

The Porthole

April 2016



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



Boating Education since 1965

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THE BOATING PUBLIC



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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.

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.



**Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron
Meeting 6 P. M. Monday 18 April 2016
Carlyle Grill 3660 Jackson Rd.
Ann Arbor Michigan 48103
Lat. 42° 17.1' N, Long. 83° 48.2' W**

Sail and Power Boating Education

www.aaspsq.org/

We will meet at the Carlyle Grill west of the Lighthouse Car Wash. Order from the menu and pay your own bill. Please call Jeannine Buchanan 734-971-6589, so we can have enough tables set up. Visit Carlyle Grill web site to see their menu. <http://www.carlylegrill.com/>



Speaker: P/C Bob Buchanan will describe the Panama Canal history, recent changes, and its impact on us trade.



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Panama Canal



Commander's Message

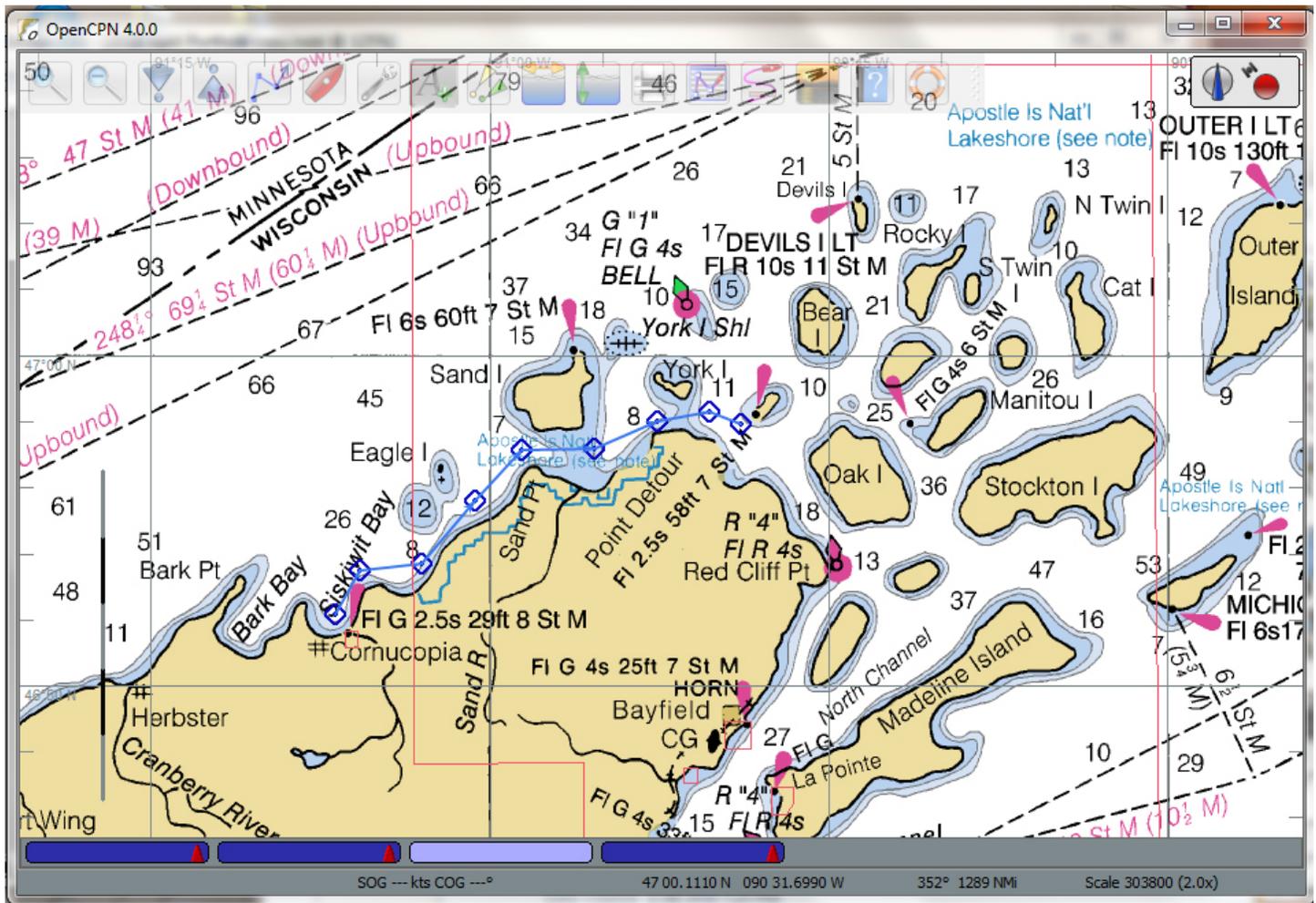
Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN



Our ABC class got no students. So, we will explore teaching a class at WCC next fall starting Mid September. P/C Bob Buchanan, P, offered to talk to his contacts at WCC.

