

# The Porthole

June 2013



The official newsletter of the Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron  
a unit of United States Power Squadrons  
[www.aaspsq.org](http://www.aaspsq.org)

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



General Meetings are usually held each month, Sept. thru June  
See pages 3



Boating Education

48 YEARS SERVING  
THE BOATING PUBLIC

## CONTACTS

Commander: Robert Buchanan, P  
Executive Officer: P/C Frank Hoy, JN  
Administrative Officer: Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P  
Education Officer: Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life  
Secretary: Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan  
Treasurer: Lt/C Marlene Barr  
Public Relations Officer: P/C John Barr, AP  
Nominating: P/C John M. Barr, AP, Life  
Assistant SEO: Lt. Randy Stevenson, AP  
Chairman ABC: Com. Robert Buchanan, P  
Chairman Seamanship: P/C John M. Barr, AP, Life  
Chairman of Local Boards: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life  
Chairman of Piloting: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life  
Chairman of Adv. Piloting: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life  
Chairman Elective Courses: P/C Bob Snider, SN, Life  
Chairman Weather: Lt. Randy Stevenson, AP  
Chairman of N: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life  
Chaplin: P/C Arthur Pinsak, SN, Life  
Historian: Com. Robert Buchanan, P  
Conference Coord.: Lt. Sharon A. Pinsak  
Membership Chair: P/C Carolyn Knaggs, P  
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Webmaster: Lt/C Curtis Hoff, P  
Porthole Editor: Lt Peggy Moller  
Porthole Publisher Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life

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[www.aaspsq.org](http://www.aaspsq.org)

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.

We thank Bradley Schwartz for help with computer set-up and consulting. The Porthole is sent in color via e-mail 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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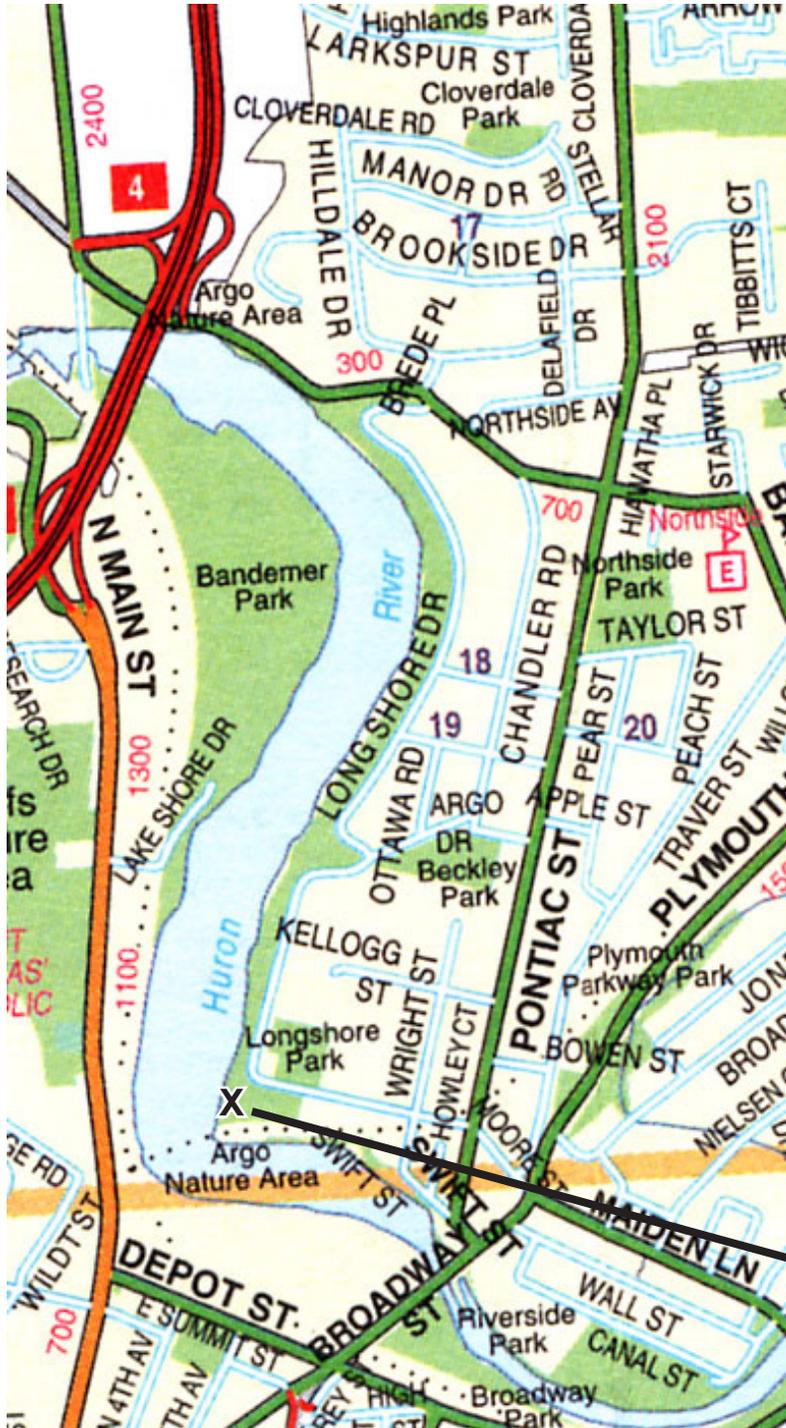
# Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron Picnic

