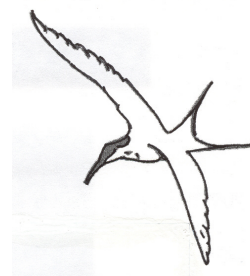




# of TARS & TERNS



## BRIDGE OFFICERS



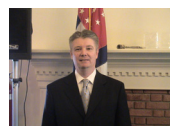
**COMMANDER**

Cdr George K. Degnon, P



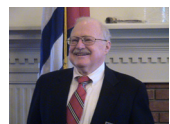
**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Lt/C Ronald H. Larson, P



**EDUCATION OFFICER**

Lt/C Richard E. Unis, JN



**ADMINISTRATION OFFICER**

Lt/C John G. Karjala, P



**SECRETARY**

Lt/C George Nartsissov, P



**TREASURER**

Lt/C Steven Hall,



Northern Virginia  
Sail and Power Squadron  
District 5



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[www.usps.org/localusps/nva/](http://www.usps.org/localusps/nva/)  
[www.usps.org/localusps/d5/](http://www.usps.org/localusps/d5/)

## Calendar of NVSPS Meetings and Events

### July

- 4 **Independence Day**
- 9 EXCOM Meeting
- 9 General Membership Meeting
- 14-16 Squadron Cruise
- 19 – 24 NVSPS Cruise
- 11 – 16 **District 5 Cruise(s)**
- 17 – 30 **District 5 Summer Rendezvous**

### August

- 10 *Inputs due to oT&T*
- No Scheduled Events

### September

- 1 **Labor Day**
- 2 – 7 **USPS Fall Conference**
- 10 General Membership Meeting
- 15 *Inputs due to oT&T*
- 24 EXCOM Meeting



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Lt Francis Williamson, AP 703-440-9074  
P/C Gale Alls, SN 703-569-1511  
P/C John Shivik, AP 703-273-3351  
P/LtC Cathleen Sheffield, AP 703-370-4331  
P/C Richard J. Durgin,

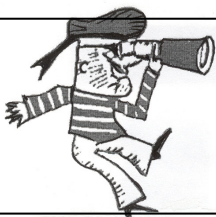
**Scheduled Meetings**

Unless otherwise noted, the General Membership Meetings will be held at the BoatUS\* Headquarters facility at 1930. 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 your vessel checked? Or want to become an examiner yourself?**



**of TARS & TERNS**  
Official Publication of  
**Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron**  
<http://www.usps.org/localusps/nva/>



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

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**Volume XLIII, No. 5; June, 2008**

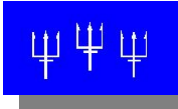
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## *Commander Sends . . .*

I hope you are enjoying this joyous boating season! Some folks may be discouraged by the price of fuel, and if so just think of changing your boating habits and come on out to our monthly meetings where you will find camaraderie, insights, new friends and new knowledge. We had a wonderful talk on underwater fiberoptic cables by one of our members, Nicholas Koopaethes, at our June membership meeting and I want to alert all members that the talk on “radar” planned for July 9 is going to be fantastic. See details inside. I suggest, if you have not yet been to a membership meeting this year, that you get Wednesday July 9 on your calendar for our meeting at BoatUS and plan to attend.

Membership dues notices have been circulated and by now everyone should have sent in payment. Special thanks if you have already mailed your check and if not please do so tonight once you finish reading this newsletter. Think of dues and attending our membership meetings as your investment in your boating life!

