



BIRMINGHAM POWER SQUADRON

Bilge Chatter



BirminghamPowerSquadron.org

March 2015

Commanders Message

I want to bring you up to date on a number of matters that affect Birmingham Power Squadron and to tell you about the actions taken by our Executive Committee (EXCOM) and a wonderful group of past commanders.

First, our Commander, Executive Officer, Administrative Officer and Secretary resigned their positions. They will, however, continue to be contributing members of the squadron and to hold positions of leadership.

The EXCOM has elected the following persons as officers of the squadron:

Commander	Betty Torres, JN
Administrative Officer	Pat Jarmon, SN
Secretary	Tom Geggie, SN

The EXCOM deferred action to elect an Executive Officer after determining that all key functions of that office would be performed by committee heads. Dave Kowalski, SN, continues as SEO, Jerry Major, SN, continues as Treasurer; Judy Delargy, AP, continues as ASEO.

The EXCOM also made the following appointments:

Fund Raising Chair	Al Schwaller, JN
VSC Chair	Larry Delargy, JN
Squadron Photographer	Peggy Schwaller, AP
Assistant Law Officer	Tom Geggie, SN

I would like to personally thank everyone who has volunteered to fill these important jobs. The volunteerism of our members is what keeps our squadron alive and well. I look forward to working with each of our volunteers, whether in education, safety, social or other positions and I want to let everyone know that we are always looking for a few more good men and women for our team! And hats off to Tom Geggie for help writing this article.

Thanks, Betty

Note: This month's *Bilge Chatter* is coming to you in a simplified version while I learn the process and look for new help with the publication. We look forward to bringing you the fuller version you have come to enjoy again in April. Of course, we are also looking for ways to improve the result and solicit your suggestions. – Ed.

March Meetings. Don't miss the March membership Meeting, which will be held at Shields at 1476 W. Maple Rd., Troy on March 10. Enjoy dinner off the menu and camaraderie beginning at 1830. The meeting and a presentation by P.C Tom Smith, JN on **Emergencies on Board** will begin at 1930.

The March EXCOM meeting will be held at Kirby's Koney Island at 5407 Crooks Rd., Troy on March 3 beginning at 1900 with dinner off the menu beginning at 1800. All members are welcome to attend.

April. Looking ahead, at the April meeting, USCG Commander Kevin Floyd, Sector Detroit, will answer questions on news we all will want to know before we take to the water this spring.

Secretary's Report

Thank you to all of the members who have stepped forward to assist me in my new position. I will accept all the help I can get. For starters, I have a department full of excellent volunteers. I do need to fill a few positions and I am in a recruiting mood. First and foremost, of course, is someone to help me edit the *Bilge Chatter*, our award-winning newsletter. If writing is your thing, this is your opportunity to become an author. I will accept part-time or full time help. Perhaps you can help me use a publishing program so that we can make the *Bilge Chatter* look like old.

I also am looking for someone to volunteer as Assistant Secretary in order to act in my absence. Please let me know. For those of you already members of our department, I will be contacting you in March to ask you how I or the other officers can help you make your job easier and better.

Minutes of the January, February and March member and EXCOM will be available at the March members' meeting

Tom

Don't miss the D-9 conference coming up on April 24 – 26 at Shanty Creek Resort. The resort is a great destination as you shake off the dust of winter. **Details and reservation form are at the back of this publication.** For those of you who are "regulars" at our conferences, you know that they combine fun and parties with the meet and greet and seminars we need to do the business of the squadron. In addition, this conference is at the Beautiful Summit Village facility at Shanty Creek Resorts in Bellaire, MI (shantycreek.com). See you there!
The deadline for room reservations is 23 March; the deadline for meals is 20 April.



Treasurer's Report

Our squadron will be holding its next Texas Hold 'em Fund Raiser at the Big Beaver Tavern May 27-30, 2015 (Wed-Sat) 10:30AM-5:30PM. This is our first Fund Raiser in over a year and it is crucial that we have prosperous results. New State regulations require three people per shift including a chairperson.

