



## Attend the November 10<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting by Computer or Phone

Bring your happy faces from wherever you are to our meeting November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm via video conference or phone. An email with the secure link and phone number for Zoom will be sent out days before the meeting. The meeting will open before 7:30 pm for everyone to fine tune their computer settings and socialize.

If you are new to Zoom and wish to practice with a person, contact an Executive Committee or Member at Large to find someone available at a convenient time for you. An alternative is to visit the Zoom Help Center to watch video tutorials here <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>. Please don't hesitate to call a fellow member for help before the meeting. We will try to answer questions or practice if needed.

Finally a chance for anyone with a phone to attend our meetings. There is no limit to the "parking lot." Everyone can attend!



*Zoom Zoom!*

### **Events**

**October 24—NVSPS Fall Meeting and Picnic at Leesylvania State Park**

**Nov 4-7 —Mid Atlantic Fall Ed. Conference to be Virtual. Info will be at <https://abc-midatlantic.org/>**

**Nov 10— NVSPS Membership Meeting via Zoom video conference. Look for email or call leaders for info.**

**America's Boating Club National site:**

<https://americasboatingclub.org/>

**Mid-Atlantic District site:**

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

**NVSPS—ABC Northern Virginia site:**

<http://nvspss.org/>

**Americas Boating Channel**

**Safe Boating Education Videos:**

<https://americasboatingchannel.com/>



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**Meeting Info.** If you do not receive an email notice about meetings, please contact a bridge officer to confirm meeting will be held before heading out.

**General Membership Mtgs** are at Alexandria Police HQ Community Rm, 3600 Wheeler Ave, Alexandria, VA 22304, 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.

**Zoom Meetings:** Login info for mtgs via Zoom or other mtg software will be distributed by email and available from Bridge Officers.

Please see previous issues online. If you do not have internet access, ask the editor to mail you a copy. For more information about anything in this newsletter, contact [editor@nvsp.org](mailto:editor@nvsp.org)

Find us on 

We have 305 likes!

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

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Facebook Team:	Lt Claire Wyngaard, P and 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](http://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 or emailed 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 (or 15th of first issue month in combined issues) until further notice.

**Volume LIII; Number 9: November 2020**

### EDITOR

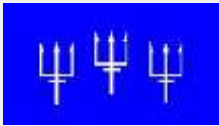
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## Message from the Commander



Mid October 2020

Welcome Aboard!

It is officially fall, and the leaves are turning, and the wind is cooling. I hope those of you with sailboats are able to enjoy them as much as possible right now, while others are maybe enjoying the water one last time before winterizing.

I wanted to say that coming back to the NVSPS this year has been full of nostalgia while reconnecting with old friends, meeting new ones, granted through virtual meetings, and remembering a lot of fond moments growing up. Those that have known me for a while know how much the Squadron has shaped who I am now.

Along with those fond memories, we must say goodbye to some that have been a big part of my life, and many of our lives. This week I was greatly saddened by the news of Kathy Eldridge and Bob Malone's passing. There are so many memories with our families on the A-dock at Olverson's marina, many Rendezvous, and so many gatherings and holiday parties. My personal condolences go out to Kathy Eldridge's family, as well as Nancy and Sandy Wills and the rest of Bob Malone's family.

Hopefully, over the next few months, we can all recharge, and get ready for the coming months and the next boating season with full steam ahead!

Smooth sailing,

Commander Sowers

[Commander@TeamSowers.com](mailto:Commander@TeamSowers.com)

Please check your Member Profile online by going to: <http://nvsp.org/mem.shtml> - scroll down to your name, click on your name, follow more update links. Your record will tell you if your email address is valid. To make changes click on bottom Update link.



### Ensign Spring 2021 "Looking Back" Photo Contest

Info from The Ensign Staff: As we look forward to future outings on the water, we want to see your favorite boating photos from years past. They can be from any decade or year, as long as you're the one who snapped the photo. You can submit up to four photos. More info and contest rules here: <http://theensign.org/submit/photocontest/> **Email your submissions for 2021 to [ensign@hq.usps.org](mailto:ensign@hq.usps.org).** Please alert us by email if you plan to mail any physical photos.