We are the “home of the free and the brave” and all will agree that the latter are the men and women in our Armed Services. On Friday August 1 we are inviting NVSPS members to open up your hearts and your boats to say a small ‘thank you’ to those who have been injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. We will be hosting the soldiers who are patients at Walter Reed and their family members to a **Day on the Water** with us on our boats, cruising the Potomac or the Chesapeake or any of the other wonderful waterways where we keep our boats. We may want to prepare lunches when we drop the hook in our favorite cove, do a little fishing, sail for a few hours or troll on over to one of our favorite stops for lunch. If you are interested in hosting a few soldiers to a ride for the day, we will have further details available at a “captain’s meeting” to be called later in July. If you are interested in participating, do send an email to [boater@degnon.org](mailto:boater@degnon.org) by July 9 or sign up at the meeting that evening so you can be notified of details. Please indicate the type (sail or power), the size of your boat, the number of guests you can comfortably accommodate (all participants will be ambulatory and capable of climbing aboard and walking), where you are docked, and if you will provide lunch. Please note that Walter Reed has a strict policy, to protect the soldiers who are patients under medical care for a wide variety of conditions, that no alcoholic beverages may be offered or served. That is a condition for participation with Walter Reed and for one day we all enjoy iced tea, lemonade, soft drinks and good old aqua. Hope to hear from you so we can offer rides to as many of our brave soldiers as we can.

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### **Notice:**

The NVSPS Rules Committee has been working on a major revision to our bylaws and the Executive Committee has received the report of the committee from Paula Bailey, Chairman and Past Commander. The ExCom will be reviewing and finalizing changes at its July meeting so the new document can be forwarded to National for approval before being sent to the membership for a vote this fall.





## Executive Officer Ron Larson

The committees that fall within the Executive Office are functioning in a summer mode, but everyone is performing their activities.

The Vessel Exam group chaired by Lt. John von Senden, P just completed a VE Day at West Marine in Alexandria on Saturday June 7. Business was a little slow probably due to the hot weather, but people came by and picked up pamphlets and a Vessel Exam was completed during the day.

More VE events are in the planning stage for this summer. These VE events will be supported by our PRO and NVSPS Vessel Examiners.

We will be offering a VE class later in the season for anyone who desires to obtain the latest info in boating safety and would like to help the Squadron perform the important function of Vessel Safety Examinations.

Let John von Senden, myself or any bridge officer know if you have a desire to participate in the VE or any other program, there is something for everyone to help NVSPS perform its mission.

More as events progress.

Happy boating,

Lt/C Ron Larson, P  
NVSPS XO



## Administrative Officer J. Karbala

**Annual Spring Picnic.** The Squadron annual picnic was held at the Fairfax Yacht Club on Saturday 17 May 08. Bar-B-Que pork and chicken were the entrees. Sodas, water, beer, and wine were available. It's was free to the attendees. Compliments were received from the Fairfax Yacht Club Commodore regarding assisting turn-out for their Clean –up day and the Squadron's Vessel Safety Checks.

**May 24 and 25 Memorial Day Rendezvous.** The Squadron had three boats gather at Mear's Yacht Marina in Oxford, Maryland, for the Memorial Day week-end, May 24-26. Slips were arranged and festivities included a party hosted by Mr. Steve Shupack on his 52' luxury Sea Ray. A convivial group enjoyed the excellent food, spirits and camaraderie. I also wish to thank Lt/C George Nartsissov who took the time drive to Oxford and stay overnight for the activities as well as all members and guests in attendance.

**Plan now for the Christmas Party and Change of Watch.** We have confirmed the large room at the American Legion Post #177 in Fairfax city for both events. Deposits have been paid for both as well. The Christmas Party will be 13 December 08 and the Change of Watch will be 14 March 09. I anticipate we will have the same DJ's as last year. Members and guests welcome. Further details regarding price and menu will follow.

**July D5 Rendezvous.** We are looking for parties who will attend the July rendezvous with D5 in Baltimore 17-20 July 08. Please contact Lt/C. John G. Karjala (703) 818-8676 or any other bridge member for forms and information. In the alternative, go to the D5 website for information [www.uspsd5.org/](http://www.uspsd5.org/).

**Boat with Soldiers from Walter Reed Army Medical Center.** Plans are underway for Squadron members to take wounded warriors from Walter Reed out onto the bay on 1 August 08, with 2 August 08 the scheduled rain day. Contact Commander George Degnon if you will give wounded soldiers a ride on your boat. He will provide details regarding transportation, pick-up and drop-off rendezvous points.

