

The Porthole

November 2017



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America's Boating Club®

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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

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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.

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**Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron
Meeting 6 P. M. Monday Nov. 13, 2017
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/>



Carlyle Grill

Speaker: Cd. Ron Schwartz, SN will tell about Michigan Water Trails and Launch Sites



Channel along a Pinckney Recreation Area Water Trail



Commander's Message

Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN



At our September meeting we had 16 attendees -- the largest group that I can remember at our meetings -- who came to hear P/C Bob Buchanan, P talk about two Great Lakes freighters that ran aground near Sault Ste. Marie. Bob did a great job. Last year the *Roger Blough*, while heading southeast toward the Soo locks, was trying to pass a freighter being towed, got too close to the north side of the channel, and ran aground on Gros Cap Reef. At that point the channel was 0.5 miles wide, but one mile further the channel narrows to 0.3 miles wide. The pilots must not have been looking at their GPS chart plotter -- it would have told them they were too far north. This summer the *Calumet* -- at night -- failed to turn further south near Mission Point and ran aground on the east side of the channel. There are lots of lighted buoys at that spot -- perhaps the pilot got confused by them. You can see these areas on the NOAA digital charts on your computer for free by down loading the free program 'OpenCPN' that we teach as part of our ABC class. If you missed Bob's talk and want information on the subject he can email you the power point slides and the information on the *Blough*. The full story on the *Calumet* has not yet been published. Wikipedia is another source of information about this story.

USPS national web site address has changed to beyondboating.org but usps.org still works.

At our November meeting we are pleased to have P/C John Barr, AP and Lt/C Marlene Barr describe their recent trip to Iceland. We will also receive nominations for our 2018 officers. Please consider joining the Squadron Bridge. We need a minimum of a Commander, Secretary, Treasurer, and Education Officer to keep a squadron in Ann Arbor. If we don't have these minimum officers we may have to close the squadron and transfer all our assets and membership to another Squadron.

I attended the D9 Fall Conference at Treetops Resort in Gaylord on October 13 and 14 while my sons winterized our family cottage on Opal Lake south of Gaylord. The Friday night hospitality rooms were delicious, nourishing and fun -- the theme was "The Wizard of Oz", with lots of Dorothys, Lions, Tin Men and Wizards wandering the halls of the Lodge. At the Saturday morning SEO seminar the subjects were -- the ABC course may drop the navigational parts, there was an emphasis on the use of the HQ800 System for all of our courses and seminars, Personal On The Water Training, BOC (Boat Operator Certifications) and Vessel Safety Inspection. There are several boating simulators in D9 for use by the squadrons. The new Seamanship course will be divided into six seminars. students can take the ones they are interested in. However, to earn the Seamanship Rating they will have to take all 6 of them. At other Saturday morning seminars there was a talk by a NOAA Great Lakes weather man, Jeff Zoltowski, about weather forecasting, and a talk by Larry Pepper from the Great Lakes Light House Keepers Association (<http://gllka.com/>) -- all the Great Lakes light houses have been automated. The association maintains several for nostalgia and tourist interests, and needs donations. The Sable Point and Muskegon Squadrons are in the process of dissolving -- not enough members to run their squadrons -- it is too bad they can't keep operating to provide the excellent boating courses and seminars offered by USPS. The D9 treasurer reported a \$93,508.87 balance.

Richard Henry Dana Jr., in his book *Two Years Before The Mast*, about his trip working as a seaman on a trading ship from Boston to California in the 1830's wrote that he took a copy Bowditch's *Navigator* with him and went carefully over the whole book from beginning to end and worked out most of the examples.



Administrative Officers' Message Lt/C Jeanine and Bob Buchanan, P



Bob and I recently returned from a trip to Rome, Italy, then a cruise around the bottom of Italy into the Adriatic Ocean and Balkan countries to end at Venice. First, an amazing sight was to see the red and green channel markers reversed. In other words, “red right returning” is the opposite. My first reaction is that someone made a mistake. See the photograph below. We also saw a number of yellow channel markers which we did not understand. Second, we were flabbergasted to see pilots leap from the pilot boat to the cruise boat without wearing a life jacket, see the picture. As power squadron people, we continually talk about as well as wear our life jackets; this is just our nature.

November is the month of The Gales of November, the historic month of severe storms on the Great Lakes when shipping disasters have occurred. During severe November storms, you can watch ships “go to anchor” or “on the hook” through the marine traffic website. Anchorages to watch closely are along the St. Mary’s River from Whitefish Bay to Detour, also watch ships hug the shorelines depending on the wind direction. In summary, as weather worsens here, check out the website which shows the location and activity of lake shipping based on their AIS signals.

We hope for a bitterly cold December! This means that the St. Clair River will freeze, requiring ice-breaking operations during the first 2 weeks in January before the shipping season closes for the winter, generally January 15th. The best place to find out if icebreakers are at work is the marine traffic website. If you see 140’ bay-class icebreakers working in the River, drive to Algonac State Park along the river and watch the show. Take your marine scanner and listen on Channel 16 but be ready to change to Channel 6 to bridge-to-bridge conversations, sometimes a little heated. Watching icebreakers is actually noisy as they smash through the ice, trying to get a freighter unstuck.



Pilot ready to jump aboard



Red ‘left’ returning in Italy

Boating Education

Practical On The Water Training (POTWT) Go to https://www.usps.org/e_stuff/seminars/potw.htm for a description of this 4 hour classroom and 4 hours on your boat seminar.

Cruise Planning Course. If you want that course also, call Ron at 734-769-3476.

Canadian Border Crossing laws

<http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travel-voyage/pb-pp-eng.html> .

Charts of Michigan inland lakes can be found in the Michigan DNR web site.

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52261-67498-,00.html Click on the county, then click on the name of the lake.

DNR Launch sites in Michigan can be found at <http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/mrbis/mapbasic.aspx>

Boating Videos https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Cu4KmhDGME

Great Lakes Water Levels

<http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/GreatLakesInformation/GreatLakesWaterLevels/WaterLevel-Forecast/MonthlyBulletinofGreatLakesWaterLevels.aspx>

A Partial List of Events

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT AND LOCATION
Nov. 13	AASPS	General Meeting. See page 3.

USPS Guides can be found at

http://www.usps.org/e_stuff/usps_ed.html

Basic Plotting Guide

Boat Insurance

GMDSS and Marine Radio

How to Fly Flags

Knots, Bends and Hitches for Mariners

Knot Tying: The Basic Knots CD

Marine Amateur Radio

Mariner's Compass Guide

Navigational Astronomy

Plotting and Labeling Standards

Predicted Log Guide

Sailing, Introduction to

Sight Reduction Methods

USPS Nautical Glossary

Water Sports

Seminars can be found at

<https://www.usps.org/x/x.pl/x/x.cgi?eddept/cart/catlog.html>

Advanced Boat Handling

Anchoring

Basic Weather

Boat Handling Under Power

Boating on Rivers, Lakes, & Locks

Crossing Borders/Customs

Emergencies on Board

How to use a Chart

Knots, Bends and Hitches

Man Overboard

Marine Radar

Mariner's Compass

Paddle Smart

Partner in Command

Sail Trim and Tuning

Trailing

Using GPS

Using VHF and VHF/DSC Radio