



DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter - Volume 24 Issue 4

# Running Lights

## April 2024

**America's Boating Club  
North Shore Change of Watch  
Sunday 14 April 2-6 PM**



A special dinner to celebrate  
the past year and thank our  
Bridge Officers

Dover Straits  
890 E. US Highway 45  
Mundelein, IL 60060  
[www.doverstraits.com](http://www.doverstraits.com)



United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club®



**A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER**

April is here and it seems that spring weather is trying to make its appearance. At the D20 Spring Conference we had a fun Friday night of trivia: who do you know that has... and can you name this lighthouse.

Saturday morning included a presentation by now P/D/C Mike Ludtke, SN-ACN on what was discussed at the National Annual Meeting. He discussed news of what our organization is doing with new marketing efforts, communication, the transition to the new online database (iMAS) and other programs that National is conducting. Our National Representative was V/C Michael Wiedel, JN-IN (National Executive Officer) and he helped answer questions during that presentation.

The Keynote speaker was Mike O'Malley, a member of Fox Valley S&P Squadron. Mike gave an interesting presentation on completing the Great Loop on a 20ft Robalo Center Console (given to him by his wife). He talked about the planning, the years it took to complete the journey and the obstacles that he had to overcome. It was a very interesting presentation on a subject that is usually undertaken by much larger boats. It helped plant the seed that you can accomplish the Great Loop in many different ways.

Saturday was our District Change of Watch dinner and installation of the new D20 Bridge. Congratulations to the new D/C Jesse Bowen, JN. D/C Jesse will be our District Representative at Skokie Valley's Change of Watch this month.

Many thanks to Sue and David Anthony and Deb & Ray Adam for having our hospitality suite open both Friday and Saturday night.

This month Skokie Valley S&P Squadron will be having our Change of Watch on Sunday 14 April with cocktails starting at 1400 (2:00pm). I hope to see everyone at Dover Straits in Mundelein for this event. I promise to keep it light and moving along. Come to show your support for our Bridge and Officers.

The end of this month. SEO Chuck Burger will begin the America's Boating Class from 30 April to 16 May (Tuesdays & Thursdays) . Reach out to him to offer your support for this class.

Congratulations to Deb & Ray Adam and Dan & Christine Luczak for completing and passing the Boat Handling Class. (now Deb Adam, S and Ray Adam, SI!).

Next month will be our last General Meeting until September at Nolan's Restaurant at the Illinois Beach Resort in Zion. We had a great time last year and I'm looking forward to it again.

Summer is around the corner with many activities coming, but we will talk about those later.



**America's Boating Club North Shore 2023-2024 Bridge**

<b>COMMANDER</b>	Cdr Frank D'Amico, AP	224-238-7372
<b>EXECUTIVE OFFICER</b>	P/C Tony Palazzo, AP	630-347-6586
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER</b>	P/C Ron Zingler, AP-IN	847-634-3806
<b>SECRETARY</b>	P/D/C Karen D'Amico, AP	224-238-7372
<b>TREASURER</b>	Lt/C Sue Anthony, P	224-402-3107
<b>EDUCATION OFFICER</b>	P/D/C Chuck Burger, SN	847-322-0828
<b>ASSISTANT EDUCATION OFFICER</b>	1st Lt Joe Paldo, P	847-255-9158
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<b>ELECTED MEMBERS AT LARGE</b>	Lt Ray Adam, S	630-347-3495
	Lt Dave Anthony, P	224-402-3107
	Lt Gail Sidman, AP	847-726-7309

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—Cdr. Frank D'Amico, AP





# Mark Your Calendar



## April 2024

3	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting (page 4)
14	Sun	April Member Meeting/Change of Watch	Dover Straits, Mundelein (page 7)
15	Mon	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D’Amico (224-238-7372)

## May 2024

6	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting (page 4)
15	Wed	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D’Amico (224-238-7372)
19	Sun	May Member Meeting	Nolan’s at IL Beach Resort (below)
20-26	Mon-Sun	National Safe Boating Week	<a href="#">Safe Boating Campaign</a>



## May Member Dinner Meeting Nolan’s at Illinois Beach Resort Sunday, May 19, 2024

Cocktails 4:00 pm  
Dinner 5:00 pm

Join us for dinner at Illinois Beach Resort and Conference Center. The dinner meeting will be held at Nolan’s Restaurant, a beautiful location overlooking the sandy beach of Lake Michigan.

