



## SKOKIE VALLEY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter - Volume 16 Issue 8

# Running Lights

## August 2016

LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE... 80 TAKE VACATIONS!

A BALTIC CRUISE ...





# Skokie Valley Sail & Power Squadron 2016-2017 Bridge

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t this writing, the Michigan Cruise is underway led by our Cruise Chairman P/C Ron Zingler. He reports that they left one day later to avoid bad weather, but enjoyed a smooth trip across the lake (from Kenosha, WI to Saugatuck, MI). They're having a great time. Five boats were planned, plus several other members are driving around the lake to meet up with them at various ports of call. We look forward to reading about their adventures in next month's newsletter.

This is a prime example of what membership in a social boating organization is when it's working. Several captains get together, make plans, invite everyone along, then venture out and enjoy the fruits of their labor.

On the home front – about a dozen of us held our first executive meeting at ITT Technical Institute on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Their director, Scott Kawall, welcomed us and settled us into "our" room. I believe this venue is going to be best to serve our current needs.

Well another big thanks goes out to Pat Antoni this month. This time because she has been hard at work editing our new 2016-2017 roster, on its way to members soon.

If you're trailering a boat, be aware that the tires will have a life expectancy of less than 10 years. Two years ago, I had a trailer tire on which the tread separated, and



then the tire blew out. This happened while heading north on the tollway, on a hot summer day, at highway speed. (see picture). The tire had a lot of tread and only 4200 miles, but it was 10 years old. So always consider the age of the tire, and look for dry rot cracks.







## **Mark Your Calendar**



Aug	ust	201	6
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3	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	ITT Technical Institute, Arlington Heights
3	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Market Square, Wheeling
14	Sun	Kingfish Baseball Game	Kenosha, WI (below)
15	Mon	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (630-483-9741)
17	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Market Square, Wheeling
24-28	Wed-Sun	USPS Governing Board Meeting	Pittsburg, PA
31	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Market Square, Wheeling

#### September 2016

7 Wed Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	ITT Technical Institute, Arlington Heights
10 Sat Northpoint Sundowner	Winthrop Harbor, IL (page xx)
14 Wed Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Market Square, Wheeling
15 Thurs Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (630-483-9741)
28 Wed Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Market Square, Wheeling



## FIRST BASE CLUB



Join the Squadron for a Kingfish Baseball game in Kenosha, WI, Sunday 14 August

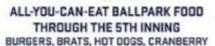
Great price and great time for the whole family!

In order to reserve space in the First Base Club, we need an estimated number of people by 15 July

Payment is required in advance

Please RSVP and send a check to Kim Ambrose: 7807 Cooper Rd, Kenosha, WI, 53142

SEMI-PRIVATE SEATING AREA AND PRIVATE CONCESSIONS STAND

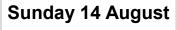


BURGERS, BRATS, HOT DOGS, CRANBERRY WALNUT CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICHES, POTATO SALAD, COLESLAW, AND CHIPS

ALLL-YOU-CAN-DRINK SODA & WATER

3 VOUCHERS TO BE USED FOR BEER, ICE CREAM NOVELTY TREATS OR KIDS GAMES

INCLUDES PREMIER
CAMDEN YARDS BOX SEAT
TO ENJOY THE GAME



Simmons Field 7817 Sheridan Rd Kenosha, WI

Game starts at 4:05 pm

RSVP by 15 July Kim Ambrose 847-917-2258

#### \$27/Ticket



#### LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE...80 TAKE YACATIONS

#### SUBMITTED BY STUART ZWANG

Lorri and I went on a Baltic cruise this spring (aha- it is about cruising) Soooo- I thought I would share a few of my random thoughts and highlights.

