



# of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLV Number 7

September 2010

## Upcoming Meetings & Events

Mark your calendars and come join us.

### September

8.....All Hands Meeting  
*Cruising the Bahamas*  
*(See page 5 for details.)*

22.....ExCom Meeting

### October

\*\*..... No All Hands Meeting  
will be held in October

16.....International Pot Luck Dinner  
Fairfax Yacht Club  
*(Details on pages 3 & 11.)*

27.....ExCom Meeting

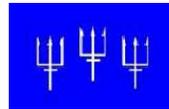
### November

10.....All Hands Meeting

24.....ExCom Meeting



Northern Virginia  
Sail and Power Squadron  
District 5  
A unit of the  
United States Power Squadrons®  
Sail and Power Boating  
www.nvsp.org



*Commander Sends . . .*  
Cdr George Nartsissov, AP

### Wounded Warrior Cruise : A Rendezvous With a Purpose!

Saturday, 7 August, 2010, marked the third annual Wounded Warrior Cruise organized and sponsored by the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron. The event was held at the Patuxent Naval Air Station, West Basin marina.

We had overwhelming support from our squadron! The Chair for this event was P/C Keith Segerson, P, and Shore Party Commander was P/C Gale Alls, N. Their leadership and preparation contributed greatly to a successful event. In addition to NVSPS boats, we had a boat and crew from the Patuxent River Squadron, a boat from the Rockville squadron and a sail boat from the Sea Scout Ship 1942, for a total of 11 vessels. A Shore Party of 11 supported docking and meal arrangements.

The Wounded Warrior Cruise was a success because all Squadron participants, and several guest ship crew members, saw this as a community service event with a particularly worthwhile purpose.

CDR George Nartsissov, AP



# Bridge Officers



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| 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 will be held at the BoatUS Headquarters\* facility at 1900 (7:00 pm). 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?*

*J. von Senden,*

*John@Southerngirl.net*



## of TARS & TERNS

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

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## ***Executive Officer***

**Lt/C John G. Karjala, P**



### **International Pot Luck & All Hands Meeting**

#### **Meeting topic: Good Food & Fun.**

Our Annual International Pot Dinner is tentatively scheduled for 1900 hours or 7:00 P.M., Saturday, 16 October 10, at the Fairfax Yacht Club, 10721 Colchester Road, Mason Neck, VA.. This is always a spirited occasion. Don't be left out.

We ask that every one bring a hot dish, vegetables, cold platter, salad, or dessert. German beer, spirits, wine, sodas, and water are included in the reservation fee. Commander's Locker will be open!



Send the reservation form enclosed with this *Tars & Terns*, email me at [jgkarjala@verizon.net](mailto:jgkarjala@verizon.net), or call me at (703) 818-8676. Make your reservation now to inform me which dish you are bringing so we may assure there is good variety in the menu. Reservations are \$5 per couple and \$2.50 for singles. Children under 13 are free. Please RSVP by 13 October 10.

Directions to the Fairfax Yacht Club from the Beltway are given on the Reservation form.

**Holiday Dinner Dance** - Reminder to put the Christmas Party on your calendars now. It is on Saturday, 4 December 2010 starting at 1830 hours or 6:30 P.M. at The American Legion Post #144 in 3939 Oak Street in Fairfax City.



Members please remember to invite friends for this great Dinner Dance. Details to follow in *Tars & Terns* and via e-mail.



## Secretary

Lt/C Sue. Karjala, P



District 5's Summer Council and Rendezvous was held 12-15 August at the Holiday Inn Select in Solomons, Maryland. This was the first time John and I attended this event. I didn't realize what we had been missing over the years. I urge all you to attend District and Squadron events. It was a weekend of fun, food, and making new friends.

The events started off on Thursday evening with the D5 Commander's Cocktail Party at Spring Cove Marina. On Friday participants had their choice of a Guided tour of



Back Creek by Kayak; a Tour/Lunch of Sotterley Plantation; Bean Bag Baseball; the Dinghy Poker Run; BullEx Fire Extinguisher Simulator (Laser) demonstration; or the Conch



Blowing Contest. The evening ended with Margaritas and a BBQ Buffet catered by the Patuxent River Squadron at the Museum Lighthouse. Saturday began with the Flag Raising Ceremony and Council meeting. Other activities for the day included sailing a control boat; a navigation Calvert Museum, Church Run; and the opportunity to items and a 50/50 drawing. hosted a cocktail party on squadron and guests. A ron on our pier joined us for



model remote contest, behind the scenes tour of Services; the Walking Poker participate in a Raffle of over 50 During the afternoon, John and I our boat for the members of our group from the Delhigh Squad-

an afternoon of food and "Dark and Stormy's". The evening ended with a Reception and Buffet Dinner at the Holiday Inn followed by an awards presentation. Those who did not wish to come by boat were able to get discounted accommodations at the Holiday Inn for the rendezvous.

