



Membership Newsletter - Volume 19 Issue 12

Running Lights

December 2019

**You are invited to the
Commander's Open House
Holiday Party
December 15, 2019
2:00 PM—6:00 PM**



A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER

Boating season officially ended only a month ago. Since then, we have had snow, freezing weather, and no real days of Indian Summer. The way to deal with it is to find ways to enjoy the off season. Our dinner meetings are happening, including the delightful Anniversary Dinner last month at Dover Straits. The cruise planning meeting took place and mapped out next year's activities. The National Meeting will take place in Ponte Vedra Beach (near Jacksonville), FL in February, hopefully warm enough there to swim in the pool. And saving the best for last, this commander welcomes all of you to visit me at my house in Lake Forest for a Holiday Bash. The party will include pianist Robyn Vitson, who some will remember when they visited me last year. We sang carols, enjoyed great things to eat and drink, while toasting a season of merriment.



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

COMMANDER

Cdr Richard Davidson, SN 847-295-8845

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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

SECRETARY

Lt/C Gail Sidman, S 847-726-7309

TREASURER

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

EDUCATION OFFICER

Stf/C Pat Antoni, SN 847-436-6439

ASST. EDUCATION OFFICER

Lt/C James E. Soyka, SN-CN 847-635-6239

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

For some, heading south is the answer. Many of our members who do spend winter in Florida find time to gather and celebrate the friends they have in our boating club.

For others, there is the reason for our founding – boating education. I attended the first sessions of our class in Boat Handling, the course that replaced Seamanship. It is a good upgrade of the material, now using PowerPoint slides and videos. Five people are in the class, including our four newest members, and they plan to take all of the courses offered. When done, they will travel the Great Loop down the Ten-Tam and around the Intra-coastal Waterway. Moreover, they are sailboat owners. We need more of that kind of boater in our group. Our SEO is P/D/C Pat Antoni, SN, who did a yeoman's job getting the material extracted from USPS HQ, printing the textbooks, and running the program.

Last month we lost our Past Commander George Doerner, AP who led our organization in 1992. We are all aging, but the addition of new members gives us hope for our future. The reworked curriculum, new name for our organization, and better marketing should help.

My way of handling winter is to do my indoor projects like my ham radio hobby, the Internet, audio recordings, movies on DVD and via cable TV, books, workshop, electronics bench, to name a few. If I can find things like that to do, or travel to warmer places, in a few months it will be spring again. Every season gives us the chance to do things we did not do the rest of the year. This season comes with Thanksgiving for a family gathering, our traditional holidays, and a promising new year.

Wishing all of our members a joyous holiday season, I remain,

—Cdr. Rich Davidson, SN

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Mark Your Calendar



December 2019

4	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Market Square, Wheeling
15	Sun	Commander's Holiday Party	Lake Forest, IL (page 9)
15	Sun	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 0300	Commander's Home, Lake Forest
15	Sun	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
18	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Market Square, Wheeling

January 2020

1	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Market Square, Wheeling
8	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Yen Yen Restaurant, Buffalo Grove
8-12	Wed-Sun	Chicago Boat Show	McCormick Place, Chicago
12	Sun	Member Dinner Meeting	Palm Court, Arlington Heights (page 5)
15	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Market Square, Wheeling
15	Wed	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
29	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Market Square Wheeling

David J. Anthony
Sue Anthony
Al Antoni
Pat Antoni
Bonni J. Breen
Richard Calfa
Thomas E. Clark
Frank D'Amico
Karen D'Amico
Richard A. Davidson
Bridget K. Doerner
George Doerner
John M. Hennessy
Joseph Lokaj
Sue Lokaj
Christine D. March
Susan Palazzo
Tony R. Palazzo
Joseph P. Paldo
Keith D. Parker
Donald Sidman
Gail L. Sidman
Hugh Sommerfeld
Judy Sommerfeld
James E. Soyka
Gary Vinzant
Joanne K. Zingler
Ron E. Zingler
Stuart Zwang



Thanks to our many members who give their time and talent to assist the squadron throughout the year. This is the time of year we recognize their efforts with a merit mark.

—Jim Soyka
Merit Mark Chairman

USPS just launched a new version of the website, americasboatingclub.org

Welcome to
America's Boating Club®

Learn boating skills

Engage in the fun

Connect with the boating community

Find a Home With Us

America's Boating Club® is for all types of boaters – novice or experienced, in coastal or inland waterways. We bring boaters together to improve their skills, make connections, or just enjoy time together. Our boating courses and seminars are just the beginning – beyond the classroom a world of boating fun awaits!

