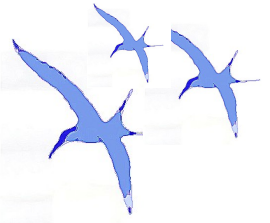




of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLVII Number 9

November 2012

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Mark your calendars and come join us.

November 14—Membership Meeting

November 28—ExCom meeting

December 1—Holiday Party

(will include brief membership meeting)

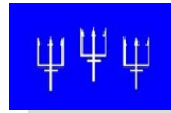
No ExCom meeting for Dec.



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



Commander's Report

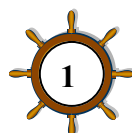
Cdr G. Jay Nelson, AP

By most accounts, the 2012 boating season favored generally moderate weather and provided wonderful opportunities to enjoy the treasures of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Alas, as we slip into late autumn the season is now drawing to a reluctant close. Many have already winterized their boats, and those among us who hang on until the first frost are within a few short weeks of following suit.

This past season offered several events for our Squadron members to share the camaraderie of their fellow boaters. Aside from the interesting speakers and guests at our monthly General Membership meetings, there were the Spring Picnic, the Wounded Warrior event and the International Pot Luck luncheon. Our Squadron Educational Officer scheduled more than two dozen seminars and courses for our members. District 5 hosted five regattas and cruises, and two conferences. I hope that all of you were able to participate in these events to maximize the value of your membership. For those who were unable, I encourage you to visit the Squadron website at <http://nvsp.org/pix.shtml> to view the pictures of these events and see what you have been missing.

We have one last social event on the calendar for this season, that being the NVSPS Holiday Party. Once again, we will be hosting this event at the American Legion Post 177 located at 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA 22030 on 01 December 2012. This will be the last social event before the Change of Watch in March of next year. Consult the Administration Officer's report in this newsletter for the details, and I welcome everyone to join us for this wonderful event.



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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:

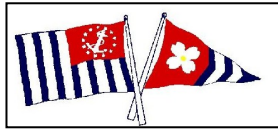
880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA
From the Capital Beltway, take the VA-613/ Van Dorn Street exit, (exit number 173) towards Franconia. Turn left onto South Van Dorn Street / VA-613 North. Turn left onto South Pickett Street. Go less than .5 miles and turn left at the "BoatUS" sign. Go to the lighted parking lot in the rear. Proceed to the

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*



Calendar Note:

NVSPS Holiday Party

December 1st

My Final Issue

Michelle and I are happily relocated in Davidson, NC. We wanted to live further south, in a small town, by a large lake and this place has it all. Everything of course, except our many friends in NVSPS. We will miss you and all the great civic and fun activities you have every year.

Richard Davis will return as temporary editor in the December issue. The Bridge is seeking a member to step forward to serve as editor. So if you have any inclination to do so, please contact someone on the Bridge.

As this is my final issue, please accept my wish that your lives be blessed in every way and that you always enjoy fair winds and calm seas.

Frank



of Tars and Terns
 The Official Publication of the
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www.nvsps.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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Secretary's Report:

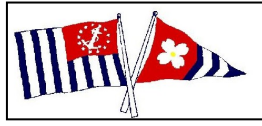
by MaryJane Hinkins

Here it is November and we still have not gotten the boat out of the water. We left Stanley in for the hurricane. We doubled up the lines and I even, get this, used the bowline knots to secure one line. We are at floating docks. Thank goodness! We do not know how we managed without them. No damaged was sustained.

One reason we are still in the water is we miss the boat in the winter. We love to just use it sometimes as our cabin. We sit on the boat, read, enjoy the rocking motion. And this year I started to dock the boat and I want a few more tries before we put Stanley up for the winter. By no means am I proficient at this yet, but I will be. We back into our dock so it helps to have someone assisting you by looking at the back of the boat. Here are some things I learned just recently about docking the boat:

1. No one should yell at anyone- when telling the captain you are too close or too fast, use a loud but calm voice
2. Do not let anyone pressure you.
3. Have your fenders out and lines ready
4. Go slow (almost a dead stop is best). It is easier to recover from a missed approach when you are nearly stopped.
5. Twin engines, one in reverse and one in forward
6. Remember a boat pivots on its axis
7. Wind- if the wind is blowing away from the dock you should approach the dock at an angle of about 20 degrees.
8. The boat will wonder toward the shore.
 - a. Thus if you are backing in and the boat is closer to the port side and the shore is to starboard, put the boat in neutral and allow the boat to drift.
 - b. Neutral is your friend.
9. If you are the line handler, do not put your hands, fingers, feet, or head in harm's way. If the boat is going to hit something let it. Do not try and stop the boat with your limbs.
10. Sometimes it's best to get near the dock and walk your boat in with a line.
11. A drink and a good laugh are always helpful after all the lines are tied and the fenders are in place.





Administrative Officer's Report

Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP

We had a great time at the International Pot Luck Dinner on Saturday October 13, 2012 at the Fairfax Yacht Club. The food was great and there was plenty to eat. There was also a short membership meeting.

