



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



**SKOKIE VALLEY SAIL
AND POWER SQUADRON**

DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter - Volume 25 Issue 9

Running Lights

September 2025

**America's Boating Club North Shore
September Member Meeting
Sunday September 21st**

Reflections
RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

**38564 N. Edgewood
Lake Villa, IL 60046**



<http://www.reflectionsondeeplake.com/>



United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club®



A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER

It's funny how times flies by. Last month, summer was in full swing, this month marks the end of summer with the Labor Day weekend. Some of us are planning our last cruise for the year while others are preparing to leave for the trip they have been planning for a very long time. Time does fly by.

August was filled with fun events for Karen & I. The D20 Cruise & Rendezvous brought us back to Heritage Harbor in Ottawa, IL. We arrived late afternoon on Friday and checked into a condo we rented for the weekend. That night we met up with Sue and Dave Anthony and their sister-in-law Debbie to celebrate her birthday at Woody's Steak House. Later that night Mike Ludtke joined us at the Harbor bar for some drinks and what turned out to be a Chicago Bears win.

Saturday the meeting was held on "Knots Landing" with breakfast in the morning, a typical Frank D'Amico Council meeting and chicken and pasta lunch. Reports were given on what other squadrons were doing to keep members engaged and upcoming events that should be shared with other members. I brought up the question on how these events can be shared; utilizing the broadcast feature in iMIS was one of them. This is a topic that I will be addressing further.

The Anthonys, Nancy Sibrava-Koenen, Chuck Burger and Ron Dziagwa were in attendance to represent Skokie Valley. Thanks for your participation in joining the other D20 members for this event. After the meeting, we then drove a few minutes for the Illinois River boat ride on the St. Genevieve. It was a very relaxing time with some sitting on the sunny upper deck and others sitting in the air-conditioned lower deck. It was nice catching up with other D20 members. Later that night, we joined the Anthonys, Debbie, and the Ludtkes for a great dinner at Hank's Farm Restaurant. This was a nice getaway weekend.

On the last Saturday of the month, Karen and I drove up to Waukegan Harbor for Duck Fun Day and saw the world's largest rudder duck. It is 60 feet tall (check out the pictures). Waukegan had a booth there and thanks to Ron Dziagwa for helping to man the booth.

This month, Karen and I will be attending the Fall Governing Board meeting in Grand Rapids, MI. We will be there Thursday through Sunday. I look forward to bringing back news of our National organization.

September is the beginning of our member General Meetings. The first being at Reflections in Lake Villa on September 21st. It's a great place to start our General Meetings at with excellent food and drink. There is one business item that we will be voting on, bylaw changes. These were recommended by the Rules Committee to help protect our squadron assets. Please take a minute to review them on pg 9.

Our SEO Chuck Burger and our Public Boating and Advance Grade Chair Gary Raphael are busy planning a America's Boating Club's class in Wilmette and a Marine Navigation (formerly Piloting) class for this October. Stay tuned for more details.

Finally, save the date for the D20 Fall Conference on 25 October 2025 at the Holiday Inn in Elgin. It will be a one-day event but we are working on having a dinner and hospitality suite on Friday night for those who wish to arrive early. Stay tuned for more details.

One last item is Bon Voyage to Tony and Sue Palazzo as you begin your grand adventure. May you see places that you only thought about, meet wonderful people, and have the time of your life. Safe travels from all of Skokie Valley!



America's Boating Club North Shore 2025-2026 Bridge

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EDUCATION OFFICER	P/D/C Chuck Burger, SN AEO 1st Lt Stuart Zwang, SN-CN	847-322-0828 847-255-9158
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—Cdr. Frank D'Amico, AP





Mark Your Calendar



September 2025

2-7	Tue-Sun	Fall Governing Board Conference	Grand Rapids MI - below
10	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting - page 10
15	Mon	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D’Amico (224-238-7372)
20-21	Sat-Sun	Waukegan Annual Cruise to Racine, WI	Racine, WI - page 5
21	Sun	September Member General Meeting	Reflections, Lake Villa - page 10

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	Holiday Inn Elgin



Fall Governing Board Conference Amway Grand Plaza \$189/night September 2-7, 2025

