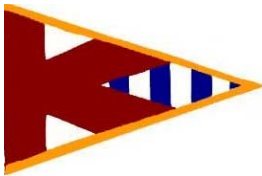


The Pilot

*Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron
a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®*



The February 2008 Bridge Officer's Briefing

Harold L. Hladky, JN, Commander

I want to thank the Bridge, Executive Committee members and program chairs who are willing to serve in 2008. When I became Commander - the first time in 2001, we had lots of people on the Bridge who were new to the squadron and leadership roles. Our 2008 Bridge and Executive Committee have many people with experience, so I have high expectations for the coming year.

During my first command, on Tuesday, September 11th 2001, I cancelled the meeting in part because we had family involved in 9/11. How interesting that on Tuesday September 11, 2007, I was called on by P/C Bob Landeros to fill in while he had was dealing with "family" concerns. Also reminiscent of 2001, we were planning for the 2002 fall District conference and this year we are again planning to host a District conference this coming fall.

This year we will continue our excellent public boating class programs, that place an emphasis on membership to continue boating education and experience.

Over the years, we have seen a decline in summer "on-the-water" activities. I want to reverse this decline with events centered around the predictive log, the dingy poker run and some other events. I am asking for suggestions and volunteers to help make these events successful, for not only this year, but for future years.

Cdr Harold L. Hladky, JN



**Harold Hladky, JN
The 2008 KSPS Commander**

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Hey, Where's the Interlaker?

The *Interlaker* is the official newsletter of District 9. The Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron belongs to District 9 along with 24 other local squadrons, and each one dedicated to providing boating education to the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and northern Indiana.

In the past, the *Interlaker* was mailed all District 9 members before Spring and Fall District Conferences, but starting this year the *Interlaker* will only be available online at the District 9 website, d9-usps.org and for the convenience of our members it will also be available on our website, kspus-usps.org .



Message From the Helm
District 9
Jerry L. Stephan, JN

The leading reason for District 9 members is at all present at the time I am writing this message. This is really true in all areas collectively to the time most of you read this bulletin or if you will be reading soon. I really want to go over this list. But then again, our Squadron, District and National address will be in the form of the Interlaker.

Membership is USPS continues to which but at a much slower rate. The problem will be solved at the National or District level. They will go on the long and getting that answer means to understand but the solution is in the Squadron and National level. It will get our list of people to get ready. It will get the time to "test" and encourage your boating friends to get you will be along your part in getting our membership and to encourage you to go to work at work for people to get ready for the year. I am probably not the people above and there are more members. Please see Linda LaLonde's message included in Region 9th District Conference. C. D. I would not get better.

Coast Guard Parade held in Grand Haven with August was a success. The Friday early at the Marina was a great time for those who attended. Thank you for your time and help for your support. District 9 had a great participation for the year and in the end we can be very proud of the efforts of the year.

Boating Safety was held and by our Squadron Commanders for the year. Special Commanders have the perfect they are well on the way to meeting and supporting these goals. Knowledge was transfer to see the Commanders, but you can only see the results. The Commanders has been assigned a letter from the District Office. They are there to ensure compliance and support you in meeting your goals. Communication will help member in the end about LA's work on getting some topics on that side.

District Council and Committee will be here soon. Inside the hour for some of us. Post Home and District Commanders are looking to meet a small time to meet on general membership. They will be at the end of the meeting to get together a great work. We start out to not being there. Please get your membership in the end if possible to be in the best position of a successful event.

Our own Friday will show off on the National Representative for the Fall Conference. I am so proud to have the end of the year. We will have been represented in the District Conference. Friday will be having an open house during the last period of the meeting on Saturday. We invite you to bring up any and all messages and questions and concerns have and we'll be glad to help you with the right solution to your problems.

