

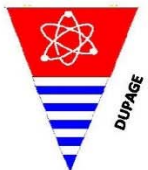


DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter – Volume 67 Issue 1
Winter-Spring 2024

TRIDENT

United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club®



Internet Addresses
USPS: www.usps.org
D/20: www.uspsd20boating.org
Public: <https://americasboatingclub.org>

**UNITED STATES
POWER SQUADRON®**

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Opinions expressed are those of the
writers and not necessarily those of
D/wo and USPS

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**DISTRICT 20
2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

JANUARY	No Events Planned	
FEBRUARY	1	Trident Extra
	3-12	USPS Annual Meeting Rosen Plaza Orlando Orlando, Florida
	20	Bridge Meeting
	27	Council Meeting
MARCH	8-9	D/20 Spring Conference and COW Holiday Inn Chicago Northwest Elgin, Illinois

INFORMATION FROM NATIONAL WEBSITE

Marketing Brochures: The Marketing Committee has an Education brochure that lists our seminars as well as our courses. Visit the [Marketing Brochures web page](#) for more information. A great handout for students taking an ABC course.

On the Water Guide for Man Overboard Seminar: A good way to start the boating season is the Man Overboard Seminar. National has an [On The Water \(OTW\) Teaching Aid Guide \(138KB PDF\)](#) for potential use in a Man Overboard seminar available.

Here's the full list of seminars:

AIS Electronics for Boaters	How to use a GPS Chartplotter
All About VHF/DSC Marine Radio	Hurricane Preparation for Boaters
Anchoring and Assurance	Introduction to Navigation
Boating on Rivers, Locks & Lakes	Knots and Line Handling
Boating with Confidence	Man Overboard
Confidence in Docking and Undocking	Marine Radar
Crew at the Helm (Partner in Command)	Mariner's Compass
Crossing Borders	Modern Weather Forecasting
Cruising Boats and Systems	Paddle Smart
Emergencies on Board	Partner in Command (Crew at Helm)
Fuel and Boating	Planning Your Cruise
Hands-On Training (formerly POTW)	Propane Systems on Your Boat
How to Use a Chart	Rules of the Road
	Tides and Currents
	Trailing Your Boat
	Weather for Boaters



**DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

D/C Michael B Ludtke, SN-ACN

Welcome to 2024! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. With the New Year come new beginnings, hope and new years resolutions. And resolutions aren't just for individuals, your Squadron can commit to making a bigger impact in 2024. Here's some ideas:

Resolution 1: Commit to putting your classes into HQ-800. Lots of people visit the National website looking for classes, including people looking for advanced classes. Having your classes listed with National puts you center stage for boaters looking for education. You are missing out on a golden opportunity if you don't list on HQ-800.

Resolution 2: Jump start your social program. The life blood of the Power Squadron is the social aspect. If your Squadron is not having social gatherings on a regular basis, get started to keep your members engaged. Monthly social gatherings, with a variety of activities, can go a long way to getting members involved and having fun.

Resolution 3: Provide services to the community. Can you add more Vessel Safety Check Examiners to your roster? Maybe some qualified instructors to help teach America's Boating Course? I'm guessing your Squadron has a lot of untapped talent, so let's get these people into the mix and contributing to our club.

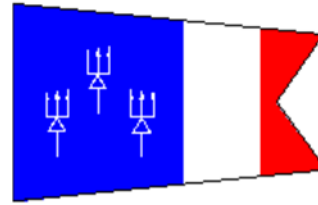
Resolution 4: Get your Squadron involved in the District events. You can find out more information on the Spring Conference in this issue. We've moved up the date to early March, March 8 & 9, so we won't compete so much with your spring boat prep or your St Patrick's Day plans. Each Conference has an update on the educational department and a featured keynote speaker. The Spring Conference is also our Change of Watch, and we'll have a National representative there to answer any questions you may have about the direction of our organization going forward.

Thank you all for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you in Elgin the weekend of March 9th.

