

# the Tar Talks

A Publication of the Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron

Commander's Message

Cdr Laura Shaw, AP

## Thanksgiving already?!

Yikes. I've recently said "See ya" to Lady E, who's been shrink-wrapped (first time I've splurged for this) and safely tucked away until spring. Now we turn our attention to winter and spring activities, and I'm happy to give you a preview.



The last two years in November, the "Quad Squad Plus 3" sponsored speakers (John Rousmaniere and Gary Jobson) at The Maritime Aquarium. This year we've opted to wait and put on a spring event, and what's shaping up is different. We're in the beginning stages of planning an all-day **Safety at Sea for In-Shore Boating** event with **Capt. Henry Marx** of Landfall Navigation and other groups. A lot of good ideas have been put on the table for different demos, hands-on activities and seminars, including MOB maneuvers, deploying life rafts, flares, boat safety for youngsters, and lots more. All the participating squadrons and groups will be meeting next week to get the ball rolling.

And now comes my usual plea - We need help with this, specifically:

1. Someone to do graphic design (for posters, flyers/brochures, tickets, etc.).
2. A low-cost printer. Are you a printer, or know someone who could help?
3. People to put up flyers and drop off brochures at various marine stores.
4. Folks to "work the show." We'll need everything from ticket takers to instructors and demonstrators.

Do you have an area of expertise that you're willing to show off? Even if you're not sure how you can help but want to, please let me know and we'll be happy to put you to work. Email me at [BoatNSPS@optonline.net](mailto:BoatNSPS@optonline.net).

### Coming up:

- Don't miss **POKER NIGHT** at Les White's house on Saturday evening, December 10. **D/Lt/C Suzanne Nentwich** of Cross County will teach us how to play Texas Hold 'Em! See inside for more details.
- Our **AFTER THE HOLIDAYS PARTY** will be held on Saturday evening, January 7. Watch your email box (and that other mailbox) for an invitation.

Happy Thanksgiving!

--Commander Laura

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### Welcome New Members

Robert and Kathryn Kloss of Redding

### In Memoriam

We are sad to report on the passing of Russell Frost III on October 11 at the age of 84. Pip, as he was known to long-standing squadron members, joined the USPS in 1936, achieved his JN grade in 1947, and became a life member in 1978. He had 29 merit marks.

## Safety Corner - Rules for Safe Towing

1. Make sure all crew on both vessels are wearing life jackets. Always have a knife ready to cut the towline in case of trouble.
2. Never allow your crew near the towline under strain... a broken-towline becomes a deadly whip.
3. Never hesitate to refuse a tow when you can't handle it... you could endanger your own boat and crew. Call for a professional towing service. Good seamanship is knowing your own limits.

### Fume Detection

Can you name of the most reliable and effective gasoline fume detection system you can have aboard your vessel and how is it activated?

The answer is: your nose and by sniffing!

The above are adapted from the web site of the National Safe Boating Council.

### The Cost of Not Being Safe

"The 5,438 boating accidents reported in 2003 resulted in 703 fatalities, 3,888 injuries, and \$40,422,374 in property damage."

— U.S. Coast Guard

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## New Member Benefit

Maptech is now providing free downloads to USPS members on the entire library of NOAA raster digital charts. These are the absolute latest NOAA charts available. You can work with these charts using the Maptech Digital Chart CD provided with our Boating, Piloting, and Advanced Piloting courses - planning and then uploading routes, waypoints and marks to your GPS or printing your own charts complete with plotted courses.

These charts will also work with virtually every navigation program on the market. This is an invaluable benefit of membership in USPS.

To access the protected web site, visit the USPS EdDept web site ([www.usps.org/national/eddept](http://www.usps.org/national/eddept)) and click the "Maptech Download Free NOAA Charts" button at the top of the page.

Tom Brincka, National Education Dept

The best preventative for seasickness is to sit on the shady side of an old country church.

- old sailor's proverb

## Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron 2005 Bridge

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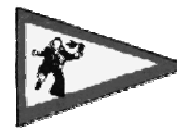
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The opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron or USPS. All members are invited and encouraged to submit items for publication. Email Jim Hamren at [NSPSMembership@att.net](mailto:NSPSMembership@att.net)

**\*\*AS SEEN ON TV!!!\*\***

Learn how to play **TEXAS HOLD 'EM** at NSPS's

## ***POKER NIGHT!***

Join us, along with our infamous Texas Hold 'Em instructor, D/Lt/C Suzanne Nentwich, AP of Cross County Squadron for an evening of cards and fun!

Suzanne will teach us how to play, then we'll play some practice games. Anyone wanting to play "for real" is invited to do so with other like-minded players!

***\*\*If you think the River is only where you boat, and the Flop is how your First Mate describes your docking technique, then you need to come to Poker Night!!!\*\****

WHEN: **Saturday, December 10, 7 pm - 11 pm**

WHERE: **Les & Louise White's home  
6 Strawberry Ridge Rd.  
Ridgefield, CT 06877**

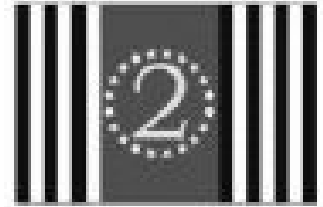
COST: **A mere \$5 donation gets you in.**

WHAT YOUR \$5 BUCKS GETS YOU: **Open bar, hors d'oeuvres, instruction from the 'Queen of Poker' (& D2), Suzanne Nentwich, and a night off from Christmas shopping!**

***RSVP to Les White: [Polarisii@aol.com](mailto:Polarisii@aol.com), or give him a call at 203-438-0765. This event is open to all squadron members and guests. Les will email you directions to his home when you RSVP.***

### **HOLD THE DATE**

***ANNUAL AFTER-THE-HOLIDAYS PARTY  
SATURDAY JANUARY 7  
AT A LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED***



**D/2 Winter  
Council  
Saturday  
11 February 2006**

Held at the Ramada Inn  
1289 Route 300, just south  
of junction with I-84 (Exit  
7S), Newburgh, New York  
The cost for the day is \$ 29  
- includes Continental  
Breakfast and complete  
Buffet Lunch.

**Hold the Dates  
Spring Conference**  
Friday & Saturday,  
March 31 - April 1, 2006  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
White Plains, NY

### **Congratulations**

To Roger White who recently passed the 1st module of the revamped Engine Maintenance course. He joins Brian Harrington, Laura Shaw and John Sullivan who managed the feat this time last year .

How many students will ace mechanic and EM Instructor John Frank be able to shepherd through the 2nd EM module? Stay tuned.

## Upcoming Squadron Events

Executive committee meetings are open to all members.

Date	Event	Location
12/05 Mon	NSPS Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm	Room 333, Norwalk City
12/10 Sat	Poker Night	Les White's home, Ridgefield
01/02 Mon	NSPS Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm	Room 333, Norwalk City
01/07 Sat	After-the-Holidays Party	To be announced
02/06 Mon	NSPS Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm	Room 333, Norwalk City
02/13 Mon	Squadron Boating Class starts, 7 - 9 pm	Norwalk High School
02/14 Tues	Squadron Boating Class starts, 7 - 9 pm	Wilton Middlebrook School
03/06 Mon	NSPS Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm	Room 333, Norwalk City



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