Monday, 10 June 2013

Argo Pond Park and Canoe Livery  
Lat. 42° 17.47' N, Long. 83° 44.68' W

Sail and Power Boating Education

[www.aaspsq.org](http://www.aaspsq.org)



6 pm to 9 pm Picnic Potluck: We will meet at the Argo Pond Park and Launch Site on the east side of the Huron River next to Argo Pond Canoe Livery on Longshore Dr.

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. Sharon Pinsak will bring beer, wine, pop and fried chicken, plates, cups, tableware. \$5 each.

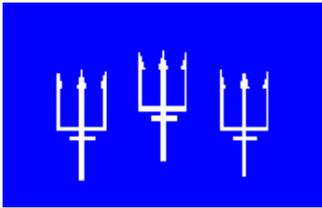
## DIRECTIONS

Exit M14 at Exit #4 and take Barton Dr. south and east to Longshore Dr. Follow Longshore Dr. south along the river to the Argo Canoe Livery. X on the map. Or, from downtown, take Division St. or Detroit St. north to Broadway St. Follow Broadway St. northeast to Moore St. Take Moore St. northwest. Moore St. will become Longshore Dr. on the west side of Pontiac Tr. Continue west to the river.



Canoe Livery and picnic site

You can bring a boat or canoe or kayak, or rent one. There is a shallow boat launch at the picnic site.



## Commander's Message

Cdr. Robert Buchanan, P



### Commander's Comments

June 10th is our squadron's summer picnic, one of my favorite events in the AASPS year. Porthole Editor Ron will give you the important information. AASPS Chaplain Art Pinsak has assured us of good weather. Sharon Pinsak traditionally has prepared a table of summertime favorites. You can kayak or canoe on the Huron River, hike to the canoe portage, or watch Amtrak on the opposite shore. Our picnic is the final AASPS meeting 'til fall. Actually most of the fall speakers are already planned so we should have an exciting fall schedule.

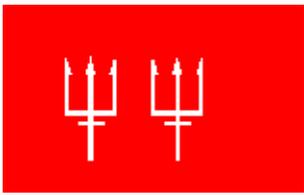
The D9 educational cruise on the Detroit River on board the USCG Bristol Bay is scheduled for June 18th with rain day of June 19th; 7:30 PM departure and 10:30 PM return. The cruise goes downriver under the Ambassador Bridge, then up into Lake St. Clair with a night return. Last year, while enjoying the cruise, we briefly lost track of our 10 year old grandson; after a 15 minute search, I found him down in the engine room engaged in a long conversation with one of the engineers. We described the cruise in the previous Porthole, however this might be the last year of the cruise due to federal budget issues so it is a once-only opportunity to have the "run of the ship" in other words down and up the river on a real working cutter.

