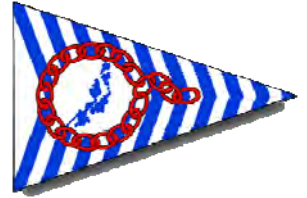




The LINK



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

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A UNIT OF THE UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS® DISTRICT 20

VOLUME # 8 ISSUE # 7

Late Summer Island Hopping



Commander

Ron Herbig, AP
244 Carters Grove Court
Grayslake, IL 60030-1196
847.223.9594

rorqual@sbcglobal.net

Executive Officer

Gary Braker, AP
1111 Fortress Court
McHenry, IL 60050
847.587.7781

dr.norot@comcast.net

Educational Officer

Dave Delahunty, SN
6715 Colonel Holcomb Drive
Crystal Lake, IL 60012-1083
815.455.9551

dpdeli@comcast.net

Administrative Officer

Joe Lindholm, P
2607 Lauderdale Ct
McHenry, IL 60051
815.363.7244

cjlindholm@ameritech.net

Secretary

Shirley Wojcicki
100 Parkview Drive
Wauconda, IL 60084
847.487.9247

swojci2978@aol.com

Treasurer

Esther Ahern, S
1199 E. Oakwood Drive
Fox Lake, IL 60020
847.629.5150

eahern1@comcast.net

After several weeks of preparation, planning and anticipation we were finally on the road headed north to Door County with our 23 foot cuddy cabin hooked securely to the trailer hitch. This was the big trip for the summer of 2008. Eight days on Green Bay.

We had slip reservations at the Alibi Dock in Fish Creek for the first and last nights of this trip. This was the extent of our planning with the rest of our days and nights left to the ever changing wind and waves of Lake Michigan's cool northern waters.

Friday morning we were up early after our first night of "boat sleep". Sleeping on the boat takes some getting used to for me. I toss and turn, doze and wake, with these cycles repeating all night long. In the morning, I wake up happy to be on the boat but not really very rested. Shirley and I headed to town for breakfast and to supply our larder with cruising necessities: wine, food and beer.

With the boat now resting somewhat lower in the water, we listened to the marine weather report. The marine forecast called for sun and light winds. Perfect boating conditions. A consensus decision was made to cruise all the way to Fayette, Michigan and then as the days went by to slowly work our way back to Fish Creek. The fifty mile run to Fayette took us past Death's Door, Washington Island and a string of uninhabited islands that stretch to reach Michigan's Garden Peninsula. These islands used to be populated by various Indian tribes, immigrant fishing villages and lonely lighthouse keepers. Today the lighthouses are automated with only an occasional eagle to keep watch over passing mariners.



Story continued on page 5

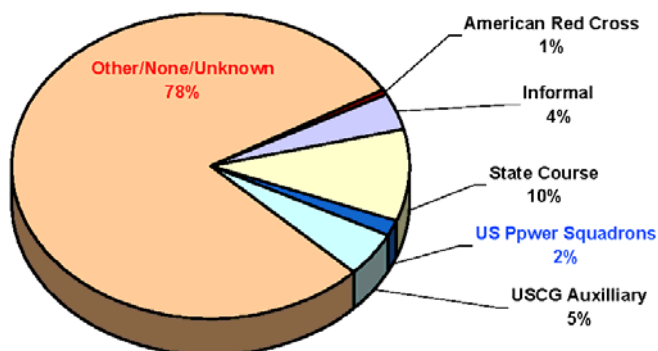
Commander's Message

Who is the most likely boater to be involved in a collision with another vessel? Did you know if you are an experienced boater, 101 to 500 hours, between the ages of 36 and 55 years old cruising with one passenger at a speed under 10 mile per hour in your 16 to 25 foot fiberglass boat (built before 1994) on a calm lake with good visibility and low winds and a temperature range of 70 to 79 degrees at anytime between 2:31 and 4:30 pm on a Saturday in July; you are more likely to be a statistic. Except for the age range which most COL members have surpassed we are in this group.

