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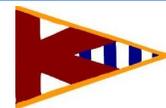
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KSPS Officers being sworn in at COW by D/C Dawn Flynn

Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



KSPS Commander Gary Bleyer

They say, the third time is the charm. Hopefully that is true, as I accept my squadron's nomination and election as commander for the third time. I served a two year term in 2010-2011, and found it does take much of the first year in any squadron position: Commander, Executive, Administrative, Education Officer, Treasurer or Secretary to figure out what you are supposed to be doing and to become effective.

Thankfully, KSPS has had many individuals who were willing to devote many years to their office. This year, I have a fine Bridge and Executive Committee serving by my side.

Jim Johnston, stepped down as Commander and jumped into the Squadron Education Officer position. He has already

scheduled three ABC classes (details on page 2). Jim has also reached out to potential speakers and has several of our monthly meeting presentations and other events set for the coming year.

We had a great turn-out for Change of Watch, in spite of losing one pair of reservations to a broken hip (Lois is on the mend), the passing of member Angie Anderson's mother, and the snow storm. For those of you who could not attend, here is my COW acceptance speech.

We have a legacy to protect. It is amazing to be part of such a historic boating organization. But it is also a challenge, when society changes - as it has in the past 68 years - since 1948, when KPS was first chartered as a local squadron.

We have to change with the times. We need to look objectively at the future - we need to trade traditional practices with experimentation and be willing to try new approaches.

The two most important questions are: How are boaters going to access or acquire the skills and knowledge that we have and want to share with them? Have we optimized how to get information about safe boating to them?

Over the past few years, the way boaters use social media has changed

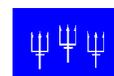
what we once did in the classroom, on the dock, at get-togethers and rendezvous. Now they mostly go to the web for information and answers to their questions. On-line should be a supplement, not a substitute for meeting face-to-face.

USPS's biggest area of growth is on-line education. We need to deploy our resources to facilitate our connection with present and potential members.

Perhaps we should offer a blend. Let them study on-line, but supplement every on-line course with a few hours of enhanced classroom experience, where they can ask questions and take the exam.

We will always be committed to covering the basics, as well as, what's new and what's important to being on the water. One of our greatest gifts to new boaters is being able to tell amazing stories of our travels, as well as those boating tips learned through experience.

Please join me as KSPS trims the sails to take advantage of the winds and the current behavior of today's boaters. Thank you.



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

KSPS General Meeting

Tuesday 9 February / Moonraker - Battle Creek

Social Time: 6:30, Dinner 7, Presentation 8

E-J Ohler presents the Thousand Islands area

Free Fishing Weekend

No License required

February 13 & 14 + Valentine's ♥

13-21 Feb - Orlando - USPS Nat'l Conference.

West. Caribbean Cruise 21-28 following conf.

SkyWarn Weather Spotters Training

Lakeview Middle School Auditorium, Battle Creek MI

Saturday 5 March 10 am-Noon

This is a good weather review for spotters and boaters.

KSPS Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday 8 March

Location: Brewsters - Portage

America's Boating Course

Please refer friends, relatives, crew, marina-mates

Three different Sessions in Portage, Battle Creek and the South Haven Yacht Club

Spring Break: WMU Mar 7-11 / Area Schools: April 4 - 8

Daylight Savings Time - Sunday March 13

Easter - Sunday March 27

Spring Conference 8-10 April 2016.

Detroit is hosting to celebrate 100th Anniversary Dearborn Double Tree Ford Rd and I-94 in Southfield

KSPS General Meeting

Tuesday 12 April / Moonraker - Battle Creek

Social Time: 6:30, Dinner 7, Presentation 8

KSPS General Meeting

Tuesday 10 May / Moonraker

Social Time: 6:30, Dinner 7, Presentation 8

Safe Boating Week and

Portage Family Fish Fair / Water Safety & PFDs

Saturday 21 May Time: 9:30-am - 1pm

Education Highlights

USPS has begun offering the digital, online version of **America's Boating Course (ABC)** free with every new membership done through the USPS website. A single member is \$100, family membership is \$140. To join through the KSPS squadron, single member dues are \$109 (1st year), and \$89 (2nd year). Family dues are \$155 first year and \$135 year two. The difference, USPS adds a \$20 new member fee to year one.

Online Seminars & Courses: Seminars: **Planning Your Cruise**, Weather, Partner in Command, Radio, and Rivers, Locks & Lakes. Plus 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

Session I: Portage Central High School

7- 9 pm Mondays Feb. 15, 22, No class Feb 29, Resume: Mar 7, 14, 21 Text & materials cost: \$35

Session II: Lakeview Middle School Battle Creek

7-9 pm Thursdays February 18 - March 17 Cost: \$35

Session III: South Haven Yacht Club 6:30-8:30 pm

Thursdays Mar.31- April 28 Text & materials cost: \$35

Discount available for Family members sharing the same textbook and materials. Ask Jim.

It was Will Rogers who said, "Good judgment comes from experience, and much of that comes from bad judgment."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday not listed? Please let Lyn know.

