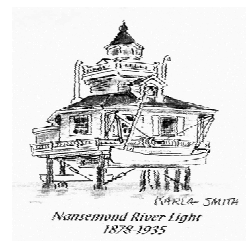


THE NANSEMOND LIGHT

Nansemond River Power Squadron

WWW.NRPOWERSQUADRON.COM

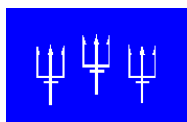


March 2011 - Vol 17, No.13

Commander's Corner



Cdr Robert Eure, AP



Thank you: You may not know that the Squadron Commander is supposed to write something inspiring for each newsletter. I have been and continue to be inspired by the members of the NRPS working together to build and maintain our squadron. So, I'm taking this opportunity to **thank each and every one of you for your contributions.** The next two paragraphs serve to demonstrate exactly what I'm talking about.

Accomplishments: Looking back over the year, we accomplished a great deal of initiatives. Flares for Life, Clean the Bay Day, 170 VSC's, several classes including both Virginia state and USPS public safe boating, Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting, and Navigation We welcomed several new members and certified new instructors. We reached out to the public and up through the USPS organization with our stellar media forums, our web site and newsletter. As P/C Donnie Weaver, AP has said in the past, we put NRPS "on the map!"

Awards: The NRPS continues to be an award winning squadron. Completing 170 vessel safety checks in 2010 places us on National's VSC Honor Roll. In addition, we were one of only six of D/5's 36 squadrons to have a positive gain in membership over the past year. We anticipate receiving recognition for our accomplishments at the upcoming D/5 Spring Conference. While unconfirmed, I expect there will be other NRPS recognitions as well. As demonstrated by our squadron members' 30 merit marks, it has been an outstanding year for the Nansemond River Power Squadron. **You can take great pride in being a NRPS member!**

Change of Watch: The Change of Watch is coming up soon at **Cedar Point Country Club** on Saturday, 12 March. This annual grand affair is where our new Bridge Officers will set sail for the coming year upon being installed to their respective offices. The costs are \$32 per person. To keep your costs down, the squadron treasury

is being used to defray a small amount of the costs. There will be a cash bar and plenty of good food. This event takes the place of the regular second Tuesday general meeting for the month of March.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee met on Monday, 21 February for the final meeting of the current Bridge year. After a brief business meeting, a social time followed with the consumption of a special decorated cake reading "Thank you NRPS ExComm" provided by the Commander. Discussions included the cruise planning for the coming boating season. Thanks again to the Executive Committee for your hard work to support me and our squadron throughout the year.

D/5 Spring Conference: This is the event where new officers, committee chairs, and squadron members can receive training in how to conduct your new duties of office and become more educated in safe boating knowledge and upcoming activities. There is also a Friday night party, a business meeting, and a Saturday night banquet. Mark your calendars and make reservations to attend 25-27 March in Ocean City, MD. Details are available in your Mark 5 newsletter and from the D/5 web site at www.uspsd5.org.

New Membership Category: Students completing the public course can receive a free six-month membership. This allows time to get them involved in the squadron's activities so they will want to renew when their free membership expires. This will hopefully prove to be a great recruiting tool to obtain new squadron members.

BOAT SAFE and

Keep the  NRPS Magic Alive!

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Executive Officer's Report

Lt/C Mary Fisher, P



As we are at the countdown for the change of watch, this will be my last article as Executive Officer. My job for the year has been to write about activities in the community that everyone may be interested in attending. So over the course of the year I have looked online, in local magazines and the paper and tried to determine which events would interest everyone. So this month I thought I would just let everyone in on a few of the more "unique" events that happen every day in the Tidewater area.

On 5 March, 2 April and 7 May there is the Stargazing & Owl Hoot at False Cape State Park. This is where you get to be up close and personal with an owl at the park while the park ranger gives you lots of details about them. Then you move on to walk through the park while looking at the night sky checking for shooting stars. But please be careful as you walk the paths since you are looking up rather than forward.

On 12 March there is a "5K Walk/Run for the Orangutans" at Virginia Zoo. I don't think I need to say any more about what this one is.

Last but certainly not least is the Steel Away Horseshoe Tournament at Sleepy Hole Park on 2 April. This event is free to all visitors. You might want to get there early to reserve a front row spot.

