

The Porthole

September 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
See page 3 for the location of this month's meeting

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Chairman Weather: Bob Snider, SN, Life
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Boating Education
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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 - 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.

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**Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron
General Meeting
Monday, 19 September 2011
Classic Cup Café
Lat. 42° 17.119' N, Long. 83° 49.006' W**

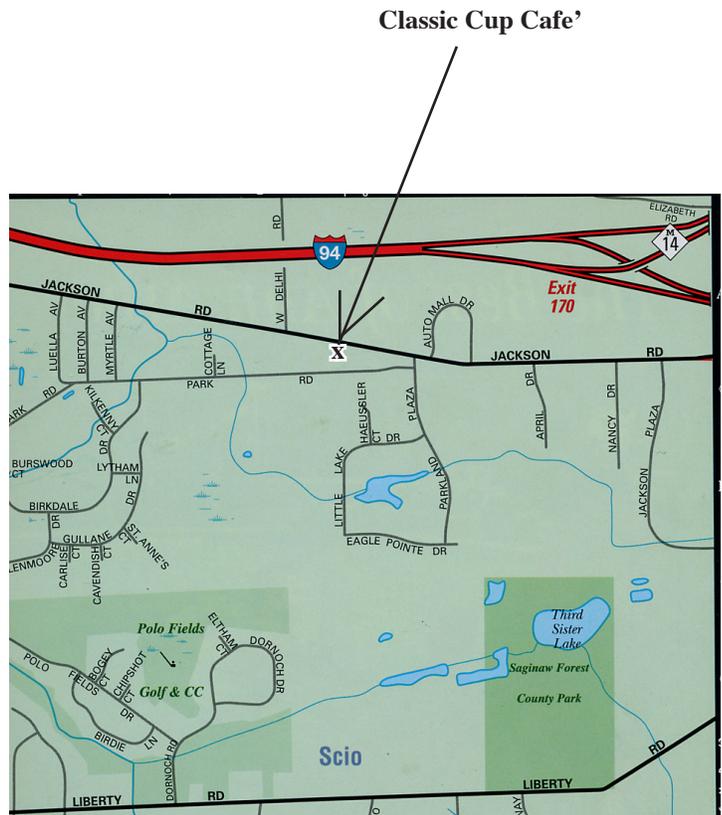
Sail and Power Boating Education

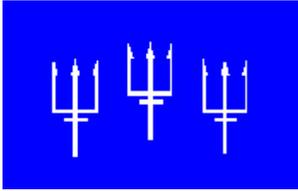
<http://www.aaspsq.org>

Public is invited

**6 pm: We will meet at the Classic Cup Café, 4389 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor.
Order from the menu. On south side of Jackson Rd. west of Wagner Rd.
In the Parkland shopping mall**

**Speaker: Dr. Lewis Gemelli, retired History Professor from EMU will talk about
President Andrew Jackson, 1829-1837.**





Commander's Message

Com. John Barr, AP, Life



Wow! It is almost September and time for the meetings of AASPS to begin. I hope all had a great summer with a lot of boating experiences. Marlene and I had a wonderful summer but our boating was limited to a pontoon boat on a small lake. Very enjoyable anyway!

AASPS is now in the boat safety inspection program. Art Pinsak, Curtis Hoff, Frank Hoy and I took the inspectors course and Art, Curtis and Frank finished up the requirements to be inspectors. Good show!

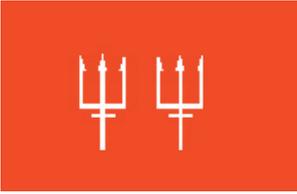
Art and Sharon Pinsak attended the Hessel Wooden Boat Show rendezvous. They deserve a medal for gumption as the weather that Saturday started out pretty grumpy. So much so that Marlene and I opted out. As Art predicted, the weather calmed down later in the day and the show was a success.

We are geared up for fall classes as you can see from the SEO's report. Our monthly membership/executive board meetings will begin in September with the first meeting will be Monday, September 19, 2011. Check the meeting notice in the Porthole for the change of location for this meeting. Curtis Hoff is planning an informational program that should be very enjoyable.

Marlene and I attended the Bristol Bay Education Cruise on the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair. The Buchanans also attended. The cruise was hosted by the United States Coast Guard and featured their Bristol Bay Cutter and Barge. The unit is very interesting as the barge is a working barge used to set and retrieve aids to navigation and has living quarters for crew on the lower level. The cruise started at the Coast Guard Station and went down the Detroit River to the Ambassador Bridge and then around and went upstream to Lake Saint Clair. A running commentary of all the aids to navigation made the cruise very educational. Soft drinks and snacks were provided as part of the cruise.

