





**SKOKIE VALLEY SAIL
AND POWER SQUADRON**

DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter - Volume 20 Issue 1

Running Lights

January 2020



United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club®



A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER

I hope everyone is enjoying this holiday season. For those snow birds in Florida who fled bitterly cold Chicago winter, it looks like Christmas day will have temperatures around 50 degrees. Not exactly a white one, and almost warm enough to launch a boat if any harbors in the area have a working launch ramp. With unseasonably warm days come higher winds from the south, so our new members with sail boats could really enjoy this holiday.

I got some very nice cards from people who attended my Commander's Open House Holiday Party. As advertised, we had a pianist play carols while the whole group of us had cheat sheets with all of the words to the songs we sang. I promised this party would be a little different than in the past, and by your responses, it was and everyone seems to have enjoyed it immensely.

There are good reasons to look forward to 2020 – The Cruise and Event calendar is filling up with a complete set of great meetings, outings, boat shows, parties, and of course, cruises. I have signed up for the Alaska cruise and the USPS National Meeting in Florida. The dinner meetings will hopefully attract more of you. At the Bridge Meeting in my family room at the end of the holiday party, we voted to keep the cost of dinners at \$25 per person, other than the exceptions like Change of Watch and the Anniversary Dinner Meeting which might go \$10 higher. If you dress up for those two meetings, the meal should match the festive mood of the moment. The additional costs will be paid by our treasury. The goal is to get more of us to attend. I hope you will. We will make it worth your while. Also, some of the meetings, like the February one at Gino's East in South Barrington, will feature pizza and salad and make for a very affordable event.

I am hoping to lure P/C Ray Buellesbach, SN to our next meeting at Palm Court in Arlington Heights. I have a beautiful mounted certificate to present to him for having attained the very rare distinction of having been a member for 50 years! He was our commander in 1991. What stories he must have to tell us going back to the early 70's.

On the education front, P/D/C Pat Antoni, SN, is continuing with the Boat Handling course in Lake Zurich. I have contacted all of the marinas we used last year for ABC classes and hope to do a repeat of this very important opportunity to get new members to join us after seeing what great offerings we have.

The Chicago Boat Show at McCormick Place runs January 8-12. I hope many of you come and dabble in the great hobby we all share.

May 2020 be a year filled with adventure and fun, on land and on the water.

—Cdr. Rich Davidson, SN



**Skokie Valley Sail & Power Squadron
2019-2020 Bridge**

COMMANDER

Cdr Richard Davidson, SN 847-295-8845

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

P/C Ron Zingler, AP-IN 847-634-3806

SECRETARY

Lt/C Gail Sidman, S 847-726-7309

TREASURER

Lt/C Sue Anthony, P 224-402-3107

EDUCATION OFFICER

P/D/C Pat Antoni, SN 847-436-6439

ASST. EDUCATION OFFICER

Lt/C James E. Soyka, SN-CN 847-635-6239

IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER

I/P/C Joe Lokaj, JN 847-914-9447

ELECTED MEMBERS AT LARGE

Lt Dave Anthony, P 224-402-3107

Susan Palazzo, P 847-956-6173

Don Sidman, JN 847-726-7309

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Mark Your Calendar



January 2020

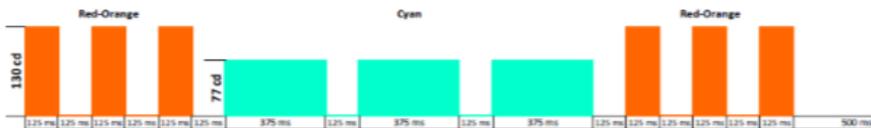
1	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Market Square, Wheeling
8	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Yen Yen Restaurant, Buffalo Grove
8-12	Wed-Sun	Chicago Boat Show	McCormick Place, Chicago
12	Sun	Member Dinner Meeting	Palm Court, Arlington Heights (page 5)
15	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Market Square, Wheeling
15	Wed	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D’Amico (224-238-7372)
29	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Market Square Wheeling

February 2020

5	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Yen Yen Restaurant, Buffalo Grove
12	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Market Square, Wheeling
11-15	Tue-Sat	USPS Annual Meeting	Sawgrass Marriott, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
15	Sun	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D’Amico (224-238-7372)
22	Sat	Member Dinner Meeting	Gino’s East, South Barrington (page 9)
26	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	Market Square, Wheeling

The USCG Auxiliary recently gave a presentation at the D20 Fall Conference. The team shared news about some of the latest technologies.

