



# of TARS & TERNS

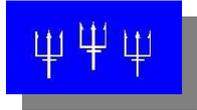


Vol XLII, No.5

*Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron*

**June 2008**

[www.usps.org/localusps/nva/ott/ott.htm](http://www.usps.org/localusps/nva/ott/ott.htm)



## *Commander Sends . . .*

Well it seems like just yesterday we were in the midst of winter and here we are today with the boating season fully underway, and our squadron activities are growing with great momentum too. Thanks to all who participated in our squadron picnic (see details inside) and our squadron Memorial Day Cruise. As they say, a great time was had by all!

Our Vessel Safety Check program is proceeding with gusto and our squadron monthly membership meetings are a great source of new boating information in a variety of areas. Thanks to Joel Bailey, Glenn Fahey, Dick Durgin and Gale Alls who presented at our May meeting on favorite and fun anchorages and marinas on the Bay. Gale Alls, our Meeting Program Chair, had done a fantastic job of lining up wonderful programs and both the June and July meeting will be very interesting because of the general interest topics. Look for further details from Gale inside this issue.

Remember that our monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at BoatUS offices which are accessed from the rear of the building. Our meetings begin at 1900 in order to provide time for meeting and greeting fellow squadron members, we hold a short business meeting at 1930 and generally by 2000 our featured monthly speaker begins. Do plan to come on out, we look forward to seeing more and more of our members at the monthly meetings. Look forward to seeing you on June 11.

There will be a squadron Cruise from the mid-Chesapeake area up to Baltimore beginning on Monday July 14. It will be great to see some new faces and new boats joining us this summer. Our ultimate destination is Baltimore Harbor on Thursday July 17 where many will stay on for the weekend festivities with our District 5 colleagues and friends. Rumor has it there is going to be no better party on the entire Bay this summer so plan to join us for the cruise up to Baltimore, or plan to drive up for a day or an overnight visit. All NVSPS members are invited to join in the fun up in Baltimore.

Finally, we are now in Membership Renewal Month and each member is urged to renew and reaffirm your commitment to safe and fun boating. NVSPS has one of the best membership recruitment and retention rates among the squadrons and all of us on the Bridge are counting on each member to renew this month. Membership is a proud tradition among many boaters and we welcome you to continue as a committed member of both the US Power Squadrons and our own NVSPS.

Best wishes to all of our members for a safe and most enjoyable boating season.

Squadron Commander  
George Degnon



## NVSPS BRIDGE

### COMMANDER

Cdr George K. Degnon P  
703-448-8766  
[boater@degnon.org](mailto:boater@degnon.org)

### EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Ronald H. Larson, P  
703-922-7094  
[mdlars@msn.com](mailto:mdlars@msn.com)

### EDUCATION OFFICER

Lt/C Richard E. Unis, AJN  
703-777-8378  
[runis\\_320@yahoo.com](mailto:runis_320@yahoo.com)

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C John G. Karjala P  
703-818-8676  
[jgkarjala@verizon.net](mailto:jgkarjala@verizon.net)

### SECRETARY

Lt/C George Nartsissov P  
703-425-7044  
[ganh@verizon.net](mailto:ganh@verizon.net)

### TREASURER

Lt/C Steven Hall AP  
703-242-8566  
[sdhall01@verizon.net](mailto:sdhall01@verizon.net)

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

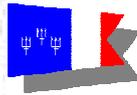
P/C G. J. Nelson AP 703-437-0064  
Lt Francis Williamson AP 703-440-9074  
P/C Gale Alls SN 703-569-1511  
P/C John Shivik, AP 703-273-3351  
P/LtC Cathleen Sheffield AP 703-370-4331  
P/C Richard J. Durgin

### *of Tars & Terns Distribution*

Lt Manette Lazear, AP  
D/Lt Walter D. Lazear, AP

### *of Tars & Terns EDITOR*

Stf/C Richard P Davis AP  
(703) 444-2772  
[Rpdavis1702@comcast.net](mailto:Rpdavis1702@comcast.net)



## Exec Report:

May VEs were scheduled for the 17th at Fairfax Yacht Club in conjunction with the Squadron Picnic. A number of Vessel Exams were conducted during the day by our examiners who are always ready to perform Vessel Safety Checks at the boat owners request.

A VE Day will be held at West Marine in Alexandria on Saturday June 7th. All are welcome to bring their trailer able boats to West Marine to get a free VSE. Questions please call Lt. John von Senden P (703)751-9674.

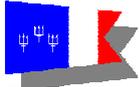
Anyone interested in becoming a Vessel Examiner? Being a qualified Vessel Examiner and performing safety exams on boats is a great way to learn more about boats then just looking at them in the marina or at the boat shows or even owning a boat. The exam process will make you aware of the many differences in boat construction and quality. Plus it's a great way to assist NVSPS to perform one of its missions. Contact John von Senden or myself (Ron Larson 703 922-7094) for more information.

