

# The Porthole

April 2014



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 page 3



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Treasurer: Lt/C Marlene Barr  
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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: Lt. Randy Stevenson, AP  
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Conference Coord.: Lt. Sharon A. Pinsak  
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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 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.

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We thank Bradley and George Schwartz for help with computer consulting.





Sail and Power Boating Education

<http://www.aaspsq.org>

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron

6 P.M. Monday April 21, 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/>



Roger LeLievre, editor of *Know Your Ships*

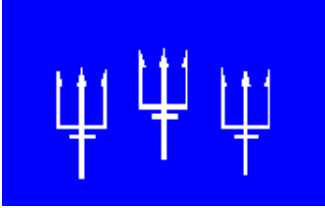


Carlyle Grill

Roger LeLievre will present his program “Ride Along on a Great Lakes Freighter”



The *Alpena* passing the *Stewart J. Cort* at 9 mile point in the lower St. Mary's River.  
Photo by Roger LeLievre.



## Commander's Message

Cdr. Robert Buchanan, P



### Commander's Comments

First, we are looking forward to our April 21st AASPS meeting with Roger LeLievre as our speaker. Roger founded and operates the Marine Publishing Co. which each year publishes *Know Your Ships*, the great lakes guide for lake shipping enthusiasts and boat watchers. *Know Your Ships* is compact but is the definitive guide that contains all that anyone needs to know about the lake carriers. Roger has told me that the 2014 edition will be available at our meeting so this will be a wonderful opportunity to obtain an autographed copy. I carry a copy in our car during our summer travels around the lakes, also will need several copies for our family. In other words, remember to bring some cash.

Roger is one of the very few who have traveled on a lake freighter, so I suggested that he talk to us about riding along on a lake carrier. This will be an opportunity to hear about life aboard the magnificent ships that we only see from a distance as we watch them silently glide past.

Many of us recognize Roger from another role. He was the art and music editor for the former Ann Arbor News, continues as a free-lance writer. He divides his time between Ann Arbor and Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. When you visit the website [www.boat.nerd.com](http://www.boat.nerd.com) and go to the news section, you will often find his photographs of shipping activity along the St. Mary's River. I hope that you will share my enthusiasm for this program.

In the previous Porthole, I said that our next America's Boating Course will start at Washtenaw Community College on Tuesday May 6th. When checking the USPS website, our AASPS course is one of 3 in Southeastern Michigan that will be presented in the Spring and includes the full 12 hour navigation program. This includes both traditional and electronic navigation. Students can receive both the USPS USCG-recognized certificate and the Michigan DNR boating safety certificate. These are two separate tests. If you know of anyone who might be interested, I suggest that they call me (734-971-6589) or send an e-mail, [buchananra@msn.com](mailto:buchananra@msn.com)

Our strength is our education program directed by our Squadron Education Officer, Lt/Cdr Ron Schwartz SN. As needed, our P/C John Barr AP teaches Seamanship and P/C Arthur Pinsak SN teaches Piloting and Advanced Piloting. Presently Lt Randy Stevenson AP is conducting the Weather course.

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



## Secretary's Message

Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan



Bob and I have both grown up in the midwest but this has been a winter to remember. We do not expect to hear any complaints when the hot summer days arrive!

In the previous Porthole, I talked about the excitement of watching icebreakers at work in the St. Clair River during the first week in January. This event will be repeated probably at the end of March or more likely the first week in April because the Soo Locks re-open March 25th to start the lake shipping season. Again, go to [www.marinetraffic.com](http://www.marinetraffic.com) and look for icebreakers near Algonac.

The Flint squadron printed the USPS oath in their newsletter. It contains wisdom so is repeated here. Especially important is to render assistance whenever possible and to bring honor to our Ensign. The United States Power Squadron Oath "I do solemnly pledge myself to promote and perform high standards of navigation and seamanship. To abide by the bylaws of the United States Power and District or Squadron of which I may be a member. To maintain and operate my boat legally and in a manner that will not cause damage or discomfort to others. To render assistance whenever possible to any other afloat. And at all times to conduct myself in a manner that will add Prestige, Honor and Respect to the organization whose Ensign I am privileged to fly."



The *Walter J McCarthy* is leaving the Poe Lock on a stormy fall day heading out into Lake Superior and just passing under the International Bridge and the Canadian National railroad bridge. From the Jeannine and Robert Buchanan collection.



## Education Officer's Message

Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life



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

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

Please send me (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, [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.

USPS offers On-the-water training, and certifications for Inland and Coastal Navigation. Go to [www.usps.org/national/ed-dept/boc/main.htm#news](http://www.usps.org/national/ed-dept/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](http://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/GreatLakesWaterLevels.aspx>

Put NOAA charts into your Garmin GPS

<http://www.gpsfiledepot.com/tutorials/creating-raster-noaa-charts-for-garmin-gps-units-with-moagu/>



Weather Class of spring 2014. Peter Hinmann, Carolyn Knaggs, Bob Iacovacci, Mark Todd, Karen Snyder, Nancy Stock and teacher, Dr. Randy Stevenson. Photo by Ron Schwartz.



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

There are many companies that give discounts to USPS members. To see this list go [www.USPS.org](http://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](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.

