

The Porthole

November
2009



The official newsletter of the Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron
a Unit of United States Power Squadrons
<http://www.annarborsailandpowersquadron.org>

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

General Meetings are usually held on the third Monday of the month at St. Joseph Hospital's Education Center, Ann Arbor.

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



**44 YEARS SERVING
THE BOATING PUBLIC**

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**Thankyou Shih-Chieh Yin for your design of this
month's front page of the Porthole**



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. 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, 23 Nov. 2009

at St. Joseph's Hospital Administration Building
5305 Elliott Dr. Parking Lot P,
2nd floor room 5 in the Education Center.

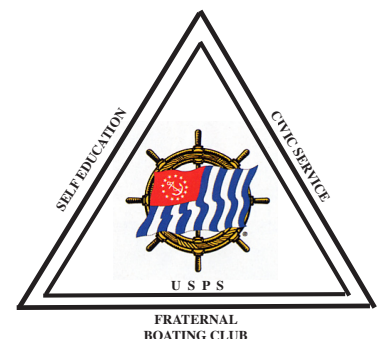
Take stairs or elevator to the 2nd. floor. Turn left and
walk about 30 paces. Then turn left thru the double
doors and go to classroom 5.

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

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

6 pm Potluck Please bring a dish to pass and your own drinks - Please call Sharon Pinsak at 734-973-0441, and tell her what food you want to bring so we can have a variety.

**7:00 Program: Dr. Bob Buchanan will present
“The Gales Of November”.**



Commander's Message



Commander John Barr, AP

November, 2009

I can hardly believe that another year is nearly over. Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron continues to carry out the mission of teaching safe boating. Some things that we have accomplished in the past few years: A great web site up and running; Teaching the Boating course, Seamanship and Junior Navigation course. We have maintained our membership and are welcoming new members.

We left the Ann Arbor New Center for financial reasons. Classes are now taught at Washtenaw Community College. This has been an improvement as the college classrooms are first rate and there is plenty of parking and security. Meetings are now held at St. Joseph Hospital Administration Building in conference room 5 on the second floor. This facility has proven excellent for our meetings and as a bonus is free for our use.

Elections will be held at the December Christmas Party meeting. Details will be worked out at our next meeting, Monday, November 23, 2009. We will also consider dates and details for our annual Change of Watch meeting. The November meeting will begin at 6pm with a potluck dinner.

Ann Arbor once again partnered with the Dearborn Power Squadron to provide a Hospitality Room at the District Conference in Sterling Heights. We provided Dearborn with \$50 to help with the expenses and they gave credit to Ann Arbor with their signage and also with the display of the AASPS lighted floor sign.

Merit mark time is here. If you worked on a squadron project or held a squadron office, please email me (jbarr@barrlawfirm.com) with your activities and hours spent.

A Happy Thanksgiving to all!

John M. Barr, AP

AASPS Booster Club

Thanks to the following people for their support of the Porthole:

Your \$25 Donations to Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron will help our squadron carry on our boating education work. To donate, make your check payable to Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron and mail it and your boat's name to Marlene Barr, treasurer, 1200 Whittier Rd., Ypsilanti, MI, 48197.

Name	Boat Name	Date
John and Marlene Barr	VinVilla	May 2009
Bob Cox		Sept. 2009
Frank Hoy	Bobbin' Job	May 2009
Art and Sharon Pinsak	Calypso	May 2009
Ron and Shirley Schwartz	Half Angel and Soft Shoal	May 2009

SEO Message

Congratulations to all 10 boating students who passed the new America's Boating Course 3rd edition - Jerry Baker, Charles Harrison, Bill Hatz, Curtis and Melanie Hoff, Diana Jaeger, Jim Miles, Phyllis and Thornton Perkins, and Larry Pietrzyk. Several of these students are joining AASPS and will take the Seamanship course.



Lt./C Ron Schwartz, SN Life

Seamanship Class will start soon: Members can take the Seamanship class.

If you are interested please contact class chairman John Barr 734-483-0839 JMBarr@BarrLawFirm.com. We have several students for this class and hope to get more.

Piloting class will start soon. Members with a rating of Seamanship can take the Piloting class. If you are interested please contact Ron Schwaratz at 734-769-3476 or AAPSClasses@aol.com. We have 2 students for this class and hope to get more.

