



of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLVI Number 9

November 2011

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Mark your calendars and come join us.

November

- 9 All hands meeting
- 16 Ex-Com meeting (Note this is one week early due to Thanksgiving on the 24th)

December

- 10 Annual Holiday Party
- NOTE: General Membership and Executive Committee meetings are not convened in December.**

January

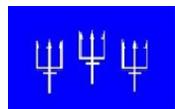
- 14 CPR-First Aid for Boaters—Special training program. See page 8 for details



Please note: a complete calendar listing, including education courses, can be found on our squadron website at www.nvsp.org.



Northern Virginia
Sail and Power Squadron
District 5
A unit of the
United States Power Squadrons®
Sail and Power Boating
www.nvsp.org



Commander's Report

Cdr John Karjala, P

Your Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron works because it is a complete team where many members provide their time and talents to the organization's success. That statement amplifies a truth that is often said, but seldom is fully understood by its listeners. Substantiation for that reference to teamwork is found in indisputable evidence. A keystone for our evidentiary construction lies in the fact that this Squadron will shortly be applying for over 30 merit marks for those volunteers who have toiled to make the Squadron one of the largest and best Squadrons on the East Coast. Thirty plus volunteers from a membership of 181 members is a reflection of the sterling principles of all the fine people that make up the membership of the Squadron. Our deepest appreciation and thanks goes out to the volunteers.

Those figures also substantiate the fact that where you have some 17% of the organization toiling for the good of the order, you do in fact have a variety of jobs to be done and a variety of people to fill them. But with any team, time and history play a natural role in change. Every March a new team takes over to carry on the good works of those Officers and Chairpersons that labored in the vineyards before. So too will it be in 2012. The Squadron will need replacements for some of those people occupying Officer and Chair positions, so if you wish to volunteer, please do so now by talking to anyone occupying an Officer position, and if you get a call to serve, I do hope you give your answer full and just consideration. Further, I hope you respond positively to that call to serve.



Bridge Officers



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P/C Francis Williamson, AP	703-440-9074
Lt. Frederick D. Zugay, JN	703-815-1954

Scheduled Meetings:

Unless otherwise noted the General Membership Meetings are held at the BoatUS Headquarters* facility at 1900 (7:00 pm). Any changes will be posted in this newsletter or in the NVSPS website.

*BoatUS Headquarters and meeting location:

880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA

From the Capital Beltway, take the VA-613/Van Dorn Street exit, exit number 173 (aka exit 3), towards Franconia. Turn left onto South Van Dorn Street / VA-613 North. Turn left onto South Pickett Street. Go less than .5 miles and turn in at the BoatUS sign and go to the lighted parking lot in the rear. Proceed to the entrance.

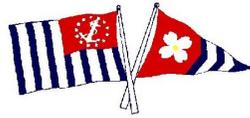
Please note the following corrections:

The October 2011 newsletter was incorrectly identified as Volume XLVII. It should be Volume XLVI.

The October ExCom meeting was incorrectly shown on page 1 as the 27th. It should be the 26th.



*Do you or one of your friends
need a vessel checked?
Or want to become an examiner yourself?
George Nartsissov, AP
ganh@verizon.net*



Nominating Committee Needs YOU!

The Nominating Committee (NOMCOM) 2011 has been convened and is now reviewing potential candidates for the next Bridge year. We solicit your input as to persons you feel would best fill the Bridge and Committee positions for the next year. If you have recommendations or would like to volunteer for a position, please contact us.



WE NEED YOU!

This is your chance to become involved and contribute to our mission.

A list of positions, and NOMCOM contacts can be found in the Squadron Roster and on the NVSPS Website NVSPS.org

You can make your recommendations to Ron Larson, Chairman NVSPS Nominating Committee 2011, at rmdlars@cox.net or cell # 703-969-9966.



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Articles, opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect USPS policy or endorsement unless so designated.

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Executive Officer's Report:

Lt/C Frank R. Shults, S



It is with great disappointment that we report the Executive Committee voted to cancel the Wounded Warrior Cruise we were planning to have this year. I want to fully explain to you why that decision was made; but first, I want to thank Keith Segerson for chairing this activity for us again this year and for the terrific job he did in the preliminary planning of it. It takes a lot of forward thinking to mobilize a group of people, assemble them in one place, arrange transportation and accommodation for the wounded warriors, and to feed everyone who comes. Keith has done an outstanding job for several years chairing this activity and we are deeply indebted to him for his efforts.

