



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



**SKOKIE VALLEY SAIL
AND POWER SQUADRON**

DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter - Volume 26 Issue 5

Running Lights

May 2026

MAY MEMBER MEETING

SUNDAY MAY 17, 2026

Cocktails 4:30 PM ; Dinner 5:30 PM

WADSWORTH INN

38905 US HWY 41 N
Wadsworth, IL 60083



Kicking off National Safe Boating Week—Bring your life jacket for a group picture



United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club®



A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER

With our Change of Watch completed, it is time to get boats in the water, look over upcoming events and plan for the summer.

First things first, I want to thank and introduce the Bridge of 2026 -2027. Some individuals are taking another term (thank you) and we have some new executive committee members. Lt/C Sue Anthony, Lt/C Ron Zingler, Lt/C Karen D'Amico and I/P/C Tony Palazzo are keeping their previous roles. Congratulations to new Officers Lt/C Dan Luczak (SXO) and Lt/C Gary Raphael (SEO). Welcome to Lt Lenore Stevens, Lt Deb Adam and Lt Rich Barta as Members at Large. Many more individuals taking new roles as chairs and members of our elected committees. I'm looking forward to working with each and every one of you.

I want to thank P/D/C Natalie Witty, for officiating this years Change of Watch. Many thanks.

Our new Squadron Education Officer Gary Raphael will be teaching the America's Boating Classes at REI in Vernon Hills starting May 12th. Please reach out to him if you want to help with the class.

May 17th will be the last General Meeting until September. Come join us at Wadsworth Inn in Wadsworth, IL. Let Ron Zingler know if you will be attending by May 10th. D/Lt/C Ron Dziagwa has suggested that we all bring our life jackets to the General Meeting for a picture celebrating Safe Boating Week (May 16th to May 22nd). I think it is a great opportunity to show our support for the **Wear It** program.

The updates to our Squadron Bylaws were voted on and passed at the Change of Watch. These changes conform to the National model bylaws and allow Associate Members to hold offices in Skokie Valley S&P Squadron. Thanks to the Rules Committee for your hard work on these updates.


The Fishing Derby at North Point Marina is scheduled June 6th. Hopefully we will be gathering afterwards at the BBQ area by Q dock at 5:00pm for pizza dinner, and our famous bonfire courtesy of Fire Master Tony Palazzo that evening. Remember to bring your chair and beverage of choice.

Even though we won't be holding General Meetings during the summer, try getting the word out if someone is planning an event or trip that others may be able to join. Some of the events planned for this summer are Milwaukee Summerfest (June-July), Lake Michigan Cruise (July), D20 C&R (date TBD), and Chicago Air & Water Show (August).

I hope to drive to some of the events and meet up with our members. See you this summer!

—Cdr. Frank D'Amico, AP






America's Boating Club North Shore 2026-2027 Bridge

COMMANDER	Cdr Frank D'Amico, AP	224-238-7372
EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Lt/C Dan Luczak, S	708-795-0367
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	P/C Ron Zingler, AP-IN	847-634-3806
SECRETARY	Stf/C Karen D'Amico, AP	224-238-7372
TREASURER	Lt/C Sue Anthony, P	224-402-3107
EDUCATION OFFICER	Lt/C Gary Raphael, AP	847-254-2578
IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER	I/P/C Tony Palazzo, AP	630-347-6586
ELECTED MEMBERS AT LARGE	Lt Deb Adam, S	630-347-3495
	Lt Rich Barta, <u>AP</u>	847-348-7591
	Lt Lenore Stevens	847-398-4531

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Mark Your Calendar



May 2026

6	Wed	Executive Committee/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting—below
15	Fri	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
17	Sun	General Member Meeting	Wadsworth Inn, Wadsworth—page 6
16-22	Sun	National Safe Boating Week	2026 Safe Boating Campaign

June 2026

3	Wed	Executive Committee/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting—below
6	Sat	Fishing Derby & Sundowner	North Point Marina—below
15	Mon	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico (224-238-7372)
16-20	Tues-Sat	Milwaukee Summerfest	Milwaukee, WI
25-27	Thurs-Sat	Milwaukee Summerfest	Milwaukee, WI

Team North Shore

Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00 PM Central

Zoom Meeting ID: 896 4506 7100, Passcode: 606598

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89645067100?pwd=nSjbaBor5OixpFWvaHTOtoBjyxpA2.1>

One tap mobile: +13126266799,,89645067100#,,,,*606598# US (Chicago)

North Point Sundowner
Saturday June 6
After the Fishing Derby



*Bring your own beverages
and a chair for the bonfire*



Gather in the outdoor BBQ area by Q dock at 5:00 PM. We will order pizza and salad for everyone present.

