



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



**SKOKIE VALLEY SAIL
AND POWER SQUADRON**

DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter - Volume 25 Issue 10

Running Lights

October 2025

Make Reservations for the Fall...

**Lake Geneva Fall Colors
Brunch Cruise
Sunday, October 19, 2025**



**D20 Fall Conference
& October Member Meeting
Saturday, October 25, 2025**

United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club®



A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER

October is here and autumn colors are just around the corner. The boating season is wrapping up with boats getting ready for their long winter sleep. October through the end of the year will be busy. We have a Fall Color brunch cruise on Lake Geneva planned this month (Oct 19th) and the District Fall Conference (Oct. 25th).

We resumed our general membership meetings in September at Reflections in Lake Villa. It was great to see everyone again. As always, the food and company was terrific. Thanks Ron and Joanne for planning this dinner and for all that attended. There are some great pictures in this issue; check them out. As most know, I like to keep squadron business to the Executive Meetings, however we did have a piece of business at the meeting. Dennis McNamara from the Rules Committee presented the published bylaws changes to handle future distribution of Skokie Valleys' assets; these were voted on and passed. Rest assured Skokie Valley is not going anywhere, but we are prepared.

The D20 Fall Conference will be a one day event at Holiday Inn & Suites in Elgin. We will be celebrating Squadron's educational programs. The Friendship room will be open at 7:30 am for those early morning arrivals and those stay Friday night before. DEO Fred Schuster, JN will have a meeting with all the SEOs 9:00 am to 10:15am; it is focused on educational topics, and everyone is welcome. Following his session, I will be discussing various items from the recent Governing Board meeting. Lunch will be at noon (make your lunch reservation with the form in this edition) and the Fall Conference will begin at 1:15pm. Business, awards and the Chief Commander's message will be part of the afternoon agenda. I hope this format will incite members locally and within driving distance to come out and spend one day with fellow members.

For anyone planning to come to the conference early, we will have a Friday night dinner that is open to all—Karen has accepted the responsibility to take reservations for it. After dinner, for those who wish to join us, Sue and Dave Anthony have graciously invited everyone back to their room for a night cap. Thank you Sue & Dave.

Our General Membership meeting for October will be held immediately following the Fall Conference on Saturday. It will be in Sue and Dave's room again. There was mention of ordering pizza, but you did not hear it from me.

Our SEO Chuck Burger started the Marine Navigation class this past weekend. Our Public Boating and Advance Grade Chair Gary Raphael, AP is busy preparing for the public America's Boating Club class in Wilmette in October.

Finally, even though Tony and Susan's Great Loop Trip was put on hold for this year, Tony has written a great article with pictures about the beginning of their trip. Thank you Tony for providing that article and to all that contribute to the Running Lights each month. It goes without saying, many thanks to Karen for putting this all together and making the Running Lights what it is.



America's Boating Club North Shore 2025-2026 Bridge

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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
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	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



October 2025

1	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting - page 10
15	Wed	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
19	Sun	Lake Geneva Brunch Cruise	Lake Geneva, WI - page 7
25	Sat	D20 Fall Conference; October Member Meeting	Holiday Inn Elgin - page 8

November 2025

5	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting - page 10
9	Sun	November Anniversary Member Meeting	Dover Straits - below
15	Sat	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
19	Wed	Cruise Planning Meeting, 7:00 PM	Zingler's House - page 10

November Anniversary Meeting

Sunday 9 November

2 PM Cocktails; 3 PM Dinner



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

Our 64th 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 with cash bar and separate checks



RSVP to Ron Zingler
by November 4th
zingleron@comcast.net
847.634.3806

The Great Loop Adventure Begins, by Tony Palazzo

It was a long time planning and finally the 2025 season was here. Sue and I planned to retire and do America's Great Loop cruise. Our good friends at Skokie Valley Power Squadron gave us the best party and send off we could imagine. Even inviting our children Stephanie and Michael to fly in to join us. Thank you Ron and Joanne Zingler. Thank You Dave and Sue for the decorations. We had a great time celebrating with our good friends and had a great dinner.

