

THE PUBLICATION OF THE CHAIN-O-LAKES SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

The Link

A UNIT OF THE UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS® DISTRICT 20

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Volume 11

Issue 1

Commander Message

We are approaching that time of year again! When we start dreaming of the day we can launch our boats and set sail for a summer of adventure on the high seas. It's also the time of the year when squadron commanders review their accomplishments of the past year.

We ask ourselves, did we accomplish the goals we set one year ago. Were our public boating classes successful and well attended? Did we train new VSC Examiners and reach our VSC goal? How many new members did our squadron gain? Did our Squadron have a positive influence in our community?

These are all admirable goals to achieve. But I believe the more telling sign of an effective commander is did your squadron participate in and enjoy the events and activities of the past year!

My main goal was to promote boating and social activities on the water that were fun and different compared to what our squadron has done before. I also wanted to let the rest of the District 20 Squadron know what an outstanding group of members make up the Chain-O-Lakes Sail and Power Squadron.

I believe I accomplished that goal and I hope our future commanders see the value of shared boating and social events with other District 20 squadrons. The more we can pull together and strive to reach our common goals the stronger we become!

Our Cardboard Boat Regatta with Skokie Valley is still being laughed and talked about at the February's D20 Operations Training meeting. The Racine Squadron contacted us and inquired about what other events we can plan together. The Waukegan Squadron shared the Lake County Boat Show with us last year and when I asked about this year's show they climbed onboard and said "How

can we help?"

If you missed any of the events from last year, you should have been there, a great time was had by all!

As Commander for the past year, I learned a great deal about myself. I discovered what my strengths and weaknesses are as the leader of your squadron. I know I have a true passion for the Chain-O-Lakes Sail and Power Squadron which I know will never fade. The one detail that got my attention is what our Past Commander Gary Braker said, "It is not one thing, *it is everything*". This is something all commanders should strive for but it is difficult to achieve. I know the Bridge Officers are there to support their Commander but a squadron can not survive by them alone. The squadron as a whole must pitch in.

Your Bridge needs suggestions and input from all members. Past Commanders and Bridge Officers, you have a wealth of knowledge and experience to share. Any suggestions you may provide will sincerely be appreciated.

Chain-O-Lakes Squadron is hosting the 2011 Fall D20 Conference; this is a great opportunity for all members to become involved. Show your support and passion for the squadron. Rekindle the spark that made you become a member of the United States Power Squadron.

I sincerely thank the entire Chain-O-Lakes Squadron membership for allowing me the privilege of being your Commander; it is an honor I will not forget!

THE LINK

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Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events

February

26 Change of Watch
Holiday Inn, Crystal Lake, IL Jim Geske

March

5-6 Lake County Boat Show
*Come work the booth for an hour or two
and get free admittance to the show!*

12 Dinner Meeting and Program
*Niko's Grill & Pub, Huntley,
Tom & Gloria Maguire*

25-27 D20 Spring Conference
Hilton Hotel, Northbrook, IL

April

15 Friday Night Fish Fry at
Lindy's Landing

*Why not invite a fellow boater and
future member to this fun annual
event in Wauconda*

*Plan to attend
one of our many
educational or
social events.*

**Visit <http://chain-o-lakes.org/>
for all events for this year**

From the Chain-O-Lakes Sail & Power Squadron Educational Department

Knowledge helps us make good choices, keep learning!


We have distributed the **Piloting** and **Advanced Piloting** exams and anxiously await their return. Once returned and graded, we should have 7 more members with advanced rank. Good luck guys and lets get those exams completed. After these exams are complete we will be looking to rejuvenate the **Junior Navigation** class. Any member with the rank of AP is welcome to join in.

