

# The Porthole

November 2015



**United States Power Squadrons**  
*Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the friends*

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron  
A unit of United States Power Squadrons in District 9

<http://www.aaspsq.org/>

# Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron

General Meetings are usually held each month, Sept. thru June  
See page 3



**50th  
Anniversary**

1965 - 2015

Boating Education since 1965

50 YEARS SERVING  
THE BOATING PUBLIC



Visit our web site  
[www.aaspsq.org/](http://www.aaspsq.org/)

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Administrative Officer: Lt/C Karen Snyder  
Secretary: Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan  
Asst. Sec: P/C Robert Buchanan, P  
Treasurer: Lt/C Marlene Barr  
Assist. Treasurer: P/C John Barr, AP, Life  
Vessel Safety Check: P/C Frank Hoy  
Public Relations Officer: P/C John Barr, AP, Life  
Nominating: P/C Robert Buchanan, P  
SEO: Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN, Life  
Chairman ABC:  
Chairman Seamanship: P/C John M. Barr, AP, Life  
Chairman of Local Boards: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life  
Chairman Weather: Lt. Randy Stevenson, AP  
Chairman of N: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life  
Chaplin: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life  
Historian: P/C Robert Buchanan, P  
Conference Coord.: Lt. Sharon A. Pinsak  
Membership Chair: P/C Carolyn Knaggs, P  
Webmaster: Evrard (Freddy) Ohou  
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Porthole Publisher/Distribution: Cdr. Ron Schwartz, 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 AAPSP 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.







**Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron  
Meeting 6 P. M. Monday 16 November 2015  
Carlyle Grill 3660 Jackson Rd.  
Ann Arbor Michigan 48103  
Lat. 42° 17.1' N, Long. 83° 48.2' W**

Sail and Power Boating Education

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

We will meet at the Carlyle Grill west of the Lighthouse Car Wash. Order from the menu and pay your own bill. Please call Sharon Pinsak, 734-973-0441, so we can have enough tables set up. Visit Carlyle Grill web site to see their menu. <http://www.carlylegrill.com/>



**Program: The Coast Guard's Daniel Nofziger, Operations Petty Officer, and Will Lawson, Rescue Swimmer, USCG Station Belle Isle, will present our members most requested program on:**

Rescue at Sea, including answering distress calls at sea — mostly lakes, rivers, coastal areas.

When to call for help/when to answer a call for help

How to approach a boat in distress or how to assist if you are in distress

Whether/how to tie up along side, if recommended

When/how to transfer people, if needed, from boat to boat

When/how to tow another boat — or how to be towed

Safety considerations

Other considerations.

A program of relevance for all members, whether they boat or just ride on boats.

by Lt/C Karen Snider, P



COAST GUARD STATION BELLE ISLE  
50 Strand Drive, Belle Isle  
Detroit, MI 48207-4376  
(313) 331-3119

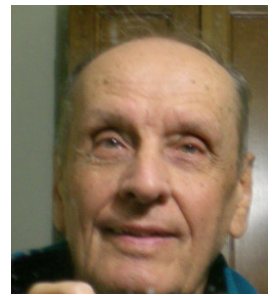
42° 20.3' N 82° 57.5' W

<http://www.uscg.mil/d9/sectDetroit/units/belleisle.asp>



## Commander's Message

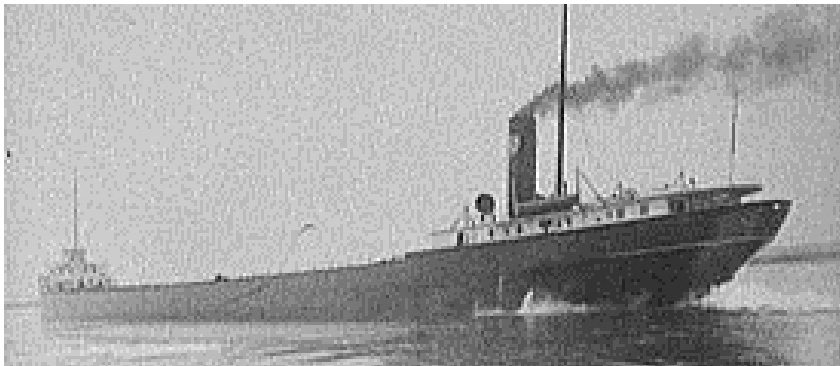
Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN



P/D/C Allen F. Harold, SN

I'm sorry to report that P/D/C Allen F. Harold, SN, died. Allen was a member and past commander of AASPS, teacher, D9 commander, and was active with USPS National. Allan F. Harold passed away peacefully on October 24, 2015 at the age of 77. He was a long-time resident of Northville. Allan was the beloved husband of Roxanne R. and dear father of Wendy, Brett (Julia), Kristin and Taber. Allan cherished his grandchildren, Clint (Melanie) Rix, Angela (Tim) McCallum and Jennifer Harold; as well as his great-grandchildren, Gavin, MacKenzie, Cadence and Wyatt. Allan will be laid to rest in Stillwater, Minnesota. Care and services have been entrusted to the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, Northrop-Sassaman Chapel in Northville (248) 348-1233. His obituary and details are at [http://www.memorialsolutions.com/sitemaker/sites/LJGrif1/mem-sol.cgi?user\\_id=1684929](http://www.memorialsolutions.com/sitemaker/sites/LJGrif1/mem-sol.cgi?user_id=1684929)

The Great Loop is a popular boat cruise that people usually take several years to complete. Couples have done it in their 25' boats. Some have written a book about their trip. See America's Great Loop Cruisers Association at <http://www.greatloop.org/> or google The Great Loop Cruise for books. Generally they go down the Mississippi River. Then thru intercoastal water ways to Florida. Then up along the east coast of U.S. Then take rivers and canals to the Great Lakes.



*SS Daniel J. Morrell*



Bob Buchanan and I have been discussing, recently, about why these long Great Lakes ships sink in November storms. I think it happens when a part of the ship is raised up by a high wave, leaving other parts of the ship partially supported by water. The hull experiences tremendous stresses and breaks.

*SS Daniel J. Morrell* broke in two November 29, 1966, in a storm on Lake Huron, near Harbor Beach, with the aft section coming to rest five miles from the bow at about 43.850°N 82.590°W. I heard a talk from the only survivor, Dennis Hale. He was in his bunk and heard a loud crack. He grabbed his life jacket, and Peacoat and ran up on deck. When the ship went down he swam to a life raft. Three others were on it. The other three died. They were washed up on shore in the life raft near Harbor Beach. A coastguard helicopter arrived and Dennis survived. Dennis Hale died recently.

This month's speaker at our General Meeting will be U. S. Coast Guard Operations Petty Officer Daniel Nofziger, and Rescue Swimmer Will Lawson, talking about rescue at sea. Even If you never need the Coast Guard to rescue, you this program will be of interest. See page 3. I hope to see you at our November meeting .





## Secretary's Message

Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan



### Secretary's Comments, The Gales of November

Everyone knows the story of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*. The *Fitzgerald* cleared Superior, Wisconsin on her last trip on November 9, 1975, with a cargo of taconite for Detroit, under the command of Captain Ernest McSorley. During the night, she passed the slower *Arthur M. Anderson* belonging to U.S. Steel Corporation that had left Two Harbors under the command of Captain Jesse "Bernie" Cooper. Due to worsening weather, both captains decided to take the northern route down Lake Superior, i.e. hugging the Canadian shoreline. As conditions further deteriorated during the afternoon of November 10, 1975, Captain McSorley reported that he had lost both radars and had a "bad list." He then radioed that he was slowing down so that the *Anderson* could give him radar guidance because the radio beacons at both Whitefish Point and Grand Marais failed due to the storm.

