

The Porthole

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

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, Chairman Marine Electronics, Chairman Instructor Development, Chairman. Engine Maintenance, Chairman Teaching Aids, Calligraphy on certificates and wallet cards, Chairman of various seminars.

Miscellaneous. Staff - Chairman Meetings and Programs, Chairman Member Involvement, Chairman 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, May 17, 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>

Public is invited

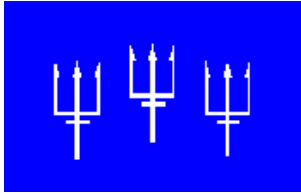
6 pm Potluck

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: Captain Randy and Rebecca Tisch will talk about ODYSSEY's maiden voyage down the Mexican coast. ODYSSEY is their beautiful new 55' Nordhavn. To get a preview of their trip, you can go to their web site at <http://www.tischtravels.com>. Randy recently passed the USCG Captain's test, so be sure to congratulate him.



Commander's Message



Commander John Barr, AP, Life

A package from USPS national arrived in my mailbox today. It contained several copies of a DVD program titled Small Boat Skills. The material with the package indicated that the majority of boats on our waterways are 18 feet and under, and that the majority of accidents and drownings occur with these small boats.

In response to this situation USPS has, in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard and Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, produced the educational Small Boat Skills DVD. The production has four features, each focusing on a specific family activity: family fun runabouts, fishing, paddling and personal water craft. This is a valuable tool, and I will be discussing how to utilize it with our SEO Ron Schwartz, and at our next general meeting.

In regard to buying or selling a boat, it seems that this is the best of times and the worst of times. The best of times if you are buying a boat because the market is flat. The worst of times if you are selling a boat because the market is flat. I am in the process of selling our 24' Sea Ray and I have received a number of "hits" on an ad on Craig's List. When I placed the ad, I noticed several other boats for sale, and Marlene and I have done some boat shopping. It is fantastic right now the amount of boat per dollar that can be purchased. If you are looking to buy a boat, this seems a good time to look.

With this great spring weather it has been fun to visit marinas. The covers are coming off, and bottom paint and polish are going on. Soon our lakes and rivers will again be active with boaters, a fertile ground (sea) for our mission of providing education for the boating public.

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron continues to move ahead. We have added several new members, and the Boating and Seamanship classes are finishing up.

I wish everyone a very pleasant spring time of boating.

John

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>

SEO Message



Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN (Life)

Our public ABC3 class at Washtenaw Community College has been completed. Thank you Bob Buchanan and Larry Marentette for your great job in helping to teach this course. We had 11 out of the 18 students take and pass the tests. The others can still take the tests when they are ready. Congratulations to the graduates: Greg Awrey, Jeannine Buchanan, Gary Burnham, John Cadman, Dennis Carroll, Jeffrey Ceo, John Ceo, Mary Kint, Rodney Lindoo, William Parr, and Daniel Phelan.

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. USPS web site WWW.USPS.org describes all the courses, seminars and study guides that are available. Call me at 734-769-3476.

Ron Schwartz



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	<i>VinVilla</i>	May 2009
Bob Cox		Sept. 2009
Frank Hoy	<i>Bobbin' Job</i>	May 2009
Art and Sharon Pinsak	<i>Calypso</i>	May 2009
Ron and Shirley Schwartz	<i>Half Angel, Whale, and Soft Shoal</i>	May 2009

Administrative Officer's Message



Lt/C Curtis Hoff

Boating season is finally upon us in Michigan. Since my boat has been docked in Florida I started off this season different than most Michiganders. I undertook the most serious voyage I have ever experienced – 1,035 miles from Ft. Lauderdale to Bear, Delaware in seven days. About 1,000 miles were uneventful and totally enjoyable. The remaining 35 miles I could have done without, but provided valuable experiences and a lifetime of memories. Regardless, we made it to our destination safely and without incident thanks to what I have learned in Power Squadron courses.

Our next meeting is May 17, and the presentation will be by Captain Randy and Rebecca Tisch. They will talk about ODYSSEY's maiden voyage down the Mexican coast. ODYSSEY is their beautiful new 55' Nordhavn. To get a preview of their trip, you can go to their web site at <http://www.tischtravels.com>. Randy recently passed the USCG Captain's test, so be sure to congratulate him.

Some upcoming dates/activities to note:

May 17	AASPS Meeting, presentation by Randy and Rebecca Tisch on ODYSSEY's maiden voyage
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
August 14	Les Chenaux Antique Boat Show in Hessel MI, east of St. Ignace
Oct. 22-24	D9 and D29 joint Fall Conference. Holliday Inn, Perrysburg Ohio

Remember the BRISTOL BAY educational opportunity on June 22. 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 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> June 15th is the deadline, but please note that space is limited to the first 250 people and is expected to fill up quickly.

