



**NORTHERN VIRGINIA SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
11 April 2012**

BoatUS® Headquarters conference room, Alexandria, Virginia, was the venue for the General Meeting. Building access and security badges were handled by P/C R.J. Durgin, JN, and P/C George Nartsissov, AP. NVSPS social time started at 1900 hrs. Refreshments were provided by Cdr G. Jay Nelson, AP. 17 squadron members were in attendance. Cdr G. Jay Nelson, AP, called the meeting to order at 1930 hrs. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by P/C George Nartsissov, AP. The business meeting followed. The business meeting was adjourned at 2025 hrs. Thereafter, a presentation was made by Cdr G. Jay Nelson, AP.

In Attendance:

Bridge:

Commander, Cdr G. Jay Nelson, AP

Executive Officer, Lt/C Steve Hall, AP, absent

Secretary, Lt/C Mary-Jane Hinkins

Treasurer, Lt./C Anne Nartsissov, P

Assistant Treasurer, 1/Lt. Dave Hinkins, S

Education Officer, Lt/C Sean Gallagher, AP absent

Admin Officer, Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP

Members at Large:

P/C John G. Karjala, P

P/C George Nartsissov, AP

P/C Francis Williamson, AP

Lt Frederick Zugay, JN

P/C Keith Everson, P

Past Commanders Present: P/C R.J. Durgin, JN; P/C Francis Williamson, AP;
P/C John G. Karjala, P

Reports:

Commanders Report:

Cdr G. Jay Nelson, AP, thanked everyone for their support and participation, and stated that “we always wish for more participation!” We had two recent events: The Change of Watch and the District 5 Spring Conference in Ocean City. Many squadron members were in attendance at the D5 Conference; P/C Steve Hall, AP; Cathy Sheffield, AP; P/C Alan Hart, P; Mary Hart; P/C Keith Everson, P; P/C John Karjala, P; Sue Karjala, P; P/C R.J. Durgin, JN; Jean Durgin, AP; Anne Nartsissov, P; P/C George Nartsissov, AP; 1/Lt Dave Hinkins, S; and Lt/Cdr Mary-Jane Hinkins.

Squadron received many Awards at D-5 conference. Walt Lazar, AP, was awarded life member, received a 25 year silver pin, gift certificate, and an award for outstanding communicator. Lt. Frank Shults, S, was awarded for the Tars and Turns excellence, a performance award for the squadron’s website, and an outstanding communicator pin. P/C R.J. Durgin, JN, received an award for vessel safety check for large squadron. Social Networking Website award went to Robin Roberts, AP. ‘Doing things right’ was awarded to P/C. John Karjala, P

Sue Karjala, P, passed out handouts from our booth at the D-5 Conference, and presented the squadron's exhibit. Which, though it did not win an award, was well received by all. The Cdr thanked Sue Karjala, P, and her committee for their hard work and great presentation.

Cdr. G. Jay Nelson, AP, advised that D5 is going to an electronic version of the District newsletter available on their new website. Also available on the website are current events and membership information. If you still want a hard copy of the newsletter, there will be a \$6 charge and each member will need to fill out a form. They will not accept a joint squadron form. We should consider going to an electronic version as well. P/C R.J. Durgin, JN, and Jean Durgin, AP, might have some additional input. We do not have email for 40% of our membership. In the future, we should query our members for their email addresses, and also find out what would they like from the Power Squadron. We might find out why we have 179 members and only 17 members in attendance tonight.

A plea was made for a new Program Chairman. The chair is now empty. This position brings in speakers and programs for the squadron. This is a very import position. Gail Alls, SN, will assist as needed, but we need this filled. Also Public Relations Officer, Frank Shults, S has semi-retired, and is now cruising. We will also need to fill this position.

We should consider getting cyber members to join. P/C John Karjala, P, interceded that we should welcome them to the squadron. The Commander will follow up on this. We have three more cyber members from national. Two came to the last meeting.

There are 2- bills in Maryland that will affect boaters. Maryland plans to tax boats as luxury items. This would amount to \$5,700 for a \$100,000 boat. This is now in legislative session. Even if just the boat resides in Maryland and you are a resident of another state, you would have to pay this tax. The Commander will find out if the bill is closed and present upon this at the next General Meeting.

It was also reported that many gas stations are now using E15 Gasoline – Be caution when filling your boats at gas stations. The Coast Guard has proven it is harmful to boats. This is a done deal. The Coast Guard is sending out letters warning boaters. Marinas can still us E10 gas and some no-ethanol E0. Octane doesn't make any difference for a boat but ethanol is very harmful to hoses, parts etc., and costs more to produce.

Vessel safety checks – P/C George Nartsissov, AP, will be doing VSC at the Fairfax Yacht Club during the Spring Pot Luck and he is trying to attract more members. There are 7 members at this time and Robin Roberts, AP, has already done 28 VSC.

Administrative Officer's Report:

Admin Officer, Lt/C Cathy Sheffield, AP, stated that the Spring Event will be held at the Fairfax Yacht Club. A date has not yet been set.

Education Officer's Report:

Absent.

Treasurer Report:

- Treasurer, Lt/C Anne Narsissov, P, presented the budget for 2013. She noted that our membership has been in decline which accounts for a substantial portion of our income. We can balance the budget by cutting costs on some of our events, bringing in a larger profit from our education department, and recruiting more new members. She announced that the process of changing the bank signatures from Robyn Stewart to the new Bridge has begun. The Audit will be forth coming. There was concern that there might be items posted to the wrong categories. It might be appropriate to do a pre check prior to the audit.

Secretary's Report:

- Lt/C Mary-Jane Hinkins the minutes from the February 9, 2011 meeting will be provided at the next general meeting.

Committee Reports:

Public Relations: Frank Shultz, S was absent

Boat Show: Lt Ed Phillips, AP – no report.

New Business: Cdr. G. Jay Nelson, AP, stated that the Bridge had approved the purchasing of a new laptop for the Treasurer.

Old Business: Dick Durgin - At the March meeting P/C Nartsissov, AP, called attention to Section 9.9.3 of the model bylaws which states that "The presiding officer shall vote only to create or decide a tie." P/C George Nartsissov, AP, determined that *Robert's Rules of Order* say that the presiding officer may vote to create or decide a tie but is not obliged to do so. Also when voting is by ballot, the presiding officer may always vote. This discrepancy has been brought to the attention of the national Committee on Rules so that the model bylaws can be changed. In the meantime, NVSPS has permission to substitute this sentence: "Sec. 9.9.3 the presiding officer shall vote in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*." Lt/C R.J. Durgin wrote the rules on the board and explained the issue. The issue was opened for discussion.

Editing was done by Jean Durgin, AP – Nicely done.

Motion to accept was made by P\C John Karjala, P so moved to accept the by-laws

As amended – no discussion

A Quorum approved and the change was so carried

Guest Speaker:

Presentation on the Costa Concordia Incident by Cdr. G. Jay Nelson, AP, followed the general meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lt/C *Mary-Jane Hinkins*, Secretary

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Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron