

# The Porthole

February 2011



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 of Local Boards:** Arthur Pinsak, SN (Life)  
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<http://www.annarborsailandpowersquadron.org>.  
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, printing and mailing copies, e-mail list and distribution.  
Education Staff - Assistant Education Officer, Ch. Marine Electronics, Ch. Instructor Development,  
Ch. Engine Maintenance, Ch. Teaching Aids, Calligraphy on certificates and wallet cards, Ch. of various seminars.  
Misc. Staff - 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.  
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## Sail and Power Boating Education

<http://www.aaspsq.org>

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

## 7 pm Program:

**D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, N,** will conduct our Change of Watch ceremony

**Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P** will describe the Local Notice to Mariners (LNTM), and his idea to make the information readily accessible, and easier to use through “modern” technology.



**Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P**

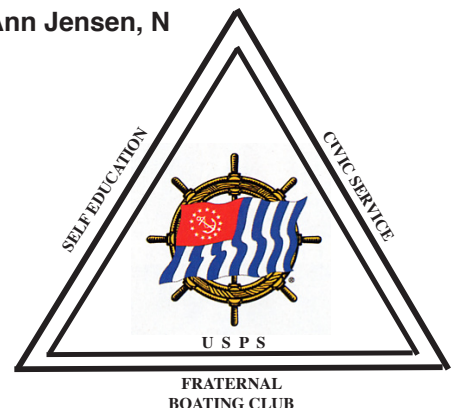
# General Meeting Monday, Feb. 21, 2011

L 42° 15.8' N, Lo 83° 39.3' W  
in St. Joseph's Hospital Administration Building  
5305 Elliott Dr., parking Lot P,  
2nd floor in the Education Center.

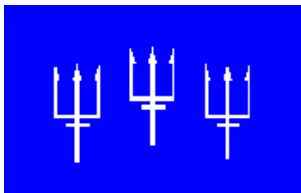
Take stairs or elevator to the 2nd. floor. Turn left and walk about 40 paces. Then turn left thru the double doors . We will be in one of the 5 conference rooms.



**D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, N**







## **Commander's Message Com. John Barr, AP, Life**



My wife Marlene and I recently returned from a trip to Florida. We traveled from Cocoa Beach to Key West along the eastern shore. Several things became obvious to me. First, there were a lot of empty wells in the marinas and a lot less boating activity than I had observed in prior years. The same thing held true for the campgrounds. Small business owners that I talked to said business was down. I suspect that the recession is still taking a toll on the resort business in Florida.

In talking to several Florida Power Squadron members, I learned that membership was generally down. Some of the squadrons still had large numbers of members, but the numbers were down from past years.

The old timers told me that the squadron meetings have changed significantly. Uniforms are not worn and the attendance at meetings is way down. Instead of fancy dinners, the norm now appears to be pot-luck dinners. Classes have fewer students.

I talked to several boaters and none were power squadron members. Some had years of experience and thought they could rely on electronic aids for piloting. Several had taken the USPS initial class and then did not join a squadron.

All of this mirrors the experience of AASPS. Our membership is down and class attendance is a shadow of the past. Many students are not joining AASPS.

The bright side for us is that we are improving. We now have a more active bridge and are offering more classes. Our web site continues to operate and is improving. I welcome suggestions for our growth. One thing we can do is to increase our public relations effort. We will devote some time in the next few meetings to discuss ideas on growing the squadron.

February is here and March is not far off. Think Spring!

Our Change of Watch will be held on Monday, February 21, 2011, room EC-5 on the second floor, in the education wing of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor. Pot luck dinner will start at 6 pm. Be sure to attend and meet and greet D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, N, who will be present to swear in the bridge.



## Education Officer's Message L/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life



Our spring 2011 Basic Boating Course (ABC3) will start Wednesday 23 Feb. 2011 at WCC.  
Call Bob Buchanan for details. 734-971-6589

With the new directives from USPS National, we can teach any course to anyone - member or non-member. This gives us a wider pool of potential students. Therefore, we will try to have a class for any course USPS offers if we can get teachers and enough students.

To have a class we must first have a class chairperson/teacher, then schedule the class, then advertise it in the Porthole. We need people to volunteer to be class chairperson for each course and seminar USPS offers, such as Marine Electronics, Engine Maintenance, etc.

Teachers of our basic public boating class must be certified. This is achieved by passing the Instructor Qualification course. The certification is good for 4 years. Recertification can be accomplished by attending a recertification seminar (about 2 hours), either at a district meeting or elsewhere.

Our Piloting class exams have been sent to national.

Congratulations to Lt/C Bob Buchanan, P for self teaching and passing the Engine Maintenance Course exam.

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### A partial list of events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>EVENT AND LOCATION</u>
Feb. 21	AASPS	Change of Watch See page 3.
Feb. 23	AASPS	Public Boating Course starts at WCC - contact Bob Buchanan 734-971-6589
Mar. 25-27	Lansing Sail and Power Squadron	D9 Spring Conference. Call Ron for details. 734-769-3476

For quick access to any of the D-9 Squadrons, click on the Links section of our website ([annarborsailandpowersquadron.org](http://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](http://www.annarborsailandpowersquadron.org/district9_links.html)

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

Please check USPS web site ([www.USPS.org](http://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.



