



Membership Newsletter - Volume 21 Issue 5

# Running Lights

**May 2021**

**National Safe Boating Week is  
May 22-28, 2021**

## The Boating Safety Seven

1. Wear your life jacket
2. Take a boating safety class
3. Carry all required safety gear
4. Use your engine cut-off device
5. File a float plan
6. Be aware of weather and water conditions
7. Boat sober, and be considerate of others



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



**A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER**

Thank you to everyone who attended the SVPS America’s Boating Club North Shore Change of Watch. It was nice to see all of you. Although a ZOOM meeting COW is not what we are after, it will have to do for now. As the restrictions for the COVID pandemic start to wind down, we are expecting to start planning more events. Today many vaccination sites opened with no appointment, no restrictions and anybody can get vaccinated. This should accelerate the vaccination process.

Starting in May, our 1<sup>st</sup> in person meeting is scheduled at Palm Court in Palatine. Please let Ron Zingler know as soon as possible if you can attend. There will be 4 seated at a 10 person table to adhere to the CDC guidelines. You may be required to wear a mask to enter the restaurant. In June we have 2 fishing boats chartered; they will depart North Point Marina Charter basin at noon. After the fishing charter returns, we will set up in the south east area of the North Point Marina Harbor near Q dock for pizza dinner. With a bonfire after dinner, this is usually a well-attended event. See more information on all of our events in this issue of the Running Lights newsletter.

Some of our members have already launched their boats and are getting ready for the boating season. Our boat will be launched May 7<sup>th</sup>. Lake Michigan water levels are still at record highs. As the water level goes down, it should help the flooded marinas on the Michigan side of the lake as well as the erosion of the lakes shores.

I am happy to report that we are starting a more normal schedule and we anticipate that the COVID crisis will start to wind down as more people receive the vaccine. It’s been a long time since we have had a in person event and I am looking forward to seeing you all in the future.

—Cdr. Tony Palazzo, AP



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

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**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

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**EDUCATION OFFICER**

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**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



## May 2021

5	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom Meeting, Contact Tony Palazzo
15	Sat	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D’Amico (224-238-7372)
16	Sun	Member Meeting, Palm Court, Palatine	Ron Zingler (page 4)
22-28	Sat-Fri	National Safe Boating Week	<a href="http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com">www.safeboatingcampaign.com</a>

## June 2021

2	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom Meeting, Contact Tony Palazzo
5	Sat	North Point Fishing Derby & Sundowner	Dave & Sue Anthony (below + page 6)
15	Thurs	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D’Amico (224-238-7372)



**North Point Sundowner**  
**June 5th, 2021 @ 6:00 PM**  
*After the Charter Fishing Derby*

*Bring your own beverages  
and a chair for the bonfire*

**We will gather in the outdoor BBQ area by Q dock at 6:00 PM and order pizza and salad for dinner for everyone present. Afterwards our fire master and new commander will light the bonfire! Planning to attend? Contact [dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net](mailto:dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net)**



## **MEMBER MEETING @ 3 PM SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021**

It has been a long, long time since we have been able to see our friends in person and get together over dinner and refreshments.

I hope many of us have our vaccinations behind us and are beginning to feel comfortable getting together for a casual dinner meeting.

### **PALM COURT RESTAURANT 1912 N ARLINGTON HEIGHTS RD ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL**

#### Seating at 3 PM

We will be seating 4 to a table in a private room. We will keep it simple, order from the menu, and each table will be responsible for their own payment.



**Important: RSVP no later  
than Tuesday, May 11th**

**Ron Zingler 847-634-3806  
zingleron@comcast.net**

## A Safety Reminder from Asst Education Officer, Jim Soyka, SN-CN

**The Sea Tow Automated Radio Check System is no longer available.** For several years, Sea Tow operated an Automated Radio Check System, which was available on VHF Channels 24-28 for the benefit of mariners in over 130 locations. However, that service was discontinued October 2, 2020.

