



# of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLIX Number 4

July/August 2016



## Mark Your Calendar

NVSPS Meetings and Events

### August 2016

No General Membership Meeting  
No Executive Committee Meeting

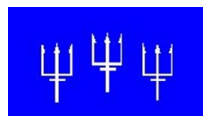
### September 2016

14 General membership Meeting  
Speaker Information Page 7  
1930—2100 BoatUS Headquarters

28 Executive Committee Meeting  
1930—2100 BoatUS Headquarters

### October 2016

No General Membership Meeting  
15 Octoberfest Picnic  
Fairfax Yacht Club  
26 Executive Committee Meeting  
1930—2100 BoatUS Headquarters



## Commander Sends...

CDR Frederick D. Zugay, JN

With the summer almost at its midpoint, we are into the hot and humid weather season of boating in the Washington DC Metro area. You go through the work week with good weather looking forward to boating on the weekend and then the weekend weather changes to thunderstorms and/or high winds, not in favor for small crafts. It seems to happen a lot around here. And now towards the end of July, the area is in for some extremely hot, triple digit weather on the weekend, most likely keeping me off the water. Well, there's always next weekend.

The squadron had its annual Spring Picnic on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Fairfax Yacht Club. Eighteen members gathered for plenty of food along with the Commander's Locker. A short General Meeting was held with the rest of the time spent enjoying each other's company. Our VSC Inspectors, P/C Rich Unis, JN, P/C Gale Alls, SN and Lt/C Dave Hinkins, S performed inspections on boats at the Yacht Club at the owner's request before and after the picnic.

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A detailed Squadron calendar including all meetings and educational courses can be found on our web site [www.nvsp.org](http://www.nvsp.org)



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

### Call for...

- Photographs to share in our 50th Anniversary Year
- Trophies to display at our anniversary celebration

Contact John Karjala

703-818-8676, [JGKarjala@verizon.net](mailto:JGKarjala@verizon.net)

Find us on 



## Bridge Officers

### COMMANDER

Lt/C Frederick D. Zugay, JN  
703-815-1954  
eaglebs271@cox.net



### EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Sean Gallagher, JN  
703-548-5851  
hawk-eye@earthlink.net



### EDUCATION OFFICER

Lt/C Ed Phillips, AP  
703-771-7096  
education@nvsp.org



### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Kim-Kwok Chu, S  
703-280-4848  
admin@nvsp.org



### SECRETARY

Lt/C Mary-Jane Hinkins  
303-349-0106  
secretary@nvsp.org



### TREASURER

Lt/C David Hinkins, S  
303-349-3000  
treasurer@nvsp.org



### MEMBERS AT LARGE

P/C Alan Hart, AP	540-898-6002
P/C John Karjala, P	703-818-8676
P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP	703-370-4331
P/C Richard E. Unis, JN	703-777-8378
P/C Francis Williamson, AP	703-440-9074

### 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 S. Pickett Street, Alexandria VA 22304

From the Capital Beltway, take the VA-613/ Van Dorn St exit number 173, towards Franconia. Turn left onto S. Van Dorn St / VA-613 North. Turn left onto S. Pickett St. 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. Use buzzer to request entry.

### About Our Potomac River...

- The Potomac River is approximately 405 miles long, with a watershed of about 14,700 square miles.
- In terms of area, this makes the Potomac River the fourth largest river along the Atlantic coast of the US, 21st largest in the US.
- Over 5 million people live within the Potomac watershed
- It flows through West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC
- The river water source is recorded with the Fairfax Stone in West Virginia, placed in 1746 to settle a boundary dispute
- An average of approximately 486 million US gallons of water per day is withdrawn daily in the Washington area for water supply.

