

# The Porthole

January 2015



The newsletter of the Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron  
a unit of United States Power Squadrons

# Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron Chartered 1965 as a unit of United States Power Squadrons (USPS)

General Meetings are usually held each month, Sept. thru June

See page 3



## CONTACTS

Commander: Robert Buchanan, P  
Executive Officer: P/C Frank Hoy, JN  
Administrative Officer: Lt/C Karen Snyder  
Education Officer: Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life  
Secretary: Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan  
Treasurer: Lt/C Marlene Barr  
Assist. Treasurer: P/C John Barr, AP  
Public Relations Officer: P/C John Barr, AP, Life  
Nominating: Cdr. Robert Buchanan, P  
Assistant SEO: Lt. Randy Stevenson, AP  
Chairman ABC: Com. Robert Buchanan, P  
Chairman Seamanship: P/C John M. Barr, AP, Life  
Chairman of Local Boards: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life  
Chairman of Piloting: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life  
Chairman of Adv. Piloting: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life  
Chairman Weather: Lt. Randy Stevenson, AP  
Chairman of JN: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life  
Chaplin: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life  
Historian: Com. Robert Buchanan, P  
Conference Coord.: Lt. Sharon A. Pinsak  
Membership Chair: P/C Carolyn Knaggs, P  
Webmaster: Lt. Peggy Moller  
Porthole Editor: Lt. Peggy Moller  
Porthole Publisher Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life

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Boating Education

50 YEARS SERVING  
THE BOATING PUBLIC



Thank you Shih-Chieh Yin for your design of front page of the Porthole

Volunteers are welcome and needed for the following opportunities:

Photographer needed to take pictures at our meetings and e-mail them to our Porthole publisher.

Porthole Staff - Articles, printing and mailing copies, e-mail list and distribution.

Education Staff - Ch. Marine Electronics, Ch. Instructor Development, Ch. Engine Maintenance, Ch. Teaching Aids, Ch. of various seminars.

Misc. Staff - Ch. Member Involvement, Ch. Operations Training. Advertising Staff for public courses and programs.

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.

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We thank Bradley and George Schwartz and Freddy Ohou for help with computer consulting.





Sail and Power Boating Education

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron  
6 P.M. Monday Jan. 19, 2015  
**Carlyle Grill**  
**3660 Jackson Rd.**  
**Lat. 42° 17.1' N, Long. 83° 48.2' W**

6 pm: We will meet at the Carlyle Grill, 3660 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor. West of the Lighthouse Car Wash. Order from the menu. Please call Sharon Pinsak for reservations. 734-973-0441. Visit Carlyle Grill website to see their menu. <http://www.carlylegrill.com/>



District D9 Commander H. Jay Stevens, SN



Carlyle Grill

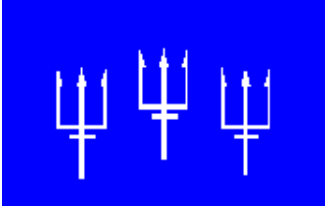
Change of Watch (2015 squadron officers sworn in) will be administered by District D9 Commander H. Jay Stevens SN.

Nominees for our 2015 Executive Board are;

Commander, Lt./C Ron Schwartz, SN  
Executive Officer, P/C Frank Hoy, JN  
Administrative Officer, Karen Snyder, P  
Treasurer, Lt./C Marlene Barr  
Assistant Treasurer, P/C John Barr, AP  
Secretary, Lt./C Jeannine Buchanan  
Assistant Secretary, Cdr. Bob Buchanan, P  
Squadron Education Officer, Lt. Randy Stevenson, AP  
Assistant Squadron Education Officer Cdr. Bob Buchanan, P







## Commander's Message

Cdr. Robert Buchanan, P



Our squadron Change of Watch (COW) will be conducted Monday, January 19th at the Carlyle Grill. We are fortunate to have District Commander Jay Stevens presiding. This will be a wonderful chance to talk to our District Commander about the future direction of both our district and USPS. The uniform will be Class B, blazer, white shirt and tie, gray slacks for the Bridge Officers. As is our custom, D/C Jay and his wife will be our guests for cocktails and dinner. COW is one of the most important events in the life of our squadron so I would urge everyone to be present.

