

The Porthole

March 2011



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**



**46 YEARS SERVING
THE BOATING PUBLIC**

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Chairman of Piloting: Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life
Chairman Elective Courses: Bob Snider, SN, Life
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Chairman JN, Sail: Carey Jones, JN
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<http://www.annarborsailandpowersquadron.org>
or <http://www.aaspsq.org>

Thank you 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, printing and mailing copies, e-mail list and distribution.
Education Staff - Assistant Education Officer, Ch. Marine Electronics, Ch. Instructor Development,
Ch. Engine Maintenance, Ch. Teaching Aids, Calligraphy on certificates and wallet cards, Ch. of various seminars.
Misc. Staff - 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 via e-mail in PDF format or via US mail in black and white.

The Porthole is published ten times a year, September through June, by the Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron.
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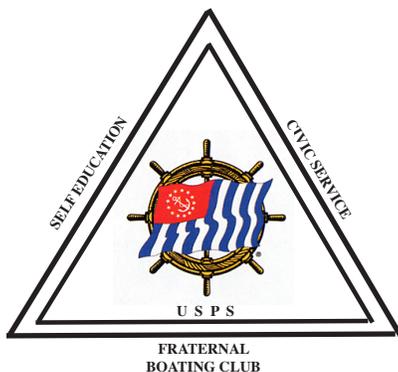
Sail and Power Boating Education

<http://www.aaspsq.org>

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.



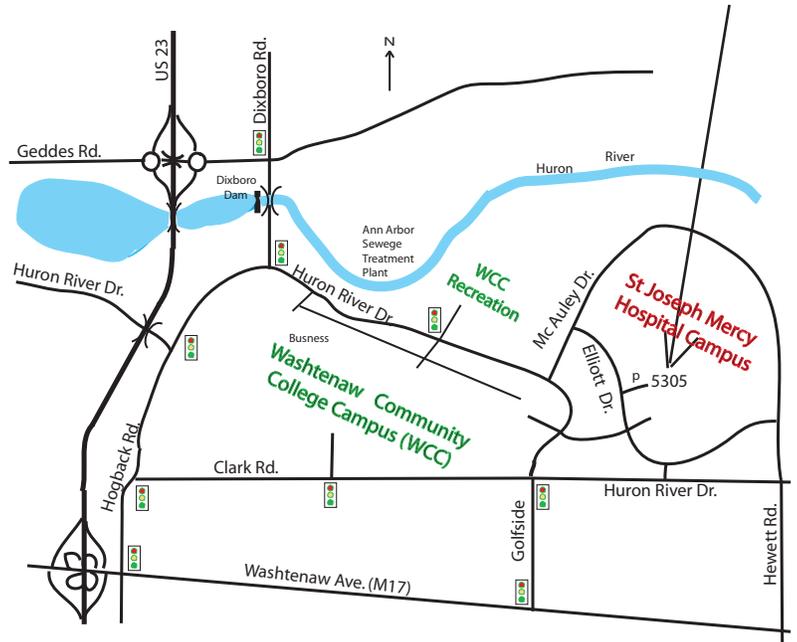
D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, N



General Meeting Monday, March 14, 2011

L 42° 15' 50" N, Lo 83° 39' 21" 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.



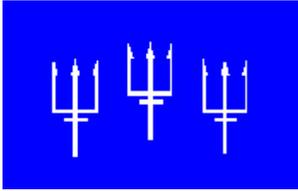
7 pm Program:

D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, N, will conduct our Change of Watch ceremony

Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P will describe the Local Notice to Mariners (LNTM), and his idea to make the information readily accessible and easier to use through "modern" technology.



Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P



Commander's Message

Com. John Barr, AP, Life



Somewhere in the distant past I heard that if a frog is put in a pot of cold water and the water is gradually warmed that the frog will not realize the danger, and the frog will not jump out of the pot and will end up cooked. The same idea applies to inflation. This insidious fact of life is always with us. We kind of get used to the cost of things always going up. One example is the cost of gasoline. In 1950 a gallon of leaded gas was about thirty cents. Factoring in the cost of inflation at the reported rate of 3.76%, the cost of the 1950 gallon of gasoline in 2011 dollars would be \$2.75. (Note that the cost of food and fuel has been taken out of the official inflation rate calculator, so if using the "old" inflation rate the 1950 cost in present dollars would be a lot more.) So, the present cost of gasoline is not terribly out of line with the general increase in the cost of living. We have even become accustomed to \$3 a gallon gasoline! I expect the cost of gasoline will go up a lot faster in the next few years, not only because of inflation, but because of political factors such as the turmoil in the Middle East.