November Anniversary Dinner

Rich Davidson & Bonni Breen



Ron Zingler, Dave Anthony & Rich Barta



Keith Parker, Stu Zwang, Ron Zingler, Kathy Parker, Hugh Sommerfeld & Pat Antoni



Don & Gail Sidman, Gary Vinzant, Joe Paldo



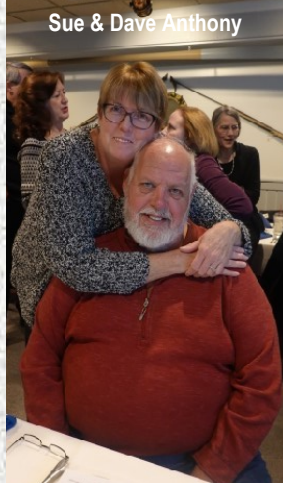
Joe & Sue Lokaj



Jim Soyka & Al Antoni



Sue & Dave Anthony



Lori Zwang & Joanne Zingler



Joe & Lori Ratajczak



Commander Rich Davidson



Mary Soyka & Judy Sommerfeld



Karen & Frank D'Amico





JANUARY DINNER MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020

Come dine with us for a Sunday afternoon member meeting at Palm Court. Since 1979, Chef Michael has been offering a relaxing ambiance with American cuisine and European influences.

**PALM COURT RESTAURANT
1912 N. ARLINGTON HEIGHTS RD
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60004**

Cash Bar starts at 2:00 PM Sunday

Dinner \$25. Choice of entrees:

- London Broil and twice baked potato
- Breast of Chicken Picatta with Pasta
- Atlantic Salmon and mashed potatoes

Includes: soup or salad, coffee, tea and NY cheesecake



Kindly RSVP by Jan 5th

Ron Zingler 847-634-3806
zingleron@comcast.net



YOUR WEATHER REPORT

By Mike Hennessy, AP, Instructor-Weather course



Atmospheric Pressure

When we listen to the weather, they are always talking about the pressure. Depending on who you are receiving your information from, the pressure could be given to you in inches or millibars. Millibars is the more scientific terminology, but there is nothing wrong with using inches.

The pressure is measured with the use of a barometer. The exact measurement of the pressure is usually not nearly as important as the direction of the pressure. A falling pressure indicates that a low-pressure system is moving in or that a high-pressure system is moving away. An increasing pressure indicates that a high-pressure system is moving in or a low-pressure system is moving away. This is important because a high-pressure system is an indication of fair, cooler and dry weather. A low-pressure system is an indication of warmer and more humid weather. All storms (rain, tornadoes and hurricanes) are a product of a low-pressure system. The closer you get to the center of a low-pressure system, the more severe the storm.

Lines of equal pressure (isobars) shown on a weather map give you an indication of the strength of the winds. The closer the isobars are, the windier it will be. Conversely, the further apart the isobars are, the less wind there will be.

So, the next time you look at a weather map or listen to a weather report, pay attention to the atmospheric pressure. It just may be telling you something you need to know.



www.wikihow.com/calculate-barometric-pressure

OUR GREAT LAKES, OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

One of the presentations at the recent D20 Conference referenced Bubbly Creek. This section of the Chicago River south of downtown was a dumping ground for Chicago's meatpacking industry. In his 1906 novel called "The Jungle", Upton Sinclair described it as a "great open sewer". It was so filthy, a person could walk on the floating stockyard waste without sinking in the water.

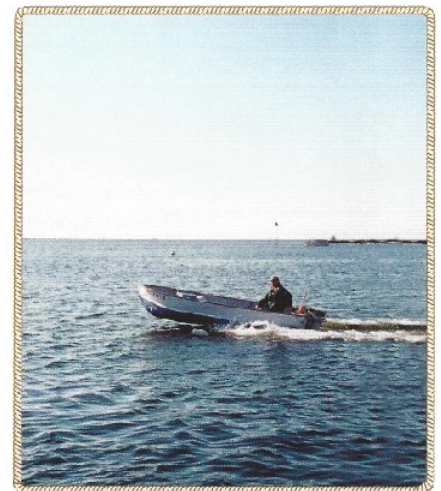


Although the river looks much better today, the remains of millions of animal carcasses are still decomposing at the bottom. The methane gas that is periodically released gives the river its notorious name: Bubbly Creek.

The US Army Corp of Engineers have a plan to restore the ecosystem for an estimated \$15 million. They would create a new natural bottom for the creek, essentially capping the decaying sludge with fresh sand and gravel, and placing native plants in the sediment to hold the new creek bed in place.

Sadly, their plans are on hold because if they touch it, the EPA would hold them liable for any contamination there, even if it was deposited many years ago. If the USACE can come to an agreement with the EPA to absolve them of potential liability, in 2023 they may be able to start reversing the mistakes of the past.

CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ



Proper "trim" can be achieved in the boat shown above by tilting the drive **back** or **forward**?

