



## Online Piloting Class Starts March 2021

Saturdays:  
6, 13, 20 March  
3, 10, 17 April  
1 May  
15 May Extensive Review followed by handout of exam  
Time: 1000—1400



\$35 Sea Scouts, \$60 Adult USPS member, \$80 Adult non-USPS member

Piloting is the first of a two-part series studying inland and coastal navigation. It focuses on the fundamentals of piloting—keeping track of a boat's movements, determining your position at any time, and laying out courses to a planned destination. Included: charts and their use; aids to navigation; the mariner's compass; variation and deviation of the compass; plotting and steering courses; dead reckoning; plotting and labeling charts; and use of electronic navigation including GPS and chartplotters. You may take Piloting before Seamanship



Class held via Zoom. Register by March 4. Contact Dean.



## Online Basic Boating Safety ABC Class Spring 2021

Dates and Times TBA

Sign up now to get information when available. Contact Dean.

Contact NVSPS Educational Officer Lt/C Dean Markussen, AP  
MMarkussen2@comcast.net, 703-751-9178

## Everyone! Attend the February 9 General Membership Meeting by Computer or Phone



Attend your General Membership meeting Feb 9th 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 to socialize. Call us if you need help or see Zoom tutorials online <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>.



## Bridge Officers

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Commander  
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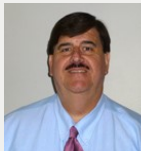
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703-569-1511  
secretary@nvsp.org



### TREASURER

P/C Frederick D. Zugay, JN  
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eaglebs271@cox.net



**Meeting Info.** If you do not receive an email notice about meetings, please contact a bridge officer to confirm in-person 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 310 likes!

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

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D/Lt Walter Lazear, AP	703-620-1821, lakematesw@comcast.net
Lt 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 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 LIV; Number 1: January/February 2021**

### EDITOR

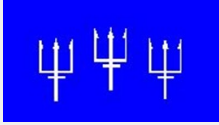
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## Message from the Commander



Mid January 2021

Happy New Year!

I am so ready for 2021 to get under way, and I really looking forward to boating weather. Although 2020 did not yield much positive news, it was not all bad. I am proud to say that our Vessel Safety Inspectors were hard at work last year, completed a great number of inspections, and made sure that folks had a safe vessel to enjoy the water on. The inspectors always practiced practical social distancing, while meeting the captains on their boats, and kept everyone safe. Be sure to be on the lookout for upcoming inspection dates this spring, or call for an appointment, to get a fancy little sticker of your own to show everyone that you are shipshape and ready to cruise down the river.



This is a great time to take boating classes. There are opportunities to take virtual classes. I am hoping to take the upcoming Piloting class myself.

Please join us for our February meeting via Zoom. The link will be emailed out a few days before.

Be safe, and stay salty!

Commander Sowers

Commander@TeamSowers.com

***Become a Certified Vessel Examiner and learn how to conduct Vessel Safety Checks***

***Study Manual is Available Online***

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

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



***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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## ***Nominations are Open for all NVSPS Positions***

**Nominations will be accepted for 2021-2022 Service year for NVSPS, up until Election day, March 9, 2021 (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday).**

Elections will be held at the March 9, 2021 meeting. Check in February for any change of date. All officers are elected for a single year at a time. Some have served for several years and would like to be relieved. If you are interested in any elected position, please contact P/C Alan Hart, AP at 540-898-6002 or [1oldtar@gmail.com](mailto:1oldtar@gmail.com) Please note that the first character is the numeral "one".