The USCG now accepts “Electronic Flares” or Electronic Visual Distress Signal Devices (eVDSDs) such as the one shown here as a nighttime visual distress signal and equivalent to a SOS light. Approved eVDSDs will flash a SOS pattern in red/orange and cyan



Shakespeare released INFL8 inflatable marine radio antenna, useful for extending the range of handheld radios in distress situations. These fold up and are easily stored aboard a small runabout or wave runner, for example, for emergencies.



The USCG issued a safety alert regarding using replacement LED light bulbs. Many of these bulbs will fit marine navigational lights; however, they may not have the proper brightness or arc of light required for navigation, compared to the original incandescent bulb.



Lastly, a reminder SeaTow recently made available the Automated Radio Check (ARC) in the Great Lakes. This helps ensure CG resources are spent on more valuable activities. Some ARC channels in our area are:

- Ch 26: Downtown Chicago and Traverse City
- Ch 27: South Chicago, McKinley Marina Milwaukee WI, and Leeland MI
- Ch 28: Milwaukee Sail & Power, and Door County

Look up other ARC channels at <https://www.seatow.com/service-locator/arc>

The Commander's Open House Holiday Party

Our hosts Rich Davidson & Bonni Breen



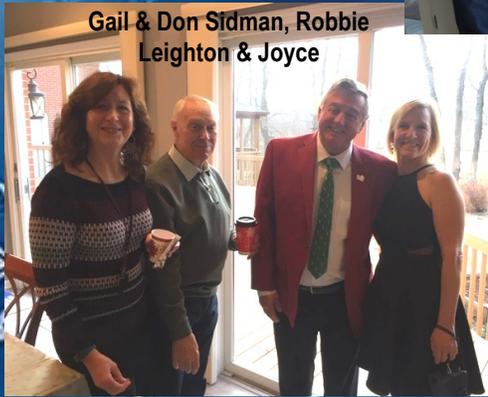
Ron Zingler, Larry March, Caryl & Bud Lemke



Bridget Doerner, Gail Sidman, Marilyn Calfa & Joanne Zingler



Gail & Don Sidman, Robbie Leighton & Joyce



The Osykas' brought a family of penguins



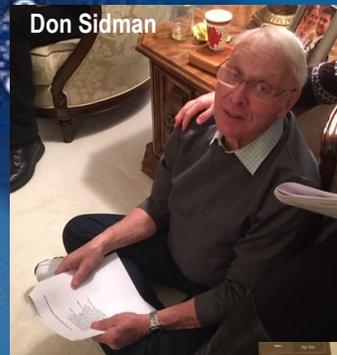
Pianist Robyn Vitson
Richard Calfa & Rich Barta



Jim Soyka, Lori Zwang, Mary Soyka



Don Sidman



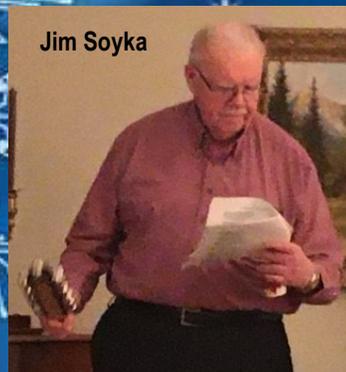
Sue & Joe Lokaj



Tony & Sue Palazzo



Jim Soyka



Kay Widdis, Christine March, Rich Barta, Al & Pat Antoni





JANUARY DINNER MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020

Come dine with us for a Sunday afternoon member meeting at Palm Court. Since 1979, Chef Michael has been offering a relaxing ambiance with American cuisine and European influences.

PALM COURT RESTAURANT 1912 N. ARLINGTON HEIGHTS RD ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60004

Cash Bar starts at 2:00 PM Sunday

Dinner \$25. Choice of entrees:

- London Broil and twice baked potato
- Breast of Chicken Picatta with Pasta
- Atlantic Salmon and mashed potatoes

Includes: soup or salad, coffee, tea and NY cheesecake



Kindly RSVP by Jan 5th

Ron Zingler 847-634-3806
zingleron@comcast.net



YOUR WEATHER REPORT

By Mike Hennessy, AP, Instructor-Weather course



Polar Vortex

A polar vortex is an upper-level low-pressure area lying near one of the Earth's poles. There are two polar vortices in the Earth's atmosphere, overlying the North and South Poles. Each polar vortex is a persistent, large-scale, low-pressure zone less than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) in diameter that rotates counter-clockwise at the North Pole and clockwise at the South Pole, i.e., both polar vortices rotate eastward around the poles. These are called a cyclone in both cases. As with other cyclones, their rotation is driven by the Coriolis effect. The bases of the two polar vortices are located in the middle and upper troposphere and extend into the stratosphere. Beneath that lies a large mass of cold, dense Arctic air.