On 12 May 2016 we flew into Amsterdam. Our tour guide had arranged for a shared ride to pick us up at the airport. Our fellow traveler flew in from New York. His flight was delayed for only 90 minutes. We waited with our driver for this traveler as well. The chauffer got the three of us in his Mercedes Mini Bus, and proceeded to take us to the wrong hotel. I stopped him just before he drove out of the driveway. The second stop was correct, and we let him drive away. Now we had two days to enjoy Amsterdam

Amsterdam is a fantastic city. Everyone speaks English, and seems to ride bicycles. The public transportation system is wonderful. We saw all the important sites – the diamond design district, the Van Gogh museum, Anne Frank's house, the red light district, a Delft china shop, quaint bakeries and candy stores, and of course the flower market. My wife, a gardener, could not take tulips back, but she did purchase seeds. Little did we know that Fido, the cute U.S. Customs beagle would be waiting for us when we returned to immigration control in the good ole U.S. of A. Thanks to the seeds, it took us an extra 90 minutes to navigate U.S. Customs. But that is fast forward.





We also took a canal cruise. I have no clue as to how the locals are able to maneuver the long boats through the turns and curves of the canal. After the canal cruise, we went to a local sidewalk café for a hamburger and beer. Somehow, the European brews taste better in Europe. I learned that hamburgers and fries are served with mayonnaise. I also learned it takes a minimum of thirty minutes to prepare the burger, but it only takes two seconds for the waitress to stumble on the sidewalk and

drop the entire plate in my lap. My wife then taught me that it is not possible to remove mayo stains from pants.

There is a popular singing group in Holland called Toppers. Once a year they perform in the large soccer stadium. When they do, there is a theme. All of the concert goers are supposed to wear a certain type of clothing. This year it was yellow sequins. After the mayo incident, we took the public subway back to our hotel. Our hotel was across the street from the soccer stadium. About 90% of our fellow subway riders wore something adorned with yellow sequins. This included hats, eye make-up, vests, shirts, pants, shoes, and skirts. Being uninformed tourists, we could not understand how even the 60 year old grandparents were dressed like this.

The locals in Amsterdam know how to have fun. They had this loud, raucous concert go on until 1:00 AM. We enjoyed the concert as well, since it was across the street from our hotel, and sleep was not on the agenda. In retrospect, Amsterdam was the most fun of any city in our tour. After all, here is a city known for its permissive use of Marijuana and a very public red light district.

Already tired, the next morning we had a bus transfer to the boat. These cruising companies are efficient. They load 2,000 passengers (and 1,000 crew members) onto the boat in about four hours. It takes me 30 minutes just to make sure the coolers and snacks are on board my open bow putt-putt. This boat was huge. It had fifteen stories. As it turns out, when asked during one of the theater 'get to know the (whatever – it was the captain's turn) we were told that the boat burns \$5,000 worth of diesel per hour. This boat has serious bow thrusters, and can maneuver even without tug boats. The captain also admitted that he had a sexton on board, but had not ever used it.

At every port, they shuttle in new performers (as well as allow the prior night's act to depart.) Fortunately we would not arrive at the first port, Rostock, Germany until the next morning. This allowed us to catch up on our sleep. All we saw of Rostock was the train station. We were immediately discharged to the train station so we could go to Berlin.

Continued to next page...



Berlin is a bustling, major city. There is a meandering line of three paver bricks in the middle of the street. This line goes back and forth with little rhyme or reason. It is the demarcation line where the Soviets built the Berlin wall. Here we had an excellent tour guide. We did the tourist stuff – Souvenirs and pictures at (the former, but historically restored) Check Point Charlie, a tour of the Hitler House of Horrors Museum, and of course the Bundestag (German capital).

All too soon we were back on the boat. The boat left at 6:00 PM so that we could be in Tallinn Estonia at 8:00 AM the next morning. This time we took a boat sponsored tour of the countryside as well as the old city. The countryside was nice, but frankly we made a poor choice. We should have spent more time

in the old city. Even though we had the time, our tour guide was totally inflexible.

The old churches were indeed old, and crumbling. (see photo of church foundation right). Speaking of crumbling, the tour that we did go on included a typical home in the city. You probably know that I inspect buildings for a living. The home owner that opened his house to us was incredibly nice. I did not have the heart to tell him that the lintels (beams supporting) the window openings, were in dire need of replacement. {NOT my job} It goes to show you that people and buildings are the same the world over.



