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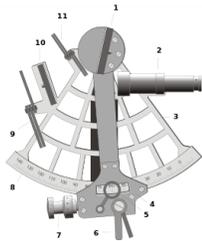


District 20

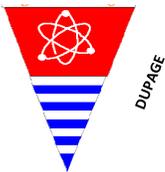
Membership Newsletter

Volume 67 Issue 3

Fall Winter 2025



District 20 Fall Conference
and
Educational Awards Luncheon
October 25, 2025



DUPAGE



FOX VALLEY



ILLINOIS VALLEY



LAND OF LINCOLN



MICHIGAN CITY



MIDLAND



RACINE



ROCKFORD



SPOKE VALLEY



WAUKEGAN



Holiday Inn & Suites

495 Airport Road

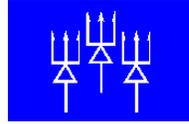
Elgin, IL 60123

Internet Addresses
USPS: www.usps.org
D/20: www.uspsd20boating.org

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Greetings,

I want to take a moment to thank our D20 Admin Officer Clint Rahn, AP, for a great Cruise & Rendezvous at Heritage Harbor in Ottawa, IL. The weather was perfect while we enjoyed our breakfast, Council meeting, and a delicious lunch at the marina. The afternoon cruise on the Saint Genevieve riverboat was both relaxing and informative. It gave us a chance to socialize with our fellow D20 members and friends. Well done, Clint.

Our next district event will be the Fall Conference at the Holiday Inn in Elgin, IL. This will be a one-day event so that we can conduct our business and recognize our Squadron's educational efforts and achievements. It's going to be a busy morning. First DEO Fred Schuster, JN will hold a session on what is happening at National regarding classes and seminars. Squadron and District educational materials will be discussed also. This will be a great time for Squadron Educational Office to get together to share ideas and discuss what is new with Fred.

Next, I will be sharing information learned from the Governing Board meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I will discuss the new bylaws that were passed and how they benefit the squadrons, if you choose to adopt them. There will also be presentations on a new "Direct to Squadron" membership initiative that is being implemented, best practices for Marketing / Facebook, and an insurance recommendation to protect our Bridge & Officers.

After lunch, we will conduct the D20 Fall conference meeting with District Officer and Committee reports. DXO George Prescott, SN will provide a recap of the Commander reports given at the Council meeting. We will also discuss the upcoming boat show. DEO Fred Schuster, JN will also present the educational awards in the afternoon.

As a reminder, any new business to be discussed at the Conference meeting should be presented at the D20 Council meeting in advance. The next Council meeting is Wednesday, October 8th at 7 PM – Commanders or a representative from each squadron should be present to give a report. Let me know if you have any new business prior to this meeting so I can add it to the agenda.

The Holiday Inn will be holding some rooms for those that want to arrive on Friday before the Conference and stay the night instead of driving in. Room reservations must be made by 10 October. Also, the lunch choices and payment must be given to DAO Clint Rahn by 15 October. See the registration form in this issue for details.

I hope this one-day Conference will inspire Squadron Commanders and members to attend and participate in this event. Remember, it is the responsibility of all squadron members to hear and be heard at the district level. Moreover, it is a time for all of us to collaborate and share ideas to make our squadrons stronger.

I hope to see everyone.

Sincerely,
D/C Frank D'Amico, AP

**DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE
OFFICER**

D/Lt/C George Prescott, SN



Gosh, membership not in attendance at August's C & R at Heritage Harbor, Ottawa, and aboard the Ste. Genevieve riverboat missed a wonderful time! Ottawa was selected as a place on the water and more easily accessible to encourage participation from all our squadrons. Most but not all squadrons were represented unfortunately. Don't miss next year's adventure.

Hats off to DAO Clint Rahn coordinating the C & R. All the needs for our membership were covered; coffee, donuts, accessible washroom, a catered luncheon, and an accommodating Heritage Harbor staff. Hey, Heritage Harbor even opened up the bar for us.

But what made the day terrific was the boating weather and a two-hour cruise on the Illinois River to the Starve Rock Pool. A variety of boaters took advantage of the river, certainly barges, pontons in abundance, PVC's and, yes, even kayaks. I am wondering if we are not missing a growth opportunity in Ottawa.

Did I mention river bathers were spotted? It was a terrific boating day, and District 20 took advantage. I even had a *de ja vu* experience. Ask me about that at the District 20 Fall conference. Put attendance at the conference on your calendar. Cdr. D'Amico is proposing a one-day conference.

Organizing for the winter boat show has always been a chore. District's Mike Ludtke did a splendid job of organizing at the 2025 January show, and—if I know Mike—he is planning to exceed his efforts in 2026! Squadron commanders, let us provide Mike with the support he needs to make the event successful. He may be reached at mikel643@outlook.com.

Put membership attendance at the Rosemont boat show, January 28 to February 1, on your squadron's agenda. May I suggest booth attendance be on every squadron's agenda until the days of the show. Booth duty gets members into the show free, a \$15 value! Yes, both Mike and I realize we are being premature.

I am privileged to know there has been discussion of USPS seminars being proposed at the boat show. Currently, proposals are fluid, and I would welcome membership input at the Fall Conference. I will have more to say as we get closer to the show dates. This, too, is a District-wide event in which membership should be participating.

