



NORTHERN VIRGINIA SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON
2007-08 GENERAL MEETING
May 9, 2007

In attendance:

BRIDGE:

Commander, G. Jay Nelson, AP
Executive Officer, Lt/C William Blanding, P
Administrative Officer, Lt/C John Shivik, AP
Treasurer, Lt/C Steve Hall

Secretary, Lt/C Clara L. Blanding, P
Assistant Secretary, 1st Lt Susan Sams-Grohoski

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Lt Francis Williamson, AP
Lt John Karjala

The general meeting was held at BOAT US and called to order at 7:32 PM. Lt/C John Shivik, AP gave the invocation. CDR G. Jay Nelson, AP led the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was present.

RECOGNITION OF PAST NVPS COMMANDERS:

Commander Nelson, AP recognized Past Commanders present as follows:

P/C Gale Alls, SN
P/C Richard Davis, AP (of another squadron)
P/C Richard Durgin, JN
P/C Edwin Dodd, JN
P/C John A. Shivik, AP

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS: CDR G. Jay Nelson, AP

- Our squadron received a recognition plaque for the First Place Large Squadron in District 5 for 2006 from USPS, which was displayed.
- Thank you to Steve and Ann Hall for bringing refreshments.
- There are some months still open for providing refreshments at our general meetings, please contact Lt/C Clara Blanding, P if you are able to bring refreshments to a meeting.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership Chair, Martha Jane Dodd, AP

The following new members were sworn in:

- Donald Moore: Don has been a boater for many years. He rebuilds classic old boats and is currently restoring a 1979 jet ski boat. He also owns a Wellcraft, which he keeps at Thyme and Tides Marina.
- Rich Curtis: Rich has been a boater for 40+ years. Rich, retired Navy, is a former Flotilla Commander for the Coast Guard Auxillary. Currently, he is a member of the Baltimore Yacht Club, where he keeps his 40 ft. Carver.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

Commander, CDR G. Jay Nelson, AP:

- Pam and Donny Young have a new boat which was delivered to Charleston S.C. They would welcome assistance bringing it up the ICW and Chesapeake Bay. If anyone can help them out please contact them or Jay Nelson.
- The Richmond Squadron has invited us to join in their weekend rendezvous being held the last weekend of June at Olverson's. Check for information in OT&T
- Bob Donahue has taken on the position of assisting as equipment manager for Training and Education. He will be working with Rick Baker, our SEO.

Executive Officer, Lt/C William Blanding, P: .

- Bill and Clara returned Saturday from a two week trip from Florida bringing up their new boat with the help of Jim and Robin Roberts. Keep your eye on the OT&T for the continuing saga of their adventures!

Administrative Officer, Lt/C John Shivik, AP:

- The Squadron Spring Picnic is scheduled for May 19 1200-1700 at the Fairfax Yacht Club; the web site and OT&T have directions. There will be a BBQ of pulled pork and chicken. Please bring salad, dessert or chips and dip. Cost FREE to members and their families!. There will be games, knot tying, and a kick off of safe boating week with vessel safety checks. Please RSVP to John Shivik if you plan to attend.
- The Marine Users Committee for National Weather Service is requesting boaters to identify commonly known sites to use as locations of weather situation variances. The Chesapeake Observation System buoys are being put in now but the system is still incomplete. NWS wants to be notified if boaters' observations are different from broadcasted information – stickers with 1-800-253-7091 number to call were made available at the meeting.
- The NVSPS Cruise has been shortened to a Solomon's weekend. Contact LT Joe Jarocki, P for details.

Treasurer, Lt/C Steve Hall:

- Everyone should have received their dues renewal notice for this year. You have a little over a month to send them in. P/C Dick Durgin, JN noted that Associate members are to be billed directly by the treasurer.
- Some changes in the structure of the dues are coming from National. Steve presented an update of the current dues categories and the changes. National is going to be increasing the cost of dues to Active Members and Additional Active Members by approximately \$1-\$2.00 per member each of the next 5 years. They will however simplify the dues structure and costs for families of over two members. Families who join will pay less then previously and in this way National hopes to encourage more family memberships. Additionally, the difference between the dues for an Additional Active Member and Family Member will be reduced to encourage more active memberships and more participation in squadron activities including holding office and taking educational courses.
- The Excom will discuss the need to adjust squadron dues to meet the raise in National Dues each year over the next 5 years without endangering the squadron budget. This year the dues structure remains unchanged.

PRESENTATION: USPS University : Education on the Move, 2007 Spring District Conference

Presentation presented by CDR G. Jay Nelson, AP

At the Spring D5 Educational Conference, the changes to the USPS Education program were the focus. The new USPS University program is being phased in which will eventually offer certifications combining classroom and on the water training. New courses are being created and offered that focus on the immediate needs of today's boater and reflect their limited free time for long courses. Each level of certification will involve a few core curriculum courses blended with several single day seminars on a variety of supplemental topics leading to the new Boat Operator Certifications. Following are highlights from the Spring Educational Conference:

- Challenges for the Educational Departments: Membership, Solid Programs, Financial Stability
 - USPS Membership is declining, as is membership in all civic organizations
 - Solid Programs: traditional courses taught by USPS are no longer automatically being taken by members beyond the basics. National is attempting to upgrade training material with current topics, such as Electronic Navigation and newer electronic Engine Maintenance technology, to attract recreational boaters interested in continuing education. Dated photos and technical presentations are also being upgraded.

- The new Boat Operator Certification Program: will offer categories of courses offered in smaller portions tied to the type of boating location and boat size.
- On-the-Water Courses: power boating and sailing packages may be offered for hands on training
- Squadron Boating course will be divided into two parts which can be taught separately or together as needed by the water type operated upon by the members.
- The new JN course has proven very popular and effective in initial test classes for offshore navigation.
- Marine electronics will be a How-To book for maintenance that can be used on individual's own boat.
- The revamping of the Education Program is a work in progress. Some course books are not yet completed or published. Progress is scheduled throughout the next two years
- Membership Solution: Recruit – courses and seminars; Attract – Boat Operator Certification; Retain – Courses, topical seminars, certification
- States mandating certification is helping boost interest in education nationwide. VA mandated certification has been passed but will not be implemented for two years as noted by P/C Gale Alls, SN. Proctored exam is one of the issues generating the hold up. Lt. Francis Williamson, AP noted, however, that we have already received participation in our classes by members of government agencies from VA, MD and NJ.
- Financial Health: National hopes to sell more courses and seminars, gain more public involvement, improve inventory and cost control through carefully designed materials and collect more dues from retained membership.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lt. Susan Sams-Grohoski

Lt Susan Sams-Grohoski
Assistant Secretary

Lt/C Clara L. Blanding, P
Secretary