



of TARS & TERNS

Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron

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



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Aug-Sep, 2007



Commander Sends

Which compass should I buy?

Whether replacing or buying a new one, this is the first question. The answer is determined by three factors; available space, type of boat and intended use, and the quality you're willing to pay for.

First determine the maximum size your console can support. I recommend the biggest compass you can mount, as it will be much easier to read. On most 25-35 ft boats, ~4" is the largest base you can mount without major fiberglass surgery; but keep in mind that a 3 5/8" base could have a 1/2" trim ring on it. Make sure that any trim ring doesn't lip over the edge of the console curve.

Next, what type of boat do you have and how do you plan to use the compass? A sailboat will need gimbals for heeling. A high-performance speedboat needs a highly dampened compass, or vibration will make it very difficult to read. A lightly dampened, more respon-

sive compass is better for a cruising boat. If you're planning to use the compass for serious navigation, you'll need heading increments of at least five or, preferably, single degrees.

Finally, I recommend you lean toward the most expensive compass you can afford if you're planning to keep the boat. The benefits of high-quality outweigh a modest cost difference. But

Recently I was asked about replacing a compass. The gist of my response is this month's topic...

don't make your selection on price alone. Two manufacturers dominate the boat compass market, Ritchie and Danforth. They're comparable in quality, provided you stay with the upper-end of their product lines.

Now compare all of the available models in your range. I'd consider the following features:

- Flush as opposed to bracket mount
- Jeweled, hardened alloy pivot point
- Minimum to moderate card dampening (unless speedboat)
- 0, 45⁰ and 180⁰ lubber lines
- 1 or 5⁰ resolution
- Movable sun shield
- Night vision lighting (red or green)
- Built-in magnetic compensators
- Repairable if broken instead of requiring replacement

- Oil fill plug and diaphragm/bellows for temperature expansion

Also consider the compass card. Some are flat, which means you read them from the top only. Others are beveled so you can also read them from an angle. Others are flat/beveled and edged, which means that you can also read them horizontally. Consider how you will normally read your compass. If the console is high, get a beveled or beveled/edged card so you won't have to stand to read it. Finally, make sure you have a good cover. Direct sunlight will darken the oil in the compass.

When you install the compass, make sure you do two things to prevent future problems. First, tightly twist the light power leads to cancel the field effects that will be created by the DC current to reduce deviation when the light is on. Second, use 3M 5200 (or something similar) to caulk the base of the compass. This will prevent moisture from getting into the open edge of the fiberglass and keep the compass tightly mounted.

Finally take a test ride and create a Napier Diagram for every 15⁰. This is very easy if you have GPS. If you'd like a spreadsheet to help create a Napier Diagram, shoot me an e-mail.

CDR G. Jay Nelson, AP
gjaynelson@aol.com

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"EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE"

Executive Officer: Lt/C Bill Blanding, AP

Sunday @ 0620 and we've been anchored out on the Rhode River since Friday evening (with over 100 other boats) and I'm contemplating whether I should recharge the batteries. We've used 347 Amp/hrs out of a total of 675 "available" and the voltage is down to 12.10 Volts. If you have the book *Sailboat Electrics Simplified*, by Don Casey in your cruising library, then you know the answer. The book is a must have, easy to read, basic, and very non-technical. Reading this book will get you up and running in understanding 12 Volt systems, how they work and how to make basic repairs. The author puts the "technical" parts into common every day terms and examples that make it easy to understand. Yes, I understand the title has the word "Sailboat" in it, but don't let that scare you away, it really is a great book. Give it a read and if you have any questions, let me know. Oh the answer is yes, I have to recharge the batteries and we actually used more than we should have before recharging---do you know why? Remember to play "what if", know the answers ahead of time and you'll be a bit more prepared to deal with the unexpected out on the water---especially those dealing with safety.

We're still looking for a boat show chairman to organize, set up and oversee the 2008 Spring boat show. Give me a call or email me if you're interested. This is a relatively easy effort and it will get you into the boat show for free.

