

The Porthole

March 2015



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Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron

<http://www.aaspq.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 page 3



50 YEARS SERVING
THE BOATING PUBLIC



Boating Education

Visit our web site
www.aaspsq.org

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Thank you Shih-Chieh Yin for your design of front page of the Porthole

Volunteers are welcome and needed for the following opportunities:

Photographer needed to take pictures at our meetings and e-mail them to our Porthole publisher.

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.

The Porthole is published ten times a year, September through June, by the Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron. The articles and opinions expressed therein do not necessarily reflect USPS or AASPS policy. Articles may be reprinted without permission, if credit is given to the author and to the original source. The Porthole is sent in color via e-mail, or via US mail in black and white.

We thank Bradley and George Schwartz and Evrard Ohou for help with computer consulting.





50th
Anniversary
1965 - 2015

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron
6 P. M. Monday March 16, 2015
Carlyle Grill
3660 Jackson Rd.
Lat. 42° 17.1' N, Long. 83° 48.2' W

Sail and Power Boating Education
www.aaspsq.org

6 pm: We will meet at the Carlyle Grill, 3660 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor. West of the Lighthouse Car Wash. Order from the menu. Please call Sharon Pinsak for reservations. 734-973-0441. Visit Carlyle Grill website to see their menu. <http://www.carlylegrill.com/>



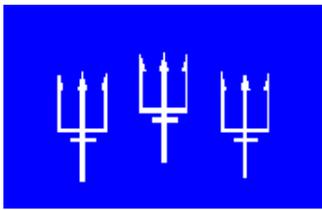
Speakers: John and Marlene Barr will show pictures and tell about their cruise from Portugal to Rome.



Forte de São João Batista, Berlenga, São Pedro -
Peniche on the Portugal Coast
Photo by João Paulo Coutinho



Rome, Castel Sant'Angelo Photo by &ri.co



Commander's Message

Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN



Last month, our speaker at our monthly meeting was Jack Broadhurst, Commander of Division Eighteen - Detroit River, of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. There are several groups in Division Eighteen so his position is similar to our District Commander. He told us about what the CGAUX does. They are all civilian volunteers, assist the Coast Guard, and can do anything the Coast Guard can do, except law enforcement. Like the Power Squaron they teach basic boating safety courses and do vessel safety inspections. In addition they patrol assigned sections of water and assist boaters for which they receive a gasoline subsidy. See <http://www.cgaux.org/> Established in 1939 by Congress, the 30,000 members of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary are Semper Paratus (always ready).

This month the speakers at our monthly meeting will be John and Marlene Barr, showing pictures of their trip from Portugal to Rome. See page 3 for details.

Our web site is up and running thanks to Evrard (Freddy) Ohou, Peggy Moller, and Curtis Hoff. Check it out at www.aaspsq.org and send suggestions to webmaster Freddy at oevfred@umich.edu.

Our Administrative Officer, Lt/C Karen Snyder, P, is doing a great job of planning speakers for our general meetings. Please respond to her AASPS Program Survey when it arrives in your e-mail.

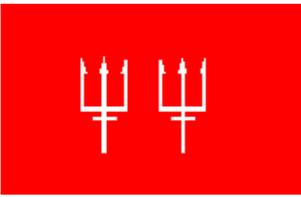
The Tip of the Thumb Heritage Water Trail is a 103-mile water trail on Lake Huron with 44 access points that winds around Michigan's Thumb into Saginaw Bay. <http://www.michiganwatertrails.org/>The southern section of the water trail starts at White Rock Park and travels past many interesting but rocky areas. The "northern" section of the trail begins at White Rock Park and travels north and around the thumb terminating at the Quanicasse River public access site. Once paddlers on the north trail round the point at Port Austin, the shore becomes sandy. See the map on page 5. Wear a lifejacket and only go when the water is calm, and prepare for tipping by stowing for cameras, radios, etc. in waterproof bags. Go to <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jensen/visuals/album/2009/portaustin/> for super pictures, videos, and a map to Turnip Rock near Port Austin.



Turnip Rock on Michigan's Lake Huron shore near Port Austin

The D9 Spring Conference description and registration form are on pages 12 and 13 of this issue of the Porthole. If you can, try to go to the conference, especially the Friday night hospitality rooms. They are lots of fun.





Assistant Secretary's Message

Lt/C Bob Buchanan, P



This winter has again turned frigid! The Great Lakes are about 87% ice covered with only Lakes Michigan and Ontario having some areas of open water. The result is a major impact on lake shipping plus another possible delay in the start of the 2015 shipping season. The Soo Locks are scheduled to open March 25th but the first boat did not arrive until April 4th last year due to ice. A number of lake freighters had adventurous sailings during this past January and February. This report will describe only one, the struggles of Canadian National's *Arthur M. Anderson*.

