

# The Porthole

JANUARY 2016



**United States Power Squadrons**  
*Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the friends*

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron  
A unit of United States Power Squadrons in District 9

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

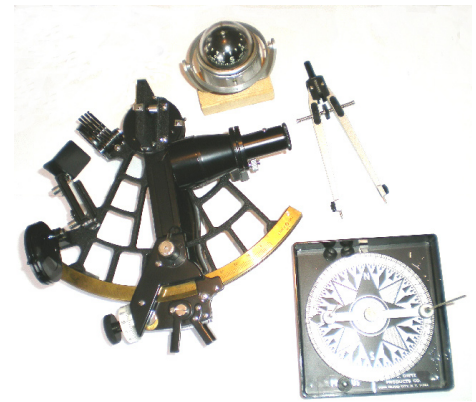
# Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron

General Meetings are usually held each month, Sept. thru June  
See page 3



Boating Education since 1965

51 YEARS SERVING  
THE BOATING PUBLIC



Visit our web site  
[www.aaspsq.org/](http://www.aaspsq.org/)

## CONTACTS

Commander: Ron Schwartz, SN, Life	734-769-3476	AAPSclasses@aol.com
Executive Officer: Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN	734-214-0199	sailingsnowbird@gmail.com
Administrative Officer: Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan	734-971-6589	BuchananRA@msn.com
Secretary: Lt/C Robert Buchanan, P	734-971-6589	BuchananRA@msn.com
Treasurer: Lt/C Marlene Barr	734-483-0839	mjb_120022535@hotmail.com
Assist. Treasurer: P/C John Barr, AP, Life	734-483-0839	JMBarr@BarrLawFirm.com
SEO: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life	734-973-0441	apnsharon@aol.com
Assist. SEO: Lt/C Robert Buchanan, P	734-971-6589	BuchananRA@msn.com
Vessel Safety Check: P/C Frank Hoy	734-355-0281	sailingsnowbird@gmail.com
Public Relations Officer: P/C John Barr, AP, Life	734-483-0839	JMBarr@BarrLawFirm.com
Nominating: P/C Robert Buchanan, P	734-971-6589	BuchananRA@msn.com
Chaplin: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life	734-973-0441	apnsharon@aol.com
Historian: Lt/C Robert Buchanan, P	734-971-6589	BuchananRA@msn.com
Conference Coord.: Lt. Sharon A. Pinsak	734-973-0441	apnsharon@aol.com
Membership Chair: P/C Carolyn Knaggs, P	734-645-3503	cknaggs@reinhartrealtors.com
Webmaster: Evrard (Freddy) Ohou		oevfred@umich.edu
Porthole Proofreader: Lt. Peggy Moller	734-761-1589	mmoller@umich.edu
Porthole Publisher/Distribution: Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN, Life	734-769-3476	AAPSclasses@aol.com



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. Articles may be reprinted without permission, if credit is given to the author and to the original source. The Porthole is sent in color via e-mail, or via US mail in black and white.

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







Sail and Power Boating Education

[www.aaspsq.org/](http://www.aaspsq.org/)

**Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron  
Meeting 6 P. M. Monday 18 January 2016  
Carlyle Grill 3660 Jackson Rd.  
Ann Arbor Michigan 48103  
Lat. 42° 17.1' N, Long. 83° 48.2' W**

## Change of Watch

We will meet at the Carlyle Grill west of the Lighthouse Car Wash. Order from the menu and pay your own bill. Please call Sharon Pinsak, 734-973-0441, so we can have enough tables set up. Visit Carlyle Grill web site to see their menu. <http://www.carlylegrill.com/>



D/C Dawn L. Flynn. JN

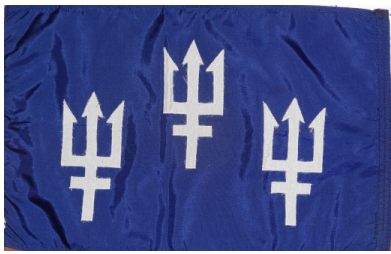


Change of Watch will be administered by District D9  
Commander Dawn L. Flynn, JN

