

# The Porthole

December 2015



**United States Power Squadrons**  
*Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the friends*

Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron  
A unit of United States Power Squadrons in District 9

<http://www.aaspsq.org/>

# Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron

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



**50th  
Anniversary**

1965 - 2015

Boating Education since 1965

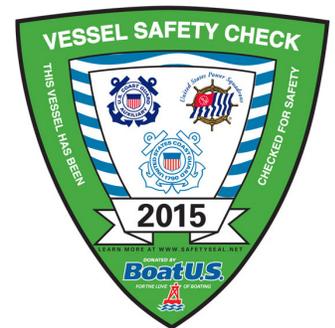
50 YEARS SERVING  
THE BOATING PUBLIC



Visit our web site  
[www.aaspsq.org/](http://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.





Sail and Power Boating Education

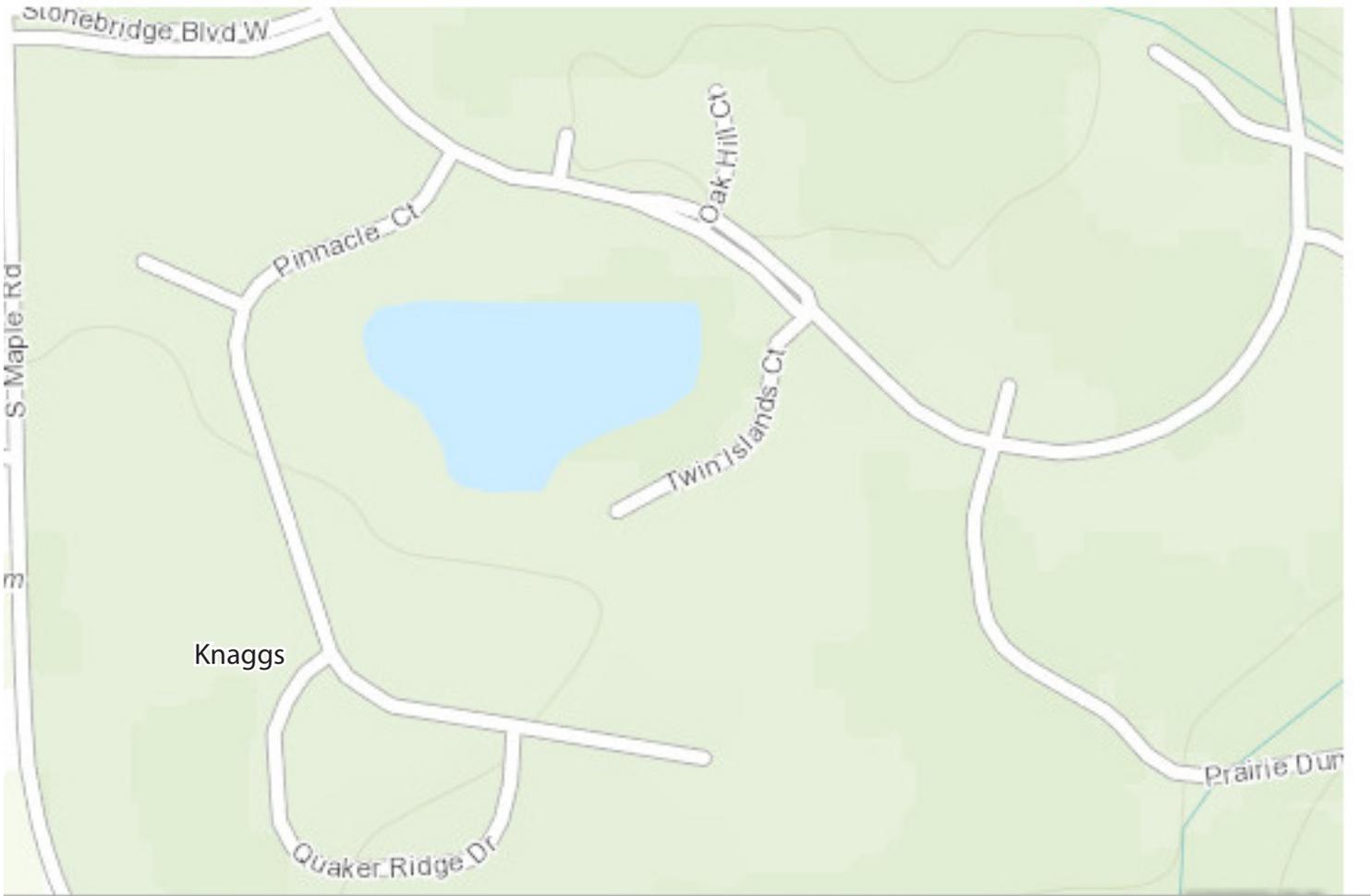
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**Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron  
Christmas Party 6 P. M. Monday,  
7 December 2015  
Jack and Carolyn Knaggs, 2409 Quaker Ridge Dr.  
Ann Arbor Michigan 48108**

