

# The Porthole

December 2018



United States Power Squadrons  
America's Boating Club  
*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/>

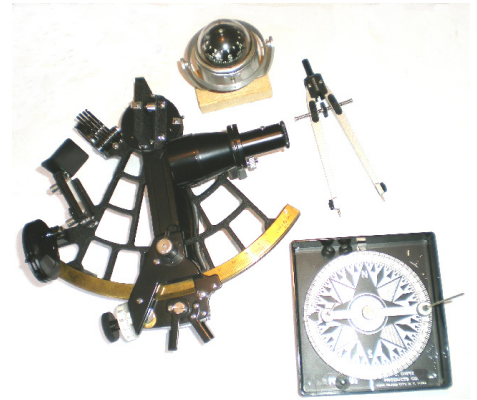
# Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron

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



Boating Education since 1965

53 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 Peggy Moller	734-761-1589	mmoller@umich.edu
Administrative Officer: Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan	734-971-6589	BuchananRA@msn.com
Assist. Adminis. Officer: P/C Bob Buchanan, P	734-971-6589	BuchananRA@msn.com
Secretary: Lt/C John Barr Jr.	734-961-0025	jmbarrjr@gmail.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
Public Relations Officer: P/C John Barr, AP, Life	734-483-0839	JMBarr@BarrLawFirm.com
Chaplain: P/C John Barr, AP, Life	734-483-0839	JMBarr@BarrLawFirm.com
Membership Chair: D/Lt/C Carolyn Knaggs, P	734-645-3503	carolynknaggs@me.com
Web Designer Lt/C Peggy Moller	734-761-1589	mmoller@umich.edu
Webmaster: Evrard (Freddy) Ohou	734-761-1589	oefred@umich.edu
Porthole Proofreader: Lt./C Peggy Moller	734-761-1589	mmoller@umich.edu
Porthole Publisher/Dist: 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:

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.



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







Sail and Power Boating Education

## Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron

### Christmas Party

6 P.M. Monday Dec. 17, 2018

Buchanan's home

3045 Foxcroft St., Ann Arbor

Lat. 42° 16.1' N, Long. 83° 42.2' W

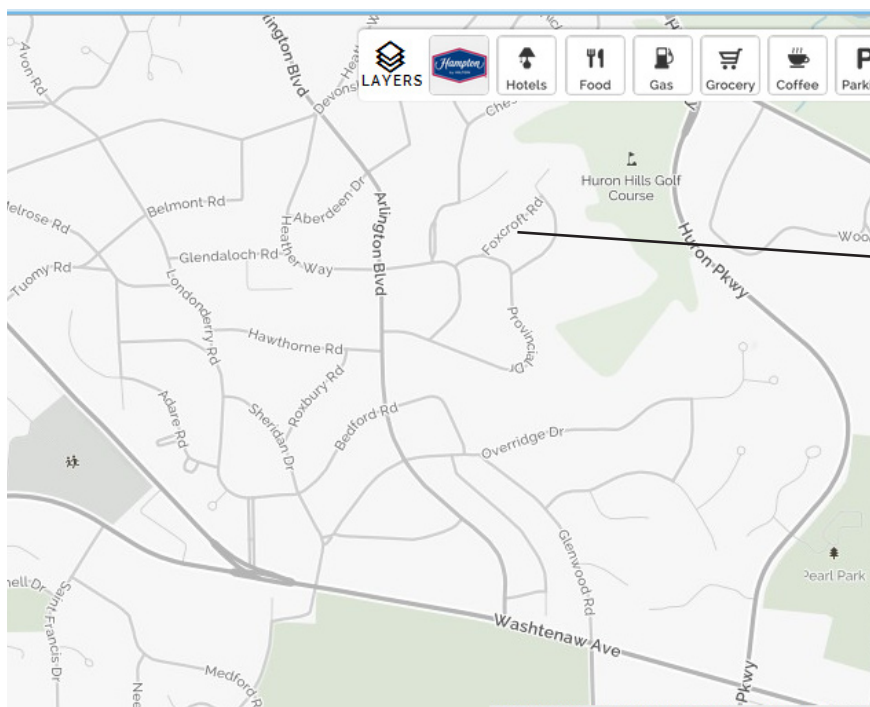
Potluck - Please bring a dish - salad or dessert - to share. Please RSVP to Jeannine Buchanan and tell her what food you will bring . 734- 971-6589.



