



# of TARS & TERNS

Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Sail & Power Squadron

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

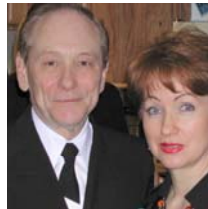


March 2005

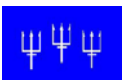
Vol XXXIX No 3

## NVSPS EXEC GOES TO DISTRICT

March 2005, Herndon VA. NVSPS executive officer Lt/C Richard P. Davis, AP will begin climbing the district 5 ladder of success as Administrative Officer at the An avid boater, both sail and power, since with USPS around Cape Cod for many his native New England. Since moving to the ago, he has been extremely active in the talented instructor of our Advanced Piloting about national and regional Power fundamental changes that are in store for squadron, but Richard expresses total NVSPS members are expected in Williamsburg in large numbers to cheer him on and help chart his new course in USPS.



Richard & Irina



### From the Commander

Cdr Keith B. Segerson, P

I'm grateful and humbled that you have entrusted me as commander again this year. It's amazing to me how many wonderful activities and services your NVSPS has engaged. Basic and advanced boating courses, hundreds of safety checks, boat shows, youth activities, the Folk Life Festival, the Chesapeake cruise that Joel Bailey so wonderfully arranges each year, raft-ups, the International Potluck, Holiday party, and Founder's Day celebrations, co-op charting, safety events, and district and national conferences. I wish that I'd been more successful in getting even more members involved in these activities. It's so rewarding to see new members jump right in to participate. We all benefit from this association and the more you are involved, the more you get out of it.

Looking ahead, my focus will be membership involvement. Due to excellent educational outreach and the work of Membership Chair Martha Jane Dodd and our Executive Committee we consistently sign up many new members. Some become integral to our success, others opt only to take advanced courses, and others have not been seen since they signed up. That's something that I don't understand and hope to reverse. If someone is attracted to join, then what keeps them from participating? I gained some insight several months ago when I asked members what they were looking for in our organization. What I heard was that new members did not feel part of the organization without personal association (mentorship) with existing members. So this year we are beginning a program where each new member is provided with a mentor, or squadron associate, who is responsible for providing a more personal outreach.

I enjoyed my first year as your Commander and I thank each and every one of you for your support, patience (when things didn't go as planned), and guidance. One of the things that I most value is the senior leadership provided by those members that have been with the squadron for, in some cases, nearly 40 years. And certainly I extend a heartfelt thanks to those past-Commanders who remain active and involved. I extend my deepest appreciation and thanks to the bridge and chairpersons and their committee members for their continued support throughout my tenure. I look forward to the upcoming year and the exciting work we will undertake with the new bridge. Please plan on attending the Change of Watch 19 Mar to see the annual right-of-passage, to show appreciation for the work of the past bridge and welcome the new bridge. In this new year each member's involvement and work within your NVSPS will benefit everyone associated with our great organization.



### SQUADRON CALENDAR

#### MARCH 2005

- 09 ALL-HANDS MTG & ELECTION  
*at BoatUS*
- 10-13 CAPITAL AREA BOAT SHOW  
*Chantilly VA*
- 19 CHANGE of WATCH  
*New bridge, brunch. Dulles Holiday Inn*
- 15 oT&T submissions due for April  
*send them to: [peter.soballe@verizon.net](mailto:peter.soballe@verizon.net)*
- 31-03 Apr D5 SPRING MEETING  
*Williamsburg. Reserve space now !*

#### APRIL 2005

- 13 ALL-HANDS MEETING  
*at BoatUS*
- 15 oT&T submissions due for May  
*send them to: [peter.soballe@verizon.net](mailto:peter.soballe@verizon.net)*
- 16 CO-OP CHARTING  
*at Fairfax Yacht Club*
- 29-30 NOAA CO-OP CHARTING SEMINAR  
*Atlantic Marine Center, Norfolk VA*

