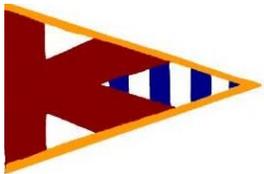


The Pilot

Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



Detroiters of a certain age remember with nostalgia their trips down the Detroit River to Bob-Lo and back on one of two steam-powered excursion boats; the Columbia or the Ste. Claire. There was an observation deck above the open engine room which presented us with the sights, sounds, and smells of a steam engine under power. Huge connecting rods converted vertical thrust to propeller rotation by means of a huge crankshaft which turned smoothly within well-oiled journals. The steam engine worked leisurely to maintain steerage on the downstream cruise. But it presented an awesome sight as the multiple cylindered engine later fought its way back upstream to home port.



**KSPS Commander
Jim Johnston**

Many still mourn the loss of Bob-Lo and its boats to private developers. The twilight of steam had come to us in a personal way.

It may also be twilight for the S.S. Badger, a coal-fired leftover from the age of steam on the Great Lakes. As environmental regulations tighten, the days of this worthy craft are certainly numbered. KSPS and SBPS are jointly presenting an opportunity to relive an earlier time as we offer an upcoming cruise June 21-22. Tickets and hotel rooms have been set aside, but this popular attraction fills up early and they cannot be held unclaimed for long. Join us for a pleasurable weekend cruising on the S.S. Badger, as well as, enjoying the sights and activities of Manitowoc. If interested ask Lyn for flyer with details.

Our Spring classes are in full swing, and graduations are near, if not already completed. Seamanship, the first advanced grade class, builds on the knowledge in ABC. Seamanship begins Tuesday 15 April and runs for 8 weeks. Marine Electronics will be offered in the fall (also 8 weeks).

For those wanting less time in the classroom, we will be offering a one day, two to three hour seminar on knots, bends and hitches.

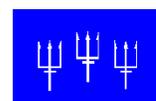
We have invited all ABC students to the next two presentations and events. If you see a few new faces at future meetings, make sure to welcome these folks into our circle. The special name tags will be a clue.

Be prepared for a captivating evening as Michael LeButt, SN greatly expands our understanding of "The Great Lakes and WWII". On April 8, he explores the social, economic, and military aspects of the Lake Michigan region as it contributed to the war effort. Make sure to come; bring a friend.

Spring really is coming; be ready!



SS Badger



Jim Johnston
KSPS Commander

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Calendar: KSPS Activities, Events and Meetings

(mark your personal calendar or post on fridge or mirror)

At General meetings speaker / presentation follows dinner. Executive Committee: - business meeting after dinner. Order off the menu (range \$8 - \$26). Prices higher at conference, COW, and holiday party. RSVP required at these last three. Be sure to check this month's location. RSVP if indicated. RSVP not needed at Brewsters, Gull Lake View or Moonraker. Questions: call Lyn (269) 731-5601 or Jim 375-8441

Apr 4-5 District 9 Spring Conference

Holland Doubletree, MI

conference registration form at www.D9.org

Friday night Hospitality Fun / Saturday AM Seminars

Sat Lunch, business mtg, Evening dinner + entertainment

April 8: Michael LeButt, SN

from Tip-of-the-Mitt presents

Great Lakes Role in WWII

Moonraker West - 544 W. Columbia Ave - Battle Creek

May 13: Cheryl Warren presents

Cruising Coastal Norway & Stunning Fjords

Moonraker West - 544 W. Columbia Ave - Battle Creek

Saturday May 17 9am-noon

Portage Family Fish Fair

Nat'l Wear It PFD Photo event

Bring your PFD & any extras you may have

Start of Safe Boating Week / Ramona Park, Portage

Tues June 10 / 6:30 social time, 7 dinner

Executive Committee Meeting - Everyone Welcome

Gull Lake View Golf Club

Sat June 7 Free Vessel Safety Checks

Gull Lake-Prairieville Twp Park 10am-noon

Sat and Sun June 21-22 SS Badger Ferry Trip

from Ludington MI to Manitowoc WI (depart 800)

Overnight in Wisc. (depart 1300 Sun.) SSBadger.com

Call Lyn for detailed Badger Trip Flyer

Sat June 28 Free Vessel Safety Checks

Boats, Brats and VSCs / 10am-3 pm

Black River Yacht Club - South Haven

Watch for more dates & events in June/July/Aug

Spotlight on Education

Tell your friends, neighbors, relatives and slip mates

Contact Wally Corder (269) 365-3398 We need to order course materials at least 2 weeks before class. For more detailed course content description visit our website at <http://www.ksps-usps.org>

Seamanship (the first advanced grade class after ABC)

Begins Tuesday **15 April** 9 weeks.

