





**SKOKIE VALLEY SAIL
AND POWER SQUADRON**

DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter - Volume 20 Issue 4

Running Lights

April 2020





A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER

Given the average age of our squadron members, many of us are old enough to remember the Korean Conflict, the Red Scare, Atom Bomb drills (Duck and Cover), Air Raid drills, Nike missile bases in Chicago, Polio season, the Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam, the hippies at Haight and Ashbury in San Francisco, stagflation, 9/11, and the Great Recession. Some members vividly recall Pearl Harbor and World War II. Some of these were scary, but hardly changed our lives. This time is different. We are dealing with an invisible enemy that can kill, spreads quickly, and has us locked down for what could be months. It does its greatest damage to people in our age range. A stock market crash and Great Depression resembling 1929 are already upon us. Who among us would have expected life to change so quickly in a month or two?


For now, the D20 Spring Conference is postponed to May 22-23. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held online, using conferencing software. The Change of Watch dinner meeting at Gusto's in Glenview will be cancelled. Everyone has bailed out of the August cruise to Alaska. Breakfast Club gatherings? No restaurant will have dine-in customers for a while. We got one ABC Class done at Larsen Marine, and the rest are likely to be postponed until after boating season. The Lake Michigan Fishing Derby and the Southern Lake Michigan Summer Cruise could happen because of the natural social distancing they offer. I hope the kids get to have the COSI Boat Day in July. They could use some time away from hospital care. Summerfest in Milwaukee is postponed to September.

Gatherings of large crowds do not seem likely to happen for a while. I saw a Facebook posting of a plain white tee shirt. It was captioned, "the Locker Room NCAA Championship Winning Team souvenir." All professional sports venues are shut down indefinitely. Television shows that used to be performed for a live audience have the show with no one in the seats watching, just the TV cameras. News interviews are routinely done remotely on the Sunday morning shows.

Where does this leave us? For starters, we are going to adapt to meeting online for doing business. My meetings of the USPS National ITCOM Committee have been done that way just because the national membership is all over the country. It is not that bad. You get used to it. If you work in an office, and meetings are held among people in different places, WebEx or GoToMeeting are the tools of the day. It will cost less without a restaurant, and I expect many will not bother to join in, but like all of the rest of our problems during this crisis, you get creative and learn to cope with being at home almost 24/7.

This, too, shall pass. Meanwhile, we shall meet via Internet and telephone, and God willing, stay safe.

—Cdr. Rich Davidson, SN

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2019-2020 Bridge**

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Mark Your Calendar



April 2020

1	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Webex Meeting—Contact Rich Davidson
8	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Cancelled
15	Wed	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
18	Sat	Change of Watch, 1300	Cancelled
22	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Cancelled

May 2020

6	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Yen Yen Restaurant, Buffalo Grove
6	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Continental Restaurant, Buffalo Grove
15	Fri	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
16	Sat	Member Dinner Meeting	Reflections, Lake Villa
20	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Continental Restaurant, Buffalo Grove
22-23	Fri-Sat	D20 Spring Conference	Holiday Inn, Elgin

Montauk Point Lighthouse

Long Island, New York has sixteen lighthouses lighting its coasts. Montauk Point Lighthouse is the oldest in the state of New York. When George Washington toured Long Island in 1757 he told his companions he could envision a lighthouse on Montauk Point. In 1792 as President, George Washington authorized the building of Montauk and construction began June 7, 1796 and was completed in November 5th of that same year.

This lighthouse has served as an active aid to navigation for over 200 years and is currently the oldest **active** lighthouse in the United States. It is located on a hill at the easternmost point of the island. The height is 110' 6" with 137 iron steps to the top, which Bridget was able to climb. The light flashes every 5 seconds and can be seen for 19 nautical miles.

The first keeper was Jacob Hand. He had to climb the lighthouse to light 8 wicks each day. Jacob served till 1812; his son served for 2 more years. In the early days this island was very isolated, so they did not have any neighbors near. They had a keeper and at times two assistants. They were furnished with plenty of coal and supplies to clean and paint. They received a small salary and the rent was free.