Lt/C J. Karbala, P  
NVSPS AO



# CHALK TALK

Education Officer  
Rick Unis

I hope you've had an opportunity to get on the water and put into practice all of the knowledge you've gained from your boater education courses. I just returned from a wonderful three-day sailboat charter in the bay with my three daughters and a sailing friend. We sailed from Annapolis to Baltimore and stayed at the Inner Harbor East Marina – superb marina! On the way back to Annapolis, we sailed up the Magothy River through Sillery Bay and into a cove on the back side of Gibson Island where we successfully and uneventfully anchored for lunch. While we were grilling some burgers and dogs off the stern, I couldn't help but notice a couple on another sailboat that slipped in nearby and went about their anchoring maneuvers. Needless to say, it was entertaining and amusing, especially the yelling and carrying on between the two of them. It became evident to me that they need to attend the new USPS Anchoring seminar. I am planning to add this seminar to our course schedule during winter or early spring so you too can attend and learn how to anchor properly and with calm demeanor. That should be a fun and exciting seminar! Look for a future course announcement.

Congratulations to the following members who recently passed their exam for JN:

Sean Gallagher, Edward Jones, John Margosian, Edward & Linda Majca, Jerry O'Connor and John VonSenden.

Here is the current schedule for courses starting in the fall. Remember to sign up for Navigation and Marine Electronics by 1 August so I can order the materials.

Course: NAVIGATION (N)

(~25 sessions – Tue 7 Oct 2008 – 31 Mar 2009, 1900-2100)

**Description:** Learn celestial navigation and piloting techniques for offshore navigation anywhere in the world using the moon, planets and stars. This course builds on the sun-sight technique learned in the new Junior Navigation (JN) course, which is a prerequisite.

**Cost** is \$125; family members and significant others may share books for a discount.

**Location:** TBD

**Instructor:** Seminar style – each participant teaches at least one chapter

**Class Leaders:** SEO Rich Unis, JN and Rick Baker, JN

**Register by:** 1 Aug 2008

Contact: SEO Rich Unis at: runis\_320@yahoo.com

Course: MARINE ELECTRONICS (ME 101, 102 & 103)

(~18 sessions – Thu, 11 Sep 2008 – 29 Jan 2009, 1900-2100)

**Description:** Learn essential knowledge about a boat's electrical and electronic systems including; grounding, corrosion and electrolysis control, batteries and their maintenance, depth finders, marine radiotelephones, radar, LORAN, GPS and other electronic position systems.

**Cost** is TBD (may be completely new materials)

**Location:** TBD, Fairfax

**Instructor:** Seminar style – each participant teaches at least one chapter

**Class Leaders:** Dwight Bues, AP

**Register by:** 1 Aug 2008

Contact: SEO Rich Unis at: runis\_320@yahoo.com

Course: HOW TO USE A CHART SEMINAR (1 session – Open to the Public)

**Description:** Learn to use marine navigation charts in detail. New Seminar! Cost is \$35; family members and significant others may share the materials for a discount.

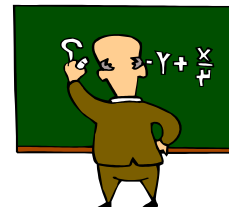
**Date:** 28 Oct 2008 (Tues) **Time:** 7:00 – 9:30 PM

**Location:** GMU Offices, Fairfax, Virginia

**Instructor:** SEO Rich Unis, JN and Bob Cox, JN

**Register by:** 15 Sep 2008

Contact: SEO Rich Unis at: runis\_320@yahoo.com







# NVSPS Photo Album - 2008



# Dock Talk



## **Major National ByLaws Changes 2006 – 2008 (update 5.30.08)**

The dues structure was changed to permit corporate membership in USPS. In addition, Sections 5.3 and 5.4 as well as companion sections were changed essentially replacing the duties of the National Operating Committee with a Board of Directors. The new board of directors is composed of of the National Bridge and the most recent Past Chief Commander. They are authorized to make and execute contracts and make expenditures, adopt an annual budget and authorize changes in budget accounts within limits. They may not 1) change the composition of the Governing Board, the Board of Directors or The operating Committee, 2) amend the USPS bylaws. For more detail see Section 5.3 of the bylaws.

