



Online Piloting Class Starts March 6, 2021

Online Basic Boating Safety ABC Class Spring 2021 — page 5



**Elections March 9 at General Membership Meeting
Attend by Computer or Phone**

Nominations Open for all positions — pages 4 and 5

Support Sea Scout Ship 1942 Programs

by Participating in Online Auction through March 8.

Auction Area: <https://sss1.betterworld.org/auctions/sea-scout-ship-1942-online-aucti>

Donation Area: <https://sss1.betterworld.org/campaigns/donate>

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
*For Boaters, By Boaters**



Virtual Annual Meeting

February 15-26, 2021

Schedule: https://www.usps.org/php/reservations_new/meetings.php?mtg_id=42

Save these Saturdays!

Spring Picnic — May 22

Oktoberfest — October 16



Rich Unis shares his catamaran sailing training — page 6



Bridge Officers

COMMANDER

Cdr Patrick Sowers
571-233-1949
Commander
@TeamSowers.com



EXECUTIVE OFFICER

P/C Charles Hurley, JN
703-455-4828
CDJWorks@verizon.net
XO@nvsp.org



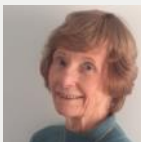
EDUCATION OFFICER

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



SECRETARY

Lt/C Evelyn Alls, P
703-569-1511
secretary@nvsp.org



TREASURER

P/C Frederick D. Zugay, JN
703-815-1954
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 normally 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

Find us on



We have 309 likes!

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
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

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America's Boating Club Northern Virginia
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Articles, opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect USPS® policy or endorsement unless so designated

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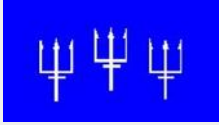
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Message from the Commander



Mid February 2021

Hello Boaters!

Who's up for some ice fishing?

It may not be that cold here in Northern Virginia, but it feels awful close. It's hard to think that the next boating season is merely a short time away.



With that in mind, I know we have some great virtual classes starting up this spring (see page 5). It would be a great time to take advantage of that. Springtime is a great time to take advantage of the vessel safety checks early. I know the VSC team is chomping at the bit to get back out there and make sure boats are safe.

I'm very pleased to announce that our squadron recently received two awards: 1) Commander's Trophy for advanced grades, First Place based on members completing all advanced courses all the way up to and including Navigation. 2) Caravelle Award, Second Place for members completing Piloting and Advanced Piloting.

We had a wonderful presentation by Dusty Walker from Freedom Boat Club at our February meeting. It was very educational to learn about how their boat sharing system works (see pages 8 and 9). Definitely different than how I grew up boating, but it is an option that makes a lot of sense. We hope to have more guest speakers at our upcoming meetings. If you have suggestions on who to invite, please feel free to share.

Lastly, I know that COVID limited our ability to meet in person last year, and it is my sincere hope and prayer that we can all get together in person soon.

Life is like sailing. You can use any wind to go in any direction. ~ Robert Brault

Commander Sowers

Commander@TeamSowers.com

Floating Events and News

- Feb 25: Annapolis Maritime Museum virtual lecture series: Lenny Rudow—Changing Fisheries of the Chesapeake Bay: Radical Changes in Recent Years. <http://amaritime.org>
- Chesapeake Bay Week, April 18-24 on TV and Online: <https://www.mpt.org/bayweek/>
Or <https://video.mpt.tv/show/chesapeake-bay-week/>
- Bay Bridge Boat Show combines sail and power this year April 15-18, Bay Bridge Marina, Stevensville, MD <https://www.annapolisboatshows.com/bay-bridge-boat-show/>

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All NVSPS Positions Open for Nominations

Nominations will be accepted for 2021-2022 Service year for NVSPS, up until Election Day, March 9, 2021 (2nd Tuesday).

Elections will be held at the March 9, 2021 meeting via Zoom. Participate by phone, smartphone or computer. 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.

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.
- 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

A list of nominees at publishing time is on page 5





Message from the Educational Officer

Online Piloting Class Starts 6 March

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 members, \$80 Adult non-USPS members

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 Class in Spring

Dates and Times TBA
 Sign up now to get information when available.
 Contact Dean.

