



# THE 45<sup>TH</sup> PARALLEL

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Grand Traverse Bay Sail and Power Squadron, Traverse City, MI  
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Sail and Power Boating

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Articles for publication must be received by **the 20th** of the month. Articles may be submitted by e-mail, computer disk or hard copy to:

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

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[www.gtbayboating.org](http://www.gtbayboating.org)

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## Grand Traverse Bay Sail and Power Squadron 2016 Activities Calendar

February 2	Hard Water Rendezvous 900-1400		Boyne Mtn.
February 4	General Meeting-1800	Elks	Club
February 11	Lunch with the Commander-1200	Cottage	Café
February 14-21	USPS Annual Meeting	Orlando,	FL
February 17	Executive Meeting-1800 (Wed Evening)		Cottage Café
February 29	Weather Class starts	NMC	
March 3	General Meeting-1800	Elks	Club

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### 4 FEBRUARY 2016



**Julie Clark**  
Executive Director Tart Trails

**Come and hear what is in store for the future of the Tart Trails**

**1800 Social Hour**  
**1900 Dinner**  
**2 Entrees**  
**Salads, Vegetables, Rolls, Dessert**  
**18.00/person**

If your telephone caller does not reach you by Sunday, Jan 31, please call Donna Daciuk at 231-223-7140 or email [daisy.d1569@gmail.com](mailto:daisy.d1569@gmail.com) by Monday, Feb 1.  
(Please let your caller know if you will need a ride to the meeting)



## **COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

**Cdr Thomas Stone, P**

For 2016 my goal is to get as many members involved in Squadron activities as possible. We started the year with 12 members taking a great trip to the Chicago Boat Show. Most of us took the train from Holland to Chicago which made for a relaxing trip and best of all we avoided driving the I-94 corridor. We all enjoyed checking out the newest boats, and outstanding seminars. Of course we made time for some great Chicago pizza and other culinary delights.

Our next event is the Hard Water Rendezvous, hosted by Tom and Barb Lyons. The plan is to go to Boyne Mountain for some winter recreation on February 2, 2016. This promises to be a fun and relaxing day. It is just fine if you just want to come and relax by the fire. Of course we will have food as well. I have decided to try skiing again after 30 years, so don't be too surprised if I am hobbling around at the General Meeting, February 4, 2016. At the very least I should lend some comic relief to the day.

Speaking of the General Meeting, our guest speaker will be Julie Clark, who is the Executive Director of Tart Trails. We all know the value of our wonderful trail system and Julie will let you know what the future plans are for the trail system.

We need some volunteers for a few tasks. First we need help on the calling team. This is a very easy task which will only require an hour or so a month. You will just have to contact a few members to ask if they are going to attend the General Meeting, then pass this information on to Donna Daciuk. You can make your contact by phone or e-mail. If you have just a couple of minutes to spare please let Jerry Williams or myself know as soon as possible. The best part of doing this is it is an easy way of earning a Merit Mark.

We also need someone to act as our Advertising Committee Chair. The duties would include contacting local media to secure space in print and air time. If you like networking this is the job for you!

Finally we are all saddened by the loss of Tom Kelly. Tom was such a great person and a huge asset to our organization and the community. The Squadron will be making a \$50 donation to the Inland Seas Schoolship Upkeep Fund in his memory.

Be sure to check out our Website. P/C Bill Bailey will give us a demonstration on how to access the site, and all the valuable information you can find there at the February General Meeting.

I hope to see you all there,



## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Janet Ward, P

Happy New Year! Thanks to all the Administrative Department Committee members who have confirmed their commitment to continue serving. The only change to the 2016 Administrative Committees is the deletion of the Predictive Log position as determined at the January Executive Committee meeting.

I had the pleasure of attending the Chicago Boat Show with several GTBSPS members January 13-17. It was my first show and the large number of seminars and workshops were very impressive and well worth the \$20 two day pass. I look forward to going to the show again next year.



GTBS&PS at the Chicago Boat Show





**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**Lt/C Bill Smethells, S**

I am sure now that Spring must be coming. I just wrote the first of 2 checks for our slip at Elmwood. We were back in Traverse City for a couple of weeks (back in Eau Claire, WI, now). The boat was OK; I climbed in through the shrinkwrap door to check it out. That's getting harder to do as time goes on.

Some things to think about as Spring approaches:

Recruiting new members needs to be a priority. Your membership committee met in October and discussed needed contacts with prospective members and approaches to recruitment. Bringing in new members is everyone's responsibility, of course; please invite boaters that you meet to a meeting. For those who are teaching a course: You have a group of interested people right before you - they love boating - that's why they are there.

Check out the new web site if you haven't already. It is a great recruiting tool. On the site there is a link labeled "Join" that connects to the national membership page where new members can sign up and pay right on-line. The URL is [gtbayboating.org](http://gtbayboating.org). Let's tell fellow boaters about it.

Please think about how a summer cruise could include folks with small boats, power or sail, and those who no longer have a boat. Recently, the eQuality Cruise has involved only those with larger boats. It would be tons of fun to have more members involved. Many thanks to Tom and Barb Lyon for the "Hard Water Cruise" to Boyne Mountain. I wish we were there.

The eQuality Cruise committee is looking for new members. Please join in and bring ideas.

There are lots of great courses being taught by fellow members. Spread the word and take advantage of one. "Come for the courses; stay for the friends" can be a great recruiting tool.