Our boat was finally running great and everything was set to start our great adventure. The next days were spent finalizing our preparations to leave our dirt home behind; forward mail, electronic payments for everything else, the list is very long. Needless to say Sue was very busy finalizing everything including retiring from her job of over 25 years.

We drove to Southport to live on the boat until departure day. My son took the train to Southport Marina and then returned our car to our home. He then took a flight to return home to Arizona. Then we started to watch the weather to pick a day to leave. We monitor 5 different weather apps to check on the status for the best day to leave. All looked good for a Thursday September 4th departure day.

At 5:00 am, we woke and prepared to leave. This is the big day. As day light arrived at 6:00 we pulled away from our dock and headed out to lake Michigan on a course to Navy Pier Chicago. The waves were rougher than anticipated but we expected them to diminish as time went on. So we headed toward Chicago. Unexpectedly we experienced waves getting larger and larger. Determined to press on, we pounded and fought the waves that eventually got to 4 to 5 feet. It was a long 2.5 hours in the harsh conditions, but the break wall at Navy Pier was visible and a sigh of relief was felt.



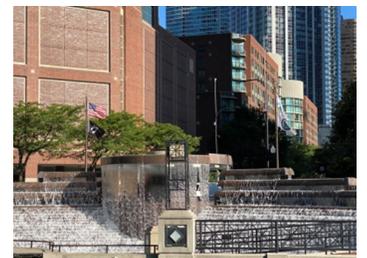
When entering the breakaway the waves were calm and we were finally in a protected area. We called the Chicago lockmaster and he promptly opened the lock for us. After waiting a few minutes, 4 more Loppers followed in, they were in transit from Du Sable Harbor. We locked thru and the beautiful city of Chicago and all the tall buildings were before us. The primary building you notice is of course Trump Hotel. The Trump sign is huge. We lowered our radar dome and proceeded thru all the low bridges. Traversing thru the city was extremely rewarding, as the beauty of the city of Chicago is amazing



We continued thru the river at 7 MPH... yes I said 7 MPH. This apparently is the pace the group travels at. Occasionally we hit 9 MPH. The views were great and it was a pleasant trip even though the temperature was only 50 degrees. We got to a railroad bridge that had stopped working and we were unable to pass. Therefore, we decided to dock where there was space. After 2 hours, the construction worker was able to make the bridge operational and we passed thru it. Great, the trip is on again.



After a scenic many hours later, we got to Lockport Lock. Again there was a delay of 1 to 2 hours because a barge was in the lock coming our way. We proceeded to try to tie up to the outer lock wall and wait. When Susan thru a line over the large barge cleat, a gust of wind blew us against the wall and we bounced off the fenders. Sue was on the walk near the steps leading to the walk around. She was trying to regain her footing but when she stepped



back, the stairs were there and she fell backwards down the stairs. This happened so fast. We assessed her injuries. In addition to bumping her head, she pulled muscles in both legs, and bruised her hip. She was in pain but she said we will try to continue. The wind this day was sustained 15 MPH and gusts to 30 MPH.

When the barge finally got thru the lock, it was our turn. There was 6 or 7 Lopper Boats in the lock and we were last. The lock door closed and there was a lot of debris in the rear of the lock where we were.



SVPS 2025 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
Sunday October 19	Lake Geneva Boat Cruise Tour— Sunday Brunch	Lake Geneva, WI	Frank D’Amico
Saturday October 25	District 20 Fall Conference	Holiday Inn, Elgin	District 20
Sunday November 9	Anniversary Dinner	Dover Straits	Ron Zingler
Sunday December 7	Commanders Holiday Party	Hoffman Estates	Frank D’Amico



Concerned but not knowing what else we can do, we started the engines and got out of the lock. Unfortunately, the debris from the lock plugged our Starboard Engine intake and the engine got above operating temperature. We turned off the engine immediately and proceeded to Joliet Wall on one engine. I was relieved to be tied up after 12 hours of windy navigation and an injured first mate.

We had a nice evening talking to all the Loppers in Joliet. There were 13 boats tied up when we arrived. It was interesting to hear all the stories from the other Loopers, as some started in Florida, some in New York and some in Canada. All had interesting stories to tell and the comradery was instant. Boaters are a great group. Always willing to help.

