





SKOKIE VALLEY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter - Volume 25 Issue 3

Running Lights

March 2025

D20 Spring Conference & Change of Watch March 28-29, 2025—Holiday Inn, Elgin

Friday 3/28:

Evening— Murder mystery activity & hospitality suites



Saturday 3/29:

Morning— keynote with Ron Luttrell, lighthouse docent & maritime historian

Afternoon— Conference meeting

Evening— Change of Watch dinner where our Commander D'Amico will be sworn in as District Commander





A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER

Spring is around the corner and I am looking forward to a few upcoming activities. First, let me recap what happened in February.

Karen and I attended the Annual Meeting in Orlando. We heard about progress made regarding insurance, including coverage for public classes and advance grades / seminars held in instructors' homes. There is an insurance form on the member website and in iMIS that needs to be completed and sent to Core Insurance Group before the class begins. The form can also be used to request special events insurance quotes. D/C Jesse Bowen, JN will be recapping this information at the D20 Spring Conference.

Regarding iMIS, progress is slowly being made toward Squadron reports and District reports. I highly recommend that everyone log into iMIS and snoop around. It's the best way to become acquainted with this new system.

Our Marketing agency, Marine SEO, held workshops on the progress and results achieved working with Squadrons and Districts. Karen has been working with them to optimize our Facebook page and Marine SEO is posting weekly on our page to generate interest in our organization.

Our General Meeting at Mi Mexico in Buffalo Grove was well attended. The food and drinks were very good and everyone enjoyed the atmosphere. The meeting was brief, but we did have a quorum to conduct the election for the 2025-2026 Slate of Officers and Committees. Congratulations to the Bridge and Committees. We are looking forward to serving Skokie Valley Sail & Power Squadron for another year. Remember to save the date for our Change of Watch on Sunday April 6th. Look for details and reservation details in this edition of the "Running Lights".

Now, back to March; a very busy month. The Conference committee and those wanting to help with the D20 Spring Conference have been working diligently. We will be meeting again on March 8 at my home in Hoffman Estates. We'll be serving lunch at noon and finalizing the details for Friday night's Wild West Murder Mystery event, hospitality room, Saturday's lunch, Conference, and the Change of Watch dinner. Rooms reservations can be made online at [this link](#) (Group Code: USP); or by calling 847.488.9000 and saying you are part of "United States Power Squadron District 20" to receive the discounted rate. Lunch and dinner information is printed in this edition of the "Running Lights". Please send me your reservation form right away so we get updated attendance count.

I'm also looking forward to attending the play at Marriott Theatre Lincolnshire. Thanks to Dave & Sue Anthony for organizing it and dinner afterwards. Come and enjoy these activities and celebrate with the new D20 Bridge members.



America's Boating Club North Shore 2024-2025 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, 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



March 2025

5	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting - page 5
8	Sat	Conference Planning Meeting, 1200	D'Amico House, Hoffman Estates - page 5
15	Sat	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
16	Sun	Marriott Theatre Show	Marriott, Lincolnshire - page 8
29	Sat	March Member Meeting, 4:30 PM	Holiday Inn, SVPS Hospitality Suite
28-29	Fri-Sat	D20 Conference & Change of Watch	Holiday Inn, Elgin - page 4

April 2025

2	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting - page 5
6	Sun	Change of Watch Dinner	Dover Straits - page 10
15	Sat	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)

