

The Lighthouse

Official Newsletter of the Northern Neck Sail and Power Squadron
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December

- 4 Holiday Party, R W-C
- 12 ExCom meeting at Kelley's
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January

- 14 Monthly meeting
ExCom meeting
- 15 *Instructor Certification*

January Deadline

Please submit all articles for the January 2011 *Lighthouse* to Dick Horn, rhornva@yahoo.com, by **15 December**. All members may contribute relevant material. Photos of squadron activities are especially welcomed.



Happy Holidays & Best Wishes

Yee Haw!

Fifteen NNSPS members and guests had a grand time together at the home of Helen and John Kelley on 12 November. Meeting managers, Helen Kelley and Bette Sowers, planned the meeting with a western theme, and several members accordingly showed up in western attire. The pot luck dinner which we all thoroughly enjoyed featured appetizers, pulled pork barbeque, chili, tossed salad and a wide assortment of desserts. The winners of the Covered Wagon Race were Mike and Linda Steele, Julian Roden and Dick Dickson. Galloping closely behind was the runner-up team of Anita and me, and prospective new members, Don and Judy Polifka, from Kinsale. A special thanks to Helen and John for their hospitality in hosting the meeting.

Upcoming events

4 December Holiday Party at R W-C. See separate notice on page 7, highlighting details about this function. Let's have a great turnout, even more than the 40 who attended last year! Once again Kathy Moeller has made all the fine arrangements for us and she and Daphne Montgomery will decorate the room for a festive time together. Please get your reservations in early so we can advise RW-C of expected attendance.

14 January, 2011 meeting at Wicomico Church Parish Hall. Meeting managers, Nancy and Twy Williams and Edee and Mervin Withers, have an interesting program planned on "Pirates of the Chesapeake Bay." Mark your calendars!



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From the Helm

We make a difference

John and I extend greetings to all NNSPS members and their families and wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

This is the time of year when we usually sit back and reflect as to whether we accomplished all that we set out to do. Some of us may have fell short, and some of us may have hit overload. However, the most important thing to ask is "Did I make a difference?"

I would say that the NNSPS did make a difference. To date, we have taught boating safety to almost 1800 6th graders, taught public boating safety classes, participated in community activities, taught advanced member courses, received USPS National Education Awards, won the USPS National poster contest for the third time, and, forged strong friendships.


No one can question the dedication and commitment of this squadron as proven by the Merit Marks received for substantial effort in personally furthering the interests, programs and objectives of USPS. If you have not received a merit mark, you can do so by serving on a committee - so say yes to the Nominating Committee when they call on you. Your fresh perspective and approach helps us to succeed.

Membership in USPS is an expression of responsible citizenship. Your dedication and spirit, ensuring the public has a safe and enjoyable boating experience through public boating courses and conducting vessel safety checks, is a reflection of your professionalism and exhibits the best of USPS. We are honored for the opportunity to be a part of this squadron. Job well done!

Other News

Lancaster Middle School. 13 December 0800 – 1200. If you have not received an invitation to participate in the *Boating Safety for Kids* program and you wish to join in this 4 hour, hands on presentation, please contact me. The students look forward to this presentation every year. Let's not disappoint them – come join in the fun!

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

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Executive Officer

Time to winterize, darn it!

With not much happening right now, I have elected to write an article on how I approach winterization and like any other task there are a multitude of different solutions to the problem. This is how I do it. I am basically lazy and kind of like the skin on my knuckle to stay where it is so I have come up with the following approach. Just remember this is my opinion and as they say, everyone has one.

How many of you have inboards, air conditioning or other raw water consumers? Do you still take your hoses loose from the sea cocks to winterize you boat? In my earlier days I did too and it always ended with some skinned knuckles and nearly an entire day to do a job that now takes me about one hour to accomplish. Let me share a little secret!

A number of years ago I read an article about flushing your engines with fresh water. Now, you might say what has fresh water flushing got to do with winterizing? The fact is that the same system can be used to serve both purposes.

