

The Porthole

April 2015



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Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron

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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



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THE BOATING PUBLIC



Boating Education

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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.

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



Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron Meeting 6 P. M. Monday 20 April 2015
Carlyle Grill 3660 Jackson Rd. Lat. 42° 17.1' N, Long. 83° 48.2' W

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/>

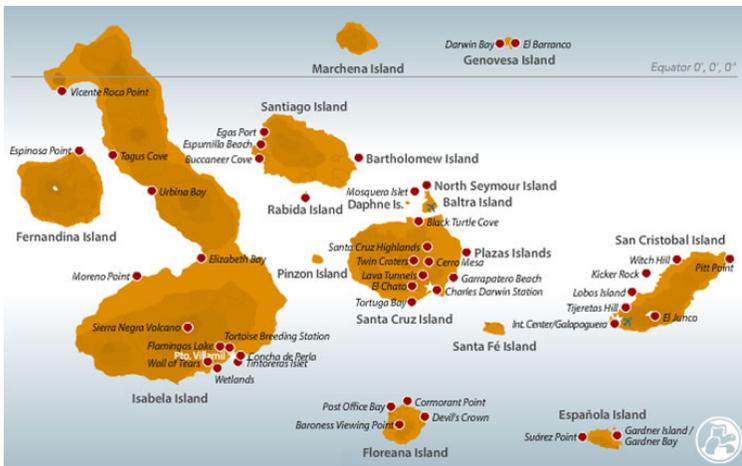


Speakers: Peter Hinman, S and Lt/C Karen Snyder, P: Ecuador’s Galapagos Islands on a 105’ steel-hulled schooner, *The Beagle*.

Darwin sails again! And you can live vicariously amidst the tortoises, blue-footed boobies, unique hawks and strange iguanas as Peter Hinman narrates a slide show featuring incredible creatures and landscapes in the middle of the Pacific. He will be interrupted constantly by his travelling companion and fellow presenter, Karen Snyder, who loves the Galapagos Islands more than anyplace else on earth. Karen has been there 3 times; they both were there last year and their enthusiasm will be nauseating but informative and fun.

What’s a “wet landing”? A “dry landing”? What’s a panga? What’s unique about Galapagos hawks? And why are there almost no docks on the many islands forming this migrating volcanic archipelago? Why is access so carefully controlled?

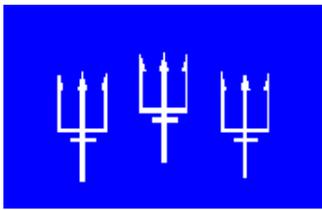
These questions and more will be answered at our April meeting at the Carlyle Grill. Highly evolved members should love the erudite narrative. Less evolved members will like the pretty pictures. Hope you will come.



Galapagos Islands west of Ecuador



Peter on the bow (red shirt) of *The Beagle* as it sails between islands in the Galapagos.



Commander's Message

Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN



We thank the speakers, John and Marlene Barr, for last month's program about their cruise from Portugal to Italy, and we look forward to this month's program from Peter Hinman and Karen Snyder telling us about their trip to the Galapagos Islands.

They say time slows down as you approach the speed of light. It seems to me that time goes faster as I approach the speed of a snail.

I enjoy desktop cruises using Wikipedia, Google Earth, free digital charts, and our USPS N course (Navigation course) Visual Passage Planner. The VPP automatically chooses way points along your course to optimize either wave height or travel time based on digital historic pilot chart data of winds, currents and storms for the months you are traveling, and reports the sail angle (beat, run, etc.) average speed, fuel usage and time between way points. My latest cruise is following the tracks of the *HMS Bounty* and the ships boat after the mutiny. I put pictures into powerpoint for a future presentation. It's almost as much fun as a real cruise. I usually see the best pictures of the area, get all the history I want, and have a lot less danger, hassle, boredom, sea sickness, etc., with all the comforts of home. And I never run aground, miss my club meetings or favorite radio and TV shows.

The web site <http://www.michiganwatertrails.org/> has replaced the old maps of rive trails of Michigan that we used to get from the state. It has a lot more rivers and information. Our own Huron River is probably one of the better ones. The water is clean and fast. We have history -- Robert de La Salle came down our river in 1680. There is his statue in Belleville. And we have white water -- I tipped over my kayak in it last Labor Day while following my 10 year old grandson who went thru with no problem. He had a lower center of gravity. (That's my excuse and I'm sticking to it.)



Cascades in Huron Rver's Argo Pond.

The D9 Spring Conference description and registration form are on last pages 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.

