



of TARS & TERNS

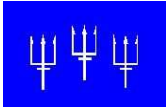
Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron

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



Vol XLII, No.2

March 2008



Commander Sends . . .

This will be my last message as your commander. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron. Next month George Degnon will assume the role of commander. George is an extraordinarily competent individual and I am confident that he will serve the squadron with distinction.

The accolades for a successful term on the Bridge typically, inappropriately, are bestowed upon the commander. The truth is that our success is the combined efforts of the dedicated volunteers that make up the Bridge and Executive Committee. The commander merely has the pleasure of leading this team. I have been fortunate to have had a very proficient bridge that has accomplished a great deal for the squadron this past year, and serving as the commander has been very rewarding for me. Bill and Clara Blanding, as our executive officer and secretary have managed our Vessel Safety Check program, our presence at the Chantilly Boat Show and also streamlined our record keeping in the new USPS Database 2000. Under Rick Baker's leadership as squadron educational officer we have rebuilt our educational program and made it remarkably efficient. With John Shivik's guidance as administration officer, we have maintained the squadron's growth to again

become the largest squadron in District 5. And with Steve Hall as our treasurer we again managed the budget to leave a surplus for the following bridge. I extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to each of the bridge officers, their assistants, the members of the executive committee and the dedicated squadron members who have made this year a success for all of us.



I have found my membership in the United States Power Squadrons, and specifically in NVSPS, over the years to be personally very rewarding and educational. It's my desire that all of our members find their membership just as rewarding. However to experience the value of USPS you need to participate. You'll discover that taking part in our community service activities, continuing education, and enjoying the amity of our fellow members

will enhance your membership significantly. If you have not already done so, start with our boating courses. These are second to none in pleasure boating, and have long been recognized for their comprehensive approach to the subject matter. Take advantage of these courses to expand your boating knowledge and skills. Second, get to know other squadron members. The camaraderie among our members will immensely enhance your boating experience. However you participate, I encourage you to make the most of your USPS membership.

Finally, I appreciate all of the comments about my monthly Commander's message. I discovered early on that I was better at discussing boating topics than the traditional Commander's messages. I'll still be available at gjaynelson@aol.com for those with questions about boats, boating or boaters and I plan to be very involved in the squadron as it moves forward under George's leadership. Again, thank you for the opportunity to be your commander these past two years.

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

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All Hands... On Deck !

12 March 2008 @ 1900. Get ready for spring commissioning. Don't miss this All Hands' meeting. Our speaker will be Brian S. Kieb from the Kop-Coat Marine Group, manufacturers of Pettit Marine Paint.

Brian will present a seminar on the marine products produced by Pettit. Learn how to choose the right paint for your spring projects and ask Brian questions about bottom paint, varnish, top-side paint, and their correct applications. He'll be happy to make recommendations for products best suited for your boat. Come and learn.

9 April 2008 @ 1900. Prepare your crew for a happy and safe boating season! Bring the whole family to the 9 April All Hands meeting which will feature the classroom portion of USPS's Skipper Saver program presented by Rick Baker, JN. Everyone will learn emergency and lifesaving procedures to adapt to their own boat and equipment. Crews who complete both classroom and on-the-water learning will receive a Skipper Saver certificate and patch.

Surf's UP! See you in Ocean City!

We're packing our bags for a weekend getaway in Ocean City with other squadron members who love boating as much as we do:

What: 2008 D/5 Spring Conference **When:** 27-30 March 2008
Where: Princess Royale Hotel, 9100 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City MD
How: Call 1-800-476-9253 by 1 March. **Reservation code:** USPS, D/5
How much: \$99 ocean or pool view suite **Details:** Mark 5 & D/5 web site

Daytime activities feature sessions on all aspects of squadron life and leadership. See pg 4 of Mark 5 for a complete list. The fun is non-stop on Friday evening from 1900-2200 when squadrons open their hospitality suites with entertainment and refreshments for everyone.

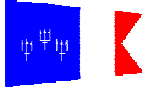
The classy theme for NVSPS's suite will be "Welcome to our Bilge." The suite will be open all weekend for our members to gather, eat, drink, and be merry. If you can help set up our bilge displays Friday afternoon ~1530 or take a short turn hosting that evening, please e-mail the committee at rjdurgin@aol.com. Join the fun!