Now for why we had to cancel our cruise plans. First and perhaps foremost, we did not have sufficient member involvement. About 10 days prior to the scheduled date we had only 2 boats on the roster. Several members were available to serve on the ground crew to help set up the reception after the cruise, however, without sufficient boats we were hard pressed to say we had a viable program. Second was funding. This is an expensive undertaking for the Squadron and while we have joyfully spent the money in years past, our funding this year is especially difficult. Third, we tried to work with another Squadron to jointly put on a program this year. After what we thought was a very good partnership, they unexpectedly withdrew and declined to be part of a joint effort. That was a serious setback for us because we thought working with them on a program would have been of terrific benefit to our wounded warriors.

If you have ever been involved in our Wounded Warrior cruise (this would have been our fourth consecutive year) you know this is one of the most important civic activities we sponsor each year. The members of our Armed Forces who have been wounded in battle are the most receptive and appreciative guests you can imagine. Their contributions to our nation and our security are self-evident as are the sacrifices they have made while serving. And the fact that they are all volunteers is inspiring. The decision to cancel this year's cruise was difficult to make and I hope we will be able to resume this noble program next year.

Have a wonderful boating season.

Be Aware Winter is Coming!

by P/C Gale Alls

Don't miss this timely presentation by P/C Jay Nelson, AP, on proper hauling out and winterizing procedures on your boat at the November General Meeting.

Jay will take you step by step through the correct process of winterizing your boat whether it is an outboard, sail or power boat. In addition to his PowerPoint illustrations, there will be time for questions and answers. Bring your questions and ask JAY.





**Administrative
Officer's Report:**
P/C G. Jay Nelson, AP

As the boating season draws to a close our attention turns to our annual Holiday Party as the year's final celebration with our boating comrades. This year our **Holiday Party will be held on 10 December 2011** from 1800 to 2300 at the American Legion Post, 3939 Oak Street Fairfax, Virginia. Just as a reminder, the Holiday Party will take the place of our regular General Membership meeting, so there will be no regular meeting at the BoatUS facilities on 14 December 2011.

The cost for the Holiday Party is only \$25 per person and includes dinner and drinks. There will be music, dancing and the company of good friends. The American Legion Post is an easy drive from anywhere in the Northern Virginia area, just three blocks from the intersection of Route 50 (Lee Highway) and Route 236 (Main Street, Fairfax). Watch your mail for the coming announcement, or contact Jay Nelson at 703 437-0064 or gjaynelson@aol.com



My Opinion: VHF Communication

by P/C Francis Williamson

Every year when we are ready to get underway and cruise with family, especially the grandchildren, I take the time to review some of the basic VHF radio procedures with the adults. Some of the family are hesitant to use or make any call on the VHF.

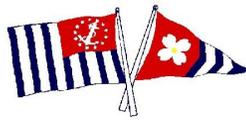
After completing my short safety speech and showing adults how to use the VHF, I got a grunting request from my youngest grandson seated on the salon dash. Andrew held out his hand repeating his "uh, uh" request for the VHF radio handset. Andrew was neither shy or hesitant about using the VHF.

Using this fine example pictured below, I was able to encourage my family members to learn and be ready to use the VHF when required. If Andrew can, why can't you!

In NVSPS we encourage you to teach them while they are young, use proper procedures and don't be shy about getting on the VHF radio if necessary. NVSPS and USPS have some excellent courses and videos teaching proper use of the radio.



If Andrew can use VHF, so can you!



Vessel Safety Checks

by P/C George Nartsissov

Although the boating season is not over yet, some of you may be making plans for end of summer repairs and planning for winterization. Your planning should include review of your safety gear and equipment. Those of you that have gotten a Vessel Safety Check (VSC) this year will be better prepared with your safety gear next spring.

The NVSPS Vessel Examiners performed **138 VSCs** this year with **seven** examiners. We accomplished this at seven organized events at various marinas in the area as well as individual safety checks at various locations. In addition, Robin Roberts, AP, has performed VSCs as she and husband Jim, traveled up and down the East coast (home base in Florida).

I think an achievable goal for NVSPS would be to have the entire member's vessels (serviceable and operable) undergo a

vessel safety check. The burden would be on you to seek a Vessel Examiner (VE) in your area, invite a VE to your marina or contact one of our squadron VEs. Not only would you be a safer boater, but you may also encourage your boat neighbor to get a VSC.

