



Membership Newsletter - Volume 22 Issue 2

# Running Lights

## February 2022

Member Dinner Meeting  
February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 4:30 PM

Di Piero's Ristorante

17 E. Main Street  
Lake Zurich, IL 60047  
Located in downtown Lake Zurich



United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club®



**A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER**

Winter ugh. This is always my least favorite part of my year. After 62 winters, I think I am good, I don't need anymore.

In January we had our dinner meeting at Biaggi's in Deer Park. It was a nice day. The weather co-operated. We had 12 members attend and we had a great dinner.

The USPS Annual Meeting in Ponte Vedra Florida will take place February 22<sup>nd</sup> thru the 26<sup>th</sup>. We have a few members attending, including Pat Antoni, Richard Davidson and the D'Amico's. Richard Davidson will represent our Squadron and will be voting on my behalf at the annual meeting. Thank you Richard for your support.

In February, the March's are planning our next member dinner meeting at Di Piero's in Lake Zurich Illinois. Please respond if you plan to attend by contacting Christine March before February 6<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you all there on the 13<sup>th</sup>.


In March we have the D20 Spring Conference at the Holiday Inn in Elgin. Everyone by now should know that we are sponsoring this event. If you can help with the planning, please contact Joanne Zingler as she is the Conference Chair. We hope you can attend. See the registration form in this issue and send to Jim Soyka.

In April, our Change Of Watch is scheduled for Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup>. More on that later in our next issue of the Running Lights.

I mailed 15 Vessel Safety Decals to Richard Calfa and he plans to do some Vessel Safety Checks in Florida in the coming months. Thank You Richard.

We have a full schedule planned for the summer months so make sure you use the Running Lights newsletter and stay up to date on the activities. The news on Omicron Covid situation seems to be getting more positive as time goes by. If we follow the same progress as some other countries have made, we should be getting this pandemic under reasonable control soon. Stay safe and healthy and we will see you at the upcoming events.

—Cdr. Tony Palazzo, AP

**Skokie Valley Sail & Power Squadron  
2021-2022 Bridge**

- COMMANDER**  
Cdr Tony Palazzo, AP 630-347-6586
- EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
P/C Frank D'Amico, AP 224-238-7372
- ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**  
P/C Ron Zingler, AP-IN 847-634-3806
- SECRETARY**  
P/D/C Karen D'Amico, AP 224-238-7372
- TREASURER**  
Lt/C Sue Anthony, P 224-402-3107
- EDUCATION OFFICER**  
D/Lt/C Richard Davidson, SN 847-295-8845
- ASSISTANT EDUCATION OFFICER**  
1st Lt James E. Soyka, SN-CN 847-635-6239
- IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER**  
D/Lt/C Richard Davidson, SN 847-295-8845
- ELECTED MEMBERS AT LARGE**  
Lt Dave Anthony, P 224-402-3107  
Lt Susan Palazzo, P 847-956-6173  
Lt Gail Sidman, AP 847-726-7309

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# Mark Your Calendar



## February 2022

2	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting, Contact Tony Palazzo
13	Sun	Member Dinner Meeting	Di Piero Ristorante, Lake Zurich (page 5)
15	Tue	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
22-26	Tue-Sun	America's Boating Club Annual Meeting	Sawgrass Marriott, Ponte Vedra, FL (below)

## March 2022

2	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom Meeting, Contact Tony Palazzo
10	Thurs	Conference Planning Meeting	Zoom Meeting (page 8)
15	Tue	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
25-26	Fri-Sat	D20 Spring Conference	D20 & Skokie Valley (page 8-9)

There is still time to get away!  
Discounted prices for the Annual Meeting available until 2/4/2022

All the event details and registration forms can be found on the National Meetings site  
<https://www.usps.org/memb-home>



### Tuesday, Feb 22—Haunted Pub Crawl

Explore the most haunted taverns in St. Augustine. Enjoy drinks and fun historic pub traditions, while learning to use real paranormal equipment.

### Wednesday, Feb 23—A Day of Inhibitions

Start the morning with a guided tour of Whetstone Chocolate Factory. Then experience self-guided tours of both the St. Augustine Distillery and San Sebastian Winery. Finish with lunch at One Twenty Three Burger House.

