

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



NANSEMOND LIGHT

MAY 2009

Commander's Message

First, let me thank Bob and Donna Eure for hosting the New Commander's Reception. This was an effort they took on their own with their time and expense. It was done very nicely and very much appreciated.

Our first cruise will be 1-3 May at Constant's Wharf in Suffolk. It is our annual shake-down cruise and, in the past, has been a lot of fun. I would like to invite all our members to come and join us for this Cinco de Mayo / Kentucky Derby weekend. Come by sea or by land.

Boating Safety Week is 16-23 May and safety on the water will be discussed from coast to coast. NRPS is well armed and ready for this new season. I would encourage all of our VSC examiners to get out there and get it done. Each examiner needs one more exam than last year. It is easy if you start now.

The word is out and let me be the first to announce, the Secretary's Cruise, 22-25 May to Rivers Rest, is going to be a Jimmy Buffett weekend! Brenda Wallace is putting together a weekend of nothing but flowered shirts, margaritas and cheeseburgers. You have to be a part of this so sign up now. Parrot Head or not, you will enjoy this Memorial Day weekend.

The Fourth of July will be a lot of fun for our Carolina-bound NRPS members. Our Past Commanders are putting together a little something for all our members who will be in the Manteo area over the 4th. Details will be coming soon, but I can tell you that it will be fun. With our P/Cs, there is no telling what will happen.

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2009 Bridge

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(Commander's Message Continued)

It has also come to our attention that our presence at the D/5 event in Bay Creek will not go without notice—that will be our Administrative Officer's cruise. I can tell you that Mary and Norman are already talking about it. Kim Schulze is also assisting with this event. If you want the inside scoop, then come on and give Mary and Kim a hand. This is the year to do a D/5 cruise. It is just across the Bay and you can come by land or by sea. You will not be sorry.

As you can see, we are all looking forward to a fun and safe cruising season. As a part of NRPS, you are all entitled to have a good time and be rewarded for all that you do. As a smaller squadron, all of you are putting out 200% and that is what makes us great. This is your Bridge's way of saying thank you and we really hope you will come and join us this summer. After all, you have made this all possible.

If you signed up for one of these cruises, ask the people that dock their boat next to you to join us. We need more experienced boaters, like you, to help us with our cause. After all, we are here to help save lives on the water. Introduce someone you know to some of this **NRPS MAGIC!**

See you-all at 1830 on Tuesday, 12 May, at Plaza Azteca.

Cdr Lin Hanbury, P

Nansemond River Power Squadron Web Site

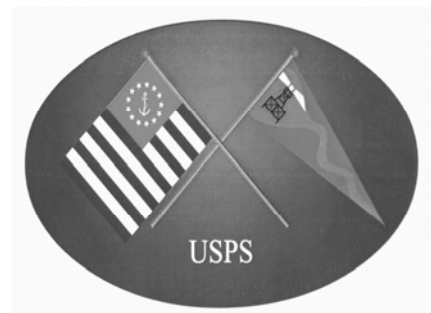
www.nrpowersquadron.com

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

Nansemond River Power Squadron Newsletter

Nansemond Light

Submit articles for June newsletter by 26 May
Contact Lt Donna Eure, S, Editor, at dceure@aol.com or
4729 Goshawk Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23321



Executive Officer's Report

Event Management Committee: New to the Executive Committee as a Director-at-Large, Lt Kim Schulze, P, is scheduling the first meeting. This committee will help prepare NRPS to take greater advantage of ideas like "Flares for Life" by developing and coordinating capabilities for our external events. We have an event coming up at a Little Creek marina the second Saturday in August. We are looking for a couple more folks to help support this committee. Please let Kim or me know if you would like to get in on the ground floor of this exciting new committee.

NRPS Trailer Team: I had a meeting with P/D/C Drex Bradshaw, AP, to discuss training in the movement, setup, and packing of the trailer and operation of Sea Vester. Colonial Power Squadron, a new squadron in Williamsburg, has already set up plans for this training. We'll get the word out when a date is set so that you may join us.

Boat Shows: Virginia In-Water Boat Expo & Sailfest that was to be held at Waterside on 12-14 September has been cancelled this year. Therefore, we will not be assisting Virginia Beach S&PS during this event.

Cooperative Charting: By the time you see this, the annual NOAA Workshop will be over. P/D/C Drex Bradshaw, AP, planned to attend. Maybe he can give us a report at the next General Meeting.

Radio Technical: I've received VHS/DSC Marine Radio training material. I plan to offer a two-hour seminar later in the year.

Safety: National Safe Boating Week is 16-22 May. Get On Board! Wear It!

Vessel Safety Check: We are kicking off National Safe Boating Week on 16 May with a VSC Day and Cookout at Brady's Marina. The vessel safety checks will run from 0800 (8:00 AM) to 1200 (12:00 PM) and the cookout will begin after 1200 (12:00 PM). Also new to the Executive Committee as a Director-at-Large, Lt Mark Presson is coordinating this event. Please give him your full support. This will be a great opportunity for vessel examiners to meet their minimum quota to remain qualified. Remember to wear "no-see-um" repellent.

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(Executive Officer's Report Continued)

New Commander's Reception: We had a great turnout to see Cdr Lin Hanbury, P, kickoff the new NRPS year. Thank you for coming and a special thank you to the food and drink contributors.

Happy Boating starts with Safety!

Lt/C Bob Eure, AP

NRPS Website Update

Have you ever forgotten when that next boating trip is with your friends in the NRPS? Can't remember where you really wanted to go? Or that one class (GPS!!) that would help make your trips easier to maneuver—When is it going to be held? Or I really hated missing the Change-of-Watch for the squadron. Wonder who was there and how did it go? If so, you are a prime candidate to visit the squadron's website: www.nrpowersquadron.com Much effort is being put into this tool to help our members enjoy their membership in the Nansemond River Power Squadron even more. So, if you want to sign up for one of the upcoming trips but can't make the next meeting, go to the website, click on events and at the bottom you can complete a signup form right there, right now!

