



www.kspss-usps.org

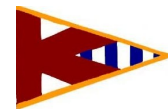
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**HAPPY
st. Patrick's
Day!**

Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

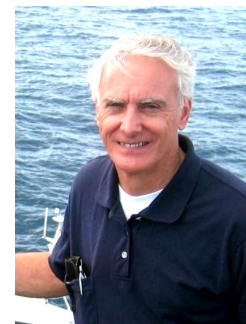
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We had another spell of unusually warm weather in February, so warm that the temperatures broke a few records that had lasted since 1930. Lyn and I were able to get some yard work done and rode our bikes, twice in February and once in January.

It has been nice not having to shovel as much snow as usual. We actually broke two snow shovels during the winter of 2014, but we do feel sorry for those who enjoy winter sports or make their living from running ski areas or snow removal.

We taught the first night of class for the America's Boating Course held at Emmett Township on February 13. We will wrap up that class on March 13, and start the next class on April 10.



**KSPS Commander
Gary W. Bleyer**

All members are welcome to come meet the students on the last night of class on Monday March 13, tests are completed between 7 and 7:30 pm. The location is the Emmett Township offices, 621 Cliff St, Battle Creek.

The Johnstons and Bleyers volunteered at the Grand Rapids Boat Show at DeVos Place. Jim took photos, which he will share at the March meeting. You can still catch a local Boat Show at the Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek, this weekend March 3 - 5.

Our next meeting is an Executive Committee Meeting on Tuesday March 14 / 6:30 pm at Brewsters, 5315 Portage Road by the Kalamazoo Airport. Everyone is welcome.

Also in March is a two hour Skywarn Training by the National Weather Service on Saturday March 18. They are offering a morning session at Lakeview Middle School in the auditorium (10-noon) and from 2 to 4 pm at Portage City Hall. The training is excellent review for storm weather awareness. They cover the signs of storm formation, including the ingredients that fuel bad weather, types of clouds, storms and tornadoes. Use the information to keep safe while boating and/or become a weather spotter.

Completing the March calendar of events is the District 9 Spring Conference, Friday-Saturday March 25-26. It is being held in Mt. Clemens at the Concorde Inn Gratiot Friday eve theme: Western Hoe-Down Registration & Saturday seminar details are available at the D9 website [http://d9-usps.org/](http://d9-usps.org)

This is the first year, since Lyn and I joined the squadron, that we will not be hosting a Friday night hospitality room with South Bend. Six of the eight usual volunteers who set-up, decorate and prepare food and drinks will not be able to attend. But all KSPS members are still encouraged to go, wander about visiting other hospitality rooms on Friday night and attend seminars on Saturday morning. If you are a first timer, be sure to check that on the registration form, as others will be trying to ensure you have a great experience. Jim and Jerilyn will be attending, so you can coordinate with them. Registration deadline is March 15. If you can't make this conference, pencil in the Fall District Conference on Oct 13-14.



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

West Michigan Boat Show

March 3 - 5 / Fri 4-9pm / Sat 10am-7pm / Sun 10am-4pm
Kellogg Arena, 1 McCamly Square, Battle Creek, MI
[facebook.com/westmichiganboatshow](https://www.facebook.com/westmichiganboatshow)

America's Boating Course—ABC

5 weeks - 2 hours per night
Mondays 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Emmett Township offices
621 Cliff St, Battle Creek.
March 6 and 13. 6:30-8:30 pm
ABC at Portage Central High, 8107 Mustang Dr.
Mondays April 10, 17, 24, May 1 and 8, 7-9 pm

KSPS Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday 14 March / 6:30 pm
Brewsters — 5315 Portage Rd Kalamazoo
Highlights of the GR Boat Show

Skywarn Storm Training by Nat'l Weather Service

Saturday March 18 — Two locations and times
10 to noon - Lakeview Middle School auditorium
300 S. 28th St , Battle Creek (east of Helmer Rd)
2 to 4 pm - Portage City Hall, 7900 S Westnedge Ave
For map see www.portagemi.gov
Located at S. Westnedge Ave north of Centre Ave

KSPS General Meeting

Tuesday April 11 / 6:30 pm
Moonraker West, 544 W. Columbia, Battle Creek
Ken Blad presents the Story of "Surf"

District 9 Spring Conference

Fri-Sat March 25-26
Mt. Clemens - Concorde Inn Gratiot
Friday eve theme: Western Hoe-Down
Registration & Saturday Seminar details
available at the D9 website <http://d9-usps.org/>

Portage Family Fish Fair

Saturday May 20 / 9:30-Noon
Ramona Park, Sprinkle Rd south of Zylman

Boats, Brats and Vessel Safety Checks

Potentially Sat. June 24 / 9:30am - 3pm
Black River Yacht Club, Oak St, South Haven MI

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. The course is required for those born after 1996 who want to operate a boat with a motor greater than 6 hp and for those born after 1978 to operate a Personal Watercraft (PWC). The course is great for beginners, and also as review for seasoned boaters. (see calendar to left for dates)

Lincoln was the only president who had a patent. It was a floatation device to help lift boats off sand bars.
Source: Michigan Civil War.

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
- 15 Patrick Fitzgerald
- 22 Don DeLong
- 26 William Soule

April Birthdays

- 1 Ron Voelker
- 1 Paul Walker
- 3 Glenn Hahn
- 3 Dan Seng
- 5 Joh Killian
- 9 Jim White
- 12 Judy Dorais
- 13 D/Cdr Janet Klumpp
- 29 Shirley Van Rhee
- 29 Harriette Griffith



FISHING IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU THINK

By William B. Hempel, United States Power Squadrons®

Ask any experienced boater about life jackets and they will tell you that they put them on at the first sign of danger. Ask those same people if they think fishing is inherently dangerous and they will probably say no. Unfortunately this is a serious disconnect in boating safety logic.

