



---



---

**SKOKIE VALLEY SAIL  
AND POWER SQUADRON**

---

**DISTRICT 20**

---

**Membership Newsletter - Volume 21 Issue 1**

# Running Lights

## January 2021

**Best Wishes for a  
Brighter New  
Year!**



---

**United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club®**



**A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER**

**H**appy New Year to all. I plan to stay up late on New Year's Eve not so much to welcome 2021, but to be sure that 2020 finally departs to the dustbin of history. I may seem cynical, but too many things went badly in the past year to see much to celebrate. We lost too many of our SVPS family and friends.

The final blow to me this year was getting a positive test for COVID-19. It got me on Monday, December 14. I had a high fever and a nasty cough. The doctor had me show up on Tuesday at Lake Forest Hospital. On Wednesday, Bonni got the results and shouted it through the wall so I could hear it. Very depressing to know you got it. Thursday I was at the Northwestern Medical Center in Grayslake where the Country Squire used to be, right across from the Lake Country Fairgrounds. They infused me with an experimental drug called Bamalivamab which the FDA gave an Emergency Use Authorization for outpatient treatment. By Friday, the symptoms were mostly gone, and by the weekend, I was back to normal. My quarantine goes until the next Saturday. Bonni often complained that I live in my home office. It has TV, audio equipment, my computer, lots of books, my ham radio station, and a bathroom. Only this time she insisted I not leave it. Room service has been great. I get my meals delivered to my room. Picture yourself on a sailboat crossing the deep blue pond. You live in a relatively small space, and if you have enough toys around, it is not so lonely.


It was my luck that my auto immune condition made it necessary to have an infusion to suppress my immune system about six weeks ago. The point where my immunity was nil was when I got the COVID-19 virus. Therefore, I cannot imagine how I got it, but it did not take much to clobber me at that point. Going almost nowhere, using the ATM at the bank and the drive through at Walgreens did not save me.

So, being confined to quarters has not changed things much for me. I simply built a home office with everything in it, and it is my good fortune that I did. This experience turned out to be not so bad. I am simply delighted that none of my symptoms were serious and that I did get cured.

At our last Executive Committee Meeting, Ron Zingler came up with a wonderful event plan. We will be doing a Happy Hour online, 5:00 PM, online, Sunday, January 17, 2021. This could be a precursor to what regular member meetings look like until we all get the new COVID-19 vaccine and can meet in person again. I really look forward to it. Seems like a great plan.

I did forget to add Happy Holidays to my last message, so let me do it now. Please stay safe and avoid any exposure to the Coronavirus. It got me, and I can assure you that it can be very scary. May we all have at least the second half of 2021 to see a return to life as we knew it.

—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

America's Boating Club® and logo are trademarks of the United States Power Squadrons®





# Mark Your Calendar



## January 2021

6	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1930	Zoom Meeting, Contact Rich Davidson
13	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	TBD
15	Fri	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
17	Sun	Virtual Happy Hour	Zoom Meeting, see page 5
27	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	TBD

## February 2021

3	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1930	Zoom Meeting, Contact Rich Davidson
10	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	TBD
15	Mon	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
24	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	TBD

## Remembering Steve Chmela

Steve was a member of USPS for 30 years and earned 18 merit marks. He is pictured here with his late wife Kim, who passed away in 2018. They were both very active with Skokie Valley. Steve was a valued member of the Running Lights production staff for over 15 years, mailing each monthly issue to members before we switched to electronic mailings in 2015.



You may remember Steve as the master builder. He could build us anything for the classroom, cruise or District conference. Who can forget Tiny? He always welcomed guests at our conference hospitality suite. He was a properly decorated officer, but he could transform to fit any theme (like this fiesta party)!



Here Steve is pictured with the well known SVPS boat sign built to advertise our courses. It was on display in front of the admin building at North Point Marina for many years. I can't recall when it was originally built, but the picture here was after Steve took it in for some much needed repairs. We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of USPS in 2014 and Steve made a point to display the Vessel Safety decal as a nod to our civic service responsibilities.



## Lake Michigan Health Story Map

In 2020, an award-winning website was developed by Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant depicting the results of a Lake Michigan study performed by the Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative (CSMI). The study was done in 2015, but the history is very relevant and the impact of invasive species on Lake Michigan still continues today.

