

The Porthole

June 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

51 YEARS SERVING
THE BOATING PUBLIC



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.



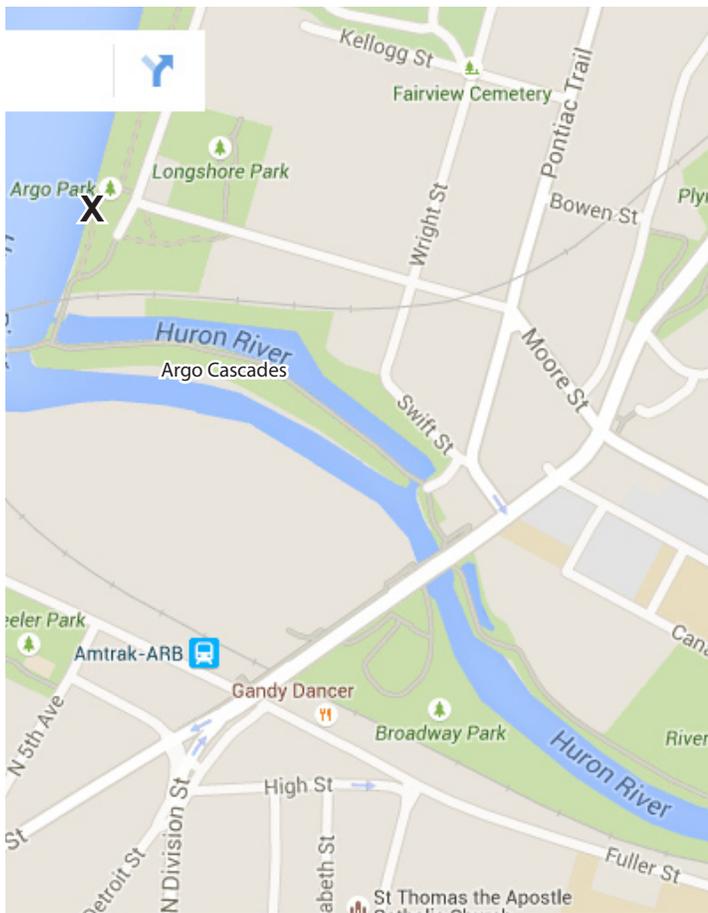
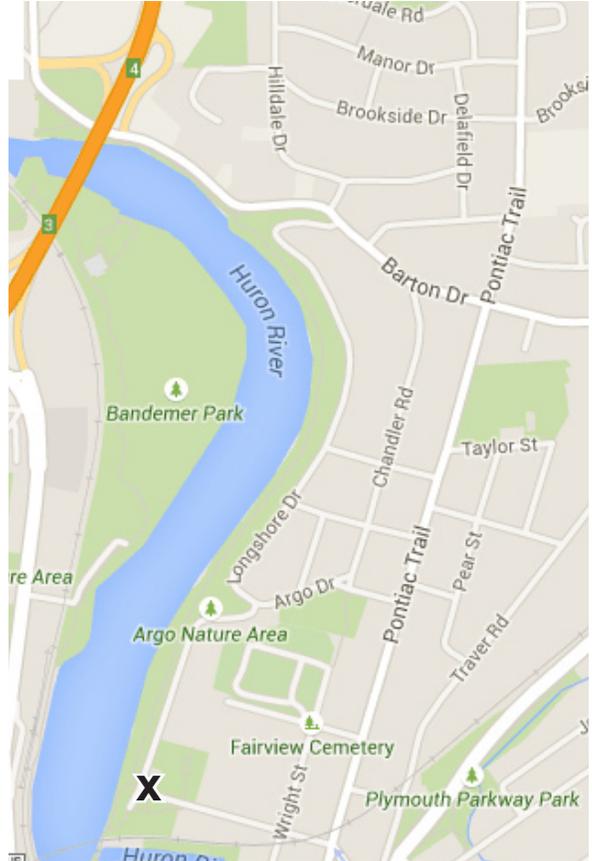
Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron Picnic
 Monday, 20 June 2016
 Argo Pond Park and Canoe Livery
 Lat. 42° 17.47' N, Long. 83° 44.68' W

Sail and Power Boating Education

www.aaspsq.org

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

5 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.