Not only was this a fun filled weekend, but we were also lucky. We will definitely do the D5 Spring Rendezvous again. John took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Walking Poker Run and won \$50, and in the raffle drawing, I won a gift certificate worth \$70 for the rental of two kayaks for a half day. So as I end this article, I would like to thank all of those from our squadron who joined us on our boat for our cocktail party and I look forward to my half day of paddling a Kayak on Back Creek. Who knows, maybe we will decide we need to buy one. One can never have too many toys!

Sue Karjala  
Secretary

# September Program

All Hands Meeting—Boat US  
8 September 2010

## Impressions Of First-time Cruising in the Bahamas

Robin and Jim Roberts are long time members of NVSPS who live aboard their 49' DeFever and have cruised extensively from the Keys to Nova Scotia over the past couple of years. This spring they spent nine weeks cruising in the Bahamas making stops in the Exumas, Eleuthera and Abacos.

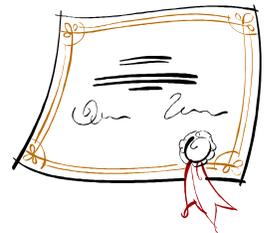
During their nine weeks in the Bahamas they spent 67 days at anchor. They will share some of the things they found interesting and some of the things a new cruiser needs to know. Preparation is most important for a successful cruise and they will offer tips they learned on their trip.



Don't miss the top quality photography and insight from this wonderful trip and start planning your own adventure.

## Merit Mark Recommendations Due

USPS recognizes the contributions of its members' time and talents and says "thank you" by awarding one merit mark annually. Each fall squadron leaders submit the names of those members who have performed substantial service during the year to the Merit Mark Chair who compiles a report to USPS for Cdr. Nartsissov's signature. National reviews the recommendations. Your USPS Operations Manual describes merit marks in detail.



### Officers & Committee Chairs:

Please submit the names of members who have performed substantial service to NVSPS during calendar year 2010 to Merit Mark Chair Jean Durgin at [rjdurgin@aol.com](mailto:rjdurgin@aol.com) by 1 October 2010. Include a brief but specific description of the service performed (e.g., number of classes taught, number of vessel inspections performed, reports given, committee meetings attended, events planned, newsletter articles written, etc.).

### All Members:

Our goal is to recognize everyone's contributions to NVSPS. Feel free to submit a brief description of your service directly to Jean Durgin ([rjdurgin@aol.com](mailto:rjdurgin@aol.com)) by 1 October 2010.





# *Holiday Party*

*4 December 2010: Save the Date!*

Mark your calendar now for NVSPS's annual Holiday Party on the evening of Saturday, 4 December 2010 at the American Legion in Fairfax! It will be a festive and fun event! Stay tuned for details.



## *Keep Flower Power Fund Growing*

Each year squadron members are invited to post a personalized holiday message in the December *of Tars & Terns* in exchange for a contribution of any amount to the NVSPS Flower Power Fund. **Please send your 2010 season's greetings (maximum 3 lines) and check payable to the "NVSPS Flower Power Fund" to P/C Dick Durgin by 12 November 2010.** Dick will send you written confirmation of your tax deductible contribution. Sample message: "Happy Holidays & Safe Voyages in 2011 from the crew of - -"

The Flower Power Fund was established in 1988 by Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hazelton to support NVSPS activities and has grown from \$5000 to over \$20,000. Under its terms, only the interest earned by the fund may be spent. In recent years, it has been used for educational equipment (computers, projectors, sextant) and the Wounded Warrior Project.

Your support for the Flower Power Fund advances the mission of NVSPS. Thanks!

P/C Dick Durgin, Chairman, Flower Power Fund  
308 George St. SW, Vienna, VA 22180





## *Safety Stuff*

**Lt. John C. von Senden, AP**  
*Safety Officer and Vessel Safety Check*

### **Safety Talks**

Recently, I participated in our third annual Wounded Warrior Cruise. (It was a great event; everyone should participate next year.) One of the tasks required was to provide a safety and orientation talk for our guests.