This is the second of a three part series describing Captain Jim Irwin's talk at our April meeting, Practical Boating. Trip preparation should include knowing your destination and exactly how you plan to get there. In other words, don't head out onto the lake and say "go that way." Much as we talk about checking marine weather, I have been caught in summer squalls, a few weeks was caught in high winds in Florida because I failed to check the marine weather. The best source is the NOAA report on Channel #1. Once on a perfectly clear day they transmitted a small craft advisory. I returned to the dock; conditions still perfect so I called and asked how come. Their gracious reply was that they project marine weather about 12 hours in advance; a great safety procedure. We always file a float plan so a responsible person knows where we are going and when we plan to return.

If taking folks along who have not made passage with you previously, a passenger briefing will make everyone more secure that you clearly are in command and are skilled to handle any issues.

I cover "Man Overboard", use of the radio (either Channel #16 or DSC), location of fire extinguishers. Lastly, nothing goes down the head that has not gone into your mouth first. My most common problem in leaving the dock is that I forget to release the spring line. Finally, my management of a seasick passenger is to immediately give them the helm and compass course! This takes their mind off of their troubles.





## Secretary's Message

Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan



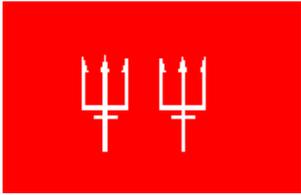
This summer Bob and I are planning a "Midwestern Waterways by Auto" trip. Our first stop will be the Chicago area to visit family and the Chicago Art Museum. The next stop will be LaCrosse, Wisconsin to see my college roommate. LaCrosse is on the Mississippi and the site of a series of locks for the river barges. Here our marine radio scanner will be helpful to listen to the river pilots as they talk to the lockmasters. Our next stop will be Minneapolis (Minnesota Art Museum), then on to Duluth. Several Duluth motels are located on the bridge piers adjacent to the shipping entrance into Duluth harbor and the ore docks. We are told that nights can become noisy as the freighters whistle for the Duluth channel bridge which then opens with quite a racket. Next we plan to drive along the Lake Superior shore to Two Harbors and Silver Bay, both ports with ore docks.

Our next stop will be Marquette (Marlene Barr knows Marquette well) where a classic hotel overlooks the waterfront and ore docks. Our last stop on this odyssey will be Sault Ste. Marie where we have a favorite motel directly opposite the Soo Locks. Again, the scanner is essential to listen to the lockmaster and Soo traffic; radio traffic goes on all night long. On the Canadian side, excellent hiking trails are available to walk across the old lock, and then out to the rapids, the Falls of St. Mary's. The only problem is the usual 45 minutes required to re-enter the U.S. from the Canadian side. Lastly, a 15 minute ferry ride to Sugar Island gives wonderful views up and down the St. Mary's River; one dollar for foot passengers round trip.

We will report on how this works



Lt./C Ron Schwartz, SNL and P/C Frank Hoy, JN, kayaking at our 2009 picnic



## Education Officer's Message

Lt/C Ron Schwartz, SN, Life



USPS Basic Boating Classes can be found at toll free 1-888-367-8777 (1-888-FOR-USPS) Or go to [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)

ABC class starts Oct. 6 at Washtenaw Community College - contact Cdr. Bob Buchanan. P (734) 971-6589.

Weather class. Contact Chairman Randy Stevenson (734) 429-5099

Seamanship class is almost completed.