**NVSPS BRIDGE**  
Officers &  
Chairs



**COMMANDER**  
Cdr Keith B. Segerson, P  
(703) 670-2270



**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
Lt/C Richard P. Davis, AP  
(571) 436-76



**ADMIN OFFICER**  
Lt/C Glenn A. Fahey, S  
(703) 421-0662  
ASST:1/Lt Yean-Ming Sheu, AP  
(301) 277-5035



**EDUCATION OFFICER**  
Lt/C G. Jay Nelson, AP  
(703) 437-0064  
ASST: P/C Dick Durgin, JN  
(703) 560-9106



**TREASURER**  
Lt/C Joel P. Bailey, AP  
(703) 444-5169  
ASST:1/ Lt Judy Soballe, AP  
(202) 337-0960



**SECRETARY**  
Lt/C Cathy F. Sheffield, AP  
(703) 370-4331

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

D/Lt Martha J. Dodd, P (703) 239- 0551

**AT LARGE**

D/Lt Walt Lazear, AP (703) 620-1821  
Lt Russell Grasso, P (703) 499-8557  
D/Lt Martha J. Dodd, P (703) 239-0551  
Lt Ron Larson, P (703) 922-7094  
P/C John Shivik, AP (703) 273-3351

**Of Tars & Terns EDITOR**

Lt Pete Soballe, AP (202) 337-0960  
[peter.soballe@verizon.net](mailto:peter.soballe@verizon.net)

**DISTRIBUTION**

Lt Manette Lazear, AP  
D/Lt Walt Lazear, AP (703) 620-1821



**SHIP'S STORE**



Need a new burgee, sport shirt or name tag?

Contact P/C Paula Bailey, AP  
(703) 444-5169



**EXEC'S MOMENT**

Lt/C Richard Davis, AP

**On a drive down to the shore** today with my dog Bucky, I passed a homeowner cleaning his yard and discussing with his wife where the spring plantings will be. I began to wish I was out on the water! Spring is just around the corner, and so is the squadron Change of Watch (the "COW").

**I will no longer be on a squadron bridge** after this COW. I've accepted a call to district in order to help make some of the changes that need to be made. I'm very happy, therefore, that CDR Segerson has agreed to stay on as our commander for an additional year. I hope you will support him fully. And to all of those who have supported me over the past couple of years – thanks.

**This will be a busy year** in the Power Squadrons and particularly in D5, and it starts in Williamsburg on 31 March – 3 April. If you've never been to a District COW, then make this the one.

**The D5 Coop Charting Workshop** will be in Norfolk Apr 29 -30. For more information contact Ed Phillips, AP: [novaspscoch@yahoo.com](mailto:novaspscoch@yahoo.com).

**In the next Mark 5** you will be offered a chance to receive the District newsletter electronically. Be sure to read over it and respond.

**The Capital Boat Show** is 10 - 13 March. This is an excellent opportunity to support the squadron, have a lot of fun – and get a free pass to the show. Give Mike Triggs a call at (703) 212-8580 to volunteer.

I look forward to seeing you at the squadron COW 19 Mar.

*Join the fun, share the knowledge.*

**"CAPTAIN'S CORNER"**

Night cruising is a challenge, and lights can be confusing until you learn some simple patterns. Let's test your knowledge of navigation lights.

1. You see a white light above and slightly behind a red light off your starboard bow. As you watch, the red light disappears and a second white light appears below and slightly behind the first. What is it?
  - a. A red navigational aid on the starboard side of the channel
  - b. A hazard marker just to your right
  - c. A boat passing across your bow from the starboard, moving away
  - d. A boat with a short-circuit in its navigation lights
2. You approach what you believe to be a river entrance and see a white light flashing one short and one long signal. What are you looking at?
  - a. A safe water navigational aid in the center of the channel
  - b. You are approaching a vessel's stern
  - c. A hazard marker warning of shallow water
  - d. Most likely a warning light on a shore-based tower
3. As you continue up river, you spot a green beacon flashing two quick, a short pause, one quick, then a long pause. What are you looking at?
  - a. Another boat passing across your bow from the port side
  - b. A green navigational aid on the starboard side of the channel
  - c. A preferred channel marker indicating the main channel is to the right
  - d. A traffic light onshore

*answers on page 6*

## CO-OP CHARTING

Ed Phillips, AP, Committee Chair



### Geodetic Marker Recovery Day

Sat Apr 16, 2005 at 0800-1300 near the Fairfax Yacht Club on the Virginia side. Followed by lunch at Tim's. Contact me: [novaspscoch@yahoo.com](mailto:novaspscoch@yahoo.com).