Later our Fire Master Tony Palazzo will light the bonfire!

**Contact Dave or Sue with questions
dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net**

2026 Change of Watch



LeRoy Stevens, Tony & Susan Palazzio, Lenore Stevens



Dennis McNamara, Gary & Cathy Raphael, Chuck Burger



Ellen Ludtke & Sue Anthony



Deb & Ray Adam, Chris Luczak



Ellen & Mike Ludtke



Jim Soyka & Nancy Sibrava-Koenen



Joe & Lori Ratajczak



Natalie Witty & Joe Paldo



Karen & Frank D'Amico



Stuart & Lorri Zwang



Gail & Don Sidman



Ron Dziagwa



Dan & Chris Luczak



Gail Sidman, Rich Davidson, Gary Vinzant

**Dennis McNamara
50 Merit Marks**



Karen D'Amico & Sue Anthony receive Commander's Award



Karen D'Amico & Rich Davidson receive the Distinctive Communicator Award



Dennis McNamara honored with Governing Board Member Emeritus



SVPS 2026 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
Sunday May 17th	Dinner Meeting	Wadsworth Inn, Wadsworth	Ron & Joanne Zingler
Saturday June 6th	Lake Michigan Fishing Derby & North Point Sundowner	North Point Marina	Dave & Sue Anthony
June 16-20 June 25-27 July 2-4	Summerfest Milwaukee Cruise	McKinley Harbor, Milwaukee WI	McKinley Harbor Reserve Early January 414/273-5224
July 3-18	Lake Michigan Summer Cruise	Sheboygan, Sturgeon Bay, Leland, Charlevoix, Frankfort, Pentwater, Port Washington	Dan & Chris Luczak
July 25-26	Milwaukee Air and Water	McKinley Harbor	Info Only
TBD	D20 Cruise & Rendezvous	TBA	District 20
August (TBD)	Chicago Architecture Tour	Chicago	
August 28-30	Chicago Air & Water Show (featuring Thunderbirds)	Navy Pier Marina or Burnham Harbor	Info Only
September 19th	Dinner Meeting	Southport Marina Boaters Lounge, Kenosha, WI	Ron Zingler
September 23-27	America's Boating Club Fall Governing Board Meeting	Cary NC	National Meeting
October (TBD)	District 20 Fall Conference	TBD	District 20
Sunday, October 25	Dinner Meeting	Beelow's, Lake Zurich	Ron Zingler
Sunday November 8th	Anniversary Dinner	Dover Straits	Ron Zingler
Sunday December 6th	Commanders Holiday Party	Hoffman Estates	Frank D'Amico



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 Tell Your Story

MAY MEMBER MEETING

SUNDAY MAY 17, 2026

Cocktails 4:30 PM ; Dinner 5:30 PM
(meet at the bar)

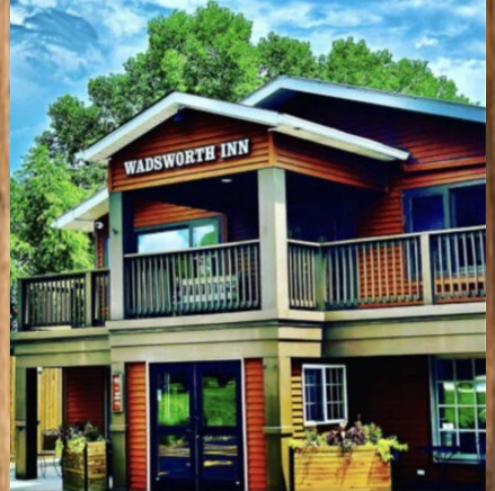
WADSWORTH INN
38905 US HWY 41 N
Wadsworth, IL 60083

**Order from the extensive
menu; separate checks**
<https://wadsworthinn.com/>

The Wadsworth Inn is located on the southeast corner of Wadsworth Road and US Highway 41. The rustic style building provides a country atmosphere and cozy dining experience. The menu offers a unique dining experience featuring fresh seafood, steaks, sandwiches, and classics in cast iron. You won't want to miss our last member dinner for the summer season.

