



of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLVII Number 2

March 2014



Mark Your Calendar

NVSPS Meetings and Events

MARCH 2014

- 12 General Membership Meeting and Annual NVSPS Meeting**
1900 - 2100: BoatUS Headquarters; 880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria, VA
Speaker: to be announced
- 22 Change of Watch & Founder's Day**
1130 - 1530: American Legion - 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA 22030
- 26 Executive Committee Meeting**
1930 - 2100: 4031 University Drive #200 Fairfax, VA 22030
- 28-30 D/5 Spring Conference**
Princess Royal Hotel, Ocean City, MD

APRIL 2014

- 09 General Membership Meeting**
1900 - 2100: BoatUS Headquarters; 880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria, VA
Speaker: to be announced
- 23 Executive Committee Meeting**
1930 - 2100: 4031 University Drive #200 Fairfax, VA 22030

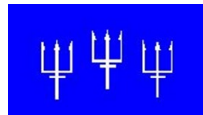
MAY 2014

- 14 General Membership Meeting**
1900 - 2100: BoatUS Headquarters; 880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria, VA
Speaker: to be announced
- 28 Executive Committee Meeting**
1930 - 2100: 4031 University Drive #200 Fairfax, VA 22030

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®



Commander Sends...

Cdr. Richard P. Davis, AP

It is now the end of the 2013 – 2014 Bridge year. I want to thank each of you for your support through this year. There are goals we wanted to achieve and didn't and those that we did, however we brought the membership to a stable level, and brought new people on board.

Our Annual Membership meeting was held on 12 March, at which time the NOMCOM Report, Audit Report and Budget Reports were provided and all look good.

The Capital Area Boat Show at Dulles Expo Center was a success. Thanks to Lt E. Phillips and Sea Scout Ship 1942 members. I believe we had the best attended booth on the floor.

Continued on Page 3

In this Issue:

Change of Watch / Founder's Day	Page 5
Guest Speaker - <i>Beth Leonard</i>	Page 6
Test Your Boating Knowledge	Page 6
Vessel Safety Check	Page 7
Spring Checklist	Page 8

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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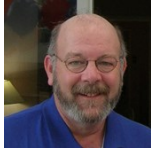
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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Vacant



(Contact the Commander if you would like to help)

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mjhinkins@msn.com



TREASURER

Lt/C David Hinkins, S
703 436-7931



Scheduled Meetings:

Unless otherwise noted, the General Membership Meetings will be held at the BoatUS™ Headquarters facility at 1900. on the second Wednesday of each month except for the months of August and December. 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.

Boating Accident Reporting

Federal law requires the operator – or owner, if the operator is deceased or unable to make the report – to file a boating accident report with the State reporting authority when, as a result of an occurrence that involves a boat or its equipment:

- A person dies
- A person disappears from the vessel under circumstances that indicate death or injury
- A person is injured and requires medical treatment beyond first aid
- Damage to vessels and other property totals \$2,000 (lower amounts in some states and territories) or more
- The boat is destroyed

The USCG Accident Reporting form can be obtained from the USCG website - http://www.uscgboating.org/safety/accident_reporting.aspx



Boat Smart Boat Safe



Of Tars & Terns

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www.nvsp.org



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

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EDITOR

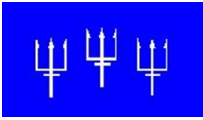
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Commander Sends...

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Cdr. Richard P. Davis, AP

February the 4th of this year will mark the 100th year of our highly respected organization. We will recognize this at our Change of Watch on 22 March.

Again the boating season is rapidly approaching, it is time to start thinking about launching, it is just around the corner. Be sure you have gone over everything thoroughly. There are a lot of launch checklists available from numerous sources.

Don't forget to take a course to update your skills, and get a Vessel Safety Check P/C G. Nartsissov says he needs some more inspectors. One of our members quipped that if you are going on a cruise, maybe you should take your own in your luggage. Note, if you have inflatable PFDs, be sure they have been serviced / inspected within the last two years by the manufacturer, yes even the pets

Have you visited our website recently? If not, you should. There you will find a lot of information on our 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.nvspss.com



Richard P. Davis
NVSPS Commander

Join the Fun, Share the Knowledge !



