

# The Pilot



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

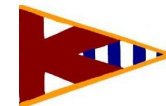
Serving Southwest Michigan

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**Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron**

a unit of the **United States Power Squadrons®**



**KSPS Commander  
Jim Johnston**

Now that summer weather is finally here, I hope you are enjoying long hours of boating. South Haven's Black River has hardly any open water on the weekends as busy traffic heads downstream to adventure and upstream to dockage after another episode of water therapy on Lake Michigan. Enjoy!

I am also cognizant of the fact that a number of our members are no longer active boaters. That's ok. Wally and Jamie recently sold Jaws to a family, and I have been temporarily dry docked by a foot surgeon for the months of July and August.

Non-boaters and former boaters, you are always welcome to join us as a number of you did at our recent summer picnic at the Soules. Picture Taker, under the command of P/C Bill Soule, cruised on Lake Michigan to the delight of picnic guests.

Thanks, Bill and Maris. I received outstanding reports.

I plan to break confinement and attend our Executive Committee meeting at Brewsters on August 11, at which we may swear in a new member from our Spring classes. We will also be starting to look at our fall schedule as we work toward winding up another year.

I am also conniving to take part in our last big summer activity: the rendezvous with Dearborn Power Squadron at Bruin Lake on September 11-13. Come for the day, come for the weekend! Camp or boat as you wish. There will be extra camping slips as well as extra seats on boats. A potluck is planned for Saturday evening. This is an excellent way to close out the summer season as well as meet new friends.

The chain of lakes begins at Bruin Lake, a part of the Pickney Recreation Area, which is north from the Chelsea exit of I-94. Jim White is our point man for this event.

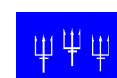
Foot surgery has reminded me that the sofa and I have a great relationship. So what does one do while fulfilling the mandatory couch potato routine as tissue slowly mends? Read, of course! I started with our own Maris Soule's "A Killer Past" which now happens to be my favorite. It is available at a number of places including Kzoo Books, North Side Memories, 112 Dyckman Ave. South Haven, Amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and the trunk of Maris' car. It really is a good read.

I also delved into some good detective stories via older Stuart Woods' novels. This is a writer who loves the sea and air: [www.stuartwoods.com/?page\\_id=10](http://www.stuartwoods.com/?page_id=10). He owns a sleek Hinckley T38 power boat ([hinckleyyachts.com](http://hinckleyyachts.com)), is part owner of a recently beautifully restored 1935 Trumpy motor yacht "Enticer" ([woodenyachts.com](http://woodenyachts.com)), and now flies a six-passenger Cessna Citation Mustang jet. Snatches of his expertise are scattered throughout his books. Maris is gaining on him.

Summer is short; grab all of it you can. I hope to see you soon!



Left, South Bend's John Palmer was our grill master at Boats and Brats - pictured with Jim and Jerilyn 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. Qs: Lyn (269) 731-5601, Cdr 375-8441, Jim W. 345-5136

**Next KSPS Executive Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday August 11**  
Social Time: 6:30, Dinner 7, Meeting 8  
Planning for fall boat trip  
Brewsters - 5315 Portage Rd, Kalamazoo  
left at first light south of I-94  
Program: Leila Arboretum's Fantasy Forest

**Saturday August 1**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Parade in Grand Haven MI**  
D9 Picnic Friday eve - July 31 in Muskegon  
Parade Saturday August 1 (to march, arrive by 10 am)  
Call or email Lyn for directions.

**Vessel Safety Checks**

Call any of our VEs for a boat inspection appointment  
Offered throughout the entire boating season  
Never too late for a safety check →

**KSPS General Meeting**

**Tuesday September 8**  
Social Time: 6:30, Dinner 7, Meeting 8  
Presentation: Bill Soule  
Navigating the first leg of Great Loop  
Location: TBD

**Bruin Lake Rendezvous**

With Dearborn Sail & Power Squadron  
Canoes, kayaks, small boats (trailered)  
September 11th, 12th, & 13th  
Come for just the Saturday Potluck, for a day of boating,  
1 or 2 nite campout. (Fri, Sat). Potluck Saturday eve.  
That "P" on your license plate gets you in to  
the Pinckney Recreation Area free.  
Local Coordinator: Jim White 269-345-5136  
Modern camping with flush toilets, showers, electricity,  
sanitation station, playground, beach and fishing pier.  
215 campsites, Boat launch at Bruin Lake provides access  
to chain of seven lakes of the Pinckney Recreation Area.  
Campsite reservations: (800) 447-2757  
Campsite fees: \$28 (50 Amp), \$26 (20/30Amp)  
Check in is 3 pm / Check out is 1 pm

**Spotlight on Vessel Safety**

Now is the time to get your annual FREE boat inspection or Vessel Safety Check (VSC) Details at [www.ksps-usps.org](http://www.ksps-usps.org)

We check equipment required by the  
**U.S. Coast Guard and State of Michigan**  
based on the length and type of boat.

