

# The Porthole

June 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 - 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.

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## Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron Picnic

Monday, 20 June 2011

Argo Pond Park and Canoe Livery  
Lat. 42° 17.47' N, Long. 83° 44.68' W

Sail and Power Boating Education

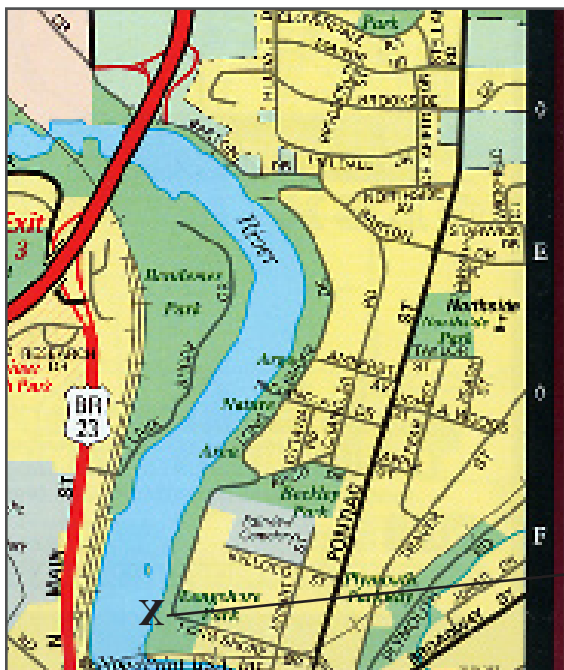
<http://www.aaspsq.org>

# Public is invited

**6 pm to 9 pm Picnic Potluck: We will meet at the Argo Pond Park and Launch Site - east side of Huron River next to Argo Pond Canoe Livery on Longshore Dr.**

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. Sharon will bring beer, wine, pop and fried chicken, plates, cups, tableware. \$5 each.

You can bring a small boat or canoe or kayak, or rent one. There is a shallow, small boat launch site.

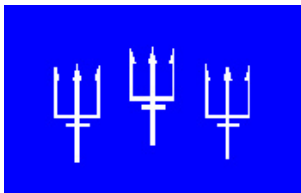


### DIRECTIONS

Exit M14 at Exit #4 and take Barton Dr. south and east to Longshore Dr. Follow Longshore Dr. south along the river to the Argo Canoe Livery. X on the map.

Or, from downtown, take Division St. north to Broadway St. Follow Broadway St. northeast to Moore St. Take Moore St. northwest. Moore St. will become Longshore Dr. on the west side of Pontiac Tr. Continue west to the river.

Canoe Livery and  
picnic site



## Commander's Message

Com. John Barr, AP, Life



Executive Officer Frank Hoy suggested that we be more active in vessel inspection and made arrangements to have an inspector's class. The class was held at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti on Saturday, June 11th, 2011. The class started at 8 in the morning. Students were Frank Hoy, Art Pinsak, Curtis Hoff and yours truly. To be certified one must take the course, study the book material, take and pass an open book internet exam of 70 questions and participate in 5 vessel inspections with a certified examiner.

Vessel examiners may not inspect their own vessel, nor that of a close relative. Inspections are free and a boat sticker is given if the vessel passes the inspection.

Law enforcement personnel are not allowed to be examiners so there is no fear on the part of the vessel owner that a ticket would be issued if the vessel fails the exam. If the vessel fails the exam, the examiner advises of the defects and suggests remedial action.

Vessel examiners are encouraged to wear an "official" USPS red polo shirt with the USPS emblem and "vessel examiner" logo and khaki pants so they are easily recognized at the exam place, usually a marina or launch ramp. Boat shoes should be worn and the examiner should be ready to take is/her shoes off if requested to do so by the boat captain.

Jana White of Dearborn Power Squadron was our instructor and she did a fine job of showing the power point presentation and providing the required information. The instruction followed the inspection forms and included sections on registration, numbering, life preservers, fire extinguishers, bells, whistles and a host of other equipment items. We also studied the laws on environmental protection as related to boaters.

Curtis Hoff has taken and passed the test and now only needs to do the 5 supervised exams, and he can be certified.

