

The Porthole

May 2015



United States Power Squadrons

usps.org

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron

www.aaspsq.org/

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



United States Power Squadrons (USPS)

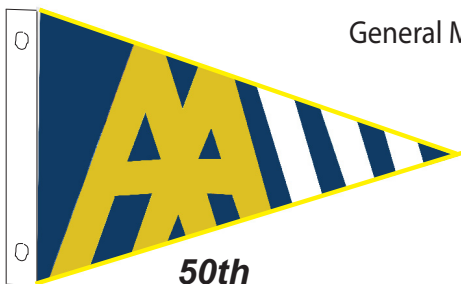
Chartered 1914

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron (AASPS)

Chartered 1965



Boating Education



**50th
Anniversary**

1965 - 2015

General Meetings are usually held each month, Sept. thru June

See page 3

50 YEARS SERVING
THE BOATING PUBLIC

Visit our web site
www.aaspsq.org

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Chairman of Local Boards: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life
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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. Articles may be reprinted without permission, if credit is given to the author and to the original source. The Porthole is sent in color via e-mail, or via US mail in black and white.

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



United States Power Squadrons

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron Meeting 6 P. M. Monday 18 May 2015
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/>



Curtis and Melanie Hoff on their boat in Washington D.C. It's a tough life, but somebody has to do it.

AASPS May Program: Members Curtis and Melanie Hoff's boating adventures. Curtis and Melanie have a Fleming 55 motor yacht and lead a boating life many of us would like.

The past few summers have found them cruising either in Maine, Long Island, the Rhode Island/Massachusetts area and, in 2009, Chesapeake Bay. They are now (May 4) docked in Washington, D.C. Generally in the winter they head to the Florida Keys or Bahamas. Next winter they are planning on Cuba. Earlier this year, they were on a friend's boat heading to New Zealand when Curtis' father passed away, so the situation was difficult. Since then he's been helping his mother with the transition. so has not had much boating time the past few months except a week here and there

Curtis says they are rarely in Ann Arbor due to their crazy travel schedule. They just got back from the boat, then they left for Telluride, CO for a month of skiing. Then they will be on the boat from around March 1st until mid-May. His daughter graduates college late May, so he will be back in Ann Arbor for the last two weeks of May. Fortunately, that overlaps with the May AASPS meeting, so Curtis and Melanie can personally share some of their boating adventures with us at the Carlyle Grill. You won't want to miss it!

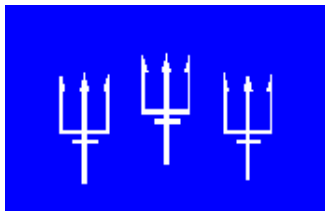
Lt/C Karen Snyder, P, Administrative Officer



Hoff's boat

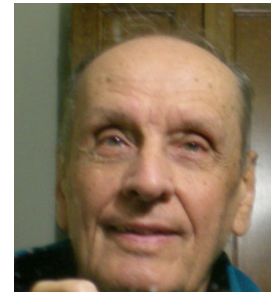


Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.



Commander's Message

Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN



We thank our last month's speakers, Peter Hinman and Karen Snyder, for telling us about their trip to the Galapagos Islands and Machu Petchu. At our next meeting Curtis Hoff will tell us about his cruising along our Atlantic Ocean coast.

The Michigan DNR Boating Handbook has the latest Michigan Boating Laws. <https://www.boat-ed.com/michigan/studyGuide/10102301> You can test your boating knowledge with the Mini Boating Test at <http://www.usps.org/nsbt/modules.htm>

