

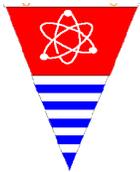


DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter—Volume 67 Issue 2
Summer 2025

TRIDENT

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



DUPAGE



FOX VALLEY



ILLINOIS VALLEY



LAND OF LINCOLN



MICHIGAN CITY



Cruise & Rendezvous

Heritage Harbor

August 23, 2025



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

**UNITED STATES
POWER SQUADRONS®**

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not necessarily those of D/20 and USPS

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**TRIDENT
DEADLINE
1 SEPTEMBER
2025**

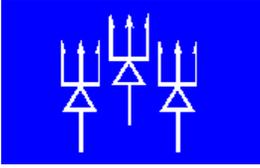
<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION OR CONTACT</u>
16 July	Bridge Meeting	D/C Frank D’Amico
13 August	Bridge meeting	D/C Frank D’Amico
23 August	C & R Council Meeting	Heritage Harbor Ottawa
1 September - 7 September	USPS Governing Board	Amway grand Plaza Grand Rapids, MI
8 October	Council Meeting	D/C Frank D’Amico
25 October	Fall Conference	TBD
14 December	Council Meeting/ Holiday Party	Frank D’Amico home
5 March	Council Meeting	D/C Frank D’Amico

Trailing: Taking you new places

There’s no better way to expand your boating horizons than with trailing. Especially with limited time, you can haul your boat to new and exciting destinations. Learn to tow, launch, and retrieve your boat like a pro with America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons' online seminar [Trailing Your Boat](#). This seminar covers everything you need to know:

- ☐ Choosing the right trailer, hitch, and tow vehicle
- ☐ Essential safety checks before and during your trip
 - ☐ The art of towing—maneuver with ease
- ☐ Boat ramp etiquette for stress-free launch and retrieval
- ☐ Maintenance tips to keep your equipment in top shape
- ☐ Key points about registration, titling, and insurance

Take [Trailing Your Boat](#) today and be ready to hit the road for your next boating adventure!



Hello All,

I hope everyone is planning for a great summer season of boating and activities. Before we get into upcoming activities, I want to take a minute to thank all those who made the D20 Spring Conference in Elgin a success. There was a lot of planning and coordination for Skokie Valley, the host squadron. I appreciate all the squadrons and individuals that contributed baskets for the raffle, and most importantly time so that we could have an event that we all enjoyed. Finally, all this work would not have mattered if the D20 members did not attend. Thank you all that attended the Spring Conference, enjoyed a fun Friday night, an informative conference, and my installation as Commander. It was an exceptional time, and I will work toward keeping this collaboration going.

That leads to my Commander's message and goals for D20's members. My message and objective is "Communications & Collaboration". To start with, I think it is very important for Squadron Commanders and all our members to share events and activities that we can all enjoy. Currently, my D20 calendar is published with our Bridge Meetings, Council Meetings, and other deadlines, on the D20 website: <https://www.uspsd20boating.org/district-20-calendar>. I included Squadron events I am aware of, but I know there are more things Squadrons have planned and not yet included on this site. Together we have lots of fun activities like summer cruises, fishing derby, flare shoot, barbeques, and other events at marinas that should be added to the calendar for everyone to participate in. We can also get the word out as you are scheduling Fall classes, seminars, and other education opportunities for members. I know several squadrons are planning flotillas in 2026. Let's keep our Web Master Rich Davidson busy updating the D20 Calendar with all our fun activities.

Speaking of upcoming events. Our D20 Admin Officer Clint Rahn (with the help of DXO George Prescott) is working to plan the Cruise & Rendezvous scheduled for 23 August. They are finalizing the location and details to share with you. Also, it's not too early to start thinking about the Fall Conference. DAO Clint would probably welcome any squadron volunteers. I know it is a lot of work to plan these events, but if we reach out to other members and squadrons early, and work together, the task won't be difficult. With more Communication & Collaboration these District events can become

easier to host.

