



The Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron



# of TARS & TERNS



Volume L Number 6

[www.nvpsps.org](http://www.nvpsps.org)

50th Anniversary Year

July/August 2017



*Free Vessel Safety Checks were performed at the Spring Picnic.  
Thanks to Fairfax Yacht Club for hosting NVSPS!*

### June

- 21 Summer Solstice
- 28 Executive Committee Meeting, 1930-2100

### July

- 4 Independence Day
- 12 Gen Membership Meeting, 1900-2100,  
Patriot Scuba—Occoquan, How To Get  
Started in Scuba, Rob Curren
- 26 Executive Committee Meeting, 1930-2100

### July

- 29 West Marine Seminar—VHF Radio

### August

- 26 West Marine Seminar—Weather  
Forecasting

### September

- 13 Gen Membership Meeting, 1900-2100
- 30 West Marine—Emergencies Onboard
- 27 Executive Committee Meeting, 1930-2100



## Bridge Officers

### COMMANDER

CDR Frederick D. Zugay, JN  
703-815-1954  
eaglebs271@cox.net



### EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Sean Gallagher, JN  
703-548-5851  
hawk-eye@earthlink.net



### EDUCATION OFFICER

Lt/C Ed Phillips, AP  
703-771-7096  
education@nvsp.org



### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Kim-Kwok Chu, S  
703-280-4848  
admin@nvsp.org



### SECRETARY

Lt/C Mary-Jane Hinkins  
303-349-0106  
secretary@nvsp.org



### TREASURER

Lt/C David Hinkins, S  
303-349-3000  
treasurer@nvsp.org



### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Lt Richard Cohen, P	703-845-1410
P/C Alan Hart, AP	540-898-6002
P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP	703-370-4331
P/C Richard E. Unis, JN	703-777-8378
Lt Claire Wyngaard	703-494-2065

### Scheduled Meetings:

Unless otherwise noted, the General Membership Meetings will be held at the BoatUS™ HQ facility at 1900. on the **second Wed of each month** except for the months of Aug and Dec. and May and Oct mtgs will be combined with other events. Any changes will be posted in this newsletter or on the Squadron website.

### BoatUS Headquarters meeting location:

**880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA 22304**

From Capital Beltway, take the VA-613/ Van Dorn St exit # 173, towards Franconia. Turn left onto S. Van Dorn St / VA-613 North. Turn left onto S. Pickett St. Go less than .5 miles and turn in at first the BoatUS™ sign and go to the lighted parking lot in rear. Proceed to the entrance. Press buzzer on right to request entry.

### Attention Ship's Store Shoppers!

Our online Ship's Store (<http://nvsp.qbstores.com>) now offers shirts, jackets, totebags and hats with our new 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary burgee logo. The new burgee has a gold band along the angled edges. So, watch for a sale and stock up on NVSPS shirts to wear onboard and in town, If you need a new nametag, order one from [cpdean.com](http://cpdean.com).

Find us on 

## Of Tars & Terns

The official publication of the  
**Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron**

[www.nvsp.org](http://www.nvsp.org)



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

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**Volume L; Number 6: July/August 2017**

### EDITOR

Lt Claire Wyngaard  
703-494-2065  
cwyngaard@verizon.net

### ASST to the EDITOR

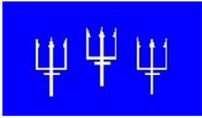
P/C G. Jay Nelson, AP  
703-437-0064  
gjaynelson@aol.com

### DISTRIBUTION

Lt Manette B. Lazear, AP  
703-620-1821  
lakematesm@comcast.net

### WEBMASTER

D/Lt Walter D. Lazear, AP  
703-620-1821  
lakematesw@comcast.net



## Commander Sends...

CDR Frederick D. Zugay, JN

Finally! Cindy and I enjoyed our first boat cruise of the season today, Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of June. The weather was great, sunny with low humidity, low winds, and fairly calm waters on the Potomac River.

We invited our good friend Danny to join us. Being our first time out this season we needed to return everything back to the boat that we took off for winter storage. An extra pair of hands is appreciated for this chore.

Parking was tight at our Marina. Prince William was celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of sponsoring a Wounded Warrior Cruise.

Three busloads of our heroes from Walter Reed Hospital attended the event and approximately thirty five boats were involved taking everyone out on the Potomac. Local Boy Scouts were in attendance helping with the activities and getting ready for what looked like a nice dinner and entertainment at the end of the day.

With our boat "Potomac Pleasure" loaded up, we took off for what turned out to be over four and a half hours on the water. We first went north, past Mount Vernon to National Harbor. We always enjoy viewing the complex from the water and observing the tourists riding the Capital Wheel. We then headed back and further south, past Mattawoman Creek, to just past the power line towers that cross the river near Quantico.

All along the way, where the depth was adequate, we tried to hug the shore in our search for Bald Eagles. It turned out to be a good day looking for Eagles as we spotted a total of fifteen. Some were flying around but most were sitting in the trees. We felt it was an unusually high number to see this time of year due to the heavy foliage and also the eagles tending of their nests which are normally inland. It is much easier to spot them in the fall with the thinner foliage.

