



DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter - Volume 20 Issue 9

Running Lights

September 2020

**Impromptu Cruising
This Summer...
Gotta Love It!**



United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club®



A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER

The unfortunate news of the COVID-19 pandemic is how the word "survival" has become paramount. I see so many restaurants and small businesses shuttered, likely forever. The news has a drumbeat of cases and deaths that become the essence of how we will remember the year 2020. There are treatments with limited success but no cures and no completely effective vaccines.

When I invited the members of the Executive Committee to meet at a restaurant in Wadsworth for the last meeting, some could not come because they have underlying conditions that would make getting infected with Coronavirus a near fatal event. I am in that category, and I am very cautious and somewhat afraid of going anywhere I need not go.

With that thought, I am having the next Executive Committee meeting online again. I did one meeting in my back yard, on the deck, and it went well. Then last month we tried using a restaurant, but it was too noisy to conduct business. If I use Zoom, we can hope for members not on the committee to attend, just for the enjoyment of participating in a Skokie Valley event.

I have the great pleasure to award pins to Hugh and Judy Sommerfeld honoring their having renewed their memberships for the 25th time. P/C Hugh Sommerfeld is one merit mark away from becoming a Life Member, and Judy is close behind in that category.

I generated a little excitement when I came up with the idea that we might be able to solicit new members by obtaining the boat registration data in the state databases. However, states have a restriction on non-profits obtaining this data. It is very hard to come up with ways to find the boaters and potential boaters out there and entice them into our program.

With P/D/C Pat Antoni now living in Florida, Jim Soyka has agreed to my appointment of him as the new SEO, at least for the remainder of Pat's term. The Assistant SEO position is thus vacant if anyone wants to do a relatively easy position on the Executive Committee. Please contact me if you do.

Stuart Zwang and myself will remain on the District 20 Bridge when the next Change of Watch takes place. Having two of us from our squadron there is an honor. We are both hoping to use our roles to help the district keep members, gain a few new ones, and transition to more online programs.

We have only our Sundowner and a few possible member meetings left for the remainder of the year. When the pandemic subsides, I sincerely hope we can get our members to come to events. It will feel like a completely new experience after 2020. I think New Year's Eve will have a special significance this time. It will not just welcome in the next year, but will happily kiss the current one good-bye.

—Cdr. Rich Davidson, SN



Skokie Valley Sail & Power Squadron 2019-2020 Bridge

COMMANDER

Cdr Richard Davidson, SN 847-295-8845

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Tony Palazzo, AP 847-956-6173

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

P/C Ron Zingler, AP-IN 847-634-3806

SECRETARY

Lt/C Gail Sidman, S 847-726-7309

TREASURER

Lt/C Sue Anthony, P 224-402-3107

EDUCATION OFFICER

Lt/C James E. Soyka, SN-CN 847-635-6239

ASSISTANT EDUCATION OFFICER

Open

IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER

I/P/C Joe Lokaj, JN 847-914-9447

ELECTED MEMBERS AT LARGE

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



September 2020

2	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom Meeting, Contact Rich Davidson
9	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	TBD
9-13	Wed-Sun	USPS Virtual Fall Conference Meeting	See details at www.usps.org/memb-home
15	Tue	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
23	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	TBD
26	Sat	North Point Sundowner and Bonfire	North Point Marina (see page 5)

October 2020

7	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom Meeting, Contact Rich Davidson
7	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	TBD
15	Thurs	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
		D20 Fall Conference	TBD
21	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	TBD

It's About Time, by Stuart Zwang

Years ago, I was taking a Junior Navigation Class taught by Gene Uretz. We had to know the absolute correct time. Gary Vinzant showed me his Casio Shock Resistant, Solar Powered, Radio watch. It reset itself every morning at 5:00 AM from a signal that came from the U.S. Naval Observatory in Colorado.

I had to get one. He steered me to Sam's Club, and I bought one for a little less than \$100.00. That thing is indestructible. It is at least 20 years later and it still works. When we took our Navigation sights with Pat Antoni I used that watch. Because it reset itself every morning, I did not have to adjust for time error. That was very convenient, and one less calculation.

I still use the watch. I have been in Africa, Asia, Europe as well as obviously North America with it. When I go to a fine jewelry store to look at watches, I take it off of my wrist and throw it over my shoulder. The gasp out of the salesperson when I do it is always entertaining.

I use that watch to time all of my soccer games, and to swim in. My son Nicholas and I took scuba lessons. Since it was guaranteed to be waterproof to 200 meters (= 600 feet), I was certified as a diver in that watch. I used it when we dove in Florida. Going Scuba diving in Florida cured me of scuba diving. The last time we tried it, the water was VERY rough. Waves were over five feet. I had no business diving, but that was a lesson learned later that day.

