



The Lighthouse

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

Vol. 8, No. 4

www.nnsps.org

July - August 2011

In This Issue

- 1- Big Loop and Reuter's Rendezvous
- 2- Time to go boatin'
- 3- Boating Safety for Kids
- 3- Upcoming Events
- 4- Busy at the Blackboard
- 4- VSCs and Safer Boating
- 5- ExCom meeting news
- 6- Upcoming D/5 Events
- 6- National Poster Contest Winners
- 7- 88 Miles Offshore

Squadron Calendar

July

- 16 Dyer Creek Rendezvous
ExCom Meeting
- 30 *Boat/VA*

August

- 6 Drum Cove Rendezvous
ExCom meeting

Sept - Oct Deadline

Please submit all articles for the September - October 2011 *Lighthouse* to Dick Horn, rhornva@yahoo.com, by **10 August**. All members may contribute relevant material. Photos of squadron activities are especially welcomed.

Big Loop and Reuter's Rendezvous

Thirty-eight members and guests were treated to delicious appetizers, a wonderful chicken main course with all the fixings, and three scrumptious cheese cakes prepared by Mike and Linda Steele for our 13 May meeting. Afterwards, Commander Steele gave a most enjoyable slide presentation on the Big Loop (Hudson River, Great Lakes, Mississippi River, Gulf of Mexico, and the ICW home) experience he and Linda enjoyed aboard their boat a few years ago. Thanks again to Mike and Linda for all their efforts to make us have such an enjoyable evening together at the Parish Hall.



Reuters' rendezvous

On 4 June, Ray and Paula did it again! Just as they opened their home to us a year ago, they repeated their generosity by hosting our first rendezvous of the season. Thirty members and guests had a delightful time feasting on the homemade smoked pork barbecue, coleslaw, and baked beans provided by our hosts in addition to the multitude of delectable dishes brought by others. I have come to believe we are first an eating organization and second a boating group as only our Commander arrived by sea! Walt and Mary, friends of Ray and Paula won a whopping \$66.50 in the 50/50 thanks to the Commander's selling tickets stretching from finger tip to finger tip for a bargain price of only \$10. Great idea, Mike! Many thanks to Ray and Paula again for generously hosting this fine affair.

Lt/C Norm Tadlock, JN, Administrative Officer



2010-2011 Bridge

Commander

Mike Steele, AP
804-333-3941
mike.steele1@verizon.net

Executive Officer

Vacant

Educational Officer

Dave Cook, SN
804-438-6029
buckwheat@rivnet.net

Administrative Officer

Norm Tadlock, JN
804-462-5554
nandatadlock@aol.com

Secretary

Dick Dickson, JN
804-438-6601
roshq@myway.com

Treasurer

Linda Steele, AP
804-333-3941
linda.steele9@verizon.net

Assistant Officers

Assistant Educational Officer

Helen Kelley, JN
804-436-0190
hi4boating@aol.com

Assistant Administrative Officer

Judy Cook, AP
804-438-6069
jujubee@rivnet.net

Assistant Secretary

Vacant

Assistant Treasurer

Paula Reuter, P
804-453-3642
reuters@northernneck.com

Members-at-Large

Ron Sowers, JN
804-580-6061
ronsowers@hotmail.com

Helen Kelley, JN
804-436-0190
hi4boating@aol.com

Dave Hearndon, AP
804-435-2056
dhhearndon@aol.com

John Kelley, JN
804-436-0190
jakelley@rocketmail.com

From the Helm Time to go boatin'

What have the winter and summer got in common? Both seasons can have weather that is just down right uncomfortable. Other than hot or cold what is a real importance difference between the two? At least in the summer we can enjoy our boats on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. As I write this article we have had three near record heat days in a row and it has been just about unbearable, but I will still take it over winter.

Over the next couple of months there are several opportunities to go to squadron events by boat. Go to a rendezvous! Go to D/5 Summer Council, 29-31 July. Help out with Nail and Sail, or just go out for a short evening cruise. If you get up in the area of the Lower Potomac, there are Friday evening concerts held at St. Mary's college on the St. Mary's River. They're free and provide the opportunity to get a little culture, but more importantly, they give us an excuse to use our boat several more times during the year.