Bilge Rats: Alls, Shivik & Durgin

OT&T Online

Reminder: The latest issue of *of Tars & Terns* is always available for downloading on the squadron web site (www.usps.org/localusps/nva) as soon as it's complete. It's mailed to members by third-class bulk mail because the rate is approximately 60% less than first class mail. But they're delivered on a space-available basis and may be delayed.



Admin Officer's Report

Lt/C John Shivik, AP jshivik@cox.net

My time as Administrative Officer is growing short. The challenges have been many! I have to admit it is one great learning experience and an outstanding opportunity to get to know the members of our Squadron and those external to the Squadron. I certainly wish the best to the nominated Administrative Officer, John Karjala, and his team. There are always challenges but working together and having fun is a legacy.

Of note, my appreciation is extended to the members of the AO 2007-2008 team. It has been a rough year health-wise for some, but my deepest gratitude for your support. Ron Larson, Ed and Martha Jane Dodd, Glenn and Janet Fahey, Joe Jarocki, Walt and Manette Lazear, Pete and Judy Soballe, Dick and Jean Durgin, Nancy Dando, Cdr Jay Nelson, Gale and Evelyn Alls. Couldn't have done it without you. Many thanks are extended to all those un-named members who helped in our squadron social events. The May Safety Picnic (Stf/C Richard Davis – look out for that one handed bowline!); International Pot Luck; Holiday Party and the Change of Watch that was so wonderful for families, too. What makes these events special is individual participation, direct involvement, volunteering, learning and wanting everyone to have fun. If you have never experienced an organized squadron cruise, it's a unique opportunity to form a bond, not only afloat, but participating in rendezvous ashore even if you don't have a boat

There's a great squadron year approaching. Let's look forward to expanding our knowledge, being involved in civic activities, participating in various squadron, district and national functions and most of all, enjoying the friendships that we establish as volunteers in a superb organization.

Thank you for your support. May you have fair winds and following seas!

Of course, they're just boats...

Expresso and *Blue iis* will soon be asleep,
Safe and secure in their terrestrial keep.
Their owners will moan, and may even weep
As the obvious dilemma over them creeps.

The canvas is down, the batteries dead.
All systems are flushed; they've been put to bed.
The engines are silent, no wake is in view.
The moment has come, as it would...we all knew.

The season was safe, and sure full of fun.
We enjoyed the company as well as the sun.
But winter's chill will soon be here
Time to reflect, perhaps shed a tear.

Do boats have souls, do they get the blues?
Ancient mariners may have the clues.
Do our boats miss us, while high and dry?
What's that creaking and groaning, could it be a sigh?

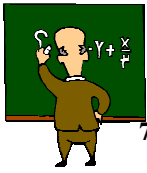
Dusk will come early and our dreams will begin.
We'll have the memories, and that's no sin.
We're entitled to mourn and share our dismay
While the rest of the world goes its way.

Will the boats dream, too? Could that be the case?
Will they miss the waves, and giving them chase?
Do they have feelings, will they be sad?
Of course, they're just boats, and that's too bad.

But, we long for the spring, April and May,
When we'll wake up our friends and hear them say...
"Let's get on the water, let me feel the spray,
I've slept long enough and I want to go play".

Sleep well for now, sweet vessels of ours.
Before too long, we'll be counting the hours.
Sleep well for now, and silence your bells,
Take care of each other, while we say our farewells.

