

# The Porthole

April 2012



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 4th Wednesday of the month  
See page 3 this month's meeting



Boating Education

47 YEARS SERVING  
THE BOATING PUBLIC

## CONTACTS

Commander: Robert Buchanan, P	734-971-6589	BuchananRA@msn.com
Executive Officer: P/C Frank Hoy, JN	734-214-0199	Hoybuoy@yahoo.com
Administrative Officer: Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P	734-668-8631	choff@hoff.com
Education Officer: Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life	734-769-3476	AAPSclasses@aol.com
Secretary: Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan	734-971-6589	BuchananRA@msn.com
Treasurer: Lt/C Marlene Barr, S	734-483-0839	mjb_120022535@hotmail.com
Public Relations Officer: P/C John Barr, AP	734-483-0839	JMBarr@BarrLawFirm.com
Nominating: P/C John M. Barr, AP, Life	734-483-0839	JMBarr@BarrLawFirm.com
Assistant SEO: Lt. Randy Stevenson, AP	734-665-8890	crsnider@ameritech.net
Chairman ABC: Com. Robert Buchanan, P	734-971-6589	BuchananRA@msn.com
Chairman Seamanship: P/C John M. Barr, AP, Life	734-483-0839	JMBarr@BarrLawFirm.com
Chairman of Local Boards: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life	734-973-0441	apnsharon@aol.com
Chairman of Piloting: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life	734-973-0441	apnsharon@aol.com
Chairman of Adv. Piloting: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life	734-973-0441	apnsharon@aol.com
Chairman Elective Courses: P/C Bob Snider, SN, Life	734-665-8890	crsnider@ameritech.net
Chairman Weather: P/C Bob Snider, SN, Life	734-665-8890	crsnider@ameritech.net
Chairman of N: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life	734-973-0441	apnsharon@aol.com
Chaplin: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life	734-973-441	apnsharon@aol.com
Historian: P/C Jadwin C. Root, SN, Life	734-358-4185	
Conference Coord.: Lt. Sharon A. Pinsak	734-9730441	apnsharon@aol.com
Membership Chair: P/C Carolyn Knaggs, P	734-645-3503	cknaggs@reinhartrealtors.com
Web Designer: Lt Peggy Moller	734-761-1589	mmoller@umich.edu
Webmaster: Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P	734-668-8631	choff@hoff.com
Porthole Assist. Editor: Lt Peggy Moller	734-769-3476	mmoller@umich.edu
Porthole Editor: Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life	734-769-3476	AAPSclasses@aol.com

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

Thank you Shih-Chieh Yin  
for your design of 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. Advertising Staff for public courses and programs.

We thank Bradley Schwartz, for help with computer set-up and consulting. The Porthole is sent in color via e-mail 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.

The articles and opinions expressed therein do not necessarily reflect USPS or AASPS policy. Articles may be reprinted without permission, if credit is given to the author and to the original source.





Sail and Power Boating Education

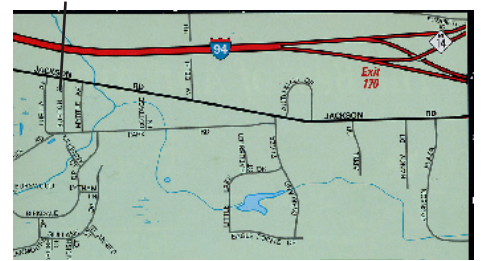
<http://www.aaspsq.org>

**Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron  
General Meeting  
6 pm Wednesday, 28 Mar. 2012  
Classic Cup Café  
4389 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor  
Lat. 42° 17.119' N, Long. 83° 49.006' W**

**6 pm: We will meet at the Classic Cup Café. Order from the menu.  
In the Parkland shopping mall. On south side of Jackson Rd. west of Wagner Rd.**