#### A Partial List of Events .

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT AND LOCATION
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 Call 734-971-6589



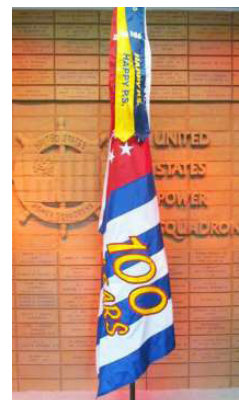
FOR SALE

The *Arthur J Anderson* is heading up into Lake Huron above Sarnia. Remember that the *Anderson* was the ship that followed the *Edmund Fitzgerald*. Her captain, Captain Jesse Cooper, was the first to call the Soo Coast Guard and state; "I am very concerned about the welfare of the *Fitzgerald*." From the Jeannine and Robert Buchanan collection.

MENS UNIFORM A, B Jacket 46 Long, Trouser 38/32, Shirt 42, Shirt 17/34  
Blazer 46 Long, White Trouser 38/32, Grey Trouser 38/32, Cap 7 1/2

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

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](mailto:apnsharon@aol.com)





## Executive Officer's Message

Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN



A Hoy here,

I know we are all looking forward to summer after a brutal winter. Soon snow and ice will be all but forgotten, and warm temperatures will surround us. Lt/C Curtis Hoff and I have completed the refresher training for vessel safety certification, as required by U.S.P.S. I have the 2014 V.S.C stickers in my possession, and as soon as possible we will set up a day for conducting vessel examinations. I am looking forward to spending the time with boaters who are interested in making sure their vessels meet the requirements set out in this program. Hopefully, we will have another successful year in the V.S.C. program. I thank you all for that you do to make our squadron continue in its fine tradition in bring boating safety to the boat public.

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Please send me (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.

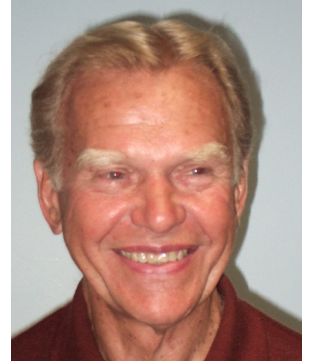
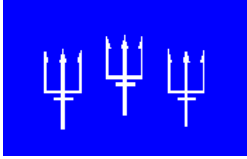
Please look at the variety of boating topics we offer at United States Power Squadron's website, [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org). If you have a desire to enhance and share your knowledge in any boating subject, please let me know. We can probably get others to share the teaching responsibilities. It's fun to teach and learn.

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Interlake Steamship Company's *Herbert C. Jackson* is shown in the MacArthur Lock on an early fall day. Notice the house flags flying. From the Jeannine and Robert Buchanan collection.





### D/9 Spring Conference – 2014

The trip to Holland to attend the District 9 Spring Conference was interesting. One would expect to see activity at the tulip farms; instead, ice pileup along the lake shore dominated the scene. This conference is the one at which the previous year accomplishments and activities are summarized, annual forecasts are presented and the incoming D/9 Bridge is inducted. H. Jay Stevens, SN from South Bend is the incoming commander. This year the D/9 Council meeting and the Conference were combined into two consecutive business meetings following a luncheon with about 110 people in attendance. Various awards (other than education accomplishments) were presented. Ann Arbor was in the mix. The National Communications Committee recognized distinctive performance of both the Porthole staff and the AASPS website. The other award is our twentieth consecutive Educational Fund Certificate of Merit. Ann Arbor was also recognized as one of the top five of twenty-two squadrons to increase membership during 2013. It was interesting that Kalamazoo, an interior squadron, won the award for greatest increase and retention of members. AASPS was not a top competitor for the total 1947 vessel safety checks performed by 168 examiners. As one would expect, the shoreline squadrons had the most inspections, and checkers with Grand Traverse Bay, amidst all their beautiful facilities, lead the group. Incidentally, 13% of inspected vessels failed.

The hospitality rooms, as usual provided an excellent opportunity to renew acquaintances and to socialize with members from all over the state; isn't this one of our basic precepts. Thirteen squadrons participated and six were active co-hosts. An objection at the meeting felt that more hospitality rooms would be set up if conferences were held in larger metropolitan areas (tabled).

Saturday morning seminars were mostly Bridge Officer meetings; also a GPS seminar and the ubiquitous membership seminar. But this membership seminar was different; a giant leap forward as they attempted to bring us into the world as it exists today. The D/9 Membership Committee is doing a great job and their enthusiasm is contagious. A few seminar highlights. Education is in transition. Printed media press releases are passé. We must focus on the various customers that we are trying to reach instead of developing programs that we like and presuming they will be acceptable. The quest for time out of the lives of all the various generations of people that we try to reach is highly competitive. We must define what we want to sell and adjust to multigenerational customer needs, both in content and pricing. In the field of public relations, media obviously is the prime channel of communications rather than press releases. The social media with universal coverage is the way to interact and to tout our product. The committee lauds the websites as a good basis but they must be kept current. We must promote USPS education and membership rather than deferring to other competing organizations; keep in mind that we are competing for customer's time and our programs are top priority. The D/9 Committee logic addresses the basic problems in their attempt to bring us up to today. Their hope is that their message resonates and we quit beating a dead horse.

All in all, if you were not there you missed an invigorating weekend.