

The Porthole

Nov. Dec. 2016



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



Boating Education since 1965

51 YEARS SERVING
THE BOATING PUBLIC



Visit our web site
www.aaspsq.org/

CONTACTS

Commander: Ron Schwartz, SN, Life	734-769-3476	AAPSclasses@aol.com
Executive Officer:		
Administrative Officer: Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan	734-971-6589	sarajanewink@gmail.com
Secretary: P/C Robert Buchanan, P	734-971-6589	BuchananRA@msn.com
Treasurer: Lt/C Marlene Barr	734-483-0839	mjb_120022535@hotmail.com
Assist. Treasurer: P/C John Barr, AP, Life	734-483-0839	JMBarr@BarrLawFirm.com
SEO: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life	734-973-0441	apnsharon@aol.com
Assist. SEO: P/C Robert Buchanan, P	734-971-6589	BuchananRA@msn.com
Vessel Safety Check:		
Public Relations Officer: P/C John Barr, AP, Life	734-483-0839	JMBarr@BarrLawFirm.com
Chaplain: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life	734-973-0441	apnsharon@aol.com
Historian: P/C Robert Buchanan, P	734-971-6589	BuchananRA@msn.com
Conference Coord.: Lt. Sharon A. Pinsak	734-973-0441	apnsharon@aol.com
Membership Chair: D/Lt/C Carolyn Knaggs, P	734-645-3503	cknaggs@reinhardtrealtors.co
Webmaster: Evrard (Freddy) Ohou		oevfred@umich.edu
Porthole Proofreader: Lt. Peggy Moller	734-761-1589	mmoller@umich.edu
Porthole Publisher/Distribution: Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN, Life	734-769-3476	AAPSclasses@aol.com

2017 Nominating Committee: P/C John Barr, AP, P/C Bob Buchanan, P, P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN



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

Volunteers are welcome and needed for the following opportunities:

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 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.





**Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron
Meeting 6 P. M. Monday 21 Nov. 2016
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/

We will meet at the Carlyle Grill west of the Lighthouse Car Wash. Order from the menu and pay your own bill. Please call Jeannine Buchanan 734-971-6589, so we can have enough tables set up. Visit Carlyle Grill web site to see their menu. <http://www.carlylegrill.com/>



Ron Schwartz will talk about Michigan Water Trails with PowerPoint pictures of a few launch sites and scenery along the way. Use Google Earth and OpenCPN to get waypoints and distance. There may not be street signs out there.



Scenery along the Les Cheneaux
Water Trail

We will also have nominations and an election of 2017 officers for AASPS. We need a minimum of five; Commander, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrative Officer and Squadron Education Officer.



Commander's Message

Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN



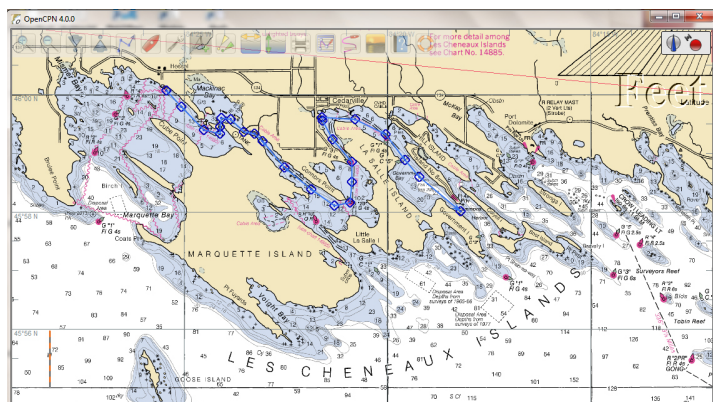
P/C Jadwin Root, SN Life died October 30, 2016. He has been a member since June 1968, was a boater, our historian for several years, skier, truck driver, and good friend. Memorial service arrangements will be sent to members as soon as possible.

Michigan has many public lands -- state forests, state parks, national forests, and lots of lakes and rivers. There are many hiking, horse riding skiing, ATV and water trails for canoes and kayaks. All of these are described in web sites. Here are few we sites.