42° 12' 29" N 83° 46' 32" W



We are in Stonebridge subdivision. Take Maple road south from Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. to Stonebridge. Turn left onto Stonebridge Blvd. W. Turn right onto Stonebridge Dr. S. Turn right onto Pinnacle Ct. Follow Pinnacle to Quaker Ridge and turn right. We are the first driveway on the right. Driveway is double wide so handicappers can park in driveway if they stay in their lane. We would appreciate RSVP's. Carolyn's cell: 734-645-3503 Jack's cell: 586-764-6012



Gift raffle. Please bring unwrapped gift items of value less than \$10. Raffle tickets will be sold - proceeds are donated to the Squadron

Potluck - Please bring a dish - salad or dessert - to share. Please call and tell Carolyn what food you will bring so that we have a variety. 734-645-3503



# Commander and SEO's Message

Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN



We thank the CoastGuard's Daniel Nofziger, Operations Petty Officer, and Will Lawson, Rescue Swimmer, for their interesting program on rescue at sea last month. Our Christmas Party for 2015 will be at 6 P.M. Monday, December 7, at a new location, hosted by Carolyn and James Knaggs at their home south of Ann Arbor; see the details on page 3.

Please look at the variety of boating topics we offer at United States Power Squadron's web site, [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. Please send ([aapsclasses@aol.com](mailto: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. If you are interested in this, please call me 734-769-3476.

Our basic boating course - ABC (America's Boating Course) is a 16 hour course that covers Michigan boating laws, required equipment, charts and navigation. We need someone to be the chairman of our ABC course.

**On-Line seminars are now available** -- developed by USPS and BoatU.S. 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>

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/e\\_stuff/seminars.htm](http://www.usps.org/e_stuff/seminars.htm)

Even though this year's boating season is over, you can continue your boating education at home. On line courses are available from our national web site <http://www.usps.org/edonline/> and you can preview classes before signing up. A few topics are Weather for Boaters, All About Marine Radios, and Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes. Treat your family and friends to the Partner in Command course, which means all of your crew will be safer on the water next year. The cost of an on-line course is \$24.95, but members of the United States Power Squadrons get a 20% discount.

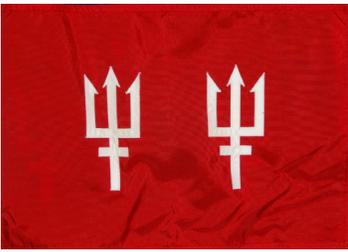
We thank all of our 2015 AASPS officers and members for their squadron work this year ; Karen Snyder did a great job of finding speakers for our meetings, Marlene Barr kept our checkbook up to date, Frank Hoy inspected 10 boats (used all the stickers USPS would give him), Jeannine and Bob Buchanan did a great job with the meeting minutes and history report, Peggy Moller corrected our grammar in the Portholes, Art Pinsak taught JN, corrected JN sights, and said prayers for us, Carolyn Knaggs processed all our new memberships, and John and Marlene Barr entertained us with a talk about their Mediterranean cruise.

### A Partial List of Events

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT AND LOCATION
Dec. 7	AASPS	Christmas Party at Knaggs house. See page 3.

