

June-July  
2010

# WAUKEELOG

Waukegan Sail & Power Squadron, a Unit of the  
United States Power Squadrons® District 20

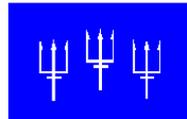
Promoting Safe Sail and Power Boating

Published Six Times per Year

[wspsboating.org](http://wspsboating.org)



**COMMANDERS  
COMMENTS  
CDR. MIKE LUDTKE, N**



With Memorial Day behind us, summer is here and the boating season has officially begun. Elisabeth and the cruise captains have some great weekends planned, so I hope to see you at least one of the events this summer. In addition to our local events, you should consider attending the district Cruise & Rendezvous in Springfield IL the weekend of July 30-31. These weekends are mainly social gatherings, with a few business meeting sprinkled in, so it's a great opportunity to get to know the members of the other squadrons in a relaxed atmosphere. If you have a trailerable boat, this would make a great road trip!

Our squadron family continues to grow as we add new members every month. Many join as a result of knowing an existing member. Member networking is a great way to promote the squadron. To the new members (and existing members), I remind you that along with membership comes a responsibility to give a little back to the squadron. It's fantastic how many show up for events and take classes, and I hope the experience is a positive one. That should inspire you take the next step by volunteering your time and talents. WSPS is a 100% volunteer organization. Without volunteers, none of it would be possible.

In conclusion, I want to remind everyone to be safe boaters this summer: Get your Vessel Safety Check; wear your PFD and renew your membership to WSPS!! May was the month when many of us had our memberships come due. If you got a renewal notice, please pay online or send in your annual dues in a timely manner.

*Mike*



## ***New Members:***

James Holmes Jr. and Valerie Siebert-Holmes with their children Morgan, Jimmy and Ethan, live in Lake Forest, have a power boat "Miss Lauren Too".

Lawrence and Judith Berliant reside in Green Oaks, sail "Unplugged"

Lynn and Herb Strauss reside in Deerfield.

Henry Chandler, Lake Forest, Transfer from Akron, OH

***Welcome to all!***

## **Coming Events**

31 May  
Great Lakes Naval Blessing  
of the Fleet Cruise

6 June 0830  
Pancake Breakfast  
Waukegan Patio

8 June 1900 Excom  
Waukegan Patio

10 June 1900  
ABC 3 Boating Class  
Starts CLC

16-18 July  
Milwaukee Cruise

24 July Mac Race

30-31 July  
D/20 C&R

10 August 1900 Excom  
Waukegan Patio

14-15 August  
Kenosha Cruise

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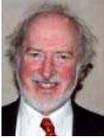
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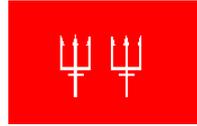
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**EDUCATION OFFICER  
LT/C TOM PARKINSON, JN**



Changes are a way of life, and a living organization like the United States Power Squadrons demonstrates this well. In the education department not only do the contents of old, familiar courses change - but new courses and new educational vehicles become available. A great example of this is the expansion of what was the Marine Electronics course into three full, stand-alone classes – Marine Electrical Systems, Marine Communication Systems (see last Waukeelog for details), and the forthcoming class on electronic navigation systems. We will offer the Marine Communication Systems in the winter of 2011.

Our available two-hour seminars continue to expand with “Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes”, and “Partner in Command”. The GPS and VHF-DSC seminars are being updated and a new seminar is in the works on the Automatic Identification System (AIS). Google “USCG and AIS” to see how enthusiastic the USCG Navigation Center is about this fast-maturing technology. The seminar format is also used by non-USPS presentations – our own Rex Miller presented his seminar on “Marine Battery Applications” at Larsen Marine Services as part of their Customer Appreciation Day on March 20<sup>th</sup>. The Winthrop Harbor Yacht Club have a very inventive series of educational offerings – I am looking forward to “Wine and Knots” by Betti Mors (Betti promises that the difficult knots come first). Check the WHYC web site for full details of upcoming classes.

