



of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLVII Number 1

January/February 2012

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Mark your calendars and come join us.

February

- 8 All Hands Meeting
- 22 ExCom Meeting

March

- 9 Chantilly Boat Show
- 14 All Hands Meeting
- 24 Change of Watch Ceremony
- 28 ExCom Meeting
- 30 D5 Spring Conference

May

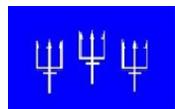
- 19 D5 Chesapeake Bay Coastal Environment Cleanup Project



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 John Karjala, P

I suspect that on occasion you may have asked: "Why does the Commander promote the USPS D5 Officer Training and Spring Conference on 30 March -1 April 2012 in Ocean City, Maryland?" This article is an attempt to answer that question.

All NVSPS members and guests are welcome and encouraged to attend. Venue for Conference events is Ocean City's Princess Royale Hotel. An early registration occurs on Thursday 29 March and regular registration is on Friday 30 March morning. Meetings and classes start on Friday and continue into Saturday. Squadrons have open-house Friday night to show the educational/training themes each group has set up in their hospitality suites. We visit each squadron's suite to see what surprises await. On Saturday, meetings and classes continue. On Saturday night the D5 Commander hosts a cocktail party with appetizers. That event is followed by a banquet with a D5 Change of Watch, awards presentation, and raffle conclusion. On Sunday morning the new D5 hosts a breakfast for attendees.

NVSPS will donate a Wine and Spirits Basket to the D5 Raffle Table. All conference attendees, members and guests can buy tickets and deposit a matching ticket on the prizes to be won. (As an aside, you as an NVSPS member are solicited to contribute a bottle of wine or spirits to the NVSPS Wine and Spirits Basket. Please bring your contribution to the February General Meeting on 8 February or 14 March 2012 or the Executive Committee meetings on 22 February or 28 March 2012. Your donation will receive a letter drafted for tax deduction purposes.)

Last year, our NVSPS won the coveted Best Hospitality Suite Award for its First Aid supplies presentation. Winning the award was a grand accomplishment for the Squadron. A high level of competition makes the win a refreshing experience.

We endeavor to make the conference event comfortable for all the NVSPS members and guests who attend. We will have an open hospitality suite during each day and night where members come to socialize, get refreshments, and a beverage of their choice. The Commander's Locker will be open. We will serve a continental breakfast on Saturday morning and Sunday morning, as well as a Happy Hour with appetizers Friday and Saturday evenings.

Good camaraderie is the framework for the event. I hope to see you there. Please review the Spring Conference 2012 Reservation form on page 13 in this issue and consider a few days of fun.



Bridge Officers



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jgkarjala@verizon.net



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Lt/C Robyn Stewart
703-536-7523
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P/LtC Cathleen Sheffield, AP	703-370-4331
Steve Wanbaugh, S	703-323-5025
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 1900 (7:00 pm). Any changes will be posted in this newsletter or in the NVSPS website.

*BoatUS Headquarters and meeting location:

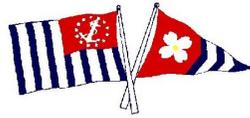
880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA

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 in at the BoatUS sign and go to the lighted parking lot in the rear. Proceed to the entrance.

D5 has announced that their newsletter, "Mark 5" will be going paperless. See an important announcement about this on page 10 of this issue.



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



Squadron Social and Meeting Schedule February, March, and April 2012

DATE	EVENT
8 FEB 12	General Membership "All Hands" Meeting. BoatUS® Entrance through the rear door at 880 South Picket Street, Alexandria, VA 22304. 7:00 P.M.
22 FEB 12	Executive Committee Meeting. GMU Enterprise Center at 7:30 P.M.
09 MAR - 11 MAR 12	Chantilly Boat Show
14 MAR 12	General Membership "All Hands" Meeting. BoatUS® Entrance through the rear door at 880 South Picket Street, Alexandria, VA 22304. 7:00 P.M.
24 MAR 12	NVSPS Change of Watch 11:00 A.M. to 13:30 P.M. Fairfax City American Legion.
28 MAR 12	New Executive Committee Meeting. GMU Enterprise Center at 7:30 P.M.
29 MAR 12	D5 Spring and Officer Training Conference Early Registration at Princess Royale Hotel, Ocean City, Maryland. .
30 MAR - 1 APR 12	Registration & Conference. Princess Royale Hotel, Ocean City, Maryland. Friday into Sunday. See D5 Website "www.uspsd5.org" for registration details
11 APR 12	General Membership "All Hands" Meeting. BoatUS® Entrance through the rear door at 880 South Picket Street, Alexandria, VA 22304. 7:00 P.M.
25 April 12	New Executive Committee Meeting. GMU Enterprise Center at 7:30 P.M.