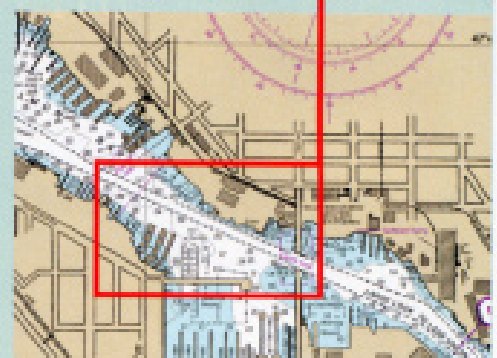
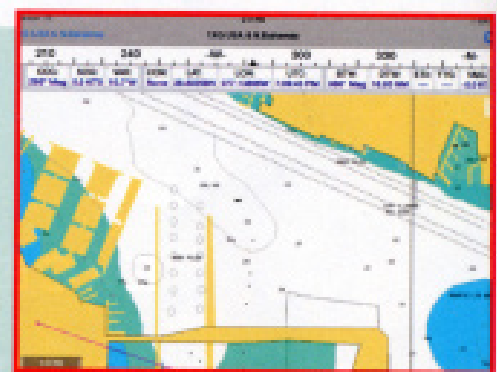
Boat Owners Association of the United States or BoatU.S. is a commercial and membership organization that sells boat insurance, boat towing insurance, operates tow boats in many areas of USA, lobbies in Washington, D. C. for the interests of Recreational Boaters, prints a very good bi-monthly magazine for recreational boaters and offers on-line boating safety courses that meet NASBLA (National Association of State Boating Law Administrators) (<https://www.nasbla.org/>) state requirements. See <https://www.boat-ed.com/michigan>. Membership in BoatU.S. costs about \$15 a year for USPS members. Contact them by phone or e-mail. 800-395-2628 or Membership@BoatUS.com. I have been a member since about 1972 and heartily recommend it. I really enjoy their magazine. The following article is from their April/May 2015 issue.

Raster vs Vector Charts

Raster navigation charts (RNC) (bottom right) are simply a digital image of a traditional paper chart. They have the same look as a paper chart but can be viewed on computers and used by navigation systems and apps. All the information that appears on a paper chart also appears on the RNC, which has advantages and disadvantages. Some boaters want to see all the information presented, but to others this can seem cluttered. While you can zoom on an RNC, as you zoom in, you lose sharpness of the image.

Vector electronic navigation charts (ENC) (top right) are produced from a vector database of features, and look different from a traditional paper chart. Changes in depth may be displayed with different colors instead of soundings, and there often are fewer land features displayed. An ENC does not display all data at all levels of zoom. This presents a cleaner, less cluttered view. As you zoom in, the information changes, often getting more detailed; it doesn't just get larger. ENC's can have layers of information that can be turned on and off – such as information on marina services – creating a dynamic experience.

RNC's and ENC's are equally accurate and reliable. Many software programs include both, but some use one or the other exclusively. Choosing what's best for you often comes down to personal preference. Do you prefer the comfort and familiarity of a traditional paper chart, with all the data in one view? Or do you prefer a cleaner view, with the ability to zoom in to larger scale charts and other information layers? Both RNC's and ENC's can be viewed and downloaded free from www.charts.noaa.gov (click on Graphical Catalog). Take a look at both types for some of your favorite boating spots and you'll get a feel for the differences in how the data is displayed. – S.S.

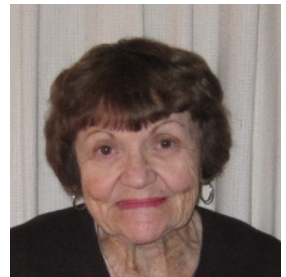


Ballard Harbor, near Seattle. A raster chart (above) shows all the information all the time. A vector chart (top) allows you to declutter and zoom in, so you can focus on the info you need.



Secretary's Message

Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan



The D9 Educational Department Bristol Bay Cruise is scheduled for June 23rd with the 24th as the rain date. The Bristol Bay is a USCG cutter based at the USCG station in Detroit. Briefly, the cruise leaves at 7:00 pm, goes down the Detroit River toward the Ambassador Bridge, then turns up bound into Lake St. Clair, reaching the lower lake about 9:30 pm at dusk. Then the cutter will turn back down the River so the Detroit skyline is brightly lit with the lights of the Bridge clearly visible. This provides a wonderful opportunity to identify all the nav aids at night off of the provided charts. The cutter will also follow the Peche Island range, providing a nice demonstration of how to use range lights. Having sailed at night, I can assure you that this is a superb experience to become comfortable with night boating.