There is something almost hypnotic about fishing. Fishermen get so entranced in the act of catching a fish that they wander off shore on one of the Great Lakes, gulf or ocean without an EPIRB or radio and believe they are protected with insufficient near-shore life jackets. They get so focused on catching a fish that they fail to notice changing weather. When they do see an approaching storm they refuse to head for safety if the fish are biting. If they have a fish on the line, they tend to stay put until that fish is landed.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, about 700 Americans die each year in boating accidents. Drowning is the leading cause of death at 76%, and 85% of those who drowned were not wearing a life jacket. My home state of Florida has the highest mortality rate per boating accident in the U.S., Michigan is fifth. In just the past few months there have been several needless deaths, all to fishermen. One man was reported missing and was found drowned near his 16 foot boat. His fishing rod was floating nearby with a fish still on the line. Recently a man in the Florida Keys was fishing with a companion. He hooked a fish and in the process of landing it, fouled the fishing line on his outboard propeller. Leaning over to free it, he fell overboard and drowned. I bet these men did not think that fishing was dangerous since neither one was wearing a life jacket.

The majority of fishing is done in a 16 to 24 foot craft. USCG statistics show that, the majority of accidents happen on small boats. This immediately puts you at risk. While your best protection on the water is a life jacket, many fishermen feel they are too bulky to wear. An inflatable life jacket may be a reasonable alternative. These safety devices are slightly more bulky than a pair of suspenders. While the models with automatic inflators are a little pricey, those with a pull cord inflator are quite reasonable and simple to operate. Fishermen please believe me, the sport of fishing is dangerous and you should have a life jacket on at all times. If you don't believe me, ask the families of the two men mentioned above.



Type III inflatable

The United States Power Squadrons has 45,000 members in over 450 squadrons. Its members give generously of their time and energy to teach boating safety courses and seminars, provide free vessel safety checks, assist in updating our nation's over 1000 nautical charts, and in other ways contribute to making boating on our waterways safer.

March 18 Many Events From Which to Choose

There are at least three events in our area on the weekend of March 18 that might arouse your interest.



The most colorful event is **Living History** at the Kalamazoo Expo Center (aka fair grounds) 2900 Lake Street. Our favorite activities are attending the historical seminars, watching people in period clothing and wandering the aisles looking at all the goods for sale,

The **Kalamazoo Living History Show** is the largest, nationally recognized, juried show in the Midwest devoted to pre-1890 original or reproduction living history supplies, accoutrements and related crafts. More than 10,000 historical re-enactors from pre-Revolutionary through the Civil War, history buffs, collectors, and visitors come together for a festive weekend to buy, sell and trade. The event attracts over 270 of the finest artisans and dealers of living history supplies and related goods from throughout the U.S.

Each year the focus of the show changes allowing various historical reenactment groups, organizations, and individuals, dressed in period clothing, the opportunity to host the show and share their knowledge and enthusiasm of history with all of us.

\$7 single day or \$10 for a two-day weekend pass
Children 12 and under admitted free when accompanied by an adult. **Mar 18-19 / Sat: 9am-5pm / Sun: 9am-4pm**



The **57th Michigan Annual Crossroads Hamfest** is at the Wings Stadium complex at 3600 Vanrick Dr., Kalamazoo MI 49001. (However, 3705 Vanrick or 42.2544796N, 85.533357W will give you better directions from your GPS)

Vendors will be selling new and used radio transceivers, antennas and a wide variety of electronic equipment and software. There is a \$5 entrance fee at the door.

www.w8df.com **Sat Mar 18: 8am - noon**

Skywarn Training (free) presented by the National Weather Service. One session in Battle Creek, another in Portage.

Sat March 18 / 10am-noon

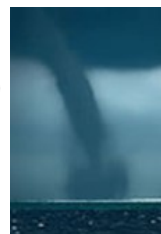
Lakeview Middle School 300 S. 28th St ,
Battle Creek (just east of Helmer Rd & Meijers)

Sat March 18 / 2 to 4 pm - Portage City Hall

For map see www.portagemi.gov

7900 S. Westnedge Ave near Centre Ave

Learn how to become a NWS weather spotter or just be more weather aware while boating.





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)	JimWJ@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

Joanne Van Ameyden, 75, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2017 in Harlingen, Texas.



Joanne and Charles, her husband of 55 years, were members of the US Power Squadrons for more than 25 years, beginning with the Kalamazoo Sail and Power Squadron before moving north and joining the Sable Point Power Squadron.

Joanne was born Jan. 10, 1942 in Hastings, Michigan She graduated from Hastings High School and received her associate degree from Battle Creek Community College. She worked for Transamerica Insurance as a legal aide, the Veterans Administration and Junior Achievement as a secretary; and the Department of Defense as executive

secretary at the Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center, and retired after 17 years.

Joanne was a member of the Springfield Public Schools PTA; troop Leader for Campfire girls and den mother for Boy Scouts; member of U.S. Power Squadrons for over 25 years, with Kalamazoo and Sable Point where she held the office of secretary, historian and newsletter editor. She loved sailing on the Great Lakes; cruising in the Caribbean, Adriatic Sea, Panama Canal and Alaska; traveling throughout the U.S. and tours through Europe. She took great pride in her home; was a great baker, and was renowned for her holiday sweets. She played piano, loved the classics and hymns; and was an excellent seamstress.

Michigan Memorial service to be announced later.