The system I devised was to remove the hose barb from the seacock side of the raw water strainer. In its place insert a short nipple followed by a tee and then reinsert the hose barb. All components used here must be bronze or red brass (not yellow brass). In the top of the tee I installed a reduced 3/4" hose barb. To that I installed a new 3/4" hose long enough to get to a central location for all the hoses if possible (my air conditioner and raw water wash down pump are handled separately). In the end of each new hose insert a female swivel

garden hose connector and connect this to a hose manifold that can be purchased at most any hardware store.

Each connector on the manifold has a small seacock to allow you to open or close it. In the female end of the manifold I connect a male quick disconnect hose fitting. That's it.



Mike's engine room?

When you go out for a cruise and return to the dock, just hook your hose with a quick disconnect fitting to the manifold, open one valve on the manifold and start the appropriate engine and let it run for a few minutes.

To prevent damage to the impellor, do not close your seacocks when fresh water flushing. Repeat for each device that is connected to the manifold.

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Ship's Store

Shirts, Caps, Burgees, etc.

Information on NNSPS merchandise may be found at the Member Area Tab of our web page,
www.nnsps.org

Contact Barbara Hensler, 804-580-5102,

barbara.hensler@gmail.com
if you have questions.

Educational Officer

Sextant sights and more

One of the advantages of the new *JN* class is that we are required to take sextant sights of only the sun. This means we don't have to get up at 'o' dark hundred' and freeze our buns off to get morning sights before the sun comes up. That we look forward to in the *N* class that follows this one. However, we selected a beautiful day in October to take our sun sights and you can tell from the picture how delightfully warm and enjoyable the weather was that day.

I've had a relatively small number of requests for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries card signifying that you have taken a NASBLA Safe boating class. If you are piloting a boat and are stopped by the marine police, they can ask you to prove that you have taken the course. If you can't, they can fine you. This is the law. Most of us are old enough that we are not yet required to have this proof. But if you have it, you don't have to worry about getting it at a later time. I won't repeat the phase-in schedule but the law will apply to all of us by 1 July 2016 and PWC operators by 1 July 2012.



From the left, Norm Tadlock, Dick Dickson, Cdr Helen and John Kelley take sextant sights at Windmill Point.

We are planning to have a USPS *Instructor Certification* (or recertification) class on 15 January from 0900-1200. If you have an interest in helping your squadron by teaching part of a class during the 2011 winter and spring seasons, then this review can help you. The classes I am referring to are the *ABC3* and *Boat/VA* classes. They are very basic and assume no knowledge on the part of the student. Even if your boating experience is limited, your participation would be very helpful. I have found that teaching has been one of the most rewarding things that I have done with the squadron. Think about it and let me know.

If you want more, do more.

Lt/C Dave Cook, SN

USPS website security update

Following the 2010 Fall Governing Board, we will switch to a two tier security system. Members will still be able to logon using their zip code, but they will have minimal access to data on the web site. Members logging on using their PIN will have access to the same data as before the switch. The IT Committee has published two videos which describe how to get your PIN and the Information Center has been updated to provide instructions and help.

If you have not already done so, visit the Information Center www.usps.org/national/tools and select "Manage Your Security Information."

Submitted by Cdr Helen Kelley, AP

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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Secretary

ExCom meeting news

The 12 November ExCom meeting was attended by Cdr Helen and John Kelley, Mike Steele, Judy and Dave Cook, Norm Tadlock, Ron Sowers, and me. Agenda items not covered in detail elsewhere in this issue include:

- The squadron's financial books audit is nearly complete.
- *Nail and Sail* is planned for June 2011.
- Our web site was reviewed by National and received excellent comments. No changes are required.
- The By-Laws are complete and will be signed-off by Cdr Kelley and me as Secretary.
- A motion to purchase gifts for all who attend the annual Holiday Party on 4 December was approved.
- *Boating Safety for Kids* is planned for early next year at Northumberland MS.

The next ExCom meeting will be on 12 December, 1300, at the Kelleys.

Lt/C Dick Dickson, AP



Holiday lights on Carter's Creek

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Treasurer Tax time again

It is that time of year almost! For those of you that pay taxes, you may find the following information useful as it relates to expenses you may have incurred as a member of NNSPS.

First, go to the USPS National web page, [.usps.org/national/om/html/download.htm](http://usps.org/national/om/html/download.htm).

