

The Lighthouse

Official Newsletter of the Northern Neck Sail and Power Squadron
A D/5 SQUADRON AND UNIT OF USPS®

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2009 - 2010
Elective Position Nominees

See page 7

Squadron Calendar

January

9 Monthly meeting
ExCom meeting
29 *Kids' Program*, LMS

February

13 Monthly meeting: **2009-2010 Elective Position vote**
ExCom meeting

Feb-Mar Deadline

Please submit all articles for the Feb-Mar 2009 *Lighthouse* to Dick Horn by 15 January, rhornva@yahoo.com. All active members are invited to send relevant material.

Christmas Party

What a great meeting we had on 9 November. Attendance was great, dinner was good, and the fellowship was fantastic. Many thanks to our speaker Mike Warren who shared his latest boating adventure with us.

On 13 December at R W-C, 33 members and guests enjoyed a cozy, relaxing holiday dinner. The lovely table centerpieces were made by Kathy Moeller and Daphne Montgomery, and the food, once again was excellent. Four door prizes were awarded to Joe Moeller, June Horn, Nancy Williams, and Ray Winkel. Ray Reuter won the raffle, a pair of hand-held VHF radios.



Above, one of Kathy and Daphne's centerpieces. Ben Burton and John Kelley, left, get together during the mixer before dinner.

2008 - A Great Year

On behalf of all the Bridge Officers and myself, we want to thank all of our NNSPS members, guests, and speakers for making this an excellent year for our squadron. We have enjoyed great fellowship, support, and success with all of our programs, enjoyed four great rendezvous on Taylor's Creek, Mill Creek, Coan River, and Dymer Creek.

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From the Helm

Try it, you'll like it

Last month I really came down hard on National, so this month I would like to 'talk-up' District 5. Why? D/5 supports all their squadrons.

USPS is made up of districts, the districts made up of squadrons. Our District 5 is the largest in USPS. The districts have the same make-up our Squadron has, i.e., Bridge and Committees.

Twice a year D/5 holds Conferences at which time many seminars are offered and are open to **all** members.

The Spring Conference is mainly comprised of acquainting the incoming Bridge Officers of all squadrons about the office to which they have been elected. They are informed of the specific duties they are expected to perform, how to handle problems, who to contact if the problem cannot be settled locally and many other details. Other seminars are offered regarding new programs from USPS: Co-op Charting, VSC inspections, Publications, Historian, to name only a few. So many seminars are offered that it is sometimes hard to choose what to attend, and many times two that you want to attend are at the same time.

During the Conference itself, your delegates have a chance to vote on matters affecting the district and squadrons. It is also when many awards are given out to squadrons for outstanding performance in certain areas. A time when your Commander has a chance to represent all of you. Some of the most prestigious awards are given out at the banquet on Saturday night. It is at this banquet when the District Change of Watch is held. It is a fun time when the outgoing Commander is "roasted" by his Bridge, and the new Commander is installed.

The Fall Conference is devoted to Education and the accomplishments the squadrons have achieved during the year in member and public courses. Most of the seminars are aimed at Education, what has happened, and what is forthcoming in this area. There are some of the same seminars offered at this conference that were also offered at the Spring Conference, so if you missed one you really wanted to attend, you have a second chance.

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The Lighthouse

*Official publication of the
Northern Neck Sail and Power Squadron*

Judy Cook, P, Commander

Dick Horn, P, Editor

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Executive Officer

Boat Show season

Happy New Year, Everyone! Now that we're surviving Christmas and all its trappings, it's time to start thinking about going to a boat show. All over the country, there are 110 scheduled shows beginning in January and running through September. Attending a boat show during the winter is a good way to start the New Year, especially one in Florida. Here's a sneak preview of what awaits you.

The ***Annual Stuart Boat Show***, with over \$100 million in products on display, features more than 500 boats of all shapes and sizes both in-water and on land. Accompanying this vast array of boats will be engines, electronics and every conceivable accessory from major marine manufacturers worldwide. It runs 9-11 January.

If January is too soon and you'd rather wait for three shows rolled into one, then Miami Beach, Florida is the place to be. The ***Yacht & Brokerage Show, Miami International Boat Show and Strictly Sail Miami Boat Show*** run concurrently at three different locations between 12-16 February.

The ***Yacht and Brokerage Show*** features a multi-million dollar presentation of yachts including the world's most extraordinary and uniquely designed yachts and super yachts from the world's foremost custom boat builders. The in-water-only display presentation covers more than 1.2 million square feet of space over a mile-long strip of Indian Creek Waterway, featuring over 500 new and pre-owned vessels valued at more than a billion dollars.

The ***Miami International Show*** is held in the convention center and features wall-to-wall boats and accessories packed into more than a million square feet. Runabouts, sportboats, fishing boats, cruisers, personal watercraft, jet boats, inflatables, luxury yachts and high-performance boats - everything from 15 to 85 feet is ready to board and buy! Engines, electronics and all types of marine accessories are also on display. Shop and browse the widest variety of gear and accessories!

