



Online Courses — A Great Alternative

We love in-person courses and encourage all boaters to take them. They keep us on our toes, encourage us to ask questions, take notes, and pay attention. Instructors share their enthusiasm for the fun of boating and the dangers, making the important points memorable and feeling good we learned something that may save someone's life someday. Though every effort should be made to attend a live class, sometimes we can either get someone started with an online course, or learn MORE with an online course. Then there are times like these, in the midst of a coronavirus pandemic.

- USPS developed 11 online courses with the BoatU.S. Foundation from our tried and true USPS classroom course material.
- These are good courses that include information about what USPS does at the end of the course, so we have a full "advertisement" for USPS in each one.
- After each course taker completes their course, the BoatU.S. Foundation sends non-USPS members contact information to the nearest several squadrons so they can have an opportunity to join and continue their education (we hope with our in-person classes, of course). With both BoatU.S. Foundation and USPS promotion, this is an big outreach beyond our walls.
- USPS Members receive a 25% discount

Continued on page 5.

Course list on page 8



The Sea Scouts cover a third of the bay each year: upper, middle, lower—so in the 3rd year, they've covered the "whole" bay! A tall order.

April Meeting Cancelled. Next Planned event is Spring Picnic

Check the nvsp.org website for cancellations or with any Bridge Officer.

March

25 Executive Committee Meeting. Conference Call. Ask Bridge Officer for info

April

13 Gen. Membership Mtg Cancelled

22 Executive Committee Mtg. Conf Call

24-26 Annapolis Spring Sailboat Show (at press time, On Hold)

Other Events Planned

May 16, Spring Picnic, Fairfax Yacht Club

July 20-23, Mid Atlantic Summer Cruise

July 23-26, Summer Council & Rendezvous

Oct 17, Oktoberfest, Fairfax Yacht Club

*Love our Terns?
"Tern" to page 4!*



Bridge Officers

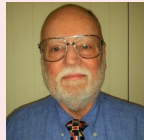
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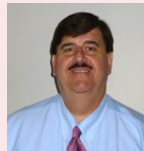
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703-569-1511
secretary@nvsp.org



TREASURER

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



New Meeting Information. All are welcome.

General Membership Mtgs at Alexandria Police HQ Community Rm, 3600 Wheeler Ave, Alexandria, VA 7:30 pm, until further notice, are:

- on the **2nd Tues of each month** except no mtgs in Aug. and Dec.
- The May and Oct. mtgs are combined with other events on different days., normally Spring Picnic and Fall Picnic on Saturdays.

Executive Committee Mtgs, 7 pm: by Conference call or new location. Contact Executive Officer for conference call number and codes or location. Normally 4th Wed. of each month. There are speaking procedures for these meetings to be sure business has time to be discussed. Just ask about them.

Find us on 

MEMBERS AT LARGE— contact us about any issue or for us to bring project plans to the Executive Committee

P/C Alan Hart, AP 540-898-6002, 1oldtar@gmail.com
 P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP 703-370-4331, Carney1227@aol.com
 P/C Richard E. Unis, JN, VE 703-777-8378, SkipperUnis@gmail.com
 D/Lt Walter Lazear, AP 703-620-1821, lakematesw@comcast.net
 Denise Robinson 202-729-0402, pinkdazzle05@gmail.com
 Vessel Safety Checks Chair: P/C Rich Unis, JN, 703-777-8378, SkipperUnis@gmail.com, Ask how to become certified as a VSC Examiner
 Facebook Team: Lt Claire Wyngaard, P P/C Alan Hart, AP

Of Tars & Terns

The official publication of the
Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron
America's Boating Club Northern Virginia
Posted online in color at 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 in color. Submission deadlines are the 15th of the month prior to the issue month (in first issue month in combined issues) until further notice.

Volume LIII; Number 3: April 2020

EDITOR

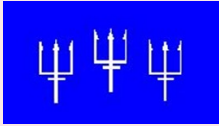
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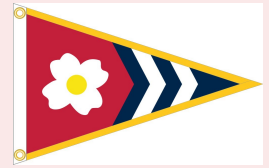
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Message from the Commander



Dear Squadron Family,

Wow, I could not imagine 2 months ago that I would now be the Commander. I guess that life is funny that way. I count it an honor and a privilege to serve at the helm over our beloved Squadron.

