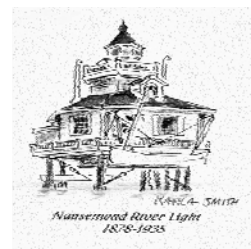


THE NANSEMOND LIGHT

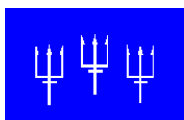
Nansemond River Power Squadron

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January 2010 - Vol 16, No. 1

Commander's Corner



Cdr Lin Hanbury, AP

OK, by the time you receive this news letter you will have officially completed the holiday season. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and you have properly brought in the new year. Now that it is January, I get to do the stuff that gets me ready for the new year. Plan my boating season ! That's right, all of us should start thinking about all those projects that we promised would be completed by boating season this year. You know the varnishing, cleaning the bilge, or maybe the wax job that you never got to last year. You have four months to get this stuff done, so come on lets all get those list going and making arrangements with the boatyards, canvas guy, or mechanics. We want to be first on their list.

But first, back to today ! Let me thank everybody who had their hands on the Christmas party. It was a wonderful time with plenty of drink and food. We had a great turnout, even the District Commander and his wife stopped by. That's right, we had the pleasure of having D/C Ralph Bernard and Nance Bernard come all the way from their home in New Jersey. That was quite an honor !

Things are already in place for Nansemond River. On January 24th we have a Daytripper scheduled at the Virginia Beach Military Museum. Ron & Bonnie are hosting the event and we will have the sign up sheet available at our January meeting. So please sign up and plan to have a fun time.

Our Change-of-Watch is scheduled for March 13th at the Cedar Point Country Club. Mary Fisher should have all the details by meeting time. This

USPS® formality, everybody gets dressed up and we all get to welcome our new Bridge. So please mark your calendars.

Flares for Life is well into the planning stage and Ron Murphy promises that this will be a huge event, this year, and has already collected a lot of funds. Ron is as excited as I have ever seen over this. Let's all jump in and give him a hand in making this a jumbo NRPS event.

What about our cruise schedules? If you are planning activities with other clubs, don't forget to save a little time for us. We have a large time at all these events and the ODs always plan something special. So make it a point to join us this year.

The George and the Morrison awards are getting ready for their first presentation. The year is not over and remember this does not have to be a boating event. Watch your back because we are watching you !

In closing, let me say that we are losing our news letter Editor of many years, Donna Eure. She has passed the reins on to Grace Brown. Let me take this moment to thank Donna for an outstanding job as our Editor. We know the Nansemond Light has been passed to capable hands but want Donna to know how much we have appreciated her contribution. Now, Donna is available for something else, so please give her a call, (Ha, Ha !!) See you at our next general meeting, on 12 January, 1830, Plaza Azteca.

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Executive Officer's Report

Lt/C Bob Eure, AP



NRPS MAGIC

Flares for Life: This event will be on 17 and 18 April at the old TCC Campus at Pig's Point. This is at the James River end of College Drive. A group of our members met on the evening of Tuesday, 8 December to take on some special assignments to prepare for this upcoming event. A lot of good ideas were discussed and, as a result, I think we will be better prepared to handle a larger attendance in 2010. Please mark your calendars to keep these dates clear because your participation will be critical to a successful event and we will really need your help. Please sign up to help and serve as a squadron ambassador to the community.

Safety: When the outside temperatures reach extreme cold, we tend to use things that produce extreme heat. Be sure to allow proper clearances for boat heaters and other sources of heat during the winter season. Don't lay flammable materials on or near heated surfaces. Keep a check on your boat from time to time especially if it remains in the water. Don't forget to read Art's safety article. His last article had lots of good information to help you prepare for the December Nor'easter on 19 December.

National Event: Time is running out to make reservations for the **USPS® Annual Meeting 2010** which will take place at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Disney World in Orlando, FL. Get your reservations in now for the 1-6 February 2010 event. If you ever needed a good reason to go to Disney World, this is it!

Mystery Revealed! You have been seeing the image of an oil lantern and the words "NRPS Magic" in an Arabic-style "Aladdin" font on our web site. The oil lamp is the symbol for USPS® instructors. I like to think that it relates to our instructors who reveal the "magic" of safe boating to the public and

to our members. To make our NRPS Magic even stronger, I appeal to you to consider taking the training to become a qualified USPS® instructor to help spread the magic of safe boating.

A Final Note: I take this opportunity to welcome aboard our new newsletter editor, Grace Brown. She has some ideas for giving the Nansemond Light a facelift and asks that you take the time to write a paragraph or two to share with all our members throughout the coming year.

