





SKOKIE VALLEY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter - Volume 23 Issue 10

Running Lights

October 2023

*Fall Color Cruise on the Grand Belle of Geneva
Saturday October 14th*



United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club®



A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER

October brings fall weather and fall colors. For some, boats have been hauled out and now the winter prep starts (cleaning, waxing, painting). For others now is the time to sit back, grab a hot beverage, and enjoy the changing colors.

September for Karen and I gave us an opportunity to visit new places and meet up with members we had not seen for awhile. We attended the USPS Governing Board Meeting in Kansas City, MO, where we had the opportunity to visit with other USPS members and learn what our organization has been doing. Through interviews by HQ Marketing Director Tammy Brown, we learned that many large publication editors still know us best by our USPS name and that our America's Boating Club branding is still unknown to many. We learned that we should not be using the abbreviation ABC as it dilutes the recognition of the America's Boating Club brand. There were mixed feelings on whether boat shows were helpful and what other things we could be doing to promote our organization. The National Marketing Committee is looking into what needs to be done to get our name out. And as always, new membership and retention is still job one.

Many thanks to Ron and Joanne for the great dinner at Reflections in Lake Villa. The food was terrific, and we even had an after-dinner show by our chef. He had a few good stories and jokes to tell. Thank you to Joe Paldo for the treats at his place afterwards. I was not able to attend but heard it was a good time. And for those who were wondering, my dogs (especially Hunter) loved the duck dinner.

October is bringing a new event to our squadron. On 14 October, join us as we tour Lake Geneva for a lunch cruise. Information on how to purchase tickets is available in this edition of the Running Lights. When making your reservations, mention that you want to be seated with Skokie Valley so we are together. We will be seated on the main level. Contact me also so we can confirm your seating arrangements.

October 27th – 28th is our D20 Fall Conference. Friday night's activities will give us an opportunity to socialize with other D20 friends, and we will have our October member meeting in the hospitality suite. Come join us to see what's new with our District and learn more information from the USPS meeting in Kansas City.

I hope to see you this month at the Lake Geneva Cruise and the D20 Fall Conference. Take time to look outside; what once was all green, now is changing to a multicolor work of art. Take some time to enjoy this, as soon all will be white.



America's Boating Club North Shore 2023-2024 Bridge

- COMMANDER**
Cdr Frank D'Amico, AP 224-238-7372
- EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
P/C Tony Palazzo, AP 630-347-6586
- ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**
P/C Ron Zingler, AP-IN 847-634-3806
- SECRETARY**
P/D/C Karen D'Amico, AP 224-238-7372
- TREASURER**
Lt/C Sue Anthony, P 224-402-3107
- EDUCATION OFFICER**
P/D/C Chuck Burger, SN 847-322-0828
- ASSISTANT EDUCATION OFFICER**
1st Lt Joe Paldo, P 847-255-9158
- IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER**
P/C Tony Palazzo, AP 630-347-6586
- ELECTED MEMBERS AT LARGE**
Lt Ray Adam 630-347-3495
Lt Dave Anthony, P 224-402-3107
Lt Gail Sidman, AP 847-726-7309

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



—Cdr. Frank D'Amico, AP





Mark Your Calendar



October 2023

4	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting (page 4)
14	Sat	Lake Geneva Fall Colors Cruise	Lake Geneva, WI (below)
15	Sun	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
27-28	Fri-Sat	D20 Fall Conference	Elgin Holiday Inn

November 2023

1	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting (page 4)
5	Sun	November member meeting	Dover Straits, Mundelein (page 5)
15	Wed	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
16	Thurs	Cruise Planning Meeting, 1900	Ron Zingler (847-634-3806)



Luncheon Cruise on Lake Geneva Saturday October 14th Departs at 11:30 am

Enjoy the scenic colors of fall as we cruise around the entire Lake Geneva aboard the Grand Belle of Geneva. The 2.5 hour tour includes a narrated history of the lake, catered lunch, full cash bar, and snack bar.

