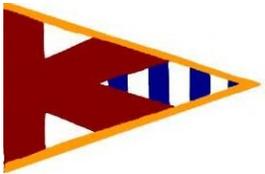


The Pilot

Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



www.kspss-usps.org

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I wrote these thoughts in Bay City as our Fall D9 Conference drew to a close. As always, conference participants enjoyed a good mix of fun, knowledge, decision-making, and fellowship all within a day and a half.

Our Hospitality Room, hosted by KSPS and South Bend Power Squadrons not only served great tacos and Margaritas to

hungry and thirsty guests, but was also awarded third place in room decorations. This honor is not only a thank-you to the designers/decorators/food preparers, but also brings a few bucks back to our treasury to help cover conference costs.

Sadly, the conference delegates voted to take back the charter and remaining assets (\$43) of Alpena Sail and Power Squadron, whose last three members voted to dissolve their squadron. This solemn duty was a first for our District Commander, Jay Stevens.

Constancy is a characteristic of a sizable number of our squadron members, as was demonstrated at this conference. Here's why. First, on my desk are five certificates and pins honoring at least 25 years of membership in the United States Power Squadron by the following squadron members: Greeta Douglas, Diana Goes, Ross Griffith, Beverly Love, and Linda Seng. These members join a surprising number of our squadron who have attained similar status.

Second, at the conference, It was my privilege to accept rarely attained awards on behalf of two of our very deserving members; Arthur (Bob) Boyce, AP, and Leon (Lee) Dershem, AP. Each has been a member of USPS for 50 years! They were acknowledged publicly at our D9 general meeting, and I will be working with them, as well as, those mentioned previously, to find a convenient time and location to present them with their awards.

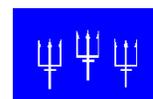
Third, at the Spring Conference in Shanty Creek we expect to receive a Lifetime Membership award for Lois Whitmore, SN who has distinguished herself with many years of service to the squadron in a variety of roles to earn 25 merit marks.

Fourth, several members of our Bridge and Committee members have had to deal with serious health issues this year. But even as they work to recover, none have requested to step away from their tasks. I believe I've made my point.

All this is prolog to the fact that our Nominating Committee is tasked with filling next year's bridge and committee positions. Our bench of reserves is very thin so your shoulder may be tapped. If so, the committee will match your skills with the position they are filling. Be assured that, I and others are here to help you do a credible job for our squadron, and assist you in gaining a sense of success and personal fulfillment as well. Between us we can make things work! Please find a way to say "yes".



**KSPS Commander
Jim Johnston**



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

Our November meeting features John Fraser, who has worked and navigated in Arctic waters for several decades. I believe you will find his experiences unique, challenging, and of great interest. Invite a friend!

John Fraser:
Adventures in the Ice.
Navigation where North is West

Tues 11 November / 6:30 social time, 7 dinner
Moonraker West, 544 W Columbia Ave, Battle Creek

Friday 5 December 2014
KSPS Holiday Dinner
 at Martell's in Parkview Hills approx. \$25 pp
 RSVP-Jim J.

Tues 9 December / 6:30 social time, 7 dinner
Executive Committee Meeting - Everyone Welcome
Moonraker West, Battle Creek

Friday 12 December 2014
Southwest Michigan Amateur Radio
 Holiday Party at Old China Buffet
 2580 Capital Ave SW, Battle Creek (N of I-94)
 Chinese, Seafood, Sushi, Thai, Vegetarian, Vegan
 \$8.99 per person

Tues 13 January / 6:30 social time, 7 dinner
KSPS Change of Watch
Election of 2015 Bridge & Officers
Beacon Club
5830 Portage Rd
 about 2 miles south of I-94
 about a mile south of airport
 RSVP—Karen Strand—approx. \$25 pp

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>

Although the classroom versions of our USPS seminars are the most beneficial, USPS and BoatUS are offering
 1) Weather for Boaters: Forecasting Winds and Storms
 2) Partner in Command, and 3) Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes - online for \$49 each. For details. Go to www.usps.org/e_stuff/seminars.htm

www.americasboatingcourse.com/seminars.cfm

Offered LOCALLY:

Knots, Bends and Hitches - a 2 hour seminar 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 \$10 more. Next ABC classes are planned for late winter/early spring in both Kalamazoo and Battle Creek. 5 week course.

