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# SKOKIE VALLEY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

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DISTRICT 20

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Membership Newsletter - Volume 20 Issue 10

# Running Lights

## October 2020



### Estimated Peak Times

**Chicago & Beyond:** Second week of October

**Great Rivers Country:** Second week of October

**Land of Lincoln:** Middle of October

**Trails to Adventure:** Last week of October

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explore the fall colors  
throughout the state***

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**A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER**

**F**inding new items to discuss gets more difficult with our program so nearly shut down, but as they say, when a door closes, a window opens.

One example of this was the National Fall Conference and Governing Board. I never attended one before, with considerations running from the cost of a plane ticket plus hotel room plus meals plus the event itself to having a few days to spare for the event. I did finally make it to the one in Florida last February, but the next one in Raleigh, NC seemed like a trip too many. Then COVID-19 changed the paradigm for what might be forever. The event did happen, I did not have to travel, all events were online meetings, and if you had a conflict, they were recorded, and you could watch the replay. This is better than my TiVo on the cable system at home. It did not cost anything at all to attend, participate, take seminars, and have home cooking and my own bed and bathroom that I prefer over any hotel offerings. Sure, meeting people and having the live experience is something special, but this remote session stuff seems to suit my needs to stay safe, save money, and not spend more time doing it than necessary.

I attended our Sundowner at North Point Marina. That may be one of the two or three live events, other than a couple of Executive Committee meetings I held at my home and at a restaurant this year. We had most of the Executive Committee and only a few that are not on the bridge come to share pizza and sit by a beautiful bonfire on the south beach area of the marina. Tony Palazzo brought a big stack of 4x4's that were originally from a crate for machine tools, and they burned brightly. We had enough of that fuel to keep us warm from sundown until almost 10:00 PM. Tony brought a shovel for burying the embers when we were done and tongs for moving the logs around. Dave and Sue Anthony handled the food, something they always do to perfection.

The only event left for the year not yet cancelled is the Commander's Open House. Given the pandemic, I cannot do it at my house this time, but I will find a restaurant that can handle our crowd and do it there. I was hoping to find a private club with a piano so we could sing Christmas carols again and enjoy great things to eat. If I can, that is what I plan to do, but a restaurant will be a good idea as the next best site.

I am still hoping our organization will reinvent itself as a primarily online operation. We know that people want boating instruction, and Zoom meetings are close to what can be done in person. When they meet us in the virtual classroom, we have their contact information and can hope to encourage their attendance at events in person when the pandemic is over. This is not your father's kind of United States Power Squadron. It is the new reality of America's Boating Club, and we should see it for the opportunities it provides.

—Cdr. Rich Davidson, SN




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

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<b>ELECTED MEMBERS AT LARGE</b>	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



## October 2020

7	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom Meeting, Contact Rich Davidson
7	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	TBD
15	Thurs	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
17	Sat	D20 Fall Conference	Zoom Meeting (see below)
21	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	TBD

## November 2020

4	Wed	Executive Board/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom Meeting, Contact Rich Davidson
4	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	TBD
15	Thurs	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
18	Wed	Skokie Valley Breakfast Club, 0900-1000	TBD

## District 20 Fall Conference October 17, 2020, 0930-1600



Join the Meeting any  
time during the day

### AGENDA:

0930-1015	State of the Education Department	V/C William J. McManimen, SN-ON National Education Officer
1030-1130	How we set up a Virtual Classroom	Waukegan, Mid-Illini, Land of Lincoln
1130-1200	How to become an Illinois Boating Safety Volunteer/Educator/Illinois Boating Statistics	Jeff Hopkins, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Safety Education Administrator
1200-1300	BREAK FOR LUNCH	
1300-1330	Education Awards Announced	D/Lt/C Scott Harmon, AP District Education Officer
1330-1600	Conference Meeting	D/C Terry Phillips, P District Commander

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86214326660?pwd=RCtITGJCekFmTXJGdWFIRngzSXM3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 862 1432 6660

Passcode: 20

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,86214326660#,,,,,0#,,20#

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## **YOUR WEATHER REPORT**

**By Mike Hennessy, AP, Instructor-Weather course**



### **Hurricane Season 2020**

It's no surprise we have reached storm #25 so far this season. From the beginning, the hurricane season was forecasted to be very active this year. In a typical year, there are only 12 named storms on average.