I will be asking for volunteers to sign up for work schedule at April meeting and finalize at May meeting. Thank you in advance for your help in maintaining the financial health of Birmingham.

Thanks, Jerry

Editor's Note: Texas Hold 'em is our principal fund-raiser. The job assignments themselves are fairly easy. Let's "oversubscribe" for the positions for this event!

Administrative Officer's Report

Lt/C Pat Jarmon

By now many of you are aware that rather complete changes in your BPS Bridge and Executive Committee have taken place in February. While I regret the need for this interruption of our usual year, I am happy to say that most changes have been handled smoothly by your Executive Committee with the help of a dedicated group of Past Commanders. While a few spots remain available for you who'd like to be included (I'll get to those in this Department later), most of the main Offices have found capable experienced Officers to fill them for this year and the Squadron is up and running.

If I need to introduce myself, I'll try to keep it short. I am (except when I'm playing Admin Officer) P/C Patricia Jarmon, SN. I got involved with BPS in 1969 and grew up in and with it. I've been through the Bridge the whole customary five years once, and then served a second time as AO in 2004. I've also held assorted offices from Membership, to BILGE editor, to Boating Proctor, to Hospitality Chair, to Rendezvous Chair The last two of which I will continue in this year. My experience (and age) also got me assigned the post of Historian.

The job of your Bridge Officers is largely to link the offices in their respective departments and pull together the efforts of those Officers. The Administrative Department is the internal and social Department. Within it are these areas with the following already involved as Chairs:

Meetings & Programs	Lt (P/C) Tom Smith, JN & Lt(D/L/C) Tony Lewandowski, AP
Membership	Lt(P/C) David Kowalski, SN
Member Benefits	Lt (P/C) Betty Torres, JN
Member Involvement	Lt (P/C) Betty Torres, JN
Hospitality	Lt (P/C) Pat Jarmon, SN
Rendezvous	Lt (P/C) Pat Jarmon, SN
Amateur Radio Net	Lt (P/C) Robert Blau, SN
Port Captain Lake Erie	Lt/C Gerald Major, JN
Port Captain Lake St Clair	P/N/F/Lt Dick Jarmon, SN

Change of Watch

Lt (P/C) Thomas Geggie, SN
Lt Shirley Geggie, AP

That leaves a bit of space for others of you who'd like to help steer the Squadron. A Sail Chair and a Trailer boating Chair, who could focus on these groups within the group, perhaps providing articles for the *Bilge Chatter* or even planning activities specifically for them, would be very welcome and give us some additional depth. If either of these interests you, please contact me.

I look forward to a year of again working with this dedicated group of Officers and representing you, the members, as we plan activities. I am always open to suggestions for the good of BPS & the enjoyment of as many of our members as possible. Please talk to me as the year goes on.

Pat

Education Officer's Report

A lot has happened since we last met as a squadron. As you have probably noticed there a lot of new faces on the Bridge – well technically you have seen them all before – that were welcomed to the Bridge by the Executive Committee last month. Due to irreconcilable differences we lost some key officers that have contributed greatly to the squadron, but at least they will be continuing on as members of BPS.

I wanted to take the time and thank all of the members that were involved in creating a strategy for the upcoming year. I want to thank Tom Smith, Betty Torres, Tom Geggie, Pat Jarmon, Tony Lewandowski, Bob Blau, Doug Mitchell, Dick Jarmon, Ron Simpson and Jerry Major for all of their contributions. There were a group of people that contributed a great deal to the process of staffing open positions and performing backstage actions such as Althea Doolittle and Bonnie George. Without you it would have been a much more difficult (near impossible) transition to the new line-up.

