

# The Porthole

May 2013



The official newsletter of the Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron  
a unit of United States Power Squadrons  
[www.aaspsq.org](http://www.aaspsq.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



## 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  
Treasurer: Lt/C Marlene Barr  
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  
Web Designer: Lt Peggy Moller  
Webmaster: Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P  
Porthole Editor: Lt Peggy Moller  
Porthole Publisher Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life

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[www.aaspsq.org](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  
[www.aaspsq.org](http://www.aaspsq.org)

**Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron**  
**Monday, May 20, 2013**  
**the Carlyle Grill, 6 PM**  
**3660 Jackson Rd.**  
**Ann Arbor, MI 48103**  
**Lat. 42° 17' 8"N, Long. 83° 48' 13"W**

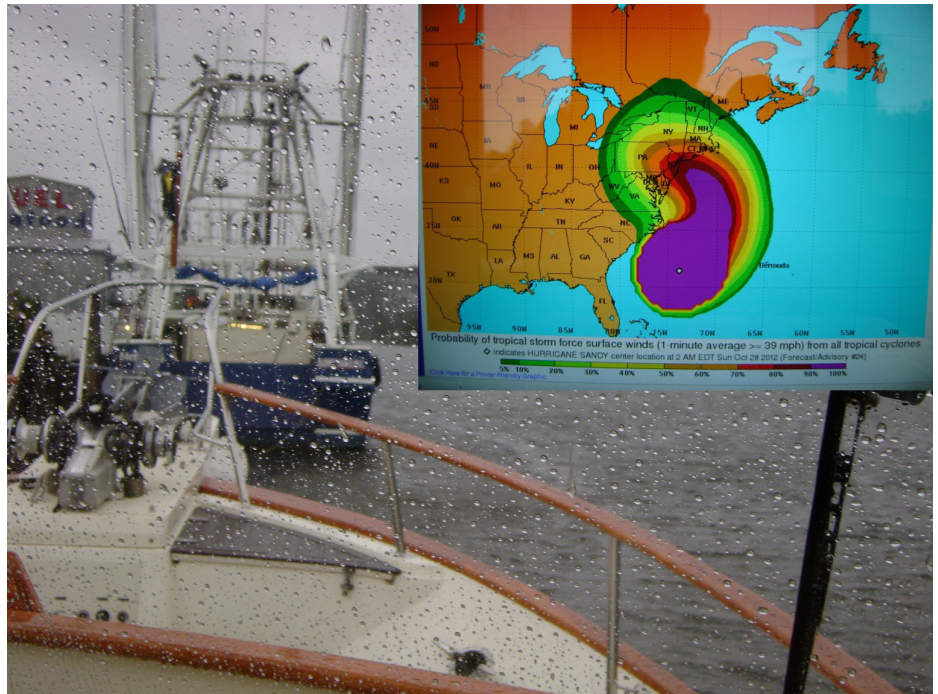
**6 pm: We will meet at the Carlyle Grill, 3660 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor. West of the Lighthouse Car Wash. Order from the menu. Please call Sharon Pinsak for reservations. 734-973-0441. Open wine bar. Visit their website to see the excellent menu.**  
<http://www.carlylegrill.com/>

## Program

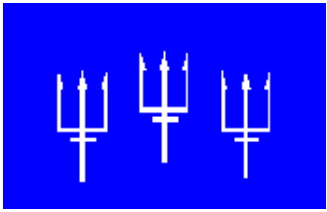
The May meeting will have another exciting program, *Who Invited Sandy on Board?* Our own Executive Officer, **P/C Frank Hoy, JN** and Administrative Officer, **Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P** will tell us about their experience moving Curtis' boat from its summer home down the East Coast to warmer waters for the winter. They encountered Hurricane Sandy during their passage, so used all of their seamanship skills. The talk will include some spectacular photographs, perhaps a visual tour of Curtis' boat.



Carlyle Grill 3660 Jackson R. west of Wagner Rd. (North side of Rd.)



In the hurricane hole during Sandy's passing



## Commander's Message

Cdr. Robert Buchanan, P



The previous Porthole reported the members of AASPS are having an opportunity to visit a variety of different Ann Arbor restaurants. It happened again! We received about 1 hours notice that our April meeting had to be moved to the Mediterraneo Restaurant to a power failure at the Carlyle. But everyone survived. Our May 20th meeting will be at the Carlyle Grill which we hope will be our home port for future meetings.