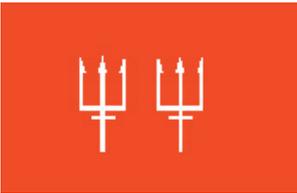
Gasoline at \$4 a gallon seems really expensive to us because we have become accustomed to "cheap" gas. In Europe (because of taxes and other factors) gasoline has been at \$4 -\$5 a gallon or more for a long time.

There are so many wonderful benefits to boating and being out on the water that we should not let the cost of fuel paralyze us into being land lubbers! We have to make choices on how to spend our precious dollars. Fuel costs more. Ok, accept it and move on! In the great scheme of things the cost of fuel should not prohibit us from doing what we love. Let's Go Boating!

People argue about "global warming" but here in southeastern Lower Michigan this winter has been anything but warm. We have had more than our fair share of cold and snow this winter. My wife Marlene and I are skiers, so we enjoy snow sports. But -ENOUGH IS ENOUGH ALREADY. We are ready for spring!

Our Change of Watch was postponed until March 14, 2011 because of a heavy snow that came just before the scheduled date. Part of the reason for the change is that our district representative, D/L/C Mary Ann Jensen was coming from Lansing for the Change of Watch. We felt that it was an unnecessary burden to put on her to drive all that way in inclement weather. This is an opportunity for all AASPS members that could not make the old date to put the new date on their calendar and come out and support the squadron. In addition, we can meet and greet Mary Ann who will be the new District Nine Commander!

The AASPS Change of Watch event will start with a potluck dinner at 6 pm in an educational room on the second floor of the St. Joseph Hospital Educational wing. The formalities will be short. There will be an excellent dinner and an interesting program. Come out and renew squadron acquaintances. See you there!



Education Officer's Message

L/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life



ABC3 Course: Our spring 2011 class started at WCC with 7 students. If you want to help by proctoring or teaching call Bob Buchanan for details. 734-971-6589

Weather Course: Bob Snider will teach the Weather course, 8 Tuesdays, 7 to 9pm, in St. Joseph Hospital's Education Center, starting March 29. Call 734-769-3476 for details.



Bob Buchanan teaching the Spring 2011 ABC3 class with Ron Schwartz at Washtenaw Community College

A partial list of events



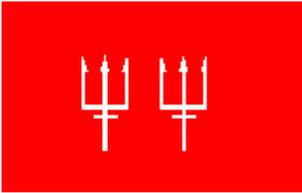
<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>EVENT AND LOCATION</u>
March 14	AASPS	Change of Watch See page 3.
Mar. 25-27	Lansing Sail and Power Squadron	D9 Spring Conference. See pages 9 and 10.

For quick access to any of the D-9 Squadrons, click on the Links section of our website (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

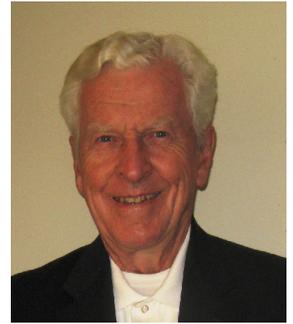
Or alternatively, for a list of D-9 websites visit: <http://www.usps.org/newpublic2/squadrons.html>

Please check USPS web site (www.USPS.org), 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's Message

Lt/C Robert Buchanan, P



Although the lakes are still frozen, March is one of my favorite months for marine activities. Due to the relatively cold weather, we can expect ice to flow down Lake Huron into the St. Clair River resulting in ice jams clogging the river. The very worst jams seem to occur in the Algonac stretch, often extending right to the bottom.

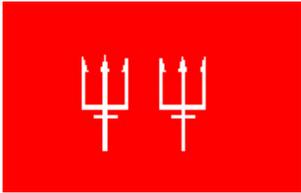
The Soo Locks open for commerce March 25th. This means that lake carriers which operate on a tight schedule need to traverse the river shortly after this opening date but must make passage through the ice jams. Therefore the US and Canadian Coast Guards must move icebreakers into the area. This could include the USCG Mackinaw, or the Canadian Samuel Risley and Griffon, plus the smaller USCG 140' bay-class ice breakers. Our favorite place to watch and hear the icebreakers lead the freighters through the ice is at Algonac State Park. In fact, the ice breaking is clearly audible. The area is controlled by Sarnia Traffic on Channel 11 but the freighters and icebreakers communicate on Channel 6.