Gerald Aust
30 October 2007

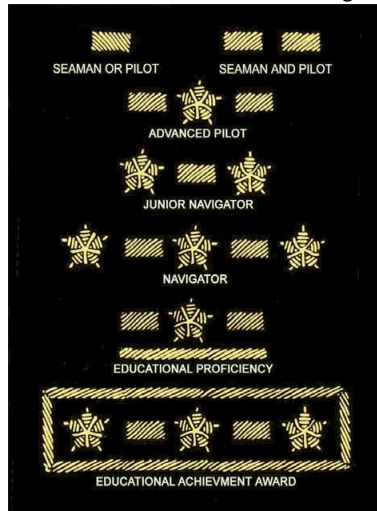


"Chalk Talk"

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

CHALK TALK
Rick Baker, SEO

Educational Proficiency Award Congratulations to four more members earning this in 2007: Martin Suydam AP, Peter Soballe, AP, Paul Baartz, JN, and Shawn Gregor, JN. The educational proficiency award (EPA) recognizes members holding the grade of AP [Advanced Pilot] or higher with the additional completion of any three elective courses. A special uniform insignie is provided. See figure from Operations Manual Page B-6:



For the upcoming seminars, please register on time so I can order the right number of books. At least 10 registered, in-class participating members are required to make any course a GO! rickbaker2006@verizon.net

We postponed the February Skipper Saver Program because of bad weather predicted for the region on 13 February. No monthly meeting was held that evening.

SKIPPER SAVER PROGRAM

(1 session, Wednesday 9Apr @1900 at All Hands' Meeting, at BoatUS – Open to Public)

Take the first step in learning to save the skipper and yourself! Learn procedures for the whole family to use in an emergency. Earn a Skipper Saver certificate and patch with completion of an on-the-water segment. Refreshments provided. Registration: None
NEW DATE: 9 April 2008 @1900

SAIL TRIM AND RIG TUNING SEMINAR

(1 session, Monday, 14 Apr 2008, 1900 - 2130)

This seminar shows in clear and simple terms how to use and adjust sails for optimum performance under a wide range of conditions. The seminar comes with prepared "Student Notes" and with a waterproof USPS Captain's Quick Guide written by North Sails. This is a new semi-

nar for 2008.

Cost is \$35. Family members and significant others may share materials for a discount.

Location: GMU Offices, 4031 University Dr, 2nd Floor Conf Room, Fairfax, VA 22030

Instructors: Bob Cox, JN, and Bob Manning, AP

Register by: 4 March 2008

GPS SEMINAR

(1 session, Tuesday, 20 May 2008 1900-2130)

Learn to use your GPS in detail. New Seminar in 2007.

Cost is \$35; family members and significant others may share the materials for a discount.

Location: GMU Offices, 4031 University Dr, 2nd Floor Conf Room, Fairfax, VA 22030

Instructors: Bob Cox, JN, and Bob Donahue, AP

Register by: 10 April 2008

NAVIGATION (N)

(~25 sessions, Tue, 07 Oct 08 – 31 Mar 09, 1900-2100)

Learn celestial navigation and piloting techniques suitable for offshore navigation anywhere in the world using the moon, planets, and stars. This course builds on the sun-sight technique learned in the new Junior Navigation (JN) course, which is a prerequisite.

Cost is \$125; family members and significant others may share books for a discount.

End Date: ~ 31 March 2009 **Location:** TBD, Fairfax
Instructor: Seminar Style – Each Participant Teaches At Least One Chapter **Class Leaders:** SEO/ASEO

Register by: 1 August 2008 so we can order books. At least 10 in-class participating members are required to make this course a GO! Contact: SEO

MARINE ELECTRONICS (ME 101, 102, & 103)

(~18 sessions, Thu, 11 Sept 08 - 29 Jan 09, 1900 -2100)

Teaches essential knowledge about a boat's electrical and electronic systems including: proper wiring; grounding; corrosion and electrolysis control; batteries and their maintenance; depth finders; marine radiotelephones; radar; LORAN; GPS; and other electronic positioning systems. [We may receive a complete redo of the course—we shall see]

Location: TBD, Fairfax. **Instructor:** Dwight Bues, AP
Register by: 1 Aug 08 **Contact:** SEO

HOW TO USE A CHART

(1 session, Tue 28 Oct 08 1900-2130)

Learn to use your marine navigation charts in detail. New Seminar! **Cost** is \$35; family members and significant others may share the materials for a discount.

