



Membership Newsletter - Volume 21 Issue 4

# Running Lights

April 2021

## Change of Watch Saturday April 24th

Join us online to say  
thanks to our current  
bridge and welcome  
the new bridge  
members!





**A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER**

This will be my last column as your Commander. Two years went by quickly. My first term was filled with a full schedule, but the second year was the Coronavirus one. We learned so many things from the shelter in place experience. First, we can connect with our computers. I used to do this at work to save having to travel across the country for meetings while still being able to view the same PowerPoint slides, Excel spreadsheets, Word documents, and Adobe Acrobat files. It is amazing how much work got done when linked up with project managers, other engineers, and marketing people spread across the world.

By comparison, I attended two District 20 conferences and one USPS National conference from the comfort of my home. Your Skokie Valley Executive Committee held regular meetings the first Wednesday of every month without missing a beat. We shared the agenda, minutes, treasurer's report, letters from National and District people, and other items to conduct regular business. I saved on paper because I did not have to print up anything to pass around as I did at the dinner meetings we used to have at Yen Yen restaurant in Buffalo Grove.

We had something new, namely two Happy Hour member meetings, the most recent one with a beautiful picture tour of the Great Loop hosted by our own Dick Hughes. Dick is in Florida, as were other attendees, but you could not tell. The speed of the Internet made it seem like we were all in the same place. Also, everyone had a front row seat for the slides.

As I mentioned several times in the past, this paradigm shift is not going away. The education program is moving the grade level courses, elective courses, seminars, Operations Training, special presentations, and everything else online. The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) has approved of the ABC class for certification in every state. Going forward, I may be offering the classes online using PowerPoint and my own digitizing tablet to do the white board with dry erase marker features. I also teach my classes in amateur radio the same way.

An unexpected benefit of the new online education program is the ability of any member to take courses whether offered by Skokie Valley, any other District 20 squadron, or even any squadron across the country. The limitations of travel are gone. Being confined to home no longer matters. Guest lecturers are easier to arrange. Books are never out of stock or delayed in shipment. Homework can be emailed.

The hope is that we will attract younger members, something we need to survive as an organization. The post baby boom generations seem to prefer using their computers for everything, so this might be what gets them to sign up for our classes and hopefully join our ranks.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve Skokie Valley as your Commander. My best wishes to Tony Palazzo as he takes over command on April 24. I will be your Squadron Education Officer again. With these electronic tools being so commonplace, I hope to get more students in my classes.

—Cdr. Rich Davidson, SN



**Skokie Valley Sail & Power Squadron  
2019-2020 Bridge**

**COMMANDER**

Cdr Richard Davidson, SN 847-295-8845

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Lt/C Tony Palazzo, AP 847-956-6173

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

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**ASSISTANT EDUCATION OFFICER**

Robbie Leighton 224-339-4364

**IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER**

I/P/C Joe Lokaj, JN 847-914-9447

**ELECTED MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Lt Dave Anthony, P 224-402-3107

Susan Palazzo, P 847-956-6173

Don Sidman, JN 847-726-7309

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# Mark Your Calendar



## April 2021

7	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1930	Zoom Meeting, Contact Rich Davidson
15	Thurs	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
24	Sat	SVPS Change of Watch, 5 PM	Rich Davidson and Tony Palazzo (see below)

## May 2021

5	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1930	Zoom Meeting, Contact Tony Palazzo
15	Sat	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
16	Sun	Lunch Meeting, Palm Court, Palatine	Ron Zingler
22-28	Sat-Fri	National Safe Boating Week	www.safeboatingcampaign.com

**Saturday  
April 24th  
@ 5:00 PM CT**

**zoom**

## Change of Watch



No registration necessary, just join us.  
Questions? Ron Zingler #847.634.3806  
zingleron@comcast.net

### To Join the Zoom Meeting

**Click on this link, enter meeting ID and passcode.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87107649283?pwd=TSStYb0Z4UFVPQnhrMnpVN3gzWUJndz09>

**Meeting ID: 871 0764 9283**

**Passcode: 383098**

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**Then enter meeting ID and passcode above.**

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## New America's Boating Club Mobile App

The app has great features and useful information for a safe day on the water. Check the weather where ever you are, and use the File a Float Plan feature on the boat or even a long road trip. It's good to let someone know were you are going in the event of an emergency. Members and non members can use the app!!

