



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



SKOKIE VALLEY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter - Volume 25 Issue 5

Running Lights

May 2025

May 17-23: National Safe Boating Week

Positive Boating Checklist

LIFE JACKET ☒

ENGINE CUT-OFF SWITCH ☒

PACK ALL REQUIRED SAFETY GEAR ☒

TAKE A SAFE BOATING COURSE ☒

FILE A FLOAT PLAN ☒

CHECK THE WEATHER ☒

POSITIVE MEMORIES MADE ☒





A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER

The warm weather is finally here. With the Spring Conference and our Change of Watch done early in April, members could focus on getting their boats in the water, looking at activities, and start planning for summer.

I was grateful that this year's Change of Watch was a simpler event, with the installation of the Commander by P/D/C Karen and the Skokie Valley Bridge by me. Just goes to show that no matter what needs to be done, Skokie Valley finds a way to get things done.

I do want to express my thanks to our Bridge for all their hard work, and to the incoming Bridge members for continuing on in their new / renewed positions. I'm looking forward to our new Assistant Executive Officer Dan Luczak and our new Assistant Educational Officer Stuart Zwang getting more involved. The pictures of our Change of Watch are in this issue. As always, the food was great, and the company was outstanding.

Our Educational Officer Chuck Burger started the America's Boating Course and will be teaching every Tuesday and Thursday through May 17th. If any of the Bridge has some time to attend one of the sessions, I'm sure Chuck can give you a few minutes to talk about your role with Skokie Valley and share some of your experiences. It's a way to make the class more personable and interesting for the new students.

Our Executive Meeting for May has been moved from Wednesday 07 May to Monday 05 May. The agenda for that meeting has already been emailed out. The link in the "Running Lights" is still the same. If you need an email with the link, send me a quick note.

May 18th will be the last General Meeting until September. Come join us at Demetri's Greek Restaurant in Deerfield. Let Ron Zingler know if you will be attending by May 11. Ron Dziagwa has suggested that we all bring our life jackets to the General Meeting for a picture for Safe Boating Week (May 17th to May 24th). We will also have a presentation on knot tying by Chuck Burger and Jim Soyka. Let's see how well you remember your knots.

May will also bring our North Point Fishing Derby / Sundowner. We will meet at the BBQ area by Q dock at 5:00pm for pizza and salad. Our Fire Master Tony Palazzo will afterwards start his famous bonfire to be enjoyed into the night. Remember to bring your beverage of choice and chair to sit around the fire.

Even though we won't be seeing each other at the General Meetings during the summer, try getting the word out if you are planning an event or trip that others may be able to participate in. I'm hoping to drive to some of the events and meet up with our members.

Looking forward to seeing you this summer.

—Cdr. Frank D'Amico, AP



America's Boating Club North Shore 2025-2026 Bridge

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Lt Dave Anthony, P 224-402-3107
Lt Gail Sidman, AP 847-726-7309

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Mark Your Calendar



May 2025

5	Mon	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting - page 7
15	Thus	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
18	Sun	Member Dinner Meeting	Demetri's Greek Restaurant (below)
31	Sat	North Point Fishing Derby & Sundowner	North Point Marina - page 4

June 2025

4	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting - page 7
15	Sun	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
19-28	Thurs-Sat	Milwaukee Summerfest	www.summerfest.com/lineup/

Member Dinner Meeting Sunday May 18, 2025 4 PM

Demetri's Greek Restaurant

660 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, IL 60015
<https://demetrisgreek.com>



Demetri's is family owned for over 21 years. They offers authentic, classic Greek cuisine using fresh, locally sourced ingredients. We have a private room for the meeting, so come for cocktails and socialize before dinner.



Bring your life jacket for a group photo before dinner!



Cocktails at 4 PM
Dinner at 5 PM

We will order from the menu

RSVP to Ron Zingler
by May 11th

Call 847-634-3806 or
zingleron@comcast.net



Bowline

Kick off National Safe Boating Week with a special hands on refresher in knot tying by SEO Chuck Burger and Jim Soyka.



SVPS 2025 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
Sunday May 18th	Dinner Meeting	Demetris, Deerfield	Ron Zingler
Saturday May 31st	Lake Michigan Fishing Derby & North Point Sundowner	North Point Marina	Dave & Sue Anthony
June 19-21; 26-28	Summerfest Weekends	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Info Only
July 2-6	Summerfest Milwaukee Cruise	McKinley Harbor, Milwaukee WI 414-273-5224	Ron Zingler
July 19-20	Milwaukee Air and Water Show	McKinley Harbor	Tony Palazzo
August 23	D20 Cruise & Rendezvous	TBA	District 20
September 2-7	America's Boating Club Fall Governing Board Meeting	Grand Rapids, MI	National Meeting
September 21st	Dinner Meeting	Reflections	Ron Zingler
Sunday October 19th	Lake Geneva Boat Cruise Tour—Sunday Brunch	Lake Geneva, WI	Frank D'Amico
October 25	District 20 Fall Conference	TBD	District 20
Sunday November 9th	Anniversary Dinner	Dover Straits	Ron Zingler
Sunday December 7th	Commanders Holiday Party	Hoffman Estates	Frank D'Amico

North Point Sundowner Saturday May 31 *After the Fishing Derby*



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



Gather in the outdoor BBQ area by Q dock at 5:00 PM. We will order pizza and salad for everyone present.

