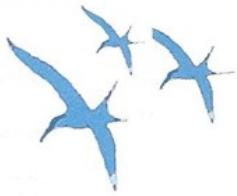




# of TARS & TERNS



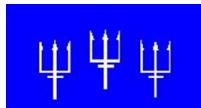
Volume XLVII Number 3

April 2014



## Mark Your Calendar

### NVSPS Meetings and Events



## Commander Sends....

Cdr. Rich Unis, JN

### APRIL 2014

- 02** Executive Committee Meeting  
1930 - 2100: 4031 University Drive #200  
Fairfax, VA 22030
- 09** General Membership Meeting and Annual NVSPS Meeting  
1900 - 2100: BoatUS Headquarters; 880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria, VA  
*Speaker:* to be announced
- 23** Executive Committee Meeting  
1930 - 2100: 4031 University Drive #200  
Fairfax, VA 22030

### MAY 2014

- 17** General Membership Meeting - NVSPS Picnic  
1100 - 1600: Fairfax Yacht Club; 10721 Old Colchester Road, Mason Neck, VA 22079
- 28** Executive Committee Meeting  
1930 - 2100: 4031 University Drive #200  
Fairfax, VA 22030

### JUNE 2014

- 11** General Membership Meeting  
1900 - 2100: BoatUS Headquarters; 880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria, VA  
*Speaker:* to be announced
- 25** Executive Committee Meeting  
1930 - 2100: 4031 University Drive #200  
Fairfax, VA 22030
- 28** NVSPS Cruise at Herrington Harbour  
To be announced

It is truly an honor to serve as your Commander for the 2014/2015 Bridge year. I appreciate your support and look forward to a great year. We have much to accomplish this year. Our primary focus will be on developing a partnership with Prince William Marina, and potentially other local marinas, to teach their new boaters how to boat safely. Other boaters from the community will also be invited to participate in these courses. We have begun socializing our plan with Prince William Marina and will be meeting with them in April to finalize our plans. This is a great opportunity to go where the boaters are to meet their education needs and recruit new members into the squadron.

*Continued on Page 3*

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NVSPS Wounded Warrior Cruise	Page 9

## 100 Years of Service

Created on 2 Feb. 1914, USPS will mark 100 years of education, fellowship and community service in 2014. Based on the powerboat handling skills programs of businessman Roger Upton at the Boston Yacht Club in Marblehead, Mass., USPS offers boating education programs in cities and towns across the U.S., its territories and Japan. Today, nearly 40,000 members in more than 400 squadrons provide boating education in everything from seamanship and celestial navigation to marine electronics and engine maintenance.



A detailed Squadron calendar including all meetings and educational courses can be found on our web site [www.nvps.org](http://www.nvps.org)



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



## Bridge Officers

### COMMANDER

Lt/C Richard Unis, JN  
703 777-8378  
commander@nvsps.org



### EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Vacant

*(Contact the Commander if you would like to help)*



### EDUCATION OFFICER

Lt/C Ed Phillips  
703 771-7096  
education@nvsps.org



### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Kim-Kwok Chu  
703 280-4848  
admin@nvsps.org



### SECRETARY

Lt/C Mary-Jane Hinkins, S  
703 436-7931  
secretary@msn.com



### TREASURER

Lt/C David Hinkins, S  
703 436-7931



## Boat Smart Boat Safe

### Scheduled Meetings:

Unless otherwise noted, the General Membership Meetings will be held at the BoatUS™ Headquarters facility at 1900. on the second Wednesday of each month except for the months of August and December. 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, 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.

### Boating Accident Reporting

Federal law requires the operator – or owner, if the operator is deceased or unable to make the report – to file a boating accident report with the State reporting authority when, as a result of an occurrence that involves a boat or its equipment:

- A person dies
- A person disappears from the vessel under circumstances that indicate death or injury
- A person is injured and requires medical treatment beyond first aid
- Damage to vessels and other property totals \$2,000 (lower amounts in some states and territories) or more
- The boat is destroyed

The USCG Accident Reporting form can be obtained from the USCG website - [http://www.uscgboating.org/safety/accident\\_reporting.aspx](http://www.uscgboating.org/safety/accident_reporting.aspx)



### Of Tars & Terns

The official publication of the

### Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron

[www.nvsps.org](http://www.nvsps.org)



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

Of Tars & Terns is published ten months of the year—July/August and January/February issues are combined - Jan/Feb, May, Aug and Nov issues are printed and mailed to NVSPS members, all other issues are published online at NVSPS.org

**Volume XLVII; Number 3: April 2014**

#### EDITOR

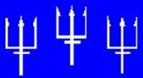
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## Commander Sends....