This effort is part of our plan to be more visible in the community as we agreed in our squadron retreat.

Remember our AASPS picnic to start at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 20, 2011 at Argo Park in Ann Arbor. Please let Sharon Pinsak know if you are attending and what dish you are bringing. 734-973-0441. Everyone have a great Michigan Summer!





## 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 on 8 Tuesday evenings October 4 to November 22, 2011 at Washtenaw Community College. Call Bob Buchanan for details and enrollment. 734-971-6589

**Weather Course**, taught by Bob Snider, is complete. 9 of the 12 students took and passed the exam with scores ranging from 88% to 100%. Congratulations to Jim Bills, Joe Jeager, Bob Gladen, Curtis and Melanie Hoff, Ron Schwartz, Randy Stevenson, Claire and Phil Zepeda, Most of the exam questions were from the chapter review questions.

**Advanced Piloting course.** We have several potential students.

We need more volunteers to serve as class chairpersons - organize, schedule, and teach various classes and seminars. Please 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.



### A partial list of events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>EVENT AND LOCATION</u>	
June 20	AASPS	General Meeting	Picnic at Argo Pond Canoe Livery
Sept. 19	AASPS	General Meeting	Dinner at Classic Cup Cafe
Oct. 4	AASPS	ABC course starts at WCC	

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



As I seem to do lately, I started writing this when I was on my boat. This time I was swinging on a mooring ball at Block Island, RI. For those of you who don't know where Block Island is, it is basically between Long Island and Martha's Vineyard, but closer to Long Island. To get to Block Island we departed our dock near Providence, RI at mid-day after the morning fog had cleared and completion of some minor maintenance tasks. Initially it was very clear, but after about 1.5 hours we encountered very dense fog. At one point we could barely see a buoy, and I measured the distance at 600 ft., so I suspect the visibility was sub 1000 ft. In general, it was not too difficult navigating in the fog since I have both radar and AIS. With AIS, most larger vessels show up on my chart plotter and vice-versa. At one point I saw a target on the radar that was not on AIS, but was heading across my bow. I slowed down from 7.5 knots and let him pass – the boat visibility was about as clear as the buoy I had seen at 600 ft. The only issue was his speed was probably 20+ knots. I think he requires a safe boating refresher course. I was not particularly pleased with the encounter.

Anyway, regarding AASPS business. The AASPS has decided to initiate a strong effort to engage more current members, increase our membership, and engage with the local boating public in general. One of our efforts is to call members in the next few weeks ahead of the June picnic to both make sure everyone is aware of the event and to encourage attendance. Please expect a call. Even if you cannot attend, please provide the caller with any feedback on how AASPS can be more effective for you and enticing for you to participate. Are there programs that you would like to see? For example more interactive ones - flare night or practice extinguishing fires - or classes you would like to take but have not been offered recently (engine maintenance, electronics, etc.). We appreciate any feedback you can provide so we can better serve you.

We are also engaging our membership and the general boating public by having several members become certified Vessel Examiners (VE). We expect at least one AASPS member to become certified in the next month or so. If you need a Vessel Safety Check (VSC) please let us know and we will contact you as soon as one of our members is certified. However don't delay just to have an AASPS member inspect your vessel. Instead go to the website <http://safetyseal.net> and select "I Want A VSC" where you can enter your ZIP Code and find a volunteer examiner near your boat.

See you at the picnic.



Block Island Coast Guard Station



Fog near Block Island

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



Well, it looks like we have finally caught a break with the weather, and it is slightly overdue. Everyone is rushing to get their summers started.

We had a Vessel Safety Check Certification training session on 6/11/2011, at the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in the Administration Building, Education Center taught by Jana White, from the Dearborn Squadron. Now that the classroom training is complete, we have to observe 5 inspections with a certified VSC inspector before we are certified. To keep your certification you must inspect 5 vessels per year. I have asked all interested members to contact me. I have 2 confirmed, Curtis Hoff and Joe Jeager plus myself.