In 1860 a huge 10,000 pound Fresnel lens was installed. The lighthouse was automated in 1987. In 1997 an inspection found corrosion of the mortar, so repairs were completed in 1999. In 1987 Montauk Historical Society took over the lighthouse and grounds. They made the 1860 keepers house into a very nice museum. The Assistants bedrooms contain historical documents, photographs and a gift store. You can view the head keepers' bedroom as it looked from 1860 to 1947. A kitchen was added in 1892 and in 1943 the kitchen was turned into a recreation room. The oil room now has on display an original 3 1/2 Order Fresnel Lens. This lens was used from 1903-1987. We enjoyed seeing this lighthouse, museum and old lens.

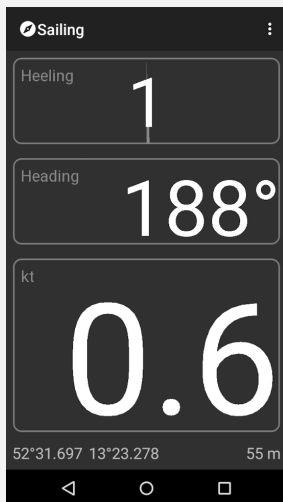
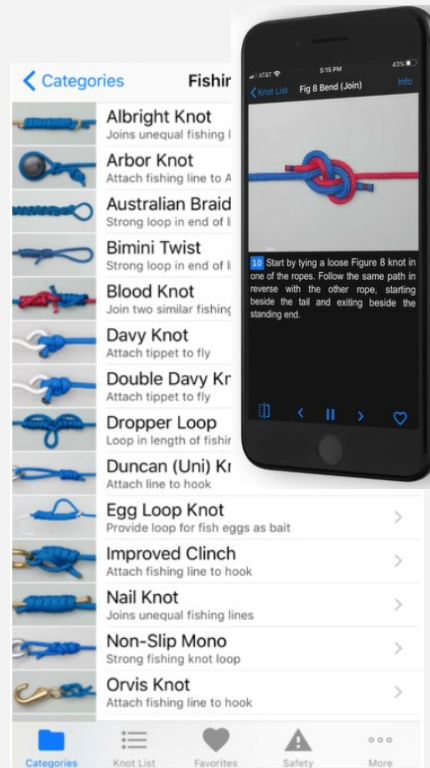


Submitted by, Bridget Doerner with photo by George H. Doerner

Yes, There is an App for That

Boatplanet.com put together a list of top 10 best boating apps for your smart phone. Here are a few of their recommendations.

Animated Knots by Grog. Uses animation to show you how to tie nautical knots, step by step. Use the app or visit their site: www.animatedknots.com It even has a category for fishing knots, like the list shown here to the right.



BoatSpeed by Hans Joachim Herbertz. This app was designed for sailors. It uses the GPS on your phone to calculate the speed, course and position of your boat.

Boat Master Boat Parking Simulator by Tommy Vaux. This is a free educational gaming app that lets you practice docking different power and sail boats in various conditions.



May 16th Save the Date

Our May Member Meeting
is currently scheduled at
Reflections in Lake Villa, IL

We love their food and this
family style feast cannot be
missed. All while enjoying the
beautiful views of Deep Lake.

Open since 1999, this Polish
American experience has
been described as the best in
Lake County.

Charter Fishing Derby June 13, 2020

We are in the planning stages for
the Fishing Derby and need to
know how many boats to reserve.

The boats hold 6 people each.
The individual cost could be
about \$130 per person,
depending on the number of
boats and people.

If you think you might be interest-
ed, please contact Dave Anthony
dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net

Social Distancing When Boating



Only boat with those in
your immediate household.



No beaching
your boat
right next to
someone else.



Maintain your distance
at the fuel dock –
and remember to
wash your hands.



No rafting up
– keep your
distance on
the water.

No guests on your boat!
This includes family members
not in your immediate
household or your closest
boating buddies.

**Go right from your house
to the boat and back –**
no unnecessary contact
with anyone.

**Enjoy your boat, the water and the fresh air;
but enjoy it while boating responsibly.**



YOUR WEATHER REPORT

By Mike Hennessy, AP, Instructor-Weather course



Lightning Hot Spots

In 1997, NASA launched a weather satellite with a Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission Lightning Imaging Sensor. It was only supposed to last three years, but it was operational for 16 years providing valuable data. Lightning is really unpredictable, but after years of analysis, the team at NASA was able to determine which parts of the earth see the most lightning flashes each year.

The number one location is Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela, which produces 232.5 lightning flashes per square kilometer per year. This bay in the Caribbean is a huge body of water. It would be South America's largest lake, but technically it has a tiny inlet. There are storms almost nightly on this lake. When the warm air off the lake meets the cool winds from the Andes, it sets off the "never-ending storm". These storms are so dramatic, they have been used by ships for navigation for centuries...a natural beacon!