The excitement continues in the Outdoor exhibit area. Stroll among more beautiful boats and

new accessories. More than 200 exhibitors on display at ***Strictly Sail*** feature the newest and best in mono and multi hull sailboats from manufactures around the world, including the latest accessories, sailing gear, charter information, and the newest technologies.

West Palm Beach, Florida is the location of the ***Annual Palm Beach International Boat Show***, 26-29 March. It is one of the top ten boat shows in the country - featuring more than \$350 million worth of boats, yachts and accessories from the world's leading marine manufacturers. It is truly an International Show. The event includes more than 1,000 boats from 8 foot inflatables, power boats, fishing boats, center consoles, bow riders, personal watercraft to superyachts over 150 feet. It has something for everyone! Whether you are there to buy or just look, going to a boat show is a great winter getaway.

Lt/C Dyan Warren, P

Call for Volunteers

The ***Boating Safety For Kids*** program is scheduled for 29 January 2009, 0900 to 1200 at Lancaster Middle School (LMS). We need 16 volunteers to staff two classrooms. Look for a sign-up sheet in your e-mail soon.

We will also need volunteers to help with a poster contest for LMS. Please contact me by 15 January if you can help:

HeronCrest@aol.com; 804-436-0190.

Lt/C Helen Kelley, P

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Educational Officer Looking Forward

Congratulations to John Mill who recently completed the *Sailing* courses by self study. (Not bad for a stink potter.) I'm sure congratulations will soon be in order for Arthur Olsen, Barnaby Roberts and Tammy Wiedenhaefer who just took the *Seamanship* exam after self study over several months. Thanks to Jerry Cann who organized a review and administered the exams.

I have some, but not yet enough, interest to schedule the *Marine Electronics* and *Engine Maintenance* courses early in the coming year. We will set them up if we can get at least three people per course. For a starter let's think in terms of Thursday afternoons at 1430 in Kilmarnock. Other times/locations are of course options.

Our next basic boating courses for the public (*ABC*) are scheduled for 28 March and 4 April in Callao and 18 and 25 April in Kilmarnock. Instructors should contact Dave Cook about teaching a

portion of these courses. If you are interested in observing or helping, see Dave about assisting.

We were surprised and disappointed with the lack of response to our fall courses; both had to be cancelled. That may have been the result of high fuel prices and the resultant decrease in boating activity or perhaps we did not reach the right people with our advertising. You can do little about the fuel prices for next year, but you can help with advertising. Talk to your boating friends and dealers about our courses. Pick up one or more of the flyers that will be available at our January and February meetings and place them in your post office, grocery store, marine or boat store. Thanks for your help.

Let's get off to a strong start for 2009. Happy New Year!

Lt/C Twy Williams, SN

Try it, you'll like it

Continued from page 2

Again, at the Banquet on Saturday night, the most prestigious awards are given out, like the Prince Henry the Navigator award and the Caravelle. During the conference on Sunday morning, all the Educational awards are presented after the business meeting.

At these conferences, one has a chance to meet and talk with members from New Jersey to Virginia Beach and to get an insight on how other squadrons are operating and coping with member retention or decline. How to raise money, keeping members interested in attending meetings, and keeping your squadron viable are many topics discussed.

Why am I going into all this detail, you ask? Well, it would be nice if each member of our squadron could attend at least one day of one conference just to see how everything comes together and the way D/5 works for us. Most all Spring Conferences are held in Ocean City, MD which isn't too far for us to travel, and the cost for one night is approximately \$115 for the room. Or you could just attend the seminars

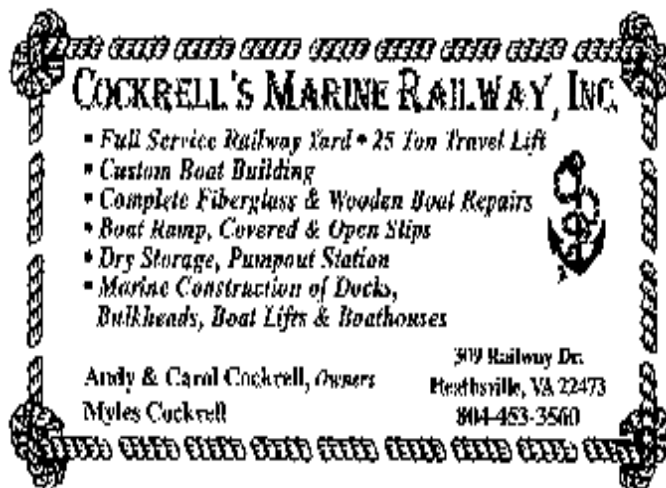
during one day and not stay the night.

Those members who have attended conferences know that NNSPS is part of a greater picture, one that has widened our exposure. It might do the same for you.

Cdr Judy Cook, P

Correction

The photo caption on page 5 of the December 2008 edition that mentions Bill Sullivan is incorrect. It should read P/D/C Bill Seldon.



