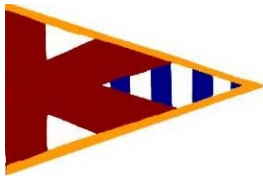


# The Pilot

## Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



*Gary W. Bleyer*

### Commander's Message

The holiday season is in full swing. At the KSPS holiday party on Friday 2 December, we gather with friends and bring gifts for Toys for Tots. While "Tots" brings to mind toddlers, don't forget older children who often get overlooked at this time of year. Our get together is at Martells. While it is not necessary to pick your entrè ahead of time, please do RSVP so we can tell the restaurant how many are coming and they can place us in the right sized room. Hope to see you there. RSVP to Lyn at (269) 731-5601 or [bleyer@wmich.edu](mailto:bleyer@wmich.edu).

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[www.ksp-s-usps.org](http://www.ksp-s-usps.org)

#### Looking Ahead

Winter is on it's way, but we are already planning for spring and summer. The spring **ABC classes** will be offered in February and March. It is important that we get the word out to family, friends and acquaintances. ABC is our major tool for recruiting new members critical to the survival and vitality of our squadron.

**Vessel Safety Check** day is being moved to Saturday the 23rd of June (mark your calendar). While this is four weeks after Memorial Day, we hope the weather will be better and more boaters will be at the lake shore. The **City of South Haven** has invited us to set up at their launch ramp to conduct VSCs and will help promote it. We will place two to four Vessel Examiners from KSPS and South Bend at the launch site on 23 June making it easier for all examiners to get inspections done. We will be doing a presentation to the Prairieville Twp Parks Department in spring to sell them on the importance of voluntary VSCs at their Gull Lake launch site.

#### Mustang Inflatable PFD recall

In keeping with Mustang Survival's commitment to the highest levels of product quality and safety, the company is voluntarily recalling all model number MD2010 and MD2012 inflatable Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) sold in the United States during 2011.

This recall is being issued for the inspection and repair of an inflator inconsistency that may prevent some units from fully inflating. Mustang Survival has developed a solution that corrects any affected product and prevents re-occurrence of this issue. The inspection and repair can only be performed at a Mustang Survival factory. To determine if you are impacted by this recall visit the following website and compare your inflatable to the photos.

<http://www.mustangsurvival.com/22lb-product-notice>

To learn about recalls in general visit: <http://www.recalls.gov/cpsc.html>

## Calendar: KSPS Activities, Events and Meetings

<b>KSPS Holiday Party &amp; Toys for Tots</b> Fri 2 December Martels (formerly Black Swan) Parkview Hills between Oakland & Drake	<b>Executive Committee Mtg</b> <b>Tue 13 December- Time: 6:30 - 9:00</b> The Hunt Club - 544 W Columbia Ave BC	<b>KSPS Annual Meeting &amp; Change of Watch</b> <b>Tue 10 Jan - Time: 6:30 - 9:00</b> Martels (formerly Black Swan) Parkview Hills between Oakland & Drake
<b>USPS Annual Meeting 25-29 Jan. 2012</b> <b>Jacksonville FL</b> If interested go to <a href="http://www.USPS.org">www.USPS.org</a> for registration form and details	<b>General Mtg -</b> Presentation to be Determined <b>Tue 14 February - Time: 6:30 - 9:00</b> Location: TBD	<b>USPS 2012 Governing Board Meeting</b> 4 - 9 September 2012 Detroit Marriott Hotel Lots of pre-mtg activities/ volunteer opp.

### Learn More About Boating

**Piloting** - co-coordinated by George Gerpheide & Diane Hansen  
 Piloting runs 27 Oct. to 26 Jan. Exam due: 2 Feb.

**Engine Maintenance for Boaters** Contact Dan. Runs 11 Jan. thru 22 Feb. Seamanship starts after EM ends.

**Seamanship** will be offered winter of 2012. Contact Karen.

**ABC America's Boating Course** The Kalamazoo ABC and **Boating Safety for Youth** classes are from 6 to 8 pm (note the earlier start time) Mondays February 27 to March 26-12 at Milwood Magnet School. ABC \$30, Youth \$5.

The Battle Creek ABC will be offered late winter (March/April) at Lakeview Middle School in Battle Creek.

