



Boat Show Issue: Make the Most of Your Boat Show Visit, Buyer and Seller Documents, New Boater Info 8-9



Mark Your Calendar

NVSPS Meetings and Events

February 2017

- 22 Executive Committee Meeting
1930-2100 BoatUS Headquarters

March 2017

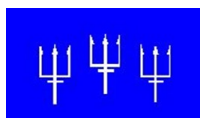
- 8 General Membership Meeting and
Annual Elections
- 10-12 Nat. Capital Boat Show , Chantilly, VA
- 18 **Change of Watch**
1200-1600 American Legion, Fairfax, VA
- 22 Executive Committee Meeting
1930-2100 BoatUS Headquarters
- 31 - Apr 2 District 5 Spring Conference
Ocean City, MD

April 2017

- 12 General Membership Meeting
- 26 Executive Committee Meeting
1330-2100 BoatUS Headquarters

May 2017

- 7 **50th Anniversary Celebration**
Springfield Golf & Country Club



Commander Sends...

CDR Frederick D. Zugay, JN

Spring will arrive in about another month. I recently received in the mail my bill and contract for my boat's boatel slip at my marina. These two signs surely point to the fact that the boating season for 2017 is right around the corner.

As I write this article, my boat will be available in about six weeks, weather permitting. Our boat is stored at the Prince William Marina Marina in Woodbridge, VA in their 200+ boat capacity boatel. Large forklifts are used to transport the boats in and out of the boatel.

We have stored our boat there from the day we took delivery in March 2002. For Cindy and I, with our work schedules and travel, this is the best way to keep

Continued on Page 3

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Read this newsletter online in COLOR!

A detailed Squadron calendar can be found on our web site www.nvpsps.org Meetings are 2nd Wednesdays except Aug and

Find us on





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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 website.

BoatUS Headquarters meeting location: 880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA 22304

From 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 first the BoatUS™ sign and go to the lighted parking lot in rear. Proceed to the entrance. Press buzzer to request entry.

- **Submit Photos to display at the 50th Anniversary Celebration. Contact John Karjala, JGKarjala@verizon.net**
- **Share your photos on the NVSPS Facebook page. Submit photos with captions to P/C Alan Hart, AP for consideration, 1oldtar@gmail.com**
- The Fairfax County Park Authority, **Analemma Society** and Great Falls Library have teamed up to present a two-part lecture series, "From Sundials to Satellites to GPS," on **April 6 and May 4, 2017**. Talks will be held in the library's meeting room from 7 to approximately 8:30 p.m. Speaker and details at <http://www.analemma.org/>



Of Tars & Terns

The official publication of the
Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron
www.nvsp.org



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

Of Tars & Terns is published ten months of the year and mailed to all NVSPS members. July/August and January/February issues are combined. All Of Tars & Terns newsletters are published online at NVSPS.org. Submission deadlines are the 15th of the month prior to the issue month (or first issue month in combined issues) until further notice.

Volume I; Number 2: March 2017

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ASST to the EDITOR

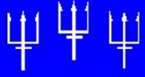
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our boat, a 2002 Sea Ray 270 Sundeck. The boatel season at the marina runs from April 1st to November 1st.

On the day we plan to go boating, as we pull out of our driveway in Centreville we'll call the boatel to request they pull out our boat. They ask if we need gas (if so the tank is topped off) and the boat is placed in the water at the boatel dock, ready to board. Upon our return to the marina after boating on the Potomac, the boat is lifted out of the water, the bottom is washed, and it is returned indoors to its rack (slip). With this type of service, no bottom paint is needed and the boat and canvas (turning 15 this year) still looks practically new.

The spring boat shows are coming up with the closest one being the **22nd Annual National Capital Boat Show, on March 10th to 12th**, at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, VA. Prince William Marina also puts on a boat show on their complex, called the **8th Annual Washington Capital Boating Show on April 28th to 30th**. These shows are a great place to see what is available if you are in the market for a new boat. Or you can check out the many marine vendors, offering their merchandise and services to the public. The Prince William show has an advantage of offering demo rides on some of the more popular models they sell. A search on the Internet will yield a list of other shows in the area or along the Bay.

