



www.kspss-usps.org

Inside this Issue

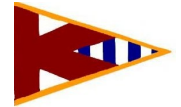
Commander's Message	1
Nominations for COW	1
Calendar: Events	2
Educational Opportunities	2
Birthdays	2
Our Brains and Boating	3
COW Menu and Details	3
2017 KSPS Bridge Officers	4
Just for Fun	4
National dues to increase in 2017	4

To a Safe & Sane New Year

2017
2016

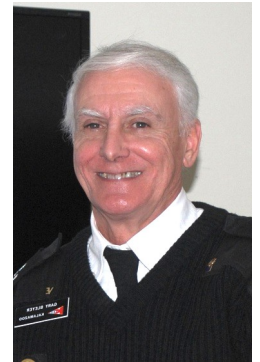
Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

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



January brings a new year and the hope for a better year than 2016. Many people I know had a difficult time in 2016, either due to health issues or loss of a loved one. Our squadron lost two members, P/C Bob Boyce, AP who had just earned his USPS 50 year certificate in 2015 and Ross Griffith, SN who had just completed 25 years of membership.

One member had a boat fire after having a professional engine overhaul. Thankfully, no one was hurt, the damage was minor, but expensive. One member started last year with a broken hip, another now has a titanium rod in her femur, another had a heart attack and still others with illnesses and set backs.



**KSPS Commander
Gary W. Bleyer**

In spite of all of this, we still have hope that 2017 will be better. Our annual meeting and Change of Watch (COW) will be on Tuesday 10 January 2017.

Our slate of candidates is the same as last year, with the only change being the addition of Ken Blad to the Executive Committee, to replace John Anderson, who has moved to Ohio.

We have vacancies in our Administrative and Executive Officer positions. We are still accepting nominations for elected bridge and committee positions.

NOMINEES

Commander: Gary W. Bleyer, P
Education SEO: James W. Johnston, P
Treasurer: Jerilyn F. Johnston
Secretary: Lyndell R. Bleyer, P

Executive Committee

1/Lt Ken Blad
1/Lt George Gerpheide, P
P/C Karen Strand, AP
P/C Lois Whitmore, SN

Auditing Committee

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

Rules Committee

Lt Phyllis Buskirk, P (2011-2017)
Lt George Tyler Jr., JN (2011-2017)
Lt George Gerpheide, AP (2010-2017)

Nominating Committee - typically the 3 most immediate Past Commanders Gary Bleyer would have served another year, but cannot be on Nom. Com, if re-elected commander in 2017)

P/C Harold Hladky, JN (2009-2018)
P/C Lyndell Bleyer, P (2014-2019)
P/C James Johnston, P (2016-2020)

Non-Elected/Appointed Positions
(1 year at a time)

Chaplain: George Tyler Jr
Sea Scout Leader: Paul Walker
Ship's Store Coord: Lois Whitmore

In addition, we could use volunteers to assist with - Vessel Safety Checks/VSC, teaching, Family Fish Fair, boat shows, and "VSCs, Boats & Brats" day.

Public Relations: media & marketing,
Membership Involvement: invite / reach out to new and fellow members.

Meetings Coordinator to find presentations/venues for our meetings & events.

Come join us Tue. 10 January for the Change of Watch at the Beacon Club, 5830 Portage Rd, Kalamazoo MI. Please RSVP Jim or Jerilyn Johnston at (269) 375-8441 or jimwj@hotmail.com



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

Change of Watch at The Beacon Club

5830 Portage Rd, Kalamazoo
 about 2 miles south of I-94 & 1 mile south of airport
 Tues 10 January 6:30 pm
 Election of Bridge and Executive Committee
 Please RSVP Jim or Jerilyn 375-8441

Chicago Boat, RV & Strictly Sail Show

Jan 11-17, 2017
<https://www.chicagoboatshow.com/>

KSPS General Meeting

Tuesday 14 February 6:30 pm
Valentine's Day

Moonraker West, 544 W. Columbia, Battle Creek
 Jim and Jerilyn Johnston present
 Peru - the Highlands and Machu Picchu

Grand Rapids Boat Show

February 15-19, 2017
 DeVos Place
<https://www.showspan.com/GRB/>
 Discount coupons are available at participating Wendy's restaurants

USPS Annual Meeting

19 Feb-26 Feb, 2017
 Orlando FL
 Visit the [Event website](#)

America's Boating Course—ABC

5 weeks - 2 hours per night
 Battle Creek - New Location in 2017
 Mondays 6 to 8 pm at Emmett Township offices
 621 Cliff St, Battle Creek.
 February 13, 20, 27, March 6 and 13.

ABC will be offered at Portage Central High
 April 10, 17, 24, May 1 and 8,

KSPS Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday 14 March 6:30 pm
 Brewsters— 5315 Portage Rd Kalamazoo

Educational Opportunities

Call **SEO Jim (269) 375-8441** if you are interested in seminars or classes.

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	Trailing
How to use a Chart	Using GPS
Knots, Bends and Hitches	Using VHF and VHF/DSC Radio

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

In Depth Classes

America's Boating Course (ABC) will be offered late winter/early spring in Battle Creek and Portage. (see calendar to left for ABC dates)

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 or can be partially self-study. Online class \$130 nonmembers/ \$90 USPS members.