Cdr. Rich Unis, JN

.... *Continued from Page 1*

The EXCOM planning committee met in February to draft our goals and objectives for this year in the USPS mission areas of education, community and fraternal. These goals and objectives have been finalized and will be the guide for our activities. I will discuss some of the highlights.

Education – In addition to the Prince William Marina initiative, we plan to partner with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VGDIF) to teach Boat Virginia courses throughout Northern Virginia. This will be another great opportunity to recruit new members. We also will be offering America's Boating Course (ABC) at various venues in northern Virginia to include GMU, McLean and my goal is to make inroads into Loudoun County. We may even package the ABC course with a seminar or two. We will continue our partnership with the Sea Scouts to offer boating courses that meet their needs. Skipper Tom Ballew has a great group of Sea Scouts!

Community – We will have a strong community presence. Planning is well underway for our Wounded Warrior Cruise at Pax River Naval Air Station on 13 Sep. See P/C Francis' Williamson's article on this topic. This is an event that everyone in NVSPS should support. Ask you how can get involved. P/C George Nartsissov is planning multiple Vessel Safety Check (VSC) events for our VSC examiners. He is also partnering with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary at Prince William Marina and other locations. A VSC event is scheduled for Saturday, 17 May, at the Fairfax Yacht Club to coincide with National Safe Boating Week. We will also be having our spring picnic there on the same day.

Fraternal – First and foremost...have some fun! We intend to hold several NVSPS cruises on the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River, along with shore-side activities so all members can participate. Squadron cruises are a lot of fun and build camaraderie among members. After all, we are a boating organization so we should be boating. Please let me know if you would like to help organize a cruise. One of the greatest advantages of membership in NVSPS is being able to leverage the boating expertise of our members to assist new members in their boating activities. So, I would like to assign new members an informal mentor from the Squadron who can assist and/or connect new members to others in the Squadron who can provide assistance to them.

Other planned social events include informal squadron picnics at various venues (like Herrington Harbour) and our annual holiday party. We also intend to get a jump on planning for our hospitality room at the 2015 Spring District 5 Conference. We'll start the planning for that event in August. Most importantly, we recognize that we can improve squadron communications of events through use of a published 12 month rolling calendar, enhanced e-mail communications with members and a timely oT&T publication. Please let one of the Bridge members know if there is a topic you would like us to address in our "award winning" oT&T newsletter.

I would like to switch gears for a moment and discuss the 2014 Spring District 5 Conference that was held on 29-30 MAR in Ocean City, MD. We had a good contingent of folks from the Squadron who attended the conference. We sponsored a hospitality room whose theme was "Don't Worry Be Appy". The focus of our presentation was on the various applications available to smart tablets (like iPads) and smart phones (iPhone and Android devices). We had around 175 people come through our hospitality suite. Some people came back two and three times. Our hospitality suite was a tremendous success. We didn't win the top prize (that honor went to the Dundalk Squadron) but I believe we were clearly one of the best! Thanks again to all who participated. It is a lot of fun. I highly recommend that you plan to participate in the 2015 conference.

NVSPS received the following awards at the 2014 Spring District 5 Conference:

- National Distinctive Communicator Award for Publications
- National Distinctive Communicator Award for Websites
- Social Media & Networking Achievement Award
- Social Media & Networking Improvement Award
- Centennial Ribbon

Congratulations to all who contributed to these awards, especially Lt Walt Lazear, P/C G. Jay Nelson and all who contributed articles to the oT&T. Well done!

Manette Lazear, AP received a Lifetime Member Award and special recognition for 25 years of service to USPS at the conference. I accepted the award on her behalf and will present it to her at a general membership meeting. Congratulations Manette!