Our Squadron is planning on having a booth at the Chantilly show like we do every year. We have reserved the **USPS Boating Skills Virtual Trainer** from National for visitors to use. This gives us a chance to interact with the boat show attendee's to inform them of the United States Power Squadron's, and our local Squadron's mission - promoting boating safety and education. This is also a good opportunity to recruit new members for the Squadron. If you have the time, please volunteer to man our booth in this effort. See in this newsletter to sign up.

Our upcoming **March 8th Annual Membership Meeting** is an important one to attend. We need to have a quorum present. At this meeting we will hold elections for our officers to next year's Bridge, and will also approve the budget for next year. The Nominating Committee still has an open spot for the Assistant Administrative Officer. If you have ever wanted to serve on the Squadron's bridge, this would be a good position to get your feet wet. For the meeting program, Lt/C Ed Phillips, AP will be giving a talk on his recent sailing adventures. Plus you can view a sample of the Squadron's new burgee which acknowledges our upcoming 50th Anniversary and place an order for one if you wish.

Start your initial planning for getting your boat ready for the boating season. Attend one of the boat shows mentioned above to get the juices flowing in anticipating to getting back out on the water. Sign up for one of the courses or seminars the Squadron plans on teaching to refresh or obtain new boating skills. Plan on attending March's meeting if you are looking for an answer to any boating questions you may have. The knowledge and experience of our members can't be beat.

Thank you, and welcome to our 50th year!

CDR Frederick D. Zugay, JN
eaglebs271@cox.net

In Sympathy

The Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron extends its deepest sympathy to P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield on the recent death of her granddaughter in Texas.

In lieu of flowers, Cathy has suggested donations be made to the Flower Power Fund. Please make donations payable to NVSPS-FPF to
P/C Dick Durgin, 308 George St. SW, Vienna VA 22180.

2017 Meeting Speakers

March 8: New England Sailing Trip with Lt/C Ed Phillips, AP

Lt/C Ed Phillips, AP will share photos from his New England sailing trip aboard 61' Schooner *Brilliant.*, out of Mystic Seaport, CT.

April 12: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Boating Safety Education with Mary Loose Deviney

Mary Loose Deviney, Regional Coordinator, Boating Safety Education, Virginia Dept of Game and Inland Fisheries (<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov>) will travel from her Richmond office to visit with our squadron.

Mary will share with us what's new at the DGIF for the year 2017. She will highlight the changes in Virginia's boating regulations and requirements for 2017 in her presentation and she will gladly answer questions from the membership.

Please come and welcome Mary back to NVSPS .

P/C Gale Alls, SN

NVSPS Tour of U.S. Coast Guard Barque Eagle

If you love the sea and its history, sign up now for a **special NVSPS tour of the U.S. Coast Guard Barque Eagle on Saturday, April 8, 2017 at 10:00 am.** The *Eagle* will be docked at the Coast Guard Yard, 2401 Hawkins Point Road, Baltimore, MD.

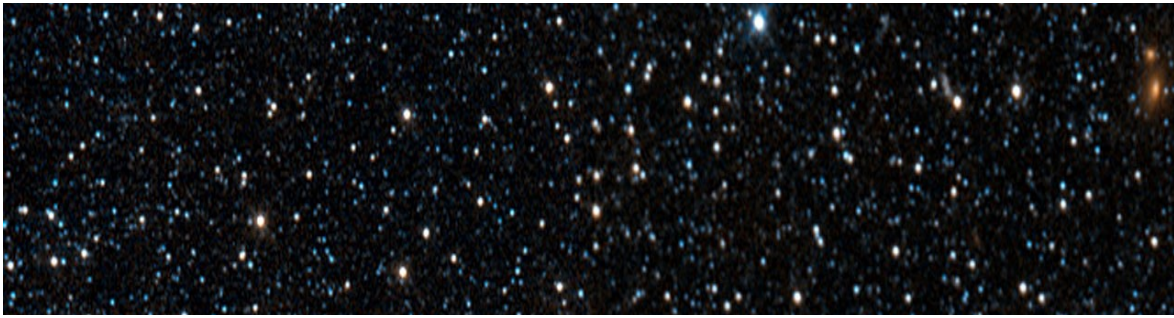
Space is limited, so sign up early by emailing P/C Dick Durgin (rdurgin@aol.com). We must provide a list of tour participants to the CG Yard by April 1. You will receive information about lunch options and last minute details by email.