The Holiday party will be **December 1, 2012** at the American Legion Hall in Fairfax City. It will be \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door per person. Mark your calendar. *We will also be collecting toys, food or money for the children and families of our wounded warriors.* This is a fun event. Hope to see all of you there.

Elsewhere in this issue, there is a flyer for the Holiday Party. Please fill out the bottom part and send it to me with your check. My address is at the bottom of the flyer.



Treasurer's Report

Lt/C Ann Nartsissov, P

The Treasurer's Computer is now complete with the addition of Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, and Power Point). Dave Hinkins (Assistant Treasurer) and I have entered financial data to date, and are currently learning how to update the budget, and produce meaningful reports with our software.

As you will notice, our income is slim this month. Not many incoming dues this time of year, and not many courses being given. The three scheduled advanced courses which I signed up for this fall were cancelled due to the lack of enough other interested persons.

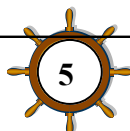
On a brighter note, our October Fest potluck was a great party, on a shoestring budget. We even made a small profit (details in next month's report). Our Winter Holiday party is coming up on Saturday December 1. Come join us. Let's have a good time.

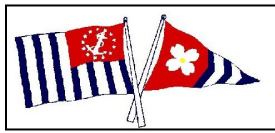
Operations Fund Status: (rounded)

Income for September, 2012: Total: \$101 (WWC donation \$100, Interest \$1).

Expenses for September, 2012: Total: \$2146 (oT&T printing & postage \$146, Catering Service for WWC \$2000).

Checking Balance as of September 28, 2012: \$4310.





Education Officer's Report

by Lt/C Sean Gallagher, AP

Greetings Shipmates. I hope everyone survived Sandy and that the fleet is still intact. The storm was certainly brutal here but thankfully less than what was anticipated. For those who haven't winterized yet, now is the time. For those that have an interest, we have a wide array of courses and seminars setup between now and April and we need to fill the seats. The proposed course schedule for Nov 12 – Apr 13 follows. Please register on the National website. If you don't see what you need, just ask as we still have some open spots on the calendar.

Do you have friends? Invite them to participate. We need a minimum number of students enrolled in each course in order to make the course viable. We have been getting 1-5 students signed up in most of our courses which is not enough to allow the course to proceed. Have a flair for promotions? We could also use a public relations team to promote the courses, contact the membership and the public and get the word out.

Have an interest in teaching? We need to prep additional instructors with the knowledge, technique and teaching tools required to teach USPS courses. We can also get you certified to teach state courses, important in our relationship with Fairfax County Park System classes. We can schedule an instructor development course as soon as we get candidates.

This is your Squadron, let's keep it a good one.

E-mail questions directly to me at seo@nvsp.org



| <u>Nov 12 – Apr 13</u> | <u>NVSPS Course Schedule</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1-Nov-12 | Marine Communications |
| 03-Nov-12 | Seamanship |
| 20-Nov-12 | ABC-12 |
| 8-Dec-12 | Cruise Planning |
| 8-Jan-13 | ABC-12 |
| 12-Jan-13 | Eng Maint |
| 17 Jan 13 | Piloting |
| 5-Feb-13 | ABC-12 |
| 28-Feb-13 | Adv Piloting |
| 2-Mar-13 | Marine Electrical Systems |
| | |
| <u>Nov 12 – Apr 13</u> | <u>NVSPS Seminar Schedule</u> |
| | |
| 24-Nov-12 | Mastering Rules of the Road |
| 24-Nov-12 | VHF/DSC Marine Radio |
| | |
| 8-Dec-12 | Anchoring |
| 8-Dec-12 | Using GPS |
| | |
| 5-Jan-13 | Knots Bends & Hitches |
| 5-Jan-13 | Boating on Lakes, Rivers & Locks |
| | |
| 2-Feb-13 | Basic Weather and Forecasting |
| 2-Feb-13 | Emergencies onboard |
| | |
| 2-Mar-13 | Marine Radar |
| 2-Mar-13 | How to use a chart |



NVSPS Guest Speaker 14 November:

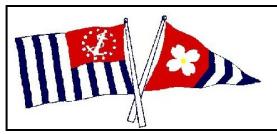
Dr. John Walter PHD – “A Sail-by View of Greece.” Dr. John Walter PHD is a distinguished Principal Professional at The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. Dr. Walter received his BSEE, MS and Ph. D. in Physics from Drexel University (1970) and has been at JHU APL for 44 years. One of our P/C’s Francis Williamson, AP has this to say about Doctor Walter, “I met John while we both served in Tomahawk Programs beginning in 1988 and have enjoyed working with him at APL on large challenging engineering development programs ever since.”

Dr. Walter is a skilled sailor and experienced skipper. He owns a Catalina 36’ Sailboat, “Grace”, docked in Annapolis, has cruised “Grace” on the Chesapeake Bay , down the ICW and has chartered numerous sailing vessels with his family in the Virgin Islands, “The Abacos Islands” and most recently the Greek Isles. Join us on 14 November at BOATUS for the General Meeting Program. Dr. Walter will present “A Sail-By View of Greece” completed earlier this year. You will enjoy his enthusiasm, boating knowledge and love of sailing.