The May meeting will have another exciting program, *Who Invited Sandy on Board?* Our own Executive Officer, P/C Frank Hoy, JN and Administrative Officer, Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P will tell us about their experience moving Curtis' boat from its summer home down the East Coast to warmer waters for the winter. They encountered Hurricane Sandy during their passage so used all of their seamanship skills. The talk will include some spectacular photographs, perhaps a visual tour of Curtis' boat.

Sharon Pinsak has reserved the pavilion at Argo Park above the dam for our summer picnic on Monday evening 10 June 2013. Exact directions will be provided in the next Porthole but reserve the date now.

All USPS commanders can fly their commander's flag while underway. Our son, Greg, hoisted my commander's flag when Jeannine and I stepped onto his Catalina 30 at Eglin AFB in Florida last March. The picture shows the flag that greeted us.

Captain Jim Irwin gave us a splendid talk at our April 15th meeting, describing the differences between Michigan and Florida boating. The benefits of Florida boating are a 12 month season, sunny days with only brief storms, clear blue water, great places to visit within a short sailing time. The intercoastal waterway provided a protected travel route. However, problems are tides, a need to clean the boat's bottom every 3 months to remove barnacles, also a need to wax more frequently to protect the gelcoat from UV oxidation. Lastly, we boaters may be accompanied by big animals such as manatees and dolphins that love to play in your wake. We have had dolphins follow our sailboat.



Com. Buchanan, P at the helm of his son's boat in Florida





## Secretary's Message

Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan



Every boater understands the importance of bridge clearance before passing under a bridge regardless of type of boat; such a simple concept. Bob and I were returning to Fort Walton Beach, Florida from Destin, Florida in March on US 98 when we encountered a vast traffic jam that was frozen solid. The officer informed us with a giggle that a tug had hit the only bridge between Fort Walton Beach and where we were. Actually the tug was towing a derrick; seems the captain did not understand the relationship between clearance under the bridge and the height of the derrick. Clearly this closed the large, 4-lane bridge. The only other route between Destin and Fort Walton Beach was a 2 hour drive over a toll bridge. We explained to the nice officer who still had a silly grin that our condominium was on our side of the closed bridge so he permitted us to drive on the shoulder to our access road.

Here is a picture of the scene; Miss Lizzy is the offending tug, the derrick collapsed into the water, all boat traffic was stopped by the USCG. What a grand mess; I wonder if the captain was hiding! Imagine fisherman trying to return to their dock. A flexible emergency crane was called in so that inspectors could view the underside of the damage. The picture shows the crane and bridge inspectors. By this time traffic was backed up for miles on either side of the bridge. Later in the evening, one lane was opened in either direction. The next afternoon we saw Miss Lizzy depart with the derrick still in the water, assisted by another tug with USCG escort.

I wonder what the tug captain said when he called his boss to report a "delay." I also wonder if that captain was still in command. Lastly, I wonder about the overall cost, all resulting from a failure to understand bridge clearances.

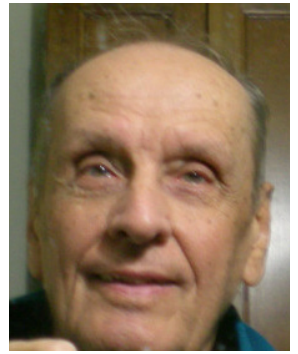


A derrick, towed by tug, Miss Lizzy, hit the bridge on US 98 near Fort Walton, Florida



## 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](http://www.usps.org)

For future ABC classes, contact Cdr. Bob Buchanan. P (734) 971-6589.

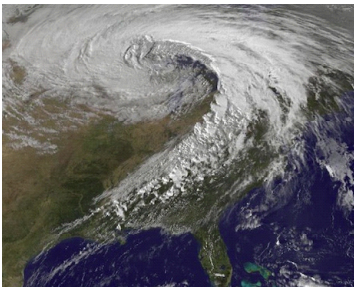
Weather class. Contact Chairman Randy Stevenson (734) 429-5099

Seamanship class has moved to St. Joseph Hospital Education Center with Randy Stevenson (734) 429-5099

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](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. It's fun to teach and learn.

