



Membership Newsletter - Volume 20 Issue 3

# Running Lights

## March 2020

### GILLIGAN'S ISLAND Castaway Party

Join us Friday March 20th  
at the Holiday Inn in Elgin  
SVPS Member meeting at 6:00 PM  
District 20 Spring Conference  
hospitality suites open 7:00-10:00 PM



Stay Saturday for the seminars, conference meeting & change of watch dinner

Meet the new USPS  
Chief Commander  
Mary Paige Abbott, SN-IN





**A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER**

**T**his month will be a busy one. The USPS District 20 Spring Conference is a few weeks away. The work of our team of volunteers has been outstanding. Having people to man the reception table, friendship room, hospitality suite, and the other myriad of details has been gratifying. Given the speakers and meal plans and arrangements for the Conference Meeting, we can expect a successful event.


Last month I attended my first National Conference. I expected to get lost in a maze of meetings and events, but that did not happen. Our District 20 members attending the conference found each other for dinners out and lots of good fellowship. The meetings were a good experience for me. I attended an Education meeting that was run by the National Education Officer. One of the speakers took on the task of explaining how we can overcome the decline in membership and the widespread irrelevance of organizations like ours to the Gen X and Millennial generations. It seems like there were good ideas in that PowerPoint presentation. In another meeting with the Marine Electronics participants I found myself in the company of the Rear Commander in charge of that program. Only eight people were in that gathering. I have long felt that the textbooks and slide shows for those seminars covered the topics inadequately, did not explain well enough how to use a radio on a boat, and so on. The R/C and I were going at it for an hour. Finally, after more than two decades in this organization, I found myself in the company of the people that can fix these problems, and they were delighted to get my inputs.

Similarly, at the Governing Board meeting, I found it easy to sit down with the Chief Commander, the Vice Commanders, the Rear Commanders, and the commanders of the districts. Everyone of these people were accessible, willing to spend time talking to me, and helped me discover where to find help at National Headquarters and who to seek out on the National Bridge. I sat next to the Vice Commander and National Secretary. He pleaded for help from members with IT experience. I slipped him a business card with IT/Engineering/Data Comm on it. It did not take long for me to get an email from people in charge of the IT systems. We have problems with DB2000, SailAngle, the National web site, among other issues. Basically, the writers of these software packages no longer support them, and new people are needed.

The new Chief Commander is Mary Paige Abbott, the first woman to hold that office. I was very impressed with her stage presence and public speaking skills. I asked her if she was a CEO or a marketing manager, and it turns out, the latter. You will be impressed when she comes to our Spring Conference to represent the National Bridge at the Change of Watch. Terry Phillips, our DEO, will be the next District Commander. There was one unfilled opening for an Assistant DEO, and yours truly got the job. Now two Skokie Valley members are on the District Bridge, myself and Stuart Zwang.

Lastly, we reelected our Executive Committee for another year without any changes. As your Commander, ADEO, and heaven knows what national committees are in store for me, life gets busier by the minute.

—Cdr. Rich Davidson, SN

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

<b>COMMANDER</b>	Cdr Richard Davidson, SN	847-295-8845
<b>EXECUTIVE OFFICER</b>	Lt/C Tony Palazzo, AP	847-956-6173
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER</b>	P/C Ron Zingler, AP-IN	847-634-3806
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Lt/C Gail Sidman, S	847-726-7309
<b>TREASURER</b>	Lt/C Sue Anthony, P	224-402-3107
<b>EDUCATION OFFICER</b>	P/D/C Pat Antoni, SN	847-436-6439
<b>ASST. EDUCATION OFFICER</b>	Lt/C James E. Soyka, SN-CN	847-635-6239
<b>IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER</b>	I/P/C Joe Lokaj, JN	847-914-9447
<b>ELECTED MEMBERS AT LARGE</b>	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



## March 2020

4	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Yen Yen Restaurant, Buffalo Grove
11	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Continental Restaurant, Buffalo Grove
15	Sun	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D’Amico (224-238-7372)
20	Fri	March Member Meeting, 1800	Holiday Inn Elgin (page 8)
20-21	Fri-Sat	District 20 Spring Conference	Holiday Inn Elgin (page 8)
25	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Continental Restaurant, Buffalo Grove