There are a number of other tasks (Boat Show next year, Public Relations , Youth Programs, COOP Charting, Legislative, Radio Tech., and Safety) that are in the works and will be reported on as they progress.

P/C Jay Nelson, AP has consented to help out as the Safety Chair. I'm sure that his expertise will be of great benefit (and is greatly appreciated) to the NVSPS in making us all aware of safety and other related boating issues.

Lt/C Ron Larson, P  
Executive Officer

**The oT&T is a newsletter of the NVSPS and does not reflect the policies or opinions of the USPS.**



## A Note From The Secretary

One of the secretary's responsibilities in the Squadron is that of a Historian. Currently we do not have a historian on staff. I am looking for someone that would be interested in the position of The Squadron Historian. The duties would be to act as the keeper of Squadron major events and statistics such as number of education class attendees, awards to members, social and special activities, etc.. There is a form to compile this information and send it to District 5 and National headquarters at the end of the year.

Also, the position of Assistant Secretary is open. That position would be primarily to act as the recording secretary for the Squadron.

Please contact me if you are interested or would like more information.

Lt/C George Nartsissov P  
Secretary



## Cooperative Charting

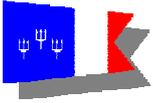
By the time you have received this issue of oT&T, the 2008 Cooperative Charting (CoCh) workshop will have made history. It was held on May 2-3 at NOAA's Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk, VA. For those interesting in attending next year, to date, it is always held on the first weekend in May at in Norfolk at NOAA's Atlantic Marine Center. The annual information is published in the winter edition of the D/5 newsletter "Mark 5" and on the D/5 website.

What is Cooperative Charting (CoCh)? It is one of the Power Squadrons most interesting and beneficial activities. It consists of depth surveys, range line surveys, current surveys, small craft facility (marina) surveys and the Adopt a Chart program. Are you interested in messing around with charts, applying your navigation skills and helping the boating community? The CoCh program is for you! Have a look at the National CoCh website located at <http://www.usps.org/national/coch/index.htm> for more details on each part of the CoCh program.

Is anyone interested in doing a depth survey? Or know of good candidate location? Perhaps the channel and surrounding waters to your marina haven't been surveyed in many years. Let me know what you would consider a worthy location for a depth survey and I'll get the planning underway. We are also looking for a small (16-18'), maneuverable, shallow draft runabout to conduct the survey from. If you are interested in participating in the CoCh program, contact me at the address below.  
Smooth seas and fair winds!

Ed Phillips, AP  
CoCh Committee Chair





## Education Officer - CHALK TALK

Did you know that the United States Power Squadrons publishes guides that are short booklets containing useful information on a variety of marine and marine-related topics? For example, there are USPS Guides for How to Fly Flags, Compass Adjusting, Marine Amateur Radio, Intro to Sailing, Boat Insurance, Knot Tying, etc. Most guides have a nominal fee for members ranging from \$5 to \$13. You can check out all of the guides and order them from the USPS Ship's Store website. Go to [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org), then click on Ship's Store under the heading Member's Stuff (bottom left hand side of the home page). You can also order guides by phone at 1-888-FOR-USPS between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm EDT Monday through Friday. Please let me know if you're interested in self-study for a course. I can order the materials and the exam for you. Just drop me an e-mail at [runis\\_320@yahoo.com](mailto:runis_320@yahoo.com).

Here's a look at upcoming advanced courses and seminars that are currently on the schedule. Please sign up by the deadline so books can be ordered in time for the course.

### **Course: NAVIGATION (N)**

(~25 sessions – Tue 7 Oct 2008 – 31 Mar 2009, 1900-2100)

**Description:** Learn celestial navigation and piloting techniques 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.

**Location:** TBD

**Instructor:** Seminar style – each participant teaches at least one chapter

**Class Leaders:** SEO Rich Unis, JN and Rick Baker, JN

**Register by:** 1 Aug 2008

Contact: SEO Rich Unis at: [runis\\_320@yahoo.com](mailto:runis_320@yahoo.com)

### **Course: MARINE ELECTRONICS (ME 101, 102 & 103)**

(~18 sessions – Thu, 11 Sep 2008 – 29 Jan 2009, 1900-2100)

**Description:** Learn essential knowledge about a boat's electrical and electronic systems including; grounding, corrosion and electrolysis control, batteries and their maintenance, depth finders, marine radiotelephones, radar, LORAN, GPS and other electronic position systems.