### Visit the NVSPS Ship's Store



For our burgee on duffel bags, hats, polos shirts, dress shirts, jackets and fleece. They put our logo on whatever they sell! Great prices and shipping deals!



Also Burgee ordering info at <http://nvsp.org/stor.shtml>

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## IN MEMORIAM



### ***P/R/C Robert B. Malone, SN***

**1922 - 2020**

Bob Malone passed away at age 98 in North Palm Beach, FL on October 12, 2020 after a hard battle to recover from a broken leg and return to his condo and his beloved goldfish.

He spent a lifetime on the water, starting as a youth fishing their small skiff with his father in the waters around Hampton Roads, Virginia, even making the local news when the Coast Guard had to rescue them one night because of a broken-down motor.

He thoroughly enjoyed participation in the Sea Scouts while a student at Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, DC. His college baseball career at American University was interrupted by WW II while he served in the US Navy. Returning to American University after the war, he became student body President and was involved with several youth sports.

Married with three young children, he joined the Potomac River Power Squadron and shortly became a Charter Member and the second Commander of the newly formed Northern Virginia Power Squadron from 1969 to 1970. He helped NVPS grow rapidly, becoming a force in District 5 (especially in Navigation Contests) and garnering national attention within USPS.

In retirement, he and his wife, Joyce, moved to Florida, and joined Palm Beach Power Squadron with a number of his fellow NVPS "expat" friends. There he reached USPS Life Member status, ultimately receiving over 55 Merit Marks. He was also a long-time member and booster of BoatUS.

Bob simply loved being on the water, whether simple weekends aboard at the marina, Squadron rendezvous and annual cruises on his classic Owens Tahitian, *BoNanDo*, his Palm Beach pontoon boat, *JoySea*, or cruising the open seas to Europe, the Bahamas, or the Americas.

He was pre-deceased by his parents, sister, brother, and wife. He leaves his children, Bob, Bill (Donna), and Nancy (Sandy), along with six grandchildren and six amazing great-granddaughters.

Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a currently undetermined date.  
By Sandy Wills, Son-in-law and shipmate, former NVSPS Member

### ***Kathy Eldridge***

**1937 - 2020**

Kathy Eldridge, the wife of our Past Commander and Past Rear Commander, Bill Eldridge, SN, passed away on October 10, 2020.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, three children and their spouses, 14 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Bill was a charter member of Northern Virginia and served as our first Secretary, first Editor and Publisher of our newsletter and fifth Squadron Commander from 1971 to 1972. He also served as District Five Commander and Rear Commander (Chair) of THE ENSIGN Committee, as well as Newsletter Editor, Squadron Education Officer and Commander of the Palm Beach Squadron.

Kathy was always at his side, helping and supporting him and the squadrons in every way she could. I still remember how she made my parents and me feel welcome in the squadron. I am most fortunate to count them among my very best friends.

In very recent years, they have been living with their daughter, Deni and her husband, Jay Mitchell in Annapolis, MD.

Funeral arrangements have not yet been made.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to the charity of your choice would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by P/C Alan Hart, AP





## Fall Picnic and Membership Meeting At Leesylvania State Park on the Potomac

**On Saturday, October 24, 2020, the NVSPS will have a picnic at Leesylvania State Park in Woodbridge, Virginia from noon until 4 pm. Our membership meeting will be conducted at the picnic at 1 pm. Shelter #3 is reserved for us all day. Shelter 3, Potomac Beach** - This shady shelter has a nice view of the river, which is only 135 feet away, and is near the sailboat parking lot. Parking is about 100 feet away, with the nearest restroom about 300 feet away. The shelter has a water spigot, a large grill and electricity.

