



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



## SKOKIE VALLEY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter - Volume 26 Issue 2

# Running Lights

## February 2026

**Member Dinner Meeting  
February 22, 2026 3:00 PM**

**Toscana Italian Restaurant  
1859 Central Rd  
Arlington Heights**



United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club®



**A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER**

February is election month for Skokie Valley and month closer to spring (I can't wait).

Before I get into elections, I want to say thank you to all the Skokie Valley members who volunteered their time and efforts to help at the Chicago Boat show this past week. Karen and I were able to take a 2-hour shift on Saturday afternoon, but there were several Skokie Valley members who were the faces of America's Boating Club, welcoming visitors to our booth and helping them with the knot tying challenge. Special thank you to Dan Luczak for his participation in the planning, set up, and tear down of the show. I know Mike Ludtke (Boat Show Chair) was grateful to everyone that supported the effort. There are pictures of some of the members who volunteered in this issue.

We had our first General Meeting in January at Sal & Tony's in Buffalo Grove. The food was terrific; everyone had a great time. The very short (shortest so far) meeting portion allowed everyone to get home in time for the Bear's game. A big thank you to Ron & Joanne for setting up a great venue. My father joined us for dinner and all the way home, he kept saying what a good time he had and what a great group of friends we have. I'm looking forward to the other new restaurants we will be trying.

This leads me to our February General Meeting at Tuscana Restaurant in Arlington Heights on February 22. This meeting will be the election of the 2026 - 2027 Slate of Officers for Skokie Valley. Thanks to everyone that accepted nominations to offices / committees and to the Nominating Committee for all their hard work organizing the slate.

Karen and I are looking forward to escaping the cold of Chicago for a few days and will be attending the upcoming National Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC. I will be reporting what is happening at National at the D20 Spring Conference. I know some of the programs that were in progress have already been changed.

The details of the D20 Spring Conference and Change of Watch have been published in the Trident, and the registration form is also in this issue of the "Running Lights". The dates are Friday March 20th (Friday night activities) and Saturday March 21st (conference and change of watch dinner). Skokie Valley will have a hospitality room Friday and Saturday. Although there are no room nights required by the hotel; District will need at least 40 people for lunch and dinner to meet our food and beverage minimum to cover the banquet room cost. Mark your calendars and save those dates. Come and spend some time with some old friends and make some new ones.

Our current Squadron Education Officer Chuck Burger and incoming (after elections) Education Officer Gary Raphael have been busy scheduling two America's Boating Course classes this Spring. One at Wilmette Harbor and the other at the REI location in Vernon Hills. They will be needing volunteers for teaching and helping with the classes; dates and times for the classes are in this issue.



**America's Boating Club North Shore 2025-2026 Bridge**

<b>COMMANDER</b>		
	Cdr Frank D'Amico, AP	224-238-7372
<b>EXECUTIVE OFFICER</b>		
	P/C Tony Palazzo, AP	630-347-6586
	AXO 1st Lt Dan Luczak, S	708-795-0367
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER</b>		
	P/C Ron Zingler, AP-IN	847-634-3806
<b>SECRETARY</b>		
	P/D/C Karen D'Amico, AP	224-238-7372
<b>TREASURER</b>		
	Lt/C Sue Anthony, P	224-402-3107
<b>EDUCATION OFFICER</b>		
	P/D/C Chuck Burger, SN	847-322-0828
	AEO 1st Lt Stuart Zwang, SN-CN	847-255-9158
<b>IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER</b>		
	P/C Tony Palazzo, AP	630-347-6586
<b>ELECTED MEMBERS AT LARGE</b>		
	Lt Ray Adam, S	630-347-3495
	Lt Dave Anthony, P	224-402-3107
	Lt Gail Sidman, AP	847-726-7309

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—Cdr. Frank D'Amico, AP





# Mark Your Calendar



## February 2026

4	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting - page 7
10-15	Tue-Sun	America's Boating Club Annual Meeting	Myrtle Beach, SC - page 9
15	Sun	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
22	Sun	Member Dinner Meeting	Arlington Heights - page 8

## March 2026

4	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting - page 7
15	Sun	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
20-21	Fri/Sat	D20 Spring Conference & Change of Watch	Holiday Inn, Elgin—page 6
21	Sat	General Member Meeting, 1630	Holiday Inn, Elgin

## CHICAGO BOAT SHOW

Many thanks to our members and others across D20 who volunteered to work the booth at the boat show to promote boating safety, classes, and membership in America's Boating Club.



Ron Dziagwa



Dan & Chris Luczak, Deb & Ray Adam, Ron Zingler

# January Dinner Meeting at Sal & Tony's Italian Restaurant

Thank you to Ron & Joanne Zingler for organizing and hosting the dinner!