I want to thank all that attended my second Bridge meeting earlier this month. Ideas were shared regarding Website hosting, Chicago Boat show and other items. It was decided that D20 would have a booth at the 2026 Chicago Boat Show. My Bridge Meetings are open to anyone that wishes to participate in what D20 is doing. I would entertain any topic that is brought to my attention before the meeting. The days of those meetings are listed in the calendar. Reach out to me if you wish to receive a link to those meetings.

One last time, "Communications & Collaboration" is my theme. Let's talk to each other, meet with each other, share ideas, and most importantly, work together to make this District stronger. If we share our talents, there isn't anything that can't be done to make us one big family.

D/C Frank D'Amico, AP



[Your Next Boating Adventure Awaits](#)

Gain needed confidence and skills to head out on the water for a weekend—or weeks at a time. Start your next on-the-water plans with Cruising Under Power and Sail, a comprehensive online course offered by America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons. This newly updated course covers

Planning your cruise—choosing and equipping your boat, selecting crew and provisioning

Navigation—getting there, electronics and communication

Weather for boaters—forecasting winds and storms

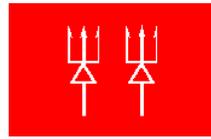
Crossing borders

Safety equipment and emergencies—preparing for the unexpected

Don't let the dream slip by! Take Cruising Under Power and Sail to get ready for your next cruising adventure.

[Learn More](#)

Note: This is an online, self-paced course. Members, check with your squadron to find an in-person course.



Commander Frank has assigned me supervisory duties of D/20 VSC activity, Boat Show chairman, Co-Op Chartering, DNR Waterway Liaison, and Legislative Officer. Sounds like a heavy load, doesn't it?

I will be seeking chairmen for each of the above. The experience of previous chairs is desired. Anything here appeal to you? Let's not be bashful!

P/D/C Michael Ludtke has agreed to continue as District VSC chair. He's the go-to person when questions can't be resolved at the squadron level. I've already asked him about the new VSC form.

The new VSC form is simpler. Simpler, yes, much shorter – less on the "required" side, but it has hooks. The examiner must request the boat owner to sign the form before the inspection. That's an insurance requirement.

"A new VSC form is available with additional wording in the waiver which transfers all liability to the boat owner," explained Ludtke. "It will not be available for order in the foreseeable future.

"The old form may still be used, but they do not include the new waiver wording."

Also the VSC examiner must request permission to board from the boat owner. D/20 VSC chair Ludtke is available at 815-375-0809.

I've had the recent pleasurable experience of working with D/Lt Dennis McNamara. He's agreed to continue as our Legislative Liaison. I've asked him how he goes about keeping up with boating legislation in four states. Thank him for his commitment to invest significant time to enlighten us. Lots of time!

I am seeking a District boat show chairman. I am hoping there's someone in either Fox Valley or Skokie Squadron willing to accept the job. We'll be returning to Rosemont in January, 2026. January weather is too unpredictable to ask distant squadrons to assume the job. But if they offer, I'll accept! Thanks to all the volunteers who stood watch in the booth this year!

Finally, please enlighten me relative to the need for a Co-Op Chartering chair. Is there sufficient interest/activity for such a chairman? Someone Downstate?

Let's surpass the 153 VSCs D/20 examiners did last year. Early in the year is the time to rack 'em up! Early means safer boats longer on our waters. If you need to contact me, I'm best reached at linlawoffice@aol.com or 630-329-4839. George Prescott, SN-IN



As I write this article, I am looking at trees swaying, temperatures in the low 90s, waiting for a storm to hit. Hopefully, you will be reading this article from the deck of your boat, enjoying good friends, good food, and good weather.

National has been working with Marine SEO, a marketing company, for updating the website. The parts that have been released for our use seem to be a good upgrade. Like most things in life, change takes some getting used to. But the changes I have seen are making our USPS life a lot easier. Part of their plan for the website is to offer the Districts and Squadrons a chance to use the same layout. Our District Webmaster, P/D/C Rich Davidson, SN, is staying on top of the progress of migrating the District and Skokie Valley websites to the National website. Eventually, we hope to help all Squadrons migrate to the National site.