## Secretary's Message Lt/C Robert Buchanan, P



Great idea for the dead of winter: take a USPS elective course to sharpen your skills for the summer season. Consider Engine Maintenance, Marine Electronics, Weather, Sail as excellent programs for independent study. You can investigate the selections through the USPS education department website, then contact our Squadron Education Officer, Ron Schwartz, to request your course materials. Many come with an animated CD which is really more fun than just reading a manual. Ron's contact numbers are elsewhere in this Porthole.

Jeannine and I sail a 30' Catalina, Tanguary Times, which has a 25 hp inboard diesel, so I decided to take the Engine Maintenance course for winter study. The course seemed tedious at first, but I soon warmed into it, realizing that I was acquiring a wealth of useful information. The glorious section was "When your engine stops" which I studied word for word. I learned that the first priority is to check the obvious; have I run out of fuel? The second priority is check the easy stuff; did a belt break? The third priority is not to do anything stupid. This means randomly changing systems without a logical reason. Finally, think about how the engine stopped so you can best inform the technician. A sudden stop means an electrical problem whereas a cough, sputter, then stop means a fuel system problem. A gradual stop is likely a cooling system problem, perhaps a water intake clogged with seaweed. The course was full of little pearls of knowledge. For example, if a belt breaks, use panty hose as a belt around the pulley to operate the water pump to at least reach a marina under idle power.

The absolute first step in any boating situation is to ensure that others onboard are safe and that your vessel is safe. After this has been accomplished, then slowly analyze the problem while avoiding unwise decisions. Knowledge increases confidence which in turn increases the fun of boating.

As described in SEO Ron's report in this Porthole, the AASPS will again present America's Boating Course starting February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Washtenaw Community College. This is the basic USPS introductory course; it progresses from fundamentals through USCG requirements to piloting and electronic navigation. A Michigan DNR Boating Safety Certificate can be obtained as part of this program.



**Executive Officer's Message**  
**Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN, PC**



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

I have made arrangements to stay near the site of the USPS National Annual Meeting, rather than on site. In doing so I will be able to stay two nights for the price of one night on site. I am looking forward to the Annual Meeting, and will make a full report afterwards.



I'm sending another photo from the Cape Coral Christmas lighted boat parade. There was a kayaker in the midst, who had a lighted Christmas tree on the back of his lighted kayak. Unfortunately, I only captured the paddler on shore, but you can see his paddle was lighted also.

Kayaker in the  
Cape Coral Christmas  
Lighted Boat Parade  
had lights on his paddle  
and a lighted tree on his  
kayak.

AASPS Booster Club

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron would like your support. \$25 lists your name and boat in the Porthole for one year. Bring or mail check to Marlene Barr, Treasurer, 1200 Whittier Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197-2152

Name	Boat Names	Date
John and Marlene Barr		June 2011
Jeannine and Bob Buchanan	<i>Tanguary Times</i>	June 2011
Frank Hoy	<i>Bobbins' Job</i>	June 2011
Art and Sharon Pinsak	<i>Calypso</i>	June 2011
Ron and Shirley Schwartz	<i>Half Angel, Whale, and Soft Shoal</i>	June 2011



## **Administrative Officer's Message**

### **Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P**



I spent last weekend in S. Carolina on my boat – weather was 73°F, sunny and calm – beautiful boating weather. It was very difficult getting on the airplane to return to Michigan for two reasons - one was obviously the wonderful weather and the second was leaving my boat to head back to the “real” world.

Our website is now completely up and running on our own server with the domain directly under our control. I have a few remaining improvements/corrections to make which should be in place by the time you read this. Please let me know if you have any material to add, suggestions to improve our website or find anything out of order/not working.

Our next meeting is Monday, February 21 with a two part program. The first part will be the Change of Watch ceremony. For the second part Commander Barr asked me to consider presenting some of my recent travels. I will save that material for a later date, and instead, occupy the time presenting an idea I have regarding the Local Notice to Mariners (LNTM). Most people are probably aware of the LNTM but rarely use the valuable information.

A cruising website I reference recently (<http://cruisersnet.net/>) commented:

“Those who have taken even a cursory glance at an edition of the LNTM, know this document is FILLED with navigational information of all sorts, from a long, long list of light and aids to navigation changes, to notices of recent dredging, to sightings of on-the-water hazards, and so much more”

In fact, that's the problem. There's so much material contained in the LNTM, and so much of this info is not really of interest to the cruising community, and so much of what is interesting is couched in confusing governmental verbiage, that few cruisers take full advantage of this remarkable document.

I have an idea to make the LNTM information readily accessible and easier to use through “modern” technology. My presentation will discuss the contents of LNTM as a refresher, why it is difficult to use which causes few boaters to actually use it, and my idea on how to make it easily usable for everyone.

Any suggestions/volunteers for upcoming programs are always appreciated. Please contact me by phone (734) 654-7779 or e-mail [choff@hoff.com](mailto:choff@hoff.com).