The next day the wind was the same 15 MPH with 30 MPH gusts so we decided to stay and rest after a grueling previous day on the water.

The next day the wind was calm and temperature 50 degrees. So we headed out at 6:00am past the first 2 bridges into another Lock. We were in the lock with 8 Looper boats, and the lock went relatively smooth. Again we proceeded to the next lock at 7 MPH. It was a cold but scenic trip. Heavy barge traffic. The second lock that day also went very smooth and we proceed heading toward Heritage Harbor. One more lock and we are there.

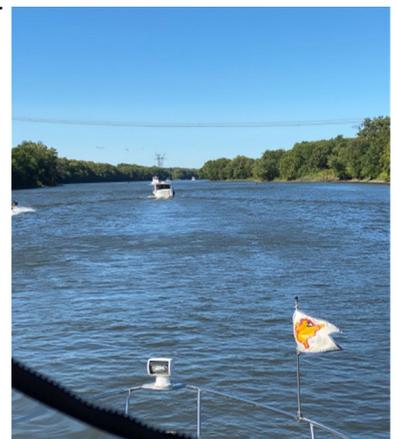
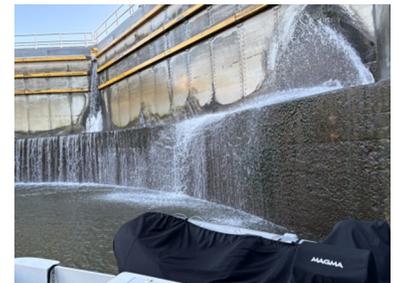
We arrived at the Marseilles Lock a few hours later only to find out there was a double barge in the chamber and another single barge waiting. They said 4-hour wait. This was too long of a wait for us. We decided to go back in the opposite direction, back to Spring Brook Marina as we know the marina and the staff there. We filled our tanks with fuel and booked a slip for the night.

While relaxing that afternoon, we started to see that Susan’s injuries were more serious and the pain was getting worse. Her legs started to bruise up. She also hit her head and we were concerned that there could be a head injury. We started to assess how to get home to see a doctor. No Uber or rental car for 30 miles.

Unexpectedly we receive a text from Christine and Larry March; how are things going? We gave her an update on our situation. Without hesitation, they got in their car and drove 3 hours to pick us up. (They had just arrived home from Sturgeon Bay) Talk about true friendship. On the way, we all had dinner together at Giacomo’s. Then Christine and Larry dropped us off at home. Because our house was winterized and no water, we traveled back to Spring Brook Marina and spent the night on the boat. Next day we drove home and arranged to have x-rays and CT scan to assess Susan’s Injuries. The Doctor told us she has pulled muscles in her legs and a bruised hip, but no head injuries. She should heal in 6 to 8 weeks.

We have to put safety ahead of our goal of proceeding with the loop. Unfortunately, the loop must be on hold until next year, as the period for winter is fast approaching. Our trip was fun and miserable at the same time.

In conclusion, I want to thank all our friends at Skokie Valley Power Squadron for all your good wishes. We are blessed to have such a great group of friends.

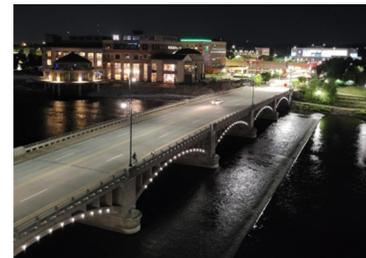




America's Boating Club Fall Governing Board Meeting, Grand Rapids.

Frank and I arrived in Grand Rapids on Thursday September 4th. The event was hosted at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, which has a very interesting history. In 1976, the Amway Corporation acquired and restored the historic Hotel Pantlind that was built in 1916—it is quite spectacular. They reopened and added the Glass Tower in 1983.

Since Frank is also the District Commander, we had a Jr suite on the Tower side with a huge balcony overlooking the Grand River. The bridges along the river were beautiful all lit up at night.



Thursday night we attended the Welcome Dinner at the hotel. The food was excellent all weekend. After dinner we played a fun game of "60s Bingo" where you had to fill in the squares if you knew the name of the song.