Navigation: Informal home study and classes have started. For details e-mail AAPSClasses@aol.com, or call 734-769-3476

There are many courses, seminars and study guides available. Subjects range from knots, weather, to electronics to engine maintenance and celestial navigation. Look at their descriptions at www.usps.org and tell me which ones you're interested in. You can do home study or, if we have several people interested in a particular subject, we will have a class.

Volunteers are needed for Assistant Education Officer, Chairman Boating, Ch. Marine Electronics, Ch. Instructor Development, Ch. Engine Maintenance, Ch. Teaching Aids, Chairman of Learning Guides, Calligraphy on certificates and wallet cards, Ch. of various seminars and study guides.



To see the log and pictures from a 4 year world cruise on a 50' sail boat go to <http://www.dreamcatchersail.us/index.html>

Executive Officer's Message

Notice of Illness



Lt./C Frank Hoy, JN

Our Squadron is ill. It is a volunteer organization in need of volunteers. We can't even fill our bridge officers. We have no Administrative Officer. There are so many positions that are empty that I am beginning to question what is wrong? In the past everybody had a job to do, and they did it. The people who have been working for the squadron have been doing a good job, but there just aren't enough of them to do everything that we need to do. In the past the squadron ran well because everyone knew what was expected of them and they did their job. We're not talking about some task that requires unending hours of work. We're talking about an organization where everybody does a little bit to make the whole thing run in a healthy manner. I'm hoping that in 2010 we can get a few more people to come out and help make the squadron healthy again. If not, the prognosis is fatal. Our squadron will cease to exist. We are committed to promoting safe boating through education. That is a commendable effort to be involved in. I am asking you to get involved. We will see if our squadron survives 2010. It is all up to you as members of this squadron to get involved. Volunteer for a position. We will help you learn what is expected of you. What could be easier?

Lt./C Frank Hoy, JN

Partial list of Events, 2009

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>EVENT AND LOCATION</u>
23 Nov.	AASPS	AASPS General meeting and Potluck dinner at St. Joseph's Hospital. See page 3. Speaker: Dr. Robert Buchanan "The Gales of November".

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.

For quick access to any of the D-9 Squadrons click on the Links section of our website (annarborsailandpowersquadron.org) and select District 9 Squadrons. A map showing each squadron's location with a link to its website is at your disposal.

Or alternatively, for a list of D-9 websites visit:
<http://www.usps.org/newpublic2/squadrons.html>



Study finds that a purposeful life is a longer one

If you have a purpose in life — lofty or not — you'll live longer, a new study shows.

It doesn't seem to matter much what the purpose is, or whether the purpose involves a goal that's ambitious or modest.

"It can be anything — from wanting to accomplish a goal in life, to achieving something in a volunteer organization, to

as little as reading a series of books," said study author Dr. Patricia Boyle, a neuropsychologist at the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center and an assistant professor of behavioral sciences at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

"We found that people who reported a greater level of purpose in life were substantially less likely to die over the follow-up period."

Though much other research has found that having a purpose in life is crucial to maintaining psychological wellness and physical health, Boyle said she believes the new study is one of the first large-scale investigations to examine the link between life purpose and longevity.

The finding follows another recent study, done by others, in which the researchers found that retirees older than 65 who volunteered had less than half the risk of dying during about a four-year follow-up period as did their peers who did not volunteer their time.

The deadly jib sheet.

On a warm, sunny, windy day in mid August about ten years ago I was sailing on Stony Creek Lake with John and Gloria, all wearing life jackets, in an 18' sloop, flying full main and jib sails. John was on the port seat and Gloria on the starboard. We had seen a 2 foot 2"x4" floating in the water, were trying to retrieve it, lost sight of it on a turn and, while sailing with the wind over our port quarter I saw the elusive 2x4 off the port beam. I turned the boat to port and, in a flash, the wind rolled us to starboard and we and the mast and sails were in the water. Gloria had probably rolled over backwards with the starboard jib sheet (rope) in her hands. The sheet ended up between her legs and over her shoulder with just enough length to hold her under water — with the top of her head at the lakes surface. The jib sheet held her under water — kept tight by the pull of her life jacket. She did not panic, but untangled herself in about a minute and popped to the surface — coughing but ok.