Joe Paldo



Kathy & Keith Parker



Susan & Tony Palazzo



Chuck Burger



Ron Dziagwa & Natalie Witty



Gail & Don Sidman



Karen & Frank & Agostino D'Amico



LeRoy & Lenore Stevens

Richard J. Calfa

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



1134 N. Main Street  
Algonquin, IL 60102



66/19

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christine@kanizzle.com



## Submitted by SEO Chuck Burger, SN

Over the past several years, USPS | America's Boating Club has been modernizing the courses available to members. As part of this evolution, the names of courses have changed and new courses added, causing some confusion with grade designations. To help navigate these waters, below is a list of courses and guide to the grade abbreviations you see after member names.

Let's start with courses that have been retired. Seamanship and Piloting are no longer available; they have been replaced by Boat Handling and Marine Navigation. Advanced Piloting is being phased out and replaced with Advanced Marine Navigation. Junior Navigation is no longer available. For those currently taking retired courses: JN exams will be available until 1 April, 2027; Navigation materials will be available until 16 February 2026; N exams will be available until 1 July 2027.

### Advanced Grade Progression

Educational Proficiency is awarded to anyone attaining a grade level of at least Advanced Pilot (AP) and completing at least three Elective courses.

Advanced Grade Courses Completed	Grade Designation
Boat Handling	Seaman (S)
Marine Navigation (S & P grades)	Pilot (P)
S & P grades + Advanced Marine Navigation	Advanced Pilot (AP)
AP grade + Junior Navigation	Junior Navigator (JN)
AP grade + Offshore Navigation	Offshore Mariner (OM)
AP grade + Celestial Navigation	Celestial Mariner (CM)
AP grade + Inland Boating	Inland Mariner (IM)
AP grade + Offshore Navigation + Celestial Navigation	Navigator (N)
JN grade + Navigation	Navigator (N)

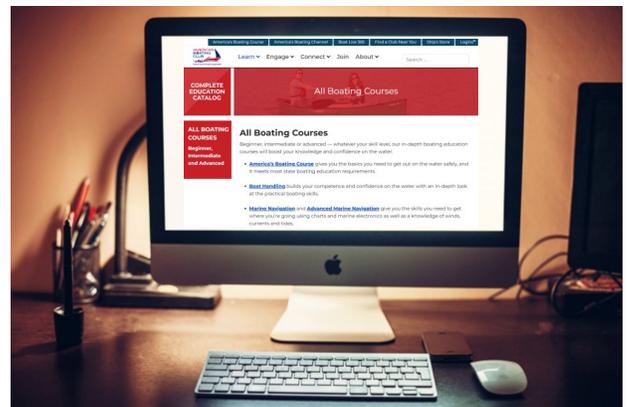
Educational Achievement is the highest educational recognition award given by USPS. A person with this award is known as a Senior Navigator (SN). Recently, a change was made to allow members to personalize their path to achieving this level of educational achievement. There are 5 paths to achieve Senior Navigator:

1. N grade + 6 of: CUPS, EM, ID, MCS, MES, Radar, Sail, WE, IB
2. JN grade + 7 of: CUPS, EM, ID, MCS, MES, Radar, Sail, WE, IB
3. OM grade + 7 of: CUPS, EM, ID, MCS, MES, Radar, Sail, WE, CN, IB
4. CM grade + 7 of: CUPS, EM, ID, MCS, MES, Radar, Sail, WE, IB, ON
5. IM grade + 7 of: CUPS, EM, ID, MCS, MES, Radar, Sail, WE, CN, ON

Celestial Navigation (CN), Inland Boating (IB), and Offshore Navigation (ON) are Advanced Grade courses. The other courses are Electives.

Course abbreviations are:

- CUPS - Cruising under power and sail
- CN - Celestial Navigation
- EM - Engine Maintenance
- IB - Inland Boating (under development)
- ID - Instructor Development, which includes Instructor Qualification
- MCS - Marine Communications Systems
- MES - Marine Electrical Systems
- ON - Offshore Navigation
- WE - Weather





**DISTRICT 20 Spring CONFERENCE**  
**20 - 21 March 2026**  
**HOLIDAY INN & SUITES CHICAGO NORTHWEST -**  
**ELGIN**

**Room Rates: Taxes are not included in pricing:** King Standard \$119 per night, Double Queen Standard \$125 per night, Junior King Suite \$143 per Night, and King Executive Suite \$145 per night. Room block is limited. [Click here for the hotel reservation link](#)

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

**Lunch:** Price \$33.00 per person. All lunches include Bennigan’s potato soup, coffee and soda station.

- #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Very Berry Salad
- #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey O’Toole
- #3 \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Chicken Ceasar Wrap

**Dinner:** Includes; soup or salad, rolls, seasonal vegetables, potatoes, and dessert. Coffee and soft drinks.

- #1 \_\_\_\_\_ \$51.00 Chicken Marsala
- #2 \_\_\_\_\_ \$55.00 Grilled Salmon
- #3 \_\_\_\_\_ \$58.00 Grilled Ribeye Steak