Those of you that may be interested to become a **Vessel Examiner** please give me a call – 703-425-7044(H); 703-395-8256(C) or ganh@verizon.net. The Squadron can use your assistance in performing VSCs next spring!

Thanks to the NVSPS Examiners that gave their time to improve the safety of boaters on the water this past season:

Gale Alls; George Degnon; Robin Roberts; John Shivik; John von Senden; Francis Williamson.



Education Officer's Report

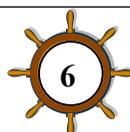
by Lt/C Sean Gallagher, AP

Improved Boat Safety Training Takes Shape

USPS has reached an agreement with Brunswick Corporation, the world's largest marine manufacturer. This agreement authorizes squadrons to conduct a variety of boater education classes in Brunswick dealerships. Pilot programs have been launched in several locations already.

The USPS objective is to provide boaters with education and training for safe boat operation and to expand USPS memberships. No better place to do that than where boats are purchased and serviced.

(continued on page 8)





Secretary's Report

Lt/C Michelle Dufay

Traditions are great. Once again, NVSPS has put on a fun and festive celebration of autumn with the annual Oktoberfest held at the Fairfax Yacht Club on October 15th. And once again, we are indebted to our Administrative Officer, P/C G. Jay Nelson for going all out on a fabulous event. As you can see from the pictures below, we had a great turn out for this event. The food was outstanding, the Commander's Locker was open (thank you Cdr Karjala) and everyone had a good time. Our good times were not all about eating and drinking. There was a 50/50 raffle that the winner donated to NVSPS (thank you Jay Nelson!). And there was a test! Yes, a test administered and proctored by, you guessed it, P/C Jay Nelson. P/C George Nartsissov won the prize which was a nifty flashlight. To everyone who attended—thank you for continuing this NVSPS tradition and for making the day such a success. I hope you all enjoy the pictures below from the event. There are more on our website (www.nvsp.org).



Even my dog Lucy was interested in what former historian Bob Hutton had to say



Ever the jester, P/C Durgin fixes the hat on P/C Dando.



Vessel Examiners Gale Alls and Francis Williamson were on the job examining boats



Cdr Karjala really enjoys selling raffle tickets



The test was difficult. Note the studious look on P/C Nartsissov's face. He won the prize!



AO and P/C G. Jay Nelson gave the test and "proctored" the exam. He also coordinated the Oktoberfest. Thanks Jay!



Everyone had a great time.



SEO Report continued...

For the dealers, it's an opportunity to draw more people into their dealerships for sales and service. While there is no doubt that educated boaters get more enjoyment from their time out on the water than uneducated ones, they're also safer too!

While Brunswick corporate staff and USPS national staff have reached an agreement, the most important step of connecting local squadrons and districts with local dealers remains to be done. Brunswick has presented USPS as their preferred training group. This agreement also provides for dealers to become USPS members and to have the opportunity to sell selected USPS branded products to their customers. The additional advantage to dealers is in having our educators come in and instruct sessions locally in their facilities. This also encourages entry of those people that may not have visited the dealership otherwise to come in and get involved.

In looking at future projections for boater safety training, it is expected that we will see more of the practical on-the-water (OTW) training. For USPS to do this type of training, we need access to facilities and boats. Building relationships with local dealers affords local squadrons both a location and potentially the use of dealer boats to carry out these certification programs.

Local USPS squadrons or districts will continue to sell USPS related course and seminar materials to the attending boaters helping cover operating costs. Under a new program that includes a free annual membership to those who complete the ABC course, the squadron can enroll additional new members.

The last and from my viewpoint, most important element of making a go of this OTW program is developing NVSPS member pool that has not only taken and passed the requirements for Inland and Coastal Navigator (IN/CN) but has been certified to instruct and test other candidates. The staff will be working hard to establish arrangements with local Brunswick dealers for the physical resources required by this program but the membership also needs to step up to make this plan a reality.

We are working with some squadron members now who are completing the OTW passports and plan to schedule time with the District staff to complete instructor certification and test certification.

Get onboard now ! Contact the SEO (education@NVSPS.org) to order your IN/CN kits today.

