

waterspout

The official newsletter of the Grand Rapids Sail and Power Squadron
A Unit of the United States PowerSquadron®
Sailing and Power Boating, District 9
1620 Olson NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

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UNITED STATES SAIL AND POWER SQUADRONS®
SAIL and POWER BOATING
GRAND RAPIDS SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON
DISTRICT 9

GRSPS 2010-2011 Bridge

Commander	Cdr Curtis Campbell, AP
Executive Officer	Lt/C David Brinks, AP
Administrative Officer	Lt/C James Kearns, AP
Squadron Education Officer	Lt/C Daniel Rightmire, AP
Treasurer	Lt/C Tim Proos, P
Secretary	Lt/C Michael Smith, AP

Executive Committee

Lt Dakota Hewlett, AP	P/Lt/C Diane Stehouwer, P
Lt Robert Hewlett, AP	P/Lt/C Allan Veen, AP
P/C James Molenaar, AP	P/C Denny Webb, JN
P/Lt/C Michael Pokrywka, AP	P/Lt/C Kim Wilson, AP
P/C Robert Rehkopf, AP	Lt Greg Young, AP
P/C David Ristow, AP	

Acting Editor

Birgit Molenaar
3274 Pinoak Ct. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
H: 616-942-7100
E-mail: jimbirg@iserv.net

Designer

Kristin Huyck
C: 616-690-1665
Email: KrissyT267@yahoo.com

Webmaster

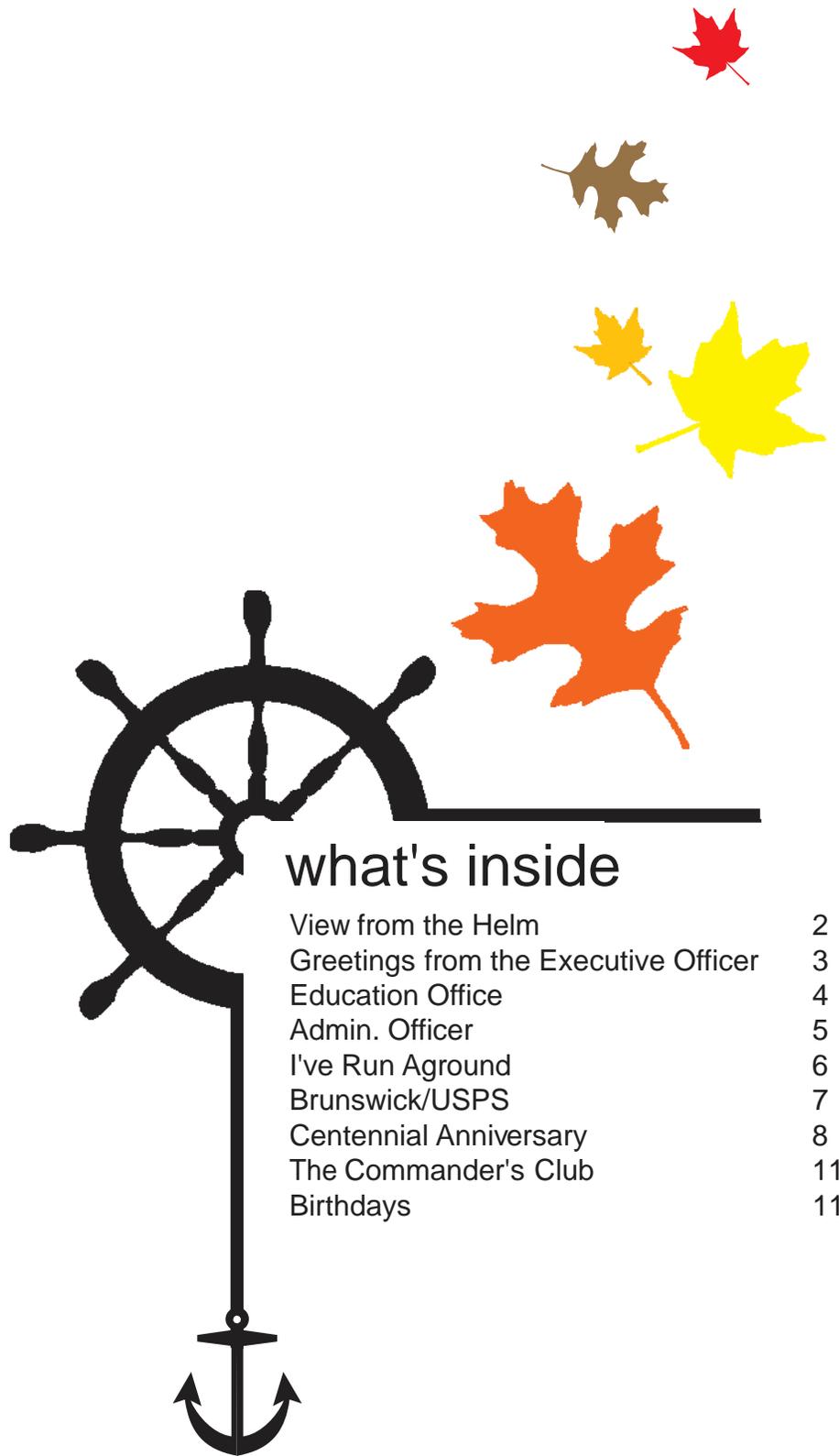
Deb Jones
C: 616-309-4025
E-mail: webmaster@grsps.org