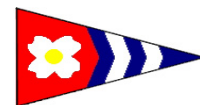
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## **Lasting Friendships through Boating**

Have you ever taken a moment to think of all the benefits you get from NVSPS/USPS membership? The other evening I ask a half dozen members what they liked most about their membership and I got a variety of answers; the squadron cruises, boating safety information, great talks on interesting topics at meetings, less expensive boat insurance, the opportunity to teach the basic boating classes, the Squadron parties, the terrific people, a chance to participate in some fun activities, vessel safety checks, I like to read the magazines and the newsletters, the advanced classes, and a few other comments. Now for those counting, each person shared a few comments so this is more than six replies and some could have gone on all evening! **Friendships** was the most frequently cited comment and the other evening several of us got together to say farewell to Peter and Judy Soballe who are relocating to San Diego. Pete had served as our oT&T Editor for many years, Judy was our Ship Store Manager for several years and they were always on our cruises, at our meetings, and serving on committees and helping with projects. They learned and lived the full benefit of membership and parting was sweet sorrow. We all had a fun time and over the years we will all be seeing each other again either in San Diego or the greater Washington area. We will miss them for they were the ideal members and may fair winds and following seas accompany them to San Diego.

George K Degnon, Commander

## ***SHIP's STORE***



**Need a new burgee for your boat? How about a tote bag or sports shirt?**

**Contact: Robie Shivik**



### All Hands - Beat to Colors....

Oh how sweet it is....Ship 1942 Regatta Champions for 2008

Our "Sweat 16" member crew from Ship 1942 took overall First Place in the 43rd Nygard Regatta Sea Scout Championships this year held over the Memorial Weekend [Jessica Stevens, Cynthia Scheuermann, Isabel Anderson, Andrew Scheuermann, Megan Hebda, Katie Menoche, Steven Truelove, Brianne McGovern, Torsten Peterson, Analise Peterson, Lindsey Belian, Brian Coffin, Emily Downey, Allaire Durham, Phillip Garretson, Zachery Hebda]. This was a full TEAM effort but 3 of our youth leaders need to be singled out for their training and in preparing our crews for this fine performance this past weekend: Ship 1942 Boatswain Cynthia Scheuermann; Regatta Boatswain Jessica Stevens; Ship Yeoman Katie Menoche

These 3 girls led the way and all have shown very competitive spirits. Cynthia, Katie, and Jessica spent the extra hours "teaching," "training" and literally "polishing" our other members to a fine edge in preparation of these competitions. Your Skipper salutes each of you in your "above and beyond" efforts shown necessary, in order to bring home the "GOLD" this year.

Skipper wants to also thank our Quartermasters and Eagle Scouts that played a huge part of this Regatta victory [college students QM Isabel Anderson and QM Andrew Scheuermann and our Eagle Scouts Torsten Peterson, Steven Truelove, Phillip Garretson and QM Megan Hebda]. Our program is NOT any different. Sea Scouting is NOT about making Eagles and Quartermasters, we're building citizens for the generation that is getting ready to take the reigns of responsibility and hopefully we have taught them "service beyond self". Skipper's hat is off to you fine examples for being there for our younger Sea Scouts and caring enough to show them the way.