Back aboard ship we could look forward to another night (and day) of cruising. Our destination was St. Petersburg, Russia. The itinerary included a visit to the Hermitage, Catherine's castle and Peterhoff.

While cruising, we had the 'standard' drink package. I did not see the benefit of purchasing the 'premium' drink package. The reason for that should be obvious. After the first sip of whatever alcoholic beverage, I cannot tell the difference between the standard and premium. The morning hangover is still the same no matter what package or type of liquor I consume.

Our first view of Russia after passport control was of the new incomplete soccer stadium for the World Cup that the Russians were building. An old friend of mine, a Ph.D. with a degree in Russian history, summarized Russian construction with two phrases. These are 1) No job too well or complete, and 2) We pretend to work, and they pretend to pay us.



How true. The city itself was drab, dingy and falling apart. Remind me that I do not want to go to the Soccer World Cup in Russia. Clearly the best of St. Petersburg, (also previously known as Leningrad) was the old historical stuff. They were built by the old aristocracy. Of course they were mostly German. Such treasures. The Hermitage was simply amazing!!! Even the castle, sans art would be worth the trip.

Our tour guide, contracted through the cruise line, of course spouted the Soviet party line. Fortunately, there was so much to see and do in such a short amount of time, it was not worth probing the fine points. We knew that it would be an exercise in futility.

Speaking of futility, we had decided to see a performance of the Swan Lake Ballet after dinner. That meant we would go to the ship after our day trip, eat dinner, and rush out to catch a bus. The time line was quite tight. In fact, we went to the 'guest relations' to make a point of this.

At guest relations we were rewarded with a gentleman who was, in no particular order, unhelpful, arrogant, and unwilling to be responsible for his 'help' and of course as it turned out, totally wrong. We realized this, and took exception to it. We responded with the appropriate comments of discontent. MISTAKE. He eventually had his supervisor intervene. The supervisor also seemed to be from the same persuasion. In other words, overwhelmingly arrogant and impressed with himself. Did he forget, we were the client?



#### YOUR WEATHER REPORT

By Mike Hennessy, AP, Instructor-Weather course



#### The Life of a Hurricane

Most Hurricanes that we see in the United States usually begin in Africa as a storm in the tropical regions. As the storm moves out to sea, it is possible for it to develop into a tropical depression. If the storm continues moving across the warm water of the Atlantic, it will probably become a tropical storm. At this point the weather bureau gives it a name from a predetermined list. They attempt not to repeat names of previous storms.



The Weather bureau will attempt to determine the track of the storm and begin to monitor it to see if it will gain enough strength to become a hurricane. These storms tend to drift North West towards the Caribbean Islands. If it tracks North of the larger islands, it will probably miss the Gulf of Mexico and steer into the Atlantic and only cause minor to no damage to the US Mainland. (Sandy was an exception).

However, if the storm takes a more southerly course, it will remain in warmer water much longer, which will enable it to gain much more strength with powerful winds. Once the hurricane reaches the Gulf of Mexico, it will most assuredly reach land either in the US or Mexico. While Wind Sheer can diminish the power of the storm and weaken it, once in the Gulf it will definitely cause some type of damage.

Hurricanes are measured by wind speed to determine their strength; however, the real damage of a hurricane is caused by the water which arrives just ahead of the hurricane. Once a hurricane reaches landfall, the source of its power will be gone, but depending on how strong the Hurricane was, it can still cause a great deal of damage while it moves inland. The winds will diminish rather quickly, but the rain and possible related tornadoes could be a problem for several days.

#### OUR GREAT LAKES, OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

- 1. Lake Erie is the fourth-largest Great Lake in surface area, and the smallest in depth. It's the 11th largest lake on the planet.
- 2. There is alleged to be a 30- to 40-foot-long "monster" in Lake Erie named Bessie. The earliest recorded sighting goes back as early as 1793.