We will order from the menu with separate checks.

Kindly Respond by May 12<sup>th</sup> 2024  
Ron Zingler 847.634.3806 or [zingleron@comcast.net](mailto:zingleron@comcast.net)



Kicking off National  
Safe Boating Week



**Illinois Beach Resort**  
1 Lake Front Drive  
Zion, IL 60099  
847.625.7300

<https://illinoisbeachhotel.com/dining/>

# D20 SPRING CONFERENCE—FRIDAY NIGHT



Cindy Geske & Pat Antoni



Chuck Burger & Frank D'Amico



Don & Gail Sidman



Joanne Zingler, Rich Davidson



Dave Anthony



Joanne Zingler & Sue Anthony



Don Sidman & Gary Vinzant



Tony Palazzo



Deb Adam, Cindy Geske & Ron Zingler

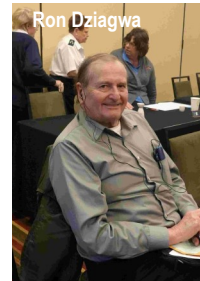
# SATURDAY CONFERENCE



Susan & Tony Palazzo, Ron Zingler, Sue & Dave Anthony



Ray Adam



Ron Dziagwa



Nancy Sibrava-Koenen



Frank D'Amico

# CHANGE OF WATCH



Natalie Witty & Pat Antoni



Rich Davidson



Cindy Geske, Gail Sidman



The new D20 Bridge is sworn in and new officers receive their flags



Sue & Tony Palazzo



Ron & Joanne Zingler



Bonni Breen & Rich Davidson



Karen D'Amico, Dave & Sue Anthony, Frank D'Amico



Pat Antoni, Mary Merrell, Cindy Geske, Sue Anthony

# Team North Shore

Executive Committee Meeting: April 3 at 7:00 pm Central

Zoom Meeting ID: 875 8578 5751, Passcode: 949310

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87585785751?pwd=6CPnI7nwsK6PHoBnfQd8zhJOQAs04g.1>

Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

One tap mobile: +13126266799,,87585785751#,,, \*949310# US (Chicago)

## The Importance of a Vessel Safety Check by Gary Vinzant, Safety Chairman

Last month, I received an email directed to the 10 closest VSC examiners (Coast Guard Auxiliary & USPS) from someone requesting a Vessel Safety Check. Usually one of the other examiners takes the inspection before I can respond. This time, one other responded to say he was out of state. I contacted the boater and the next Saturday I inspected his boat in his driveway in Elk Grove Village. He has a rugged 16 foot fishing boat with a 25hp outboard and a trolling motor.

He needed the inspection to satisfy a requirement of the Coast Guard. Last September, he was stopped by the Coast Guard in Kenosha. He had three violations – Registration – PFDs – Visual Distress Signals. He showed me a letter which stated he may have to pay fines of just over \$2,900 for each violation. The letter required him to purchase the required items, submit a picture of them and a copy of the receipts. It also required him to get and send a copy of a new Vessel Safety Check examination, which is why I was there.

He passed the inspection, although his (red/green) bow light was not so good. He said he didn't need the lights because he only fishes in the daytime. However, I told him they are required to be working and he would have to turn them on if there was fog.

As I was leaving he wanted to give me money. I told him we do this voluntarily – no need to pay. He was very insistent and I thought he gave me a \$10 bill. Later I discovered it was a \$100 bill. I spent the \$100 on Amazon and sent him a new bow light, a first aid kit, a set of dock lines and fisherman's pliers.



