

# The Porthole

Nov. 2010



The official newsletter of the Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron  
a unit of United States Power Squadrons  
<http://www.annarborsailandpowersquadron.org>

# Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron Chartered 1965 as a unit of United States Power Squadrons (USPS)

General Meetings are usually held on the third Monday of the month  
at St. Joseph Hospital's Education Center, Ann Arbor.

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron  
Boating Education



45 YEARS SERVING  
THE BOATING PUBLIC

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

Thankyou Shih-Chieh Yin for your design  
of this month's front page of the Porthole



### Volunteers are welcome and needed for the following opportunities:

Porthole Staff - Articles, cover design, events page, printing and mailing copies, e-mail list and distribution.  
Education Staff - Assistant Education Officer, Chairman Boating, Ch. Marine Electronics, Ch. Instructor Development,  
Ch. Engine Maintenance, Ch. Teaching Aids, Calligraphy on certificates and wallet cards, Ch. of various seminars.  
Misc. Staff - Chairman Meetings and Programs, Ch. Member Involvement, Ch. Operations Training  
PRO (Public Relations Officer) Advertising Staff for public courses and programs.

The editors thank their son, Bradley, for help with computer set-up and consulting. The Porthole is sent in color  
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# Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron



Sail and Power Boating Education

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

## General Meeting Monday, Nov. 15, 2010

L 42° 15.8' N, Lo 83° 39.3' W  
in St. Joseph's Hospital Administration Building  
5305 Elliott Dr., parking Lot P,  
2nd floor in the Education Center.

Take stairs or elevator to the 2nd. floor. Turn left and walk about 40 paces. Then turn left thru the double doors . We will be in one of the 5 conference rooms.

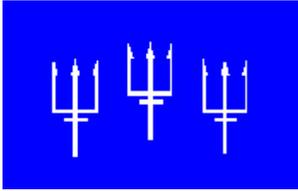
## Public is invited

**6 pm Potluck:** Please bring a dish to pass - Please call Sharon Pinsak - 734-973-0441, and tell her what food you want to bring, so we can have a variety.

**7 pm Program: Curtis Hoff** - Video about the J. W. Wescott, the mail boat on the Detroit river.



N. Schultheiss



## Commander Comm. John Barr, AP, Life



### FROM YOUR COMMANDER

Wow, am I learning a lot! I just finished teaching the sections on charting and navigation for the Boating Course. The new materials stress electronic navigation, something that was not in existence when I took Advanced Piloting covering dead reckoning navigation. Although I have used a GPS- Chart Plotter for several years, and studied the materials, there is always something new to learn in each USPS class. And leading the class or proctoring the class is an excellent way to learn and teach.

We have many excellent students in our classes and many students with a lot of boating experience. We have an airplane pilot in our present Boating class. Airplane pilots need to know a lot about navigation. They have to learn navigation for their pilot's license. Boats and airplanes are different and there is a lot pilots can learn about piloting a boat instead of a plane. We can also learn from our students and I think it is helpful to call on the varied experience of our students to enrich our classroom experience.

I applaud our students for the determination to take USPS courses to improve boating skills and knowledge. We are in the safety business and I know that our students benefit from the knowledge acquired in our classes. So, job well done AASPS and instructors Ron Schwartz, SEO; Frank Hoy, Executive Officer; and Bob Buchanan, Secretary. We are lucky to have such good instructors who are willing to serve (without pay) and increase public boating knowledge and safety.

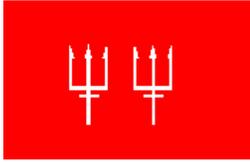
Christmas Party. We will have our annual Christmas party on December 6th, 2010. Sharon Pinsak is making the arrangements. Please put the date on your calendar now. This is always a great event and enjoyed by all.

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### Passing of a Centenarian

P/C Mary Ann Mahey reported that P/C Ralph E Taylor who, many squadron members will recall, was the AAPS Commander during 1968-69, died on 02 November. He was 102 years old and resided in Florida. An article about him recounting his USPS activities had recently appeared in a Florida newspaper and was circulated among our membership. Ralph will be interred in Warsaw, IN.