**To conduct a voice radio check:** use Channel 09, which has been designated by the FCC as a boater's calling channel. Keep Channel 16 clear for emergency use.

Hail "Radio Check, Radio Check, this is the vessel \_\_\_\_\_." A boater that hears you will respond indicating how they hear you. For example, "loud and clear" or "broken but readable" and provide their location so you can judge how far your radio is transmitting. In all cases, if no response is received, check your radio equipment as you may have a failure.



**To test a VHF Radio using Rescue 21:** The US Coast Guard offers an automated Digital Selective Calling (DSC) Test Call capability from each of its Rescue 21 coastal stations. All fixed mount marine radios certified by the FCC since 1999 are required to have a DSC capability. Additionally, all such radios sold since 2011 must also have a DSC test call capability. Marine radios transmitting and successfully receiving a response from a DSC test call can be expected to operate acceptably in the voice mode as well.

To perform a DSC Test Call, enter the Coast Guard's coast station group identity "003669999" into the radio's DSC memory. Once entered and stored, a DSC test call can be made by executing the following three steps: 1) Select "Test Call" from the radio's DSC menu, 2) Select the USCG number entered into memory, and 3) Transmit the call. The radio display should indicate when that test call is acknowledged and display the acknowledging station's nine digit identity. That identity may be different than the group identity previously entered into memory.

### OUR GREAT LAKES, OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

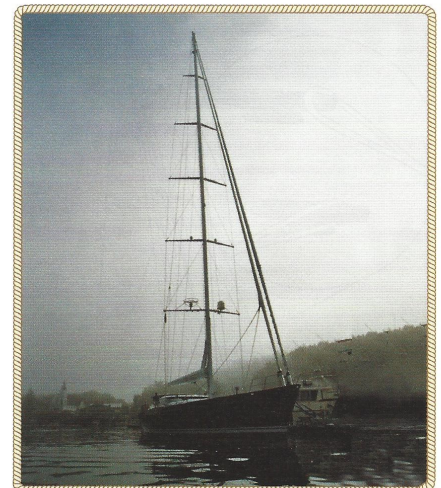
Good news for Great Lakes cruising this summer that the water levels have been declining all winter. Winter this past year has been drier than normal. In fact, the month of January was reported as the driest month ever on record for the Great Lakes basin area. Overall precipitation is about 18% lower than normal.



Consequently, as of the end of March, Lake Michigan and our sister Lake Huron are at least a foot lower than last year when we saw record setting and devastating water levels on the Lake. According to forecasts, Lake Michigan and Huron water levels this summer are still expected to be about two feet above the long-term average, but at least one foot below record levels.

Similarly, Lakes Superior and Erie are also expected to be about a foot above average, but still below record levels of last year. In contrast, Lake Ontario is going to be just below normal this summer.

### CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ



When visibility in fog is less than 100 yards, objects may appear \_\_\_\_\_ as large and seem to be moving \_\_\_\_\_ as fast as they actually are.

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor  
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing



# SVPS 2021 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
May 16th Sunday 3 PM	Lunch Meeting	Palm Court, Palatine	Ron Zingler
June 5th Saturday Noon	Lake Michigan Fishing	North Point Marina	Dave Anthony
June 5th Saturday 6 PM	Sundowner	North Point Marina	Tony Palazzo, Dave & Sue Anthony
Dates TBD	Summer Cruise/Casino Run	Burnham Harbor, Hammond Michigan City	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

## Charter Fishing Derby—June 5th

*the boats depart from North Point at noon*

**Gear up and get out on Lake Michigan for a charter fishing excursion. Dave Anthony is taking reservations now.**

Contact [dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net](mailto:dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net) if you are interested.

