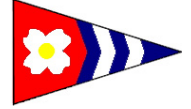




# of TARS & TERNS



Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron

January 2005  
Vol XXXIX No 1



## NVSPS BRIDGE Officers & Chairs



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### MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

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### AT LARGE

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Lt Russell Grasso, P (703) 499-8557

D/Lt Martha J. Dodd, P (703) 239-0551

Lt Ron Larson, P (703) 922-7094

P/C John Shivik, AP (703) 273-3351



## SQUADRON CALENDAR

### JANUARY 2005

- 5 – 9 USPS® Annual National Meeting  
*Orlando FL*
- 12 All Hands Meeting  
*BoatUS, Alexandria*
- 15 oT&T submissions due for February  
*send them to: peter.soballe@verizon.net*
- 17 Martin Luther King, Jr, Day  
*visit your boat, she's lonely out there*
- 20 Inauguration day  
*celebrate our democracy*

### FEBRUARY 2005

- 14 Valentine's Day  
*Buy boat stuff for your sweetheart*
- 15 oT&T submissions due for February  
*send them to: peter.soballe@verizon.net*

## Boat Paint at January's Meeting

**From P/C Gale Alls, SN**

What type of bottom paint should you use? Ablative antifouling, hard antifouling, anti-slime? How should you prepare the surface? Are temperature and humidity important? Learn these answers and more at our January meeting.

Our speaker will be George Dunigan of International Paint. He's responsible for painting everything in the Chesapeake from row boats to mega yachts. He'll have take home computer disks and literature to assist you with your own paint projects.

***Don't miss this terrific opportunity!***

## MONTHLY ALL-HANDS MEETING

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays at 1930 (any changes posted here and on the web)  
at BoatUS 880 S. Pickett St., Alexandria

**From I-495** take Van Dorn Exit #173 (old #3) north.

Turn Left on S. Pickett

**Or... From I-395** take Duke St. Exit #3 east, turn right on Van Dorn.

Turn right on S. Pickett.

*Then...* Go less than 1/2 mile and turn in at the BoatUS sign.

Enter from the lighted parking lot behind the building.



## of TARS & TERNS

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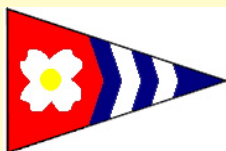
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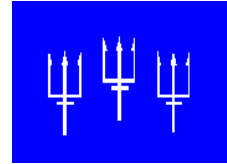
## SHIP'S STORE



Need a new burgee, tote bag, sport  
shirt or squadron name tag?

Contact P/C Paula Bailey, AP  
(703) 444-5169

# From the Commander



**Cdr Keith B. Segerson, P**

Let me begin by thanking you for all your gracious support during the past few months as my family worked through my mother's passing. It's this type of event that brings home the true meaning of family and friendship. To that end, I am blessed to be part of such a wonderful association of boating enthusiasts that have, in some ways, become an extended family to me.

Please make it your New Year's Resolution to attend one of the monthly general membership meetings, social activities, and/or to take another advanced course. As the XO outlines in his report nearby, our Squadron focuses on Education, Fraternal and Public Service activities. To see the full breadth of camaraderie, knowledge, and friendship, you really need to participate in the wide-range of NVSPS activities.

As we enter 2005, I want to wish each and everyone of you the best that life has to offer. Please plan on dipping your toe deeper in the NVSPS waters. You'll not regret it!

For more information on upcoming NVSPS courses and activities, please refer to the NVSPS web site or go directly to the list of courses: <http://www.usps.org/localusps/nva/educ/schedmem.htm>

## "CAPTAIN'S CORNER"

Let's test our knowledge of wintering techniques.

1. What state has more insurance claims for winter-related damage than any other?
  - a. Florida
  - b. Michigan
  - c. California
  - d. New York
2. "Fogging" refers to
  - a. condensation that builds up inside the boat
  - b. haze that collects on plastic sections of the canvas
  - c. spraying a fine oil in the engine intakes
  - d. fraternity hazing techniques
3. The most common component damaged by freezing is
  - a. fresh water system
  - b. holding tank
  - c. fuel system
  - d. head
4. The most common reason boats sink in their slips during the winter is
  - a. snow & ice load on the boat
  - b. seacock left in the open position
  - c. cracked hull due to ice forming around it
  - d. none of the above

*answers on page 5*





# Education

Lt/C G. Jay Nelson, AP

Winter course schedules have been laid out so that members who choose to take both Seamanship and Advance Piloting or two electives can do so in the same season. We're e-mailing members about available courses that they've not taken. If you'd like to be included in these notices or prefer to stop getting them, please let me know.

