

The Porthole

Feb./Mar. 2014



The official newsletter of the Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron
a unit of United States Power Squadrons
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 page 3

www.aaspsq.org

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Boating Education

49 YEARS SERVING
THE BOATING PUBLIC



Thank you Shih-Chieh Yin
for your design of front page
of the Porthole

Volunteers are welcome and needed for the following opportunities:

Photographer needed to take pictures at our meetings and e-mail them to our Porthole publisher.

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.

The Porthole is published before our meetings, 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.

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We thank Bradley and George Schwartz for computer consulting.





Sail and Power Boating Education

<http://www.aaspsq.org>

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron
6 P.M. March 10, 2014
Carlyle Grill
3660 Jackson Rd.
Lat. 42° 17.1' N, Long. 83° 48.2' 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. Visit Carlyle Grill website to see their menu. <http://www.carlylegrill.com/>

Speaker: Cdr. Bob Buchanan, P, will talk about the splendor of the Great Lakes



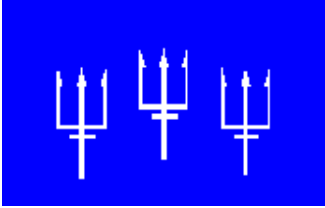
Cdr. Bob Buchanan, P



Interlake Steamship Company's *Kaye Barker* at Detour at sunrise. Photo by Bob Buchanan

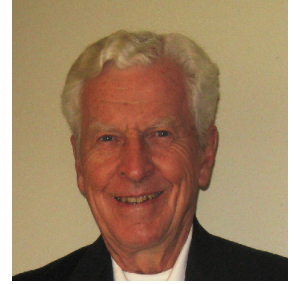


The Canadian icebreaker Samuel J. Risely (the red hull) is downbound to escort Algoma Central's Algoma Olympic which is upbound at Algonac State Park on January 7th. Although difficult to see, the USCG Neah Bay is just behind the Olympic giving assistance. Photo by Lt/Cdr Jeannine Buchanan



Commander's Message

Cdr. Robert Buchanan, P



Commander's Comments

The March 10th squadron program will be The Splendor of the Lakes. This will be a relaxing slide show describing the beauty, the industrial might, the forces, the magnificent ships as well as some memories from the past. Some will be from our personal collection, others from various marine photographers. I have been thinking about this program for over a year so hope that everyone will like it. As is our custom, wine will be served courtesy of the Bridge.

The squadron will present America's Boating Course this spring starting Tuesday, May 6th for 8 weeks at Washtenaw Community College. The course is taught weekly from 6:45 pm to 9:00 pm. All students will receive their study manual plus 2 CDs and marine teaching charts at the first evening class. This is an excellent program for people new to boating as well as for experienced boaters who believe they would benefit from an academic update. One of the 2 instructors is a power boater and the other a sailor so the course has something for everyone.

Following the first 4 weeks, students may take both the United States Power Squadron exam to receive their Coast Guard recognized USPS certificate and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources exam to receive the DNR boating safety certificate. The USPS certificate may actually reduce the cost of marine insurance. The Michigan DNR certificate is valid in most states and is becoming a boating requirement depending on the boat operation.

The second part of the course is devoted to traditional charting and plotting, leads to the USPS near shore navigation endorsement. Most boaters use GPS, chart plotters, electronic charts now but acquiring the traditional skills is basic to understanding safe navigation. It also is great fun to learn and great fun to teach. Electronic navigation will be included in this section.

Finally, the course is open to anyone so you might tell your friends and family about it. It lays a great foundation for anyone wanting to take the advanced USPS courses, starting with seamanship, then on to piloting and advanced piloting.



Stannard Rock Light in Lake Superior near the Apostle Islands.

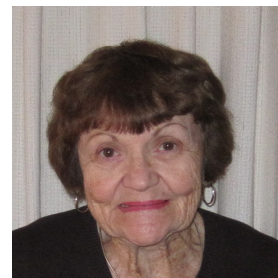


Wave covering the ship.



Secretary's Message

Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan



The present winter may seem frightful, but it has been superb for watching icebreakers at work. An ideal location is Algonac State Park along the St. Clair River, easily accessible in Southeastern Michigan. First, ice accumulates in the lower part of the river. Second, waterside parking is handy without getting stuck and lastly, several restaurants are open year-round.

An excellent time was from the January 1st until the Soo Locks closed January 15th when lake shipping essentially stops. During this 2 week period almost all of the freighters required an icebreaker escort, either one of several Coast Guard 140' bay-class cutters or the Canadian *Samuel Risely*. Bob and I spent a full day in January watching the *Samuel Risely* and *Neah Bay* escort several freighters through the river ice. *Risely* led Algoma Central's *Algoma Olympic* (formerly the *Canadian Olympic*) but it could not maintain way so *Neah Bay* was forced to double back and get in close to loosen *Olympic*. It was noisy!

