



Membership Newsletter - Volume 24 Issue 12

Running Lights

December 2024

You are cordially invited to celebrate the holiday season
at the home of Frank and Karen D'Amico

Sunday 8 December 2024
Commander's Open House
1 PM ~ 5 PM



United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club®



A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER

I hope everyone enjoyed a great Thanksgiving holiday. December is a time to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or Boxing Day. Whatever our faith, it's a time to be closer together, enjoy the company we are with and maybe reaching out to those we have not seen recently. Sometimes we get wrapped up in all that goes on during the holiday that we forget this time is for family, friends, coworkers and our community. As we prepare for the various upcoming holidays, let's take a minute to reflect on the past year and remember what we have accomplished, what we have lost (family and friends), and what we are striving for.

In this season of giving, I would like to send a special thank you to the members of the Evanston Yacht Club. They made a generous donation to Skokie Valley and we appreciate all their support.

Many thanks to Jim Soyka for the work he has done collecting merit mark recommendations and submitting them. We had 21 members approved for merit marks this past year. Congratulations and thanks for all you do for Skokie Valley. It's all the time our members volunteer that make us a great squadron.

Last month, we met at Ron and Joanne's house to start planning upcoming events, dinners, and cruises for next year. The full schedule will be published in January, with many old favorites like the fishing derby, sundowners, and other events penciled in. We are planning a trip to Milwaukee Summerfest, which means requesting your slip reservation first thing in January to get on the waitlist for the popular event.

Our next member meeting in January will be at Gusto Restaurant in Glenview. We are also looking to try some new venues in February. March will bring our D20 Spring Conference and members of Skokie Valley are working to find a location. Look for the details of these activities in the Running Lights. If there is an event you would like to plan or share with the squadron, let us know and we will get the word out.

Our Squadron Educational Officer Chuck Burger is busy planning classes for next year. He may be reaching out to you to help with teaching, proctoring, grading, or other duties. He is also planning an advanced grade class to begin after the new year. Let him know if there is a class or seminar that may be of interest to you. I am sure we can try to arrange something.

My Commander's Open House event is next Sunday 8 December. It will begin at 1:00 pm, details and information are listed in this edition of the Running Lights. We hope to see you all here.

Karen and I would like to wish you and your family the best for this holiday season. Enjoy the season in whichever manner you and your family celebrate. Remember to take a moment during this busy time to enjoy what really is important.

Best wishes and Happy Holidays!

—Cdr. Frank D'Amico, AP




America's Boating Club North Shore 2023-2024 Bridge

COMMANDER	Cdr Frank D'Amico, AP	224-238-7372
EXECUTIVE OFFICER	P/C Tony Palazzo, AP	630-347-6586
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	P/C Ron Zingler, AP-IN	847-634-3806
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IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER	P/C Tony Palazzo, AP	630-347-6586
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	Lt Dave Anthony, P	224-402-3107
	Lt Gail Sidman, AP	847-726-7309

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Mark Your Calendar



December 2024

4	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting - page 8
8	Sun	Commander's Open House	Frank D'Amico - page 6
15	Tues	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)

January 2025

2	Thurs	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting
8-12	Thurs-Sun	Chicago Boat Show	Donald E Stephens Convention Center
15	Wed	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
19	Sun	Member Dinner Meeting	Ron Zingler (847-634-3806)
29	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting

Sunday, 19 January 2025
Gusto Ristorante Italiano
 1834 Glenview Road
 Glenview, IL 60025



Celebrate the new year at Gusto in downtown Glenview featuring award winning Mediterranean cuisine

We will order from the menu, individual checks
 Explore their menu at the link below
<https://www.gustorestaurant.com/dinner>



Seating at 4:00 pm

Kindly respond
 by January 12th
 to Ron Zingler
 847-634-3806 or
zingleron@comcast.net



November Anniversary Meeting



Dan Luczak, Ron Zingler, LeRoy Stevens, Chuck Burger



Gary Vinzant, Joe Paldo



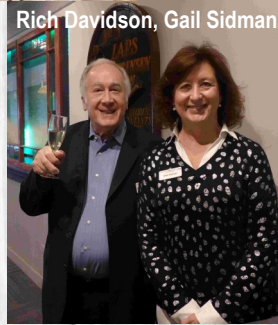
Susan & Tony Palazzo, Lenore & LeRoy Stevens