It's amazing to see just what people are really planning and attending. As I have researched Norman and I have had a few laughs as I read out these events. So I keep looking and find a few gems in the lot and amazingly enough I find something worth talking about. And for March I have found two that you may want to set time aside for.

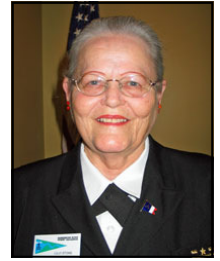
11-13 March is the Virginia RV & Boat Show. This is being held at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. This is the first time the RV and Boat Show have been held together so for those of you also interested in RV'ing it this is great. Me?? Not so much. We lived in an RV for 6 months through one of the coldest winters in Virginia. Used lots of propane to keep warm, blew lots of circuits and bartered for the best times for hot showers so I am pretty much over the "fun" of it. Always fun to look but won't be taking any camping trips anytime soon. The show times are Friday 1200-2000, Saturday 1000-2000 and Sunday 1100-1700. Price is \$10 at the door.

Now this next event is not really an "outdoors" or boating event but thought you might be interested anyway. James Taylor is coming to Chrysler Hall on 29 March. The show is a bit pricey but, hey, to hear good music sometimes you have to pay. The tickets run from \$78.30 to \$99.25 and the show starts at 2000.

See you at the Change of Watch!

Educational Officer's Report

Lt/C Lilly Stone, JN



CONGRATULATIONS to Art Aikin for finishing the NAVIGATION Course. THANKS to Tom Chapman, SN for servings as our Navigation Instructor.

CONGRATULATIONS to the ADVANCED PILOTING class, and THANKS to Fletcher Beadles, AP our Instructor.

WOW - Mary Fisher, Mike Michaels & Frank Brown. All passed, with the lowest grade being 97 – so – a big THANK YOU to Fletcher Beadles!

CLASS SCHEDULE FOR 2011:

ABC-SAFE BOATING CLASS:

MAR/APR Cost: \$30.00

Instructors: Frank Brown, AP & others

KNOTS, BENDS & HITCHES

SEMINAR approx. Cost: \$25.00 for Kit
Or Book approx. \$15.00

Instructor: Wilton Bradshaw, AP

Late Mar. or April

INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT

Instructors: Frank Brown, AP, Lilly Stone, JN
PBC, 20 Elm Ave, Portsmouth

Mondays . Cost: \$25.00

INSTRUCTOR RE-CERTIFICATION

Instructor: Lilly Stone, JN

NO COST. Scheduled when needed
(2hours)

SAILING

Instructor: Lilly Stone, JN

PBC, 20 Elm Ave, Portsmouth

Cost: 45.00

Mondays –April 2011

WEATHER

Instructor: Art Aikin, N

Fall 2011 Cost apx. \$60.00

SEO Lilly T. Stone, JN

Lilly.stone@gte.net or 399-0051 or 335-2558

"The lovely thing about cruising is that planning usually turns out to be of little use."

- Dom Degnon

Get Your Boat Ready for Spring

By BoatInsurance.org Staff, www.boatinsurance.org

Many boat owners spend hours or days getting their boat ready for winter, but when the spring thaw comes they're so anxious to get out on the lake that they fail to do some de-winterizing. There are several areas you need to spend some time on if you're going to get your boat in seaworthy condition for the summer boating season.

Cleaning

You need to start with some general cleaning. You want to clean the hull, the deck and the topsides. Use a mild detergent, and follow it up with a good coat of wax. Check to see that your scuppers and your drains are clear, too. You need to wipe down any metal with a metal polishing product, and you need to clean your teak and oil it. Make sure to clean the interior of the boat, as well, including your bilges.

Hull Inspection

After a thorough cleaning, spend some time on your hull. Look for scratches or other damage and make minor repairs as needed. If there are blisters, refinish them. Inspect your swim platform or ladder, too. Look at your rudder and your fittings, to make sure they're in working order. Inspect your trim tabs and test them. Replace your zincs, if necessary. Look at the cutlass bearing, shaft, strut and the prop.



Deck Inspection

Next, spend some time looking at the deck. Make sure your lifelines, pulpits and stanchions are all good. Check for leaks around your windows, on your deck and on your port lights. Make sure your winches are cleaned and greased, and clean your ground tackle too. Make sure your life raft and dinghy are in working order.