The next good time to witness this show will be early April just after the Soo Locks open March 25th. Go to www.marinetraffic.com and if icebreakers are in the St. Clair River with several freighters, grab your scanner, binoculars, camera and you will have a rewarding day.

Just after New Year's Day, the USCG *Hollyhock*, a Juniper-class, 225-foot buoy tender that also breaks ice was leading Great Lakes Fleet's 1,000' *Edgar B. Speer* through the ice west of Gray's Reef when *Hollyhock* suddenly hit solid ice and halted. *Speer* could neither stop nor turn so "rear-ended" *Hollyhock*, causing significant damage. I wonder if they had their seat belts on. Imagine the language on the bridge of both!



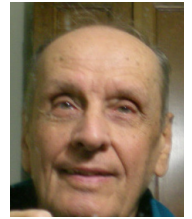
The picture was taken of Bay Shipbuilding, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin on Thursday, January 23, 2014. The boats pictured are, from left to right, the M/V *Stewart J. Cort*, M/V *Joseph L. Block*, M/V *Paul R. Tregurtha*, M/V *CSL Niagra*, M/V *Edgar B. Speer*, S/S *Wilfred Sykes*, and floating dry-dock *Manitowoc*. Photo by Hannah Davis



Inland Steel's *Joseph L. Block* behind a sailboat in The Mackinaw sailboat Race



Education Officer's Message
Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life



Congratulations to our three Piloting students that passed their exam, Bob and Debra Iacovacci and Randy Stevenson, and to Art Pinsak, their teacher.

Our Basic Boating Class - ABC (Americas Boating Class) - will start Monday May 6, 2014 and run for 8 weeks. Graduates will receive their USPS and Michigan DNR Boating Safety Certificate. Call 734-971-6589 for questions.

Our Weather class started Wednesday February 12, 2014 with 7 students, and runs for 10 weeks with Dr. Randy Stevenson teaching at his office at Accio Energy Inc.

Please send (AAPSClasses@aol.com) a list of the USPS courses and seminars that you want to study during the next 5 years so we can plan and advertise these and attract more students.

Please look at the variety of boating topics we offer at United States Power Squadron's website, http://www.usps.org/e_stuff/public_ed.htm

USPS offers On-the-water training, and certifications for Inland and Coastal Navigation. Go to www.usps.org/national/eddept/boc/main.htm#news If you are interested in this, please call me 734-769-3476.

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

Environmental Branch US Army Core of Engineers - Detroit District <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/>

Great Lakes water levels: <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/GreatLakesInformation/GreatLakes-WaterLevels.aspx>

Put NOAA charts into your Garmin GPS <http://www.gpsfiledepot.com/tutorials/creating-raster-noaa-charts-for-garmin-gps-units-with-moagu/>

File a float plan so they will know where to find you. Float Plan form http://www.usps.org/o_stuff/fp_form.html



Executive Officer's Message Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN



A Hoy Here,

Good news! I am in receipt of 20 VSC stickers for 2014. I know that in the middle of an Arctic deep freeze it's hard to imagine that Spring is on the way. Well, hang in there because we'll be ready to do vessel safety inspections again this year. Lt/C Curtis Hoff and I will be ready to set a date for inspecting boats to see if they in fact pass the test. We have been doing this program for our squadron for the last 3 years. We have always been well received by those wanting an inspection, even those who don't pass. Warm weather is on the way and Spring will right behind. Hang in there.

Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN, P/C

EXO AAS&PS

Please send (AAPSclasses@aol.com) a list of the USPS courses and seminars that you want to study during the next 5 years so we can plan and advertise these and attract more students.

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Boat Show Schedule:

March 1 Quiet Water Symposium MSU Hall
This one day show features kayaks, canoes and sailboats.

March 27-29 Lansing Boat Show Lansing Center
This show features local marinas. Pontoon boats and fishing boats are the dominant boats at this show. We share space with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary for this show.

GRAND RAPIDS BOAT SHOW is during the same time frame as the Detroit Boat Show. Members of Grand Rapids, Muskegon and Kalamazoo Power Squadrons man a booth at this event. It is a good show to go to if you want to check out boats and can't make it to Detroit.



Pictures from AASPS Change of Watch January 2014



D/L/C Duane Carlson, SN , Cdr. Bob Buchanan, P



D/L/C Duane Carlson, SN , Cdr. Bob Buchanan, P, Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan, Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Lt/C Marlene Barr



P/C, John Barr, AP, Lt/C Marlene Barr and John Barr, Jr



Karen Snyder, P, Peter Hinmann, S, D/Lt/C Duane Carlson, SN



Lt. Arthur Pinsak, SN and Lt. Sharon Pinsak



Cdr. Sue Rayburn, SN, P/R/C Pat Johnson S, P/C Carolyn Knaggs, P



Cdr. Bob Buchanan, P, Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan, Luz and P/C Bob Snider, SN



