



of TARS & TERNS

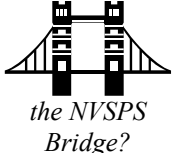
Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron

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



April 2005

Vol XXXIX No 4



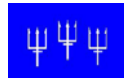
A FIRST FOR THE NVSPS C.O.W.



19 Mar, Dulles Holiday Inn. In an unprecedented move for our squadron, but one which is increasingly common nationwide, our commander was installed for a second consecutive term. After a festive change of watch brunch, NVSPS has an enthusiastic new bridge, ready to stay the course set by CDR Keith Segerson, P. "There's no shortage of talented members who could have taken over", says CDR Segerson, but right now NVSPS really needs a steady hand at the helm and a sustained effort to navigate the treacherous shoals of uncertainty and change. The ceremony was highlighted by a thoughtful keynote address from the D5 representative, P/D/C Charles Tulip, JN. Our new commander echoed his comments and they both spoke of the USPS triangle of education, service, and fellowship with emphasis on fellowship. And there was certainly plenty of good fellowship in evidence among the 50 or so members present on this sunny day.



Cdr Keith B. Segerson, P
From the Commander



I thank each of you for entrusting me to serve as commander of your squadron for another year. It is such an honor to be able to continue to build upon the programs that were begun last year and to position our organization to provide even more programs, services, classes, networking opportunities, educational sessions, and social activities. As I outlined in my acceptance talk at the C.O.W ceremony, we will be working hard to improve new member's involvement and member retention. Last year your NVSPS had one of the highest new-membership ratings in the nation. I definitely want to ensure that continues, but also focus on refining programs and activities to meet the needs of the entire membership. Every new member will be introduced to an Executive Committee "mentor" as a guide through the learning curves of the NVSPS. New members will be invited to attend each all-hands' meeting and all social events, and encouraged to take advanced boating courses and to volunteer whenever possible. I've seen a significant increase in new-member involvement over the past year and look for that trend to continue. I know that our members are very busy, but since we all share a love of boating and our members are VERY educated and knowledgeable about the subject, it only makes sense that those less involved should take full advantage of these opportunities.

The next all-hands meetings will feature exciting and informative speakers. Mr. Paul Fleury, a marine corrosion expert will speak 13 Apr on dangers to underwater metal on boats in the presence of stray current. Then at the 11 May meeting former NVSPS members John & Lynn Walker will detail their around-the-world cruise aboard their own sailing vessel. These meetings are an excellent opportunity to network with other members and fellow boaters.

I look forward to serving you again this year as the NVSPS Commander and 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 at: <http://www.usps.org/localusps/nva/educ/schedmem.htm>



SQUADRON CALENDAR

APRIL 2005

- 13 ALL-HANDS MEETING
at BoatUS
- 15 Boy Scout Jamboree **DEADLINE**
contact M.J. Dodd or Bill Hammet
- 15 oT&T submissions due for May
send them to: psoballe@yahoo.com
- 16 CO-OP CHARTING
at Fairfax Yacht Club
- 29-30 NOAA CO-OP CHARTING SEMINAR
Atlantic Marine Center, Norfolk VA

MAY 2005

- 15 SUMMER CRUISE deposit **deadline**
send form and monies to: Joel Bailey
- 15 oT&T submissions due for June
send them to: psoballe@yahoo.com

**NVSPS BRIDGE
Officers &
Chairs**



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



EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Lt/C Glenn A. Fahey, S
(703) 421-0662



ADMIN OFFICER
Lt/C Martha J. Dodd, P
(703) 239- 0551
ASST:1/Lt William J. Hammett, AP
(703) 569-3648



EDUCATION OFFICER
Lt/C G. Jay Nelson, AP
(703) 437-0064
ASST:1/Lt Brian C. Middleton, AP
(703) 256-3276



TREASURER
Lt/C Jeffrey D. Hester
(540) 667-4949
ASST: 1/ Lt Judy K. Soballe, AP
(202) 337-0960



SECRETARY
Lt/C Clara Blanding
ASST:1/Lt Cathy F. Sheffield, AP
(703) 370-4331

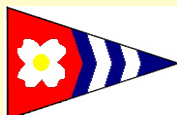
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
1/Lt Cathy Sheffield, AP

AT LARGE
D/Lt Walter D. Lazear, AP (703) 620-1821
Lt Russell S. Grasso, AP (703) 499-8557
Lt Ronald H. Larson, P (703) 922-7094
P/C John A. Shivik, AP (703) 273-3351
P/C Richard J. Durgin, JN (703) 560-9106

of Tars & Terns EDITOR
Lt Pete Soballe, AP (202) 337-0960
psoballe@yahoo.com

DISTRIBUTION
Lt Manette Lazear, AP
D/Lt Walter D. Lazear, AP (703) 620-1821

SHIP'S STORE

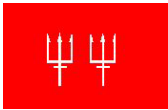


Need a new burgee, sport shirt or name tag?

