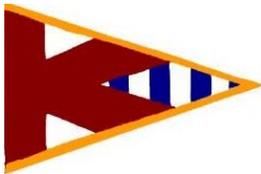


The Pilot

Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



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www.ksp-susps.org

According to a 2012 survey conducted by the Boating Safety Division of the USCG, boating is considered to be one of the top three ways to relieve stress. Didn't those surveyed realize that boats possess a malevolent gene dedicated to embarrassing skippers at the worst possible moment, and/or emptying their wallets on a regular basis? At least it seems that way.

The boating season is now upon us and winter's studies, plans, and preparations are about to be tested on the water. Thanks to Wally Corder, Nils Strand, Harold and Gail Hladky for offering the highest quality course for new boaters in the area. KSPS has once again completed its core classes (ABC and Seamanship) and is looking to offer some short seminars for last-minute scholars. Forward any names of potential students to Wally.

KSPS volunteers coached 150+ youngsters in boating safety at Portage's recent Family Fishing Fair (photo pg 4). KSPS is also participating in this year's Kalamazoo's Memorial Day Parade.

Our hard-working Vessel Safety Examiners will be meeting shortly to update themselves in preparation for another busy boating inspection season. Don't forget to stop by one of their scheduled VSC sessions and obtain your 2014 safety inspection sticker decal. As you are out and about, look for our safety signs at several area launch ramps which are placed and serviced by Bill Soule, Lyn and Gary Bleyer. Several launch areas and fishing spots will soon include monofilament line recycle bins which are being fabricated by a local Boy Scout Troop; E-J Ohler is the prime mover for this project (see pg 4 for photo)

As you can see, KSPS takes the public service portion of the USPS Motto very seriously. As you renew your annual dues, know that you lend personal assistance to your award-winning squadron as it seeks to fulfill those civic duties. Thank you for that! You are contributing to boating safety and helping foster a future generation of safe boaters.

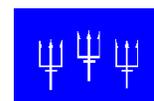


**KSPS Commander
Jim Johnston**

Although our monthly meetings and newsletter recess for July, remember that the fraternal side of the USPS triangle is still very important during this time. Look to the Pilot and your emails for such events as the Boats, Brats and VSC gathering in South Haven in June, and Bill and Maris Soule's picnic and "big boat" cruise planned for July 19.

This summer, will you need an extra deck hand? There are none better than a squadron member! Would you like an extra passenger or two for one of your personal cruises? Consider a squadron member or two! Check the roster or contact Lyn Bleyer or Jim Johnston for guest suggestions if needed. And best of all, consider taking along a total non-boater or two who have never had the opportunity to experience the joy of boating. Show them how it's done. Maybe they will be boaters someday, or at least provide a favorable vote on a boating related referendum. Yes, boating can be a really great stress reliever; share the experience.

To the boats everyone!



Jim Johnston
KSPS Commander

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

17-24 May Safe Boating Week

24 May Vessel Examiner Recertification Training
26 May - Kalamazoo Memorial Day Parade

Sat June 7 Free Vessel Safety Checks

Gull Lake - Prairieville Twp Park 10am-noon

Executive Committee Meeting - Everyone Welcome

Tues June 10 / 6:30 social time, 7 dinner
Gull Lake View Golf Club—38th St & M-89

Sat June 28 Free Vessel Safety Checks

Boats, Brats and VSCs / 10 am—3 pm
Black River Yacht Club - South Haven

Wednesday Evening 25 June

Educational Cruise on Bristol Bay on the Detroit River
Purpose: to observe navigational aids day & night

Sat 12 July - Friends of Goodwill Tall Ship Cruise

Sat 19 July - Potluck Picnic at the Soule's
in South Haven. Followed - weather permitting - by
a cruise with KSPS members

Watch your email for more events in June/July/Aug

August 1 - D9 Picnic - Muskegon

August 2 - U.S. Coast Guard Festival Parade
Join other KSPS and D9 members in the parade

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

Executive Committee Meeting - Everyone Welcome
Gull Lake View Golf Club—38th St & M-89

September 9: The Bleyers present

Alaska: McKinley Explorer & Denali Nat'l Park

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>

Learn to Swim - In the U.S. ten people drown everyday. Source: CDC Wear Your Life Jacket,

While 80 percent of Americans said they could swim, only 56 percent of the self-described swimmers can perform all 5 of the basic skills that could save their life in the water: step or jump into water over your head and return to the surface, float or tread water for one minute; turn around in a full circle and find an exit; swim 25 yards and exit from the water. If in a pool, you must be able to exit without using the ladder. **Learn to swim or improve skills.**
Kalamazoo www.kzoymca.org/adult-water-exercise
Battle Creek Youth Aquatics: Learn-to-Swim, Parent & Tot or Competitive Lakeview Schools 269-565-2415 www.lakeviewspartans.org

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 Materials \$35, additional family sharing materials only \$5 more.

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

Welcome Aboard - Our newest member is
Fred Castner

Birthdays

Birthday not listed? Please let Lyn know.