**Cost** is TBD (may be completely new materials)

**Location:** TBD, Fairfax

**Instructor:** Seminar style – each participant teaches at least one chapter

**Class Leaders:** Dwight Bues, AP

**Register by:** 1 Aug 2008

Contact: SEO Rich Unis at: [runis\\_320@yahoo.com](mailto:runis_320@yahoo.com)

### **Course: HOW TO USE A CHART SEMINAR (1 session – Open to the Public)**

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

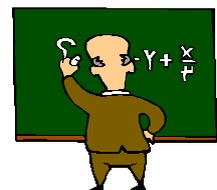
**Date:** 28 Oct 2008 (Tues)    **Time:** 7:00 – 9:30 PM

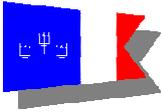
**Location:** TBD

**Instructor:** SEO Rich Unis, JN and Bob Cox, JN

**Register by:** 15 Sep 2008

Contact: SEO Rich Unis at: [runis\\_320@yahoo.com](mailto:runis_320@yahoo.com)





## **Admin Officer's Report**

Our squadron was represented at the 14th Anacostia River Watershed Clean-Up and Earth Day Celebration, 26 April 2008. We were invited by Potomac River Power Squadron's Administrative Officer, Ms. Bonnie Gaskins. The event started at the Seafarers Yacht Club on M Street, S.E., in Washington, D.C. Thereafter, we were given a seat at the Potomac River Power Squadron's table during festivities. Attendance was over well 800 people of all ages. We responded to boating and safety questions from interested individuals, passed out "Safe Boating" brochures, and had some people sign-up for future NVS&PS boating courses.

I met Ms. E. Legett, the Potomac River Power Squadron, Public Relations Officer, who fields questions from the public regarding Boating Courses. She related that she had calls from people in Northern Virginia seeking out Boating courses. She was given a NVS&PS point of contact so now she will have a reference for individuals seeking courses in Northern Virginia. The PRP Squadron passed out brochures that specifically addressed the PRP Squadron and "The Squadron Boating Course." Use of similar brochures could benefit our organization as well.

It's not too early to express your interest in a July cruise from 12-16 July 08 and rendezvous 17-20 July 08 with the D5 for its 2008 Summer Rendezvous and Counsel in Baltimore, Maryland. If interested in a multi-day bay cruise that will eventually end in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, please let me know. I am available for discussion of details. Call (703) 818-8676.

New Website Features

-John G. Karjala  
Administrative Officer



**Welcome  
Aboard !!**

**John L. Goff, II , Springfield, VA 22151**

**and**

**Brian G. Schuster, Vienna, VA 22182**

# Dock Talk



## "What do USPS Courses Cost???"

I taught Engine Maintenance again the Fall 2007. Initially, I was concerned that the current price (near \$100) would discourage some members from taking the course. As it turned out, I had over 20 students. Due to work, travel, etc., not everyone finished, but we still had more than 10 graduate.

For those of you who don't know me, I am a 35 year USPS member (yes, I passed the Boating course when I was 12) with 21 merit marks. I first taught Marine Electronics when I was 14, and still teach that class as well as Engine Maintenance. Both of my parents attained the grade of SN and totaled more than 50 years as instructors in USPS.

That said, I consider it to be my most important job to make the material APPLICABLE to the students. Of course, they are PAYING for the class. As many of my former students can attest, I have a habit of relating stories about what can go wrong AND how to prevent it!!! One of my students called me a few months back and related this story:

"I remember when you were talking about out drives and corrosion. Since I had Bravo 3 (TM) out drives, I decided to have them checked out. They did have a major problem. Apparently, my Mercathode (TM) system had failed and caused SERIOUS corrosion of the out drives...replacement was the only option. The Mercruiser (TM) representative said that if I had waited a year, the out drives would have been out of warranty. As luck would have it, they installed new out drives and I paid nothing. Thanks Mercruiser!!! Knowing what to check saved me over \$15,000."

Mission accomplished...another satisfied customer. :)

What do USPS courses cost??? NOTHING...they actually SAVE you money!!!

Dwight Bues, AP



Do you or one of your friends  
need your vessel checked?  
Or want to become an examiner yourself?



# More Dock Talk



## Heads - UP

By now you should have received your Annual Dues renewal notices. They were mailed out at the end of this month – please plan ahead - we want you to be with us next year for more of everything that USPS and NVSPS has to offer.



There are two major events upcoming with in District 5 this Summer, The 2008 Summer Rendezvous and the Cruise. See your Mark 5 for the details and registration forms.

The NVSPS website has been enhanced with three new items.

1. 40th Year NVSPS History document, as originally edited by Jean Durgin and recently rendered in PDF by Usha Mishra (of Degnon Associates).
2. Archives of minutes from past General Membership meetings.
3. Archives of old issues of Tars & Terns newsletters.

Go to [www.usps.org/localusps/nva](http://www.usps.org/localusps/nva) and look in the lower right for links to these new features.

