

# The Lighthouse

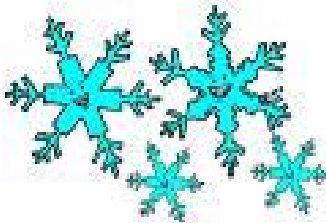
Official Newsletter of the Northern Neck Sail and Power Squadron  
A D/5 SQUADRON AND UNIT OF USPS®

Vol. 6, No. 2

February-March 2009

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## Squadron Calendar

### February

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

### March

TBD ExCom meeting  
15 Change-of-Watch  
28 ABC course begins

## April Deadline

Please submit all articles for the April 2009 *Lighthouse* to Dick Horn by 18 March, [rhornva@yahoo.com](mailto:rhornva@yahoo.com). All active members are invited to send relevant material.

## January meeting

We sure missed seeing many of the members at the 9 January meeting. [If you did not receive the 5 January e-mail message informing you of the change in venue, please let me know in order to ensure you receive future e-mail communications.](#)

A reminder to all members: the local caterers require a five day advance in order to prepare for our dinner meetings. They also require a guarantee of 25 people. Additionally, we are paying Wicomico Church \$50 per month to rent the Parish Hall. While the Meeting Meals fund is currently able to cover these costs and the extras you enjoy at some of the activities, if the squadron pays for those who do not RSVP, then the Meeting Meals fund will run short and not be able to meet all expenses. An option is to do Pot Luck dinners, however, the cost of the Parish Hall rental still needs to be covered, and it is a Herculean effort to coordinate a well balanced meal. Therefore, I am asking all members to get their RSVP's to the Treasurer by the date published in the *Lighthouse*.



*Captain Pete Merrick of Tow-BoatU.S., left, answers a member's question about towing and salvage. Lou Wilcoxon and Ross Merrick look on. Ross is Capt Merrick's son and a crew member of the towing service.*

Those of us who did send in our RSVP's pulled together at the last minute with a Pot Luck dinner and learned a few things about Towing and Salvage. Many thanks to our speakers Pete Merrick and his son, Ross Merrick, who explained the implications of towing and salvage as it affects the recreational boater. Be sure to ask a fellow member to share this information with you and visit [www.safesea.com](http://www.safesea.com) for comprehensive information on this topic.



Lt/C Helen Kelley, P

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## *From the Helm*

### **Au revior, Auf Wiedersehen, Adjo**

After accepting the office of Commander, I wondered what I had done. As, I am sure, most everyone thinks when asked to perform a duty.

If one doesn't think about what has to be done, and just takes care of business day by day, the year passes quickly. For me, it seemed only like a blink of an eye.

Having a Bridge that knew their jobs and performed them well made my job so easy. I was lucky to have such capable people at my fingertips. Their vocabulary didn't consist of phrases like, "I can't" or "I won't." They did.

Then, there is the general membership who volunteer for the "Kids" program, Safety Booths, doing jobs behind the scenes that only a few know about, taking advanced courses to enhance their boating knowledge, teaching these courses, attending dinner meetings, and generally participating in all the activities they can.

It is the latter who brought all the awards we received at the D/5 Spring and Fall Conferences, awards that I was privileged to receive as a representative of Northern Neck.


In five short years, Northern Neck has demonstrated that a small squadron can achieve great things, and we have made our mark not only in D/5, but at the National level as well.

I said it in my acceptance speech last March, and I will say it again. This squadron reminds me of a movie, 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind.' NNSPS seemed to be a magnet, drawing members into it, and the results were 'out of this world!'

Thank you all for your support, and your confidence. I will never forget your kindness.

I also thank my husband, Dave, for his support and advice, even if the advice was ignored at times. He was my listening post and my greatest supporter.

*Cdr Judy Cook, P*



*The Lighthouse*

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

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## Important Meetings

We have a busy two months ahead of us. In February, our squadron members will be voting for and electing the incoming Bridge Officers for 2009-2010 (see the January 2009 *Lighthouse* for the slate of nominees), and we will also have a fun activity. In March, we will be installing the squadron's elected Bridge Officers at the Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club. We invite all of our members to attend these two, very important meetings.

### **Election of 2009-2010 Bridge Officers, 13 February: Wicomico Church Parish Hall**

The ExCom meeting begins at 1700, socializing begins at 1800 (BYOB), dinner will be served at 1830. The Dinner Menu will be: Baked Spiral Ham, 1/2 sweet potato, veggies julienne, garden salad, rolls w/butter and chocolate buttermilk cake w/butter cream frosting. For those planning on attending the dinner, please make your reservations by **7 February to Bette Sowers**, address below. Cost is \$15 per person.

### **Change-of-Watch, 15 March**

Please join the outgoing Bridge Officers in welcoming the new Bridge Officers.

**Place:** Indian Creek Yacht & Country Club

**Time:** 1300

**Attire:** Power Squadron Blazer or Business Casual

**Directions:** (1) From Burgess take 200 South to Bluff Point Road (across from St. Andrew's Church), Turn Left. Go 3-4 miles, Turn Right on to Pocahontas Drive, Turn Left on Club Drive, go to end and park.

(2) From Kilmarnock take 200 North to Bluff Point Road (across from St. Andrew's Church), Turn Right. Follow remaining directions above.