Art Pinsak



## Education Officer L/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life



ABC3 Classes: Congratulations to Robert Courdway, Paul Godek, David Larson, and Jack Moghadam for passing the ABC3 exams.

The ABC3 class at WCC's branch in Lincoln High School on Willis Rd. which started 14 Oct. 2010 has 9 students. Class Chairman Bob Buchanan would like proctors to help teach the class.

Piloting Class: Art Pinsak started a USPS Piloting class at the Education Center at St. Joseph's Hospital at 7pm Tuesday night Nov. 2 with 7 students. This will continue for about another 8 or 9 Tuesdays.

Spring 2011 ABC3 classes will start Wednesday 23 Feb. 2011 at WCC Ann Arbor, and Tuesday 8 Mar. 2011 at WCC branch in Lincoln High School.

With the new directives from USPS National we can teach any course to anyone - member or nonmember. Therefore, we will try to have a class for any course USPS offers if we can get enough students. Or you can do a self study with private tutoring as needed. Let me know (734-769-3476 or [AAPSclasses@aol.com](mailto:AAPSclasses@aol.com)) which courses/seminars/study guides you want. USPS web site [www.USPS.org](http://www.USPS.org) describes all the courses, seminars and study guides that are available. We have 1 Piloting course student, 3 Advanced Piloting course students and 2 Navigation course students doing a self study.



## Virtual (Computer and Internet) Cruising

With computer tools and programs like Map Tech, Coastal Pilot, Capn and OpenCPC, I enjoy planning a cruise and following it on the nautical charts and on Google Earth. Map Tech, Coastal Pilot, and Capn came with the Basic Boating, ABC3, and N course material. Curtis Hoff told us about OpenCPN. It uses free NOAA nautical charts. It is a free Chart Plotter program that can be downloaded on the internet, and, if you connect your GPS to your computer, it will show you where your boat is on the chart. Google Earth is a free download that shows satellite pictures of earth, and, when you zoom in you can click on scenic photos of locations on the earth that other people have submitted. So, while setting in your home, you can cruise anywhere on earth and view the scenery. Also, my friends e-mail me many scenic pictures from places all over the world.

# Administrative Officer Lt/C Curtis Hoff, S



The program for the November meeting will be a video and short presentation on the J.W. Westcott. The J.W. Westcott is the mail boat operating on the Detroit River which is the world's original floating zip code – 48222. An unfortunate accident several years involving the boat will be briefly discussed to emphasize the dangers of operating in close proximity to large deep draft vessels

While most of the Squadron is probably finished with boating for the year a new phase of my boating season is just beginning. In early November, Melanie and I begin moving our boat south for the winter. Our trip north last spring taught us to do the move in multiple stages. The first stage will take us to Norfolk, VA for some routine maintenance in the boatyard and preparation for the longer second stage during the Thanksgiving week.

Any suggestions/volunteers for upcoming programs are always appreciated. Please contact me by phone (734) 654-7779 or e-mail [choff@hoff.com](mailto:choff@hoff.com).

## Partial list of Events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>EVENT AND LOCATION</u>
Nov. 15	AASPS	meeting at St. Joeseph Education Center - see page 3
Dec. 6	AASPS	Christmas Party
Feb. 2011	AASPS	Public Boating Course starts at WCC - contact Ron Schwartz 734-769-3476
Mar. 2011	AASPS	Public Boating Course starts at Willis HS - contact Bob Buchanan 734-971-6589

For quick access to any of the D-9 Squadrons, click on the Links section of our website ([annarborsailandpowersquadron.org](http://annarborsailandpowersquadron.org)) and select District 9 Squadrons. A map showing each squadron's location with a link to its website is at your disposal, or [http://www.annarborsailandpowersquadron.org/district9\\_links.html](http://www.annarborsailandpowersquadron.org/district9_links.html)

