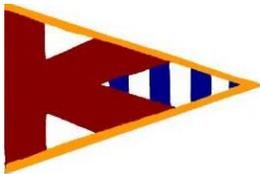


The Pilot

Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



Inside this Issue

Commander's Message 1

Calendar: Events 2

KSPS Classes / Seminars 2

Birthdays 2

Preparing for Spring 3

2014 KSPS Bridge Officers 4

Enough snow already 4

www.ksp-susps.org

In *Things I learned After it Was Too Late*, Charlie Brown makes a wise observation. "Summers always fly....winters walk!" This year, Old Man Winter not only sauntered by, but also made us uncomfortably familiar with his cronies, Arctic Clipper and Polar Vortex.

Gardeners and boaters share a common fate this time of year; the objects of our affections are held prisoner by cold and ice. Gardeners can retreat to their seed catalogs, and we to our boat accessories catalogs, but boaters have something even better to relieve separation anxiety; boat shows! Our next two Executive Committee meetings will feature video reports on *Chicago's Strictly Sail*, and the *Grand Rapids Boat Show*.



**KSPS Commander
Jim Johnston**



Even if you are not on the Executive Committee, you are cordially invited to join us as we enjoy a good meal, conduct a little squadron business, and view what's new and nifty in the boating world.

Another way to beat the winter doldrums is to take a boating course. You are not too late to sign up for one presented locally by KSPS, or go online for an offering at USPS.org. The boater who begins a new boating season with exactly the same knowledge and skills left over from the previous season isn't a smart boater.

Seamanship, the first advanced grade class, builds on the knowledge in ABC. Seamanship begins Tuesday 18 March and runs for 9 weeks.

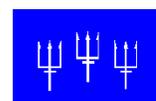
For those wanting less time in the classroom, we will be offering Marlinspike - a two to three hour seminar on knots, bends and hitches.

Another sure sign that winter is on the wane is the District 9 Spring Conference. The theme is "Dreams Can Come True". District asks - What dreams does your squadron have that can come true? Let us know at your hospitality room as USPS celebrates our 100th Anniversary!"

Mark your calendars to attend the hospitality night on Friday, April 4. Perhaps form a car pool and join us in Holland as District 9 squadrons open their hospitality rooms for some fun, good food, and lively conversation. Rub elbows with fellow boaters and enjoy a wide variety of tasty food and treats.

Of course you are also invited to attend the sessions on Saturday. We'll keep you informed as general interest programs are announced for the Saturday seminars and entertainment.

Spring really is coming; be ready!



Jim Johnston
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. RSVP not needed at Brewsters, Gull Lake View or Moonraker. Questions: call Lyn (269) 731-5601 or Jim 375-8441

~~~~~  
Check out classes starting March 3, 20 and Apr 15 —>  
~~~~~

March 11: Executive Committee
Highlights from Chicago Strictly Sail
Brewster's - Portage

~~~~~  
14 March Deadline for Holland Doubletree Hotel  
1-800-222-8733. Please mention group code USP.

After 14 March rooms go from \$89 to \$129

**Apr 4-5 District 9 Spring Conference**

Holland Doubletree, MI

conference registration form at [www.D9.org](http://www.D9.org)

Friday night Hospitality Fun / Saturday AM Seminars

Sat Lunch, business mtg, Evening dinner + entertainment

~~~~~  
April 8: Michael LeButt, SN
from Tip-of-the-Mitt presents
Great Lakes Role in WWII
Moonraker West - Battle Creek

~~~~~  
May 13: Cheryl Warren presents  
**Cruising Coastal Norway & Stunning Fjords**

Gull Lake View Golf Resort - M-89 and 38th St

~~~~~  
Saturday May 17 9am—noon
Portage Family Fish Fair

Nat'l Wear It PFD Photo event

Bring your PFD & any extras you may have

Start of Safe Boating Week / Ramona Park, Portage

~~~~~  
Tues June 10 / 6:30 social time, 7 dinner Executive Com-  
mittee Meeting - Gull Lake View Golf Club

