



of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLVII Number 10

December 2013



Mark Your Calendar

NVSPS Meetings and Events

DECEMBER 2013

14 - Holiday Party at the American Legion Post 177 located at 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA

JANUARY 2014

08 - General Membership Meeting

1900 - 2100: BoatUS Headquarters; 880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria, VA

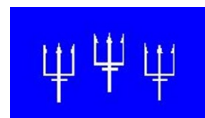
Speaker: To be announced.

22 - Executive Committee Meeting

1930 - 2100: 4031 University Drive #200 Fairfax, VA 22030

25 - Operations Training

0800 - 1500: 4031 University Drive #200 Fairfax, VA 22030



Commander Sends...

Cdr. Richard P. Davis, AP

First and foremost, my wife and I want to wish everyone a very Happy and Joyous Holiday Season to you and your family.

I guess that we must now concede that winter is finally here, and that your 'hauling out' actions should be complete, and plans for the next boating season are being formed. Don't forget to take a course to update your skills.

We had an excellent General Membership Meeting on 13 November. The goodies were provide by the Karjalas and several important squadron items were discussed. I encourage you to attend the member meetings and you are always welcome to the EXCOM Meetings. There will not be a General Membership meeting in December as it is included in the Holiday Party. And there will not be an EXCOM in December either.

There are a couple of boating events coming up that you need to know about:

NVSPS Holiday Party. Have you signed up yet? It's a great occasion to meet with NVSPS and other USPS friends, review the past boating season's events and network. District 5 D/1st/Lt R. Stow and his wife will be present. There will be a brief membership meeting followed up by good food and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. I hope to see you there. There is copy of the flyer on page 5.

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A detailed Squadron calendar including all meetings and educational courses can be found on our web site www.nvsp.org



Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron
A unit of the
United States Power Squadrons®

100 Years of Service

Created on 2 Feb. 1914, USPS will mark 100 years of education, fellowship and community service in 2014. Based on the powerboat handling skills programs of businessman Roger Upton at the Boston Yacht Club in Marblehead, Mass., USPS offers boating education programs in cities and towns across the U.S., its territories and Japan. Today, nearly 40,000 members in more than 400 squadrons provide boating education in everything from seamanship and celestial navigation to marine electronics and engine maintenance.



Bridge Officers

COMMANDER

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703 777-8378
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EDUCATION OFFICER

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



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Vacant

(Contact the Commander if you would like to help)



SECRETARY

Lt/C Mary-Jane Hinkins, S
703 436-7931
mjhinkins@msn.com



TREASURER

Lt/C David Hinkins, S
703 436-7931



**Looking for a free a Vessel Safety Check?
Or want to become an examiner yourself?
Contact P/C George Nartsissov, ganh@verizon.net**

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, 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.

NVSPS Winterization Tips

For those of you that winterize you own boat each season you might be interested to know that the NVSPS website has our “NVSPS Winterization” Power Point Presentation on-line. This presentation serves as a good overview of the winterization process and will help you build a checklist for you own boat’s winterization requirements. There is also a sample winterization checklist in a MS Excel file format you can download and modify.



Of Tars & Terns

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

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EDITOR

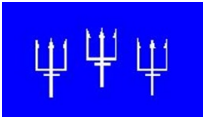
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Commander Sends...

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Cdr. Richard P. Davis, AP

2013 Eastport Yacht Club Lights Parade. Every year on the second Saturday in December, magic happens on the water of the Annapolis Harbor...boats suddenly appear out of the cold winter night illuminated with thousands of colored lights and crewed by jolly revelers. Families and friends gather at their favorite viewing spots along the waterfront to see this yearly spectacle and to celebrate the holiday season together. The Eastport Yacht Club Lights Parade is one of Annapolis' signature event and we invite you to join us as a participant or a spectator cheering on all the decorated boats and their crews.

Date: Saturday, December 14, 2013

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Where: Annapolis Harbor and Spa Creek above the Spa Creek Bridge

Have you visited our website recently? If not, you should. There you will find a lot of information on your organization to include the recent and past newsletters, course dates, schedules and pictures of recent events to include a few of the other items there. Our web site is: www.nvsp.org

Curmudgeon's Observation: "Leaders aren't born they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work. And that's the price we'll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal." - Vince Lombardi



Richard P. Davis

NVSPS Commander

Join the Fun, Share the Knowledge !