<b>No. Attending</b>	<b>Total</b>
_____ x \$33.00 Lunch	\$ _____
_____ Dinner Cost	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL \$ _____</b>	

**Schedule of Events**

**Friday 20 March**

- 1500 — 1800 Registration (Conference Center)
- 1830 — 2100 Cocktails / Cash Bar
- 1900 — 2100 Friday night activities
- 2100 — 2300 Hospitality Suites

**Saturday 21 March**

- 0700 — 1100 Friendship
- 0800 — 1100 Registration (Conference Center)
- 0900 — 0950 Educational Officer Meeting
- 1000 — 1040 CC Message & National Meeting Highlights
- 1050 — 1150 Guest Speaker
- 1200 — 1300 Lunch and Raffle Prizes
- 1315 — 1330 Verification of Delegates
- 1330 — 1530 Spring Conference
- 1700 — 1800 Cocktail Hour/ Cash Bar
- 1800 — 2030 Banquet and Change of Watch
- 2030 — 2230 Hospitality Suites

**Dress Code:**

- Friday night Tropical or casual
- Saturday: Uniform G (short sleeve shirt, no tie) or Suitable business casual attire
- Banquet USPS dress uniform or suitable attire

Make checks payable to: WSPS Power Squadron

**Registration and check should be sent by Thursday, March 5, 2026 to:**

Ellen Ludtke  
 11419 Zarnstorff Road  
 Richmond, IL 60071



# SVPS 2026 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
February 10-15	America's Boating Club Annual Meeting	Hilton Myrtle Beach Oceanfront Resort, South Carolina	National Meeting
Sunday February 22nd	Dinner Meeting	Tuscana, Arlington Heights	Ron & Joanne Zingler
Friday-Saturday March 20-21	District 20 Spring Conference & Change of Watch	Holiday Inn, Elgin	District 20
Sunday April 19th	SVPS Change of Watch	Dover Straits, Mundelein	Frank D'Amico
Sunday May 17th	Dinner Meeting	Wadsworth Inn, Wadsworth	Ron & Joanne Zingler
Saturday June 6th (tentative)	Lake Michigan Fishing Derby & North Point Sundowner	North Point Marina	Dave & Sue Anthony
June 18-20 <b>June 25-27</b> July 2-4	Summerfest Milwaukee Cruise	McKinley Harbor, Milwaukee WI	McKinley Harbor <b>Reserve Early January</b> 414/273-5224
July 3-18	Lake Michigan Summer Cruise	Sheboygan, Sturgeon Bay, Leland, Charlevoix, Frankfort, Pentwater, Port Washington	Dan & Chris Luczak
July 25-26	Milwaukee Air and Water	McKinley Harbor	Info Only
TBD	D20 Cruise & Rendezvous	TBA	District 20
August (TBD)	Chicago Architecture Tour	Chicago	
August 28-30	Chicago Air & Water Show (featuring Thunderbirds)	Navy Pier Marina or Burnham Harbor	Info Only
September 19th	Dinner Meeting	Southport Marina Boaters Lounge, Kenosha, WI	Ron Zingler
September 23-27	America's Boating Club Fall Governing Board Meeting	Cary NC	National Meeting
October (TBD)	District 20 Fall Conference	TBD	District 20
Sunday, October 25	Dinner Meeting	Beelow's, Lake Zurich	Ron Zingler
Sunday November 8th	Anniversary Dinner	Dover Straits	Ron Zingler
Sunday December 6th	Commanders Holiday Party	Hoffman Estates	Frank D'Amico

## Team North Shore

Executive Committee Meeting: **Wednesday, February 4 at 7:00 pm Central**

Zoom Meeting ID: **896 4506 7100**, Passcode: **606598**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89645067100?pwd=nSjbaBor5OixpFWvaHTOtoBjyxpvA2.1>

One tap mobile: +13126266799,,89645067100#,,,,\*606598# US (Chicago)

# February Dinner Meeting—Feb 22 3:00 PM

## Toscana Italian Restaurant 1859 Central Rd, Arlington Heights



<https://toscanaarlington.com>

Toscana Restaurant & Lounge has been bringing the heart of Italy to Arlington Heights for years, creating a cozy, yet sophisticated spot where good food and good company come together. Serving more than just Italian Dishes – they are building memories, one dish at a time.