I hope to see all of you at the picnic on 6/20/2011, 6 pm, at Argo Park, in Ann Arbor. Please contact Sharon Pinsak at 973-0441 if you are coming, so we can plan the food. There are several activities planned during the summer, and these will be discussed during the picnic. All are invited to join in and enjoy this annual event. Even though it is only June, I want you to know that we are planning on holding our September meeting at the Classic Cup Cafe, located conveniently on Jackson Rd., between Wagner and Zeeb Rd. Meals can be ordered off the menu at a reasonable costs, and beer and wine are served here. Plan on attending this meeting, so we can talk about all our summer boating experiences. Enjoy your time on the water this summer.

### AASPS Booster Club

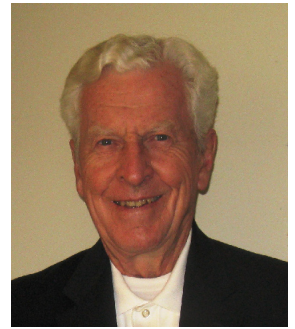
Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron would like your support. \$25 lists your name and boat in the Porthole for one year. Please send a check to Marlene Barr, Treasurer, 1200 Whittier Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197-2152

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

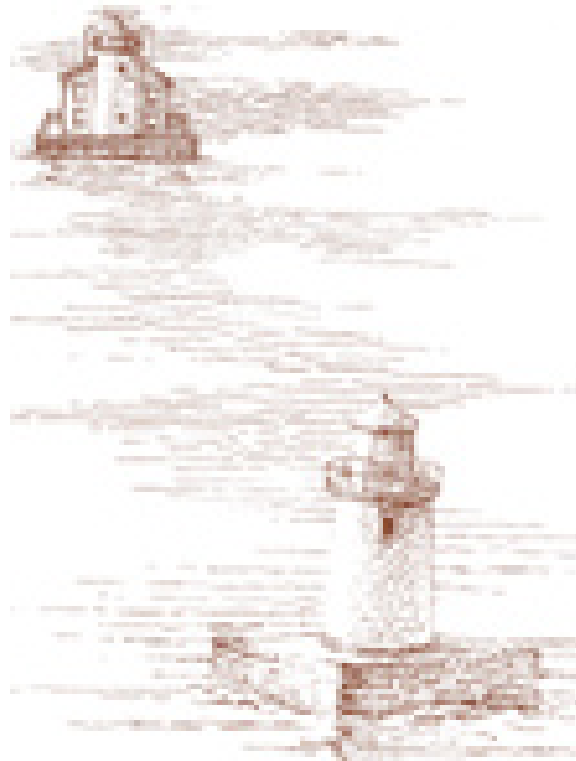
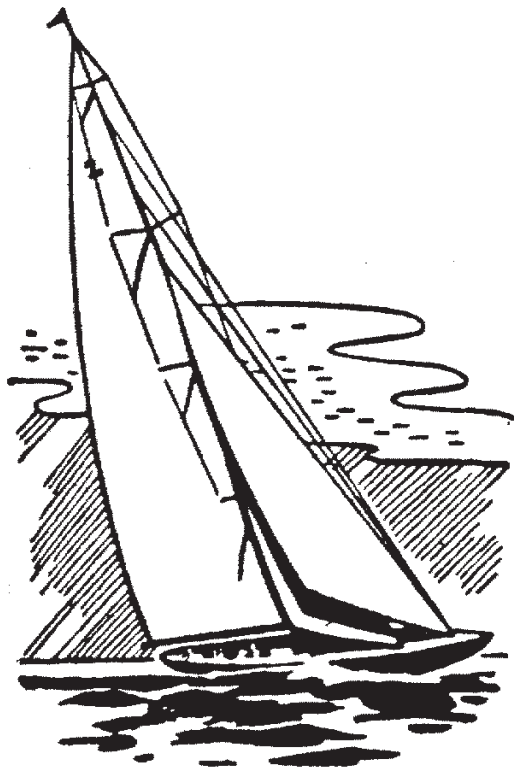
Lt/C Robert Buchanan, P



Looking toward next fall, the next ABC course is scheduled to start October 4th in cooperation with our squadron SEO. We continually search for boaters who enjoy teaching, sharing their knowledge to make boating fun for people new to boating. This is especially true for the charting and plotting phase of the program because AASPS seems to be one of the few squadrons that gives students a solid schooling in navigation. With navigation instruments in each hand, one student commented "I feel like the Master and Commander."

