



VIEWPOINTS

a publication of the

SABLE POINT SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

a unit of UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
Sail & Power Boating

VOLUME XII ISSUE 1

MAY 2013



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Charles VanAmeyden, SN

Ahoy All!

The boating season is off to a slow start this year due to the weather. However, we will be kick-starting our squadron activities by celebrating Safe Boating Week (May 18-24) with an ice cream social at Harbor View Marina on Saturday, 1 June, from 1400-1600 (2:00 - 4:00 p.m.). Ludington Mayor John Henderson is again signing a proclamation declaring 18 May 2013, the first day of Safe Boating Week, as United States Power Squadrons Day.

During the ice cream social, our examiners will be available to perform Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) or participants may sign up to have their boat checked at a later date. A new safety issue this year are fire extinguishers now on the market which indicate they are Coast Guard approved but are actually NOT Coast Guard approved. Our examiners can identify these non-approved fire extinguishers.

We held our first organizational meeting on Thursday, 18 April, at the House of Flavors in Ludington. Squadron activities for this summer

were scheduled. Our Change of Watch at the Ludington Yacht Club will be on Wednesday, 12 June, with social time at 1700 (5:00 p.m.) and dinner at 1800 (6:00 p.m.). The squadron will provide the main course and members are to bring a dish to pass. We still need to fill our Bridge Executive Officer position; we have good and qualified people, but we need you to step up and say YES!

This year the Ludington Harbor Festival runs from 28 June-7 July and will feature the "Queens Cup Race" with approximately 150 boats arriving in Ludington on 29 June. This is a big event, and I'm sure the Ludington Yacht Club hosting this race could use our help. The race course runs 47° True from Milwaukee to Ludington; the finish line is about one mile south of the Ludington South Breakwater Pier.

Our last big event for the year will be a Northern Lighthouse Rendezvous. The western lighthouse tour (3 1/2 hrs.) is scheduled for Wednesday, 11 September, and the eastern lighthouse tour (4 hrs.) on 12 September.

We can all look forward to another enjoyable boating season and squadron activities.

Plan to Participate!

BOATING SAFETY

P/C Phyllis Thompson, SN

A new boating season is starting. How can you enjoy a safe summer of boating? Before putting your boat into the water, make a safety checklist. A complete safety inspection of the hull, the engine, and other systems is the first step to a trouble-free summer of boating.

- Inspect the hull completely—above and below the water line. Are there any dents which could cause concern, any holes which are easily overlooked? Check for damage from having struck floating or fixed objects and for any general deterioration from age.
- Inspect the condition of the through-hull fittings and their seacocks and fastenings which are susceptible to damage. Inspect all underwater fittings such as shafts, propellers, rudders, struts, stuffing boxes, and metal skegs. Stuffing boxes should be repacked as often as necessary to keep them from leaking.
- Hoses and loose clamps should be inspected and replaced, if necessary. Inspect props for dings, pitting, and distortion which can create excessive vibration. Move the rudder. If it is loose, it must be corrected. Make sure the engine intake sea strainer is free of corrosion and is properly secured.
- Check fuel tanks, fuel pumps and filters for leaks. Clean the fuel filters. Clean and tighten electrical connections, especially both ends of battery cables. Inspect and refill or replace fire extinguishers, if necessary.
- If you have a sailboat, inspect the fittings for rust and cracks. Check wire halyards and running backstays for any indications that the standing rigging is near the end of its life. Spreaders should bisect the shrouds at equal angles. Chain plates mounted through the deck should be recaulked, if necessary. Leaks can cause problems.

You will enjoy a carefree boating season, if you are prepared. Check your life preservers to make sure they are in good condition with no tears or weak straps. The main causes of boating injuries and fatalities is capsizing and falling overboard, so life preservers should be worn by everyone on board. For a life preserver to work, it must fit properly. If it is too loose or too big, the buoyancy of the jacket will push it up over your face. If the preserver is too small, it does not have enough buoyancy to keep you afloat.

Practice putting on your life preserver. You will discover that time is required to put it on properly. It takes only a split second to fall or be thrown overboard. Try to get into your life preserver while in the water. You will see that the preserver floats, it is not easy to push it down, and it is very difficult to put on once you are in the water.



When you maintain your boat and keep your equipment in top condition, you should enjoy a trouble-free summer of boating.

MACKINAW CITY LIGHTHOUSE VIEWING CRUISES

Sable Point Sail & Power Squadron invites you to join us for a mini-Northern Squadron Rendezvous at Mackinaw City. The dates are: Wednesday, 11 September 2013, for the extended west 3 1/2-hour cruise and Thursday, 12 September 2013, for the extended east 4-hour cruise. The estimated cost for the cruises and two-night lodging (at America's Best Value Inn) is \$376 per couple. Breakfasts are included, but not travel, food, and beverages.

Wednesday night we could have dinner at Audie's, a nice restaurant.

Accommodations will be at the same motel so we can visit with each other.

Individual prices are:

Wednesday, 3 1/2-hr cruise—\$61/person

Thursday, 4-hr cruise—\$68/person

We would like to get reservations in as soon as possible, hopefully no later than 1 July 2013. So, if you could indicate your interest as soon as possible, it would be most appreciated.

Please respond to:

P/C Thaddeus Kosnikowski

5300 West Riverside Lane

Ludington, MI 49431

Phone: 231-843-1408

E-mail: thaddeuskosnikowski@yahoo.com

[I prefer snail mail or phone.]

