THE 45TH PARALLEL

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hard copy to:

Lt. Sue Brown, P
9506 Fairview Rd
Williamsburg, MI 49690
suebrown3569@gmail.com

BRIDGE OFFICERS 2020

Commander  Cdr Mary Petterson, JN  231-709-6859
mpetters27@gmail.com
Executive Officer  Lt/C Jerry Williams, AP  231-633-3141
1970jwilliams@gmail.com
Administrative Officer  Lt/C Paul Gonzalez, JN  517-242-4739
Gonz2006@aol.com
Squadron Education Officer  Lt/C Bill Bailey, JN  231-676-3357
billbaile@gmail.com

Asst SEO  Lt/C Bill Smethells, JN  715-579-2557
wsmethells@gmail.com
Secretary  Lt/C Madonna Williams, P  231-633-3141
madonnaw@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer  Lt/C Catherine Holcombe, P  231-271-6714
cfholcmb@hotmail.com
Asst Treasurer  Lt/C John Weihi, P  231-938-3316
jwweihi@aol.com

Photography  Lt/C Bill Bailey, JN  231-676-3357
Records and Web Master  P/Cdr Jerry Williams, AP  231-633-3141
Lt Sue Brown, P  231-267-5806

General Membership meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at the Elks Club, Traverse City. Executive meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at Traverse City. Anyone interested may attend.

www.gtbayboating.org

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Grand Traverse Bay Sail and Power Squadron
2019-2020 Activities Calendar

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<tr>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>Executive Meeting-1800</td>
<td>via Zoom</td>
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**MEETING CANCELLED**

**1800 Social Hour**
**1900 Dinner**
Two entrees
Salads, Vegetables, Rolls, Dessert
$20.00 Per person
Despite the major changes in the way we do many things, summer in Northern Michigan has been pretty good. Although we had to cancel the Lobster Fest, those of us who participated in the Summer Cruise to Lake Superior had a marvelous time. Hopefully you have viewed some pictures from that cruise on our website. The weather was amazingly good, aside from high winds on Lake Superior when we intended to leave Sault Ste. Marie for Whitefish Point. So we spent a couple of extra nights at the Soo. Lots to see and do, weather was great for walking, all in all, not a bad delay. Seven boats participated. So cool to be part of that flotilla!

The Cruise of the Bay is planned for August 28 through the 31. Not sure when this will cross your desk, but hopefully you have read the emails and plan to participate if you’re able and comfortable. We are careful about social distancing and wearing masks as required on the summer cruise and expect we can continue those practices on the Cruise of the Bay.

Your Executive Committee met August 19 and came to the difficult decision to cancel in-person dinner meetings through the end of 2020. However, we are planning our Annual Awards Program via Zoom replacing our October dinner meeting. Watch your email for further announcements on this.

Meanwhile, stay safe and stay healthy!
September is here and we are still observing Michigan COVID-19 guidelines. Most of GTBay events are still cancelled. Wear your mask and keep your distance. It will help!

However, D9 and Coast Guard district 9 have opened our area for VSC. It is late in the season, but your GTBay inspectors still need to obtain a minimum of 5 inspections a year to maintain their qualification. So please call and get your boat checked to help support our inspector.

Thomas Rea 231-633-3793 – Charlevoix, Harbor Springs and Cheboygan
Arnold Taddia 231-929-0841 – Grand Traverse Bay
Jerry Williams 231-633-3141 – Grand Traverse Bay

Well here we are, heading into the ninth month of a year marked by unprecedented upheaval, mayhem and uncertainty thanks in the main to COVID -19. For a year whose number 2020 is associated with a clear view, it has been anything but.