.... *Continued on Page 4*

.... Continued from Page 3

One key initiative that was launched at the D5 Spring Conference is the District's "Five UP" Marketing and Membership Plan. This is a concerted effort by the District and all squadrons within the District to establish, publish and conduct a membership development program. We are partnering with Rockville, Potomac, and Mid-Potomac squadrons to foster a regional initiative. Please let me know if you would like to participate in this initiative. There will be a planning meeting this spring with a small group from each squadron participating.

Now that spring is apparently here to stay, it's time to do your spring commissioning and get back on the water. I hope all goes well with your commissioning projects. I probably won't get on the Bay until after Memorial Day. Windspiration is still in Ft. Lauderdale and will be returning in mid-May. A licensed skipper will be bringing her back. I can't wait to see her and sail her once again!

Contact Cdr Rich Unis at 703-777-8378 or at skipperunis@gmail.com.

**Lt/C Rich Unis JN**  
NVSPS Executive Officer  
Skipperunis@gmail.com

Fair winds and following seas



## ***Education Officer***

Lt/C Ed Phillips, AP

One of the main goals of the United States Power Squadrons is "boating safety through education"—we believe that an educated boater is a safer boater. USPS provides many skill building opportunities to the general public through a variety of courses, seminars, and marine-related guides. NVSPS is very active in providing instructors who are certified regarding their ability to teach and to use of modern instructional techniques. All classes are fun and informative, and bring you into contact with other boaters.

USPS University has a series of programs targeted to a range of boaters and types of boating. The hallmark of this concept is the Seminar Series. These short seminars are targeted to specific topics and needs, and include valuable take-away guides. Each seminar provides credits toward the Boat Operator Certification program, and credit toward elective courses. The USPS Guides are generally short booklets that provide useful information on a variety of marine-related topics. They are available from United States Power Squadrons Headquarters by calling 1-888-FOR-USPS between 8:30AM and 4:00PM ET Monday through Friday, or on-line via the USPS Ship's Store.

Five Advanced Grade courses are offered by USPS. They are designed to be taken in sequence because each builds on skills taught in the previous course. Elective Courses in six area are offered by USPS. They cover separate and independent topics and therefore may be taken in any order according to a person's interests and time. I encourage you to explore what the USPS educational program can do for you by visiting the Education Department web page at: <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/main.htm>

**Lt/C Ed Phillips, AP**  
NVSPS Squadron Education Officer  
seo@nvspso.org



## ***Upcoming NVSPS Educational Courses***

### America's Boating Course

08 Apr 14 ABC-12

### NVSPS Course Schedule

04 Mar 14 Marine Electrical Systems  
20 Mar 14 Seamanship

### NVSPS Seminar Schedule \*

26 Apr 14 Basic Weather Forecasting  
26 Apr 14 Emergencies Onboard

\* Saturday classes

Contact **Ed Phillips** at **703 771-7096** to register for a class



## Secretary

Lt/C MaryJane Hinkins, P

Five years ago, Dave and I moved here to NOVA from Colorado. It was a huge cultural shock. Traffic, cost of living, environment, you name it. It is different here. One thing we knew we wanted was a boat. We looked for a year and a half first thinking we wanted a trawler then settled on a Cruiser. We had both sailed many years ago in the Caribbean and now had a small car top boat we used in Colorado, but nothing like a 30' Express Cruiser we were buying. We had looked and looked for some sort of club or organization to join to learn more about boating and finally found a class taught by the NVSP Squadron's, Rich Unis . It was a great class, and he a great teacher. Thank you Rich! Through him we learned about the USPS and NVSPS. We attended the next meeting and joined the same night. This has become like an extended family to us. You could not ask for a better extended family!

