

NANSEMOND RIVER POWER SQUADRON
A UNIT OF DISTRICT 5 OF UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



NANSEMOND LIGHT

JUNE 2009

Commander's Message

Our annual Vessel Safety examination was 16 May at Brady's Marina. Even with the day starting with a London-type fog, our Examiners withstood the elements and obtained approximately 20 inspections. Mark and Jennifer Presson took on the task of purchasing and cooking all the food for the cookout that followed. Jennifer, Mark, and anyone else who helped all deserve a huge THANK YOU! Also, a WELL DONE for all the Examiners who attended in that nasty morning weather.

2009 Bridge

Lin Hanbury, P
Commander
rivercharters@charter.net

Bob Eure, AP
Executive Officer
rgeure@aol.com

Lilly Stone, JN
Squadron Educational Officer
lilly.stone@gte.net

Mary Fisher, P
Administrative Officer
nmfisher@charter.net

Brenda Wallace, JN
Secretary
bbwall@verizon.net

Gail Aikin, S
Treasurer
agaikin@cox.net

Just last weekend, we had our second cruise of the year, the Secretary's Cruise to River's Rest on the Chickahominy River. The theme for the trip was Jimmy Buffett and we had all the fixings for a great time. Jimmy himself would have been proud. Maxann Morrison, as well as Bob and Brenda Wallace, deserve a great round of applause for their contributions for a fun time. There was too much food and drink, but we found a way to deal with it. What a fun time!

Our next event is the big deal of the year, the D/5 Summer Cruise to Cape Charles. This year not only is the destination really close for us but D/27 from North Carolina will be joining D/5 for a grand event at the Bay Creek Marina. I think everyone who has been to Bay Creek looks forward to returning. It has the nicest of everything. For those who have not been there yet, I really do encourage you to attend this year. NRPS needs your presence and I know you will have a fun time. Mary and Norman Fisher, with the assistance of Kim and Matt Schulze, are the ODs for this trip. They are working on a way to make an impression on the minds of all who attend. You can't just read about this in the Nansmond Light or look at pictures on our website, you've got to be there. This promises to be a large time!

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(Commander's Message Continued)

Your Bridge is watching you. Yes, there is still the chance you can earn an award just by showing up. This year we are putting together something special for those who deserve it. You have to be active to be recognized. So come on—get out there! Can't tell you any more at this time, but you will get a laugh out of it.

Have you heard about E15 gasoline? :(Talk to Mike Michael or Larry Rountree—They have a way you can help prevent this. This promises to be a real pain in the tank!

Thank everyone for all you do. This is a great squadron and it is all because of you. You are the NRPS MAGIC.

See you-all on Tuesday, 9 June, at 1830 (6:30 PM) at Plaza Azteca.

Cdr Lin Hanbury, P

P.S. Sign up for Bay Creek!!!!

Nansemond River Power Squadron Web Site

www.nrpowersquadron.com

Contact Lt Frank Brown, S, Webmaster
at nrpswebmaster@gmail.com

Nansemond River Power Squadron Newsletter

Nansemond Light

Submit articles for July newsletter by 22 June
Contact Lt Donna Eure, S, Editor, at dceure@aol.com or
4729 Goshawk Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23321



Squadron Educational Officer's Report

Hope you all had a great month of May — I spent a good part in Denmark (Europe) and found plenty of boats for sale, at fairly good prices. The same was the case for houses.

2009 CLASS SCHEDULE:

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| ABC (Safe Boating) | 24 JUNE 1900 (7:00 PM) | Four (4) Evening Sessions, Suffolk Cost: \$30 Call to Register & for Directions |
| Safe Boating Class | 8 AUG | Marina Cost: FREE Call to Register & for Directions |
| Navigation | 12 AUG 1830 (6:30 PM) | Instructor: Tom Chapman Prudential Towne Realty 3328 Western Branch Blvd, Chesapeake Cost: \$180 |
| Weather | TBD 2009 | Looking for Instructor |
| Marine Electronics | TBD 2009 | Instructor: Ron Murphy (Waiting for new books) |
| Seamanship | Late Summer 2009 | TBD |
| Piloting | Fall 2009 | Instructor: Fletcher Beadles |
| Instructor Re-Certification | Fall 2009 | Instructor: Lilly Stone NO COST (about 2 hours) |

Remember to sign up early for classes so we can order the books, etc.

Put education and fun on your calendar!

Lt/C Lilly T. Stone, JN



Administrative Officer's Report

Another cruise is done. The Chickahominy Cruise was a great time. Thanks go out to the ODs: Brenda and Bob Wallace and Maxann Morrison. You did a great job!!

How quickly the cruising season seems to pass so don't miss out on some great upcoming cruises.

