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**Inside this Issue**

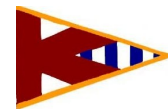
<b>Commander's Message</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>August get togethers</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Calendar: Events</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Educational Opportunities</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Birthdays</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Drowning Statistics</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Tips to Prevent Drowning</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2016 KSPS Bridge Officers</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>This and That</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>KSPS Vessel Examiners</b>	<b>4</b>

Capt Sparrow & Cdr Bleyer  
Grand Haven USCG parade



**Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron**

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



I am dismayed by the number of people who have drowned in Southwest Michigan so far this summer. Twenty (20) have drowned, some while swimming, but many while boating.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), potentially, half of all boating deaths might be prevented with the use of life jackets.

The CDC further reported that from 2005 - 2014, in the United States 332 people died each year from drowning in boating-related incidents. There were an additional annual average of 3,536 fatal drownings (non-boating related) - about ten deaths per day during those years.

Lyn contacted WWMT the local CBS TV affiliate in Kalamazoo. They called at 9 on Sunday morning and did an interview at 11am. We talked on camera for about 15 minutes, mentioning USPS and Kalamazoo Sail and Power Squadron several times, while emphasizing the importance of wearing life jackets and the availability of Free Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs). What aired at 6:30 was about 45 seconds of that interview, with no mention of USPS, KSPS or VSCs.

They did capture the importance of at least one parent wearing a life jacket, as the first reaction of a parent to seeing a child fall overboard or struggling in the water is to jump overboard.

Facts and tips on preventing drowning continue in the featured articles (pg 3).

This summer has flown by. I can't believe August is fast approaching. We have our South Haven potluck at the Landing's gazebo on July 30. I want to thank the Soule's, once again for hosting this event. We always look forward to enjoying the afternoon sharing food and watching people launch at the public ramp across the way.

Thanks also to the Johnstons - Dan, Jim and Jerilyn who, weather permitting,

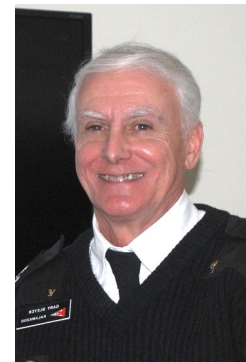
will take us on a short cruise on Dan's Bertram.

Looking ahead to August, we have the District 9 Potluck in Muskegon on Friday August 5. Come march in Grand Haven with us and others from District 9 as the United States Power Squadrons honors the US Coast Guard on Saturday Aug. 6 (be there by 9:30). Parade steps off at 11 am. Get directions/details from Lyn. RSVP to Janet Klumpp if you plan to attend the Muskegon potluck on August 5 (Janet's contact info is on pg 2).

On 19-20 Aug there is also a District 9 Lobster / Steak Fest and Rendezvous at Northport Municipal Marina - hosted by Tip of the Mitt, Grand Traverse and Lansing Sail & Power Squadrons.

Remember, it is not too late to get your Free Vessel Safety Check (VSC). We were able to get another small supply of decals after we turned in all the completed VSCs from Boats and Brats. Our Vessel Examiners are listed on page 4.

Next meeting is Tues August 9 at Brewsters (pg 2) Have a safe August.



**KSPS Commander  
Gary W. Bleyer**



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

### Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs)

Free inspection of your boat's safety equipment at your dock or on your trailer. Available all summer long. Call any Vessel Examiner listed on page 4

### KSPS Potluck at the Soule's In South Haven

Saturday July 30 11:30 am - 3 pm  
Bring a dish to share, plus your own beverage  
Provided: plates, plasticware, napkins, cups, ice  
Boat ride after potluck.  
Please RSVP to Maris Soule (269) 377-2291  
Email: soulem@aol.com

### D9 Picnic/Potluck In Muskegon Friday August 5

March with us in the **US Coast Guard Parade**  
Saturday August 6 (be there by 9:30)  
Parade steps off at 11 am  
RSVP for potluck to Janet Klumpp by Friday, July 29, 2016,  
Jan Klumpp at 586-777-0945; cell: 586-255-3883;  
or e-mail: jk22594@aol.com  
The festival's web site is [www.coastguardfest.org](http://www.coastguardfest.org)  
For more information, contact Lyn Bleyer