I can't say this enough but I am proud to belong to Birmingham Power Squadron because of the reaction of both the past and current members of the Bridge and Executive committee. Hopefully we can get more members interested helping to run the squadron.

Classes that are currently in progress include:

- Junior Navigation with Althea and Phil Doolittle teaching. The class started on 1-19-2015 and is being held at St. Joe's Anthony Franco Communications Center. There are 7 Students.
- Marine Communications with Bob Blau teaching. The class started on 1-21-2015 and is being held at St. Joe's Anthony Franco Communications Center. There are 4 Students.



- America's Boating Course in West Bloomfield at the high school started on 1-22-2015 and has 8 students.

Upcoming classes include:

- Piloting with Tom Smith teaching along with Anchor Bay Power Squadron. The class starts 3-07-2015 and will be held at Algonac West Marine.
- America's Boating Course in South Lyon at Centennial Middle School. Dave Kowalski will be teaching. The class starts on March 9th.
- America's Boating Course in Rochester at Stoney Creek High. Gary Jialanella and Ron Simpson will be teaching. This class also starts on March 9th.

Upcoming seminars include:

- Man Overboard on March 14th.
- Basic Weather Forecasting on April 11th.
- Boat Handling Under Power on May 9th.

Recent graduates include:

Lawrence Delargy, N – Navigation
 Gregory Philip Allen, AP – Advanced Piloting
 Denise Drake – How to Use a Chart Seminar, Crossing Border Seminar
 Paul Drake – How to Use a Chart Seminar, Crossing Border Seminar
 Debbie Hendrickson – How to Use a Chart Seminar, Crossing Border Seminar
 Peter Jones – Crossing Border Seminar
 Gerald Major – Crossing Border Seminar
 Terry Mathews – Crossing Border Seminar
 Stephen Tillie – How to Use a Chart Seminar, Crossing Border Seminar

Over the next couple of months I will be planning classes for the fall of 2015, if you want a specific elective please let me know at seo@bpsd9.org. We will be offering the Advanced Grade courses if we can get some students to attend. We will be offering a recertification class for instructors in the fall.

Piloting: Member cost: \$105.00 –
 Non-member cost: \$155.00

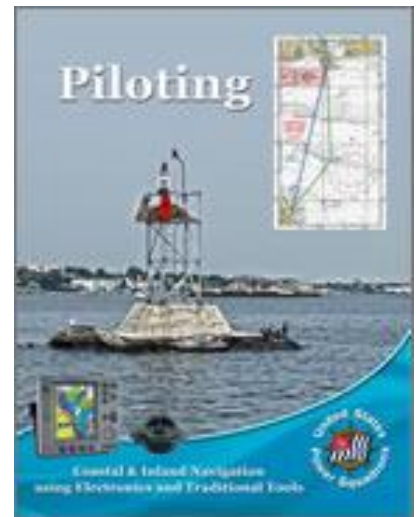
Piloting - DATE CHANGE

**Location: West Marine
 401 Michigan St
 Algonac, MI 48001
 Date and Time: 2015-03-07
 1000 (10:00 am)**

Piloting is the second of the Advanced Level courses and is the first course in the sequence of USPS courses on navigation, covering the basics of coastal and inland navigation. This course focuses on navigation as it is done on recreational boats today and embraces GPS as a primary technique so the student will be able to find his/her way even if their GPS fails. The course includes many in-class exercises, developing the student's skills through hands-on practice and learning.

Course Covers:

- Charts & Their Interpretation
- Navigational Aids
- Plotting Courses and Determining Direction and Distance
- Using a Compass
- Converting between True and Magnetic
- Using GPS
- Preplanning Safe Courses
- Monitoring progress and determining position on the water
- Traditional Techniques such as Bearings and Dead Reckoning



*Includes. 20 class-hours of instruction, USPS Piloting Course Student Guide, "Weekend Navigator"
 Prerequisite: SEAMANSHIP*



Americas Boating Course - 3rd Edition (ABC3:)

Learn the fundamentals of safe boat handling and operation plus basic piloting in this comprehensive classroom course. This newly revised course will give you the basics of line throwing, knot tying, boat handling, anchoring, navigation rules and aids, emergencies on the water and more.