Our boat was also decked out with the Squadron's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Burgee. Last year I had the marina install two flag poles at the stern of our boat. So now we have Old Glory on the Port side and our burgee on the Starboard side. We had the boat up to over 40 mph at times and both flags are still with us.

Looking ahead, we have our July General Membership meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>, but no meeting will be held in August as usual. The Squadron hopes to hold a course on Boating First Aid & CPR certification this fall. We will be checking with the Sea Scouts along with our membership to determine who would be interested in taking this course. Look for more information on the course in the September edition of our newsletter. Looking forward to seeing everyone at July's meeting. If you know of a Squadron member who we have not seen in a while, please reach out to them and bring them along.

Thank you, and please stay safe on the water.

**CDR Frederick D. Zugay, JN**

*Eaglebs271@cox.net*



## Evening Meeting Speaker

### July 12: How to Get Started in Scuba

Presented by Rob Curren of Patriot Scuba of Occoquan, Virginia. How to get started in scuba diving. This lifetime sport can take your boating farther and explore new worlds. They have classes for all levels and kinds of diving. See their beautiful website at [www.PatriotScuba.com](http://www.PatriotScuba.com). They have a Not-For-Profit Corporation, Patriots For Disabled Divers, dedicated to bringing the joy and therapeutic benefits of scuba diving to people with disabilities worldwide. Visit [www.PatriotsForDisabledDivers.org](http://www.PatriotsForDisabledDivers.org).

*Submitted by Lt Claire Wyngaard*

Meetings at BoatUS HQ, Alexandria, VA. Directions page 2

### From the Vessel Safety Check Chair

**The US Coast Guard (USCG) Auxiliary and the USPS have certified Vessel Examiners (VEs) who provide courtesy safety checks to mariners to ensure required safety equipment is onboard and in operational condition. VEs also discuss safe boating practices while conducting the checks to ensure boaters are well prepared and informed of their responsibilities. Those boaters who meet all of the requirements are awarded a VSC decal, which is good throughout the calendar year.**

**We can conduct far more VSCs this year and help make the local waters safer but we need you!** For more information see the March 2017 newsletter and contact any of our VEs listed here.



P/C Rich Unis, JN  
Chairman, NVSPS VSC's  
[skipperunis@gmail.com](mailto:skipperunis@gmail.com)  
(703) 588-7030

P/C John Shivik, AP  
[jshivik@verizon.net](mailto:jshivik@verizon.net)  
(703) 273-3351

Lt/C Dave Hinkins, P  
[davehinkins@msn.com](mailto:davehinkins@msn.com)  
(303) 349-3000  
(Northern Neck of Virginia)

P/C Gale Alls, SN  
[galeandev@aol.com](mailto:galeandev@aol.com)  
(703) 987-8421



## *Message from the Educational Officer*

NVSPS will offer four free boating safety seminars at the Alexandria West Marine store on Route 1.

**9:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

**July 29**      **VHF Radio**  
**Aug 26**      **Weather Forecasting**  
**Sept 30**     **Emergencies Onboard**  
**Oct 28**      **Man Overboard**

**At West Marine**  
601 S Patrick St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
[www.WestMarine.com](http://www.WestMarine.com)

*Lt/C Ed Phillips, AP*  
NVSPS SEO  
[Education@nvsp.org](mailto:Education@nvsp.org)

### *Local Sea Scout Ship 1942 in Search of Sailmaker Sewing Machine And Two 38-40' Sailboats*

Sea Scout 'Ship 1942' needs a couple of larger sailboats in the 38 - 40 size (even larger) to accommodate the increasing number of teenagers in our sailing program on the Bay. Every three summers the Sea Scout Ship 1942 will have sailed the entire Chesapeake Bay. Sea Scout 'Ship 1942' is a IRS Charitable 501(C)3 Tax Exempt Organization. To learn more about our Local Sea Scout Ship 1942, visit [www.SeaScout1942.com](http://www.SeaScout1942.com)

***Don't Give up the Ship,  
Skipper Tom Ballew  
TBallew@cox.net  
Sea Scout Ship 1942***



Sea Scouts, BSA is a program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women ages 14 to 21. For over 100 years Sea Scouting has promoted better citizenship and improved members' boating skills through instruction and practice in water safety, boating skills, outdoor, social, service experiences, and knowledge of our maritime heritage.

# *Jones Point Light, Virginia*

By CDR Frederick D. Zugay, JN



In 1852 Congress approved \$5,000 to acquire land and build a small lighthouse at Jones Point on the Potomac River just south of the city of Alexandria, Virginia. The land was purchased from the Manassas Gap Rail Road in 1855. The light was first lit on May 3, 1856. The builder of the light was Charles Church. In 1858 the light in the 5th-order Fresnel lens was converted from oil to piped in gas from the Alexandria Gas Works. Problems with the gas lines caused the fuel supply to be converted to Mineral Oil (kerosene) in 1900. At the same time the fixed white light was changed to a fixed red light.