Executive Officer

Lt/C Richard Unis, JN

We are marching closer and closer to spring and the start of the 2014 boating season. As a result, it's boat show time! You should receive this newsletter right before the Chantilly Capital Expo Boat Show which runs from 7-9 MAR. If you have some time to volunteer in our NVSPS booth, please let Ed Phillips know that you can assist. We really hope to sign up some new students for upcoming boating education courses. It's a great opportunity to make our presence known to the local boating community. I hope to see you there!

I am very pleased to announce that NVSPS will be partnering with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary at Prince William Marina to provide Vessel Safety Checks (VSC's) this year. If you are interested in becoming certified to provide VSC's, please contact George Nartsissov and he can tell you all about the program. He will set you up for the training and testing so you too can get in on the action. Now is the time to do it so you're ready to assist when the boating season kicks off in earnest. Probably one of the best secrets of the VSC program is the fact that you will get to see all kinds of vessels while providing a valuable community service. Since VSC's need to be accomplished yearly there is a constant demand for them.

I'd like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to Dick and Jean Durgin for providing an extremely valuable Operations Training class on 1 FEB. Dick and Jean reviewed the history, organization and structure of the USPS at the National, District and Squadron levels, covered meetings, protocol, correspondence and policies. They also reviewed the National and Squadron by-laws. If you haven't attended an Operations Training class I recommend you do so in the future – whether or not you are a Bridge member.

Don't forget the upcoming Change of Watch ceremony on 22 MAR at the American Legion in Fairfax. It should be a great time. Lastly, this is my last oT&T article as your Executive Officer. It has been a challenge but also a privilege to serve the Squadron.

Thanks and good luck with your spring boat preparation. For me, it's time to start thinking about returning "Windspiration" to the Chesapeake from Ft. Lauderdale.

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

Lt/C Rich Unis JN
NVSPS Executive Officer
Skipperunis@gmail.com



Education Officer

Lt/C Sean Gallagher JN

We're heading into the 2014 boating season very soon so we should begin now to brush up on those boating and boat maintenance skills. Checkout the latest course offerings at USPS.ORG to register for the classes listed below.

With the great preponderance of Smart devices out now, make sure you check your Apple or Google app store for the latest in marine and navigation applications. In addition to the ones listed on the USPS website, there are new ones popping up everyday. Find one you like ? Great ! Please let the rest of the Squadron know what works well and what doesn't work so well. Local feedback is always the best.

There have been some initial discussions with the new bridge about conducting an instructor development course in the new Squadron year. Interested in sharing what you know ? Want to learn the some of the new teaching methods and presentation devices ? Great ! Stayed tuned to the latest updates in the training schedule. We will also push out an electronic alert (email) when we have the course date set.

Taking advantage of this electronic edition of Tars and Terns, I have included a summary of relevant presentations from the Educational Leadership portion of the USPS annual meeting in Jacksonville, Fl. Some of the topics included in the presentations cover new online programs, revenue sharing and the coordination of the marketing and promotion of educational courseware. Some consideration was also given to examining various generational groups in USPS and how they impact how USPS promotes the organization, generates membership and delivers training. There is also information about the survey conducted prior to the annual meeting analyzing program needs and improving communications within USPS. When reviewing the free form comments spreadsheet, be sure to look at all 16 tabs.

- Collaborative Learning Information Sheet (78KB, PDF)
- Collaborative Learning Presentation (256KB, PPTX)
- General Non-Profit Info and Revenue Sharing (227KB, PPTX)
- Marketing and PR (1466KB, PPTX)
- Online Programs (784KB, PPT)
- Tall Ships America and USPS (12421KB, PPTX)
- SEO-DEO Survey Presentation (267KB, PPTX)
- SEO-DEO Survey - Free Form Responses (127KB, XLSX)
- What You Need to Know... Helping to Connect with Students or Generation What? (2341KB, PPTX)