Source: Wikipedia - Potomac River



## Of Tars & Terns

The official publication of the  
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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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**Volume XLIX; Number 4: July/August 2016**

### EDITOR

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

### ASST to the EDITOR

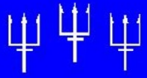
Claire Wyngaard  
703-494-2065  
cwyngaard@verizon.net

### DISTRIBUTION

Lt Manette B. Lazear, AP  
703-620-1821  
lakematesm@comcast.net

### WEBMASTER

D/Lt Walter D. Lazear, AP  
703-620-1821  
lakematesw@comcast.net



## Commander Sends...

CDR Frederick D. Zugay, JN

*Continued from Page 1*

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, Chaired by Sue Karjala, P has met four times at the Alls residence. The committee has decided on a date and place for the event. The Squadron will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from Noon to 4:00 PM at the Springfield Country Club in Springfield, VA. Please save this date. More information will be given in our fall newsletters. Looking ahead to next spring's D5 Conference, the committee has decided the theme for the Hospitality Suite will be the Squadron's upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

At our July 13<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting, we had the pleasure of hearing City of Alexandria Archaeologist Benjamin Skolnik talk about the circumstances and efforts behind the discovery, excavation, recovery, and preservation of a 200+ year old 18<sup>th</sup> century vessel which was discovered last December along Alexandria's Waterfront. Mr. Skolnik presented an interesting slideshow of photos as part of his presentation.

I am happy to report that our Lt/C Kim-Kwok Chu, S was doing better after his two surgeries according to his wife Ying. Ying informed me that A Go Fund Me page has been set up to help with Kim's Medical Expenses. The Website is: <http://gofund.me/help4ying> if anyone wishes to make a donation. At the last EXCOM, it was decided to make a donation on behalf of the Squadron to help Kim.

August is just around the corner. As usual, there are no Squadron meetings planned for August. Our next General Membership Meeting will be held on September 14<sup>th</sup> at BoatUS. P/C Gale Alls, SN has worked his connections and has lined up a great guest speaker for the meeting (see the upcoming September Newsletter for more information). We will also present to the squadron a sample of our new Burgee displaying the Gold Border in recognition of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Orders can be placed for the new burgee beginning this fall. Please pencil in the date of Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> as the Squadron's Fall Octoberfest Picnic at the Fairfax Yacht Club.

Enjoy the rest of your summer on your boat and please stay safe on the water.

**CDR Frederick D. Zugay, JN**

*eaglebs271@cox.net*



## Executive Officer Message

LT/C Sean Gallagher, JN

In attempting to pull something of value together for this edition of the Tars and Terns, I reviewed the Coast Guard District 5 reports since the first of the year. While there were a few public service announcements, most of the entries pointed to avoidable accidents. These incidents included both vessel defects and operator error. What's puzzling here is that while the number of incidents seem to be climbing, the number of students enrolled in our courses seems to be waning and not only in our Squadron but in all the Squadrons in this District. While the Squadron Education Officer and the Training Department is doing everything they can to raise awareness and participation, they are having only limited success. So now, I'm appealing to the rest of the Squadron to help us reverse this trend of dwindling students. Enroll in classes, send us your ideas, promote the training programs of the US Power Squadron, sign up for instructor training and maybe even try your hand at teaching a seminar or a class. It's a very rewarding experience to witness the students gaining vital knowledge on a variety of topics and knowing that you may be individually responsible for saving their lives in the event of an emergency. Contact the Squadron Education Officer LCDR Ed Phillips as soon as possible.

On a similar topic, our stable of Vessel Safety Examiners has dwindled and is in need of some new volunteers. It's really a lot of fun and you get to meet some interesting boat owners. All you need to qualify as an Examiner is to review the VSE package online, take and pass the exam and then perform five examinations under the watchful eye of a certified examiner. Once you successfully complete those two exams, grab a handful of decals get inspecting!

**LT/C Sean Gallagher, JN**

*Hawk-eye@earthlink.net*



## *Educational Officer Message*

Lt/C Ed Phillips, AP

The NVSPS will continue to present USPS 2016 seminars normally on the 2nd and 4th Saturday's of the month with some exceptions to accommodate holiday weekends.