**Order from the Menu  
Separate Checks**

**RSVP to Ron Zingler by February 15th  
zingleron@comcast.net, 847-634-3806**



## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

### Skokie Valley Sail & Power Squadron Slate of Officers & Committees 2026-2027

#### Executive Committee

Commander  
Executive Officer  
Education Officer  
Asst. Education Officer  
Administrative Officer  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Immediate Past Cdr  
Elected Member  
Elected Member  
Elected Member

Frank D'Amico, AP  
Dan Luczak, P  
Gary Raphael, AP  
Stuart Zwang, SN-CN  
Ron Zingler, AP-IN  
Karen D'Amico, AP  
Sue Anthony, P  
Tony Palazzo, AP  
Deb Adam, S  
Rich Barta, AP  
Lenore Stevens

#### Rules Committee

Dennis McNamara, SN  
Natalie Witty, JN  
Ron Dziagwa, P

#### Audit Committee

Gail Sidman, S (Chair)  
Richard Davidson, SN-ACN  
LeRoy Stevens

#### Nominating Committee

Gary Vinzant, SN (Chair)  
Richard Davidson, SN-ACN  
Stuart Zwang, SN-CN

**Respectively Submitted  
by Nominating Committee:**

Gary Vinzant, SN (Chair)  
Richard Davidson, SN-ACN  
Stuart Zwang, SN-CN

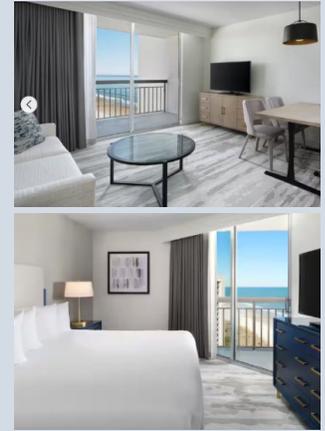
**Vote at our February 22nd  
Dinner Meeting**

**America's Boating Club Annual Meeting**  
**Embassy Suites by Hilton Myrtle Beach**  
**Oceanfront Resort at Kingston Plantation**  
**Feb 10 - Feb 15, 2026 - \$209 Per Night**  
 9800 Queensway Blvd, Myrtle Beach, SC, US



All rooms are suites with a separate bedroom from living/kitchen area. Stay includes daily: free parking, free breakfast, and free evening reception.

[NMC Current Hotel Information Myrtle Beach SC](#)



**Extra Activities: Pre-Registration Required**

- Black Drum Brewing Restaurant and Show at Carolina Opry Theater
- VIP tour & tasting at Twelve 33 Distillery
- Welcome dinner at Firefly Grill Out
- Keynote Speaker Luncheon: Marjorie Young, author of Reputation Matrix
- Extraordinary Tour of Duplin Winery
- Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach
- Topgolf Myrtle Beach
- Member Luncheon during Annual Mtg
- Social Luncheon: The Reefs Beneath Your Keel underwater photography presentation
- Change of Watch Dinner Celebration

**Keynote Luncheon:**  
**Reputation Matrix by Marjorie Young**

Learn how PR, "the mega word of mouth", can amplify your squadron message far beyond the reach of traditional advertising. With the right PR strategy, your good news can ripple through your community. Following the keynote, an interactive workshop to learn proven PR strategies to boost visibility, credibility and positive word of mouth.

**Spread the Word...we have two America's Boating Course (ABC) classes scheduled:**

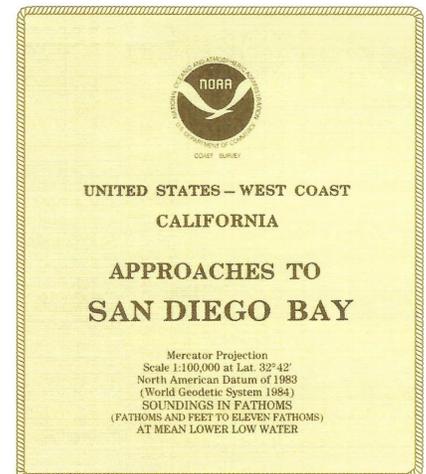
**REI Vernon Hills**

901 N Milwaukee Ave, Vernon Hills IL  
 Tues & Thurs 7:00-9:00 PM, May 12-28

**Wilmette Harbor Clubhouse**

20 Harbor Drive, Wilmette, IL  
 Tues & Thurs 7:00-9:00 pm, April 7-23

**CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ**



A scale of 1:100,000 on a NOAA chart indicates that 1 inch on the chart equals 100,000 A) miles, B) yards, C) inches or D) feet on land?

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor  
 Courtesy of Perchant Publishing

**February Anniversaries**

Leslie Pratt	2025	1 yr
Dixie Widner	1983	43 yrs

Congratulations on reaching another milestone with the squadron. We appreciate your support!  
**Cdr Frank D'Amico, AP**

# 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](http://www.skokievalleypowersquadron.org)

**District 20:** [www.uspsd20Boating.org](http://www.uspsd20Boating.org)

**USPS:** [www.AmericasBoatingClub.org](http://www.AmericasBoatingClub.org)



Captain Ahab answer:  
100,000 inches

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