We need more volunteers to serve as class chairpersons - those who organize, schedule, and teach a course or seminar - so that we can teach more of the subjects available through USPS. Please look at the variety of subjects we can choose from at United States Power Squadron's website, [www.usps.org](http://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 to share the teaching responsibilities. It's fun to teach and learn.

Download NOAA BookletCharts Free and treat yourself to a desktop cruise. Use google earth to see pictures from the area. [www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/BookletChart.html](http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/BookletChart.html)

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## Classes



Hurricane on East Coast

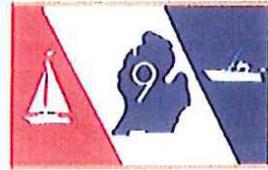
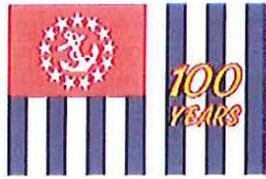
**Weather Course** About 8 to 10 weeks. Please contact Lt. Randy Stevenson, AP for details. 734-429-5099.

[rstevenson@accioenergy.com](mailto:rstevenson@accioenergy.com)

Cost is \$64 for members and \$144 for non-members.

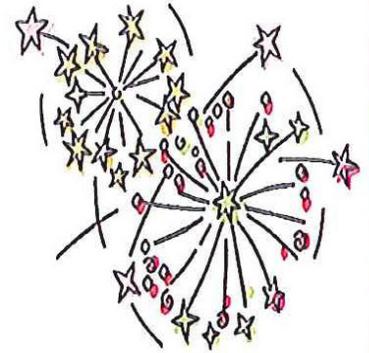
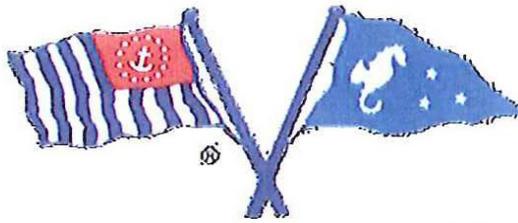
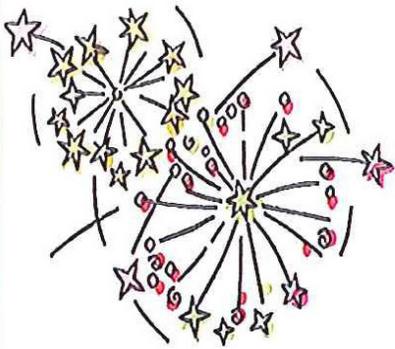


Oct 11-13



# 2013 District 9 Fall Conference 11 - 13 October 2013

Hosted by Birmingham Power Squadron



50th Anniversary Year  
1963 - 2013

Theme:

Celebrating  
"Then and Now"



ConCorde Inn



44315 N Gratiot Avenue  
Clinton Township  
Michigan

Exciting  
New Venue





A Partial List of Events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>EVENT AND LOCATION</u>
June 9	AASPS	Vessel Safety Check at Portage Lake, Waterloo, Jackson County. See page 11 12.
June 10	AASPS	Picnic at Argo Pond Launch site. 6 PM. See page 3.
June 18	D9	Coast Guard Cruise. See pages 9 10.
Aug. 2-3	Coast Guard	Picnic to start of Coast Guard weekend. Great Lakes Marina Muskegon. Coast Guard Parade. Grand Haven, MI
Aug. 16-18		Grand Traverse Bay Lobster Fest. Northport, MI
Oct. 6	AASPS	ABC class at Washtenaw Community College. See page 6.
Oct. 11-13	D9/BPS	District Conference. See page 7.

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
Bob Cox		May 2013

Internet sites for other Squadron activities.

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

[www.aaspsq.org](http://www.aaspsq.org)

and select District 9 Squadrons

D-9 websites: <http://d9-usps.org/>

Please check USPS website [www.USPS.org](http://www.USPS.org)

and websites of squadrons near you for their activities that you might want to attend.