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. 9 weeks each. Take one or take all 3 Marine Electronics courses. Potential location: Ross Twp Hall, just south of Gull Lake. Date: TBD Contact: Gary or Lyn Bleyer 731-5601

Worry is the misuse of imagination.
Dan Zadra

Birthdays

Birthday not listed? Please let Lyn know.

November Birthdays

- 15 Jerry Hendrickson
- 16 Eutiquio Crespo
- 16 Stan Wolk
- 22 Linda McTague
- 27 Walter Lund



December Birthdays

- 5 J. Scott Levene
- 7 Verle Wiita
- 8 Rise' Landeros
- 8 Gary Lett
- 12 Dave Tuls
- 27 Glen Douglass
- 27 Sid Durham
- 27 Jerry Johnson

Bill Soule's Solo Great Loop Adventure

KSPS member, Bill Soule is taking his 26' motorized MacGregor sailboat south to Florida via the Illinois, Mississippi, and the Tenn-Tombigbee.

Bill began his journey on Friday, October 9, 2014 after weeks of preparation. The first day he made it from South Haven MI to Michigan City IN. Bill had modified the Gin Pole connectors and



shortened up the lines so that everything will be under 10 ft above the water for the trip. No waiting for bridges.

Day two, Bill headed for Chicago, where he met more amazingly friendly people willing to welcome him and do what they could to make his journey a success. In his last blog, (10/25) Bill was on the Illinois River near Grafton.

Catch up with him on his blog at <http://themerlin26.wordpress.com>

Right:
Cdr Jim Johnston accepts USPS plaques for Fifty (50) Year Members Bob Boyce and Lee Dershem Lee joined on 02/21/1966 and earned 37 merit marks. Bob joined on 02/08/1965 and has 34 merit marks.



Boating or Driving at Night

Six Tips for Better Night Vision



As we get older, our ability to see at night deteriorates. While we may not be able to improve our night vision, we can take precautions to operate a boat or vehicle safely at night.

Keep your windshield clean. If you can see your windshield as opposed to seeing through it, it needs cleaning. Salt spray is a notorious windshield fouler. If necessary, stop the boat and clean it.

Wear a life jacket with an attached strobe light and whistle. A person in the water is a lot harder to see than a navigation light.

Wear sunglasses until the sun gets lower in the sky during late afternoon. Normally, your eyes take a half hour to achieve maximum night vision, but a few hours of bright sunlight can delay this for hours.

At night, look slightly to the side of an object to see it. Using averted vision in darkness helps your eyes see the object better than looking directly at it. Looking at the side of the road also helps with on-coming brights.

Cover one eye when you approach a dock or lighted area. According to Car and Travel, the AAA magazine, truckers sometimes do this when gassing up at night to preserve their night vision in one eye.

Use red instrument lights. Your eyes are less sensitive to red than any other component of visible light. In my cabin, I have the choice of a white or red overhead light; the red light will give enough visibility to locate what I want but not take away my night vision. – Hank Foglino

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



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

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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)	swegian63@gmail.com
Secretary	P/C Karen Strand, AP	269-964-6690 (home)	swegian63@gmail.com

<http://americaswaterwaywatch.uscg.mil/>

A Few Other Things Learned at Conference

America's Waterway Watch relies on citizens and boaters to be aware of suspicious behavior, like a boat hanging out under a bridge, using binoculars or taking more than tourist photos of bridges, government buildings, power plants, dams, commercial and military ships and installations, transferring passengers from one boat to another, signaling between two boats, or diving or fishing in inappropriate areas. Even a hole in a fence large enough for a person to crawl through, should be considered suspicious. Expanding on the "see something, say something" theme, the public can call either **911** or call **1-877-24-WATCH**. The call can be anonymous. They will ask where you saw the suspicious behavior, describe the vessel, how many people on board and what behavior seemed suspicious. Do not approach on your own. "Remember, People aren't suspicious, behavior is".

Dues: National is going to gradually raise the price of individual member dues until it matches the current dues amount for a family. This will encourage more boaters to include their family members in classes and events, while also increasing revenue for USPS.

Cost of Classes: Beginning soon there will be a \$10 "registration" fee per person to register for classes through USPS. Materials and texts are additional. Right: Aragog, SB Cdr Bob Sorenson & KSPS Cdr Jim Johnston