Instructors have many years of boating experience shared on the Great Lakes and inland waters. Michigan laws and rules will be presented. This course is recommended because of its detailed course study. Completion of this course qualifies you for a FREE 6 month Power Squadron membership and the opportunity to take our advanced courses.

Successful completion of the course earns a MI DNR Boater Safety Card which is REQUIRED by EVERYONE born on or after July 1, 1996 to operate a boat legally in Michigan.

The Boater Safety Card is also REQUIRED by EVERYONE born after December 31, 1978 to operate a Personal Water Craft such as a Jet Ski, Waverunner or Sea-Doo.

Course includes:

Required Safety Equipment
Navigation Rules & Aids
Finding Your Way
Marlinspike (knots!)
Boat Registration
State of Michigan Watercraft Regulations
Trailerling
Anchoring
Communications Afloat
Lights and Sound signals
Introduction to Charting and Plotting
Register through SLA Recreation at (248) 437-8105 or at www.slrec.net

TWO CLASSES AND LOCATIONS!

South Lyon:

Location: Centennial Middle School
62500 9 Mile Rd
South Lyon, MI 48178
Date and Time: **March 09, 2015**
1900 (7:00 pm) - cost: \$45 plus room fee -- \$18/RESIDENTS;
\$34/NON-RESIDENTS

Stoney Creek HS

575 E. Tienken Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48306
Date and Time: **March 09, 2015**
1900 (7:00 pm) – cost: \$45 plus room fee -- \$26.

For maps, go to birminghampowersquadron.org

March Seminar

Man Overboard

This seminar is designed to teach boaters how to react, and then, how to recover a crewmember or passenger who accidentally falls overboard.

The seminar covers vessel set-up and man overboard (MOB) equipment as well as maneuvering to keep the rescuer close to the person in the water.

It also covers the responsibility of the person in the water in this emergency situation and methods of recovering that person.

Location: West Marine

Date: **2015-03-14**

Start Time: 0930

976 Big Beaver, Troy, MI

Register at birminghampowersquadron.org

Walk-ins always welcome!



April

Basic Weather and Forecasting

2015-04-11 Start Time: 0930

A veering wind will clear the sky; A backing wind says storms are nigh."

Member cost: \$35.00 - Non-member cost: \$45.00

May

Boat Handling under Power

2015-05-09 Start Time: 0930

Member cost: \$35.00 - Non-member cost: \$45.00

Details and registration information can be found at BirminghamPowerSquadron.org

Walk-ins always welcome

Unless otherwise noted, seminars are presented at West Marine, 976 Big Beaver, Troy, MI



2nd Saturday Seminar Schedule for 2015

West Marine, 789 Big Beaver Rd., Troy
Start Time: 0930 (9:30 a.m.)

Dates	Seminars	Instructors
14 March	Boat Handling Under Power	Tom Smith
11 April	Basic Weather Forecasting	Bob Blau
9 May	Boat Handling Under Power	Tom Smith
13 June	Paddlesmart	Dave Kowalski
11 July	Anchoring	Tom Geggie
8 August	Emergencies on Board	Don Fiander
12 Sep.	Sail Trim & Rig Tuning	Bill Hamilton
10 October	Radar	Tom Geggie
14 Nov.	Boating on Rivers, Lakes and Locks	Tom Smith
12 Dec.	Mariner's Compass	

New PFD Standards—No “Type” Labels

From the 22 January 2015 issue of *Currents*

For many years we have used and taught the “Type” classification of life jackets or Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) specified under federal regulations. However, the USCG and others have concluded that the “Types” are not understood by the boating public and are, in fact, confusing.

