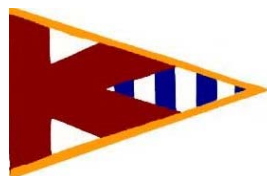


The Pilot

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



The May 2008 Bridge Officer's Briefing

Harold L. Hladky, JN, Commander

Last month, while composing my message for the Pilot, I was looking at 12 inches of very wet snow, and this month it is in the 70's. Boats are starting to be put in the water and the rest of us are thinking about it. The Basic Boating classes in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek, as well as the DNR class for teenagers, all have good turn outs, so others are also thinking about boating safely.

Several events are still in planning for the summer months and I encourage you to attend the May meeting to find out more about them and add your ideas. The presentation at May's meeting will be a panel discussion about boating in the North Channel.

I know some of you prefer the Pilot via regular mail due to its size. I myself have what I call 'two cans and a string' for phone service at home and know how long it can take to download the current Pilot. Those of you willing and able to receive the Pilot by email or view it at our website, help save KSPS money for printing and postage. For members who receive the Pilot via regular mail, we would also like to maintain a separate email list for short messages for meeting reminders and special events. We will also keep the Web site updated with information about upcoming events.

Hope to be seeing you at the May meeting and some of our summer events.

Cdr Harold L. Hladky, JN



**Harold Hladky, JN
The 2008 KSPS Commander**

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The *ComNom* Website!

Your squadron needs your help, so please take some time and tell us how you can help. It's easy! Just visit the following website and enter information about you, your interest at Squadron, District, and National levels.

<http://www.usps.org/national/comnom>

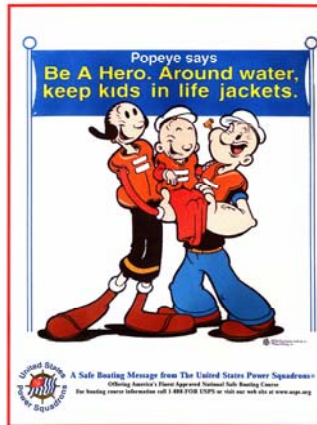
Boating is fun, and it is members like you who keep our organization the front-runner in education and promoting boating safety in a fun way. Officers at all levels are here to help you do what you want to do in our organization.



SEO's Update

Lt/C Joe Mills, JN

Stf/C Bob Landeros, SN will offer the Beta version of Navigation. The class will start on Tuesday, 29 April 2008 and continue until 24 June. On 24 June, students will start their "Days Work at Sea" cruise followed by an open book exam. The materials for the course include a manual, sight folder, sight reduction forms, plotting charts and navigation software. Because of the navigation software, the cost for the course is \$160, which will also be the cost to KSPS students. Due to the reliance on computers and software, Bob is attempting to make arrangement to hold the class at WMU. If you are interested in taking Navigation, please contact Bob Landeros at (H) 269 372-3430, (B) 269 387-5988 or robert.landeros@sbcglobal.net.



Exam results were just received.

Congratulations to **Dennis Van Allsburg, Ron McPhee and Bob Sheppard** on passing Advanced Piloting.

Congratulations to **Gary Bleyer, Lyn Bleyer, Don DeLong, Diane Hansen, Bob Sheppard and Karen Strand** on passing Advanced Sail.

Advanced Grades

The following numbers represent the highest advanced grade courses taken and passed by our 96 current KSPS members:

No advanced grade.....	19
Seamanship	17
Piloting.....	18
Advanced Piloting.....	23
Junior Navigation	10
Senior Navigation.....	9

KSPS, D-9 & USPS Activities and Meetings

13 May 2008, 1830-2100 KSPS General Meeting, Gigi's Cruising the North Channel	17-23 May 2008 National Safe Boating Week National Safe Boating Council	10 June 2008, 1830-2100 Executive Committee Meeting Location to be determined
1-3 August 2008 Coast Guard Festival and Parade Grand Haven, Michigan	2-7 September 2008 USPS Governing Board Detroit, Michigan	9 September 2008 KSPS General Meeting TBD