Skokie Valley has five metal sextants and one plastic sextant which we are offering to our members. All sextants are in good condition. However, we do not know when they were last calibrated. If you would like one of these sextants call Chuck Burger at (847) 259-0587 Home. or (847) 322-0828 Cell, to make arrangements to view them. They will be given to our members only, one per family. This offer will be available until May 31.

Don't risk getting fined this year. Contact Gary Vinzant to schedule a time for a Vessel Safety Check. Proudly display your 2024 VSC sticker sponsored by the US Coast Guard.

### April Anniversaries

Susan & Tony Palazzo	2001	21 yrs
Sowah Anyetei	2001	23 yrs
Don & Gail Sidman	2001	23 yrs
Judy Sommerfeld	1996	25 yrs
Frank D'Amico	1990	32 yrs
Robert Frankenbush	1973	52 yrs

Congratulations on reaching another milestone with the squadron. We appreciate your support!

**Cdr Frank D'Amico, AP**

### CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ

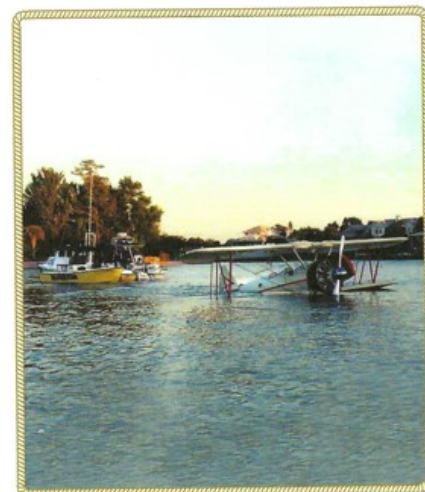


PHOTO COURTESY OF SEA TOWN BY CAPT. DAVID OVERSTREET, CORTEZ, FL

If you were planning to tow alongside and you had to maneuver a series of four sharp right-hand turns, which side of the disabled vessel (or seaplane) would you tie up to: **port or starboard?**

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor  
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing



# SVPS 2024 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
Sunday April 14th	SVPS Change of Watch	Dover Straits, Mundelein	Frank D'Amico
Sunday May 19th	Dinner Meeting	Nolan's Restaurant Illinois Beach Hotel, Zion	Ron Zingler
Saturday June 8th	Lake Michigan Fishing Derby & North Point Sundowner	North Point Marina	Dave & Sue Anthony
June 20-22, 27-29 & July 4-6	Summerfest Milwaukee Cruise	Milwaukee, WI	Ron Zingler
TBD	Lake Michigan Summer Cruise	TBD	
July 27-28	Milwaukee Air and Water	McKinley Harbor	
TBD	D20 Cruise & Rendezvous	TBA	District 20
Saturday August 17th	Sundowner	Racine, WI	Larry & Christine March
September 21 or 22	Dinner Meeting	Dockers on Pistakee Lake	Chuck Burger/Ron Zingler
September 22-30	America's Boating Club Fall Governing Board Meeting	Pittsburgh, PA	National Meeting
Sunday October 20th	Lake Geneva Boat Cruise Tour— Sunday Brunch	Lake Geneva, WI	Frank D'Amico
TBD	District 20 Fall Conference	TBD	District 20
Sunday November 10th	Anniversary Dinner	TBA	Ron Zingler
Sunday December 8th	Commanders Holiday Party	Hoffman Estates	Frank D'Amico

## Charter Fishing Derby—June 8th

*the boats depart from North Point at noon*

We have two boats and one slot still available!  
Each boat holds 6 people. Estimated cost is \$130 per person,  
depending on the number of people attending.  
Contact [dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net](mailto:dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net) for details.

