



## SKOKIE VALLEY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter - Volume 15 Issue 12

# Running Lights

## December 2015

### *SVPS Annual Holiday Party*

*Saturday 5 December 2015*

*Open House 1400—2200*

*Happy Holidays*

*Commander Don & Gail Sidman's  
Home in Lake Zurich, IL*

*Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends <sup>SM</sup>*



**A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER**

Last month, we celebrated Skokie Valley's 54<sup>th</sup> birthday. It has taken many members with many talents and interests to keep Skokie Valley alive and running all these years: planners, photographers, writers, editors, teachers, accountants, lawyers, public relations people, party planners, organizers, IT Specialists, a Chaplain, a salesman, a lot of power boaters, 1 or 2 sail boaters, and a guy who can create a mean summer beach bonfire.

Really??? Not really, what it really takes to keep Skokie Valley alive and running year-after-year is boaters and people like you who love boating...life-long friendships...and fun, with some knowledge thrown in to keep us safe on the water.

This past year, two squadrons in District 20 voted to disband because they couldn't find enough members willing to serve on squadron committees and departments. In SVPS, too many of OUR current officers and assistants hold multiple positions because WE are beginning to have a similar problem. It's not as dire as those other squadrons yet, but unless you, our membership, step-up and lend a hand, we could be facing a similar fate down the road.

In the past, we have asked for volunteers to help run the squadron; now it is imperative that you step forward and answer this call! We are beginning to face what other squadrons have already experienced, that our active membership is getting older and stepping back. We need to engage a newer group of members to lead us and continue to thrive.

The time of this year's current Bridge is fast coming to an end. Our 2016 Change of Watch is around the corner shortly. Our Nominating Committee is beginning the process to re-staff Skokie Valley for next year. If you receive a call from them, **please say "yes"**, or suggest an alternative position that you might like. Better yet, contact one of the members on the Nominating Committee and let them know you are interested in serving as an officer, committee member, or specialist. Our Roster Book (any year will do) is a good reference place to see all the positions / jobs that make Skokie Valley run.

Last month, it was my honor to present G. T. (Tom) Delahunty with U.S. Power Squadron's 50 YEAR Member Award Plaque. Tom holds a Full Certificate (SN) and is a Life Member of USPS with 33 Merit Marks. See pg 4 for a story about Tom, his wife Millie, and their boating adventures.

It was also my honor to present Karen D'Amico, Carol Fey, Keith Parker, and Kyle Parker with 25-year member pins at our 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner in November. Karen and Frank are both one merit mark away from becoming Life Members next year!!!

The Cruise / Event Committee met at P/C Ron Zingler's home last month. They have a great line-up of activities for us next year, including Lake Michigan cruises, Air & Water Shows, a Marriott Play, a Fishing Trip, Sundowners, and maybe Florida. Don't forget we are hosting the Spring District Conference too.

And, finally, remember **THE COMMANDER'S OPEN HOUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY** at our house, Saturday, 5 December. The fun begins at 2 PM.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

—Cdr. Don Sidman, JN



**Skokie Valley Sail & Power Squadron  
2015-2016 Bridge**

**COMMANDER**

Cdr Don Sidman, JN 847-726-7309

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

P/C Ron Zingler, AP 847-634-3806

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Lt/C Kim Ambrose, AP 847 917-2258

**SECRETARY**

Lt/C Gail Sidman, S 847 726-7309

**TREASURER**

Lt/C Sue Anthony, P 224-402-3107

**CO-EDUCATIONAL OFFICERS**

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P/C Bud Lemke, JN 847-577-9522

