

# The Cornfield Sailor

## Commander's Message

Cdr. Paul Shepherd, AP



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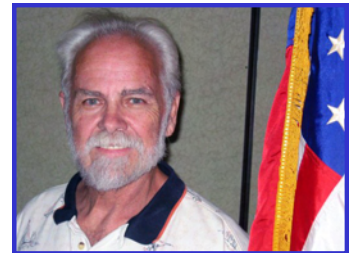
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We are well into this year's boating season. I hope everyone has their boat ship shape and is able to get out and enjoy the water. The USPS slogan this year is "Boating is Fun, We'll Show You How." Let's show our fellow boaters the safe way to have Fun Boating.

At the annual meeting in Dallas, the emphasis was on membership; USPS has been losing an average of 4% of its Membership since 2000. We all can do our part to turn this around with the "Power of One," one-on-one contact at the boat ramp, dock or marina. I think the Hoosier Squadron is working in the right direction. We have good education programs, boat show exhibits, and a vessel safety check program.

We need volunteers to become vessel safety check examiners; you can contact me at paul-shepherd21@aol.com or 317-590-7986 if you are interested

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new members and members that transferred from the Salt Creek Squadron to the Hoosier Sail & Power Squadron, "Welcome aboard." Just a reminder of the social events coming up, New Members Summer Social: 14-June, Mariners Steak Fry: 9-Oct, HSPS Christmas Gala: 6-Dec, Founders Day: 2-Feb. We are hosting the District 24 Fall Council and Conference this year at Clifty Falls State Park "Fall Retreat" 14-16 November; don't forget to make your



reservation. You can contact P/D/C Damon C. Davis, AP & Kay at 317-841-7146 for more information.

I hope to see you at one of the Squadron Membership & Executive Committee Meetings 7-July, 4-August, 8-September, location: MCL Cafeteria, 2370 W. 86<sup>th</sup> St Indianapolis. This is your Squadron; make it work for you; "get involved." See you at the meeting.

## WHAT A WAY TO CELEBRATE A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Kathleen Miller at the Helm

Kathleen and Lewis Miller wanted a memorable celebration of their wedding anniversary this year. So they signed up for a week-long coastal cruising

class leaving out of Red Hook, St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands. Their classroom was a 40 foot Island Packet named Island Retreat. On Saturday afternoon, April 26 (their anniversary date), they met their instructor, Captain Gary. Also aboard were two other students, Glen "Ironman" from Austin, Texas, and Christine from Philadelphia.

After introductions, the class worked on a provisioning list for the week. While Captain Gary went to the supermarket to shop, the class was left with a homework assignment. They

were to conduct a treasure hunt to find every item on a list left by Captain Gary. Life preservers, boat hooks, and the engine dip stick were the easy ones. But where was the emergency tiller? Spare engine belts, first aid kit, and tools were located. But where was the emergency tiller? Lines, batteries, and the radio were quickly discovered. But where was the emergency tiller?

Captain Gary returned and provisions were stowed. Class continued until dinner at the nearby Current Cut - a new  
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### Bridge Officers

Paul Shepherd, AP  
Commander

Lewis R. Miller  
Executive Officer

George Herrington, N  
Education Officer

Russell Wahlers, P  
Assistant Education Officer

Ray Weigand, JN  
Administration Officer

Kathleen Miller  
Secretary

Catherine Hess  
Treasurer

## Hoosier Sail & Power Squadron Celebrates New Member Summer

Members of the Hoosier Sail & Power Squadron celebrated with new members with a cookout at Eagle Creek Sailing Club.

Beautiful weather complimented the occasion. Lou Chenette manned the Grill and members brought side dishes. Refreshments were available for purchase.

After everyone satisfied their appetite, most members joined in a lively tournament of

“Ladderball.”

A silent auction followed with donated nautical items being snapped up by eager bidders.

Conversation and retelling of favorite nautical stories rounded out very enjoyable afternoon.



Millie Walsh Playing Ladderball



### Big Lake Dynamics

Ray Weigand



Barb and I do our boating on Lake Michigan as we have since 1984. Our Tiara 35 Express, Conundrum, is berthed at Anchorage Marina on the north side of Lake Macatawa in Holland, MI. We stayed on Conundrum for about ten days over the recent Memorial Day weekend. When the nights got down to the 40s and some of the days were only in the 50s, I thought a bit about global warming (or lack thereof on those nights). Not only was the weather pattern cool and rainy at times, the wind was coming off Lake Michigan which had a water temperature of 48 degrees. A lake that is 118 miles wide by 307 miles long and up to 925 feet deep holds 1180 cubic miles of cold water. The water resides in the lake for an average of 99 years so there is not much turnover. It provides 22,300 square miles of playground for boaters like us.

