



The Portlight

[The Northern Star Hunter Sailing Association](#)



Commodore's Corner – June 2015

The sailing season is well underway and the club has had several events so far. The splash down, Kentucky Derby, and the Memorial Day picnic had good attendance.

The season got off to a slow start due to the weather. Silent Running has only left the slip a few times so far, due to some family matters that have impacted our schedule. I recently had to cancel our planned overnight cruise to Solomons as well. I am hoping that the remainder of the season goes a little smoother for us!

We have a few new members that have joined the club this spring. I would like to welcome them and please take some time to give **Joanie** and **Ruthie Lynne** a call on the radio and offer them a side this season. We are always looking to add other Hunter owners to the club, so feel free to get a few more club cozies to help spread the word! If you need some, please let me, or any officer, know.

We need a few more volunteers to organize raft ups to fill out the schedule. Aside from the French Tall Ship L'Hermione coming to Annapolis and Baltimore, Schatzi is hosting a Father's Day Dinner raft in June. We are also looking for a few volunteers to host an event for Independence Day and our annual Safety Raft in July. If you are willing to put something together, please let any officer know. Even if you are not interested in a themed raft, but are planning to anchor in a creek and wouldn't mind some company, you can send a message to the entire club easily with the membership@nshsa.org mail list. Anyone that is on the list can send mail to it.

Smooth Sailing!

Bill

Vice- Commodore

. It's not a Blimp; it's an aerostat, which is a tethered airship. I am referring to the white, blimp-like object (WhiBLO) we have all seen floating over the Aberdeen Proving Ground. A little research turned up some information on this thing. Raytheon has a piece about it on its web site.

It belongs to our country. The government bought it with your tax dollars. They call it the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS) and it is for NORAD.

It is large. It is 242 ft. long and filled with helium.

It is tethered to the ground. Raytheon claims the tether is only 1 1/8 inch thick and is strong enough to withstand 100 mph winds. They also say it can go up to 10,000 feet high. Data from the radar travels down the tether. I have replaced my radar cable twice already so I hope this technology gets passed along to Raymarine.

It carries radar to look down for cruise missiles, drones and mailmen flying gyrocopters. The radar is supposed to be able to track moving pieces of machinery as far as 340 miles away.

It doesn't carry cameras. The ACLU still doesn't feel comfortable about it.

It doesn't carry weapons. It does, however, work with people who have weapons, including the Army's Patriot air defense system, the Navy's Standard Missile-6, the AMRAAM air-to-air missile, and the National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System.

They come in pairs. While one carries a "surveillance radar", it is designed to work with a second WhiBLO carrying something called a "fire control radar." I suspect the latter will not involve the Rock Hall Fire and Rescue Squad. It's being tested. The testing phase is supposed to last three years.

Sail Fleet Captain

Another race cancelled due to lack of wind! Oh well, the season is only beginning. The next one will probably be on the Father's Day raft up.

I know we have a few new members, so don't be shy. Please come and race with us. We are not racers by any means. Most of the time, we go from point A to point B on our way to a raft up, nothing complicated, just fun and easy but just enough to make you want to go

faster or tweak your sails one more time. Start times are calculated depending of the size of the boat and the equipment on board, such as bigger jib or folding/feathering prop.

Since I can't deny my French heritage, I have to say a few words about *l'Hermione*, a French tall ship coming to visit the Bay and other ports in the States. This is the replica of the boat that took Lafayette to Yorktown to fight the British. It took 17 years to build the frigate with almost the same craftsmanship as the original. She will stop in Annapolis June 16-17 then in Baltimore June 19-21 where she will be open to public tours. For more [information http://www.hermione2015.com/](http://www.hermione2015.com/)

Secretary 6.11.2015

No Officers meetings to report on except the great emails from our Commodore welcoming new members! I want to personally welcome our new members and offer any of the new members a side at our next formal or informal raft-up. I remember this was the most anxious part of joining the club. Who to call? What channel? What to say? How to do it?..... Don't worry...call the group of VHF78 (most of us monitor 78 all the time) and ask if there is a side available. We look forward to rafting up with all of our new members!