Now, back to planning for next year's C & R, certainly a prerogative of the 2026 DAO. I would welcome an opportunity to go boating on Lake Springfield, something I have never done. Or there is the state capital, Lincoln's New Salem, Illinois museum, and other Springfield attractions. District 20 has not had a C & R in Springfield for several years. That would put the onus of attendance on the Upstate squadrons. Land of Lincoln squadron, are you getting my message?

Not for me to say where the 2026 C & R is located, I know. I am troubled when we fail to have representation from all our squadrons at District events. Membership, let us talk about what squadrons and our District must do to attract and hold membership. I may be reached at LJNlawoffice@aol.com. Together let's make America's Boating Club great again (MABCGA)! Put that on your boating hat!

Fraternally, George F. Prescott, DXO

District 20 Upcoming Events

October 8 - Council Meeting

October 19 - Lake Geneva Lunch Cruise

October 25 - Fall Conference

November 12 - Bridge Meeting

December 1 - Trident articles due

January 28—February 1 - Chicago Boat Show

February 9-15 - Annual Meeting

March 20-21 - Spring Conference/Change of Watch

**DISTRICT
SECRETARY**

D/Lt/C Anita M. Donkers, AP



The calendar tells us that Fall officially begins on September 22. Someone forgot to tell Mother Nature. As I am writing this article the weather has been perfect boating weather...sunny...temps in 80s. But, the trees are already changing into their majestic colors, and it's time to put the boats away for winter.

Our **Trident** Editor PDC Terry Philips, is always looking for articles for the newsletter. If you took a first-time cruise, or had an unusual experience while on the water, please share your story and photos. Are you planning a cruise next year? How are you preparing? Share photos of Squadron activities, too.

And as you prepare your Squadron schedules for next year, please share the calendar with Terry and the District 20 Webmaster, PDC Rich Davidson. Both the newsletter and website lists Squadron activities. You just might find a new adventure to go on!

Please check out the Fall Conference flyer and join us in Elgin the end of October.

One final thought: "Sailing: The art of getting from a place you are to a place you want to be."

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



2026 United States Power Squadron Annual Meeting

February 8, 2026— February 15, 2026

Each room is a suite, every room has a view of the ocean, and a complimentary breakfast is included. Meals, events and agenda are coming.



Embassy Suites
Kingston
Mrytle Beach,
South Carolina

CRUISE AND RONDEVEAU AT HERITAGE HARBOR

July 23, 2025



A two-hour authentic sternwheel riverboat ride upon the Sainte Genevieve Riverboat, was enjoyed after the C & R was completed.

**TRIDENT
DEADLINE
1 DECEMBER
2025**



**DISTRICT 20 Fall CONFERENCE AND
EDUCATIONAL AWARDS**

25 October 2025

**HOLIDAY INN & SUITES CHICAGO NORTHWEST -
ELGIN**

495 Airport Road Elgin, Illinois 60123

Limited rooms are available for those who wish to spend Friday night. King \$124 per night. Two Queen beds \$129 per night. Book online [{using this link}](#) or call 847-488-9000, and mention “United States Power Squadron District 20 Fall Conference” to secure the discounted price. **MAKE RESERVATIONS BY 10 OCTOBER!**

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

****Staying Friday night? Why not join others for dinner at Jimmy’s Charhouse, 2990 Point Blvd, Elgin, IL**

Lunch Choices: Cost \$33.00 each

Includes potato soup, regular & decaf coffee, and soda

Mark your choice

_____ **1. Kilkenny’s Chicken Salad**—Crispy chicken with greens, bacon, Colby cheese, eggs & tomatoes. Served with smokey honey Dijon dressing

_____ **2. Turkey O’Toole**— Sliced turkey breast, Swiss cheese & smokey honey Dijon dressing on a pretzel bun. Served with French fries and a pickle.

_____ **3. Famous Monte Cristo**—Honey wheat bread layered with ham, turkey, Swiss and American cheeses. Battered dipped, fried and coated with powdered sugar. Served with raspberry preserves for dipping, fries and a pickle.

No. Attending

_____ x **\$33.00 per Lunch order**

\$_____ **Total Cost**

Make checks payable to: Waukegan Power Squadron
Registration RSVP and check must be received by **15 October, 2025**
 Clint Rahn
 340 Wethington Dr.—Unit D
 Waconda, IL 60084
 Or Zelle to WSPS6125@gmail.com

Schedule of Events

Friday 24 October

1830 — 2000 Dinner at Jimmy’s Charhouse**
****RSVP to Karen D’Amico at kdamico@ameritech.net Or 224-238-7372 by October 19**

Saturday 25 October

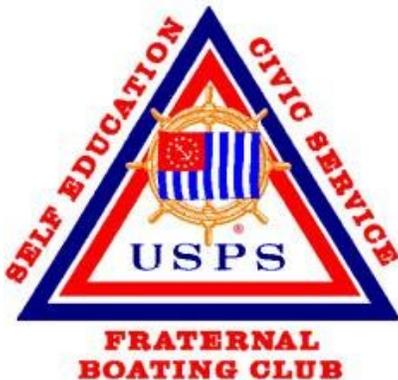
0730 — 0900 Friendship/Registration
 0900 — 1015 Education Dept. Meeting
 1030 — 1145 Presentations from Governing Board
 - Direct to Squadron membership
 - Bylaws update—associate members
 - D & O insurance recommendations
 - Marketing/Facebook updates
 1200 — 1315 Lunch
 1315 — 1330 Verification of Delegates
 1330 — 1530 Fall Conference

Dress Code:

Saturday: USPS/American Boating Club Casual attire

TRIDENT

District 20, unit of United States Power Squadrons®



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