Isn't this the type of day and weather conditions we all hope for to get out on the water? I guess that is why the chances of an on-water accident are so high, everyone is out there.

I was reading the United States Coast Guard report on recreational boating safety for 2007 to find these tidbits of information. There is enough data to boggle the mind of the most seasoned statistician, so I could only comprehend small segments at a time. You might ask with the odds stacked against us how can we feel comfortable getting out on the water. I think the chart will explain it graphically.

**Operator's Boating Education
versus Accidents Reported - 2007**



The members/students of USPS are within the safest group of boaters, according to the report. But you knew that already.

So what does this have to do with our members?

The chart shows that boaters with no boating education are at the highest risk of being involved in an accident that causes injury or death.

Our job is educating the boaters in our community about safe boating and on other topics that will keep them out of these statistics. Whether it is a safe boating class, seminar or member class, our instructors are trained to present the best information

available. We need your help to get participants into the classes. Whenever a class is offered, extend the offer to your dock mates and friends. The more education we can provide, the safer we will all be on the water.

To see the complete Coast Guard Recreational Boating Safety Report 2007 click the link below.
http://www.usps.org/national/ensign/uspscompass/v2n6_cgstats.htm

Cdr Ron Herbig, AP

Were you at the Lindy's Fish Fry?

As the saying goes, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." We all enjoyed our April fish fry at Lindy's in Wauconda so much that we did it again in September! As she did in April, Shirley Wojcicki coordinated our September 12th fish fry, and once again we were not disappointed. Lindy's did a great job of serving and feeding our group, and a very big thank you goes to Shirley for planning this event not once but twice this year!

Lt Nancy Herbig

Mark Your Calendar!



Chain-O-Lakes Sail & Power Squadron HOLIDAY PARTY

6 December 2008

Cocktails 1800 hours - Dinner 1900 hours

Come join us at Fitzgerald's for a Holiday Celebration

Fitzgerald's Genoa Junction

7171 Main St (Hwy. B)

Genoa, WI

Bring a wrapped \$10 Gift for the Gift Exchange, if you care to participate. (Rules to be explained)

Fish Boil - \$13.00 – Chicken - \$13.00 – Fish & Chicken Combo - \$14.00 – Fish, Chicken & Rib - \$17.00

Coffee & Dessert included with dinners

(Tax and tip not included in the above prices, Separate checks accepted.)

RSVP To Joe Lindholm 815-363-7244



Please join us for the

Chain-O-Lakes Sail & Power Squadron

Founder's Day Dinner Celebration

Saturday 10 January 2008

Cocktails at 1800 hours - Dinner at 1900 hours

Wool Street Grill & Sports Bar

128 Wool Street Barrington, IL 847.304.0313



This is also the Chain-O-Lakes Sail & Power Squadron Annual meeting.
Please attend to vote on the bridge member nominations for the coming year.

Guest Speaker: P/C Patricia Braker, JN
and Special Guest: D/Lt Bill Erdmann, P

Buffet Includes

Appetizer: Spicy Popcorn Shrimp, Dinner: Baked Salmon,
Beef Tenderloin Medallions, Baked Penne Pasta,
Green Dinner Salad, Baked Potato, Unlimited soda, A Great Time!!

\$25.00 per person including tax and gratuity. Cash Bar.

RSVP by 2 January to Shirley Wojcicki at 847.650.1680 Will be responsible for payment.

NOTE: Once you commit to this event the squadron will be incurring an expense that must be recovered.

Events

Our October and November events, planned by Patty Lindholm and Cindy Geske, respectively, were two of the best-attended events of the year, thanks in large part to the planning and efforts of the event coordinators for each event.