**ASST. EDUCATIONAL OFFICER**

Lt/C Richard Davidson, SN 847-295-8845

**IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER**

I/P/C Ron Zingler, AP 847-634-3806

**ELECTED MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Lt Skip Ambrose, AP 847 767-4123

Lt Dave Anthony, P 224-402-3107

Lt Paul Sparkes, SN 847-202-4342







# Mark Your Calendar



## December 2015

|    |     |   |                                    |
|----|-----|---|------------------------------------|
| 5  | Sat | Commander's Open House / Exec Comm Mtg  | Sidman's Home, Lake Zurich (below) |
| 9  | Wed | Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000 | Market Square, Wheeling            |
| 15 | Tue | Publication Deadline—Running Lights     | Karen D'Amico (630-483-9741)       |
| 23 | Wed | Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000 | Market Square, Wheeling            |

## January 2016

|       |           |   |  |
|-------|-----------|---|--|
| 6     | Wed       | Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900    | Alcott Center, Buffalo Grove           |
| 6     | Wed       | Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000 | Market Square, Wheeling                |
| 15    | Fri       | January Dinner Meeting                  | Jimmy's Char House, Libertyville (pg5) |
| 15    | Fri       | Publication Deadline—Running Lights     | Karen D'Amico (630-483-9741)           |
| 14-18 | Thurs-Mon | Chicago Boat Show                       | McCormick Place (see pg 9)             |
| 20    | Wed       | Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000 | Market Square, Wheeling                |



*Commander Don & Gail Sidman  
Cordially Invite You To*

## *SVPS Annual Holiday Party*

*Saturday 5 December 2015  
Open House 1400—2200*

*330 Hidden Creek Road  
Lake Zurich, Illinois  
(847) 726-7309 or  
d\_sidman@Hotmail.com*

*Bring a Dish or Favorite Refreshment to Share*

### *Support the Troops*

*Please take a moment this holiday season to remember our military troops.  
Donations to Operation Support Our Troops will be collected at the party.  
See page 10 for a list of the most needed items to donate.*



## Members Making Waves

### G. Tom Delahunty, SN

U. S. Power Squadrons awarded SVPS member Tom Delahunty his 50 year membership plaque and pin. He holds a full certificate and is a life member, with 33 merit marks. When Cdr Sidman and I delivered the award, Tom and his wife Millie treated us to a delicious gourmet meal in their Waterfront Dining Room. They moved into ‘The Admiral at the Lake’ retirement community when it opened in 2012. They have a beautiful high rise condominium overlooking Lake Michigan at Foster and Sheridan in Chicago. They love the location, which combines water views with city living (and public transportation).



Tom grew up around Illinois and Millie in the city of Chicago, which is where they met. They were married in 1954 shortly before Tom was drafted. Tom, a Chemical Engineer, went to law school and became an intellectual property attorney. They moved from Cincinnati to Long Island in 1964, where Tom also became a volunteer fireman. Millie had her own business. They have six children (two in New York, two in North Carolina, one in New Hampshire, and one in Wales) and thirteen grandchildren. Tom and Millie have moved eleven times. They moved back to Illinois in 2000, settling in Glenview until construction of The Admiral was completed in 2012. They lost several friends and former neighbors at the World Trade Center on 9/11/2001 not long after they left New York.

Tom and Millie are sail boaters. Tom built and fiber-glassed their first boat in their back bedroom. Millie made the sails. They later purchased a Canadian Camper trailer boat. Their boat was called Alcione, after a Greek demi goddess know as ‘Queen who wards off storms’. They did most of their boating around Long Island and Fire Island. They joined the Sewanhaka Sail & Power Squadron in Long Island, where Tom became one of the youngest commanders in 1973. The squadron had 250 members when Tom was commander. At that time, women were not allowed to become USPS members, but were allowed to take USPS courses. There were so many squadrons close together in USPS District 3 that by attending each squadron’s annual Change of Watch, they found themselves attending a formal USPS dinner dance almost every other weekend. They also enjoyed ‘bareboating’ with friends in the Virgin Islands. After Tom retired and moved back to Illinois, he would crew on his friend’s 28 foot sailboat at Belmont Harbor, until the boat was sold a few years ago.