Location: TBD

Instructors: Lt/C Rich Unis, JN, and Bob Cox, JN

Register by: 15 Sep 08



Fresh Cookies, Jelly Beans and a Heck of a Lot of FUN on the ICW

By Clara and Bill Blanding
Sea Waltz, KK42

Wildlife and Scenery

The wildlife and scenery along our trip were absolutely stunning! We saw majestic bald eagles lining portions of the ICW, dolphins running in our bow wake (in the ICW and offshore) and a huge, very old, leatherback turtle that swam by offshore. We saw snakes in the water (wasn't that a movie?) and were chased by biting flies (we really must get those screens for the pilothouse doors). We (ok, I) saw women sun bathing on tiny spits of land with their PWC's close by. (Shoot, where did that picture go?) Stately, and not so stately, homes and several interesting light-houses lined portions of our route. My personal favorite was the "Fish Bed and Breakfast" (see the fish through the roof). We also got an unexpected treat from some military pilots who gave us our own private air show while practicing "air to air" combat. We witnessed rolls, dives, climbs, and several very low passes over our boat including a very low inverted pass where we literally saw the pilot smiling and waving at us.



One day in Florida the "Water Police" boarded us as we passed under a bridge and were going through a small populated area. In addition to giving us the standard safety inspection, he warned us about our "bow wake" - what bow wake? We were barely doing 4 knots in a Krogen! Oh well. We also watched a Coast Guard "team in training" board several larger power-boats. They were eyeing us as their next target until they spotted a mega yacht behind us and went for the bigger fish. The big boat never answered the radio when the Coast Guard hailed...wonder how that boarding turned out? Whew, thankfully they didn't come to our boat, it would have been frightening having a machine gun pointed at our boat and a boarding by eight "Coasties". We also saw the water police give up a chase of a very fast center-console whose driver was drinking beer in favor of a person with no lifejacket on a PWC. We wondered which really was the bigger risk to the waterway?



We saw Casey and Mike Ruhr (Tranquility Base, KK48) and took this picture as they "zipped" past us. We also talked on the radio a lot with Bodacious and discussed the possibility of anchoring with them; but could never seem to link up. Dora and Robert Turner (Seascope, KK42) with their cute little dog, stopped by for a visit while we were both anchored in Wrightsville Beach. We thought we saw Bear docked in Coinjock? We were actually surprised that we didn't see or hear more Krogens on the waterway...they must've still been in the Islands or sucking down Margaritas with Jimmy Buffet in Key West!

The "Bridge Follies"

The assortment of bridges during the trip was amazing, all new to us and sometimes tedious. We negotiated bascule, swing, lift and pontoon bridges that were all different and interesting. The most interesting (probably since it was under repair with a temporary lift) was the St Augustine, FL, Bridge of Lions, pictured here. We only missed/mistimed two scheduled openings. Not bad! However, we did wait for several other bridges for a variety of reasons -- emergencies, tenders waiting for other boats, construction, trains, and a funeral procession. We found all the bridge tenders were accommodating, friendly and very professional. Of course we had to deal with the usual "Bridge Follies" of boats jockeying around (some paying attention to their surroundings and others not), while dealing with current flowing towards the still-closed bridge, and the mad dash of boats on both sides of the bridge as it opened.



Next: "In the Atlantic"

NVSPS Calendar

March 2008		
7 - 9 Fri - Sun	13th Annual National Capital Boat Show Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA <i>Volunteers needed to help man the NVSPS booth</i>	Francis Williamson 703-440-9074 willyjhu@cox.net
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: Spring Painting Projects Guest Speaker: Brian S. Kieb	Clara Blanding claralee@comcast.net
13 Thursday 1900-2130	On-Board Weather Forecasting Location: TBD, Fairfax. Instructor: Lt/C John Shivik, AP <i>Register by 01 Feb</i> \$45, One session	Rick Baker rickbaker2006@verizon.net 703-318-5899
15 Saturday	NVSPS Founder's Day and Change of Watch Event Location: American Legion, Fairfax	John Shivik jshivik@cox.net
26 Wed 1830	Excom Meeting GMU Conference Room, Fairfax	George Degnon george@degnon.org
27-30 Thu - Sun	D5 Spring Conference Princess Royale, Ocean City MD	1-800-476-9253 Reservation code: USPS, D/5
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 Boat/S 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 Boat/S sign.
Enter from the lighted parking lot behind the building.



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OF TABS & TERNS

America's Boating Club