

The Porthole

February 2013



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 each month, Sept. thru June
See pages 3 and 9 for November and December meetings



CONTACTS

Boating Education

48 YEARS SERVING
THE BOATING PUBLIC

Commander: Robert Buchanan, P
Executive Officer: P/C Frank Hoy, JN
Administrative Officer: Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P
Education Officer: Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life
Secretary: Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan
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Public Relations Officer: P/C John Barr, AP
Nominating: P/C John M. Barr, AP, Life
Assistant SEO: Lt. Randy Stevenson, AP
Chairman ABC: Com. Robert Buchanan, P
Chairman Seamanship: P/C John M. Barr, AP, Life
Chairman of Local Boards: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life
Chairman of Piloting: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life
Chairman of Adv. Piloting: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life
Chairman Elective Courses: P/C Bob Snider, SN, Life
Chairman Weather: P/C Bob Snider, SN, Life
Chairman of N: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life
Chaplin: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life
Historian: P/C Jadwin C. Root, SN, Life
Conference Coord.: Lt. Sharon A. Pinsak
Membership Chair: P/C Carolyn Knaggs, P
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Porthole Editor: Lt Peggy Moller
Porthole Publisher Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life

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<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, 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.

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Sail and Power Boating Education
<http://www.aaspsq.org>

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron
Monday, February 18 , 2013
Damon's Grill, 6 PM
The Champion Room
3150 Boardwalk St., Ann Arbor
Lat. 42° 14.525'N, Long. 83° 44.168'W

6 pm: We will meet at the Damon's Grill. East of State St. South of Eisenhower Pkwy.
Order from the menu. Please call Sharon Pinsak for reservations. 734-973-0441
Open wine bar. Visit their website to see the excellent menu.
<http://www.yelp.com/biz/damons-grill-ann-arbor>



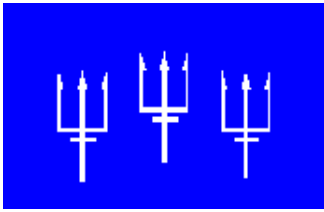
Speaker: Christopher Behnke: 'Water Sampling for Fun and Profit' Christopher Behnke is an environmental geologist at LimnoTech. He has experience in soil and water sampling in rivers, lakes, landfills, and petroleum refineries. He has also conducted flow rate monitoring, dissolved oxygen surveys and reaeration surveys. Chris serves as the LimnoTech Field Operations Area Manager at the Ann Arbor office. This involves managing company resources and equipment, and responsibility for ensuring that high-quality field procedures are used for each project. Tel: 734-332-1200 <http://www.limno.com>



Limno Tech's work boat



Chicago waterway study



Commander's Message

Cdr. Robert Buchanan, P



Our February 18th program promises to be outstanding. Our speaker will be Christopher Behnke, environmental geologist at LimnoTech in Ann Arbor. LimnoTech is one of the country's leading water sciences and environmental engineering consulting firms. Founded in 1975, the company is headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with offices in Washington, D.C plus three other locations. LimnoTech is an independent consulting firm with partners in the private sector, public entities, research organizations, and universities. Over the years, the staff at LimnoTech have designed and conducted hundreds of hydrologic/hydrodynamic investigations, water quality studies, and biological surveys at sites throughout North America

Chris has experience in soil and water sampling in lakes and petroleum refineries. He has also conducted flow rate monitoring, dissolved oxygen surveys and re-aeration surveys. Chris serves as the LimnoTech Field Operations Area Manager at the Ann Arbor office. Have you wondered about weather buoys and water temperatures near a nuclear power plant? This will be an excellent time to learn more about our marine environment.

With continued thanks to ExO Frank Hoy, Damon's Grill has proved to a splendid venue. The food is good with something for everyone; prices are reasonable. Importantly, the entire Damon's staff is a delight; they all worked hard to salvage our Change of Watch meeting in the face of an internal power failure.

USPS conducted a survey of members through a survey research center at Michigan State University; about a third of the members responded, which is an excellent response. The results are available on the USPS website but the last 4 pages of conclusions tell the story. I will bring copies of the conclusions to the next meeting. Briefly, USPS people are committed to the educational function, folks interested in safe boating, to doing the "right thing." The opening sentence states "USPS is both fortunate and challenged to have altruistic, mission-loyal and knowledgeable, and involved members." I believe that AASPS can be proud of our members who "do the right thing."



Heron and Pelican in
Punta Gorda Florida.
Pictures by Vlad Krylov
in Google Earth.





Secretary's Message

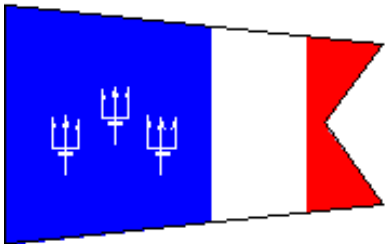
Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan



As described in the SEO's report, our squadron's ABC course in progress at Washtenaw Community College (WCC) may be complete when this Porthole is published. As the course manager and lecturer, this course has been an absolute joy for me. Eight complete strangers walked into the classroom at the start of the first class, and then 8 weeks later they passed 2 rigorous examinations having acquired fundamental navigation skills. This means that they are confident in their own skills, secure, and can exude their confidence to their crew. In contrast, about 90% of boaters have never had any formal instruction.