For more on Marker Recovery and co-op charting, I recommend the USSPS website <http://www.usps.org/national/coch/>. It contains a wealth of information.

There's more about Geodetic Surveys at <http://www.nos.noaa.gov/programs/ngs/welcome.html>.

### D5 Co-op Charting Workshop

Friday April 29 and Saturday April 30 at NOAA's Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk. Topics include Depth Surveys, CCWEB, Sextant Use, DepthWiz, GPS Use, WAAS/DGPS, Geodetic Mark Recovery, Facility Surveys, Adopt-A-Chart, Shoreline Surveys, Coast Pilot Corrections, and more.

There will be classes for new students, advanced training, and hands-on computer training. I urge anyone with an interest in charting to attend. It's Casual and it's FUN and you will meet a lot of new friends.

More info and the registration form will be in the next Mark 5.

## Spring Conference Fun

The D/5 Spring Conference will be 31 Mar – 03 Apr 2005 at the Williamsburg Hospitality House. See your Mark V newsletter for details. The fun begins on Friday evening, 01April, when squadrons open their themed hospitality rooms to all conference participants for entertainment and hearty refreshment. You have to see it to believe it!

The theme for NVSPS's hospitality room will be "Weather Preparedness: Ready or Not?.." to remind our associates that they ignore the weather at their own peril. Our resident weatherman, John Shivik, will set up a mini-weather station featuring a thermometer, barometer, and anemometer (with fan for wind effects). On display will be a weather FAX, weather radio, static ball, weather charts and print materials. Posters will show weather features, clouds, weather legends and some of John's infamous weather jokes.

For refreshments we hope to serve yummy cookies. If you are willing to bring two dozen cookies, please sign up at the March squadron meeting or send an e-mail to [rjdurgin@aol.com](mailto:rjdurgin@aol.com). Thanks! Beverages will demonstrate the hydrologic cycle.

The first 30 NVSPS members who arrive to help set up Room 446 (~1500) and greeting visitors (1900) will receive a free yellow rain poncho to match our theme. For the remainder of the weekend, the suite will serve as a meeting place for our members.

P/C Dick Durgin, JN

## Do You Remember ... our Squadron and D5

We used to frequently participate in national and district public relations contests. The Commander's Cup was for the best audio-video on a subject selected by the committee. NVPS won first and second places in D/5 and a couple of first places nationally. We also entered the Scrapbook competition for publicizing the squadron through newspaper articles, local civic events, radio and TV spots, etc. We placed at the district level, but never received a national award.

Then at the Spring Conference in 1983, NVPS was awarded the #1 D5 safety award.

P/C Bill Alberts, SN



## EDUCATION

Lt/C G. Jay Nelson, AP

Ah, the best laid plans... We'd planned to conduct both Piloting and Advanced Piloting (AP) this season. But, alas, fate dictates that we hold AP off until next season. Both courses have been re-worked from the ground up this year and both arrived late to the Squadrons. Piloting arrived only twelve days ahead of our start date, but the instructors were able to stay a week or so ahead of the class in terms of content and instructional material. And to the credit of the students, all who took the exam passed.

Unfortunately AP arrived five weeks late. This created serious logistical problems. We have only so many instructors and three sets of computers/projectors. Our only option was to run AP at the same time as Seamanship and Weather. This would have reduced attendance significantly. So we've opted to cancel AP this year and offer it again next winter after another Piloting Course. We'll announce the 2005/2006 schedule in the fall.