I bet a few of you are asking “Who is this guy? Where did he come from?” Fair questions indeed, as I have not been a member of NVSPS for some time. Many years ago I was an apprentice before becoming a Member in 1991. I even served on the Bridge for a few years and ran the ships store. My father, Ron Sowers served as Commander twice in 1976 and 1992. My membership transferred to the Northern Neck Power Squadron when my father originally retired to that area in 2011, where he served as Commander for one term once getting them up and running. I spent many years at rendezvous all over the Chesapeake, standing at squadron booths at the Alexandria Waterfront Festival, at Boat Shows, and helping at the public safe boating courses.

As many of you know, my father passed away in December of last year just after his 80th birthday. I reconnected with some “old” friends from the Squadron at both dad’s 80th birthday party and at his memorial service. I accepted an invitation to attend an NVSPS meeting in January, and the nostalgia came flooding back. All the fond memories of growing up with my Squadron Family, swimming at Solomons Island, running the docks at Olverson’s and picking crabs in Crisfield. Restoring the 37’ 1967 Chris-Craft Constellation while in my teens, and boats with names like “Navigator”, “Kim”, “Bonando”, “Proud Mary”, and many others.

As I am sure you are, I am very saddened that we had to cancel our Change of Watch. It was the right call and I pray that you and your families are all safe and healthy at this tough time for our Nation and the world as a whole.

As Commander, I have a vision that 2020 (pun intended) will be a year of expansion in our public education. I have always had a heart for public safety, and feel that we can help so many more boat owners have a safer time on our waterways. I am not taking anything away from the wonderful work that the Squadron has been doing over the past several years. I just want to see us take our efforts to a new level and grow our family.

I look forward to connecting with old friends and meeting each of you over the next few months.

Humbly at the Helm,
Cdr. Patrick J. Sowers

PJSowers@TeamSowers.com

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Thank you for donating auction items to the Sea Scout Ship 1942 fundraiser.

Even though it has been postponed.
These are valuable funds to keep the ships
afloat and the classrooms open.

To find out how to become a Scout or
support our local Ship, visit

<https://www.seascout1942.com/>



First Mate Mike Taylor with Sea Scouts

Returning Speaker, Date TBA

Mary Loose DeViney,

**Regional Coordinator, Blue Ridge and
Northern Virginia Area Boating Safety
Education, VA Dept of Game and
Inland Fisheries**

Bring your questions.

**Make the most of YOUR State
Resources**

[https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/
boating/](https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating/)

Learn about their mission:

CONSERVE. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Artist and Sailor Nancy Zydler



Skimmers. Courtesy of Nancy Zydler

Artist Nancy Zydler and
Photographer Tom Zydler sail to
beautiful places on our planet and
take in the colors and wildlife they
encounter. Visit **www.Zydler.com** to
see her oil paintings of birds in flight,
icebergs of Antarctica, Greenland
and barrier islands of the Southeast
US.

Take a video tour of her studio
onboard and see how she efficiently
works with Tom on their sailboat.
On her website, you can also sign up
for her e-Newsletter and purchase
paintings.

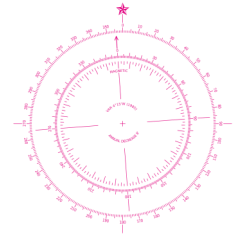
Related to terns and similarly elegant, Skimmers have eye-catching black and white plumage. You can't miss them flying just over the water's surface, their lower bill skimming the water to pick up small fish.

Congratulations to our 2020-2021 Leaders!

The following members of the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron were elected at the March 9 General Membership Meeting for the offices indicated for the 2020-2021 bridge year. The Annual Change of Watch ceremony is an enjoyable part of thanking our past leaders and welcoming new leaders at a gathering allowing all members to attend and start off the new year with fanfare. The ceremony itself is not required but the new office holders will take their oath of office as soon as possible at a meeting or during a conference call with District 5 Leaders.

Bridge Officers

Commander	Patrick J. Sowers
Executive Officer	Cdr Charles Hurley, JN
Education Officer	Lt/C Dean Markussen, AP
Secretary	Lt/C Evelyn Alls, P
Treasurer	P/C Frederick Zugay, JN



Members at Large of the Executive Committee

P/C Alan Hart, AP
Lt Walter Lazear, AP
Denise L. Robinson
P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP
P/C Richard E. Unis, JN, VE

Rules Committee

Lt/C Evelyn Alls, P
P/C Gale Alls, SN, VE
P/C Richard Durgin, JN
P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP
Position Open

Auditing Committee

P/C Richard E. Unis, JN, VE
P/C Francis Williamson, AP
Position Open

Nominating Committee

P/C Jere Dando, AP
P/C Alan Hart, AP
P/C G. Jay Nelson, AP
P/C Richard Unis, JN, VE
Position Open

Respectfully submitted, P/C Alan Hart, AP Chair,
Nominations Committee

From cover page. Online Courses:

Access these courses by visiting either sites:

- www.AmericasBoatingClub.org and choose Learn, then Online Boating Education
- www.BoatUS.org/Courses—This page has other courses as well, but on this site, members of USPS and BoatU.S. can get 25% off the USPS courses.
- Watch a course preview video on either site.
- Each course listing tells you approximately how long it is expect it to take.