## Detroit River Cruise on the Coast Guard Cutter *Bristol Bay*, 7:00 PM, June 18, 2013

Sign up for a 3-hour United States Coast Guard (USCG), United States Power Squadron (USPS) and United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAUX) D/9 educational opportunity aboard the 140-ft. Coast Guard Cutter "BRISTOL BAY." The Bristol Bay will also be pushing their Aids to Navigation (floating buoys, fixed aids and ranges) barge. The barge is capable of carrying approximately 250 people. Bring binoculars if you have them, and dress warmly.

The U S Power Squadron, the U S Coast Guard and US Coast Guard Auxiliary are the world's premier marine safety organizations that take great pride in sponsoring this educational opportunity to recreational basic boating students. This will be a unique 3-hour educational opportunity aboard the 140-ft ship and its 130-ft. barge for a total of a 270 foot vessel.

We will be traveling the waters of the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair. We hope this event will provide the basic boating students with a better understanding of the aids to navigation and their light characteristics. An understanding of the aids to navigation is an essential part of safe boating, although covered in the classroom during your course; it is best understood by actually seeing the aids at sea. The timing has been planned so that daytime and evening light characteristics of the aids can be seen. During the entire voyage, a Power Squadron or Coast Guard Auxiliary member and an active duty Coast Guard Officer will provide commentary. You will see and hear about Aids to Navigation and more during our river and lake cruise. You'll have fun and improve your boating safety.

Each Power Squadron and Coast Guard Auxiliary student will be given a chart replica of the river and lake areas we are going to cruise, showing the various navigational aids and their individual characteristics. They will be numbered on the chart and the actual aids and their light characteristics will be identified as we pass them.

We will begin boarding promptly at 7.00 PM at Coast Guard Station Group Detroit. This is at the foot of Mt. Elliott Avenue, right at the Detroit River. We will have personnel there to assist and direct you on parking and boarding procedures. A detailed map of the area will be mailed to you along with your boarding passes. Departure time is 7:30 P M.

**CHILDREN:** Children who attend the USPS or the USCGAUX Public Boating Courses are welcome to participate in this educational opportunity. However, we must restrict participation by other family members (and friends) to those 12 years of age and older. The Power Squadron and the Coast Guard Auxiliary are family oriented organizations and we sponsor many activities that include children. But, because this cruise requires the concentration of the participants, we have the age restriction. Thanks for understanding.

**ABOUT USPS:** Formed in 1914, the United States Power Squadrons is the world's largest nonprofit boating organization. Their 60,000 members in the 450 squadrons are boating families who contribute to their communities by promoting safe boating on the water and in the classroom.

All USPS members are volunteers. USPS District 9 is composed of 2,003 members in 22 squadrons. Collectively, these 22 squadrons teach the USPS ABC3 Boating Course to residents of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and Northern Indiana.

**ABOUT USCGAUX:** The Coast Guard Auxiliary was created by an Act Of Congress in 1939, as a non- military, civilian affiliate of the Coast Guard, and as such plays a substantial role In the National Safe Boating program. The total Coast Guard Auxiliary family consists of 35,000 volunteers. The District 9 Central region is composed of 10 Divisions, with 56 Flotillas and about 1 500 members.

All of our basic boating students are being invited to join this event and because of this, we urge you to get your reservations in early. Fill out the form today and mail it along with your check. We are limited to 250 passengers and expect to fill up fast. First come, first served. If you are among those who enroll too late, your check will be refunded. Sign up - page 11, below.



# Sign up for the Cruise - Board 7:00 PM, Depart 7:30 PM, 18 June 2013

Yes, we are interested in joining the USPS and USCGAUX educational opportunity aboard the Coast Guard Cutter "Bristol Bay" on Tuesday June 18th, 2013 and would like to reserve space now. We understand that we will be mailed boarding passes and directions to the Bristol Bay. We understand that if the cruise is canceled because of extremely bad weather we will be contacted at (phone number) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ and the cruise will be rescheduled or our money will be refunded.

