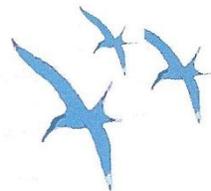




of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLVIII Number 2

March 2013

“Mark“ Your Calendar

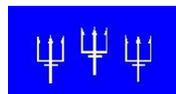
NVSPS Meetings and Events

March

- 8 – 10 Dulles Boat Show
- 13 - Annual Membership Meeting
- 15 - Deadline for oT&T Inputs
- 23 - Change of Watch

April

- 10 - General Membership Meeting
- 12 -14 D5 Spring Conference
- 15 - Deadline for oT&T Inputs
- 24 - EXCOM Meeting



Commander Sends . . .

Cdr. G. Jay Nelson, AP

I recently read a US Coast Guard report of the Cosco Busan incident in 2007 where a 900 foot container ship sideswiped the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge in dense fog and spilled over 53,000 gallons of oil into San Francisco Bay. The pilot subsequently pleaded guilty to negligence in the collision and spill, and was sentenced to 10 months in federal prison. This might seem harsh, but the pilot was intentionally operating a vessel in very limited visibility without knowledge of what was around him.

While this might seem unrelated to recreational boating, the lesson here is one of situational awareness; being acutely in tune with everything taking place on and around your boat, especially in limited visibility situations. This means being alert to changes in the boat's performance, small changes in engine noise, waves or shore sounds, new vibrations or odors, or shifts in weather conditions. It is perceiving trouble before it happens, and taking actions to prevent small problems from becoming serious events.

Continued on page 3



Northern Virginia
Sail and Power Squadron
A unit of the
United States Power Squadrons®
Sail and Power Boating

www.nvsps.org



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Scheduled Meetings:

Unless otherwise noted, the General Membership Meetings will be held at the BoatUS* Headquarters facility at 1900. Any changes will be posted in this newsletter or on the Squadron web site.

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 (aka exit 3), 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.



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



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The Official Publication of the
Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron
<http://www.nvsp.org>



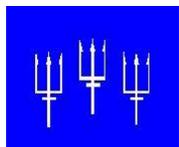
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Published ten months of the year
July/August and January / February issues are combined
Volume XLVIII, Number 2, March 2013

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Commander Sends Continued. . .

Keeping watch is one of the first rules of good seamanship, but it's not that simple. Looking is not necessarily seeing, any more than hearing is listening. Boater's fatigue caused by heat, noise, glare, vibration and limited visibility, can seriously affect how quickly and accurately you identify objects. You can literally look right at something on the water for prolonged periods of time and not "see" it. You must continually shift your vision to scan the horizon around you, concentrating on seeing, not just looking, at the water.

It is a flawed assumption that every vessel you encounter on the water is paying close attention to your position and heading, or that the skipper has a good understanding of the Rules of the Road. We have all had experiences that prove otherwise. You must always be prepared to take evasive action, as it is every skipper's obligation to do whatever is necessary to avoid a collision.

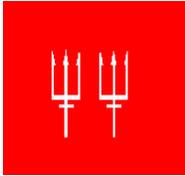
Today's electronics are powerful tools, but woe is the skipper who keeps a myopic focus on the electronics and does not frequently scan the water around him. Chart plotters only show charted items (i.e., not floating objects like other vessels) and radar often has limitations with seeing objects at the surface of the water or small, non-metallic objects such as an inflatable dinghy.

Finally, good seamanship also means knowing your boat; its capabilities, limitations and idiosyncrasies. In the hands of an experienced skipper, even a small boat can manage severe weather conditions. However, you need to thoroughly understand the limits of your skills and your vessel, and what you can reasonably expect of both. Pay attention to weather forecasts and give yourself a margin of error so underestimated forecast resulting in more wind or seas will not place you in harm's way.

Know your boat, know your skills, be aware of the situation around you, and above all – be safe.

G. Jay Nelson
Commander





**Secretary –
Lt/C Mary Jane Hinkins**

Editor's comment:

This article was to have been in the Dec edition, however due administrative overload we were forced to delay it until this edition.