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



Lt/C Glenn A. Fahey, S:



EXEC'S MOMENT

I hope you had a good winter and that your boats had a good nap. Before we know it the weather will be nice again, and we'll be back on the water doing exactly what we like best and do so well.

The National Capital Boat Show was 10-13 Mar and this was definitely a successful year for us there, especially for public outreach. Thanks to our Boat Show Chairman Lt. Mike Triggs, AP, who assembled a great list of volunteers to staff the booth. A job well done by all. Our booth was in a terrific location; everyone had to pass by us just after entering the north hall. We were able to talk to many people about USPS and what we do. Some people stopped by the booth who "wanted" to take a boating class and others who "had to" because of the jurisdiction they boated in or because of their ages. Of course we recommend that everyone take a safe boating course, regardless of whether it's required. Most people were genuinely interested in boating safety and eager to learn. We also informed people that they would likely get an insurance discount after taking the class. Several had already taken a class years ago, either through the USPS or the USCG Auxiliary. We told them about the benefits of joining USPS and the opportunity to further their learning with advanced courses.

Lt Ed Phillips, AP, is doing a great job with Co-Op charting and stepping up our involvement. This program is beginning to really show signs of renewed life. Check for details on the next page.

Lt Elaine Colen, who did a great job last year as Vessel Safety Check (VSC) Chair, will head up that program again this season. Upcoming events include inspections with the USCG Auxiliary at Prince William Marina the weekends of 2 Apr, 9 Apr, & 16 Apr. Saturdays 1000 – 1600 & Sundays 1100 – 1500. There'll likely be future dates at Tim's Rivershore and at West Marine in Woodbridge for trailer boats. If you would like to become a Vessel Examiner please contact Elaine at elsc97@aol.com. Once you do you'll be e-mailed with information about future VSC days.

Have a safe and enjoyable boating season!

"CAPTAIN'S CORNER"

The weather course is storming along; let's check in with them:

1. A cold front has just passed through, you now see...
 - a. A rapid drop in the barometer
 - b. Warmer temperatures
 - c. Fair-weather cumulus clouds
 - d. Nymphomaniac clouds
2. Weather guessers just love dew points. What are they?
 - a. Usually a few degrees higher than the current temperature
 - b. Actions that are strongly recommended
 - c. The temperature when relative humidity is 100%
 - d. Public restrooms and outhouses
3. As moist air rises it reaches its dew point so...
 - a. Thunderstorms and rain will soon follow
 - b. Condensation occurs and latent heat is released
 - c. The air falls back to the surface in the form of dew
 - d. The air cools faster and rises slower than if it were dry

answers on page 6



Ed Phillips, AP CO-OP CHARTING

Geodetic Marker Recovery Day

I have not received any responses yet! It's getting close: Sat, 16 Apr 0900-1300. I'll be along the Virginia side of the Potomac near Fairfax Yacht Club, will YOU? We need shovels, handheld GPS, and metal detectors to make our job easier. Lunch at Tim's to follow. The rain date is 23 Apr. It'll be an interesting adventure for anyone who cares about maps & charts. So if you are, please contact me now at novaspscoch@yahoo.com.

What is a marker recovery? USPS have provided this service for many years. We go out and confirm the existence and condition of survey markers selected by the squadrons and report back to NOAA. The markers are used to keep charts and maps accurate.

Marker recovery is an effort to revive enthusiasm for Co-Op charting in our squadron. It has waned recently, but NVSPS was very active in this area in years past. Once the marker recoveries are established, we can pursue more ambitious Co-Op charting projects like chart updates, depth & current surveys, and marina information surveys. About 8 yrs ago the Richmond Squadron surveyed a shoal that used to be an island and they're now listed as the source of information on charts of that area. NOAA does use the data we provide.



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.