Our website is becoming popular, especially the link to the Event Photos page. Seeing the Flares for Life or the Change-of-Watch is almost (not quite) as good as being there. For the month of April (as of this writing) we have had 156 visits to the website, from 61 different folks. The visitors live in 12 different states but the largest percentage are local (VA) or our immediate neighbors (NC, MD, DC or NY). The highest visited page is the Events Photo page, where folks can see what fun we have in the NRPS.

I hope you will continue to support this site. If you see something that will help our squadron, let me know and I'll work to get it included at our site.

Lt Frank Brown, S
Webmaster



Squadron Educational Officer's Report

An **Educational Proficiency Award** is awarded after passing: Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting and any three of six elective courses. The USPS will then issue a Certificate and the member is then authorized to wear a special uniform insignia. Call me at 399-0051 if you want to know how to get yours.

2009 CLASS SCHEDULE:

Navigation	TBD 2009	Instructor: Tom Chapman Prudential Towne Realty 3328 Western Branch Blvd, Chesapeake Est. Cost: \$180
Weather	TBD 2009	Looking for Instructor
ABC (Safe Boating)	JUNE 2009	Four (4) Evening Sessions, Suffolk Cost: \$30
Marine Electronics	TBD 2009	Instructor: Ron Murphy (Waiting for new books)
Safe Boating Class	8 AUG	Marina
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

By the time you read this, the Constant's Wharf cruise should be complete. Always a good time and a great place for the "Shake-Down Cruise".

Now on to the upcoming events!! For all of you who are VSC qualified, we have VSC day on 16 May. Remember that while, as a group, we are all about having fun, boat safety and education is our number one mission. This is a great opportunity for us to reach out to the community and spread the message.

For those who haven't done so yet, remember to call and make reservations for the Secretary's Cruise at River's Rest Marina on 22-25 May. The marina's number is 804-829-2753. Since this is a holiday weekend, the marina usually has a band one afternoon to entertain us all. Great fun!! I don't know if our Secretary has gotten any help to OD yet so, if anyone is interested, just give her a call and offer your assistance.

The Administrative Officer's Cruise in July is also the D/5 Summer Rendezvous. Remember that in addition to making marina reservations you also need to sign up for the D/5 events. For those who plan on coming on this cruise, be sure to pick up the D/5 agenda and sign-up forms from me at the next meeting.

The next meeting is 12 May at Plaza Azteca on Main Street in Suffolk. 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 I

Anyone who has spent time looking at a radar screen knows that there is an immense amount of information displayed, some of it useful, much of it not. The Rules of the Road state that a mariner has to consider the limitations of his radar unit when making decisions, but most manuals do not list these limitations.

First, radar is a radio signal transmitted in a specific direction and then the transmitting unit switches to a receiving mode and measures the energy of the returning signal and the time it takes for the return. Because this all takes place over time, the signal beam moves a certain distance from the antenna before it can start to receive. Anything inside this distance, which can vary from feet to miles depending on how the unit is set, can not be “seen” by the radar.

All of us have watched the local weather forecaster show rain and storm systems in various colors indicating the strength. When viewed over time, the radar shows the speed and track of the storm system. But, if the radar is picking up the movement of the storm, it probably can not “see” the fiberglass boat that is moving in that storm. Water is an excellent radar reflector. Both rain and waves can reflect radar energy and create images on the screen, thus blanking out entire regions. Most recreational radar installations are 15 feet or less above the water's surface and thus waves of 5 to 7 feet can often be seen on the screen, especially if the boat is rolling or pitching in the rough seas.

Next month in Part II, we will look at distance restrictions, plotting and beam limitations.

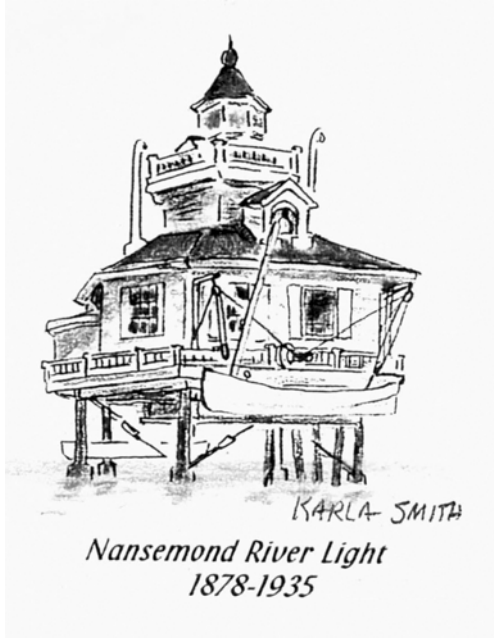
Please note that much of the technical information contained herein is reprinted with permission from Frank Mummert in an article from the Mad Mariner.

Lt Art Aikin, JN
Safety Officer

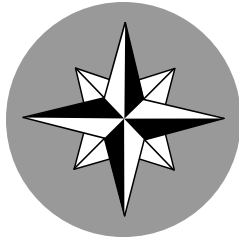


NANSEMOND LIGHT

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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|------------|--|
| 12 May | General Meeting, Plaza Azteca Restaurant, Suffolk
1830 (6:30 PM) Dinner & Meeting |
| 16 May | VSC Day & Cookout, Brady's Marina, Suffolk
0900 (9:00 AM) - 1500 (3:00 PM) |
| 22-25 May | Secretary's Cruise, Rivers Rest Marina, Charles City |
| 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 |