Night boating is very different. Other vessels can be identified only by their side lights and steaming/masthead lights. These light patterns must be correctly interpreted to determine whether you might be on a collision course or not.

In addition to a learning experience about night nav aids, ranges, this is also a wonderful opportunity to ride a USCG cutter up and down the Detroit River at night. You have the "run of the ship", and can spend the entire evening on the bridge if you wish. Our favorite spot to ride is back on the fantail. A picture of Bristol Bay is attached. Chairs and tables are placed on the barge in front as a place to study charts.

Families with children over age 12 can join the cruise. Bring a jacket or sweater, binoculars, camera, and your marine scanner (listen on Channel 12). I can send the reservation form which is necessary because entry into the Coast Guard station requires a security check.



"The Bristol Bay (#102) is one of the 140' Bay class icebreakers/cutters. It is the only cutter fitted with a 120' barge used for setting and retrieving navigational buoys."





Assistant Secretary's Message

P/C Bob Buchanan, P



In last month's Porthole I suggested that a tablet can be used as an onboard chart plotter by downloading a marine chart app onto your GPS equipped tablet. I can now report that this "works like a charm."

Select the correct app for your tablet's operating system, for example Android or iPad. The internet contains several good reviews of available apps that range in price from zero to \$99. The expensive one is for tablets that do not contain a GPS; a GPS is added by connecting a small thumb drive via a USB port. This should not be necessary with currently available tablets that have land navigational features.

I selected "MX Marine" because it was inexpensive (\$6.99), easy to download, and employed raster charts. A raster chart is a nautical chart that has been scanned so it contains the same information as found on the original chart. The download required about 5 minutes. I then opened the chart listing for our geographic area and found the proper chart. This is not an endorsement of "MX Marine" because other equally good apps are available.

We departed Fort Walton Beach Yacht Club in Florida on our son's sailboat and headed East under full sail. The tablet chart displayed our boat, SOG (speed over the ground) and True course. All of the navigational aids (buoys, etc.) were clearly shown. Waypoints could be added, and courses planned. A red line from the boat icon was the True course displayed on the tablet chart. Bearings and distances were simple to calculate.

This provides the recreational boater with an inexpensive navigational system that is reliable and accurate without the cost of a conventional chart plotter. A few issues could be:

1. Battery recharging may be necessary, especially on a long passage. The tablet requires internet access, but this should not be a problem.
2. Nothing can replace a sound knowledge of traditional plotting. This is difficult when underway under full sail, but remains an essential skill.
3. Also, nothing can replace "seaman's eye". This means looking at navigational aids and landmarks, then relating the observations to a chart for a "visual fix." In other words, look around without focusing only on the tablet screen.



Lt/C Jeannine and P/C Bob Buchanan, P, at our April meeting



Chairman of Local Board's Message P/C Art Pinsak, SN



USPS District 9 Spring Conference – 2015

The D9 Spring Conference was held at the luxurious Shanty Creek ski resort high above the east shore of Lake Bellaire 24-26 April. Snow banks were common and the slopes were covered, but no skiers were observed. The resort is complex; a map was necessary to maneuver about.

Friday was a real fun night. Nine hospitality rooms were decorated but a few of them were co-hosted by two squadrons; a total of eleven squadrons participated. The theme at this conference was classical music and shows. Many participants dressed in apparel appropriate to the various musicals. If one were so inclined, a movie could be viewed in almost every room.

The Saturday morning seminar schedule included the usual meetings of all five Bridge positions but, in addition, four non-technical seminars were presented. These four related to interesting incidents and sailing activities; for example, I learned that a former employee walked on ice from South Manitou Island to Leland. It appeared that these non-technical seminars had the greatest attendance.