CPR and First Aid for Boaters Course Announced:

Dr. Alan Karpas, President of the Safety Institute of Maryland and P/C of the Rockville Power Squadron, will conduct a "CPR and First Aid for Boaters" program for NVSPS members on January 14, 2011 at the George Mason Enterprise Center (4031 University Drive, Fairfax, VA). Time to be announced. This is a day long training program that results in a two year CPR certification. The program is distinguished from others in that it focuses on first aid for boaters in addition to the traditional CPR training and exercises.

Cost to participate is \$75 per person. Meals are not included.

You must register for this program. Please email XO Frank Shults at frankrshults@hotmail.com or call him at 703 893 2928 to register.

Space is limited for this program so please register early.





Holiday Greetings Benefit NVSPS!



You still have time to send holiday greetings to all NVSPS members by posting your message in the December *of Tars & Terns* in exchange for a tax deductible contribution to the Flower Power Fund. Your contribution will support the mission of NVSPS.

It's easy! Write your 3-line message on the form below and send it with a check of any amount payable to the NVSPS Flower Power Fund to P/C Dick Durgin. He will send you a written confirmation of your tax deductible contribution. Thanks!

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My Holiday Greetings to appear in December *of Tars & Terns*

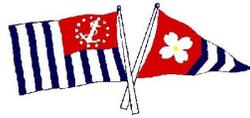
Name: _____ Phone _____

My message:

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ payable to NVSPS Flower Power Fund.

In order to meet the newsletter deadline, please mail this to P/C Dick Durgin, 308 George Street SW, Vienna VA 22180 by **12 November 2011**. Questions? Call 703-560-9106.





My Opinion:

Maximizing the Value of Digital Selective Calling (DSC) Radios

by P/C G. Jay Nelson

While it has been a long time coming, the United States Coast Guard's Rescue 21 marine radio network is nearing final completion. The US Coast Guard rescue centers can now receive instant distress alerts from commonly used Digital Selective Calling (DSC) capable VHF marine radios along the entire 95,000 miles of coastline, navigable rivers, the Great Lakes and waterways in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and Puerto Rico. The Rescue 21 system replaces the current outdated legacy technology with a fully integrated marine radio system to provide the Coast Guard with upgraded tools and technology to protect the nation's coasts and rescue mariners at sea.

DCS radios have been available to boaters for well over the past decade. If you have a DCS-capable radio (it would be difficult not to if the radio is less than 7-8 years old) you should have obtained a Maritime Mobile Installation Identity (MMSI). MMSI numbers are issued by the Federal Communications Commission through several commercially available channels, most notably the US Power Squadrons (<http://www.usps.org/php/mmsi>) or BoatUS (<http://www.boatus.com/mmsi>). This simple online registration collects information about the boat owner/operator, the type/make/model of the boat, and the safety equipment onboard. This number is then programmed into the DSC radio.

The DSC radio is connected to the boat's GPS unit through a NEMA 0183 interface to receive current Longitude and Latitude data. When the DCS channel 70 is keyed, the radio digitally transmits both the MMSI number (to identify the vessel) and the Lat/Long data (to pinpoint the vessel's location) to the Coast Guard rescue center. All of this takes the "search" out of search and rescue process for the Coast Guard and the mariner.

That's the good news, now the issue at hand. Approximately 90% of VHF DSC distress alerts received by the Coast Guard do not contain position information, and approximately 60% do not contain a registered identity. A DSC distress alert sent absent the MMSI and Lat/Long information effectively reduces the DSC radio to 1970s technology and hampers the Coast Guard's ability to respond.

What you need to do to maximize the effectiveness of your DSC radio.

- Obtain an MMSI number by registering your vessel with the FCC
- Program the MMSI number into your DSC radio (consult the radio manufacturer's website or documentation)
- Connect your DSC radio to your boat's GPS unit through the NEAM 0183 interface (usually requires a two-wire cable with standard connectors at each end)
- Use DSC channel 70 for distress communications

Following the steps above will ensure your DSC radio and the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 capabilities will live up to your expectation in the event of an emergency.





SAFE THE DATE



NVSPS Annual Holiday Party



Join the fun and your friends in NVSPS for the
Annual Holiday Party:

December 10, 2011

6:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.

American Legion Post, 3939 Oak Street , Fairfax,
VA

\$25 per person

To make reservations, please contact Jay Nelson at
703-437-0064 or gjaynelson@aol.com



of TARS & TERNS

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America's Boating Club



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Visit us at: www.usps.org/localusps/nva

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.

