



# of TARS & TERNS

Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron



Vol XL, No. 1

[www.usps.org/localusps/nva/ott/ott.htm](http://www.usps.org/localusps/nva/ott/ott.htm)

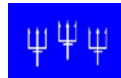
February, 2006

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Cdr Keith B. Segerson, P

*From the Commander*



Change is good. And change is what's coming to your NVSPS. One of my initiatives this year as commander was to begin a strategic planning process that included reviews of recruitment, member activities, educational outreach, youth involvement, and marketing to open the door to insight into what changes were necessary to build an exciting organization that meets the needs of those who join. I've been very impressed with the leadership that has surfaced among a good number of our members to drive this vision of organizational change. My thanks to Brian Middleton, Rick Baker, Robert Van Buskirk, Clara and Bill Blanding, Ed Phillips, Pete and Judy Soballe, and Jay Nelson for their progressive efforts to re-invent your NVSPS. As a result of planning discussions, the following are targeted for action over the next 12-months:

- A new meeting format to reduce formality and increase networking time to discuss boating.
- Targeted recruitment in basic boating classes and at the Dulles-Expo boat show.
- Re-evaluation of class offerings and pricing to better reflect the present competitive environment.
- Development of marketing materials to be used specifically in basic boating classes and at boat shows, Alexandria Seaport Festival, Vessel Safety Checks, etc.
- Member-service acknowledgement programs to visibly reward those contributing to the advancement of the NVSPS.
- More services (classifieds? personals?) and more professional format in *of Tars & Terns*.
- A web-site with interactive services.
- More member-specific networking and boating activities.
- Co-op charting to focus more on depth-wiz and on-the-water activities in support of NOAA.
- Increased frequency and substance of informational outreach to membership through mailings and email.

These activities and more are planned as exciting improvements to your NVSPS. Jay Nelson, your incoming commander in March, is working closely with us to make these things happen. We'll talk boating and do boating with less formality and administrative burdens. Let's enjoy the hobby that all of us have embraced. Both Jay and I welcome your input and involvement as we enhance and improve your NVSPS.



## SQUADRON CALENDAR

### February 2006

8 All Hands' & Founders Day  
*Montebello, Alexandria*

### March 2006

8 All Hands' Meeting  
*BoatUS, Alexandria*

9 - 12 National Capital Boat Show  
*Chantilly*

18 NVSPS Change of Watch  
*Holiday Inn, Washington Dulles*

30 - D5 Spring Conference  
02 Apr *Ocean City MD*

**NVSPS BRIDGE**  
**Officers &**  
**Chairs**



**COMMANDER**  
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**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
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**SECRETARY**  
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**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**  
Lt/C Martha J. Dodd, P

**AT LARGE**

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**of Tars & Terns EDITOR**

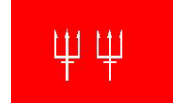
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D/Lt Walter D. Lazear, AP (703) 620-1821



**Lt/C Glenn A. Fahey, P:**  
**EXEC'S MOMENT**



**The 2006 National Capital Boat Show is just around the corner.** It's that time of year again. The show is being held March 9 - 12 at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly. NVSPS will have a booth to promote our organization, and we're looking for volunteers for 2-hour shifts. If you volunteer you'll receive free admission to the show. This is a fun event and a great chance to let the public know what we do. Don't worry if you're a new member. This is not difficult and we'll pair you up with someone more experienced. Please contact our acting Boat Show Chairman, Francis Williamson at 703-440-9074 or [willyjhu@cox.net](mailto:willyjhu@cox.net)

We're also looking for a new chairperson for Vessel Safety Checks. Elaine Colen Sheetz has done a terrific job, but, this position will need to be filled due to Elaine and Al's upcoming move to sunny Florida. We'll miss you both! Elaine is willing to train whoever steps forward to fill this vital position. Please contact Elaine at [elsc97@aol.com](mailto:elsc97@aol.com) or me at [GandJFahey@aol.com](mailto:GandJFahey@aol.com)

**NVSPS FOUNDERS DAY MEETING**  
**& POTLUCK DINNER**

Wednesday, 8 February, 2006  
6:30PM (1830 - ??)  
Hosted by NVSPS & Al & Elaine Sheetz  
Montebello Party Room 2 (Building 5902)  
5902 Mt Eagle Drive, Alexandria, VA  
703 - 402-7848 (cell)  
703-960-3033 (Home)

From Route 495 take exit # 177A "Route 1 South - Ft. Belvoir". Continue straight through 2 lights (Ft. Hunt Rd & Huntington Ave.) About 1 mile (from exit) turn right on Mount Eagle Drive (a service road). Continue up hill and turn right in main gate of Montebello (center entrance). Inform guard you are our guests and going to Building 2 Party Room. (your name must be on Martha Jane's Guest List). Turn right out of gate and continue all the way to the top of the hill, building 5902 is on the left at the top of hill. Park and enter front lobby of building, dial 288 on lobby phone and inform office that you are attending meeting in Party Room 2 Office will buzz door lock open. Proceed straight to elevators and go down to level B1 (do not take stairs). Exit elevator on B1, turn left and immediate left into party room. We live in this building, but can be reached on my cell phone after 1500.