Also on the Seminar front – at the Waukegan Yacht Club the spring “first Tuesday of the month” seminars continued with “Anchoring” on April 8<sup>th</sup> by George Krzaczynski with 16 participants and concluded with about the same number at “Rules of the Road” by Paul Green on May 4th. WYC provide a pleasant arrangement with food and refreshments – members of Waukegan and Anchorage Yacht Clubs attend the seminars.

A change for our squadron is that we are offering the “America’s Boating Course” through College of Lake County starting June 10 (CREC 23). It is some years since we held a Boating class over the summer and we are hoping that this is a good venue.

The winter classes are complete - Piloting, Sail, and Seamanship. The exams have been taken and results will be posted on [wspsboating.org](http://wspsboating.org) when they become available.

Please also watch [wspsboating.org](http://wspsboating.org) for details of the fall classes as they firm up dates and locations, the proposed classes are Advanced Piloting and Engine Maintenance - followed by Junior Navigation, Weather, and Marine Communication Systems in winter/spring of 2011.

Our squadron had a unique opportunity to introduce Scout leaders to Lake Michigan sailing through participation in the Boy Scouts of America regional “Powder Horn” training. This training is for leaders in the BSA Venturing Division (with which USPS has a sharing agreement) and exposes them to a wide range of “hi-adventure” activities which they can then put before their Crews and Ships. Commander Mike Ludtke and Instructor Betti Mors hosted an adventure for participants on May 1<sup>st</sup> - they sailed up to Kenosha from North Point Marina, had lunch, switched crews, and returned into the teeth of a rising wind – the participants had a great time. Meanwhile on land I gave a short talk about the educational and boating opportunities for youth available from squadrons of USPS.

The great thing about education is that it is happening all the time – usually from experiences (sometimes someone else’s).

Fair winds!

*Tom*

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## ***Cool Web Sites***

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

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### ***Weather – All NOAA Stuff***

[www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

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[www.ndbc.noaa.gov/](http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/)

Log on to NOAA buoys for the latest waves, wind, etc. Links to Marine weather forecasts.

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[www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/](http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/)

### ***Wind Projections/Weather***

[www.windmapper.com](http://www.windmapper.com)



**EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
LT/C Sheldon Wecker P**



***What I learned at the Flare Shoot***

The skies were gray, but the turnout was rosy. Over 70 people attended the Safe Boating Week Flare Demonstration and Practice Shoot we hosted at Waukegan Harbor on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Attendees included members from the Racine, Fox Valley and Skokie Valley Squadrons, as well as members of Waukegan Yacht Club, Anchorage Yacht Club and assorted Waukegan Harbor Patrons. Our own Bill Strauss systematically demonstrated the full range of visual and pyrotechnic distress signals – from a free DVD used as a signal mirror to a \$50 SOLAS rocket/parachute flare. Then all of us attending had a chance to step up to the line and fire a few off ourselves. I've been boating for more years than I care to add up, but as a result of what I learned, I'm going to significantly change what I buy and use onboard "American Dream".

1) On Lake Michigan, in date 12 gauge meteor flares will keep you from failing a Coast Guard inspection – but little else. They just don't have the height, brightness, or burn time to be of much use on a BIG lake. They meet Coast Guard minimum requirements, but those requirements were really developed for the 85% of all boats that are 18 feet or shorter, and stay on inland lakes.

2) For Lake Michigan, SOLAS grade flares (Safety of Life at Sea), or at least 25mm flares are really what is called for. A SOLAS parachute flare reaches a height of 1,000 feet, and burns for 40 seconds at 30,000 candlepower. Compare this to a 12 gauge meteor which reaches 500 feet, and burns for only 6 seconds at 16,000 candlepower. If you participate in the Mac, you must carry SOLAS flares. The bad news is that SOLAS flares are much more expensive – BUT – here is the good news,

3) Flares are good for long after their expiration date, if you take care to keep them dry. The expiration date for flares is set by law at 42 months after the date of manufacture; it isn't determined by shelf life testing. I personally set off 12 gauge meteors that expired in 1987 and self contained Skyblazers that expired in the early 90's. The only duds I had were handheld flares that expired in 1994. Interestingly, the outer cover of those flares was crinkly – it was obvious that somewhere along the line they got wet and deterioration had set in. During the demonstration, many SOLAS parachute flares were fired, some more than 15 years old. None were duds.

