



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



SKOKIE VALLEY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter - Volume 26 Issue 1

Running Lights

January 2026

January Dinner Meeting Sunday January 18th

Sal & Tony's Italian Restaurant 48 Raupp Blvd in Buffalo Grove

Happy New Year!

United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club®



A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER

Happy New Year! December was a busy month with holidays, and entertaining family and friends. Thank you to all for coming to our Commander's Open House. It was a great way to start the holiday month and I enjoyed seeing everyone. I hope all enjoyed themselves.

It's a new year and as always, Skokie Valley is busy planning for our General Meetings at new and familiar venues, summer cruises and activities (Summerfest, Air & Water show), Sundowners, Fishing Derby, D20 Spring Conference, Public Boating classes and our own Change of Watch. There will be plenty of opportunities to get together and have some fun enjoying each other's company.

In this issue are the nominations for the Slate of Officers and Committees for Skokie Valley for 2026 -2027. Many thanks to Gary Vinzant, Rich Davidson and Stuart Zwang for their hard work and time spent in filling the many positions. Thank you also to all for accepting the nominations. We will be voting on this slate at the February General Meeting at Tuscana Restaurant in Arlington Heights.

For January 's General Meeting we will be returning to Sal & Tony's in Buffalo Grove on 18 January. I'm looking forward to the various venues that Ron & Joanne have planned for us this year. Our 2026 Calander of Events published in this issue is full of fun and new activities, so make sure to check it out and save the dates.

Karen and I will be attending the upcoming National Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC. I'm looking forward to see what is new at National and will be reporting back during the D20 Spring Conference (another reason to attend).

Speaking of the D20 Spring Conference, it is scheduled for Friday March 20th (Friday night activities) and Saturday March 21st. The rooms rates, conference rooms needed and food for lunch and dinner are confirmed. DAO Clint Rahn has listed the details of meal choices and room information to be published in the upcoming issue of the Trident. Mark your calendars and plan to spend time with some old friends and make some new ones.

Also, this month, D20 is returning to the Chicago Boat show at the Donald E. Stephens Convention & Conference Center in Rosemont, IL. The show dates are 28 January to 01 February. I know that Mike Ludtke (Boat Show Chair) with the aid of Dan Luczak has reached out for volunteers to help host the booth. Some have already volunteered, but more help is needed. If you have the time, reach out to Mike and or Dan and see if there is a time slot that you can help greet visitors. It's a venue that is much easier to reach and more accessible for our squadron.



America's Boating Club North Shore 2025-2026 Bridge

- COMMANDER**
Cdr Frank D'Amico, AP 224-238-7372
- EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
P/C Tony Palazzo, AP 630-347-6586
AXO 1st Lt Dan Luczak, S 708-795-0367
- 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
AEO 1st Lt Stuart Zwang, SN-CN 847-255-9158
- IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER**
P/C Tony Palazzo, AP 630-347-6586
- ELECTED MEMBERS AT LARGE**
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



January 2026

7	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting - page 9
15	Thurs	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
18	Sun	Member Dinner Meeting	Buffalo Grove - below
25	Sun	Waukegan Squadron Change of Watch	Dover Straits, Mundelein
28-1	Wed-Sun	Chicago Boat Show	Donald E Stephens Conv Center, Rosemont

February 2026

4	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting - page 9
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

January Dinner Meeting Sunday January 18th

Sal & Tony's Italian Restaurant
48 Raupp Blvd in Buffalo Grove



Located on the Buffalo Grove Golf Course
The food is awesome and you will not be disappointed
with this home-style Italian cooking

Cocktails: 3:00 PM

Dinner: 4:00 PM

Order from the Menu

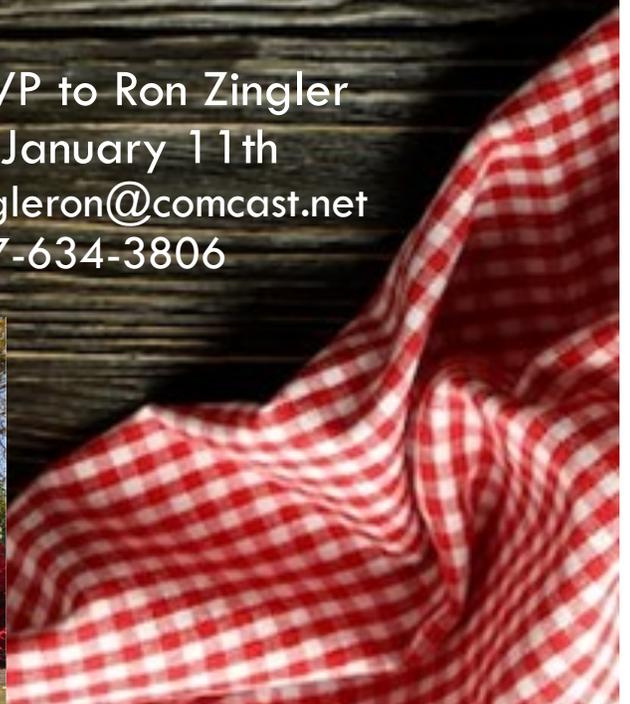
<https://salandtonysitalian.com/>

RSVP to Ron Zingler

By January 11th

zingleron@comcast.net

847-634-3806



Commander's Open House

Thanks to Joanne Zingler for taking pictures!