Don't forget about boat insurance. Most homeowner policies provide a small amount of coverage when your boat is kept on the premises. Other than that, you need separate boat or yacht insurance.

!!Save the Date!!

***Change of Watch
Ceremony***

***March 24, 2012 from
11:00 am to 1:30 pm***

Contribute to the D5 Raffle—bring a bottle of wine to the next membership meeting to be included in our Wine and Spirits Basket at the raffle held during the D5 meeting



of Tars and Terns
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www.nvsp.org



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

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Executive Officer's Report:

Lt/C Frank R. Shults, S



The current issue of Boating Magazine (February 2012) has an article called “Playing in Traffic: Five Ways to Avoid Being Nautical Roadkill in Shipping Channels”. The advice in the article comes from Capt. William McGovern – a pilot with the Sandy Hook Pilots Association. This is good advice. I know from experience.

My First Mate and I were cruising on a beautiful Sunday afternoon up the Chesapeake Bay at a comfortable trolling speed returning from a weekend in Cambridge, MD. There was no boat traffic to speak of – for much of the trip that Fall afternoon we were alone on the water as far as we could see. There was, however, a very large ship filled with cargo containers to starboard in the shipping lane. Judging from the containers I could see on board, it was close to 1,000 feet LOA. All was as it should be until I realized he was coming to port, apparently making a turn to reverse course. My course tracked in front of him but I was not at all alarmed because, in my view I would pass well in front of him. That is not how he saw it and he blew me a 5 whistle warning that shook our bones and made me immediately realize I was about to do something on the water that is very unsafe. I made an abrupt 180 degree turn and then passed him to stern as I should have in the beginning.

Captain McGovern lectures on the topic of safety in commercial shipping lanes. Here are the five tips he gives to keep everyone safe:

Clear the Channel

If you see a ship approaching a channel from a few miles out, clear the area and stay away until it has passed through. Moving to the side is not enough. If a ship loses its steering or breaks a rudder, it can take a shear — unexpectedly turn to one side.

Don't Drop Anchor

In an active channel? Say the anchor gets stuck or you can't restart the engines; a large commercial vessel is not going to be able to stop in time or take evasive action. Any accident will be your fault.

You're Not Seen

McGovern said that, from the helm of big tankers, he could lose sight of you from 1,500 feet out. To put that in perspective, you could be invisible from five football fields away. If he doesn't know where you are, “all I can do is keep going straight.”

Don't Cut in Front

If you cut too closely in front of a ship and the engine quits or you get stuck, there's no way it can stop in time to avoid you. If you have to cross a commercial vessel's path, cross on the stern.

Communicate

AIS is a great tool for understanding local commercial traffic. Barring that, monitor Channel 13 to hear wheelhouse-to-wheelhouse communication. If you've broken down in the shipping lane and don't have VHF or AIS, wave something orange, like a life jacket.

Now take a look at the photo that accompanied the article in Boating Magazine (left) and the one I took the day of my experience on the right. Notice how similar they look? Please be careful on the water and especially when you are in or near a commercial shipping lane. .



Don't let this happen to you! Always be careful when you are in or near the commercial shipping lane.





Administrative Officer's Report

P/C G. Jay Nelson, AP

With our boats winterized and the holiday season behind us, we boaters are in the doldrums of the year; idle time where our boating passions can only be fulfilled by looking at last year's photos of time spent on the water and reading boating magazines. But, while it might be hard to visualize now in the cold of winter, the unofficial start of the boating season is just ten weeks away. Not too soon to begin planning for next season.

