



NVSPS Conducts First Zoom General Membership Meeting

On Tuesday September 8, 2020, the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron conducted its first General Membership meeting via Zoom video conference with 16 people. Due to continuing COVID-19 restrictions, the group is not able to meet in person, so virtual meetings are now the new normal. First announced in the newsletter "of Tars and Terns", members were emailed instructions on how to join the Zoom meeting. Commander Patrick Sowers called all the members who did not have an email address listed in the member roster so they knew they could join by phone if necessary.

We started early so everyone could get their camera situated and find the meeting controls. We chatted with each other, just like in a big room, catching up. Patrick started the meeting by sharing his screen of some fun boating videos. The officers took turns with their reports with the "floor" open to questions after each. The biggest news is that our Vessel Safety Check Examiners Team has completed 59 VSCs this year so far! After the meeting some of us stayed to chat some more. It's exciting we can have an educational speaker at our meetings this way. Suggestions welcome!

Members are able to join the video conferences using the electronic device of their choice: desktop, laptop, tablet, smartphone or phone-only. With the success of our first Zoom meeting, we are looking forward to hosting more for all members to attend. If you want to practice or have questions, email or call a member of the Executive Committee. The Zoom website has instructional videos and tips: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us> See you at the November Membership "Zoom" Mtg!

By Denise Robinson



Zoom Zoom!



Events

October 24—NVSPS Fall Meeting and Picnic at Leesylvania State Park

Nov 5-8 —Mid Atlantic Fall Ed. Conference to be Virtual. Info will be at <https://abc-midatlantic.org/>

Nov 10— NVSPS Membership Meeting via Zoom video conference. Look for email or call leaders for info.

America's Boating Club National site:

<https://americasboatingclub.org/>

Mid-Atlantic District site:

<https://abc-midatlantic.org/>

NVSPS—ABC Northern Virginia site:

<http://nvsp.org/>

Americas Boating Channel

Safe Boating Education Videos:

<https://americasboatingchannel.com/>



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Meeting Info. If you do not receive an email notice about meetings, please contact a bridge officer to confirm meeting will be held before heading out.

General Membership Mtgs are at Alexandria Police HQ Community Rm, 3600 Wheeler Ave, Alexandria, VA 22304, 7:30 pm, until further notice, are:

- on the **2nd Tues of each month** except no mtgs in Aug. and Dec.
- The May and Oct. mtgs are combined with other events on different days., normally Spring Picnic and Fall Picnic on Saturdays.

Executive Committee Mtgs, 7 pm: by Conference call or new location. Contact Executive Officer for conference call number and codes or location. Normally 4th Wed. of each month. There are speaking procedures for these meetings to be sure business has time to be discussed. Just ask about them.

Zoom Meetings: Login info for mtgs via Zoom or other mtg software will be distributed by email and available from Bridge Officers.

Please see previous issues online. If you do not have internet access, ask the editor to mail you a copy. For more information about anything in this newsletter, contact editor@nvsp.org

Find us on 

We have 303 likes!

MEMBERS AT LARGE— contact us about any issue or for us to bring project plans to the Executive Committee

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Vessel Safety Checks Chair:	P/C Rich Unis, JN, 703-777-8378, SkipperUnis@gmail.com, Ask how to become certified as a VSC Examiner
Facebook Team:	Lt Claire Wyngaard, P and P/C Alan Hart, AP

of Tars & Terns

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America's Boating Club Northern Virginia
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Articles, opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect USPS® policy or endorsement unless so designated

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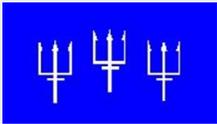
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Message from the Commander



Mid September 2020

Ahoy,

Where did the summer go? Did we even have a summer this year with all the craziness? Some days I felt like Bill Murray in the movie "Groundhog Day", waking up to the same day over and over. Nevertheless we move forward.

We had a great virtual meeting in September with 16 folks joining in to talk about what has been going on with the Squadron. It would have been nice to be together in person, but it was still great to see each other's faces. We will meet this way when we can not meet in person on a regular basis.

I'm thrilled our October meeting will be in person "Picnic Style" ON THE WATER! at Leesylvania State Park on Saturday, October 24th. Bring your boat and a friend. Info on page 5. If you need anything for your boat, West Marine Woodbridge on the way.