~~~~~  
Sat and Sun June 21-22SS Badger Ferry Trip
from Ludington MI to Manitowoc WI (depart 800)
Overnight in Wisc. (depart 1300 Sun.) SSBadger.com

~~~~~  
Sat June 28 Free Vessel Safety Checks

## Spotlight on Education

Tell your friends, neighbors, relatives and slip mates

Contact Wally Corder (269) 365-3398 We need to order course materials at least 2 weeks before class. For more detailed course content description visit our website at <http://www.ksps-usps.org>

**Seamanship** (the first advanced grade class after ABC)  
Begins Tuesday **15 April** 9 weeks.

Contact: Karen (269) 964-6690

**America's Boating Course 2014**

Take it as a refresher or encourage relatives, friends, and slip-mates to take it. Materials \$35, additional family sharing materials only \$5 more.

**ABC - Kalamazoo - Mondays - Mar 3 - 31 2014**

Contact: Wally (269) 365-3398 (5 weeks)

Time 6-8 pm. At Wally's home

**Boating Safety for Youth - Thursdays - Mar 3 - 31 2014**

Contact: Harold (269) 274-1995 Offered at the same time & location as adult ABC class in Kalamazoo, but in a separate classroom. Cost: \$5 Register at (269) 337-0446

**ABC - Battle Creek 2014 - Mar 20 to Apr 24 (5 weeks)**

Contact: Nils or Karen (269) 964-6690

Time 7-9 pm. Lakeview Middle School.

**Marine Electronics 101** offered fall 2014—if there are at least 5 students. ME 101: Boat Electrical Systems, ME 102: Marine Radio Communications, and ME 103: Marine Electronics for Navigation.

9 weeks each. Contact: Gary or Lyn Bleyer 731-5601

**The best exercise for your heart is to  
lift someone else's spirit, whenever you can.**

## Birthdays

### March Birthdays

- 02 Bob Landeros
- 03 Lyndell Bleyer
- 03 Jerilyn Johnston
- 03 Richard Brown
- 07 Beth Walter
- 13 Bob Boyce
- 22 Don DeLong
- 26 Bill Soule
- 29 Jeanette Brown



### April Birthdays

- 1 Ron Voelker
- 3 Glenn Hahn
- 3 Dan Seng
- 4 Kathy Rose
- 6 Megan LaBerteaux
- 9 Jim White
- 29 Harriette Griffith

## Preparing for Spring

The amount of ice on the Great Lakes and inland lakes will impact boating this season. It will take longer for the lake water to warm. While the weather might have us out on our boats with air temps in the 60's and 70's, it may be well into late June or early July before the Great Lakes warm to comfortable and safe degrees. A sudden fall overboard or a capsizing may put the boater at risk for hypothermia. For those in smaller vessels, like canoes, kayaks and inflatables, a person's body heat will be conducted away by the much colder water. So the boater in spring and early summer should dress for the total environment – air and water. You'll get some heat from the sun, but as we all know, send in the clouds and you'll feel the chill.

It is suggested that each person have a personal survival kit, small enough to be tucked in waterproof pouches inside your life jacket and pockets. There should also be a larger take away bag (also waterproof) that has a greater assortment of emergency gear – just in case you have to abandon ship or shelter-in-place.

Considering that we have several weeks of winter left, and the fact that multi-vehicle pile-ups from ice, white-outs and fog, have kept people trapped in their cars for 3 to 6 hours, you might want an emergency bag for your vehicle too. (click on blue links for details)

For boaters, the following is suggested by [Alaska Marine Safety Education](#) - *Small Boat Safety and Survival SHELTER*

- A. Anything that insulates and protects you from environment ([Large garbage bags](#), Space blankets)
- B. Clothes are primary shelter—dress for outside, not inside environment. Wool is better than cotton.
- C. Stay with boat (climb up on overturned boat)
- D. Personal flotation devices (PFDs) are essential shelter both in the boat and water
- E. Life rafts or other emergency floating apparatus provide good shelter
- F. Review [Cold Water Safety and Survival Tips](#) for more information on life rafts and [in-water survival](#)

### SIGNALS

- A. Good float plan given to the right person may be your best signal
- B. Multiple signals increase your likelihood of rescue
- C. All personnel, especially those steering, should know proper radio distress procedures
- D. An effective signal must attract attention and convey need for help. Typical signaling devices include:  
VHF Radio  
Whistle  
Surveyors or caution flagging tape

Signal mirror, CD, or Foil  
Strobe signal, Orange flag  
Small flares, Chemical lights  
Paper and short pencil

### FIRE (for warmth, cooking and signaling)

Matches—"strike anywhere" or "life boat survival" type  
Candles

[9 volt](#) battery + steel wool can be used to [start a fire](#).

Magnesium or other commercial fire starter.

### OTHER (Don't eat, unless you have water)

Water and purification tablets  
Energy bars, nuts, dried fruit, jerky, bouillon cubes  
Prescription medications  
Tampons/pads (use to stop bleeding from a wound)  
Bug repellent, Sunscreen  
Spare glasses or disposable contacts  
Twine, cordage or extra line  
Knife and Folding saw or Multi-purpose tool  
Ziploc™ storage bags

**DISASTER SUPPLIES** According to the **American Red Cross**, you should have the following to ride out a disaster at home or to take if you have to evacuate.

Water—one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)

Food—non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)

Manual can opener

Flashlight and Extra batteries

Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)

First aid kit – [Anatomy of a First Aid Kit](#)

Medications (7-day supply) and medical items

Multi-purpose tool

Sanitation and personal hygiene items

Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)

Cell phone with chargers

Family and emergency contact information

Back up computer files on a USB drive

Extra cash, Extra set of car keys and house keys

Emergency blanket

Map(s) of the area

Special Needs - Consider the needs of all family members and add supplies to your kit. Suggested items to help meet additional needs are:

Medical supplies (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, etc)

Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)

Games and activities for children

Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)

Two-way radios



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

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

bleyer@wmich.edu

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

## 2014 KSPS Bridge Officers (please note email for treasurer, put Attn Nils in subject line)

|                               |                          |                          |                           |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Commander</b>              | Cdr James W. Johnston, P | 269-375-8441 (home)      | jimwj@hotmail.com         |
| <b>Educational Officer</b>    | Lt/C Wally Corder, P     | 269-365-3398 (cell)      | wccorder@hotmail.com      |
| <b>Administrative Officer</b> | Lt/C E-J Ohler           | 269-343-2567 W /760-5862 | ej@wilsonbrinker.com      |
| <b>Treasurer</b>              | P/C Nils Strand, AP      | 269-964-6690 (home)      | karenstrand@sbcglobal.net |
| <b>Secretary</b>              | P/C Karen Strand, AP     | 269-964-6690 (home)      | karenstrand@sbcglobal.net |

### Enough already, I'm ready for Spring.



**OK, Show of hands...  
Who's tired of snow?**

With the snowfall on 17 February, Kalamazoo surpassed 94 inches and Grand Rapids 100 inches.

I tried unsuccessfully to find the original creators of these two takes on snow; both to get permission to reprint and to give credit for their talented imaginations. Notice the Michigan mittens? Only four weeks until the 1st day of spring.

