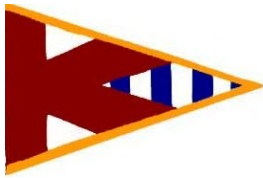


# The Pilot

## Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



### Commander's Message



*Gary W. Bleyer*

Hope everyone came through the ice storm well. We lost power at home on Sunday night while watching the news at 11 pm. We got our power back on Wednesday. Brings back memories of the New Year's Eve ice storm three decades ago. We did without power for 11 days that time, and without a generator. Thank goodness for wood burning stoves & flashlights.

We should be thawed out in time for our next Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday 8 March and definitely in time for the D9 Spring Conference. The conference begins Friday evening 25 March with hospitality night and a variety of seminars on Saturday morning. Hope to see many of you there.

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

There will be a local **Boat Show** at Kellogg Arena on McCamly Street in Battle Creek. Friday March 4 the boat show is open from 4 to 10, Saturday 9 to 9 and Sunday the 6th of March from 11 to 5. Admission is \$5, children under 10 free, and parking is free. Four dealers are participating, Gull Lake, Double L, Pat's Pontoon and Lake Drive.

Our **Engine Maintenance** class taught by Dan Livingston wrapped up on Wednesday 23 February. The students enjoyed the hands on facilities which makes the course more interesting and easier to comprehend than looking at diagrams in the text or on screen. Below are a few photos from Engine Maintenance.



Linda, Ron, Jim and Phil with Allis



Dan reviewing battery charging & maintenance

Planning to visit other ports of call or live aboard? If you stay on your boat for the weekend or season take **Cruise Planning**. CP starts Monday night 7 March. Nils Strand will be offering **Operations Training** OT the first 15 minutes each Monday evening before CP. Karen Strand is the course coordinator for CP and class is held at the Strand's home north of Battle Creek. Karen provides a light buffet before class. Be sure to call Karen to sign-up for this class. Arrive at 6 for the buffet and social time, class starts at 7.

## Calendar: KSPS, D-9 & USPS Activities, Events and Meetings

<b>Tue 8 Mar 2011 Time: 1830 - 2100</b> <b>KSPS Executive Committee Meeting</b> Michelle's 4010 Gull Rd, Kalamazoo MI	<b>Sky Warn Weather Spotter Training</b> 09 March <b>7 pm</b> 7900 S. Westnedge Portage City Council Chambers / or 26 Mar <b>9 am</b> Lakeview Middle School B.C.	<b>Fri eve - Sat 25-26 March</b> D9 Spring Conference - Lansing MI Capital Times on Grand Waters Registration form at <a href="http://d9-usps.org/">http://d9-usps.org/</a>
<b>Tue 12 Apr 2011 Time: 1830 - 2100</b> <b>KSPS General Meeting</b> - presentation: TBD / Let AO Ron Gustafson know if you can present Apr or May	<b>Tue 10 May 2011 Time: 1830 - 2100</b> <b>KSPS General Meeting</b> - presentation: TBD	<b>Sat 11 June Vessel Safety Checks</b> <b>Boats and Brats</b> - 9 am to 3 pm Black River Yacht Club bottom of Oak St, South Haven MI

### Learn More About Boating

**ABC America's Boating Course** and **Boating Safety for Youth** will be offered late winter /early spring. Tell your friends, family, neighbors and slip mates. The Battle Creek ABC runs Thursdays from 24 March through 28 April at Lakeview Middle School. The Kalamazoo ABC and Youth Boating classes run Mondays 11 April through 9 May at Milwood Magnet School.

**Introduction to Charting** will be Thursdays May 5-19 in B.C.

**Cruise Planning** will be offered by Karen Strand Monday evenings beginning March 7. Buffet at 6, OT at 7, CP at 7:15  
**OT—Operations Training** at the Strands just before CP

**Navigating Rivers, Locks and Lakes** is a new 4 hour seminar. Member Cost \$25. Call Wally if interested.

**Piloting** - will be co-coordinated by George Gerpheide and Diane Hansen mid to late fall.

Contact coordinators listed below if you are interested in any of these excellent courses.

### Next Meeting - Tues. 8 March Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

Executive Committee  
Social time 6:30 pm, Meeting at 7  
Michelle's 4010 Gull Rd  
Between Sprinkle & H Ave



When it comes to giving,  
some people stop at nothing.

### March Birthdays

02 Robert Landeros  
03 Lyn Bleyer  
07 Beth Walters  
08 Kari Strand  
13 Bob Boyce  
22 Don Delong  
26 Bill Soule



### April Birthdays

01 Ron Voelker  
03 Glenn Hahn  
03 Dan Seng  
14 Don Paulson  
15 Patricia Smith  
29 Harriette Griffith

Two fish swim into a concrete wall,  
one fish turns to the other and says, Dam

## 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 24 - Apr 28	Nils Strand	269-964-6690	nils.strand@gsa.gov
America's Boating Course: Kalamazoo	Apr 11 - May 9	Wally Corder	269-321-0751	wccorder@hotmail.com
DNR Course (age 12—16): Kalamazoo	Apr 11 - May 9	Hladkys (temp)	269-969-0815	hghladky@peoplepc.com
Intro. To Charting: Battle Creek	May 5 - 19	Nils Strand	269-964-6690	nils.strand@gsa.gov
Seamanship SE (Mon 7—9 pm)	Fall	Karen Strand	269-964-6690	karenstrand@sbcglobal.net
Piloting	Fall 2011	George G & Diane H	269-375-4024	gunkholer1889@yahoo.com
Advanced Piloting	TBD	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)	7 Mar 2011	Karen Strand	269-964-6690	karenstrand@sbcglobal.net
Engine Maintenance (Wed 6:30-8:30)	12 Jan—23 Feb	Dan Livingston	269-781-2328	autodan@yahoo.com
Instructor Development	Winter 2011	Lois Whitmore	269-345-4521	lwh@core.com
Marine Electronics	TBD	Harold Hladky	269-969-0815	harold.hladky@wmich.edu
Operations Training (with CP or SE)	7 Mar 2011	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