The D5 cruise and the National meeting are coming up. Check out the *Mark5* and *Ensign* for the details.

Cruise News

September Rendezvous. 15-16 Sep. place TBD (open to suggestions). It's HOT, HOT, HOT, and the forecast is for HOTTER, HOTTEST, and WAY BEYOND HOT! OK, who wants to get all sweaty in July and August? That's right, NOBODY! Soooo, what better time to plan a weekend rendezvous than September? Depending on squadron response, we can turn this into a marina/anchor/drive occasion for better participation. We've tried Solomon's, so this time, maybe to a more northern latitude? Give me a holler and advise preferences. We have the time to make this a great event. New squadron members, don't be shy - all it takes is one time to be a veteran of the NVSPS sailing society (OK, I made that one up!)

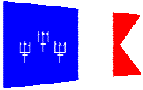
Fall cruise to Tilghman Island 19-21 Oct. The highlight of this annual event is the magical Tilghman Island Day, Sat 20 Oct. There'll be food, events, food, and more events, and an ice cream dessert. This is a popular destination since the cruising for both sail and power is painless (except for an occasional storm, fog, pestilence, & plague). Science has found a cure for scurvy, so bring plenty of limes & lemons for your favorite libation.

Check it out: http://www.tilghmanmd.com/TILDAY_2007.pdf

Phone: 410-886-2300 Fax: 410-886-2118

Cruise Director: Joe Jarocki jpjgaj@vzavenue.net





Admin Officer's Report

Lt/C John Shivik, AP

Hope you had a nice summer. Weather has been really fantastic. There is no doubt that rising fuel prices have impacted the stinkpots (power boats) in enjoying time on the water (other than in the slip). The rag haulers (sailboats) have found some very favorable conditions but, as usual, mid summer typically has less wind. Why? Learn and be safe.

The NVSPS Last Chance (not really) Rendezvous takes place 15 & 16 Sept. Don't be a passive member, participate! Check with Joe Jarocki at jpjgaj@vzavenue.net.

NVSPS Holiday Party 8 Dec. Mark your calendar Now. It's at the American Legion in Fairfax City. Dinner, dancing, Santa (?) and a great time with friends. More in the next oT&T.

Weatherwise: Now is the time to prepare for potential tropical storms affecting our area. Have a plan for what to do with your boat (and at home, too). Work out an agreement with your marina to have your vessel hauled. Better on land than in the briny. But without haul out, there are options. Proper preparations at your slip or seeking a hurricane hole are other evasive measures. If you trailer your boat, you will still need to take precautions. Don't be lulled into a false sense of security. Tropical storms can destroy your vessel. Storm surge, high winds and torrential rains are just some of the destructive forces.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Our All Hands' meeting 10 Oct will be at the Fairfax Yacht Club. Besides the waterside location, *this is an International Potluck*. What a way to try different foods and fill one's diet void! So please bring a main dish, salad or dessert with a foreign, ethnic, or whatever flair at 1900 so we can start with a great meal. NVSPS will provide beverages, cups, plates, cutlery and napkins. Donation (made out to NVSPS) is \$5 per couple. Single, \$2.50. Children, free. Please contact me or 1stLt Ron Larson, P. Directions to the Fairfax Yacht Club are on this page, and on the NVPS WEBSITE.

Directions to FYC

(10 Oct 07 @ 1900, RSVP by 03 Oct)

10721 Old Colchester Rd, Mason Neck, VA 22079. On the Occoquan River 38° 41'N, 77° 15'W

From the Beltway: South on I-95, exit for Woodbridge via US Rte 1 south. Left at Furnace Rd, the first light. Go under the railroad, then straight across Old Colchester Rd. down the private lane to FYC. Park at any open space.

From Fredericksburg: North on I-95, exit for Rt 123 east to Rt 1. Left on Rt 1, cross the Occoquan river. Right at Furnace Rd, first light. Go under the railroad, then straight across Old Colchester Rd. down the private lane to FYC.