Like all families this one has its ups and downs, and like all families there are arguments, disagreements, humiliations, embarrassments as well as praises, fellowship, encouragement and friendship. We probably would have lost our sanity if it had not been for NVSPS and its membership. To name a few folks, Jay has given us sound advice regarding repairs to our boat, he has gotten out the newsletter and lead the squadron while still traveling and working full-time, Gail and Evelyn have gotten many speakers at the meeting that have given us many ideas and answered many of our questions, John Karjala. has provided many a sound argument and helpful advice both at meetings and away. Sue Karjala has been a relentless worker and organizer and has provided us with many a good meal, friendship and hospitality. Both John and Sue have given use guidance with the NVSPS. There has been Jean and Dick Durgin's artistry and knowledge, John Shrivik's help to cruise in good weather and kept us safe in bad weather, Cathy Sheffield has made sure even in the absence of an admin officer that our festivities and ceremonies have gone well! George and Ann have given their home to many a committee meeting, entertained us on a holiday, and provided guidance. George's commitment to safety, John's, Francis's, Ed's, Sean's and JJ's commitment to community involvement and education excellence. Richard Cohen's support of our hospitality suite and NVSPS ventures. Others stepped up to be a commander when needed or hold other offices or fill committees. It is great when new growth happens in the squadron as with Kim who has stepped up to fill our Admin Officer position and who is taking such wonderful pictures at our events. There are so many more folks to thank. I could go on and on.

But I digress, the point I am trying to make is NVSPS is like a family, most organizations are. Families do not always agree, they argue, they do not always get along, but they do respect one another even while disagreeing. They even say and do the wrong thing, and with all arguments come hurt feeling. Sometimes members are humiliated, but usually they bounce back stronger than ever. This is how an organization grows and changes. Without some discord, without some disagreements, families, organizations, and even country do not change and grow. Sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse, but they grow and usually become stronger. You just need to hang in there and find your place and continue to try and make things better. Thank everyone!



## Vessel Safety Checks

### Vessel Safety - Fire extinguishers:

**Question:** Is there an expiration date of service for a fire extinguisher?

**Answer:** Maybe! Read on - don't stop here! It appears some newer fire extinguishers have appeared that DO have an expiration date. Look for a statement on the side label for something to the effect "... must be removed from service 12 years after date of manufacture..." Date of manufacture is generally stamped on the bottom of the fire extinguisher. If there is NO label by manufacturer regarding removal of unit from service, then it is up to the user.

The obvious question then is how long does a fire extinguisher last? There is no firm guidance on that. Check the manufacturer's label. Check for obvious damage or deterioration of the extinguisher. If the needle is in the GREEN then it probably is OK. Personally, I would replace the fire extinguisher if the unit is 10 - 15 years old. If you have an automatic unit (Halon type) on board, have it professionally checked. This involves having a certified person inspect and weigh the unit. I had mine inspected by Scotty's in Alexandria (for less than \$15).

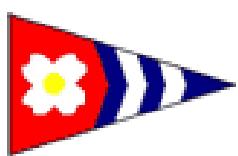
We would like for you to consider joining the Vessel Examiner team! Please give me a call:

George Nartsissov, Chair: 703-425-7044; ganh@verizon.net

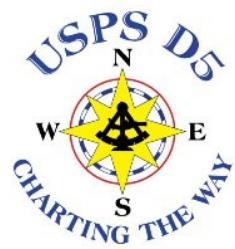
P/C George Nartsissov, AP, IN (IN stands for Inland Navigator)

Vessel Safety Check Chair

# *Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron*



## You are Invited! **NVSPS Picnic**



**Time: 1100; to 16:00 hrs.**  
**Date: Saturday, 17 May 2014**

## Fairfax Yacht Club

Reservation Deadline: 17 May 2014

**Location: 10721 Colchester Road, Mason Neck, VA 22079 - 703 339-8736**

Plenty of good food is expected. Free beer, wine, soda and a restocked Commander's Liquor Locker will be open

The picnic luncheon is combined with an abbreviated May General Membership Meeting  
Vessel Safety Checks will be available.

### Directions to the Fairfax Yacht Club

From the Beltway: Drive south on I95 from the Beltway and take the exit for Woodbridge via US Route 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 blind turn - sound 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 to the Fairfax Yacht Club. Follow this lane through the gate (it will be open) and park at any open space.

### Call/Email/or Send your Reservation form below to:

Kim Chu

703 280-4848

[Kimkwok.chu@gmail.com](mailto:Kimkwok.chu@gmail.com)

3000 Rose Arbor Court, Fairfax, VA 22031

Reservation Deadline: 17 May 2014

This party is only \$5.00 for each member and guest (payable at the door). Please bring your favorite ethnic, foreign or whatever special dish, appetizer or desert to share!