NAME:  
 ADDRESS:  
 CITY:  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP:  
 Email Address:

I have attached a check in the amount of \$ .....  
 (\$15.00 per person to defray costs of training materials, refreshments and incidentals) to D/9 Educational Cruise Committee. Please write your phone number on the front of the check. List all names of the attendees in the space provided on the back.

Please read the following statement of responsibility and indicate your agreement by signing and dating in the space provided. This Statement must accompany your form and check. Thank You.

**Responsibility:**  
 This D/9 educational opportunity is an optional voluntary event intended to familiarize the student with Aids to Navigation. The United States Department of Transportation, the United States Coast Guard or any of its officers or agents, USPS, USPS District 9, squadrons in District 9 and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Divisions, Flotillas in 9 Central Region and the District 9 Cruise Committee shall be held free of responsibility for any damage, injury or loss resulting from any cause. Alcohol and unlawful substances will not be permitted on board and any student known to have same in his or her possession shall be denied boarding.  
 Neither USPS, USPS District 9, the squadrons, USCG AUX, Divisions, Flotillas in 9CR the District 9 Cruise Committee employees, affiliates or representatives own, or operate, manage, control, inspect, distribute or warrant any vehicle, vessel, or any product, premises or service, provided directly or indirectly in connection with the cruise; nor are they or any of them responsible or liable for any accident, injury, illness, death, loss, damage, expense, delay or any other irregularity of any nature whatsoever arising directly from the District 9 Educational Cruise, or from any part thereof due to any cause whatsoever including negligence, strikes, terrorism or Acts Of God

I/we agree to its terms. Passengers under the age of 18 require consent and signature of a parent or guardian. Please sign and date. We cannot make your reservation unless signed by each person

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign and remove this section and send it along with your check by **June 11th, 2013**.

In the space provided below, please **PRINT** the name of each member of your family or guests who will be accompanying you on the D/9 Educational Cruise.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that there will be no refund if I do not show up for the regularly scheduled cruise. If the cruise is canceled, I will be notified and the cruise will be rescheduled or my money will be refunded.

The Sponsoring Organization that I took the class from was the: \_\_\_\_\_ Power Squadron

USCGAUX \_\_\_\_\_ Flotilla

Fill out the form today and mail it along with your check made payable to **D/9 Educational Cruise Committee**, to:  
 Reservations

Linda LaLonde, P  
 3734 Benstein Road  
 Commerce Twp. MI 48382-1813  
 (Phone) 248-360-9304  
 (Email) [lalonde@us.ibm.com](mailto:lalonde@us.ibm.com)

Student \_\_\_\_\_  
 Proctor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member \_\_\_\_\_



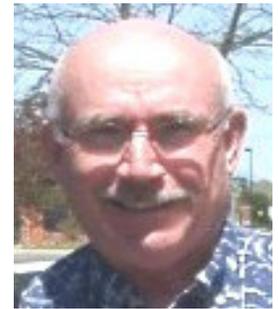
Come Aboard  
 the Cutter

"Bristol Bay"  
 18 June 2013

Board 7:00 PM at the Coast Guard Station  
 at the foot of Mt. Elliott Avenue, Detroit  
 Depart 7:30 PM, 18 June 2013