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Secretary
ExCom meeting news

The ExCom meeting was held on 7 December, attended by Judy and Dave Cook, Dyan and Mike Warren, Twy Williams, and Dave Hearn-don. Agenda items not covered in detail else-where in this issue include:

- For various logistics reasons and the fact that Gloucester is out of our territory, the proposed *Kids' Program* for Gloucester schools was cancelled.
- 70 Vessel Safety Checks have been completed by NNSPS examiners through early December.
- The Audit Report was reviewed and accepted.
- Cdr Cook asked for a list of Certificate recipients that each Bridge Officer will award at the Change-of-Watch.

The next ExCom meeting will be on Friday, 9 January, prior to the monthly meeting at Wico-moco Parish Church.

*Cdr Judy Cook, P
for Lt/C Angie Crown, P*

Upcoming Meetings

9 January, 1830, Wicomoco Parish Church
1800 cocktails, BYOB. Menu is Vegetarian Lasagna, Grilled Tomato Parmesan, Salad, Rolls & Butter, and Cheesecake for dessert. For those joining the dinner, the price per person is \$15. Please make your reservations by 4 January with Bette Sowers and mail your check to her at 949 Island Point Road, Heathsville, VA 22473.

13 February, 1830, we return to the Wicomoco Church for an important meeting to vote on the proposed slate of NNSPS elected officers for 2009-2010. See the list of nominees on page 7. There will also be a fun Valentine's Day activity, so be ready to pucker up.

15 March, Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club. **Change-of -Watch**. The plan is to have an afternoon buffet lunch. Additional details will be in the next edition of the *Lighthouse*.

*Lt/C Helen Kelley
Administrative Officer*

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Kilmarnock Christmas Parade

Once again, Bette Sowers managed the squadron's entry in the Kilmarnock Christmas Parade which took place on 12 December. This year's theme was "Christmas on the Coast." The weather was just above freezing, typical cold weather for the annual parade.

Bette's creative ideas and planning took shape on our float which included a warm welcoming home scene with snow, deer, Christmas trees, snowmen, lighthouse, and channel markers.

Ron Sowers provided technical support and was instrumental in preparing the float for the parade. Nancy and Twy Williams, Judy and Dave Cook, Paula and Ray Reuter, Barnaby Roberts, Arthur Olson, and Daphne Montgomery contributed time and effort with the decorations.

Ray photographed the preparation, and with Gerry Cann, carried the NNSPS banner during the parade. Paula rode on the float which was driven by Ron with Bette navigating. Helen Kelley and Dick Horn took photos along the parade route (see below).

Many thanks to Bette, Ron and all who made this year's parade entry possible.



Left, Ron Sowers, Judy Cook, Barnaby Roberts, and Bette Sowers work on the float.



The final lights test



Ready to roll



Gerry Cann and Ray Reuter carry the NNSPS Banner



Paula Reuter braves the cold on the float

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Northern Neck Sail and Power Squadron
Elective Position Nominees 2009-2010

The nominating committee has selected the following nominees for the squadron's elective positions for 2009-2010. Additional nominations may be made by petition in writing signed by at least five active members in good standing and filed with the secretary at least 15 days before the date of election which is at the monthly meeting 13 February 2009.

Bridge

Commander Helen Kelley, P
 Executive Officer Bonnie Brown-Murphy, AP
 Educational Officer Twy Williams, SN
 Administrative Officer Norman Tadlock, S
 Secretary Angie Crown, P
 Treasurer Paula Reuter, S

Auditing Committee

Chair (1yr) Barbara Hensler, P
 Member (2yr) Jim Harris, N
 Member (3yr) Anne Wolski, P

Nominating Committee

Chair (1yr) Gene Wolski, AP
 Member (2yr) Ron Sowers, JN
 Member (3yr) Judy Cook, P

Members-at-large

Member John Kelley, AP
 Member Dick Horn, P
 Member Barnaby Roberts

Rules Committee

Chair (1Yr) Joe Moeller
 Member (2yr) Mervin Withers, AP
 Member (3yr) Gene Wolski, AP

Elected Assistants

Asst. Educational Officer Dave Hearndon, AP
 Asst. Administrative Officer Open
 Asst. Secretary Jim Harris, N
 Asst. Treasurer Bette Sowers, P

Respectfully submitted,
 NNSPS Nominating Committee
 Dave Cook, SN, Chair; Gene Wolski, AP;
 Ron Sowers, JN

Christmas Party/2008 - A Great Year

Continued from page 1

We were honored with a presentation from Sheriff Ronnie Crocket, had fun with the Crazy Sock Contest, heard exciting stories from Captain Mike Warren, and ended the year with a splendid holiday dinner. A special thanks to Bonnie & Ron Murphy for donating the Holiday dinner door prizes, also to Daphne Montgomery, and Kathy and Joe Moeller for organizing and presenting the intimate Holiday gathering for the NNSPS members at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.

I personally want to thank each and everyone for supporting the Administrative Officer staff. I look forward to seeing all of you and your guests at our squadron activities in 2009. It promises to be an exciting year with 10 members signing up to be meeting managers and organizing our activities.

Wishing all a joyous Holiday season and a great New Year.

*Lt/C Helen Kelley, P
 Administrative Officer*

