



of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLVII Number 8

October 2012

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Mark your calendars and come join us.

October 13—International Pot Luck and brief membership meeting

October 24—ExCom meeting

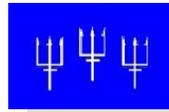
December 1—Holiday Party



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 G. Jay Nelson, AP

The Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron hosted its annual Wounded Warrior event on 15 September 2012. The event was a spectacular success in all aspects. The weather was perfect, our guests and their families thoroughly enjoyed boating on the Patuxent River and watching the Chesapeake Challenge Boat Race time trials, and the barbeque at the West Basin Marina was tasty and plentiful. I can tell you that as the Squadron Commander and a participant in the event, I could not have been more proud of our organization. Every participant in this event performed to the finest traditions of our Squadron, demonstrating both our dedication to our Nation's Wounded Warriors and their families and our boating acumen. Thank you to all who contributed their time, their boat and personal expense; very well done.

I specifically want to recognize Francis Williamson's remarkable dedication and passion towards making our Wounded Warrior event such a success. Francis has undauntedly led this effort for nine months. He organized the campaign to collect donations to fund the event, coordinated with the Navy for the use of their facilities at Patuxent Naval Air Station's West Basin Marina, and dealt with the myriad of details of publicizing the event, arranging the catering and coordinating transportation for our guests. While not without the help of other Squadron members who contributed much as well, our success is undoubtedly the result of Francis' efforts. My personal thanks are extended to Francis.



cont. on page 6

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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 the second Wednesday of each month at the BoatUS Headquarters* facility at 7:00 pm. Any changes will be posted in this newsletter or in the NVSPS website.

*BoatUS Headquarters and meeting location:

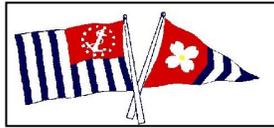
880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA
From the Capital Beltway, take the VA-613/ Van Dorn Street exit, (exit number 173) towards Franconia. Turn left onto South Van Dorn Street / VA-613 North. Turn left onto South Pickett Street. Go less than .5 miles and turn left at the "BoatUS" sign. Go to the lighted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

CHECK IT OUT

The NVSPS calendar has been updated and is available at www.nvsp.org

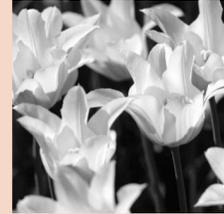


*Do you or one of your friends need a vessel checked?
Or want to become an examiner yourself?
George Nartsissov, AP
ganh@verizon.net*



In Remembrance

Our sympathy and condolences are with P/C Ron Sowers and his family for the loss of his daughter Christina (nee Sowers) Sexton who lost her battle with leukemia in August.



editor's note:

We are moving to North Carolina and will be leaving NVSPS effective October 12th. I plan to continue as editor of the newsletter for the remainder of this Bridge. Michelle and I will miss our friends in NVSPS and wish you all fair winds and calm seas.

frank



of Tars and Terns

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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:

by Lt/C Steve Hall, AP

Check the Weather – Marine Weather that is...

There are two lessons here. One is to check the weather before you embark on a cruise, and secondly, don't let a fixed schedule force you to go when the weather says don't. Keep your schedule flexible enough to allow time to sit out a storm or its aftermath.

First, let's look at the weather forecast. There's a weather forecast you might see on TV and then there's a marine weather forecast. Both may be right for their particular audience, yet totally different in the details. Bob Ryan may be forecasting a cold front to come through followed by beautiful clear skies and a cool breeze from the North. The same marine weather forecast likely would agree on the clear skies, but the cool breeze could be described as 15 – 25 kts. out of the north with small craft warnings. It might be a lovely day for a picnic in the park, but a miserable day out on the bay.

A friend of mine had just taken delivery of a brand new 40' Sabre cruiser with pod drives and all the latest electronics. He had just retired and this was his first boat. He invited me to join him in a run from his slip at Chesapeake Yacht Club down the bay to Crisfield on the Eastern Shore. We set off in the morning one day in May with gray skies and little wind making for a delightful cruise at 28 kts. down the bay. My friend had listened to Bob Ryan and was looking forward to a comfortable cruise. I had looked at the marine forecast and told him things might be rough coming home. Nevertheless, off we went. The first thing we noticed was his depth finder was inoperable until the water was 20 ft. deep or more. Not very helpful when navigating shallow unfamiliar waters. But that was just an inconvenience as his chart plotter would show us the water depth.



continued on page 6



Secretary's Report:

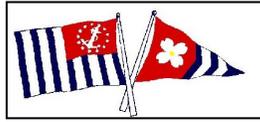
by Lt/C MaryJane Hinkins

Put away your GPS for just a day or maybe when just returning to port. It's amazing how much one forgets not reading charts or maps. Whether it be in the car or on the boat, the GPS is dumming us down. Get your chart out. Measure how far it is between the markers. Can we stay out of the channel and still navigate the water depths? It's amazing how much you learn. Granted the GPS makes life simple when just going from waypoint A to waypoint B. But getting the chart out really brings home the knowledge of where you are and what you are getting your boat or car in for. Is it really the shortest or most direct route?