The seminars are presented at the **Alexandria West Marine Store** at 601 South Patrick St, Alexandria, VA 22314 from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM. If you have an interest in teaching a seminar, please let me know. These are the scheduled USPS seminars through the end of the year:

- Emergencies on Board, August 13
- Anchoring, August 27
- Partner in Command, September 10
- Sail Trim, September 24
- Man Overboard, October 8
- Marine Radar, October 22
- Knots, Bends & Hitches, November 12

I would like to schedule a Virginia Safe Boating Course and a USPS Piloting Course. Please pass the word around and let me know if anyone you know is interested in attending one of these classes. Check our website [nvsp.org](http://nvsp.org) for updates on plans.

Keep Learning!

**Lt/C Ed Phillips, AP**  
[seo@nvsp.org](mailto:seo@nvsp.org)



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## *Secretary*

Lt/C MaryJane Hinkins

It's been a tough boating year. First we had so many days of rain and now it's heat and humidity, but there is still no better place to spend your summer days than on a boat. It's just so much better to be rocking gently on the water, the fish jumping, the birds overhead, what a life we have!

We had a great picnic at the Fairfax Yacht Club this year. There were so many delicious dishes and wonderful companionship and the Vessel Safety check guys were very busy. Our next meeting will be September 14 and what a meeting it is going to be. The Owner of Weems and Plath will be our guest speaker. It sounds very exciting. We can hardly wait.

On September 17 Dave and I are again going to host A Day at the Creek. Come and celebrate with us. The creek has been great this year. Last year we had 2 bald eagles. This year we have seen more, plus the hummingbirds have been eating us out of sugar. The creek is great for kayaking, jet skis, and other small boats. It's only a half mile off the Rappahannock River. We hope to not have the same luck with our boat Stanley taking folks out to the River and picking up a crab pot. Let's hope to not repeat that! I am sure P/C Unis doesn't want to go through that again. He jumped in the water and removed the pot from our Starboard engine. We were very grateful! Come and see Dave's handy work. He put in a small boat lift for our aluminum boat. He did a great job. I'll have pictures for our next newsletter.

Come and enjoy the day and the creek.

**Lt/C MaryJane Hinkins**  
[mjhinkins@msn.com](mailto:mjhinkins@msn.com)



## ***Message From the Vessel Safety Check (VSC) Chair***

I volunteered to assume responsibility for our Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program this year after our past VSC Chair, P/C George Nartsissov, AP, moved to Florida. The VSC program is a very important ongoing public service effort sponsored by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons. Qualified Vessel Examiners (VEs) from both organizations provide courtesy safety checks to mariners to ensure required safety equipment is aboard and in operational condition. In addition, the VEs discuss safe boating practices while conducting their reviews to ensure boaters are well informed of their responsibilities. Most importantly, VEs award the VSC decal (like the one pictured above) to boat owners whose vessels meet the minimum safety requirements. The decals are affixed to the port side of a boat in plain view of marine law enforcement personnel (US Coast Guard and Auxiliary personnel, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Officers and Maryland Department of Natural Resource Police, etc). Merely having the decal won't guarantee a vessel won't be stopped and boarded but it does send a message to the boating law enforcement personnel that the boat owner is conscientious and took the time to ensure they had the proper safety equipment on board. It's still up to the boat owner/operator to comply with boating laws and regulations.

To date, NVSPS VEs have conducted 50 (fifty) VSCs as a public service to the boating community. We have conducted them at the Fairfax Yacht Club (during our NVSPS Spring Picnic), Captain John S. Beach Marina, Old Dominion Boat Club, down on the Northern Neck (thanks to P/C Gale Alls, SN) and at various other locations. VE's can perform VSC's anywhere in the United States. We have another VSC event at Old Dominion Boat Club in Alexandria on Saturday, July 23.

We could conduct far more VSCs but we need more VEs. If you would like to become a VE, please let me know. You will need to study the VSC manual and take a quick certification exam, then conduct five VSCs in the presence of a qualified VE before becoming certified and able to conduct them on your own. It's not overly difficult and it's a lot of fun. I particularly enjoy meeting other boaters and assisting them to ensure their vessel contains all of the required safety equipment in order to meet the requirements to be awarded the VSC decal. You never know when your efforts just might save a life. Besides that, it's a great learning experience. I have already learned a lot about various vessels. Come join the program!

