



The Portlight

[The Northern Star Hunter Sailing Association](#)



Commodore's Corner – April 2016

Another sailing season is here and we are all working on our boats to get them ready to sail. Although this winter was not as bad as last year, it will feel good to get Silent Running out of the slip and on the Bay. I think that, to me, it really represents the end of winter. Now starts the fun of using the boat as well as the waxing and other chores that come with the warm weather.

As we start the season, it begins my final year as Commodore of NSHSA. I want to thank all of the other officers and committee members, who put so much effort into making our club work each year. We all enjoy getting together with the club members on and off the water and the work of these members make it possible. Our club needs to have a few people to help with the leadership of the club going forward.

Please check out the [schedule on the website](#) for the most up to date list of activities! We always try to have at least one organized activity per month during the season. There are still opportunities to host or help to organize an event this season. If you have an idea for a raft up, please let us know.

The Hunter Rendezvous is scheduled for June 23-26 at Spring Cove in Solomons. This year the sessions and meals will be indoors, with air conditioning, at the Maritime Museum. You can register on-line or by mail. Please take a look at the [Rendezvous website](#) (www.back2bay.org) for more information.

This season, there are a few chances for our members to join HSA1 for joint activities. They have invited us to participate in their Baseball raft. The Orioles are playing the Yankees.

I hope to see everyone on the Bay in the next several weeks.

Bill

Secretary

The NSHSA spring meeting was held Saturday March 12th at Cutter Marina. Ten boats attended and offered enough breakfast items to feed the local naval station. The commodore, Bill Ubelacker, presided at the meeting. The Purser, Marie Frankel reports that this year's budget will be based on proceeds from 35 boats. Bill then reviewed prospective raft-ups and the fall cruise. We need people who will hold raft-ups. These need not be elaborate and can be done very easily. Please review the information found [here](#).

Tom Schmidt from S/V Narsillion is hosting the splashdown raft-up at Cutter marina. You can sail or drive to this raft-up as it will be ashore. Woody Sherrod of Sherrod Marine will be the featured speaker. Woody can answer any of your questions about Marine refrigeration.

As of this meeting, decisions have yet to be made about the location of a Memorial Day event but Tom is trolling for interest in another round DelMarVa cruise. If you might be interested, please email [Tom](#).

Dave Knauer is interested in subjects and stories for the Portlight and Steve would like any pictures of club events and topics.

New business at the meeting centered on the upcoming Rendezvous to be held at Spring Cove Marina in Solomons June 23-26. You can find detailed information on the club website. Thirty boats have already taken advantage of the early payment discount.



Purser

It is not too late to send your 2016 dues to me. Thank you all members who already have paid for the new sailing season. Anyone wanting a new burgee? I have a few for sale for \$25.00 just let me know .

Another book review with women in mind:

It's Your Boat Too by Suzanne Gieseemann

Suzanne Gieseemann's background as a Navy commanding officer is much different than most of our members. But her book is a guide for women that want to be more than "along for the ride." Maybe more important, what if you had to take over your boat alone? The book is written in a friendly, woman-to-woman style with plenty of anecdotes and humor.

Ms. Gieseemann address safety, attitude, and fear that all women must face. You know, attitude...do we view sailing as an ordeal or an adventure?

There are chapters on nautical terminology, rules of the road, communication, weather, anchoring, and advice on communicating to help the effort to work as a team.

The end of the book provides useful information such as checklist for both pre departure as well as securing the boat. Also provided are recommended books and websites.

Ms Gieseemann wants women to become competent and happy sailors. After all, she says, "why should men have all the fun?"

NSHSA NEEDS YOU. As is the case in many organizations, our sailing club is only as good as the participation of its members. Perhaps you attend only a few club events each year or so and have limited time to devote to club activities. Might you consider increasing your participation in some small way? People are always needed to host raft-ups or be members of committees. How about writing an article for the Portlight? These things could be done fairly easily with minimum effort. Perhaps you were once an officer and would now be willing to return to a limited post in a limited capacity. At present the club needs a person to fill the post of Sail Fleet Captain. Before next year, there will be other posts to fill as well. Please consider helping out in this time of need. Talk to any of the club



officers. New perspectives and solutions are all welcomed.

Anchoring Restrictions

After a long and protracted debate between homeowners and cruisers, the Florida Legislature has passed a law prohibiting anchoring in [certain areas](#) of the state. Although the areas are limited in nature, many cruisers feel that this law has opened the door for more widespread restrictions throughout the state and would act as a legal precedent in other states. Actually, in Maryland, a law already exists that restricts anchoring. It states that boats cannot anchor within 75' of any dock so as to allow boats to enter and leave those docks.

Soft Shackles

Does your topping lift shackle vibrate where it attaches to the boom? Do you hesitate to place a metal shackle through the clew reefing cringle to attach a block to the reefing line for your mainsail? Both of these problems can be solved with soft shackles. According to an article in [Sail](#) magazine, soft shackles can be used for a variety of tasks that were formally the province of metal shackles.



This includes securing halyards to sails, attaching blocks to various points on your boat, and attaching a snubber line to your anchor chain. I first used a soft shackle when I wanted to attach a block to the clew reefing cringle on my mainsail. My first reef was used frequently and suffered when the line had to be pulled through the reefing cringle to reef the sail. A block was the way to go to make this easier. I used a high tech line to attach the block similar to the picture below.



Some sailors have replaced their stainless steel lifelines entirely with high tech line. This arrangement is easier on the sails and sailor's backs and is often as strong as the stainless lifelines. The development of soft lines like Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene or Dyneema for short has made this possible. So, the next time you think of attaching something on your boat – think “soft”.

Splashdown Raft-up

Members who have been around awhile know that the first raft-up of the season has, in the past, occurred in many different configurations and venues. This year was no different with the weather promising snow flurries and blustery winds. It was a good thing that it was held inside at Cutter Marine and all who came agreed that it was a worthwhile trip. In attendance were the crews from **Silent Running, Windrose, Schatzi, Narsilion, Contigo Elsie's, Phantasie, Paisano, Pau Hana, Windsprint, GreatBlue Yachts (Tony), AnnaLee, and KavaKava.** Captain Tom Schmidt the raft captain secured Woody Sherrod of Sherrod Marine to talk about marine refrigeration and air conditioning. Woody did not disappoint, fielding questions from the assembled group on a range of topics. Those in attendance learned how to check if their system was low on refrigerant and how to clear an air lock on the AC water pump (Install a T fitting), among others. All attendees commented on how much they enjoyed the raft-up as well as the information shared.