Our Lt/Cdr Ronald Schwartz will take the Oath of Office and take over squadron command. I am confident that all in our Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron will give our Commander-elect Ron their full support. Our squadron tradition is that "You are not asked to do much but what you are asked to do, you are expected to do it well."

Over the past three years I have written a total of thirty "Commander's Message" so this will be my last message. Topics have described Great Lakes shipping, personal boating adventures, events in the life of our squadron, boating insights, descriptions of upcoming programs. Describing Randy Tisch's delightful talk about crossing the Pacific was fun to write. I hope that everyone has enjoyed reading the reports as much as I have enjoyed writing them.

Over Christmas Jeannine and I traveled to Fort Walton Beach, Florida to visit our family at Eglin Air Force Base. While there we learned about the Annual Destin Boat Parade. About 30 boats, all brightly decorated with Christmas lights, participated. The fleet assembled at a designated location, then followed a USCG boat through Destin harbor at night, all brilliantly lit. The shore was lined with spectators present to see the fleet.

Our family's boat, a Catalina 30, won first place again this year as the "best in class." You can see the boat in the picture below. The lights were 110 volt LED lights that use a minimal of power. A small generator placed on the bow provided power because the capability of the inverter was unknown; grounding could be an issue. I would welcome comments if anyone has had experience with inverters and/or the capacity of the alternator to provide power for 110 volt LED lights such as seen in the picture. The other problem was that spectator boats would often turn on only their side lights but not their steaming lights in order to have a good view. Although an alert watchman was required, no collisions resulted.

Best wishes to everyone for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Bob Buchanan, soon to be Past Commander, AASPS



## Secretary's Message

Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan



As our squadron starts the NewYear along with a new Bridge, this is a nice time to talk about the role of the squadron secretary. The secretary has several responsibilities, one being to record minutes from eight "sit down" meetings. The spring picnic and Christmas party are not "sit down" meetings.

The Bridge communicates with squadron members through several routes, including the Porthole and the minutes of meetings. I try to keep the minutes to one page even if this requires wider margins. First, the minutes record who attended. This is important to insure that a sufficient number is present to transact business. Next, the program is briefly described for people who were unable to attend. Then the officer's reports describe the work of the squadron departments. The treasurer's report contains only a summary but shows the status of our financial health. The commander's report generally describes future events that can be important to the squadron. Any motions are carefully recorded because these establish squadron agreements and procedures.

When complete, the minutes are distributed electronically, generally to those present, for any comments, and also distributed as paper copies for review and approval at the next meeting. They are then retained as both paper copies and as electronic files. Any member of the squadron who is in good standing is welcome to receive copies of the minutes.

I would welcome comments on the plan described above: length, content, etc.



Jeannine, Art, Bob, Peter and Karen  
Christmas Party mood adjustment  
around the whiskey sour punch bowl



Greg Buchanan's boat *Miami Merger* - Christmas 2014



## Pictures from our Christmas Party



Karen Snyder, Art Pinsak, Bob and Jeannine Buchanan, Sharon Pinsak, Peter Hinman, Shirley Schwartz, Marlene and John Barr. Photo by Ron Schwartz



Gallup Park Pond -- Dixboro Rd. Dam on Huron River, Ann Arbor. Photo by Fotoras



## Education Officer's Message

Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life



**JN class** is progressing. This course teaches celestial navigation -- determining your position from sextant sights on the sun. We have found that Gallup Park Launch Site on Geddes Road east of Huron Parkway is convenient to take sextant sights. The class is meeting Tuesday evenings at St. Joe's Hospital Womens Health Center 2nd floor classrooms.

**On-Line seminars are now available** -- developed by USPS and Boat US. Three online seminars now available - Weather for Boaters, Partner in Command and Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes. <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/promos/quimby-ad-finals.jpg> or <http://www.boatus.org/course-preview/pic/index.html>

We have a variety of **2 hour seminars** to choose from with no exams, just pure pleasure. We will offer some of these if we have students interested. See <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/seminars/main.htm>

Giant squid attacked Greenpeace submarine near Alaska. See it at <https://vine.co/GreenpeaceUSA>

Please send me ([aapsclasses@aol.com](mailto:aapsclasses@aol.com)) a list of the USPS courses and seminars that you want to study during the next 5 years, so we can plan and advertise these and attract more students.