Power Squadron  
members and guests  
invited.



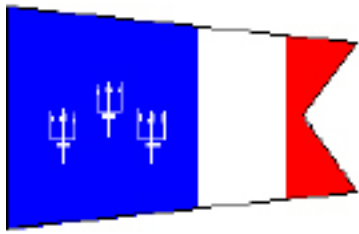
Buchanan's house



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





P/C Bob Buchanan, P



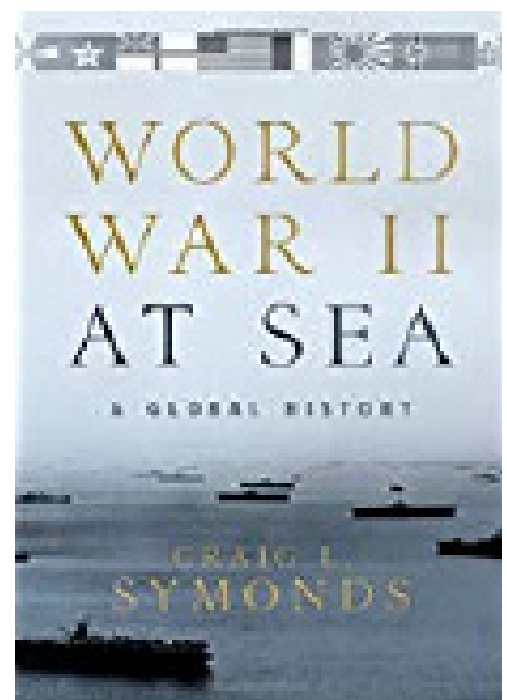
Book reviews are generally not part of the Porthole. However, for people interested in nautical marine events or who enjoy good sea stories, *World War II at Sea, a Global History* by Craig L. Symonds provides exciting reading. The author, an outstanding naval historian, is Professor Emeritus of history at the U.S. Naval Academy where he taught for 30 years. I first discovered this book through a review in the *Wall Street Journal*.

As a storyteller, the author takes the reader through the major naval engagements; the U-boat attack on Scapa Flow, Dunkirk, the Battle of the Atlantic, Normandy. In parallel, Pearl Harbor, Midway, Leyte Gulf, the Philippine Sea battles are described. But the book is much more than a descriptive narrative; rather it talks about the background events, the logistical problems, and interprets the results. Even more fascinating is that we learn about the personalities of such people as Karl Donitz and Erich Raeder, German naval commanders, also the U-boat captains. Raymond Spruance, William Halsey, both U.S. Naval Pacific commanders become familiar to the reader as their stories unfold.

Equally important is the role of American industrial capacity to design and build ships, also the technical advances as the war continued. For example, the Japanese Navy developed superior torpedoes, the Long Lance torpedo, but did not have radar so was limited to daylight engagements in good weather.

In conclusion, this single volume covering the period from 1939 to 1945 is well-written, a good page-turner that will keep you awake at night. Copies are available through Amazon and are in stock at Barnes and Noble.

In the Author's Note Craig Symonds says, "The Second World War was the single greatest cataclysm of violence in human history." To fight that war the United States constructed the largest, most technologically advanced navy ever seen to that point in history. This book in part tells that story but the book is not just about America's war at sea. The US also constructed the largest fleet of merchant shipping ever seen to support her allies and her own military in that terrible conflict. This book tells that story but it also addresses the Herculean ordeal of transporting critically needed supplies across thousands of miles of ocean to keep Britain, the Soviets, the Australians and New Zealanders, and China in the war. This book is also about the larger conflict. It attempts to examine all the important naval encounters of all the important belligerents and it succeeds.



Professor Symonds organizes the narrative chronologically, dovetailing the events that took place at the same time but separated by great distances. Most authors cover the war geographically, telling the story of war in the Atlantic separately from the war in the Pacific. That is done for organizational convenience and because most authors focus on the United States. Craig Symonds covers all the navies of the major belligerents with a descriptive command that clearly illustrates the historical flow to the reader. Several episodes of the war not usually covered appear here. The Norwegian Campaign and the naval confrontations in the Mediterranean are typically not well covered but the author corrects that in this book. I found the story of the attempts to relieve the garrison on Malta gripping; I had never heard of Operation Pedestal before. Another important event covered by the author that is usually missed by others: the monumental importance of Congressman Carl Vinson and the Two Ocean Navy Act he pushed through the House.