Patty Lindholm planned our October 17th get-together at Fitzgerald's in Genoa City, WI, where we enjoyed a "Door County-style" fish boil practically in our own backyard. Fitzgerald's uses cod rather than whitefish for the fish boil, and served with potatoes, carrots and onions, the result was simply delicious. And as those of us with a sweet tooth know, dessert makes the meal, and this was no exception. Kringle, a Wisconsin favorite, was the perfect finishing touch to a very enjoyable evening. Besides the good turnout from our COL members, we enjoyed the company of several guests at this event. The event doubled as a birthday party for Gary, seen eating his birthday cake at the party.

Many thanks to Patty for planning this memorable evening for us – in fact we enjoyed it so much that we are holding our COL Christmas party at Fitzgerald's on December 6th!

Lt Nancy Herbig

Our November 15th event was planned by Cindy Geske, and once again we had a great turnout for dinner at Oliverii North in Antioch, where we enjoyed great Italian food served family style, along with a glass of wine (or two). We then headed down the street to the PM & L Theater, where we took in a performance of "Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten". It was a very enjoyable evening, and we thank Cindy for organizing the dinner and arranging for theater tickets.

It goes without saying that our monthly events would not take place were it not for the organization and planning of so many of our COL members who volunteer their time and effort to ensure that we enjoy an evening of good food, good conversation and camaraderie. Thank you again Patty and Cindy – you girls rock!

Lt Nancy Herbig



Fayette is a ghost town located in Snail Shell harbor. The town was once a thriving late 1800's community with one of the largest iron smelting operations in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Dock space was limited when we entered the harbor. No surprise, this was Labor Day weekend. The only spot left was a small section of the old ferry dock. There was just enough room to back the stern up to the dock and then toss the hooks off the bow to keep the boat in place. If there was a marina nearby that had a white tablecloth restaurant, this would be called a "Mediterranean mooring". Fayette is rustic providing only shelter from stormy seas. Bring whatever you think you will need or want.



We stayed two days exploring the old buildings, swimming off the beaches and hiking to the top of the towering limestone cliffs. Everything on the boat was working fine, including a new Magma kettle grill. Meals always taste better on the water. Grilled food is over the top. Boat sleep was now a distant memory. Well fed and rested, it was time to move on.

Summer Island, Little Summer Island and Poverty Island were on our port side as we cruised south. The chart showed reefs and shoals all around these islands so we kept a safe distance off. St. Martin Island loomed large ahead of us with deep water on the north side. We anchored off the quiet coast for lunch and a swim. Several miles to the east we could

see two small boats that had the same idea. After lunch we cruised down to the small boats. They were tied up to the remains of an old lighthouse dock. Twisted iron and broken up concrete made for a challenging dock. The boaters were leaving and encouraged us to stay and explore the old lighthouse compound. I'm glad we stopped. We discovered a narrow gauge train track that ran from the dock up to the lighthouse. A four wheeled cart was still on the track. This was the transportation for supplies and building materials from the dock to the lighthouse. All of the remaining buildings were boarded up and old foundations were scattered about like a three year old's toy blocks on the family room carpet. The old lighthouse still stood tall.

Washington Island was our next port o'call. Detroit Harbor has several marinas to choose from. We stayed the night at Kap's Marina. By now our cruising essentials needed restocking. Will, the marina owner, offered us the use of his truck for a trip into town. The truck was a very dusty Chevrolet pickup that did double duty as the marina dumpster. Seeing that the dumpster was full, we offered to take it to the dump. Will quickly accepted our offer and gave us directions to the "Recycling Center". Everything went well at the Recycling Center until the last beer can. All cans and bottles went into a very high bin with an attached crushing machine. I sailed the beer can high into the air towards the bin and proceeded to give myself a nice golden shower. Now smelling like a barroom floor on Sunday morning, we drove into town to do our shopping. Everyone at Mann's store gave me a wide berth.

