

# The Porthole

May 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**



**46 YEARS SERVING  
THE BOATING PUBLIC**

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

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

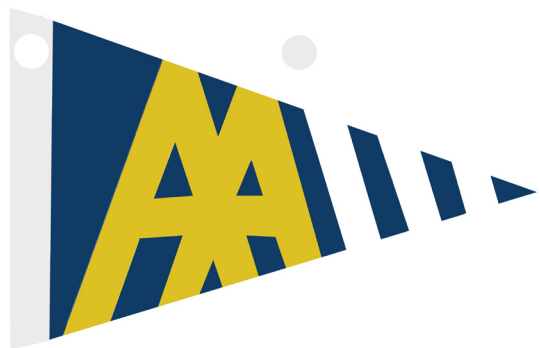


### **Volunteers are welcome and needed for the following opportunities:**

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.

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## Sail and Power Boating Education

<http://www.aaspsq.org>

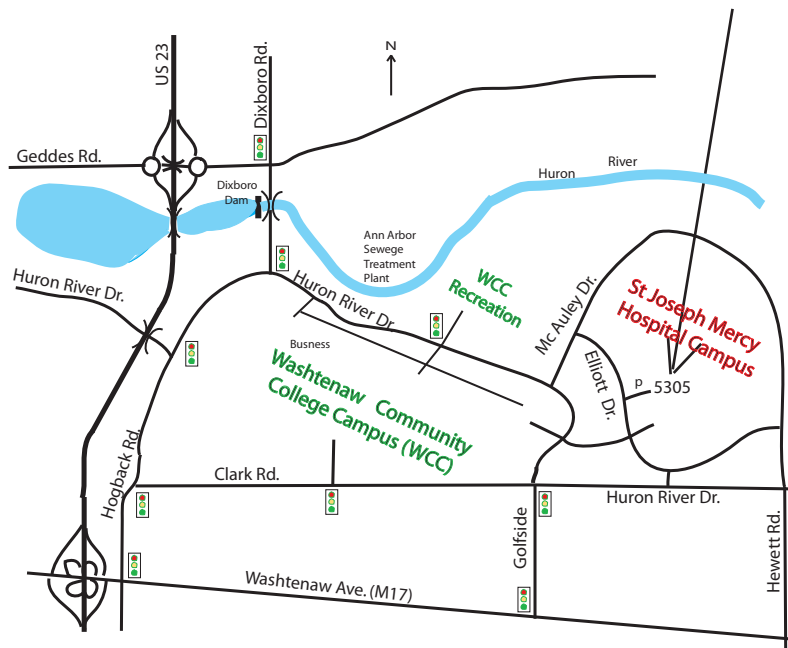
# General Meeting Monday, May 16, 2011

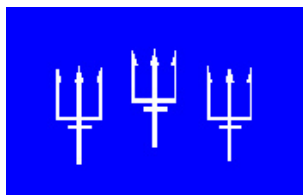
L 42° 15' 50" N, Lo 83° 39' 21" W  
in St. Joseph's Hospital Administration Building  
5305 Elliott Dr., parking Lot P,  
2nd floor in the Education Center.

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.

**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:** A presentation and summary of the topics covered at the AASPS retreat of May 9, 2011.





## Commander's Message

Com. John Barr, AP, Life



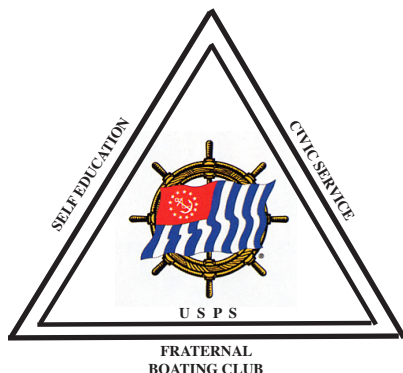
**There is nothing quite like May in Michigan. Green grass, flowers, birds singing, blue skies, white clouds and sunshine make Michigan a truly fine place to be in May.**

**The boating season is starting, and there will be lots of people on our waterways for fun and adventure. We in Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron can be proud that we have given our students the knowledge to enjoy boating in a safe manner. Unfortunately there are thousands, perhaps millions of boaters out there that have not had any basic boating training.**

**Canada and several states, including Alabama, Florida, Oregon, North Carolina, Washington, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Mississippi, Virginia and Wisconsin now require boaters to have a certificate from a boating safety course in order to operate a boat. Michigan, the “water wonderland” should follow suit and have a boater safety law requiring at least basic boating knowledge. A state certificate or license would be evidence of completing the course. I think this is a good idea, and if you agree contact your Michigan representative or senator and let him/her know your position.**

**Our squadron planning retreat will be held May 9th in one of the 2nd floor classrooms at the Education Building of Saint Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor. We will start at 6 pm with a pot luck dinner and then move into the retreat. We will consider who we are, where we are and where we want to go as a squadron. We need the ideas of all members. Please attend if possible. Contact Sharon Pinsak (734-973-0441) to discuss a dish to bring. District Lt/C Linda LaLonde, P, will attend the retreat to help us in our discussion.**

**An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest. Benjamin Franklin**







## Education Officer's Message

L/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life



It's fun to teach and learn

The next ABC3 (America's Boating course), our basic boating class - that covers Michigan Boating Laws and a little bit of, marlin spike, course plotting and digital charts - will be Tuesday evenings October 4 to November 22, 2011 at Washtenaw Community College. Call Bob Buchanan for details and enrollment. 734-971-6589

**Weather Course:** Bob Snider is teaching 12 students in the class that started March 29th. in St. Joseph Hospital's Education Center, 7 to 9 pm on Tuesdays.