Other Areas

You'll want to spend some time below decks checking your hoses and clamps, your bilges pumps and your seacocks. You'll need to thoroughly inspect your electrical system. You'll want to make sure that all of your ancillary equipment, such as PFDs and sound signaling device are in working order. You should spend some time doing engine maintenance, checking your head system &

Administrative Officer's Report

Lt/C Mark Presson



Be sure to mark your calendar for the squadron's Change of Watch scheduled on 12 March. This annual event that ushers in our new officers and celebrates a successful season will be held at Cedar Point Country Club in Suffolk.



The social hour will begin at 1800 and dinner at 1900. The evening's menu includes an extended salad bar, prime rib, baked salmon, roasted red potatoes, southern green beans, and apple cobbler with vanilla ice cream. Dinner will be \$32 per person and guests are welcome to attend. A cash bar will also be available. If you have not reserved your seat for the Change of Watch, please contact me at markapd@hotmail.com by Friday, March 4.

Our next general meeting is on 12 April. The meeting will be at Plaza Azteca with the social hour starting at 1830 and the meeting at 1900.

water system, and even looking at your trailer.

Paperwork

You want to make sure that your boat registration is current and that it's onboard. The same holds for your boating license. You also need to make sure that your boat insurance policy is up to date and that everything is covered the way you want it to be. Don't wait for an accident to find out that your investment is sunk because your boat insurance lapsed or because you thought you had more coverage than what you actually have.

"The sea is the same as it has been since before men ever went on it in boats."

- Ernest Hemingway

"There is nothing more enticing, disenchanting, and enslaving than the life at sea."

- Joseph Conrad

District 5 Spring Conference in Ocean City, Maryland!

The District 5 Spring Conference is a wonderful opportunity to meet and mingle with Power Squadron members from throughout our district! If you've never been to one, this would be a great time to start—Ocean City, Maryland is lovely in early spring and the event is being held at the newly renovated Princess Royale Hotel (see photo below!). You may also go to their website and check out the facility: www.easyviewmedia.com/princessroyale/



NRPS's 1st Lt Frank Brown, AP will be teaching an educational session on website development. Our (at that time!) newly elected Commander, Mary Fisher, AP and husband P/C Norman Fisher, AP will be in attendance as Mary learns the ropes. She also will be accepting a membership growth reward on behalf of the squadron. The culmination of the weekend will be the district change of watch on Saturday night. This year several new sessions are being presented, and attendees will also have the opportunity to learn what the District Bridge Departments are and what they can do for our district's squadrons.

So save the dates—25, 26, 27 March and register today—see the Mark 5, D/5 newsletter for further information and registration form!

National Safe Boating Week is coming up, 21-27 May, and we in the squadron know that it's time for those vessel safety checks...but a lot of boaters aren't even aware that their boats SHOULD be checked! So let's all get out there and help to make boating fun AND safe! Let everyone you know who owns a boat that's IT'S TIME—time to get their vehicles ready, set and going on the water!

NRPS Giving Back...

One of the most exciting events at the now defunct Mile Marker 0 Rendezvous was the Blind Dinghy Race, hosted for years by the Nansemond River Power Squadron.



At the helm of this event was Richard Pond, P who faithfully put the event together, lined up the volunteers and oversaw the fun time! But now there no long IS a Rendezvous, and NRPS made the decision to give...donating the 4 inflatable dinghies, the pumps, oars, etc. to Sea Scout Ship 16 who meet in the Methodist church in the Driver section of Suffolk. Their scoutmaster, Jim McCord was so grateful when Dick presented the Ship with the donation, and they were quite excited to hold their own dinghy races in the future. And there was a soft spot in Dick's heart as well, since he had been a sea scout in his youth.

So kudo's to the squadron, and especially to Dick Pond for handling all the details!



"The weatherman predicts no rain tomorrow so you'll have to keep pushing..."

From www.boatsville.com

Safety Officer's Report

Lt. Rana Weaver, AP



Minor difficulties on the water sometimes turn into emergencies. If you are in distress and need immediate assistance from the closest source, you can use channel 16 on your VHF radio to call "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY". If you do not have a radio or another form of communication, try to attract the attention of other boats in the area who can be of assistance or who may have a radio or other form of communication aboard. You can attract the attention of other boats by waving bright colored clothing, a towel or flag in the air; or reflecting the sun with a mirror; or by using a flare.