Pictures from our March Meeting



P/C Carolyn Knaggs, P

P/D/C James Knaggs, SN

P/C Art Pinsak, SN



Bill and Marlene Thomas

Lt/C Bob Buchanan, P

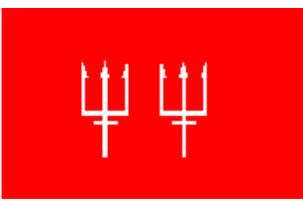
Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan



Eric and Cordell Lokensgard

Lt/C Karen Snyder, P

Peter Hinman, S



Assistant Secretary's Message

Lt/C Bob Buchanan, P



The National Museum of the Great Lakes was first described in a previous issue of our Porthole. Located at 1701 Front Street in Toledo (useful to enter into your GPS or iPhone map), this is one of the premier marine museums in our area.

A recent visit showed significant improvements from our first report. Importantly, the Museum now has a sign along Front Street so is easier to locate. A number of displays have been improved with the addition of Great Lakes art work by several marine artists. The paintings have generally been commissioned by lake shipping companies so are accurate reproductions compared to the more impressionistic work by artists such as the late Pat Norton who painted in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

We have a few travel tips. First, wait until May when the retired lake freighter, *Col James Schoonmaker*, can be toured. For a small additional charge, visitors can walk through almost the entire ship. We found that an annual membership in the museum is cost effective because we have returned with our grandchildren to tour the ship. Restaurants are not convenient, so we returned via the Toledo Museum of Art, a 10 minute drive, which has an excellent and reasonable restaurant. Museum entrance is free.

Here are a few pictures, one of the museum sign, one of the Toledo Museum of Art, and the bow of the *Schoonmaker*, and one of the stern with the skyline of Toledo in the background.

Several "apps" are available so that marine charts can be displayed on an iPhone, iPad, or tablets using the android system. This means that the GPS in the iPhone will display your position on the chart. Some of the function in a marine GPS will display course, speed over the ground and also nav aids. The result is that a tablet or pad can be used like a chart plotter with all of the features, except depth. This provides more safety opportunities for the recreational boater. However, most of us continue to believe that a good knowledge of

charting and plotting with a marine chart remains essential. "There are old sailors and bold sailors but no old, bold sailors."



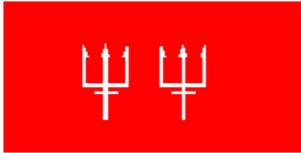
The ship *Col James Schoonmaker* and the museum



National Museum of the Great lakes in Toledo



Our secretaries in command



Administrative Officer's Message

Lt/C Karen Snyder, P



Results of AASPS Member Program Preference Survey

The purpose of the survey was to help me, your Administrative Officer, plan programs that YOU want at our meetings. That, in turn, might mean better attendance and participation in AASPS. Or, at the very least, targeted learning and amusement for members and their friends.

All of you were emailed the survey, I believe, and about one third of you responded. Not a bad response rate, but less than I hoped for. But then, I'm the eternal optimist.

Here is a summary of what you said:

Currently own a boat?

- Yes 61.5%
- No 38.5

Where do you boat? (multiple responses allowed)

- Rivers & lakes 33%
- Great Lakes 75%
- Blue water boating (coast and/or ocean) 42%

What kind of boat is it?

- Power 50%
- Sail 50%

What are respondents' first and second priority topics for AASPS programs? (Listed in order of preference, first and second mentions combined). Because of small number of respondents, the rank order is given, not percentages.

Top tier preferences

- Boating safety review
- Rescuing or being rescued at sea

Second tier

- Famous shipwrecks of the Great Lakes
- Brief USPS Piloting refresher course
- Randy Tisch 's Pacific cruise, Part 2

Third tier

- Great Lakes Water Levels – Corp of Engineers
- Coastal sailing in Maine – hard water, lobster buoys, islands
- Boating risk management – at dock, on the water, in storage, towing, etc.

Fourth tier

- Basics of entering and leaving Canada by boat
- Building a Mackinaw boat in Tawas
- Great Loop cruising

Four options were not selected by anyone at this time: Frozen: Beset by ice; Member jam session; Enforcement of local boating laws; and Six-knot challenge. They may be of interest in the future after members get stuck in ice, can't remember basic knots, and get arrested on the water (kidding).

Number of years boating? 3 to over 70 years

What do you value most about the Power Squadron? It was almost unanimous: Education, safer boating, information, knowledge base, boating classes, etc. And many mentioned liking to spend time with other boaters, hearing about their experiences, the friendships and great people.

Education Department

Our ABC class (Americas Boating Course) **starts May 12** at Washtenaw Community College. We already have 2 students enrolled. Call 734-971-6589 for information. All of our instructors have been recertified until March 2019. They are Bob Buchanan, John Barr, Larry Marentette, Art Pinsak, and Ron Schwartz. Info about the ABC course can be found at toll free 1-888-367-8777 (1-888-FOR-USPS) Or go to www.usps.org

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

The Crossing Borders Webinar will be presented on-line on 21 April 2015. Are you planning a boating trip into Canada or Canadian Waters? The Crossing Borders webinar explains the immigration and customs process and the programs that enable boaters to easily cross into Canada, the Bahamas and other destinations. After this webinar, you'll be prepared to have the correct documents on board in an organized manner. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4969895176635110657>.