Locals operate tour boats to get a prime view of the show. One thing that makes this location really unique is most of the storms happen at night, and over water. That is in stark contrast to the majority of thunderstorms elsewhere, which develop in the afternoon, typically over land.

This type of data is so valuable, NASA is planning to launch another Lightning Imaging Sensor aboard a 20-year climate-observation tool this October.



OUR GREAT LAKES, OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

As boaters, we know to come in off the water during a storm, but did you know some lightning can strike 6-10 miles away? If you hear thunder, you are within 10 miles of the storm.

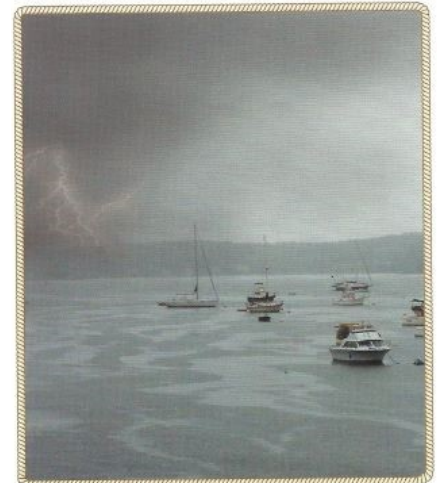


When it comes to fatalities due to lightning strikes, fishing is the leading cause of lightning fatalities. That's because fishermen are on boats and also near water on piers, rocks or beaches. Water is a great conductor of electricity.

The second greatest contributor to lightning fatalities is on the beaches. The warning sounds of thunder can be hidden by the surf or other people having fun on the beach. Also, safe shelter may be far away and harder to get to quickly. If you see lightning while on the beach, it is best to seek shelter in an enclosed building with plumbing and electricity. Another option for shelter would be a car or other metal vehicle with a hard top. You should not shelter in a picnic pavilion or other building that is open to the outside weather.

I found an interesting sight that shows lightning strikes in real time. Check out LightningMaps.org to see strikes anywhere in the world in the last 15 min, 2, 12, 24 and 48 hours.

CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ



Thunderstorms most often occur in the late afternoon or early evening near land, or at _____ and _____ far out at sea.

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing



SVPS 2020 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
Postponed	SVPS Change of Watch	Gusto Ristorante Italiano, Glenview, IL	Commander
Postponed	America's Boating Club Public Boating Course	Bay Marine, Waukegan, IL	Rich Davidson
May 2nd Saturday	Rowing Regatta	Crystal Lake	Gary Vinzant
May 16th Saturday	May Member Meeting	Reflections Restaurant, Lake Villa	Ron Zingler & Joe Paldo
May 22-23 Fri-Sat	District 20 Spring Conference	Holiday Inn, Elgin, IL	SVPS
June 13th Saturday	Lake Michigan Fishing Derby	North Point, IL	Dave Anthony
June 13th Saturday	Sundowner	North Point, IL	Tony Palazzo, Sue & Dave Anthony
July 9th Thursday	COSI (Children's Oncology Services) Boat Day	Southport Marina, WI	Ron Zingler
July 11th-19th Fri-Sun	Southern Lake Michigan Summer Cruise	South Haven, MI - St. Joseph, MI - Hammond, IN	Tony Palazzo
August 19th-31st Wed-Mon	13 Day Cruise to Alaska and Denali	Alaska	Ron Zingler
Sept 3-5, 10-12, and 17-19	Summerfest 2020 experience moves to September!	Milwaukee, WI	Ron Zingler
September 13th Sunday	September Member Meeting	Club Casa, Des Plaines, IL	Ron Zingler
September 26th Saturday	Hob Nob Sundowner	Racine, WI	Ron Zingler
October 18th Sunday	October Member Meeting	TBD	Ron Zingler
November 14th Saturday	Anniversary Dinner Meeting	TBD	Ron Zingler
December 13th Sunday	Commanders Holiday Party	TBD	Commander



This is our planned schedule when this issue is published. Of course, subject to change or cancellation as events and restrictions around the country are changing. Please see the website for the most current schedule.