The website is really nicely done with interactive information and pictures. Use this link to view the full story: [Lake Michigan Health: A Deeper Dive \(iiseagrant.org\)](http://iiseagrant.org)

It includes a **History** of the events impacting Lake Michigan that led to the CSMI study. These include industry, agriculture, and the introduction of invasive species over the years.

Next they studied the impact on **Lower Food Web**. This is the tiny plants and organisms that float through the water column, and the macroinvertebrates that live in the water and sediment at the bottom of the lake. They play a critical role in nourishing larger fish, so understanding how they have been impacted is key to understanding ecological changes in the lake. They are also very sensitive to changing water quality, so the arrival of invasive zebra and quagga mussels has dramatically changed the lower food web over the past 30 years.

The research team also studied the impact of changes to the Lower Food Web on larger **Prey Fish**, and their developing larval fish. Fish are having to move deeper to find their next meal, and they are growing at half the rate as they did 20 years ago (before the arrival of the quagga mussels). Researchers caught 91% fewer adult prey fish during the 2015 study, compared to 2010.

Lastly the story map covers the assessment of **Contaminants** in the water, sediments and organisms found in the food web. Mercury was found to be 50-75% lower than the original study in 1995. On the other hand, PCB chemicals which breakdown very slowly are still present more than 40 years after they were banned. Also they found lower levels of the pesticide Atrazine, which was commonly used on farm fields. Despite some improvements, researchers are still accumulating the data on the presence of contaminants in fish tissue, which influences consumption advisories.

### OUR GREAT LAKES, OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

Recently in National Geographic, I read an article about the decimation of *Daphnia* in the Great Lakes. *Daphnia* is a genus of about 200 species of tiny freshwater planktonic crustaceans. They provide food for fish and graze on floating algae, keeping the blooms in check.

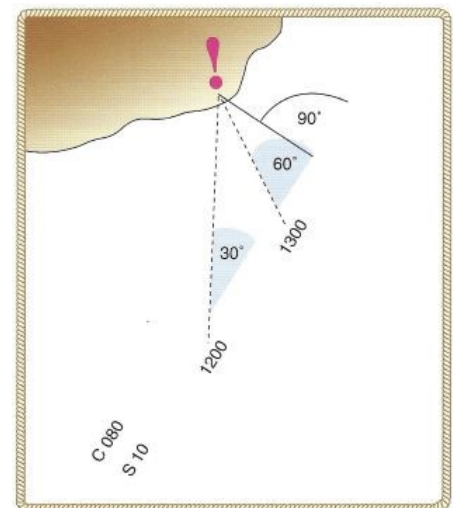


The population of *Daphnia* is being attacked by an invasive predator called the spiny water flea. It is about a half inch long, with prominent mandibles and a barbed tail that makes up about 70% of its length. It feeds on *Daphnia* and other zooplankton.

The spiny water flea is native to Lake Ladoga, near the Baltic Sea in Russia. It first arrived in Lake Ontario in the early 1980s after ships discharged ballast water into the St. Lawrence River. It reached Lake Superior in 1987, and has continued to spread to smaller freshwater lakes. Some lakes have seen a 60% decline in *Daphnia* due to the spiny water flea.

Fish don't eat the spiny water flea because the barbed tail gets stuck in their throat. As native *Daphnia* die off, the game fish population declines. The fish grow more slowly due to insufficient food, which makes them more vulnerable to predators.

### CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ



When directly abeam, what is the distance to the lighthouse, using “doubling on the bow” and the “seven-eighths” rule?

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor  
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing



**Sunday  
January 17th  
@ 5:00 pm**

Join us on your home computer for a fun and relaxing **Virtual Happy Hour** with your fellow squadron members.

Our January virtual Happy Hour will take us to destinations we have never dreamed of visiting. During this time of Covid 19, many of us have not been able to associate with others and we do not want to lose contact with our fellow members. So we thought starting the new year with a virtual Happy Hour will help us come together and share stories while we sip on our favorite drink of the day. Now that the vaccine has become a reality, there is light shining through the tunnel.



No registration necessary, just join in  
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/87904886562?pwd=WWVXUXdCZ1lvMVpoVHlqQWxGN2g1QT09>

Meeting ID: 879 0488 6562

Passcode: 526083

(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/u/kerwGrsOXq>

One tap mobile:

+13126266799,,87904886562#,,,,,0#,,526083# US (Chicago)



The new year is here  
and we need help!!