You will need your radio scanner, camera, and warm clothes. We have sat in a small restaurant opposite Algonac State Park at a window table, watching the activity across the road with our scanner on Channel 6. This was a glorious way to enjoy a leisurely lunch.

Information about when this starts can be found at www.boatnerd.com Then open the News Channel. The present information found in the News Channel is that we can expect a really busy icebreaking season due to the cold weather and shifting winds. In fact, the St. Clair River is frozen now, so I imagine that the ice breakers will soon be getting their engines warmed.

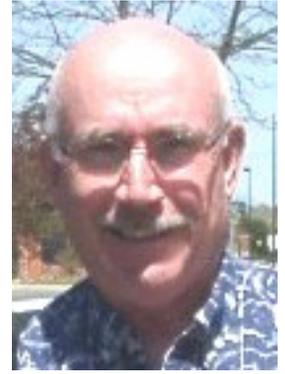


Bob and Jeanean Buchanan
on *Tanguary Times*



Executive Officer's Message

Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN, PC



Greetings to everyone. The National Meeting was very well organized. There were over 700 members in attendance. The conference center at Disney World was incredible. I can see why it was chosen to hold the meeting there. I purchased the disc with all the conference information on it. Anyone who wants a copy can have one. The information is also available at the U.S.P.S. web site for free.

The constant theme of the meeting was how to turn around our decreasing membership, and how to become more valuable to the communities we serve. There were many positive ideas which I believe our own squadron can use. I will have this information ready to present to you at the April meeting. A couple of items to consider are doing vessel inspections during the summer, and having on the water training sessions during the summer. The spirit of the U.S.P.S. National Bridge is that we may be down, but don't count us out just yet. The whole thing was very upbeat and positive.

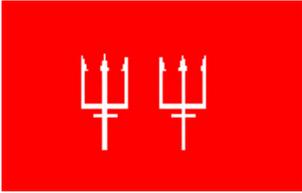
Also of interest is the fact the first woman, V/C Jean L. Hamilton, SN from District 21, Houston, TX, was elected to the National Bridge in the 97 year history of U.S.P.S.

On February 16th I attended the Sarasota Power Squadron's, (Leon Warsaw Commander), luncheon held at Marina Jack's. It was held in the Sarasota Yacht Club located there. Their guest speaker, David Marquet, was a retired nuclear submarine commander, U.S.S Santa Fe. He spoke to the idea for having a leader-leader philosophy instead of a leader-follower philosophy. Marquet said that any leadership structure that puts people in the role of followers will limit their contribution. Marquet founded his own motivational company and has a news letter available at http://practicuminc.com/About_Us.html There were 87 people at this luncheon. I have sent along a couple of pictures of the luncheon and the facility.

Spring has to be just around the corner! Hang in there.



Pictures from Frank Hoy's visit to the Sarasota Power Squadron's meeting



Administrative Officer's Message

Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P



Hopefully, the weather will cooperate for this month's meeting!

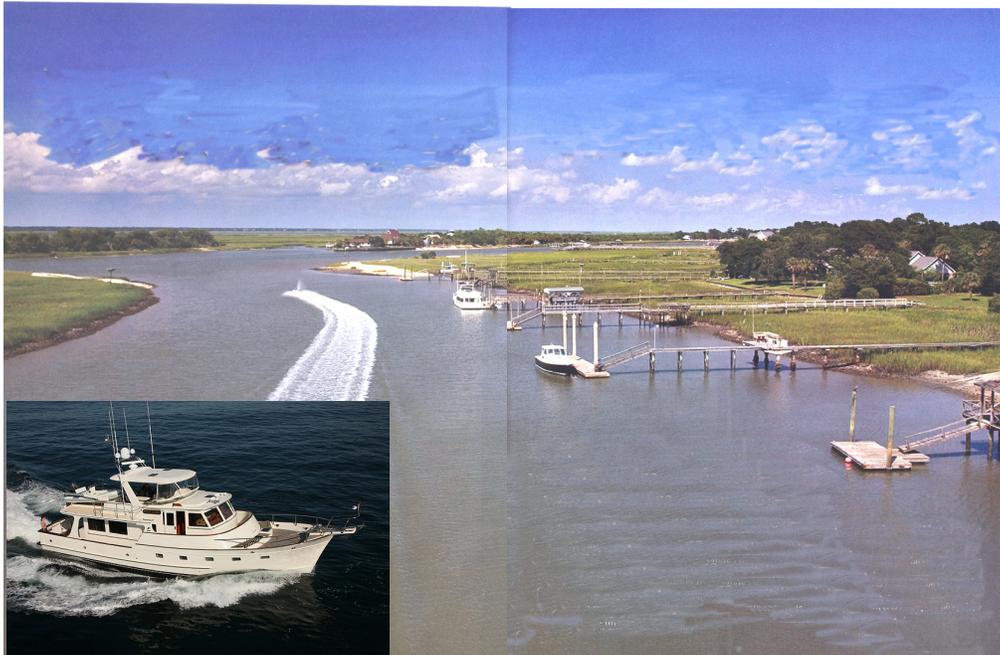
Our program will be the same two-part program as planned for last month: The first part will be the Change of Watch ceremony. For the second part, I will present an idea I have regarding the Local Notice to Mariners (LNTM).