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## Classes



Hurricane on East Coast

**Weather Course** About 8 to 10 weeks. Please contact Lt. Randy Stevenson, AP for details. 734-429-5099.

[rstevenson@accioenergy.com](mailto:rstevenson@accioenergy.com)

Cost is \$64 for members and \$144 for non-members.







## Executive Officer's Message P/C Frank Hoy, JN



A Hoy Members,

The weather shows signs of improving and not a minute too soon. Boats are going in the water all over Michigan. At the membership meeting this month Lt/C Curtis Hoff and I will be making a presentation of our trip down the east coast in October. As most of you know we were in a race to beat hurricane Sandy. I took lots of pictures of our journey, and it should be very interesting. I hope to see everyone there.

---

### Pictures from our April 15, 2013 meeting



John Barr jr. and Sharon Pinsak



Sharon Pinsak and our speaker Cpt. Jim Irwin



Jeannine and Bob Buchanan



John and Marlene  
Barr



Ron and Shirley Schwartz



Art and Sharon Pinsak



**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 20th	AASPS	6 PM Geneal Meeting. Carlyle Grill. Frank Hoy and Curtis Hoff will talk to us about 'Who Invited Sandy on Board' ? See page 3
May 30	AASPS	Seamanship Course exam
June 10	AASPS	Picnic at Argo Pond Launch site. 6 PM
June 18	D9	Coast Guard Cruise. See pages 10 to 12
Aug. 2-3	Coast Guard	Picnic to start off Coast Guard weekend. Great Lakes Marina Muskegon. Coast Guard Parade. Grand Haven, MI
Aug. 16-18		Grand Traverse Bay Lobster Fest. Northport, MI
Oct. 11-13	D9	District Conference.

### 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
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

[www.aaspsq.org](http://www.aaspsq.org)

and select District 9 Squadrons

D-9 websites: <http://d9-usps.org/>

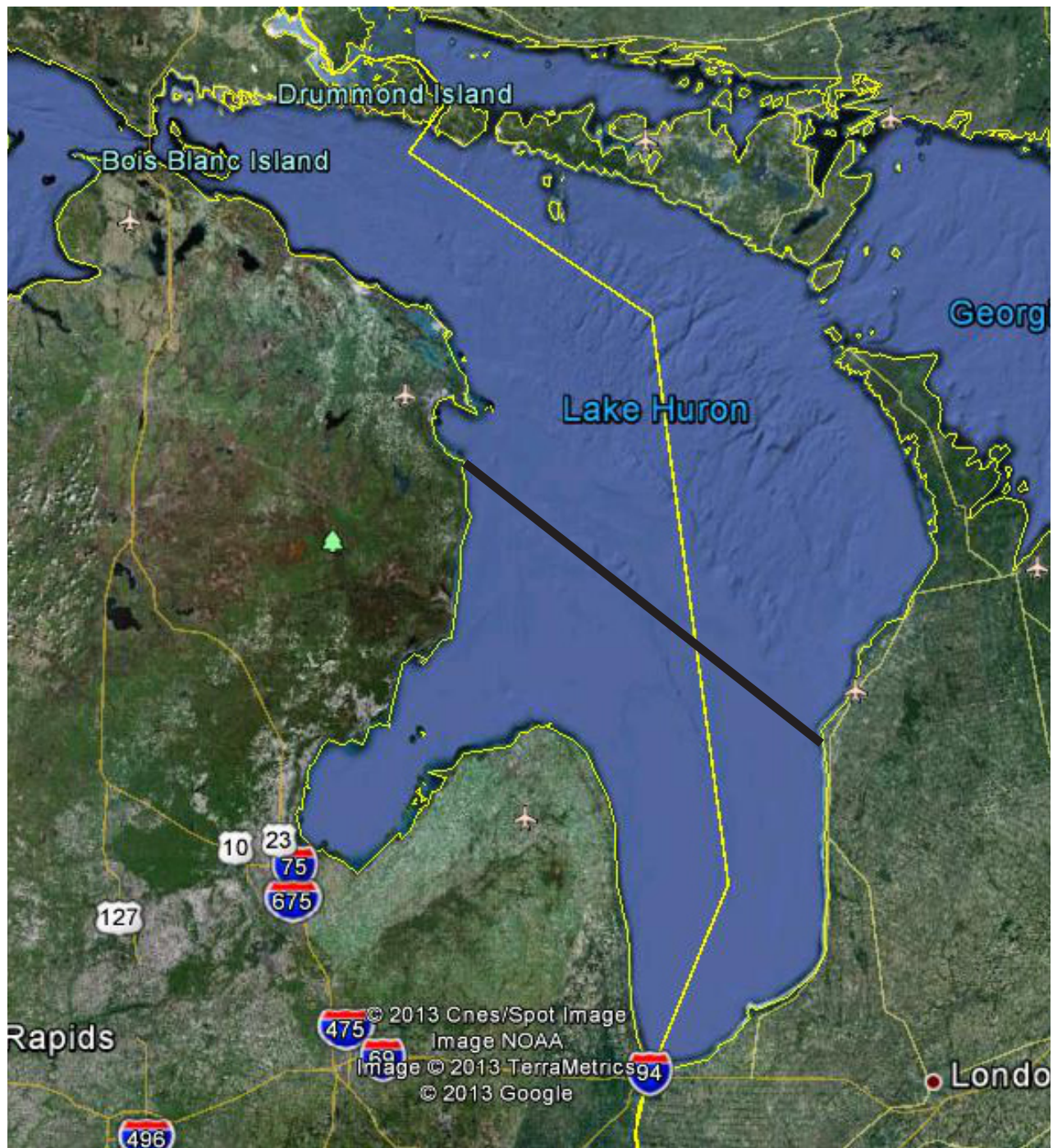
Please check USPS website [www.USPS.org](http://www.USPS.org)

