



America's Boating Club of West Michigan

For Boaters, By BoatersSM



Grand Rapids Sail and Power Squadron



waterspout

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The official newsletter of the

Grand Rapids Sail and Power Squadron

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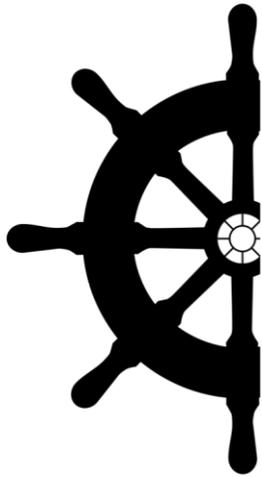


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The waterspout

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To Advertise In The Waterspout, Contact:
Editor@GRSPS.ORG



View From The Bridge

Jack L Draper, Sr.
Squadron Commander



Bridge News

Hello Everyone,

Valentine's day is this month and I can't think of any better way to celebrate it than spending a evening out with your significant other at our next dinner meeting at Brann's. We will have great food and conversation plus you will get to hear about the new products from West Marine with Mike Ozinga.

Our last dinner meeting was great and was well attended. The manager from Great Lakes Marina provided great stories on what not to do. I would like to thank Greg for all his hard work setting up the dinner meetings.

This is a slow time of the year for us since we are not doing the boat show this year. However, we are planning some fun activities this summer. So keep reading the Waterspout for more information on all our upcoming activities since spring will be here before we know it. The Bridge appreciates all of you and your support of our squadron. Have a wonderful and happy Valentine's Day!

Jack

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥



View From The Bridge

Lt/C Greg Heath
Squadron Administrative Officer



Administrative News

February Dinner Meeting

Date: February 13, 2020

Time: 6:00 PM social time
6:30 PM Dinner

Location: Brann's - Grandville
3475 Fairlanes Ave SW, Grandville, MI 49418

Speaker: Mike Ozinga - Manager of West Marine

RSVP: gdheath1@yahoo.com no later than February 9th, 2020 or after February 9th, please contact Marcia Thompson at marcia@virtually4you.us.



Don't miss this great party!

If you would be interested in helping with this party, please contact Marcia Thompson at marcia@virtually4you.us



In Memoriam

Katherine Viculis

On Friday, January 24, 2020 we lost Katherine (Kathy) Viculis after a struggle with cancer. Kathy and Roger have been long time members of the Power Squadrons.



Mrs. Katherine Viculis, formally of Dearborn, MI, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 24, 2020 in Muskegon, MI. She was born on September 7, 1949 in Detroit, MI. She served on the Dearborn Area Board of Realtors for many years. Kathy will be missed by her husband of almost 50 years, Roger; daughters, Lisa (Mike) and Lori (Scott); two grandsons, Greyson and Adler; and brothers, Ronald, Leo and Joseph Szabelski. A Mass of Christian Burial will be 11AM, Wednesday, January 29 at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church with Fr. Charlie Hall presiding. Visitation with the family will be one hour prior to the service, from 10-11AM. Arrangements by The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 6291 S. Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI 49444. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Kathy's memory may be directed to the American Cancer Society <https://www.cancer.org/>. Please visit the family's online guestbook at www.sytsemafh.com.





2020 ANNUAL MEETING



RESERVE YOUR ROOM



FEB. 9-16, 2020



MARRIOTT SAWGRASS PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FLA.



Don't delay, reserve your room today. Guest room reservations only \$169 night!

If you're planning to attend the 2020 Annual Meeting of America's Boating Club, Feb. 9-16, at the fabulous Marriott Sawgrass Resort in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, now's the time to reserve your room.

Located just over 30 miles from the Jacksonville International Airport, the Marriott Sawgrass Resort features guest rooms at the America's Boating Club room rate of \$169 as well as suites and family-friendly villas.

The resort has seven restaurants and lounges for you to choose from. Besides a round of golf at TPC Sawgrass golf club, you can visit the fitness center, multiple pools, a SurfStream wave machine, and complimentary beach access at the Cabana Beach Club.

Be sure to book a visit to the full-service Sawgrass spa, which has 18 treatment rooms, a private spa pool, and nail salon, as well as a fitness center and blow-dry bar. Visit the hotel website to learn more.





February 2020

Jerry Ditrapani ~ Feb 11

Greg Heath ~ Feb 17

David Brinks ~ Feb 19

Pamela Anast ~ Feb 25



LOOK SWEETIE! AS SOON AS YOU DROPPED ANCHOR,
THE ANCHOR LIGHT THAT NEVER WORKED CAME ON!



Savvy Boater



Learn about DAN Boater safety and travel benefits

America's Boating Club has partnered with DAN Boater to offer safety and travel benefits to our members. Your new benefits include an emergency hotline, a nonemergency medical information line, worldwide medical evacuation, medical repatriation, search and rescue expenses, and much more. Visit danboater.org/abc to get complete details on this valuable benefit program.

[Click here](#) to print your DAN Boater benefits card. Have your certificate number and PIN handy when logging in.

You can find details about all DAN Boater benefits, including coverage amounts, in the [DAN Boater Benefits Handbook](#). If you have questions not answered in the handbook, call the DAN Boater Member Support Team at 919-490-2011.

Keep in mind that DAN Boater cannot answer questions related to your America's Boating Club membership. For membership info, call 888-367-8777 for America's Boating Club Customer Service.

[Print my DAN Boater benefits card](#)

Further information available at <https://danboater.org/abc/>



Savvy Boater



What Do I Do With My Old Fire Extinguishers?

