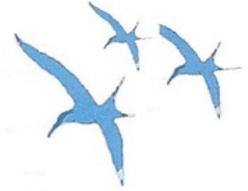




of TARS & TERNS



Volume XLIX Number 2

March/April 2016



Mark Your Calendar

NVSPS Meetings and Events

May 2016

- 11 General Membership Meeting**
1930—2100 BoatUS Headquarters
880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA
- 25 Executive Committee Meeting**
1930—2100 BoatUS Headquarters
880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA

June 2016

No General Membership Meeting

(The NVSPS Picnic on 18 Jun will substitute for the General Membership Meeting)

- 18 NVSPS Picnic**
1100—1600: Fairfax Yacht Club
10721 Old Colchester Road, Lorton, VA 22079
- 22 Executive Committee Meeting**
1930—2100 BoatUS Headquarters
880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA

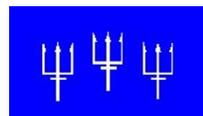
July 2016

- 13 General Membership Meeting**
1930—2100 BoatUS Headquarters
880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA
- 27 Executive Committee Meeting**
1930—2100 BoatUS Headquarters
880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA

A detailed Squadron calendar including all meetings and educational courses can be found on our web site www.nvpsps.org



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



Commander Sends...

CDR Frederick Zugay, JN

I have been a member of the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron for 14 years, and having served as the Lt Commander this past year and also the membership chair position for a number of years, I was planning on gaining some additional experience on the bridge before assuming the Commander's position. Sometimes events and opportunities don't go as planned but turn out for the best! I want you to know that I feel it is a privilege to now serve as your Squadron Commander.

After the election at the March general membership meeting, several past commanders came up to me and expressed their appreciation for stepping up to this position and they have offered their support, for which I am truly grateful.

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Did you Know?

- The total economic impact of the boating industry is \$121.5 billion dollars, supporting 650,014 jobs across 34,833 businesses—91% of which are small businesses.
- 95% of the boats sold in the US are American made
- There are 237,551 registered boats in Virginia ; 83% are power boats, 13% are PWCs, 2% are sailboats and 2% are all other types of boats.
- Boating in Virginia is currently a \$2.9 Billion dollar industry, supporting 15, 547 jobs across 756 businesses



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P/C Keith Segerson, P	703-542-8561
P/Lt/C Cathleen Sheffield, AP	703-370-4331
P/C Francis Williamson, AP	703-440-9074

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 Capital Beltway, take the VA-613/ Van Dorn St. exit 173, towards Franconia. Turn left onto South Van Dorn St / VA-613 North. Turn left onto S. Pickett St. Go less than .5 miles and turn at the BoatUS™ sign and go to the lighted parking lot in the rear. At entrance under awning, press buzzer to request entrance.

Interesting Facts about the Sea...

- Earth's largest continuous mountain chain is the Mid-Ocean Ridge, stretching for 40,000 miles, rising above the surface of the water in a few places, such as Iceland. It is four times longer than the Andes, Rocky Mountains, and Himalayas combined.
- Ninety percent of all volcanic activity occurs in the oceans. In 1993, scientists located the largest known concentration of active volcanoes on the sea floor in the South Pacific. This area, the size of New York State, hosts 1,133 volcanic cones and seamounts. Two or three could erupt at any moment.
- The highest tides in the world are at the Bay of Fundy, which separates New Brunswick from Nova Scotia. At some times of the year the difference between high and low tide is 53 feet 6 inches, the equivalent of a five-story building.
- In 1958, the United States Coast Guard icebreaker East Wind measured the world's tallest known iceberg off western Greenland. At 550 feet it was only 5 feet 6 inches shorter than the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C.
- The volume of the Earth's moon is the same as the volume of the Pacific Ocean.



Of Tars & Terns

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www.nvsp.org



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

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EDITOR

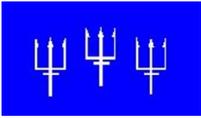
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Commander Sends...

CDR Frederick D. Zugay, JN

.... Continued from Page 1

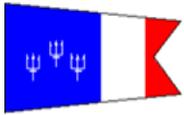
I am also fortunate to have an experienced and hardworking Bridge to support me and the squadron this coming year.

The year ahead will present some of the same challenges we and other squadrons have faced in the past. Such as increasing our membership, and filling the education classes our squadron offers. But, I am confident we are up to the challenge. Our Squadron is still one of the largest, if not the largest in our District. We have many faithful devoted members, and I believe we still have a lot to offer our members and the boating community.

