

**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 on the first Monday of the month, unless a holiday interferes. Executive Board meetings are usually at 1900 on Monday, two weeks before the General meeting, at The New Center, 1100 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor.

**Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron
Boating Education**

**43 YEARS SERVING
THE BOATING PUBLIC**

Executive Committee

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Ed. Officer: Ronald E. Schwartz, SN (life)	734-769-3476 AAPSClasses@aol.com
Treasurer: Marlene Barr, S	248-348-2367 JMBarr@BarrLawFirm.com
Secretary: (Ellen) Shirley Schwartz, N	734-769-3476 AAPSClasses@aol.com
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Ch. Elect. Courses: Bob Snider, SN (life)	734-665-8890 crsnider@ameritech.net
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Welcome new member Lori Lozen

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.

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General Meeting

Monday, 1 December 2008

at the NEW Center, 1100 North Main Street,

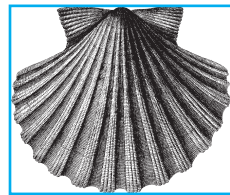
Ann Arbor

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

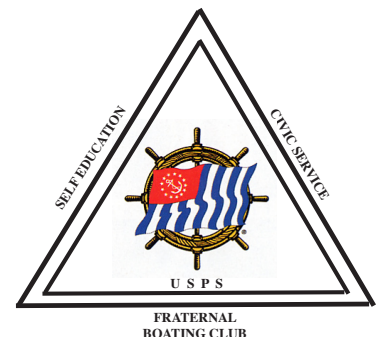
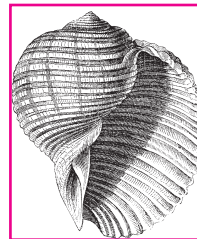
6:30pm: Potluck Dinner - Please bring a dish to share.

Potluck - \$5 for drinks and supplies. Please bring a side dish to pass - potato, fruit, or egg salad, desert, etc. Please call Sharon Pinsak - 734-973-0441 - and tell her what food you want to bring so we have a variety.

Gift raffle. Please bring unwrapped items to donate to the Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron. Raffle tickets will be sold - proceeds are donations to the Squadron. You put part of your raffle tickets into the bags next to the items you would like. A random drawing for each item will determine who gets it.



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



Commander's Message

We are now approaching the 44th anniversary of our USPS charter and are still moving along strongly. The success of the squadron relates directly to the participation and involvement of all the members. I want to thank all of you for making this a viable organization. Members of the Bridge, Education Department and committees have especially gone to extremes to assure our success. Two Public Boating courses were conducted during 2008, a JN course is underway and some of you are exploring some of the on-line self-study courses. We had a great rendezvous at Hessel, MI and at Wyandotte, MI. A picnic at an idyllic waterside location and parties have been enjoyable events. We have had interesting and educational speakers at all the general meetings. The only negative aspect related to all the squadron activities and programs has been the lack of enthusiastic member participation. The Bridge will continue to search for attractive incentives that may help to prioritize your interests.



Commander Arthur Pinsak, SN

Annual merit mark recommendations were recently submitted to a National USPS committee for review and approved. I was grateful for the opportunity to prepare them but regret that recommendations could not be submitted for everyone. Merit marks are the one means for USPS to recognize the volunteer service that members contribute. Service does not need to be extensive and can be in any squadron activity as long as it satisfies basic guidelines. My ideal goal would be to write recommendations for all of you.

A program called "Star" was introduced at the recent D/9 Fall Conference. In it, squadrons would establish goals for the coming year and then strive to attain them. Successful units would receive "Star" recognition. This program is not intended to be an inter-squadron competition but rather, an incentive within each squadron to reach their stated goals. The program fits the prevalent concept of short-term defined goal orientation but is not compulsory. Squadrons may elect to participate or ignore the program. If AASPS decides to join, you can tell the Bridge which goals we should strive for.

Recent news articles have mentioned a significant increase in abandoned watercraft. In view of the depressed economy, some owners see a financial advantage in abandoning their equipment. This activity, of course, leads to introduction of toxic contaminants into our favorite recreational venues. You can become involved by reporting sightings of any derelict equipment to the U.S. Coast Guard or the DNR.