Be sure to bring your photo ID, auto registration and insurance. Wear slacks and sturdy shoes. Carpooling is encouraged. At the gate you will be directed to park at Building 32. We will receive hard hats and safety instructions at the start of the tour.

Known as "America's Tall Ship," the *Eagle* is the only square-rigger in U.S. government service. The ship was built in 1936 in Germany and commissioned as *Horst Wessel*. At the close of World War II, it was taken as war reparation by the U.S. and recommissioned as the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Eagle*. It will leave Baltimore on April 26 bound for New London to commence the 2017 cadet summer training program. For more: <http://www.cga.edu/eagle/>

Directions to the USCG Yard, 2401 Hawkins Point Road, Baltimore, MD:

From I-95 or Rt. 295 North, turn right onto 695 (Baltimore Beltway) east for 5.4 miles to Exit 1. At the end of the off ramp, bear right. You will immediately come to an intersection with a traffic light (Hawkins Point Road). Bear right on Hawkins Point Road and continue 0.6 miles to the first traffic light. Turn left into the Coast Guard Yard. The gate guard will provide parking directions. If you have any questions, please call P/C Gale Alls who arranged this exceptional tour at 703-569-1511.



A Tour of the Heavens

"THE VIEW THROUGH A TELESCOPE STIMULATES OUR IMAGINATION IN A WAY NOTHING ELSE CAN...IN THIS AGE OF OUTER SPACE TRAVEL, OUR FUTURE DEPENDS UPON AN APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF OUR CELESTIAL NEIGHBORS. THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY IS AVAILABLE ON THIS SITE." --Charles H. Olin, founder of the Analemma Society

On October 1, 2016 the Fairfax County Park Authority in partnership with the Analemma Society opened a magnificent new roll-top observatory in Observatory Park at the Turner Farm in Great Falls, VA.

The observatory houses three permanently mounted telescopes with a provision for a fourth scope. Thanks to Charles H. Olin, a former NVSPS member, the squadron will have an opportunity to visit the new observatory in late April or early May. The date will be depend on the weather for the chosen evening. (More on that later.) The collaboration between the Analemma Society and the FCPA resulted in a new experience for local residents. Over one million dollars was spent to bring the observatory to fruition. Donations came from the 2008 and 2012 Park Bonds, telecommunications funds, Mastenbrook grant money, generous donations from Ric and Jean Edelman through the Fairfax Park Authority, and Jacque and Charles Olin.

An "analemma" according to Wikipedia is " the diagram showing the deviation of the Sun from its mean motion in the sky, as viewed from a fixed location on Earth. Due to the Earth's axial tilt and orbital eccentricity, the Sun will not be in the same position in the sky at the same time every day. The north-south component of the analemma is the Sun's declination, and the east-west component is the equation of time. This figure has the form of a slender figure-eight, and can be found often on globes of the Earth"

If you would like to participate in our visit to Observatory Park please send your name email address and the names others attending with you to: P/C Gale Alls, galeandev@aol.com The Jan/Feb issue listed a schedule of classes at Turner Farm. We will have more information in the April issue of Of T&T.

Submitted by P/C Gale Alls, SN

***The Star Calendar Featured in The Ensign is also online at:
<http://theensign.org/star-calendar-march-2017/>***



Message from the Educational Officer

Our first 2017 educational seminar will be about **Trailer Your Boat**, March 11, at the Alexandria, VA West Marine store on Route 1. 9:30 am to noon. See other seminar dates at www.NVSPS.org as they are announced. If you would like to teach a seminar, please email me to discuss which date(s) work best for you.

The **District 5 Spring Conference, March 30 – Apr 2** will have educational seminars. The offerings will be posted on the D5 website: www.USPSD5.org Location: Ocean City, MD.

The second round of spring courses are underway: **Seamanship** and **Advanced Piloting**, instructed by P/C G. Jay Nelson, AP. Our squadron thanks the staff at the St. George’s Episcopal Church in Arlington, VA for hosting our courses in their classrooms for the Sea Scouts and public. If you would like to take a particular course in the Fall, please email me with which courses would interest you.

Volunteers are needed for the NVSPS booth at the **22nd Annual National Capital Boat Show**, March 10-12 in Chantilly, Virginia. Volunteers get free admission. Please contact me to sign up for a time slot. <http://www.gsevents.com/shows/display.cfm?showID=65>

I will share my **New England Windjammer schooner trip** photos and experience with you at the March 8 meeting.