The last communication from the *Fitzgerald* came at approximately 7:10 p.m., when the *Anderson* notified the *Fitzgerald* of an upbound ship and asked how she was doing. McSorley reported, "We are holding our own." A blinding snow squall developed but suddenly it cleared and the *Fitzgerald* had disappeared from sight (47° North Latitude, 85° 7' West Longitude). Captain Cooper then made his famous radio call to Sault Ste Marie Control; "I am very concerned about the welfare of the steamer *Edmund Fitzgerald*." The *Anderson* subsequently joined in the search by Ford Motor Company's *William Clay Ford* but all efforts failed to find any survivors. All 29 officers and crew, including a Great Lakes Maritime Academy cadet, went down with the ship, which lies broken in two sections in 530 feet of water.

But this is not the end of our story. The late Patricia Norton, the daughter of a lighthouse keeper, was a self-taught artist who painted scenes along the lower St. Mary's River. Her studio was located close to the Neebish Island ferry dock above Rock Cut. She was perhaps the premier Great Lakes marine watercolor artist. Following the loss of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, she painted her single most outstanding work. A photograph of a print of this painting is attached. Notice that the *Anderson*, left foreground, is alive with birds in flight, her green side-light displayed. But the *Fitzgerald*, top right is dead with only a brilliant white light above the mast.

The original painting was hung over the fireplace in the lobby of the Ojibway Hotel adjacent to the Soo locks. On the night of November 10, 1985 which was the 10th anniversary of the loss of the *Fitzgerald*, another severe November storm with gale force winds hit Sault Ste. Marie. Power was lost in the area. When power was restored, the night clerk at the Ojibway saw that the painting was gone! The next day, technicians from Consumer's Power analyzed the power outage, compared it to the electrical grid, and found that such an outage was impossible!

Why did the power fail? Where is Pat Norton's painting? It has never emerged in any secondary art market. Older folks in the Soo still recall and can confirm the accuracy of this strange event.