Jeannine and I have been out on Lake St. Clair with our Catalina 30; this is a 30' sailboat in case you do not recognize the name. We can report that the water level is good. Previously, winds could be monitored continuously on the internet and through the NOAA Lake St. Clair forecast as recorded at the Crib Light (actually St. Clair Light on Chart 14850). This was a valuable service for Lake St. Clair boaters, but has been discontinued due to budget restrictions.

My challenge as squadron secretary this last year has been learning the USPS computer systems for maintaining current membership information. In other words, this means assuring that both AASPS and USPS headquarters can agree on our databases. I believe that this has been accomplished I so can provide accurate information about membership and dues status to anyone with a need.



Old South Channel Range Lights

I/we agree to its terms. Passengers under the age of 18 require consent and signature of a parent or guardian. Please sign and date. We cannot make your reservation unless signed by each person

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

In the space provided below, please **PRINT** the name of each member of your family or guests who will be accompanying you on the D/9 Educational Cruise.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that there will be no refund if I do not show up for the regularly scheduled cruise. If the cruise is canceled, I will be notified and the cruise will be rescheduled or my money will be refunded.

The sponsoring organization that I took the class from was the:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Power Squadron
- \_\_\_\_\_ USCGAUX \_\_\_\_\_ Flotilla

Fill out the form today and mail it along with your check made payable to D/9 Educational Cruise Committee, to: Reservations

D/Lt/C Linda LaLonde, P  
3734 Benstein Road  
Commerce Twp. MI 48382-1813  
(Phone) 248.360.9304  
(Email) [llalonde@us.ibm.com](mailto:llalonde@us.ibm.com)

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Proctor \_\_\_\_\_

Member \_\_\_\_\_



Sign up for a 3-hour United States Coast Guard (USCG), United States Power Squadron (USPS) and United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAUX) D/9 educational opportunity aboard the 140-ft. Coast Guard Cutter "BRISTOL BAY". The Bristol Bay will also be pushing their Aids to Navigation (floating buoys, fixed aids and ranges) barge. The barge is capable of carrying approximately 250 people. Bring binoculars if you have them, and dress warmly.

The US Power Squadron, the US Coast Guard and US Coast Guard Auxiliary are the world's premier marine safety organizations that take great pride in sponsoring this educational opportunity to recreational basic boating students. 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.

We will be traveling the waters of the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair. We hope this event will provide the basic boating students with a better understanding of the aids to navigation and their light characteristics. An understanding of the aids to navigation is an essential part of safe boating, although covered in the classroom during your course, it's best understood by actually seeing the aids at sea. The timing has been planned so that daytime and evening light characteristics of the aids can be seen. During the entire voyage, a Power Squadron or Coast Guard Auxiliary member and an active duty Coast Guard Officer will provide commentary. You will see and hear about Aids to Navigation and more during our river and lake cruise. You'll have fun and improve your boating safety.

Each Power Squadron and Coast Guard Auxiliary student will be given a chart replica of the river and lake areas we are going to cruise, showing the various navigational aids and their individual characteristics. They will be numbered on the chart and the actual aids and their light characteristics will be identified as we pass them.

We will begin boarding promptly at 7:00 PM at Coast Guard Station Group Detroit. This is at the foot of Mt. Elliott Avenue, right at the Detroit River. We will have personnel there to assist and direct you on parking and boarding procedures. A detailed



CHILDREN: Children who attend the USPS or the USCGAUX Public Boating Courses are welcome to participate in this educational opportunity. However, we must restrict participation by other family members (and friends) to those 12 years of age and older. The Power Squadron and the Coast Guard Auxiliary are family oriented organizations and we sponsor many activities that include children. But, because this cruise requires the concentration of the participants, we have the age restriction. Thanks for understanding.

ABOUT USPS: Formed in 1914, the United States Power Squadrons is the world's largest nonprofit boating organization. Their 60,000 members in the 450 squadrons are boating families who contribute to their communities by promoting safe boating on the water and in the classroom.

