

The Porthole

December 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
See page 3 for the location of this month's meeting

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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

Christmas Party

5:45 pm Monday, Dec. 19, 2011

Classic Cup Café

4389 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor

Lat. 42° 17.119' N, Long. 83° 49.006' W

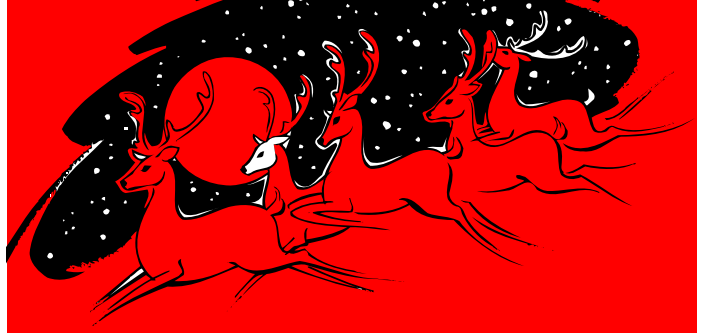
Sail and Power Boating Education

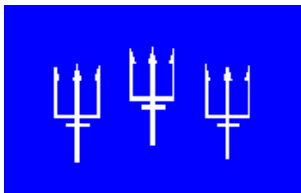
Guests invited

<http://www.aaspsq.org>

5:45 pm: We will meet at the Classic Cup Café, 4389 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor. On south side of Jackson Rd. west of Wagner Rd. In the Parkland shopping mall. Order from the menu. Call Sharon Pinsak for reservations. 734-973-0441.

Gift raffle. Please bring unwrapped gift items. Tickets will be sold - proceeds are donations to the Squadron. You put part of your raffle tickets into the bags next to the items you would like. A random drawing for each item will determine who gets it.





Commander's Message

Com. John Barr, AP, Life



Well, here it is, another December. December means Christmas and celebrating the birth of Jesus. Children and adults alike look forward to Christmas, church, the Christmas story, the exchange of presents, and a family gathering. For many, Christmas is a wonderful time of the year.

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron will celebrate Christmas with a Christmas party again this year on our regular meeting night, November 19, 2011. The party will be at the Classic Cup Café' and will start at 6pm. Sharon Pinsak is organizing a gift exchange. You may find details on page 3 of this issue of The Porthole for more details. Plan to come!

December is the last month of the year and the last chance in 2011 to make tax deductible gifts. As with most things, there are smarter and better ways to make charitable gifts. This year one smart way to give is to donate funds from an IRA and not have to pay tax on the withdrawal. This is a great way to give to charity. To take advantage of this opportunity one must be 70 1/2 years old. This year, 2011 may well be the last year for this tax "loophole" so, if so inclined, do it now!

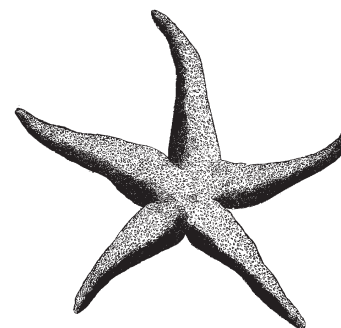
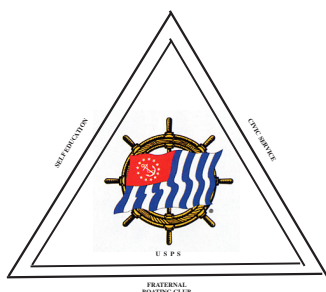
Another smart way to make charitable gifts is to give appreciated stock. One can claim a tax deduction on the whole gift, and there is no capital gains tax on the appreciation.

The Michigan state tax credit is scheduled to expire this year. If you wish to give to a Michigan school or other Michigan charity, you may qualify for a 50% Michigan tax credit! But, you have to do it now! Be sure to check with your tax advisor when making charitable gifts.

Christmas and the holidays can be a time of hurting and depression for many. Depression can arise because of feelings of loneliness and loss. Depression comes to some because of lack of basic necessities and the inability to provide gifts for children. Please remember the less fortunate when making year-end charitable gifts.

December is also a time of "taking stock" and getting ready for New Year's resolutions. Are your affairs in order? Do you have an up-to-date will, trust, and powers of attorney? If not, now is the time to do it.

Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





Education Officer's Message

Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life



The ABC3 (America's Boating course), our basic boating class - that covers Michigan Boating Laws and a little bit of marlinspike, course plotting, and digital charts - is complete. Congratulations to all 9 students - Steve Herrmann, Pablo and Wendy LaValle, Jerry Lesperance, Bruce Maxwell, Richard Meyers, Dante Michael, Nicholas Schulz, and Andres Tamez. Teachers were Robert Buchanan, Frank Hoy, Lawrence Marentette, and Ronald Schwartz.

The next ABC class starts Feb. 14, 2012 at WCC. Call Bob Buchanan for details and enrollment. 734-971-6589.

Advanced Piloting course is in progress with Chairman P/C Art Pinsak, SN.