Murder Mystery at Gravestone Saloon Friday, March 28, 7:00-9:00 PM

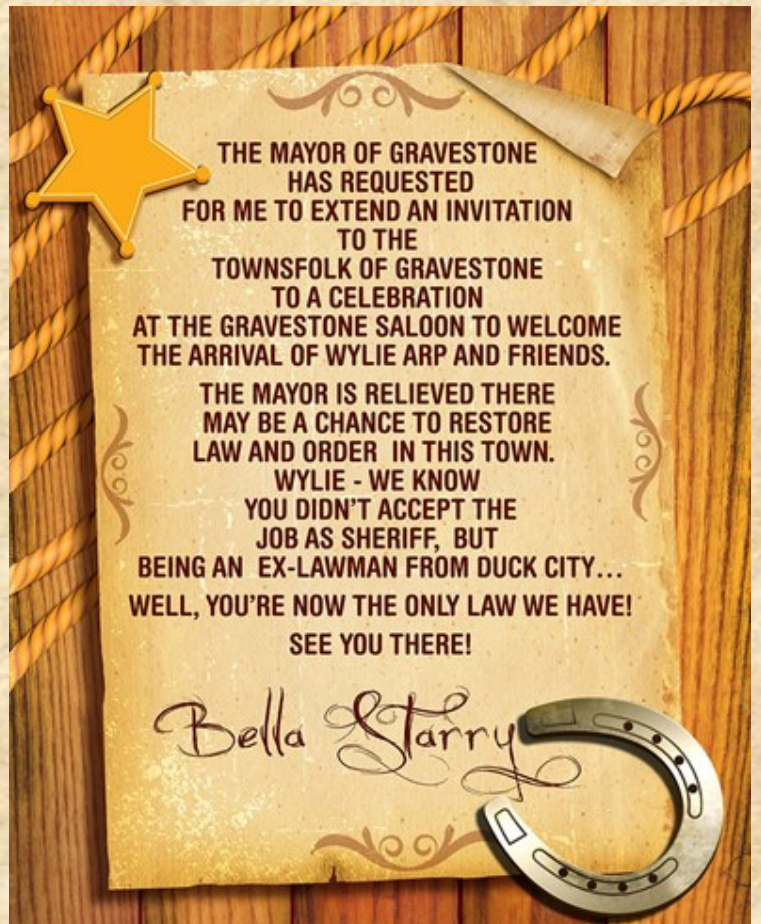
You don't want to miss the Wild West Murder Mystery Show Skokie Valley is planning Friday night at the D20 Spring Conference. The activity will be in the Conference Center at the Holiday Inn Elgin.

The town of Gravestone is overrun by The Ranchers Outlaws—a sorted group of cattle rustlers, thieves and murders who have invaded the now lawless town of Gravestone. Everyone is hoping Wylie Arp, ex-lawman from Duck City, will take the job as sheriff. Well...not everyone.

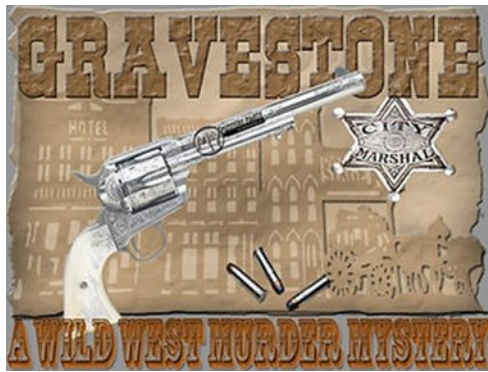
There will be a cash bar, specialty cocktails, and saloon platters (potato skins, cheeseburgers, onion rings, egg rolls, and chicken quesadillas). There is even rumors of codes hidden around town leading to hidden treasure in the Gravestone caves.

Optional attire: western-style shirt, bandana, jeans, cowboy hat, or boots.

After the show, Dave & Sue Anthony will be hosting our hospitality suite at the hotel.



Holiday Inn Elgin - 495 Airport Road, Elgin IL



**WILD WEST
MURDER
MYSTERY**
JOIN IN FOR A
"WILD" GOOD
TIME!



**DISTRICT 20 Spring
CONFERENCE**

28 - 29 March 2025

**HOLIDAY INN & SUITES
CHICAGO NORTHWEST - ELGIN**

**495 Airport Road Elgin, Illinois
60123**

Room Rates: King Standard \$115 per night, Double Queen Standard \$125 per night, Junior King Suite \$129 per Night, and King Executive Suite \$135 per night. Room block is limited.