An **Engine Maintenance** class is scheduled to start 24 March, taught by Jim Bowgren. This class is required for anyone going for **Boat Operator Certification**, but is beneficial for anyone operating a boat. On the public class schedule was Crystal Lake Park District and Fox Waterway Agency. Crystal Lake was cancelled again this year due to low enrollments. We are asking the few that did enroll to come to the Fox Lake class starting 16 March. I am still in negotiations with Round Lake Park District but it may not take place this year. I will keep you informed.

To help us fill up our spring **ABC** class we will be promoting it at the Lake County Boat Show 5 & 6 March at the Lake County Fairgrounds. To draw attention to USPS and COL we are offering one-hour seminars on **Trailing, Anchoring, and Rivers, Lakes, and Locks**. The seminar series is new for our squadron to help get our name out to the public. Come on down to the boat show to help us out; teach a seminar or man the booth. These three seminars are to practice for Safe Boating Week where we plan to offer five different seminars each day from 1900 – 2100 hours at different marinas on The Chain. Offering something new to teach will make this an exciting spring.




Learning give us power and choices; keep learning!

Lt/C Ron Herbig, AP
Squadron Educational Officer



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www.bairdwarner.com

D/20 Spring Conference
March 25-27, 2011
Hosted by Waukegan Sail & Power Squadron
Featuring a Friday Night "Pub Crawl" &
Saturday Night Change of Watch

Plan to attend
the Spring
Conference
March 25 - 27



Beer Garden



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**SAVE THE DATES
25-27 MARCH, 2011
FOR THE D/20 CONFERENCE**

*For more information, contact P/C Oscar Lutz,
847-680-7461 or ojlutz@aol.com.*



sports bar



Biker Bar



Wine Bar



Old West Saloon



DISTRICT 20 SPRING CONFERENCE
 Hosted by the Waukegan Sail & Power Squadron
 25 – 27 MARCH 2011

LUNCH AND DINNER RESERVATIONS

Rank	Name	Grade
1	_____	_____
2	_____	_____
Squadron _____		
Address _____		
City	_____	State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number _____		
Email Address _____		

Luncheon:	Number	
Roast Beef Sandwich w/Provolone	\$20.00 x _____	= \$ _____
Turkey Wrap w/Lettuce, Tomato & Cheese	\$20.00 x _____	= \$ _____
Lunch includes coleslaw, chips, dessert, coffee & iced tea		

Dinner		
Tilapia	\$30.00 x _____	= \$ _____
Chicken Piccata	\$37.00 x _____	= \$ _____
New York Strip Loin	\$38.00 x _____	= \$ _____
Dinner includes salad, rolls/butter, starch, vegetable, dessert, coffee & iced tea		
Total		\$ _____

Check here if this is your first conference

PLEASE RESERVE BY 15 MARCH
 Make Checks Payable to:
DISTRICT 20 SPRING CONFERENCE

Send reservations to:
 P/C Paul Green SN
 2552 N. Burnside Way
 Waukegan IL 60087

Questions on reservations:
 Call Paul at 847-989-7455

The Waukegan Sail & Power Squadron is honored to be hosting the 2011 Spring Conference. While the event itself is still many months away, our squadron has been diligently working on the event: selecting the hotel, planning the Friday night activities, selecting the lunch and dinners to meet a variety of tastes.

Friday night we have a fun filled evening planned with a pub-crawl theme. Squadrons are asked to host a suite featuring a pub atmosphere; it might be a sports bar, biker bar, tropical tiki bar or anything you can dream up. The idea is to have fun. All the suites will be located in the same general area, so there will be plenty of opportunities to mingle with other squadrons as well as hang out with your our squadron.

Saturday will be the district meetings, presentations and in the evening our formal dinner, which will include the change of watch event.

On behalf of all the members of Waukegan Sail & Power Squadron, we hope you'll come and spend this weekend with us in fun and fellowship.