Mike

PAST DISTRICT COMMANDER

P/D/C Richard A Davidson, SN



They say a historian is a prophet looking backwards. My chance to see District 20 after I handed the gavel to Mike Ludtke has been gratifying in how well the job is being done by my successor. We had a good Fall Conference, Bridge and Council meetings were fast and painless with much getting done. We will have a Cruise & Rendezvous and a Spring Conference that will be worthwhile for all to attend.

Mike attends the Governing Boards and National Meetings, continues to pass along the wise words of the National Bridge, our Chief Commander, and the good work they are doing to adapt America's Boating Club to the demographic changes in society.

During this past year, I got through the long list of seminars and other training needed to get BOC certification. Mike Ludtke remains the Midwest Regional Director of the BOC program, so I am grateful to him for keeping it going and providing the training session I attended in 2022.

I also just participated in the nominating committee to help staff the Bridge and Executive Committee members of District 20 after Mike completes his term as Commander. We have an excellent team ready to carry on with our programs. I ask all of you to attend our events, take our online seminars, watch the excellent America's Boating Channel videos on your streaming services, and continue to learn about boating safety and be a boater with a state-of-the-art level of training.

I/P/D/C Rich Davidson, SN-ACN

PROPOSED DISTRICT 20 BYLAWS

The Rules Committee has completed the draft for the proposed District 20 Bylaws to bring the District in-line with the Model National Bylaws. The complete document can be accessed through the following link for downloading and printing. The document name is "2023-10-12 – Draft.docx". The Proposed Bylaws will be voted on at the 2024 Spring Conference in Elgin.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iMVeegDxMAqQZg3oeniKb1yJuVyr3ibd/edit?usp=sharing&oid=112541492036249804358&rtpof=true&sd=true>

P/C Nancy Sibrava-Koenen, SN
Chair of Rules Committee



EXECUTIVE OFFICER
D/Lt/C Jesse Bowen, JN

Title: Artificial “Intelligence?”

Unless you have been living under a very remote rock, you have probably heard of the newest iterations of artificial intelligence (AI) engines. They are usually either breathlessly touted as The Next Big Thing that is going to make everyone happy and rich, or as equivalent to Skynet of the Terminator movies, determined to eliminate all human life. As a scientist and engineer, my burning question has been “is AI really useful?” So, I decided to try a little test, one relevant to the hobby and organization we all cherish.

First, I downloaded the free version of “ChatGPT.” An app for mobile devices, this version is widely available. And did I mention “free?” Anyway, the limitation of this version of the app is that it has only been trained on information from the year 2021 and earlier. As a result, we must make allowances for it not being aware of the world for the last two years.

Now, what burning question should I ask of it? Or, in the parlance of AI, what “prompt” should I offer? Well, we all know that growing America’s Boating Club membership, or at least stabilizing it, is key to our long-term success. So that’s what I asked about.

I entered my question into the ChatGPT text box: “What are effective ways to increase membership in America’s Boating Club, which is also known as the United States Power Squadrons?”

Within about one second, I had a response: “To increase membership in America's Boating Club (United States Power Squadrons), consider implementing targeted marketing campaigns, hosting boating safety events, collaborating with local marinas or boat dealerships, and leveraging social media to engage and attract boating enthusiasts. Additionally, offering special promotions or discounts for new members and emphasizing the educational and social aspects of the club can be effective strategies.”

I was impressed! The answer was not only coherent but well-informed. Each of the recommendations has merit. Of course, they are not especially unique or innovative. All of those approaches have been suggested or tried at either the national or local level of our organization. As we all know, just having a good idea is only the first step in achieving a goal. The substantially more difficult task is to work out a plan in detail and then implement it.

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

So ChatGPT had useful ideas – at least in general. It will be up to all of us as concerned members to find the practical paths that realize those goals. As I look forward to the coming year, I will be asking for input from our District 20 membership. Please contact me directly if you have any ideas that will make you “smarter than AI!”