## 2006 –7 NVSPS Nominating Committee Report

In accordance with Sections 6.8, 6.8.1, 6.8.2, and 11.1 of the NVSPS Bylaws, the following members of the Squadron are recommended for election by the General Membership at the March 8, 2006 annual meeting. The members listed have agreed to serve their term as prescribed in the Bylaws for the year 2006-2007.

### BRIDGE MEMBERS

Commander ..... Jay Nelson, AP  
Executive Officer ..... George Degnon, AP  
Educational Officer ..... Brian Middleton, AP  
Administrative Officer. William Blanding. P  
Secretary ..... Clara Blanding, P  
Treasurer ..... Jeffrey Hester  
Asst. Educ. Officer ..... David Spevacek, AP  
Asst. Secretary ..... Cathleen Sheffield, AP  
Asst. Admin. Officer... William Hammett, AP  
Asst. Treasurer ..... (Vacant)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT LARGE

Jean Durgin, AP  
Joseph Jarocki  
Walter Lazear, AP  
John Shivik, AP  
Francis Williamson, S

### RULES COMMITTEE

Chairman 1 year ..... Mike Triggs, AP  
2 years ..... Walter Lazear, AP  
3 years ..... William Hammett, AP  
4 years ..... Paula Bailey, AP  
5 years ..... Evelyn Alls

### AUDITING COMMITTEE

Chairman 1 year ..... Ronald Larson, P  
2 years ..... Tom Martin, AP  
3 years ..... Joel Bailey, AP

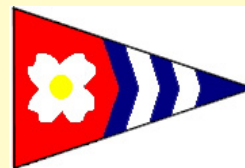
### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Martha Jane Dodd, P  
Russell S. Grasso, P  
Keith Segerson, P  
Judy K. Soballe, AP  
(vacant)

As provided for in Section 11.1, additional candidates for any of the above offices may be nominated by petition, signed by at least five (5) active members in good standing, and filed with the Secretary at least fifteen (15) days before the date of the election.

Respectfully submitted: P/C Richard Durgin, JN  
P/C Gale Alls, SN,  
James Roberts, AP  
P/C John Shivik AP.  
P/C Paula Bailey, AP

## SHIP'S STORE



**Need a new burgee, shirt or name tag?**

**Contact Cory-Jeanne "CJ" Houck-Cox, S,  
703-642-0818 or [cjhouck\\_nm@yahoo.com](mailto:cjhouck_nm@yahoo.com)**

## Tie One on in Ocean City!

It's time to make your reservations for the D/5 Spring Conference in Ocean City MD 30 March – 2 April, 2006. Join your NVSPS friends for a fun weekend of partying and learning at the Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel. Your winter Mark V has all the details . . . except one!

On Friday night you are invited to visit hospitality suites being planned by most of the squadrons. Our suite will feature the wonderful world of knots. Under the theme of "WHY KNOT?" Visitors will learn to tie the one-handed Bowline and other nifty knots.



So, grab your beach hat and USPS shirt and come to Ocean City! Check the March newsletter for more details.

## Cooperative Charting

### News for the New Year

In 2006, we would like to do some different things in Cooperative Charting. There's much more to Co-op Charting than the Geodetic Marker Recovery outings we have been talking about. The national perspective is at <http://www.usps.org/national/coch/>

I would like to start us off with a depth survey in the early spring. Does anyone know of a good candidate location? Perhaps the channel and surrounding waters to your

marina haven't been surveyed in many years. Let me know what you would consider a worthy location for a depth survey and I'll get the planning underway.

The D/5 CoCh Workshop is coming up on May 5th and 6th at the NOAA Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk, VA. Look for the details on the D/5 website and in an upcoming issue of the Mark 5.

Ed Phillips, AP  
CoCh Committee Chair  
[potter339@earthlink.net](mailto:potter339@earthlink.net)

## Head in the Clouds

We are at the end of the Hurricane season, or, are we? That's the question I asked in the last of Tars & Terns. We did finally end the "season" with another Tropical Storm. It was a record setting year. Are we through with it? No way. What about global warming?