### Wednesday, Feb 23—Welcome Reception & Dinner

Enjoy a special evening with your ABC friends at the Sawgrass resort.

### Thursday, Feb 24—Scenic Cruise of St. Augustine

Travel by bus to St. Augustine and enjoy lunch at a restaurant near the downtown marina. Then board Victory III for a 1 hr 15 min tour of historical landmarks in the nation's oldest city and the wildlife such as birds and dolphins in beautiful Matanzas Bay.

### Friday, Feb 25—Keynote Breakfast

Presentation by Joseph Tringali. "Traditions" covering the history of yachting from the early days of Dutch merchants, through the America's Cup and the birth of United States Power Squadrons. It ends with the accepted "toasts of the day" in a nautical environment.

### Friday, Feb 25—Old Town Trolley Tour

The best way to see historic St. Augustine with a narrated tour of the city. Plus the tour is designed to hop on and off and explore on your own at any time.

### Saturday, Feb 26—Annual Meeting

This is the official Annual Meeting for squadron delegates and all members are welcome to attend. There are also member and social lunches midday.

### Saturday, Feb 26—Change of Watch Dinner

In the evening there is a reception followed by the Change of Watch dinner and dancing.



Sawgrass  
Marriott Golf  
Resort & Spa





# BIAGGI'S

## JANUARY DINNER MEETING

Tony & Sue Palazzo



Mary & Jim Soyka



Richard Davidson & Bonni Breen



Dave & Sue Anthony



Larry & Christine March



Ron & Joanne Zingler



**Charter Fishing Derby—June 11th**  
*the boats depart from North Point at noon*

**Gear up and get out on Lake Michigan**  
**for a charter fishing excursion**

Contact [dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net](mailto:dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net) for information.

Sign up now! We have two boats reserved and each boat holds 6 people. The estimated cost is expected to be about \$130 per person, depending on the number of fishermen (or fisher ladies).





## Dinner Meeting February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 4:30 PM

Christine & Larry March have been long time patrons of Di Piero's in Lake Zurich. Di Piero's has been serving Italian cuisine from Northern and Southern Italy since 1985. With a cozy atmosphere, it is one place to love. Celebrate Valentines Day at Di Piero's.

**Di Piero's Ristorante**  
17 E. Main Street  
Lake Zurich, IL 60047

Located in downtown Lake Zurich  
Cost is \$25 per person

Dinner selections are:

1. Salmon Piccata
2. Chicken Marsala
3. Spinach Stuffed Gnocchi

Salad and Spumoni for Desert

Kindly respond by February 6th

Register with  
Christine March at  
815.307.2743 or  
[christine@kanizzle.com](mailto:christine@kanizzle.com)





# Skokie Valley Sail & Power Squadron 2022 - 2023 Slate of Officers & Committees

## Executive Committee

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

## Rules Committee

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

## Audit Committee

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

## Nominating Committee

Gary Vinzant, JN (Chair)  
Joe Lokaj, JN  
Richard Davidson, SN  
Stuart Zwang, SN-IN

### *Respectively Submitted by Nominating Committee:*

*Gary Vinzant, JN (Chair)  
Joe Lokaj, JN  
Stuart Zwang, SN-IN*

[www.kanizzle.com](http://www.kanizzle.com)



[christine@kanizzle.com](mailto:christine@kanizzle.com)  
**815-307-2743**

Volunteers for the Spring Conference are ordering polo shirts with our ABC logo for the event. Red for the girls and blue for the guys (like Gilligan & Skipper!)

Christine March needs your order by Feb 28. You can see samples at the February dinner meeting, or just give Christine a call before the deadline. The cost is \$25 each.

No purchase necessary to volunteer!

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



Which fire extinguishers should be protected from freezing temperatures: foam, freon (halon), dry chemical or CO<sub>2</sub>?

