



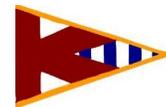
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Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

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



March was a busy month for us. Lyn and I attended Skywarn Training put on by the National Weather Service, we helped with three America's Boating Courses, and attended Living History.

The Skywarn Seminar reminded us of the ingredients needed to create severe spring weather. . . moisture, instability, and a lifting mechanism. Typically moisture for Michigan storms is driven north from the Gulf of Mexico.

Air is considered unstable if it continues to rise when given a nudge upward (or continues to sink if given a nudge downward). An unstable air mass is characterized by warm moist air near the surface and cold dry air aloft. In these situations, if a bubble or parcel of air is forced upward it will continue to rise on its own.



KSPS Commander Gary W. Bleyer

As this parcel rises it cools and some of the water vapor will condense forming the familiar tall cumulonimbus clouds that contain thunderstorms.

Lift is the third ingredient. For a thunderstorm to develop, there needs to be a mechanism which initiates the upward motion. This upward nudge is a direct result of air density. Some of the sun's heating of the earth's surface is transferred to the air which, in turn, creates different air densities. This difference in air density is the main source for lift and is accomplished by several methods.

Knowing the key ingredients and what feeds them helps you be weather aware and less likely to be caught by a storm.

Living History is an annual March event at the Kalamazoo Expo Center. Lyn and I attended a session about the ultimate cruise and mapping project by Lewis and Clark also known as the "Corps of Discovery Expedition". It was the first American journey to cross what is now the western portion of the United States, departing in May 1804, from near St. Louis making their way westward through the continental divide to the northwest Pacific coast. They used a sextant and dead reckoning to calculate position and distance travelled as they created the first maps of this new territory. Compared to today's GPS,

their maps were only about 40 miles off in over 8000 miles of travel.

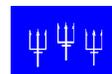
The expedition was commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson shortly after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. The group consisted of a select group of U.S. Army volunteers under the command of Captain Meriwether Lewis and 2nd Lt. William Clark. Their perilous journey lasted from May 1804 to September 1806. The primary objective was to explore and map the newly acquired territory, find a practical route across the Western half of the continent, and establish an American presence in this territory before Britain or other European powers tried to claim it.

The **District 9 Spring Conference** is fast approaching. The conference begins Friday April 8 with "Hospitality Night". The meal order deadline has passed, but you may still attend Friday & Saturday.

KSPS meeting: Everyone is invited to the April 12 meeting at Moonraker West. The topic will be the sinking of the Eastland in Chicago. More lives were lost on the Eastland than on the Titanic.

Please come join us at the conference, a monthly meeting or another event. Hope to see you soon.

Gary W. Bleyer
KSPS Commander



Lewis & Clark Expedition
1804-1806
Nat'l Park Service Courtesy of the
Gary R. Lucy Gallery, Inc

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. Questions: Lyn (269) 731-5601 or Jim/Jerilyn 375-8441

District 9 Spring Conference Fri-Sat 8-9 April

Detroit is hosting to celebrate its 100th Anniversary Dearborn Double Tree, Ford Rd and I-94 in Southfield Visit Hospitality rooms Friday night 7-10, Seminars on Saturday 8 am-noon, business mtg 1-4 pm

KSPS General Meeting

Everyone Welcome, especially ABC grads

Tuesday 12 April / Moonraker West, 544 W Columbia, BC Social Time: 6:30, Dinner 7, Presentation 8 Michael LeButt from Tip of the Mitt presents The Eastland Disaster

KSPS General Meeting

Tuesday 10 May / Moonraker West, 544 W Columbia, BC Social Time: 6:30, Dinner 7, Presentation 8 Sandy Pyne presents Crewing on the Great Loop

Kick off Safe Boating Week at the Portage Family Fish Fair / Water Safety & PFDs

Set-up 9:15-9:45, Crowds arrive at 10 am Saturday 21 May – Time: 10 am - 1pm PFD/Lifejacket Awareness Photo between 12:30 & 1 pm Bring your own life jacket for the photo shoot. Ramona Park, 8600 S. Sprinkle Rd. Portage MI

KSPS Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday 14 June 6:30 pm Location: Brewsters - 5830 Portage Rd by airport Final planning for "VSCs, Boats and Brats" which happens 25 June in South Haven at BRYC. Other summer events will also be discussed.