Enclosed is my check made payable to NVSPS for _____ reservations @ \$5.00 per couple, \$2.50 per single, Children under 13 FREE, for the 10 Oct International Pot Luck at FYC. Please bring your favorite ethnic, foreign or whatever special dish or dessert to share!

Member Name(s): _____

Guest(s) _____

Yes, I can help with Setup Cleanup and Have fun

Send your check and this form to: P/C John Shivik, AP; 10815 Colton Street; Fairfax, VA 22032-3404

"Chalk Talk"

Education Officer Lt/C Rick Baker, AP
703 318-5899 rickbaker2006@verizon.net

Our lineup is evolving. All new members, who haven't, should register for Seamanship and Piloting. These are your first USPS member courses. You can take Piloting before Seamanship. But Seamanship gets you on the water to practice boat handling, anchoring, planning, and reactions to adverse conditions. Piloting and Advanced Piloting in the fall and winter, respectively, take you to the next levels so you can cross the Chesapeake or take an offshore voyage confidently using your chart, compass, and electronic navigation.

We're going to try some Saturday courses to pique your interest. Please register (with Rick Baker) on time so I can order the right number of books. At least 10 registered, in-class members are required to make any course or seminar a go.

And please contact me if you'd like to teach or proctor any of these offerings!

VHF AND DSC RADIO SEM (Tue: 11Sep, 1900-2130)
New for 2007. Learn to use the VHF and the new Digital Selective Calling service. \$35. Families and significant others may share materials for a discount. Location: TBD, Fairfax. Instructor: TBD. *Register by: 6 August.*

ENGINE MAINT (Tue: starting 18 Sep @1900)
11 sessions. Updated for 2007. Learn to troubleshoot gas, diesel, inboard, and outboard engines. \$95; families and significant others may share books for a discount. Location: TBD. Instructor: Dwight Bues *Register by: 6 Aug*

PILOTING (P) (Sat: Starts 03 Nov, 1200-1600)
Kick up your navigation and piloting skills to make boating more safe and fun. Increase your confidence about getting from A to B in deteriorating weather and endless horizons. Incorporates GPS, chartplotters, and computer-aided nav systems, found on newer boats; yet provides the fundamentals to get you out of trouble if your electronics quit. \$95. Families and significant others may share books for a discount. Location: TBD, Fairfax. Instructor: Tom Ballew. *Register by: 20 Sep.*

INSTR DEVELOPMENT (Mon: starts 07 Jan @ 1900)
10 sessions. Modern teaching techniques. Earn USPS and Virginia instructor certification. Free. Location: TBD, Falls Church. Instructor: TBD. *Register by: 01 Dec.*

CRUISE PLANNING (Sat: starts 12 Jan 1200-1600)
5 sessions. Designed for members who plan to cruise for just a day or for a year--in either a sail or powerboat. Preparation and planning, equipment, anchoring, security, chartering, cruising outside the US, crew and provisions, voyage management, communications, navigation, weather, and emergencies. Includes a 12-mo planning timeline. The course is non-modular with one final exam. \$65; family members and significant others may share books for a discount. Location: TBD, Fairfax. Instructor: TBD. *Register by 01Dec.*

SEAMANSHIP (S) (Sat: starts 12 Jan, 0800-1200)
4 sessions. Updated for 2007. Learn seamanship, marlin-spike, and boat handling. Review the rules of the road. \$80. Families and significant others may share books for a discount. Location: TBD, Fairfax. Instructor: Bob Manning *Register by 01 Dec.*

ADV PILOTING (AP) (Thurs: starts 28 Feb, @1900)
12 sessions. Prerequisite: USPS Piloting course. Modern techniques for coastal and offshore navigation, using charts and electronics \$95. Families and significant others may share books for a discount. Location: TBD,. Instructor: TBD *Register by 15 Jan.*

Merit Mark Recommendations Due

USPS recognizes the contributions of its members' time and talents and says "thank you" by awarding one merit mark annually. To learn about merit marks, see the USPS Operations Manual. Each fall squadron leaders submit the names of members who have performed substantial service to the Merit Mark Chair (Jean Durgin, AP) who compiles a report to USPS for Cdr Nelson's signature. National reviews the recommendations.