## Executive Officer's Message P/C Frank Hoy, JN

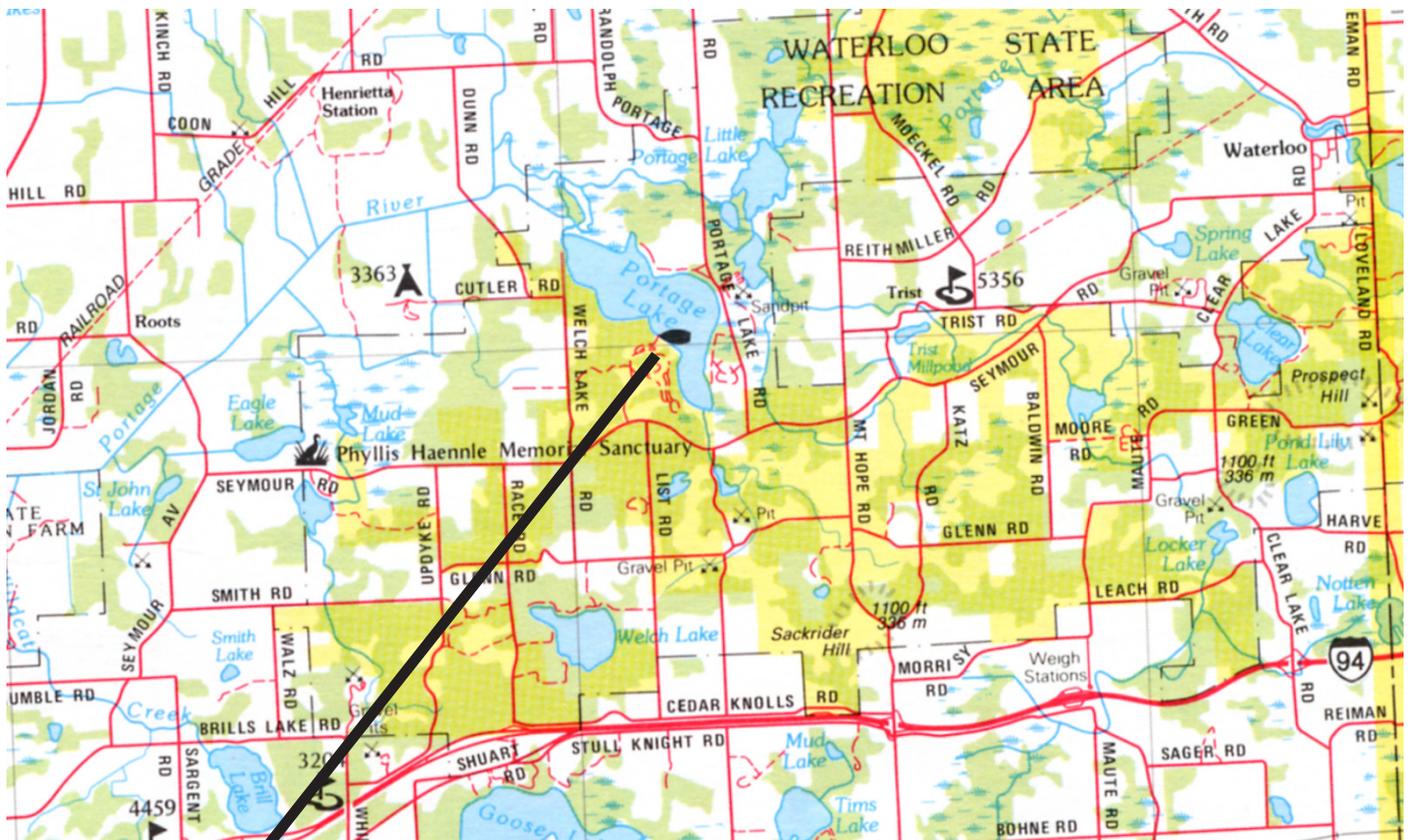


A Hoy here,

Summer is almost here. I have a day planned for doing vessel safety certifications, Sunday June 9, 2013. This will take place at Portage Lake launch site, in Jackson County, northeast of Jackson in Waterloo State Recreation area. I hope to exceed our last years total for number of vessels inspected. For a map of the area go to <http://maps.google.com/?ll=42.32253,-84.22962&z=13&t=h>. It is near the camp ground on Portage Lake. Enter from Seymour Rd. west of Portage Lake Rd. I am hopeful the weather will be good.

I hope to see everyone at our picnic on June10.

