



of TARS & TERNS

Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron

www.usps.org/localusps/nva/ott/ott.htm



February 2005

Vol XXXIX No 2

NVSPS SAILOR SAVES A LIFE ON THE CHESAPEAKE !

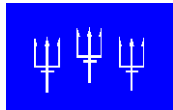
October 11, 2004, Herring Bay. W. Ben Fulton, III, AP, aboard his 37' Pacific Seacraft *Loon*, in route to St. Michaels, noticed something floating off his starboard bow at about 0900. As he approached he could see that it was a man in the cold water waving his arms, sitting in a swamped johnboat, wearing a life vest, and holding an empty gas can for additional buoyancy. Ben came about, threw him a line, pulled the man to the swim ladder, and helped him board *Loon*. The survivor was Michael Postawaite. He was wet, cold, and hungry and stated "I didn't think I would ever see my family again."

The Coast Guard arrived in 40 minutes, picked up Mr. Postawaite and took him to Herrington Harbour South where an ambulance was waiting. He was taken to a hospital, released later that day and reunited with his family.

He'd been fishing near the Bay Bridge the previous afternoon. But his outboard motor wouldn't start as he prepared to go home and around 1900 his boat swamped. He had no radio or distress signal beyond a flashlight. He saw two other boaters but they did not see him. He was in the water for over 13 hours and drifted south approximately 15 miles from where he started.

Thanks to Ben Fulton's alertness, experience in sailing, and Power Squadron training, a fellow boater's life. was saved We're proud to have Ben Fulton as a longtime member of the Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron.

From the Commander ...



I'm **ENTHUSIASTIC** about your NVSPS. We had a wonderful speaker and full attendance at the first meeting of 2005. The great information and excellent dialogue reminded me once again that boating enthusiasts really do benefit from active participation in our organization. Anything that can be painted on a boat was discussed, with many examples of painting gone wrong. It was eye opening and very interesting to anyone in boating. Fortunately, the members in attendance never had ANY of the problems discussed - well, at least they claimed as much!

This article is being written while I hear the sound of heavy rain and wind hitting the windows. Certainly not a day I'd venture down the Bay or up the Potomac. Now's the time to brush up on boating knowledge and to make repairs to shore-stored equipment, electronics, canvas, etc. Don't wait until that first 80° day and then scramble to get everything in shape. Advanced NVSPS classes are starting now and there MAY be one or two seats available in the ever-popular Weather course taught by the always entertaining and educational PC John Shivik.

We have several great events coming that each of you should attend. The Founder's Day celebration in February, and the Change of Watch in March shouldn't be missed.

Winter is here now, but Spring is coming. Make use of your NVSPS and the great members that make up our organization, as they are terrific assets in many ways. I look forward to serving you by continuing our great and enjoyable association of friends and fellow boaters.

To check on upcoming NVSPS courses and activities, please refer to the NVSPS web site or go directly to the list of courses by typing in the URL:
<http://www.usps.org/localusps/nva/educ/schedmem.htm>



SQUADRON CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2005

- 09 NO ALL-HANDS MEETING
- 12 FOUNDER'S DAY (& Feb Meeting)
potluck @ Montebello Condominium
- 05-13 EASTERN SPORTS SHOW
Harrisburg PA: NVSPS booth
- 14 VALENTINE'S DAY
buy your sweetheart some nice boat stuff
- 15 oT&T submissions due for March
send them to: peter.soballe@verizon.net

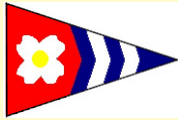
MARCH 2005

- 09 ALL-HANDS MEETING
at BoatUS
- 10-13 CAPITAL AREA BOAT SHOW
Chantilly VA
- 19 CHANGE of WATCH
New bridge, brunch. Dulles Holiday Inn
- 15 oT&T submissions due for April
send them to: peter.soballe@verizon.net
- 31-03 Apr D5 SPRING MEETING
Williamsburg. Reserve space now !