D5 Co-op Charting Workshop

Fri 29 Apr & Sat 30 Apr at NOAA's Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk. Topics will 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 classes for new students, advanced training, and hands-on computer training. I urge anyone with an interest in charting to attend. It's Casual and FUN and you'll meet a lot of new friends.

More info and the registration forms will be in the next D5 newsletter.



P/D/C Charles Tulip delivers C.O.W. keynote.

Boy Scouts Jamboree

23Jul - 02 Aug at the army's Fort AP Hill in central Virginia is the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) National Jamboree. It's a nation-wide rendezvous held only once every four years.

The 2005 event is particularly significant since it will be the first since 9/11. More than 41,000 scouts and adult leaders are expected for the 8-day encampment. There will be dozens of exhibitors and as many as 80,000 parents, friends, & visitors each day. **The President usually makes an appearance.**

USPS will have a booth as part of the BSA/ Sea Scouts Venturing Program. The National Membership Committee is sponsoring and paying for this booth. Members of D5 are needed to provide the majority of watch standers and to assist in setup and teardown. Set up is 23 & 24 Jul; the booth will be manned 25Jul- 02Aug from 0900-1700.

BSA requires are that everyone manning the booth must register and must complete the BSA Youth Protection training. This training takes about an hour at a local BSA council office or just a few minutes online at www.scouting.org

Fee options include:
\$295- offsite lodging, 8-day attendance, all meals.

\$20 day #1 and **\$5** per day after - day-trippers include lunch.

Most D5 supporters are expected to be day-trippers. Hotels in the vicinity will soon be sold out for this event, but RV parks are a possibility.



VOLUNTEERS:

Contact Martha Jane Dodd or Bill Hammett **before 15Apr2005**



CDR Segerson presents flags to the 2005 bridge



Lt/C G. Jay Nelson, AP

EDUCATION

As the NVSPS 2004/2005 education program draws to a close, I am pleased to announce that it has been a very productive year for us. Although declining student enrollment continues, due to other training options available to the public, our new membership has remained strong. At the conclusion of this season's program we will have conducted 8 Boating courses, 2 advanced courses, 3 electives, and 3 seminars. We have 4 more Boating courses to offer this season and we are done until the fall. Great work by all accounts and my personal thanks to all who helped us achieve this goal.

We're planning a GPS seminar for the May time frame. This is approximately 2.5 hours long and covers an overview of the GPS structure, types of receivers, a review of the global grid (latitude and longitude), receiver operations, features, functions, and navigational use. This seminar course has been well received and most find it very informative. It's free to members, so if you're interested in attending please contact me at gjaynelson@aol.com or (703) 818-5364 (day), (703) 437-0064 (evenings) and I'll add you to the e-mail notices distribution.

We're already beginning to plan our 2005/2006 season advanced courses. At present we're planning Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting, Cruise Planning, Engine Maintenance, Marine Electronics and Weather. Courses are determined by the membership, and we'll run as many as we have member interest to support. Think about the courses you would like to take, send me your preferences at gjaynelson@aol.com, and we'll include these suggestions in our planning. Reminder – all of our course listings and full descriptions of each can be found on the NVSPS website - <http://www.usps.org/localusps/nva/educ/membcour.htm>



Lt/C Martha J. Dodd, P

ADMINISTRATION

I'm honored to be named Administrative Officer for the NVSPS and will do my very best to fulfill the duties and responsibilities listed in the by-laws. I've been the squadron's Membership Chair since March, 1997. During that time I was also D5 Membership Chair and a USPS National Membership Representative.

Just like with the highest position in our country, this position would not work with just one person. The chairmen that support the Administrative Officer are the ones who keep the squadron moving forward: Membership, Boating Activities, Membership Involvement, and Operations Training.

The Spring Fling is an activity the squadron members always look forward to as the first of the new season. This year it will be held at the Fairfax Yacht Club, as usual. Further details will be in the next oT&T.

Your suggestions are welcome as is your support. Thank you for your trust.





Welcome
Aboard!

Our newest member:

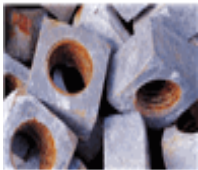
Robert "Rob" O'Brien, Jr.

He and his wife have 5 sons and a 19-foot runabout. They live in Vienna and he works in the Office of the Undersecretary for Counterterrorism in D.C.