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor  
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing



# SVPS 2022 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
February 13 Sunday, 4:30 PM	Member meeting	Di Piero's, Lake Zurich	Christine March
Feb 22-26 Tuesday-Sunday	USPS Annual Meeting	Ponte Vedra, FL	USPS
March 25-26 Friday-Saturday	D20 Spring Conference	Holiday Inn, Elgin, IL	SVPS & District 20
April 23 Saturday, Noon	SVPS Change of Watch	Dover Straits, Mundelein	Tony Palazzo
May 21 Saturday	Member meeting	Reflections, Lake Villa, IL	Ron Zingler & Joe Paldo
June 11 Saturday	Lake Michigan Fishing Derby	North Point Marina	Dave Anthony
June 11 Saturday	Sundowner & Bon Fire	North Point Marina	Tony Palazzo, Dave & Sue Anthony
June 23-25 Thurs-Sat	Summerfest	Milwaukee, WI	Ron Zingler
July 8-17 Fri-Sun	Summer Cruise	South Haven, St. Joe, Hammond Casino	Tony Palazzo
July 16 Saturday	Port Washington Fish Day	Port Washington	
July 23-24 Sat-Sun	Milwaukee Air & Water Show, Blue Angels	McKinley Harbor	
August 20-21 Sat-Sun	Chicago Air & Water Show, Thunderbirds	Burnham Harbor	
September 18 Sunday	Member Meeting	Bucca diBeppo, Wheeling	Ron Zingler
October 23 Sunday	Member Meeting	TBD	Ron Zingler
November 12 Saturday	Anniversary Dinner	TBD	Ron Zingler
December 11 Sunday	Commander's Holiday Party	TBD	Commander







# D20 Spring Conference



## GILLIGAN'S ISLAND

March 25-26 2022

### Castaway Party

Holiday Inn, Elgin IL  
495 Airport Road  
847-488-9000

Friday 7:30 pm trivia games & piano sing-a-long with complimentary appetizers, cash bar & "Gilligan Special" signature drink. Located in the Crystal Room & bar near hotel lobby.

Standard Rooms  
\$94 per night + tax  
Suites \$119 + tax

Make room reservations  
before 3/11/2022  
with code: Power Squadron  
America's Boating Club

Saturday 10:00 am guest speaker Phil Aleo on the history of the Fox Valley Region & importance of the Fox River

Mail reservation form to  
Jim Soyka by 3/18/2022



Saturday lunch catered from Bennigan's 12:00 pm

Spring Conference meeting Saturday 1:30-4:00 pm

Saturday 5:30 pm cocktails, 6:30 pm change of watch dinner followed by dancing with Chicagoland entertainer Jack Miuccio

Volunteers Welcome! Join our next conference  
planning meeting Thursday March 10 at 7:00 pm



Zoom Meeting ID: 827 0088 7454, Passcode: 639347

Click this link to join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86461679809?pwd=VlVMcllUSDdsSmNNdnM1YVJYWWtUUT09>

One Tap Mobile: +13126266799,,86461679809#,,,,\*923359# US (Chicago)





**COME PARTY WITH FRIENDS  
AT GILLIGAN'S ISLAND  
D/20 Spring Conference**

**25-26 March 2022**

**Holiday Inn Chicago Northwest-Elgin  
495 Airport Rd., Elgin IL 60123  
Phone: (847) 488-9000**

**Room Rates:** Standard \$94/night. Jr. King or Queen Suite \$119/night.; Deluxe Queen \$119/night; Executive \$129/night.  
**Make reservations by 11 March at local hotel (847) 488-9000.**  
Be sure to mention **GROUP CODE: ABC** or Power Squadron America's Boating Club to get the special rates.

Rank	Name	Grade	Squadron	Email	Telephone
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**LUNCH:** Price \$25 per person

- Option 1\_\_\_\_: Country Chicken Salad with garden greens
  - Option 2\_\_\_\_: Turkey and Swiss Cheese on Pretzel Bun with French Fries
  - Option 3\_\_\_\_: Monte Crisco sandwich with French Fries
- All lunches come with Potato Soup, coffee, iced or hot tea*

