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Lake Havasu, Arizona
Bridgewater Channel Boat Parade



Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

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



**KSPS Commander
Jim Johnston**

As I write this, squadron commanders around the state and nation, including yours truly, are in a similar process of winding up their command and completing their last version of "Commander's Comments." There is a mixture of thankfulness and regret that accompanies the process; thankfulness that there is still an organization to pass on, and regret that all the objectives imagined at the beginning have not been achieved. It is true that one needs at least two years to get a handle on the job of commander with all its privileges and responsibilities. Fortunately, our intended incoming commander is a veteran of the position, and "can hit the ground running." More on that later.

There is much that makes me thankful for our squadron, beginning with the folks who step up to the call year after year, and do whatever is required of them: they are the muscle and sinew of our organization. But I am also thankful for those who, even though they don't live in our locality anymore, or are not able to attend a meeting or fill a position, still re-up at dues time. Although they cannot actively participate, they help fund the operating needs of KSPS. I have met a few of these folks in the course of my tenure as commander and I am awed by their knowledge, dedication, love of boating, and the extent of their participation during the years they could be active. Good folks, all! So, thanks to all who "could and did", and those who "couldn't but stayed on board anyway."

One objective I have not met as completely as I would have desired is the development of a packet of information each officer passes on to the successor; notes on established procedures, things tried, resources, hints to success, and the like. National has an excellent hand-out for each position that forms the basis for a good beginning, but how the goals are achieved varies with the needs of the local squadron.

No one should have to assume a leadership position in a squadron such as ours, with more than 65 years of history and precedent, without such help. Reaching new heights of accomplishment begins by acknowledging, then standing on the shoulders of a predecessor's achievements. I am ready to offer my help to assist the new commander to develop such materials for future officers. I also extend my sincere thanks to all those who were helpful resources during my tenure these last two years.

Much preparation has gone into our annual Change of Watch meeting at the Beacon Club in January, and certain "inducements" have been added to help budgets already strained by holiday demands. Join us as we select and install our new officers for 2016. Shake her hand and welcome our District Commander, Dawn Flynn, who has traveled from Lansing to be with us. In a sense, this is our squadron's 68th birthday. Who doesn't enjoy a birthday party (as long as it isn't ours)!

Keep doing the good things you that you do!



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

Change of Watch at the Beacon Club

RSVP by the 7th to Jim Johnston 375-8441
COW - Tuesday 12 January 2016
Social Time: 6:30, Dinner 7, Awards/Elections 8

KSPS General Meeting

Tuesday 9 February / Moonraker - Battle Creek
Social Time: 6:30, Dinner 7, Presentation 8

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

West. Caribbean Cruise 21-28 following conf.

SkyWarn Weather Spotters 1/2 Day Training

Lakeview Middle School Auditorium, Battle Creek MI
Saturday 5 March 10 am-Noon

KSPS Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday 8 March
Location: Brewsters - Portage

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

Daylight Savings Time - Sunday March 13
Easter - Sunday March 27

America's Boating Course

Late winter, early spring

Session I: Lakeview Middle School, Battle Creek
Session II: South Haven Yacht Club, South Haven

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
Ramona Park, 8600 S. Sprinkle Rd. Portage MI

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 on Sale: Use the code CHEER to receive your 20% off discount. Would make a nice gift for your boater. Offer ends 12/31/15
Seminars: [Planning Your Cruise](#), Weather, Partner in Command, Radio, and Rivers, Locks & Lakes. Just \$19.96 each through 12/31/2015
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 jimwj@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 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 Cost: \$35

People don't like change.
Only wet babies like changing.
Jo Jacobs, Kalamazoo Activist

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday not listed? Please let Lyn know.

January Birthdays

1 Gary Morton
19 Aaron Wright
30 Beverly Love



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

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

Check Your Boat's Lights

Checking navigation lights often takes a back seat to other boat projects. Besides, if the lights pass vessel safety check muster by coming on, that's good enough, right? Wrong. Just squeaking by isn't good enough when it comes to keeping you and your boat safe.

Are your vessel lights visible for a mile, as regulations require? As required by Rule 22, is the white light visible for 2 miles (assuming your boat is less than 40 feet) ? Has time taken its toll, making the lenses of your lights milky? If your red port sidelight is pink and dim, the answer is yes. Do obstructions on deck interfere with the required light pattern? Perhaps a light is just puny, and although it meets the letter of the law, it doesn't do its job of making you visible to others on the water.

Anyone who has boated at night knows that things look different in the dark. Trying to pick out a vessel's lights against a background of dozens (or even hundreds) of shore lights can be difficult, and a poorly lit boat could easily go unnoticed. If you encounter another vessel in the same situation, the results could be disastrous.

Make sure your lights work, meet regulations and aren't obstructed. If you have to replace them, don't buy the cheapest lights. Do some research, and consider whether an upgrade might be appropriate. Make sure your white light won't blind you or whoever else may be at the helm.