Or alternatively, for a list of D-9 websites visit:

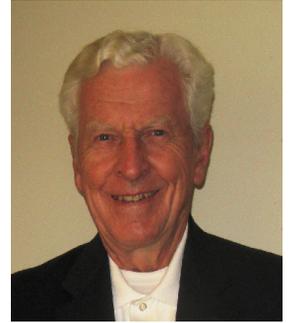
<http://www.usps.org/newpublic2/squadrons.html>



Please check USPS web site ([www.USPS.org](http://www.USPS.org)), D9 website (<http://d9-usps.org/app/HomeContact.aspx>), and web sites of squadrons near you for their activities that you might want to attend.



## Secretary Lt/C Robert Buchanan, P



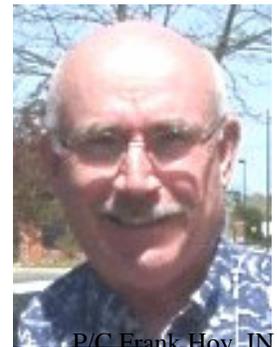
### Secretary's Comment

Jeannine and I have been members of AASPS for about a year. My initial reason for joining was to participate in teaching the primary boating course. But the monthly Squadron meetings have become our real membership reward. We were both warmly received as new members, so the meetings are a wonderful time to greet and maintain our squadron friendships, friends with whom we share our love of the water. Next, each meeting includes a simple but delightful buffet supper so we can all join together for our evening meal. Then a fascinating program follows for about 30 minutes. Topics this last year have included The Loss of the Edmund Fitzgerald, Offshore Cruising Down the Mexican Coast, a Photo Tour of the Hessel Boat Show. Finally, Commander John Barr conducts a snappy, focused business meeting where everyone is expected to present their reports briefly. Everyone has a clear view of what is happening within the squadron. An added benefit is that meeting parking is free and convenient.

This means that within 2 hours, members can greet good friends, enjoy supper, hear an interesting program, learn about squadron activities, so this is a genuine benefit of squadron membership. As one of the newest members, I would urge AASPS members to come to our meetings to enjoy this pleasant time together.



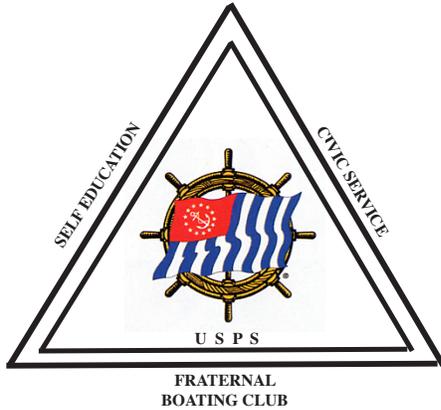
## Executive Officer P/C Frank Hoy, JN



P/C Frank Hoy, JN

I will represent the Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron at the Annual Meeting in Orlando next year, Feb.1-6. I hope to do a good job, but it has been many years since I was at a National Convention. I know my uniform no longer fits me, so I hope I can wear a blue blazer. If anyone has any suggestions they would like passed on to National, please email them to me. I will return to the Bridge next year as the Executive Officer. I will also help with the ABC 3 boating classes whenever possible. I would hope to see more membership involvement in squadron activities. This is not asking you to give more time than you can spare. It is asking you give a little time for the good of the squadron. Our common cause is to promote safe boating through education. That is our purpose. We can use more help to accomplish it.

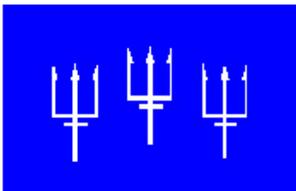
I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.