Login to iMIS to register: [2025 Governing Board](#)

Optional Group Activities

Tuesday 9/2: 2:30 PM Frank Loyd Wright Meyer May House, with Special Docent Tour

Wednesday 9/3: 10 AM Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park \$29, includes narrated tram tour around the grounds, museum, sculptures & largest tropical conservatory in MI

5:30 PM High A League Ballgame, Western Michigan Whitecaps vs Fort Wayne Tincaps, includes \$10 voucher for hot dog & non-alcoholic beverage (*early registration discount ended 7/15 & last date to purchase tickets is 7/30*)

Thursday 9/4: 9:30 AM Grand Rapids Museum & Planetarium on the bank of the Grand River (5 minute walk from hotel)

6 PM Welcome Friends Dinner

Friday 9/5: 7-9 AM Pre-Conference Breakfast

10 AM Gerald Ford Presidential Museum, self-guided tour \$14 (5 minute walk from the hotel)

Box lunch for everyone

Saturday 9/6: 7-9 AM Pre-Conference Breakfast

12 PM Member or Social Luncheon

6 PM Cash Bar / Banquet Dinner, with entertainment by The Sweet Adelines Barber Shop harmonies

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Thur 1 PM Registration/Ship Store Opens
9/4 6 PM Welcome Dinner

Fri 8 AM Committee Meetings, Exhibits
9/5 6 PM District Hospitality Suites

Sat 9 AM Governing Board Meeting
9/6 6 PM Banquet Dinner





Bon Voyage
Tony & Susan Palazzo!



Palazzo family: Stephanie, Tony, Susan, Mike



Christine March, Dave Anthony, Chris Luczak, Karen D'Amico, Ray & Deb Adam, Frank D'Amico

Tony and Susan Palazzo are embarking on their Great Loop adventure this month. Ron & Joanne Zingler organized a Bon Voyage party at the Kenosha marina in August. Their two children Mike and Stephanie, who are also members of Skokie Valley, flew in from CA and AZ to attend. While Tony and Sue were a little suspicious, they never imagined what was in store. We are looking forward to updates as we follow them on their journey this year.



America's Great Loop Cruise Routes



Dan Luczak, Tony Palazzo, Jim Soyka



Lenore & LeRoy Stevens



Susan & Stephanie Palazzo



Joe Paldo, Ron Dzagwa, Gail & Don Sidman

Thank you to Chuck Burger for the pictures!





SVPS 2025 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
September 2-7	America's Boating Club Fall Governing Board Meeting	Grand Rapids, MI	National Meeting
September 21	Dinner Meeting	Reflections	Ron Zingler
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



Join Waukegan Sail & Power Squadron Annual Cruise to Racine, WI September 20-21

By boat or by car, one more cruise for the summer!

- ⇒ Meet up in Racine at Reefpoint Marina on Saturday, September 20.
- ⇒ Dock party 4-7 PM. Bring your own beverage & a snack to share.
- ⇒ At 7 PM the group will go to dinner at the Reefpoint Brewhouse in the Harbor building (order from the menu; separate checks).
- ⇒ Followed by more dock party in the evening.
- ⇒ Sunday, September 21st, the group will breakfast on the dock and then depart for home port.

RSVP to maryannhartl@comcast.net as soon as possible, including number of people in order to get a count for dinner

Boaters reserve slips through Reefpoint harbor master (262-633-7171). There may be a group discount on slips if 5 or more boats register.





It was a “Duck Fun Day” this past weekend at Waukegan Marina. Many people came out to see the world’s largest rubber duck that stands 60 feet tall. There were food trucks, live bands, a water skiing show, and other activities.

Waukegan Sail & Power Squadron was invited to host a booth. Local businesses supported the event, like the USCG Auxiliary, Waukegan Fire and Police. It was good exposure for WSPS as they signed up several new members & family members from the marina. Our member Ron Dziagwa was also there Saturday morning to help at the booth and talk to prospective members.

Frank and I came up in the afternoon to visit with our WSPS friends and see the duck. It was great catching up with them and we traded details about our upcoming cruises. All members are invited on their annual cruise to Racine in Sept (see pg 5).