After my second shampoo of the day, we headed for Washington Harbor. We checked out the remains of the "Louisiana," a 210 foot bulk carrier that burned and sank during the deadly 1913 November storm. The wreck is located in clear shallow water at L 45° 23.98' N / Lo 86° 55.36' W. Washington Harbor is also home to Schoolhouse Beach. The beach is made of polished round stones that are perfect for skipping. There are only a handful of beaches like this in the world. We anchored next to the swimming area for the afternoon. Should you decide to walk the beach, bring your shoes. Those Gitmo prisoners don't know how lucky they are.

Our next destination was Rock Island. What a place! This 912 acre island is a Wisconsin State Park that has ferry access from Washington Island. No cars and no bikes allowed. No electricity. Boats are very welcome. The island was formerly owned by a wealthy industrialist/inventor who built the most awesome boathouse ever. This fully restored limestone masterpiece was completed in 1929. We docked inside for the day and then moved the boat outside for the night.

That night we built a fire on the beach with well seasoned oak purchased from the wood guy. Millions of stars were out with the Milky Way dominating the sky. Every few minutes another satellite streaked past. The weather was still perfect with no wind and no clouds. Wine, marshmallows and a hot fire, life is good!

Eight days on Green Bay went by in a flash. We made new friends and found new ports. We experienced several perfect sunsets, mostly calm waters with hot days and warm nights. This was the lake at its best.



Here's to boating!
P/C Ross Gemmill, JN

Know Your Officers



Gary Braker, AP

If you know our Executive Officer, Gary Braker, AP, you know that he is a volunteer who considers no task insurmountable.

In Gary's words, he is a do-it-yourselfer committed to difficult tasks.

In the Squadron, Gary has taught Seamanship, Piloting, Marine Electronics and numerous chapters of the Public Boating Course as well as building a working model of a boat trailer for class usage.

Gary was born in Boone, Iowa and grew up in Atlantic, Iowa until moving to Belvidere, IL with his family when he was fifteen. He attended high school in Belvidere, graduating in 1962, and then had various jobs in construction until he joined the US Navy at age 20.

The Navy sent Gary to electronics school and he spent much of his time in the Far East, mostly in Viet Nam. There, aboard an aircraft carrier, he was largely responsible for dispatching helicopters on rescue missions, although his primary responsibility was protection of the aircraft carrier. In 1969 Gary left the Navy and worked on televisions until joining RCA where he learned the telephone business until

he left in 1989. He then worked for various businesses but eventually decided to work for himself, and now maintains telephone systems for corporations and hotels.

Gary met his wife Pat in 1978 while both were involved in their neighborhood association. Transfers between Illinois and Michigan later brought Gary back to his former Michigan neighborhood, and he and Pat were married in 1990 and moved to Illinois.

Gary and Pat are members of the Classic Boat Society and own and have rehabbed two wood cabin cruisers (a work still in progress). One is named **LeBear** after their late dog and is kept at their dock. The other is at Watt's Marina. They recently purchased a 27-foot Carver with twin I O's. Since it was a documented vessel which makes name-changing difficult, they have decided to keep its name, **lowe, lowe**.

Both Gary and Pat joined the Squadron in 1994 at a Halloween party at Dockers in Fox Lake. Several years ago they bought their current home in McHenry and have been busy rehabbing it. Both have enjoyed sailing the length of Lake Michigan as well as the North Channel with the late long-time COL member Al Dobbeck. Gary credits Power Squadron courses with his added confidence as "the Captain" when chartering sailboats along with Pat and Al on two occasions out of Tortola, BVI. What a wonderful experience!