RESERVATION FORM ATTACHED

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

16 May, breakfast, House of Flavors

JUNE

1 June, Ice Cream Social, Harbor View Marina
12 June, Squadron Change of Watch, LYC
20 June, breakfast, House of Flavors
28-29 June, Queen's Cup, Ludington

JULY

TBD July, Public Boating Class
10 July, picnic/meeting, Waterfront Park
18 July, breakfast, House of Flavors

AUGUST

3 August, USCG Parade, Grand Haven
14 August, picnic/meeting, TBD
22 August, breakfast, House of Flavors

SEPTEMBER

11-12 September, Northern Squadron Rendezvous, Mackinaw City
19 September, breakfast, House of Flavors

OCTOBER

9 October, dinner meeting, TBD
11-13 October, D/9 Fall Conference, ConCorde Inn, Clinton Twnshp., Host: Birmingham PS
17 October, breakfast, House of Flavors

YOUR BRIDGE OFFICERS

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Treasurer Adrienne Slaymaker, AP - 231-873-8473 aslay@ix.netcom.com

More information is available at our squadron website: www.usps.org/sablepoint. The *Viewpoints* is published quarterly. Articles and opinions do not necessarily reflect USPS® policy or endorsement unless so designated.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Bridge & Executive & Standing Committees Slate for 2013-2014:

Bridge

Commander	Charles VanAmeyden, SN
Executive Officer	Open
Administrative Officer	Thad Kosnikowski, AP
Educational Officer	Sidney McKnight, Jr., AP
Secretary	Joanne VanAmeyden, AP
Treasurer	Adrienne Slaymaker, AP

Executive Committee

Tom Skridulis
Roger Thompson, SN
Phyllis Thompson, SN

Standing Committees

Auditing Chair	Phyllis Thompson, SN
Rules Chair	Thad Kosnikowski, AP
Nominating	Carole McKnight, S Roger Thompson, SN

Respectfully submitted,

P/C Carole P. McKnight, S
P/C Roger D. Thompson, SN

HAPPY Belated BIRTHDAY

28 April Tom Skridulis
29 April Shirley Van Rhee

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5 May Jim Gillette
15 May Roger Thompson
28 May Adrienne Slaymaker
18 June Russell Willemin
20 June Joel Lockwood

THE SUN AND THE WATER

Spring has officially sprung and those of us in the cooler climes are anxious to get on the water. Nothing beats what Nat King Cole called, “those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer.” However, we need to be aware of the fact that while summer certainly will feel great again, the heat of the sun that we yearn for can have an unwanted impact on us.

A sunny and warm weekend brings out more boat traffic. If you’ve taken United States Power Squadrons or United States Coast Guard Auxiliary classes, you may think that you’re a pretty safe boater. But, what about the other guy—does he know the “Rules of the Road?”

As the day goes on, even while boating “defensively,” we may not be as sharp: tired and maybe dehydrated. The crew may not be much help, because they too may not be any more observant than are you.

So what can we do about it? We’re not going to avoid going out on the water, so here are a few simple things to help you:

- If you have a bimini on the boat, put it up over your crew and yourself. Run the boat from under the shade it gives you. You will be cooler and the shade will make it easier to see your surroundings. Tanning will still occur, because UV rays will reflect off the water and your boat’s surface.
- If you don’t have a bimini, wear a hat. The brim will shade your eyes and you’ll actually feel cooler.
- Wear good polarizing sunglasses. These will block much of the sun’s UV rays and you’ll see much better. When we are outside, the sun’s long-term effects on the eyes can cause problems.
- Drink, drink, drink—not beer or other alcohol, which actually accelerate dehydration. Water is best, and juices and other fluids that are good. On a hot day in the sun, if you and your crew aren’t perspiring or don’t use the head, chances are you’re dehydrating. In the extreme, this can cause heat stroke. At minimum, you’ll feel more tired.
- If you’re feeling tired, anchor up or pull in someplace until the sun goes down some more. The rest will also help refresh you.

Remember, there’s no substitute for common sense. When you’re on the water in an unstructured environment, you need to be sharp. Reinforce your boating skills by taking a boating course. Check for your local Power Squadron’s education schedule or contact it through our national website, www.usps.org.

As members of the United States Power Squadrons remind us:

Boating is fun . . . we’ll show you how.

P/D/C Pete TenBrink

Feature Writer

Marketing/Public Relations Committee

GUNWALE—Upper edge of the side of a boat, pronounced “gunnel,” “gunn’l,” “gnl,” or “gn.” By the way, many people have difficulty mastering nautical pronunciation, and this seems as good a place as any to address this problem. The effect to aim for is a cross between train announcements and the sounds that come from patients in dentists’ chairs. Probably the best way to develop a “sea mouth” is to practice speaking with an unopened chowder clam held in your mouth. Work on this sentence: “Gaff that grommet gasket to the garboard gudgeon gunter.” It should come out something like: “Gfthtgrmgsktthgbdgdgngr.” Remember, properly delivered nautical commands must be incomprehensible to the person toward whom they are directed even when accompanied by clear hand signals or pantomime indicating the desired action. The U.S. Navy has a handy memory aid for the seven basic rules of the nautical command—it’s a good one to memorize:

C onfuse
O bscurc
M umble
M ispronounce
A bbreviate
N asalize
D rool

—A Dictionary for Landlubbers, Old Salts, & Armchair Drifters, Henry Beard & Roy McKie