<http://www.skokievalleypowersquadron.org/activities-and-cruise-schedule>

Journey to Morocco, by Stuart Zwang

On 8 November 2019, we were sitting on the runway in an Air Canada jet in Casablanca Morocco. We were to return to Montreal, and then Chicago. As we sat there, Lorri and I discussed what a great time that we had in that kingdom.

We had first arrived in Casablanca on 25 October 2019. Morocco is one of the most stable and moderate of all the North African Muslim nations. The flag is red with a five pointed green star in the middle. Before 1956, when it was a French colony, it was a six pointed green star. When the French left, the Jewish population left, and the star on the flag was converted to its current five pointed configuration.

After we cleared customs, we were greeted by our tour guide, put on a bus, and driven to the capital of Morocco, Rabat. There we met the rest of the members of our Gate 1 travelers. They were all Americans.

All throughout Morocco there are beautiful, intricate tiles, mosaics and ceramics. We were first exposed to this during the tour of Rabat. Examples of these, and many others were at the royal palace and Hassan Tower, an unfinished mosque that was begun in 1197. I guess rapid construction and construction management has not yet graced this part of Morocco.



The Romans were the first invaders / occupiers of many parts of the world. Morocco, being on the Mediterranean, was of course part of the Roman Empire. In Rabat, there is a place called Chellah, which is part of such a Roman outpost. In fact the Romans settled and built a city called Volubilis. It is a UNESCO world heritage site. We saw this on our way from Rabat to Fez.



In Fez we went to the market. Yes, I bought one of those round, red hats. It sits in our living room on top of a bust. And of course the markets; they are bustling warrens of little stalls where negotiation is a way of life. In these markets, we were informed that a local university granted a Ph.D. in geography for a student who was able to map these markets. It took him five years to complete it, and he was born in Fez.

Actually, Fez has one of the world's largest car free urban areas, and the famed 'Blue Gate' (actually it has blue mosaics on one side, and green mosaics on the other). Karaouine Mosque and University located in the city is the oldest continuously functioning university in the world, having been started in 859 Common Era. The ever popular King of Morocco has a palace in Fez as well as Rabat, Marrakesh and Casablanca.

The local currency is the *Dirham*. When we were there, the U.S. Dollar had an exchange advantage of ten Dirham to one dollar. Lorri discovered that the best way to negotiate was to be prepared to walk away from whatever you were negotiating for. Usually the merchants would chase after her saying something like, o.k., o.k. let's make this deal. When we went to the rug factory, she made a deal for a handmade blue Berber rug that now sits in our living room.

Fez also has the world famous Chouara Tannery. If you go to the tannery store (and of course we did) you go to the balcony and look down at the artisans preparing hides for leather. The caveat is that this is a strikingly aromatic area. You have dead animal skins being soaked in large vats of odious chemicals. In fact, they will not let tourists go into the factory or store unless you take a sprig of mint from the attendant at the entry. You must then put the sprig in your nostrils and periodically chew on a leaf. If you are foolish enough to think you are tough enough to avoid this, through personal experience, I can assure you that it will take you the rest of the afternoon to recover.



Even though Morocco has ports on both the Atlantic and the Mediterranean Oceans, Morocco has four mountain ranges. These are the Rif mountains, the Middle Atlas Mountains, the High Atlas Mountains and of course the Anti-Atlas Mountains. If you are so inclined, in season, you can ski on the Middle Atlas Mountains. And, on the southwest side of anything with the name Atlas in it, you will find the Sahara Desert. As we headed towards the Sahara Desert, we went through these mountain ranges. Scenery was spectacular. You see wonderful examples of mountain gorges, oases, cliffs, and rivers.

There is a town called Rissani on the edge of the Sahara. Here they have a fossil factory. They excavate slabs of rock, and cut them to make counter tops, doodads





or even sinks. Looking at them you can see some of the history of, well, the earth.

Yes, we went into the Sahara Desert. On our way to one of the 'permanent' tent encampments in the Sahara Desert, we stopped and were given tea at a Bedouin's tent. Our transportation consisted of five 'Range Rovers.' One got stuck and had to be pushed and pulled out of the sand. The location of this incident was about four miles to the north of the unmarked, unpatrolled frontier between Algeria and Morocco. We proceeded to our permanent tent encampment, and put our bags in a designated room. We were then treated to a camel ride in the desert.

I must report that the overnight stay in the Desert Inn was my favorite. It was quite peaceful. I slept like a log. Lorri reported that my snoring was almost super human. On the other hand, I was sleeping and did not hear a thing. Of course the tent city was different than most of our hotels in Morocco.