We need more volunteers to organize, schedule and teach various classes and seminars. Look at the variety of subjects we can choose from at National Power Squadron's web site [www. USPS.org](http://www.USPS.org). If you have a desire to enhance and share your knowledge in any boating subject please let me know. We can probably get others and hold a class and share the teaching responsibilities among the class members. It's fun to teach and learn.



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

### A partial list of events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>EVENT AND LOCATION</u>
May 9, 2011	AASPS	Retreat St. Joseph's Education Center
May 16, 2011	AASPS	General Meeting St. Joseph's Education Center - see page 3
June 20, 2011	AASPS	General Meeting Picnic

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.



## **Administrative Officer's Message**

Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P



It seems like every time I write these I am on my boat! Here I am again in New York harbor on my way north to Rhode Island. Weather has cooperated, and the offshore cruising has been easy. At times, the ocean was as calm and flat as an small inland lake. I am currently docked facing the Empire State Building, and the sight is impressive - especially at night with all the lights in Manhattan. However, the ferry traffic during the day rocks and rolls the boat almost constantly. Tomorrow I continue my trip with stops along the north shore of Long Island and Block Island.

The May 16 General Meeting program will be a presentation based on the retreat being held May 9. We will review the retreat discussions and the outcome/action items resulting from the discussions.

The June 20 General Meeting program will be the annual picnic.

I have setup a Facebook group for the Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron. Currently, there are two members - my wife and I. Please join if you have a Facebook account, so we can use it as another communication method. I personally have very little experience with Facebook, so it will be a learning experience for me. Let me know if anyone is more experienced than I and wants to volunteer as the administrator.

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).



## Executive Officer's Message

Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN, PC



Greetings and salutations to one and all. April was a very wet month, so we should have many, many May flowers. Plus the water table should be at near all time highs.

I have not been able to get any work done on my sailboat to get it ready to launch. I'm hoping that I will get it in the water during the month of May. There are some members who have expressed an interest in learning how to sail. If they would contact me, I'm certain we could make that happen this summer.

I have also contacted District-9 to see if we could get several members certified as "vessel inspectors." District-9 personnel felt that we could get the training, but I have not heard back on where, or when this might be available to us. Doing vessel inspections could help us get our name and our cause right out in front of local boaters. This in turn could lead to new members for our squadron. I have volunteered to get the training and do vessel inspections this summer.

With the price of gas so high, I doubt I'll be doing any traveling by car, so I'm ready to help do some things locally, and I hope you are also.

I encourage everyone to come to our "retreat" on May 9th, at 6 PM, at St. Joseph Hospital Educational Center. We can talk things over and see if we can move forward instead of backward. Again, it's a potluck, so bring your favorite dish to pass. Thank you, and I hope to see some new faces there.

### 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 Name	Date
John and Marlene Barr		June 2011
Jeannine and Bob Buchanan	<i>Tanguary Times</i>	June 2011
Frank Hoy	<i>Bobbin' 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



## Secretary's Message

Lt/C Robert Buchanan, P



### AASPS Dues, June 2011 to June 2012

	<b>Squadron Members by Category</b>	<b>Squadron Dues \$</b>	<b>District Dues \$</b>	<b>National Fund \$</b>	<b>National Dues \$</b>	<b>Total Dues Dues \$</b>
<b>1. Single Active</b>	<b>N=24</b>	<b>35.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>41.00</b>	<b>82.00</b>
<b>2. Family Active</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>45.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>1.00 each</b>	<b>61.50</b>	<b>118.50</b>
<b>3. Additional Active, each</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>4. Single Life</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>5. Family Life</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20.50</b>	<b>25.50</b>

The AASPS dues schedule for the next fiscal year is displayed in the above table. However, when you actually receive your dues notice depends on when you joined USPS. For example, Jeannine and I joined in November, so our statement comes in October. The USPS dues system has been reduced to 5 categories as shown in the table. Single Active means one active member. As seen in the first column, this is the largest category for AASPS. But if both husband and wife are active members, they will pay the Family Active rate rather than paying 2 Single Active dues. See the difference this makes in the total dues column on the right. Both contribute \$1 to the National Fund, an educational fund. Any additional members in the same family also contribute to the National Fund.

Life membership requires receiving 25 merit marks. We have 4 life members in our squadron also 2 families where 1 has achieved life status.

Your squadron dues are unchanged. However, the National Dues have a \$2.00 increase from last year for Single Active members, \$3.00 for Family Active members. USPS has worked hard to minimize any increases so that membership remains affordable. The modest increase supports the educational programs, also boating safety such as the vessel inspection programs. When all of the vast array of benefits are considered, USPS membership continues to be one of the best bargains for boaters.