

The Porthole

April 2010



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**



**45 YEARS SERVING
THE BOATING PUBLIC**

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Chairman Seamanship: John Barr, AP
Chairman Of Local Boards: Art Pinsak
Chairman Piloting: Art Pinsak, SN
Chairman Elective Courses: Bob Snider, SN (life)
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or <http://www.aaspsq.org>

Thankyou Shih-Chieh Yin for your design
of this months 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.

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.



General Meeting Monday, April 19, 2010

L 42° 15' 49.98" N, Lo 83° 39' 20.56" W
at St. Joseph's Hospital Administration Building
5305 Elliott Dr., parking Lot P,

2nd floor room EC 5 in the Education Center.

Take stairs or elevator to the 2nd. floor. Turn left and walk about 35 paces. Then turn left thru the double doors and walk past the rest rooms to classroom 5.

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

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

6 pm Potluck

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

Program: Carey Jones, JN will present "Due diligence prior to buying a boat: More than just a marine survey." The diligence included swimming in lake Michigan in October"



Commander's Message

Our meetings have changed. Because attendance at general membership meetings has declined, we no longer have an executive committee meeting and a general membership meeting each month. Instead we have one squadron meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month.

Another change is the location. We have moved from the New Center in Ann Arbor to St. Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor. Our new location has adequate parking and very nice new, modern facilities. And, it is free!

We have also changed to having a pot-luck meal at each meeting. This works out well, as the meetings now start at 6 pm with set up and the meal. We have a short program at 7 pm and a meeting at 7:30. This time table seems to work for most persons attending.

Our programs have been outstanding. New member Robert Buchanan has presented several programs on the Great Lakes and Curtis Hoff presented at our last meeting on his experiences on buying a boat. These programs were very enjoyable.

Both our recent presenters, Bob and Curtis are new members. Both have agreed to contribute to the squadron, not only by being program presenters, but also by agreeing to step up to the Bridge. Bob is our new squadron secretary and Curtis is our new administrative officer. Interestingly, both new bridge officers are doctors. Bob is an M.D. and Curtis a Ph.D. Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron draws on a large, talented, well educated pool of boaters!

Our treasury is solvent and we are gradually adding to our check book balance. We teach the basic boating course at Washtenaw Community College, and share revenue with the College. This has worked out well as the class room and facilities are basically free. We also benefit from being included in the college catalog of courses.

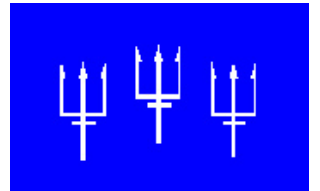
Spring is here. Summer is not far ahead. The boating season will be upon us soon. We have one definite rendezvous – the June picnic. It will be held again in Argo Park. This is a great event and I encourage all members to put the date – June 21, 2010 on their calendars now.

Another rendezvous is in the planning stage. It is the Les Cheneaux Antique Boat show in Hessel, Michigan. The show is scheduled for August 14, 2010. We will board the Arnold ferry boat in Mackinaw City, cruise to Hessel, enjoy the show and cruise back to Mackinaw City. We did this trip two years ago as a squadron event and everyone had a grand time!

Cdr. John Barr, AP, Life



Commander John Barr, AP, Life



SEO Message

Our public boating course at Washtenaw Community College will have exams on April 14, 2010.

With the new directives from AAPS National we can teach any course to anyone - member or nonmember. Therefore, we will try to have a class for any course USPS offers if we can get enough students. Or you can do a home study with private tutoring as needed. Let me know which courses/seminars/study guides you want. Call me at 734-769-3476.

Ron



Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN (Life)



The USPS® Pledge

**"I do solemnly pledge to:
Abide by the bylaws of the United States Power Squadron;
Promote high standards of navigation and seamanship:
Maintain my boat and operate it legally:
Render assistance whenever possible:
And conduct myself in a manner that will add
prestige, honor, and respect to the
United States Power Squadrons."**

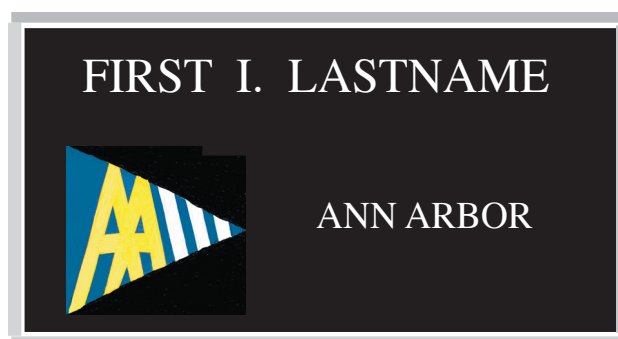
AASPS Booster Club

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, Whale and Soft Shoal	May 2009

AASPS MEMBERS

Name Tags



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.

