



# The Newswheel

A publication of the Louisville Sail and Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, [www.louisvillepowersquadron.org](http://www.louisvillepowersquadron.org)

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### **2016 Special Events!** **Save the dates:**

*April 7, 2016 – Dinner meeting (Menu: Salad, fried fish, baked chicken, au gratin potatoes, carrots, desserts)  
Speaker Don Ferry from Jeff Boat*

*April 16, 2016 – Rendezvous at Marine Sales & Services on River Road.*

*May 12, 2016 – Dinner meeting (Menu: Salad, Hot Brown, corn beef and cabbage, mashed potatoes and gravy, desserts)*

*No meetings in June, July, or August... see you on the water!*

## From the commander – Faye Kugele

We had a great time at the Christmas Party back in December – see page 3 for a poem about the 2015 LSPS activities.

Well have you kept any of your new year's resolutions? I am still working on a couple! It has been a challenging year, but I look forward to the transition to the 2016-17 year and the exciting opportunities we have before us. I also hope this year finds each of you in good health and good spirits.

In the last Newswheel back in December, I announced that the USPS Educational Department had a Facebook page. Well now I am proud to tell you that the Louisville Sail & Power Squadron also has a Facebook page. If you have trouble finding it, contact Kim Fisher to make sure you get a special invitation. You will find a picture of the Executive Committee during the February meeting, and it is a great way

to keep up with the latest news and events.

We are still working on the website and look forward to better efficiency and functionality while maintaining a safe and secure site.

Hope you can make it to the Change of Watch on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The officers and committee members need to see that you support them. We do not have an administrative officer for the upcoming 2016-17 year. So we are looking for volunteers to recruit a speaker for one of the meetings or organize a rendezvous. I have the schedule and some useful tips for anyone who is interested. It is really quite easy and you will have made a tremendous contribution to the squadron... maybe even earned a merit mark!

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## Administrative Officer Report – Margie Binzer

January's dinner meeting was a great success. Charles Parrish described the challenges faced by the first lifesavers on the river here in Louisville. The stories of the 'heroes at the falls' were pulled from the book by the same name, authored by Leland Johnson, PhD. Tom and Margie Binzer donated one of the books, edited by Charles Parrish, to the LSPS as the February door prize.

In February, we heard our own Jack Banister discussed the history and founding of the United States Power Squadron that was formalized in 1914. Jack described the events and named the key players as the organization chose its first Chief Commander, Roger Upton. For those who have taken Junior Navigation or Navigation, the story would not be complete with out hearing about Charles Chapman and his key role in education.

## Preparing for boating season -

If you haven't already done so, now is a great time to examine your required safety gear and make a shopping list for the coming boating season.

**Life jackets:** Boats 16 feet and longer are required to have one Type I, II or III life jacket for every person on board and one throw-able Type IV. If you have an inflatable life vest, check the expiration on the CO<sub>2</sub> cartridge. If it needs to be changed, inflate it to experience how it feels and sounds. Also make sure you have the proper-size life jackets for the kids.

**Bell, whistle or sound producing devices:** If your vessel is less than 65.6 feet, it must carry an efficient sound-producing device. If you use an air horn, is it functional and full or rusty and empty?

**Fire extinguishers:** Know how many and what kind of fire extinguishers to have based on the size of your vessel. Make sure the charge indicator is in the green.

**Navigation lights:** Check out all your navigation lights and see how many spare bulbs you have. This is a great time to order replacements.

Taking care of any issues now will make it so much easier to cast off the lines in the near future.

—John and Beth Schwab, USPS

*And Marty Seconhouse, USPS says:* I believe there are some essentials all captains should teach their crew.

**Learn how to start and stop the engine(s):** In my boat the ignition keys are in the cabin, but the start buttons are at the helm; every boat is different, so practice your starting procedure.

**Learn about life jackets:** Where are they, how do you put them on, and do they have whistles or other safety equipment?

**Learn how to put the boat in gear:** Knowing how to put the boat in forward and reverse may come in handy.

**Learn how to get back to the dock:** Should something happen to the captain, what would you do? Getting back to the dock may be the fastest way to get help.

**Learn how to pull into the slip:** Docking doesn't need to be pretty, but in an emergency, a little bump at 1 mph should do little to no damage.

**Learn how to tie a line around a cleat:** A simple figure eight will hold any boat.

**Learn how to drop anchor:** Dropping an anchor will most likely keep you safe and help calm things down if you can't drive the boat.

**Learn how to use the radio:** It's a fairly safe bet that the boat is equipped with GPS. Find out how to get your latitude and longitude positions from the GPS. With that, the U.S. Coast Guard, police and towing services can pinpoint your exact location.

**Learn how to use a fire extinguisher:** Nothing is more dangerous than a fire aboard a boat. Waste a fire extinguisher or two if you have to, but practice how to handle one.