As we plan for a few trips on the water we must be reminded that we need to be extra prudent about safety. Over the last couple of years I have read of more boats hitting immovable objects (buoys and bulk heads) resulting in one or more deaths. Almost all have happened right in the area we serve with the last being at Windmill Point. I don't even begin to understand, but there are several common threads. The operator was not paying close enough attention and in almost all cases alcohol was involved. Additionally, almost all happened at night with reduced visibility and yet the boats were not slowing down. As we work the safety booths, teach boaters safety classes and do VSCs, we have the opportunity to talk about these issues and possibly help to save a life.

See ya on the water!

Cdr Mike Steele, AP



The Lighthouse

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

Mike Steele, AP, Commander

Dick Horn, P, Editor
30 Old Mill Cove Road, Irvington, VA 22480
804-438-9086 rhornva@yahoo.com

Boating Safety for Kids

On 16 May, we held another *Boating Safety for Kids* program at the Northumberland Middle School. Sixteen squadron members volunteered their time and experience to make the event a great success.



Clockwise from top left, Arthur Olsen explains hypothermia; Barbara Hensler demos fire extinguishers; Twy Williams, Dave Cook and Mike Steele give the kids experience in using marine radios; Nancy Williams and Edee Withers cover the Bay's environment; and Edee explains the importance and use of life jackets.



Upcoming Events

16 July Rendezvous at the home of Dave and Dee Herndon on Dyer Creek (off Fleets Bay). Our hosts will provide beer, soft drinks, ice, the main course (fried chicken) and dessert. All members are asked to bring a side dish (salad, vegetable, etc.) to complement the dinner. ExCom will be at 1500, with Rendezvous, introduction of guests and Happy Hour at 1600, and picnic dinner to follow at 1700. If you will be attending the rendezvous, please send in your RSVP by **9 July** to Linda Steele, 804-333-3941, or linda.steele9@verizon.net and mail your \$5 check (per person) to her at the following

address: 262 College Avenue, Warsaw, VA 22572-4205.

Once again, NNSPS members and their guests are **encouraged to come by boat.**

6 August Rendezvous. Low country boil at the property of Julian Roden on the South Yeocomico River, Drum Cove. The same menu as Julian provided last year is sure to attract a large crowd again!

More details will follow in subsequent e-mails, but mark **16 July** and **6 August** on your calendars now.

Lt/C Norm Tadlock, JN, Administrative Officer

BOBBY JONES
PRESIDENT
SERVICE@BOBBYSMARINE.NET

901 JESSIE DUPONT
MEM.HWY
BURGESS, VA 22432
804-453-7541

BOBBY'S MARINE
WE SERVICE ALL MAKES
WWW.BOBBYSMARINE.NET

POWERED BY:
NISSAN * EVINRUDE E TEC * MERCURY
VENTURE TRAILERS

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

Busy at the Blackboard

Class Update

The *Weather* course is nearly finished as I write this update. A review and test are about all that remain to be done. By the time you read this, the class will be finished and we will be awaiting the results.

The *Instructor Development* class had an additional student, Dick Dickson, who did the course work in a practical manner. I received the test results from National today and congratulations are in order for Dick and Dick Horn for passing the course with top grades.

The *Navigation* class is currently on-going and the two students are likely to finish at different times as they are proceeding at their own paces.

The *Boat/Va* class that we held in May had ten students. All passed easily and a big thank you to all the instructors that participated. We have an additional *Boat/Va* class scheduled for 30 July at the Kilmarnock library. This is a free class with manuals being supplied by the Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries Dept. It is one of the required classes that boat operators of a certain age must pass. As of 1 July 2011, PWC operators 50 or younger AND Motorboat (10 HP or greater) operators 20 or younger must be able to prove that they have taken a safe boating class to legally operate their vessels in Virginia waters.

All NNSPS members that gave me *Boat/Va* student forms for a wallet card (to show proof of having taken a safe boating class) have been reported to VGIF and have received their cards. If any additional members want to get a VGIF card, contact me.

Other Teaching Activity

In a new area (for us), I have been looking into what is necessary to begin offering the *Boat Operator Certification* training which will include on the water skill demonstrations as well as classes and seminars. We have to become certified ourselves before being able to offer this. Stay tuned as I find out more about how, when, etc. This is nearly the same as licensing and is NOT the same as the VGIF Boating Safety Class requirement.

Lt/C Dave Cook, SN

VSCs and safer boating

Do Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) actually result in safer boating? On the surface, the answer appears to be yes and I believe they can. As you dig a little deeper, the answer may be no, just better prepared boaters. We know the boaters have the correct safety equipment on board, but that doesn't mean that they know how to use it. It's kind of the old saying about leading a horse to water. We can help educate the boaters to try to get them to actively be safer boaters.