Frank & Karen D'Amico



Lenore Stevens, Joanne Zingler, Deb Adam



Rich Davidson, Gail Sidman



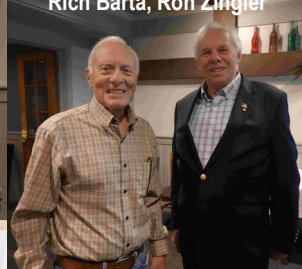
Dave Anthony, Ray Adam, Dan Luczak



Joanne & Ron Zingler



Joanne Zingler, Susan Palazzo, Sue Anthony



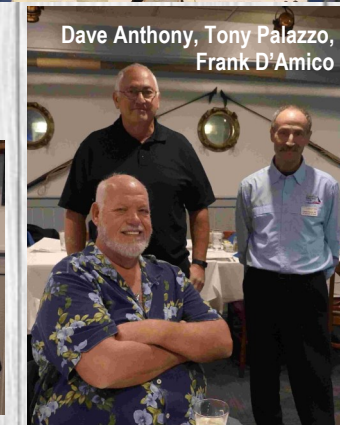
Rich Barta, Ron Zingler



Mary & Jim Soyka



Lorri & Stuart Zwang



Dave Anthony, Tony Palazzo, Frank D'Amico



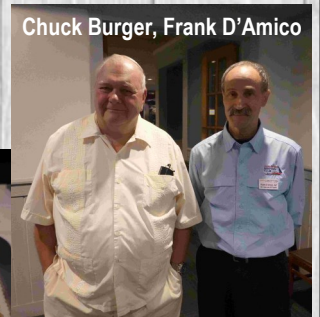
LeRoy Stevens, Ron Dziagwa



Don & Gail Sidman



Swearing in our newest members:
LeRoy & Lenore Stevens



Chuck Burger, Frank D'Amico





SVPS 2024 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
Sunday December 8th	Commanders Holiday Party	Hoffman Estates	Frank D'Amico



July 2-6 2025

we are planning a cruise to



Milwaukee Summerfest

Request your slip early to get on the waitlist. Reservations accepted starting in January 2025.



**Call McKinley Harbor
(414) 273-5224**

Download [America's Boating Club](#) mobile app by clicking the link below. It's a great resource for everything we teach in America's Boating Course right in your hand. It has an easy feature to quickly send a float plan to friends and family, whether on the water or taking a road trip.

NEW

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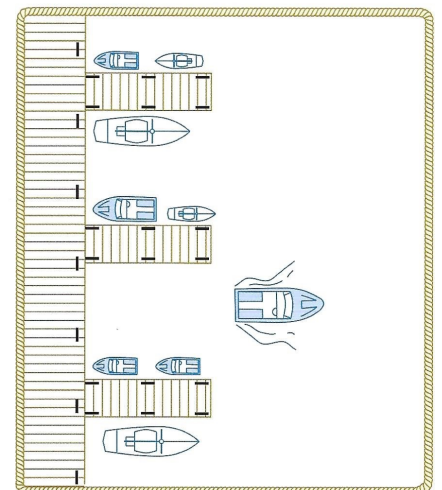
Nautical Reference Information,
Maintenance Records, Float Plans,
Weather, Radar, Tides and Currents,
and much, much more.

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Google Play Store



**CAPTAIN
AHAB'S QUIZ**



A twin-screw vessel (counter-rotating propellers) with the rudders amidships, and with both engines backing will back in A) fairly straight line, B) to port, or C) to starboard.

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing

You are cordially invited to celebrate the holiday season
at the home of Frank and Karen D'Amico

Sunday 8 December 2024
Commander's Open House
1 PM ~ 5 PM

Come anytime
Food and drinks will be served
No need to bring anything

1240 Bison Lane
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192
224-238-7372



New Marine VHF radios will change the way they display channel numbers

If you are planning to upgrade your marine radio, there are some changes you probably know about, like Digital Selective Calling. That is the plan from the 1974 SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) redo of the VHF radio band to recognize that computers and radios today are merging to be capable of transmitting and receiving data, not just voice. It uses Channel 70 to transmit a data stream so that you can call others without using Channel 16, the standard calling channel and emergency traffic channel. You load your radio with an MMSI (Maritime Mobile Service Identity), a 9-digit number that is assigned to you by the FCC or its agents in the United States Power Squadrons, Coast Guard Auxiliary, or Boat US.

Then you load the MMSI numbers of other boaters you wish to call and bring their name up on your list inside the radio that you loaded prior, press the button, and they get called by the computer chip in your radio. Nice system, but very few recreational boaters bother to use it. If you have an emergency, then it sends your GPS coordinates, MMSI, and nature of emergency that the Coast Guard and nearby boaters can receive and respond with aid.

