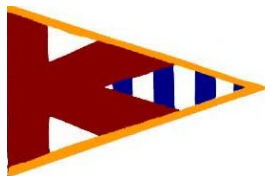


# The Pilot

## Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



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### Change of Watch and Annual Meeting

The Change of Watch is our Annual Meeting at which a slate of officers willing to serve and lead the squadron in the coming year are sworn in and thanks are given to those who served last year. The Boner Award and Red/Green Award will be presented to a member who made a nautical/procedural blunder or navigation error. It's a time to celebrate the events of the past year. Come join the fun. RSVP no later than 6 January with your menu choice for yourself and any guests.

- Prime Rib, Slow Roasted \$19.99
- Grilled Chicken Breast w/ lemon & dill \$14.99
- Baked Atlantic Salmon w/ sun dried tomato \$17.99

**Change of Watch**  
 Tuesday 12 January  
 6:30 pm

**The Waterfront**  
 315 W Columbia  
 Battle Creek  
 Located between  
 La Vista and Capital Avenue.  
 Dress: uniform F  
 or dressy casual  
 RSVP (269) 731-5601  
 bleyer@wmich.edu

### THE SIX MOST COMMON BOAT WINTERIZING MISTAKES

Boat U.S. Marine Insurance reviewed its claim files and reported the following six most common mistakes made when winterizing a boat.

1. Failure to winterize the engine: Freezing temperatures occur in all 50 states and while they are taken seriously up north, it's the balmy states of Florida, Texas, Georgia, Alabama and California where boaters are most likely to have freeze-related damage to engine blocks. It routinely occurs to boats stored ashore here. Boats left in a slip are less susceptible to sudden freezing as the water retains heat longer than air.
2. Failure to drain water from sea strainer: This one got me one year, in the spring I found a two-inch heavy plastic-like coin in the bilge which happened to be the bottom of my strainer. If your winterizing plan calls for draining the engine, the seawater strainer must be winterized or residual water could freeze and rupture the watertight seal. Sometimes you won't know it's damaged until spring launching and water begins to trickle in.

3. Failure to close seacocks: For boats left in the water, leaving seacocks open over the winter is like going on extended vacation without locking the house. If a thru-hull cannot be closed, the vessel must be stored ashore – the sole exception is cockpit drains. Heavy snow loads can also force your boat under, allowing water to enter thru-hulls that are normally well above the water line. Make a checklist so you don't forget to reverse the process in the spring.

4. Clogged petcocks: Engine cooling systems petcocks clogged by rust or other debris can prevent water from fully draining. If one is plugged, try using a coat hanger to clear the blockage or use the engine's intake hose to flush antifreeze through the system.

5. Leaving open boats in the water over the winter: Boats with large open cockpits or low freeboard can easily be pushed underwater by weight of accumulating ice and snow. Always store them ashore.

6. Using biminis or dodgers as winter storage covers: A cover that protects the crew from the sun does a lousy job protecting the boat from freezing rain and snow. Unlike a bonafide heavy-duty winter cover, biminis and dodgers tend to rip apart and age prematurely by effects of winter weather.

P/C Leonard LaPorte, AP, Port Huron Splash, October 2009

## Calendar: KSPS, D-9 & USPS Activities, Events and Meetings

<b>Tue 8 Dec 2009 Time: 1830 - 2100 (6:30)</b> <b>KSPS Executive Committee Meeting</b> Sports Forum, 803 Mosel, Kalamazoo	<b>Sat 19 December Time: 1900 (7pm)</b> <b>KSPS Holiday Party</b> Beacon Club, Portage MI <b>RSVP</b> Karen Strand (269) 964-6690	<b>Tues 12 Jan. 2010 Time: 1830 - 2100</b> <b>KSPS Change of Watch</b> Water Front Restaurant, Battle Creek <b>RSVP</b> Maris Soule (269) 544-0518
<b>Saturday 6 February beginning 2pm.</b> <b>Open House at the Soules</b> Also Enjoy ice sculptures and chili cook-off in downtown South Haven	<b>Tue 9 Feb 2009 Time: 1830 - 2100 (6:30)</b> <b>KSPS General Membership Meeting</b> Location TBD Topic: USCG Rescues & Boating Mishaps	<b>Tue 9 March 2009 Time: 1830 - 2100</b> <b>KSPS Executive Committee Meeting</b> Location TBD

### Winter Classes Begin Soon

**America's Boating Course and Boating Safety for Youth** will begin Monday 15 February and end 15 March with an exam. The classes will be held at Milwood Middle School on Konkle in Kalamazoo. See ABC or DNR contact info in table below.