**Send reservations to Ron Zingler
at zingleron@comcast.net
or call 847.634.3806**

Kindly respond by May 10th



Celebrating National Safe Boating Week
Bring your life jacket for a group picture

TAKE A SAFE BOATING COURSE



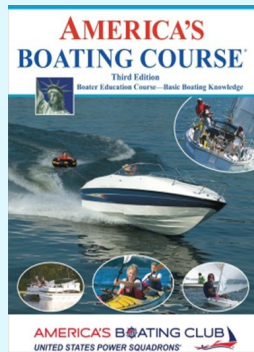
- ◆ Safe boating courses prepare boaters for risks they may face
- ◆ On average, 650 people die while boating each year
- ◆ 74% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction
- ◆ Boat operation education is required in Illinois if born after 1/1/98, and in Wisconsin if born after 1/1/89

America's Boating Course (ABC) May 12-28

REI Vernon Hills

901 N Milwaukee Ave
Vernon Hills IL
Tues & Thurs
7:00-9:00 PM

Contact SEO Gary Raphael
for details how to register
garyraphael54@gmail.com



Hello, I'm Gary Raphael your new Education Officer. My wife, Cathy, and I enjoyed meeting many of you at the Change of Watch. I hope to meet the rest of our members as time goes by.



We have an ABC Class scheduled to begin on May 12th. Please let me know if you or anyone you know is interested in attending. My cell number is (847)254-2578 and my email address is garyraphael54@gmail.com.

In the Fall, I'd like to organize a class on basic first aid and CPR. Again, please let me know if these are of interest.

I'm looking for a permanent location for all of our classes. Wilmette Harbor would like to host us, but I don't know if the location is convenient for our membership. I welcome your feedback on this for future classes.

Lastly, let me know if you have other educational interests. I look forward to working with you all.

May Anniversaries

Bill Kolton	2024	2 yrs
Sue Anthony	2011	15 yrs
Stuart Zwang	2000	26 yrs
Rich Davidson	1998	28 yrs
Bill Bellinger	1988	38 yrs
Frank Zimmerman	1979	47 yrs
T Cepuritis	1967	59 yrs

Congratulations on reaching another milestone with the squadron. We appreciate your support!

Cdr Frank D'Amico, AP

CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ



Make a second double overhand knot on the opposite side of the rope. Come back to the first side and make another double overhand knot next to the first.

Continue knotting on each side until 1/8" from the bitter end.

Make sure all knots are close together and as tight as possible. Finish off the last knot as a square knot.

“Whipping” keeps the end of a line from unraveling and is especially good for frequently/hard-used _____ or _____ lines. The above technique will not come undone if one of the turns is cut or wears away.

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing

INFLATABLE LIFE JACKETS



WHEN TO USE

- Must be 16 years of age or older
- Recommended only for strong swimmers
- Read the label to find out if it is appropriate for the recreational water activity
- Ensure it has a U.S. Coast Guard approval number
- Never use for personal watercraft, waterskiing, tubing, or whitewater boating activities (please wear an inherently buoyant life jacket)
- Never wear under clothing, coats, or jackets

HOW IT WORKS

- Uses inflatable technologies with a CO2 cylinder
- Many inflate automatically when immersed in water – others only inflatable when a cord is pulled
- When the CO2 cylinder is activated, the gas will escape into the chamber and inflate the life jacket
- You cannot re-use a CO2 cartridge – must replace with the rearm kit recommended by the manufacturer



BEFORE EACH USE

- Check to see if the CO2 cartridge is full
- If your device has a Cartridge Seal Indicator, it will show GREEN if the cartridge is full
- If it shows RED, you must replace the cartridge with the recommended rearm kit



HOW TO TEST

- Manually inflate with air valve & test if it holds air for 16 hours
- Inspect inflation mechanism (not discharged, no corrosion, and properly installed)
- If it holds air, repack and use
- Replace the CO2 cartridge every time it is activated with the recommended rearm kit
- Walk into pool or shallow water with manually inflated jacket and experience the flotation

www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com

Read some of the real-life accounts of boaters in every state who wore a life jacket and were...

[Saved By the Jacket](#)

Including Coast Guard rescues on Lake Michigan and others local waters



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Running Lights

Skokie Valley Sail and Power Squadron

FROM:

Stf/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:
Fender or Dock

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