Finally, remember that it is time to get your annual safety check. I just received mine and learned something new (or was reminded of something I had forgotten!).

Curtis

Welcome new members Holly and Stephen Anderson, John Cadman and Thornton and Phyllis Perkins

Executive Officer's Message

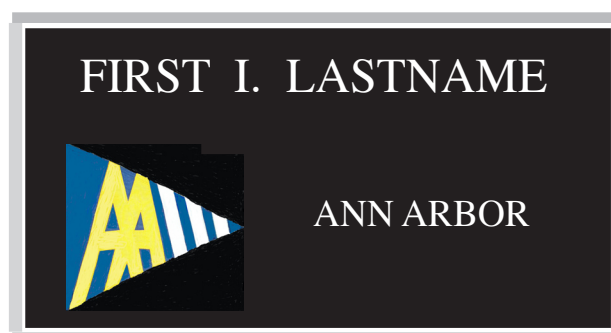


Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN, P/C

I want to wish everyone a fun and safe boating season. Summer time is special for all of us on and off the water. One thing that I would like to do this summer, off the water, is organize a garage sale for the Power Squadron. We did this once before and were able to raise several hundred dollars for the squadron. What we need is: 1) WHERE - a location to have it, 2.) WHEN - pick a date to have it, 3.) WHAT - donations from our members, 4.) ADVERTISE - some advanced advertising, 5.) WHO - help on the day of the garage sale. If we start collecting stuff soon, we could build up some pretty good stuff to sell. The kinds of things that sell well are paperback books, tools, clothing (in good shape), glassware, dishes, kitchen stuff, toys, pictures, lamps - basically anything that might be something somebody might want to buy. We don't need junk. Anyone willing help with this can call me at home, 734-214-0199. All money goes to the Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron, which we can always use. Anything that does not get sold we will donate to the Salvation Army. This would be a win-win for the Squadron and the Salvation Army. Please give the Squadron a hand here and help out. I look forward to getting this project up and off the ground. We can work the details at our next meeting, please join us. If you can't make the meeting, please give me a call and let me know how you can help. Thank you.

EXCOM, Frank Hoy, JN, P/C

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.

Secretary/Safety Officer's Message



Lt/C Robert Buchanan

First, AASPS meeting minutes can be distributed electronically to any squadron member who would like to receive them. The easiest way is to contact me at BuchananRA@msn.com.

Attention to safety issues will add to the enjoyment of the upcoming boating season. Carbon monoxide (CO) toxicity is labeled the “silent killer” because CO is odorless, colorless, and tasteless. CO results from incomplete combustion of any fuel, including diesel oil aboard my sailboat. The problem is that CO binds to blood hemoglobin with about 250 times the affinity of oxygen. The result is that hemoglobin can no longer deliver essential oxygen to the body. The result is nausea, headache, weakness, and a cherry-red color to the skin. Fatality can be prompt.

Prevention of CO toxicity requires a free flow of air through the boat with special care when the engine is still running after your boat stops. The “station wagon” effect means a following wind blowing exhaust into the cockpit. Clearly defective exhaust systems are on the list. Swimming near the exhaust or under the swim platform can be especially hazardous. I cannot imagine any captain allowing swimmers under the swim platform with the engine running due to the risk of a “propeller strike”. The only safe way to provide propeller strikes is to turn the engine off and engage the transmission so that the propeller will absolutely not turn.

As a physician, I follow two medical principles. First, think immediately about problems that need quick treatment. Second, think about the obvious. If you hear hoof beats coming, this means a horse, not a zebra. If CO toxicity is possible, immediately get the crewman or passenger into fresh air before worrying about other medical problems.

CO detectors should be an essential component of your safety equipment, and may be described in a future issue of the Porthole.

One last comment is that we were cruising in the North Channel several years ago with another couple. I laid down in the quarter birth for the night when I detected a sweet, cabbage-like odor; propane. We had turned the stove off but failed to turn the propane tank off. I asked that everyone gently go topside while opening all the hatchways and manually fanning the cabin. Although shivering from the cold, we were rewarded by a display of the northern lights.

Great Lake water levels can be found in the Detroit News and are reported on the Great Lakes news website at <http://www.boatnerd.com/>. To find these open “News Channel”. You will get continuous information about what is happening on the Great Lakes. Much of it relates to shipping running aground and USCG rescue operations. Various newspaper articles are summarized and quoted.

Warmest wishes,
Bob Buchanan