Lt/C Sean Gallagher JN

NVSPS Squadron Education Officer

seo@nvsp.org



Upcoming NVSPS Educational Courses

America's Boating Course

08 Apr 14 ABC-12

NVSPS Course Schedule

TBD - Mar 14 Cruise Planning
 04 Mar 14 Marine Electrical Systems
 20 Mar 14 Seamanship

NVSPS Seminar Schedule *

26 Apr 14 Basic Weather Forecasting
 26 Apr 14 Emergencies Onboard

** Saturday classes*

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

Change of Watch and Founder's Day

22 March 2014 - 1130 to 1530

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

Uniform of the Day - USPS Blazers or Suit with Tie

Lunch Choice of Baked Honey Glazed Ham or Chicken Cordon Bleu with vegetables and sides; Two New Appetizers; and the Commander's Liquor Locker will be open. Beer, wine, set-ups and soft drinks will be available from the American Legion for a nominal charge.

✂

RESERVATION

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Spouse / Guest(s) _____

YES! I will attend the Change of Watch on 22 March 2013.

Number of _____ persons at \$25.00 each, \$_____ Total.

NOTE: Please make your check payable to NVSPS and mail it with this half of the form prior to 14 March 2013 to: Cathy Sheffield at 200 N. Pickett, #512, Alexandria, VA 22304 Questions? Call Cathy at 703 370-4331 or E-mail to carney1227@aol.com.

Test Your Boating Knowledge

1. True or False: If my boat doesn't contain any fire hazards from the motor or fuel system, then according to Federal requirements, I don't need to bring a fire extinguisher along.

True. A fire extinguisher is only required on boats where elements such as a motor or fuel system create a distinct fire hazard. However, general safe boating guidelines will always suggest that you stow a fire extinguisher on the boat just in case. Charles Frederic Chapman (1881–1976) legacy lives on still today in the 65th edition of the Chapman Piloting & Seamanship.

2. True or False: Children younger than 13 years old should wear a Lifejacket while underway.

True. This is now a legal requirement for all Federal waterways and many states have also passed legislation to make this a requirement for non-Federal waterways as well. Showing your kids the ropes for safe boating also means ensuring they're adequately protected in the event of any emergency.

3. True or False: Boats that are 16 feet and over must also carry one USCG-approved throwable Lifejacket (Type IV)

True. Additionally, Federal safe boating requirements maintain that all watercraft must contain at least one USCG (United States Coast Guard) approved, wearable Lifejacket (Types I-III) for every person onboard, but it's good to have a few extras on hand as well.

4. True or False: It's okay if others drink when onboard, as long as there is one responsible safe boater onboard to safely handle the watercraft.

False. Over half of all boating-related drowning incidents involve the use of alcohol, and many times the injured person is not the skipper or designated safe boater. Practice safe boating at all times by restricting use of alcohol to everyone on board- not just a few people.

5. True or False: The US Coast Guard can legally board your vessel on public waterways only if they have witnessed a maritime law violation.

False. To enforce maritime laws and regulations, the US Coast Guard is empowered to board and inspect vessels. Many of the laws can be successfully enforced only by boarding a vessel while it is underway. Boardings are not necessarily based on suspicion that a violation already exists aboard the vessel. Their purpose is to prevent violations. The courts have consistently upheld this authority. All Coast Guard officers and petty officers are Federal law enforcement officers and they may board any United States vessel anywhere.



Guest Speaker

Beth Leonard, Technical Editor of BoatUS Magazine - 12 March 14

THE FIRST RULE OF BOATING: KEEP THE WATER OUT

All too often when that simple rule gets violated, the boat ends up a total loss. Sinking comes in number two on the BoatUS Marine Insurance Top Ten Claims, and number one in non-hurricane areas. Water most often finds its way in through those pesky holes below the waterline, but there are other ways boats go from on the water to under it including striking a submerged object, grounding, or collision. This presentation will share lessons learned from detailed analysis of the BoatUS Marine Insurance claims files and ins and outs of marine insurance with respect to sinking. Several case studies of the most common scenarios will be used to highlight what you can do to prevent your boat from becoming a statistic - or a case study in a future BoatUS claim story!