**Sailing (SA)** George Tyler gtn8kjd@tds.net or (269) 671-4560. The new Sail course will begin the 1st Thursday of January 2010 (7 Jan) 7 to 9 pm at the VFW post by the Kalamazoo airport. The course will take about 10 weeks. Depending on the weather! We will have to move the class to another location or skip a class once a month to accommodate a VFW event. Two members have already expressed an interest.

### Engine Maintenance (EM)

The first KSPS EM class held at the Calhoun Technical Center will wrap up this month. Students had nothing but praise for instructor Dan Livingston and the ability to do hands on learning in this state-of-the-art facility. One couple has expressed an interest in taking EM this coming winter. If at least two other members sign up, Engine Maintenance will be offered this winter (probably on Wednesday nights). Contact Dan Livingston (269) 781-2328 or autoDan@yahoo.com

### Next Meeting - Tues. 12 Jan

Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron  
Change of Watch  
Social 6:30 pm, mtg at 7  
The Waterfront  
315 W. Columbia Ave  
between Capital & 20th in Battle Creek



### Birthdays

#### JANUARY

1 Gary Morton  
8 Richard Rakow  
18 James Riordan  
19 Aaron Wright  
30 Beverly Love

Did your birthday get missed?

Send your name, month and day (yr not needed) to Lyn at bleyer@wmich.edu

or the return address on this Pilot.



**Open House** at the Soules - in South Haven - **Saturday 6 February** around 2pm.

## Public Courses, Advanced Grade Courses & Electives— Call contact for exact dates

Course	Start Date	Contact Person	Telephone	e-mail address
America's Boating Course: Battle Creek	Winter 2010	Nils Strand	269-964-6690	nils.strand@gsa.gov
America's Boating Course: Kalamazoo	15 Feb—15 Mar	Wally Corder	269-321-0751	wccorder@hotmail.com
DNR Course (age 12—16): Kalamazoo	15 Feb—15 Mar	Lois Whitmore	269-345-4521	lwh@core.com
Intro. To Charting: Battle Creek	Spring 2010	Nils Strand	269-964-6690	nils.strand@gsa.gov
Seamanship (Mon 7—9 pm)	Exam 11 Jan 2010	Karen Strand	269- 964-6690	karenstrand@sbcglobal.net
Piloting	TBD	Bill Ditty	269-323-3143	cgdiver@juno.com
Advanced Piloting	TBD	Jerry Hendrickson	269-353-7243	jlh10acrewoods@charter.net
Junior Navigation	TBD	Robert Landeros	269-501-2757	robert.landeros@sbcglobal.net
Navigation	TBD	Robert Landeros	269-501-2757	robert.landeros@sbcglobal.net
Cruise Planning	TBD	Karen Strand	269-964-6690	karenstrand@sbcglobal.net
Engine Maintenance (Wed 6:30-8:30)	Winter 2010	Dan Livingston	269-781-2328	autodan@yahoo.com
Instructor Development	TBD	Lois Whitmore	269-345-4521	lwh@core.com
Marine Electronics	2010	Harold Hladky	269-969-0815	harold.hladky@wmich.edu
Operations Training	TBD	Phyllis Buskirk	269-375-2586	andiamo91@cs.com
Sail & Advanced Sail	7 Jan 2010	George Tyler, Jr.	269-671-4560	gtn8kjd@tds.net
Weather	2011	H. Hladky & G. Tyler	269-375-2586	Harold H. or George Tyler

## Winterizing (continued)

Most of us trust a marina or storage company to handle the details of winterizing our boats. But you should do some things before the storage staff take over. Consult your owners manual and use a checklist.

You should remove any valuables, electronics, lines, PFDs, fire extinguishers, flares, fenders, etc. Over the winter these items can be cleaned, checked and replaced as necessary.

Open all drawers and lockers and clean thoroughly. Open and clean the refrigerator and freezer. Do not leave any food on board that might attract animals.

Turn cushions up on edge so that air is able to circulate around them or, better yet, bring them home to a climate controlled area.

To keep your boat dry and mildew-free you might want to install a dehumidifier or use some of the commercially available odor and moisture absorber products such as "No Damp," "Damp Away" or "Sportsman's Mate."

## How Mark Twain got his pen name

On the Mississippi River during the time of Samuel Clemens, A rope or rod with fathom markings was used to gauge the depth of the river. A depth of less than two fathoms was considered risky for boats to navigate across. Who ever was doing the depth measure would call out the markings by terms such as twain for two, Trey for three, quad for four..... and so forth. Samuel Clemens worked on a river boat before he became a writer. when he decide to write under a pen name, he choose Mark Twain (safe passage).