**Menu Offerings:** Excellent Buffet Lunch - \$17 per person. **Cash Bar Available**

**RSVP: No Later Than 7 March**. For those planning on attending please make your reservations and mail your check to Bette Sowers at the following address: 949 Island Point Road, Heathsville, VA 22473.

If you wish to participate on the Change-of-Watch committee, planning begins 2 February.

We also have our Summer Activities Kick Off with a rendezvous at Olverson's Marina on 9 May. For anyone wishing to participate on the Olverson's rendezvous committee, planning begins 31 March.

Please contact me, 804-436-0190, to volunteer for these committees.

*Lt/C Helen Kelley, P, Administrative Officer*

<p><b>YANKEE POINT SAILBOAT MARINA</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.yankeepointmarina.com">www.yankeepointmarina.com</a> Home of the Hospice Turkey Shoot Regatta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Brokerage</li><li>* Ship's Store</li><li>* Winter Storage</li><li>* 101 Boat Slips</li><li>* Sunfish Sales</li><li>* 40 Ton Travel Lift</li><li>* Yacht Restoration</li><li>* Hydraulic Trailer</li><li>* Snack Bar</li><li>* Swimming Pool</li><li>* Bottom Painting</li><li>* Awlgrip Painting</li><li>* Quantum Sails</li><li>* Bilster Repair Specialists</li><li>* Yanmar Stocking Dealer</li></ul> <p>Yankee Point Sailboat Marina 804-462-7018      804-462-7635      fax - 804-462-6225</p>	<p><b>BOBBY'S MARINE SERVICE, INC.</b> BOBBY JONES &amp; JOEY HUMPHREYS <b>BOSTON WHALER</b></p> <p><i>Powered by:</i> NISSAN • EVINRUDE • JOHNSON • MERCURY VENTURE TRAILERS</p> <p>901 Jessie Dupont Memorial Hwy. Burgess, VA 22432</p> <p>1-800-649-1896 (804) 453-7541 FAX: 453-4937</p>
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*Educational Officer*  
**Dark Ages**

I remember well the period we called the dark ages - those days in late January thru early March when the excitement of football was over, the snows were frequent, the nights still long. We just hunkered down to our school work and yearned for sunshine, warm weather, and the end of the academic year. Are you feeling the pressure of this winter season? I hope you have decided to take one of the many courses offered to speed you through the dark ages.

Congratulations to Tammy Wiedenhaefer, Barnaby Roberts and Arthur Olsen for completing *Seamanship*. Arthur is now an AP! Congratulations also to Nancy Williams who was presented her Education Proficiency Award by Commander Cook during the



*Nancy Williams, left, receives the Education Proficiency Award from Cdr Cook.*

January meeting.

Thanks to Dave Cook for agreeing to chair and instruct *Piloting* and *Advanced Piloting* and to Jerry Cann who will assume chair of *ABC* in addition to *Boat Virginia* and *Seamanship*. Instructors, get in touch with Jerry to help with the *ABC* courses (28 March and 4 April in Callao, and 18 and 25 April in Kilmarnock). *Boat Virginia* is scheduled for 16 May in Callao.

Two of our members, Chris Wynkoop and Ron Sowers, have expressed interest in taking *Marine Electronics*. Are there others? Please let me know ASAP.

*Lt/C Twy Williams, SN*

**N Club Award**

Since 1955, the N Club of District 4 has awarded a sextant as an Educational Achievement Award to three qualifying squadrons in the U.S. each year. Thanks to Dave Cook and John Mill, NNSPS has won our second sextant.



Now there is no reason for members taking *Navigator* or *Junior Navigator* courses to purchase their own sextants for use in

completing the sighting requirements of these courses. They may use the squadron's sextants.

The N Club will present the awards at the USPS Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA, 12-22 February.

**Update**

The article in the January 2009 edition that covered the squadron's participation in the Christmas Parade should have mentioned Kathy and Joe Moeller's contribution. Every year and once again in 2008, Kathy and Joe have provided the signage for the float, painting the boards and creating the lettering and images. Belated thanks to Kathy and Joe.

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*Secretary*  
ExCom meeting news

The ExCom meeting was held on 8 January, attended by Judy Cook, Helen Kelley, Bette Sowers, Twy Williams, Dave Hearndon, Norm Tadlock, and me. Agenda items not covered in detail elsewhere in this issue include:

- Helen Kelley needs five more volunteers for the *Kids' Program* at Lancaster Middle School, 29 January.
- It is time again to prepare for setting up Vessel Safety Checks for the new year.
- National, rather than the squadron, will now be collecting the annual dues. Eighty-two percent of the squadrons are doing this today.
- Proposals for purchasing an American flag and a USPS flag were discussed. Ron Sowers volunteered to donate a USPS flag.

The next ExCom meeting will be on Friday, 13 February, prior to the monthly meeting at Wicomoco Parish Church.

*Lt/C Angie Crown, P*



Spring Conference  
and  
Officers' Training

25 - 29 March

Ocean City, MD

See Cdr Cook's article in the January 2009 Lighthouse for information on D/5 Conferences and the benefits of attending these events.

All NNSPS members are encouraged to attend the Conference and to join in on the fun.

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