Please look at the variety of boating topics we offer at United States Power Squadron's website, [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org) If you have a desire to enhance and share your knowledge in any boating subject, please let me know. We can probably get others to share the teaching responsibilities. It's fun to teach and learn.

USPS Basic Boating Classes can be found at toll free 1-888-367-8777 (1-888-FOR-USPS) Or go to [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)

USPS offers On-the-water training, and certifications for Inland and Coastal Navigation. Go to [www.usps.org/national/eddept/boc/main.htm#news](http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/boc/main.htm#news) If you are interested in this, please call me 734-769-3476.

Environmental Branch US Army Core of Engineers - Detroit District <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/>

Great Lakes water levels: <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/GreatLakesInformation/GreatLakesWaterLevels.aspx>

Put NOAA charts into your Garmin GPS <http://www.gpsfiledepot.com/tutorials/creating-raster-noaa-charts-for-garmin-gps-units-with-moagu/>

Web sites of ocean cruisers and other subjects of interest;

Randy Tisch's world cruise [www.tischtravels.com](http://www.tischtravels.com)

Blue Planet Odyssey <http://cornellsailing.com/sail-the-odyssey/blue-planet-odyssey/>

American Sailing Association <http://www.asa.com/>

American Sailing Institute <http://americansailinginstitute.org/>



Download NOAA Booklet Charts free and treat yourself to a desktop cruise. <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/BookletChart.html> Use google earth to see pictures from the area.

There are many companies that give discounts to USPS members. To see this list go [www.USPS.org](http://www.USPS.org) and click on Index, then member benefits.

Internet sites for other Squadron activities. For quick access to any of the D-9 Squadrons, click on the Links section of our website [www.aaspsq.org](http://www.aaspsq.org) and select District 9 Squadrons.

D-9 websites: <http://d9-usps.org/>

Please check USPS website [www.USPS.org](http://www.USPS.org) and websites of squadrons near you for their activities that you might want to attend.

#### A Partial List of Events .

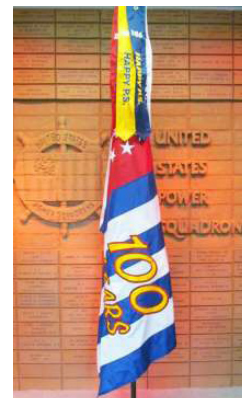
DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT AND LOCATION
Jan. 19	AASPS	Change of Watch at Carlyle Grill. D/C Jay Stevens, SN, Officiating
Feb. 16	AASPS	General Meeting at Carlyle Grill
Feb 14-22		Detroit Boat Show
Mar. 16	AASPS	General Meeting at Carlyle Grill. John and Marlene Barr will present a cruise from Portugal to Italy
Apr. 20	AASPS	General Meeting at Carlyle Grill

#### FOR SALE

MENS UNIFORM A, B Jacket 46 Long, Trouser 38/32, Shirt 42, Shirt 17/34  
Blazer 46 Long, White Trouser 38/32, Grey Trouser 38/32, Cap 7 1/2

LADIES UNIFORM A Jacket 40 Reg, Shirt 16/32, Jacket 22, Trouser 38/27, Skirt 22

Insignia included. An opportunity to acquire necessary items for fall and winter business and social events. Contact: Art Pinsak (734) 973-0441 or apnsharon@aol.com







## Executive Officer's Message

Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN



Here's a picture of our Dec. 20 Christmas boat parade. The boats assemble in Bimini Bay, Cape Coral, at 4 Freedoms Park, with live entertainment. It was a nice, warm night, and good times were had by all. Sent from my MetroPCS 4G Android device. I live in Englewood.

Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN

Frank's heart is being repaired. One stint installed, another stint on order, and he is in cardiac rehabilitation. We wish him a speedy recovery and a better New Year. His cell phone is 734-355-0281 or mail to 6177 Roberta Dr., Englewood, FL 3422



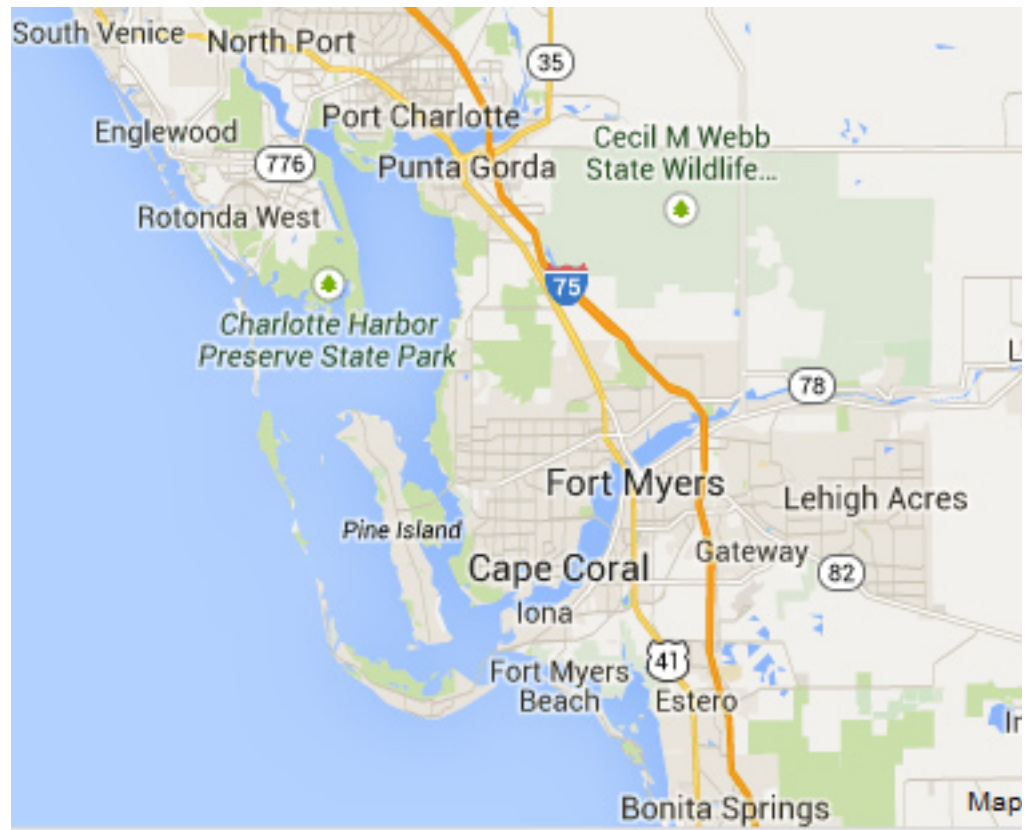
Christmas Parade. Bemini Bay, Cape Coral FL. Photos by Frank Hoy





Myakka river camp dock , just north of Frank's place. Photo by Jeff Nizanty

A great area to live.  
Protected small boat sailing,  
fishing, clams, mussels, tennis,  
alligators, sharks, saltwater, trade  
winds, hurricanes, sunburn, thun-  
derstorms.





## From Kalamazoo Power Squadron's January Newsletter

### The USPS University Expands

Contact: Gregory T. Scotten  
Staff Commander,  
USPS Marketing/PR Committee  
(gscotten@comcast.net)

The USPS University is expanding by leaps and bounds as it broadens its seminars for recreational boaters across the country. With campuses in every American town where boating is a passion, its mission is to make boating fun and its offerings readily available. Its sponsor, the United States Power Squadrons®, the oldest and largest boating education organization in the nation, announced that these seminars, consisting of a few hours of top grade information, will excite those needing basic information as well as those seeking to be brought up to date.

The latest seminars to excite seamen and women include: "Hurricanes and Boats", "Radar", and "Anchoring", with the new offering, "Knots, Bends and Hitches", soon to follow. Already boaters are enjoying such topics as "On-Board Weather Forecasting", "GPS For Navigation", "How to Use a Chart", "Sail Trim and Rigging", and "Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio".

These programs can be viewed as part of a much larger concept designed for those interested in Boat Operator Certificates. These graduated certifications are designated as: "Inshore", "Coastal", "Advanced Coastal", and "Offshore". The certification requirements involve the completion of courses, seminars and practical demonstrations of nautical skills.

For additional information on USPS University, the new seminars or a course near you, call toll-free 1-888-FOR USPS (1-888-367-8777) or visit their web site at [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org).

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Kalamazoo River Outlook at the Kalamazoo Nature Center

Photo by starscream1211