APRIL 2005

- 13 ALL-HANDS MEETING
at BoatUS
- 16 CO-OP CHARTING
at Fairfax Yacht Club

SHIP'S STORE



Need a new burgee, sport shirt or name tag?

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

NVSPS BRIDGE Officers & Chairs



COMMANDER
Cdr Keith B. Segerson, P
(703) 670-2270



EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Lt/C Richard P. Davis, AP
(571) 436-76



ADMIN OFFICER
Lt/C Glenn A. Fahey, S
(703) 421-0662
ASST: 1/Lt Yean-Ming Sheu, AP
(301) 277-5035



EDUCATION OFFICER
Lt/C G. Jay Nelson, AP
(703) 437-0064
ASST: P/C Dick Durgin, JN
(703) 560-9106



TREASURER
Lt/C Joel P. Bailey, AP
(703) 444-5169
ASST: 1/ Lt Judy Soballe, AP
(202) 337-0960



SECRETARY
Lt/C Cathy F. Sheffield, AP
(703) 370-4331



EXEC'S MOMENT

Lt/C Richard Davis, AP

I attended the USPS General Membership Meeting in Orlando 5 – 9 January. It was a chance to meet with friends and make new ones and to catch up on the activities of the organization. This year it featured an “Expo”; all the departments and committees in USPS and many vendors each had a booth. 187 members received Life Membership status – 25 merit marks.

Of particular interest was the issue of USPS’s financial status. Plainly we have some challenges ahead, and this will be a hot topic at the Governing Board in Charlotte this summer. A special committee has been called to attempt to bring USPS management more in line with similar organizations.

The D5 Spring Conference will be in Williamsburg 31 Mar - 3 Apr, main events are Friday and Saturday. NVSPS hosts a hospitality suite on Friday evening. We invite you to attend and help in putting it together. Please contact me. This will be a fun and educational occasion, so get your reservation in soon. You can find more information and a registration sheet on page 7, on the district web page, or in Mark 5.

The Eastern Sports Show in Harrisburg PA, 5-13 February, will have a NVSPS contribution.

The National Capital Boat Show at Dulles Expo Center is 31 Mar – 03 Apr. If you can help, please let us know, its worth free entry.

NVSPS was awarded the “Excellence in Journalism” award for the oT&T for 2004 at the national meeting. Well done!!

Join the fun, share the knowledge.

“CAPTAIN’S CORNER”

This month’s topic is weather. All of this and a great deal more is covered in the course starting this month.

1. The skies have turned dark and ominous and the National Weather Service has issued a _____, meaning that the risk of hazardous weather has increased, but its timing, & location are uncertain.
 - a. “watch”
 - b. “warning”
 - c. “advisory”
 - d. “bulletin”
2. As you prepare for departure you hear the Harbormaster refer to “mackerel skies”. When accompanied by dropping barometric pressure, these clouds indicate:
 - a. fair weather conditions
 - b. a cold front approaching
 - c. a warm front approaching
 - d. storm conditions
3. Lightning flashes and you count 20 seconds until you hear the thunder. How far away is it? Are you in danger of being struck by lightning?
 - a. 1 mile
 - b. 4 miles
 - c. 10 miles
 - d. 20 miles

answers on page 6



CO-OP CHARTING

Ed Phillips, AP, Committee Chair



Geodetic Marker Recovery Day

Sat Apr 16, 2005 at 0800-1300 in the vicinity of Fairfax Yacht Club on the Virginia side. Followed by lunch at Tim's. Contact me: novaspscoch@yahoo.com.

For more on Marker Recovery and co-op charting, I recommend the USSPS website <http://www.usps.org/national/coch/>. It contains a wealth of information.

There's more about Geodetic Surveys at <http://www.nos.noaa.gov/programs/ngs/welcome.html>.

D5 Co-op Charting Workshop

Friday April 29 and Saturday April 30 at NOAA's Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk, Virginia. Topics include Depth Surveys, CCWEB, Sextant Use, DepthWiz, GPS Use, WAAS/DGPS, Geodetic Mark Recovery, Facility Surveys, Adopt-A-Chart, Shoreline Surveys, Coast Pilot Corrections, and more.

