

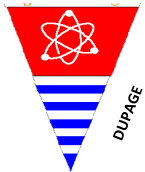


# DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter—Volume 67 Issue 1  
Spring-Summer 2024

# TRIDENT

**UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®  
is AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®**



Meet the 2024-2025 District 20 Officers:

From left to right — Assistant Education Officer P/Lt/C Brian Markey, JN; Secretary D/Lt/C Anita Donkers, AP; Treasurer D/Lt/C Joan Eichorst, SN; Educational Officer Cdr Fred Schuster, AP; Administrative Officer Cdr Bryan Hunt, AP; Executive Officer Cdr Frank D'Amico, AP; District Commander D/C Jesse Bowen, JN

**Internet Addresses**  
USPS: [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)  
D/20: [www.uspsd20boating.org](http://www.uspsd20boating.org)

**UNITED STATES  
POWER SQUADRONS®**

A publication of District 20  
published twice yearly  
Opinions expressed are those of the writers and  
not necessarily those of D/20 and USPS

**DISTRICT 20  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**DISTRICT COMMANDER**

D/Lt/C Jesse W. Bowen, JN  
1043 Sutherland Dr.  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Cdr Frank D’Amico, AP  
1240 Bison Lane  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192

**EDUCATIONAL OFFICER**

Cdr Fred Schuster AP  
53 Canterbury Drive  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Cdr Bryan Hunt, AP  
1818 Park Wes Drive  
Normal, IL 61761

**SECRETARY**

D/Lt/C Anita M. Donkers, AP  
8 E. Rickard Drive  
Oswego, IL 60543

**TREASURER**

D/Lt/C Joan L. Eichorst, SN  
640 Comstock Ave.  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

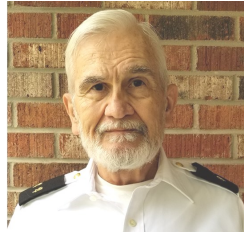
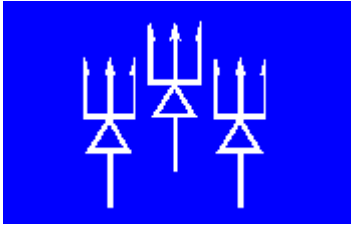
**IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER**

Cdr Michael Buren Ludtke, SN-CAN  
11419 Zarnstorff Rd  
Richmond, IL 60071

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION OR CONTACT</u>
19,20, 21 July	D/20 Cruise & Rendezvous	Kenosha, WI Cdr Bryan Hunt, AP
17 June	Council meeting	
10-11 August	Chicago Air and Water Show	North Ave. Beach Chicago
9/22—9/29	USPS Governing Board	Sheraton at Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA
October TBD	D/20 Fall Conference	TBD
TBD	Council meeting	Electronic—TBD
December	Council Meeting/ Holiday Party	TBD

**Fall Governing Board meeting is being held in Pittsburgh, PA during the week of September 22—September 29th. The reservation line is open, simply log into USPS.ORG and navigate to meetings page. A couple of the trips are to a Pittsburgh Pirates game and the Carnegie Science Center.**

**Sign up now and get a discount prices on excursion and meals—until August 27, 2024. Then prices go up 20%.**



## **DISTRICT COMMANDER**

D/C Jesse Bowen, JN

The last few months has been a busy time for me. Not only have I been honored as your new District Commander, but I had the privilege of officiating at several Squadron Changes of Watch. Now begins the exciting challenge of implementing the ongoing and new activities I advocated at those events. In particular I would like to see our district and squadrons seek ways to increase our engagement with the general boating public. As many organizations have found over the last few years, the isolation we experienced during the pandemic era led to declines across the board in volunteer participation. My goal is to renew our interactions with both our current members and future members. To that end, our district Bridge is planning how we can participate this coming year in the Chicago Boat Show, to be held in a new venue at the Rosemont Center. I also encourage all squadrons to hold public boating events that can attract new interest in our educational and safety programs. Other efforts include the upcoming Used Equipment Sale at the Waukegan Marina, a flare shoot event, and social events that improve our public visibility. My other major activity the last few months has been preparing my previous home for sale. After 26 years in the same location, I was astounded at how much “stuff” had found its way into various storage areas, closets, and assorted nooks and crannies. All of it, of course, was saved in the sincere belief that it would some day be useful! And, yes, it often was. As many other boaters, my interests have ranged across a variety of water-focused activities, as well as other hobbies and pursuits. But in trying to empty a house filled with tools, supplies, and partially-completed projects, I have a new appreciation for the need to prioritize, both possessions and future activities. High on that list of priorities is boating and the success of our America’s Boating Club organization. Without clear goals