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

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I can help with setup \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I can help with cleanup \_\_\_\_\_

## NVSPS Events

### D5 Spring Conference



Once again this year NVSPS was a hit at the District 5 Spring Conference with our hospitality suite theme of "Don't Worry, Be APPy" - a presentation and display of the various boating software applications available in the marketplace today. Not only do these applications make boating safer for the beginning and experienced boater, they are fun to use and are very practical. Our thanks to Jean and Dick Durgin, Francis Williamson, Cathy Sheffield, MaryJane and Dave Hinkins, George Nartsissov, and all who participated in this event.

Above left, Dick and Jean Durgin stand in front of the hospitality suite. Above right, the NVSPS team takes a pool -side break. Pictures courtesy of Kim-Kwok Chu

### Change of Watch

On 22 March 2014 the NVSPS Change of Watch ceremony was conducted and we thanked the members of the 2012-2013 Bridge for their service and welcomed the 2013-2014 Bridge. The ceremony was conducted at the American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax, VA. Pictures courtesy of Kim-Kwok Chu.



Left: Cmdr. Davis presents an achievement award to P/C John Shivik; Center: Cmdr. Davis presents an achievement award to Ed Phillips; Right, Sea Scout Skipper Tom Ballew and Cmdr. Richard Davis

# Change of Watch



3/22/2014 - 11:18:16 AM

Sea Scouts: Left Michelle Reilly; Center Phillip Wong; Right Jeanine Reilly



3/22/2014 - 12:08:04 PM

Thanks and acknowledgement to the outgoing 2012-2013 Bridge



3/22/2014 - 14:30 PM

D5 LtC Ken Pergo swears in LtC Rich Unis as the new NVSPS Commander



3/22/2014 - 14:43 PM

NVSPS Commander Rich Unis receives his Commander's Flag from D5 LtC Pergo



3/22/2014 - 12:12:16 PM

Good food and conversation

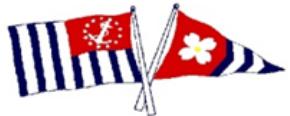


3/22/2014 - 15:43:55 PM

Past Commander's welcome Richard Davis to their ranks



## NVSPS 2014 Wounded Warrior Cruise



*Join us for an day on the Patuxent River  
and Chesapeake Bay*

**1000 to 1730 - 13 September 2014**

Patuxent Naval Air Station, West Basin Marina

In recognition of the service and sacrifice made by our wounded warriors, the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron extends an invitation to our sixth annual Wounded Warrior Cruise 2014 on Saturday 13 September 2014 from the Patuxent Naval Air Station West Basin Marina Lexington Park, Maryland.



Guests can choose to cruise on one of 10 sail or power boats from 27 to 45 feet. Each boat has an experienced captain and first mate to ensure the safety of our guests, and all vessels have passed US Coast Guard Vessel Safety Examinations.

The day will consist of a five hour boat ride on the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay. The captains will select their individual courses on the river and the bay based upon the interests of the guests. Guests and crews will be provided a box lunch consisting of assorted cold cut sandwiches (turkey, ham or vegetarian) on Kaiser Rolls, potato chips, whole fruit, brownie, and plenty of refreshments.



After the cruise we will host a barbecue at the West Basin Marina Pavilion picnic grounds. The barbecue includes hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken breasts in a barbecue sauce, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, assorted cookies and beverages.

Bus transportation arranged to and from the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) in Maryland and the Fort Belvoir Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) in Virginia to the West Basin Marina. Busses will leave the WRNMMC and WTU facilities in time to arrive at NAS West Basin Marina by 1000, and pick up guests for the return trip at 1730. Guests must be ambulatory. You are welcome to bring any friends and family members over ten years old.

*Come join us for a wonderful day  
on the water and picnic afterward.*

Please make donations to:

P/C Francis Williamson at:  
7710 Bertito Lane, Springfield, VA 22153  
301-775-5120 (M)      willyjhu@verizon.net