First, the reason the *Anderson's* name is engraved in the annals of Great Lakes maritime history is for the roll she played in the *Edmund Fitzgerald* disaster in the early evening of Monday, November 10, 1975. On sunny November 9, 1975, the *Anderson* departed Two Harbors, MN with a load of ore for Gary, IN. She was overtaken by the larger and faster *Edmund Fitzgerald*. The two captains (Capt. Jesse Cooper of the *Anderson* and Capt. Ernest McSorley of the *Fitzgerald*) agreed to run together maintaining contact with each other on their Lake Superior transit through a forecasted storm to the Soo taking the longer route following the Canadian shore. On their last leg of their run following the eastern Canadian shore toward Whitefish Bay, they were exposed to extremely heavy following seas of 20 to 30 feet. In a snow squall, the *Fitzgerald* disappeared from the *Anderson's* radar screen. Emerging from the squall, the lights of the *Fitzgerald* were also gone. Captain Cooper stated to the USCG in a historic transmission, "I am concerned about the welfare of the steamer *Edmund Fitzgerald*."

The *Anderson* continues to be hard at work during the shipping season. This past February, the *Anderson* made her final trip of the season with a load of ore to Connaught, Ohio with plans to return to Sturgeon Bay for winter layup. However, she never made it into Conneaut, but was beset by ice in Lake Erie, shown here in a photograph by the USCG. The plume of exhaust suggests that the engines were at full power. The 140' USCG *Bristol Bay*, on which many of our power squadron members have sailed, was dispatched to aid the *Anderson*. The picture here was taken from the bridge of the *Bristol Bay* by her captain, Lt. Cdr Henry while she was working hard to break ice. But *Bristol Bay* had her own struggles and was forced to return to Cleveland for fuel escorted by the Canadian CG ice-breaker *Griffon*. At one point the *Bristol Bay* ran low on food requiring a nighttime catering by USCG helicopter as shown here. This remarkable photograph, taken by the USCG, shows the ice ridges.

Finally the CCG ice-breaker *Samuel Risley* was tasked to break out the *Anderson*. Cleveland was considered as a destination but ice ridges made this difficult so the *Risley* with the *Anderson* in tow finally reached Detroit on February 24th. The aerial CCG photograph shows the *Risley* working parallel to the beset *Anderson* to develop a track of open water. Finally, you can see the *Risley* taking a rest with a CCG helicopter alongside, crewmen walking out on the ice.

As we look ahead, the opening of the 2015 shipping season is not far away, but we can only speculate about how this will be possible in view of the ice conditions. The lower St. Clair River will likely again be a choke point with ice almost to the bottom.



Arthur M. Anderson on ice. Coast Guard photo



Ice ridges. Coast Guard photo



The *Arthur M. Anderson* and the *Samuel Risley* Coast Guard photo

Education Department

Our ABC class starts May 12 at Washtenaw Community College. We already have 2 students enrolled. Call 734-971-6589 for information.

JN class is progressing. This course teaches celestial navigation -- determining your position from sextant sights on the sun. We have found that the Gallup Park Launch Site on Geddes Road east of Huron Parkway is a convenient place from which to take sextant sights. The class is meeting Tuesday evenings at St. Joe's Hospital Womens Health Center 2nd floor classrooms.

On-Line seminars are now available -- developed by USPS and Boat US. Three online seminars are now available - Weather for Boaters, Partner in Command and Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes. <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/promos/quimby-ad-finals.jpg> or <http://www.boatus.org/course-preview/pic/index.html>

We have a variety of **2 hour seminars** to choose from with no exams, just pure pleasure. We will offer some of these if we have students interested. See <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/seminars/main.htm>

Please send me (aapsclasses@aol.com) a list of the USPS courses and seminars that you want to study during the next 5 years, so we can plan and advertise these and attract more students.

Please look at the variety of boating topics we offer at United States Power Squadron's website, 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.

USPS Basic Boating Classes (ABC-Americas Boating Course) can be found at toll free 1-888-367-8777 (1-888-FOR-USPS) Or go to www.usps.org

USPS offers On-the-water training, and certification for Inland and Coastal Navigation. Go to www.usps.org/national/eddept/boc/main.htm#news If you are interested in this, please call me 734-769-3476.

Environmental Branch US Army Core of Engineers - Detroit District <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/>

Great Lakes water levels:<http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/GreatLakesInformation/GreatLakesWaterLevels.aspx>

Put NOAA charts into your Garmin GPS <http://www.gpsfiledepot.com/tutorials/creating-raster-noaa-charts-for-garmin-gps-units-with-moagu/>

From the February 2015 Issue of Barometer, newsletter of the Tip Of the Mitt Power Squadron: If you missed any Great Lakes Cruising Club webinars that you wish you'd taken, you can still access them at: <http://www.glccschool.com/recordings>

Web sites of ocean cruisers and other subjects of interest;

Randy Tisch's world cruise www.tischtravels.com

Blue Planet Odyssey <http://cornellsailing.com/sail-the-odyssey/blue-planet-odyssey/>

American Sailing Association <http://www.asa.com/>

American Sailing Institute <http://americansailinginstitute.org/>

Download NOAA Booklet Charts free and treat yourself to a desktop cruise. <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/BookletChart.html> Use google earth to see pictures from the area.