Jeannine and Bob Buchanan



*Edmund Fitzgerald*



## Fitzgerald's route before sinking



*Edmund Fitzgerald*

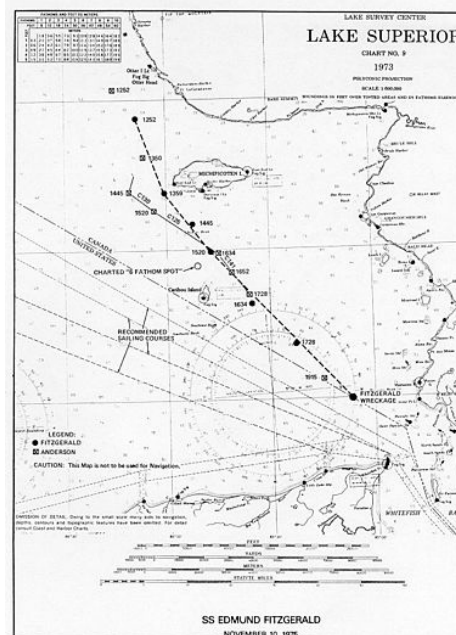
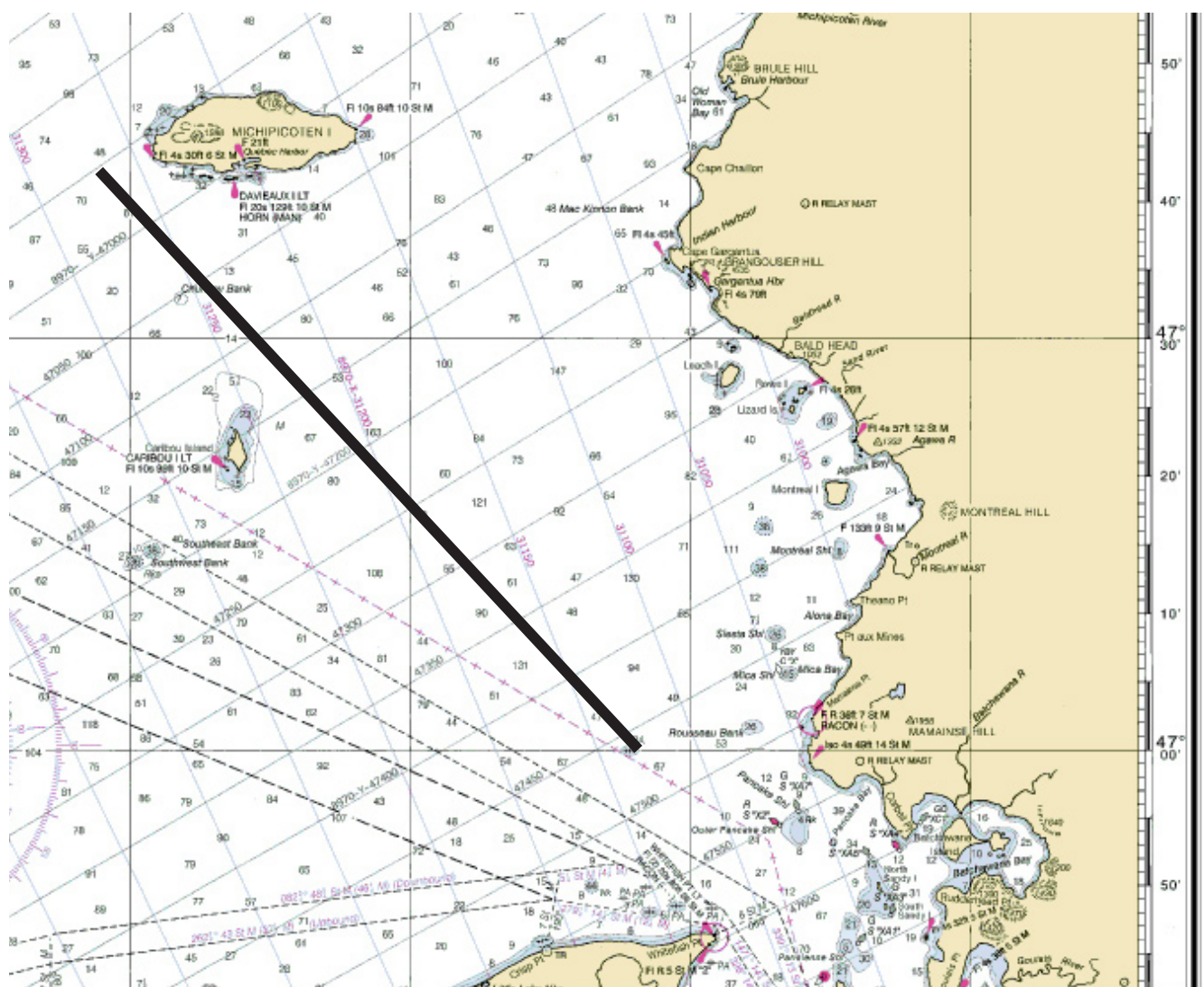


Figure 1. Probable tracklines of SS EDMUND FITZGERALD and SS ARTHUR M. ANDERSON on November 10, 1975.



*Fitzgerald's route on a recent chart*



# October meeting attendees



Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN 1st/Lt Art Pinsak, SN Lt. Sharon Pinsak Lt. Peggy Moller Freddy Ohou



Lt/C Jeannine 1st/Lt Bob Buchanan, P



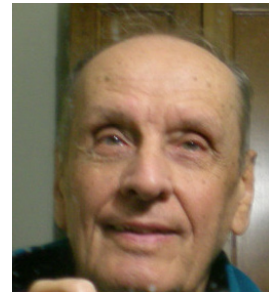
Lt Alice Marie Whittemore, AP from the Algonac SPS Lt/C Karen Snyder, P Lt. Peter Hinman, P



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



Education Officer's Message  
Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN



This is from Kalamazoo Sail and Power Squadron's November issue of *The Pilot*:

At the Fall District 9 Conference, we heard about lots of changes coming from the United States Power Squadrons. USPS had 840 people take the ABC course online last year. The ABC exam is going online; persons taking the online course will no longer need to meet with a local squadron to take a proctored exam.