There were three different groups of divers for three different depths. The boat first dropped off a group going down to 90 feet at one location. It went on to the next location that had less adventurous divers who only went down to 60 feet. For me, well, I was a wimp. Considering that anything below 30 feet gets too dark and takes too long to decompress on the way up, we went with the 30 foot group. That was great. Except that my ears would not equalize. The rest of the group went down, and I added air to my buoyancy vest and went to the surface. The problem was that after the 30 foot group was dropped off, the boat went back to the 60 foot deep group, and of course after that to the 90 foot deep group. So I was floating literally in the middle of the ocean in Florida. The only thing that I could see was the sea. Do you have any idea of how big and quiet it is out there? It was also very disconcerting.

Finally the 30' dive group came up about ten feet from where I was doing my imitation of a cork. Just then the dive boat came back to retrieve us. I got back on the boat with the group, and it was cold. I was wet. That was not fun. I was seriously thinking that diving was not for me. But, I learned something else. That is there is something that is worse than being wet and cold. It is worse to be wet, cold AND SEASICK. I never went diving again.

The Casio watch soldiers on. It reminds me of the old John Cameron Swazy television commercials for Timex watches – It takes a licking and keeps on ticking.



YOUR WEATHER REPORT

By Mike Hennessy, AP, Instructor-Weather course



Hurricane Season 2020

If you have been paying attention to the news, you would know that we are in the middle of the hurricane season. Those who live on the East Coast have already seen the damage a small hurricane can cause.

A hurricane begins with a tropical depression that grows into a tropical storm and then if the winds are strong enough it will become a hurricane. A hurricane has two sides – the right and the left. The right is the most dangerous part of a hurricane because the winds are stronger and it causes much more destruction.

The recent hurricane Isaias brushed a great deal of the East Coast with the left side of the storm, thus limiting the destructive effects of the storm.

If a hurricane enters the Gulf of Mexico regardless of where it goes, both the right and left sides will act as one and cause extreme damage. Because when they make landfall, the wind wave action and heavy rains will cause serious damage to whatever area of land it chooses to hit.

The experts predict that this hurricane season is going to be severe. If they are correct, a great deal of damage will affect a good part of the United States coastline. Keep in mind that when a hurricane reaches land, it continues inland for quite a while depending on its strength. So therefore even non coastal areas could be severely damaged by high winds and excessive rain.

If you are traveling this summer and fall, be aware that storms may be in your future.



OUR GREAT LAKES, OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

We will not experience true hurricanes here in the Great Lakes region, but we have seen some very damaging storms that resemble hurricane strength winds.

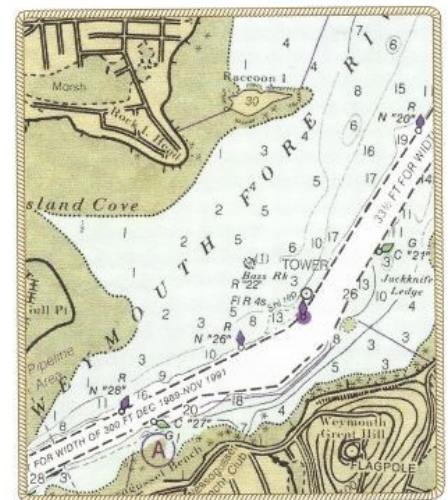


One of the worst was in 1913 that has been called the “Great Lakes Hurricane”. It was a strong low-pressure center that dropped out of Canada; the convergence of two storm fronts, strengthened by the relatively warmer waters that produce the proverbial November gales.

The storm reached its peak on Nov 9, 1913 and lasted more than 16 hours. It had sustained winds over 70 mph and reported wind gusts up to 90 mph (a tropical storm becomes a hurricane once the winds reach 74 mph). The storm produced waves over 35 feet high. They occurred in rapid succession, usually in threes. So strong they overturned ships on four of the five Great Lakes (only those on Lake Ontario were spared). The wind was also blowing in directions opposite of the waves due to the storm’s cyclonic motion, a phenomenon rarely seen on the Great Lakes.

All told, the Great Lakes Hurricane destroyed 19 ships, stranded 19 other ships, and killed 250 people. To this day, 3 of the ships that sank during the storm have yet to be found.

CAPTAIN AHAB’S QUIZ



Nautical charts utilize **straight (blocked)** or **slanted (italicized)** lettering to label all information about objects that are not affected by tide or current?

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing



SVPS 2020 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
Cancelled	Summerfest 2020	Milwaukee, WI	Ron Zingler
Sept 9th-13th Wed-Sun	USPS Virtual Fall Conference	Details to be published. See www.usps.org/memb-home	USPS
Cancelled	September Member Meeting	Club Casa, Des Plaines, IL	Ron Zingler
September 26th Saturday	Sundowner	North Point Marina	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

North Point Sundowner, September 26th



North Point Marina
701 Northpoint Dr.
Winthrop Harbor, IL 60096

Let's get together to watch the sun go down at North Point Marina and keep warm with a socially distant bonfire.

We will start at 5:00 pm with the squadron buying pizzas for everyone. Bring your own refreshments, lawn chairs and blankets.