Big Planned Events

April 24-26, Annapolis Spring Sailboat Show. On Hold at press time. Check website at <https://www.annapolisboatshows.com>

May 16, NVSPS Spring Picnic, Fairfax Yacht Club

July 20-23, 2020 Mid-Atlantic Summer Cruise, Smith Mountain Lake, VA

July 23-26, 2020 Summer Council & Rendezvous, Smith Mtn Lake, VA

October 17, NVSPS Oktoberfest at Fairfax Yacht Club

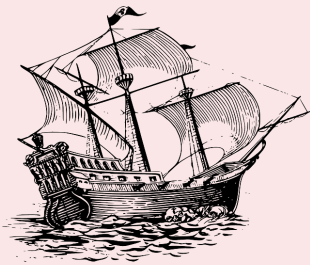
November 5-8, Mid Atlantic Fall Ed. Conf, Gettysburg, PA

District 5 has 31 clubs. Can you name the 2 clubs nearest you? Either way, spend time here

<https://abc-midatlantic.org/>



A Welcome Site on Smith Mountain Lake



P/C Gale Alls and P/C Dick Durgin are on the lookout for new **interesting and educational** places for our group to visit.

Call Gale at 703-569-1511 or Dick at 703-560-9106 with ideas!

Fire Safety at home, by the grill or on the boat

In addition to smoke alarms, a good item to have in case a fire gets out of control, is a Fire Blanket. Keep one near the stove in your house and boat.

Install it on the wall it at least several feet from the stove, so that you can grab it when there is a fire on the stove. Pull the blanket tab out of the holder and drape it over the flames to smother them. These are available from Lowes, Home Depot and other providers like the one linked below that has a demo video.

Emergency Fire Blanket by Prepared Hero. Demo video and info:

<https://preparedhero.com/collections/best-sellers/products/emergency-fire-blanket>



Emergency Fire Blanket by Prepared Hero

Boating Education Classes

Piloting. Inland water and coastal navigation using GPS, aids to navigation, and plotting on charts.

Dates TBD in Spring 2020

Possible day and times: SAT 9 am to 1 pm.

At St. George's Episcopal Church, 915 N. Oakland St, Arlington VA.

No prerequisites. More course info at:

<https://americasboatingclub.org/courses/piloting> For more information and to register, contact Education Officer Dean Markussen, 703-751-9178, MMarkussen2@comcast.net



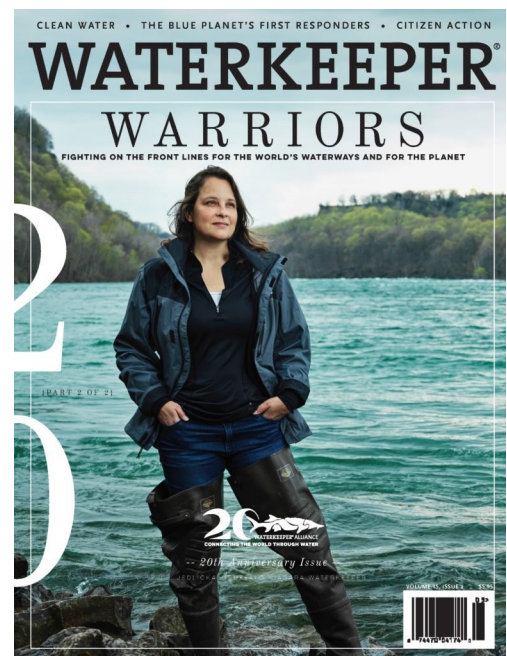
shutterstock • 109533224

Earth Day 2020

is the 50th Anniversary!

We have come a long way since 1970. In the Chesapeake Region, there are 19 Riverkeeper organizations. The Potomac Riverkeeper Network includes the Potomac Riverkeeper, the Upper Potomac Riverkeeper and the Shenandoah Riverkeeper.

They work to protect the public's right to clean water in our rivers and streams. They stop pollution to promote safe drinking water, protect healthy river habitats, and enhance public use and enjoyment. Visit www.WaterKeeper.org to download issues of *WaterKeeper* Magazine and join the fight.