- 3. Water in Lake Erie replaces itself in only 2.6 years, which is notable considering the water in Lake Superior takes two centuries.
- 4. The original publication of Dr. Seuss's The Lorax contained the line, "I hear things are just as bad up in Lake Erie." Fourteen years later, the Ohio Sea Grant Program wrote to Seuss to make the case that conditions had improved. He removed the line.
- 5. Not only is lake Erie the smallest Great Lake when it comes to volume, but it's surrounded by the most industry. Seventeen metropolitan areas, each with populations of more than 50,000, border the Lake Erie basin.
- 6. During the War of 1812, the U.S. beat the British in a naval battle called the Battle of Lake Erie, forcing them to abandon Detroit.

#### CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ





Smoke flares ignite like other flares from the a) upwind or b) downwind corner of the boat so the crew's visibility is not diminished?

(see answer on back page)

Lt Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor Courtesy of Perchant Publishing



### 2016 Event & Cruising Schedule

Month	Event	Date	Location	Host
August	Kingfish Baseball Game	Aug 14 (Sunday)	Kenosha, WI	Kim Ambrose
August	Rock'n the Chain	Cancelled	Chain of Lakes	Kim Ambrose
August	Chicago Air & Water Show	Aug 20-21	North Ave Beach Chicago	CityofChicago.org
August	USPS Governing Board Meeting	Aug 24-28	Pittsburg, PA	USPS.org
September	North Point Sundowner	Sept 10 (Saturday)	North Point Marina	Dave & Sue Anthony
October	Richardson Farm	Oct 8 or 15	Spring Grove	Al & Pat Antoni



**DEPARTMENT: EXECUTIVE** 

JOB TITLE: PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

REPORTS TO: EXECUTIVE OFFICER

RANK: LIEUTENANT

The Public Relations Officer and committee's duties may be divided into four parts:

- 1. Conduct a year round Public Relations program consistent with standards of privacy and public relations exhibited by other private membership organizations in the community.
- 2. Work with the Education Committee to publicize the time and location of Public Boating courses.
- 3. Publish dates and other information pertaining to the squadron's civic services.
- 4. Develop Special Promotion plans in connection with major events in the squadron.

This committee handles promotions, media news releases, posters, flyers, paid ads, public events and anything that will enhance the public image and tell the story of USPS and local squadron activities and services. All activities relating to public relations should be performed by the Public Relations Officer in accordance with programs and guidelines offered by National and District Committees. Make proper use of all materials made available by the National Marketing and Public Relations Committee and, prior to releasing information to the public, clear all material with the Commander and/or Executive Committee. The Squadron Public Relations Officer should work with any Liaison Committee. The Squadron Public Relations Officer also works with the District Public Relations Committee.

## MAKAPUU POINT LIGHTHOUSE

## This lighthouse is located on the Eastern most point of Oahu, Hawaii

21.309889°N 157.649748°W

This lighthouse is located on the most southern east point of Oahu. It was built in 1909 on a 600-foot seacoast looking over the Makapuu Beach. The beach is known as one of Oahu's best bodysurfing beaches. This gives a beautiful view of beach, water, and you can see the of island Molaoki and two other small islands from here.

On June 10 1906, Congress appropriated \$60,000 for construction of the lighthouse. Because the lighthouse was on such a high cliff, it did not have to be made tall. It was built on a series of lava flows. Work on the station began during the summer of 1907; the thirty-foot, concrete tower was ready for its lantern room and lens by October 1908. The lens had not arrived and after a big debate, they bought a mammoth lens that had been manufactured in Paris. It was exhibited at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair and also in the 1907 Jamestown Exhibition and then shipped to Oahu.

Just 15 minutes away from the lighthouse is a large parking lot that leads to a two mile paved hiking trail overlooking the lighthouse. In 2015, the trail was improved. They repaved the trail and redid the culverts.