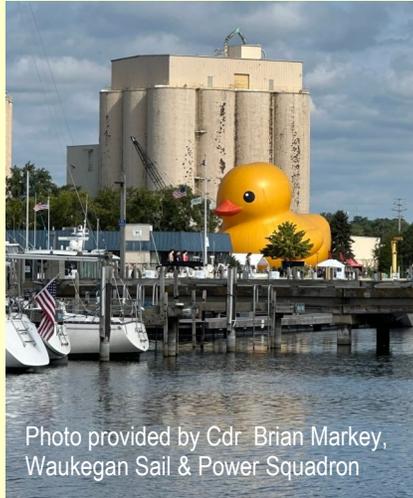


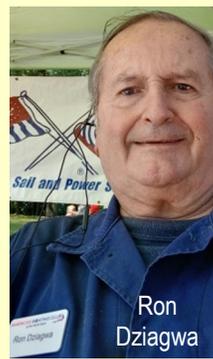
Photo provided by Cdr Brian Markey, Waukegan Sail & Power Squadron



Photo by Ron Dziagwa



Dave Sallman WSPS



Ron Dziagwa



Karen D'Amico



CAUTION: Carbon Monoxide (CO) is odorless, colorless, tasteless & deadly.

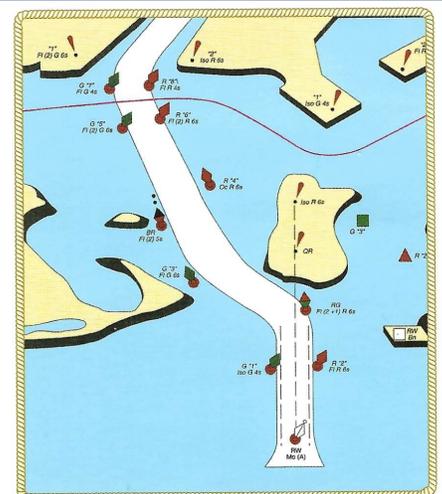
- Always use a marine CO detector
- Know where and how CO may accumulate in and around your boat.
- Maintain fresh air circulation at all times
- Avoid idling & exposure to other boat emissions
- Symptoms of CO poisoning mirror seasickness

September Anniversaries

Kay Widdis	1993	32 yrs
Paul T Mulroy	1975	50 yrs
Dennis McNamara	1975	50 yrs
Lorelie Lynn	1974	51 yrs
Joseph Ratajczak	1968	57 yrs

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

CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ



Which of the following indicates a buoy that should be passed to port when entering from seaward: A) white light, B) group flashing characteristic, C) nun buoy or D) an od numbered buoy?

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor
 Courtesy of Perchant Publishing

Gage



**LAKE GENEVA
CRUISE LINE**

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

We enjoyed a great weekend at Heritage Harbor Marina for the D20 Cruise & Rendezvous. Frank and I drove down Friday afternoon and checked into a nice 1-bedroom condo overlooking the marina. We met Dave & Sue Anthony and their sister-in-law Debbie for dinner at Woody's Steakhouse to celebrate Debbie's birthday. That night Mike Ludtke joined all of us at the Bluegill Boathouse & Marina Bar to watch the Bears win their preseason game against Kansas City. They pulled that off right at the wire!



Mike Ludtke at breakfast



Sheri & Clint Rahn

Saturday morning, Frank and I drove into town and had a light breakfast at Ottawa Bakery. Their pastries were so good, we had to get a dozen to bring back to the C&R. Then we picked up donuts and coffee from Dunkin Donuts to round out our pre-meeting welcome on the docks.



Sue & Dave Anthony



Mike & Ellen Ludtke

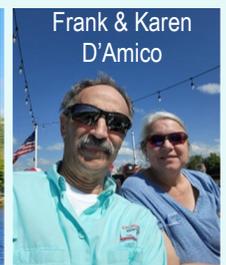
The weather was perfect to be on the water for the morning. It was a beautiful sunny day with a light breeze. We enjoyed catching up with everyone. The marina opened up the Buoy Bar down at Knots Landing for our event, for those who wanted something a little stronger than OJ and coffee.

Frank facilitated a short D20 Council meeting where the D20 Officers gave updates in their areas. All the Squadron Commanders or their representatives reported on activities going on in their Squadrons.