Beth Leonard is the Director of Technical Services for BoatUS and Technical Editor for all BoatUS publications. She writes and edits the quarterly journal based on the BoatUS Marine Insurance claims files, Seaworthy, the only marine publication devoted to issues of seaworthiness and safety. Before joining BoatUS, Beth and her husband, Evans Starzinger, completed two circumnavigations and logged more than 110,000 nautical miles. Between 1992 and 1995, they sailed westbound by way of the Panama Canal, Torres Straits and the Cape of Good Hope, and from 1999 to 2009 they completed an eastbound circumnavigation by way of all of the Great Capes that took them as far north as the Arctic circle and as far south as Cape Horn. Beth has written hundreds of articles for more than a dozen sailing magazines including Cruising World, Practical Sailor, Good Old Boat, and Yachting World. Beth is the author of three books: The Voyager's Handbook, Following Seas and the award-winning Blue Horizons.

Snowed Out



Let's Stow Away on Adventures

The storm of 12 February 2014 snowed out our chance to enjoy Jim and Robin Roberts's presentation about their adventures cruising in British Columbia, the San Juan Islands and Puget Sound last summer. They have now returned to their DeFever 49 trawler home in British Columbia.

Members can still enjoy their lively stories and outstanding wildlife photographs by visiting their blog regularly. Jim and Robin will head north to Alaska this spring. <http://apps.mvadventures.com/Blog/>

Vessel Safety Checks

Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) and Boating Safety: The 2014 boating season is almost here! Promoting boating safety is one of the squadron aims as part of the squadron's civic service to the community



Could NVSPS set a goal to have their entire member's vessels (serviceable and operable) undergo a vessel safety check? That certainly would be leading by example! I believe this is an achievable goal. Not only would you be a safer boater, but you may also encourage your boat neighbors to get a VSC. Call one of our Vessel Examiners (VEs) or call a power squadron or coast guard auxiliary in your area, to schedule a VSC, if your home port is geographically removed. You may also schedule a VSC, for our geographic area, at vsc@nvsp.org or ask a question regarding preparing for a Vessel Safety Check.

In general the following items are reviewed during a VSC. NOTE: These are mandatory items that are required, by the Coast Guard and State regulations, to be on board and to be in a serviceable condition.

Display of Registration Numbers	Navigation Lights	Registration Documentation
Trash Placard (trash disposal)*	Personal Flotation Devices	Pollution Placard (oil disposal)*
Sound Producing Devices	Fire Extinguishers *	Visual Distress Signals
Navigation Rules (> 40')	Marine Sanitation Devices (no overboard discharge)	
Ventilation (engine room)*	State and Local Boat Requirements	
Backfire Flame Control *	Overall Vessel Condition (hazards)	

*Requirements will vary depending on boat size and type of engine

The NVSPS examiners are:

Gale Alls 703-569-1511	Norbert Hymel 703-644-9489
George Degnon 703-448-8766	John Shivik 703-273-3351
Dave Hinkins 703-436-7931	George Nartsissov 703-425-7044 (VSC Chair)
Robin Roberts 410-200-1729	Francis Williamson 703-440-9074

(Note: Robin is cruising on the West Coast this year)

We would like for you to consider joining the Vessel Examiner team! Please give me a call:

George Nartsissov, Chair: 703-425-7044; ganh@verizon.net

Spring Commission Checklist

In spite of March coming in like a lion... spring is just a few weeks away. It's time to start thinking about spring commissioning and getting ready for the season. The checklist below was provided by our friends at BoatUS, and is a good starting point for develop a spring commissioning checklist specific to your own boat.