Come early or stay late and enjoy the park which will be open from 5 am until 30 minutes after sunset. Bring your boat or kayak by water or car. Check the park website for launch fees. A hiking trail map is on the website. There are 2 boat ramps and a fishing pier.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, individuals will need to bring their own food, cooking utensils, soap and hand sanitizer. Sharing food is optional. A grill will be available. The squadron will provide plastic table cloths, paper napkins, plastic cups, knives & forks and drinks. Park policy does not permit alcohol in the park.

*Park policy says that face coverings are required in all park facilities and where social distancing is not possible. We ask that you wear face coverings during our picnic gathering and meeting.*

*Parking (admission) is \$10 per passenger vehicle. Bring a friend! To carpool, call Claire Wyngaard or Patrick Sowers to coordinate.*

Vessel safety checks will also be offered at the ramp. Call squadron for hrs. Park Address and phone: 2001 Daniel K Ludwig Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22191, 703-730-8205

Park information and directions:

[https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/leesylvania#general\\_information](https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/leesylvania#general_information)



***Become a Certified Vessel Examiner and learn how to conduct Vessel Safety Checks – Study Manual is Available Online***

<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=v-dept>

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



## Day at the Creek 2020

There we were, isolated because of the coronavirus and wishing that “normal” would return. No NVSPS meetings, no Oktoberfest, no Day at the Creek...bummer! Thank goodness MJ and Dave Hinkins were having their annual gathering at their home on a lovely creek off the Rappahannock River. A piece of normal had just been restored.

Except it wasn't going to be quite “normal” would it? There would be masks, distancing, and hand sanitizing as we've become accustomed to. So, maybe not so different after all. But wait, what about the food safety and cross-contaminating from the buffet line? And what about staying the night (avoiding the 3-4 hour drive home that night)? MJ has had such a lovely breakfast brunch awaiting in the morning, it's a natural to stay. But there's that more-than-pesky virus to consider.

As Audrey and I pondered these serious questions, we arrived at some solutions. As for the long drive, we would arrive early and stay late. Not by marathon driving on one day, but by coming the day before and leaving the day after. We would stay in an Airbnb rental house. There were several available and we chose the Artistic Environment house,

which turned out to be a 2-floor private gallery for a local Killmarnock artist.

We wanted to contribute to the food, but we needed to consider how to avoid the multi-person dipping syndrome. Audrey came up with small plastic cups with lids and we



created individual servings of hummus and taco dips, prepared safely. Veggies and chips were put in serving-sized bags. They all were a big hit!

It rained overnight, but was only a light drizzle by noon, when we arrived at the Creek. It was good to see MJ and Dave again. Fellow NVSPSers Denise Robinson and Alan & Mary Hart were already there. Other members from Northern Neck squadron included Marianne, Mack & Liz, Nip & Barbara, and Fred & Donna. The rain quit, so we were able to spend most of the time outdoors and distanced.





Dave decided to do his cooking inside. MJ took orders for burgers, hot dogs, and/or brisket. That allowed Dave to cook and individually wrap the food, which MJ then delivered personally to each person. They did a great job making us feel comfortable virus-wise. Others contributed salads



and yummy mini lemon meringue pies.

The Creek was a lovely a setting as always, but something seemed off. As you can see from the photo, the dock was unusually bare. Where was Hinkins' boat? That turned out to be a long story and a bit of a sore point. While Hinkins were away, their 16-year-old boat sank at the dock! They got it raised and analyzed, but no one could find a cause. So the Chubb insurance company said it was a manufacturer's defect and refused to pay! A very frustrating situation for Dave and MJ, for sure, and yet to be resolved.



Even with a smaller crowd than usual and COVID alterations, the Day at the Creek was nevertheless a success. Good conversation, renewed friendships, and a bit of normalcy. Thanks, Dave and MJ, for a fun and lovely time at your home and creek. We look forward to next year.

By D/Lt Walter D. Lazear, AP



## Message from the Educational Officer

### America's Boating Course offered Saturday 17 Oct through 7 Nov.

We have arranged to conduct a Basic Boating Course - ABC-3 class on Saturday mornings for four sessions (17 OCT, 24 OCT, 31 Oct and 7 NOV from 0900-1230) at St George's Episcopal Church in Arlington. The students and instructor can discuss option of conducting class online or combo of class and online to meet comfort levels and convenience for the same dates. Proctored test is required in Virginia to meet state education requirement.