Dave and I found Northern Virginia pretty rough to get around in. Every road is a river. I sometimes wonder if there is one straight road here. Each road seems to cross other roads and even when we are traveling north the compass says we are going south, but the roads really seem like they go in circles.

We took the second car the other day and forgot the GPS. Not on purpose, mind you. It just happened that way. The car had been in the shop and we took everything out of it and were not thinking that we had to head across town. It was amazing the things we realized about getting around. We were forced to read street signs, watch for visual aids, and we began to notice a lot of interesting items along the routes whether it be stores, shops or points of interest. We were amazed at how well we got to our destination.

Don't get me wrong we will never give up the GPS either in the plane, the car, or the boat. It's just too convenient and time saving, but to navigate by the cans and markers, to know the channels ahead of time to know that at can 56 the depth is shallow and that at 64 there are wrecks below and you might not want to anchor north of there for fear of having to leave your anchor behind still attached to the wreck. It could save you time and money. Or to know that there are fish traps in the area and the lookout had better be watching that much harder. Even if you know where you are and have run the course many times, it's amazing what you can learn from the chart. So, yes Virginia we will be taking the piloting class this Fall.



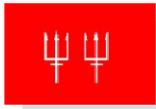
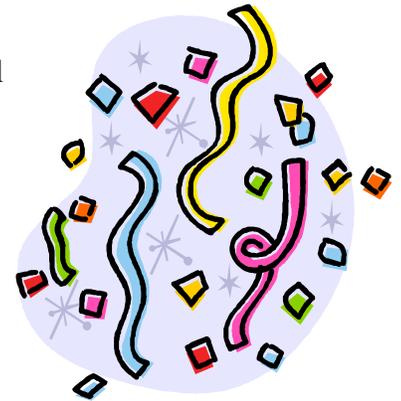
Administrative Officer's Report

Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP

The International Pot Luck Dinner is on Saturday 13 October 2012 at the Fairfax Yacht Club. Bring your best dish for everyone to share. On page 10 there is a sheet with more information and my phone number and address. There is also a form on the bottom to fill out. It is \$5 per person at the door. We will have a short meeting.

The Holiday party will be 1 December 2012 at the American Legion Hall in Fairfax City. It will be \$40 per person. Mark your calendar. An invitation will be sent soon. We will also be collecting toys, food or money for wounded warriors. This is a fun and important event for our Squadron.

Hope to see all of you there.



Treasurer's Report

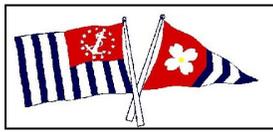
Lt/C Ann Nartsissov, P

The Wounded Warrior Cruise was a wonderful experience. The weather, the NVSPS member participation, and the food all worked together to give the warriors and their families an uplifting day away from hospital rooms. They felt appreciated, and we felt humbled by their response to our effort.

Thank you for money contributions. To date \$2145 has been donated. All expenses of \$2285 have been paid. Contributions for the short fall of \$145 will be appreciated.

For the month of August, in the Operating Fund there were deposits of \$1090 and expenses of \$1379. That includes a pass through of \$815 in and out for Treasurer's computer from the Flower Power Interest. The balance at the end of August was \$6354. Wounded Warrior Cruise expenses of \$2000 were paid in September.

Dave Hinkins & I have been working with the new computer and software upgrade. It has been a bit of a challenge. Financial data for the Squadron year has been entered and reconciled with bank statements. We are now working on entering the budget to produce a budget versus actual report.



Education Officer's Report

by Lt/C Sean Gallagher, AP

Well its nearly time to winterize those boats and prepare for the winter season. Winter is a great time to brush up on your nautical knowledge by enrolling in one or more of our courses and seminars. Here is the proposed schedule for Nov 12 – Apr 13. These are in the process of being loaded to the national site. If you don't see what you need, just ask as we still have some open spots on the calendar.

Have friends? Invite them to participate. We need a minimum number of students enrolled in each course in order to make the course viable.