Make reservations by 13 March: use this link: [United States Power Squadron District 20](#) **Group Code: USP** or call 847-488-9000 and reference "United States Power Squadron District 20" to receive the discounted rate.

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

Lunch: Price \$32.00 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 Cream of chicken & wild rice soup, rolls, seasonal vegetables, potatoes, and NY cheesecake. Coffee and soft drinks.

- #1 _____ \$50.00 Chicken Marsala
- #2 _____ \$55.00 Grilled Salmon
- #3 _____ \$58.00 Grilled Ribeye

No. Attending	Total
_____ x \$32.00 Lunch	\$ _____
_____ Dinner Cost	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

Make checks payable to: Skokie Valley Power Squadron

Registration and check should be sent by **Wednesday, March 12, 2025** to:

Frank D'Amico
1240 Bison Lane
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192

Schedule of Events

Friday 28 March

- 1500 — 1800 Registration (Conference Center)
- 1830 — 2100 Cocktails/Cash Bar
- 1900 — 2100 Wild West Murder Mystery
- 2100 — 2300 Hospitality Suites

Saturday 29 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, Ron Luttrell, Maritime Historian
- 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 Western attire or casual
- Saturday: Uniform G (short sleeve shirt, no tie or Suitable business casual attire
- Banquet USPS dress uniform or suitable attire



SVPS 2025 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
Sunday March 16th	Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat	Marriott Lincolnshire Theatre	Dave & Sue Anthony
Friday-Sunday March 28-30	District 20 Spring Conference & Change of Watch	Holiday Inn, Elgin	District 20/Skokie Valley
Sunday April 6th	SVPS Change of Watch	Dover Straits, Mundelein	Frank D'Amico
Sunday May 18th	Dinner Meeting	Foxtail on the Lake, Des Plaines	Ron Zingler
Saturday May 31st	Lake Michigan Fishing Derby & North Point Sundowner	North Point Marina	Dave & Sue Anthony
July 2-6	Summerfest Milwaukee Cruise	McKinley Harbor, Milwaukee WI 414-273-5224	Ron Zingler
TBD	Lake Michigan Summer Cruise	TBD	
July 19-20	Milwaukee Air and Water	McKinley Harbor	Info Only
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 25-26	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

D20 Spring Conference Planning

Want to help with the D20 Spring Conference? Come to the next planning meeting. Saturday March 8, 2025. Lunch will be served at high noon.



D'Amico home: 1240 Bison Lane, Hoffman Estates

Please RSVP to kdamico@ameritech.net so we know how many are coming.

Team North Shore

Executive Committee Meeting: **March 5 at 7:00 pm Central**

Zoom Meeting ID: **868 7111 5662**, Passcode: **485679**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86871115662?pwd=Kf8CPv4F2vg7Kf17AqutbO2Vjm8Ns6.1>

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

One tap mobile: +13126266799,,86871115662#,,,,*485679# US (Chicago)

New Interactive Local Notice to Mariners Website Announced

Submitted by P/D/C Dennis McNamara, JN

The Coast Guard recently updated the user interface to the Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) and Light List (LL) App in an effort to modernize and improve the overall user experience for mariners. This updated LNM and LL App was released the week of Dec. 2. The upgrades are designed to improve accessibility, accuracy, and efficiency for mariners and stakeholders by providing real-time, customizable marine safety information.



Beginning in January 2025, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Coast Survey discontinued the production of paper charts. Due to this change, the Coast Guard transitioned from the traditional, paper-based files, which were inefficient and posed challenges for mariners needing timely, accurate information.

The new Local Notice to Mariners interface provides access to the most up to date marine safety information. It is available in a customizable, chart-based and interactive format. Additionally, the data can be presented in a variety of formats, such as an interactive map feature, table, or document.

