

The Pilot



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Serving Southwest Michigan

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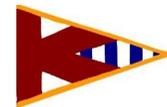
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Photo Below by Lyn Bleyer
Gull Creek, 37th St, Richland



Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

a unit of the **United States Power Squadrons®**



**KSPS Commander
Jim Johnston**

Believe me, I'm not fooled! We are now witnessing a season change filled with the beauty that makes Michigan famous. Leaves are turning color and the halcyon days of autumn provide us the pleasant weather days we wished for all summer especially for the Huron River Chain of Lakes weekend. In my view, all this is meant to distract us from the painful fact that this year's boating season is drawing to a close. Jerilyn and I have said our summer good-byes to our South Haven friends, cleaned out the boats and prepped them for their final seasonal journey to winter storage. Painful! It's totally amazing that almost all the boats in the marina and up and down the Black River will undergo the same process within the next few weeks. A number

of slips around us are already empty. So now we turn to the wonderful distractions that autumn brings us, as well as begin planning for next year.

The next important squadron event is the D9 Fall Conference on October 16 and 17 in Auburn Hills. Because of an unavoidable event with the Johnston family, it appears our only conference representatives attending this time will be Karen Strand, Lyn and Gary Bleyer, who must assume the whole burden of KSPS' role with the Hospitality Room and conference meetings. Please give them your warm regards when you see them, and know that they are shouldering a considerable responsibility for the squadron. Our district conferences are extremely important because they provide the communications link between district, local squadrons and national,

as well as give us important information and ideas for local squadron success. Many thanks, There's still time to change your mind and attend the conference. The hotel room deadline has passed, but the meals deadline is 9 Oct. The conference is free, meals are optional but fun and very social.

Thank you for your merit mark submissions. If you haven't turned in your hours yet, please send them in right away. The committee is in the process of preparing this year's report to district and national, as the October deadline fast approaches.

It's time to begin planning our classes and speaker program for next year. Are there classes you wish to take during these non-boating months? Are there some good speakers who our group would enjoy? Let me know. Planning is beginning.

Our recent ABC grad and new member, Sandy Pyne and her friend, Mike Sprick have reached Grafton, Missouri on their way down the Illinois River part of the Great Loop! She reports that all has gone well and she has even had time to enjoy the landscape and beauty around her.

Keep them in your thoughts as they continue toward the **Tenn-Tom** or Tennessee-Tombigby waterway.

Join us for our next meeting on October 13 at Brewsters. Enjoy some good food and fellowship as we plan the year ahead. Let's make it happen.



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. Questions: Lyn (269) 731-5601 or Cdr Jim 375-8441

KSPS Executive Committee Meeting
 Tuesday 14 Oct
 Social Time: 6:30, Dinner 7, Meeting 8
 Location: Brewsters (near Kal. airport)
 5315 Portage Rd, Kalamazoo
 left at first light south of I-94

District 9 2015 Fall Conference
 Marriott at Centerpoint - Auburn Hills
 October 16-17 *Friday Nite Theme: Halloween*
Complimentary food, beverages and camaraderie with
USPS members.

Saturday Morning Seminars:
 Social Media, Membership/Marketing,
 Boating Activities 2016,
 Detroit Mail Boat—the J.W.Wescott,
 Michigan Sea Grant for a sustainable Great Lakes,
 US Coast Guard - Sector Detroit

D9 Luncheon & Business Meeting
 Sat. Evening Dinner and Dance

details on page 4 and at <http://d9-usps.org/>

Daylight Savings Time ends November 1

KSPS General Meeting
 Tuesday 10 Nov

Social Time: 6:30, Dinner 7, Meeting 8
 Presentation: Hansens and Mills
 Scotland

Location: Moonraker - Battle Creek
 544 W Columbia Ave, between La Vista and Capital

Holiday Party at Martell's

Friday 4 December 2015
 Mark your calendar. Details later.