Public Courses, Advanced Grade Courses & Electives

Course	Start Date	Contact Person	Telephone	e-mail address
Boat Smart: Kalamazoo	14 April 2008	Wally Corder	269-321-0751	wccorder@hotmail.com
Boat Smart: Battle Creek	17 April 2008	Nils Strand	269-964-6600	nils.strand@gsa.gov
DNR Course: Kalamazoo	14 April 2008	Lois Whitmore	269-345-4521	lhw@core.com
Seamanship	TBD	Robyn Levene	269-372-1782	rbynlevene@aol.com
Piloting	TBD	Bill Ditty	269-323-3143	cgdiver@jouno.com
Advanced Piloting	14 January 2008	Jerry Hendrickson	269-353-7243	jlh10acrewoods@charter.net
Junior Navigation	TBD	Robert Landeros	269-501-2757	robert.landeros@sbcglobal.net
Navigation	Spring 2008	Robert Landeros	269-501-2757	robert.landeros@sbcglobal.net
Cruise Planning	27 March 2008	Karen Strand	269-964-6600	karenstrand@sbcglobal.net
Engine Maintenance	TBD	Dan Livingston	269-781-2328	autodan@yahoo.com
Instructor Development	TBD	Lois Whitmore	269-345-4521	lhw@core.com
Marine Electronics	Spring 2008	Harold Hladky	269-969-0815	hhladky@aol.com
Sail (Advanced)	10 January 2008	George Tyler	269-671-4560	gtn8kjd@tds.net
Weather	Fall 2008	Allen Buskirk	269-375-2586	andiamo91@cs.com

The 2008 KSPS Bridge Officers

Commander	P/C Harold L. Hladky, JN	269-969-0815 (home)	harold.hladky@wmich.edu
Executive Officer	Lt/C William Soule, P	269-544-0518 (home)	souleb@aol.com
Educational Officer	Lt/C W. Joseph Mills, JN	269-375-4414 (home)	millsatty@tds.net
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Robert D. Sheppard, P	269-323-0231 (home)	sheppard-r@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	P/C Nils Strand, AP	269-964-6690 (home)	nils.strand@gsa.gov
Secretary	Lt/C Lyndell Bleyer, S	269-731-5601 (home)	lyn.bleyer@wmich.edu

Discharge Permits may Deter Recreational Boating

Recreational boating is one of the most enjoyable American pastimes for 73 million boaters nationwide to spend time together outside enjoying our natural treasures with friends and family. But, unless Congressional action is taken soon to pass S. 2766, the Clean Boating Act of 2008, the estimated 18 million recreational boats in this country could be subjected to sweeping new regulations and permit requirements intended for commercial ships with ballast water tanks, preventing boaters from enjoying this great past time.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on June 20, 2007, that they will begin moving forward with a new and unprecedented permitting scheme for recreational boats to comply with a September 2006 landmark ballast water court ruling. Under the ruling, EPA will have to devise a permitting scheme by September 30, 2008, for engine cooling water, bilge water, gray water, and deck runoff from recreational boats previously exempted under the Clean Water Act.

For 34 years recreational vessels have been exempted by EPA from National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for these effluents deemed normal to the operation of vessels. These permits are more commonly applied to large commercial sites and water treatment facilities. However, the court struck this exemption down because it also exempted ballast water discharges from large ocean going commercial ships that have introduced damaging aquatic invasive species into U.S. waters for many years through their ballast water discharges. The court's decision was intended to protect the environment and local communities, but it will now

unfortunately toss recreational boats into the same category as commercial cargo ships. This was clearly never the intention of the law, or the EPA.

I am writing today to ask you to fix this oversight by supporting passage of S. 2766, the Clean Boating Act of 2008. By supporting S. 2766, and its passage into law, you will enshrine this proven 34-year old exemption for recreational boats, sponsored by Senators Barbara Boxer and Bill Nelson.

The legislation is straight forward and specific, and would only apply to recreational boats and their water-based engine cooling water, bilge water, gray water, and common deck runoff.