VSCs, Boats and Brats

Saturday 25 June 9:30 am – 3 pm Free inspection of your boat's safety equipment at your dock or on your trailer in South Haven. Brats and all the fixings available for a \$7 donation Brats at Black River Yacht Club - South Haven

Watch for upcoming dates re: summer picnic/potluck in South Haven and other events throughout the summer.

Education Highlights

Online Seminars: [Planning Your Cruise](#), Weather, Partner in Command, Radio, and Rivers, Locks & Lakes. Plus a Free "Clean Boating" class

Regular price is \$30 nonmember/ \$24 member <http://www.usps.org/edonline>

If there is a class or seminar you would like to take *locally* contact SEO Jim Johnston (269) 375-8441 or BoaterJim@hotmail.com

America's Boating Course (ABC) Local classes

Sessions I and II: ended in March with 11 graduates. Session III: South Haven Yacht Club 6:30-8:30 pm Thursdays Mar.31- April 28 Text & materials cost: \$35 33 students registered the first night of class.

Next Class

Seamanship builds on the foundation of knowledge in boat handling and maneuvering, boat operation, skipper's responsibilities, and boating techniques that will advance your boating enjoyment. Seamanship covers a wide variety of topics including: Anchoring in various conditions, Close quarter maneuvering, Communication with other boats, How to respond to various emergencies and other topics. This course is normally completed in 16 hours via 8 two-hour sessions. Call SEO Jim (269-) 375-8441 who will be scheduling this for spring/summer.

Lewis and Clark had a Newfoundland dog on their trip. What was its name?

Seaman

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday not listed? Please let Lyn know.

April Birthdays

- 1 Ronald Voelker
- 1 Paul Walker
- 3 Glenn Hahn
- 3 Kathy Needham
- 3 Dan Seng
- 5 Joh Killian
- 5 Tara Nulty
- 9 Jim White
- 9 Tyler Wilson
- 11 Brittany DePriest
- 12 Dan Williamson
- 20 Trina Bartlett
- 24 Keith Paterson
- 29 Harriette Griffith



May Birthdays

- 4 Kent Choate
- 12 Judy Dorais
- 13 Ana Gonzale
- 13 Roy Gooch III
- 14 Ronald McPhee
- 16 L. John Goes
- 20 Jim Upson, Jr.
- 23 Dieter Valk
- 26 Gary Bleyer
- 30 Bret Simonton

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

All Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) or life jackets carried on board your vessel must be serviceable, readily accessible, and the appropriate size for the wearer. A serviceable PFD must be free of rot, tears, punctures, or waterlogging. All straps and buckles must be attached and fully functional. Readily accessible means that the PFD must be quickly reachable in an emergency. To pass inspection, PFDs may be in a zippered carry bag, but not in the original unopened plastic. They may not be stowed in locked compartments or have other gear on top of them. One PFD of correct size for each person.

Types of PFDs Types I, II, and III referred to wearable PFDs in decreasing order of performance.

Off-Shore Life Jacket (formerly Type I PFD) This type of lifejacket provides the most buoyancy. They are designed to turn **most** unconscious wearers in the water to a face-up position. Better in rough seas.



Near-Shore Buoyant Vest (formerly Type II) Intended for calm, inland water. This type of open-back vest will turn **some** users face-up, but not reliably.



Flotation Vest (formerly Type III) Good for calm, inland water, or where there is a good chance for fast rescue. These are designed for special recreational activities such as water skiing, but they lack any ability to turn unconscious users face-up.