Got questions? E-mail them directly to seo@nvsp.org

Commander's remarks continued:

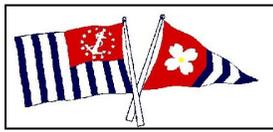
On a personal note, regardless of one's personal position on ebb and flow of political policy, the men and women who place themselves in harm's way in the defense of this country are truly among our Nation's finest resources. A soldier I spent the afternoon with had been wounded twice and was in the course of rehabilitation to recover the use of his right arm. He was not bitter; moreover he was frustrated that he had been pulled out of the theater due to his injuries and could not be with his comrades completing a mission he believed essential to the stability of the region. These are remarkable people who demonstrate tremendous potential for the future of our country. I am very pleased that our Squadron was able to offer a small token of gratitude and appreciation of their service.

<u>Nov 12 – Apr 13</u>	<u>NVSPS Course Schedule</u>
1-Nov-12	Marine Communications
03-Nov-12	Seamanship
20-Nov-12	ABC-12
8-Dec-12	Cruise Planning
13-Dec-12	Piloting
8-Jan-13	ABC-12
12-Jan-13	Eng Maint
5-Feb-13	ABC-12
28-Feb-13	Adv Piloting
2-Mar-13	Marine Electrical Systems
<u>Nov 12 – Apr 13</u>	<u>NVSPS Seminar Schedule</u>
24-Nov-12	Mastering Rules of the Road
24-Nov-12	VHF/DSC Marine Radio
8-Dec-12	Anchoring
8-Dec-12	Using GPS
5-Jan-13	Knots Bends & Hitches
5-Jan-13	Boating on Lakes, Rivers & Locks
2-Feb-13	Basic Weather and Forecasting
2-Feb-13	Emergencies onboard
2-Mar-13	Marine Radar
2-Mar-13	How to use a chart

Executive Officer remarks continued:

That evening as we were securely docked at Crisfield, sitting comfortably in his cabin watching a football game and enjoying a nice bottle of red wine, a cold front came through with strong winds and heavy rain. When we awoke in the morning the wind was gusting to 30 kts. out of the north. And my friend had to get back home to go to a friend's retirement party that evening. So, off we went. As soon as we left the channel at Crisfield and turned north, the waves started breaking over the bow. The only way to proceed without tearing up his new boat was to slow to about 12 kts. and hang on. Even at that speed things were flying around the cabin. When we finally arrived back at Chesapeake Yacht Club that afternoon, his shiny new boat was covered with salt, but no worse for wear.





Wounded Warrior Cruise 2012—A Great Day on the Bay

by P/C Francis Williamson

Skippers – Thanks for donating your boats, time and resources for this rewardingly special NVSPS Wounded Warrior Cruise 2012. The squadron hosted 41 warriors, family and guests to a river cruise, box lunches and a catered group picnic. Skippers from the Potomac River, York River, Annapolis and Solomons rendezvoused at NAS Patuxent River West Basin Marina on September 15th to host the largest squadron civic service event of the year. Please join me in acknowledging the skippers of this event:

<u>Skipper</u>	<u>Boat</u>
Don Carl	DONJE
Doug Layne	POKIE HOKIE
Peter Braun	LIBERTY
George Nartsissov	L'ATTITUDES
Keith Segerson	SERENITY
Francis Williamson	SEA GLORY
Robert Van Buskirk	SEAS THE DAY
John Von Senden	SOUTHERN GIRL
Tom Ballew	AL DI LA
Mike Taylor	FRIENDLY



A dedicated Shore Party Team led by XO Steve Hall provided all the necessary support to make this event run smoothly. Steve coordinated the welcome, safety brief, skipper assignment and box lunch distribution from West Basin Marina. All guests were embarked shortly after arrival and vessels cruised onto the Patuxent River with blustery winds and a clear sky. Boats headed east to the bay, north to the Solomons and west up river. A special highlight of the day was the Chesapeake Bay Off-Shore Racer Grand Prix tests that shut down the river from 1100 until 1500 when the speed trials finished. Skippers, crews and guests enjoyed power boat racing a closed course at speeds exceeding 100 knots. Rooster tails, smiles and a relaxing cruise were the order of the day.

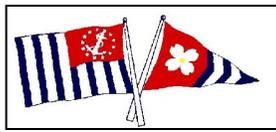
Dock crews and shore party picnic team kept the boats and guests moving. Guests debarked adjacent to the pavilion where the picnic decorations featured patriotic banners, balloons and table cloths. John & Sue Karjala and Dave & MaryJane Hinkins coordinated the docking and picnic. Georgia Williamson donated decorations and Sue and John Karjala donated the cake. David Lennox, a fellow APL professional staffer, coordinated all the base security, gate lists, guest count, and transportation issues and remained ashore to augment line handlers docking the vessels.

Sergeant First Class Ortiz warmed our hearts with heart-felt thanks and recognition for the squadron effort in paying tribute to our warriors.