On the Grand Belle of Geneva the staff will serve a plated lunch of Roasted Chicken with mango salsa, herbed rice and vegetable medley. Includes fresh fruit, bakery role with butter, and apple crumb pie. A vegetarian option is also available with advanced notice. Beverages available from the cash bar on board.

Cost is \$61 per person or \$59 for seniors 65+. Call 262-248-6206 or use the link below to purchase a ticket for the luncheon cruise. Availability for that date is shown on the website. <https://www.cruiselakegeneva.com/public-tours/luncheon/>

When making your reservation, mention to "seat with Skokie Valley"

We will meet at the Riviera Docks in downtown Lake Geneva 10:45-11:00 am.

Riviera Docks: 812 Wrigley Drive, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

Boarding begins at 11:15 am. Paid parking is available via metered kiosks throughout the downtown area and there are two free lots. Click here for information.

<https://www.cruiselakegeneva.com/parking-directions/>

RSVP to Frank & Karen D'Amico, 224-238-7372 or kdamico@ameritech.net

America's Boating Channel™ selected as a finalist in the 2023 Go Global Awards



As a finalist, America's Boating Channel™ will have the opportunity to present before esteemed government trade and investment chiefs from more than 30 countries, and engage in targeted partnership meetings to facilitate networking opportunities and drive global growth. Our Chief Commander, Craig Fraser, said "this recognition not only reflects our success in reaching an international audience representing nearly half of our total viewing, but also provides a platform for engaging with influential industry leaders and decision makers from around the world to foster additional growth. We're excited to showcase America's Boating Channel and contribute to global trade expansion."

America's Boating Channel™ is produced for United States Power Squadrons by Lafferty Media Partners under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the US Coast Guard. The service features professionally produced, high def safe boating and boater education videos, along with boating themed entertainment and informational television programs.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/AmericasBoatingChannel/videos>

Team North Shore

Executive Committee Meeting: Wed Oct 4th at 7:00 pm Central

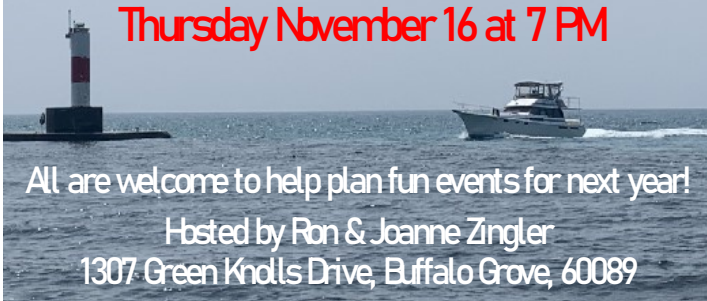
Zoom Meeting ID: 886 8635 3567, Passcode: 494049

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88686353567?pwd=Wng0dHhhWWVXY0R6QytVUU8rUTE3dz09>

Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

One tap mobile: +13126266799,,88686353567#,,,,*494049# US (Chicago)

**2024 Cruise Season Planning Meeting
Thursday November 16 at 7 PM**



October Anniversaries

Catherine Westphal	2007	17 yrs
Marilyn Calfa	2003	21 yrs
Carol Cleave	1982	43 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 THE U.S. COAST GUARD

The key to a successful rescue in a crew-overboard situation is A) good communication; B) good crew; C) proper equipment made easily accessible; or D) regularly scheduled drills.

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing



SVPS 2023 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
October 14th Saturday	Lake Geneva Boat Cruise Tour	Lake Geneva, WI	Frank and Karen D'Amico
October 28-29th	District 20 Fall Conference	Holiday Inn Elgin	District 20
November 5th Sunday	Anniversary Dinner	Dover Straits	Ron Zingler
December 10th Sunday	Commanders Holiday Party	Hoffman Estates	Commander Frank D'Amico

November Anniversary Meeting Sunday 5 November at 2 PM



Dover Straits
890 E. US Highway 45
Mundelein, IL 60060
www.doverstraits.com



Our Anniversary dinner meeting will take us to the shores of Dover Straits in Mundelein. Better known for their fresh fish, they also serve a variety of American fare.



