



# America's Boating Club of West Michigan

For Boaters, By Boaters<sup>SM</sup>



*Grand Rapids Sail and Power Squadron*



# waterspout

Vol. 66, Issue 2, October 2019

The official newsletter of the

## **Grand Rapids Sail and Power Squadron**

1620 Olson ST NE  Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503 USA

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





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*Commander*

**(Open)**  
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*Administrative Officer*

**Lt/C John Colley**  
*Education Officer*

**Lt/C Marcia A Thompson**  
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**Lt/C Char Pearson**  
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**Cdr Jack L Draper**  
**Lt/C Greg Heath**  
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## The waterspout

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The editor reserves the right to revise, change, or reject any materials submitted to the *waterspout*, consistent with standards of accuracy, fairness, good taste, and available space, subject to the approval of the Squadron Commander.

**To Advertise In The Waterspout, Contact:**  
[Editor@GRSPS.ORG](mailto:Editor@GRSPS.ORG)



## View From The Bridge

**Jack L Draper, Sr.**  
*Squadron Commander*



### Bridge News

**Hi Everyone,**

I hope everyone had a great summer and now it is time to get back to work. We had great results with our safety vessel inspections at our annual boat weekend at Great Lakes Marina in June. At the end of June, we had our rendezvous at the sand dunes in Muskegon Lake. We had 4 boats and we all shared stories, food, and drinks and enjoyed a great afternoon.

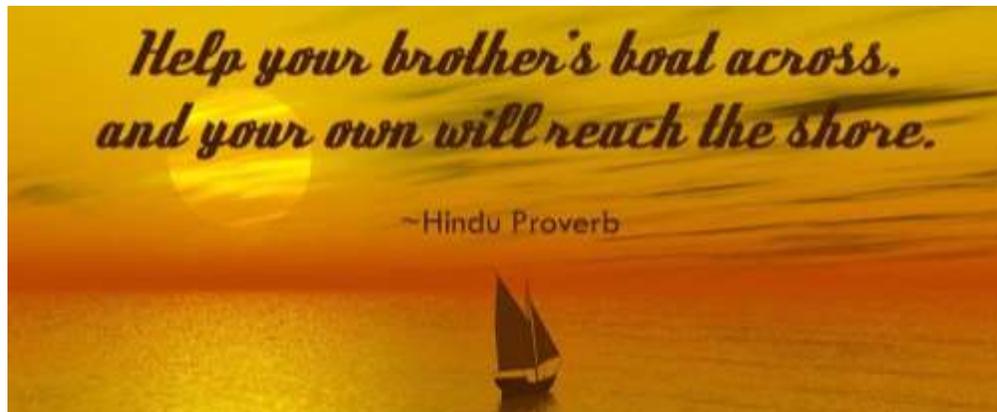
We have our first dinner meeting in September at Dave and Sal's Brinks barn. Further information is included in this newsletter. Our Commanders Ball is scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup> and more details will follow soon.

Please consider helping us by volunteering to assist with leadership or committee positions. If you get a call to help, please consider saying yes.

I want to say thank you to our existing bridge members, who help makes this squadron operate. They are Greg Heath, Administration Officer; John Colley, Education; Marcia Thompson, secretary; and Char Pearson, Treasurer. Without these people we would be dead in the water. I look forward to having another great year and please keep watching to sign up for our semiannual convention in the fall as we want as many people as possible to make it.

Until next time,

**Jack**





## View From The Bridge

**Lt/C Greg Heath**

*Squadron Administrative Officer*



### Administrative News

## October Dinner Meeting

- Place:** Kirby House in Grand Haven  
**Date:** October 10, 2019  
**Time:** Social time: 6:00 PM  
Order Dinner: 6:30 PM  
**Speaker:** Nathaniel Howard from the Mariners' Centre in Muskegon  
**Topic:** Marine Electronic - what they are, what is new, purpose of each and possibly a short demonstration





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## September Dinner Meeting – Barn Cookout!