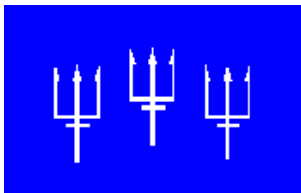
Classic Cup Café



**Program: John and Marlene Barr - *Waterways of India***







## Commander's Message

Cdr. Robert Buchanan, P



### Commander's Comments

I am excited to learn that the District 9 Educational Cruise on the USCG Bristol Bay is scheduled for the evening of June 20th. Last year John and Marlene Barr joined Jeannine and myself on this adventure. After leaving the Coast Guard station in Detroit, the Bristol Bay sailed toward the Ambassador Bridge, encountered the fireboat Curtis Randolph under full spray, then turned upstream into Lake St. Clair. Here we watched the space station pass overhead. As the Bristol Bay returned after nightfall, we saw all the lights of the Detroit skyline and could identify each twinkling ATON. A chart was projected on the large screen to help identify each ATON. Bristol Bay's position from the AIS (automatic identification system) was also superimposed on the projected chart. Any AASPS member or ABC graduate can join this cruise along with their families including children at least age 12. I would happily send more information.

AASPS is working hard to find more faculty to teach the ABC course. We were asked by Washtenaw Community College to present it again during the spring semester, also by another nearby community college but we do not have the resources. Saying no to folks who want to learn hurts. Our SEO Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN can tell you more about the joy of teaching. In summary, AASPS could double the number of courses offered if we had instructors.

AASPS was most honored to have 2 wonderful people attend our last meeting. First, District Commander Linda Lalonde, P joined us and talked about the 3 C's for an effective squadron.

- Communication is the ability to clearly communicate with each other.
- Camaraderie means a warm and fuzzy feeling within our squadron, our friendly squadron.
- Cohesiveness is the glue that holds our squadron together.

Second, we were pleased to have Luc and P/C Bob Snider, SN again present. Bob controlled WW2 Alaska-Siberia aviation as a meteorologist and remembered Pan Am's China Clippers. He has taught the USPS weather course probably more times than he can count.

The program at our next meeting on April 25th promises to be exciting. P/C John Barr, AP and Lt/C Marlene Barr, S will talk about The Waterways of India. Both have visited India previously, then again last January. Rivers such as the Ganges occupy a central role in the Hindu culture and religion so we can look forward to a cultural as well as a nautical presentation.



India pictures  
from Google  
Earth





## Education Officer's Message

Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life



Congratulations to our ABC3 spring 2012 graduates Jim Burns, Paul Erlandson, Dan Kimball, Mark Kochen, Cathy and Stephen Malette, Dindra Osborne, Christopher Parrott, Bill Phillips, Thomas Pierce, Andrea and Edward Switkowski, Vanessa Weiler, Jill and Warren Wells, Darryl West, Adlai Wheeler, and Dennis and Patricia Zimmer.

We are planning to teach the USPS Weather course and perhaps Engine Maintenance this fall. Let us know what courses you want to take.

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 subjects available through USPS. Please look at the variety of subjects we can choose from at United States Power Squadron's website, <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 to share the teaching responsibilities. Courses can be held at St. Joseph's Education Center or in private homes.

---

### Boat Insurance discounts for education

BELLEVUE, WA, SEPTEMBER 4, 2010: The USPS Boat Insurance Program and Travelers Insurance are excited to announce additional discounts exclusively for USPS members. USPS Boat Insurance/Travelers customers who complete the various levels of the Boat Operator Certification (BOC) Program will now qualify for the following insurance premium discounts:

- Inland Navigator – 2.5%
- Coastal Navigator – 2.5%
- Advanced Coastal Navigator – 5%
- Offshore Navigator – 5%

These discounts are in addition to the 23% credit available for completion of USPS Safety Courses and annual Vessel Safety Check, bringing the total available credit to 38%. The BOC program certifies USPS members in recreational boating proficiency at a level that meets or exceeds the requirements of UN Resolution 40, International Certificate for the Operation of Pleasure Craft. Travelers and the USPS Boat Insurance are happy to recognize and reward the exceptional knowledge and experience of USPS members that obtain these certifications.

For additional information on the USPS Boat Insurance Program, and to advise of BOC course completion, please visit [www.uspsboatinsurance.com](http://www.uspsboatinsurance.com) or call 1-800-763-USPS (8777).