Hope to see you at the C&R in August and conference in October. We are trying to list all Squadron activities on our calendar. Please check the calendar...you might just see an activity to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Dk/Lt/C Anita Donkers, AP
District 20 Secretary



Chicago Air & Water Show

August 16 & August 17

Every year in August, an air and water show is held in Chicago. This is an impressive event with the participation of the best civil and military pilots who fly civil planes side by side with military planes in aerobatic shows, free fall demonstrations, marine and airy rescue exercises, etc....

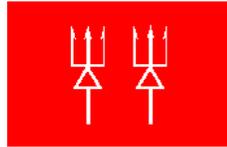
The two days event shows can be watched, for free, along the lakefront from Fullerton to Oak Street when the main activity takes place in North Avenue Beach.



2025 Vessel Safety check sticker



Administrative
Officer Clint
Rahn



require a 2 night stay. For more information or to book a stay <https://www.visitheritageharborinn.com/>

Evening dining – There are any number of restaurants in the area. From the Lodge at Starved Rock, Lone Buffalo downtown Ottawa, Bluegill at Heritage Harbor among others.

Directions –

From I-80 .

Take exit 93 (IL 71 west) toward Ottawa

Turn left onto N 2871st Rd

Turn right on Canal Road(N 2753rd Rd)

Turn right at the east Heritage Harbor Marina sign. Knots Landing will be on the right.

From IL-23

In Downtown Ottawa, Turn onto east bound Main Street

Turn Left on Green Street

Green St turns right and becomes N 2753rd Rd(Canal Road)

Turn right at the east Heritage Harbor Marina sign. Knots Landing will be on the right.

As the new AO I could use some help identifying possible locations for the fall conference. Please email me at WSPS6125.com with any suggestions.

2025 Cruise and Rendezvous – August 23

I would like to invite all to attend the Americas Boating Club District 20 C&R being held on Saturday August 23 at Knots landing, Heritage Harbor in Ottawa Il. Activities will commence at 10:00 with greetings and a brief meeting. Lunch consisting of chicken, pasta, green salad and a dessert will be provided for \$12 around 12:30. Formal activities will end at 1:45. In order to order the proper amount of food please RSVP to WSPS6125@gmail.com prior to August 16.

All are then encouraged to join on a 2-hour sightseeing cruise on the Sainte Genevieve Riverboat located at the confluence of the Fox and Illinois Rivers. For those not interested in the cruise there are other options such as a visit to Starved Rock State Park, pontoon boat rentals, or launching your own boat. Details are below.

Heritage harbor – Viewing the website is the best way to obtain information on Heritage harbor. <https://visitheritageharbor.com/marina/> We will be meeting at Knots landing. When entering the marina there is a sign for Knots landing. You can park along the road and walk down the steps or optionally park in the parking lot and make a longer walk to the facility. For those who were there previously there is now restroom facilities located next to Knots Landing.

Sainte Genevieve Riverboat – For those wishing to take this trip cost will be \$37 with a 10% discount available to seniors. To get more information on the boat, the cruise, and to register visit their website <https://stegenriverboat.com/> . Reservations are recommended. It is about a 10-minute drive from Heritage Harbor to the river boat. I will have printed directions for any who need them. I should also note there is a cash bar on the boat.

Boat Launch - There is a launch for anybody who wants to trailer in. Between locks the harbor has access to 16 miles of the Illinois River. Please let me know if you plan to do this so we can work it out with the marina manager.

Boat rentals. - -For groups up to 10, there are Pontoon and Tritoon boat rentals available starting a \$325 for 2 hours. See recreational rentals on the Marina tab on the Heritage Harbor website for pricing and the details.