NOAA charts and chart books can be printed and purchased at Kolossos Printing on Stadium Blvd. next to the US Post Office. Contact Brad Schwartz. They can be printed on paper or vinyl. He printed one for me of the Apostle Islands. Take a digital copy to him on a thumb drive or arrange for him to download it from NOAA's web site. Kolossos' prices are competitive with other printers.

This chart shows a laptop cruise to the Apostle Islands in western Lake Superior, with charts from OpenCPN and pictures from Google Earth. The route shown with waypoints, starting in Cornucopia, is 15 NM. There are launch sites in Bayfield and Little Sand Bay ($46^{\circ} 56' 50'' N$, $90^{\circ} 53' 23'' W$) also, which are closer to the islands.





Beaches and Sea Cave in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Wisconsin, northeast of Cornucopia, near Eagle Island. In June, some caves have hanging ice.
Photos by Chris Sanfino and J Belote.



Marina and Launch ramp in Cornucopia Wisconsin on Siskiwit Bay

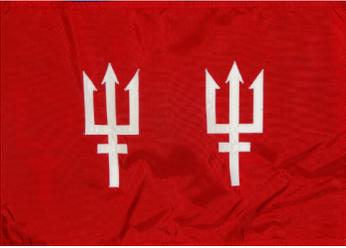
Pictures from the Apostle Islands in Lake Superior



Sand Beach on Bear Island By John Byers



Oak Island overlook - view of anchorage - the hike starts in the center of the bay below at the campsite. It's pretty easy. By Jim Moore



Secretary/Administrative Officer's Comments P/C Bob Buchanan, P



Recently, Commander Ron sent AASPS members an e-mail stating that the squadron has a supply of slightly outdated ABC student manuals that we are giving away at no cost. These are 2013 versions where the only significant difference is in electronic charting. I still have a few remaining that have not been reserved. If you would like one for yourself or your family, send me an e-mail to buchananra@msn.com and I will get it to you.

Many have received an announcement of the Detroit Power Squadron annual trip to Put-in-Bay the first week in August. Although we missed the trip last year, this has always been a superb adventure. The tour starts with a morning ride down the Detroit River past historic lighthouses, then across Lake Erie to the island. Electric golf carts can be rented at very reasonable prices to spend the day touring the island. Several good restaurants overlooking the harbor are available for dinner. Then another highlight is the night return back up the Detroit River. We hope to make the trip again this year.

Our April AASPS program about the Panama Canal needs a description because it will be somewhat different from previous programs. First, the work of an Army surgeon, Dr. Walter Reed will be described which made the Canal possible. Then we will travel through the Canal in pictures. Finally, the major impact of the new lock on the entire American transportation will be discussed.

At our March squadron meeting, Commander Ron described how NOAA marine charts can be downloaded with OpenCPN onto either a laptop or desktop computer. Once done, the program then allows plotting a course with waypoints. These waypoints can then be downloaded to a handheld GPS or a chart plotter such as the Garman79, an inexpensive unit. I use a Garman 441s with depth sounding capability, but it is out of production. The information can also be downloaded to a Tablet. This provides the same capability as Navigator Lite but is free. Lastly, the downloaded chart can be printed by a commercial printer onto a paper or vinyl chart. Any sailor knows that a vinyl chart is essential as spray is flying into the cockpit while beating to windward in a 20k wind. Commander Ron's presentation illustrated how technological advances can be used by the weekend boater at minimum cost.



A Partial List of Events

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT AND LOCATION
April 18	AASPS	Member meeting at Carlyle Grill. See page 3.
May 16	AASPS	Member meeting at Carlyle Grill.
June 20	AASPS	Member Picnic

Lt. Ron Horner, Safety Officer at Mt. Clemens Power Squadron, from their April Newsletter

As you prep your boat during spring, there are always items on the shopping list that can add to your safety and the safety of others in your company. In a previous article, I wrote of the various new emergency communication electronic devices available: Epirbs, Personal Locators and Satellite Messengers. In our Lake St. Clair area, the VHS radio is the most common and practical unit to start with. Every boat should however, have both an installed unit and a Hand Held VHS radio. The installed VHS radios are powerful and have large antennas thus reaching further, however, they are of little use during a catastrophic capsizing or swamping. In such a scenario, the antenna is underwater or the battery is flooded thus rendering the radio useless. Compared to your latest smartphone, when's the last time you upgraded your VHS radio?

The new Hand Held VHS radios now boast of:

being waterproof

floating

having a water activated strobe light to help with location

DSC capability, which transmits personal information about who is on board and what type of craft is in dis-tress along with your GPS location.

WAAS GPS receiver, allowing you navigation and waypoint routing and position sharing with other boats.

higher power 6 Watt transmitters and longer battery life.

Unlike other waters, the Lake St. Clair area is unique for being well monitored by the U.S. Coast Guard for VHS radio via their extensive antenna systems. So, take advantage of this and look to see if it is time for a new Hand Held VHS radio.

Lt. Ron Hornor
Safety First, Last and Always