P/C Gloria A. Maguire, SN

Quick Reference to Events: December and January

December

- 03 1930 - Bridge Meeting – Host: Gary and Pat Braker
- 06 1830 – Holiday Party – Fitzgerald's, Genoa City, WI - Chair: Joe Lindholm
- 29 1930 – DSC Seminar – Host: Dave Delahunty

January

- 07 1930 - Bridge Meeting – Host: Jim and Cindy Geske
 - 10 January/February LINK deadline
 - 10 1830 – Founder's Day and Annual Meeting - Chair: Shirley Wojcicki
-



Chain-O-Lakes Sail & Power Squadron

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons, District 20

Report of the Nominating Committee for the Year 2009

In accordance with Article 11 Section 11.1 of the Bylaws of the Chain-O-Lakes Power Squadron, the Nominating Committee hereby recommends the election of the following slate of officers for 2009. These members have expressed the ability and willingness to serve.

Commander: Gary R. Braker, AP
Executive Officer: James R. Geske, S
Administrative Officer: Shirley A. Wojcicki
Educational Officer: David P. Delahunty, SN
Secretary: Vincent Byrne, AP
Treasurer: David Howard, S
Asst Educational Officer: James B. Bowgren, JN

Executive Committee

Fred J. Bies, AP
Esther Ahern, S
Lawrence B. Coffey

Nominating Committee

Ross E. Gemmill, JN
Gerald J. Bernat, JN
Ron Herbig, AP

Rules Committee

Ross E. Gemmill, JN
Gary R. Braker, AP

Auditing Committee

Patricia A. Braker, JN
Fred J. Bies, AP

Respectfully Submitted:

P/C Patricia Braker, JN, Chairman
P/C Ross Gemmill, AP
P/C Gerry Bernat, JN

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

At our last ExCom meeting we had some interest in new training to keep our Vessel Examiner cadre supplied with volunteers. If anyone is interested in becoming a VE, contact 1st/Lt Dave Howard, S, to schedule a training session. All certified VEs will be eligible to receive an inflatable PFD supplied by the USCG.

It is not too early to start thinking about the Chicago Boat Show or Strictly Sail starting in January. By volunteering to man the USPS booth at the show you will have free admission for that day. Contact 1st/Lt Jim Geske, S, for more information.

Lt/C Gary Braker, AP
Executive Officer

D20 Boating Course Award for 2007



Congratulations to Dave Delahunty and his crew of instructors for winning the trophy this year.

The trophy is awarded each year to the squadron whose performance in the Educational Department exceeds that of other squadrons in the district. There are many factors used to calculate the score for the award; Quantity of classes held, number of students per class, and the total amount of students tested.

Chain-O-Lakes scored the highest in the district for the year.

Thank you for your efforts,

Cdr Ron Herbig, AP

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Notice To COL Members Of DSC Seminar

DSC class to be held at my residence, 6715 Colonel Holcomb Drive, Crystal Lake, IL, on Monday 29 December at 1930 hours. I need everyone who will attend this seminar to RSVP once again because I will order materials for this seminar on the 9th of December. The cost for each attendee will be \$25.

Please respond by e-mail at dpedeli@comcast.net.

Once you commit to this event the squadron will be incurring an expense that must be recovered.

Some of you have previously indicated you wish to attend but now having a firm date and the fact that it falls over the Holiday period, a time when some may be traveling or headed for a warmer climate, makes it necessary for me to ask you to RSVP once again.

This will be an informative seminar that will apply to boaters who utilize VHF when you boat. I also have a CD for distribution to attendees that was donated by the BoatUS safety foundation for your home use that covers VHF DSC radio capabilities and can serve as a review.

Piloting class to begin in January.

I will be starting a Piloting class in January. This is one of the basic core courses of our navigation curriculum. It forms the foundation of principles upon which we build in our quest to become competent boaters and navigators.

To sign up for participation either e-mail me at dpedeli@comcast.net or call me at 815-455-9551.


I will not have my work schedule for January until after Christmas so I will not be able to provide an exact date on which class starts until after the 25th.

