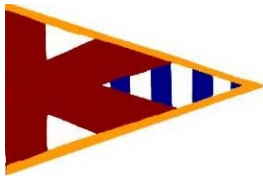


The Pilot

Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



**KSPS Commander
Jim Johnston**

For the first time in four years, the hands of a Bleyer are not at the helm of KSPS. Since 2010, Lyn and Gary have done much to advance the stature and operation of our squadron; to detail their many contributions would consume the remainder of this article space. However, I am delighted to announce that not only are they remaining very active in our squadron in 2014, but that almost all our officers and appointees will continue in their positions for the New Year.

I am also very pleased to welcome Lt/C E-J Ohler to the Bridge as Administrative Officer, and Lt Jim White to our Executive Committee. Lt John Anderson will be assuming Public Relations duties; I look forward to working closely with him to explore

more electronic avenues for getting our message to the public. Jerilyn and I are making plans to meet with E-J, Jim and John personally, and I am anxious to incorporate their skills into our squadron operation. Welcome aboard!

With a well-run organization and an experienced crew, what's left for a new commander to do? In a word, plenty! An obvious first goal is to build on the strengths and accomplishments that Lyn and Gary have worked so diligently to achieve during their terms.

In addition, my current "to-do" list separates into several general categories; streamlining our meetings and operations, facilitating the efforts of our officers and appointees, and striving to make KSPS a source of as many exciting and beneficial experiences as possible for our members. My view is that happy, involved members, a variety of interesting activities and presentations, a source of accurate and timely boating information, and opportunities to operate one's boat among friends, all serve as enticements to attract and retain members. Evidence that this process has already begun can be seen in the succession of high quality presenters we enjoyed in 2013, continuing through 2014, including the

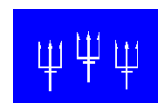
return of our very popular explorer and diver, Ross Richardson on February 11; more activities for a wider range of boats this year; and a list of possibilities that I look forward to presenting to the Executive Committee, including possible assistance with a local Scouting Troop as the boys earn their boating merit badges, and a "picnic trailer" to serve us at the end of a boating rendezvous.

Additionally, planning has begun for a joint venture with South Bend in a cruise on the SS Badger on June 21 and 22. Please mark your calendars now.

As USPS continues to place more emphasis on online instruction, I will be working with our SEO to see how we can offer free "review sessions" to these online students before they take their proctored exams, as well as encourage "study support groups" for those in our squadron who are taking advanced courses as self-study.

In closing, I wish to express my thanks to the squadron for presenting me with this unique opportunity to serve KSPS. We have a sound boat, an exciting course, and an experienced crew. Time to cast off!

Jim Johnston
KSPS Commander



Inside this Issue

Commander's Message 1

Calendar: Events 2

KSPS Classes / Seminars 2

Birthdays 2

Great Lakes Freezing Over? 3

2014 KSPS Bridge Officers 4

Ice Breakers on the Great Lakes 4

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

Tuesday February 11: – Ross Richardson
The Wrecks of Sleeping Bear Point
 Moonraker West - Everyone Welcome
 544 W Columbia Ave, Battle Creek

Grand Rapids Boat Show

When: February 19-23.
<http://showspan.com/GRB/>

Check out classes starting March 3 —>

March 11: Executive Committee

Highlights from Chicago Strictly Sail
 Brewster's - Portage

14 March Deadline for Holland Doubletree Hotel
 1-800-222-8733. Please mention group code USP.

After 14 March rooms go from \$89 to \$129

Apr 4-5 District 9 Spring Conference

Holland Doubletree, MI
 Friday night Hospitality Fun / Saturday AM Seminars

April 8: Michael LeButt, SN
 from Tip-of-the-Mitt presents

Great Lakes Role in WWII

Moonraker West - Battle Creek

May 13: Cheryl Warren presents

Cruising Coastal Norway & Stunning Fjords

Gull Lake View Golf Resort - M-89 and 38th St

Saturday May 24 9am–noon

Portage Family Fish Fair

Ramona Park, Portage

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)
 Offered beginning March or April 2014. 9 weeks.
Contact: Karen (269) 964-6690

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 - Kalamazoo 2014 - Mondays - Mar 3 - 31 2014

Contact: Wally (269) 365-3398 (5 weeks)
 Time 6-8 pm. Milwood Magnet School

Boating Safety for Youth - Thursdays - Mar 3 - 31 2014

Contact: Harold (269) 274-1995 Offered at the same time & location as adult ABC class in Kalamazoo, but in a separate classroom. Cost: \$5 Register at (269) 337-0446

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 101 offered late spring if there are at least 5 students. ME 101: Boat Electrical Systems, ME 102: Marine Radio Communications, and ME 103: Marine Electronics for Navigation.

Michigan is home to over 115 light houses,
 more than any other state

Birthdays

February Birthdays

- 5 Linda Tuls
- 7 Ray Shoemaker
- 10 Sharon Mathewson
- 11 Jerry Love
- 11 James Johnston
- 13 Linda Mills
- 14 Ronald Sons
- 23 Janet Boyce
- 24 Brenda Ellis



March Birthdays

- 02 Bob Landeros
- 03 Lyndell Bleyer
- 03 Richard Brown
- 07 Beth Walter
- 13 Bob Boyce
- 22 Don DeLong
- 26 Bill Soule
- 29 Jeanette Brown

Great Lakes Freezing Over?

Ever wonder if all five Great Lakes can become totally covered in ice? It is a rare occurrence, as some lakes are much more freeze resistant than others. A lake is considered frozen over with 90% ice coverage. Each lake has different characteristics.