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing



SVPS 2020 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
January 8-12	Chicago Boat Show	McCormick Place	District 20
January 12th Sunday 2:00 PM	Lunch Meeting	Palm Court	Ron Zingler
February	Dinner Meeting	Gino's East South Barrington	TBD
February 11-15	USPS Annual Meeting	Sawgrass Marriott Resort Ponte Verde Beach, FL	USPS
March 21-22 Friday-Saturday	District 20 Spring Conference	Holiday Inn, Elgin, IL	District 20
March	Operations Training	TBA	District 20
April 18th	SVPS Change of Watch	TBA	Commander
May 2nd Saturday	Rowing Regatta	Crystal Lake	Gary Vinzant
May 16th Saturday	Lunch Meeting	Reflections Restaurant, Lake Villa	Ron Zingler and Joe Paldo
June 13th Saturday	Lake Michigan Fishing	North Point	
June 13th Saturday	Sundowner	North Point	Tony Palazzo, Sue & Dave Anthony
June 24-28th	Summerfest	Milwaukee	Ron Zingler
July 9th Thursday	COSI (Children's Oncology Services) Boat Day	Southport Marina	Ron Zingler
July 10-19th or August 1-8th	Summer Cruise	TBD—in planning stages	Tony Palazzo
August 19-31st	13 Day Cruise to Alaska and Denali	Alaska	Ron Zingler
September 13th Sunday	Dinner Meeting	Club Casa Des Plaines, IL	Ron Zingler
September 26th Saturday	Sundowner	Hob Nob	Ron Zingler
October 18th Sunday	Dinner Meeting	TBD	Ron Zingler
November 14th Saturday	Anniversary Dinner	TBD	Ron Zingler
December 13th Sunday	Commanders Holiday Party		Commander



February 11-15, 2020

https://www.usps.org/php/reservations_new/meetings.php?mtg_id=37

2020 Meeting for USPS America's Boating Club

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa
1000 PGA Tour Boulevard
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Complimentary Activities

Tour historic Tournament Players Club (TPC) Golf Club at your leisure. Travel by hotel shuttle for short ride to the TPC. Lunch is available at the Clubhouse dining room.

Enjoy a day at the ocean at the Marriott's private beach at your leisure. Travel by hotel shuttle for short ride to the beach. Lunch is available at on-site restaurants.

Conference registration includes continental breakfast on Saturday, Feb 15th.

Tuesday, Feb 11—St. Augustine Distillery

The venue for our evening tour and dinner is The FP&L Ice Plant, built in 1907 and beautifully restored, on the National Register of Historic Places. The ice plant was the first to make commercially available ice in Florida over 100 years ago. Now, they craft small batch bourbon, rum, gin & vodka with the flavors of Florida. Bus departs hotel at 1700 for St. Augustine.

Wednesday, Feb 12—Scenic St. Augustine Cruise

Scenic Cruise of St. Augustine Waterways aboard Victory III. Depart Marriott by bus at 0930 and travel to St. Augustine. Following cruise, explore and enjoy lunch on your own in historic downtown St. Augustine, the nation's oldest city. Bus will depart for Marriott at 1500.

Wednesday, Feb 12—Jacksonville Beach Golf Outing

This will be a fun, inexpensive (\$55) golf scramble at a beautiful course, not too far from Sawgrass. The recently renovated Jacksonville Beach Golf Club will host our group starting at 1230. Please respond ASAP to Dawn Eckhart if you are interested in playing. More details to follow including registration, transportation, club rentals, etc.

Thursday, Feb 13—Keynote Breakfast

"Salty Superstitions" - A Lighthearted Look at the Culture of Sailors and Ships At Sea. **ROBERT N. MACOMBER** has been the recipient of the Patrick D. Smith Literary Award, the American Library Association's W.Y. Boyd Literary Award, a Silver Medal in Popular Fiction from the Florida Book Awards, and a host of other accolades over two decades. He has earned rare experiences like being Distinguished Lecturer at NATO HQs [Belgium], and, for ten years, was invited into the Distinguished Military Author Series, Center for Army Analysis [Ft. Belvoir]. When he's not writing, researching, or on one of his extensive journeys, Mr. Macomber lives on Pine Island, where he enjoys sailing the more remote islands near his home and cooking the exotic cuisines from his novels.

Thursday, Feb 13—Seminar by Robert Macomber

"The Italian Navy's Decima Mas" - an incredible World War II story of the 1st naval special operations unit in history; the professional predecessor of the famous U.S. Navy SEALs. Time 1000-1100; registration is not required to attend.

Thursday, Feb 13—See Conference Agenda

Open department and committee meetings. Ship's Store.

Friday, Feb 14—See Conference Agenda

Town Hall meeting in the morning. Education and other department seminars throughout the day. Department lunches.

Saturday, Feb 15—Annual Meeting

Annual meeting, member luncheon, evening dinner dance.

For a detailed conference agenda, visit the National Meetings webpage at [usps.org](https://www.usps.org) (link at the top of the page).

