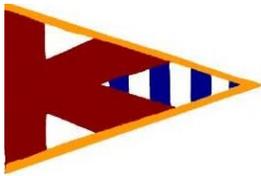


The Pilot

Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



Commander's Message

Memorial day weekend was beautiful in Southwest Michigan this year. While the water in the Great Lakes was a little nippy, the weather was sunny and hot. I hope most of you were able to spend some of the weekend on or near the water.

We submitted two different articles to the Gazette to usher in National Safe Boating Week, but neither were published. However, in Saturday's paper, the Gazette kicked off the boating season with *Boat Talk*. The first article was *What are the rules on drinking and boating?* Go to this [link](http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/05/boat_talk_rule_s_on_drinking_an.html) or type http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/05/boat_talk_rule_s_on_drinking_an.html



*KSPS Commander
Lyndell R. Bleyer*

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FREE Vessel Safety Checks - VSC

I expect every KSPS member who has a boat to get a Vessel Safety Check this year. Whether you have a cabin cruiser, sailboat, fishing boat, runabout, PWC or paddle a kayak or canoe, you should have a Vessel Safety Check. For larger boats, you can save up to an additional 3 percent on insurance. For smaller boats, you'll have the piece of mind that if you are stopped by the Coast Guard, Sheriff or DNR — you will have all the safety equipment required to avoid a costly fine or citation.

The Vessel Safety Check is FREE and only takes 25 to 30 minutes depending on the size of your boat and how easy it is to access and test your safety equipment.

We have two VSCs scheduled in June. The first is at the north end of Gull Lake at the boat ramp at Prairieville Township Park on Saturday June 9 from 10 am to 3 pm. The second VSC date happens on Saturday June 23 at two locations in South Haven. We will have VSCs at Boats & Brats at the Black River Yacht Club (BRYC) at the bottom of Oak Street and VSCs only (no Brats) at South Haven Municipal launch ramp at the City's Black River Park. To get to the city park turn on Dunkley, just east of the drawbridge. Both the city and township public launch ramps have a \$7 park entrance fee.

VSC inspections at the parks will be in the parking lot, either before you launch or after you return (between 10 am and 3 pm). On June 23, we will have at least eight Vessel Examiners (KSPS and South Bend). If you have a boat slip anywhere in South Haven, an examiner can come to you that day (call 269-209-1740, 269-370-2795).

Items checked depend on the type and size of vessel. Typically, this includes life vests, navigation lights, sound producing bells or horns for fog or warning, visual distress signals, blowers for removing fumes after fueling or before starting your engine, fire extinguishers, and flame arrestors on inboard engines. You must have your boat registration with you to pass inspection.

This is a good opportunity to learn about the type of equipment required on your boat and to ask boating related questions. KSPS Vessel Examiners include: Lyn & Gary Bleyer, Bob Boyce, Lance Conrad, Harold Hladky, Bill Soule, Nils Strand, and VSC Chair Dan Livingston. Call anyone of us if you have questions.

Calendar: KSPS Activities, Events and Meetings (mark your personal calendar)

09 June VSC Gull Lake - Prairieview Park Free Vessel Safety Checks 10 am–3 pm Inspection site near launch ramp at north end of Gull Lake	June Executive Committee Mtg Tue. 12 June - Time: 6:30 - 9:00 Focus on Membership Strategies Location: Brewsters - 5315 Portage Rd.	23 June VSC South Haven Launch Ramp turn on Dunkley before drawbridge. Boats & Brats at Black River Yacht Club, 280 Oak St, South Haven 10 am-3 pm
No Meeting or newsletter in July Invite a friend or someone new to boating to join you for a short cruise.	US Coast Guard Parade in Grand Haven Saturday 4 August Come march in the parade with other District 9 squadrons	USPS 2012 Governing Board Meeting 4 - 9 September 2012 Detroit Renaissance Marriott Hotel Lots of pre-mtg activities/volunteer opp.

Current & Upcoming Classes

ABC America's Boating Course

Since most of our volunteer instructors are out on the water, we offer classes in February or March. However, if you know someone who wants to learn now, have them go to www.usps.org where they can study online for \$39.95, then take the test proctored by KSPS. They need to call Wally a few weeks before they want to take the test, so the exam can be ordered.