There will be Special Classes for New Workshop Students, Advanced Training for Repeat Students, and Computer Data Entry Hands on Training. I urge anyone with an interest in charting to attend. It's Casual and it's FUN and you will meet a lot of new friends.

More info and the registration form will be published in the next Mark 5.

Epoxy or ablative?



George Dunigan of International Paint brought clarity to such critical yet obtuse boating questions at January's all-hands' meeting

Relationships and Safety Inspections: on Track



Jan12, BoatUS. Elaine Colen, VSE chair, announces more progress in this important safety work and also acknowledges that she and P/C Al Sheetz will tie the knot this summer.

Congratulations!

CRUISE NEWS

Lt/C Joel Bailey, AP

Got the winter blues? Start thinking about the summer cruise!!

Where and when? Scheduling the cruise was a challenge this year: avoid the July and August heat but also accommodate school age children. So we have a great cruise lined up on the northern bay (we went South last year). Arrangements with specific marinas are still underway:

Rock Hall MD, Fri, June 24

Georgetown, MD, (on the Sassafras River) Sat & Sun, Jun 25 & 26

Fairlee Creek, MD, Mon, June 27

Rock Hall, MD, Tue, June 28.

Deale, MD, (Herrington Harbor) Wed & Thu, Jun 29 & 30.

Some may also continue informally through the 4th of July weekend.

What is this cruise thing anyway?

For those who've never been, here's a brief discussion of a NVSPS cruise. The chairman (me) books everyone's slips, so all you have to do is show up. Most come by boat, but for those who come by car, there are Bed and Breakfasts or motels close by. We have nightly hors-d'oeuvres and the squadron provides cocktails. Some then go out to dinner or cook out. Folks who want to strike out on their own do just that. We encourage both sailors and power boaters to attend, so we deliberately limit each leg to about 30 miles.

Perhaps the biggest benefit of joining a cruise is traveling with very experienced boaters whom you can ask about weather, recommended routes, and boat handling strategies. It's the best hands-on learning possible.

I encourage all members to join our summer cruise. I guarantee good times and a great experience. Further information, including instructions for signing up for the cruise, will appear in the March *oT&T*. Call me (703) 444-5169 with questions.

Do you remember ? Co-op charting

P/C Bill Alberts, SN

In 1981 NVPS's P/C Bob Myers won first-place nationally for an individual in Co-op Charting, with 2000% above the requirement for the National Honor Roll. NVPS was designated as the "most improved squadron in USPS" in co-op charting that year. Bob's entry was a detailed channel and waterfront survey of Belmont Bay and the Occoquan with both aerial and water photos and voluminous data.



EDUCATION

Lt/C G. Jay Nelson, AP

Our winter schedule is in full swing. There are six Basic Boating courses before the beginning of the season. Four start after the National Capital Boat Show. This event always produces a surge in demand for our educational products.

Seamanship, featuring Rick Baker, begins 03 Mar at Fairfax High, 1930-2130, Thursdays through 12 May. Cost is \$35 (\$20 for family members sharing materials). *How to buy a new propeller?* This timely presentation will get you ready for the season and it's the preferred follow-on for Basic Boating. Rick will be using the new, improved editions and a dynamite slide presentation he designed himself. Reserve your seat and books at 20rjbaker04@cox.net or (703) 318-5899.

Weather, with John Shivik, begins 08 Feb at Fairfax High (3500 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax City), 1915-2130 Tuesdays for 13 weeks. Cost is \$65 (\$20 for family members sharing materials). Reserve your seat and books for this always popular course at jshivik@cox.net or (703) 273-3351.

Advanced Piloting, with Jay Nelson, will be scheduled once we get new instructor manuals. The new course emphasizes electronic navigation aids: radar, electronic compasses, GPS, and plotting devices. There's less emphasis on interpolation and tide charts. This shift in philosophy and the changes in instruction techniques require that we review the new material before we attempt to teach it. We're targeting mid to late March to start at a mid-Fairfax location. Reserve your seat and books at gjaynelson@aol.com or (703) 818-5364 days, (703) 437-0064 evenings.