**DINNER:** Price \$48.00 per person

- Option 1\_\_\_\_: Chicken Picatta served with lemon tomato caper butter sauce
  - Option 2\_\_\_\_: Salmon Teriyaki
  - Option 3\_\_\_\_: London Broil— grilled and sliced marinated Tri-Tip beef with Bordelaise sauce
- All dinner meals come with Garden Salad, rolls, and dessert.  
Served with Chef's choice of starch & vegetable;  
coffee, iced or hot tea & soft drinks*

<u>No. Attending</u>		<u>Total</u>
_____	x \$25 Lunch =	\$ _____
_____	x \$48 Dinner =	\$ _____
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

\*\*\*For special meal requests:  
Contact P/D/C Mary Merrell, SN at 847-899-8293

**Make checks payable to:  
SVPS**

Registration and check **should be sent by 18 March** to:  
P/Lt/C Jim Soyka, SN  
1757 E. Carib Ln, Mount Prospect, IL 60056  
eMail: soyka@earthlink.net; Cell: 847-452-2164

Check if first time attending a District Conference

**Schedule of Events**

**Friday 25 March:**

- 1500-1800 Registration
- 1930-2100 **Trivia, Costume Party and Sing-Along**
- 2100 Hospitality Suites Open

**PARTY!  
PARTY!**



**Saturday 26 March:**

- 0700-1000 Friendship Room
- 0830-0915 **Education Meeting**—Update by D/Lt/C Scott Harmon, AP
- 0900-1100 Registration
- 0915-1000 **Seminar:** On the Water Training and Education by P/D/C Mike Ludtke, SN
- 1000-1200 **Presentation:** The Fox River: It's Influence on the History of the Fox Valley Region presented by Phil Aleo
- 1200-1300 Luncheon
- 1300-1330 Verification of Delegates
- 1330-1600 Spring Conference Meeting
- 1730-1830 Banquet cocktail hour—Conference Lobby
- 1830-2030 Banquet, **Change of Watch** and Raffle
- 2030-2230 **Music and Dancing** by Jack Miuccio
- 2230 Hospitality Suites open

**Dress Code:**

- Friday night: Costume or casual
- Saturday: Uniform G (short sleeved shirt, no tie) or suitable business casual attire
- Banquet USPS dress uniform or suitable attire

## ***Americas Boating Club Cruise to Southern Lake Michigan July 8<sup>H</sup> thru July 17<sup>H</sup>***

Beat the winter blues and start planning for warm summer weather. This July we will embark on our long awaited southern Lake Michigan cruise. All are welcome by boat or car! Marinas fill up fast, so in March we need to make reservations and send deposits. Call Tony Palazzo AP at 630-347-6586 to join.

Our first port of call is **South Haven Municipal Marina, Michigan**. Slip reservations can be made by calling 269-637-3171.

[http://www.southhaven.com/parks\\_and\\_recreation/marinas.php](http://www.southhaven.com/parks_and_recreation/marinas.php)

The charming harbor town of South Haven has long been a favorite spot for vacationers. Packed with wonderful restaurants and pubs, great shopping, museums, 2 vineyards, and unique art galleries, it is no surprise that South Haven has been a popular year round vacation destination for over 140 years. There is a lot to enjoy around the area for some good old fashioned fun. Summers at the beach are great. This is a frequent stop for our group and a personal favorite for me.



Our next stop is **West Basin Marina, St. Joseph, Michigan**. Slip reservations can be made by calling 269-983-5432. <https://sicity.com/live-here/marina>

West Basin Marina is located on the north side of St. Joseph River. Getting to the town of St. Joe on the south side of the river will require using their free shuttle service. This is a new stop for us, but lots to do in the area, like wineries, restaurants and shopping. Along the lake, at the mouth of the St. Joseph River, sandy Silver Beach features a restored 1910 carousel and a pavilion. Near Tiscornia Park and its dune-backed beach, the 2 North Pier lighthouses date from the early 1900s. The Curious Kids' Museum offers hands-on exhibits, including a play veterinarian clinic, apple orchard and farm.

Next stop, **Hammond Horseshoe Casino and Marina, Indiana**. For information on slip rentals or any other questions about the marina, call 219-659-7678.