As the sun goes down, we will have a bonfire on the beach.

If arriving by boat, contact the marina in advance for a slip assignment @ 847-746-2845



Although all our cruises were cancelled, at first due to covid-19 and later flooding at many of the ports, members are still having some impromptu gatherings. Gotta Love It is a popular place.

Sunday July 26th, several members had an impromptu get together in North Point. The Palazzo's and the Zingler's took a trip down to North Point Marina on Saturday for an overnight visit with the Anthony's. The Calfa's joined them on Sunday with the Sidman's to perform vessel safety checks. They all gathered on "Gotta Love It" and then went to lunch afterwards at the Tropics Restaurant. It was great to get together after the long quarantine spell.



Don Sidman, Bailey the dog, Joanne & Ron Zingler, Gail Sidman and Marilyn Calfa



Sue Anthony, Marilyn Calfa, Sue Palazzo, Richard Calfa



Sue Anthony, Marilyn Calfa, Sue Palazzo, Richard Calfa, Joanne Zingler, Dave Anthony, Don & Gail Sidman, Tony Palazzo



Ron Zingler



Joanne Zingler, Dave Anthony, and Bailey the dog

Then, August 1st, another gathering with the March's and Palazzo's aboard the Zingler's Gotta Love It. Everyone brought different foods to share.

Thanks to Ron Zingler & Richard Calfa for the photos!



Tony Palazzo



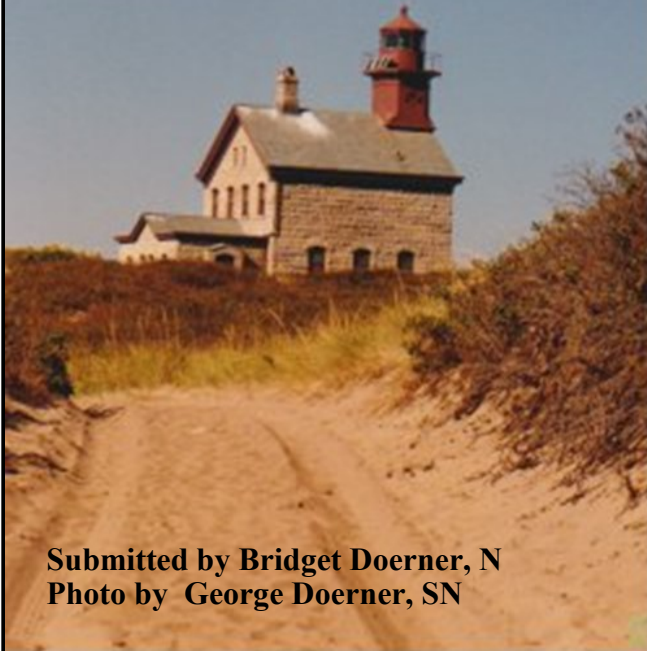
Larry & Christine March, Sue & Tony Palazzo



Joanne & Ron Zingler

North Lighthouse Block Island, RI

42° 13' 39" N
71° 34' 34" W



Submitted by Bridget Doerner, N
Photo by George Doerner, SN

North Light House was built in 1829. Block Island is a particularly dangerous place for mariners. There is a 1 ½ mile long reef that extends out from Sandy Point. Because of the danger of boating around the island, five lighthouses were built to protect against boating accidents.

The North lighthouse was rebuilt three times due to sand erosion. There is no height to the island, so the lighthouse was built fifty feet tall with a fourth-order Fresnel lens. The lighthouse looks like a school house of Victorian/Gothic architecture. It is made of granite brought from Connecticut.

In 1901 an inspection showed that the tower was badly corroded where the cast iron met the granite. The whole tower had to be torn down and some of the cast iron and granite were melted down and used again in the new tower.

The light was deactivated and soon the lighthouse became rundown. The town of Shoreham raised money and in 2010 an extensive restoration began. Today the lighthouse has a museum on the 1st floor and it is a popular well visited lighthouse.

September Anniversaries

Robbie Leighton	2019	1 yr
Lynn Lorelie	1974	9 yrs
James Caldwell	2001	19 yrs
Joseph Ratajczak	1968	25 yrs
Kay Widdis	1993	28 yrs
Payul Mulroy	1975	46 yrs

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

Cdr Rich Davidson, SN



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Richard J. Calfa

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

CAIFA FOR INSURANCE

1102 N. Main Street
Algonquin, IL 60102



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Skokie Valley Sail and Power Squadron

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P/D/C Karen D'Amico, AP
1240 Bison Lane
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192

TO:

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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:
straight (blocked)



Editor and Publisher

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

Contributing Editors

Tom Clark, AP
Bridget Doerner, N
Mike Hennessy, AP

P/C

Ron Zingler, AP
Joanne Zingler, AP
Stuart Zwang, SN

Photographers

P/C Richard Calfa, N
P/C George Doerner, SN
P/C Ron Zingler, AP

Production Staff

P/C Frank D'Amico, AP