Executive Officer

Lt/C Richard Unis, JN

Editor's note: Rich Unis is on an extended cruise and was not available to provide an article this month. He will be back in January to regale us with tales from his adventure. In the meantime, Rich wants to wish everyone the best of the holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Lt/C Rich Unis JN

NVSPS Executive Officer

Skipperunis@gmail.com



Guest Speaker

Jim and Robin Roberts - 12 February 14

Did you know that members of NVSPS are full-time cruisers? After cruising for over 27,000 nautical miles up and down the east coast from Nova Scotia to the Bahamas, Jim and Robin Roberts put their DeFever 49 trawler (their only home) on a freighter and shipped her to the Pacific Northwest this past spring. They will give a presentation about their adventures cruising in British Columbia, the San Juan Islands, and Puget Sound this past summer and fall. Orcas, whales, eagles, ravens, and countless sea birds combined with mountains and fjords to make for a fabulous first season cruising these northern waters. Jim and Robin will be visiting us for the February meeting to share some of their professional quality photographs and stories. They are spending this winter in Victoria, B.C., and will head north to Alaska in April.

It is very easy to charter power or sailboats in the Pacific Northwest. Distances between the San Juan Islands, Canada's Gulf Islands, and Desolation Sound are relatively short, and the Island Passage provides protected waters for cruising. There's no reason you can't experience this area for yourself! Please join us on 12 February 14.



Education Officer

Lt/C Sean Gallagher JN

Well, Thanksgiving is now behind us and Santa is warming up the sleigh as we get ready for Christmas. Speaking of Christmas, purchasing USPS courses as gifts for you and your family members is a really great idea and helps to insure that your loved ones are kept safe on the water and also have the know-how to service their vessels when required. And don't forget those NVSPS items in the Ships Store. They are a great bargain and work very well for gifts as well.

We in the Education department along with members of the Executive Committee are embarking on a new format for delivering training and hope to introduce it at a local marina in the New Year. We will teach specific courses on a continuous rotating schedule and will try to bonus off of the marina's local foot traffic in addition to the listings on the USPS website. Hopefully, this will allow us to more consistently reach our student quotas for teaching the course and reduce cancellations. A secondary objective for this effort is to generate more members for the squadron, a key element to our future survival. If this plan works as well as expected, we will also be in the market for new instructors, so if you are interested in joining the ranks of certified instructors, please let us know.

Lastly, we've been so busy putting together the new plan that I've fallen behind in executing on our proposed training schedule for Nov 13 to Apr 14 timeframe. We will issue a modified schedule within the next week so we can also keep training available at our other training sites. Thanks !

Lt/C Sean Gallagher JN

NVSPS Squadron Education Officer

seo@nvsp.org



Upcoming NVSPS Educational Courses

America's Boating Course

07 Jan 14	ABC-12
18 Feb 14	ABC-12
08 Apr 14	ABC-12

NVSPS Course Schedule

12 Dec 13	Cruise Planning
17 Dec 13	Piloting
16 Jan 14	Engine Maintenance
27 Feb 14	Advanced Piloting
04 Mar 14	Marine Electrical Systems
20 Mar 14	Seamanship

NVSPS Seminar Schedule *

14 Dec 13	Anchoring
14 Dec 13	Using GPS
11 Jan 14	Knots, Bends and Hitches
11 Jan 14	Boating Lakes, Rivers and Locks
8-Feb-14	Basic Weather and Forecasting
8-Feb-14	Emergencies onboard
8-Mar-14	Marine Radar
8-Mar-14	How to use a chart

* Saturday classes

Contact **Sean Gallagher** at **703 548-5851** to register for a class

USPS Operations Training - 25 January 2014

NVSPS is providing the USPS Operations Training course on **25 January 2014** at the George Mason University office at **4031 University Drive #200, Fairfax, VA 22030** from 0800 to 1500. This is an opportunity for both the incoming Bridge officers and of our Squadron members to thoroughly understand the origin and history of the USPS, the structure of National, District and Squadrons, the operational roles and responsibilities of the various positions in the organization, and how these duties and tasks are executed.

This is an excellent opportunity to get to know how the USPS organization works and how you can add value to our Squadron. The session is six hours long , with one hour for lunch. **Contact Sean Gallagher at 703 548-5851** to register for this course. It is open to all.