That day still haunts me. I feel in my bones that, although Gloria escaped, sometime in the future, this will happen again, and the deadly jib sheet will win!

AASPS MEMBERS Name Tags

FIRST I. LASTNAME



ANN ARBOR

We are going to order name tags for our members. We need to order at least 10 tags to get a reduced price of \$10 each. The tags can be attached to your clothes by a magnet. No holes in your clothes. If you want one, please send a check for \$10 payable to *Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron* to Art Pinsak, 3365 Tacoma Cir., Ann Arbor, MI 48108. The tags will be black/white laminated plastic with a white beveled border, white engraved letters and the AASPS burgee, similar to the picture above.

FLORIDA BOATING LOOKS BETTER FROM AFAR

By Bill Hempel

From the November 2009 issue of the Dearborn Power Squadron's Anchor Lines

For many years I have written about Florida boating and our unfortunate nationwide leadership in the area of boating accidents. I have often extended the theory that one of the causes for this leadership is our ability to boat year round as compared to Northern States with shorter boating seasons. This past month I spent some extended time on the waters around the Great Lakes, and boy was that theory validated. Michigan joins Florida near the top of the list of States with the most boats. However, Michigan's boating season is about one third the length of Florida's. Therefore, their frequency of boating accidents on a daily basis is actually more than double ours. While watching the local news in Florida, I am not accustomed to seeing reports on more than one boating accident on a daily basis. On one June day the Detroit 6:00 news reported on three boating accidents. I checked with the local Coast Guard station and discovered that they had responded to 12 boating emergencies on that particular day. The variety of different accidents was amazing.

The most common emergency reported that day was people falling off personal watercrafts in the middle of a crowded boating channel. Passing boaters reported three incidents of people in the water in danger of being hit by passing boats. The most serious emergency was a collision of two boats in which there were several injuries and one fatality. The most visible accident was directly in front of my lodging where I witnessed a swamping. About 500 yards from my deck I saw a small pontoon boat in a busy channel of the Detroit River with no less than 16 people on board. As I shook my head in wonder over the obvious overload, the predictable happened. Along came a power boat doing about 40 knots. The wake rocked the pontoon severely, tossing most of the people overboard (of course none wore life jackets). Other passing boats slowed and assisted the people in the water and had all back on board when the Coast Guard helicopter arrived. I thought this accident took the prize for stupidity (Captain of the overcrowded boat as well as the careless boat that swamped them), until I heard the 6:00 news that same evening. Seems two men were out in an open 20 foot craft and one fell overboard (no life jacket). The concerned Captain (no life jacket) jumped off the boat to rescue his friend. Of course the boat drifted away stranding both men in the water. Fortunately, they were able to swim to a large channel buoy, where they later were rescued by a Coast Guard helicopter. The silliest was a woman that capsized her canoe while maneuvering around rocks in a fast moving stream. The capsized canoe pinned her against the rock and she was held fast by the rushing water. Another Coast Guard rescue was required. The scariest incident was two 15 year olds lost overnight on a personal watercraft. They were reported missing in the early evening and not found until around midnight. Seems the PWC engine failed right at the mouth of the Detroit River and the current carried them out into Lake Erie. The young girl spotted a fixed and unmanned harbor light and swam to the light (both were wearing life jackets) where she climbed up out of the water. The boy remained on the PWC, which in time drifted across the lake to the nearby Canadian shore. He walked to the nearest home where the residents notified authorities and again a Coast Guard rescue was required to retrieve the young girl.

Fellow boaters, this all happened in a weekend. I guess when your season is short you have to get in as much stupidity as you can in a short time. I know none of these boaters intended to hurt themselves or others. They were all just out for a day of boating fun. But I am sure the 12 boaters requiring Coast Guard rescue didn't really enjoy the experience.

When we are on the water, we are always just one mistake away from an emergency rescue. Knowing how to avoid making that mistake as well as knowing what to do if it happens, is great insurance that you will have a day of boating fun and not be the subject of a Coast Guard rescue. Take a USPS safe boating class and learn how to be a responsible boater. As the United States Power Squadrons say "Boating should be fun. let us show you how". And if you ever boat in the Detroit River, please post lookouts at 12-3-6-and 9 o'clock!



Boating is fun... we'll show you how