Fire extinguishers manufactured in the past decade come in three varieties, water filled, gas filled and chemical filled extinguishers. With the exception of chemical filled extinguishers, both water filled and gas (CO₂) filled extinguishers are inert, and are not harmful. The dry chemical variety can cause irritation, so extra care should be taken with these units.

Older fire extinguishers may have been charged with chemicals such as carbon tetrachloride or halon. If in doubt, contact your local fire department or fire extinguisher service companies (found conveniently in the yellow pages).

The common denominator in the three different types of fire extinguishers mentioned is the fact that they each container is under pressure. Without pressure, when you squeezed the activating trigger, nothing would happen. This is why, on most units today; there is a pressure gauge.



Many of today's units are also rechargeable. This means for a small amount of money, usually a fraction of the cost of a new unit, you can have your fire extinguisher emptied, checked and re-filled.

But let's get back to the inevitable question. You don't want the old fire extinguisher. What do you do with it?

First and foremost, contact your local fire department, sanitation department or environmental protection department and find out what your local laws stipulate. Some locals consider fire extinguishers as hazard waste. Others won't permit you to put fully charged extinguishers in with the regular garbage.

However, you may be able to dispose of discharged extinguishers. If you are permitted, here's the chance to practice what we hope you will never have to do, use the fire extinguisher.

Remember, when you use a fire extinguisher, you point at the bottom of the fire, and spray with a left to right (or right to left) motion using short bursts from the fire extinguisher.

A unit under pressure, if crushed, can explode. Once the unit is discharged, there is no potential of an accident should the extinguisher be crushed during the disposal phase.

Source: <http://americanboating.org/fireextinguishers.asp>



Savvy Boater



Night Boating Tips

There are many reasons why you may find yourself out on the water after dark. You may be night fishing, taking a moonlit romantic cruise or getting back after a dinner that ran long. Night boating is different from [day excursions](#) and adds particular challenges. The good news is that you can prepare for most contingencies and after a nighttime outing or two, you'll be much more comfortable.



10 Tips for Boating at Night

1. Slow down

Visibility is reduced at night. Distances are harder to judge, obstacles are difficult to see, and moisture and temperature changes create distortion. Boats can come out of nowhere and debris and crab pots are nearly invisible on inky black water. Unless there's a full moon, open water and no traffic, don't run on plane.

2. Share the lookout duties

The driver has much to do including keeping an eye on gages, checking the [chartplotter](#) and actually driving. If you have someone along, keep that second pair of eyes strictly on the horizon with a periodic 360-degree scan to ensure no one is coming up from behind or at an angle.

3. Tap into your preparations list

Before ever setting out in the dark, you should have refreshed the batteries in your flashlights and headlamps, put binoculars close to the helm and located [personal floatation devices \(PFDs\)](#). You may consider wearing PFDs with an attached strobe light or glow stick in case someone goes overboard.

4. Preserve your night vision

Dim all the onboard lights including courtesy lights, instrument and chartplotter backlighting and cabin lights. Your night vision can take 20 minutes to adapt back to darkness after a flash of light. Use flashlights with a vision-preserving red filter and check the plotter only when needed because even when dimmed, it will impact your ability to see out of the boat.

5. Don't use headlights or spotlights

You're not in a car and the reflective water kills the benefits of bright forward lights. Use docking lights only when arriving at your destination like at a dock or another boat. That's when spotlights help you see close-up detail like cleats and handholds.

6. Look for the red and green

Running and marker lights are red and green. Entering a harbor in North America, follow the rule: Red, Right, Returning which means keep the red lights to starboard to stay in a safe channel. Consider what a boat looks like under way on the water:

- Red and green lights are forward on either side of the bow and a white light is aft at the stern.
- If you see both red and green, the boat is coming head on.
- If you see white, the boat is ahead of you and/or moving away.
- If in doubt and you see red, stop. That means a boat is crossing your bow and it has the right of way.

Before departing on your voyage, check to make sure your navigation lights are operable so you're visible to others.

7. Listen

Turn off the stereo and listen. You may hear fog horns, bells or other boats approaching. Use your hearing, which may seem more acute in the dark when you can't rely on your eyes.

8. Trust your navigation instruments

Your eyes can play tricks on you in the dark so if your chartplotter is trustworthy normally, don't suddenly decide it must be wrong. If your chartplotter hasn't been updated or you're not all that familiar with its use, slow down and approach with caution until you figure out whether your eyes and ears or your electronics are right.

9. Bring along a towel

A nice beach towel has lots of uses at night. You can drape it over yourself to stay warm and dry, you can toss it over parts of your console to cut down on ambient onboard light, and you can use it wipe a fogged windshield.

10. Dock with extra caution

Again, distances are distorted at night so only approach a dock as fast as you're willing to hit it. Ask crew not to jump onto a dock but rather step off calmly when the boat is close enough. Double-check everyone's knots and hitches before leaving the boat unattended in a slip. For more docking tips, be sure to read [How to Dock a Boat: Step-by-Step Guide](#).

Night boating was once described as "riding a giant worm through Disneyland's Space Mountain"—that's not an exaggeration. However, if you're prepared, vigilant and cautious, you'll find that nighttime excursions can be quite pleasant.

Source: <https://www.discoverboating.com/resources/night-boating>

America's Boating Club of West Michigan



TO ADVERTISE IN THE WATERSPOUT, CONTACT:
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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.

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Grand Rapids Sail & Power Squadron

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Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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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



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



<https://www.facebook.com/AmericasBoatingClubofWestMichigan/>



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