As the days grow cooler and the nights are longer, we are saddened to think that the boat must come out of the water. This year was a difficult year for us. So many good intention so much excitement about boating in April, but then the heat was overpowering, the price of gas was overwhelming and do not forget- it was the year of the raccoon! But all in all we still enjoyed ourselves. We managed to get to the District of Columbia for the 4th of July fireworks. That in itself was a short story. We got there about 5p.m. and the fireworks were amazing! Better than last year! As they ended the Coast Guard issued an alert from the National Weather Service for sever winds and, for all boats to get out of the Tidal Basin. What all those boats on the Potomac when the winds were going to hit 60 mph! Humm. I am still wondering what they were thinking! There are boats of all sizes from canoes to houseboats on the river. Were they crazy? We were planning on spending the night. No need to run back to our home marina when it's dark and so many folks had been drinking and now they were boating. We wanted nothing more than to hunker down.

Did they really want us to be on the river when the wind hits! Seemed like a not very bright announcement. We battened down Lord Stanley, had an extra anchor ready, just in case, put up all the canvas, closed all the windows, and hunkered down for a blow. The blow never came. We waited and had a lovely evening with wine and steaks and Jimmy Buffet songs. You just never know.

We also went to the gathering on the 4th at Tim's Rivershore. This is always a good show. The area is packed with boats. And the fireworks are great and usually last 30-40 minutes. Of course all the other boaters entertain you with their music, and activities. We just love the fireworks on the water. On that note we also went to Tim's II down in Fairview beach for their Not the 4th show. Great beach, nice water a fun place to spend the night. We had planned on going to Aquaploosa at Kermit's, down around Colonial Beach, but on the Maryland side of the river. Of course it rained and rained and we stayed home. There were other trips to Mt. Vernon and MaddaWoman and our last to Washington D.C. to look at the changing leaves. But for the most part our trips were close to home and short. The season was just too short this year. We are confident that next year we will get to take the boat up to the C&D canal.

The Raccoon put a damper on us for a few weeks as well, and changed our life style some. We no longer leave the door open when visiting and no longer sleep with the door open on cool nights even with the screens down. For other reasons it was a great season. We were lucky enough to have some Squadron folks come over for drinks on the boat. That was the highlight of the season -- good fellowship. If for no other reason to join the NVSPS join for the people. They are the best.





**Education Officer –
Lt/C Sean P. Gallagher, AP**

Chalk Talk

**“Some people are weatherwise, but most are otherwise.”
-- Benjamin Franklin**

So true! How many boaters check on the weather conditions before venturing on the waters? A few. Yes, they may look at the sky and note that it is blue and the sun is really bright. Does this portend a great day on the briny? No! There are ways to check on conditions that could impact your safety and fun on the water. Without doubt, check with the National Weather Service in our immediate area on-line at <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx//> and / or the UHF Weather broadcast on 162.550 MHz. What channel is it on your VHF Marine Radio? But, there's more!

Do you know that you can predict local weather conditions by reading the clouds, temperature, barometer, dewpoint and wind direction and speed? Yes, you can! NVSPS will be offering a Weather Seminar in May / June that will open your eyes to the wonderful world of weather and how it impacts you and your love ones. Instructors Lt Ed Phillips and P/C John Shivik will give you the tools that you need to know. The Seminar is two and one half hours in duration.

Now is the time to sign up for the Seminar. Contact the SEO, Lt/C Sean Gallagher, on email at education@nvsps.org or call 703-548-5851. Don't hesitate, be weatherwise, and contact him now to enroll in this course!



**Administrative Office –
Lt/C Cathy Sheffield, AP**

The change of watch will be held on 23 March 2013 (see enclosure).

This is a good opportunity to get to meet and know your fellow squadron members. Children and friends are welcome





NVSPS Calendar

CHECK IT OUT

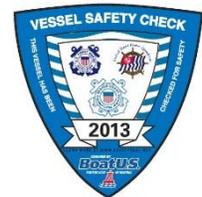
The NVSPS calendar which includes both activities and education has been updated and is available at www.nvsps.org

Vessel Safety Checks:

We are ending our 2012 season with 156 Vessel Safety Checks! Thanks to the NVSPS Vessel Examiners: P/C Gale Alls, P/C George K. Degnon, Dave Hinkins, Norbert P. Hymel, P/C George Nartsissov (Chair), Robin A. Roberts, P/C John A. Shivik, John C. von Senden, and P/C Francis T. Williamson.