Nominees for our 2016 Officers are;

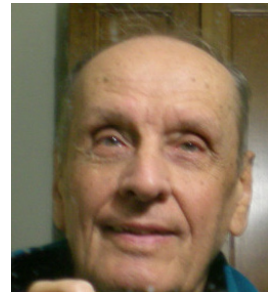
Commander:	Cdr Ron Schwartz, SN
Executive Officer:	Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN
Treasurer:	Lt/C Marlene Barr
Assistant Treasurer:	Lt John Barr, AP
Administrative Officer:	Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan
Secretary:	Lt/C Bob Buchanan, P
Squadron Education Officer:	Lt/C Art Pinsak, SN
Asst. Squadron Education Officer:	Lt/C Bob Buchanan, P
Public Relations Officer:	Lt John Barr, AP





## Commander's Message

Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN



OpenCPN: Exciting things are happening in boating education and charts. OpenCPN is a free internet program to use on-line NOAA charts and GPS on your boat to show where you are on the water. It is like Wikipedia for marine charts. OpenCPN is part of our 2015 edition of USPS's ABC course - see *Currents* Aug. 15 edition. You can google OpenCPN and read about it in Wikipedia, and download it for free. I got a copy of the 2015 ABC course and tried to download the OpenCPN, and had all kinds of problems. Putting OpenCPN on my desktop was easy, but downloading charts was a little difficult -- the words in the book did not match what I saw on my computer. It took several days of fussing around, reading, and trying things until I got it to work. Now I'm happy with it. I sent all the steps to our members in a pdf file. We can have a seminar for older students to learn OpenCPN. OpenCPN gives us all the NOAA charts. Updated charts and new charts can be added anytime.

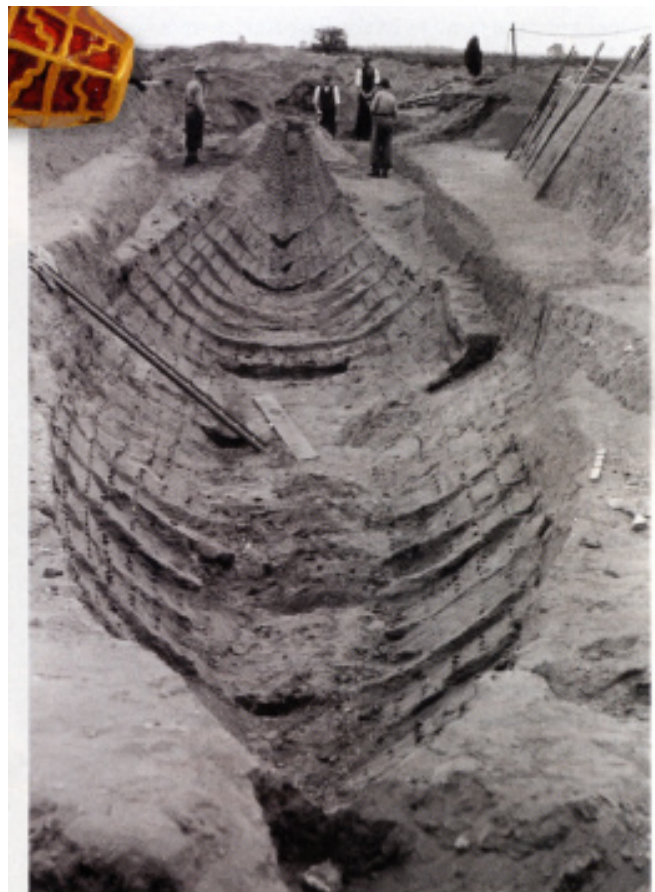
Laptop Cruise: If you have not already done a laptop cruise you might find it fun. You need Google Earth for pictures, nautical charts and Wikipedia for all the fun facts. My latest cruise was to Sutton Hoo England, an Anglo-Saxon king's burial site described in the November/December issue of *Archaeology* magazine, page 49. They show an impression of a 90 foot Viking-like boat that was used as a burial coffin and contained gold and silver objects. Pictures on Google Earth of the area show a waterway - river - to the English Channel.