Wednesday, April 22, Earth Day

Find events near you at

<https://www.earthday.org/>

Celebrate the Chesapeake Bay and 20th Anniversary of PBS!

Maryland Public Television's

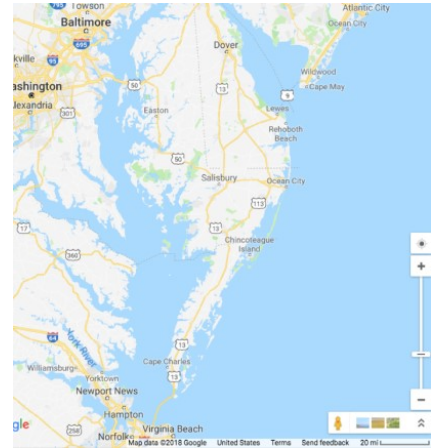
Chesapeake Bay Week[®] (held every April) offers programming that spotlights the history, heritage and splendor of the Chesapeake Bay, our nation's largest estuary. Stories of past and present offer a lively, local and insightful look at this mighty yet fragile source of wonder - and help put the future of the Bay in perspective.

You can watch these shows right now online at PBS.org: (website of Public Broadcasting System)

- Ocean Cities: Exploring Our Connection to the Sea
- The Legacy of Gilbert Klingel: Man of Steel
- Saving Ellicott City
- Eatin' the Chesapeake: The Five Feasts
- Healing Baltimore's Harbor: A Pipe Dream?
- The Chesapeake Bay Summit 2018

Look out for these shows April 19-25 on MPT. Find your MPT Channel at PBS.org:

- Chesapeake Beacons
- Chesapeake & Delaware Canal: Gateway to the World
- Potomac by Air: Our Nation's River
- A Voice for our Rivers
- High Tide in Dorchester
- Eatin' Crabs Chesapeake Style
- Your Money & Business: Oysters
- And Many More!



U.S. Power Squadrons and the BoatU.S. Foundation have teamed up

to offer you these online courses:

1. America's Boating Course
2. Cruising Boats and Systems
3. Weather for Boaters
4. Planning for your Cruise
5. Propane Systems on your Boat
6. AIS Electronics for Boaters
7. How to Use Your GPS
8. All About Marine Radio
9. Rivers, Locks and Lakes
10. Crew at the Helm
11. Hurricane Preparation

**Take these courses at
www.AmericasBoatingClub.org**



1. Mooring and Shoreline Landing
2. Dangers of BUI
3. Safety Tips for Paddle Sports
4. Cold Water Survival
5. Situational Awareness
6. Electronic Navigation with GPS
7. Vessel Safety Checks
8. Stopping a Boat on Plane
9. Man Overboard
10. And many more!

<http://AmericasBoatingChannel.com>

S.S. John W. Brown Living History Cruise - August 8, 2020

If you are a student of World War II history and love old ships, consider signing up for this cruise aboard the restored Liberty Ship S.S. John W. Brown, in Baltimore, MD.

- music of the 1940's,
- historical re-enactments
- fly-bys of vintage WWII aircraft with the ship's Armed Guard gunners manning the guns to defend the ship.
- tour the crew quarters, bridge, flying bridge, wheelhouse, radio room, mess rooms, troop berthing areas, stern gun deck and the magnificent 140-ton triple-expansion steam engine.



On the Great Lakes in year 2000

General admission for adults and children is \$225.00 (\$200 for groups of four or more). Lunch is included. check out www.ssjohnwbrown.org, call 410-558-0646 or email john.w.brown@usa.net. S.S. John W. Brown is one of only two operating Liberty Ships remaining out of 2,710 built nationwide during World War II.

Become a Certified Vessel Safety Check Examiner Study Manual is Available Online



The VSC program is a very important ongoing public service effort sponsored by the USCG Auxiliary, America's Boating Club and BoatUS. **Volunteers needed for more outreach to public.**

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=V-DEPT&category=welcome>

Come join the program! Contact P/C Rich Unis, JN
at 703-777-8378 or at skipperunis@gmail.com



SPRING FLOWER PRETZEL BITES

Recipe at
<https://www.twosisterscrafting.com/flower-pretzel-bites/>

Something we shared on our Facebook Page:

Watch the part of the State of the Coast Guard 2020, where the Commandant shares the importance of creating a National Coast Guard Museum at

<https://www.coastguardmuseum.org/>

Find us on 



ABCNV—April 2020
D/Lt W. Lazear, AP
2014 Lakebreeze Way
Reston, VA 20191-4020

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



of Tars & Terns



Find us on 

Spring Picnic May 16, 2020

America's Boating Club Northern Virginia