Back in the first year that the Power Squadrons were allowed to do VSCs, we were told that the Commandant of the Coast Guard had put out the word that if a boat displayed a VSC sticker, it should not be boarded unless there is an observed obvious infraction. We were also told that in essence this provided a boater a free pass to drink and boat as long as they didn't do anything that would cause concern from the Coast Guard. This message was passed to boaters as an incentive to get a VSC.

Is this really the kind of message we want to give out? If it is we are encouraging unsafe boating. I think things have changed, because I hear more and more that boats are being boarded even when they have a sticker. This is a better message for us to pass down to boaters. There is no free pass! Every boat can be boarded and checked out even if it has a VSC.

Continued on page 6



COCKRELL'S MARINE RAILWAY, INC.

- Full Service Railway Yard • 25 Ton Travel Lift
- Custom Boat Building
- Complete Fiberglass & Wooden Boat Repairs
- Boat Ramp, Covered & Open Slips
- Dry Storage, Pumpout Station
- Marine Construction of Docks, Bulkheads, Boat Lifts & Boathouses

300 Railway Dr.
Heathsville, VA 22473
804-453-3560

Andy & Carol Cockrell, Owners
Myles Cockrell

Secretary

ExCom meeting news

The 13 May ExCom meeting was attended by Mike and Linda Steele, Dave Cook, Norm Tadlock, Ron Sowers, Dick Dickson, and Dave Herndon.

The 4 June meeting was attended by Mike and Linda Steele, Dave Cook, Norm Tadlock, Bette and Ron Sowers, and Dave Herndon.

Agenda items not covered in detail elsewhere in this issue include:

- Squadron funds from a private trust will be used to underwrite the USPS *America's Boating Course (ABC)*. The normal charge is \$35 per person. The VGIF *Boat/Va* course is free. Subsidizing *ABC* should help increase attendance.
- The annual squadron party will be held on 3 December again at Rappahannock-Westminster Canterbury.
- John Kelley reviewed the trademark status of our squadron burgee with National. We will include an amendment to our By-Laws indicating that the burgee design is the prop-

erty of the squadron. This should provide sufficient trademark protection.

- John Kelley will follow-up with logo merchandise vendors to supply squadron merchandise directly to members.
- Many boaters signed-up for Vessel Safety Checks at our Safety Booths at the May and June Farmers' Markets in Irvington.
- A cruise to Tangier Island is being considered for 10 September.

*Lt/C Dick Dickson, JN
and Lt Bette Sowers, P*



Serving the Middle Peninsula & Northern Neck

Individual & Group Health
Long Term Care
Life Insurance
Annuities

How's your BOAT INSURANCE POLICY?

We represent several carriers and can insure everything from Jet Skis to Mega Yachts! Call for a quote today.

Mike Warren and his staff are happy to assist you
contact them at:

804-693-3744

E-Mail: mike@esgi.net

Web Site: www.esginsurance.net

VSCs and Safer Boating

Continued from page 4

Another area of concern I have is that boaters with the VSC sticker are in many cases inclined to pump their sewage over board rather than paying for a pump out. They feel like they have a very slim chance of being boarded so they unlock their Y-valves and leave them like that. Yet when we do the VSC, they have everything in order. I know many that “go out for an evening cruise” meaning leaving the marina to go discharge their sewage. At least they don’t do it in the marina, but why discharge when a pump out only costs \$5.00.

These are but a couple of examples where we have opportunities to help boaters become safer boaters and to reduce our environmental impact. You don’t have to be a Vessel Safety Examiner to help educate boaters about these issues. Please do your part!

Cdr Mike Steele, AP

Upcoming D/5 Events

Circumnavigate Delmarva, 16-20 July

2011 Summer Cruise, 23 July-6 August

2011 Summer Council and Rendezvous,
29-31 July

Details at: <http://www.uspsd5.org/>



National Poster Contest Winners



Of the hundreds of contestants in the USPS National Youth Poster Contest, two Northumberland Middle School students were selected as First Place winners. Olivia Lawson (left) and Micaela Wilson were recognized for their award winning efforts recently at the school.

Barbara Hensler presented trophies, certificates of achievement, and a \$150 dollar check to the winners.

