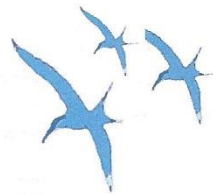




# of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLVIII Number 4

April 2013

## **“Mark” Your Calendar**

### **NVSPS Meetings and Events**

#### **April**

10 - General Membership Meeting  
15 - Deadline for oT&T Inputs  
EXCOM Meeting

#### **May**

8 - General Membership Meeting  
15 - Deadline for oT&T Inputs  
EXCOM Meeting

For education courses dates see Chalk Talk on page 5.

A detailed Squadron Calendar that includes all meetings and courses can be found on our web site.

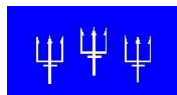
[www.nvsps.org](http://www.nvsps.org)



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Sail and Power Squadron  
A unit of the

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## **Commander Sends . . .**

Cdr. Richard P. Davis, AP

### **Join the Fun, Share the Knowledge!**

Greetings everyone;

I believe the correct place to start is to thank each of you – the members of NVSPS for your confidence in me and selecting me as your Squadron Commander for the next year.

We, our squadron, has some serious challenges in the coming year, they are:

- Increasing membership
- Increasing the active participation of our members in public relations and courses,

The key phrase for this coming year is:

*Join the Fun - Share the Knowledge.*

- Do you have any suggestions?
- Are you willing to help?

In future editions of our newsletter I want to explore growth opportunities with you.

This coming year will be an important year, as on 4 February 2014 it will be USPS' 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This day is known as Founders Day. There will be many activities celebrating this date over the next year within USPS, please join us .

*Continued on page 3*



## BRIDGE OFFICERS

### COMMANDER

Richard P. Davis, AP

703-444-2772

[rpdavis1702@comcast.net](mailto:rpdavis1702@comcast.net)

### EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Richard Unis, JN

703-777-8378

[skipperunis@gmail.com](mailto:skipperunis@gmail.com)

### EDUCATION OFFICER

Lt/C Sean P Gallagher

703-548-5851

[education@nvsp.org](mailto:education@nvsp.org)

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Vacant

### SECRETARY

Lt/C Mary - Jane Hinkins

703-435-0650

[mjhinkins@msn.com](mailto:mjhinkins@msn.com)

### TREASURER

Lt/C David Hinkins, S

703-435-0650

[davehinkins@msn.com](mailto:davehinkins@msn.com)

### Scheduled Meetings:

Unless otherwise noted, the General Membership Meetings will be held at the BoatUS\* Headquarters facility at 1900. Any changes will be posted in this newsletter or on the Squadron web site.

### 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 (aka exit 3), 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 in at the BoatUS sign and go to the lighted parking lot in the rear. Proceed to the entrance.



*Do you or one of your friends  
need a vessel checked?  
Or want to become an examiner  
yourself?  
P/C George Nartsissov,  
[ganh@verizon.net](mailto:ganh@verizon.net)*



**of TARS & TERNS**  
The Official Publication of the  
Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron  
<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 XLVIII, Number 3 , April 2013

### EDITOR

P/Stf/C Richard P. Davis, AP

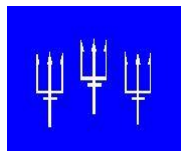
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Lt Manette B. Lazear, AP  
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D/Lt Walter D. Lazear, AP  
(703) 620-1821

[lakematesw@comcast.net](mailto:lakematesw@comcast.net)



## *Commander Sends Continued. . .*

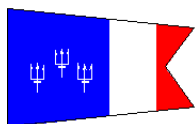
If you have any suggestions, or ideas on how to better our organization, I would like to have them – please do not hesitate to let me know.

Note, effective with the next edition 'of Tars & Terns', P/C G. Jay Nelson will be assuming the role of Editor. Please give him your support.

My e-mail is: [rpDavis1702@comcast.net](mailto:rpDavis1702@comcast.net)

*Join the Fun, Share the Knowledge !*

*Richard P. Davis, AP*  
NVSPS Commander



## *Past Commander Sends . . .* P/C G. Jay Nelson, AP

As of the 23 of March we brought another watch to a close. I want to thank the members of the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron, and the current Bridge, for allowing me the opportunity to be their Commander this past year. It has again been an honor to serve. I welcome Richard Davis as incoming Commander, and wish for him and the members of his Bridge success as they assume the roles and responsibilities of the 2013/2014 NVSPS Bridge.

There are many challenges that face our Squadron in the coming year; membership being of foremost concern. We live in an area of the county that has an interesting dichotomy. On one hand we live in an area with arguably some of the finest boating waters in the county, while on the other, the hectic pace and lifestyle of this region leaves most with precious little free time to enjoy our boating pastime. Demands on available discretionary time from other priorities tend to take their toll on fraternal organizations, and the US Power Squadrons is no exception. Over the past year, our Squadron has lost 38 members from our rolls for various reasons while only 4 new members have joined; a troubling trend we have been experiencing for the past several years.