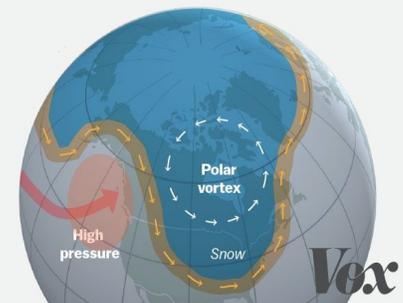
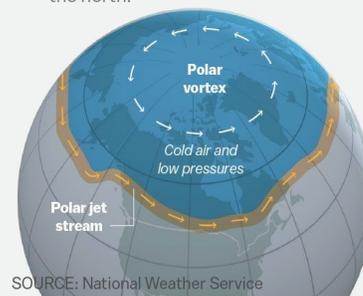
What is the polar vortex and why is it so cold?

As NOAA explains, a **polar vortex** is a large area of low pressure and **cold** air surrounding the Earth's poles. The "**vortex**" is the counterclockwise flow of air that helps keep the **colder** air close to the poles. On occasion throughout winter, the **vortex** expands and sends **cold** air southward with the jet stream.

What's the polar vortex?

1 The polar vortex is an area of low pressure surrounding both of the Earth's poles that keeps the cold air trapped in the north.

2 Sometimes during the winter, the jet stream dips southward, sending cold Arctic air into the United States.



SOURCE: National Weather Service

OUR GREAT LAKES, OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

The Farmers' Almanac is predicting a "Polar Coaster Winter" for 2019-2020, due to the many ups and downs of the temperature. While chillier than normal overall, the coldest temperatures will stretch from the Northern Plains to the Great Lakes. The biggest temperature drop is expected to start at the end of January and last through early February.



What does this mean for the Great Lakes? Well, colder temperatures definitely lower the amount of lake effect snow in the region. More importantly, persistent cold can cause greater ice coverage on the lakes. While the Great Lakes rarely freeze over entirely due to their size and depth, more ice coverage does lessen the impact of water evaporation due to less exposure to the air. A high rate of ice coverage would likely mean higher record setting water levels in the Spring and Summer of 2020.

Colder temperatures in January may be a strong indicator, but we'll want to keep an eye on the percentage of ice coverage on the Great Lakes this winter.

CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ

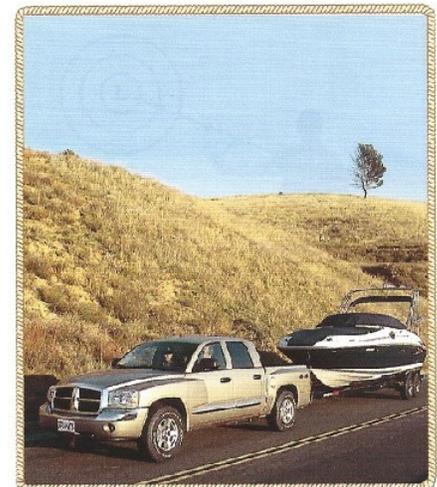


PHOTO: COURTESY OF TRAILER BOAT'S MAGAZINE

While trailering your boat, a draft from a passing truck causes it to sway badly. To correct the problem, you should: **ease your foot off the accelerator or hit the brakes?**

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing



SVPS 2020 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
January 8-12	Chicago Boat Show	McCormick Place	District 20
January 12th Sunday 2:00 PM	Lunch Meeting	Palm Court	Ron Zingler
February 22nd	Dinner Meeting	Gino's East South Barrington	Gail Sidman
February 11-15	USPS Annual Meeting	Sawgrass Marriott Resort Ponte Verde Beach, FL	USPS
March 21-22 Friday-Saturday	District 20 Spring Conference	Holiday Inn, Elgin, IL	District 20
March	Operations Training	TBA	District 20
April 18th	SVPS Change of Watch	TBA	Commander
May 2nd Saturday	Rowing Regatta	Crystal Lake	Gary Vinzant
May 16th Saturday	Lunch Meeting	Reflections Restaurant, Lake Villa	Ron Zingler and Joe Paldo
June 13th Saturday	Lake Michigan Fishing Derby	North Point	
June 13th Saturday	Sundowner	North Point	Tony Palazzo, Sue & Dave Anthony
June 24-28th	Summerfest	Milwaukee	Ron Zingler
July 9th Thursday	COSI (Children's Oncology Services) Boat Day	Southport Marina	Ron Zingler
July 10-19th or August 1-8th	Summer Cruise	TBD—in planning stages	Tony Palazzo
August 19-31st	13 Day Cruise to Alaska and Denali	Alaska	Ron Zingler
September 13th Sunday	Dinner Meeting	Club Casa Des Plaines, IL	Ron Zingler
September 26th Saturday	Sundowner	Hob Nob	Ron Zingler
October 18th Sunday	Dinner Meeting	TBD	Ron Zingler
November 14th Saturday	Anniversary Dinner	TBD	Ron Zingler
December 13th Sunday	Commanders Holiday Party	TBD	Commander



