



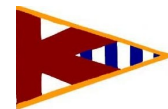
www.kspss-usps.org

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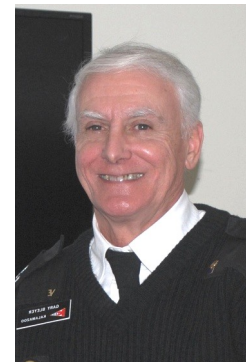
Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

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



At our last squadron meeting, we discussed strategic planning guided by a series of questions from District 9. Our greatest need is for members who are willing and able to volunteer a few hours a month. Historically, our best recruitment for new members has been through America's Boating Courses or ABC and Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs). Taking one more class or attending one event after completing ABC is the hook. Therefore, we need to increase the number of students taking ABC and increase the number of VSCs, then get them to the next event.

To accomplish this we need to plan classes with enough lead time to get good publicity. The same lead time would help scheduled events like VSCs, Boats and Brats.



KSPS Commander Gary Bleyer

I would like to ask a few of our more outgoing members to do an interview about the importance of the classes and KSPS on local radio or TV stations.

When I mentioned this, one member said, since the local TV stations WMMT-3, WOOD-TV8, WOTV-41 and Fox 17 broadcast in areas served by the squadrons in Kalamazoo, Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Muskegon, it would seem appropriate for the District SEO or an appointee to approach the stations on behalf of all of us. Timing is critical. We already started our first two, 5-week ABC classes on February 15 and 18. Our next ABC class starts March 31.

As I sat waiting for breakfast at a local restaurant, another idea popped up as I read the advertisements on the placemat. Would local restaurants be willing to use squadron printed placemats during the weeks just prior to ABC classes or Vessel Safety Check kick-off time?

Another member said we need to ask members to help by coming up with specific tasks of varying time and skill that people could accomplish and feel good about.

We are also very interested in helping promote our Sea Scouts. While we invite them to all squadron events, the ones they like the best are ones in which they can do something meaning-

ful. They really enjoyed working with children and parents at the Portage Family Fish Fair, and want to volunteer again this May.

We will ask for a date and time when KSPS members could attend a Sea Scout meeting or event. We will also plan an outing specifically for the scouts.

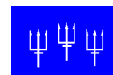
The **District 9 Spring Conference** is fast approaching. The conference begins Friday April 8 with "Hospitality Night" - rooms full of free food and beverage hosted by squadrons. On Saturday morning April 9 there will be seminars, both educational and fun. After lunch, (which is optional) the District bridge is elected. The optional evening includes a dinner with entertainment provided by Dueling Pianos.

If you've never been, now is the time to go. Ask conference veterans Karen Strand, Phyllis Buskirk, the Hladkys, the Johnstons or the Bleyers for more info.

There are separate conference flyers that Lyn will send out. One is for meal and hotel registrations, the other gives a brief overview of the seminar topics.

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

Gary W. Bleyer
KSPS Commander



You're never too old,
too wacky, too wild,
to pick up a book
and read to a child.

-Dr. Seuss

Dr Seuss' birthday March 2

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

SkyWarn Weather Spotters Training

Lakeview Middle School Auditorium, Battle Creek MI
 300 S. 28th St @ Columbia (near Helmer Rd. Meijers)
 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 - 5830 Portage Rd by airport

Living History — March 19 and 20

Kalamazoo County Expo Fairgrounds 2900 Lake St
[Http://kalamazooshow.com](http://kalamazooshow.com)
 Pre-revolution to post-civil war re-enactments & goods

Spring Break: WMU Mar 7-11 / Area Schools: April 4 - 8
 Daylight Savings Time - Sunday March 13
 Easter - Sunday March 27 / Passover 23-30 April

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

KSPS General Meeting

Tuesday 12 April / Moonraker West, 544 W Columbia , BC
 Social Time: 6:30, Dinner 7, Presentation 8

KSPS General Meeting

Tuesday 10 May / Moonraker West, 544 W Columbia , BC
 Social Time: 6:30, Dinner 7, Presentation 8

Safe Boating Week and 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 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.

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

Session I: Portage Central High School
 7- 9 pm Mondays Feb. 15, 22, No class Feb 29, Re-sume: Mar 7, 14, 21 Text & materials cost: \$35

Session II: Lakeview Middle School Battle Creek
 7-9 pm Thursdays February 18 - March 24 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 SEO Jim.

Seamanship provides a foundation of knowledge and skills 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 8 two-hour sessions. 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 interesting topics. Call SEO Jim who will be scheduling this for spring/summer

**Forgiveness is a funny thing,
 It warms the heart and soothes the sting.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday not listed? Please let Lyn know.

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

April Birthdays

- 1 Ronald Voelker
- 1 Paul Walker
- 3 Glenn Hahn
- 3 Dan Seng
- 9 Jim White
- 29 Harriette Griffith

Navy Resumes Sextant Training

Stars and Stripes | 29 Jan 2016 | by Matthew M. Burke
 This article is provided courtesy of Stars and Stripes, which got its start as a newspaper for Union troops state-side during the Civil War, and has been published continuously since 1942 in Europe and 1945 in the Pacific.