February Birthdays

- 5 Linda Tuls
- 7 Ray Shoemaker
- 10 Sharon Mathewson
- 11 Jerry Love
- 11 Jim Johnston
- 13 Linda Mills
- 14 Ronald Sons
- 23 Janet Boyce

March Birthdays

- 1 Joshua Kilbourn
- 2 Robert Landeros
- 3 Lyndell Bleyer
- 3 Jerilyn Johnston
- 7 Beth Walter
- 10 Daniel Huling
- 13 Bob Boyce
- 15 Patrick Fitzgerald
- 22 Donald DeLong
- 26 William Soule



Boating Education good for your wallet

Boat shows and boater education happen in February to help us shake off winter and prepare for next summer's boating season. Taking a boating class is good for your health and your wallet. Passing the boater education class and having a free annual Vessel Safety Check gets you a discount from most boat insurance companies. Being an educated boater makes boating safer for yourself, your family, friends and other boaters.

Boating can be dangerous. In 2014, according to US Coast Guard statistics, just among recreational boaters, there were

- 4,064 boating accidents
- 610 deaths
- 2,678 injuries requiring medical attention
- \$39 million in property damage

Education can help reduce accidents, injury and death. Where the type of boating instruction was known, only 12% percent of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had received a nationally-approved boating safety education certificate.

Where instruction was known, 77% of the deaths occurred on boats on which the boat operator had received no boating education, an additional 11% were informally or self educated.

Only 4% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator had taken a boating safety course taught by the United States Power Squadrons, US Coast Guard Auxiliary or American Red Cross. and encourage friends, family, crew and marina mates to take a class this February or March. Local classes on page 2. For a class anywhere in the US have them visit www.USPS.org.

Grand Rapids Boat Show 17 Feb 2016 - 21 Feb 2016

Wed-Thur 3-9:30 pm
Fri-Sat 11 am-9 pm
Sun 11 am-6 pm
Devos Place, 303 Monroe Ave, NW
Grand Rapids, MI



Please save empty large 70-80 count Lysol or Clorox wipes containers for Teaching Aids. Lyn Bleyer

Dangerous Buried Lighthouse Cables



Lighthouse in St. Joseph MI

On July 11 2015 an explosion at Salty Brine Beach in Narragansett, Rhode Island, hurled Kathleen Danise, 60, of Waterbury, Connecticut, from her beach chair to a rock jetty 10 feet away, fracturing two ribs. Scientists were initially stumped. Now after months of study, they believe the explosion was probably caused by hydro-

gen that built up around a corroded cable.

That type of cable may have counterparts under beaches, harbors and waterways at dozens of sites nationwide. There are 48 sites in 12 states where U.S. Coast Guard lights – in lighthouses, buoys or beacons – were converted to solar power but submerged cables that used to power them are still in the database.

The cables' presence in the database indicates they are probably still there, though there's no way of knowing for sure without digging. Unburying the cables could be expensive. The Coast Guard could not determine exactly where the cables are or whether they run beneath or near a beach.

Michigan has the most potential sites, with 21. Wisconsin has eight, Illinois five, Ohio and Indiana three each, and Minnesota two. Rhode Island, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia and New York have one each.

Twenty-one (21) potential cable sites in Michigan

- Brush Point Range Front Light
- De Tour Reef Light
- Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Outer Light
- Harbor Beach Light 2
- Holland Harbor North Pierhead
- Keweenaw Waterway Lower Entrance Light
- Little Rapids Cut Light 96
- Little Rapids Cut Light 98
- Ludington North Pierhead Light
- Manistee North Pierhead Light
- Marquette Breakwater Outer Lt
- Marquette Breakwater Inner Lt
- Muskegon South Pierhead Light
- Muskegon Lake Light
- Pentwater North Pierhead Lt 3
- Portage Lake North Pierhead Light Manistee
- Round Island Passage Light
- St. Joseph North Pierhead Light
- St. Joseph North Pier Inner Lt
- West Neebish Channel (Downbound) Light 32
- West Neebish Channel (Downbound) Light 30



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

(Return Service Requested)

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



2016 Bridge Officers - Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

Commander	Cdr Gary W. Bleyer, P	(269) 731-5601 (home)	bleyer@wmich.edu
Educational Officer	SEO James W. Johnston, P	(269) 375-8441 (home)	BoaterJim@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Lt/C Jerilyn Johnston	(269) 375-8441 (home)	ATreasJerilyn@outlook.com
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

United States Power Squadrons Takes the Plunge into Social Media

In November 2015, the USPS's Educational Department launched a new social media campaign on USPS's Facebook page. It's intended to expand USPS's reach within the boater community, help viewers form and share favorable opinions about the quality and value of USPS expertise and educational products and services, and help local squadrons promote, grow, and celebrate their educational activities.

Please help us get the word out by liking the USPS's Facebook page and engaging the posts (like, comment, share). The more members who like or post, the greater will be our reach in the boater community. You will find it at www.facebook.com/uspowersquadrons. The posts: USPS educational content, quizzes, how-to videos, and posts that help viewers find local courses in the classroom and on the water. USPS will also help celebrate squad-

rons' educational programs and achievements and engage with content they post on their Facebook page; and we welcome original photos, graphics, videos, and stories about special educational events that you may wish to send us.

Amy Townsend, Managing Editor of the Ensign, prepares posts on a variety of topics that appear at 1pm daily; and she occasionally posts more frequently. The Educational Department posts appear twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays at 5pm. The keys to social media are frequent updates and relevancy. For now, I welcome your feedback, suggestions, encouragement, and help.

Social media is a powerful tool... Let's use it together to reach a broader audience for USPS education, help our squadrons grow, and help make the water a better place.

Would anyone like to help develop a Facebook page for Kalamazoo Sail and Power Squadron? Contact Lyn Bleyer