Our Vessel Safety Check team has been out teaching the community about boating safety requirements. The rest of us need to take every opportunity to inform people how they can improve their boating safety skills. Whether you teach someone yourself, give them our website, or suggest online courses, you will be encouraging someone to make an investment in their lifetime sport. VSCs can be counted and the examiners can feel good about the number of people they served. I challenge you to seek out opportunities to have a conversation about boating safety and keep track. Sometimes all you have to say is "Nice boat!".

See you on the water,

Commander Sowers

Commander@TeamSowers.com

Please check your Member Profile online by going to: <http://nvsp.org/mem.shtml> - scroll down to your name, click on your name, follow more update links. Your record will tell you if your email address is valid. To make changes click on bottom Update link.



Ensign Spring 2021 "Looking Back" Photo Contest

Info from The Ensign Staff: As we look forward to future outings on the water, we want to see your favorite boating photos from years past. They can be from any decade or year, as long as you're the one who snapped the photo. You can submit up to four photos. More info and contest rules here: <http://theensign.org/submit/photocontest/> **Email your submissions for 2021 to ensign@hq.usps.org.** Please alert us by email if you plan to mail any physical photos.

Visit the NVSPS Ship's Store



For our burgee on duffel bags, hats, polos shirts, dress shirts, jackets and fleece. They put our logo on whatever they sell! Great prices and shipping deals!

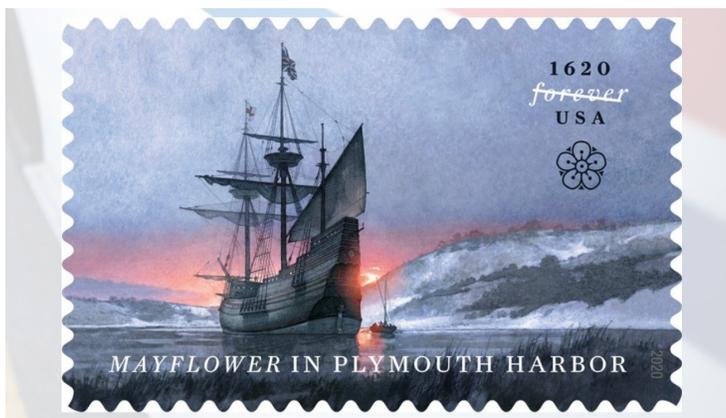


Also Burgee ordering info at <http://nvsp.org/stor.shtml>

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Mayflower II Sails Again

The Mayflower II is Plimoth Plantation's 64-year old reproduction ship. After a 3-year long renovation at Mystic Seaport's Henry B. duPont Renovation Shipyard that cost a reported \$11.2 million, the Mayflower II launched July 20, 2020. The ship made a few stops on it's way back home to Plymouth, which included a rendezvous with the US Coast Guard Academy Barque *Eagle* in Block Island Sound. To protect it from Tropical Storm Isaias, the Mayflower II was moved to New Bedford's State Pier.



Illustrator Greg Harlin for US Postal Service

The ship's Captain is Whit Perry who is also Plimoth's Director of Maritime Preservation & Operations. Captain Perry and his 27 crew members conducted sea trials and sail training. Due to COVID-19 restrictions in Rhode Island, a stopover at Newport's Fort Adams State Park had to be canceled. Throughout its journey, the Mayflower II was accompanied by the tugboat *Jaguar*, operated by Fairhaven's Mitchell Towing. For more details about the Mayflower II, visit <https://www.Plimoth.org/> and Points East Magazine September 2020, page 20 at www.PointsEast.com

The US Postal Service is issuing a **Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor** commemorative stamp (pictured above) marking the 400th anniversary of the arrival of 102 English passengers (known to us as Pilgrims) off the coast of today's Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620. The **Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor** stamp is illustrated by artist Greg Harlin and is being issued as a Forever stamp, with first day of issue September 17, 2020.

By Denise Robinson, Assistant Editor

The National Sailing Hall of Fame inducted 9 Legends in September

James Edward Buttersworth

1817 - 1894

Intricately Detailed Action

Briggs Swift Cunningham, Jr.

January 19, 1907 - July 2, 2003

Lifetime Achievement Award

Gordon K. Douglass

October 22, 1904 - February 12, 1992

Affordable Boats Anyone Can Sail

Robert Bentley Haines, Jr.

March 27, 1954 -

Gold Medal Sailing Career

William Kroner Mattison

August 10, 1928 -

Incremental Adjustments Make Big Differences

David B. Perry

April 18, 1954 -

Enthusiastic Teacher

John Pierce Rousmaniere

March 10, 1944 -

"After losing a close match, sailors tend to come back with a more radical design."