The contest is held annually and in the past 6 years both Lancaster and Northumberland Middle Schools have had winners. The theme of the 2010 USPS contest was “Water Smarts – Boat Safe and Clean”. Both Olivia and Micaela (at that time 6th Graders) submitted their entries and were judged, at three different competition levels, to be the best in their respective age groups.

The 2011 contest is underway. Best of luck to our local middle school students.

*Lt Ray Reuter, AP
and Lt Dick Horn, P*

YANKEE POINT SAILBOAT MARINA

www.yankeepointmarina.com

Home of the Hospice Turkey Shoot Regatta

- Brokerage
- Ship's Store
- Winter Storage
- 101 Boat Slips
- Hydraulic Trailer
- 40 Ton Travel Lift
- Yacht Restoration
- Restaurant
- Snack Bar
- Swimming Pool
- Bottom Painting
- Awigrip Painting
- Event Center
- Blister Repair
- Yanmar Stocking Dealer

Yankee Point Sailboat Marina

804-462-7018

804-462-7635

fax - 804-462-6225

88 Miles Offshore

To purloin a phrase from a classic novel, it was “the best of times, it was the worst of times”... I was fortunate to be invited to assist in taking the new Kadey Krogen 48 “AE,” *Serenity*, fresh from the Miami show, from Stuart, FL to its new owners in Huntington, NY. The boat was fully commissioned with all new electronics and was beautiful.

The boat was captained by Gregg Gandy of Kadey Krogen Yachts, and the able crew consisted of Capt John Stemke and me. I’ve done quite a few offshore runs, but both Gregg and John have done more long ocean deliveries than they cared to admit.

We headed out of St Lucie Inlet on a Sunday morning of clear skies, warm, light winds and headed for the Gulf Stream, angling NE toward this ocean current to get a push north. We set watches almost immediately of 4 hour shifts, 10-2, 2-6 and 6-10. I had the 10-2 shift, so had both daylight and darkness watches.

Soon enough we entered the gorgeous blue waters of the Gulf Stream as indicated by the uptick in water temperature. We also had winds from the SE, so the big Krogen was in her element, loving the following seas. The night was great, with winds in the 10-15 knot range, and my night shift never saw speeds below 10 knots - fantastic!!

On Monday around mid-morning we started following the offshore weather forecasts from the Sirius radio which provide a great detail on what to expect ahead. The outlook was not pretty. By mid-night we could expect winds approaching 40 knots, small craft warnings, and rain.

“Are we a small craft?” we pondered. If you are pondering this issue, you probably are, so at a point 88 miles offshore, we made the decision to head NW to Charleston, SC. This was based on the fact that while we felt the boat could safely handle it, we really didn’t want to test ourselves, and we felt there was no need to put the owners new boat through such seas if not needed.

It was a long 88 miles in to Charleston, with the winds starting to pick up the closer we got. We

entered the harbor about 0030 am, and once inside the breakwaters, the winds picked up to 40, with higher gusts. We had decided to put in at Charleston Harbor Marine. Our first choice was a floating pier that would allow the copious wind to keep the boat off the pier. However, there was little room to maneuver, but Gregg did a great job tying to nose her in. After some trouble with the lines, he got her turned around and we docked at the fuel dock, putting out all our fenders which worked fine.

The next morning dawned miserably - very windy and rainy - all in all, a day to pull up the covers and stay in bed. But, the work of a delivery crew is never done, so after a breakfast at the nearby hotel, we headed north on the ICW to Georgetown, SC, arriving about 1630 in great conditions, sunny and warm.

On Wednesday morning we headed offshore out of Win-
yah Bay, on our way to New

York once more - no more stops!! However, about 30 miles out of Georgetown during an engine room check Gregg discovered we were losing our water supply. It seems a recently installed ice maker in the refrigerator had a small 1/8” plastic line that was leaking, about 275 gallons worth! Now we had another decision to make: keep on going, or put in for more water. Let’s see, we need water for cooking, showers, the head...hmm. We altered course for Southport, NC.

We decided to stop at Bald Head Island marina to refill our water tanks, and arrived a little before dark. After refilling, we immediately cast off heading up the Cape Fear River for Wrightsville Beach. We dubbed this portion of the trip the “Pucker Parkway,” honoring the intensity of the scrutiny need by all six eyes to keep us in all the correct channels. Finally, we cleared Masonboro Inlet with favorable winds from the SE. The next day we rounded Cape Hatteras in following seas making good time.

To be continued in the next edition.

Capt Mike Warren