Sue Anthony & Lenore Stevens



Nancy Sibrava-Koener, Gail Sidman, Gary Vinzant



Chris Luczak, Deb Adam, Susan Palazzo



Don Sidman, Frank D'Amico, Tony Palazzo, LeRoy Stevens, Dan Luczak



Rich Davidson, Ron Zingler, Dave Anthony



Stuart Zwang, Karen & Frank D'Amico, Lorri Zwang



Chuck Burger, Ray Adam

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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Tell Your Story

'Ode to Canada' by Stuart Zwang

For Lorri's special birthday, we planned to cruise on Oceania Lines. We had been somewhat burned out by several long overseas previous vacations, so Oceania had a cruise itinerary that was both interesting, and relatively local. It was called 'Ode to Canada'. It was scheduled to leave New York, go to Boston, Maine, Halifax and Nova Scotia.

Oceania is a member of the Norwegian Cruise Lines family. The cruise lines start new cruise companies or buy each other out so they can service a perceived unique niche. You cannot tell the players without a program. The boat we were on was christened Allura. I like the made up names—makes me feel like I am at home watching the pharmaceutical ads on television.



We got to our hotel a day before the boat was to sail, which allowed us time to do a bit of sightseeing in New York. It is interesting that so many of the places we went to in New York look better on television. We saw Times Square, Macy's the Great White Way, Broadway theaters, etc. Needless to say there were a number of famed and outrageously overpriced tourist traps. Speaking of which, we stayed at a Holiday Inn in Chelsea. Our double bed with 2' clearance on three sides was a total bargain at \$500 per night. It did include a pretty crummy breakfast downstairs (not even the coffee was good). Then it took a \$50, ten minute limo ride to the departure dock. We were only ripped off by two cab drivers and one restaurant, but that is New York for you. In fact, I discovered that I agreed with Boston Baseball fans, for a slightly different reason. When asked who their favorite baseball team is, Bostonians reply 'The Red Sox, and any team that is playing against the New York Yankees.'

When we went to the dock, Oceania took our photo and gave us a 'credit card.' This had a bar code and embedded electronic chip in it. We used it to get into our room, on board and off board the ship, ships' purchases, etc. Another side note—the person who invented bar codes was a fraternity brother of mine. He calls his company 'Zebra enterprises.' His donation to the university we went to was so modest, that IIT was able to build a whole new building and named it after him. He also funded several professorships as well.

Back on the boat, we decided NOT to purchase the alcohol package for \$79 per day. This would have included all the liquid intoxicants one could daily imbibe prior to collapsing on deck. (Remember the old saying, 'one tequila, two tequilas, three tequilas, floor?') We thought that if we wanted a cocktail, paying \$15 a shot (get it) still meant we had to buy 5.3 beverages to break even. Just like every casino including the one on board the ship, all odds favored the house. Call me cheap, but for \$79, I can purchase a pretty decent bottle of scotch, 1.5 Liters of bourbon, or a minimum of three six packs of beer. Instead my thirst was quenched during the Captain's Reception where we were given a couple of free drinks.

We had to check in at 1:00 PM, and sailing was at 5:00 PM. I like the term 'sailing.' It reminds one that in our very recent history, boats were wind powered, and they actually raised the sails to get moving. Of course in our era, they fire up the huge diesel electric generators, burn an enormous amount of diesel fuel, and move off the dock.

The boat with about 1,000 passengers proceeded to sail past Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. They were beautiful at sunset, both going out and later coming back. I still do not know if they were open or closed because, at the time, the U.S. government began its shutdown. I did see there were a lot of smaller boats that essentially protected these two attractions by cordoning off the waterway around them.

Continued to next page...

Continue from page 5...

We sailed all night and entered Boston Harbor the next morning. Boston is a fine town, but getting around it is a challenge. All the streets were originally cow paths. I must say that it is worse than Chicago. At least in Chicago, if you miss your destination, you can simply go around the block. Whereas in Boston, you lose an hour trying to relocate your destination if you miss the turn off.

When our son went to school in Boston, we had become rather well acquainted with the town. So, we walked around the water front, Newberry St, Quincy market etc., and carefully examined all the hats, tee shirts and other tourist trivia that was available. Both of us had the courage to pass on this Americana that was made in China.

After Boston, we sailed to Portland, Maine. We had opted for a 'culinary excursion'. Unfortunately, it was only missing one thing – the tour guide. We ate one mini lobster roll before the entire tour was cancelled.

Our next destination was the Bay of Fundy in Saint John's Newfoundland. When we took our classes about tides, it struck me that I really wanted to see the 13 meter (40 foot for Americans) rise and fall of the tide. Note that when the captain gets on the intercom to say that 'we have a bit of a problem', one should understand that this is also usually a huge understatement. The problem boiled down to this: The weather was awful. It was 40 degrees Fahrenheit with a mild 40 mile per hour breeze. The boat was unable to dock. We left the Bay of Fundy being completely unfulfilled, and unable to see this natural phenomena. I was greatly disappointed.