**Items checked include:**

- PFDs Personal Flotation Devices / Life Jackets
- Proper placement of Registration ID numbers
  - Fuel tanks, bilge
  - Electrical systems
- Proper ventilation for engine spaces and enclosed fuel systems
- Fire Extinguishers
- Lights for operating boat at night or in fog
- Sound producing & visual distress devices
- Requirements for marine sanitation

**Schedule a VSC almost anywhere** go to USPS.org  
click on "I want a Vessel Safety Check "  
Put in zip code **location of boat**  
If you do not receive an email within a week,  
then do again with 49012 or 49083

Call any of our certified Vessel Examiners. They can come to your dock for boats with permanent slips, to your driveway or to where you store your boat or meet half way between. (All area code 269)

**Gary or Lyn Bleyer** 731-5601  
Gull Lake, Barry, Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties.

**E-J Ohler** 760-5862 / Paw Paw, Mattawan, western Kalamazoo County, Van Buren & So. Haven.

**Harold Hladky** 274-1995  
Branch, Calhoun, St. Joseph, and Kalamazoo Counties.

**Bill Soule** / South Haven & Lake shore (269) 370-2795

**Life is like a roll of toilet paper,  
the closer you get to the end,  
the faster it goes. Andy Rooney**

**Birthdays**

Birthday not listed? Please let Lyn know.

**August Birthdays**

- 4 Ross Griffith
- 8 John Anderson
- 10 Wally Corder
- 13 Lois Whitmore
- 14 Linda Seng

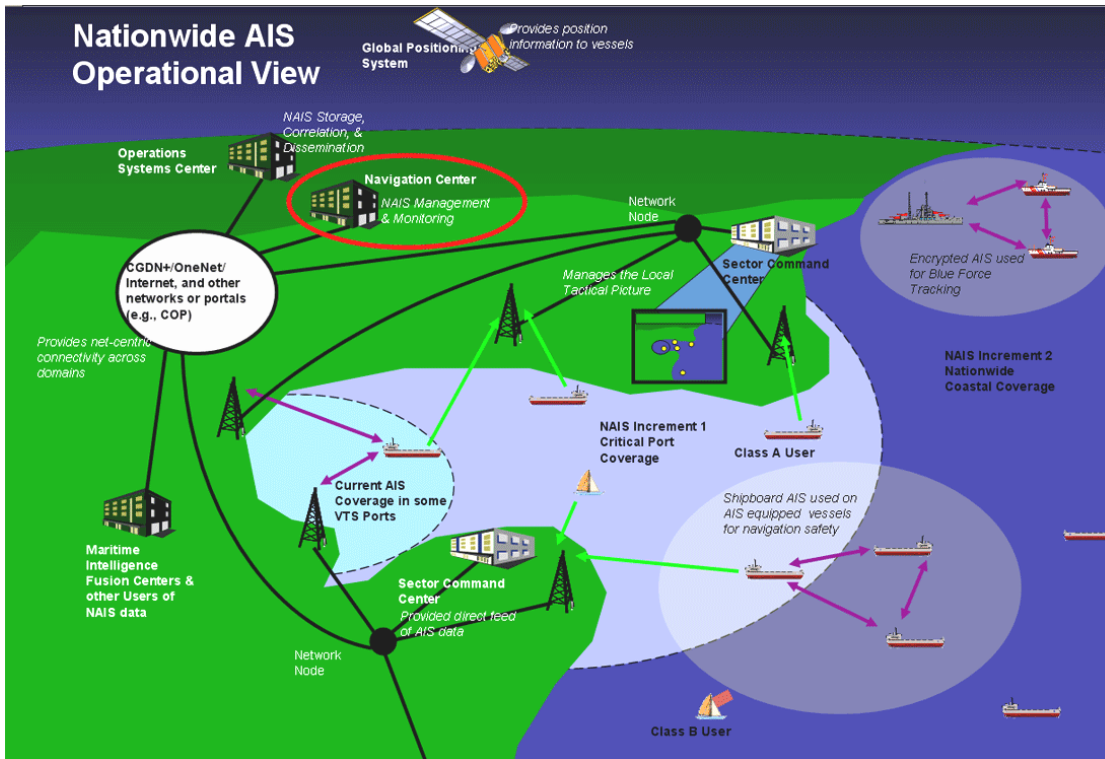


**September Birthdays**

- 5 Gail Hladky
- 10 Sydonie White
- 11 Richard Hebert
- 11 Joe Mills
- 21 Nils Strand
- 23 George Gerpheide
- 26 Diane Hansen
- 27 Karen Strand

## AIS - AIDS TO NAVIGATION IN THE GREAT LAKES

by Lt/C Robert Cunningham, AP - South Bend Sail & Power Squadron



Also in the works are "Virtual ATONs". Virtuals are not actual physical ATONs, but they are the electronically transmitted representations of ATONs.