The first NVSPS event of the season is the Change of Watch and Founder's Day. Again this year, this event will be held at the American Legion Hall at 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA 22030 (approximately 2 miles south east of Interstate 66 and Route 50). The Change of Watch and Founder's Day will be a lunch event on Saturday, 24 March 2012 from 1100 to 1330. The lunch menu will be a choice of Prime Rib or Chicken Cordon Bleu with vegetables and sides, and the Commander's Liquor Locker will be open. Beer, wine, mixed drink set-ups and soft drinks will be available from the American Legion for a nominal charge. Tickets are only \$25.00 per person.

This event will acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the current Bridge under the steady hand of Commander John Karjala, and usher in the new Bridge that will carry the Squadron into the 2012/13 year. The current Commander will also recognize the achievements of Squadron members whose participation in Squadron activities during the past year have been meritorious. This year the Change of Watch will be overseen by District 1st Lieutenant Jim Colston SN.

Please join us to salute the retiring Bridge and welcome the new Bridge.

----- CUT HERE -----

YES! I will attend the **Change of Watch** on 24 March 2012, from 1100 to 1330

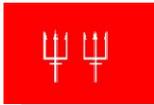
American Legion Hall - 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA 22030

Name: _____

Number of persons attending _____ X \$25.00 each = \$ _____ Total.

NOTE: Please make your check payable to "NVSPS" and mail it with this half of the form prior to 16 March 2012 to: G. Jay Nelson, 2778 Mansway Drive, Oak Hill, VA 20171-2670, or call/email me at 571 641-6741 / gjaynelson@aol.com to confirm you will be attending and we can collect at the door.





Secretary's Report

Lt/C Michelle Dufay, S

If you missed the Holiday Party on December 10, 2011, you missed a terrific event. We even had a visit by Santa and one of his elves! AO Jay Nelson pulled together another great event for us. We had good food, the Commander's Locker, and of course, the blessing of friends at a festive gathering. Bernie Karpers, D5 Commander and his wife Cathy attended as our guests. The party was a great success and reminds us that good friends, good food and good times go together especially well during the holidays.

Many thanks to Jay, to Robie Shivik who made ceramic decorations and everyone who contributed to the memorable evening.



Santa with Mary Shoaf



Santa with First Lady Sue Karjala



Cdr Karpers with Santa's elf



Santa's elf smooches it up with P/C Alls



Thanks to NVSPS, Santa continued his glad tidings and gift giving with our donation of food and toys to the Fisher House located at Andrews Air Force Base. Each year we collect donations at the Holiday Party for the wounded warriors and their families. Many thanks to the members who contributed and to P/C George Nartsissov who coordinated this effort on our behalf.



Education Officer's Report

by Lt/C Sean Gallagher, AP

Enroll for some additional training – here's how

I have been asked to outline how to enroll in USPS courses. We are using the national website (USPS.ORG) to register for classes because the documentation resulting from the registration process is far more complete than just an informal email from an interested party. Normally, the requesters are our own squadron members but this is not always the case and in such cases it is very helpful to have full names, street addresses and telephone numbers to use when building the registration package. Here is an example of what is received from the registration process.

To: Sean Gallagher Course contact for the "Weather" Course
Given by Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron
on 24 JAN 12 at 7:00 PM
CRSID: 38701201241900WE

An online request was made to do the following:

Please pre-register
Certificate: E123456
Name: Sam Jones
Addr: 10 Abel Lane, Downtown, VA, 22151-2815
Phone: (703) 123-4567
Email: sailor@verizon.net
The following Survey data was provided
Sex: Male
Birthday: 01/17/1979

Reference Sources:

From the USPS.ORG home page you can access course information in at least two ways.

On the home page, there is a very large "button" that is labeled Education. Left click this button to reveal three drop down options. Select courses and seminars.

Continued on page 16

[Ship's Store](#)

Check out the Ship's Store on-line at NVSPS.ORG! Browse the items that are listed and if you have any items of interest that are not shown, please use the email link to the Ship's Store proprietor. You can place your order by downloading the appropriate form.

Volunteers are needed for the Chantilly Boat Show March 9-11, 2012. Contact Chair Ed Phillips at potter339@earthlink.net to sign up. Volunteers get free admission to the show.





Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee submitted the following report of their recommendations for bridge officers and elected committee officers for 2012. We thank the members of the Nominating Committee for their commitment to NVSPS and their work in assembling this recommendation. Election of officers will be held at the Annual Membership Meeting on March 14, 2012.

Date: 11 December 2011 Update
From: 2011 NVSPS Nominating Committee
To: LT/C Michelle Dufay, S NVSPS Secretary
Subject: NVSPS Bridge and Elected Committee member Nominees for 2012-2013

In accordance with NVSPS Bylaws dated 31 October 2008, Sections 5.1, 5.5, 6.8 AND 11.1 the NVSPS 2012 Nominating Committee submits it's recommendations for the coming Bridge year.

BRIDGE MEMBERS

Commander	G. Jay Nelson, AP
Executive Officer	Steven D. Hall, AP
Squadron Educational Officer	Sean P. Gallagher, AP
Administrative Officer	Cathleen Sheffield, AP
Treasurer	Ann Nartsissov, P
Secretary	MaryJane Hinkins
Assistant Treasurer	Dave Hinkins

MEMBERS AT LARGE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John G. Karjala, P
George Nartsissov, AP
Frank R. Shults, S
Francis Williamson, AP
Frederick D. Zugay, JN

RULES COMMITTEE

1 Year -- Alan R. Hart, AP
1 Year -- Marge Degnon
2 Year -- Richard P. Davis, AP
2 Year -- John A. Shivik, AP
3 Year -- Sue Karjala, P
3 Year -- Cathleen Sheffield, AP

AUDITING COMMITTEE

1 Year -- Francis Williamson, AP - Chair
2 Year -- William M. Russell III, SN
3 Year -- Steven K. Wanbaugh

Continued on page 10





D5 Newsletter is going “paperless”

The District 5 newsletter, “Mark 5”, is going paperless! However, a paper copy of *Mark 5* will be made available to those who request one from District 5. That request must be done on a District 5 application. Those that make the request on the appropriate form will receive a paper copy of *Mark 5*. However, to NVSPS’ knowledge D5 has not yet provided that form to the D5 membership

Nominating Committee Report continued:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- 1 Year -- Ronald H. Larson, P
- 1 Year -- Dwight Bues, AP
- 2 Year -- Francis Williamson, AP
- 2 Year -- George Nartsissov, AP
- 3 Year -- John G. Karjala, P
- 3 Year -- Alan R. Hart, AP

Respectfully submitted,

2012-13 NVSPS Nominating Committee
Ronald H. Larson, P Chair
Thomas J. Martin, AP
Norbert P. Hymel, AP
Dwight Bues, AP
Francis Williamson, AP
George Nartsissov, AP

Merit Marks Awarded to 37 Members

by Merit Mark Chair Jean Durgin

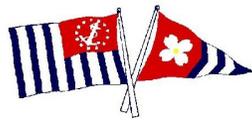
Congratulations and thank you to the 37 members listed below who received merit marks for 2011 for their substantial service to NVSPS. These active members received the greatest satisfaction from their membership and had the most fun doing it!

Evelyn Alls, Gale Alls, Tom Ballew, Dwight Bues, Michael Card, Richard Davis, George Degnon, Marge Degnon, Robert Donahue, Michelle Dufay, Jean Durgin, Richard Durgin, John Fitzgerald, Sean Gallagher, Steven Hall, Norbert Hymel, John Karjala, Sue Karjala, Ron Larson, Manette Lazear, Walt Lazear, Tom Martin, Ann Nartsissov, George Nartsissov, Jay Nelson, Ed Phillips, Robin Roberts, Keith Segerson, Cathy Sheffield, John Shivik, Frank Shults, Robyn Stewart, Richard Unis, Robert Van Buskirk, John VonSenden, Francis Williamson, Fred Zugay.

Dwight Bues and Walt Lazear both earned their 25th merit mark in 2011, making them life members - a significant achievement!

Merit marks were sent to recipients by either e-mail or U.S. mail. If you did not receive your merit mark, you may access it by clicking on the line below and adding your certificate number after the equal sign: <http://www.usps.org/php/DHinders/meritmarks/makeMMX.php/?cert=>.





Photos taken during the January 2012 General Membership meeting
and the 2011 Holiday Party.