*Lt/C Ed Phillips, AP
NVSPS SEO
Education@nvspss.org*

NVSPS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CHANGE OF WATCH and Founder’s Day 18 March 2017 – 1130 to 1530 American Legion Post 177 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA 22030

Lunch will be stuffed chicken breast with a possibility of other entre selections, served with mixed vegetables and green beans almandine, potatoes au gratin, tossed salad, rolls and butter, and coffee.

Uniform of the Day –USPS Blazers or Business Casual attire

The Commanders locker will be open.

Beer, wine and setups or soft drinks will be available from the American Legion for nominal charge.

RESERVATIONS

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Spouse/Guest(s): _____

Yes I will attend the Change of Watch on 18 March 2017

Number of _____ Persons @\$35 each \$ _____ Total

Please make checks payable to NVSPS and mail to: NVSPS Treasurer Dave Hinkins, 443 Indian Banks Road, Farnham, VA 22460 or Call Dave at 303.349.3000. Email to DaveHinkins@msn.com or MJHinkins@msn.com. Please mail by March 10.

Local Sea Scout Ship 1942 in Search of Sailmaker Sewing Machine And Two 38-40' Sailboats



Sea Scout 'Ship 1942' needs a couple of larger sailboats in the 38 - 40 size (even larger) to accommodate the increasing number of teenagers in our sailing program on the Bay. Every three summers the Sea Scout Ship 1942 will have sailed the entire Chesapeake Bay. Sea Scout 'Ship 1942' is a IRS Charitable 501 (C)3 Tax Exempt Organization. To learn more about our Local Sea Scout Ship 1942, visit www.SeaScout1942.com

Don't Give up the Ship,

Skipper Tom Ballew

TBallew@cox.net

Sea Scout Ship 1942

Sea Scouts, BSA is a program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women ages 14 to 21. For over 100 years Sea Scouting has promoted better citizenship and improved members' boating skills through instruction and practice in water safety, boating skills, outdoor, social, service experiences, and knowledge of our maritime heritage.

New 50th Anniversary NVSPS Burgee

Orders are now being taken for the **NEW** NVSPS Burgee. A gold band along each side of the fly recognizes the squadron as a fifty year old squadron in the United States Power Squadrons. The official anniversary date will be May 14, 2017.

In honor of this accomplishment, the squadron will take orders for the new burgees to be delivered in early 2017 at the Squadron function. If mailed an additional charge will be added.

Size	Price
10" X 15"	\$24.00 ea
12" X 18"	\$26.75 ea
14" X 21"	\$27.50 ea



Name _____ Phone number _____

Email address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Burgee size _____ number _____ X price _____ = _____

Mail order form P/C Gale Alls, SN H 703-569-1511,

With payment to: 7800 Braemar Way C 703-987-8421,

Springfield, VA 22153E galeandev@aol.com

Make the Most of your Boat Show Visit with Discover Boating

Find a show. Agree on a type of boat with your significant other. Determine your budget. Choose a dealer, like a car dealer, you will start a long-term relationship. See Discover Boating website for more on this advice and tools to help you choose a boat and enjoy it safely afterward:

<http://www.discoverboating.com/resources/article.aspx?id=670>

Get Buyer and Seller Documents Online

Behind most successful used-boat transactions, there's a Purchase Agreement and Bill of Sale that clearly spell out how the boat was bought or sold. The BoatUS Consumer Protection Department now offers both of these documents at no cost online at www.BoatUS.com/consumer.

"A Purchase Agreement is necessary if you intend to buy a boat, but require that certain things must be done before you will accept the boat, such as a satisfactory marine survey, specific repairs, and the ability to finance or insure the boat," said BoatUS Consumer Protection Director Charles Fort. "It also describes both parties' obligations. Once a buyer accepts the boat, the bill of sale is used as proof of purchase. You can download and print both forms 24-hours a day."

Fort also added that while the two forms were designed to meet the needs of most buyers and sellers, they may want to seek legal advice if there are any questions about whether the forms are appropriate for their situation.

The BoatUS Consumer Protection Bureau offers a dispute mediation service, the only national boating complaint database, and provides consumer-oriented information to help boaters make smart buying decisions. For more go to www.BoatUS.com/consumer.