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

**National Safe
 Boating Week is
 May 22-28**



Schedule a

Vessel Safety Check

**for your boat by appointment in
 Northern Virginia**

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

The following members of America's Boating Club Northern Virginia are nominated for the offices indicated for the 2021-2022 bridge year. Elections will be held at the annual meeting on March 9, 2021. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at that time.

BRIDGE OFFICERS

Commander	Cdr Patrick J. Sowers
Executive Officer	P/C Charles Hurley, JN
Education Officer	Lt/C Dean Markussen, AP
Administrative Officer	Position Open
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
 Lt Denise Robinson
 P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP
 P/C Richard E. Unis, JN

RULES COMMITTEE

P/C Richard E. Unis, JN
 P/C Gale Alls, SN
 P/C Richard Durgin, JN
 P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP
 Position Open

AUDITING COMMITTEE

P/C Richard E. Unis, JN
 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 E. Unis, JN
 Position Open

Respectfully submitted,
 P/C Alan Hart, AP
 Chair, Nominating Committee
1oldtar@gmail.com 540-898-6002

Earning US Sailing Catamaran Endorsement Certification

P/C Rich Unis, JN

Photos by R. Unis and Offshore Sailing School

Before I embark on my Catamaran sailing charter in the British Virgin Islands this June, I thought it would be a good idea to take a class on Catamaran sailing to earn my US Sailing Catamaran Endorsement certification. I signed up for Offshore Sailing School's Catamaran Endorsement Sailing class, which was held from January 11-13, 2021. The class was held at Tarpon Point Marina in Cape Coral, FL and we sailed in the Gulf off Ft. Myers and Sanibel Island.

Offshore sent me a supplement on catamaran sailing that I read in preparation for the course. The course focused on the differences in handling and sailing a catamaran vs. a traditional monohull sailboat. There were four students in the class including myself and yes, we were all masked up. The first day of class was focused on learning the systems on the Leopard 40 catamaran (built by Robertson & Caine in Cape Town, South Africa). The Leopard 40 is 39 feet long with a 22-foot beam. Yes, it is like sailing a floating barge but one that sails quite nicely! The systems are like those of a monohull sailboat but there are two engines and two hulls on a catamaran to check. After checking out the systems, we did some close quarter maneuvering in the marina, practiced docking, and anchoring with a bridle. Unlike a monohull, we locked the helm in neutral with the wheel lock and just used the engines to maneuver. I was impressed with how well the catamaran



maneuvered in tight quarters. With the twin engines far apart (one in each hull), it could pivot on a dime to starboard with the port engine in forward and the starboard engine in reverse.

On the morning of the second day, we learned how to Mediterranean moor the boat by dropping the anchor and then backing to the dock, tying the stern so we were lying stern-to the dock; a common practice in Europe and the Med. We also practiced picking up a mooring ball pendant and securing it with a bridle to the boat. The wind piped up in the afternoon, so it was perfect for learning how to tack and jibe the catamaran. A catamaran has a large mainsail relative to the jib sail. For that reason, when tacking it is important to turn the bow of the

boat all the way through the wind and ease the mainsail before straightening out the helm. It is also necessary to fall off a bit to gain boat speed before heading up and trimming the sails.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6—Earning US Sailing CEC

If you did not turn all the way through the wind, the mainsail would act like a weathervane and turn you up into the wind into the “no go” zone. As the speed of the boat increased, along with the apparent wind speed, it was necessary to continue to trim the sails even more, referred to as the “trim cycle”. I had the boat up to 8 knots on a beam reach in about 10-12 knots of true wind speed. Jibing was straightforward and mostly just like jibing on the monohull. With the large mainsail it is especially important to center the mainsail before jibing and then letting it out immediately. Because of the heavy weight of the mainsail and rig, and sheer size of the mainsail, an accidental jibe could dismast the boat.



After learning how to tack and jibe the catamaran, we practiced Man Overboard (MOB) drills when sailing on a close reach or close-hauled. We practiced single handing the maneuver until it became second nature in rapid fashion. I was able to hit the MOB button on the chart plotter, “crash tack”, backwind the jib, ease the main so the boat was “hove to”, and start the engines at the same time to back down to keep the MOB abeam while the boat drifted downwind to the MOB. The recovery took only about two minutes. I was surprised how quickly the boat drifts in a “hove to” position.



