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# The Link

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## Commander's Corner

With fall upon us we are getting ready to put our boats away and dream about next summer. This gives us a greater opportunity to get involved in the squadron. The fall conference is in October and we have a play planned in November.

Everybody that attended the Commander's Cruise was treated to some good food and great companionship. I would like to invite you to participate in our activities this fall and winter and maybe take an educational class or two.

All the members that have contributed to the planning and execution of the fall conference, I would like to give personnel thanks. Cindy has gone well beyond her responsibilities and with the help of many members, we will have a great fall conference.

I look forward to our activities this fall and winter and come out and see your fellow members.

**Chip Byrne**  
Commander



Chain-O-Lakes Sail & Power Squadron  
**Age of Discovery**  
D-20 FALL CONFERENCE

THE LINK

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

# Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events

## October

- 5 **COL Bridge Meeting - 1930 hrs**  
Shirley Wojcicki, Wauconda
- 22 **Bridge Meeting D/20**  
Holiday Inn, Elgin
- 22-23 **D/20 Fall Conference - Holiday Inn,**  
Elgin Chain-O-Lakes SPS

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

## November

- 2 **COL Bridge Meeting - 1930 hrs**  
Don/Judy Kerr, Village of Lakewood
- 12 **Play / Wine & Cheese**  
Woodstock - Jim/Cindy Geske

## December

- 3 **Bridge Meeting D/20 - TBD**
- 7 **COL Bridge Meeting - 1930 hrs**  
Gary/Pat Braker, McHenry
- 10 **Christmas/Holiday Party - TBD**

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

*Knowledge helps us make good choices, keep learning!*

The boating season is winding down and we are making plans to wrap up our vessels for the cold weather. While we make our winterizing plans we are also working hard to pull together the final details for the fall conference in Elgin. Once the conference activities are complete and we enjoy the fruits of our efforts at the conference we can concentrate on our fall and winter class schedule.

We tentatively plan to have an **ABC** course at Sequoit Harbor this fall. Whether we offer the normal 7-week course during weekday evenings or a 3-week offering on weekend days has not been determined. However, we do plan to offer a Seamanship course to continue the ABC participants into membership and member courses. A Piloting and/or Advanced Piloting course(s) would be scheduled to follow into the winter months. We have new, and potentially new, members who realize the benefits of our educational offerings and would like to attend. I will be contacting anyone else who has inquired about a safe boating class to get more exposure with the public to help fill the classroom.

To help with the instruction of our classes I will offer the **Instructor Development** course for those interested in becoming squadron instructors. This course can be completed in only 4 sessions. Besides the material supplied by **USPS** I want to concentrate on utilizing the presentation equipment and software in a professional manner. This is an opportunity to hone your presentation skills and become a certified USPS instructor.

The **Crystal Lake Park District** has confirmed dates for our 7 week **ABC** course beginning 21 February and continuing to 3 April with the optional charting sessions. The **Fox Waterway Agency** has yet to confirm the dates for the **ABC** course held at their location. The dates

requested are 14 March to 25 April 2012 and I'm confident we will be confirmed soon.

Last year we began offering **USPS University** seminars which were well received. We plan to offer **Boat Handling, Trailering, and Anchoring** on **22, 23, and 24 May 2012**. The locations have not been set but we will most likely use the same marinas as last year.

Each year we have so many requests for **ABC** classes. We schedule the events, prepare instructor schedules and materials but have too few enrollees to devote the hours and the energy. Hopefully with the efforts of all our members we can get our public classes filled this coming educational season.

Thank you to all the members who dedicate their time and energy to help make our **Educational Department** a success. This season maybe some of our more experienced members can drop in at the **ABC** classes to offer tidbits of wisdom and show the public our squadron unity and breadth of knowledge that only comes with experience combined with the educational opportunities offered by **USPS**.

If you want an opportunity expand your boating knowledge and improve your skills let me know so we can schedule a course offering you will enjoy.

Learning gives us power and choices; become a life-long learner!

**Lt/C Ron Herbig, AP**  
*Squadron Educational Officer*

# Fall Conference is just around the corner...

Hello All -

The D/20 2011 Fall Conference is well underway. We are in the final phases of our planning. The schedule for the weekend has been put together and approved by D/C Karen D'Amico, AP at the District level. It is awesome to see us as a squadron pull together in making this a successful event!