### KSPS Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday 9 August 6:30 pm  
Location: Brewsters - 5830 Portage Rd by AZO airport

### Grand Traverse Bay Lobster & Steak Fest

19-20 Aug - Northport Municipal Marina  
At Haserot Park, North of the marina  
Use link to register before Aug 12—walk-ins get chicken  
<http://www.usps.org/localusps/gtbay/lobsterreg2016.pdf>

### United States Power Squadrons - Governing Board

24-29 August Pittsburgh PA

5 September - Labor Day

### KSPS General Meeting

Tuesday 13 September 6:30 pm  
Location: Gull Lake View, 7417 North 38th St & M-89  
The Bleyers present: Rhine Getaway — Part 2  
Cologne Germany to Basel Switzerland

## Educational Opportunities

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

**Seminars** are usually 2 to 3 hours long and can be completed in one evening, morning or afternoon. Listed below are a few of the seminars available.

Advanced Boat Handling	Man Over Board
Anchoring	Marine Radar
Basic Weather	Mariner's Compass
Boat Handling Under Power	Paddle Smart
Boating on Rivers, Lakes, & Locks	Partner in Command
Crossing Borders/Customs	Sail Trim and Tuning
Emergencies on Board	Trailerling
How to use a Chart	Using GPS
Knots, Bends and Hitches	Using VHF and VHF/DSC Radio

### In Depth Classes

**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.

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 summer or fall.

### America's Boating Course (ABC)

will be offered again late winter/early spring:

4 out of 5 Great Lakes  
prefer the state of Michigan  
(only Lake Ontario does not touch Michigan soil)

## Happy Birthday

Birthday not listed? Please let Lyn know.

### August Birthdays

4 Ross Griffith  
6 William Ditty  
8 John Anderson  
10 Wally Corder  
13 Lois Whitmore  
14 Linda Seng  
24 Susan Livingston



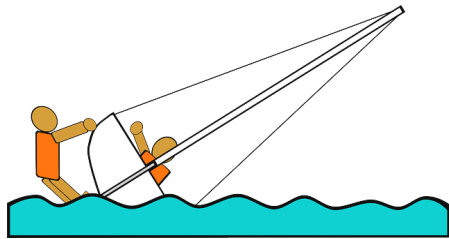
### September Birthdays

5 Gail Hladky  
10 David Huling  
10 Sydonie White  
11 Richard Hebert  
11 W. Joseph Mills  
23 George Gerpheide  
26 Becky Ditty  
26 Diane Hansen  
27 Karen Strand  
30 Carole Snyder

## Statistics on Drowning Centers for Disease Control & US Coast Guard

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), life jackets can greatly reduce the risk of drowning. Potentially, half of all boating deaths might be prevented with the use of life jackets.

The smaller the boat, the greater your risk of capsizing or being struck by another boat not maintaining a proper lookout.



Graphic <https://pixabay.com/en/sailing-sailboat-capsize-boat-31698/>

According to US Coast Guard statistics, 8 out of every ten boaters who drowned were using vessels less than 21 feet in length. In fatal boating accidents, alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor when the cause was known. The five primary contributing factors in all boat accidents are: operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed, and alcohol use.



Where cause of death was known, 78% of fatal boating accident victims drowned. Of those drowning victims for which life jacket usage information was known, **84% were not wearing a life jacket.**

The CDC further reported that from 2005 - 2014, in the United States 332 people died each year from drowning in boating-related incidents. There were an additional average of 3,536 fatal drownings (non-boating related) — about ten deaths per day.

The CDC reported that about one in five people who die from drowning are children 14 and younger. For every child who dies from drowning, another five receive emergency department care for nonfatal submersion injuries.

**Sources:** Recreational Boating Statistics, US Coast Guard, Homeland Security. <http://uscgboating.org/library/accident-statistics/Recreational-Boating-Statistics-2014.pdf>



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Wide-ranging online data for epidemiologic research (WONDER). Atlanta, GA: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics; 2016.

Available at <http://wonder.cdc.gov>.