<https://hammondportauthority.com/hammond-marina/>

The newly remodeled Hammond Marina is just steps away from the Horseshoe Casino. There are over 900 slips of various sizes that can accommodate many types of vessels. After enjoying a day out on beautiful Lake Michigan, enjoy a night of gaming excitement at the Horseshoe Casino. Designated the first "Clean Marina" in the state of Indiana, Hammond Marina strives to be at the forefront of environmental conscientiousness. It features recycling bins throughout the marina, as well as a top-notch drainage system and boat wash-down station that keeps dirty water from flowing into the lake. Beyond the cleanliness of the marina, they offer attractive Indiana fuel prices at lower rates. Add into the mix the marina's extended hours and location, and it makes the perfect stop for boaters. It's located in the Hammond Harbor Basin of Lake Michigan, just 12 nautical miles from downtown Chicago.



### **Intended itinerary below based on weather and time permitting!**

<b>Date Leave</b>	<b>Port Leave</b>	<b>Port Arrive</b>	<b>Date Arrive</b>	<b>Miles</b>
7/8/2022	Kenosha	South Haven	7/8/2022	85
7/11/2022	South Haven	St. Joe	7/11/2022	25
7/14/2022	St. Joe	Hammond	7/14/2022	60
7/17/2022	Hammond	Home Port	7/17/2022	65
			<b><u>Total Miles</u></b>	<b><u>235</u></b>

**Everyone is welcome to attend our cruise by boat or driving. All of our ports can be followed by car. Also we can make decisions on itinerary as a group when we are traveling. Bring your own ideas and we can discuss as a group. Call Tony Palazzo AP at 630-347-6586 to join.**



## ASSAULT ON BATTERIES by Stuart Zwang

My boat came with one battery. I installed a second battery with a Perko rotary switch. This switch allows me to single out either battery or use them simultaneously for power such as charging, or radio playing while drifting. The word redundant should be changed to redundant-dant in order to describe my philosophy of engineering, including having spare batteries available while out on the water. Last August when starting up, the starter did not quite sound right. It hesitated. I changed battery source and the same thing happened.

### WALLET PANIC!!

I thought something was wrong with the starter, charger, batteries, etc. Since we have in/out service at our marina (Larsen in Waukegan) I walked over to the service counter and they wrote up a work order. One of the advantages of in/out service is the marina will actually respond very quickly to assist you. They actually sent out a mechanic while I was waiting. He determined both batteries were about ready to keel over dead. They installed two new batteries and \$400 (or so including labor) later we were on our way.

At the end of the season, as part of my winterization, I have the two batteries removed. I then bring them into my basement and keep them on a trickle charger. The trickle charger with a NAPA brand label cost about \$50 ten years ago. I use it for our cars and now our boat. It has proven its worth ten times over. Using the trickle charger, I hope the basement boat batteries will not be drained, they will last longer, and be ready for spring start up.

With the August battery failure, I decided to purchase a battery tester. I spent 30 minutes on Amazon. Battery testers cost anywhere from \$25 to over \$250. What a confusing plethora of options! I purchased a simple one (remember the KISS principle—Keep It Simple Stupid) for \$30.

After a week of trickle charging, I tested both of these two new batteries. Would you believe the \$30 battery tester told me that one of the \$150 batteries, which had a very miserably short one year replacement warranty, was defective. I sent an email to the marina asking for their assistance. As it is winter, their service department was enjoying winter hibernation.

I will let you know what happens, but to get to the point, my recommendations are:

1. Purchase a battery tester
2. Test your batteries frequently
3. Take them out of your boat for the winter
4. Keep them on a trickle charger

We are waiting for the weather to become more boater friendly, and thinking of ways to make the next boating season more fun. Stay well

## February Anniversaries

Barbara O'Connel	1980	20 yrs
Dixie Widner	1983	39 yrs

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

**Cdr Tony Palazzo, AP**

**Richard J. Calfa**

(847) 658-5700  
 Fax: (847) 658-5705  
 E-Mail: richard@calfaforins.com

**CAIFA FOR INSURANCE**

1134 N. Main Street  
 Algonquin, IL 60102



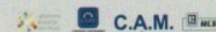
52/19

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 Dick.Hughes621@gmail.com



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49/23

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

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

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



Captain Ahab answer:  
foam



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