## Secretary's Message

Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan



### Secretary's Comments

Bob and I have finished teaching the winter term ABC course at Washtenaw Community College (WCC). The College requires that each student complete a course evaluation as a quality control check on both the course content and quality of instruction. The results were revealing and similar to the evaluation of previous ABC courses. First, the content was considered excellent by the students. This means that the ABC course is well-designed for both the beginning boater as well as more experienced boaters who were seeking an update of their boating knowledge. Second, many commented on the value of personal stories or anecdotes associated with the various topics. This illustrates the strength of live classroom teaching rather than online study which has become popular in our computer age. The live classroom is therefore an opportunity to make the content "jump off the page" so that students can retain the content.

AASPS teaches the 12 hour version which includes charting and plotting, a necessary prerequisite to understanding GPS and electronic navigation. This section received rave reviews from the students, again illustrating the value of the extra effort required to go beyond the more abbreviated 8 hour curriculum.

Almost all of the students accepted our invitation to join USPS utilizing the 6 month free membership available to students who have completed the course. Our challenge as a squadron is to encourage them to become active in AASPS so that they will continue as viable members. I believe that we can accomplish this by presenting interesting programs and being "The Friendly Squadron."



March General Meeting.

L to R. Jeannine and Buchanan, Art and Sharon Pinsak, Peggy Moller, Freddy Ohou, and Mark Kochn, and Joe Jaeger. Present, but not in picture, were John Barr Jr., John and Marlene Barr, Ron Schwartz, Dwight Saunders, D/C Linda Lalonde, P., Carolyn Knaggs, Claire Zepeda and Bob and Luc Snider.

For discounts for USPS members on various products, go to the MEMBER BENEFITS page at the USPS web site

[http://www.usps.org/national/admin\\_dept/benefitsdescription.htm#Techsoup](http://www.usps.org/national/admin_dept/benefitsdescription.htm#Techsoup)





## Executive Officer's Message

P/C Frank Hoy, JN



Greetings and Salutations.

I am visited by some very wonderful animals from time to time here in Florida. Recently the turtles have been stopping by to say "Hi". They remind me of the story of the Tortoise and the Hair. I also have a bunch of rabbits here, too. The turtles don't seem to mind that they are slow, and they just keep plugging away until they get where they want to go. I'm sending a couple of photos along to show you my hard shelled friends. The one with the long nose is a soft shelled turtle that lives mostly in the water. The other one is called a Gopher Tortoise, and lives on land.

I like to draw an analogy between the turtles and our squadron. We may not be fast, but we just keep plugging away until we get the job done. There are several things that we are working on this summer, which require our time. If we pull together and work towards these goals we will make progress. It may not be fast, but it will be in the right direction.

I plan on being at the April membership meeting, and am looking forward to seeing everyone again. I hope to see some new faces there, too. Thank you for belonging to our squadron.



Gopher Tortoise

Soft Shelled turtle



Editors comment: From now on others will think of us as the "Turtle Squadron"!



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

## A partial list of events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>EVENT AND LOCATION</u>
April 25 Wednesday	AASPS	General meeting at the Classic Cup Cafe'. See page 3.
May 23 Wednesday	AASPS	General meeting at the Classic Cup Cafe'.

## 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	Calypso	June 2012

## Internet sites for other Squadron activities.

For quick access to any of the D-9 Squadrons, click on the Links section of our website

<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 website ([www.USPS.org](http://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.





D/C Linda Lalonde, P, presented the 2011 Newsletter Distinctive Communications award to our Porthole staff, represented by SEO Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN Life, and the USPS Education Fund donation award to AASPS Commander Bob Buchanan, P.



## More pictures from our March meeting



D/C Linda Lalonde, P, addresses AASPS members



AASPS Commander Bob Buchanan, P, tells about the Great Lakes shipping in the winter.



P/C Bob Snider, SN Life, and Luc Snider converse with Sec. Jeannine Buchanan and Com. Bob Buchanan, P



P/C John Barr, AP Life, John Barr Jr., P/C Carolyn Knaggs, P, D/C Linda Lalonde, P, and Lt/C Marlene Barr