Lt/C Frank Hoy, EXO



Frank plans to do Vessel Safety Inspections at this launch site on Portage Lake in Jackson County, Waterloo State Recreation Area, L at. 42°19' 58.26" N, Long. 84°14' 04.93" W , on 6 June 2013.



# VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC)

To be completed by a U.S. Coast Guard approved Vessel Examiner. See the back of this form for a brief explanation of required items. A Federal Requirements pamphlet is also available.

Date of VSC: 7-10-2011

Decal Awarded: Yes  No

Owner/Operator Name:

BS \_\_\_\_\_

Owner/Operator has attended a CGAUX, USPS, State or \_\_\_\_\_ Boating Safety Class: Yes  No

Location of VSC - County: Wayne State: MI

Replaced decal was: Last Year  Outdated  First time

## VESSEL INFORMATION:

Registration or Documentation Number: MC \_\_\_\_\_ AN

HIN: CU \_\_\_\_\_ 8

Length: <16  16-25  26-39  40-65  >65

Powered by: Gas  Diesel  Sail  Other

Area of Operations: Inland  Coastal

Type: PWC  Open  Cabin  Other

## VESSEL SAFETY CHECK DECAL REQUIREMENTS

Item	Yes	No	N/A
1. Display of Numbers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
2. Registration/Documentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
3. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
4. Visual Distress Signals (VDS)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
5. Fire Extinguishers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
6. Ventilation			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Backfire Flame Control			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Sound Producing Devices/Bell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
9. Navigation Lights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
10. Pollution Placard			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. MARPOL Trash Placard			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12. Marine Sanitation Devices			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13. Navigation Rules			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14. State and/or Local Requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
15. Overall Vessel Condition: <b>as applies</b>			
a. Deck Free of Hazards / Clean Bilge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
b. Electrical - Fuel Systems		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
c. Galley - Heating Systems			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## RECOMMENDED AND DISCUSSION ITEMS (While encouraged, items below are not VSC requirements)

Item	Yes	No
I. Marine Radio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
II. Dewatering Device & Backup	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
III. Mounted Fire Extinguishers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
IV. Anchor & Line for Area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
V. First Aid and PIW Kits (**over)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
VI. Inland Visual Distress Signals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
VII. Capacity/Certificate of Compliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
VIII. Discussion Items: <b>as applies</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
a. Accident Reporting - Owner Responsibility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
b. Offshore Operations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
c. Nautical Charts / Navigation Aids	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
d. Survival Tips / First Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
e. Fueling / Fuel Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
f. Float Plan / Weather & Sea Conditions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
g. Insurance Considerations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
h. Boating Check List	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
i. Safe Boating Classes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
j. Maritime Domain Awareness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

I certify that I have personally examined this vessel and find it meets the above requirements at the time of this Vessel Safety Check. I am a qualified Vessel Examiner of the: CGAUX  USPS  State of \_\_\_\_\_  or \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of the Examiner: Roy McPhail FRANK HOY Examiner Number: E091968 E113938

Examiner Signature: R McPhail Frank Hoy Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Comments:** This is not an official boarding for law enforcement purposes. It is recommended that you correct any deficiencies noted. This checklist is furnished for your information. There is no assumption of liability of any kind for advice given or opinions expressed in connection to this examination. By accepting the Vessel Safety Check decal you are pledging to maintain your boat and equipment to the standard of safety exhibited during this examination. Please remove the Vessel Safety Check decal if the boat is sold or no longer meets these requirements.

I am consenting to this Vessel Safety Check of my watercraft with full knowledge that it is provided to me as a public service on a volunteer basis without cost, and I understand and agree that my receipt of a Vessel Safety Check shall not constitute or be construed as a warranty or guarantee as to either the qualification, knowledge, or skills of the operator; the seaworthiness of the vessel; or the serviceability or adequacy of any equipment on board.

Owner/Operator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 7/10/11

NCS7012 (2-05) Previous edition may be used