Kim Ambrose is busy with the centerpieces, which will add both a touch of nautical excitement for lunch and a bit of elegance to our evening display.

Nancy Herbig reached her goal of 20 baskets. The basket raffles should be a hit for our participants due to the huge variety that will appeal to both men and women.

Chip Byrne and Don Kerr have been bargain hunting! The lucky winner will be delighted with the decision to make our 40" TV a 43" plasma.

Fred Bies' wheel barrel of booze is starting coming together with your donations. Someone is going to have a big party! If you have not donated a bottle of booze for the wheelbarrow, please call Fred to arrange the delivery of it. In order for wheelbarrow to be a success we are counting on every member.

Skip Ambrose is putting together a display for the educational aid. It will allow a hands-on approach to tying up to piers and will also be very useful in future classes.

If you haven't picked up your raffle tickets to sell, please call Ron Herbig to obtain some. Even if you can sell a \$5.00 or \$10.00 ticket, that will go a long way in our conference kitty. Ron did an excellent job in producing the presentation for us and getting that out to all of D/20. If you missed seeing it, make sure to check it out on the Sail Angle. We have two excellent speakers that will be sharing

interesting stories and experiences.

The committee members that were present ran 'trial' night at the Geske's and then at the Holiday Inn for our 'Mariner's Hunt' game which is the Friday night entertainment. We had a blast doing the game, and are sure that those that participate on Friday night should really enjoy themselves! There are also some really great prizes to awarded.

Jill Kaman has been busy, the water bottles for the giveaway have been ordered and the vests for our conference helpers should be finalized soon. Dick Kaman has secured our speakers, Nora Bowgren and Marilyn Bies are busy working on our hospitality suite decorations. An email was previously sent out of items needed for the suite. Please contact either Nora or Marilyn if you have anything to lend to the squadron to assist with making our hospitality suite come together.

As of this article, we are up to 18 participants with room reservations for either 1 or 2 nights and 4 hospitality suite have been reserved! Bill and Sue Bellinger are busy coordinating the meal reservations! And Fred Bies and Nancy Byrne are really busy watching the money!

If you haven't reserved your room, please do so immediately, and also send in your meal preferences. Since our squadron is hosting, we would love to have a large turnout from our members.

**D/Lt. Cindy Geske**  
Conference Chair  
Chain-O-Lakes Sail & Power Squadron



## Raffle Prizes

Supporting the USPS  
District 20 Fall Conference  
21-23 October 2011

**Basket Raffle.** Approximately 20 different themed baskets will be raffled off Saturday night. Tickets are **\$5.00** or **5 for \$20.00** before the conference. Each basket value average is about \$25.00.



*Raffle tickets can be held and deposited at the conference or indicate your prize preference on the ticket stub.*

**All tickets on Sale  
NOW!!**

### Guess and Win!



**Guess** the exact number of **LifeSavers** in the jar and split the pot. Only **\$1.00** per guess. Winner announced at the luncheon.

### TV or Liquor Raffle

Win a **43"**  
**Plasma TV**  
or a wheelbarrow full  
of **wine and liquor**.  
Tickets are **\$10 each**

Winner will be  
announced at the  
dinner Saturday  
night



TV image for illustration only,  
actual item may look different.



**Both prizes,  
TV and the  
Liquor will  
be Won!**

Wheelbarrow not  
included.

# Member's Photo Album

By Justina Deary and Tim Levo



Pull out your boating photo albums! We are starting a new section of the newsletter where you are able to send in your pictures and one photo will be displayed per newsletter (don't worry we will find a way to display all the pictures for your viewing pleasure).

Each month there will be a theme to go along with, next month's theme will be: **Pets and Boats**. Make it artistic, funny, abstract, or

however you wish. Just make sure you send in your pictures to [Tim.Levo@gmail.com](mailto:Tim.Levo@gmail.com) by **October 31st!**

To start us off here's a picture from us. It was taken on Tall Ship Windy on Lake Michigan in 2010.

## **Chain-O-Lakes Sail and Power Squadron is expanding their presence on Facebook**



Are you on Facebook? Like the squadron's page by searching for us under "Chain-O-Lakes Sail & Power Squadron" or simply

by clicking the link on any of the pages at <http://col.uspsd20.org>.