Partial list of Events

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT AND LOCATION
April 19	AASPS	general meeting. See page 3.
May 17	AASPS	general meeting
June 19		Detroit Parade of Lights
June 21	AASPS	Picnic
June 22	USCG/USPS/USCGAUX D/9	educational opportunity aboard the 140-ft. Coast Guard Cutter "BRISTOL BAY".
July 9-11		Gold Cup Hydroplane Races in Detroit River
Aug. 7	USCG	Parade in Grand Haven
Oct. 22-24		D9 and D29 joint Fall Conference. Holliday Inn, Perrysburg Ohio
August 14		Les Chenaux Antique Boat Show



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

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 http://www.annarborsailandpowersquadron.org/district9_links.html

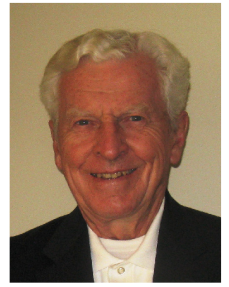
Or alternatively, for a list of D-9 websites visit:

<http://www.usps.org/newpublic2/squadrons.html>



Secretary's Message

Our tulips are pushing up, which means that the sailing season is not far away. My problem with early season sailing on Lake St. Clair is floating logs that have come down the lake following ice break-up. Hitting one with a fiberglass hull would not be good.

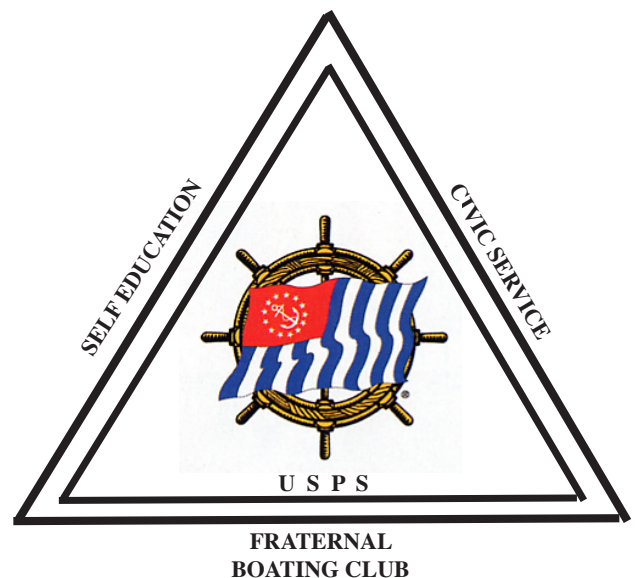


Lt/C Robert Buchanan

We are following developments of Digital Selective Calling (DSC) and the USCG Rescue 21 program. One information source states that Rescue 21 will become available on the Great Lakes late this year, another source suggests 2011. No new equipment is needed to benefit from Rescue 21. The new system will increase the Coast Guard's ability to respond to distress calls. If properly registered with a Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number and interfaced with GPS, the DSC radio signal transmits vital vessel information, position, and the nature of distress (if entered) at the push of a button. In an emergency, with one push of a button, your DSC radio will send an automated digital distress alert containing your MMSI number and position to other DSC-equipped vessels and rescue facilities. DSC will provide a quicker and more accurate response by the Coast Guard. This clearly is a technological advance so could be a program topic at a future meeting as more information becomes available.



- Bob Buchanan
Secretary



Membership Chairperson's Message

The D-9 Spring Conference was a huge success! We had over 260 people attend the Friday and Saturday events. The Southfield Marriott was a beautiful place, and the staff was incredible, friendly, and most helpful. The laugh of the weekend was when engineering placed the D-9 Flag backwards so our Michigan Thumb was on the west coast of the state. Because the hotel was so nice, they changed it for our dinner on Saturday evening.

Our new District Commander, James Draper, was sworn in by our visiting National Rep, Robert Sweet, at the business luncheon. Art Pinsak from our squadron attend the meeting and was able to accept several awards on behalf of AASPS.

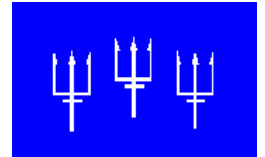
Membership was discussed. D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen said that at the council meeting, national wanted us to acquire over 300 new members for the coming year. That figure turned out to be incorrect. The correct number was just over 100. That means that we should all strive to get at least one new member each month in Ann Arbor. We are well on our way!

Congratulations to Melanie Hoff. - our newest additional active member.