June Birthdays

- 06 Dick Walter
- 12 Mike Galbreath
- 13 Ross Elliott
- 16 Bruce Dorais
- 19 Maris Soule
- 20 Susan Norrod
- 22 Laura Elliott
- 23 Bill Tassie
- 25 Diana Goes
- 26 Jane Chappell



July Birthdays

- 4 Mary Sons
- 6 George Tyler Jr.
- 7 Chris Hansen
- 9 E-J Ohler
- 19 Phyllis Buskirk
- 23 Bob McNally
- 25 Denny Segar
- 27 Kyle Brown
- 29 Pamela Wright

Preparedness on the Water

by Cdr Marge Zitnik, AP, Berea Power Squadron
Reprinted with permission of both the author and
Great Lakes Scuttlebutt



While you are developing your summer boating plans, don't forget some emergency preparedness. Those of us who have attended boating courses were taught about what

to do if someone falls overboard, but how many of us have practiced maneuvering our boats on the water to get a feel for how this would work? Take some time in a quiet area and give it a try. The confidence you gain while not under pressure will help you if you are confronted with the real situation. My husband Joe and I have practiced "man overboard" to rescue hats that have inadvertently blown overboard. These "dry runs" without a real emergency helped us understand the logistics of maintaining visual contact, getting to and retrieving someone who has fallen from our boat. Now I can only hope that never happens.

If the only person on board that knows how to operate the boat and its communications and safety equipment, is the primary skipper, they are putting everyone in a dangerous situation. No one wants to think about a problem developing while out having fun on the water, but it can happen. If the captain is incapacitated due to injury or health crisis, someone else will need to call for help, give the Coast Guard a location, and potentially run the boat back to the nearest available port, if instructed to do so by the Coast Guard. Time may be critical. Your ability to perform these tasks could save the captain's life.

Now that I have your attention, here's how to be better prepared if your captain cannot take the helm.

- Everyone on the boat, including children mature enough to understand the instructions, should know **how to operate the radio**, tune it to channel 16 and make a Mayday call. (Make sure the kids know the radio is only for an emergency!) Keep important information near the radio: boat name, registration number, boat type and description. Know **how to read the GPS** to give longitude and latitude for location.

- Everyone should know navigational aids (buoys and markers) and how to find the safe channel back to port.
- All adults and teens on board should know where the **emergency flares and distress flag** are located and know how to use them.

- Assuming you have taken and passed America's Boating Course, take a quiet day on the lake in open water to train each person to operate the boat. They need to know how to start the engines, move the boat forward and backward and how it turns. Get a good understanding how the boat stops (it does not have brakes!) They also need to know how to stop engine to retrieve someone overboard and how to anchor and retrieve anchor.

- Docking For extra credit, once you are comfortable with controlling the boat, take a quiet day and a dock slip that is empty on both sides and learn how to land the boat. I suggest a double wide slip because it's a lot easier to maneuver the boat into a slip for the first time without another boat to worry about. Dealing with wind and current are important in a man-overboard situation, too.

For some, learning how to run the boat, much less bring it to the dock are tasks easier said than done. I also understand that there could be some real tension between spouses (or parent/teen) when one is teaching the other how to drive. If that is the case, get another experienced boater to help you.

You might also consider contacting a local squadron from the United States Power Squadrons for boater education. They have many beginning and advanced boating course offerings. Check the national website at www.usps.org to find a squadron or class near you.

There is also an excellent online course called Partner in Command – An Essential Intro for Every Crew Member that was developed and made available through a partnership between the United States Power Squadrons and BoatUS. This course can be found at the following website: <https://learn.boatus.org/catalog/>

Once you are prepared, both you and the captain can have the peace of mind that there is back up. Who knows? The captain might enjoy having a break from driving for some of the time and his/her back-up might find they really enjoy running the boat. Joe and I both enjoy taking turns at the helm, especially on long trips.

Here's to a healthy and happy boating season!

Marge and her husband Joe have co-owned and enjoyed their boat on Lake Erie for the last 16 years. They take turns being Captain on the boat. This couple is active in the Berea Squadron and both hold bridge positions. They are dedicated to spreading the word concerning boating safety and enjoyment.

marge.zitnik@bereapowersquadron.org

Here's a link to a Figure 8 rescue video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-37AYmNFdU>



Decided to capture some of the blank space used for the mailing label and fill-it for those getting the email version. Below is a photo of newest member Fred Castner being sworn in by Cdr Jim Johnston at the May meeting. Also pictured is a monofilament recycling bin that we hope to locate at several local fishing spots and ramps. Not only is the fishing line hazardous to fish, birds and other aquatic animals, it can become tangled on your prop. The boy scouts are helping build them. E-J has purchased the materials. We will need volunteers to empty them during the boating season.

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

bleyer@wmich.edu

**Come for the Boating Education ...
Stay for the Friends.**



New member Fred Castner & the Cdr



Click this link for → [5 Tips to Keep Cool while Boating from USPS.](#)

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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

This and That

- ◆ **Free Fishing Weekend June 7-8**
- ◆ The DNR - Department of Natural Resources reminds everyone that Michigan's annual summer free fishing weekend is set for Saturday, June 7, and Sunday, June 8. On that weekend, everyone – residents and non-residents alike – can fish Michigan waters without a license, though all other fishing regulations still apply. Michigan has offered the free fishing weekend annually since 1986 as an easy, affordable way to showcase the state's vast water resources.

- ◆ With more than 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, 11,000 inland lakes and tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams, fishing and Michigan are a natural fit.
- ◆ **To get you ready for boating season**, try this boat simulation game from BoatUS. You can play the "Dockit" game without downloading. Just like in real life, it takes a gentle touch when you get close to the dock. Soft hit and you have boat damage, hard hit and you sink, Dink around too long and you run out of fuel. /www.boatus.org/games/

National Wear-It Photo Shoot

We helped over 150 children try on life jackets to find the proper fit. The crowds dispersed when the wind picked up and a shower came through. We still managed to gather 16 for the 2014 photo.