## Mark Twain makes transatlantic cruise *By Garrison Keillor*

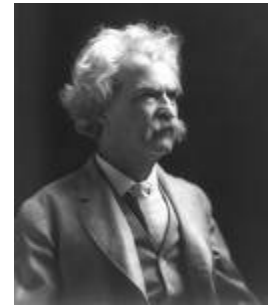
It was on 8 June 1867 that Mark Twain set off on a tour of Europe and the Middle East, a trip that gave him the material for his first major book, *The Innocents Abroad* (1869). He traveled with a large group of American tourists, on a steam-driven side-wheeler called the *Quaker City*. It was the first transatlantic cruise on a steamship.

Twain was just beginning to be a writer at the time. He was living in New York and working as the travel correspondent for the San Francisco newspaper the *Alta California*. He convinced the editors to pay for his cruise - and in exchange, he would write 50 letters from the cruise ship to be published in the paper. He had just started using the name Mark Twain a few years before and was still trying to build his reputation. His first collection of short stories, *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County and Other Sketches* (1867), hadn't sold very well, and he thought a travel book would be a good way to make a name for himself.

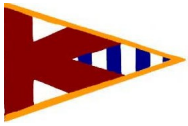
Travel narratives were growing very popular at the time, but Twain didn't want to write a conventional travel book. He hated how travel books made it seem like every church and every museum was worth visiting. He wanted to write a book about what it was actually like to travel - with all of the inconveniences and disappointments and fatigue. He said the purpose of the book was "to suggest to the reader how he would be likely to see Europe and the East if he looked at them with his own eyes instead of the eyes of those who traveled in those countries before him."

When Twain got back from the cruise, his publisher gave him six months to write a 600-page book, even though he still had to make a living by writing newspaper articles. He wrote most of it in Washington, D.C. He wrote about 200,000 words in two months, or about 3,500 words per day, and finished just before his publisher's deadline.

The book was published by the American Publishing Company in 1869. It was sold by subscription, which meant that door-to-door salesman traveled around the country promoting it before it was published. People could "subscribe" to as many books as they wanted from a publishers catalog, and they'd get copies sent to them before they were available to the rest of the public. At the time, subscription books were usually the ones that became best sellers, but they were looked down upon by literary critics. Mark Twain didn't care. He just wanted as many people as possible to read his book. *The Innocents Abroad* sold more than 125,000 copies in 10 years, and it established Twain's reputation. Twain wrote, "The gentle reader will never, never know what a consummate ass he can become, until he goes abroad."



Mark Twain



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*a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®*

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

## The 2009 KSPS Bridge Officers

<b>Commander</b>	Lt/C William Soule, P	269-544-0518 (home)	souleb@aol.com
<b>Executive Officer</b>	Lt/C Daniel L. Livingston, S	269-781-2328 (home)	autodan@yahoo.com
<b>Educational Officer</b>	Lt/C Wally Corder, S	269-321-0751 (home)	wccorder@hotmail.com
<b>Administrative Officer</b>	Lt/C Roger Todd, P	269-945-5211 (home)	rogertodd@core.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	P/C Nils Strand, AP	269-964-6690 (home)	nils.strand@gsa.gov
<b>Secretary</b>	Lt/C Lyndell Bleyer, S	269-731-5601 (home)	lyn.bleyer@wmich.edu

### Updating KSPS Roster for 2010

We will begin putting together the 2010 issue of the KSPS Roster shortly. Please check your entry in the 2009 edition for accuracy. Remember the roster cannot be used for solicitation and is only distributed to KSPS members. Having up-to-date contact information makes it easier to stay informed on classes, events and other boating opportunities. If your birthday is missing, please send just your month and day so we can include you in the monthly birthdays.

If you want to update your profile, have moved, have a different address for winter and summer, have new or other phone numbers, changed your email address, passed another class, changed boats or marina/home port or notice an error. Please send changes to: Bleyer@wmich.edu

(259) 731-5601 or the return address at the top of this page.

**KSPS website has been updated.** If you do not have a computer at home, the staff at your local public library will help you get on the web. Visit the newly updated website <http://www.ksps-usps.org> Be sure to check out the photos!

### Future Newsletters

#### *Save KSPS Money*

If you are receiving the Pilot by regular mail, help us save postage and printing by sending your email to Lyn at: **Bleyer@wmich.edu**.

#### *Submit an Article*

Please submit Pilot articles by the 2nd Tuesday of the month for consideration in next issue.

#### *Spot an error*

or have information that needs updating? Please send corrections to Lyn Bleyer at Bleyer@wmich.edu or mail to the return address above.