Birmingham Power Squadron is teaching P, JN, N, and Sail this winter. Contact L/C Thomas Smith, JN, SEO at tommyjohn1248@yahoo.com for details.

We thank all of our teachers and proctors for another successful year for the Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron - John Barr, Bob and Jeannine Buchanan, Frank Hoy, Larry Marentette, Art Pinsak, Ron Schwartz, and Bob Snyder. **Happy Holidays to all.**

We need more volunteers to serve as class chairpersons - those who organize, schedule, and teach a course or seminar - so that we can teach more of the wonderful subjects available through USPS. Please look at the variety of subjects we can choose from at National Power Squadron's website 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 to share the teaching responsibilities. 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>
Dec. 19, 2011	AASPS	Christmas party 5:45pm Classic Cup Cafe' see page 3.
Feb. 14, 2010	AASPS	ABC class starts at WCC. Contact Lt/C Bob Buchanan, P 734-971-6589
Mar. 23-24, 2012	Dearborn	D9 Spring conference, Double Tree Hotel in Bay City

Please check USPS website (www.USPS.org), D9 website (<http://d9-usps.org/app/HomeContact.aspx>), and websites 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>

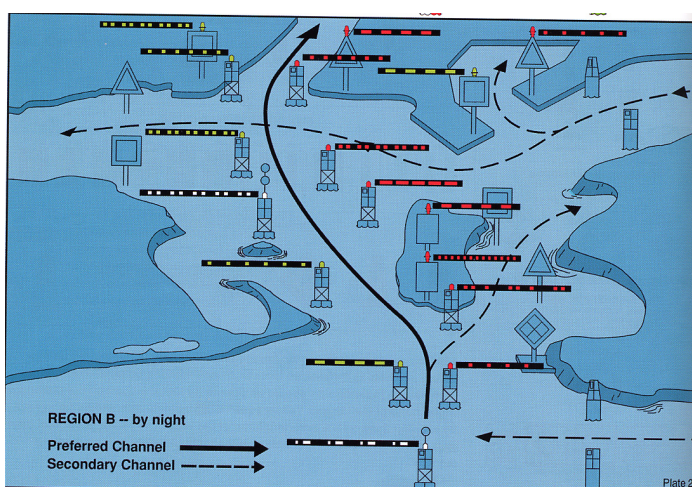
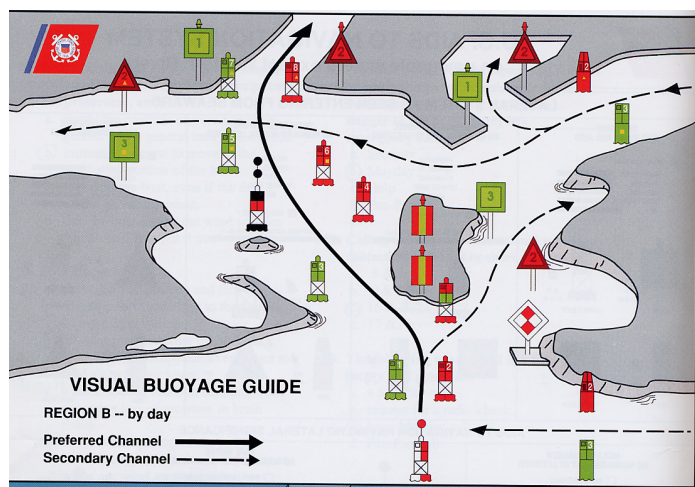


Administrative Officer's Message

Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P



Happy Holidays to everyone and best wishes for a New Year which is prosperous, healthy and has adventurous and safe boating for all. I'm sorry to say that I will miss our December meeting on Dec 19 which is the Holiday Party. I hope everyone participates and enjoys themselves. I apologize for the short message but I'm off on another business trip – heading off to China this time.



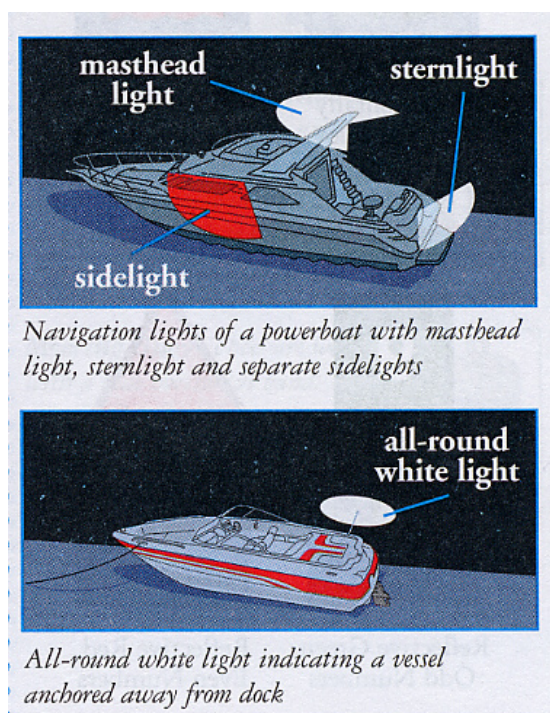
Day and night view of buoys

The election and change of watch will be at the January 16, 2012 General Meeting. Please submit your nominations for the Executive Board to AAPSclasses@aol.com.