The club is looking for additional people to organize raft-ups or events. Don't be bashful..."We Need Your Help!" If you have an idea, run it by any officer and they will offer their experience. We are open to new ideas for raft-ups or opportunities to learn something new. Hmm..... I'm trying to figure out how we can have a cornhole tournament on boats ;-)

If you have any pictures and a short paragraph or two, the Spin Sheet is looking for information each month to post in "Club News". By letting other Hunter Owners in on how much fun we have, might encourage them to join our ranks. Please send any information you might have or suggestions to scop@northeastern.com. Information needs to be sent in by the 5th of the month to be included in the following months Spin Sheet. This is a link to their site.. <http://spinsheet.com/> Check out CRUISING/CLUBS for the latest article about our very own club members...

Purser

Thanks for paying your dues in a timely manner this year. Only a few folks are left unpaid for 2015. Not sure you have paid? Send me an email and I will let you know. mkfrankel1@gmail.com You can also check the web site. Need a new burgee? I have several and would be glad to get one to you. Cost: \$25.00. Marie Frankel 2008 Kurtz Avenue, Pasadena, Maryland 21122 Hosting a raft-up? You can be reimbursed for up to \$50. I will need electronic or paper receipts.

Your Recipe for a Safe Voyage!
 Plan a safe trip offshore with the confidence of Buoyweather Premium.

1. Select your forecast region.
2. Choose any lat/lon point.
3. Plan ahead with accurate 7-day marine, wind and swell forecasts.
4. Pick the best weather window for your trip with hi-res wind charts, along with detailed swell height and swell period charts.
5. Create your own custom weather and swell email alerts.
6. Stay connected to the latest forecasts and weather charts on your computer, tablet and phone.
7. **Plan your next safe and successful trip offshore!**

Boating Apps for Cell Phone and Tablet

Would you like to know how the wind and waves will be **before** you go out? Will it rain or not? Well, there's an app for that. In fact there are many of them. I will highlight two of them: [Buoyweather](#) and [Predict Wind](#).

We all have apps that tell us the general weather forecast on our phones but these are rather general in nature and don't specifically pertain to sailors.

When these apps say that there is a 30% chance of rain on the weekend it can be misleading. What 30% means is that for our area with the predicted temperature and barometric conditions it will rain on 3 days out of 10. Of course, it may rain in Maryland but not where you happen to be. Weather radar is the most useful and almost all of us use this on our phones and tablets especially for convectional activity (thunderstorms).

Buoyweather and Predict Wind were both once totally free apps when they were in their early developmental stages. Sadly, this is not the case today. However, you can gain some benefits with the "free" version of Buoyweather. It will tell you wind and wave forecasts for a given location but only for two days. You cannot see hour by hour data until you pay \$79.95 for a yearly "premium" subscription which also allows you to see a 7 day forecast.

I like, and have used Predict Wind more frequently especially when traveling out in the ocean. It no longer has a "free" app but you can get onboard for as little as \$9 for 3 months and you can try it out for free. I purchased a one year Basic subscription. Costs are listed below.

| | Free | Basic | Standard | Professional |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|--|
| | Try it Free | Buy Now US\$9 / 3 Months US\$19 / 1 Year | Buy Now US\$79 / 3 Months US\$199 / 1 Year | Buy Now US\$199 / 3 Months US\$499 / 1 Year |
| Features | | | | |
| Unique Technology: #1 for accuracy | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Dual Forecasts for Confidence | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Worldwide Coverage | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 7 Day Forecast | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Forecast Locations | 3 Locations | Unlimited* | Unlimited* | Unlimited* |
| Smartphone Apps | 🍏 🤖 | 🍏 🤖 | 🍏 🤖 | 🍏 🤖 |
| Table Forecast | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Graph Forecast | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Wind Maps | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 1 km Maps | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Swell Maps | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Rain Maps | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Cloud Maps | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Isobar Maps | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Sea Temp Maps | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Wind Observations | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Forecasts Alerts | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Smartphone GPS Tracking | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Weather Routing | | | | |

These apps are both based on grib files. They are actually better than the pure grib files in that they interpret grib info for a given area and present it in an attractive visual manner. The following is an example from Marathon, Florida.

| Marathon Florid ▶ | | Sun 14 | | | | | | | | | | | Mon 15 | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Next update in 9 hours | | Local Time | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 00 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 |
| Forecasts | Speed (Knots) | PWG | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| | PWC | 15 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 14 | |
| Forecast Tables | Direction (True) | PWG | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E |
| | PWC | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E | E |
| Forecast Graphs | Wave Height (ft) | PWG | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | PWC | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Wind Maps | Period (s) | PWG | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| | PWC | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Swell Maps | Wave Direction (True) | PWG | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE |
| | PWC | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE | SE |
| Rain Maps | Temp (Fahrenheit) | PWG | 82 | 82 | 82 | 82 | 82 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 80 |
| | PWC | 81 | 81 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 79 | 79 | 79 | 79 | 79 | 79 | 79 | 79 | 79 | 79 | 79 | 79 |
| Cloud Maps | Rainfall (mm/hr) | PWG | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.8 | |
| | PWC | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | |
| Sea Temp Maps | Cloud (Cover %) | PWG | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | PWC | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