The Elected Positions are:

Commander

Executive Officer

Administrative Officer

Education Officer

Secretary

Treasurer

Plus 5 Members-at-Large

Plus members of 3 Standing  
Committees



- The Squadron Commander is our elected leader. He officiates at meetings and supervises the other bridge officers. Our By-Laws limit the Commander to two consecutive terms.
- The Executive Officer supervises the committees in his department and substitutes for the Commander when necessary.
- The Administrative Officer supervises the committees in his department. We have not had an Admin Officer for the past several years, but the duties have been done by the Secretary and Commander.
- The Education Officer (SEO) supervises the squadron's education courses and programs.
- The Secretary records minutes of meetings and handles personnel records, including correspondence with District and National.
- The Treasurer keeps the squadron's financial records, writes checks and receives payments.
- The 5 Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee are your elected representatives and each has a vote at meetings. Contact them if you have an issue to be brought before the Executive Committee.
- A member may normally only hold one of the above eleven offices at any one time, but may be a committee chair in addition to being a bridge officer. I have held them all, except for Treasurer and Education Officer, and found them to be very enjoyable and rewarding.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4: Nominations are Open

The above named elected officers, along with the most recent Past Commander available and willing to serve, make up the Executive Committee, also known as the Board of Directors. All are elected for one year terms, and may be re-elected, except for the Commander, who is limited to two consecutive terms.

The Rules Committee periodically reviews the By-Laws and recommends changes and updates, to be voted on by the membership. It is composed of six members, two of which are elected for three year terms, each year. The Chair is selected each year by the members of the committee.

The Auditing Committee audits the squadron's financial records and accounts each year. Its three members are elected for three year terms, one per year. The Chair is the member with the longest term of service on the committee.

The Nominating Committee nominates candidates for elective office, to be voted on at the squadron's Annual Meeting. Other candidates may be nominated by petition to the Squadron Secretary, or from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Its six members are elected, two per year, for three year terms. The Chair is selected annually by the committee members.

More position detail is listed on our public website Bylaws page:

<http://nvsp.org/byarch/2012bylaw.pdf>

Elections are held annually, at the squadron's Annual Meeting. All members in good standing who are present are entitled to vote. There is no provision for absentee voting or voting by proxy at this time.

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



## ***Floating Events and News***

- Mariner Alert: Construction on Lower Potomac River - Harry W. Nice/Thomas "Mac" Middleton (US 301) Bridge –commenced May 2020. Use caution: <https://mdta.maryland.gov/NiceMiddletonBridge/Construction#MarinerAlerts>
- The Antique and Classic Boat Society Events Cal. is online: <https://acbs.org/calendar/>
- 33 Sailors crossed the start line of the Vendee Globe Race Nov 8, 2020. This race is solo, non-stop and without assistance around the world. Last edition, the race was completed in as little as 74 days 3 hrs. Follow these 60 foot boats that can go faster than 30 knots, many with foils. on the tracking map <https://www.vendeeglobe.org/en/tracking-map>
- American Power Boat Association Race Events calendar is online: <https://www.apba.org/racing-schedule.html>
- See the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association—College Rankings here <https://collegesailing.org/racing/sw-rankings> Coed Top rankings are 1) Stanford 2) Boston University 3) Harvard 4) Georgetown



## Keeping the “Outing” in Scouting: Ship 1942’s Pandemic Story



By Thomas Ackleson, Sea Scout Ship 1942, Boatswain

Like so many other organizations, Sea Scout Ship 1942 learned it would be barred from any in-person activities in March of 2020. Initially, our prospects of an action-packed summer full of long cruising and Monday night sailing just seemed to be on delay for a while. Of course, this would turn out to be far from the truth. As we slowly learned the severity of the pandemic in March, our Scouting council put a blanket ban on any outdoor or in-person activities.

As a new(ish) Sea Scout, I was disappointed to say the least. The coming summer was supposed to be my first full one with Ship 1942, filled to the brim with our exciting summer program activities. But, just like everyone else, those opportunities vanished before my eyes.

It was now up to our Boatswain and Skipper to develop a plan to keep the Ship alive. Needless to say, they were worried. Worried that without any outdoor activities or motivations to be involved with the Ship, our recruitment would die out, and our Ship along with it. Finding a way to at least keep us afloat for the time being was the most critical step. So to start, the Ship purchased a “Zoom Premium” account and began hosting weekly meetings. This is usually something we do over the Winter when it’s too cold to sail, and it provides us with a great way to teach, learn, and socialize together. However, this year our weekly meetings would continue into the Spring and Summer.