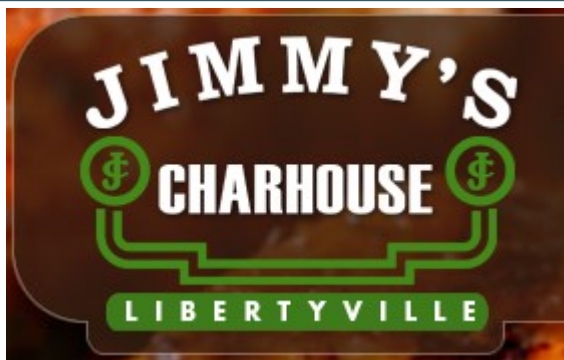
—By Lt/C Gail Sidman, S, Secretary

### December Anniversaries

|                     |      |        |
|---------------------|------|--------|
| Marita Ocampo       | 2005 | 11 yrs |
| Don Dorsch          | 2004 | 12 yrs |
| Bob & Pat Sorensen  | 2000 | 16 yrs |
| Tom Clark           | 1998 | 18 yrs |
| Paul Omohundro      | 1998 | 18 yrs |
| Jerrold Senser      | 1997 | 19 yrs |
| James Soyka         | 1992 | 24 yrs |
| Karen D’Amico       | 1991 | 25 yrs |
| Carol Fey           | 1991 | 25 yrs |
| James Koolish       | 1991 | 25 yrs |
| Keith & Kyle Parker | 1991 | 25 yrs |
| Denyse Goodman      | 1986 | 26 yrs |
| Ed Colaprete        | 1988 | 28 yrs |
| Bruce Goodman       | 1986 | 30 yrs |

Congratulations on reaching another milestone with the squadron. We appreciate your support!  
**Cdr Don Sidman, JN**





# January Member Dinner Meeting

## Friday, 15 January 2016

1413 Peterson Road  
Libertyville, IL 60048

[jimmyscharhouselibertyville.com](http://jimmyscharhouselibertyville.com)

1830 Cocktails  
1930 Dinner

*Happy New Year*

**Watch for menu options  
in the next issue**

For Reservations, contact  
Christine March 815-307-2743

or look for an invitation on SailAngle



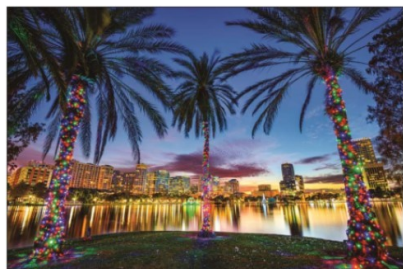
**Merit Marks!!! Thank you to all the members who volunteered their time and talents to support Skokie Valley this year in our educational, civic and social activities!**

|             |            |    |           |             |    |            |            |    |
|-------------|------------|----|-----------|-------------|----|------------|------------|----|
| Ambrose     | Kimberly   | AP | Geske     | Cindy       |    | Raphael    | Gary Mark  | AP |
| Ambrose     | Philip K.  | AP | Geske     | James       | AP | Sidman     | Gail L.    | S  |
| Anthony     | David J.   | P  | Grofman   | Gerald      | SN | Sidman     | Donald     | JN |
| Anthony     | Sue        | P  | Hennessy  | John M.     | AP | Sieling    | Ronald E.  | N  |
| Antoni      | Al         | AP | Jorgensen | David B.    | P  | Sommerfeld | Hugh       | P  |
| Antoni      | Pat        | SN | Jorgensen | Patricia M. | AP | Sommerfeld | Judy       | P  |
| Buellesbach | Ray J.     | SN | Lemke     | Bud H.      | JN | Soyka      | James E.   | SN |
| Calfa       | Richard    | N  | Lemke     | Caryl A.    | P  | Sparkes    | Lisa J.    | P  |
| Chmela      | Kim        | AP | Lenhard   | John W.     | AP | Sparkes    | Paul W.    | SN |
| Chmela      | Stephen M. | SN | Meyer     | Joel D.     | SN | Sweeney    | Don David  |    |
| Clark       | Thomas E.  | AP | Mulroy    | Paul T.     | SN | Vinzant    | Gary       | JN |
| Cleave      | Carol A.   | SN | Mulroy    | Rebecca     | AP | Walkowiak  | Gloria     |    |
| D'Amico     | Frank      | AP | Omohundro | Gloria J.   | AP | Witty      | Natalie E. | JN |
| D'Amico     | Karen      | AP | Palazzo   | Susan       | P  | Witty      | William F. | SN |
| Davidson    | Richard A. | SN | Palazzo   | Tony R.     | AP | Zingler    | Joanne K.  | AP |
| Doerner     | Bridget K. | N  | Paldo     | Joseph P.   | P  | Zingler    | Ron E.     | AP |
| Doerner     | George     | SN | Parker    | Keith D.    | P  | Zwang      | Stuart     | SN |
| Franks      | Leonard H. | JN |           |             |    |            |            |    |