Officers & Committee Chairs: Please submit the names of members who have performed substantial service to NVSPS during calendar 2007 to rjdurgin@aol.com by 1 Oct. Include a brief but specific description of the service performed (e.g: number of classes taught, number of vessel inspections, reports given, committee meetings attended, events planned, newsletter articles written, etc.).

All Members: Our goal is to recognize everyone's contributions. Please feel free to submit a brief description of your service directly to rjdurgin@aol.com by 1 Oct.

Keep Flower Power Fund Growing

By 10 Nov, send your season's greetings (~3 lines) and a check (any amount) payable to "NVSPS Flower Power Fund" and Dick will send you written confirmation of your tax-deductible contribution

Each fall members are invited to contribute in exchange for a holiday message in the Dec *oT&T*. The fund was established in 1988 by Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hazelton to support NVSPS activities, primarily in education, and to advance the mission of USPS. All donations are held in an interest bearing account and only the interest may be spent. Since 1988 this fund has grown from \$5000 to over \$20,000. The commander and executive committee must approve all expenditures. Items that have been purchased are educational materials for instructors, projectors, computers, etc.

The fund is named for the Virginia state flower, the Dogwood, which appears on the NVSPS burgee. Tax-deductible contributions are welcome anytime.

P/C Dick Durgin, JN, Chair, Flower Power Fund

rjdurgin@aol.com

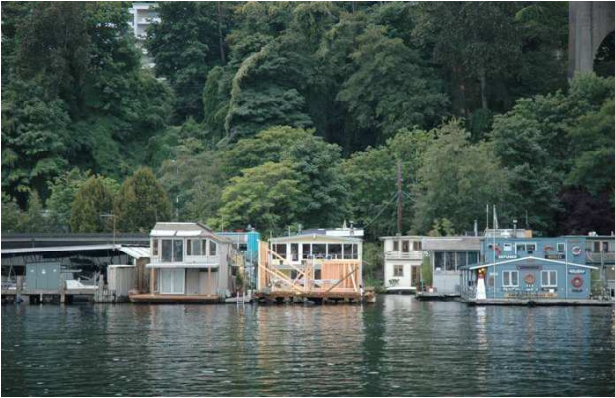
308 George St. SW, Vienna, VA 22180



WALTZING THROUGH THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS: VIII

"HOMEWARD BOUND, ALMOST"

Our last day and the journey back to Lake Union. We exited Port Ludlow and saw a very large rock or small island sticking up with a sign perched on top. As we got closer, the dark blobs at the base of the rocks were harbor seals basking in the sun. Closer still, we were finally able to read the sign: "Danger, Rock." I'm not sure enticing people closer to the rock to read the sign is a good idea, but it sure made us laugh.



Floating homes on the Ship Channel

Since it was a weekday, we thought we'd breeze right through the Ballard Locks. As we turned into the canal, I noticed the depth sounder racing down :17-12-7-bump! A small-print note on the charts warned of shoaling to 3 ft near buoy R4; never remembered reading that when studying the charts! Lesson: read everything on the charts. I wiped the sweat off my forehead and saw a line of boats waiting to get into the locks. We held the boat on station, and held, and held, for one complete locking series. Then we tied the boat to a train-trestle that serves as a waiting area and we waited and waited some more. After almost 2 hrs, we were finally waved into the lock and secured the boat for the rise. As we departed I wasn't fast enough with the bow thruster during our initial movement forward, setting into motion a series of forces that "sucked" Sea Waltz towards the wall---bad move. Thank-you, Krogen for the beefy rub rail! We stopped and checked for damage: none, except for a small scrape on the stainless rub rail. Two lessons: expect the unexpected and, more importantly, when in trouble, stop the boat, collect your thoughts, and re-evaluate before making another move.