## Virtual Vessel Safety Test a Must for All Boaters

By Tom Rau, Coast Guard Senior Chief (ret)



Photo: Members of the United States Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary and United States Power Squadron work closely together to keep boaters safe through vessel safety checks. Photo/Tom Rau

### Virtual Vessel Examiner

In a joint website accord, the United States Power Squadron and Coast Guard Auxiliary now offer boaters a wonderful opportunity to be tested by a Virtual Vessel Examiner to determine if their boats are up to speed regarding federal safety requirements. All that is required is a computer and internet connection.

The test covers the full range of boats including sailboats with and without auxiliary engines. It even tests requirements for paddle craft. What I find appealing: the virtual test provides boaters the opportunity to be prepared for an on-site vessel safety check, whether it be conducted by the Power Squadron or Coast Guard Auxiliary.

As a former Coast Guard boarding officer who has inspected hundreds of boats, I often sensed that boaters carry safety equipment in order to meet federal requirements rather than appreciating the inherent value of the equipment. And many fail to understand its proper use. I urge all boaters to take the virtual vessel safety test. Then urge them to follow up the test with an inspection by a certified Vessel Examiner VE either a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary or United States Power Squadron.

Many of these volunteer lifesavers have owned and operated recreational boats for years, which affords them the opportunity to pass along valuable boating tips. The VE can help explain the purpose of equipment the boat owner has never used plus tell them about classes. When boaters pass an inspection, they will be awarded a Vessel Examination Decal they may post on their vessel. The decal will put them in good standings with the Coast Guard.

Here is a quick review of some of the material covered in the virtual vessel safety check.

- Type of boat
- The boat's method of propulsion including paddle craft and sail
- Length of boat and its requirements
- Operating a boat at night
- Proper placement of hull identification numbers
- Required safety equipment for boat length
- Proper ventilation requirements for engine spaces and other enclosed fuel systems
- Required sound producing devices for boat length
- Requirements for marine sanitation devices
- Electrical systems
- Fuel tanks
- An equipment check list that exceeds federal requirements

What impressed me about the virtual test: it brings to mind just how involved operating a boat can be, yet simple if boaters are informed and educated.

For more on virtual vessel safety checks, I urge you to visit <http://www.uscgboating.org/>

then click on vessel safety checks. This site will also help you contact a vessel examiner in your area.

Boat Smart: do take advantage of this virtual guide to safe and enjoyable boating.

### KSPS Recognition

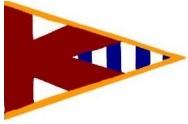
At the January COW, two KSPS members were recognized for their service and dedication to the squadron. Lt/C Daniel Livingston was recognized for his service as Executive Officer during 2010 and his coordination of the Engine Maintenance course. Also appreciated were his efforts, along with others, to get three of our Vessel Examiners recertified and add two new VE's. Thanks to Dan, we were able to go from zero vessel safety checks in 2007 to 42 this year.



Lt/C Lyn Bleyer was recognized for her work as secretary, newsletter editor and web maintainer.

Phyllis Buskirk presented Cdr Gary Bleyer with the Boner Award. Gary likes to select a person at random at each meeting to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. On more than one occasion he startled the volunteer by asking them to lead the National Anthem.





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

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 Richland MI 49083

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

**2011 KSPS Bridge Officers**

<b>Commander</b>	Cdr Gary W. Bleyer, S	269-731-5601 (home)	bleyer@wmich.edu
<b>Executive Officer</b>			
<b>Educational Officer</b>	Lt/C Wally Corder, S	269-321-0751 (home)	wccorder@hotmail.com
<b>Administrative Officer</b>	Lt/C Ron Gustafson, S	269-372-3879 (home)	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

**Hurry - D9 Spring Conference Registration deadline is 11 March, Hotel Room 4 March**

**Sky Warn training offered in Portage and Battle Creek**

Lots of tornado pictures and cool videos of tornadoes winds, lightning and hail. You can become a certified Skywarn spotter. These free meetings take place in every county. You don't have to attend the one in your county, just find a time and place convenient for you and hang out with fellow weather enthusiasts.



[www.crh.noaa.gov/grr/skywarn/training/](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/grr/skywarn/training/)  
**Wed 09 March** 7:00 pm Portage City Council Chambers 7900 South Westnedge Ave Portage,  
 Contact Information: Art Snapper art@nk8x.net  
**Sat 26 March** 9 AM at Lakeview Middle School, 300 South 28th St, Battle Creek.

**Thank you from the Tylers**

George and Ruth Anne Tyler send their thanks to KSPS for the flowers sent and to all who were able to attend the memorial service for their daughter. Linda Anne Tyler, 57, passed away 23 January 2011 at Hospice House of Spokane WA from the same type of brain cancer that took the life of Senator Kennedy. She was the Patient Financial Coordinator for the Kidney Transplant Program at Sacred Heart Medical Center and always went above and beyond in her duties. Linda was extremely creative, had played several musical instruments, enjoyed cooking, quilting, drawing with pastels and oil painting.