H)

301-775-5120 (M)

[willyjhu@Verizon.net](mailto:willyjhu@Verizon.net)



Editor's note:

This is my favorite picture of my boat, "Tesoro", I wanted to show you just because its my favorite and I had space to fill.

Photo credit—NVSPS Member Russ Waters







## Vessel safety checks

by P/C George Nartsissov

The hot days of summer may be over and some of you may be thinking of cruising this fall. Part of your cruise planning should be getting a Vessel Safety Check (VSC) and displaying the VSC decal on the port side of your vessel. Having a VSC decal distinguishes you, unfortunately still a minority, as having met the basic safety criteria. The items on the check list in fact are state and/or federal requirements:

1. Having a valid boat registration on board
2. Registration/documentation numbers properly displayed
3. Signaling devices, audible & visual, on board (not expired)
4. Navigation lights in working order
5. Sanitation device properly configured to prevent discharge overboard
6. Personal flotation devices & throwable on board
7. Engine compartment ventilation & back fire flame arrestors (gasoline engines)
8. Fire extinguishers; proper number and size based on vessel type/size
9. *I did leave several mandatory items off this list (to qualify for a VSC decal): DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY ARE?*



If you are boarded by USCG or the Marine and Natural Resources Police, the non-compliance with ANY of the above requirements can result in a citation and a fine. Having a valid VSC decal tells the approaching government vessel that you have been checked and met the requirements at the time of the vessel exam. Not a requirement but every boater should have on board: VHF radio, first aid kit, back-up dewatering device, just to name a few.

Having a valid VSC sticker is particularly beneficial to those of you planning a trip South/North on the Intracoastal Waterway this Fall. Two of our NVSPS Examiners, Robin Roberts and George Degnon, have been and will be checking vessels planning a trip on the ICW.

So far this year, the NVSPS Vessel Examiners have conducted 134 VSCs. **ALL the vessels participating in the Wounded Warrior Cruise – 2012 will need a Vessel Safety Check** (most have already done so).

## September 12 Membership Meeting Program by P/C Francis Williamson

The NVSPS General Meeting Presentation for September will be "Sailing at Night" by our own member Rich Unis, an experienced sailor and active squadron member. As Squadron Education Officer Rich was responsible for all NVSPS education in the squadron for three years, many of the advanced lessons he presented himself. Rich is an experienced sailor and particularly enjoys the challenge of sailing at night. This presentation was a great success at the "Singles On Sailboats (SOS)" Seminar in Annapolis March 17 and will introduce you to both the experience and fun of sailing after sunset.



# of TARS & TERNS

D/Lt. W. Lazear, AP

2014 Lakebreeze Way

Reston, VA 20191-4020

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*September 2012*

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 6586  
RESTON, VA

**Dated Material**

## America's Boating Club



### **of TARS & TERNS**

*an official publication of  
Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron  
in District 5 of*

*United States Power Squadrons®*

*Articles & other contents do not represent USPS® policy or  
endorsement unless so designated. Published ten times  
yearly. January & February, July & August are combined*

Visit us at: [www.usps.org/localusps/nva](http://www.usps.org/localusps/nva)

#### **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 the BoatUS sign.

Enter from the lighted parking lot behind the building.