We will order from the extensive menu
cash bar and separate checks



RSVP to Ron Zingler
by November 1st
zingleron@comcast.net
847.634.3806

SEASONAL MUSINGS by Stuart Zwang

Last Tuesday I took my snow blower in for its annual service. Yes, it was only the first week in September, but the place where I purchased it (30 years ago) gives me a \$20 credit for bringing it in during fall, before the winter rush. We need a dependable snow thrower because our drive is 90 feet long and 30 feet wide. I am not going to use a shovel while freezing to clear the drive.

As I was driving my antique Chevy Tahoe (25 years old qualifies as an antique to our in-out service at the marina), I asked myself, where did the summer go? It seems like just yesterday that Gary Vinzant completed our Vessel Safety Check. After the VSC, we went out on Lake Michigan and spent a couple of wonderful buddy time hours. Every time I see Gary, I want to thank him as he caused me to purchase the best watch I have ever had. This is the Casio solar powered, self-adjusting atomic watch that I bought at Walmart. It is still running after about 10 years. The only problem is that it needs a new watch band. I could have predicted this, as during the summer I had five watches fail due to batteries, bands, accuracy or generally electronic failure.

I also asked, 'How did our boating season pan out?' To us, it seemed to be a cooler summer than usual. There was an early summer drought and we had to water daily. Our garden and lawn found this to be quite an agreeable combination.

With respect to boating, the good news was that aside from the usual operator error, 'slight' banging on the dock, and trying to start the boat while it was in gear, our 20-year-old boat kept chugging along. The only problem we had was when the impeller got fouled with lake weed. Happily, I was able to gun the engine and break up the clog. The engine cooled off, the high temperature alarm went off, and we went on our merry way. I have added a new impeller to my off-season boat maintenance. This is along with changing out the prop – an annual affair – then I take the aluminum prop to the prop shop for its annual re-alignment.

Actually, when we used to boat in the Chain of Lakes, we had to align the prop almost weekly. The shallow water would get me every time. How shallow was it? – When the boat gets stuck or does not work, you get out of the boat and pull it. Because of that we needed three props: one on the boat, one spare in the boat, and one in the famous Chain of Lakes prop shop for repair.

Our marine radio (from West Marine) is a ten-year-old dog and (sorry about this) it probably needs a new *woofer*. Actually, I am thinking of replacing it. The ultimate problem is that marine radios are really not that good. I am not sure that even a high-end replacement would do a lot of good.

While I'm at it (the four most expensive words in the English language), I am thinking of replacing the water pump in the engine. It is older, and probably about time to give up the ghost. Remember there are no service stations where you are boating. Towing service is hideously expensive. So, maybe it is time to replace the pump as well as the impeller.

When I am at work and deal with home buyers, I go out of my way to tell them that they should take +/- 3% of the value of their home and put it back into their home every year. It could be 1% or it could be 10%. The point of this is that there is no free lunch and that one must continually maintain their property, in this case our boats, or the property / boat will simply fail.

Speaking of service stations, we know that when we go out on the water that our gas gauges are highly unreliable. As the boat rocks up and down, the float in the gas tank also goes up and down. This leads to many a boater without fuel. Remember what Caryl Lemke (may she rest in peace) taught in our boating class – one third of a tank of fuel for going out, one third for coming back and one third in reserve.

We pay about \$5 per gallon at the marina. Usually, we go out for two hours. Every third outing we put in about \$100 worth of fuel. It looks like our boat burns roughly 3 gallons per hour. Compared to the larger boats of my buddies, this looks like a bit of a bargain.

The day long boat extravaganza at North Point this year—charter fishing, pizza party and bon fire—was wonderful. Thank you, Tony Palazzo for being our designated pyromaniac as well as Dave Anthony for chartering the boats. I hope that I did not offend any person with the fishing trinkets.