With all the concern over global warming, consider that during the ice age from about 2.4 million to 10,000 years ago, glaciers moved over and then melted four times in the area of the Great Lakes. As recently as 15,000 years ago, the Wisconsin Glaciation covered much of Wisconsin and Michigan with a glacier. Chicago was thought to

have ice a mile thick over the area then. About 10,000 years ago, the earth warmed and the glaciers retreated leaving the Great Lakes. Since recorded temperatures only go back a couple of hundred years, our present knowledge is limited compared to the big picture of temperature over millions of years. Also consider that 10,000 years ago, the cause of the warming earth could not be ascribed to vehicles, power plants, etc. spewing forth CO2. So is global warming due to humans? In part, yes, we add to some of the warming. But scientific evidence suggests that even higher temperatures have happened before without human involvement. It is difficult to know whether our contribution to global warming is as insignificant as waves generated by a stone thrown into a lake which already has six foot waves or if our contribution is more significant. It may be that our contribution is small compared to natural earth cycles of heating and cooling. So what does the future hold? Some think that another glaciation may happen in the future with the Great Lakes again under ice. You and I don't need to worry about it happening in our lifetime though. The cycles in the past were over tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of years. Therefore, I'll just make sure my heat pumps are working on Conundrum to heat or air condition the cabin as needed this season and seasons to come in my lifetime.



Lewis Miller  
Executive Officer

**Continued:** and welcome addition to the local dining scene. Returning to the Island Retreat, the class enjoyed the beautiful evening with a nightcap and then early to bed.

On Sunday morning, after more on-shore instruction, lines were cast off. By late morning, the class was headed for Watermelon Bay. It was a beautiful sailing day with moderate winds, few clouds, plenty of sun, and beautiful scenery. Arriving by early afternoon, a mooring ball was secured and lunch prepared. Leaving the dinghy to mark our mooring ball, the class was soon off to practice a variety of tacks. Weather conditions were excellent.

Returning to the mooring ball in late afternoon, everyone was soon taking salt water baths followed by fresh water rinsing on the swim platform. Since there were no restaurants in the area, the dinner entrée was grilled chicken using the charcoal grill on board. Everyone agreed that Chef Kathleen cooked it to perfection! Early to bed was the mantra for the rest of the week. After a full day of sun, water, wind, and sailing, those berths were a touch of paradise!

On Monday morning, the class was up early and soon on its way

to Soper's Hole, Tortola to clear British customs. Paper work and passports were in order, so we were soon back out on the open water and tacking our way east. The day was overcast and soon we ran into the first of several squalls. This gave us an opportunity to test our rain gear. The rain gear failed miserably for the students. Next time, we will be better prepared!!! At one point the wind was up to 20 knots. Sailing became impossible. We reluctantly (or maybe not too reluctantly) resorted to the engine. We arrived at Norman Island in late afternoon. Kathleen, Lewis and Christine dinged just outside the bay to explore the caves. However, it was so late in the afternoon, we decided not swim into them. But we did get to practice getting into the dinghy using a single line with a loop in the water. Everyone got safely back into the dinghy.

Dinner that evening was at Willie T's, a sunken ship that had been purchased from the insurance company by a young couple, who raised it and opened a restaurant on it. Oh well, it was good ambience for your basic bar food.

Tuesday was another great sailing day. But first, we had to take our Basic Sailing, ASA 101 exam. Did everyone pass? Join us in the next issue to learn the results. And just where is that emergency tiller?

# Dates for Upcoming Events-Local, District, National

<p><b><u>Squadron Social Events</u></b></p> <p>New Member Summer Social 14 June 2008</p> <p>Mariner's Steak Fry 09 Oct. 2008</p> <p>HSPS Holiday Gala 06 Dec. 2008</p>	<p><b>Excomm Meeting Location:</b></p> <p>MCL Cafeteria Township Line Road 2370 West 86th St Dinner 1800 Program 1830 Meeting 1900</p>	<p><b>Excomm Member's Meeting</b></p> <p>07 July 2008 04 Aug. 2008 08 Sept 2008 06 Oct. 2008 03 Nov. 2008 01 Dec. 2008 05 Jan. 2009 02 Feb. 2009 02 Mar. 2009</p>	<p>25 – 27 July 2008 D 24 Rendezvous &amp; Council Smugglers Cove. Warsaw, KY</p> <hr/> <p><b>Fall Governing Board Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center Detroit, MI 2-7 September 2008</b></p> <hr/> <p>14 – 16 Nov 2008 D 24 Fall Council &amp; Conference Clifty Falls Madison, IN HSPS</p>	<p><b>Surprise Teaching Award</b></p>  <p>Ed Spengleman presenting model ship to Lou Chenette</p>
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## District 24 Fall Council and Conference 2008 14-16 November 2008 Clifty Inn - Clifty Falls State Park

**Hoosier Sail and Power Squadron Members Welcome Aboard !!!!!**

We are on a voyage to Madison, Indiana this Fall to **HOST** the Fall Council and Conference for District 24 (our District). HSPS accepted this honor approximately one year ago. Yours truly and P/D/C Damon Davis and Kay are the Co-Chairpersons for this event. P/R/C Robert Brand is chairing the financial aspects and P/C Charlie Hamm and Nedra are assisting with table decorations and assistance (liquid refreshment) in our Hospitality Room. The Theme for our weekend is 'A Fall Retreat.'