## Tentative 2016 Event & Cruising Schedule

| Month     | Event                                    | Date                                   | Location                           | Host                       |
|-----------|--|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| January   | Dinner Meeting                           | January 15<br>(Friday)                 | Jimmy's Char House<br>Libertyville | Larry & Christine<br>March |
| January   | Chicago Boat Show                        | January 14-18                          | McCormick Place                    | Jim Geske                  |
| February  | Winter Cruise                            | February 10-19                         | Marathon, Florida<br>Keys          | Larry & Christine<br>March |
| February  | Dinner Meeting                           | February 19<br>(Friday)                | TBD                                | TBD                        |
| March     | Marriot Lincolnshire<br>Play: Sister Act | March 5<br>(Saturday)                  | Lincolnshire                       | Dave & Sue<br>Anthony      |
| March     | District 20 Spring<br>Conference         | March 11-13                            | Eaglewood Itasca                   | Pat Antoni                 |
| April     | Change of Watch                          | April 23<br>(Saturday)                 | TBD                                | TBD                        |
| May       | Fishing Trip                             | May 7<br>(Saturday)                    | Waukegan Harbor                    | Don Sidman                 |
| May       | Dinner Meeting                           | May 21<br>(Saturday)                   | TBD                                | Dixie Weidner              |
| June      | Racine Sundowner                         | June 3-5                               | Reefpoint Marina                   | Paul & Lisa Sparkes        |
| June      | TBD Impromptu Trip                       | June 24-26                             | TBD                                | Dave & Sue<br>Anthony      |
| July      | Milwaukee Air & Water<br>Show            | July 9-10                              | McKinley Marina                    |                            |
| July      | Michigan Cruise                          | July 15 (Friday) -<br>July 24 (Sunday) | Saugatuck                          | Ron Zingler                |
| July      | District 20 Cruise &<br>Rendezvous       | July 30                                | Peoria                             |                            |
| August    | Rock'n the Chain                         | Aug 20<br>(Saturday)                   | Chain of Lakes                     | Kim Ambrose                |
| August    | Chicago Air & Water<br>Show              | Aug 13-14                              | Chicago Lakefront                  |                            |
| September | North Point Sundowner                    | Sept 10<br>(Saturday)                  | North Point Marina                 | Dave & Sue<br>Anthony      |
| October   | Richardson Farm                          | Oct 8 or 15                            | Spring Grove                       | Al & Pat Antoni            |



**USPS Annual Meeting, Orlando, 18-21 February 2016**

**Rosen Centre Hotel on International Drive**

Find meeting details & a great selection of daily tour activities on the USPS National Meetings site. Thursday is open meetings for various USPS committees. Friday continues with department meetings, free seminars, & EXPO exhibits. Saturday is the official Annual Meeting & evening Change of Watch.