Lt/C Cathy Sheffield contemplates her present from CDR Segerson in recognition of last year's service

BOAT CORROSION AT NVSPS !



The next all-hands' meeting will feature a shiny bright talk about a rotten subject by Paul Fleury, one of the Chesapeake's foremost authorities on the subject of stray underwater current. Not electrifying enough for you? Think again, or "zinc" again. This is a notorious boat killer that's nearly completely preventable. Don't miss this talk: 1930 – 2100, 13Apr05 at BoatUS in Alexandria.

These monthly programs are thanks to one of our squadron's most creative and enthusiastic elder statesmen, P/C Gale Alls, SN (how many of those do you know?) If Gale says it's going to be good, you can put it in the bank. And he says this one will be terrific.

BE THERE . . .



. . . ALOHA !



DO YOU REMEMBER

that NVSPS helped the local American Red Cross in organizing an annual Waterfront Festival for promoting safe boating? This was held in late spring/early summer on the Alexandria Waterfront, and we participated for several years. We'd have a booth for educational handouts and displays to show our contributions to safe boating and to attract people to our free public Boating Course. While it's still somewhat water-oriented, the festival gradually developed into a rock-and-roll music show and carnival-type event with less attention to serious boating themes. So we stopped participating several years ago. But in its day this was a popular and productive season highlight.

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

P/C Bill Alberts, SN

(Yep another one)



The Sailor's Experience

A new boat, a new way to sail !

I'll never forget the day in 1969 that we landed on the Moon.

I'd arrived home after 6 weeks cruising the Bahamas with a client in a Bermuda 40 to find that my new Hurlly 22, a sturdy little boat made to sail the Solent, had arrived from England and was waiting at West River Marina. The slip had to be vacated, as its owner was due back soon. So we sailed out with only the main, as the 7-horsepower outboard was a cantankerous item for me. Lazily we passed the R '8' Nun to port (a marker I learned years later to give a wide berth) then G '3' to starboard; the wide open bay lay ahead; up came the genoa.

We sailed for Back Creek just below Spa Creek on the Severn, where my parents had a condo with a slip we could use. The crew were my wife Jacque, my 12-year-old daughter Deborah, and my 5-year-old son David. Jacque, I believed, had never sailed; my children I am certain had not. I explained the workings of sails, halyards, sheets, tiller, and dock lines with a "do the best you can." Sailing was automatic and straightforward to me; I was not aware others didn't see what I thought was obvious.

It was a hot and sunny August day and the wind was nothing to speak of. My shirt was off and I was in shorts. I sailed with abandon, happy to own my own "Flicka Sköal" even though it was only a 22-foot sloop. During idle moments I explained more about the boat. Jacque picked up a brass horn and examined it with curiosity. "What's this for?"

"Well... you blow it when you're in trouble," I replied. I'd never heard of USPS or Bowditch or Chapman's nor taken any directions on how to sail, but I did have a compass. Deborah wanted to blow the horn immediately.

We passed Thomas Point shoal and its magnificent lighthouse. Since we drew only 2.5 feet, we sailed inside. I noticed some darkening clouds low on the northern horizon. The further we sailed toward Tolly Point gong, the bigger and darker the clouds grew. OK, I'd been through many storms in the Bahamas. Besides, we can cut about 1/3 the distance by passing the gong to starboard and we can turn the corner sooner to save time. The portable radio was tuned to classical music on WGMS. As we passed the gong, a light rain began to fall, but it felt good after the warm sun. The crew went below and closed the hatch. Rain came harder; a powerboat zoomed close across our bow. Several minutes later I saw a white line off the starboard bow just in front of the radio towers. In fascination I watched. I'd never seen anything like this 2-foot high dancing white line coming my way. It struck immediately, a down draft and heavy blinding rain. We were on a starboard tack with sheets close hauled. Wow! We were knocked so far down that the port window was under water. Something else I'd never seen. My first thought was to take the genoa down, so I went forward. No sooner had I released the halyard than the wind blew me into the water. No

way I could hang on. Later I heard that Deborah said "Look, there's Daddy going by."

My next thought was how warm the water was. But as I came to the surface, the boat was passing by. Quickly I reached out and, luckily, caught a stanchion. The boat rolled to port and I was washed back aboard. It then dawned on me that I should loosen the main sheet and then take it down. As I was hauling, car lights along River Avenue were blinking on and off as we were being blown to the port side and were not far from shore. That's when I heard a loud sound: Jacque was frantically blowing the brass horn in the cabin and then appeared in the well, still blowing. Deborah now grabbed the horn and blew and blew.