As a result, federal regulations have been changed to drop these classifications from PFD labels. The Federal Register volume 79 number 183 of September 22, 2014 promulgated the USCG final rule to remove references to type codes (Type I, II, III, IV, V) in its regulations on the carriage and labeling of CG approved personal floatation devices (PFDs).

This action facilitates future incorporation by reference of new industry consensus standards for PFD labeling that more effectively convey safety information, and is a step toward harmonization of our regulations with PFD requirements in Canada and in other countries. By the way, although the term life jackets is used in much of the new USCG documents, they still prefer PFD for the formal regulations and standards as that term includes non-wearable aids such as throwable devices.

The Coast Guard is working with the PFD community to revise the classification and labeling of PFDs. When completed, this information will be updated and hopefully be somewhat easier to understand. A Standards Technical Panel, which includes representatives from the USA and Canada will be recommending a new North American Standard.

In the meantime, the current labels, while no longer required under federal law, can continue to be used and we can continue to explain them in our classes. Furthermore, each PFD sold for use on a recreational boat must be provided with the guide to selection entitled “Think Safe—Choose the Right PFD.” These pamphlets are tailored to the kind of PFD to which they are attached and are used by the boating public to ensure they are purchasing an appropriate device.

The Coast Guard also notes in the Federal Register that requirements for carrying PFDs are not affected and that

(Continued on page 6)

Birmingham Power Squadron Contacts

Bridge and Elected Committee Officers

Commander	Betty Torres, JN cdr@bpsd9.org
Executive Officer	TBA xo@bpsd9.org
Education Officer	Lt/C David Kowalski, SN seo@bpsd9.org
Assistant Education Officer	1st Lt Judith Delargy, AP aseo@bpsd9.org
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Pat Jarmon, SN ao@bpsd9.org
Treasurer	Lt/C Gerald Major, JN treasurer@bpsd9.org
Secretary	Lt/C Tom Geggie, SN secretary@bpsd9.org
Assistant Secretary	TBA
Executive Committee	

Bridge Officers, plus
D/1st/Lt Thomas Smith, JN
P/C David Kowalski, SN
D/Lt Ronald Simpson, AP
Lt Bonnie George, P

Audit Committee:

Lt Paul Loock, AP, Chair
Lt David Bartilson, AP
Lt Gary Rellox, AP

Nominating Committee:

D/1st/Lt Thomas Smith, JN
P/C Douglas Mitchell, SN

Rules Committee:

P/N/F/Lt Dick Jarmon, SN
P/C Elizabeth Torres, JN

BPS Webmaster

Lt Bonnie George, P
webmaster@bpsd9.org

The Bilge Chatter Editor TBA

Contact: secretary@bpsd9.org

Newsletter articles/photos are due by the 20th of the month.

For membership information, contact L/C David Kowalski, SN at seo@bpsd9.org.

The *Bilge Chatter* is published 10 times a year by Birmingham Power Squadron. The deadline for submission of all materials is the 20th of each month. Until further notice, all articles should be submitted to the editor, L/C Thomas Geggie, SN, at thgeggie@gmail.com. Text should be submitted in Word format whenever possible. Please notify the editor of any change in address. Articles may be reprinted without permission if credit is given to Birmingham Power Squadron and the *Bilge Chatter*. Opinions expressed within do not necessarily reflect the opinion of USPS® or of Birmingham Power Squadron.



Vessel Safety Check Program

The Vessel Safety Check program is administered and directed by the U.S. Coast Guard. The United States Power Squadrons partner with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to participate in conducting VSCs. Volunteer Power Squadron members study the USCG VSC Manual, pass a USCG examination, and successfully conduct five VSCs under supervision to become certified VEs.

The VSC program helps to achieve voluntary compliance with federal and state recreational boating safety laws, particularly regarding the carriage of safety equipment. It also helps to raise boaters' awareness of safety issues through one-on-one contact by Vessel Examiners, who educate boaters on maintaining and operating their boats in a safe manner, taking boating education courses to increase their knowledge and skills in boating, and promoting safe boating to others.