At the time I started attending these meetings, I wasn’t expecting much. I mean, how could a simple Zoom meeting replace the thrill of sailing? But, like so many others in our unit, I was pleasantly surprised when I found myself enjoying the virtual meetings. They were productive, engaging, and a great way to be social. However, as these

Continued on page 7

**Join the Sea Scouts** Sea Scout units – called ships- are established all across the country on oceans, bays, rivers, and lakes. They provide limitless opportunities and exciting challenges that you won’t find anywhere else. Sea Scouts is a place to grow and learn, find adventure, and build long lasting friendships. Programs for young men and women ages 14-20. Visit <https://www.seascoutship1942.org/>



Continued from page 6: Keeping the “Outing” in Scouting

meetings became commonplace, our Quarterdeck realized that Scout rank advancement, a critical part of any Scouting unit would be yet another challenge to overcome. Without a way to teach the skills required for our Scouts to advance, youth interest was sure to die out. Plus, we were running out of things to do on our Zoom calls!

Our youth-led instruction program was born out of these two problems. Every week, a new Scout would take the time to learn a new skill or area of knowledge, produce a presentation and demonstration of that skill, and then present that during our meeting. This proved to be a great success and enabled Scouts to keep progressing in rank. To complement our Scout-led instruction, Sea Scouts all over the country were offered discounts on numerous online boating courses, including those from NauticEd and BoatUS Foundation. With many of our Scouts learning in these two ways, we certainly were developing into a very book-smart group!

That said, there’s only so much “Zooming” and web scrolling one can do, and many of us were still craving a taste of sailing. Our Skipper, Thomas Ballew, along with our most senior Ship adults, made a virtual trip to our charter organization: St. George’s Episcopal Church. They were there to make a request: given easier COVID restrictions at the time, they asked our chartered organization for permission to hold outdoor events. To my surprise, the Church, along with our Scouting council, permitted us to hold limited outdoor events.

I was elated! I had spent many summer hours working towards advancement and learning new skills, and I was ready to demonstrate them on the water. Alas, I soon learned that I wouldn’t be sailing, but canoeing. Our primary sailing vessels, 18’ Flying Scots, were too small to allow for adequate social distancing onboard. Fortunately, our Scouting Council had a set of ten 16’ canoes they were willing to lend us. Aboard these canoes, two rowers would have nearly fourteen feet of distance between them, thus passing the BSA COVID safety protocols.

And just like that, we all went into overdrive mode to prepare for a series of “canoe treks” throughout Virginia and Maryland. Our first event took place on the James River in Virginia. Although our time was cut short for weather, everyone who attended was just glad to be outside, together (6+ ft apart, of course), and on the water. It wasn’t sailing, but it was enough for us. Although the James River 'Long Cruise' 1-week trek was cut short by two days, the Ship 1942 then added a fourth canoe event -- a 3-day "Canoeing Merit Badge" event the very next week down on the Patuxent River at the Naval Air Station - where all the 10 Sea Scout attendees completed all the merit badge requirements to include the solo canoeing requirement - which is the most difficult item to complete.

Meanwhile, our Ship was due for a new Quarterdeck. The new Quarterdeck (board of youth officers) would inherit the challenges of operating under COVID, and would have to live up the high standards of our previous officers (believe me, they had set quite the high standard). Lo and behold, I found myself running for Ship’s Boatswain. Upon my election, I felt a great sense of pride that my fellow Scouts had chosen me to lead them through the remainder of the difficult year. Alongside me on the Quarterdeck would be many of our most experienced Scouts, including those who pioneered our “COVID program.” Ready to lead and excited to get back out on the water, planning began for our next two canoe treks.

The first of these took place in September on the Shenandoah River in Virginia. Starting from a local farm (thank you, Mr. Johnson!), we would paddle 20 miles in two days and camp overnight in the woods (following all COVID-19 protocols at the time). With special help from our Ship’s Store Keeper and our very own Mike Taylor, we had delicious food and more canoes than we knew what to do with! It was truly a wonderful event, and a great reminder for why I joined Sea Scouts in the first place.