Les Cheneaux Islands in northern Lake Huron



This web site has great maps and pictures of world shipping. <http://www.marine-traffic.com/>

Download NOAA BookletCharts Free and treat yourself to a desktop cruise. Use google earth to see pictures from the area. www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/BookletChart.html



Lake of the Woods northern section in Minnesota/Canada



Zippel Bay State Park on Lake of the Woods in Minnesota

Lake of the Woods International Sailing Association Regatta. This is a wilderness regatta where sail boats race from one campsite to another. Most nights during the week the fleet meets up at a wilderness anchorage. It's a sail boat race and camping adventure.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/31/travel/31lakeofthewoods-explorer.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

Download NOAA BookletCharts Free and treat yourself to a desktop cruise. Use Google Earth to see pictures from the area. www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/BookletChart.html

There are many companies that give discounts to USPS members. To see this list go www.USPS.org and click on Index, then member benefits.

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 and select District 9 Squadrons.

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

Please check USPS website www.USPS.org and websites of squadrons near you for their activities that you might want to attend.

A Partial List of Events .

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Mar 9		Blessing of the Fleet	at Mariner's - Church, Detroit at 11 AM
Mar. 10	AASPS	General meeting.	See page 3.
Mar. 13-16		Spring Boat Show at Suburban Collection Showplace	http://suburbancollectionshowplace.com/
Apr. 4-6	D9	Spring Conference.	See page 8.
April 21	AASPS	General Meeting. Roger LeLievre: "Ride along on a Great Lakes Freighter."	
May 6	AASPS	ABC course will start at WCC	on May 6th and run for 8 weeks

FOR SALE

MENS UNIFORM A, B
(Or multiple combinations)

Jacket 46 Long Trouser 38/32 shirt 42 Shirt 17/34
White Trouser 38/32 Cap 7 1/2

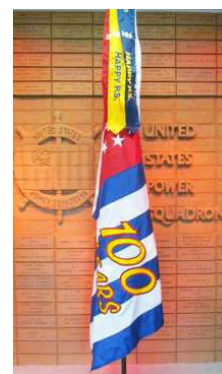
LADIES UNIFORM A Jacket 40 Reg Shirt 16/32 Jacket 22 Trouser 38/27
Skirt 22

INFORMAL ATTIRE

Blazer 46 Long
Grey Trouser 38/32

Insignia included. An opportunity to acquire necessary items for fall and winter business and social events.

Contact: Art Pinsak (734) 973-0441 or apnsharon@aol.com



A wave of supercooled water at Mackinaw Island froze when it rose above the surface



From The Barometer - newsletter of the Tip of the Mitt Sail and Power Squadron Feb. 2014.

The North Star, a navigational guidepost, is getting brighter – reversing two decades of dimming. It is expanding at a rate 100 times faster than expected by astronomers.

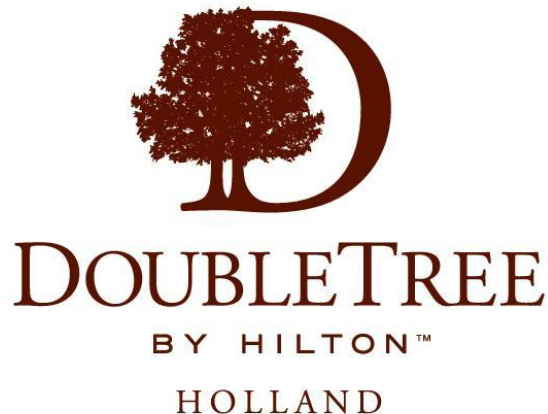
2014 is not only the 100th Anniversary of USPS, it is also the 50th Anniversary of the Cooperative Charting Program, an agreement established between USPS and NOAA in 1963

D9 Spring Conference 2014

Dates

4 - 6 April 2014

Location



Room Rates

\$89.00

After 14 March 2014

\$129.00

To view hotel information or enjoy a photo tour of the hotel, www.holland.doubletree.com

To make reservations:

1. Phone the hotel directly at 616-394-0111. Please mention group code **USP**.
2. Phone their reservation specialist office at 1-800-222-8733. Please mention group code **USP**.
3. Visit their web site at www.holland.doubletree.com. In the field provided, enter group code **USP**.

Please make your reservations early for both sleeping rooms and hospitality rooms. You will pay more after the cut-off date of 14 March 2014. We have a very good room rate before the cut-off date. I cannot guarantee you will be able to get a room after the cut-off date, so please reserve early.

Hospitality Rooms Reservations: Please send me (mike.rachuk@gmail.com) an e-mail after you have made your reservation for a hospitality room. In the e-mail tell me the name of the squadron and the name of the contact person with e-mail address or phone number of the contact. The information will help us make sure your hospitality room is taken care of properly. Please also copy the same information to Fred Hoitash (cfdist@comcast.net).

Mike Rachuk
D9 conference Coordinator