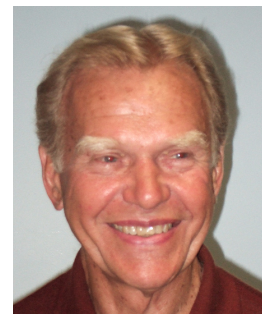
In the current class, one student will crew a 40' sailboat from Seattle to Hawaii this summer. Another couple is preparing for the great circle tour: Michigan to New Orleans via the Mississippi, then the Intercoastal Waterway around Florida, up to New York, the Erie Canal, up the Trent Waterway to Georgian Bay, then home. The entire cruise will require one year; some of us would kill for this experience.

The students actually help teach. The retired auto mechanic discussed part of the trailering section, and the math professor contributed to the charting section. Each student has brought his or her own unique experience to the classroom. Lastly, teaching at WCC in the evening is fascinating. Almost every classroom is occupied. The class in the room next to us is comparative religions. Their instructor walked in, looked at our electronic charts, and walked out in dismay.



Past Commander's Message

P/C Art Pinsak



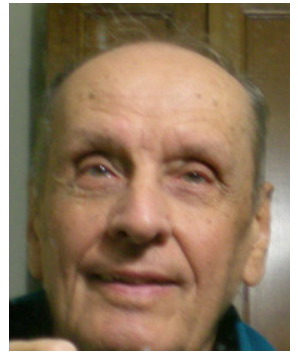
Great Lakes Water Levels

The US Army Corps of Engineers recently recorded a significant event. The water level in Lake Michigan-Huron for the month of December 2012 was 576.15 ft. This level surpassed the existing record low which was set in 1964 by 0.03 ft. and could continue at record levels depending on basin water supplies. Also, the December Michigan-Huron water level was actually 1.35 ft. below the low water datum used in construction of the Great Lakes charts. Lake Superior was below chart datum as well but only by 0.5 ft. Levels of the lower lakes were below long term average but still ranged between 0.5-1.0 ft. above chart datum. These extreme lows in the upper lakes basins as compared to closer-to-average levels in the lower lakes reflect the relatively recent lack of extensive snow and ice cover and precipitation in the upper lakes basins. The lakes great water volume naturally precludes rapid change so lag time between water supplies and water level changes, whichever way they trend, can be expected.



Education Officer's Message

Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life



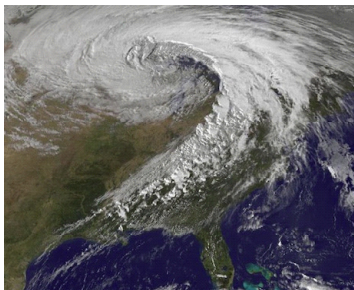
USPS Basic Boating Classes can be found at toll free 1-888-367-8777 (1-888-FOR-USPS) Or go to www.usps.org

Our current ABC class at WCC is almost complete. For future ABC classes, contact Cdr. Bob Buchanan. P 734- 971-6589

Weather and Seamanship classes start in February if we have enough students.

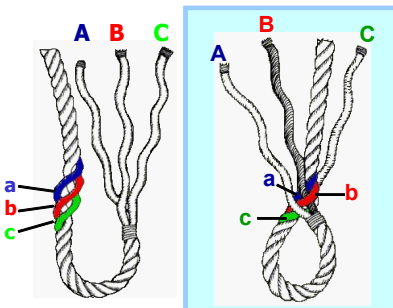
We need more volunteers to serve as class chairpersons - those who organize, schedule, and teach a course or seminar - so that we can teach more of the subjects available through USPS. Please look at the variety of subjects we can choose from at United States Power Squadron's website, www.usps.org If 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.

Class Schedules



Hurricane on East Coast

Weather Course About 8 to 10 weeks. Please contact Lt. Randy Stevenson, AP for details. 734-429-5099. Cost is \$64 for members and \$144 for non-members.



Eye Splice

Seamanship Course About 8 to 10 weeks. Please contact P/C John Barr, AP for details. 734-483-0839. Cost is \$57 for members and \$137 for non-members.



Executive Officer's Message

P/C Frank Hoy, JN



Ahoy from a Hoy,

I hope everyone's winter is going well. It's been warmer than normal here this winter. The down side is that the Red Tide has been worse than ever. Red Tide is something that kills the fish, and is caused by phosphates, algae, and bacteria in the water. It also causes you to have sore eyes, nose, and throat if you spend any time at the beach. I haven't spent too much time at the beach this winter because of it.