Early bird pricing for all activities expires Jan 10, 2020

**The Commander's
Open House Holiday Party
December 15, 2019
2:00 PM—6:00 PM**

**You are cordially
invited to the home of
Bonni & Rich Davidson**



**1900 Millburne Rd
Lake Forest, IL 60045**

Food and drinks will be provided. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. A brief Exec Comm meeting will be held at 3 PM.



*Featuring holiday songs
by pianist Robyn Vitson*



This 13 day land and sea cruise begins on land August 19th in Fairbanks, Alaska with a tour of Denali. On August 24th the Norwegian Jewel will take you from Seward, Alaska arriving August 31st in Vancouver BC. You can do the land and cruise or just the cruise.

Norwegian Cruise Line has been offering specials that include free unlimited beverage package, free specialty dining, \$50 per cabin shore excursion rebate, wifi and friends and family sail free. They are also offering reduced air fare (ex from O'Hare at \$199 roundtrip). Previous Norwegian cruisers have been offered a 20% discount on the cruise portion.

A 13 day cruise cost example for a mini-suite on deck 11 included the 5 free offers, 20% cruise savings and \$199 air from O'Hare for 13 days at \$9500 for two people. This also includes all taxes, trip insurance and gratuity.

The following is a link to the NCL cruise itinerary or go to NCL.com.

[https://www.ncl.com/cruises/13-day-denali-talkeetna-explorer---southbound-cruisetour-SBJTALKEENTAJEWEL7SWDICYJNUSGYKTNVAN/Dates/\).remove\(\);\\$](https://www.ncl.com/cruises/13-day-denali-talkeetna-explorer---southbound-cruisetour-SBJTALKEENTAJEWEL7SWDICYJNUSGYKTNVAN/Dates/).remove();$)

If you are interested, the booking contact is Sharla Manglass at MEI Travel.

SharlaM@mei-travel.com or 706.742.5358

Let her know that you are with Ron Zingler's group and she can group us together.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Ron Zingler 847.634.3806



Remembering our Friend and Past Commander George Doerner, AP

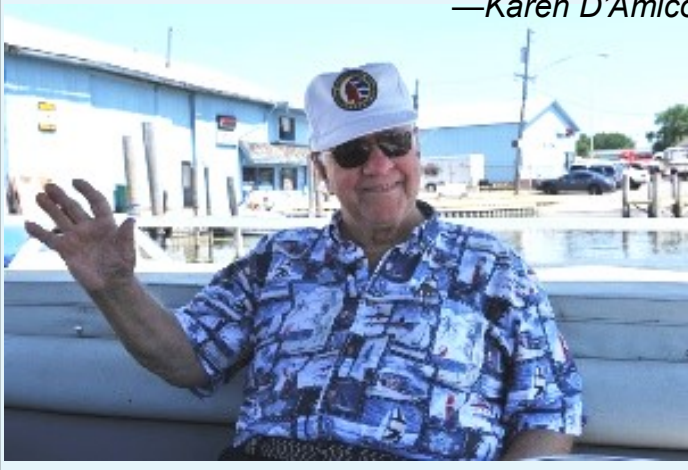
It's hard to believe we have to say goodbye. This was a picture of George and Bridget at our impromptu dinner outing in September.



George and Bridget were some of the first people we met when we joined the squadron in 1990. After the boating class at Hersey, we went on our first cruise. We arrived late by car on Friday night, so imagine our surprise when someone knocked on our hotel room door Saturday morning to ask us to breakfast. It was George and Bridget who welcomed us that morning. We had a nice breakfast with our new friends. I'll never forget the part of the conversation when George said to Frank and I, "...so, how long have you two been married?" When we said we were not married, George didn't know what to say...humina, humina, humina. That was the start of a long friendship, and a few years later Frank even served as one of George's bridge officers when he was commander in 1992.

George has been a long time contributor to this publication, as Bridget features his lighthouse photos from their travels all over this country and around the world. George has always been an avid photographer and for many years he was the official squadron photographer, taking pictures at all of our events and cruises. You always knew when Mickey's World attended an event, and we shared many stories of our visits to the World. He will be greatly missed.

—Karen D'Amico



December Anniversaries

Marita Ocampo	2005	14 yrs
Birute Apke	2001	18 yrs
Tom Clark	1998	21 yrs
James Schardt	1994	25 yrs
Carol Fey	1991	28 yrs
James Koolish	1991	28 yrs
Keith & Kyle Parker	1991	28 yrs
James Soyka	1992	28 yrs
Karen D'Amico	1991	29 yrs
Denyse Goodman	1986	29 yrs
Edward Colaprete	1988	32 yrs
Bruce Goodman	1986	33 yrs

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

Cdr Rich Davidson, SN

Richard J. Calfa

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29/19

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24/23



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:
forward



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