General Items

- If necessary, reinstall batteries. Top up lead acid batteries with distilled water. Fully charge batteries. Clean, tighten electrical connections, especially terminals of battery cables. Coat battery terminals with insulating film of grease, or apply protective battery terminal spray.
- Open and close seacocks; handles should move freely. Hoses should be double-clamped with stainless-steel hose clamps. Replace any that look rusted.
- Inspect the raw-water intake strainer to be sure it has not cracked, and is clean and free of corrosion. Make sure the strainer's top fits snugly.
- Check running lights. Clean/tighten connections or replace bulbs to assure that all are operating properly.
- Check VHF and GPS antenna connections by disconnecting and spraying with moisture-displacing lubricant, then reconnect and test.
- Look for indications of leaking at trim cylinders and hoses as well as at hydraulic steering pumps and rams. Replace the O-ring or gasket if leaking.
- Make sure the stuffing box or shaft seal is completely dry when the boat is at the dock.
- Inspect portlights, hatches, and deck fittings for dirty or displaced caulking, water trails, dirt, and green corrosion, any of which signals a leak that needs to be recaulked.
- Test bilge pump and high-water switches and alarms.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, LPG and gasoline fume detector.
- Check flares (expiration date) and fire extinguishers (charge), and replace/ recharge as necessary.
- Check and service safety gear such as life jackets, and MOB gear.
- Boats Ashore
- Inspect props for dinging, pitting, and distortion. Make sure cotter pins are secure. Grip the prop and try moving the shaft — if it's loose, the cutlass bearing may need to be replaced.
- Replace plastic fittings near the waterline with bronze or Marelon.
- Inspect the anodes on the shaft, outdrive, and trim tabs. Replace any that are close to half-deteriorated.
- Check to make sure the rudderstock hasn't been bent.
- After the boat is launched, be sure to inspect around the rudder and all thru-hulls for leaks, and check the stuffing box while underway to make sure there is a steady drip.

Outdrives and Outboards

- Check outdrive bellows for cracks and tears (look especially in the folds).
- Check hydraulic trim fluid. If you didn't change it last fall, change it now.
- Check lower-unit lube level. Creamy oil indicates water (and a bad seal). Many manufacturers recommend changing the oil every year.

... Continued on Page 9

Engines and Related Systems

- Flexible gasoline lines should say "USCG Approved, J1527." Replace any that don't.
- Are fuel hoses supple, with no cracks, bulges, or soft spots? Do the lines smell like gasoline (wipe the lines with a clean rag and then smell the rag)? Did you also use a rag to detect odors at connections?
- Cooling hoses should fit snugly and be solidly clamped.
- Replace any hose clamps that show signs of corrosion.
- Replace fuel filters.
- Clean or replace the air filter.
- Change engine oil unless done in the fall (preferable). Check fluid levels: transmission, hydraulic steering fluid, and coolant.
- Check belts for tension and wear.
- Check raw-water and freshwater pumps for seepage, which indicates a gasket needs to be replaced.
- Replace raw-water impellers if they are more than a year old.
- Examine exhaust manifolds for signs of corrosion and water seepage that indicate blockage. If you suspect a problem, remove the manifold.
- Replacing the (inexpensive) gaskets at the heat exchanger every year helps prevent corrosion at the housing and also lets you look for gunk that can clog the stacks.
- Test bilge blower and inspect hose.
- Inspect outer jacket of cables for cracks and swelling, either of which indicates the cable must be replaced. Use waterproof grease at the ends.

Sailboat Rigging

- Inspect swage fittings for rust and cracks. Running rigging should be supple and free of chafe.
- Run a rag over stays and shrouds to find "fishhooks" that indicate the wire needs to be replaced.
- Ensure that spreaders bisect the shrouds. Ends should be protected to prevent chafe.
- Remove tape at turnbuckles and lubricate threads (preferably with Teflon).
- Run a water hose over chainplates to check for leaks. Look for rust streaks inside and out. If necessary, remove them and recaulk

Fun Facts about Pirates

- Although Hollywood pirates, such as Jack Sparrow's friends, like to grumble "arr" or "arrrgh" frequently, real pirates were not known to do so. Hollywood actor Robert Newton, who played Long John Silver in the 1950s had a regional accent from the Cotswolds district of southwest England where they like to roll the "r" a bit. However, your average real pirate did not exaggeratedly roll their "r" like the fictional ones do.
- Pirates pierced their ears, not to look suave, but because it was believed that piercing the ears with such precious metals as silver and gold, improved one's eyesight. Even relatively respectable sea faring men indulged in the practice.
- No one has actually ever found a real pirate's buried treasure map. Never too far from death, most pirates tried to enjoy their money quickly. At any rate, there aren't any maps around today, unless some are still cleverly hidden.