Please Join Us

for

**Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron's
Holiday Dinner**

Saturday, 14 December 2013 from 1800 to 2300

at the

The American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA 22030

1830: Social /Cocktails (Commander's Locker & cash bar)

Free martinis and manhattans, Soda/setups: \$1.00 per glass; Beer & Wine at Legion Prices

1930: Dining

Delicious Ham or Chicken Cordon Bleu, Salad, Green Beans Almandine, Mixed Vegetables, Potatoes Au Gratin, Rolls, Dessert, & Coffee

2030 to 2300: Music and Socializing

Santa and Mrs. Santa – FUN!

Just \$40.00 (door price) per person for an evening of Holiday Celebration. Bring your friends and relatives – all are invited! Space is limited, so sign up early.

***Share the holiday spirit!* We will be sponsoring Toys for Fisher House again this year, so please bring an unwrapped toy for donation to a child in need.**

***It's not too late:* Call Cathy Sheffield
at 703 370-4331 or carney1227@aol.com**

NOTE: Please make your check payable to NVSPS

Seasons Greetings

Merry Christmas!

May Santa Claus bring you calm
Seas & sunny days in 2014
Gale & Evelyn Alls

Joyous Holidays &
Happy New Year to All!
Dick & Jean Durgin

Happy Holidays

From the Albatross!
Kim-Kwok Chu

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Sean, Susan & Maggie Gallagher
The Three G's

Merry Christmas!

Francis & Georgia Williamson
Sea Glory

Wishing all a warm &
Great holiday season!
Ira & Richard Davis

Happy Holidays & Safe Voyages
In the New Year from the
"Lakemates"
Walt & Manette Lazear

May your holidays be joyous &
Your new year be filled with good
times!
George & Ann Nartsissov

Have a very Merry Christmas &
A Happy, Healthy New Year!
John & Robie Shivik

Deck 'dem Halls

The very best of the season
G. Jay Nelson & Chris Vasko

Season's Greetings!

Mary & Alan Hart

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Cathy Sheffield & Sammy
Texas Lady

Joy & peace this holiday season
& throughout the New Year!
John & Sue Karjala
Isleamour



Secretary

Lt/C Mary-Jane Hinkins, S

Here it is November turning into December already. I cannot believe this boating season went so fast and we are so far behind! For health reasons we have gotten Lord Stanley totally winterized yet. Last year was the year of the RA-COON. This year was the year of the SURGEON!

The Lord Stan, is up on blocks, water system is drained and antifreezed, the engine drained, the outside partially cleaned and waxed and that is as far as we have gotten. Hopefully we still have a few good days of weather yet to finish the job!

But the next month and the remainder of this month are not all about finishing the winterization, but about family, friends, faith and partying. Yes the Holiday party time is upon us, and NVSPS has one coming up. I know I will see all of you there. I am excited because it's a time to not think about meetings, and minutes, and speakers, but a time to enjoy, a time of getting to know you and to catch up on news from you all. A time to meet new friends and embrace all our old ones. So please come and meet and eat, and greet and drink and be merry. Send your reservations in soon.

Lt/C Mary Jane Hinkins

NVSPS Secretary

mjhinkins@msn.com

Interesting Nautical Facts

90% of Americans live within one hour of navigable water, and more than half of all the people in the U. S. live within 50 miles of a coastline.

It is estimated that in the United States, there are 50,867,840 acres of lakes; 633,109 miles of rivers; and 88,633 miles of coastal shoreline (including bays and inlets).

The average depth of the world's ocean is 12,450 feet. The average height of the world's land is 2,756 feet.

Concrete was a ship building material during WWII. As long as the boat is lighter than the water it displaces, it will float.

The world's largest cruise ships are the sister ships MS Oasis of the Seas and MS Allure of the Seas, which are nearly four football fields long, 16 decks high, and carry over 6,000 passengers.

The Jolly Roger flag, with its black background and white skull and crossbones, was designed to be scary. This flag was not used by all pirates, usually it was only flown by those sailing in the Spanish Main.

The queen Mary was launched on 26 September 1943 and made 1001 Atlantic crossings during her active service. Her fuel consumption of 1 gallon to every 13 feet travelled (about 1100-1500 tons of fuel per day) was her eventual economic demise. It is estimated the QE burned 1.4B gallons of oil over her service.