Coast Guard District Seven collaborated with the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center to redesign the LNM and Light List Apps. **Key actions included:**

- ⇒ Transitioning from static, paper-based charts to interactive maps using official waterway names.
- ⇒ Implementing real-time updates: LNMs refresh every 15 minutes, and Light List data updates every 24 hours following verification.
- ⇒ Creating features for users to customize, filter, and print maritime safety data tailored to specific voyages.
- ⇒ Eliminating weekly files, including LNMs and Light List corrections, to focus resources on delivering accurate, up-to-the-minute data.

The updated platform provides mariners with unparalleled access to critical navigation tools:

- ◆ Near real-time updates ensure the most current and verified safety information is always available.
- ◆ Mariners can now access Marine Safety Information in a format of their choosing, including online, printable, or geospatial software integrations.
- ◆ Customizable features allow users to generate tailored safety information lists, streamlining voyage planning and improving operational efficiency.

Important changes for Mariners:

1. Transition from Paper Charts: As NOAA phases out paper charts, the Coast Guard is adopting official waterway names for navigation references.
2. [Interactive Maps](#): LNMs and Light Lists are now displayed on a user-friendly, interactive map.
3. Real-time Updates: LNMs update every 15 minutes, and Light Lists every 24 hours.
4. Customizable Access: Users can create and print lists tailored to their voyages or download the entire LNM.
5. [Sign up](#) to receive notices whenever the latest LLMs are posted using their one-way email service.

For more information, visit the [U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center](#). Here is the link to view the [Maritime Safety Information Products](#) such as the interactive maps and other formats mentioned above. A PDF [user guide](#) can also be viewed on the site. Questions can be submitted through the [Contact Us](#) page by selecting 'LNMs or Light Lists' from the dropdown menu.

This modernization represents a significant leap in maritime safety, aligning the Coast Guard with cutting-edge navigation technology to ensure the safety and efficiency of mariners worldwide.

CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ



PHOTO: COURTESY OF BERTRAM YACHTS

After winter layup, your boat's head is not working. You determine the discharge line is clogged with waste. Your best approach is to flush the line with a mild solution of: **sulphuric acid, muriatic acid or lye/vinegar.**

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing

Legislative Report from the desk of P/D/C Dennis McNamara, JN

Following is a list of projects in the area for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Fox River Connectivity & Habitat Study, IL

The Fox River Connectivity and Habitat Study Area includes a reach of 10 dams from Algonquin in McHenry County to the Montgomery Dam in Kane County. The results of this study can lead to a project that would result in habitat restoration, fish and mussel recolonization, water quality improvement and enhance human safety.

Current Status: Team has completed the Draft Fox River Connectivity & Habitat Study and has tentatively selected full removal as the preferred alternative and has conducted public meetings to gather local input. Proposed activities for FY24 include coordination with project stakeholders as well as federal, state, and local agencies.

Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (CSSC) Dispersal Barriers

The CSSC is a man-made waterway that connects the Chicago and the Des Plaines Rivers forming an aquatic connection between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River basin. Dispersal barriers were constructed to generate an in-water electric field to prevent the spread of invasive fish species between these watersheds. A demonstration dispersal barrier (Barrier I) has been operating since 2002. A more permanent dispersal barrier was constructed in two segments, Barriers IIA and IIB, which began full-time operation in 2009 and 2011, respectively. Construction of a more permanent Barrier I, which includes two new electrodes arrays and the original demonstration barrier with upgrades, is underway.

Current Status: Construction carry-in funds are being used to equip the Barrier I southern electrode array, conduct equipment testing, and continue real estate acquisition activities. O&M budget amount is being used to continue operation and maintenance of Barriers I and II, and maintenance of measures installed to prevent bypasses around the barriers during flood events. O&M funded activities include oversight of the IIA enclosure project, site paving, system cooling upgrades, and installation of non-conductive fencing.

T.J. O'Brien Lock

The T.J. O'Brien Lock and Controlling Works is located at the entrance to Lake Michigan (River Mile 326.0), Calumet River, in Chicago, Illinois. The facility is a unit of the Inland Waterway Navigation System and is one of nine such facilities between Chicago and Versailles, Illinois. O'Brien Lock is a low lift sector gate lock. It provides a maximum lift of 5.0 feet for traffic passing from Lake Michigan to the Little Calumet River. The lock chamber is 1,000 feet long by 110 feet wide. The adjacent dam is 257 feet in length and comprised of two sections. The fixed section is 204 feet of steel sheet pile cellular construction.