Now that we have run out of 21 letters in the alphabet to name the storms, tradition is to start using the Greek alphabet.

### **Atlantic hurricane season Greek alphabet**

In the event that more than twenty-one named tropical storms or hurricanes form in the Atlantic Ocean, additional storms will take names from the Greek alphabet.

Alpha	Iota	Rho
Beta	Kappa	Sigma
Gamma	Lambda	Tau
Delta	Mu	Upsilon
Epsilon	Nu	Phi
Zeta	Xi	Chi
Eta	Omicron	Psi
Theta	Pi	Omega



Source: National Hurricane Center / World Meteorological Organization Tropical Cyclone Programme

This year is only the second time in history the Greek alphabet had to be used to name the storms. In 2005, storm Gamma formed during the second week of November. Here we are only in the first week of October and we already have a storm Gamma.

Most certainly there are more named storms to come. You can use the list above to see how far we get this year with the named storms. The season doesn't officially end until November 30th, but storms have been known to form even beyond that point.

### **OUR GREAT LAKES, OUR GREATEST RESOURCE**

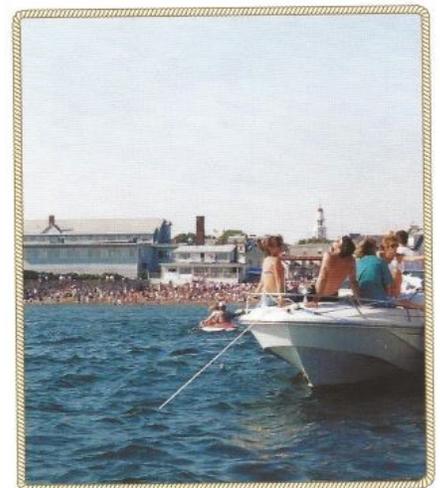
Feeling a little cooped up right now? There are many parks, gardens and wildlife areas to visit in the fall. I used Trip Advisor to find the most popular and highest rated gardens in Illinois. There are many more if you are looking to explore beyond the Chicagoland area.



1. Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe
2. Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago
3. Anderson Japanese Gardens, Rockford
4. Morton Arboretum, Lisle
5. Lincoln Park Conservatory, Chicago
6. Nicholas Conservatory and Gardens, Rockford
7. Lake Katherine Nature Center, Palos Heights
8. Sinnissippi Park, Rockford
9. Luri Garden, Chicago
10. Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden, Rockford
11. Oak Park Conservatory, Oak Park
12. Orchids by Hausermann, Villa Park

Be sure to check their site for hours and possible closures.

### **CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ**



\_\_\_\_\_ is a major cause of small boating accidents.

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor  
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing



# SVPS 2020 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
October 17th Sunday	D20 Virtual Conference	Zoom Meeting	District 20
October 18th Sunday	October Member Meeting	TBD	Ron Zingler
November 14th Saturday	Anniversary Dinner Meeting	TBD	Ron Zingler
December 13th Sunday	Commanders Holiday Party	TBD	Commander

## It was a good decision to go boating. By Stuart Zwang

The NOAA website said the waves were about 1 to 2 feet. BUT there were showers in the forecast for later in the day. It was about 11:00 AM, and the sky was kind of clouding up. My wife said "Lets GOOOO!!!" and you don't have to tell me twice.

We headed out to Waukegan to visit our boat at Larsen Marina. My wife noted that there were a lot of cars with their lights on coming our way, suggesting that the weather ahead was crummy. I said "The die is cast – Let's continue" So onto Larsen Marine in Waukegan we went.

We got to Waukegan and had to run the Waukegan Police gauntlet telling us that only Waukegan residents could go to the Waukegan Beach. We said the magic words – Larsen Marine, and were allowed through.

Something must have been up because there were almost no parking spaces. Larsen has big numbers for their parking areas. For example Area 21 was a standard parking area. I keep looking for Area 51.

Anyhow, we got to the in/out service at about noon, and there was a boat traffic jam. The morning fishermen were coming in. They said that the fish were hungry and jumping. This was confirmed by the activity at the cleaning stations. The afternoon pleasure boaters were heading out. So were the sail boats and the bigger boats (those with two engines and sleeping accommodations) After waiting about 15 minutes, we were able to get going.

The question was – North towards Milwaukee or South towards Chicago. We chose North. The temperature was about 78 degrees on the water. There was a light haze, and the waves were about one foot high.