As a boater, I can tell you that it is important that we protect our environment for future enjoyment. The ballast water debate should be about addressing the important environmental concerns about large cargo ships and their ballast water tanks. However it should not be about preventing boaters from enjoying this great American past time with an unnecessary, complex, onerous and unprecedented permitting scheme. Please consider co-sponsoring and supporting passage of S. 2766, it is important legislation for the nation's 73 million avid boaters and the 380,000 U.S. workers of the recreational boating industry.

Sincerely,

Lt Wallace Corder, S

May Safety Corner - Launch Time!

Lt Roger Todd, S
Squadron Safety Officer

It's the time of year when we are pulling our boats out of sheds, garages or from under tarps. Let's start out right.

★ Safety Checklists

Each Time You Go On a Boat Trip

- ◆ Make sure you know where CO exhaust outlets are located on your vessel.
- ◆ Educate all passengers about the symptoms of CO poisoning and where CO may accumulate.
- ◆ When docked, or rafted with another boat, be aware of exhaust emissions from the other boat.
- ◆ Confirm that water flows from the exhaust outlet when the engines and generator are started.
- ◆ Listen for any change in exhaust sound, which could indicate an exhaust component failure.
- ◆ Test the operation of each CO alarm by pressing the test button.

Once a Month

- ◆ Make sure all exhaust clamps are in place and secure.
- ◆ Look for exhaust leaking from exhaust system components.

Signs include rust and/or black streaking, water leaks, or corroded or cracked fittings.

- ◆ Inspect rubber exhaust hoses for burned, cracked, or deteriorated sections. All rubber hoses should be pliable and free of kinks.

Once a Year

- ◆ Check for an expiration date on your CO monitor.
 - ◆ Check for corrosion and replace the battery on all CO and smoke detectors
 - ◆ Have a qualified marine technician:
 - ◆ Replace exhaust hoses if cracking, charring, or deterioration is found.
 - ◆ Ensure that your engines and generators are properly tuned, and well maintained.
 - ◆ Inspect each water pump impeller and the water pump housing. Replace if worn. Make sure cooling systems are in working condition.
 - ◆ Inspect all metallic exhaust components for cracking, rusting, leaking, or loosening. Make sure they check the cylinder head, exhaust manifold, water injection elbow, and the threaded adapter nipple between the manifold and the elbow.
 - ◆ Clean, inspect, and confirm proper operation of the generator cooling water anti-siphon valve (if equipped).
-

How low will lake levels go?

Adapted from an article published in the *Muskegon Chronicle*, Jeff Alexander

West Michigan residents concerned about sinking Great Lakes water levels will get a chance to share their views this week when U.S. and Canadian officials studying the issue visit Muskegon.

The International Joint Commission, a U.S.-Canadian panel that advises the two nations on Great Lakes issues, is studying water levels in lakes Michigan, Huron, Superior and Erie. A committee working on the IJC's International Upper Great Lakes Study will host a public hearing on lake levels 4 May 2008, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Grand Valley State University's Annis Water Resources Institute, 740 W. Shoreline.



"We want to hear lots of people come out and squawk at this public meeting," said John Nevin, an IJC spokesman. "We want to hear what this issue means to people when the water is really high or really low."

IJC officials might get an earful.

Lake Michigan's water level has dropped nearly four feet since 1997, according to federal data. The low lake level has widened beaches but created safety hazards for recreational boaters and caused freighters to run aground in Muskegon, Grand Haven and other ports around the lake.

On the flip side, record-high lake levels in 1986 caused severe beach erosion that sent several Grand Haven cottages tumbling into the lake.

The IJC study is focused on two issues: Whether dredging in the St. Clair River over the past century has caused excessive lowering of water levels in lakes Michigan and Huron; and if the volume of water flowing out of Lake Superior daily through control structures in the St. Marys River should be adjusted to account for below-average precipitation and global warming.

Birthdays!

04 May

Kent W. Choate

12 May

Judy A. Dorais

15 May

Ronald K. McPhee

16 May

L. John Goes

26 May

Gary W. Bleyer

John B. Penniman



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Lt/C Lyndell Bleyer, S, Editor

Boating is fun... We'll show you how!

We're on the web

<http://www.ksps-usps.org>