Back to our final stop at the Ocean Alexander dock where we were to have a little more work performed. Even though I was still shaken from the lock experience, I opted to back her into the slip, my last challenge. The slip formed an angle and was somewhat tight, with a cross-

wind and passing wakes pushing us towards a brand new, unprotected Krogen 39. As I was thinking my eyes caught Robin's as she stood on the foredeck. She gave me a confident look and mouthed the words, "just do it." So, I



Safely back in Seattle's Lake Union

did. What a great ending to a fabulous trip!

With over 650 pictures, most taken by Robin, our designated photographer, we'll spend many hours reliving the great memories, new experiences, and lessons learned. The four of us just clicked from day one and settled right in as if we all had been cruising together all our lives. We didn't even have to use them as our "secret weapon." Clara and I are now thoroughly at home on our Krogen.

The Pacific Northwest is a trawler-friendly destination with any amenity a boater could desire: cities, culture, dining, shopping, history, nature, and a lot of friendly, helpful people waiting to share their beautiful secret with those who have the chance, time and energy to discover it.



Jim searching for "rewards" at Pike's Place Market in Seattle

The rewards are many!

And you know what? There really are no dragons waiting at the end of the world, so just get out there and do it!

Lt/Cdr Bill Blanding, AP
Lt/Cdr Clara Blanding, AP

NVSPS Calendar

August 2007

No monthly All Hands' Meeting or Excom Meeting in August - summer break

September 2007

5-7 Wed-Fri	D5 Sail and Rendezvous Regatta. Check the D5 Website for details Hosted by the Cambridge Power Squadron	www.uspsd5.org
5-9 Wed-Sun	USPS Fall Governing Board Meeting Norfolk, VA	See the <i>Ensign</i> or USPS Website
7-9 Fri-Sun	40th Annual Maryland Seafood Festival The Maryland Seafood Festival features outstanding Chesapeake Bay seafood delicacies and land-based fare, live entertainment, and beach activities. Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis, MD	www.mdseafoodfestival.com 410-266-3113
11 Tuesday 1900	VHF and DSC Radio Seminar Location: TBD Fairfax. Instructor: TBD. <i>Register by 6 Aug.</i> \$35, 1 Session	Rick Baker rickbaker2006@verizon.net 703-318-5899
12 Wednesday 1900: Social 1930: Meeting	All Hands' Meeting at Boat US Meeting Topic: TBD. Refreshments: Keith Segerson	Clara Blanding claralee@comcast.net
15-16 Sat-Sun	September Rendezvous Chesapeake Bay. Destination : TBD	Coordinators: TBD
18 Tuesdays 1900-2100	Engine Maintenance Course Location: TBD. Instructor: Dwight Bues. <i>Register by 6 Aug</i> \$95, 11 Sessions	Rick Baker rickbaker2006@verizon.net 703-318-5899
26 Wednesday 1830-2030	Excom Meeting GMU Conference Room, Fairfax	Jay Nelson gjaynelson@aol.com

October 2007

4-8 Thurs-Sun	38th Annapolis Sailboat Show	www.usboat.com
10 Wednesday 1900: Social 1930: Meeting	All Hands' Meeting and Octoberfest Pot Luck Dinner Fairfax Yacht Club Combination meeting and Pot Luck Dinner. See page 3 for details.	John Shivik jshivik@cox.net
11-14 Thurs-Sun	36th Annapolis Powerboat Show	www.usboat.com
19-21 Fri-Sun	NVSPS Tilghman Day Cruise Tilghman on Chesapeake Marina Join the fun at Tilghman Island Day!	www.tilghmanmd.com
24 Wed 1830	Excom Meeting GMU Conference Room, Fairfax	Jay Nelson gjaynelson@aol.com