All USPS members are volunteers. USPS District 9 is composed of 3,500 members in 25 squadrons. Collectively, their 25 squadrons teach the USPS Public Boating Course to more than 2,000 students yearly.

ABOUT USCGAUX: The Coast Guard Auxiliary was created by an Act Of Congress in 1939, as a non-military, civilian affiliate of the Coast Guard, and as such plays a substantial role in the National Safe Boating program. The total Coast Guard Auxiliary family consists of 35,000 volunteers. The District 9 Central region is composed of 10 Divisions, with 56 Flotillas and about 1500 members.

All of our basic boating students are being invited to join this event and because of this, we urge you to get your reservations in early.

Fill out the form today and mail it along with your check. We are limited to 250 passengers and expect to fill up fast. First come, first served. If you are among those who enroll too late, your check will be refunded.

#### Instructions:

Sign and remove this section and send it along with your check by **June 22nd, 2011**. Yes, we are interested in joining the USPS and USCGAUX educational opportunity on **Wednesday June 29th, 2011** and would like to reserve space now. We understand that we will be mailed boarding passes and directions to the Bristol Bay. We understand that if the cruise is canceled because of extremely bad weather we will be contacted at (phone number) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

USCG/USPS/USCGAUX  
Educational Opportunity



Come Aboard  
the Cutter  
"Bristol Bay"  
29 June 2011

Board 7:00 PM

Depart 7:30 PM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I have attached a check in the amount of \$..... (\$15.00 per person to defray costs of training materials, refreshments and incidentals) to the **Educational Cruise Committee**. Please write your phone number on the front of the check. List names of the attendees in the space provided on back.

Please read the following statement of responsibility and indicate your agreement by signing and dating in space provided. This Statement must accompany your form and check. Thank You.

#### Responsibility:

This D/9 educational opportunity is an optional volunteer event intended to familiarize the student with Aids to Navigation. The United States Department of Transportation, the United States Coast Guard or of its officers or agents, USPS, USPS District 9, squadron in District 9 and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Division Flotillas in 9 Central Region and the District 9 C Committee shall be held free of responsibility for damage, injury or loss resulting from any cause. Aids and unlawful substances will not be permitted on board and any student known to have same in his or her session shall be denied boarding.

Neither USPS, USPS District 9, the squadrons, USCG Divisions, Flotillas in 9CR the District 9 Cruise Committee employees, affiliates or representatives own, or operate, manage, control, inspect, distribute or warrant vehicle, vessel, or any product, premises or service provided directly or indirectly in connection with the cruise nor are they or any of them responsible or liable for accident, injury, illness, death, loss, damage, expense delay or any other irregularity of any nature whatsoever arising directly from the District 9 Educational Cruise from any part thereof due to any cause whatsoever including negligence, strikes, terrorism or Acts Of God.

(Continued)

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## Why AGLCA?™

Since 1999, America's Great Loop Cruisers' Association (AGLCA)™ has served more than 5,000 members from 49 states and 7 countries. We are committed to sharing general, navigational, and cruising information with those whose adventurous spirit lures them to explore the waterways of eastern North America.



## Membership brings you:

- **Information** - You'll have access to the combined expertise of thousands of people, sharing their knowledge via our email group, newsletter, and website. Ask questions. Get answers. Avoid pitfalls. Cruise safely.
- **Camraderie** - Flying the AGLCA™ burgee makes you an instant friend when spotted by another member. Loopers have the opportunity to attend Rendezvous throughout the year, which provide a forum for seminars about nearby waterways, exchanging war stories, and making a connection with others living their dream.
- **Discounts** - As an AGLCA™ member, you'll receive discounts on cruising publications, car rentals, memberships in other boating organizations, and frequent special offers from our sponsors.

AGLCA™ members range from experienced boaters to those simply exhilarated by the process of learning about this magnificent journey! Every level of interest is welcomed, as our eclectic membership enriches the association with awareness, knowledge, and diverse perspectives.

Join us **today** at [www.GreatLoop.org](http://www.GreatLoop.org)!



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[www.GreatLoop.org](http://www.GreatLoop.org)  
 1-877-GR8-Loop (877-478-5667)