Windows on the water By Colin Cubitt



West Somerton By Mike Baker



The most impressive of the Sutton Hoo burials contained a 90-foot-long wooden ship filled with weapons, armor, jewelry, and musical instruments. Although the wood did not survive, a perfect impression of the vessel was left in the soil by the rotted timbers even some 1,300 years after the burial.





## Secretary's Message

Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan



Readers of this section may recall that one of our greatest winter pleasures is driving to Algonac State Park along the St. Clair River during the 1st or 2nd week in January to watch USCG icebreakers struggling to assist lake freighters. The lower St. Clair is a "choke point" for ice jams, and it creates a real navigational challenge. Sarnia Traffic can be heard on Channel 11 with bridge-to-bridge communications on Channel 6. Then we start home at the end of daylight because icebreaking stops at dusk. Last winter Canadian National's *Arthur M Anderson* required 31 days to transit from Connaught, Ohio through this region to Green Bay, Wisconsin for winter lay-up. The USCG speaker at our November squadron meeting described re-supplying the *Anderson* by helicopter.

The unusually warm weather is a blessing for our winter heating costs but also means that the icebreakers will not have any work this January. The spring ice break-up may require icebreaking in the river, but this will depend on the winter temperatures. The warm weather could produce a longer lake shipping season without the problems of ice damage to ships or increased fuel costs. But in spite of the more favorable navigation conditions, several lake carriers have gone into their winter lay-up earlier than usual for two reasons. First, the demand for thermal grade coal by electric generating stations has decreased due to the lower cost of natural gas, plus environmental regulations. Second, competition from foreign steel producers has decreased the market for domestic steel resulting in a decreased need for taconite and metallurgical grade coal.

On a different topic, our squadron has a tradition of presenting interesting speakers on any marine subject at our monthly meetings. The squadron would be delighted to have any member present a program of nautical interest. This could include friends because speakers are not limited to USPS members. The squadron cannot pay an honoraria but our Commander Ron has said that outside speakers will be our guests for cocktails and dinner. Presentations are generally about 20 to 25 minutes so we have time for a discussion. The squadron will provide the necessary projection equipment. If you have an idea, contact either our Commander or myself at [buchananra@msn.com](mailto:buchananra@msn.com)

Jeannine D. Buchanan

Secretary, the Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron



USCG *Bristol Bay* on St. Clare River



USCG ice breaker on St. Clare River



Canadian helicopter landed on frozen Lake  
Erie next to the Canadian *Samuel Risely*

## USPS on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/uspowersquadrons](https://www.facebook.com/uspowersquadrons)

In November 2015, the USPS's Educational Department launched a new social media campaign on USPS's Facebook page. It's intended to expand USPS's reach within the boater community, help viewers form and share favorable opinions about the quality and value of USPS expertise and educational products and services, and help local squadrons promote, grow, and celebrate their educational activities.

Please help us get the word out by liking the USPS's Facebook page and engaging the posts (like, comment, share). Here is the URL: <https://www.facebook.com/uspowersquadrons>. The more members who engage, the greater our reach in the boater community will be. The posts — USPS educational content, quizzes, how-to videos, and posts that help viewers find local courses in the classroom and on the water. We will also help celebrate squadrons' educational programs and achievements and engage with content they post on their Facebook page; and we welcome original photos, graphics, videos, and stories about special educational events that you may wish to send us.

Amy Townsend, Managing Editor of the Ensign, prepares posts on a variety of topics that appear at 1PM daily; and she occasionally posts more frequently. I prepare Educational Department posts that appear twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays at 5PM.