The author not only emphasizes the importance of merchant shipping to the war effort but focuses the reader on the significance of the amphibious ships and craft necessary to deliver the Allies to the beaches. In this discussion Symonds gets a chance to examine the competition for resources that resulted from attempting to quickly build not only the huge numbers of so many different types of vessels but also build airplanes, tanks, jeeps, trucks and artillery as well. This competition meant that one type of ship, the Landing Ship Tank, would be the limiting factor. The LST could not be replaced by any other vessel and Eisenhower very nearly did not have enough for the invasion of Northern Europe. The Allies had planned an invasion of Southern France, Operation Anvil, to be simultaneously launched with Overlord. The LST requirements for Anvil would limit the sealoift for Overlord. Professor Symonds explains Eisenhower's dilemma, "...while there would be enough LSTs for the first three tides, after that we will have no, repeat, no LSTs reaching the beaches after the morning of D plus 1 until the morning of D plus 4." (p 508) That is a long time to go without reinforcement or resupply. That is how critical the LST was. It did not help matters that the invasion of Saipan in the Pacific was planned to take place at nearly the same time as Overlord. The war in the Pacific accounted for the dearth of LSTs in Europe and the Mediterranean. The US did produce an overwhelming amount of war material. With plentiful natural resources and massive industrial and agricultural capacity the US still did experience critical shortages at critical times in the war. Anvil was postponed until August of 1944 and renamed Dragoon. The war in the Pacific continued unabated.

Craig L Symonds is an outstanding author. He can translate the history of a single battle or a grand sweeping survey of a six year global war into gripping and enthralling literature. Professor Symonds currently is the Ernest J. King Professor of Maritime History at the US Naval War College, after a long distinguished career as a professor of naval history at the US Naval Academy. He has won many awards to include the Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature for his book *Neptune: The Allied Invasion of Europe and the D-Day Landings*. So, besides being a gifted author Professor Symonds is also a highly respected naval historian. I first discovered him through his book on the Battle of Midway and when *Neptune* came out I had to get it. Both are just fabulous examples of how to tell an engaging story, explain technological details while maintaining the reader's interest and pass on the history of that time and place, and of the people involved, in a way that flows like a novel. Since *Neptune* was published I have been keeping an eye out for his next work. When I saw the topic of his new effort, I was stunned. Yes, that is what I want. I want a single volume history of World War II at sea and I want it written by Craig Symonds! I am completely satisfied with the result.



## Commander's Message

Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN



In the November 2018 Porthole I described Cruising World Magazine's story about several classic ocean cruisers and writers. While perusing my computer files, I found the stories my friends from the Warren Power Squadron, Cathy and Cornelius (Corny) Gelsavage, wrote in several Ensign Magazines - 1980 March, 1981 March, 1984 November/December issues, about how they were 'bitten by the wanderlust' bug' to cruise the oceans. He was a super artist with a good job in design, but quit his job, supported his family in the 1970's to 1990's with 'freelance' art work and built a Ferrocement 50' sailboat on Harson's Island to cruise the world. His transformation story is beautifully written. Clyde Marbry and I sailed with Corny and his wife Cathy on their first trip to hoist the sails on Lake St. Clair one Saturday in 1994. Cathy was shocked that, as the sail went up the gentle breeze heeled the boat and her kitchen counter was no longer level with the world. Cruising World Magazine issues February 1996 page 96, and June 1996 page 21 had articles about their adventure. The Detroit News Sept. 24, 1974, and the Detroit Free Press June 24, 1980 also had articles about them. They got to St. Augustine, Florida, and health problems derailed their journey, but Corny continued to paint beautiful pictures the rest of his life.

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## Boating Education

From the Grand Rapids December newsletter, in regards to the ABC course --

"The instructors can still only issue the State DNR boating Class Card with an administered State exam but the biggest change is ABC will no longer be offered online to comply with the new NASBLA certification"

Our 5 ABC students all passed their exams and received their state and USPS certificates.

### A Partial List of Events

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT AND LOCATION
Dec. 17	AASPS	Christmas Party at Buchanan's house. See page 3.
Jan. 21	AASPS	Change of Watch



## Pictures from our November meeting



P/C John Barr, AP Lt/C Marlene Barr Lt/C John Barr, Jr.



Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan

P/C Bob Buchanan, S



Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN



Lt/C Peggy Moller Freddy Ohou