Later our Fire Master Tony Palazzo will light the bonfire!

Contact Dave or Sue with questions
dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net

ECOS—engine cut-off switch is the law for some vessels and helps save lives.

Beginning April 1, 2021, boats under 26 feet manufactured after 2018 with a 3 hp or larger motor are required to have the engine cut-off switch installed by the manufacturer; and users are required to use it when operating over displacement speed without an enclosed cabin.

If your boat is not equipped with an ECOS, after market versions can be installed. New wireless versions like the one shown here are more convenient than the old lanyard style, and you can purchase additional wireless sensors to be worn by each person on board for added safety.

America's Boating Channel has videos that talk about the importance of using the ECOS to reduce harm caused by the "circle of death" when the operator is incapacitated or ejected from the boat. Video: [Engine Cut-Off Devices](#).

Vessel examiners can also help educate boaters to understand the law and stay safe using their ECOS.

Get Connected.

Engine cut-off switch. Use it every time.



Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

safeboatingcampaign.com



June Anniversaries

David Anthony	2029	16 yrs
Richard Barta	2005	20 yrs
Dolores Ratajczak	2004	21 yrs
Bridget Doerner	1990	35 yrs
Rebecca Mulroy	1988	37 yrs
Natalie Witty	1988	37 yrs
Joseph Paldo	1987	38 yrs
John Rucci	1986	39 yrs

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

Cdr Frank D'Amico, AP

CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ

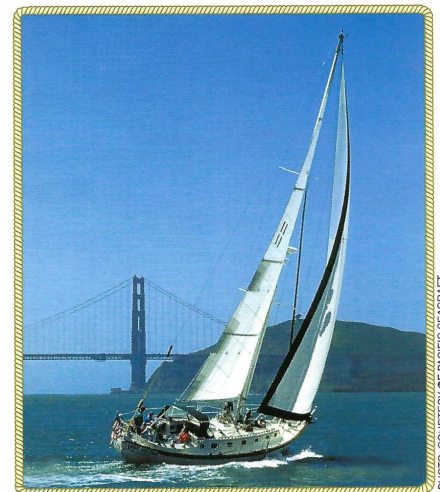


PHOTO COURTESY OF PACIFIC SEARCHART

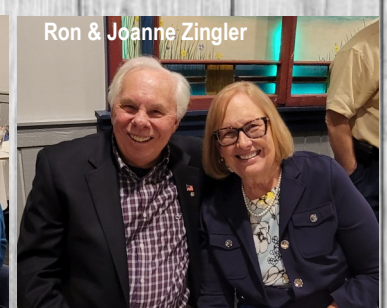
When sailing close-hauled, if you ease the sheets to a point just prior to luffing, will you sail faster or slower?

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing



America's Boating Club North Shore Change of Watch





2025 Boating Safety Calendar

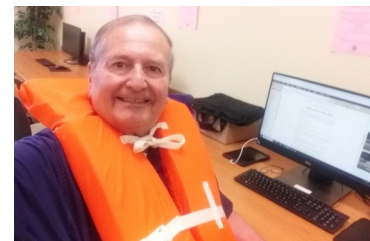
Jan Various Boat Shows
Feb Various Boat Shows
Apr 6 #406Day
Apr 14-17 International Boating & Water Safety Summit
May National Water Safety Month
May 16 Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day
May 17-23 National Safe Boating Week
May 17 Kids to Parks Day
May 22 National Maritime Day
May 24-26 Memorial Day Weekend
Jun National Safety Month
Jun 7-15 National Fishing and Boating Week
June 15 National Marina Day
Jun 18 National Go Fishing Day
June 22 Summer Sailstice
Jul Sun Safe Boating Month
Jul 4 Independence Day
Jul 4-6 Operation Dry Water
Sep National Hunting and Fishing Month
Sep 1 Labor Day
Sep 25 World Maritime Day
Sep 28 National Hunting and Fishing Day
Oct Fall Cleanup Storing Boat and Equipment
Nov Child Safety Protection Month
Dec Holiday Parade of Boats
 (check local community calendars)

May 17-23 National Safe Boating Week

May 16 is Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day

Boaters take a picture of themselves wearing a life jacket at work or home. Email your photos to outreach@safeboatingcouncil.org. Or share your photo on social media along with the hashtag #wearyourlifejacketatworkday and tag @boatingcampaign ([Facebook](#), [X](#), or [Instagram](#)).

Winners will be chosen randomly throughout the day to receive boating swag from the Safe Boating Campaign including dry bags, stickers, and more!



Celebrate with us by bringing your life jacket to the May dinner meeting for a group photo

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 switch
5. File a float plan
6. Be aware of weather and water conditions
7. Boat sober, and be considerate of others



Team North Shore

Executive Committee Meeting: May 5 at 7:00 pm Central

Zoom Meeting ID: 868 7111 5662, Passcode: 485679

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86871115662?pwd=kf8CPv4F2vg7Kf17AqutbO2Vjm8Ns6.1>

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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

District 20: www.uspsd20Boating.org

USPS: www.AmericasBoatingClub.org



Captain Ahab answer:

faster



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