*Come for the BBQ, checkup with friends and fellowship!*

### Dave & Sallie Brinks' Barn

- Speaker:** Captain Thom Burke  
*US Navy*  
*Will share some of his exciting experiences*
- Date:** September 26, 2019
- Time:** 1800 (6:00 PM) Social Time  
1830 (6:30 PM) Dinner
- Place:** 2500 Buchanan ST, Marne, MI
- Cost:** \$5.00/per person – help defray the cost of the food



**Bring a dish to pass and your favorite beverage.  
Come share your stories about your summer fun!**

**Dress for the weather – Barn is not heated**

**RSVP to Greg Heath to [gdheath1@yahoo.com](mailto:gdheath1@yahoo.com) by Sept 21st**

***Please RSVP for accurate count for purchase of BBQ meat.***

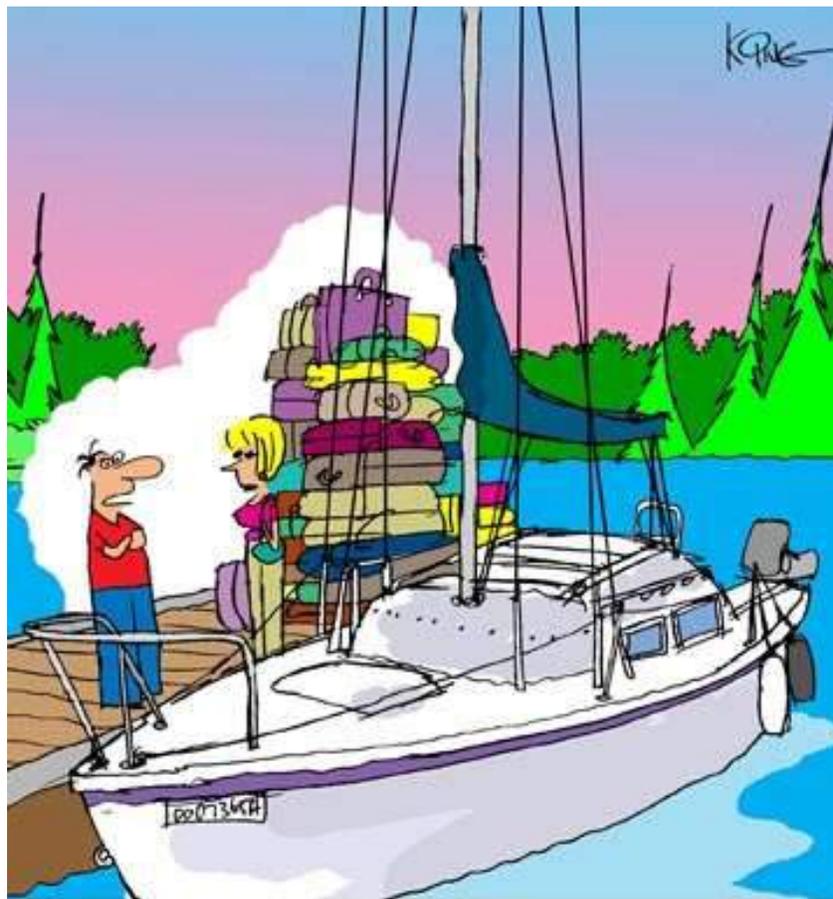




## October 2019



Scott Wilcox ~ October 5  
Gerald Morris ~ October 9  
Scott Bloom ~ October 14  
David Ristow ~ October 19  
Allen Pearson ~ October 21  
Ronald Redder ~ October 30



*"Yes, I do think you overpacked. After all, we're sailing around the bay for a few hours."*



# Savvy Boater



## Water Fun and Water Safety

Follow these guidelines to keep water activities fun and safe.