**America's Boating Course** teaches: terms, safety equipment, fueling, casting off, navigation rules, aids. Lights and sound signals, regulations, charts and electronic navigation, anchoring, handling emergencies, communications, watersports safety, trailering, PWC operation, knots and lines, and more. See <http://www.americasboatingcourse.com/courseoutline.cfm> The cost is \$50 and participants need not be members of America's Boating Club.

**Piloting** includes Inland water and coastal navigation using GPS, aids to navigation, and plotting on charts. No prerequisites. More course info at: <https://americasboatingclub.org/courses/piloting>

I've been reworking the Piloting class presentation and exercises so they are a bit more user-friendly for an online environment. It's one thing to sit through PowerPoint presentation in person but to do the same online approaches cruel and unusual punishment for the one on the receiving end. I've been testing it with colleagues so we will have a Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron quality online version for Piloting for **Jan 2021** in the event meeting in person is not an option.



For more information, to ask about other courses, and to register, contact Educational Officer Dean Markussen, MMarkussen2@comcast.net, 703-751-9178

### Cruising the Bay?

#### The Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System Update says:

We are following strict operational protocol set by NOAA during the current public health emergency. This means that the CBIBS buoy technicians are not permitted to work out on the water together because they would be in close proximity for extended periods of time. Because we cannot yet access the facility where we repair buoy parts and sensors, we cannot prepare any sensors for NOAA partners to deploy on our behalf. So for the time being, no physical repairs are being made to CBIBS buoys. Check this website for updates on the reporting status of each buoy: <https://buoybay.noaa.gov/node/173>



### November Birthdays!

Tabb Schaeffer	3
Dean Markussen	5
Tracy Davenport	8
Guy Arnos	12
Lorain Alonso	17
Jere Dando	19
Amir Martin	23
Dwight Bues	29



### Attention

#### Travelers Who Fly

On October 1, 2021, REAL ID or Passport will be required to board domestic commercial aircraft, and enter federal buildings. See a list of other acceptable IDs and FAQs at <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id> This requirement was passed by Congress in 2005, in the REAL ID Act.



## VHF Radio Check Reminder

**Use VHF Channel 09 for VHF Radio Checks. Do not use Channel 16.**

The US Coast Guard reminds us that VHF Channel 09 has been designated by the FCC as a boater's calling channel.

**How to test a VHF Radio using Rescue 21, with a radio equipped with Digital Selective Calling:**

1. Enter the US Coast Guard's station group identity "003669999" into the radio's DSC memory. Once entered and stored, a DSC test call can be made by executing the following three steps.
2. Select "Test Call" from the radio's DSC menu
3. Select the USCG number entered into memory, and
4. Transmit the call.

The radio display should indicate when that test call is acknowledged and display the acknowledging station's nine-digit identity. That identity may be different than the group identity previously entered into memory.



**Sea Tow Automated Radio Check System no longer available**

For several years, Sea Tow operated an Automated Radio Check System, which was available on VHF Channels 24 to 28 for the benefit of mariners in over 130 locations. However, on October 2nd, 2020 that service was discontinued.

This is a safety message from the US Coast Guard. You can subscribe to announcements for recreational and commercial operators at [https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/10/19/performing-a-vhf-marine-radio-check/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+MaritimeCommons+%28Maritime+Commons%29](https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/10/19/performing-a-vhf-marine-radio-check/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+MaritimeCommons+%28Maritime+Commons%29)

**Online VHF/DSC Radio Tutorial** available on the BoatUS Foundation website at

<https://www.boatus.org/dsc/>



The **Facebook Team** is looking for an additional member who enjoys looking for a variety of boating, interesting and fun posts to share on the Squadron Facebook page. Email or call the Editor. Contact info on page 2.



**ABCNV—November 2020**


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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**of Tars & Terns**



Find us on 

October 24, Meeting and Picnic

America's Boating Club Northern Virginia