Next Spring, the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron will celebrate a major milestone. Our 50th Change of Watch. What an accomplishment and legacy to look forward to and to celebrate. I enjoyed attending the 40th Change of Watch event and have pleasant memories of that evening.

CDR Frederick D. Zugay, JN

eaglebs271@cox.net



Past Commander

P/C Rich Unis, JN

This is my last article for the newsletter as your now Past Commander. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all who have supported me over the last two years. I especially want to thank the current Bridge and EXCOM members for their hard work in serving the Squadron. It has been a privilege to serve the Squadron and I look forward to serving in different capacities over the course of this next year.

As I depart the Bridge, I encourage each of you to get more involved with the Squadron. I guarantee that you will meet some awesome people who care about you, boating and the community. The more people who are actively involved, the more dynamic and enriched our programs will become for everyone. The Squadron offers something for everyone – support for the Sea Scouts, the finest boating education and training curriculum, wonderful Squadron events and tours to pique your interest, community service, camaraderie with other members and the list goes on and on. Tell your friends about the United States Power Squadrons, and about the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron in particular, and invite them to one of our fabulous functions.

Our next major function is the Change of Watch, which is scheduled for March 19, at noon, at the American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax, VA. Come welcome the new Bridge as they embark on the next journey for the Squadron.

The Squadron will be hosting a hospitality room at the District 5 Conference on Friday night, March 31, at the Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City, MD. You can call the hotel directly at 877-995-7875 to make hotel reservations. Tell the hotel you're with USPS District 5 for a discounted room rate. Plan to join us! This year's hospitality room theme will be flag etiquette and signaling. It promises to be a lot of fun.

Don't forget to send your oT&T articles to Jay Nelson. Articles are due by the 15th of the month for publication the following month. Please submit anything you think would be of interest to the Squadron. Jay does a wonderful job digging up fascinating facts and articles.

Come get involved in the Squadron and share your boating knowledge!

P/C Rich Unis JN

SkipperUnis@gmail.com

Guest Speaker

Ms. Catherine McCall with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources was our guest speaker at the February General Membership meeting. Ms. McCall gave a fascinating presentation about the 124 Liberty vessels abandoned at Mallows Bay in the upper Potomac River. The decaying vessels create a habitat for a wide variety of fish and birds, and is protected by the Mallows Bay National Marine Sanctuary program



Photo courtesy of Lt/C Kim-Kwok Chu, S



Education Officer

Lt/C Ed Phillips, AP

Like the boating season, the USPS seminar season has woken up from the winter hibernation. The NVSPS resumed presenting USPS seminars on March 19, 2016 with "Trailer Your Boat" taught by Norbert Hymel. We continued on with "Rules of the Road", "The Mariner's Compass" and Chart Reading. The NVSPS will continue to present USPS seminar on the 2nd and 4th Saturday's of the month with some exceptions to accommodate holiday weekends. The seminars are presented at the Alexandria West Marine Store at 601 South Patrick St, Alexandria, VA from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM. If you have an interest in teaching a seminar, please let me know. These are the scheduled USPS seminars through the end of 2016:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| • Paddling | May 21, 2016 | • Using GPS | June 11, 2016 |
| • Weather Forecasting | June 25, 2016 | • Fuel and Boating | July 9, 2016 |
| • VHF Radio and DSC | July 23, 2016 | • Emergencies on Board | August 13, 2016 |
| • Anchoring | August 27, 2016 | • Partner in Command | September 10, 2016 |
| • Sail Trim | September 24, 2016 | • Man Overboard | October 8, 2016 |
| • Marine Radar | October 22, 2016 | • Knots, Bends & Hitches | November 12, 2016 |

In cooperation with Sea Scout Ship 1942, the NVSPS taught a Seamanship class and a Piloting class on Saturday mornings which started on January 9th at St George's Episcopal Church in Arlington, VA. Each class was held for 4 hours from 9 AM to 1 PM for 5 consecutive weeks and concluded with the test.

As we do annually, the NVSPS had a booth at the National Capital Boat Show on March 11th through the 13th at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, VA. We hosted the USPS Boating Safety Virtual trainer (BSVT) for our visitors to use. As always, the BSVT generated a lot of interest. We talked to the public, explained our mission and advertised our seminars and classes.

I would like to schedule a Virginia Safe Boating Course and a USPS Piloting Course. Please pass the word around and let me know if anyone you know is interested in attending one of these classes.

Fair winds and Cool Breezes!

