

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron
A Unit of United States Power Squadrons

<http://www.annarborsailandpowersquadron.org>

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron

Chartered 1965 as a unit of

United States Power Squadrons (USPS)

General Meetings are usually held on the third Monday of the month at 1800 at The New Center, 1100 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor.

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron
Boating Education



**43 YEARS SERVING
THE BOATING PUBLIC**

WHO TO CONTACT

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Ed. Officer: Ronald E. Schwartz, SN (life)
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Secretary: (Ellen) Shirley Schwartz, N
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Ch. Seamanship: John Barr, AP
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Volunteers are welcome and needed for the following opportunities:

Porthole Staff - Articles, cover design, events page, printing and mailing copies, e-mail list and distribution.

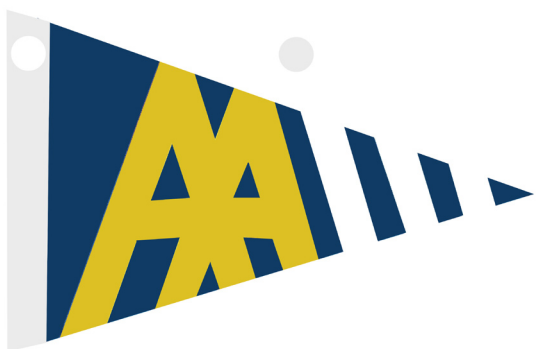
Education Staff - Assistant Education Officer, Chairman Boating, Ch. Piloting, Ch. Marine Electronics, Ch. Instructor Development, Ch. Engine Maintenance, Ch. Teaching Aids, Calligraphy on certificates and wallet cards, Ch. of various seminars.

Misc. Staff - Chairman Meetings and Programs, Ch. Member Involvement, Ch. Operations Training

PRO (Public Relations Officer) Advertising Staff for public courses and programs.

The editors thank their son, Bradley, for help with computer set-up and consulting. The Porthole is sent in color via e-mail in PDF format or via US mail in black and white.

The Porthole is published ten times a year, September through June, by the Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron. The articles and opinions expressed therein do not necessarily reflect USPS or AASPS policy. Articles may be reprinted without permission, if credit is given to the author and to the original source.



General Meeting Monday, 20 April 2009

at the NEW Center, 1100 North Main Street, Ann Arbor

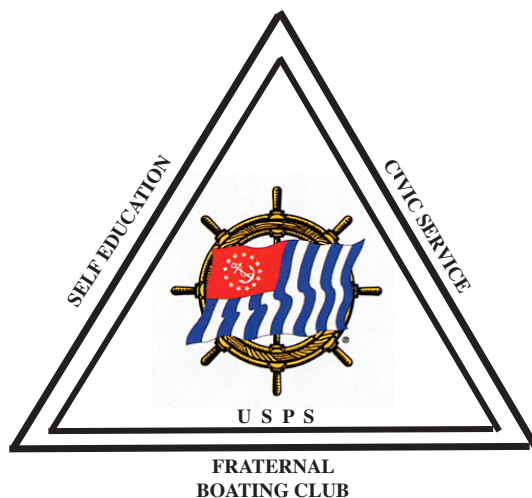
<http://www.annarborsailandpowersquadron.org>.

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron (Sail and Power Boating Education)

6:00pm: Potluck Dinner - Please bring a dish to share.

Please call Sharon Pinsak - 734-973-0441 - and tell her what food you will bring so that we have a variety.

Program: Cary Jones will present "Sailing On Tampa Bay". PowerPoint pictures and his experiences.



NEW Center at 1100 N. Main Street,
on west shore of Argo Pond, Ann Arbor,
first building north of the railroad crossing. - 3 -

Commander's Message

FROM THE COMMANDER
April, 2009



Commander John Barr, AP

Spring is in the air. Boating season is right around the corner. Now is the time to take inventory for the summer.

1. Check out your boat. Wash, scrub, polish and wax. Make sure your engine is tuned up. Check your battery. Is your registration up to date? Are all lines ready? Fenders? Safety equipment, flares, etc. Do all your lights work?. Bilge pump? Canvas in good condition?
2. Check your insurance. Is it up to date? Paid?
3. What about trailer insurance? Do you have any?
4. Check your "On the water towing" insurance. Do you have it?
5. Are your charts up to date.
6. Is your compass corrected? Do you have a correction table card?
7. Are your USPS/AASPS dues current?
8. Do you have the latest AASPS rendezvous schedule?
9. Do you have a float plan - matrix/form? Do you use it?
10. Are you increasing your boating knowledge? Do you attend AASPS meetings?

Have fun! Marlene and I look forward to seeing you this summer.

John

Our Elected Officials in Lansing and their Efforts to Help Us

PC Arthur Pinsak reports that he recently received information originating with the "Michigan Votes" an alert system run by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy.

Several bills have been introduced in the Michigan legislature of interest to boaters. Senate Bill 34 was passed by the Senate to allow waterways fund money to be used for administrative costs, salaries and conferences.

House Bills 4199 passed the House and prohibits launching a boat in Michigan waters if aquatic plant(s) are attached. The bill provides for a \$100 fine. House Bill 4579 passed the House to add additional species to the banned list.

Note that none of these bills will be law until passed by both the Michigan House and Senate and signed by the governor.

These bills may be viewed and followed at the Michigan Legislature web site. Go to Michigan.gov and then click "legislature." Follow the directions for a specific bill by number or subject.