So too has the mandated requirements of COVID- 19 i.e. masks, social distancing, event limited seating taken its’ toll on our regularity scheduled monthly dinner meetings at the Elks Club. Though these meeting normally begin in September, in the interest of safety and prudent caution for members, your Bridge Officers have decided to cancel all remaining dinner events for the balance of this year. However we still can meet electronically via Zoom to converse and celebrate the accomplishments and awards to our follow members. Watch for an announcement for an October meeting via Zoom. We would love to see you.
It’s the end of August and it’s back to school time. However, NMC/EES is not having face-to-face classes this fall. Therefore, Engine Maintenance and Marine Electrical Systems, which were scheduled for fall, will not be offered. These classes do not lend themselves to an online format. Jerry uses lots of teaching aids that students need to see and touch to get the full benefit. And Bill Smethells incorporates several labs where students built and test systems and circuits. Hopefully, NMC will hold in person classes this winter/spring and both EM and MES can be offered then.

The good news is the Sail class WILL be offered. Dave Terrell will conduct the classroom part of the course online while still doing the on the boat/water segments on his boat. That class starts September 22 and runs for 10 weeks. Tell your friends and neighbors about this class and encourage them to sign up. You can sign up by going to NMC’s website ees in early September.

On another note, AO Paul Gonzalez suggested the club set up a forum of sorts to help each other out with boat projects and products. The Executive Committee thought that was a good idea.

This has taken form in a couple of ways. On the club website, under the education tab, there is a “Things That Work” link. Here you can see what others have offered. You can also send your ideas and they will be posted for everyone to see. This is new and you are the first to hear of it, so if you have great tips and tricks for any type of boat project, or know of a product that works extremely well, please share it with all of us. Here’s the direct link: https://www.usps.org/lc/gtbay/thingsthatwork.php

Another way to share is on the club Facebook page. Occasionally, there will be a post requesting ideas. Just reply to the post with your comments. The club Facebook page is located here: https://www.facebook.com/GTBSPS Like it if you haven’t already.
WE HAVE TIME

With the present restrictions on work and leisure gatherings, most people have new-found time available for discretionary, mostly solitary, activity. The seemingly endless warmer-than-normal temperatures make spending some of that time “messing about in boats” logical and appropriate. The following 45th article from a few years back seems like one good way to utilize this situation to contemplate what things you and your boat could benefit from to improve the safety and enjoyment of our up-north boating experience:

BEGIN NOW FOR SAFER BOATING NEXT YEAR

Now that the end of this season is upon us and we are preparing our boats for winter storage, let's take a few moments to reflect on this past season and make a written list of our "I should have"s while they are still fresh in our minds. Certainly the list should include things that should have been done to maintain or improve our boat's condition or safety, and spares or tools that could save the day when something malfunctions. If your list includes items that must come from your favorite marine supplier, why not buy some of them now, since you will probably be going there anyway to get your "red pop" for winterizing. Even if you don't get that new filter installed now, put it, and a spare or two, on-board so you don't forget where you put them when Spring finally arrives. It certainly wouldn't hurt to also put a copy of your list on-board. Keep a working list at home so that when you think of something over the winter, you can add it. Do your thinking early and you may just have created a Christmas wish list the Admiral can ponder!

Don't let your "I should have¼" list be limited to just boat stuff; include things relative to your own skills, knowledge and preparedness. How about those emergency plans you should have formulated? Do I have enough knowledge to accurately diagnose a problem or a life-threatening emergency? Have I thought through my best (and second-best) response to the situation? How will I put that response into effect?

There is no excuse for having to say "I should have¼" when the needed knowledge was available through the Squadron's education program. Think again about those "I should have"s and see if you can find a couple of courses being offered this Fall or Winter that will have you saying next Summer "I'm glad I did! (Now, with on-line course availability, there is no reason to suspend our education activity.)

We still have some great fall boating ahead, so go out and work on that list. Be safe out there!
SUMMER CRUISE

Getting ready to launch

Lunch at the Grand Hotel

Leaving DeTour

Restful trip

Grand Hotel Porch

Voyageur under sail

Bill Ryzyi up on the mast

The Fleet in the Soo

Soo Sunset

Canadian locks at the Soo
September Birthdays—

Eric Currin
Laura Laubhan
Nicole Smethells
Jerry Williams