Cdr Mike Ludtke N
 Waukegan Sail & Power Squadron

*Direct hospitality suite questions to P/C Oscar Lutz N at 847-680-7461.
 The suites are limited, unique and reasonably priced.*

Many of us in Chain-O-Lakes Power Squadron are Fox River Waterway boaters as our name strongly suggests. Years ago, I plied the Chain waterway on a power boat or two. Even canoed across Pistakee bay one night, and hit several bars on the way. But the canoe we *borrowed* from the Viatorian Retreat House near Pitzen's Camp was pretty leaky, forcing us to stop regularly. The only places open where we could stop and hopefully, expand on our adventure were the bars. We were youths at the time, not old enough to drink (and didn't look it either). But it was one way to spend a high school retreat and come home with a story.

Our own Great Lakes have a history of being among the roughest waters in the world, believe it or not! You might think that the ocean storms and hurricanes would make our Great Lakes seem tame. But most open sea cruisers

avoid hurricanes and seem to weather other storms reasonably well. Our Great Lakes have a peculiarity that makes them dangerous and

uncomfortable enough to make those ocean sailors uncomfortable and heading back to the big seas. That peculiarity is the short period of our waves, the length of the trough between wave crests. Our Lakes are relatively shallow but can have long fetches that allow large waves to build up (10' to 20' or more). It's that shallowness that creates the short wave periods.

Twenty or twenty-five foot waves on Lake Michigan may have only 75' of distance between wave crests. That's like looking at the profile of two 2-story homes with a yard between them! So our Great Lake's waves are sharp and steep; very rough on boats with a lot of pitch-

ing and rolling, demanding constant attention on the helm. Most small boaters won't be caught out in 7 to 10 footers if they can help it!



Consider that small craft warnings are raised whenever wave conditions are expected to reach the 5' level! I've been in them – you don't relax much!

We've all heard of the large number of commercial as well as pleasure craft sinkings in our Great Lakes. There are two renowned balladeer's who sing up the stories and legends of shipwrecks and of the people who have served on the Lakes as well as in support of safety on the lakes, from ship's captains to lighthouse dwellers to Coast Guard rescuers. Lee Murdock has made a career of singing ballads and telling stories of past merchants and schooners as well as present day merchants and mariners on the lakes. Check our Lee at www.leemurdock.com. I've seen him perform and if you have any interest at all in Great Lakes shipping history, shipwrecks and their stories, you will enjoy Lee's show.

We also have some local Midwest *heroes* that have braved the elements of the Lakes, sailing on them, have survived, and written about their experiences. Marlin Bree built his own 21' sailboat, *Persistence*, in his backyard in the early 1980's. He sailed exclusively in Lake Superior, the beast of the lakes and wrote several books including *In the Teeth of the Northeaster* and *Wake of the Green Storm*, both great reading.

Another adventurer, singer and songwriter, Carl Behrend (www.greatlakeslegends.com), circumnavigated Lake Superior with his 18 year old daughter on a 16' open catamaran in 2003. Carl wrote about his time sailing the lake with his daughter in a book *Adventure Bound*. Carl currently travels around the lake, writes songs, sings solo and with his band.

Regardless of the stories I've heard about ocean-experienced boaters heading back to the oceans after short stints on the Great Lakes (ref Ted Turner got dismasted sailing on his one and only MAC race), I decided a few years back that I had to be on the *big* lake, Lake Michigan. My wife, Jill, was certainly not ready to make the jump. Life was good for her on

Our Great Lakes Neighbor.... Lake Michigan





Lake Geneva. But I had to do it. I took what I thought were the proper steps, however, to prepare myself for upcoming adventures and situations that I might find myself in. In talked to friends who had played in these waters before