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 maps. 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.



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



Commander's Message

Cdr. Ron Schwartz, SN

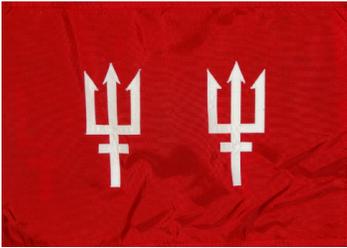


Shirley at the helm of *Soft Shoal* in the Les Cheneaux Islands

I'm sad to report that my wife, P/Lt/C Ellen Shirley Schwartz, N, PhD, died Sunday morning, May 8, 2016 from complications of Alzheimer's Disease. She was a brilliant scientist, very sweet and gentle person, and secretary of Ann Arbor Sail and Power Squadron in 2008 and 2009. Muehlig Funeral Home has more details. A memorial service will be Saturday June 18, 2016 at 3 P.M. at Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty in Ann Arbor. Her obituary is in the Muehlig web site.

The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in Lake Superior north of Wisconsin are the subject of an article by Fred Bagley in the July 2016 issue of *Cruising World Magazine*. He and his wife Jennifer recently sailed and explored their enchantment.

In the same magazine is an article about Joshua Slocum, the first man to sail around the world alone, by Quentin Casey.



Squadron Education Officer's Comments P/C Art Pinsak, SN



D9 2016 Spring Conference

The 2016 District Conference, held 8-10 April in Dearborn, was hosted by Detroit Sail and Power Squadron who are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. This conference, in addition to addressing current problems, generally recognizes the non-academic awards and installs the new D9 Bridge. Tony Lewandowski (Birmingham) is the new District Commander. He is eager to advance mission objectives. Ten hospitality rooms were open Friday evening; two were co-hosted. Unfortunately, Ann Arbor SPS was one of eight who did not participate in these activities.

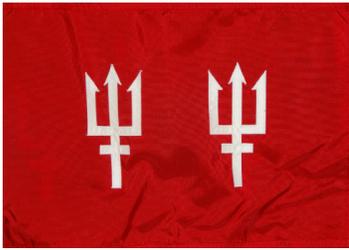
Various seminars were scheduled Saturday morning. Ann Arbor was represented at three of them. The SEO seminar discussed revisions in the Navigation course that will now be taught. A major change which has been long coming was upgrading electronic navigation in all courses to the forefront in order to make USPS offerings more relevant to today's boater. DEAD reckoning, compass bearings, lines of position will still have a place in course work. Maybe even the polaris will be resurrected. All Cap'n charts need to be updated to comply with software revisions. Sight data, indigenous to use of a sextant will now be averaged rather than using the single sight. I hope we keep in mind that celestial bodies are in constant motion. USPS is advocating on-water training as a program that will elevate our American Boating course above all the others. Our courses already go greater in depth than others. A Great Lakes session is planned for 17-18 June. Duane Carlson is an information source. All Squadrons are encouraged to implement this training as a way to develop interest among potential members. The Boating Simulation Virtual Trainer was on display and available to all during the conference. It is really neat: captain sits at the helm and can operate under many optional conditions that the software offers. Everyone is encouraged to experience it

In addition to the standard reasons, the Membership Seminar focused this spring on involvement. Each attendee was asked why they are still active. Interestingly, the great majority said they were given assignments when they joined. All members need a reason to stay in the organization and to stay involved. We need to promote classes, flood students with handouts, encourage leadership training, sponsor events in the community, be outgoing in all ways to make people comfortable. Above all, get people involved by assigning responsibilities; do not wait for them to volunteer.

Vessel Safety Check administrator is Gonzaleslorenzo@gmail.com. He will respond to needs and decal requests. Vessel Safety Examiners seem to have peaked in the recent past; total in 2014 was 1821 and dropped to 1698 in 2015. May be an aberration. VSEs are reminded to submit paperwork on a timely basis if they want credit and additional decals. PFDs were assigned in the past. They no longer need to be accounted for; request a replacement if one is lost or worn out. If I heard it right, two VSEs in D9 performed over 1000 VSCs in 2015.