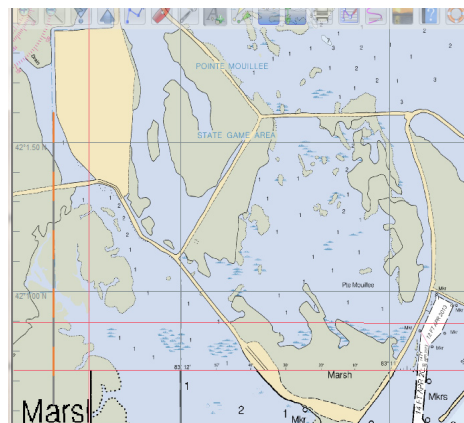
DNR public lands list http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-31154_31260---,00.html

Water trails <http://www.michiganwatertrails.org/>

DNR boat launch sites <http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/mrbis/mapbasic.aspx> Zoom in on a site to identify the location. Then use google earth to see it. I found a great launch site with plenty of parking in Cedarville on S. Meridian Road (129). This is ideal for access to the Les Cheneaux Islands -- calm, shallow waters for canoeing, and camping on Government Island. So if your passion is canoeing and camping, look at the web sites and pick a location.



Les Cheneaux water trail in northern Lake Huron



West end of Lake Erie water trails area

Writing tip; if you are spelling challenged, like me, just do a google search by typing in the search box your best guess of the spelling. It will list the correct spelling. This is much faster than looking for it in a dictionary or thesaurus.

How safe are we ? The earth is spinning at one revolution every 24 hours. At that rate someone at the equator has a surface velocity of about 24,000 miles in 24 hours or 1000 miles/hour. In Detroit, at 42° latitude, it is a little slower -- about 743 miles/hour. The earth is moving around the sun on an elliptical path at a speed of about one revolution in 365 days or an average orbital speed of 18.5 miles/second which is 66,600 miles/hour -- and we worry about going 70 miles/ hour on the highway. Of course, we have been doing this for 66 million years -- without any serious accidents -- being hit by a large out of control comet or asteroid, -- so, I guess we are safe for another 10 or 15 years. After that -- I won't care about it.



Secretary's Message

P/C Bob Buchanan, P



At our October squadron meeting, Bill Thomas, a good friend of P/C and Lt/Cdr John and Marlene, talked to AASPS about transiting the Erie Canal. Bill found the "boat of his dreams" in Boston a few years ago but needed to move it to Algonac as a permanent home. This move required an open ocean transit to the Cape Cod Canal, a stop at Block Island, then through New York harbor, up the Hudson River. Then Bill continued through the Erie Canal, across Lake Ontario to the Welland Canal, and onward to Algonac. Highpoints of this 10 day somewhat hurried transit included viewing the Statute of Liberty, passing the magnificent sights up the Hudson such as West Point and Hyde Park. Bill then entered the Erie Canal at Troy, New York.

Historically, from the first days of the expansion of the British colonies into the heartland of the new continent, a recurring problem was transportation between the coastal ports and the interior. This was not unique to early America; water transportation weighs far less and takes less effort to move since friction becomes negligible. Close to the seacoast, rivers often provided adequate waterways but the Appalachian Mountains were a barrier with just 5 places where mule trains or wagon roads could be routed. Passengers and freight had to travel overland, a journey made more difficult by the rough condition of the early roads. The first American railroads were developed about 1830. In 1800, typically 4 weeks were required to travel from New York to Detroit, about 600 miles. The Erie Canal was planned in 1817 and opened for service in 1825.

Bill counted 30 locks from Troy to Oswego, New York as the canal level rose or fell. The route is not particularly scenic because industry has developed around the canal. He met only one commercial vessel, a fuel barge. The 10 mph speed limit was enforced in a simple fashion. If a boater stayed within the limit, the gates at the next lock would be open for immediate entry. But if the limit were exceeded, the lockmaster did not open the gates until the proper time based on the speed limit. Finally, they left the Canal and turned north to Oswego and Lake Ontario due to a lack of vertical clearance at the western end. Remember the song, "Low Bridge, Everybody Down"?

Finally, transiting the Welland Canal presented a different challenge. Due to the height of the locks, lines had to be carefully tended to maintain position in the lock. Bill said that he made the entire trip without incidence nor any mechanical issues.

Your squadron Bridge continues to search and would welcome good speaker recommendations.