## April 2020

1	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Yen Yen Restaurant, Buffalo Grove
8	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Continental Restaurant, Buffalo Grove
15	Wed	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D’Amico (224-238-7372)
18	Sat	Change of Watch, 1300	Gusto’s Italian Rest, Glenview (page 5)
22	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Continental Restaurant, Buffalo Grove

### Pictures from Rich Davidson at the USPS Annual Meeting in February

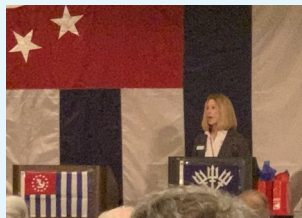


D20 members: Rich Davidson, Pat Antoni, Cindy Geske, Mary Merrell, Terry & Dave Phillips, Julie & Bill Perry



USPS National Bridge Officers

New USPS Chief Commander Mary Paige Abbott



### Market Square Restaurant in Wheeling Closes after 40 years

Our favorite breakfast place suddenly closed on February 2nd, due to the inability to reach a lease agreement with their current landlord.

Many, many years ago, a few of our retired members started meeting for breakfast every other week at the Market Square Restaurant in Wheeling. Over the years, the group grows as more members retire, and also shrinks as we lose members or they move away for warmer weather.

Thankfully, Hugh and Judy Sommerfeld arranged for our “Breakfast Club” to move down the road to the Continental Restaurant in Buffalo Grove. It is located at 788 S. Buffalo Grove Road, at the intersection of Dundee Road and Buffalo Grove Road.



## Bottö Light

Located at the Goteborg fairway Sweden  
57°38'56.7"N 11°43'10.9"E

Again, George and Bridget stopped to see this lighthouse on a United States Lighthouse Society tour. This time we were in Sweden. It is located on the entrance to Goteborg, the capital of Sweden, so it is a very busy harbor.

From 1841-1991, the light was inactive and only seen from the roof of some buildings. In 1991 it became active again with a new white/red light. It has a long flashing period 10s white. It displays 364 times. The white light can be seen for 13 nautical miles and the red light can be seen for 10 nautical miles.

Because of its location so far north, it is a wonderful location to see the northern lights in bright white or even in a green cast of the aurora borealis. The best time to see the spectacle is in the winter, perhaps on a cruise. We were there in the summer so we did not see this beautiful site. The only time we saw the Northern light was when we were flying over Newfoundland.

Submitted by Bridget Doerner, N

Photo by George Doerner, SN



**Congratulations to our recent graduates of the Boat Handling Course!**

Joyce Clifford  
Elizabeth Frith  
Martin Frith  
Robbie Leighton



## Charter Fishing Derby June 13, 2020

**We are in the planning stages for the Fishing Derby and need to know how many boats to reserve.**

**The boats hold 6 people each. The individual cost could be about \$130 per person, depending on the number of boats and people.**

**If you think you might be interested, please contact Dave Anthony [dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net](mailto:dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net)**



**Change of Watch  
Gusto Ristorante Italiano  
Saturday, 18 April 2020  
Luncheon at 1:00 PM**



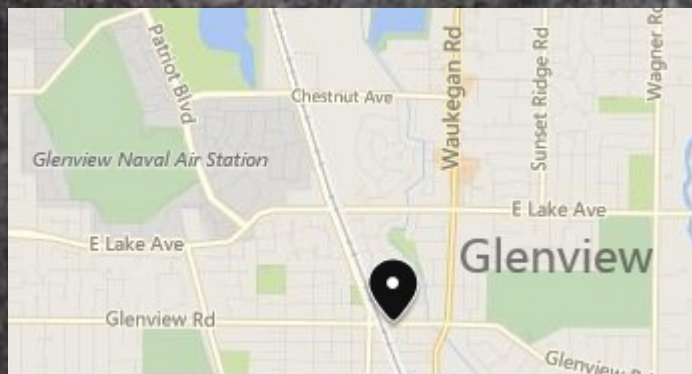
Join us for the installation of the Skokie Valley 2020 Bridge Officers and let's celebrate all the great things we did throughout the year



**Family Style Luncheon—Cost \$35**

Appetizer: Bruschetta & vegetable dip  
 Entrees: Vegetable Lasagna, Chicken Marsala and Salmon San Remo  
 Includes: garlic rolls, soup or salad, iced tea, soft drinks, coffee, tea and ice cream