Current nominations are:

Commander - Robert Buchanan
 Executive Officer - Frank Hoy
 Administrative Officer - Curtis Hoff
 Secretary - Jeannine Buchanan
 Treasurer - Marlene Barr
 Squadron Education Officer - Ron Schwartz

Boaters Christmas Lights





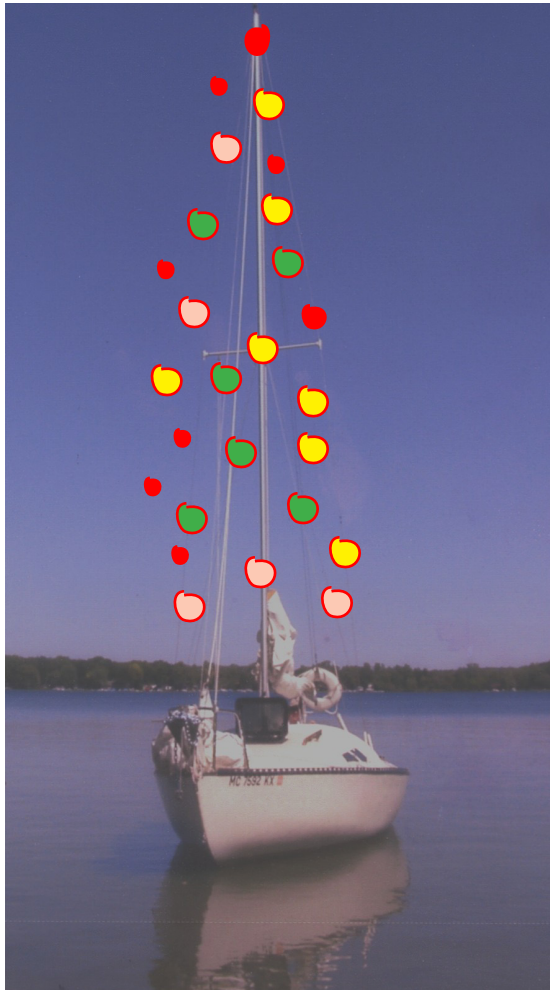
Executive Officer's Message

Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN, PC



Greetings to one and all! I want to wish everyone a very joyful Christmas Season. I would also like to thank Lt/C Curtis Hoff, ADO, for lining up some very interesting speakers for our monthly meetings. Our last speaker was Erika Jensen, from the Great Lakes Commission, www.glc.org, who gave a presentation on the "Invasive Species in the Great Lakes". She provided us with a lot of information, and some really good ideas on ways to help reduce the spread of these invasive species. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Erika. Our next meeting will be the annual Christmas party. This will be held at the Classic Cup Café, starting at 6 PM on Dec. 19th. Please contact Sharon Pinsak at 973-0441 for details. I want to thank everyone who helped make this year a success for the Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron.

God bless you all, and Happy New Year!



Frank's boat *Robin' Job*



Photo by Frank Hoy

Erika Jensen talking about 'Invasive Species in the Great Lakes' at our November meeting





Secretary's Message

Lt/C Robert Buchanan, P



At our November 21st squadron meeting, Erika Jensen from the Great Lakes Commission gave us a fascinating presentation; Invasive Species of the Great Lakes. Erika is D9 Commander Mary Ann Jensen's daughter so grew up in a boating family. Invasive species are organisms which are not native to their habitat but likely to cause harm. This harm could be either economic damage or harm to our health. Pathways for entry could be maritime commerce, aquacultural routes, or via recreational activities.

The two major invasive species in the Great Lakes at present are the sea lamprey and the zebra mussel. Sea lampreys entered through the Welland Canal and decimated the whitefish and lake trout population. The states bordering on the Great Lakes in cooperation with 2 Canadian provinces then started a control program consisting of electrical barriers and use of a lampricide, both of which have been reasonably effective in controlling this nuisance. The result is that both the whitefish and trout population are again increasing. Zebra mussels entered via the ballast water of ocean freighters. As the mussel multiplies, it can clog water intakes and be a general bother. While traveling Up North this last summer, I observed that Crystal Lake is badly infested but Higgins Lake is free of mussels at this time.

The Asian carp was first brought to the U.S. for aquaculture, to clean breeding tanks. But this highly invasive fish escaped into the Mississippi River during the 1990s to become a terrible threat, eating everything it finds. Electrical barriers are partially effective in controlling spread. So far, the carp has not entered the Great Lakes but the results will be disastrous should this happen. It is getting close by way of the Illinois River. Finally hydrilla is a fast-growing plant that has not entered the lakes but reported as far north as Indiana.

Erika emphasized the importance of removing any unwanted species from recreational boats. This means carefully scrubbing the hull to remove any zebra mussels. Michigan law now prohibits trailers from entering the water with any plants attached.

In closing; clean boats mean clean waters!

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 2012
Art and Sharon Pinsak	<i>Calypso</i>	June 2012