#### **Why**

So why would you want to give a “safety talk”; wouldn’t that put a damper on having fun? I’ve often said that it is more fun being the rescuer than the rescue-ee. That is accidents can take the fun out of any event – and when accidents (or even common events such as heeling) are unanticipated by guests it reduces their enjoyment of what should be a fun event.

#### **When and Where**

The obvious time and location for a safety talk is as soon as your guests are onboard and before you leave the dock. Getting this talk over with early both impresses the importance of safety on the water and provides an environment for having fun.

#### **What**

People who know me know of my fondness for checklists. So of course I have a checklist for a safety and orientation talk:

##### **Experience**

Start with asking if anybody has been sailing before? If you have experienced guests on board, then your talk is tailored to their experience and education. Most of an orientation talk is to cover the basics for people new to the fun of sailing.

##### **Tipping Over**

Talk about sailboats heeling. To someone new to sailing, this is probably the biggest “unnatural” experience they will have. It helps to know (intellectually at least) that most sailing vessels are more stable when heeled, and where the limit of ultimate stability is. One doesn’t need to go into details (unless you have an engineer on board), but the basics offer reassurance that your boat won’t tip over. If you are sailing a dingy that can tip over, then you need to discuss what to do in that event (think back to your introduction to sailing).

The other big issue with sailboats is the boom swinging back and forth. Now, I know that none of you will perform unintentional gybes; however, it is worth discussing why the boom is so named (it’s the last thing you’ll hear when you’ve been hit).

These two items are specific to sailboats, and especially to keel boats. Power boaters will have specific items (such as ventilating the engine compartment or bow-riding) that you may want to discuss. The idea is not to scare people, but to let them know what to expect.

*(Continued on page 8)*



*(Continued from page 7)*

### **PFDs**

Talk about lifejackets, where they are located and when you expect your guests to wear them. This is not only an issue of law, but of the experience of your crew, the size and sea-kindliness of your vessel and the weather conditions. You should know your state's law: Maryland requires lifejackets on people under the age of 13 when onboard a vessel under 21-feet long and when not in a cabin. The Commonwealth of Virginia has a similar bill under consideration, but enactment of the bill is delayed until January 2011.

### **Leaving the boat before it's time**

Talk about person overboard drills. In power boats travelling at speed, one will likely lose sight of a person overboard in less than 15-seconds; it is not quite that dramatic on sailboats, but keeping sight of someone in the water is the biggest issue in recovery. This topic is worth a little time; talk through the process. I tell my guests that the first person to see someone go over is to do nothing but point at that person until we get them reconnected with our boat. Point out what recovery gear you have; horseshoes, Lifeslings or other devices. This is the one topic where I don't mind instilling a little fear — a person overboard is like a fire alarm; something you only want to experience in drills.

### **Stuff**

Talk about your safety locker —where you keep flares, first aid kits, fire extinguishers and other safety related stuff. Not that any of your guests will ever need to go there, but it is nice to know where that stuff is (and that you do have it).

### **A delicate subject**

Talk about how to use a marine head — scatological humor optional. One recent article in Spin Sheet talked about a skipper requiring the first person using the head as being responsible for cleaning it the rest of the trip. That may work for him, but it seems excessive to me; his point is valid though. While not a safety subject, it is a topic where expectations need to be set early. This is a subject where the experience level of your guests will determine the length of the talk.

### **And while on that subject...**

Talk about reporting any odd smells or sights. My view is that it is better to be bothered unnecessarily than to discover too late that something major is amiss.

### **And finally,**

Have fun. After all, that is the goal of sailing.

Remember, it's hard to expand your horizons without losing sight of the shore...



# Wounded Warriors Honored by NVSPS

Frank Shults, Public Relations Officer, NVSPS

It's a long way from the war in the Middle East to the Patuxent River. But that is where a number of our brave and wounded veterans found themselves on August 7, 2010. On that day, the U.S. Power Squadrons of Northern Virginia, Rockville, and the Patuxent River, hosted a "Wounded Warrior Cruise" for veterans who are recovering from their wounds at the Walter Reed and Fort Belvoir medical facilities.