**Learn how to untie the boat:** It's never good to tow your dock behind you.

**Learn how to disconnect the power cable from the shore power station:** Water and electricity do not mix.

## Squadron Education News: by Larry Samuels

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Dale Bletso passed the Navigation class and Tom Christensen is ready to take the exam. Currently there is one student, Ron MacPhee, who is doing a home-study for the Advanced Piloting course.

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## Thanks to Boat Show Volunteers!

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We had a very successful event at the Louisville Boat and RV show at the end of January. Glenn Kugele coordinated the booth coverage. Also the booth looked tremendous thanks to the dedication and talent of Ed Ice, Tom Binzer, and Joe Venhoff. Ed made a rope tying stand with different types of structures to tie off the ropes – it included a couple of cleats and a post. Joe updated the knot board with new examples of knots. The board had labels that made it possible for people to not only examine the various knots but to learn their names as well. The boat show attendees tried their hand at various knots - it was a tremendous hit with the crowd. Tom built a family – mother, father, and child – all made from plywood and wearing various life vests. The sign “What is your life worth?” challenged the viewers to consider the cost of the life jacket and realize how little money it may take to ensure your loved ones are safe on the water. Next year we will expand our display to include more information about the differences in life jackets and the factors that should be considered when shopping for one.

Glenn asked to give a special recognition to Kim Fisher and Joe Venhoff for helping him set up for the show and to Paula and Gary Bower who helped take down the displays and pack up the exhibits. The names of the people who volunteered their time to talk and answer questions about the knots, the family life jacket display, and the virtual boat trainer are listed on the back page.



**LSPS Story from the Christmas Party (to the rhyme of "T'was the night before Christmas")**

T'was 2 months after thunder with Wayne Hettinger in house,  
Not a member was stirring... not even a mouse.  
Power squadron members were listening with care  
In hopes that summer and low water would soon be there.  
Next, members were poised all in their boats With visions of raft-ups and parties afloat!  
My first mate in his kerchief and me in my captain's cap  
Had just finished the Bud light and settled down for a nap.  
When out on the river there arose such a clatter  
It sounded like a steamboat collision from Mark Wetherington's chatter.  
Away to the bow I ran like a flash, Jumped over the windshield and landed on my ash...tray.  
The moon on the debris from a recent washout left a cluster of logs blocking the slip and on out.  
When what to my wondering eyes should appear  
But David Wicks and paddlers wearing Phil Bill's Fleur de lis gear.  
With Gilda's club members so lively and quick I knew in a moment I had left Harrod's Creek (Crick)  
More rapid than power boats the paddlers they came  
And the first mate and I shouted and called them some names.  
Now don't get in front of me and please, don't you know...  
Don't try to beat me, you are much too slow. Watch out for the barges, watch out for the Falls,  
Now we have more bridges and they are so tall.  
As the water rises after the spring rains fall  
When MSDS meets an overflow... they tell us all.  
That's when Wesley and Jason provided us news  
on how to decrease sewage and other "ooeee" too.  
And then in a twinkling I realized it was time  
For another Adventure Camp session and volunteers to sign.  
As Ed's parrot head was mounted and he was turning around  
Here came Tereasia and Joe and kids abound.  
They were all dressed in life jackets and all were in line  
And they boarded the pontoon all excited and fine.  
Now we come to the end but I have more events and names  
To add to the speaker's list and topics the same.  
A lock-through and raft up at McAlpine locks,  
A chili-fest with judging at Paradise Lost.  
Stan Adler and Doug Foster discussed Honor Flight,  
And told us about veterans and memorial sights.  
Valerie Askren talked about fly fishing and sold her books  
She told the secrets of Kentucky's lakes and how great they look.  
I could go on and in fact I fear  
I have left out many of the moments about which you should hear.  
I have been excited and feel very blessed  
To be you commander – to that I attest.  
Even though it may seem the year has flown by  
There are more things to do and new boating courses to try.  
More friends to make and more merit marks to earn  
Looking forward to more meetings and more things to learn.  
So let's close now in thankfulness as we each go our way  
But let's meet again come January and be ready to play.

**Louisville Sail and Power Squadron**  
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**Let's Celebrate:**

Welcome back to Scott Miller who has reinstated his membership!

Thanks to volunteers who worked the boat Show booth:

Kyle and Brenda Fisher	Ron MacPhee
Sunny and Allen Gailor	Kim Fisher
Larry Samuels	Joe and Pat Venhoff
Gary and Paula Bower	David Lynch
Dale and Kay Bletso	Alan Roles
John Kiessel	David and Treasia Robertson
Doug Foster	Jesse Turley
Bob Shoer	

And special thanks to Ed Ice, Tom Binzer, and Joe Venhoff for building the knot board and stand and "life" exhibit.



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The Newswheel

The Louisville Sail and Power squadron is a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, a national boating organization whose main objectives are to educate and promote safe boating on our waterways. The Newswheel is published by the Louisville Sail and Power Squadron and distributed to its members, national and district officers and commanders of other District 24 Squadrons. Materials published herein may not be reprinted in whole or part without written consent of the Louisville Sail and Power Squadron Bridge. Please submit any articles or photographs to be considered for publication to the Squadron Secretary.