General Membership Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at various locations in the Grand Rapids area and are announced monthly in the *Waterspout*

Executive Committee Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at Squadron Headquarters at 1620 Olson St., NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

VISIT WWW.GRSPS.ORG

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View from the Helm as the Sun Sets on My Watch as Your



Commander

Curt Campbell, AP



November 2012

We had a **great turnout** (30 people) for our October General Meeting at **Peppino's** and an **excellent TowBoatU.S.** presentation by **Captain Rich Lenardson**, owner of **Great Lakes Towing**. With **water near record lows** in the Lakes now, Rich shared stories of how he's handling **boats grounded** in their slips. Look for the "**I've Run Aground and I Can't Get Off**" article elsewhere in this Waterspout for more information.

Some of you know our Web Master role was vacant this summer. I'm **very pleased** to share that **Debbie Jones** has accepted this key position as our **new Web Master**. She has **strong skills** and **fresh ideas**, which our squadron will benefit from. **THANKS to Debbie for taking this on!**

This is my final 'View from the Helm' as your Commander. It's been a great honor and privilege to serve our squadron in this role for the past year and in various committee and staff positions over the past 15 plus years. It's also been a lot of **FUN!** I'm looking forward to continuing active participation in other capacities.

Our **Nominating Committee delivered an excellent slate** of candidates for our 2012-2013 Bridge and Executive Committee positions and we voted unanimously to elect them at our October General Meeting. I hope you've made plans to attend our **Change of Watch Celebration on Saturday, November 3rd** to **congratulate** and **welcome Allan Veen** as our **new Commander**, our new **Bridge Officers** and **Executive Committee**. **THANK YOU** to **Al, Bridge Officers** and **Executive Committee** members for accepting these leadership roles! **PLEASE support them!**

A "**HUGE THANKS**" goes to our 2011-2012 Bridge Officers and Executive Committee. **Special THANKS** goes to **Dave Brinks**, EO for smoothing out the waves, **Jim Kearns**, AO for making waves, **Dan Rightmire**, SEO and **Bob Rehkopf**, ASEO for enlightening us of the shoals and keeping us off them, **Michael Smith**, Secretary for keeping our logbook dry and **Tim Proos**, Treasurer for ensuring enough booty to make passage as our squadron vessel plied the seas over the year. I want to also thank our 1st Mates **Doug Evans, Terry Grotemat, Dakota & Rob Hewlett, Bill Isenberg, Jim & Birgit Molenaar, Dave Ristow, Diane Stehouwer, Al Veen, Denny Webb** and **Greg Young** for your many, many hours polishing the brightwork. I also wish to thank the **many others** who contributed in several ways to help keep our vessel afloat.