A group of 42, including veterans, their families, and friends, joined us for a day of cruising and for an afternoon barbeque. In what has become an annual event since 2008 when Past Commander of the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron (NVSPS), George Degnon, started the program, the Power Squadrons honor veterans who have been wounded in action in



Afghanistan and Iraq. George Nartsissov, current Commander of the NVSPS said, "We welcome our wounded warriors to this day on the water, we thank them for their service to our country, and we try to give them a few moments where they can forget their troubles and enjoy the truly remarkable treasures that we have on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries." The Squadrons assembled a fleet of 11 vessels, including both power and sail boats, for this event. The captains and crew, along with their guests, were free to explore the Patuxent River or the Chesapeake Bay, at their leisure, the only direction given was that our guests were to have a good time. Some chose to take the helm themselves while others just sat back and enjoyed the beautiful day, the extraordinary scenery, and the welcome relaxation. At the end of the day, we gathered for a barbeque hosted by Patuxent Naval Air Station.

It is typical of veterans who have sacrificed so dearly to preserve our freedoms to be humble. They speak of their wounds and their trauma only if asked and prefer to talk about their enjoyment of meeting new friends and sharing special moments together with them and their families. One veteran told me, as he sat in the shade during our afternoon meal, that he thoroughly enjoyed himself and that he had no intention of leaving anytime soon. "I am staying right here, Sir," he said. "This has been a beautiful day, and I have no intention of leaving any time soon. Thank you so much." That a wounded warrior would thank us for thanking them in this manner was truly remarkable.

*Check out some photos of the event on the next page.*

*You can see all the photos on the NVSPS website at: [www.nvsps.org](http://www.nvsps.org)*





Skippers and guests assemble to decide on boat assignments.



Event leaders (l to r): Cdr George Nartsissov, P/C Gale Alls, P/C Keith Segerson



Veteran Brian with his mother and girlfriend enjoy a ride on Van Buskirk's boat.



P/C Francis Williamson and his wife Georgia pose with their guests.



NVSPS Commander George Nartsissov thanks the assembled veterans for their service during the afternoon BBQ.



Michael Card welcomes his visitors aboard his Gemini 34 sailboat.



The event was successful thanks to all our wonderful Power Squadron volunteers.



BBQ dinner in the pavilion was a perfect way to end a great day on the water.



# NVSPS International Pot Luck Dinner

**7:00-10:00 PM SATURDAY**

**16 October 2010**

**Fairfax Yacht Club**

**10721 Colchester Road**

**Mason Neck, VA 22079**

[Reservation Deadline: 13 Oct](#)

Send your check and reservation form below to: LT/C John Karjala, P  
13811 Lowry Drive  
Chantilly, VA 20151-2815  
E-Mail: [jgkarjala@verizon.net](mailto:jgkarjala@verizon.net)

### Directions To Fairfax Yacht Club

#### From the Beltway:

Travel south on I95 from the Beltway and take the exit for Woodbridge via US Rt. 1 south. Turn left at Furnace Road, which is at the first traffic light. This is just prior to the Occoquan River Bridge. Follow Furnace Road through the railroad underpass (Caution-one car wide and a blind turn, sound your horn before entering). Continue about another 75-100 yards where Furnace Road bears to the left and joins Old Colchester Road. Do not bear to the left but proceed straight across. This is a private lane, which leads into the Fairfax Yacht Club. Follow this lane through the gate (it will be open) and park at any open space.

-----  
**Clip and return by deadline or e-mail me with the needed information.**

Enclosed is my check made payable to NVSPS for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations @ \$5.00 per couple, \$2.50 per single, for the SATURDAY 16 October 2009 **INTERNATIONAL POT LUCK AT THE FAIRFAX YACHT CLUB**. Please bring your favorite ethnic, foreign or whatever special dish or dessert to share!

Member Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dish/Dessert/Salad \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I can help with Setup\_\_\_ Cleanup\_\_\_



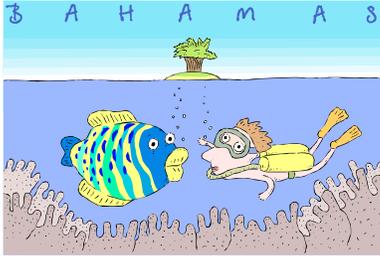
# of TARS & TERNS

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## September 2010

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### Dated Material



**Cruising in the Bahamas Talk**  
**8 September Meeting**  
**Don't miss it!**  
*See Page 5 for details.*



**MONTHLY ALL-HANDS MEETING**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays at 1930 (any changes posted herein and on the web)  
at Boat/US 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 Boat/US sign.  
Enter from the lighted parking lot behind the building.



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**America's Boating Club**