





SKOKIE VALLEY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

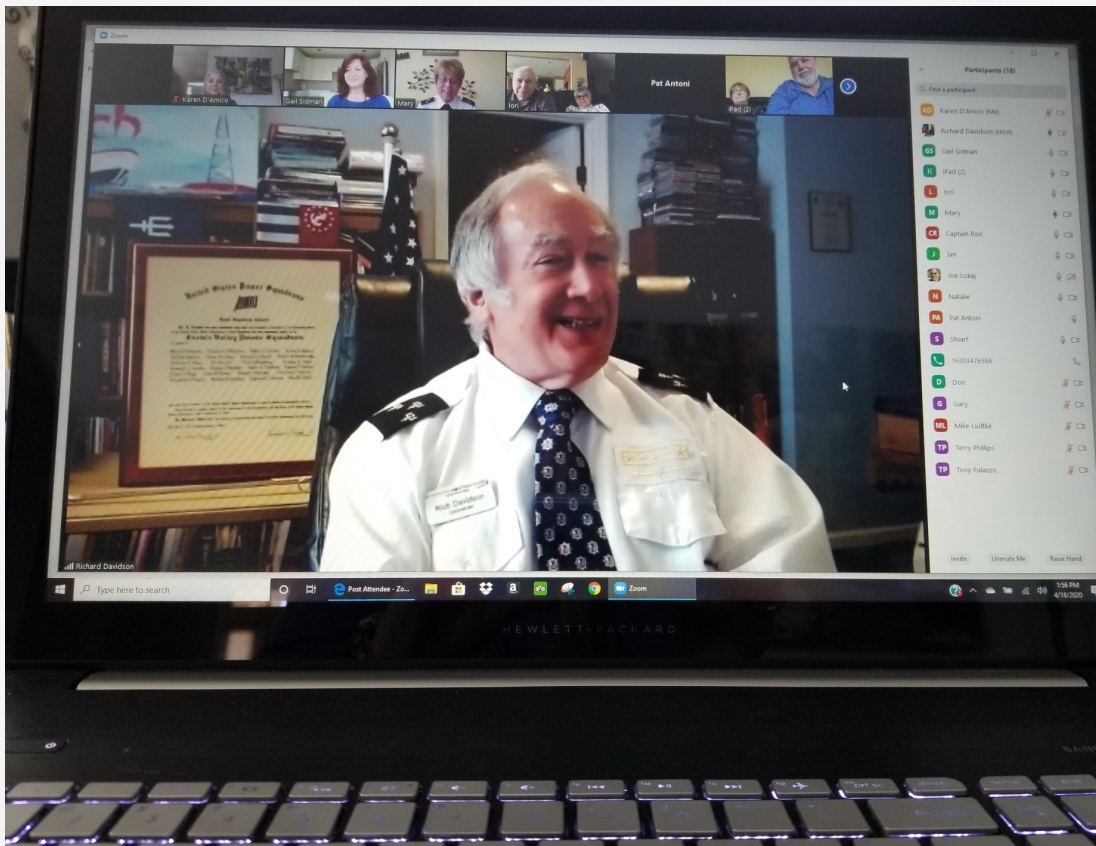
DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter - Volume 20 Issue 5

Running Lights

May 2020

We held our first ever online Change of Watch event on April 18th. The proceedings went very well, thanks to all the preparations by our Commander Rich Davidson. Thanks to our District Commander Mary Merrell for attending and swearing in our bridge members for another term!



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER

I have been pretty busy lately. On any given day, I have at least one or two Zoom meetings. The Skokie Valley Executive Committee meets on Zoom. We did our Change of Watch on Zoom. I am also our webmaster and webmaster for District 20, as well as incoming Assistant District Education Officer. Every other week I am in a GoToMeeting conference with the USPS ITCOM committee. My job in that group is to plan a new model for web sites for all squadrons based on the Joomla system we now use for SVPS. I am the Communications Officer and webmaster for the Lake County Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, a U.S. Air Force Auxiliary. Then there is my ham radio hobby, where I am the Education Director for the North Shore Radio Club, where I teach classes in radio and electronics and give FCC license exams, all by Zoom. I am a VP of Congregation B'nai Tikvah, my synagogue, where daily services, education programs, lectures, and fellowship events are on Zoom.