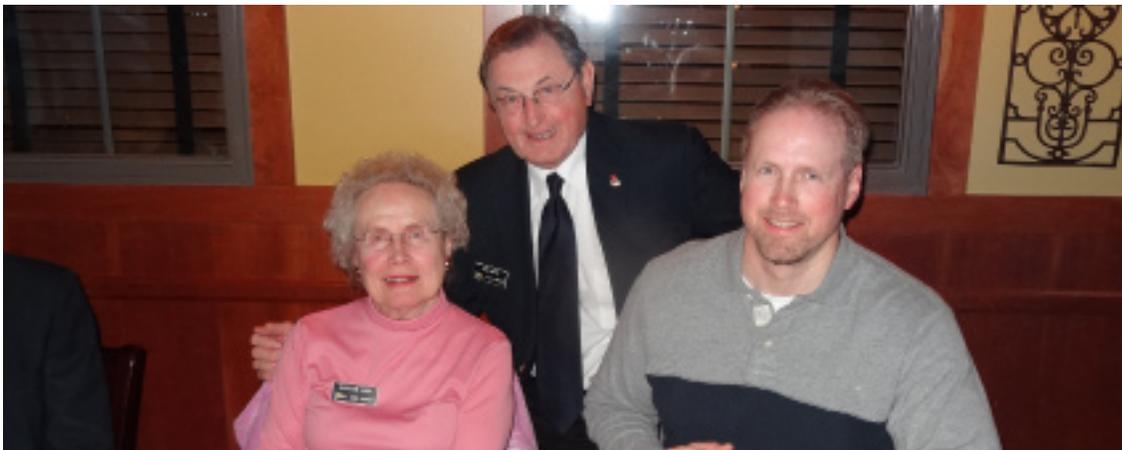
We have a variety of **2 hour seminars** to choose from with no exams, just pure pleasure. We will offer some of these if we have students interested. See <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/seminars/main.htm>

Please 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.

Please send (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.

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.

More pictures from our March meeting



Our speakers Lt/C Marlene and P/C John Barr, AP, and John Barr, Jr.



A Partial List of Events

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT AND LOCATION
Apr. 20	AASPS	General Meeting at Carlyle Grill
April 24-26	D9	Spring Conference at Shanty Creek, Bellaire, MI. See page 11-12

From the Southbend Indiana Power Squadron's April Newsletter, SpringLine.

BOATS AND LIGHTNING

Rubber shoes give you no meaningful protection from lightning. Sailboats do file more lightning claims, and size matters. Boats 40 to 65 ft. in length may be hit 6 times per 1,000 lightning bolts while boats 16 to 25 ft. may be hit 2 times per 10,000 bolts. Increasing the height of a sailboat mast from 35 to 45 ft. nearly triples the odds of being hit. A multihull sailboat is almost twice as likely to have a lightning claim as a monohull.

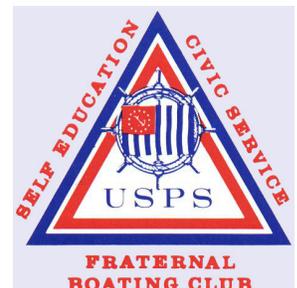
Almost all lightning will occur within 10 miles of its parent thunderstorm, but it can strike much farther than that. Lightning detection equipment has confirmed bolts striking almost 50 miles away. Lightning protection systems will not prevent your boat from being struck, but they can help minimize the damage. Learn the 30/30 rule. Go indoors if, after seeing lightning, you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder. Stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.

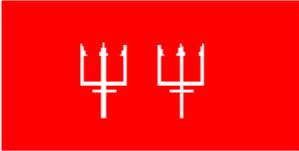
The first official storm warning to be issued in the United States was in November, 1870. It was for a storm on the Great Lakes.

Google 'boats and lightning' for more information.

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.





Executive Officer’s Message

Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN



A Hoy friends,

I now have a gopher tortoise living in my yard. It is a female, and has dug a burrow to live in while her eggs incubate. The burrows normally are around 15 feet long, but can go as long as 35 feet. These tortoises will lay 4 to 7 eggs, and the eggs take from 80 to 90 days to hatch. Gopher tortoises have been around for about 2 million years.

These tortoises normally live to be around 60 years old under normal conditions. These tortoises live their entire lives on land. They eat vegetation, which also provides their water needs. These tortoises are protected by both state and federal law.

Even though I won’t be here when the eggs hatch, the babies live in the burrow with their mother for the first year of their life. So, with luck I will be able to see them next fall when I return to Florida. I have sent a picture along of the burrow opening with the tortoise.



Squatter on Frank’s Florida property:
A Gopher Tortoise laying eggs.



Frank’s house

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

