

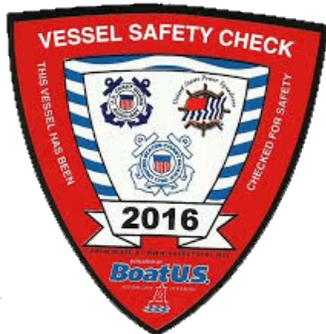


www.kspss-usps.org

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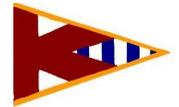
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Pictured left: Portage Fire dog Sparkita pets Skipper



Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

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



A small group of dedicated volunteers showed up at the **Portage Family Fish Fair** to help us kick off Safe Boating Week. Instead of the usual three activities designed for young children and their parents, we scaled back to just two: 1) finding and fitting a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) or lifejacket, which gives us a chance to stress the importance of a proper fit and the need to wear a PFD, and 2) "Reach - Don't Go in the Water to Rescue" exercises, in which the children use items found around the pool or dock to rescue Barbie. As usual, our dog mascot, Skipper was very popular and brought many people over to our table. Lois overheard two children debating whether or not he was real. One child said, "he's just well trained to stand that still".



KSPS Commander Gary W. Bleyer

Thanks to Lois and Vince Whitmore, who stamped passports and answered questions about boating at our information table, Jim and Jerilyn who not only helped children try on life jackets, but brought brats, beans, potato salad, grapes and cookies for our six volunteers to enjoy after all the children left.

Speaking of brats, our big event for June is "VSCs, Boats and Brats". On **Saturday June 25**, Kalamazoo and South Bend Sail & Power Squadrons will co-host the event in South Haven at the Black River Yacht Club (BRYC), at the bottom of 290 Oak Street.

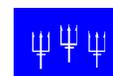
Free Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) or inspection of safety equipment required on recreational boats by the USCG and Michigan law will begin at 9:30 am and continue through 2:30 or 3. No fines. The VSCs will take place on docks and trailers throughout South Haven.

Come to the BRYC clubhouse and sign up for a Vessel Safety Check, or call 269-377-2291 or 574-213-6004 to make an appointment that day.

Can't be in South Haven on June 25 or don't want to wait that long? Then request a VSC at <http://safetyseal.net/GetVSC/> or call one of our six Vessel Examiners (listed on page 4).

Final planning for this event will be at our next meeting at Brewsters on June 14. Look for other upcoming events this summer in the calendar on page 2.

Remember there is not newsletter in July. Watch for emails for events. See you soon.



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

Memorial Day Monday May 30

Remember those who served to keep us free

Sat-Sun 10-11 June Michigan FREE Fishing Weekend

No License required. Limits & other rules are still in effect

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

Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs)

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

Air Show & Hot Air Balloons - June 29 - July 4

Battle Creek Regional Airport

The Tall Ships are Coming

14-17 July - [Tall Ship Celebration](#) - Bay City, MI

D9 Picnic/Potluck in Muskegon Friday August 5

March with us in the **US Coast Guard Parade**

Saturday August 6 (be there by 10)

Parade steps off at 11 am

List of Grand Haven hotels/motels at

[Grand Haven area hotels](#)

The festival's web site is www.coastguardfest.org

For more information, contact Lyn Bleyer

Grand Traverse Bay Lobster or Steak Fest

19-20 Aug - Northport Municipal Marina

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

Education Highlights

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)

Session III: South Haven Yacht Club ended 4/28.

Congratulations to all 34 students who took this class and to the 28 who took the exam and passed.

Those taking the class include:

Garth Aasen	Marci & Michael McCarthy
Christi & Jason Assink	Courtney Moore
Lance, Lillianna & Trina Bartlett	Kathy Needham
David & Robin Bowman	Tara Nulty
Stanley Carmichael	Cynthia & Keith Paterson
Brittany Depriest	Karen & Richard Rangler
Jane Dominique	Phil Roehm
Anthony Gilmore	Diane & Eric Schlanser
Ana Gonzalez	Laurel & Thomas Smith
Patricia & Ralph Gooch III	Anita & James Upson, Jr.
Johanna Killian	Daniel Williamson
	Tyler Wilson

Next Classes

ABC Chapter 5 - Introduction to Charting will be offered Saturday **June 18**. Contact SEO Jim if interested (below).

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 spring/summer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday not listed? Please let Lyn know.

June Birthdays

Mike McCarthy
Evan Walker
Richard Walter
Lance Bartlett
Roger Kilbourn
Mike Galbreath
Ross Elliott
Bruce Dorais
Maris Soule
Susan Norrod
Diana Goes
Lillian Bartlett
Jane Chappell
Karen Rangler



July Birthdays

Mary Sons
Thee Baltimore, Jr
George Tyler Jr.
Chris Hansen
E-J Ohler
Courtney Moore
Phyllis Buskirk
Thee Baltimore, Sr.
Pamela Wright

National has recommended we no longer list the actual day, to protect against identity theft.