NVSPS built a GPS course two years ago and we've given it very successfully on a number of occasions. It was designed to give a two and a half hour overview of what GPS is and how it works, and a detailed discussion on the GPS units typically used by pleasure boaters today. It walks through the setup of your GPS unit and what each of the screens are displaying, and it highlights what GPS can and cannot do for the boater. This course is free and is often used to recruit new members when we conduct it at marinas and boating stores. We've had several members ask about this NVSPS GPS course, so if there is sufficient interest (half a dozen or more folks), we'd be happy to run this course on a Wednesday evening. Shoot me an e-mail message at [gjaynelson@aol.com](mailto:gjaynelson@aol.com) and let me know.



*District 5  
2005 Spring Conference  
31 March – 3 April 2005  
The Williamsburg Hospitality House  
Williamsburg, Virginia*

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 09 Mar all-hands meeting. The members listed have agreed to serve their term as prescribed in the Bylaws for the year 2005-2006.

### BRIDGE OFFICERS

Commander	Keith B. Segerson, P
Executive Officer	Glenn A. Fahey, S
Educational Officer	G. Jay Nelson, AP
Administrative Officer	Martha Jane Dodd, P
Secretary	Clara Blanding
Treasurer	Jeffrey D. Hester
Asst Educ Officer	Brian C. Middleton, AP
Asst Admin Officer	VACANT

*(May be nominated from the floor)*

Asst Treasurer	Judy K. Soballe, AP
Assistant Secretary	Cathleen F. Sheffield, AP

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT LARGE

Walter D. Lazear, AP  
Russell S. Grasso, AP  
Ronald H. Larson, P  
John A. Shivik, AP  
Richard J. Durgin, JN

### RULES COMMITTEE

Chairman 1 year	Thomas J. Martin, AP
2 years	Ernest Linwood Sheffield, AP
3 years	Mike Triggs, AP
4 years	Eugene Jacob, AP
5 years	William Hammett, P

### AUDITING COMMITTEE

Chairman	George K. Degnon, AP
2 years	Richard P. Davis, AP
3 years	William Blanding

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

To be nominated and elected at the All-hands Meeting 9 March 2005.

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, filed with the Secretary at least fifteen (15) days before the date of the election.

Respectfully submitted,  
P/C Elwood P. Sheetz, AP  
Chair, Nominating Committee



**Welcome  
Aboard!**

Our newest member:

**Robert "Rob" O'Brien, Jr.**

He and his wife have 5 sons and a 19-foot runabout. They live in Vienna and he works in the Office of the Undersecretary for Counterterrorism in D.C.



### **ADMINISTRATION**

**Lt/C Glenn A. Fahey, S**

We had a big turnout on February 12, of about 50 members for Founder's Day. The pot luck food dishes, as always, were excellent. We have some really good chefs in our squadron. A big thanks to Al and Elaine for hosting the event at their Montebello condo complex.

**The National Capital Boat Show** is 10 –13 March at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, VA The squadron can still use a few more volunteers to staff our booth. If you volunteer for a 2-hour shift, you receive free admission to the show. More importantly volunteering for the booth is a fun time, and you'll meet lots of fellow boaters interested in our organization. If interested, please contact our new Boat Show Chairman, Mike Triggs at [vskipperm@aol.com](mailto:vskipperm@aol.com), or give him a call at (703) 212-8580.

**The reservation deadline is 01 Mar** for the squadron's next event, the annual Change of Watch, when the current Bridge steps down and the incoming Bridge is sworn in. You should have received a post card earlier in February that gave the event place, date, and time.

.....  
**NVSPS Change of Watch**

**Saturday, 19 Mar, 2005, 1100.**

**Reservations by 01Mar 2005**

**Holiday Inn - Washington Dulles**

**Lunch Buffet @ 1130, ceremonies @ 1300**

**\$40 each, Send checks made out to "NVSPS to:**

**Glenn Fahey, 1323 Shallow Ford Rd. Herndon VA 20170**

From the Capital Beltway, take the Dulles Toll Road west (Exit 45) to Rt. 28 north (Exit 9). Go ~1.25 miles north and turn right onto Holiday Dr, where the hotel is. It's a 2-story low rise set back from Rt. 28, so it's difficult to see. It might be easier to look for the Shell station at the corner of Rt. 28 and Holiday Dr. There's also a Hampton Inn on Holiday Dr. that has a more visible sign.