**Kindly respond by April 10th  
 Rich Davidson by phone 847-220-5771  
 or [Rich@DavidsonData.com](mailto:Rich@DavidsonData.com)**



**1834 Glenview Road  
 Glenview, IL 60025  
[www.gustorestaurant.com](http://www.gustorestaurant.com)**





# YOUR WEATHER REPORT

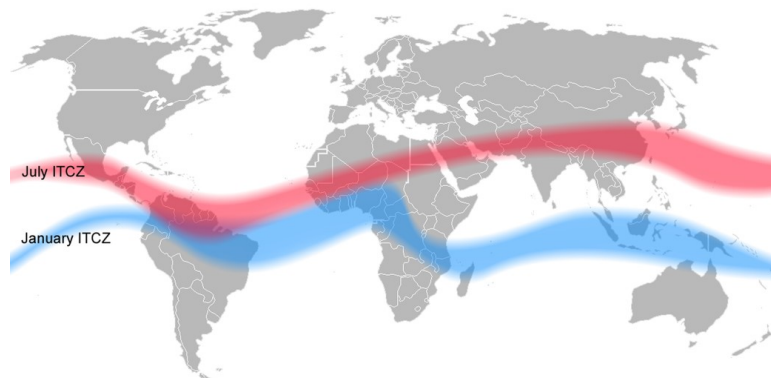
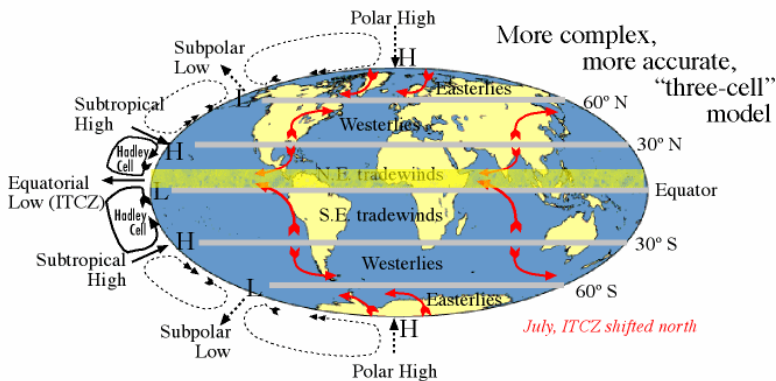
By *Mike Hennessy, AP, Instructor-Weather course*



## Inter Tropical Convergence Zone

As we all know, where we live has generally normal weather depending on the season. For example; we expect cold weather in the Midwest during the winter, but in the summer we expect warm and pleasant weather. But in certain parts of the globe this is not true.

The intertropical Convergence zone (ITCZ), known by sailors as the doldrums or the calms because of its monotonous windless weather, is the area where the northeast and southeast trade winds converge. It encircles Earth near the thermal equator, though its specific position varies seasonally. When it lies near the geographical Equator, it is called the near-equatorial trough. Where the ITCZ is drawn into and merges with a monsoonal circulation, it is sometimes referred to as a monsoon trough, a usage more common in Australia and parts of Asia.



### OUR GREAT LAKES, OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

The Great Lakes region has some of the greatest variability of snow density compared to the United States as a whole. We use terms like “wet” and “dry” snow to describe the amount of liquid contained in the snow. The official definition is determined by the amount of equivalent liquid water it holds, called the snow-to-liquid equivalent ratio (SLR).



The SLR impacts not only the depth, but also the weight of the snow. SLR values in the Great Lakes range from about 8:1, which is heavy snow, to 20:1, which is very light snow. This ratio is important because 5 inches of wet snow, compared to 5 inches of dry snow, has a very different impact on the infrastructure, the clean up effort, and your back!

Most snowstorms occur in January and February when the snow densities are lightest, so the greatest snow depths can be expected during these months. Snow densities are typically lightest near the lakes, and snow depths are greatest in the lake-effect zones. Snowstorms in the southern portion of the Great Lakes during early winter pose a greater threat for dense snow, and typically the snow depths are less.

### CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ

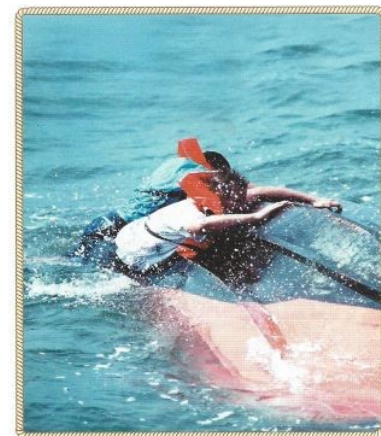


PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. COAST GUARD

“\_\_\_\_\_” is having a good understanding of boats and the sea combined, with the knowledge/ability to recognize potential problems and take the appropriate required action before they become problems.

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor  
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing



# SVPS 2020 Event & Cruising Schedule



<b>When</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Host</b>
March 7 & 14 Saturday	America's Boating Club Public Boating Course	Larson Marine, Waukegan	Rich Davidson
March 20th Friday	March Member Meeting	Holiday Inn, Elgin, IL	Rich Davidson
March 20-21 Fri-Sat	District 20 Spring Conference	Holiday Inn, Elgin, IL	SVPS
March 28 & April 4 Saturday	America's Boating Club Public Boating Course	Sequoit Harbor, Antioch, IL	Rich Davidson
April 18th Saturday	SVPS Change of Watch	Gusto Ristorante Italiano, Glenview, IL	Commander
April 25 & May 2 Saturday	America's Boating Club Public Boating Course	Bay Marine, Waukegan, IL	Rich Davidson
May 2nd Saturday	Rowing Regatta	Crystal Lake	Gary Vinzant
May 16th Saturday	May Member Meeting	Reflections Restaurant, Lake Villa	Ron Zingler & Joe Paldo
June 13th Saturday	Lake Michigan Fishing Derby	North Point, IL	Dave Anthony
June 13th Saturday	Sundowner	North Point, IL	Tony Palazzo, Sue & Dave Anthony
June 24th-28th Wed-Sun	Summerfest	Milwaukee, WI	Ron Zingler
July 9th Thursday	COSI (Children's Oncology Services) Boat Day	Southport Marina, WI	Ron Zingler
July 11th-19th Fri-Sun	Southern Lake Michigan Summer Cruise	South Haven, MI - St. Joseph, MI - Hammond, IN	Tony Palazzo
August 19th-31st Wed-Mon	13 Day Cruise to Alaska and Denali	Alaska	Ron Zingler
September 13th Sunday	September Member Meeting	Club Casa, Des Plaines, IL	Ron Zingler
September 26th Saturday	Hob Nob Sundowner	Racine, WI	Ron Zingler
October 18th Sunday	October Member Meeting	TBD	Ron Zingler
November 14th Saturday	Anniversary Dinner Meeting	TBD	Ron Zingler
December 13th Sunday	Commanders Holiday Party	TBD	Commander

We are hosting the  
D2O Spring Conference and need your help!

GILIGAN'S  
ISLAND

Castaway Party

March 20-21  
Holiday Inn Elgin  
495 Airport Rd, Elgin, IL

Looking for Volunteers

- Donate a raffle prize basket
- Bring a dish to share for the hospitality suite Friday night
- Welcome guests at registration on Friday night or Saturday morning
- Make friends in the breakfast room Saturday morning
- Help setup and decorate rooms
- Wear your new logo shirts!

**Schedule of Events**

**Friday 20 March:**

1500-1800 Registration  
1845-1945 Council Meeting  
1900-2230 Hospitality Suites



**PARTY!  
PARTY!**



**Saturday 21 March:**

0700-1000 Friendship Room  
0800-0845 **Education Meeting**  
0845-0930 **Seminar:** OTW components for courses; Jump Start; Hands-on training; Certification options & New training centers presented by P/D/C Mike Ludtke, SN  
0900-1100 Registration  
0945-1200 **Seminar:** Wreck of the Christmas Tree Ship presented by Rochelle Pennington  
1200-1300 Luncheon  
1300-1330 Verification of Delegates  
1330-1530 Spring Conference Meeting  
1800-1900 Banquet cocktail hour—Conference Lobby  
1900-2130 Banquet and Change of Watch  
2130 Hospitality Suites

**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

Saturday morning, speaker and author Rochelle Pennington will share her spellbinding presentation about Captain Santa and the historic Christmas Tree Ship



Which character are you?