**Introduction to Charting** is offered after ABC in Battle Creek.

**Seminars:** Want to learn about GPS or VFH Marine radios? Check out the seminars available on [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)  
 Most seminars cost \$25 for USPS members, and \$35 for non-members, but some are slightly higher

More detailed Course Descriptions are at [www.kspusps.org](http://www.kspusps.org)

**Next Meeting - Tues. 13 DEC**  
**Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron**  
 Social time 6:30 pm, Meeting at 7  
**The Hunt Club** 544 W Columbia Ave  
 Between Helmer Rd and Capital Ave  
 2 miles north of I-94 in Battle Creek.



May your holidays be filled with family, friends  
and the spirit of giving.

#### December Birthdays

05 Scott Levene  
 06 Scott Pauley  
 07 Verle Wita  
 08 Rise' Landeros  
 10 Dawn Livingston  
 12 Dave Tuls  
 23 Janice Pauley  
 27 Glen Douglass



#### Dec. Birthdays Cont'd

27 Sid Durham  
 27 Jerry Johnson

#### January Birthdays

08 Richard Rakow  
 10 Gary Morton  
 19 Aaron Wright  
 30 Beverly Love  
 31 Ron Gustafson

### Basic Courses, Advanced Grade Courses & Electives— Call contact for updates & to register

Course	Date	Contact Person	Telephone	e-mail address
America's Boating Course: Battle Creek	Mar - Apr 2012	Nils Strand	269-964-6690	nils.strand@gsa.gov
America's Boating Course: Kalamazoo	27 Feb-26 Mar	Wally Corder	269-365-3398 (c)	wccorder@hotmail.com
DNR Course (age 12-16): Kalamazoo	27 Feb-26 Mar	Register via Com. Ed	269-337-0446	Lois 345-4521 or Hladky
Intro. To Charting: Battle Creek	after ABC in BC	Nils Strand	269-964-6690	nils.strand@gsa.gov
Seamanship (Mon 7-9 pm/buffet 6pm)	Winter 2012	Karen Strand	269-964-6690	karenstrand@sbcglobal.net
Piloting (Thursdays 6:30-8:30 pm)	27 Oct - 2 Feb	George G & Diane H	269-375-4024	gunkholer1889@yahoo.com
Advanced Piloting	Self study Feb-May	Jerry Hendrickson	269-353-7243	jlh10acrewoods@charter.net
Junior Navigation	TBD	Robert Landeros	269-501-2757	robert.landeros@sbcglobal.net
Navigation	TBD	Robert Landeros	269-501-2757	robert.landeros@sbcglobal.net
Cruise Planning CP (Mon 6-8:30)	Mar 2013	Karen Strand	269-964-6690	karenstrand@sbcglobal.net
Engine Maintenance (Wed 6:30-8:30)	Winter 2012	Dan Livingston	269-781-2328	autodan@yahoo.com
Instructor Development	Spring 2012	Lois Whitmore	269-345-4521	dogwood17@charter.net
Marine Electronics	TBD	Harold Hladky	269-274-1995	harold.hladky@wmich.edu
Operations Training (4-6 hrs/ no test)	Nov or Jan	Nils Strand	269-964-6690	nils.strand@gsa.gov
Sail & Advanced Sail	TBD Spring	George Tyler, Jr.	269-671-4560	gtn8kjd@tds.net
Weather	TBD Fall	H. Hladky & G. Tyler	269-375-2586	Harold H. or George Tyler, Jr

## Living Aboard - Fulton, Mississippi

Raymond Shoemaker is a member of the Kalamazoo Sail and Power Squadron who now lives in Fulton Mississippi. The local paper did this story about people who live aboard boats and we asked permission to reprint it. The article, written by M. Scott Morris appeared in the Tupelo Sunday Journal on 20 November 2011. All photos are by Thomas Wells / Daily Journal.



KSPS member Ray Shoemaker at home on Shoebox.

Solid ground feels funny to someone who isn't used to it. Ray Shoemaker is such a person. "A lot of the time when we go up north to visit our son, we'll be lying in bed and something will be wrong," the 72-year-old said. "It's that we're not moving – that's what's wrong."

Shoemaker and his wife, Sharon, have lived on their boat since 1996, and home has been a slip at Midway Marina in Fulton since 2001. "We pretty much stayed here. My wife got a job at the hospital in Tupelo and worked there until earlier this year, when she retired," Shoemaker said. "It's a nice place. The people are friendly, and I like a small town."



The marina attracts like-minded people united by their love for life on the water. Some of them stay for a night, and others stay for years. "We used to be beach bums," said Phyllis Reynolds, 65. "Now, we're river rats." She and her husband, Gary, 72, used to sail around the Florida and Alabama coasts.