T.J. O'Brien Lock and Controlling Works were placed into operation in 1960. After more than 60 years of service, reliability of operations is a recurring challenge posing significant risks to navigation users of the Illinois Waterway. A Major Rehabilitation Evaluation Report was approved in 2005. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provided funding for major rehab (FY22 CG) and major maintenance (FY23 O&M) activities.

Current Status: Site investigations are underway by an A-E contractor. Results of the investigations will inform future activities, including a design charrette and value engineering meeting in Winter 2023 to determine the best course of action for the TJO Lock Rehab. Scour protection design efforts are underway, with a contract award scheduled for 2QFY24.

Kenosha Harbor

This harbor is a deep draft commercial harbor that primarily serves recreational users, but also supports transitory barge traffic. Project depth is generally between 25 and 27 feet. There are approximately 3,123 feet of breakwater and pier structures as well as 5,000 feet of maintained federal channel. Infrequent maintenance dredging is required at the outer end of the entrance channel. The harbor was last dredged in 2021.

This project serves as an important harbor of refuge and supports charter fishing and recreational navigation interests. The harbor community has established significant infrastructure around the harbor facilities that generates income from harbor users and visitors to the area. U.S. Coast Guard Station Kenosha is also located within the harbor.

Current Status: Planned work includes preparation of plans and specifications for dredging activities in the outer harbor and award of a construction contract.

March Anniversaries

Kathy Parker	1997	28 yrs
Richard Elesh	1969	57 yrs

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



February Member Dinner Meeting & Elections



Rich Davidson



Deb Adam, Gail Sidman



Ron Dziagwa, LeRoy Stevens



Lenore Stevens, Joe Paldo



Chuck Burger, Gary Vinzant



Karen & Frank D'Amico



Don Sidman, Ray Adam, Rich Barta



Marriott Lincolnshire
Ten Marriott Drive
Lincolnshire, IL 60069

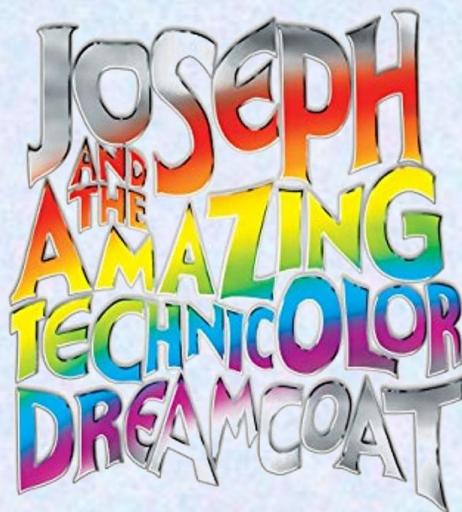
SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 11:30 AM

**Initial blocks of tickets were purchased
(tickets subject to availability)**

The play starts at 1:00 pm on Sunday

**We will meet 11:30-12:00 at Wrights Brew & Bistro
inside the Marriott Hotel before the play
to pick up tickets and have cocktails**

Contact Sue Anthony at 224-402-3107



**Meet for dinner after the play
Reservations at 3:15 pm**

**Half Day Brewing Company
200 Village Street, Lincolnshire
(5 min north of the Marriott)**



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America's Boating Club North Shore Change of Watch Sunday April 6th



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

Join us for the 2025 Change of Watch
as we celebrate the events of
the past year and swear in our
Bridge Officers for the coming year

Cocktails at 1PM; Dinner at 2 PM

We will order from the menu, separate checks



RSVP to Frank D'Amico
by Sunday March 30
fdamico@ameritech.net
or 224-238-7372

Richard J. Calfa

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66/19

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Tell Your Story

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:
Muriatic acid



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