



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

In attendance:

**BRIDGE:**

Commander, G. Jay Nelson, AP  
Administrative Officer, Lt/C John Shivik, AP  
Education Officer, Lt/C Rick Baker, AP  
Treasurer, Lt/C Steve Hall

Assistant Education Officer, 1<sup>st</sup>Lt Rich Unis, P  
Assistant Secretary, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Susan Sams-Grohoski

**MEMBERS AT LARGE:**

Lt George Degnon, P  
Lt Francis Williamson, AP  
P/C Keith Segerson, P

The general meeting was held at BOAT US and called to order at 7:30 PM. Lt/C John Shivik, AP gave the invocation. CDR Jay Nelson, AP led in the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was present.

**RECOGNITION OF PAST NVPS COMMANDERS:**

Commander Nelson, AP recognized Past Commanders present as follows:

P/C Gale Alls, SN  
P/C Richard Davis, AP (of another squadron)  
P/C Richard Durgin, JN  
P/C Edwin Dodd, JN  
P/C Keith Segerson, P  
P/C John A. Shivik, AP

**TREASURER REPORT:** Lt/C Steve Hall

No report tonight

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

- Thank you to the Alls for refreshments.
- There will be no meeting in December.
- Welcome to guests Anne Oler, Carl Gamlen, Marilee Murphy, Brian Murphy
- Bylaws at Nationals in Norfolk, VA were changed, possibly due to the realization that an all volunteer organization needs streamlined accountable leadership. One of the many changes this summer is that National is now empowered to cancel Squadron Charter as needed and without warning. As a result, several squadrons have gotten together to write a resolution to help control the centralization of power. One of the ways they intend to do this is to hold National dues to \$15. By controlling funds, squadrons are hoping to get National's attention and to have them recognize the need for an administrative board with better representation from the squadrons.
- Several changes in educational system originating from National Organization. More seminars and redefinition of Master's Certificate. Revamping many of the courses. No longer need to pass squadron boating course to become a member. Jay expressed reservations that people will fly the burgee without having had the safety but realizes that they can join then gain the education to become knowledgeable which has a positive effect on membership.
- Robert Van Buskirk was recognized at district for teaching and training.
- The squadron won 3rd place in Henry E. Sweep Trophy for Excellence in Education

- Proficiency certificates, Steve Shupack, Tom Ballew, Bob Cox, Joe Jarocki, Lewis Miller,
- "Commanders Award" for educating the largest number of advanced students than any other squadron
- NOAH Maritime Users Committee: attended by Jay and John for past 3-4 years. Predicting sea surges and weather. Handed out stickers with phone numbers to call them to alert when their weather predictions are not accurate to the actual weather and sea heights of your current location. It helps NOAH to correct their modules which monitor the weather.

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

- No new members tonight

**REPORT OF OFFICERS:**

Administrative Officer, Lt/C John Shivik, P:

Delightfully decked out in Santa hat, John announced the December 8 Squadron Social and handed out flyers for those not yet having a reservation. He takes both checks and cash. Sign up now.

Treasurer, Lt/C Steve Hall:

- No Treasurers Report tonight

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Flower Power, P/C Richard Durgin, JN

- About \$25000 in account. Opportunity tonight only to increase the amount. December issue of Tars and Terns, may put in 3 lines with your name and donation of choosing for enclosure as a greeting. Pay with check or cash.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** P/C Gale Alls, SN introduced our guest speaker for the evening: Samuel Barr, longtime member of NVSPS.

**PRESENTATION:**

Mr. Barr gave a re-presentation first given to the squadron 5 years ago about how the sinking of the Titanic changed the navigation rules and vessel structure integrity still recognized and analyzed today. His well researched, interesting and informative presentation complete with numerous slides presented both the history and the analysis of the historic event. He pointed out how arrogance, ignorance and fear combined to cause this tragedy. .

NVSPS member, Cathy Sheffield's grandmother escaped the sinking Titanic on Angle Hard D, a non-regulation collapsible life boat pointed out by Mr. Barr. It was the last life boat to leave the Titanic.

The primary changes to navigation laws were that the number of lifeboats is now based on the number of passengers not the size of the ship, ships may no longer steam at maximum speed when conditions indicate otherwise, tracking of ice burgs has begun and communications concerning safety are given priority to all others.

The most historically authentic movie is *A Night to Remember*. Mr. Barr recommends it to those wishing to view an accurate depiction of the event.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Lt. Susan Sams-Grohoski*

Lt/C Clara L. Blanding, P  
Secretary

Lt Susan Sams-Grohoski  
Assistant Secretary