Have Fun Naming Your Boat

Some say you choose the boat. Others say the boat chooses you. Here is one place to find a name that fits you in a hurry — The BoatUS Boat Graphics Boat Name Directory:

<http://www.BoatUS.com/boatgraphics/boat-name-directory.asp>

Boat Buying Advice, How-To Projects and Tips to Explore

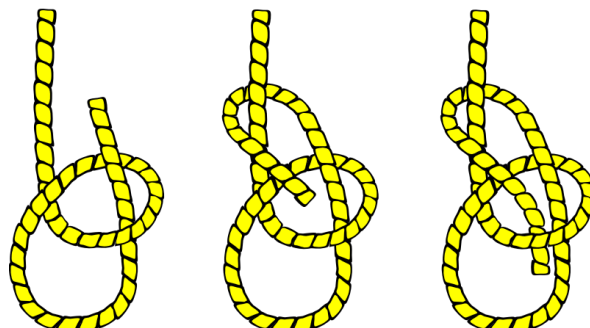
Boats.com: <http://www.boats.com/how-to/>

Boating Magazine: <http://www.boatingmag.com/boats/boat-buying-answers>

BoatTest.com: <http://www.boattest.com/how-to-buy-your-first-boat>



Photo credits: BoatUS



"New to Boating" Pages Have Resources for Finding the Right Boat

This is the fun part — looking at different boats to find one that fits your needs and your budget. With the advent of the Internet, it's much easier to research and narrow down some possibilities before you actually jump in your car.

New boats, like new cars, are typically bought through a dealer, and often dealers will take trades and assist with financing.

Some dealers carry more than one line, widening the selection. Pick a dealer based on reputation. Ask around and take a few minutes to do some online research and look at owner reviews of boats you're considering. Check for Better Business Bureau complaints. BoatUS members can search the Consumer Protection database and see if there are reported problems with a specific model or dealership. Boat shows can be a great place to see a lot of new boats side by side, and dealers often offer attractive pricing. Dealers of new boats also frequently sell used boats as well.



For most people, the biggest advantage of buying a new boat is the warranty that comes with it. Simply put, the warranty is the manufacturer's promise to stand behind its products by providing service and repairs after purchase. Because marine warranties vary widely in their coverage, compare them before you buy. Look for multiyear warranties for hull and engines, as well as coverage for osmotic blistering — a common problem on fiberglass boats that's expensive to fix. Some manufacturers offer "bow-to-stern" warranties that cover everything, usually for no more than a year, in addition to a longer warranty for the hull and engines. Find out whether the warranties transfer to subsequent owners — a crucial determinant of resale value. Read more at <http://www.BoatUS.com/newto boating/>.

10 Steps to Owning a Boat

- Think about what it takes to buy a car — many of the steps are the same. (financing, insurance, on the water/road towing, warranty).
- Determine how, when, and where you are going to use the boat.
- Decide where you are going to keep the boat.
- Take a boating safety course.
- Find out about the required equipment and the nice to have equipment.
- Go to a boat show.
- If buying a used boat of some value, get it surveyed.
- Know the boat's value.
- Take a test ride.

See details for each of these steps at:

<http://www.BoatUS.com/newto boating/10-steps-to-owning-a-boat.asp>

Photo credit: BoatUS

Reprinted courtesy of BoatUS Consumer Protection Bureau

U.S. Coast Guard Barque *Eagle* Cruise

by Quartermaster Sea Scout Molly Sternberg



See Eagle
Tour Info on
page 4

A ticket aboard the Barque *Eagle* is an honor, often the only people allowed aboard while underway are Coast Guard trainees, and the crew. I applied, and was lucky to be selected as one of only six Sea Scouts in the United States to board and join swabs from the Coast Guard academy in their training.

The trip is a completely inclusive experience, and one of the most amazing I have ever been on. Once aboard, I was assigned to a division and shown to my cabin. I was introduced to the members of my division and immediately was caught up in the crazy inner-workings of the *Eagle*.

I assumed it was expected of me to jump in and participate fully in all that the swabs were undertaking. However, I was complimented often on my determination to assist and not sit out and observe like other guests had done. Because of this, the swabs in my division took me in and treated me as one of their own. We all got along well, and they were very helpful with teaching me a little more about beginning life in the Coast Guard. This was particularly amazing for me because of my expressed desire to be selected as an Officer Candidate at OCS. Not to mention my long-term goal of graduating and going on to become a fully-fledged officer in the United States Coast Guard.