It was glorious. We passed Illinois Beach State Park. We remembered some Pre-Covid 19 days when there were Change of Watch Dinner meetings there. It took me about an hour to get to the entrance of North Point Marina. There we turned around, and Lorri took the helm. I lounged in the bow in my shorts with my shoes off and got a wonderful breeze.

All too soon we were back at the entrance to Waukegan Harbor. I took over, and was able to dock without incident. (I must offer my apologies to the Boner committee for this.) We got gas and had Jeff; the rack head, put the boat away. It was a great day on the water. We congratulated ourselves for making the combined decision to go boating.

On the way home, as we drove down Grand Ave in Waukegan, one of those "boom" cars drove up behind us. The boom cars have a very loud bass / reverb amplifier. It sounds like there is a drum in your head. The reason that it works for them is that the wave length is so low; it does not get to the emitter. It does get to each car around the boomer, however. It annoyed the heck out of us.

Continued on page 7...

# North Point Sundowner, September 26th

It was a great evening hosted by the Anthony's. Fire master Tony Palazzo brought the wood, started the fire, tended the fire and put the fire out.



Ron Zingler



Mike Palazzo, Sue & Dave Anthony

The weather was nice. A little cool and windy, as is typical on a Sept evening at the lake, but perfect for sitting around a big fire.



Rich Davidson & Bonni Breen



Larry March, Joanne Zingler & Gary Vinzant

Thanks to all who attended: the Palazzo's and their son Mike, the Sidman's, Zingler's, March's, Davidson's and Gary Vinzant.



Sue Palazzo, Bonni Breen & Christine March



Don & Gail Sidman, with Baily



Fire Master Tony



...Continued from page 5

This reminded me of an old car project. My old Dodge Caravan had a serious case of body cancer as well as 240,000 miles on it before I blew the engine. I laughed and I cried when Car Max gave me \$900. I laughed because they were stupid enough to do it, and I cried because I really love that car.

Before my old Dodge Caravan earned its reward, I installed an interesting system to combat these boomers. In order to properly prepare the car, first I put in a small fluid reservoir. Using tubing, I connected the bottom of the reservoir to a small fuel pump. Another tube took this fluid to the hottest part of the exhaust pipe. The fuel pump was connected to and powered by a small flip switch under the dash board.

Upon proper provocation, the idea was to flip the switch and force the fluid onto the muffler. Then the fun would begin. The fluid would get superheated by the muffler and we would have a wonderful, huge dense plume of smoke or whatever coming out behind the car. This smoking, ugly cloud would then envelop an offending driver who was behind the car. I got this idea from a pilot who explained to me how sky writing worked. Provocation could include bikers (motorcycle or roadies), boom cars, close tailgaters, guys who flashed their bright lights at you, etc. The list was quite extensive.

We also had a fun time experimenting with the fluid. Transmission fluid caused a very dense blue greasy smoke. It was almost impossible to wash off. Water just caused steam to fly out. Gasoline would start to burn off the muffler, the flame was great, but it was a little too volatile to be safe. My personal favorite was urine. The smoke was about the same as steam, but it had a most unique aroma.

We proved the concept. The problem with this car project was that we were quite concerned that the recipient of our efforts would not have a sense of humor. Moreover, there was a possibility that this person was a cowboy and had a six gun (or 12 shot Glock) under the dashboard. My dear, long suffering wife convinced me that discretion was the better part of valor. So I never really used this device.

After that, we could peacefully reminisce about our great day on the water. Stay well



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## October Anniversaries

Joyce Clifford	2019	1 yr
Martin & Elizabeth Frith	2019	1 yr
Sheila Caldwell	2016	4 yrs
Catherine Westphal	2007	13 yrs
Marilyn Calfa	2003	17 yrs
Steve Chmela	1972	30 yrs
Carol Cleave	1982	39 yrs

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

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# Running Lights

Skokie Valley Sail and Power Squadron

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**TO:**

## FIRST CLASS MAIL



Be sure to visit our websites:

**Skokie Valley Sail & Power Squadron:**  
[www.skokievalleypowersquadron.org](http://www.skokievalleypowersquadron.org)

**District 20:** [www.uspsd20Boating.org](http://www.uspsd20Boating.org)

**USPS:** [www.AmericasBoatingClub.org](http://www.AmericasBoatingClub.org)



Captain Ahab answer:  
Overloading



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