Carolyn Knaggs
Membership



P/C Carolyn Knaggs. P



Group that won awards



Our new District Commander,
James Draper, SN, Flint

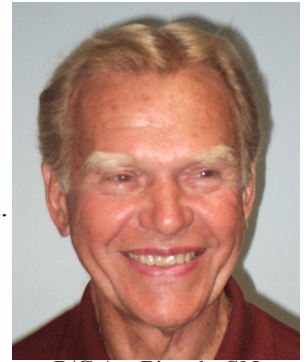


Art Pinsak going to podium to accept award

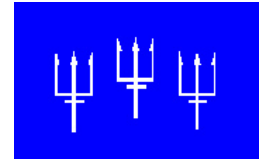
Chairman of the Local Boards' Message

The 2010 D/9 Spring conference was held the weekend 19-21 March at the Southfield Marriott and as the newly elected District Commander, James Draper, JN noted, the conference was hosted by the Flint squadron to assure that he was appropriately honored.

Ann Arbor was not officially represented, but I attended Saturday seminars and the business meeting ex-officio. Carolyn Knaggs had district responsibilities and was mentioned in Jim Draper's acceptance address as the person primarily responsible for getting him into the position that he now finds himself. He is well organized, thoughtful and efficient; attributes that will bode well as he directs the district this coming year.



P/C Art Pinsak, SN



A highlight of the business meeting was the annual distribution of awards to various squadrons. Ann Arbor Squadron was a part of the parade of recipients. We were recognized among many others for receipt of our 16th 100% Education Fund contribution.

We missed Roxie Harold's riddle. The National Publications Committee awarded our Porthole staff (Ron and Shirley Schwartz) a Distinction in Journalism certificate. John Barr was presented with a Life Membership plaque for having attained 25 merit marks. The recipients all missed the photo ops but I begrudgingly represented them. We weren't even in the Vessel Safety Check competition. Some people had conducted over a hundred checks during 2009. I will say they had the advantage of being in favorable locations

Morning seminars did not seem to be as well attended this year, but the seminar leaders who enthusiastically presented valuable information and insights were not deterred. It seemed to me that emphasis focused more on "how" rather than "what"; a product of the computer revolution. This could be expected with all the changes that have been occurring in USPS. One interesting approach regarding membership has been the introduction of "Cybersquadrons". When people log on to the USPS website, they are asked about interest in joining the organization. They can pay fees with a card, and their profile is sent by National to the nearest four squadrons to follow up on the possibility of squadron affiliation. USPS has acquired 270 members by this method in the past six months. It seems to have great potential when one considers that 90% of new members have historically been recruited by various bridge officers. These changes correlate with USPS decision to offer advanced courses to both existing and non-members with no prerequisites and to establish a single rather than multiple category membership classifications. A substantial pool of potential members exists; about 80% of boaters have not even taken a boating course.

A new website called "Sail Angle" under agreement with USPS has received considerable attention. It provides easy access to communication with all subscribers within different categories and is a source of extensive information. People can shop, advertise events and classes, see what is offered, publish newsletters and even run classified ads. A squadron member can easily communicate with every other member; bridge members and officers can contact equivalent people throughout the entire organization. This is a great way to improve communications and maintain interest through involvement. All one needs to do is log on to USPS.org, go to Sail Angle and register. Why not take a minute now to join this rapidly expanding group of boat oriented subscribers; success relates directly to participation.

Overall, the spring conference was both educational and enjoyable. My only regret was not seeing Ann Arbor Squadron members there to take advantage of all that was offered.

P/C Art Pinsak, SN, Life

Administrative Officer's Message

Our next meeting is Monday, April 19, featuring a presentation by Carey Jones on overhauling their newly purchased sail boat, 1978 S2 9.2a.

Some upcoming dates/activities to note:

May 17 – Meeting, program to be determined.

June 21 – Picnic

June 22 – USCG/USPS/USCGAUX D/9 educational opportunity
aboard the 140-ft. Coast Guard Cutter “BRISTOL BAY”.

August 14 – Hessel Boat Show



Lt/C Curtis Hoff



Please let me know if you have any suggestions for programs at upcoming meetings, and I'll try to facilitate them. Two good ideas recently provided include the new Rescue 21 program and electronic charting.

Note the BRISTOL BAY educational opportunity. This will be a unique 3-hour educational opportunity aboard the 140-ft ship and its 130-ft barge for a total of a 270 foot vessel. Boarding begins at 7:00 pm, departure at 7:30 pm and with a duration of 3 hours. I will have sign-up forms at our next meeting, or you can download it at: <http://d9-usps.org/app/D9edcruise10.pdf>

Membership in the AASPS is currently 50 with one recent addition (Melanie Hoff, my wife). District 9 membership totals about 2,300 according to the current website roster. National membership has decreased 5.9%, and the National Administrative Department has set a goal of increasing membership by 6,000 in 2010 with 378 new members in our District. We'll all need to do our part by recruiting new members.

Lt/C Curtis Hoff