Happy Boating starts with Safety!

Survey for 2010 Activity Planning

As I write this, I hold only one completed survey! I'm guilty myself of not completing one. I know time is running out because the survey closes at the end of the January Annual Meeting. The NSPS Bridge Officers-Elect will work with the survey results to plan the 2010 events. It is important to make tentative marina reservations for our summer cruises early so we will get our first choices. The survey has proven to be effective to increase member participation at our past events. Please complete the survey in the newsletter and bring to the January Annual Meeting to turn it in to me. If you forget, your last chance will be to complete it at the meeting. So, plan ahead and put some good thought into your responses. Form is on Page 6, and Thank you.



Members Come

This space devoted to educational and yes, even personal, information for and about our members and their families!

Congratulations to those who have achieved educational distinctions in the last quarter:

Cdr Lin Hanbury for his Advanced Piloting

Good Luck to all those attending classes now:

John and Molly Duggan, Piloting; Frank Brown, Piloting

Welcome to our newest members:

Mac and Rebecca McBride and family members Bridget, Ian, and Maci; Susan Faurot; Susan Sanders, William Magann

Congratulations on a personal level to:

Frank and Grace Brown on the news of their up coming first grandchild

Administrative Officer's Report

Lt/C Mary Fisher, P

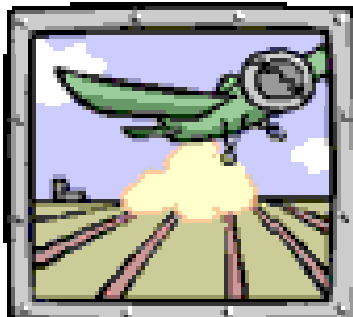


Well the Holidays are over for another year and I hope everyone enjoyed their friends and family. How quickly they come and go each year. Also reminds me of how fast the squadron year has sped past. Here we are on the verge of electing a new slate of officers and it feels like the year has just gotten going with our current bridge. So there isn't much to announce as the year is winding down. So let's hope winter goes by just as fast so we can get onto our good boating weather.

In the meantime, take advantage of the downtime to prepare for the upcoming boating season. With that in mind, we will have Ruth Debrito speaking at the January meeting on safety issues. Everyone hopes for an "accident free" boating season but just in case something does happen, Ruth can help us get prepared.

I am also looking for any suggestions for daytrippers and cruise locations for the 2010 boating season. We will be discussing the schedule over February and March as this helps the new admin officer get off to a quick start. If anyone has a favorite marina or watering hole they like to go to, let us know. Anyone on the bridge would be happy to discuss it and we are always looking for new places to cruise. January 12th is the next regular meeting. Get there by 1830 for conversation and catching up as the meeting starts at 1900.

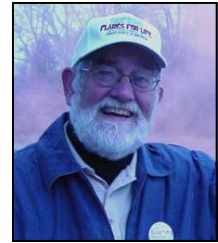
The upcoming day-tripper is on January 24th. Ron Murphy is sponsoring the event to the Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach. Please join us as it should be a great way to spend a cold winter Sunday afternoon.



Also put March 13th on your calendar for the Change-of-Watch at Cedar Point. I will have more information on dinner details at the meeting.

See you at the meeting.

Nansemond River Power Squadron Wins USPS® Web Award



Lt Frank Brown, S
Webmaster

The USPS® created the USPS® Website Award to recognize squadrons and their websites. Since 2004, NRPS has participated in the program and in the 3 year period of 2004-2006, NRPS was recognized with the Web Site Award. Thanks to Bob Eure, AP, for a great job.

In 2009, for the first time NRPS is recognized with the Web Site Excellence award. Of a possible 100 points, we received 91 points. The evaluations are done by other webmasters and IT personnel throughout the USPS®.

The two levels of recognition identify the following: the Website Award is for websites that meet the basic criteria of presenting your squadron and USPS® to the public and dispersing critical event information to members. The Website Excellence Award is for those websites that have gone far beyond the minimum requirements and provide the information in an especially organized, informative and artistic manner that encourages visitors to view all of the information available and be inspired to make contact for additional information.

For the year 2009, the website had more than 1,886 visits from 553 visitors, with 12,270 page views. More than 29% of the visits were new or unique visits. The Event Photos page was the most visited after the Squadron home page. We had visits from 31 states (although some only came to the site, saw it was not what was wanted, and left right away.) We do know that a number of our visitors and students in the ABC classes found that information here.

Congratulations to the Squadron for the Excellence award. Keep up the good work of providing me with information to make our website a meaningful tool in the operation of our successful squadron.