# America's Boating Club North Shore Change of Watch Sunday April 14th



Dover Straits  
890 E. US Highway 45  
Mundelein, IL 60060  
[www.doverstraits.com](http://www.doverstraits.com)

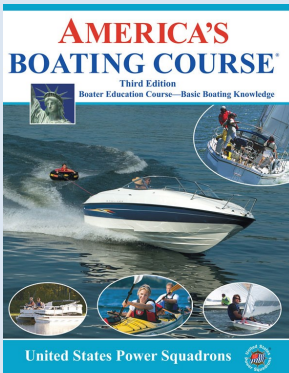
Join us for the 2024 Change of Watch  
as we celebrate the events of  
the past year and swear in our  
Bridge Officers for the coming year

Cocktails at 2 PM; Dinner at 3 PM

We will order from the menu, separate checks



RSVP to Frank D'Amico  
by April 7  
[fdamico@ameritech.net](mailto:fdamico@ameritech.net)  
or 224-238-7372



We are offering America's Boating Course over 6 nights  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 30-May 16, 6:30-8:30 PM at  
Mt. Prospect Police Station

The most comprehensive, single source, in-person boating course. Taking  
the boating class reduces risk of accidents and injuries, saves money on  
boat insurance, and qualifies for a state boat license or operator certificate.

If you know someone interested, contact our SEO: [chucknav1@aol.com](mailto:chucknav1@aol.com)

## Boating in South Florida by Stuart Zwang

We have a modest condominium in Boca Raton, FL. I think that it is about 25 years old. When the kids were still in school, they knew what and where they were going during spring break. Now they are productive, tax paying adults. When our parents were still with us, we sent them there for the entire season. It was a win-win-win deal. We were good, respectful offspring. We had them out of our hair for the season. Someone looked after the condo and took care of all the maintenance while they were there.

We are still working in Chicago, and only have a limited time to visit this oasis. Fortunately we decided to go down to South Florida for the first month of 2024. That is when one of our vaunted polar vortexes hit Chicago. It was so cold that there were frost quakes. South Florida was cloudy and 'only' in the 60's. It was tough, but we took it.

Both our kids were smart enough to come down to visit us during this Chicago cold snap. In looking for an activity, we decided to rent a boat, and drive it up the inter-coastal waterway. We found a place in Pompano Beach called Intra Coastal Water Sports Inc. We were able to make a two hour reservation for a pontoon boat. The cost was \$300. Frankly this was a bargain, considering I think it costs me something like \$400 for a single hour to run my boat in Chicago.

When we got to their marina, we had to sign the obligatory waivers. I showed them my Power Squadron Instructor card and a copy of my Boat US Insurance card. They were totally unimpressed, but at least they did not quibble about any of the details regarding our operating or renting the boat.

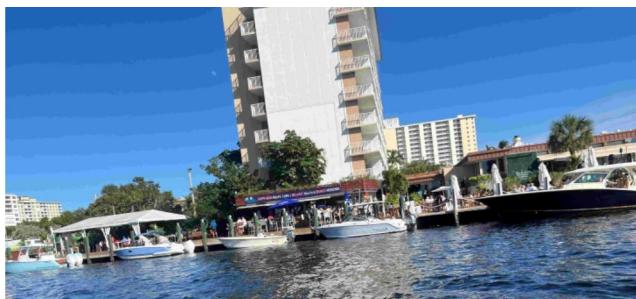
The four of us boarded the boat. When my son-in-law even looks at water, he immediately gets seasick. Instead of boating with us, he stayed in our condo to watch the NFL football play-offs. He is from Philadelphia and the Eagles lost. He probably would have been happier and better off boating with us. The weather was mostly cloudy with a 20 mile an hour breeze coming from the North East. The temperature was a hair under 70 degrees Fahrenheit, but it was still a heck of a lot better than the snow storm that was hitting Chicago.

We got in a very nice (only) two year old pontoon boat and got on the Inter-coastal Water Way. We traveled north from Pompano. There was frankly a lot of traffic. At one time there were three boats headed south and two boats including ours headed north in parallel. Still there was plenty of room, and the boaters were quite polite. We were all able to drive our vessels without any problems.