While aboard the *Eagle*, myself and my Sea Scout counterpart, Joshua, were excited to join the swabs in the required climb to the tops and over, as well as their seamanship training, and competitions. I also was very happy to join them for their morning and evening workouts on deck each day. I tried to immerse myself in 'the Coast Guard' experience as much as I could. As an aspiring officer, I was extremely interested in the tasks junior officers are expected to do as well as observing their interactions with their higher-ups and the duties of the senior officers as well.

I was excited to speak to the enlisted crew and learn their stories, why they had joined, and such. They were fascinating people! One woman stood watch with my division when we were assigned the midnight shift, she showed us the stars and we climbed to the tops for a better look. She was telling us that she has a Master's degree in Psychology, and engaged our group in fascinating conversation.

The four hours flew by, and it was incredibly peaceful on the ocean at night. A majority of the crew members I spoke to said they had been observing me and they liked my attitude, and even wished me luck with OCS! When on watch later, we were given the full experience and even got to spend a few hours with the engineers learning all about the ships systems.

One of the many highlights of the experience for me was eating lunch with the captain. Joshua and I, as well as two girls aboard from a maritime academy, were invited to the Wardroom half-way through the trip. We were introduced to the captain and spent the meal telling him about ourselves and our aspirations. The captain was very interested in how our *Eagle* experience was going. He was happy to hear everything we had to say and it was an awesome lunch.

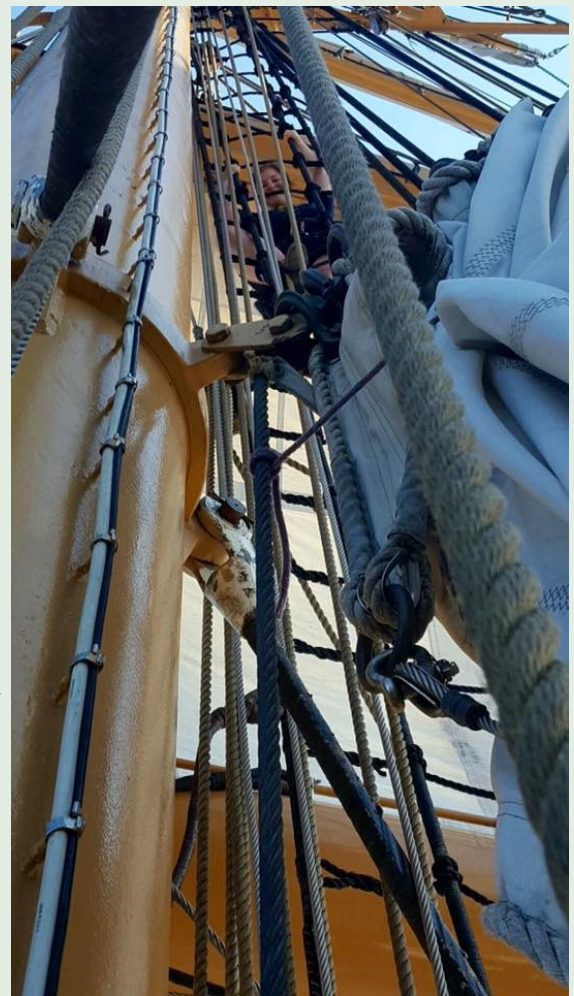
My absolute favorite experience of the entire week was the day that I climbed to the trees of the rigging. I was the only one of my division who was not afraid to climb that high. In fact, I climbed back up three times in 30 minutes to adjust the sails again, because of the yardarms needing adjustments for winds. I even am happy to have a few photographs of my tiny self, working up in the rigging and climbing back down. The others of my division were impressed that I actually climbed that high,

I was just 15-20 feet from the highest point of the main mast. It was terrifying and exhilarating, the view was absolutely incredible. I asked the crew member if I could go up again because I didn't want to return to the deck.

Above all I cannot expect to name one thing that stood out the most though, I enjoyed it all: midnight



watch, watching the dolphins playing near the bow as we cut through the water, the food (even though I've heard horror stories from my military friends, I was not disappointed by the meals aboard), the late night work, early wake-ups the next day, the strict schedule, and the members of my division. It was interesting the amount of maritime knowledge I possessed from Sea Scouting that the Academy students did not know. I was asked by a 2nd Class to teach the knots course when he realized I knew 3x as many knots as he did and could tie the ones he knew more efficiently.