### **Outstanding Instructor: P/C Dick Durgin, JN**



D/Lt/C Kathryn J. Simkins, P, represents D5 in honoring NVSPS for its boating courses at our Founder's Day celebration 12 Feb at Montebello in Alexandria.

### **Educational Award to Lt/C Jay Nelson, AP**



Kay presents Jay Nelson with well-deserved recognition while Cdr Keith Segerson, P, looks on and approves.

### **P/C Al Sheetz, AP, recognized**



Keith & Kay honor our Founder's Day host for his many squadron contributions



### A Shared Breakfast at Anchor

In my early days of Chesapeake sailing, I enjoyed sailing in the winter in a 22-footer. I was always by myself, since finding crew in cold weather was difficult. I had a small outboard in the lazarette but it almost never worked, so I depended on sails to get in and out of port. Frequently thin sheets of ice lay on the calm waters of the small estuaries. One January I was anchored in Sillery Bay west of Gibson Island in an open portion of the Magothy River. The water was calm, but it would not freeze overnight as it might in Gibson Harbor past the narrows. I looked forward to a Sunday breakfast of my favorite French omelet and some leftover white wine while watching the wintering water fowl so plentiful in the bay.

All was quiet before sunrise; there was no ice. By the time I got dressed in my heavy warm hunting gear and set breakfast in the cockpit, ducks were everywhere and organized after being separated in the night. A glint of orange from the rising sun brought no warmth. A large flock of mostly canvasbacks, were huddled together away from shore. Through my binoculars I identified a solitary pied-billed grebe diving near the shore. It popped up after awhile, empty beaked, and I noticed a large herring gull paddling towards it. The grebe dove and came up further away from the shore and toward the rafting flock of ducks. Again and again the gull approached and the grebe dove. I thought how clever, the gull will abscond with any fish the grebe catches, a technique common to gulls. I was captivated, and I noticed two other things: the distance between grebe and gull was narrowing and the grebe always headed toward the raft of ducks.

What actually was going on? The gull became more aggressive. The grebe was tiring; its time under water shortened and the distance between dives decreased. As they approached, the raft of ducks parted giving ground (water) to the desperate grebe and ever pursuing gull. The prize was not to be fish, but the grebe itself! Eventually the grebe could not dive another time; the gull lunged, caught its prey by the neck and held it underwater. The grebe's wings gave a final flutter and it was over. I took a breath, the first for what seemed like many minutes. My omelet, half finished, was cold now.

Feathers were everywhere as the gull stripped its flesh. Of course this attracted more gulls and within a few minutes all that remained were wings and a few feathers floating on the calm water. The two groups of ducks stayed away; it looked as if they had known the gull's intention and, not wanting to take the grebe's place, kept moving away as he desperately sought safety in their numbers.

There was nothing the grebe could have done as soon as this tactic was chosen. The grebe's habit of diving instead of flying away for protection did it in. Each dive made it weaker and less

able to fly. The gull knew it was inevitable and had probably done this many times before. The grebe knew it too. The moment I took my mind off the fish and focused on the grebe I had a sickening feeling of helplessness, of inevitability; the grebe had no way out.

A lesson from nature on selecting our own courses of action, I thought.

D/Lt Charles H. Olin, AP

### "The Flaming Ship of Ocracoke and Other Tales of the Outer Banks"

by Charles Harry Whedbee

John F. Blair Publisher, Winston-Salem, NC, 1971.

I picked up this book because of the title while we were on our way to our annual week at the Outer Banks. The author, in a mood to try to preserve the lore of the Outer Banks, starts his collection of short stories with a Foreword:

"In those golden years before civilization had too much touched the North Carolina Outer Banks, there existed on these ocean shores a sort of latter-day Garden of Eden of sun, sea, and sand."

His stories are varied and give you a whole new insight to the tourist-laden area. For example, the story "Pin Hill" tells how the hill just south of Jockey Ridge got its name from the many sewing pins found in the sand. He supplies the myth of how those pins came to be, and why they still appear after all these years.