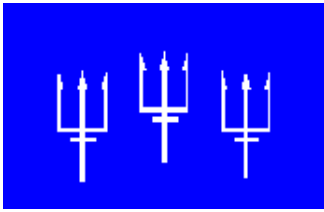
Vessel Safety Check seminar (VSC) was certainly worthwhile; some major changes. A new VSC manual formatted by US Coast Guard is available, but only electronically; no hard copies unless made by the user. All prior versions are cancelled. Two new chapters, Paddlecraft and Operating Facilities, have been added, and the comic book format has been edited out. Everybody must be recertified. Look at [USPS.org/national/vsc](https://www.usps.org/national/vsc) As a point of interest, 161 D9 examiners conducted 2068 VSCs with 87% passing. Detroit PS led D9 with 150 VSCs.

The Marine Electronics course is being rewritten to accommodate the major changes that have been occurring in the recent past. As a minor example of impact changes, buttons are out and touch screen is in. USPS will use the Canadian teaching manual for at least one and one half years until a new USPS manual is available. It seems that anyone who completed electronics more than ten years ago would be well advised to at least audit any electronics course on line.

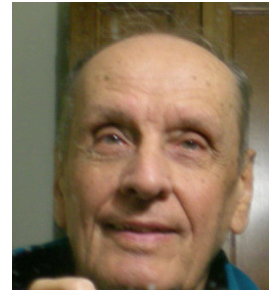
The current theme of the year relates to marketing. The by-word of the conference was "USPS is the best kept secret on the water". Marketing was strongly emphasized in a seminar devoted to the topic as well as by Peter Mitchelson in his commentary from the National Commander. A multitude of outlets were enumerated that can be used at national, district, and local levels. Everybody needs to interact through social media. Apps reach large audiences in very short order. I am sure all squadrons will be receiving details.

The afternoon business meeting with 88 registered and a few unregistered members in attendance was primarily Bridge Officer reports and the annual Change-of-Watch. Also some awards not related to educational achievements were presented. The incoming D9 Commander is Dawn Flynn, JN, member Lansing PS. Among distribution of awards for outstanding contributions, Ann Arbor received a certificate "In Recognition of Distinctive Performance for USPS Publications", certificate for an Outstanding Web Site, and our twenty first "USPS Educational Fund Certificate of Merit" recognizing 100% participation.

Everyone should plan to attend a D9 Conference for fun, education, and a chance to socialize with fellow water enthusiasts.



Education Officer's Message
Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN



Our May 12 ABC class (America's Boating Course) **was canceled by** Washtenaw Community College. Info about the ABC course can be found at toll free 1-888-367-8777 (1-888-FOR-USPS) Or go to: www.usps.org. Our JN class is continuing.

From Grand Rapids April 2015 newsletter:

Mixing Boating and Alcohol Exposure to noise, vibration, sun, wind, and the motion of the water affects boat operators and passengers. Research shows that hours of exposure to boating stressors as mentioned above produces a kind of fatigue, or "boater's hypnosis" which slows reaction time almost as much as if you were legally drunk. Adding alcohol or drugs to boating stressors intensifies their affects and each drink multiplies your accident risk.

On December 27, 2014 Governor Snyder signed into law Bill HB4441, [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(ygy-eevabkdr1502ynrcyhz4\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=GetObject&objectname=2013-HB-4441](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ygy-eevabkdr1502ynrcyhz4))/mileg.aspx?page=GetObject&objectname=2013-HB-4441) , that makes the alcohol limits for boaters similar to driving an automobile. The new law took effect on March 31, 2015. It will lower the limit to 0.08 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) from 0.10 BAC along with some other important changes to the law. To summarize, if 21 or older, the limit is now 0.08 % BAC, and if under 21, you cannot operate a boat with any bodily alcohol content. The penalties for conviction have also increased. The following is a text excerpt from the new HB4441 law.

Lower the bodily alcohol content limit from 0.10 gram to 0.08 gram.

Refer to motorboats rather than vessels in provisions of Part 801 regarding operating violations.

Prohibit a person from operating a motorboat, snowmobile, or off-road recreation vehicle (ORV) with any amount of certain controlled substances in his or her body.

Prohibit a person younger than 21 from operating with any bodily alcohol content.

Increase penalties for alcohol and controlled substance operating violations if a person younger than 16 were occupying the motorboat, snowmobile, or ORV.