**Continued on page 6**





**Education Officer –  
Lt/C Sean P. Gallagher, AP**

**Chalk Talk**

Courses and Seminars for the next half of our Squadron year have been posted on the National Education page. Please signup as early as possible and invite your friends as there are plenty of great seats. Don't see it ??? Just Ask. In most cases, if we haven't taught the course in awhile and there's sufficient lead time for advertising, we would enjoy putting your class on. Interested in teaching or co-teaching ? Please let us know ([SEO@nvsp.org](mailto:SEO@nvsp.org)) as we're still developing a flexible core of instructors to better support the squadron and community training needs.

<u><i>Apr 13 – Oct 13</i></u>	<u><i>NVSPS Course Schedule</i></u>
23-Apr-13	ABC12
14-May-13	Marine Communications
28-May-13	Seamanship
11-Jun-13	ABC-12
20-Jun-13	Cruise Planning
16-Jul-13	Piloting
6-Aug-13	ABC-12
20-Aug-13	Eng Maint
19-Sep-13	Adv Piloting
24-Sep-13	ABC-12
1-Oct-13	Marine Navigation Systems
<u><i>Apr 13 – Aug 13</i></u>	<u><i>NVSPS Seminar Schedule</i></u>
20-Apr-13	Mastering Rules of the Road
20-Apr-13	VHF/DSC Marine Radio
11-May-13	Anchoring
11-May-13	Using GPS
15-Jun-13	Knots Bends & Hitches
15-Jun-13	Boating on Lakes, Rivers & Locks
20-Jul-13	Basic Weather and Forecasting
20-Jul-13	Emergencies onboard
17-Aug-13	Marine Radar
17-Aug-13	How to use a chart





**Executive Officer –  
Lt/C Richard Unis, JN**

It is a privilege to serve as your Executive Officer on the NVSPS Bridge this year. I look forward to working together with the Bridge and Squadron members to fix our leaks and shore up our Squadron. The dynamics of the changes to the education program at the national level, in particular, require us to seek new avenues other than America’s Boating Course to reach potential new members.

I have been a member of NVSPS for eight years. I can’t begin to tell you all of the valuable skills and knowledge I have gained as a result of the numerous USPS education courses I have taken (and taught) since I joined the Squadron, not to mention the numerous friendships I have made along the way. Boating is a complex sport. I call it a sport because it can get pretty sporty at times. Improving your knowledge and boating skills is the best way to minimize the “sportiness” of boating, as well as the cost. I don’t believe there is a better place to learn boating than right here in our Squadron. Our challenge is to get the word out to others who can benefit from what we have to offer. I joined because someone took the time to explain the USPS to me.

I need your assistance to share ideas and help spread the word about NVSPS. In addition, our Public Relations Chair position is currently vacant. Please let me know if you are willing to assist with this very important role. No one person in the Squadron is solely responsible for public relations and marketing. Selling the Squadron is a team effort involving everyone in NVSPS. For anyone interested in boating it should be an easy sell...it certainly was for me!

Contact Lt/C Rich Unis at 703-777-8378 or at skipperunis@gmail.com



**Secretary –  
Lt/C Mary - Jane Hinkins**



The boating season is about to begin. Right now boats on land are getting a fresh coat of paint and wax and are being power washed. Engines are getting a good going over. Oil is being changed and it won’t be long before they take to the water. Such an exciting time of the year, we are getting ready as well. We are studying our first aid, our navigational charts, tides, and regulations. We have double checked our fire extinguishers, our carbon monoxide unit, and our personal flotation devices. Puck has to be pumped up. One propeller has been repaired and installed. Dave is going to install a fish finder before the big dip in the river, and I’ll be painting soon (anyone want to help?)



Continued page on 6

## *Secretary Continued*

So it's a great time to take a refresher class, or head to Ocean City April 12 for the D-5 Spring Conference. Learn to tie knots, or see what the other squadrons have in store. It's a great time to meet with new friends and old. Drink, eat and learn at D-5. Check our squadron out on Friday, April 12, in Suite 217. Volunteer to stand watch for an hour or two.

Come and enjoy with your fellow members, bring new folks it's a great time.

---

## *Past Commander Continued*

While there are many issues at the root cause of declining fraternal and social organization's membership, I believe perceived value of the organization to the individual member is most significant. More succinctly, does the member believe the value he/she receives is worth the effort of membership? In the past they were of tremendous value to the novice or inexperienced boater in our educational programs and the readily available knowledge and expertise of our seasoned membership. Point in fact; there was few venues that provided the caliber and depth of education and camaraderie the US Power Squadron offered. However, today's modern navigational electronics and boating information available over the Internet have served to mitigate the value of our educational programs.

