

The Porthole

December 2014



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

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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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.

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Sail and Power Boating Education

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron

Christmas Party

5 P.M. Sunday Dec. 14, 2014

Cdr. Robert Buchanan's home

3045 Foxcroft St., Ann Arbor

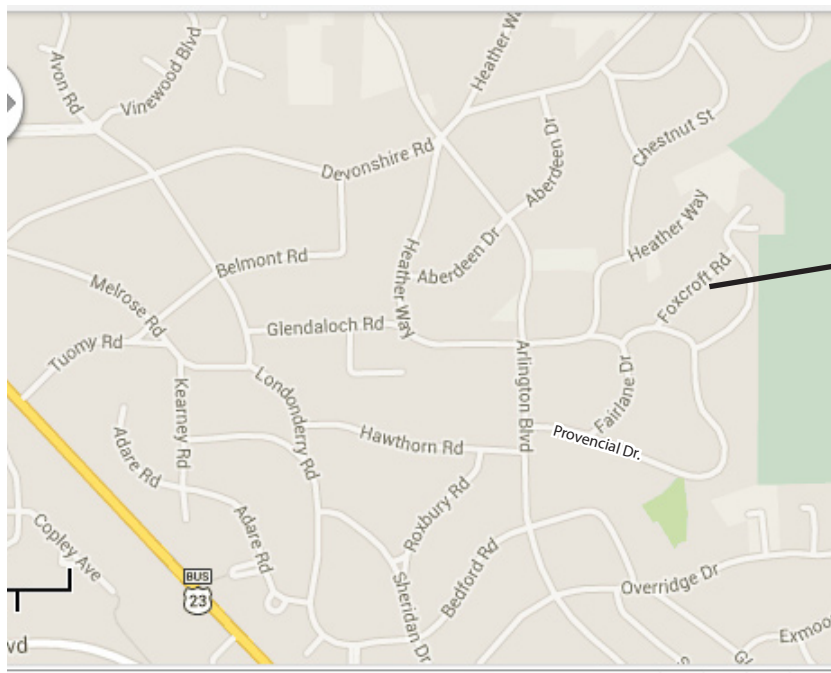
Lat. 42° 16.1' N, Long. 83° 42.2' W

Potluck - Please bring a dish - salad or dessert - to share. Please call Jeannine Buchanan for reservations and tell her what food you will bring . 734- 971-6589.

Gift raffle. Please bring unwrapped gift items of value less than \$10. Raffle tickets will be sold - proceeds are donations to the Squadron.



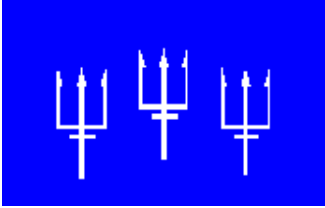
Buchanan's house



Directions to Buchanan's. Take Washtenaw to Arlington - the 2nd street west of Huron Parkway. Go north on Arlington to Provincial and follow Provincial Dr. to Foxcroft (3045).



Google map



Commander's Message

Cdr. Robert Buchanan, P



Most importantly, I ask that you read the secretary's section regarding our squadron annual Christmas party.

Our November squadron meeting was a memorable event in the life of AASPS. First, we achieved a record attendance with guests and members from other squadrons. We were most fortunate to again have our P/C Jadwin Root join us. Two past District Commanders were present, Linda Lalonde and Jack Knaggs. Linda has had some health problems but seemed to be back to her usual joyful self.

Near the close of the presentation, Randy Tisch showed a video of taking his yacht, Agro, through a Force 10 gale in route to New Zealand; it had a happy outcome. The pictures made all of us gasp.

Most of you know that, in addition to being a sailor, I am a boatnerd with a love of Great Lakes shipping dating back to my childhood days spent with my grandparents in the Soo, Ontario. The lakes shipping season will likely extend right up to January 15, 2015 when the Soo locks close for the season for 2 reasons. First, the weather-related delay in opening the season last spring meant that transporting taconite, thermal grade coal, road salt, and limestone fell behind schedule so the freighters have struggled all season to catch up. Second, a bumper grain harvest requires that grain must be transported from Thunder Bay to overseas destinations. The St. Lawrence Seaway usually closes about a week earlier than the Soo Locks depending on traffic.