**Synthetic ATONs** are both an actual physical ATON, as well as, the electronically transmitted representation of the ATON. The U.S. Coast Guard is testing virtual ATONs and Synthetic ATONs throughout the United States including the Great Lakes.

← AIS graphic from USCG website.

Chances are as a boater you have heard of AIS (Automatic Identification System), the technology that lets you see the position of vessels. Unlike radar which finds the vessel by bouncing radio waves off the vessel, AIS is a bit more complicated. Vessels with AIS transmitters broadcast their positions using GPS data. Vessels with AIS receivers can display the positional data from other vessels. The transmitting vessels can add data on their vessel's identity, type, course, speed, navigational status and other safety - related information.

Because of AIS technology's ability to define multiple parameters and position, it was only natural that it be used to identify fixed position objects such as Aids to Navigation (ATONs). AIS-assisted buoys were first seen in Kenya in 2012 and are now found at specific locations around the world. "AIS-assisted buoys" are physical buoys with AIS transmitters attached directly to them.

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The following aids to navigation are scheduled to become Synthetic AIS ATONs beginning late summer 2015: Duluth Harbor, Straits of Mackinac, and St. Mary's River.

For more information on these locations see the latest Great Lakes Notice to Mariners:

<http://navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/lnms/lnm09252015.pdf>

New chart symbols are required for AIS ATONs. You can learn more about these symbols at

[http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/updates/ais\\_aton.html](http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/updates/ais_aton.html)

**ADVANTAGES:** 1) the accuracy of the location of the ATON is not affected by storms, currents, or other forces that can **relocate** physical ATONs, 2) Virtual ATONs can provide navigation support during the off season when physical ATONs are removed and 3) the relatively low cost of setting up an AIS ATON compared to a physical ATON. AIS technology offers even more possible opportunities for the future. ATONs are just one form of chart data that can be transmitted. It may be possible to transmit depth data, compass deviation data, and a host of other data making charts that can be updated dynamically with information such as with tide depths.

**DISADVANTAGES:** 1) requires an AIS receiver on every vessel. 2) Cost: It is now possible to buy a VHF marine radio for < \$100, while radios with AIS receivers cost around \$500, 3) storms and electronic breakdowns can render the ATONs invisible, and 4) AIS and GPS transmissions might be hacked or pirated.

### ETHANOL Legislation

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is asking for comments on a proposal to increase the amount of ethanol allowed in gasoline. Not only is ethanol bad for marine engines, it causes problems for lawn equipment, lawn mowers, weed wackers, chainsaws and antique vehicles.

Click on this URL to take action now via BoatUS.  
<http://capwiz.com/boatus/utr/2/?a=67065646&i=115134442&c=>  
 or copy the entire URL and paste it into your Web browser.



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

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**Come for the Boating Education ...**  
**Stay for the Friends <sup>SM</sup>**

## 2015 Bridge Officers - Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

<b>Commander</b>	Cdr James W. Johnston, P	269-375-8441 (home)	jimwj@hotmail.com
<b>Educational Officer</b>	P/C Harold Hladky	269-274-1995 (cell)	harold.hladky@wmich.edu
<b>Administrative Officer</b>	Lt/C Jim White	269-345-5136 (home)	white1727@charter.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	P/C Nils Strand, AP	269-964-6690 (home)	swegian63@gmail.com
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	1st/Lt Jerilyn Johnston	269-375-8441 (home)	ATreasJerilyn@outlook.com
<b>Secretary</b>	P/C Karen Strand, AP	269-964-6690 (home)	swegian63@gmail.com
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	P/C Lyn Bleyer, P	269-731-5601 (home)	bleyer@wmich.edu

### Mobile Navigation Chart App

I like a Nav app on my tablet when I am in unfamiliar waters that shows all the terrain and features of a nautical chart, including depth, hazards and channels. The one I use is the Navionics Boat HD with all major inland lakes and waterways of North America (USA & Canada).

It has options with different overlays (like Google Earth), government charts, Navionics charts, Sonar Charts, etc. All very detailed like a high end chart plotter. Constantly updated - more than 2,000 updates every day! You can find it in both the Google Play Store and the Apple store. All for less than \$75. TRACK your journey, view speed, time, distance, and COG. Save to archive, see stats and playback. ROUTES: create and edit, based on speed and fuel consumption. Check system requirements before downloading.

E-J Ohler

### D9 Members help Looper

One of our ABC students is doing the Great Loop with a more experience boater and friend out of NY. They ran into very stormy weather while in Northern Lake Michigan and sent me an email asking if I knew of any inexpensive places they could leave their boat for a while.

I enlisted the help of several D9 members I had met at conference or who were listed in a very old Port Captains directory. Plus I included a link to the DNR Harbor Guide [www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10365\\_10884-298018-,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10365_10884-298018-,00.html)

Thank you to who ever helped them. They have their boat at Irish Boat Works in Charlevoix.