## **YOUR WEATHER REPORT**

**By Mike Hennessy, AP, Instructor-Weather course**



### **Weather Update**

As I write this article, I notice how interesting and alarming to see how sudden weather changes can be so disastrous. A year ago, Texas was experiencing a drought. Today they have more water than they can handle. The change in the jet stream allowed more water to move north over Texas. In the short term it causes considerable damage, but in the long term it can restore Texas to a normal condition.

If we look west to California, they have been dry so long there were concerns that much of the area was going to become a desert because of all the wild fires. Then they received so much rain that the dried out hills became mud. And this mud caused much damage by destroying homes and roads. Unfortunately, the heavy rain came so fast it did little to help their drought conditions.

If we look to the east, South Carolina especially has seen so much rain that homes and roads are destroyed. This area was neither dry nor too wet before the rains came. Unfortunately, too much of anything can burden the areas ability to deal with a problem. As of this writing, I believe some of the areas roads and bridges are gone and will take time to replace.



As we look over the rest of this country, most areas are either too dry or too wet. If these conditions continue for an extended period, we may see irreversible changes in our economy and the way we do things.

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

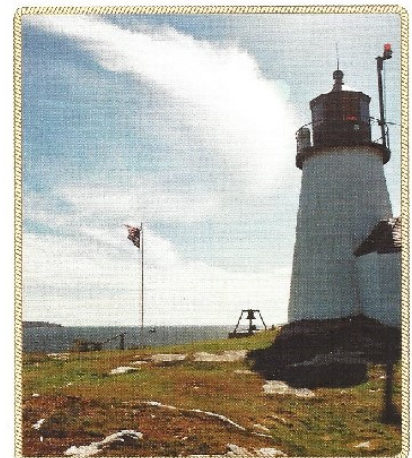
The easiest way to remember the names of the Great Lakes' names is to think of the word, "HOMES." H(uron), O(ntario), M(ichigan), E(rie) and S(uperior).

Because of their vast size and depth, the Great Lakes exert significant effects on the region's weather. In winter, winds blowing over the lakes can generate heavy "lake-effect" snowstorms over shore areas. In 1954, the lakes even helped rev up Hurricane Hazel after the storm made land-fall, leading to massive destruction in the Mid-Atlantic States and Canada.



Chicago's nickname as "The Windy City" might not have come from its lake breezes. Another theory attributes the name to the town's loud-mouthed politicians. Still, Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes offer huge wind-energy potential. A 2004 study estimated the region's wind-power potential at 359 gigawatts of energy, or 80 percent of all the fossil fuel-based electricity currently generated in both the U.S. and Canada.

### **CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ**



Failing barometer with winds from the East usually means \_\_\_\_\_ weather. Rising barometer with winds from the West usually means \_\_\_\_\_ weather.

(see answer on back page)

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



# Saint-Mathieu Lighthouse

## Plougonvelin, Finistere, France

Coordinates 48°19' 48" N 4° 46' 15" W

If you were to look at a map of France, you would see that northern territory of Brittany sticks out into the Atlantic Ocean. This point is an extremely important strategic location of this coast that is surrounded by cliffs.

You can see in this photo that part of the remains of an old Abbey of St. Mathieu is on the grounds. The lighthouse was built on the grounds of the ruined Abbey.

The Monks that lived in the Abbey used to keep a fire burning in a solid secondary tower to warn away vessels. Interestingly the Monks were allowed to keep the salvage of wrecked ships. I guess they felt the Monks were honest and would not compromise the ships.

There had long been a light signal for navigating ships before the Saint-Mathieu lighthouse. The end of the 17th century, however, brought with it a need for accessibility to a new naval base in Brest and the necessity of more serious methods of navigation for western Brittany.

The state of the tower of the ancient abbey was deteriorating, and a new lighthouse was put in service on 15 June 1835. The new lighthouse had a drum with an internal diameter of 10 feet, and an external diameter of 118 feet, the base of which was surrounded by a circular building containing various shops and the guards' quarters. An internal staircase leads to sixteen half-lenses placed 180 feet above sea level, which were protected by a glass border of 32 inches, 9 0.35 inches thick. Of course I climbed it for a beautiful view.