The largest ship to vanish without a trace in the history of the Navy was a collier known as the U.S.S. Cyclops. In March 1918, while returning from a voyage to Brazil through the Bermuda Triangle. Her wreck has never been found, and the cause of her loss remains unknown.

The Edmund Fitzgerald sank in a heavy storm on November 10, 1975 because cargo hatches were left unsecured. The Edmund Fitzgerald foundered only 17 miles from the "safe haven" of Whitefish Point. *Side note:* Lake Superior is often called Gitche Gumee, which is Ojibwa Native American for "Big Lake."

Although pirates have been around since the 15th century, most pirating happened between 1690 and 1720. Arguably the most successful pirate of all was the former prostitute Cheng I Sao who controlled a fleet of more than 1,500 ships and upwards of 80,000 sailors along the coast of the South China Sea .

The Earth's axis is pointed almost directly at the North Star (Polaris) making it seem as if the star (actually a cluster of three stars) never moves. However, the wobble, or precession of the Earth's axis will change the position of the Earth's axis over time. In just about 500 years or so, Polaris will no longer be our north star.

Do you know the difference between a boat and a ship?

Technically, a boat is defined by its center of gravity that makes a boat lean in when turning, while the center of gravity of a ship makes it lean outwards. Leaning into a turn is the reason submarines have always been referred to as 'boats'.

Informally, the difference between a boat and a ship is said to be that boats are designed for rivers and inland waterways, ships for seas and oceans.

Nomination Committee Report

In compliance with the Bylaws of the Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron, the Nominating Committee nominates the following members for the positions listed on the 2014 - 2015 Bridge:

Commander:	P/Lt/Cdr Richard E. Unis, JN
Executive Officer:	Vacant
Education Officer:	1st Lt Ed Phillips, AP
Administrative Officer:	Kim-Kwok Chu
Secretary:	Lt/Cdr Mary Jane Hinkins
Treasurer:	Lt/Cdr Dave Hinkins
Assistant Treasurer:	1st Lt Ann Nartsissov

Members at Large of the Executive Committee:

LT/C Cathy Sheffield, AP
Richard E. Cohn, P
P/Stf/C Richard Davis, AP
P/C Francis Williamson, AP
P/C Jay Nelson, AP

Rules Committee:

Ronald H. Larson, P	3 Years
P/C John Shivik, AP	3 Years
P/C George K. Degnon, P	2 Years
Margaret E. Degnon,	2 Years
H. Sue Karjala	1 Year
Lt/C Cathy Sheffield, AP	1 Year

Auditing Committee:

P/C Francis Williamson, AP	3 Years
Robert Donahue Jr., AP	2 Years
Don Benedetto, AP	1 Year - Chair

Nominating Committee:

P/C George Nartsissov, AP	3 Years
P/Stf/C Richard Davis, AP	3 Years
P/C G Jay Nelson, AP	2 Years
Ronald H. Larson, P	2 Years
P/C John G. Karjala, P	1 Year
P/C Alan Hart, AP	1 Year

Did you know...

Boating education has been a mainstay of the United States Power Squadrons' charter and mission. All of the USPS educational courses and seminars are rooted in what is often referred to as the "Bible of Boating" or more formally, **Chapman Piloting & Seamanship**. This boating reference has been the leading reference book for both power and sail boaters for nearly 100 years, with more than 3 million copies printed. It is often used as the text for private boating schools throughout the U.S., and is officially recommended book for the U.S. Coast Guard's boating education classes.

Did you know that in 1914, Roger Upton, Holman F. Day, Worthington Scott, Bryan L. Perman and Charles F. Chapman became the original founders of the United States Power Squadrons.?

Later, during World War I, the U.S. Government needed to train men in the Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine to become operators of small boats, including landing craft, utility craft, gigs, patrol craft. Then Assistant U.S. Secretary of the Navy, Franklin D. Roosevelt, commissioned Charles F. Chapman, a member of the newly formed United States Power Squadron, to write a manual that could be used to help provide that training. Chapman did this in just three days. The result was Practical Boat Handling, the first edition, published in 1917 as a 5 in x 7 in, 144 page pamphlet.

Charles Frederic Chapman (1881–1976) legacy lives on still today in the 65th edition of the Chapman Piloting & Seamanship.