As a general rule federal tax exempt (501c3) organizations such as the USPS are prohibited from advocating a political position. Individual members however may make their wishes known by contacting their elected representatives.

Cdr John M. Barr, AP

SEO Message



CLASSES

Weather Class - 8 Thursdays, 7 to 9 pm, Weather course covers forecasting and reading weather patterns on-board. Location 165 Kingsbrook, Ann Arbor - at Bob Snider's home. 3 to 6 students. Contact Bob Snider, 734-665-8890 crsnider@ameritech.net

Seamanship Class - 8 Wednesdays, 7 to 9 pm, started March 18, 2009. Seamanship covers basic deck seamanship, marlinspike (knots and ropes), anchoring and rafting, basic boat care and maintenance, and Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN (Life) nautical and USPS customs and etiquette. Location - John Barr's office, 105 Pearl St., Ypsilanti - near Huron Street. Contact John Barr, 734-483-0839 JMBarr@BarrLawFirm.com. Parking is available on the street or in the North Huron Parking Lot 1/2 block north of the office. Cost \$ 50.00

Advanced Piloting Class - Wednesdays, Advanced Piloting covers more advanced coastal navigation techniques, navigation in tides and currents, and more advanced GPS usage. Location - Art Pinsak's home, 3365 Tacoma Cir., Ann Arbor. 3 to 6 students. Contact Art Pinsak, 734-973-0441 apnsharon@aol.com.

Junior Navigation - Classes are being held 4 - 6 pm Mondays prior to our ExCom and General meetings. Contact Cary Jones 734 - 433-0150

Navigation: Starting in April at Ron Schwartz's home. 348 Eighth St. Ann Arbor. For details AAPSClasses@aol.com, or 734-769-3476.

There are several seminars, 2- 4 hours each, on various boating topics such as weather, celestial navigation, marine radios, marlinspike, marine radar, heavy weather sailing, etc. We need teachers to teach these. Please call me if you want to teach them. 734-769-3476.

Boat Trailering Safety Tips

In 40 years of boat trailering I've seen hitch-ball separations, seized wheel bearings, wheels come off trailers, boat pushing the stantion a few inches, burned out trailer lights, and bad electrical connections.

A trailer ball to hitch fit or tightness is adjustable. This adjustment can be seen by looking up into the hitch ball socket. On my trailers there is a nut on a bolt. Adjusting this nut will change the tightness of the clam pieces that clamp under the ball. This should be adjusted as tight as possible but still allow the ball to rotate in the hitch. If it is too loose the ball and hitch could be separated with a little wiggling and force resulting from road bumps.

When putting luggage or gear into a small boat on a trailer be carefull to arrange the load so that there is still sufficient weight on the trailer hitch. The weight of luggage, motor and fuel placed behind the trailer axle will reduce the weight on the hitch and, if the hitch is a little loose on the ball, a road bump could cause the trailer tung to lift off the ball.

So, to avoid a disconnection between the trailer tung and hitch ball make sure there is sufficient tung weight on the ball, after luggage or fuel has been added or removed, and the ball to hitch connection is of proper tightness.

And don't forget to lubricate the trailer wheel bearings, check the tightness of wheel lugnuts, Check the light wiring, and use all the tie downs to keep your boat from sliding on the trailer or rolling off it.

Partial list of Events, 2009

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>EVENT AND LOCATION</u>
20 April 2009	AASPS Potluck and General Meeting.	1800 at New Center, 1100 N. Main St. Ann Arbor. See pae 3.
17-19 April	Canadian PS, Western Ontario Annual General Meeting - Sarnia	
18 April	Mt Clemens Commander's Ball - Vintage House, Fraser	
16 May	Birmingham Commander's Ball - Heathers Club, Bloomfield Hills	
15 June	AASPS Picnic at Argo Park at 6pm.	
8 August	AASPS Rendezvous at Hessel - Les Cheneaux Wood Boat Show - call John Barr for reservations - 734- 483-0839	
11-13 Sept.	USPS Governing Board - Kansas City, MO	
12 or 13 Sept.	AASPS Rendezvous at Tall ships in Traverse City - call John Barr about reservations - 734- 483-0839	
18-20 Sept.	CG Auxiliary Fall Conference - Bay City	
19 October	AASPS Rendezvous at Bob's Boat House Restaurant i n Wyandotte - call John Barr for reservations - 734- 483-0839	
23-25 Oct.	Mt Clemens - D9 Fall Conference - Sterling Heights Michigan.	

Please check USPS web site (www.USPS.org), D9 website (<http://d9-usps.org/app/HomeContact.aspx>), and web sites of squadrons near you for their activities that you might want to attend.

To locate any squadron web site
<http://www.usps.org/newpublic2/squadrons.html>
 Anchor Bay PS <http://www.usps.org/localusps/anchorbay/>
 Ann Arbor SPS <http://www.annarborsailandpowersquadron.org>.
 Birmingham PS <http://www.bpsd9.org/>
 Dearborn PS <http://www.dearborn-squadron.org/>.
 Detroit PS <http://www.detroitpowersquadron.org/>
 Flint PS <http://www.usps.org/localusps/flint/>
 Grand Rapids <http://www.grsps.org/>
 Grosse Ile PS <http://www.usps.org/localusps/grosseile/>
 Lansing PS <http://www.lansingpowersquadron.org/>
 Mount Clemens PS <http://usps.org/localusps/clemens/>
 Port Huron PS <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/phpsd9/>
 Saginaw Bay PS www.saginawbaypowersquadron.org
 St. Clair Shores PS <http://www.scssps.com/>