Most of the committee meetings were scheduled on Friday. Frank had an all day meeting for the District Commanders to discuss everything going on in America's Boating Club and Squadrons across the country. I attended the Marketing Committee and Communications Committee meetings in the morning.

My sister lives in Grand Rapids, so I met up with her for lunch downtown on Friday. After lunch I set up our suite for the evening hospitality, where District 20 welcomed all the members attending the conference. Eight districts hosted hospitality suites, including ours. Coming from Chicago, we brought Portillos Italian Beef; the food was a big hit! Our suite was packed from 6-8 pm. We had the chance to socialize with National Officers, our D20 friends, and all the USPS members who visited, including Pat Antoni and Cindy Geske who drove up from Tampa. The weather was a little cool and windy that evening along the river to open the doors to the balcony, but many people stepped out to enjoy the view.

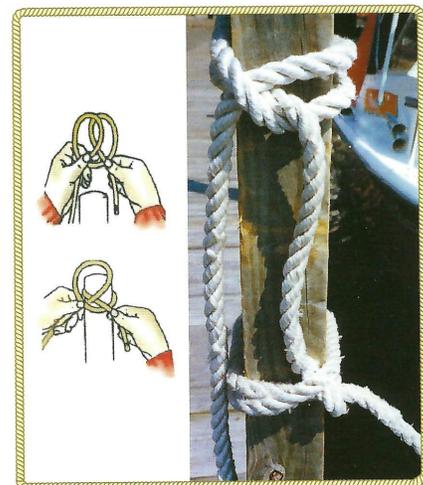


Saturday morning was the main meeting of the Governing Board with the National Bridge shown here. That is a typical conference meeting with reports from all the Bridge Officers, awards, and honored guests. We attended the members luncheon, and then in the evening the banquet dinner. After dinner, we saw the Sweet Adelines sing barbershop-style

harmony. There were over 30 women and they were fantastic. If you ever have an opportunity to see our local chapter (the Melodeers Chorus in Wheeling), I highly recommend it. Do you remember when Skokie Valley arranged the Sweet Adelines for one of our D20 conferences? The Sommerfeld's daughter was a member.



CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ



Some docks don't have cleats and utilize posts for boat mooring. In this situation, two _____ can be easily "looped" over the top of the post to secure the boat.

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing

October Anniversaries

LeRoy & Lenore Stevens	2024	1 yr
Catherine Westphal	2007	18 yrs
Marilyn Calfa	2003	22 yrs
Carol Cleave	1982	43 yrs

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



Lake Geneva Fall Colors Cruise

Sunday, October 19, 2025

11:00 AM - 1:15 PM

On the Grand Belle of Geneva enjoy a delicious brunch buffet during a narrated, two-hour boat cruise around the entire lake.



Cost is \$69 per person or \$67 for seniors 65+, plus tax and 18% gratuity. Includes narrated cruise, brunch buffet, and full cash bar available on board.

Book early before they sell out! We reserved a group on the main level where brunch is served. Call 800-558-5911 or use the link below to purchase a ticket for the Sunday Brunch Buffet cruise.

<https://www.cruiselakegeneva.com/public-tours/sunday-brunch-buffet/>

When making your reservation, add comment to "seat with Karen D'Amico"

We will meet at the Riviera Docks in downtown Lake Geneva 10:30 am.

Boarding begins at 10:45 am.

Riviera Docks: 812 Wrigley Drive,
Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

Paid parking is available via metered kiosks in 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

SUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET CRUISE MENU

Scrambled Eggs with Shredded Cheese and Salsa

Vegetable Quiche

Chicken Breakfast Sausage

Sliced Ham

Hashbrown Casserole

Creamy Pepper Gravy with Buttermilk Biscuits

Mixed Green Salad with Ranch and Balsamic Vinaigrette

Cheese Blintzes with Fruit Sauce

Belgian Waffles

Fresh Fruit

Scones, Donut Holes, Mini Danishes, and Kringle

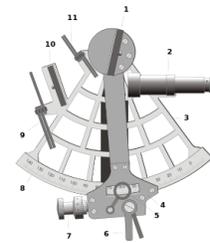
Granola, Yogurt, and Berry Parfait

Selection of Sweets

Cancel up to 48 hrs in advance for full refund



DISTRICT 20 FALL CONFERENCE AND EDUCATIONAL AWARDS 25 October 2025



**HOLIDAY INN & SUITES
495 Airport Road Elgin, Illinois 60123**

Limited rooms are available for those who wish to spend Friday night. King \$124 per night. Two Queen beds \$129 per night. Book online ([using this link](#)) or call 847-488-9000, and mention "United States Power Squadron District 20 Fall Conference" to secure the discounted price. **MAKE RESERVATIONS BY 10 OCTOBER!**