The Old Erie Canal and its towpath at Kirkville, New York

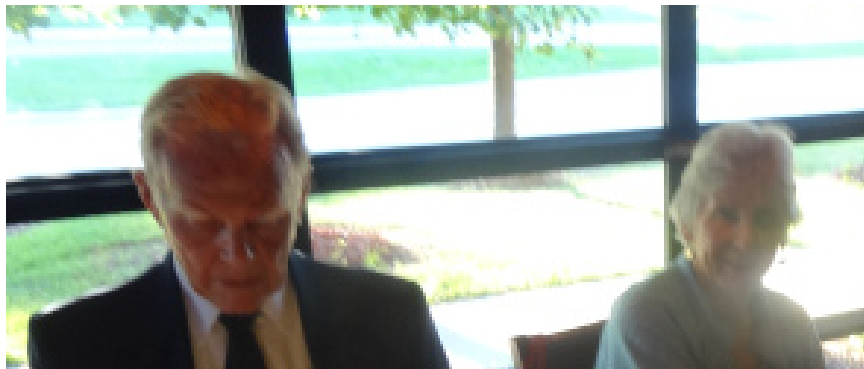
Photos from our October Meeting



Our speakers, Marlene and Bill Thomas and friend Douglas Hannah

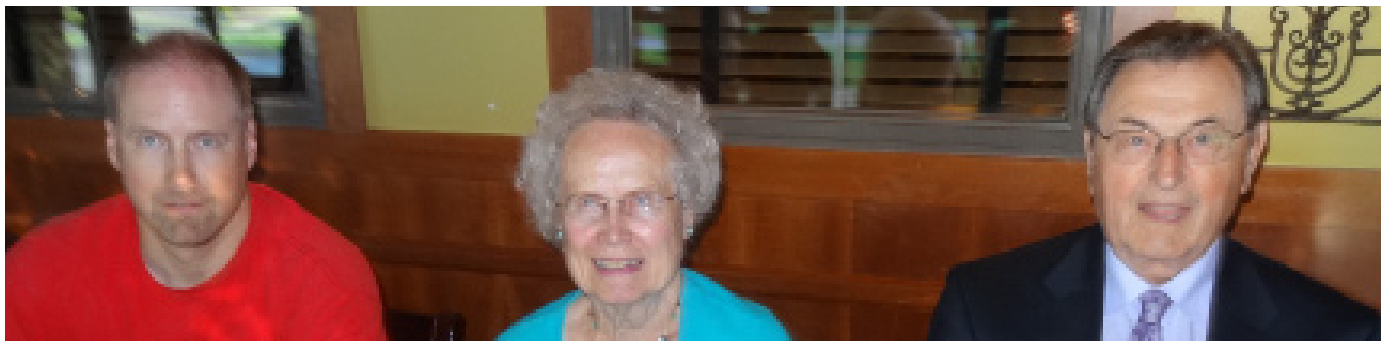


Lt/C Jeannine and Lt/C Bob Buchanan, P



Lt/C Art Pinsak, SN

1st Lt Sharon Pinsak



John Barr Jr.

Lt/C Marlene Barr

P/C John Barr, AP

Boating Education

Basic Boating Course. We have 2 students and 4 instructors for our Tuesday nights ABC classes. 'What more can you ask for ?' Both students want the 16 hour ABC class. One student learned about our course from his friends at the Ford Yacht Club where he keeps his boat. The other student learned about us through his boating club -- ASI (American Sailing Institute) that requires our 16 hour ABC class before taking their Level 2 sailing course.

Cruise Planning Course. I would like to take the USPS Cruise Planning course starting mid November or December as a way of brightening up the winter months. Also, that is a course that I have not taken. If you want that course also, call me at 734-769-3476. We will meet in my dining room, or yours, and have Snacks and Cruising Planning and take turns giving the lectures. We will meet on Sunday or Monday nights -- whichever is most convenient that week, and use digital charts and Google Earth pictures to view each weeks table top cruise location. Cost is \$45 for members for the USPS text book. Ron.

A Partial List of Events

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT AND LOCATION
Nov. 21	AASPS	General Meeting at Carlyle Grill 6 PM.
Dec.	AASPS	Christmas Party
Jan. 16	AASPS	Change of Watch Meeting at Carlyle Grill 6 PM.

offcenterharbor.com is a web site about building wood boats. They have very good, entertaining videos. Sign up for free by entering your first name and email address.

West Lake Erie and Pointe Mouillee water trail area