Marine Electronics, with Dwight Bues, is already meeting and winning rave reviews.



District 5

2005 Spring Conference

31 March – 3 April 2005

*The Williamsburg Hospitality House
Williamsburg, Virginia*

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	Clara Blanding
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	Cathleen F. Sheffield, AP

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT LARGE

Walter D. Lazear, AP
Russell S. Grasso, AP
Ronald H. Larson, P
John A. Shivik, AP
Richard J. Durgin, JN

RULES COMMITTEE

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

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Chairman	George K. Degnon, AP
2 years	Richard P. Davis, AP
3 years	William Blanding

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.

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





ADMINISTRATION Lt/C Glenn A. Fahey, S

We need volunteers for the National Capital Boat Show in Chantilly, VA. The boat show will run from Thursday to Sunday, March 10-13. Shifts are for 2 hrs and you receive free admission. Check in at the front desk in the North Hall to receive your "Exhibitor" tag. This is always a popular and fun event. To volunteer or ask about times available contact Mike Triggs, our Boat Show Chairman, at vaskipperm@aol.com or (703) 212-8580. If you're new to the squadron, don't worry, you'll be paired up with more seasoned members at the booth. (If you signed up at the squadron meeting Jan 12, please contact Mike to make sure he has your name on the list. Some names were misplaced. Sorry for the mix up.)

Our Change of Watch will be Sat, Mar 19. Details are being worked out, so you'll get more information by postcard soon.

Our Founder's Day celebration is Saturday, Feb 12 at 1830. It'll be a potluck and the squadron will hand out annual awards. There'll also be a brief general meeting. It's at P/C Al Sheetz's Montebello Condominium in Alexandria. The squadron will provide beer, wine, soda, snacks, and incidentals. To reserve, please send a \$5 check per person payable to NVSPS **by 01Feb** to: Glenn Fahey, 1323 Shallow Ford Rd. Herndon, VA 20170. (703) 421-0662. And tell me what food you will bring.

You should have already gotten a postcard about this. Montebello needs a list 10 days prior for security, hence the deadline.

.....
NVSPS Founder's Day Dinner
Saturday, February 12, 2005, 1830 - ?

Montebello Party Room 2 (Building 5902)
5902 Mt. Eagle Drive, Alexandria, VA
We will be guests of Elwood (Al) Sheetz
703-960-3033 (Home) 703-402-7848 (cell)

From Route 495 take exit # 177A "Route 1 South - Ft. Belvoir"
Continue through two lights (Ft. Hunt Rd. & Huntington Ave.)
~ 1 mile from exit turn right on Mount Eagle Dr. (a service road).
Go up hill and turn right into main (center) gate.

Tell guard you're guests of Al Sheetz and going to building 2 Party Room.

Turn right out of gate and go to the top of the hill; building 5902 is on the **left**.

Park, enter front lobby, dial 416 on the lobby phone, and inform office that you're attending a meeting in Party Room 2. Office will buzz door. Go to elevators and down to level B1 (don't take stairs). Turn left out of elevator and immediate left into party room. Al lives in this building. He's best reached on his cell phone after 1500.



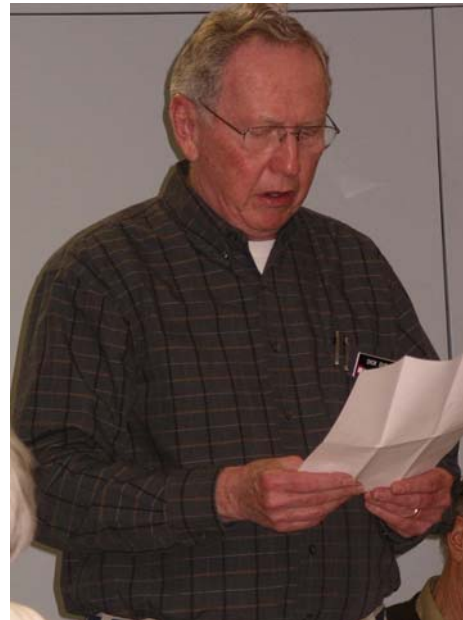
*Welcome
Aboard!*



Wayne Creed, 12 Jan 2005

FLOWER POWER SURGE !