Well done and thanks.

Visit NVSPS website to see the collection of great pictures from this squadron civic service event.





Vessel safety checks

by P/C George Nartsissov, AP

The Squadron Vessel Examiners (VEs) have been busy this year. We have accomplished **143 VSCs so far this year**. This included several vessels in preparation for the Wounded Warrior Cruise. Several of our examiners are still working individually to perform the checks. Although it is the end of September, as this is being written, boating season is still on! Some captains will be going South, others are enjoying the pleasant weather locally. Once you have done a VSC, and are displaying the VSC decal, you will feel compelled to do it every year. There is something about displaying an outdated decal that just does not feel right. Most importantly it is an action that indicates to others, and to you, that “this vessel meets or exceeds the regulatory minimum/recommended safety criteria”.

Contact P/C George Nartsissov, AP, for questions: vsc@nvsp.org

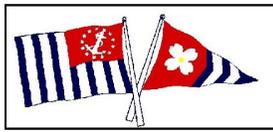


Ships Store

by P/C John Shivik, AP

Your NVSPS Ship's Store is on-line at www.nvsp.org. Browse the items that are listed and if you have any objects of interest that are not shown or any questions, please use the email link for the Ship's Store. There is a good inventory of colors and sizes. Simply place your order by downloading the appropriate form. Note that the holidays will soon be here and time is running out to obtain that unique gift for that special someone. Not only that, but you will be supporting our Squadron through your purchase! Buy between now and before Thanksgiving for a discount!





Last Call for Merit Mark Recommendations

Let's make sure that all the NVSPS members who performed substantial service to the squadron during calendar year 2012 receive the credit they deserve and the merit marks they have earned.

Officers & committee chairs: Please e-mail the names and a description of the service each performed to Merit Mark Chair Jean Durgin (rjdurgin@aol.com) by the **Deadline: 15 October 2012**. Make the descriptions brief and specific. Include how many vessels inspected, classes taught, articles written, presentations made, outcomes achieved, meetings attended, hours spent if known, etc. For details on writing recommendations, consult your Operations Manual.

Members: Feel free to submit a brief description of your service directly to Jean (rjdurgin@aol.com) by 15 October 2012. Thanks, everybody!



Special thanks to all who contributed and volunteered to make our Wounded Warrior Cruise for 2012 such a great success.





You are invited!

NVSPS International Pot Luck Dinner
11:00-1600 hrs.
13 October 2012
Fairfax Yacht Club
10721 Colchester Road
Mason Neck, VA 22079
Reservation Deadline: 11 Oct

Plenty of good food is expected. Free beer, wine, soda and a restocked Commander's Liquor Locker will be open. *This luncheon is combined with an abbreviated October "All Hands" meeting. Vessel Safety Checks will also be available.*

Call/E-mail/ or send your reservation form below to: Lt/C Cathy Sheffield, AP
200 N. Pickett # 512
Alexandria, VA 22304-2125

Directions To The Fairfax Yacht Club:

From the Beltway:

Drive south on I-95 from the Beltway and take the exit for Woodbridge via US Rt. 1 south. Turn left at Furnace Road, which is at the first traffic light. This is just prior to the Occoquan River Bridge. Follow Furnace Road through the railroad underpass (Caution-one car wide and a blind turn, sound your horn before entering). Continue about another 75-100 yards where Furnace Road bears to the left and joins Old Colchester Road. Do not bear to the left but proceed straight across. This is a private lane, which leads into the Fairfax Yacht Club. Follow this lane through the gate (it will be open) and park at any open space.

Clip and return by deadline OR Call Cathy at (703) 370-4331 OR E-mail at carney1227@aol.com.

This party is \$5.00 for each member and guest (payable at door). Make a note of the date now --- 13 October 2012 **International Pot Luck** (aka Oktoberfest) at the Fairfax Yacht Club. Please bring your favorite ethnic, foreign or whatever special dish, appetizer, or dessert to share!

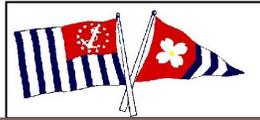
Member Name(s): _____

Guest(s) _____

Appetizer/ Dish/ Dessert/ Salad _____

Yes, I can help with Setup___ Cleanup___





Your Holiday Greetings Benefit NVSPS!

You can spread holiday cheer and support the work of NVSPS by posting a greeting to all squadron members in the December issue “*of Tars & Terns.*” All it takes is a tax deductible contribution of any amount to the Flower Power Fund.

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

----- cut here -----

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

Name: _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

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 2012**. Questions? Call 703-560-9106.

of TARS & TERNS

D/Lt. W. Lazear, AP

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October 2012

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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.