- ⇒ My Location – let your friends know where you are to meet up
- ⇒ Emergency – quick reference information you learn in the class like radio call procedures, visual distress signals, and medical guidance.
- ⇒ File a Float Plan – auto fills your information and makes it simple to email family or friends
- ⇒ Reference information
  - Glossary – terms from the ABC course
  - Knots – pictures and how to tie them
  - Weather – links to the US National Weather Service (e.g., storm tracker)
  - Buoys – how to recognize them on the water
  - Tide charts – links to the NOAA website
  - Nautical flags – alphabet and numbers
  - Navigation lights – for different types of vessels (power, sail, fishing, etc.)
  - Navigation Rules – quick reference
  - Learning Center, USPS courses and seminars, and America's Boating Channel – all link to information found on the USPS website



**Note: you can only download the app on a mobile phone or tablet (not if viewing this on a computer)**



### In Memory of Leo Cannon, 1933-2021

**Leo was a member for 28 years. He and his wife Carole Ann were long time boaters at Winthrop Harbor and both are very missed.**



## Skokie Valley Sail & Power Squadron 2021 - 2022 Slate of Officers & Committees

### Executive Committee

Commander	Tony Palazzo, AP
Executive Officer	Frank D'Amico, AP
Education Officer	Richard Davidson, SN
Asst. Education Officer	Jim Soyka, SN-CN
Administrative Officer	Ron Zingler, AP-IN
Secretary	Karen D'Amico, AP
Treasurer	Sue Anthony, P
Immediate Past Cdr	Richard Davidson, SN
Elected Member	David Anthony, P
Elected Member	Sue Palazzo, P
Elected Member	Gail Sidman, JN

### Rules Committee

Pat Antoni, SN (Chair)  
William Bellinger, SN  
Natalie Witty, JN

### Audit Committee

Keith Parker, P (Chair)  
Gail Sidman, AP  
Hugh Sommerfeld, P

### Nominating Committee

Gary Vinzant, JN (Chair)  
Joe Lokaj, JN  
Stuart Zwang, SN-IN  
*Positions available for volunteers*

### *Respectively Submitted by Nominating Committee:*

*Frank D'Amico, AP (Chair)  
Don Sidman, JN  
Gary Vinzant, JN  
Joe Lokaj, JN  
Karen D'Amico, AP  
Stuart Zwang, SN-IN*

### *OUR GREAT LAKES, OUR GREATEST RESOURCE*

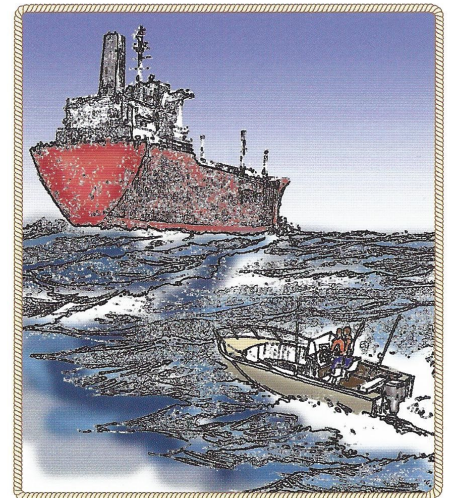
I recently saw an online article for Discover Magazine about prehistoric rock structures found underwater in the Great Lakes. A few months back I wrote about the stones found in Lake Michigan near Traverse Bay. They appeared to have prehistoric carvings, although they have not been verified as the stones are covered in algae and invasive mussels.



The new discovery is in our sister Lake Huron. Thought to be about 9000 years old, when the Great Lakes water level was much lower, the structure is 120' below water. It is a 300' hunting structure consisting of stone walls that could have been used to funnel migrating caribou along a path with multiple hunting blinds. Nearby the divers found numerous stone tools, rings used to stake down tents, and even campfire rings with well preserved charcoal remains. This is one of the largest manmade hunting structures found beneath the Great Lakes.