Again, thank you all for your involvement in USPS and I look forward to enjoying the holiday season with you at the 1 December Christmas Party.

Art Pinsak



SEO Message

Thankyous and cheers go to those who helped with the two boating classes this year. John Barr, Bob Snider, Jadwin Root, and Frank Hoy. John Barr's arrangement to hold these classes at WCC has worked out quite well. WCC provided advertisement in their catalog, room, computer, PowerPoint projector, and PA system. Also, thankyou Cary Jones for volunteering to teach the JN class which got off to a good start 17 November 2008.



Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN (Life)

We need a different approach to getting member courses started. In the past we have sent requests for our members to tell us what courses they wanted to take, and got very little response. Other squadrons advertise courses, instructors, dates, times, minimum number of students and locations of the classes, and hope the students respond. This, to me, makes more sense.

If we advertise our classes - show our potential students what, when, cost and location - maybe it will pique their interest and fit it into their schedules. So, I would like to try this approach for our 2009 classes. Of course students can still take any of our courses or seminars as a self study, or directed study where a teacher schedules assignments, tutors occasionally, and checks the homework to keep the student on schedule.

We need more teachers (class chairpersons) to offer more classes. USPS has a lot of great, well designed courses and seminars. If you want to teach one of these, please let me know what subject you want to **teach**, location, dates and times and minimum number of students. I will put this information into our newsletters. Maybe this will help to get our education program moving. **Here is our current list of classes being offered.**

CLASSES

Weather Class - 8 Thursdays, 7 to 9 pm, Feb. 5 to March 26, 2009. 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, Feb. 11 to April 1, 2009. Seamanship covers basic deck seamanship, marlinspike (knots and ropes), anchoring and rafting, basic boat care and maintenance, and nautical and USPS customs and etiquette. Location - John Barr's office, 105 Pearl St., Ypsilanti. 3 to 6 students. Contact John Barr, 734-483-0839 JMBarr@BarrLawFirm.com .

Advanced Piloting Class - 12 Wednesdays, 7 to 9 pm, Feb. 11 to April 29. Location - 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.

Our September Boat Smart and Squadron Boating Classes had 100% graduation.

Congratulations to Mike Crawford, John Hodgins, Dennis Horton, Spenser Horton, Joe Jaeger, Sue Leonard, Lori Lozen, Andy McKee, Mike Perrin, Marc Renner, Junko Stevenson, Randy Stevenson, Tobey Thelen, and Shih-Chieh Yin.

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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

Nominations for 2009 Officers - To be voted on at the 1 December 2008 Christmas party

Commander - P/C John Barr, AP

Exec. Officer - P/C Frank Hoy, JN

SEO - Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN (life)

Secretary - Lt/C Shirley Schwartz, N

Treasure - Lt/C Marlene Barr, S

Partial list of Events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>EVENT AND LOCATION</u>
Dec. 1	AASPS JN class	4:30pm at New Center, 1100 N. Main St. Ann Arbor.
Dec. 1	AASPS Christmas Party;	6:30pm at New Center, 1100 N. Main St. Ann Arbor. See page 3.
Dec. 15	AASPS Exec. Comm. meeting.	6:30pm at New Center, 1100 N. Main St. Ann Arbor.
Jan. 5	AASPS general meeting.	6:30pm at New Center, 1100 N. Main St. Ann Arbor.
Jan. 19	AASPS Exec. Comm. meeting.	6:30pm at New Center, 1100 N. Main St. Ann Arbor.

Detroit Boat Show - Feb. 2009 Squadron members can get into the Detroit Boat Show free if they volunteer to be at the USPS booth for 2 hours to answer questions about USPS. Contact Linda M. Lumpkin to reserve a 2 hour slot in the schedule. 586-779-2766 lmumpkin@comcast.net

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/
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.grpsmi.org/
Grosse Ile PS	http://www.usps.org/localusps/grosseile/
Irish Hills PS	http://www.usps.org/localusps/irishhills/
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/

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