KSPS Executive Committee Meeting
 Tuesday 8 Dec - 6:30 / Brewster's

Change of Watch at the Beacon Club
 Tuesday 12 January 2016
 Mark your calendar. Details later.

Opportunities

HELP WANTED - Every Fall we ask members to take on squadron duties by volunteering to take a position at next January's Change of Watch or volunteer for any of the many non-elected committees. KSPS elects officers to guide and lead the squadron. We need members like you to step up and take a turn. Here are the positions to be filled in 2016. These are very abbreviated descriptions, for more details consult Chapter 5 of the USPS Operations Manual.

www.usps.org/php/kits/documents/201502091259230.scdr2015A.pdf

Squadron Commander: If you've never served as commander or only served 1 or 2 years, consider taking the helm. You will have the support and guidance of past commanders, a bridge and the executive committee.

Administrative Officer AO finds speakers, presenters and venues. Oversees membership and retention.

Education Officer SEO Oversees instruction and course chairpersons. Coordinates educ. supply & test ordering.

Secretary: Takes minutes at meetings, notifies members of meetings and upcoming events.

Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer: keeps track of squadron funds, writes checks for approved expenses, reports on status of squadron income and expenses.

Executive Committee: Six elected officers plus the Bridge handle the business of the squadron. The Executive Committee has general charge of the policy, management and finances of the squadron. We also need members to teach class and serve on committees.

Non-elected volunteer and committee positions are listed a few pages inside the most recent roster. If interested in serving or you want more details, call Gary or Lyn Bleyer 731-5601 or Harold Hladky 274-1995

The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself.

Lt/C Frank Muylaert, SN - Dearborn Sail & Power

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday not listed? Please let Lyn know.

October Birthdays

- 1 Robert Sheppard
- 3 Robyn Levene
- 4 Paul Fox
- 4 Dan Livingston
- 11 Greta Douglass
- 21 Jack & Jeremy Luciani
- 28 Doug Mathewson
- 30 Craig Norrod
- 31 Harold Hladky



November Birthdays

- 1 Angie Anderson
- 5 Chris Lawler
- 7 Will Rayner
- 15 Jerry Hendrickson
- 16 Tique Crespo
- 18 Madeline Rayner
- 22 Linda McTague

Winterizing Tips

Fall is in the air and in a few weeks the mercury will drop below freezing. Make sure you've properly prepared your vessel.

Even if you have someone else winterize your boat, be sure to ask what their winterization service includes, then take care of what they don't. This usually includes cabin interior and personal items. Lash down items that could tip, lay them on the floor or take them home. Remove food. Run antifreeze through refrigeration, deck wash-down pump, etc., per owner's manual. Take home or stand / prop-up seat cushions to permit maximum air flow. Same for bunk pads and mattresses. Use a product like Damp-Rid to absorb excess moisture (found at department stores like Meijer, Menards, Walmart, etc.)

Empty shower sumps and places where water collects: Don't expect the pump to leave the shower sump dry. You will need to release the sump and pour it empty or sponge the sump dry.

Empty propane lines: Light a burner on the galley stove and any other gas appliances – then turn off the manual valve on the propane tank(s). When the burner goes out, close it and flip the solenoid switch to off.

All flammables: spare cooking fuels, charcoal, paints, thinners, and varnish—should be stored ashore, preferably in a tool shed away from the house. All are fire hazards. Portable propane canisters should never be stored below on a boat, even during the season, as the canisters can rust and leak. Leave at least one fully charged fire extinguisher in clear sight.

There are two good resources available as free downloads from the Boat U.S. website:

<http://www.boatus.com/seaworthy/winter/>

One is a 16 page booklet that details winterizing procedures from the editors of Seaworthy, and the other is the Boat U.S. Winterizing Checklist.