I call this the Electronic Diaspora. We are spread all over, but we can see and hear each other via the wonders of electronic media, the Internet, and computer software. Until there is both a cure and a vaccine for COVID-19, I predict the new paradigm of shelter in place and use of personal protection equipment and social distancing may be around for up to two years. The 1918 H1N1 pandemic lasted that long and had more than a few peaks in infections and deaths. We live in a more sophisticated age with wonder drugs and vaccines and antibiotics, but this is a novel virus, and we just do not have the natural antibody creating components to develop immunity on our own. In my darkest thoughts, if the world ever were to conduct biological warfare, I imagine it would look exactly like what we are currently experiencing, or worse.

Let us adjust our lives to this change, and let us have more participation than in the past at our events. The usual excuses of being out of town, not feeling well, not having a way to travel to the events, and the cost of going are not valid these days.

The other problem we never seem to escape is recruitment of new, younger members. The Gen-X and Millennial generations seem wedded to their electronic devices. OK, so now we have our education program going online with new software at USPS NHQ called Moodle. We have videos, there are interactive teaching tools, there is training in almost everything, including parts of the Boat Operating Certificate (BOC) courses. If we use our boats for a cruise, the social distancing comes naturally. The big loss is the monthly member meetings which are mainly for meet and greet and eat and drink moments. That problem will not get fixed while we are in lockdown, but the excuses that younger potential members have used for not joining our organization just do not hold water (pun intended) any longer.

Chief Commander Mary Paige Abbott is using the theme, "Membership is Job One" as her mantra. We can now think about finally cracking this nut during the current shift to online everything. Let's seize the moment and do it.

—Cdr. Rich Davidson, SN




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

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	Don Sidman, JN	847-726-7309

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Mark Your Calendar



May 2020

6	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom Meeting—Contact Rich Davidson
15	Fri	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
23	Sat	D20 Spring Change of Watch, time TBD	Online event

June 2020

3	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom Meeting—Contact Rich Davidson
3	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	TBD
13	Sat	Fishing Derby and North Point Sundowner	North Point Marina, see page 5
15	Mon	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
17	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	TBD

Boating Access Information During the Pandemic

The Illinois stay at home order allows for boating to begin on May 1st, but limited to two people regardless of the relationship. North Point Marina is listed as one of the state park facilities to open. The Chain of Lakes is closed in parts due to flooding.

Wisconsin and Indiana facilities are open for business. Southport Marina for example is taking a few extra precautions, like closing the office to foot traffic or limiting access to the storage facilities unless you are scheduled to launch in the next two weeks.

Here are a few precautions to take this season:

- **Limit the people aboard** to those family members you share your home with—no guests.
- **Avoid rafting up with other boats or pulling up onto a beach next to another boat**, as that could put you in close proximity with the occupants.
- **Maintain a safe distance from others** when loading up at the marina or fueling the boat.
- **Disinfect by washing your hands or using a hand sanitizer** after doing anything that requires touching an item someone else may have touched, like a marina gate lock or a fuel pump.
- **Pack your gear and supplies ahead of time** and don't plan to stop at a store on the way to the marina or launch ramp.

Social Distancing When Boating

Only boat with those in your immediate household.

No beaching your boat right next to someone else.

Maintain your distance at the fuel dock – and remember to wash your hands.

No rafting up – keep your distance on the water.

No guests on your boat!
This includes family members not in your immediate household or your closest boating buddies.

Go right from your house to the boat and back –
no unnecessary contact with anyone.

Enjoy your boat, the water and the fresh air; but enjoy it while boating responsibly.

Social distancing is the best way to stay safe. **SEA TOW**

News about openings and availability of public waterways is changing all the time. If you are looking for the latest news about state restrictions and which facilities are open or not, DiscoverBoating.com has a map of the country with information about public water access points, boat landings and ramps in each state. Go to <https://www.discoverboating.com/public-boat-landings-access-map>



YOUR WEATHER REPORT

By Mike Hennessy, AP, Instructor-Weather course



The Bermuda Triangle

We have all heard about the Bermuda Triangle and all the ships and planes that have been lost in this area with no trace or survivors. Science has not been able to confirm how any of these disappearances occurred. The fact that these planes and ships disappear with no trace leaves anyone to be confused.