A common dilemma facing all organizations is membership. In order for any group to grow, it must search out new members. The ideas on how to bring new members in are many and all avenues should be implemented. Not only do new members contribute financially to the club through dues, but also just as importantly through ideas, volunteering and attending functions.

One way is through Facebook. It is the social media for everyone. There are no age limits and everyone from pre-teen to grandparents use it for communicating with family and friends.

The squadron has a page on Facebook, but it is now being actively used and marketed to businesses and boaters on the Chain-O-Lakes. It takes time to build up our presence on

Facebook, but by local businesses and people who are on the chain seeing our page, it is my hope that we will be reach them to tell them about our educational classes, activities and have new members.

If you are not on Facebook, what are you waiting for? Many of our functions pictures are posted here and it is a great site to also receive information and reminders of upcoming events. If you are already connected with the page, make sure to post any topics and when you see a post come up, share with your friends simply by hitting the "share" button.

**Kim Ambrose**

# Pot Luck Picnic at Sequoit Marina

Antioch, IL  
August 13, 2011



Skip and I were asked to host a pot-luck picnic at Sequoit Marina where we keep our boat. It was decided that the picnic would be held rain or shine and at times it sure seemed like the rain was going to win! Even so, the turnout was great, and we are hoping that this event will become an annual event.

The marina agreed to let us host our picnic, allowed us to use slips for anyone coming by boat and the golf cart so nobody would have to walk to the park. As you may know, a few of our power squadron members are die-hard boaters and decided to cruise up, Cindy and Jim Geske weathered a hail storm, and Tim Levo also braved the elements. At one point in the afternoon, the 10 x 20 tent had to be held down from blowing over, but the microburst passed.

The picnic was a fun way for our members to meet some of the boaters from Sequoit as well as giving the power squadron the opportunity to let others know what our organization is all about. Our newest members, Larry & Carole Widmer also have their boat at the marina. At least two other couples from the marina have expressed interest in joining our squadron after taking the fall ABC course.

Everyone brought a dish to pass, and there were many favorites in the mix. A couple of standouts were finding out that Tim is a great baker with his mint chocolate chip cookies (made with Andes candies), and Pat Braker's recipe for her taco salad was requested over and over. The chicken was ordered from Wal-Mart and Italian sausage and hot dogs were also served.



As the weather turned cool, Ron Herbig built a wonderful fire (we vote he should become our official fire builder) to help keep us warm and of course for making smores. The big tent really came in handy as another rainstorm came through.

**Skip and Kim Ambrose**

# Commanders Cruise a great success!

A big thank you to Chip and Nancy for hosting the commander's cruise at Ericson Marina on Sept 17th. We had a great turnout with about 30 in attendance including two from the fox valley squadron. Bar-B-Q ribs, beef, pork and baked potatoes were catered from the Texan (yummy it was) and drinks and desert were furnished by the squadron. A cozy campfire warmed our bodies while marshmallows and smores were cooked by the Commander and offered to all. Great weather held out till the last hardcore members left way after sun-down. This was a great way to end our "outdoor events" for the year. Thanks to all that helped with the event and attended!

## October Birthdays

Daniel K. Smith	03	October
Arlon J. Fuerholzer	04	October
Donna Nilsson	07	October
Gary Braker	17	October
Stephen T. Fair	22	October
Timothy J. Levo	29	October



From the

## MENTORS CORNER

It's no secret that we are all looking for opportunities to save on expenses these days. But did you know that as a USPS member some of those opportunities are only a few clicks away!!!

Just think, 12% off on that new computer system or 1/3 off the annual subscription to a popular boating magazine. What about cruise tickets with the only 110% Best Price Guarantee in the industry? With spring right around the corner how would you like to save up to 50% off on some new home furnishings or maybe some lawn and garden products. Or perhaps you would just like to have saved 55% off that latest prescription drug.

Whatever your needs, USPS has partnered with over 30 national companies to make numerous benefits available to our members. So if you have not taken a look at the USPS Member Benefit page lately, click on this link:

[http://www.usps.org/national/admin\\_dept/benefitsdescription.htm#Cruisesonly](http://www.usps.org/national/admin_dept/benefitsdescription.htm#Cruisesonly)

Remember, those SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES are only a few CLICKS AWAY!!!

P/C Pat Braker, JN  
Mentoring Chairman

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