Other Changes: USPS is changing the navigation software included with ABC, Piloting and other courses from RosePoint to CPN.

USPS is considering changing names of courses to make them more appealing. Example: Boat Handling instead of Seamanship.

USPS is developing 18 educational videos by 2017. Hoping to expand webinars to 6 topics, which will be available online for up to one year after you pay for it.

In a survey of USPS online students 85% said they'd like to take courses in a classroom, 65% want on-the-water training. Students want short videos on specific topics instead of 12 week long courses.

Please look at the variety of boating topics we offer at United States Power Squadron's web site, [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. Please send ([aapsclasses@aol.com](mailto: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. USPS offers On-the-water training, and certification for Inland and Coastal Navigation. If you are interested in this, please call me 734-769-3476.

Our basic boating course - ABC (Americas Boating Course) is a 16 hour course that covers Michigan boating laws, required equipment, charts and navigation. We need someone to be the chairman of our ABC course.

**On-Line seminars are now available** -- developed by USPS and BoatU.S. Weather for Boaters, Partner in Command, Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes, and Crossing Borders. <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/e\\_stuff/seminars.htm](http://www.usps.org/e_stuff/seminars.htm)

Even though this year's boating season is coming to a close, you can continue your boating education at home. On line courses are available from our national web site <http://www.usps.org/edonline/> and you can preview classes before signing up. A few topics are Weather for Boaters, All About Marine Radios, and Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes. Treat your family and friends to the Partner in Command course, which means all of your crew will be safer on the water next year. The cost of an on-line course is \$24.95, but members of the United States Power Squadrons get a 20% discount.

Look at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/lightLists/LightList%20V7.pdf> This is a list of Aids to Navigation such as bouys, lights, etc. on the Great lakes. From Lt/C Crissie Staats, AP article in *The Barometer*, the newsletter of the Tip of the Mitt Sail and Power Squadron.

A Partial List of Events

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT AND LOCATION
Nov. 16	AASPS	General Meeting at Carlyle Grill. See page 3.





## Executive Officer's Message

Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN



Hello Members and Friends,

I am at my winter quarters, and I am being over run by gopher tortoises. I now have 4 burrows on my lot. I am sending pictures of one of the baby tortoises, and the opening for 3 of the burrows. I am in the process of getting a permit from the state of Florida to remove the one in my front yard. She has burrowed in under my drain field, and could cause me problems there.

Also, I am sending a picture of the tree frogs that hang out on my streetlights at night, feasting on bugs. I get quite a bit of frog feces from these guys. I recycle it by mixing it into my flower beds.

On a serious note, I was sorry to hear about Al Harold passing away. Al did a lot of good work for our squadron, and will be missed by those who knew him.

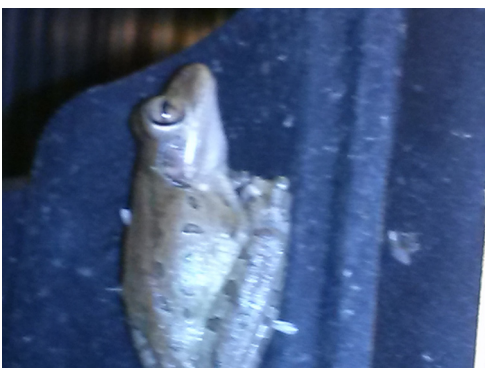
I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Have a safe and pleasant winter.

Lt/C Frank Hoy, EXO AAS&PSYCHOLOGICAL

Frank's baby Gofer Tortoise



Tortoise Burrows



Tree  
Frog

USPS Certificate presented to the Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron at the D9 Fall Conference in recognition of our 50 years service.

