

The Porthole

December 2017



United States Power Squadrons®

America's Boating Club®

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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

52 YEARS SERVING
THE BOATING PUBLIC

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2018 Nominations

Cdr. - Ron Schwartz
Exec. Officer - Peggy Moller
Sec. - John Barr, Jr.
Treas. - Marlene Barr
SEO - Open
Admin. Officer - Open

Merry Christmas to all.



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Visit our web site
www.aaspsq.org





Sail and Power Boating Education

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron

Christmas Party

6 P.M. Monday Dec. 11, 2017

Buchanan's home

3045 Foxcroft St., Ann Arbor

Lat. 42° 16.1' N, Long. 83° 42.2' W

Potluck - Please bring a dish - salad or dessert - to share. Please RSVP by Dec. 9 to Jeannine Buchanan for reservations and tell her what food you will bring . 734- 971-6589.

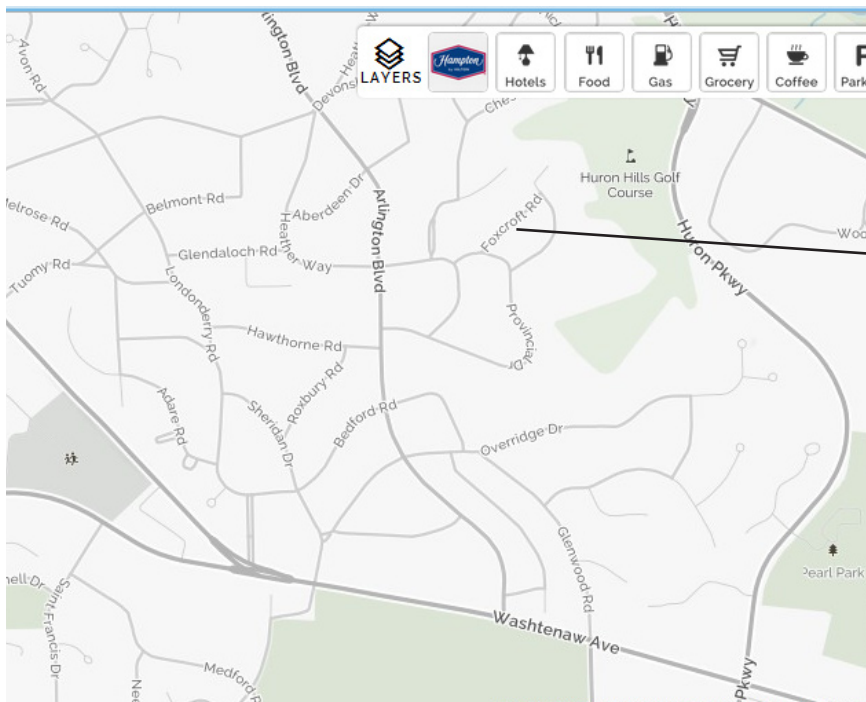
Gift raffle. Please bring unwrapped gift items of value less than \$10. Raffle tickets will be sold - proceeds are donations to the Squadron.



Power Squadron members and guests invited.



Buchanan's house



Directions to Buchanan's. Take Washtenaw to Arlington - the 2nd street west of Huron Parkway. Go north on Arlington to Provincial Dr. and follow Provincial Dr. to Foxcroft (3045).

You will see red ornaments on the spruce in front





Commander's Message

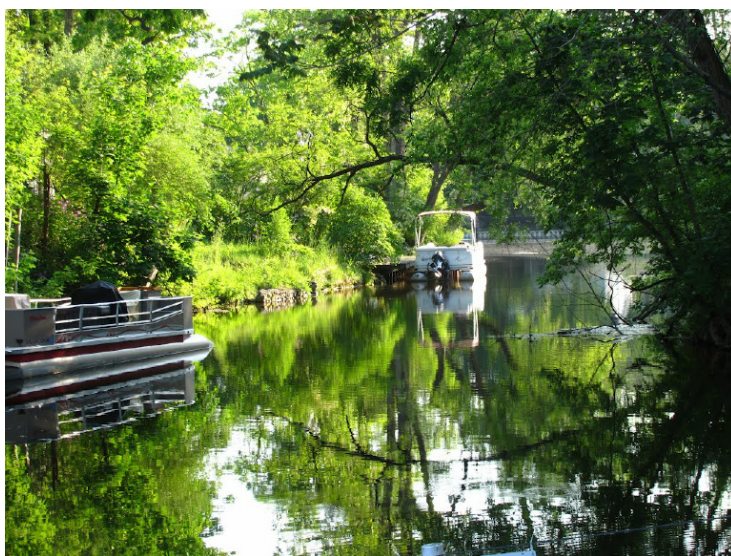
Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN



Our Squadron has reached out to the small boat community -- kayaks and canoeing public -- by having a rendezvous at Pinckney State Recreation Area in August attended by myself, Peggy Moller, Evrard Ohou, and Randy Baier. We launched into Halfmoon Lake and paddled up stream to Blind Lake and Watson Lake, then back to the launch site. The waters are clear and clean and the scenery is beautiful. We had a fun time in a little piece of paradise about a mile upstream from Hell, Michigan. Next year we plan to go there again and perhaps go down stream to Hi Land Lake and Hell, and the dam in Hell that feeds Portage Creek, Portage Lake, and the Huron River.



Hi Land Lake Dam. The dam between Hi Land Lake and Portage Creek in Hell, Michigan.
By JimTobita



Hi Land Lake, Hell, MI By JimTobita



A channel between Halfmoon Lake and Watson Lake

We will have our election of our 2018 Executive Board at our December meeting and Christmas Party. We still have openings for the Education Officer and the Administrative Officer.



Executive Officer's Message Lt/C Bob Buchanan, P



Readers of this column know that I like to write about events around the Great Lakes. As described last month, November is the most terrifying month for lake storms, traditionally known as "The Gales of November".

The November phenomenon develops because the immense volume of water in the five Great Lakes holds heat that allows the lakes to remain relatively warm much later into the year and postpones the Arctic spread in the region. During autumn, two major weather tracks converge over the lakes. Cold, dry air moves south/southeast from Alberta and northern Canada while warm, moist air moves north/northeast from the Gulf of Mexico along the lee of the central Rocky Mountains. The collision of these two masses forms large storm systems in the middle of the North American continent including the Great Lakes. As the cyclonic system continues over the lakes, its power is intensified by the jet stream above and the warm waters below.

November gales have been a bane of the Great Lakes with at least twenty five killer storms striking the region since 1847. During the November 1905 storm, twenty seven wooden vessels were lost. Then during a November gale in 1975, the giant ore bulk carrier Edmund Fitzgerald sank suddenly with all hands without a distress signal.

But the worst was the November 1913 storm. This storm was first noticed on Thursday, November 6, on the western side of Lake Superior moving rapidly toward northern Lake Michigan. Around midnight, the steamer *Cornell* while 50 miles west of Whitefish Point in Lake Superior ran into a sudden northerly gale and was badly damaged. This gale lasted until late November 10, almost forcing *Cornell* ashore.

The greatest damage was done on southern and western Lake Huron. Lake masters recounted that waves reached at least thirty five feet in height. Being shorter in length than waves ordinarily formed by gales, they occurred in rapid succession with three waves frequently striking in succession. Masters stated that the wind often blew in directions opposite to the waves below. This was the result of the storm's cyclonic motion, a phenomenon rarely seen on the Great Lakes.

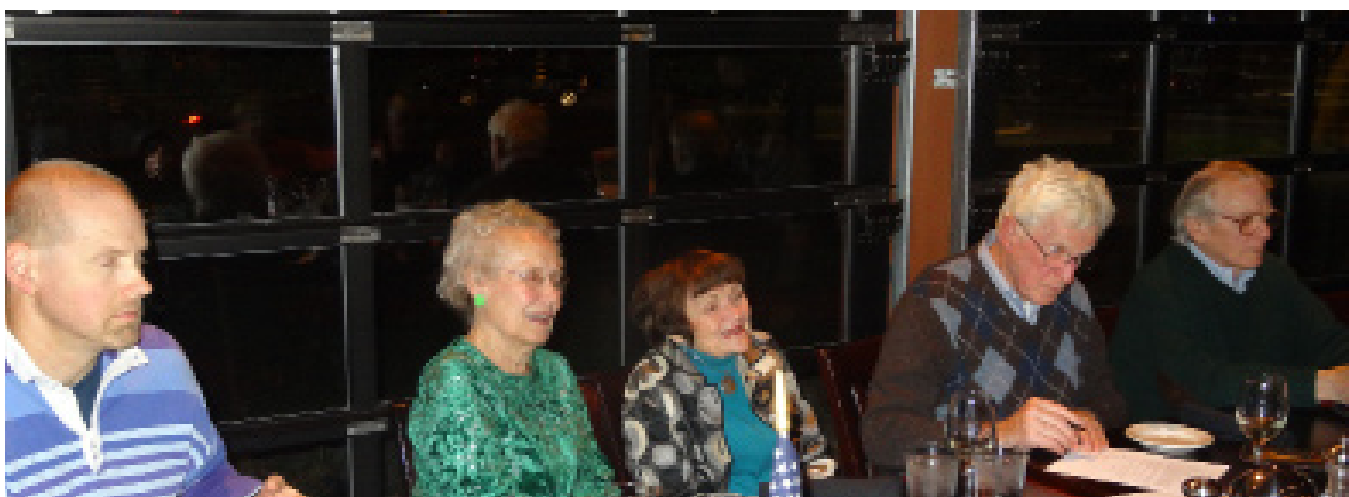
In the late afternoon of November 10, an unknown vessel was spotted floating upside-down in about 60 feet of water on the eastern coast of Michigan within sight of the mouth of the St. Clair River. The ship eventually sank. Five days later it was finally identified as the *Charles S. Price*. This was the first time in Great Lakes history that a fully loaded ore carrier had been capsized..