February 11-15, 2020

https://www.usps.org/php/reservations_new/meetings.php?mtg_id=37

2020 Meeting for USPS America's Boating Club

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa
1000 PGA Tour Boulevard
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Complimentary Activities

Tour historic Tournament Players Club (TPC) Golf Club at your leisure. Travel by hotel shuttle for short ride to the TPC. Lunch is available at the Clubhouse dining room.

Enjoy a day at the ocean at the Marriott's private beach at your leisure. Travel by hotel shuttle for short ride to the beach. Lunch is available at on-site restaurants.

Conference registration includes continental breakfast on Saturday, Feb 15th.

Tuesday, Feb 11—St. Augustine Distillery

The venue for our evening tour and dinner is The FP&L Ice Plant, built in 1907 and beautifully restored, on the National Register of Historic Places. The ice plant was the first to make commercially available ice in Florida over 100 years ago. Now, they craft small batch bourbon, rum, gin & vodka with the flavors of Florida. Bus departs hotel at 1700 for St. Augustine.

Wednesday, Feb 12—Scenic St. Augustine Cruise

Scenic Cruise of St. Augustine Waterways aboard Victory III. Depart Marriott by bus at 0930 and travel to St. Augustine. Following cruise, explore and enjoy lunch on your own in historic downtown St. Augustine, the nation's oldest city. Bus will depart for Marriott at 1500.

Wednesday, Feb 12—Jacksonville Beach Golf Outing

This will be a fun, inexpensive (\$55) golf scramble at a beautiful course, not too far from Sawgrass. The recently renovated Jacksonville Beach Golf Club will host our group starting at 1230. Please respond ASAP to Dawn Eckhart if you are interested in playing. More details to follow including registration, transportation, club rentals, etc.

Thursday, Feb 13—Keynote Breakfast

"Salty Superstitions" - A Lighthearted Look at the Culture of Sailors and Ships At Sea. **ROBERT N. MACOMBER** has been the recipient of the Patrick D. Smith Literary Award, the American Library Association's W.Y. Boyd Literary Award, a Silver Medal in Popular Fiction from the Florida Book Awards, and a host of other accolades over two decades. He has earned rare experiences like being Distinguished Lecturer at NATO HQs [Belgium], and, for ten years, was invited into the Distinguished Military Author Series, Center for Army Analysis [Ft. Belvoir]. When he's not writing, researching, or on one of his extensive journeys, Mr. Macomber lives on Pine Island, where he enjoys sailing the more remote islands near his home and cooking the exotic cuisines from his novels.

Thursday, Feb 13—Seminar by Robert Macomber

"The Italian Navy's Decima Mas" - an incredible World War II story of the 1st naval special operations unit in history; the professional predecessor of the famous U.S. Navy SEALs. Time 1000-1100; registration is not required to attend.

Thursday, Feb 13—See Conference Agenda

Open department and committee meetings. Ship's Store.

Friday, Feb 14—See Conference Agenda

Town Hall meeting in the morning. Education and other department seminars throughout the day. Department lunches.

Saturday, Feb 15—Annual Meeting

Annual meeting, member luncheon, evening dinner dance.

For a detailed conference agenda, visit the National Meetings webpage at [usps.org](https://www.usps.org) (link at the top of the page).