D/Lt/C Jesse Bowen, JN
District 20 Executive Officer
jessebowen@comcast.net

EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

D/Lt/C Scott Harm on, AP



Hi, All – Wanted to share a photo of Mid Illini’s current Advanced Piloting Class. While it is cold in D/20 land many of us keep warm by working on our skills.



National has put together a bundle of seminars that are available at a special price of \$49.90 for all three; Weather for Boaters, All About Marine Radio and Using Nautical Charts. These are available online. You can enjoy them at your own pace.

[Holiday Bundle](#). If the link doesn’t work: uspsonline.enrolmart.com

Land of Lincoln is starting an Advanced Piloting Class Tuesday December 5th that is available for remote students.

Waukegan will be hosting a Beta version of the New Offshore Navigation class. Contact Mike Ludtke.

You can also search for upcoming classes at americasboatingclub.org

If you are looking for a certain class or your squadron has opportunities that I can help with getting the word out, please contact me. 217-891-2870

D/Lt/C Scott Harmon, AP



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
D/Lt/C Greg Kelso, AP

New Year's greetings to everyone. The Spring Conference will be held 8 and 9 March at the Holiday Inn Chicago Northwest in Elgin. See page 8 for hotel and meal reservations, and schedule.

We had a great time at the Cruise & Rendezvous in Peoria in July. A full day of boating was on Saturday's agenda with taking pontoon boats to Henry for our Council meeting and lunch.

We are still looking for a Squadron, or Squadrons, to host the Fall 2024 Conference. The Fall Conference is usually a Friday evening get-together, with meetings ending by late Saturday afternoon. Please contact me if your Squadron would like to help with the Conference, or host the weekend.

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.

PHOTOS FROM 2023 FALL CONFERENCE

FRIDAY NIGHT BINGO





DISTRICT 20

2024 Spring Conference and Change of Watch

8-9 March, 2024
Holiday Inn Chicago Northwest-
495 Airport Rd., Elgin, IL 60123

Room Rates: Standard King \$115/night, Standard Double Queen \$125/night; Junior Suites (King/Queen), Executive Suites \$139/night. Room block is limited. **The deadline for making hotel reservations is 8 February.**
Call (847) 488-9000. Mention "United States Power Squadron District 20" block to receive discounted rates.

Rank	Name	Grade	Squadron	Email	Telephone
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Luncheon Choices : Price \$28 per person

_____ St Brigid Burger: Includes cheese, bacon, onions and mushrooms on a Brioche Bun w/fries.

_____ Bennigan's Club: Honey wheat bread with ham, turkey, bacon, tomato, lettuce and cheese w/fries

_____ Kilkenny's Country Chicken Salad: Grilled chicken with garden greens, bacon, cheese, eggs, and tomatoes w/honey Dijon dressing.

Dinner Choices: Price \$50 per person

_____ Grilled Salmon

_____ Mushroom Champagne Chicken

_____ NY Strip Steak

(Lunch includes coffee, tea or soft drink. Dinner includes salad, rolls, Chef's choice of starch & vegetable, coffee/decaf, tea or soft drink)

	<u>Meals</u>				<u>Total \$</u>
Luncheon:	_____	x	\$28	=	\$_____
Dinner:	_____	x	\$50	=	\$_____
			Total:		\$_____

Make checks payable to: **WSPS**
Registration and check should be sent by **26 Feb**
to: **P/Lt/C Ellen Ludtke AP,**
11419 Zarnstorff Rd., Richmond, IL 60071

Schedule of Events

Friday 8 March:

1500-1800	Registration
1930-2230	Hospitality Suites open

Saturday 9 March:

0700-1000	Coffee/Tea & Snack in the Friendship Room - Sapphire Room
0800-1100	Registration
0900-0950	Educational Meeting - Scott Harmon
1000-1050	C/C Message and updates from the National Meeting
1100-1150	Keynote Speaker - TBD
1200-1300	Lunch
1315-1330	Verification of Delegates
1330-1530	Spring Conference Meeting
1700-1800	Cocktail Hour—Cash Bar
1800-2000	Banquet & Change of Watch

Dress Code:

Friday night: Theme TBD
Saturday: Uniform G (short sleeved shirt no tie) or business casual
Banquet: USPS Dress Uniform or suitable attire



SECRETARY
D/Lt/C Anita Donkers, AP

Greetings to everyone. Hope your Holidays were full of family, friendship, good food and lots of laughter. It has been a successful and busy time for the District. The summer Cruise & Rendezvous in Peoria was a busy weekend. D/Lt/C Greg Kelso put together lots of activities which included a boat ride to Henry for Saturday lunch. And the District Fall Conference started off Friday evening with costumes and bingo. I am looking forward to see what the Spring Conference has to offer. We will not be disappointed. Hope to see you March 9, 2024, at the Elgin Holiday Inn.

A reminder to share your Squadron activities with the District Bridge. We would like to add your activities to the District Website. If we learned one thing from the pandemic it is Zoom get-togethers are successful. If another Squadron is presenting a course or seminar that you would like to take, but you are not able to physically attend the classroom setting, Zoom has become our friend. Your Squadron may have a speaker presenting at a General Meeting that is of interest to members from other Squadrons. You just might get more attendees to your meeting. The possibilities are endless for sharing information.

The District is looking for a new Editor for the **Trident** and **Trident Extra**. As many of you know, P/Stf/C Pat Antoni, SN moved to Florida several years ago, but has stayed very active in District 20 and Skokie Valley activities; you see Pat's name and handiwork on the **Trident** and **Trident Extra** as our Editor. Pat is passing the baton for editing the newsletter.

If you are interested in taking over this position, please contact me (a-donkers@comcast.net or 630/294-3161). There are two **Tridents** and two **Trident Extras** produced each year. Pat uses Microsoft Publisher and is more than willing to work with the new editor to make the transition go smoothly.

From the Donkers home to your home, may you have a Safe, Peaceful, Healthy, and Blessed 2024.

D/Lt/C Anita Donkers, AP
District 20 Secretary

D/20 Nominating Committee Report

In accordance with the Bylaws of District 20, the following members are hereby nominated for election at the 2023 District 20 Spring Conference. All nominees have agreed to serve if elected.

Office	Name	Squadron
District Commander	D/Lt/C Jesse Bowen, JN	Waukegan
Executive Officer	Cdr Frank D'Amico, AP	Skokie Valley
Educational Officer	Cdr Fred Schuster, AP	Waukegan
Administrative Officer	Cdr Bryan Hunt, AP	Mid Illini
Secretary	D/Lt/C Anita Donkers, AP	DuPage
Treasurer	D/Lt/C Joan Eichorst, SN	DuPage
Assistant Education	P/Lt/C Brian Markey, JN	Waukegan

Nominating Committee

Chair	P/D/C Theresa Phillips, P	Mid Illini
Vice Chair	P/D/C Rich Davidson, SN-ACN	Skokie Valley
2 nd Vice Chair	P/D/C Mike Ludtke, SN-ACN	Waukegan
Member (1 Year)	P/C Gerry Christman, AP	Mid Illini
Member (2 years)	Cdr Daryl Moore, AP	DuPage

Rules Committee

Chair	P/D/C Dennis McNamara, JN	Skokie Valley
Member	P/D/C Harvey Young, SN-IN	Illinois Valley
Member	P/R/C Robert Canfield, JN	Rockford

Audit Committee

Chair	Lt/C Ron E. Zingler, AP-IN	Skokie Valley
Member (1 Year)	Cdr Janice M. North, AP	Chicago
Member (2 Years)	P/C Dave Sallmann, JN	Waukegan

Respectively submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Karen D'Amico, AP (Chair)
 Terry Phillips, P
 Richard Davidson, SN-ACN
 Gerry Christman, AP
 Nicholas Scheuer, AP

PHOTOS FROM SATURDAY, 2023 FALL CONFERENCE



PHOTOS FROM D/C HOLIDAY PARTY



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Photographers

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P/D/C Karen D'Amico, AP

Production Staff

D/Lt/C Anita Donkers, AP