If you do not need immediate assistance you can contact the United States Coast Guard by hailing them on VHF channel 16. In years past, the Coast Guard rendered assistance to and towed recreational and commercial vessels that were disabled. Now, the Coast Guard serves as a search and rescue coordinator for boats with emergencies. The Coast Guard gives assistance to boaters that are in distress, but if you are not in distress they can still assist you in locating someone to help you. You are determined to be in distress if you or your boat are

organizations such as local police and fire agencies to assist with the search and /or rescue. They will also make an announcement of your emergency on channel 16 to notify other boaters.

If the situation is determined to be a non-emergency, the Coast Guard will call someone of your choice such as a friend, family member, or a commercial towing service. If you do not have someone to call, they will make a marine information assistance broadcast to solicit assistance from one who would like to come to your aid. If no one responds to this call within 10 minutes, the Coast Guard is permitted to render assistance. The provider of assistance must be able to provide assistance within 1 hour (some exceptions apply) or another party will be called.

If a commercial towing service is called to help you,



threatened by imminent danger and you require assistance. The Coast Guard must assess the situation to see if it is an emergency or a non-emergency. There are several factors that determine if a situation is classified as an emergency or a non-emergency. These factors include the nature of the situation, whether the people on board need medical attention, whether the people on board need food or water, tide, current, sea conditions, visibility, weather, reliable communication, or potential for the situation to get worse.

If the situation is an emergency, the Coast Guard will not only provide assistance but will call in other trained

there will a fee for this assistance. Individuals can only charge a towing fee if they have a Coast Guard license. If they do not have a license, you can consider their services to be the actions of a good Samaritan. If the Coast Guard Auxiliary is called upon to help you and you need a tow, they will probably only tow you to the nearest safe location where you can arrange for further help. If you ask other boaters for help, you need to keep in mind that they may not have the proper equipment or the knowledge to safely assist you. Boat damage and personal injury may occur if towing is not performed properly. Does the provider have insurance to cover any boat damages or personal injury that may occur? It is important to consider these things before accepting any assistance.

If your non-emergency changes to an emergency at any time, you should immediately contact the Coast Guard.

Remember safety on the water starts with you!

Want to Learn a Little About Boats and Boatbuilding?

From www.portsnaval museums.com

Want to try something fun and really learn about boats at the same time? Take the "Shipbuilding 101" class at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum and Lightship Portsmouth Saturday, 5 March 1000 to 1700.



Learn about a variety of boats with hands-on activities. At the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum, play the "Sink or Float" game, and learn the properties of ballasting. Touch real early 20th century shipbuilding tools, and see how they worked. [Step](#) aboard the Lightship Portsmouth, and play the Battleship Game and take part in the "Evolution of Shipbuilding Scavenger Hunt."

As with all of the First Saturday programs, admission and activities will be FREE at both the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum and Lightship Portsmouth!

Then take the time to explore the fascinating history of America's oldest and largest naval shipyard, which is located on the Portsmouth waterfront.

During the Revolutionary War, the shipyard was described by the British as "the most considerable one in America." It's been burned three times by retreating armies because of its strategic importance. Many historic ships have been built here, including the CSS VIRGINIA (EX-MERRIMAC), the first ironclad to engage in battle;

the nation's first battleship, the TEXAS; and the world's first aircraft carrier, the LANGLEY. The shipyard is also home to the country's first drydock, which is still in use. At its peak during WWII, the yard employed nearly 43,000 workers.

Founded in 1767 as the Gosport Shipyard, its name was changed during the Civil War to the Norfolk Navy Yard, and later the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. ("Norfolk" was chosen because, at the time, there was already a Portsmouth Navy Yard in New Hampshire.)

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum offers a unique perspective on U.S. history, from Colonial to Civil War times and beyond. You'll find beautiful ship models, uniforms, military artifacts and exhibits portraying life in 18th, 19th and 20th century Portsmouth.



Quotable Quotes for boaters and water lovers everywhere...

"There is NOTHING--absolutely nothing--half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.

- Kenneth Grahame

"Boats, like whiskey, are all good."

- Culler

"A lot of people ask me if I were shipwrecked, and could only have one book, what would it be? I always say 'How to Build a Boat.'"

- Stephen Wright

"I want a boat that drinks 6, eats 4, and sleeps 2."

- Ernest K. Gann

"The ocean has always been a salve to my soul...the best thing for a cut or abrasion was to go swimming in salt water. Later down the road of life, I made the discovery that salt water was also good for the mental abrasions one inevitably acquires on land."