Lodging – The usual suspects are located along I-80. There are cottage rentals available at Heritage Harbor Inn, I believe most

DISTRICT 20
Cruise & Rendezvous

23 August

**Knots Landing
Heritage Harbor
1970 N 2753rd Rd, Ottawa, IL
61350**

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

Lunch: Price \$12.00 per person. All lunches include :

Chicken, pasta, green salad and dessert

<u>No. Attending</u>	<u>Total</u>
_____ x \$12.00 Lunch	\$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____	

████████████████████
Make checks payable to: Waukegan Power Squadron

Registration and check should be sent by **Thursday,**

August 7 , 2025 to:

Clint Rahn
340 Wethington Dr.—Unit D
Waconda, IL 60084



Things to do after C & R

Sainte Genevieve Riverboat— Cost: \$37 with a 10 per cent discount for seniors available. Reservations are recommended.

<https://stegenriverboat.com/>

Boat launch — Available to trailer in boats.

Boat rentals — For groups up to ten, pontoon and triton boat rentals.

Lodging—Hotels can be found on I-80 or contact rentals at Heritage Harbor Inn.

Evening dining—Starved Rock Lodge, Lone Buffalo in downtown Ottawa, Bluegill at Heritage Harbor, among others.

Schedule of Events

Saturday 23 August

1000	Greeting and meeting
1230 — 1345	Lunch

Dress Code:

Casual



Boating on the Chain of Lakes

On July 27th my friend, Alan Travis and I, took his boat and picked up Hunter Nikolai at Watt's marina on the Chain O' Lakes for an afternoon of boating.

Hunter is the new Volunteer Services Coordinator for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in Region 2, which encompasses our area. He is located at the James "Pate" Philip state park in Bartlett. Hunter is new to the IDNR and had never been on the Chain before.

We started out cruising Pistakee Lake which was relatively quiet. We then proceeded to the west channel that goes under Rt.12 and into Nippersink Lake. That channel, like all the channels on the Chain, is no wake. As usual there were a lot of boats going up and down the channel.

Our trip then took us through Nippersink and into Grass Lake. Of course, the main feature of Grass Lake is Blarney's Island. We drove by it but did not stop to go in. Traffic was getting heavier.

The next channel took us to Lake Marie. From there we went through a short channel to Bluff Lake. Bluff is a smaller lake with a lot of boat traffic.

The next channel took us from Bluff Lake to Spring Lake and into Petite Lake. This is a long channel with homes on both sides of the channel. The homes used to be summer cottages but over the last number of years most of them have been converted to full-time residences. Again, lots of traffic on this channel.

The next lake was Petite Lake. This is the smallest lake on the Chain but one of the most crowded. There is a huge sandbar at the southeast end of the lake which always has a great number of boats rafted up and this day was no exception.

The next channel took us to Fox Lake, the second largest lake on the Chain and the most popular. The two pictures were taken at Columbia Bay, at the northern end of the lake. Again, being a beautiful day, there were a huge number of boats rafted up there.

We then went down Fox Lake and proceeded back to Pistakee and back to Watt's marina. The marina was so crowded that we couldn't get to the launch ramp to drop Hunter off. We went to Alan's summer home, put the boat on the lift, and I drove Hunter back to the marina to get his truck.

The whole trip took us about three hours, and it gave Hunter a good exposure to see what the Chain was all about.

P/D/C Chuck Burger, SN



Spring Conference had a Wild West theme. There even was a treasure to be found.



District Commander Frank D'Amico, AP
 Executive Officer Lt/C George Prescott, SN
 Secretary D/Lt/C Anita Donkers, AP
 Educational Officer D/Lt/C Fred Schuster, JN
 Assistant Education Officer Cdr Brian Markey, JN
 Administrative Officer Lt/C Clint Rahn, AP
 Not pictured: D/Lt/C Joan Eichorst, SN



D/Lt.C Clint Rahn descends from the pilot house of Ste. Genevieve paddle wheeler, an option for membership attending the District's C & R. Behind Rahn is Laura Sharp, paddle boat manager, who's invited membership to take a turn at the boat's wheel."

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Dennis McNamara receiving his 50 Year Membership Certificate, presented by George Prescott



Chicago River Clean up Day, Janice North participated.



D20 Audit Committee participating in Wear Your Lifejacket to work day. David Salmann, Janice North-Chairperson, Joan Eichorst-Treasurer, and Ron Zagwa.

TRIDENT



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