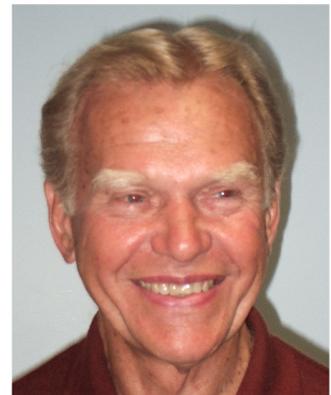
AASPS Booster Club

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron would like your support. \$25 lists your name and boat in the Porthole for one year. Bring or mail check to Marlene Barr, Treasurer, 1200 Whittier Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197-2152

Name	Boat Name	Date
John and Marlene Barr		June 2011
Jeannine and Bob Buchanan	<i>Tanguary Times</i>	June 2011
Frank Hoy	<i>Bobbin' Job</i>	June 2011
Art and Sharon Pinsak	<i>Calypso</i>	June 2011
Ron and Shirley Schwartz	<i>Half Angel, Whale, and Soft Shoal</i>	June 2011



**ChLB Message**  
P/C Arthur P. Pinsak, SN



D/9-D/29 Fall Conference – 2010

The joint D/9-D/29 Fall Conference 22-24 October 2010 in Perrysburg, OH was both educational and entertaining. This was the first time in my memory that two districts combined their efforts, and it was great because everyone seemed to be exceptionally cordial. Not only was there opportunity to refresh acquaintances but also to meet new people, although four from the Toledo PS were friends who had attended a recent AASPS Christmas party. Of course, most of you would not have had the opportunity to meet them in Ann Arbor. Registration was about 200 D/9 and 100 D/29 members. Meeting facilities were attractive and more than met our needs. Hospitality rooms Friday evening surrounded a large atrium dotted with ponds and swimming pools and were all on the same level. No traipsing up and down stairwells and long hallways this time.

People, incidentally most wore costumes, were all together and socialized at tables in the atrium. Boaters may be focused on the water but they surely know how to party. Only shortfall was the number of hospitality rooms; ten hosted by D/9 squadrons and three by D/29 squadrons. However, the hosts more than made up for the relatively low numbers.

Saturday morning seminar schedule included four from 0800-0950 and four from 1010-1200. Selection was limited because three were for specific bridge officers. One covered the same VHF/DSC material that Bob Buchanan presented in Ann Arbor at our most recent meeting. The seminar on updating a website was educational as pertains both to format and content. Birmingham used their site as a basis for presentation. This was as comprehensive a site as one could imagine; the webmaster said it is the culmination of four years effort. The seminar I personally found most beneficial was Instructor Recertification. It is unfortunate that so many people failed to take advantage of this opportunity because it was convenient and accessible. I obviously could not view all seminars but wondered where the 300 registered participants were; seventeen in one seminar and thirty-four in the other. Observers reported large crowds gathered in the atrium; hopefully to conduct USPS business.

A principal agenda item at the Fall Conference business meeting is recognition of individual and squadron achievements and award of certificates and revolving trophies. Awards include such items as highest number of advanced and elective courses completed by a squadron, greatest percentage completed which neutralizes squadron size differences, number of N graduates, aggregate course completions, outstanding sailor, predicted log, outstanding teacher, most vessel safety checks, coop charting, best teaching aid, membership increase. Ann Arbor was blanked out this year. We were not even recognized as one of the top three in any category; kind of depressing for the squadron generally regarded as an academic achiever. Achievement generally is cyclical wherein a group of interested students comes in and decides to run the gamut of courses. For example, South Bend could have set up camp at the awards table this year.

R/C Kenneth Link, SN carried the USPS Commander's message to the business meeting. Keep up the good work with membership. After 1 December the only national membership category will be "Active". New members will be entitled to free six month membership post 1 December. He also discussed National views on course fees for non-members and lauded the quality of current course offerings.

"Sail Angle" was described in the Porthole after the spring D/9 conference. It is a critical communications tool and is free. We continue to be admonished to enroll in the program. It is much faster and more secure than email.. D/9 currently has 2088 members but only 218 are "Sail Angle" members. Sign in! (link on main page of usps.org) A new seminar - Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes - has recently become available.

The semiannual District Conferences offer a means to stay current with all the precepts and activities of USPS. We need to take advantage of this opportunity through increased participation.

P/C Art Pinsak