Although summer is winding down there are still a lot of beautiful boating days left this year. One of my favorite memories is a time Marlene and I came back from Mitchell's Bay in Lake St. Clair in September. The day was warm and calm making the cruise back to the Clinton River very enjoyable.





Education Officer's Message

Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life



It's fun to teach and learn

Congratulations to Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P, our Administrative Officer, for passing the Instructor Development and Marine Electrical Systems exams. He is currently studying the Marine Communications and Engine Maintenance courses.

Vessel Safety Inspection (VSI) : Congratulations to John Barr, Curtis Hoff, Frank Hoy, and Art Pinsak for passing the VSI course. Thanks to Jana White from the Dearborn Squadron for teaching it.

The next ABC3 (America's Boating course), our basic boating class - that covers Michigan Boating Laws and a little bit of marlin spike, course plotting and digital charts - will be on 8 Tuesday evenings October 4 to November 22, 2011 at Washtenaw Community College. Call Bob Buchanan for details and enrollment. 734-971-6589

Advanced Piloting course. We have several potential students. Call me if you want to take this course 734-769-3476.

We need more volunteers to serve as class chairpersons - organize, schedule, and teach various classes and seminars. Please look at the variety of subjects we can choose from at National Power Squadron's web site 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 and hold a class and share the teaching responsibilities among the class members. It's fun to teach and learn.



Boating is fun... we'll show you how

A partial list of events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>EVENT AND LOCATION</u>
Sept. 19, 2011	AASPS	General Meeting, Dinner at Classic Cup Café, 4389 Jackson Rd.
Oct. 4, 2011	AASPS	ABC course starts at WCC
Mar. 23-24, 2012	Dearborn	D9 Spring conference, Double Tree Hotel in Bay City

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.



Administrative Officer's Message

Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P



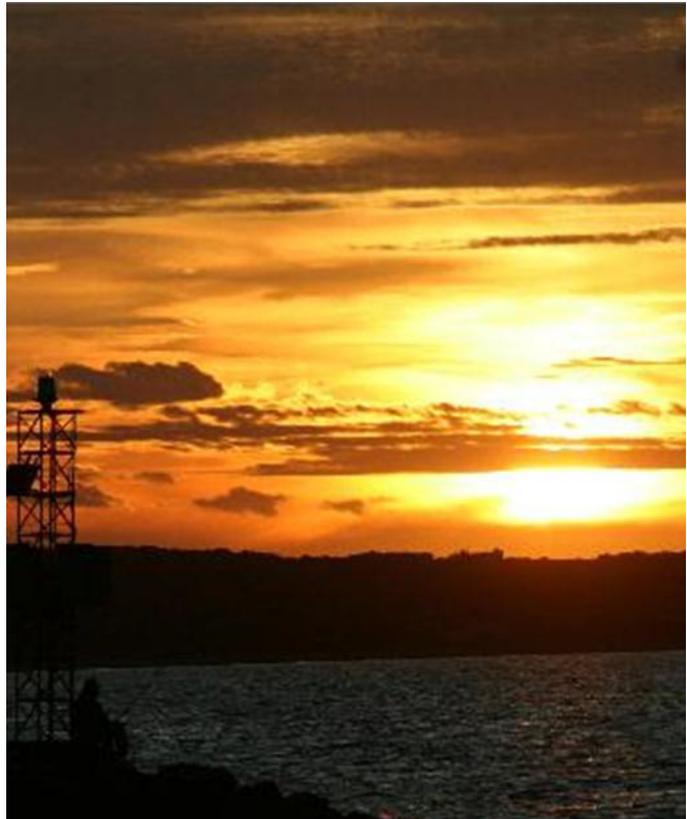
It is hard to believe that we are already on the “downhill” side of the boating season.

This has been the best boating season ever for us. Perfect weather with calm seas provided the foundation of the season. We didn't experience the extremely hot weather as Michigan did. Instead we had daily highs in the low 80's and nighttime temperatures in the high 60's with winds primarily between 5 and 15 knots.

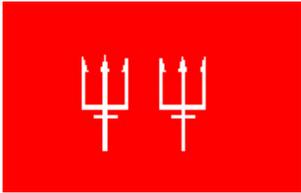
While the weather was great what really made the season was our location. As they say in real estate its location, location, location! Our home port this summer was East Greenwich, Rhode Island, and our primary cruising areas were Block Island Sound, Buzzard's Bay and Vineyard Sound. Of course we visited the major locations such as Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and Block Island. But what really made the summer were stops at lesser known places such as Cuttyhunk Island, Hadley Harbor, and Watch Hill. We never even made it to Cape Cod since the local area was so rich with interesting ports and anchorages. Next summer we plan to stay in the same area since there are too many additional places we didn't get a chance to visit.