Our next cruise is the D/5 Summer Rendezvous in July. Plan on attending as it is a fun event at a great marina. Make your reservations soon if you haven't already done so. They are holding eight slips for NRPS until 5 June—after that, there may not be slips available. You will also need to sign up for the District events so, if you are planning on attending, come see me for "sign up" forms.

Our next meeting is 9 June at Plaza Azteca in Suffolk. For our speaker, we have Ruth Debrito coming to give us a refresher on first aid to prepare us in case of an emergency or accident. You will remember her from a few years ago so lets give her a warm welcome. The social starts at 1830 (6:30 PM) and the meeting starts at 1900 (7:00 PM). See you there!

Lt/C Mary Fisher, P

NRPS Magic



Radar....Knowing and Understanding It's Limitations—Part II

Last month, we talked about radar and the fact that it reflects off all types of water, both rain storms and waves, and it is not necessarily the all-seeing instrument it is sometimes portrayed to be. This month, we will look at distance and the beam of radar.

Radar energy is “line of sight” and does not bend and can only travel about 15% further than light waves or just slightly beyond the horizon for effective scanning. Therefore, a contact can be hidden below the effective scan of the radar due to earth curvature. Most radar on recreational ships, as noted last month, is approximately 15 feet off of the surface, so the effective range would be approximately five nautical miles. If the height is doubled, the effective distance is increased to slightly greater than seven nautical miles. While radar set for a greater distance than this may produce a return, it will only do so for a tall contact.

Placing the radar unit as high as possible may yield the greatest range, but keep in mind that a stable platform is necessary for accurate plotting. A partial solution to range limitations is to switch between minimum and maximum range of the unit on a regular basis, keeping a separate paper plot of targets since both screens can not be maintained at the same time.

Beam width comes into play in terms of safety because it can cause a false “picture”. The beam width of most radar is 700 feet across. This can present two problems. First, a small contact may not reflect enough energy back to create an effective display (think small fiberglass skiff and incoming battleship). The other issue is that if two contacts are closer together than the beam width, they may appear as a single contact. Two ships traveling on the same course may at times appear as a single contact and at others as two separate contacts as they progress. An entrance to a small river may not show at all, or closely located navigation aides may be lumped into a single contact. The best solution is to relate the radar view to your chart and look at the screen using different ranges.

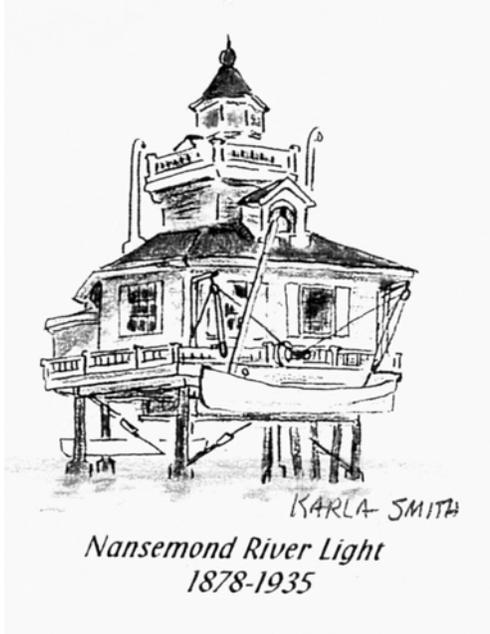
One other safety concern relating to radar beam is that the beam is created to be as flat as possible in order to reduce reflection off the water's surface and thus works well on flat vertical surfaces. It does not work well on sloping surfaces such as beaches. Thus an operator looking at a sloping featureless beach leading to a stand of trees or structures could be fooled into thinking the land mass is several hundred feet further away than is actually the case. Use of charts and depth gauges is important to prevent running aground in these instances.

Lt Art Aikin, JN
Safety Officer



NANSEMOND LIGHT

The Newsletter of Nansemond River Power Squadron
4729 Goshawk Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23321



WE SAVE LIVES
ON THE WATER



Schedule of Events

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| 9 June | General Meeting, Plaza Azteca Restaurant, Suffolk 1830 (6:30 PM) Dinner & Meeting |
| 14 July | General Meeting, Plaza Azteca Restaurant, Suffolk 1830 (6:30 PM) Dinner & Meeting |
| 23-26 July | D/5&D/27 Summer Rendezvous, Cape Charles Admin Officer's Cruise, Bay Creek, Cap Charles |
| 11 Aug | General Meeting, Plaza Azteca Restaurant, Suffolk 1830 (6:30 PM) Dinner & Meeting |
| 4-7 Sept | Treasurer's Cruise, Tidewater Yacht, Portsmouth |
| 9-11 Oct | Executive Officer's Cruise, Smithfield Station, Smithfield |