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**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS—**

2/06	Dennis Stockemer	2/14	Dave Sutton
2/10	Gloria Butler	2/15	Pat Kernaghan
2/10	Barb Lyon	2/21	George Kobernus
2/12	Dixie Lee Lockwood	2/24	Kathryn Dombrowski
2/12	Ed Woessner	2/28	Claire Foote
2/13	Bill Rottman		





## **EDUCATION OFFICER**

**LT/C Dave Terrell, AP**

1. We received the grades for the piloting course. Four of the five students passed.
2. Engine Maintenance has started after a one week postponement due to snow. Enrollment may rise as high as 25 students. Everyone connected with the Education Department was surprised and gratified with this enrollment.
3. Work continues on creating a two year schedule for courses and seminars. I expect that this work will be completed before the February dinner meeting. I expect to share the schedule with you at that time.
4. At last check, enrollment for the weather class was 5 students. I expect more people will enroll before the course begins. I would not be surprised if the class fills at 15 students.
5. Bill Smethells is busy planning for the Marine Electrical Systems class. Part of that planning process is researching and acquiring lab materials for the course. In making those acquisitions, we are taking a long term approach and thinking that the course will be offered more than occasionally.
6. The success of the Engine Maintenance course makes me begin to think seriously that we have solved the enrollment problem for our classes by offering them through NMC's Extended Educational Services division. What happens with the Weather and Marine Electrical Systems classes will tell us a lot more.
7. While USPS rules require that we teach the ABC course once a year, my approach is to offer the Michigan DNR course as a primary beginners course because it is a shorter class that makes it easier for younger people to be certified to use water craft. Last year we had under 10 people all together in two sections of the ABC3 class and about 15 in one offering of the Michigan DNR course. I think offering the Michigan DNR course will give us a bigger exposure to the public. We are also exploring offering this course through NMC. This may not be a negative because people connect price and value in ways that make sense but may not be rational.



## **SAFETY OFFICER**

**Lt Brian Nelson, AP**

### **Have You Visited Your Boat Lately?**

Visiting your boat now gets you out of the house and could save you a lot of headaches next spring. If you are like most boat owners, out-of-sight usually equates to out-of-mind. Whether your boat is stored indoors or out, it's always a good idea to visit it several times per winter if at all possible. Do a walk-around and look for anything that has changed since you last visited, looking especially for shifting of the boat due to flat trailer tire, loose jack stand or sinking of a corner of the cradle. While not a big deal if the boat is indoors, a boat that is not level may not drain or shed water properly when outdoors and could result in water or ice damage inside, as well as mold and mildew growth. Give the cover or tarp a close look as well. Look for tears or looseness that could allow water or snow to get inside, and also make sure that air vents are not blocked. The idea is to let air in and keep moisture out!

If you can get aboard, be sure to do it. When you first get under the cover or go inside the cabin, use your nose. Be sensitive to odors that are not normal for your boat such as gas fumes, propane, mouse urine or mold. If you have a battery charger operating during the winter, the smell of hot plastic or a sulfur-like odor would likely be caused by a poor electrical connection or a battery that is "cooking" due to internal failure or an out of control charger. If cockpit drains are open to the elements, be sure they are clear and have not been choked with leaves. It's surprising just how far from trees your boat can be and still end up with leaves on board.

Go below and don't forget your flashlight. Look around for anything abnormal such as new water stains or wetness, especially near hatches, ports and deck hardware attachment points. If you have a sailboat and are storing with the mast up, look for signs of leakage at the chainplates and mast. Check above-decks drain hoses that pass inside to be sure they haven't ruptured due to ice inside. Lastly, check that storage locker doors and sole access covers are open to ensure good ventilation. Don't forget the chain locker door if your boat has one.

Finding small problems now can prevent large problems in the spring and, perhaps, might avoid a delay in your boating season due to unexpected issues. If nothing else, a mid-winter visit will get you thinking about things your boat needs for the coming summer and things you can do to get yourself ready as well, such as taking a Power Squadron course!

## Merit Marks Awarded

Bill Bailey  
Sue Brown  
Ann Conway  
Carol Currin  
Charlie Dietrich  
Mary Dietrich  
M R Gillooly  
Jan Hartesvelt  
Cathy Holcombe  
Bill Klein  
Guy Leslie  
Barb Lyon  
Tom Lyon  
Marti McIntyre  
Brian Nelson  
Donna Nelson

Harvey Norris  
Bill Rottman  
Bobbie Schott  
Doug Scott  
Nicole Smethells  
Bill Smethells  
Janet Stone  
Tom Stone  
Julie Sutton  
Arnie Taddia  
Dave Terrell  
Gene VanRhee  
Shirley VanRhee  
Carol Watson  
John Weih  
Jerry Williams  
Ed Woessner

## Certificates of Appreciation

Barb Klein                      Gloria McClay                      Donna Daciuk

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Member Bruce Trudgeon asked to have this put in the newsletter

Shut Down Line 5

If you would like to see a 17 minute documentary that shows, in vivid color, what would happen if one of the Mackinac oil pipes were to split open and begin dumping oil into our Great Lakes, crank up your computer, google [motherboard.vice](http://motherboard.vice.com), click [videos](#), then scroll down to a [massive](#).....The damage would be extensive and cleanup would be impossible

<http://motherboard.vice.com/read/the-aging-oil-pipelines-below-the-great-lakes>



# USPS D9 2016 Spring Conference

## Hosted by Detroit Power Squadron

April 8, 2016

thru

April 10, 2016

Double-Tree Hotel  
Dearborn, MI

DETROIT SUPER-SUITE  
With Super Food,  
Entertainment and  
Prizes

Registration  
Required

Saturday Evening Reception  
Will Feature  
Duelling Pianos for  
Entertainment and Dancing



Registration forms will be coming out shortly.