By [Steve Griffin](#)  
August 16, 2019

Keep it fun, and safe. *Courtesy Unsplash*



Getting into a boat promises all kinds of fun. So does getting out of it—to swim, ski, wakeboard, wakesurf, or enjoy some other kind of boating activity. All it takes is a bit of gear, a yen for adventure, a touch of learning, and a rock-solid foundation of [boating safety](#).

Swimming—where water temperature, and wind, wave and current conditions are appropriate—is simplest. Beaches, sandbars and islands are time-honored settings, but there's something freedom feeding too about paddling about offshore. Don't swim beyond your abilities, and don't swim alone. Someone on the boat should keep track of swimmers and have rescue gear ready. But if that someone is all business, others can be all fun.

Up top, why not add to your boating fun by trailing behind it on water skis, a wakeboard or even a hands-free wakesurf board? Folks debate what's easiest to learn, with skiing most often getting the nod, but all three are within the abilities of most. Wakesurfing is coming on strong; toss the rope and you might as well be hanging 10 on some breakers off Hawaii. Water-ski boats leave flatter wakes for easier crossing; wakeboard and wakesurf boats have ballast and trim systems to craft the perfect monster wave for launching tricks. Want some of that fast-moving fun without extensive gear or skills? Clamber into an inflatable tow-along for an on-water ride as wild as any terrestrial carnival offers.

Think of convenience and fun features when boat shopping: Swim platforms and boarding ladders are more than sexy trim. Ladders are required and should be deployable from in the water for the safe return of an accidental overboard. Swim platforms make donning skis or jumping on tubes easier, and platforms are also often the focal point for hanging out when the boat is beached or at anchor. Extended platforms not only offer more space, but they also reduce the likelihood a swimmer will stub their toe on an outdrive while swimming around at anchor.

Keep it fun, and safe. Swimmers, snorkelers, boarders or skiers leaving the boat or returning to it? Turn the motor off; experts say neutral is not enough.

Part of the fun of diving into the water on a hot day is the quick work it makes of excess heat. Physics explains how water easily transfers heat away from your body. But truly cold water can elicit a rapid “gasp reflex” that can lead to tragedy. Wearing a life jacket boosts the odds of overcoming it.

Even wearing a life jacket, don’t underestimate the ability of water to sap body heat. But safety assured, have some fun in the water. Make preparations to be on the water longer than planned. Regularly refresh your sunscreen. Munch on some snacks, and drink plenty of water. And make sure you have a passenger dedicated to the job of keeping an eye on the sport at the end of the rope!

<https://www.boatingmag.com/water-fun-and-water-safety/>



# America's Boating Club of West Michigan



TO ADVERTISE IN THE WATERSPOUT, CONTACT:  
[EDITOR@GRSPS.ORG](mailto:EDITOR@GRSPS.ORG)

## Advertising Rates

*The Waterspout is an electronic newsletter published 9 times a year (September – May).*

### Annual Rates

#### Business Card

\$225 Members - \$450 Non-members

#### Quarter of Page

\$450 Members - \$810 Non-members

#### Half Page

\$810 Members - \$1,125 Non-members

#### Full Page

\$1,620 Members - \$2,160 Non-members

*Interesting in supporting boat safety or have a boat; join GRSPS and get member rates!*



*a Unit of the United States Power Squadron®, America's Boating Club within District 9*

The Grand Rapids Sail and Power Squadron (GRSPS) is the Grand Rapids area's Boating Club. GRSPS is focused on boating that is safe, smart and fun.

GRSPS members have access to some of the best resources available to recreational boaters.

### Contact:

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# Commanders Club

## The Commander's Club

An Honor Roll of Special Members  
Representing a minimum gift of \$50 per year

**David and Sallie Brinks**  
**George and Carol Mandigo**

If you would like to join the Commander's Club,  
contact Jack Draper at [Commander@grsps.org](mailto:Commander@grsps.org)



## Newsletter DEADLINE

**Deadline for next  
issue is the 10th**

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.

**Send all information or questions to:**  
Editor at [editor@grsps.org](mailto:editor@grsps.org)



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