The activities will kick-off on Friday (14 Nov) with our District 24 Hospitality Room (opening approximately 4:00 PM). The Welcoming Party Friday evening will be a picnic (prepared by the Inn). Weather permitting we will dine under a Fall Sky on the patio of the Clifty Inn. Sharon Kirk Clifton, Storyteller, will intrigue us as she portrays Abigail Gray and takes us back to the time of the Underground Railroad in Southern Indiana through her tale 'Living under the Drinking

Gourd'. Weather permitting we will also have a fire going in the fire pit to roast marshmallows and make smores, make new friends, and rekindle old friendships. Saturday will begin with our 'early morning' meetings of the Squadron Commanders and Executive Officers, and the Squadrons' Educational Officers and Assistants. The rest of the day will be entwined with our District 24 Council and Conference Meeting for all members.

For our 'Non-Members' we offer an excursion on Saturday to The Historic Stream Cliff Herb Farm located in Commisky, Indiana. Those in attendance will join new friends and old in the taking of nourishment and a tour of the Farm and its many amenities before returning to the Clifty Inn.

Late Saturday afternoon and evening, we will see all back in the District 24 Hospitality Room followed by our evening Banquet (which will be served Family Style) and program.

Sunday you can enjoy the day to travel back to home base, tour Southern Indiana, or get lost along the Banks of the mighty

Ohio River.

HSPS Members – plan on attending – Watch for your District 24 publication 'The 24<sup>th</sup> Bridge' for reservation information for meals and lodging. The District publication comes in both e-mail and snail mail format. If you would like, you can make your Clifty Inn reservations early by calling 877-925-4389. Refer to: District 24 Fall Conference Group Code #1114DC and the dates of 14-16 November 2008. Rates for guest rooms are: Riverview \$99.00 plus and Parkview \$94.00 plus. We have the majority of the Riverview guest rooms set aside for our event with some Parkview guest rooms. We also have included suites (at \$139.00 plus and \$134.00 plus) and handicap accessible guest rooms if needed. The Riverview wing of the Inn has an elevator to all floors; the Parkview wing does not have an elevator.

We are sure those attending will enjoy a great weekend of leisure, education, and USPS FUN!

Mark your calendar NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**See you in Madison.**

P/C Lou Chenette, SN was pleasantly surprised when Ed Spengleman, JN, on behalf of students in the Navigation courses, presented him with a model sailing vessel for his outstanding and very devoted efforts in teaching Celestial Navigation.

### A Message from the Indiana DNR:

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**Powerloading is the act of using your motor to load your boat onto a trailer instead of using a winch.**

**Powerloading creates a strong current that erodes and washes out the end of boat ramps. The soil or foundation under that ramp gets eaten away, causing the ramp to collapse. The damaged ramp can cause significant damage to your trailer.**

**Powerloading costs thousands of dollars in repairs to equipment and ramps each year - money better spent on creating new ramps and opportunities for boating. Avoid damaging ramps and boat trailers by winching your boat onto your trailer.**

## HOOSIER SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

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### The USS Wabash



Do you know that there was a naval ship named the USS *Wabash*, named for the Wabash River? It was a 4808-ton steam screw frigate commissioned in August 1856, she initially served as flagship of the Home Squadron, then went to the

There is currently a need for more Vessel Examiners in the Hoosier Sail and Power Squadron. The Vessel Safety Check process is one of "prevention through education, outreach and volunteer compliance" helping recreational boaters to gain a respect for the boating environment. The process for certification has been updated and is much less cumbersome than in the past. All active USPS® members, 18 years and older, are eligible to train and become qualified as Vessel Examiners (VEs).

There are three steps for becoming certified.

1. First, go to <http://www.usps.org/national/vsc/conductvsc.html>. This site contains manuals and other

Mediterranean in 1858-59. During 1861, the Civil War's first year, *Wabash* blockaded the Confeder-

## Become a Certified Vessel Examiner

information needed to study for the exam.

2. Second, go to the web site <http://safetyseal.net/usps-ve-test.asp?bhcp=1>. This site contains the online exam. You will need to enter your U.S.P.S. membership number in order to have the exam graded.

3. Third, you will need to meet with a certified examiner who will observe your skills in vessel safety checking. Bill McDonald, past commander of the Hoosier Sail and Power Squadron, is willing to do these observations and certify you.

Please contact Executive Officer Lewis Miller [lewisrmiller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lewisrmiller@sbcglobal.net) if you would like to become a Vessel Examiner. Lewis will then

make arrangements with Bill for all individuals who have taken the exam to meet with Bill for the observation portion of the certification.

The primary website for Vessel Safety Checks is <http://www.usps.org/national/vsc/>. Use this website to find additional information about this valuable program. The VSC Program helps to achieve voluntary compliance with federal and state recreational boating safety laws, particularly with regard to the carriage of safety equipment while raising boater awareness about safety and environmental issues through voluntary contact by a Vessel Examiner (VE). A VSC decal is issued when a vessel has been inspected and met all required elements listed..

acy's Atlantic Coast and participated in the captures of Hatteras Inlet, North Carolina, and Port Royal,

South Carolina. She was the flagship of the South Atlantic Blockade.

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[www.usps.org/localusps/hoosier](http://www.usps.org/localusps/hoosier)