In addition they improved the two best lookout points. They put in four new small lookout areas with seating and interpretive signs with viewing scopes for visitors to use. The trail offers an excellent place to view whales. The trail climbs up the western side of the island. Upon reaching the top of the ridge, you are at the halfway point of the trail. From there the trail switches back north following the eastern ridge of the island. The trail does not go around the whole island. You have to retrace your steps back to the parking lot, getting another look at the beautiful view.

Submitted by Bridget Doerner, N Photo by George Doerner, SN

#### **August Anniversaries**

William Buholzer	1998	18 yrs
William Randolph	1982	35 yrs
William Witty	1982	35 yrs
William Goldstein	1978	39 yrs
J. Mike Hennessy	1971	44 yrs
Ray Buellesbach	1971	46 yrs

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

Cdr Gary Vinzant, JN





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#### PETS ABOARD?

We certainly love our pets. They are everywhere: the parks, the stores, on our walking paths and much is written about pets in all the newspapers. Our dog, JoJo, enjoys being on the boat and often goes with us. But



there are safety considerations when boating with pets.

Unless below deck in a cabin, cats and dogs should be fitted with life vests. It is best if you take your pet to the store for a fitting. Make sure the vest is buoyant enough to handle your pet's weight and that device buckles, support straps, the thickness of the floatation material don't make it difficult for your pet to move about or lie down comfortably.

Never boated with your pet? I suggest starting slowly with short trips on calm days, building to longer days. Some pets are prone to motion sickness. Check with your veterinarian before administering medicines. To avoid heat issues, keep plenty of fresh water and provide a shaded area. Non slip rugs in areas most traveled will reduce the risk of your pet sliding off of the boat.

Cats generally get plenty of exercise by roaming above and below deck. Dogs, however, tend to be more sedentary. Be sure to allow your dog plenty of activity before or after a day aboard. If your pet/dog has never been in water, give him a chance to touch it, to understand the properties. Calm water can look very much like a shiny floor.

Potty training on board might be challenging, but there are several options. A piece of carpet that has been rubbed on the grass where the dog has urinated will often work. Hosing the carpet down is an easy clean up and will not destroy the scent, to your dog. Some boaters simply stop at a marina or dock and walk the dog periodically.

If you are planning on staying overnight at a marina, be aware that some do not allow pets. It is a good idea to have pet updated vaccine records with you. Keep your pet on a leash and remain very diligent as to its whereabouts, whether on the water or at the dock.

Many tragic accidents have occurred at docks. Pets can slip off the boat, while you are busy with other tasks. Walkways at docks are often wet and slippery. If you are planning on extended time boating, an overboard pet drill is a very good idea.

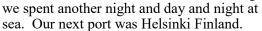
Our pets make our lives much richer, in many ways. Taking the time and making the investment to secure their safety will prevent the guilt and heartbreak associated with pet accidents aboard.

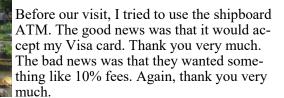
Written by: Leigh Ann and Mark Long, USPS PR Committee He proceeded to read us the riot act. All he had to say was "O.K., I understand what happened, please don't do it again.", but he continued to actually berate us. He must have thought he was the client, not the other way around. In our online after cruise review, I did remember his name and overwhelming negative help. The 'help' of this comic opera duo, notwithstanding, we did see the performance of Swan Lake. I am not a ballet fan, but this was really a highlight of the tour.



Very tired, the next day we saw Catherine's Palace and the incredible fountains at Peterohoff. Words cannot express their engineering intricacy and beauty. This starkly contrasted the damaged, dingy, horrible Soviet apartment buildings. Their system is really miserable. I do not think that in my lifetime their system or government will ever be a society that I would like.

After two eye opening days in St. Petersburg,







So the first stop in Helsinki was to find an ATM machine. The first was broken. We wandered around for what seemed like a half hour. Perhaps this evoked a bit of criticism from my darling wife. In the process of finding a working ATM, we also found a Louis Vuitton store.