me. I enrolled in boating courses that I thought would educate me and prepare me for the lake. I read (and re-read) Tom Rau's Boat Smart Chronicle articles that were published in *Northern Breezes*, a Midwest magazine dedicated to boaters in our region. Sr. Chief Tom Rau (USCG ret.) has written of his Coast Guard and rescue experiences in a book you just can't miss. This book, ***Boat Smart Chronicles (How Lake Michigan devours its wounded)*** tells the stories of accidents, bad behavior, and out-and-out stupidity on the part of many, if not most, boaters heading to Lake Michigan and the often tragic results. See an interview with Tom at www.coastguardchannel.com/24_7_vid/Features_AuthorTomRau.php. Tom's own website is www.boatsmart.net. His book scared me quite a bit. I couldn't sleep at night, and generally thought that maybe Jill was right. But actually by this time, it was too late, the boat had already been moved and was nestling gently at a slip in North Point Marina. Mostly by chance, however, the boat was pointed toward shore in the slip as if maybe that's where it wanted to go, and not out toward that awful, scary-looking Lake Michigan. No, I had to take a look at what Tom was getting at and devise a thought pattern and discipline that would keep me away from the accidents he so vividly describes. I had to insure as often as possible that I had at least two solutions to any problem I might encounter, and that I would practice so that I could put either or any of my solutions into play. That's the plan, anyway!

**Dick Kaman, P
COL**

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A great evening is planned for Chain-O-Lakes Sail & Power Squadron and guests from several local squadrons

March 20, 2011 **Dinner Meeting and Program**

Niko's Grill & Pub

11900 Freeman Road, Rt. 47 & I 90, Huntley, IL
Cocktails: 1830 | Dinner 1930

Meal choices include London broil, Chicken ala Dino, and Tilapia including salad, potato or rice, vegetable, rolls, coffee, tea and dessert – **all for \$20.00 including tax and tip**. A cash bar will be available. Members who have dined at Niko's recently praised their excellent cuisine.

Past Commanders Tom & Gloria Maguire will present a review of their Paddle Boat cruise on the Snake and Columbia with a brief history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the West from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean. Also included will be scenic photos taken on the rivers as well as a film highlighting the early Columbia River days to the commercial and recreational waterway of today.

Bring your friends and enjoy a delicious meal and a worthy program.

RSVP by 6 March to Shirley Wojcicki at 847-650-1680

Mark your
calendar for
Friday Night Fish
Fry at Lindy's in
Wauconda

April 15th

Watch for
details to
come!

*What better way to celebrate Tax Day than with your friends at the
Power Squadron!*

April 15, 2011 Friday Night Fish Fry Lindy's Landing Wauconda

Why not invite a fellow boater and future member to this fun annual event in Wauconda

Look for more details to follow...

A Tisket, a Tasket... help raise money with Raffle Baskets....

As most of you know, our Chain-o-Lakes Squadron will be the host squadron for the Fall 2011 D20 Conference, and a part of our function as the host squadron is fund raising. We have received some good suggestions and ideas from our squadron members and one of the suggestions that we will be going with is a **theme basket raffle**. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets to win baskets filled with goodies relating to a particular basket's theme. Our goal is to have approximately 20 baskets which we can raffle off, and we are asking our members to volunteer to make a basket and donate it to the squadron for this purpose.

The themes can be anything that suits your creative flair or your fancy – for example I am making a *dog-themed basket* which will contain a few dog toys, rawhide chews, bag of treats, a box of gourmet canine cookies, etc. A few other theme suggestions might be:

- A wine basket filled with a bottle of wine, 2 wine glasses, non-perishable crackers and cheese, a corkscrew, etc.
- A bath and body basket filled with bubble bath, body lotion, hand cream, etc.
- A baking basket filled with cookie cutters, cookie mix, cake mix, frosting mix and maybe a recipe card containing your favorite cake or cookie recipe,
- A baby basket filled with a bib, a pacifier, baby toys, perhaps a kit from a craft store to preserve a baby's handprint or footprint, etc.
- A nautical-themed basket filled with anything that will make our trips out on the water either safer or more fun, or both, and

- Let's not forget the guys – what guy could resist purchasing a raffle ticket towards a basket filled with some basic tools, a flashlight, a pocket knife, etc.?

Have fun creating a beautiful basket for the Fall Conference Fundraiser.