Revise the penalties for these operating violations.

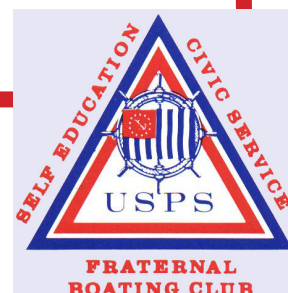
Eliminate certain presumptions regarding a defendant based on the results of a chemical analysis.

Increase the mandatory operating ban for a person who refuses to submit to a chemical test. The safest decision is not to mix boating and alcohol by not operating a boat with any alcohol in your system.



A Partial List Of Events

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT AND LOCATION
May 18	AASPS	General Meeting at Carlyle Grill. Curtis Hoff will describe his latest Ocean cruising
June 15	AASPS	Our annual picnic at Argo Pond Park
June	D9	Bristol Bay Cruise See pages 11, 12 and 13



The USPS® Pledge

I do solemnly pledge to Abide by the bylaws of the United States Power Squadrons;
 Promote high standards of navigation and seamanship;
 Maintain my boat and operate it legally: Render assistance whenever possible:
 And conduct myself in a manner that will add prestige, honor, and respect to the United States Power Squadrons.

More pictures from our April meeting



Lt Patricia A. Johnston, SN

D/Lt Suzanne M. Rayburn, SN



Executive Officer's Message

Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN



Greetings to all,

I am back in Michigan, and working on getting re-certified as a Vessel Safety Inspector. I have 10 safety stickers to dispense this spring. Once I am re-certified, I will begin to complete vessel safety checks. That should take place around the first week of June.

I hope everyone had a good winter, wherever they spent it. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting, May 18, at 6 PM, at Carlyle restaurant.

Vegetarian Squash and Broccoli Recipe. Cook acorn squash and broccoli until soft. Sprinkle with peanuts and Raspberry Vinaigrette. Enjoy.

Safety Message: If you sail on small open, hard chine sloops like the Interlake boats, be aware that if the boat gets blown over sideways (broach), the boat will not right itself. It will just lay on its side with the mast and sails in the water. There is a possibility that the person setting on the leeward side and holding the leeward jib sheet could roll over backwards, get tangled up in the jib sheet and be held under water by the jib sheet. This can be avoided, first, by just knowing this can happen. Then, sit facing forward and have one hand holding the centerboard well. The top of the well should have a handle or rope that can be gripped so the leeward passenger can hold it and not roll over into the water. Then, if the boat rolls over don't let yourself roll over into the water. You probably will slide into the water, but keep your head above the water.

More pictures from our April meeting

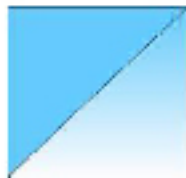


P/C Art Pinsak, SN

Lt. Sharon Pinsak

Lt. Peggy Moller

Lt. Evrard Ohou



Bristol Bay Cruise

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.

Instructions:

Yes, we are interested in joining the USPS and USCGAUX educational opportunity aboard the Coast Guard Cutter "Bristol Bay" on Tuesday June 23, 2015 and would like to reserve space now. We understand that we will be emailed further information and directions to the Bristol Bay. We understand that if the cruise is canceled because of extremely bad weather we will be contacted by phone and the cruise will be rescheduled or our money will be refunded.



**USCG/USPS&U SCGAUX
Educational Opportunity**



**Come Aboard
the Cutter
“Bristol Bay”
23 June 2015**

Board 7:00 PM

Depart 7:30 PM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

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

(Continued)

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 16, 2015**

See mailing instructions below

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:

Before June 8, 2015, mail form and check to:

Sst/C Linda LaLonde, P

3734 Benstein Road

Commerce Twp. MI 48382-1813

(Phone) 248-842-3734

(Email) lamold3734@gmail.com

After June 8, 2015, mail form and check to:

PDC Bill Stano, JN

20040 Ghesquiere Court

Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236-2319

(Phone) 313-343-5602

(Email) wstano@comcast.net



Student _____

Proctor _____

Member _____