



THE NORTH AMERICAN STATION  
OF THE ROYAL SCANDINAVIAN YACHT CLUBS  
AND NYLÄNDSKA JAKTKLUBBEN

January 12, 2015



Dear fellow members of The North American Station,

I am honored that you have elected me as your Post Captain! Thank you!

Dave Brown has handed over The North American Station “ready to go to sea”: active programs, a strong and growing membership, excellent relations with the Home Clubs, sound finances – all reflected in a record turnout for the Annual Meeting Dinner. Dave and his predecessor, David Tunick, have been, and continue to be, extremely helpful in maintaining that momentum. Some of our long-term members have ensured that I appreciate the mission and traditions of the Station. The Governors, committee chairs and members, many of you, and officers and members of the Home Clubs have all provided assistance and encouragement. To all of you I say, “Thank you!”

At the **Annual Meeting**, members elected the following Governors: Angelica Barrows, Jennifer Bowden, Dave Brown, Lars Colliander, Michael Geagan, Allan Heyward, Viveka Kjellgren, Hiro Nakajima, Nick Orem, David Tunick, Peter Vranum and me; Ove Haxthausen was subsequently elected chair of the Membership Committee and thereby becomes Governor ex-officio.

The Treasurer’s report reconfirmed our sound financial footing. Reports on the upcoming Atlantic Round and 2017 Cruise were also very encouraging. We elected the 16 new member candidates proposed to you previously. Minutes of the meeting have been posted on the website – [northamericanstation.com](http://northamericanstation.com) – under the “Docs” tab.

Immediately following the Annual Meeting, the Governors appointed the following members of the **Membership Committee**: Jennifer Bowden, Thatcher Brown, Ove Haxthausen and Allan Heyward.

**The Annual Dinner Dance** was “the best ever” according to one of our 50+-year members and a “sell out.” Guests included the commodores of KSSS and of GKSS, the former US ambassador to Denmark (and new NAS member), four former post captains of The NAS, many current or former flag officers of Home Clubs and various other yacht clubs, the son of our founder, 20 new or potential NAS members, other distinguished visitors from Scandinavia and a table of potential junior members.

**Post Captain** Ernest L. Godshalk III  
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**Secretary-Treasurer** Nicholas R. Orem

The 2014 Annual Dinner Dance was a special occasion. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the The NAS relationships with KNS, KDY and NJK were commemorated by awards from The NAS to those Home Clubs. We also honored 11 NAS members of 50 years or more with a gift of a set of The NAS aquavit glasses. The NAS friendships are long and deep.

The Awards Committee reminded us that The Paul W. Adams Trophy had been presented during the 2014 Denmark Cruise to Henrik Andersen, Honorary Member and former Vice Commodore of KDY, who has been helpful to The NAS and its members for over ten years. The Committee also very kindly awarded The Pehr Sparre award to me.

I made some brief remarks at Dinner – if I had had more time, I would have added:

Ross Sherbrooke, you first told me about The NAS and proposed me for membership.

Lars and Norah, you were my first Scandinavian friends - even though you lived in NY! I met you in Mariefhamn – bigger than life. You taught me how to skål, drink aquavit and sing in Swedish. We became friends during the 2011 Finnish Archipelago Cruise and post-Cruise cruise to Savonlinna for opera. You invited me to your island, arranged for a guest membership to NJK so I could visit their private harbors and had me back to your island again – I remember only parts of that visit.

Hans and Eva, we became friends on that Cruise, too. You've had me to your home. You introduced me to Calle, Eva, Gustaf, Saga, Siri and Carolina – you Urbans have had me to your home. Do you remember when Doug taught us to dance “the Anahita” on deck?

David Tunick, you have made a hundred introductions in Scandinavia and the US.

Dave Brown, you have been a friend for years and coached me on becoming PC.

There are many others. And Ann Noble-Kiley, Bob Godshalk, Vicki McGrath, Doug and Susan Adkins, all present tonight, and about a dozen other *Golden Eye* crew have been introduced to Scandinavia thanks to The NAS.

The NAS was started in 1945, the year I was born. To some people here that might seem like a long time ago – it does to me, and puts special emphasis on respecting our traditions and Mission. At the Governors' meeting that followed today's Annual Meeting, I proposed that the primary role of the Governors is “Keeper of the Mission.”

**What does The NAS mean to you?** What are our strategic issues? I would very much appreciate your thoughts on where we should take The NAS for its next 70 years. The benefits to NAS members of relationships with Home Clubs are clear. What do Home Clubs value: the Junior Exchange Program, The Atlantic Round, Five Club Regatta? We must do an outstanding job of running or participating in these programs as well as providing memorable hospitality to visiting members of Home Clubs and being exemplary guests in Home Club waters. Please give me your thoughts. Remarks by the Commodores of KSSS and GKSS at the Dinner were positive and encouraging. I am reaching out to all the Home Clubs and have offered to visit them during the winter or spring, provide periodic reports on their NAS and