Seminars Most seminars cost \$16 for USPS members, and \$25 for non-members, but some are slightly higher. Since KSPS has to order and pay for seminar materials, students will be asked to pay in advance for seminars. Dates and locations are being arranged and will be announced shortly.

Sail Trim & Rig Trimming Seminar in South Haven

Seminar materials had to be ordered by 20 May, but there may be one or two seats available. Contact Wally Corder 269-365-3398 if interested. Detailed descriptions of seminars at www.ksp-susps.org under education.

Next Meeting - Tues. 12 June Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

Social time 6:30 pm, Dinner at 7
Brewsters - 5315 Portage Rd. (so of I-94)
No guest speaker. Everyone is welcome.
We will discuss Boats & Brats, and brainstorm ideas for increasing new and retaining current members.



**Cling to your imperfections. . .
they're what makes you unique.
author unknown**

June Birthdays

06 Dick Walter
12 Maurizio Galbreath
16 Bruce Dorais
19 Maris Soule
20 Bob Beck
24 James Henning
25 Diana Goes
26 Jane Chappell
30 Susan Norrod



July Birthdays

06 George Tyler, Jr.
07 Chris Hansen
19 Phyllis Buskirk
29 Pam Wright

Basic Courses, Advanced Grade Courses & Electives— Call contact for updates & to register

Course	Date	Contact Person	Telephone	e-mail address
America's Boating Course: Battle Creek	Mar 2013	Nils Strand	269-964-6690	nils.strand@gsa.gov
America's Boating Course: Kalamazoo	Feb 2013	Wally Corder	269-365-3398	wccorder@hotmail.com
DNR Course (age 12 - 16): Kalamazoo	Feb 2013	Register via Com. Ed	269-337-0446	harold.hladky@wmich.edu
Intro. To Charting: Battle Creek	after ABC in BC	Nils Strand	269-964-6690	nils.strand@gsa.gov
Seamanship (Mon 7-9 pm/buffet 6pm)	8 weeks	Karen Strand	269-964-6690	karenstrand@sbcglobal.net
Piloting (Thursdays 6:30-8:30 pm)	TBD	George G & Diane H	269-375-4024	gunkholer1889@yahoo.com
Advanced Piloting	Self study 2012		How about you?	Could you teach AP? Call Wally
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 CP (Mon 6-8:30)	Mar 2013	Karen Strand	269-964-6690	karenstrand@sbcglobal.net
Engine Maintenance (Wed 6:30-8:30)	Winter 2013	Dan Livingston	269-781-2328	autodan@yahoo.com
Instructor Development	TBD	Lois Whitmore	269-345-4521	dogwood17@charter.net
Marine Electronics	TBD	Harold Hladky	269-274-1995	harold.hladky@wmich.edu
Operations Training (4-6 hrs)	TBD	Wally Corder	269-365-3398	wccorder@hotmail.com
Sail & Advanced Sail	TBD Spring	George Tyler, Jr.	269-671-4560	gtn8kjd@tds.net
Weather	TBD Fall	H. Hladky & G. Tyler	269-375-2586	Harold H. or George Tyler, Jr

When Wearing a Life Jacket Is Not Enough

By CDR Kim Pickens, U. S. Coast Guard Reserve
Operation BoatSmart Project Officer

US Coast Guard boating accident statistics show that drowning is the single biggest cause of death in recreational boating accidents, accounting for more than 70% of boating deaths. The majority of these drownings were preceded by unexpected entry into the water, which means the victim had no time to grab a life jacket. Our data also show that over 80% of drowning victims were NOT wearing life jackets when found. We know from other data that most of those victims could have been saved had they been wearing a life jacket before the mishap occurred. What happened to the other 20%, the ones who were wearing life jackets, but drowned anyway? Why did they drown?

There are actually several reasons why persons wearing life jackets occasionally drown - the boater is unable to free him- or herself from some type of entrapment, is unconscious or otherwise unable to keep his/her face out of the water, or eventually drowns from numerous mouth immersions over a prolonged period of time.

A significant number of these drowning victims were paddlers, such as canoeists and kayakers. Canoeists and, even more so, kayakers, actually have a pretty good PFD wear rate, at least compared with most other boating populations. However, paddlers also have a few things that work against them if they should have a mishap. Paddlers tend to boat in remote areas, far from rescue resources or help from passersby. They frequently paddle alone or with only one other person, and the vessels they use are by design relatively unstable and prone to frequent capsizing (same for boats under 21'). Paddlers are particularly at risk for a dangerous situation called entrapment.