With the exception of the 'Western style' hotel in Casablanca, the hotels are referred to as 'Riads.' From the exterior they are rather drab looking with unremarkable walls. Once inside, they are quite interesting and opulent. The walls can be decorated with paintings or ceramic plates. My wife became enthralled with the intricate designs and colors. Needless to say, we shopped for a decorative plate. And shopped. And shopped. When we got to Marrakesh, we went through the souk (market) looking for plates.

In order to get to the plates, you first have to go past the parking lot. This parking lot was not like the ones we are used to in the U.S. The locals park their SUV's in there. The SUV's, however bray and paw at the ground. The hooves on these SUV's are also covered with rubber for traction and silence. That way they can come up right behind you and bump you without a clue.



Finding *THE PLATE* involved going to every stall in this maze. We must have walked two miles through over a dozen different ceramic dealers. Finally one family said that they had it. (Perhaps I did too.) We went to the warehouse section of this market and found a three story warehouse. Indeed they were able to produce *THE PLATE*. Then we had to pay for it. In Marrakesh, I discovered that my American Express Card does not work in Morocco. So, using a different piece of plastic, I visited an ATM machine, and withdrew an appropriate amount. With cash in hand, the merchant promised to wrap this plate and ship it to us. Talk about an act of faith (in a Muslim county.) Believe it or not two weeks later, a wooden box that could have protected the gold mask of King Tut arrived at our door with the plate intact.



Yves St. Lauren was the patron for an opulent and famous garden in Marrakesh. Talk about a 'Kodak moment.' The gardens were indeed beautiful. Speaking of photography, almost nobody uses photo film any more. The world has gone digital. Did you know that Kodak actually invented digital photography? That company had the foresight to try to quash digital photography on the premise that it would destroy their film business. Digital photography did destroy their film business, but since Kodak choose to avoid digital photography, they became irrelevant.

The next day we took a cooking class. Talk about poetic justice – we had to eat our own cooking. Fortunately I was not too hungry, and had an ample supply of antacid tablets in my travel bag. After this delectable exercise, we boarded the bus to a seaside town called Essouria. You pronounce the name of this town so that it rhymes with diarrhea. It was fitting after eating my own cooking. There I took a picture of the lighthouse and thought of our recent loss of George Doerner.



On the way to Essouria, we stopped at a Womens' cooperative where they process Argan Oil. This is supposed to be a beauty aid that is rich in nutrients and antioxidants. Not my cup of tea, but we did, of course bring some of this stuff back home with us.

With the tour almost done, we returned to Casablanca. In Spanish it means White House. I have no idea how come the French used a Spanish name for this town.

Continued on page 11...

Americas Boating Club Cruise to Southern Lake Michigan July 11th thru July 19th

It's time to start planning for warm summer weather. The 2020 Lake Michigan Cruise is scheduled to start July 11th. If you are interested in joining our cruise, please call Tony Palazzo AP at 630-347-6586.

Our first port of call is **South Haven Municipal Marina Michigan**. http://www.southhaven.com/parks_and_recreation/marinas.php The charming harbor town of South Haven has long been a favorite spot for vacationers. Packed with wonderful restaurants and pubs, great shopping, museums, 2 vineyards, and unique art galleries, it is no surprise that South Haven has been a popular year round vacation destination for over 140 years. Did you know that South Haven is one of the blueberry capitals of the US? We will be too early for the annual National Blueberry Festival, but there is still plenty to enjoy around the area for some good old fashioned fun. Summers at the beach are great. This is a frequent stop for our group and a personal favorite for me. Slip Reservations can be made by calling 269-637-3171.



Our next stop is **West Basin Marina St Joe**. <https://sjcity.com/live-here/marina> West Basin Marina is located on the North Side of St Joe River. Getting to town on the south side of the river will require using their local Scuttle service to access the town of St. Joe. Lots to do in St. Joe. Wineries, Restaurants shopping all available. This is a new stop on for us. St. Joseph is a city in southwest Michigan. Along the lake, at the mouth of the St. Joseph River, sandy Silver Beach features a restored 1910 carousel and a pavilion. Near Tiscornia Park and its dune-backed beach, the 2 North Pier lighthouses date from the early 1900s. The Curious Kids' Museum offers hands-on exhibits, including a play veterinarian clinic, apple orchard and farm. Slip Reservations can be made by calling 269-983-5432.