Twelve ships lost with their entire crews have been documented. These are Lake Superior; *Leafield*, *Henry B. Smith*, Lake Michigan; *Plymouth*, Lake Huron; *Argus*, *James Carruthers*, *Hydrus*, *John A. McGean*, *Charles S. Price*, *Regina*, *Isaac M. Scott*, *Wexford*, Lake Erie; *Lightship LV-82 Buffalo*. Of the 12 ships that sank in the storm, 3 have never been found: *Leafield*, *James Carruthers*, and *Plymouth*. *Hydrus* was located in the summer of 2015. Previously the *Henry B. Smith* was located in 2013.

The masters of these ships sailed without benefit of VHS radio, radar and weather radar, AIS, GPS, electronic chart plotters, weather forecasting and all the other modern electronic aids. In other words, they sailed by their skill and wits.

Sources are; my library, studies, museums (Toledo and Detroit), internet, etc.

Pictures from our November Meeting



Lt/C John Barr, Jr.

Lt/C Marlene Barr Lt/C Jeannine Buchannan P/C Robert Buchannan, P Bill Thomas



P/D/C James Knaggs, SN and P/C Carolyn Knaggs, P



Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN

Marge Delevie



Evrard Ohou and Lt/C Peggy Moller



P/D/C James Knaggs, SN, presenting Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN, his USPS 50 Year Membership Plaque

Boating Education

Practical On The Water Training (POTWT) Go to https://www.usps.org/e_stuff/seminars/potw.htm for a description of this 4 hour classroom and 4 hours on your boat seminar.

Cruise Planning Course. If you want this course call Ron at 734-769-3476.

A Partial List of Events

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT AND LOCATION
Dec. 11	AASPS	Christmas party at Buchanans See page 3.
Jan. 22, 2018	AASPS	Change Of Watch at Carlyle Grill
Feb.		No meeting
Mar. 12	AASPS	General Meeting at Carlyle Grill
April 16	AASPS	General Meeting at Carlyle Grill
May 21	AASPS	General Meeting at Carlyle Grill

BOATING EDUCATION: Please tell me which of these courses, or seminars you might like to take in the next year. E-mail me at aapsclasses@aol.com

USPS full courses (each about 8 weeks long) cover most boating subjects. Boating laws, Chart and celestial navigation, Sail, Engine maintenance, Marine electrical and electronics, Weather. Cruise Planning. See USPS web site for full descriptions. <https://www.usps.org/index.php/departments/13000>

2 hour Seminars

USPS Guides for self study can be found at http://www.usps.org/e_stuff/usps_ed.html

Basic Plotting Guide
Boat Insurance
GMDSS and Marine Radio
How to Fly Flags
Knots, Bends and Hitches for Mariners
Knot Tying: The Basic Knots CD
Marine Amateur Radio
Mariner's Compass Guide
Navigational Astronomy
Plotting and Labeling Standards
Predicted Log Guide
Sailing, Introduction to
Sight Reduction Methods
USPS Nautical Glossary
Water Sports

Advanced Boat Handling
Anchoring
Basic Weather
Boat Handling Under Power
Boating on Rivers, Lakes, & Locks
Crossing Borders/Customs
Emergencies on Board
How to use a Chart
Knots, Bends and Hitches
Man Overboard
Marine Radar
Mariner's Compass
Paddle Smart
Partner in Command
Sail Trim and Tuning
Trailer
Using GPS
Using VHF and VHF/DSC Radio