This January has been relatively warm. Is this a precursor of the following months? I don't think so. There have been storms that brought many inches of snow in February and March. BUT, what about April? The Clash of Seasons! Thunderstorms and Tornadoes. Can you

predict what the weather conditions will be when you are out on the briny this boating season? YES, you can! Take the time to learn about the conditions that will affect your safe travel at sea or on land. Is the old adage "Red sky at night, sailor's delight; red sky in the morning, sailor's warning" valid? Learn about the weather before you ever go out on the water, it is your life and the lives of those entrusted to your care.

P/C John Shivik, AP





**Lt/C Martha J. Dodd, P**

## **ADMINISTRATION**

**I am glad to report that the Squadron Christmas Dinner Party** held 2 December at the Holiday Inn Dulles was a fabulous affair. We had a great turn out of members & guests. The party room was beautifully decorated, service was great and food was delicious. The bartender was well worked and the music was super.

In fact, the music was so great that Jean & Dick Durgin did the "Chicken Dance" several times and "Casey", Bill & Helen Alberts granddaughter, lead the "Line Dance" around the dining room several times. D/Lt/C Frank Leone & his wife Donna, guests from District 5 and D/Lt/C Richard Davis and his wife Irina, also from District 5, appeared to enjoy the evening too. As the Administrative Officer for NVSPS, I personally received many compliments regarding the affair. Actually several comments made, from members who have joined us at parties in the past, stated it was the best one they have attended! I am sorry if you missed this year's party.

## **LAND LOCKED - CHARTER BOUND THE IN TRIM YEARS - PART II**



### *The Sailor's Experience*

Lightning was all around; the thunder was shattering. As we were finishing dinner a determined rain began. I saw a sailboat light come from around Deepwater Point headed directly at us; toward the entrance to St Michaels. "Admiral, look at this; That boat can not come directly toward the entrance, there are only two feet of water" Sure enough it was soon sitting still. The radio was on: "Boat rounding the red buoy into St Michaels, this is Ragtime, can you give us assistance?" No answer. It was my turn on the radio.

"Ragtime, this is Osprey. The boat entering is a Naval Academy training vessel and would not be able to assist even if they heard you; what do you need? A long pause... "Olives." I felt a challenge arising, "I'll be right over."

While Jacque was finding the olives, I donned yellow slicker and boots. All I heard as I left the cabin besides earth shaking thunder was "What are you doing?" Once on deck it was chaos. Lightning three or more times a minute followed by blasting thunder. I headed out the entrance toward Ragtime's dim lights. Only the lightning made navigation possible. I had some apprehension about that lightning, but the challenge was on. Soon I could make out a red hull and then voices, "He's here--- he has the olives". The whole situation now became apparent. The skipper was very inexperienced; there were four families on board (two babies, several teenagers) who knew even less than he. They had been drinking for some time and had to search for the charts when I asked for them. "You needed to pass the red flashing buoy "4" to starboard before turning in. Red right returning."

Kedging was the only option I could think of as she was fast in the sand. I rounded up the teenagers and got them in the dingy. "Row out to the channel, drop anchor and row back" fortunately they had been drinking coke. Ragtime was a 46' sloop with an anchor wench. With a little help from the engine, we reached the channel where I guided her into the harbor. What now? All moorings had been taken hours before. The skipper suggested Ragtime raft with Osprey--how convenient.

Once securely attached, the party continued. Our crew settled comfortably in the lounge of Ragtime. Food and drinks were everywhere. Teenagers were playing music as loud as possible, eight-year-old's were running around, babies were crying, and the adults were talking, laughing, and drinking. The party went on all night, but not for me. On board the relatively quiet Osprey I reflected on the days events. A blistering sail at full speed from the Sassafras to St Michaels well within the limits of daylight. A rescue of a swamped sailboat in the middle of the Chesapeake. A rescue of a grounded sailboat with babies and young children aboard, the skipper under prepared, under conditioned and under the weather.

It was a day of sailing I'll never forget. I drifted off to sleep remembering the six-week Bahamas sail on Sid's Hinkley Bermuda Forty. Blue water sailing is still in my veins but where and how can I charter a seaworthy boat? I must visit Southwest Harbor and the Hinkley Boat Yard. They have a variety of elegant safe blue water sailboats from 30' to 50' and a chartering service if one can meet their standards. We made the call and received applications. Filling them out was fun, as past experiences were requested. This was years before I heard of USPS, piloting, rules of the road, or many safety requirements; they were not a strong concern of mine at the time; blue water sailing was. Another challenging charter next.

Lt W. Lazear, AP  
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# of TARS & TERNS



**MONTHLY ALL-HANDS MEETING**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 theBoatUS sign.  
Enter from the lighted parking lot behind the building.

**of TARS & TERNS**  
an official publication of  
Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron  
in District 5 of  
The United States Power Squadrons®

Articles & other contents do not represent USFS® policy or endorsement unless so designated. Published ten times yearly. January & February, July & August are combined

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# America's Boating Club