The visual presentation is great. Data is color coded and allows for easy reading. You are only seeing the forecast tables here. You could also view maps that show all the things on the left for the above graphic. If you up for the “professional” you will get grib data with an area as small as 1km. It will predict the weather conditions along the way – say on a trip from the US to the Bahamas. Of course, you need to have Wi-Fi or cell phone coverage to make it all work. The data coverage is world-wide. Personally, I like to use this app on my tablet rather than a cell phone because it has a larger presentation. Who needs Herb Hilgenberg when you have these apps?

A “sailing” book report

An Embarrassment of Mangoes: A Caribbean Interlude by [Ann Vanderhoof](#)

As I write this, back in the real world, back in an office, back home, back up against a deadline, I glance down at the mousepad to my right, and I am filled once again with powerful longing. The pad is printed with a picture of a laughing woman stripping off a wetsuit on a golden beach. Her hair is streaked blond, her shoulders broad on an

otherwise slender frame, muscular shoulders that look like they know how to work. She is completely relaxed and radiates happiness. The slice of beach in the photo is deserted – pristine, private, no one and nothing on it, except for a pile of snorkeling gear in the sand at the woman’s feet. Behind her, the sea is turquoise glass, on which sits a lone boat with a white hull and a tall mast that has impaled the sky’s single puffy white cloud like cotton candy on a stick.

The woman does not appear to be looking at anyone, to even realize that her photo is being taken. She is just plain damn happy.

That woman is me.

So begins Canadian Ann Vanderhoof, who along with her husband, in the mid 1990s left for the tropics to escape their stressful jobs. About forty-something professionals, they had quit their jobs, rented out their house and moved onto their 42-foot Tartan to set sail for the south. (also-no kids)

This is a sailing book about people, places, and cooking. *Embarrassment of Mangos* is not like most sailing books, it is a story that will either get you packing or realize this isn't for you.

Ann has a reluctant attitude about the trip and signs up for a trip only to the Bahamas. She explains in detail the trip down the ICW to Florida. They spend time in the Chesapeake and even stop in Worton Creek for a few nights! In Florida, they wait for the weather window to jump off to the Bahamas. After spending time in this paradise they decide to go south and to windward on the “thorny path”. They make it all the way to Trinidad and out of the hurricane belt where they decide to spend the summer. Here they encounter many adventures and meet the locals. The author spends too much time discussing the relationships she makes and the food she prepares. For our club members, you might enjoy her rum/mango recipe. If you are planning to make the trip south or if you already have, this is a must read. It is good a good beach book to read on the boat.

Passport to Adventure

Have you seen this burgee on NSHSA boats and wondered about its significance? This is NSHSA’s Chesapeake Bay Passport to Adventure burgee. Starting in 2013, it was a way to get members to sail beyond home waters. To date at least three members have completed the challenge and



claimed their burgees. Earning a burgee is easy and all of the requirements may be completed within 25 nautical miles of your home slip. So grab your passport and set sail for discovery and fun. Stamp your passport as you chart a course for waters both near and far; explore new places ashore; expand your sailing skills and most importantly, have fun! The goal is to get away from the dock and complete a subset of objectives in each of six categories: anchoring in various rivers, visiting land destinations by boat, participating in NSHSA events like the Memorial Day picnic, gaining sailing-related skills, tackling leadership opportunities such as hosting a raft up, and spotting various lighthouses along the way. We even have an “oops” category; however, completing one or more of these items won’t count against you! The Chesapeake Bay Passport to Adventure has fun and challenging options available for boats of all sizes and skill levels.



Complete the objectives in a single season or over many seasons; there is no time limit. Since this is an adventure challenge, all objectives must be completed after you first receive your passport. Sorry, prior adventures do not count.

Adventurers that complete a minimum number of objectives earn the right to purchase and fly the NSHSA Bay Explorer

Burgee. Make it your goal to join an elite group of members and fly the passport to adventure burgee next season.

Ed note: Email [Paul Borchardt](#) or [Bill Ubelacker](#) if you need a Passport Book.