Continued on Page 10

USPS District 5 Spring Conference: 50 is Nifty in Ocean City



The first 2017 event of our 50th anniversary celebration will begin at 7:00 pm on Friday, March 31 at the District 5 Spring Conference. The NVSPS crew will open the doors of Suite 217 at the Princess Royale Hotel to all District 5 members for an evening of fun and festivity. Registration form at <http://www.USPSD5.org> Use this best phone number for the Princess Royale hotel: 800-476-9253.

Our theme is **Nifty, Nifty – Look Who’s 50!** There will be displays with photos and memorabilia from our 50 years of learning, serving and partying. There will be games and refreshments for everyone. Our hospitality suite is one of many sponsored by D5 squadrons. You are welcome to visit every one from 7:00 to 10:00 pm!

The D5 Spring Conference is held from March 30 through April 2 at the Princess Royale Hotel, 9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD. See the D5 web site for more information. A registration form is included in this newsletter. A schedule of meetings and workshops that begin on Fri. morning will be posted soon. It will list workshops on topics of interest to all members, squadron affairs and resources, boating safety issues, CPR/first aid, and more. Be sure to reserve your room by March 1 for the USPS rate. This event makes a nice end-of-winter getaway at the beach.

NVSPS’s hospitality suite will serve as a gathering place for our crew with refreshments available throughout the weekend and a continental breakfast on Saturday morning. You are invited to bring an appetizer to share on Friday and Saturday evenings.

So pack up your NVSPS polo shirt and join us for a great weekend in Ocean City. Don’t have a shirt? Go to <http://nvsp.sqbstores.com> to shop for your favorite style and color in our on-line store. Or contact Dick Durgin (703-560-9106) for one of the few remaining navy polo shirts in inventory (men’s size XL; women’s LG, XL, XXL) @ \$10.00 each.

See you in Ocean City!
50th Anniversary Committee

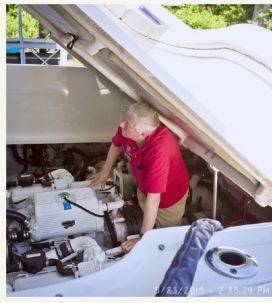


Continued from Page 9.

There was even a mini competition on board near the end of the week. I competed in heaving line and knots, it felt like I was back with my ship at the Henry Nygard Regatta. Overall, I enjoyed being back in my element, teaching the swabs how to tie knots as basic as the bowline. I explained all about Sea Scouting and what I had learned as a member, it was entertaining watching them look amazed when I named all of the knots I knew how to tie. Over the course of the week, I think the most hilarious thing though was the fact that there were three girls named Molly aboard, and we were all in the same cabin.... same division. What are the odds?

The trip was absolutely incredible, I wish that I could live it over and over again. Hopefully, I’ll be back aboard the *Eagle* one more time soon, this time as an Officer Candidate!

Submitted by Molly Sternberg. Ship 1942/NVSPS Contact Point Skipper Tom Ballew, TBallew@cox.net



From the
Vessel Safety Check
(VSC)
P/C Rich Unis, JN, Chair



The time has come to prepare for the 2017 boating season, which is just around the corner. Getting ready for the season includes ensuring the squadron has a robust VSC program and is prepared to respond to annual requests from the community for VSC's of their vessels. The US Coast Guard (USCG) Auxiliary and the USPS have certified Vessel Examiners (VE's) who provide courtesy safety checks to mariners to ensure required safety equipment is onboard and in operational condition. VE's also discuss safe boating practices while conducting the checks to ensure boaters are well prepared and informed of their responsibilities. Those boaters who meet all of the requirements are awarded a VSC decal, which is good throughout the calendar year. I recently received our initial allotment of VSC decals for 2017 from District 5.

NVSPS currently has four actively certified VE's and two VE's who need to requalify in order to conduct VSC's on their own. We need even more squadron volunteers to become certified this year to conduct VSC's to meet the demand from the boating community. **Last year we conducted a total of 67 VSC's** - eclipsing the 45 VSC's conducted in 2015; that's a 48% increase! However, I know there are more than 67 boats in Alexandria and at the Fairfax Yacht Club alone. This year I plan to canvas other marinas in our local area to ensure that all boaters have an opportunity to request and receive a VSC if they so desire. My hope is that we will need to obtain more VSC decals from District 5.