For now, I welcome your feedback, suggestions, encouragement, and help. So that we can be sure to like your district and squadrons' Facebook pages, please confirm the URLs by return email. Thank you! Social media is a powerful tool... Let's use it together to reach a broader audience for USPS education, help our squadrons grow, and help make the water a better place!

With thanks, - Jan

D/1/Lt Jan Wright, AP-IN

USPS Educational Department, Social Media & Communications chair

912-659-9358

Come for the Boating Education... Stay for the Friends! SM



December party goes at Carolyn and Jack Knaggs house



1st/Lt Art Pinsak, SN Lt. Sharon Pinsak



Lt/C Marlene Barr John Barr Jr. Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan



Lt. Peter Hinman, P Lt/C Karen Snyder, P



P/D/C Jack Knaggs, SN

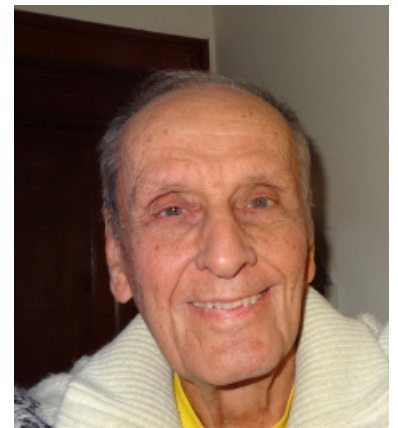


Lt/C Bob Buchanan



Lt Carolyn Knaggs, P

Everybody had a great time, the food was wonderful, and the fog was so heavy -- or was it the drinks, ? -- that we used GPS to find our way home; Ho Ho Ho



Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN





## Executive Officer's Message

Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN



Hello, and Happy New to everyone!

Well, the days are getting longer, and spring will be here before you know it. Winter in Florida is unusually warm this year. I now have a pair of sandhill cranes living in the neighborhood. They start every morning with very loud, and strange cry. It is my alarm clock for the winter. Then they spend several hours looking for food. In the afternoon they seem to disappear, but are in the yard bright and early the next day. I guess the tortoises invited them to join my zoo. Oh well, they are all welcome here.

May peace be with us all throughout the coming year.

Lt/C Frank Hoy, AASPS EXO



Sandhill cranes -- Frank's new tenants

---

Many thanks to our 2015 Merit Mark award winners. A great bunch of gals and guys.

Lt/C Marlene Barr

Lt John Barr, AP

Lt/C Bob Buchanan, P

Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan

Lt Peter Hinman, P

Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN

Lt Carolyn Knaggs, P

Lt Margaret Moller

Lt Art Pinsak, SN

Cdr Ron Schwartz, SN

Lt/C Karen Snyder, P

We were a bit thin on the education end of our activities in 2015. In 2016 we will offer the ABC course, and seminars, and the newer full courses. We will use the classrooms at St. Joseph Hospital, or our private homes, for small classes.

My new year's resolution is to store or pitch all the magazines, newspapers, stock tips, etc. on table tops and the floor of my house. And get the phone wire off the floor.

Cdr. Ron



A Partial List of Events

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT AND LOCATION
Jan. 18	AASPS	Change of Watch at Carlyle Grill. See page 3.
Feb. 15-21	USPS	Annual Meeting in Orlando Florida
Apr. 8-10	D9 and Detroit PS	Spring conference Double-Tree Hotel Dearborn MI

## 2016 Spring D9 conference

**DETROIT POWER SQUADRON  
WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR CENTENNIAL  
BY HOSTING A SUPER-SUITE  
AT THE 2016 SPRING CONFERENCE**



D/9 CONFERENCE  
APRIL 8 – 10, 2016  
DOUBLE-TREE HOTEL  
DEARBORN, MI



**PRIZES**  
**FOOD**  
**BEVERAGES**  
**ENTERTAINMENT**

**BE THERE!**

YOU WILL WANT TO TELL YOUR  
FRIENDS

**"I WAS THERE!!!!"**



FEATURING DUELING PIANOS  
AT THE SATURDAY NIGHT RECEPTION