Rank	Name	Grade	Squadron	Email	Telephone

Lunch Choices: Cost \$33.00 each

Includes potato soup, regular & decaf coffee, and soda

Mark your choice

_____ **1. Kilkenny's Chicken Salad**—Crispy chicken with greens, bacon, Colby cheese, eggs & tomatoes. Served with smokey honey Dijon dressing

_____ **2. Turkey O'Toole**— Sliced turkey breast, Swiss cheese & smokey honey Dijon dressing on a pretzel bun. Served with French fries and a pickle.

_____ **3. Famous Monte Cristo**—Honey wheat bread layered with ham, turkey, Swiss and American cheeses. Battered dipped, fried and coated with powdered sugar. Served with raspberry preserves for dipping, fries and a pickle.

Number Attending
 _____ x \$33.00 per Lunch order
 \$_____ Total Cost

****Staying Friday night? Join us for dinner at Jimmy's Charhouse, 2990 Point Blvd, Elgin, IL**

Schedule of Events

Friday 24 October

1830 — 2000 Dinner at Jimmy's Charhouse**

****RSVP to Karen D'Amico at
 kdamico@ameritech.net
 Or 224-238-7372 by October 19**

Saturday 25 October

0730 — 0900 Friendship/Registration

0900 — 1015 Education Dept. Meeting

- 1030 — 1145 Presentations from Governing Board
- Direct to Squadron membership
 - Bylaws update—associate members
 - D & O insurance recommendations
 - Marketing/Facebook updates

1200 — 1315 Lunch

1315 — 1330 Verification of Delegates

1330 — 1530 Fall Conference

Immediately following the Fall Conference on Saturday, Skokie Valley will hold our monthly member meeting in our hospitality suite

Dress Code:

Saturday: USPS/America's Boating Club
 Casual attire

Registration RSVP and check must be received by 15 October 2025

Mail to: Clint Rahn (cssrahn@gmail.com) or
 340 Wethington Dr—Unit D
 Waconda, IL 60084

Make checks payable to:
 Waukegan Power Squadron
 Or Zelle payment to WSPS6125@gmail.com

September Member Meeting

It was nice gathering again as our monthly membership meetings resume after the summer break. Reflections was beautifully decorated for the fall season and the traditional polish cuisine was great as always.



Karen & Frank D'Amico



Dave & Sue Anthony



Chris & Dan Luczak



Lenore & LeRoy Stevens



Ron Zingler & Rich Barta



Rich Davidson, Jim & Mary Soyka



Joe Paldo, Ron Dziagwa



Joanne Zingler, Dennis McNamara, Nancy Sibrava-Koenen, Chuck Burger



Ron Dziagwa, Rich Davidson, Jim Soyka



One last send off....Joanne & Ron Zingler and Dave & Sue Anthony joined Tony & Susan Palazzo at their favorite Infusino's in Kenosha for their last supper before embarking on the Great Loop Cruise.



2026 Cruise Season Planning Meeting Wednesday November 19 at 7 PM

Bring your ideas to plan fun events to fill our cruising schedule calendar for next year! All are welcome to attend!

Hosted by Ron & Joanne Zingler
1307 Green Knolls Drive, Buffalo Grove, 60089

Team North Shore

Executive Committee Meeting: October 1 at 7:00 pm Central

Zoom Meeting ID: 868 7111 5662, Passcode: 485679

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86871115662?pwd=Kf8CPv4F2vq7Kf17AqutbO2Vjm8Ns6.1>

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

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

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66/19

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christine@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:

Clove Hitches

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