Second, scroll down the page to item 22, Treasurer's Manual, and click on it.

Third, go to Page 22-17 of the Treasurer's Manual, Paragraph 22.22.7, Tax Deductions for Officers and Members.

Fourth, read the paragraph to see if you can use any of the information to help in preparing your taxes for 2010. For example, the manual states "Dues paid to USPS are deductible, less the \$10 value of The Ensign."

I am not a tax adviser. Therefore, if you have questions, please contact your adviser directly to seek help in determining if the potential deductions apply in your specific case.

Also, do not forget the Ship's Store. It is on line at our squadron web page nnsps.org. Click on the Member Area, and then click on Ship's Store. At the bottom of the page you can click to open an Order Form. It is a great place to shop for friends and loved ones. Barbara Hensler, AP, is waiting to take your orders. Also see page 3 for other details.

Finally, I hope to see all of you at RW-C for the NNSPS Holiday Gala. It has been a great function in the past, and I am sure it will be just as great or greater this year. Come enjoy.

Lt/C John Kelley, AP

Time to winterize

Continued from page 3

Now when it's time to winterize you have one more item to make up for the winterizing process. Take a 5 gallon bucket and drill a hole in the side near the bottom and insert a through hull for a ¾" hose in the hole and seal it. Connect a hose to the through hull with a male garden hose connector and then a female quick disconnect fitting. You are now ready to start.

First close the seacocks. Next, connect the bucket to the manifold and open one valve. Fill the bucket with antifreeze and start the appropriate engine and let it run until you see antifreeze color coming out the exhaust. At that point, shut off the engine and close the valve on the manifold. Repeat the process for each consumer. When you go through all of the consumers you are done with the raw water systems.

You will spend more time opening and pouring the antifreeze than for all the rest of the process. The benefits of this are no more skinned knuckles, significant time saving, reduced damage to raw water hoses, fittings and clamps, and a whole lot less swearing.

Lt/C Mike Steele, AP

We make a difference

Continued from page 2

Other News

From D/5 Fall Conference:

- We received two Education Awards that will be announced at the 4 December holiday dinner.
- Northumberland Middle School won first place in the National Boating Safety poster contest.
- Merit Marks will now be emailed to individual members. Note: make sure to send/call in your current e-mail address to the NNSPS Secretary, Dick Dickson, 804-438-6601, roshq@myway.com.
- National Dues will be increased by \$2.

Another Generous Donation. Our squadron has received a \$5,000 donation from the Lula and Cole Mason estate to further our Boating Safety education programs for the community.

Meetings. Please let us know if you will be attending the monthly meetings. You are not required to attend the dinner portion, however we still would like to see you during the business part.

Cdr Helen Kelley, AP

*Be a part of an NNSPS tradition
Join the squadron for its 4th Holiday Party*



*Saturday, 4 December 2010, 1800
Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury in Irvington*

**For those attending, please mail a check by 27 November
Paula Reuter
44 Marina Point Road, Reedville, VA 22539
\$27 (per person)**

**Directions: Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury is in Irvington on the
south side of Route 646, Old Salem Road, between Routes 3 and 200**

Merit Marks by e-mail

As many of you may already know, in an effort to hold down expenses this year, USPS Headquarters is sending out Merit Marks electronically. They have been arriving as an attachment to an e-mail in a PDF format. Unfortunately, Commander Kelley and I were not aware the distribution was going to be done in this way so we could let you know ahead of time.

To date, twenty seven members of our squadron have been awarded Merit Marks. If you think you have earned one and have not been notified, check with Commander Kelley or with me. You probably have received one but your computer rejected it as spam or junk mail.

Remember, Merit Marks are the way USPS thanks you for your efforts to achieve our goals and fulfill our mission of safe boating through education. If you have not been able to volunteer to help our squadron this year, it is not too late.

Lt Nancy Williams, AP
Merit Mark Chairman

Boating Safety for Kids

Volunteers needed

Program at Lancaster Middle School

13 December 2010

0800-1200

Join your shipmates in manning the boating safety learning stations: Hypothermia, Marine radio, Chesapeake Bay environment, Fire extinguishers, and Life jackets

Contact Cdr Kelley if you can help
804-436-0190
hi4boating@aol.com