I'm sending some pictures of the Laishley Crab House Restaurant at Laishley Marina in Punta Gorda. If you are ever in the area I recommend a stop here. They serve excellent food and drinks. It is on the second floor and overlooks the marina and Charlotte Harbor. It's well worth the time and money. Plus, there is a second-to-none gift shop on the ground level.

I have received VSI stickers from USPS for next spring. Lt./C Curtis, AP and I will be ready to continue this program when we return to Michigan. I hope everyone enjoys the rest of winter, and we'll all be looking forward to springtime.

Laishley Marina in Punta Gorda



Laishley Crabhouse Restaurant



Canal in Charlotte County Florida



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

A Partial List of Events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>EVENT AND LOCATION</u>
Feb. 16-24	Detroit	Cobo Hall Boat Show
Feb. 18	AASPS	General Meeting at Damon's Grill. See page 3.
	AASPS	Weather Course for about 8 to 10 weeks. Please contact Lt. Randy Stevenson, AP 734-429-5099.
	AASPS	Seamanship Course for about 8 to 10 weeks. Please contact P/C John Barr, AP 734-483-0839.
April 5-7	D9	Spring District Conference in Pontiac. See page 9.

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
Bob Cox		May 2013

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

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

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.

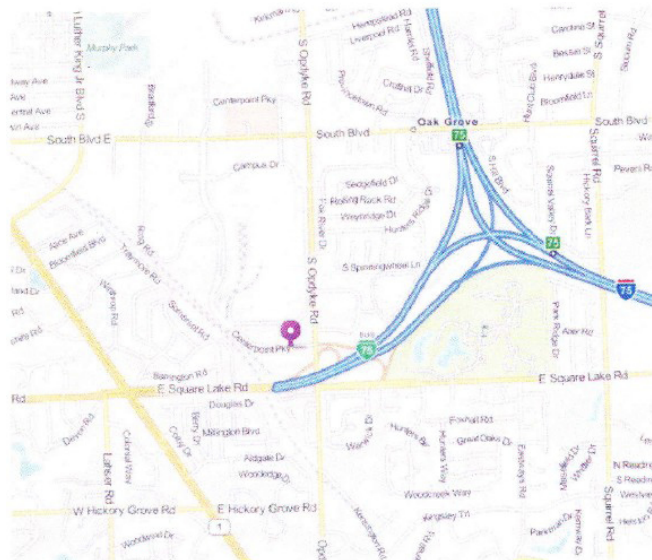


USPS District 9 2013 SPRING CONFERENCE

AGE OF AQUARIUS

Hosted by:
GROSSE POINTE POWER SQUADRON

5-7 April 2013



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

RANK	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GRADE	CERTIFICATE NO.	SQUADRON
RANK	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GRADE	CERTIFICATE NO.	SQUADRON

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

☐ Check if you are a Conference First-Timer

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____
 POSTMARKED BEFORE 15 MARCH 2013 AFTER 15 MARCH 2013

BUSINESS LUNCH _____ @ \$22. ea. = _____ @ \$25. ea. = _____ VEGETARIAN _____

DINNER _____ @ \$55. ea. = _____ @ \$60. ea. = _____
 (Chicken Breast & Crab Cake)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ \$ _____
 NO MEALS RESERVATIONS AFTER 28 MARCH 2013

Make Check Payable to:
Grosse Pointe Power Squadron
 Mail to:
Lt/C James A. Simpson
P.O. Box 182108
Shelby Township, MI 48318
 Dress Code:
 Morning & Conference~ Uniform F or USPS Blazer
 Banquet~ Uniform A w/ Bow Tie

CENTERPOINT MARRIOTT HOTEL ROOM REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS
 DISTRICT 9 SPRING CONFERENCE 5-7 April 2013

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone-Home: _____ Work: _____

eMail Address: _____

To ensure USPS Special Rates,
 this form must be Mailed or
 Faxed in by: 15 March 2013

To Guarantee a Room, Use a
 Major Credit Card or Check

Card: _____

Card No.: _____

Expiration Date: _____

You are welcome to arrive early or extend your stay following this scheduled event. At times, specified accommodations are not available prior to or following your event. If the room type requested is not available, we reserve the right to assign the next available type and rate.

CHECK-IN TIME Guaranteed by 1800 ~ CHECK-OUT TIME 1200

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____ No. of Adults: _____

No. of Children: _____

Reservations MUST be received by 15 March 2013

ROOM TYPE:	SINGLE	DOUBLE	Rates are Per Room, Per Day, plus State Tax and Resort Fees.
Guest Room	\$96.	\$96.	
Hospitality Room	.\$146. (Incl. Bed Rem. Fee)		

Signature (Required)
 Mail to:
 Reservations Dept.
 Centerpoint Marriott
 3600 Centerpoint Parkway
 Pontiac, MI 48341

Phone: 248-648-6016
 Fax: 248-648-6026