



**NORTHERN VIRGINIA SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON  
2007-08 GENERAL MEETING  
13 June 2007**

In attendance:

**BRIDGE:**

Commander, G. Jay Nelson, AP  
Executive Officer, Lt/C William Blanding, AP  
Administrative Officer, Lt/C John Shivik, AP

Treasurer, Lt/C Steve Hall, P  
Secretary, Lt/C Clara L. Blanding, AP

**MEMBERS AT LARGE:**

Lt Francis Williamson, AP

The general meeting was held at BOAT US and called to order at 7:30 pm. CDR Jay Nelson, AP led in the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was present and the minutes from the last meeting had been posted on our website and were approved.

**RECOGNITION OF PAST NVPS COMMANDERS:**

Commander Nelson, AP recognized Past Commanders present as follows:

P/C Gale Alls, SN  
P/C Richard Durgin, JN  
P/C Edwin Dodd, JN  
P/C John A. Shivik, AP

**COMMANDER'S COMMENTS:** Cdr G. Jay Nelson, AP

- Many thanks to Robin and Jim Roberts for providing the tasty refreshments for this evening's Member Mixer.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Membership Chair, Martha Jane Dodd, AP

The following new members were sworn in:

- Sean Gallagher
- George and Ann Nartsisson
- Carl Hampton
- Nicholas Koopaethes
- Paul Cornely, Jr.

We have had 24 new members join our squadron in the past month. Welcome to all our new members!

**REPORT OF OFFICERS:**

Commander, CDR G. Jay Nelson, AP:

- The formal portion of the meeting will be kept short in order to allow maximum time for the guest speaker and for socializing with new members.

Treasurer, Lt/C Steve Hall, P:

- 270 membership renewals were mailed, of those we have received 170 renewals. Any member who has not renewed and still wishes to do so – the deadline is 20 June for payment of your dues.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### **Boating Activities, Cruise, Lt Joe Jarocki, AP**

- The boating Rendez-vous to Rock Hall was held and those attending had lots of fun. It was hoped more members would participate. Any member with ideas on a cruise date or location of interest should contact Joe Jarocki with suggestions.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** P/C Gale Alls, SN introduced our guest speaker for the evening: Officer Robert Grooms of the D.C. Harbor Metropolitan Police Department.

Officer Grooms started his work with the department as a member of the SWAT team, where he served for 11 years. 7 years ago he became a Safety Instructor for the Safety Diving Unit where he currently serves as a member of the diving and rescue team. He has been diving since 1994.

**PRESENTATION:** Officer Groom gave an informative talk on the role of the DC Harbor Police and boating as well as the job of the search and rescue divers on the Potomac.

- In the District boaters must have passed a basic boating safety course and maintain proof of this onboard at all times.
- Boats displaying a decal as proof of successful completion of a Vessel Safety Check (offered by the Power Squadrons) are often bypassed when boats are randomly selected for boarding and inspection. They are encouraged to stop boats for safety inspections and verify that boaters are complying with the laws. Any boater caught drinking and driving a water vessel will be arrested.
- The Metropolitan Police Department currently has 13 boats in its fleet, including Boston Whalers, new Zodiacs and 2 air boats. An officer is assigned to every marina in the District. They currently have 12 divers, of which Officer Groom is one. The divers respond directly to any incident, often in the waters of Virginia and Maryland if needed.
- The waters of the Potomac are so murky that the divers are effectively blind and rely on feel and verbal instructions from a "tender" on the surface to guide them in their search pattern. They also rely a lot on eye witness accounts to know where to narrow the search area.
- All boaters should report anything suspicious they see. They can call on Ch 17 (Harbor Patrol) or Ch 16.
- If you plan to overnight in the Washington Channel notify the Harbor Patrol on Ch. 17. Boaters are also encouraged to use a bow and stern anchor to stop the sway and swing in the narrow channel.

Unfinished and/or New Business/Good for the Order: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm to allow for social time between all members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lt/C Clara L. Blanding, AP  
Secretary