His title story is about the passage of migrating English colonists and the former pirate who captained their ship. His greed-motivated dastardly attack on them and the resulting irony of his ship's burning are laid out in polite but complete detail. It is said that this tale repeats every year on the night of the first new moon in September off the shores of Ocracoke. We vacation in October, so I can't say from first-hand observation how true this is.

Mr. Whedbee's earlier books capture the same sort of lore: "Legends of the Outer Banks", "Outer Banks Mysteries", "Stories of the Outer Banks", "Seaside Stories", and "Outer Banks Tales to Remember". I have not read them, but by the titles alone, you can tell that those shores have lots to tell.

Walt Lazear, AP

### CAPTAIN'S CORNER ANSWERS

1. C: You have just watched its red bow light and forward masthead light go by and you're looking at the masthead stern lights.
2. A: Safe water buoy
3. C: The buoy is indicating the intersection of two channels, with the main channel to the right.

### Cruise News

The annual summer cruise is Fri 24 June - Thur 30 June. Details are attached below. **I need slip deposits and activity fee by 15 May.** After that you'll need to make your own reservations. The activity fee covers cruise booze and party favors.

Please complete the attached form and forward to me with a check. I plan to provide my own credit card number for those marinas not requiring checks, so if you sign up and later need to cancel, please tell me! Otherwise you can expect a call from my cousin Guido, a.k.a. "The Hammer."

**Please make your decision about the summer cruise early!** On 15 May, I must forward the cruise list to the marinas and release any excess reservations. It may be challenging to get a slip reservation after that date.

All of these cruise locations are accessible by land. Please feel free to join us by car.

---

### Summer Cruise Reservation Form

Captain's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Name \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Make, Model \_\_\_\_\_

LOA \_\_\_\_\_, Draft \_\_\_\_\_, Beam \_\_\_\_\_

Electrical Requirements: \_\_\_\_\_ connections of \_\_\_\_\_ amps each

Check which days you plan to attend:

\_\_\_\_ **Fri 24 Jun:** Osprey Point Marina, Rock Hall, Maryland (\$10 deposit)

\_\_\_\_ **Sat 25 Jun:** Georgetown Yacht Basin, Sassafras River <sup>(1)</sup>

\_\_\_\_ **Sun 26 Jun:** Georgetown Yacht Basin, Sassafras River <sup>(1)</sup>

\_\_\_\_ **Mon 27 Jun:** Mears Great Oak Landings, Fairlee Creek <sup>(1)</sup>

\_\_\_\_ **Tue 28 Jun:** Rock Hall Landing Marina, Rock Hall, Maryland <sup>(1)</sup>

\_\_\_\_ **Wed 29 Jun:** Herrington Harbor North, Deale, Maryland <sup>(2)</sup>

\_\_\_\_ **Thu 30 June:** Herrington Harbor North, Deale, Maryland <sup>(2)</sup>

**Fri 01 Jul:** Everyone heads home for the Independence Day holiday

<sup>(1)</sup> I will guarantee reservations with my credit card- please let me know ASAP if you must cancel after signing up

<sup>(2)</sup> \$20 per boat deposit required irrespective of which nights you plan to attend

**Please forward this form by 15 May 2005** with the required deposits plus an activity fee of \$30 to: **Joel Bailey, 20817 Waterbeach Place, Sterling, VA, 20165.** If you plan to attend all nights, you should enclose a check for \$60 (\$10 for Osprey Point, \$20 for Herrington Harbor, and \$30 activity fee). **Cruisers must make their own reservations after 15 May 2004.** Your slip rental fees will be credited for all deposits paid in advance.

Please call Joel Bailey at (703) 444-5269 if you have any questions or email [joelpbailey@hotmail.com](mailto:joelpbailey@hotmail.com).



**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 the BoatUS sign.  
 Enter from the lighted parking lot behind the building.



**America's Boating Club**

**of TARS & TERNS**  
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Lt W. Lazear, AP  
 2014 Lakebreeze Way  
 Reston, VA 20191



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**of TARS & TERNS**