Ship 1942 took first place in the following 7 Regatta events in order to come in First Place overall:

1. Marine Radio Communications
2. Mariner's Quiz (all hands effort)
3. Uniform Inspection (all hands effort)
4. Navigation Problem (led by our collage age Sea Scouts Andrew Scheuermann & Isabel Anderson)
5. Pulling Boat (Coxswain Katie Menoche)
6. Drill (Captained by Brianne McGovern)
7. Powder Monkey Race

This Regatta was not a run away. Ship 1942 trailed Ship 1009 by 14 points after the first day of competitions. Normally our strongest events are competed on Sunday and this was true this past weekend. Ship 1942 regained all the points it needed to "tie" Ship 1009 by the end of Sunday for the events listed on the "big totals board". Results of 2 events are always withheld and not announced until at the Monday final closing Ceremony (First Aid Quiz & Mariner's Quiz).

For the 5th year in a row Ship 1942 took first place in the "Mariner's Quiz" putting us over the TOP. The reason why the "Mariner's Quiz" is so important is this event averages the score of all the attending Ship members and it is used as the final "tie breaker" for all other events. We had 3 ties this year so the "Mariner's Quiz" results once again gave us the boost we needed. Give me a "smart Sea Scout" any day over a "strong Sea Scout."

I was very pleased overall on all our youth's performances and their sportsmanship displayed. Yes, we had our share of disappointments too but for the most part, they fought through them.

Don't Give Up the Ship,  
Skipper Ballew



# July Membership Meeting:

## Seminar topic: IS RADAR FOR YOU?

Considering installing radar on your pleasure boat but your only knowledge comes from watching WW2 movies? You say you don't know what it will do for you? You think radar is useful only for avoiding collisions with big ships at night? Ponder no more. This informative 45-minute presentation by a retired engineer and sailor shows you what radar will, and will not, do for you. Illustrated with photographs taken by the presenter while cruising the Chesapeake Bay and radar display diagrams, this presentation shows you how radar can improve your situational awareness, navigation, and piloting, as well as assisting in collision avoidance.

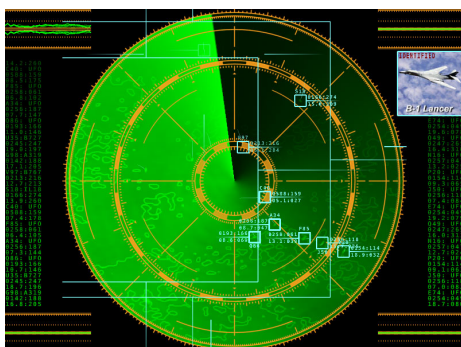
### ABOUT OUR PRESENTER

Captain Philip G. Gallman, PhD received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering and a PhD in Engineering and Applied Science, all from Yale University. His doctoral research area was mathematical modeling of complex systems. After graduating, he joined the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park, where he taught graduate and undergraduate engineering courses for six years and continued his research on mathematical system modeling. He left the academic world for a nearly thirty year career as a defense contractor working on signals intelligence collection and analysis systems, specializing in radar and communications.

A native of Washington, D.C., Phil lives in Northern Virginia with his photographer-wife Minnie. An avid cruising sailor, he has been sailing for over twenty years and a boat owner for over thirteen. He currently sails his 42-foot sloop-rigged Dolly G extensively on the Chesapeake Bay. He and his wife have chartered numerous times in the Caribbean and Mediterranean. Capt. Phil holds a USCG 50 ton Master's certificate with sail endorsement.

Shortly after purchasing his first sailboat, Phil became concerned about how difficult it is to detect a small boat with radar and started looking for a radar reflector to improve his vessel's radar signature. From his lifetime analyzing radar systems he became convinced that the ads and existing literature describing radar reflectors was dangerously lacking and often simply wrong. He set out to analyze and understand how radar reflectors operate in the marine environment, eventually publishing the authoritative book on radar reflectors and marine radar, "Radar Reflectors for Cruising Sailboats: Why they work, How to evaluate them, What the limitations are" and establishing a web site ([www.TheRadarReflectorSite.Org](http://www.TheRadarReflectorSite.Org)) devoted to radar reflectors and related technology.

He recently retired to devote more time to sailing and to lecturing and writing about radar and electronics on sailboats.



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**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.



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**America's Boating Club**