P/C Dick Durgin, JN



After our holiday initiative the squadron's special projects' fund is now worth \$2340. **Thanks to all of you!**



D/Lt Charles H. Olin, AP

THE LAST ARTICLE

Spring of 1996, Jere Dando, Commander of NVPS, asked me at the D5 meeting if I could write a series of articles on astronomy and the night sky. The articles began in a dry factual way, but as I reflected on the engaging education courses Jacques and I were so deeply involved in at the time, I thought this would be an opportunity to relate the stars, planets, sun, and moon to the history of navigation; this could be truly educational. USSPS courses do not cover these things in either a practical navigational or informative historical way. Junior Navigation used to discuss magnitude of stars and planets and provided charts of the season's major constellations and positions of 33 of the 57 navigation stars. But it no longer contains this chapter; magnitude is relegated to "Optional Material", no charts. At the 2001 District 5 Fall Conference, some one asked if JN should contain anything on trigonometry to assist the student. A gentleman from a state school system stood up and said "NO, they do not need to know anything about trig in JN" !!

USSPS does not really provide education. We do provide excellent training that makes boating safe and interesting. I completed 8 years of university education. I've also been privileged to attend many years of training. 1 attended 12 months of USMC officers' training, 6 months guided missile school at Fort Bliss, USMC supply school Camp Lejeune, Fairfax County Fire Service training, Emergency Medical Service training, and Channel-10 Television Video Camera Training School. The university years were a widening of knowledge and development of learning ability. The training courses were for acquiring specific practical knowledge and skill that could be applied. USSPS provides some of the best training I have taken; but I would encourage those new to USSPS to read selected excerpts from Bowditch *American Practical Navigator* and Chapman *Piloting Seamanship Small Boat Handling*, for a better understanding of our nautical heritage.

Did you ever wonder why you were learning certain things as you went through your courses? It would have been helpful to me to know the reasons behind what we were taught. More important are the rich history and explanations developed over centuries of sailing the seas which could accompany the many things we were taught. Why tie this knot in this situation? For example a square knot should ONLY be used to tie a sail to a boom so it can be removed easily after a great deal of tension. Used otherwise, this knot was the cause of many seamen's deaths. Why are Arcturus and Betelgeuse orange? They are old stars near the end of their lives; they have greatly expanded after billions of years of converting hydrogen to helium. Their surface temperatures have reduced from perhaps 20,000° K to 5,000° K. Usually young stars are blue like Rigel and Spica. This can be explained black-body radiation.

"The Sailor's Night Sky" was an attempt to provide this kind of background to a neglected but important and interesting aspect of being on the water.

With the end of "The Sailor's Night sky" I suggest an article written by the membership entitled "The Sailor's Experience." Many of us have had interesting and hair raising experiences while on the water. It needn't be a disaster; I've experienced several events that I bet you'd find interesting; they can fill in until you write your own. Please join me in March 2005. Send your article to Pete Soballe at peter.soballe@verizon.net.

"All the Men in the Sea"

by Michael Krieger
The Free Press, New York, 2002

The setting is the Gulf of Mexico in 1995. Divers 160 feet below an oil rig barge are rushing to complete repairs to a section of pipeline. They are trying to beat Hurricane Roxanne, which is bearing down on the huge barge on which hundreds of workers live. Even when they finish their work underwater, the divers face many, many hours in a decompression chamber. Forced to abandon that chamber prematurely, they would die from the bends.

Company profit-seeking decided the fate of the barge. She would stay and ride out the hurricane, under tow by the accompanying three tugboats. All went according to plan during the storm, until the hurricane made a U-turn and brought its 90 MPH winds back to the barge. Then the lines parted, the barge listed, and over two hundred men went in the water.