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

NVSPS Picnic

The NVSPS Spring Picnic will be held on 18 June 2016 from 1100 to 1600 at the Fairfax Yacht Club.

10721 Old Colchester Rd, Lorton, VA

There will be a pot luck luncheon with soft drinks, beer and wine and various activities.

Contact Lt/C Mary-Jane Hinkins at 703 436-7931 or secretary@msn.com to coordinate pot luck dishes.

Bring the Family—Join the fun



Secretary

Lt/C MaryJane Hinkins

Here it is April and we are nowhere near having the boat in the water. Life just got in the way of things, but we are doing well and hope we get it in soon! NVSPS is off to a great year! We have some exciting plans. The Spring picnic will be June 18 and we plan on having it at a park near or on the water. Planning has also started on the 50th anniversary of NVSPS. I hope all of you plan to come to Ocean City next year and help us celebrate this event! We hope to have guests of past members and a grand celebration. 2017's Change of Watch will be our 50th. Wow! We will have more events planned for this Summer's boating season so watch your email or visit our website.

By the way Decoy Duck came back to our dock for a brief visit. He stayed until the tornadoes hit suppose he need to hunker down somewhere and has not been seen since. I actually miss the little guy. I might have to go out and find my own Decoy Duck.

We boat a Loveseat Adirondack chair for the dock. We hope to see many a boat and sunset from it this year. We also hope to have a Day at the Creek2 later in the summer. Let me know if anyone is interested! We would love to have the event again!

Lt/C MaryJane Hinkins
NVSPS Secretary
mjhinkins@msn.com

What are "Associate Members"

Associate Memberships, including requirements thereof and privileges thereof, are determined by each local squadron and are not uniform throughout United States Power Squadrons. They are a way for members to associate with squadrons other than their own. Most often, associate members pay some annual dues, but not as much as Active Member dues, and receive the squadron's publications, including the newsletter and directory, if published. Squadrons that hold Navigation Contests or other competitions may require that all entrants be Active or Associate Members, or they may only require that the boat or team leader or captain be an Active or Associate Member. Generally, members of one squadron are welcome as guests at meetings or social events of all squadrons.

A member of any squadron may take any course offered by any squadron. Members who initially join one squadron but then transfer to a different squadron often choose to remain as Associate Members of the former squadron in order to stay in contact with their friends. If you are interested in becoming an Associate Member of any squadron, check with THAT squadron about its requirements. Most, if not all, squadrons welcome Associate Members.

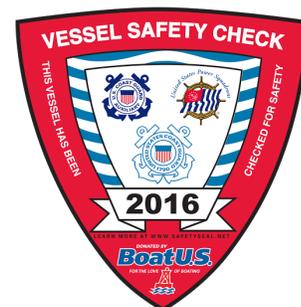
P/C Alan R. Hart, AP
Member at Large
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Vessel Safety Checks

The mission of the Vessel Safety Check program is to minimize the loss of life, personal injury, property damage and environmental impact while maximizing the safe use and enjoyment of U.S. waterways by recreational boaters. The Vessel Safety Check process is one of "prevention through education, outreach and volunteer compliance" helping recreational boaters to gain a respect for the boating environment.

Our members have joined with the USCG in offering courtesy Vessel Safety Checks at local marinas. Boat owners whose boats pass the complementary examination will be awarded a special decal to display on their boat.

NVSPS members interested in becoming a Vessel Safety Examiner can find more information about the program and sample examiner tests on the USPS.org website, or contact Rich Unis at SkipperUnis@gmail.com



Little Chance of Renewable Fuel Standard Bills Passing

The boating industry's collective opposition to HR bills 703 and 704, known respectively as the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Elimination Act and the RFS Reform Act of 2015, has been successful. While the issue is still very much alive for the automotive environment, for marine use both of these bills now have very little support in the House of Representatives (1% according to GovTrack.us).

These bills proposed introducing E15 gasoline, that is gasoline blended with 15% ethanol, into marine fuels. The House was influenced by the conclusion of the US Coast Guard's Survey of Published Data on Blended Fuels in Marine Applications which stated; "Although much information has been published regarding "ethanol in marine applications," only a few studies with and scientific rigidity have been conducted to date. The four studies have mixed results, but raise concerns regarding the use of ethanol in marine engines leading to the conclusion that more testing is necessary. Because test were performed on new engines, they did not resolve the concerns regarding the legacy fleet of older boats."