Vessel Examinations are free of charge and strictly voluntary. This means that any discrepancies will not be reported to law enforcement authorities. The Vessel Safety Check decal is a good way to show the public that the boat owner is complying with boating safety regulations. While all boaters are encouraged to have their boats checked, Power Squadron members should set a positive example in this regard, especially if they are displaying the USPS Ensign on their boats.

While there is no guarantee that having a VSC and displaying a VSC decal on your boat will exempt you from boarding for an inspection by the Coast Guard, there is a good possibility that it will. In any event if your boat has passed a VSC, you will have the assurance that it met all legal and regulatory safety requirements at the time the VSC was conducted. Last September, my boat was approached and hailed by a Coast Guard patrol boat and I was informed that they planned to board my boat for an inspection. When I pointed out that a current VSC decal was displayed on my boat, I was told that boarding and inspection would not be necessary, and they wished me a good day.

Details on how to request a VSC will be provided next month.

L.M. Delargy, N

(Continued from page 5)

existing labels can continue to be used until the new standards are set. Also, PFDs meeting the old standard will remain acceptable for their lifetime.

What impact does this have on us as boating educators? For the time being, the impact is minimal as this is just the first step in a long process of standard setting and rule making which will probably take several years.

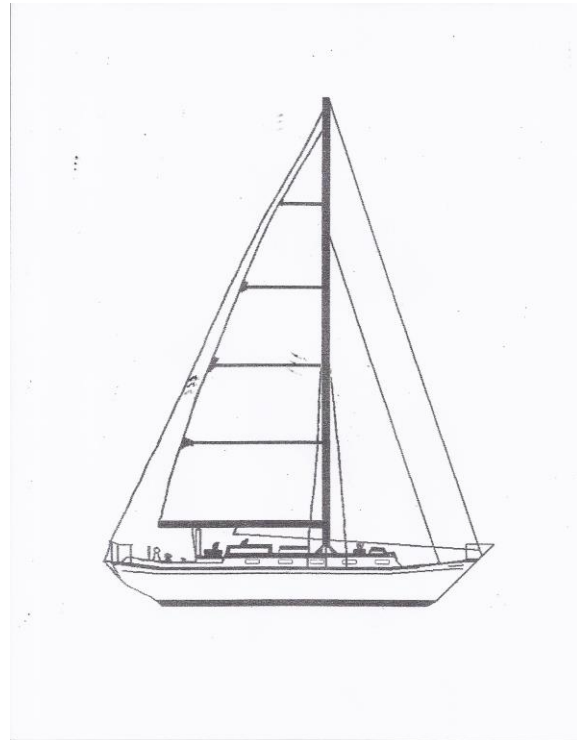
We should let our students know that the Type designations will be phased out and eventually we will have new standards. In the meantime, it is important that they have an approved device aboard for each person that is suitable for their type of boating.

We will continue to urge that life jackets be worn. We will also make the changes to our ABC material in accord with NASBLA (National Association of State Boating Law Administrators) standard for public courses

Editor's Note: I would like to thank all those who assisted me in preparing this addition of the *Bilge Chatter*, including each officer who supplied an article and our Squadron photographer, Peggy Schwaller, who supplied the photos and our VSC Chair, Larry Delargy, for his article.

I need help inserting clip art and other interesting effects and in formatting the final document. If this is your thing, please send me a note so we can work together on future issues.

Again, thanks to all.



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Squadron members enjoying dinner and social time before the January meeting.



Squadron Business is underway!



Commander, we have a quorum.

Paul Drake (left) and Debbie Henderson (below) are sworn in as new members. **Welcome Aboard!**



SEO Dave Kowalski with the education report



AO Brenda Sumey reporting on Navigation by Personal Computer.