Read the full article in Discover Magazine online at this link:  
[Archaeologists Have Found Prehistoric Rock Structures Under the Great Lakes. Here's What the Stones Can Tell Us | Discover Magazine](#)

### CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ



Cruising in a large, busy harbor, a cargo ship crosses in front of your boat. Her wake is directly in your path. What two actions should the skipper take?

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor  
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing



# SVPS 2021 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
April 24th Saturday	SVPS Change of Watch	Zoom meeting	Rich Davidson; Tony Palazzo
May 16th Sunday	Lunch Meeting	Palm Court, Palatine	Ron Zingler
June 5th Saturday	Lake Michigan Fishing	North Point Marina	Dave Anthony
June 5th Saturday	Sundowner	North Point Marina	Tony Palazzo, Dave & Sue Anthony
Dates TBD	Summer Cruise/Casino Run	Burnham Harbor, Hammond Michigan City	Ron Zingler
September 12th Sunday	Dinner Meeting	TBA	Ron Zingler
September 26th Sunday	Sundowner	Hob Nob, Kenosha WI	Ron Zingler
October 16th Saturday	Dinner Meeting	Dover Straits, Mundelein	Ron Zingler
November 13th Saturday	Anniversary Dinner	Gusto, Glenview	Ron Zingler
December 12th Sunday	Commanders Holiday Open House Party	TBA	Tony Palazzo

## Charter Fishing Derby—June 5th

**Gear up and get out on Lake Michigan for a charter fishing excursion. Dave Anthony is taking reservations now.**

**Contact [dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net](mailto:dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net) if you are interested.**

**Actual cost depends on the number of fishermen (or fisher ladies). Each boat holds 6 people. The individual cost could be about \$130 per person, depending on the number of boats and people. Looks like we have enough interest for two boats!**



## Recreational Boating Safety Statistics—2019 Executive Summary

~Submitted by Education Officer Jim Soyka, SN-CN

- In 2019, the Coast Guard counted 4,168 accidents that involved 613 deaths, 2,599 injuries and \$55 million dollars of damage to property as a result of recreational boating accidents.
- The fatality rate was 5.2 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. This rate represents a 1.9% decrease from the 2018 fatality rate of 5.3 deaths.
- Compared to 2018, the number of accidents increased 0.6%, the number of deaths decreased 3.2%, and the number of injuries increased 1.9%.
- Where cause of death was known, 79% of fatal boating accident victims drowned. Of those drowning victims with reported life jacket usage, 86% were not wearing a life jacket.
- Where length was known, eight out of every ten boaters who drowned were using vessels less than 21 feet.
- Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; where the primary cause was known, it was listed as the leading factor in 23% of deaths.
- Where safety instruction was known, 70% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction. Only 20% of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had received a nationally approved boating safety education certificate.
- The top five contributing factors in accidents were: operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed, and alcohol use.
- There were 171 accidents in which at least one person was struck by a propeller. These accidents resulted in 35 deaths and 155 injuries.
- The most common vessel types involved in reported accidents were open motorboats (45%), personal watercraft (19%) and cabin motorboats (16%). The vessel types with the highest percentage of deaths were open motorboats (48%), kayaks (14%), and personal watercraft (8%).
- The number of registered recreational vessels in 2019 was 11,878,542, which represents a 0.22% increase from 2018.





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## April Anniversaries

Toni & Sue Palazzo	2001	18 yrs
Don & Gail Sidman	2001	20 yrs
Sowah Anyetei	2001	20 yrs
Hugh & Judy Sommerfeld	1996	25 yrs
Frank D'Amico	1990	29 yrs
Dick Hughes	1990	31 yrs
Robert Frankenbush	1973	49 yrs

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

**Richard J. Calfa**

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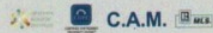
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40/23

# 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](http://www.skokievalleypowersquadron.org)

**District 20:** [www.uspsd20Boating.org](http://www.uspsd20Boating.org)

**USPS:** [www.AmericasBoatingClub.org](http://www.AmericasBoatingClub.org)



Captain Ahab answer:

1. Slow down and maneuver to take the wake at a slight angle.
2. Warn the crew: "wave alert".



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