- ⌋ Lake Erie is a smaller and shallower lake which tends to ice over 7 out of every 10 winters.
- ⌋ Lake Ontario, which is furthest east, almost never freezes over. This is partially due to its depth which reaches 800 feet in some locations.
- ⌋ Lake Michigan will only ice over 11% of our winters. In fact, it hasn't nearly frozen over since 1979. 1889, 1904, 1936, 1963, 1977, 1979
- ⌋ Superior is the largest fresh water lake in the world and contains more water than all of the other Great Lakes combined. It's deepest point is around 1,300 feet. But still Superior freezes over . . . about once every 20 years. . . the last time was 2003. 1977, 1978, 1979, 1986, 1991, 1994, 1996, 2003

Lakes tend to develop their most significant ice coverage during the month of February. However, this year, with colder temperatures, ice is forming quicker.

Right now, across all the Great Lakes, we have about 50% ice coverage. On Lake Michigan, ice stretches out from ten to thirty miles from the shoreline. Less at southern end of lake. The record amount of ice on the lakes was in 1979 with 94.7% of the lakes covered.

The Great Lakes do freeze, but not completely. According to Ray Assel of the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, ice cover on the Great Lakes varies from lake to lake and year to year.

For example, in a year with normal temperatures, 25 percent of Lake Ontario will be frozen over, while up to 90 percent of Lake Erie will be frozen. However, wind and water movement over bodies of water as large and deep as the Great Lakes make it unlikely the lakes have ever frozen over completely for any significant length of time.

The Great Lakes have come close to freezing over completely during the extremely cold winters of 1977, 1978 and 1979, with up to 90 percent ice coverage. However, Assel says that severe winter air temperatures are not necessary for large ice cover on the lakes. A cool summer and fall can result in below normal water temperatures by late fall. Extensive ice cover can then form with only average winter temperatures.

Ice cover has major impacts on regional climate, ecology, water level, coastal erosion, toxin distribution, as well as hydropower, fishing, and shipping industries.

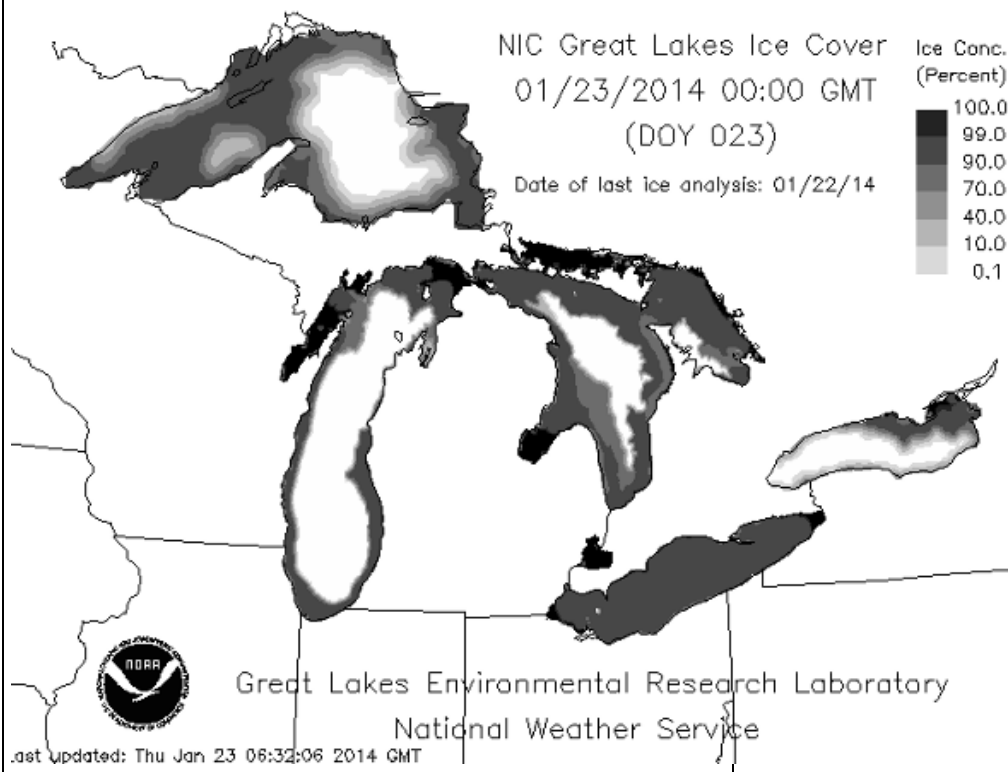
Interestingly, freezing nearly over means less water will evaporate, resulting in less lake-effect snow and higher water levels next spring.

The Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie were closed Wednesday January 15 and will not reopen until March 25, according to Randy Elliott, vessel traffic manager for the U.S. Coast Guard. Many times the Coast Guard does not dispatch icebreakers until the beginning of January, but this year they started 9 Dec. - a month earlier than usual.

Percent of ice coverage as of 23-Jan-2014

94% Lake Erie
70% Lake Huron
54% Lake Superior
34% Lake Michigan
25% Lake Ontario
www.glerl.noaa.gov

NOAA Great Lakes Coastal Forecasting System





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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

Ice Breakers on the Great Lakes

Despite the weather, the Mackinaw and eight other Coast Guard icebreakers will be out in the water all winter, but weather predictions say that most of the shipping channels will be iced over until late March.

Most icebreakers use their weight to break the ice; the 3,500-ton Mackinaw does too, but it has another trick. They manipulate the ship's propulsion system to churn up the ice like a blender, creating a path wide enough for freighters, but lately, the thick ice made for a few challenging days.

Members of the ship were limited to only 10 minutes outside during the worst of the frigid weather, but more than the cold, the constant vibrations from the ships smashing the ice makes it feel like they're living in an earthquake, 18 hours a day.

USCG Mackinaw