Next stop, **Hammond Horseshoe Casino and Marina**. <https://hammondportauthority.com/hammond-marina/> After enjoying a day out on beautiful Lake Michigan, you can always enjoy a night of gaming excitement at the Horseshoe Casino. The newly remodeled Hammond Marina is just steps away from the Horseshoe Casino. There are over 900 slips of various sizes that can accommodate many types of vessels. For more information on slip rentals or any other questions about the marina, call (219) 659-7678.

Designated the first "Clean Marina" in the state of Indiana, Hammond Marina strives to be at the forefront of environmental conscientiousness. It's located in the Hammond Harbor Basin of Lake Michigan, just 12 nautical miles from downtown Chicago, and features recycling bins throughout the marina as well as a top-notch drainage system and boat wash-down station that keeps dirty water from flowing into the lake. Beyond the cleanliness of the marina, it's also fuel prices that attract customers. Anyone who boats in or around Chicago knows that gas prices are a bit higher than, say, in Indiana. Since Hammond Marina is located on the state line of Illinois and Indiana, it's able to offer Indiana fuel prices at a lower rate. Add into the mix the marina's extended hours and location, and it makes the perfect stop for boaters.



Tentative itinerary below based on weather and time permitting!

Date Leave	Port Leave	Port Arrive	Date Arrive	Miles
7/11/2020	Kenosha	South Haven	7/11/2020	85
7/14/2020	South Haven	St Joe	7/14/2020	25
7/17/2020	St Joe	Hammond	7/17/2020	60
7/19/2020	Hammond	Home Port	7/19/2020	65
			Total Miles	235

Everyone is welcome to attend our cruise by boat or driving. All of our ports can be followed by car. Preliminary Itinerary Weather permitting!!! Also we can make decisions on Itinerary as a group when we are traveling. Bring your own ideas and we can discuss as a group.

Story continued from page 9

That brings us back to the morning of 8 November. We were sitting on the runway in this Air Canada plane, and again, reviewed the wonderful thoughts from our trip. Nevertheless, we knew that it was time to go home. And we sat on the runway. And we sat.

Now, I remember when we were in high school, and a group of us were in a car, we would inevitably come to a stop light. Once stopped, as intrepid students we would exit the car, run around it, get back in, and drive off. We called this a 'Chinese Fire Drill.' The reason that I mention this is that, as we sat on the runway, we were finally informed that this plane blew an engine on the runway. The good news is that the plane was on the runway. No problem, the plane would be towed back to the gate. OK, so the tow bar broke. So, here is a dose of nostalgia – we had to exit the plane using one of those antique airplane boarding stairs. After taking all of our luggage off the plane, we were then rewarded with a bus ride back to the terminal. And this is where we remembered the Chinese fire drill.



The fun continued as Air Canada could not repair the engine that day. They promised to put us up for another day. Did you know that French is a primary language of Air Canada? Too bad they could not tell the passengers in English what was happening, and more importantly what would happen. Finally, all 300 or so passengers for this flight were taken to a hotel, fed and housed. At 5:30 AM the next morning it was off to the antique boarding stairs again. This time the repaired engine worked. We crossed the Atlantic and landed in Montreal. Interestingly enough, the United States Department of Home Land Security operates in Montreal. We went through this checkpoint; then our Air Canada connecting flight arrived in a domestic terminal at O'Hare Airport.

It might seem silly, but after such a wonderful tour in Morocco, one of the lasting impressions is having Air Canada improve our general knowledge and experience with their version of a French Fire Drill.

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April Anniversaries

Tony & Sue Palazzo	2001	17 yrs
Sowah Anyetei	2001	19 yrs
Don & Gail Sidman	2001	19 yrs
Hugh & Judy Sommerfeld	1996	24 yrs
Frank D'Amico	1990	28 yrs
Dick Hughes	1990	31 yrs
Robert Frankenbush	1973	48 yrs

Congratulations on reaching another milestone with the squadron. We appreciate your support!
Cdr Rich Davidson, SN

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28/23

Running Lights

Skokie Valley Sail and Power Squadron

FROM:

P/D/C Karen D'Amico, AP
1240 Bison Lane
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Be sure to visit our websites:

Skokie Valley Sail & Power Squadron:
www.skokievalleypowersquadron.org

District 20: www.uspsd20Boating.org

USPS: www.AmericasBoatingClub.org



Captain Ahab answer:
midnight and daybreak



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