[What do sea monsters eat ?](#)

[Fish and Ships](#)

Happy Birthday

Birthday not listed? Please let Lyn know.

January Birthdays

- 18 James Riordan
- 19 Aaron Wright
- 20 Lori Simonton
- 24 Garth Aarson
- 30 Beverly Love



Happy Birthday also to those with Unknown birthdays:
 Leon Dershem, Tom O'Neill
 Sandy Pyne, Donna Schumann
 Please send just month and day.

February Birthdays

- 3 Kenneth Blad
- 5 Linda Tuls
- 10 Sharon Mathewson
- 11 Jim Johnston
- 11 Jerry Love
- 13 Linda Mills
- 14 Ron Sons
- 23 Jan Boyce

Our Brains and Boating by Detroit Lt/C Margaret Schnelder, JN

We've heard plenty about the dangers of distracted driving - disastrous results have occurred while people were driving and texting or talking on the phone. Well, it should come as no surprise that distracted boating is no less dangerous.

After all, some of us are piloting a vessel at high speed, and some of us are operating on an angle with a big sail blocking much of our view. None of us have the luxury of having the other vessels in traffic lanes - other boats can appear from any direction, and it only takes a short period of inattention to find ourselves in a dangerous situation.

Many of you will say, "I don't use my phone out on the water, this doesn't apply to me". We as boaters, however, have lots of other shiny toys to distract us. We have instruments for depth, speed, and wind, GPS/chart plotter, radar, radio, AIS, autopilot, and engine gauges. It is deceptively easy to get so caught up in looking at all the screens, dials, and indicators that you forget to actually look where you are going.

While you are busy punching buttons on the chart plotter to try and figure out how to create a new route, it is easy to miss the small fishing boat that is drifting into your path.

While you are fussing with the autopilot trying to remember how to make it steer by the wind, it is easy to miss the other sailboat that has tacked, and is now barreling toward you on a starboard tack..

All of these whiz bang gadgets give us access to a remarkable amount of information that can make us safer, and make boating easier, but only if we know how to use them properly. They can free us to pay more attention to what's going on around us, or they can suck us in and cause us to lose track of the outside world.

So, take the time to read the manual at home, play with your toys while at the dock, and take a seminar to learn how to make the best use of your gadgets - in other words, educate yourself! And if you find that there is some new toy that you cannot resist playing with - that is taking your eyes off the water - post a lookout, or better yet, put someone else in charge altogether. As they used to say in Hill Street Blues, "Hey, let's be careful out there".

KSPS Change of Watch at The Beacon Club 10 January 2017



Come celebrate the beginning of our 69th year as a squadron.

Cocktails at 6:30,
Dinner at 7 pm.

Attire at the Beacon Club is business casual. Collared shirts are required in all rooms.

If you have a USPS uniform or sweater, that would look great in photos, otherwise wear a collared shirt, with or without a sports jacket, vest or sweater.

Beacon Club Banquet Menu is about **\$23** per person. Guest will select their choice of entrée the evening of the event.

All meals Include Pre-Dressed House Salad, Fresh Baked Rolls and a Baked Potato

Prime Rib - Seasoned and Slow Roasted House Cut with Creamy Horseradish Sauce and Jus

Signature Salmon - Broiled and Finished with Sun-Dried Tomato Pesto, Horseradish Sauce and Basil Oil

Tiffany Room Chicken - Sautéed Chicken Breast Served with Asparagus, Twin Tiger Shrimp, Topped with Béarnaise

Fried Shrimp - Lightly Breaded, Deep Fried and Served with Homemade Cocktail Sauce

Alcohol Beverages. Since the Beacon Club may only sell alcoholic beverages to Beacon Club members, a "Cash Arrangement" will be available for the purchase of drinks. Please bring cash in small denominations or a check to be written to Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron. You may purchase vouchers or tickets from Jerilyn to be given to the waitress in exchange for your drink.

\$ 4.00 buys bottled beers

\$ 7.00 buys craft beers and house wines

Please RSVP no later than Friday Jan 6 for this event which occurs Tuesday Jan 10 2017 to Jim or Jerilyn Johnston either by email or phone. If by phone please leave a message with your name and how many are coming. Remember, there is no need to indicate menu choice at this time.

Email: jimwj@hotmail.com Phone: (269) 375-8441





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

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

(Return Service Requested)

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



2017 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

Winter Kayaking

Just because the lake has frozen over, doesn't mean you can't still enjoy boating.



USPS to increase National dues

The United States Power Squadrons Governing Board voted to increase the 2017 Membership Year dues by \$2.00 for single members and \$3.00 for Family memberships. The Educational Fund is a \$1, District and Local dues remain the same. The resulting new annual national dues values :

	National	Educ.	District	Local	Total
Single	\$53.00	\$1	\$ 6	\$35.00	\$ 95.
Family	\$79.50	\$1	\$11	\$52.50	\$144.
Life with family	\$26.80	\$1	\$ 5	\$17.50	\$ 50.

Life Members are free, but their family members are not.

Apprentice and sea scout dues remain \$12.