

Power Squadrons Hold Seamanship Advanced Classes

The United States Power Squadrons are offering advanced courses in Seamanship, Piloting, and Sail in Oakland County starting Jan. 9.

This gives interested parties time to take all three courses and still have time to get their boats ready for launch in the spring.

The United States Power Squadrons have specialized in boating safety education and advanced training in all boating-related skills for nearly 100 years.

The first course, Seamanship, starting Jan. 9, explores everything that a boater needs to understand the skills and demonstrate the ability to safely handle, maneuver, dock, operate, tie up, and care for a vessel, either sail or power, anchoring, emergencies, rules of the road, and marlinpike/basic knots.

The course provides an understanding of how boats behave under various conditions, including close quarters and open water operations.

Information for safe operation in waters of Canada and Mexico is also included.

The second course – Piloting – in this two-part series begins on March 20, and focuses on navigation as it is done on recreational boats today, emphasizing GPS as a primary navigation tool while covering enough traditional techniques for boaters to find their way, even if their GPS fails.

It includes in-class exercises that develop piloting skills through hands-on practice and learning.

Subjects include charts and their interpretation, navigation aids and how they point to safe water, plotting courses and determining direction and distance, use of the mariner's compass, us-



Power Squadron classes are now available for the spring.

ing a GPS, setting waypoints and routes and staying on a GPS route, pre-planning safe courses and entering them into a GPS, monitoring progress and determining position by both GPS and traditional techniques such as bearings and dead reckoning.

These two courses are valid for both sail and motor boating.

An optional course on sail starts on Jan. 28, and can be taken along with Seamanship and Piloting. The course offers a full spectrum of education to the beginner and experienced sailor alike, beginning with basic boat designs, rigging and sail processes for the non-sailor.

The course proceeds into the physical aspects of sailing, sail applications, knots useful to sailors, helmsmanship, handling of more difficult sailing conditions, navigation rules, and an introduction to heavy-weather sailing.

Seamanship starts Wednesday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m., and runs for 10 weeks at the Bloomfield Hills City Hall.

Course cost, which covers course materials, is \$80 for USPS members, \$130 for non-members. Piloting starts Wednesday,

March 20, at 7 p.m., and runs for 10 weeks at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital Franco Communication Center at 44405 Woodward Ave., Pontiac.

Course cost, which covers course materials, is \$100 for USPS members, \$150 for non-members.

Sail starts Monday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m., and runs for 10 weeks at the Bloomfield Hills City Hall.

Cost for this course, which includes course materials, is \$75 for USPS members, \$125 for non-members.

Power Squadron is a nonprofit organization and these courses are professionally developed. Any one, two, or all three courses can be taken this winter.

For registration and more information regarding class dates, times and locations, contact the Birmingham Power Squadron on 248-224-7235 or via the group's Website at www.birminghampowersquadron.org, or by emailing seo@bpsd9.org. Seats are still available at all courses.

Got News?

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'AutoGlow' Set for Ford Field

The Children's Center's 2013 AutoGlow, Vive Detroit event, will be held at Ford Field on Friday, Jan. 18, following the North American International Auto Show Charity Preview.

The event will be hosted by Lisa and Bill Ford and Nicki and Alan Mulally. The 2013 AutoGlow, Vive Detroit, celebrates Detroit's French origins with world-class cuisine, live entertainment and reception with supporters of The Children's Center.

Ford Field is one of the most environmentally-friendly stadiums in the country, a stipulation for the event.

Lisa Ford, one of AutoGlow 2013's co-hosts and a member of The Children's Center's Board of Directors, said, "Bill and I support many environmental initiatives. As long-term supporters of The Children's Center, we felt that AutoGlow 2013 should reflect the sustainable business practices we all embrace."

Ford Field is an energy-efficient facility that incorporates a

number of green construction techniques, such as the reuse of an unused building; the integration of recycled steel, glass, and rubber; as well as skylights to increase natural lighting and state-of-the-art heating and cooling systems.

In an effort to do their part in preserving the environment, The Children's Center calculated AutoGlow's carbon footprint, a measure of CO2 emitted by burning fossil fuels, and purchased a credit to offset the event's projected emissions.

The credit will be invested in projects that work to reduce overall environmental impact and fight global warming.

Only a limited number of tickets are still available. Individuals can purchase tickets for \$325. Sponsorship packages begin at \$7,500.

To purchase tickets or sponsorship packages and to learn more about the event, call 313-262-1085 or visit thechildrenscenter.com/autoglow.

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