SEO's Update

Lt/C Joe Mills, JN

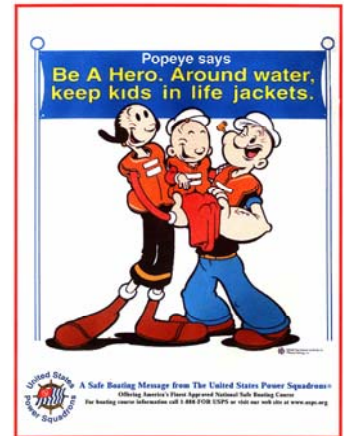
Kudos to **William Ditty, AP** for passing Advanced Piloting. William completed Advanced Piloting as a self-study course, and graders at National found his exam to be "expectations!"

Congratulations to **Becky Ditty, Susan Livingston, Robert Sheppard, Scott Davis, David Parker, Ronald McPhee, Walter Lund** and **Dennis Van Allsburg** for successfully completing the USPS Piloting course. The class chair **George Gerpheide, AP** with **William Ditty, AP** assisting. This year, Bill will become the new Piloting class chair. George, thanks for all your help in improving the boating competence of our members! Bill, welcome aboard and we look forward to your leadership.

Your squadron is offering Boat Smart classes in Battle Creek and Kalamazoo. The Battle Creek course will begin on 7 February 2008. If you want to help in delivering this course, please contact **P/C Nils Strand, AP**. **Lt Wally Corder, S**, will offer Boat Smart to general public in Kalamazoo. The Kalamazoo course will begin on 14 April

2008. Like Nils, Wally would appreciate your help in offering these courses and proctoring exams. Please contact them directly. Helping in Boat Smart courses is a great way to refresh your skills before the start of the 2008 boating season. Please pass information about this classes to acquaintances or family members who might be interested.

If for the next boating season, you're planning a day-cruise or a year-long around the Great Loop, you should think about enrolling in *Cruise Planning*. This course will help you plan whatever voyage and adventures you have planned for 2008. **P/C Karen Strand, AP**, will offer this course, which starts on 27 March 2008.



KSPS, D-9 & USPS Activities and Meetings

12 February 2008, 1830-2100 KSPS General Meeting Program & location to be determined	19-24 February 2008 USPS Annual Meeting Dallas, Texas	1 March 2008 District 9 Council Doherty Hotel, Claire Michigan
11 March 2008; 1830-2100 KSPS Executive Meeting Location to be determined	4-6 April 2008 District 9 Conference Troy Marriott, Troy Michigan	8 February 2008, 1830-2100 KSPS General Meeting Program & location to be determined

Public Courses, Advanced Grade Courses & Electives

Course	Start Date	Contact Person	Telephone	e-mail address
Boat Smart: Kalamazoo	14 April 2008	Wally Corder	269-321-0751	wccorder@hotmail.com
Boat Smart: Battle Creek	7 February 2008	Nils Strand	269-964-6600	nils.strand@gsa.gov
DNR Course: Kalamazoo	TBD	Lois Whitmore	269-345-4521	lhw@core.com
Seamanship	TBD	Robyn Levene	269-372-1782	rbynlevene@aol.com
Piloting	TBD	George Gerpheide	269-375-4024	gsgerph@yahoo.com
Advanced Piloting	14 January 2008	Jerry Hendrickson	269-353-7243	jlh10acrewoods@charter.net
Junior Navigation	TBD	Robert Landeros	269-501-2757	robert.landeros@sbcglobal.net
Navigation	Spring 2008	Robert Landeros	269-501-2757	robert.landeros@sbcglobal.net
Cruise Planning	27 March 2008	Karen Strand	269-964-6600	karenstrand@sbcglobal.net
Engine Maintenance	TBD	Dan Livingston	269-781-2328	autodan@yahoo.com
Instructor Development	TBD	Lois Whitmore	269-345-4521	lhw@core.com
Marine Electronics	Spring 2008	Harold Hladky	269-969-0815	hhladky@aol.com
Sail (Advanced)	10 January 2008	George Tyler	269-671-4560	gtn8kjd@tds.net
Weather	Spring 2008	Allen Buskirk	269-375-2586	andiamo91@cs.com