Then slip rental fees started cutting into their budget, so they decided to travel north to Chattanooga, Tenn. We pulled in to the Midway Marina, and they told us, if you stay for two days, you'll never leave. They were right, but it only took one day. They met because of their mutual love for sailboats, but recently realized they needed more space. It wasn't easy to let "P's Pride" go. That was a hard thing to do because we lived on it for 14 years. These days, they live on a trawler called "Magnolia" with their cat, Shackles, who's also a river rat. He's lived all but four weeks of his life with the Reynolds on a boat. He's 4 years old. This is all he knows.

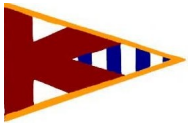
Learn more about Fulton ([click here](#))

### Aussies

You'll find a wide variety of vessels docked at the marina. This is a busy time because boaters are traveling along the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway on the back end of America's Great Loop. On Monday, Mike and Gail Preston of Cairns, Queensland, Australia, stopped for the night. Like other 'loopers,' they went north from Florida up the Atlantic Coast, then through the Great Lakes and into the Mississippi, Ohio and Tennessee rivers to get to the Tenn-Tom Waterway on their way back to Florida. When you finish, they say you 'cross your wake,' Gail Preston, 61, said, "because you get to where you started." The trip was a long time coming for the Prestons. Gail found out about the loop in the early 1990s and decided she wanted to do it. Mike Preston, 67, recalled, "That's outrageous. There's no way we can do that, but here we are." The economic downturn provided a favorable Australian dollar to U.S. dollar exchange rate, and the pair aren't scared by \$4-a-gallon diesel fuel. "We think that's good," he said. "It's \$7 at home." Their boat moves at about 7 knots or 10 mph, and that's part of the fun. America's Great Loop isn't a race. It's a chance to get a unique view of the U.S. and to make friends along the way. "We're on the downhill run, I guess you could say," Gail Preston said. "It's been fantastic. Beautiful scenery. Just magic. We don't want it to end."

### Family

With a home and a family Down Under, the Prestons aren't good candidates to make Midway Marina a permanent stop. Ginger Conner, 70, and her husband, Gerald, 71, weren't looking for a home, either, but they needed one. Their house burned in Florence, so they decided to load up and hit the water. "We came here in our boat, and we loved it. Gerald found out the Marina was for sale," Ginger Conner said. "He didn't let the sun go down." That was 21 years ago, and the pair still run the marina. They lived on their boat for a while, then bought a house about a half mile away. (more on pg 4)



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**Boating is fun... We'll show you how!**



**2011 KSPS Bridge Officers** (please note new phone # for SEO)

<b>Commander</b>	Cdr Gary W. Bleyer, S	269-731-5601 (home)	bleyer@wmich.edu
<b>Executive Officer</b>	vacant		
<b>Educational Officer</b>	Lt/C Wally Corder, S	269-365-3398 (cell)	wccorder@hotmail.com
<b>Administrative Officer</b>	Lt/C Ron Gustafson, S	269-567-0452 (cell)	ronaldga@sbcglobal.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	P/C Nils Strand, AP	269-964-6690 (home)	nils.strand@gsa.gov
<b>Secretary</b>	Lt/C Lyndell Bleyer, S	269-731-5601 (home)	bleyer@wmich.edu

**Fulton MS (continued)**

Monica McCollum, 38, and her family stopped their boat at the marina one day, and made lasting connections. "I'm from the Dominican Republic and they treat me like family" she said. She spent seven years working at the marina, and often stopped by on her day off. The McCollum's have a house in Fulton, but she often can be found on the porch of the boater's lounge, watching the sun go down. "That's a favorite pastime around here," Conner said. "They watch the sunsets, and they come in the morning for coffee."

"Sea's the Moment" belongs to Chuck Brown, and his wife, Jeanie. They used to make Jeeps at a Chrysler plant near Toledo, Ohio. Retirement brought them South. "I came down here about seven years ago. We were heading somewhere else, but we decided to stay. There was something about it," Chuck Brown, 72, said. "We lived on the boat, then we bought a house

because we couldn't pass up the housing market down here." The Northeast Mississippi climate works for the Browns. It seldom snows, and there's no reason to winterize a boat. They also found a group of people who know what it means to feel funny on solid ground. "We keep in touch with each other and look out for each other. There's usually something to do," Brown said. "I don't



know. It's home."

Left: Chuck and Jeanie Brown have lived on their boat, "Sea's the Moment,"

Read more:  
[NEMS360.com](http://NEMS360.com)