As the US Power Squadron approaches its 100<sup>th</sup> year, we are caught in a classic struggle between the maintenance of a long and proud legacy, and the reality of the rapidly changing needs of today's recreational boaters. This is a dilemma that must be resolved for our Squadron, and the US Power Squadron as a whole, to survive.

So how can you help as a current NVSPS member? It is very simple – this is your Squadron and we want it to reflect your boating interests. Tell the current Bridge what you want from membership in this organization. Nothing is too silly, too simple, or too difficult. Think about why you tend not to participate in Squadron meetings and events and take a minute to shoot Richard an email note ([rpDavis1702@Comcast.net](mailto:rpDavis1702@Comcast.net)) with a one-liner “Hey, have you ever thought about...”, or “Wouldn't it be better if we...”? Think about the last USPS course you took and what has kept you from taking others since then – not the right subject matter, too much of a time commitment, too formal, not detailed enough, whatever you can offer helps.

I encourage you to take the time to send your random, unfiltered, thoughts. I can assure you they will be greatly appreciated. With your help, we can better serve the needs of our members and enhance the Squadron's value as a part of the passion we all share.

To all of you – *fair winds and following seas*



## ANNUAL MEETING Overview:



The Annual Squadron Meeting was held at 1930 on 13 March 2013. The following actions were taken:

1. The meeting was conducted in accordance with the Squadron By-Laws.
2. A quorum was present as defined in the by-laws.
3. A vote was held to confirm the incoming bridge s presented by the NOMCOM and accepted / confirmed.
4. Membership
5. The Treasurer presented the 2013 – 2014 budget, with discussion.

Two side meetings were held:

1. Agenda on / for the CoW
2. Review of the preparations for the D5 Conference Hospitality Suite



**Administrative Officer –  
VACANT**



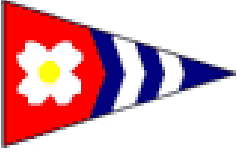
We need to have someone fill this very responsible position. If you are willing to accept it, or help fill some of the activities please let us know.

## FINANCIAL Overview

The Squadron remains financially solvent, however that remains though the year based on our ability to gain new membership and retain our current membership.

A detailed report for the 2013 – 2014 Bridge year was presented by P/Lt/C Ann Nartsissov at the Annual Meeting on 13 March 2013 and approved.





## Hospitality Suite for the D/5 Spring Conference Update



The D/5 Spring Conference will be held 12-14 April at the Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland. Everyone is invited! On Friday evening, the 12<sup>th</sup>, our Squadron members will have a Hospitality Suite set up in room 217 near the Atrium.

We will start decorating our room as soon as it is available that day (usually around noon). We invite anyone who is coming to join us in the fun and festivities. We will have a free "Happy Hour" in our suite and the Commander's Locker will be there as well as water, sodas, beer, and wine, throughout the afternoon. At 7 p.m. the tour of Squadrons' Hospitality Suites begins. This is always a fun event. We will take turns staffing our Suite and touring the others. Fun and refreshments are plentiful. I ask that if you plan to attend, please let me know so that I can make sure you are kept abreast of our events. We ask that everyone attending Friday afternoon and evening bring an appetizer for our "Happy Hour."

On Saturday morning, we will serve a Continental Breakfast in the Hospitality Suite so there is no need to go out and purchase breakfast. We will have to check out of the room after the breakfast, but will move the Commander's Locker up to a Condo that we have rented with the Hinkins and will again have a "Happy Hour" with snacks in the condo on Saturday afternoon. Everyone will then be free to attend the D/5 Commanders reception from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and thereafter the banquet, if they wish, or go out to dinner as a group.

On Sunday morning, as you are checking out, there will be a District Commander's Reception from 8:30-11:30 a.m. in the Atrium pool area, so again, no need to purchase breakfast.

If you have not yet registered to attend the Conference, you can still do so. Go to the District's website at [www.uspsd5.org](http://www.uspsd5.org) and print out the registration form and schedule of events. Reserve your room directly with the Princess Royale Hotel using Reservation ID Code: USPS D5. Please give me a call or send me an email and let me know if you are planning to attend and have not yet informed me, so I can be sure you are included in the fun.

Sue Karjala  
Hospitality Room Chair  
(703) 818-8676





# Dock Talk



## Part of Our Team at the Dulles Boat Show



From left to right: Sue Karjala, John Karjala, John Shivik, Norbert Hymel, Richard Durgin, and George Nartsissov.

Many other members supported our booth, thanks to all to did.

Our special thanks for a great job to Ed Phillips who chaired and pulled this together for us.



Lt W. Lazear, AP  
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**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 theboatUS sign.  
Enter from the lighted parking lot behind the building.



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  
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