Signal Flares: When and How to Use

by JoAnne Laugallies, New Orleans SPS

When do you use a flare?

Use a flare when you are in distress and in a location where someone will likely see it, i.e., off land near a city or homes. If you've called the Coast Guard for help, they may ask you to fire off a flare so they can pin point your location, as they approach by air or the sea.

The Coast Guard may radio you and request you set off a flare or an orange smoke flare if it is daytime. Smoke flares continue burning for quite sometime, even in the water. The smell and acrid air from all burning flares is hard on your lungs and causes coughing and eyes to tear, so when possible have them down wind from you.

Remember -Flares light up for a relative short time, some 8 to 10 seconds, others 2 to 3 minutes, this is a relatively short window of time if someone is not looking specifically for the signal.

How to fire a flare:

Shoot two relatively close together, the first one may "catch" someone's attention, the 2nd flare confirms the sighting for the viewer.

Make sure you fire flares "down-wind" so the burning wax, phosphorous, and other materials fall away from your boat, and your body.

If using a flare pistol, be sure to get yourself ready to fire in a safe position, before you load the flare cartridge in the pistol. Immediately point the pistol high over your head with your arm fully extended, then cock. Continue to hold flare gun overhead pointing skyward.

Fire the pistol – DO NOT LOOK UP AT THE PISTOL, sparks/residual hot material could drop on your face and in your eyes.

Lower the pistol, open the barrel (pointing away from you or anyone else) and remove the spent cartridge. Place expended cartridges into a pail/bucket of water to completely extinguish them. Don't drop them overboard; plastics must be brought ashore for disposal.

For cartridges that fail to fire, continue pointing pistol skyward and wait about 30 seconds, then pull trigger again – if it still doesn't fire, wait 30 more seconds and carefully eject/ remove cartridge and place in container of water.

Even though flares will often "fire" when they are past the expiration date, The Coast Guard recommends that you get rid of and do not attempt to fire any flares that are 5 years past the expiration date. Disposing of old or outdated flares should be done by turning them over at a US Coast Guard Base, or USCG Auxiliary and US Power Squadrons Vessel Safety Check Stations. See last month's SOS light.

South Haven Updating Swim Warning Flags

Because the traditional red, yellow and green flags that indicate water condition were confusing and hard for color blind people to distinguish, South Haven is joining many other communities that are updating their flags.

The red flag will still be red, but it will now have a circle with a line through a symbol of a swimmer.



The yellow and green flags will still be the same color, but will have the words yellow or green in large letters.

The flags will fly on South Haven's seven city beaches through September 15. Although there is not a penalty for swimming against a red or yellow flag, anyone who has to be rescued will be charged \$500.

Flags are placed each day by 9 am and changed at noon, 3 pm and 6 pm based on the marine weather forecast updates. Flags are taken down at 9 pm.

While green usually signifies that conditions are safe for swimming, parents and guardians should still keep a close watch on children. Great weather for the beach does not always mean it's safe to swim or even play in the shallows. Rip currents often form on calm, sunny days.

Yellow indicates swim with caution. Strong swimmers should be able to handle the rougher water, but should know how to avoid rip currents, as well as, know the tips for getting out of a rip current. .

Only swim at a beach with lifeguards. The chances of drowning at a beach with lifeguards are 1 in 18 million ([U.S. Lifesaving Association](#))

Don't swim near jetties and piers.

Learn how to spot a rip current. The Break the Grip of the Rip [free online](#) training will help you learn how to spot a rip current. <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/training/Break-theGripoftheRip/player.html>

Michigan averages 14.7 tornadoes per year. Most strike in May, but any time the weather suddenly changes from hot and humid to cold, the ingredients are right to spawn a tornado. Have a weather radio that sounds an alarm.



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Lyndell Bleyer, Editor
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 Richland MI 49083

(Return Service Requested)

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

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

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

USCG Recreational Boating Statistics

Boat accidents killed 626 Americans in 2015. July was the deadliest month, with 102 reported fatalities. Drowning was the leading cause of death, at 76%. Of those drowning victims, 85% were not wearing a lifejacket.

In addition to the fatalities, 2,613 people were injured in boating accidents. Overall, there were 4,158 accidents in 2015. The most common types of vessels involved in accidents were open motorboats, personal watercraft and motor driven cabin cruisers.

Alcohol consumption was the leading known contributing factor in deadly boating accidents in 2015. The Coast Guard report on recreational boating also said, "Boating under the influence, improper lookout and failure to wear lifejackets remain among the leading factors contributing to most boating fatalities."

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

June: Van Buren State Park area
 Harold (269) 274-1995

July-Aug: Battle Creek/Marshall
 Ken (269) 339-9013

Items checked include:

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