The meeting at BoatUS, Alexandria, will begin at 7:00 pm with 30 minutes of snacks, refreshments and social time followed at 7:30 by a brief business meeting and our speaker. We look forward to seeing you there!

ANY QUESTIONS: If you have any questions regarding the meeting or suggested areas the lecturer might cover, please call Steve Hall, Executive Officer, NVSPS, at (703) 242-8566.





Vessel safety checks

by P/C George Nartsissov, AP

The following is a re-print of the e-mail sent by Robin and Jim Roberts, “*Adventures*”, as they were motoring south after their summer visit to Baltimore. Their experience with being boarded is a first-hand example of the power of the **Vessel Safety Decal** on your boat!

We were southbound through Norfolk today, and as we approached the Great Bridge Lock we were asked to put out fenders and tie up abeam of the Lock Tender's office, instead of the customary side of the lock. When we asked why the Lock Tender said - I'll show you when you get here. A quick look with binoculars showed a little group of Coast Guard people so we figured we were up for a safety boarding - no problem!

The Coasties were VERY nice and friendly, and I told them that I'm a VSC examiner so they shouldn't find anything amiss. A few of them had just climbed aboard when one saw the VSC decal and started to apologize to us. They said that if they had noticed the decal, they would not have boarded us in the first place. We had time to kill while we waited for the lock anyway, and we ended up making friends with them and having fun just talking boats. I asked them to elaborate about their view of the VSC decal and they said they really want to send the message that the decal gets noticed and that unless there is something else going on, they will not bother you with a boarding if you have a current VSC decal.

I thought this was a really good encounter, and a very positive statement about the VSC program. I'm sure every CG District or Station might have its own views, but our cruising experience bears this out - the decal is a pretty good "boarding repellent". I think the fact that we knew we had everything in order for a boarding (thanks to the VSC) also helped!

*All the best,
Robin & Jim Roberts
currently in Coinjock, NC... watching the weather closely as we head south!"*

Robin is one of our **Vessel Examiners**. While motoring up and down the East Coast, she has performed 29 Vessel Safety Checks this season!



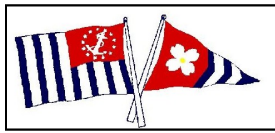


Bay Sightings

by P/C George Degnon

Marge and I took a cruise down to the southern end of the bay for twelve days and had a great time. We were coming out of the Elizabeth River passing all the aircraft carriers and other Norfolk based war ships and turned out into the bay. We had gone just a few miles into the Bay and a Coast Guard craft approached us with flashing lights and I thought, “Oh great, what now—this is all I need—a CG boarding.” Instead, one of the Coasties yelled from the vessel over to us to get out of the channel because a submarine was approaching! Low and behold about 50 yards away was the top of the sub just breaking the water and passing us. This was my greatest thrill in boating all these years! I got THE picture below that I share with you.





Your Holiday Greetings Benefit NVSPS!

There is still time to have your personal holiday greetings to all squadron members included in the December *of Tars & Terns*.

It's easy! Write your 3-line message on the form below and send it with a donation of any amount to P/C Dick Durgin. Make your check payable to the NVSPS Flower Power Fund. Dick will send you a confirmation of your tax deductible contribution. Thanks

----- cut here -----

My Holiday Greetings to appear in December *of Tars & Terns*

Name: _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

My message:

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ payable to NVSPS Flower Power Fund.

In order to meet the newsletter deadline, please mail this to P/C Dick Durgin, 308 George Street SW, Vienna VA 22180 by **12 November 2012**. Questions? Call 703-560-9106.





**Please Join Us at the
Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron's
Holiday Dinner**

When: Saturday, 1 December 2012
Where: The American Legion Post 177
3939 Oak Street, Fairfax VA 22030 (in Fairfax City)

6:30 pm: Social/Cocktails

Commander's Locker & cash bar -- Free martinis and manhattans;
soda/setups: \$1.00 per glass; Beer & Wine at American Legion Prices.

7:30 pm: Dining

Delicious Prime Rib / Chicken Cordon Bleu, Salad, Green Beans Almandine, Mixed Vegetables, Potatoes au Gratin, Rolls, Dessert & Coffee

8:30 to 11:00 pm: Music & Socializing – Santa & Mrs. Santa – FUN!

\$35.00 per person (\$40.00 at the door) for an evening of Holiday Celebration.

Bring your friends and relatives – all are invited!

Note: Limited space – sign up early!

**Toys for Fisher House: Please bring an unwrapped toy for donation to the
Fisher House**

_____ Cut here _____

NVSPS Holiday Dinner Reservation

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Spouse: _____

Guests: _____

YES, I will attend the Holiday Dinner on 1 December 2012

_____ persons X \$35.00 each = \$ _____ Total

Note: Please make your check payable to NVSPS and mail it with this form prior to 16 November 2012 to:

Lt/C Cathy Sheffield, 200 N. Pickett #512, Alexandria, VA 22304

Questions? Call 703-370-4331



of TARS & TERNS

D/Lt. W. Lazear, AP

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Reston, VA 20191-4020

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November 2012

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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.