Henry "Hoyle" & Diane Schweitzer

April 8, 1933 & December 28, 1935 -

Windsurfing Comes of Age

Read about their accomplishments and contributions to the sport and see video about the ceremony at

<https://nshof.org/hall-of-fame/>

The NSHOF has a new home at The Sailing Museum in Newport, RI.

Scheduled to open in 2022, the museum will give all visitors a unique interactive experience, covering all aspects of the sport. Take a tour with the video on this page: <https://thesailingmuseum.org/>



Fall Picnic and Membership Meeting At Leesylvania State Park on the Potomac

On Saturday, October 24, 2020, the NVSPS will have a picnic at Leesylvania State Park in Woodbridge, Virginia from noon until 4 pm. Our membership meeting will be conducted at the picnic at 1 pm. Shelter #3 is reserved for us all day. *Shelter 3, Potomac Beach* - This shady shelter has a nice view of the river, which is only 135 feet away, and is near the sailboat parking lot. Parking is about 100 feet away, with the nearest restroom about 300 feet away. The shelter has a water spigot, a large grill and electricity.

Come early or stay late and enjoy the park which will be open from 5 am until 30 minutes after sunset. Bring your boat or kayak by water or car. Check the park website for launch fees. A hiking trail map is on the website. There are 2 boat ramps and a fishing pier.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, individuals will need to bring their own food, cooking utensils, soap and hand sanitizer. Sharing food is optional. A grill will be available. The squadron will provide plastic table cloths, paper napkins, plastic cups, knives & forks and drinks. Park policy does not permit alcohol in the park.

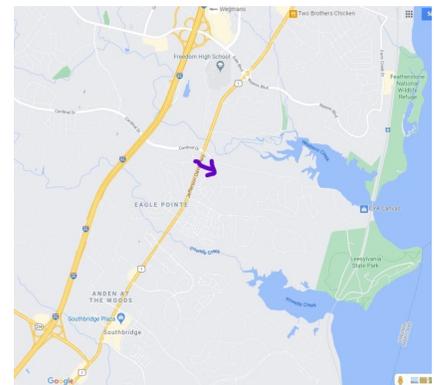
Park policy says that face coverings are required in all park facilities and where social distancing is not possible. We ask that you wear face coverings during our picnic gathering and meeting.

Parking (admission) is \$10 per passenger vehicle. Bring a friend! To carpool, call Claire Wyngaard or Patrick Sowers to coordinate.

Vessel safety checks will also be offered at the ramp. Call squadron for hrs. Park Address and phone: 2001 Daniel K Ludwig Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22191, 703-730-8205

Park information and directions:

https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/leesylvania#general_information



Become a Certified Vessel Examiner and learn how to conduct Vessel Safety Checks — Study Manual is Available Online

<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=v-dept>

Contact P/C Rich Unis, JN at 703-777-8378 or skipperunis@gmail.com



Life in the (Really) Slow Lane by Walt Lazear

Boating takes on a new dimension when you cannot have more than two horsepower and no gasoline is allowed. On the small lakes in Reston, we have pontoon boats, which you all are familiar with. Those are the big aluminum tubes with a platform and seating, maybe with an awning. But we also have dock boats, a floating dock supported by foam blocks and carrying an electric trolling motor. They measure 10 by 16 feet and you can have tables, chairs, benches, BBQs, canopy, flowers, storage boxes, and tiki torches aboard. Underway, it's quite peaceful,



silently motoring around the lake looking at gardens, watching the waterfowl, or relaxing with good conversation. There are over 100 pontoon and dock boats on Lake Thoreau's 41 acres.

I had my dock boat built back in 2004. Although I had put wood preservative on

the pressure treated lumber from time to time, the wood deteriorated over the last 16 years. So I (Mr. DIY) set out to replace all the decking and gunwales. The first part of the fun was to haul 40 ten-foot heavy boards from Home Depot's shelves to the car, then to home and around the townhouse building, and down to the boat dock. Man, those waterlogged things are heavy and I'm no spring chicken anymore. I did that in several trips (8-10 boards per) and it took me three Home Depots to get all the boards. Turns out that everyone wants to build a deck of some sort during the lockdown! Finally I had all the materials on hand.

The next phase was to remove the old decking boards. What I discovered was that the screws put in 16 years ago were mostly rusted through. Since the boat is a frame around large foam blocks, with the frame being held up by the decking fasteners, my dock boat was teetering on the verge of becoming a set of foam blocks floating in loose formation with individual deck boards as the frame sank out of sight! I was just in time with my project to prevent that annoyance.