Come dressed as your favorite castaway.



# February Dinner Meeting

Richard Calfa & Larry March



Joe Paldo & Christine March



Rich Davidson & Bonni Breen



Gary & Lorraine Vinzant



Dave Anthony, Rich Davidson & Frank D'Amico



Sue Anthony & Bonni Breen



Gail & Don Sidman



Rich Barta



Christine March, Marilyn & Richard Calfa



Lori & Stuart Zwang



Joe Paldo giving the invocation



Al Antoni





## *Americas Boating Club Cruise to Southern Lake Michigan July 11<sup>TH</sup> thru July 19<sup>TH</sup>*

It's still winter, but it's time to start planning for warm summer weather. The 2020 Lake Michigan Cruise is scheduled to start July 11<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in joining our cruise, please call Tony Palazzo AP at 630-347-6586.

Our first port of call is **South Haven Municipal Marina Michigan**. [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. Did you know that South Haven is one of the blueberry capitals of the US? We will be too early for the annual National Blueberry Festival, but there is still plenty 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. Slip Reservations can be made by calling 269-637-3171.



Our next stop is **West Basin Marina St Joe**. <https://sjcity.com/live-here/marina> West Basin Marina is located on the North Side of St Joe River. Getting to town on the south side of the river will require using their local Scuttle service to access the town of St. Joe. Lots to do in St. Joe. Wineries, Restaurants shopping all available. This is a new stop on for us. St. Joseph is a city in southwest Michigan. 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. Slip Reservations can be made by calling 269-983-5432.

Next stop, **Hammond Horseshoe Casino and Marina**. <https://hammondportauthority.com/hammond-marina/> After enjoying a day out on beautiful Lake Michigan, you can always enjoy a night of gaming excitement at the Horseshoe Casino. 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. For more information on slip rentals or any other questions about the marina, call (219) 659-7678.



Designated the first "Clean Marina" in the state of Indiana, Hammond Marina strives to be at the forefront of environmental conscientiousness. It's located in the Hammond Harbor Basin of Lake Michigan, just 12 nautical miles from downtown Chicago, and 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, it's also fuel prices that attract customers. Anyone who boats in or around Chicago knows that gas prices are a bit higher than, say, in Indiana. Since Hammond Marina is located on the state line of Illinois and Indiana, it's able to offer Indiana fuel prices at a lower rate. Add into the mix the marina's extended hours and location, and it makes the perfect stop for boaters.

**Tentative 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>
7/11/2020	Kenosha	South Haven	7/11/2020	85
7/14/2020	South Haven	St Joe	7/14/2020	25
7/17/2020	St Joe	Hammond	7/17/2020	60
7/19/2020	Hammond	Home Port	7/19/2020	65
			<b>Total Miles</b>	<b>235</b>

Everyone is welcome to attend our cruise by boat or driving. All of our ports can be followed by car. Preliminary Itinerary Weather permitting!!! 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.



## 13-Day Cruise Alaska Denali Talkeetna Explorer—Southbound August 19-31, 2020

This 13 day land and sea cruise begins August 19<sup>th</sup> in Fairbanks, Alaska with a land tour of Denali. On August 24<sup>th</sup> cruise aboard the Norwegian Jewel from Seward, Alaska to Vancouver BC on August 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 round-trip). Previous Norwegian cruisers have been offered a 20% discount on the cruise portion.

Costs vary based on the options you choose. As an example, we booked a 13 day land tour plus cruise for a mini-suite on deck 11 including the 5 free offers, 20% cruise savings and \$199 airfare 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();)

If you are interested, the booking contact is Sharla Manglass at MEI Travel. [SharlaM@mei-travel.com](mailto: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



### March Anniversaries

Joe & Sue Lokaj	2006	14 yrs
Kathy Parker	1997	23 yrs
Joel Meyer	1972	49 yrs
Louis Cosentine	1967	54 yrs

Congratulations on reaching another milestone with the squadron. We appreciate your support!  
**Cdr Rich Davidson, SN**

**Richard J. Calfa**  
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 Fax: (847) 658-5705  
 E-Mail: richard@calfaforins.com

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27/23

# 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:  
Seamanship



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