General Membership Meeting
Photos



Mary Loose Deviney, Regional Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries was our guest speaker at the January 2012 Membership meeting.



Mary Deviney presents the Instructor Award to Norbert Hymel



Cdr Karjala presents the Educational Proficiency Award to Norbert Hymel

2011 Holiday Party Photos



XO Shults presents 40 year membership award to Chuck Hurley



Cdr Karpers and Cdr Karjala present 25 year service award to Manette Lazear.



Everyone had a good time at the Holiday Party



Congratulations to all those who worked, or contributed, to make Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron's newsletter and website worthy of USPS's Distinctive Communicator Awards. This once again proves that when you do well the entire Squadron is recognized for doing well. It is an honor to all. Thank you.

Cdr John G. Karjala



February Guest Speaker

One of the great features of our monthly membership meeting is the Guest Speaker Program. P/C Gale Alls has scheduled another terrific speaker for our February meeting— Capt. Steve Chaconas.

Steve Chaconas brings 25 years of bass fishing experience on the Potomac River to columns featured in the *Sportsman's Magazine*, *Woods & Waters*, and *The Old Town Crier*. A U.S. Coast Guard Captain, licensed by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Steve has the opportunity to fish with anglers of all skill levels, including some of the biggest names in pro bass fishing.

Steve's presentation will be on casting instruction and some of the lures he uses and about snakeheads in the Potomac. It promises to be interesting to all, whether you like to fish or not.

Prior to fishing, Steve's career included teaching high school algebra and sale of cars, computers and surgical products. He also hosted the longest running all-financial morning radio show in the country and is considered to be "The Father of Business Radio".



SPRING CONFERENCE 2012 RESERVATION FORM

USPS D5 OFFICER TRAINING AND SPRING CONFERENCE
30 MARCH-1 APRIL 2012 OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

Member: Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____
Squadron _____ Position: _____ First Timer _____
E Mail _____ Phone: _____

Spouse and other attendees

Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____ First Timer _____
Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____ First Timer _____

MEALS SELECTION

SATURDAY MEMBERS LUNCHEON

Chef's Salad with ham, turkey, swiss cheese. # _____ @ \$18.00 \$ _____
Assorted rolls and butter. Sherbet.

Overstuffed turkey and swiss cheese sandwich, homemade chips,
princess coleslaw and tossed salad greens with dressing.
Sherbet. # _____ @ \$18.00 \$ _____

SATURDAY BANQUET

Broiled fillet of salmon with cucumber relish, tossed garden
greens and fresh vegetables.
Assorted rolls and butter. Carrot cake for dessert. # _____ @ \$38.00 \$ _____

Roasted pork tenderloin with tossed green salad,
double baked potato, green beans, roll and butter
cherry cheesecake # _____ @ \$38.00 \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Make checks payable to :
2012 D5 Spring Conference
Send to: P/C Richard D. Bussey,P
1410 D. Bonnett Place
Bel Air, Maryland 21015
rdbussey@comcast.net
443-567-5692

Meal reservations must be made by March 16,2012

Uniform: Thursday, Friday-USPS Squadron shirts. Saturday-USPS blazer w /gray slacks. Banquet-Uniform A with bowtie

Princess Royale Hotel, 9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland
Handicapped room available upon request. Facility is non- smoking
Reservations 1-800-476-9253 Reservation ID code: U.S.Power Squadrons

All reservations must be made by March 15, 2012 to ensure USPS Rates
Rates: Oceanview/poolview Suite \$99.00 per night. Wednesday thru Saturday Oceanfront suite \$129.00 per night. 2BR/2BA Oceanfront Condo \$219.00 per night.
Directions: From Rt 90, turn left onto Coastal Highway. Hotel is on right.





2012 National Capital Boat Show Chantilly

by Lt Ed Philips, AP



It's that time of year again. The 2nd weekend in March - time for the annual National Capital Boat Show in Chantilly, VA. As always, the NVSPS will have a booth to explain how we serve the boating public, promote our public service and advance boating courses along with the benefits of membership.

We cannot successfully promote our organization without you. So here is the traditional offer; if you sign up for a two hour slot at our booth to represent the NVSPS to the boating public, you receive free admission to the show and more importantly, a tremendous opportunity to promote marine safety.