Entrapment occurs when the vessel or the boater becomes snagged on rocks or debris at some hazardous point, then goes under due to the current or action of the water, and the boater is either unable to escape the craft or unable to escape the hydraulic pressures on him or her.

Other causes of drowning while wearing life jackets generally involve some sort of injury or impairment that, by itself, doesn't kill the boater, but is severe enough to prevent the boater from keeping their face out of the water or prevent what we call "mouth immersions" from restricting the victim's airway over time.

A person who gets hit in the head by some object on land may fall to the ground unconscious. When that person wakes up, he or she can then seek medical attention. If that same person gets hit the same way and lands in the water instead, it's a very different story. Wearing a PFD that turns the unconscious victim face up is one way to avoid that problem, and, unfortunately, most of the more comfortable PFDs - Type III or special use Type V PFDs - will not turn an unconscious victim face up, at least not consistently. What most such PFDs will do



Type II



Type V

(except manually-activated inflatables) is bring the person, whether unconscious or not, back up to the surface, which enables those nearby to quickly bring the victim to safety. Unfortunately, it sometimes happens that no one is nearby to help the unconscious victim, and the end result is drowning.

I mentioned mouth immersions earlier. Once a boater is in the water, waves continuously splashing over the victim's mouth cause a small amount of water to be ingested, some of which may enter the lungs. The more forcefully and completely the waves cover the mouth and nose, the more water is ingested. There may be injuries or circumstances that make it difficult for a boater, especially over time, to prevent mouth immersions even while wearing a PFD.

We know that the greatest cause of death among boaters is drowning due to unexpected entry into the water. And since you as a boater don't know when that entry might happen, the time you need to have your jacket on is before you ever get on the boat!

We also know that boaters in general HATE wearing life jackets, because they know how hot and uncomfortable those stupid PFDs are! Is that what you think, too? Things have changed in the last ten years! If you haven't done so already, you really need to take a look at "today's" life jackets. Many of the styles available today are so attractive, practical, and really comfortable, that you may be very pleasantly surprised! You may have to go to a specialty store or shop online to find one that even you could be coaxed into wearing, but they are available, many at reasonable prices.

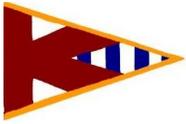


Type III inflatable

Once you find one that you'll wear, it's also extremely important that you keep it securely fastened while you have it on. Otherwise, the scenario we frequently see in fatality reports goes something like this: the victim has a life jacket on but not secured; the victim falls into the water; the victim's body goes under the water while the jacket remains on the surface, and the jacket immediately slips off or separates from the victim, and the victim drowns. Avoid an untimely separation between your life jacket and YOU: make sure you're securely zippered, buckled or otherwise strapped into that thing!

Just remember, it's not the life jacket that saves lives; it's you and me wearing them that saves lives! Boat smart from the start - WEAR your life jacket!



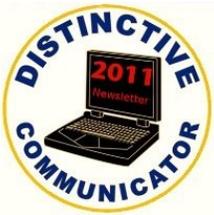


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Boating is fun... We'll show you how!



2012 KSPS Bridge Officers

(please note new phone # for SEO and email for secretary)

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Executive Officer	Lt/C Dan Livingston, P	269-781-2328 (home)	autodan@yahoo.com
Educational Officer	Lt/C Wally Corder, P	269-365-3398 (cell)	wccorder@hotmail.com
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Ron Gustafson, P	269-567-0452 (cell)	ronaldga@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	P/C Nils Strand, AP	269-964-6690 (home)	nils.strand@gsa.gov
Secretary	P/C Lois Whitmore, SN	269-345-4521 (home)	dogwood17@charter.net

Seminar on Sail Trim and Rig Tuning

In one afternoon learn:

Sail Terminology, Rigging Terminology, Trimming Tools & Tips,
Wind Flow on Sails, Sail Twist & Tensioning and more!

Where: **South Haven Municipal Marina - Southside**

345 Water St (Take Phoenix Rd to Water St)

When: Sunday June 3 / Time: 1-4 pm

Seminar is limited to first 10 who register. The deadline has passed, so check with Wally to see if there are any seats open.
(269) 365-3398 or wccorder@hotmail.com

\$16 for members/ \$25 for nonmembers. Make check payable to Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