Now you might think that one would start at one end and replace boards in order. Wrong! Keeping in mind that this was going to take me a couple weeks, weather permitting, I decided to consider aesthetics. Wouldn't it look cute if during the rehab the boat took on a zebra theme? So I started to take up every other old deck board and replaced it with a new one. Turns out the old ones had shrunk a bit, but I was able to wedge the new ones in (sometimes by stomping or jumping on them several times). Nice tight fit, I thought, and it looked nicely striped light and dark.



After replacing a few this way, the nagging in the back of my mind worked its way forward. I really ought to try putting a new board in between the new boards already down, before I'm totally committed to the zebra stem to stern. Boy, am I glad I came to my senses when I did. That nag was right, there was a problem. I had squeezed the new boards in, but they had slightly compressed the old board in between. That meant there wasn't enough room for another new board. So I had to take a quarter inch off the width of the ten-foot boards with my circular saw and a long fence. Easily done, as it turns out. I also rounded over the cut edge to match the other boards, so there was no visual clue I had fudged the boards.



I did make slight design improvements along the way, some aesthetic (no, not the zebra stripes) and some practical. I also used longer screws, hoping to reach better quality wood deeper inside the old frame boards. That all worked out just fine and the deck looks super...like a new boat. I even devised a way to suspend the gunwale boards in just the right place and height while I (singlehandedly) fastened each end.

My work days varied from two to six hours, depending on the weather, my schedule, and my endurance. I normally would start in early afternoon when the boat was in the shade. I usually was wiped out after each session, even though I was staying well-hydrated. I could tell it was time to stop, when I got clumsy or lost track of some tool. I would try to recognize those moments before I became dangerous and force myself to stop right then. No, not finish "just one more thing". I mean really stop, go shower, maybe take a nap or have a meal. That regimen worked well for me throughout the project.

But what, you ask, about the tiki torches? I saw some really nice ones on another dock boat and investigated. I'd put up with the kerosene and wick style for years, but these were solar powered flickering LEDs housed in a torch-like cup...perfect! Ordered them from Amazon. At night they look real and they sure are convenient! One fellow on the lake even made his removable so they can light his lawn when he's not on the boat.

Well, that's my summer boat project. What was yours? Come on, you can share your story!



D/Lt Walt Lazear, AP, came by sailing honestly. His father grew up on "C" Scows in Michigan, navigated several Newport-Bermuda races, and navigated an Atlantic crossing. Walt started sailing as a teenager when he built a plywood AMF Alcort Sailfish to sail on Lake Michigan in the early 1960s. After a long dry spell in the Air Force, he came to the Chesapeake Bay area. With his wife, Manette, he bareboat chartered for 16 years on the Bay. They enjoyed 26' to 42' sloops and ketches, anchoring out each night, and sharing long weekends on the water with their friends. They also enjoyed sailing with family in the Washington's San Juan Islands, Michigan's North Channel, and Florida's Tampa Bay area. At home in Reston, Manette brought an AMF Alcort Minifish from her youth to Lake Thoreau. They had a dock boat built in 2004, retired the Minifish, and enjoyed the slower life on the water. Walt shares his dock boat and water sports with his kids and grandkids, who love "Ganga's lake".



Message from the Educational Officer

America's Boating Course offered Saturday 17 Oct through 7 Nov.

We have arranged to conduct a Basic Boating Course - ABC-3 class on Saturday mornings for four sessions (17 OCT, 24 OCT, 31 Oct and 7 NOV from 0900-1230) at St George's Episcopal Church in Arlington. The students and instructor can discuss option of conducting class online or combo of class and online to meet comfort levels and convenience for the same dates. Proctored test is required in Virginia to meet state education requirement.

America's Boating Course teaches: terms, safety equipment, fueling, casting off, navigation rules, aids. Lights and sound signals, regulations, charts and electronic navigation, anchoring, handling emergencies, communications, watersports safety, trailering, PWC operation, knots and lines, and more. See <http://www.americasboatingcourse.com/courseoutline.cfm> The cost is \$50 and participants need not be members of America's Boating Club.