Happy Holidays,

P/C David Delahunty SN
Squadron Educational Officer

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

Mark Your Calendars




Parrots of the Caribbean

2009 USPS DISTRICT 20 SPRING CONFERENCE

Ahoy mates! The ship is about to set sail and we need all "Son of Son of Sailors" to dock with us at "One Particular Harbor"- Rockford's Clock Tower Resort - just in time to drive away your winter blues. Come sip a margarita, sing away the winter blahs, and learn a thing or two about boating and D20. The closest to the islands you'll get in USPS District 20 and the biggest event of the season! Save the Dates!

Friday, 20 March 2009
Saturday, 21 March 2009
Sunday, 22 March 2009



Make plans to attend the D20 Spring Conference in Rockford. Activities include the indoor water park so bring the future skippers. On Saturday there is a seminar which sounds very interesting: ***Nautical Expressions We Use Every Day.***

Chain-O-Lakes will have a hospitality suite so come out to support the squadron. More information available soon, or contact Cdr Ron Herbig for details.

I welcome Dick Kaman as a new member of the Chain-O-Lakes squadron. Richard participated in the Squadron Boating Course held in Crystal Lake this year. Dick and his wife also joined us for the October Fish Boil at Fitzgerald's.

We hope to see Dick in our new Piloting course starting in January.

P/C Ross Gemmill, JN
 Membership Chair


D20- Operations Workshop - 7 February

Plan to attend this Leadership Development workshop addressing the needs of individual squadrons and share ideas for the future. The keynote speaker will address the age-old question: WIIFM (What's In It For Me)!

This is a Saturday workshop with a pizza buffet lunch available. To make a reservation or to get more information, contact P/C Pat Braker for more information.

Lt/C Joe Lindholm, P
 Administrative Officer

SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT



Happy Birthday to:

David Hansen	01	November
Francis R. Ward	17	November
James B. Bowgren	28	November
Paul Wagner	06	December
Ross E. Gemmill	08	December
Patricia K. Lulofs	27	December
Nancy Mueller	27	December

The NEW squadron website is LIVE. [Click Here](#) to visit the new site.

Don't forget to send any news that you would like to share with fellow COL members to Link-Editor@sbcglobal.net and I'll put it in the following month's LINK (edited, of course!).

Lt Nancy Herbig
 LINK Editor

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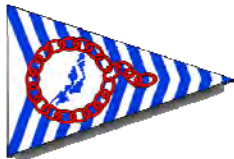
Chain-O-Lakes Calendar

Check out the USPS News at USPS.org for recent stories and webcasts about national USPS events.

December		January		February	
03 Dec	Bridge/ExCom Meeting - Host: The Brakers	07 Jan	Bridge/ExCom Meeting - Host: The Geskes	04 Feb	Bridge/ExCom Meeting - Host: The Herbigs
06 Dec	Christmas Party Chair: Joe Lindholm	10 Jan	Founder's Day/Annual Mtg Chair: Shirley Wojcicki	07 Feb	D20 Operations Workshop Hilton, Lisle, IL
29 Dec	DSC Seminar - Host: Dave Delahunty	10 Jan	Jan/Feb LINK Deadline	25 Feb	Mar/Apr LINK Deadline
				28 Feb	Change of Watch

Additional Contact Information

Vessel Safety Checks - VesselSafety@sbcglobal.net
 General Squadron Communications - COL-USPS@sbcglobal.net
 Link Editor - Link-Editor@sbcglobal.net
 USPS News - www.usps.org
 District 20 website - www.uspsD20.org
 Chain-O-Lakes website - www.Chain-O-Lakes.org
 Compass Newsletter - www.usps.org/newpublic2/compass.html
 Member Benefits - www.usps.org/national/admin_dept/membenefits.htm
 USPS Storm Central - www.usps.org/national/natsec/stormcentral.html
 Squadron Officer's Guide - <http://www.usps.org/newpublic2/officersguide.htm>



The LINK

Editor: Lt Nancy Herbig
 244 Carters Grove Court
 Grayslake, IL 60030-1196

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