and focused effort, it is all too easy to be trapped, like I have sometimes found myself, dealing with overwhelming choices about what to keep and what to discard.

As you set your own priorities for this coming year, I hope you will be able to set aside time and energy to support our squadrons and the district. There are a variety of exciting things on the horizon for America’s Boating Club. I hope you will join me this coming year in making our organization a source of pride and accomplishment.

Respectfully submitted,

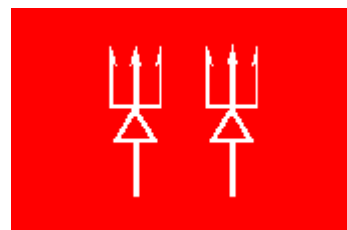
*D/C Jesse Bowen, JN*

**District Commander**



## DISTRICT SECRETARY

D/Lt/C Anita M. Donkers, AP



For most of us the craziness of getting the boat in the water is over. Time to relax and enjoy the sun and wind in your face.

Our District Executive Officer, Frank D'Amico, is working on a District-wide calendar of events. We plan to add the information Frank gathers to the District website. We can also share the information with all Commanders to share with your Squadron. You may live in Peoria, but traveling to Waukegan or Kenosha for a few days. You could check out the calendar to see if there is a cruise scheduled. Extra room will be found for you to join them. Maybe just join for a meal.

And finally, a big thank you to our new *Trident* and *Trident Extra* editor, P/D/C Terry Phillips, P. The newsletter looks great. I appreciate the time and coordination for putting it together and sending it out.

See you soon!

Respectfully Submitted:

*D/Lt/C Anita Donkers, AP*

**District Secretary**

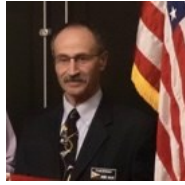
### News You Can Use from America's Boating Club National

America's Boating Channel celebrated the first anniversary of its smart TV service offerings with a [Safe Boating Video Fiesta at the 2024 International Boating & Water Safety Summit \(IBWSS\)](#). It was announced during the summit that the Canadian Power & Sail Squadrons is America's Boating Channel's newest strategic content provider partner.

Have you checked out the 12 [Inlet Drone Videos \(IDVs\)](#)? IDVs combine aerial video footage and 3D chart animations to help recreational boaters plan their first sorties through challenging and dangerous U.S. waterway entrances. If you need an interesting photo to promote an IDV, check out these creative treatments offered as stand-alone photos you can use: <https://photos.tempusaura.com/inlet-drone-videos/hEBFCA650#he6dfcb4b>. And remember, you can share [closed-captioned streaming versions](#) of the IDVs online and show [download versions](#) at in-person gatherings.

Our **TUNE-IN CAMPAIGN (TIC)**, supported in part with a grant from the USPS Endowment Fund, is continuing. Sunday every week, a new and different video is **Featured Now** in the top position on our smart TV app (on [Apple TV](#), [Roku](#), and [FireTV](#)), [AmericasBoatingChannel.com](#), and [YouTube channel](#). A **Watch Anytime** tune-in ad concurrently promotes viewing of that video's category (or row) with a permanent bitly link. Here's a link to [category bitlys and their QR codes](#).