In 1919 changes were again made to the station. Because of landfill operations, the light needed to be moved closer to the point. This time a 200-candlepower flashing acetylene light was set up about 300 feet to the east of the lighthouse. In 1926 a new skeletal steel tower was built on the new landfill at the tip of the point. This light was a fixed green light.

At the same time, the lighthouse was declared surplus and turned over to the Mount Vernon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The DAR then did a complete restoration of the dwelling and the light and installed a live in caretaker to watch out for the property. The caretaker, Mrs. McMahan, kept the lighthouse open to the public for tours.

In 1934 the light on the skeletal steel tower was converted to electric power and automated. This light was discontinued in November of 1962 when the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge, part of the Capital Beltway, was opened and the lights on the bridge provided a better source for guidance of shipping.

In 1936 the Army Signal Corps, who owned the land surrounding the light, erected a chain link fence around their operations, cutting off access to the lighthouse for Mrs. McMahan. The lighthouse remained in the hands of the Signal Corps until after WWII when it was returned to the DAR. Its condition upon return was depressing. Siding was missing, leaks had not been repaired, the house had been used for target practice, etc.



Because of money problems, in the early 1960's, the DAR approached the National Park Service about establishing a park on the 3000 square feet of land around the lighthouse. One of the conditions being that the light would be restored and the land turned into a park. The Park Service accepted this arrangement and the land was deeded to the Park Service. The land of the Army Signal Corps was also deeded to the Park Service creating a 50-acre park. In the 1980's, the Park Service tried to sell off the property to real estate developers but were stopped by a loud outcry from the City of Alexandria,

the DAR and other local interests. In 1986 an agreement was finally signed to with Park Service to restore the lighthouse as a museum. At the present time, the exterior of the building has been restored but there is nothing on the inside, not even flooring on the first floor. About 1990, vandals set fire to the lighthouse but the fire was extinguished without too much damage. The young men were caught and prosecuted and the damage was repaired.

The park is open during daylight hours and is well worth the trip even if you can not get inside the light. Also while there, look for one of the original boundary stones of the "Territory of Columbia" that was set on April 15th of 1791. This stone marks the southern tip of the current District of Columbia.

**Directions:**

From I-95/495 in Alexandria, take Exit 1 for Route 1 North. Turn right on Franklin Street. Then turn right on S. Royal Street. Turn left on Jones Point Road. Partway down this road, turn right under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. The road ends at the parking lot.





## Message from the Secretary

What a summer, so far! Lord Stanley, our 290 Rinker Express Cruiser, is still on the hard getting the lower unit worked on. Even with the cover on, he is getting so dirty!

I did something terrible to my knee and am hoping I can get on him when he is ready to splash, hopefully next week. Stanley looks so lonely waiting for us.

On a happier note, we have seen so many birds lately. Several Grey Heron, Virginia Bluebirds, some Grosbeaks and so many others. The bald eagles and the younger ones have been around a lot and the hummers are back. I planted a few twigs this year hoping that they become full-fledged trees.

I have some pictures of our recent Spring Picnic and Vessel Safety check day at the Fairfax Yacht Club. I'll submit them to our website. It was a great success and so many folks were there. It was a fun time and good eats.

We are planning a Day at the Creek III on Saturday, September 23, 2017. Hope you can all make it. New friends and old. Hopefully we will have some crabs by then! The creek has been full of fish, and we have seen two rays in the creek. A very varied aquatic life. We hope to see you all at the Creek and at other NVSPS functions.

**Lt/C Mary-Jane Hinkins**  
MJHinkins@msn.com

NVSPS Spring Picnic, The Fairfax Yacht Club on the Occoquan River, Virginia



## *New 50th Anniversary NVSPS Burgee*

Orders may be made for the **NEW** NVSPS Burgee. A gold band along each side of the fly recognizes the squadron as a fifty year old squadron in the United States Power Squadrons. The official anniversary date was May 14, 2017.

In honor of this accomplishment, the squadron will take orders for the new burgees to be delivered at a Squadron function. If mailed, an additional charge will be added.

Size	Price
10" X 15"	\$24.00 ea
12" X 18"	\$26.75 ea
14" X 21"	\$27.50 ea



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Burgee size \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ X price \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Mail order form	P/C Gale Alls, SN	H 703-569-1511,
With payment to:	7800 Braemar Way	C 703-987-8421,
	Springfield, VA 22153	E galeandev@aol.com

### *July*

*Edward Jones, JN 3*  
*Michael O'Dell, P 11*  
*Lt/C David Hinkins, S 14*  
*Ray, Philip, S 15*  
*Melinda M Ray 17*  
*Hannah F. Leggett 21*  
*Douglas Layne, AP 24*  
*Joseph Squarzini 29*



### *August*

*Franklin Garcia, P 2*  
*Betty Church 11*  
*Susan K. Tisa 16*  
*MaryJane Dodson AP 23*  
*P/Lt/C Manette Lazear, AP 20*



NVSPS—July/August 2017  
D/Lt W. Lazear, AP  
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*5th Anniversary Year!*

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