If you are on the fence and not sure whether you have the knowledge, skills, time or ability to conduct VSC's, then I have several suggestions. First, HQ USPS has released a number of boating videos for the public, including one on the VSC program. To see the video, go to www.youtube.com and search on USPS DML. A list of the available videos will pop up. Just scroll down and click on the "Vessel Safety Check" video for a great overview of the VSC program and requirements for boat operators. The video will give you a very good idea of the items that VE's check and how a VE is conducted. Secondly, I will refer you to the USCG Vessel Safety Check Manual (COMDTINST M16796.8A, dated October 2014). You just need to be familiar with the requirements in this manual and take/pass an online written exam. **I will help you prepare for the exam, if needed. After passing the exam, you will be buddied up with a qualified VE and will conduct 5 VE's together before being certified to conduct VE's on your own.**

We can conduct far more VSC's this year and help make the local waters safer but we need you! Please let me know if you would like to become a VE. Words can't describe how much fun I had last year in meeting other boaters. It was extremely satisfying to assist them to ensure their vessel contained 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 opportunity to share the merits of NVSPS and USPS with local boaters. Come join the program!

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

The Following Members are Nominated for the Offices Indicated for the Year 2017-2018:

Bridge Officers:

Commander	CDR Fred Zugay, JN
Executive Officer	Lt/C Sean Gallagher
Education Officer	Lt/C Ed S. Phillips, AP
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Kim-Kwok Chu, S
Asst Admin. Officer	VACANT
Secretary	Lt/C Mary-Jane Hinkins, S
Treasurer	Lt/C Dave Hinkins, S

Elections will be held at the squadron's annual meeting on **March 8, 2017**, when nominations may also be made from the floor.

Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee:

Lt Richard E. Cohen, P
P/C Alan R. Hart, AP
P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP
P/C Richard E. Unis, JN
P/C Francis Williamson, AP

Nominating Committee:

P/C Jere Dando, AP
Lt Robert Donahue, AP
P/C Alan Hart, AP
P/C G. Jay Nelson, AP
P/C Richard Unis, JN

Rules Committee:

P/C Gale Alls, SN
Lt Evelyn Alls, P
P/C Richard Durgin, JN
P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP
P/C John Shivik, AP

Auditing Committee:

Lt Robert Donahue, AP
P/C Richard E. Unis, JN
P/C Francis Williamson, AP

**Respectfully submitted,
P/C Alan Hart, AP**



Visit the National Capital Boat Show March 10-12

Volunteers are needed for the NVSPS booth at the **22nd Annual National Capital Boat Show**, March 10-12 in Chantilly Virginia. Volunteers receive free show admission. Please contact me to sign up for a time slot. We will have the USPS Boating Skills Virtual Trainer at the booth, which has undergone graphics improvements since last year that you have to see. The show will feature a wide range of boats, marinas, boat lifts, floating docks, outboard and inboard motors, marine electronics, water sports and safety equipment. Find dealers and experts from the region in one place. For directions and hours, visit <http://www.gsevents.com/shows/display.cfm?showID=65>



Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron

Cordially invites you to its

50th Anniversary Celebration

On Sunday, May 7, 2017

12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m.

At Springfield Golf & Country Club

8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, Virginia 22152



- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Social Hour, Appetizers, Cash Bar
- 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. Commander's Welcome
- 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Buffet Banquet: Field Greens with Almonds & Dried Cranberries
Chicken Florentine with Brandy Cream Sauce, Chef Francesco's Beef Bourguignon
Red Skinned Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Vegetables, Warm Rolls and Butter
Cake, Coffee and Tea
- 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Socializing, Cash Bar, Exhibits of Squadron History, Memory Sharing

Uniform, business or party attire.

For directions, visit their website at www.sgccva.org. Handicapped parking is available on the first level in front of the clubhouse.

Response Card (cut and return)

Cost for each person attending is **\$40.00** and will include an updated Book to the 40th Anniversary Book, covering the last 10 years.

Members attending: _____

Guests attending: _____

Enclosed is a check payable to NVSPS for \$_____ for _____ attendees.

Please mail this response card back to P/C Gale Allis, SN, 7800 Braemar Way, Springfield, VA 22153 by 30 April, 2017.
P/C Gale Allis, SN, ph: 703-569-1511



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