We are conducting a Squadron Boating Course, a Piloting Course and a Seamanship Course for sea scouts and plan an Engine Maintenance course as well. These are held on Saturdays in four-hour sessions and are open to all Power Squadron members.

We have conducted a Piloting Course using the new training material. The new approach, not quite perfected, teaches primarily electronic navigation with conventional charting as the backup. It's sure to appeal to today's boater. The Advanced Piloting materials are still not ready, so watch the Tars and Terns for details and a start date.

Finally, we need an instructor and assistant for a Squadron Boating Course scheduled at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in late March. This is a great opportunity and we need you: [gjaynelson@aol.com](mailto:gjaynelson@aol.com) – or call me at 703 818-5364 (daytime) or 703 437-0064 in the evenings.

- **Marine Electronics** – 03 January 05  
Mondays @ 1900 E Loudoun Library  
Contact Dwight Bues at (703) 404-8728 or [dbues@aol.com](mailto:dbues@aol.com)
- **Weather** – 08 February 05  
Tuesdays @ 1900, Robinson Secondary  
Contact John Shivik (703) 273-3351 or [jshivik@cox.net](mailto:jshivik@cox.net)
- **Seamanship** – 28 February 05  
Thursdays @ 1900 Fairfax High School  
Contact Rick Baker at (703) 318-5899 or [rickbaker@cox.net](mailto:rickbaker@cox.net)
- **Advanced Piloting** – ? early March  
Thursdays @ 1900 Fairfax High School  
Contact Jay Nelson at (703) 437-064 or [gjaynelson@aol.com](mailto:gjaynelson@aol.com)

## Congratulations to Ship 1942

The Sea Scouts have awarded our affiliate "OUTSTANDING SHIP OF THE YEAR" for overall advancement.

"THE COMMODORE'S AWARD" went to our member Tom Ballew, S, for devotion and enthusiasm to Sea Scouting.

And "BOATSWAIN OF THE YEAR" went to our associate Angela LeChevalier for participation in community, school and religious activities, for conducting quarterdeck training and a planning conference.

In accordance with Sections 6.8,6.8.1,6.8.2 and 11.1, of the NVSPS Bylaws, the following members of the Squadron are recommended for election by the General Membership at the Annual meeting of the Squadron. The members listed have agreed to serve their term as prescribed in the Bylaws for the year 2005-2006.

### BRIDGE OFFICERS

Commander	Keith B. Segerson, P
Executive Officer	Glenn A. Fahey, S
Educational Officer	G. Jay Nelson, AP
Administrative Officer	Martha Jane Dodd, P
Secretary	Cathleen F. Sheffield, AP
Treasurer	Jeffrey D. Hester
Asst Educ Officer	Brian C. Middleton, AP
Asst Admin Officer	VACANT
	<i>(May be nominated from the floor)</i>
Asst Treasurer	Judy K. Soballe, AP
Assistant Secretary	Clara Blanding

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT LARGE

Walter D. Lazear, AP  
 Russell S. Grasso, AP  
 Ronald H. Larson, P  
 John A. Shivik, AP  
 VACANT *(May be nominated from the floor)*

### RULES COMMITTEE

Chairman 1 year	Thomas J. Martin, AP
2 years	Ernest Linwood Sheffield, AP
3 years	Mike Triggs, P
4 years	Eugene Jacob, AP
5 years	William Hammett, P

### AUDITING COMMITTEE

Chairman	William Blanding
2 years	Richard P. Davis, AP
3 years	VACANT
	<i>(May be nominated from the floor)</i>

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

To be nominated and elected at the Annual General Meeting 9 March 2005.