The 2007 KSPS Bridge Officers

Commander	P/C Harold L. Hladky JN	269-969-0815 (home)	harold.hladky@wmich.edu
Executive Officer	Lt/C William Soule P	269-544-0518 (home)	souleb@aol.com
Educational Officer	Lt/C W. Joseph Mills JN	269-375-4414 (home)	millsatty@tds.net
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Robert D. Sheppard, P	269-323-0231 (home)	sheppard-r@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	P/C Nils Strand AP	269-964-6690 (home)	nils.strand@gsa.gov
Secretary	Lt/C Lyndell Bleyer S	269-731-5601 (home)	lyn.bleyer@wmich.edu

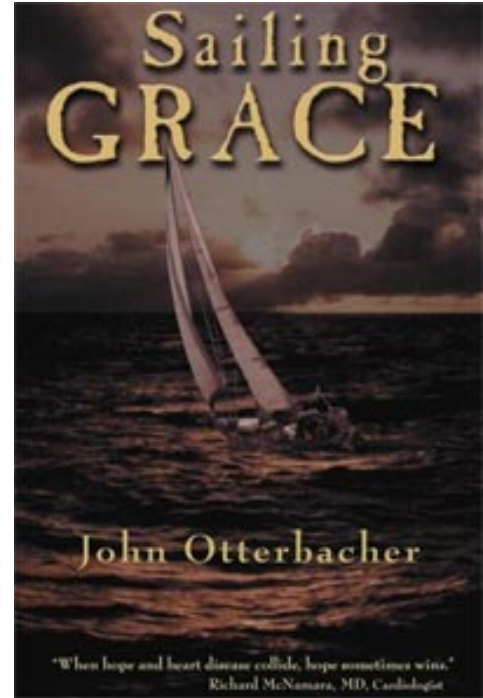
February Membership Meeting: *Sailing Grace*



12 February 2008; 1830 to 2100
Gigi's Casual Dining, Kalamazoo MI
RSVP: Lt/C Bob Sheppard, P
(269) 323-0231 or
sheppard-r@sbcglobal.net

This month, John Otterbacher, author and former Michigan legislator from Grand Rapids will be our featured speaker. His book, "Sailing Grace" is his true story that begins with John flat on his back in a local health club, gasping for air. It ends thirty-one months and four thousand miles later when he, his wife Barbara, and their two youngest children maneuver their sailboat, Grace, into Schull Harbor, Ireland. A gritty account of their family's struggle to do better than simply survive, it is also a commentary on how love heals,

dreams energize, and trauma can be a wake-up call. From hospital ward to the stormy Atlantic, this hard-edge story will resonate with anyone who has struggled with profound adversity - be it coronary disease, cancer, or the "heavy weather" that unexpectedly blows through every life.



The 2008 Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron Officers



Rear row standing: Nils K. Strand, AP (Treasurer), Lyndell R. Bleyer, S (Secretary); Chris J. Hansen, P (Executive Committee). Center row standing Phyllis A.R. Buskirk, P (Executive Committee); Diane R. Hansen, JN (Auditing Committee and Assistant Educational Officer); William L. Soule, P (Executive Officer) Gary W. Bleyer, S (Executive Committee); Robert D. Sheppard, P (Administrative Officer); Wally Corder, S (Executive Committee). Front row seated: W. Joseph Mills, JN (Educational Officer); Harold L. Hladky, JN (Commander); Robert Landeros, SN (Immediate Past Commander and Nominating Committee).

2008 KSPS Annual Meeting Snapshots...



D/Lt/C Bryan Bartlett, AP (left) accepts a framed KSPS burgee from outgoing Commander Robert Landeros, SN (right).

Bryan was the official representative from District 9 and officiated the Change of Watch. Also in attendance was Past District Commander Denise Samu, AP.



At the January 2008 Annual Meeting and Change of Watch, outgoing Commander, Robert Landeros, SN recognized Lt/C Lyn Bleyer, S as the KSPS Outstanding Member for 2007.

Birthdays!

7 February

Raymond J. Shoemaker

10 February

Sharon Marie Mathewson, AP

11 February

Jerry B. Love, P

13 February

Linda R. Mills, S

17 February

Scott J. Davis

21 February

Edward B. Smith



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Lt/C Lyndell Bleyer, S, Editor

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<http://www.ksps-usps.org>