There are many theories as to what happened, but no one really knows. Some interesting ideas are water spouts (tornado over water), violent weather, massive waves, spatial disorientation, the strong gulf stream, and hurricane alley. Not to be forgotten some of the deepest areas of the ocean are within the triangle.

Perhaps some of these are causes for the missing craft, but why are there no debris? One of the best theories in my mind is that whatever causes these craft to go down, the swift gulf stream moves everything much further North than where people think they should be. And if they ever do come ashore, no one associates them to the missing craft.

There is a lot of material on this subject, but no one can come up with a single theory to explain the missing crafts. That is probably because there is not one to be found, but many.



OUR GREAT LAKES, OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

With everyone spending more time at home, here are a few ideas to conserve one of our scarce resources...our water.



The EPA estimates the average US household wastes nearly 10,000 gallons of water every year. That's enough to fill a residential-sized swimming pool. Here are some things you can do...

1. Eat less beef. One pound of beef requires 1,800 gallons of water to produce, according to the Water Footprint Network.
2. Reuse leftover cooking water. Save the water used to boil pasta or vegetables and use it to water your plants or garden. They will love the extra nutrients in the water.
3. Replace your showerhead. Install a low-flow rain shower that provides great pressure for washing and uses less water.
4. Try a waterless facial cleanser. Rinse free cleansers use just a few drops on a cotton pad; swipe across your skin and you are done. No water necessary.
5. Invest in a reusable water bottle. There is a growing problem of plastic pollution in our water supply. How many plastic bottles do you use each year?

CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ



A bell is used to sound a fog signal for vessels at _____ or _____.

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing



SVPS 2020 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
Cancelled	Rowing Regatta	Crystal Lake	Gary Vinzant
Cancelled	May Member Meeting	Reflections Restaurant, Lake Villa	Ron Zingler & Joe Paldo
May 23rd Saturday	District 20 Spring Conference and Change of Watch	Virtual Event	District 20
June 13th Saturday	Lake Michigan Fishing Derby	North Point, IL	Dave Anthony
June 13th Saturday	Sundowner	North Point, IL	Tony Palazzo, Sue & Dave Anthony
Cancelled	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
Sept 3-5, 10-12, and 17-19	Summerfest 2020 experience moves to September!	Milwaukee, WI	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

Charter Fishing Derby June 13, 2020

**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 are interested, please
contact Dave Anthony
dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net**

Here is an opportunity to support our charter boat captains! I was reading an article recently about the charter boat operators who are desperate to get their boats out of storage in Illinois. Fishing is best in the spring and they have lost a lot of valuable time and revenue already this season.

While the boating restrictions in Illinois ease up on May 1st, outdoor activities are limited to two people. Two people per boat is no way to run a charter business. Some recreational boaters have started moving their boats out of Illinois to Wisconsin or Indiana, where the marinas are already open and the rules are less restrictive.

Of course, we are still hopeful to have a fishing derby in June, but that will depend if we have enough people interested to rent a boat. And of course, assuming the captains can get their boats out of storage!

Americas Boating Club Cruise to Southern Lake Michigan July 11TH thru July 19TH

It's time to start planning for warm summer weather. The 2020 Lake Michigan Cruise is scheduled to start July 11th. 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 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!

Date Leave	Port Leave	Port Arrive	Date Arrive	Miles
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
			Total Miles	235

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.



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Save the Date
Sept 8-13, 2020



2020 Fall Governing Board
Raleigh, North Carolina

May Anniversaries

Sue Anthony	2011	9 yrs
Stuart Zwang	2000	20 yrs
Richard Davidson	1998	22 yrs
Leo Cannon	1993	27 yrs
Robert & Charles Schult	1991	30 yrs
William Bellinger	1988	33 yrs
Frank Zimmerman	1979	42 yrs
T Cepuritis	1967	54 yrs

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

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34/19

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29/23

Running Lights

Skokie Valley Sail and Power Squadron

FROM:

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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:
anchor or aground



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