THANK YOU for the opportunity to be your Commander and for your support! I wish you all the very best for a great year ahead! Have **FUN!**

Curt



From the desk of the outgoing Exec...

As we come to the end of this squadron year and begin anew, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for the privilege of serving two years as the squadron XO. We have enjoyed some exceptional accomplishments in the various departments and committees in the Executive Department.

And I extend a special "thank you" to **Curt Campbell and Patty** for the leadership, direction and commitment demonstrated and given throughout the year. Well done!

Jim Kearns is the new XO and will need your help to make the new year successful. Look in your Roster and review the opportunities for you to serve the squadron, your fellow members and the community. Take the time to give back to the organization that has given so much to you. A special invite goes out to newer members to serve on the committees. We want you to be an active part of the squadron. Get active, get involved and give back. A year ago, I posed the question, how about you? **If not you, then who?**

P/C Dave Brinks

Notes from the SEO

Our Marine Electrical Systems course is going well. I have attended the first 2 classes and I see that the content and the teaching are going well. Thanks again to P/C David Ristow. We'll be ordering the exams soon. Exam is about December 12. The logical sequel is Marine Communication Systems. Spring, maybe?

We have been working with the Sea Scouts of West Michigan to present our first ABC3 course for them. Dates are set for 2, 4-hour sessions on Fridays, December 14 and 21, starting about 1700, at the scouts' facility in Walker, MI. Our contact person is Sara Cushman, who estimates a minimum of 8 – 10 students, a mix of youth and adults. The course is open to non-scouts as well. We will need the assistance of GRSPS members as always to help with first and "fourth" nights' work and welcomes. To date, Bob Rehkopf has volunteered to help as an instructor. Instructors willing to give even 1 of the programs' 4, 2-hour lectures would be a big assist. We have 15 currently certified instructors in our GRSPS.

Three squadron members have expressed interest in the Weather course for next year. If more interest can be generated, we can consider putting the Weather course together for 2013. Members please respond.

We have 9 formerly-certified instructors who might be interested in re certification and helping out with their squadron's teaching. The re certification seminar runs 2-3 hours and could be sponsored some evening in November or December, 2012.

Daniel A. Rightmire, SEO



Administrative Officer – October 2012

Summer Is Not Over! - Global warming extends the boating season so if you can; enjoy the end of summer possibilities on the Lake. I've always enjoyed boating at this time of year. The winds and seas kick up, while the air and water temperatures drop producing an opportunity to practice my boat handling skills. With a float coat on, a steady hand on the wheel, green water and spray coming over the bow my heart races and the adrenalin rushes.

I hope your boating voyages and experiences have been outstanding this season. I can't wait to hear about your adventures – especially the ones dealing with surviving lightning strikes. I know I have a new guest speaker for both an upcoming general meeting and an education class.

The weather outside may be cooling off but things insider the GRSPS are just warming up. The events you should plan to attend between now and the end of year include:

Change of Watch (COW) – November 3rd at Hilton Grand Rapids Airport.
District 9 – Fall Conference Oct 26 – 28 in Sterling Heights, MI .

At this bittersweet time of the year, preparing boats for winter storage or getting that last voyage in before the season really ends, we must think about getting more boaters into our Squadron and into our boating safety programs next year. Lake Michigan was the deadliest lake this year with over 44 deaths reported. Below I provided a link to a segment done on stand up paddleboards (SUPs).

<http://www.woodtv.com/dpp/eightwest/stand-ups-paddle-boarding>

Lastly, below is a safety alert on Mustang inflatable PFDs you may find useful in checking your gear and/or in conducting VSCs.

I'VE RUN AGROUND AND I CAN'T GET OFF

On the tidal flats along many parts of the southern United States there are plenty of opportunities to run aground. Fortunately, most of the bottom conditions there are soft sand or muck. In other parts of the country there are less friendly situations where rocks, pilings and under water debris may crack or puncture a hull. Not knowing what to do can possibly destroy your vessel or its operating equipment.