As provided for in Section 11.1, additional candidates for any of the above offices may be nominated by petition, signed by at least five (5) active members in good standing, filed with the Secretary at least fifteen (15) days before the date of the election during the Annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
P/C Elwood P. Sheetz, AP  
Chair, Nominating Committee



## Exec's Moment

Lt/C Richard Davis, AP



## Administration

Lt/C Glenn A. Fahey, S

**The boating season came to a screeching halt** a month ago for all but the most hardy. With the end of the season, we shift gears to other activities that allow us to continue to indulge in our love of boating while away from the water.

**The three legs of the Power Squadrons** are Education, Fraternity, and Public Service. Last month I discussed the educational aspects of the squadron and how you can participate both as a student and as an instructor. This month I'd like to discuss the Public Service aspect of our organization. There are many ways we can perform Public Service to the boating community during these chilly months.

**First** are the public boating courses. This year we taught a number of them through out our area, but we need member participation to help with this service to the general public. It is both fun and fulfilling to be assisting other boaters.

**Second**, many members have taken part in the Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program since it started. NVSPS trained many examiners and conducted many boat examinations this past year. While most boats are currently in mothballs, members can decide now to become a certified examiner for next year. The course can be taken either in the classroom or online prior to the start of the next boating season.

**Third**, during the month of May the squadron promotes boating safety to usher in another season during National Safe Boating Week. We need your assistance here. We also need help at the various boat shows manning our booth.

**Last and certainly not least**, the Squadron's have a Co-operative program with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) called COOPERATIVE CHARTING. It's a multifaceted program with both land and water-based activities. Besides reporting of needed updates to nautical charts, it includes checking land-based National Geodetic Survey marks, and detailed reports on Marine facilities such as your own marina. More details can be found on the USPS Web Site and in the October edition of the *Ensign*. This is a year-round Public Service that provides much needed assistance to NOAA who would otherwise be unable to obtain the information within their budget constraints.

**Our squadron is not shut down** with the close of the boating season. Consider joining in on one of these public service activities. You'll be joining a long list of members who pride themselves in participation.

*Join the fun, share the knowledge.*



I hope that you all had a happy and healthy Holiday Season. The NVSPS had its annual Holiday Dinner Party on December 5 at the Holiday Inn, Washington Dulles. Our guest of honor, was P/D/Lt/C Richard L. Jansen, AP, representing District 5. He was accompanied by Mrs. Jansen. We also had a couple other guests of honor by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. The Clauses handed out wonderful hand-made Christmas tree ornaments for all of those in attendance. Much thanks goes out to Cdr. Keith Segerson, his two boys, and the Durgins for making the ornaments. I can't divulge the identities of the Clauses, but I can say that Mrs. Claus really enjoys dancing, and Mr. Claus had a very deep Ho! Ho! Ho! They both did a great job. Everyone seemed to have a good time.

**We'll need volunteers in March** to staff our booth for 2-hour shifts at the National Capital Boat Show in Chantilly, VA. It runs from Thursday to Sunday, 10 -13 March. While your boat is in winter hibernation, you don't need to miss out on boating-related activities, as our XO points out in the neighboring column. You can take advanced boating classes and you can volunteer to help out your squadron with events like this. Volunteers receive free show admission, and you can enjoy the show before or after your booth shift. This is a popular and fun event. For this, or other volunteer opportunities, contact me or any other Bridge member.

The annual **Change of Watch and Founders' Day** celebrations are coming up. Watch this space for details.

*Have a Healthy and Happy New Year!*



**Welcome Aboard!**

David Aime  
l Batchelder  
Terry & Bailey Cronin  
Roger & Trey DeGeorges  
Michael & Renee' Franklin  
Robert Green  
Patricia Haskin  
David Robb  
Jim Linder  
Lewis Miller  
Richard Unis  
Richard Weinberg  
Glenn L. Robinson



D/Lt Charles H. Olin, AP

RADIATION: Dangerous Particles II

Outer space, between stars and between galaxies, contains an abundance of very high energy "particles", cosmic rays, all potentially dangerous, all traveling almost at the speed of light. These relativistic particles, mostly protons with a small number of atomic nuclei (alpha particles account for 7%), create vast showers of secondary particles when they encounter air molecules at the outer fringes of Earth's atmosphere. Secondary particles produced are pions, photons, positrons, electrons, muons, and neutrinos. One relativistic proton can scatter 10^10 particles over an area 10^5 m^2. These cosmic ray particles do not present a danger to those who live near sea level. Up to five muons pass through our heads, billions of neutrinos and several cosmic rays pass through our bodies every second. Airline pilots who spend long hours at high altitudes and of course astronauts are endangered by these high energy particles. Outside the protection of our atmosphere and Earth's magnetic shield, low energy cosmic rays (around 10^9 eV, the energy such as the plasma stream of electrons, protons, and alpha particles from the Sun and other stars) are very damaging.