American naval cadets, taught since 1845 to navigate by the stars, are not going to discard their sextants quite yet.

The academy, located in Annapolis Maryland, had previously ended celestial navigation courses for midshipmen in 1998. The Class of 2017 will be the first to graduate with the sextant instruction since its earlier discontinuation.



"Celestial Navigation is a difficult topic, but our sailors are pretty excited about it," said Rear Adm. Michael White, education and training commander. "It is part of their history, and it takes them back to their roots."

Learning celestial navigation requires some classwork, but sailors also must go out at night, armed with a sextant, an instrument used to measure the angle between any two visible objects. They take multiple sight readings, which are essentially angular measurements between celestial bodies and the horizon.

The students then consult almanac tables to identify celestial bodies and chart their position and course. Instead of performing a tedious 22-step mathematical calculation to plot the course, midshipmen will feed the raw data into a computer. There are metal and plastic sextants with accuracy from 0.2 to one nautical-mile radius, while a civilian GPS can pinpoint a ship within 25 to 50 feet.

Navy ships generally have multiple navigation systems, from an inertial navigation system to GPS, so they are never in danger of losing their way if one system goes down because of hacking or mechanical failure. At the same time, relying solely on technology could be a recipe for disaster. What if one or multiple systems are hacked or malfunction and you are left with only one? Celestial navigation can also be used to check the accuracy of those computer and technologically based systems. More about [sextants](#) and [GPS](#).

How to Assemble a First-aid Kit

By D/1st /Lt David H. Osmolski, SN, a member of the Charlotte Power Squadron, District 27

One of the most neglected pieces of safety equipment on a small boat is the first-aid kit. As a vessel examiner, I have asked many boat owners if they carry a first-aid kit. Many say "yes," but when I ask to see it, the kit usually consists of a few band aids, a couple of dried-up alcohol wipes and a roll of adhesive tape in a plastic box. Are you prepared for a bad fall, the sting of a sea creature or a severe allergic reaction?

The most important item in your first-aid kit is you. Enroll in a first-aid and CPR course.

Next consider what you are doing in your boat. Are you cruising, sailing or fishing? Is your destination a remote beach for swimming and picnicking? Are you waterskiing or wakeboarding? Think about your primary boating activities and what accidents could occur.

To begin, you'll want a watertight container to hold the contents of your kit, but don't buy one until you have assembled the components and can properly judge the correct size container needed. Choose the best quality container you can afford. Inside the box, place similar components in sealable water-tight plastic bags. Your contents should be as follows:

Antiseptic/disinfectants

- 4 alcohol hand wipes / 1 bottle hand sanitizer gel
- 4 benzalkonium chloride antiseptic towelettes
- 1 small bottle povidone-iodine solution

Medications

- 3 packages ibuprofen (200 mg x 2 tablets per package)
- 3 packages acetaminophen/Tylenol (500 mg x 2 tablet)
- 3 packages aspirin (325 mg x 2 tablets per package)
- 2 packages antihistamine, Benadryl (2 tablets per package) or Zyrtec (1 tablet per package)
- 1 tube burn gel or ointment
- 1 tube SPF 50 sunscreen

Bandages and dressings

- 1 box assorted size flexible fabric adhesive bandages or "band aids"
- 6 2-by-2-inch sterile gauze dressings
- 2 compress dressings (5 x 9 inches)
- 1 roll 1-inch wide adhesive tape
- 1 elastic or "Ace" bandage
- 1 triangle bandage (arm sling, tourniquet)



Change out medications yearly, and after they have been exposed to extreme heat or cold.

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(Return Service Requested)

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



Chicago River on
 St Patrick's Day

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Public Relations	1/Lt John Anderson, S	(269) 962-7754 (home)	painters4@comcast.net

First Aid (continued)

Miscellaneous equipment

- 2 pair surgical gloves (nitrile preferred)
- 1 pair tweezers, 1 pair scissors, 1 cutting/fishing pliers
- 1 reflective Mylar (space) blanket, 1 flashlight
- 1 first-aid cold pack, 1 first aid instruction booklet

Please be aware when dealing with cuts, abrasions and stings in dirty or salt water that some organisms can cause catastrophic infections. Don't spare the disinfectants, and at the first hint of redness or swelling, see a physician and tell it came from an unsafe water incident.

Individual packets of aspirin, ibuprofen and Tylenol can usually be found at gas station convenience stores, or "mom and pop" shops near an interstate. If you cannot find these items, make your own packages by wrapping tablets securely in foil and labeling them with contents.

This and That

D9 Spring Conference is April 8 and 9. Friday is hospitality night (6-10pm) Visit rooms hosted by squadrons throughout the hotel, with plenty of free food and drink. Saturday am seminars cover educational and fun topics. District bridge elected after lunch. See flyers.

Deadline for Saturday lunch and/or dinner is April 1.

Deadline for hotel room is March 16 (includes breakfast)

Link to hotel <http://tinyurl.com/D9conference-S2016>
 or Call 313-982-3983

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 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](http://www.facebook.com/uspowersquadrons).