Contact: Karen (269) 964-6690

Knots, Bends and Hitches

a hands-on "learn how to tie knots" program geared to a wide range of audiences.

Instructor: Joe Mills. Contact Joe 375-4414 (eve) or Wally Corder 269-365-3398 Date: TBD



America's Boating Course 2014

Take it as a refresher or encourage relatives, friends, and slip-mates to take it. Materials \$35, additional family sharing materials only \$5 more.

ABC - Battle Creek 2014 - **Mar 20** to Apr 24 (5 weeks)

Contact: Nils or Karen (269) 964-6690

Time 7-9 pm. Lakeview Middle School

Marine Electronics offered fall 2014—if there are at least 5 students. ME 101: Boat Electrical Systems, ME 102: Marine Radio Communications, and ME 103: Marine Electronics for Navigation. Potential location: Ross Twp Hall, just south of Gull Lake. Date: TBD 9 weeks each. Contact: Gary or Lyn Bleyer 731-5601



Birthdays

Birthday not listed? Please let Lyn know.

April Birthdays

- 1 Ron Voelker
- 3 Glenn Hahn
- 3 Dan Seng
- 4 Kathy Rose
- 6 Megan LaBerteaux
- 9 Jim White
- 29 Harriette Griffith



May Birthdays

- 4 Kent Choate
- 12 Judy Dorais
- 14 Ron McPhee
- 16 L. John Goes
- 23 Dieter Valk
- 26 Gary Bleyer
- 26 John Penniman
- 28 Eric Lewis

ARE WATERSPOUTS WATER TORNADOS?

Lt. Bill Hempel / Senior Feature Writer / USPS Marketing/Public Relations Committee

At one time or another most boaters have seen a waterspout. Recently a waterspout hit a marina nearby my home and did considerable damage. Needless to say, I have developed a new level of respect for these anomalies of nature.

There are two types of waterspouts: fair weather and tornadic. Fair weather waterspouts form as their name implies and can exist on a bright sunny day. They have winds in the 50 mph range and usually remain over water. They will dissipate rapidly when approaching land. Tornadic waterspouts are accompanied by severe thunderstorm activity and can have winds up to 150 mph. They can move out over water while maintaining a very high and harmful wind velocity.

Waterspouts are formed with warm temperatures and high humidity. That is why they are common in southern waters. They form along a dark base of cumulonimbus clouds and are caused by a vertical wind shear, which is a wind force that changes as it goes higher from the surface to the clouds. The waterspout is not a whirling column of water, but consists of cloud vapor which is tiny water droplets that swirl around.

Fair weather waterspouts start at the water surface and work their way up to the cloud base, whereas the more dangerous tornadic waterspouts start at the cloud base and work their way downward.

Any waterspout seen on the water and/or approaching land needs to be treated with respect. You can never be certain what type of waterspout you are observing. They tend to move fairly slowly over the surface but can be very dangerous. Boaters should never try to navigate through a waterspout and should avoid them by moving away from it at right angles. They have been known to suck up small animals, seaweed, saltwater, sea fauna, fish, and even a small boat or a human. There are recorded cases on land, in which raindrops were mingled with a surprise downfall of salt water, fish, seaweed, and all manner of other debris. If you experience such an event, you know you have just witnessed the demise of a waterspout.

You can learn more about waterspouts at the national weather service web site. The United States Power Squadrons® include sections on weather in its ABC Boating Class as well as in a number of seminars and an excellent Weather Course. Watch for these offerings from your local Power Squadron or www.usps.org. Such general information is fun and learning about weather patterns can be interesting while keeping you safe on the water and on land.