## Tips for Preventing Drowning From the Centers for Disease Control

**Supervise When in or Around Water.** Designate a responsible adult to watch young children while in the bath and all children swimming or playing in or around water. The adult responsible for watching children on a boat should make sure that each child is wearing a properly fitted US Coast Guard approved life jacket. On inland lakes, children under 6 must wear a life jacket when aboard a moving boat. On the Great Lakes, it is recommended that children 13 and under wear a life jacket.

**Adult in Lifejacket.** The adult should also be wearing a life jacket, as the first instinct when a child falls overboard or is struggling in the water is to jump in. Without a life jacket many adults drown trying to save a child. All persons who are not strong swimmers should wear a life jacket.

**Touch Supervision.** Supervisors of preschool children should provide “touch supervision” by being close enough to reach the child at all times. Because drowning occurs quickly and quietly, adults supervising children should not be involved in any other distracting activity (such as reading, playing cards, texting, talking on the phone, yard work or mowing the lawn), even if lifeguards are present.

**Use the Buddy System.** Always swim with a buddy. Select swimming sites that have lifeguards when possible.

**Learn to Swim.** Formal swimming lessons can protect young children from drowning. However, even when children have had formal swimming lessons, constant, careful supervision when children are in the water, and barriers, such as pool fencing to prevent unsupervised access, are still important.

**Learn Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).** In the time it takes for paramedics to arrive, your CPR skills could save someone’s life.

**Air-Filled or Foam Toys are not safety devices.** Don’t use air-filled or foam toys, such as inner-tubes, “water wings”, or “noodles” instead of life jackets. These toys are not life jackets and are not designed to keep swimmers safe.

**Avoid Alcohol.** Avoid drinking alcohol before or during swimming, boating, or water skiing. Do not drink alcohol while supervising children.

**Weather Aware.** Know the local weather conditions and forecast before swimming or boating. Strong winds and thunderstorms with lightning strikes are dangerous. Watch for rip current forecasts and do not swim if the swimming area is marked with yellow or red flags. **Rip Currents:** Know how to identify and break free of a rip current. Some examples are water that is discolored and choppy, foamy, or filled with debris and moving in a channel away from shore. If you are caught in a rip current, swim parallel to shore. Once free of the current, swim diagonally toward shore.



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

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(Return Service Requested)

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



Photo courtesy of Sally Lemus

Page 4

## 2016 Bridge Officers - Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

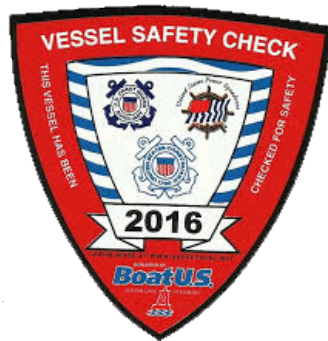
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Educational Officer	SEO James W. Johnston, P	(269) 375-8441 (home)	BoaterJim@hotmail.com
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Secretary	P/C Lyn Bleyer, P	(269) 731-5601 (home)	bleyer@wmich.edu
Member Involvement	P/C Karen Strand, AP	(269) 964-6690 (home)	swegian63@gmail.com
Nominating Chair	P/C Harold Hladky, JN	(269) 274-1995 (cell)	harold.hladky@wmich.edu
Public Relations	1/Lt John Anderson, S	(269) 962-7754 (home)	painters4@comcast.net

### This and That

A Lion captured a Bull, ate it and was so satisfied that he roared and roared. A hunter heard the roar and shot the lion. Moral of the story - if you are full of bull, keep your mouth shut. Will Rogers

In the photo above from the Grand Haven USCG parade, can you find Gary and Lyn? Come march with us. Those without white uniforms are asked to wear khaki shorts or pants, and a squadron shirt or a short sleeve shirt with collar. White sneakers are worn by most.

Have a boating story or tip for newsletter?- send to Lyn Bleyer



### KSPS Vessel Examiners in SWMI

All examiners are USCG certified and trained on the latest safety equipment requirements.

Barry, Calhoun, Kalamazoo  
 Gary or Lyn (269) 731-5601

Allegan, Van Buren,  
 western Kalamazoo county  
 E-J (269) 760-5862

South Haven, Saugatuck area  
 Bill (269) 370-2795

Calhoun, Branch, Kalamazoo  
 Harold (269) 274-1995

Elsewhere put in boat zipcode at  
<http://safetyseal.net/GetVSC/>

#### Items checked include:

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