It was soon over and all was OK. We arrived at our new slip and my anxious parents asked, "Charlie, did you know a 75 knot wind just went through Annapolis?" Later that night a man first walked

Got a boat tale worth telling?

Share your triumphs and – even better – your challenges and hair-raising adventures with fellow squadron members. Send yours to *of Tars & Terns*:

psoballe@yahoo.com



Flag Lt P/C Edwin J. Dodd, JN, performs his final duty as member of the 2004 bridge. Just a few moments later he hoisted the flags of the 2005 bridge, his first duty with the new group.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER ANSWERS

1. C: conditions behind the cold front are generally mild but cooler. The barometer rises and the wind shifts from SW to NW.
2. C: Really a measure of water vapor content, it's the temp at which condensation happens.
3. B: This releases heat and warms the air nearby, thus slowing the rate of cooling from about 5.4° to 3.3° per thousand feet. This is the moist adiabatic (*ady-abatic*) lapse rate.

NVSPS Hosts Weekend Cruises Too

Last month I mentioned the annual summer cruise, but NVSPS hosts weekend cruises as well. The weekend cruises are very informal and each cruiser makes his or her own slip reservations. For Memorial Day, we plan to meet up at Mears Yacht Haven in Oxford, Maryland (note that some cruisers raft up in nearby Plaindealing Creek rather than renting a slip at the marina). We'll be cruising to Baltimore's Inner Harbor Marina on Labor Day and we plan to meet on Tilghman Island for Tilghman Day on October 15th. Each of these destinations can also be reached by car. All three locations have nearby hotels or Bed and Breakfasts. So come by boat, come by car, but just come! Please call Joel Bailey at 703-747-1520 with any questions and to let me know you're coming (that way we can look out for you in case you get lost – just kidding!). And make your slip reservations today! The marinas fill-up very quickly for the holidays.

Summer Cruise Reservation Form

Captain's Name _____

Boat Name _____

Boat Make, Model _____

LOA _____, Draft _____, Beam _____

Electrical Requirements: _____ connections of _____ amps each

Check which days you plan to attend:

Fri 24 Jun: Osprey Point Marina, Rock Hall, Maryland (\$10 deposit)

Sat 25 Jun: Georgetown Yacht Basin, Sassafras River ⁽¹⁾

Sun 26 Jun: Georgetown Yacht Basin, Sassafras River ⁽¹⁾

Mon 27 Jun: Mears Great Oak Landings, Fairlee Creek ⁽¹⁾

Tue 28 Jun: Rock Hall Landing Marina, Rock Hall, Maryland ⁽¹⁾

Wed 29 Jun: Herrington Harbor North, Deale, Maryland ⁽²⁾

Thu 30 June: Herrington Harbor North, Deale, Maryland ⁽²⁾

Fri 01 Jul: Everyone heads home for the Independence Day holiday

⁽¹⁾ I will guarantee reservations with my credit card- please let me know ASAP if you must cancel after signing up

⁽²⁾ \$20 per boat deposit required irrespective of which nights you plan to attend

Please forward this form by 15 May 2005 with the required deposits plus an activity fee of \$30 to: **Joel Bailey, 20817 Waterbeach Place, Sterling, VA, 20165**. If you plan to attend all nights, you should enclose a check for \$60 (\$10 for Osprey Point, \$20 for Herrington Harbor, and \$30 activity fee). **Cruisers must make their own reservations after 15 May 2004**. Your slip rental fees will be credited for all deposits paid in advance.

Please call Joel Bailey at (703) 444-5269 if you have any questions or email joelpbailey@hotmail.com.



MONTHLY ALL-HANDS MEETING

2nd Wednesdays at 1930 (any changes posted herein 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.



America's Boating Club

of TARS & TERNS
 an official publication of
 Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron
 in District 5 of
 The United States Power Squadrons®
 Articles & other contents do not represent USPS® policy or
 endorsement unless so designated. Published ten times
 yearly. January & February, July & August are combined
 Visit us at: www.usps.org/localuspsnva

Lt W. Lazear, AP
 2014 Lakebreeze Way
 Reston, VA 20191



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO.
 6586
 RESTON, VA



of TARS & TERNS