The theme idea for your basket is only limited by your creativity! Each basket should have an approximate value of \$25.00. Since we have until October to purchase our baskets and the items to fill them, there's time to watch for store specials and pick up items here and there at the best sale prices.

PC Jim Geske has given me the fun job of being *Basket Coordinator* for the Conference. I can't wait to see what ideas you come up with. Please call me at **847- 223-9594** or send me an email at **nherbig@leydig.com** to let me know that we can count on you to make and donate a basket. We want COL to shine as the host squadron at the Fall Conference, and we really need your support!

Lt. Nancy Herbig
Basket Coordinator – D20 Conference
847- 223-9594 or nherbig@leydig.com





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Activities for everyone!

As your Administrative Officer my summary of our year of activities pretty much echoes what our esteemed Commander wrote in the last LINK, but I would like to add a little emphasis to the variety of activities we got ourselves involved in, as well as the fun and participation we had throughout the year. We planned an event for every month and I don't recall that we had a quiet one all year! If you joined up with us on these outings – great! If you missed out, here are some of the other things we did. We spent the cold months of late 2010 winter and early Spring staying indoors – dining at Dockers for the annual (who drinks too much beer and chows down on corned beef?) St. Patty's day bash, then we dined on spectacular broasted chicken at a (new for the group) place in Hebron, Crandall's (bet a few of us will head back there again), and the winter-finisher and welcome to Spring at Snug Harbor along the Fox river – watching the "early birds" already out, just itching to get our own boats in the water!

Jim pretty much covered our summer and fall 2010 events in the last issue but here are a few of my observations. I thought it was great that we had a chance to take a ride on each other's boats – at the Blarney Island races early in the summer, and in a role-reversal, the stinkpotters got some rides on our elegant sailboats up in Racine in August! Some of us cruised up to Kenosha to watch the fireworks in the harbor for July

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*Vessel Safety
Checks exceed
expectations*

Vessel Safety Checks

The temperature is 60 degrees and we all are seeing the snow melt and thinking of boating season right around the corner. Our power squadron provides a great service to the public in doing vessel safety checks. In reviewing the checks performed last year I noticed that all our own members have not taken advantage of the vessel checks we provide. A great idea to start this boating season would be to have one of our examiners put a sticker on your boat.

I wanted to give some suggestions for pre launching of your boat:

- ✓Check the fire extinguisher and shake it to see if the powder still moves. The green indicator does not mean the extinguisher is still active.
- ✓Check and clean your flame arrestor.
- ✓Check your life jackets and look for wear and make sure they are out of the plastic wrappers.
- ✓Check to make sure your registration numbers are current and you have applied your chain sticker.
- ✓Check your horn, lights (front and rear) for operation.
- ✓Check your blower and make sure you can feel air being forced out.

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4th. There are some great little shops there on shore. My favorite, of course, is Captain Mike's – the essentials, good beer and great sandwiches. This is just a short jaunt up the lake from North Point for us, but makes for a great afternoon on the lake!

We always think that we should have more of us join in each of the monthly events, but in retrospect, considering the



- ✓Check your batteries for fluid and make sure the terminals are covered.
- ✓Clean the bilge and clean up any loose wires.
- ✓Check your buddy bearings and your lights on your trailer.
- ✓If you have a cruiser make sure you have your Marpol and sanitation placards

Just by doing these above items you can eliminate many problems on the water. By doing the above items you will have accomplished almost all you need to pass your vessel safety check.