This fall the AASPS will continue our focused efforts towards increasing the participation of our current members as well as expanding our membership. We plan to reach out via telephone calls and postcard mailers – so expect a call and look in your mailbox. We are also trying new General Meeting venues and other initiatives, as others have noted.

Fall meeting programs are being finalized, but I always welcome any suggestions for topics of interest.



Sunset from Menemsha



Executive Officer's Message

Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN, PC



Greetings to all! Summer is still in full swing, and I hope everyone is enjoying it as much as I am. I am pleased that we are going to get the Porthole issued earlier so that everyone can make plans to get involved. If we are more organized in getting this information out to our members, then they can make plans to join in on squadron activities. Thanks go out to Ron Schwartz and Margaret Moller for all the work they put into getting the Porthole published.

On 06/20/11 we gathered at Argo Park for our annual picnic. David and Mary Ann Mahey, (former members of AASPS), joined us, and everyone had a good time. Thanks go to Sharon Pinsak for coordinating this event. It was a tough day for Sharon because when she went to pick up the chicken the order had not filled. Needless to say there was a moment of panic, but everything ended well.

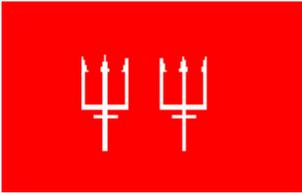
On 07/10/11 Curtis Hoff, and myself, joined with members of the Dearborn Power Squadron, at Elizabeth Park Marina, in Trenton to complete our training for vessel safety check examiners. I'm happy to report that we both have now been certified as Vessel Safety Check Examiners for the United States Power Squadrons. I wish to thank Jana White and Roy McPhail, and all of the members from DPS for assisting us with this training. It was a very good experience, and Curtis and I thoroughly enjoyed the time we spent with D.P.S.

On 09/19/11, at 6:00 PM we will hold our monthly meeting at the Classic Cup Café, located at 4389 Jackson Rd. Reasonably priced meals plus beer and wine are available. We have a telephone contact tree in place, and I want everyone to contact those members they are assigned to contact before this dinner. This dinner at this restaurant is an effort to bring some new faces out to our monthly meeting. I am hoping to see some new faces there. Membership involvement is critical for AASPS. Please join us on 09/19/11 at 6:00 PM.

AASPS Booster Club

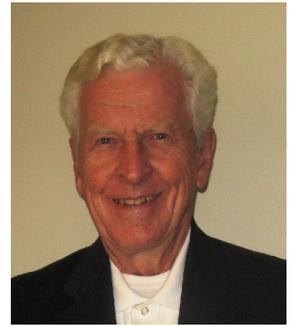
Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron would like your support. \$25 lists your name and boat in the Porthole for one year. Please send a check to Marlene Barr, Treasurer, 1200 Whittier Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197-2152

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



Secretary's Message

Lt/C Robert Buchanan, P



The talk in sailing circles this summer focused on the tragic Chicago to Mackinaw Race with the 2 deaths on *Wingnuts*, a 35' Kiwi. The 330 mile race started Saturday, July 16th in good weather although the skippers were aware of an impending severe wind weather forecast. By Sunday, the USCG issued a severe weather warning and stating that vessels seek safe harbor. *Wingnuts*, was hit by a 75 mph gust off of Charlevoix about midnight Sunday, was knocked over and "turned turtle." This means that the boat would not right itself because the mast was pointing straight down. *Sociable*, a competing yacht, heard their distress call and was able to pick up 6 survivors. The USCG Cutter *Mackinaw* was 2 hours steaming time away. All of the other yachts were able to complete the race.

The survivors said they had prepared for the oncoming storm by dropping the main sail and clipping on safety harnesses. *Wingnuts* capsized, its 6 survivors detached their safety lines or cut themselves loose, but the skipper and one other crewperson were unable to free themselves. A dive team found the 2 bodies about 8 hours later; autopsies showed that both had sustained head injuries.

Wingnuts had an unusual design: a narrow beam but with large hiking platforms on each side and a small keel. Finally, the race has rigorous safety guidelines that require crew members wear tracking beacons, life preservers and other gear, including a knife with a blade that can be opened with one hand so a safety harness line can be cut away in a single motion.

In my racing experience, I have had Snipes, Lasers, and Rebels "turn turtle." Cruising yachts may be knocked on their side but will always right themselves - do not turn turtle. My personal opinion is that if a 75 mph gust hit under the hiking wings, the boat could be knocked down, but I wonder why it turned turtle and would not right itself. All of the facts are still not known.



Old South Channel Range Lights



**Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN and Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P
ready to do vessel safety checks**

Photo from Frank Hoy



AASPS June 2011 picnic at Argo Pond Pavilion

Photo by Frank Hoy