Many manufacturers often position lights so they are directly visible from the helm. If your brand new boat has lights that shine onto the helm or are obscured by deck fittings, make your dealer and the manufacturer aware that the lighting is inadequate and unsafe during reduced visibility conditions and nighttime operations.

One more thing: Learn light patterns and what they mean. You should be able to distinguish the light patterns of a sailboat, powerboat, or a tug with a tow. These light patterns are well defined and documented. In addition to identifying the vessel type, light patterns also allow other boaters to determine the vessel's direction of travel and

whether it is at anchor. In some instances, the light pattern will tell you what maneuver the vessel is performing.

-Scott Morris - United States Power Squadrons.



2016 Change of Watch

Come help us celebrate the beginning of KSPS' 68th year, by attending our Change of Watch on Tuesday January 12. We start with social time at 6:30, followed by dinner, highlights of 2015 and election of our 2016 officers. Where: The Beacon Club, 5830 Portage Rd.

As a special thank you and enticement to attend, all who RSVP before Jan. 7, will receive a \$7 food voucher, which will cover most of your tip and taxes. This includes a voucher for you and each of your RSVP guests.

Your choice of entrée includes pre-dressed house salad, freshly baked rolls and baked potato.

Dessert and beverages are extra.

Signature Salmon
or Prime Rib
\$24.95

Chicken Kalamazoo,
Ravioli Florentine or Top Sirloin
\$22.95

You may pay waiter for the food portion of your meal with your voucher and cash, check or credit card. There will also be a cash bar, please bring actual cash or a check to pay for your bar tab. (credit not accepted)

Uniform: wear if you have, otherwise dressy casual
RSVP by Jan 7 to Jim or Jerilyn Johnston (269) 375-8441
Email: jimwj@hotmail.com Leave message with your name and how many are coming with you.

Slate of Nominations

Commander: Cdr Gary W. Bleyer, P
Educational Officer: SEO James W. Johnston, P
Assistant SEO: ASEO Diane Hansen, JN
Secretary: P/C Lyndell R. Bleyer, P
Treasurer: Lt/C Jerilyn F. Johnston

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1/Lt John Anderson P/C Karen S. Strand, AP
1/Lt George Gerpheide, P P/C Lois Whitmore, SN

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Lt Gail Hladky, JN (2014-2018)
Lt Judy A. Dorais, S (2013-2017)
P/C Harold L. Hladky, JN (2016-2018)

RULES COMMITTEE

Lt Phyllis A. R. Buskirk, P (2011-2016)
Lt George L. Tyler Jr., JN (2011-2016)
Lt George D. Gerpheide, AP (2010-2016)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

P/C Harold L. Hladky, JN (2009-20??)
P/C Lyndell R. Bleyer, P (2014-2017)
P/C James W. Johnston, P (2016-2018)



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Lyndell Bleyer, Editor
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(Return Service Requested)

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



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2015 Bridge Officers - Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

Commander	Cdr James W. Johnston, P	269-375-8441 (home)	jimwj@hotmail.com
Educational Officer	P/C Harold Hladky, JN	269-274-1995 (cell)	harold.hladky@wmich.edu
Administrative Officer	Lt/C opening available		
Treasurer	Lt/C Jerilyn Johnston	269-375-8441 (home)	ATreasJerilyn@outlook.com
Secretary	P/C Karen Strand, AP	269-964-6690 (home)	swegian63@gmail.com
Assistant Secretary	P/C Lyn Bleyer, P	269-731-5601 (home)	bleyer@wmich.edu

Spam

Dealing With Spam From Senior Boaters of America
 Ignore their emails. USPS members continue to receive unsolicited and unwanted email communications from Senior Boaters of America. USPS does not endorse or support this group.
 If you receive an unwanted email from this group, do not respond to it. Members who have done so have received rude, harassing and threatening responses. Use your spam filter for trash like this. Do not engage them. Responding provides the sender with proof that yours is a valid email address available for further communications. Your response also provides the group with a form of validity. Ignore them the same way you would a solicitation from a Nigerian prince.

David Allen

Nat'l USPS Conference in Orlando

Orlando, Feb 15 to 21 2016

Ever think about going to the National Conference? USPS hotel rooms are sold out. To avoid disappointment, please call the Rosen's central reservations office at 1-800-204-7234, and a member of their reservations team will do their best to assist you. [Conf. registration](#) [Download](#)

Ahoy, Land Cruisers Plan to Attend Annual Meeting by RV
 Join the Highway Mariners as they rendezvous at the Sherwood Forest RV Resort in Kissimmee, Florida, just down the road from the Rosen Centre Hotel. Enjoy a 10 percent discount for being a United States Power Squadrons member. Visit USPS Member [Benefits](#) website and click the covered wagon logo to see the experience that awaits you. Email [William Miller](#) for more information.