AASPS was one among the award recipients. We received a certificate for outstanding squadron publication and website; also the twenty-second certificate for 100% participation in the USPS Educational Fund. Muskegon was awarded the trophy for most VSCs in 2015 and Sable Point was the runner-up. As might be expected, all eight leaders are located along one of the big lakes. The Commanders Cup went to St. Clair Shores for highest percent renewals (72%). Three 50 year and eleven 25 year plaques were presented for 2015.

The District Conference is worth the time spent. Plan to attend the 2016 Fall conference, 28-30 October, in Grand Rapids for an exciting and informative weekend.



Lt/C Jeannine Buchanan, Administrative Officer and P/C Bob Buchanan, P, Secretary



This is the last Porthole before the summer boating season in Michigan. Everyone who belongs to the USPS is absolutely committed to safety on the water. Yet each summer we learn about tragic but preventable accidents; accidents which reflect badly on the entire boating community. You know the numbers; most occur under ideal weather conditions, 70% of fatalities involved boaters now wearing a PFD, over 90% of boaters have never taken a safe boating course.

Jeannine and I have been sailing for about 45 years all over North America but we have never had an accident. The reason for our safety record is obvious; we never deviate from the simple safety procedures which USPS people know by heart.

However, we have made some really dumb mistakes. On Lake St. Clair we sailed into a rain squall thinking that we can make it through, emerged and found that we were in the middle of a Sunfish regatta, no place for a Catalina 30. In the North Channel, I laid out a course to make passage from South Benjamin Island to Little Current. Headings were carefully plotted and followed, visual waypoints checked and plotted, and we arrived at Spider Bay Marina exactly on schedule. When returning 3 days later I thought I knew the route so decided to go “that way” without bothering to follow a heading or check waypoints. Got lost, really bad! All islands looked the same. After an hour of struggling with binoculars, I spotted a cluster of vertical sticks (aluminum masts). This was our destination.

On another North Channel trip, a crewman put several beer cans in a net bag to throw overboard to cool them. Shortly after, he wanted to improve our anchorage so started the diesel; which promptly stopped. You know why; we had to go diving to untangle the rope off of the propeller. This event had a bad outcome; several of the beer cans were punctured by the prop blades.

Whenever an unexpected event occurred, Jeannine and I would ask each other, “why did this happen and what should we do differently to prevent a recurrence.” In other words, every time out on the water can be a learning experience.

A Partial List of Events

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT AND LOCATION
June 24-26	Canadian Power Squadron	Rendezvous in Wallaceburg
June 20	AASPS	Member Picnic See page 3
July 14-17	Bay City	Tall Ship Celebration at the water front
July 28-31	Detroit PS	100th Anniversary Rendezvous at Detroit Yacht Club
August 5	Detroit PS	Put-In-Bay Cruise - see the ad below
August 5	D9 picnic	Great Lakes Marina, Grand Haven
August 6	Coast Guard Parade	Grand Haven

Come Join The Detroit Power Squadron

On Friday August 5, 2016 for a one day Excursion to Put-N-Bay

The Jet Express II will leave from the Detroit Yacht Club.

Boarding will Begin @ 8:30 am, Departure time @ 9:00 am

We will be transported to Downtown Put-N-Bay where a day
of tourist excitement will await you

We will begin Boarding for Return to NYC @ 6:45 pm Departure time @ 7:00 pm



If you want to meet us at the NYC by boat, slips will be available

Round trip cost Per Person \$89.00

Make your check payable to the Detroit Power Squadron
Mail To: 49940 Gratiot • Chesterfield, MI 48051

For more information call

Lt/C Keith Hawkins, S - Executive Officer @ (313) 445- 6269

Lt/C Tony Drewek, P – Treasurer @ (586) 725- 7378

1st/Lt Marlene Drewek –Asst. Treasurer @ (586) 557-3106