# Secretary's Message

Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan



For our November 16th squadron meeting, Lt/Cdr Karen Snyder worked steadily to prepare a program by the USCG on Search and Rescue. Two professional USCG members, BM1 Dan Nifziger and AST2 William Lawson talked about the USCG. Dan said that the USCG is about 250 years old, making it the oldest military service in our country. Today the USCG has about 30,000 members but this is smaller than the New York City police department. The mission of the USCG is to be "America's Maritime Guardian". Although today's USCG has about 11 different missions, their primary mission continues to be search and rescue. This means that the USCG provides the basic safety net for those of us who are recreational boaters.

A fascinating part of the presentation was how to contact the USCG. The obvious and best way is on radio channel 16. They can also be called from a cell phone. However, GPS and satellite technology have resulted in the development of the Rescue 21 system and expanded use of the Emergency Position Radio Indicating Beacon (EPRIB). First, Rescue 21 is now available for all U.S. coastal waters. Pressing the red button on your radio transmits a digital mayday signal along with the information contained in your MMSI number. All recently purchased fixed-mounted marine radios are required to have the red button and a MMSI number (handhelds are controversial). If connected to a GPS unit (a simple connection), the location coordinates will also be transmitted. The USCG will receive the digital mayday, then call the vessel in distress and ask for more information about the nature of the emergency. If not connected to a GPS unit, the USCG can still locate the vessel in distress by triangulation from 2 or more towers.

Second, an EPRIB ranges in size from a cigarette pack to a paperback book. The unit may be activated either manually by pressing a button or automatically by water pressure. When activated, the unit transmits data including information about the vessel and GPS location to the International Cospas-Sarsat Program, a satellite-based search and rescue (SAR) distress alert detection and information distribution system, established by Canada, France, the United States, and the former Soviet Union in 1979. The information is then forwarded to the appropriate SAR organization. The cost of an EPRIB today starts at about \$150 with excellent units in the \$250 range. This means that any boater on open waters can easily afford to carry a unit.

Think of an EPRIB as similar to the transmitter on Malaysian flight #370 which was never found. William Lawson said that the EPRIB on board the El Faro, the container ship lost in Hurricane Joaquin was either defective or improperly mounted. Our November Porthole briefly described the loss of the Edmund Fitzgerald on November 10, 1975. Suppose that Captain McSorley had had today's technology available on his bridge.

Jeannine Buchanan  
Secretary, AASPS

Our guest speakers Coast Guard's Will Lawson,  
Rescue Swimmer and Daniel Nofziger,  
Operations Petty Officer



November meeting attendees



Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN 1st/Lt Art Pinsak, SN and Lt. Sharon Pinsak



Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan 1st/Lt Bob Buchanan, P



Lt/C Karen Snyder, P Lt. Peter Hinman, S



Rebecca and Randy Tisch



P/D/C James G. Knaggs, SN Lt Carolyn Knaggs, P



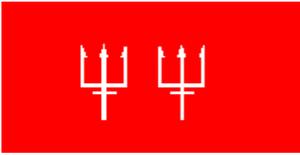
Lt/C Marlene Barr John Barr Jr.



Stf/C Linda J. LaLonde, P Lt Gerard M. LaLonde, S

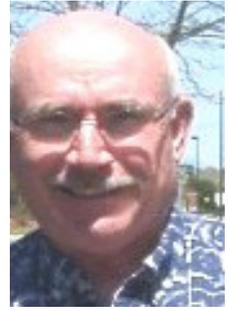


Cdr. Jack Broadhurst USCG Auxiliary



# Executive Officer's Message

## Lt/C Frank Hoy, JN



Greetings to one and all,

It appears that the female tortoise that had taken up residence in my front yard has moved out of this burrow. She left without so much as a " goodbye." . She took this action after I had contacted the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission requesting information on obtaining a permit to relocate her. Maybe she had a premonition of what was coming. She needn't have worried. The government policies regarding these animals is so convoluted and confusing, that it makes it nearly impossible to interfere with them. So, I have one of the baby tortoises living in the side yard as a reminder of this episode of Florida living. I will keep you posted on his/her status.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Lt/C Frank Hoy, EXO



Tortoise burrow for rent ?