- Jimmy Buffett

Nansemond River Power Squadron Change of Watch

12 March 2011

Social Hour 1800 * Dinner 1900

Cedar Point Country Club, Suffolk, Virginia

Menu includes Salad Bar, Prime Rib, Baked Salmon, Roasted Red Potatoes, Southern Green Beans, Apple Cobbler, Vanilla Ice Cream.



There's still time to make reservations to attend our annual Change of Watch—just call Gail Aikin and let her know you will be attending! It's a wonderful opportunity to mingle with your fellow Squadron members, enjoy a fantastic meal, and watch the pomp and circumstance as our newly elected officers are installed by a past District 5 Commander! The 2 squadron awards, will also be presented.

Installing our newly elected Bridge will be P/D/C Ralph A. Bernard, AP, pictured here with his wife, D/Lt Nance M. Bernard. For more info on registering, see the Admin Officer's report on page 3.

Vessel Safety Check Update

As many of you remember, Cdr Bob Eure's goal last year was to complete 200 Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs). This would have been a 55% increase from 2009, when we had 129 checks. While we did not reach the 55% increase, we did achieve **32%** increase to 170 examinations. This is 25 more than our previous high of 145 in 2008.

We are proud to announce that NRPS has earned a place on the VSC Honor Rolls for the United State Power Squadrons for 2010. To qualify, our team was required to do at least as many VSC's as we have members in NRPS (74), and have at least 10% of our members serving as active Vessel Safety Examiners (7 or 8, since I guess you can't have 4/10s of an examiner). We currently have 14 serving the squadron.

Our current VSEs are Art Aikin, Butch Baxter, Fletcher Beadles, Drex Bradshaw, Frank Brown, Norman Fisher, Lin Hanbury, John Holland, Ron Murphy, Larry Rountree, Lilly Stone, Jack Stroud, Brenda Wallace, and Donnie Weaver.

How have we done over the past 10 years? Mostly an annual improvement, one dip and then consistent growth. Congratulations to our Examiners for a great job for the boating community. Keep up the good work.

| Year | No. VSEs | No. VSCs (conducted / passed) |
|------|----------|-------------------------------|
| 2001 | 7 | 47 / 43 |
| 2002 | 8 | 57 / 42 |
| 2003 | 10 | 80 / 60 |
| 2004 | 9 | 77 / 56 |
| 2005 | 8 | 58 / 53 |
| 2006 | 9 | 84 / 84 |
| 2007 | 9 | 144 / 103 |
| 2008 | 13 | 145 / 121 |
| 2009 | 14 | 129 / 114 |
| 2010 | 14 | 170 / 153 |

If you are interested in serving as a VSE, contact P/C Larry Rountree. You have to take the written test first and pass with an 80% grade. Then you have to complete 5 VSCs under the direction of one of our Examiners. It's an interesting "job" to do and one that is crucial to boating safety!

Nansemond River Power Squadron

900 Gatling Pointe Parkway
Smithfield, Virginia 23430-2308

Place
Stamp
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NRP S Calendar of Upcoming Events

| | | | |
|-------------|------|--|----------------|
| 12 March | 1800 | Change of Watch Cedar Point Country Club | Suffolk VA |
| 25-27 March | | Spring District Conference Princess Royale Hotel | Ocean City, MD |
| 12 April | | General Meeting Plaza Azteca Restaurant | Suffolk VA |
| 23 April | | VSC day at Gatling Pointe | Smithfield VA |
| 29-30 April | | Co-Op Charting Workshop NOAA Atlantic Marine Center (Hosted by District 5) | Norfolk VA |



2010-2011 Bridge Officers

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Commander | Cdr Bob Eure, AP |
| Executive Officer | Lt/C Mary Fisher, AP |
| Educational Officer | Lt/C Lilly Stone, JN |
| Administrative Officer | Lt/C Mark Presson, S |
| Secretary | Lt/C Brenda Wallace, JN |
| Treasurer | Lt/C Gail Aikin, S |
| Safety Officer | Lt Rana Weaver, AP |

Publisher's Statement

THE NANSEMOND LIGHT newsletter is published monthly. Deadline is the 25th day of each month (or immediately following a scheduled Bridge Mtg.) for the following month's issue and we welcome articles & photographs of interest to our members.. *THE NANSEMOND LIGHT* published for the members & member families of the Nansemond River Power Squadron (NRPS), Squadron 3600, District 5 of the United States Power Squadrons®.
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