However, boat and engine manufacturer's caution that many trailer able boats and portable marine engines obtain their fuel from local gas stations who will likely be dispensing E15 gasoline. While there is still a lot of discussion as to multiple blended fuel grades being available at local gas stations, the cost is likely going to create a situation where gas stations will provide only E15 fuels. Virtually all boat and marine engine manufacturers strongly advise against the use of E15 blended fuels in their products.

Change of Watch

On 19 March 2016 the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron conducted its 49th Change of Watch. We thanked Commander Rich Unis for his stewardship of the 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 Bridges, and welcomed Fred Zugay as the Commander of the 2015/2016 Bridge.



Photos courtesy of Lt/C Kim-Kwok Chu, S

Clean up of Possum Point, Virginia

Claire Wyngaard, a NVSPS member, recently brought to our attention an issue with pollution of the Quantico Creek and Potomac River resulting from coal ash disposal into adjacent holding ponds that occurred at Dominion Virginia Power's Possum Point power plant from 1955 to 2003.

According to the Potomac Riverkeeper and the Southern Environmental Law Center websites, five coal ash ponds at the Possum Point power plant have been illegally leaking toxic pollutants for decades into groundwater and two popular waterways near Possum Point, Virginia power plant located just north of Quantico, VA on a peninsula between Quantico Creek and the Potomac River. This plant used coal to generate electricity until 2003 when it switched to natural gas.

Coal ash is the byproduct of burning coal from coal-fired power plants and comes in the form of fly ash, bottom ash, boiler slag and flue gas desulfurization material. It contains concentrated amounts of heavy metals such as lead, mercury, chromium, arsenic and selenium, all of which have devastating impacts to the environment and human health. The coal ash was disposed of at the site in five "ponds" that hold over a billion gallons of toxic coal ash and contaminated water. These ponds are still being used to store millions of tons of toxic slurry.

Coal ash contains a range of metals that are toxic at high levels, including lead, arsenic, chromium, selenium and vanadium, and is typically stored in unlined pits at coal plants, often built where wetlands once were, or constructed on hillsides with large earthen and rock berms to contain the ash and storm water that combines to create coal ash "ponds." Subsequently, this slurry can leach out of the ponds and pollute nearby groundwater and waterways. This can be expedited from severe rainstorm events. In 2014, Potomac Riverkeeper Network discovered that all five ponds at Possum Point were seeping directly into the Creek or leaching coal ash waste into local groundwater around the facility, resulting in contamination of the groundwater and illegal surface water discharges from the site.

Following this discovery, on June 22 2015, Potomac Riverkeeper filed a complaint to EPA Criminal Investigation Division describing potential discharging or dewatering waste water from Dominion's coal ash pond E at Possum Point into an unnamed tributary (known as the Beaver Pond) of Quantico Creek.

Two active coal ash ponds occupying 92 acres at Possum Point have been polluting both groundwater and the nearby waterways in violation of the Clean Water Act for at least a decade. Dominion's groundwater monitoring data show heavy metals levels up to 127 times state standards. Although both Dominion and DEQ have known about the ongoing coal ash pollution at these two ponds, neither has made any attempt to stop the contamination.

If you would like to get involved in this issue I would recommend visiting the Potomac Riverkeeper website at <http://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org> and the Potomac River Bald Eagles website at <http://potomacriverbaldeagles.com/quantico-creek/#Help>

G. Jay Nelson

Odds of Being Struck by Lightning

Lightning is serious business. It is the discharge of electrical energy that naturally builds in the Earth's atmosphere. It can travel many miles from its origin, conduct over a million volts of electricity, and heats the air it is traveling through to 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. It poses a serious threat to mariners. A direct lightning strike on a pleasure boat can significantly damage or destroy the vessel, destroy onboard electronics and potentially electrocute the crew and passengers. The NOAA website has a lot of very information about lightning, to include lightning safety information.

So what are the odds? It seems that every time some fortunate soul wins the Powerball lottery there is the inevitable comparison of the odds of winning the lottery to being struck by lightning. These odds pundits usually quote the chances of being hit by lightning as one in a million. Actually, depending on where you live and boat, the chances of being struck by lightning in your lifetime is more in the neighborhood of 1 in 15,000. These odds vary depending on factors such as the amount of time you spend on the water and where you boat. On average, the Chesapeake Bay and surrounding areas have relatively fewer than average lightning strikes, where the southeast coastal and gulf States have significantly higher lightning strikes. Florida has by far the most.

The fact is 64% of lightning fatalities occur during outdoor leisure activities, and 36% of lightning fatalities are on the water. When thunder is present, the prudent mariner finds shelter or takes cover.

G. Jay Nelson



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