The show hours are Friday: Noon - 8 pm, Saturday: 10 am - 8 pm, and Sunday: 11 am - 5 pm. The show is held at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, VA. The Expo Center is close to Rt. 28 with generous free parking. For further information on the boat show, check out the show website at: <http://www.gsevents.com/shows/disy.cfmshowID=65&showtypeid=5&src=286&sfid=76>.

Please consider volunteering for a two hour slot at our boat show booth. We need to have a minimum of two people in each two hour slot. We can also use help with the set up on Thursday, March 8th, afternoon prior to the show opening and tear down after the show closes on Sunday afternoon, March 11, 2012. The sign-up sheet will be circulated at the next general membership meeting on Wednesday February 8th. If you are interested and/or need additional information, please contact Ed Phillips at potter339@earthlink.net.

What Are You Doing May 19th?

District 5 is planning a "Chesapeake Bay Coastal Environment Cleanup Project" on May 19th, 2012. They suggest that Squadrons use this as an "on the water" event. The idea is for each squadron to participate in a massive, one day, district wide effort to comb the shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, to remove as much plastic and other waste as can be safely extracted. The event will be heavily publicized and should well serve our civic efforts as well as attract new member to our ranks.

NVSPS is looking for a volunteer to coordinate our participation in this important event. Please contact XO Frank Shults for more information or to volunteer for this effort.

*Many thanks to the Squadron members who assisted at the Baltimore Boat Show in January
John and Sue Karjala, Ed Phillips and Dave and MaryJane Hinkins.*



Become a Vessel Safety Examiner

by P/C George Nartsissov

Several NVSPS members have expressed interest in becoming Vessel Safety Examiners (VEs). The Squadron now has seven (7) examiners; with Robin Roberts as a “traveling” VE (she and husband Jim spend most of the year motoring up and down the East coast). We will typically schedule 4 – 6 Vessel Safety Check (VSC) events at marinas and yacht clubs. This is a minimal effort given the number of boats in our geographic area. With six resident examiners we are physically limited in the number of places and events we can schedule. The following is from the National USPS site and succinctly expresses the purpose VSCs:

The VSC Program helps to achieve voluntary compliance with federal and state recreational boating safety laws, particularly with regard to the carriage of safety equipment while raising boater awareness about safety and environmental issues through voluntary contact by a Vessel Examiner (VE). VE discussions with recreational boaters is designed to motivate maintaining and operating their boats in a safe manner, taking boating safety courses to increase their knowledge and skills in boating, and promoting safe boating.

To become a Vessel Examiner:

1. Go to the national web site www.usps.org
2. Click on **Site Index** (top banner)
3. Click on **Vessel Safety Check** (right bottom)
4. Click on **Form and Tools** (left side)
5. Click on **Vessel Safety Check Manual (pdf)**

Study the manual, then ...

6. Return to **Vessel Safety Check** page
7. Click on **VE Exam**. This is an OPEN book exam! However, you must achieve a 90% score to pass. You will receive an instant scoring once you complete the test. I also have a paper copy of the exam so that we may have a review session and then I can administer the test. I will then submit your name to national and you will be part of the NVSPS VE team! The Squadron can use your help to promote boating safety; you will gain boating safety knowledge; and it is FUN!

P/C George Nartsissov, AP
Squadron VSC Chair
703-425-7044(H)





Squadron Education Officer's Report continued

About half way down the resulting page, under Public Boating Course, you will find a row of blue buttons. Click on the 2nd button in from the left labeled “Find a Local Course”. On the resulting screen, indicate your interest by selecting one of the radio buttons; Boating Courses, Seminars or Advance Courses. Queries for Boating Courses will return a schedule for ABC courses in the area. (An area is defined by zip code and search radius or a city and state and radius). Similarly, queries for Seminars or Advanced Courses will yield seminars and course listings that have also have been posted.

At the bottom of this page is a toggle box which you can check to show courses that have been posted but not available for registration. When building a course schedule, SEOs will often build place holders that don't have location or date details contained in the listing. This is done so that when all the information is available, it can be plugged in and the course made available for registration. The “show pending” selection will show you those courses that are being planned before they are finalized. Selecting the other query conditions on this page are self-explanatory. When you have finished entering your search criteria, left click the Locate button at the bottom of the page to run your query. If you have problems or additional questions, drop an email to seo@nvsp.org and I will help you get through the process.