Throwable Devices (formerly Type IV) Designed to be thrown to a person in the water, to be grasped and held until rescued. These devices are not intended to be worn. Required on boats 16 foot and up.



Inflatable PFDs A device which depends on flexible air chambers which can be filled with air or other gas (usually carbon dioxide) for flotation. While they are comfortable and light-weight, they are NOT suitable for non-swimmers, waterskiers, youths under the age of 16 and riders of personal watercraft or towables.



Inland waters: Children under 6 must wear a securely fastened USCG PFD when on open deck of a moving boat. On the Great Lakes children under 13 must wear a PFD.

Change in PFD Labeling

One of the students in our ABC class last week, said a Sheriff Deputy told him life jackets with the old USCG labels (Type I, II, III, IV and V) were no longer legal. So I went searching for details and found the 2014 ruling in a Government Printing Office document. The final rule removes references to type codes in USCG regulations on the labeling of Coast Guard - approved PFDs.

It does not make any changes to the number of wearable or throwable PFDs required by recreational boats. As previously, inflatable PFDs only count toward the minimum number of required PFDs if they are being worn and they are armed. It also does not require any changes to any existing USCG approved lifejackets or PFDs already purchased and in use.

In the final rule, the Coast Guard acknowledges that PFDs are typically carried on boats for several years and reaffirms that approved PFDs marked with type codes will still meet carriage requirements as wearable or throwable PFDs, as appropriate, as long as they remain in serviceable condition.

The new industry consensus standards for PFD labeling is intended to make the Information easier for boaters and law enforcement officers, and helps harmonize U.S. regulations with PFD requirements in Canada and in other countries.

NOTE: The Coast Guard does not intend for State Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) to issue citations based on these changes. Existing PFDs may continue to be used. No action is required by the recreational boater.

Infants: The Coast Guard does not recommend taking infants onboard a recreational boat. PFDs currently available for newborns up to 18 pounds may not provide a proper fit to perform as expected. Unless the parent is able to test their newborn's PFD in a swimming pool, they will not know if that device will float their child with his/her head out of the water. You must be sure the PFD you have works for your infant.

Children: When a child of any age is on board, at least one parent should also be wearing a PFD, to model safe behavior, and also because the first instinct of a parent is to jump in when their child falls overboard. Several adults drown each year trying to save a child.

Sources: Lifesaving and Fire Safety Division, USCG <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-09-22/pdf/2014-22373.pdf>

Nat'l Association of State Boating Law Administrators

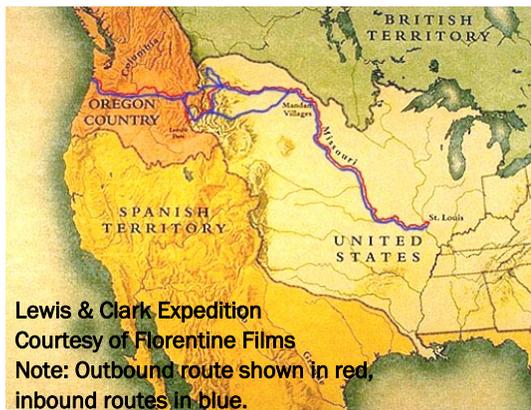


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(Return Service Requested)

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



Lewis & Clark Expedition
Courtesy of Florentine Films
Note: Outbound route shown in red,
inbound routes in blue.

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2016 Bridge Officers - Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

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April's Presentation: The Eastland Disaster

Thousands of horrified onlookers witnessed Chicago's most deadly disaster on the morning of July 24, 1915. Warehouse workers along the Chicago River shouted, "Look out, she's tipping!" The fully-loaded passenger ship *Eastland* began her slow roll into infamy, killing 844 of the more than 2,500 passengers.

Come hear more on Tues. April 12.
Moonraker West in Battle Creek.
Details in the calendar on page 2.
All ABC students are welcome.

Text and photo Source: Window To The World Communications, Inc ("WWCI"), an Illinois not-for-profit corporation with its principle offices located at 5400 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