The sudden arrival of really cold weather opens an opportunity for boatnerds. The St. Clair River may become jammed with ice in late December and early January due to ice moving down from Lake Huron. This requires that icebreakers, including our friend the Bristol Bay minus her barge, must work in the lower St. Clair River to keep the freighters moving. If you see icebreakers and ships stopped on the www.marinetraffic.com website, you know that trouble has occurred. The best place to park and watch the icebreakers at work is the small park at Marine City directly on the river. Generally the ships communicate on Channel 6. If you do not have a marine radio/scanner, you can listen to Sarnia Traffic over the internet through www.broadcastify.com. I often sit at home and listen to Soo Traffic and the Lockmaster together on our iPhone or computer at www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/0644. A picture of icebreakers at work is included. All this can be a wonderful early January day.



Mobile Bay breaking ice
on the St. Clair river



Secretary's Message

Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan



Our squadron Christmas party will be at our house, 3045 Foxcroft, on Sunday, December 14th at 5:00 pm as convenient for everyone. We will follow our tradition of everyone bringing their favorite dish with the squadron providing the main dish. Our social coordinator, Sharon Pinsak, will again suggest a variety of dishes. (734) 971-6589

Here are a few tips.

- An RSVP to Sharon Pinsak at (734) 973-0441 or myself is important. We would be delighted to have a full house but advance knowledge means that we will have goodies for everyone.
- The squadron provides the main dish but I ask you to bring your favorite dish to share; perhaps even a salad or desert. For example, we are again looking forward to Marlene Barr's special bean dish. Would you tell either Sharon or myself what you would like to bring so that we do not have all salads but no pie. Pie is really important on a winter evening.
- Sharon, with Art's help, will conduct our squadron raffle, so bring an unwrapped item to be raffled. Examples might be a bottle of wine, something from the hardware store like a flashlight. Then Sharon will sell raffle tickets for the drawing. This raffle is a lot of fun and provides a small income for the squadron.



Penobscot Bay breaking ice on
the St. Clair River

November meeting attendees



Our speaker Randy Tisch and his wife, Rebecca



P/D/C James G. Knaggs, SN and wife Lt Carolyn Knaggs, P



Stf/C Linda J. LaLonde, Lt Gerard M. LaLonde, S, Lt Maureen J. Smith and Lt William R. Smith, AP

Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends

November meeting attendees



Lt/C Ronald Schwartz, SN and P/Lt/C E. Shirley Schwartz, N



Lt Sharon A. Pinsak and Lt Arthur P. Pinsak, SN



Cdr R. A. Buchanan, P, Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan, Peter Hinman, S, and Karen C. Snyder, P



Richard A. Meyers



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



Bill and Marlene Thomas and P/C Jadwin C. Root, SN



Education Officer's Message

Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life



We give a big Holiday Thankyou to our 2014 teachers, Cdr. Bob Buchanan, Larry Marentette, Art Pinsak, and Randy Stevenson, and to all the other volunteers that keep AASPS vital. Best Wishes to all for a Happy Holiday Season!

JN class continues. We have 5 students. The class is meeting Tuesday evenings at St. Joe's Hospital Womens Health Center 2nd floor classroom 2. I am doing JN also as a review, and have been taking good Sun dipshort sights at Gallup Park -- lots of fun.

On-Line seminars are now available -- developed by USPS and Boat US. Three online seminars now available - Weather for Boaters, Partner in Command and Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes. <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/promos/quimby-ad-finals.jpg> or <http://www.boatus.org/course-preview/pic/index.html>

We have a variety of **2 hour seminars** to choose from with no exams, just pure pleasure. We will offer some of these if we have students interested. See <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/seminars/main.htm>

Giant squid attacked Greenpeace submarine near Alaska. See it at <https://vine.co/GreenpeaceUSA>
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 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 Basic Boating Classes can be found at toll free 1-888-367-8777 (1-888-FOR-USPS) Or go to www.usps.org

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.

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/>

Web sites of ocean cruisers and other subjects of interest;

Randy Tisch's world cruise www.tischtravels.com

Blue Planet Odyssey <http://cornellsailing.com/sail-the-odyssey/blue-planet-odyssey/>

American Sailing Association <http://www.asa.com/>

American Sailing Institute <http://americansailinginstitute.org/>

Mat Rutherford www.oceanresearchprojects.org

Tabor boy : 100 years at sea <http://www.cruisingworld.com/find/Tabor%20boy>



Download NOAA Booklet Charts 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 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 .

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT AND LOCATION
Dec. 14	AASPS	Christmas party at Buchanan's house. See page 3.
Jan. 19	AASPS	Change of Watch at Carlyle Grill
Jan. 20-24	USPS	USPS Annual meeting in Jacksonville Florida

FOR SALE

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