and websites of squadrons near you for their activities that you might want to attend.



# Water Depths - a historic perspective

9000 years ago, according to some historians (see [www.a2journal.com](http://www.a2journal.com) Thursday, April 25, 2013) Lake Huron was about 8 fathoms (48 feet) shallower than now, and you could walk across from Alpena, MI, southeast to Clark Point, Ontario. Our charts show a 6 Fathom Scarp along this path. You could also walk across the Straits of Mackinac. So, we today are lucky to have as much water as we do. For copies of current charts go to <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/OnLineViewer.html>



## Detroit River Cruise on the Coast Guard Cutter *Bristol Bay*, 7:00 PM, June 18, 2013

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 U S Power Squadron, the U S 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 is 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 map of the area will be mailed to you along with your boarding passes. Departure time is 7:30 P M.

**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 2,003 members in 22 squadrons. Collectively, these 22 squadrons teach the USPS ABC3 Boating Course to residents of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and Northern Indiana.

**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 1 500 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. Sign up - page 11, below.





# Sign up for the Cruise - Board 7:00 PM, Depart 7:30 PM, 18 June 2013

Yes, we are interested in joining the USPS and USCGAUX educational opportunity aboard the Coast Guard Cutter "Bristol Bay" on Tuesday June 18th, 2013 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) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ and the cruise will be rescheduled or our money will be refunded.

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 D/9 Educational Cruise Committee. Please write your phone number on the front of the check. List all names of the attendees in the space provided on the back.

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

Responsibility:

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

Neither USPS , USPS District 9, the squadrons, USCG AUX , Divisions, Flotillas in 9CR the District 9 Cruise Committee employees, affiliates or representatives own, or operate, manage, control, inspect, distribute or warrant any 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 any accident, injury, illness, death, loss, damage, expense, delay or any other irregularity of any nature whatsoever arising directly from the District 9 Educational Cruise, or from any part thereof due to any cause whatsoever including negligence, strikes, terrorism or Acts Of God

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign and remove this section and send it along with your check by **June 11th, 2013.**

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

• Linda LaLonde, P

3734 Benstein Road

Commerce Twp. MI 48382-1813

(Phone) 24 8-360-9304

(Email) [lalonde@us.ibm.com](mailto:lalonde@us.ibm.com)