The next day our boat had a scheduled 'sea day.' That is no stops, just cruising on the 10' waves, gray sky, 4 degree Celsius (40 degree Fahrenheit) weather with those 40 mph breezes. It was chilly inside the boat. I was wearing my alert orange zip up Skokie Valley hoodie. I had selected the alert orange color so that in the event of an accident, it would be easier to locate me in the water. I also wear alert yellow caps / winter beanies for the same reason. Simply put, it has been shown that these colors are the safest and easiest to see.

On this day we were walking through the dining area and a couple spotted the orange hoodie, noting the Skokie Valley Power Squadron logo on the garment. They said that they were somehow familiar with it. To our surprise, it was Pat and Dave Jorgensen. Previously, Pat had been the secretary of our squadron. We dined with them several times on the cruise. It was quite fun.

The cruise continued to Halifax, Saguenay and Quebec City. We enjoyed the ghost tour of old Quebec City, the old French fort in Halifax and all the quaint shops in Saguenay. Each of these stops somehow reminded me of touring small towns in the U.S. in the 1960's. They were fun, relaxing, civilized and really nice.

When we were there, the exchange rate – American dollars to Canadian dollars was about 30% in favor of the U.S. dollar. Canadian dollars are called 'Loonies' because there are drawings of Loon waterfowls on the bill. Although we wanted to bring back souvenirs, there were just a very few things that appealed to us. There were red baseball caps emblazoned with 'Canada Is Not for Sale' that evoked a chuckle, but could not really call our name. Despite the currency advantage, I could not even find merchandise from local Canadian junior league hockey teams to bring back.

Was it a good vacation? Absolutely yes, we enjoyed it. The boat was quite stable in 20 foot waves. The food was pretty good. The nine o'clock shows in the auditorium were entertaining. The other passengers were all very nice. We even did pretty well in the Trivia Contests.

We came back rested, and relaxed. On the way back into the good old U.S.A. even the American Customs and Border Police were nice. In fact, I thanked them for their service and told them that I was happy to see them on the dock - but not on the streets of our cities.



SVPS 2026 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
Sunday January 18th	Dinner Meeting	Sal & Tony, Buffalo Grove	Ron & Joanne Zingler
Sunday, January 25th	Waukegan Change of Watch	Dover Straits, Mundelein	Waukegan SPS
January 28-February 1	Chicago Boat Show	Donald E Stephens, Rosemont	District 20 Booth
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	Lake Michigan Fishing Derby & North Point Sundowner	North Point Marina	Dave & Sue Anthony
June 18-20 June 25-27 July 2-4	Summerfest Milwaukee Cruise	McKinley Harbor, Milwaukee WI	McKinley Harbor Reserve Early January 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



February Dinner Meeting—Feb 22, 3 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**

<u>Executive Committee</u>		<u>Rules Committee</u>
Commander	Frank D'Amico, AP	Dennis McNamara, SN
Executive Officer	Dan Luczak, S	Natalie Witty, JN
Education Officer	Gary Raphael, AP	Ron Dziagwa
Asst. Education Officer	Stuart Zwang, SN-CN	
Administrative Officer	Ron Zingler, AP-IN	<u>Audit Committee</u>
Secretary	Karen D'Amico, AP	Gail Sidman, S (Chair)
Treasurer	Sue Anthony, P	Richard Davidson, SN-ACN
Immediate Past Cdr	Tony Palazzo, AP	LeRoy Stevens
Elected Member	Deb Adam, S	
Elected Member	Rich Barta, AP	<u>Nominating Committee</u>
Elected Member	Lenore Stevens	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

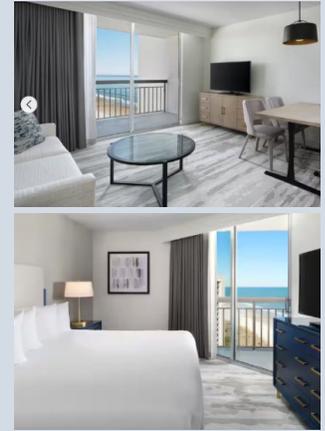
**Vote at our February 22nd
Dinner Meeting**

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
 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.

January Anniversaries

Charles Pratt	2025	1 yr
Sandra Frankenbush	2006	20 yrs
Nancy Sibrava-Koenen	1983	43 yrs
Gerald Grofman	1972	54 yrs
Nelson Rodelius	1970	56 yrs

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

CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ



Outboard Winterization: Gear case oil should be changed each fall. If water has entered, the oil will look ____; it could freeze and expand, damaging seals or cracking the case itself.

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor
 Courtesy of Perchant Publishing

Team North Shore

Executive Committee Meeting: **Wednesday, January 7 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)

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:

milky

Editor and Publisher

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

Contributing Editors

P/C Ron Zingler, AP-IN
P/D/Lt/C Stuart Zwang, SN-CN

Photographers

P/C Richard Calfa, N
P/C Ron Zingler, AP-IN

Production Staff

Cdr Frank D'Amico, AP



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