VOLUNTEER

The Nominating Committee  
is looking for people interest-  
ed in getting involved with  
the bridge and other committees.

all that's missing is U!

Please contact Frank D'Amico, [damico@ameritech.net](mailto:damico@ameritech.net)  
to talk more about open opportunities.

## KNOW YOUR ORDER OF PRIORITY AT SEA

In 428 BCE, the Greek Historian, Thucydides was sitting by the fireplace with Mrs. Thucydides and had a startling revelation. "You know, dear," he said, "A collision at sea can ruin your day!" On July 26, 1956, two ocean liners collided off the coast of Nantucket resulting in the sinking of the Andrea Doria and the loss of some 50 plus lives. It's a safe bet that if the Captains of both the Andrea Doria and the Stockholm were alive today, they'd agree with ol' Thucydides!

Regardless of where we operate our boats, it's fairly clear why we need rules for navigating our vessels. Only by having some system that allows us to predict what other boaters, are (should be?) doing, can we have some degree of confidence that we'll be able to boat safely. Such a system of rules is known as COLREGs (Collision Regulations) and governs all vessels whether they're offshore, in coastal waters or inland on lakes, rivers, etc.

The basic rules are:

- It's *every boater's responsibility* to obey the rules of navigation!
- We always have to *make every effort* to avoid collisions (or other such incidents).
- Now, here's the kicker – *it's ok to break the rules* if that's the only way to avoid a collision!

### Vessel Priorities

Priority in general is based on a vessel's ability to stop or get out of the way of another. The list according to highest priority is as follows:

- A vessel unable to move, aground or disabled
- A vessel restricted in movement (i.e. a dredger)
- A commercial fishing boat actively engaged in operations
- A vessel whose draft restricts maneuvers (I.E. in a narrow channel)
- A sailboat without mechanical power
- A vessel with mechanical power
- A seaplane

Now remember, sometimes might makes right! A very large vessel approaching from your port side may not be able to alter course or speed quickly enough to avoid a (gasp!) collision. Even though you have the right of way, you may need to yield to stay out of trouble.

Published by the Marketing/ PR Committee  
United States Power Squadrons®  
With permission of [Boating Times Long Island](#)

~By PDC Peter TenBrink, Feature Writer

# New Year, Birthday, Valentines Day...

## ~~Christmas~~ Gifts for Your Favorite Boater



- ★ Color boat photos on shirts, bags, and more
- ★ Embroidered hats, hoodies, fleece and shirts
- ★ Logos, Family Vacations and Reunions



**kanizzle.com**  
 Tell Your Story  
 Christine@kanizzle.com

**815-307-2743**

To PRC William Bellinger, SN and his wife Sue for their very generous contribution to Skokie Valley. Bill is a life member of USPS and recently transferred to Skokie Valley from the Chain-O-Lakes Squadron. As he said in his letter to the Commander, his hope is we can use the funds for membership, education and member involvement efforts.

*A Special Thank You!*

### January Anniversaries

Richard Calfa	2007	14 yrs
Sandra Frankenbush	2006	15 yrs
Bill Haag	1997	23 yrs
Arthur D Moses	1976	25 yrs
Gerald Grofman	1972	49 yrs
Nelson Rodelius	1970	51 yrs

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

**Cdr Rich Davidson, SN**

**Richard J. Calfa**

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



1102 N. Main Street  
 Algonquin, IL 60102



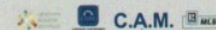
42/19

**CENTURY 21**

Selling Paradise

**Dick Hughes**  
 Broker Associate

Licensed in Illinois & Florida  
 239.233.7274  
 Dick.Hughes621@gmail.com



Offices in Cape Coral & Naples

Each office is independently owned and operated.



37/23

# 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:

$7/8 \times 10 = 8.75$  miles



Editor and Publisher

P/D/C Karen D'Amico, AP  
[RunningLightsEditor@gmail.com](mailto:RunningLightsEditor@gmail.com)

Contributing Editors

Tom Clark, AP  
Bridget Doerner, N

P/C Ron Zingler, AP  
Joanne Zingler, AP  
Stuart Zwang, SN

Photographers

P/C Richard Calfa, N  
P/C Ron Zingler, AP

Production Staff

P/C Frank D'Amico, AP