The heroic efforts of the tugboat captains and crew to rescue men clinging to storm-tossed lifeboats are told in a way that puts you on the scene. The stories of individual men are woven into a tapestry of vivid scenes, hope eternal, and great determination. This high drama then descends into familiar tales of corporate greed, legal battles, and poor compensation for the victims and their families. It's an amazing tale of bravery and rescue, of fateful decisions, and of human faith. I recommend it to those who love the sea and those tough people who challenge it.

Walt Lazear, AP

CAPTAIN'S CORNER ANSWERS

1. a. Watch means severe weather possible in the next few hours. Warning means severe weather has been observed or expected soon. Advisories are awareness information.
2. c. This is a term for lowering clouds that appear ahead of a warm front.
3. b. 4 miles. Sound travels about one mile in five seconds. And yes – if you can hear thunder you are in danger of being struck by lightning.

USPS D/5 SPRING CONFERENCE RESERVATION FORM

31 March – 3 April 2005

Williamsburg, Virginia

MEMBER: Rank _____ Name: _____ Grade: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

SQUADRON: _____ PHONE: _____

E-mail: _____ NEW ADDRESS (circle if new address)

SPOUSE/OTHER ATTENDEES:

Rank: _____ Name: _____ Grade: _____

Rank: _____ Name: _____ Grade: _____

ACTIVITIES SELECTIONS

Ghost Walk – Colonial Williamsburg # _____ @ \$14.00 \$ _____
Thursday evening – 2100 – A Walking Tour

Williamsburg Winery Tour/Tasting and Luncheon # _____ @ \$40.25 \$ _____
Friday 1000 - 1400

Shirley Plantation Tour and Lunch at Indian Fields Tavern # _____ @ \$37.00 \$ _____
Saturday 0900 – 1500 – Tour could be cancelled if minimum of 55 reservations are not received

Saturday Member/Spouse Luncheon # _____ @ \$19.00 \$ _____
A Visit by Captain Meriwether Clark

Saturday Night Banquet/COW # _____ @ \$41.00 \$ _____
Colonial Williamsburg Style Dinner
Prime Rib and Pan Roasted Chicken with Peach Chutney
Entertainment by the Williamsburg Fife and Drum Corp

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: 2005 D/5 Spring Conference

SEND TO: D/F/Lt Arlene M. Anderson, AP

11258 Magnolia Place

Smithfield, Virginia 23430 (757) 357-6319 or Arlene.anderson@monroe.army.mil

UNIFORM – Friday-USPS/Squadron shirts, Saturday-Sunday Council/Conference – Blue Blazer

Change of Watch/Banquet – Uniform A with bowtie

THE WILLIAMSBURG HOSPITALITY HOUSE

415 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Non-smoking & Handicapped Rooms available on a request basis.

CALL Reservations Dept at 1-800-932-9192

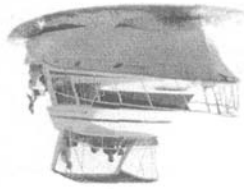
Use the Reservation ID Code: U. S. Power Squadron, District 5

Rates: Single/Double Room \$115.00 plus taxes, 1 bedroom suite \$175.00 plus tax, 2 bedroom suite \$275.00 plus tax

ALL FRIDAY NIGHT HOSPITALITY SUITE RESERVATIONS WILL BE MADE THROUGH D/LT Maxine Graves,
313 35 th Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 (757-422-2759) d.graves9@verizon.net

**ALL HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 1 March 2005
TO ENSURE USPS RATES**

Activity Reservations must be received by 15 February 2005



MONTHLY ALL-HANDS MEETING
 2nd Wednesdays at 1930 (any changes posted here and on the web)
 at BoatUS 880 S. Pickett St., Alexandria
 From 1-495 take Van Dorn Exit #173 (old #3) North.
 Turn Left on S. Pickett
 Or.. From 1-395 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.

www.usps.org/localusps/nva

Articles and advertisements are not USPS policy or endorsement unless so designated. Published ten months per year. July & August, December & January are combined

Official Publication

of TARS & TERNS

The United States Power Squadrons®

In District 5 of

Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron



America's Boating Club

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