Our boat is a bit too small to go on the long squadron cruises. We did get to Door County on our own. One of the stores had a souvenir hat for sale. It said "*You're gonna need a bigger boat*". This of course was an homage to *Jaws*.

So now we are headed into late summer, early fall. The boating season (late Spring, Summer and early Fall) goes by in a snap and ends way too quickly. Our son, the gentleman farmer, I suspect would open a stand at the local farmers market were it not for a bumper crop this year. He still enjoys sleeping on our boat as we navigate the wilds of Lake Michigan. Fortunately, he does not snore. He also refuses to sit at the helm of the boat and drive. Happily, he is a good sport about helping us tie up the boat and minimizing the 'slight banging on the dock' after he wakes up. We think we can get about three more restful outings on the boat before mother nature tells us we must store the boat.

That leaves us looking forward to the inevitable Fall and Winter. For the boat, I have to negotiate winter storage, and those aforementioned upcoming repairs. I have to ask the storage guy to remove and give me my boat batteries. Hopefully this year he will be kind enough to give me the actual batteries that were in my boat. Of course, my snow thrower is ready.



DISTRICT 20

2023 Fall Conference and Educational Awards

27-28 October, 2023
Holiday Inn Chicago Northwest
495 Airport Rd., Elgin, IL 60123

Room Rates: Standard King \$109/night, Standard Double Queen \$109/night; Junior Suites (King/Queen) \$129/night, Executive Suites \$139/night. Room block is limited. **Make reservations by 6 October at (847) 488-9000.** Be sure to mention "Group Code ABC" to receive discounted rates.

Rank	Name	Grade	Squadron	Email	Telephone
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

- Luncheon Choices :** Price \$30 per person
- _____ Very Berry Salad—Fresh Fruit on Kale blend
 - _____ Monte Cristo Sandwich w/French Fries
 - _____ Kilkenny’s Country Chicken Wrap w/French Fries

Meals	Total \$
Luncheon: _____ x \$30 = \$_____	

Make checks payable to: **WSPS**

Registration and check should be sent by 15 October
to:

**P/Lt/C Ellen Ludtke, AP 11419 Zarnstorff Rd.
Richmond, IL 60071**

Schedule of Events

Friday 27 October:

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1500-1800 | Registration |
| 1830-2030 | Cocktail Hour—Cash Bar |
| 1900-2030 | D/20 Bingo |
| 2030-2230 | Hospitality Suites open |



Saturday 28 October

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 0700-1000 | Coffee/Tea & Snack offered in the Friendship Room |
| 0900-0950 | Educational Dept. update - Scott Harmon |
| 1000-1020 | Update from Governing Board - Mike Ludtke |
| 1030-1145 | Keynote Speaker - William (Bill) Brady |
| 1200-1300 | Lunch |
| 1315-1330 | Verification of Delegates |
| 1330-1600 | Fall Conference Meeting and Awards |

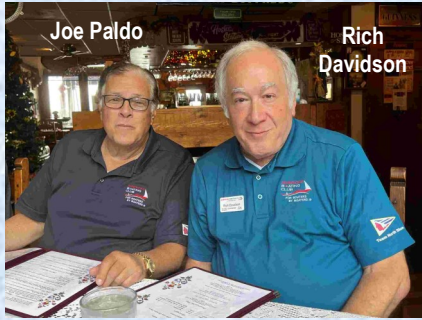
Dress Code:

Friday night: Casual

Saturday: Uniform G (short sleeved shirt no tie) or business casual



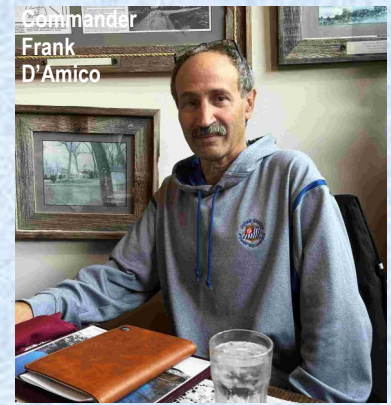
September Member Meeting



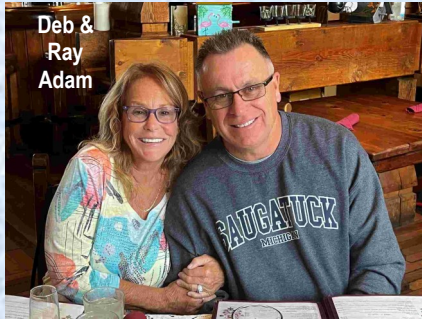
Joe Paldo Rich Davidson



Ron & Joanne Zingler



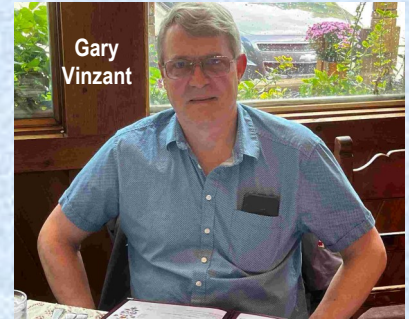
Commander Frank D'Amico



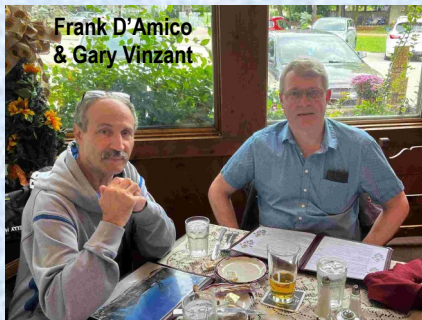
Deb & Ray Adam



Susan & Tony Palazzo



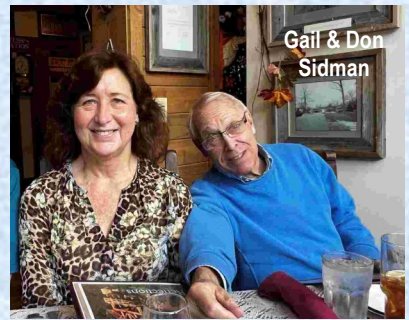
Gary Vinzant



Frank D'Amico & Gary Vinzant



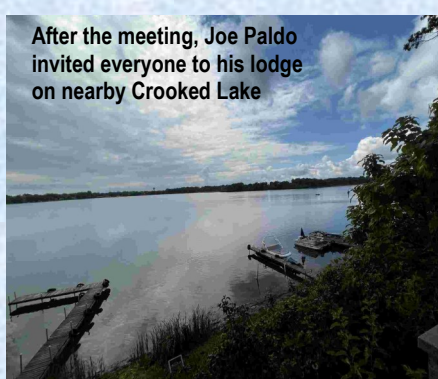
Sue & Dave Anthony



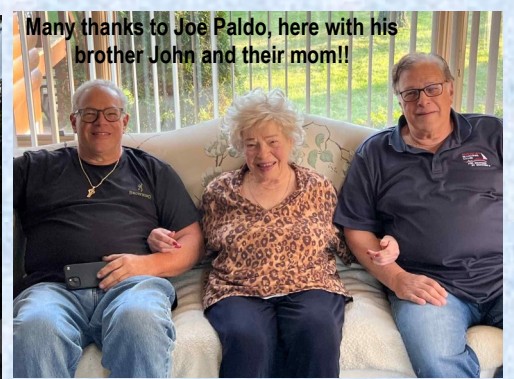
Gail & Don Sidman



At Reflections, the chef came out of the kitchen to entertain the group.



After the meeting, Joe Paldo invited everyone to his lodge on nearby Crooked Lake



Many thanks to Joe Paldo, here with his brother John and their mom!!

Richard J. Calfa

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



1134 N. Main Street
Algonquin, IL 60102



64/19



Christine March
Midwest Regional Manager
815.307.2743

Christine@kanizzle.com www.kanizzle.com

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:

D) regularly scheduled drills



Editor and Publisher

P/D/C Karen D'Amico, AP
RunningLightsEditor@gmail.com

Contributing Editors

Tom Clark, AP
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