**NOTICE:** This summer, we will be revising the website and moving it to a commercial server under the name [www.nvsp.org](http://www.nvsp.org). We have the opportunity to greatly expand the content of the website, reorganize the layout, change the appearance, and make it more useful to the membership. If you have ideas for enhancements to the squadron website, please contact Walt Lazear (email [lakematesw@comcast.net](mailto:lakematesw@comcast.net)).

## 11 June Membership Meeting:

**Seminar topic:** Submarine Fiber Optic Cables.

The presenter is one of the principals and founding partners of Global Broadband Solutions, LLC. They are a communications engineering company that focuses on very high-speed communications to the hard to get to places for their clients.

Their principal clients are the US Government agencies, like the DoD and Missile Defense. While they have expertise in Satellite and Terrestrial fiber optics, they have unique expertise in Submarine Fiber Optic Cable Systems.

The presentation will speak to the following topics:

- Brief History of the Industry
- Development of specialized vessels
- Components of a cable system
- Steps for developing an undersea cable system
- Desktop study
- Marine Survey
- Specialized vessels
- Specialized equipment
- What do these things cost?
- Who are the major players in this market?
- What can we look forward to in the future?

Over 95% of all the worlds international communications are carried on undersea fiber optic cable systems.



# NVSPS Calendar of Events

Jun-08		
7 Saturday	<b>Vesel Safety Checks</b> Location: "West Marine" Parking lot, Alexandria Check schedule with Lt. John Von Sende	Contact:Lt/C Ron Larson, P 703-922-7094 Lt. John Von Sende, P 703-751-9674 <a href="mailto:john@southernmgirl.net">john@southernmgirl.net</a>
11 Wednesday 1900 Social 1930 Meeting	<b>All Hands Meeting at Boat US</b> Meeting Topic: See page 8.  Training conference room; enter at rear of building	Lt/C John Karjala, P 703-818-8676 JGKarjala@verizon.net
25 Wednesday 1900	<b>ExCom Meeting</b> Location: GMU Offices 4031 University Dr., 2nd floor Conf. Rm., Fairfax, VA 22030	Cdr George Degnon, P  <a href="mailto:Boater@degnon.org">Boater@degnon.org</a>
Jul-08		
9 Wednesday 1800	<b>ExCom Meeting</b> Location: Boat Us training conference room	Cdr George Degnon, P <a href="mailto:Boater@degnon.org">Boater@degnon.org</a>
9 Wednesday 1900 Social 1930 Meeting	<b>All Hands Meeting at Boat US</b> Meeting Topic: To Be Announced  Training conference room; enter at rear of building	Lt/C John Karjala, P 703-818-8676 JGKarjala@verizon.net
14 - 16 Mon. - Wed.	<b>Squadron Cruise - Travel as a group</b> Destination: Baltimore Inner Harbor & join <b>D - 5 Cruise &amp; Council</b> Cruise details & anchorage or marina slips are being developed	Lt/C John Karjala, P 703-818-8676 JGKarjala@verizon.net
11 -16 Friday - Wednesday	<b>District - 5 Cruise</b> Itinerary not yet final Visit the <b>D-5</b> web site for latest information	<a href="http://www.uspsd5.org">www.uspsd5.org</a>
17 -20 Thursday - Sunday	<b>District - 5 Summer Rendezvous &amp; Council</b> Baltimore Inner Harbor Marine Center	Register by 10 July 2008 P/Lt/C Barbara A. Blaker, AP 410-308-2148
August 2008		
OPEN: No activities planned		
Sep-08		
2 -7 Tuesday-Sunday	USPS National Fall Conference (Governing Board) Location: Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan	
10 Wednesday 1900 Social 1930 Meeting	<b>All Hands Meeting at Boat US</b> Meeting Topic: To Be Announced  Training conference room; enter at rear of building	Lt/C John Karjala, P 703-818-8676 JGKarjala@verizon.net
11 Thursdays; 7 -9 PM End Date: 29 Jan 09	<b>Course: "Marine Electronics" (ME 101, 102, &amp; 103)</b> Location: TBD	Lt/C Rich Unis, JN 703-777-8378 <a href="mailto:runis_320@yahoo.com">runis_320@yahoo.com</a> Register by 1 August
24 Wednesday 1900	<b>ExCom Meeting</b> Location: GMU Offices, 4031 University Dr., Fairfax City	Cdr George Degnon, P <a href="mailto:Boater@degnon.org">Boater@degnon.org</a>

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

Dated Material



**MONTHLY ALL-HANDS MEETING**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays at 1930 (any changes posted herein and on the web)  
at Boat/US 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/US sign.  
Enter from the lighted parking lot behind the building.



an official publication of  
Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron  
in District 5 of  
United States Power Squadron®

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.uspsa.org/localuspsrva](http://www.uspsa.org/localuspsrva)

**OF TARS & TERNS**

**America's Boating Club**