The first rule of safety when grounded is to check for injuries and to get life jackets on everyone aboard. Then look for hull damage. You don't want move the vessel from a grounding situation until you know it will float. The grounding sea bed may be all that is protecting you from "going down."

Make a plan. Do not run your engines. Drawing muck or sand into your water intake is a great way to ruin them. Outboards can be raised and outdrives on I/Os can be trimmed, while sailboats with centerboards can lift them. You may want to shift the weight of the crew fore or aft, one side or the other, to break loose. A strong swimmer in the water can push a smaller boat towards deeper water. Be sure to attach a safety line and don't forget the life jacket! Making use of a requested fellow boater's passing wake is not a bad idea.

Sail boats with their deep keels are more difficult to free. Heeling the boat may do the trick. If you need a greater angle, you can put a person on the boom and swing it outboard for more leveraged weight. Another method is to use the dinghy to set an anchor at some distance from your boat, enabling you to slowly winch in the anchor rode. With some wind, raising the sails and sheeting them hard may heel the boat enough to free it (ed. note).

When all else fails, call a commercial tow company and let your boater's insurance bail you out. They will need your boat description, your estimated location, and detail of your problem. With the proper attitude, you can sit back and relax while you wait.

Do not issue a MAYDAY call unless someone is seriously injured, the vessel is sinking, or severe weather is closing. If the towing service does not respond, it is more appropriate to issue the call, "Pan Pan", which alerts others and law enforcement of your non- life threatening distress situation. Every boater should carry a log book to record the time, conditions, and situations to documentation such as a day's events

The three main causes of running aground are excessive speed; alcohol use and not paying attention. Obviously; a little prevention will help ensure that you stay afloat. An up-to-date chart and an educated captain who knows what he's doing are also helpful.

Lt. Bill Hempel
Marketing/Public relations Committee
United States Power Squadrons®

Published by the Marketing/ PR Committee
United States Power Squadrons®
Contact Greg Scotten gscotten@comcast.net

THE BRUNSWICK / USPS PARTNERSHIP MOVES AHEAD The Brunswick Corporation, with the agreement of the United States Power Squadrons, is taking the education partnership to a new level of cooperation. USPS has appointed a new program manager, our own P/C John Malatak, who recently retired from the US Coast Guard as Chief of Program Operations. John has long been active in USPS programs and has been a member of the national Marketing/PR Committee for many years. He is a “get ‘er done” leader.

A joint release from V/C Robert Baldrige, National Executive Officer, and V/C Bob Brandenstein, National Educational Officer states: “This partnership allows us to team with Brunswick dealers to teach classes, seminars, and on-the-water courses on dealer premises. Dealers will get students to the classes, and squadrons will teach them. Dealers will get additional floor traffic; squadrons will get potential new members. It's a win-win for both dealers and squadrons.”

As a component of the Brunswick Partnership District 22 (Florida’s Gulf Coast and Southern Georgia) is a beta test site for a Marine Max concept store-front located in the Tampa International Plaza Mall. Local squadrons headed up by the Tampa Bay Squadron will join with Marine Max to provide our ABC3 Course and selected seminars, as well as on-water training at the Marine Max location at International Plaza.

For some southwest Florida squadrons, working with Brunswick dealerships is not new. Several already have long standing relationships. Recently, my wife Ann and I participated in our recurring hour long boating safety radio interviews on the area’s Marine Max Show. The broadcast is received in four Florida counties.

Over the years Peace River Sail & Power Squadron and “Cap’n” Tom Healy of Marine Max, have worked together in several ways. He has provided us with focused radio interviews promoting our courses. Twice a year he has brought trailered vessels to our site for VSC promotions at our Community Water Safety Demonstration Days. He has made presentations at our squadron dinner meetings. We are now planning collaboration in our electronic courses in which his electronics specialist will make guest appearances in those classes. His associate at the Venice Marine Max has for years provided the Venice Sail & Power Squadron, just north of north of us, with free space for classes.