Piloting includes Inland water and coastal navigation using GPS, aids to navigation, and plotting on charts. No prerequisites. More course info at: <https://americasboatingclub.org/courses/piloting>

I've been reworking the Piloting class presentation and exercises so they are a bit more user-friendly for an online environment. It's one thing to sit through PowerPoint presentation in person but to do the same online approaches cruel and unusual punishment for the one on the receiving end. I've been testing it with colleagues so we will have a Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron quality online version for Piloting for **Jan 2021** in the event meeting in person is not an option.



For more information, to ask about other courses, and to register, contact Educational Officer Dean Markussen, MMarkussen2@comcast.net, 703-751-9178

Cruising the Bay?

The Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System Update says:

We are following strict operational protocol set by NOAA during the current public health emergency. This means that the CBIBS buoy technicians are not permitted to work out on the water together because they would be in close proximity for extended periods of time. Because we cannot yet access the facility where we repair buoy parts and sensors, we cannot prepare any sensors for NOAA partners to deploy on our behalf. So for the time being, no physical repairs are being made to CBIBS buoys. Check this website for updates on the reporting status of each buoy: <https://buoybay.noaa.gov/node/173>



October Birthdays!



<i>William H. Wright, Jr.</i>	1
<i>Sean Gallagher</i>	20
<i>Francis Williamson</i>	24



Attention

Travelers Who Fly

On October 1, 2021, REAL ID or Passport will be required to board domestic commercial aircraft, and enter federal buildings. See a list of other acceptable IDs and FAQs at <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id> This requirement was passed by Congress in 2005, in the REAL ID Act.



The **Facebook Team** is looking for an additional member who enjoys looking for a variety of boating, interesting and fun posts to share on the Squadron Facebook page. Email or call the Editor. Contact info on page 2.

Nominations are Open for all NVSPS Positions

Nominations will be accepted for 2021-2022 Service year for NVSPS, up until Election day, March 9, 2021 (2nd Tuesday). Elections will be held at the March 9, 2021 meeting. Check in February for any change of date. All officers are elected for a single year at a time. Some have served for several years and would like to be relieved. If you are interested in any elected position, please contact P/C Alan Hart, AP at 540-898-6002 or 1oldtar@gmail.com Please note that the first character is the numeral "one".

The Elected Positions are:

Commander
Executive Officer
Administrative Officer
Education Officer
Secretary
Treasurer
Plus 5 Members-at-Large
Plus members of 3 Standing Committees



- The Squadron Commander is our elected leader. He officiates at meetings and supervises the other bridge officers. Our By-Laws limit the Commander to two consecutive terms.
- The Executive Officer supervises the committees in his department and substitutes for the Commander when necessary.
- The Administrative Officer supervises the committees in his department. We have not had an Admin Officer for the past several years, but the duties have been done by the Secretary and Commander.
- The Education Officer (SEO) supervises the squadron's education courses and programs.
- The Secretary records minutes of meetings and handles personnel records, including correspondence with District and National.
- The Treasurer keeps the squadron's financial records, writes checks and receives payments.
- The 5 Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee are your elected representatives and each has a vote at meetings. Contact them if you have an issue to be brought before the Executive Committee.
- A member may normally only hold one of the above eleven offices at any one time, but may be a committee chair in addition to being a bridge officer. I have held them all, except for Treasurer and Education Officer, and found them to be very enjoyable and rewarding.

The above named elected officers, along with the most recent Past Commander available and willing to serve, make up the Executive Committee, also known as the Board of Directors. All are elected for one year terms, and may be re-elected, except for the Commander, who is limited to two consecutive terms.

The Rules Committee periodically reviews the By-Laws and recommends changes and updates, to be voted on by the membership. It is composed of six members, two of which are elected for three year terms, each year. The Chair is selected each year by the members of the committee.

The Auditing Committee audits the squadron's financial records and accounts each year. Its three members are elected for three year terms, one per year. The Chair is the member with the longest term of service on the committee.

The Nominating Committee nominates candidates for elective office, to be voted on at the squadron's Annual Meeting. Other candidates may be nominated by petition to the Squadron Secretary, or from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Its six members are elected, two per year, for three year terms. The Chair is selected annually by the committee members.

More position detail is listed on our public website Bylaws page: <http://nvsp.org/byarch/2012bylaw.pdf>

Elections are held annually, at the squadron's Annual Meeting. All members in good standing who are present are entitled to vote. There is no provision for absentee voting or voting by proxy at this time.

Respectfully submitted by P/C Alan Hart, AP, Nominations Committee Chair



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



of Tars & Terns



Find us on

October 24, Meeting and Picnic

America's Boating Club Northern Virginia



