

## **Wounded Warrior Cruise – Patuxent River Naval Air Station, October 10, 2009**

When we were discussing a possible location for the Wounded Warrior Cruise, CDR Francis Williamson suggested we consider the Naval Air Station (NAS). Two NVSPS boats, that were planning to participate in the cruise, were located at Solomons, MD, (Keith Segerson & Lt/C George Nartsissov) across from the NAS, and CDR Williamson was planning to bring his boat up from the Yorktown area. The NAS has a sizable marina so we decided to investigate. CDR Williamson sent a message to the Commander, CPT Macyko, and received an immediate reply that indicated the NAS would fully support the WW Cruise.

What followed was a series of coordination messages and visits to the NAS. Every office that we went to had a copy of CPT Macyko's message to support the cruise. The Dock Master at the West Patuxent Basin Marina, Frank Pace, provided docking space and "no fee" slips for those boats that would stay overnight. The marina, on the Patuxent River, is a large basin protected by rock jetties. Lunches and the evening meal were catered by the station Morale, Welfare and Recreation Office (for a very reasonable fee). Lunches were taken on board and the evening meal, a barbeque, was served in the Yacht Club building that was beautifully decorated by the "Shore Party" (P/C Gale Alls, P/C Richard Durgin, P/C John Shivik, Georgia Williamson).

Walter Reed Army Medical Center approved our request for the event and provided a bus that brought 17 WW and escorts to the marina. We had a total of four power boats, to include a 55' "Blue Water" provided by Lt/C Randy Headrick, from the Patuxent River Sail & Power Squadron, and two 27' sloops provided by the Sea Scout Ship 1942. Morning weather was "breezy", with white caps on the Patuxent, and a light drizzle. We got underway at approximately 1130 and after cruising up the Patuxent and Solomons returned to the marina for the barbeque (weather got better as the day went on).

The comments from the WW were that this was a pleasant and relaxing outing and many wanted to do it again. A Warrior on our boat took a nap – after waking she said that this was the first time in weeks that she was able to have a restful sleep. Without a doubt this was a most uplifting experience for all participants! We will plan a repeat for 2010.

Lt/C George Nartsissov  
Executive Officer