So – what's my plan. I'm going to carry SOLAS flares on the boat, and buy a new set every eight or nine years. In between, I'll stay legal with new 12 gauge meteors, and I won't throw expired flares away.

Here are some of the comments I overheard more than once from participants:

- "I've been boating for XX years (fill in a number greater than 15) and I've never done this"
- "Setting this thing off isn't intuitive – you can't wait until the middle of the night when you're in trouble to read the directions"
- "I didn't expect the handheld flares to generate dripping hot slag – glad I found out on a paved parking lot and not a fiberglass deck"
- "Those parachute flares generate quite a kick – you really have to hold on"

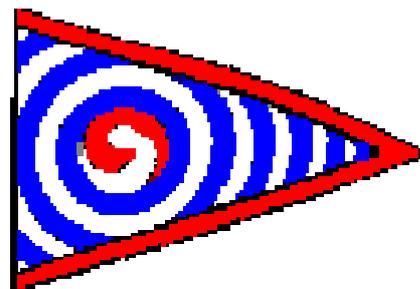
.....Continued on next page

***Happy Birthday***

Evelyn Rossi	June 12
Tom Parkinson	June 16
Keith Bachar	June 17
Valerie Holmes	June 25
Julie Thieme	June 29
Mark Villano	June 29

David Shoemaker	July 3
Ken Hallen	July 5
Jan Guthrie	July 7
Jeff Geltz	July 9
Jim Mast	July 10
Paula Eskoz	July 15
Dan Kinsey	July 17
Keith Baldwin	July 18
Alice Koziol	July 21
Jim Moran	July 23
Ellen Ludtke	July 24
Richard Oleson	July 28

If you don't see your special day listed contact Roster Chairman Ellen Ludtke.  
815-678-4300





**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
LT/C ELISABETH GELTZ JN**



## WSPS NEWS FLASH

**WSPS has setup a new Kids  
Loaner PFD Display at Southport  
Marina in Kenosha. The display is  
in the building next to the pool.  
We now have loaner sites at  
Southport, North Point and  
Waukegan Harbors.**



Welcome to summer and a new boating season. I am hoping you were able to join us for our opening season events - the Used Equipment Sale and Blessing of the Fleet & Cruise to Naval Station-Great Lakes. As always they were a great way to start the season. Many thanks to Shel Wecker, Andy LeBoeuf, and Jim Moran for their efforts in putting these events together.

We are starting off June with our Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on the patio at the Harbor House in Waukegan. If this will be your first time – come hungry.

### **Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>: 0830-1100 Pancake Breakfast**

Andy and Keith will be our chefs for the event. We will be suggesting a \$5.00 donation to the squadron and will be looking for volunteers to assist!

### **Summer Cruises:**

We have two summer cruises planned. The first is to Milwaukee in July and the second to Kenosha in August. These are always great fun and the more participants the better. Please plan to join us for at one - both would be even better. Last year we found great food and lots to do in both locations. If you have not already, you will be receiving details soon for both events. As slip availability is always a concern, please reserve quickly.

**July 16-18                      Cruise To Milwaukee – Paul & Helen Green  
Cruise Captains**

**August 14-15                  Cruise To Kenosha – Marlene & Brian Cox  
Cruise Captains**

### **Save the dates !!!**

Wishing you happy and safe boating – See you on the water.

*Elisabeth*

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### **New Membership Renewal Procedure**

Two months prior to your anniversary an email will be sent to you to renew your membership. If you don't renew online within two weeks of the email, a paper invoice will be sent to you. After your anniversary date passes, if you still have not renewed, another reminder will be sent. The Power Squadron asks that you pay the email invoice to save postage and printing on the additional reminders.

*Ed. Note: I wonder why they don't say that in the email?*

*XO comments continued ....*

• "Great event – thanks to the WSPS for putting it on"

Thanks again to Bill Strauss for putting on the demonstration, Dick Lazar for organizing the event, and Brion O'Dell of Waukegan Harbor for helping make this happen.

