





**SKOKIE VALLEY SAIL
AND POWER SQUADRON**

DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter - Volume 21 Issue 2

Running Lights

February 2021



**Virtual
Meetings are
Made for
Snow Days!**



United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club®



A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER

We should all agree that 2021 will be a better year than 2020. It can only get better, right? In that spirit, our last Executive Committee meeting started planning events that we have during normal years. Ron Zingler is filling up the calendar with online member meetings, cruising on Lake Michigan, sundowners, fishing trips, and Happy Hours!

The Happy Hour got a trial run on January 17. We got about a dozen people to Zoom in, and these included some people we have not seen for a while. The great thing about online meetings is that the snowbirds in Florida were able to attend. In that sense, having online meetings, especially in the winter, might make more sense than going to a restaurant and getting only people still in town to attend.

Obviously, another reason for meeting online is COVID-19. It is safe, convenient, and when you fill up with wine or beer or whatever your favorite hootch happens to be, driving home is intrinsically safe. Just crawl back in front of the TV set and sober up, wondering what silly things you may have said during the event.


With more than a couple of companies manufacturing vaccines at warp speed, there are reasons to hope life will return to normal by this fall. With most of our membership at age 70 or more, the percentage of us getting immunity with two shots will come sooner due to the priorities of the dispensing rules. There are advantages to being a senior citizen at times.

Back to the calendar. We have two big events coming up, the USPS National Conference and the District 20 Spring Conference. Since both are online, none of us need miss these two gatherings. You save on travel, hotel, meals, and get to attend the business meetings, breakout sessions, council meetings, and the Change of Watch. Get the details in this newsletter, show up, share this with people you have not seen for the longest time, and make no excuses for not being there.

Also important is the election of our new bridge for the coming year in Skokie Valley. Frank D'Amico has done a yeoman's job getting the slots filled up, but anyone wishing to be on a committee can step up and make yourself available. We need participation, and you should be interested in merit marks.

Also, as a member of the National Information Technology Committee, ITCOM, I think you will appreciate how much work is going into upgrading our national web site to host all squadron and district web sites, replace Sail Angle, incorporate DB2000, and best of all, make taking all of the courses in the comfort of your home possible. If you dropouts (you know who you are) want to have full certificates, classes across the country will be available for you to take. If you enjoy boating as much as I do, learning everything there is to learn should be fun and rewarding.

—Cdr. Rich Davidson, SN

**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**
Lt/C James E. Soyka, SN-CN 847-635-6239
- ASSISTANT EDUCATION OFFICER**
Robbie Leighton 224-339-4364
- 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

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Mark Your Calendar



February 2021

3	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1930	Zoom Meeting, Contact Rich Davidson
15	Mon	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
15-26	Fri-Tue	Virtual Annual Meeting	USPS (see page 4)
28	Sun	Member Happy Hour & Great Loop Presentation	Ron Zingler (see below)

March 2021

3	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1930	Zoom Meeting, Contact Rich Davidson
13	Sat	District 20 Conference/Change of Watch	District 20
15	Mon	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
21	Sun	Member Meeting & Election Night	Rich Davidson

**Sunday
February 28th
@ 5:00 PM CT**

zoom

**Virtual Happy Hour &
Great Loop Presentation
By P/C Dick Hughes**



No registration necessary, just join us.
Questions? Ron Zingler #847.634.3806
zingleron@comcast.net

To Join the Zoom Meeting

Click on this link, enter meeting ID and passcode.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86588655577?pwd=YTE0OGUxL0cwZVdsK2x3YjRablAvUT09>

Meeting ID: 865 8865 5577

Passcode: 570699

(Don't forget to join with video and audio)

Call from your phone: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Then enter meeting ID and passcode above.

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86588655577?pwd=YTE0OGUxL0cwZVdsK2x3YjRablAvUT09>

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AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

For Boaters, By Boaters®



Virtual Annual Meeting
February 15-26, 2021

**Attend the Annual Meeting
From Your Home
Everyone is Invited!**

**February 15—26
Sessions Are Scheduled Between
10 AM and 7 PM Central Time**

**Get the Latest News and Happenings
Pre-registration Is Not Required for Majority of the Meetings
All sessions will be recorded and available 48 hours after the meeting
Attend One or Attend Them All!**

Specific Meeting Details are available on the National Meeting Website
The meeting agenda is being updated frequently, so check the [National Meeting web page](#) for the latest agenda with session dates and times.

Seminary Highlights:

- Keynote Speaker – Capt. Nori Ann Reed, USN, Retired, talks about her experience as Captain of USS Detroit, moored across the harbor from the WTC on 9/11
- Effective Marketing of Educational Programs to Recruit and Retain Members
- How to use America's Boating Club Mobile App for Marketing Purposes
- Educational Strategies and Tools for Dealing with Covid 19 Disruptions and Beyond
- America's Boating Channel Updates
- Vessel Safety Examiner Workshop
- Using the National Website Information Center
- Boating Skills Virtual Trainer—New Laptop Edition
- Instructor Recertification (pre-registration required)

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February 15 – March 1, 2021

How to Connect

- ⇒ Go to [FreeConferenceCall.com](https://www.freeconferencecall.com) 10 minutes before the meeting date and time.
- ⇒ Enter meeting ID **USPSABC** for ALL meetings on the agenda.

How to Prepare and Participate

- ⇒ Attendees can connect 10 minutes prior to the scheduled meeting start time. Meetings will start at their scheduled time.
- ⇒ Turn your **camera (video) and sound OFF** when joining unless specifically asked to turn them on.