Earth is a very safe place to live. Radiation generated by reactors, nuclear weapons, and medical sources, do not generally produce high energy particles but any radiation produced can be extremely dangerous. This radiation however does not originate from the sailor's night (or day) sky and is not dealt with here. Other dangerous particles originating from natural radioactive sources such as uranium and potassium in the ground and radon a gas in the air have not been included either.

This series of articles, "The Sailor's Night Sky", was first written ten years ago this coming March. It began by presenting a practical approach to understanding the motion of the stars, planets and Sun in order to gain a familiarization and potential use of the night sky objects for sailors when at sea. Explanations of the apparent motions of these objects were given. A history of early navigation techniques and instruments followed for many monthly issues. Then a history of ancient star lore together with a year of all 57 navigation stars and then a short description of what a star is. The last series of articles this year reached far out of the practical to a fundamental understanding of the night sky as revealed by radiation from outer space; this involved strange distant phenomena beyond the tiny specks of light we see in the dark night abyss.

There has been a reason behind this approach of incorporating history and a basic understanding with a gradual de-emphasizing of the practical; hopefully these articles have come close to education rather than training.

There is still another interesting area to cover, the sailor's day and night sky as effected by radiation.

Relativistic protons travel 99.999999999999999999% the speed of light. They have energies as high as 10^20 eV; a few have been recorded higher. At the Fermilab Tevatron accelerator, the highest energy particles we can produce so far only reach 10^12 eV. NOTE: (2 X 10^12 is twice the energy, now envision 10^20. This is one hundred million times greater).

Neutrinos have an extremely small mass 7 - 15 eV; they travel near the speed of light. They penetrate all matter with ease as they possess a very small cross section (Sun neutrino: 10^-42 to 10^-46 cm^2). It has been calculated that if 100 neutrinos started out at one end of our galaxy, 50 would arrive at the other end (100,000 light years distant). Perhaps one or two neutrinos are absorbed in your body in a life time.

Carbon-14 (and Beryllium-10), dating techniques over a 10^3 to 10^7 year period, are possible because of the interaction of low energy cosmic rays (10^9 eV). Radioactive carbon is produced in our atmosphere and gets absorbed in growing plants.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER ANSWERS

- 1. c. - California has more claims for freezing damage because many believe that winterizing is not needed in seemingly tepid climates
2. c. - Spraying a fine oil in the engine intakes coats the internal engine parts with an oily film that protects against corrosion
3. a. - The fresh water system, specifically the plastic plumbing from the tank to the sinks.
4. b. - a seacock left in the open position allows ice into the seacock and attached hose, it can either split the hose or force it off the seacock fitting

Wedding Bells

Congratulations and best wishes to P/C Alan R. Hart, AP, and Mary Meador who were married on December 11, 2004 in Fredericksburg, Va.



www.usps.org/localusps/nva

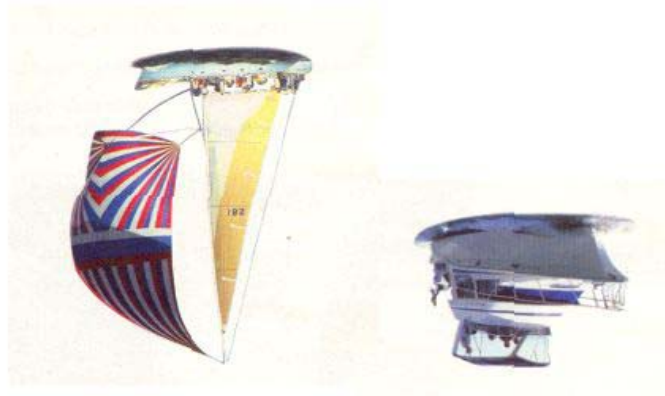
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