[Winterizing Your Boat](#)
[Storing Your Boat For The Winter](#)
[Winter Boat Storage Ashore](#)
[To Cover Or Not To Cover](#)

[Winterizing Checklist](#)
[Winterizing Engines And Drives](#)
[Winterizing Boat Plumbing](#)
[Electric Heaters—Don't use them.](#)

Merit Marks and More

Merit Marks are a way of thanking volunteers who contribute time and services to the squadron. We rely on you to provide a brief description of what you did, including the number of hours and approximate dates.

If you have volunteered at squadron or district events, served as an officer, served on committees, planned and/or worked an event, taught classes, or mentored; please list your activities and hours and get that information to Lyn Bleyer ASAP. Example: taught one night of ABC class, plus prep total 5 hours - March 10, 2015 at Portage High.

Merit Marks due Now !! Send your hours no later than October 5 to Lyn Bleyer, 6553 N 37th St, Richland 49083 or Bleyer@wmich.edu

Boat Handling – Backing In

Ever wish you could back into your slip? This article in Heartland Boating will help you do just that. Practical tips for backing large and medium cruisers into your slip. www.heartlandboating-digital.com/heartlandboating/august_2015?pg=20#pg20

If you cut and paste, take the space out between [digital.com/ heartlandboating/august_ . . .](http://www.heartlandboating-digital.com/heartlandboating/august_...)

Avoid Boating Tragedies

With 1.2 million, Michigan ranks third in nation for number of registered boats. The state is behind Florida and Minnesota and ahead of California and Wisconsin. Registered boats often exclude people-powered vessels such as kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, etc.

The National Association of Boating Law Administrators offers tips to be safer on the water.

1. Take a boating safety course. Where instruction was known, only 12 percent of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had earned a nationally approved boating safety education certificate.

2. Wear a life jacket. Where cause of death was known, 78 percent of fatal boating accident victims had drowned. Of those drowning victims with reported life jacket usage, 84 percent were not wearing a PFD.

3. Don't consume alcohol before or while boating. "When you add alcohol to boating, your senses and judgment can be seriously affected. Your reflexes, balance, coordination and alertness will deteriorate, along with your ability to deal with speed, other boats and threatening weather.



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Come for the Boating Education ...
Stay for the Friends SM



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2015 Bridge Officers - Kalamazoo Sail & Power Squadron

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Treasurer	Lt/C Jerilyn Johnston	269-375-8441 (home)	ATreasJerilyn@outlook.com
Secretary	P/C Karen Strand, AP	269-964-6690 (home)	swegian63@gmail.com
Assistant Secretary	P/C Lyn Bleyer, P	269-731-5601 (home)	bleyer@wmich.edu

Come for the Education . . .

Stay for the friends you'll make in class. We offer ABC in March/April. Late April or May we would like to offer Seamanship for our Sea Scouts and others. Are there classes you would like to take? If so please email or call Harold our Education Officer. Class descriptions on our website www.kspusps.org/Education/MemberCourses.html

On - line seminars are available from our national website <http://www.usps.org/edonline/> and you can preview classes before signing up. A few topics are Weather for Boaters, All About Marine Radios, and Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes. Treat your family and friends to the Partner in Command course, which means all of your crew will be safer on the water next year. The cost of an on-line course is \$24.95, but members of the United States Power Squadrons get a 20% discount. Have ID # ready.

Fall District Conference in Pontiac

The United States Power Squadrons - District 9 - Fall Conference is Friday and Saturday 16 - 17 October 2015. The Fall theme for the Friday night hospitality rooms is Halloween. The registration form for meals is at the D9 website, as well as information about hotel – The Marriott at Center Point in Auburn Hills. 248-253-9800

The Conference and Saturday morning seminars are free. Optional meals include a \$24 luncheon and/or \$53 dinner, both on Saturday. The Friday night hospitality progressive buffet is free. Meal RSVP deadline is 9 Oct. Conference Registration Form: <http://d9-usps.org>
Group rate hotel rooms were \$99 per night.
Hotel: <http://tinyurl.com/D9conference-F2015>