Chip Byne, AP
Executive Officer

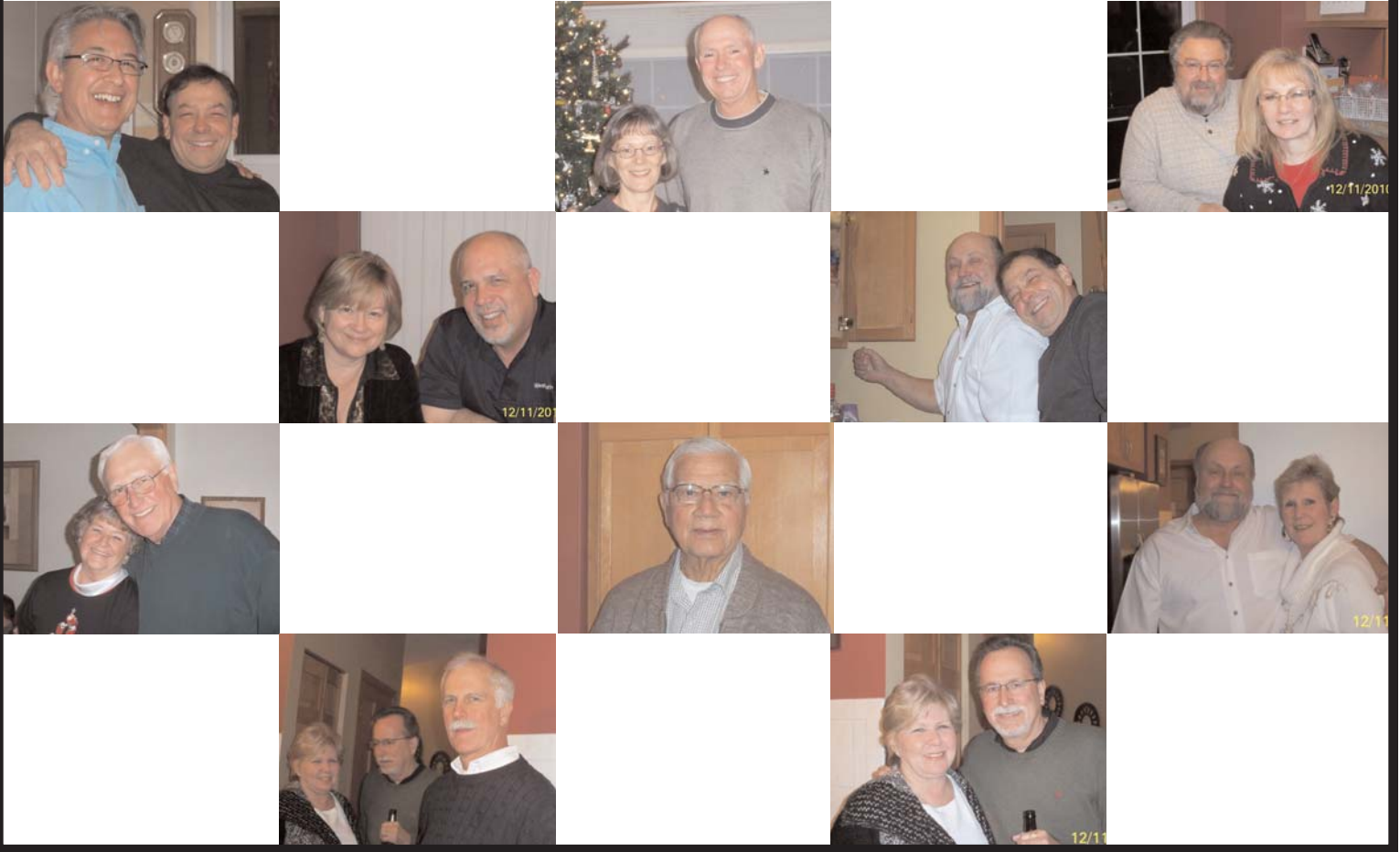
range of activities, I think it was a good year – no napping here!

So now, after a restful winter (who's kidding who) we are ready to wind up the machine and start it all over again. Can't wait, Cap'n!!

Dick Kaman, P
Administrative Officer

Join the fun! Be an active member.

Pictures the annual Christmas Party



Chain-O-Lakes Sail & Power Squadron
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**Getting Involved
Keeps the Squadron Strong**

Come Join the Fun