**DISTRICT  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
Cdr Frank D'Amico, AP

Let me take a quick minute to introduce myself and tell you about my journey with United States Power Squadron. My then girlfriend Karen (now my wife) and I joined Skokie Valley Power Squadron in 1990. In the 33 years I worked my way up the squadron bridge and am on my 3<sup>rd</sup> term as Commander. Most know me as the husband of P/D/C Karen D'Amico, and I've been very happy being there for her during her journey with USPS. Now I'm taking my turn at doing what I can to support USPS and D20.

Let's move on to business. At the last Annual Meeting, there were some new programs and items that I would like to pass on to our membership. The 2 items I wish to touch on are VSC Examiners and New Marketing material.

The first item that I would like to share is related to VSC Examiners. A new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Between USCGAux and USPS states that all current VSC Examiners need to take a mandatory workshop and sign an attestation to be completed by 30 June 2024 to retain their certification. Information on this requirement and further instructions can be found at <https://www.usps.org/departments/12000/12900/12900-vessel-safety-check/12900-vessel-safety-check-updates>.

P/D/C Mike Ludtke, SN-CAN has graciously accepted to be the D20 VSC Chair this year again and has mentioned the possibility of teaching a VSC Examiner's class later this year. If you are interested in becoming a certified vessel examiner, the following link provides the necessary steps. <https://www.usps.org/departments/12000/12900/12900-vessel-safety-check/12900-become-a-vessel-examiner>.

The VSC trifold brochure produced by the Marketing Committee was just updated for 2024. Remember, the VSC is not just about the boat; it is an opportunity to educate. The brochure includes a checklist of required items on the boat and other safety tips. Use the space on the back to fill in your contact information, class schedule, or next squadron activity before printing them.

The next item I want to touch on is Marketing's effort to help promote USPS.

The Co-Operative Advertising Program has returned for 2023 – 2024. This program is to help squadrons and districts partially fund their advertising by offering reimbursement for 50% of

qualified advertising and promotional dollars, up to a maximum of \$300 per squadron (or district) per year.

Qualified advertising can include the following:

- Paid advertising for radio, TV, social media or print media.
- Printed materials such as flyers, letters, posters, and placemats.
- Billboards, banners, or signs that promote courses.
- Materials for boat shows, parades, trade show displays, and local festivals.

Qualified expenditures must be submitted by September 1, 2024, for the current fiscal year. Additional information can be found at <https://www.usps.org/departments/12000/12400>.

To help in promoting America's Boating Course and USPS there are now "fillable" marketing brochures. The space on the back of the brochures are "fillable" meaning there is a space to type in your club's contact information, class schedule, events, etc. before printing. The trifold brochures are a great resource for boat shows, classes, and other PR activities. They are and can be found at <https://www.usps.org/departments/12000/12400/12400-marketing-brochures>.

- General Membership brochure
- America's Boating Course brochure
- Education brochure
- Vessel Safety Check brochure
- Environmental Best Practices brochure

Finally, I look forward to working with the Squadron Commanders this year. One of my goals is to have Squadrons collaborate on planned activities, cruises, classes, and other events. With limited resources and membership challenges being a concern for all squadrons, maybe by sharing our strengths we can create greater opportunities for all our members in the District.

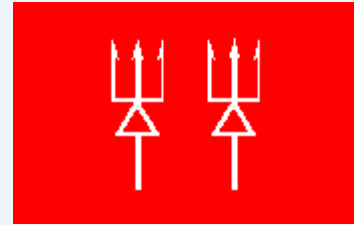
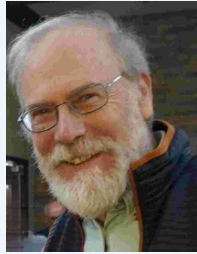
Respectfully Submitted

*Cdr Frank D'amico, AP*

**District Executive Officer**

**DISTRICT  
EDUCATIONAL  
OFFICER**

**Cdr Fred Schuster, P**



Chapman Award: The Charles F. Chapman Award is a National award recognizing excellence in teaching. District 20 may nominate 1 or 2 candidates. The District 20 nomination(s) are due at National no later than 1 October 2024. Squadrons are encouraged to submit candidates to D20 for consideration and nomination. Information on the Chapman Award rules and submission requirements is available at

<https://www.usps.org/departments/13000/13000-educational-committees/13290/13290-chapman-award-for-excellence-in-teaching>

National Course Development

Cruising & Cruise Planning: Release of the completely updated and expanded Cruising & Cruise Planning course is imminent. A team-teaching approach to presenting this course is recommended due the broad scope of the expanded curriculum.