South Florida is an interesting place. The automobile drivers are absolutely insane. As suggested above, the boat drivers were actually much better. They were respectful and did obey the rules of the road. When they wave at you, they use their entire hand with all five fingers showing. This contrasts to car drivers who drive like maniacs, cut you off, tail gate, etc. They are also quite friendly, and wave at you. They, however, only use one finger in their wave. My big observation and criticism that I have regarding South Florida boat captains has to do with Boom Boats. Do you remember what a 'boom car' is? We actually encountered about three 'boom boats.'

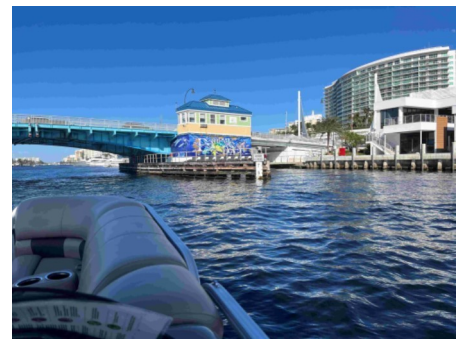


My daughter asked me to compare our 23' open bow runabout to the 21' pontoon boat. It was an interesting question. The characteristics of the 100 horse power pontoon boat's engine were a bit difficult to get used to. It did not like changing gears, and there is a grinding on the transmission just before the boat goes into gear. Our boat handles a lot better and is both more powerful and more responsive. Those characteristics are less important on the inter-coastal where 95% of the water way is a 'no wake' zone. This is similar to the Florida governor who has made the entire state a 'no woke' zone.



As this is South Florida, we did have to avoid a number of coconuts in the water. When my kids were small, the one that whined the loudest had to carry the 'whining coconut' for an hour. It worked very well. We had a lot of fun. Along the way there were the obligatory restaurants and bars all along the shore. The two hours passed far too quickly. We docked at about four thirty PM. That was just in time for the 'early bird' dinner specials near our condo.

*Continued on page 9...*





...Continued from page 9

In addition to early bird specials, we find that the work ethic in South Florida is reflective of the infamous 'Manana' method of labor. Even our printer embraced this – it does not work very well but it does eat the paper and printer cartridges early and often. It takes several tries to get this equipment to work.

So, now the month of January is over. In Chicago I have to go back to reality. This includes work on my Masters' degree, while going back to our business of inspecting homes. Since the mortgage lending rates are relatively high, there is little inventory, nobody wants to pay these (seemingly) high rates, and the weather is prohibitive, Real Estate sales are quite slow. Instead we will work on a number of deferred home improvement projects.

Remember, no matter what type of property you own, you should expect to spend about 3% of the property value in repairs and maintenance. Our condo requires this work during the only month we are there. I have to do all of those repairs that have built up through the year. Consequently, I have become a 'frequent flyer' at the nearby Home Cheapo store. If you have a condominium, this percentage is also reflected in the overall Home Owner / Association fees.



Similarly, the boats in our area, require a percentage of their value to be put in as repairs. We try to do all the repairs and maintenance in the fall and spring before we put our boats in the water for the all too short summer boating season. Part of that percentage also applies to the bills for our boat's winter storage, oil change, minor repairs and the in-out service in the spring. Still, it is part of the 'fun' and challenges of owning a boat in our area.

We are glad to be back in Chicago so we can visit with all of our Skokie Valley buddies at our meetings and cruises.

Pat Antoni and her daughter Cindy Geske drove up from Florida to attend the D20 Spring Conference. Since moving down there several years ago, they joined Tampa Sail & Power Squadron and now are officially transferring their membership to their new squadron. We are grateful for all their support and time to our education programs and rosters over many years!



**Richard J. Calfa**

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65/19



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# 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:

Port (because the tug will turn more easily toward the tow than away from it)



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