Contact

***P/C Rich Unis, JN***

703-777-8378

*skipperunis@gmail.com*

***Save the Date for our 50th Anniversary Celebration!***  
***Sunday, May 7, 2017***

Noon to 4:00 p.m.

At The Springfield Golf & Country Club, Springfield, VA

Details to be announced.





**Fishing, crabbing, and if high tide, boat rides should be available. Don't want to drive back? Bring a bed roll. We have spare bedrooms. (Not many extra beds but we have the rooms!)**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2016**

**11:00 AM TO WHENEVER  
Come and Celebrate with us**

- ⇒ Take I-95 to exit 130A (second exit) south towards Fredericksburg. Hwy 3 South turns right outside of Fredericksburg.
- ⇒ Continue south on Hwy 3 past Warsaw continue to 608 (Farnham Creek, Rd.) then turn right.
- ⇒ Continue on 608 to the fork in the road to 606 (Simonson Rd) on the left.
- ⇒ Continue to Indian Banks Rd on the right. We are the first house at the curve on the left. Park on the shoulder or in the driveway.

(Warsaw has a strict 45 mph speed limit beginning before the divided hwy.) Children (bring Life Jackets) with parents welcome.

If you have any questions, feel free to call us at 303.349.0106.

**Come to a  
Day at the Creek II**

**Join the Hinkins  
and other NVSPS  
folk for a day at  
the Creek**

**Bring a lawn chair,  
your favorite water  
toy (paddle boards,  
jet skis, canoes,  
rafts, small  
(trailerable) boats,  
life jackets)**

**We will provide  
hamburgers, hot  
dogs, and either  
pulled pork or beef  
brisket**

**Bring a side dish  
or dessert**

**HINKINS  
443 Indian Banks Rd  
Farnham, VA 22460**

**RSVP  
MJHinkins@msn.com  
DaveHinkins@msn.com  
By Sept. 10, 2016**

## **September 14 Meeting Guest Speaker Weems & Plath, Owner and President Peter Trogdon Presenting "History of Navigation"**

Weems & Plath, the nationally known purveyor of all things "navigation", brings us Peter Trogdon. He promises it will be fun as he covers the last 4,000 years of navigation heroes and systems used in about 40 minutes. From the Polynesians to GPS navigation, you will enjoy learning some new things along the way. He will also tell us about what is happening at Weems & Plath.

Peter Trogdon grew up boating in the Pacific Northwest and now resides in Annapolis, MD. They own a Harbor 20 sailboat and a Zimmerman 36, BEE WEEMS, which they have cruised on every summer since 2006, logging over 20,000 miles from the Bahamas to Maine on the Eastern seaboard and from Anacortes to Alaska in the Pacific Northwest. They have also cruised portions of the Great Loop, up the Hudson River through the Erie Canal to the Great lakes and up to Lake Champlain and Montreal. Peter has cruised offshore in the Pacific, Atlantic, Caribbean and Mediterranean. Peter has been the owner of Weems & Plath since 1995.

Weems & Plath is a United States Power Squadrons Partner. [www.Weem-Plath.com](http://www.Weem-Plath.com)

*P/C Gale Alls, SN*

## **Thanks to Benjamin Skolnik, City of Alexandria Archaeologist**

City of Alexandria Archaeologist Benjamin Skolnik presented in July about the discovery, excavation, recovery and steps to preserve an 18th century ship. He has a background in digital research with historic maps and using laser scanning to record archaeological sites. He participated in the recovery of the 1755 John Carlyle Warehouse and the 18th century ship from Alexandria's Waterfront.

Learn more about the project with an opportunity to contribute  
at [www.alexandriava.gov/historic/archaeology](http://www.alexandriava.gov/historic/archaeology)

*Remember to return any  
NVSPS borrowed equipment  
to the squadron*

*Contact John Karjala  
703-818-8676, [JGKarjala@verizon.net](mailto:JGKarjala@verizon.net)*

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[WWW.USPSD5.ORG](http://WWW.USPSD5.ORG)  
[WWW.NVSPS.ORG](http://WWW.NVSPS.ORG)



D/Lt W. Lazear, AP  
2014 Lakebreeze Way  
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**America's Boating Club**