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Proctor \_\_\_\_\_

Member \_\_\_\_\_

US CG/USPS®/U SCGAUX  
Educational Opportunity



Come Aboard  
the Cutter

“Bristol Bay”  
18 June 2013

Board 7:00 PM at the Coast Guard Station  
at the foot of Mt. Elliott Avenue, Detroit  
Depart 7:30 PM, 18 June 2013

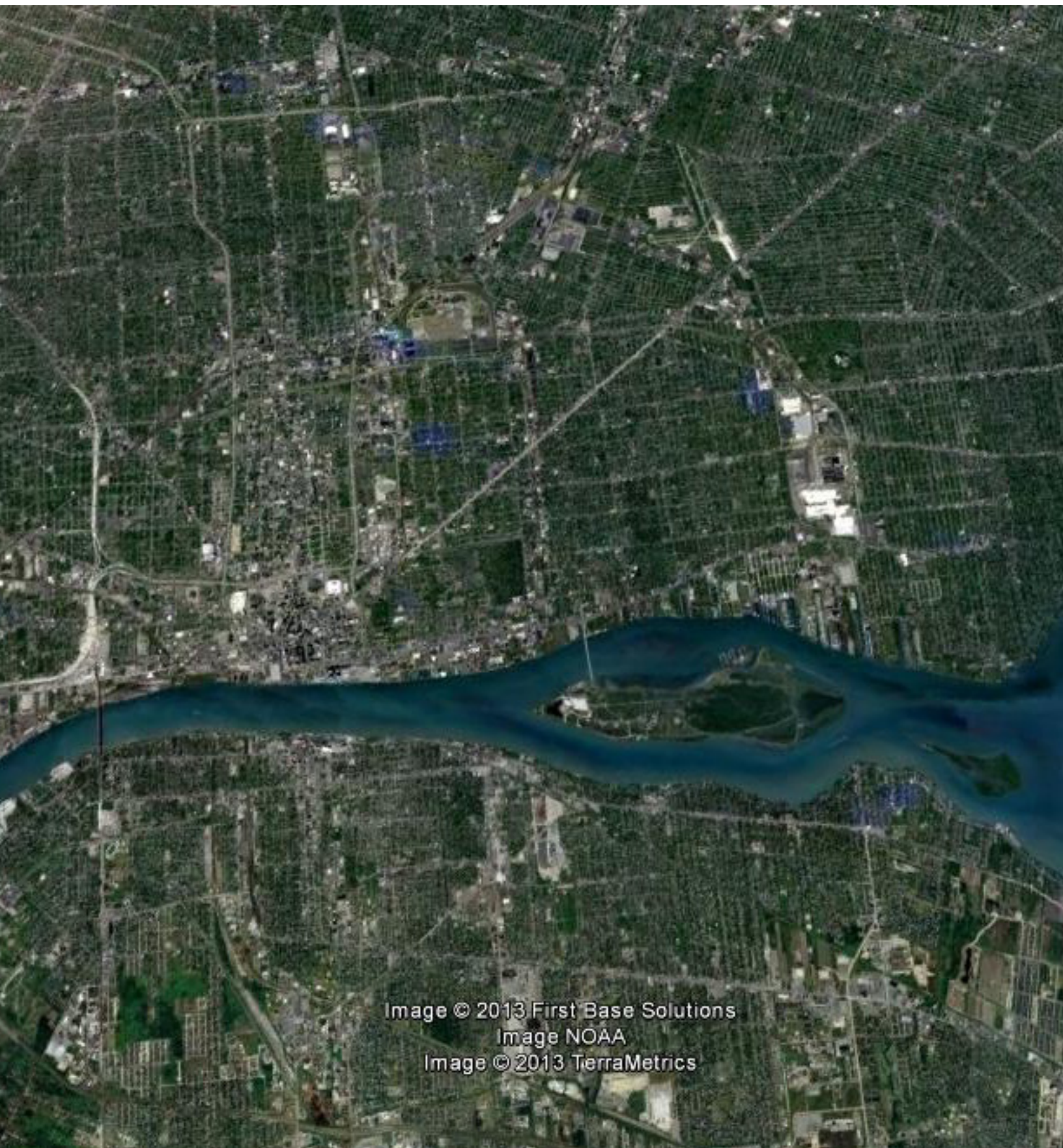


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