Christmas Party 2009

The Nansemond River Power Squadron held its annual Christmas get-together December 6 and was hosted by our Commander Lin Hanbury and his wife Cheryl. Food was (as usual for our squadron) delicious and abundant, and the camaraderie was warm and filled with holiday spirit (as was Dick Pond's tie!). And to show the influence that NRPS has in the highest places, we were honored by a visit from the big man himself as Santa spread cheer among our members (there was a lot of cheer shown Rana Weaver!). All in all, a good time was had by everyone especially our newest members, Mac and Rebecca McBride who really enjoyed the steamed oysters outside!



This is the Hanbury's dining room table with only a portion of the yummys. It seems that our photographer became too busy munching to take further food pics!



Running on a continual loop was the slide show of all our squadron activities from 2009, and from time to time members sat enthralled!



Dick Pond and Angus Hines see deep in nautical discussion that they didn't even notice the flash went off...looks like a fish story to us!



Lin Hanbury serves Jim Presson and the group luscious steamed-on –the-grill steamed oysters in the driveway...a favorite haunt for most party-goers!

More Christmas Party 2009 in Pictures!



Santa made an early Christmas appearance and chatted with Ralph Bernard, D5 Commander and Bob Eure. Then he took a little time (and a little squeeze!) with Rana Weaver.



It's always fun to catch up at a party like this, just as Ralph Bernard and Debbie Baxter are doing.



Typical hovering in the kitchen (where there was even more food!) were Mary Fisher, Grace Brown, Dick Pond



Socializing around the plentiful liquid refreshments were Bob Eure, Ralph Bernard, Tom & Linda Chapman, Drex Bradshaw and Nancy Bernard

2010 Squadron Activities Planning Survey (Please Return to Bob Eure)

Name: _____

Check One Per Question.

1. **Will you be an Officer of the Day (OD) during the 2010 boating season?**

- Yes No

2. **How many Weekend/Overnight Cruises would you like planned?**

- 4 5 6

3. **Should we count Harborfest as an Overnight Cruise?**

- Yes No

4. **Should we count Mile Marker Zero as an Overnight Cruise?**

- Yes No

5. **Do you prefer that Overnight Cruises be planned where lodging is available?**

- Yes No

6. **How many events would you like to have with other local squadrons?**

- 0 1 2 or more

7. **Do you like programs to be presented at general meetings?**

- Yes No

8. **If yes to programs, what program topics would you like?**

List:



9. **Do you prefer that we continue planning Daytrippers?**

- No Yes

10. **What Daytripper activities would you like to see planned? Check All That Apply.**

- Luncheons Dinners Saturday Breakfasts Wine & Cheese Socials
 Happy Hour at Bar (No meal) Other

11. **What Marinas would you like to visit during the 2010 boating season?**

- | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bay Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> Bluewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Constant's Wharf | <input type="checkbox"/> Coinjock | <input type="checkbox"/> Hampton City Piers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Edento | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> Lynnhav | <input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth City | <input type="checkbox"/> Onancock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rivers Rest | <input type="checkbox"/> Kingsmill | <input type="checkbox"/> Riverwalk Landing | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Ponds | <input type="checkbox"/> Manteo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Smithfield Station | <input type="checkbox"/> Urbanna | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterside | <input type="checkbox"/> York River Yacht Haven | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Educational Officer's Report

Lt/C Lilly Stone, JN



INSTRUCTORS – PLEASE CHECK when your licenses expire. **

For All Instructors and prospective instructors I have included our region's Winter 2010 State Instructor Workshop & Certification.

The Piloting Class is ready for its final exam and the Navigation Class is getting ready to go out and "Shoot" some stars – cold weather or not.

CLASS SCHEDULES FOR 2009-10

STATE WORKSHOP: 11 Feb 10 - Hoffman Beverage Company, NO COST. 5464 Greenwich Road, Virginia Beach, 1830-2100 (6:30-9:00 PM)

INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT: Instructor :

Frank Brown. After New Year Paul D. Camp Community College, Kenyon Road - Room 124, 1900-2030 (7-8:30 PM). Cost \$25,00

ABC SAFE BOATING: Feb 2010. Various Instructors. Suffolk. Cost: \$30.00

WEATHER: TBD 2010 - I have 1 volunteer and need 1 more Instructor

MARINE ELECTRONICS: JAN 2010 Instructor: Ron Murphy. Location TBD

SEAMANSHIP: TBD—Art Aikin & Brenda Wallace

INSTRUCTOR RE-CERTIFICATION**: Instructor: Lilly Stone As needed NO COST (about 2 Hours)

ADVANCED PILOTING: Fall 2010. Instructor: Fletcher Beadles Main Street Methodist Church, Suffolk, Va. 23434.