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





# Extra Boat Show Volunteers Needed

USPS will have a Boating Skills Virtual Trainer (VT) simulator at the Chicago Boat, RV & Strictly Sail Show, scheduled 14-18 January 2016. We expect this will draw a lot of attention and more visitors to the USPS booth this year, so the Boat Show Committee is asking for extra volunteers.

The Boating Skills simulator is an award winning training unit that allows students to practice maneuvering a boat on an open lake, docking and other exercises. It is very realistic with three large 3D monitors, steering wheel and throttle. In fact, the Boating Skills VT simulator received the 2015 Innovations Award from NASBLA.

In all, USPS has 18 Boating Skills simulators developed through a grant from the U.S. Coast Guard. Working with the National Marine Mfg Association, simulators are being shipped to major boat shows across the country. USPS is the only organization that has a simulator for public demonstration, and it will be advertised by the show, drawing many visitors to our booth.



## The Boat Skills VT includes:

- ☑ Three 20" monitors
- ☑ Boating console has a steering wheel and Mercury Marine throttle with trim buttons, navigation lights and horn
- ☑ Ability to change wind and current conditions, as well choosing day or night scenes

Volunteers receive free admission to the Boat Show on the day you volunteer. If you are interested in lending a hand and learning to use the new Boat Skills simulator, contact Jim Geske ([jim\\_geske@juno.com](mailto:jim_geske@juno.com)) or call/text Jim at 847-703-0885).

To learn more about the new Boating Skills Virtual Trainer simulators, visit [www.usps.org/boatingskillsvt](http://www.usps.org/boatingskillsvt)

## New USPS Facebook Campaign

*Help expand the reach of USPS in the boating community!*

*Last month, the USPS Education Dept. launched a social media campaign on the USPS Facebook page. They are planning a variety of posts including educational content, quizzes, how-to videos, and other posts that help viewers find local courses in the classroom and on the water. They also want to engage with content posted on individual or squadron Facebook pages.*

*Be sure to like the USPS Facebook page and engage with their posts (like, comment, share)*

*<https://www.facebook.com/uspowersquadrons>*



facebook.com/uspowersquadrons  
twitter.com/boatinglife

Social Media  
is a  
Powerful Tool!

Let's use it to help make  
the water a better place!

Come for the Boating Education...  
Stay for the Friends!™

Help Support our Troops! Bring items to the Commander's Open House in December. Caryl and Bud Lemke will deliver your donations to a local Operation Support Our Troops facility. **Stop and think of our heroes living and dead who sacrificed themselves for us...LET NO HERO BE FORGOTTEN!**



**Here's how you can help...**

**TOP 10 ITEMS MOST NEEDED**

Canned fruit, canned tuna/tuna packs, mouthwash (16.9 oz. or less, no glass), nasal spray, antacids (roll or 100 ct. max), pain medication (100 ct. or less), breakfast bars/pop-tarts, peanut butter (16 oz. or less, no glass), AA batteries, quart/gallon size Ziploc Bags.

**HOLIDAY NEEDS**

Summer sausage, canned ham (small), pre-packaged cookies, hot chocolate, coffee, cigars, chew, iTunes gift cards, chocolate candy, hard candy, handmade or mini ornaments, small 18-22 inch Christmas Trees (artificial), new or handmade blanket throws, cards and letters of support, and handmade kids pictures/letters.



**Thanks to all for the support of items at the November Dinner Meeting. As usual, Skokie Valley came through with 200 lbs. to be sent to our troops!**

**Richard J. Calfa**

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 Fax: (847) 658-5705  
 E-Mail: richard@calfaforins.com



10/13

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# SVPS Anniversary November Member Dinner Meeting



# Running Lights

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

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

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

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

**Safety:** [www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com)



Captain Ahab answer:

Failing: bad weather

Rising: clearing weather



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