Boat Safe,

*Shel Wecher*

## **DISTRICT 20 SUMMER CRUISE & RENDEZVOUS 30 – 31 JULY 2010 Springfield, Illinois**

**Here's a link to the D/20 Trident page with  
schedule:**

<http://www.uspsd20.org/CalendarOfEvents/2010%20Cruise%20&%20Rendezvous%20Flyer.pdf>



WAUKEELOG  
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Bob Kunath, JN  
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### Loaner PFD Program Update Dick Lazar

We have a rack of pfd's at the port authority building in Waukegan. The initial idea was to have a ready supply of jackets for children. Over the past 3 years I have noticed that more adults are borrowing pfd's; we even have and loan a few dog vests.

About half of our vests get lost during a season but donors, unknown in most cases, bring the total back up to about 40 jackets of all sizes. Last year about 85 loans were made, where three years ago (when we had good weather and a lot of swimming in the harbor) about 125 were borrowed.

An interesting aside: A 10 meter "J" boat was returning from Monroe to Waukegan in October, 2008. As they passed Wilmette they were boarded by a USCG craft from the local station, perhaps a pure chance boarding. There were no pfd's on board and the coast guard told the boat to return to Monroe. After some discussion the J boat was told to anchor off Wilmette, the coast guard returned to land, bought two jackets and returned to the J boat, charged them \$50 and the boat continued to Waukegan. Now there's a helpful government service!

I wrote about this event about 5 years ago, but I'm repeating the story as summer begins; it bears repeating as our readership has changed. Some years ago I hooked Sans Souci to a house power source where there was no green wire connected to the house socket and the black/whites were reversed. My power panel did momentarily flash reverse polarity, but I carelessly ignored that as everything seemed to work OK. The fresh water was four feet deep and very clear, so early the next morning I climbed down the metal ungrounded boarding ladder to check the running gear for lines, etc. As soon as I touched the lake bottom I felt a strong buzz/tingle throughout my body, then found that I could not move my arms or legs and was frozen to the ladder. My head and shoulders were out of the water, and I did find that I could breathe and shout, which I did!!! I woke up the neighbors, who with Carol turned off the power when I shouted that I was being electrocuted. I then was able to push myself off the ladder, somewhat shaken and stirred but alive. I'm not certain exactly what happened, perhaps the reversed current flow at the ground plate on the transom near the ladder jumped to me, or the ladder and then to me, finding a path to ground. Regardless of the actual physics, there are some lessons here, namely:

1. Always check the polarity and ground of an unknown hookup. A simple tester can be bought for about \$5 at Menards.
2. Never, ever swim in a marina (with shore power) near boats. Polarity can be reversed in a boat even if the source is correct.

One of the other boaters was an EMT who told the story of two young boys killed in similar circumstances downstate in Illinois. Events like this happen, that's why most marinas forbid marina swimming. On another note, I recently completed taking the JN class offered by the Venice Sail & Power Squadron. Thanks to the tireless efforts of instructor Gordon Bloom, formerly of Waukegan S&PS, who relentlessly but successfully hammered the celestial navigation concepts into this aging scribe's calcified brain, I actually passed the exam on the first try with a score of 96. Thanks, Gordon!

*Bob*

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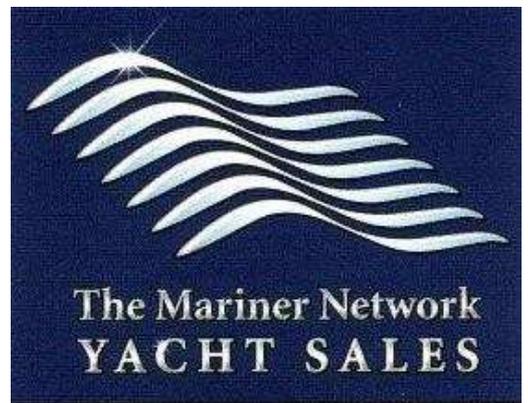


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**Capt. Julia Sanders**

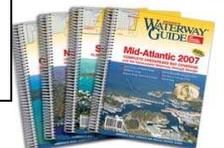
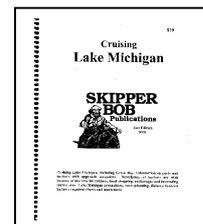
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# WSPS Photo Gallery