You may not know this, but in Europe Louis Vuitton products are about half the price they charge in the states. You also get your Value Added Tax back assuming you can show them your passport. Now, before we left the boat I had insisted we both take our passports with us. My wife grudgingly agreed. If I had not been such a Boy Scout, and if the first ATM machine would have been working, we would not have found the Louis Vuitton store, and would not have purchased the latest and greatest. In other words, we would not have left Helsinki as a valued Vuitton client.

Anyhow, the next day we arrived in Stockholm, Sweden. We traveled through the wonderful, scenic approach to Stockholm. It was very pretty. Of course as a member of the U.S. Power Squadron, we visited the Vasa Museum. What is the Vasa you ask?

In 1628, the Swedish King sent his newest and best warship, the Vasa,

out onto the sea. It traveled for about 30 minutes until it capsized. No, they did not forget to put in the plug. On the other hand, it was very top heavy. It failed the 'have the crew run across the top deck from port to starboard' test. The ship builders choose to conceal this small fact, thus it capsized and sank.

It was rediscovered after 300 years in the channel. It took another 20 years to restore it. It is truly an amazing display of workmanship, and unfortunately a tribute to ship building stupidity. Our Boner Award is a minor, fun award compared to the seriousness of this disaster.

Continued to next page..





By this time, it was almost tourist overload. But the trip still had to continue to our last stop, Copenhagen Denmark. We had learned to take the On/Off City Bus tour, with the fallback position to find a cab if necessary. One has to be a bit careful about this. We could not have done it during our shore tours of Berlin and St. Petersburg,

Of course we saw the Little Mermaid shown here to the left. Yes we had a Carlsberg beer. And we saw the crown Jewels in Rosenborg Castle.



We also saw the changing of the guard at various capitals in the Baltic. Although the guards were a bit out of step and came in random sizes. None of them compare to the changing of the guard at Buckingham Castle. Of course the U.S. Marine Corp retreat ceremony at Eighth and I St. in Washington

Throughout this trip, we toured the churches, squares, markets and local eateries. In each we were rewarded with local souve-

D.C. puts all of them to shame.

nirs, such as tee shirts, hats, refrigerator magnets, mugs, plates, etc. It was frankly a lot of fun.



It was great to relax, and enjoy all the bars, restaurants and shops in the boat. Cruise food was good and varied. I think I liked the breakfasts the most. It was also wonderful to eat what one wants when one wants. You still have to be thoughtful about your consumption. My wife was smart enough to 'ban the elevator.' We walked up and down the stairways to all the activities. I came back, believe it or not at about the same weight that I left.



I particularly enjoyed viewing the sunset on the fantail. The 'Trivia' games, dance lessons, lectures, shows and country lectures were all fun.

You get to know people on the boat. Most are very nice, and since they are all on vacation, are relatively low keyed. Although comparatively homogenous from a financial perspective, cruisers were from all over the world, interesting, and relatively successful.

As a baker's son, I must criticize the deserts. They all looked wonderful, and all tasted the same. We joked and called this cruise food. The pastries in the European countries were, however worth it.

We were lucky. The spring weather in the Baltic can be rather dicey. Instead it was relative warm, sunny and dry. Many of the locals were wearing shorts. Yes, we would do it again. And thanks to my wife for bringing me, screaming and tugging onto this wonderful tour





Skokie Valley Sail and Power Squadron

FROM:

P/D/C Karen D'Amico, AP 318 Somerset Dr Streamwood, IL 60107 TO:

#### FIRST CLASS MAIL



Be sure to visit our internet sites:

Skokie Valley: http://

www.skokievalleypowersquadron.org **District 20:** www.uspsd20Boating.org

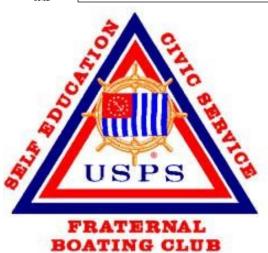
USPS: www.usps.org

Safety: www.safeboatingcampaign.com



Captain Ahab answer:

B) Downwind



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