Early bird pricing for all activities expires Jan 10, 2020



**February Dinner Meeting
Saturday, February 22, 2020
Opens at 6:00 PM**

**Gino's East South Barrington
45 S Barrington Rd
South Barrington, IL 60010**



**Cash bar
Dinner \$18 per person
In the Cedar Bay Room
Pizza, Salad, Soft Drinks and Cookies**

**RSVP to Gail Sidman by February 17th
847-726-7309 or g_sidman@hotmail.com**





Skokie Valley Sail & Power Squadron 2020 - 2021 Slate of Officers & Committees

Executive Committee

Commander	Richard Davidson, SN
Executive Officer	Tony Palazzo, AP
Education Officer	Pat Antoni, SN
Asst. Education Officer	Jim Soyka, SN-CN
Administrative Officer	Ron Zingler, AP-IN
Secretary	Gail Sidman, S
Treasurer	Sue Anthony, P
Immediate Past Cdr	Joe Lokaj, JN
Elected Member	David Anthony, P
Elected Member	Sue Palazzo, P
Elected Member	Don Sidman, JN

Rules Committee

Bill Witty, SN (Chair)
Dixie Widner, JN
Gerald Grofman, SN

Audit Committee

Keith Parker, P (Chair)
Don Sidman, JN
Hugh Sommerfeld, P

Nominating Committee

Frank D'Amico, AP (Chair)
Don Sidman, JN
Gary Vinzant, JN
Joe Lokaj, JN
Karen D'Amico, AP
Stuart Zwang, SN-IN

Respectively Submitted by Nominating Committee:

*Frank D'Amico, AP (Chair)
Don Sidman, JN
Gary Vinzant, JN
Joe Lokaj, JN
Karen D'Amico, AP
Stuart Zwang, SN-IN*

13-Day Cruise Alaska Denali Talkeetna Explorer—Southbound August 19-31, 2020

This 13 day land and sea cruise begins August 19th in Fairbanks, Alaska with a land tour of Denali. On August 24th cruise aboard the Norwegian Jewel from Seward, Alaska to Vancouver BC on August 31st. You can do the land and cruise or just the cruise.



Norwegian Cruise Line has been offering specials that include free unlimited beverage package, free specialty dining, \$50 per cabin shore excursion rebate, wifi and friends and family sail free. They are also offering reduced air fare (ex from O'Hare at \$199 round-trip). Previous Norwegian cruisers have been offered a 20% discount on the cruise portion.

Costs vary based on the options you choose. As an example, we booked a 13 day land tour plus cruise for a mini-suite on deck 11 including the 5 free offers, 20% cruise savings and \$199 airfare from O'Hare for 13 days at \$9500 for two people. This also includes all taxes, trip insurance and gratuity.

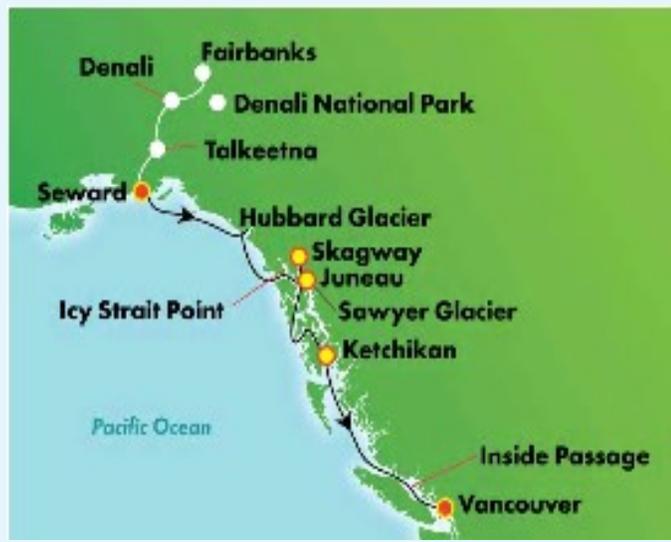
The following is a link to the NCL cruise itinerary or go to NCL.com.

[\\$](https://www.ncl.com/cruises/13-day-denali-talkeetna-explorer---southbound-cruisetour-SBJTALKEENTAJEWEL7SWDICYJNUSGYKTNVAN/Dates/).remove();)

If you are interested, the booking contact is Sharla Manglass at MEI Travel. SharlaM@mei-travel.com or 706.742.5358. Let her know that you are with Ron Zingler's group and she can group us together.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Ron Zingler 847.634.3806



January Anniversaries

Richard Calfa	2007	13 yrs
Sandra Frankenbush	2006	14 yrs
Bill Haag	1997	23 yrs
Arthur Moses	1976	24 yrs
Gerald Grofman	1972	49 yrs
Nelson Rodelius	1970	51 yrs

Congratulations on reaching another milestone with the squadron. We appreciate your support!
Cdr Rich Davidson, SN

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 E-Mail: richard@calfaforins.com

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30/19

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25/23

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:

Ease your foot off the accelerator.
Braking can increase the whipping.



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