There is a second way to enter the registration process which will take you via the Education Department Home page. Use the link at the top of the home page which is labeled “site index”. This link will take you to an alphabetical listing of the pages on the site. Scroll down to the Education Department page link and select it. Once on the Education Department home page, you will see individual pages for each course in the left hand pane. Selecting any of the course names will reveal a page with more detailed information about the course. To register, you will need to click the link from the line of links shown just below the title of the page. The link you are looking for is labeled “Manage Public Programs”. Clicking this link will generate a drop-down list with an entry showing “ List Registered Course and Seminars” Selecting this link will take you to the registration page where you can follow the instructions as written above in the first example.



My Opinion

by P/C G. Jay Nelson

The Black Panther

Few people are aware of an interesting bit of World War II history that lies silently in the dark murky waters of the Potomac River about a mile offshore from Piney Point Maryland. In this final resting place lies the World War II era German U-boat U-1105, named "Black Panther."

The Black Panther was a modified Type VII-C German submarine, was built at the Nordseewerke Shipyard, Emden, Germany, and commissioned into the Kriegsmarine (German Navy) on 3 June 1944. U-1105 was unique within its class as it was one of less than ten submarines that the Germans outfitted with an experimental synthetic rubber skin designed to counter Allied sonar devices.

U-1105 patrolled Allied convoy routes near along the coast of Ireland during the spring of 1945. In April, U-1105 detected three British destroyers off the Irish coast and fired two acoustic torpedoes and then dove to 100 meters to escape a counterattack. The HMS Redmill was struck and badly damaged, losing thirty-two crewmen. The submarine, unable to maintain its 330-foot depth, sank to the bottom at 570 feet, remaining motionless. For the next 31 hours, the Allied squadron searched for the U-boat without success. U-1105 evaded detection for the remainder of the war.

On May 4, U-1105 received the last order from Grossadmiral Karl Donitz: the war is over. U-1105 surrendered to British 21st Escort Group, and was subsequently turned over to the United States as a war prize for study of its unique synthetic rubber skin.

In 1946, the U-boat arrived in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C., and Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Acoustic Laboratory in Cambridge, Massachusetts, conducted research on its unique rubber-tiled skin. After the research was completed, the boat was towed to Solomon's Island, Maryland for explosives testing. U-1105 was towed into Chesapeake Bay where she was temporarily sunk. Salvage and towing tests were conducted for a while during the late summer of 1947 and in November she was sunk again off Point No Point Light.

In the summer of 1949 U-1105 was raised again and towed into the Potomac River and anchored off Piney Point, Maryland for preparations for her final demolition. On 19 September 1949, a 250 lb. MK.6 depth charge was detonated 30 feet from U-1105. After being lifted out of the water, she went down one last time in more than 91 feet of water landing upright, her pressure hull cracked open by the explosion all the way around to the keel. Little evidence was left to mark the wreck, so for the next 36 years the submarine was lost to history.

On 29 June 1985, the wreck of U-1105 was discovered by a team of sport divers led by Uwe Lovas, approximately one mile west of Piney Point, Maryland, and in November 1994, it was designated as Maryland's first historic shipwreck preserve. The program, the first of its kind in the state, was designed to promote the preservation of historic shipwreck sites while making them accessible to the general public.

At the wreck site, the conning tower rises to within 68 feet of the surface. The wood covered main deck fore and aft of the conning tower is occasionally exposed by the drifting silt beds. The wreck is well preserved, and largely intact. Between April and December, a large blue and white mooring buoy is anchored about 70 feet from the wreck, while a small, orange ball float is anchored to the stump of the forward (air-search) periscope. The site is now maintained for the Maryland Historical Trust by the Institute of Maritime History, and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. So the next time you motor up the Potomac River past Piney Point, Maryland look for the large blue and white mooring buoy just south of Ragged Point and think of the Black Panther that lies in the deep of the river below you.



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2nd Wednesdays at 1930 (any changes posted herein and on the web)
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Turn Left on S. Pickett

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