**Actual cost depends on the number of fishermen (or fisher ladies). Each boat holds 6 people. The individual cost could be about \$130 per person, depending on the number of boats and people.**

**We have two boats and one slot still available!**

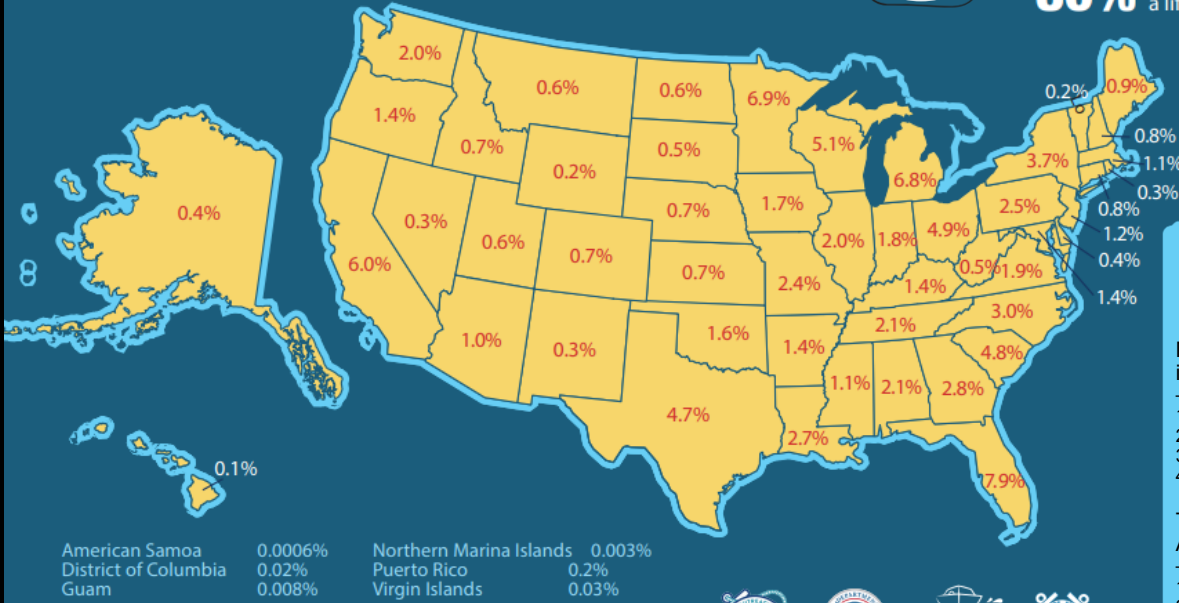
# Recreational Boat Registration by State\*

87+ million Americans participated in boating in 2019.\*\*  
 There were 11,878,542 registered boats in 2019  
 (state percentages indicated below).



## Life Jackets Save Lives

**79%** of all fatal boating accident victims drowned.\*  
**Of these, 86%** were not wearing a life jacket.\*



### Reported Boating Accidents

Most Common Vessels in Accidents

1. Open motorboats (45%)
2. Personal watercraft (19%)
3. Cabin motorboats (16%)
4. Other (20%)

Top 5 Factors in Boating Accidents and Deaths\*

1. Operator inattention
2. Improper lookout
3. Operator inexperience
4. Excessive speed
5. Alcohol use

Sources: \*U.S. Coast Guard's 2019 Recreational Boating Statistics  
 \*\*National Marine Manufacturers Association's 2019 U.S. Recreational Boating Statistical Abstract





### Amazing Custom T Shirts and More

- ★ Full color boat photos on shirts and bags
- ★ Sundowners, Cruising events
- ★ Logos, Family Vacations and Reunions
- ★ Personalized boat apparel, bags and more
- ★ Tell Your Story!

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## May Anniversaries


Sue Anthony	2011	10 yrs
Stuart Zwang	2000	21 yrs
Rich Davidson	1998	23 yrs
Robert & Charles Schult	1991	31 yrs
Bill Bellinger	1988	34 yrs
Frank Zimmerman	1979	43 yrs
T Cepuritis	1967	55 yrs

Congratulations on reaching another milestone with the squadron. We appreciate your support!  
**Cdr Tony Palazzo, AP**

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44/19

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# Running Lights

Skokie Valley Sail and Power Squadron

**FROM:**  
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1240 Bison Lane  
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**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:

twice  
twice



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