We hope that we have contributed to the safety on the water of the vessels that we examined. This has been a great outreach program to the community. I hope that next year will be at least as successful as this year. We always welcome new members to join the group. You can find out information on the National web site, www.usps.org and in the "Site Index" go to the bottom right column and click on "Vessel Safety Check". I will be happy to answer any questions regarding the program. You do have to take a test which can be taken on line. A study manual is also available on line. This is a fun program and you will be contributing to boating safety!

P/C George Nartsissov, AP, Chair, vsc@nvsps.org , 703-425-7044





Treasurer's Report – Lt/C Ann Nartsissov, P

Budget time is here again. A 2013-2014 Budget has been drafted by the Bridge of 2012-2013 and the soon –to –be Bridge of 2013-2014. The two Bridges have tried to create a realistic budget, realizing that balancing it will require creativity to cut costs, and activity to bring in new members.

Now it is your turn. Please join us at the All Hands meeting of March 13, to vote on the new budget, and to feel the new sense of enthusiasm that is building.



USPS 100th Anniversary



It was on 4 February 1914 that USPS was founded. This year USPS will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2014. There are many activities being scheduled for the next year in recognition of this important date. You can become familiar with what is going on and participate by going to the following web site:

<http://www.usps.org/100/>



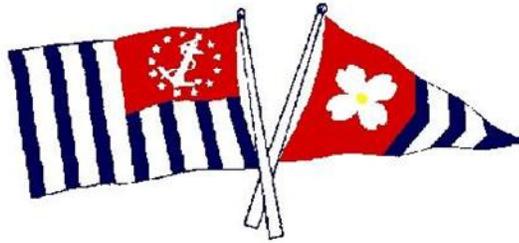
District 5 Activities



The District 5 activities for the Spring Conference schedule can be found at the following website. Our Squadron will be hosting a Hospitality Suite at the conference. If you can help please let us know.

http://www.uspsd5.org/events/2013/2013_Spring_Conf_Web_sched.pdf





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Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron
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ALL Members and their Guests are cordially invited to:

NVSPS Change of Watch

1130 to 1530, 23 March 2013

at American Legion Post 177
3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA 22030 (Located in Fairfax City)

Uniform of the Day
USPS Blazers or a Suit and Tie

Lunch Choice of Baked Honey Glazed Ham or Chicken Cordon Bleu with vegetables and sides; Two New Appetizers; and the Commander's Liquor Locker will be open. Beer, wine, set-ups and soft drinks will be available from the American Legion for a nominal charge. (No need to designate an Entrée below.)

Cut Here.....**RESERVATION**.....**Cut Here**

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Spouse / Guests: _____

YES! I will attend the Change of Watch on **23 March 2013**.
_____ persons 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 2013 to: Cathy Sheffield at 200 N. Pickett, #512, Alexandria, VA 22304 **Questions? Call Cathy at 703-370-4331 or E-mail to carney1227@aol.com.**



Dock Talk



2013 National Capitol Boat Show Chantilly, VA - March 8-10

It's that time of year again - The 2nd weekend in March - Time for the annual National Capitol Boat Show in Chantilly, VA. As always, the NVSPS will have a booth to explain how we serve the boating public, promote our public 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 - 7 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/display.cfm?showID=65&showtypeid=5&src=286&sfid=76> for further information.

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 afternoon prior to the show opening and tear down after the show closes on Sunday afternoon. If you are interested and/or need additional information, please contact Ed Phillips at potter339@earthlink.net

Ed Phillips, AP
2012 Boat Show Chair
potter339@earthlink.net



NVSPS Ship Store

NVSPS is pleased to make logo items available for purchase by members. We have name tags, burgees, totes, and clothing of many kinds. They all come in a variety of colors and sizes. Enjoy! For more information on available items got to:

<http://www.nvsp.org/stor.shtml>



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MONTHLY ALL-HANDS MEETING

2nd 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.



an official publication of
Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron
in District 5 of
United States Power Squadrons®
Articles & other contents do not represent USPS® policy or
endorsement unless so designated. Published ten times
yearly. January & February, July & August are combined

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