As I noted in last month's Porthole:

Most people are probably aware of the LNTM but rarely use the valuable information. In fact, that's the problem. There's so much material contained in the LNTM, and so much of this info is not really of interest to the cruising community, and so much of what is interesting is couched in confusing governmental verbiage, that few cruisers take full advantage of this remarkable document.

Please refer to the February Porthole for a more detailed description.

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



Hoff's boat on the Intercoastal Waterway

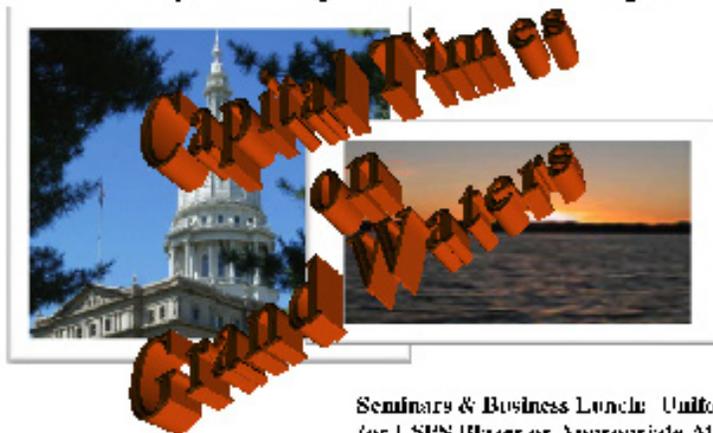
Waterway picture from The Ensign Nov/Dec 2007

2011 D/9 SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

25-26 March 2011

Hosted by Lansing Sail and Power Squadron

Friday:
Registration: 1-8pm
Ship's Store: 3-7pm
Council Mtg: 1-9pm



Saturday:
Registration: 7am-12pm
Ship's Store: 8am-1pm
Dinner/Dance: 7 pm-?

Uniform of the Day:

Seminars & Business Lunch: Uniform 1*
(or U.S.P.S. Blazer or Appropriate Attire)
Dinner: Uniform A w/boatie or appropriate attire

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Certificate #</u>	<u>Squadron</u>	<u>First Time Attended?</u>
						<u>Yes</u>
(1) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
(2) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Address: _____ *City:* _____ *State:* _____ *ZIP:* _____
Phone: (H) _____ *(W)* _____ *E-Mail:* _____

MEALS

NOTE: An additional surcharge of \$5.00 will apply for any meal reservations made after March 11th (if available)

Lunch... Traverse City Chicken _____ or Vegetable Stir Fry _____ @ \$25 = \$ _____ (plus \$5 / late)

Dinner/Dance... Sliced Tenderloin of Beef _____ or Salmon Florentine _____ @ \$45 = \$ _____ (plus \$5 / late)

Special Meal/Dietary Requests: _____

(Don't forget to add the late fee for meals if after 11 March) Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Ck # _____

Make checks payable to: Lansing Sail and Power Squadron

Registration Due by 11 March 2011

Mail checks and this form to:

Lt/C Robert Miller, AP
1438 Hitching Post Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 351-9409