Connection issues? Refer to the [step-by-step connection guide for attendees](#).

All meetings will be recorded in case you miss a session or have trouble connecting. You can access recorded meetings on the [National Meeting web page](#) 48 hours after the session concludes.

Are you new to online meetings? Use the [step-by-step connection guide](#) to practice connecting prior to the meeting when no other meetings are scheduled, before 10:45 a.m. ET or after 9:30 p.m. ET during the conference or almost anytime before February 15.



Skokie Valley Sail & Power Squadron 2021 - 2022 Slate of Officers & Committees

Executive Committee

Commander	Tony Palazzo, AP
Executive Officer	Frank D'Amico, AP
Education Officer	Richard Davidson, SN
Asst. Education Officer	Jim Soyka, SN-CN
Administrative Officer	Ron Zingler, AP-IN
Secretary	TBA
Treasurer	Sue Anthony, P
Immediate Past Cdr	Richard Davidson, SN
Elected Member	David Anthony, P
Elected Member	Sue Palazzo, P
Elected Member	TBA

Rules Committee

Pat Antoni, SN (Chair)
William Bellinger, SN
Natalie Witty, JN

Audit Committee

Keith Parker, P (Chair)
Gail Sidman, JN
Hugh Sommerfeld, P

Nominating Committee

Gary Vinzant, JN (Chair)
Joe Lokaj, JN
Richard Davidson, SN
Karen D'Amico, AP
Stuart Zwang, SN-IN
TBA

Respectively Submitted by Nominating Committee:

*Frank D'Amico, AP (Chair)
Don Sidman, JN
Gary Vinzant, JN
Joe Lokaj, JN
Karen D'Amico, AP
Stuart Zwang, SN-IN*

OUR GREAT LAKES, OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

In December, National Geographic featured a cover story called “**Saving the Great Lakes**” by Tim Folger. It highlights the many threats facing the area and how they impact people living in the region.

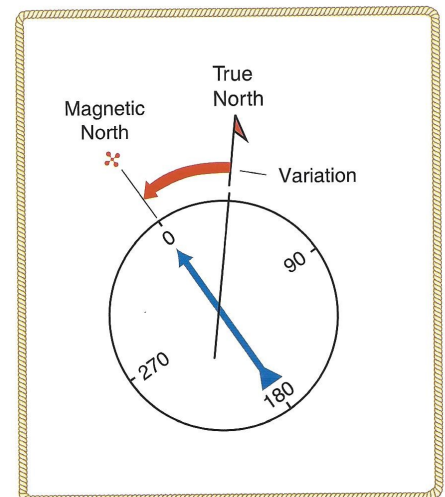


You have to subscribe to read the article, but ABC Channel 7 Eyewitness News did a follow-up interview with the NatGeo author. They also created, “**So Great, So Fragile**”, a 5-part series focusing on the issues impacting the Great Lakes. The segments are:

- Climate and Storms
- Beach Erosion
- Pollution
- Invasive Species
- Solutions

Use this link for information about the series and links to each segment. [So Great, So Fragile: New series on issues impacting the Great Lakes from ABC7 Chicago, National Geographic - ABC7 Chicago](#)

CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ



If cruising in an area where the variation is west, the magnetic course will be greater than or less than the true course?

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing



SVPS 2020 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
February 15-29	USPS Annual Meeting	Virtual	USPS
February 28th Sunday	Member Meeting Great Loop Presentation	Zoom meeting	Ron Zingler
March 13th Saturday	COW District 20	Virtual	District 20
March 21st Sunday	Member Meeting Election Night	Zoom meeting	Rich Davidson
April	SVPS Change of Watch	TBA	Tony Palazzo
May 16th Sunday	Lunch Meeting	Palm Court, Palatine	Ron Zingler
June 5th Saturday	Lake Michigan Fishing	North Point Marina	Dave Anthony
June 5th Saturday	Sundowner	North Point Marina	Tony Palazzo, Dave & Sue Anthony
June 24-26th	Summerfest	Milwaukee	Ron Zingler
July 8 - July 13	Summer Cruise	Casino Run Burnham Harbor July 8, Hammond July 9-11, Michigan City July 11-13.	Ron Zingler
September 12th Sunday	Dinner Meeting	TBA	Ron Zingler
September 26th Sunday	Sundowner	Hob Nob, Kenosha WI	Ron Zingler
October 16th Saturday	Dinner Meeting	Dover Straits, Mundelein	Ron Zingler
November 13th Saturday	Anniversary Dinner	Gusto, Glenview	Ron Zingler
December 12th Sunday	Commanders Holiday Open House Party	TBA	Tony Palazzo



This is our planned schedule when this issue is published. Events are subject to change or cancellation as restrictions in the area are changing.



*Always
in our hearts
Forever
in our memory*



This month we said good bye to our long time friend Ron Sieling, N who passed away January 9, 2021. Ron was a member for 54 years and earned 46 merit marks.

He was so proud of being a member of USPS. Ron is pictured here in 2016 when then Cdr Gary Vinzant presented him with his 50 year membership plaque and pin. His grandkids Steve and Jennifer attended that night to see him receive his award.

Ron was committed to the mission of education, serving as instructor and proctor for many classes over the years. He also was a member of the running light production staff, assisting with mailing committee whenever needed. After a lifetime of dedication, he will be missed.



February Anniversaries

Barbara O'Connell	1980	21 yrs
Dixie Widner	1983	39 yrs
Richard Elesh	1969	53 yrs

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

Cdr Rich Davidson, SN

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Running Lights

Skokie Valley Sail and Power Squadron

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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:
greater than



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