Waterspout Photos courtesy of
www.rainsoftofottawa.com
and NASA

Harsh winter leads to greater Fish Kill

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds everyone that after the heavy ice and snow cover melts on Michigan's lakes this winter, it may be common to discover dead fish or other aquatic creatures. This year's severe winter created conditions that cause fish and other creatures such as waterfowl, diving ducks, turtles, frogs, toads and crayfish to die.

"Winterkill is the most common type of fish kill," said Gary Whelan, DNR fish production manager. "Given the harsh conditions this winter with thick ice and deep snow cover, it will be particularly common in shallow lakes and streams and ponds. These kills are localized and typically do not affect the overall health of the fish populations or fishing quality."

Winterkill occurs during especially long, harsh winters – similar to the one experienced this year. Shallow lakes with excess aquatic vegetation and mucky bottoms are particularly prone to this problem. Fish and other aquatic life typically die in late winter, but may not be noticed until a month after the ice leaves the lake because the dead fish and other aquatic life are temporarily preserved by the cold water.

"Winterkill begins with distressed fish gasping for air at holes in the ice and often ends with large numbers of dead fish that bloat as the water warms in early spring," Whelan explained. "Dead fish and other aquatic life may appear fuzzy because of secondary infection by fungus. The fish actually suffocated from a lack of dissolved oxygen from decaying plants and other dead aquatic animals under the ice."

Dissolved oxygen is required by fish and all other forms of aquatic life. Once the daylight is greatly reduced by thick ice and snow cover, aquatic plants stop producing oxygen and many die. The bacteria that decompose organic materials on the bottom of the lake use the remaining oxygen in the water. Once the oxygen is reduced and other aquatic animals die and start decomposing, the rate that oxygen used for decomposition is additionally increased and dissolved oxygen levels in the water decrease even more leading to increasing die off. Visit www.michigan.gov/fishing for more information on fish kills in Michigan, If you suspect non-natural causes, please call your

nearest DNR or Michigan's Pollution Emergency Alert System at 1-800-292-4706.





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Lyndell Bleyer, Editor
 6553 N 37th St
 Richland MI 49083

bleyer@wmich.edu

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

2014 KSPS Bridge Officers (please note email for treasurer, put Attn Nils in subject line)

Commander	Cdr James W. Johnston, P	269-375-8441 (home)	jimwj@hotmail.com
Educational Officer	Lt/C Wally Corder, P	269-365-3398 (cell)	wccorder@hotmail.com
Administrative Officer	Lt/C E-J Ohler	269-343-2567 W /760-5862	ej@wilsonbrinker.com
Treasurer	P/C Nils Strand, AP	269-964-6690 (home)	karenstrand@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	P/C Karen Strand, AP	269-964-6690 (home)	karenstrand@sbcglobal.net

Recently released Coast Guard Data	This and That	Great Lakes role in WWII
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Every third day there is a boating fatality due to alcohol ◆ Only 5% of boaters regularly wear their life jackets ◆ There were 651 fatalities in 2012, down from 758 in 2011 in the U.S. ◆ 25% of boaters are mandated by law to have boating education ◆ Friday, May 16, is "Wear your life jacket to work day" ◆ May 17 - 23 is Safe Boating week; 	<p>With the snowfall on 12 Mar, Kalamazoo surpassed 112.4 inches and Grand Rapids 112.6</p> <p>Be Prepared for Spring Storms</p> <p>Thunderstorms, straight-line winds and tornados can disrupt power and block roads. Be sure you have water, food and meds to last at least 3 days. Update your first aid kit and review evacuation/disaster plans with family and neighbors. Do not drive thru standing water. 4 to 6 inches will turn a car into a rutterless boat with 4 inner tubes.</p>	<p>Learn how quickly factories and workers converted from domestic products to tanks, planes, ships and other military support.</p> <p>Who discovered the jet stream and used it to a tactical advantage?</p> <p>Did Germans ever set foot on Michigan soil? Did Japanese weapons threaten Michigan citizens?</p> <p>Get the answers to these next Tuesday 8 April, as Michael LeButt presents a fascinating description of the Great Lakes Role in WWII. See page 2 for when/where</p>