There are many companies that give discounts to USPS members. To see this list go www.usps.org and click on Index, then member benefits.

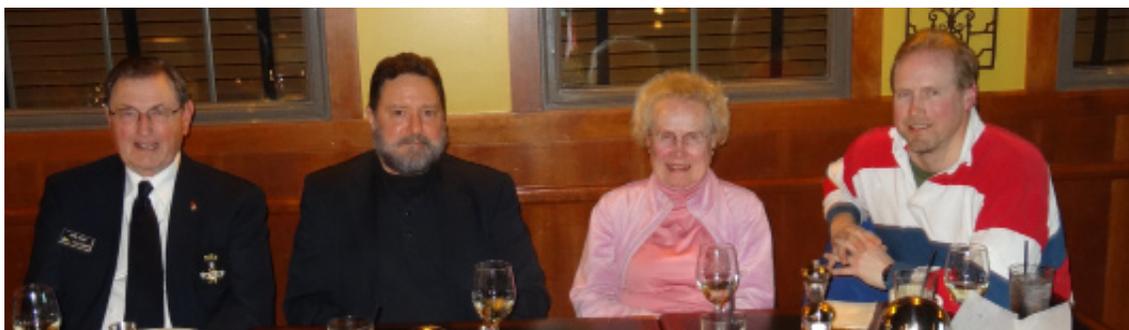
Internet sites for other Squadron activities. For quick access to any of the D-9 Squadrons, click on the Links section of our website www.aaspsq.org and select District 9 Squadrons.
 D-9 websites: <http://d9-usps.org/>
 Please check USPS website www.usps.org and websites of squadrons near you for their activities that you might want to attend.

A Partial List of Events .

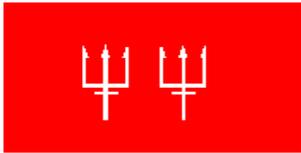
DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT AND LOCATION
Mar. 16	AASPS	General Meeting at Carlyle Grill. John and Marlene Barr will present a cruise from Portugal to Italy. See page 3.
Apr. 20	AASPS	General Meeting at Carlyle Grill
April 24-26	D9	Spring Conference at Shanty Creek, Bellaire, MI. See page 11-12

The USPS® Pledge

I do solemnly pledge to Abide by the bylaws of the United States Power Squadrons; Promote high standards of navigation and seamanship: Maintain my boat and operate it legally: Render assistance whenever possible: And conduct myself in a manner that will add prestige, honor, and respect to the United States Power Squadrons.



John Barr Rollin Bellfi, USN Marlene Barr John Barr Jr. at February's meeting



Executive Officer's Message

Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN



A Hoy members,

The warm weather has arrived to SW Florida. Of course it brings a sudden rise in the pollen levels. Achoo! I have received our 2015 safety inspection stickers from national. I have attached a photo of this year's sticker. I plan on doing boat safety inspections the middle of June. I will be doing inspections at the Waterloo recreation area. We are always warmly welcomed at this location, and I look forward to doing this project for the squadron.

Now that it's warming up down here, I plan on a fishing expedition out in the Gulf of Mexico. I will document this adventure with lots of photographs. An all day trip costs \$60.00 and goes out about 25 miles. You want to make sure you go on a day when the wind isn't blowing very hard. I will keep you posted.



Florida 'disgusting temperature' at Frank's house



Cdr. Jack Broadhurst, CGAUX, Bob Buchanan, Jeannine Buchanan and Karen Snyder, at February's meeting

D9 Spring Conference - Shanty Creek Resorts, Bellaire, MI on 24-26 April, 2015.

Go to the D9 web site for more information

<http://d9-usps.org/>



The theme for the Friday night hospitality rooms will be “Musicals” and squadrons will really show off their creativity. Seminars and programs will offer something for everyone, and there is special entertainment on Saturday evening. Look for your registration information as we get closer to the date.

In addition to officers’ meetings, here is a sampling of the Saturday schedule:

- Virtual Trainer Demonstrations
- Boating Activities for Your Squadron
- Hiking to North Manitou Island (A first hand account of 4 men who crossed the frozen Manitou Passage in 2014, as told by participant Bob Sutherland, owner of Cherry Republic.)
- Mackinaw Maritime Museum Program
- Vessel Safety Checks (Highlighting the new book)
- Seamanship/Piloting
- Electronic Navigation

From South Bend Sail & Power Squadron’s February/March 2015 issue of the SpringLine