After taking a written exam on the morning of the third day, we then practiced the MOB maneuvers for sailing on a beam or broad reach, which involved the traditional figure 8 recovery technique. We also practiced reefing the mainsail from a “hove to” position. Reefing is an essential task on a catamaran when the wind picks up because with the large mainsail, the boat can easily become overpowered. Since a catamaran does not heel much it is relatively easy to become overpowered and not know it. For that reason, catamaran manufacturers publish a reef plan for each of their boats. It is incumbent upon the Skipper to keep an eye on the apparent windspeed.

The course was an excellent overview of sailing a catamaran and the instructor was superb and offered valuable tips. Besides that, it was a lot of fun! I successfully earned my US Sailing Catamaran Endorsement certification and I feel confident in my ability to charter and safely skipper my own catamaran. I will be chartering a Fontaine Pajot (French-made) Astrea 42 from BVI Yacht Charters in June. Hopefully by then the British Virgin Islands government will have lifted their quarantine restrictions for visitors.

See the website of Steve and Doris Colgate’s Offshore Sailing School for this and other courses.

<https://www.offshoresailing.com/catamaran-refresher-and-certification-endorsement/>



Thanks to Dusty Walker from Freedom Boat Club for speaking at our February membership meeting via Zoom



Dusty explained how Freedom Boat Club works. You may see his interactive slideshow of benefits here:

https://bit.ly/How_The_Club_Works and list of benefits on page 9. One Northern Virginia location is the Woodbridge-Belmont Bay Marina here: <https://www.freedomboatclub.com/franchises/parker-boat-club-of-virginia-llc/belmont-bay-marina.html>

If you choose to join, use referral code "NVSPS" to receive \$500 discount off your membership.

Dusty Walker, 703-896-5799, dusty.walker@freedomboatclub.com



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.



March

John Genco	5
Mary Cleveland	8
David O'Malie	9
Charles Cleveland	10
Margaret Gallagher	13



Lawrence Bahl	15
Tom Ballew	19
Douglas Craig	25
Robert Hughlett	25

Keith Segerson's birthday was February 27, but his surname was misspelled. Our apologies for the error.



Club Member Benefits

FreedomBoatClub.com
(703) 896-5799

History

Since 1989, Freedom Boat Club has been the boat club industry leader, making us the country's oldest and largest members-only boat club. We invented this concept!

Locations

From seashores to lake shores, members can access locations throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Fleet

Our fleet is comprised of a large variety of boats which include Pontoons, Bowriders, Deckboats, Inshore and Offshore Center Consoles, Bay Boats and Cruisers

Training

Unlimited hands-on training which includes 1:1 new member orientation, advanced offshore training, and local area orientations. FREE unlimited training with US Coast Guard licensed captains.

Maintenance-free Service

Our members enjoy a truly maintenance-free boating experience; no longer concern yourself with cleaning, maintenance, repairs, storage, or long lines at the gas dock.

Insurance

We offer the most comprehensive insurance coverage in the industry, which includes: liability, hull, and machinery. Ask about our optional "FBC-Plus" program.

Hours of Operation

Monday – Sunday: 8am – 30 minutes before Sunset;
Overnight use is available by request.

Reservations

Unlimited boat usage available through our state-of-the-art online or app based reservation system and spur-of-the-moment boating.

Socials

Attend a variety of fun company-sponsored social events to mix & mingle with other members who share your passion for boating.

Memberships

Freedom Boating Plan • Weekday Boating Plan • FBC Lite Plan

Cost

The affordable alternative to boat ownership. A one-time entry fee and affordable monthly payments with no contract.

The Boat is Waiting... Why Are You?



ABCNV March 2021
D/Lt W. Lazear, AP
2014 Lakebreeze Way
Reston, VA 20191-4020



of Tars & Terns



**March 9, Meeting. Attend by Phone or Computer.
Elections to be held. Members must attend to vote.**