Advanced Marine Navigation: Update of this curriculum is under active development with release expected by the end of 2024.

Celestial Navigation: Development is continuing on the Celestial Navigation course which will replace the current Navigation (N) course. Availability for beta testing is anticipated later this year. The requirement to pass this 10-week course will be successful completion of a detailed sight folder; no exam will be required. The current N course will continue to be available until the new Celestial Navigation course is released.

Boat Systems: The Boat Systems committee is developing seminars on Diesel Engines, Outboards, and Marine Batteries. Content from these seminars is expected to be incorporated in future updates of the Engine Maintenance and Marine Electrical Systems courses. A new webinar on NMEA 2000 and NMEA 0183 networks is also under development.

Course Completions: Congratulations are in order for the following recent course completions: P/D/C Mike Ludtke recently taught the new Offshore Navigation course in beta form with 8 students who are now anxiously awaiting exam results!

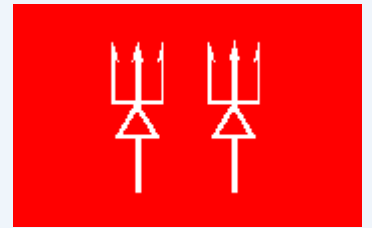
Respectfully Submitted,

Cdr. Fred Schuster, AP  
Education Officer

TRIDENT  
DEADLINE  
1 SEPTEMBER  
2024

**DISTRICT  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICER**

Cdr Bryan Hunt, AP



Spring greetings to all. I hope by now that your boats are either in the water or getting close to be launched. If you don't have a boat make friends with someone who does. I have had a busy time already with the Mid Illini Squadron going to the Abacos the week after the spring conference. If you have a chance to travel there even if you only stay on land it is possible to take ferrys or drive to all of the sites, it is well worth the time.

I appreciate everyone who was involved in making the spring conference a success. I was much more involved in the activities than I had in the past and had a great time. Thanks to all of you for that.

We do need to have a squadron or perhaps a group volunteer to take charge of a Cruise and Rendezvous for this summer as well as the Fall Conference. If there is interest please reach out and let me know.

As your Squadron plans your summer activities, please let the District Bridge know your plans so we can add your event to the District calendar. District members may be in your area and make plans to join you.

Respectfully submitted

*Cdr Bryan Hunt, AP*

**Administrative Officer**

**Mark your calendars !!**

**Save the date !!**

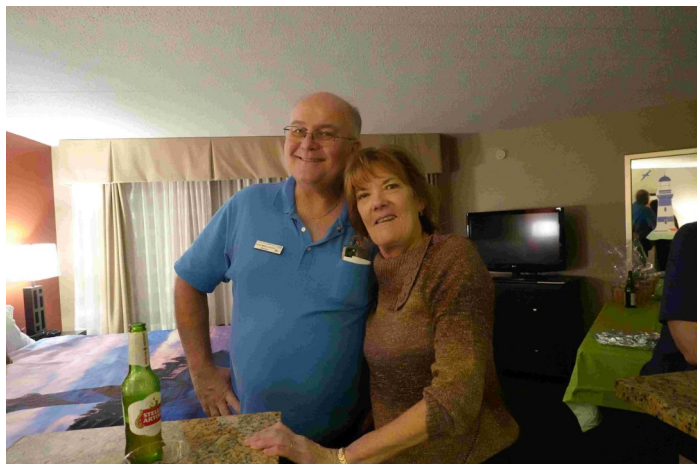
**Cruise & Rendezvous is being planned.  
19-21 July in Kenosha, Wisconsin.**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

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# Pictures from Spring Conference and Change of Watch—March 8,9,10 2024

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# TRIDENT

District 20, unit of United States Power Squadrons®

FROM:

TO:

## First Class Mail



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