We look forward to spreading this concept to other areas. Safe and confident boating is in everybody’s interest. As United States Power Squadrons’ members say: “Boating is fun...We’ll show you how!”

P/R/C Gregory T. Scotten, SN
Publications
Marketing/Public Relations Committee
United States Power Squadrons®





The United States Power Squadrons Centennial Anniversary Serving the boaters of America

The United States Power Squadrons is celebrating 100 years of community service on February 1, 2014. Your squadron needs to be part of that important Centennial event which is a national milestone. To celebrate this national milestone, several projects are underway and a national anniversary web page will post exciting activities and information. The Power Squadrons' Ship Store will be featuring items with the 100th Anniversary Logo. An anniversary postal commemorative is under discussion. All levels of the organization are planning local community activities.

The precise anniversary day is Sunday, 2 February, 2014. But because the Governing Board at the Annual Meeting is held on Saturday, the climactic celebration will be conducted a day early. The Hyatt Regency of Jacksonville, Florida is preparing a major party for members. The city is planning to post signs throughout the town and is working with the Jacksonville Sail & Power Squadron to conduct a celebratory boat parade on the St. John's River.

The Power Squadrons Flag and Etiquette Committee has designed a unique boat Ensign, which emphasizes the event, and is to be flown on members' vessels in 2013 and 2014. A special new Power Squadrons logo has been distributed and is available on line.

A yearlong ceremonial activity is planned. At the 2013 Annual Meeting Governing Board, full sized anniversary Ensigns will be presented to each of the thirty- two districts. Then, in anticipation of the 2014 Annual Meeting, each squadron will create unique ribbon streamers of specified dimensions to affix to their district's Ensign. Finally, on February 1, 2014 the districts will parade their Ensigns with accompanying streamers in a flag presentation to celebrate this significant anniversary.

All members are encouraged plan on a year of celebration programs for their communities. Local municipal proclamations, appearances at the meetings of civic and marine organizations, and presentations through boating safety equipment demonstration days are items at the top of the list. It is very important to involve the community which the squadron serves during this wonderful year.

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XXXXXXXXXX

Author:
P/R/C Gregory T. Scotten, SN
Publications Coordinator
Marketing/PR Committee

happy birthday to you!

GRSPS Birthdays

November



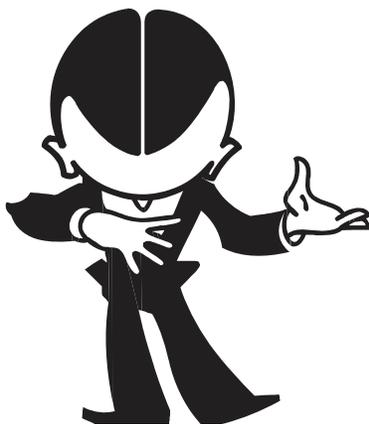
11/1	Max Daza
11/2	James Castellano
11/4	Ruth Bieker
11/12	Donald Exelby
11/13	Kim Wilson
11/15	Jolene Key
11/19	Judith Treis

The Commander's Club

An honor Roll of Supporting Members
Representing a minimum gift of \$50.00 per year

From Nov. COW to Nov. COW

Daniel and Joan Rightmire
David and Sallie Brinks
Doug and Christine Evans
Donald & Marsha Exelby
Gary & Patricia Harkins
Curt and Patty Campbell



thank you!



**DEADLINE for December
Waterspout is: Saturday,
Dec. 15, 2012**

Submit photos from events, stories of travels, questions or anything you would like to see in the newsletter next time.

Submit photo as .jpg files at highest resolution. If you have questions, please contact Kristin.

**Send all information for
the Waterspout to:**

Birgit Molenaar
3274 Pinoak Ct. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
H: 616-942-7100
E-mail: jimbrig@iserv.net

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Happy Fall

Kristin Huyck
KrissyT267@yahoo.com
Cell: 616.690.1665

Burgees are for sale - \$20

Contact Jim Molenaar for information ei-
ther by e-mail jimbrig2@iserv.net or cell
phone 616-813-4464.



Waterspout has
earned the award!