November 2007

2-4 Fri-Sun	D/5 Fall Education Conference. See Mark 5 Newsletter	See Mark 5
3 Saturdays 1200-1600	Piloting Course (P) Location: TBD, Fairfax. Instructor: Tom Ballew. <i>Register by 20 Sep</i> \$95, 6 sessions	Rick Baker rickbaker2006@verizon.net 703-318-5899
14 Wednesday 1900: Social 1930: Meeting	All Hands' Meeting at Boat US Refreshments: Evelyn and Gale Alls Meeting Topic: Guest Speaker: TBD	Clara Blanding claralee@comcast.net
28 Wed 1900	Excom Meeting GMU Conference Room, Fairfax	Jay Nelson gjaynelson@aol.com

December 2007

1 Saturday	Alexandria Holiday Lighted Boat Parade Join us aboard P/C Keith Segerson's boat and in the lighted parade on the Potomac. Come early to decorate his boat! Warm boating attire	Keith Segerson segerson@gmu.edu
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8 Saturday	Squadron Holiday Party and Buffet Dinner Location: American Legion, Fairfax Join your fellow squadron members in welcoming in the holidays.	John Shivik jshivik@cox.net
No All Hands' nor Excom meeting scheduled for December - winter break		
January 2008		
7 Mondays 1900	Instructor Development Course Location: TBD, Falls Church. Instructor: TBD. <i>Register by 01 Dec</i> 10 Sessions. Free.	Rick Baker rickbaker2006@verizon.net 703-318-5899
9 Wednesday 1900: Social 1930: Meeting	All Hands' Meeting at Boat US Bridge nominations for 2007-08 announced Member/New Member Mixer Presentations by Committee and Event Chairman on areas for member involvement and participation. Heavier than usual refreshments at this special meeting. Refreshments: Bill and Clara Blanding	Clara Blanding claralee@comcast.net
12 Saturdays 0800-1200	Seamanship Course (S) Location: TBD, Fairfax. Instructor: Bob Manning <i>Register by 01 Dec</i> 4 Sessions. \$80.	Rick Baker rickbaker2006@verizon.net 703-318-5899
12 Saturdays 1200-1600	Cruise Planning Course Location: TBD, Fairfax. Instructor: TBD. <i>Register by 01 Dec</i> 5 Sessions. \$65.	Rick Baker rickbaker2006@verizon.net 703-318-5899
23 Wed 1830	Excom Meeting and Planning Meeting GMU Conference Room, Fairfax	Jay Nelson gjaynelson@aol.com
February 2008		
13 Wednesday 1900: Social 1930: Meeting	All Hands' Meeting at Boat US Refreshments: TBD Meeting Topic: Skipper Saver Course for Sweethearts	Clara Blanding claralee@comcast.net
19-23 Wed-Sun	USPS Annual Meeting Dallas, TX	Details in the <i>Ensign</i>
28 Thursdays 1900	Advanced Piloting Course (AP) Location: TBD. Instructor: TBD <i>Register by 15 Jan</i> 12 Sessions. \$95.	Rick Baker rickbaker2006@verizon.net 703-318-5899
March 2008		
11 Tuesday 1900-2130	On-Board Weather Forecasting Location: TBD, Fairfax. Instructor: TBD. <i>Register by 01 Feb</i> \$45, One session	Rick Baker rickbaker2006@verizon.net 703-318-5899
12 Wednesday 1900: Social 1930: Meeting	All Hands' Meeting at Boat US Annual Membership and Elections meeting. All Members should plan to attend. Refreshments: TBD Meeting Topic: Guest Speaker: TBD	Clara Blanding claralee@comcast.net
15 Saturday	NVSPS Founder Day and Change of Watch Event Location: American Legion, Fairfax	John Shivik jshivik@cox.net
26 Wed 1830	Excom Meeting GMU Conference Room, Fairfax	Jay Nelson gjaynelson@aol.com
WEAR YOUR NVSPS NAME TAG TO ALL EVENTS AND CLASSROOM SESSIONS		



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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.



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OF TARS & TERNS

America's Boating Club