Put education and fun on your calendar.

Read about Prince Henry the Navigator; the brief history and our award at www.usps.org.

Big Bang Theory

P/C Art Aiken, JN

Safety Officer



Note: the following article does not apply to gel cell battery systems with matching charger systems. While talking with another club member as we enjoyed an adult beverage of choice, the conversation turned to batteries and he mentioned that in the past 6 months, he had two batteries explode on his boat. The good news was that he was on board both times and he always kept the batteries in proper enclosed boxes. Despite this fact, he had to clean up his engine room twice and the last time he was actually in the engine room when the battery exploded. The shirt he was wearing, after it came out of the wash, looked like someone had used it for shotgun target practice! Thankfully he was not facing the battery when it exploded. Even with proper containers, an exploding battery can send dangerous acid in several directions, and with considerable force. Further discussion revealed that his batteries were located outboard of his engines and were difficult to reach for routine inspection and service. It was obvious that these explosions had been the result of the water level in the batteries becoming low with the resultant build up of acid gas in one or more cells, resulting in an explosion when the battery was placed under load. (In the second case he had attempted to start one engine on which he was working)

Let's examine what happens on the average boat with relation to the batteries and their charging system and what steps are necessary to prevent an explosion. First, many chargers, particularly on older boats are not "smart" chargers and will continue to send some charge to the battery on a continuous basis. Second, many charging systems are not capable of differentiating between the needs of the two or more batteries in the system, so if one battery is calling for a full charge, the charger attempts to put a full charge on all batteries in the system. This over charging will result in additional heat and subsequent evaporating of water from one or more cells. In order to prevent this situation from developing, it is necessary that the batteries be inspected on a monthly basis and proper levels

maintained in all cells. Inspection and replenishing of fluid should be done in the following manner;

First, make sure the area where the batteries are located is well ventilated. If not, run your engine room blowers for 5 minutes before beginning the inspection process.

Disconnect the batteries by turning off the battery switch. Make sure the charging system is likewise disconnected. Disconnect and remove the batteries if possible. If this is difficult, disconnect and make sure the area is well ventilated before removing the covers for inspection.

Remove the covers and inspect each cell. Replenish liquid in any cell which is below the full mark on the side. You should use distilled water only for this purpose. Do not use tap water.

Once all cells have been properly filled, reconnect the batteries and charger in the reverse sequence you used to disconnect them.

If your batteries are located in an area of your



boat which is difficult to reach, such as outboard of your engines in a tight area or under a water tank, you may want to consider relocating them to a more accessible area of the engine room. Also remember that in winter when you are not around the boat as much that you need to inspect the batteries at every opportunity since they are probably running the bilge pumps a little more due to rain and snow on the boat and cold is also not a battery's best friend so they will demand a charge more often, making it likely that one or more may have some liquid boiled down from over charging.

"There is nothing like lying flat on your back on the deck, alone except for the helmsman aft at the wheel, silence except for the lapping of the sea against the side of the ship. At that time you can be equal to Ulysses and brother to him."

- Errol Flynn

Nansemond River Power Squadron

900 Gatling Pointe Parkway
Smithfield, Virginia 23430-2308

Place
Stamp
Here



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- 12 Jan 10 Annual Meeting, Plaza Azteca Restaurant, Suffolk
18:30 Dinner, Meeting with Elections and Presentation**
- 24 Jan 10 Daytripper at Virginia Beach Military Aviation Museum**
- 9 Feb 10 Monthly Meeting, Plaza Azteca Restaurant, Suffolk, 18:30**
- 13 Mar10 Change-of-Watch, Cedar Point Country Club, Suffolk**
- 25-28 Mar D5 Spring Conference, Maryland Clarion Fountainbleau Hotel
(see website for details)**

2009-2010 Bridge Officers

Commander	Cdr Lin Hanbury, AP
Executive Officer	Lt/C Bob Eure, AP
Educational Officer	Lt/C Lilly Stone, JN
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Mary Fisher, P
Secretary	Lt/C Brenda Wallace, JN
Treasurer	Lt/C Gail Aikin, S
Safety Officer	P/C Art Aikin, JN

Publisher's Statement

THE NANSEMOND LIGHT newsletter is published monthly. Deadlines for articles is the 25th day of each month for the following month's issue and we welcome both articles and photographs of interest to our members.. *THE NANSEMOND LIGHT* published for the members and member families of the Nansemond River Power Squadron (NRPS), Squadron 3600, District 5 of the United States Power Squadrons®.

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