The latest change by the FCC is an update to those strange channel numbers on your radio that have a suffix letter "A" like 18A through 23A to four-digit numbers that begin with 10 and have the same channel numbers, like 1018 through 1023. The other channels are not affected and will display only two-digit numbers. Most of us use only channels 16 for calling others and monitoring, 9 for marinas, 13 for bridges and locks, 68, 69, 71, 72, and 78A for talking to other boaters, and 21A, 22A, and 23A when directed by the Coast Guard to communicate with them. See the full VHF channel table published in the Compass article.

<https://boatingcompass.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/101124-Channel-Allocation-Table.pdf>

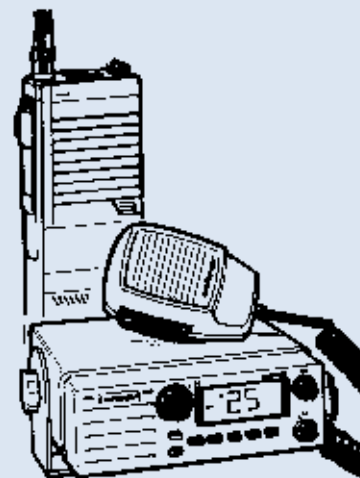
OK, so why the "A" suffix? Going back to the first use of VHF radios on boats, the FCC set up channels 1 through 28 following International Telecommunications Union (part of the United Nations) meetings, beginning in 1959. Channels 1 through 5, 7, and 18 through 28 were set up in pairs, with one for transmit and one for receive. That way, you could talk on one frequency and listen on the other without having to press the PTT (push to talk, the transmit button on your microphone) to switch between transmit and receive. You could use your radio telephone just like your home telephone and talk and listen at the same time. That mode is called "duplex." Having to use one frequency and use the PTT to talk and use the proword "over" to switch back and forth between talking and listening is called "simplex" mode.

To sum it up, more channels were added over the years, your current radio still works, and the channels you use are simplex channels that require you use your PTT button to transmit while your fellow communicators listen on the channel you are using for transmitting. More digital features are likely to show up down the road. Why did this change happen? To make our VHF radios compatible with those used in other parts of the world. Canada, for example, used to use A suffixes for simplex channels and B suffixes for duplex.

Welcome to the very arcane world of radio and government regulations.

Submitted by:
P/D/C Rich Davidson, SN-CAN
Radio/Technical Officer

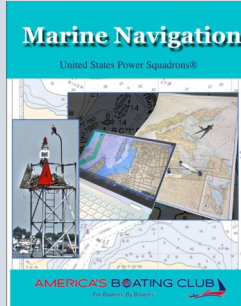
<https://boatingcompass.org/marine-vhf-radios-to-display-four-digit-numbers/>



Students Wanted! Piloting: Marine Navigation Course

Please contact Chuck Burger at (847) 322-0828 or email chucknav1@aol.com.

Marine Navigation is the first course in the sequence of USPS courses on navigation, covering the basics of coastal and inland navigation. It focuses on navigation on recreational boats and embraces GPS as a primary navigation tool while covering enough of traditional techniques so the student will be able to find his/her way even if their GPS fails. The course includes in-class exercises, developing the student's skills through hands-on practice and learning. Nine classes of two hours each normally are scheduled for presentation of this course. Students have seven days to complete the open book exam.



Course topics include:

- Charts and their interpretation
- Navigation aids pointing to safe water
- Plotting courses and determining direction and distance
- The mariner's compass and converting between True and Magnetic
- Use of GPS – typical GPS displays and information they provide, setting up waypoints and routes, staying on a GPS route.
- Pre-planning safe courses and entering them into the GPS
- Monitoring progress and determining position by both GPS and traditional techniques such as bearings and dead reckoning
- The "Seaman's Eye" – simple skills for checking that one is on course.

December Anniversaries

Ron Dziagwa	2022	2 yrs
Marita Ocampo	2005	20 yrs
Birute Apke	2001	23 yrs
James Soyka	1992	33 yrs
Karen D'Amico	1991	34 yrs
Denyse Goodman	1986	34 yrs
James Koolish	1991	34 yrs
Keith & Kyle Parker	1991	34 yrs
Edward Colaprete	1998	37 yrs
Bruce Goodman	1986	38 yrs

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

Cdr Frank D'Amico, AP

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Team North Shore

Executive Committee Meeting: Dec 4 at 7:00 pm Central

Zoom Meeting ID: 875 8578 5751, Passcode: 949310

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87585785751?pwd=6CPnl7nwsK6PHoBnfQd8zhJQQAs04g.1>

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66/19



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Running Lights

Skokie Valley Sail and Power Squadron

FROM:
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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:

A) fairly straight line



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