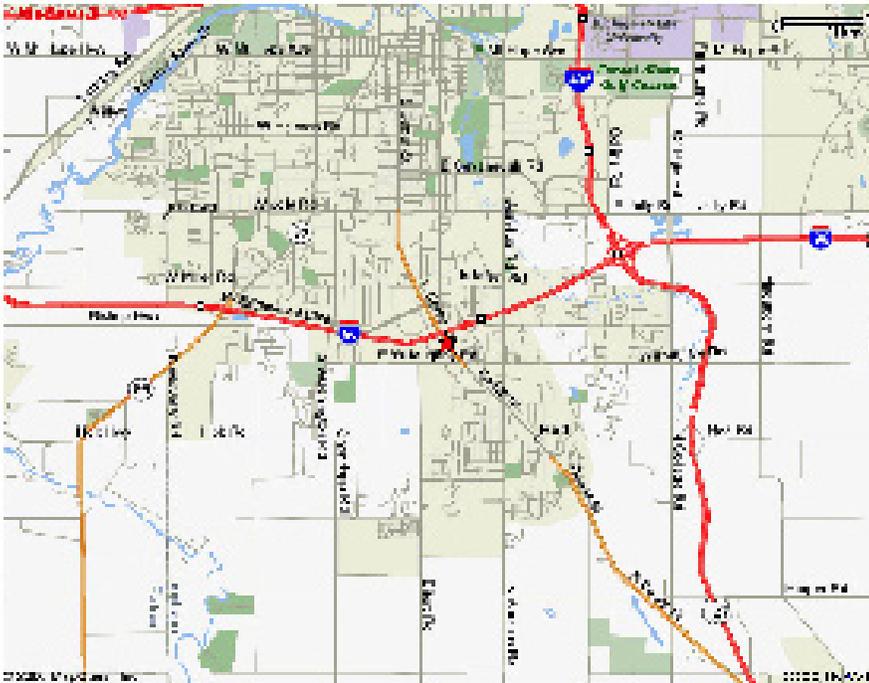
Room reservations Due by 4 March 2011

Hotel Reservations/Room Rates:

Causeway Bay Hotel *(former Holiday Inn South)*
6820 S. Cedar St. Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 694-8123
\$89.99 plus taxes (ask for USPS rate)

Directions to the Spring Conference in Lansing, Michigan

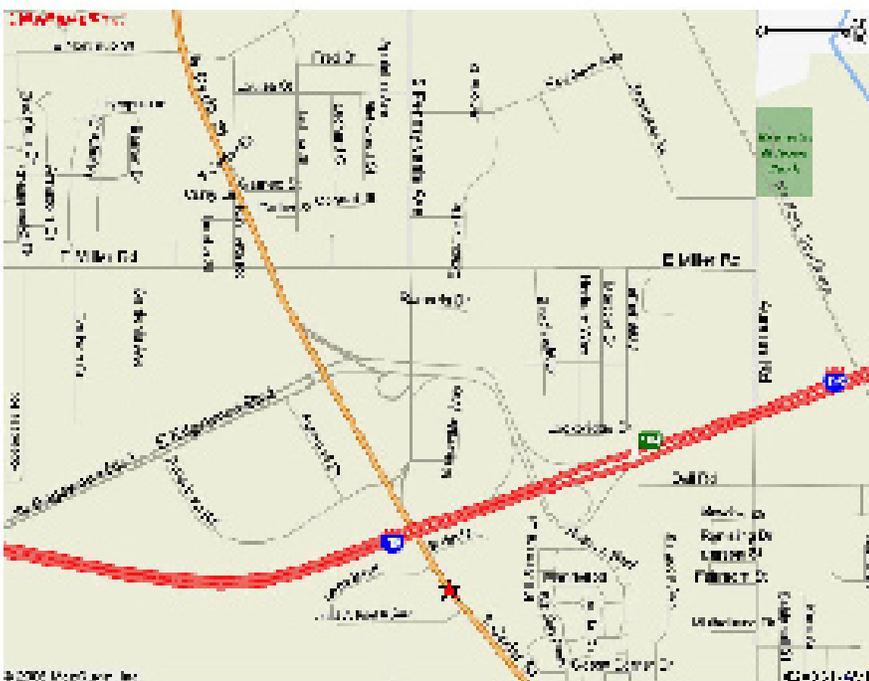
Directions



Take I-96 toward LANSING

Take EXIT 104 toward
I-96-BL/CEDAR ST. /HOLT

Merge into E. EDGEWOOD BLVD.



Turn LEFT onto S. CEDAR ST.

End at Causeway Bay Hotel on right
6820 S. Cedar St.

Lansing , MI 48911-6907