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7: Keeping the “Outing” in Scouting

Our next canoe outing took place on Mallows Bay on the Potomac River, the site of a sunken WWI fleet. Although this trip was much shorter than our previous treks, it was just as fun. We organized a tour of the “ghost fleet” with Dr. Susan Langley, the Maryland State Underwater Archeologist and lead conservationist at Mallows Bay. The mid-November weather was perfect, and the tour just the same. Our Scouts learned all about each of the vessels that lay at rest in the bay, as well as the conservation efforts and history of the bay. Special thanks to Dr. Langley for her amazing tour!

With that trek out of the way, our outdoor program for the year came to a close. There was talk of one last trek, but with the weather turning, we had to call the plans off.

Still, the virtual weekly meetings we had been holding every week continue today. Despite all of the challenges of last year, our Ship managed to adapt and improve in so many ways. More Scouts are joining us (and advancing rank) than ever before, our website was completely overhauled ([www.seascoutship1942.org](http://www.seascoutship1942.org)), and many of our officers are now serving at the council level. We all feel so fortunate to have had these opportunities, especially since not every Ship did. Thank you to everyone who made last year possible, and here’s to improving even more in 2021!

## *A Date to Celebrate*

Many members of our Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron are married. In addition to announcing birthdays, we might like to also recognize wedding anniversaries in our newsletter. If anyone would like to share with us your wedding anniversary date (month and day only), we would be happy to publish your date to celebrate! Please submit your anniversary date to Assistant Editor Denise Robinson at [pinkdazzle05@gmail.com](mailto:pinkdazzle05@gmail.com).



*America’s Boating Club National site: <https://americasboatingclub.org/>*

*Mid-Atlantic District site: <https://abc-midatlantic.org/>*

*NVSPS—ABC Northern Virginia site: <https://nvsp.org/>*

*Americas Boating Channel: <https://americasboatingchannel.com/>*

## **February Birthdays**

*Kathleen Arnos 20*

*John Karjala 22*

*Dick Durgin 23*

*Robert Alonso 25*

*Keith Segersen 27*



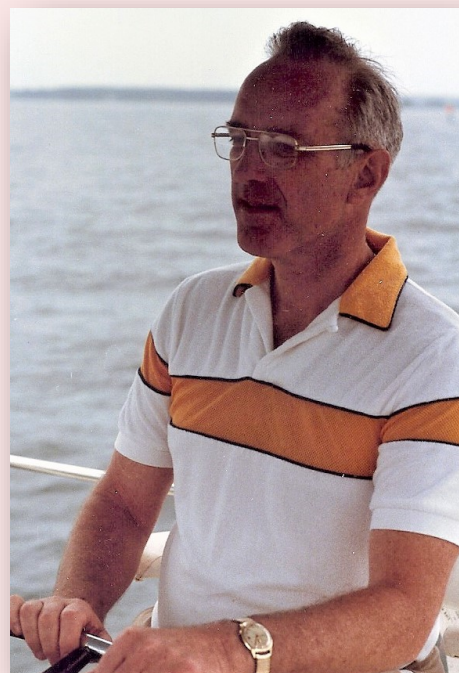


## Thomas J. Martin, AP 1938—2020

Thomas J. Martin, AP, (A125075) crossed the bar in August 2020. Tom joined the United States Power Squadrons on January 22, 1963 and earned 33 merit marks in his 59 years as a Power Squadron member. Initially a member of the Potomac River Power Squadron, in 1967 he became a charter member of the Northern Virginia Power Squadron. As a member of the Corinthian Yacht Club, he served as Commodore, Secretary and Newsletter Editor.

Tom owned a Trojan fly bridge sedan named *SEASTAR*, which he kept at the Corinthian Yacht Club in Ridge, Maryland. He was honored by USPS naming him a Life Member.

Submitted by P/C Gale Alls, SN





**ABCNV—Jan/Feb 2021**  
D/Lt W. Lazear, AP  
2014 Lakebreeze Way  
Reston, VA 20191-4020



# of Tars & Terns



Sea Scout Ship 1942's Pandemic Story  
Keeping the "Outing" in Scouting

February 9, Meeting. Attend by Phone or Computer