Our lunch at Knots Landing included rolls, salad, fried chicken and penne pasta. The food was excellent and an amazing deal for \$12pp. After lunch we drove into Ottawa to board the Ste Genevieve riverboat. It was a perfect afternoon for a guided boat ride on the river. There was seating below in the air conditioned bar area, or up on the top deck.

That evening we went to dinner with the Anthonys and Ludtkes at Hank's Farm Restaurant. They had a big, traditional salad bar that was so good we remembered how much we miss those. We all enjoyed seafood and steak dinners. A nightcap with the Anthonys at Bluegill bar topped off a great weekend!



Frank & Karen D'Amico

Notice of Proposed Bylaw Changes

The Rules Committee is proposing the recommended change below of Article 16 in our Squadron by-laws. As per our bylaws, these proposed changes are being published to the membership and will be voted on at our next member meeting.

**The meeting to vote on this change is scheduled
September 21 at Reflections in Lake Villa**

Please note our Squadron is NOT considering termination or dissolution. This is simply a recommended change that removes current requirements surrounding distribution of assets to be reviewed and approved by District Law Officer and District Council. This amendment would make the identification and approval of tax exempt institutions to receive remaining assets, if required in the future, the responsibility of the Squadron Executive Committee or a designated Distribution of Assets Committee.

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

ARTICLE 16

Distribution of Assets after Termination

Section 16.1 No member of this squadron shall have, as an individual, any interest in or title to the assets of USPS or of any district or squadron, and such assets shall be devoted exclusively to the purposes of USPS, the district or this squadron.

Section 16.2 In the event of dissolution and voluntary surrender, or of revocation of this squadron's charter, all assets then belonging to this squadron shall be assigned to USPS or to another organization which qualifies for tax exemption (under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as from time to time amended, and any rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, or such other section of the code (by which USPS is exempt) or of the State Illinois, as selected by the Executive Committee and approved by a quorum of the membership of the squadron. If no selection is made, the assets of this squadron shall be assigned to USPS. If such assets include or have been bequests, gifts over \$10,000 or endowments, the distribution of these assets will be subject to the review of the District Law Officer and approved by the District Council.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

ARTICLE 16

Distribution of Assets after Termination

Section 16.1 No member of this squadron shall have, as an individual, any interest in or title to the assets of USPS or of any district or squadron, and such assets shall be devoted exclusively to the purposes of USPS, the district or this squadron.

Section 16.2 In the event of dissolution and voluntary surrender or of revocation of this squadron's charter, all assets then belonging to the squadron shall be assigned to USPS or to an institution which qualifies for tax exemption under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or such other section of the code by which USPS is exempt. The recipient of such assignment shall be selected by the squadron's Executive Committee or other comparable body of the squadron unless specified in these bylaws.

16.2.1 In the event of the dissolution and voluntary surrender or revocation of this squadron's charter, all assets then belonging to the squadron shall be assigned to a qualified entity or entities as determined under the provisions of Section 16.2.

16.2.2 If such assets include or have been bequests, gifts over \$10,000 or endowments, the distribution of these assets should be reviewed by legal counsel retained by the squadron.

Respectfully submitted by the Rules Committee:

Dennis McNamara, JN (Chairperson), Natalie Witty, JN, Ron Dziagwa

America's Boating Club North Shore September Member Meeting Sunday September 21st

Enjoy great Polish home cooking at Reflections in Lake Villa. Sunday afternoon cocktails at the bar and a dinner meeting with a beautiful views of Deep Lake.

Reflections
K6116C810U2

**38564 N. Edgewood
Lake Villa, IL 60046
847.265.4170**

<http://www.reflectionsondeeplake.com/>



Cocktails: 3 PM
Dinner: 4 PM

We will order from the menu with separate checks

RSVP to Ron Zingler
Cell: 847.946.2516
zingleron@comcast.net

Team North Shore

Executive Committee Meeting: September 10 at 7:00 pm Central
Zoom Meeting ID: **868 7111 5662**, Passcode: **485679**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86871115662?pwd=Kf8CPv4F2vg7Kf17AqutbO2Vjm8Ns6.1>
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Skokie Valley Sail and Power Squadron

FROM:
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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:
D) an odd numbered buoy

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